

## CALL FOR INNOVATIVE URBAN CASE STUDIES FOR THE 2023 FUTURE OF ASIAN & PACIFIC CITIES REPORT

The world is facing a series of multiple and interlinked crises; a perfect storm that is testing the limits of current development paradigms. As countries and cities across Asia and the Pacific struggle to recover from the socio-economic crisis resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic, the climate crisis continues to ravage the region. Added to that, geo political tensions and the growing food and energy crisis is undermining prospects for a true recovery and in turn affect the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in the region.

Cities in the region are home to 54 percent of the world's urban population or about 2.3 billion people.<sup>1</sup> Even prior to the pandemic, cities had not kept pace with continued and often unplanned urbanization. This led to long-standing challenges, such as urban poverty, inequalities and environmental degradation.

According to UN-Habitat, 95 percent of confirmed COVID-19 cases were in the urban areas<sup>2</sup> and cities became hotspots for COVID-19 cases worldwide. The socio-economic consequences from the pandemic and the subsequent energy and food crisis are compounding existing challenges of urbanization. Cities, across the developing and developed world, became frontline actors facing multiple interlinked crises, and city-level response has become critical for building resilience and ensuring the achievement of the SDGs.

In this context, The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities 2023, builds on three previous publications, The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities 2019, The State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015 and The State of Asian Cities 2011, which explored key existing and emerging trends in urban development within the region. This Report, continues a forward-looking perspective with an ambitious vision of sustainable urban future and evaluates the implications of different development pathways under different scenarios for achievement of inclusive sustainable development in cities by 2030. The Report is envisioned and developed in a collaborative way among several partners including the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) the Asian Development Bank (ADB), CityNet and others. The report is divided into four thematic areas of established and emerging topics for sustainable urban development. Future-oriented goals and solutions to biggest urban challenges are supported with tangible examples of potential implementation pathways and illustrative brief case studies.

**This call for Case Studies** provides an opportunity to highlight specific innovative policies, case studies, initiatives or partnerships that fit the overall theme of the Report illustrated above from the Asia-Pacific region<sup>3</sup>. These case studies aim to deepen practical knowledge on sustainable urban development solutions, identify new and emerging issues. Knowledge can be drawn from both successful and unsuccessful experiences. These case studies should introduce themes that are directly related to the four main chapters of the Report. Case Studies will be collected through an open call on the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform hosted by CityNet.

For extraordinary case studies, representatives may be invited to the 2<sup>nd</sup> Urban SDG Knowledge Platform Awards Ceremony at the 8<sup>th</sup> Session of the Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF-8) being hosted by Suwon, Republic of Korea in October 2023 to share their experiences.

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations (2019), 'The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities: Transformative pathways towards sustainable urban development' <https://www.unescap.org/publications/future-asian-and-pacific-cities-2019-transformative-pathways-towards-sustainable-urban>

<sup>2</sup> UN Habitat, UNCDF et al (2022), 'Guiding principles and practices for urban economic recovery and resilience' <https://www.uncdf.org/article/6196/guiding-principles-and-practices-for-urban-economic-recovery-and-resilience>

<sup>3</sup> For a list of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, please refer to <https://www.unescap.org/about/member-states>

## URBAN SDG KNOWLEDGE PLATFORM CASE STUDY UPLOAD FORM

The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform has been developed by United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (ESCAP), the Seoul Metropolitan Government (SMG) and CityNet to support cities in implementing the SDGs and is being leveraged to upload case studies for the 2023 Future of Asian & Pacific Cities report.

The Urban SDG Knowledge Platform aims to facilitate city-to-city knowledge sharing through provision of a repository of urban policies and initiatives that are working towards local implementation of SDGs. The core content of the platform - the urban policies and initiatives - is user-generated, sourced directly from the local government representatives. Therefore providing local governments with an opportunity to share information about urban policies and initiatives from their cities, as well as gain first-hand knowledge about emerging solutions and innovative practices from other cities.

