The 6th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

Collection of the 30 Deserving Initiatives

Foreign Affairs Office of the People's Government of Guangzhou Municipality
Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

UCLG United Cities and Local Governments

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城市创新 Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

The Haizhu Wetland of Guangzhou

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FOREWORD

The biennial Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation (Guangzhou Award) has been co-hosted by the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Association of the Major Metropolises (Metropolis) and the City of Guangzhou since 2012. Besides recognizing local government excellence, the Guangzhou Award is designed as a learning and exchange platform to help accelerate the local implementation of the global agendas.

This compilation of case profiles is derived from the 6th cycle of the Guangzhou Award, during which 274 initiatives from 193 cities and regions from 54 countries made successful submissions. All of them were assessed by an independent Technical Committee of 11 experts in September 2023. The criteria used included the social, economic, environmental, and political context of each case and their innovativeness, effectiveness and potential for going to scale. As a result, of these 274 initiatives, 45 were identified as exemplary initiatives. This collection presents 30 of the 45 exemplary initiatives as a supplement to the shortlisted 15 outstanding initiatives (see Annex).

The 30 initiatives address all 17 of the SDGs with most of the initiatives covering several goals and targets simultaneously. They provide an excellent demonstration of the localization of the global agendas. They furthermore provide useful insights as to how many of the processes can be replicated and brought to scale across borders and jurisdictions.

With this unique collection we would like to pay tribute to all the practitioners in urban innovation for their commendable efforts in leading their respective cities and communities to a more inclusive and sustainable future. We hope the clear and compelling stories contained in this report will serve as sources of learning and inspiration. We welcome your feedback on these stories and also look forward to learning about your initiatives in sustainable urban development.

Nicholas You
Executive Director
Guangzhou Institute for Urban Innovation

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Baia Mare, Romania

Baia Mare from a Mining and Polluted City towards a Green, Innovative, and Participatory City: SPIRE – Smart Post-Industrial Regenerative Ecosystem

For decades, the city of Baia Mare was known as the mining capital of Romania, home to intensive mining and metallurgical industries. However, this legacy has left the city with over 600 hectares of land heavily contaminated by toxic heavy metals, posing risks to the health of the city's 120,000 inhabitants and the local environment. The complex environmental legacy is intertwined with broader economic and social challenges in this post-industrial city. It has experienced steady economic decline and depopulation in recent decades. Today, it has high levels of unemployment, particularly among youth.

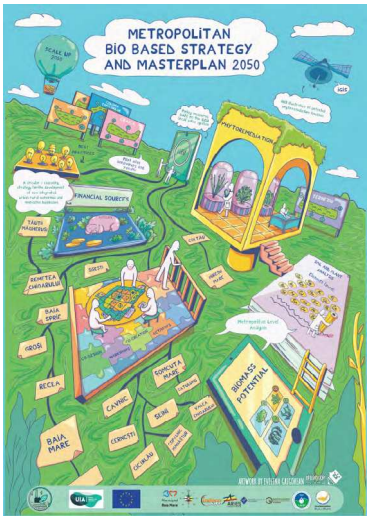
This led to the implementation of the SPIRE (Smart Post-Industrial Regenerative Ecosystem) project, which aims to drive systemic change by addressing this nexus of sustainability challenges in an integrated way. The environmental focus is on soil remediation using phytoremediation – the use of plants to clean up air, soil, or water through their root systems – which studies have shown can effectively extract toxic metals over time. Socially, the project builds community awareness, knowledge, and capacities around sustainability, while promoting more inclusive, participatory urban governance. Economically, it fosters new green business models and local value chains to boost the bioeconomy and generate green jobs.

Resident engagement is a core element of SPIRE. Intensive community engagement efforts have included surveys, focus groups, workshops, and public planting events known as "plantathons". These activities have provided input to co-design proposals for reviving the five pilot sites. Local people have also gained hands-on experience in planting trees and helped monitor the phytoremediation process underway near their homes.

To incentivize involvement, the city has also developed an innovative digital currency called iLEU. People earn iLEU tokens for actions like participating in plantathons, donating recycling materials, or using sustainable transport. The tokens can then be used for the payment of taxes, goods, and services in the city. Though legal restrictions limit its impact, it has the potential to stimulate behavioural changes among the residents.

The project is also empowering young entrepreneurs to lead Baia Mare's transition to a greener economy. The SPIRE Startups program provides coaching and support for youth-led enterprises focused on areas like bio-based products, eco-innovation, and local value chains. By catalysing youth leadership in the emerging bioeconomy, the project aims to create new economic opportunities and stem high unemployment among young people.

SPIRE's integrated approach combines ambitious pollution remediation trials with locally driven economic development and civic participation programmes. It aligns in particular with SDG9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 15 (life on land).



Barcelona, Spain

Climate Shelters in Schools: Adapting Schools to Climate Change through Green, Blue, and Grey Solutions

Barcelona, Spain's second most populous city with a population of 1.6 million, is facing the growing impacts of climate change. Rising temperatures, heatwaves, droughts, and extreme weather events are becoming more common. This is especially concerning in dense, urban areas where heat gets trapped by pavement and buildings. To address this, the city has launched a Climate Shelters in Schools programme to adapt its public schools to climate change impacts through green, blue, and grey solutions.

The initiative started in 2018 as a pilot project to convert 11 public schools across Barcelona into "cool islands" or climate shelters. The goal was to redesign schoolyards to provide cooler outdoor spaces for students to play and gather during increasingly hot days, as well as for the wider community outside of school hours. The project took a participatory approach, involving school communities in selecting and designing solutions tailored to each schoolyard. It incorporated things like trees, vegetation, shade structures, reflective paint, water elements, and permeable pavement. An evaluation found the interventions lowered temperatures, improved air quality, and enhanced the wellbeing of students.

The success of this pilot led to its expansion as official municipal policy under Barcelona's Climate Plan. The new Let's Transform Schoolyards programme seeks to adapt all public schools over the next decade. Each year 10 to 15 more schools will be renovated following the criteria and participatory process refined through the Climate Shelters project. The city has allocated 2 to 3 million euros annually to implement this, with each schoolyard renovation costing around 240,000 euros.

There were several aspects that made the original Climate Shelters pilot effective. The project utilized existing public schoolyard spaces to create a connected network of climate shelters conveniently located within walking distance of residents across Barcelona's neighbourhoods. It tested out various combinations of green, blue, and grey solutions to determine the most feasible and impactful interventions to cool schoolyards. These were then codified into a Catalogue of Solutions that could be easily replicated at other schools.

Besides, the project integrated well with existing city programmes like the Open Schoolyards and Sustainable Schools initiatives, aligning policies across departments. It also incorporated educational programming to teach students about the climate change interventions happening in their schoolyard.

With climate change impacts accelerating globally, this initiative provides an example of how cities can quickly and affordably adapt infrastructure in inclusive ways. It aligns in particular with SDG4 (quality education), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 (climate action).

Picture provided by the Barcelona's City Council

Berlin, Germany

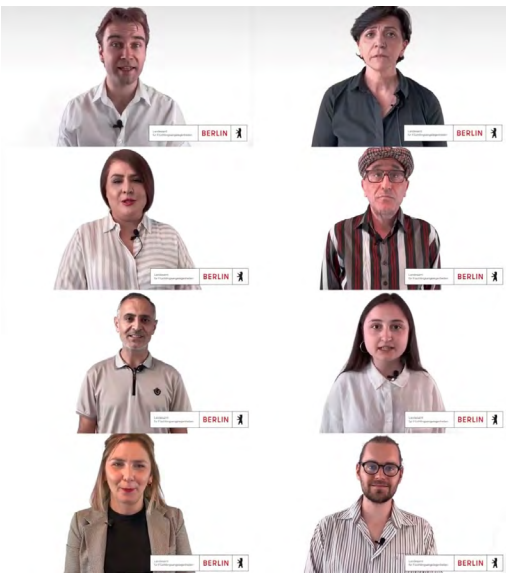
Give Administration a Human Face

Berlin, the capital of Germany, is home to 3.75 million residents, excluding the monthly influx of over 1,500 asylum seekers. These newcomers face a multitude of challenges, from language barriers to long processing times, often leading to anxiety, trauma, and a sense of helplessness. To address these issues, Berlin initiated this innovative project Give Administration a Human Face that leverages digital technology to provide crucial information to asylum seekers.

The initiative builds upon lessons learned from earlier digital information campaigns, particularly the one initiated in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, which was widely successful in ensuring safe communication without human contact. The current initiative benefits from the expertise developed during that time, aiming to reach the maximum number of asylum seekers through a single communication tool while ensuring cross-cultural understanding.

The heart of this initiative lies in the creation of multilingual digital information videos accessible to asylum seekers in the waiting rooms of Berlin's arrival centers. Typically, asylum seekers arrive with numerous questions and concerns, and waiting for interpreters to address these queries often results in extended waiting times. With these videos, the city offers guidance on the essential steps in the arrival process, provides insights into the rights of asylum seekers in Germany, and introduces them to available services. The goals are to optimize information delivery to refugees, strengthen their sense of safety and empowerment through knowledge, lower processing times for staff by proactively answering common questions.

More importantly, In the videos, actual employees, many of whom have transnational



backgrounds, serve as the faces and voices of the administration. Speakers include staff from various departments and those fluent in rare languages like Azerbaijani, Kurdish, and Georgian to reach broader audiences. This has not only ensured cost savings but also established authenticity by featuring real employees, reinforcing the importance of personal and genuine communication. This approach humanizes the office and overcomes the stereotype of an impersonal bureaucracy, thus shaping an "identity" for the office, a relatively new idea in Berlin and Germany.

