



NEW URBAN AGENDA

Implementation and engagement with the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) – How cities and their respective countries have started to engage with the two international agendas.

Buenos Aires (Argentina)

Population 3M; average density: 14,994 persons/km²

- Initiative to upgrade the 55 city slums
- the government entered into a process of external borrowing (mainly with the World Bank), and a massive sale of public land
- the priorities of intervention were defined by the strategic location of the slums regarding future real estate potential
- slum upgrading is related to SDG 11 that seeks the achievement of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities, and human settlements.

Challenges:

- The agencies responsible for slum upgrading policies are *The City Institute of Housing*; the *Under Secretary of Habitat and Inclusion*; the *Unit of Social Management and Intervention*; the *General Direction of Immediate Assistance*; the *Secretary of Urban Integration*; and the *Executive Unit of the former AU3*. Because decision making is reliant on many different bodies, there is a lack of new policy and consensus is difficult.

Successes:

- The implementation of the SDGs at the national level is the responsibility of the *National Council of Coordination of Social Policies (CNCPS)*. The CNCPS developed a manual which provides implementation guidelines as a tool for management and planning at the municipal level.
- In 2015, the national ombudsman developed the “Program for Monitoring and Evaluation of the SDGs: Agenda 2030”, whose objective is to collaborate in the implementation of public policies that take into account the fulfilment of the SDGs.
- In 2016, national legislation created the “Parliamentary Observatory for the UN’s Sustainable Development Agenda 2030” to promote the adaptation and implementation of the Agenda 2030 in various legislative bills. To date, there is no record of the activities carried out.

Cape Town (South Africa)

Population 4M; average density: 1,637 persons/km²

- A 5-year Integrated Development Plan approved in 2017 and reviewed every year; long-term Metropolitan Spatial Development Framework; annual Built Environment Performance Plan
- These plans reflect the City’s concern with overcoming spatial and socio-economic inequality through basic service delivery and transit-oriented development.

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- City adopted principles fall in line with the objectives of the New Urban Agenda and a number of the SDGs: SDG 11 (urban); SDG 6 (water); SDG 8 (work and economic growth); SDG 9 (industry, innovation and infrastructure); SDG 13 (climate action).

Challenges:

- For the City to successfully meet its goals, it is dependent on national policy and legislation as well as capable national government departments.
- Some of the major challenges that the City faces are resource constraints and a limited mandate addressing issues around social development, education, health, as well as safety and security—all of which fall under national and provincial government mandates.
- National guidance regarding the local implementation of the SDGs and NUA is still in preliminary stages. Initial efforts by the central government have centred around the alignment of South Africa's National Development Plan with Agenda 2030.

Successes:

- The City is focusing on awareness and engagement about the SDGs.
- City officials are involved in the ISO 37120 certification process. The pioneering global standard for city indicators, implemented by Citynet and the World Council on City Data, provides a comprehensive list of 100 indicators enabling cities to measure and compare their social, economic, and environmental performance against other cities around the world.

Gothenburg (Sweden)

Population 550,000; average density: 1,243 persons/km²

- The City Executive Board's annual budget for 2018 is comprised of 18 goals that address the mutually dependent dimensions of sustainability: social, ecological, and economic.
- The goals include making the City inclusive and open to people's differences and needs with linkages to Agenda 2030 (not planned, but consistent).
- When City staff analyzed the relevance of the SDGs to Gothenburg, results showed that all goals were relevant to the cities continued positive growth and resilience. The following goals were directly related: SDG 4 (education), SDG 5 (gender equality), SDG 6 (water and sanitation), SDG 7 (energy), SDG 8 (decent work and growth), and SDG 11 (cities).

Challenges:

- The City's housing goal will not be fulfilled. Despite increased efforts, they have not been sufficient to meet an increased need for housing.
- Addressing the vulnerability of different groups to climate-related events, notably adaptation, is lacking in the city's work.
- While Sweden has a well-developed welfare system and a high standard of living, income inequality and relative poverty have been steadily increasing.

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- Achieving sustainable consumption and production, an issue which is not completely under the City's jurisdiction requires strong collaboration to implement.

Successes:

- Reducing inequalities is a central priority for the City. One of the most significant initiatives of the City is "Equal Gothenburg" a program that aims to provide better conditions for children and a good life start through school years. Principles are linked to SDGs 1 (poverty), 4 (education), and 10 (inequality).
- The program also focuses on creating conditions for work and structures for equal work, health promotion, and sustainable living environments.
- In 2016, an independent national delegation was appointed for three years with the task of supporting Sweden's implementation of Agenda 2030. The commission intends to co-operate with Swedish Association of Local Authorities and Regions on how Agenda 2030 can influence municipal work and reach citizens.

Malmö (Sweden)

Population 318,100 (2015); average density: 2,130 persons/km²

- Malmö's municipal budget for 2018 stresses: equality, gender equality, anti-discrimination, the environment, and public participation.
- Four general themes are defined as focal directions:
 - Sustainability—where the social dimension is stressed and where all municipal functions are explicitly charged with the task of integrating the SDGs into their local development guidelines.
 - Digitalization.
 - Environmentally focused SDG 14 (Life Below Water).
 - Creating ties to students and researchers in the City.
- All 17 SDG goals are recognized, with particular emphasis on social challenges.

