



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Annual Report
2020

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Cover Photo

A student wearing a homemade mask for COVID-19 protection.
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UN-Habitat's Annual Report 2020 is a chronicle of our time. A year after the declaration of a global pandemic, we reflect on the challenges and changes that have occurred so quickly in the world's cities and in all our human settlements.

While we have seen inequalities deepen and widen in some cases, we have also seen innovative and inclusive approaches to solutions and recovery in others. Circumstances forced us to understand change and adjust to it. This report reflects the achievements as well as the lessons we take forward in support of sustainable urbanization.

At UN-Habitat, we know that data, knowledge, ideas, good practices and innovative solutions are our best tools to understand and anticipate the challenges of sustainable urbanization in a rapidly changing world.

2020 was the first year of our Strategic Plan 2020–2023 and the first year of our new organizational structure. I am pleased to report that both have been tested and found to be robust and flexible in the face of the global pandemic and its consequences. We have responded to change with professionalism, commitment and a clear sense of urgency. We have held ourselves to our guiding principles of competency, accountability, transparency, efficiency and effectiveness, and achieved strong results with a view to leaving no one and no place behind.

Since the United Nations Habitat Assembly adopted this Strategic Plan in May 2019, we have been able to strengthen our role as a global catalyst for sustainable urbanization, a convener of excellence and demonstrate technical leadership in our normative work. We have created a specialized unit on innovation and reinforced our approach to strategic partnerships to leverage global action. We have adapted to the world of 2020 and managed fiscal austerity while also providing support to the most marginalized communities facing COVID-19.

This Annual Report is testimony to the energy that UN-Habitat has deployed to protect the People and the Planet, enhance urban Prosperity and, as a result, preserve Peace. Ground in Partnership, UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan is fully contributing to these "5 Ps" that shape the Sustainable Development Goals and global progress to Agenda 2030.

I am pleased to share this Annual Report with you, highlighting UN-Habitat's work and achievements through a turbulent and challenging year. We have focused our efforts on ensuring that cities and all human settlements stay on the sustainable development trajectory, equipped with normative guidance and operational support to build a greener, more inclusive, more just and sustainable future for all.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
United Nations Under-Secretary-General
and Executive Director

2020 Achievements

Responding to the COVID-19 pandemic



We rolled out UN-Habitat's immediate response plan covering **75 projects** in **37 countries** with **USD 32 million** raised and reprogrammed to support the most marginalized most quickly.

UN-Habitat worked with key agencies and local governments to bring learning and recommendations forward in the United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief: **COVID-19 in an Urban World**.

Working with CitilQ, we created **a global database** on city preparedness and pandemic responses involving **1,700 cities** across all regional groups.

Throughout the year we provided support to **6.8 million people** in **37 countries** and **262 cities** to adapt to the global health crisis and resulting social-economic fallouts by implementing **71 projects** with more than **250 partners**.

We worked with partners to ensure that **social cohesion** and **community resilience** are a pillar of the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response to **COVID-19**.

Setting the global discourse on sustainable urban development



The City Prosperity Initiative was used to guide decision-making in around **50 cities** by establishing linkages between data, knowledge and policy actions.

We collected data on **77 indicators** from **1,500 urban areas** in **132 countries** with the Global Urban Indicators Database.

We prepared a Global Monitoring Framework as a **universal urban monitoring system**.

We launched the **Urban Agenda Platform** to support monitoring of progress to achieve the New Urban Agenda and urban related SDGs.

Reaching those most in need



We provided support to **36 national governments** and more than **20 cities**, benefitting more than **300,000 people** by improving living conditions in informal settlements.

We supported the local **implementation of the SDGs** through 30 sustainable, integrated and inclusive urban projects, achieving scaled transformative change in **19 cities**.

96 cities used participatory planning methodologies and collected spatial data to increase **social cohesion** between migrant, displaced and host communities under several **regional and country teams**.

The **HerCity platform** provided a digital toolbox to create more inclusive, equal and sustainable cities and promote **participation of girls and young women** in urban planning using innovative digital technologies in **17 cities**.

Establishing new partnerships and funding

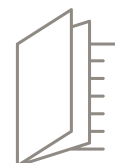


UN-Habitat's total income in 2020 was **USD 193.7 million**, representing **76.6 per cent** of its target.

Since January 2020, we have signed agreements with **191 partners**: Governments (51), United Nations entities (18), Local Governments (26) and Civil Society Organizations (96).

Projects financed by the **Adaptation Fund** totalled **over USD 49 million**, supporting the community-level adaptation of infrastructure to climatic changes in south-eastern Africa, Cambodia, Jordan, Lebanon, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Pakistan and Vietnam, significantly increasing the portfolio to benefit **14 countries**.

Key publications



World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization.



2020 Catalogue of Services.



United Nations System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.

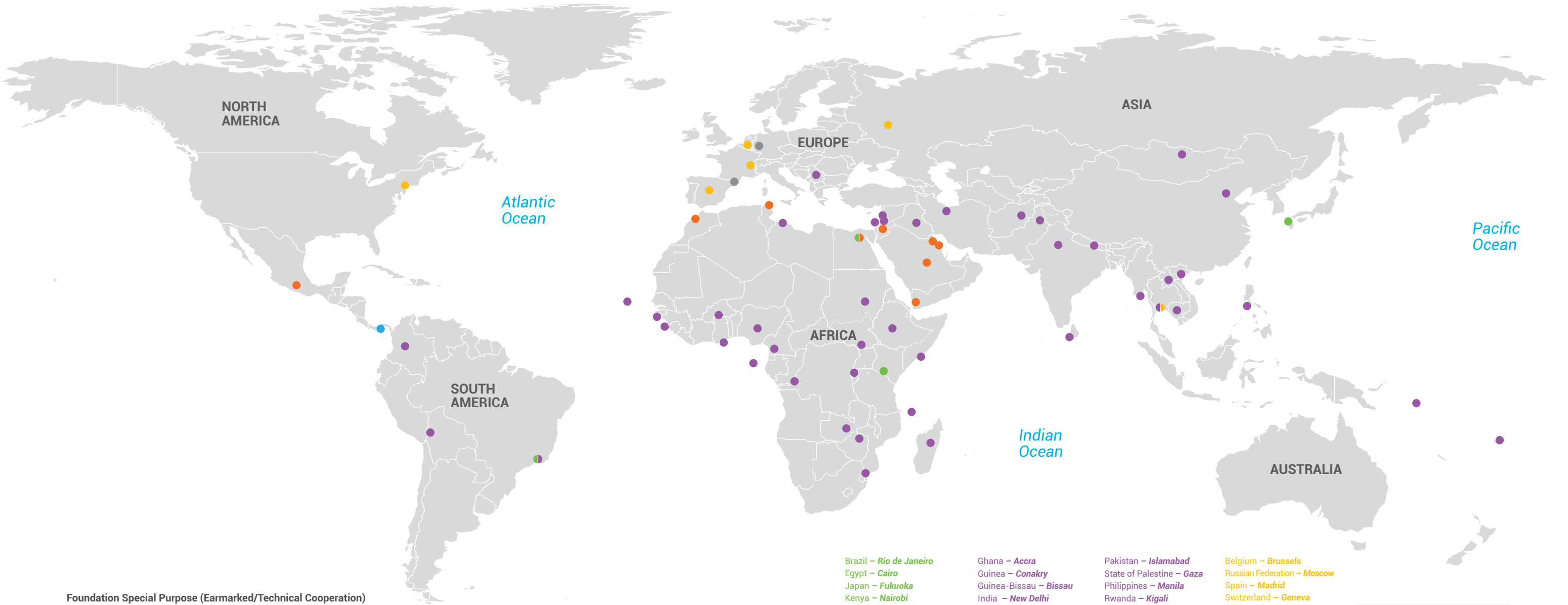


The New Urban Agenda Illustrated.

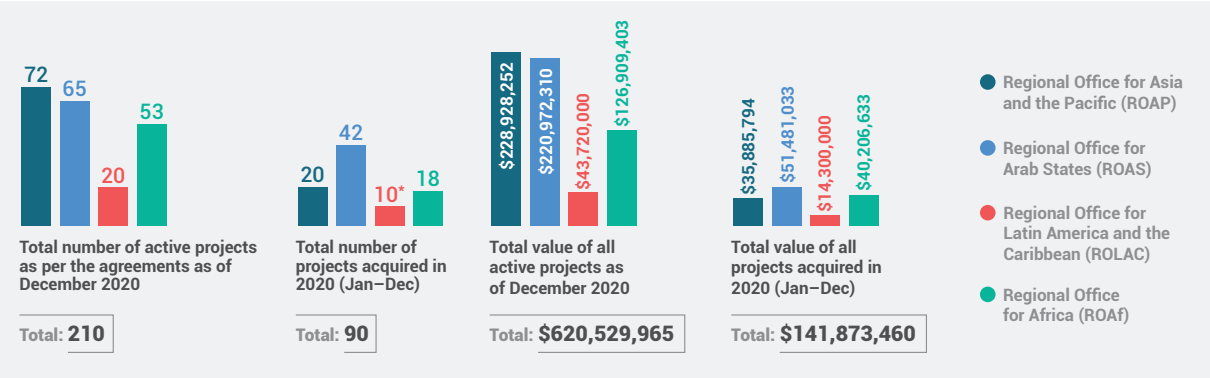


UN-Habitat's Portfolio at a Glance

UN-Habitat Global Presence



Foundation Special Purpose (Earmarked/Technical Cooperation)



- Brazil – *Rio de Janeiro*
- Egypt – *Cairo*
- Japan – *Fukuoka*
- Kenya – *Nairobi*
- Afghanistan – *Kabul*
- Bolivia – *La Paz*
- Brazil – *Rio de Janeiro*
- Burkina Faso – *Ouagadougou*
- Cambodia – *Phnom Penh*
- Cameroon – *Yaounde*
- Cape Verde – *Praia*
- China – *Beijing*
- Colombia – *Bogota*
- Comoros – *Moroni*
- Democratic Republic of the Congo – *Kinshasa*
- Ethiopia – *Addis Ababa*
- Fiji – *Suva*
- Ghana – *Accra*
- Guinea – *Conakry*
- Guinea-Bissau – *Bissau*
- India – *New Delhi*
- Islamic Republic of Iran – *Tehran*
- Iraq – *Baghdad*
- Kosovo – *Pristina*
- Lao People's Democratic Republic – *Vientiane*
- Lebanon – *Beirut*
- Libya – *Tripoli*
- Madagascar – *Antananarivo*
- Mongolia – *Ulaanbaatar*
- Mozambique – *Maputo*
- Myanmar – *Yangon*
- Nepal – *Kathmandu*
- Nigeria – *Abuja*
- Pakistan – *Islamabad*
- State of Palestine – *Gaza*
- Philippines – *Manila*
- Rwanda – *Kigali*
- Sao Tomé and Príncipe – *Sao Tomé*
- Saudi Arabia – *Riyadh*
- Solomon Islands – *Honiara*
- Somalia – *Mogadishu*
- South Sudan – *Juba*
- Sri Lanka – *Colombo*
- Sudan – *Khartoum*
- Syrian Arab Republic – *Damascus*
- Thailand – *Bangkok*
- Vietnam – *Hanoi*
- Zambia – *Lusaka*
- Zimbabwe – *Harare*
- Belgium – *Brussels*
- Russian Federation – *Moscow*
- Spain – *Madrid*
- Switzerland – *Geneva*
- Thailand – *Bangkok*
- United States of America – *New York*
- Germany – *Bonn*
- Spain – *Barcelona*
- Bahrain – *Manama*
- Egypt – *Cairo*
- Jordan – *Amman*
- Kuwait – *Kuwait*
- Mexico – *Mexico City*
- Morocco – *Rabat*
- Tunisia – *Tunis*
- Yemen – *Sanaa*
- Panama – *Panama*

- Regional Office
- Project Office
- Liaison/Representation Office
- Global Programme Office
- Country Office
- Administrative Office

BASE MAP:
Map No. 4170 Rev. 19 UNITED NATIONS - October 2020
Office of Information and Communications Technology | Geospatial Information Section

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat

*Includes new grants, COVID-19 related projects, United Nations Development Account projects and additional funding to ongoing projects.

1

Introduction



UN-Habitat is the United Nations Programme mandated with action for sustainable urban development, and our mission has never been more important than it was in 2020. The year was defined by the COVID-19 pandemic with more than 90 per cent of cases occurring in cities, and UN-Habitat has been at the forefront of the global pandemic response. Alongside partners, UN-Habitat has closely monitored the impact of the pandemic on human settlements, supported city responses globally and gathered knowledge to inform both our operational and normative work.

UN-Habitat's role is to provide technical assistance to improve planning, policies, legislation and governance as well as support access to land, housing and basic services all grounded in an approach which advances social inclusion and human rights. Throughout 2020, UN-Habitat's

teams worked in 67 countries, developed critical guidelines, established global norms and contributed to advancing the global urban agenda including evidence-based recommendations for sustainable recovery from the pandemic and resilience to future shocks.

The pandemic has affected cities most. Cities have led the frontline response and will spearhead long-term recovery. This underscores the importance of UN-Habitat's work to help authorities adapt to changing landscapes and crises while providing key services, keeping communities safe and improving quality of life for all. The consequences of the pandemic are likely to be long-lasting on cities and urban settlements but offer opportunities to emerge stronger and to build back differently and better through sustainable, inclusive and green recoveries.



A child using a touchless handwashing facility installed by UN-Habitat that aims to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in Sittwe, Myanmar © UN-Habitat

A new strategic focus to leverage impact



Figure 1: The four Domains of Change and 12 outcomes of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023

This Annual Report summarizes UN-Habitat's achievements in the first year of the Strategic Plan 2020–2023 which focuses on working in the most pressing areas of development such as poverty, prosperity, climate action and crisis prevention. This includes the full range of the continuum of human settlements from neighbourhood communities to the largest urban conglomeration.

To support the implementation of the Strategic Plan, in January 2020 UN-Habitat put in place a revised organizational structure to strengthen integrated programming and improve the impact of its work. UN-Habitat is now more outcome-

focused and results-oriented, and better equipped to support national and local governments in achieving the New Urban Agenda, Agenda 2030 and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) as well as other global commitments. The Strategic Plan details how UN-Habitat will support Member States and cities to achieve sustainable urban development supported by data, policy, evidence, technical advisory services and capacity-building action.

UN-Habitat aims to reach those most in need by addressing issues of human rights and gender with specific considerations for children, youth, older people and persons living with disabilities. UN-Habitat also aims to

redress chronic issues of discrimination and marginalization at a structural level. These elements form the social inclusion dimension of the Strategic Plan and cut across all domains of change.

Five flagship programmes aligned to the domains of change were launched in February 2020 to develop more effective and integrated responses and attract multi-donor funding and investment in large-scale programmes. The flagship programmes promote urban regeneration, people-centred smart cities, climate action for more resilient settlements, safe migration and inclusive neighbourhoods, and accelerating achievement of the SDGs in cities.

BOX 01

An integrated way of working

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020–2023 and the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development 2019 are proving to be valuable instruments in facilitating and encouraging more integrated programming, framing joint projects and collaborating with other United Nations entities and partners, and enhancing UN-Habitat's catalytic function to drive transformative change and become a centre of excellence.

Projects with large potential and synergistic relationships targeting numerous outcomes include those on:

- **Basic services and mobility, while delivering on climate mitigation, resource efficiency, and urban environment and mitigation.** Examples in 2020 are the projects on Urban Pathways towards low carbon basis urban services, Demonstration actions & Living Labs, Integrated Urban Electric Mobility Solutions in the Context of the Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, and the Urban-LEDS II project which addresses integrated low emission and resilient development.
- **Security of tenure and municipal finance, while also addressing basic services, social integration and improved living conditions.** An important example is the project on Land and Property Tax Revenues for Service Delivery, Reconstruction, Citizenship Building and Sustaining Peace in Fragile States which targets primarily security of tenure and municipal finance while indirectly impacting outcome basic services, social integration and improved living conditions for refugees/internally displaced people. The project is building on years of experience in Afghanistan and Somalia and focused on increasing impact and scalability of the approach going forward.
- **The United Nations Joint Programme to Build Urban and Rural Resilience and the Conditions for Recovery in the Syrian Arab Republic** is a good example of how UN-Habitat's urban expertise developing area-based recovery and neighbourhood plans, can facilitate integration and synergies across the interventions of the United Nations Children's Fund, the United Nations Development Programme, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the United Nations Population Fund and the World Food Programme.

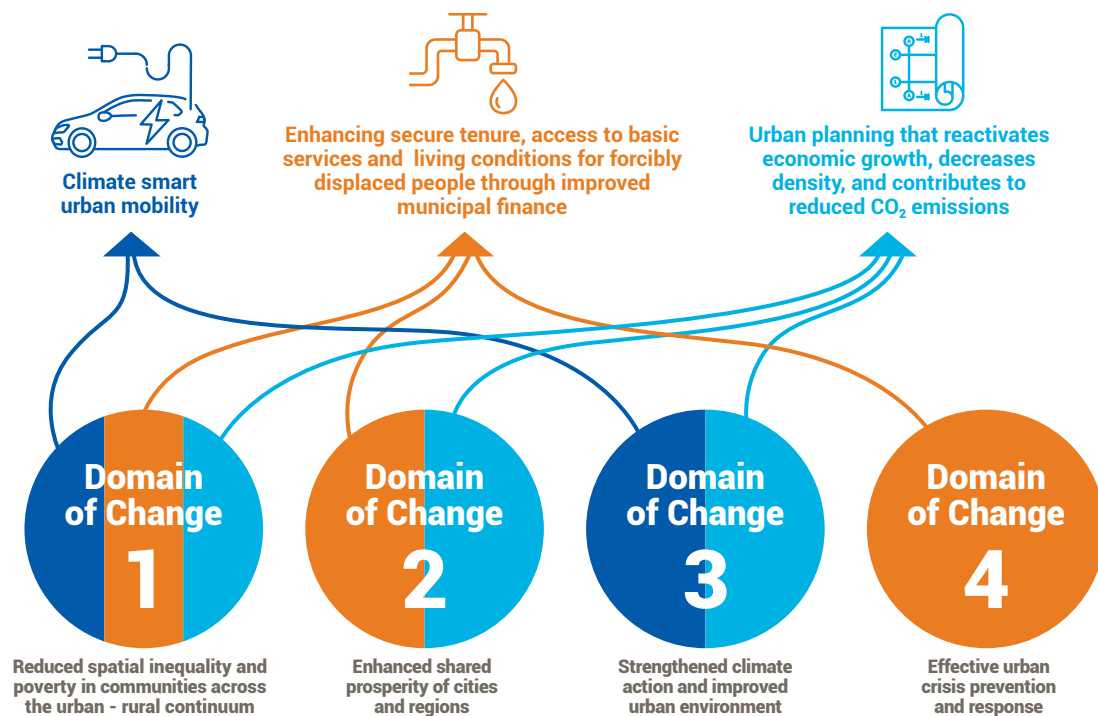


Figure 2: Working across the Domains of Change

Responding to COVID-19

In March 2020, immediately after the World Health Organization's declaration of the global pandemic, UN-Habitat's Executive Director launched a corporate-wide emergency response to ensure duty of care to staff, business continuity at headquarters and all field offices, and mobilize resources for emergency programming. This included leveraging USD 1.3 million for quick impact projects in 13 countries.

UN-Habitat's technical assistance during the emergency response phase helped local officials adapt public health directives to improve conditions in informal settlements. UN-Habitat was sought out by governments and cities for its expertise in slum upgrading, urban basic services, affordable housing, disaster recovery and livelihoods for youth.

