



UN-HABITAT

- 1. 'SDG Cities' flagship programme**
- 2. Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation 'SURGe' initiative**

Date: November 2023



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1. SDG Cities



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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.

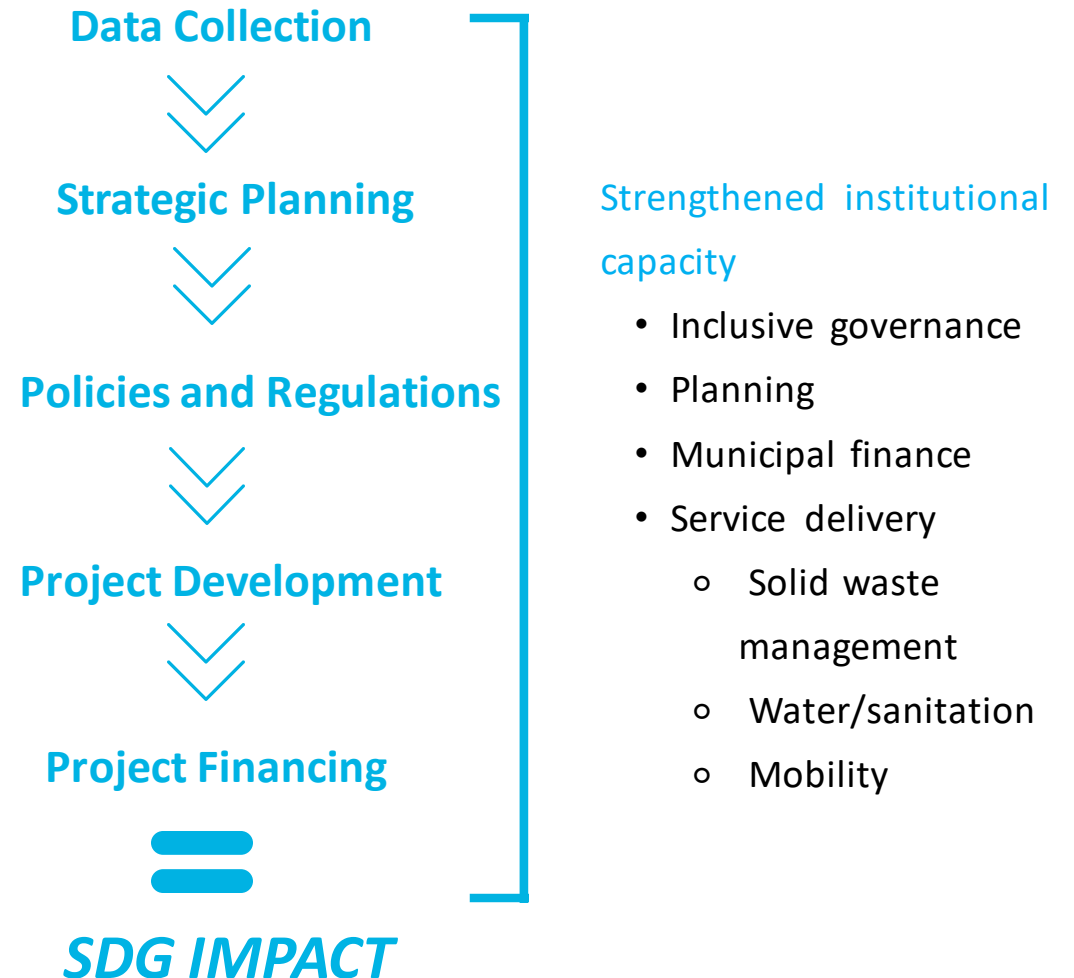
Need for cities to step up the realization of the *transformative potential of cities* as a positive force for sustainable development

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



SDG Cities Process

SDG Cities is implemented in four tracks:



