ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

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On behalf of
Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development

Guide on Connecting Green Recovery and Resilience in Cities

Resilient Cities Action Package 2021 (ReCAP21)

This document is a deliverable of the "Resilient Cities Action Package 2021 (ReCAP21)".

ABOUT THE RESILIENT CITIES ACTION PACKAGE 2021 (RECAP21)

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Resilient Cities Action Package 2021 (**ReCAP21**) is a partnership between GIZ, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability, the Resilient Cities Network, and Cities Alliance. It aims to increase the capacity of selected cities in Rwanda, Bangladesh, and Mauritania for combatting pandemics (including primary healthcare, health management, public life) while addressing other priorities in urban settings. To achieve this objective, the implementing partners have joined forces to design common frameworks and approaches for resilient recovery that can help address the vulnerabilities exposed by this crisis and the ones to come. The implementing partners are committed to helping cities transform their vision for a resilient future into reality.

ABOUT ICLEI – LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABILITY

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2,500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, ICLEI influences sustainability policy and drives local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient, and circular development. ICLEI's Members and team of experts work together through peer exchange, partnerships, and capacity building to create systemic change for urban sustainability.

ABOUT GIZ SECTOR PROGRAMME CITIES

The Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH (*German Corporation for International Cooperation*) is a German development agency that provides services in the field of international development cooperation and international education work. As part of GIZ, the Sector Programme Cities provides advice to the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) on mainstreaming sustainable urbanization and integrated urban development in German development cooperation. It supports reforms within BMZ's sustainable urban development field of action and develops core topics such as integrated urban development, sustainable building, municipal funding, and climate change in cities.

ABOUT RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK (R-CITIES)

Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities) is the world's leading urban resilience network. R-Cities brings together global knowledge, practice, partnerships, and funding to empower members to build safe and equitable cities for all. R-Cities consists of member cities and Chief Resilience Officers from 97 cities committed to urban resilience. The Resilient Cities Network, in partnership with its global community, delivers urban resilience solutions through knowledge sharing, collaboration, and creative action, seeking to inspire, foster, and build holistic urban resilience around the world.

ABOUT CITIES ALLIANCE

Cities Alliance is the global partnership fighting urban poverty and promoting the role of cities. To help achieve these goals, the Cities Alliance promotes long-term programmatic approaches that support national and local governments to develop appropriate policy frameworks, strengthen local skills and capacity, undertake strategic city planning, and facilitate investment. Cities Alliance operates a multi-donor fund with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as host and trustee.

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DISCLAIMER

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The impacts of the global COVID-19 pandemic on the cities have been enormous on all accounts. Dealing with the recovery process from the pandemic is a monumental effort for many local governments and their cities, especially in terms of the additional strain they place on municipal finances and capacities.

The Resilient Cities Action Package 2021 (ReCAP21) is built on the idea that the climate and resilience lens should be mainstreamed to the recovery process from the COVID-19 pandemic. The main purpose of ReCAP21 is to provide technical and capacity building support to local governments in the Global South that will make an impact in fundamentally shifting the traditional economic recovery planning processes towards transformations that ensure holistic resilience. Within the backdrop of this overarching objective, local governments are better able to design and implement plans and measures for a resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

This guide outlines three key entry points for local governments to move towards an urban transformation and a resilient recovery process, which is also green in nature. Altogether, these entry points provide local governments with the practical support to identify comprehensive solutions that range from finance and physical interventions to cultural practices and governance arrangements that may contribute to achieving more resilient societies.

The first key entry point proposes five practical Tools for Cities that cover topics from harmonizing local government's urban strategies to developing tailored risk assessments and climate-resilient interventions. The second key entry point is highlighted in the National – Local Dialogues and the Resilient Recovery: Insights from the Field. The 'National – Local Dialogues' showcase practical examples of how multilevel governance can be fostered through the implementation of local dialogues in Rwanda and Bangladesh. The 'Insights from the Field' demonstrate four cases in which the resilience assessment tools have been implemented in different settings and urban contexts. The third entry point is showcased in the Transformative Action Program (TAP) which supports local governments in exploring project opportunities and accessing finance for their implementation.

1. INTRODUCTION

1.1 WHY IS THIS GUIDE NEEDED?

Around the world, local governments and their cities have been tackling the COVID-19 pandemic while striving to put equity, economy, and climate action at the center of their recovery approaches. The pandemic has revealed that cities are not monolithic – they include interconnected and complex systems. This often leaves urban ecosystems susceptible to their weakest parts, with the pandemic shining a new light on the deep inequities confronting cities around the world, revealing vulnerabilities, and highlighting opportunities for new approaches. In the midst of the greatest global economic downturn in nearly a century, progress on sustainable development needs to be re-galvanized.

As COVID-19 has revealed the need for more robust inter-relationships between the environment and livelihoods, many countries have proposed "green recovery" interventions that not only tackle the pandemic's health-related concerns, but also have a positive impact on the environment - ideally also tackling climate change. For this reason, opportunity abounds to strengthen these aspects, by tapping into sound decisions and investments. Now is the moment for national and local governments around the globe to build back stronger and fairer than before.

As cities and urban areas are complex systems with millions of moving parts and many concentrated risks, their complexity and scale make them particularly vulnerable to disruptions. The triple threats posed by the pandemic, climate change, and systemic inequalities require innovative planning methods and bold holistic interventions that address the root causes of vulnerabilities. Building resilience is about recognizing that uncertainties and stresses - not only environmental shocks - are interconnected, and therefore solutions must be interconnected as well. To achieve the transformational effects needed for resilient economies, green recovery plans need to embed the key element of building resilience from an integrated and inclusive perspective.

It is increasingly important to be able to mainstream resilience thinking into (green) recovery packages. Approaching recovery through a broader resilience lens allows stakeholders to identify actions that can potentially promote multiple positive benefits to urban systems which enhance their capacity to face risks.

Resilient investments and interventions that address the root causes of multiple vulnerabilities can create a triple dividend: helping cities boost their economies, improving equity, and preparing communities for inevitable climate and health risks. Instead of pursuing a traditional recovery where governments only seek to resume economic activity, this resilient approach enables decision-makers at all levels to prioritize investments that support an equitable, climate friendly, and inclusive local economic development in an integrated and coherent way.. As cities recover from COVID-19, investments and policies need to be designed so as to enable the multiplication of the number of benefits in a wide range of geographies, sectors, and demographics.

1.2 NEW PARTNERSHIPS FOR A NEW ERA

Funded by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Resilient Cities Action Package 2021 (ReCAP21) is a partnership between GIZ, ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities), and Cities Alliance. ReCAP21 aims to increase the capacity of selected cities in Rwanda, Bangladesh, and Mauritania to tackle pandemics (including primary healthcare, health management, public life); identify priority urban resilient and green recovery action packages across sectors; plan and implement local small-scale measures; develop long-term resilience plans; and contribute to global knowledge exchange on urban resilient and green recovery.

