The 4th Spatial Planning Platform Meeting

Keynote speech

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MLIT
Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

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THE SPATIAL PLANNING PLATFORM (SPP)

Organized jointly by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism of Government of Japan

Three topics covered

1. DEVELOPMENT PATHWAYS FOR A SUSTAINABLE URBAN FUTURE

2. LOCALIZATION OF SDGS AND VOLUNTALY LOCAL REVIEWS

3. SUSTAINABLE, INCLUSIVE AND RESILIENT RECOVERY FROM THE COVID-19 PANDEMIC

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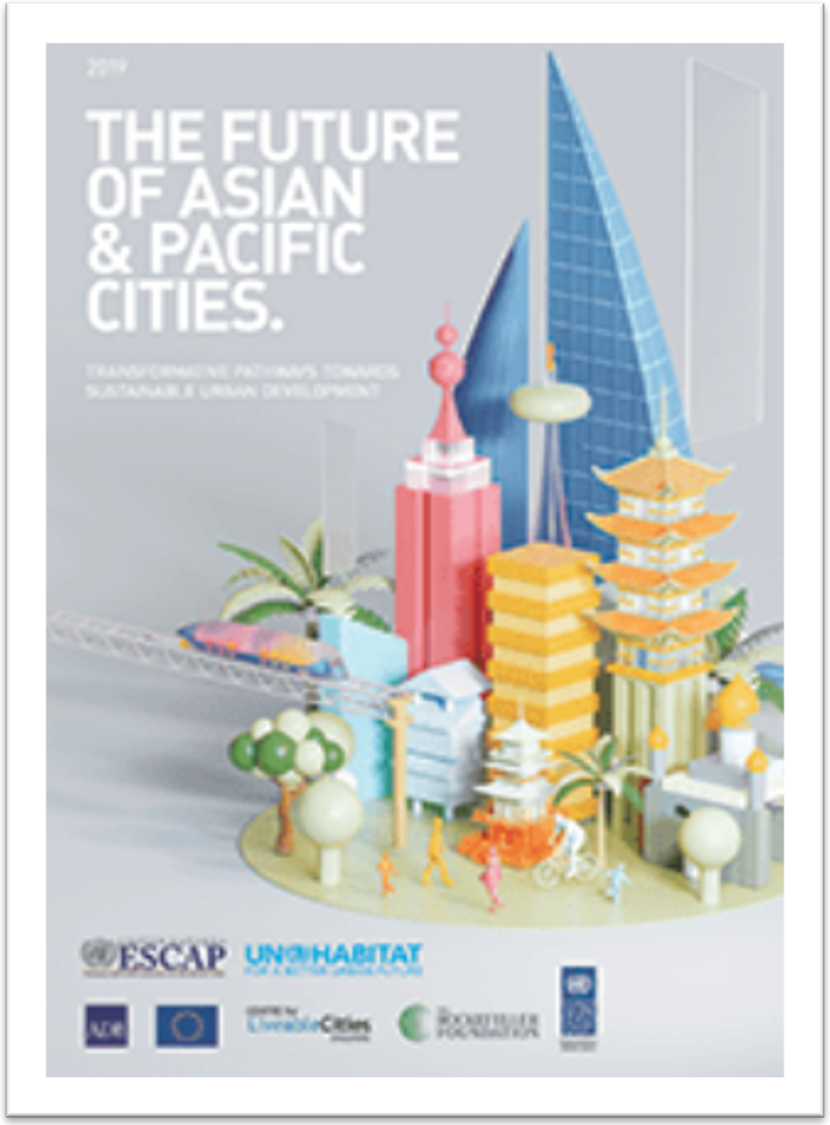
Development Pathways for a Sustainable Urban Future



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Development Pathways for a Sustainable Urban Future

The Future of Urban & Territorial Planning

1. Integrate **sustainability and quality-of-life targets** into urban planning to future-proof public and private investment in cities
2. **Co-produce with citizens urban planning solutions** that align technological investment with adequate local government capacities
3. Identify specific urban regeneration and growth strategies that **optimize urban-rural and city region collaborations** that spur sustainability and investment

