

Context Analysis – Annex 1

Understanding the urban context is an important first step in our Decision Support Framework to find effective, contextual solutions for urban resilience. It is important to understand the context of a city because the nature of stakeholder interactions, politics & institutions (referred to herein as ‘governance’), the economy and culture in a city influences the types of decision-making processes that might be possible and ultimately the nature of urban resilience solutions.

This Annex sets out our approach to undertaking a context analysis as the first step in co-creating urban resilience decisions. The context analysis is designed to be undertaken by a research team or user as the first step before identifying the orientation of co-production, the domains of urban resilience action, and ultimately co-creating urban resilience solutions. The overall approach to undertaking a context analysis is laid out in Figure 1 below.

The first step is to outline the **aims** of a context analysis. The overall aim is for a research team or user to understand how an interconnected network of stakeholders in a city interact in ways which could either enable or constrain an urban resilience solution. The aims are broken down in further detail, seeking to understand power relationships, goals and incentive structures that enable or constrain meaningful action on urban resilience in cities.

The context analysis is structured around an analysis of four specific ‘**domains**’ where a user can use tools and methodologies to collect data that helps them understand the context. The first of these domains is the cross-cutting domain of stakeholders & networks, where a research team or user will seek to understand the ways in which stakeholders and networks of actors interact. The remaining three domains where a research team or user will collect contextual data are the domains of governance, the economy and culture.

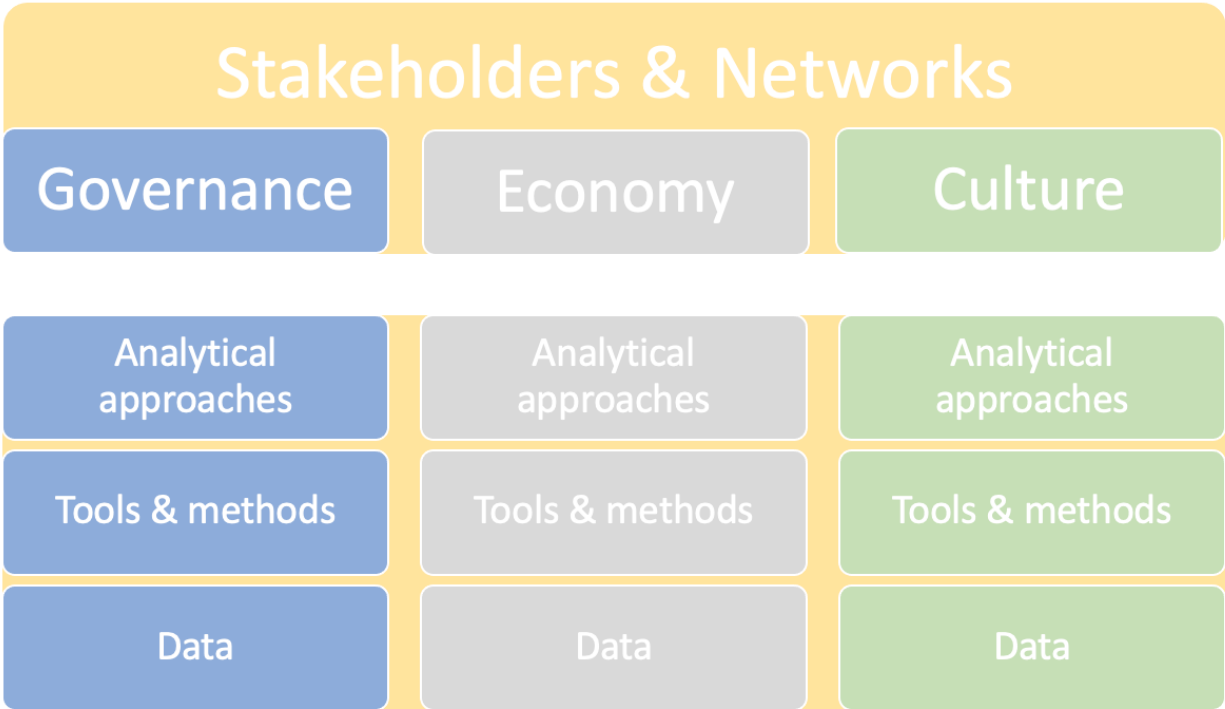
There is a significant body of academic research on these four interconnected domains. This Annex lists some of the key **analytical approaches** that have been used by researchers to understand issues of governance, the economy, culture and stakeholder/network interactions. The approaches listed below are not intended to be an exhaustive survey of the academic literature; rather they provide a curated list of analytical approaches that can help researchers and users identify the questions, tools and methodologies that collect the right type of data to achieve the aims of the context analysis. In brief, these analytical approaches focus on issues of power, incentives, network interactions, social norms and social trust.

There are a wide range of **tools and methodologies** that a research team or user can use to collect contextual data against the four domains of the context analysis. This Annex explores a number of these approaches in detail to help research teams decide which tools they employ for data collection. A select list of tools are presented below, along with a description of where and how that tool has been used in practice. Researchers conducting a context analysis can

choose which of these tools might be relevant to help understand the urban context in the city where they are working.

