

THE STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2023

EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT

Third session of the year 2023
28-30 November 2023

AGENDA ITEM 11

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| Item 11 of the provision agenda

Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including

- reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2023 and
- the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and
- the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster



| A. Introduction

Purpose of the Report

Highlight progress made on the SDG Cities Flagship Programme and the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative of the UN-Habitat between January and June 2023.

A. Update on the SDG Cities flagship programme

B. Update on the engagement and commitments to Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative

Information Annex. Progress made on selected normative and operational activities that contributed towards Subprogrammes of the strategic plan 2020-2025, the NUA and SDGs

Note

Update on the Flagship Programme 1 **Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities** will be presented in the first session of the Executive Board in 2024

| B. Update on the Sustainable Development Goals Cities initiative

Background and challenges

THE WORLD WILL BE URBAN

Today 55% of the world's population lives in cities, yet by 2050 this is expected to increase to 68%

CITIES ARE CENTRAL TO SDGs

Cities play an essential role in achieving the SDGs by 2030 and local governments must invest in transformative actions in cities and communities around the world.

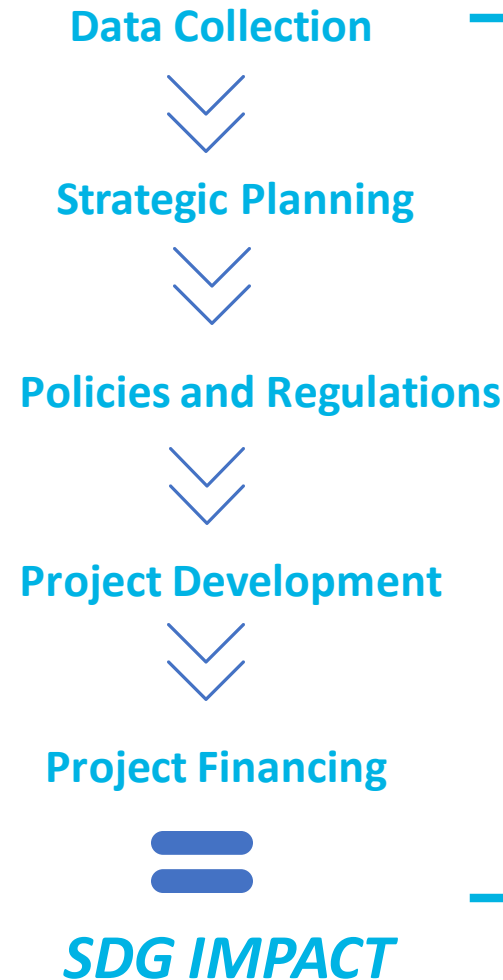
Need for cities to step up the realization of the *transformative potential of cities* as a positive force for sustainable development

However

- Not all cities are aware of the SDGs
- Not all cities are incentivized to engage with global agendas
- Not all cities are aware of frameworks such as the NUA to guide them in the local implementation of the SDGs

SDG Cities Initiative

- SDG Cities is a global initiative that encourages cities to catalyze their own potential and **accelerate their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)**
- Cities are given tools to **assess their baseline data and identify and finance priority initiatives** that actively localize the SDGs



Strengthened institutional capacity

- Inclusive governance
- Planning
- Municipal finance
- Service delivery
 - Solid waste management
 - Water/sanitation
 - Mobility

SDG Cities Process

SDG Cities is implemented in four tracks:



