Urban Observatories

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World Campus Training **World Urban Forum III**

Presentation outline

- Overview of Global Urban Observatory
- Local Urban Observatory (LUO)
- UN-HABITAT support for LUOs
- LUO case study

The Global Urban Observatory was established after Habitat II in 1997…

- In response to a decision of the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements, which called for a set mechanism to monitor global progress in implementing the *Habitat Agenda* and to monitor & evaluate global urban conditions and trends.

What are the goals of GUO ?

- To help all partners monitor and evaluate urban conditions and trends as measures of progress in implementing the *Habitat Agenda* and *MDGs*
- To help all partners use urban data in participatory decision-making processes at all levels

GUO key activities

- Global monitoring and reporting
  - Global Urban Indicators Database
  - Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme
  - State of the World Cities Report
- Local capacity building
  - Local Urban Observatories
  - Local policy formulation
- Urban Info (Information Management System)
- 1000 cities GIS programme

The Urban Observatory Network – levels

Global Urban Observatory (GUO)

↑

Regional Urban Observatories (RUO)

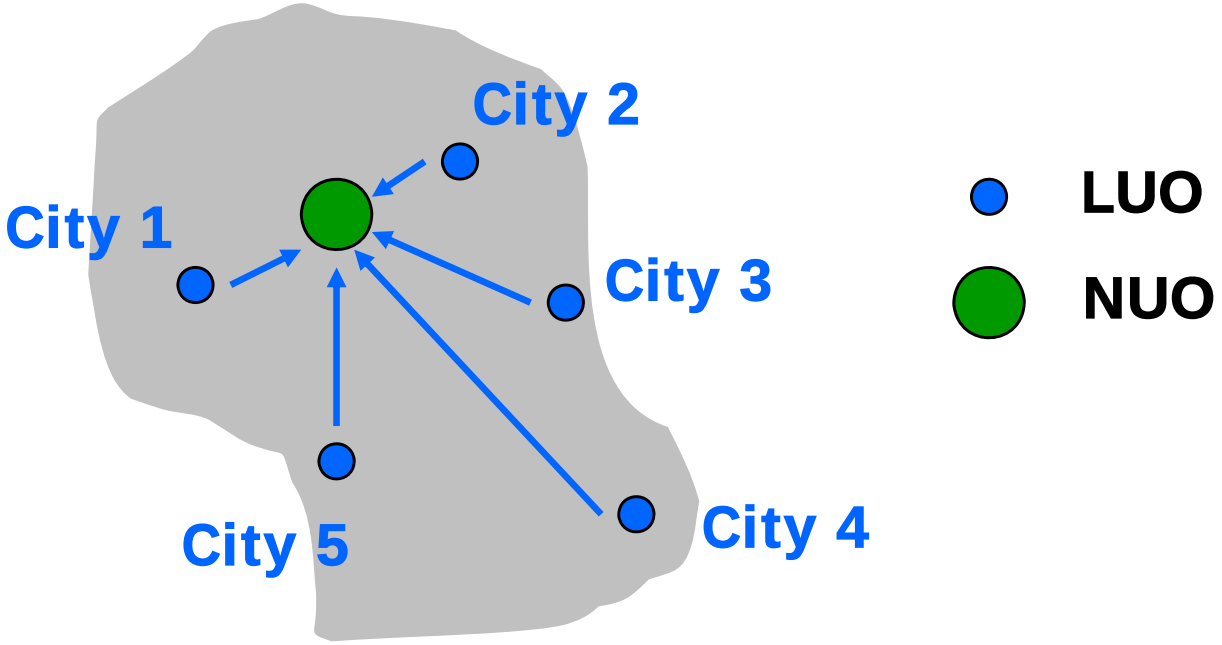
↑

National Urban Observatories (NUO)

