

Building Inclusive Cities

A Review of Youth Urban Governance in Asia-Pacific



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Introduction

This report presents findings from an extensive mapping of Youth Urban Governance initiatives in the Asia-Pacific region. The analysis aims to inform the strategic vision of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and other interested stakeholders in the region, and to contribute to advancing the work on Youth Urban Governance.

This initiative builds on the work of the Governance and Peacebuilding team in the Bangkok Regional Hub, in collaboration with the regional Youth Team. By evaluating the data and highlighting emerging trends, the report identifies opportunities for strengthened support and outlines pathways for Youth Urban Governance engagement.

Background

According to the [UNDESA World Urbanisation Prospects 2025](#), cities are already home to around 47% of the world's 8.2 billion people in 2025, and towns for 36%, while rural areas account for just 17%. Asia and the Pacific is now the centre of gravity of global urbanisation, making it the epicentre of urban complexity and opportunity. Asia alone hosts most of the world's megacities (urban areas with populations of 10 million or more), having nine of the ten most populous cities in 2025, with Jakarta ranked first, followed by Dhaka and Tokyo. The region will add hundreds of millions of new city and town residents by 2050, a transformation unmatched anywhere else in the world.

Cities are expanding at speed, absorbing new populations and reshaping settlement patterns. Demographic shifts, technological disruption and accelerating climate impacts are interacting with longstanding infrastructure deficits and social inequalities. These pressures are stretching the capacity of urban institutions and service systems, exposing gaps in coordination, planning and responsiveness. Many of these megacities rank among the world's least liveable: Jakarta (132nd), Delhi (145th), and Dhaka near the bottom, according to the [Economist Intelligence Unit](#). This scale of urbanisation presents both immense potential and significant risk: poorly managed growth could exacerbate inequality, environmental degradation, and governance deficits, while inclusive and accountable urban governance could unlock pathways to resilience, innovation, and prosperity.

At the same time, broader governance reforms and socio-political dynamics are altering the urban landscape. Decentralisation and the growing importance of intermediary cities are redistributing responsibilities across levels of government. Digital technologies are transforming how information is produced, shared and acted upon. Questions of spatial equity, informality and climate vulnerability are moving closer to the centre of policy debates. Together, these developments are pushing cities away from purely administrative or sector-siloed approaches and toward governance models that must manage complexity, uncertainty and diverse claims on urban space and resources.

Within this context, the way governance is conceptualised matters. It shapes which actors are recognised as legitimate, which forms of knowledge count in decision-making and how institutional responsibilities are defined. UNDP has long recognised that accountable, inclusive and effective governance is essential to human development and crucial for achieving sustainable development.

Youth are at the heart of this challenge and opportunity. The Asia-Pacific region hosts approximately 1.1 billion young people aged 15–29, representing nearly 60% of the global youth population. This

demographic strength, combined with the digital proficiency of young generations, positions youth as key actors in transforming urban governance. Recent youth-led movements and protests in cities across Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Indonesia, and Nepal highlight growing demands for accountability, transparency, and responsive governance. Beyond social movements, youth are driving innovation through CivicTech, climate action, and social entrepreneurship, offering practical solutions to urban challenges.

However, harnessing this potential requires systemic change. Institutions and development partners must create inclusive spaces for youth participation, ensure their voices influence policy and planning, and translate engagement into tangible outcomes. Youth Urban Governance is not limited to consultation; it encompasses co-creation of policies, participatory budgeting, digital governance, and leadership in urban resilience and sustainability. UNDP is committed to advancing these goals through a people-centred, systemic approach that leverages digitalisation, fosters intergenerational dialogue, and strengthens accountability mechanisms at all levels of urban governance.¹

Understanding the Youth Urban Governance Concept

Urban governance is commonly defined as “*the process by which governments and stakeholders collectively decide how to plan, finance, and manage urban areas.*”² This definition emphasises ‘decision-making processes’ rather than formal institutions alone. Historically, many governance arrangements in the region were organised around a state-centric model in which public agencies were the primary drivers of planning and service delivery. Practice across Asia-Pacific, however, has shown that cities function more effectively where governance systems are inclusive and participatory.

Civil society organisations, neighbourhood associations, professional networks and social movements now routinely contribute to problem identification, agenda-setting, co-developing solutions and monitoring. Participatory planning exercises, co-design initiatives, community scorecards and digital consultation platforms are examples of how residents are increasingly involved in shaping urban priorities and holding institutions to account. This broader understanding is foundational for situating young people as governance actors rather than solely as service users or advocacy constituencies.

Youth Urban Governance does not denote a separate governance model operating alongside existing systems. Rather, it refers to how young people are incorporated into and act within urban governance arrangements that are themselves becoming more dynamic, participatory and digitally mediated.

Youth Urban Governance can be understood along three interlinked dimensions:

- 1. Positioning of Youth Within Governance Systems:** Young people may appear as beneficiaries of services, as participants in consultation processes, as civic innovators who design tools and platforms, or as institutional partners engaged in co-decision-making. A governance-focused perspective is interested in the extent to which youth move along this spectrum, from recipients to co-creators and co-governors.

¹ UNDP (2025). Rethinking Urban Governance for Tomorrow’s Cities in Asia-Pacific: Insights from Bangkok, Beijing, Ahmadabad and Iloilo.

<https://www.undp.org/asia-pacific/publications/rethinking-urban-governance-tomorrows-cities-asia-pacific>

² Avis, W. R. (2016). *Urban Governance* [Topic guide]. University of Birmingham.

2. **Forms of Contribution and Influence:** Youth shape governance through multiple modalities — generating and interpreting data about urban conditions; identifying and framing problems; designing and testing policy or technological solutions; mobilising constituencies; and monitoring institutional performance. These activities may occur through formal structures (such as youth councils or advisory boards) or through more hybrid and digital spaces (such as civic-tech platforms, social enterprises or informal networks).
3. **Effects on Governance Practices and Architectures:** Youth engagement can also alter how decisions are made, who is involved, what information is considered and how institutions respond. This can include the creation of new participation channels, changes to planning or budgeting procedures, integration of youth-generated data, making processes youth and gender sensitive/responsive or the institutionalisation of youth roles in oversight and co-design.

Within this report, Youth Urban Governance is therefore understood as:

The constellation of processes, mechanisms and practices through which young people engage with, influence and co-create the planning, delivery and oversight of urban policies, services and spaces, including through digital tools and civic innovation, in ways that shape how cities are governed and how they respond to present and future challenges.

Effective urban governance, anchored in principles of accountability, transparency, participation, and inclusion, is essential for building cities that are equitable, resilient, and responsive to the needs of all residents. Within this framework, youth engagement is not only a democratic imperative but also a strategic opportunity to harness innovation, energy, and digital fluency for shaping urban futures.

Methodology

This mapping drew on more than 1,000 initiatives identified through desk research and internal UNDP sources (see Appendix). Initiatives were sourced from organisational websites, project pages, social media, news articles and reports. From this universe, entries were screened against three criteria: (i) an explicit or clearly demonstrable urban focus; (ii) clear relevance to youth, either as a primary target group or as governance actors; and (iii) documented activity at some point in the last ten years. Broader youth democracy, rural governance and generic youth empowerment programmes were excluded unless they had a clear urban focus, while urban projects without a discernible youth component were not retained.

The analytical framework was operationalised through a coding manual defining key variables (youth roles, institutional type, programmatic modalities, urban governance domains and cross-cutting lenses), operational definitions and decision rules. As coding progressed, the lead author and supporting online UN Volunteers refined the manual to address ambiguous cases and ensure consistent classification. Using the refined framework, all entries were reviewed, and the scope was narrowed to 106 initiatives that clearly met the working definition of Youth Urban Governance.

