NextGenC – Literature Scan

# Next Generation Urban Governance: review of literature by selected international policy organisations

**by LSE Cities**

28 March 2024

# 1   Introduction

This review was facilitated by scanning the repositories of key international policy organisations (such as the World Bank's 'open knowledge', OECD's 'iLibrary', and the UN's 'official document system') and manually selecting the most relevant publications. The abstracts of the selected reports were used to identify clusters of topics and themes by publishing organisation. Clustering involved a two-stage process of first utilising an AI tool and then manually checking the results. Following this, references were recategorised into more coherent groups and sub-headings, and some descriptions were rewritten.

# 2   OECD Literature

The following subheadings categorise and summarise the OECD publications within the literature review.

## 2.1   Youth Challenges and Lack of Political Representation

**Youth Democratic Engagement and Political Representation (OECD_IT3_7, OECD_IT3_8, OECD_IT3_13)**: The literature points to a significant gap in youth representation in politics, suggesting that this may have long-lasting effects on young people's trust in government and their democratic engagement. A strong case is made for reinforcing technical and administrative capacities to ensure young people are not just heard but are active participants in policy-making. The integration of youth perspectives in the system of strategic processes, tools, institutions, and interactions for effective policymaking is stressed as key to aligning governance with youth needs.

**Youth Experience and Policy in MENA (OECD_IT3_1, OECD_IT3_5, OECD_IT3_12)**: The overviews indicate a significant disconnect between youth needs and government policies in the MENA region. There is an urgent call for a strategic framework that integrates the perspectives of young people into the political process, ensuring their concerns are central to governance and policy development. The MENA region faces unique challenges such as high youth unemployment, low trust in public institutions, and the aftermath of civil uprisings, emphasizing the need for tailored youth policies that align with the aspirations and conditions of the younger generation. A focus is also on enhancing governance arrangements to better reflect youth demands and to foster inclusive growth through tailored public services.

## 2.2   Digital Government

**Digital Government Index and Strategies (OECD_IT4_1 to OECD_IT4_5)**: A series of overviews examine the evolution and effectiveness of digital government practices across different countries. The focus ranges from the general maturity of digital strategies to country-specific reviews of digital transformation efforts within the public sector. The components discuss the importance of ICT in public sector efficiency, the use of data for citizen-driven policy making, and the need for strong data governance to respond effectively to citizens' needs. The reviews also cover the role of digital leadership, policy frameworks, and legal and institutional capacities necessary for successful digital governance.

## 2.3   Youth Economic Inclusion, Entrepreneurship and Social Enterprise

**Social Impact and Youth-Led Enterprises (OECD_IT3_2)**: This component highlights the rise of social entrepreneurship among young people across OECD countries, driven by their desire to create positive social and environmental impacts. Despite their potential, youth-led enterprises often face challenges related to their founders' age and the specificities of their business models. The necessity for policies that offer tailored support to these youth-led initiatives is emphasized, drawing on best practices from OECD countries to overcome the identified obstacles and support the sustainability and growth of these enterprises.

**Socio-economic Inclusion and Entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Carribean (OECD_IT3_9, OECD_IT3_15)**: These publications discuss the demographic dividends and economic inclusion challenges in Latin America and the Carribean. They emphasize the importance of investing in young people's economic and social participation to harness the potential of youth demographics. Furthermore, the role of youth entrepreneurship in fostering employability and social mobility is discussed, particularly highlighting the barriers young entrepreneurs face in less privileged regions and how public policies have aimed to improve their prospects.

### 2.4    Youth-Focused and Intergenerational Equity Policies and Programs

**Youth-Focused Policies and Programs (OECD_IT3_14)**: This report presents an extensive inventory of youth-focused policies and programs that have been used around the world, noting that while some have established evidence bases and positive outcomes, the effectiveness of such programs often depends on the context. These programs cover a range of sectors, including employment, education, health, and civic participation, and the inventory serves as a resource for policymakers to identify and implement effective strategies for youth inclusion and empowerment.

**Policies promoting Intergenerational Equity (OECD_IT3_4)**: This component assesses how policies, laws, and governance tools are being structured to address the challenges faced by youth in the context of global changes such as population aging, digitalization, rising inequalities, and climate change. The emphasis is on evaluating how different governments are enabling youth empowerment and ensuring fair outcomes for all generations, which includes transitioning to an autonomous life, increasing political participation, and building trust in governance.

