



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
Regional Office for Arab States, Cairo, Egypt
unhabitat-roasinfo@un.org | www.unhabitat.org

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Developing data-driven insights for cities

New York City (24 July 2023) – Economist Impact and UN-Habitat announce the beginning of a multi-year partnership to elevate the importance of sustainable urban development on the global agenda. As its foundation, the program will include the development of an Urban Performance Index based on the UN’s Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF).

The biennial index will initially measure the performance of 80 cities across critical areas of urban sustainable development, including well-being, safety, economy, environment, and governance. The programme aims to scale it up to 500 cities by 2030. Through effective monitoring and data-driven insights, the index will empower both city and national leaders to better identify best practices and sustainable interventions, quantify policy and infrastructure gaps, and develop pathways for proactive change and efficient resource allocation, with the end goal of contributing to a more productive, sustainable and responsible future.

The partnership supports various ongoing UN reforms, including the prioritization of data and technology in decision-making, particularly around the enhanced implementation of the UN system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development.

Initial findings of the pilot program on five cities will be presented by the end of 2023 or in early 2024.

About the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. It has programmes in over 90 countries that support policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in cities through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. Follow us on Twitter @UNHABITAT.

About Economist Impact

Economist Impact combines the rigour of a think-tank with the creativity of a media brand to engage a globally influential audience. We believe that evidence-based insights can open debate, broaden perspectives, and catalyse progress. The services offered by Economist Impact previously existed within The Economist Group as separate entities, including EIU Thought Leadership, EIU Public Policy, EIU Health Policy, Economist Events and SignalNoise.



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We are building on a 75-year track record of analysis across 205 countries. Along with framework design, benchmarking, economic and social impact analysis, forecasting and scenario modelling, we provide creative storytelling, events expertise, design-thinking solutions, and market-leading media products, making Economist Impact uniquely positioned to deliver measurable outcomes to our clients.

For more information, contact:

UN-Habitat

Katerina Bezgachina
Chief of Communications
ekaterina.bezgachina@un.org

Economist Impact

Kenneth Lane
Global Director, Partnerships
kenlane@economist.com