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People Centered Smart cities

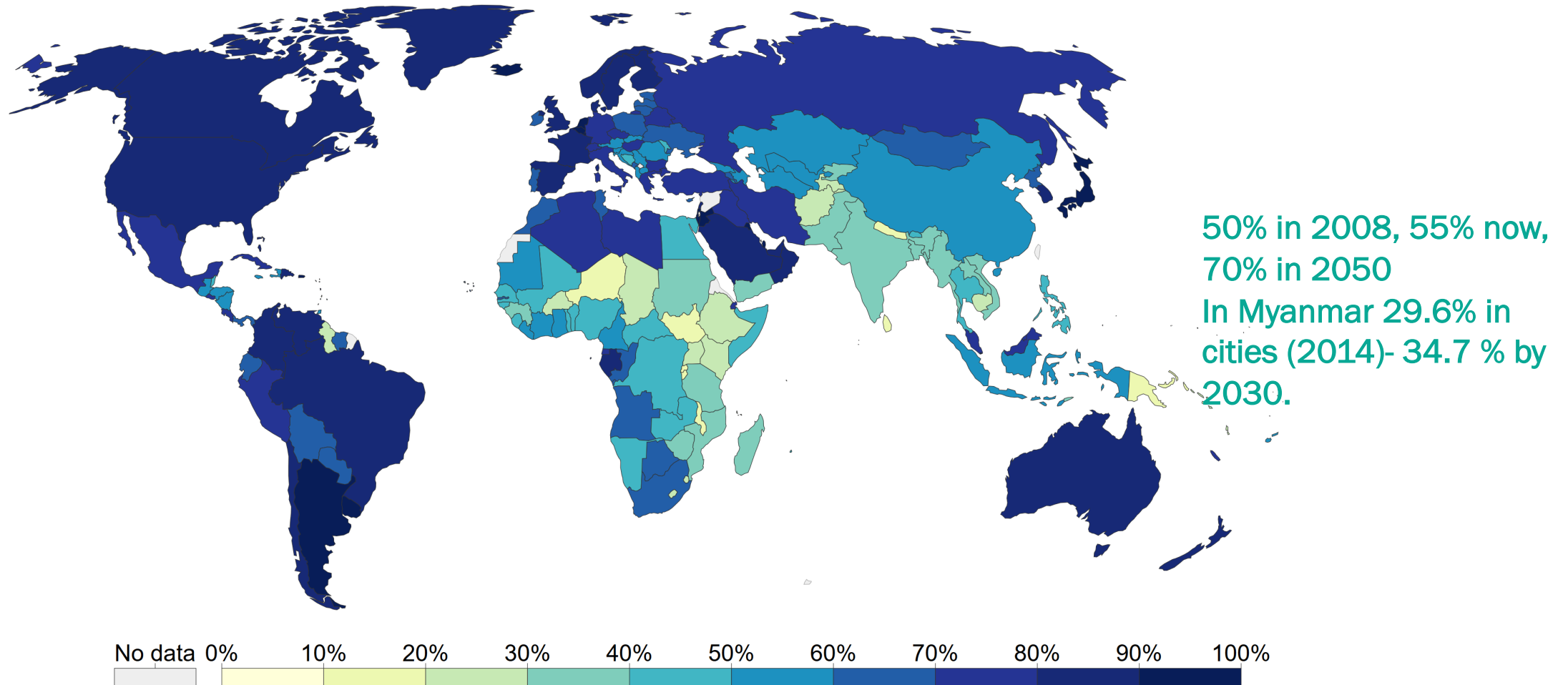
MYANMAR DIGITAL RIGHTS FORUM

BIJAY KARMACHARYA, UN-HABITAT

28 FEB 2020, YANGON



Share of people living in urban areas



Source: UN World Urbanization Prospects (2018)

OurWorldInData.org/urbanization • CC BY

Note: Urban populations are defined based on the definition of urban areas by national statistical offices.

What is a smart city? – A goal or a tool?