Ultimately, the end goal of the context analysis is to collect **data** that enables the user to make an assessment on how networks of actors in a city interact – and particularly on how those interactions enable or constrain collaborative action to deliver urban resilience solutions. The data will likely highlight points of alignment as well as misalignment, showcasing how certain barriers are constraining urban resilience outcomes and also identifying entry points where opportunity for more effective collaboration might be possible. This Annex does not list the exact indicators that researchers and users should collect when employing data collection methodologies and tools. Rather, it outlines the types of data that researchers seek to collect – focusing in particular on interactions between actors, governance and financial incentive structures, norms and power.

Visual diagram of context analysis approach



Aims of the Context Analysis

The **overall aim** of the context analysis is:

- To understand how a network of stakeholders in a city interact in ways which could either enable or constrain an urban resilience solution.

This can be broken down into **three sub-aims** to understand:

- a. Power relationships within a network of city actors
- b. The main goals and motivations of different actors within a city network
- c. The incentives structures for different actors within a city network

Context Analysis Domains

The context analysis is undertaken across four main 'domains', which can be thought of as the four main analysis categories that a research team would study when conducting a context analysis. The first – and overarching - domain is centered around **stakeholders & networks**. This refers to all the main actors a user wishes to study for the city context, as well as the networks of interactions that exist (or do not exist) between these different stakeholders. The other three domains examine the interactions between different stakeholders in a network based on issues of **governance**, the **economy**, and **culture**. Of critical importance in these three domains is the way in which power, incentive structures and norms shape these interactions. Each of these four domains are defined in more detail below.

1. **Stakeholders & networks:** refers to the different actors or groups of actors in a city, as well as the web of interactions that link (or do not link) these stakeholders together to form a network. This could include individuals; organisations; businesses; civil society; government; private sector actors; religious groups; traditional leaders; identity-based groups; and many more. Stakeholders within a city network could be representatives from city, national, regional or international levels.
2. **Governance:** refers to the structures, systems and rules to make decisions, set and enforce rules, deliver services, and allocate resources in a city. This includes a focus on the role of public government institutions and politics, but in light of our cross-cutting focus on stakeholders and networks it also includes the governance of civil society, economic decision-making in the public and private sector, the level of participation of marginalised groups in decision-making and others.
3. **Economy:** is defined as the structure of economic activity within a city and the rules, incentives and power that shape the allocation of financial resources within a city. It includes an analysis of the overall performance of a city's economy using macro-

economic data; the rules that govern economic activity in a city; the ways in which finance is used and distributed within a city; the economic incentive structures that shape the actions of stakeholders and the interactions between stakeholders; and the ways in which economic power are wielded to shape the interactions between stakeholders and specific outcomes.

4. **Culture:** is defined for this context analysis as the nature of social relations between key constituencies in a city. In particular, the culture domain focuses on understanding social trust, the degree of transparency and openness in a city, and the ways in which social norms shape the interactions of stakeholders within a city network.

Analytical approaches

There are a number of important **analytical approaches** which provide a theoretical foundation for research teams conducting a context analysis in cities. These analytical approaches have been developed by academics or policy practitioners to provide a theoretical lens upon which more concrete research tools and methods can be developed. Seven important analytical approaches to help guide the context analysis are outlined in brief below. This summary is not meant to provide a comprehensive grounding in each of the approaches – but rather an basic overview from which research teams can explore the approaches in more detail in their own time. A selection of relevant resources for each of these analytical approaches is provided in the further reading section.

- **Stakeholder analysis** is an approach often used in project management which uses a range of techniques for mapping and understanding the power, positions, and perspectives of the stakeholders who have an interest in, and/or are likely to be affected by, a particular policy reform, project, intervention, etc. Stakeholder analysis is an important approach that can be used in a context analysis first to identify and map all the relevant individuals, groups, institutions, etc. and then to understand how they may influence or be affected by a change that is being introduced. Stakeholder analysis is a very flexible tool which can be tailored and adapted to any situation or use case – including for understanding the context for urban resilience initiatives in cities. (ODI, 2009).
- **Social network analysis** is the process of investigating the connections and relationships of different actors within a social system. It involves mapping, measuring and analysing the structures and dynamics in a social network focused on two main elements – the nodes (e.g. individuals, organisations, groups, etc.) and the ties between them (e.g. the relationships, linkages, flows, etc.). Social network analysis generally begins with a mapping of the different actors and the links and ties between those actors in a social network. This can be built upon with an identification and analysis significant actors, power and influence, strength of ties, segmentation of ties, enabling conditions that create ties, and many others. Different types of data collection and analysis can be

undertaken to conduct a social network analysis – from qualitative data collection that involves interviews with different stakeholders, to quantitative modelling using mathematical and statistical methods (Science Direct, ND).

