

Application Form

PART 1: BASIC DATA

**Experience data** (complete the information below in a clear and concise manner)

<b>Title of the experience:</b> Participatory Planning in Urban Outskirts of the Mashhad Metropolitan, through The City Boundary Coordination Project		
<b>Name of the city or region:</b> Mashhad		
<b>Inhabitants of the city or territory:</b> 180000		
<b>Country:</b> Iran		
<b>Institution presenting the candidacy</b> (name of the municipality, department, government, institution leading the candidate experience): Mashhad municipality		
<b>Website of the experience or institution:</b> <a href="https://shahrsazi.mashhad.ir/fa/page/325419-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D9%BE%D8%B1%D9%88%DA%98%D9%87-%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%86%DA%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%B1.html">https://shahrsazi.mashhad.ir/fa/page/325419-%D9%85%D8%AF%D9%8A%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%AA-%D9%BE%D8%B1%D9%88%DA%98%D9%87-%D9%87%D9%85%D8%A7%D9%87%D9%86%DA%AF%D9%8A-%D8%AD%D8%B1%D9%8A%D9%85-%D8%B4%D9%87%D8%B1.html</a>		
<b>Profiles in social networks of the experience or the institution:</b>		
<b>Start date of the experience:</b> 2018		
<b>End date of the experience</b> (if operational, indicate "ongoing"): Ongoing		
<b>Budget of the experience</b> (indicate the budget of the experience or the resources mobilized for its development and implementation): 5666000 USD		
<b>Type of candidacy</b> (Mark with an X in the right column)	New experience	
	Innovation on an existing experience	*
	Continuity of an experience	
<b>Type of experience</b>	Participatory budgeting	

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(Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Participatory planning	*
	Standing council	
	Workshop/meeting for diagnosis, monitoring, etc.	
	Public Hearing/Forum	
	Poll/referendum	
	Assemblies / Citizen juries / Deliberation spaces	
	E-government/Open government/Digital platforms	
	Citizen initiative	
	Other (specify):	
<b>Objective of the experience</b> (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	To achieve higher levels of equality in terms of participation	*
	Including diversity as a criterion for inclusion	
	Community empowerment	*
	To empower non-organised citizens	*
	To increase citizen's rights in terms of political participation	*
	To connect different tools of participation within a participatory democracy "ecosystem"	*
	To improve the effectiveness and efficiency of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	*
	To improve the quality of public decision-making through the mechanisms of participatory democracy	*
To improve the evaluation and accountability of the mechanisms of participatory democracy	*	

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	To improve any public policy through the active participation of the public		*
<b>Territorial area</b> (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	All the territory	Local	
		Regional	*
	District		
	Neighbourhood		
<b>Thematic area</b> (Mark with an X in the right column) (you may choose more than one)	Governance		*
	Education		*
	Transport		*
	Urban management		*
	Health		
	Security		
	Environment/Climate change and/or urban agriculture		*
	Civic associations, grassroots and new social movements.		
	Culture		
	Housing		
	Job creation		
	Decentralization		
	Local development		*
	Training/learning		
Economy and/or finances			

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	Legal regulations	
	Social inclusion	
	All	
	Other (write the topic)	
<p><b>Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) associated with the practice</b> <i>Mark with an X in the right column (more than one option can be chosen)</i> <i>You can also add the specific target</i></p>	SDG 1 - No poverty	
	SDG 2 - Zero hunger	
	SDG 3 - Good health and well- being	
	SDG 4 - Quality education	*
	SDG 5 - Gender equality	
	SDG 6 - Clean water and sanitation	*
	SDG 7 - Affordable and clean energy	
	SDG 8 - Decent work and economic growth	
	SDG 9 - Industry, Innovation and Infrastructure	
	SDG 10 - Reduced inequality	*
	SDG 11 - Sustainable cities and communities	*
	SDG 12 - Responsible consumption and production	
	SDG 13 - Climate action	*
	SDG 14 - Life below water	
	SDG 15 - Life on land	
	SDG 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions	*

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	SDG 17 - Partnership for the goals	
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## PART 2: DESCRIPTION OF THE EXPERIENCE

Fill in the following fields clearly and concisely. You can add links if you consider it appropriate.