Data



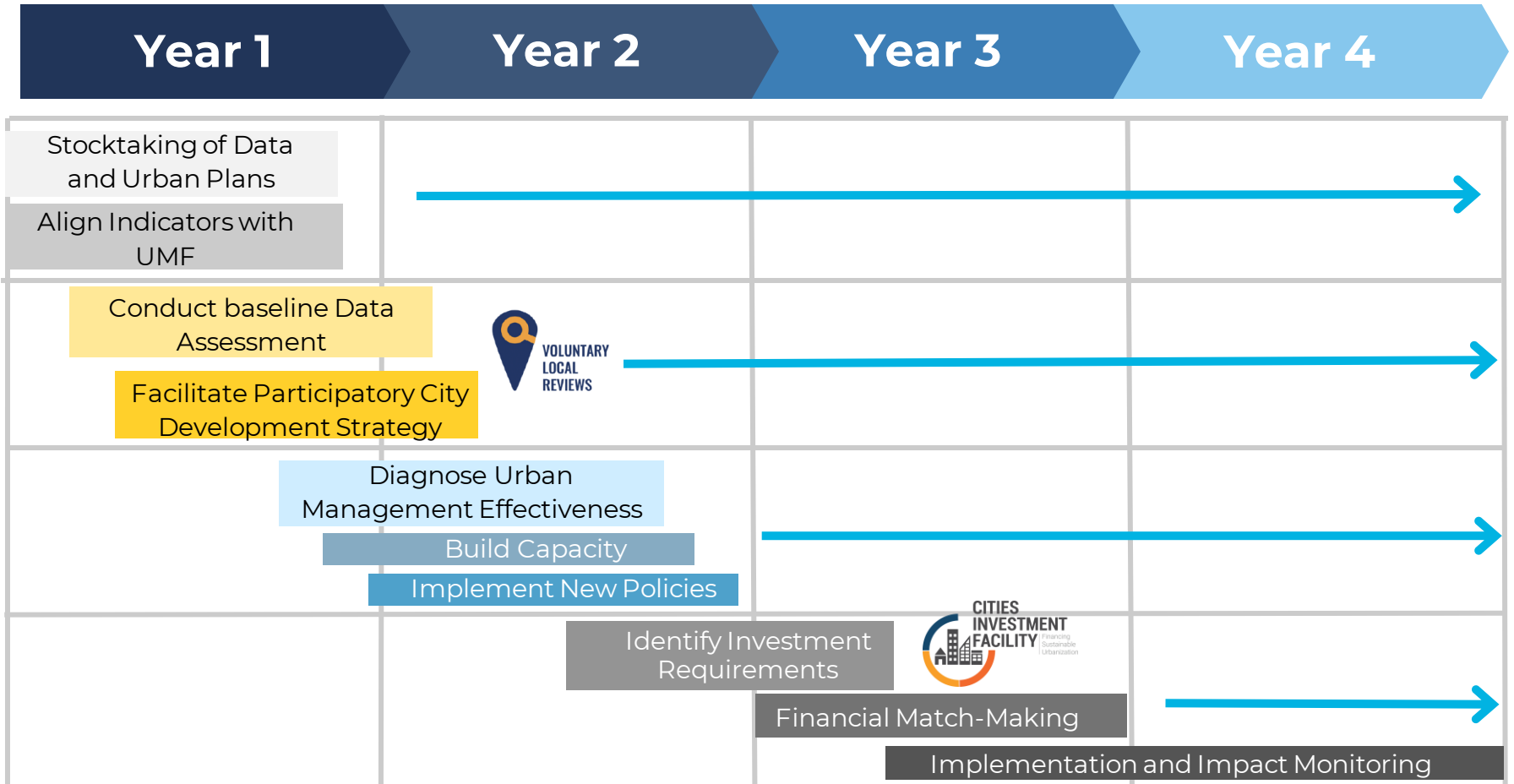
Strategic Planning



Local Enablers: Plans, Regulations, and Institutions



Investment in Impact



Progress on SDG Cities Flagship Initiative

- SDG Cities Hub concept works with national groups of cities
- Hubs are established in Ghana, and Turkiye; Malaysia SDG Cities Programme ongoing through partner Urbanice
- New hubs being mobilized in Tunisia, Portugal/Lusophone community, Kosovo, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Colombia
- Thematic Windows
 - Women-led Cities: (with UNCDF and women-led philanthropies)
 - Sport and SDG Cities: (with International Olympic Committee)

Previous feedback on SDG Cities Certification

Issues

- The scale of demand may be unmanageable and would require significant costs;
- Global and Regional Criteria may curb the flexibility and creativity of cities to develop and implement their own approaches
- The term “certification” may carry unhelpful “top-down” connotations.

Recommendations

- Adaptation to national and subnational contexts
- Encourage finance opportunities
 - Help de-risk local projects
 - Generate a project pipeline
 - Cluster multiple Projects to enable larger scale investments

Way forward

1

Further develop and expand SDG Cities Flagship Initiative; Recognize the achievements of participating cities at key stages.

