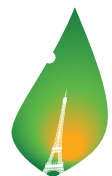




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2022 CATALOGUE OF SERVICES



PARIS2015
UN CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE
COP21-CMP11



HS/047/23E

UN-Habitat 2022 Catalogue of Services

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Cover photo: Climate Change in Mathare (Mural), DigitalArt4Climate Award Winner

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Contents

Section 01

Introduction	2
The context for this Catalogue	2
How to use this Catalogue	5
Who is this Catalogue for?	5
How is the Catalogue organized?	5
Which services to use and how to combine them: tags for each offering	6
What's new in the 2022 edition?	6
Meeting this moment	7

Section 02

Our support to national governments, local authorities and stakeholders	9
A. Urban data, profiling and monitoring	9
1. Innovative city-wide slum profiling and enumeration	9
2. Urban Migration Profiles	12
3. City Resilience Profiling	14
4. Supporting local alignment with the SDGs through unique SDG profiles	16
5. Urban and spatial profiling for strategic planning and sustainable development	18
6. Assessing vulnerabilities, socio-economic situations, and facilities for inclusive cities	23
7. COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness Tracking Platform	28
B. Participatory processes	30
1. Block by Block co-creating safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces	30
2. CityRAP: City Resilience Action Planning	33
3. Integrated urban planning in protracted crisis contexts	35
4. Building participatory accountability systems for city policies	39
5. Creating urban resource centres for young people in cities	42
6. Her City Toolbox	44
C. Policy, legislation, and governance	47
1. Strengthen housing, land and property rights for peaceful societies	47
2. Legal frameworks to plan sustainable cities	50
3. National and Sub-national Urban Policies	52
4. Leaving no place behind: Strengthening urban-rural linkages	56
5. Policy, law and governance for climate smart cities	59
6. Urban law for informal settlements upgrading and prevention	61
7. MetroHUB: Supporting sustainable metropolitan and regional development	63

D. Planning and design	66
1. Integrating global goals into urban development plans to guide urban transformation	66
2. Rapid planning studios	69
3. City-scale plan assessment	71
4. Promoting safe, inclusive and accessible public space	73
5. Planning for healthy cities and territories	77
6. Our City Plans Toolbox	79
7. Spatial Development Framework	82
E. Land, housing and shelter	84
1. National Housing Strategies	84
2. Forced eviction prevention and Eviction Impact Assessments	87
3. Pro-poor, low cost land information system	89
4. Durable solutions for internally displaced populations and vulnerable communities in cities	92
5. Slum upgrading and prevention strategies for poverty and inequality reduction	94
F. Basic services and infrastructure	96
1. Sustainable waste management and recovery of waste as a resource	96
2. Water and sanitation planning and infrastructure investments	99
3. Enhancing sustainability and effectiveness of water utilities through Water Operators' Partnerships	101
4. Sustainable urban mobility planning	104
5. Creating energy and resource efficient buildings	107
G. Economy and finance	109
1. Enhancing Own Source Revenues (OSR) through rapid analysis	109
2. Land-based finance for good governance and inclusive development	112
3. Innovative financing arrangements and Public-Private-People-Partnerships (PPPPs) for slum upgrading	114
H. Climate change and cities	117
1. Integrating human settlements in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Climate Policies	117
2. Supporting urban low-emission development strategies	120
3. Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning	123
4. Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic, Values-Based Approach for Urban Planners	126
5. Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk: Community Assessments, Action Planning and Implementation	129
I. Capacity building	133
1. Sustainable transfer of skills and knowledge to governments and urban stakeholders	133
2. Advancing government capacities through regional training centres of excellence	136
3. The Cities and Climate Change Academy (online)	138
4. E-learning platform and capacity building package for participatory slum upgrading	140
5. The Academy of Sustainable Urban Mobility (AoSUM)	142

J. Monitoring and Reporting for SDG Localization	145
1. Voluntary Local Reviews	145
2. Global Urban Monitoring Framework	149
3. The Global Urban Indicators Database	152
4. Urban Observatories	154
5. Direct Support on SDG indicator monitoring	156
K. Innovation	158
1. Challenge-driven innovation for local governments	158
2. United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC)	161

Section 03

Our flagship programmes	163
Flagship 1: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities	164
Flagship 2: People-centered Smart Cities	167
Flagship 3: RISE-UP. Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor	170
Flagship 4: Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration	173
Flagship 5: SDG Cities	176





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Section
01

Introduction

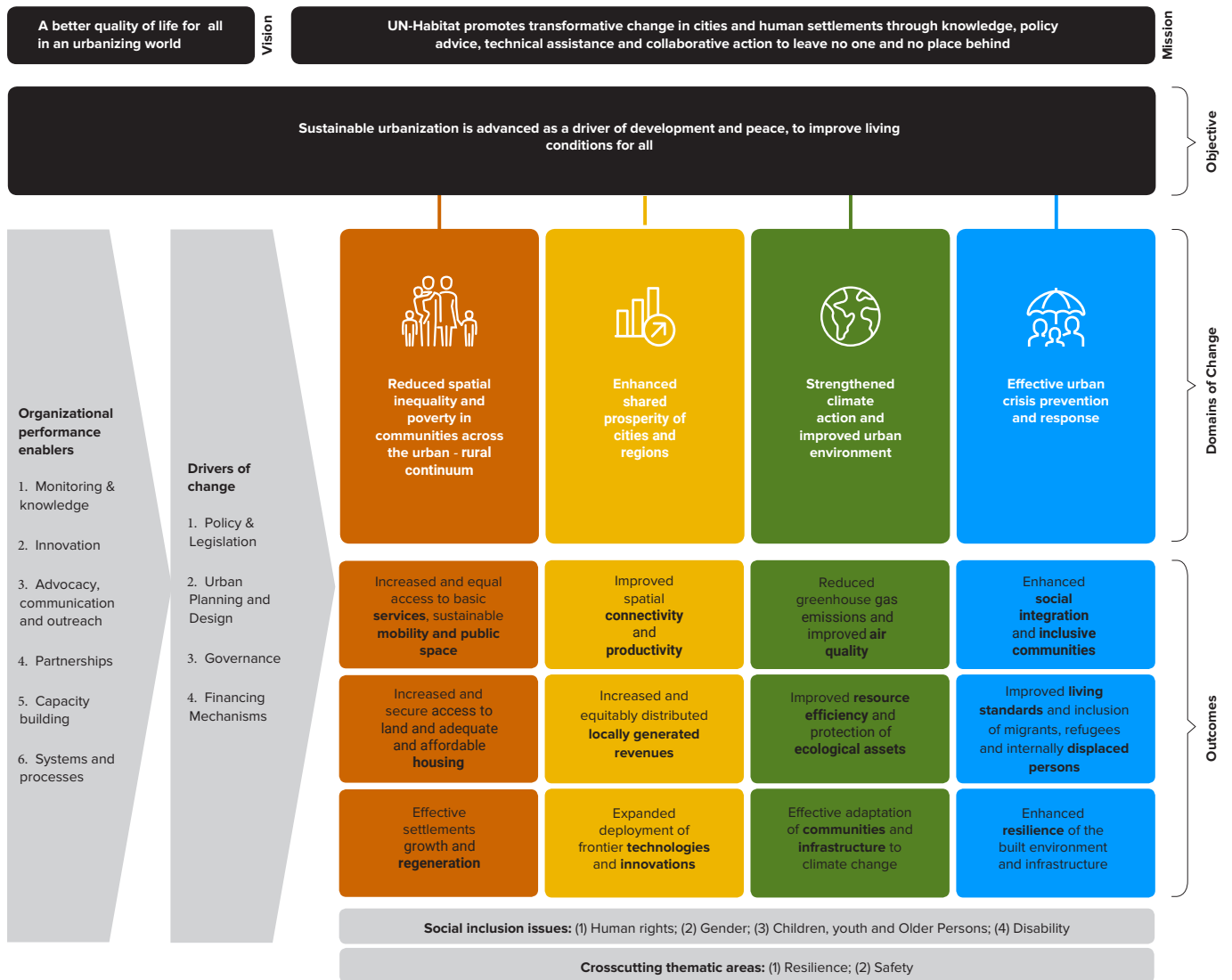
The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is the United Nations agency mandated to support sustainable urbanization across the globe. Headquartered in Nairobi, the organization has ongoing projects and activities in all major regions of the world. This 2022 edition of the Catalogue of Services provides the current range of ways in which UN-Habitat can support national and local governments, partners and stakeholders to address their development challenges and advance sustainable and inclusive urban development using its services, expertise and tools.

The context for this Catalogue

The services offered in this 2022 Catalogue represent established pathways to sustainable urbanization, envisioned as a transformative force to reduce poverty, social exclusion, spatial inequality, environmental vulnerabilities, and multidimensional crises. Each service has been designed to tackle specific urban challenges, in alignment with the development principles set by the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, and UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan for 2020-2023.

The Strategic Plan 2020-2023 converts UN-Habitat’s vision of a ‘better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world’ into a results-oriented plan. This plan constitutes UN-Habitat’s own commitment and contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. It encapsulates UN-Habitat’s vision and commitments into four ‘domains of change’: reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban - rural continuum; enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and effective urban crisis prevention and response.¹

UN-Habitat has identified three key outcomes needed to deliver each of these four strategic results. This catalogue provides examples of how to use UN-Habitat’s expertise and experience and its convening capacity in an integrated way to deliver key outcomes and achieve major impacts. Specific challenges can be addressed in a way that maximizes impact across different outcomes (e.g., facilitating more compact urban growth helps to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, improve air quality and protect ecological assets). UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan 2020–2023 underpins this catalogue as it frames how UN-Habitat can assist in achieving its outcomes.



The New Urban Agenda (NUA)

While the SDGs focus on what the world needs to achieve, the New Urban Agenda focuses on how to achieve it and offers an integrated way to scale impact and fast-track acceleration towards the SDGs.² The New Urban Agenda is also key to the fulfilment of the goals and targets of other agendas, all of which have important urban and territorial dimensions. The New Urban Agenda offers significant opportunities to increase coherence and coordination to improve whole of government and whole of society action, working collectively on the four fundamental drivers of change, namely: (a) developing and implementing urban policies at the appropriate level; (b) strengthening urban governance; (c) reinvigorating long-term and integrated urban and territorial planning and design; and (d) supporting effective, innovative and sustainable financing frameworks and instruments.

1 https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-09/strategic_plan_2020-2023.pdf
 2 <https://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf>

How to access information and training on the New Urban Agenda

In 2020, UN-Habitat launched the **Urban Agenda Platform**. This is designed to be the global knowledge portal to gather up-to-date information, training and data to support New Urban Agenda implementation by Member States and stakeholders, and to report on their progress. It contains capacity development tools, including the **New Urban Agenda Illustrated toolkit** (comprised of a handbook and a free, self-paced online course) available in all United Nations official languages, and it captures both quantitative and qualitative updates on the progress of national, local and regional governments, United Nations agencies, the private sector and all other key stakeholders.

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)

The SDGs are an integrated set of Goals and Targets. The achievement of the targets under SDG 11 (“Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”) – to get cities right – has a knock-on and transformative impact on the achievements of targets under other Goals (see Figure II). There are also several “urban-critical” targets under other Goals that are essential to the attainment of transformative urbanization (see Figure I). It is increasingly understood that achieving the Goals requires their localization and collaboration with local actors, including governments, and it is within cities that the localization of the Goals can be most effective.



Figure I “Urban-critical” Sustainable Development Goals and targets



Figure II Interlinkages between Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the other Goals

How to use this Catalogue

Who is this Catalogue for?

This Catalogue is intended for country-level officials such as political and technical senior officers in line ministries; city level officials such as mayors and the heads of relevant technical departments; and funding partners such as heads and programme officers from multi-lateral and bilateral donors (including vertical funds and bilateral development agencies). It will also be useful for United Nations Resident Coordinators in countries where sustainable urbanization is seen as an important development issue and identified as an area of focus in the Common Country Analysis and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. This Catalogue can also be used by other stakeholders and partners to identify areas of support and collaboration with UN-Habitat.



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How is the Catalogue organized?

This Catalogue is organized in the following three sections:

Section I: Introduction. This provides an overview of what is offered and how these services can contribute to the realization of the SDGs and other global commitments, for instance, to work on climate change, refugees and migration.

Section II: Our support to national governments, local governments and stakeholders includes the most up to date overview of UN-Habitat's tried and tested services and offerings, including two new sub-sections dedicated to Monitoring and Reporting for SDG Localization, and Innovation. UN-Habitat regularly receives requests for assistance to address particular challenges faced by cities, regions and countries, so this section is divided into sub-sections that allows readers to quickly locate services that would be most relevant for their context. The sub-sections are clustered in the following themes.

- Ⓐ Urban data, profiling, and monitoring
- Ⓑ Participatory processes
- Ⓒ Policy, legislation, and governance
- Ⓓ Planning and design
- Ⓔ Land, housing, and shelter
- Ⓕ Basic services and infrastructure
- Ⓖ Economy and finance
- Ⓗ Cities and climate change
- Ⓘ Capacity-building
- Ⓙ Monitoring and reporting for SDG Localization
- Ⓚ Innovation

Section III: Our flagship programmes provide updates on UN-Habitat's global Flagship Programmes launched in 2020, which use and build on the tested experience and tools highlighted in Section II while bringing together a global ecosystem of partners and United Nations organizations for scaled-up impact. This updated section is divided into five sub-sections to elaborate the specific elements of each Flagship, with their latest developments. These sub-sections are:



Flagship I:
**Inclusive, Vibrant
Neighbourhoods and
Communities**



Flagship II:
People-centered Smart Cities



Flagship III:
**RISE-UP. Resilient
Settlements for the Urban
Poor**



Flagship IV:
**Inclusive cities: Enhancing
the positive impact of urban
migration**



Flagship V:
SDG Cities

Which services to use and how to combine them: tags for each offering

As clients identify their challenges and pathways to achieve the SDGs, the offerings have been tagged to facilitate a more integrated approach, combining different services which allow maximum impact across SDGs and desired outcomes.

Each entry in this Catalogue is classified through tags based on the following topics to allow for ease of use:



The Sustainable Development Goals: Each item indicates which set of SDG targets the service specifically advances to demonstrate the best fit with prioritized and targeted development strategies.



Domains of Change and Outcome areas (UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan): UN-Habitat offers expertise and services to “*advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace, to improve living conditions for all*”. The right combination of services will allow delivery across the relevant outcome areas for each specific context.

SDGs tags presented in the present Catalogue of Services 2022 edition might differ from that of 2020, as a result of a comprehensive peer-review and updating process on its 2020 edition.

In addition, extra tags are used to highlight:



High COVID-19 relevance: While all items in the Catalogue will support a sustainable and inclusive recovery in the context of this pandemic, items that are particularly relevant for short-term and medium-term COVID-19 response and recovery indicates this level of “high” relevance.



Capacity building: Each service that contains a capacity building element will indicate this tag. Readers will find capacity building services throughout the Catalogue addressing various challenges, as well as specific capacity building offerings in Section II – I. ‘Capacity-building’.

These services can be delivered in a tailored way considering the diversified needs of countries and cities around the world. UN-Habitat can mobilize its global and regional expertise for direct assistance or implement jointly with a broad network of global and local partners. UN-Habitat is also expanding its strategic partnerships with other United Nations agencies for a stronger ‘One UN’ approach. Lastly, in line with UN-Habitat’s capacity development strategy, UN-Habitat is focusing increasingly on knowledge transfer by offering its services online, combining online learning with help-desk functions.

What’s new in the 2022 edition?

The 2022 Catalogue of Services comprises 17 new entries, two new sub-sections, and 16 revised entries, to include newly developed and revised services. The objective of this second edition of the Catalogue of Services is to provide its readers with comprehensive solutions calibrated to the present challenges of urban areas across the world and across the urban-rural continuum. As cities confront manifold crises of utmost importance (climate, health, inequality, conflicts, wars, natural disasters), facilitation of knowledge about recognized and revised solutions is one of UN-Habitat’s priorities. Taking into consideration the necessity for each context to be addressed in a tailored manner, the services offered in this Catalogue can contribute to increased resilience and accelerated recovery while achieving sustainable urban futures through effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

- The newly created Section J (‘Monitoring and reporting for SDG Localization’) features services aimed at



supporting governments at all levels to create and implement the tools and databases that they need to concretize SDG and NUA implementation in their own territories.

- The services presented in new section K ('Innovation') aim to bridge the gap between local governments and the private sector, redefining engagement between private innovators and vulnerable groups to solve urban challenges and develop inclusive and ethical digital solutions.
- The box in Section I, 'How to access information and training on the New Urban Agenda', directs users to tools and trainings specifically developed in 2020 and 2021 for NUA implementation, available on the Urban Agenda Platform.
- Other new services include solutions for COVID-19 tracking (service A.7), vulnerable groups profiling (A.6), gender-based planning and participatory processes (B.6), complex metropolitan management (C.7), capacity-building for urban mobility (I.5), and customizable planning for local governments to implement the NUA and SDGs (D.6).

Meeting this moment

In the two years separating the first and second editions of the Catalogue of Services, several events have brought our world to a rare inflection point: the COVID-19 pandemic that grew from a health emergency to socio-economic crisis of unprecedented proportions; the outbreak of the war in Ukraine; and the unabated climate and ecological crises. The interconnection of 'natural' disasters, conflicts, inequalities and health crises with underlying and perpetual inequities has shed light on the urgency of a paradigm shift. Sustainable urbanization and building more integrated, resilient and inclusive cities and human settlements must be at the core of this shift. As responses to these crises are opportunities to correct past mistakes and think about new solutions, our global agendas must serve as a common compass. Localizing the 2030 Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is a key aspect of this exercise.

Towards the end of 2021, the United Nations Secretary-General released a report titled Our Common Agenda as "an agenda of action designed to accelerate the implementation of existing agreements, including the

Sustainable Development Goals”. One of the elements flagged in this report is the importance of a new social contract between governments and their people and within societies, with housing as a central component. In addition, the report calls for a stronger, more networked and inclusive multilateral system, anchored within the United Nations, which also includes a proposal to establish an Advisory Group on Local and Regional Governments.

The call to action by the Secretary-General aligns well with the priorities laid out by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat: climate action, adequate housing and localization of SDGs.⁴

The 2022 Catalogue of Services synthesizes all available

support from UN-Habitat to enable national, regional and local governments, civil society and private sector actors, grassroots communities and professionals, researchers and academia, donors and financing institutions to respond to the multidimensional challenges we face, and advance together towards a better future for all in an urbanizing world.

Please do not hesitate to reach out to UN-Habitat for further information about any of these services and to discuss how UN-Habitat can tailor a solution to your specific challenges, needs, timeline and goals. Nearly every service and support can be offered remotely using a variety of online tools and methods.

We can be reached at: UNHabitat-GSD@un.org.

3 <https://www.un.org/en/content/common-agenda-report/>
4 https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/05/priorities_2022-2023_adequate_housing_cities_and_climate_change_and_localising_sdgs_04142022.pdf



Section
02

Our support to national governments, local authorities and stakeholders

A. Urban data, profiling and monitoring

A.1. Innovative city-wide slum profiling and enumeration

Summary: An innovative city-wide data-gathering approach for collecting settlement-level data and detailed household information on land tenure, housing, basic services and socioeconomic data. This approach employs a set of tools that are inclusive, affordable and participatory, which ultimately produce evidence-based information towards the development and implementation of pro-poor

and inclusive urban plans, policies, and programmes. With this information (which can easily be kept up to date), cities are able to appropriately plan strategic improvements of informal settlements regarding tenure, housing, settlement plans, open spaces, provision of utilities and services and infrastructure.

Challenges addressed: On average, 1.5 million people become urban dwellers every week. By 2050, the urban population will account for more than two-thirds of the world’s population, with 90 per cent of the increase taking place in Africa and Asia. Most of the informal growth has been in developing countries where slum populations constitute over 30 per cent of the urban population. A lack of accessible, well managed and efficiently used urban information hinders efforts to address this. Innovative, systematic profiling tools in the COVID-19 context are crucial to support vulnerability mapping, access to basic services and targeted cash transfer programmes, for instance, which can ensure no one is left behind.

What UN-Habitat can offer: Developing and prioritizing sound and timely policies, plans and programmes will require complete, reliable and near real-time information. UN-Habitat’s integrated approach, grounded in its experience in pro-poor and participatory enumeration and profiling, provides value for governments to not only build trust and a platform for engaging with communities in informal settlements but, more importantly, use the information to identify the development needs and priorities for

designing development projects like land tenure, housing and settlement improvement, and for better resource planning and allocation. Donor agencies can use this information to get a better understanding of exactly *where* and *what* the issues are in the informal settlements, and *which* interventions they can target for their funding.

At the national level, this approach strengthens the capacity of partners (national governments and CSOs) to promote and implement appropriate land, housing and settlement planning policies, tools and approaches that are pro-poor, gender appropriate, effective, and sustainable. At the local level, this approach has strengthened the relationship between poor urban communities and local government authorities.

Previous applications: The target communities for this support have experienced improved tenure security, enhanced access to basic services and infrastructure and received better and more development projects, including from the private sector. Specific examples of support include:

Region	Country	Location	Context
Africa	Kenya	Nairobi, Mombasa	Strengthen the capacity of change agents to implement and scale up pro-poor land interventions to achieve tenure for the urban poor and improve access to basic services and infrastructure
	Uganda	Mbale, Masaka, Entebbe, Tororo, Arua, Kampala, Kabale, Mbarara, Fort Portal, Hoima, Gulu, Lira, Soroti, Moroto, Jinja	Address the land information requirements of women and men living in slum communities to improve tenure security, inclusive planning and enhance access to basic services and infrastructure
	Namibia	Gobabis	Support the government in its efforts to provide security of tenure to its residents, in particular the poor, women and the vulnerable through the testing and implementation of the Flexible Land Tenure Act
	Zambia	Lusaka	Support Lusaka City Council in improving the tenure security of communities in Kanyama Settlement through the issuance of 30-year occupancy licences
Latin America	Colombia	Soacha	Improve the security of tenure planning for the displaced population in ‘Ciudadela Sucre’ settlement through an inclusive neighbourhood upgrading project

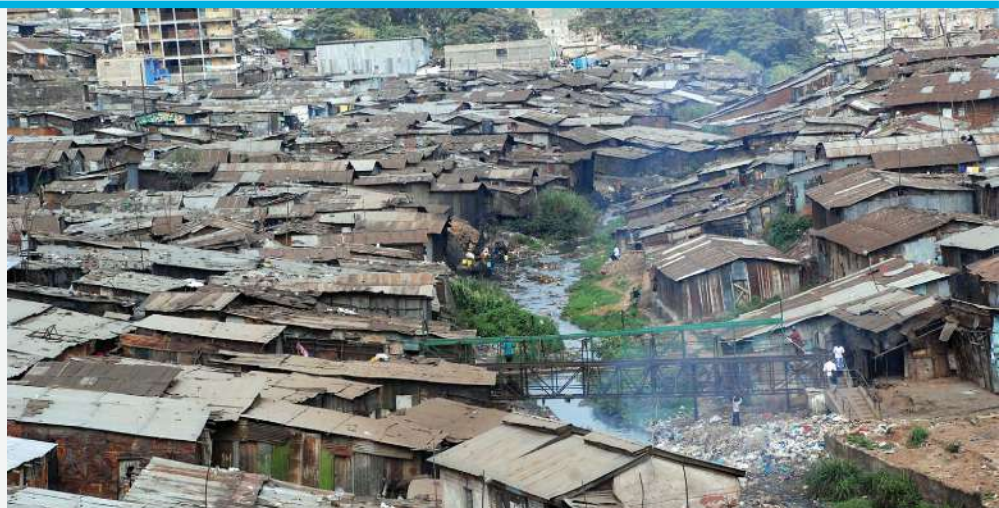
Asia Pacific	Philippines	Muntinlupa, Valenzuela, Davao	Consolidate household information through enumeration and mapping activities in order to enhance barangay shelter planning, tenure security and community development initiatives (e.g. basic infrastructure, savings etc.)
	Nepal	Ratnanagar Municipality Target settlements in Dolakha District	Municipality-wide mapping and household enumeration of all informal settlements for inclusive planning, identification of development priorities and improved service delivery Settlement profiling and household enumeration in post-earthquake context resulting in identifying the extent of the earthquake impacts, improving tenure security of poor households and participatory settlement planning

Duration of support: The duration of the support for the process typically takes from four to six months depending on the size of the city.

Kenya, Mtwapa consultations
© PSUP UN-Habitat Kenya



Mathare slum, Nairobi, Kenya
© UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme](#)

A.2. Urban Migration Profiles



Summary: Comprehensive assessments of the status of migration governance at the urban level. Urban Migration Profiles shape a sound evidence base on migration in cities by providing an overview on 1) the migration situation and current governance developments, both at national and local level; 2) mapping of all relevant stakeholders; 3) mapping of the respect for immigrants’ human rights and their access to services, especially housing rights; and 4) tailored priorities to be addressed by the local authorities and with the support of local stakeholders.

Challenges addressed: Social and spatial exclusion and barriers to access basic services present important challenges for the enjoyment of rights and opportunities by migrants, serve to erode and damage social cohesion and create exclusive and divided communities. Urban Migration Profiles particularly focus on the importance of easing access to adequate housing as a vector for socioeconomic inclusion and preventing land issues potentially resulting in displacement. Migrants in a vulnerable situation tend to experience more difficulties in accessing housing compared to native-born populations. They are often prone to living in poor conditions, such as overcrowding, and are more vulnerable to forced evictions and homelessness.

