Promoting Inclusive Urban Regeneration

Building urban resilience through action plans, nature-based solutions, innovative green financing

84th Session of UNECE Committee on
Urban Development Housing and Land Management

Javier Torner

4th October 2023
Current urban challenges

- In 75% of cities globally, spatial inequality is higher compared to two decades ago.
- 2 billion people lack access to safely managed drinking water at home.
- Additional 8 million people living in poverty despite being employed due to the pandemic.
Key Challenges

Non-inclusive urban development and segregation

Improvements without policies to manage risks of land value rise it is a fast road to gentrified neighbourhoods

Isolated low-cost living contexts

Vicious cycle of financial difficulties, social distress and lack of access to adequate public and private services.
Key Challenges

Urban decay and deprivation

Brownfields, old neighbourhoods and historic areas experience disinvestment in infrastructure and services, leading to substandard living conditions.

As property values decline, long-term residents may face displacement, further deepening the divide between disadvantaged communities and areas of affluence.

Desinvestment, population decline, and economic downturns

Declining property values and socio-economic activities increase inequality
Informal settlements grow in and around cities because of dysfunctional land and housing markets. Due to the lack of secure tenure, informal settlers cannot incrementally invest in their land and live in better conditions. Inefficient land-use plans result in sprawling settlements where residents do not have access to proper water and sanitation services.

Adequate housing affordability

Decrease of informal settlements
Key Challenges

Lack of urban mobility

People living in areas with less opportunities, normally rely on walking and public transport for their mobility needs. Consequently, if public spaces and transport services are undeveloped, they will have limited access to socio-economic opportunities, health care and leisure.

Limited access to jobs, education and services

Marginalized communities and more affected and excluded
Key Principles

SEGREGATED → INCLUSIVE

DECAING NEIGHBOURHOOD → VIVBANT

CONGESTED → CONNECTED
What is Urban Regeneration?

Urban Regeneration is an integrative urban planning tool and process to promote inclusive and sustainable inner-city development for the delivery of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

- A key to urban regeneration is to enhance and preserve socio-economic assets, natural and cultural heritage.
- It has been recognized as one of the most comprehensive and effective processes that governments can apply to promote more inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable cities.

Related concepts:
- reactivation
- renovation
- upgrading
- renewal
- redevelopment
- retrofitting
- revitalization
- restoration
- reconstruction
The overall benefits of integrated urban regeneration

- Improved mobility
- Boosted local economies
- Stronger sense of identity
- Greater public participation
- Greater levels of trust
- Healthier environments
- Enhanced climate resilience
- Greater sense belonging, ownership and autonomy
- Greater social cohesion
- Lower carbon footprints
- Decreased social vulnerability
Urban Regeneration to localize the SDGs

1.2 Reduce poverty by at least 50%
1.3 Implement social protection systems
1.4 Equal rights to ownership, basic services, technology and economic resources
1.5 Build resilience to environmental, economic and social disasters

3.6 Reduce road injuries and deaths
3.9 Reduce illnesses and death from hazardous chemicals and pollution
3.d Improve early warning systems for global health risks

4.7 Education for sustainable development and global citizenship
4.8 Build and upgrade inclusive and safe schools

5.5 Ensure full participation in leadership and decision-making

6.3 Improve water quality, wastewater treatment
6.4 Increase water-use efficiency and ensure freshwater supplies
6.5 Implement integrated water resources management
6.6 Support local engagement in water and sanitation management

7.1 Ensure access to energy
7.2 Increase global percentage of renewable energy
7.3 Double the improvement in energy efficiency

8.1 Sustainable economic growth
8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
8.9 Promote beneficial and sustainable tourism

9.1 Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
9.4 Upgrade all industries and infrastructure for sustainability
9.8 Universal access to information and communications technology

10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion
10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination

11.1 Safe and affordable housing
11.2 Affordable sustainable transport systems
11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanization
11.4 Protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage
11.5 Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
11.6 Reduce the environmental impact of cities
11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces
11.8 Strong national and regional development planning
11.9 Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction
11.a Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building

