

IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL URBAN POLICY
THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Implementing National Urban Policy Through Demonstration Projects

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# IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL URBAN POLICY THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

# **Executive Summary**

significantly Urbanization has increased globally, with the percentage of the world's population living in cities rising from 29.5% during 1955 to a 55 % in 2022. This rapid urbanization brings opportunities for economic growth and improved living conditions, but also escalates challenges such as proliferation of information settlements, poverty, infrastructure deficits, spatial inequalities, and environmental degradation.

In recent global processes, National Urban Policy (NUP) has been acknowledged as a strategic framework for managing and harnessing the transformative potential of urbanization towards attaining safe, resilient, sustainable towns and cities. While UN-Habitat has supported over 55 countries in the formulation of national urban policies to address urbanization challenges and improve the quality of life in urban areas, a recent report reveals that most countries are experiencing diverse challenges in implementing NUPs, most importantly in the aspect of inadequate financial, human, and institutional capacity. In response to these challenges and the urgent need to accelerate the delivery of sustainable urbanization, this guide offers a

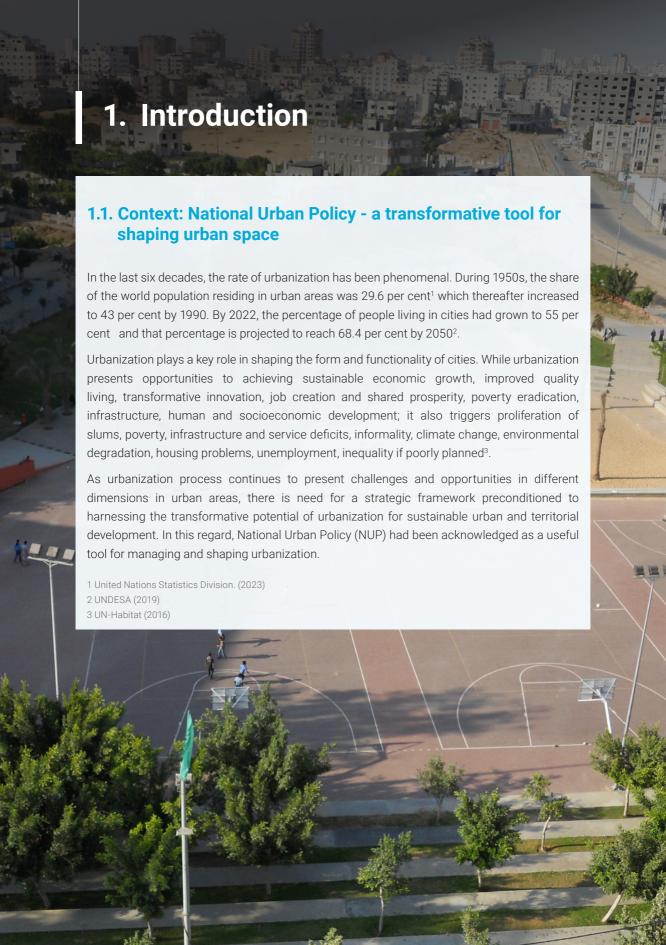
range of tools and resources to accelerate NUP implementation through innovative and cost-effective interventions (demonstration projects), providing a structured approach to NUP implementation.

The toolkit contains resources such as a template for developing a proposal for a demonstration project(s), a checklist for selecting a project, an implementation strategy for the demo project, a checklist for evaluating the impacts of the NUP demo project, and a template for project reporting. It also outlines the roles and responsibilities of stakeholders, including cross-agency collaboration, and provides examples of project activities outputs, impacts and results. Additionally, it offers guidance on developing a communication strategy to keep the government, donors, stakeholders, and interest groups informed about the progress and outcomes of the project.

The urban policy demonstration toolkit serves as a valuable resource for governments, policymakers, and stakeholders, offering practical guidance and tools to support the implementation of NUPs and accelerate sustainable urbanization.

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National Urban Policy is defined as 'a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate, government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term'

Recent global processes have reaffirmed the importance of urban policies for sustainable development particularly; the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in 2016 and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in 2015 have given governments a justification to develop their NUP4. The importance of NUP in achieving 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, more importantly SDG 11 is expressed in numerous paragraphs of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), (15a, 15d, 86, 89, 130, and 149).

NUP is a valuable tool for harnessing opportunities of urbanization to achieve sustainable urban development. It also helps in systematically identifying urban development priorities towards socially and economically equitable and environmentally friendly urban and territorial development; provides guidance on the future development in an urban system and its spatial configuration, concretized through instruments such as spatial plans for territorial development; enhance coordination and guidance of actions by national actors, as well as all levels of government in all sectors; coordinate private and public investments in urban development and consequent improvement in the areas of: the productivity of cities, inclusiveness and environmental conditions, sub-national and local governments, financial flows, urban planning regulations, urban mobility, urban energy requirements and job creation.

Currently, international communities, National Sub-National Governments have 4 OECD/UN-HABITAT/UNOPS (2021)

taken conscious effort in formulating and implementing National Urban Policy (NUP) in different region/countries. As of 2023, UN-Habitat had supported over 64 countries on the formulation and implementation of their NUPs. Available data in the Global State of National Urban Policy report (2021) on regional distribution of NUP reveals that 68 per cent of Latin America and the Caribbean countries had formulated their NUPs followed by African countries (58 per cent), Asia and the Pacific (57 per cent), the Arab States (53 per cent) and Europe and North America (50 per cent). This report also reveals that most countries are experiencing diverse challenges on the NUP implementation.

Insufficient human resources, institutional fragmentation, lack of technical expertise, lack of political goodwill and insufficient funding are major challenges governments are experiencing on NUP implementation. Weak implementation of NUP has not only aggravated environmental issues and pressure on urban infrastructure and services, but also impedes the gains of urbanization for sustainable urban and territorial development. In view of the NUP implementation challenges and the urgent need to accelerate the delivery of sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat has prepared "Urban Policy Demonstration Project toolkits" to guide governments, civil societies, and other international development partners on how to pilot NUP implementation through demonstration projects.

# **Countries (64) Supported by UN-Habitat with National Urban Policies Updated in August 2024**



\*Any reference to Kosovo in UN documents and UN websites, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo. Kosovo is therefore not listed as a country.

