

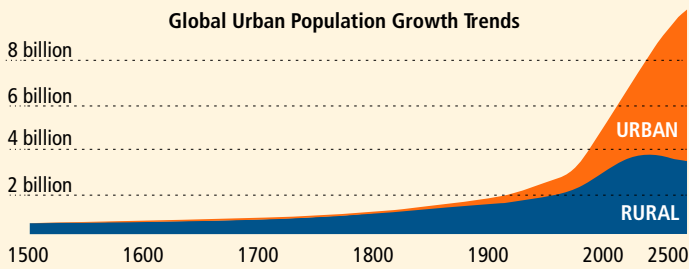


SDG Cities

Working with 1000 cities to improve the lives of 1 billion people

Global Initiative

A decade ago, the world shifted irreversibly from being mostly rural to considerably urban. Today, 55% of the global population lives in urban areas, and this is set to increase to 68% by 2050 as a further 2.3 billion people are added to the urban population.



Cities now generate 80% of the world's economy, and most countries that have urbanized have experienced economic growth. Yet cities often generate high levels of GHGs and often experience high levels of inequality.

The United Nations claims that “the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities”. Well planned and managed cities have great potential to accelerate the achievement of SDGs and improve quality of life.

Why SDGs Matter?

The 17 SDGs are integrated—that is, they recognize that action in one area will affect outcomes in others, and that development must balance social, economic and environmental sustainability.

Through the pledge to Leave No One Behind, countries have committed to fast-track progress for those furthest behind first. That is why the SDGs are designed to bring the world to several life-changing ‘zeros’, including zero poverty, hunger, AIDS and discrimination against women and girls.

Everyone is needed to reach these ambitious targets. The creativity, know-how, technology and financial resources from all of society is necessary to achieve the SDGs in every context.

THE GLOBAL GOALS



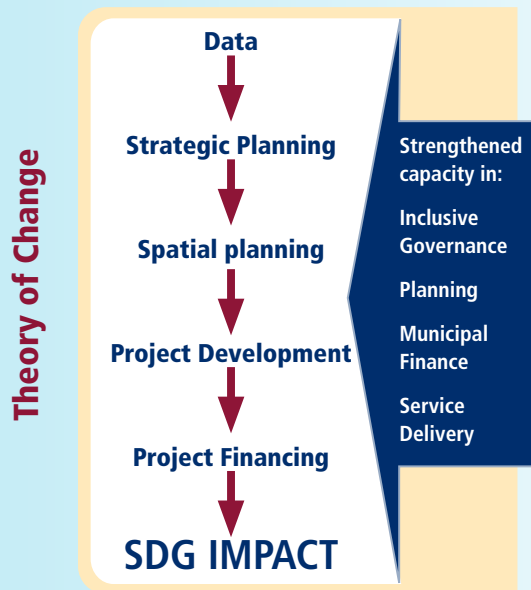
HOW CAN THE SDG'S BE ACHIEVED IN CITIES?



What is SDG Cities Global Initiative?

The SDG Cities Global Initiative provides a structured way to support cities to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs, improving quality of life and driving positive social, economic, and environmental impact.

It systematizes a sequence of data collection, analysis, strategic planning, and the development, financing and implementation of projects that have a measurable impact on the SDGs.



It enhances key local capacities needed to drive sustainable urban development—governance, planning, financing and service delivery. It incentivizes political will through a prestigious SDG Cities Certification that recognizes the efforts made by cities to drive SDG achievement.

It aims to impact on a massive scale through a self-replicating business model that can be mainstreamed and expanded by national institutions, and by building a global movement of multiple partners with a common purpose and approach.

Why SDG Cities Matters?

The threefold urgency to promote a green, just recovery from COVID-19, to mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts, and to reverse social inequality, calls for renewed efforts to accelerate the implementation of the SDGs in cities. The battle for sustainable development must be won in cities, and with less than a decade to achieve them, we must act now.

Systematization of SDG Cities through Four Programme Tracks

SDG Cities systematizes support through four programme tracks: Data, Action Planning, Strengthened Local Institutions, and Investment.

Data Track

This track ensures that cities can access and use data to describe their baseline on SDG achievement and inform local action. Statistical data, spatial data, and participatory data (key informants and focus groups) is used to report on the performance of the City. Participating cities will be supported by digital data and spatial analytic tools to establish baselines and monitor the progress.

Action Planning Track

This track ensures that data merges with community and stakeholder participation to generate inclusive, spatially represented strategic plans for the SDGs. Participating cities will be provided with guidance to prepare inclusive SDG City Development Strategies.