In the course of 2020, USD 32 million was mobilized for UN-Habitat's COVID-19 response, representing 44 per cent of the total USD 72 million sought in the UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan of April 2020. From rapid response to longer-term recovery, UN-Habitat supported national and local

governments with 75 projects in 37 countries and 300 cities. UN-Habitat's profiling of urban contexts includes mapping and data from 1,700 cities benefiting over 10 million people by informing decision-making and improving coherence in the response to the pandemic.

UN-Habitat has supported COVID-19 responses at global, national and city level focusing on the densely populated urban areas hit hardest due to lack of adequate housing, mobility and connectivity. The COVID-19 policy and programme framework has focused on:

- Supporting local government and community-led solutions.
- Profiling of urban context using data, mapping and knowledge.
- Mitigating economic impact and initiating recovery.
- Promoting active learning on policy measures and practices.

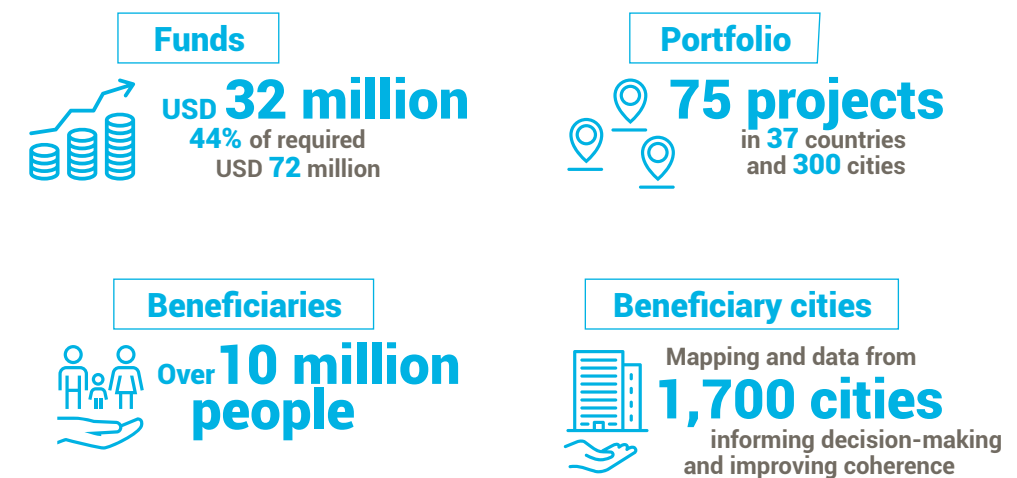


Figure 3: Key results of UN-Habitat's response to COVID-19

Advancing 'urban' in the United Nations system



As we strive to overcome the pandemic, address the fragilities and inequalities it has exposed, and combat climate change, now is the time to harness the transformative potential of urbanization for the benefit of people and planet.

Mr. António Guterres,
United Nations Secretary-General, 5 October 2020 (World Habitat Day)

UN-Habitat made significant progress in 2020 to further its mandate to promote system-wide coordination and fulfil its role as the United Nations focal point for sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat concentrated on operationalizing the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development, adopted by the Chief Executive Board in 2019, focusing on more strategic partnerships related to data, integrated policy support, financing and partnerships. In December 2020, resolution A/RES/75/224 called for a High-level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda to be held in 2022.

In response to COVID-19, UN-Habitat led an inter-agency collaboration to develop the Secretary-General's *Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World*, launched in July 2020.

UN-Habitat led the social cohesion and community resilience component of the United Nations framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19, and initiated a global database on consequences of and city responses to the pandemic.

To understand and anticipate transformations in cities and urban communities, UN-Habitat released the global report *Cities and Pandemics: Towards a More Just, Green and Healthy Future* in March 2021. The analysis contained in the report will sharpen the focus of UN-Habitat's programming at country level, its contributions to global and regional inter-agency processes, and its engagement with cities and local governments.

BOX 02

Secretary-General's Policy Brief: COVID-19 in an Urban World

Intensified commitments and action are needed in three key areas:

(i) Tackling inequalities and development deficits

National and local government efforts to protect the most vulnerable groups during the immediate response phases are crucial, as are recovery measures that reduce urban inequalities, strengthen human rights and bolster the resilience of vulnerable groups to future shocks. The policy brief calls for an enhanced understanding of inequalities, the provision of safe shelter for all, large-scale public investments in affordable and adequate housing and slum upgrading as well as further actions to leave no one behind.

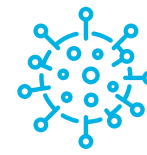
(ii) Strengthening the capacities of local actors, particularly local governments

National governments are expected to promote more inclusive, collaborative and responsive governance across jurisdictions and levels of government while national stimulus packages maximize support for tailored subnational responses and boost local governments' budgetary capacity. Priority actions formulated in the

Policy Brief include, amongst other things, to ensure institutionalized collaboration and consistent engagement across levels of government, subnational jurisdictions and all residents especially marginalized groups.

(iii) Pursuing a resilient, inclusive, gender equal and green economic recovery

The resilience and sustainability of cities should be prioritized globally through addressing underlying socio-economic vulnerabilities, leveraging data for urban planning and adopting climate investment strategies. For example, stimulus packages aiming to mitigate the impact of COVID-19 on local businesses could start by building more resilient supply chains or social protection could be expanded to paid and unpaid care workers and migrants in the informal sector. Post-pandemic recovery in cities, in this sense, should harness sustainable solutions such as transforming into a circular economy that regenerates, reduces and reuses materials for longer-term benefits.



HEALTH RESPONSE

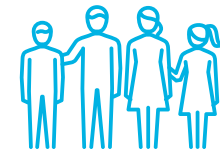
Cooperation with the World Health Organization (WHO) on public health guidance in urban settings



HUMANITARIAN RESPONSE

Active participation in Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) mechanisms raising visibility of urban threats and response priorities

Global Humanitarian Response Plan (GHRP) country-level contributions, shaping narrative on the impact of the pandemic in urban areas



SOCIO-ECONOMIC RESPONSE

UN-Habitat contributed in UN framework for the immediate socio-economic response to COVID-19

Primary pen-holder for Secretary-General's Policy Brief on the impact of COVID-19 on cities

Figure 4: Three Pillars of UN-System Response to COVID-19



United Nations Deputy Secretary-General, Ms. Amina J. Mohammed, underscored the importance of sustainable urbanization during a pledging and partnership conference organized by UN-Habitat in December 2020 © UN-Habitat

A centre of excellence

UN-Habitat continues to drive the global discourse and agenda on sustainable urban development and has been leading policy discussions and using its knowledge to contribute to various United Nations publications and briefs. UN-Habitat's latest flagship report *World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization* shows that the intrinsic value of sustainable urbanization can and should be harnessed for the well-being of all.

As a mechanism to report progress on the New Urban Agenda and other development agendas, UN-Habitat worked with partners to launch the Urban Agenda Platform and developed the joint Global Urban Monitoring Framework. These tools support global reporting on the New Urban Agenda

and on the urban dimensions of the SDGs and other global agendas.

UN-Habitat's Capacity Building Strategy was approved in October 2020 and is aimed at enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The Strategy allows UN-Habitat to expand its role in empowering urban stakeholders, appropriately scaling and sustaining impact. An internal digital learning strategy has been developed to provide various approaches and tools for digital learning and capacity building as well as identify partners, solutions and a road map to accelerate the digital transformation of UN-Habitat's learning activities.

BOX 03

Adapting to virtual

The COVID-19 pandemic required adjustments in the way UN-Habitat supports national and local authorities as well as local communities, including a shift from face-to-face meetings and technical advisory missions to virtual and/or hybrid meetings. Through virtual platforms and remote support, a total of **175 days of workshops, seminars and training events** were conducted to build knowledge and skills to implement the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

Digital learning and knowledge sharing have the potential to reach participants in a cost-effective manner. UN-Habitat's digital learning strategy offers different tools and approaches to overcome obstacles such as the digital divide, time zone differences and difficulty creating human bonds normally gained face-to-face. The pilot online course the the New Urban Agenda launched in 2020 is an example of a self-paced learning product paving the way to produce new types of digital learning services on a dedicated Learning Management System.

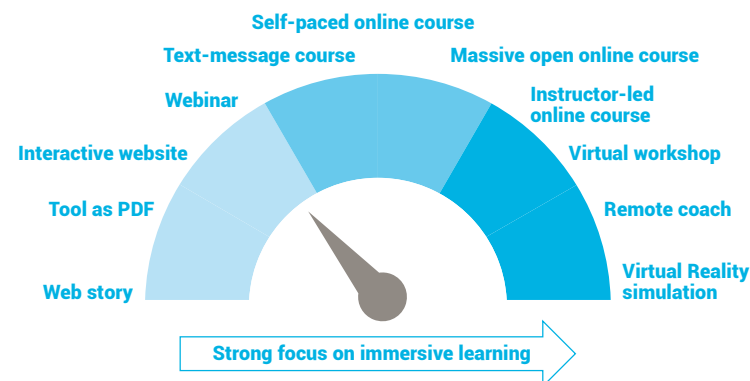


Figure 5: Spectrum of digital learning approaches



Cabinet Secretary, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works, Republic of Kenya, Mr. James Macharia, launches the World Cities Report in Nairobi © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

Working Today for a Better Urban Future

A woman in a pink shirt and blue skirt is performing a physical activity on a wooden log balanced on tires, while another woman in a floral shirt watches and laughs. The scene is set in a narrow alleyway with colorful flags and a large white bag in the foreground.

Domain of
Change | 1

**Reduced spatial
inequality and
poverty in
communities
across the urban-
rural continuum**

Sustainable development cannot be achieved without addressing the basic human rights of the millions of marginalized urban dwellers living in poverty, often concentrated in specific locations. UN-Habitat helps reduce spatial inequality and poverty in communities by improving planning and policymaking, supporting urban regeneration, and increasing equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility, public space, secure land tenure, and adequate and affordable housing.

In 2020, UN-Habitat produced 2 publications and 8 technical documents, and facilitated more than 37 seminars and workshops along with advisory services and outreach activities. Some 22 field projects resulted in sustainable mobility solutions, safe and inclusive public space, air and water quality, as well as improved sanitation, energy and solid waste management. These projects also

included integrating urban and territorial planning, the development and implementation of effective planning laws, housing, slum upgrading, the rehabilitation of brownfield sites and innovative financing through land readjustment. UN-Habitat also supported Member States to develop national and local policies on urban heritage, historical, landscape and culture among others.

Increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility and public space

Between 2003 and 2020, UN-Habitat mobilized over **USD 190 million** through the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund increasing access to basic services to **over 2.7 million** people in 39 countries. In 2020 alone, 500,000 people were reached.

In 2020, utility capacity and performance improvements have been made in **82 service providers** through new or ongoing Water Operators' Partnerships in 2020, many facilitated or supported by UN-Habitat's Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance initiative. Together, these improved services are estimated to reach **over 10 million customers** in the medium to long term.

Launched in 2012, UN-Habitat's **Global Public Space Programme** is active in **88 cities** and has helped more than 1.85 million people enjoy safe access to more than **134 upgraded public spaces**. In 2020, UN-Habitat completed 26 public space interventions that helped **134,847 people** access safe and inclusive public space.

269,482 people have improved access to clean and **safe drinking water** in seven countries.

In Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, **56,360 people** have improved access to **basic services in 10 large informal settlements** through the Social Territories Programme.

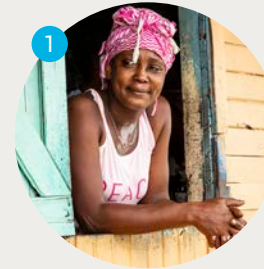
Between 2010 and 2019, six million people benefitted from access to an Open Defecation Free environment through the Global Sanitation Fund Programme in Nepal. In 2020, an additional **1.3 million people** gained access to **improved sanitation facilities**.

The COVID-19 pandemic exposed systemic inequalities in basic service provision and showed the critical role of sanitation, hygiene and access to clean water in preventing and containing diseases. The need for safe mobility and public space became evident around the world. Throughout 2020, UN-Habitat has supported programmes in the most deprived neighbourhoods to address

sanitation and accessibility gaps affecting health, education and livelihoods. UN-Habitat applied a people-centred approach to improve sustainable mobility in cities and promoted compact cities with walking and cycling as alternative and safe mobility options.

BOX 04

Leaving no one and no place behind



Human rights

Human rights are anchored in UN-Habitat's work particularly in addressing the reduction of spatial inequality and poverty. Since its inception, UN-Habitat has been providing tools to assist policymakers and practitioners in developing strategies for implementing the human rights to water, sanitation and adequate housing. Through promoting the co-creation of public spaces, human rights – including the right to civic participation and freedom of opinion and expression – are reinforced.

Gender

UN-Habitat integrates a gender perspective in all its operational activities, deliverables and results with guidance from its Advisory Group on Gender. This includes the promotion of effective participation by both women and men in decision-making and programme implementation. In 2020, UN-Habitat interventions have included support to Member States with policy, legislation, planning and financing instruments to implement integrated, inclusive and gender-responsive land and housing policies that improve tenure security for all. UN-Habitat also held a series of expert group meetings on "Inclusive Cities" including a specific one from a gender perspective which will inform the development of social inclusion guidelines.

Children, youth and older persons

UN-Habitat meaningfully engages children and youth in sustainable urbanization through programmes such as the One Stop Youth Resources Centres. Currently centres in Kenya, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda and Turkey provide safe spaces which have since 2012 enabled over 500,000 young people to access to health and recreation services, job skills and leadership training. UN-Habitat's Global Public Space Programme is especially designed to promote discussion among diverse age groups. Through Minecraft, placemaking and other methodologies, spaces and places are created that promote intergenerational dialogue and exchange. Children are given special consideration before, during and after evictions and resettlements within UN-Habitat's Housing Rights activities portfolio. An Expert Group Meeting on Ageing and Inclusion was held with the support of the subnational government of Basque Country, Spain, focused on improving the living conditions of the elderly in cities.

People living with disabilities

UN-Habitat promotes safe and inclusive access to basic services, public transportation, public space, housing and land where people of all abilities are welcome. Universal accessibility is one of the principles that guides UN-Habitat's work. UN-Habitat partners with representative groups and individual rights holders, national and local governments, relevant United Nations agencies and civil society to maximize impact and to ensure that the Right to Adequate Housing and accessibility to land of persons with disabilities are promoted, respected and protected.

1: Guyana, Georgetown slums and informal settlements © UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhahn
2: Ghana, Ga-Mashie, Public Space and new roads © UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhahn
3: A mother and a small child in a city street wearing face masks for protection from COVID-19 pandemic, Belgrade, Serbia © Shutterstock/Nikola Barbutov
4: Senior from Mathare Informal Settlement, Nairobi, Kenya © Isaac Muasa

Examples of interventions include:

- Collecting data to identify vulnerable individuals in the *favela* (informal settlement) complexes of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil to integrate individuals and their families to public services offered by local government.
- Implementation of the Riverbank Filtration project in Luxor, Egypt providing more than 110,000 vulnerable inhabitants with safe drinking water.
- Supporting the COVID-19 response with awareness campaigns, adaptation plans for public transport modes and local revenue generation for vulnerable groups in the Caribbean.
- COVID-19 prevention programme with the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, intersex, asexual, + (LGBTQIA+) community which provides masks and promotes public health, social inclusion and diversity messaging through murals in Quito, Ecuador.
- A non-motorized transport strategy to mitigate the impacts of the pandemic by improving streets for walking and cycling integrated with the public transport system in Ethiopia.
- Addressing COVID-19 concerns of youth organizations through public health interventions in Kenya. UN-Habitat helped more than 2.5 million people with hand hygiene by facilitating the deployment of 94 handwashing stations in 10 communities. These stations have evolved into information and emergency response hubs that provide multiple services such as COVID-19 prevention information, temperature checks, outreach programmes tailored to women and girls facing increased risks of violence during the pandemic and guidance for children missing school.
- Engaging communities and conducting research and surveys with pedestrians to improve public spaces in a border city in Mexico, helping an estimated 10,000 people who pass through daily with better conditions and road safety.
- Helping around 800 homeless persons in the cities of Tunis, Sousse and Sfax, Tunisia with shelter, access to basic hygiene facilities and socio-psychological support through Orientation and Social Support Centres.



Children engaging in upgrading a public space in Prizren, Kosovo* © Ec Ma Ndryshe

*Any reference to Kosovo in United Nations documents and United Nations websites, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo. Kosovo is therefore not listed as a country.

BOX 05**Safe, inclusive and accessible public space in the COVID-19 pandemic**

The pandemic has drastically changed our relationship with public space and facilities. The imposed restrictions, while necessary, are affecting people's quality of life and disproportionately hurting the urban poor and their economy, safety, security, peace and stability.

Public space is a particularly important asset during crises, especially for establishing temporary facilities to provide services, aid and other resources. The pandemic has reaffirmed the need to distribute public space more evenly in many cities and especially in poor neighbourhoods where easily accessible parks, gardens and playgrounds are in short supply. This space is important for reducing stress levels, improving mental health and well-being, and contributing to children's development – but it is still considered a privilege.

In 2020, UN-Habitat completed 26 public space interventions that helped 134,847 people access safe and inclusive public space. The Global Public Space Programme (GPSP) also completed 15 city-wide public space assessments in several countries including Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ethiopia, State of Palestine, United Arab Emirates and Uruguay. Ongoing projects in Dhaka; Beira and Dondo, Mozambique; Dabali, Nepal; Johannesburg, South Africa and Hanoi put 5 to 10 per cent of their budgets towards supporting COVID-19 responses. This included supporting space for children, improving food security, moving local markets and vendors into open space and supporting the LGBTQIA+ community.

UN-Habitat produced a [guidance note on COVID-19 and public space](#), eight knowledge products including guides, toolkits, a digital participation platform and a compendium of practices and training modules to help local governments plan and manage public space. GPSP engaged 6,750 people in participatory planning processes, reached 470 people through digital participation tools and trained 560 people in conducting city-wide public space assessments.

UN-Habitat supported 10 cities in their COVID-19 recovery to improve the well-being of people in the most vulnerable situations. A variety of challenges were addressed such as decongestion and digitization of local markets, increasing hygiene and sanitation in slums, creating livelihood opportunities and raising awareness through culture and art. These small interventions enabled cities to slowly reopen and communities to regain confidence in being in the public realm for economic and social purposes while staying safe.

In India, South Africa and the United Arab Emirates, UN-Habitat engaged persons with disabilities in the design of public space to improve its access and safety and to make it multifunctional. And in the State of Palestine, UN-Habitat worked with local governments and the private sector to conduct city-wide public space safety audits in five cities to understand women's and girls' safety concerns in public space and to develop city-level public space strategies that feed into national policies.



10
Cities



88
Workshops



6,230
People Engaged



40,000+
People Impacted



Women attend a horticultural training course supported by Iraqi implementing partner, Engineering Association for Development and Environment © Dheras Sultan

Impact Story | 1

Rehabilitating public space to increase access for all in Iraq

The strategic location of Mosul makes the city a melting pot of diverse cultures, ethnicities and religious beliefs, but also a target for violent extremism. The city's already limited public green space deteriorated during the 2014–2016 occupation of Mosul by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL).

Through the area-based programme Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development, UN-Habitat is working to rehabilitate war-damaged houses and restore essential public services, helping the government to strengthen its institution, renewing the social contract between citizens and state.

Restoring Al Yarmouk Park through public participation

Al Yarmouk Park, once an iconic social area full of palm trees and colourful flower beds, was looted and logged during the conflict leading to a deterioration of the environment and a decrease in security in the area.

Recovering public space is a priority in Iraq, one that should always engage the community in a consultative and participatory planning approach. A 2019 focus group discussion asking older persons to identify the use of the park and the factors that led to its gradual dilapidation helped to inform and guide the rehabilitation. Children and youth also expressed their desire for playgrounds and sport activities.

