

# Building Back Better: Policy Considerations for Smart and Livable Cities in CAREC

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ADB-CAREC Institute Expert Roundtable Discussion On  
Trends and Prospects in Research and Policy in Post-Covid  
Sustainable Recovery  
27 July 2021



- 1 Urbanization Trends in Central Asia
- 2 Issues and Challenges
- 3 ADB Strategy 2030 for Livable Cities
- 4 Build Back Better
- 5 Policy Considerations

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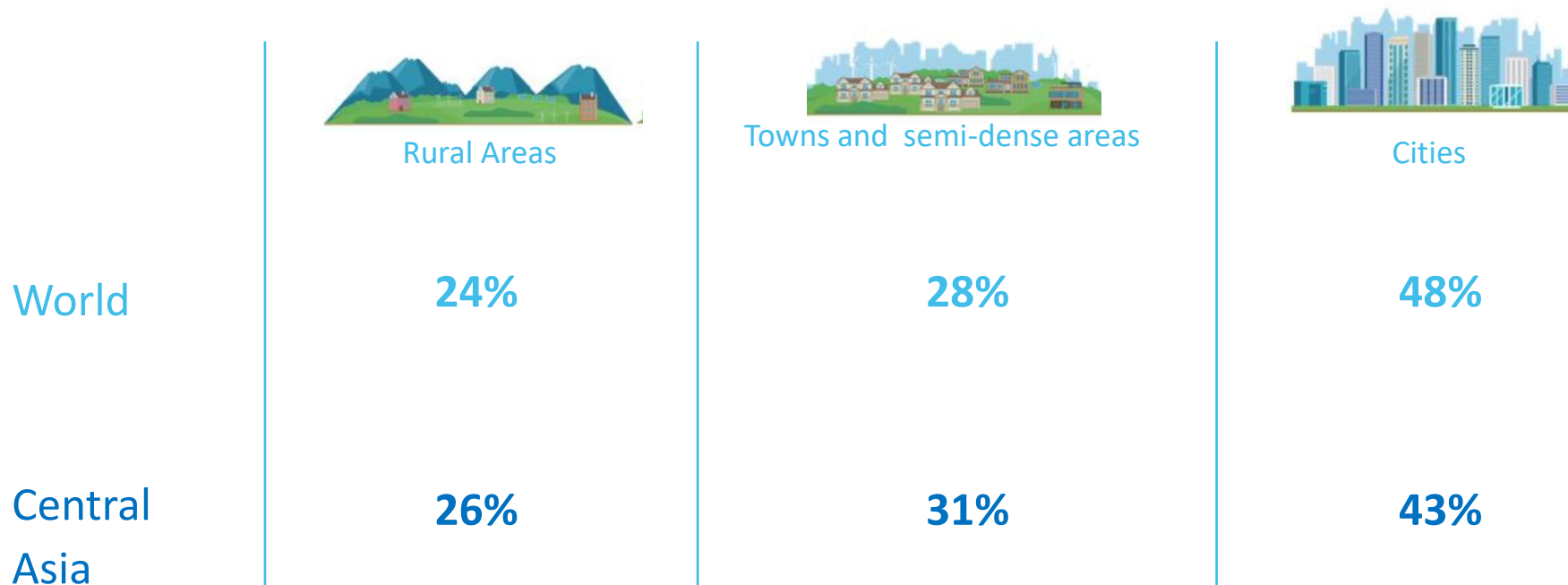
Build Back Better: Making cities  
more smart and livable  
in CAREC

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# 1 Urbanization Trends in CW Countries