This initiative embodies innovation in public service by embracing digital solutions to enhance the arrival process for asylum seekers. It demonstrates the benefits of efficient and personalized communication and highlights the importance of a humanized state administration. It aligns in particular with SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

Bontang, Indonesia

Geospatial-based Persons with Disabilities Card and Services

The Indonesian city of Bontang, home to over 180,000 people, is a leading industrial hub on Borneo Island. While economically successful, the city grapples with a significant challenge - ensuring the rights and well-being of individuals with disabilities. For years, Bontang struggled with the quality and accessibility of data concerning its citizens with disabilities. These valuable data were not only inaccurate and outdated but were stored in tabular formats without precise location information. This approach rendered the data less accountable and transparent. As a result, not all individuals with disabilities in the city had equal access to the essential services and programmes designed to support them. This initiative, Geospatial-Based Persons with Disabilities Card and Services, was thus conceived.

Launched in 2021, the initiative aims to empower and protect individuals with disabilities, with a strong focus on collecting, mapping, and managing data using geospatial technology. Previously, data collection and verification had to go through several levels from the city, districts, sub-districts, and all the way down to the communities. This elaborate linear process was very inefficient in itself. Besides, the manually collected data was compiled into tables without precise location information.

With the introduction of this initiative, trained local volunteers use smartphones to survey Bontang's disabled, inputting real-time data on their locations, disabilities, requirements, and identities. The live data feeds into a publicly accessible WebGIS disability dashboard. Unique e-disability cards are then issued to individuals, linked to the digital database. This provides Bontang with transparent, accountable, targeted disability insights and helps its residents with disabilities access a range of services and programmes such as assistive devices, daily necessities, financial assistance, business training, and work apprenticeships.

The initiative has already achieved substantial outcomes. Internally, it has not only improved the performance of social welfare services for persons with disabilities, but also enhanced the integration of government services and public policies for this group of people. Externally, the initiative has led to increased equal opportunities for individuals with disabilities and improved their social welfare without discrimination, benefitting over 900 people with disabilities.

To sustain the model, the city has mandated it through mayoral decree and allocated annual budgets. Other local governments in Indonesia have also begun replicating this approach for disability data management, like the provincial government in East Kalimantan.

This initiative stands as a transformative approach in Bontang to ensuring the rights, protection, and inclusivity of individuals with disabilities. It aligns in particular with SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Ciudad 3D: A Tool to Promote Urban Development in the City of Buenos Aires

The Argentine capital of Buenos Aires stands as a bustling metropolis on the southeastern coast of South America. With more than 3 million inhabitants spread over a territory of 200 square kilometers, Buenos Aires is not only the largest city in Argentina but also serves as the country's economic, cultural, and political epicentre. Like many urban centres worldwide, the city faces its fair share of urban development challenges, including the need for streamlined processes and greater transparency.

In 2021, the Government of the City of Buenos Aires launched the Ciudad 3D initiative, aimed at reshaping urban development within the city. At its core, Ciudad 3D is a digital platform designed to provide three-dimensional representations of urban development of the neighbourhoods of the City of Buenos Aires. The primary goal is to offer comprehensive information on building plans, construction procedures, land use, and even tax calculations, all while simplifying the application of the city's Urban Code - a set of regulations and guidelines that govern urban planning and development within the city. Ciudad 3D guarantees improved access to information and documents on urban planning regulation to professionals, in order to streamline the processes of obtaining construction permits.

The initiative is revolutionary in the sense that its use of new technologies in the realm of urban development is a novel approach in Argentina. It represents a paradigm shift in how digital tools are utilized for urban planning and development. Additionally, the initiative puts an emphasis on transparency and citizen access to information. The platform adopts an open-source approach, making the platform's source code available for others to build upon; which is part of a government agenda that promotes transparency and efficient use of resources, seeking that these solutions transcend and endure over time.

The Government of the City of Buenos Aires worked actively with urban developers and citizens to gather their opinions and incorporate diverse perspectives into the design and functionality of the platform. As a result, Ciudad 3D has been able to increase its website traffic from 6,000 to over 13,000 users, representing around 50,000 visits per month. It empowers the inhabitants of the city It has also contributed to reducing the approval time for construction projects by enabling residents to better understand their city and aids architects, planners, and designers in their daily work, improving the overall efficiency of the urban development process and contributing to improved quality of life in the city.

The initiative represents a digital revolution in urban development for the City of Buenos Aires. Its innovative use of 3D technology and commitment to transparency showcase the potential for technology to transform urban planning and development. This initiative aligns in particular with SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

Buenos Aires, Argentina

Localization and SDG Voluntary Local Reviews of the City of Buenos Aires

Home to over 3 million residents, Buenos Aires is a sprawling metropolis known for its rich cultural heritage, diverse population, thriving economic landscape, and, more recently, for its commitment to sustainable development. SDG localization and Voluntary Local Reviews (VLR) of the City of Buenos Aires, introduced in 2016, demonstrates the city's dedication to the United Nations' 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

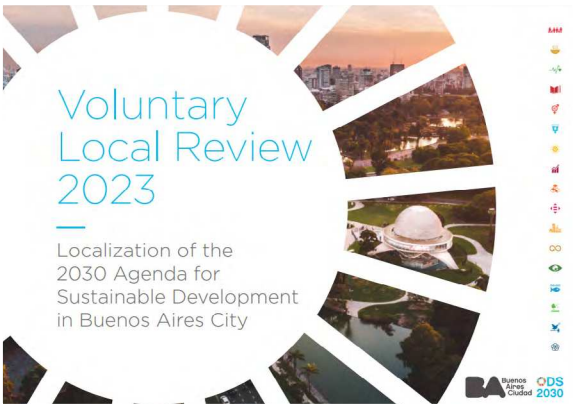
The initiative unfolded in three stages: adaptation, awareness-raising, and strategic partnerships. The adaptation process ensured that the Global Goals were tailored to meet the unique challenges and opportunities of Buenos Aires. For this, the municipal government created an inter-departmental roundtable that consists of all 27 departments. This was then followed by a concerted effort to raise awareness among the city's residents, recognizing that active community participation is essential for achieving the SDGs. Finally, the initiative sought out strategic partnerships to enrich experiences and practices related to governance under the guidance of the 2030 Agenda. In 2019, Buenos Aires became one of the first five cities in the world to present progress in the implementation of the SDGs through the VLR mechanism and has been doing so ever since on an annual basis.

This annual report provides a transparent account of the city's journey, showcasing achievements, challenges, and initiatives related to the SDGs. It serves as a useful and effective local accountability tool. As time progresses, new data and information become available, allowing local authorities to gain a deeper understanding of their communities' needs and the impact of policies.

Moreover, this initiative has turned out to be an international platform for sharing experiences and best practices. As the reporting process involves collaboration with various stakeholders, it has led to new partnerships and innovative solutions. Buenos Aires actively engages with national governments, cities, international organizations, and civil society groups to share experiences and practices in pursuit of the SDGs. These partnerships create a community of practices with shared challenges and ambitions, promoting the development of public policies that respond to sustainable development challenges.

To ensure the sustainability of this initiative, Buenos Aires has institutionalized the SDG agenda through an agreement with the national government. Additionally, the city government is working on legislation to incorporate the 2030 Agenda into future government plans, cementing its commitment to long-term sustainable development.

This initiative showcases Buenos Aires' dedication to the SDGs. It reports on all 17 SDGs and speaks especially to SDG 16 (justice, peace, and strong institutions).



Daggar, Pakistan

Building Bridges: Connecting Communities for a Better Tomorrow

In the Pakistani city of Daggar, home to more than 170,000 inhabitants, rapid urbanization and industrialization have led to increased emissions of pollutants. These include particulate matter, nitrogen oxides, and volatile organic compounds, contributing to poor air quality, respiratory diseases, and environmental degradation. To combat this trend and foster sustainable development, the city has launched a forward-thinking initiative, Building Bridges: Connecting Communities for a Better Tomorrow.

The initiative utilizes cutting-edge real-time air quality monitoring systems, driven by sensor networks and advanced data analytics, which guarantees a significant enhancement in the precision and immediacy of pollution tracking. This shift moves the emphasis from reacting to issues to proactively addressing them.

Stakeholder engagement is key to the initiative. Institutionally, cross-functional teams and streamlined procedures are employed to overcome bureaucratic inertia and facilitate responsive decision-making. Training programmes are provided to ensure a competent workforce. Financially, the initiative's implementation relies on a mix of financial resources and in-kind contributions. Aside from government allocations and international grants, the innovative use of green bonds as a financing mechanism galvanizes private investments to propel sustainable development. Technically, local universities provide research support and access to scientific resources.

The community has also been mobilized to participate in this pollution control effort through educational campaigns and citizen science initiatives. For instance, online platforms are in place to allow residents to report pollution hotspots and contribute data, which will go through a rigorous quality control process.

Since its launch in July 2023, the initiative has already achieved impressive outcomes. Extensive air monitoring across the city shows a 30 percent reduction in dangerous particulates and nitrogen oxides. This success has translated into tangible public health gains, with a 20 percent decline in hospitalizations for pollution-related respiratory diseases. Beyond improving wellbeing, the push towards stringent emissions standards and clean technologies has also stimulated economic growth and job creation in environmentally sustainable industries.

With the goal of transforming air quality over 10 to 15 years, the city has taken steps to sustain the initiative's innovations over the long term. New policies have been enshrined in legal frameworks to guarantee continuity across political cycles. Budgetary commitments and green bonds provide ongoing financial resources. Investing in research partnerships and workforce training ensures access to current technical expertise and skills. Dedicated staff will oversee continuous monitoring, maintenance, and adaptation.