Data



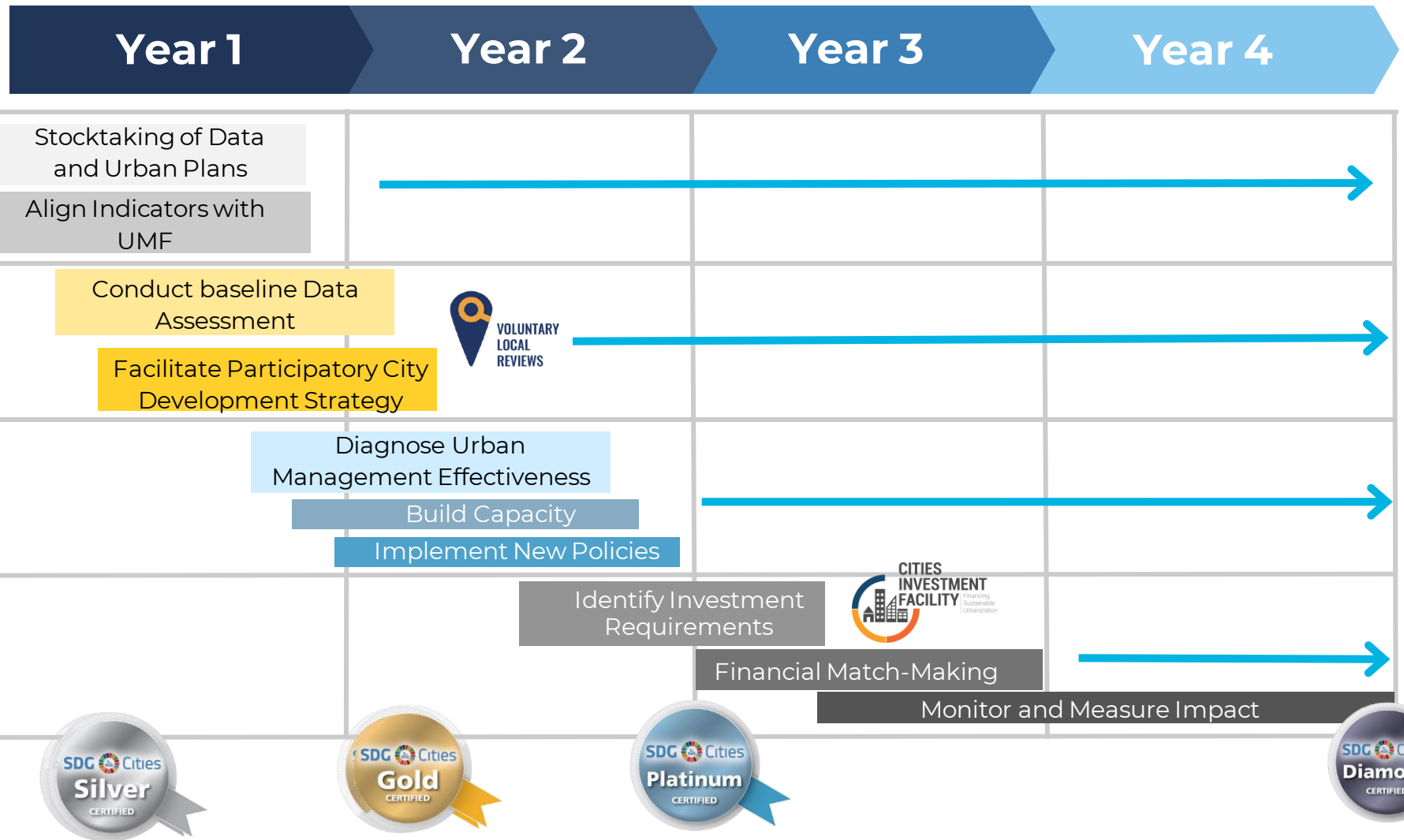
Strategic Planning



Plans, Regulations, and Institutions



Investment in Impact



Previous feedback on SDG Cities Certification

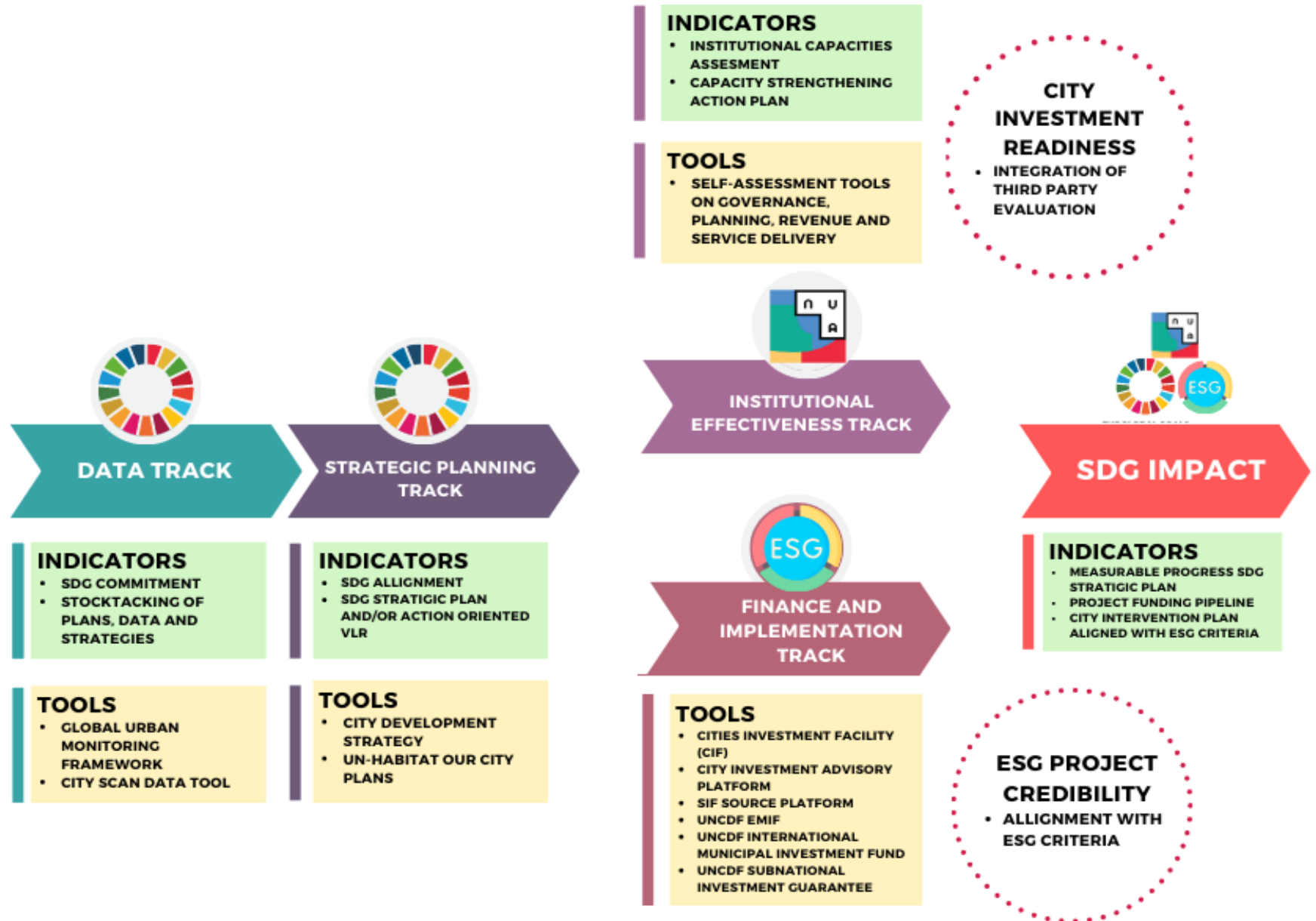
Concerns

- **Managerial and funding concerns:** how to go to scale and secure coverage of the costs?
- **Labeling concerns:** How to avoid a top-down, one-path-fits-all that stratifies cities?

Recommendations

- Adaptation to national and subnational contexts
- Encourage finance opportunities
 - **Help de-risk local projects**
 - **Generate a project pipeline**
 - **Cluster projects within cities**

Progress on tool development, indicators and partnerships



Way forward

1

Expand SDG Cities Flagship Initiative. Emphasis on **recognition** of achievements.

2

Empower use of SDG Cities tools. Facilitate SDG Cities tools for governments and organizations of all levels to tailor them accordingly.

3

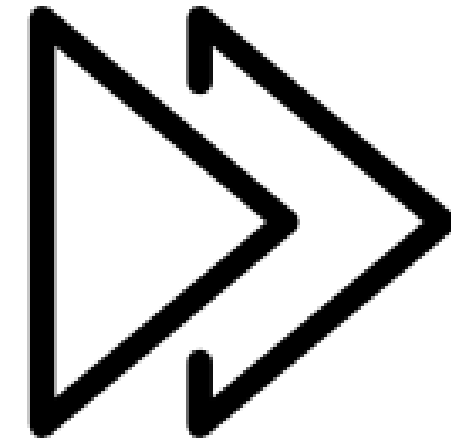
Leave no city behind. Find resources to make SDG Cities free of charge

4

Embrace UN System capacity to go to scale. Find linkages for greater capacity and impact.