A specific methodological issue concerned the identification of youth-led (“by youth”) initiatives. For this mapping, youth-led initiatives were those that explicitly self-identified as youth-led or were demonstrably student-led, including at the time of founding, based on converging publicly available information; where evidence was ambiguous, initiatives were coded conservatively. The study relies on publicly available online information and necessarily involves judgment, so the findings should be

read as a structured snapshot rather than an exhaustive census. Further, the mapping is also likely biased toward initiatives that maintain an online presence in English, and may therefore under-represent locally rooted, informally organised or non-English-language youth initiatives.

Profile of Mapped Initiatives: Who, Where, What and For Whom?

This mapping identified a total of 106 Youth Urban Governance initiatives. These initiatives vary widely in scale, institutional anchoring and degree of youth involvement, but together they provide a useful snapshot of where and how Youth Urban Governance activity is taking place. The following subsections describe four basic dimensions of this landscape: the scales at which initiatives operate, their country distribution, the institutional actors involved and the roles that youth play within them, and the duration and current status of initiatives.

Scale of Operation

While focusing on urban governance, the mapped initiatives operate across multiple territorial scales, from city/town(s) level (local) to state/province(s) level (subnational), national, regional and global levels. The largest concentrations are found at the local, national and subnational levels, with 30 (28%) local initiatives, 27 (25%) national initiatives and 27 (25%) subnational initiatives. At the same time, a significant share of initiatives function across borders or at higher governance scales, including approximately 10 multi-country initiatives, 8 regional initiatives, 7 global initiatives and 4 subregional initiatives.³ Rather than being peripheral, these efforts often provide the normative frameworks, platforms and resources that enable and connect local and national work. They support cross-country/cities learning, develop shared methodologies, convene youth and institutional actors from different contexts, and create common reference points for what youth engagement in urban governance can look like.

This distribution points to a multi-layered ecosystem of Youth Urban Governance. Local, subnational and national initiatives remain the primary arenas where policies are implemented, and services are delivered, while regional, subregional and global initiatives play a complementary enabling role in shaping agendas, diffusing practice and building capacity across the region.

Country Distribution

Geographically, the mapped initiatives span 22 countries and four regional and subregional groupings. There are notable concentrations in a small number of countries: India (17) and the Philippines (13) together account for a substantial share of the mapped landscape, followed by Indonesia, Bangladesh and China (8 each), and Nepal and the Republic of Korea (7 each). Smaller clusters are observed in countries such as Viet Nam, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Fiji, Timor-Leste and several Pacific Island states, alongside regional groupings for Asia–Pacific, South-East Asia, South Asia and the Pacific Islands region.

³ Some were implemented at multiple levels, i.e. Local and National, Local and Multi-country etc.



Figure 1 - Distribution of Initiatives by Country

This distribution suggests that Youth Urban Governance is emerging in a range of contexts, from larger middle-income countries with sizeable urban populations to smaller, often more climate-vulnerable settings. It also highlights uneven coverage: some subregions, particularly parts of the Pacific and secondary cities in low-capacity environments, are less represented in the current mapping, partly reflecting differences in documentation, donor presence and digital visibility.

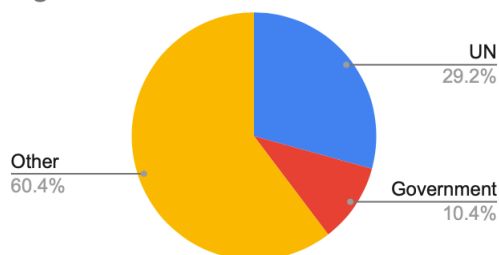
Institutional Landscape and Youth Roles

Two related questions are important for understanding the landscape of Youth Urban Governance:

1. Which institutions anchor initiatives, and
2. how young people are positioned within them.

The first speaks to where formal authority and resources sit; the second to whether youth appear mainly as participants, beneficiaries, partners or leaders. This subsection looks at both dimensions and how they intersect.

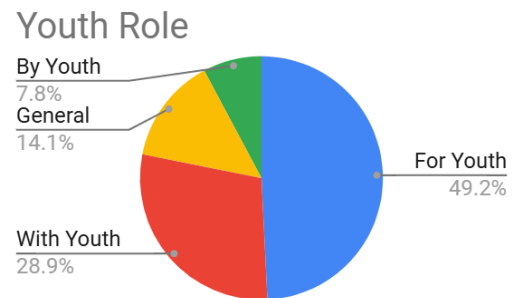
Agencies



The 106 initiatives are implemented by three broad categories of actors: 31 (29%) are led or implemented by UN entities, 11 by government bodies, and 64 (60%) by other actors, including civil society organisations, youth, social enterprises and hybrid public–private platforms. This institutional mix reflects the central role of UN and state institutions in convening and resourcing programmes, alongside a large and diverse field of non-state actors experimenting with new models and tools.

Across this institutional landscape, youth roles vary along a simple spectrum of “For Youth”, “With Youth” and “By Youth”. “For Youth” initiatives primarily target young people as primary users/participants; “With Youth” initiatives involve youth as partners or co-implementers; “By Youth” initiatives are youth-initiated or youth-led.

Initiatives can be coded in more than one category: for example, a programme may be both “for” and “with” youth if it combines targeted support with structured co-implementation. About 50% of the mapped initiatives are implemented ‘For Youth’, about 29% ‘With Youth’, and less than 8% ‘By Youth’. Because initiatives can carry more than one youth-role code, the counts for “for/with/by” exceed the number of initiatives within each institutional category.

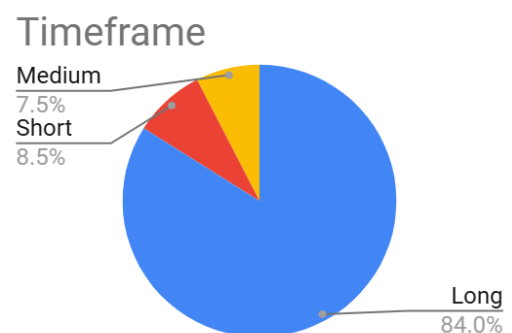


When these two dimensions are viewed together, a clear pattern emerges:

1. UN-implemented initiatives are predominantly “for youth”. Most UN-led initiatives in the sample explicitly target young people as a primary constituency, and a smaller subset also involves youth “with” programmes as partners or participants. None of the UN-led initiatives are coded as “by youth”, meaning youth do not appear as institutional owners or initiators in this category.
2. Government-led initiatives tend to work “with youth”. The majority of government initiatives are coded as “with youth”, indicating that youth participate or are consulted in design or implementation, while a smaller number are coded as “for youth”. As with UN initiatives, none are coded as “by youth”.
3. Other actors included all of the youth-led initiatives. Among initiatives implemented by civil society organisations, networks, social enterprises and other non-state actors, the youth role was “for” or “with” youth.

Duration and Status of Initiatives

In terms of continuity, the mapping shows that most initiatives are long-term (longer than 6 months of implementation) and a majority are currently active. 84% of the mapped initiatives are categorised as long-term initiatives, while 7.5% are of medium timeframe (2 weeks to 6 months) and 8.5% of short implementation timeframe (under 2 weeks).



On the other hand, 65 (61%) initiatives are currently active, while 41 (39%) are no longer active. Youth-led initiatives in particular tend to be medium- or long-term and are almost all currently active, reflecting the time and persistence shown by youth to build and maintain platforms, networks and tools that interface with governance systems.

