SDG Cities

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Date: November 2023

Background and Challenges

THE WORLD WILL BE URBAN

Today 55% of the world's population lives in cities, yet by

2050 this is expected to increase to 68%

CITIES ARE CENTRAL TO SDGs

Cities play an essential role in achieving the SDGs by 2030 and

local governments must invest in transformative actions in

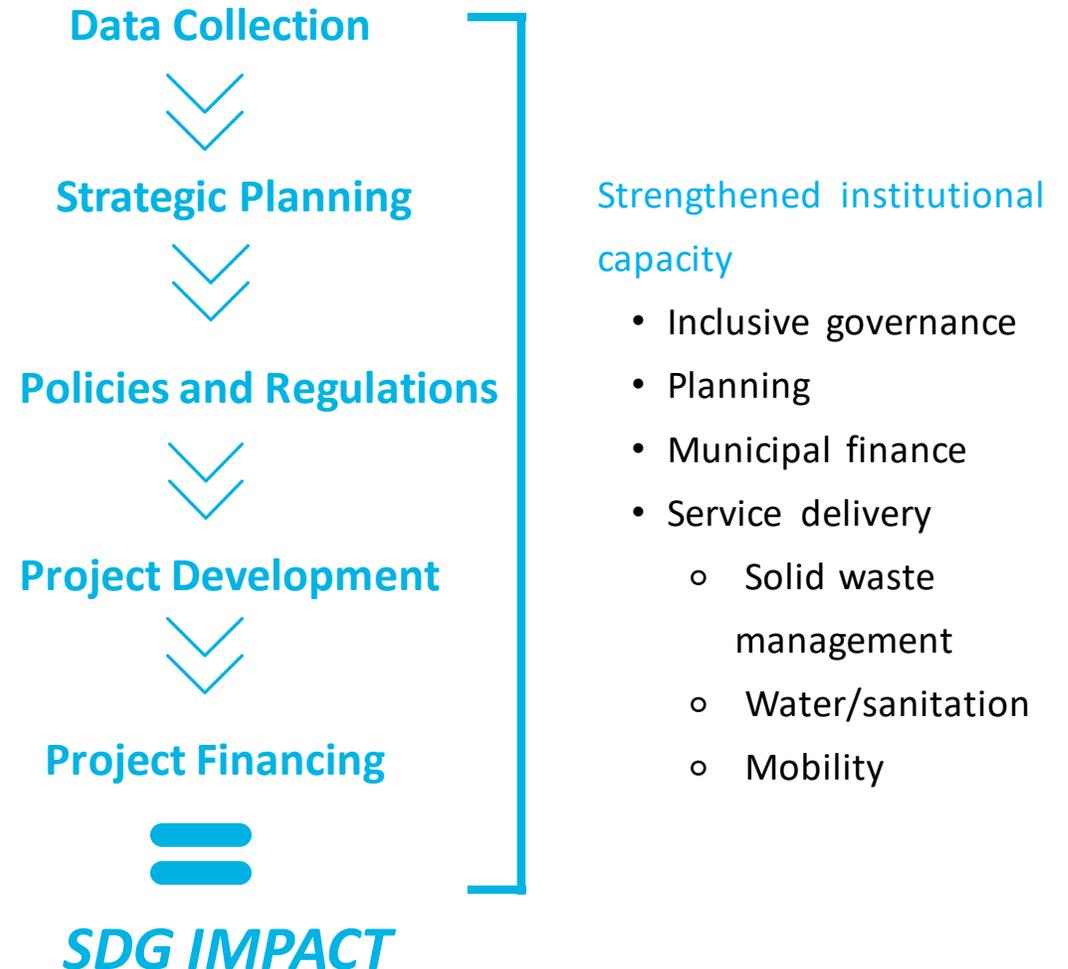cities and communities around the world.