This initiative takes a multi-pronged approach to curbing urban air pollution through policy changes, sustainable technologies, stakeholder engagement, and innovative partnerships. It aligns in particular with SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (climate action) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals) .

Dubai, United Arab Emirates

Smart System for Infrastructure & Utilities Lands Services

With over 3 million residents, the United Arab Emirates city of Dubai is known for its bold architecture and rapid development. Behind the scenes, the city works hard to enable and approve new infrastructure and construction projects efficiently to serve its growing population. In 2022, the municipality implemented a smart system to completely digitize and accelerate the approval process for infrastructure projects. This system is transforming how road, utility, and public service projects are planned and delivered in Dubai.

In the past, infrastructure project approvals took extensive time and resources. Dubai Municipality oversees city services including land planning and allocation and receives hundreds of project requests annually from government entities like the Roads and Transport Authority (RTA). Approving road projects and allocating land for utilities and public services was done manually.

The process required extensive paper documents, in-person meetings, and coordination between departments. It took up to 30 days to compile plans, determine affected land parcels, calculate compensation to landowners, and obtain final sign-off. Valuable staff time went to administrative tasks. This delayed project implementation and did not meet the municipality's strategic vision.

This smart system was conceived to tackle these pain points. The system was designed and built in-house. It was implemented in three phases.

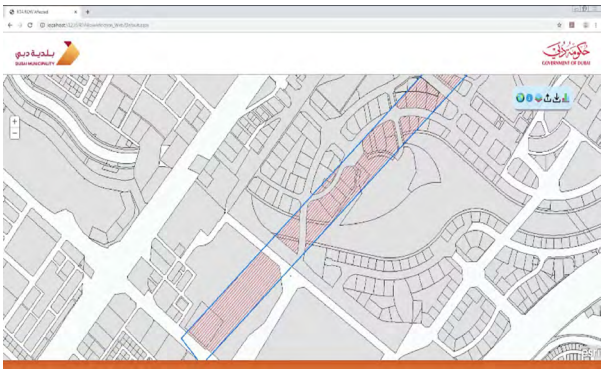
Phase 1 focused on automating road project approvals. This allowed RTA engineers to directly upload road plans instead of using paper submissions. The system automatically overlays the plans on Dubai's digital cadastral maps. It immediately identifies affected land parcels and provides owner details and compensation values. Approvals that used to take 30 days now take 2 days with minimal staff time.

Phase 2 linked the system to RTA's existing No Objection Certificate permit system for roadworks. This unified the approval process across different government entities.

Phase 3 extended the system to utilities and public services land allocation. Government entities can digitally request land for utilities and services. The system provides available site options that meet their requirements. Entities then select a site and apply digitally.

The smart system has led to significant benefits for all stakeholders. By fully digitizing the previously manual approval process, the system enables a 100% paperless workflow and eliminates the delays and inefficiencies of physical document handling. In addition to faster approvals, the system reduces the administrative workload for municipality staff, who can now devote more time to higher-level analysis and planning work. Government entities utilizing the system have also reported increased satisfaction levels.

This initiative demonstrates how digital transformation in government services contributes to improved efficiencies. It aligns in particular with SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).



eThekwini, South Africa

eThekwini Strat Hub – Leveraging Digital Tools and Data to Enhance Operational Efficiencies and Improve Service Delivery

With a population of 4.2 million (Census 2022), eThekwini (also known as Durban) is South Africa's third most populous city. For many years, the municipality has been making decisions based on instincts rather than data-driven insights. This historical approach was open to operational inefficiencies, misallocation of resources, and consequently, subpar service delivery. To fill this gap, the Municipality introduced household surveys to track service delivery, and this is compounded by data sourced from Statistics South Africa i.ward profiles and other socio-economic data. However, this data is mainly in the form of excel spreadsheets and other licensed statistical portals whose access is limited to a few.

To visualise data and ensure data inclusivity, the city launched an innovative data platform called the "Strategic Hub" (Strat Hub) in 2021. This integrated platform embodies the convergence of data visualization, digitization and automation, and cloud data warehousing. It leverages digital tools to enhance operational efficiencies and improve service delivery, fostering a space where policymakers, businesses, and residents access critical insights for informed decision-making.

Partnerships play a pivotal role in this initiative. The realization that the local government alone lacks adequate resources and skills capacity for such innovation led to the principle of co-creation. Leveraging an ecosystem of private, academic, civil society, and community partnerships has significantly enhanced the city's capacity for innovation. It allows responding better to residents' needs and enables developing innovative solutions tailored to local challenges.

The Strat Hub provides a "single source of truth" by centralizing data and analytics tools aimed at data-driven decision making across the municipality. The goal is to foster a gradual yet impactful change in strategic planning and operational decisions over the next few years. The initiative's multi-layered innovation involves a profound shift from traditional and manual processes towards digitized and automated systems. It optimizes existing systems to extract value from operational data, supported by technical resources like Power Apps for digitizing and automating services.

Now there are various dashboards providing real-time analytics on key performance indicators across domains like road safety, health, disaster response, water infrastructure, and more. For instance, real-time geolocation data aids in enhancing the city's response to service requests, optimizing waste collection routes, and improving disaster response tools.

The platform constantly evolves from its original goal of integrating city-level data to a realization of the critical need for cloud data warehousing and digitization. Overcoming resistance, especially from data silos and traditional mindsets, was achieved by fostering collaboration across departments and directly resolving departmental pain points through innovative support. The initiative's success also hinges on upskilling internal resources to lead this transformative journey.

This initiative portrays the transformative potential of leveraging data and digital tools, paving the way for more efficient and people-oriented governance. It aligns in particular with SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

Gimhae, Republic of Korea

Good-bye to Plastic Flowers and Disposable Dishes! – Carbon Neutral and Happy Green City

Gimhae, a vibrant city in South Korea with a population of 550,000, faces a pressing environmental concern – excessive plastic usage, arising from its funeral culture. Public cemeteries alone generate 43 tons of waste and carbon emissions in Gimhae due to the use of plastic artificial flowers. Similarly, private funeral halls contribute to 24 tons of disposable tableware waste, producing an additional 24 tons of carbon emissions upon incineration.

In response to these challenges, the city initiated the project Good-bye to Plastic Flowers and Disposable Dishes! – Carbon Neutral and Happy Green City in December 2021. The primary objective is to transition from plastic flowers and single-use plastic tableware to eco-friendly alternatives, thereby significantly reducing carbon emissions and plastic waste.

Gimhae's approach to cutting down these plastic wastes is a departure from conventional practices. Rather than relying on legislation, it focuses on public-private agreements, a first of its kind in South Korea. Extensive outreach persuaded key stakeholders like cemetery operators and funeral halls to voluntarily phase out plastic products.

In terms of plastic flowers, persuading people to ditch this cheaper and more durable option required economic motivation rather than mere awareness raising. In response, horticultural organizations introduced post-payment fresh flower promotion and innovative alternatives like dried flowers, priced competitively to their artificial counterparts. Local banks also chimed in through their ESG programmes such as contributing dried flower vending machines.

In terms of disposable tableware, the private sector donated a sum of money to cover the procurement and operational expenses for reusable tableware at funeral halls. In addition, a multi-use dishwashing facility is being constructed to further support the transition to reusable tableware.

The initiative has already yielded impressive results. It has reduced over 43 tons of plastic flower waste and more than 45 tons of carbon emissions annually in public cemeteries, as well as 39 tons of single-use tableware waste and 41 tons of carbon emissions at funeral halls. This approached has already been replicated province-wide and is anticipating a potential nationwide expansion. When it does, it is projected to cut more than 1,557 tons of plastic waste and 1,638 tons of carbon emissions each year.

In addition to its environmental values, the initiative also has benefits for the economically less secure. Flower growers now have a more stable source of income, as do lower-income families, who are prioritized for the new jobs created at dishwashing and delivery companies.

This initiative reflects the city's commitment to sustainability by cutting plastic wastes and carbon emissions through a cooperative approach. It aligns in particular with SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 12 (responsible consumption and production), and SDG 13 (climate action).

Guangzhou, China

Integrated and Smart Neonatal Health Management System – Empowering Mothers, the Family, and the Community

Guangzhou, the third largest city in China, boasts an ever-growing population that exceeds 18 million, with 160,000 newborns each year. It is common for the newly born, especially about 60 to 80 percent of preterm babies to develop jaundice, often a benign condition but occasionally a sign of underlying serious diseases. Due to the lack of knowledge and experience, parents tend to rush to the hospital without consulting community care providers. On the other hand, some parents fail to identify the symptoms in time, which is a major factor of the morbidity or even mortality.

This has made the city realize the importance to empower the caregivers within the family and at the community level and avoid unnecessary worries and hospital visits. Thus, the Integrated and Smart Neonatal Health Management System was born to help parents monitor the neonatal jaundice of their babies at home and direct them to appropriate medical facilities for assistance if required.

After being discharged from the hospital following a successful labour, parents are informed of this system and asked to monitor the baby's bilirubin level for a week after its birth. The system, in the form of an online platform, offers information on how to take the measurement and what each level of jaundice means. After the newborn's bilirubin data is logged in, the system automatically generates a jaundice evaluation and provides specific suggestions, such as the need to go to a healthcare facility - and the location of the nearest community health centre or district children's hospital if need be. And if the doctors at this tier of the child healthcare system are unable to handle the situation, they will make a referral to a tertiary hospital, whose pediatricians can access the baby's health records through the system in real time.

But the system does not stop there. With this three-tier healthcare system for children - families, community health centres/district children's hospitals, and tertiary hospitals - data across these stakeholders are pooled, interconnected, and analyzed to constitute a smart knowledge base on growth conditions through to the age of 18. Besides, it is AI-augmented to look at trends and tendencies and correlate health challenges with other factors, including social determinants of health and wellbeing.