### Context

**In a maximum of 300 words, it presents the cultural, geographical, historical, institutional and socioeconomic context of the city, the territory in which the experience takes place.**

Mashhad is the second largest city in Iran and the capital of Razavi Khorasan Province. It is located in the northeast of the country and played a key role in the ancient silk road.

The city is laid out in a roughly circular shape, with the historical monuments and avenues radiating outward to approximately 13 districts in city area. The city has been comprised by different ethnic groups over the course of its history.

Considering GDP into consideration, Mashhad's main industries include natural gas and light industrial enterprises and the main commerce is focused on agricultural and animal products. In addition, tourism based on pilgrimages to the shrine of Imam Reza is an essential part of Mashhad's economy and the city now absorbs more than 10 million pilgrimages annually.

Right now, the impact of the population explosion on the city has dramatically increased. The metropolis population of Mashhad in 2021 was 3,264,000 which includes the areas of Mashhad and its outskirts. Since its inception, Mashhad has been an ever-changing city in the past few decades in terms of rapid urbanisation and making urban management vital to preserve the uniqueness and integrity of the city. However, due to the COVID-19 pandemic and also the economic sanctions against Iran, the economic growth of Mashhad was also unstable and has not yet reached the previous level of economic prosperity. These conditions have led to migration to the suburbs of Mashhad and the expansion of informal settlements in its fringe area which sporadic in city outskirts. These marginalized and voiceless populations are often victims of political economy programs that are proposed and created by the national government in general. However, to solve outskirts problems we designed a participatory approach at Mashhad municipality by involving all stakeholders, NGOs and residents through an initiative to convince resident of outskirts to be part of the city boundary coordination project (CBCP).

Taking into consideration that in Mashhad the environmental challenges in rural-urban fringe(outskirts) are associated with an unplanned use of land which contributes to urban sprawl and defunct infrastructure, poor environmental conditions, and residents' lack of access to adequate roads, and public transportation. The situation also adversely affects the quality of life in the 'outskirts areas of Mashhad city, where urban runoff and downstream pollution from

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garbage and sewer are discharged directly into the Kashafrud river and create serious environmental threats. The infrastructure deficit in villages was significant. **In the past**, often illegal connections were the only means to gain access to Mashhad municipality in terms of receiving facilities and amenities in villages. In fact, in Iran, the custodian of laws and regulations related to urban management is different from the custodian of rural laws, and the municipality prevents intervention in rural management therefore Mashhad municipality was not able to offer appropriate and flexible services and interventions directly in outskirts due to a lack of sufficient law and regulation. The role of rural law is based on the belief that local communities have a great potential for self-organization, mobilization, and management of their resources 'from the bottom up. To answer the problems, Mashhad Municipality attempted to legalize servicing in its outskirts to a very limited extent by establishing (CBCP) to bridge these gaps. In this case, the Municipality's role has been largely reactive, not proactive.

For planning to be successful, it is designed that people and communities actively participate and influence the way in which their needs and plans are addressed. However, it has also been agreed that in order for such a participation-based office to work and be sufficiently organized it must still be connected to and leveraged by the administration at higher levels.

### **Objectives of the experience**

**What is the objective listed in Part 1 that you think is the most important, and indicate other outstanding objectives of the experience (*maximum 100 words*)**

In addition to the primary objective, this project also has the following sub-objectives:

- 1- Promoting guidelines that fit with the social awareness of the settlement, especially during the covid19 pandemic
- 2- Facilitating city services and enhancing the quality and beauty of rural space
- 3- Promoting and holding face to face meeting in solving the problem through village councils and rural managers to achieve crisis management
- 4- providing basic services, recreational spaces, and good transportation

### **Methodology**

**Describe the methodology of the experience: phases of the process, participation channels (*maximum 300 words*)**

Scientifically, our initiative is considered evolutionary and it takes a time to implement our plan. Our vision is based on a practical comprehensive plan mixed with theoretical approaches. So, participation is in our core initiative as an evolutionary approach that engages all local residents together to be sensed they have a right to be heard and speak out about their concerns. Connections between formal organizations such as governmental institutions, semi-organizations (Mashhad municipality), and people who are engaged are essential parts of reaching sustainability.