What UN-Habitat can offer: Urban Urban Migration Profiles aim to develop knowledge on the local dimensions of migration in cities, including the challenges of access to different services. They are also used to establish city

priorities and strengthen data-based decision-making processes, and to provide a basis for constructive dialogue between the different city actors. UN-Habitat, as the agency mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to lead promotion of sustainable urbanization and adequate housing for all, contributes to these goals with substantive input on thematic issues, like ensuring the representation of vulnerable groups, urban planning and right to adequate housing.

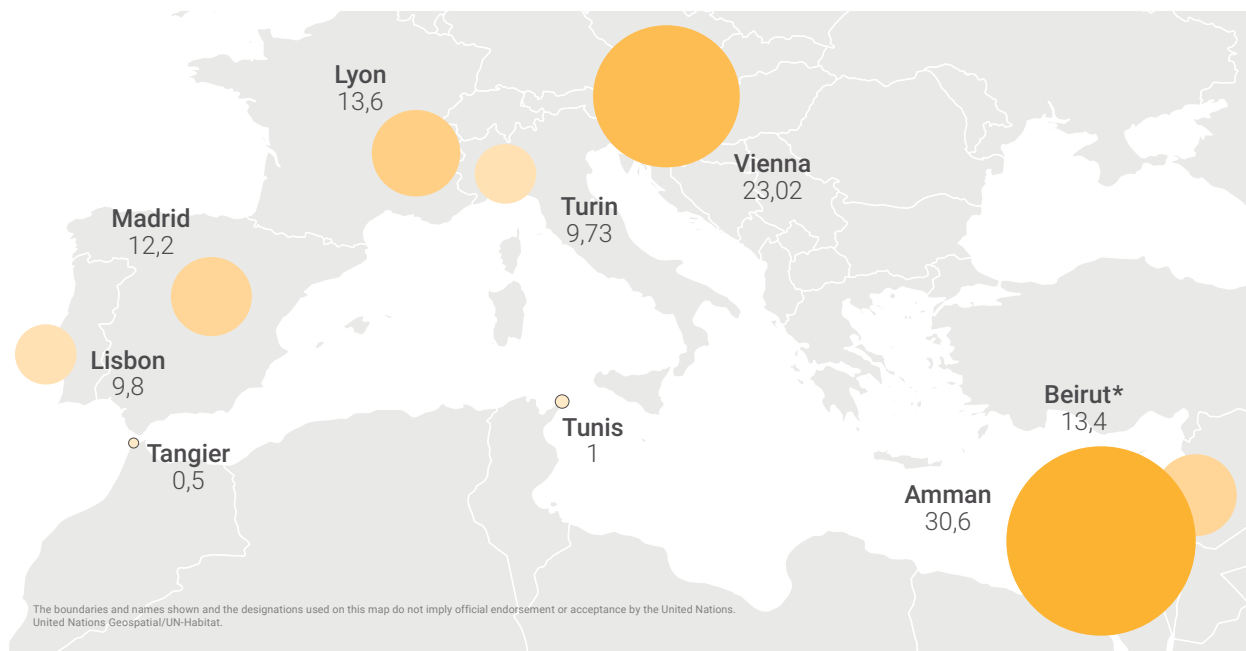
Duration of support: Depending on the context, it typically takes nine months to establish Urban Migration Profiles; and six additional months for the development of priorities and action plans.

Previous applications: The Urban Migration Profiles have been successfully piloted in the framework of the first phase of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration project (MC2CM) within nine cities – Amman, Beirut, Lisbon, Lyon, Madrid, Tangier, Tunis, Turin and Vienna. The methodology is now mainstreamed and scaled up as part of other UN-Habitat interventions in the field of migration, including the new multi-agency project, “Fostering local communities of solidarity for migrants and refugees from Venezuela.” In 2019–2020, UN-Habitat has developed Migration Profiles for the cities of Rabat and Casablanca (Morocco), and Sfax and Sousse (Tunisia). The process has been initiated for the cities of Dortmund (Germany), Grenoble (France), Irbid (Jordan), Naples (Italy), Oujda (Morocco), Ramallah (Palestine) and Sevilla (Spain).

City Migration Profile/Priority Papers Process



Percentage of migrant population in the nine piloting cities



TESTIMONY

“[The Urban Migration Profiles] have given us [the Municipality of Sousse] the capacity and tools to create a map of stakeholders, as well as the data that have been critical in our response [within the COVID-19 crisis] to the needs of most vulnerable migrants.”

Ms. Imen Ouardani,
Deputy Mayor of Sousse, Tunisia

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [MC2CM Project Website](#)
- [Synthesis of Urban Migration Profiles of Phase 1](#)

A.3. City Resilience Profiling



Summary: An approach that allows cities to build up their resilience profiles and subsequently develop resilience strategies. Using the City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT), UN-Habitat supports local governments to lead the change process necessary to address resilience challenges in their cities through broad and cross-sector data collection, diagnosis and assessment of resilience, stakeholder engagement and action planning, and preparations for investments. The support is flexible and tailored to adapt to the diverse challenges that all cities may face. The main outputs of the process are the recommendations or actions for resilience.

Challenges addressed: Any city's resilience faces broad challenges which can be exacerbated by inadequate data, diagnostics, and a lack of inclusive engagement, planning and investments.

What UN-Habitat can offer: This service considers social and environmental aspects of human settlements in the urban systems model, diagnosis and recommended actions by building on the Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning (for further information please see service H.3). In the analysis of ongoing plans, programmes and initiatives, UN-Habitat also takes stock of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) under the Paris Agreement to ensure resulting actions for resilience are aligned. This fosters greater understanding by local stakeholders of their risks, including those due to climate change, and supports the development and implementation of plans to increase climate and disaster resilience. The consultation with national governments also ensures alignment with nationally agreed goals and targets.

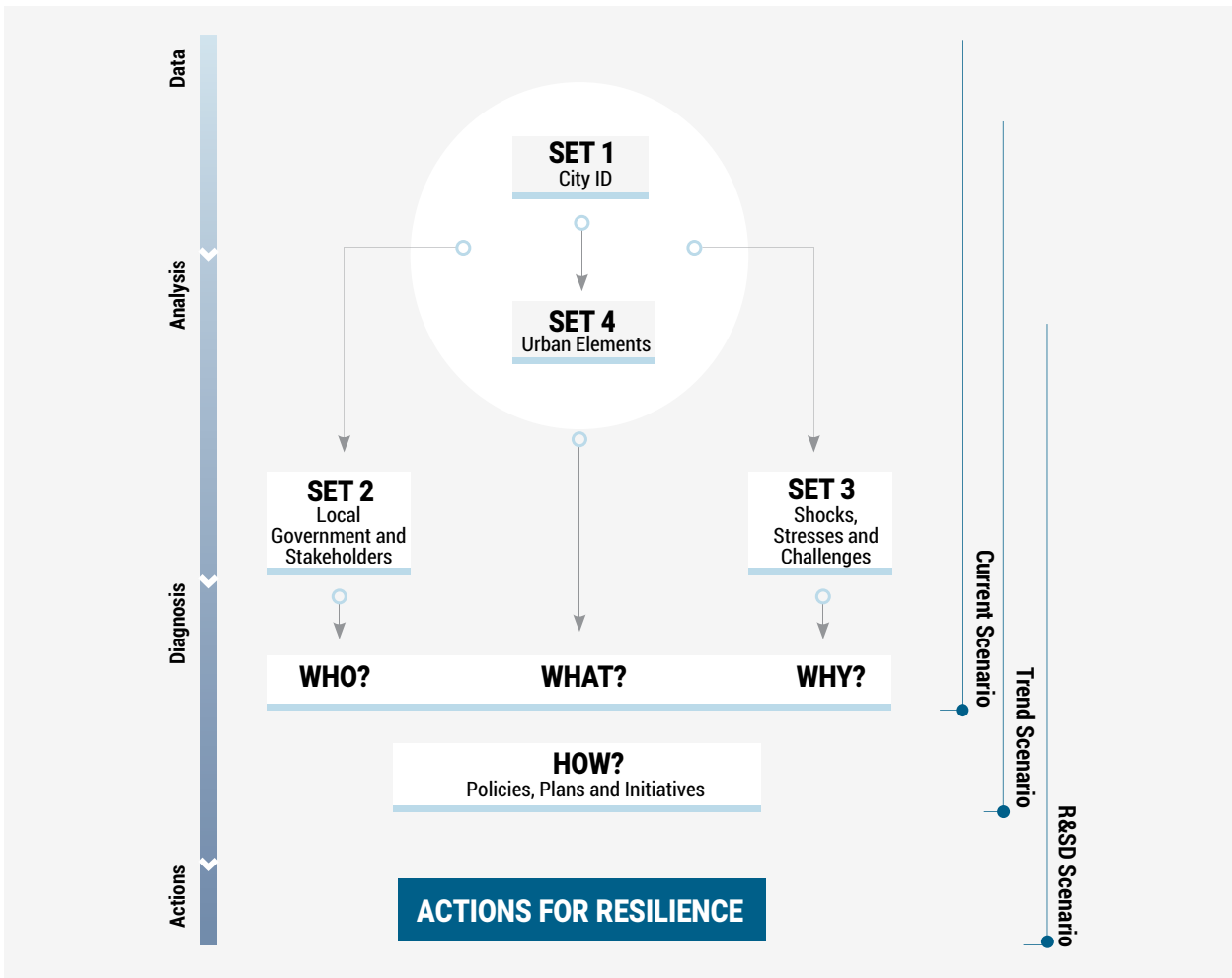
Engaging civil society members also helps to ensure that marginalized groups have a voice in the analysis, diagnosis and mapping of actions for resilience building. Data collection is disaggregated where possible by gender and diversity, and the approach includes a gender strategy;

human rights strategy; children, youth, and older persons' strategy; and a disabilities strategy. This support is sufficiently flexible to adapt to the diverse challenges that all cities may face. The initial research and data collection conditions the subsequent stages of implementation, including risk mapping, analysis and the main output of the process, recommendations or actions for resilience. The advantage of this approach is that it is tailored to each city and captures uniqueness as opposed to imposing solutions that may not be appropriate or realistic.

Duration of support: Estimated time frame per city is between 9 and 12 months, with each stage as follows: initiation (one to two months); hazard profiling (two months); urban systems understanding (two to five months); modelling (two months) and implementation actions for resilience (two months).

Previous applications: This has been applied on five continents: Latin America (Asuncion, Paraguay; Teresina, Brazil; San Jose, Costa Rica); Europe (Barcelona, Spain); Africa (Dakar, Senegal; Maputo, Mozambique); Oceania (Port Vila, Vanuatu); and Asia (Yakutsk, Russian Federation) and is applicable globally. Through the capacity built and the three main implementation outputs in each city, the accomplishments of this service can be defined at three levels: (i) local level (increased commitments to build resilience in cities, increased resilience building capacity and a shared vision of resilience among key stakeholders at the local level); (ii) the regional/national level (partner cities inform their national or regional urban resilience strategies and practices; the capacity developed can be mobilized to scale within the country; cities are better positioned to facilitate reporting on national progress towards global development goals); and (iii) the global level (all *recommendations for actions for resilience* are aligned with the SDGs and their targets, allowing partner cities to track and report on their progress using the resilience baseline and the monitoring of impact as actions).

CRPT Implementation Process Diagram. Source: CRGP (2018).



TESTIMONY

“We adapt the term of resilience to that concept of attending to what cannot be postponed. UN-Habitat’s City Resilience Global Programme has been key in identifying actions for resilience among our implementation priorities”

Mr. Mario Ferreiro,
Former Mayor of Asunción, Paraguay

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [UN-Habitat website](#)
- [Urban resilience hub](#)
- [Urban resilience library](#)

A.4. Supporting local alignment with the SDGs through unique SDG profiles



Summary: Supporting cities to align their priorities and investments with SDGs and SDG impact. This service promotes policy coherence and helps countries to achieve their SDG targets through project development. It uses the SDG Project Assessment Tool to support the development of inclusive, sustainable, and effective urban projects in alignment with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. It aims at both improving the technical quality of projects and promoting an enabling environment for its implementation in the long run. It is designed to be tailored to individual projects, responding to different cities' priorities and allows for assessing how a specific project addresses the SDGs by creating a unique SDG profile.

Challenges addressed: Cities face a diverse set of challenges in the areas of urban planning, transport, resilience, and data, which impacts the achievement of the SDGs. Yet, very often, the relationship of urban interventions and projects with SDGs is not clearly understood.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat acts as a neutral facilitator in guiding urban projects to maximize their impact by localizing the SDGs, safeguarding standards for urban development, and ensuring that different interests are met and addressed in the process, including

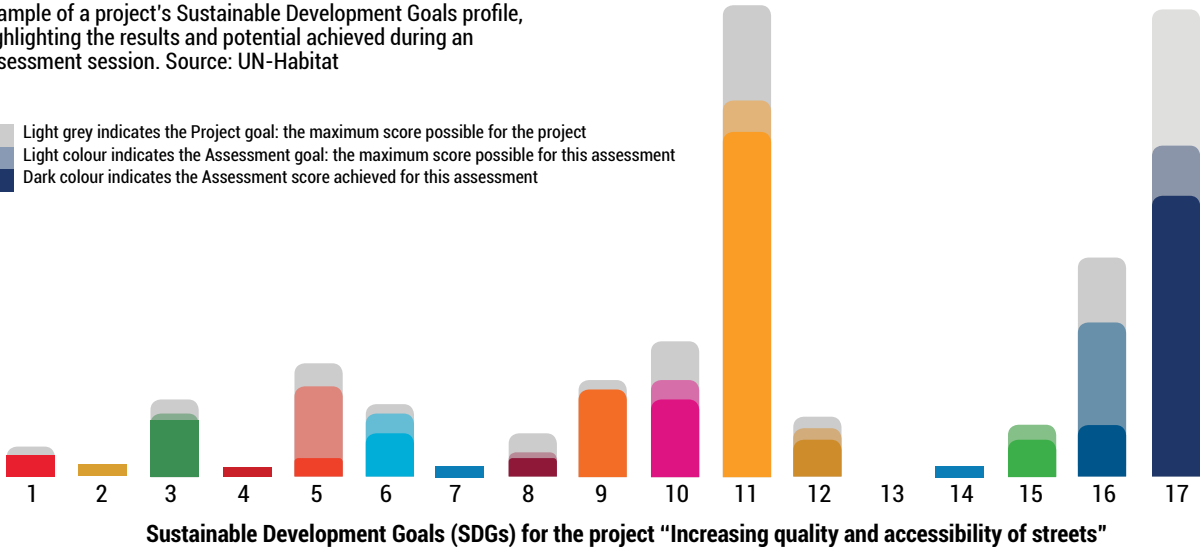
cross-cutting issues and a long-term holistic approach. The assessment of project development through the SDG tool will be supported by an online platform where results of the assessments can be discussed and compared between the city and key partners. An online Knowledge Management Platform (hosted by the Urban Agenda Platform) will be used to disseminate results and facilitate knowledge exchange. The online module enables the partial implementation of the SDG tool remotely, reducing the necessity of travel and costs. (See also Flagship 5 on SDG Cities).

Duration of support: The SDG tool will be applied in conjunction with key milestones during the course of the two-year programme, on average four times for each project (24 weeks per milestone).

Previous applications: The SDG tool is currently being applied in 19 cities across 10 countries globally: South-East Asia (Philippines, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, Vietnam, Myanmar); Africa (Nigeria, South Africa); Europe (Turkey) and South America (Brazil). It has been developed based on a participatory process where key partners have agreed on a selected set of tailored sustainability principles that meets the needs of the 19 cities and the objectives and the scope of the 30 related projects.

Example of a project's Sustainable Development Goals profile, highlighting the results and potential achieved during an assessment session. Source: UN-Habitat

Light grey indicates the Project goal: the maximum score possible for the project
 Light colour indicates the Assessment goal: the maximum score possible for this assessment
 Dark colour indicates the Assessment score achieved for this assessment



Prioritisation of sustainability principles from the SDG Project Assessment Tool.

©UN-Habitat



TESTIMONY

“The SDG Tool session noticeably improved the development of the project. The session brought together different programme partners and thereby created a common understanding about the expectations for the project. Sharing different perspectives openly helped us to resolve issues before they occur. The SDG Tool session also improved the municipality’s capacity to frame urban projects in a more comprehensive and integrated way.”

Ms. Duygu Ece Kızılarslan,
Public Works Directorate, Cankaya Municipality, Ankara, Turkey

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Main documents of the SDG Project Assessment Tool:

[Knowledge management platform: SDG tool page](#)

[SDG tool General Framework](#)

[SDG tool Users Guide](#)

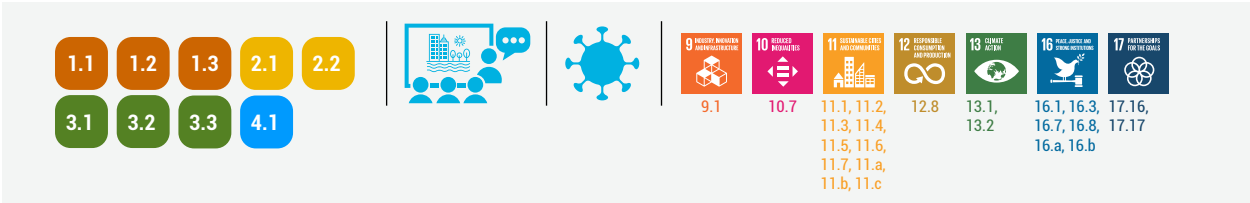
Other resources:

[SDG tool video](#)

[Story: New SDG project assessment tool aiming for better urban projects](#)

[The Global Future Cities Programme website](#)

A.5. Urban and spatial profiling for strategic planning and sustainable development



Summary: Assessments of regions, cities, or neighbourhoods offer a deeper understanding of the natural and built environment and existing dynamics, allowing for evidence-based guidance on future actions and priorities. Profiling generates and presents multi-sectoral, multicohort, spatialized data that is analysed within an area-based framework: to help build national databases of comparable data; to guide humanitarian, development, and local government actors on strategic actions; and to inform coordination and programming, among other outcomes. This service builds on remotely available data, information from stakeholders and direct data collection, and uses participatory approaches. It also integrates a capacity building tool for local stakeholders to facilitate informed decision making that engenders community ownership and buy-in, ultimately improving social cohesion.

Challenges addressed: This service addresses the lack of data and capacity gaps for data management on multiple levels. Very often, socioeconomic/demographic information is not overlaid with spatial assessments and thus makes it difficult to identify areas with multiple deprivations. The lack of evidence prevents effective targeting of humanitarian responses and urban development assistance for bridging the humanitarian/development gap. The lack of local government capacity

for data, systematic data management and knowledge management also impede the planning process.

What UN-Habitat can offer: Urban and spatial profiling is a rapid means of enabling and implementing planning principles at various territorial scales. UN-Habitat brings together technical expertise in planning, data analytics, urban economy, finance, and governance to develop integrated profiles for cities, neighbourhoods and settlements, including those hosting displaced persons, to guide urban planning actions in line with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. The profiling process is centred around public participation and community engagement. The analyses and recommendations benefit from various UN-Habitat tools and approaches to feed local planning processes and ensure equitable access and social inclusivity to address the needs and aspirations of the community. This can improve resilience and social stability while planning for the accommodation of increasing populations in a sustainable way. Profiling can also assess disadvantaged neighbourhoods within an area-based framework to help build a national database of comparable data and inform coordination and programming. Neighbourhood profiles can be shared via online portals to allow for an interactive geoportal presenting the mapped data of all neighbourhoods and a database of comparable indicators.

Data collection during the profiling of Karm El-Zeytoun, a disadvantaged neighbourhood in Beirut Governorate, Lebanon.
©UN-Habitat

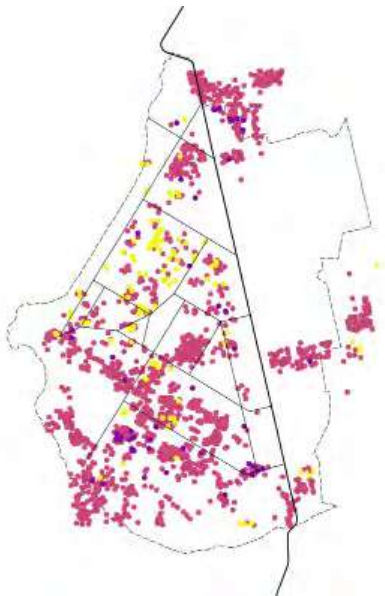


In displacement and post-crisis contexts, as the bridge between traditional humanitarian and development agencies, UN-Habitat can support the development of strategic visioning and scenario-building to engage and inform national and local authorities and actors/donors to facilitate greater area-based approaches towards a collective urban response

Using its Spatial Profiling for Settlements Sheltering Displaced Populations Tool, UN-Habitat can provide recommendations for effective priority investment opportunities to humanitarian actors in the short, medium, and long-term, and entry points to coordinate

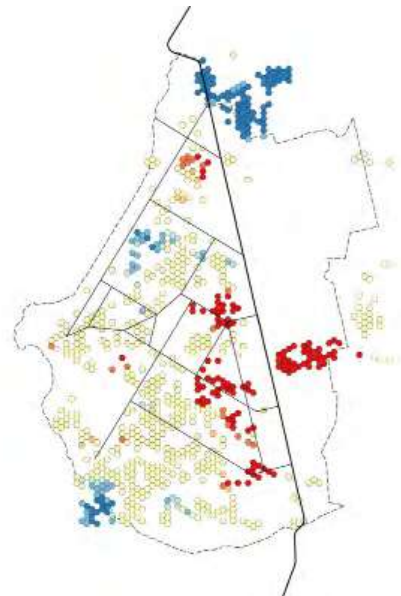
urban strategies, initiating development of priority projects across scales. In such contexts, the earlier this expertise can be shared, the more it has potential to build capacity within local and national governments for improved management of emergency responses, uptake of recovery proposals and more rapid shifts towards development priorities and attainment of the SDGs. (See B.3. and C.1. for more on UN-Habitat’s contributions in humanitarian and protracted crisis contexts). Depending on the needs, UN-Habitat produces profiles alongside detailed diagnosis assessments, strategic recommendations and action plans to guide sustainable development.

RENTER

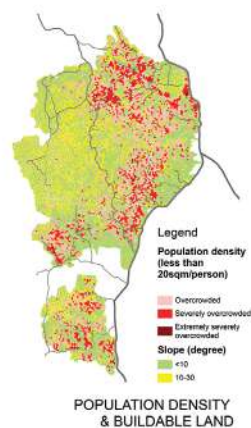
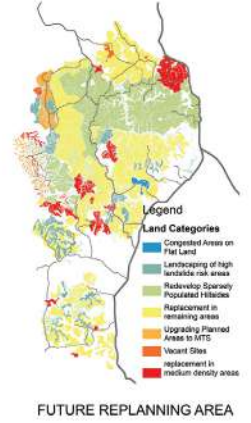
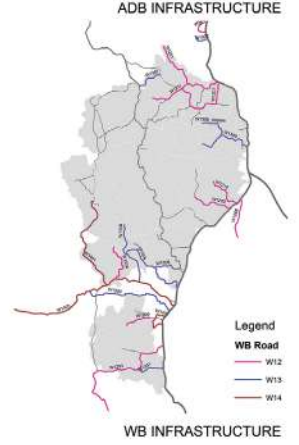
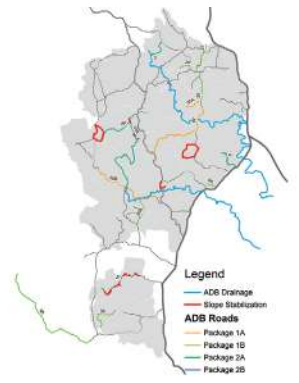
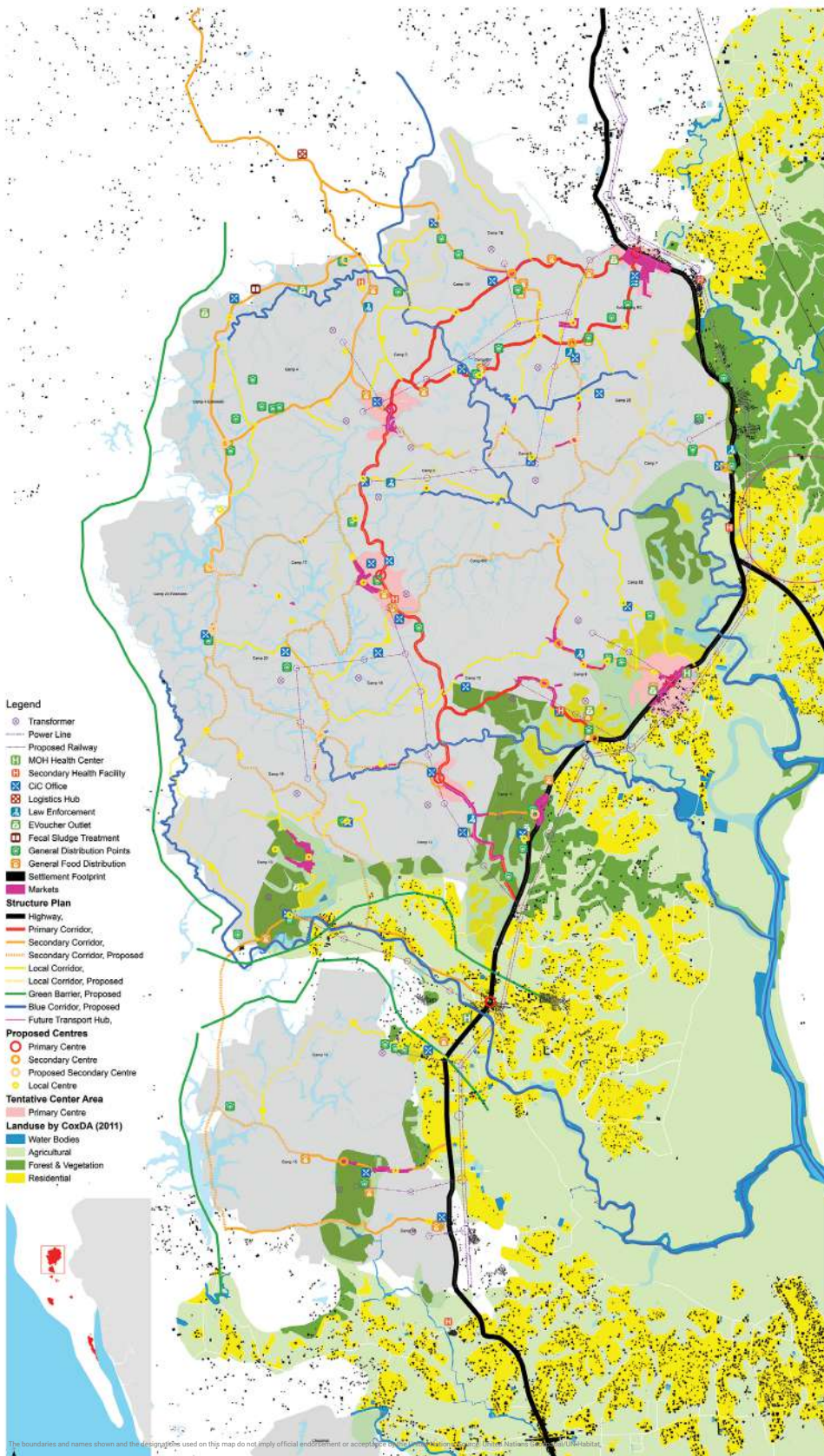


Renting providers (geo-spatialized surveyed households).

