



Compendium of Inspiring Practices

SDG FOCUS **03**



**INTERNATIONAL
GUIDELINES
on URBAN
TERRITORIAL
PLANNING**

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Compendium of Inspiring Practices: SDG focus

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
P. O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)
www.unhabitat.org

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Acknowledgements

Coordinator:	Laura Petrella, Remy Sietchiping
Principal Authors:	Pamela Carbajal, Tomà Canessi
Contributors:	Fernando Murillo, Jenni Reynolds, Bernd Scholl, Hardwin de Wever, Zheng Yue, Martin Probst, Insaf Ben Othmane Hamrouni, Xiaolei Cai, Lara Celine Jaillon, Charlie Q. L. Xue, Markus Appenzeller, Guiti Eternad, Prabin Bajracharya, Dandan Tong, Lauren Waring, James Rayner, Matthew Carmona
Technical Support:	Cecilia Andersson, Dennis Mwamat, Lorenzo Scialdone
Editor:	Vicky Quinlan
Design and Layout:	Tomà Canessi
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SDG FOCUS

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Summary

The need for simple, universally agreed principles to guide actors and decision-makers involved in the planning of rural and urban development, led to the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines) being approved by UN-Habitat's Governing Council in 2015. These Guidelines provide a global reference framework for policies, plans, designs and implementation processes that will lead to more compact, socially inclusive, better-integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change. They consist of 12 key principles and 114 action-oriented recommendations, targeted at four stakeholder groups: national governments, local authorities, planning professionals and their associations, and civil society and its organisations.

The evidence and lessons learned in relation to the Guidelines from various regions and contexts were documented in the publication IG-UTP: Towards a Compendium of Inspiring Practices. That document is intended to be of use to the global IG-UTP network and relevant planning constituencies. The second collection of case studies, the Compendium of Inspiring Practices: Health Edition, showcased 15 urban and territorial planning projects that positively and explicitly contribute to human health through the development of the built and natural environment. It is the result of an open call for case studies by UN-Habitat in mid-2018. This was followed by the development of a sourcebook on the integration of health considerations in urban and territorial planning.

The presented compendium features 17 inspiring cases from nations around the world that highlight the approaches taken to the resolution of diverse issues and the imaginative highlights of each case that contribute to a more sustainable future. The cases are all exceptionally distinctive from each other and are drawn from a wide array of nations at diverse stages of urbanisation in diverse climates that present distinctive challenges to the wellbeing of citizenry, economy,

and resilience to future threats.

Four key lessons on the urban and territorial development process have been drawn from the compilation and analysis of the case studies, as follows:

- 1) **The importance of inclusive participatory planning and community participation.** Participation and community development are mobilised through various methodologies and perspectives, and with several actors. Considering people and local communities within the planning processes generates positive impacts in community solidarity and empowerment, ownership and acceptance of change.
- 2) **The strength of integrated spatial development planning.** To ensure the efficacy of development interventions, it is necessary to integrate the three interdependent dimensions of sustainable development in territorial planning. These dimensions are economic, social and environmental. It is also important that considering these dimensions simultaneously should be aimed towards unifying national and provincial priorities with local potential, needs and challenges.
- 3) **The power of partnerships and multi-stakeholder involvement within the project.** Including different stakeholders and multiple levels of governance in spatial planning strengthens the efficiency of the process, generating wider positive impact and reducing overlaps between ongoing activities.
- 4) **The necessity of implementation focus in the plans.** A project aimed at creating lasting impact with a positive effect on people's health and well-being, requires an effective implementation plan, to ensure that its efficacy is upheld in the face of future challenges.

Introduction

Background

Different approaches to planning have been tested and implemented worldwide. Whilst these diverse efforts provide valuable lessons to learn from, there is still a need for simple, universally agreed principles that can guide actors and decision-makers towards common goals. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP or Guidelines), approved in 2015 by UN-Habitat's Governing Council under Resolution 25/6, fill this critical gap by providing a global reference framework for policies, plans, designs and implementation processes that will lead to more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities and territories that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change. The IG-UTP complement two other sets of guidelines adopted by the Governing Council: The International Guidelines on Decentralisation and the Strengthening of Local Authorities (2007), and Access to Basic Services for All (2009).

The Guidelines were based on strong evidence and lessons learned from various regions and contexts as documented in the IG-UTP: Towards a Compendium of Inspiring Practices. They consist of 12 key principles and 114 action-oriented recommendations, targeted at four stakeholder groups, namely; national governments, local authorities, planning professionals and their associations, and civil society and its organisations.

The compendium of inspiring practices is an ongoing effort from the IG-UTP and UN-Habitat. This third edition of the Compendium of Inspiring Practices is linked to the global report, Implementing the IG-UTP 2018-2020. The Global Report includes cases that have used the IG-UTP as a framework. This compendium covers a boarder range of cases, that use different frameworks for urban and territorial planning linked to the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

About the Compendium

The IG-UTP Compendium of Inspiring Practices is an ongoing and open initiative at UN-Habitat for which new experiences are collected on an ongoing basis, to document and share with the global IG-UTP network and relevant planning constituencies. The first IG-UTP: Towards a Compendium of Inspiring Practices, is a collection of 26 experiences in urban and territorial planning that provides inventive, ambitious and unique cases that address common issues of urban and territorial development worldwide. The objective of the compendium is to create an evidence base that can support and illustrate the conditions for, and benefits of, applying the key principles included in the Guidelines.