\*\*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

BASE MAP Map, No. 4170 Rev. 19 UNITED NATIONS - October 2020 Office of Information and Communications Technology | Geospatial Information Section The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat

#### 1.2. The National Urban Policy **Process**

National Urban Policy is a powerful tool that can enable governments to shape and transform urban spaces into productive, prosperous, and environmentally sustainable cities. It provides an opportunity to harness the transformative potential of urbanization for accelerated development. The significance of NUP is rooted in the process which involves research, analysis, consultation and translating political will into implementable actions. UN-Habitat recommends that key phases of policy process that brings together elements that are essential for development of evidencebased and implementable NUP. These phases are: feasibility, diagnostic, formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. In addition to these phases, the NUP process is guided by three key pillars: acupuncture projects, participation, and capacity development.



» Feasibility Phase: This phase focuses on determining the viability of NUP while providing the framework and direction for its development and implementation.



» Diagnosis Phase: The diagnosis phase focuses on in-depth understanding of existing developmental challenges and their causal factors, and opportunities to be harnessed for urban policy development. Under this phase, policy goals need to be established while the key stakeholders to be engaged on the formulation phase are mapped out.



» Formulation Phase: During formulation phase, the NUP is developed based on the preferred policy options and goals.



» **Implementation Phase:** During this phase, the policy proposal and plan completed during the formulation phase will be translated into actionable items. This phase also ensures that all stakeholders have the capacity (human, financial and institutional) to implement the policy as planned.



» Monitoring and Evaluation Phase: This should not be regarded as the "last" phase in the NUP process. Monitoring should be undertaken throughout the implementation of the policy. The evaluation is an opportunity to review the gains made and evaluate any shortcomings. Lessons learned from an evaluation of outcomes and processes can feed back into the policy cycle and promote an iterative policy design.

#### 1.3. Pillars of National Urban Policies



» Participation: Engaging the public in the NUP process is essential for developing policies that are comprehensive, inclusive, and attuned to the needs of all stakeholders, including vulnerable groups like women, youth, the elderly, and people with disabilities. Meaningful participation ensures that a wide range of perspectives is taken into account, fostering more equitable and sustainable urban development outcomes.



» Capacity Development: this NUP pillar aims to strengthen the capacity of institutions by enhancing and organizing their systems, improving their ability to perform functions, and effectively addressing urban development challenges.



» Acupuncture project is another crucial pillar in an NUP process that helps in creating significant impact by addressing immediate needs, enhancing infrastructure, and fostering sustainable urban and territorial development through scalable good practices (demonstration projects).

National Urban Policy process can be viewed as a process of engaging the political class, the policymakers, government institutions, and critical stakeholders for the purpose of having common understanding of the development challenges and agreeing on the policy's vision, objectives, principles, options, strategies and actions to be taken to proffering sustainable solutions to the challenges. UN-Habitat has developed guides to support government on NUP process viza-vis feasibility<sup>5</sup>, diagnosis<sup>6</sup>, formulation<sup>7</sup>, monitoring and evaluation<sup>8</sup>. This guide addresses implementation of NUP – which is the most important phase in the NUP process.

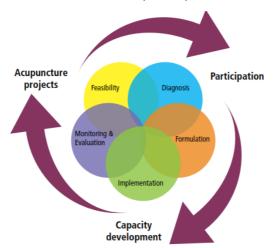


Figure 3. UN-Habitat 2015: National Urban Policy: A Guiding Framework

<sup>5</sup> UN-Habitat (2019). NUP Feasibility Guide

<sup>6</sup> UN-Habitat (2015) NUP framework for a rapid diagnostic

<sup>7</sup> UN-Habitat (2019). How to formulate a national urban policy a practical guide

<sup>8</sup> UN-Habitat (2020). Monitoring and evaluating national urban policy: A guide



#### 2.2. Nexus between **Demonstration Projects and** NUP

Evidence has shown that NUP is a vital tool needed to facilitate sustainable urbanization. NUP provides a framework to harness transformative potentials of urbanization towards ensuring economically competitive, environmentally sustainable and social inclusiveness in the cities. The effectiveness of NUP hinges on the programmes, actions and interventions implemented in connection with the NUP strategic framework.

Demonstration pivotal to projects are accelerating NUP implementation. Ιt is noteworthy that in the policy cycle, policymakers do not really need to wait till implementation phase before implementing the policy directives, as demonstration projects can be executed at any stage of the policy cycle. Demonstration projects provide an opportunity to better understand the urban challenges, set clear policy direction to quickly harness the gains of urbanization.

Demonstration project does not only promote innovation and best practice to inform policy implementation but also build evidence to show the value of NUP. Demonstration projects provide opportunities for establishing collaborations for implementing NUP across the public, corporate, and community sectors, creating innovative methods of collaboration, learning by doing, and producing tangible benefits on the ground.

#### 2.3. Significance of **Demonstration Projects in NUP Process**

(NUP) provides opportunities While shape urbanization patterns towards the achievement of SDG 11 (making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable), however changing the course of unsustainable urbanization in cities requires strong political commitment and innovative approach in NUP process. Thus, it is imperative to articulate innovative actions (demonstration projects) in the policy framework and test the practicality of policy interventions.

Demonstration Projects are vital to the NUP process as they show practical ways to ground the policy. They present innovative and practical solutions to urban challenges and demonstrate how they could be improved upon and replicated in different localities. In policy process, demonstration projects can be help to build political will and attract financial support for NUP implementation. In addition, it is important to note that demonstration projects provide an opportunity to set realistic and achievable policy goals, enhance institutional capacity for policy formulation and implementation, streamline the use of limited fiscal and human resources to address urban priorities, and accelerate the delivery of sustainable urbanisation.

# 3. NUP Demostration Project Toolkit: An Overview

The NUP demonstration toolkit has been developed as part of a series of instruments to accelerate sustainable urbanization through National Urban Policy. The objectives of this toolkit are as follows:

- » to demonstrate the benefits of National Urban Policy
- » to enhance the capacity of institutions and policymakers to effectively implement the NUP
- » to provide practical guidance to government, policymakers and development partners on how to apply innovative interventions to accelerate NUP implementation.
- » to build sustainable, resilient and socially inclusive communities through participatory and collaborative approaches
- » to share inspiring practices on demonstration projects from different countries to help policy makers to achieve better outcomes during the entire policy process
- » to guide on how to select transformation projects
- » to guide on how to foster collaboration among institutions and development partners for policy implementation at all levels.

# 3.1. What does the Demo Project Toolkit Offer?

This toolkit builds on UN-Habitat experiences and achievements accumulated over the years which among other things focuses on enhancing the capacity of sub-national and national governments to develop, implement, and monitor and evaluate national urban policies. The toolkit offers a range of tools and resources to support the implementation NUP at any stage of the policy cycle. Some of the tools contained herein include;

- » template for developing a proposal for demonstration project(s),
- » checklist for selecting a project,
- » implementation strategy,
- » checklist for evaluating the impacts of NUP demo project, and,
- » template for project reporting.

