

Concept Note
Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) on
Shaping Urban Futures in Sustainable Housing, Mobility and Green
Infrastructure in Amman, Jordan

Date: 9-10 oct 2024

Venue: Intercontinental Amman, Jordan

Mode: Hybrid

Schedule:
UTC sessions and workshop

Target Audience: Policymakers, government officials, urban planners, academics, civil society organizations,
community leaders

Estimated Participation: Approx. 150 individuals

Lead organizer (Host):
Road Safety Center of Excellence/ German Jordanian University/ Amman, Jordan

Co-Organizers:
Connective Cities, MENA region, regional office in Amman, Jordan
UHPH-MENA by Habitat for Humanity International
Habitat For Humanity Jordan
Resilient Urban Planning and development (RUPD) GbR, Düsseldorf, Germany
Technical University of Berlin, Habitat Unit, Berlin, Germany
Road Safety Management, School of engineering ESIB - Saint-Joseph University of Beirut

Introduction

The UTC is an initiative led by the World Urban Campaign, which is driven by UN-Habitat. It serves as an inclusive forum for meaningful dialogue among urban researchers, practitioners, and policymakers, aimed at fostering constructive urban change. The UTC functions as a collaborative platform, fostering partnerships and alliances to advance the realization of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda.

Amman, like many rapidly urbanizing cities, is experiencing significant population growth, accompanied by challenges such as housing shortages, traffic congestion, environmental degradation, and the integration of refugee populations. As the city struggles with these complex issues, it becomes increasingly crucial to explore innovative and sustainable solutions that prioritize the well-being of its residents while fostering environmental stewardship and social equity.

The central focus of the UTC revolves around three interconnected pillars:

1. **Sustainable housing:** Sustainable housing encompasses initiatives aimed at providing affordable, accessible, and environmentally friendly housing options for all residents of Amman. This includes exploring alternative construction methods, promoting energy-efficient building designs, and addressing affordability challenges through innovative financing mechanisms.
2. **Sustainable mobility:** Mobility plays a pivotal role in shaping urban life in Amman. With increasing congestion and pollution levels, there is a pressing need to enhance the city's transportation infrastructure and promote sustainable modes of travel. By investing in public transit systems, pedestrian-friendly infrastructure, and cycling networks, we can create a more inclusive and efficient urban mobility ecosystem that reduces reliance on private vehicles and mitigates environmental impacts.
3. **Green infrastructure:** Green infrastructure emerges as a critical component of sustainable urban development in Amman. Green infrastructure initiatives, such as urban parks, green roofs, and permeable pavements, offer multiple benefits, including improved air and water quality, enhanced biodiversity, and climate resilience. By integrating green spaces into the urban fabric, we can create healthier, more resilient communities while mitigating the impacts of climate change.

The UTC Objectives

1. **Enhancing Awareness of Urban Challenges:** Raise awareness among local municipalities, policymakers, and communities about the multifaceted challenges associated with rapid urbanization, including housing, climate resilience, and traffic management in Amman.
2. **Fostering Collaborative Multi-Stakeholder Engagement:** Strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement by convening experts, academia, policymakers, NGOs, community leaders, and private sector representatives in Amman as well as facilitate inclusive discussions and collaboration to ensure a comprehensive and collective approach to addressing the intertwined challenges of urban development.
3. **Promoting Innovative Solutions for Sustainable Urban Development:** Encourage the development of new, replicable, and innovative solutions to navigate the challenges and showcase successful case studies and best practices from diverse contexts to inspire creative approaches to sustainable urban development in the city.
4. **Creating Commitment-Building Platforms for Stakeholders:** Establish a platform for stakeholders to converge, exchange ideas, and build commitments to address urgent issues in Amman and facilitate collaborative initiatives that foster collective responsibility and commitment toward achieving sustainable and resilient urban development in the city.
5. **Integrating Local Knowledge with Scientific Perspectives:** Emphasize the integration of local knowledge and perspectives into discussions and promote a holistic approach that blends local wisdom with scientific insights to develop contextually relevant and effective solutions for sustainable urban development.
6. **Localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):** Localize relevant SDGs to ensure that initiatives and strategies align with the specific needs and contexts of Amman and facilitate discussions and actions that contribute to achieving SDGs related to urbanization, affordable housing, climate action, and sustainable communities at the local level in Amman.

Expected Outcomes and Impacts

1. Informed Urban Policies and Strategies:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC aims to generate insights and discussions that will inform urban policies and strategies, fostering sustainable and inclusive urban development.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Local municipalities and urban planners will benefit from informed policies, leading to improved living conditions and enhanced urban resilience.