12.2 Sustainable management and use of natural resources
12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation
12.8 Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning
13.4 Implement the UN framework convention on climate change

16.1 Reduce violence everywhere
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making

17.1 Mobilize resources to improve domestic revenue collection
17.14 Ensure policy coherence

8.1 Sustainable economic growth
8.4 Improve resource efficiency in consumption and production
8.9 Promote beneficial and sustainable tourism

9.1 Develop sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructures
9.4 Upgrade all industries and infrastructure for sustainability
9.8 Universal access to information and communications technology

10.2 Promote universal social, economic and political inclusion
10.3 Ensure equal opportunities and end discrimination

11.1 Safe and affordable housing
11.2 Affordable sustainable transport systems
11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanization
11.4 Protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage
11.5 Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
11.6 Reduce the environmental impact of cities
11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces
11.8 Strong national and regional development planning
11.9 Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction
11.a Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building

12.2 Sustainable management and use of natural resources
12.5 Substantially reduce waste generation
12.8 Promote universal understanding of sustainable lifestyles

13.1 Strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate related disasters
13.2 Integrate climate change measures into policies and planning
13.4 Implement the UN framework convention on climate change

16.1 Reduce violence everywhere
16.7 Ensure responsive, inclusive and representative decision-making

17.1 Mobilize resources to improve domestic revenue collection
17.14 Ensure policy coherence

Urban Regeneration to localize the SDGs

 related targets
Urban Regeneration to localize the SDGs

11.1 Safe and affordable housing
11.2 Affordable sustainable transport systems
11.3 Inclusive and sustainable urbanization
11.4 Protect the world’s cultural and natural heritage
11.5 Reduce the adverse effects of natural disasters
11.6 Reduce the environmental impact of cities
11.7 Provide access to safe and inclusive green and public spaces
11.8 Strong national and regional development planning
11.9 Implement policies for inclusion, resource efficiency and disaster risk reduction
11.a Support least developed countries in sustainable and resilient building
This Flagship Programme is a convening platform for multistakeholder collaboration, technical assistance and financial resource mobilisation to promote inclusive, resilient, safer and healthier urban regeneration, enabling neighbourhoods and communities to become more inclusive and vibrant.
UN Habitat's Global Presence

Global scope
Local and neighbourhood impact
### Who do we want to engage?

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Governments</th>
<th>Private Sector, Investors &amp; Donors</th>
<th>Community Groups</th>
<th>Academia</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| • **Technical assistance** for the formulation of **project documents, policies, plans and projects** on urban regeneration and support.  
• **Capacity development and trainings** on urban regeneration for UN-Habitat and partners.  
• Support in implementing urban regeneration **participatory processes and plans**. | • Foster **social and environmental value creation** models  
• Support the formulation of **inclusive business models**, including quality standards of urban regeneration initiatives.  
• Facilitate **public – private sector interaction** in urban regeneration. | • **Joint capacity development and trainings** on urban regeneration  
• **Co-development of normative products** and technical reports | • **Provide tools and knowledge** for **community-led** urban regeneration initiatives  
• **Technical assistance** for the formulation of **project documents, policies, plans and projects** on urban regeneration  
• **Enhance the visibility of neighbourhoods and communities.** |
Enhanced evidence-based knowledge

Other Tools COMING SOON...
- Spatial Inclusion Assessment Framework
- Catalogue of Tools for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Regeneration
- Spatial Inclusion – Global Trends Report

Urban Regeneration as a tool for inclusive and sustainable recovery

Guidelines for inclusive and sustainable Urban Regeneration

Urban Regeneration and Viruses: Learning from past and present health crises

Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities Programme Booklet 2023
Strengthened global and regional collaboration

December 2021
**EGM:** Urban Regeneration as a Tool for Inclusive and Sustainable Recovery, Spain

June 2022
**WUF11 – World Urban Forum,** Poland

The Nairobi Rivers Basin Regeneration Programme, Kenya

March 2022
**Presentation of the collaborative project** ‘Planning for Better Quality of Life in Datacenter Communities’, Mexico