These reports from the OECD highlight the range of economic and social challenges experienced by youth today and a set of longer-term challenges they face (e.g. climate change). Policies targeted on promoting intergenerational equity and addressing youth challenges across employment, entrepreneurship, education, health and are discussed. Participation and governance are other key themes, including the role of digital government for better inclusion and the implementation of effective youth-centric programs across various sectors and regions.

## 3    UN Habitat Literature

The following subheadings categorise and summarise the UN Habitat publlications within the literature review.

### 3.1    Urban Youth Experience

**Challenges Faced by Urban Youth (UNH_it2_1, UNH_it2_2, UNH_it4_1, UNH_it6_2, UNH_it6_5)**: These publications highlight the rapid growth of the youth population in urban areas and their pressing challenges, including high global youth unemployment rate, poverty and slum proliferation. These challenges are manifested through mass protests, indicating young people's perception of not being heard or included in decision-making processes. There are calls for more research that considers their diverse experiences and views, aiming to better understand the political economy of youth-focused development.

**Youth Experience in Latin American cities (UNH_it6_1, UNH_it6_12)**: Reports on the socio-economic situation of young people in Latin American cities, with focus on youth at risk and the need for urban regulations and policies to reflect the realities of the youthful population, in the context of supporting local economies and development.

### 3.2    Leveraging Technology for Youth Participation

**Technology-enabled Youth Participation in Urban Development (UNH_it3_1, UNH_it3_2, UNH_it6_3)**: These reports discuss UN-Habitat's strategy for using ICT to encourage youth participation in urban design and governance, including the use of tools like Minecraft for participatory urban design and governance, considering the dynamic intersection of youth demographics, technology, and urban governance.

**Participatory budgeting with digital technology (UNH_it5_7)**: An exploration of the untapped potential of Participatory Budgeting as a driver for engaging citizens and allocating resources in response to various urban challenges, including natural and economic shocks.

### 3.3    Smart and Inclusive Cities

**Smart Cities (UNH_it5_1, UNH_it5_2, UNH_it5_5, UNH_it5_6)**: These publications discuss technology use in cities, with particular focus on the People-Centered Smart Cities framework to ensure inclusivity of current and future generations in smart city development, leveraging data and technology, for the common good, and aligning municipal services with values such as inclusion, trust, transparency, and equity.

**Digital Rights and Governance (UNH_it5_3, UNH_it5_4)**: These publications cover the recognition and mainstreaming of 'digital rights' as existing human rights in the context of technology in local governments with focus on the Digital Rights Governance Project, which is

part of Europe's efforts to align human rights mechanisms both offline and online.

### 3.4    Youth in Urban Governance and Development

**Youth in Urban Governance (UNH_it6_4, UNH_it6_9, UNH_it6_10, UNH_it6_11)**: These publications provide a discussion on the significant proportion of youth in urban populations and their potential role in urban governance, emphasizing the need for their participation in decision-making processes, the special needs of children and young people in urban planning and development, and examples of youth-led development in action.

**Youth Participation in Development (UNH_it6_8, UNH_it6_13):** These reports cover multiple global examples of youth-led development, including a UN Habitat One Stop Youth Centre Model focused on increasing employment opportunities and inclusion in policy development.

These summaries provide an overview of the UN Habitat literature of urban youth experience, outlining the challenges they face such as unemployment, poverty and the proliferation of slums. A series of applications of technology for promoting youth participation, creating people-centred cities and embedding digital rights, are discussed. The case is made for greater youth participation in urban governance with examples of youth-led development given.

# 4   World Bank Literature

The following subheadings categorise and summarise the World Bank publications within the literature review.

### 4.1    Technology in Development

**Interactive Community Mapping (ICM) (WB, 2014)**: The World Bank emphasizes the utility of ICM as a tool for development that allows for a participatory decision-making approach. By visualizing community needs and concerns, ICM can inform and adjust development plans. Good practices from Kenya and Tanzania illustrate the potential for ICM to translate into tangible development results, with step-by-step guidance provided on implementing this technology in projects.

**Accountability in Development using Technology (WB, 2014b)**: There is a call for

enhanced transparency and accountability, and responsiveness from governments or donors to people's needs, which are imperative for sustainable development results. This abstract indicates a focus on how new technologies can act as accelerators to close the accountability gap between governments or service providers and the demands of the people.