RENT PRICE HOTSPOT ANALYSIS



Monthly rent hotspot analysis (geo-spatialized surveyed households).



Example of UN-Habitat's support to coordination of infrastructure interventions in the Rohingya Camps of Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh. In the context of Cox's Bazar, UN-Habitat has used spatial profiling processes to navigate recommendations for infrastructure interventions and projects within the refugee camps to promote increased accessibility for inhabitants. This was also done to align with urban development considerations and prioritization of vital humanitarian response projects.

Profiling was carried out in consultation with various stakeholders (refugee settlements area in both Uganda and Ethiopia)

©UN-Habitat



Duration of support: Depending on the request and context (information availability, collaboration with local government), the preparations and profiling process will take between two and twelve months, with additional periods needed to support visioning processes and project prioritization. Profiling can include tailored, integrated support to address complex challenges such as environmental and socio-economic resilience in the context of climate change and migration fluxes.

Previous applications: Urban and spatial profiling has been applied across the globe in varying geographies. For example, this has been done in Lebanon, Ethiopia, Somalia, Uganda, Guinea-Bissau, Haiti, Mexico, Indonesia, and Myanmar. City profiles were developed for 17 cities in Saudi Arabia under the Future Saudi Cities Programme. It has been effectively applied in humanitarian contexts like Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh, the Kakuma/Kalobeyei Refugee Settlements in Kenya as well as in Iraq, Syria, Yemen, and Libya.

The profiles provide an evidence base to guide planning decisions in cities. For example, in the Saudi Arabia city profiles, a diagnosis of issues and challenges led to strategic recommendation and action plans, including

scenarios rerouting the metro lines to improve access and social inclusion in Madinah city. In Lebanon, UN-Habitat partners with UNICEF and [RELIEF Centre](#) to conduct profiling of disadvantaged neighbourhoods to share and compare indicators and analysis on an online geoportal. (See detailed results in "Project Coverage" on the [UN-Habitat UNICEF neighbourhood profiles portal](#)). In Cox's Bazaar, the introduction of wider scale settlement profiling and spatial planning, linking investment principles demonstrated the need for spatial coordination and urban planning expertise in emergency contexts to the World Bank, Asian Development Bank, UNHCR, IOM and other United Nations agencies. In Ethiopia, the city profiles were used through a detailed survey to spatially understand the key thematic development dynamics of the city to propose evidence-based strategies and projects that responded to quantitative and qualitative data.

Khorog City, Tajikistan, exemplifies an integrated approach, as the city is highly vulnerable to extreme hazards exacerbated by the climate change impacts due to its geography and physical features. UN-Habitat partnered with other organizations and the regional and local governments to build a socio-economically and environmentally resilient city in mountainous areas of Central Asia.

TESTIMONY

“Thank you, UN-Habitat, for the considered work that you did for Kebribeyah and the quick response, which we have never experienced from other organizations.”

Mr Hussien Muhumed,
Mayor Kebribeyah City, Ethiopia

“This is precisely the kind of work that should be done for all refugee-hosting areas in Uganda to show the potential ways forward.”

Mr. Vincent Byendaimira,
Director, Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development, Uganda

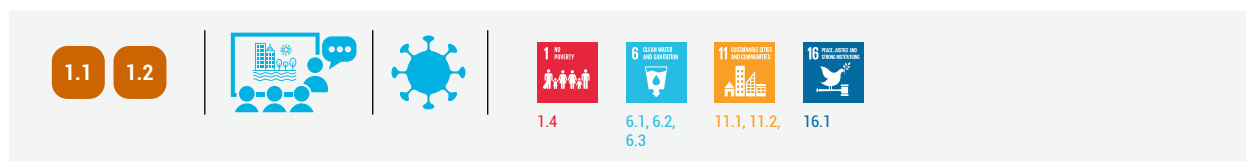
“The urban analysis, findings and recommendations presented here are incredibly important and need to be prioritized to achieve the goal that we are striving for. [...] And my hope in this regard is that together with UN-Habitat, partner agencies, like SECO and AKDN, and with the support of the government we will be successful in transforming Khorog into a resilient city for future generations.”

Yodgor Fayzov,
Governor of GBAO (Regional Government), Tajikistan

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Portal of UN-Habitat-UNICEF neighbourhood profiles](#) which includes an indicator database and a geoportal, as well as individual profiles
- UN-Habitat-UNICEF neighbourhood profile [video](#)
- Some of the published print neighbourhood profiles (Tabbaneh, El-Qobbeh and Jabal Mohsen) and the Tyre City Profile are found on [this page](#); and the Tripoli City Profile is available on [this page](#)
- [Article](#) about city profiling training for municipalities in Turkey
- [Article](#) about using the tool for COVID-19 response in Kakuma/Kalobeyi refugee settlements
- Learn more about the [integrated spatial plan](#) and the [Urban Lab approach](#) in Khorog City, Tajikistan

A.6 Assessing vulnerabilities, socio-economic situations, and facilities for inclusive cities



Summary: In order for cities to address challenges of inequality and deprivation, they must understand where these challenges are most acute and why. UN-Habitat and its partners provide this detailed context by mapping the vulnerabilities in cities, particularly within areas where the urban poor live. This involves the identification of settlements of interest, assessment of access to shared facilities based on primary data, identification of factors of vulnerabilities, generation of vulnerability data layers, analysis of data and engagement with urban authorities on application of data for decision making.

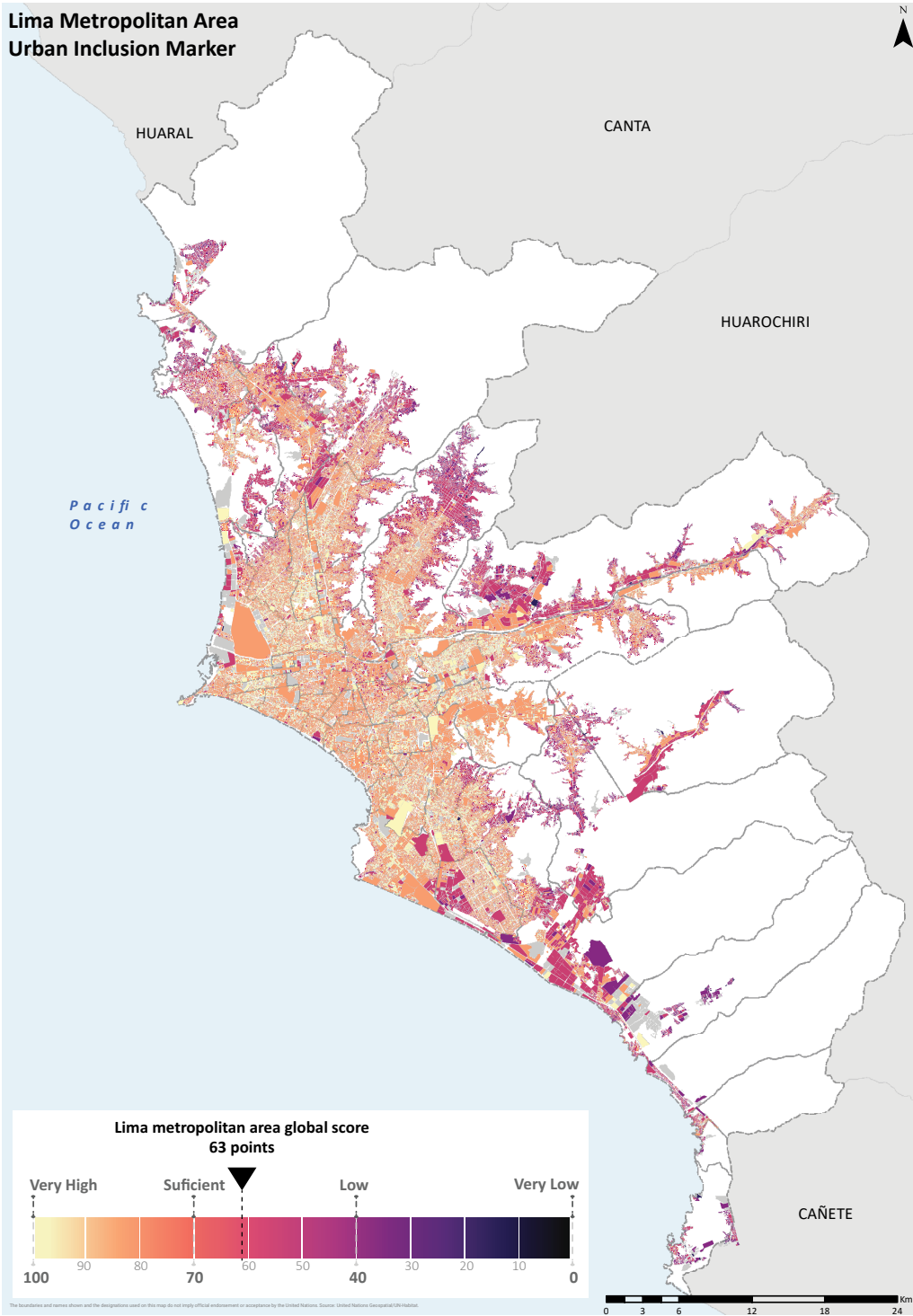
Challenge Addressed: Vast spatial inequalities within and among urban settlements exacerbate segregation and social stratification. However, urban authorities and stakeholders face a shortage of dependable data and knowledge on the extent and barriers to spatial and socio-economic inclusion. A stronger understanding of these issues is necessary to inform policies and actions towards greater inclusion of marginalized groups and enhanced social cohesion. The collection of qualitative data on issues such as marginalized residents' life aspirations, perceptions of their own neighbourhoods and access to or assessment of public services and infrastructure is often also lacking. Furthermore, the costly production of spatialized data has led to outdated datasets in many cities, which poses a problem for precarious settlements as incomplete or inaccurate data tends to hide intra-municipal segregation patterns. Moreover, the lack of multi-sectorial spatialized information prevents governments from proposing holistic strategies to tackle fundamental gaps vulnerable communities.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has developed a diverse suite of tools and approaches that provide cities with the information needed to ensure inclusive and responsive policies and investments. Using its tailored tools and approaches to vulnerability mapping, UN-Habitat

supports urban authorities to initiate spatially targeted interventions guided by data. UN-Habitat generates fit-for-purpose, spatially disaggregated information that enables cities to identify patterns and severity of deprivation across the urban grid or landscape to map facilities, vulnerabilities and trends in a spatialized manner. It guides cities and urban authorities in identification of survey areas, preparation of survey tools (including configuration of field data collection apps), training data collection teams, data analysis, identification of factors of vulnerabilities, creation and processing of data layers using Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation technologies, and the application of data outputs in decision-making.

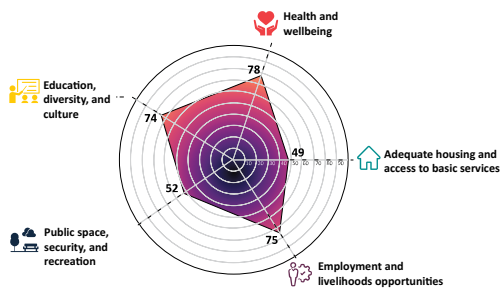
UN-Habitat also deploys the Urban Inclusion Marker, a georeferenced index that enables cities to locally measure factors relating to the spatial, social, economic, and cultural inclusion of inhabitants. The results clarify the inclusion potential of the measured territory, making the communities and territories facing inclusion challenges more visible. The Marker tool can be applied at the city level, as well as at neighbourhood level, and can address informal and formal settlements, according to data availability. It is universally applicable and provides information for decision-making to local and national governments to promote inclusive cities, including those experiencing growth and migration, where access to rights services and opportunities are currently constrained by socio-economic and spatial/territorial differentials. This is done by measuring multi-sectorial indicators related to five key dimensions: (i) access to adequate housing and basic services; (ii) access to public space, security and recreation; (iii) access to education, culture and diversity; (iv) access to health and wellbeing; and (v) access to employment and economic opportunities. Finally, the Urban Inclusion Marker also considers inclusive governance in the efforts to promote more inclusive urban environments.

Lima Metropolitan Area Urban Inclusion Marker



Urban Inclusion Marker main findings

- Adequate housing. Quality of housing deficit and access to basic services, especially in the peripheral territories and districts of El Callao, North Lima, East Lima, and South Lima.
- Peripheries without accessibility to economic agglomerations and sources of employment. Unemployment is concentrated in the districts of El Callao and Lima Norte. Poor access to health facilities in the outskirts of North, East, South Lima, and Callao.
- Exposure to negative environmental factors in El Callao and Lima Centro. Poor coverage of cultural facilities in Metropolitan Lima and educational facilities in El Callao and the peripheries of North, East, and South Lima.
- Low socioeconomic diversity in the territory.
- Low coverage of quality public spaces and green area per capita. Insecurity is concentrated in the districts of El Callao and Cercado Lima.



UN-Habitat also produces 'socioeconomic profiles' derived from household surveys that collect traditional indicators at the settlement level while capturing residents' notions of their neighbourhoods. This allows cities to assess households' sociodemographic and economic situation, residential mobility, access to community equipment and services, and the population's perception of the quality of life and their community. It can be implemented in formal and informal urban settlements, with customization according to the location and partner government's needs. Effective collaboration between local and national governments and territorial stakeholders are promoted throughout to collect all necessary data and implement policies that lead to more inclusive urban environments. Depending on the needs of governments, support can also be tailored for designing systematic approaches to mapping vulnerable populations through a census and survey approach, which is done through: (a) identification of areas of vulnerability; (b) action to accelerate inclusion in relevant services; and (c) monitoring via geoprocessing platforms shared with municipalities for effective follow-up. These approaches can be complemented with UN-Habitat's Quick Participatory Mapping methodology to collect primary data aimed at evaluating and monitoring the coverage and quality of urban infrastructure and services (e.g., urban and construction regularization, infrastructure for mobility, housing standards, water supply, sewerage system, rainwater, drainage system, postal services, accessibility, public lighting and electricity) within settlements, recognizing that they are not homogeneous spaces (see also A.1 for approaches

to profiling and enumerating slums specifically). This methodology examines micro-scale internal infrastructure disparities using the 'micro-area' (defined as a territorially continuous space with a relatively high degree of internal homogeneity and high heterogeneity in relation to other surrounding areas) as a unit of analysis. Mapping is carried out in rapid manner, as it leverages the involvement of key informants who know the territories with local networks already set up.

UN-Habitat subsequently develops targeted strategies to support governments to improve the living conditions of its inhabitants and to promote social inclusion and environmental sustainability for many marginalized groups (in terms of income, race, gender, disabilities, amongst others). In the context of COVID-19 and other public health issues, the data produced through these methods can be employed to assess the vulnerability of COVID-19 spread in settlements—by collecting information such as the frequency and quality of water supply, overcrowding, dweller's age, and most common health conditions—and to prioritize the settlements most vulnerable to spread.

Duration of support: The exact approach deployed and timeframe for support to a city can vary and depends on the specific context (e.g., size of the city), needs, availability of georeferenced and updated data, resources and the level of details desired in the final product. Settlement level data mapping may require two weeks, while city-wide data mapping may take from one to six months. The time required to produce a 'socioeconomic

'Quick Participatory Mapping' in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

©UN-Habitat/
Raphael Lima



profile' depends on the size and number of settlements surveyed, number of interviews, availability of previous georeferenced data, number of field agents, and level of awareness of the local population to participate. A typical timeframe is six months. The construction of a tailored Urban Inclusion Marker could take three months in cities with updated information and from four to six months in cities with a lack of information. For the use of the Marker by local staff (local/national governments and territorial stakeholders), a week of training will be provided to include methodology transfer and basic knowledge sharing to analyse the results of the Marker. The Quick Participatory Mapping methodology takes between two to six months for the preparations and profiling process, depending on the territory assessed. Moreover, the Urban Inclusion Marker uses open software to guarantee the implementation of the tool in the medium-and-long term by governments.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has been collecting data and helping cities to improve the rights, quality of life and integration of vulnerable communities in urban spaces and settlements for decades. This experience is woven into other support, services and tools discussed throughout the Catalogue. The Urban Inclusion Marker, socioeconomic profiles, and Quick Participatory Mapping methodology have been deployed to support urban areas in Latin America and can be applied and tailored to any context. Quick Participatory Mapping, for example, has been applied to improve the delivery of public services and socioeconomic integration of favelas with Pacifying Police Units in Rio de Janeiro in partnership with the Pereira Passos Municipal Institute for Urban Planning of Rio de Janeiro's City Hall, directly benefiting roughly 711,000 dwellers in 208 settlements.

In 2020 and 2021 alone, UN-Habitat implemented data-collection exercises for facilities and vulnerabilities mapping in 14 slums and informal settlements located in Kenya, Uganda, and South Sudan. The surveys identified key vulnerabilities among urban poor communities as well as the shortcomings of interventions which are not informed by data and clear sustainability plans. In Kenya, a survey was undertaken in five slums (settlements) in Nairobi and all informal areas of Kisumu, Nakuru and Kilifi. In South



Field agent carrying out data collection for 'Socioeconomic profiles' in Maceió, Brazil. ©UN-Habitat

Sudan, the survey covered the whole of Juba Municipality, which includes many informal settlement areas. Findings from these surveys were used to inform COVID-19-related local policy responses and interventions in the various settlements and thereby improved efficiency and effectiveness in the delivery of services. For example, by identifying communities/spaces with limited WASH facilities, governments were able to direct partners to set up WASH facilities in neighbourhoods where they were most needed.

COVID-19 local response in Complexo da Maré, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

© UN-Habitat



TESTIMONY

“This partnership with UN-Habitat and the Pereira Passos Institute will expand, strengthen and make our database safer, enabling it to portray more accurately the reality of the people who live in the grotas. Furthermore, this agreement will bring onboard different perspectives and experiences, which has already contributed to our decision-making and to the promotion of more assertive public policies for the people of Alagoas.”

Fabrcio Marques

Secretary for Planning and Management of the Government of the State of Alagoas, discussing the use of socioeconomic profiles.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity](#)
[Quick Participatory Mapping: Rio de Janeiro](#)

A.7. COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness Tracking Platform



Summary: When cities can identify where COVID-19 is most prevalent, they can address the root causes of spread to improve plans and policies and to increase resilience. The city-based COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness Tracking Platform uses global metrics to provide critical and often unavailable information from cities around the world. The tracker provides information that is critical for protecting populations and informing resilience and recovery strategies and future responses to global pandemics. The COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness tracker for cities is a unique scoring mechanism that integrates a range of data points to provide a 'COVID-19 Readiness Score' and a 'COVID-19 Responsiveness Score' on a scale of 0-100.

Challenges addressed: The world's cities are generally reacting quickly to the unprecedented urban humanitarian crisis caused by COVID-19 and its impacts, and how they respond is critical to protect their population, halt the pandemic and set the scene for resilience and recovery. One of the most significant challenges raised by many local city leaders remains the lack of local level data to help them respond better to the COVID-19 pandemic. It is critical for leaders to be able to identify where their resources can do the greatest good and where the needs are most urgent. Accordingly, this tracker is one of UN-Habitat's evidence-based tools that supports and informs local decision-making processes.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is responding to a growing volume of requests from both national and local governments to help them prepare for, prevent, respond to and recover from the COVID-19 pandemic using an evidence-based approach. Building on more than 40 years of urban experience, UN-Habitat has focused on supporting cities in their local responses to the crisis.

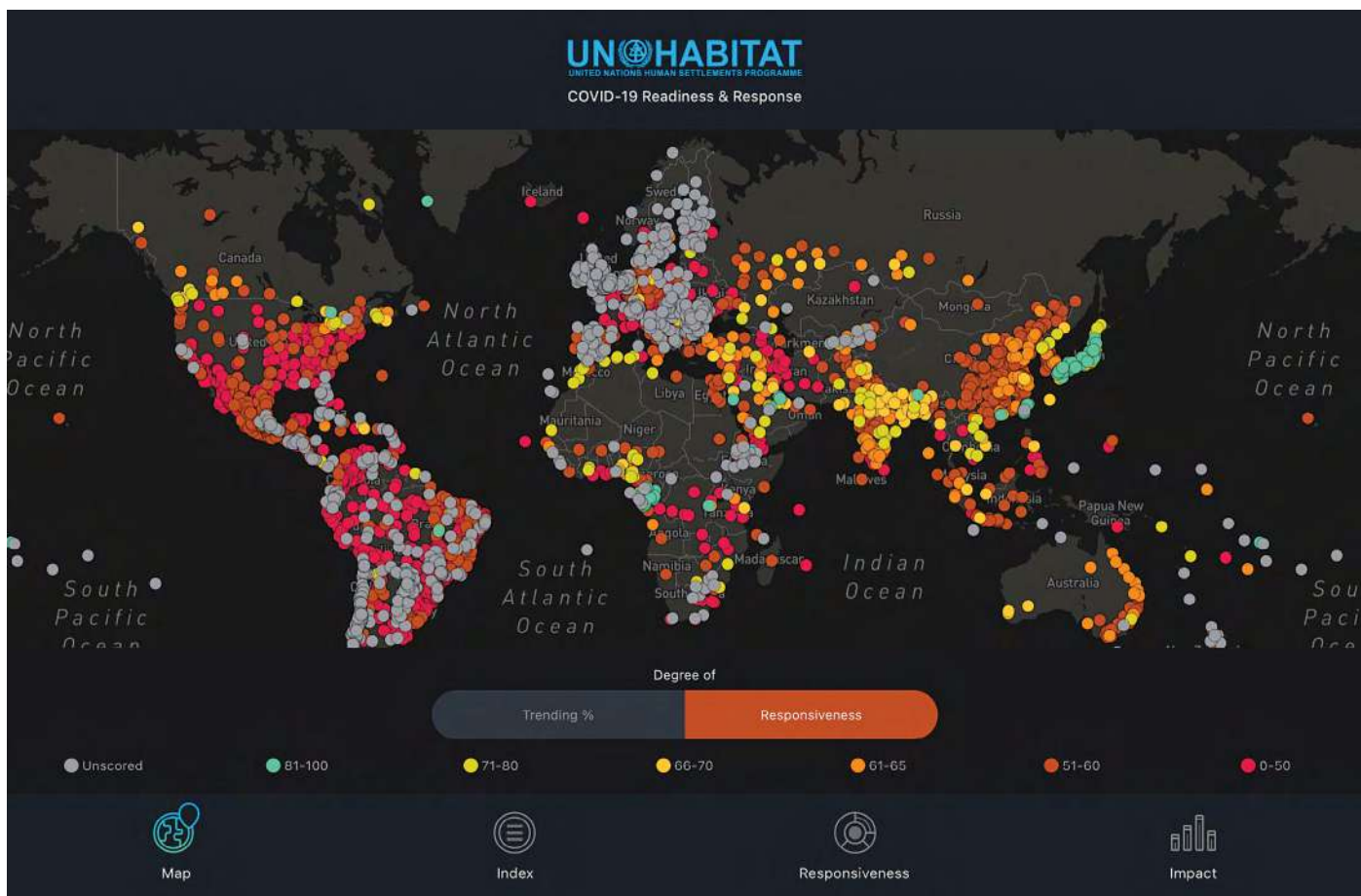
Through collaboration with partners, UN-Habitat has used this expertise to design a unique scoring mechanism to inform local action and policies through a specialized data portal for tracking Covid-19 trends in cities. It was developed in 2020 in collaboration with the CitiIQ¹ team. The Readiness Score is based on five core indicator areas: public health capacity, societal strength, economic ability, infrastructure, and good governance and accountability. Meanwhile the Responsiveness Score is based on spread response, treatment response, economic response, and supply chain response. The input data is normalized to provide comparison between 2,600 cities and daily scoring for performance for all these cities, and bi-weekly moving averages to track waves of COVID-19 and impacts, including a tracker for vaccination coverage.

The COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness Tracking Platform is free and publicly accessible, and UN-Habitat offers open and continuous engagement and guidance to cities and other urban stakeholders on data interpretation, implication, and relevance to their response plans.

Duration of support: The platform is accessible at any time and is continually updated to reflect changing dynamics and additional cities where data has been accessed.

Previous application: The web-based visual platform provides scoring for over 2,600 cities, including where data is available, covering state/provincial capitals of several countries, such as the United States, Brazil, India, and China. Many cities use the platform to inform decisions and policies, and it allows for new cities to be added to the platform as data becomes available.

1 <https://www.citiq.com/>



UN-Habitat's COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness Tracking Platform. ©UN-Habitat

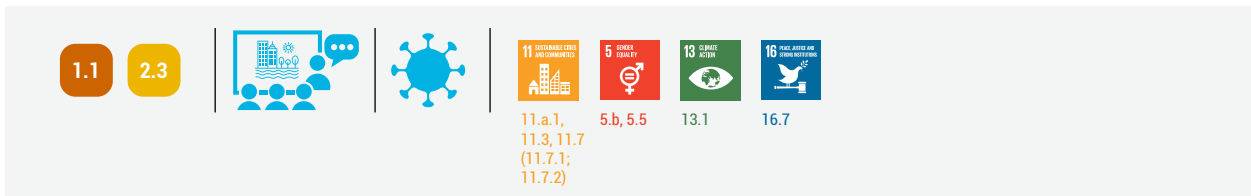
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat COVID-19 Readiness and Responsiveness Tracking Platform](#)

[Innovative UN-Habitat COVID-19 Tracking Platform Powered by CitiIQ \(press release\)](#)

B. Participatory processes

B.1. Block by Block co-creating safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces



Summary: An innovative approach that employs community meetings, presentations, site visits and, very importantly, the site design workshop using the video game Minecraft as a tool to help the community visualize public space planning and design. Minecraft is best described as “digital Lego” where participants can get creative and build structures in a three-dimensional world. This service builds on Placemaking which is a collaborative people-centred approach for planning, designing and managing public spaces, building local capacity and leadership to empower communities.

Challenges addressed: Inadequate and unequal access to public space has disproportionately negative effects on the urban poor and marginalized communities, leading to a lack of biodiversity, urban decay, air pollution and the heat island effect.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat pioneered the Block by Block methodology in 2012 and oversees the implementation of the funded projects. So far the agency has supported the implementation of over 100 public spaces using Minecraft as a tool. Besides facilitating workshops, UN-Habitat brings technical expertise through its diverse team at the Global Public Space Programme and makes sure the design of the public space is inclusive and responsive to the community’s needs. As well as its technical and advocacy capacity, UN-Habitat has unique convening and mediation capacities making it an ideal party to bring together diverse interest groups in a neutral forum to support a common objective. UN-Habitat utilizes two approaches to engage communities: the Block by Block methodology (using Minecraft as a participatory tool to co-create public space) and Placemaking (a participatory planning approach). They are often used together to define and implement a community’s vision about its public space.



© Blockbyblock.org

The main component of Block by Block is Minecraft, the videogame, which is used as a participation tool. Block by Block focuses on community engagement and gives a voice to the most vulnerable to express their needs by providing them with the opportunity to create physical spaces and present them to decision-makers. The methodology has also been tested using mixed reality technology which enables visual experiences where physical environments and digital objects coexist and interact with each other in a realistic way. Placemaking uses a wide range of methods including participatory GIS, digital storytelling, mental mapping, behavioural mapping, ideas charrette and creative photography to broaden the participation spectrum and specifically include people usually left out in planning and design processes. Placemaking also uses creative and innovative approaches and a multiplicity of media that ensures everyone is included.

Duration of support: Block by Block funded projects often take one year from the earliest stakeholder engagement to Minecraft workshops, urban design and to final implementation. The Block by Block workshop itself takes up to two months: three weeks for model making, three days for the workshop itself, and a week for dissemination and the final Minecraft model. Placemaking engagement depends on the nature of the project and process which is often tailored. It can be completed within three weeks while some longer-term processes can take up to three months.

Previous applications: Minecraft has been applied globally in 37 countries and 75 cities in LAC, Africa, Arab States, Asia and Europe. UN-Habitat has facilitated 91 Block by Block workshops engaging with over 20,000 community members (40 per cent women and girls). People come together through gaming to develop a common vision for

the public space. There is a special focus on the most vulnerable and people who typically do not have a say in planning processes like children, youth and people with special needs. The participants age can vary from 5 to over 65 years old. UN-Habitat has completed 105 public spaces using this methodology impacting 1,726,000 people worldwide, and has trained 900 people on the use of the methodology to scale its impact. Under COVID-19 restrictions, people can work on co-creating public spaces remotely through computer visuals, manipulation and simulation.

Over 30,000 members of the public have participated in Placemaking activities in Nairobi, and as a result of the success which included support and affirmation from the business community and the general public, the city is scaling up interventions in public space.

© UN-Habitat



Minecraft workshop in Fatima Al Zahra, Amman, Jordan, 2020. © UN-Habitat

TESTIMONY

“The perception that public spaces are jobless corners is now fading away. Young people from all walks of life now come to interact in public spaces, and this has really helped improve the perception of urban safety and reduced the level of crime among youth, especially teenagers.”

Mr. Humphrey Otieno,
the Safer Nairobi Initiative, Nairobi City County



Co-implementing public spaces with residents in Tan Mai Market in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2022. @HealthBridge © UN-Habitat

Girls playing in the new public space of Tan Mai Market in Hanoi, Vietnam, 2022. @HealthBridge © UN-Habitat

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Read more about the impact of the Block by Block methodology and our work at the official [website](#) of Block by Block
Example of a [placemaking toolkit developed for Palestine](#)

B.2. CityRAP: City Resilience Action Planning



Summary: A participatory planning process to build urban resilience in small to intermediate cities, or neighbourhoods in larger cities. The tool facilitates a broad dialogue and quick technical assessment to identify vulnerabilities and risks against all possible hazards. The final output is a City Resilience Framework for Action (RFA), which identifies priority actions to progressively build the city’s resilience.

Challenges addressed: Disasters and hazards, which are increasing both in scale and frequency due to the climate emergency, threaten the economies, safety, livelihoods, health and even lives of urban residents around the world, especially the urban poor and marginalized. Vulnerability to these risks and hazards threatens to reverse the progress countries and cities are making towards the SDGs.

What UN-Habitat can offer: CityRAP was designed by UN-Habitat and the Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience Centre (DiMSUR) in a way that local governments can adapt and implement it with minimum intervention from outside technical experts using practical methods to leverage local knowledge. The CityRAP methodology is founded in building on existing local capacities and fostering endogenous development

dynamics to make the process as sustainable as possible. In addition to the local government, other urban stakeholders are involved such as academia, national governments, NGOs, CBOs, private sector and others, creating synergies and mutual collaboration. CityRAP takes a bottom-up approach where civic participation in the decision-making process is key. Residents are included and empowered through community consultations, participatory mapping exercises, focus group discussions and workshops, ensuring that all the groups, especially the more vulnerable, are present and actively involved. CityRAP aims to enable local governments to plan and undertake practical actions to strengthen the resilience of their cities against natural and other hazards emphasizing adaptation measures to climate change.

Duration of support: The CityRAP process takes 3–4 months through four phases; it is usually implemented by a team of Municipal Focal Points with the support of UN-Habitat trainers that periodically travel to the site. CityRAP can also be delivered as a face-to-face five-day Training of Trainers. Both the regular implementation process and the Training of Trainers are being adapted for remote delivery to ensure continuity while preserving participants’ safety in the context of the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

CityRAP phases



Previous applications: This service has supported the following cities: Ouagadougou (Burkina Faso); Espargos, Praia, Santa Catarina (Cape Verde); Arada and Lideta sub-cities of Addis Ababa, Adama, Dire Dawa (Ethiopia); Bafata, Bolama (Guinea-Bissau) Bubaque, Cacine, Mansoa, São Domingos; Antala, Morondava (Madagascar); Lilongwe, Zomba (Malawi); Angoche, Chiure, Chokwe, Cuamba, Dondo, Metangula, Mocuba, Montepuez, Vilankulo (Mozambique); Agua Grande, Neves (São Tomé and Príncipe); George, Port Alfred, Potchefstroom (South Africa); Fomboni, Fomboni, Moroni (Union of Comoros), Matsamudu; Chipata, Lusaka (Zambia); Chipinge, Gwanda, Mutare (Zimbabwe). In January 2021, a “light” version of CityRAP has been implemented for the first time outside Africa in Amman (Jordan) using a hybrid ‘virtual and in-person’ modality. In 2022 CityRAP will also be implemented in seven cities in the Sahel: Bargny (Senegal), Kaédi (Mauritania), Kongoussi (Burkina Faso), Labondo (Nigeria), Mao (Chad), Nioro (Mali), Tillabéri (Niger). This support has enabled the following results:

- **Triggering community self-mobilization:** Road opening, improvement of drainage in informal settlements, voluntary resettlement of people in Chokwe, Mozambique; drainage construction in Lilongwe, Malawi.
- **Encouraging local authorities to mobilize funds:** In Morondava, Madagascar, the city council mobilized EUR 1.5 million to implement activities of coastal erosion mitigation prioritized by the CityRAP Tool.

- **Influencing national policies for DRM:** In Malawi CityRAP has been embraced in the national guidelines for urban DRM plans; in Mozambique, elements of the tool have been included into ministerial guidelines for the elaboration of urban plans to enhance its resilience dimension.
- **Facilitating mobilization of external funds:** UN-Habitat mobilized USD 14 million from the Adaptation Fund for a project to implement the outcomes of CityRAP process in four cities in south-east Africa.



Participatory mapping at the neighbourhood level during CityRAP Phase Two in Cabo Delgado, Mozambique, 2017

TESTIMONY

“After CityRAP we initiated the reorganization of the neighbourhoods, rearranging the settlements, opening new roads, identifying and opening new drainage canals to storm water in order to mitigate the floods. We also improved the sanitation with solid waste management.”

Ms. Evangelina Dundanani Maninguane Pfono,
Chief officer of Chokwe Municipal Council, Mozambique

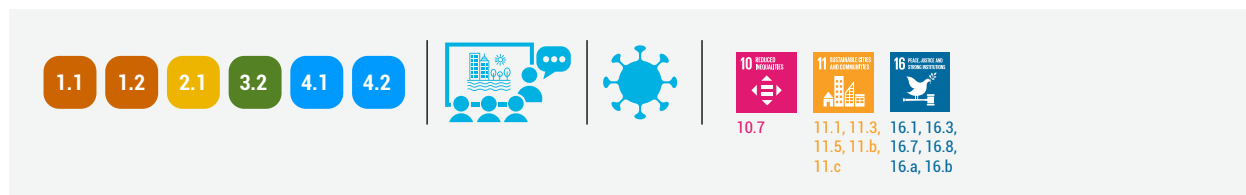
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[CityRAP tool](#)

[DiMSUR website](#)

[CityRAP Tool Booklet 2022](#)

B.3. Integrated urban planning in protracted crisis contexts



Summary: Technical advice towards the improvement of living conditions and management of existing human settlements and the creation of cooperative frameworks to implement sustainable strategies in urban crisis settings.

By supporting the connection of normative to operational work and by promoting durable spatial development and investment solutions, UN-Habitat aims to bridge the gap between humanitarian and development actors, and to support local governance and institutional development.

Challenges addressed: Lack of long-term perspective in traditional humanitarian response and the limited prioritization of sustainable development programming leading to inequalities and tensions between host and refugee communities, disorganized growth, low economic livelihoods, exclusion from the private sector and fragile and divided societies. These challenges compound and threaten the achievement of the SDGs. Response to COVID-19 in crisis contexts also requires additional coordination and new consideration of spatial constraints and dynamics.

What UN-Habitat can offer: This service can be tailored to meet the specific challenges facing a national, subnational or local government or community. UN-Habitat has long-standing experience and an extensive portfolio in supporting the coordination and providing advice for long-term solutions in humanitarian set-ups and planning and development in different crisis situations. The agency has worked extensively in collaboration with other United Nations and international agencies within the humanitarian-development and peacebuilding nexus, most noticeably with key partners such as UNHCR, IOM, UNESCO and non-traditional partners (e.g. private sector investors). UN-Habitat's expertise in participatory planning using tools and approaches in planning for integrated human settlements in both humanitarian and non-humanitarian contexts, provides a spatialized focus across sectors to bridge between traditional humanitarian and development work, supporting the development of wider strategic visioning (early, medium and long-term) and scenarios to engage national and local authorities for a collective response and coordination of urban strategies across different scales.

Kalobeyei Pilot Shelter Programme in collaboration with Shigeru Ban Architects

©UN-Habitat / Julius Mwelu





The service integrates recommended social inclusion indicators as part of monitoring processes and creates broad-based social cohesion and ownership using different tools and innovative approaches and new technologies. This can lead to the co-creation of sustainable infrastructure projects (e.g. community centre, public space) with partners, using Block by Block's gaming-placemaking Minecraft technologies (see B.1.) as well as innovations in durable livelihoods and resource production (engaging with World Agroforestry – ICRAF). UN-Habitat also brings on board partners and networks to support lessons learned in global knowledge platforms such as the UN Migration Network, the Global Refugee Forum, the High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, the Global Alliance for Urban Crisis, the World Urban Forum and others.

During the COVID-19 response in humanitarian settings, urban planning tools and capacities can support optimized deployment of assistance and services to better coordinate actions by different actors and to ensure some of the investments accrue long term benefits in terms of their

location and targeting. With COVID-19 shaping as a long-term emergency, urban planning can help to reduce its impact and increase the resilience of communities.

Duration of support: The duration and time frame of the service depends on the requirement by specific national and local governments, partners and donors. The support and project time frames can range from six months to many years, given the unpredictable nature of the crisis settings.

Previous applications: These have been applied globally, for example in the following locations: Kakuma and Kalobeyi Settlement, Turkana County, Kenya; Dadaab Cluster, Garissa County, Kenya; Refugee camps in Cox's Bazar, Bangladesh; Nakivale Settlement and West Nile Region in Uganda; and Kebribeyah Settlement, Somali Region, Ethiopia. To provide one example of the impact of such support, the Kalobeyi Integrated Socio-Economic Development Programme, which UN-Habitat supports, has resulted in the development of an Advisory Development

Plan for a settlement to host 60,000 refugees; the spatial profiling of Kakuma Camp impacting 158,050 refugees; ongoing support to spatial planning guidelines which have impacted 71 government officials and 113 community members (2019–2022) and will impact more than 90,000 people directly; participatory planning and design processes for infrastructure investment projects impacting people directly 1,972 (2018–2022), 429 (2019–2022); skills and job creation projects impacting 2,708 people directly, of which 1,408 are women (2018–2022); and capacity development workshops at institutional and local level impacting 90 officers and 200 community leaders (2018–2022). UN-Habitat has also developed specific indicators to measure integration of communities and social cohesion.

In Iraq, a multi-disciplinary team from UN-Habitat and UNESCO has developed an Initial Planning Framework for the Reconstruction of Mosul in order to support Mosul's local government with the reconstruction and recovery of the city. This project is an initiative by UN-Habitat and UNESCO supported by the Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General/Resident Coordinator/Humanitarian Coordinator. The Initial Planning Framework aims to define recovery priorities and deliver a comprehensive reconstruction and planning approach for the greater Mosul area with special attention to the Old City. It aims to provide concrete actions for the revival of the entire Mosul metropolis supported by desk research, fieldwork and data. In addition, the document provides recommendations for the implementation of suggested actions.

Reconstruction in Iraq
© UN-Habitat



TESTIMONY

“I commend the planning process and would like to stress the need for partners to scale-up efforts to address development challenges. Spatial planning is an important tool which has been embraced by the County Government to guide investments in the region, and we should enhance partnerships to strengthen the county's spatial planning function.”

Mr. Josephat K. Nanok
Governor of Turkana County

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Support to Kalobeyi New Settlement in Kenya](#)

[COVID-19 in Vulnerable Contexts: Spatial Profiling for Adaptive Responses in Kakuma-Kalobeyi](#)

[UN-Habitat initiates measures on Covid-19 response in Kenya's two refugee settlements](#)

[UN-Habitat web page: Planning for Humanitarian-Development Practice: Connecting Normative to Operations](#)

[Post World Refugee Day celebrations - planning sustainable and inclusive settlements for all](#)

[UN-Habitat plans Sustainable Settlement for Hosts and Refugees in Kakuma-Kalobeyi](#)

[UN-Habitat organizes a discussion on economic connectivity urbanization refugees and migration](#)

[Japan donates USD 15 million to support refugees and the host community in Kenya's Turkana county](#)

[Body temperature measuring camera installed at community centre for integration of refugees and hosts](#)

[UN-Habitat and Turkana County hold workshop to look at the future for Kenya's Kakuma and Kalobeyi](#)

[UN-Habitat conducts socio economic surveys in Turkana West Kenya](#)

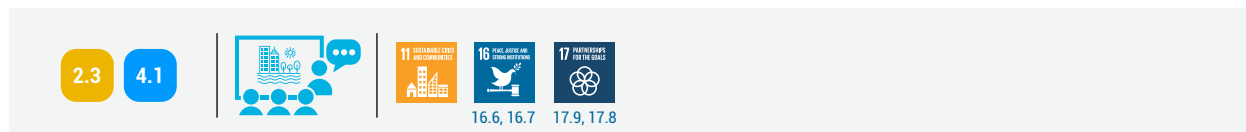
[Supporting Planning for Integrated Refugee & Host Communities – Compiled Newsletter 2016 – Jan 2021](#)

[Urban Planning Responses in Post-Crisis Contexts](#)



UN-Habitat organizes participatory public space planning workshop with host and refugees ©UN-Habitat/Bernard Heng

B.4. Building participatory accountability systems for city policies



Summary: Innovative online tools to support feedback loops with citizens on city policies, expanding the space for citizen participation and participatory accountability. They are supported by the development of partnerships with different city stakeholders. A process of training and capacity building needs assessment allows also a more participatory approach to translating policies into action.

Challenges addressed: Lack of open data, transparency, accountability and the capacities necessary to build and oversee these systems hinder citizen participation and oversight.

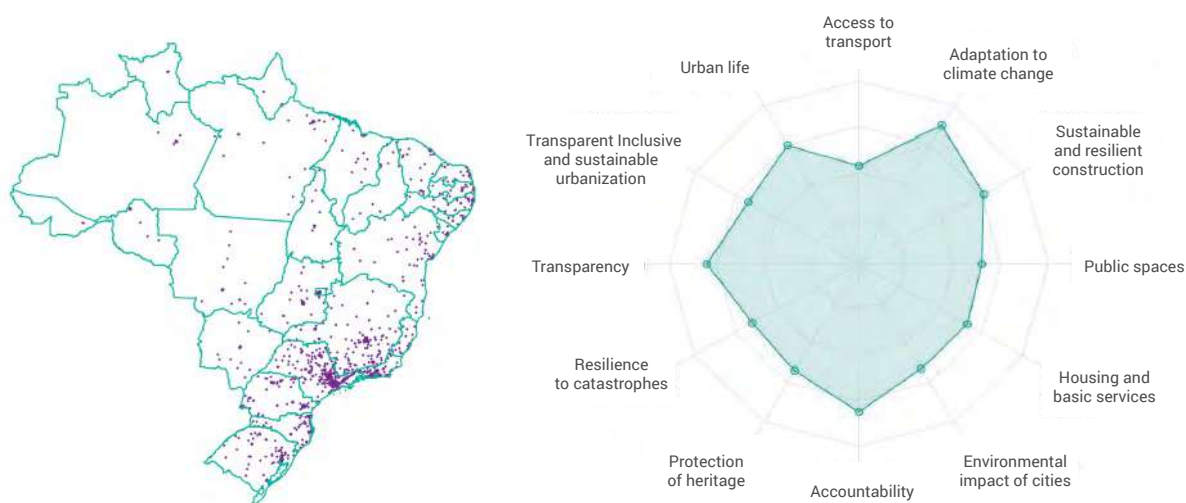
What UN-Habitat can offer: This support strengthens partnerships across local authorities, academia, NGOs, the private sector and civil society to work together to improve public policies in cities and increase levels of transparency and accountability. The service includes workshops and citizen consultations which include partnership with start-ups specialized in digital tools for local governments. UN-Habitat has developed the content of the Sustainable Cities and Communities Consultation (SCCC) as well as templates and tools that facilitate training needs assessments for cities and local authorities, and guidance for development of Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

Duration of support: The SCCC is implemented for four months and results are presented 2–3 months after the closure of the consultation. Training workshops vary in duration and are typically recommended to take place over a range of 2–4 days. A minimum of two years is recommended to ensure continuity and results.

Previous applications: The service has been provided in six cities and the consultation in over 830 cities in Bolivia, Brazil and Peru. The methodology and online consultation can be replicated in any city and/or region. This has supported the production of four VLRs on the progress of SDG 11, and the training of over 1,200 local authorities, civil society and academia. This service can be continuous. For example, in Brazil, where the initiative has been endorsed by the National Federation of Municipalities, the consultation will be implemented in Brazil every year until 2030 to compare how citizen perception is changing regarding SDG 11.

The Consultation has also been featured twice as an example of UN-Habitat’s innovation in UN Innovation Network and is in the UNDESA database of best practices in relation to SDG 11.

Results of the Consultation Sustainable Cities and Communities 2018–2019, Brazil



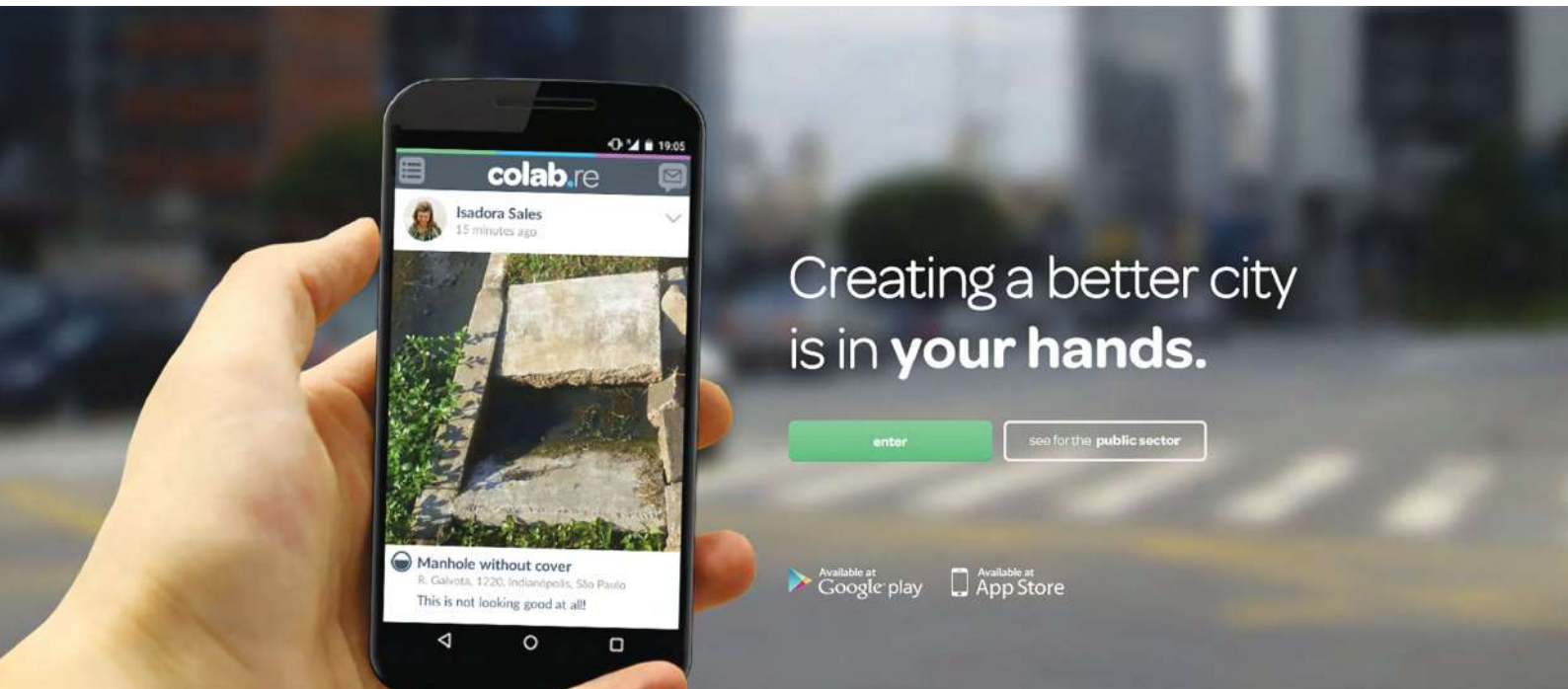
The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: United Nations Geospatial/UN-Habitat

TESTIMONY

“Citizen collaboration and transparency are the best tools to improve public management. The technology ensures that the dialogue with the population happens quickly, efficiently and allows the results of this conversation to be measured which facilitates the evaluation of public managers.”