↑

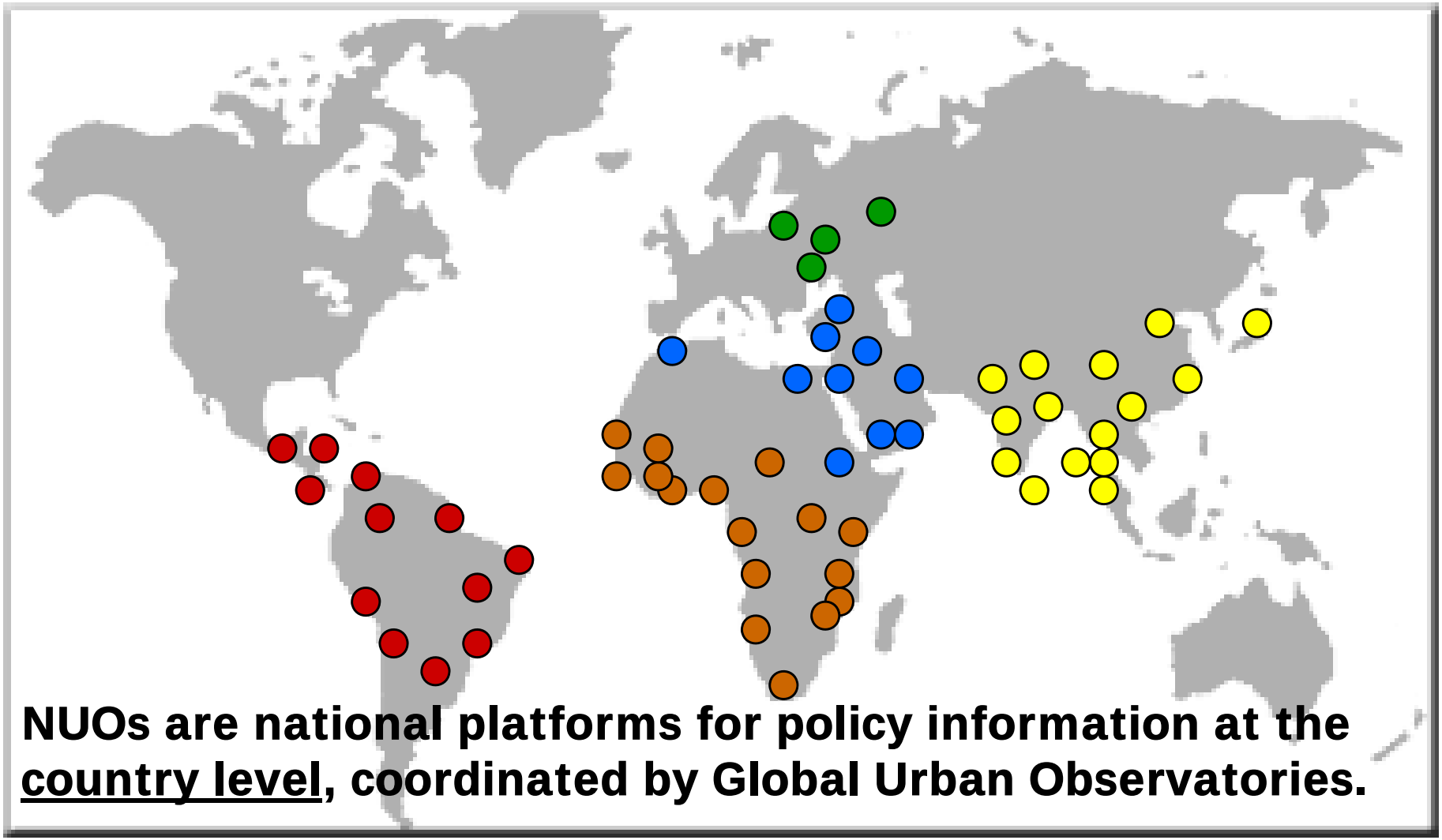
Local Urban Observatories (LUO)
(city level)

Local Urban Observatories



LUOs are local platforms for policy information at the city level, coordinated by National Urban Observatories.