The Future of Smart & Inclusive Cities

1. Improve **smart city governance** across urban systems, institutions and actors to overcome inequalities and make more informed and integrated planning decisions
2. Encourage technology firms to become more **civic minded** and create sustainable smart city solutions with social enterprises
3. Adopt **cybersecurity safeguards** in both digital and physical urban infrastructure development planning
4. Develop **smart mobility investment plans** that prioritize sustainable urban mobility options for citizens
5. Expand viable smart city funding mechanisms by enabling **cross-sector partnerships and business matching platforms**

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Development Pathways for a Sustainable Urban Future

The Future of Urban Resilience

1. Scale up the use of **nature-based solutions** and **resilient infrastructure** in integrated urban and climate change planning.
2. Understand **the informal economy** and support urban poor groups to be **change agents** for implementing city-resilience actions.
3. Create and strengthen **partnerships** to bring more attention and resources to **long-term urban resilience strategies** that break siloes between national, state, and local actors.
4. Utilise **big data** sources to connect communities, cities, and regions and to improve local government **technological literacy**.

The Future of Urban Finance

1. Scale up **public-private partnerships** and community schemes to transition to localized housing finance solutions
2. Adopt **land-linked financing mechanisms** that leverage urban growth to build people-centred urban infrastructure
3. Introduce **congestion-charging and environmental user fees** to improve urban air quality

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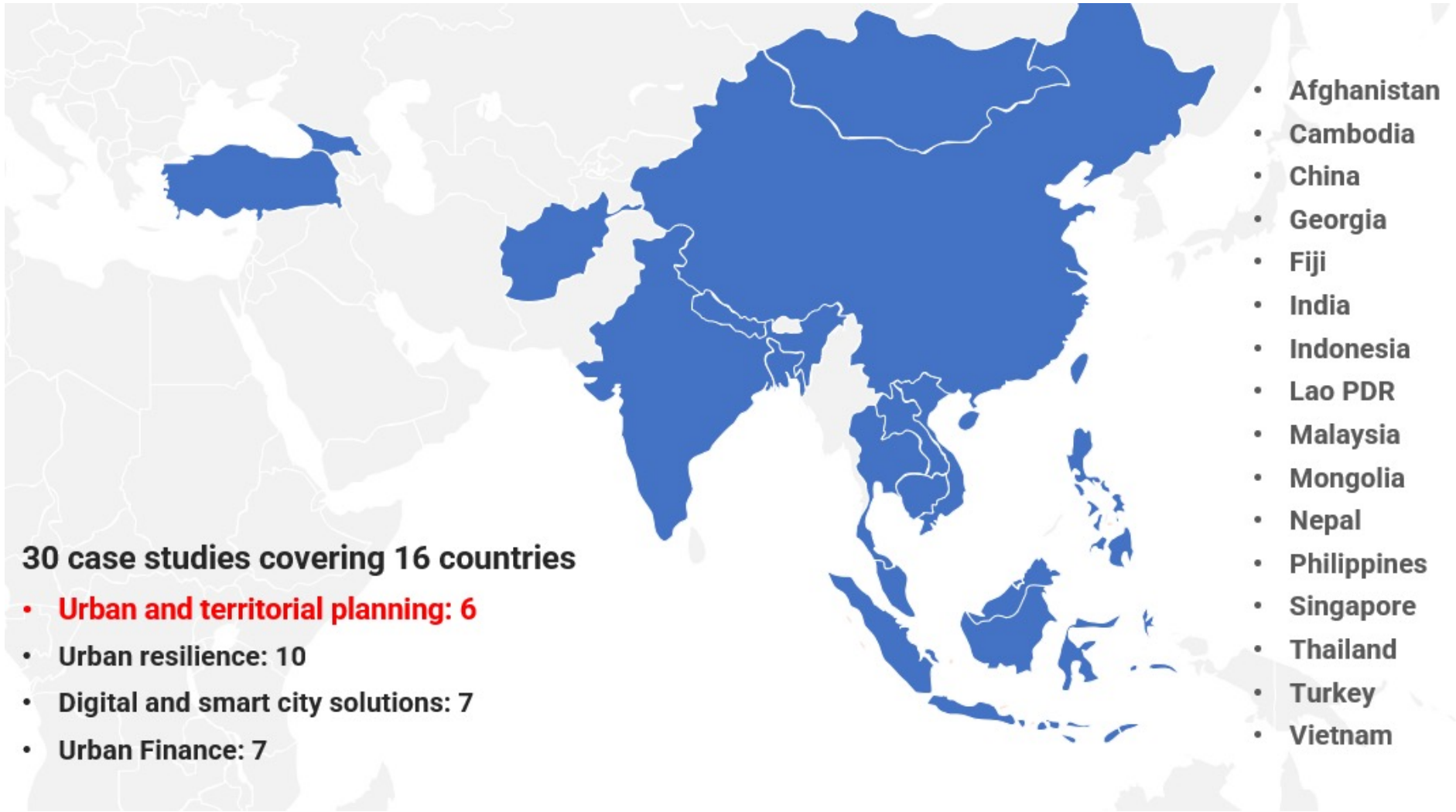
Case Studies: Geographic Spread