Collectively, these basic descriptors (scale, geography, institutional anchoring, youth roles and duration) provide a descriptive profile of the Youth Urban Governance ecosystem in Asia-Pacific. The

following sections build on this profile by examining how these initiatives work programmatically, which governance functions they target, and how deeply youth are embedded as governance actors rather than only as recipients of services or awareness-raising efforts.

Findings

Programmatic Modalities: How Do Initiatives Work?

The mapping coded each initiative against a set of programmatic modalities, such as capacity building, dialogue, CivicTech or policy and institutional support. These describe the main ways in which youth and institutions interact. Each initiative could be tagged with multiple programmatic modalities, so the analysis below refers to the distribution and combination of modality-tags across the 106 initiatives. The coding framework distinguishes a range of programmatic modalities that recur throughout, such as Capacity Building, Dialogue, CivicTech, GovTech, Policy and Institutional Support, Co-designing Solutions, Conference, Research, Networking, Competition, Campaign and Public Outreach, etc.

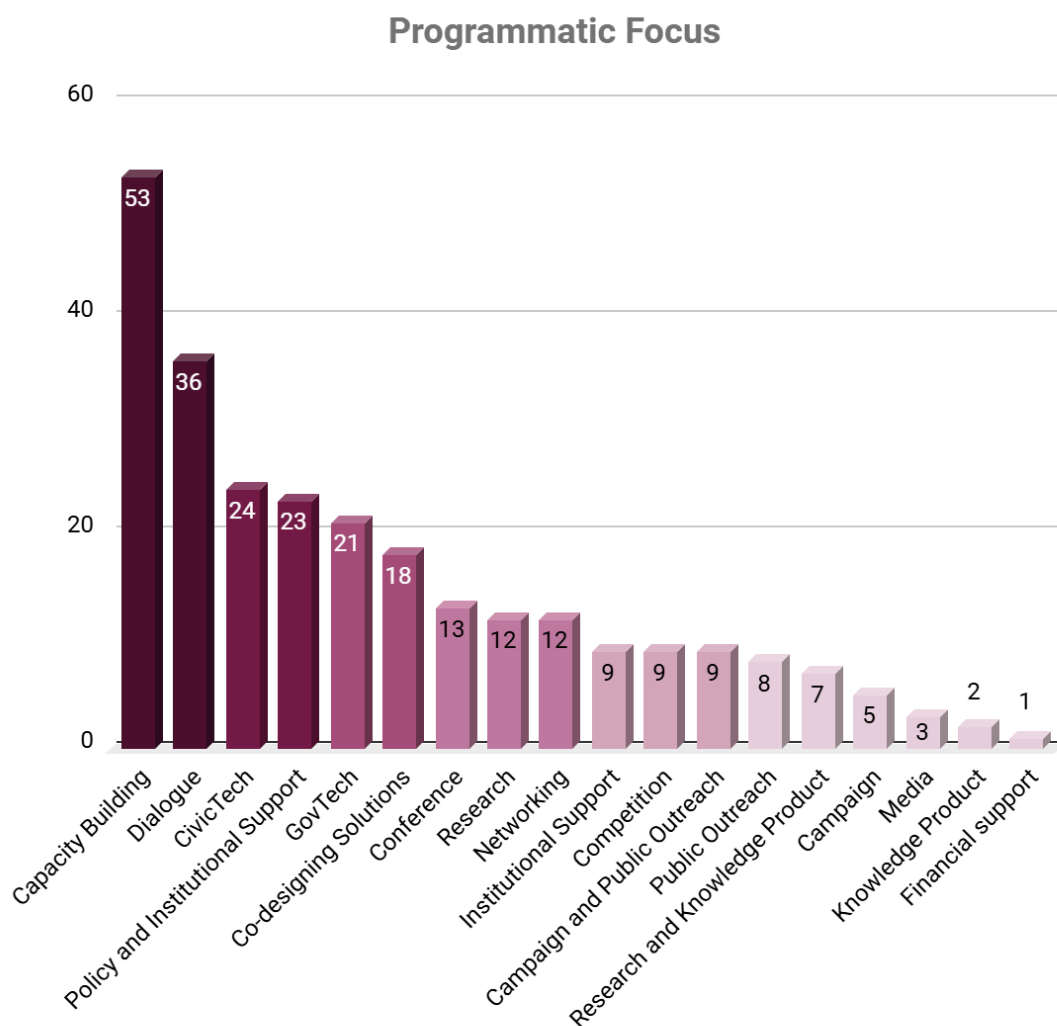


Figure 2 - Distribution of Initiatives by Programmatic Focus

Core Clusters of Programmatic Modalities

When grouped at this level, three broad clusters of programmatic modalities emerge.

First, learning and dialogue modalities are the most widespread. ‘Capacity Building’ is the most frequently used programming modality in Youth Urban Governance initiatives and appears across all institutional types and youth-role categories. It is often paired with ‘Dialogue’ and, to a lesser extent, ‘Policy and Institutional Support’. Together, the first two programmatic modalities focus on strengthening the skills, knowledge and confidence of young people and other stakeholders, and on creating spaces – online and offline – for consultation, exchange and relationship-building between youth, communities and institutions. Occasionally, they provide an important foundation towards policy and institutional support.

Second, a cluster of digital solutions and innovation is very dominant. GovTech & CivicTech is the largest cluster, grouping initiatives focused on digital governance and technology-driven solutions. It represents programs leveraging tech for citizen engagement and government efficiency in the Youth Urban Governance space. When more explicitly governance-facing, these modalities involve developing or deploying digital tools for participation or service access, modernising public systems and workflows. Where these modalities are present, youth are more likely to be involved in designing interfaces, developing solutions or generating and using data, rather than only being consulted from the outside.

Third, a set of campaigns, outreach and convening modalities complements these efforts. Campaigns and public outreach, media work, conferences, competitions and similar activities focus on visibility, agenda-setting and convening stakeholders around particular issues. They help to shape narratives, raise awareness of youth perspectives on urban governance and create entry points for new actors to become involved. Competitions and conferences can also act as gateways into more sustained collaboration when winning solutions, coalitions or ideas are taken up in later co-design or policy processes.

Research and knowledge products cut across these clusters. A notable number of initiatives generate evidence, map practices or document experiences as a core modality, either as standalone studies or in combination with dialogue, policy support or innovation. On their own, such activities inform debate and build shared understanding; when combined with other modalities, they can underpin more structured reforms and experimentation.

Overall, this distribution suggests that the current ecosystem of Youth Urban Governance initiatives is heavily oriented toward learning, dialogue and convening, while a smaller subset deploys digital and institutional modalities that are more tightly connected to the workings of governance systems.

Programmatic Modalities and Youth Role

The mix of programmatic modalities also varies with how initiatives position young people – as users/participants/beneficiaries (“for youth”), partners (“with youth”) or leaders (“by youth”).

Initiatives coded primarily as “for youth” tend to cluster around capacity building, dialogue, campaigns and conferences. Many of these programmes focus on equipping young people with knowledge of governance processes, rights and urban issues; creating spaces for them to voice concerns; and

raising the visibility of youth perspectives. Some “for youth” initiatives also incorporate light digital components, such as basic information portals or reporting tools, but the principal emphasis remains on preparation and exposure rather than on redesigning institutional mechanisms.

Initiatives coded as “with youth” are more likely to combine learning and dialogue with policy and institutional support or co-designing solutions. In these cases, young people are engaged not only as participants in workshops or public events but as recurring interlocutors in programme implementation – for example, through advisory groups, structured consultation cycles or ongoing partnerships with local authorities. The modality mix signals a shift from one-off engagement toward more collaborative work on how specific services, policies or participatory processes are organised.