Mr. Gustavo Maia,
CEO and co-founder of Colab, UN-Habitat partner

UN-Habitat and Colab created an app to allow citizen's direct feedback on cities. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

UNDESA database for good practices in implementing SDGs. The SCCC is included in this database as a good practice for the SDG 11

Information and materials from the different workshops held in Latin America:

[Training of Trainers in Trujillo in Collaboration with ECLAC](#)

[Urban Accountability Academy](#)

[Accountability Labs \(Chimbote, Peru; Trujillo, Peru; La Paz, Bolivia; Tarija, Bolivia\)](#)

[Accountability and public responsibility Labs in Rio de Janeiro](#)

[ODS Week in Niteroi](#)

Press release related to the SCCC and to events where the results and methodology of this initiative have been presented:

[UN-Habitat Mobile APP featured at Brazil SMART City Event](#)

[UN-Habitat, Colab and OS City launch new citizen consultation through an innovative tool in Brazil, Peru and Bolivia](#)

[UN-Habitat holds side event in Barcelona on innovative tools for citizen consultation in Latin America](#)

[UN-Habitat and Colab launch a mobile app for open public consultation on living conditions in Brazilian cities](#)

[Technology bridges the gap between residents and local authorities in Latin America](#)

Promotional videos of presentations related to the project and the SCCC:

[Innovative tools to enhance SDG11 performance monitoring in cities](#)

[What happened during the Local Governments and Cities Day at COP25?](#)

[Report with the results of the first stage of implementation of the SCCC in Brazil](#)

B.5. Creating urban resource centres for young people in cities



Summary: The provision of safe and productive urban spaces for young men and women is critical to youth and their communities’ healthy development. The One Stop programme addresses youth access to urban spaces through a participatory process which engages youth in the design and implementation of “One Stops” or integrated urban resource centres for young people. This service supports local and national governments to establish new One Stops, and accredits current centres as One Stops through UN-Habitat’s accreditation programme.

Challenges addressed: Today, there are 1.2 billion young people aged 15 to 24 years, most of them living in the developing world. A lack of employment and other opportunities for youth threaten their prospects and wellbeing in cities. The active engagement of youth in sustainable development efforts is central to achieving sustainable, inclusive and stable societies by 2030. This engagement and the prospects of youth have been particularly threatened during the COVID-19 pandemic and its associated effects on employment and education.

What UN-Habitat can offer: The urban resource centres – One Stops – provide relevant skills for urban youth to attain employment and decent jobs through training and access to technology. UN-Habitat provides technical support to local governments to establish and run the One Stops; conducts local market research to assure job training programmes are targeted and effective; and supports governments to ensure that the centres are inclusive and responsive to the communities’ needs. The support and operation of these centres are guided by a series of principles on youth development created by UN-Habitat and its partners in 2007, the [Kampala Principles for Youth Led Development](#), which focus on youth taking the lead in their own development and that of their communities. UN-Habitat utilizes its unique convening capacity to ensure that all relevant urban stakeholders are effectively engaged in the design and implementation of the One Stops.

This service also supports the repurposing and regeneration of urban structures that have been underutilized to rapidly and efficiently bring new One Stops online. Many One Stops have been repurposed to provide critical health services during the COVID-19 pandemic providing hand washing stations, prevention

information and masks to the communities; as well as creating a valuable resource for governments to quickly provide emergency assistance to communities. (See also B.1. and D.4. for more on UN-Habitat’s work supporting inclusive public spaces).

Duration of support: UN-Habitat provides support in the development of the One Stop centres, with the goal of each being sustainably and independently run. The development process is done in three steps: Step 1 is a stakeholder engagement process, Step 2 is the establishment of a governance structure for the One Stop and programme planning, and Step 3 is operationalization of the One Stop’s programmes. All three steps typically take one year, and can be applied in an iterative and continuous manner.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has supported the establishment of One Stops in ten cities in sub-Saharan Africa, which have provided health, training and recreational services for over 350,000 young men and women. The first One Stop was launched in Nairobi, Kenya as a partnership between the City of Nairobi, civil society and the local and national government. The focus of the centre was to be a place that “empowers the youthful generation to have ownership of the development process and be agents of transformation in the city.” The success of the One Stops has made them a model for providing a combination of resources in urban public spaces for youth.



Young women play soccer at the Mogadishu One-Stop Centre. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

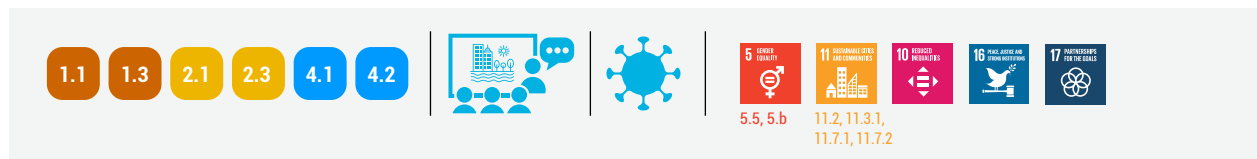
Please visit www.unhabitatyouth.org for more information on the One Stop centres and UN-Habitat's work with youth

One Stop Training Manuals

1. [Urban Youth Centre Setup Guide, Volume 1](#)
2. [Information Work and Youth – getting started guidelines, Volume 2](#)
3. [Community Mapping Guide – a youth community mapping toolkit for East Africa, Volume 3](#)
4. [Entrepreneurship Programming for Urban Youth Centres, Volume 4](#)
5. [Programme Planning and Evaluation in Urban Youth Centres, Volume 5](#)

[One Stop Accreditation Guide](#)
[UN-Habitat One Stop Youth Centre Model](#)

B.6. Her City Toolbox



Summary: Her City Toolbox is a web-based, step-by-step methodology that guides local government and urban actors to make cities better for everyone by adopting a more sustainable and inclusive urban planning approach. It is run for, by and with women and girls by adopting a participatory and co-design approach.

Challenges addressed: Women and girls are often underrepresented in decision-making processes, hence many urban projects do not respond to their needs. Inclusive participatory processes are essential for sustainable urbanization, but in many parts of the world, there is still a lack of capacities and experience in conducting meaningful participatory processes, especially when it comes to vulnerable groups. Moreover, due to COVID-19, restrictions on gatherings have further limited opportunities to engage vulnerable groups with in-person workshops and activities.

What UN-Habitat can offer: Together with partners, experts and stakeholders, UN-Habitat has created a digitalized toolbox to set up efficient and inclusive participatory processes that inform and improve the regular planning processes within cities. The Her City Toolbox contains nine building blocks as a digital guideline on how to assess, co-plan and co-implement public spaces and better cities from a girl's perspective. Each block contains a series of activities and clear steps with a specific level of participation by girls and women of all ages, ensuring their engagement throughout the process.

Different digital tools developed by UN-Habitat and external partners are included in each of the building blocks. The platform is open source, user-friendly and encourages active dialogues between professionals and young citizens.



This is what Her City can look like. © Lovisa Burfitt



Her City includes young women and girls in urban planning and design processes to build cities for all. © Shutterstock.

Her City Toolbox has a particular focus on gender, youth and people living in vulnerable areas, including informal settlements. It is intended for project managers and other urban actors who want to ensure meaningful engagement in their respective cities. As a process, the Her City approach encourages the use of digital tools and technology, thereby increasing women's and girls' digital skill.

The main indicator of success is the number of completed Her City initiatives that have finalized all or some of the

processes. Another important indicator is the number of registered users on the digital platform, either project "facilitators" (project managers) or "participants" (girls, women, other stakeholders). Indicators such as the number of cities and countries shows the geographical coverage of the toolbox. Finally, the type of actors registered (local governments, private sector, civil society, academia) indicates the value of the process for different sectors.

Previous applications: Her City is a global initiative and the toolbox can be used for urban contexts in all countries. Users have the freedom to independently set up their own project on the platform with no additional support required, as the process is self-explanatory. To build capacity around the use of the toolbox, UN-Habitat and partners have trained over 500 people and the online training and tutorial is available on YouTube for further guidance. There are currently ten active UN-Habitat-supported Her City projects in Johannesburg, South Africa; Nairobi, Kenya; Beirut, Lebanon; Flemingsberg, Sweden; Koge, Denmark; Lima, Peru; Gaza and West Bank, State of Palestine; Chennai and Delhi, India, funded through the private and public sectors. There are over 700 users as part of 400 initiatives in 280 cities in 90 countries.

Duration of support: The Her City Toolbox is modular and divided into nine unique blocks. Depending on the priorities of the project team, the capacities and resources in place, the process can be tailored and shaped accordingly. The overall process takes approximately six months, excluding the construction phase.

TESTIMONY

"[Engaging with] women's everyday experience of the urban space is important to ensure sustainable urban development. Her City builds on the active participation of girls and women in the planning and design process..."

Yasmeen Dinath,
Urban planner at Johannesburg Development Agency

The Her City Toolbox
digital platform

© hercity.unhabitat.
org/Shutterstock



Register

Login

Let her guide you

We enable sustainable
and inclusive cities
together with girls.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Online platform: [Her City Toolbox](#)

Publication: [Her City Guide](#)

Online training: [Her City YouTube Training](#)

Online tutorial: [Let Her Guide You Tutorial](#)

Report: [Cities for Girls, Cities for All](#)

Brochure: [Let Her Guide You](#)

Film: [Her City Toolbox – From Botkyrka to Johannesburg](#)

Social media

Facebook: [@HerCity](#)

Instagram: [@HerCityToolbox](#)

Twitter: [@HerCityToolbox](#)

YouTube: [@HerCity](#)

TikTok: [@HerCity](#)

C. Policy, legislation, and governance

C.1. Strengthen housing, land and property rights for peaceful societies



Summary: Support to functioning housing, land and property (HLP) institutions and strong legal frameworks enabling security of tenure.

As prolonged or intermittent conflict tends to fracture and incapacitate, if not destroy, a nation's housing, land and property framework, governments as well as humanitarian and development actors often require assistance in rebuilding and strengthening HLP institutions and legal frameworks in the post-conflict period. This service supports government and international stakeholders by providing assistance that can be categorized into three areas: (1) increase knowledge of key HLP issues and the HLP institutional and legal framework via the production of thematic legal papers, reports and guidance notes; (2) support a process for HLP legal reform or legislation drafting via legal consultation and legislative review; (3) build capacity of HLP administration institutions and supporting humanitarian and development actors via knowledge sharing, information briefs, legal consultation and advising.

Challenges addressed: Complex challenges affecting HLP rights arise in the post-conflict context of displacement and return. Specific HLP issues which contribute to tenure insecurity and homelessness or landlessness in these circumstances include property confiscation; unauthorized property sales or transfers; secondary occupation; HLP disputes; loss of HLP and civil documentation, damage to property records and land information systems, fragmented de facto land administration, demographic change, and damage to and inadequate information on housing stock. Weak legal frameworks and incapacitated HLP institutions compound these challenges and hinder recovery processes such as property restitution and reconstruction, consequently inhibiting the establishment of resilient, cohesive communities.

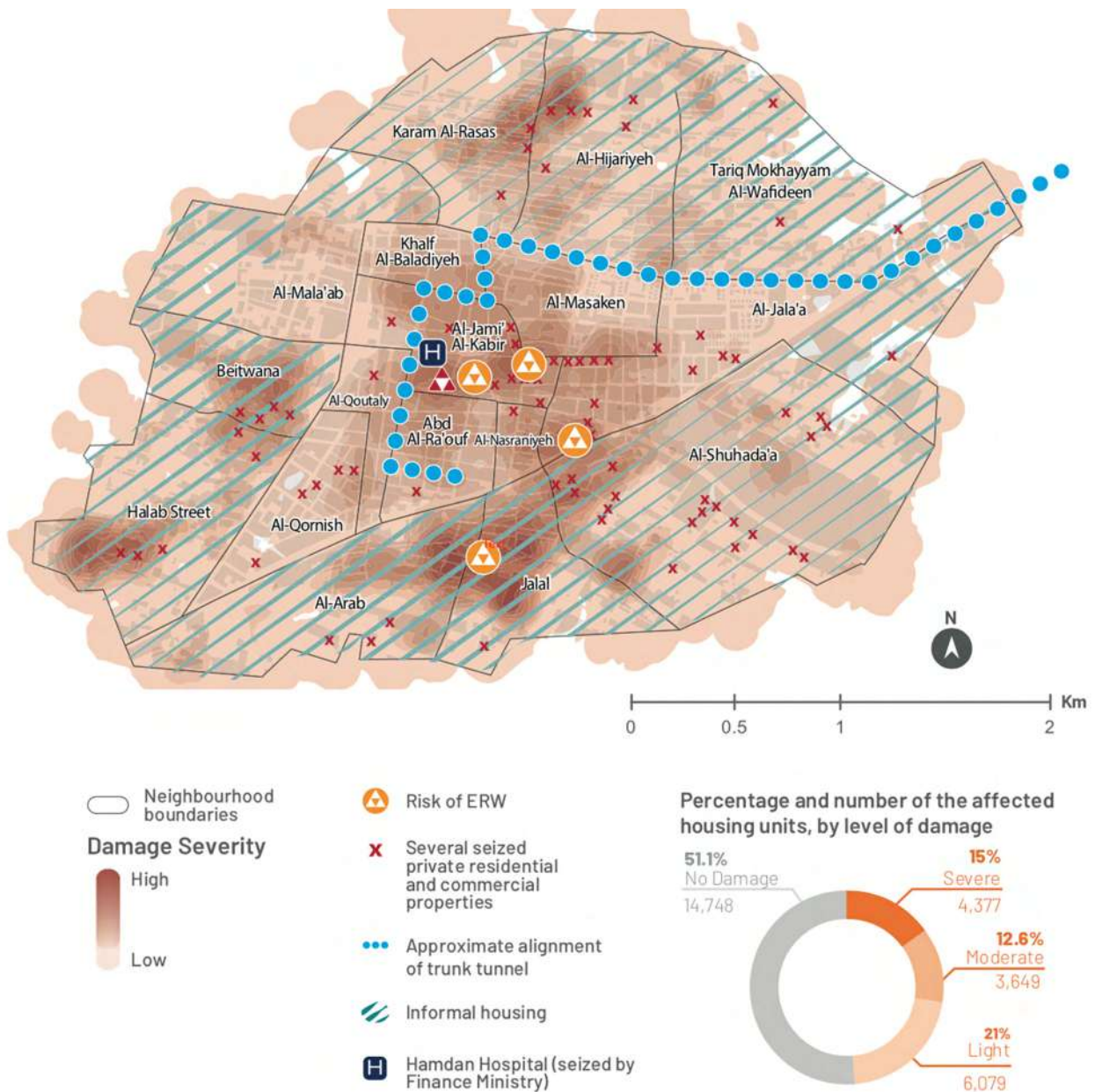
What UN-Habitat can offer: As the reconstruction of human settlements and societal institutions is the primary concern in post-conflict contexts, UN-Habitat has a critical role to play in post-conflict recovery efforts. The agency has become a leader in addressing HLP issues in post-conflict periods, recognizing the key role of land in both triggering and resolving conflict and injustice. Marginalized groups such as women, children, older persons, ethnic and religious minorities, and Internationally Displaced People and refugees tend to be most susceptible to human rights violations and HLP abuses during and following conflict. UN-Habitat aims to ensure that vulnerable groups are included in all HLP processes following conflict such as property restitution and specifically seeks to increase the security of tenure of marginalized groups. Our knowledge gathering, capacity building and legal reform support includes marginalized groups to ultimately prevent forced evictions and displacement, increase tenure security, enable the return of displaced persons and improve access to and/or the availability of affordable housing for all. In addition to long-term institutional and legal reform, we utilize “fit-for-purpose” land administration tools such as temporary occupancy permits, and the **Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM)** which facilitates the provision and strengthening of HLP rights in a variety of contexts along the conflict to post-conflict continuum. This service builds on ongoing partnerships and collaborations with UNHCR, Norwegian Refugee Council and other stakeholders working on HLP rights in conflict and post-conflict countries. (See also section E for more of UN-Habitat's services related to land, housing and shelter).

Duration of support: The timeframe for the activities of this project can be split into phases: building knowledge and capacity, identifying areas for legal change can take between 1–2 years; the process of enacting legal and institutional reform, meanwhile, usually takes between 1–5 years depending on the context.

Previous applications: This service has been successfully applied in both Syria and Iraq and is highly relevant to conflict and post-conflict contexts. In Iraq, as of July 2019, UN-Habitat has supported governments to deliver over 2,811 Occupancy Certificates to Yazidi households who had been unable to gain access to official recognition of the ownership of their lands and houses due to decades-long discriminatory policies. These certificates have provided conditions for return and for further participation in local development, repairing historical injustices exacerbated by recent persecution. In Syria years of protracted conflict

have disabled land administration capacities, weakened security of tenure, reduced access to adequate housing and rendered marginalized groups such as women and displaced persons vulnerable to being deprived of their property rights. As part of the EU-funded Syria Joint Programme, UN-Habitat is supporting the evidence-based production of guidance notes and thematic legal papers to improve operational HLP issues and ultimately facilitate the peacebuilding process by building capacity for and advising government and development actors.

Map: Essential HLP-Related Risks in Douma



The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: United Nations Geospatial/UN-Habitat.

Beneficiary Yazidi family in Iraq whose house was rehabilitated. They received a Certificate of Occupancy to increase their tenure security following the rehabilitation



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat legislation web page](#)

C.2. Legal frameworks to plan sustainable cities



Summary: Support to national and local governments in assessing and reforming their urban planning legislative and governance frameworks to develop a solid context for participatory urban planning and rights-based approaches to development. Urban development can result in increased inequalities, declining economic productivity and vulnerability to climate change if not underpinned by coherent policy, legal and governance frameworks. This service utilizes methodologies and tools such as the “Planning Law Assessment Framework”, a diagnostic tool to benchmark legislative quality and identify the strengths and weaknesses in planning regulatory frameworks and training packages on legal drafting and regulatory quality, policy and legislation and planning law.

Challenges addressed: Ineffective implementation of urban planning laws and urban plans causes unsustainable urban planning practices (urban sprawl, inadequate public and green spaces, lack of connectivity and walkability); insecurity of tenure; insufficient supply of serviced land for the urban poor; insufficient municipal tax revenues; and vulnerability to climate related events.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is uniquely positioned to support national and local governments to overcome these challenges due to its knowledge of urban legal systems from over 70 countries in all major regions of the world, use of robust and tested legal assessment and reform methodologies, and access to a broad network of universities, research centres and legal experts.

Duration of support: The review of the urban planning law and governance frameworks and the development of recommendations for legal reform is normally done in one year. The development of the reform options based on the needs of the national or local government can be done in one year. Trainings can be conducted in a one-hour session to introduce a topic, to engagements that build strong expertise among personnel over several months to years.

Previous applications: This service has supported the development of planning laws and policies in 20 countries, and has led to examples such as: (a) New planning law in Egypt and Kosovo; (b) The provision of evidence and recommendations for National Urban Policies in Bolivia and Guinea Conakry; and (c) Support for the review of the urban planning framework in Saudi Arabia by reviewing 500 pieces of urban legislation assessed in Saudi Arabia.



Non-Profit Housing Workshop in Riyadh, Saudi Arabia

TESTIMONY

“This training should be a requirement to all urban practitioners, before embarking on new projects.”

“This training has provided knowledge in all fields of law and has assisted in identifying the reasons why the system is malfunctioning in my country. It has made me a better legal advisor.”

“Without appropriate legislation, the implementation of the New Urban Agenda is impossible.”

Anonymous evaluations from participants in the Legal Drafting Course (2017 - 2019)

Consultative Planning Law Workshop, Egypt



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Urban policy platform

Planning Law Assessment Framework, developed by UN-Habitat, is a quick self-assessment tool that aims to identify the strengths and weaknesses of an urban planning legal system. Also available in Spanish

UrbanLex is a free global database which aims to improve access to the legislation that regulates the urban environment

C.3. National and Sub-national Urban Policies



Summary: Expert guidance and capacity development for national and sub-national governments to develop, implement and monitor and evaluate National Urban Policies (NUPs) and Sub-national Urban Policies (SUPs). These policies can serve as core instruments to harness the potential of urbanization and drive sustainable development and the improvement of living standards. This guidance includes thematic companions focused on mainstreaming food systems, addressing climate change and integrating migration into NUPs.

Challenges addressed: Urbanization in most developing countries is bringing about enormous changes in the spatial distribution of people and resources, as well as the use and consumption of land. Although such a process is strongly linked to social and economic development, many countries lack the supporting policies and frameworks that can leverage the process for increased development gains and guide it towards sustainable patterns. While urbanization creates huge wealth and opportunities, enables better use of assets and creates new ones, in many countries, particularly in the developing world, these aspects are not harnessed for development. In fact, in the developing world, urbanization challenges often seem to outpace the development gains.

To harness urbanization, mitigate its negative externalities and promote an “urban paradigm shift”, there is need for a coordinated approach and clear policy directions to transform policy intent into policy action through urban transformative projects and urban acupuncture projects. This is lacking in many countries, where several government departments oversee different aspects of the urbanization challenge. Moreover, urbanization is not considered a national or subnational development opportunity. In general, the overall understanding of cities in national development is very limited, and so is the appreciation of the structural transformations represented by the dynamics of growth in urban spaces.

What UN-Habitat can offer: To address these challenges, UN-Habitat has created NUPs and SUPs to guide and harness the potential of urbanization to drive sustainable development and improve quality of life for all. Countries with NUPs that respond to the urbanization challenges of today are more likely to achieve responsive and sustainable urban development that ensures economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas. Such urban policies or plans should ensure, as a minimum, that they address aspects of population dynamics, balanced territorial development and how to increase local fiscal space. NUPs and SUPs can redress social inequalities and discrimination, both within and between urban areas, and establish synergetic connections between the dynamics of urbanization and the overall process of national development through a spatial lens. They incorporate citizen participation in the process of formulation, development and implementation to reduce inequality and urban segregation.

Based on its extensive experience and knowledge accumulated across every phase of NUP and SUP creation and implementation, UN-Habitat has also generated a suite of normative tools to accompany NUP and SUP processes to ensure the frameworks are tailored and meet the needs of every country and sub-national government. These guides and tools advise how best to address key areas in these policies, for example: National Spatial Strategies Guide (under development), [Mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages in National Urban Policies](#) (see also C.5. for more on UN-Habitat’s support to urban-rural linkages and food systems), [Driving public space-led urban development, supporting national and city-wide slum upgrading and prevention](#) and the [Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy](#).²(See also section H for more on UN-Habitat’s offerings on climate change and cities). Other guides to support urban policy processes are: the [SUP Guide](#), the [NUP Feasibility Guide](#), the [NUP Diagnosis Guide](#), and the [NUP Formulation Guide](#) and [Monitoring and Evaluation](#)

² This guide recommends how to mainstream climate change in cities and human settlements challenges into NUPs, thus helping to empower national governments, local governments and other stakeholders to effectively address climate change. See also Section H and Flagship 3 for more on UN-Habitat’s services supporting cities and climate change.

Reasons Why NUP matters



Guide. To share best practices, UN-Habitat and partners have compiled the [Global State of National Urban Policies Report 2021](#) and its corresponding database.

Duration of support: Depending on the request from clients, NUP and SUP services are provided and implemented from three to five years. Overall training on the [NUP Learning Guide](#) is offered to assist countries in increasing knowledge about designing and implementing national and subnational urban policies to address policy priority areas in their urban development agendas. Training on the formulation and implementation of [national urban policies](#) can last one day, while it may take several months to localize and contextualize the approach. Support to use the guide on [addressing climate change and other thematic guides on national urban policy](#) can range from one day of capacity building (to introduce how best to

use the tool and integrate UN-Habitat’s relevant recent examples and lessons) to sustained support for policy formulation over several months.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has one global and three regional programmes on NUPs and has supported over 55 countries in their urban policy processes. Ten sub-national governments have been supported in the design and implementation of State urban policies. [Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy](#) has been applied in Tanzania (Zanzibar) and in Jordan to mainstream climate action in NUPs, and it is being used as a reference in developing more region-specific policy guidance. [Mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages in National Urban Policies](#) has been applied in five countries, enhancing capacities on integrating food, among other urban-rural linkage aspects, into NUP.

TESTIMONY

“National urban policies can help harness the benefits of urbanization while responding to its challenges through the development of a much broader, crosscutting vision of an urban landscape. National urban policies can help align sectorial policies that affect urban areas and develop an enabling institutional environment.”

Ms. Njambi Kinyungu,
Permanent Representative of the Republic of Kenya to UN-Habitat

56 UN Member States Supported by UN-Habitat with their NUP Process



Disclaimers: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Dotted line represents approximately the Line of Control in Jammu and Kashmir agreed upon by India and Pakistan. The final status of Jammu and Kashmir has not yet been agreed upon by the parties. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined. A dispute exists between the Governments of Argentina and the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland concerning sovereignty over the Falkland Islands (Malvinas). Source: United Nations Geospatial/UN-Habitat.

TESTIMONY

“Niger State Urban Policy is a strategy document that provides all Nigerlites with sets of principles and standards required to achieving sustainable urban and territorial development. In connection with New Urban Agenda, the State Urban policy seeks to identify urban development priorities towards socially and economically equitable and environmentally friendly urban and territorial development.”