#### 3.2. Who is the toolkit for?

This Toolkit has been designed to be used by governments, urban planners, policymakers, development actors and other stakeholders working in the urban development and policy space. The tool is also beneficial to special interest groups and private sector actors who are interested in promoting and contributing to sustainable urbanization.



#### These include:



**Expected Accomplishments:** Fundamentally, the hallmark of a demonstration project is to make significant contributions or impact on the intended beneficiaries. When initiating a demonstration project, government/policy actors/stakeholders should clearly state what the project intends to achieve in the proposal. The expected accomplishment should be specific, measurable, relevant and time bound. For instance, expected accomplishments of an urban reforestation project could be carbon sink and improved purity of urban air; Enhanced reclamation of degraded land in urban area; or increased restoration of the urban ecosystem.

**Table 1.** Showing examples of expected accomplishment for a project

Potential Project(s)	Expected Accomplishment
Urban for Climate Change	» Improve environmental governance and also restore
Mitigation	the urban ecosystem
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	» Steady supply of portable water in Tegina Town



**Project Identification:** The first step during the process of initiating a demonstration project is to identify a need, problem that needs to be addressed by the NUP or opportunities to be harnessed by the NUP. Demonstration projects can be identified at any stage (feasibility, diagnostic, formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation) of the policy process depending on the priority and level of commitment of the government to achieving sustainable urbanization. In NUP process, project identification requires identifying a small-scale project that can demonstrate the viability of a new approach towards accelerating sustainable urbanization and achieving the country NUP objectives and desired outcomes.

Table 2. Showing how to Identify demonstration Project(s) within the framework of NUP

Potential Project(s)	Problems
Urban Reforestation for Climate	» Climate Change
Change Mitigation	
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	» Poor Water Supply



Thematic Scope: In the process of developing a proposal for a demonstration project, it is important that government, authorities, and policy actors identify specific thematic area (s)/pillar(s) of the NUP that the project will focus on.

Table 3. Showing an example of how to align the Identified Demonstration Project(s) to the NUP thematic area(s)

Potential Project(s)	Alignment with NUP Thematic Areas
Urban Reforestation for Climate Change	» Urban Resilience, Climate Change Mitigation
Mitigation	and Adaptation
	» Inclusive, Productive and Competitive
	Economies
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	» Inclusive, Productive and Competitive
	Economies
	» Resilient infrastructure and services



**Geographical Scope:** This refers to the region where the project will be implemented. Thus, policy actors need to clearly define the region where the project will be carried out and where it will be relevant to the need of the people. The geographical scope could be a community, local government area or a region.

Table 4. Showing an example of how to define a geographical scope for a Demonstration Project

Potential Project(s)	Geographical Scope		
Urban Reforestation for Climate Change	» Minna, Niger State, Nigeria		
Mitigation			
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	» Tegina Community, Rafi Local Government,		
	Niger State Nigeria		



Target Beneficiaries: One of the essential elements in the process of planning a demonstration project is the identification of specific group of people (, the disabled, youth, children, women, farmers etc) or institutions (ministry of land and housing, Ministry of Transportation, Ministry of Environment etc) that will benefit directly and indirectly from the demonstration project. Identifying the beneficiaries is critical as this will inform the policy actors on how to carefully design the project to meet the needs of the beneficiaries and ensure that the project achieves its goals. More importantly, identifying the beneficiaries will to a larger extent help in determining the best communication strategies to engage them in the project and ensure their buy in and support for the NUP formulation and implementation.

Table 5. Showing an example of how to define target beneficiaries for a Demonstration Project

Potential Project(s)	Project Beneficiaries		
Urban Reforestation for	» Residents of Minna, Niger State		
Climate Change Mitigation	» Bosso Local Government Area		
	» Chanchaga Local Government Area		
	» Niger State Ministry of Environment and Forestry,		
	» Niger State Ministry of Water Resources and Dams Development,		
	» Niger State Ministry of Agriculture		
Rehabilitation of Water	» Residents of Tegina Community,		
Schemes	» Rafi Local Government Area		
	» Niger State Ministry of Water Resources and Dams Development		
	» Niger State Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (NISTWASSA)		



**Stakeholders:** These are important groups of people or institutions that champion and support the planning and implementation of the demonstration project. Common stakeholders for demonstration projects include the project sponsor (financier(s) of the project, the project team (institutions responsible for planning, implementing, and evaluating the Project) and representative(s) of the direct beneficiaries of the project(s).

 Table 6. Showing Potential Stakeholders for a Demonstration Project

Potential Project(s)	Project Stakeholders
Urban Reforestation for Climate Change Mitigation	<ul> <li>» Residents of Bosso and Chachaga Local Government Area</li> <li>» Niger State Ministry of Environment and Forestry</li> <li>» Niger State Ministry of Education</li> <li>» Niger State Ministry of Water Resources and Dams Development</li> <li>» Niger State Ministry of Agriculture</li> <li>» Niger State Urban Support Programme</li> <li>» UN Habitat</li> </ul>
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	» Residents of Tegina Community,  » Rafi Local Government  » Niger State Ministry of Water Resources and Dams Development  » Niger State Small Towns Water Supply and Sanitation Agency (NISTWASSA)



Roles and Responsibilities: In order to have a concrete and acceptable project proposal, it is essential that the lead implementing institution/agency highlight and assign specific project-related tasks and activities to the project stakeholders. Such activities include project planning, project implementation, communication, public relations, funding etc.

Table 7. Showing the how to streamline the roles of Stakeholders for a Demonstration Project

Potential	Project Stakeholders	Specify Stakeholders Roles and
Project(s)		responsibility
Urban	Residents of Bosso and Chachaga Local	Safeguard the sustainability of
Reforestation	Government Area	the project
for Climate	Niger State Ministry of Environment and	Provide land and technical
Change	Forestry	support for the afforestation
Mitigation		project, and safeguard the
		sustainability of the project
	Niger State Ministry of Education	Provide spaces within the
		schools for orchard plantation
	Niger State Ministry of Water Resources	Provides technical support
	and Dams Development	during project cycle
	Niger State Ministry of Agriculture	Provides technical support
		during project cycle
	Niger State Urban Support Programme	Supervise and coordinate project
		implementation
	UN Habitat	Provides technical support and
		advisory role



Main Outputs: Project outputs are measurable or immeasurable results produced by a project. It is noteworthy that the nature and objectives of the demonstration project will define the output of the projects. For instance the outputs of an Urban Reforestation Project could be number of trees (species) planted or area of land covered by numbers of trees planted.