A smart city as a **compact, connected, socially inclusive and resilient city** that leverages the power of **technology, data and innovation** to improve the **quality of life** of residents and to coordinate and integrate urban management.



Mega trends of our times: Urbanization;
Climate Change
Mega trend of recent years: Digitalization

Data, artificial intelligence, connectivity and the new digital economy are shaping the future of our societies.

Digital technologies have the potential to serve people, improve public services and working conditions.

- 3.6 billion People without access to affordable internet
- 47 LDC- 80% of the People are offline
- 2% Women in Latin America, Caribbean, East Asia and Pacific own phone with internet access
- 327 million fewer women globally own smartphones than men
- Gender gap in connectivity continues to widen

- Persistent digital divides remain, and the digital revolution must be directed and governed in a democratic and inclusive way
- Digital technologies, depending on their use, can be a force that widens social gaps or reduces them.

Artificial Intelligence and data can be used for the public good, but can also be used to monitor and manipulate behavior, to manipulate voters, to track human rights defenders

We have a collective responsibility to give direction to new technologies so that we maximize benefits and prevent unintended consequences.

Digital data, Technologies, innovations, can transform cities for socio-economic growth and development by making cities, efficient, inclusive, connected, participatory, resilient, livable and offer better qualities of life.

These technologies, if well governed, can contribute to sustainable development by reducing carbon emissions and facilitating the ecological transition, increasing access to affordable housing, enhancing participation in policy making for citizens, and ensuring access to inclusive services for communities.

If not handled, it can widen the gap between rich and poor, men and women as well as between nations. Smart-cities initiatives shall be focused on transforming the lives of ALL people in the planet than those who have wealth, technology and knowledge.

UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme

People-focused smart cities

Increased focus and mainstreaming of people-focused, sustainable and inclusive **digital transition as a critical policy topic** in high level political forums and global dialogues on smart cities.

Increased **investment and financing** for people-focused smart cities

Enhanced capacity of governments at all levels to adopt a people-focused, privacy-enhancing, and rights-preserving approach to digital technologies for inclusion and sustainable urban development



National Urban Policy Programme in Myanmar

Vision : To create a spatially integrated and orderly development of urban settlements with adequate infrastructure, efficient institutions, effective legal framework and a sound living and working environment to support the socio-economic development of Myanmar.