October 2022,
Participation in **Leaders’ Forum,** UK

Visit: **Knowledge Exchange of Heritage Regeneration** - Joint design for the campus of Technical University of Mombasa (TUM), collaboration with Tongji CAUPD
Technical Assistance & Capacity Building

Parque de La Equidad, Cancun, Mexico

Nairobi Rivers Regeneration, Nairobi Kenya

Socio-economic Strategy for Riyadh, Saudi
Project:
Parque de La Equidad (Equity Park), Mexico
Equity Park, Mexico

Size: 16km and 61.8 hectares

Vision: To become a symbol of identity for the city, constituting the backbone of a green and social infrastructure network that will support regeneration and integration processes in the social, urban and environmental spheres.

Participation Process:

- Decalogue for full and meaningful participation
- Technical consultations
  - Online workshops with different sectors: diagnosis, vision
- Community participation
  - Itinerant module
  - Activities designed for specific groups
  - Hybrid processes: digital and in-person

Challenges:

- Participation during COVID-19 pandemic
- Low participation from groups in vulnerable conditions
- Exclusivity of 'controlling' the process prevents from engaging with local social actors and groups
Equity Park, Mexico

Conceptual Design Process:

• Inputs from participatory process: perception, activities and uses, desires, themes, motives, spatial qualities → zoning, programming, design guidelines
• Toolbox approach: participatory design guide for the consolidation of a network of public spaces in Cancun.
• Framework for public space design

Challenges:

• Expectation of a concrete and pre-defined design for public space
Equity Park, Mexico

**Land-Value Capture:** Financing mechanism beyond existing government budget.

**Land Value Capture Process:**
- Valuation system: identify growth areas of interest
- Identification of prices and types of housing (market study)
- 3 possible mechanisms:
  - Change of land use
  - Increase constructive intensity (more floors)
  - Increase residential density (reduce average housing size)

**Challenges:**
- Urban development plan already allows all land uses and build up to 4 levels (20 in some areas). Value capture potential is lost.
- It is difficult to implement another type of capital gain capture to avoid displacement.
- Developers are not used to these measures: important to socialize this process.
- Opportunity to guide densification
Project:
Socio-economic Strategy for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia
Socio-economic Strategy for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

CONTEXT:
• 320,000 people within a 15km$^2$ area
• Average population density of 215 people per hectare
• Over 90% of residents of non-Saudi nationality
• Over 80% of the population classified as 'non-Arab' (comprising mainly of Pakistani, Bangladeshi and Indian men) are considered low-income

BASELINE ASSESSMENT

Gathering and processing spatial data
Spatialising and analysing data:
• Ethnicity
• Income
• Employment status and sector
• Household type
• Marital status
• Commuting methods
• Perception of safety
• Access to healthcare

Socioeconomic mapping
Data validation via:
• Focus group
• Workshops
Socio-economic Strategy for Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

**Strategy**

- Reduce negative impact of relocation
- Managed phased relocation
- Improve safety in CR
- Safe Central Riyadh for all (Crime & Violence Prevention & Response)
- Enhanced legality of businesses and persons
- Legalisation of people and businesses
- Celebrate Central Riyadh (Saudi) Heritage
- The Living Heritage of Central Riyadh
- Enhance the recycling capacity and materials life cycle in CR
- Circular Economy opportunities
- Increase the number of small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Support for small businesses and entrepreneurs
- Promote diverse Saudi Culture
- Saudi diverse regional cultures and traditions
- Enhanced social cohesion
- Collaborative and Integrated Communities
- Enhanced access to inclusive education services
- Empowerment through education
- Enhanced access to inclusive health services
- Healthy communities
- Increased financial resources for CR businesses
- Finance for business growth in CR
- Improved Workforce and increased jobs in target sectors
- Upskilling & job creation

**Impact assessment, Monitoring framework & Mitigation strategies**

- Benchmark analysis
- Enablers/conditions needed identified
- Indicator selection for progress tracking
- Qualitative and quantitative projections of impacts with short, medium and long terms targets
- Log frame for monitoring of impacts
Javier Torner
Lead Urban Regeneration Programme
Planning Finance and Economy Section
javier.torner@un.org