### 4.2    Technology for Youth Employment

**Promoting Youth Employment with ICT (WB, 2011)**: This source reflects on the Arab Development Summit Youth Forum, emphasizing the crucial role of ICT in promoting employment opportunities for youth in the MENA region. It underscores the demand for good governance and economic opportunities, noting the importance of addressing both supply-side and demand-side challenges to enable youth to benefit from ICT, despite a regional digital divide.

### 4.3    Promoting Innovation

**Social Innovators' Framework (WB, 2016)**: The World Bank presents the Social Innovators' Framework (SIF) designed to support young people in acquiring a comprehensive understanding of complex societal challenges and developing essential skills for social innovation. The SIF is described as a structured, multidisciplinary learning experience that emphasizes project-based and problem-posing education. This document outlines the design of the SIF and its implementation within the Evoke project, including an overview of the skills developed, operationalization in activities, and the assessment approach.

**Citizen-Driven Innovation (WB, 2015)**: This guidebook aims to introduce citizen-driven innovation to policymakers and change agents worldwide. It advocates for open and participatory approaches to digital service development and explores the concept of smart cities with a citizen-centric lens, presenting different models of smart cities that have effectively utilized citizen-driven methods.

These World Bank publications focus on integrating technology in development projects to advance youth employment, innovation and development. The reports highlight the potential for technology to enhance transparency and accountability, community engagement and participation, community mapping, and enable citizen-driven and social innovation.

# 5   USAID Literature

The following subheadings categorise and summarise the USAID publications within the literature review.

### 5.1   Digital Transformation and Inclusivity

**Bridging the Digital Divide (USAID 2023b)**: Addresses the need for digital literacy and skills among youth to leverage the full benefits of digital tools, highlighting the role of technology in youth development.

**Digital Ecosystem Assessment in Colombia (USAID 2020)**: Focuses on Colombia's challenge to enhance digital connectivity without compromising inclusivity or security, forming part of a broader digital strategy to achieve open, secure, and inclusive digital ecosystems.

### 5.2   Youth Experience in Bosnia and Herzegovina

**Youth Perceptions and Societal Engagement (USAID 2023a)**: Covers youth perspectives in Bosnia and Herzegovina on critical societal issues, informing more targeted and responsive development interventions.

### 5.3   Youth Policy in Development

**Youth-Centric Policy Framework (USAID 2012a, USAID 2012b)**: These sources outline and assess the implementation of the first dedicated USAID policy for youth in development, which aimed at improving youth capacities, increasing youth participation in society, mainstreaming youth issues across the agency's programmes.

These publications illustrate USAID's focus on helping foster digital ecosystems that are inclusive and on promoting youth involvement in their development programmes. Themes covered for promoting youth policy include democratic participation, centring youth issues, and improving youth digital literacy.

# 6   IDB Literature

The following subheadings categorise and summarise the IBD publications within the literature review.

### 6.1   Transitioning Youth Support from State-Care Services

**Strengthening Transitioning-from-State-Care Services (IDB, A 2022)**: The focus is on improving outcomes for youth aging out of state care in Belize, providing diagnostics of existing services and recommendations to bridge service gaps for successful transitions.

### 6.2   Educational and Skills Challenges and Responses

**Rebooting Post-Pandemic Education (IDB, B 2022)**: This report addresses the significant educational disruptions caused by the pandemic in Latin America and the Caribbean, suggesting evidence-based strategies for recovery and the long-term improvement of educational systems.

**Skills Development for Indigenous Populations (IDB, C 2022)**: The research highlights the skill development challenges faced by Indigenous children, youth, and adults, providing policy recommendations based on life stages and learning gaps in Latin America and the Caribbean.

### 6.3   Youth Entrepreneurship

**Youth Entrepreneurship Program Impact (IDB, D 2020)**: Outlines the outcomes of a six-year Youth Entrepreneurship Programme aimed at tackling youth unemployment by fostering entrepreneurship, highlighting successful business creation and capacity-building in digital economy adaptation.

IDB's focuses their youth policy reports on areas of vulnerable youth (e.g. care leavers), education and employment. Their reports address inequalities (e.g. education and skills gaps) and make a series of recommendations to reduce these gaps, for example by promoting skills development and entrepreneurial support and by focusing on improving outcomes for vulnerable cohorts.