2. Strengthened Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC intends to strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement by bringing together experts, academia, policymakers, community leaders, and various stakeholders.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Enhanced collaboration fosters collective responsibility, empowering communities and creating a network of support for sustainable urban initiatives.

3. Innovative Solutions for Urban Challenges:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC aims to encourage the development of innovative and replicable solutions for challenges related to housing, traffic, and environmental concerns.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Implementation of innovative solutions contributes to improved urban infrastructure, making cities more resilient and adaptive.

4. Localized and Contextually Relevant Approaches:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC emphasizes the integration of local knowledge and perspectives into discussions, promoting contextually relevant and effective solutions.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Tailoring strategies to local contexts ensures that urban development initiatives resonate with the specific needs and characteristics of each community.

5. Climate Resilience and Environmental Sustainability:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC focuses on climate action and sustainable practices to mitigate environmental impacts associated with urban expansion.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Implementation of eco-friendly building practices and energy-efficient transportation contributes to climate resilience, ensuring a more sustainable and environmentally conscious urban environment.

6. Empowered Communities and Inclusive Development:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC aims to foster social inclusivity, community engagement, and well-being through initiatives that cater to the diverse needs of residents.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Inclusive development reduces inequalities, promotes accessibility, and enhances the overall well-being of urban communities.

7. Knowledge Sharing and Capacity Building:

- *Anticipated Result:* The UTC endeavors to facilitate knowledge sharing and city-to-city learning, creating a dynamic space for the exchange of ideas and best practices.
- *Impact on Cities and Communities:* Empowering stakeholders with knowledge and building capacities contribute to effective urban planning and implementation of sustainable practices.

Agenda

| Day One 9/10/2024 | | |
|--|---|--------|
| Registration: 09:00-10:00 am | | |
| Opening Session 10:00 - 11:15 am | | |
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| Segment | Speakers | Time |
| Introduction | Director of Road Safety Center of Excellence: Dr.-Ing. Farah AlAtrash | 5 min |
| Welcome Remarks | President of GJU, Prof. Ala'aldeen Al-Halhouli | 5 min |
| Special Keynote | H.E. Minister of Public Works and Housing | 10 min |
| Special Keynote | Greater Amman Municipality | 10 min |
| Keynote Speech | Connective Cities, GIZ, Dr. Ing. Muna Shalan | 10 min |
| Keynote Speech | UN-Habitat Jordan Office: Arch. Deema Abu Thiab | 10 min |
| Keynote Speech | Manager for Jordan Country Program & MENA Region, Mousa Naffa | 10 min |
| Closing Remarks/ Sponsors recognition | | 15 min |
| Break 11:15-11:30 am | | |
| Urban Lab 1: Global Exchange for Prioritizing Measures, Action Planning, and Inter-City Learning 11:30-1:00 pm | | |
| Moderator: Dr. Parisa Kloss | | |
| | Speakers | Time |
| | Mrs. Annette Hennemann, Green Space Office, Darmstadt, Germany | 15 min |
| | Mr.Ashraf Eid, National Director, Egypt - Habitat for Humanity International | 15 min |
| | Mr. Ulrich Dilger, Urban Planning Office, Fellbach, Germany | 15 min |
| | Prof. Wassim Raphael, Dean, Faculty of engineering, Road safety management, Saint Joseph University of Beirut | 15 min |
| | Mr. Paul Hartmann, climate protection coordinator- Warendorf, Germany | 15 min |
| | Discussion / Q&A | 12 min |
| | Wrap up | 3 min |
| Lunch Break 01:00 - 02:30 pm | | |
| Urban Lab 2: Raising awareness, understanding challenges, and identifying related measures 02:30-03:55 pm | | |
| Moderator: Arch. Leen Fakhoury | | |
| | Speakers | Time |
| | Greater Amman Municipality, Eng. Nisreen Daoud & Eng. Riyadh AlKarabsheh | 20 min |
| | Ministry of Transport, Eng. Hala Arar, | 20 min |
| | Green Building Council, Eng. Ghayda' Salameh | 15 min |
| | HFH Jordan, Mohammed Salem, Senior Program Manager | 15 min |
| | Discussion / Q&A | 12 min |
| | Wrap up | 3 min |
| Day Two 10/10/2024 | | |
| Opening Panel Discussion Urban Sustainable Mobility 9:30 am-10:15 am | | |
| Moderator: Dr. Farah AlAtrash | | |
| | Speakers | Time |
| | Greater Amman Municipality: Eng. Hind AlHyari | |
| | Jordan Traffic Institute - Public Security Directorate, Eng. Mohammad Aqabawi | |
| | AlManaseer Oil and Gas, Dr Mohanad Al Halawani | |
| | BDO Jordan, Eng. Azzam Hamideh | |
| | Discussion / Q&A | |
| | Wrap up | |
| Coffee Break 10:15-10:30 pm | | |
| Urban Lab 3: Transforming Vision into Action: Achieving Comprehensive, Innovative, and Replicable Results for SDG and NUA Implementation in Jordan 10:30 am-12:30 pm | | |
| Moderators: Dr. Hassan Elmouelhi, Dr. Parisa Kloss | | |