Need for cities to step up the realization of the *transformative potential of cities* as a positive force for sustainable development

However

➢ Not all cities are aware of the SDGs

➢ Not all cities are incentivized to engage with global agendas

➢ Not all cities are aware of frameworks such as the NUA to guide them in the local implementation of the SDGs

SDG Cities Initiative

- SDG Cities is a global initiative that encourages cities to catalyze their own potential and accelerate their achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Cities are given tools to assess their baseline data and identify and finance priority initiatives that actively localize the SDGs

Data Collection

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Strategic Planning

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Policies and Regulations

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Project Development

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Project Financing

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SDG IMPACT

Strengthened institutional capacity

- Inclusive governance
- Planning
- Municipal finance
- Service delivery
  - Solid waste management
  - Water/sanitation
  - Mobility

SDG Cities Process

SDG Cities is implemented in four tracks:

	Year 1	Year 2	Year 3	Year 4
Data	Stocktaking of Data and Urban Plans Align Indicators with UMF			
Strategic Planning	Conduct baseline Data Assessment Facilitate Participatory City Development Strategy	VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS		
Plans, Regulations, and Institutions		Diagnose Urban Management Effectiveness Build Capacity Implement New Policies		
Investment in Impact			Identify Investment Requirements Financial Match-Making	CITIES INVESTMENT FACILITY Monitor and Measure Impact

SDG Cities Silver

SDG Cities Gold

SDG Cities Platinum

SDG Cities Diamond
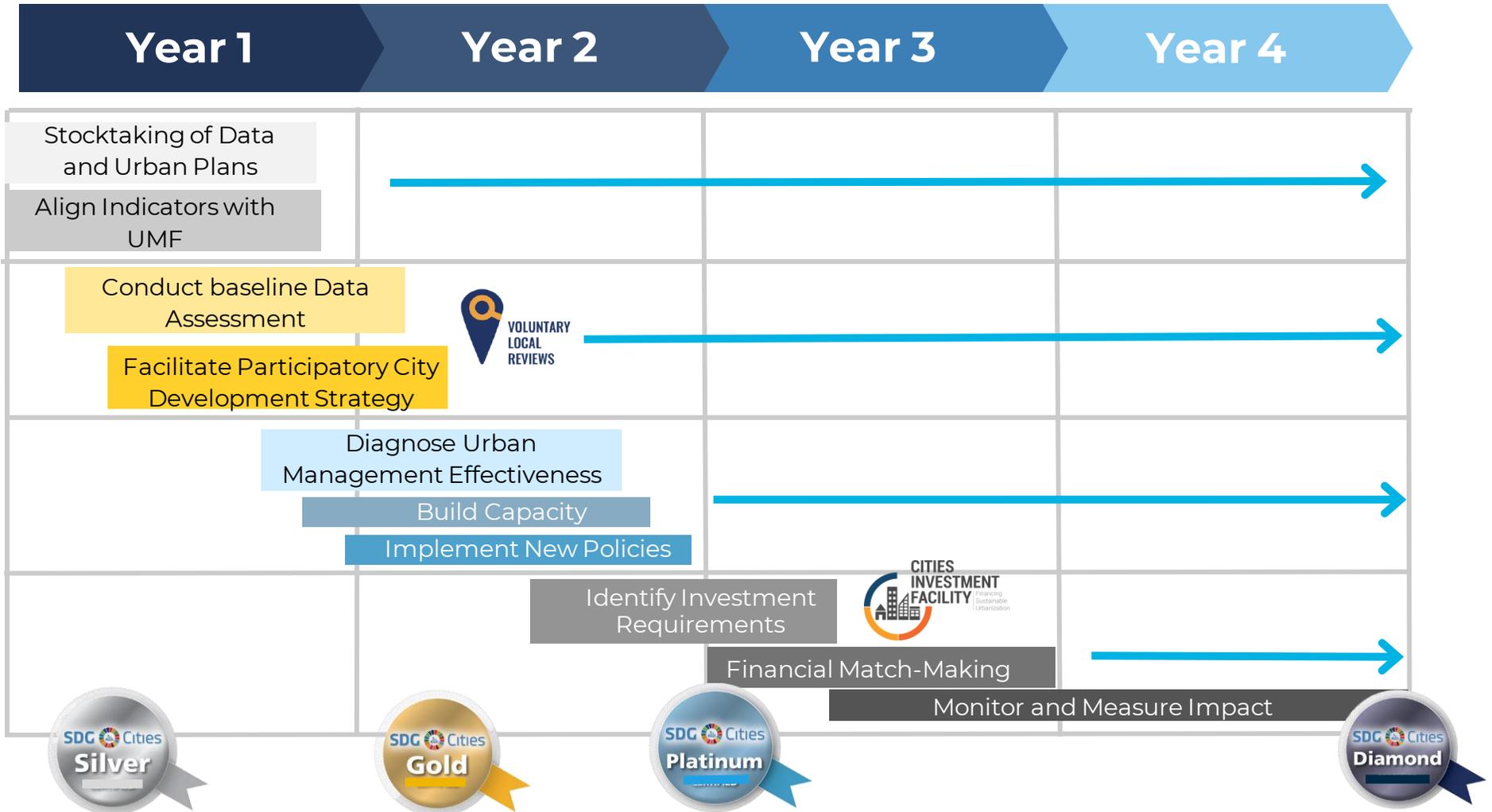
Previous feedback on SDG Cities Certification

