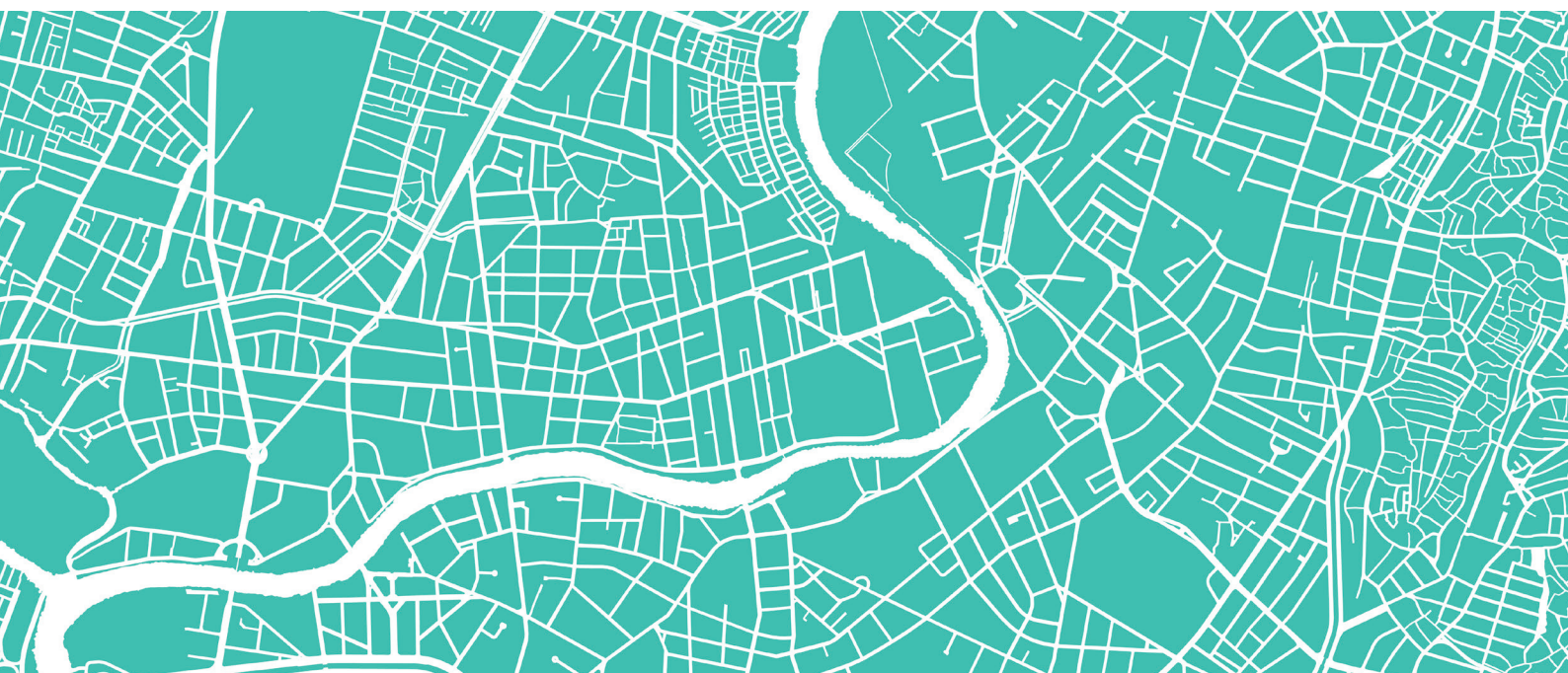




Foreign, Commonwealth  
& Development Office



## Country Level Event

Brazil

20 January 2022

**UKBEAG**  
UK Built Environment Advisory Group

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



# Introduction

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**The Brazil Country Level Event formed part of the Strategic Capacity Development Component being delivered by the UK Built Environment Advisory Group (UKBEAG) in collaboration with UN-Habitat, in support of the FCDO Global Future Cities Programme. The programme for the country level event was developed in collaboration with UN-Habitat and City Stakeholders and was informed by the findings of a Capacity Needs Assessment that was undertaken by City Stakeholders earlier in the year.**

The event aimed to build upon the momentum of the programme to consider some of the issues to be addressed as the projects move from design to implementation. The event comprised three parts, the first part opening with a series of short presentations from city stakeholders to help promote wider awareness of the projects and their importance. This was followed by two workshop sessions, the first of which considered what it takes to deliver a successful open data environment while the second built on this to consider how best to operationalise data to deliver effective outcomes.