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This initiative is a model of urban innovation in protecting the environment, because the CBCP only acted as a facilitator, while citizens play a constructive role. The office encouraged citizens and stakeholders to heighten their sense of ownership in sustainable urban development. Some positive changes were observed with the widespread participation of people, educational institutions, business agencies, etc. For example, the initiative helps to establish protected areas of mountains, and rivers and expands rural green spaces as a micro-climate action.

This initiative can be considered innovative in the strike a balance between rural and urban participation. It encourages all players to be active in creating conservation in the river park and mountain park projects. Meanwhile, the initiative carries out actions in crisis management through courses for rural managers to enrich their knowledge of environmental issues.

**Innovation**

**Explain what you consider most innovative in the practice. *(In a maximum of 150 words)***

CBCP initiatives are considered revolutionary given that it is the first office in a municipal body of its kind to be passed and formalized in Mashhad municipality for its establishment and implementation as a coordinator body, and for having public participation in the very center of its processes. Such a project has never been experienced before in the country.

the scheme of the coordination metropolis area of Mashhad is the only body that was created all out of the efforts of the civil society and that has gained the support of residents, NGOs, and the totality of the district's municipality, that has created a consensus for the continuity of participatory planning.

The innovation is applied in policy, strategy, and planning at three levels provincial, county, and local.

**Point out the importance of including as many groups and diverse populations as possible and how you have achieved it. *(In a maximum of 150 words)***

According to a study in 2019, more than 180000 population and 128 villages in the outskirts of Mashhad sprawled. As a result, we have designed a set of action plans to integrate both rural/urban (Rurban) together to improve the quality of life and bridge these gaps through the participation process.

There are several groups as follows:

The residents in villages on the outskirts benefited from more and larger green spaces and protected areas for recreation.

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The students have access to good transportation and they can access universities and schools in Mashhad city.

The entrepreneurial business benefited from the number of licenses for installing industry.

NGOs and rural managers strengthen networks of the east and west rural companies so it reduced the service gaps and also improved investments.

**What has been the strategy and communication channels of the experience so that the population knows about it and gets involved. (In a maximum of 150 words)**

This initiative is a model of rural urban innovation in protecting the environment, because the CBCP only acted as a facilitator, while citizens played a constructive role. The CBCD encouraged citizens and stakeholders to heighten their sense of ownership in sustainable development. Some positive changes were observed with the widespread participation of people, educational institutions, business agencies, etc. For example, the initiative helps establish protected areas of river, mountains, and knowledge of biodiversity in conservation, expands urban green belts, and improves living standards of residents.

Articulation with other actors

**It explains how the experience was articulated with different actors and simultaneous or pre-existing processes. What roles did these participants assume? Explain the degree of success of this joint. (In a maximum of 150 words)**

Strategic partners that involved and implementation of this project by sector as follow:

Public sector, NGOs and stakeholders play a key role in supporting resources such as participating in meeting and material, including being a pivotal role in training, supporting knowledge and joining the working group to perform an operational field. Organization and offices involved are as following:

- Organisation of Natural Resource and Environment
- Provincial Government

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- Housing Foundation of Islamic Revolution
  
- Roads and Urban Development Office
  
- Organisation of agriculture Jihad
  
- Organisation of Cultural Heritage, Handicrafts and Tourism

In addition, non-governmental organization and civil society organization play an essential role in the development of project proposal, coordination with funding sources and other agencies at both national and local level, and coordinating with the municipality to drive the activities of the CBCP.