Concerns

- **Managerial and funding concerns: how to go to scale and secure coverage of the costs?**

- **Labeling concerns: How to avoid a top-down, one-path-fits-all that stratifies cities?**

Recommendations

- Adaptation to national and subnational contexts

- Encourage finance opportunities
  - **Help de-risk local projects**
  - **Generate a project pipeline**
  - **Cluster projects within cities**

Way forward

1 **Further develop and expand SDG Cities Flagship Initiative; Recognize** the achievements of participating cities at key stages.

2 **Support National and Subnational Governments that wish to implement their own SDG Cities Initiatives** through providing tools and techncial assistance

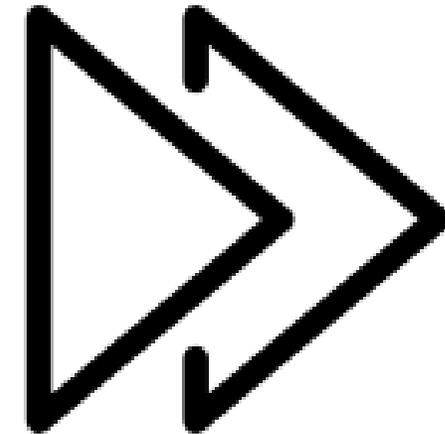**3** **Leave no city behind.** Find resources to make SDG Cities free of charge

4 **Embrace UN System capacity to go to scale.** within the framework of Local 2030 Coalition and through UN Country Teams
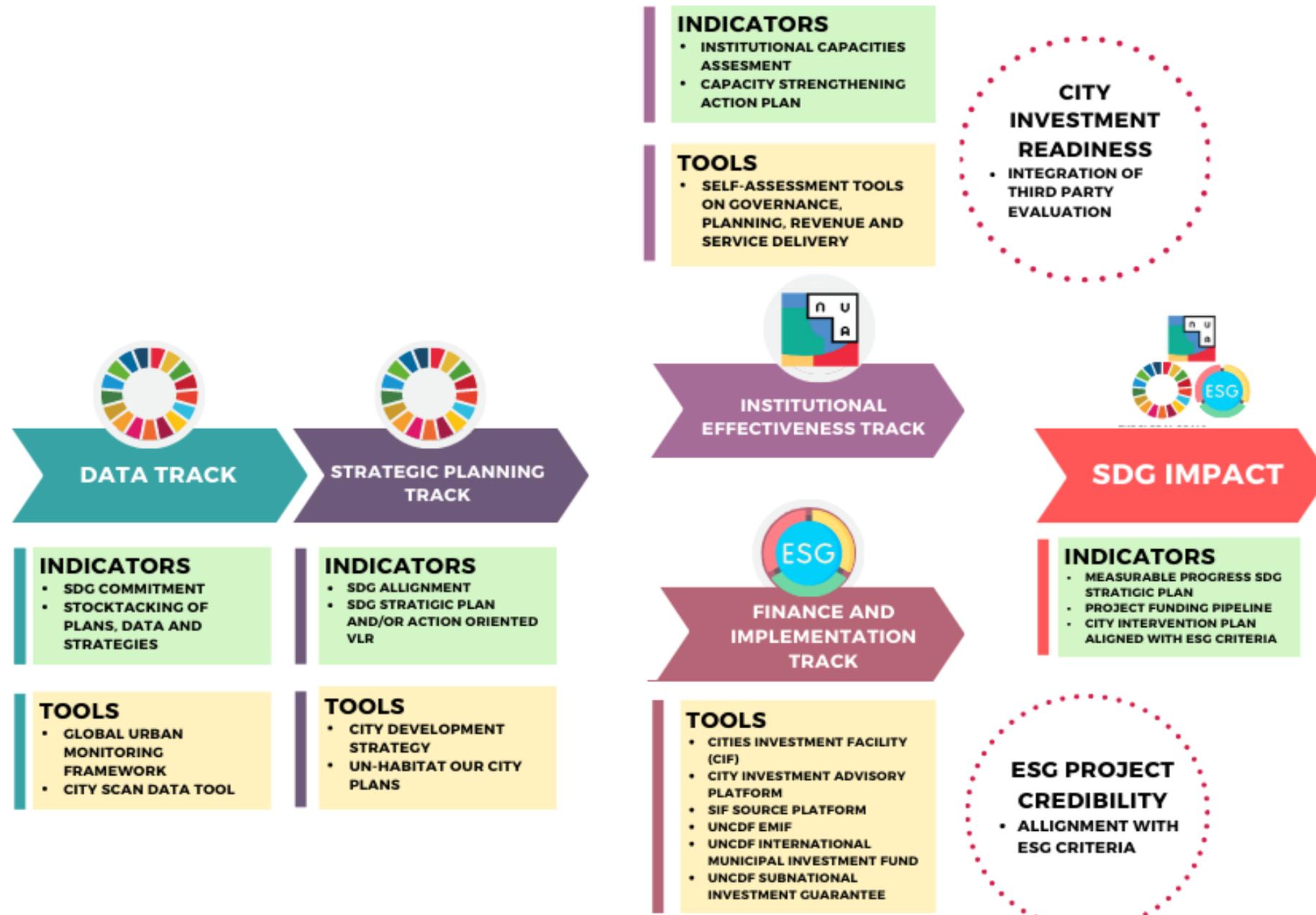
5 **Strengthen linkages with source of finance**
- project pipeline development;
- MDB partnerships;
- qualified opinions of finance sector entities.

