GLOBAL URBAN INDICATORS DATABASE

Version 2

Global Urban Observatory
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN - Habitat)

NOTE

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

CDI	**-**	**City Development Index**
GDP	**-**	**Gross Domestic Product**
GUID1	**-**	**Global Urban Indicators Database Version 1**
GUID2	**-**	**Global Urban Indicators Database Version 2**
GUO	**-**	**Global Urban Observatory**
HH	**-**	**Household**
HIC	**-**	**Highly Industrialised Countries**
LAC	**-**	**Latin America and the Caribbean**

1. INTRODUCTION

Overview

The Urban Indicators Programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN- Habitat) was established in 1988, as the Housing Indicators Programme, to address the urgent global need to improve the base of urban knowledge by helping countries and cities design, collect and apply policy-oriented indicators data. Following the success of the Housing Indicators Programme, in 1993 the programme moved towards the broader issue of sustainable urban development, as the Urban Indicators Programme, in preparation for the Habitat II Conference in 1996.

The Habitat Agenda is the principal policy document that resulted from the Habitat II conference. Resolutions 15/6 and 17/1 of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements called for a mechanism to monitor global progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. The Global Urban Observatory (GUO) was established to monitor global progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

To achieve the above the GUO developed a system of indicators composed of twenty-three key urban indicators and a list of nine qualitative data subsets. These form the minimum data required for reporting on shelter and urban development consistent with the twenty key areas of commitment of the Istanbul+5 Universal Reporting Format. Consequently, the urban indicators provide a comprehensive means for monitoring, evaluating and reviewing global urban conditions, trends and issues through a gender perspective and an adequate tool for evaluating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda.

Databases

The first Global urban indicators database namely Global Urban Indicators Database Version 1 (GUID1) was launched following the Habitat II conference in 1996. Key indicators used in this database were endorsed by the commission on Human Settlements in May 1995 and were collected in 237 cities, the year of reference being 1993. This database was one of the successful attempts in representing urban indicators in a truly global perspective. During the statistical analysis of the ensuing data, a City Development Index (CDI) was derived to assist in ranking cities along their level of development and as a baseline for comparative display of indicators depicting urban conditions.

In the mean time, the urban indicators used in the GUID1 were reviewed to enhance the assessment of urban conditions during the Istanbul+5 conference in 2001. Consequently, a survey was carried out in 1998, five years after the 1993 survey, to collect data on urban indicators based on the Istanbul+5 Universal Reporting Format. The resulting database is the Global Urban Indicators Database version 2 (GUID2).

GUID2 database has captured key indicators from 232 cities in 113 countries. The database is aimed at assessing and evaluating urban conditions and trends between 1993 and 1998. Indicators were received from 6 regions as shown in Table 1.

Table 1. Indicators received, cities and countries, by Region.

Region	Cities	Countries
Africa	55	32
Arab states	16	14
Asia	28	15
Highly Industrialised	38	10
Latin America & Caribbean	53	20
Transition	42	22
Total	232	113

As for the 1993 collection, there is a substantial under-sampling of the highly industrialised countries, where for many indicators there are not enough cities to be statistically representative. There are also no cities from the largest countries, India and China. The LAC region has been over-sampled, with a number of small cities surveyed, and also Africa.

Data collection

Data collection for the compilation of the GUID2 was collected through a collaborative effort between UN-Habitat, governmental and non-governmental organizations and consultants at the city and country levels. Ten GUO partners, under the close supervision of UN-Habitat, facilitated data collection. These partners are:

- Arab Towns Organization (ATO)
- Asian Institute of Technology AIT)
- City-Region-Household (CRH)
- Ecole Africaine des Métiers de l'Architecture et de l'Urbanisme (EAMAU)
- Environnement et Développement du Tiers-monde (ENDA)
- International Council on Local Environmental Initiatives (ICLEI)
- Metropolitan Research Institute (MRI)
- Society for Development Studies (SDS)
- Urban Management Programme, Eastern and Southern Africa (UMP-SA)
- Urban Management Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean (UMP-LAC)

Data collection was guided by the principle that data collected should be the best available, the latest available and fully documented. Therefore, data collectors were asked to make use of latest available secondary data for indicators, wherever possible, and to document their sources. In absence of this, data collectors were advised to apply other estimation techniques to obtain best estimates and provide footnotes if data provided was for anything other than the stated definition. Further, data collectors were asked to follow guidelines provided by the International Statistics Yearbook 1998, International Monetary Fund, in the conversion of local currencies to United States dollars.