The horticultural training course, which provided a mix of theoretical and practice sessions, was led by Mr. Hussamaddin Thanoon, lecturer at the College of Agriculture and Forestry, Mosul University © Shahla Alhialy



The newly trained gardeners have planted over 260 trees including 45 mature Iraqi and Washingtonia palms to replace the trees that were cut down or burned during the conflict with ISIL © Dheras Sultan

UN-Habitat is providing technical support to restore Al Yarmouk Park as a multi-purpose public space. During the first phase of rehabilitation, UN-Habitat led the construction of three new multi-use sports courts and an open-air gym that includes equipment for persons with disabilities. The boundary wall, gates and guard rooms were repaired, a new well excavated, and 10 large water storage tanks for irrigation fed by a solar-powered water pump and panel system were installed.

Construction work provided over 250 jobs for the unemployed, a priority for the government and donors such as the European Union. An intense horticultural training course provided gardening jobs to 30 vulnerable women through an experienced implementing partner. The female gardeners have planted over 500 new plants, including mature palms, pines, shrubs and fruit trees.

In 2021, playgrounds will be installed, pathways lit by solar-powered lamp posts and a central axis with fountains created, and a community hall retrofitted. Once rehabilitated, Al Yarmouk Park's 67,000 square metres will serve 500,000 people.

Transforming the space, influencing social change

Decades-long conflicts have shown how diversity can be a threat and disenfranchised youth can be negatively stereotyped and influenced by violent political and religious extremism. Public space that can host sports activities and playgrounds are known to have transformative and positive effects, improving relations between youth from different backgrounds and with varying physical abilities.

Scaling up projects like this in Mosul and nationwide will contribute to the stability and socio-economic development of Iraq.

Training and community-driven solutions are critical for sustainable development

Public open space should be available to all. The whole community, including the elderly and persons with disabilities, will have access to Al Yarmouk Park – a safe, comfortable and accessible space.

Participatory planning makes room for enthusiastic community-level commitment fostering a strong sense of ownership and well-managed public green space in the future.

Inclusive multi-purpose public space enriches the social fabric of neighbourhoods.

The strong engagement of municipal governments and local non-governmental organizations plays a pivotal role in delivering and implementing what would be otherwise top-down decisions and helps to improve capacities through practice.

Country: **Iraq**
City: **Mosul**
Donor: **European Union**
National partner: **Government of Iraq**
Implementing partners: **UN-Habitat under an overall partnership agreement with the United Nations Development Programme**
Duration: **2019–2022**

“This training has been very special to me. We managed to tailor the sessions in a way that was suitable for a range of education levels, including that of a few who are illiterate. I had the opportunity to support some very ambitious ladies.”

Hussamaddin Thanoon, lecturer at the College of Agriculture and Forestry at Mosul University

“I was jobless, sitting at home depressed with no plans. The training brought back hope in my life. I have learned new skills that will help me to find a job in the park or elsewhere.”

Nafila Mohammed Ali, an unemployed woman who participated in the training

Over 500 new plants including mature palms, pines, shrubs and fruit trees have been planted following an intense horticultural training course that provided 30 gardening jobs to vulnerable women.

Increased and secure access to land and adequate and affordable housing

In 2020, over **55,000 households** with informal tenure were **enumerated**, mapped or provided tenure security documents in Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Namibia, Nepal, Philippines, Uganda and Zambia through **the Global Land Tool Network**.

More than **6.8 million Afghan citizens** have improved access to land and property rights. In 2020, about **577,000 people** benefitted from the **improvements to land tenure and housing rights**.

In 2020, **land tenure** was secured for **Syrian Arab Republic's refugees** in Lebanon through registering housing, land and property rights for 6,433 households, benefitting **35,323 people**.

Over **28,000 community members**, of which 49.5 per cent are women, **increased their capacity on land tenure protection**, gender-responsive land tools and land-based finance in 2020.

UN-Habitat advocates for the realization of human rights, including adequate housing and access to land for all urban residents. Without the adequate

supply of affordable housing, nearly one billion residents are forced to live in slums in more than 20 cities.

Projects in 2020 included:

- Coordinating the #Housing2030 initiative with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and Housing Europe to promote affordable housing in Europe with a focus on how land, environmental sustainability, finance and governance contribute to housing affordability.
- Assisting in institutional development, resource mobilization and renovation of social housing units in a three-year project with the Cameroon Real Estate Corporation. Its focus on children and youth is promoted in cooperation with the Islamic Development Bank and UN-Habitat's goodwill ambassador, Blaise Matuidi through the foundation Les Tremplins Blaise Matuidi.
- Collaboration with the Council of Ministers resulting in adoption of the State Plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda "Cuba 2036", known as the Cuban Urban Agenda. This is an exercise of integration of the national agenda and governmental plans with the New Urban Agenda.
- Collection and registration of housing, land and property (HLP) claims in Dohri, Iraq helping 1,076 households in a single township to gain Occupancy Certificates. In total, 35,323 people benefitted from registering their HLP claims with UN-Habitat support (6,433 households) and 5,439 Occupancy Certificates were issued as a result.
- Supporting 6,633 farmer households (40 per cent women and girls) in their applications for Certificates of Customary Ownership to secure land rights and improve land use in Uganda.



Housing, Land and Property Rights Awareness sessions for women, Iraq 2020 © UN-Habitat



Badilekh village, Baitadi – home to ex-Haliyas (bonded labourers) families
© Sristi Shrestha (CSRC)

Impact Story | 2

Access to land and tenure security in Nepal

Developing a Land Information Management System

Economic land use in Nepal takes place amidst significant tenure insecurity for many, and often without generating any land and property taxes. Up to 21 per cent of Nepal's population is landless or has insufficient recorded information resulting in significant tenure and livelihoods insecurity. They include the lowest-caste Dalits, indigenous people, agricultural labourers, squatters and slum-dwellers. The plight and insecurity of the poorest was further compounded in 2020 by a monsoon, COVID-19 and plunging tourism.

UN-Habitat has been involved in Nepal's land sector since 2012, leading on stakeholder engagement and providing policy support. The signing of the Comprehensive Peace Accord in 2006 brought a decade of armed conflict to an end. Nepal committed to pro-poor land reforms, made possible in the constitution of 2015, leading the new National Land Policy in 2019 and subsequent legislation reform in 2020. The new policy framework seeks improved land rights for women and vulnerable groups, rehabilitation of landless squatters and informal tenure-holders, access to land and security of tenure for all, and sustainable land management.

UN-Habitat hands over results of the informal Land Tenure Information System to the Mayor of Ratnanagar
© UN-Habitat/Shivakoti



Dolakha, an emerging municipality in the mountains
© Kadaster International/Paula Dijkstar

In 2019–2020, under the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) initiative on Support to Land Reform Initiatives in Nepal, the UN-Habitat country office and its partners supported the Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation and the newly constituted Land Issues Resolving Commission (LIRC). The piloting of a Land Information Management System (LIMS) was undertaken in Ratnanagar and Belaka municipalities. LIMS is based on GLTN's Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) database tool.

Local innovation potentials to reduce vulnerability identified

As a result of the pilot, LIMS databases were created in each municipality with detailed records of the usage and other factors relating to land parcels of 13,643 households without, or with insufficient, land documents. Institutional

capacity was built for mapping and identification, verification and recording of person to land relations.

The geo-spatial approach of LIMS saw an unexpected application in the identification of vulnerable households. For example, Belaka Municipality used the LIMS related information to identify highly vulnerable families that lost wage earnings during COVID-19 lockdowns and enabled beneficiary households to receive food relief and government grants as a result. This innovation is a clear reflection of the potential of STDM information to give visibility and validity to the most vulnerable.

Local land governance

The project's achievements demonstrate the viability of creating land records at scale in line with the expectations set out in Nepal's new pro-poor land policy framework. Piloting at a local level, even with COVID-19 restrictions, is possible. LIRC operates at national, provincial and municipal levels. Municipalities are the key implementing partners at the local level.

LIMS will support municipalities in their efforts to regularize land tenure. LIRC has a mandate to address regularization of informal tenure and has already signed a Memorandum of Understanding with 426 different municipalities to undertake participatory mapping under similar guidelines developed during the project pilot.

The case of Nepal demonstrates that:

- The success of tenure security depends on governments' ability to identify underrepresented families who suffer the most from natural disasters and emergencies like the COVID-19 pandemic.
- Functioning land governance should take the issues regarding landless and informal settlements into consideration to be more sustainable and inclusive.

“With the adoption of National Land Policy in Nepal, we are committed to implementing groundbreaking reform in the land administration and management sector. One reform is to address the situation of the landless and regularize informal land tenure. As conventional techniques of mapping and land information management are costly and time-consuming, we were looking for a fit-for-purpose approach. The application of participatory mapping and open-source tools for land information management have been a great solution. We appreciate the support of UN-Habitat and other stakeholders in this effort.”

Janak Raj Joshi,
Joint Secretary, Ministry of Land Management, Cooperatives and Poverty Alleviation

Up to **21%** of Nepal's population is landless or has insufficient recorded information resulting in significant tenure and livelihoods insecurity.

Country: **Nepal**

Cities: **Belaka and Ratnanagar**

Donor: **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation**

Local Authority: **Municipalities of Belaka and Ratnanagar, Government of Nepal**
Implementing Partners: **Community Self Reliance Centre, Global Land Tool Network, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, UN-Habitat**

Duration: **2019–2020**

Effective settlements growth and regeneration

Across the world, rapid urban expansion and growing urban populations are putting pressure on land, housing, services and public space, posing risks of increasing spatial inequality and ecological degradation. UN-Habitat is addressing these trends by supporting city and regional planning and policies with infill and urban expansion projects that protect natural and agricultural land and ensure enough public space and transport infrastructure for urban dwellers.

In 2020, UN-Habitat focused on urban regeneration, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic revealed the negative role that spatial inequality plays, calling for a need to address these issues and promote more equitable access to public space. UN-Habitat produced a publication and three technical documents, organized more than nine seminars and workshops, and provided advisory services and accelerated outreach activities. UN-Habitat also implemented six field projects that had an important impact on the development of national and local policies on urban heritage, historical landscape and culture. Urban regeneration work contributed to slum upgrading, the rehabilitation of brownfield sites and urban riverine areas, and urban recovery in the context of prolonged crisis.

UN-Habitat signed agreements with the International Scientific Committee of Cultural Landscapes, the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the Metropolitan and Territorial Planning Agencies global network that focuses on urban regeneration. UN-Habitat facilitated urban regeneration and upgrading public space in Myanmar, Nigeria and Turkey, and launched public space focused regeneration projects in several countries.

UN-Habitat started several regeneration projects in Mosul, Iraq and the metropolitan area of Cancun, Mexico. UN-Habitat continued its urban

regeneration programme in Kathmandu Valley, Nepal focusing on revitalizing heritage settlements and promoting a green recovery and eco-tourism. Additionally, the Daejeon Urban Regeneration Programme was initiated and operationalized, focusing on youth engaged in urban regeneration both in the Republic of Korea and globally.

Refugee camps where large investments and more complex urban systems have evolved over time also need interventions in redesign and restructuring to create more sustainable urban settlements in the longer term. UN-Habitat has worked in Dadaab and Kakuma in Kenya, two large settlements of refugees which have existed for over 30 years, adopting an urban regeneration perspective.

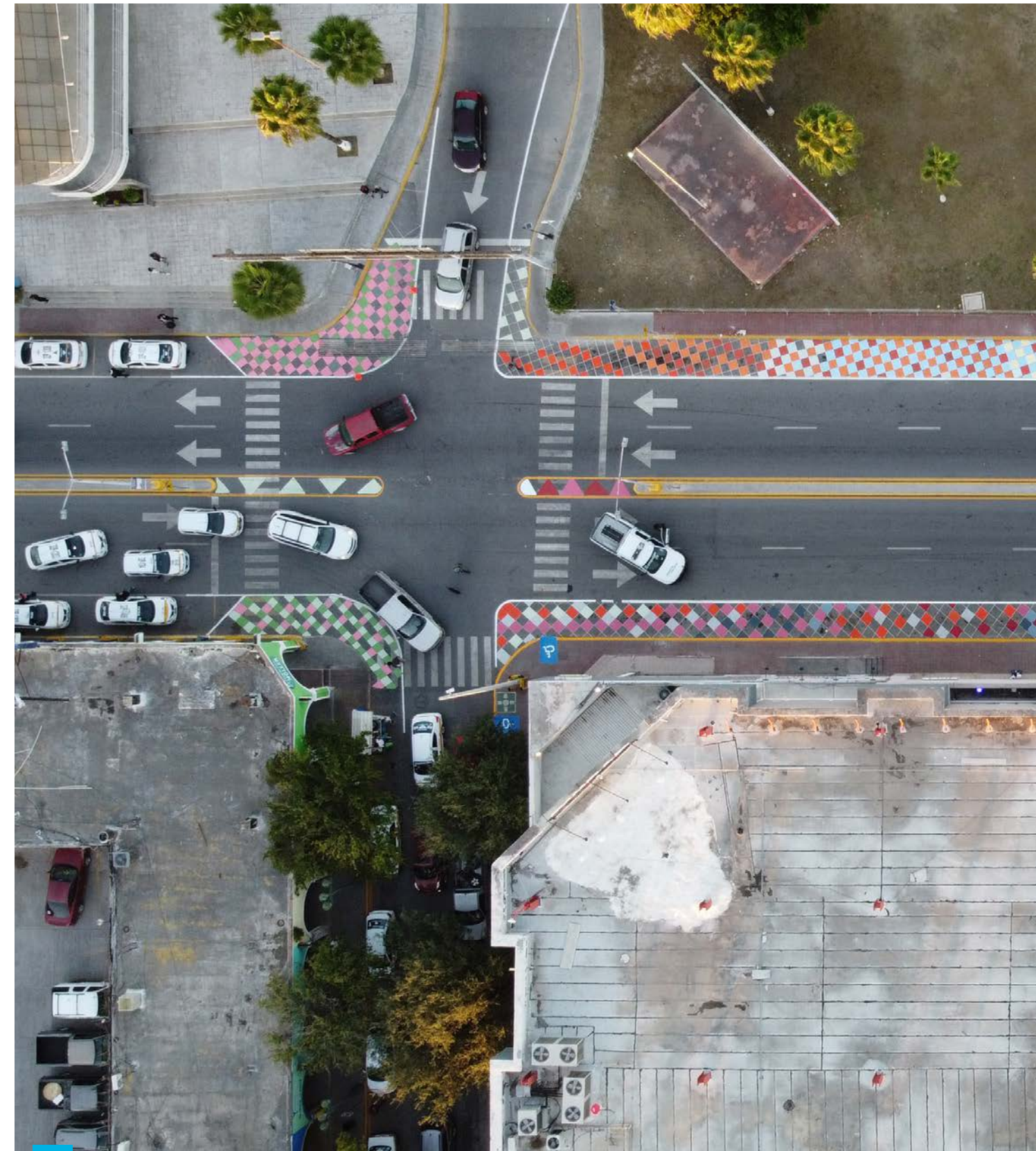
Flagship programme: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities

UN-Habitat provides support to transform deprived and marginalized areas of cities into connected, dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods, leaving no one and no place behind. Limited progress in this programme was recorded in 2020 due to lack of funding, however, the programme remains critical to the Strategic Plan as it has the potential to increase the quality of life for all, reduce inequalities and yield economic, social and environmental benefits for the wider city.

Through its wealth of experience in urban regeneration, UN-Habitat has many tools, guidance documents and examples of projects that have already been implemented. These normative tools support participatory processes such as upgrading slums, providing basic urban services, urban regeneration, and enhancing public space and housing solutions for neglected neighbourhoods. Throughout 2020, urban regeneration projects have allowed refinement of these tools and an updating of normative knowledge including financing and job creation strategies. Examples of “investment-ready” urban regeneration projects were showcased at the 10th World Urban Forum.

Activities in 2020 included:

- The Nairobi River Regeneration Initiative which has launched a planning and design exercise involving the public to improve ecosystems.
- An urban regeneration project in Cancun, Mexico to integrate different socio-economic neighbourhoods by improving walkability and use of public space. This approach promotes spatial inclusivity and sustainable urban development to improve quality of life, especially for vulnerable communities.
- Providing technical assistance through the City Prosperity Initiative in Penang, Malaysia to make it possible for the government to identify catalytic interventions to re-develop its brown field sites to help improve the localization of the SDGs.



Improving public space for pedestrians in Reynosa, Mexico © Elisa Irais Meza Nog

A photograph of two young girls in the foreground, both wearing white hijabs and orange safety vests with reflective strips. They are looking at a smartphone held by the girl in front. The girl in front is smiling. In the background, other people in similar attire are visible, and a white car is parked on a street. A large blue circle is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing the text 'Domain of Change | 2'.

Domain of Change | 2

Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions

Prosperous, inclusive and well-connected cities can drive economic growth and greater well-being for all regions. UN-Habitat is helping cities and regions to revise their comparative advantages and potentials to improve connectivity and sustainable urban development by supporting effective regional planning, data collection, spatial productivity and equitable growth.

In 2020, UN-Habitat produced 2 publications and 22 technical documents, and organized over 50 seminars and workshops along with providing advisory services, undertaking outreach activities and implementing 28 field projects. Urban policy advice was also provided to Member States and sub-national authorities in 13 countries across 3 regions.

In 2020, National Urban Policy was adopted by the United Nations Statistical Commission as an indicator for SDG target 11.a "Support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning."

Improved spatial connectivity and productivity of cities and regions

UN-Habitat has supported **56 countries** in their **National Urban Policy development**. In 2020, UN-Habitat supported the countries of Cape Verde, Germany, Mauritania and Republic of Korea to undertake different stages of their National Urban Policies including **feasibility studies, implementation, monitoring and evaluation**.

UN-Habitat tracked the development of Voluntary Local Reviews and **spatial analyses** of **COVID-19 vulnerability** and responses in over **1,700 cities**.

UN-Habitat's **City Prosperity Index** guides decision-making in **550 cities** by establishing linkages between data, knowledge and policy actions.

UN-Habitat worked with the Mexican Government in a **territorial analysis** of regions and drafting guidelines to develop **sustainable communities** along the Maya Train project in the southern part of the country. More than 50 micro-regions and **19 urban areas** were studied, and consultative processes engaged local communities.

The COVID-19 pandemic has highlighted the long-term need to reorganize cities and urban areas to meet present and future challenges and to respond to development opportunities. UN-Habitat provided technical expertise to maximize the potential of previously bustling urban spaces that are today underutilized because of the pandemic, and address issues hampering their productivity and prosperity.

The National Urban Policy (NUP) tool is a key support for governments to promote sustainable development that cuts across urban, peri-urban and rural areas, and supports the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.

UN-Habitat's interventions enriched NUP guidelines by mainstreaming the issues of migration, health, housing, smart cities, public space, transportation and urban-rural linkages. This strengthened the opportunity of urbanization to contribute to a broader range of development and COVID-19 recovery issues more explicitly.

In 2020, UN-Habitat's support included:

- Helping to develop three city-region plans to strengthen urban and rural links and sustainable spatial development in the West Bank, State of Palestine. The plans set out potential investments worth USD 2.32 billion over 12 years and include a platform that various actors can use to fund priority developments aimed at benefiting 1.5 million people. The 73 projects in the economic, infrastructure, planning, good governance and social development sector plans focus on marginalized communities lacking basic social and economic development.
- Assisting metropolitan areas in Colombia with institutional capacity-building and best practices, planning and legislation, advocacy and knowledge management.
- Supporting a metropolitan area in El Salvador in submitting a national proposal on project planning, innovative financing mechanisms and strengthened governance. It also supported regional development plans to link urban and rural areas in Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Mozambique, Nigeria and Zanzibar by conducting policy reviews and forging partnerships.
- Urban policy development for additional Member States and sub-national authorities including in Burkina Faso, Bolivia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ghana, Guinea Conakry, Islamic Republic of Iran, Jordan, Liberia, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone and United Republic of Tanzania through training, technical drafting, stakeholder mobilization and dialogue, policy review and evaluation.