The partnership recognizes the fundamental principles of working together to support local governments and their cities to plan for a resilient recovery. First, resilient recovery is about planning and implementing for a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive recovery for a more resilient future by addressing vulnerabilities and their root causes. Second, resilient recovery must be rooted in community solutions that are locally defined. Hence, there must be an explicit equity and inclusion focus. Finally, resilient recovery must break down the thematic silos within local governments and embolden city networks to do the same, to better co-design, and to craft integrated and holistic interventions in cities.

To achieve these objectives, the implementing partners have joined forces to design common frameworks and approaches for resilient recovery that can help address vulnerabilities and their root causes exposed by this crisis and those yet to come. As a partnership, a strong commitment exists to help turn cities' vision for a resilient future into reality.

1.3 GUIDE OVERVIEW

This guide outlines three key entry points for local governments to move towards an urban resilient transformation that embeds a green recovery process.

The first key entry point is addressed in the Tools for Cities section. This section proposes various practical tools for local governments regarding resilience assessments and implementation. First, the City Works tool supports city officials in harmonizing their urban strategies and activities with international agendas including the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The second and third tools, the Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) and the GreenClimateCities (GCC) Program, equip city officials with knowledge about developing sustainable energy and climate plans and solutions, including tailored risk assessments and climate-resilient interventions. The last tool, the Resilient Recovery toolkit focuses on win-win investments that respond to multiple urban stressors and priorities. This provides local governments with the practical support to identify comprehensive solutions that range from physical interventions to cultural practices and governance arrangements that may contribute to achieving more resilient societies.

The second key entry point is highlighted in the sections National – Local Dialogues and Resilient Recovery: Insights from the Field. The 'National – Local Dialogues' section showcases practical examples of how multilevel governance can be fostered through the implementation of local dialogues in Rwanda and Bangladesh. The 'Resilient Recovery: Insights from the Field' section demonstrates how the resilience assessment tools have been implemented in different settings and urban contexts, such as the decentralization process in Sebkha (Nouakchott, Mauritania), the urban health improvement plan in Narayanganj (Bangladesh), scaling up the health centers in Muhanga (Rwanda), and enhancing resilient public spaces in Kigali (Rwanda).

The third entry point is showcased in the Transformative Action Program (TAP) section. The TAP initiative supports local governments in exploring project opportunities and accessing finance for their implementation. TAP seeks to connect subnational governments to diversified sources of technical and financial support in order to catalyze and improve capital flows to cities, towns, and regions. TAP strenghtens local governments' capacity in acquiring climate finance and attracting investment.

2. TOOLS FOR CITIES

From the collective learnings with cities, mainstreaming resilience into recovery packages is increasingly important. Approaching recovery through a resilience lens allows stakeholders to identify actions that can potentially promote multiple positive benefits to urban systems, which enhance their capacity to face risks. It is no longer possible to align only economic and environmental benefits in an increasingly interconnected society. For instance, equity has largely been neglected in the definition of recovery packages, and every policy choice (regarding for example transportation, housing, or health) is fundamentally an equity decision. As such, frameworks that enable interventions designed to multiply the number of possible benefits in a wide range of geographies, sectors, and demographics are needed to address this. Building resilience is about recognizing uncertainties, and that shocks and stresses are interconnected, therefore interventions must be as well.

Building on the extensive work from each organization in the field of COVID-19 recovery, resilience, and green development, the outlined tools in this section have been developed to serve as a guide for local governments as they plan for recovery.

GIZ's toolbox City WORKS offers a Circular approach structured in three phases and eight steps reaching from identifying needs to planning measures. These support the city in making transparent decisions. The **CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox** is a hands-on, interactive tool following the three SEACAP pillars to support local governments in implementing sustainable energy and climate solutions. Furthermore, ICLEI's **GreenClimateCities (GCC) Program** provides a step-by-step guide towards climate neutrality, critical to a resilient recovery, and under which the Comprehensive and Simplified ClimateResilientCITIES Methodology delivers effective local climate action. Finally, the **Resilient Recovery Framework** by R-Cities is *organized in four main dimensions*: equity-centered, risk-aware, systems-enabled, and climate-focused. This enables decision-makers to prioritize investments that support an equitable, climate friendly, and resilient local economic development.

2.1 CITY WORKS

WHAT IS CITY WORKS?

City WORKS is a toolkit that supports advisors, local governments, and cities in adapting and harmonizing their urban strategies and activities with international agendas in order to contribute to their local implementation. The tool offers a step-by-step approach and has already been tested in several countries. The circular structure allows tools to be selected sequentially or non-linearly according to local needs. Structured in eight steps and three phases, City WORKS offers multiple tools to strengthen participatory urban planning, transparent decision-making, and coordinated and collaborative strategies and actions.

WHY IS IT USEFUL FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS?

City WORKS supports municipalities in recognizing the relevance of global agendas, identifies specific needs at city level, prioritizes options for urban development, and mobilizes relevant actors and resources for implementation.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO RESILIENT AND GREEN RECOVERY?

City WORKS allows for green recovery diagnostics and planning by focusing on SDG targets that are specifically relevant for a green and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic. Additional tools to address disaster response and to strengthen urban resilience have been developed in the course of ReCAP21.

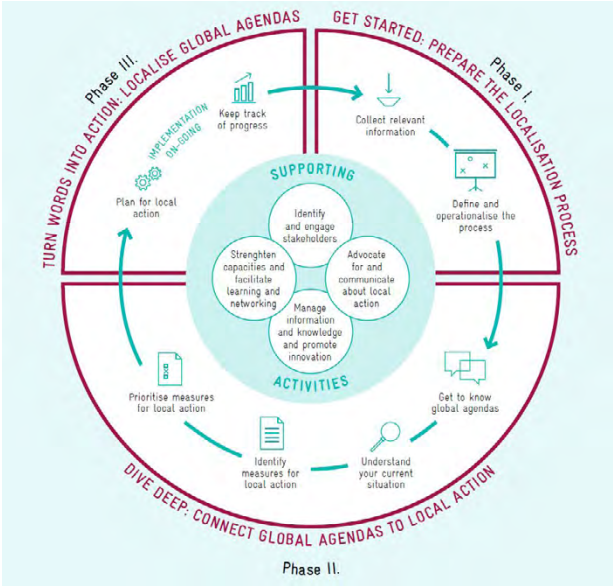
WHERE HAS CITY WORKS BEEN APPLIED/USED?

City WORKS has been applied in several urban programs in Ghana, Egypt, the Palestinian Territories, Nepal, and Mauretania. Further applications are planned in Bangladesh and Guatemala.