Challenges:

- The City's mandate varies across goals.
- Changes in national legislation encumbered or removed strategic options for action such as the local deployment of certain policy tools, specifically tools regarding the built environment.
- Jurisdiction over coastal waters and the ocean has been transferred from municipal to national government.

Successes:

- The City of Malmö announced its intention to integrate the SDGs into its development agenda and steering documents.
- In 2017, a central sustainability office was formed to track, guide, and encourage these processes.

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- The NUA has not been formally addressed within the municipal organization.

Kisumu (Kenya)

Population: 404,000; average density: 1,394 persons/km²

- The City's priorities cut across various sectors and relate to multiple SDGs.
- Most of the projects relate to SDG 11 (sustainable cities) addressing rapid urbanization and the related challenges.
- Key areas of concern include land management, planning and land use; housing; improvement of the road network and transportation system, provision of basic services; water and sewerage; health; electricity connections; and environmental management.

Challenges:

- While many responsibilities which originally were under the Kenya National Government have been devolved to the County and City, the framework/mechanism to support the devolution process and the tools to manage these functions have not been fully developed, nor is there adequate technical expertise.
- The City relies on funds from the National Government, which is not adequate to implement development projects.
- The City under the County Government is not fully engaged in the implementation of the SDGs.

Successes:

- The City facilitated construction of some new schools and refurbishment of old ones (SDG 4), construction of health centres (SDG 3) and modern markets, and construction and repair of roads to improve access and movement (SDG 9).
- Upgrading of informal settlements (slums) is also a priority under the Kenya Informal Settlement Projects and Urban Renewal Program (SDG 11, SDG 1).
- Solid waste management also continues to rank highly concerning the relocation of the current city dumping site and construction of a sanitary landfill (SDG 11).
- Kenya Vision 2030 continues to guide local initiatives. National guidelines are developed in alignment with the SDGs and the NUA.
- National guidance on the SDGs and the NUA through Kenya's National Urban Development Policy (2016) is to strengthen urban governance and management, development planning, urban investment and the delivery of social and physical infrastructure in urban areas by providing a framework for sustainable urban development.
- The National Spatial Plan 2015-2045 supports the implementation of strategic national projects by providing a framework for sectoral planning and development by the counties in preparing county and local plans.
- With the full engagement with the SDGs at the National Level, it is possible to focus the processes at the City Level.

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Sheffield (UK)

Population 575,000; average density: 1,550 persons/km²

- The City's priorities are:
 - Being an in-touch organization – listening; being connected and responsive (SDG 16).
 - Creating a strong economy (SDGs 8 & 9).
 - Thriving neighbourhoods and communities, including high-quality, affordable housing (SDG 11).
 - Better health and wellbeing (SDG 3).
 - Tackling inequalities – making it easier for individuals to achieve their potential (SDG 10).

Challenges:

- The SDGs and NUA have not been examined in any detail and were not on the agenda for City Council.
- A lack of resources means that the SDGs and NUA are unlikely to receive any attention unless deemed to be useful in achieving existing goals. No actions have been identified.
- No 'Sustainability' department or team within the organization.
- The biggest current gaps in the City's strategy about the SDGs are SDG 2 (end hunger); SDG 5 (achieve gender equality); and SDG 12 (ensure sustainable consumption and production patterns).

Shimla (India)

Population 170,000; average density: 4,798 persons/km²

- The City's top 5 priorities include transport, urban solid waste, safe & green spaces, city planning and health & well-being.
 - Transport: The role of the corporation is limited, and much of the burden lies with Public Works Department and National Highways Authority. The City is responsible for maintenance of Municipal Roads
 - Urban Solid Waste: One of the City's primary responsibilities. Conducts door to door collection, implementing Union governments Swachh Bharat Mission (Clean India).
 - Safe and Green Spaces: Responsible for maintenance of public parks, gardens and recreation grounds through its Gardens department.
 - City Planning: the City has the authority to grant planning permissions for buildings and regulation of constructions in the Municipal Areas.
 - Health and Well-being: There is a health officer at the city level, but the role doesn't explicitly cover interventions in health and well-being.

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Successes:

- The Indian Government is providing guidance on the implementation of the SDGs and the NUA regarding collecting data along with data quality checks.
- The *Ministry of Statistics and Program Implementation* have conducted exercises to do draft mapping of indicators but at a national level. The state government has not taken a significant lead in this regard so far.
- While there is no strategy regarding NUA and SDGs, the City is working on specific projects addressing the SDGs.
- The City has articulated its priorities in the Smart City Proposal: SDG 11 (sustainable cities and communities); SDG 8 (decent work and economic growth); SDG 6 (clean water and sanitation); SDG 3 (good health and well-being); and SDG 5 (gender equality).

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