



**Co-designing resilient and
green futures for cities
around the world**

***An open innovation model for
urban solutions***

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

CATAPULT
Connected Places

A collaboration between...

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The United Nations Human Settlements Programme works towards a better urban future for all

UN-Habitat's mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. UN-Habitat works with partners to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. It promotes urbanization as a positive transformative force for people and communities, reducing inequality, discrimination and poverty, and provides technical assistance, policy advice, knowledge and capacity building to national and local governments in over 90 countries worldwide.



The UK Centre of Excellence for Urban Innovation and Mobility with a role to catalyse the innovation market

Connected Places Catapult focuses on growing businesses with innovations in mobility services and the built environment that enable new levels of physical, digital and social connectedness in cities around the world. CPC convenes the disparate parts of the market to help innovators navigate the complexity of doing business, creating new commercial opportunities and improving productivity, socio-economic and environmental benefits for places. CPC is a not-for profit company, partly funded by the UK government.

Global issues in urban development

“.... seasonal monsoon weather resulting in heavy rainfall experienced across Thailand and extensive waterways connecting with the Mekong River, have also made the **country particularly susceptible to severe flooding**” – UN-Habitat, 2021, Thailand

“North Jakarta has sunk 2.5m in 10 years and is continuing to sink by as much as 25cm a year in some parts, which is more than double the global average for coastal megacities **None of this has deterred the property developers.** More and more luxury apartments dot the North Jakarta skyline regardless of the risks” – BBC, 2018



Vision

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UN-Habitat and Connected Places Catapult have joined efforts to design a proven methodology that is inclusive and promotes innovative urban solutions.

This novel approach helps urban managers and other stakeholders strengthen innovation and resilience in their cities.

Objective

We offer a proven one-stop methodology that guarantees a sequencing of 'idea-to-solution-to-financing' to improve the quality of life of urban residents in a sustainable, inclusive and cost-effective manner.

We aim to:

- Help your city understand its innovation capacity
- Promote and accelerate the adoption of innovative solutions to effectively address urban challenges
- Accelerate your city's delivery of SDG targets and priorities
- Build local government capacity to engage SMEs and innovators in the delivery of essential urban services
- Connect innovators and project proposals to suitable investment opportunities

Planned activities

Phase 1

Identify the innovation potential and solutions in your city

Process

A rapid **city SDG and innovation assessment** and mapping of key urban challenges and opportunities with a focus on innovation.

Design and run an **open innovation challenge** to harvest solutions for the issues prioritised.

Benefits to the city

The outcomes of Phase 1 will be matched with the city's **data and feedback** from the stakeholder engagement processes, shedding light on the city's gaps and opportunities in the context of innovation, entrepreneurship and digital technology.

A clear, data rich and actionable **recommendations report** will be developed identifying key potential projects to solve your priority urban challenges and provide the basis for an open innovation accelerator.

Phase 2

Design and conduct an innovation accelerator to deliver bankable projects

Process

An **accelerator programme** specific to the project for the selected solutions. This process will involve a rigorous **technical and business support** programme as well as **SDG readiness**, ensuring that the innovators and solutions are investment ready, and that important SDG targets and indicators related to sustainable cities (SDG 11) are met.

Benefits to the city

A set of **bankable projects** and **concept notes** are ready to be presented to potential partners and investors. We will also help your city construct a dynamic **learning process** that the city can use in future acceleration processes.

Phase 3

Create an urban innovation investor platform

Process

An **investors forum** and invite potential investors and partners to hear the innovator project ideas. The forum will be dynamic, making clear the potential benefits of each project's process and solution and the partnerships and resources required. Beyond seeking investment, this platform will foster relationships across investor parties and profile the city's dynamic innovation ecosystem.

Benefits to the city

Concrete project solutions will be supported and a structure will be put in place for their implementation.

A **knowledge sharing platform** will be established to capture the learning process as well as interests of both the city and its potential investors.