**Table 8.** Showing examples of Main outputs for a Demonstration Project

Potential Project(s)	Main Outputs
Urban Reforestation for Climate	Nos and species of fruit/economic trees planted
Change Mitigation	Acreage of covered by economic trees
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	Nos of Water Facilities Rehabilitated



Project Impacts: these are the outcomes of the project. It is imperative to highlight the impacts the project will have on the target beneficiaries and how its linkages with the overall objectives of the NUP.

**Table 9.** Showing examples of potential project impacts

Potential Project(s)	Project Impact (s)
Urban Reforestation	Carbon sink and purification of air for healthy living
for Climate Change Mitigation	Threat of deforestation reduced
	Resilience to economic and natural shocks improved
	Tree cover in targeted areas increased
Rehabilitation of Water	Access to safe water practice in Tegina Towns
Schemes	Improved Hygiene and Sanitation practices
	Poverty reduction and economic empowerment among the women
	and youths
	Improve health and well-being of people in Tegina Town



Project durations/Timeline: The scope and nature of a project oftentimes determines the duration for the implementation of the project. However, it is advisable that when initiating or conceptualizing a demonstration project, policy actors need to consider a project that could be implemented with a relatively short period of time, to demonstrate quick wins of an NUP, and its potential longer-term impacts. It is therefore recommended that demonstration project duration to be between 1 month to 3 months...



Project Cost: One of the key challenges of NUP implementation is inadequate financial resources. Many countries have faced challenges in the implementation of their NUPs due to inadequate financial resources to facilitate mega projects to accelerate urban transformation. Bearing in mind that a demonstration project is a small-scale and high impact projects, it is vital that a government considers project options that promote sustainable urbanization with limited financial resources. Therefore, the budget for a demonstration cost is subject to available funds from the government, private sector, or the donor...

#### **Cases of Demonstration Project Funded by the Republic of Korea**

At the interest of helping developing countries to respond to challenges of urbanisation, and in continuing with implementing the Korea-funded national urban policy programme, the Republic of Korea has benevolently assisted I.R Iran, Myanmar and Niger State Government in Nigeria, in different dimensions to implement their urban policies through a demonstration project.

#### » Covid-19 Emergency Response in Minna, Niger State

As part of the efforts to respond and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic the South Korean Government supported the Niger State Government with a grant to implement NUP though demonstration projects.

Through this grant, in 2020, a Smart-meter solar borehole was installed at a tertiary health facility in the state thus providing steady supply of clean water in the health facility for the frontline healthcare workers, the hospital users and over 500 nearby residents to the hospitals. Also, this project has led to about 5 percent reduction in diseases such as diarrhoea, typhoid, and other related water-borne diseases; 30 percent decline in cost of production and distribution of water for Minna hospital and improved practice of sanitation and hygiene at the Minna General Hospital. This project aligns with the Niger State Urban Policy goals of fostering urban resilience and promoting the use of renewable energy sources.

#### **NUP Excerpt: Niger State Urban Policy** (2021)

Promote the deployment of sustainable energy production and distribution systems as well as low carbon and renewable sources (e.g. urban solar and wind power) in the provision of utilities and urban services.

(Section 11.3.2(iii); bold added)

Smart-Metered Solar Borehole developed in Niger State (Nigeria) © UN-Habitat 2020

#### » Rehabilitation of Water infrastructures in Niger State

In Niger State, access to clean drinking water in urban, small towns, and rural areas has been a persistent challenge. In an attempt to ensure provision of adequate and safe water for the people, the Niger State government had built several water infrastructures, including 53 By-water schemes for small towns. Despite these laudable efforts access to potable water remains a significant issue due to the dilapidation of aging infrastructure. As of 2022, only 4 of the 53 biwater schemes (7.5%) are functioning, while 49 (92.5%) are not. Consequently, many residents rely on alternatives like water vendors and hand-dug wells, which are typically untreated and contribute to the spread of waterborne diseases such as cholera posing severe health risks to the people.

For instance, the result of water quality at Tungan Mallam reveals that the quality of public well consumed by the residents of the area does not meet the Nigeria Standard for Drinking Water Quality standards. Results show that the turbidity and color are significantly higher than the recommended levels, the pH is slightly below the acceptable range, and the total hardness is also above the recommended level, indicating a potential health risk.

Between 2022 and 2024, UN-Habitat and the South Korean Government supported the government of Niger State, Nigeria, with a grant of \$75,000 USD to rehabilitate six (6) nonfunctional bi-water schemes at different small towns (Doko, Gwada, Tegina, Beji, Tungan-Mallam, and Kataeregi) in the state.

Through this intervention, the production capacity of drinking water in small towns has increased from 7.5 percent to 20.4 percent, with an additional 250,000 residents having unlimited access to clean drinking water in Niger State. It is noteworthy that the Niger State Urban Policy prioritizes development of resilient infrastructure and basic services to enhance living conditions in both urban and rural areas. The rehabilitation of bi-water schemes directly addresses this priority by increasing access to potable water for residents, aligning with the policy's goal of improving public health and quality of life.

#### **NUP Excerpt: Niger State Urban** Policy (2021)

Encourage and engage community groups to partner the governments in community upgrading, ownership, maintenance and protection of facilities and services.

(Section 10.3.2(iv); bold added)



#### » Urban Reforestation for Climate Change Mitigation

Despite Despite increasing awareness regarding the value and importance of ecological resources, the destruction of forest resources continues to take place in many parts of Niger State under a variety of socio- economic motives. During 2001, Niger State Forest reserves covered 7391.3 hectare and as at 2012 the forest reserves had been depleted to 6767.7 hectares due to persistent reliance on wood for energy, over-exploitation of forest resources for construction.

The excessive deforestation in the state has exposed the state to several climate risks and shocks. However, with a grant support of \$25,000 USD from the Republic of Korea, the Niger State Government had carried out an urban reforestation project thus restoring a total of 50 hectares of land previously depleted by mangrove trees to address the threat of desertification and improve resilience to economic and natural shocks in the State. In practical terms, 6000 economic trees were planted over 45 hectares of land and 2000 fruit trees were planted over 5 hectares of land in 10 schools. The afforestation project also contributes to the ongoing international efforts on climate action, protecting forest resources, and fighting against climate change.

