UNDA 12th tranche project on Smart Sustainable Cities with Innovative Financing 2020-2023

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UNDA 12th tranche project Smart Sustainable Cities with Innovative Financing

Beneficiaries: Bishkek (Kyrgyz Republic), Nur-Sultan & Almaty (Kazakhstan), Tbilisi (Georgia), Podgorica (Montenegro), Grodno (Belarus).

Lead agency: UNECE

Project partners: UN-Habitat

Timeline: January 2020 – March 2023

Key Deliverables:
1. Smart Sustainable City Profiles with Recommendations.
2. Urban infrastructure project concepts.
What is a Smart Sustainable City Profile?

- **Evaluation** against the Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for Smart Sustainable Cities (SSC); 91 indicators from Economy, Environment, Society and Culture spheres.

- **Review** and **analysis** of key local, national, international policies, programs, projects and partnerships; mapping and consolidating existing knowledge.

- **Expert survey** and **interviews** on socio-economic impacts of COVID-19.

- **Virtual and in-person missions for wider stakeholder consultations** → city departments, relevant ministries, IOs, NGOs, academia, private sector.
Goals of the Smart Sustainable Cities Profiles

• Collecting urban data → localization of SDGs.

• Building trust and partnerships with local authorities and other urban actors → close engagement.

• Proposing tangible set of evidence-based recommendations for the city to accelerate progress towards achieving the SDGs.

• Matchmaking with Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs) and bilateral and multilateral development banks and agencies and other urban and climate infrastructure finance players.

• Leveraging further technical and financial assistance for the implementation of projects on the ground.
Status of implementation of UNDA 12th tranche project

Nur-Sultan, Kazakhstan
- City Profile published in January 2021.
- 5 urban infrastructure project concepts in ICTs for energy efficiency & water management – Zerde.

Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic
- City Profile launched in October 2021.
- Integrated upgrading of 5 informal settlements project concept – Cities Development Initiative for Asia (ADB & AfD).

Almaty, Kazakhstan
- Ongoing - City Profile estimated to be out in April 2022.
- Brainstorming on potential project ideas.

Podgorica, Montenegro
- Ongoing – City Profile estimated to be out in April 2022.
- Topics for project have been identified during a Mission in September 2021.

Grodno, Belarus
- City Profile launched in October 2021.
- Green district project concept – Discussion is ongoing with UNDP Belarus.

Tbilisi, Georgia
- Ongoing – City Profile estimated to be out in April 2022.
- Brainstorming on potential project ideas.
In focus: Bishkek, Kyrgyz Republic

- Population size nearly doubled since 1989; +250,000 new urban dwellers since 2000.
- 400,000 new residents expected to move to Bishkek by 2035.
- Critical window of opportunity → new Master Plan 2025.

Figure 1: Population of Bishkek 2000-2035.
Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2018)
Major urban infrastructure backlog in informal settlements

- **Urban planning** did not keep pace with population growth.

**UNECE survey on 5 informal settlements in 2020**
- Informal settlements growth and urban sprawl; **47 to 53 informal settlements** in Bishkek today, hosting between **18 and 30% of overall city population**.
- Large number of **unregistered plots** and **high-levels of underemployment**.
- **Widespread lack of basic infrastructure** such as water supply, wastewater, solid waste management, drainage, gas, district heating, roads, open green spaces and community facilities and **social, cultural and services**, such as schools, kindergartens, clinics.

- **Ak-Basogo**, established in 1990, 15,000+ people. **31% have access to a toilet or bathroom**.
- **Kalys Ordo**, established in 2003/2005, 9,500+ people. **89% of plots are unregistered**.
Policy Recommendations Bishkek (non-exhaustive)

From the UNECE Smart Sustainable Cities Profile of Bishkek:

• Strengthen the linkage between urban policy design, financing and implementation.
• Legalize, upgrade and redevelop informal settlements located in unsafe areas.
• Improve wastewater treatment and solid waste management infrastructure.
Policy Recommendations Grodno (non-exhaustive)

From the UNECE Smart Sustainable Cities Profile of Grodno:

1. Improve urban governance for sustainable development, and the access and availability of urban data.

2. Improve public buildings’ sustainability and reduce energy consumption.

3. Improve sustainability for urban mobility.
Thank you for your attention!

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