

NOVEMBER 2019





SDG PROJECT ASSESSMENT TOOL VOL 2: USER GUIDE

NOVEMBER 2019





UK Prosperity Fund Global Future Cities Programme

SDG Project Assessment Tool User Guide

UN Habitat for UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office

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Acknowledgments

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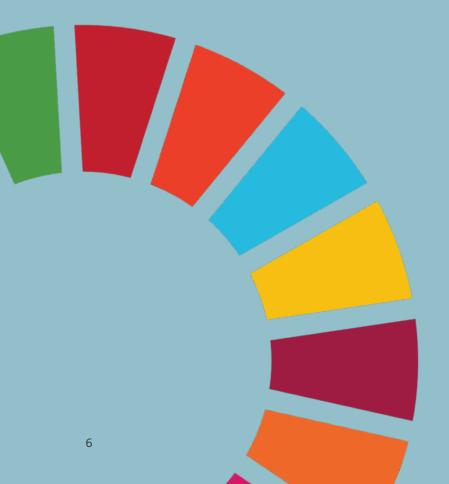
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THE SDG¹ PROJECT ASSESSMENT TOOL IS AN OFFLINE, DIGITAL AND USERFRIENDLY INSTRUMENT THAT GUIDES CITY AUTHORITIES TO DEVELOP MORE INCLUSIVE, SUSTAINABLE AND EFFECTIVE URBAN PROJECTS.



1. In 2015, world leaders signed the Sustainable Development Agenda convening development efforts towards 17 common global goals to be achieved by 2030, which are referred to as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

WHAT IS THE SDG PROJECT ASSESSMENT TOOL?

This User Guide outlines the application of the SDG Project Assessment Tool. The five steps are described, including the objective, participants and timeframe of each step.

The SDG Project Assessment Tool (referred to as SDG Tool) is developed by UN-Habitat as an offline, digital and user-friendly instrument to guide City Authorities and Delivery Partners in the development of more inclusive, sustainable and effective urban projects. The main purpose of the SDG Tool is to increase the alignment of selected urban projects to the SDG's and their city's contexts.

The objective of the SDG Tool is to:

- Improve the quality of urban projects in the planning, development and design phase to enhance sustainability and inclusiveness;
- Promote an enabling environment that ensures the implementability and viability of the projects in the medium and long term; and
- 3. Steer a participatory process between City Authorities and Delivery Partners to develop strategies to optimize the project's alignment to the SDGs and the Programme objectives.

The SDG Tool has been developed specifically for the cities and urban projects in the field of urban planning, mobility, resilience and data systems within the Global Future Cities Programme, providing a framework based on existing publications, policy papers and normative principles .

THE GLOBAL FUTURE CITIES PROGRAMME

The Global Future Cities Programme (referred to as the Programme), established by the UK Foreign and Commonwealth Office (UK FCO - donor), supports 19 City Authorities globally with technical assistance provided by the private sector (Delivery Partner) to develop projects in the field of urban planning, resilience and transport towards sustainable, inclusive prosperity. To achieve the objectives of the Programme, strategic advice is key to support the cities in conducting quality control of projects implemented, and to enhance their ability for sustaining projects beyond the Programme's timeframe.

The Strategic Development Phase of the Programme was concluded in December 2018, resulting in Terms of References (ToR) for 30 urban projects in 19 cities across the 10 countries. The Implementation Phase was launched in early September 2019 (one month later for the SEA region) and will end in March 2022. The implementation phase includes a set-up and inception phase of three months (staggered between September – January 2020) and a closure phase of 1 month (March 2022).

SCOPE

The SDG Tool will be applied periodically throughout the different phases of project implementation as an iterative assessment, triggering discussion among key stakeholders to further improve the projects. It is not is not an instrument for final evaluation.

What the SDG Project

What the SDG Project Assessment Application of the SDG Tool will generate recommendations that aim to identify both weaknesses that could be improved on in projects and strengths that could contribute to sharing best practices among cities in the Programme. Instead of creating competition between cities, or city rankings, the SDG Tool will identify common issues and enhance learnings and the exchange of knowledge between the cities.

TARGET GROUPS AND BENEFICIARIES

The main target groups of the SDG Tool are the City Authorities and the Delivery Partners. City Authorities will benefit from guidance on shaping project development so that projects contribute to the city's agendas and address existing urbanization challenges within the context of Sustainable Urban Development. Furthermore, Delivery Partners will benefit from the SDG Tool as it will ensure that the projects align to the SDGs and international norms and standards for inclusive prosperity, sustainable urbanization and gender mainstreaming to meet the Programme's objectives.

Further, the application of the SDG Tool will also benefit the Programme overall, and other stakeholders engaged throughout the Programme's duration as it is an assurance of the Programme objectives. The SDG Tool may also contribute to other Programme components, such as the Theory of Change, the Knowledge Management Platform, thematic learning events and normative outputs (publications).

APPROACH

The New Urban Agenda as a driver for the Sustainable Development Goals

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