You may use this form as an offline document to prepare the content of your case study.. The policies and initiatives should be recent and directly related to the Sustainable Development Goals. Further information on the SDGs can be found [here](#). After you have completed the form, please email it directly to [sdgplatform@citynet-ap.org](mailto:sdgplatform@citynet-ap.org) with pictures and other media attached and, pending approval, the case will be uploaded on your behalf.

Thank you for your input.

### **The Sustainable Development Goals**

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, adopted by all United Nations member countries in 2015, calls on countries to achieve 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) over the next 15 years. The SDGs aim to end poverty, protect the planet, and ensure prosperity for all. Among these is the urban-dedicated Goal 11 which aims to 'make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.' However, all of the 17 SDGs matters to local governments, and implementation of 65% of the SDG's targets will require direct involvement of local actors.<sup>1</sup>

To achieve the SDGs, local action from mayors, city leaders and other urban stakeholders, including citizens, will be critical. For example, implementation of the SDGs will require urban policies and initiatives related to the relevant goals on hunger, poverty eradication, access to water and energy, creation of jobs, improve economic productivity, transport, sustainable management of natural resources, building inclusive and safe societies, ensuring equal opportunities for all, and promoting the adaptive capacity to climate-related hazards.

---

<sup>4</sup> Cities Alliance. *Sustainable Development Goals and Habitat III: Opportunities for a Successful New Urban Agenda*. 2015. Available at: <http://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/citiesalliance.org/files/Opportunities%20for%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda.pdf>

✖ Fields marked with an asterisk (\*) are required fields.

SECTION	INSTRUCTIONS	
CASE STUDY OVERVIEW		
Title *	Title of Initiative/Policy/Programme/Project	
Synopsis *	Describe the initiative in one or two sentences (140 characters max)	
City *	Name of city	
Country *	Official country name	
Institution*	Organisation name	
Region *	Select region and relevant subregion	Asia and Pacific <sup>5</sup> <i>Subregion:</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• North and North East Asia</li> <li>• North and Central Asia</li> <li>• South and South West Asia</li> <li>• Southeast Asia</li> <li>• Pacific</li> </ul>
Implementation Period *	Select the status of the initiative	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Being Implemented</li> <li>• Complete</li> </ul> Start year: Completion Year:
Stakeholders and Partners *	List the key organizations, stakeholders, and government departments involved in this initiative, including any <u>collaborative or cross-sector coordination mechanisms</u> .	
Themes *	Select the key theme(s) that this initiative is related to. If selecting 'Other', please describe.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Urban, spatial and territorial planning</li> <li>• City climate action and resilience</li> <li>• Urban digital transformation</li> <li>• Municipal financing</li> </ul>

<sup>5</sup> For a list of countries in the Asia-Pacific region, please refer to <https://www.unescap.org/about/member-states>



<p>Sustainable Development Goals *</p>	<p>Select the most relevant Sustainable Development Goal(s) and associated target(s) that this initiative is working towards.</p> <p>Further information about the SDGs is available at:  <a href="http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/">http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/sustainable-development-goals/</a></p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Goal 1 - End poverty in all its forms everywhere</li> <li>• Goal 2 - End hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition and promote sustainable agriculture</li> <li>• Goal 3 - Ensure healthy lives and promote well-being for all at all ages</li> <li>• Goal 4 - Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all</li> <li>• Goal 5 - Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls</li> <li>• Goal 6 - Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all</li> <li>• Goal 7 - Ensure access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all</li> <li>• Goal 8 - Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all</li> <li>• Goal 9 - Build resilient infrastructure, promote inclusive and sustainable industrialization and foster innovation</li> <li>• Goal 10 - Reduce inequality within and among countries</li> <li>• Goal 11 - Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable</li> <li>• Goal 12 - Ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns</li> <li>• Goal 13 - Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts</li> <li>• Goal 14 - Conserve and sustainably use the oceans, seas and marine resources for sustainable development</li> <li>• Goal 15 - Protect, restore and promote sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably manage forests, combat desertification, and halt and reverse land degradation and halt biodiversity loss</li> <li>• Goal 16 - Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels</li> <li>• Goal 17 - Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development</li> </ul>
--	---	---