The system has already made a substantial

impact since its launch in 2020. The incidence of newborns with high bilirubin in Guangzhou nearly halved, from 19.91% in 2018 to 10.78% in 2022, and the proportion of severe jaundice dropped from 0.57% to 0.30%. More than 200,000 families have benefited from the system. Its success in Guangzhou is leading to a prospective roll-out across metropolitan China.

With its focus on prevention rather than cure, this initiative optimizes healthcare resources and, most importantly, empowers parents and grassroots healthcare practitioners to take an active role in assessing newborn health. It aligns in particular with SDG 3 (good health and well-being) , SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Gwanak, Republic of Korea

Korean Youth Capital, Gwanak-gu

Gwanak, situated within the South Korean capital of Seoul, is a district with a unique demographic distinction. This district boasts the highest youth population in the country, with those aged 19 to 39 making up a substantial 41% of its over 480,000 residents. However, these distinctive demographics bear with them ominous trends. The district faced rising suicide rates, growing social alienation, and an increasing number of single-person households, leading to social fragmentation. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated issues of depression and suicide among the youth. There was a pressing need to empower its youth and address these challenges. Gwanak's ambitious Korean Youth Capital initiative, launched in January 2021, takes a comprehensive approach to tackle these challenges.

This initiative focuses on three key areas. The first is youth participation in governance. The district has established a public-private partnership governance model to engage with various youth organizations. This approach empowers young people to actively participate in shaping policies and community decisions. A "Youth Policy Committee" facilitates deliberations on youth policy agendas, ensuring their voices are heard.

The second pillar aims to strengthen youth self-reliance. The initiative provides tailored support to enhance young people's independence. This includes programmes designed to support start-ups, employment training, housing stability, and psychological assistance, addressing a range of their needs.

The third aspect of this initiative emphasizes fostering connection among the youth. Gwanak has proactively secured spaces needed for youth activities through collaborations with private organizations. Programmes like the "Youth Culture Zone" exemplify the public-private partnership approach, making cultural and artistic opportunities more accessible to the youth.

So far, the initiative has witnessed the establishment of three brick-and-mortar youth activity bases, 25 Youth Culture Zones utilising private spaces, and numerous high-quality cultural programmes, which have increased youth participation. Youth entrepreneurial activities have also skyrocketed. Start-up facilities have attracted over 12 times the number of venture businesses, with their annual sales growing more than 24 times. Besides, youth infrastructure expansion and the availability of cultural opportunities have significantly improved young people's independence and overall quality of life.

The district's active engagement with the youth community, combined with tailored support programmes and collaborative partnerships, showcases how to turn pressing challenges into opportunities for growth and development. This initiative aligns in particular with SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Istanbul, Türkiye

Istanbul Play Master Plan

Istanbul is Turkiye's largest city and home to more than 16 million residents. An in-depth analysis between 2019 and 2022 identified several challenges affecting Istanbul's recreational landscape, such as insufficient per capita green space, uneven distribution of playgrounds, lack of play diversity, accessibility barriers, insufficient nature integration, and limited social spaces.

This would lead to a sedentary lifestyle among the children and weaken the bonds within the communities. In response, the Istanbul Play Master Plan was conceived as a solution to increase the city's "playfulness". While building on accumulated knowledge and experience, the plan introduces a groundbreaking shift in urban planning norms.

The plan was developed engaging the participation of more than 60 experts and representatives from social organizations and the general public. It envisions a city where outdoor play is considered a child's right, offering diverse recreation opportunities, promoting health and well-being, and fostering spontaneous play in public spaces.

The goal is to develop a playful urban environment and to create a transformative impact at the local and regional levels by enhancing the quality of life through increased access to high-quality play spaces; encouraging physical activity, social interaction, and a profound connection to the natural environment; and ultimately fostering healthier lifestyles and stronger community bonds.

The plan outlines five targets, including transforming Istanbul into a playable city, enhancing nature-human interaction, providing equal play opportunities and facilities, creating a play culture, and ensuring reliable play spaces. Some of the key projects include creating "pop-up playgrounds" particularly in disadvantaged neighbourhoods, repurposing old play equipment into new ones, developing routes and paths to and in forests and urban woodlands to teach children about the plant species, engaging children in designing new parks, and transforming existing parks to accessible play areas.

The implementation of this myriad of projects entails collaboration across departments. Therefore, a municipal management structure, i.e. in 2021 the "Play and Recreation Chieftaincy," is established to coordinate different municipal departments and optimize resource allocation. Collaboration also extends beyond the public sector, involving experts, academics, NGOs, citizens, and children in the planning and execution of pilot projects.

Although the plan focuses on children, it will increase recreation opportunities for an even broader segment of the population as it advances. The city will continue refining the demographic breakdown to ensure equitable access and engagement for all community members, reinforcing the commitment to create a truly inclusive city.

This initiative reimagines the role of play in shaping the cityscape. It is poised to redefine the city's approach to urban planning, placing a strong emphasis on the fundamental right of every child to play. It aligns in particular with SDG 3 (good health and well-being) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Istanbul, Türkiye

Mucilage-Free Marmara

The Sea of Marmara, located in northwest Türkiye, connects the Black Sea and the Aegean Sea via the Bosphorus Strait. This critical waterway supports a vibrant marine ecosystem and is central to the economy and way of life in Istanbul, Türkiye's largest city with a population of around 16 million. However, in 2021, the Sea of Marmara experienced an ecological disaster – a massive outbreak of marine mucilage that clogged the sea and wreaked havoc on the environment.

While mucilage occurs naturally, excessive blooms are often triggered by rising seawater temperatures and human-induced stressors such as household and industrial waste and excessive fishing. The mucilage outbreak in the Sea of Marmara was unprecedented in scale and presented an urgent threat.

Slicks of mucilage covered large swathes of the sea surface, causing economic losses for fishermen and threatening tourism. The thick layers also disrupted industrial operations along the coast. Most alarmingly, depleted oxygen levels from the decomposition of mucilage created deadly underwater conditions, endangering many species.

In response, Istanbul spearheaded a massive clean-up effort, coordinating with national ministries, research institutions, NGOs, and local stakeholders. The city deployed specially designed mucilage collection vessels to vacuum up surface slicks. The collected mucilage was dehydrated on land and treated with microbial agents to accelerate biodegradation before safe disposal.

This was the first time vacuum pumps and microbial agents had been used for sea surface cleaning and biodegradation in Türkiye. These novel technical approaches allowed efficient removal with minimal secondary pollution. Within months, the massive, coordinated clean-up effort achieved the remarkable feat of removing the disastrous mucilage from the Sea of Marmara. This swift action was essential to restore vital economic activities and prevent permanent ecological damage. Fishing resumes as marine life recovers.

Following the clean-up effort, the city has enacted policies to reduce industrial and agricultural runoff, addressing root causes of mucilage blooms. Studies have been carried out on early warning systems and possible technological solutions to future outbreaks. Unexpectedly, this crisis has also contributed to raising environmental awareness and fostering a sense of responsibility towards marine ecosystems, especially among the youth.

By employing innovative approaches, fostering partnerships, and actively engaging stakeholders, the initiative not only eradicated a pressing issue but also established a blueprint for addressing future environmental challenges in a collaborative and sustainable manner. It aligns in particular with SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 14 (life below water).

Konya, Türkiye

Building Resilient Cities with a Human-centerd Approach: Konya Model

The devastating earthquakes that struck Türkiye in February 2023 underscored the critical need for cities worldwide to enhance their resilience and capacity to respond effectively to crises. When the disasters struck, Konya, home to 2.3 million residents, rapidly mobilized its resources to support relief efforts in Hatay, a province to its southeast with 1.6 million people.

Critically, the city took a holistic approach in assessing needs, going far beyond just providing basic necessities. Konya delivered dental and eye care from mobile clinics –health issues that gravely impact quality of life but are often overlooked under such circumstances. It offered psychological support, for instance, through theatrical performances to help children deal with the trauma. It also provided vocational training for the survivors to help them learn new skills.

This comprehensive response highlights the value of advance planning and capacity building, enabling Konya to render its aid in a rapid, targeted, and multi-faceted fashion. The city had developed specialized disaster management teams and acquired equipment like mobile clinics years in advance, enabling the city to quickly intervene despite the challenges on the ground.

Cross-sector collaboration was another major factor in Konya's effective disaster response. The city worked closely with other local authorities, NGOs, private sector partners, and government agencies for optimal resource allocation and aid delivery. A centralized coordination mechanism was quickly established so that arriving organizations could provide targeted, gap-filling assistance without duplication of efforts. Konya took the lead in bringing together these diverse stakeholders, exemplifying the importance of partnerships in crisis management.

Konya's relief efforts directly helped over 60,000 residents in Hatay. Its response offers several key lessons on enhancing disaster resilience. Firstly, advance planning and capacity building was the key to rapidly scaling up operations when disaster struck. Secondly, the human-centerd approach meant a holistic assessment of people's needs during response and recovery. Lastly, coordination of actors across government, civil society, and the private sector ensured an optimized approach.

Inspired by this experience in Hatay, Konya is focused on further enhancing its own disaster preparedness and response capabilities. It's working to strengthen the city's early warning systems, expand equipment and inventories, improve personnel skills, and invest in resilient infrastructure.

The city's human-centerd approach, pre-emptive capacity building, and prompt multi-stakeholder collaboration demonstrate how cities can rapidly mount robust and inclusive responses when crises strike. This initiative aligns in particular with SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 17 (partnerships for the goals).

*All information of this article is provided by Dr. Selim Yücel Güleç.