2

Support National and Subnational Governments that wish to implement their own SDG Cities Initiatives through providing tools and technical assistance

3

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

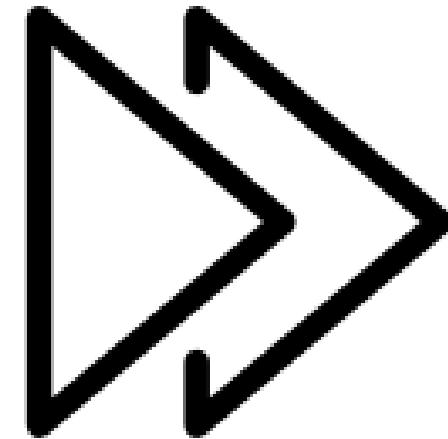
4

Embrace UN System capacity to go to scale. within the framework of Local 2030 Coalition and through UN Country Teams

5

Strengthen linkages with source of finance

- project pipeline development;
- MDB partnerships;
- qualified opinions of finance sector entities.



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 annually – equating to 10 new tools, 10 updated tools and platform maintenance.



2. SDG Cities Hubs

Track	Annual Cost
Model 1: UN-Habitat and government seconded experts	USD 1 million
Model 2: Government Seconded Experts + UN-Habitat training support	USD 0.4 million
Model 3: Networked approach	USD 0.1 million



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2. Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe)

Date: November 2023

Background and Challenges

Challenge

- Current **national pledges** are not sufficient to reduce harmful emissions to achieve the Paris Agreement.
- National climate action often focuses on priority sectors and does not effectively guide local climate action in cities
- Local governments **lack the technical and financial resources** to implement local climate action.

Response

Collaboration across local, national and global level (multilevel governance) is necessary to raise ambition and provide solutions on the ground that help achieve the Paris Agreement through implementation at the local level



- **Convening space:** connecting local, national and global levels for climate action
- **Collaboration space:** aim to improve collaboration between sectoral initiatives

Key partners

- SURGe is further **conceptualized** by UN-Habitat, ICLEI, and global network of 180+ 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

Milestones

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

Options for SURGe: 4 Work packages for engagement

Coordination, partnership building, communication

Local to Global

Work package 1: Global SURGe Partnership

as a network of working group partners, national governments, city networks, academia, NGOs and others join forces to amplify voices of cities and regions in global climate discussions, ultimately strengthening multilevel climate action

Local to National

Work package 2:

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

Local

Work package 3: City level roll-out

comprehensive planning for and implementation of climate action for net-zero and climate-resilient development

Work package 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’

RISE UP Practice Scaled-up through SURGe Network

RISE UP: Geographical Spread



Tools and Publications



SURGe
 SUSTAINABLE URBAN RESILIENCE
 FOR THE NEXT GENERATION

CLIMATE SUMMIT 2019
 A RACE WE CAN WIN
Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor: A New Cooperative Initiative
 13 September 2019 FINAL for Climate Action Summit



Way forward: road to COP28 and beyond

SURGe at COP28

- Updates on SURGe by COP28, including re-enforced working group updates
- Links between SURGe as well as other upcoming and existing Initiatives
- Several side events dedicated to SURGe

Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change

- **Date:** 06 December as the curtain raiser event of Multilevel Action, Urbanization, Built Environment and Transport Day; 10:00 – 12:30; UNFCCC negotiations room (1300+ capacity)
- **Objective:** (i) reinforce mechanisms for multi-level climate action to achieve the targets of the Paris Agreement; (ii) identify and strengthen levers to increase and accelerate deployment of climate finance for cities and local governments to respond to the climate crisis.
- **Invitees:** Ministers of Housing, Urban Development, Environment, Finance, and other portfolios; local and regional leaders; financial institutions; non-government organizations; and other stakeholders
- **Co-convening:** Ministerial Meeting co-convened by several member states which will also develop a Ministerial declaration
- **Note Verbale** has been sent through the Permanent Missions; personalized official invites to be sent out this week



COP28
UAE

Executive Board

Work packages including “options and recommendations for operationalizing the SURGe initiative as a meaningful institutional arrangement” will further be developed and presented to the first Executive Board of 2024

WUF12

Full operationalization of SURGe at the 12th World Urban Forum taking place in Egypt

Thank you

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