The relatively small group of initiatives coded as “by youth” shows a different pattern. Youth-led initiatives are disproportionately associated with CivicTech and GovTech, often in combination with co-designing solutions, capacity building and networking. These initiatives frequently involve youth in designing and operating digital platforms, data tools or participatory mechanisms that interface directly with municipal or national systems – for example, reporting applications, transparency dashboards, or platforms that aggregate citizen input for planning. In such cases, youth actors are not only beneficiaries or consultees; they are also designers, owners or administrators of tools that other residents and institutions rely on.

From Programmatic Modality Mix to a Soft–Structural Spectrum

The modality patterns can be interpreted along a spectrum from “soft” engagement modalities – which focus on awareness, visibility and discursive influence – to more “structural” modalities that work on the policies, tools and routines of governance systems.

On the soft end of the spectrum sit programmatic modalities such as campaigns and public outreach, media activities, many conferences and some networking and research initiatives. These approaches are important for raising awareness of urban issues and youth perspectives, shaping narratives and connecting actors. In some contexts, particularly where civic space is constrained, discursive and agenda-setting work can have significant political effects. However, by themselves, these modalities do not typically change how decisions are formally made, how services are delivered, or how accountability is organised.

On the structural end of the spectrum are programmatic modalities such as policy and institutional support, CivicTech, GovTech and co-designing solutions, especially where they are embedded in public systems rather than used only in parallel pilot projects. These interventions are concerned with changing policies, procedures or organisational practices; modernising or integrating digital systems used by governments; embedding co-design with youth into service or planning cycles; and creating or improving platforms through which residents access services, provide feedback or participate in decision-making. Where these modalities are present and sustained, they are more likely to produce durable shifts in governance architecture.

Between these poles, capacity building and dialogue operate as bridging modalities. When designed as standalone training events or ad-hoc consultations, they function as soft interventions focused on awareness and relationship-building. When linked to co-design processes, policy reform efforts or the development of digital tools, they can become stepping stones into more structural change – equipping youth and institutions to collaborate on redesigning concrete practices, workflows or

participatory mechanisms. For example, a one-off youth workshop on urban rights would sit toward the soft end of the spectrum, whereas a recurring training programme on the same topic for youth representatives embedded in a municipal participatory budgeting cycle would function as a bridge into structural transformation.

For this report, the soft–structural spectrum is not treated as a rigid classification, but as an interpretive lens. It highlights that many initiatives invite young people to learn, deliberate and be visible in public debates, while a smaller but crucial subset involves them in designing solutions, influencing institutional practice or contributing directly to the architecture of participation and service delivery.

Thematic Functions: What Do They Seek to Influence?

Thematic Categorisation

The thematic categorisation used in this mapping organises initiatives around functional dimensions of urban governance, providing a structured lens to understand their focus areas. The mapping identified the following thematic domains: Inclusive Governance, Services, Innovation, Sustainability and Resilience, Gender-inclusive Planning, Social Justice, Urban Livelihood, Civic Education, Social Cohesion, Transparency, Safety, Cultural Preservation, and Decentralisation. Out of the 106 initiatives reviewed, 66 initiatives (62%) had a thematic focus on Inclusive Governance, making it the most prominent area. Other significant domains included Services (46 initiatives), Innovation (35 initiatives), Sustainability and Resilience (25 initiatives), and Gender-inclusive Planning (17 initiatives). These five core governance-oriented domains collectively represent the primary priorities shaping urban governance interventions across the mapped initiatives. Other urban governance issues appear in the thematic coding but are not treated as core domains in the analytical framework.

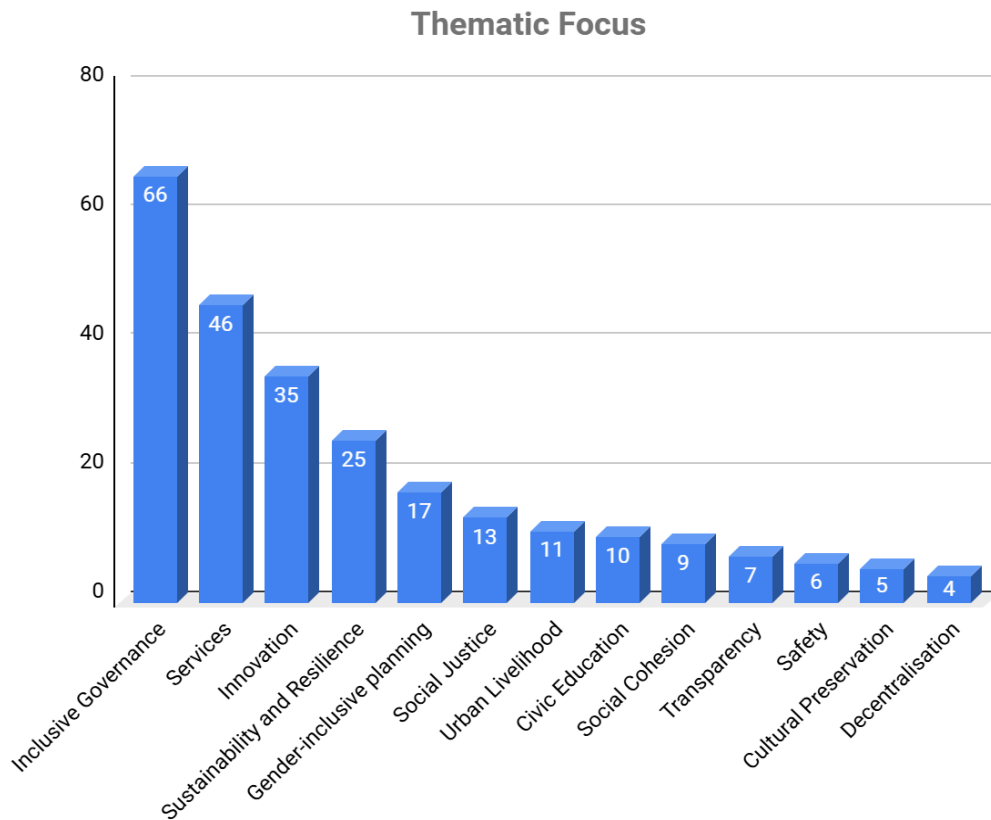


Figure 3 - Distribution of Initiatives by Thematic Focus

To illustrate what these thematic areas represent in practice, here is an explanation of the five most prominent domains observed in the mapping, providing a clearer sense of their scope and significance:

Thematic Area	Definition	Urban Governance Relevance	Youth Relevance	Illustrative Forms
Participatory and Inclusive Governance	Refers to the mechanisms through which residents, including youth, are meaningfully engaged in decision-making, agenda-setting, monitoring and co-design of urban policies and governance processes. This includes participation architectures, accountability channels, digital platforms for consultation, and inclusive decision	Shifts governance from state-centric to co-governance models by embedding voice, legitimacy, community knowledge and civic oversight. It supports more responsive, transparent and accountable institutions.	Enables youth to transition from being recipients of policy to contributors and institutional partners. Youth engage as data contributors, civic monitors, agenda-setters and policy co-creators.	Participatory budgeting portals, youth advisory councils, digital consultation platforms, community-led issue reporting, policy hackathons, crowdsourced monitoring.