| Workshop | | Time |
|--|--|-------------|
| Introduction: Localizing SDGs Approach | | 5 min |
| Part 1: Assessing cities performance towards SDGs (SDGs Wheel) by City WORKS Tool | | 100 min |
| Discussion / UTC Wrap up 12:30 pm – 12:40 pm | | |
| Discussion / UTC Wrap up UTC conclusion, sharing findings and reflecting them among participants | | 15 min |

| Urban Lab 1: Global Exchange for Prioritizing Measures, Action Planning, and Inter-City Learning | |
|---|---|
| Focus Areas | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Showcasing Successful Initiatives and Best Practices: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Presentations and case studies will spotlight successful initiatives and best practices from cities worldwide, focusing on sustainable housing, mobility solutions, climate resilience, and community engagement. ● Examples may include innovative approaches to addressing housing shortages, promoting eco-friendly transportation, implementing green infrastructure, and fostering inclusive urban development. 2. Learning Sessions and Knowledge Extraction: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants will actively engage in learning sessions to extract valuable insights from the showcased initiatives and best practices. ● Discussions will center on understanding the critical success factors and lessons learned from the implementation of these initiatives. 3. Adaptability and Relevance to Jordan: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Participants will deliberate on the adaptability and relevance of the presented experiences to the specific context of Jordan. ● Consideration will be given to local socio-economic, cultural, and environmental factors that may influence the applicability and effectiveness of these practices in Amman. 4. Stimulating Innovative Thinking: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The lab aims to stimulate innovative thinking by exposing participants to diverse approaches and strategies. ● Discussions will explore novel technologies, community-based interventions, and policy measures that could be tailored and applied effectively within the context of urban development in Amman. |
| Urban Lab 2: Raising awareness, understanding challenges, and identifying related measures | |
| Focus Areas | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Enhancing Awareness and Understanding: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Delve into the unique challenges faced by Amman, including rapid urbanization, housing shortages, climate change impacts, and mobility issues. ● Analyze the specific repercussions of these challenges on urban communities and development in Amman. ● Emphasize the interconnectedness of these challenges and their implications for sustainable urban futures. 2. Collaborative Brainstorming and Knowledge Sharing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Facilitate interactive sessions to encourage participants to generate innovative solutions and strategies for housing, mobility, and environmental sustainability. ● Foster a culture of knowledge exchange, drawing on diverse perspectives and experiences among participants. ● Identify and showcase successful case studies and best practices that can offer insights and inspiration for addressing Amman's urban challenges in housing and mobility. 3. Promoting Multi-Stakeholder Collaboration: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Highlight the importance of collaboration among stakeholders from various sectors in addressing complex urban issues related to housing and mobility. ● Discuss the advantages of active engagement and cooperation in tackling challenges effectively. <p>Explore mechanisms for fostering meaningful partnerships and alliances to implement sustainable solutions in Amman, particularly in the areas of housing affordability and accessible mobility options.</p> |
| Urban Lab 3: Transforming Vision into Action: Achieving Comprehensive, Innovative, and Replicable Results for SDG and NUA Implementation in Jordan | |
| Focus Areas | <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Localizing SDGs in Housing, Mobility, and Climate Resilience: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Lab 3 will focus on localizing Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) within the specific context of housing, mobility, and climate resilience across diverse cities. ● Participants will explore how the targets of the SDGs can be applied and adapted to address housing and mobility challenges while enhancing climate resilience at the local level. 2. Evaluation of Local Urban Areas: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Utilizing tools such as the City WORKS Tool developed by GIZ, participants will assess the alignment of their local urban areas with the targets of the SDGs. ● Through structured evaluation exercises, participants will identify areas of alignment and areas requiring improvement concerning housing, mobility, and climate resilience. 3. Group Discussions and Mapping Exercises: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● The lab will facilitate group discussions where participants can exchange insights, experiences, and challenges related to localizing SDGs in their respective cities. |

- Mapping exercises will be conducted to visually represent the spatial distribution of housing, mobility challenges, climate vulnerabilities, and SDG targets within urban areas.

4. Ranking Exercises and Action Planning:

- Participants will participate in ranking exercises to prioritize SDG targets, stakeholder engagement strategies, and action areas for localizing the SDGs.
- The lab will conclude with action planning sessions where participants will delineate concrete steps, establish timelines, and assign responsibilities for implementing localized SDG initiatives in their cities.