Tool Name
City WORKS – Toolbox to Implement Global Agendas in Cities

Led By
Sector Programme Cities - GIZ

Year Developed
2018



City WORKS Circular Approach. Source: Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)

2.2 COM SSA SEACAP TOOLBOX

WHAT IS THE COM SSA SEACAP TOOLBOX?

The CoM SSA Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) Toolbox is a hands-on tool designed to support local and regional governments to implement the recommendations in the SEACAP Guidebook. The Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (**SEACAP**) is the key document that sets the strategies, plans, and actions for a sustainable and low greenhouse gas emission development, while including climate adaptation actions and ensuring access to secure, affordable, and sustainable energy in response to the current and future impacts of climate change.

WHY IS IT USEFUL FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS?

The CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox is an interactive guide designed to assist local and regional governments in the development, integration, and monitoring of their SEACAPs. The Toolbox is designed as a series of slide presentations that includes the content for each SEACAP pillar (climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, and access to energy), while also unpacking a number of processes and methodologies for achieving the different SEACAP steps. Additionally, the CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox includes a number of guided exercises that can be used when facilitating a training on the Toolbox.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO RESILIENT AND GREEN RECOVERY?

Having a SEACAP can guide the development of sustainable energy and climate solutions that are critical for delivering universal access to energy, accelerating recovery, and ensuring resilience in response to current and future vulnerabilities.

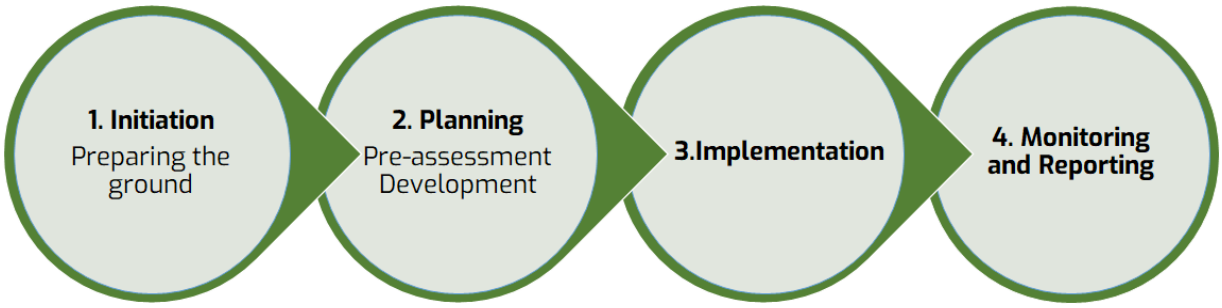
Tool Name
CoM SSA Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) Toolbox

Led By
Covenant of Mayor in Sub-Saharan Africa (CoM SSA)

Year Developed
2020

WHERE HAS THE SEACAP TOOLKIT BEEN APPLIED/USED?

Through a call for projects, seven cities were selected to benefit from financial support for the development of a SEACAP. CoM SSA's experiences with the municipality of Tsévié, for example, relates to climate and energy planning at the local level in order to implement national political ambitions in the fight against climate change. See more information here.



The SEACAP Process: Main Phases. Source:CoM SSA SEACAP Toolbox

2.3 GREENCLIMATECITIES (GCC) PROGRAM

WHAT IS THE GCC PROGRAM?

The GreenClimateCities (GCC) Program is a global climate impact program by ICLEI, offering subnational governments a proven process methodology for walking step-by-step toward climate neutrality. The **GCC Program** supports local communities on the front lines by addressing the challenges and opportunities for urban growth, exploring the potential of a green economy and green/blue infrastructure, and pursuing a low-emission and climate resilient development trajectory. The **GCC methodology** is a nine-step process, offering support on assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities and integrating low- to no-emissions development and climate adaptive development into urban development policies, plans, and processes.

This impact program serves as an umbrella for developing and applying localized and contextualized methodologies. Two examples are (i) the Comprehensive ClimateResilientCITIES Methodology and (ii) the Simplified ClimateResilientCITIES Methodology. They both serve as local action versions of the **GCC impact program** and are used for local climate action in India.

WHY IS IT USEFUL FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS?

The GCC Program offers LGs a process and a tailor-made framework on how to analyze, act, and accelerate climate action; a wide range of resources, tools, and guidance notes to support effective delivery of local climate action, as well as the Measuring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) process to demonstrate local commitment, capacity, and results.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO RESILIENT AND GREEN RECOVERY?

Through the GCC Program, green recovery strategies can be addressed through a climate resilience approach, incorporating both climate change mitigation and adaptation. Both mitigation and adaptation are part of the GCC Program, which helps to assess and identify climate resilient options that can be integrated into urban development policies, plans, and processes.

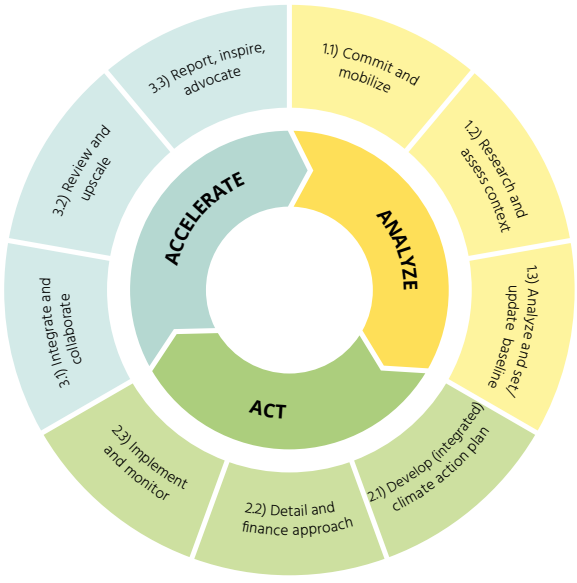
WHERE HAS THE GCC PROGRAM BEEN APPLIED/USED?

Sixty cities around the globe have piloted the GCC integrated action approach since 2017 (as part of the Urban-LEDS II Project - delivering climate action plans informed by Greenhouse Gas Emissions Inventories (GHG-Is) and Climate Risk & Vulnerability Assessments (CRVAs). For both the Comprehensive and Simplified ClimateResilientCITIES Methodology, several South Asian cities such as Rajkot, Udaipur, Coimbatore, Siliguri, Kurunegala, and Gelephu have prepared their climate action plans following this methodology, with some also implementing the plans.

Tool Name
GreenClimateCities (GCC) Program

Led By
ICLEI - Local Governments for Sustainability

Year Developed
2020



GCC Process Methodology. Source: GCC Program

2.4 RESILIENT RECOVERY FRAMEWORK

WHAT IS THE RESILIENT RECOVERY FRAMEWORK?