BASE MAP: Map No. 4170 Rev. 19 UNITED NATIONS - October 2020 | Office of Information and Communications Technology | Geospatial Information Section

Figure 6: Member States supported with National Urban Policy Development

BOX 06

Integrating health in urban and territorial planning: A sourcebook

UN-Habitat and the World Health Organization developed this sourcebook to provide a comprehensive selection of existing resources and tools to support the incorporation of health into urban and territorial planning, including advocacy frameworks, entry points and guidance, as well as tools and illustrative case studies.

The resources and tools can be used by everyone involved in the planning process. Whether urban planner, mayor, developer, architect, landscape architect, engineer, researcher or public health professional, doctor, nurse, community health worker or local community activist, this document aims to inform and inspire while also providing practical information on how to take action by detailing why health needs to be part of urban and territorial planning and how to make this happen.

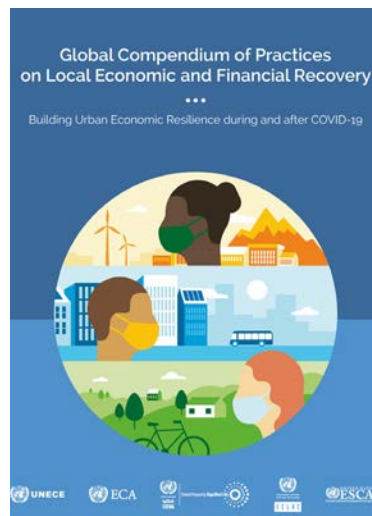
The sourcebook brings together the two vital elements needed to build habitable cities:

- Processes to guide the development of human settlements referred to as “urban and territorial planning” in the sourcebook.
- Concern for human health, well-being and health equity at all levels – from local to global and from human to planetary health.

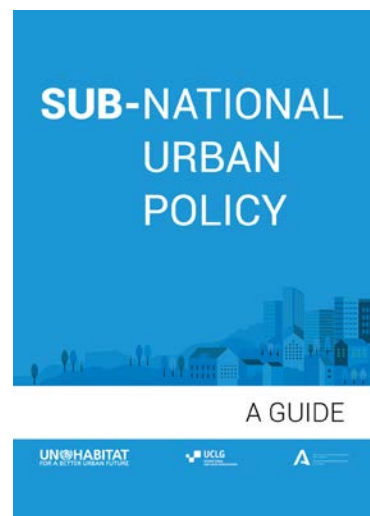


Integrating health in urban and territorial planning: A sourcebook for urban leaders, health and planning professionals

Important normative contributions also include:



The Global Compendium of Practices on Local Economic and Financial Recovery was prepared by UN-Habitat City Resilience Global Programme and United Nations Capital Development Fund with the support of the United Nations Economic Commissions as part of the joint United Nations project on Building Urban Resilience during and after COVID-19.



Subnational Urban Policies: A Guide was produced to support urban management for governments and stakeholders especially at the subnational level, in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and the support of the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AACID).



Commuters wear face masks to protect themselves from COVID-19 while going to their workplaces during morning rush hour in Bangkok, Thailand
© Shutterstock/Cat Box



Impact Story | 3

Leaving no one and no place behind – a people-centred urban policy for Bolivia
© Satori Gigieas

A driver for inclusivity and prosperity in cities: the Bolivia cities policy

Bolivia is facing a unique opportunity to harness the benefits of urbanization with 80 per cent of its population expected to live in cities by 2030. As one of the last countries in Latin America and the Caribbean to urbanize, Bolivia's rapid pace of transformation requires timely action to address the challenges and opportunities that come with it.

Rapid urban expansion of cities has led to shortages in adequate housing and public services such as transportation and health, waste management infrastructures and employment opportunities. It also causes socio-spatial inequalities, environmental pollution, low productivity and other issues.

UN-Habitat is working with the Government of Bolivia to develop the National Policy for the Integral Development of Cities (NPIDC), its equivalent to National Urban Policy, as the strategic instrument to guide urban development in the country for the next 15 years. The NPIDC combines a systemic approach and the reinforcement of urban governance to promote balanced development across three levels: city, territorial and national. It identifies the challenges of urbanization in Bolivia and proposes policy action to foster inclusive, sustainable and productive cities in line with the principle of Living Well.



The Bolivia National Policy for Integral Development of Cities promotes inclusive, sustainable and productive urban development
© Satori Gigieas

Prosperous cities in Bolivia: a priority agenda

Stakeholder participation was at the forefront of this process, with more than 250 consultation workshops and two National Urban Forums held throughout the country and participation of more than 7,000 stakeholders from all levels of government, civil society, academia and the private sector.

The NPIDC aims to enhance shared prosperity of Bolivian cities and territories. It has entered its approval process and is now being incorporated in the National Economic and Social Development Plan 2021–2025 for implementation at the local level which will in turn contribute to creating better quality of life and more prosperous, sustainable and resilient cities.

A people-centred policy

Well-designed city policy frameworks can help countries and cities achieve economic growth, environmental sustainability and social inclusion.

The case of Bolivia demonstrates that:

- Policy formulation consultations across different sectors are essential for the viability of the National Urban Policy development process and ensure the buy-in required for its implementation, and this necessitates national leadership.
- A coherent approach between national and city-level policymaking institutions is critical for city reform efforts that can safeguard against fragmented, narrow sectoral actions.

Country: **Bolivia**
Donor: **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**
National partner: **Ministry of Public Works, Services and Housing of Bolivia**
Implementing Partners: **National Government and Bolivian cities, UN-Habitat**
Duration: **2017–2022**

“This cities policy is not trying to be a speech, but to lay (the foundations) for what is coming next year; municipal elections will come and the new public managers cannot stop talking about the cities. Today, over 70% of the population already lives in cities.”

Iván Arias,
Minister of Public Works,
Services and Housing of Bolivia

80%
of Bolivia's population is expected to live in cities by 2030: the country faces a unique opportunity to harness the benefits of urbanization.

Increased and equitably distributed locally generated revenues

Afghan municipalities have surveyed **912,000 properties** and **increased local revenue** by the equivalent of **USD 30.2 million with UN-Habitat's support**. In 2020, a total of 76,944 properties were surveyed: 10,192 in Kabul and 66,752 in 11 other cities, benefitting 577,080 citizens.

Local authorities across the world have a fundamental mandate to deliver basic services and public goods, however, they face huge challenges in reconciling available financial resources and increasing levels of municipal expenditure. UN-Habitat contributes to enhance locally generated revenues.

In 2020, UN-Habitat's support included:

- Refining and testing Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis (ROSRA) in Kisumu, Kenya and Dodoma, United Republic of Tanzania to demonstrate how cities can optimize revenue generation. ROSRA will help to show cities where the greatest revenue opportunities and significant gains can be found, as key to their economic recovery from the COVID-19 crisis. The SDG Cities Global Flagship programme aims to deploy this tool in 1,000 cities in the next 10 years.
- Helping government departments in Somalia and Puntland, through the Joint Programme on Local Governance, to introduce a mobile phone-based tax payment system that raised revenues for local authorities to spend on improved service delivery.



Ismahan Hussein Ali, a small business owner remitting her tax through the new mobile phone tax payment system from the comfort of her shop © UN-Habitat Somalia



A resident of Kabul district 5 receives a *safayi* notebook at the municipal district office © UN-Habitat Afghanistan



Children from Kabul design their ideal future city in a participatory strategic action planning workshop under the CFA programme © UN-Habitat/Afghanistan

Impact Story | 4

City for All: Increasing tenure security and land-based municipal revenues to upgrade informal settlements in Afghan cities



Unplanned urbanization brings challenges in land tenure security, land use planning, provision of basic services and protection of the environment. In Afghanistan, increasing urbanization during the last four decades of conflict has resulted in over 80 per cent of the urban population living in informal settlements. Because these settlements are not recognized or protected by law the municipal authorities tend not to invest in them. This in turn makes the households undervalue their properties and stop paying revenues to the local authorities.

To address this challenge, the government introduced a National Priority Programme to regularize urban informal settlements through

registration and the issue of occupancy certificates. In return, households pay a service fee to the municipality which enables investment in better infrastructure and facilitates the registration of land documents effectively. The settlements are also incorporated in the municipality's development plans and official maps which further ensures provision of basic urban services for all.

Strengthening state-society relations, municipal institutions and the urban economy

In 2016, the five-year City for All (CFA) programme was launched as a flagship action of the government's National Priority Programme.

A CFA revenue collector delivers a safayi invoice to a resident and records it on the municipality's system © UN-Habitat/Afghanistan



As part of the programme to regularize urban informal settlements, a worker installs a house number above a door in Kabul © UN-Habitat/Afghanistan

Harnessing Afghanistan's cities for state and peacebuilding requires three fundamental components:

- Effective land management including clear and increased land and property rights;
- Strategic urban planning to establish a common vision and guide investments in public infrastructure;
- Improved municipal finance and governance systems to increase local revenues and citizen engagement by municipal authorities.

CFA is underpinned on these actions which create the fundamental conditions for improved state-society relations, strengthen municipal institutions and stimulate the urban economy.

CFA supports 12 municipalities to survey and register all properties within their boundaries: communities are directly involved in the collection and verification of property data for registration. The programme has surveyed 912,000 properties and issued 30,000 occupancy certificates in informal settlements in the last four years. CFA contributes to SDG target 1.4 by providing reliable data to measure SDG indicator 1.4.2 on perception of tenure and legally recognized land documentation.

CFA is also undertaking strategic action planning at municipal district level using participatory methods to develop a common vision for local development. The survey data provides the baseline from which to carry out strategic planning, and the planning process is driven by local stakeholders, focusing on linking strategic plans with financing to ensure that the resultant action plans are realistic and get implemented.

Planning approach as an essential tool for managing urban growth

CFA has developed a property database that will revolutionize land-based services in Afghanistan. A complete and accurate register of property has improved the management of urban land and significantly expanded the revenue base of the municipalities. Based on updated property registers, the municipalities issued 720,000 municipal service charge invoices and collected USD 30 million in revenues from 2017–2020.

CFA has provided USD 15 million in grants to implement 150 infrastructure projects in the municipalities. The overall concept of the programme cements the direct connection between the formalization of property rights and sustainable urban development whereby strengthened property rights ensures tenure security. This in turn promotes investment in housing and business including payment of municipal service charges. Increased municipal revenues enables public investment in basic service delivery and infrastructure planning, enhancing controlled urban development and growth.

Country: **Afghanistan**
City: **12 municipalities**
Donor: **European Union, United States Agency for International Development**
Implementing Partner: **UN-Habitat**
Duration: **2016–2020**

“In the past I would take a whole day to pay safayi (property tax) fees for my house. Getting new safayi notebooks was even tougher. A property owner had to wait for days for the engineers to survey the house, pay for transport of the engineers and provide lunch. Through the CFA programme all properties are surveyed and an invoice is delivered to your doorstep. Getting a new safayi notebook now takes less than 15 minutes thanks to the CFA team.”

Aqa Mohamed, a 78-year-old resident of Kabul

USD 15 Million has been provided in grants through CFA to implement 150 infrastructure projects in municipalities.

Expanded deployment of frontier technologies and innovations for urban development

Through the HerCity digital toolbox, UN-Habitat and partners used innovative digital technologies to involve girls and young women in urban planning in 17 cities.

UN-Habitat has supported 10 cities in areas of innovation and smart cities and promoted the creation of an innovation Pavillion in Toronto, Canada under the SDG Cities Flagship Programme.

Cities are at the centre of technology shifts and innovation to advance sustainable development. UN-Habitat integrates new technologies and innovative practices into its normative and operational activities and develops new ways to collect and use data to reduce inequalities, especially by engaging underserved populations, and to improve knowledge that fosters inclusive and responsive urban management.

UN-Habitat is bringing the Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and its urban expertise to key United Nations digital networks, including the High-Level Committee on Programmes Working Group on Artificial Intelligence, the United Nations Innovation Network and the United Nations Network on Smart Cities.

Innovative solutions are being developed to help Member States and partners accelerate the delivery of sustainable development impacts and address human rights issues. Combining innovation, finance and planning, investible projects such as the United Kingdom Research and Innovation Future Cities Programme have used technology to improve city planning and management. The private sector partnership with the Microsoft Datacenter Community Development team is redefining standards on inclusive urban innovation and development. Under the Climate Smart Cities Challenge, UN-Habitat and a consortium of partners is collaborating with selected cities to develop, test and appropriately scale cutting-edge solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and at the same time deliver significant social impact.

Project examples include:

- Supporting the Cities Coalition for Digital Rights in more than 60 cities globally to strengthen cooperation and to promote best practices for digital rights including governance frameworks. A Digital Rights Helpdesk is being developed that is expected to contribute to the protection of human rights in digital environments by advancing the capabilities of cities and providing a central hub for resources and experts.
- Promoting innovative tools and policy approaches through the People Centred Smart City framework in countries as diverse as Cambodia, China, Myanmar, Nigeria and Rwanda. New digital tools developed with various partners include the Swedish HerCity platform to promote gender responsive planning, and the Group on Earth Observations to support the collection of data for SDG monitoring.
- Digital tools are promoting tenure security in countries such as Nepal and the Philippines and mapping critical community infrastructure during COVID-19 in Kenya. In China, UN-Habitat supported the publication of a report for a better understanding, against the urban dimensions of the SDGs, of the many smart cities solutions and platforms that have emerged in recent years.
- Establishing two global innovation labs, The Urban Pavilion in Toronto, Canada and the United Nations Innovative Technology Accelerator for Cities in Hamburg, Germany. Other labs are being advanced in Mexico and Penang, Malaysia.

BOX 07

United Nations Innovative Technology Accelerator for Cities in Hamburg

UN-Habitat, the United Nations Office for Information and Communications Technology and HafenCity University have developed the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities in Hamburg, Germany to explore the potential of digital technologies, data and innovation to advance sustainable urban development. The Accelerator will work with a variety of innovation, prototyping and applied research methodologies to develop innovative solutions that accelerate the achievement of the SDGs related to cities and urbanization as requested by the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urbanization.

A team of experts will identify, develop and implement projects at the intersection of data science, urbanization, innovation and technology. The Accelerator will develop a bespoke urban technology innovation acceleration methodology that will enable the analysis of urban challenges and urbanization trends.

Within three broad fields, particular emphasis will be placed on how to generate knowledge and use cases around smart city governance and the development and testing of frontier technologies.

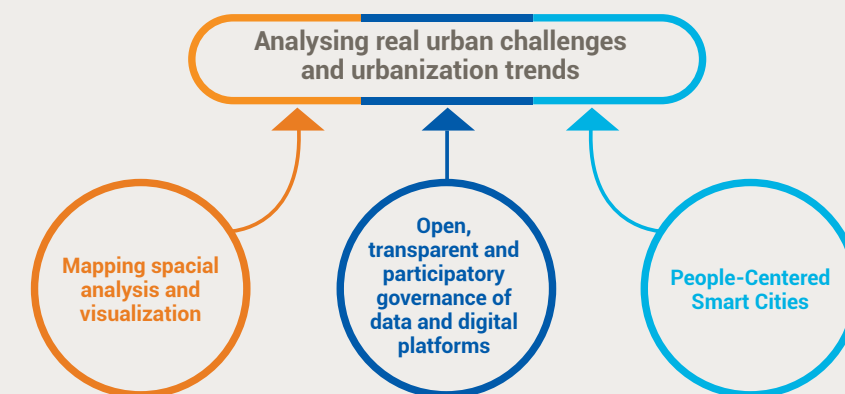


Figure 7: The urban technology innovation acceleration methodology

Flagship programme: People-Centred Smart Cities

As the world becomes more digital there are opportunities for technologies to serve people, improve public services and working conditions. But around half the world's population remains offline and there is a stark digital divide for women and marginalized groups. Digital democracy and connecting all the world's people by 2030 is a priority for sustainable development and gender equality.

UN-Habitat supports national and local governments with their digital transition and smart city planning, and advocating for inclusivity and the needs and rights for all urban residents and cities to be heard. People-Centred Smart Cities addresses digital transformation in urban areas and mobilizes financing for innovation. In 2020, UN-Habitat facilitated the development of toolkits to assess and address the digital divide at local level with the aim to leave no one and no place behind.

Flagship programme: SDG Cities

SDG Cities, which cuts across all outcomes of the Strategic Plan, aims to realize the potential of cities to drive the achievement of the SDGs and benefit over one billion people in 1,000 cities initially, with a focus on least developing, low- and middle-income countries.

UN-Habitat works with cities, authorities, communities and businesses to accelerate urban SDG achievement by strengthening strategy, evidence and capacity as needed to guide the achievement of the SDGs. The SDG Cities programme leads to the development and financing of effective urban investments, projects and initiatives that drive SDG impact. UN-Habitat is also developing a City Investment Facility that links investors with urban opportunities and helps city authorities prepare and promote SDG impact investment projects.

BOX 08

Local implementation of the SDGs through Global Future Cities Programme

The United Kingdom Prosperity Fund Global Future Cities Programme is demonstrating local impact through the implementation of transformative projects aiming to improve the way cities are planned and managed. The United Kingdom Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office procured five private sector consortia to provide technical assistance to city authorities by developing projects on urban planning, mobility and resilience including data and financing strategies.

UN-Habitat is ensuring that projects are developed in alignment with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development – primarily the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat's Urban Lab developed the participatory [SDG Project Assessment Tool](#) to ensure that the planning and design of projects follows an SDG approach and that cities are equipped to create conditions that make interventions successful in the long term. This impact-oriented approach supports local authorities to adapt global frameworks to local contexts and conditions. Knowledge creation and management on local and global levels increases awareness about inclusive and sustainable urbanization. Lessons learned from the projects contribute to the scalability and replicability of good practices.

UN-Habitat is supporting increased prosperity and alleviation of urban poverty through 30 transformative urban projects in 19 cities across 10 countries. In 2020, the Global Future Cities Programme facilitated urban regeneration and upgrading

public space in Myanmar, Nigeria and Turkey. The Future Cities Knowledge Platform is a digital platform of tools, reports, publications, best practices and a community forum developed to support the implementation of urban projects and facilitate city-to-city learning within the programme and globally. Alongside private sector partners, the United Kingdom Built Environment Advisory Group's professional network is collaborating with UN-Habitat to deliver a capacity development programme to cities.

The programme, ending in March 2022, is focusing on intermediate outcomes to address spatial equality, inclusive prosperity, resilient communities and built environments:

- Cities take ownership and stewardship of the projects;
- City authorities have developed strategies to sustain the projects beyond the programme period;
- Capacity building has enhanced urban planning, mobility and resilience practices;
- Local and global knowledge on inclusive and sustainable urbanization is refined and sustained;
- Lessons learned from the projects across the programme contribute to scalability and replicability of good practices;
- Create sustainable urban environments that enhance inclusive economic growth, reduce poverty and gender inequality, increase mobility, and are safer and more resilient to disasters.

