


UN HABITAT

SDG



Cities

Global Initiative



SDG Cities
Urban Monitoring
Framework

Indicator
Selection Guide

SDG Cities Indicator Selection Guide

United Nations Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF)

SDG City certification standards require urban SDG indicators and targets to be aligned to the Urban Monitoring Framework. It requires that SDG indicators cover five functional domains of local government:

- Society
- Economy
- Environment
- Culture
- Governance

The selected indicators must also jointly address four cross cutting urban themes:

- Inclusivity
- Peace and Safety
- Resiliency
- Sustainability

The UN has developed a set of recommended urban SDG indicators that cover all the functional domains and cross cutting themes. An overview of recommended indicators are listed below. Detailed methodologies are available within: *Global Urban Monitoring Framework: A Guide for Urban Monitoring of SDGs and NUA and Other Urban-Related Thematic or Local, National and Global Frameworks*.



CITY OBJECTIVE	INDICATOR	SOURCE	SPATIAL INDICATOR	
1. Society				
1.1 Safe and Peaceful	1.1.1	Under-5 mortality rate	SDG 3.2.1	No
	1.1.2	Safely managed drinking water services	SDG 6.1.1	No
	1.1.3	Safely managed sanitation services and hand-washing facility with soap and water	SDG 6.2.1	No
	1.1.4	Proportion of births in all health facilities	UNICEF 8	No
	1.1.5	Proportion of vaccinated children	UNICEF 9	No
	1.1.6	Life expectancy at birth	CPI	No
	1.1.7	Neighborhood safety	SDG 16.1.4	No
	1.1.8	Registered births	SDG 16.9.1	No
	1.1.9	Population within 400m walking distance of a food shop	OECD A	Yes
	1.1.10	Population within 400m walking distance of a hospital	OECD B	Yes
1.2 Inclusive	1.2.1	Basic services	SDG 1.4.1	No
	1.2.2	Education completion rate	SDG 4.1.2	No
	1.2.3	Secure tenure rights to land	SDG 1.4.2	No
	1.2.4	Access to at least one recreational opportunity	OECD 11.7	Yes
	1.2.5	Prevalence of malnutrition	SDG 2.2.2	No
	1.2.6	Children access to public transport	UNICEF 14	Yes
1.3 Resilient	1.3.1	Population affected by hazardous events	SDG 11.5.1	No
	1.3.2	Mortgage debt relative to GDP	NUA 3.7	No
	1.3.3	Mortality rate	SDG 3.4.1	No
	1.3.4	Multilingual education	C2030 15	No
	1.3.5	Suicide mortality rate	SDG 3.4.2	No
	1.3.6	Population within 400m walking distance of a primary school	OECD C	Yes
1.4 Sustainable	1.4.1	Slum population	SDG 11.1.1	Yes
	1.4.2	Gini coefficient	CPI	No
2. Economy				
2.1 Safe and Peaceful	2.1.1	Children engaged in child labor	SDG 8.7.1	No
	2.1.2	Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work	SDG 5.4.1	No
2.2 Inclusive	2.2.1	Youth not in education, employment or training (NEET)	SDG 8.6.1	No
	2.2.2	Access to public transport	SDG 11.2.1	Yes
	2.2.3	Unemployment Rate	CPI	No
	2.2.4	Internet use	SDG 17.8.1	No
	2.2.5	Affordability of transport	CPI	No
	2.2.6	Use of Public transport	CPI	No

	2.2.7	Youth Unemployment	CPI	No
	2.2.8	Adult population in employment	OECD D	No
2.3 Resilient	2.3.1	Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions	SDG 17.6.1	No
	2.3.2	Youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training	SDG 4.3.1	No
	2.3.3	Small-scale industries in total industry value added	SDG 9.3.1	No
	2.3.4	Days to start a business	CPI	No
	2.3.5	Patent application	OECD 9.5	No
	2.3.6	Adult population with a qualification from a recognized tertiary education institution	OECD E	No
2.4 Sustainable	2.4.1	Sub-national debt	CPI	No
	2.4.2	Mean household income	CPI	No

3. Environment

3.1 Safe and Peaceful	3.1.1	Mortality rate attributed to household and ambient air pollution	SDG 3.9.1	No
	3.1.2	Wastewater safely treated	SDG 6.3.1	No
	3.1.3	Solid Waste Collection and Disposal	SDG 11.6.1	No
	3.1.4	Air quality	SDG 11.6.2	No
3.2 Inclusive	3.2.1	Children with access to an open space within 400m from residence	UNICEF 13	Yes
	3.2.2	Access to at least 1 hectare of green urban areas (parks) and forests within 15 minutes of walking	OECD 11.7	Yes
	3.2.3	Proportion of Open Space in Public Use	SDG 11.7.1	Yes
	3.2.4	Legislative, administrative and policy frameworks	SDG 15.6.1	No
3.3 Resilient	3.3.1	Renewable energy share	SDG 7.2.1	No
	3.3.2	Change in tree cover	OECD 15.1	Yes
	3.3.3	Number of monitoring stations	CPI	Yes
	3.3.4	Land consumption rate to population growth rate	SDG 11.3.1	Yes
	3.3.5	Green area per capita	CPI	Yes
	3.3.6	Red List Index	SDG 15.5.1	No
3.4 Sustainable	3.4.1	Material Footprint	SDG 8.4.1	No
	3.4.2	CO2 emission per unit of value added	SDG 9.4.1	No
	3.4.3	Hazardous waste	SDG 12.4.2	No
	3.4.4	Total greenhouse gas emissions per year	SDG 13.2.2	No