#### **NUP Excerpt: Niger State Urban Policy (2021)**

Diversification and extension of protected areas for the conservation of ecosystems that are most vulnerable to climate change for the provision of mitigation benefits like urban carbon sinks provided by forests

(Section 10.3.2(iv) bold added)





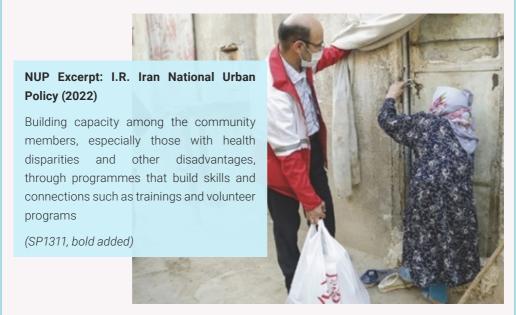
Bosso Forest Reserve before and after the intervention © UN-Habitat 2022

#### Providing humanitarian support to a COVID-19 affected vulnerable community in I.R. Iran

During the height of COVID-19 pandemic, vulnerable communities such as the lower income population, including informal settlements dwellers in Iran's capital city of Tehran, were significantly affected by the pandemic outbreak and exposed to a higher fatality risk due to their difficulties in accessing to health services and personal protective equipment (PPE). As part of the national response strategies to preventing spread of the disease in the capital city of Tehran, the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport of the Republic of Korea, supported IR Iran with \$25,000 USD to implement its Urban Policy priority in the context of Covid-19.

However, NUP Demonstration Project was implemented during September to December 2020, focusing on the provision of humanitarian aid to vulnerable communities in Tehran affected by COVID-19. Partnering with organizations such as the World Food Programme, Iranian Red Crescent Society, and UN Resident Coordinator's Office, the project targeted approximately 6,560 vulnerable households and 29,520 vulnerable people, providing them with essential PPE to protect them from contracting COVID-19.

The impact of the project was evident in the increased resilience and protection of informal settlements dwellers in Tehran. It contributed to several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including goals 1, 2, 3, 10, and 11, aligning with international frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda and UN-Habitat Strategic Plan. Overall, the project's success demonstrates the effectiveness of National Urban Policy (NUP) in addressing urban challenges during the pandemic, showcasing its impact on vulnerable communities and promoting sustainable urban development in line with international frameworks.



IEC/Awareness materials and PPE materials procured by UN-Habitat © UN-Habitat

#### » Emergency response to combat COVID-19 in informal settlements, Yangon, Myanmar

As a response to an urgent need to contain the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic during 2020, this demonstration project was initiated to combat COVID-19 risks in informal settlements, aligning with thematic pillars of the Myanma National Urban Policy. Focusing on Yangon's Hlaing Tharyar township, which has a large informal population, the project tackles issues of water, sanitation, and hygiene.

With the financial support of the Republic of Korea (\$25,000 USD), the project supported community volunteers, provided handwashing stations, and distributed prevention kits and information materials to the people. Essentially, through this project, 12 handwashing stations were installed at Hlaing Tharyar Township and 5 at Dala Township, thus improving access to clean water for the residents of these settlements. In the same vein, 50,700 surgical masks, 2529 bottles of handwashing soap, and 618 bottles of hand sanitizer were distributed to residents of the two informal settlement townships to contain the spread of the virus. The project directly benefited 12,681 individuals and indirectly reached 143,265.

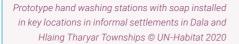
It is evident that the demonstration project effectively addressed urgent needs in informal settlements amid the pandemic, aligning with the country's national urban policy, engaging stakeholders, and achieving significant impact through community empowerment, awareness-

raising, and advocacy efforts.

#### **NUP Excerpt: Myanmar National Urban** Policy (2021)

Improve urban services infrastructure and mobility in all the major and secondary cities.

(Section 5.1.3, bold added)





# 5. Principles for Selecting a Demonstration Project

Selection of a demonstration project is a systematic way of evaluating the advantages and viability of project ideas and selecting a potential demonstration project based on its relevance with NUP thematic pillars, project objectives, potential impacts (short, medium, and long term) and sustainability. It is important to evaluate and select a demonstration project that best contributes to the delivery of the planned outcomes of the NUP. Project evaluation and selection also helps in circumventing any form of inefficiencies that could hinder the progress of the project during implementation (Annex Il contains the checklist for selecting demonstration projects). Below are some key principles for consideration when selecting a demonstration project.

#### Alignment with the NUA and 2030 Agenda:

Within the framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable development, NUP is an important tool which seeks to quide countries on a sustainable and resilient path, steer partnership in environmental, economic and social development at all levels. Thus, when government, and/or development actors are selecting a demonstration project for NUP implementation, efforts should be made to highlight the linkage to between the project objectives with the 2030 Agenda and NUA thematic Area as this will not only help in understanding the focus of the project but also helps in tracking the progress and the implementation of the NUA and 2030 Agenda.



Table 10. Alignment with the NUA and 2030 Agenda

Potential Project(s)	Links to NUA	2030 Ager	nda Indicato	ors		
Urban for Climate Change Mitigation	Paragraph – 13(g), 14 (c), 67, 71, 165	1 POVERTY	2 ZERO HUNGER	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES	13 CLIMATE ACTION	15 UFE ON LAND
Rehabilitation of Water Schemes	Paragraph -73, 119, 120,	1 NO POVERTY <b>广</b> 本帝帝市	3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH	11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

Alignment with Country's Urban Policy: When assessing and selecting a demonstration project, the project objectives should be contextualized within the framework and priority areas of the country's urban policy. Doing this will not only help in tracking the efficiency and effectiveness of the NUP process and outcomes but also foster iterative policy process for better outcomes.

