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# SESSION ON LESSONS FROM KNOWLEDGE HUB/PLATFORM ON GEF IAP/IPS/PROGRAMS

Wednesday, 15 June 2022

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Sustainable Cities

[www.shiftcities.org](http://www.shiftcities.org)

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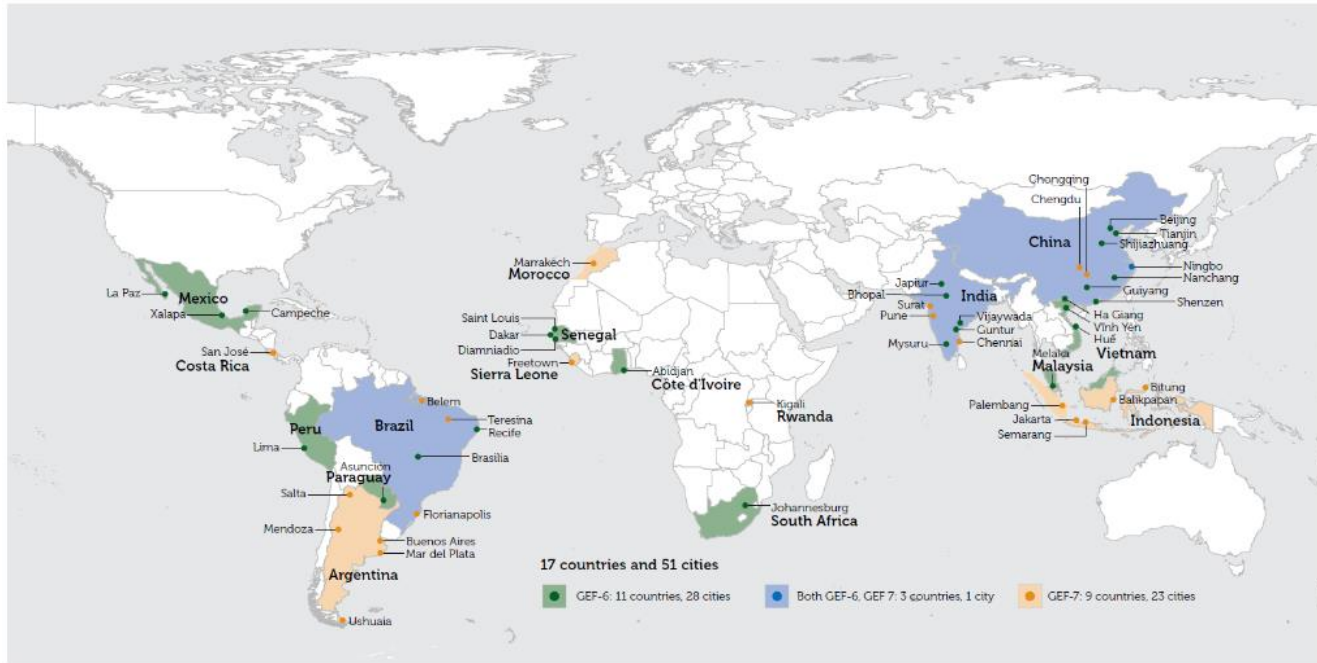


WORLD  
RESOURCES  
INSTITUTE





# GEF SUSTAINABLE CITIES PROGRAM



Disclaimer: This map is for illustrative purposes and does not imply the expression of any opinion on the part of the Global Environment Facility, concerning the legal status of any country or territory or concerning the delimitation of frontiers or borders.

- ❖ 51 CITIES
- ❖ 17 COUNTRIES
- ❖ \$ 310 Mi GEF GRANT
- ❖ \$ 4 Bi CO-FINANCE
- ❖ GEF-6 – GPSC
- ❖ GEF-7 – URBANSH/FT

**Country and city-level interventions** => integrated sustainability solutions and investments in selected cities and countries.

**A global platform and coordination project** to connect participating cities with global expertise and cutting-edge research for integrated urban planning, city-to-city knowledge exchange, learning and sharing of best practices.

