11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

SDG 11 Profile

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Urban areas were ground zero for the COVID-19 pandemic, with an estimated 90 percent of reported cases globally concentrated in cities.

The pandemic brought to the forefront many issues facing urban dwellers, including the importance of adequate housing, the need for social protection measures and basic services, the importance of technological and digital solutions, the need to revisit urban planning to create greener and more liveable cities, and an increased focus on changing transport behaviour and demand.

As countries and cities across Asia and the Pacific struggle to recover from the socioeconomic crisis resulting from the pandemic, the climate crisis continues to ravage the region’s cities.

While the proportion of people living in slums has decreased by nearly three percent for the 2016–2020 period, 53 per cent of the urban population in the region’s least developed countries still live in slums.
Proportion of people living in slums has decreased by nearly three per cent from 2016–2020.

Between 2016 and 2019, road traffic deaths have reduced by 12 per cent in the region.

Increase in national and local adoption and implementation of DRR strategies.

Source: SDG11 Progress Report, 2023
AREAS REQUIRING ATTENTION AND KEY CHALLENGES

Despite progress, one road traffic death every 44 seconds occurs across the region.

People directly affected by natural disasters has increased by nearly ten per cent compared to 2005–2012.

Economic losses due to disaster in the region are higher than in the rest of the world, and the gap has been widening.

1. Road traffic deaths
   11.2.P1

2. Deaths/missing/affected from disasters
   11.5.1

3. Economic loss and affected infrastructure and services from disasters
   11.5.2
PROMISING INNOVATIONS AND PRACTICES

Urban slum populations: Improved and more participative surveying and physical mapping

Safer roads: Enhanced digital tools to supervise and manage vehicles and traffic

Empowering slum dwellers: Negotiating better investments in affordable housing and basic services

Cleaner urban air: Innovative platforms to share knowledge, tools and solutions to tackle air pollution
PRIORITIES FOR ACTION

- Encourage cities to adopt an **Ecosystems Based Approach (EbA)** approach to address the impacts of climate change and disasters in urban areas.
- COVID-19 demonstrated the urgent need to merge disaster risk reduction strategies into health preparedness systems.
- **Human rights and gender equality** should be sought across all local environmental action and programming.
- Build and enhance linkages between **urban-rural and urban and peri-urban areas**.
- Invest in frontier technologies and **urban innovation**.
- City governments must boost resilience through targeted, forward-looking and impact-based fiscal spending.
- Incorporate **gender-responsive and community data insights** into decision-making.
- Undertake planning processes with diverse stakeholders to ensure that plans are **responsive** to the needs of different urban populations.
- **Integrate transport and spatial planning** at the city level to ensure sustainable low, carbon multi-modal mobility.
- Public spaces should **incorporate blue and green networks** to boost sustainability and inclusion.
Thank you!

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