The Resilient Recovery Framework was developed as the groundwork for thinking about recovery, serving as a reference framework to guide discussions. This work has emerged from the urgent and ongoing practice exchange between cities in R-Cities' global network of Chief Resilience Officers and urban resilience practitioners. From the collective learning with the member cities and partners, it became clear the importance of mainstreaming resilience thinking into recovery packages.

WHY IS IT USEFUL FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS?

Local and regional governments are fighting the pandemic against the backdrop of existing shocks and stresses, which influences the impact of the virus and can also exacerbate current risk and hazards - compounding risks and causing a crisis upon crisis. Instead of pursuing a traditional recovery where public authorities only seek to resume economic activity, this framework enables decision-makers to prioritize investments that support an equitable, climate friendly, and resilient local economic development in a coherent manner.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO RESILIENT AND GREEN RECOVERY?

The Resilient Recovery Framework provides a digestible scheme to guide local action towards a resilient recovery. In all the complexity of a recovery process, this framework highlights **four key aspects** that need to be considered in order to yield multiple benefits to communities:

- **Equity-centered:** Cities can empower multiple stakeholders and place equity at the center of their recovery efforts, particularly through education.
- **Risk-aware:** In planning for recovery, cities can assess how various interventions can respond to multiple and overlapping risks, including leveraging data and technology to inform public policy.
- **System-enabled:** Recovery interventions should be designed to include not only multiple benefits, but also the intersection or nexus between different systems.
- **Climate-focused:** Planning for recovery can accelerate the transformation from fossil-fuel based- into renewable, sustainable, nature-based economies, which respect planetary limits.

Tool Name
Resilient Recovery Framework

Led By
Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities)

Year Developed
2021

Resilient Recovery Framework. Source: Resilient Cities Network

WHERE HAS THE RESILIENT RECOVERY FRAMEWORK BEEN APPLIED/USED?

The Resilient Recovery Framework has been used to guide the work in the City of Kigali, Rwanda as part of ReCAP21. Throughout the different activities of ReCAP21 - capacity building training, vision setting workshop, action plan and project development - the framework was used to invite city practitioners to reflect upon the multiple opportunities for mainstreaming resilience in their recovery planning process. It helped shape investment opportunities that put the city on track to achieving its long-term goal of becoming an excellence center in Africa, while strengthening its capacity to survive, adapt, and thrive from future crises.

2.5 TOOLKIT FOR A RESILIENT RECOVERY

WHAT IS THE TOOLKIT FOR A RESILIENT RECOVERY?

Based on existing methods and best practices, the R-Cities and the Chief Resilience Officers have co-created and identified the best methodologies to enable cities to plan a resilient recovery. The Toolkit for a Resilient Recovery consists of a suite of instruments, which cities can use independently, as well as methods delivered in collaboration with R-Cities. The toolkit provides a reference framework to guide discussions in a phased manner.

WHY IS IT USEFUL FOR LOCAL AND REGIONAL GOVERNMENTS?

Strategic planning tools based on existing best practices can help local and regional governments to respond to the emergency of the moment while developing long-term integrated resilience thinking for transformational change. The toolkit enables each city to define its own path to recovery by considering four interactive activities: assessing and analyzing the situation; defining a portfolio of actions; improving the proposals; and deepening learning. Characterized by a place-based approach, it supports local governments to identify opportunities that include not only physical solutions, but also cultural practices, cross-cutting issues, and governance arrangements to achieve more resilient societies.

HOW DOES IT RELATE TO RESILIENT AND GREEN RECOVERY?

Building on this collective understanding of the priorities for recovery, the toolkit facilitates a deeper understanding of the complex and wide-ranging impacts of the COVID-19 crisis in cities. It supports cities in identifying groups of actions that respond to their specific context needs, prioritizing investments that respond to multiple needs and support inclusive and green economic development; it enhances the resilience value of the planned interventions and it supports knowledge exchange.

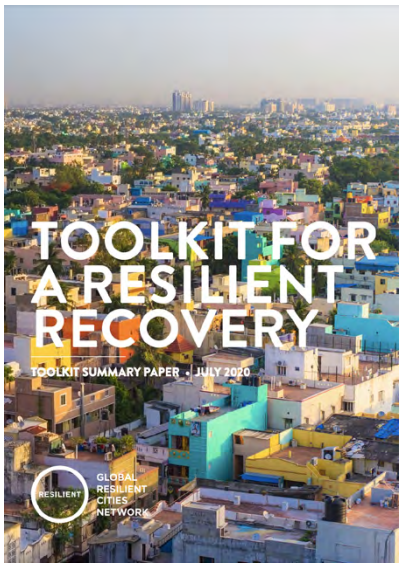
WHERE HAS THE TOOLKIT FOR A RESILIENT RECOVERY BEEN APPLIED/USED?

Multiple member cities of the Resilient Cities Network, such as Quito (Ecuador), Santa Fe (USA), Greater Manchester (UK), and Paris (France), have been exploring the usages of these resilient recovery tools. For instance, the Greater Manchester region developed its one year "Living with COVID Resilience Plan" using multiple tools developed under this toolkit.

Tool Name
Toolkit for a Resilient Recovery

Led By
Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities)

Year Developed
2020



Toolkit for a Resilient Recovery. Source: Resilient Cities Network

Moreover, the City of Kigali, Rwanda, as part of ReCAP21, has implemented the Project Inventory Tool. It helped the city articulate the resilience qualities of projects and their contribution to the city's overall resilience, while also helping the City of Kigali to evaluate over 30 projects. As such, the tool helps cities to quickly assess existing key projects and understand how modifications can add to their resilience value and accelerate recovery efforts.

3. NATIONAL – LOCAL DIALOGUES

The National – Local Dialogues (Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues) were framed during the 23rd United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP23) in 2017 and serve to convene national, regional, and local governments to take stock of, shape, and strengthen Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). The Dialogues are designed to kick off a collaborative process involving all levels of government and are guided by three main questions:

Where are we?

Dialogue participants review national commitments, the current national GHG emissions profile, the quantitative impact of interventions and subnational commitments and actions. They also examine whether sustainable urban development is adequately reflected in national climate policy.

Where do we want to go?

Dialogue participants identify possible links between climate action, the SDGs and national urban development policy. They explore ideas on how to strengthen NDCs by integrating commitments and actions by local and regional governments, as well as how local and regional governments can support implementation of current NDCs.