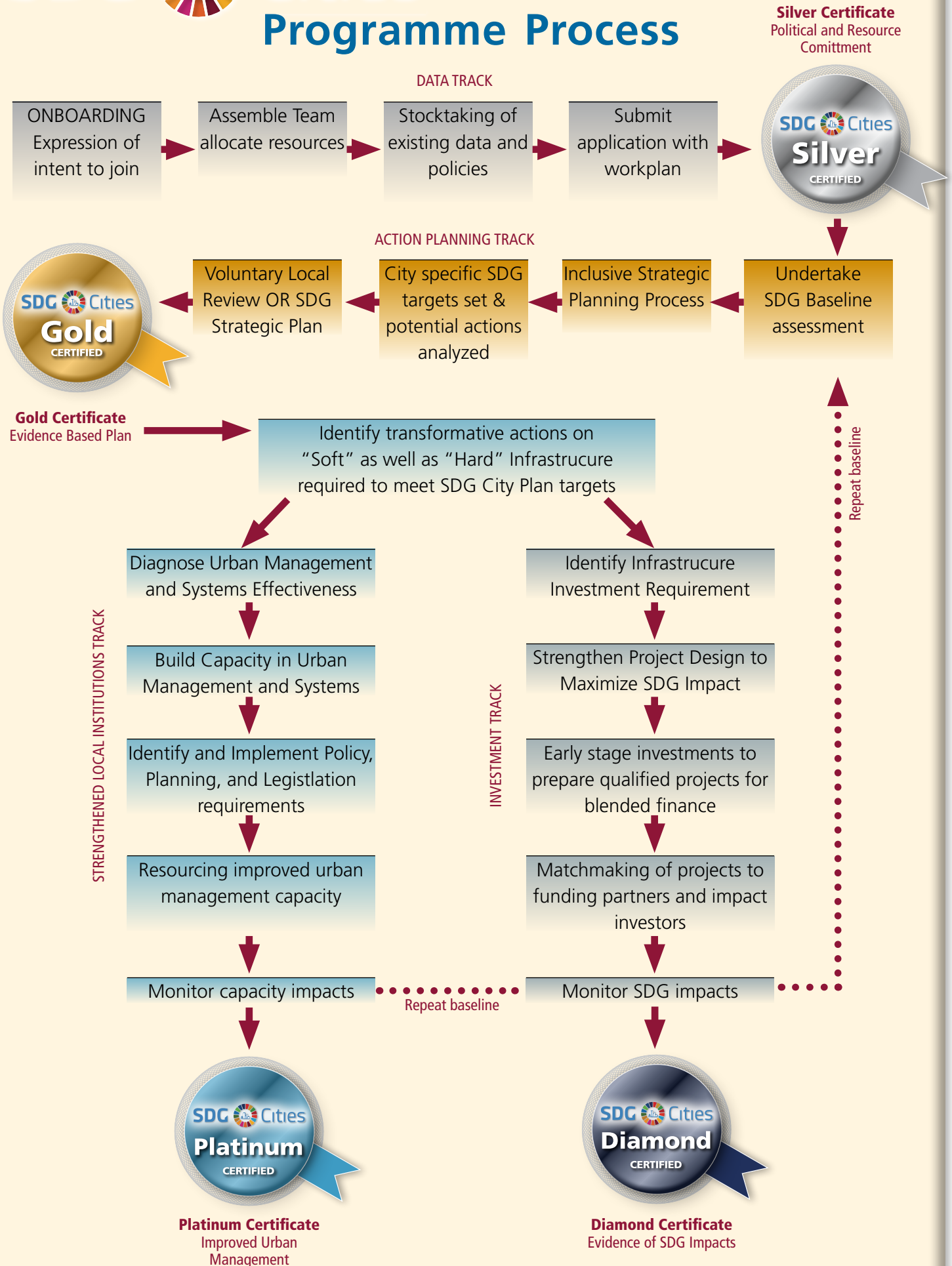
Strengthened Local Institutions Track

This track supports the strengthening of local institutions in key areas that are considered by the New Urban Agenda to be drivers of Sustainable Urban Development: Urban governance; Urban planning; Sustainable finance and Basic service delivery. Participating cities will be provided with digitalised diagnostic tools, technical resources and training in line with the diagnostic recommendations.

Investment Track

This track aims to ensure that impact initiatives identified through data analysis and strategic planning are financed and implemented. Through the Cities Investment Facility, projects developed by participating cities will be assessed to maximise SDG achievement and supported with financial preparation and matchmaking with sources of public and private capital to enable their implementation. <https://citiesinvestmentfacility.org/>

SDG Cities Programme Process



SDG Cities aims to support 1000 cities and impact 1 billion lives.