The event was supported by a range of Subject Matter Experts (SMEs) who brought their knowledge and expertise to bear. The contributions from the Subject Matter Experts were also informed by the six topics which formed part of the Thematic Programme, namely:

- [1 Integrated & Inclusive Planning](#)
- [2 Governance & Collaboration](#)
- [3 Evidence-based Design & the Effective use of Data](#)
- [4 Project Finance & Procurement](#)
- [5 Implementation & Enforcement, Monitoring & Evaluation](#)
- [6 Leadership & Change Management](#)

**The purpose of this document is to serve as a summary of the main contributors and the principal matters discussed.**



Effective integrated planning works at all scales (i.e. national, regional, district and local) and needs to be inclusive (i.e. it should address the needs of all stakeholder groups, including vulnerable and marginalised groups and communities). To achieve this, it will typically include provision for a range of consultative and/or participatory planning activities.

# Event Overview

## Part I, Framing & Knowledge Sharing

- 1.1 **Welcome and introductory remarks:** Welcome by UKBEAG and link to the six key themes of the UKBEAG Capacity Development Programme and the findings of the Capacity Needs Assessment.
- 1.2 **Short City Presentation, Recife:** Mr Fernando Almeida, UN-Habitat Local Strategic Adviser presented the work that had been undertaken in Recife, emphasising the value of pilots and of the need to promote better data gathering. He also offered remarks on lessons learnt and key challenges.
- 1.3 **Short City Presentation, Belo-Horizonte:** Diego Assuncao, Project Management Analyst with BHTrans (the Transport and Traffic Agency of Belo Horizonte) presented the work that has been undertaken in Belo Horizonte, lessons learnt & key challenges.
- 1.4 **Discussion and Q&A:** A discussion followed with the cities and subject matter experts on potential barriers and next steps.
- 1.5 **Key Takeaways & Concluding Remarks**

## Part II, Workshop 1, Building an Open Data Environment

- 2.1 **Ms Victoria Delbridge**, Head of Cities that Work, **International Growth Centre** delivered a short framing presentation on why evidence-based design & the effective use of data is so important in the context of today's cities.
- 2.2 **Ms Livia Schaeffer Nonose**, Technology & Innovation, **UNITAC** – United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities, a collaboration led by UN-Habitat between the UN Office for ICT and Hafen City University based in Hamburg, outlined the work of UNITAC and the need to ensure that the urban digital transformation works for the benefits of all.
- 2.3 **Mr Ben Snaith**, Researcher, **Open Data Institute** delivered a presentation on how to overcome some of the barriers to develop a more open data environment and the benefits of doing so.
- 2.4 **Discussion in plenary:** A discussion followed with City Stakeholders and Subject Matter Experts on potential barriers and next steps.

## Part III, Workshop 2, Delivering Effective Outcomes, from Data to Action

- 3.1 Ms Victoria Delbridge, Head of Cities that Work, International Growth Centre delivered a framing presentation focusing on governance & collaboration and what good looks like.
- 3.2 **Mr Nathan Pierce**, Head of **Smart London** Team & Programme Director of **Sharing Cities, Greater London Authority (GLA)** outlined how the GLA tackle operationalising data, engaging the private sector and developing use cases.
- 3.3 **Discussion in plenary session:** A discussion followed with the Cities and Subject Matter Experts on potential barriers and next steps.
- 4.0 **Key Takeaways & Next Steps**
- 4.1 **Closing Remarks:** The UKBEAG thanks participants for their attendance and offered closing remarks.



# Principal Matters Discussed

The following provides a summary of the key matters discussed during Global Future Cities' (GFCP) Brazil Country Level event. The emphasis was on building an open data environment and delivering effective outcomes by moving from data to action.

The city of Recife has been making strategic investments in ICT, attracting technology companies and entrepreneurs to their innovation centres, incubators, and technology parks. The Local Government has been the anchor of the data revolution, and the Global Future Cities programme has provided support for this through the 'Data Ecosystem for Urban Governance' project, which aims to strengthen local capacity to build a more transparent, accessible, and open city.

Through this project, Recife now has developed legislation (pending final Mayoral approval at the time of writing) to show the need for, and promote the responsible use of, data. Although the urban knowledge hub and data engagement action plan were suspended due to budget cuts, efforts were not lost, as now this is to codified in law for long term sustainability. The urgency of covid also created an opportunity to test the governance framework with the vaccine roll-out, which successfully streamlined the process.

In Belo Horizonte, the project is called Intelligent Mobility in Espresso Amazonas (IMEA). It is a proof of concept that uses technology (primarily camera sensors) to capture information and gain insight into the realities of urban mobility. This is to give BHTrans a better understanding of user behaviour and so improve service, particularly around accessibility, gender sensitivity and inclusion. During the planning phase of the BHtrans project, not all data was well organised, and information on the user profile such as age, gender, income, special needs etc was often lacking.