# URBANSHIFT GLOBAL PLATFORM WORK STREAMS



NATIONAL  
DIALOGUES



CAPACITY  
BUILDING –  
CITY  
ACADEMIES



ADVOCACY



FINANCE



BASELINES



WEBINAR  
SERIES



CAPACITY  
BUILDING –  
URBANSHIFT  
LABS



CLIMATE  
ACTION

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# GLOBAL PLATFORM ACTIVITIES TO DATE



**Webinar series:** 20 webinars on key urban development topics with regional focus and providing simultaneous interpretation. **5 delivered with combined attendance of 1,300.**



**City Academies:** 9 in-person academies with regional participants, multiple tracks, local speakers and case studies, and simultaneous interpretation. **1 delivered in Kigali, Rwanda with 75 participants from 20 cities.**



**Finance Academies:** 9 academies around thematic clusters. **1 delivered virtually for African cities with 46 participants from 17 cities.**



**Labs:** 9 labs focusing on strategic planning topics identified at the local level. **1 delivered in San Jose, Costa Rica, with 48 participants.**



**Advocacy:** 20 high-level, regional and side events at strategic global conferences. **8 organized to date with combined attendance of 2,500.**



**Website:** Launched in January 2021. Features Resource Library (32 publications), Country Pages (9), Events Page, Blog posts (19), and Staff Profiles for all GP and Child Project Staff. **12,000 visitors to date.**



**Newsletter:** Quarterly newsletter providing recap of project activities and preview of upcoming events. **2 sent to date to 5,000 subscribers from 155 countries with 23% open rate.**



**Online Courses:** 8 MOOCs under development on 8 central integrated planning themes, scheduled to launch on the edX learning platform in January 2023.



ACADEMY

## KIGALI CITY ACADEMY

17 May 2022



ADVOCACY

## ICLEI WORLD CONGRESS: STRATEGIES FOR RESILIENT AND HEALTHY COMMUNITIES

11 May 2022



LAB

## SAN JOSÉ STRATEGIC PLANNING LAB

27 Apr 2022



WEBINAR

## THE CITIES WE NEED: SEVEN EQUITABLE URBAN TRANSFORMATIONS

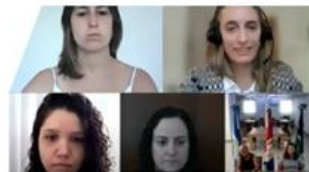
10 Mar 2022



ADVOCACY

## FLIP THE SCRIPT: CITIES AND NATURE

23 Feb 2022



WEBINAR

## HOW SUSTAINABILITY INDICATORS CAN DRIVE BETTER DECISION- MAKING

09 Dec 2021



WEBINAR

## INDIA'S CLIMATESMART CITIES ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

24 Nov 2021



ADVOCACY

## COP26: TRANSFORMING CITIES THROUGH MULTI- LEVEL GOVERNANCE

09 Nov 2021



WEBINAR

## ENGAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR ON NATURE- BASED SOLUTIONS

27 Oct 2021



ADVOCACY

## GLOBAL LAUNCH OF URBANSHIFT

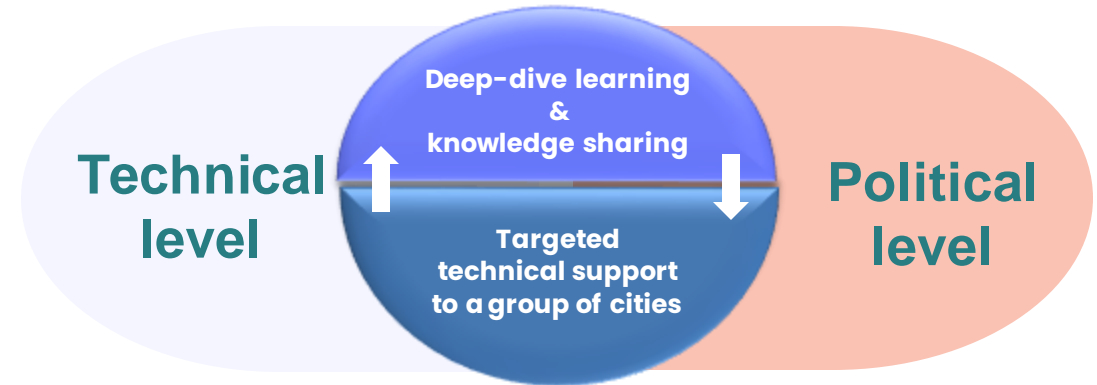
21 Sep 2021

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- GPSC was created under GEF 6 SC-IAP aimed to create global knowledge on a range of urban sustainability topics.
- GPSC has produced a number of knowledge products on various themes that **advance integrated approaches for urban sustainability**.
- The platform has expanded its network with strong demand from cities seeking support for **nature-smart development** through its new **Cities4Biodiversity (C4B)** initiative.
- GPSC's activities continue to promote an integrated approach to development, driven by **analytics**, **peer-to-peer sharing**, and lessons learned through **case studies**.

