



Expert Group Meeting “Final Review of the Implementation of the Asian and Pacific Decade of Persons with Disabilities, 2013-2022”

Agenda 9: Disability action in the new normal
Presentation: Disability-Inclusive Urban Initiatives

23 June 2022



ENVIRONMENT AND
DEVELOPMENT

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Background on Urbanization in Asia-Pacific

Urban Developmental Challenges

'Our Struggle for Global Sustainability Will Be Won or Lost in Cities' UNSG, 23 April 2012



- 2/3 of global population
- Over half of Asia-Pacific population lives in urban areas
→ 2.4 billion/2.8 billion in 2030/3.5 billion in 2050
(equivalent of addition 4 Tokyo-sized cities/year)
- Drivers of 80% of regional GDP outputs
- Urbanization ↔ economic growth, however urbanization → ← social inequality, exclusion and risks
- Slum population in informal settlements: 440 million+ (2014)
- Cities increasingly unsafe for children, women & vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities

Disability in the Urban Context

5
GLOBAL GOALS
explicitly reference
DISABILITY



- By 2030, the number of people with disabilities living in towns and cities is estimated to reach up to 1 billion people globally (WUF10)

- By 2050, 68% of the global population is predicted to be living in cities (UN-Habitat): 15-20% of those individuals are expected to be persons with disabilities

- 60% of the land projected to be urban by 2030 is not yet built, which includes key infrastructure (opportunities for accessibility/universal design) (ECOSOC)



Importance of Local Actions in Achieving SDGs

- When adopting the 2030 Agenda, **Governments pledged to work with local authorities and communities** to renew and plan our cities and human settlements to foster community cohesion and personal security and to stimulate innovation and employment
- Most of the SDGs have direct relevance to cities and **around two-thirds of all targets will need to be met by cities**
- **SDG 11 includes inclusion, equity & accessibility targets**. This also includes persons with disabilities and ensures they are treated as equal participants



Source: Otto, UN Environment, Cities Unit

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

11.1 By 2030, ensure **access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing** and basic services and upgrade slums

11.2 By 2030, **provide access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable transport systems for all**, improving road safety, notably by expanding public transport, with special attention to the needs of those in vulnerable situations, women, children, **persons with disabilities** and older persons

11.3 By 2030, **enhance inclusive and sustainable urbanization** and capacity for participatory, integrated and sustainable human settlement planning and management in all countries

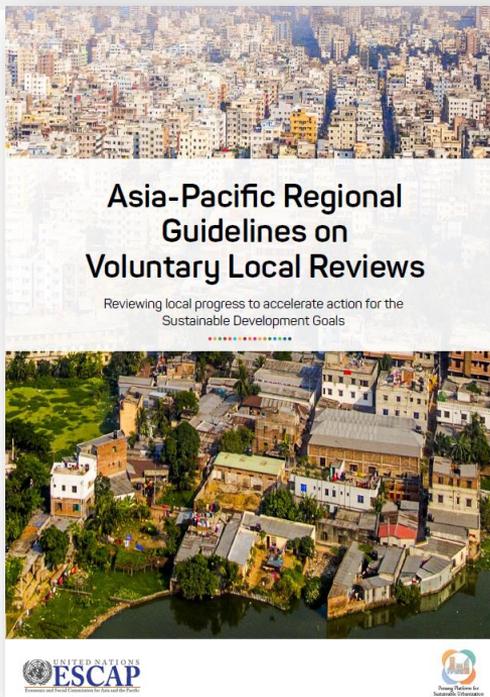
11.5 By 2030, significantly reduce the number of deaths and the number of people affected and substantially decrease the direct economic losses relative to global gross domestic product caused by **disasters, including water-related disasters, with a focus on protecting the poor and people in vulnerable situations**

11.7 By 2030, provide **universal access to safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces**, in particular for women and children, older persons and **persons with disabilities**

Voluntary Local Review to Monitor Disabilities Progress

What is VLR?