Krasnoyarsk, Russian Federation

Svetly Park as a Supportive Space for Open Communication between Every Social Category of Residents

Krasnoyarsk is the second largest city in Siberia, Russia, with a population of nearly 1.2 million. Ahead of the 2019 Winter Universiade hosted in Krasnoyarsk, the city set out to create a "city friendly to all" by installing tactile paving on sidewalks and crosswalks around the city. However, it soon became clear that simply installing tactile paving was not enough to make the city easily navigable for visually impaired residents. Most visually impaired people lacked the essential orientation and mobility skills needed to independently navigate the cityscape. An idea then emerged to create a dedicated training ground equipped with tools and landmarks to help visually impaired residents develop these critical skills.

Thus was born Svetly Park, a one-of-a-kind fully inclusive public space covering 0.9 hectares near the Krasnoyarsk Regional Special Library for the Blind and Visually Impaired. The park was designed through a participatory process involving the city administration, organizations for the visually impaired, and the local community. The key innovation was using the park as a training ground for developing visually impaired people's orientation, mobility, and independence and a stimulus for enhanced understanding.

The park contains tactile paving, audible landmarks, aromatic plants, and other features tailored to enhance accessibility. For example, linden trees line the park's paths, offering a pleasant floral scent and a canopy of gentle, scattered shade in summer. Spirea shrubs planted along the paths provide texture contrast underfoot. Herb gardens contain scented plants like basil and thyme. This sensory richness immerses visitors in an experience engaging multiple senses simultaneously.

Beyond its thoughtful design, Svetly Park prioritizes an inclusive sociocultural programme. Activities include orientation and mobility training, lessons on using a cane or guide dog, sensory awareness workshops for sighted visitors, gardening, and community festivals. Local teenagers, including youth from disadvantaged backgrounds, are involved in caring for the park and assisting during programmes, supporting their personal development. Visually impaired residents initiate projects sharing their experiences with sighted visitors. This programming facilitates social integration, skill development, and relationship building between diverse community members.

Svetly Park has already demonstrated a marked increase in activity and quality of life among visually impaired residents. There has been strong local support as well, with over 600 nearby residents responding positively to surveys about the park. In 2022, the park hosted 56 events with 916 total participants.

This initiative promotes the wellbeing of visually impaired residents while bringing the community together. It aligns in particular with SDG 3 (health and wellbeing), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Medellín, Colombia

Promoting Food Sovereignty by Strengthening Food Marketing through "Short Marketing Circuits"

Medellin is the second largest city in Colombia, with over 2.6 million inhabitants. Rates of household food insecurity across the city are high, reported at 59% in 2022 and 41% in 2019. The situation is particularly dire in rural areas surrounding Medellín, where nearly half of all households are food insecure. At the same time, only around 3% of the total food supply across Medellin and neighbouring municipalities is sourced locally. This heavy reliance on external production and long supply chains threatens food security and resilience.

A food sovereignty initiative was thus devised in response to tackle these interlinked challenges. The strategy centers on providing training and technical assistance to small-scale producers across the villages of Medellin to adopt sustainable, ecological farming techniques. This includes training in allelopathy, the process of using certain plants to naturally suppress weeds or pests, thereby reducing reliance on agrochemicals. Farmers are also supported in utilizing native seeds suited to the region and preserving biodiversity.

These agroecological practices help lower costs for producers by reducing input expenses. They also enhance the quality, safety, and nutritional value of locally grown produce. The fresh, sustainably grown food is in turn marketed through short supply chains that connect producers directly with local stores, supermarkets, restaurants, and crucially, public procurement programs such as school meal provisioning. This more direct trade eliminates intermediaries, allowing farmers to retain more profit from sales while improving the availability of fresh, local produce in low-income areas most prone to food insecurity.

Between 2020 and 2022, over 21,000 kg of food worth 29 million Colombian pesos was traded through these short supply chains across more than 7,000 transactions. Sales were predominantly of vegetables and helped kickstart a local food producers' cooperative called COPACORMED, which aims to facilitate marketing, access to finance and training, and participation in public tenders to further strengthen the local food system.

By shortening the distances food travels from farm to table, environmental sustainability is improved, and important urban-rural linkages are strengthened. This localized production and consumption provides access to fresher, healthier, and more affordable food for citizens while increasing incomes for small-holder farmers. The initiative aligns in particular with SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (economic growth and decent work), SDG11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 12 (responsible production and consumption).

Moscow, Russian Federation

Leaders of Digital Transformation in Moscow

Moscow, the Russian capital home to more than 12 million residents, is undergoing a digital transformation to become a more innovative and sustainable city. With the launch of the Leaders of Digital Transformation initiative in 2019, the city is striving to engage youth in solving urban challenges through technology.

The initiative manifests itself in the form of an annual international hackathon hosted by the Moscow city government. It brings together talented young IT specialists to develop digital solutions for real issues identified by city departments and companies. The goal is to tap into the creativity of tech-savvy youth to come up with innovative apps, programs, and products that improve life in Moscow.

During the competition, participants form teams and choose a task they want to work on. The city department that issues the task then provides technical specifications for the task and additional information. Participants have access to data, mentors, and technology to build prototypes or minimum viable products and pitch their project. The winning teams receive not only money prizes, but also the support of the city administration in further development of their projects.

The hackathon fosters partnerships between public and private sectors. Government entities like municipal departments contribute expertise on issues and data. Companies supply technologists as mentors and tools like computing power. Universities organize student teams to join the competition. After the competition the winners can continue to develop their projects and launch startups.

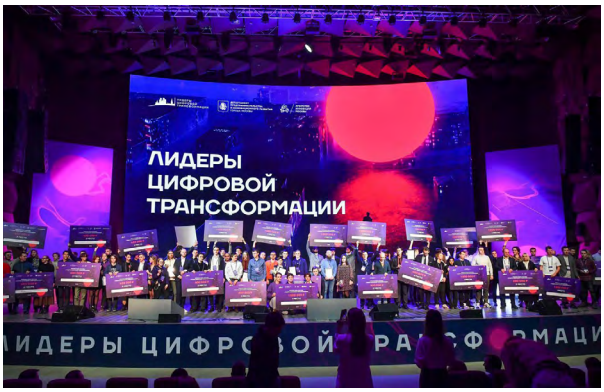
Since its inception in 2019, over 24,000 young IT specialists have participated in the hackathon, resulting in over 1,400 digital solutions. Outcomes so far include 60+ startups launched by participants and 45+ pilot implementations of solutions.

Through this initiative, Moscow has not only provided learning and growth opportunities for young specialists and encouraged citizens -especially youth - in using innovative technological solutions to help solve urban challenges. It has also promoted transparency and participation in the city's governance and connected governments, businesses, and universities for the creation of an innovation ecosystem.

The hackathon was initially implemented solely in Moscow but has since garnered recognition and support from the highest levels of the Russian government. In April 2023, the Russian president issued an official decree, instructing the replication of the initiative throughout the country.

As a result of this official decree, two regional competitions were held – in Krasnodar Krai and Republic of Sakha (Yakutia).

This initiative creates a collaborative digital



environment where youth can engage directly with real urban challenges and apply what they learn for good social impacts. It aligns in particular with SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Nilüfer,Türkiye

Nilüfer Food Living Lab (NFLL) & Nilüfer Social Entrepreneurship center

Nilüfer is a district of the metropolitan city of Bursa located in northwestern Türkiye. With a population of over 500,000 inhabitants, Nilüfer is one of the largest and most rapidly developing cities in the province of Bursa. The district is home to several industrial zones and businesses that contribute significantly to the economy, which the district is looking to diversify.

One of the initiatives, Nilüfer Food Living Lab (NFLL), launched in 2021, seeks to enhance the district's agricultural business. The need for the lab arose from the challenges of ensuring food security and access to fresh produce for Nilüfer's growing population. As an industrial district, much of the focus has been on economic development rather than food production. NFLL aims to strengthen the local food

ecosystem by supporting small-scale farmers, promoting short food supply chains, applying agroecological practices, reducing food waste, and engaging residents.

NFLL adopts a living lab approach that involves collaboration between the municipality, residents, businesses, academia, and other stakeholders. A Food Policy Council and Food Commission with representation from diverse groups have been established to guide the design and implementation of programmes and policies.

Since its launch, NFLL has carried out a host of activities. So far, the district has distributed more than 350,000 free vegetable seedlings and seeds to encourage urban agriculture. It also organizes educational programmes on balcony farming, composting, and food waste reduction, aside from conducting food production studies with farmers to transition towards sustainable agriculture. Besides, the district has open Farmers'Markets and Bostan Sales Points to connect consumers directly with local food producers.

The project benefits smallholder farmers by facilitating direct access to urban consumers, who in turn benefit from enhanced access to fresh, local, and affordable produce. By bringing together diverse stakeholders, implementing educational campaigns, supporting local farmers, and promoting short supply chains, this project is transforming Nilüfer's food ecosystem.

Another of the district's diversification effort is Nilüfer Social Entrepreneurship center. It was launched in 2021 as the first of its kind by a local government in Türkiye, with an aim to nurture social enterprises and innovations that address pressing societal and environmental challenges.

The primary objectives of the center are to build an ecosystem to support social entrepreneurship and enhance stakeholder collaboration; identify, train, and assist entrepreneurs to develop impact-driven business ideas; and raise awareness about social entrepreneurship among residents, especially youth.

The center provides training, mentorship, and networking platforms for aspiring and existing social entrepreneurs. A social innovation competition was launched to catalyse socially-conscious business ideas. To date, over 1,500 people have participated and 11 teams focusing on priorities like gender equality, health care, and environmental sustainability have been supported.