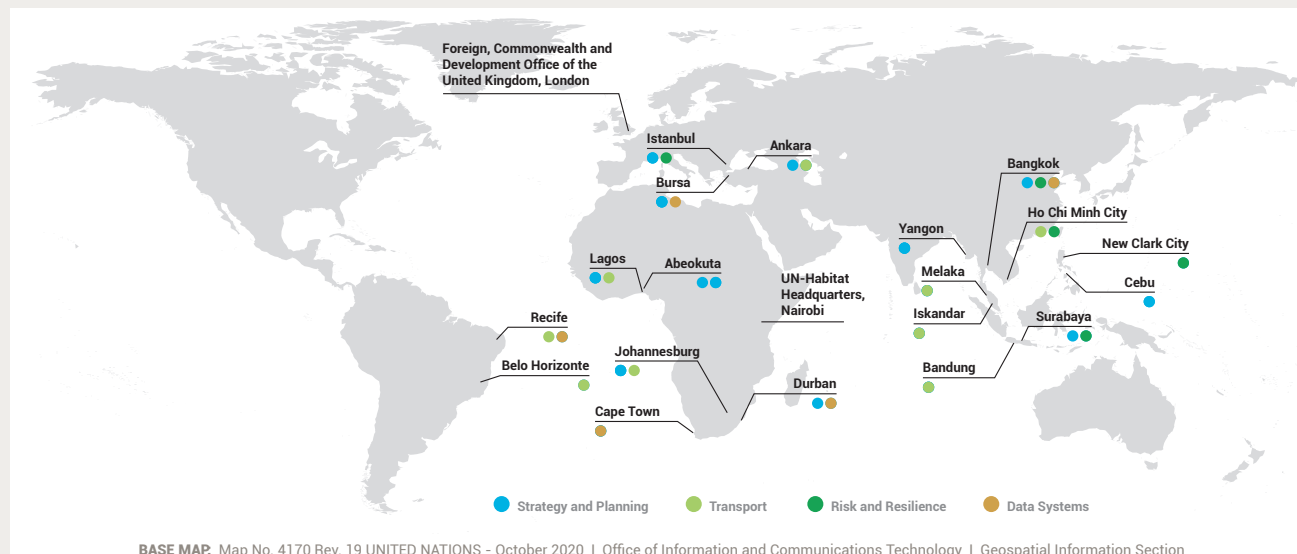


Figure 8: Global Future Cities Programme – project locations



Street crossing in Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam © UN-Habitat/Naomi Hoogervorst



Domain of **Change** | 3

Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

For many governments, climate change remains the most pressing long-term challenge while cities and local governments find themselves at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis response. UN-Habitat is helping communities adapt to climate change and curb its impact, especially on the urban poor and marginalized groups who suffer disproportionately leading to greater spatial and social inequalities.

UN-Habitat is helping to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to improve air quality, resource efficiency and protection of ecological assets. It is creating new economic opportunities and improving quality of life in cities and other human settlements by promoting nature-based solutions to climate action for urban and peri-urban environmental protection, restoration of green public space, integrated solid waste management and reduction in marine plastics.

In 2020, UN-Habitat produced 2 publications and 9 technical documents. UN-Habitat organized over 84 seminars and workshops, as well as providing advisory services, undertaking outreach activities and implementing 24 field projects. This included support in developing low-emission development strategies and sectoral interventions in over 50 cities. Other projects contributed to capacity development, urban and regional planning, climate resilient design, climate finance and climate change policy. Training on climate action planning was provided for local government officials from 60 cities in 8 countries.

BOX 09

The Strategic Plan 2020–2023 advances resilience with an integrated approach

UN-Habitat uses a multi-hazard, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach that provides decision makers with evidence-based recommendations for action. UN-Habitat's most comprehensive tool for building urban resilience, the City Resilience Global Programme (CRGP), is a practical framework used by cities to gather and analyse data and plan informed actions. The methodology – aligned with the SDGs, the Paris Agreement for climate change, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and the New Urban Agenda – involves gathering data and information from cities including technical aspects to improve.

Cities are only able to understand, manage and achieve resilience and climate resilience if they can read their changing reality in a critical manner from evidence-based data and engage with all stakeholders to undertake action from both a mitigation and adaptation perspective.

Climate change mitigation measures in cities need to be informed by greenhouse gas emissions and environmental quality indicators. Climate change adaptation measures should use nature-based solutions and a holistic approach to improve the resilience of city systems while creating new opportunities associated with climate change. In 2020, city reports have been conducted in Asuncion, Maputo, Dakar and Port Vila. The methodology is currently being measured in the world's coldest city Yakutsk, Russian Federation, and the hottest city Teresina, Brazil.

UN-Habitat also initiated a CRGP project with the United Nations Regional Commissions and the United Nations Capital Development Fund emphasizing Building Urban Economic Resilience during and after COVID-19. The project is helping 16 cities to design, implement and monitor sustainable, resilient and inclusive COVID-19 economic and financial responses, recovery and rebuilding plans to benefit around 44 million people. The COVID-19 pandemic has shown how successful UN-Habitat's CRGP approach can be in helping cities respond to crises.

Reduced greenhouse gas emissions and improved air quality

Four cities in Brazil, India, Kenya and Vietnam completed **Sectoral Low Carbon Plans** for Basic Services.

City-wide low emission development strategies have been supported in over **50 cities** between 2015 and 2020. In 2020, 16 cities in eight countries advanced their **city climate action plans**.

Local government officials from **60 cities** have been trained on how to conduct **climate action planning**, resulting in eight cities enacting legal frameworks for **low-emission development strategies** in 2020.

Several partner cities have started monitoring and reporting urban climate change mitigation actions thanks to UN-Habitat's tools and technical advice. As part of the Urban Low Emissions Development Strategy (Urban LEDS), UN-Habitat in partnership with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives – Local Governments for Sustainability, helped 16 cities in 8 countries (Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Rwanda and South Africa) to advance city climate action plans, including greenhouse gas inventories and vulnerability assessments. It supported capacity building and training efforts including city-to-city exchanges, strengthened multi-level governance and promoted local efforts to tackle urban climate action.

Despite the challenges posed by COVID-19, Urban LEDS implemented pilot projects that demonstrated the potential of a low-emission development approach and supported local governments to develop larger-scale projects for financing and rollout.

UN-Habitat supported the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit, an online database developed by the The UNFCCC secretariat (UN Climate Change), the United Nations Environment Programme and the Commonwealth Secretariat. Low emission development strategies were further supported through guidelines on eMobility.

Project examples include:

- Conducting online training events for local officials in Africa and Arab States to support action plan development.
- Supporting five cities in the Philippines to develop comprehensive Climate Action Plans.
- Supporting the Common Reporting Framework as a partner of Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM). As such, UN-Habitat helped three Vietnamese cities develop comprehensive Climate Action Plans to enable the reporting of verifiable climate data through GCoM Common Reporting Framework. UN-Habitat also trained officials from 25 cities in the methodology.
- The Urban Pathways project which helps deliver on the Paris Agreement and Nationally Determined Contributions in the context of the New Urban Agenda and SDGs. The project boosts Low Carbon Plans for urban mobility, energy and waste management services, working on concrete steps towards a maximum impact to global climate change mitigation efforts and sustainable and inclusive urban development in cities.



Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions through Urban Climate Action supports a more ambitious and integrated approach to Nationally Determined Contributions development and implementation across national and local governments. This guide was developed by UN-Habitat in consultation with national governments, city networks, think tanks, United Nations agencies, development partners and private sector stakeholders.

Improved resource efficiency and protection of ecological assets

In 2020, **75 cities** and 34 affiliates have joined Waste Wise Cities – which now has over 170 member cities and 30 affiliates – committed to promoting the **5Rs: Rethink, Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle**.

10 city-to-city partnerships were established in 2020 through the **Waste Wise Cities Challenge** between cities such as Bonn, Germany and Cape Coast, Ghana; Ashdod, Israel and Mezitli, Turkey; and Ratnapura, Sri Lanka and Jambi, Indonesia.

Cities need to create conditions to manage natural resources with necessary institutional capacities to transit to a circular economy while facilitating ecosystem conservation, regeneration, restoration and resilience. UN-Habitat's Waste Wise Cities programme focuses on improving solid waste management through waste data collection and knowledge sharing. The Waste Wise Cities Challenge establishes partnerships to collect data, identify areas for intervention and develop projects to improve solid waste management. This challenge will establish better waste and resource management strategies and infrastructures to help cities to create business, employment and

livelihood opportunities, and transition towards a circular economy. In 2020, 23 cities covering 20 million people joined the Waste Wise Cities Challenge, starting with the application of the Waste Wise Cities assessment tool followed by identification of priority areas and development of catalytic projects.

UN-Habitat has implemented several pilot projects on urban environmental management and restoration, biodiversity protection, circular economy and ecosystem services.

In 2020, UN-Habitat's support included:

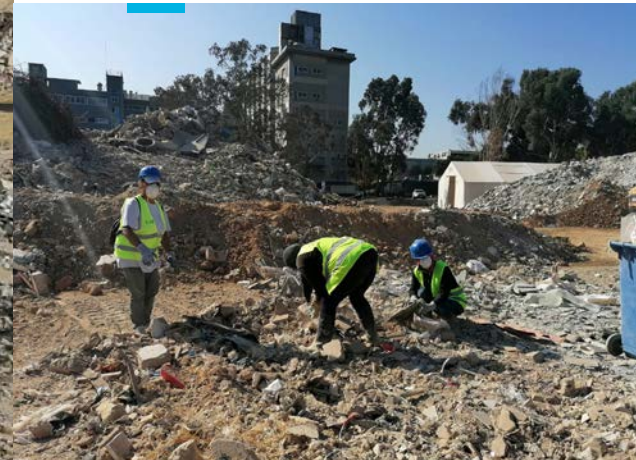
- Improving community-based solid waste management by increasing public awareness on recycling, reducing, reusing and responsible disposal of solid waste and strengthening by-laws on illegal dumping in pilot areas in Kisii County, Kenya. The project also supported the improvement of waste collection services by county government and private companies, enhancing the management of local resources.
- Developing marine plastic litter management strategies and supporting circular economies through the Healthy Oceans Clean Cities Initiative in six cities in the Philippines.
- Monitoring air pollution and medical waste treatment in the city of Aleppo, Syrian Arab Republic and helping community-led environmental projects.
- Launching an Integrated Spatial Plan for Environmental and Socio-Economic Resilience in Khorog, Tajikistan aimed at making the city a model for resilient economic growth in a dynamic urban planning environment and enhancing social stability.



African Clean Cities Platform Study Tour to Addis Ababa, Ethiopia on Landfill Management © Sachiyo Hoshino



Rubble being sorted by workers in the Rubble to Mountains initiative
© UN-Habitat/ Elie Mansour



Zeinab Khamis separates the rubble into material type: glass, plastics and metal
© UN-Habitat/ Elie Mansour

Impact Story | 5

Diverting rubble left by the Beirut blast away from Lebanon's landfills

On 4 August 2020 an explosion of ammonium nitrate at the Beirut port killed more than 200 people and injured over 7,500. It is estimated that the blast caused over USD 15 billion in property damage to some 77,000 households and directly impacted more than 300,000 people within a 3 km radius.

As local authorities helped facilitate the emergency response with already limited financial, human and technical resources, UN-Habitat's urban crisis expertise helped conduct rapid assessments of damage to over 14,000 buildings to establish the level of infrastructure repair and safety precautions needed in Beirut and Bourj Hammoud municipalities. The assessments highlighting the most affected areas continue to inform partners' priority interventions.

The explosion created an enormous amount of rubble – an estimated 400,000 tonnes. For weeks following the blast, thousands of people came together and swept the city's debris-littered streets, leaving piles of waste destined for Lebanon's already saturated landfills.

To address this challenge and prevent foreseeable environmental hazards associated with disposing of rubble – similar to the unfortunate landfilling scenarios which followed the Lebanese Civil War – UN-Habitat co-launched the Rubble to Mountains initiative. In collaboration with a consortium of United Nations agencies, private sector and non-governmental organization partners, the initiative aims to prevent an environmental waste crisis by collecting, sorting and reusing the

initiative not only beneficial for the environment but also giving financial support to breadwinners and heads of households.

Ultimately, it is envisioned that the initiative will create a circular economy model where the rubble collection site becomes a hub for the transformation of Lebanon's construction and demolition waste into biodegradable material used by the initiative's other outputs.

The case of Lebanon demonstrates that:

→ Private sector engagement can fuel a holistic response to an urban crisis as each party brings their own expertise, innovation and best practices to ensure a wider reach.

→ Solid waste management should be considered as a complementary priority in an urban crisis response such as the one following the Beirut blast. Mismanaged waste can exacerbate pre-existing issues including inter-communal tensions, health, climate change and environmental degradation.

UN-Habitat has, in addition to this intervention, been working with the Lebanese Government to help ensure that housing, land and property rights of Beirut's residents were protected in the wake of the protracted loss of housing. Its integrated programming covered the provision of shelter assistance to vulnerable groups and restoration of heritage buildings in compliance with Lebanon's Directorate of General Antiquities standards. The strategy of urban recovery includes the design of an Urban Recovery Framework for Beirut to improve coordination of recovery efforts by other United Nations agencies and partners.

Country: **Lebanon**
City: **Beirut**

Donors: **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, United Nations Children's Fund and UN-Habitat**

Local Authority: **Municipality of Beirut, Beirut Governorate**

Implementing Partners: **American University of Beirut, Lebanon Reforestation Initiative, Development Inc., UN-Habitat**

Duration: **2020–present**

“Following the Beirut Port explosion, I began working in the Karantina rubble collection and sorting site to support the Rubble to Mountains initiative through separating the rubble by material type: glass, plastics and metal. We are doing our best to help Lebanon and especially the people of Beirut.”

Zeinab Khamis,
Worker at the Rubble to Mountains sorting site, Karantina

“All of us are very happy to work for this project, especially after the Beirut port explosion, we are very grateful for our salaries as the money has enabled us to live in dignity and we are able to help Beirut.”

Hussein Fahmy,
Worker at the Rubble to Mountains sorting site, Karantina

Over **14,000** rapid building damage assessments were conducted through UN-Habitat's urban crisis expertise to establish the level of infrastructure repair and safety precautions needed in Beirut and Bourj Hammoud municipalities after an explosion of ammonium nitrate at the Beirut port on 4 August 2020.

Effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change

In 2020, over **40,000 women** from **189 villages** in Lao People's Democratic Republic benefited from the construction of socially inclusive and **climate-resilient infrastructure**.

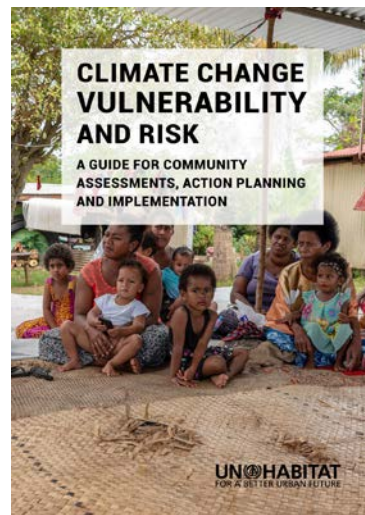
The combination of urbanization and climate change poses a huge threat to cities and towns, and the urban poor suffer the effects most. UN-Habitat is addressing vulnerability in cities and communities by building climate resilience in marginalized settlements in partnership with sub-national governments, non-governmental organizations, civil

In the Pacific, **16 Community Vulnerability Assessments and Climate Action Plans** were completed in Fiji, and five **Community Profiles and five Climate Action Plans** were undertaken in Solomon Islands in 2020, addressing the specific needs of Small-Island Developing States.

society organizations and local populations. UN-Habitat is adopting a pro-poor approach to climate action and exploring new partnerships with the private sector and community-based organizations, including youth and women who are especially vulnerable to climate impacts.

Project examples include:

- Supporting the preparation of local climate action plans focusing on resilience-building community infrastructure in eight projects in Southern Africa, Cambodia, Jordan, Lebanon, Mongolia, Pacific Island Countries, Pakistan and Vietnam. After floods destroyed homes and water infrastructure, a project financed by the Adaptation Fund supported over 125,000 people in Southern Lao People's Democratic Republic by constructing socially inclusive and climate-resilient infrastructure in 189 villages engaging over 40,000 women in its activities.
- Contributing to protect the urban poor from climate change and increasingly extreme multiple weather-related hazards through the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) tool in Madagascar, Malawi and Mozambique. In 2020, the CityRAP project raised USD 14 million to implement priority resilience-building needs for each city and provided capacity-building materials and tools to promote urban climate adaptation nationally and regional knowledge-sharing.
- Supporting the construction of 3,830 metres of drainage to help approximately 6,000 households in the city of Ulaanbaatar.
- Assisting Water, Sanitation and Hygiene projects to develop 565 flood-resilient water supply facilities, benefiting 203,000 people in 265 communities in five disaster-prone northern regions of Ghana.



Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk – A Guide for Community Assessments, Action Planning and Implementation was published.



Consulting community members in building the climate resilience of informal settlements in Fiji © UN-Habitat/Bernhard Barth



Students learn in a school affected by cyclone Idai in Beira, Mozambique
© UN-Habitat/Eskinder Debebe

Impact Story | 6

Safer Schools Programme: the success story of the resilient education sector in Mozambique

Climatic, geographic and geological factors place Mozambique at continued risk of extreme natural disasters with around 1,000 classrooms being damaged by floods and strong winds every year.

Through its diversified multilevel approach to increasing the resilience of human settlements, UN-Habitat identified that the well-being of a school was a key factor in defining the magnitude of a community's overall vulnerability to climate change and natural hazards.

To strengthen the resilience of schools across the country, UN-Habitat launched the Safer Schools Programme in partnership with the Government of Mozambique in 2011. The ongoing initiative

includes comprehensive technical assessment of schools damaged or destroyed by natural hazards, hazard risk mapping at national level, improved site planning and zoning, development of normative standards including building guidelines and technical assistance to central government for improved building codes to bolster school structures. UN-Habitat promotes the inclusion of these normative standards and tools in policy and practice.

UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Human Development provided technical assistance to a World Bank-funded USD 15 million school reconstruction and retrofitting programme. Almost 1,100 classrooms were rehabilitated or re-built between 2018 and 2020

Building mixed material resilient schools with the local communities
© UN-Habitat Mozambique



With these newly-built resilient classrooms, UN-Habitat and its partners are ensuring the continuity of education provision in the aftermath of future disasters © UN-Habitat Mozambique

in Central and Northern Mozambique using a mix of conventional and local building materials, benefitting approximately 100,000 children and teachers.

In early 2019, cyclones Kenneth and Idai struck Mozambique and 4,000 classrooms were damaged or destroyed – but all school buildings constructed in accordance with the Safer Schools standards were unscathed. The government has been scaling up the Safer Schools approach requesting all partners employ the school building

codes developed by UN-Habitat in future school construction programmes and projects.

In 2020 following the same methodology, UN-Habitat launched the Safer Hospitals Initiative in partnership with the Ministry of Health, with the objective of setting resilient and gender sensitive standards for health facilities to remain functional during crises and emergencies, and provide equitable health services to all.

The Safer Schools Programme received interest and support from central government as well as academia, and made unprecedented impact at national level. The Safer Schools approach is now a best practice worldwide.

The case of Mozambique demonstrates that:

- The Ministry of Education is determined to scale-up the Safer Schools approach.
- Schools built according to UN-Habitat proposed standards were undamaged by Cyclone Idai.
- By rebuilding a damaged school in a safe and resilient manner, UN-Habitat and its partners are ensuring the continuity of education provision in the aftermath of future disasters, as well as providing isolated communities with at least one disaster-resistant building that can be used as a safe haven during emergencies.
- The Safer Schools Programme included enhancement of coordination among government, donors and other partners, and delivery of capacity building training to sub-contractors and communities involved in building schools which is important for sustainability.

Country: **Mozambique**

Donors: **Education Cannot Wait, European Union, Government of Mozambique, World Bank**

Implementing Partners: **Concern, Government of Mozambique, Oikos, United Nations Children's Fund, World Vision, UN-Habitat**

Duration: **2012–present**

“The most important outcome of this construction method is a greater learning for our students. With this, I would like to thank the government and its cooperation partner for allowing us to build this type of classroom.”

Cabral Minta,
School Director of Muchaleque primary school

“The school is beautiful now and my children will learn very well which was not possible before. This school is more resistant than the school that was here before.”

Paula Ronda,
mother of three and community member, participated in the construction works as a water carrier.