The second release, the IG-UTP Compendium of Inspiring Practices: Health Edition, is a showcase of urban and territorial planning examples that positively and explicitly contribute to human health through the improvement of the built and natural environment. This sample of 20 international experiences from all regions of the world was developed with submissions from an open call for case studies made by UN-Habitat in mid-2018.

This compendium, the third edition "Compendium of inspiring practices: SDG focus" is a showcase of urban and territorial planning examples that look toward the achievement of the Sustainable development goals. Covering planning topics such as developing public space, mobility, greening strategies, and food security, the cases demonstrate the inherent relationship between planning and public health at different spatial levels: supranational and transboundary, national, metropolitan and city-region, city and municipal, and neighbourhood.

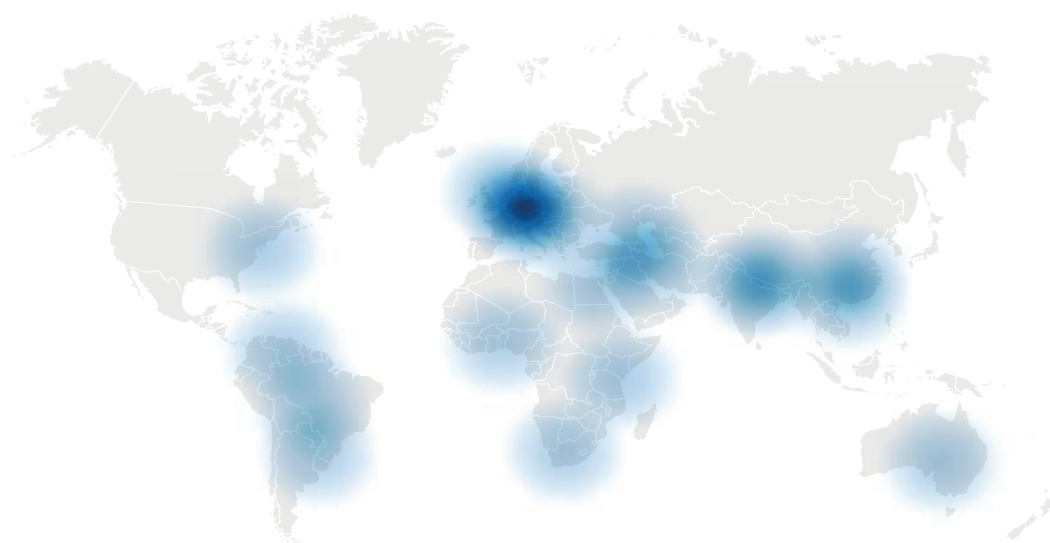


Figure 1. *Geographical distribution of case studies*

Key Lessons Learned

The following compendium features an array of case studies covering different geographical locations, from different socio-political contexts, at different scales - National to neighbourhood. This brings varied typologies of intervention, together with a considerable range of challenges and issues addressed in different modalities. The common string that ties the considered case studies together is the ultimate goal of achieving sustainable cities and communities, always considering people's health and well-being as a priority in the planning process. To achieve that, multiple key lessons are highlighted in the case studies analysed: **1) The importance of inclusive participatory planning and community participation, 2) the strength of integrated spatial development planning, 3) the power of partnerships and multi-stakeholder involvement within the project, 4) the necessity of implementation focus in plans.** These key lessons, strictly linked to each other, can be applied at all planning levels, scales and locations.

The importance of inclusive participatory planning and community participation

A binder throughout the cases is the value of community involvement and citizen participation in order to achieve significant and long-lasting results from planning in terms of cultural, social, and urban functional outcomes. The success of initiatives was positively affected when citizens were consulted and eventually granted authorisation to contribute to urban strategies, particularly in the implementation phase of projects. Considering people and local communities within the planning process generates positive impacts, whether it concerns neighbourhood scale projects (**Antwerp, Belgium; El Obour city, Egypt; Drakenstein, South Africa; Springfield, USA**), city or regional level projects (**Adelaide, Australia; Dogonbadan, Iran; Greater Accra Region, Ghana; Dar es Salaam, Tanzania**), or even projects on the National or Trans-National scale (**Migraplan, Latin-America**).

Drakenstein Municipality and **Adelaide** set excellent examples on how residents, local businesses and local communities can contribute and participate through

Development planning at the city-scale would not work without local rooting that creates a dialogue between local planners and residents. To develop the **BRT Corridor Development Strategy** in Tanzania and the **Ningo Prampam planned city extension** in Ghana, extended consultation with local residents was conducted to define the key objectives of the plan.

The strength of integrated spatial development planning

Spatial planning has the potential to integrate the three interdependent dimensions of sustainable development; economic, social and environmental. An integrated spatial planning approach is a participatory process that unifies national and provincial priorities with local potential, needs and problems and is based on a common vision and strategy that is developed to consider every sector involved.

The **Vienna Model** set an early example of integrated spatial development, addressing the threat of natural disaster with a new approach. The successful metamorphosis from a pure engineering project to a multi-purpose design was made possible through this new typology of planning process. Today, the area has developed into one of the city's most popular recreational zones. In the **Shenzhen Yantian District**, urban designers and engineers work jointly to integrate standalone project initiatives to create the conditions for infrastructure projects to trigger urban regeneration. In **Limmat Valley, Switzerland**, an integrated and multi-disciplinary urban development approach combined landscape design, urban planning and transport planning with the ultimate goal of preserving the environment, while creating job opportunities and fostering social cohesion. Analogously, in the development of the **BRT Corridor Development Strategy in Tanzania**, insights from socioeconomics, real estate, urban planning, transport, and infrastructure sectors were brought together to form an integrated design approach.

The power of partnerships and multi-stakeholder involvement within the project

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