Partnerships are important to the center. A big proportion of the center's funding comes from Bursa Eskisehir Bilecik Development Agency, a governmental body affiliated to the Ministry of Industry and Technology. Its cooperation with two academic institutions helps identify high-potential startups. The center also benefits from the technical support from Turkey Social Entrepreneurship Network, which provides content, consultancy, and experts in events such as contests and hackathons.

By tapping into the ingenuity of social innovators, the Nilüfer Social Entrepreneurship center exemplifies a model of collaborative problem-solving for the public good. The district acts as an enabler by providing platforms and resources to activate change-makers within civil society. Such public-social partnerships catalyse scalable solutions that benefit underserved communities.

The Nilüfer Food Living Lab and Nilüfer Social Entrepreneurship center showcase the municipality's commitment to sustainable and inclusive development. This two-pronged initiative aligns in particular with SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 11(sustainable cities and communities).

Palmira, Colombia

PAZOS: Peace and Opportunities for Palmira

The Colombian city of Palmira was once named one of the world's most dangerous cities due to its high homicide rate. More than half of the homicides involved young people aged between 16 and 29, who make up about 22 percent of the city's 360,000 residents. In realization of the underlying causes of the situation, namely uncoordinated and largely punitive responses, lack of economic opportunities for the youth, and eroded trust in the government, Palmira came up in 2020 with the initiative PAZOS: Peace and Opportunities for Palmira, a comprehensive, multi-sectoral approach focused on providing alternatives for youth recruitment by criminal groups and preventing youth violence.

Prevention component:
Young people from PAZOS territories making urban graphics.

PAZOS focuses on the seven most affected clusters of 42 neighbourhoods, home to 30 precent of city's population. It addresses the socioeconomic factors with a variety of preventative interventions under five main pillars, namely: Disruption, which aims to prevent conflicts from escalating into violence through mediation and community leadership; Intervention, which provides psychosocial assistance and legal alternatives to high-risk youth; Prevention, which focuses on building life skills and opportunities for youth through health, education, sports, culture, and other programmes; Safe Environments, which recovers and remodels public spaces affected by crime; and Improved Access to Justice, which increases restorative practices and support for the adolescent criminal justice system.

Partnerships are paramount to this strategy. The city collaborates closely with many foundations, adding on what they are already doing to reduce violence in the city. This not only helps the city optimize its spending but also ensures the sustainability of these efforts even when government priorities shift. The city also seeks help from the business sector to provide employment opportunities for the high-risk youth that complete the process. Besides, in view of the low legitimacy of government institutions in the country – a country plagued by guerrilla warfare – the city actively involves the inhabitants in the implementation of different programmes and encourages them to participate in decision-making.

Impact evaluation shows the strategy has directly reduced homicide, with Palmira now having its lowest rate in 17 years. Ahead of the finish of its four-year run, PAZOS is being structured into a ten-year public policy for institutionalization and sustainability with support from UNODC.

PAZOS takes an "umbrella" approach to maximize resources for data-driven, community-engaged violence prevention. It aligns in particular with SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice and strong institutions).

Quezon City, Philippines

Quezon City's Community-Based Urban Farming Programme

Quezon City, located in Metro Manila, Philippines, has a population of 3.2 million people. As an urban area, it relies heavily on external sources to meet its food needs. However, issues around hunger and malnutrition persist, especially among vulnerable communities. A study found that 62.1 percent of Filipino households experience moderate to severe food insecurity. In Quezon City, 47.5 percent of child malnutrition cases were linked to food insecurity.

To address these challenges, the city launched the Joy of Urban Farming Program in 2010. The programme aims to empower residents, especially low-income households, to grow their own nutritious food through vertical gardening, container farming and other household and backyard farming techniques. This helps reduce expenses, provides livelihood opportunities, and enhances food security.

During the COVID pandemic, food insecurity became, once again, a prominent issue. In response, the city distributed over 52,000 starter kits to help affected residents grow food and earn income. Having been through the crisis, the city has realized the need to scale up the programme, transforming it from small-scale backyard gardening to a city-wide initiative. However, being in a congested urban area, space constraints are a key obstacle. The city has tackled this issue by introducing a new ordinance that grants tax exemptions for owners of idle land that allow the use of their property for community farms.

Besides land scarcity, the city also has to face climate challenges such as droughts and floodings. By partnering with agriculture agencies and research institutions, the city gains access to new technologies and expertise. Farms adapt to changing climatic conditions by implementing rainwater harvesting, drip irrigation, and other measures to build resilience.

Quezon City pays equal attention to the last links of this farming ecosystem. By introducing policies like the Healthy Public Food Procurement Policy, the city government connects these urban farms to local food systems and creates a sustainable value chain making the city less dependent on external sources. The circular economy concept is also woven into the initiative, as food waste is processed into soil conditioners to be used by the farms.

From just 40 urban farms originally, there are now more than 1,000 such farms, providing livelihoods to over 25,000 residents, mostly seniors and people with disabilities and most of them women. The initiative's positive outcomes have also led to the creation of a Center for Urban Agriculture and Innovation at the Quezon City University to help mainstream urban farming into its curriculum.

Quezon City's urban farming programme has evolved over the years to enhance food security and sustainability. Its flexible and adaptive nature has allowed it to expand rapidly, utilize spaces creatively, and implement resilient practices. It aligns in particular with SDG 2 (zero hunger), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Ramallah, Palestine

Ramallah City Stepping toward a Greener Future & Revolutionizing Municipal Services through GIS

The Palestinian city of Ramallah is home to 850,000 inhabitants. Against the backdrop of escalating environmental concerns and evolving urban dynamics, Ramallah has spearheaded two groundbreaking initiatives: Ramallah City Stepping toward a Greener Future and Revolutionizing Municipal Services through GIS, embarking on a transformative journey towards sustainability and efficiency.

Ramallah City Stepping toward a Greener Future, launched in 2018, represents a paradigm shift in the city's approach to water management and environmental sustainability. Amid rising populations, intensifying impacts of climate change, and complex geopolitical situation, the city has long grappled with droughts and dwindling water reserves and struggled to access and manage its own water resources.

This revolutionary initiative is a bold step towards self-sufficiency. It transforms the city's wastewater into high quality recycled water for various public works and uses. Around 1000 cubic meters of reclaimed wastewater are pumped daily from the treatment plant to reservoirs in the city for irrigation, construction, firefighting, etc. Realizing the underutilization of the wastewater – even though it irrigates 40 percent of public green areas – the city has partnered up with 10 private gardens to provide irrigation for them as well.

Ramallah, Palestine

The initiative has increased the city's available water reserves by up to 10,000 cubic meters per day and helped the city conserve its scarce drinking water for human consumption. It has also contributed to increased green spaces in Ramallah, as 1,150 new trees have been planted across the city. Economically, the initiative is also yielding substantial benefits. By using recycled water for public gardens and parks, the city has seen its water bills drop by 60 percent. As the reclaimed water is rich in micronutrients, it does away with the need to procure fertilizers. Along with the reduced use of drinking water, it is generating major cost savings.

The other initiative, Revolutionizing Municipal Services through GIS, was launched in 2014 in a bid to streamline urban management and promote data-driven decision-making.

Realizing the challenges posed by fragmented spatial information and disparate systems, the GIS platform seeks to centralize and optimize spatial data management across the entire municipality. It represents a comprehensive system for collecting, managing, analyzing, and visualizing spatial data. It leverages the power of maps to bring together information that describes city details, infrastructure, services, and environmental factors. Through the integration of various data layers, the GIS platform offers decision-makers a holistic view of urban dynamics, facilitating evidence-based planning and resource allocation.

This kind of informed decision-making has produced tangible and far-reaching results. The GIS platform has enhanced the municipality's service delivery processes such as garbage collection, transportation, and maintenance. It has bolstered the municipality's capacity for faster and more effective emergency response in the face of natural disasters, accidents, and public health emergencies. It has generated cost savings and efficiency gains by optimizing manual operations, reducing paperwork and processing time, and minimizing resource wastage.

To sustain the initiative's momentum, the city prioritizes continuous training, stakeholder engagement, and technological advancements. Clear data management protocols, financial commitments, and policy integration are also in place to ensure long-term sustainability.

The initiative has fostered innovative partnerships and collaborative approaches to urban governance. It promotes transparency and accountability in municipal affairs by providing residents with access to spatial data and interactive maps, which leads to greater public awareness, participation, and trust in municipal decision-making processes. The engagement of public, private, and community stakeholders also ensures the initiative's scalability and adaptability.

These two initiatives serve as good examples of Ramallah's innovative efforts towards a greener and smarter future, demonstrating its holistic approach to sustainable development. They align in particular with SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation), SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), SDG 13 (climate action), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

Recife, Brazil

COMPAZ Recife - Community Peace Centers

Recife, the capital of the Brazilian state of Pernambuco, has a population of around 1.5 million, with up to 70 percent on the low-income spectrum. The city's suburbs and favelas face high levels of poverty, unemployment, and violence - usually tied to drugs and gangs. It was once dubbed as the most violent state capital of Brazil. This is where COMPAZ Recife comes into play, addressing these critical issues through an innovative and inclusive approach.

Circus Festival at the first community center. Cultural activities are one of the keys to changing minds and hearts.

COMPAZ, short for Centro Communitario Da Paz or Community Peace Centers, represents an innovative and holistic approach to social transformation. It was born out of a multi-pronged security plan launched by the city in 2013, with the goal of making violence prevention a priority, shifting the focus to prevention instead of repression. COMPAZ is a network of community peace centers designed to bring together a range of services and opportunities for the city's vulnerable communities. Each center is a dynamic compound featuring sports facilities, classrooms, libraries, parks, and playgrounds. Furthermore, they host offices for various municipal departments, offering a multitude of public services. This integrated approach ensures that citizens have access to essential resources for social and economic empowerment.