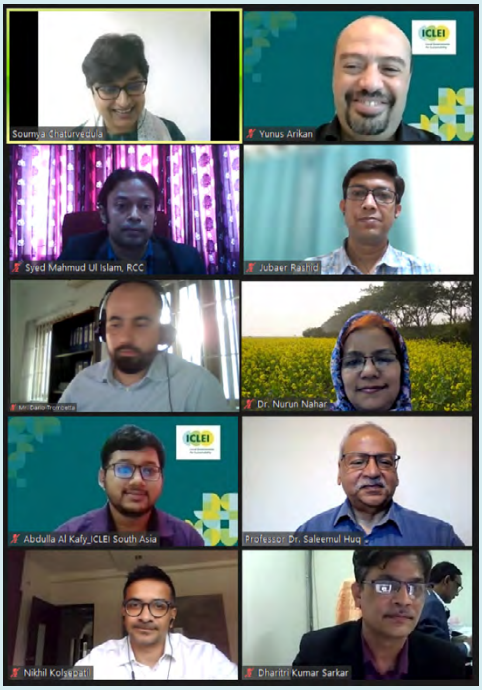
How do we get there?

Dialogue participants explore possibilities on how national, regional and local governments can work together to mobilize technical, financial and policy resources to deliver on and strengthen the NDCs. They consider potential models for collaboration across levels of government, through new or existing institutional mechanisms and structures.

The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues was launched by ICLEI, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and UN-Habitat.

The word *Talanoa* itself refers to a style of dialogue practiced in Pacific Island countries, which fosters openness and inclusiveness. This is the spirit of the Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues, designed to help make climate action a more ambitious and collective global effort.

These dialogues have been demonstrating substantive progress on catalysing climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts by **fostering multilevel governance**. The Cities and Regions Talanoa Dialogues held so far have shown that they can enhance synergies between sustainable urbanization and climate change. They do so by **mainstreaming multilevel governance approaches** aimed at raising the ambition of NDCs. Under ReCAP21, two Talanoa style dialogues were held. The following sections encapsulate the outcome of both the Rwanda and Bangladesh dialogues.



Talanoa Style High Level Dialogue for Climate Action in Bangladesh

3.1 RWANDA NATIONAL – LOCAL DIALOGUE

National, as well as sub-national government officials from Rwanda, used the questions under the Talanoa structure as a basis for cooperative conversations and exchange. Participants included local and national government representatives from Rwanda's Ministry of Environment, the Rwandan Association of Local Government Authorities (RALGA), Muhanga and Rubavu Districts, the Local Administrative Entities Development Agency (LODA), the Rwanda Environment Management Authority (REMA) and Land Management Authority (RLMA), the City of Kigali, the Ministry of Emergency Management (MINEMA), the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), the Rwanda National Climate and Environment Fund (FONERWA), the Ministry of Local Government (MINALOC), as well as the Rwanda Land Management and Use Authority. The outcome of these discussions are captured below:

How can local and regional governments help the national government to seize the potential of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development in the implementation of NDCs?	**What are the options to integrate commitments and actions of local and regional governments in current and future NDCs?**	**Which measures and changes are required in order to support local governments' actions towards the achievements of NDCs?**
• Since Rwanda's NDCs submission, the Ministry of Environment's target is to align outputs, indicators, and key performance areas in relation to NDC implementation to enhance the current processes rather than reinventing the wheel. • Rwanda's Environmental Ministry reflected on how to receive funds to support the implementation. A few environment and climate change plans have been identified by the Ministry as an entry point. • The Ministry of Environment has worked on the NDCs implementation framework across institutions and is in the process of being finalized.	• Various coordination committees have been created to report into each other in order to ensure effective collaboration and implementation of NDCs. • Sub-national levels of government have to be incorporated into existing and relevant strategic and development plans where possible. • Local policies should always fit in national policies, therefore both national and subnational levels of government need to ensure the country's NDCs align with commitments made at local levels.	• Raising awareness, capacity building, and knowledge transfer need to be enhanced at the local level as they are key to implementing and achieving NDCs. • Financial resource mobilization is required. The districts need financial support and on the ground, bankable projects need to be identified that can be up-scaled or replicated. • Actions To enhance Monitoring, Reporting, and Verification (MRV) processes at the local level in relation to NDC implementation need to be taken. • The need for a bottom-up approach to NDC implementation. • With the creation of more spaces for subnational and national government actors to interact, sub-national governments can better align projects to accelerate action and meet national targets.

3.2 BANGLADESH NATIONAL – LOCAL DIALOGUE

ICLEI South Asia organized the *'Talanoa Style High Level Dialogue for Climate Action in Bangladesh'* on 25 November 2021 via videoconference. Participants included local and national government representatives from Bangladesh's Department of Environment, the Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change, the Bangladesh Planning Commission from Rajshahi and Narayanganj City Corporation, the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), the European Union delegation to Bangladesh, and ICLEI South Asia. The outcome of these discussions are captured below:

How can local and regional governments help the national government to seize the potential of sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development in the implementation of NDCs?	**What are the options to integrate commitments and actions of local and regional governments in current and future NDCs?**	**Which measures and changes are required in order to support local governments' actions towards the achievements of NDCs?**
• Bangladesh submitted an updated and more ambitious NDC in August 2021. The National Adaptation Plan is also being modified to garner additional impetus to climate actions. • Bangladesh has also set up a Climate Change Trust Fund which supports the local governments in implementing sustainable urban development projects which indirectly accelerate the completion of NDCs. • The Planning Commission is adopting an integrated approach of national and local government policies for sustainable development. • The Planning Commission is formulating a digital risk platform which is expected to align the SDG targets with the climate budgeting.	• Bangladesh is the first country to come out with a low-carbon growth plan titled *"Mujib Climate Prosperity Plan"*, which is set on guiding Bangladesh's development path through a low-carbon strategy. The progress on this initiative will give more voice to cities and encourage the successful implementation of the current and future NDC. • Multilevel action with local governments needs to be tightly embraced with urbanization being a priority in upcoming climate dialogues, especially at the Conference of Parties (COP). Bangladesh, with its strong impetus for locally-led adaptation and urbanization on multiple levels, can be a role model for other climate actors. • The Race to Resilience and Race to Zero initiatives, which are created by the UNFCCC for non-state actors (including local governments), may be advocated for in order to realize resilience and adaptation. • The focus on energy transition through green energy implementation in Bangladesh is an important step to be implemented through local government support.	• Advocating local government participation at the global level to discuss implementable actions at the ground level is expected to support the achievement of NDCs. • Increasing city participation that will inspire climate goals in subsequent COPs may help the bigger cause of climate resilience activities. • The pipeline of funds in the current framework needs to be discussed so that local climate programs that have solid foundations can be implemented by financing partners. • Local governments need to be vocal and highlight their requirements while policies are formulated. Vertical integration and capacity building are the target areas for the upcoming years. • Creating a system that ensures proper sector mobilization of funds is needed. Concessional finance and blended finance may bring more accountability than grants, making the project implementation at local levels a responsible activity in the country.