- **Power analysis** is an approach that seeks to understand how different forms of power in its many forms, including through formal institutions, informal channels, relationships, cultural norms, etc. operates in a specific context. It is generally used in context analysis to understand how power can both enable or constrain an outcome that a specific actor is trying to achieve (for instance, implementing a development programme). Power analysis does not use a fixed definition of power – as power has different shapes and forms and is wielded differently depending on the context. Power analysis has been particularly championed by the Swedish International Development Agency to understand how issues of power within a local context were shaping the success and lack of success of different Swedish development interventions – in how different forms of power reinforce poverty and other forms of power can be mobilised to fight poverty and inequality. As an approach, power analysis is generally undertaken by a research team seeking to implement a specific programme, project, or initiative where they want to understand the context and how power relationships may shape the outcomes of that intervention. It generally involves the research team collecting qualitative data through a mixture of desk-based research, secondary data, and interview methods. It is a highly adaptable approach that be applied in a range of contexts (ODI, 2006; SIDA, 2013; IIED, 2016).
- **Political economy analysis** is “concerned with the interaction of political and economic processes in a society: the distribution of power and wealth between different groups and individuals, and the processes that create, sustain and transform these relationships over time” (IIED, 2016). Political economy analysis is an approach that is often used to understand issues of power, authority resources, and incentive structures that exist below the surface and which shape the behaviour of different actors. It has been used extensively in development programming by international donors, multilateral development banks, and international NGOs to analyse the underlying power and incentives that will shape the success of a programme or a specific policy reform. It can therefore serve as an important analytical framework that can guide context analysis for climate resilient urban solutions (Whaites, 2017).
- **Social norm analysis** is an approach that seeks to understand the types of social norms that exist in a particular context and how they lead to behaviours which influence the outcome of a specific intervention, project, programme, etc. Social norms are the beliefs about which behaviours are appropriate within a social group. They can be thought of as the rules that govern behaviour, but not the behaviour itself. These rules are often informal, unspoken and unwritten – and take two main forms: perceptions of *what people do* and perceptions of *what people should do*. People often follow social norms because they believe that by behaving in a way that correspond to social norms they will receive positive sanctions (approval), while not doing so would lead to negative

sanctions (disapproval). Social norms analysis is often applied in situations where an actor (e.g. a development programme implemented by an NGO) is attempting to achieve an outcome that relies on behaviour change around a socially contentious issue (e.g. gender-based violence, reproductive health) – and where they need to understand the tacit and unwritten rules that could hinder or enable a behaviour change (Learning Collaborative to Advance Normative Change, 2017 & 2019).

- **Social trust analysis** is the study and measurement of social cohesion that analyses how people perceive the honesty, integrity and reliability of individuals, institutions, businesses, governments and other actors in a society. Social trust analysis often uses perception-based survey methodologies and therefore has important links with subjective wellbeing analysis (see below). Measures of inter-personal trust and trust in institutions are often closely correlated to more quantifiable metrics such as economic and governance performance, and can be important measures for the success of policy reform (OECD, 2018).
- **Subjective wellbeing analysis** is an approach to understanding how people evaluate, experience and perceive different aspects of their lives. Subjective wellbeing analysis is often used to assess individual happiness and satisfaction through the use of perception-based surveys. In public policy research, subjective wellbeing analysis can be used to evaluate public perceptions on issues of governance, corruption, social cohesion, economic wellbeing, physical and mental health and many others. Subjective wellbeing analysis has been used to understand differences in public perceptions across geographies and/or with the same users to track changes in public perceptions over time (LSE 2011).

Tools & methodologies

The **tools and methodologies** listed here are the specific means of collecting data to understand a city's context. These tools are applied methods to collect data based on the more theoretical analytical approaches listed above. Many of the tools have been developed by researchers, thinktanks, international NGOs, etc. to collect data that help them understand a local context. Each of these tools are mapped out against the main domains of the context analysis. As much as possible, this list presents tools and methodologies which have been applied in urban contexts – though some national-level tools are outlined to serve as inspiration for research teams who may want to develop their own tools to understand specific urban contexts.

Stakeholder & Network tools

This section outlines tools for stakeholder mapping and network analysis of stakeholders that can be used by research teams who are conducting a context analysis as a pre-cursor to engaging a diverse group of stakeholders to develop urban resilience solutions.

[Public-Private Dialogue Stakeholder Mapping Toolkit](#). World Bank. 2016.

Stakeholder mapping & institutional mapping are two overlapping approaches that can be used to identify the key actors and institutions involved in a context analysis. The World Bank has developed a Stakeholder Mapping Toolkit that can be used by research teams conducting context analysis to map the various stakeholders in a city that could be part of an urban resilience solution. This could include individuals, city and national governments, civil society, the private sector, community leaders, advocacy groups, service providers, transnational actors, among others. While the focus of the toolkit is for stakeholder mapping in the context of public-private collaboration, the steps are sufficiently generalisable to be used by research teams conducting a stakeholder analysis for urban resilience solutions. Overall, the methodology involves: (1) identify and define the purpose of the stakeholder analysis; (2) mapping all stakeholders using a step-by-step methodology which can be broken down as follows: (i) listing the stakeholders, (ii) identifying the links that connect the different actors, (iii) determining the motivations of each actor as it relates to the research question, (iv) identifying the level of influence of each actor, (v) identify key observations about stakeholders; and (3) analysing the stakeholder mapping. The latter can involve the creation of targeted stakeholder engagement strategies (e.g. for coproduction of urban resilience solutions), conduct a stakeholder segmentation (influence-interest) matrix, and create a risk mitigation plan. The World Bank approach is useful because it identifies all stakeholders and also analyses their role within a policy reform context – which for the case of this report could be the co-creation of urban resilience solutions.