The proof of concept has shown mixed results, while there is reasonable accuracy in passenger counting, gender and age were difficult to determine, especially with the added (and unexpected) complication of people wearing masks. Individuals with physical disabilities were easier to identify, but the sample was small. However, the project has progressed the understanding of the type and minimum requisites for future cameras.

While success was achieved, there is still much to be done in both cities. For the use of data to take hold, cultural transformation is required.

## Key Takeaways

- **Smart cities should be people-centred**, focusing on solving a tangible urban challenge rather than serving the technology itself. Solving real world problems can improve lives and help overcome the digital divide.
- Having **universal data standards and templates for data sharing agreements** in place from the outset helps facilitate collaboration. In the GLA, for example, the agreements used are very short and not restrictive, making them very easy to implement.
- In moving from data to action, as with most projects, it is best to **start small and build up incrementally**. For the GLA, participation in the initial set-up of the data store was voluntary and was kept simple by focussing on data that everyone already collected, and on tangible priority issues. The results were then used to demonstrate the benefits, which brought more people on board. Other mechanisms of bringing people on board included hackathons, collaboration events and creating a community of data officers across London boroughs. Recife has similarly created a vibrant culture around data.

Belo Horizonte  
Brazil



- For a **city-wide strategic shift** to more open data, we need to think beyond just the project, we need to think about the individual and **individual behaviours**. We need to understand what is driving the fear of data or the fear of loss of power – bringing the old and new generations together. For this to happen, **visible leadership** is vital, leaders who can understand and communicate the benefits that technology brings. In GLA, there are also teams dedicated to thinking about this, while in Recife, it is part of an existing role.
- **Open data is a spectrum**. A combination of open and private data is important as some data does need to remain closed. Furthermore, a data warehouse or single repository is not always possible. Open data is more about transparency and providing the systems for integration of data to deliver new insights.
- Where data is made available, **cities can harness the expertise of academia and the private sector** to provide innovative solutions. One of the key success factors in Recife's experience was the partnership between the government and the private sector.

## Going forward

- In Recife, **more coordination and decentralisation of information** is needed. The university is strong, information centres are strong, however, people are very protective. In Belo Horizonte, making data available to all employees has changed the culture by giving people ownership, but more needs to be done.
- There is a need for **long term strategies and sustainable projects**. This requires training and commitment from a larger base of people in the city. It is also important to showcase the significance of data, using the examples of the current projects, to generate buy-in.
- **Monetising data** should not focus on charging the end-user (e.g. passengers), but rather on realising the value created. This also helps in ensuring that cities do not just invest in the latest 'smart city' tech but rather invest in data systems that **create value**. We need more research to document this value and show that the project is feasible and can recover its costs. For example, using data and performance monitoring technologies, the GLA has shown that decarbonising buildings and transport left to savings of around 60% in energy, allowing them to replicate and scale beyond initial grant funding.
- Cities need to think through **incentives for citizens to generate data**. It was discussed that the world is full of 'dead websites' where cities want citizens to feed in information. Instead, they could look at providing fiscal incentives, as is being tried in Recife using tax receipts. In GLA, the provision of community facilities has also provided useful incentives.



The aim of the strategic capacity development component is to complement the other elements of the Global Future Cities Programme, to consider some of the barriers and enablers to sustainable urbanisation and to help achieve the programme's long-term impact.

# Attendance

## Key Stakeholders

### Belo Horizonte

BHTrans, Belo Horizonte

Prodabel, Belo Horizonte

Prefeitura de Belo Horizonte (SUMOG)

### Recife

Prefeitura da Cidade do Recife (SET, SDECTI)

Agência Recife para Inovação e Estratégia (Aries)

Empresa Municipal de Informática (Emprel)

Porto Digital, Recife

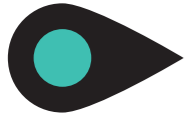
## Subject Matter Experts

International Growth Centre

Open Data Institute

Smart London Greater London Authority

UNITAC Hamburg



# Links to Further Information

Copies of the following presentations delivered during the course of the event can be found here:  
<https://tinyurl.com/2p8nyww9>

Included below are a number of links which we hope participants will find useful:

#### **Open Cities Animation**

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=mWVOI6WP15A>

#### **Report – Becoming more open: the view from four European cities**

<https://theodi.org/project/open-cities/#1595593227722-86bdd05c-8a90>

#### **Blog – Smart cities are decades away: but open cities are within reach**

<https://theodi.org/article/smart-cities-are-decades-away-but-open-cities-are-in-reach/>