8 Thematic areas

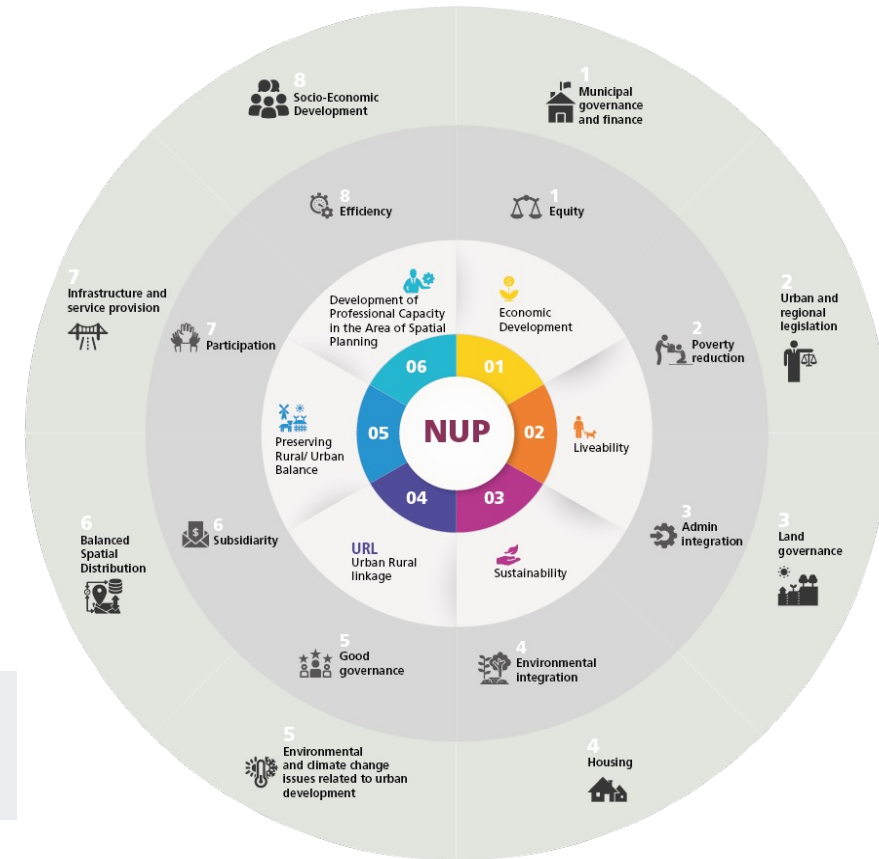
National Level

Balanced Spatial Distribution
Urban Legislation
Socio-Economic Development
Infrastructure and service provision

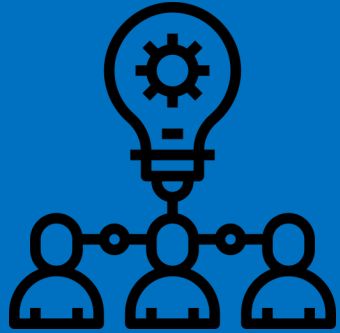
City Level

Housing
Municipal Governance and Finance
Land Governance
Climate change

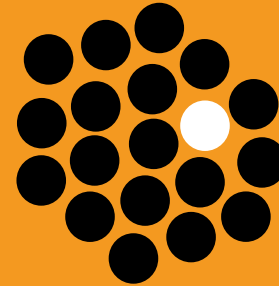
Smart city approaches will be mainstreamed in the implementation of the policy interventions