Flagship programme: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE-UP)

RISE-UP focuses on mobilizing investments to address climate resilience issues affecting poor and marginalized communities in cities. This includes identifying large-scale investments for urban adaptation and resilience-building in vulnerable global hotspots and building a coalition of international partners and financiers to address climate challenges and improve the socio-economic prosperity of urban poor communities.

At the local level, at least 100 comprehensive community profiles are to be developed through participatory planning processes to identify pro-poor investment projects by 2030. Operational work in support of community-level adaptation of infrastructure is primarily financed by the Adaptation Fund. In 2020, projects totalling over USD 49 million

were started or approved in south-eastern Africa, Cambodia, Jordan, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Pakistan and Vietnam, significantly increasing this portfolio to almost USD 67 million across 14 countries.

In Fiji, UN-Habitat built community resilience and helped vulnerable people cope with the pandemic by providing support for farming through a COVID-19 Community Awareness and Preparedness in Informal Settlements project. Funded by UN-Habitat's Global Emergency Response Fund, the project helped 800 households in informal settlements struggling to buy nutritious food to grow their own in containers by providing seeds, training and monitoring support.



Ger areas prone to flooding and lack basic infrastructure in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia © UN-Habitat



Integrated Spatial Plan for Environmental and Socio-Economic Resilience launched in Khorog, Tajikistan © Alexander Flühmann



Domain of Change | 4

Effective urban crisis prevention and response

Insecurity and risk undermine the long-term sustainability of cities and urban centres worldwide and crisis and disasters often hit the most vulnerable populations hardest, widening urban inequality. UN-Habitat's work promotes social and economic integration and inclusive communities, better living standards and resilience of the built environment and infrastructure.

In 2020, UN-Habitat produced 1 publication, 6 technical documents, and organized over 27 seminars and workshops, along with providing advisory services, undertaking outreach activities and implementing 23 field projects which included participatory and inclusive operational programmes in crisis-affected communities. Priorities included improving living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees to urban life, as well as implementing evidence-based local

disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies aligned with the Sendai Framework.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, UN-Habitat has helped 6.8 million people in 37 countries and 262 cities to adapt to a global health crisis and resulting social-economic fallout by implementing 71 projects with more than 250 partners. UN-Habitat's work has also promoted the rights of vulnerable and marginalized groups such as persons with disabilities, women and children.

BOX 10

Making our cities safer: promoting peace and stability

The UN-Habitat Safer Cities Programme, in collaboration with municipalities on the co-production of safety and security for all, has finalized a Joint Programming Framework with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime. The framework facilitated the testing of a joint safety audit tool in Durban, South Africa, Queretaro, Mexico and Medellin, Colombia, which has informed the revision of the municipalities' safety and crime prevention strategies. This action supports the implementation of the United Nations Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements which was adopted at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019.

A country peer review process of Safer Cities tools, policies and programmes is also under development, which will further increase the uptake of pilot municipal Safer Cities projects at national level in 10–15 countries by 2023. An Urban Safety Monitor tool is being developed to support the review process and improve the quality and consistency of municipal safety policies and programmes. In addition, a Neighbourhood Profiling tool was tested and finalized in Guadalajara, Mexico for replication globally. This tool will be used alongside the Urban Safety Monitor tool to reinforce evidence to action frameworks at municipal level.

The Global Network on Safer Cities has also been reviewing Safer Cities tools in light of the COVID-19 recovery process. A Partners' Consultative Meeting with the Global Parliament of Mayors was held in 2020 producing papers on COVID-19 urban vulnerability; arts as an obligation for safer cities; and urban safety monitoring. The Safer Cities Challenge was also initiated alongside Urban October to highlight city safety innovations that will eventually be uploaded on a virtual learning platform in 2022.

For example Afghanistan's Urban Safety and Security Programme with technical support from UN-Habitat creates more conducive circumstances for the inhabitants of eight strategic cities. Over 16,000 women have been included in community-based initiatives for urban safety and security. The programme has supported Afghanistan's government in institutionalizing principles of urban development, governance, and safety and security. As a result, positive relations between community members, municipalities and community police have increased. Particularly excluded and under-represented groups (women, youth, internally displaced persons and returnees) now benefit from improved social and economic benefits and 380,000 citizens enjoy improved access to public spaces and safer routes.

Enhanced social integration and inclusive communities

With UN-Habitat's support, **96 cities** used **participatory planning methodologies** and collected spatial data for their interventions to **increase social cohesion** between migrant, displaced and host communities in 2020.

UN-Habitat's cross-sectoral approaches such as the **Peoples' Process**, a community development planning and implementation tool, supported projects in **more than 15 countries**.

In partnership with the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Habitat supported the **sustainable return of internally displaced persons** in five cities in Iraq that were severely affected by recent conflict with Islamic State of Iraq and Levant by providing basic services, improving living conditions, giving vocational training and creating jobs. In 2020, **150,000 people** benefitted from these durable solutions.

In Zambia, UN-Habitat supported the **local integration of around 23,000 former refugees** (who have been living in Zambia for many years) from Angola, Rwanda and Zambia in two resettlement schemes in Mayukwayukwa, North Western Province and Meheba, Western Province.

UN-Habitat implemented strategies and activities to increase social integration and safety in public spaces and fit-for-purpose land administration to secure tenure in crisis-affected areas. UN-Habitat's work has had a catalytic impact on the broader efforts of the United Nations community in promoting stability and sustaining peace, strengthening social cohesion and building resilient cities and communities, drawing on the United Nations Secretary-General Guidance Note on Land and Conflict. This included supporting local actors as key players for increasing social

cohesion between communities, reducing discrimination and xenophobia and advancing rights-based approaches in urban crisis situations.

UN-Habitat helped Member States to implement strategies and actions to increase social integration and safety in public spaces through in-country comprehensive, participatory operational programmes responding to crises affecting communities and especially the most vulnerable people.

UN-Habitat's support included:

- Facilitating processes to overcome land-related challenges as a driver of conflict in different country contexts such as Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Somalia and Uganda, including support to housing, land and property rights in the humanitarian and development contexts and advancing land administration to help achieve tenure security for people in crisis-affected areas.
- Initiatives such as Supporting Recovery and Stability through Local Development, implemented in partnership with other United Nations entities in Iraq, helped people severely affected by conflict. The project aims to assist more than 700,000 people, to empower communities, increase resilience and social cohesion, and improve basic services, living conditions and livelihoods.
- Applying participatory approaches to advance the humanitarian-development-peace nexus work, fostering social cohesion and empowering communities and local actors in urban development processes.



Stakeholder engagement workshop on Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, Mitrovica South Municipality
© UN-Habitat/Kosovo

Impact Story | 7

A sectoral intervention to strengthen inclusive planning in Kosovo*

In 2013, the municipalities of Mitrovica North and South became independent cities, largely split into Kosovo-Serbs and Kosovo-Albanian residents. The cities have separate institutions, local assemblies and governance systems and services such as telecommunications, water and electricity supply. Football and basketball teams play in different leagues and transport is segregated. Separation is reinforced by institutional practices, infrastructure, utilities and urban segregation.

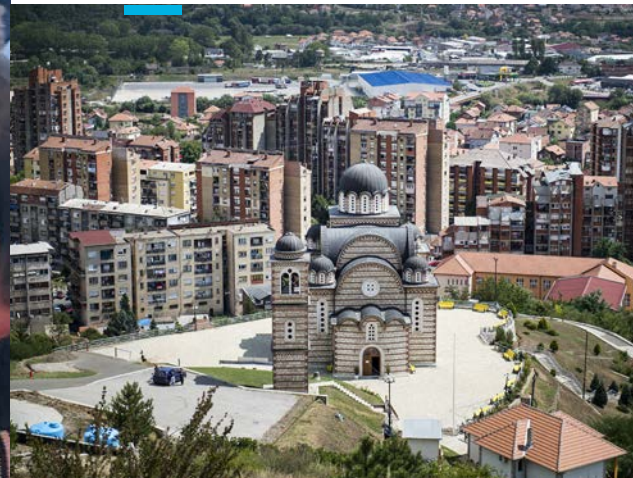
Since 2018, UN-Habitat has helped the municipalities of Mitrovica North and South to work on their Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (SUMP) in line with European guidelines. SUMPs are strategic plans for transportation aimed at improving and harmonizing

people's needs for free and safe movement while enhancing quality of life. When applied in Mitrovica North and South, they increased movement opportunities locally, between cities and the region, by finding better and more sustainable ways for people to get to work, get children to school or for vendors to reach local markets in the neighbouring municipality.

SUMPs in both cities were designed to ensure all pedestrian areas, transit options and amenities help people with mobility difficulties to increase their physical and social activity and access to community resources. They also improved people's health, climate action and urban air pollution by reducing transport-related carbon dioxide emissions and enhancing accessible green space.

*Any reference to Kosovo in United Nations documents and United Nations websites, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo. Kosovo is therefore not listed as a country.

Saint Demetrius Serbian Orthodox Church, North Mitrovica © Shutterstock/Giannis Papanikos



Kosovan man wearing a traditional beret, Mitrovica
© UN-Habitat/The Road Provides

In contrast to traditional transport planning approaches, Mitrovica North and South's sustainable urban mobility planning model is long-term, people-oriented, inclusive and multi-sectorial. Good policy coordination among transport, land use, environment, economic development, social policy, health, safety and energy sector actors and continuous involvement of citizens and stakeholders in all planning processes is key to the success of this sustainable urban mobility system.

Integrating communities using the power of a participatory sustainable urban mobility process

Different stakeholders and extensive reviews of local, regional and global plans when drafting SUMP determined the city's objectives and

provided solutions to achieve them. The process started with establishing the working structure of both municipalities to promote political and institutional ownership, notably through the creation of inter-departmental working groups. Developing local government capacity was at the project's core.

Many non-governmental organizations and local associations were consulted in the drafting of SUMP. Civil society and private sector actors were asked to participate as members of the Joint Regional Transport Body, a council that has municipality representatives to coordinate a territorial approach to establishing bus services.

The main principles towards creating a sustainable urban mobility system comprise:

- Planning for sustainable mobility for the entire functional urban area based on population density and travel-to-work flows;
- Cooperating across institutional boundaries and involving citizens and stakeholders;
- Defining a long-term vision and a clear implementation plan and assessing current and future performance;
- Developing all transport modes in an integrated manner and arranging for monitoring and evaluation for quality assurance.

UN-Habitat's support to Mitrovica North and South municipalities, and other local institutions, built capacity and ownership, enhancing their ability to advance mobility planning processes. The project has strengthened cooperation between the two municipalities on regional mobility planning and increased opportunities for financing future urban mobility projects to improve people's lives and accelerate positive environmental outcomes.

Territory: **Kosovo**
Cities: **Municipalities of Mitrovica North and Mitrovica South**
Donor: **Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency**
Local Authority: **Municipality of Mitrovica North, Municipality of Mitrovica South, Kosovo**
Implementing Partners: **Community Building Mitrovica, PAX, UN-Habitat**
Duration: **2017–2021**

“For Mitrovica North municipality, considering the challenges it has faced in the last 20 years in order to ensure a good quality of life, the sustainable urban mobility plan will solve the issues of traffic jams, safety, accessibility for all, contribute to the health and environmental protection, and create opportunities for sustainable development of other areas, with the main focus on people and social equality. This leads us to our vision to be a '15-minute city'. This whole participatory process has been made possible by the great support of UN-Habitat, for which we as a municipality are more than grateful.”

Milan Radojević,
Mayor of Mitrovica North Municipality

“People want less congested and safer roads, and through the development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan we are marking the first milestone towards a more sustainable urban mobility system, which will not only contribute to efficient movement management, but also improve accessibility, air quality, public health and overall urban attractiveness and environmental performance of our municipality.”

Agim Bahtiri,
Mayor of Mitrovica South Municipality

Improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons

In Afghanistan, **UN-Habitat helped more than 18,000 internally displaced persons** and returnee households get better tenure security by registering land to receive benefits. Around **a quarter of the households were female headed** and for many this formal land right recognition was a first.

In Khartoum, Sudan, UN-Habitat provided **shelter to 2,400 vulnerable households** to reduce overcrowding and to mitigate community **spread of COVID-19**. The project supports **25,000 people** in unplanned and under-serviced settlements to access supplies.

UN-Habitat helps countries and communities to respond to challenges posed by rapid urban population growth and improves the living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees, IDPs and returnees. UN-Habitat provided urban-crisis response expertise and supported integrated

urban development strategies to address the needs of host communities and the displaced, and to overcome chronic and acute vulnerabilities. This includes enhancing capacity at local level and advancing access to adequate housing and basic services, re-building trust in government actors.

Project examples in 2020 include:

- Implementing a European Union funded project to improve service provision and adequate housing for IDPs and host communities in vulnerable situations in four cities in Burkina Faso. The project enhances local capacity on urban planning and management, using a participatory planning approach that increases social cohesion and ensures that investments in infrastructures benefit the entire urban community. Cross-sectoral and integrated approaches are applied to support longer term sustainable development and advance the humanitarian-development-peace nexus. The project will shape UN-Habitat's further response to the Sahel crisis.
- Supporting cities in Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador and Peru to manage the Venezuelan migrant crisis by providing technical assistance and recommendations for city development plans and strategies on integration and inclusion of migrants, and by training public officials on specific planning needs for refugees and migrants. UN-Habitat and its partners UNHCR and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), with support from the European Union, also created the first baseline instrument showing demographic and territorial data of refugees and migrants in the region from the Venezuelan crisis through Human Mobility Profiles that include information on refugees, migrants and locations, the impact of the migration crisis and opportunities for cities.
- Providing expertise for sustainable planning for refugee camps in protracted situations in cooperation with UNHCR such as Kalobeyei, Kenya which hosts 60,000 refugees, advanced tenure security opportunities and standards needed for future transformations of unplanned and underserved neighbourhoods, urban and peri-urban areas and planned city extensions. Apart from advancing global and normative work, UN-Habitat has strongly enhanced its engagement for global processes and its contribution to the implementation of global frameworks such as the Global Compact for Migration and the Global Compact on Refugees.
- The Urban Thinkers Campus on Urban Displacement in cooperation with the Cities Alliance, as well as several other webinars and virtual workshops, has helped raise UN-Habitat's profile in migration and displacement related contexts. This has led to a close cooperation with the United Nations Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement.



Finishing touches are made to the ecofriendly house by Sukuyange women's club members of the Meheba Refugee Resettlement scheme, Zambia © UN-Habitat/PPHPZ



Participants of Hargeisa Urban Visioning Week discuss their urban vision © UN-Habitat/F. Tonnarelli

Impact Story | 8

Property registration drive, planned city extension and integration of internally displaced persons in Somalia

States across Somalia want to increase domestic revenue sources to supplement insufficient budgets for the delivery of better services. In Baidoa district, Southwest State, more than 21,400 properties were mapped and registered through a United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance in coordination with government counterparts and other stakeholders.

Local people have expressed their willingness to pay taxes and for municipal authorities to invest in social services to improve collaboration between public authorities and local communities.

The programme, concluded in February 2021, led to demarcating sub-zones boundaries, updating

district administrative maps, classifying and naming roads, and installing road signs. These improvements are expected to generate an estimated USD 500,000 per year in untapped revenue streams.

Two other initiatives have also been launched aimed at supporting local and state authorities to tackle protracted displacement in Somalia's Southwest State.

More than 55,000 households of displaced communities in 483 sites around the former agricultural centre of Baidoa were recorded in 2020. Under the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund supported Midnimo (Unity) project, implemented by UN-Habitat and the

Land Law and City Planning consultation, Baidoa © UN-Habitat/F. Tonnarelli



Residents of Hargeisa and experts attend multiple workshops to map out the future of the city during Hargeisa Urban Visioning Week #Child FriendlyCity 2019 © UN-Habitat/F. Tonnarelli

Internal Organization for Migration (IOM), a 3.3km trail was upgraded into an access road connecting the urban centre of Baidoa with the new Barwaaqo internally displaced persons (IDP) resettlement site that provides secure tenure for over 2,000 households.

The new road also allows access to a planned city extension for more than 50,000 inhabitants. UN-Habitat together with IOM, the United Nations Development Programme and the Resident Coordinator's Office, has developed an upscaling project for durable solutions utilizing UN-Habitat's Social Tenure Security Model. Targeting 25,000 IDPs and host community members, the Saameynta project is supported by the Swiss Development Cooperation and the Dutch Embassy.

With support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, detailed area planning has started on an urban regeneration project in Baidoa's second largest cluster of IDP sites. The project aims to foster local reintegration and social cohesion with hosting communities by engaging with youth and other local action groups.

The case of Somalia demonstrates that:

- States have been exploring options to increase domestic revenue sources to top up budget shortfalls and provide better services. Technical support helped to improve revenue generation capacity.
- Local people expressed their willingness to pay taxes, challenging the municipality on the need to invest in social services and infrastructure development.
- Effective consultations and awareness campaigns are essential for property surveys to be conducted smoothly.
- The skills and experience necessary to maintain the property taxation system after transfer to the municipalities is lacking.
- The database variables and their acceptable values should be non-ambiguous, informative and as useful for wide application as possible.

“The locals were keen to register their properties in the hope that it will contribute to land security and provide unique identities to individual houses.”

Fowski Mohamed Nuur, local community representative

“Property registration, using Geographic Information System, will not only ease and increase property tax collections but will also enhance transparency and accountability in the revenue collection process.”

Ali Abdi Adem, the Director General at Baidoa's Ministry of Finance of Southwest State

Over **55,000** households of displaced communities in 483 sites around the former agricultural centre of Baidoa were recorded in 2020.

Country: **Somalia**

Donor: **Peace Building Fund, Denmark, Dutch Embassy, European Union, Norway, Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Swiss Development Cooperation, United States Agency for International Development**

Implementing Partner: **Ministry of Interior, Federal Affairs and Reconciliation, Ministry of Finance Southwest State, UN-Habitat**

Duration: **Midnimo I / II: December 2016-January 2021 / Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery: June 2018-June 2023**

Enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure

After the devastating explosion at the Beirut port in Lebanon, **UN-Habitat helped conduct rapid assessments of damage to more than 14,000 buildings** to establish an overview and baseline of the level of **infrastructural repair** and safety precautions needed in Beirut and Bourj Hammoud municipalities.

UN-Habitat continued to develop evidence-based local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies and improve urban profiling and urban-specific recovery frameworks, tools and approaches.

In 2020, UN-Habitat's support included:

- Developing urban profiles and recovery frameworks in Afghanistan, Iraq, Libya, Somalia and Syrian Arab Republic leading to more focused and aligned reconstruction and recovery efforts.
- Supporting the Unions of Municipalities' COVID-19 rapid assessment report, the design, production and installation of the first public hand-washing stations in Lebanon and distribution of hygiene kits to thousands of residents comprising refugees from the Syrian Arab Republic and the State of Palestine and vulnerable Lebanese citizens in the dense urban areas of Beirut and Tripoli. It also enhanced the safety and tenure security of vulnerable communities through services related to skills, livelihoods, protection, legal issues and health in Tripoli.
- Assisting the Islamic Republic of Iran in the evaluation of earthquake and multi-hazard performance of health facilities to enhance the resilience of urban health systems in a project funded by the people and the Government of Japan. UN-Habitat supported the development of hazard maps for three pilot cities of Tehran, Isfahan and Tabriz that enable detailed hazard assessment and provide the methodology for scaling up the analysis. An innovative android graphic information system-based spatial analysis tool was developed that helps estimate seismic hazards and supports the Rapid Visual Assessment of 34 hospitals and 55 health care centres across the three cities.
- Through emergency support and special assistance to marginalized estate and rural communities, UN-Habitat worked to minimize health hazards of COVID-19 and socioeconomic implications of the pandemic for over 125,000 people in Nuwara Eliya District, Sri Lanka.
- Promoting a focus on food security and sustainable food systems. A project developed in Bolivia created food security plans for six municipalities of the Metropolitan area of La Paz. In a joint project with IOM and UNHCR, UN-Habitat supported six cities (Barranquilla, Cucuta, Villa del Rosario, Colombia; Quito; Santo Domingo and Lima) to strengthen planning instruments. Using a human mobility approach, the project facilitated the local socio-economic integration of Venezuelan migrants. During the COVID-19 crisis, emergency cash-based interventions were provided to an estimated 19,137 people to meet basic needs during lockdowns, including housing.