	frameworks.			
Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness	Refers to governance mechanisms for planning, delivering, monitoring and improving municipal services such as transport, waste management, public health, utilities, housing and digital public services.	Moves urban services toward co-designed, feedback-driven systems. Digital tools allow institutions to track, respond and adapt service performance, strengthening institutional responsiveness.	Youth act not only as service users, but as problem identifiers, collaborators, solution ideators, data aggregators, and sometimes service entrepreneurs (e.g., climate mapping, waste sorting, smart mobility solutions).	Reporting applications for urban maintenance, co-designed transport planning dashboards, feedback systems for health or sanitation, and urban response platforms.
Civic and Public Innovation	Refers to youth-led experimentation, design, and prototyping of digital or civic solutions that address urban challenges. Includes innovation labs, civic-tech initiatives, open data projects, social enterprises, and AI-enabled solutions for public governance.	Innovation transforms governance systems from passive administration to iterative, learning-oriented, foresight-driven systems, utilising the evolving technology.	Domain where youth leadership and contributions are most visible. Youth lead digital tool development, data mapping, open-source solutions, urban labs, community research, or local entrepreneurship.	CivicTech and GovTech, Urban innovation labs, participatory design platforms, civic data portals, AI tools for disaster monitoring or urban policy forecasting.
Urban Sustainability and Resilience	Refers to governance strategies aimed at preparing cities for long-term environmental, economic and climatic risks, while ensuring disaster risk reduction, continuity of essential services, ecological protection and community adaptability.	Governs how cities anticipate, prepare, mitigate, and adapt to climate, disaster and socio-economic shocks, particularly through foresight, planning, infrastructure and cross-sector coordination.	Youth often mobilise around climate resilience, urban risk mapping, citizen-science, environmental monitoring and community preparedness, contributing data, innovation and advocacy.	Community-based early warning systems, climate-risk dashboards, citizen mapping of flood zones, plastic pollution tracking, and youth climate innovation labs.
Gender-Inclusive Planning	Refers to governance approaches that integrate gender perspectives and lived experiences into urban planning, service allocation, public budgeting, safety design, and accessibility of infrastructure.	Moves beyond generic equity to embedding gender sensitivity into planning, budgeting, design, and service delivery — enabling more just, safe and inclusive urban environments.	Youth, particularly young women and gender-diverse groups, shape urban priorities through community mapping, safety audits, digital storytelling, and participatory planning processes.	Gender-sensitive urban safety reporting apps, participatory planning for safe public transport, school-based planning consultations for public space, and digital gender-mapping

				platforms.
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Figure 2 - Example of Thematic Focus Areas of Youth Urban Governance Initiatives

Taken together, these domains describe interconnected pathways through which youth initiatives interact with urban governance systems:

- Some widen access, inclusion and accountability by strengthening participation architectures and voice (Participatory and Inclusive Governance).
- Some focus on the quality, responsiveness and feedback loops of municipal services (Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness).
- Some introduce new tools, methods and prototypes into public problem-solving (Civic and Public Innovation).
- Some build cities' capacities to anticipate, withstand and adapt to environmental and socio-economic shocks (Urban Sustainability and Resilience).
- Some embed lived experience and equity considerations, particularly around gender, into planning and investment decisions (Gender-inclusive Planning).

In practice, many initiatives sit at the intersection of several domains. An initiative is associated with an average of around 2–3 themes, with some working on as many as 6 or 7 domains simultaneously. For instance, innovation projects that reconfigure service interfaces while opening new participation channels, or resilience initiatives that combine youth-generated data with gender-sensitive planning. This confirms that Youth Urban Governance work is inherently cross-cutting, rarely confined to a single governance function.

Co-Occurrence Thematic Patterns

Four co-occurrence patterns structure much of the mapped landscape:

- 1) 'Civic and Public Innovation' & 'Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness': 23 initiatives are tagged with both domains. In other words, a clear majority of innovation-oriented initiatives also work on service systems, and roughly half of service-focused initiatives involve some form of innovation. In this mapping, "innovation" is therefore rarely an abstract label; it usually refers to efforts to redesign how services are planned, accessed or managed, often through CivicTech, GovTech or co-design processes.
- 2) 'Participatory and Inclusive Governance' & 'Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness': These two domains co-occur in 20 initiatives. This indicates a substantial subset of work where participation is not only about expressing views in general terms, but about building structured channels through which youth and communities can influence service priorities and performance.
- 3) 'Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness' & 'Urban Sustainability and Resilience': 14 initiatives combine these domains. More than half of all resilience-tagged initiatives therefore work through concrete service systems, for example by climate-proofing infrastructure, strengthening disaster-related services or improving local environmental management. Long-term risk and resilience concerns are often mediated through tangible questions of how services are organised and delivered.

- 4) 'Gender-inclusive Planning' & 'Participatory and Inclusive Governance': 14 of the 17 gender-tagged initiatives also involve participation. Gender perspectives thus appear primarily as an equity lens within broader participation and planning reforms, rather than as stand-alone projects. In practice, this involves reshaping how participation processes, planning routines, and, in some cases, services account for differentiated experiences of the city.

These patterns point to a set of interlocking governance functions rather than parallel silos. Participatory and Inclusive Governance acts as a backbone theme, present in the majority of initiatives and in combination with every other domain. Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness is the main applied arena where governance experiments become concrete, as questions of access, quality and responsiveness make governance tangible for young people. Civic and Public Innovation functions as a method frequently attached to services and participation, while Urban Sustainability and Resilience and Gender-inclusive Planning operate as critical lenses that reshape how participation and service agendas are conceived.

These thematic configurations are closely linked to specific programmatic modality clusters. Innovation- and service-oriented initiatives are mostly associated with CivicTech, GovTech and co-designing solutions, while participation-heavy initiatives are more likely to combine capacity building, dialogue and policy or institutional support.

Other thematic areas, such as social justice, safety, social cohesion and urban livelihood, are best understood as social outcomes. They describe what cities are like to live in, rather than how decisions are made. This is visible in the data: for example, social-justice-tagged initiatives almost always co-occur with 'Services' and 'Inclusive Governance', indicating that justice is pursued through changes in service provision and participation rather than as a distinct governance function. In this sense, these themes express the desired qualities and distributional results of governance, not the mechanisms themselves.

A second cluster of such themes is civic education and transparency, which operate as enabling conditions for meaningful engagement. They shape whether young people have the information, skills and confidence needed to participate, but rarely stand alone. Civic-education-tagged initiatives, for instance, are overwhelmingly paired with Participatory and Inclusive Governance and often with Services or Innovation, suggesting that civic education works primarily as a foundation that allows youth to use participation and problem-solving mechanisms effectively, rather than as an independent governance domain.

Finally, some themes, most notably decentralisation, function as structural backdrops that shape the distribution of authority and channels of influence within which initiatives operate. At the project level, decentralisation is almost always experienced through changes in who participates and how services are managed, as shown by its consistent co-occurrence with Inclusive Governance and Services (often with Gender-inclusive Planning). It frames the institutional landscape in which youth engagement takes place.

Depth of Engagement: From Awareness to Co-Creation

Building on the soft–structural spectrum and the thematic areas outlined earlier, we can distinguish three broad depths of youth engagement in the mapped initiatives. This is an interpretive framework

grounded in observed combinations of thematic areas, programmatic modalities, youth roles (“for/with/by”) and time profiles, rather than a separate coding exercise.