Prof. Mustapha Zubairu,
Coordinator – Niger State Urban Support Programme

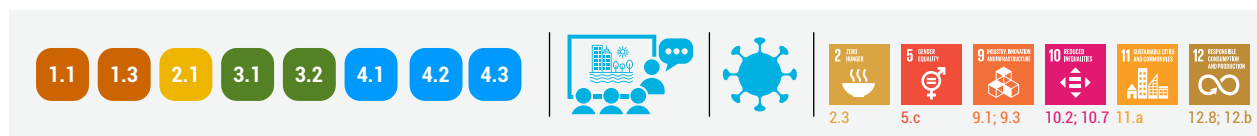
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Learn more about NUPs and SUPs](#)
- [A detailed guide and toolkit on mainstreaming climate change into national urban policies as well as case studies from its application in six countries](#)
- [Addressing Climate Change in National Urban Policy: A Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development](#)



© UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhahn

C.4. Leaving no place behind: Strengthening urban-rural linkages



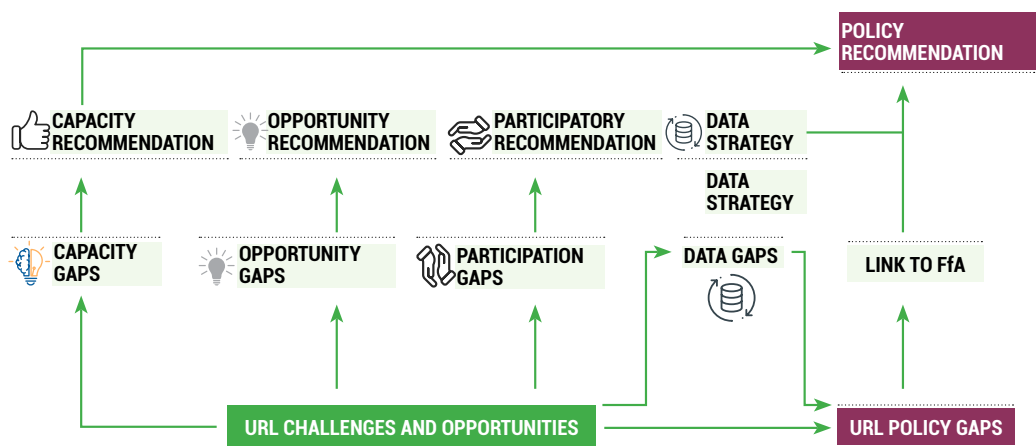
Summary: Strengthening urban-rural linkages by enhancing capacities of policy-makers and change agents at all levels to collect and use evidence for fostering cross-sectoral, multi-level frameworks, strategies and action plans for integrated and inclusive territorial development. UN-Habitat deploys the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP)* and *Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development* to help shape strategies, policies and plans for sustainable integrated urban and territorial development. The accompanying Framework for Action helps build an enabling environment for more inclusive and functional urban-rural linkages and offers practical suggestions that can be adapted to diverse contexts.

Challenges addressed: The urban-rural divide often results in rural-urban migration, poverty and inequalities and often impact on food security for both urban and rural dwellers. Interactions between urban and rural areas are characterized by material or immaterial, social, economic and information flows. During the COVID-19 pandemic flows of people, goods (food/health supplies), services, resources and capital were adversely affected in some contexts. This further necessitates why urban-rural linkages should be considered in policies, plans and strategies.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is the lead agency working in human settlements and specifically in the development of the universal **Urban Rural Linkages:**

Guiding Principles (URL-GP)¹ and Framework for Action. These are key frameworks for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and achievement of the SDGs. UN-Habitat has developed tools and methodologies for national and sub-national governments to localize the URL-GP, and has convened a large community of partners and practitioners working on various dimensions of urban-rural linkages, SMART villages, markets and intermediary cities. URL-GP is also linked to other work of UN-Habitat on National Urban Policies, legislation, governance, the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and the Global Land Tool Network, amongst others. Led by UN-Habitat partnerships with UCLG, OECD, Cities Alliance, WUWM, UNCCD, UNFCCC, CBD and FAO, academia and civil society are also actively engaged towards creating synergies for global dialogues and enhanced relevance in different thematic and geographical contexts. The first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages took place in Songyang County, China in November 2019.

Duration of support: The duration of support is typically at least two years. The first year is dedicated to assessment of the URL challenges, opportunities, capacity gaps, participation gaps, policy and data gaps. The second year focuses on prioritizing the issues to address, data collection for evidence and finally policy recommendations including incorporating the strategies, policies and plans amongst others.



¹ Over 130 stakeholders and over 40 institutions participated in the development of the URL-GP. URL-GP can be found in English, Spanish, French, Russian, Portuguese, Chinese and Arabic.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has conducted projects to strengthen URL in nine African countries and supported Bolivia in developing policy recommendations. In these projects it has deployed the URL-GP tools and methodologies in Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Nigeria (Niger State), Tanzania (Zanzibar), Mozambique, Burkina Faso, Senegal, Mali and Democratic Republic of the Congo. UN-Habitat has also conducted regional workshops to build capacities of over 80 government officials on

mainstreaming URL into National Urban Policies. As examples, Cameroon and Guinea Conakry have developed URL country teams/committees from different ministries/sectors and levels of government to advance the work; and Niger state is developing strategies for slum redevelopment in one of the cities and is developing markets plans and designs after the respective data collection and analysis which are not part of this project, utilizing the capacities developed.

Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles



TESTIMONY

“The capacity development workshop and project at large has equipped us on how to utilize Urban-Rural Linkages tools that will help us in planning for our urban areas and the respective peri-urban and rural areas. This includes enhancing connectivity and equitable allocation of the services to minimize mobility to the cities from the rural areas whether for employment or better goods and services.”

Mr. Mohammed Habib,
Director Dept. of Urban and Rural Planning Commission for Lands, Tanzania



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat's Urban-Rural Linkages project website](#)

C.5. Policy, law and governance for climate smart cities

2.3 3.1 3.3 4.3



1.4, 1.5



11.1, 11.b



13.2, 13.b



17.14

Summary: Strengthening urban policies, law and governance in order to establish cities' resilience and adaptation to climate change and impact their greenhouse gas emissions. These policies, laws and governance frameworks define where land, infrastructure and basic services can be built; lay out rules for planning and decision-making; and set the context within which urban authorities, local governments and communities are expected to fulfil their mandate and react to emerging challenges. This service utilizes the **Law and Climate Change Toolkit** to support countries and local governments in reviewing and reforming their policy, legal and governance frameworks in order to implement their Nationally Determined Contributions under the Paris Agreement.

Challenges addressed: Climate change has been described as the 'defining issue of our time'. Human settlements emit a substantial portion of the world's greenhouse gases and are home to most of the population and infrastructure that is highly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. A resolute response to climate change requires deliberate and sustained action from both state and non-state actors anchored in supportive regulatory and institutional frameworks and a regular assessment of their adequacy and effectiveness.

What UN-Habitat can offer: At the forefront in the efforts to promote climate smart urbanization, UN-Habitat offers this support globally for all signatories of the Paris Agreement. A study undertaken by UN-Habitat in 2017 showed that the majority of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) – 113 out of 164 – show strong or moderate urban content, with the main portion focusing on urban issues in the context of adaptation. By reviewing their legislation

and assessing whether it is appropriate to achieve their reduction and adaptation targets, UN-Habitat supports countries to improve their policy, legal and governance frameworks to facilitate the implementation of their NDCs. Through this support, UN-Habitat builds capacities of national and local governments to better understand the legal and institutional frameworks required for effective climate change planning, management and governance. The assessments focus on pro-poor approaches to climate action that do not compromise but improve security of tenure and access to adequate housing for the most vulnerable.

This service utilizes the **Law and Climate Change Toolkit**, which is the result of a partnership between several international institutions including the Commonwealth Secretariat, UNEP, UNFCCC and other United Nations entities. UN-Habitat is one of the contributing partners to the Toolkit and has led the development of the Urban Law module. The project will be based on the UN-Habitat core value of socially inclusive urbanization. (See also Section II – H for more on UN-Habitat's support on climate and cities).

Duration of support: This support can be effectively delivered in two years. The first year is dedicated to the assessment of policy, legislation and governance frameworks relevant to urban planning and climate change and to production of recommendations for legal change. The second year is dedicated to the discussion of the findings and recommendations, to the identification of government's priorities and possible options for legal reform.

TESTIMONY

"Urban legal frameworks play an important role in climate change mitigation and adaptation."

"The toolkit is an innovative and a very useful instrument to help countries review their domestic legislation."

Ms. Sharon Gil, Cities Unit, UNEP

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



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[The law and climate change toolkit website](#)
[World Urban Forum 10 in Abu Dhabi](#)

C.6. Urban law for informal settlements upgrading and prevention



Summary: Support to identifying the legal constraints for slum prevention and upgrading, with the goal of ensuring the right to security of tenure, to an adequate standard of living, and the right to water and sanitation for the urban poor. Informal settlements are outside the regulations on land-use, buildings permission, and infrastructure and service provision. They are often situated on illegally occupied land, with no infrastructure or basic services. Many people live in informal settlements because of the high cost of ‘formal’ housing – including the cost of getting a legal land title, receiving permissions to develop buildings and meeting rules and regulations on land-use, buildings and infrastructure and service provision. This service helps to build an understanding of the adequacy of the policy and legal framework to support or hinder the development of affordable housing and informal settlements upgrading efforts.

Challenges addressed: One billion urban dwellers live in informal settlements, experiencing lack of access to housing and basic services, insecure tenure and living under the threat of forced evictions. Policy and legal frameworks are often non responsive to the needs of the most vulnerable local communities and to facilitate the realization of their right to security of tenure and to an adequate standard of living. (See also Flagship 3 on page 170 for more on how UN-Habitat is addressing this issue, and see A.1, E.2, E.7, and G.3 for more on UN-Habitat’s support for informal settlements).

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat builds on its long-standing experience and expertise in these intersecting areas to improve the responsiveness of the policy and legal environment to the needs of the most vulnerable local communities and to facilitate the realization of their right to security of tenure and to an adequate standard of living. This support is innovative for the scope of the

subjects covered and for its methodology. It is the first legal assessment that looks at all dimensions that hinder the enjoyment of basic living standards of slum dwellers. Additionally, the projects assess the legal effectiveness of the legal framework by considering the policy consistency; the transparency of processes; the clarity of institutional responsibilities and institutional capacity for implementation. One of the outcomes of this support is the creation of the enabling policy, legal and governance frameworks to increase the resilience of informal communities to climate related weather events.

Duration of support: The timeframe for the activities of these projects can be split into phases: building knowledge and capacity and legal review to identify areas for legal change, which typically takes 1–2 years; and legal and institutional reform which typically takes between 1–5 years, depending on the context.

Previous applications: The project has so far provided evidence for and supported policy, legal and governance reforms in the following countries: Kenya, Bolivia, Iran and Guinea Conakry.

- In **Kenya**, the project has supported the drafting of the Kenya Slum Upgrading Bill.
- In **Bolivia**, the project has supported the drafting of the new National Urban Policy.
- In **Iran**, the project has been piloted in three cities and the findings will be discussed with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development.
- In **Guinea-Conakry**, the project is supporting the development of the new National Urban Policy and some slum upgrading projects in Conakry.

The Informal Settlements Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool was awarded the second prize for the most promising and innovative idea to Leave No One Behind at the 1st World Summit on Leaving No One Behind held in Geneva from 7–8 February 2019.

Workshops to discuss the challenges of informal settlements in Iran

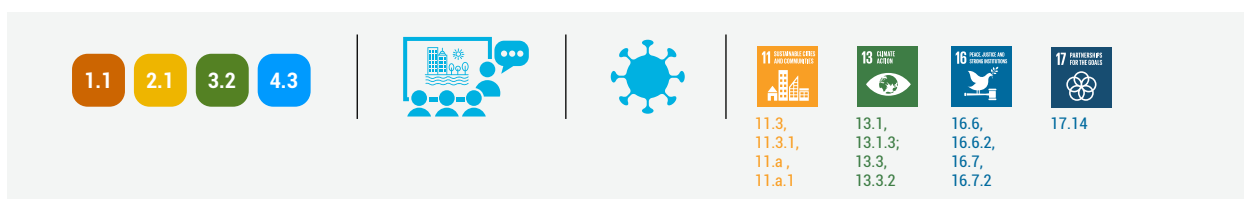


FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Urban policy platform](#)

[UrbanLex](#) is a free global database which aims to improve access to the legislation that regulates the urban environment

C.7. MetroHUB: Supporting sustainable metropolitan and regional development



Summary: MetroHUB supports the development of an integrative approach for metropolitan management, encompassing metropolitan policies, governance, legal frameworks, planning and financing mechanisms, in the world's metropolises and regions. MetroHUB promotes inclusive collaboration between different sectors and levels of government and brings together relevant local stakeholders from civil society, the public sector and academia.

Challenges addressed: As urbanization continues to intensify around the world, metropolises are becoming increasingly complex territories to manage. The lack of an integrated management approach can threaten territorial cohesion and sustainable development. MetroHUB's support for metropolitan and regional management specifically addresses: (i) urban and regional inequalities through cooperative and integrated management systems; (ii) urban-rural disparities implementing territorial development approaches; and (iii) service delivery in large cities, megacities and metropolitan regions through multi-sectoral policy development.

What UN-Habitat can offer: MetroHUB is structured as a platform, joint initiative, and network of international experts tailoring innovative metropolitan solutions to local contexts, informing evidence-based metropolises' decision-making processes, and strengthening the capacities of local and metropolitan actors. The technical support provided by this service is directed at increasing the capacity of metropolitan and regional actors; drafting metropolitan policies and legal frameworks; strengthening governance mechanisms; supporting metropolitan and regional planning; and innovating new financing mechanisms.

MetroHUB also works with partners to support the World Metropolitan Day (WMD) global advocacy campaign every year to create an occasion for local, regional and metropolitan governments to engage in collective action to build more equitable, resilient and prosperous metropolises, and to organize local observance events jointly with UN-Habitat.

Knowledge exchange with metropolitan mayors in the metropolitan area of San Salvador, El Salvador. Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador (OPAMSS)

© UN-Habitat



Global Expert Group Meetings on Metropolises in Medellin, Colombia; Abu Dhabi, UAE; and Barcelona, Spain. Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburra (AMVA) Metropolitan Area de Barcelona (AMR) and UN-Habitat



Previous applications: MetroHUB has carried out successful trainings, field visits, technical assistance, normative support, knowledge exchange and advocacy in many different urban contexts across the globe, including in Argentina, Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, El Salvador, Indonesia, Italy, Mali, Mexico, Paraguay, Spain, and Uganda.

The MetroHUB initiative supports capacity development programmes in particular, which have been implemented in Argentina, Colombia, El Salvador, Italy and Paraguay, in partnership with local universities. They are customized according to local needs, duration and beneficiaries, and cover topics such as policy, governance, legislation, planning, financing mechanisms and advancing territorial approaches to the SDGs at the metropolitan and regional scales. More than 300 people have been trained through

these programmes and MetroHUB has been acknowledged for its assistance to metropolitan stakeholders.

After the success of its collaboration with MetroHUB, the Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas (ASOAREAS) recognized MetroHUB in 2020 for four years of support on topics such as capacity development, metropolitan planning and legislation, advocacy and best practices exchange.

Duration of support: MetroHUB services have diverse scopes and timeframes according to local contexts and partners' needs and requirements. For instance, the capacity development programmes have been implemented as post-graduate courses of one-year duration, executive certificates of three months, specific trainings of one week or summer schools of one week.

TESTIMONY

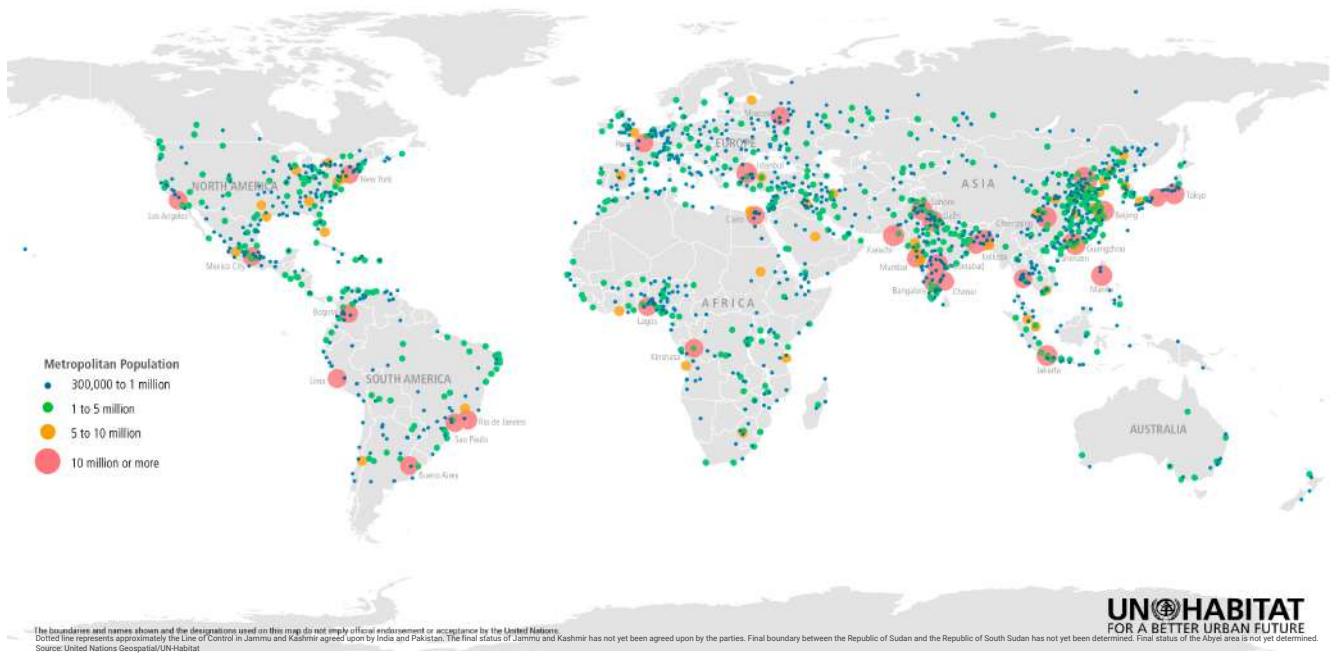
“Collaborating with UN-Habitat is crucial for the accomplishment of Metropolis’ mission”

Octavi de la Varga,
Metropolis’ Secretary General

“We recognize the role of UN-Habitat and require its technical support when necessary to strengthen metropolitan management and to advance in the sustainable development of our metropolises”

Metropolitan Areas of Montreal, Barcelona, Guadalajara, Ensenada, San Salvador, Quito, Kanata, Santa Cruz de la Sierra, Grand Bamako, Cairo, Centro Occidente, Valledupar and Valle de Aburrá; and Specialists of the Academy

The urban world is becoming metropolitan: metropolises with more than 300,000 inhabitants in 2020. © UN-Habitat, 2020



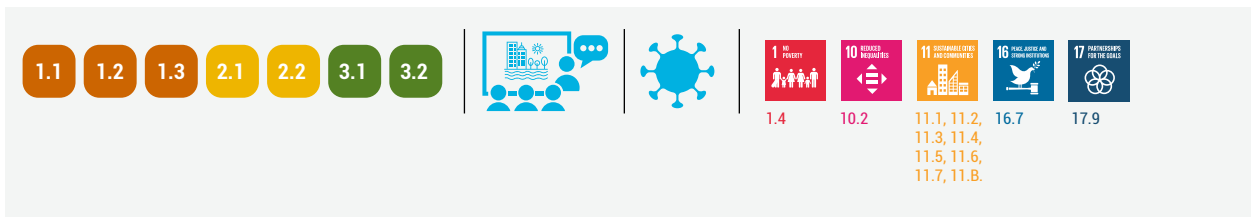
MetroHUB

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [MetroHUB website](#)
- [Urban Policy Platform](#)
- [World Metropolitan Day](#)
- [The Montreal Declaration on Metropolitan Areas](#)

D. Planning and design

D.1. Integrating global goals into urban development plans to guide urban transformation



Summary: Support and expertise to develop integrated urban development and statutory plans that guide urban transformation and reflect New Urban Agenda principles and further the achievement of the SDGs. As plans guide the spatial development of cities and settlements, provide scenarios for projected growth, and identify future projects to cater to the needs of residents, they cover different sectors like housing, transport, basic services and social amenities. Implementation of the plans requires appropriate legal and finance mechanisms that support translating plans into concrete action, revenue generation for municipality and clarify the financing mechanisms for public spaces and infrastructure.

Challenges addressed: The pace of rapid urban development, especially in cities, can lead to unsustainable growth patterns and inefficient land use including urban sprawl, informal housing, congestion, limited basic service provision and social and recreational facilities and infrastructure in cities, and settlements that endanger residents.

What UN-Habitat can offer: Plans can address and prepare for these challenges, establish the rules of the game for land development and infrastructure extension, and mobilize political support to fund critical infrastructure in a coordinated manner to generate equitable access to services and opportunities. UN-Habitat, through its Urban LAB, brings together technical expertise in planning, data analytics, urban economy, finance and governance and is poised to support city, metropolitan and county government planning departments to develop plans that guide urban development actions in line with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. The approach is integrative and focuses on key elements that can leverage the urban advantage for many, such as prioritizing public space within a framework of urban density, mixed land use and social mix, equitable

access to land and tenure security and the integration of the formal and informal spaces and systems.

In contexts where planning systems are not well developed or where local capacity may struggle, UN-Habitat plays a unique and effective role in ensuring sustainable urban development systems are set in place. UN-Habitat's support integrates climate-responsive solutions as well as human rights, social inclusion, participation and gender-responsive strategies such as representation in the process and approval and adoption stages by the council. The planning process of this service is in itself a capacity building tool and the engagement with the local actors is geared towards addressing local authorities' ability to implement it in the future. Depending on the context and needs assessed, specific capacity building sessions are organized for different stakeholders including technical staff, political decision-makers and communities.

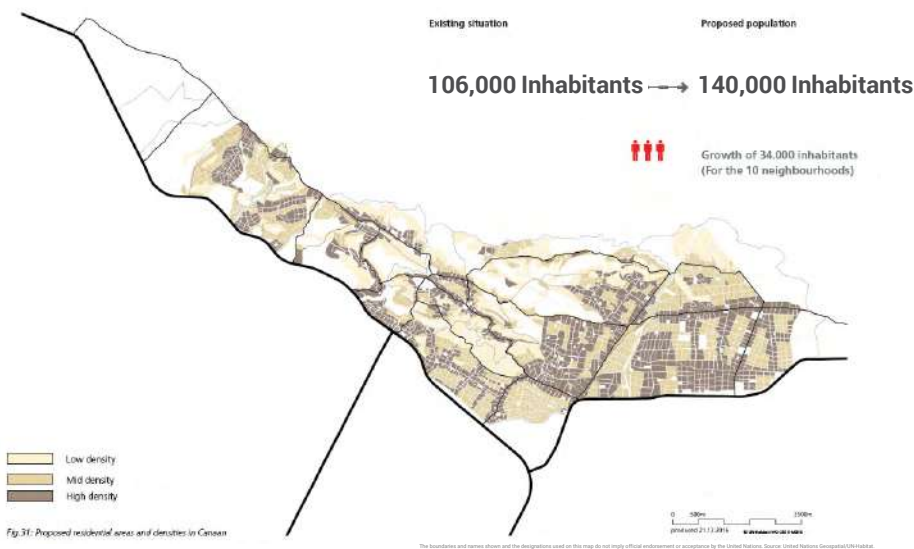
Duration of support: The timeframe for developing urban plans can vary and depends on the specific context, availability of data and the amount of detail expected in the final product. The period to develop a Statutory Plan can range anywhere between 10–24 months. Other types of plans may require less time, although the consultative process may be quite intensive. Support in selected phases of these processes through coaching and specific inputs can be also envisaged through engagement at critical moments in support to the local planning departments.

Previous applications: This is generally relevant for developing contexts where local planning capacities are weak and urbanization rates are high suggesting a strong need for integrated spatial planning particularly. We have worked with over 50 cities in the past years. Examples of statutory plans at the local level that integrate global goals, principles and agreements are those developed

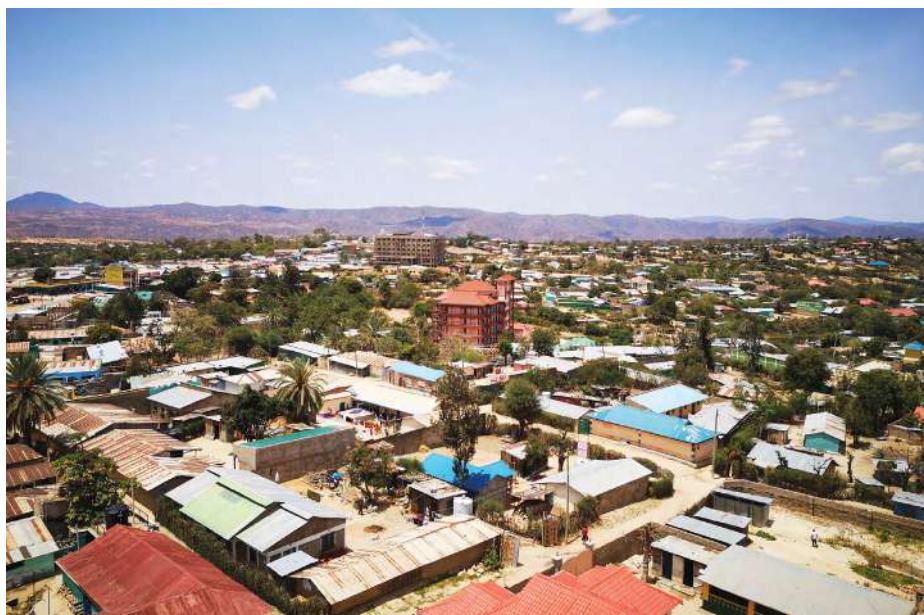
for Haiti (Canaan, Les Cayes, Jeremie, Beaumont, Dame Marie), Ethiopia (Hawassa, Bahir Dar) and municipalities in Kenya like Moyale and Kalobeyei. Other types of plans have been developed for Kisumu, Kenya (Concept Plan for the Lakefront Area) and Moroni, Comores.