4. RESILIENT RECOVERY: INSIGHTS FROM THE FIELD

As the topic of a resilient recovery gains more traction and becomes a higher priority for cities around the globe, innovative interventions were designed to put equity and climate change at the center of a COVID-19 recovery. The following section presents four examples from Mauritania, Rwanda and Bangladesh. The examples demonstrate the applications of the aforementioned tools to conform the overarching framework of resilient recovery.

The **Decentralization Process in Sebkha, Mauritania** highlights the capacity of local governments to promote a systemic response to crises by rethinking their governance structure to reflect the need for rapid responses, adaptation, and coordination. The **Urban Health Improvement Plan in Narayanganj, Bangladesh** demonstrates how a sectoral planning instrument can leverage a participatory risk-analysis of the impact of health in the multiple urban systems. The **Scaling Up Health Center in Muhanga, Rwanda** further highlights the multiple co-benefits of retrofitting key infrastructure in the city with a climate-focus. Finally, the **Resilient Public Spaces in Kigali, Rwanda** contributes to a resilient recovery for all, emphasizing the need for participatory methods that empower urban communities and design equitable spaces in line with people's needs.

4.1 DECENTRALIZATION PROCESS IN SEBKHA, MAURITANIA

INTRODUCTION AND CHALLENGE

Located in Mauritania, Sebkha, one of Nouakchott's most densely populated urban communes, was heavily hit by the COVID-19 pandemic, partly because of insufficient access to basic services such as water and sanitation. The pandemic revealed a general lack of organization and coordination between the city administration and its citizens.

This lack of organization made it difficult for the city administration to act. These difficulties usually also appear in the case of regularly occurring flooding during the rainy season. In addition, in the arid landscape of Mauritania, there is a need for more green spaces and an increased awareness of their ecological values and social benefits.

APPROACH AND DESIGN PROCESS

The aim of the initiative was to engage the local population and create a network of "district chiefs" for each neighborhood. This decentralization measure would strengthen the local capacity to coordinate crisis response on the ground by establishing a means of communication between the district chiefs representing the neighborhoods. An additional briefing of the district chiefs on disaster risk reduction and crisis response would enable the municipality to swiftly react to possible future crises and enhance the city's resilience.

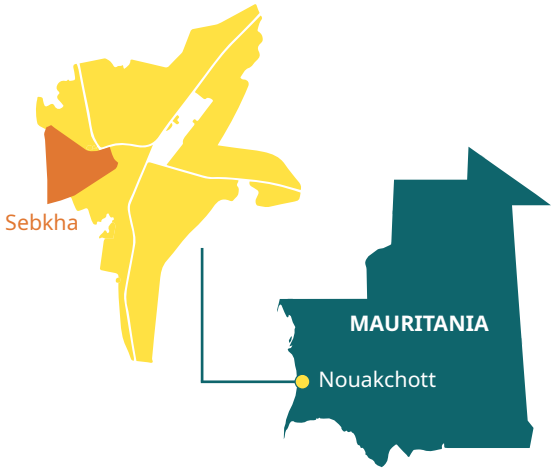
The initiative facilitated the communication between the city administration and its citizens. It enhanced the mechanisms to improve communication, allowing citizens to be included in the planning process, as well as to monitor municipal actions. By including communities in the planning process, this initiative developed a greater sense of ownership and acceptance of its activities.

LINK TO RESILIENT RECOVERY

This institutional reform has allowed local governments to have a systemic understanding of their cities, connecting the individual, the neighborhood, and the city levels.

The implementation of ReCAP21 in Sebkha directly builds on green recovery measures, which were already identified in Sebkha's sustainable development plan 2020-2023. This plan uses the results of a City WORKS workshop facilitated in Sebkha in March 2020. It combines urban development measures with the Agenda 2030 to support synergies between different SDGs.

This case study illustrates how to build resilience by linking the direct COVID-response with green recovery measures. Sebkha serves as an example for how adapting governance structures enables the link between current (green) recovery measures, urban development plans, and the SDGs in order to quickly respond to hazardsin a more comprehensive and integrated manner.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Duration

June 2021 - November 2021

SDGs Covered

KEY MESSAGE

Adapting governance structures – in this case decentralizing – **can create communication network** that interconnect neighborhoods and enable linking current (green) recovery measures and resilience principles.

4.2 URBAN HEALTH IMPROVEMENT PLAN IN NARAYANGANJ, BANGLADESH

INTRODUCTION AND CHALLENGE

Due to rapid economic development and industrialization, the city of Narayanganj in Bangladesh is facing increasing environmental degradation, one of them being air pollution. In fact, during the pandemic, the city's informal factory workers were highly impacted, as they are generally the most exposed to air pollution. This was also highlighted in a participatory risk assessment where air quality, water, sanitation, wastewater, solid waste, and transportation were identified as the city's major threats.

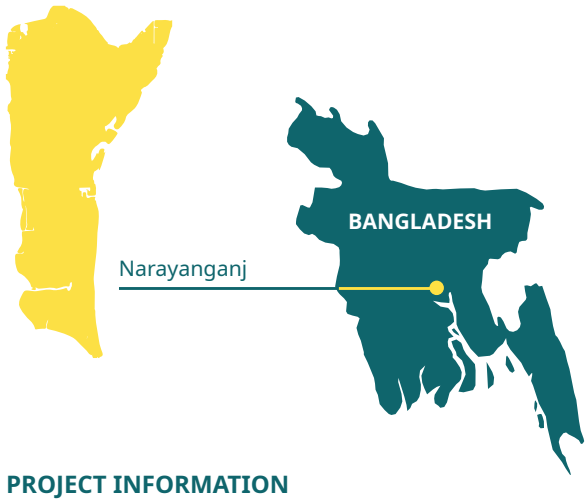
As such, the recovery and response mechanism of the city government should be guided on the basis of re-building the health system of the city, aiming to design and adopt a more integrated and robust plan that addresses current and future challenges.

APPROACH AND DESIGN PROCESS

Due to COVID-19, the resources of the Narayanganj City Corporation (NCC) for implementing environment and climate-related interventions were diverted towards the crisis response. Integrating environmental and health concerns into policy and action planning enabled NCC to optimize the resources and better prepare for the shocks and stresses related to climate change while rebuilding the health system.

In order to develop the Urban Health Improvement Plan, the NCC built on an extensive and innovative participatory risk design process, considering solutions that integrate different aspects of health with other urban concerns. A pilot project was prepared aiming at the installation of Ambient Air Quality Monitoring Systems in three locations of the city which enabled policy makers to promote evidence-based air quality management practices and the NCC to monitor real-time air quality at different city locations.

This initiative demonstrates how the NCC is integrating multiple considerations to manage compound risks of urban development and health systems, from which all citizens will benefit, especially the informal factory workers.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Duration

Iterative process started March 2019

SDGs Covered

LINK TO RESILIENT RECOVERY

The comprehensive and participatory risk assessment undertaken within this project promotes a resilient recovery through multi-stakeholder coordination, with high levels of public engagement that enable decision-makers to grasp the risk exposure of different communities.