Tier-1	Tier 2	Tier 3
Awareness and Capability	Collaborative Engagement	Co-Creation and System Change
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mainly “for youth”; youth are the target group, users or beneficiaries ● Soft programmatic modalities are dominant (capacity building, campaigns, conferences, networking) ● Typical themes: Inclusive Governance, Civic Education, Services, Social Cohesion ● Often short or one-off; some long-term but with limited institutional change aims 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Mix of “for youth” and “with youth”; youth as regular participants and co-implementers ● Bridging programmatic modalities present (dialogue, networking, some institutional support; occasionally CivicTech and co-design) ● Typical themes: Inclusive Governance and Services, sometimes Sustainability and Resilience ● Mostly long-term and currently active; repeated cycles of consultation and joint work 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● At least “with youth”, often “by youth”; youth in agenda-setting and design roles ● Structural programmatic modalities are central (CivicTech, GovTech, co-designing solutions, policy / institutional support), usually combined with capacity building ● Typical themes: Civic and Public Innovation, Services and/or Inclusive Governance, often with Transparency, Sustainability and Resilience or Gender-inclusive Planning ● Medium- and long-term, usually active; explicit intention to change tools, rules or routines

Figure 4: Three tiers of youth engagement (interpretive framework)

Tier 1: Awareness and Capability

At the entry level, a large share of “for youth” initiatives sit in Tier 1. They most often combine Participatory and Inclusive Governance, Civic Education, Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness and Social Cohesion with soft modalities such as capacity building, campaigns and public outreach, conferences and networking.

Many are short events or training cycles (for example, one-off regional conferences on Inclusive Governance, short campaigns on Services and Social Justice, or national workshops on Civic Education and Inclusive Governance), although some run over multiple years without a strong institutional-change mandate. These initiatives strengthen awareness of rights, build basic skills for participation and create initial exposure to urban issues. However, the governance interface remains indirect: institutions may be more informed about youth perspectives, but there is limited evidence that decision-making procedures, service routines or accountability mechanisms are being altered.

Tier 2: Collaborative Engagement

A second, thicker band of initiatives falls into Tier 2, where youth are consistently engaged “with” programmes and, in some cases, “for and with youth”. Here, the programmatic mix shifts to include dialogue, ongoing networking and institutional support alongside capacity building. These initiatives are typically long-term and currently active, and many are anchored at the local or subnational level. Common thematic combinations include Inclusive Governance and Services, often with Sustainability and Resilience.

Examples include multi-year programmes that couple capacity building with structured dialogue and institutional support for local authorities, or subnational resilience initiatives where youth participate in campaigns and public consultations around climate and risk planning. In these cases, youth are not only learning or being addressed; they participate in repeated cycles of consultation, co-implementation and monitoring. Governance practices, such as how local authorities consult, how they communicate about services, or how they incorporate feedback, begin to shift, but ownership of tools and rules is still largely held by public institutions or international partners.

Tier 3: Co-Creation and System Change

The most intensive forms of engagement appear in a smaller cluster of Tier-3 initiatives, which are typically innovation-oriented and often youth-led. The explicitly “by youth” initiatives in the dataset are all medium- or long-term, almost all currently active, and they cluster at the intersection of Civic and Public Innovation, Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness and/or Participatory and Inclusive Governance, often with additional themes such as Transparency, Urban Sustainability and Resilience or Civic Education.

Programmatically, most of them combine structural modalities such as CivicTech, GovTech, co-designing solutions or policy and institutional support with capacity building, media and networking; a small number focus instead on global capacity building and research led by youth. Examples include national and subnational initiatives that use GovTech/CivicTech to improve service interfaces and transparency; youth-led projects where Innovation and Inclusive Governance are combined with research, policy and institutional support and subregional dialogue; and long-term efforts where youth design and operate platforms that mediate service complaints or integrate youth-generated data into planning. In these initiatives, young people are central to problem definition, tool design, data generation and interface management between residents and institutions, and the explicit aim is to institutionalise new channels, procedures or standards.

Emerging Pattern, Gaps and Opportunities

Emerging Patterns

The descriptive profile, programmatic modality mix, thematic focus and depth-of-engagement framework point to a set of recurrent patterns in Youth Urban Governance across Asia-Pacific.

First, a multi-layered but uneven geography. The mapping shows a genuinely multi-scalar ecosystem: Youth Urban Governance initiatives are present from city/local pilots to regional and global platforms, with local, subnational and national levels as the main arenas where services are delivered, and participation mechanisms are implemented. At the same time, activity is concentrated in a small number of larger, often middle-income countries, while parts of the Pacific, fragile and conflict-affected

settings, and secondary cities in low-capacity environments are much less visible. This suggests that Youth Urban Governance is emerging across diverse contexts, but with clear geographic and scalar imbalances.

Second, a strong emphasis on soft and bridging programmatic modalities. Across institutional types, the dominant pattern is a reliance on capacity building, dialogue, campaigns and convening. These programmatic modalities play a critical role in awareness-raising, skill-building and relationship formation, and they underpin a wide range of initiatives in Participatory and Inclusive Governance and Service Delivery and Urban Responsiveness. In a second tier, bridging programmatic modalities such as recurring dialogue, networking, and selected forms of institutional support begin to connect soft engagement to more structural work. The use of CivicTech, GovTech, co-designing solutions and formal policy or institutional support is more limited, but where present, it tends to be systematically linked to service reform, innovation and transparency.

Third, institutional experimentation at the edges of formal systems. UN entities and government bodies are central convenors and implementers of programmes designed for and with youth. They tend to host long-term initiatives with relatively stable resourcing and access to decision-making arenas, but these initiatives remain predominantly in Tier 1 and Tier 2 of the engagement framework.

Fourth, governance functions are intertwined rather than isolated themes. Thematic patterns confirm that youth engagement is rarely confined to a single governance function. Participatory and Inclusive Governance and Service Delivery, and Urban Responsiveness form a backbone. They appear in a majority of initiatives and frequently co-occur with Civic and Public Innovation, Urban Sustainability and Resilience and Gender-inclusive Planning. Innovation work is usually tied to concrete service reforms; resilience is often mediated through service and infrastructure questions; and gender appears primarily as an equity lens within broader participation and planning reforms. This points to a landscape in which youth engagement is embedded in practical problem-solving around how services are organised and who participates in shaping them.

Fifth, depth of engagement is closely linked to time and programmatic modality mix. The three-tier framework shows that most mapped initiatives fall into Tier 1 (awareness and capability) and Tier 2 (collaborative engagement), characterised by “for youth” and “for and with youth” roles and dominated by soft and bridging programmatic modalities. Tier-3 co-creation and system change initiatives form a smaller but distinct cluster in which youth occupy agenda-setting and design roles, structural modalities are central, and medium- to long-term timeframes are the norm.

These emerging patterns suggest that the region has moved beyond purely symbolic youth engagement in urban governance and has built a substantial base of capability, dialogue platforms and practical pilots. At the same time, they reveal where and how deeper forms of co-governance are currently concentrated, and where the ecosystem is still thin or fragmented.

Key Gaps

Against this backdrop, several substantive gaps become visible in the mapped landscape. These relate to geography and inclusion, governance functions, depth and structural anchoring of engagement, sustainability, and evidence and learning.

First, geographic and inclusion gaps. While the mapping documents initiatives in more than 20 countries, activity is uneven across and within subregions. Larger, better-resourced countries with significant urban populations host dense clusters of initiatives, whereas Small Island Developing States, fragile and conflict-affected settings, and many secondary or peripheral cities are under-represented. Within countries, the available documentation provides limited insight into how far initiatives reach marginalised groups of young people, including those in informal settlements, with disabilities, in precarious livelihoods or from minority communities. Youth voices are present, but not necessarily those of the young people most affected by urban exclusion and climate or risk vulnerabilities.

Second, there are relatively few examples in the mapping where youth-designed tools are institutionalised in official workflows, where co-design is embedded as a standard requirement in planning and service cycles, or where youth occupy formalised roles in governance bodies with decision-making powers. This creates a disconnect between dynamic experimentation and the slower-moving core of public institutions.