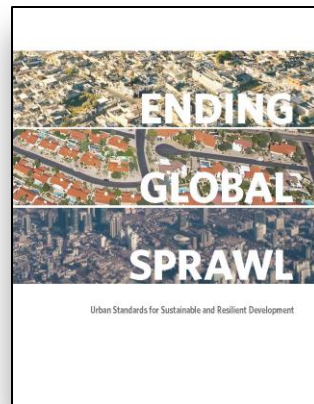
**New C4B Initiative** – joint technical and political approach



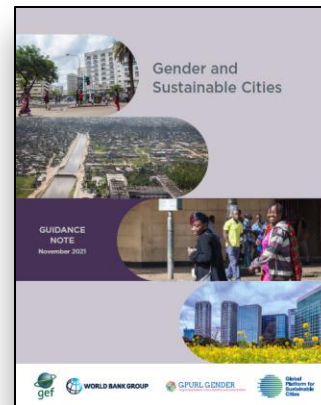
## GEF City Benchmarking



## New Urban Growth Models



## Gender and Sustainable Cities



## Building Back Better



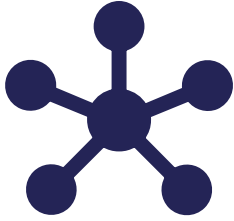
## Integrated Urban Planning Approaches



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See the latest platform news: [www.theGPSC.org](http://www.theGPSC.org)

# LESSONS FROM GEF 6 PILOT



**Direct  
Communications  
Channel with  
Participating Cities**



**More Emphasis on  
Peer Exchanges  
with non-SCIP  
cities**



**Stronger  
Financial and  
Private Sector  
Engagement**



**More  
Coordination  
Between Child  
Projects and  
Global Platform**



# URBANSHIFT DELIVERY MODELS

**City Assessments:** A framework that provides a baseline for each city, pinpoints capacity needs in relation to integrated planning and identifies relevant investment projects and policies.

**Climate Action:** Tailored support for cities to commit to ambitious climate action, consisting of online trainings, regional workshops and discussions with decision-makers.

**UrbanShift Labs (9):** Hands-on workshops to improve a city's ability to operate across agencies, jurisdictions and sectors on a strategic urban planning challenge.

**Geospatial Analyses:** Critical spatial data layers and analytics using global, open-source data to facilitate evidence-based decision-making.

**City Academies (9):** Participatory and online trainings focused on eight key themes that combine technical presentations with practical demonstrations, webinars and exercises.

**Finance Academies (9):** Intensive workshops that bring cities together with financial and technical experts to design bankable projects.

**Investor Roundtables:** A convening space for cities to engage with external stakeholders – including the private sector and development finance institutions – during the various stages of municipal infrastructure projects.

**UrbanShift Forums:** Regional events for cities to network, identify good practices, share insights, and consider opportunities for private sector collaboration.

**Peer-to-Peer Exchanges (6):** Opportunities for cities to learn firsthand from one another's experiences and successes on an urban sustainability topic.

**National Dialogues:** High-level national events to stimulate dialogue, with the goal of improving multilevel governance and addressing specific urban challenges and opportunities.

**Advocacy:** Co-creating strategic events and facilitating networking opportunities to build momentum for political commitments and resolutions and raise city and country ambitions for sustainable urban development.

**Partnership Engagement Group:** A collaborative space for key urban initiatives from around the world, working to identify opportunities for meaningful partnerships and the uptake of innovative urban solutions.

# THEMATIC FOCUS



TOPIC

## STRATEGIC URBAN PLANNING

Find out about collaborative management processes which emphasize integrated planning and participatory approaches, creating more equitable, sustainable and efficient cities.

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TOPIC

## CLIMATE FINANCE

Find out about how city governments can attract innovative sources of investment for infrastructure projects that address climate adaptation and rapid urbanization.

19 Nov 2021

TOPIC

## URBAN BIODIVERSITY

Learn about urban practices and strategies to protect naturally occurring species, genetic variety and ecological systems within and around cities.

19 Nov 2021



TOPIC

## SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD DESIGN

Learn about flexible and collective city planning, rooted in community engagement, and how this approach can help create safe, vibrant and healthy neighborhoods.