KEY MESSAGE

This case study demonstrated how a **sectoral planning instrument can leverage a participatory risk-analysis on the impact of health in multiple urban systems.** Holistic planning with a comprehensive understanding of risks and challenges should be guided by a multi-stakeholder consultative process, with the continuous engagement and capacity building of key stakeholders playing a critical role in resilient recovery planning and implementation.

4.3 SCALING UP HEALTH CENTERS IN MUHANGA, RWANDA

INTRODUCTION AND CHALLENGE

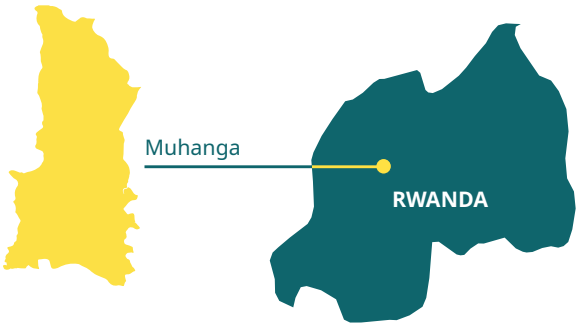
Natural hazards such as flooding, landslides, and strong winds had already been identified during Muhanga's Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA). However, the pandemic further magnified the historical vulnerabilities in Muhanga, especially the impacts on access to water and energy, as well as the transport and disaster management sectors that prevent the infected population from a rapid health recovery.

APPROACH AND DESIGN PROCESS

The initiative consisted of retrofitting healthcare centers and buildings owned by the municipality to include functional off-grid solutions that would assist during a disaster or time of crisis. A pilot project was implemented at the Gitarama Health Centre in Muhanga, where a retrofit was done to provide better access to energy and water, both of which are essential resources for good hygiene delivery of medical services. The idea was to scale up the project and implement retrofits at all the healthcare centers and sector offices across the district, together with educational and engagement activities with communities.

The objective was to provide long-term energy and water access to the teams working in the buildings and surrounding communities. The most interesting feature in this project is its incremental aspect, in which the municipality first tested the solutions in the pilot and developed a design model as a blueprint for other healthcare centers across the district in an engagement process with communities

The major barrier faced was the lack of financial resources for scaling up and replicability. Districts in Rwanda do not have funding available and financial savings are minimal compared to capital cost. In addition, there is no business model and not enough background information or data. Rwanda is also largely centralized and therefore districts cannot access international funding directly.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Duration

November 2020 - June 2021

SDGs Covered

LINK TO RESILIENT RECOVERY

Along with its potential for emission reduction, this initiative will prominently contribute to climate adaptation and resilience, while also making use of such interventions to raise citizen's awareness around the importance of renewable energy, energy efficiency, and water conservation in a practical manner.

KEY MESSAGE

This case study highlighted the **multiple co-benefits of climate-proofing key infrastructure in the city.** In the context of a resilient recovery, this case study reflects on how to improve the healthcare sector indirectly through the climate lens. Altogether, this creates climate, social, and economic benefits for future decision-making.

4.4 RESILIENT PUBLIC SPACES IN KIGALI, RWANDA

INTRODUCTION AND CHALLENGE

With lockdown measures during the peak of COVID-19, one threat that emerged was the lack of adequate public spaces. As criminality increased during this period, together with mental disorders, the city became increasingly aware of the relationships between public spaces and social and climate benefits.

Prior to the pandemic, the city already lacked basic infrastructure such as safe water and sanitation, transport, and electricity infrastructure. It has historically struggled with access to affordable housing and land, which led to spontaneous growth and informal settlements. In this context, the number of public spaces, particularly green public spaces in the city, have been decreasing in the past decades.

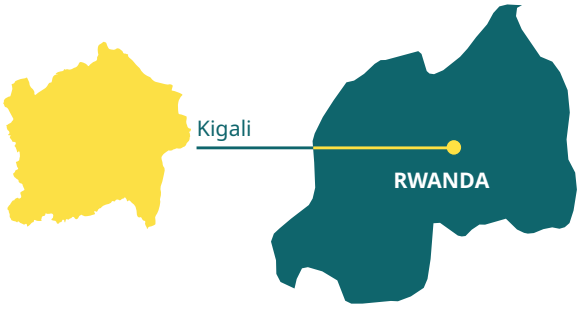
APPROACH AND DESIGN PROCESS

Kigali launched a design challenge for a public outdoor bench that would support both improved public health as well as public space development. From this, 75 public benches in 33 areas have been deployed so far. Additionally, during the pandemic, Kigali partnered with the private sector to provide free Wi-Fi in public spaces throughout the city in order to increase digital connection and increase the rates of employment.

The initiatives aimed at addressing a city-wide challenge, and for this reason, over 300 sites were mapped in all three districts of the city.

As a next step, the city aims at increasing public participation, both from civil society and the private sector. It also aims at increasing engagement which includes tactical urbanism activities; as a rapid, low-cost, iterative, inclusive, and efficient way to address rooted inequalities in the city. By engaging different stakeholders, the initiative aims at giving a voice to the people who will be using these spaces daily, enhancing community buy-in.

With another major barrier being limited municipal finance, the city has analyzed different approaches which include public-private partnerships, creating a design challenge, and working with different organizations to conceptualize spaces that respond to different needs.



PROJECT INFORMATION

Duration

Started in August 2021

SDGs Covered

LINK TO RESILIENT RECOVERY

In the context of a resilient recovery, this case study reflects a holistic solution to complex challenges while building on local knowledge to empower communities and co-create spaces in the city.

KEY MESSAGE

This case study emphasized the **need for participatory and inclusive methods that empower urban communities and design equitable spaces** that are aligned with people's needs. Kigali has realized the multiple advantages of enhancing public spaces, supporting ecological, social, and economic benefits, which includes improving social cohesion, mental and physical public health; and creating spaces for business and innovation.

5. ACCESSING FINANCE: TRANSFORMATIVE ACTIONS PROGRAM (TAP)

The Transformative Actions Program (TAP), led by ICLEI and supported by its 16 partners, is a global initiative that aims to increase climate finance accessibility for the local governments. First launched in 2015, TAP seeks to catalyze and improve capital flows to cities, towns, and regions by strengthening their capacity, while supporting them with access to climate finance and attracting investment. TAP's purpose is to connect subnational governments to diversified sources of technical and financial support, helping them in overcoming the main obstacles of accessing climate finance.