## Where do people live?

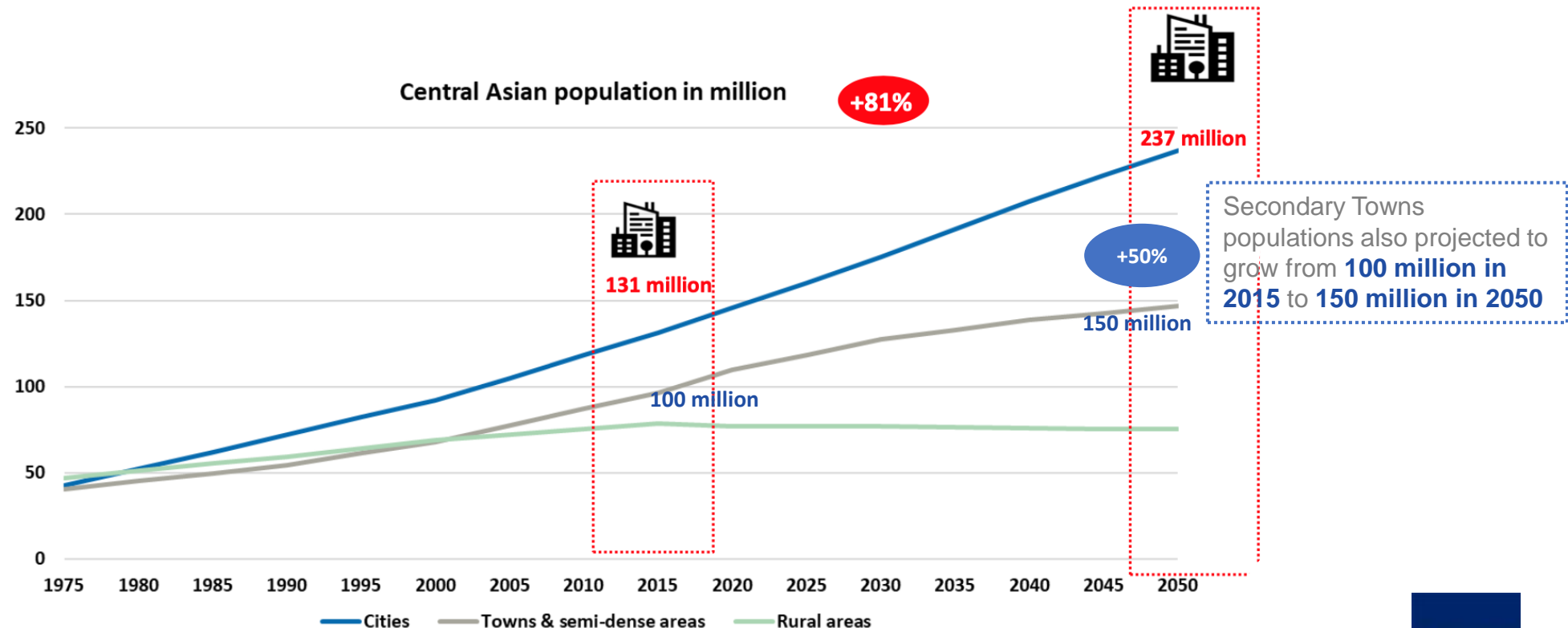


City populations have doubled over the last 40 years and will **increase from 48% to 55%** of the world's population **by 2050**. Central Asia is slightly less urbanized, with 43% of the population living in cities.

# 1 Urbanization Trends in CW Countries

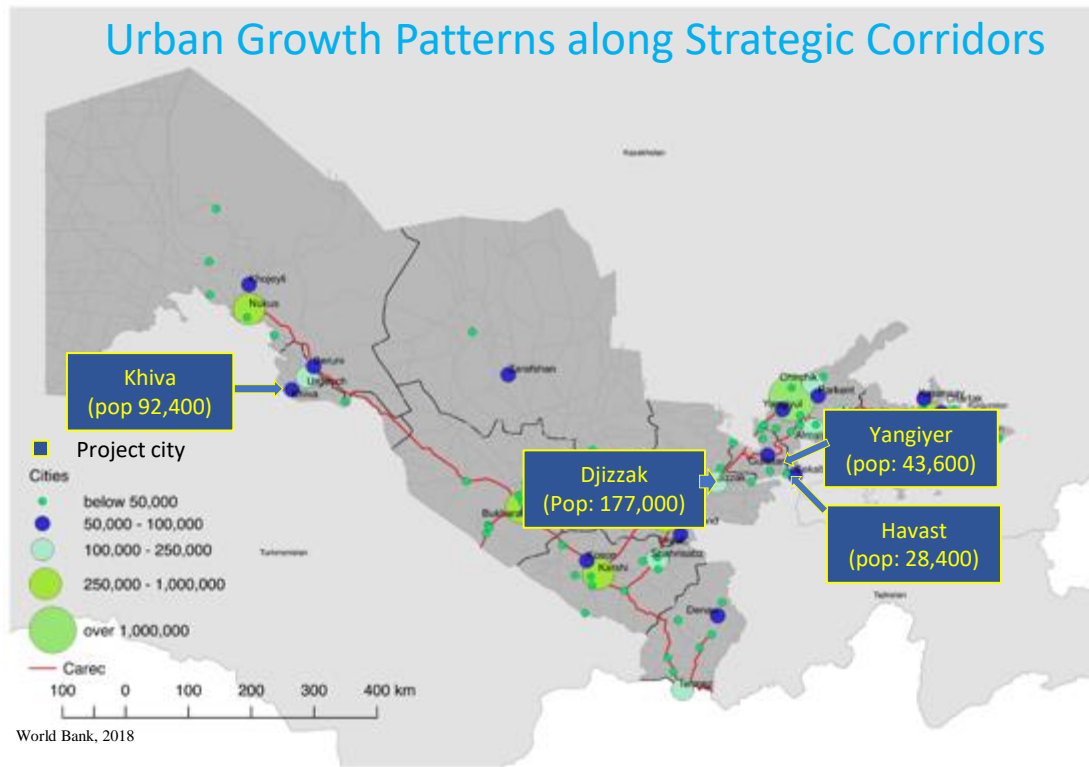
What do the projections say for Central Asian countries?