2. THE CITY DEVELOPMENT INDEX

The City Development Index (CDI), originally developed in 1997, has been modified based on the improved data collected in the present survey and on experience in calculating and using the Index for the Asian Development Bank, carried out in 1999 in 18 Asian cities, Cities Data Book and on the latest version of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) Human Development Index. The CDI continues to be the best single measure of the level of development in cities. Details on the calculation of the modified index are presented in the *Annex*. The annex also shows CDI values and for a sample of 162 cities.

As previously, the CDI is based on five subindices namely City Product, Infrastructure, Waste, Health and Education. The average values of each subindex for the different regions are shown in Table 2a and are plotted in Figure 1.

Table 2a. Components of the City Development Index, by region

Region	CDI	City Product	Infrastructure	Waste	Health	Education
Africa	42.85	49.69	36.17	26.04	50.39	51.96
Arab States	64.55	66.52	69.79	45.87	77.18	63.39
Asia-Pacific	65.35	62.9	67.75	44.4	78.27	73.43
HIC	96.23	90.6	99.21	100	94.26	97.1
LAC	66.25	62.93	70.42	39.5	82.71	75.68
Transitional	78.59	71.62	90.64	55.93	85.8	88.94

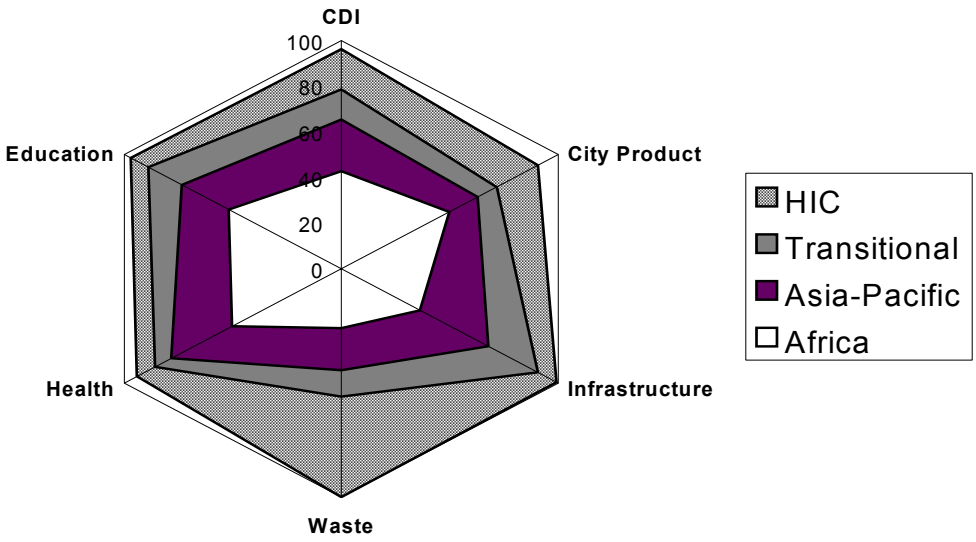

Figure 1. Components of the City Development Index

Figure1 shows the comparative size of the various components of the City Development Index for four regions. Although the regions are generally ordered from least developed to most developed, there are also particular areas in which regions are relatively weak. Overall, the transitional cities are good in most social and physical infrastructure categories but are weak in incomes and economic product. Africa has a particular weakness in physical infrastructure. Waste disposal is a problem throughout the developing world.

3. REGIONAL DATA ANALYSIS

For analysis purposes, indicators received from cities in the 6 regions were classified as shown in Table 3a. The table also shows the total population and urban populations of these regions. Regional analysis was performed in April 2001 based on reports received from cities. More data has since been received hence the complete database contains 232 cities as indicated by Table 1.

Table 3a. Sample size by region compared with total national and urban populations.

Region	Cities*	Sample	Countries	Regional Population		Urban population	
Africa	29	17.70%	45	568	9.90%	186	7.00%
Arab States	14	8.50%	17	256	4.50%	144	5.40%
Asia-Pacific	28	21.30%	34	1884	32.90%	657	24.70%
HIC	9	3.70%	17	784	13.70%	607	22.80%
LAC	48	29.30%	33	496	8.70%	370	13.90%
Transitional	36	19.50%	24	1747	30.50%	696	26.20%
TOTAL	**164**	**100%**	**170**	**5735**	**100%**	**2660**	**100%**

* This number includes 13 cities from the Asian Development Bank *Cities Data Book*, which had data collected on the same basis. These are included in the CDI analysis but not in other tables.

TENURE

Housing tenure

Housing tenure tends to be institutional in nature and therefore will differ strongly between otherwise similar countries according to the regulatory framework, subsidies or controls applied to various sectors, the existence of mortgage finance, income distribution, urban growth, and land use planning controls. It therefore shows different patterns both between