30 case studies covering 16 countries

- **Urban and territorial planning: 6**
- **Urban resilience: 10**
- **Digital and smart city solutions: 7**
- **Urban Finance: 7**

- Afghanistan
- Cambodia
- China
- Georgia
- Fiji
- India
- Indonesia
- Lao PDR
- Malaysia
- Mongolia
- Nepal
- Philippines
- Singapore
- Thailand
- Turkey
- Vietnam

Courtesy of UN-ESCAP

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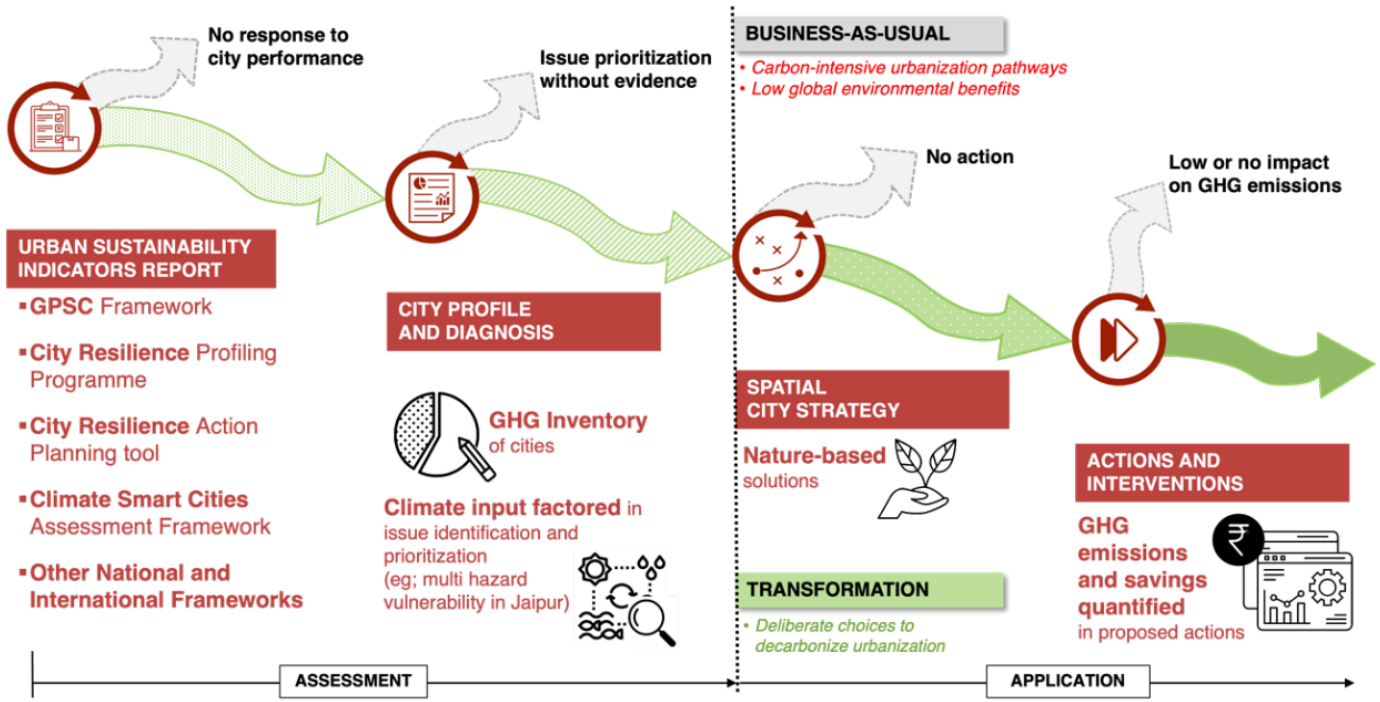
Future of Urban and Territorial Planning