City populations are projected to grow from **131 million in 2015** to **237 million in 2050**.

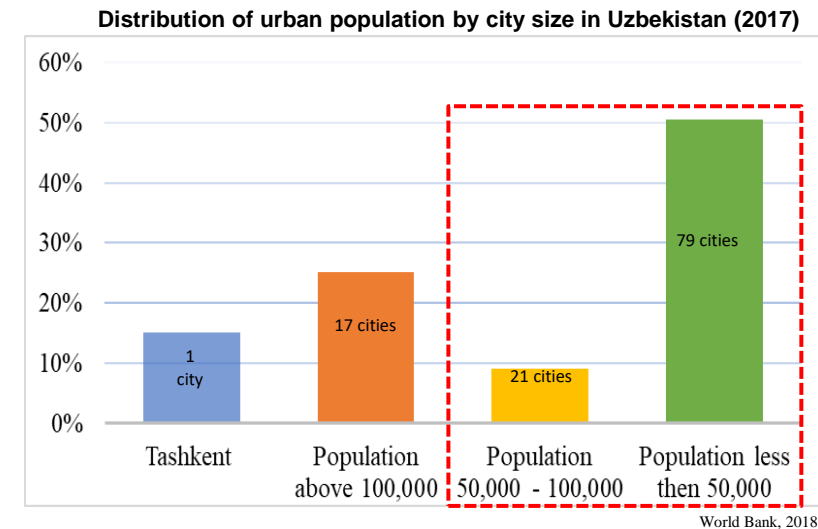


Source: OECD 2021

# Example: Importance of Secondary Cities in Uzbekistan



## UZB Urbanization Snapshot



**Total population: 33.3 million**

**Urban population: 16.8 million (50.5%)**

**Total no. of cities: 119**

### Key Points

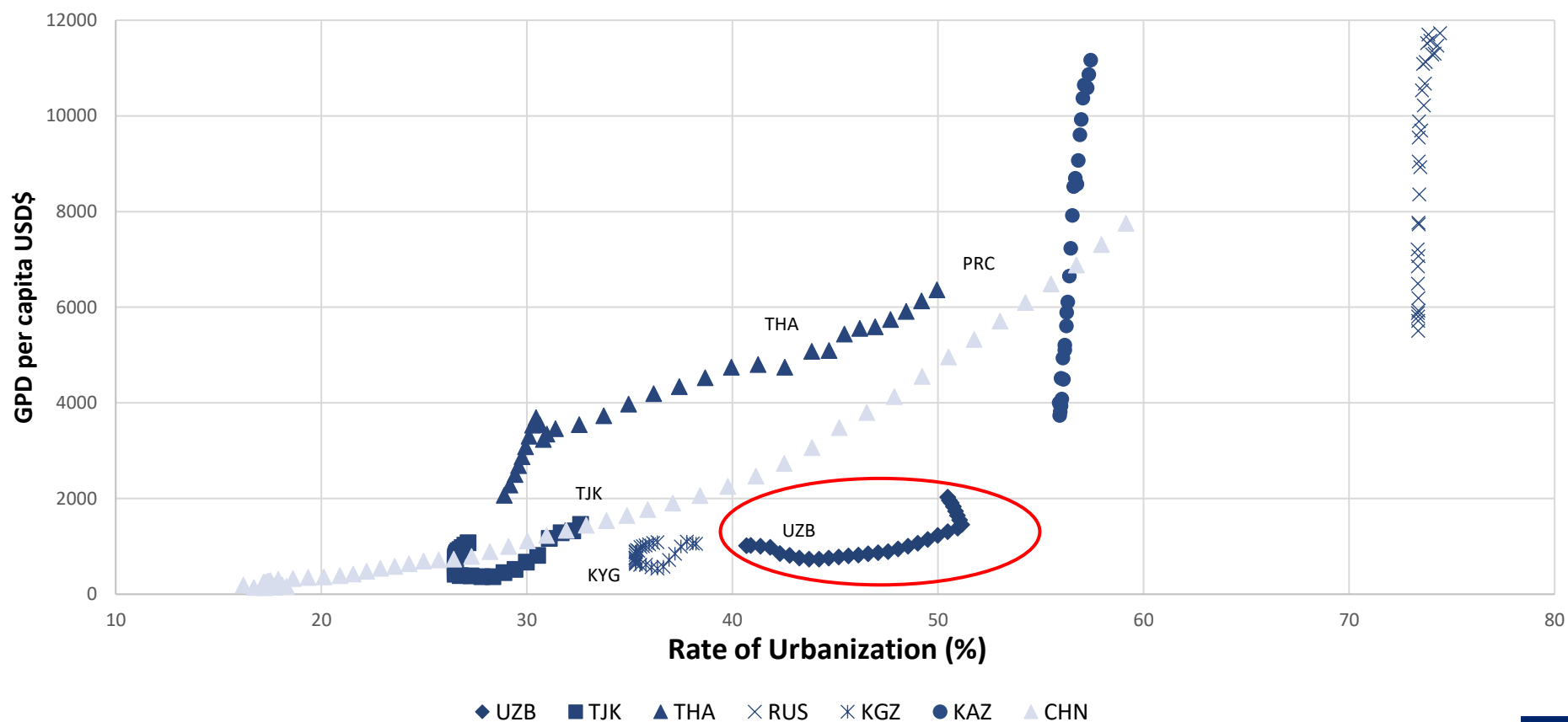
- Majority of the UZB urban population (60%) resides in secondary cities with population < 100,000
- Most secondary cities located in strategically important CARC transport corridors or periphery of larger urban areas

## 1

## Urbanization Trends in CW Countries

# Untapped potential of urbanization in CW Countries

Correlation between  
economic  
development  
and urbanization