**Table 11.** Showing how to align the Identified Demonstration Project(s) to the NUP thematic area(s)

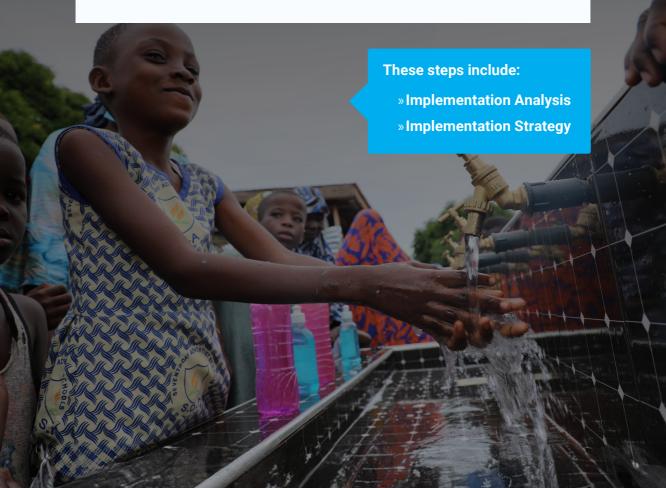
Potential Project(s)	Alignment with NUP
Urban Reforestation for	» Urban Resilience, Climate Change Mitigation and
Climate Change Mitigation	Adaptation
	» Inclusive, Productive and Competitive Economies
Rehabilitation of Water	» Inclusive, productive and Competitive Economies
Schemes	» Resilient infrastructure and services

- » **Duration:** One of the key elements in project management is time. Demonstration project are to be implemented in a relatively short time. Thus, it is logical that a high impact, realistic and short-term achievable project be considered when selecting a demonstration project.
- » Impact: While NUP provides a framework sustainable urbanization, demonstration project offers an opportunity to quickly realize the benefits of sustainable urbanization. Although the impact of demonstration projects is subject to the nature and scope of a project as well as
- its effective implementation, it is desirable that projects which have the potential for immediate and long term positive impacts be considered for implementation.
- » Sustainability and Scalability: These are vital elements to be considered when selecting demonstration project. Policy actors need to ensure that the project has a potential to be sustained over the long term, beyond the initial funding period. This may be in the form of building platform for community engagement and ownership, resource mobilization and sourcing for partnership for up scaling the project.

# 6. Implementing a Demonstration Project

In the NUP cycle, implementation phase is the stage where "policy decisions and strategies are translated into ground actions. Although there is no specific approach in which policy "should" be implemented; whether top-down or bottom-up, when implementing a demonstration project, it is imperative to engage all relevant stakeholders during project implementation to achieve the project objectives and achieve results.

It has been established that demonstration projects can be implemented at any stage of the policy process (Annex III shows the checklist for implementation a demonstration project). Implementing a demonstration project involves carrying out all the project plans, allocating resources and coordinating all relevant stakeholders to achieve the project objectives. To ensure successful project implementation, there are key steps to be followed.



#### **6.1. Implementation Analysis**

Implementing demonstration projects is a complex process; as a result, the need to undertake an implementation analysis is vital. Often times, policies change during administrative process of project/policy implementation thus redirecting the course of the implementation from the way in which policy-makers had imagined. This phenomenon is usually influenced by political factors related to state capacity and subsystem complexity. In a situation like this, undertaking an implementation analysis helps to understand the legislative and administrative landscape central and tangential to the demonstration project considered for implementation. It also provides guidance on how to identify gaps unseen during the policy formulation phase / project conceptualization. Weaver (2010) describes implementation analysis as "having checklist of standards and concerns that can

be applied when a policy proposal is being considered [that] to highlight potential troublespots early on in the policy making process".

As part of implementation analysis, it is vital to also evaluate the human and technical capacity of the implementing institutions to implement the demonstration projects. Evaluating the institutional capacity will help in identifying the human and technical capacity gaps that need to be addressed for successful implementation of the demonstration project either through capacity development or partnerships. Furthermore, for the project to be successfully implemented, it is important to inform and involve all relevant stakeholders in the implementation process. Also, each stakeholders' roles and responsibilities should be clearly defined and communicated in good time. This coordination effort can further foster collaboration among different institutions for scaling up the initiative in a broader context.

Table 12. Showing examples of how to set Stakeholders Roles for a Demonstration Project

Potential Project	Project Stakeholders	Roles and responsibility
Rehabilitation of	Niger State Government	Provides financial support
Water Scheme in	Niger State Ministry of	Provides technical support and
Tegina Town	Water Resources and Dams	advisory role
	Development	
	Niger State Small Towns Water	Supervise and coordinate project
	Supply and Sanitation Agency	implementation
	(NISTWASSA)	
	Rafi Local Government	Provides technical support during
		project cycle
	Residents of Tegina Community	Stakeholders sensitization and
		community support
	Multi-tech Integrated Engineering	Carry out the project implementation

#### 6.2. Implementation Strategy

Implementation strategy is a roadmap guiding the execution process of a project. It outlines the project activities, stakeholders' responsibilities and set timelines for project execution. As part of the implementation strategy, the following elements should be undertaken:

- » Develop a timeline and budgeting for implementation for the project.
- » Identify project activities to be undertaken and parties responsible for each activity.
- » Develop communication strategy to keep all stakeholders informed about the progress, milestones, and outcomes of the implementation.
- » Develop systems to collect, analyze, and report relevant data.

Table 13. Showing Implementation Strategy (Budget Plan) for the Rehabilitation of Water Scheme in Tegina Town

Activity	Description	Timeline				Unit Cost	No Units	USD Total
		Mar	April	May	June			
Replacement of 2Nos 7.5hp Submersible Pump at Tegina Water	Purchase of 7.5hp Submersible pump with the Auto-starting Panel					1,575	2 Nos	3,150
Scheme	Submersible pump accessories					381.25	2 Set	762.5
	Flushing of borehole					200	2 Nos	400
Replacement of old riser borehole pipe with Tiger UPVC Pipes	Replacement of the old Borehole rusty GI Pipe Riser main with 2 inches Tiger UPVC pipes					45	24 Lengths	1080
	Tiger UPVC Pipe fittings					25	2 Set	50
	2 - inch Non- return valve					20	2 Nos	40

Purchase and	Purchase/			100	4 Nos	400
replacement	replacement of					
of 4inch valve	4inch valve					
Landscaping	Land preparation					100
	Planting of Trees					
	and Shrubs/					250
	flowers					
Painting of	Painting					200
Water Station						200
Provision and	Provision and					
Installation of	Installation of					175
Signpost	Signpost					
Workmanship	Compensation for					180
VVOIKITIATISTIIP	Workmanship					100
Supervision	Supervision					300
Sub-Total						7,087.50

# 7. Monitoring and Evaluating a Demonstration Project

In the NUP cycle, monitoring and evaluation (M&E) is a mechanism used to take stock of what works, what does not work, which good practices exist, and where improvements may be needed. Oftentimes, monitoring and evaluation is driven by the need to account for the achievement of intended results and provides a baseline of evidence that can inform corrective decision-making going forward.

