



AN INNOVATIVE DATA TOOLKIT FOR CITY MANAGEMENT



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

What is An Innovative Data Toolkit for City Management?

The toolkit is a practical, step-by-step guide for local government officials that compiles basic data, system, resources and security needs so that cities can plan and govern more effectively.

It helps local governments:

- Identify, collect, manage, analyse, and use data so they can understand the city better and make evidence-based decisions; and
- Govern and plan according to four typologies: metropolitan cities, secondary cities, regional capitals and urban growth corridors.

The toolkit is a resource for cities with data and information and communication technology (ICT) systems at all stages in development.

Who can use the Toolkit?

Local government officials and policy makers involved in local governance, planning or management.

How does the Toolkit work?

- **It provides established indicators**
The toolkit uses two sets of indicators – basic and advanced – that draw from the Global City Indicators Facility, UN-Habitat’s Urban Data and Global Urban Observatory, and the Sustainable Development Goals.
- **It offers a methodology on data maturity**
The methodology evaluates the data maturity on any city ecosystem based on five dimensions: Governance, Citizenship, Services, Economy and Environment. This maturity assessment, the first of its kind, provides a score that cities can track over time and in relation to peers.
- **It helps cities identify actionable approaches for transformation**
The toolkit helps cities identify specific action points to improve data maturity, and then understand the best governance approaches to achieve their goals. It includes a clear rationale for cities to improve their data ecosystems and justify expending resources in an environment of weak capacity and competition for resources.

What does the Toolkit cover?

It covers the full spectrum of knowledge needed to accurately assess and develop a city’s data system, including how to:

- Assess data maturity
- Identify data resources and build a data structuring framework
- Manage data and assess the enabling environment
- Understand the role of ICT in data management
- Incorporate innovative data types into a data ecosystem
- Use the toolkit to bolster a data ecosystem
- Understand what makes a successful toolkit

How does the Toolkit benefit cities?

It can help local authorities:

- **Identify priorities and understand options**
The toolkit provides city officials with solid data at the local level they can use to identify local priorities, understand the cost of different investment strategies, and recognise the expected benefits of various investment options.
- **Improve planning and governance**
A portfolio of evidence-based decision support tools can complement policy makers’ capacity demands and provide critical support in urban planning and governance.
- **Link policy to data amid constraints**
A well-maintained, expansive, streamlined data ecosystem is useful when cities face significant, systematic constraints on financial resources and the capacity to address them. It can offset challenges and help anchor policy to data and evidence.
- **Monitor performance to support strategic goals**
Integrated monitoring mechanisms that are built on indicators tied to strategic goals can help city managers steer policy more effectively.

Structure of the Toolkit

Step 1: Assessing Data Maturity



- Understanding the requirements to create a functional data ecosystem
- Components of the framework
- Using the self-assessment tool to score data readiness
- Understanding the toolkit scores

Step 2: Identifying Data



- Building a data-structuring framework
- Understanding the importance of cross-cutting themes
- Data for integrated urban planning
- Mainstreaming gender perspectives in statistics
- Basic and advanced indicators for city management
- Basic indicators used in the toolkit

Step 3: Managing Data



- What are the enabling environment considerations?
- Best practices and norms for data governance by each city typology
- How city typologies might differ in their data management
- Effective data governance for different city typologies

Step 4: An In-Depth Look at Key Enablers for Data Management



- Role of ICT in data management
- Leveraging the cloud for better data management
- Using cases of ICT strategy and deployment by typology
- Role of process standardisation in data management
- Role of human capacity in data management
- Implications of alternative data governance models on enablers

Step 5: Incorporating New and Different Data Types in the Data Ecosystem



- Geographic information system (GIS)
- Crowdsourcing data
- Using the decision support tool to analyse and use data

Step 6: How To Use This Toolkit



- Implementing the toolkit in your city to bolster the data ecosystem
- Considerations for typologies
- Challenges for typologies
- Suggested implementation timelines
- Monitoring and evaluation
- Monitoring system operations
- Data collection
- Toolkit implementation
- Analysis, use and dissemination
- Quality control
- Planning for rollout

Partnerships for Development

An Innovative Data Toolkit for City Management is one of many results from the Future Cities Africa initiative undertaken by Cities Alliance and the UK Department of International Development (DFID). The initiative was designed to help support African cities as they transform themselves into resilient, inclusive centres of economic growth and job creation.

The toolkit was developed in collaboration with the Cities Alliance Secretariat, Development Gateway Inc., and Athena Infonomics.

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