



31 DAYS OF PROMOTING
A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Urban October 2018

Urban October is a month of exciting meetings, discussions and events on urban issues and sustainable development. Individuals, organizations, cities, communities and governments at every level are encouraged to take part in activities to focus on challenges and solutions relating to cities, towns and villages, and communities.

Urban October starts and ends with two flagship events – World Habitat Day and World Cities Day. World Habitat Day kicks off the month long celebrations on Monday 1 October under this year's theme **Municipal Solid Waste Management**. We end the month with World Cities Day on 31 October with the theme **Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities**.

UN-Habitat invites all those promoting Sustainable Cities and Communities to join in the celebration.

World Habitat Day

October 1, 2018

The United Nations designated the first Monday of October of every year as World Habitat Day to reflect on the state of our towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter. It also reminds us we all have the power and the responsibility to shape the future of our cities and towns.

This year's theme is Municipal Solid Waste Management, with the main global observance taking place in Kenya.

Solid Waste Management is an issue that affects everyone.

The amount of waste being produced is growing daily, accounting for a large portion of local governments' budget and affecting public health. Poor solid waste collection and disposal results in uncontrolled dump sites and waste burning. It also leads to polluted air and water. A change in public attitudes to minimize waste and stop littering, the regularization of informal waste pickers, increased recycling and reusing, sufficient funding and solid waste planning including adequate landfill sites, can help cities to improve the current state of solid waste management and save money to become 'Waste-Wise Cities'.

The need for responsible Solid Waste Management reflected in several Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

- Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. – SDG11
- Reduce the number of deaths and illnesses from hazardous chemicals and air, water and soil pollution and contamination SDG3
- Strengthen partnerships that focus on improving municipal solid waste management in our cities SDG17



- ▶ Improve education, awareness-raising and human and institutional capacity on climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction and early warning. SDG13
- ▶ Responsible consumption and production patterns SDG12
- ▶ Improve water quality by reducing pollution, eliminating dumping and minimizing release of hazardous chemicals and materials SDG 6

To improve Solid Waste Management, local governments need to:

- ▶ Develop solid waste management policies and plans with clear outcomes
- ▶ Increase budgets for waste management through landfill levies, increasing the proportion of municipal taxes and revenues allocated to SWM and using the “polluter pays” principle to charge households and businesses;
- ▶ Develop performance indicators for SWM such as percentage of waste generated, collected and disposed;
- ▶ Implement incentives for waste reuse and recycling;
- ▶ Provide options for segregating wet and dry waste in public spaces;
- ▶ Promote partnerships with the private sector and Community Based Organizations including youth groups to provide waste management services;
- ▶ Ensure health and safety provisions for waste pickers

The private sector needs to:

- ▶ Partner with public institutions, businesses and local communities to collect, process or dispose of solid waste.
- ▶ Purchase and recycle recovered materials;
- ▶ Analyse the life cycle of materials produced or sold and build in incentives for reuse and recycling;
- ▶ Operate composting technologies/businesses;
- ▶ Set up recyclable collection system where customers can return reusables and recyclables with incentives;
- ▶ Ensure manufacturers and suppliers accept back reusable containers/items

Financial institutions and donors need to:

- ▶ Prioritise financing in solid waste management projects;
- ▶ Devise financial instruments to tap into the value of urbanisation;
- ▶ Support initiatives to strengthen the technical and financial ability of local authorities to properly manage solid waste management.

Schools need to:

- ▶ Introduce training and orientation on better waste management for teachers and pupils; Introduce waste sorting and recycling initiatives in schools;
- ▶ Increase student awareness through class projects using recycled materials;
- ▶ Educate parents to cooperate on initiatives such as banning single use containers/water bottles.

NGOs and CBOs can

- ▶ Carry out awareness raising to motivate residents to dispose of waste properly
- ▶ Encourage source separation and enhanced door-to-door collection especially in informal settlements
- ▶ Identify opportunities for utilizing waste as raw materials, composting to reduce the amount of organic waste disposed and generating employment opportunities.
- ▶ Actively engage with local authorities to prioritise SWM sector in their budget allocations.

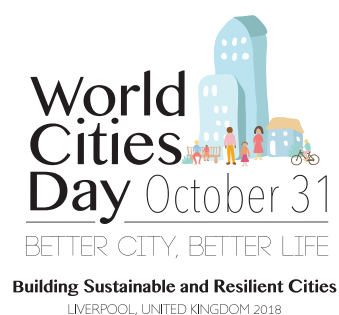
Call for action – become a *'Waste-wise City'*.