#### **Workshop – Open Cities**

<https://theodi.org/service/research/workshop-open-cities/>

#### **Report – The Future of the London Datastore**

<https://theodi.org/article/the-future-of-the-london-datastore-report/>

#### **Toolkit – Data and Public Services**

<https://theodi.org/service/tools-resources/data-and-public-services-toolkit/>

#### **Tool – Data Skills Framework**

<https://theodi.org/article/data-skills-framework/>

#### **Report – Exploring new approaches for sharing data in the built environment report**

[https://theodi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/BW1360\\_ODI\\_ARUP\\_White\\_Paper\\_AW\\_04.pdf](https://theodi.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/12/BW1360_ODI_ARUP_White_Paper_AW_04.pdf)

#### **UNITAC**

<https://unitac.un.org/>

#### **People-Centered Smart Cities Programme:**

<https://unhabitat.org/programme/people-centered-smart-cities>

#### **Digital Rights Governance Framework and Helpdesk**

<https://citiesfordigitalrights.org/first-draft-digital-rights-governance-framework-out-and-open-feedback>

#### **Climate Smart Cities Challenge**

<https://climatesmart.citieschallenge.org/>

#### **The London Datastore**

<https://data.london.gov.uk>

#### **London Infrastructure Mapping Application**

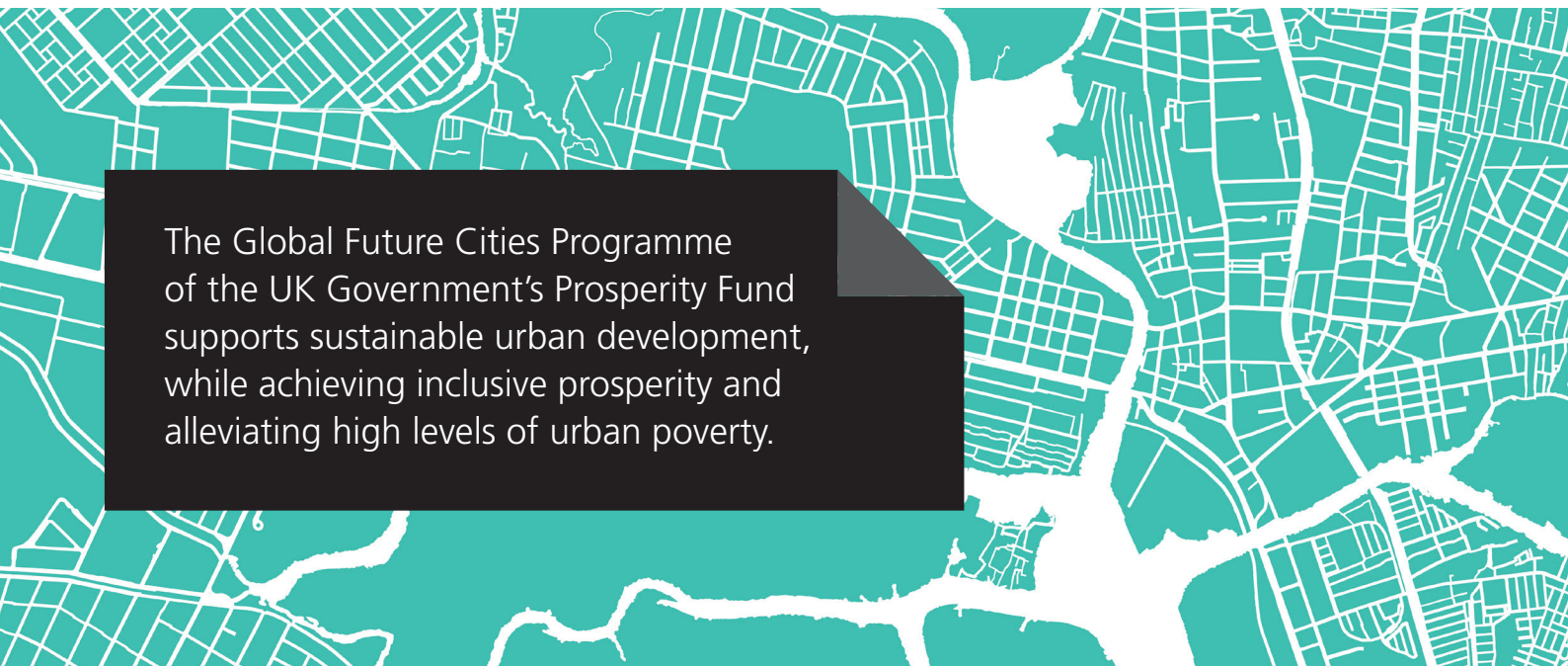
<https://maps.london.gov.uk/imal>

#### **The Sharing Cities playbooks**

<https://www.sharingcities.eu/sharingcities/resources>



For further information about the programme, please contact  
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The Global Future Cities Programme  
of the UK Government's Prosperity Fund  
supports sustainable urban development,  
while achieving inclusive prosperity and  
alleviating high levels of urban poverty.