The Canaan Structure Plan was developed as part of the Urban Development Initiative funded by USAID to support CIAT (Interministerial Committee for Territorial Planning) and UCLBP (Unit of Construction, Housing and Public Buildings), as well as three municipalities in the Port-au-

Prince Metropolitan Area in developing an integrated urban development plan for reconstruction after the earthquake of 2010. The structure plan provided a common vision for the development of the Canaan area that would integrate the work and initiatives of different government and non-governmental actors, and was based on an extensive participatory planning process at the city and neighbourhood levels developed in collaboration with the Haitian government as well as the Haitian and the American Red Cross. The plan was used to prioritize investment in the area and to align it with the needs of local residents.



Urban Structure Plan for the area of Canaan, Port-au-Prince, Haiti



Moyale, located in Marsabit County in Kenya, is a cross-border town with Ethiopia and lacks any form of spatial plans and is experiencing rapid growth. The Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan aims to assess the existing conditions, identify issues and gaps to meet the needs of the residents and propose projects in different sectors to ensure integrated and sustainable growth. The Plan is an essential requirement to be deemed a municipality and access funds for development from the national and county government.

TESTIMONY

“Community participation has been one of the strongest assets of the plan. The plan has focused on addressing the priority interventions that are required from the community perspective to upgrade the informal urban structure of Canaan and improve the lives of its residents.”

Ms. Rose-May Guignard
Senior Urban Planner, Inter-ministerial
Committee for Territorial Planning (CIAT), Haiti

Infrastructure, street network and boulevard built based on the prioritized investments in the plan, Haiti.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

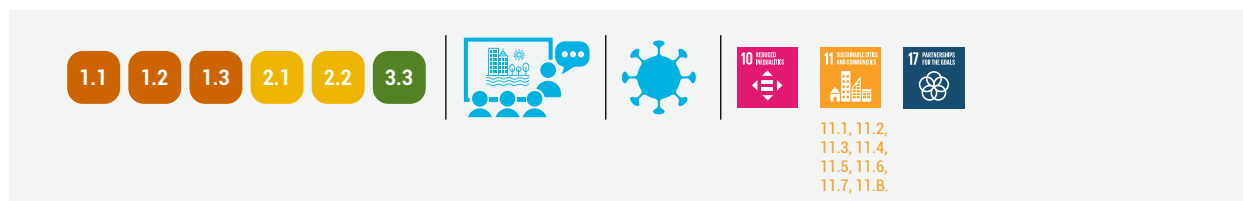
[Urban Structure Plan of Canaan, Haiti](#)

[Kalobeyei Integrated Development Plan](#)

[UN-Habitat Urban LAB](#)

[Urban Planning for City Leaders: A Guide on Leveraging Planning for Urban Development](#)

D.2. Rapid planning studios



Summary: Compressed planning workshops that integrate the three fundamental pillars – urban legislation, urban finance and economy, and urban planning and design – of sustainable urban development. Through expert UN-Habitat facilitation, Rapid Planning Studios (RPS) reproduce the full planning process in a three-day format and aim to strengthen planning capacity and to provide a straightforward planning methodology and actionable roadmap to supply serviced land for rapid urban growth.

Challenges addressed: Cities and municipalities in rapidly urbanizing countries rarely have the capacities to plan in advance or to plan to scale for population growth resulting in a shortage of available serviced land. The RPS workshops, based on a participatory planning process, harness the knowledge, talent and enthusiasm of all parties involved to identify an achievable process towards sustainable urban development that is representative of the community's needs and aspirations.

What UN-Habitat can offer: In this innovative service, a process that typically takes 6–18 months is shortened to under 12 weeks yet retaining its depth, participation and usefulness. The RPS is a unique platform to disseminate UN-Habitat's approach and principles with technical municipal staff to rapidly build capacity. It engages cities in the promotion and implementation of urban regeneration and planned city extension projects and establishes long-term engagement with governments and municipalities through sustained technical assistance.

The RPS workshops integrate sustainable planning principles with public participation and social inclusion to ensure the needs and aspirations of the community are reflected in plans and policies. The primary participants of the workshop are senior and technical municipal staff from planning, budgeting and economy, legal and regulatory,

public works and related departments. The participation of national government representatives and local and/or international academic experts adding extra value. The peer-to-peer learning approach allows planners and urban decision-makers to come together to reflect on and exchange their experiences as practitioners, and learning-by-doing methodology creates an interactive workshop to address challenges in a direct, applicable and functional way. Upon completion participants have the knowledge and tools to implement the full planning process.

The RPS is described in a tested detailed methodology that includes the participation of different thematic experts in urban planning, economy and finance, and urban legislation to conduct and jointly integrate the results of the studio.

Duration of support: The RPS is a three-day workshop that reproduces a full 6–18 months planning process. The preparation of materials for the workshop and reporting can take between 4 to 12 weeks. These will include assessments of existing conditions, development of potential scenarios and the design of presentations, posters and brochures to be disseminated during the workshops as well as the preparation of the post-workshop report.

Previous applications: The RPS methodology was developed and tested by UN-Habitat over a four-year period within the frameworks of the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) programme and the Kenya Municipal Programme (KMP). It has been applied in Kenya, Philippines, Mozambique, Nigeria, Malaysia and Ethiopia, as well as in 17 cities of Saudi Arabia under the Future Saudi Cities programme. Future Saudi Cities also provided a platform for women's participation in the technical discussion and as panelists, in some cases for the first time in several years.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

Rapid Planning Concept Note

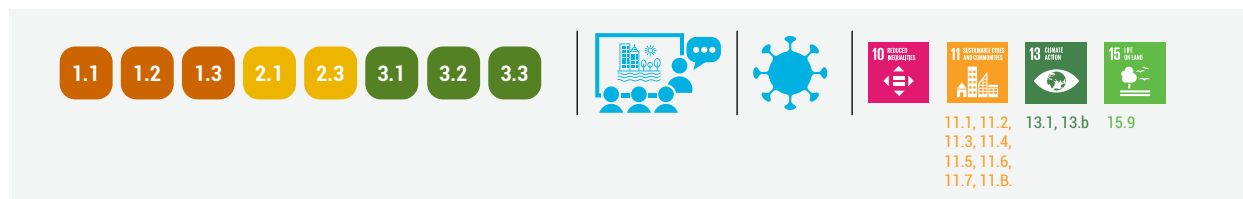
Rapid Planning Studio in Kenya Publications:

- [Volume 1](#)
- [Volume 2](#)



**Publication of Kenya RPS
Volume 1 to Volume 4**

D.3. City-scale plan assessment



Summary: Support to analyzing a city’s masterplan to assess its strengths and weaknesses. Incomplete or outdated plans without clear vision, goals and prioritized projects can lead to unplanned and unsustainable growth of cities, exacerbating spatial inequality, urban sprawl, informal settlements and environmental degradation. Deployment of the Assessment Tool will help to gauge the strengths and gaps in existing city plans to meet the SDG targets following New Urban Agenda principles.

Challenges addressed: Incomplete or outdated plans without clear vision, goals and prioritized projects can lead to unplanned and unsustainable growth of cities exacerbating spatial inequality, urban sprawl, informal settlements and environmental degradation.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has developed the City-Scale Plan Assessment Tool to gauge the strengths and gaps that need to be addressed in existing city plans, to meet the SDG targets along New Urban Agenda guidelines and within the framework of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning. The Tool supports the self-assessment of plans by city governments, building capacity and advancing the SDG targets at the local level. The Tool is designed to be accessible and to help city governments, ministries, consultants and planning professionals assess current, existing or under-development master plans of cities and municipalities, particularly in developing countries. The Tool has the potential to become a digital interface which can automate the results and also show comparative graphs over time or across regions. Its unique value lies in its simplicity and ease of use while being comprehensive for a diverse audience base. The tool includes elements of public participation and social inclusivity addressed in the plan as scoring criteria to ensure the needs and aspirations of the community are reflected in the plan, and that the goals of the plan aim to reduce inequality and enhance inclusion within the city’s

spatial structure. Issues of gender and age sensitivity of the plan are also assessed considering specific gender and age dimensions of urban development, and to identify possible areas for improvement. The assessment report is an excellent input for local discussions on the role and impact of urban plans and to lay the foundation for improved planning processes and for the clarification of planning objectives. (See also UN-Habitat’s Guiding Principles on City Climate Action Planning in H.3.)

Duration of support: The training on how to use the Tool can be conducted over a two-hour session as the report and tool are clear, succinct and user-friendly. The assessment itself can be done in a few hours provided the assessor is very well-versed and familiar with the plan being assessed. In case of multiple reviewer/assessors, the process can be spread over a few weeks to average the scores and come up with an unbiased assessment.

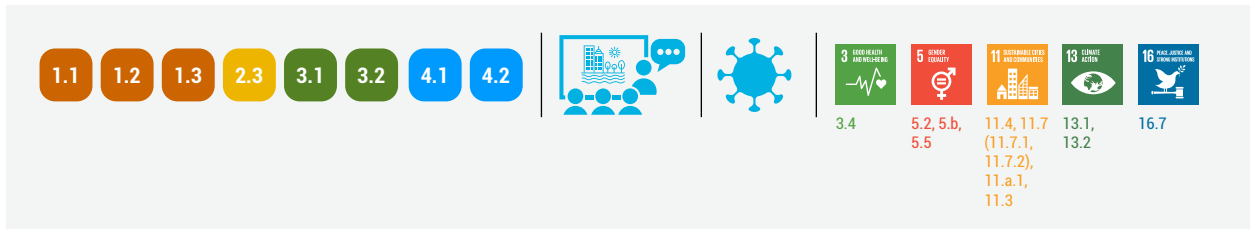
Previous applications: The City-Scale Plan Assessment Tool is suitable for small to medium-sized cities of developing countries around the world in the nascent stages of a localized planning process. The Tool applies to city-scale plans and has been used in Kigali, Rwanda; Buraydah and Damman, Saudi Arabia; and several municipalities in China. It is currently being used in Mwanza, Tanzania where the plan was quite comprehensive in its coverage of sectors and was data-driven but lacked concrete actions to guide the implementation of the projects identified. The ambitious visions of the plan did not match the economic figures in the detailed analysis to ensure return on investment for the identified and prioritized projects. The city government was guided to revisit the proposed projects and conduct a feasibility assessment, and ultimately revised projects were better aligned to realize the vision of the plan while being economically feasible.



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat Urban LAB](#)

D.4. Promoting safe, inclusive and accessible public space

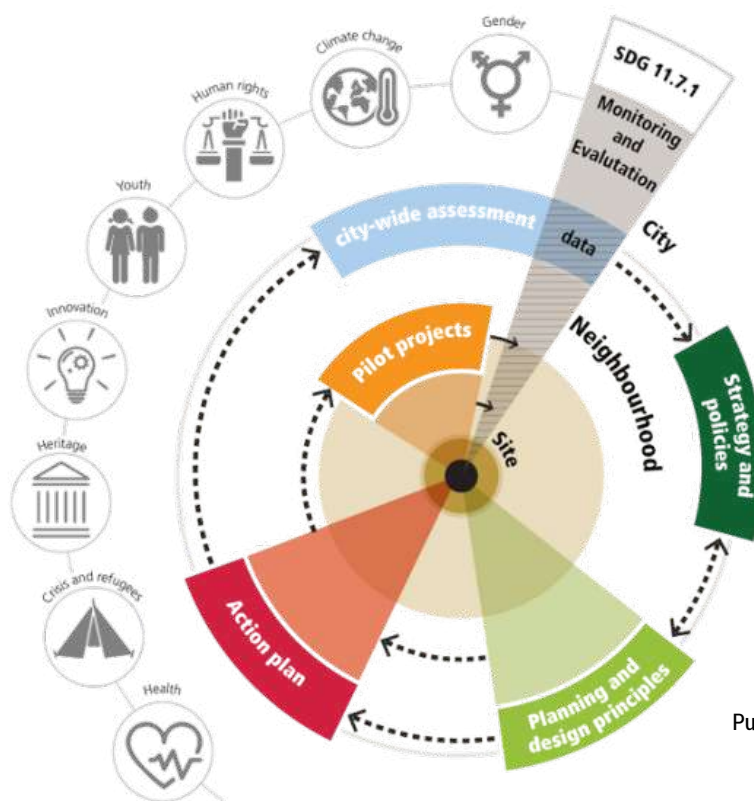


Summary: Supports cities, local governments and their stakeholders in creating and promoting socially inclusive, integrated, connected, environmentally sustainable and safe streets and public spaces especially for the most vulnerable by providing policy advice, capacity building, knowledge sharing and guidance for inclusive and safe public space development, regeneration and improvement. This process is enriched by best practices and policies from our global network of partner organizations. This service maps public spaces and works with cities to develop city-wide public space strategies and supports the tracking of SDG indicator 11.7.

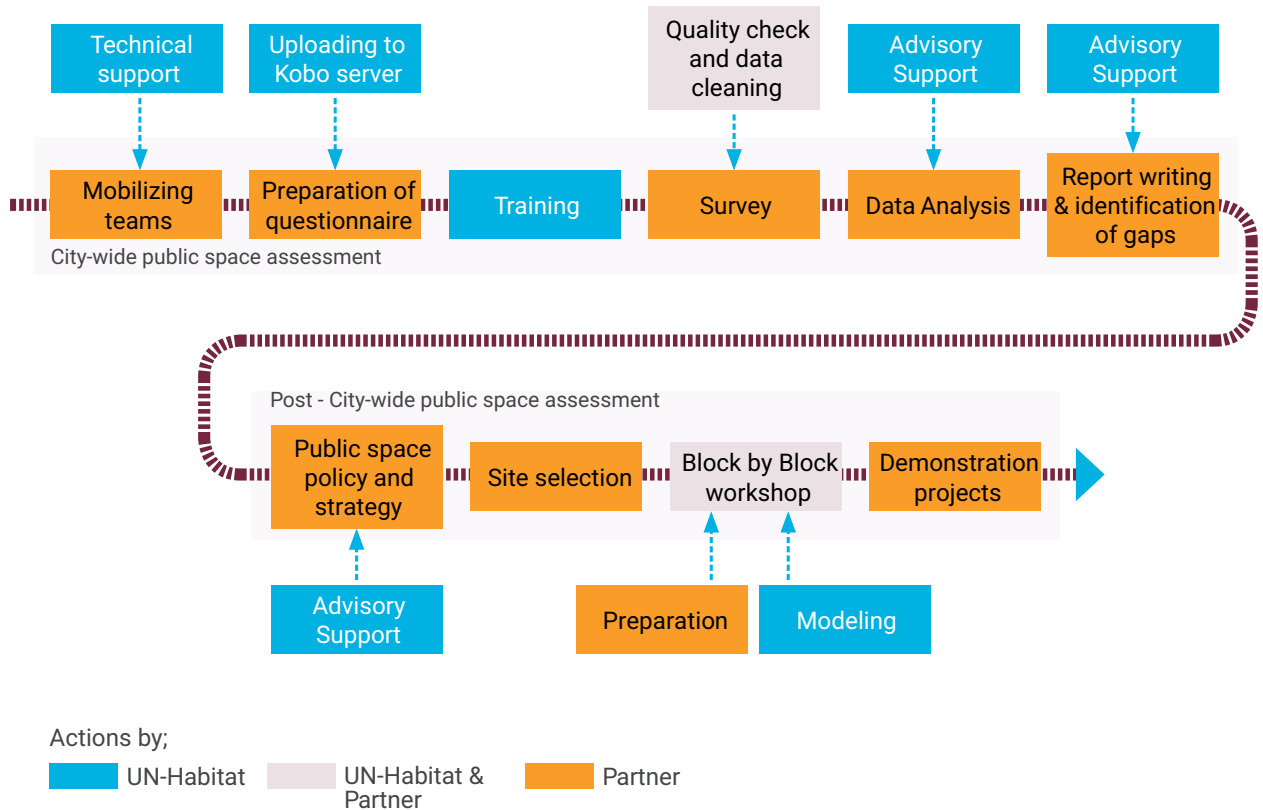
Challenges addressed: Public spaces are diminishing and unequal in their provision due to unplanned development, inadequate street networks, overcrowding, encroachment, poor maintenance and privatization. These factors mean

that public space is often inaccessible to large sections of society. The challenges of inadequate public space compound spatial inequalities and harm the urban poor and vulnerable communities. Cities and towns struggle to identify relevant, locally based approaches to prepare and implement public space interventions at different scales and to maintain public space. The COVID-19 crisis has also highlighted how public spaces represent a key lifeline for vulnerable populations and an important asset for deploying emergency measures, facilitating the delivery of essential services and can host well-spaced activities to enable recreation.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat provides advice and technical support to cities and local governments worldwide on all dimensions of public space enhancement from assessment to creation and management.



Public Space Process and Tools



The toolbox includes:

City-wide public space assessment (KOBO Toolbox) considers the different dimensions of public space such as the distribution, use, users, green coverage, comfort, accessibility, physical facilities and safety and helps to identify priority areas, investment shortfall and public spaces for upgrading. It is a digital questionnaire on mobile phones customized to local context and linked to an online platform. UN-Habitat has used public space assessments to support: the development of a National Public Space Policy (Palestine and Ethiopia); multi-scalar territorial development (West Nile Region, Uganda); heritage protection and conservation (Wuchang, China); the protection and greening of cities for climate (Jiangnan District, China and Kabul Municipality, Afghanistan); the creation of new public spaces (China, Ethiopia and Kenya); and strategic policy interventions (UAE). (Please see [our website](#) for details on these types of support).

1. *City-Wide Public Space Strategies: a Guidebook for City Leaders* offers three guides in one: a process-based guide with 12 steps for developing a strategy; an output-based guide with 13 essential ingredients for a strategy; and an outcome-based guide with six important norms that every strategy should adopt. This guidebook is complemented by *City-Wide Public Space Strategies: a Compendium of Inspiring Practices*, and together they provide city leaders, urban planners and designers, with the knowledge and tools necessary to support them in developing and implementing city-wide public space strategies.
2. *Site-specific assessment tool*: provides guidelines to achieve quality public spaces at neighbourhood level ([download here](#)).
3. *Block by Block methodology*: the Block by Block methodology employs community meetings, presen-

tations, site visits and, very importantly, the site design workshop using the video game Minecraft as a tool to help the community visualize the site planning and design. Minecraft is best described as “digital Lego” where participants can get creative and build structures in a three-dimensional world: (www.blockbyblock.org).

4. Monitoring of implementation of Agenda 2030 public space indicator on the share of built up areas that are of public use for all is key to achieve the New Urban Agenda and to monitor and report on SDG 11.7.1.

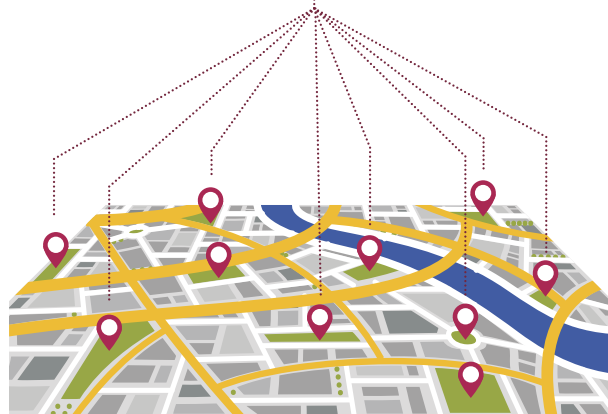
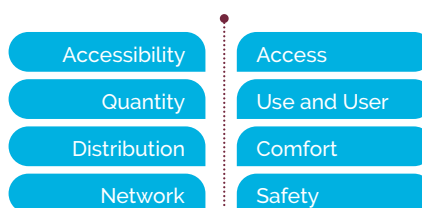
Duration of support: This process of conducting a city-wide public space assessment usually takes roughly five months. Site-specific public space assessments take from 1–3 months. Participatory processes engaging communities range from 1 day to 3 weeks. The development of a city-wide public space strategy and/or action plan typically takes 18 months.

Previous applications: From 2016 to 2019, UN-Habitat has supported the co-creation and reconstruction of over 104 public spaces in 75 cities in the 35 countries providing approximately 1.82 million people with access to safer, more inclusive and improved public spaces. The spaces are more women friendly, providing opportunities for the elderly to linger, children and youth to play and socialize, and the poor to earn a livelihood through upgrading of municipal markets and provision of spaces for street vending. Public space surveys have been conducted in 29 cities engaging 1,800 young people in data collection.

KOBO Toolbox city-wide public space assessment



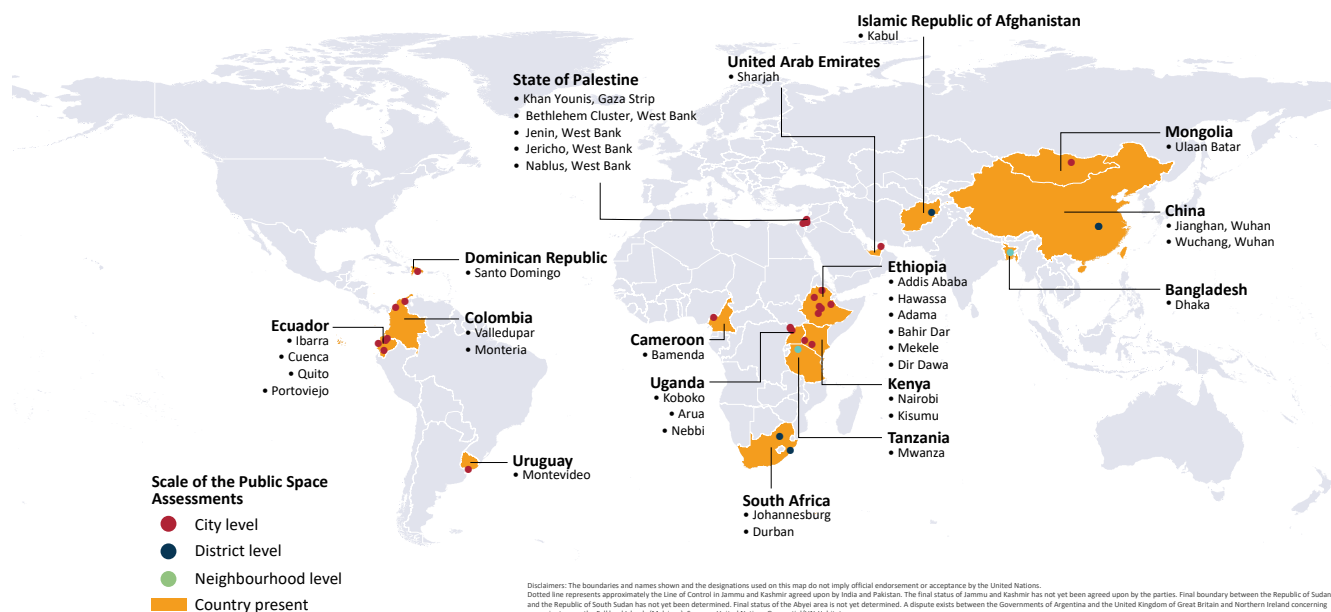
KoBoToolbox



Minecraft workshop, Palestine



City-Wide Public space inventory and assessment



TESTIMONY

“This is the most efficient public engagement we have had for city development projects.”

Mr. Amal Abdulla Alkhamis,
Sharjah City for Humanitarian Services

“These public spaces can create sustainable peace. They came together and they used Minecraft to design it. They did it!”

Ms. Almaz Mekonnen,
State Minister, Ministry of Peace, Ethiopia

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Public Space Programme Annual Report 2019](#)

[Global Public Space Programme](#)

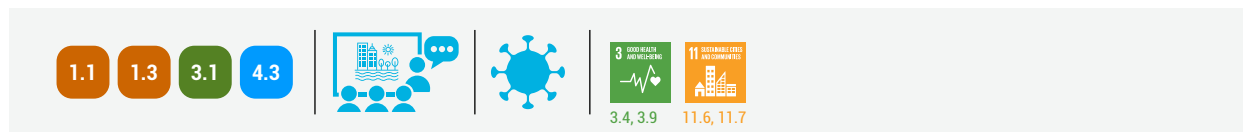
[Block by Block website](#)

[Step-by-Step Guide on conducting City-wide Public Space Inventory and Assessment](#)

[City-Wide Public Space Strategies: a Guidebook for City Leaders](#)

[City-Wide Public Space Strategies: a Compendium of Inspiring Practices](#)

D.5. Planning for healthy cities and territories



Summary: Support to urban leaders, decision-makers, health and planning professionals on integrated planning and design approaches placing eco-social health and well-being at the centre of development strategies. This involves building the capacity of local authorities and stakeholders to deploy planning principles to meet local needs through feasible and health-centred design. These planning approaches focus on urban environments as catalysts to enable healthier lifestyles for residents, reducing inequality while promoting environmental health.