- ▶ Urbanization and economic growth is creating a potential “time-bomb” due to increasing amount of poorly managed solid waste impacting health and the environment;
- ▶ All cities regardless of size and financial capacity can improve their solid waste management to become ‘Waste-wise Cities’ to reduce costs and the impact of solid waste on health and environment;
- ▶ Cities and national government should empower and work with civil society and NGOs;
- ▶ Cities should learn from other cities and examine technological solutions implemented elsewhere;
- ▶ Cities should make long-term strategic plans for urbanization which fully consider solid waste generation, treatment (including recycling) and identify adequate space for future sanitary land-fill sites;
- ▶ Cities and national governments should design financial and other incentives that will promote a transition to a more circular economy, built around resource use and efficient recycling and reuse;
- ▶ Cities that improve their solid waste management and reduce their expenditure on waste management should be publicly recognized as “Waste-wise Cities”.

World Cities Day

October 31, 2018

World Cities Day aims to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, enhance cooperation among countries and cities in meeting opportunities and addressing challenges of urbanization, and contribute to sustainable urban development. The overall World Cities Day theme is Better City, Better Life and this year's particular theme is Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities. The main event will be celebrated in Liverpool, UK.



Over the last decade, natural disasters have affected more than 220 million people and caused economic damage of USD \$100billion per year. By 2030, without significant investment to make cities more resilient, natural disasters may cost cities worldwide three times that amount a year and climate change may push up millions of urban residents into poverty. Hundreds of cities and communities are struggling with the impact of crisis – including conflicts, natural disasters, failures in governance and economic stress.

Cities need support to become resilient and develop their capacity to absorb the impact of hazards, protect and preserve human life and limit damage to and destruction of public and private assets while continuing to provide infrastructure and services after a crisis.

There is a pressing need for new innovative tools and approaches that strengthen local administrations and empower citizens, while building their capacity to face new challenges and better protect human, economic and natural assets. Governments must lead coordinated inclusive policies that push for resilient urban areas, providing support to regional and local governments.

Facts and Figures

- ▶ By 2050, estimates predict that 70% of global population will live in cities. 60% of new urban settlements are yet to be build, representing a huge opportunity.
- ▶ Over the last decade, natural disasters affected more than 220 million people and caused economic damage of USD \$100 per year.
- ▶ By 2030, without significant investment to make cities more resilient, natural disasters may cost cities worldwide \$314 billion each year, and climate change may push up to 77 million more urban residents to poverty.
- ▶ In 2016, 108 countries and territories were hit by disasters.
- ▶ 42% of economic losses in housing are due to floods, and 25% to earthquakes.
- ▶ 18 out of the 20 biggest cities in the world and 88% of the global population are in the northern hemisphere where temperatures are rising fastest.
- ▶ 200 million people live along coastlines less than 5 meters above sea level.
- ▶ By 2030, global demand for energy and water is expected to grow by 40 and 50 per cent respectively.
- ▶ 97% of cities in the developing countries do not meet air quality standards. 49% in developed countries.
- ▶ Some 15% of the world's population live in fragile and conflict-affected countries.

Focus Areas

Climate Action

World Cities Day 2018 is promoting effective climate action in our cities and recognizes that sustainable and resilient urban development cannot be achieved or sustained without mitigation and adaptation measures.

Upgrading from Informality

The number of people at risk is increasing significantly with rapid urbanization inducing uncontrolled and densely populated informal settlements in hazard-prone areas. Unplanned cities are however more vulnerable to shock as they often have pre-existing stresses. In cities that are not prepared for or able to recover from shocks, stresses on the system can accumulate or magnify other challenges.

Social Resilience

Building urban resilience takes multiple forms, but must seek the betterment of people, specifically those in vulnerable situations. Poor people are exposed to hazards more often, lose a greater share of their wealth when hit, have limited safety nets, and receive less institutional support.

Governance and Decentralization

The analysis of decentralization in terms of local governments responsibilities, planning and financial capacity is key for building city resilience. Local governments are in charge of a variety of processes related to the functioning of the city as well as the first line of response in any crisis situation.