Progress on tool development, indicators and partnerships

INDICATORS
- INSTITUTIONAL CAPACITIES ASSESMENT
- CAPACITY STRENGTHENING ACTION PLAN

TOOLS
- SELF-ASSESSMENT TOOLS ON GOVERNANCE, PLANNING, REVENUE AND SERVICE DELIVERY

CITY INVESTMENT READINESS
- INTEGRATION OF THIRD PARTY EVALUATION

INSTITUTIONAL EFFECTIVENESS TRACK

SDG IMPACT

DATA TRACK

STRATEGIC PLANNING TRACK

FINANCE AND IMPLEMENTATION TRACK

INDICATORS
- SDG COMMITMENT
- STOCKTACKING OF PLANS, DATA AND STRATEGIES

INDICATORS
- SDG ALLIGNMENT
- SDG STRATIGIC PLAN AND/OR ACTION ORIENTED VLR

INDICATORS
- MEASURABLE PROGRESS SDG STRATIGIC PLAN
- PROJECT FUNDING PIPELINE
- CITY INTERVENTION PLAN ALIGNED WITH ESG CRITERIA

TOOLS
- GLOBAL URBAN MONITORING FRAMEWORK
- CITY SCAN DATA TOOL

TOOLS
- CITY DEVELOPMENT STRATEGY
- UN-HABITAT OUR CITY PLANS

TOOLS
- CITIES INVESTMENT FACILITY (CIF)
- CITY INVESTMENT ADVISORY PLATFORM
- SIF SOURCE PLATFORM
- UNCDF EMIF
- UNCDF INTERNATIONAL MUNICIPAL INVESTMENT FUND
- UNCDF SUBNATIONAL INVESTMENT GUARANTEE

ESG PROJECT CREDIBILITY
- ALLIGNMENT WITH ESG CRITERIA

SDG Cities Cost Considerations

1. SDG Cities Tools

UMF, Action-Oriented VLR, Diagnostic Tools, Learning Courses, Digital Platform, SIF SOURCE platform, Project Assessment Tool

USD1.2 million annually – equating to 10 new tools, 10 updated tools and platform maintenance.

2. Monitoring support to cities and recognition of key stages

Remote monitoring.

Track	Cost per city
Data	USD 5000
Strategic Planning	USD 10,000
Institutional Effectiveness Track	USD 10,000
Impact	USD 5000

Cost Models

Model 1: costs normally require donor support	
Digital tools	In-kind
National Technical Support Team	$600,000
Technical Backstopping and Training Support	$300,000
Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation	$100,000
TOTAL annual cost	$1,000,000

Model 2: costs may require donor support or the support of national government	
Digital tools	In-kind
National Technical Support Team	In-kind
Technical Backstopping and Training Support	$300,000
Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation	$100,000
TOTAL annual cost	$400,000

Model 3: costs could be covered by participating cities	
Digital tools	In kind
E-guidance manuals	In-kind
Technical support, backstopping and training	In-kind through participating cities
Progress monitoring and key-stage evaluation	$100,000
TOTAL annual cost	$100,000