

Indicator 11.a.1

Indicator Name, Target and Goal

Indicator 11.a.1 Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space.

Target 11.a Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning.

Goal 11 Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.

Definition and Rationale

○ Definition

This indicator measures the number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that: (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space.

Introducing national urban policies - an appropriate framework to achieve target 11.a and, more broadly, a recognized tool of implementation and monitoring of global urban agendas - along with regional development plans and adding three measurable qualifiers as requirements for successful plans and policies not only makes indicator 11.a.1 a more adequate, measurable, and implementable process indicator for target 11.a, but also will more broadly serve progress toward the SDGs and the new urban agenda.

○ Concepts

National urban policies and regional development plans:

A national urban policy (NUP) is defined as a coherent set of decisions or principle of actions derived through a deliberate government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors toward a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive, and resilient urban development

for the long term.

NUPs that respond to population dynamics:

This first qualifier examines to what extent the NUP addresses issues to do with population composition, trends, and projections in achieving development goals and targets.

Ensure balanced territorial development:

This second qualifier entails the promotion of a spatially coherent territory that includes a balanced system of human settlements including cities and towns and including urban corridors, as well as addressing social, economic, environmental, and spatial disparities, particularly considering the urban-rural continuum.

Increase local fiscal space:

Local fiscal space is understood as the sum of financial resources available for improved delivery of basic social and economic services at the local level as a result of the budget and related decisions by governments at all levels, without any prejudice to the sustainability of a government's financial position.

○ Rationale and Interpretation

NUPs can help achieve target 11.a. This indicator is based on the notion that the development and implementation of NUPs should support the participation, partnership, cooperation, and coordination of actors as well as facilitate dialogue. NUPs and regional development plans (RDPs) promote coordinated and connected urban development. A coordinated effort from government through a NUP or RDP provides the best opportunity for achieving sustainable urbanization and balanced territorial development by linking sectorial policies; connecting national, regional, and local government policies; and strengthening urban, peri-urban, and rural links through balanced territorial development.

Data Sources and Collection Method

When UN-Habitat implemented data collection for indicator 11.a.1 through the Global State of National Urban Policy survey (in December 2019), the government of Japan responded according to the national spatial strategy, which is formulated based on the National Spatial Planning Act. Therefore, this indicator is computed based on the national spatial strategy.

National Spatial Strategy (National Plan) (July 28, 2023)

<https://www.mlit.go.jp/kokudoseisaku/content/001621775.pdf>

Method of Computation and Other Methodological Considerations

Method of Computation

(a) Respond to population dynamics

Article 3 of the National Spatial Planning Act stipulates that “the national spatial strategy is to prescribe the appropriate measures for the spatial planning...in order to respond to the changes in social and economic structures in an appropriate manner including the population and industry of Japan and the world.” Since the national spatial strategy is formulated based on this law, it is computed as 1 (applicable).

(b) Ensure balanced territorial development

Article 2 of the National Spatial Planning Act stipulates “particulars concerning the adjustment of the size and locations of and the development of cities as well as farming villages, mountainous villages, and fishing villages” and “particulars concerning the proper industrial locations.” Since the national spatial strategy is formulated based on this law, it is computed as 1 (applicable).

(c) Increase local fiscal space

Since the National Spatial Planning Act does not stipulate “increasing local fiscal space,” and the national spatial strategy is formulated based on this law, it is computed as 0 (not applicable).

Comments and Limitations

N/A

Data Disaggregation

N/A

References

N/A

Custodian Ministries of Data

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

Custodian Ministries of Related Policies

Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism

International Organizations

UN-Habitat