Key Messages

Cities are centres of innovation, investment, and are pivotal for economic growth and development. At the same time, cities are the most vulnerable to severe impacts from a range of challenges, shocks and stresses that can be both natural and human made.

Urban Resilience is the measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability. A resilient city assesses, plans and acts to prepare and respond to hazards—natural and human-made, sudden and slow-onset, expected and unexpected—in order to protect and enhance people's lives, secure development gains, foster an investible environment, and drive positive change.

The urban resilience process must be integrated, reflexive and transformative

Call for Action

- ▶ Innovative tools for local resilience. There is a pressing need for new tools and approaches that strengthen local administrations and empower citizens, while building their capacity to face new challenges and better protect human, economic and natural assets.
- ▶ National policies on urban resilience. Governments must lead coordinated policies that push for resilient urban areas, providing support to regional and local governments.
- ▶ Strengthening local and global partnerships. A successful urban resilience agenda requires partnerships between all key international actors, as well as the engagement with principle city players. Inclusive cooperation is needed in order to build upon a shared resilient vision.

Join us and organize activities

National Governments, local authorities, private sector and other urban practitioners can organize the following events:

National Urban Forum

A National Urban Forum (NUF) provides a national platform for discussion and dialogue regarding the process of urbanization. A NUF provides the opportunity to bring together stakeholders in an environment that promotes discussion regarding past achievements and the future direction for the city or community. NUF activities include, but are not limited to, consultations at the local, regional, and national levels, including inter-ministerial consultation, capacity building and training, and advocacy and consensus building activities.

Urban Breakfast

An Urban Breakfast aims to create an inspiring dialogue to reflect on challenges facing sustainable urban development, considering the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. It can be held at any time.

Urban Breakfasts focus on introducing and discussing regional urban perspectives, with the participation of key speakers from national governments, local authorities, academia, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders.

The Urban Journalism Academy

The Urban Journalism Academy (UJA) brings together media professionals who are interested or involved in urban development. They help to strengthen journalists' capacity to analyze the overall process of urbanization by sharing with them substantive knowledge about the main issues of planning and management of cities, as well as technical expertise in urban data and indicators. The aim is to create a network of urban journalists that work together in advocating principles of the New Urban Agenda.

Raise awareness in your city or community

You can get involved by organizing an event or including the following ideas in your event to raise awareness;

- You can draw attention through getting in touch with your local media and see if they can write articles or do radio or television pieces on the themes or organize interviews or panels policy makers, government officials, academics, journalists, other professionals, and community representatives.
- Organize a meeting in your area on how to make your city or community inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Engage a well-known person or local expert to support your event so that they can help bring positive attention to World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and Urban October as a whole.
- Use this occasion to publicize, reward and demonstrate tangible improvements in urban issues in your community.
- Organize a public information campaign, use local actors, musicians or poets to create awareness of the issues affecting your city or community.
- Organize an outdoor, picnic style film screening to bring people together in a common space and promote local creativity in existing shared open space.
- Please send us a report of your activity on: <https://unhabitat.org/post-your-event/>
- Organize a competition to find solutions that can make your city or community resilient and sustainable or on issues around solid waste management such as recycling. Essay writing or painting competition can help create awareness of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in schools and colleges.
- Offer a University lecture on, Municipal Solid Waste Management, or Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities.
- Organize a picture exhibition on how to make your city or community inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.
- Organize a recreational or entertainment activity like a football match, or concert, and use the proceeds to benefit your city or community.
- Brand your Urban October event by using either the World Habitat Day or World Cities day logo or merchandise designs
- Promote and create a web page or a web banner on your website with information about World Habitat Day and World Cities Day.
- Promote Urban October through social media - Tag your posts with *#wastewisecities* for World Habitat Day or *#WHD* and *#WCD* and *#resilientcities* for World Cities Day; *#UrbanOctober*
- Find promotional material to print on: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-october-2018-promotion-material/> Promotional material includes logos in English, French, Spanish, Russian, Arabic, logos for T-Shirts, caps, banners, websites and social media
- Find out more information and register your event on this link: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-october-2018/>
 - After your event, send us photos and any material about the event on: <https://unhabitat.org/post-your-event/>

For more information on Urban October, please visit our website on: <https://unhabitat.org/urban-october-2018/>, or send us an email on: **unhabitat-whd@un.org** for World Habitat Day and **unhabitat-wcd@un.org** for World Cities Day.