[Social Network Analysis Handbook: Connecting the dots in humanitarian programs](#). IRC. 2016.

Social network analysis is an important tool that can be used to understand the key stakeholders and actors in a specific network and examine the degree to which they are connected. IRC's **Social Network Analysis Handbook** is a very useful resource for practitioners to understand how to conduct a network analysis. Research teams should note that this has been created specifically for the purpose of social network analysis in the humanitarian sector, and not specifically for urban initiatives or climate change initiatives. However, the step-by-step process is generalisable enough that it can be adapted by research teams for the purpose of identifying key network relationships for an urban resilience context analysis. The main steps for conducting a social network analysis as outlined in the Handbook are: (1) Preparation – which focuses on identifying the research question, the boundary of the network, the data collection format, facilitation needs, and securing resources; (2) Network Mapping & Analysis – which focuses on listing and categorising all the main actors in a network, mapping relationships between actors, examining the influence of each actor, analysing the network as a

whole, and creating scenarios for how the network might change; and (3) Action Planning – focused on developing solutions and strategies for how to engage with a network e.g. on a specific policy reform or initiative. The Handbook can therefore be an important precursor to map the local context and identify how different actors might influence, hinder or participate in a given urban resilience solution.

Governance tools

Researchers conducting a context analysis have a wide range of tools to choose from to understand governance performance at the city level. The resources outlined below can help researchers undertake a governance context analysis. They cover tools that analyse political, institutional and economic incentives – through power analysis and political economy analysis, assessments of governance performance using objective data, and bottom-up governance assessment methodologies like social audits and citizen score cards.

[Power Analysis: A Practical Guide](#). Swedish International Development Agency. 2013

SIDA has developed a Practical Guide on how to undertake **power analysis** so that development practitioners can better deliver programmes and projects that promote poverty reduction and reduce inequality. The justification for using power analysis is that different dimensions of power – sometimes explicit, but often invisible – can shape whether an intervention will be successful or not. So a detailed, context-specific understanding of how power works in a specific location is necessary step for planning development interventions. SIDA’s approach to power analysis “considers the social, economic and political dimensions of power and how they are interrelated. It examines actors, structures, institutions and norms – from the visible and formal to the invisible and informal.”

Since power is different in every context, SIDA does not propose a rigid framework or a specific list of steps that a power analysis must entail. Rather, the Practical Guide offers a process that research teams and users can undertake to reflect on, in order to guide them in developing their own power analysis approach that is context specific. In general, this involves (1) clarifying the purpose of a power analysis, (2) defining core issues and questions, (3) identifying methods – which could include secondary reviews or conducting key informant interviews, workshops and focus groups, (4) doing the power analysis, and (5) linking power analysis with action.

The section on defining core issues and questions for a power analysis is particularly important for research teams. The Guide clusters issues and questions into three categories of power that a user can analyse, emphasising that these overlap and that users may want to analyse multiple dimensions of power. The three clusters of power analysis questions are: (i) structures and norms – including questions to analyse structural inequalities, socio-cultural identities, gender, age, cultural beliefs, prejudice and discrimination, perceptions of power, perceptions of poverty and inequality, perceptions of economic exchange, perceptions of corruption, and perceptions of the care economy; (ii) actors and organised interests – including powerful actors, sources of

power and legitimacy, political parties, elite networks and relationships, transnational actors, religious and traditional authorities, diaspora, civil society, and donor and creditor agencies; (iii) politics and contestation – including representation and democratic governance, voice, responsiveness, accountability, distribution of political power, weaknesses in dominant power structures, resistance and activism, conflict and violence. Research teams can choose from among this wide range of categories and associated questions to understand the various dimensions of power that exist in a context and how it may shape the outcomes of planned urban resilience interventions.

[The Beginner's Guide to Political Economy Analysis \(PEA\)](#). Whaites 2017.

Political economy analysis is an approach used to understand the visible or hidden political and economic power and incentive structures that shape decisions, stakeholder relationships and outcomes. Political economy analysis is used to understand how power and resources are distributed and contested between different actors and institutions in a network. PEA has been used widely over the past two decades in development contexts to understand the power and incentive structures that could shape whether a specific project, program or policy being delivered by government aid agencies, NGOs or development finance agencies will be successful.