This level of scale is achieved by:

Providing cities with a digital bank of tools on data management, institutional capacity assessment, and institutional capacity development, as well as access to a Cities Investment Facility;

Providing technical support hubs that backstop participating cities at each stage of the SDG City process;

Promoting partnerships and collaboration with city networks, UN Country teams, civil society, and impact investors.

Certification

Exceptional progress of participating cities in driving SDG impact is recognised through SDG Cities Certification.



Moving to scale

The Global SDG Cities Flagship Initiative was conceived at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi in 2020. Since then, in partnership with the Global CEO Alliance, UN sister agencies, and impact investors, UN-Habitat has been developing a bank of digitized data tools, institutional assessment and capacity development tools and a City Investment Facility that prepares and match-makes SDG Impact Projects with diverse sources of finance.

With these tools now well advanced, SDG Cities is preparing to go to scale. It will do this by establishing Global Hubs as centres of excellence that provide knowledge and technical support in

line with each key stage of the SDG Cities process, and a series of Implementation Windows as described below.

Four Global Hubs

- **City Monitoring:** promoting reliable data and analytics
- **City Performance:** promoting strong local institutions and effective strategic plans
- **Investment:** promoting SDG Impact investment through blending a range of public and private financing sources
- **Certification:** recognising exceptional efforts of cities to achieve SDGs

The global hubs will review and further develop the SDG Cities tools, and will provide training, technical backstopping and technical resources to participating cities and partners, and link them to relevant experts and networks.

Six Implementation Windows

These are organized by constituency groups.

- **National groupings** of cities that work together and provide mutual support
- **Local Government Networks** that mobilize and support their member cities
- **Cities in Least Developed Countries** supported by donors
- **Youth Networks** that mobilize member organizations in data collection, strategic planning and co-creating impact initiatives
- **Women-led businesses** supporting women-led cities, thus championing women leadership while delivering local impact
- **Faith Communities** that work together to drive local transformation and channel financial resources from faith-based entities at the global level

SDG Cities Programme Timeline

Global Initiative



February 2020
SDG Cities Flagship Programme announced at WUF 10 Abu Dhabi

May 2021
Partnership with Ansari Group and Blendiab for outreach and movement building and Global CEO Alliance to prepare SDG Cities Digital Toolkit

June 2021
City Investment Facility Partners identified

October 2021
First SDG Cities Global Conference hosted by Shanghai Municipality
UNGSII 25+5 SDG Cities Leadership Platform and SDG Cities Global Initiative Merge

March 2022
Global Urban(UMF) Monitoring Framework endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission

April 2022
Global Hub for SDG Cities Launched at the World Urban Pavilion, Toronto
Women-Led Cities Initiative soft launch at the High-Level Meeting on New Urban Agenda

Early-stage mobilization of country programmes
Ghana, Tunisia, Morocco, Bolivia, Ecuador, Malaysia, China

Water utility assessment tool and online institutional capacity development courses to be launched in areas of planning, governance, own source revenue, mobility, water utilities and solid waste management

- 1 new global hub
- 5 new country programmes
- 2 new local government networks
- Faith communities window launched

250 participating cities

700 participating cities

2020

2021

2022

2023

2024

2025

2026

2027–2030

July 2020

Global Urban Monitoring Framework Process initiated in Madrid

Pilot Cities Identified in Shanghai (China), Penang (Malaysia), Ennour (Tunisia), Kyebi (Ghana), Chefchaouen (Morocco), La Paz (Bolivia)

November 2021

Partnership Agreement with Thriving Cities Group to develop Business Model for multi-disciplinary, multi-partner approach

June 2022

- World Urban Forum 11 Partnerships in place:
- Country Window: Min. Housing, Ecuador and Urbanice Malaysia
 - City networks: Commonwealth Local Government Forum and United Cities and Local Government, MEWA
 - Digital partner for enterprise management: Capcade Foundation
 - City Investment Facility Launched in partnership with UNCDF, Emerging Markets Infrastructure Fund, BlendLab, Beall and Think City

October 2022

Hard Launch of SDG Cities Global Initiative at the Second SDG Cities Global Conference UMF digital data tool (City Scan) to be available online Local Institutional digital diagnostic tools (planning, governance, own source revenue, mobility, housing, and solid waste management)

- 5 country programmes,
- 2 local government network windows,
- Women-led cities window launched,
- SDG Cities Certification endorsement by UN member states at UN-Habitat assembly 2023,

100 participating cities

450 participating cities

1000 participating cities



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

www.sdg-cities.org