1

Integrate **sustainability and quality-of-life targets** into urban planning to future-proof public and private investment in cities

Urban Sustainability Assessment Framework (USAF) in India



- USAF is developed by UN-Habitat (India) and designed as a decision support tool for sustainable and resilient urban planning, while prioritizing climate adaptation and mitigation at all stages.
- The framework builds in a monitoring process across standardized indicators, across twelve sectors. This helps cities to set their own trajectory

Courtesy of UN-ESCAP

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Future of Urban and Territorial Planning

2

Co-produce with citizens urban planning solutions that align technological investment with adequate local government capacities

Managing the transition from an industrial to an environment-focused city in Liuzhou, China.

Key, integrated strategies for transformation include:

- Ecological restoration of the Liujiang river;
- Investment in green infrastructure;
- Improvement of mobility and accessibility with affordable public transport;
- Optimization of a '15-minute community life circle' in spatial planning
- Regeneration of the old city district

Key enablers:

- **Cross-sectoral governance** with PPP and citizen participation, &
- **Inclusive development**, supported by multiple stakeholder consultations and advice from external experts (including IOs and NGOs).

Courtesy of UN-ESCAP

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Reflections on capacity gaps

1. Despite strong examples of progress there are a number of capacity gaps:

- ✓ Taking an integrated approach to urban and territorial planning
- ✓ Ability to scale up successful approaches across many more urban areas
- ✓ Knowledge on how to plan, design and implement nature-based solutions
- ✓ How to enable digital inclusion of everyone in society.
- ✓ Ability to prepare and showcase bankable projects and attract private sector investment

2. Many good practices are emerging, but in many cases, they remain isolated cases and policy frameworks and an enabling environment to support such initiatives has yet to emerge

3. Stronger political support to the agenda to enable a whole-of-government approach and integrated planning system

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Voluntary Local Reviews of SDGs (VLRs)

VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS ARE ACCELERATORS OF THE SDG LOCALIZATION

106 VLRS HAVE BEEN PUBLISHED SINCE 2016

87 LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS FROM

27 COUNTRIES HAVE PRODUCED AT LEAST ONE VLR

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Benefits of VLRs and available support

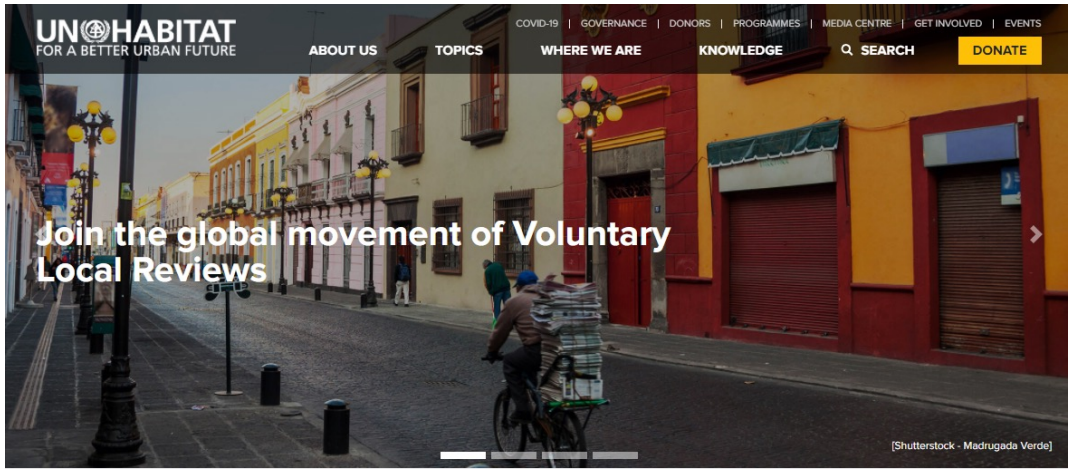
A VLR has multi-dimensional benefits:

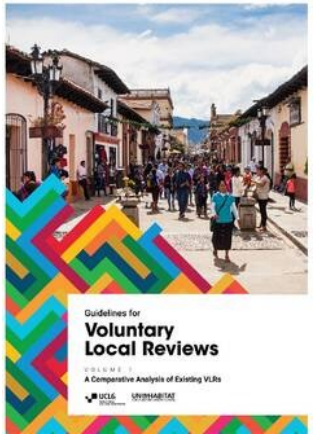
a) allows the local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policymaking;

b) invites self-reflection, by diagnosing the state and pointing to pathways for better localization of the SDGs;

c) provides for a process that is data-driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want, and;

d) gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development.