There are a wide range of political economy analysis toolkits developed by government agencies and international NGOs that provide methodologies and step-by-step processes to undertake a political economy analysis. A short selection of these tools are outlined below, and further reading on PEA is provided in the Further Reading section. However, there are very few examples of PEA toolkits that have been developed and applied specifically for urban contexts (IIED, 2016). Research teams who decide to use PEA tools for conducting a context analysis can make use of the more generic tools and apply these to an analysis of the different stakeholders in an urban context.

Oxfam (2014). [How Politics and Economics Intersect: A simple guide to conducting political economy and context analysis](#).

UNDP (2012). [Institutional and Context Analysis Guidance Note](#).

[Force Field Analysis: A Tool for Context Assessment / Conflict Analysis in Development Work](#).
Konflikt Transformation, 2024.

Force Field Analysis is a change management decision-making tool developed by Kurt Lewin in 1951. It enables a user to visually map and analyse the driving forces and the resisting forces behind a specific project, initiative, policy change, organisational change, etc. Force Field Analysis involves the collection of data on attitudes, behaviours, systems & structures, and

actors that drive and resist the change that is being analysed. Each of these elements – the forces that drive change and the forces that resist change – can be mapped and weighted to understand the extent to which a change can be made or whether it is likely to be resisted. While force field analysis has traditionally been applied to change management in business, it can also be used to analyse the forces for and against specific policy outcomes within a network of stakeholders in a city (Daniel Lock, 2019; Konflikt Transformation, 2024).

[A User's Guide to Measuring Local Governance](#). UNDP Oslo Governance Centre.

UNDP's **A User Guide to Measuring Local Governance** is a detailed toolkit for understanding the performance of local governments. The Guide provides a list of 22 tools that researchers can use to assess local governance performance and understand the local governance context. The 22 tools have been used across a wide range of local government contexts – from Afghanistan to Mexico, Bangladesh to Paraguay, the Philippines to Romania, and many others. These tools are split across three different classifications: (1) comprehensive local governance assessment approaches based on multiple stakeholder perspectives, (2) local governance assessments based on citizen (or single stakeholder) perspectives; and (3) local governance and performance self-assessments by local government institutions. They cover a wide range of metrics that can be used to assess local governance – including government effectiveness, participation and civic engagement, representation, transparency and the rule of law, accountability, security, institutional capacity, civil society, equity and inclusion, and many others. Researchers may wish to use a specific tool from the Guide, or to develop their own assessment framework that chooses different elements from a variety of the tools in the Guide to suit the needs of their own context assessment.

[Citizen Report Card Surveys: A Note on the Concept and Methodology](#). World Bank. 2004.

Citizen report cards (CRCs) are participatory surveys that collect data from citizens to provide feedback on the provision of public services. They can be a powerful tool for assessing governance from the perspective of the general population – providing bottom-up data that can complement top-down data on governance captured through objective governance indicators, governance indices and other tools like political economy analysis. Community report cards were initiated in 1994 by the Public Affairs Centre located in Bangalore, India to provide citizens in Bangalore with an avenue to hold the municipal government to account on its performance in delivering public services. CRCs are based on private sector client satisfaction surveys and applied to the context of public service delivery. However, they go beyond just surveying citizens, focusing additionally on disseminating user feedback for the purposes of advocacy through media, public meetings, press conferences and government consultations in order that citizen feedback be taken up into improvement of service delivery. CRCs generally follow a seven step process: (1) identification of scope, actors and purpose; (2) design of questionnaire; (3) sampling; (4) execution of survey; (5) data analysis; (6) dissemination; (7)

institutionalisation. For context analysis, citizen report cards can be an important source of analysis to show general governance performance in the delivery of public goods, as well as to understand the extent of citizen power in influencing municipal government service delivery and investment.

[A Practical Guide to Social Audit as a Participatory Tool to Strengthen Democratic Governance, Transparency and Accountability](#). UNDP. 2011.

A **social audit** is an accountability mechanism where citizens evaluate or audit a government's performance, policy decisions, or delivery of social services. Social audits can be undertaken to review government budget expenditure to confirm whether it aligns with finance spent on the ground, or to assess the quality of government services such as healthcare, education, security services, infrastructure and many others. Overall, social audits act as a form of bottom-up, democratic governance to hold governments to account outside of traditional political cycles – providing citizens and civil society with more avenues to demand accountability from governments and their agencies. Research teams can make use of existing social audits to help inform their context analysis. Social audits can be a useful source of information for a context analysis, since they provide bottom-up data on public expenditure which can complement data released through government budgets or captured in official statistics. They also provide an important qualitative assessment on citizen satisfaction with government expenditure that cannot be captured from looking at quantitative metrics alone. The existence of social audits can also be used in a power analysis or political economy analysis to highlight the strength of citizens and civil society in influencing government decision-making. UNDP's *A Practical Guide to Social Audit* provides a step-by-step process to implementing a social audit for research teams wishing to use this approach to collect primary data on government performance.

Economic tools

This section provides an overview of tools and approaches that can be used to collect data on a city's economy, economic performance, economic decentralisation status and budgeting decision-making. Some of the tools outlined in the previous section – particularly the power analysis and political economy analysis toolkits – can also be used to collect data on the economic incentive structures which shape decision-making and interactions between various stakeholders. These tools are not presented here to avoid duplication, but context analysis research teams should make use of these tools for collecting data on both governance and the economy.