	<p>Briefly explain how this initiative contributes to the relevant SDGs and associated targets.</p> <p><b>Please use the questions below to guide your response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How does this initiative effectively address multiple SDGs and associated targets?</li> <li>• Has this initiative been designed to address specific SDGs and associated targets?</li> <li>• How does this initiative contribute your country's national-level SDG strategies?</li> </ul>	
DETAILED INFORMATION		
Key Country/City/ Organisation/ Stakeholder Information	Website	
	social networking sites (Facebook, Twitter, etc.)	
Background, Challenges and Objectives *	<p>Describe what challenges/gaps the initiative is addressing, including any relevant background information about the country, city, organisation or stakeholder group and the outline the key objectives/goals of the initiative.</p> <p><b>Please use the questions below to guide your response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How have factors such as the country or city's history, population size, socio-economic characteristics and spatial attributes influenced the need for this initiative?</li> <li>• What present day development crises (climate, cost of living, energy, food, finance, etc.) challenges and opportunities faced by the country, city or stakeholder group influenced the development of this initiative?</li> <li>• Why was this particular approach chosen?</li> <li>• What are the key objectives/goals of this policy?</li> </ul>	



<p>Actions and Implementation*</p>	<p>Describe the key actions taken under this initiative, including any relevant information about its implementation timeline.</p> <p><b>Please use the questions below to guide your response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• How has the initiative built durable solutions and increased resilience to multiple interlinked crises in urban areas?</li> <li>• What key actions and stages were involved?</li> <li>• What local government and/or community engagement or participatory planning processes have been involved?</li> <li>• What monitoring and evaluation measures have been put in place?</li> <li>• What is the strategy to keep this practice going over the mid- and long-term?</li> </ul>	
<p>Outcomes and Impacts *</p>	<p>Provide a brief overview of the outcomes and impacts of the initiative.</p> <p><b>Please use the questions below to guide your response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What has been achieved and who is benefitting?</li> <li>• How has success been measured?</li> <li>• What factors and conditions contributed to its success and/or presented challenges?</li> <li>• How does this initiative benefit disadvantaged and marginalized groups?</li> </ul>	
<p>Replicability and Scalability *</p>	<p>Describe the suitability of this initiative to be replicated and scaled-up, including the factors and risks which parties interested in replication should consider during the planning of similar projects.</p> <p><b>Please use the questions below to guide your response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Can this practice or parts of it be replicated or was its success local context-specific?</li> <li>• What are the prospects for scaling up implementation to benefit a larger number of people?</li> <li>• In what urban contexts would this initiative be best-suited for replication?</li> <li>• What are the key takeaway lessons relevant to parties interested in replication?</li> </ul>	



<p>Budget and Resources Allocated</p>	<p>Describe the resources that have been allocated to the planning, implementation and ongoing maintenance of this initiative.</p> <p><b>Please use the questions below to guide your response:</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• What is the budget (USD) of the initiative?</li> <li>• Has the policy received any external resources or support, such as external financial contributions?</li> <li>• What internal resources (for example, human resources/staff, technical expertise etc.) have been allocated?</li> <li>• What other resources, such as data and technology, have been utilized?</li> </ul>	
<p>Further Information and Media</p>	<p>Do you have any images or documents to share along with the submission template form? Please share them by attaching the images to the e-mail and send it together with the submission template.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>❖ As images speak a thousand words, we would prefer the images to be in high quality. Please consider sending high quality images via Google Drive or similar applications.</li> <li>❖ By sharing the images you agree that images can be utilized within the Urban SDG Knowledge Platform website and the 2023 Future of Asian &amp; Pacific Cities Report. You also acknowledge that you possess the copyright to distribute the images to an external party.</li> </ul>	
<p>Contact Details</p>	<p><i>This information will be made public on the Platform. If you do not wish your email address and/or phone number to be displayed publicly, please indicate 'available upon request'.</i></p>	
	<p>Name*</p>	
	<p>Position/Role *</p>	
	<p>Organization *</p>	
	<p>Email</p>	
	<p>Phone</p>	