19 Nov 2021



TOPIC

## NATURE-BASED SOLUTIONS

Browse resources on green infrastructure and other nature-based solutions – cost-effective approaches to prepare cities for climate change impacts.

19 Nov 2021



TOPIC

## CLIMATE ACTION PLANNING

Browse reports, case studies and more about how cities can develop local climate action plans aligned with the Paris Agreement to achieve emissions neutrality and climate resilience.

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TOPIC

## CIRCULAR ECONOMY

Here you'll find materials on the circular economy and how to balance efficient resource use with economic development and social equity, underpinned by a transition to renewable energy.

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TOPIC

## MANAGING URBAN GROWTH

Here you'll find resources about the need for local governments to address and manage urban expansion in the global South, which is intensifying pressure on city infrastructure and biodiversity systems.

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# DELIVERY AND COMMUNICATION

- **Two-layer approach with thematic areas that are globally relevant and localization of content during delivery**
  - Regional events for relevance and opportunities for cross learning
  - Translations, local speakers, identification of local case studies by regional coordinators to be highlighted in learning events and documents
  - Tailor activities to very specific local demands and needs (Labs, Geospatial Analysis)
- **Effective capacity-building requires resources assigned to pedagogical aspects of implementation**
  - Interactive activities in face-to-face and online trainings
  - Adequate presentation of materials for online courses
- **Excellent website and a well-resourced communication strategy** allows for the materials to reach their audience
- **Interactive training** proves to be much more successful than traditional lecture style. Participants like to share their thoughts, engage in discussions, and have the opportunity to present and highlight their experiences



# GOVERNANCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

- The **Regional Coordinators** are proving to be an effective way to communicate with cities and help bridge communication gaps between the global and country projects. City training must be demand-driven, and this involves face-to-face conversations with city officials.
- **Working with WRI, C40 and ICLEI and engaging them in their areas of strength has been very effective.** WRI, ICEI and C40 have extensive networks, and for global reach they have tapped into their existing networks and relevant working groups to amplify reach.
- Through the **PEG (Partnership Engagement Group)**, we have been able to engage with an array of partners. For example, we reached out to IUCN, TNC and IISD to enrich the Kigali event (their participation as funded by the project).
- **Advocacy events led by UNEP** proved to be another avenue to engage PEG members, including CCFLA, and to support cities' roles and ambitions in contributing to the 2030 SD agenda and Paris Agreement. Bringing new partners together allows for mainstreaming integrated approaches with a view to transformational change.
- **Multi-level governance:** working with national governments (i.e., national dialogues) is well appreciated by countries and allows policy coherence between national and sub-national governance levels and across cities' different secretariats.

## PARTNERSHIP ENGAGEMENT GROUP

The Partnership Engagement Group includes key global actors, initiatives, alliances and networks in the urban development space. The purpose of the group is to provide inputs to shape the implementation of UrbanShift and coordinate activities to strengthen the delivery of the program's outputs.





# CHALLENGES AND OPPORTUNITIES

- **Focus:** Universe of stakeholders participating in learning is very diverse (levels and skills sets). Pitching training at the right level and in the right way becomes increasingly complicated.
- **Timing:** Child projects starting over a year later than the global project
  - The city needs assessments have proven to be difficult to undertake when the city teams have not been appointed and the global projects have already developed their knowledge products.
  - The global project is ready to deliver capacity and training, but the country projects are not ready to receive support – the global project is having to adjust to this reality.
  - Having the GEF 8 project start early to help with country project design could be problematic and exacerbate the disconnect in timing.
  - We suggest that the global project and country projects start at the same time and that the PPG phase of the global project is used to support child projects with design
- **National/local level:** Projects are often developed at the national level because the national level controls GEF funding – and this can cause a disconnect with the city needs and ownership.
- **Communication between the global project and the cities:** We have developed communications protocols between the global and country project teams, but it has been difficult for the global project team to have direct contact with cities. This might improve as the child projects start, staff are hired, and trust is built. The regional coordinators are proving to be an excellent vehicle to overcome this challenge.
- **Well-resourced communication stream:** Good communications requires a dedicated communications expert.
- **Remote training:** It is becoming a more standard approach to train remotely, and we should take advantage of this (MOOCS, interactive websites, etc.)
- **Define main beneficiaries:** It is important to clarify who the beneficiaries are. Are the main beneficiaries the country projects (child projects) that join the programme? Should they include previous programme countries/cities and non GEF Cities?

# CONNECT WITH US!

Sign up for our newsletter at:

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For questions or comments, email us at:

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