[Innovative Data Toolkit for City Management](#). Cities Alliance. 2017

The **Innovative Data Toolkit for City Management** aims to support city government officials in sub-Saharan Africa to build a data ecosystem that can provide valuable insight for short,

medium and long-term planning and investments. The toolkit presents an extensive series of steps which enable a city to (1) assess its data maturity, (2) identify the data it needs, (3) manage data, (4) build an enabling environment for data management, (5) incorporate new types of data, and (6) implement an overall data strategy as a precursor for investment planning. The reason this toolkit is useful for a context assessment is because it identifies the types of data that can be used to understand existing governance and economic performance (which serves as a precursor for development planning and investments at the city level). The types of data that it identifies cover five thematic pillars – economy, environment, citizenship & governance, service delivery and general characteristics. A detailed series of indicators for each of these pillars is provided in Annex 1. These indicators can be used for a context analysis to understand the macroeconomic performance of a city, assess a city's budget, provide an overview of the key sectors and jobs in the formal and informal economy, among other important layers of economic analysis. Page 17 of the toolkit also provides a useful scoring rubric for classifying the city by devolution or decentralization status – which is important for providing a baseline understanding of public sector economic governance in the city.

[Toolkit for Rapid Economic Assessment, Planning, and Development of Cities in Asia](#). Asian Development Bank. 2015.

ADB's **Toolkit for Rapid Economic Assessment, Planning and Development of Cities** in Asia provides research teams with an approach to undertake economic context analysis in cities, along with an extensive set of tools and data collection guidelines to capture and use economic data. The Toolkit is designed around three core assessment processes (1) preparing economic profiles, (2) evaluating future economic development options and pathways, and (3) preparing strategies, action plans and investment activities. For the purpose of conducting a context analysis, research teams will benefit from the first of these assessment processes. In particular, the city economic profile assessment process allows research teams to: (i) compile qualitative and quantitative baseline data and information on the economy; (ii) analyze structural, socioeconomic, and economic geography changes in urban activities; (iii) identify, map, and evaluate industry clusters; (iv) analyze constraints to city economic development; and (v) conduct competitiveness studies of city economies. Research teams can pick from a range of tools in the Toolkit to collect data that helps them to understand a city's economy, based on the needs of their context analysis.

[Budget Climate Assessment](#). Institute for Climate Economics. 2021.

A **Budget Climate Assessment (BCA)** is an analysis of an adopted or proposed financial budget, which tags all budget expenditure lines with mitigation and adaptation tags to estimate the positive and negative climate impacts of future expenditure. A BCA is a baseline exercise which enables cities to understand how its expenditures will contribute towards the climate transition. It also can be used by research teams to understand the existing economic incentive

structures in municipal budgeting to understand where expenditure is being directed and whether it is on a trajectory to lead to positive or negative urban resilience outcomes. The BCA approach has been used in several European cities, including Barcelona and Paris.

Cultural tools

This section provides a list of tools that can be used to collect data on the cultural context of a city – with an emphasis on understanding social norms, social trust and issues related to transparency & corruption.

[Social Norms Exploration Tool](#). Institute for Reproductive Health, Georgetown University. 2020.

The **Social Norms Exploration Tool (SNET)** is a participatory learning and action tool that guides a social norms exploration. It is designed as a rapid assessment tool to be used by a team to gather qualitative information from stakeholders on the social norms operating in a given setting. SNET was designed to be used by programme designers working on development programmes, particularly in the field of public health, to understand what social norms exist in a context that might enable or hinder public health programmes. However, its simple step-by-step process and emphasis on engaging with local stakeholders to understand locally relevant social norms means that it could be applied by research teams seeking to understand social norms in urban contexts. SNET is built around a 5-step process – and the ‘how to’ guide walks users through these five steps, which provide with detailed instructions on how to: (1) plan & prepare by identifying the behaviour of interest they are exploration and determining the main population group they wish to explore, (2) identify a reference group, who are the people that participants seek advice from and who influence behaviours, (3) explore social norms with participants and the reference group in targeted group discussions, (4) analyse findings, and (5) apply the findings to a project or programme.

[Social Norms Analysis Plot framework](#). CARE. 2017

CARE’s **Social Norms Analysis Plot (SNAP) framework** is an applied tool used to gather and analyse information on social norms in development contexts. SNAP has been piloted in different programs across Asia and Africa to understand social norms around gender roles. The attached link showcases learnings from using the SNAP framework across three projects sites in Sri Lanka and two different regions of Ethiopia. The overall approach makes use of a variety of methods – including literature review, informal discussions with the target community, quantitative surveys, qualitative interviews, vignettes in focus group discussions, monitoring, and observation. The core research approach that is used for the SNAP framework is vignettes and focus group discussions (hypothetical scenarios that explore social norms followed by group discussions) with members of homogeneous groups within a community. These groups are led through a series of discussions that centre on five key questions: (1) what behaviour is

considered typical of a group? (2) What behavior is considered to be approved of in the group? (3) What negative social sanctions are anticipated if someone deviates from the norm? (4) What influence does the anticipated negative social sanctions have on behavior? (5) Are there people or circumstances when it is more acceptable to deviate from what is considered typical and appropriate in the group? The responses to these questions are then analysed by the study team to understand how social norms influence behaviour. If specific interventions aim to shift social norms, focus group sessions can be held over time to observe changes in participants responses to determine whether social norms have changed. Although SNAP has not been applied in urban contexts, the research methodologies used in the framework can be applied to any group of stakeholders regardless of geography.