## 2 Issues and challenges

### Inadequate urban & social Infrastructure

- Many cities in CAREC face inadequate urban services and deficits in basic urban and social infrastructure.
- Already a huge challenge before COVID-19, inadequate urban services have caused more severe impact in cities in DMCs.
- Health challenges are aggravated by substandard housing and insufficient water, sanitation, hygiene (WASH) facilities.

## 2 Issues and challenges

### Economic crisis in urban sector

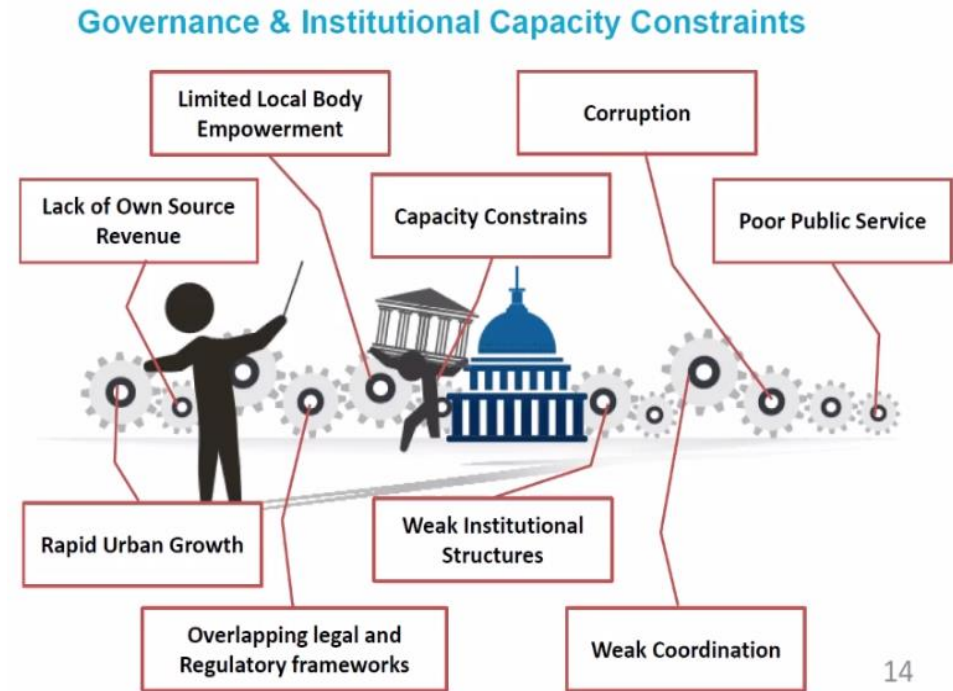
- Cities, especially small and medium towns, lack economic resilience to COVID-19, and face financial shocks.
- Unaware of comparative economic advantages, limited access to markets.
- Inadequate social protection systems for vulnerable people, MSMEs and workers
- Political, economic, and regulatory systems, as well as top-down governance limit cities' ability to devise systematic and holistic responses.