Flagship programme: Inclusive Cities: Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration

This programme helps local and national authorities harness the positive impacts of migration on cities and communities, manage the effects of rapid and unplanned urban population growth and make interventions that lead to inclusive and sustainable urban development. The programme has developed preparedness and response components for mitigating the social and economic impacts of COVID-19.

With a focus on priority regions such as West Africa and Latin American countries, in 2020, UN-Habitat advanced programme development and resource mobilization in Cameroon to help cities and local authorities respond to large-scale conflict-induced displacement.

UN-Habitat's engagement in the United Nations Migration Network led to a comprehensive policy brief on Enhancing Access to Services for Migrants in the Context of COVID-19 Preparedness, Prevention, Response and Beyond. By co-leading the working group on Urbanization and Internal Migration in World Bank's KNOMAD Knowledge Network, three policy briefs on migration patterns in East and West Africa, and India were developed. In cooperation with partners, UN-Habitat published two guidance documents providing recommendations globally and to authorities in Turkey on migrant inclusion and urban profiling in migration and displacement contexts respectively.



Mariam Saleh Mahdi at her house in west Yemen renovated through a UN-Habitat project funded by the Government of Japan © UN-Habitat



Communities participate in household mapping
© UN-Habitat/Cambodia

Impact Story | 9

The people's process promotes community ownership in Cambodia

Cambodia's ecological landscape has altered dramatically in the last 30 years causing changes to local weather patterns. Already one of the world's most vulnerable countries to natural disasters, Cambodia has suffered from repeated floods, storms and strong winds that have caused death and destroyed livelihoods.

In 2018, tropical storm Son-Tinh caused flooding that affected 62,317 households with 16 deaths and 5,398 households' evacuations. Many families had to move to temporary shelters with insufficient food and access to clean water and sanitation.

UN-Habitat and the Government of Japan helped people affected by the floods through a Project for Improving Living Environment

and Disaster Prevention Capacity in Cambodia. The recovery and resilience-building project supported reconstruction and rehabilitation of 202 homes housing 1,098 people and helped close to 10,000 people in seven target communities through disaster risk reduction (DRR) activities.

People's process promotes community ownership

The project followed an innovative people's process approach involving a five-step methodology to promote community ownership. This involved community and social mobilization, community action planning, community contracting, funds disbursement and implementation, participatory monitoring and communication.



A community representative explains workshop findings to donors, provincial and district officers
© UN-Habitat/Cambodia



Stilt houses, Tboung Khmum
© UN-Habitat/Cambodia

The villagers elected 50 representatives (28 women) to be part of a Community Development Committee (CDC) making decisions such as choosing housing designs from three resilient and affordable options, and to participate in training sessions for improving water, sanitation and hygiene. Alongside the newly constructed houses, 216 latrines were built to replace open defecation.

Trained local workers and carpenters built the houses using resilient construction methods and locally available and low-cost materials. The team also organized training workshops for local authorities on the integration of DRR elements into local planning to improve prevention and management capacity.

Building resilience: A critical response to climate change

Women play an important role in post disaster recovery and in community mobilization for advancing housing construction.

The project empowered women by giving them leading roles as CDC members and unlocked the potential of youth to be part of the decision-making process and DRR activities in the community. Strengthened communities are more resilient to natural disasters.

Integrating a participatory planning approach to build resilience is sustainable as it empowers the community including women and youth, uses locally available low-cost materials and builds stronger structures.

Country: **Cambodia**
City: **Tboung Khmum Province**
Donor: **Government of Japan**
Implementing Partners: **General Department of Housing of the Ministry of Land Management, Governor of Tboung Khmum Province, Urban Planning and Construction, UN-Habitat**
Duration: **April 2019–March 2020**

“When we are in solidarity with others in the community, we can gain a lot of benefits. Together, we'll try to be well prepared for future disasters.”

Duth Chhundy,
a beneficiary of the project

“This resilient housing project in Tboung Khmum is the first-ever project in Cambodia to recover from the disaster and improve the livelihood at the same time through the Build Back Better approach.”

H.E. Dr. Beng Hong
Socheat Khmero,
Director General of Cambodia's
General Department of Housing

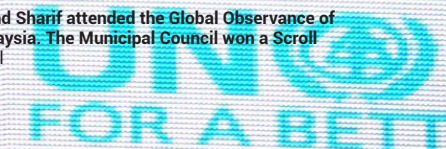
Close to
10,000
people have received assistance from UN-Habitat and the Government of Japan through a Project for Improving Living Environment and Disaster Prevention Capacity in Cambodia.

3

UN-Habitat's Catalytic Role



The UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif attended the Global Observance of World Habitat Day virtually from Subang Jaya Malaysia. The Municipal Council won a Scroll of Honour award © Subang Jaya Municipal Council



Key Results:

Since January 2020, **UN-Habitat has signed agreements** with 191 partners: Governments (51), United Nations entities (18), Local Governments (26) and Civil Society Organizations (96).



More than **13,000** stakeholders and representatives of United Nations entities attended the **Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum** convened by UN-Habitat in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. 24 voluntary actions by 41 partners were entailed in the **Abu Dhabi Declared Actions** to support achievement of the SDGs.

Over **6,500 people** participated in **78 Urban Thinker Campuses** including 42 that made recommendations on **COVID-19 response**.

No single institution can achieve the global urban development agenda of moving cities towards prosperity and sustainable development. UN-Habitat engages development actors from all sectors and levels to jointly implement its Strategic Plan.

The past decade has seen an increase in stakeholders engaging with UN-Habitat in

different development areas, including increasing participation in the World Urban Forums. In 2020, the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise bolstered UN-Habitat's innovative and effective stakeholder engagement by ensuring stakeholder views were represented in UN-Habitat's inter-governmental meetings and contributing to knowledge products.

Advocating for a sustainable urban world

BOX 11

Advocacy campaigns and events

The **#COVID-19** Campaign called for action to address the pandemic in cities and communities.

The **#Housing4All** Campaign called for adequate housing for all, with development solutions and commitments.

The **#40 Days Safer Cities Challenge** led by UN-Habitat and the Global Network on Safer Cities raised awareness on safety in cities, urban crime prevention and citizen actions.

The **#Stand for Her Land** Campaign closes the gap between laws and practice so that millions of women can realize land rights in their daily lives.

Over 753 **Urban October** advocacy events were held in 230 cities in 74 countries to promote housing for all and highlight the value of communities and cities.

One of UN-Habitat's key roles is to influence broader advocacy and action at all levels, by all types of stakeholders. Since its establishment in 2001, the World Urban Forum (WUF) has become the main advocacy platform for urban transformation. In 2020, more than 13,000 people representing key stakeholder groups and the United Nations system attended the WUF. The resulting **Abu Dhabi Declared Actions** includes commitments to achieving the SDGs over the next two years and beyond.

UN-Habitat's Urban October event, which gives everyone the opportunity to discuss challenges and opportunities of rapidly changing cities, sparked huge interest and engagement. There were 753 Urban October events held in 74 countries and 230 cities with 3,400 editorial mentions.

World Habitat Day was celebrated with the theme, Housing for All: A Better Urban Future in Surabaya, Indonesia, and in 69 other events in 42 countries and 58 cities across the world.

World Cities Day on 31 October involved 78 events in 39 countries and 70 cities celebrating the theme Valuing Our Communities and Cities. Around 500 people took part in the online opening ceremony of the first Global Observance of World Cities Day held in Nakuru, Kenya with live links to China and Malaysia, and another 1,800 people watched live on YouTube.

The World Urban Campaign and Urban Thinkers Campuses continuously engage stakeholders to raise awareness about positive urban change needed to achieve sustainable cities and communities. In 2020, work focused on advocating for cities and communities to address the multiple gaps in basic services, shelter, safety, wages and social security caused by COVID-19, and on looking at the role of city and community leaders in urban planning and design in building pandemic resilience.

BOX 12

2020 Urban Circuit

UN-Habitat's Urban Circuit project promotes discussions around Urban October's themes and supports events organized by various actors across Brazil. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 Urban Circuit was held online with live and recorded events ranging from round-tables and seminars to slam poetry, meditation and a 'cleaning up of cities' championship. UN-Habitat also held five Urban Friday events sharing methodologies such as mapping and data production, urban resilience, urban policy and financing, spatial development frameworks and 2030 development plans.

To take full advantage of the online experience and opportunity for knowledge exchange, the 2020 Urban Circuit engaged Portuguese-speaking UN-Habitat Africa offices in Angola, Cabo Verde, Guinea-Bissau, Mozambique, and São Tomé and Príncipe. Its main theme was Post-COVID-19 Cities: Dialogues

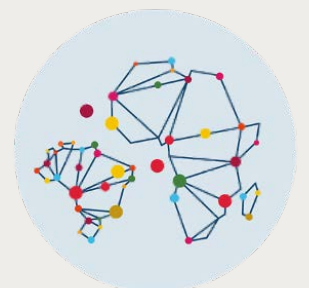
between Brazil and Lusophone Africa and sub-themes included public space, urban planning, public security, gender, LGBTQIA+ rights, racism, education, urban environment, climate change and the 2030 Agenda. Most importantly it addressed the significance of housing and the participation of local actors to align with World Habitat Day and World Cities Day.

The Urban Circuit involved 186 events organized by stakeholders from different sectors and more than 1,000 speakers from over 20 countries. Panel sessions broadcast on YouTube had over 49,000 views. The public was also engaged through communications, social media, video editing, graphic design, translation, broadcasting and graphic facilitation and a virtual arts gallery.

The event outreach increased UN-Habitat Brazil's social media presence by 15.2 per cent and achieved more

than 115 press mentions with many media outlets perceiving it as a great initiative. This publicity success raised significant awareness of UN-Habitat's work and mission to build sustainable urban environments.

The 2020 Urban Circuit showed that Brazilian and Lusophone African cities share many challenges and potential responses, and that exchanges with international experts can widen cooperation between participating countries and UN-Habitat.



Building new strategic partnerships

Throughout 2020, UN-Habitat strengthened strategic partnerships with Regional Economic Commissions and other United Nations entities. This included global agreements signed with the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNHCR), the South-South Cooperation Office, joint guidelines on health directives in informal settlements and a joint programme on urban planning and public health with the World Health Organization (WHO). Collaboration was also built with the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization (UNESCO) on culture and urban regeneration, with the International Organization for Migration (IOM) on migration in urban areas, the Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO) on food security, and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) on green cities. UN-Habitat also strengthened its country-level collaborations, for example with the World Food Programme (WFP) in various countries in Africa.

UN-Habitat worked with several United Nations entities and more than 40 institutions to develop the Global Urban Monitoring Framework to harmonize indicators and data on the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda at local and sub-national level. This task was assigned by the General Assembly and Statistical Commission and partnerships on urban data is one of the strategic areas for stronger collaboration in the United Nations system on sustainable urban development.

The Urban Agenda Platform is becoming the premier online space for knowledge exchange, data, New Urban Agenda progress reports, Voluntary Local Reviews, *Abu Dhabi Declared Actions*, capacity tools and urban best practices for United Nations agencies and partners.

At the regional level, UN-Habitat advanced United Nations system-wide coordination by working closely with Regional Economic Commissions, UNDP, the United Nations Development Coordination Office and other United Nations agencies as part of the emerging regional collaborative platforms and regional forums for sustainable development. Consequently, in Africa, Arab States, Asia and Latin America, sustainable urbanization has

featured among the issue-based coalitions and urban monitoring is anchored in many regional knowledge hubs. For instance, aligned work with regional networks and public institutions such as the Ministers of Housing and Urban Development of Latin America and the Caribbean proved to be an effective strategy to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Through the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Australia Development Cooperation Programme Phase II, UN-Habitat has been working with ASEAN to accelerate the implementation of Sustainable Urbanization Strategy in Asia.

UN-Habitat engaged the United Nations system at country level to advance sustainable urbanization. It increased interaction with Resident Coordinators and United Nations Country Teams (UNCTs), actively working in over 75 countries. For 2021, 19 countries are prioritized to strengthen UN-Habitat involvement in Common Country Assessments and Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, mobilizing headquarters capacity. This will facilitate learning and improving the tools for UN-Habitat to contribute to the United Nations-led planning processes. UN-Habitat selected seven countries to monitor the application of the United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urbanization to diversify how UN-Habitat can support the United Nations system, irrespective of in-country presence. Advisory services were also provided by UN-Habitat to UNCTs on assessments, advice and solutions related to sustainable urban development, as well as COVID-19 socio-economic impact assessments and recovery strategies.

UN-Habitat's longstanding partnerships with local and regional governments involved jointly convening the year-long Live Learning series and Cities Are Listening series on COVID-19 alongside United Cities and Local Governments, and Metropolis. It developed important normative guidance for local and regional governments on Voluntary Local Reviews in several cities, strengthening UN-Habitat's collaboration with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs as well as the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions that support

BOX 13

SDG localization and Voluntary Local Reviews

In 2020, UN-Habitat prepared a comprehensive strategy to support the localization of the SDGs around three key pillars of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, SDG Cities Flagship Programme and the support to Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

VLRs give local and regional governments an effective tool to report on SDG achievements. In addition to helping with monitoring and reporting tasks, VLRs have proven to be a powerful tool to advance the SDG implementation. They have the potential to improve the transparency and accountability of local administrations, inclusion and participation of vulnerable groups, horizontal and vertical cooperation, and data systems at city and national levels.

UN-Habitat has supported VLRs globally since their inception by partnering with New York City, which pioneered the movement, providing direct technical support to many local and regional governments worldwide through tried and tested methodologies. Building on the experiences supporting Niteroi and Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and Chimbote and Trujillo, Peru, UN-Habitat assisted the cities of Moscow and Florence, Italy in 2020, with Madrid, Amman and several others planned for 2021.

On the normative side, UN-Habitat provided local and national partners with cutting-edge knowledge and guidance on VLRs. In 2020, UN-Habitat released Volume 1 of the *Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs* in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), during the High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development (HLPF).

Together with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations Regional Economic Commissions, UN-Habitat is leading discussions on the connection between VLRs and Voluntary National Reviews to provide recommendations on how to strengthen multi-level governance for SDG reporting. This will lead to Volume 2 of the VLR guidelines to be released in 2021. A two-day Expert Group Meeting on the new generation of VLRs that UN-Habitat organized with UCLG and Madrid City Council with more than 300 experts led to groundbreaking content for these guidelines and a VLR communique.

In partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and UCLG Africa, UN-Habitat will co-publish regional guidelines for VLRs in Africa in 2021.

UN-Habitat's work on VLRs rests on its capacity to link local reviews and dynamics with the global advocacy and intergovernmental processes such as HLPF and the World Urban Forum. In this regard, UN-Habitat holds the secretariat of the Local2030 initiative, the United Nations-wide initiative to support the localization of the SDGs.

SDG reporting by Member States through Voluntary National Reviews. UN-Habitat was also requested to develop and lead a 10-year Local2030 campaign to support efforts by local governments in cooperation with national governments and the United Nations system to achieve the SDGs.

UN-Habitat strengthens community engagement by putting the most disadvantaged at the centre of its work, harnessing local expertise by working closely with informal sector workers, slum dwellers, people with disabilities, women living in rural and urban poverty, and grassroots women's and youth groups. In the Caribbean and Latin America, UN-Habitat joined a large coalition of organizations leading a

collaborative work on the critical need to give priority to informal settlements in COVID-19 responses. The coalition developed principles for Participatory Slum Upgrading programmes in the region and integrated the components of the Right to the City.

New forms of collaboration with professional associations included ISOCARP and the urban regeneration agency Think City on placemaking, and the International Real Estate Federation on the City Prosperity Initiative and city perception indicators. The United Kingdom Built Environment Advisory Group and their associated professional organizations (such as the Royal Institute of British Architects and the Royal Town Planning Institute) are also new partners.

UN-Habitat expanded its collaboration with international and regional development banks to ensure coherence of policy support and the alignment of large-scale urban investments with the principles of sustainable urbanization.

Rethinking engagement with the private sector is crucial for leveraging investment for city growth and development and to promote more appropriate models of development. UN-Habitat has developed new partnerships with the private sector and received support from several private foundations such as the Vanke Foundation, the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation and Fondation Botnar (through the University of Melbourne) for its normative and operational work. Microsoft, with whom UN-Habitat has collaborated on the Block by Block programme and digital transformation, increased its funding support for

an extended partnership on developing inclusive and sustainable datacenter communities.

UN-Habitat established the Cities Investment Facility (CIF), to leverage capital for planning, financing and implementing inclusive urban impact projects and technical assistance for up to 100 urban projects by 2023. CIF links investors to UN-Habitat's SDG Cities programme to help cities become sustainable and resilient by strengthening capacity in data management, governance, planning and financing.

UN-Habitat launched a Foundation and Philanthropy Platform for sustainable urban development to foster greater collaboration with foundations around mobilizing resources for urban development, co-creating solutions and influencing development policy.



Opening Ceremony of the 10th Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) in Abu Dhabi, UAE © UN-Habitat

2021 Outlook

2020 was a disruptive and defining year for cities. It called into question their ability to provide essential public goods for people and ensure protection and stability. It was a year that sparked discussions about critical issues like inequalities, public health, climate change, ecology and sustainability.

Progress was stalled or reversed. The SDGs have been seriously affected to an extent that is yet to be measured. The world as we knew it changed. In 2021, governments are preparing for an economic recovery, the strengthening of public health and broad discussions on human rights.

At city level, fundamental questions of communities and neighbourhood sustainability, mobility, public space, distance, density and proximity will be illuminating 2021 deliberations. UN-Habitat will accompany cities in their search for a better future, one that will make cities more just, resilient, healthier and greener.

During the year, UN-Habitat faced unpredictable and inconsistent funding, resulting in an uneven implementation of the Strategic Plan, with more funding for specific areas and Domains of Change. UN-Habitat also faced challenges to fundraise, exacerbated by the demands and necessities to address the COVID-19 pandemic globally. The pandemic also resulted in UN-Habitat having to re-orient some of its programming to the COVID-19 emergency response and to delay several of its other activities.

Challenges are so vast that responses cannot be dealt with in isolation. UN-Habitat will work more and more with partners using its capacities to convene, advocate, facilitate and mobilize resources to consolidate actions, scale up operations and maximize impacts.

UN-Habitat will reaffirm its catalytic function, consolidate its regional footprint and reinstitute its normative and operational capacities. In order to become more effective and fit for purpose, UN-Habitat will focus on key strategic areas:

- Reinforcing data production mechanisms through a new cycle of the Urban Indicators Programme, expanding knowledge-based activities and the support to local monitoring of global agendas;

- Reaching out to United Nations and development partners to ensure that 'urban' is more visible and apparent for achieving the sustainable agenda and more pressing in the international development arena debates;

- Strengthening capacity building of Member States, local governments and other development partners to scale up innovative and transformative urban solutions;

- Leveraging financing and reaching out to the private sector to co-invest in financing sustainable urban development through the City Prosperity Facility and other financial modalities;

- Supporting the wider United Nations system ensuring that urban statistics, methods and tools are part of the Common Country Assessments, Cooperation Frameworks and the SDGs, and New Urban Agenda implementation solutions;

- Working with a plethora of international, national and local development partners to accelerate global climate actions and the urban contribution to green and resilient pandemic recovery.