[Corruption Perception Index](#). Transparency International. 1995-2024

The **Corruption Perception Index (CPI)** is an annual index published by Transparency International which measures the level of public sector corruption at the national level across countries. These indices take into consideration corruption, bribery, theft, tax evasion, etc. The index uses 13 different data sources – the majority of which use standardised expert opinion surveys to rank levels of corruption. For the use of research teams exploring corruption at the city level, unfortunately there are no indices that rank corruption across cities (Guardian, 2016). There are also not any indices that rank the levels of private sector corruption across countries or cities. The CPI can best be used as a proxy to understand the general level of corruption in the public sector in a country where a city-level context analysis is taken place. This could be supported by more specific local perception surveys if further data collection is desired (see below).

Subjective wellbeing surveys.

Subjective wellbeing surveys, or perception-based surveys, are a research tool that can be used to collection data on how people experience and evaluate their lives. They can be used to capture data on individual satisfaction with different domains of their lives – including jobs, health, family, income, housing, mental health – as well as their satisfaction and civic engagement with the public or private social – including access to social services, governance, the environment, the economy, etc. For data to be useful to researchers, large sample sizes are generally required to capture sufficient data to provide an accurate portrayal of social perceptions and satisfaction with whatever study teams are analysing. Subjective wellbeing surveys are a useful tool to complement and contrast against objective, quantitative data related to governance or the economy, to provide a more rounded view when undertaking a context analysis (OECD, 2013).

Data

The ultimate objective of the context analysis is for a research team or user to collect **data** that helps them understand the contextual factors that could enable or constrain urban resilience outcomes. Data collection should be built around the four research domains and could involve research teams deploying some of the tools and methodologies that have been highlighted in this Annex. In particular, the research team should collect data on the power structures, incentive structures, goals and motivations that enable or constrain policy reform.

This section lists the main types of data that should be collected to help the user understand urban contexts. Note that it does not specifically focus on which *indicators* should be collected, as these will vary depending on the specific needs of a context analysis. Rather it focuses on basic *categories* of data which are useful for organising data collection protocols for a context analysis.

Stakeholder & Network data

- **List of all key stakeholders:** in a city network that might be involved in co-creating a resilience solution. It could include individuals; organisations; businesses; civil society; government leaders; government institutions; private sector actors; national or international representatives of government, business and civil society; religious groups; traditional leaders; identity-based groups; and others.
- **Mapping of relationships between different stakeholders in a network:** this mapping can illustrate relationships of power, entry points for collaboration, gaps in relationships that could constrain collaboration and consensus towards resilience outcomes.
- **Mapping of influence and interest of stakeholders:** this mapping can identify which stakeholders have the power and influence to enable or constrain the achievement of urban resilience solutions.

Governance data

- **Structure of the governance & political system:** this could include information on the type of political system in the country, the constitutional division of political authority for different levels of government, the level of decentralisation, the roles of different public sector institutions in policymaking and delivery of social services the existence and frequency of elections, voter turnout and/or citizen engagement in policymaking, the strength or constraints on civil society, etc.
- **Political, economic & institutional incentives:** political economy analysis, force field analysis and power analysis can be used to understand the motivations and incentives

that will drive different stakeholders to act.

- **Power and influence of different stakeholders:** power analysis, force field analysis and other tools can be used in conjunction with network analysis to understand the power and influence of different stakeholders in a city. The amount of power (or lack thereof) can be analysed in relation to their role in shaping the outcome of a specific urban resilience intervention or policy reform process. Different types of power can be analysed, including political power, economic power, institutional power, customary power, and more informal types of power such as respect and prestige.
- **Governance performance data:** including quantifiable data presented as indicators or indices and qualitative data presented in the form of expert assessments. Governance data could include assessments of democratic governance, transparency and rule of law, accountability mechanisms, social service delivery, support for marginalised groups, security assessments, etc.
- **Bottom-up data on governance performance:** this could include satisfaction with government services or institutional performance, collected through social audits or community scorecards.