MEET THE TAP PARTNERS

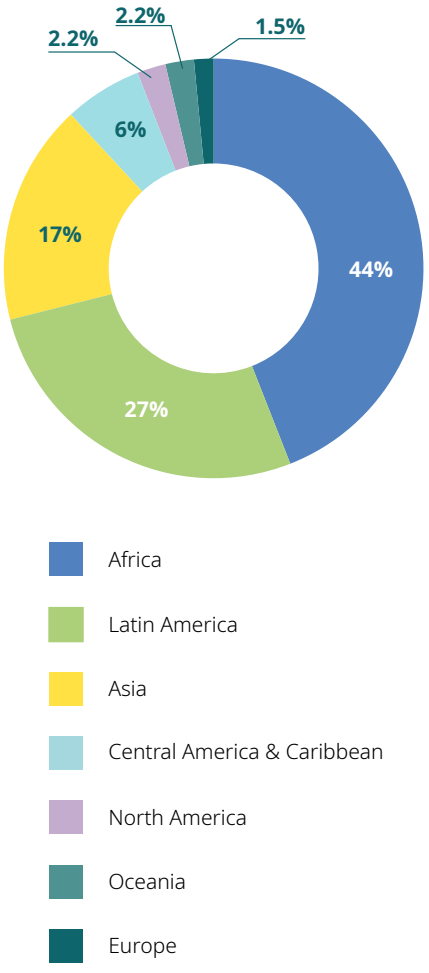
Bettervest, UN-Habitat, GIZ/FELICITY, GIZ/CoM SSAIII, Global Infrastructure Basel Foundation, Global Fund for Cities Development – FMDV, European Investment Bank – EIB, R20 Regions of Climate Action – R20, Sustainable Infrastructure Foundation - SIF, C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group – C40, Cities Alliance, UN Capital Development Fund, 100% RE Platform, United Cities and Local Governments – UCLG, Global Covenant of Mayors - GCoM and Lincoln Institute.

5.1 THE TAP PIPELINE

Since the beginning of TAP, more than 300 projects have submitted their application to the program. As of November 2021, the pipeline amounts to 67 projects, with an investment potential of 2.4 billion EUR. The initiative mobilizes projects through annual calls that are open globally on the official website. It accepts infrastructure projects that address climate change with the goal of accelerating net zero and climate-resilient development (objectives resulting in mitigation and/or adaptation to climate change activities).

A decisive element of the eligibility criteria in order to be accepted into the pipeline is the projects' transformative impact potential, which is **based on three pillars:**

1. **Ambitious:** the project has to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; increase the ability to adapt to the impacts of climate change; foster climate resilience; support local and national sustainable development priorities (specifically SDGs 11 and 13).
2. **Cross-cutting:** population calculated to be benefited and potential scaling opportunity to reach more people; optimization of the local resources use; multiple sectors considered, using an holistic and integrated approach.
3. **Inclusive:** local and regional governments' coordination to ensure project co-design; engage communities, citizens, and local stakeholders; demonstrate benefits for gender, youth, and vulnerable communities.



TAP Regional Distribution 2021. Source: ICLEI, Transformative Actions Program (TAP)

There are no criteria regarding the size, the geographical coverage, or the maturity of the project, which is a differential aspect of the TAP pipeline.

STEP 1
Apply to the TAP

Project screening
- Eligibility criteria
- Completeness
- Transformative approach
- Financial viability/maturity

Outcomes
- Well defined transformative action
- Recommendations for project improvement – screening results
- Access to basic TAP services

STEP 2
Gain TAP Approval

Projects with high transformational potential obtain TAP Seal of Approval, officially entering the TAP pipeline

Outcomes
- Approved projects are included in the TAP project pipeline
- Gain access to additional services by ICLEI and TAP partners

STEP 3
Access to services

TAP services are provided by ICLEI and TAP partners

Outcomes
- Capacity building and technical assistance
- Access to investors, Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs), and financial service providers
- Increased international visibility

The TAP Application Process. Source: ICLEI, Transformative Actions Program (TAP)

5.2 RECAP21 PROJECTS SUBMITTED TO TAP

The ReCAP21's deliverables included the submission and screening of projects that cover resilient infrastructure. Six projects were submitted and received feedback from TAP experts, accessing the pipeline and all the TAP services. As next steps, these projects will be connected to technical and financial partners, contributing to their development and implementation.

RWANDA

Retrofit of Muhanga Community Centers

This project was aimed at providing solar water heaters, solar PV panels, rain water harvesting, and drinking water treatment to health centres and sector offices in the Muhanga District . When the project was submitted, water was being heated on open fire. Thus, this project would benefit the whole district who use these centres and sector offices and provide better access to energy and water.

Muhanga Reforestation Programme

The project will support the creation of terraces on steep slopes along the main rivers (along the northern borders of the district) to support increased forestation, soil conservation, and reduce landslides. It will furthermore explore practical ways to increase composting at a local level, as well as irrigation of woodlots and high-value crops through the use of wastewater. An additional element will be the removal of alien vegetation that will be used for sustainable charcoal, while the areas cleared will be replanted to indigenous trees and shrubs. This whole project is based on an integrated approach to planning and sustainable land use management.

Inclusive Public Spaces for a Healthy and Resilient Kigali

The initiative seeks to transform existing public spaces in Agatare into multi-functional places that incorporate smart, green, and human centered design principles. Through this initiative, the City of Kigali can also develop more interconnected urban systems, so that the city as a whole is more prepared to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and thrive in the face of future shocks and stresses. The project would contribute to a resilient recovery by increasing the access to sustainable energy and mobility and by incorporating nature-based solutions, supporting a sustainable economic transition.

Resilient Food Systems in Kigali

The initiative was designed to provide sustainable and healthy food production in under-utilized public land and to enable livelihoods for low-income families while reducing emissions and increasing resilience to floods and extreme heat. A pilot project of urban horticulture in three public schools would help inform the necessary urban planning measures to develop a city-wide food security strategy.

BANGLADESH

Scale Up and Installation of Rooftop Solar Photovoltaic Systems on Public and Institutional Buildings in Narayanganj City

The project followed the technical feasibility assessment as well as the installation of grid-interactive and rooftop-based solar photovoltaic (SPV) systems in 20 public and institutional buildings. The aim was to boost the uptake of clean energy technologies for energy generation and reduce the dependency on fossil fuel-based energy consumption as well as scale up the current use of rooftop SPVs.

Rainwater Harvesting (RWH) for Secondary Use and Augmentation of Local Water Resources through Groundwater Recharge in Rajshahi City

Rajshahi City has a population of about 800,000, which constitutes a severe burden on basic municipal services like water supply and sanitation. The project will construct RWH infrastructure in 10 specific locations of the Rajshahi City based on the feasibility assessment. Additionally, it will assess the potential for augmentation of local water resources through groundwater recharge and RWH at commercial, institutional, and public buildings of the area.

Implemented by

On behalf of

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