Shaping people-centered smart cities



**Co-created smart
cities with citizens**



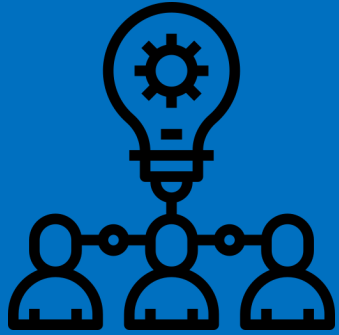
**Smart cities for
ALL**



**Building
technological
capacity**



**Collaborative
Governance**

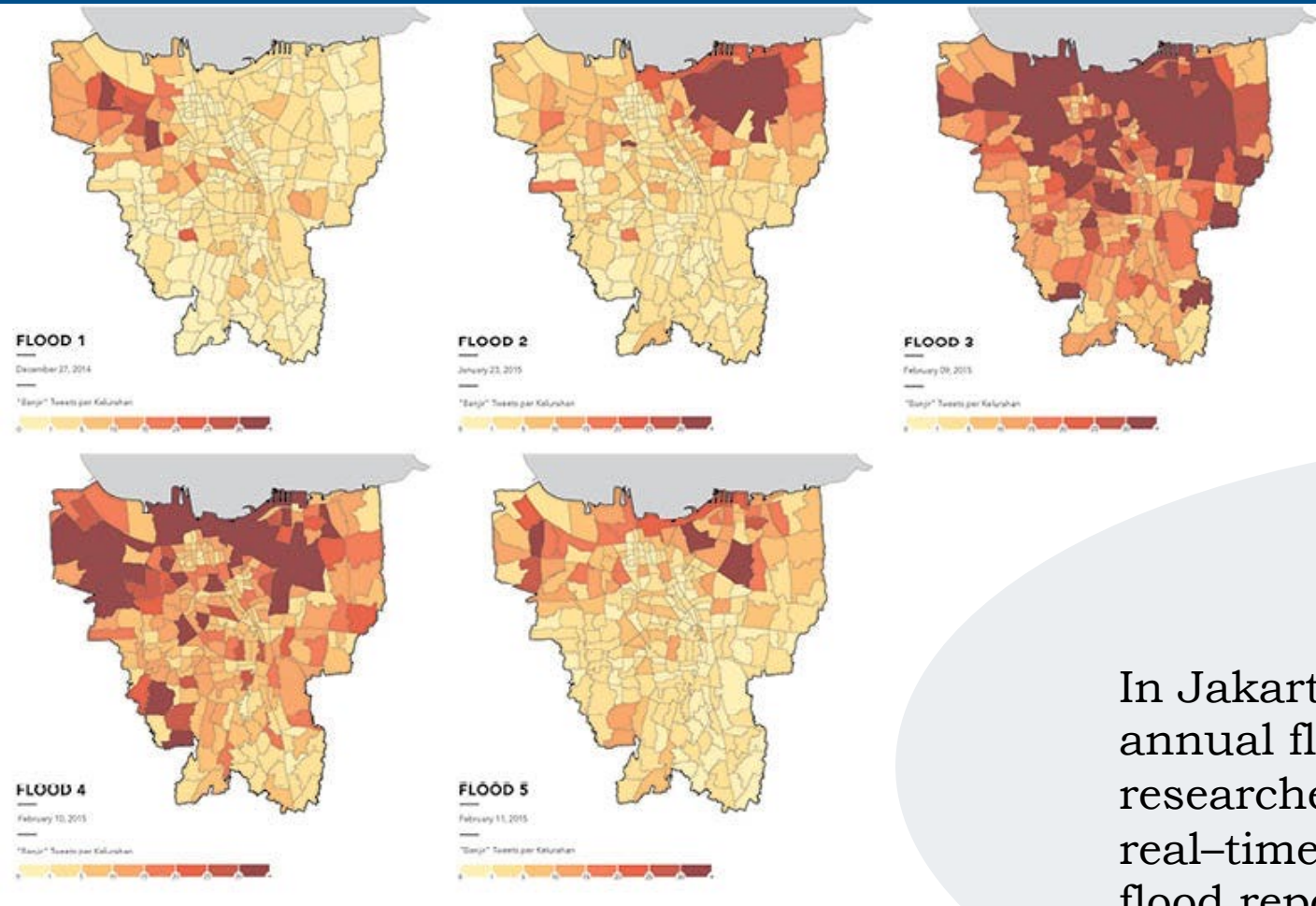


Co-created smart cities with citizens

**Civic Innovation Labs
to diagnose urban
issues and identifying
suitable smart city
solutions**

**Co-design and
implementation**

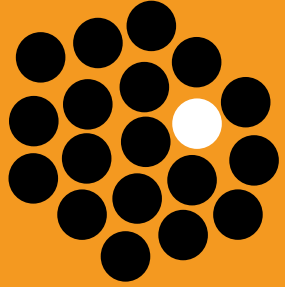
Crowdsourcing data



Crowdsourcing data

In Jakarta, a city which experiences severe annual flooding during the rainy season, researchers have developed PetaJakarta, a real-time map that crowdsources citizens flood reports from Twitter.

Source: <https://www.nesta.org.uk/feature/10-people-centred-smart-city-initiatives/petajakarta/>



**Smart cities for
ALL**

**Inclusive and
equitable cities**

**Reduce digital divide
for persons with
disability**



Smart Cities for All Toolkit

This toolkit contains resources to help Smart Cities worldwide include a focus on ICT accessibility and digital inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons.

The toolkit supports a range of organizations and roles related to Smart Cities, including program managers, policy makers, Chief Information Officers (CIOs), IT professionals, academics, procurement officials, accessibility experts, technology suppliers to Smart Cities, developers who design Smart City apps and solutions, and disability organizations and advocates

Smart Cities for All: Guide to Implementing Priority ICT Accessibility Standards

Accessible information and communications technology (ICT) standards are key to designing a more inclusive approach to Smart Cities. This guide provides an inventory of three key standards that define ICT accessibility criteria and presents a step-by-step checklist of impactful actions that leaders can take to ensure their city is aware of these standards and using them effectively.