As governments embark on implementing their NUPs through innovative demonstration projects, it is important to setup an M&E mechanism to track the progress of the project, measure its performance, evaluate the efficacy of the implementation strategy, draw lessons learned and best practices that can be applied to future projects. M&E also helps in demonstrating accountability and transparency, and build trust between government, communities and other stakeholders



Please refer to Annex VI for a monitoring and evaluation checklist

Below are some of the benefits of monitoring and evaluating the implementation demonstration projects:

- » Provides feedback on the scale to which the projects are attaining their goals.
- » Identifies potential problems at a timely stage and propose possible solutions.
- » Monitors the accessibility of the project by all segments of the target population.
- » Monitors the efficiency with which the different components of the project are being implemented and suggests improvements.
- » Evaluates the extent to which the project or policy has achieved its objectives.
- » Provides guidance for the planning of future projects.
- » Fosters inclusion and ownership of a NUP by all stakeholders by taking an inclusive approach.
- » Ascertains the changes and impacts (positive and negative) that the interventions would have brought
- » Presents the pathways to sustain the gains brought by the project.

#### 7.1. Monitoring

Project monitoring is an important process that is undertaken throughout the project life cycle. It involves tracking project's activities and progress to ensure the project scope is completed within the set project tolerances, and according to project requirements and standards. Thus, when implementing a demonstration project for NUP, it is important to also closely monitor the process of project implementation as this helps in achieving quality control on the project requirements, meeting set deadlines on different aspects of the project, promoting accountability for all stakeholders, identifying issues that may impede successful project execution, and taking action to rectify these problems.

#### Below are some for considerations for Project monitoring

- » Alignment of the project executed with the broader vision and goals of the NUP
- » Is the project been implemented on schedule?
- » Sufficiency of project fund to executive the project
- » Quality of Project deliverables relative to the project goals
- » Regular communication with the project stakeholders and end users

#### 7.2. Evaluation

Project evaluation is a systematic and objective examination of a project with a view to determining its relevance, effectiveness, efficiency, impact and sustainability of the project . In the policy cycle, a demonstration project can be evaluated while it is ongoing (interim evaluation) or completed (final evaluation). It is vital to engage all the relevant stakeholders in the evaluation process especially those with an interest in the demonstration project. Stakeholder inclusion has several benefits including building ownership; improving credibility of the evaluation; revealing political barriers; and avoiding perceived conflicts of interest. It also helps in tracking the performance of the demonstration project, identifying areas of improvement in the policy cycle, measuring impact of the project, and drawing lessons into the policy cycle.

#### 7.3. Project reporting and communication (how to)

Project reporting and communication is an integral element which focuses on detailing and documenting the achievements, challenges and lessons learned during project implementation. Regular communication and reporting foster an iterative policy design that produces desirable policy outcomes. It provides evidence and data that can be used as feedback to improve the design and implementation of the NUP and future innovative projects or public investments. While NUP has long-term goals, lessons learned from the demonstration projects can be used to reflect on strengths and weaknesses of the policy and adjusted accordingly.

During the course of implementing demonstration project, reporting communication can help to facilitate effective engagement with stakeholders, promotes transparency, and aid knowledge exchange among the project team and community members. It also aids the dissemination of inspiring practices, innovative approaches, and enables others to benefit from the knowledge gained.

Hence, to achieve an effective communication during the implementation of a demonstration project, the following steps are to be considered:

- » Develop a project implementation communication plan:
- » Identify the relevant stakeholders involved in the project (donors, community members, government officials, and amongst others)
- » Disseminate clear and concise information. on progress of the project (milestones achieved, challenges, and actions taken to addressing the challenges)

**Table 14.** Communication Plan for the Implementation of Demonstration Projects

Communication	Goal	Frequency	Method	Audience
Project Status	Review project status	Weekly	Email /	» Project Donor
Report	and discuss potential issues or delays		Meeting	» Project Team
				» Stakeholders
Task Progress	Share progress on the	Weekly /	Project	» Project Donor
Updates	project	Monthly	Work plan	» Project Team
				» Stakeholders
Critical Updates	Discuss any major	Any time	Meeting	» Project Donor
	changes or delays			» Project Team
				» Stakeholders
Project review	Present project	Major	Meeting	» Project Donor
	deliverables, gather feedbacks and discuss next steps	Milestone		» Project Team
Post-mortem	Assess what worked	At the end of	Meeting	» Project Donor
meeting	and what did not work discuss actionable table away	the project	-	» Project Team

#### **Preparation of Project Implementation Report**

Following successful implementation of a demonstration project, a project report should be developed and shared with the donor, governments, project team and all other stakeholders. This report should present credible and reliable information on the implementation of the demonstration project. Although there is no specific structure for preparing a project report, the report should be structured in a coherent manner discussing project implementing partner(s), project milestones, achievements, challenges, financial statements and recommendations. A report structure in Annex U contains a sample of reporting template that can be used for preparing project report.

### **Conclusion**

National Urban Policy is an effective tool that can enable governments to shape and transform urban spaces into productive, prosperous and environmentally sustainable cities. It provides an opportunity to harness the transformative potential of urbanization for accelerated development. Policy reviews have shown that, many governments are experiencing challenges in implementing NUPs, which could be attributed to inadequate financial, human and institutional capacity.

As countries around the world seek to find effective solutions to urban and social challenges, the need for an innovative approach geared towards NUP implementation becomes imperative. Demonstration projects offer a lever to accelerate the implementation of NUP through costeffective and timely interventions.

This toolkit offers a range of tools and resources to support government (national and subnational), policy makers and all stakeholders in urban development sector to implement their NUP through demonstration projects. It is expected that the range of tools will guide all actors in urban development space to accelerate the implementation of NUPs to achieve sustainable urban development in an efficient and collaborative manner.

## **Annex I**

# National Urban Policy Demonstration Projects Template developed by UN-Habitat

Programme title	
Geographical scope	Include country and cities/towns
Thematic scope	Specify the alignment with existing feasibility/diagnostic/NUP
Target beneficiaries	Include intermediate and end beneficiaries, national government, local
Target serienciaries	authorities, urban poor, women, youth, elderly, etc.
	Including:
Stakeholders	» operational and implementing partners,
Gtakenolacio	» governments, local authorities,
	» other partners e.g. UN agencies, etc.
	In line with the criteria, please Include
	» objectives
Programme	» problem being addressed
summary	» integration into National or State Urban Policy Programme
	» expected output/results during the funding period
	» impact on beneficiaries
	Specify
Roles and	» the role of the each of the stakeholders, including cross-agency
Responsibilities	collaboration
	» the roles of (community, authorities, partners
	For example
	» training and capacity development, tools developed
Main outputs	» direct services provided
	» technical support
	» others
	Include (about 70 words)
	» impact/change for target beneficiaries
Impact / results	» change in livelihoods of end beneficiaries
	» change in the environment of the beneficiaries
_	» proposed start date
Programme duration	» duration in months
	Specify exact amount
Total project budget	Add budget breakdown per output
	Indicate what will be leveraged from existing resources
	2