Voluntary Local Reviews | UN-Habitat (unhabitat.org)

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UN-Habitat Initial Responses to COVID-19 Pandemic

Myanmar

Phillipines

Fiji

Ethiopia

Cambodia

Nepal

Kenya

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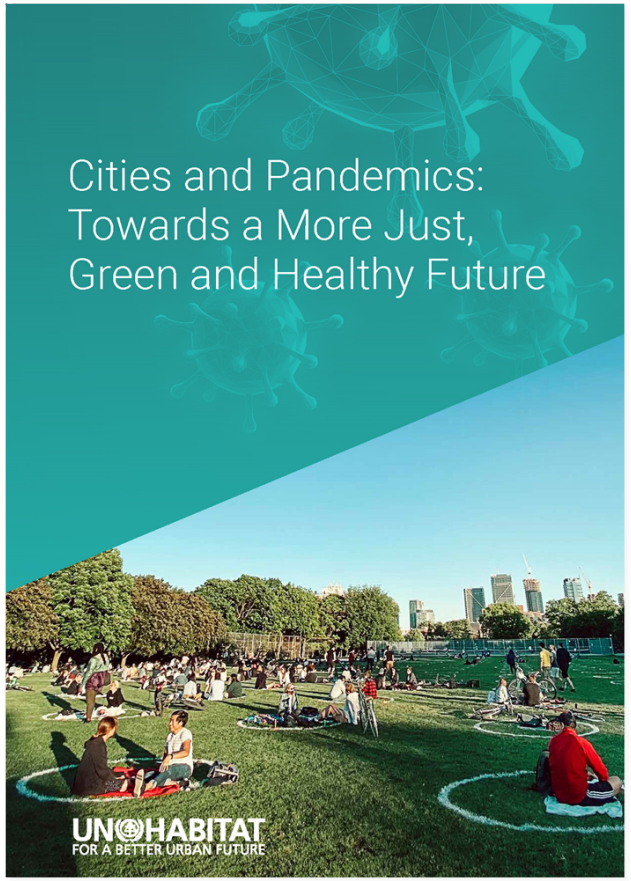
Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future

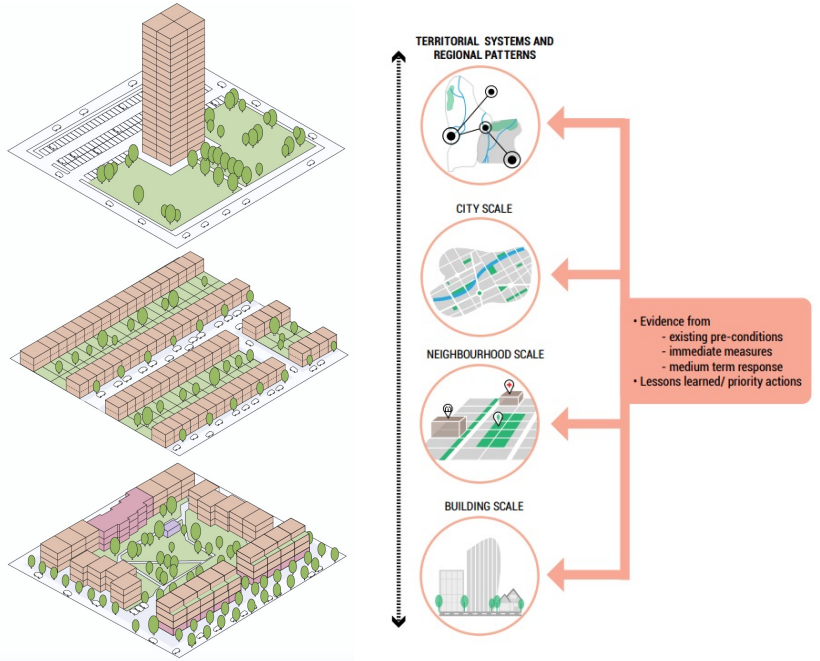


Rethinking the FORM and FUNCTION of the CITY.

Addressing Systemic POVERTY and INEQUALITY in CITIES.

Rebuilding a "new normal" URBAN ECONOMY.

Clarifying Urban LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE.