# 7   Conclusion

This grey literature review on Next Generation Urban Governance covers publications from the OECD, UN Habitat, the World Bank, USAID, and the IBD. The review highlights the lived experience of young people in urban settings, who make up a large proportion of the global urban population. The publications describe an array of significant social and economic

challenges many urban young people are facing, including poverty, unemployment and poor living conditions, and the future threats they face (e.g. relating to climate change). The review highlights the need for further sub-grouping of youth rather than focusing on homogenous challenges, which has been done for example for certain vulnerable sub-groups such as care leavers. The social and economic challenges young people face are accompanied by an underrepresentation in governance structures and political processes. The lack of inclusion is linked to low trust in government and, in some instances, mass protests. In this context of intergenerational inequity in both outcomes and inclusion, a series of policy solutions are explored, ranging from the role of digital technology to enhance youth participation in governance and cities design, to youth policies and programmes focused on fostering entrepreneurship, and promoting education, skills, and employability.

# 8 Bibliography

CAVA, G. L., ROSSOTTO, C. M. & PARADI-GUILFORD, C. 2011. Information and Communications Technologies (ICT) for Youth in MENA: Policies to Promote Employment Opportunities. Open knowledge: WB, 2011.

ESKELINEN, J., GARCIA ROBLES, A., LINDY, I., MARSH, J., MUENTE-KUNIGAMI, A., ESKELINEN, J., GARCIA ROBLES, A., LINDY, I., MARSH, J. & MUENTE-KUNIGAMI, A. 2015. Citizen-Driven Innovation: A Guidebook for City Mayors and Public Administrators. Open knowledge: WB, 2015.

FREEMAN, B. & HAWKINS, R. 2016. Publication: Evoke - Developing Skills in Youth to Solve the World's Most Complex Problems: The Social Innovators' Framework. Open knowledge: WB 2016.

GIGLER, B.-S. & BAILUR, S. 2014. Closing the Feedback Loop : Can Technology Bridge the Accountability Gap? Open knowledge: WB, 2014b.

IBD 2020. The Youth Entrepreneurship Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean: Impact Report. IDB D.

IBD 2022a. How to Reboot Education Post-Pandemic: Delivering on the Promise of a Better Future for Youth. IDB, B.

IBD 2022b. Review and Recommendations for Strengthening Transitioning-from-State-Care Services for Youth in the Protection System. IDB: IDB, A.

IBD 2022c. Skills Development of Indigenous Children, Youth, and Adults in Latin America and the Caribbean. IBD, C.

OECD 2009. Are You Listening? Youth Voices in Public Policy. Focus on Citizens, Public Engagement for Better Policy and Services: OECD_IT3_10.

OECD 2011. Reducing the Involvement of Youth in Armed Violence. Conflict and Fragility: OECD_IT3_3.

OECD 2016a. Mainstreaming youth considerations in public governance. Youth in the MENA Region: OECD_IT3_8.

OECD 2016b. Readjusting public governance frameworks towards youth demands and inclusive growth. Youth in the MENA Region, How to Bring Them In: OECD_IT3_12.

OECD 2016c. Towards a public governance framework for effective and inclusive youth engagement. Youth in Mena Region: OECD_IT3_1.

OECD 2016d. Youth entrepreneurship in Latin America and the Caribbean. Latin American Economic Outlook 2017: OECD_IT3_15.

OECD 2016e. Youth inclusion in Latin America and their main challenge. Latin American Economic Outlook 2017, Youth, Skills and Entrepreneurship OECD_IT3_9.

OECD 2017. An inventory of common policies and programmes for youth. Evidence-based Policy Making for Youth Well-being A Toolkit: OECD_IT3_14.

OECD 2018. Digital Government Review of Colombia. OECD Digital Government Studies: OECD_IT4_5.

OECD 2019a. Digital Government Review of Argentina. OECD Digital Government Studies/ OECD e-Government Studies: OECD_IT4_2.

OECD 2019b. Governance of digital government. Digital Government in Peru, Working Closely with Citizens OECD_IT4_4.

OECD 2019c. Strengthening governance. Digital Government Review of Panama, Enhancing the Digital Transformation of the Public Sector OECD_IT4_3.

OECD 2019d. Youth inequalities in digital interactions and well-being. Educating 21st Century Children, Emotional Well-being in the Digital Age OECD_IT3_11.