# **Annex II**

## A checklist for the policy Selecting demonstration projects

Criteria	Check points	Yes	No
	Does the project align with the Agenda 2030?		
Alignment with	Does the project align with the New Urban Agenda?		
the NUA and 2030	Does the project align with other international framework		
Agenda	(Sendai Framework, United Nations Sustainable		
	Development Cooperation Framework)?		
Alignment with	Does the project consider the policy visions, and goals?		
Alignment with	Does the project align with the policy options and the policy		
NOF	thematic area?		
Project Duration	Is the project feasible for implementation in a short cycle		
	Will the project contribute to urban development/		
Project Impact	environmental sustainability/economic growth/improved		
	governance?		
	Is there a sustainability plan for the project?		
Project	Is there any plan to collaborate with other institutions and		
Sustainability and	development partners to sustain and replicate the project?		
Scalability	Are there innovative funding models and financial paths to		
Ocalability	sustain and expand the scaling process?		

## **Annex III**

#### A checklist for the policy implementation through demonstration projects

Steps	Check points	0	1	2	3
Exploration and scoping	Is the policy formulation (e.g. visions, goals, options, plans etc.) completed?				
Scoping	Are policy options prioritized across every thematic area?				
	Are the criteria (e.g. urgency, efficiency, feasibility, ripple effect, etc.) to assess the policy options within the application of projects developed?				
	If it is a smart city project, is technical feasibility incorporated into criteria?				
	Was a survey on the demonstration project sites conducted?				
	Was there a preliminary assessment of demonstration projects' capacities and resources?				
	Were the areas where policy options would have the maximum impact prioritized?				
	Was a consensus for demonstration projects identified?				
Implementation analysis	Was the legislative framework analyzed for implementation?				
	Was the governance framework analyzed for implementation?				
	Were human and financial resources analyzed?				
	Is there an assessment of on-going policies and programmes related to demonstration projects?				
Implementation strategy	Have specific policy options, geographic scope, etc. been confirmed for the demonstration project?				
	Has an implementation timeline been developed?				
	Are lower tiers of government prepared to implement the identified policies in targeted areas?				
	Have strategies been developed to translate policy intent into legislation?				

Have strategies been developed to appropriately		
allocate human and financial resources?		
Are roles and responsibilities for every		
stakeholder clearly described?		
If a smart city project, has the technical		
architecture for smart cities been specifically		
designed?		
Have communication protocols been developed?		
Are there strategies in place to ensure		
participation and engagement (e.g. National		
Urban Forums)?		
Are there monitoring and evaluation mechanisms		
in place to ensure the implementation of		
demonstration projects?		
Have key performance indicators (KPIs) been		
developed for Monitoring & Evaluation Phase?		
Have feedback mechanisms been developed?		
Are all stakeholders aware of the challenges and		
opportunities in project scalability?		

# **Annex IV**

### **Demonstration Project Implementation Strategy**

**UN-Habitat Budget Plan Template for a Demonstration Project** 

Outputs for expected accomplishment	Description	Item	Timeli	ne			Unit Cost (\$)	No Units	USD Total
			Mar	April	May	June			
			**************************************						
			1						

#### A template for Communication Plan

Audience	Communication	Goal	Frequency	Method
	Project Status Report			
	Task Progress Updates			
Project Donor	Critical Updates			
	Project review			
	Post-mortem meeting			
	Project Status Report			
	Task Progress Updates			
Project Team	Critical Updates			
	Project review			
	Post-mortem meeting			
	Project Status Report			
	Task Progress Updates			
Stakeholders	Critical Updates			
	Project review			
	Post-mortem meeting			

## **Annex V**

#### **UN-Habitat Demonstration Project Reporting Template**

#### Introduction

Criteria for the demonstration project

Donor	
Total Cost of project/Budget:	
Originating Region/Branch:	
UN-Habitat HQ's role and support	

#### **Project Summaries**

Response Area (NUP thematic focus):	
Geographical scope/location:	
Collaborating organizations/partners:	
Duration of the project:	
Project's Objective:	
Project Outcome:	
Project Indicators:	
Key Activities:	
Key Output:	
Impact/ Result:	
Project Beneficiaries:	

#### Overview

#### **Stakeholder Participation**

Beneficiaries of the project

Direct Beneficiaries	Indirect Beneficiaries		

Partners and stakeholder engagement

Key Stakeholders	Role/s in the project	Stage of involvement	

#### **Activities and Outputs**

#### EA 1.

Expected Accomplishment
Project Outputs
Activities Related to Outputs
Indicators of Achievement
Geographical Scope
Data Source
Agency/Partners
Responsible and
Governance/Management
Structure
Monitoring Method
Documents for Reporting

#### **Activities Related to Outputs**

- » Geographical Scope
- » Time Duration and Short/Middle/Long-term Impact
- » Documents for Reporting
- » Impact Stories
- » Lessons Learned and Way Forward
- » Conclusion
- » Budget Implementation

# **Annex VI**

# Template for Monitoring and Evaluating Demonstration Project(s) implemented

Objective	INDICATOR	BASELINE What is the current value?	TARGET What is the target value?	DATA SOURCE  How will it be measured?	FREQUENCY How often will it be measured?	RESPONSIBLE Who will measure it?	REPORTING  Where will it be reported?

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#### IMPLEMENTING NATIONAL URBAN POLICY THROUGH DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS

Globally, urbanization has increased significantly, with the world's urban population expected to reach 68.5% by 2045. Although urbanization brings economic opportunities and improved living conditions, if not well managed, it can also present urban and social challenges such as slums, poverty, and environmental degradation.

While many countries around the world have formulated National Urban Policy (NUP) to manage their urbanization, associated implementation challenges such as institutional capacity and inadequate financial resources continue to delay the gains of NUP. Building on the experiences and achievements accumulated over the years on enhancing the capacity of national and sub-national governments to develop, implement, monitor, and evaluate national urban policies, this toolkit has been prepared to assist governments, policymakers, and stakeholders in accelerating the implementation of NUPs through demonstration projects (innovative and cost-effective interventions).

This toolkit offers a range of tools and resources to support the government (national and subnational), policymakers, and all stakeholders in the urban development sector in the implementation of NUP through demonstration projects. It is expected that the range of tools in this document will guide all actors in the urban development space to accelerate the implementation of NUPs to achieve sustainable urban development in an efficient and collaborative manner.

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