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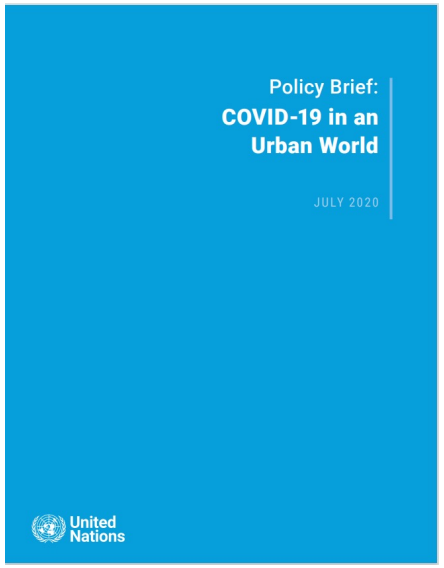

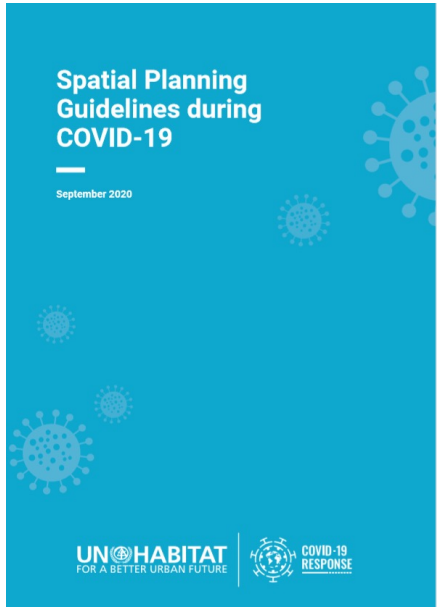

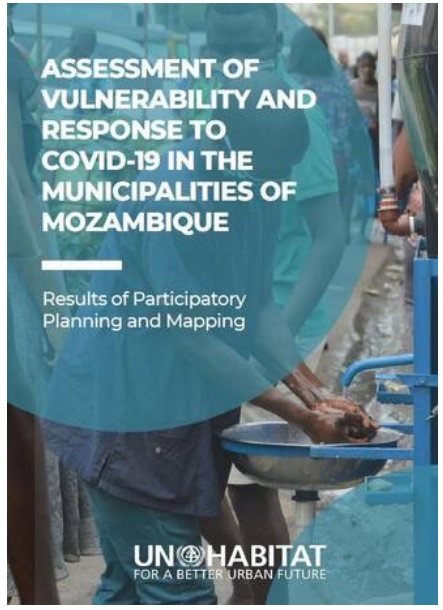

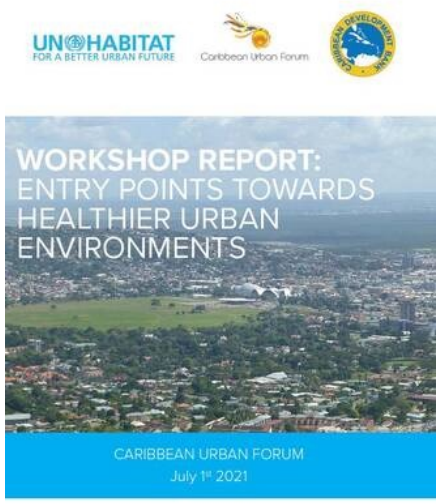

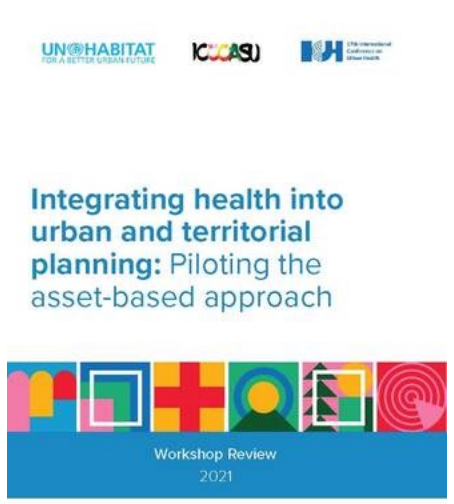

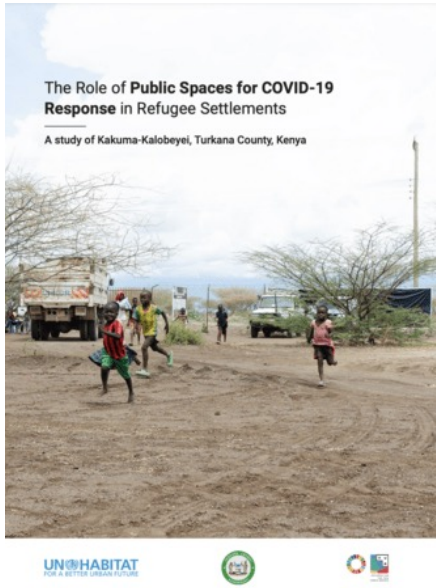

United Nations A/C.3/76/L.12

General Assembly

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Seventy-sixth session
Third Committee
Agenda item 28
Social development

Madagascar:* draft resolution

Inclusive social development policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19)

The General Assembly,

Recalling the outcomes of the World Summit for Social Development and the twenty-fourth special session of the General Assembly,

Reaffirming that the Copenhagen Declaration on Social Development and the Programme of Action of the World Summit for Social Development[1] and the further initiatives for social development adopted by the General Assembly at its twenty-fourth special session[2] constitute the basic framework for the promotion of social development for all with people at the centre, and encouraging the continued global dialogue on social development issues,

Recalling article 11 (1) of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights,[3] which, inter alia, recognizes the right of everyone to an adequate standard of living for himself or herself and his or her family, including adequate food, clothing and housing, and to the continuous improvement of living conditions, and noting its relevance to the formulation of family-oriented housing and social protection policies and measures,

Recalling also General Assembly resolution 70/1 of 25 September 2015, entitled "Transforming our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development", in which the Assembly adopted a comprehensive, far-reaching set of universal, people-centred and transformative Sustainable Development Goals and targets ensuring access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing, basic services and social protections,

