Urban Governance in Asia-Pacific for SDGs Implementation

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Introduction

- ❑ 17 SDGs are inter-related and inter-dependent
- ❑ SDG 11 – "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable" is the core of the urban policy
- ❑ Governance capacity matters in implementing the SDGs

Urban Governance Challenges

(1) Inclusive urban policies and programs that accommodate marginalized groups in urban governance

Urban Governance Challenges

- Urban authorities in region have traditionally relied on technocratic solutions and the use of performance evaluation and audit methods for the sake of cost-effectiveness and accountability

Urban Governance Challenges

- However, experience has shown that technocratic approaches had limited efficiency for two main reasons:

  - the informal sector "within the city, outside the system" makes a significant contribution to local economies;

  - urban authorities are chronically short of capital and operating funds

Urban Governance Challenges

Some Innovative approaches

- KL and Quezon City, urban authorities are building kiosks for sidewalk vendors in legally sited areas

- In Bandung, Bangkok and Manila, community-upgrading programs now provide housing and basic services in situ, rather than evicting squatters.

- Orangi Pilot Project in Karachi

Urban Governance Challenges

(2) Supporting Participatory and Accountability Mechanisms

Urban Governance Challenges

- The need for local participation with accountability

- Formal government programs and the interests of people living in informal settlements: mismatch between administrative and legal reforms and grassroots realities

Urban Governance Challenges

- Naga City, Philippines: Citizens' Charter

- Mumbai: an online complaint management system to elicit immediate feedback from the public

- Seoul: Integrity System to promote on-line procurement and combat corruption

Urban Governance Challenges

- National, regional and global cooperative networks have grown that enable interested individuals to exchange ideas, best practice and lessons learned, sharing them with municipal officials, administrators and researchers

- UCLG Asia-Pacific; CityNet Asia

Urban Governance Challenges

(3) The need for the devolution of power and authority to urban local governments with revenue raising and human resource capacity

Urban Governance Challenges

- In Asia, policy statements about urban decentralization encompass comprehensive objectives, but in practice do not blend political devolution and power-sharing with financial and administrative capacity of local governments as catalysts for urban development

Urban Governance Challenges

Four cases in Asia

- Indonesia: "Big Bang" decentralization with expanding roles of urban local governments

- China: Fiscal decentralization as contributor to the rapid economic growth

- India: participatory mechanisms but insignificant funding and policy authority

- Pakistan: Empowering Provinces after 18th Amendment

(4) Urban land and Housing

Urban Governance Challenges

- Existing laws, zoning regulations, and policies impede efficient use of land; the laws and regulations are generally anti-street, anti-pedestrian, anti-mixed land use, anti-high use, and anti-public space

- LGs and DA use these laws and regulations to increase revenue

Urban Governance Challenges

- Singapore, the Republic of Korea, and China, have implemented public housing projects as part of government housing policies and their vigorous pursuit of slum-free cities

- Civil society has promoted community-led housing development in Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Pakistan, the Philippines, Sri Lanka and Thailand.

(5) Access to Urban Service

Urban Governance Challenges

➢ Local governments must address simultaneously unfolding poverty, growth and lifestyle challenges that can be overwhelming, both in terms of the range and complexity of the policy responses required and of the resources needed

➢ For example the many cities in the region with uneven or insufficient water access have sufficient water if they improved efficiency, eliminated leakages, theft and corruption, and protected water bodies from pollution

Urban Governance Challenges

- Need coordination in managing urban services, as functionally orientated government departments compete with geographically truncated urban governments

- Driving necessity of collaborative governance

Urban Governance Challenges

(6) The need to focus on small and intermediate-sized cities and peri-urban areas

Urban Governance Challenges

- Asian experience shows that highest rate of urban growth is in small and intermediate sized cities

- Therefore, the need is to empower them to manage their own development to stimulate development in rural areas

Urban Governance Challenges

Coping with Peri-Urban Issues

- Unclear jurisdictions of peri-urban areas

- Ecological footprints of cities to spill-over into the peripheries

- Weak or non-existing mechanisms for citizen engagement in service delivery and access

- Multi-agency consultation mechanisms

Conclusion: The Way Forward to Achieve SDGs through Effective Urban Governance

The Way Forward to Achieve SDGs

- **Politics: Build the urban local governments with political participation and accountability mechanisms**

- **Finances: Expand resource base of urban local government to make them catalyst for local development**

The Way Forward

- **Administration: Strength local capacity, evidence-based planning, development controls and coordination**

- **Social Inclusion: Promote an inclusive urban society with focus on informal settlements, gender equity, youth engagement and local partnerships ;**

- **Urban hierarchy: Include small cities and peri-urban areas in an integrated urban development framework**

Thank You