



BUILDING BACK BETTER FOR CLIMATE AND RESILIENT SUSTAINABLE TRANSITIONS

In response to rapid urbanization and its associated challenges, the FAO GCI has played a pivotal role in promoting sustainable urban development worldwide. By addressing critical gaps in urban planning, particularly in integrating agriculture, food systems, and forestry, the subprogramme has empowered local governments to craft sustainable solutions to environmental and public health issues. This subprogramme was successfully implemented in ten countries including (RAF: Cameroon, Chad, Côte d'Ivoire, Senegal, Rwanda, Uganda, RAP: Bangladesh, Sri Lanka, RLC: Dominica, Honduras). It significantly contributed to multiple SDGs, including SDG 1 No Poverty, SDG 2 Zero Hunger, SDG 5 Gender Equality, SDG 11 Sustainable Cities and Communities, SDG 13 Climate Action, and SDG 15 Life on Land.

The subprogramme collaborated closely with stakeholders within urban contexts, including city planners, municipal entities, NGOs and CSOs, and educational institutions, ensuring broad engagement and ownership, to address issues such as food waste, urban farming, and multi-stakeholder engagement. Ultimately, the beneficiaries are the city dwellers, particularly the most vulnerable, women, and youth.



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WHAT DID THE PROJECT DO?

This subprogramme contributed to meeting the growing needs of local governments for assistance in incorporating urban and peri-urban agriculture, forestry, and food systems into their policies, planning, and initiatives, crafting sustainable solutions to today's environmental and public health issues.

It played a vital role in the broader Green Cities Action Programme and connected with parallel initiatives, including the Green Cities Regional Action Programme for Africa (GC-RAPA).

Specifically, the subprogramme devised the necessary tools, methods, and guidelines to empower city and municipal stakeholders to tailor green city interventions to their unique needs and circumstances.

Key achievements include: i) hosting numerous global and regional events to raise awareness about GCI, resulting in increased interest and partnerships at various levels; ii) establishing multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms supporting urban forestry, agriculture, and food systems integration into policy and planning processes; iii) implementing quick-win actions and capacity building initiatives in selected cities, leading to the launch of pilot projects and a significant increase in participant engagement; and iv) scaling up GCI actions beyond project scope, with additional cities expressing interest and FAO surpassing its target of engaging 100 cities by 2023.

IMPACT

The subprogramme promoted urban participation in agrifood systems, creating decent jobs that support the poor and vulnerable, ensuring equal access to economic resources, and reducing exposure to climate-related and other economic, social, and environmental shocks. It also aided local institutions in developing integrated urban plans, enhancing urban and peri-urban agriculture and forestry, thus providing more accessible and nutritious food to urban and nearby populations.

KEY FACTS

Latest Approved Budget
USD 1 000 000

Duration
August 2021-December 2023

Resource Partners
Multilateral, Donors of the Flexible Voluntary Contribution (FVC)

Partners
Economic and Relations Division, Ministry of Finance (Bangladesh); FEICOM (Fonds Special d'Equipement et d'Intervention Intercommunale, Cameroon); District Autonome d'Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire); Los despachos de Agricultura y Ganaderia (Honduras); Municipality of Colombo (Sri Lanka); Ministry of Environment (Chad); Ministry of Agriculture (Senegal), Municipality of Kigali (Rwanda), Municipality of Kampala (Uganda); Municipality of Roseau (Dominica)

Beneficiaries
City dwellers, particularly women and youth

IMPACT (continued)

Activities promoted global and regional awareness, encouraging cities to adopt sustainable practices. Training and stakeholder frameworks supported inclusive urban planning and governance, and the initiative enhanced cities' abilities to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts through awareness and training programmes, thereby strengthening urban climate resilience. Lastly, the subprogramme contributed to enhancing urban ecosystems, especially multifunctional green spaces, promoting biodiversity and environmental health.

ACTIVITIES

- Build the capacity of FAO regional and subregional offices and undertake awareness raising campaigns and regional consultations to support the establishment of regional GCI networks/alliances (including establishing a SIDS GCI alliance).
- Creation of a global “web platform” - GCI website (<https://www.fao.org/green-cities-initiative/en>) to as well as two publications (see <https://www.fao.org/urban-peri-urban-agriculture/en>) to host information/opportunities on city-to-city exchanges, twinning and peer-to-peer cooperation, as well as for the exchange of good practices and information, in collaboration with relevant existing networks.
- Creation and validation of an indicator framework, based on the City Region Food System (CRFS) Indicator Framework (<https://www.fao.org/in-action/food-for-cities-programme/toolkit/introduction/en/>) and the Milan Urban Food Policy Pact (MUFPP) Indicator Framework (<https://openknowledge.fao.org/handle/20.500.14283/ca6144en>) for monitoring purposes as well as potentially supporting a GCI recognition scheme.
- Creation of an FAO GCI “handbook” and education resources (i.e. GCI challenge badge <https://www.fao.org/yunga/resources/challenge-badges/en/>) for municipalities to ensure engagement of different stakeholders and the general public (including youth education and empowerment).
- Revision of local policy frameworks and plans, mapping of stakeholder vulnerability risk and identification of “hotspots” where urgent integrated actions are required also with the use of geospatial database and tools.
- Creation of action labs and development of capacity on integrating urban food systems, urban forestry and urban agriculture into urban planning (training of local trainers and action-oriented courses) based on the training package developed through the MDF project “Green Cities and Regional Action Programme for Africa”.
- Facilitation for the establishment of multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms (e.g. Policy Councils or similar mechanisms) or the integration into existing multi-stakeholder governance mechanisms to support the identification of hotspots and the development of action plans.
- Development of a “lessons learned package” for use by other cities for their planning purposes.
- Development of a local call for innovative integrative GCI interventions and select and fund the best one in each country through a competitive process based on criteria identified by local governments in collaboration with FAO and partners.
- Support for the development and implementation of local actions related to urban and peri-urban forestry, urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban food systems including their integration into local planning strategies.

Project Title
Green Cities Initiative (GCI):
Building Back Better for
Climate and Resilient
Sustainable Transitions

Project Code
FAO: FMM/GLO/160/MUL

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SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



Partnerships and Outreach
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