Smart Cities for All: Guide to Adopting an ICT Accessibility Procurement Policy

Smart Cities worldwide are uniquely positioned to use their considerable purchasing power, including of ICTs, to advance the rights and digital inclusion of persons with disabilities and older persons. This guide helps cities adopt a policy that requires any ICT purchases be accessible to persons with disabilities and older persons. The guide showcases a model procurement policy and provides a step-by-step checklist for adopting it.

Guide to Implementing Priority ICT Accessibility Standards

Critical Technical Specifications to Support Digital Inclusion



Smart Cities for All

Smart cities for ALL Initiative

G3ict (Global Initiative for inclusive information and Technologies) and World Enabled launched the Smart Cities for All initiative to define the state of ICT accessibility in Smart Cities worldwide. Their focus is to eliminate the digital divide for persons with disabilities and older persons in Smart Cities around the world. They also provide toolkits containing resources to help smart cities include and focus on ICT accessibility and digital inclusion of people with disabilities and old age.

‘Nextbangalore’

In Bangalore, local NGO the MOD Institute enabled residents to create a community vision for the future of the Shanthingar neighbourhood of the city by encouraging online debate. The project identified abandoned urban spaces as a major issue of concern for residents and created software which residents will be able to use to map these spaces via smartphone and SMS.





Building
technological
capacity

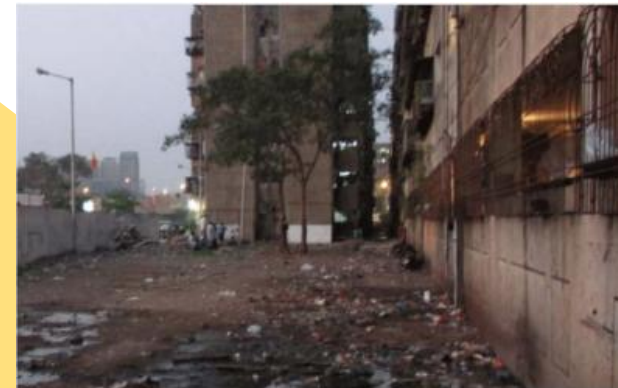
Invest in digital skills for citizens

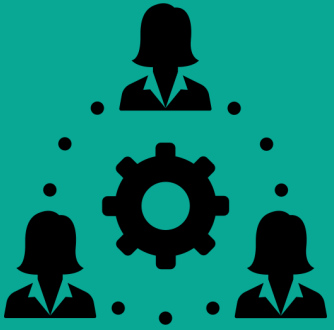


Using 'digital Lego', most poorest and neglected communities redesign their community space.

In Mumbai, MESN an NGO with UN-Habitat use Minecraft in its Block by Block program to encourage community involvement.

Residents are given a laptop with the Minecraft model. They learn the game in a matter of minutes or hours, and everyone pitches in on the redesign.





Collaborative Governance

‘Investing in smarter ways to use resources’

In Paris, ‘Madame Mayor, I have an idea’ is a participatory budgeting process that lets citizens propose and vote on ideas for projects in Paris. The process will allocate 500m Euros between 2014 and 2020.

Collaborative Economy: Smarter way to use city resources

**Engagement of multi-stakeholders;
NGO, Private sector**

Engagement of all tiers of government

Sharing cities model



Towards smart cities in Myanmar



Yangon

- Conservation of Yangon city downtown area
- Low cost rental housing and transit oriented development

Mandalay

- Traffic congestion management
- Solid waste and waste water treatment



Nay Pyi Taw

- Affordable housing and low-cost housing
- International comprehensive university

Safeguards

In the absence of public oversight and accountability, data on individuals and communities is being extensively recorded, often by private companies, raising concerns around privacy, surveillance, data sovereignty and individual autonomy.

- Ensure that human rights obligations apply online as they do offline.
- Integration of security and privacy-preserving mechanisms must be a key concern.
- Consider issues such as transparency, ownership, ensure that citizens have a clear understanding of how and why data is being used.
- Need to inform and engage with the communities that will receive these benefits of data collection, to ensure that communities agree to releasing data.
- Ensuring that data is not used in any way that discriminates individuals or populations.



Move the discussion about smart cities beyond technology and link it to the implementation of the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

Thank you!