Third, equity and intersectionality gaps in thematic lenses. Although Gender-inclusive Planning appears in the dataset, it is only in a minority (16%) of initiatives. Other intersectional concerns, such as disability, migration status, informal work, age intersecting with gender and sexuality, or ethnic and linguistic diversity, are only sporadically visible in the available descriptions. As a result, many initiatives seek to be inclusive in general terms but lack explicit strategies to address differentiated risks, needs and power imbalances among youth and between youth and other urban residents.

Fourth, another striking gap observed in the mapping is the limited attention given to 'Social Cohesion' and 'Cultural Preservation' in the Youth Urban Governance work, despite their critical importance in rapidly growing urban spaces. As cities expand and diversify, fostering social cohesion becomes essential to prevent fragmentation and ensure inclusive, harmonious communities. Similarly, cultural preservation safeguards identity and heritage, which are often at risk amid modernisation and urban transformation. However, out of 106 initiatives mapped, only 9 initiatives focused on Social Cohesion, and a mere 5 addressed Cultural Preservation, highlighting a significant underrepresentation of these themes. This gap suggests an urgent need for youth-led and governance-oriented interventions that prioritise community bonding and cultural continuity alongside infrastructure and service delivery.

Fifth, sustainability, scale and resourcing gaps. The duration data shows that many initiatives are long-term and currently active, yet the mapping also reveals a reliance on project-based funding cycles, particularly for youth-led and innovation-oriented efforts. These initiatives often depend on external grants, volunteer labour or time-limited competitions and pilots. Pathways for successful pilots to be scaled, replicated or absorbed into institutional budgets and mandates are not consistently visible. This raises questions about the long-term sustainability of youth-led platforms and whether structural gains can be maintained when funding or political attention shifts.

Sixth is the evidence and learning gap. A notable share of initiatives generate research and knowledge products, but the data suggests that these efforts are fragmented and often project-specific. There is limited evidence of shared indicators, longitudinal tracking of urban governance outcomes, or systematic cross-country learning around what types of youth engagement produce which kinds of institutional change. Much of the available information focuses on activities,

participation numbers and short-term outputs, with less emphasis on how decision-making routines, service performance or accountability mechanisms have evolved over time as a result of youth engagement.

Way Forward for UNDP and Partners

The mapping points to a region that has built a broad base of youth-focused urban initiatives, but where deeper forms of co-governance remain concentrated in a small set of places, actors and modalities. The recommendations below suggest how UNDP and its partners can use this landscape to deliberately expand Tier-3 co-creation, while strengthening the foundations in Tier-1 and Tier-2.

1. Rebalance geographic reach and inclusion: UNDP and partners should use future programming to deliberately tilt the ecosystem toward underrepresented geographies and groups of young people.
 - Prioritise thin geographies. Create regional or subregional funding windows and technical-support packages targeted at small island developing states, parts of the Pacific, fragile and conflict-affected contexts, and secondary cities in low-capacity environments. This could include light-touch design support for municipalities and youth organisations that currently lack access to international networks and calls.
 - Reach structurally excluded youth. Require each new initiative to define which youth it is reaching and who is missing, with explicit outreach strategies for young people in informal settlements, with disabilities, in precarious work, or from minority groups. Partnering with community-based organisations that already work with these groups will matter more than scaling generic citywide campaigns.
 - Adapt to constrained civic space. In contexts where participation is sensitive, UNDP can support low-visibility but meaningful forms of youth engagement (for example, closed-door co-design labs, anonymised digital feedback channels, or youth participation in technical working groups), rather than relying solely on highly visible campaigns and conferences.
2. Move along the soft–structural spectrum by design: The mapping shows a strong emphasis on soft modalities (capacity building, campaigns, conferences) with comparatively fewer initiatives reaching structural change. UNDP and partners should design programme portfolios that intentionally link all three tiers of engagement.
 - Build pipelines in addition to standalone activities. When funding Tier-1 activities, such as training or campaigns, requires a clear pathway into Tier-2 and Tier-3 spaces, for example, trained youth moving into advisory groups that are embedded in city processes, or campaign coalitions being invited into co-design exercises for specific services.
 - Combine programmatic modalities from the outset. New initiatives should include, from the design stage, at least one bridging or structural entry point (Co-designing solutions, Dialogue or Policy and institutional support) alongside soft modalities. This will reduce the common pattern of long-running awareness programmes with no institutional anchor.
 - Treat capacity building as a bridge. Shift at least part of youth training from generic “leadership” or “civic awareness” toward skills directly tied to governance functions: interpreting urban data, participating in budget hearings, contributing to resilience plans, or co-managing digital participation platforms.

- 3. Institutionalise youth roles in core governance functions:** To move beyond consultation, UNDP and partners should help cities create formal, recurring roles for youth in the governance functions that determine priorities, trade-offs and resource flows.
 - Open up budgeting and public finance: Support “youth budget labs” or participatory budgeting cycles where youth have a structured role in proposing, analysing and monitoring allocations, especially in sectors where young people are primary users (public transport, public space, digital services, climate adaptation).
 - Embed youth in planning and infrastructure decisions: Work with planning authorities to institutionalise youth participation in land-use planning, neighbourhood upgrading, climate-resilient infrastructure, and large-scale public investments. This may involve youth planning studios, standing youth advisory panels in planning departments, or co-created planning guidelines.
 - Create formal seats and mandates: Support legal or regulatory reforms that create reserved youth seats, voting rights, or co-decision mandates on municipal committees, boards of public utilities, or oversight bodies. These reforms should recognise youth not only as advisers but as co-governors, within clear accountability frameworks.

- 4. Rebalance thematic priorities:** UNDP and partners should deliberately integrate Social Cohesion and Cultural Preservation into Youth Urban Governance programming, recognising their role in sustaining inclusive and harmonious urban communities.
 - Mainstream social cohesion in Youth Urban Governance work: Aim to ensure future initiatives to include strategies that strengthen community bonds, such as youth-led dialogue platforms, intergroup collaboration forums, and participatory neighbourhood planning processes that foster trust and reduce fragmentation.
 - Safeguard cultural identity in fast-changing cities: Create dedicated funding windows and technical support for projects that protect and celebrate cultural heritage in urban spaces. This could include youth-driven cultural mapping, creative placemaking, and digital storytelling initiatives that preserve traditions while embracing innovation.
 - Leverage arts and culture for inclusion: Encourage partnerships with local artists, cultural organisations, and youth collectives to design programs that use art, music, and cultural events as tools for social integration and civic engagement, especially in multicultural or rapidly urbanising areas.
 - Prioritise vulnerable and diverse communities: Ensure interventions explicitly reach marginalised youth, such as those from minority cultural groups or informal settlements, by partnering with grassroots organisations and using culturally sensitive approaches to engagement.

- 5. Connect youth-led innovation to public systems and de-risk experimentation:** Youth-led CivicTech and GovTech initiatives are where much of youth leadership is coming up, but they often sit at the edges of formal systems. UNDP and partners can act as connectors and risk-sharing intermediaries.
 - Broker partnerships between youth innovators and institutions. Establish matchmaking mechanisms where municipal departments and utilities articulate concrete governance problems, and youth-led civic-tech teams propose and prototype solutions. UNDP can provide facilitation, legal support and standards on data protection, inclusion and accessibility.