National Urban Observatories



NUOs are national platforms for policy information at the country level, coordinated by Global Urban Observatories.

What is a Local Urban Observatory?

- Develop, collect and analyze **their own indicators** to monitor a range of local priority issues – e.g. social development, economic performance, service delivery
- Establish permanent mechanisms for **monitoring MDGs and Habitat Agenda** indicators
- Promote the **use of urban data** in planning and policy-making at local and national level
- Disseminate information to **strengthen transparency**

Local Urban Observatory Institutional Framework

- Usually housed in an existing city government department (some cases NGO or university)
- Network of data management
- Help catalyze new partnerships between:
  - National Statistical Office and local authority
  - Different municipal departments
  - Citizens and local authority
- Strong links with local policy-making processes

LUO – responding to local demand

- Responding to need for improved data for planning and monitoring of specific policies, sectors or major programmes

- Responding to citizen demand for better information on government performance

Local Urban Observatory - skills

- Multi-sectoral Local Urban Observatory would require staff from wide range of disciplines
- Participation of senior policy-makers as users of information
- Statistical experts required for data collection and analysis
- Information Management expert for administering Urban-Info system and spatial data analysis (using GIS)
- Communication experts for information dissemination

Local Urban Observatory Key Products

- Integration of indicators in local development plans and policies
- Urban indicators database
- Studies, reports, policy recommendations, maps
- Information dissemination via newsletters, TV/radio media-broadcasts, Internet, workshops, etc

Local Urban Observatory Sustainability

- Political commitment
- Participatory mechanisms involving local stakeholders
- Resource commitments (budget and staff)
- Well-defined implementation framework (Action Plan)

How to setup Urban Observatory

Phase 1: Inception and feasibility Assessment

Phase 2: Organizational Development

Case study: Bangalore, India

Objectives:

- To develop a monitoring system to cover all key operational activities of various municipal departments in Bangalore
- To recommend a strategy for integrating indicators with city planning, monitoring and management activities
- To establish a Bangalore Local Urban Observatory

Project implemented by GUO's regional partner for Asia-Pacific, Society for Development Studies, India

Case study: Bangalore, India

Stage 1. Identification and Selection of Indicators

- Indicators selected through a participatory process involving inputs from key service providers at city and state levels
- Modules developed for various sectors: Housing, Urban Basic Services, Health and Environment, Informal Sector, Social Development

Stage 2. Development of Database

- Data sources identified (e.g. census, agency records, project reports of different donors, research studies)
- Data compiled from these various sources and database developed
- Estimations and projections made for years for which data was unavailable

Case study: Bangalore, India

Stage 3. Analysis and Application

- **Key sectors analyzed and "Indicators-based Planning Models" developed for: Housing, Water Supply, Sanitation, Transport, Pollution, Solid Waste Management**
- **Policy recommendations made on the basis of analysis**

Stage 4. Capacity Building and Institutionalization

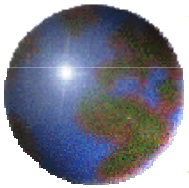
- **Capacity building needs of city officials assessed**
- **Officers of key agencies participated in 3 week training program**
- **Local Urban Observatory established within Bangalore Metropolitan Regional Development Authority**

Case study: Bangalore, India

- Need for more spatially-detailed information for identifying, evaluating and prioritizing policy issues
- With World Bank support, LUO conducted a household survey to generate sub-city level data (sample size =3000hh)
- Results used to develop recommendations on key policy issues – review of tariff structure for water supply, improve access to water by reducing distributional inequities.

Global Urban Observatory: Support

- Financial assistance
- Training – National, city programmes
- Tools – indicators methodologies, guidelines, case studies (Best Practice)
- Urban-Info Software
- GIS software
- Networking – international meetings



Thank you !