What is noteworthy of the initiative is its methodology. It actively engages the community in the planning and execution of its programs. Residents are not passive recipients but are encouraged to participate in the day-to-day activities, shaping the initiative's offerings. For instance, the first center was launched in 2016, three years after its announcement: the result of much consultation with the target communities. Also, during the COVID-19 pandemic, the centers (four by then) took on new functions such as distributing food and protective gears. Over time, these centers have become the epicenters for education, culture, sports, and community building. They aim to develop talents, awaken vocations, and provide a practical, interactive, and participatory approach to learning.

Currently, the COMPAZ network serves more than 65,000 people per month, over 80 percent are children and youth - the main perpetrators and victims of violence. One of the most remarkable outcomes of COMPAZ is violence reduction. Since the first center was established in 2016, there has been a significant drop in homicide rates in the areas served by the centers, decreasing from 64.5 per 100,000 inhabitants to 29.7 in 2019. This reduction is particularly pronounced in the neighborhoods surrounding the centers, where the impact of COMPAZ is most visible. Many young people have also gone back to school or work. Furthermore, COMPAZ has also helped the government to reconnect with these inhabitants who used to feel unseen and unheard and regain their trust. Given COMPAZ's huge success achieved in the city, the federal government has decided to replicate this initiative nation-wide.

In a world grappling with rising inequality and violence, COMPAZ Recife offers valuable lessons as to how innovative policies and community involvement can pave the way for a brighter, more peaceful future. This initiative aligns in particular with SDG 3 (good health and wellbeing), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities), and SDG 16 (peace, justice, and strong institutions).

Rotterdam, Netherlands

Growing up Healthy in Rotterdam Beverwaard – A Multiannual Action-Research to Improve the Lifestyle of Children and Their Families

The Dutch city of Rotterdam is home to 663,000 residents. It observes growing inequality between neighbourhoods, with residents' health status clearly correlated with where they live. Welfare diseases including obesity are on the rise, even among children. Existing approaches tend to focus narrowly on lifestyle factors, while families face interconnected issues around unemployment, safety, isolation, and more.

To address this, Rotterdam's municipal research lab Field Academy initiated a three-year programme called "Growing Up Healthy in Rotterdam Beverwaard." Health, as defined in this study, incorporated six pillars which derived from a model developed by the Institute of Postive Health: bodily functions, mental wellbeing, meaningfulness, quality of life, participation, and daily functioning. The programme aimed to understand the complex factors impacting children's health in the Beverwaard area and develop tailored interventions for almost 60 families, of which a significant part find themselves in disadvantaged situations. It used various action-research methods to gather extensive quantitative and qualitative data on the health of participants aged 9 to 12 and their families.

The actions can be broken down to three aspects: introducing a family coach, expanding networks of social services, and implementing new school educational programmes. Weekly health-focused lessons were taught in the school and impacts on children and households were tracked. These lessons were collaboratively designed and taught in diverse subjects. Lessons in years 1 and 2 cover nutrition, home life, exercise, school performance, social circles, and more, while year 3 focuses on identity, strengths, and career options to ease the secondary school transition. Creative mediums like filmmaking promote students' ownership and talent development.

One of the key innovations is the introduction of "family coaches." They act as a bridge between the family and a variety of support service professionals including social workers, financial advisors, and housing corporations. A key problem families experience is the change of faces of the service providers and the lack of communication and coordination between all professionals involved – a source of stress for the families which caused many of them to withdraw from the support system. Coaches provided stability over the course of the project by communicating closely and regularly visiting homes to assess the families' needs and to organize the appropriate support services. They also attended courses in the classrooms and communicated with teachers and school counsellors. In the final year of primary school, they were also available to offer advice on the choice of appropriate secondary education.

The initiative has yielded positive outcomes on different levels. Looking at the quantitative data, which was analysed in collaboration with Erasmus Medical University, a decrease in overweight children was noticed, as well as an improvement of experienced health like emotions, autonomy, and social skills. Some partnerships that were established during the project remained intact, resulting in the incorporation of the talent-building education program for theatre, culture in the regular school curriculum. The lessons learned were incorporated in local policy and shared with professionals from several disciplines. To identify possibilities for upscaling, the data of this project was compared with national data of similar target groups by SpringCo Urban Analytics, resulting in an overview of neighbourhoods across the country in which similar interventions could have a possible impact.

The initiative's interlinked, multidimensional view of health inequities provides transferable insights into tackling similar challenges. It aligns in particular with SDG 3 (health and wellbeing), SDG 4 (quality education) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Salvador, Brazil

Saúde nos Bairros (Health in the Neighbourhoods)

With over 2.4 million residents to take care of, Salvador stands as the fourth most populous city in Brazil and faces significant healthcare challenges. During the COVID-19 pandemic, access to healthcare services became restricted, leading to a worsening of chronic health conditions among low-income populations, further burdening the city's urgent and emergency healthcare system. As a result, the Saúde nos Bairros (Health in the Neighbourhoods) project was conceived as a response to this healthcare crisis.

The Saúde nos Bairros initiative, launched in April 2023, is revolutionizing healthcare access in Salvador by taking free medical care and examinations directly to the city's communities. This itinerant approach aims to address the backlog in the healthcare system created by the pandemic, particularly in reducing the long queues for basic healthcare access.

The initiative aims to cover all 12 of Salvador's Health Districts, offering a wide range of services, including dental consultations, X-rays, specialized medical consultations, TTEs, ECGs, ultrasounds, mammograms, laboratory tests, and vaccinations. What sets Saúde nos Bairros apart is its commitment to comprehensive care. Usually, healthcare services were provided by private companies that successfully bid for public contracts. However, experiences showed that complementary care or exams not covered by the contracts tended to end up in a vacuum. Therefore, the Municipal Secretariat of Health has arranged a regulation team to accompany the service providers on-site, ensuring that residents receive not only the immediate care they need but also appropriate referrals for follow-up and high-complexity procedures.

Implementing such a large-scale initiative was not without its challenges. These included organizing teams to work on-site and on weekends, contracting additional healthcare professionals, ensuring access to difficult locations due to Salvador's unique topography, and addressing security concerns in certain communities. However, meticulous planning and community involvement have helped overcome these obstacles.

In its first four months, Saúde nos Bairros served more than 70,000 people, providing over 300,000 procedures in 14 neighbourhoods. In certain neighbourhoods, additional educational programmes have also been introduced in response to the inhabitants'demands.

Saúde nos Bairros represents a groundbreaking approach to healthcare access in Salvador. It has improved the quality of life and health outcomes by emphasizing prevention and early disease identification. It aligns in particular with SDG 3 (good health and well-being), SDG 10 (reduced inequalities), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

São Paulo, Brazil

URANO Predictive Rapid Response System for Urban Maintenance

With a population upwards of 12 million, São Paulo is the most populous city in Brazil and the largest economy by GDP in Latin America. Due to its tropical climate and elevated terrain, the city is no stranger to rainfalls - and usually on the heavy spectrum, which can lead to water logging, flooding, damage to infrastructure, and other associated problems. These challenges require a proactive approach to urban maintenance that prioritizes preventive measures, swift response, and efficient resource allocation. These principles constitute the URANO Predictive Rapid Response System for Urban Maintenance, an initiative designed to mitigate the impact of weather-related occurrences in the city and transform urban maintenance through predictive technology and data-driven solutions.

The system is built on existing technologies and adapted to the specific needs and context of São Paulo. It provides real-time data and predictive analyses to guide decision-making, allowing for better planning and execution of maintenance actions before and during extreme weather occurrences.

The initiative represents a public-public partnership between the Sub-municipal Secretariat and the Foundation for Technological Development in Engineering of the Federal University of São Paulo. The Foundation is primarily responsible for development analysis while the Secretariat provides critical practical insights into urban maintenance and contributes to data and technology procurement.

Consistent rainfall data is crucial to the development of this system, which manifested as one of the biggest challenges during the system's development. The city overcame this by establishing frequent data collection, which included rainfall measurements at short intervals. This not only helps in understanding precipitation patterns but also enhances the accuracy of the predictive model. With this initiative, São Paulo has achieved noteworthy results in its urban maintenance and enhanced the city's resilience in the face of climate challenges.

This initiative has the potential to significantly enhance the quality of life for São Paulo's residents by improving the efficiency of urban maintenance actions and response strategies, especially in the face of weather-related challenges. It aligns in particular with SDG 9 (industry, innovation, and infrastructure), SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities) and SDG 13 (climate action).

Shanghai, China

Century-old Zhangyuan and its Journey of Renewal

The Chinese city of Shanghai, with a population of more than 24 million, is a global financial hub that has undergone rapid modernization while striving to preserve its cultural heritage and identity. One such historic enclave is Zhangyuan, nestled within downtown Shanghai. This historical "No.1 Garden of Shanghai" was converted to residential buildings in the 1920s-1930s after the "shikumen" style, a fusion of Chinese and European motifs. Now, this century-old neighbourhood is undergoing a major renovation and redevelopment initiative to retain its unique cultural heritage while transforming into a modern, sustainable, and vibrant commercial and cultural destination.

This ambitious urban renewal project started in 2018 and is slated for completion by the end of 2026. The impetus for the renewal stemmed from deteriorating building conditions and quality of life issues for the residents that yearned for improvement. Over 500 households lacked private bathrooms while inadequate housing plagued the neighbourhood. Meanwhile, an influx of low-end leasing activity was further degrading the conditions in Zhangyuan.