- Create structured pilots with a “path to institutionalisation”. Design challenge funds and innovation programmes so that promising youth-led tools have a defined route into official workflows: for example, a requirement that each pilot has a sponsoring public agency, agreed success metrics and an adoption plan if those metrics are met.
 - Support long-term maintenance and governance of platforms. Move beyond funding only the creation of apps or dashboards. Provide resources and advice for maintenance, cybersecurity, moderation, and user support, and help define governance arrangements (for example, shared stewardship models between youth groups and city governments).
- 6. Mainstream intersectional equity, resilience and gender lenses in Youth Urban Governance:** Equity and risk lenses are present but thin in the current landscape. UNDP and partners should integrate them as core design principles rather than add-ons.
- Make intersectional analysis a standard step. Aim to ensure that every new urban governance initiative undertakes a simple but explicit analysis of how gender, age, disability, migration, informal work and other factors shape young people’s experience of the city and of governance. This should inform the choice of focus neighbourhoods, partners, communication channels and participation formats.
 - Link youth engagement to resilience and climate functions. Where cities are developing climate action plans, disaster risk strategies or resilience roadmaps, UNDP can help build youth roles into the governance of these processes: youth co-leads on community risk mapping, oversight of early warning communication, or monitoring of climate-related investments at the neighbourhood level.
 - Support gender-inclusive urban safety and mobility initiatives. Expand the small but important cluster of gender-focused initiatives by helping cities deploy youth-led safety audits, digital reporting tools, and participatory redesign of public spaces and transport, in ways that are formally tied to planning and budgeting cycles.
- 7. Strengthen sustainability, scale and financing models:** Many initiatives are long-term, yet youth-led and innovation-oriented efforts remain vulnerable to shifting funding and political priorities. UNDP and partners should focus as much on institutional embedding and financing as on programme content.
- Integrate youth components into larger city programmes. Instead of treating youth initiatives as stand-alone projects, embed youth co-governance components into broader urban programmes on services, resilience, digital government or climate finance. This increases the likelihood that youth mechanisms are resourced through municipal or sectoral budgets.
 - Support diversified financing for youth-led platforms. Help youth organisations access blended finance: small municipal contracts, corporate social responsibility funding, and pooled donor funds, alongside grants. UNDP can provide model procurement templates and guidance so that public agencies can legally and safely contract youth-led entities.
- 8. Build a shared evidence and learning architecture around youth urban governance:** The mapping reveals a rich but fragmented evidence base. UNDP and partners can use their convening power to turn isolated knowledge products into a coherent learning system.
- Develop a light common framework for tracking urban governance change. Agree with partners and youth organisations on a small set of indicators that capture depth of youth engagement and governance outcomes (for example, changes in decision-making

procedures, introduction of new participation channels, or improvements in service responsiveness), beyond activity counts.

- Create regional learning cohorts and peer exchanges. Facilitate ongoing exchanges between cities, youth groups and national agencies that are working on similar governance functions or modalities. These cohorts can share tools, troubleshoot political or technical barriers, and co-produce guidance tailored to different contexts.
- Maintain and update a regional registry of Youth Urban Governance initiatives. Use this mapping as a baseline and periodically refresh it through crowdsourcing and partner inputs. Over time, this can become an open resource for identifying gaps, tracking trends and connecting actors.

9. Reaffirm UNDP's role as a system convenor across levels and tiers: Finally, UNDP is well positioned to connect the different scales, actors and tiers of engagement identified in the mapping.

- Link neighbourhood/city-level pilots to national and regional agendas. Use the evidence from youth-led local initiatives to inform national urban policies, climate strategies and regional dialogues, ensuring that youth perspectives are visible in high-level decision-making.
- Convene multi-actor coalitions. Bring together municipal authorities, national ministries, youth networks, civil society, private-sector innovators and development banks to co-design programmes that move across the tiers of engagement and across the five core governance domains.
- Embed Youth Urban Governance in UNDP's broader dynamic urban governance work. Position youth co-governance as a central pillar of people-centred, networked and digitally enabled urban governance, rather than as a niche youth or participation agenda.

Appendix

1. Data sources

- [UNDP Transparency Portal](#): information, including project strategies, key results and budget and donor information on all the projects implemented by UNDP in the region
- Project and Programme Evaluation Reports from the [UNDP Evaluation Resource Centre](#)
- Blogs and reports from UNDP BRH and country office webpages
- United Nations Peacebuilding Fund Annual Reports
- Desk review of the YPP work of APINY members and the Thematic Working Group on YPS members
- Blogs and reports from UNDP BRH and country office webpages
- [UNDP Review of Youth Political Participation Programmes in the Asia-Pacific Region \(2024\)](#)
- UNDP Stocktake and Review of CivicTech and GovTech Initiatives in the Asia-Pacific (2025)

2. Data Tables

TABLE 1							
Geography ⁴	Initiative Mapped (#)	For Youth	For Youth (%)	With Youth	With Youth (%)	By Youth	By Youth (%)
Global	7	6	86%	3	43%	1	14%
Regional	8	5	63%	2	25%	0	0%
Subregional	4	3	75%	1	25%	1	25%
Multi-country	10	6	60%	4	40%	1	10%
National	27	17	63%	6	22%	5	19%
Subnational	27	14	52%	8	30%	2	7%
Local	30	18	60%	16	53%	1	3%
Total	113	69		40		11	
Total (%)		61%		35%		10%	

TABLE 2							
Implementing Agencies	Initiative Mapped (#)	For Youth	For Youth (%)	With Youth	With Youth (%)	By Youth	By Youth (%)
UN	31	24	77%	11	35%	0	0%
Government	11	5	45%	9	82%	0	0%
Others	64	34	53%	17	27%	10	16%
Total	106	63		37		10	
Total (%)		59%		35%		9%	

TABLE 3					
Geography ⁵	Inclusive Governance	Services	Innovation	Sustainability and Resilience	Gender-inclusive planning

⁴ Some of the 106 initiatives span multiple geographies and are counted multiple times in this above data.

⁵ Ibid.

Global	7	0	1	1	1
Regional	5	1	1	5	2
Subregional	3	0	1	0	0
Multi-country	7	5	3	5	1
National	15	8	11	3	4
Subnational	14	19	11	5	8
Local	19	15	9	9	2
Total	70	48	37	28	18
Total (%)	62%	42%	33%	25%	16%

TABLE 4					
Implementing Agencies	Inclusive Governance	Services	Innovation	Sustainability and Resilience	Gender- inclusive planning
UNDP	20	11	10	6	11
Government	10	3	4	2	1
Others	36	32	21	17	5
Total	66	46	35	25	17
Total (%)	62%	43%	33%	24%	16%

TABLE 5									
Geography ⁶	Capacity Building	Dialogue	Civic Tech	Policy and Institutional Support	Gov Tech	Co- designing Solutions	Research	Competiti on	Campaign and Public Outreach
Global	3	1	0	2	0	0	3	1	0
Regional	3	0	0	1	0	1	0	1	0
Subregional	2	3	0	1	0	0	2	0	0
Multi-country	8	6	2	6	0	4	4	0	2
National	19	6	9	3	9	2	3	3	0
Subnational	14	9	9	3	9	3	4	0	5
Local	10	14	4	11	4	11	3	5	3
Total	59	39	24	27	22	21	19	10	10
Total (%)	52%	35%	21%	24%	19%	19%	17%	9%	9%

TABLE 6									
Agencies	Capaci- ty Building	Dialogue	Civic Tech	Policy and Institu- tional Support	Gov Tech	Co- designing Solutions	Research	Competiti on	Campaign and Public Outreach
UNDP	20	7	3	8	5	5	7	4	1

⁶ Ibid.

Government	0	6	3	6	2	3	1	1	0
Others	33	23	18	9	14	10	11	4	8
Total	53	36	24	23	21	18	19	9	9
Total (%)	50%	34%	23%	22%	20%	17%	18%	8%	8%

Credit: This mapping and analysis report was completed by Mridul Upadhyay and Casey Chik.

Building Inclusive Cities

A Review of Youth Urban Governance in Asia-Pacific