Tools and Expertise

Identify your innovation potential: the City Typology tool

- A unique tool that demonstrates urban innovation around the world
- 175,000 data points
- Ability to understand the innovation gaps of more 500 cities globally
- The information gathered will help a city understand where they are in their innovation journey and prioritise what areas to focus on

Summary and key findings

By global and regional standards, Villavicencio is:

Assets	A Net Zero Challenger. The city inherits a more carbon-intensive economy and an urban form that requires bigger and bolder innovations for net zero restructuring.
Ambition	Net Zero Cautious. Modest strategies among public entities so far but room to increase ambition in key sectors such as transport, waste and sewage.
Powers	Net Zero Reliant. Some emerging evidence of integration, but outsized impact of oil and transport sectors means progress is likely to be reliant on the ambition and actions of private sector actors.
Projects	Net Zero Steady. Current projects likely to result in incremental progress, implying a long-term journey to net zero.
Innovation	Net Zero Unsigned. Modest relationships with multilateral development banks and limited alternative investment and innovation pathways so far.

Figure 1: Villavicencio's position within an emerging net zero typology

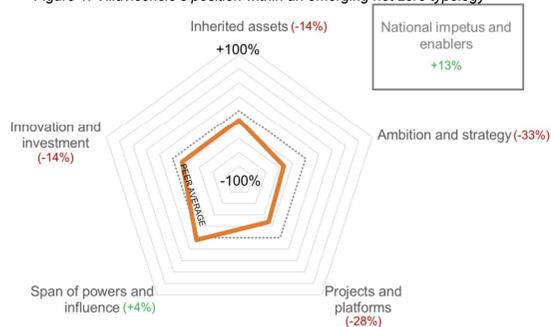
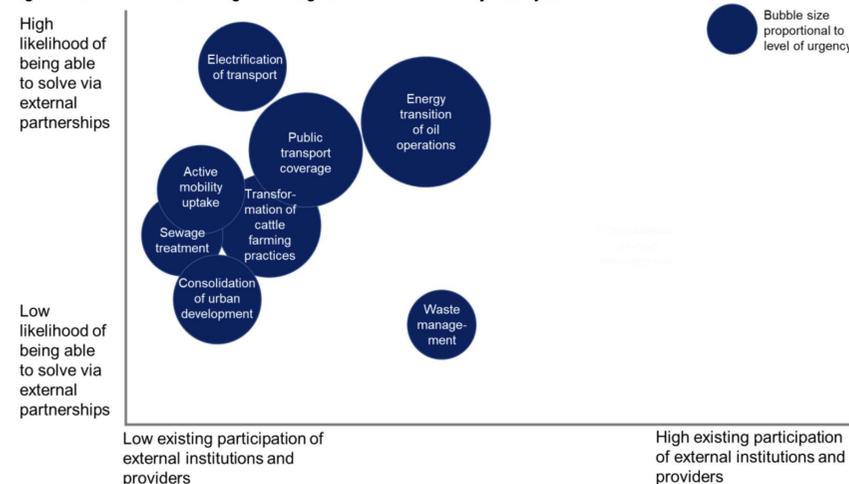


