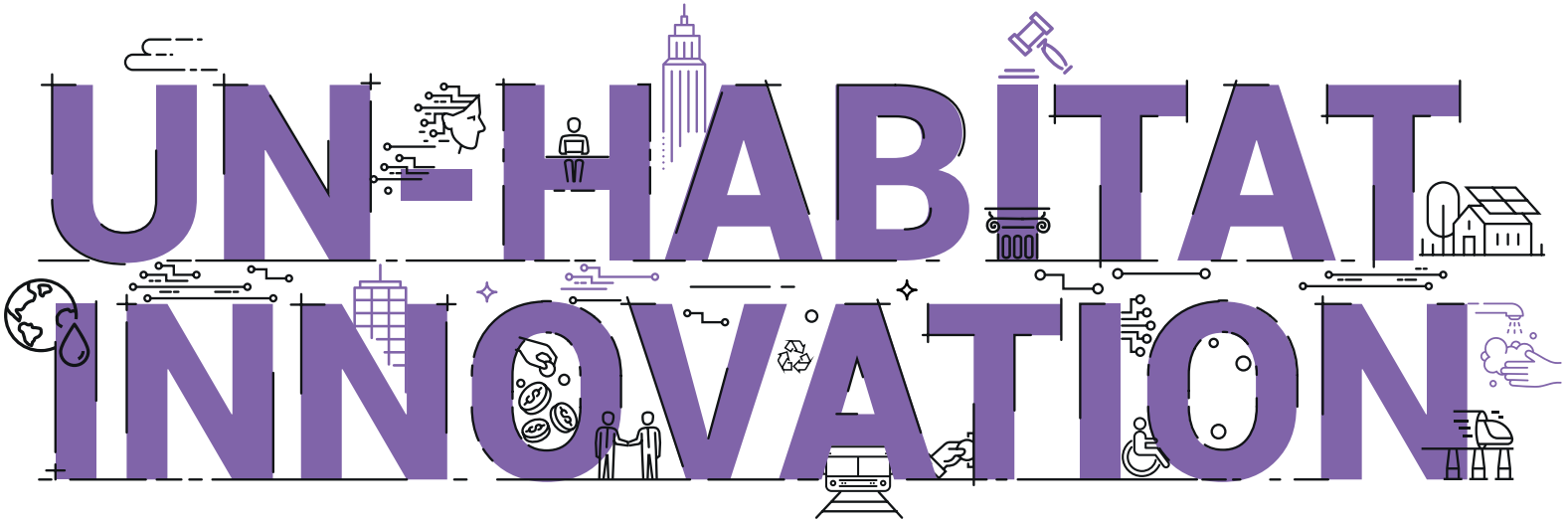


Current projects, initiatives and partnerships

June 2022

UN-Habitat Innovation Unit
External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Branch

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Why innovation matters

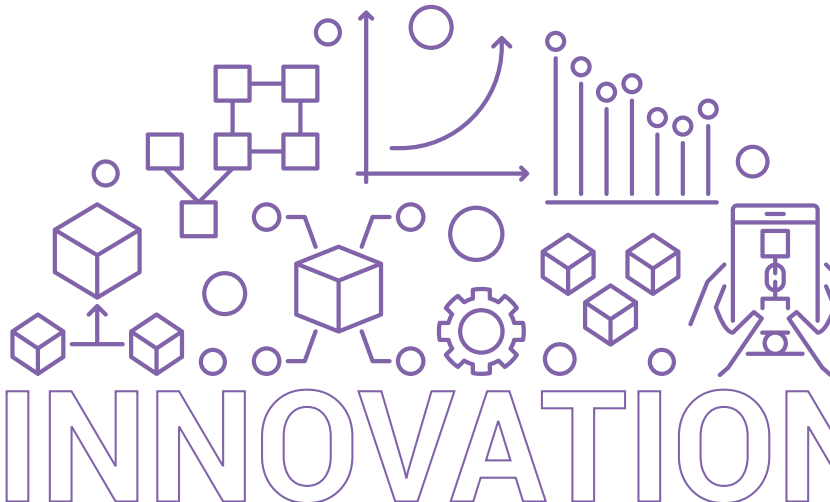
Innovation is now an essential problem-solving system for our everyday living and our capacity to tackle the most pressing challenges the world faces today. Most of these challenges, including those as a result of unplanned or unsustainable urbanization, occur simultaneously and are interconnected, meaning the next generation of innovators has a responsibility and opportunity to respond with innovative knowledge, tools and activities. Cities require low-cost, practical and tested solutions that build sustainable communities, healthy lives and economies that leverage creativity and digital transformation. Innovation is critical for UN-Habitat and partners to deliver the Sustainable Development Goals as part of the 2030 Agenda.

UN-Habitat's dynamic approach to innovation

Cities need an integrated, dynamic and nuanced understanding of innovation in order to inspire organizations and communities to develop imaginative, effective solutions to the biggest challenges. When applied in the right context, innovation can act as a catalyst for change, deliver impacts at scale, put people at the centre and build a better future for all.