**Evaluation:**

**What evaluation mechanisms have been implemented? Develop whether citizenship has participated in the evaluation of the practice *(In a maximum of 300 words)***

The planning, design, implementation, financing where all agreed to upfront by key service units of the Municipality. The transversal nature of this project has created the need for new institutional structures to develop a joint vision and plan across. The facilities and transportation bus provided, together with the beautification of urban roads and footpaths, as well as renovation of river implemented. participation is pivotal to the project with the engagement of local and other players where possible. Communities get to determine and prioritise the services and requests they would like to implement by participatory planning which has led to support for the initiative in the CBCP thorough some ways. Communities have a chance to send their opinions via 137 telephone number and have welcomed to use (Mashhad eye) application which designed for all. It provides participation process by involving large groups of citizens and residents to be part of projects. The importance of the active involvement of citizens in the decision-making process on river park and mountain park projects were noticeable. As said before, the feedback is that local views as a large group of residents freely express their values and concerns regarding the specific characteristics of CBCP projects in an efficient way.

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**Impacts and results**

**Describe the impacts and results of the process. How many people have participated, and which are their profiles. What have been the impacts on public policies, on the functioning of the administration and on citizens. *(In a maximum of 300 words)***

There are three main positive changes. First is the gradual participation of residents: Next is the improvement of the initiative itself from simple office to organized management. It has also interlinked with other governmental and organisations. last but not least is the participation process creates fundamental impact and the improvement the quality of life through the improvement of poor conditions of Mashhad outskirts for more than 180000 residents.

An outcome of the CBCP project is developing an impact assessment framework to better understand the participation in longer term implications. The initiative is driven by an innovative management structure who drive installation of infrastructure, budget commitments and create alignment between various line departments and organization working in the informal and poor settlement areas. The initiative aims to improve the living conditions of residents in the informal settlements. It aims to hinder the spread of climate changes in small scale through improved access to water quality and reduce dangerous illness like covid19.

The impact of the CBCP can be summarized as follows:

- Ability to priorities of basic services(transportation) to as many settlements as possible.
- Acceptable and effective use of the limited budget available.
- Road and footpath beatification and distribution of tress for plating will be continuing
- Opportunities for all residents, investors, stakeholders, rural councils and village managers to participate in large scale decisions
- Livelihoods initiatives, and the provision of key social facilities to be addressed through parallel projects.

### PART 3: EXPERIENCE SUMMARY

**A summary of the experience: origin, objectives, operation, results, monitoring and evaluation (Do not hesitate to repeat aspects that have already been written before, this summary is the one that will be shared on the digital platform for open evaluation and in the publication of the award). (In a maximum of 500 words)**

Although the law doesn't allow the intervention of municipality in villages which defines autonomous in Iran, all of the plans and programs, include strategies that implement in our initiative in the CBCP is shaped by participation to bridge the gaps especially in city outskirts. These face to face and discourse are facilitated by the Mashhad municipality zones and parallel organizations through some creativity and innovative ways.

CBCP is a key element in the implementation process of participation planning with operational, and holistic perspective with emphasis on development and land use planning and systematization of the metropolis in managing fringe area. Its constitution as an official and facilitator body aims to improve of strategic projects and resources to enhance the provision of public services' in a semi-public office which responsible for intermunicipal development and proposes mechanisms and instruments for rural councils, stakeholders, NGOs and residents that contribute to a socially, economically sustainable, environmentally friendly balanced mechanism.

In addition, CBCD is recognized as a professional, efficient and effective semi organization in fulfilling its responsibilities as the facilitator entity responsible for coordinating the metropolis planning that helps to improve the quality of life of the inhabitants and their opportunities for participation in the area of Mashhad outskirts.

Its objective is to expand and propose amenities for participatory planning, and some projects implemented and coordinated apart from intervening in autonomy of villages. In this term, policy coordination in the field of its response to the local residents designed. As would be considered the process of urban management is the improve of quality of life and creating recreational and open spaces in the second largest slum city in Iran. The metropolis area of Mashhad has taken important steps in creating a coordination scheme based on citizenship, direct and indirect coordination, which establishes the characteristics and powers of participation. It is the very basis of the scheme, the result of work of civil society that promoted the existence of the CBCP agenda, the work of the metropolis authorities is based on participatory planning exercises, active public consultation and educational path, which keeps citizens at the epicenter of decision making at the metropolis level.

***We invite you to share annexes that allow you to better illustrate your experience: videos, photographs, documents... They can be sent through a heavy document delivery system such as WeTransfer, Dropbox or Google Drive***