A process through which local governments undertake a voluntary review of their progress towards delivering the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs



A VLR allows the local government to listen to the needs of its people and reflect them into local policymaking



A VLR invites self-reflection, by diagnosing the state and pointing to pathways for better localization of the SDGs



A VLR provides for a process that is data-driven and can be used to plan for action to achieve the future we want



A VLR gives a local take on the global conversation on sustainable development

DA12 Project: *Mainstreaming 'Leave No One Behind' (LNOB) in Urban Policies and Programmes (SDGs 11 & 6) in South Asia (2021-2023)*

Executing Entities: ESCAP, UN-Habitat and UN-OICT

Implementing Partners: Municipalities, Ministries, UNRCOs, UNCTs, UNDP, UNFPA, UN Women, OPDs, CSOs

Target Countries: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, India, Nepal, Sri Lanka

Objectives: to strengthen national governments and local urban institutions to centre leaving no one behind (LNOB) as a key principle in national urban policies and programmes ensuring disability-inclusive and safe cities for all and facilitate evidence-based localization of national policies and SDGs 11 & 6 in urban areas.

Expected Outcomes:

1. Strengthened regional network of governments and local urban institutions
2. Improving enabling environment within countries to align national policies
3. Self-sustainable local government capacity for stronger vertical integration to national policies through evidence-based monitoring of impact local level

Multi-level stakeholders regional cooperation

One of the 3 project outcomes of the project is ***“strengthened regional network of governments and local urban institutions to promote and mainstream LNOB in urban development agenda, specifically SDGs 11 & 6”***.

Regional Network Fit-for-Purpose

To assist/guide the project implementors as well as target countries and cities/local governments in adopting and piloting an approach/es for:

- Engendering LNOB (disability-inclusive and safety for all) in national policies and programmes with a major focus on SDGs 11 & 6, and
- Building local government capacity in knowledge management towards achieving vertical integration and positive impacts of global best- practice interventions on the ground

Existing platforms for sub-regional cooperation in South Asia for implementing the 2030 Agenda

Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization (PPSU)

An **alliance of 21 partners**, including ESCAP and UN-Habitat to accelerate city actions in the Asia-Pacific region.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) Platform

The **knowledge portal for gathering voluntary reports, best practices, and data** - both quantitative and qualitative, for reviewing the progress made in implementing the New Urban Agenda to achieve the 2030 Agenda of the SDGs.

SDG Help Desk/ESCAP eLearning Platform

The Help Desk is a one stop, online platform that serves as a gateway to a **wide range of knowledge and analytical products**

Challenges in developing disability inclusive and safe cities in South Asia in light of COVID-19 pandemic

- The South Asian region is already facing a challenge in ensuring safe and inclusive cities in the context of **rapid urbanization**
- The persons with disabilities in the target countries in South Asia are **among the most affected due to the COVID-19 pandemic**
- Persons with disabilities **face increased risk of contracting COVID-19** due to existing and lacking health service support
- The crisis of COVID-19 has **exposed deep inequalities regarding access to social protection** across countries in South Asia
- **Lack of quality disability specific disaggregated data** availability in South Asian countries

Way forward - Recommendations

Recommendation Areas	SDGs-linkage	Priority Actions Required
Smart cities	6,7,9,11	Inclusive IT applications, human-centric urban planning, smart mobility, digital data integration, big data
Built environment	8, 9,11,12,13	Public, residential and commercial infrastructure with accessibility, reasonable accommodation & universal design concepts
Disability-specific disaggregated data	10,16,17	Capacity building, training, internet/cloud-based platforms, household survey/census
Multistakeholder participation at local level	5,11,16,17	Good governance, stakeholder engagement, leadership development in disadvantaged communities, gender, institution building
Healthcare and safe cities	3,5,10,11,16	Provisions for affordable healthcare, public safety, counseling, welfare programmes
Awareness raising/advocacy	4, 5,10,11	Media outreach, education programmes, promotional materials

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