OECD 2020a. Digital Government Index. OECD Public Governance Policy Papers: OECD_IT4_1.

OECD 2020b. Governance for Youth, Trust and Intergenerational Justice. OECD Public Governance Reviews: OECD_IT3_4.

OECD 2021. Youth participation and representation in public life in Jordan. Empowering Youth and Building Trust in Jordan: OECD_IT3_13.

OECD 2022a. Delivering for youth: How governments can put young people at the centre of the recovery. OECD Policy Responses to Coronavirus (COVID-19): OECD_IT3_6.

OECD 2022b. Unlocking the potential of youth-led social enterprises. OECD Local Economic and Employment Development (LEED) Papers: OECD_IT3_2.

OECD 2022c. Youth at the Centre of Government Action. OECD Public Governance Reviews: OECD_IT3_5.

OECD 2022d. Youth representation in politics. Government at a Glance 2023: OECD_IT3_7.

SHKABATUR, J. & KUMAGAI, S. 2014. Publication: Interactive Community Mapping : Improving Service Delivery and Empowering Communities. Open knowledge: WB, 2014.

UN HABITAT 2004. Policy Dialogue Series: Youth, Children And Urban Governance - Number 2. UNH_it6_9.

UN HABITAT 2007a. A better childhood in the city. UNH_it6_10.

UN HABITAT 2007b. Global Campaign on Urban Governance: Youth, Children and Urban Governance. UNH_it6_11.

UN HABITAT 2007c. Strategy on Youth at Risk in Latin America. UNH_it6_12.

UN HABITAT 2009. One Stop Youth Centre Model. UNH_it6_8.

UN HABITAT 2010. Ideas To Action. UNH_it6_13.

UN HABITAT 2012. Young People, Participation and Sustainable Development in an Urbanizing World. UNH_it2_1.

UN HABITAT 2013a. Advancing Youth Civic Engagement and Human Rights. UNH_it2_2.

UN HABITAT 2013b. Cities of Youth, Cities of prosperity. UNH_it6_6.

UN HABITAT 2013c. THE 4th ASIA PACIFIC MINISTERIAL CONFERENCE ON HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT (APMCHUD), Youth and IT in Sustainable Urban Development. UNH_it4_1.

UN HABITAT 2013d. The State of Urban Youth 2012/2013, Youth in the Prosperity of Cities. UNH_it6_5.

UN HABITAT 2014. What Land Means to Youth. UNH_it6_4.

UN HABITAT 2015. ICT, Urban Governance and Youth. UNH_it6_3.

UN HABITAT 2016a. Using Minecraft for Youth Participation in Urban Design and Governance. UNH_it3_1.

UN HABITAT 2016b. Youth and the New Urban Agenda. UNH_it6_2.

UN HABITAT 2017. State of Prosperity Report of Urban Youth in Colombia (in Spanish). UNH_it6_1.

UN HABITAT 2020. Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2020: Urban Technologies in China. UNH_it5_2.

UN HABITAT 2021a. Centering People in Smart Cities. UNH_it5_1.

UN HABITAT 2021b. Innovation and digital technology to re-imagine Participatory Budgeting as a tool for building social resilience. UNH_it5_7.

UN HABITAT 2021c. The Block by Block Playbook: Using Minecraft as a participatory design tool in urban design and governance. UNH_it3_2.

UN HABITAT 2022a. AI & Cities: Risks, Applications and Governance. UNH_it5_6.

UN HABITAT 2022b. Global Review of Smart City Governance Practices. UNH_it5_5.

UN HABITAT 2022c. Mainstreaming human rights in the digital transformation of cities – A guide for local governments. UNH_it5_3.

UN HABITAT 2023. Human rights in the digital era: Learnings on local governance from pilots in Europe. UNH_it5_4.

USAID 2012a. YOUTH IN DEVELOPMENT POLICY, Realizing the Demographic Opportunity. USAID 2012a.

USAID 2012b. Assessment of the Implementation Of USAID's Youth in Development Policy. USAID 2012b.

USAID 2020. DIGITAL ECOSYSTEM COUNTRY ASSESSMENT (DECA). USAID 2020.

USAID 2023a. MONITORING AND EVALUATION SUPPORT ACTIVITY II (MEASURE II), National Youth Survey in Bosnia and Herzegovina 2022  USAID 2023a.

USAID 2023b. Digital Literacy Briefer: Youth. USAID 2023b.