5

Strengthen source of finance linkages. Work on strategies like the project pipeline, or MDB partnerships for finance opportunities.



SDG Cities Cost Considerations



1. SDG Cities Tools

UMF, Action-Oriented VLR, Diagnostic Tools, Learning Courses, Digital Platform, SIF SOURCE platform, Project Assessment Tool

USD1.2 million – equating to 10 new tools, 10 updated tools and platform maintenance.



2. Monitoring support to cities and recognition of key stages

Remote monitoring.

Track	Cost per city
Data	USD 5000
Strategic Planning	USD 10,000
Institutional Effectiveness Track	USD 10,000
Impact	USD 5000



3. Local 2030 “Cities Hub”

Tools development and maintenance (see 1)	\$1.2 million
Monitoring Support for LDCs/DCs (see 2)	\$1 million
Training for cities	\$500,000
TOTAL	\$2.7 million

Cost Models

Model 1: costs normally require donor support

Digital tools	In-kind
National Technical Support Team	\$600,000
Technical Backstopping and Training Support	\$300,000
Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation	\$100,000
TOTAL annual cost	\$1,000,000

Model 2: costs may require donor support or the support of national government

Digital tools	In-kind
National Technical Support Team	In-kind
Technical Backstopping and Training Support	\$300,000
Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation	\$100,000
TOTAL annual cost	\$400,000

Model 3: costs could be covered by participating cities

Digital tools	In kind
E-guidance manuals	In-kind
Technical support, backstopping and training	In-kind through participating cities
Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation	\$100,000
TOTAL annual cost	\$100,000

| C. Update on the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation - SURGe

SURGe launched by the COP27 Presidency

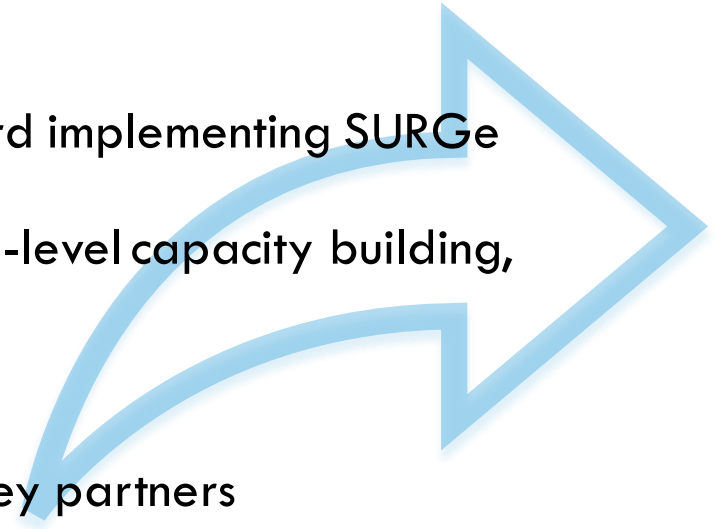
- To connect the local, national, and global levels to coordinate collective climate action
- Aim to improve collaboration between sectoral initiatives

Milestones

- A value proposition was completed, and collaboration started toward implementing SURGe in **Fiji, Egypt** and **Morocco**
- Work in **five working groups** started to identify the needs for local-level capacity building, tools, and guidance needs

Key partners

- SURGe is further **conceptualized** by UN-Habitat, ICLEI, and other key partners
- Discussions within a group of member states, such as Bonn climate talks (SB58), Daring Cities, and during the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly in June 2023



1. | Options for SURGe implementation – 4 work packages:



1. Building the **global SURGe partnership** as a network of working group partners, national governments, city networks, academia, NGOs and others



2. Building a global network of **national city and climate change focal points/teams** responsible for supporting urban and local climate action



3. **City level roll-out**, comprehensive planning for and implementation of climate action for net-zero and climate-resilient development



4. A **small and lean secretariat hosted by UN-Habitat**, responsible for communication and partnerships, expanding the network and coordination, including convening the Steering Committee, coordinating the five working groups, coordinating between national SURGe focal points and regional offices



Funding options: Self-funding, private sector funding, loans, development assistance.
Linking with the UN-Habitat Flagship Programme on resilient settlements for the urban poor 'RISE-UP'.