* On behalf of the States Members of the United Nations that are members of the Group of African States.

[1] *Report of the World Summit for Social Development, Copenhagen, 6–12 March 1995* (United Nations publication, Sales No. E.96.IV.8), chap. I, resolution 1, annexes I and II.

[2] General Assembly resolution S-24/2, annex.

[3] See General Assembly resolution 2200 A (XXI), annex.

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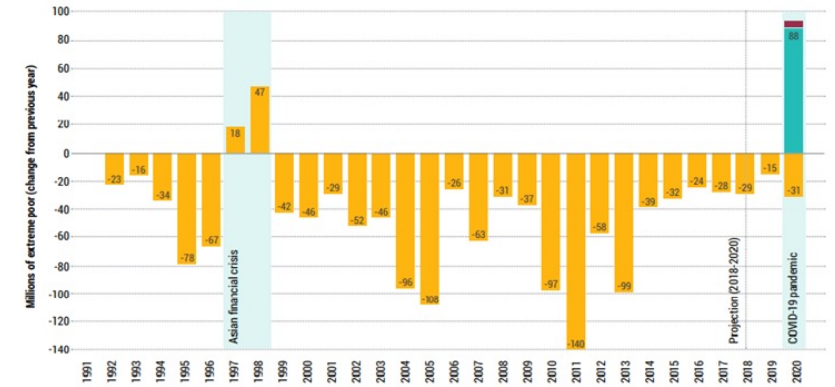
Towards resilient, green and inclusive cities

The Pandemic:

- Deepened existing inequalities and created new vulnerabilities
- Highlighted the critical role local governments as frontline responders in crisis response and recovery
- Underlined the role of public space in public health and in response
- Inspired new policies that that promote a green recovery that conditions investment for sustainable urban future.
- Raised the profile of national urban policies to mobilize support for resilient, green, and inclusive cities, often as part of national recovery packages.

Figure 2.1: Annual change in the number of extreme poor (in million), 1992-2020



Source: Lakner et al., 2021

Figure 1.13: Plans for Corso Buenos Aires in Milan, Italy before and after the proposed changes to reduce car use

Source: Laker, 2020

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Integrated spatial planning to guide recovery

“like any disruptive force, COVID-19 presents us with an opportunity to re-imagine a better future through our response—a fairer and more equal world. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development…remains the best framework for doing just that” stated Deputy Secretary-General Amina Mohamed

Some countries are applying National Urban Policies to address regional inequalities and other structural issues

We should explore how to leverage local development opportunities and guide resilient, green and inclusive recovery through integrated spatial planning

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