Figure 2: The main challenges facing Villavicencio in the journey to net zero



Bubble size proportional to level of urgency*

UN-Habitat: innovation challenge methodology

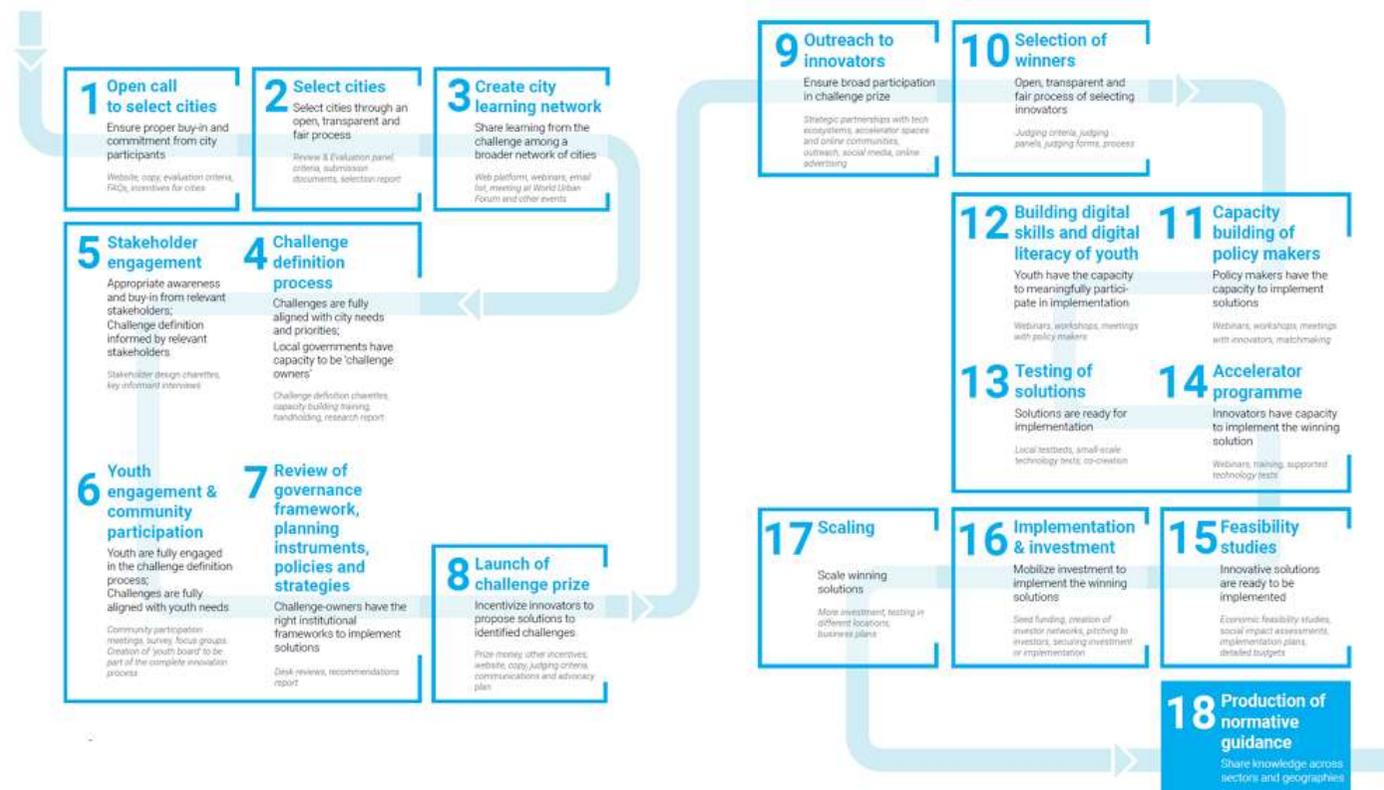
Highlights

- Fits into **Phase 1**
- Tried & tested methodology
- Cities co-create challenges with their stakeholders and gain better insights into people's needs

UN-Habitat has developed a methodology to implement innovation challenge processes that benefit cities and their communities.

Already implemented challenges:

- Collaborating with **Fundación Botnar** on the [Future Cities Challenge](#) for youth
- **Climate Smart Cities Challenge (CSCC)**
- **URBUNX**: African start-up support platform



UN-Habitat: SDG project assessment tool

Highlights

- Fits into **Phase 2** (and can be paired with UN-Habitat's [Urban Monitoring Framework](#))
- Prepares city projects for SDG readiness
- Cities/innovators can utilize data for improved decision-making and project preparedness
- [SDG Project Assessment Tool – Vol. 2: User Guide](#)

The SDG project assessment tool is an offline, digital and user-friendly instrument that guides local authorities to develop more inclusive, sustainable and effective urban projects.



Objectives:

- 1. Improve the quality** of urban projects in their planning, development and design phases to enhance sustainability and inclusiveness
- 2. Promote an enabling environment** that ensures the implementability and viability of projects in the long-term
- 3. Steer a participatory process** between local governments, innovators and communities to optimize the project's alignment to the SDGs

UN-Habitat: City Investment Facility

Highlights

- Fits into **Phase 3**
- Connecting city-ready projects to investors
- Bankable projects are vetted and approved by the facility for potential investor funding
- <http://citiesinvestmentfacility.org/>

The Overview of CIF



The Cities Investment Facility (CIF) is a multi-stakeholder initiative centred around unlocking greater capital flows to inclusive sustainable urbanization projects. Through three multi-stakeholder instruments – The Cities Investment Portal (CI Portal), The Cities Investment Advisory Platform (CIAP), The Cities Investment Vehicles (CI Vehicles), CIF provides comprehensive support to urbanization projects in the processes of pre-feasibility, SDG profiling, and financing.