4. Culture

4.1 Safe and Peaceful	4.1.1	Culture for social cohesion	C2030 18	No
	4.1.2	Artistic freedom	C2030 19	No
4.2 Inclusive	4.2.1	Access to culture	C2030 20	No
	4.2.2	Cultural participation	C2030 21	No
4.3 Resilient	4.3.1	Cultural employment	C2030 7	No

	4.3.2	Expenditure on heritage	C2030 1	No
4.4 Sustainable	4.4.1	Sustainable management of heritage	C2030 2	No
	4.4.2	Climate adaptation and resilience	C2030 3	No
	4.4.3	Open space for culture	C2030 5	Yes
5. Governance and Implementation				
5.1 Safe and Peaceful	5.1.1	Victims of violence	SDG 16.3.1	No
	5.1.2	Victims of physical or sexual harassment	SDG 11.7.2	No
	5.1.3	Bribery in business	SDG 16.5.2	No
	5.1.4	Financial autonomy	NUA 58	No
5.2 Inclusive	5.2.1	Proportion of seats held by women in (a) national parliaments and (b) local governments	SDG 5.2.1	No
	5.2.1a	Women in national parliament	SDG 5.2.1a	No
	5.2.1b	Women in local governments	SDG 5.2.1b	No
	5.2.2	Legal frameworks	SDG 5.1	No
5.3 Resilient	5.3.1	Own Revenue Collection	CPI	No
	5.3.2	Local disaster risk reduction strategies	SDG 11.b.2	No
5.4 Sustainable	5.4.1	Governance of culture	C2030 12	No



Example of how to build indicator list conforming to UMF

The table below contains an example selection of indicators from the above list of recommended indicators provided by the Urban Monitoring Framework.

The selection of indicators should be made such that ideally each cross cutting theme would be represented within each functional domain for a minimum of twenty indicators.

NOTE: It is possible to conform to the UMF as long as all functional domains are covered, and the four cross cutting themes are addressed by any combination of indicators. You may therefore have less than 20 carefully selected indicators.

EXAMPLE: SUITE OF INDICATORS FROM UMF SUPPLIED LIST

	← Cross cutting objectives →			
Functional Domains ↓	Safe and Peaceful	Inclusive	Resilient	Sustainable
Society	Neighbourhood safety	Proportion of households with access to basic services	Multilingual education	Slum population
Economy	Proportion of children engaged in child labour	Youth not in employment, education & training	Value added by small scale industries	Sub-national debt
Environment	Urban air quality	Access to green areas	Land consumption rate	Total greenhouse gas emissions
Culture	Artistic freedom	Cultural participation	Expenditure on heritage	Sustainable management of heritage
Governance and Implementation	Bribery in business	Women in local government	Local disaster reduction strategies	Policies to support cultural sector

Developing a customized suite of indicators

Cities are free to use their existing or custom indicators, if combined they cover substantially the same domains and city objectives as those suggested in the UMF. Below is a checklist for assembling a suite of custom indicators.

Five globally recognized urban functional domains

Select 2-4 indicators related to each of the following:

- Society:** affordable drinking water and sanitation, equal access for all to public goods and quality services in areas such as food security, health, education, infrastructure, mobility and transportation, energy, air quality, etc (New Urban Agenda-NUA ¶13.A)
- Economy:** economic productivity, competitiveness innovation, indebtedness, full and productive employment, entrepreneurship, etc (NUA ¶7)
- Environment:** clean energy, ecosystems, biodiversity, healthy lifestyles, sustainable consumption and production patterns, climate change, etc (New Urban Agenda ¶14.C.)
- Culture:** diversity, social cohesion, inter-cultural dialogue and understanding, tolerance, mutual respect, gender equality, innovation, identity and safety, pluralism, etc (New Urban Agenda ¶40)
- Governance:** urban stakeholder inclusion, appropriate checks and balances, predictability and coherence in urban development plans, long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design, finance and local fiscal systems (NUA ¶15.C.), sustainable debt management, women's and young people's participation in leadership (NUA ¶90 & 92), transparent property registration (NUA ¶104).

Four cross cutting themes on urbanization

Of the above chosen indicators, at least 1 must address each of the four cross-cutting themes:

- Inclusivity:** relates to the concept of Leave No-One Behind; ending poverty; ensuring equal rights and opportunities for socially marginalized groups; socioeconomic and cultural diversity, and integration in the urban space; enhancing livability, education, food security and nutrition, health and well-being; adequate housing, etc. (NUA ¶14.A),
- Peace & Safety:** relates to public spaces that are accessible to all and free from crime and violence, including sexual harassment and gender-based violence (NUA ¶100); crime, violence, and terrorism, particularly in slums and informal settlements (NUA ¶103); safe transport infrastructure and road, etc (NUA ¶113).
- Resiliency:** relates to society's ability to absorb, accommodate and recover from the adverse impacts of earthquakes, extreme weather events, flooding, subsidence, storms, heatwaves, water scarcity, droughts, water and air pollution, vector-borne diseases, sea level rise, etc (NUA ¶64).
- Sustainability:** relates to the balance between the current development needs of the urban population and the needs of future residents