The Strategic Plan 2020–2023 remains relevant and will continue to guide the work of UN-Habitat and advance its mandate. Over the year, UN-Habitat will prepare reports on the New Urban Agenda and the Synthesis Report of SDG Goal 11 in view of the preparation of the General Assembly High-Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat will also work in advancing the strategy to align the New Urban Agenda with the Decade of Action to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

After regional consultations, UN-Habitat will advance its regional architecture in line with the administrative and legal frameworks of the United Nations Secretariat. It will also define the remaining component of the reorganized structure, fully supporting the Regional Programme Division to facilitate work away from headquarters. This approach is based in a diverse and flexible typology of regional and country presence that will ensure a more agile workforce to provide support based on countries' needs with the right mix between normative and operational work.



4

2020 Financial Performance

Key Results:

UN-Habitat's total income in 2020 was USD 193.7 million, which represents 76.6 per cent of its target income.



Contributions soft earmarked for the domains of change of the Strategic Plan and for global programmes increased by a significant 49.7 per cent to USD 50.6 million.



Non-earmarked contributions for core activities remained low at USD 4.9 million or 26 per cent of the target income.



The work programme of UN-Habitat is financed from four main funding sources:

- Regular budget:** allocations from the United Nations assessed contributions approved by the General Assembly.
- Foundation non-earmarked:** voluntary non-earmarked contributions mainly from Member States to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation non-earmarked fund for core normative activities approved by the Executive Board.

- Foundation earmarked:** voluntary earmarked contributions for specific programmes that are largely global and normative in nature such as development of global policies, research, publications and advocacy initiatives.
- Technical cooperation:** voluntary earmarked contributions for specific regional and country programmes.

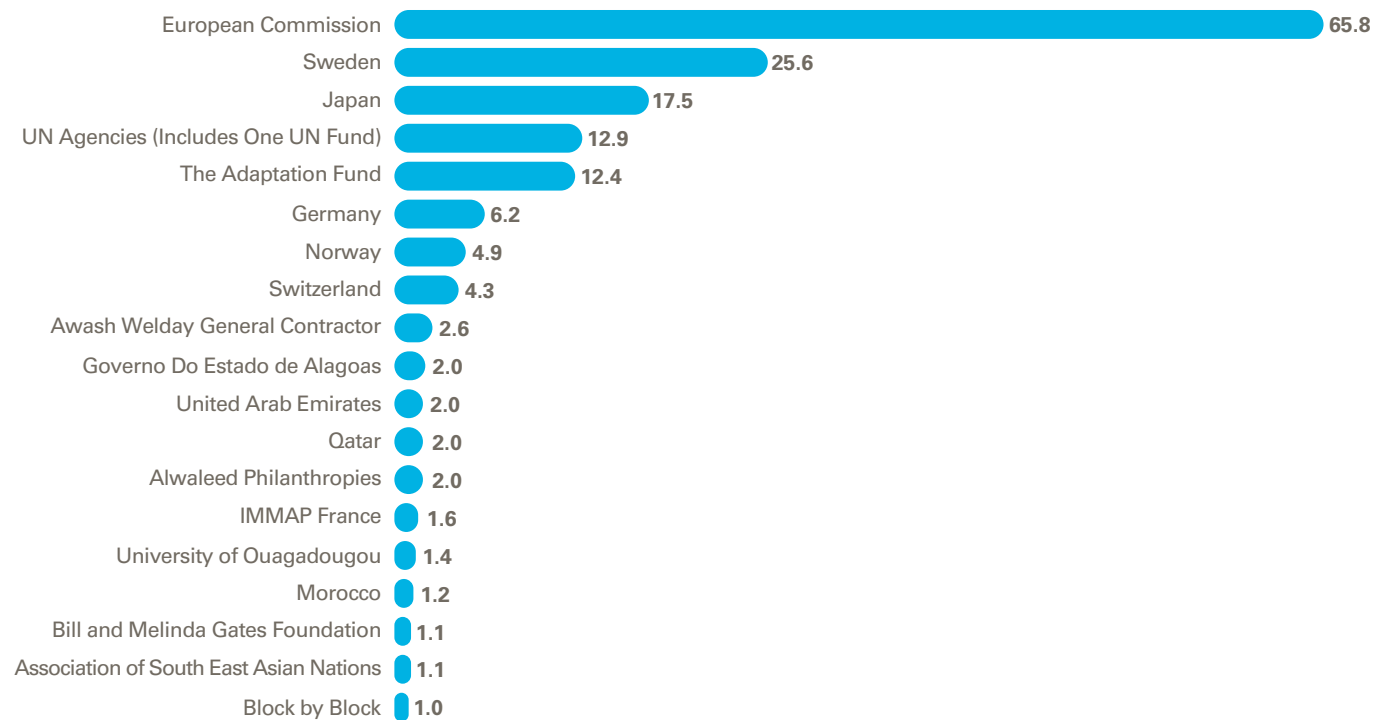


Figure 9: Top donors and development partners in 2020 in USD millions

Income

UN-Habitat acquired a total income of USD 193.7 million in 2020, which represents 76.6 per cent of its income target for the year.

Earmarked contributions for specific thematic pillars of the strategic plan and global programmes that are largely normative increased by a significant 49.7 per cent to USD 50.6 million.

Nine of the 19 top donors in 2020 are from pooled funds, United Nations agencies, private sector, local government and civil society showing diversification of funding sources.

The increase in earmarked contributions shows continued demand for *UN-Habitat's services*.

More needs to be done to increase non-earmarked funding for core activities.

Member States approved UN-Habitat's *2020-2023 resource mobilization strategy* at the Executive Board session of October 2020.

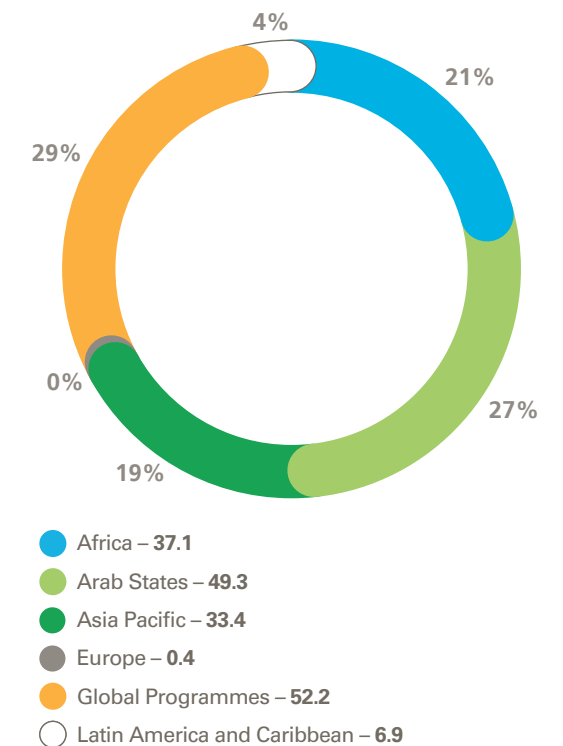
Country	Core Contribution	Country	Core Contribution
Norway	2,180,130	Malawi	20,000
United States of America*	650,000	Barbados	14,706
Mexico**	500,000	Algeria	10,000
China	350,000	Myanmar*	9,980
France	227,740	Mali*	9,653
Kenya*	196,373	Czech Republic	6,731
Germany	179,211	Pakistan	5,941
South Africa	150,000	Dominican Republic	4,975
India	145,455	Israel*	3,800
Republic of Korea	84,365	Grand Total	4,965,384
Nigeria*	75,000		
Senegal	44,868		
Botswana*	40,000		
Japan	31,455		
Sri Lanka	25,000		

New contributions to core income
Algeria
Dominican Republic
Mali
Nigeria

Comebacks
Algeria
Germany
Israel
Myanmar

*includes income for previous years
**received in 2021 for 2020

Figure 10: Contributors to non-earmarked income for core activities in 2020



There was significant support for global normative programmes, as well as programmes in Arab States (mainly humanitarian), Africa and Asia Pacific. Funding for middle-income countries in Latin America is mostly from within countries' national and local governments for strategy and policy advice.

Figure 11: Allocation of 2021 earmarked income to UN-Habitat implementing regions in USD millions

In 2020, Member States approved *UN-Habitat's resource mobilization strategy* aimed at building a strong and diversified donor base for predictable funding and long-term partnership. Special attention is placed on demonstrating value for money by communicating results and impact, and through greater efficiency, transparency and accountability. Aligned with the *United Nations Funding Compact* and the *United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework*, the strategy aims to achieve greater coherence and economies of scale through joint programming and implementation with other United Nations agencies to deliver results that are aligned to countries' development strategies. Innovative ways to raise funds including online donations, joint fundraising with partners, support by influencers and blended funding are also highlighted in the strategy.

At the *Partner and Pledge for Sustainable Urbanization* event in December 2020, co-chaired by the Executive Director and the President of the UN-Habitat Assembly, a total of USD 164.1 million in new funding was announced although only USD 1.1 million was pledged in non-earmarked core funding.

Progress was noted in diversifying funding sources with nine of the top 19 donors to UN-Habitat

coming from foundations and philanthropies, private sector, local government, academia or pooled funds.

Building on commitments made at WUF 10 in February, a new Foundations and Philanthropy Platform was launched to diversify UN-Habitat's funding base and take a new approach to co-creating shared value in sustainable urbanization. Participants in the Platform discussions included European Foundation Centre, European Venture Philanthropy Association, Fondation Botnar, The Prince's Trust, Reall, Tata Trusts, The Tony Elumelu Foundation, Vanke Foundation and Yayasan Hasanah. An online donation feature was launched on UN-Habitat's corporate website to raise funds for humanitarian work, and social media outreach to development partners was strengthened with pro-bono support from Inonda, a British marketing company.

In 2020, several countries reprogrammed part of their Official Development Assistance for COVID-19 response. While this did not affect the total funding for UN-Habitat it had a negative effect on core contributions which only reached USD 4.9 million or 26 per cent of the annual target of USD 18.9 million. There was sustained demand

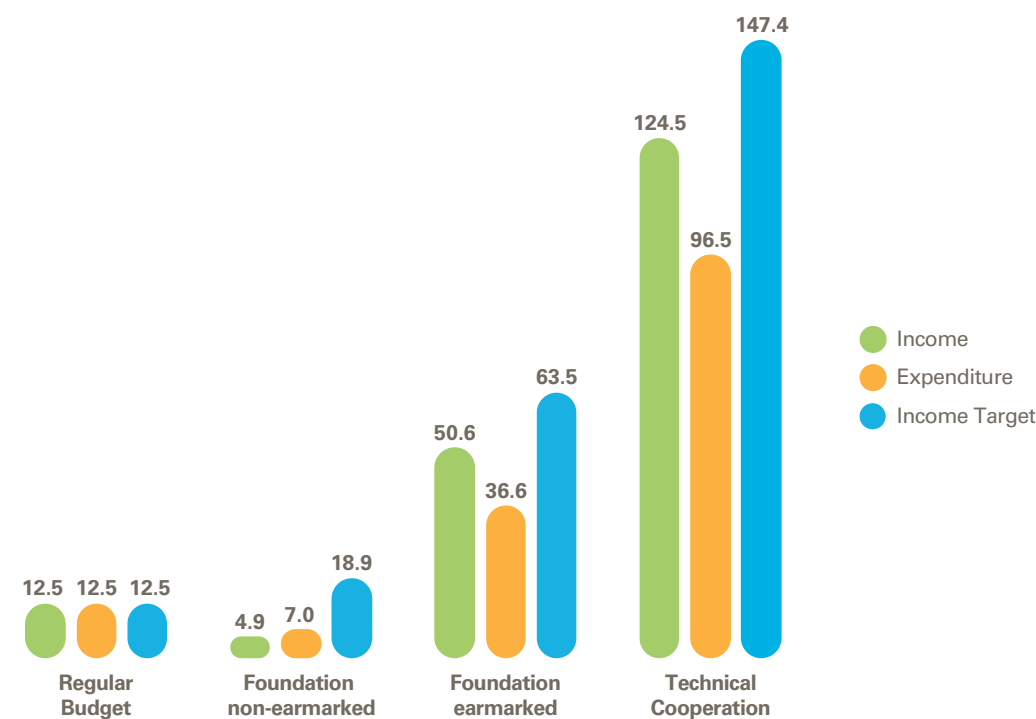


Figure 12: Performance against the 2020 plan

for *UN-Habitat's services* particularly for global normative programmes where support increased by 49.7 per cent to USD 50.6 million. The crisis highlighted the important role of cities in mitigating and responding to global crises and in designing a green and inclusive recovery that also contributes to the overall sustainable development agenda.

Strategic communications with potential donors were improved with refinements to the corporate website, strengthened social media engagement and results-focused stories in the *Urban Impact* quarterly brief distributed to over 14,000 partners. Steps were taken to improve efficiency with simplified business processes and an upgraded Operations Manual. The internal Donor Focal Point System was formally established supported by an enhanced Donor Information System.

UN-Habitat's implementation in 2020 totalled USD 165.5 million which represents 65.4 per cent of the annual budget of USD 252.9 million. Implementation of programmes, particularly of country programmes, was affected by COVID-19 restrictions.

COVID-19 response initiatives were prioritized as part of existing programmes or new programmes in 37 countries. A dedicated resource mobilization strategy was developed to support COVID-19 response which raised around USD 32 million in new contributions and pledges, reprogrammed funds and from an internal emergency fund against a target of USD 72 million.

Expenditure on core activities – mainly staff positions – financed by the foundation non-earmarked fund was higher than the income, highlighting the continuing shortfall in core funds. Austerity measures to contain core expenditure remain in place.

Performance against domain of change targets

In response to the pandemic, the majority of UN-Habitat's income and implementation was for activities related to *Domain of Change 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response*. Within this domain, an immediate response to the Beirut port explosion was also supported as well as other crisis prevention and response programmes.

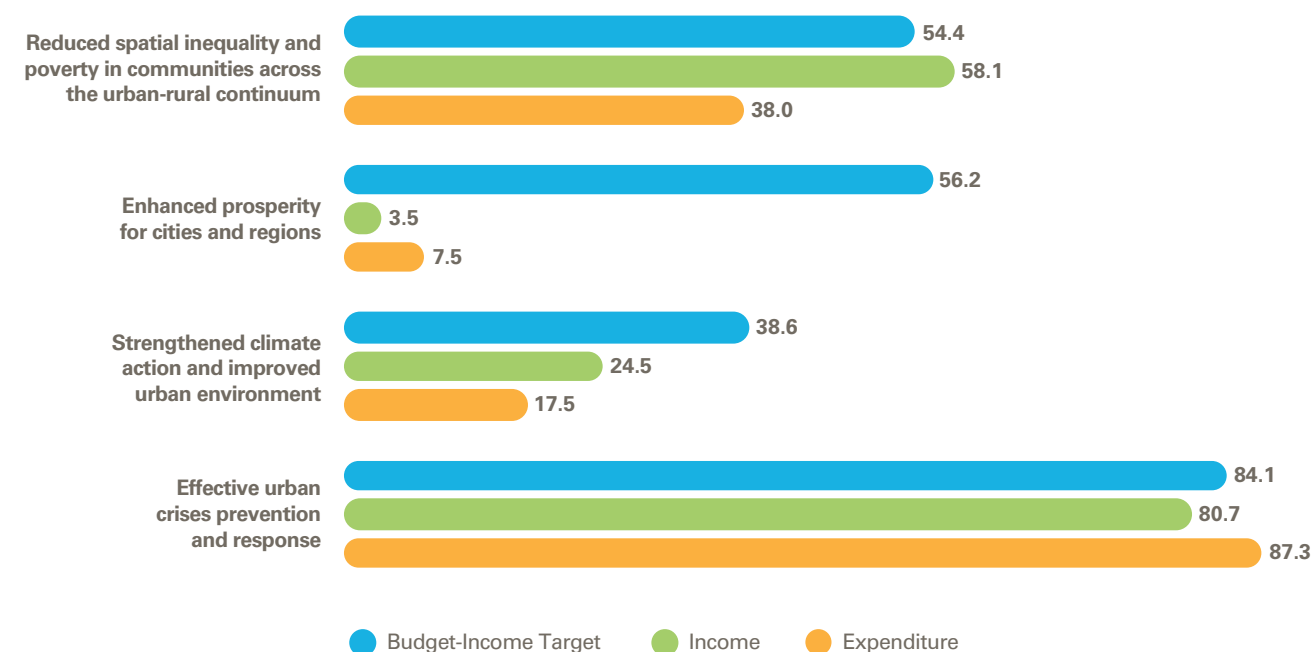


Figure 13: 2020 performance against work programme targets for the four Domains of Change in USD millions

Domain of Change 1: Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum was the second most funded area of work with programmes on waste management, access to clean water and affordable housing particularly for low-income families in informal settlements. This also included repurposing of public spaces for health care, food and resource distribution prioritized to support the COVID-19 response.

Funding for *Domain of Change 3: Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment* was lower in 2020 but is an intended focus for funding mobilization in 2021 leading up to the COP26 United Nations Climate Change Conference.

Support and implementation for *Domain of Change 2: Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions* was significantly underfunded. This area is key to post-COVID-19 priorities with cities as the engines of growth and sustainable economic recovery.

Revenue trends

The chart below shows the trends in UN-Habitat's revenue from 2014 to 2020. Revenue is different from the income shown in the financial performance above; income acquisition reflects the full value of contribution agreements signed with donors. Revenue, on the other hand, does not reflect the full value of contribution agreements where these are conditional but only recognizes the amount that has been expended on the agreements in any particular year. The financial statements of UN-Habitat report revenue rather than income in line with International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

In 2020, revenue on earmarked activities funded by conditional contribution agreements is significantly lower than the income acquired due to reduced implementation rates, particularly in country programmes (technical cooperation) because of COVID-19 restrictions. Revenue for global normative programmes (foundation earmarked) performed better in 2020 than in recent previous years.

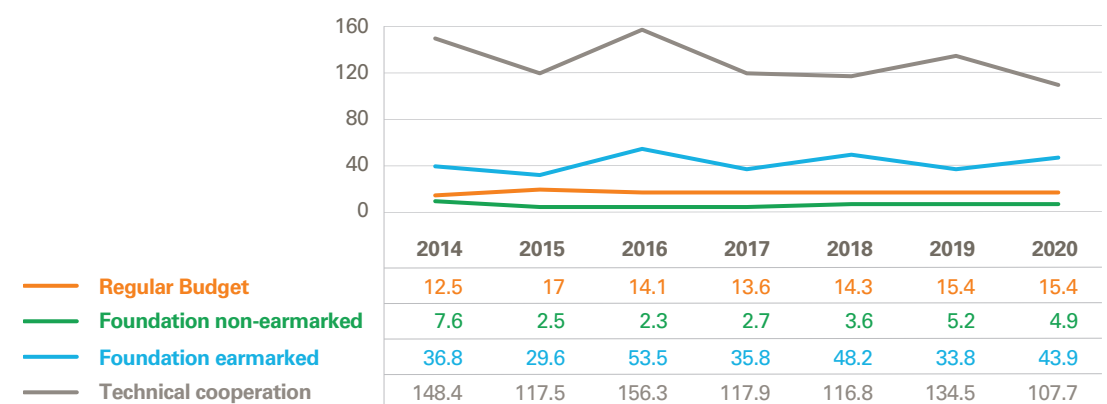


Figure 14: Revenue trends 2014-2020



COVID-19 prevention in public transport, Nairobi, Kenya © Eduardo Moreno

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Our work in 2020 would not have been possible without the generous support of our donors*



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*The donors listed above represent those that signed new or expanded contribution agreements with UN-Habitat in 2020 and does not represent the full list of UN-Habitat's development partners. Contributions from the countries listed above include funding from all their government departments such as the Official Development Assistance organizations that represent those countries.



UN-Habitat team at WUF10, Abu Dhabi, UAE
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UNHABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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