## 2 Issues and challenges

### Weak institutional capacity, governance, and finance

- City revenues decreased during COVID-19
- Weak local revenue generation and administration, low billing and collection rates.
- Local governments have limited capacities in urban management and planning, weak coordination
- Poor link between budget & planning
- Weak O&M and asset management capacity
- Limited engagement of citizen and private sector



# 3 ADB Strategy 2030 for Livable Cities

## 3 Pillars

### Strategic Operational Priorities

- 1 Improve access, quality and reliability of services in urban areas
- 2 Strengthen urban planning and financial sustainability of cities
- 3 Improve urban environment, climate-resilience and disaster management of cities

## 4E Approach

### 1. Economy



### Competitiveness



### 2. Environment



### Sustainability



### 3. Equity



### Inclusiveness



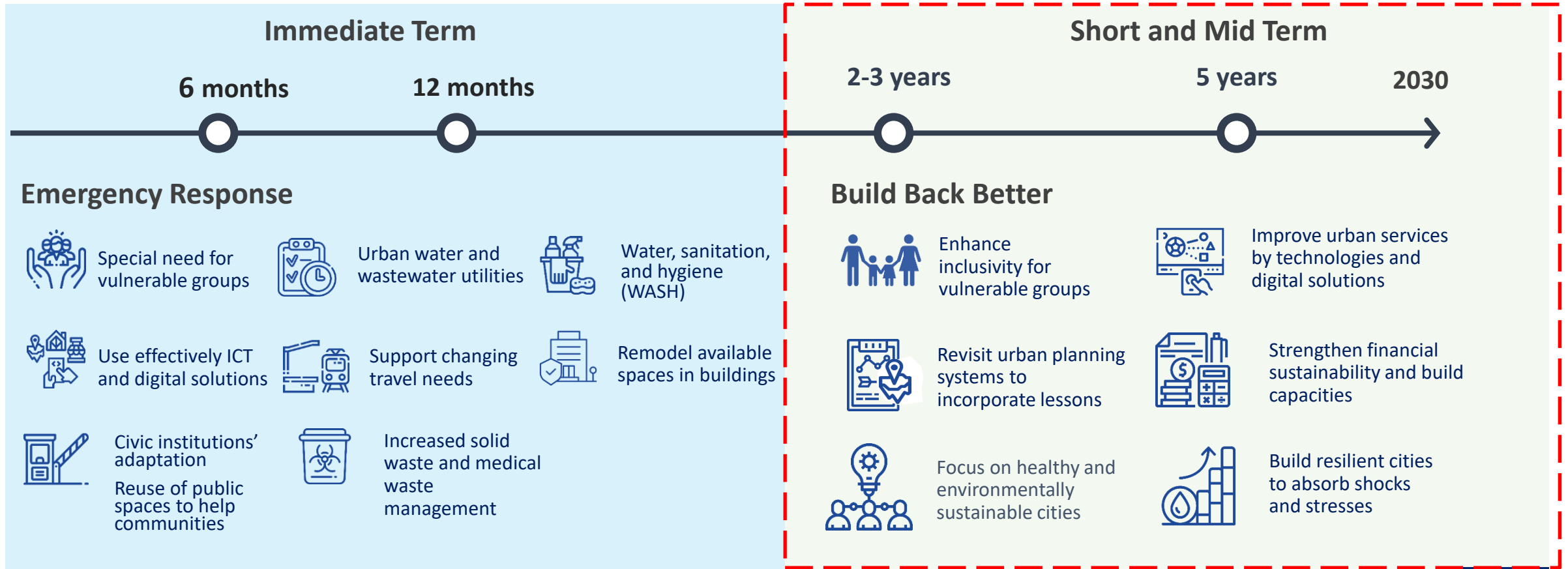
## 4. Enablers → Institutions and Policies