Economic data

- **Macro-economic data:** this includes data that provides an overview of the performance of a city's economy and its investment attractiveness.
- **Informal economy:** an estimate of the size of the informal economy, its labour force, main economic activities, etc.
- **City budgetary data:** an overview of the main sources of revenue and expenditure in a municipal budget. This data can be used to understand the economic health of a city alongside macro-economic health – for example, in terms of levels of municipal debt or the sustainability of municipal revenue. It can also show the sectors, types of infrastructure, neighbourhoods, etc. where a municipal government is targeting its investment and where expenditure is lower.
- **Economic incentive structures:** data on the main economic incentive structures for different actors in a city network and how these incentive structures align or contrast to influence decision-making and governance outcomes. Data on economic incentive structures is often captured through political economy analysis research tools.
- **Economic power:** data on who has economic power in a city and how this economic power is wielded by different actors to shape decision-making and governance outcomes within a city network. This data is often collected using power analysis, political economy analysis and forcefield analysis.

- **Rules, regulations & structures that enable or constrain investment in a city:** this could include e.g. whether a city is able to borrow from the private sector due to constitutional constraints or lack of credit rating; and whether public services have been privatized, are delivered by city government agencies or crown corporations.

Cultural data

- **Social norms:** an overview of the main unwritten rules that shape behaviour and guide the interactions (or lack of interactions) between different actors in a network.
- **Social trust and social cohesion:** a measurement or analysis of the degree to which people perceive the honesty, integrity and reliability of individuals, institutions, businesses, governments and other actors in a society, or in society as a whole. Data on social trust is often collected from subjective wellbeing surveys. Representative samples of people across a specific geography (e.g. a city or a country) can answer subjective wellbeing surveys and provide data on overall social cohesion/social trust, a specific issue (e.g. immigration policy) or a specific institution (e.g. trust in the judiciary).
- **Quantitative data on corruption & transparency:** quantitative data could include secondary data used as proxy indicators or composite indices that measure and compare corruption across different jurisdictions. Qualitative data could be collected through perception surveys or expert interviews that capture citizen perception of the levels of corruption in their city.

Further reading

Asian Development Bank (2014): [Manual for Undertaking National Urban Assessments](#).

Asian Development Bank (2015): [Toolkit for Rapid Economic Assessment, Planning, and Development of Cities in Asia](#).

CARE (2017): [Applying Theory to Practice: CARE's Journey Piloting Social Norms Measures for Gender Programming](#)

Cities Alliance (2017): [Innovative Data Toolkit for City Management](#)

Civil Society Academy (N.D.): [Citizen Report Cards – A powerful social audit tool](#).

Daniel Lock Consulting (2019): [Force Field Analysis: The Ultimate How-To Guide](#).

Green, D. (2020): [What is Political Economy Analysis \(PEA\) and why does it matter in development?](#) From Poverty to Power. Oxfam UK.

Guardian (2016): [Which are the most corrupt cities in the world?](#)

IIED (2016): [A Review of Context Analysis Tools for Urban Humanitarian Response](#)

IIED (2017): [Urban context analysis toolkit: guidance note for humanitarian practitioners](#)

Institute for Climate Economics (2021): [Budget Climate Assessment](#).

Institute for Reproductive Health (2020): [Social Norms Exploration Tool](#).

IRC (2016): [Social Network Analysis Handbook: Connecting the dots in humanitarian programs](#).

Konflikt Transformation (2024): [Force Field Analysis \(FFA\): A Tool for Context Assessment / Conflict Analysis in Development Work](#).

Learning Collaborative to Advance Normative Change (2017): [Overview of Experiences Diagnosing Social Norms](#)

Learning Collaborative to Advance Normative Change (2019): [Resources for Measuring Social Norms: A Practical Guide for Program Implementors](#)

LinkedIn AI (ND): [How do you use social network analysis in urban planning?](#)

LSE (2011): [Measuring Subjective Wellbeing for Public Policy: Recommendations on Measures](#)

ODI (2006): [Mapping Political Context: A Toolkit for Civil Society Organisations.](#)

OECD (2013): [OECD Guidelines on Measuring Subjective Well-being.](#) OECD Publishing.

OECD (2018): [For Good Measure: Advancing Research on Well-being Metrics Beyond GDP. Chapter 10: Trust and Social Capital.](#)

Oxfam (2014): How Politics and Economics Intersect: A simple guide to conducting political economy and context analysis

Science Direct (ND): [Social Network Analysis – an overview.](#)

SIDA (2013): [Power Analysis: A Practical Guide](#)

Transparency International: [Corruption Perception Index 2022](#)

UNDP (2011): [A Practical Guide to Social Audit as a Participatory Tool to Strengthen Democratic Governance, Transparency and Accountability.](#)

UNDP (2012): Institutional and Context Analysis Guidance Note.

UNDP Oslo Governance Centre (N.D.): [User Guide to Measuring Local Governance](#)

Whaites (2017): The Beginner's Guide to Political Economy Analysis (PEA). National School of Government International.

World Bank (2004): [Citizen Report Card Surveys – A Note on the Concept and Methodology.](#) Social Development Notes, Participation and Civic Engagement. Note No. 91.

World Bank (2007): [Tools for Institutional, Political and Social Analysis of Policy Reform: A Sourcebook for Development Practitioners.](#)

World Bank (2016): [Public-Private Dialogue Stakeholder Mapping Toolkit.](#)