UN-Habitat has developed a dynamic, integrated approach to innovation: For UN-Habitat, innovation means embracing new ideas, up-to-date means and fresh approaches to our work. It incorporates both digital and non-digital technologies as both work in tandem together. It can take shape as an approach, a process, a practical tool or an application. It is based on horizontal and collaborative working practices that consider a diverse range of views and considers the context in which the innovation is taking place.

Working closely with cities, regions and countries, our innovation programmes and projects support bold and progressive ideas and translate them into long-term changes in the countries and cities we work in, ensuring that no one and no place is left behind.



UN-Habitat offers a range of innovation tools and knowledge

Innovative approaches and methodologies

Tackling urban challenges with new ideas and knowledge or a new perspective, is a unique feature of UN-Habitat's approach to innovation. We develop, prototype, test, and learn from our experience, which makes our methods stronger and more relevant.

- UN-Habitat Innovation Challenges
- Leading the first United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities
- People-centered Smart Cities Flagship Programme
- Helping cities to use big data to deliver their SDG 11 commitments

Unique tools

UN-Habitat develops practical, tools to help national and local governments and other stakeholders have innovative and practical tools at hand to address their urban challenges, whether through tools that create dynamic and inclusive participatory processes or those that enable stakeholders and investors to agree on key projects and funding options to address an urban solution.

- Promoting inclusive processes to resilience planning through the CityRAP tool
- Using digital technologies such as Minecraft to develop interactive public space planning
- Developing a platform for women and girls to imagine their city: HerCity
- Designing digital platforms and apps (e.g. KOBO Toolbox, SHERPA, Smart City App, social tenure domain model (STDM), etc.)

Technical guidance to governments

UN-Habitat brings a depth and breadth of sustainable urbanization knowledge when considering innovative solutions.
We add value to our knowledge by providing the guidance and tools to promote innovative participatory approaches promoting the collection of new and deeper data and dynamic multi-sector partnerships.

- Supporting governments with smart city planning and connecting National Urban Policies with smart city plans e.g Rwanda Smart City Masterplan
- Innovative tools to understanding land rights, gather community level data and promote tenure security through the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)

Research and knowledge creation

UN-Habitat has a strong track record of collecting data and understanding cities through the production of globally relevant reports such as the World Cities Report, which also reflect on the role of innovation in responding to urbanization challenges.

- UN-Habitat's World Cities Report 2022
- Future Cities: New Economy and Shared City Prosperity driven by Technological Innovations (2020)
- UN-Habitat's World Cities Report (2020), Chapter 6 "Innovation, Technology and the Value of Sustainable Urbanization"
- Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future
- Innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities, UN-Habitat Assembly (2019)
- Future of Asian and Pacific Cities (2019), Chapter 3 " The Future of Smart and Inclusive Cities"

Snapshot of the Innovation Unit's initiatives

Below is a snapshot of the Innovation Unit's initiatives which contribute to our mandate to (1) strengthen the innovation culture within the organization, and (2) work with partners to apply innovation as a tool to deliver sustainable cities and communities.

1. Normative products - in collaboration with other divisions*

- People centred smart city playbooks ☑
- Towards a Digital Human Rights Framework ☑
- Global review of smart city governance practices ☑
- Blockchain policy recommendations paper ☑
- Innovations and technology in participatory budgeting ☑
- Artificial Intelligence in Cities recommendations paper ☑
- Innovation Guidance Note ☑
- Note on SG's Digital Cooperation Roadmap ☑
- UN-Habitat People Centred Smart Cities position paper ☑
- Methodology for UN-Habitat Innovation Challenges ☑
- Innovation Impact Stories Competition Guide ☑
- Concept paper on youth and urban technologies ☑

**This section includes guidance notes.*

2. Capacity building

Urban innovation series

- Using apps and digital tools to effectively deliver UN-Habitat projects
- Innovations in data collections
- Mission-driven innovation policies
- Global Webinar Series on Innovation

☑

Innovations learning series

- Understanding more about innovation
- Design thinking
- Urban innovations
- Smart city models
- AI in urban development

☑

Increased online engagement

- Innovation topics discussed in UN-Habitat's podcast
- Innovation webpage on UN-Habitat's corporate website
- Social media updates, showcasing UN-Habitat's work on innovation
- Regular news stories about ongoing projects

☑

Snapshot of the Innovation Unit's initiatives

3. Providing technical support

United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities	Climate Smart Cities Challenge	The Katowice energy challenge	Climate change science and innovation conference	Digital Platforms for Public Participation Challenge
☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

4. Partnership development - agency-wide collaborations

HafenCity University	MIT Media Lab	Cities Coalition for Digital Rights CC4DR	Microsoft	UN Innovation Network	Connected Places Catapult	ISOCARP Community of Practice on Urban Innovation	FinEst Twins Smart Cities Centre of Excellence	UN-OICT	Nesta
☑		☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑	☑

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_31380