Planning and Governance

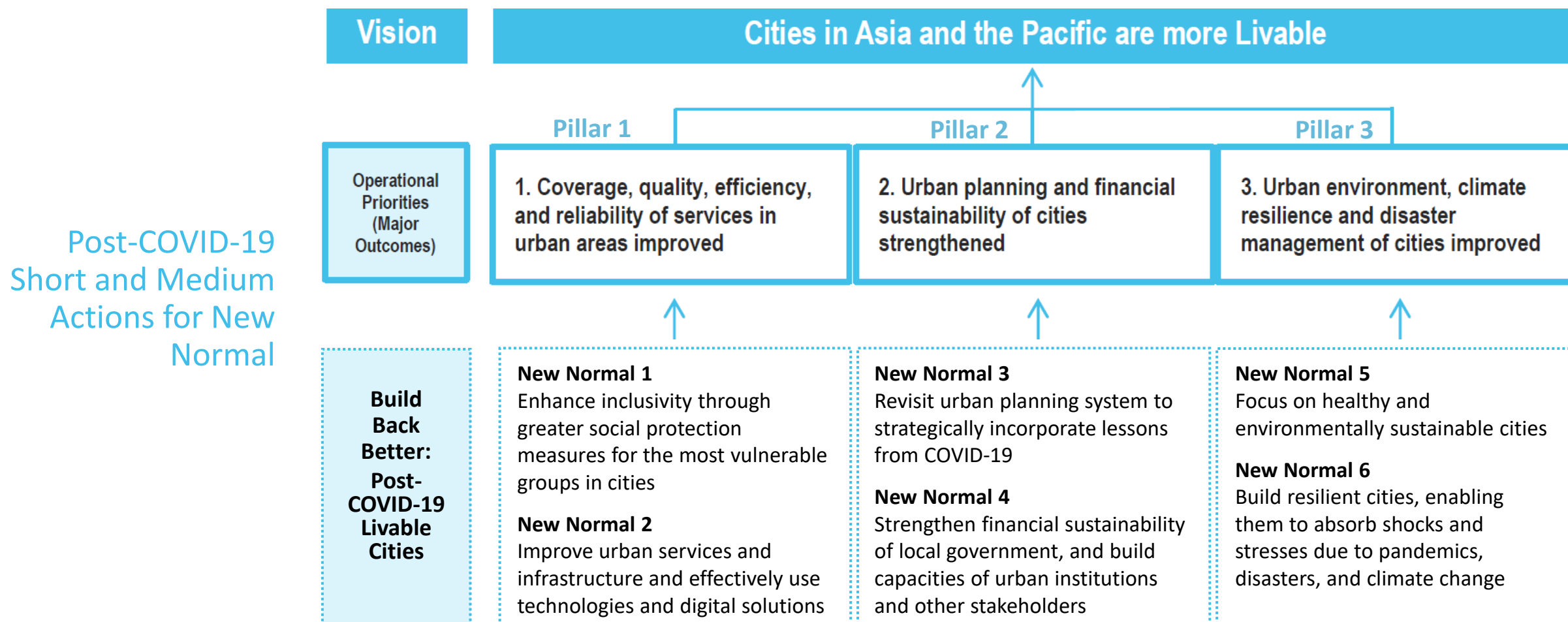
Technology and Finance



# 4 Build back better



# 4 Build back better



# 5 Policy Considerations for Post-COVID Smart and Livable Cities



## COVID-19 AND LIVABLE CITIES IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

GUIDANCE NOTE

DECEMBER 2020

### Key Considerations for Post-COVID Smart and Livable Cities

- Integrated, strategic urban planning process and adopt lessons from COVID-19
- Support more social protection measures for the most vulnerable groups
- Improve urban environments with uninterrupted basic urban services (water, sanitation, solid waste)
- Measures to strengthen financial sustainability, financial inclusion, and building capacities of urban institutions and other stakeholders
- Increased use of technologies and digital solutions in cities on all aspects of urban governance