A platform which allows city officials to reach out to a global audience of investors, bringing together a community of stakeholders at the ideation stage. The Portal will display information about available projects, host a grant platform, and [knowledge-hub](#).



An incubated initiative advising pre-feasibility and upstream project preparation and design, bankability, and SDG-impact.



Brokers within which diverse and blended sources of capital can be pooled to finance de-risked, bankable, and sustainable urbanization projects.

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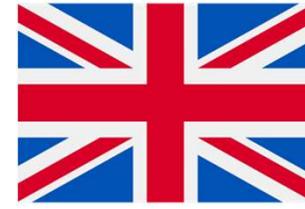
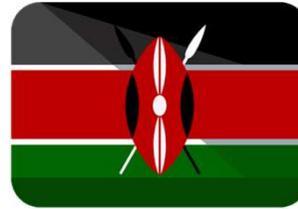
Brokers within which diverse and blended sources of capital can be pooled to finance de-risked, bankable, and sustainable urbanization projects.

<p>A Pilot Project to Integrate Heritage Buildings and Open Spaces by...</p> <p>Development of Mymensingh city as earthquake and fire risk resilient pedestrian prioritized eco...</p> <p>\$6M Funding Goal Bangladesh Country</p>	<p>Affordable Eco-friendly Housing Project in Makindye Ssabagabo and Nansana...</p> <p>Project will provide decent affordable housing and complimentary amenities to low income...</p> <p>\$22.6M Funding Goal Uganda Country</p>	<p>Affordable Housing in Eldoret</p> <p>Business district and other developments.</p> <p>\$17.2M Funding Goal Kenya Country</p>
<p>Angeles City Aquipark for Climate Resilience: Makayamang Abacan Pangul...</p> <p>Angeles climate adaptation strategies include actions to address the projected warmer urban...</p> <p>\$13.6M Funding Goal Philippines Country</p>	<p>Bagh-e Kabul and Kabul Riverfront Development</p> <p>This Project needs network of roads for transportation in and out of the community, wat...</p> <p>\$20M Funding Goal Afghanistan Country</p>	<p>Bahir Dar The First Water-Wise Resilient Forest City of Ethiopia and Africa: The...</p> <p>The plan and the project proposal aim at harnessing the power of the city's inherited...</p> <p>\$200M Funding Goal Ethiopia Country</p>

Project showcase

Accelerate innovation: Urban Links Africa

- **Sponsor:** UKRI - GCRF
- **Duration:** Oct 2019 – Mar 2021
- **Cities:** Cape Town, Johannesburg, Durban, Nairobi, Mombasa, Kisumu



Objective: Facilitate sustainable collaboration between **the UK, South Africa, and Kenya**, bringing together cities and tech ecosystems through equitable partnerships and industry investment to address challenges in African cities and improve citizens' lives.

- 7 Kenyan challenges: urban flooding, waste water management, solid waste management, traffic management & active mobility, resilience in informal settlements, sustainable mobility, pollution
- An open call for innovative companies and organisations across Kenya, South Africa and UK for up to **15 equitable partnerships** to develop joint tech solutions to challenges
- An online **UK-African collaboration platform** to connect and exchange expertise
- **Peer learning between UK and South African / Kenyan cities and tech hubs**
- Launch a business and government forum to ensure sustainability



Timeline

Activities	Months					
Timeline for the activities	1	2	3	4	5	6
Phase 1: Mapping and innovation challenge	■	■				
Phase 2: Innovator accelerator			■	■	■	
Phase 3: Investors platform					■	■

“Innovators play a crucial role in shaping the future of our cities. We need to develop better models of integrating their ideas with existing city goals and processes.”

Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat

“COVID-19 has been a tragedy for our society and a major shock for our economy, but it can also propel us forward by encouraging the adoption of new modes and patterns of travel, as well as more efficient ways to use buildings and deliver urban services and public spaces.”

Prof Greg Clark CBE, Chair, Connected Places Catapult

Sound interesting?

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