The initiative takes a preservation-focused approach guided by the principle of "repairing the old as the old." Strict protective renovation standards ensure historical accuracy down to the smallest architectural details from façade finishes to doorknobs. The aim is to retain the original spatial layout and features that characterize the unique shikumen-styled homes that represent the cultural heritage of old Shanghai.

To carry out such sensitive restoration, immense resources and collaboration from various stakeholders are needed. Financing was secured through a bank consortium. Policies were adjusted to enable planning and approvals to progress. Besides, an expert team was created to define which original architectural elements must remain unaltered to protect historical integrity.

Sustainability is also being woven throughout via green building and wellness standards. A 3D pedestrian network links underground walkways with street-level and skywalks to boost connectivity while limiting street congestion and traffic. A public culture and arts venue is in the works as part of a new cultural hub showcasing Shanghai's storied history.

So far, 1,125 households from dilapidated housing have been relocated to improved homes. Since the first phase opening in late 2022, the renewed area has seen a 40% increase in weekend visitor traffic and higher business volumes. International brands have launched flagships here alongside cultural events and performances.

Drawing experiences from this plan, Shanghai has made this protective renovation model the standard for all future urban renewal projects. The organic integration of historical legacy with modern functionality, culture, and businesses is part of holistically shaping the urban identity while improving liveability. It aligns in particular with SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Thane, India

Cluster-based Redevelopment of Thane through Urban Renewal Programme

Thane is a city in the Indian state of Maharashtra, with a population of 1.8 million and rapid growth. It is estimated that around 25 percent of the population lives in unauthorized constructions without legal property rights. With natural barriers on two sides, options for new greenfield development are limited. The city has also witnessed encroachment of public lands resulting in deficient amenities and poor road network in several neighbourhoods.

To achieve the vision of a slum free and well-planned city, the state government introduced the Urban Renewal Schemes (URS) and demarcated 45 Urban Renewal Plans (URPs, areas for redevelopment). Within this framework, Thane has set up a dedicated "Cluster Cell Department" to coordinate URS activities, involving extensive stakeholder consultations and expert consultations to develop a strategic implementation plan. Priority is being given to redevelop six URPs first, with the largest URP undergoing redevelopment now.

The programme takes a cluster-based approach, which is being implemented for the first time in India on the lines of modern township development. It brings together redevelopment of authorized slums and unauthorized settlements as well as old and hazardous buildings while addressing related infrastructure gaps holistically. Rigorous assessments have been carried out to gather spatial and socio-economic data of the project areas to understand on-ground realities and develop contextual solutions. Feedback from the public, with 17,770 comments received, has been crucial in the decision-making process.

This redevelopment strategy exemplifies collaborative urban governance. The state and local government bodies provide the regulatory framework, project approvals, and incentives for implementation. Private real estate developers have been incentivized to invest in and build the new infrastructure as they can benefit in the form of increased Floor Area Ratio (FAR). The scheme aims to create win-win solutions for all stakeholders involved: the government, developers, and the communities living in these areas. To ensure the initiative's success, a cooperative housing society will be formed to maintain the redeveloped buildings, and a "Building Maintenance Fund" will be established.

The initiative anticipates numerous positive outcomes, including improved quality of life, enhanced healthcare access, reduced environmental impact, increased economic opportunities, and a heightened sense of stewardship among citizens.

This initiative showcases Thane's ambition to transition into a socially inclusive, economically vibrant, and environmentally resilient city. It aligns in particular with SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Tharaka Nithi, Kenya

Enhancing Women's Livelihoods & Labor Force Participation through the Crèche Programme

Tharaka Nithi County in Kenya is home to 400,000 inhabitants, where women account for more than half of the population. Despite the increasing presence of women in the workforce, they continue to bear a disproportionate burden of family responsibilities, particularly in the realm of childcare. This societal imbalance not only limits women's participation in the labor force but also hinders their economic opportunities. In response to this issue, Tharaka Nithi launched this initiative, Enhancing Women's Livelihoods & Labor Force Participation Through the Crèche Programme, in December 2021, with an aim to alleviate the childcare burden on women, promote their psychosocial well-being, and support child growth and development.

The Crèche Programme takes shape with the construction of specialized crèches (daycare centers) within or in close proximity to bustling marketplaces. These crèches are designed to provide a safe and nurturing environment where working mothers can leave their children while they engage in various economic activities – typically by selling fruits, vegetables, and other wares at the markets. The first crèche has already been built and put in operation near Chuka Market, with active participation from local stakeholders and the community, taking into account the mothers' insights on services offered, ideal locations, and reasonable pricing.

The crèche is equipped with a trained childcare personnel who oversee the children's care and well-being. Additionally, a special curriculum has been designed and implemented in partnership with Kenyatta University to tailor to the unique needs of children under the age of five, offering them valuable educational opportunities. Besides, the crèche is made of transparent glass, making it easy for the mothers to keep an eye on their children without having to abandon their trade.

Currently, this first crèche accommodates 20 children. A study is being conducted to evaluate the exact impact of this initiative. Research evidence indicates that the initiative will contribute to a 30% increase in women's labor force participation. The county government has also drafted a Child Care Policy and presented to the county assembly. The plan is to institutionalize the crèche programme and expand it throughout the county in the next five years.

By providing quality childcare services and educational opportunities for children, this initiative empowers women to improve their economic independence, psychosocial well-being, and the overall well-being of their children. It aligns in particular with SDG 1 (no poverty), SDG 4 (quality education), SDG5 (gender equality), SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth), and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Tlajomulco de Zúñiga Mexico

Renta tu Casa （Rent Your Home）

The city of Tlajomulco de Zúñiga is located in the Mexican state of Jalisco, with a population of 700,000. Mass housing construction in the 2000s has left a bitter legacy to the city: uninhabited homes, which constitute 26% of all private housing stock as of 2020 according to national census data.

These vacant homes not only represent lost rental income for owners, but, more severely, lead to community decay, attract crime, and deprive the housing market of desperately needed inventory. Meanwhile, many families and individuals in the city struggle to find decent, affordable housing options on the private market due to low incomes, domestic violence, discrimination, or other socioeconomic disadvantages.

This Renta tu Casa (Rent Your Home) initiative was thus launched. The idea is simple and straightforward. The city plays the role of a broker, guarantor, property manager, and subsidizer at the same time. It leases units from willing landlords at prevailing market rates for a year and subsidizes the owners if a necessary renovation is performed. Vetted programme participants then pay the city a symbolic fee of 17 US dollars per month – around 10 percent of the amount the city pays to the owners – to occupy the homes.

The city also encourages these tenants to participate in community life by establishing a mandatory bottom line of five hours per month in community activities. These activities include teaching classes in community development centers, supporting the organization and development of physical and mental activities for children in toy libraries, supporting the organization of community-building events and workshops, and maintaining public spaces. When a tenant is unable to pay the rent, they can also choose to do extra hours.

Since its launch in 2019, Renta tu Casa has provided housing solutions to nearly 400 households in Tlajomulco de Zúñiga who were previously facing homelessness, domestic violence, dire poverty, and other challenges. Most of the tenants are single mothers, seniors, migrants, and people with disabilities. Conversations are also going on with UNHCR to include refugees in the programme.

The initiative has not only allowed marginalized families to live in dignity, but also brought them closer to various municipal services such as job opportunities, pensions, medical and psychological services, and entrepreneurship courses. Besides, by having these previously vacant and prone-to-vandalism homes occupied, the neighbourhood has also been reactivated and become safer.

Through Renta tu Casa, the city of Tlajomulco de Zúñiga shows how municipal leadership and social innovation can expand housing access and transform vacant urban properties into inclusive community assets. This initiative aligns in particular with SDG 1 (no poverty) and SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities).

Annex

The 6th Guangzhou International Award for Urban Innovation

15 Shortlisted Initiatives

Local Government	Title of the Initiative
Antalya, Türkiye	Eco-Friendly Farmer Card: Protect Your Environment, Collect Points, Win Prizes
Bogotá, Colombia	Bogotá Care Blocks: How a City Is Reorganizing Itself for Women and Achieving the SDGs
Cape Town, South Africa	Building Resilient Food Systems in Cape Town
Gwangju, Republic of Korea	GwangJuness Community Care
Chalandri, Greece	Cultural H.ID.RA.N.T. (Cultural Hidden IDentities ReAppear through Networks of Water) — Ancient Engineering of Sustainable Water Management Meets Urban Innovation Through Citizens' Participation
Iztapalapa, Mexico	UTOPIAS - Units of Transformation and Organization for Social Inclusion and Harmony
Jakarta, Indonesia	Reclaiming Spaces for Children in Public Transportation Through Navi_ Station Initiatives
Kazan, Russia	Eco-rehabilitation of the City Park "Chaikovoye Lake"
Kampala, Uganda	An Innovation Towards Pit Emptying Services Using a GIS-enabled Application
Mannheim, Germany	Local SDG Implementation: An Annual Report on the Achievement of the SDGs as a Management Tool and the Large Area-Transformation Into a SDG-Park
Pimpri Chinchwad, India	Navi Disha: Community Toilet Model
Ramallah, Palestine	Forum of Expertise - Active Aging for a Vibrant Future - Empowering Seniors to Thrive Through Voluntarism, Lifelong Learning, Wellbeing, and Community Led Initiatives
São Paulo, Brazil	Programa Tô Legal
Tehran, Iran	Substitution of Chemical Pesticides by Using Pruning Waste in the Production of Herbal Formulations
Xianning, China	Enhancing Traffic Safety Near Schools Through Child-Friendly Collaborative Construction and Sharing Approach

For further information on the initiatives featured in this report, kindly refer to the Guangzhou Award Urban Innovation Database at www.urban-innovations.org

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