Challenges addressed: Cities are locations of the spread and growth of diseases, of high mortality rates in non-communicable disease, health inequalities and risks to health (e.g. air pollution, poor sanitation services, lack of clean water, lack of adequate public space or safe transport, etc.), which are rooted in inadequate planning.

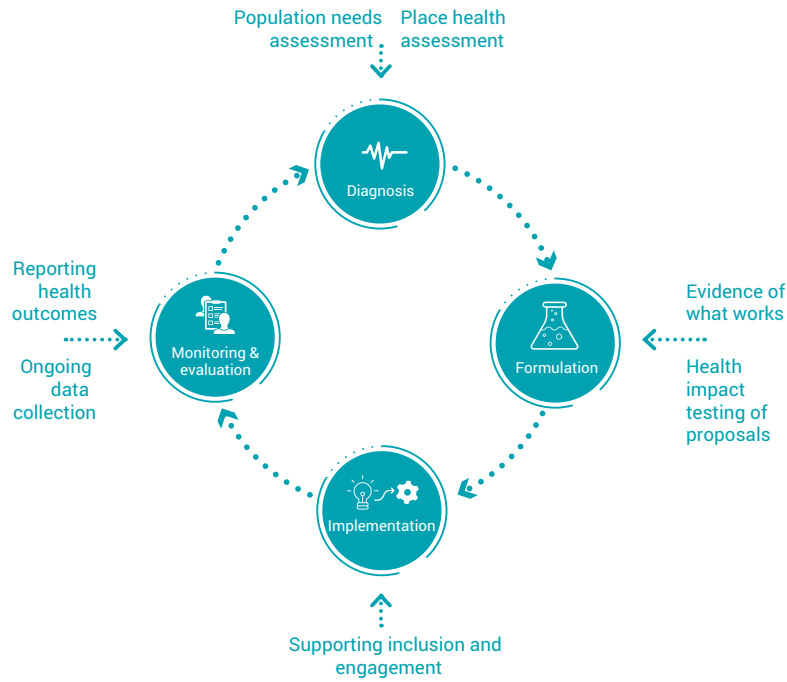
What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat consolidates technical expertise in planning, urban design, urban economy, finance and governance and brings urban health actors to the table to establish dialogue, develop clear urban health objectives for urban planning, and define urban projects to translate health sector recommendations and urban planning principles into feasible planning frameworks and urban design interventions in line with the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. This is especially applicable in countries developing their regional and city-wide plans, strategies, spatial frameworks (see D.3. and D.4.) and Urban Policies (see C.3.), assessing their Planning Systems for reform or embarking in planning processes particularly during post-COVID-19 recovery (see D.4.). Capacity building can be embedded in the process or provided as a stand-alone service. A self-assessment tool is available to guide the discussion, and specific topics can be singled out and addressed specifically (air pollution and green open spaces, for example). For more references see the Sourcebook: [Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning](#).

Duration of support: The timeframe for developing a complete vision and planning framework and urban design health projects and strategies is dependent on the specific context, scale of project and the amount of detail expected in the final product. The period to develop a planning framework and urban design proposal can range anywhere between 6–24 months. Trainings and capacity development activities can be delivered in two to four days.

Previous applications: Application and use of the tools and methodologies developed by UN-Habitat are relevant to every urban planning scale, from neighbourhood (e.g. public spaces) to regional and global trainings, to both urban health and planning actors. Planning for health approaches, tools and methodologies has been used to support cities, metropolitan areas, countries and regions in mapping the urban health situation, policies, decision-making processes and the planning system. An additional focus has been on assessing the state of air quality, climate and air pollutant emissions and their sources, identifying expected health impacts and identifying gaps in the ability to collect comprehensive data that supports policy actions.

The tools and methodologies have been used in different ways and at different scales. A pilot project with key partners was carried out in Accra and Katmandu and a workshop in intersectoral approaches was delivered in Duala, Cameroon which concluded with key actions and improved capacities on working among both sectors in regards to urban development. A training programme on integrating health in urban and territorial planning for the region of Africa was delivered at Cape Town, South Africa. The workshop allowed all participants to simulate the entry point approach to urban health, link it with the SDGs, and determinants of health within their context.

Urban Health Initiative – Air Quality



TESTIMONY

“The workshop has opened my eyes in terms of the benefits of the collaboration.”

Ms. Noxolo Kabane,
Western Cape Provincial Government

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

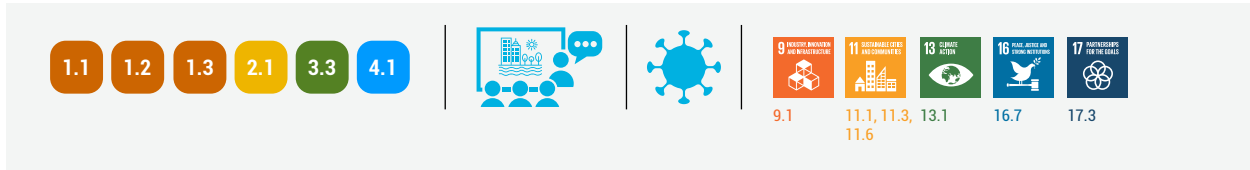
[The Compendium of inspiring practice: health edition compiles 20 cases in urban and territorial planning that positively influence health and wellbeing of humans through different urban approaches](#)

[PowerPoint presentation with an overview of the Climate and Clean Air Coalition Urban Health Initiative in Accra, Ghana and Kathmandu, Nepal](#)

[Outcomes of Expert Group Meeting on urban health](#)

[Africa region intersectorial approach workshop video and report](#)

D.6. Our City Plans Toolbox



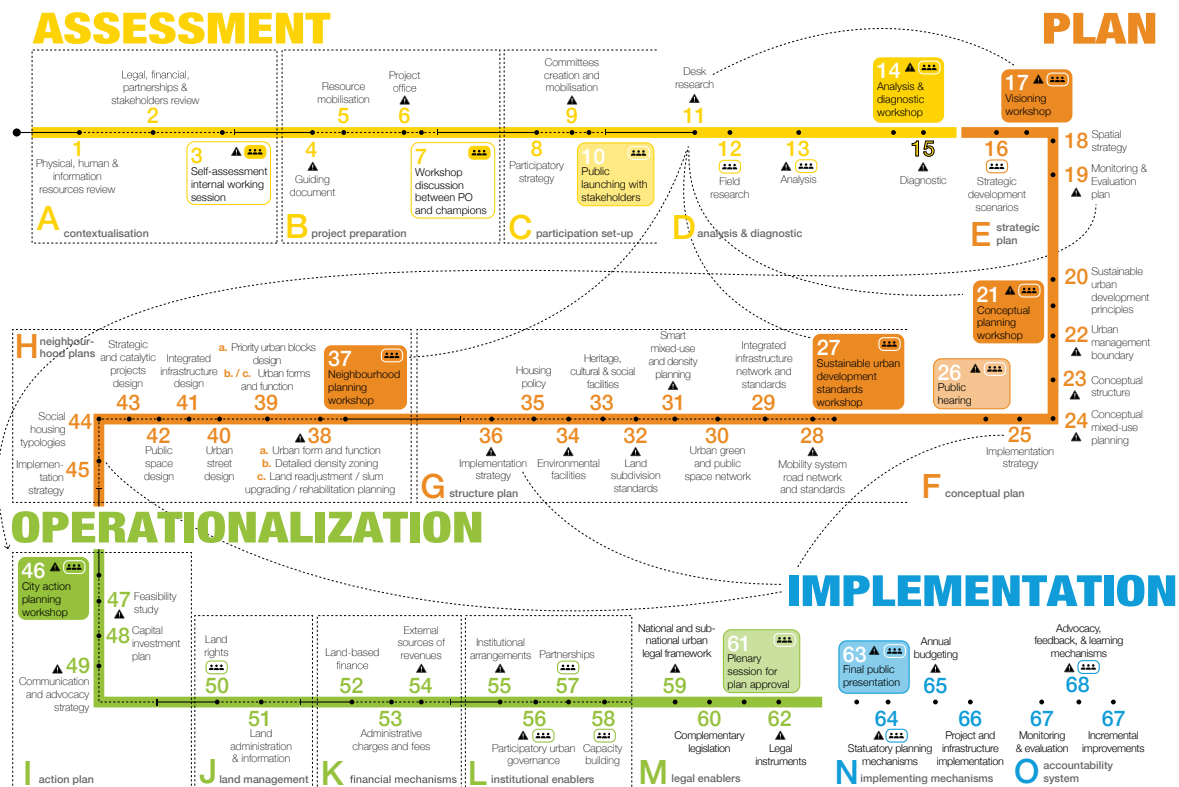
Summary: A step-by-step methodology to assess, design, operationalize and implement urban planning processes to support local governments in the implementation of the principles of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs. The toolbox is based on tried and tested methods to build local capacity and ownership. It includes diverse and adaptable participatory activities and tools, and is used in various stages of the planning process, enabling users to customize their own city planning journey according to their context and resources. Through the methodology, different urban stakeholders will better understand urban planning processes and can more effectively contribute to their city's vision, policies, strategies, plans and projects.

Challenges addressed: Complex urban planning frameworks and instruments in combination with weak planning capacities can hinder the preparation and implementation of strategic plans, action plans and projects. For this reason, UN-Habitat has developed an incremental planning process that progressively supports urban stakeholders to build effective instruments according to their legal frameworks, financial resources and planning capacities.

What UN-Habitat can offer: The Our City Plans Toolbox presents four main phases that reflect the urban planning process: Assessment; Plan; Operationalization; and Implementation. Each of these is broken down in detail in the figure below. Different urban stakeholders can adjust and follow a tailored path to achieve sustainable urban development and inclusive communities. This methodology is detailed in a publication that includes a series of innovative and open source tools developed and tested by UN-Habitat in multiple projects, setting the framework for local governments to strengthen their relations with multiple stakeholders (e.g. national entities, investors, donors, civil society, academia, communities, etc.). This methodology is currently being transformed into an interactive digital tool which will be continuously updated and will serve as a platform for knowledge exchange. Users will be able to share and access experiences, tools, resources, manuals, case studies and local best practices.

The methodology follows an inclusive, sustainable and resilient process for urban planning that is aligned with

Process roadmap of the Participatory Incremental Urban Planning methodology



global agendas and focuses on social and environmental impact, addressing social inclusion, human rights, climate change and safety. It also acts as a mediator and matchmaker between local governments with limited capacities and investors so that no place is left behind.

Specific building blocks of the toolbox process target COVID-19 related responses and recovery, such as online participatory tools and stakeholder engagement, environmental social safeguards, health and planning design principles and strategies for local economic development.

Duration of support: The incremental nature of the methodology enables the different building blocks of the planning process to be incorporated progressively as the government builds up the required basis and capacity for the additional blocks. While a fast-track approach is usually

developed within six to eighteen months, the aim of the methodology is to build a long-term, multi-year engagement with governments to progressively support the improvement and refinement of the different aspects of the planning process.

Previous applications: The toolbox can be applied globally and targets small and intermediate cities in developing countries. However, the incremental process framework is flexible and can be adjusted to small cities in emerging and developed contexts, as well as large urban areas. The toolbox's development is based on UN-Habitat experiences in several contexts, such as Haiti, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe, South Africa, Angola, Ethiopia, Mozambique and others. Currently, the methodology is guiding a variety of projects in Mexico, Cuba, Brazil and Guinea-Conakry, as well as helping to shape new project proposals.

Figure 2:
Participatory
Mapping in Bolama,
Guinea Bissau –
May 2021.

© UN-Habitat



“Our City Plans Toolbox has supported the Municipality of Bissau to bring together key stakeholders to forge a common and shared city sustainable development vision – Bissau 2030, which will guide its development towards a more inclusive, sustainable and resilient future.”

Mr. Vladimir Vieira Fernandes,

General-Director of Territorial Planning, Ministry of Infrastructure, Housing and Urbanism, Government of Guinea-Bissau

“Our City Plans Toolbox is a crucial guide for local governments of small and intermediate cities to understand the requirements of the planning processes and facilitate a new generation of urban plans focused on implementation and action.”

Mr. Fernando Marangoni,

Secretary State of Housing, São Paulo State Government, Brazil



Participatory Workshop in Belo Horizonte, Brazil. © UN-Habitat

D.7. Spatial Development Framework



Summary: Technical support for the grounding of National Urban Policies or similar national development policies/strategies in the territory and the formulation of subsequent action plans. The Spatial Development Framework (SDF) is a participatory territorial planning method to assist national, regional and local governments to make spatially informed strategic decisions to achieve policies, plans or strategies. UN-Habitat deploys this tool to support the identification of a system of cities in a given territory based on a socio-economic and spatial analysis, and for prioritization of investments in the territory to better guide the urbanization process.

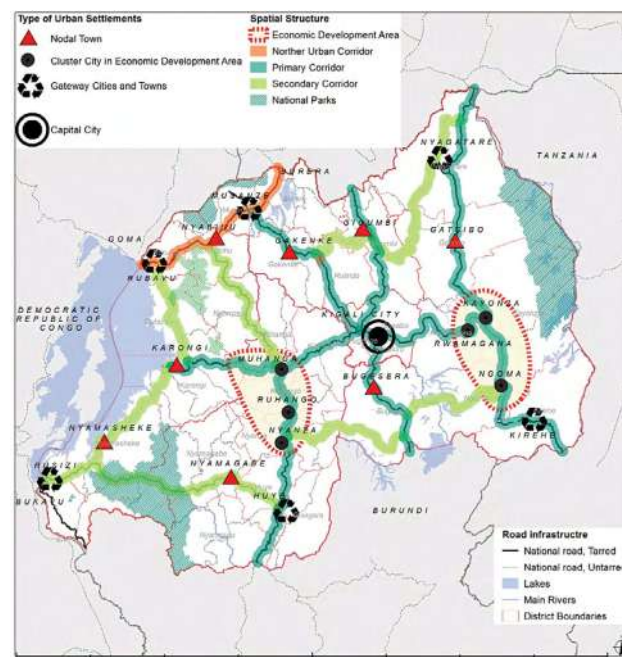
Challenges addressed: Urban sprawl, growing informal settlements and unbalanced territorial inequalities are all worsened by a lack of harmony between national budgeting and spatial planning.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is uniquely placed to recommend evidence-based priority investments to re-distribute functions in different cities to re-balance territorial inequalities and avoid rapid slum growth. UN-Habitat mainstreams coordination and facilitates dialogue on spatial investments among different tiers of government, engages potential donors and involves academia. This SDF support also creates linkages between an evidence-based diagnostic, policy orientations and territorial investments triggering urbanisation processes. UN-Habitat is also developing a National Spatial Strategy Guide to assist countries in linking spatial strategies to identify where urban acupuncture projects and policy initiatives are most impactful in meeting the objectives of national and subnational urban policies.

Duration of support: Phase A (launching and preparation phase) typically takes 1–3 months; Phase B (analytical phase) typically takes 3–4 months; Phase C (planning phase) typically takes 3–4 months.

Previous applications: The SDF is relevant for developing countries and has thus far been applied in Sudan, Rwanda, Nampula, Mozambique, Myanmar, Laos, Cabo Verde and Guinea-Bissau. Sudan is using the SDF UN-Habitat has prepared for Darfur to attract investments. Rwanda has sponsored the SDF at 100 per cent and aims at institutionalizing the method. See (link/webpage) for further examples of the successes that these countries have had in utilizing the SDF.

Spatial development framework of Rwanda





Spatial distribution of the functional categories of sectors

The capital city of Bissau shows the highest level of physical and socioeconomic development categorised as the only Central Sector (CS) of the country. Higher levels of development are observed mainly along the national road towards the northern regions of Bissau, Cacheu and Oio where the majority of sectors are categorised as Intermediate Sectors (IS1, 2), while in the Bolama-Bijagós archipelago and eastern and southern regions of Bafata, Quinara, Tombali and Gabu the majority of sectors are categorised as Local Sectors (LS).



Territorial and socio-economic linkages

The cartographic representation of the thirteen levels of hierarchy as based on isopleths, allows visualizing the degree of "territorial influence" (or not) of each sector over neighboring sectors, through the configuration of "clusters of sectors" with similar level of development, or in isolation by providing important functions to least developed neighboring sectors.



*Tidjongs in the map represent schematic territorial flows, and should not be considered as physical boundaries
 Data Sources: Instituto Nacional de Estatística (INE), Instituto Nacional de Estatística e Planeação (INEP), Direcção Geral de Estradas e Pontes, UN Habitat, QVA-GIS
 Disclaimer: The designations employed and the presentation of material on this map do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or of its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries.

Resulting spatial structure of Guinea-Bissau

TESTIMONY

“This is the first time that such a spatial planning product could be carried out in this war-torn area.”

Mr. Ali H. Al-Za'tari,
 United Nations Resident Coordinator of Sudan when presented with the Darfur SDF

“I would like to see this process institutionalized as a way to ensure it becomes a permanent tool for our national spatial planning.”

Ms. Patricie Uwase,
 Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Infrastructure of Rwanda

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Regional Spatial Planning Strategy of Darfur](#)
[The Spatial Development Framework to facilitate urban management in countries with weak planning systems](#)

E. Land, housing and shelter

E.1. National Housing Strategies



Summary: Technical advisory services to national and local governments through the analysis of the housing delivery systems at the city and national levels and preparing Housing Sector Profiles. UN-Habitat also offers assistance to develop National Housing Strategies and to support housing policy design and implementation. Successful housing sector analysis, policy reforms and re-evaluations of national housing policies have thus far been conducted in 43 countries.

Challenges addressed: This service helps national and local governments address inadequate housing, unaffordable housing and associated public health and social exclusion challenges. COVID-19 has brought into sharp relief the housing paradox – in a time when people are in desperate need for shelter, apartments and houses sit empty. Legislative and policy decisions are needed to address immediate needs while also addressing the housing system’s structural inequalities, putting in place long term ‘rights-based’ solutions to address our collective right to adequate shelter. Housing must be affordable, accessible and adequate.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is the leading United Nations agency on matters relating to adequate shelter and can successfully mobilize diverse partners who contribute to realization of the right to adequate housing. UN-Habitat provides technical advisory services to governments through the analysis of the housing delivery systems at city and national level (Housing Sector Profiles), housing policy design and implementation. Housing Sector Profiles are a diagnostic tool that provides governments and other stakeholders with a systematic analysis of housing delivery systems at city and national level, helping to disclose bottlenecks and to identify gaps and opportunities in the housing sector that prevent the housing market from delivering. Housing Sector Profiles help identify critical constraints to the provision of diversified housing opportunities and support the formulation of appropriate recommendations

and policy responses. The Profiles serve as a pre-condition to developing a Housing Policy and Implementation Strategies. This service also integrates green building principles and technology and advocates that in order to be “adequate”, housing must be appropriate and accessible to all social, cultural and economic groups.

The outcome of these interventions is the adoption of policy or strategy by government counterpart, while the long-term can be measured by an increased percentage of population with access to adequate housing, or lowering of the average cost of housing as a percentage of average income.

Duration of support: Housing profiles can typically be completed in 3–6 months; follow on housing policies and implementation strategies typically take a further 6–12 months to complete, with the additional time predominantly required for adequate consultations.

Previous applications: Successful housing sector analysis, policy reforms and re-evaluations of national housing policies have so far been conducted in more than 50 countries. UN-Habitat has conducted Housing Profiles in countries in Latin America, Africa and Asia since 2010 (e.g. Lesotho, El Salvador, Ghana, Nepal, Liberia, Afghanistan, Myanmar, Guyana, Iraq and Egypt, Bahrain and Cape Verde).

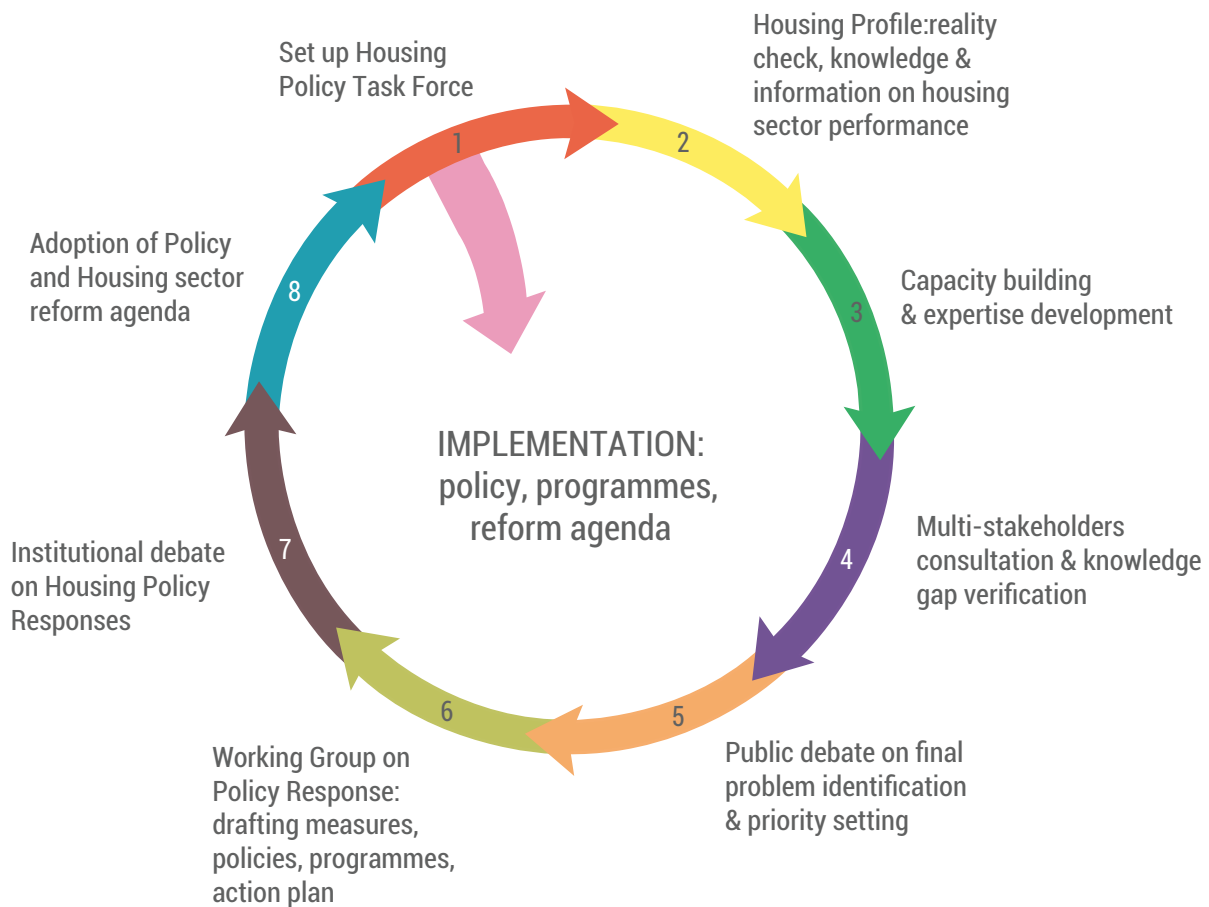
Technical assistance to develop National Housing Strategies is currently underway in Angola and Bulgaria, while technical assistance to Kosovo and Saudi Arabia has started in 2020. Recent examples of engagement include the assistance provided to the Ministry of Urban Development and Housing of Afghanistan in developing a National Housing Policy, finalized in 2018, to ensure that all Afghans have access to adequate, safe and affordable housing as a pathway to a sustainable and resilient urban future. Also in 2018, UN-Habitat worked

together with the Ministry of Housing of Bahrain and the United Nations Development Programme to formulate the Bahrain National Housing Policy and support the government in the implementation of the current National Housing Programme. The new policy includes concrete recommendations to increase Private Sector provision of affordable housing while strengthening the regulatory function of the government. In Egypt, UN-Habitat in coordination with the Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities as well as various stakeholders, prepared the Egypt Housing Strategy aimed at creating an enabling environment that will increase the supply of affordable housing. The strategy is based on the Egypt Housing Profile of 2017 which included a detailed analysis of various housing programmes, especially those targeted

for low-income groups. In Iraq, UN-Habitat developed the “Iraq Housing Reconstruction and Housing Development Strategy in the Liberated Areas” approved by the Prime Minister in 2019 to increase, maintain and effectively manage the country’s housing stock.

In Ghana, since the publication of the National Housing Profile in 2011, the government has made significant progress in improving the functioning of its housing sector, in particular with regards to legislative and policy reform. Efforts to improve housing production and supply are also having an undoubtedly positive impact. Data shows a 27 per cent decrease in the urban slum rate in recent years, from 52 per cent in 2000 to 38 per cent in 2014.

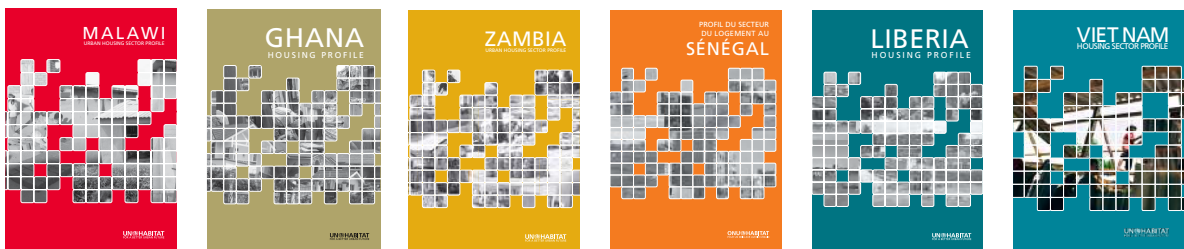
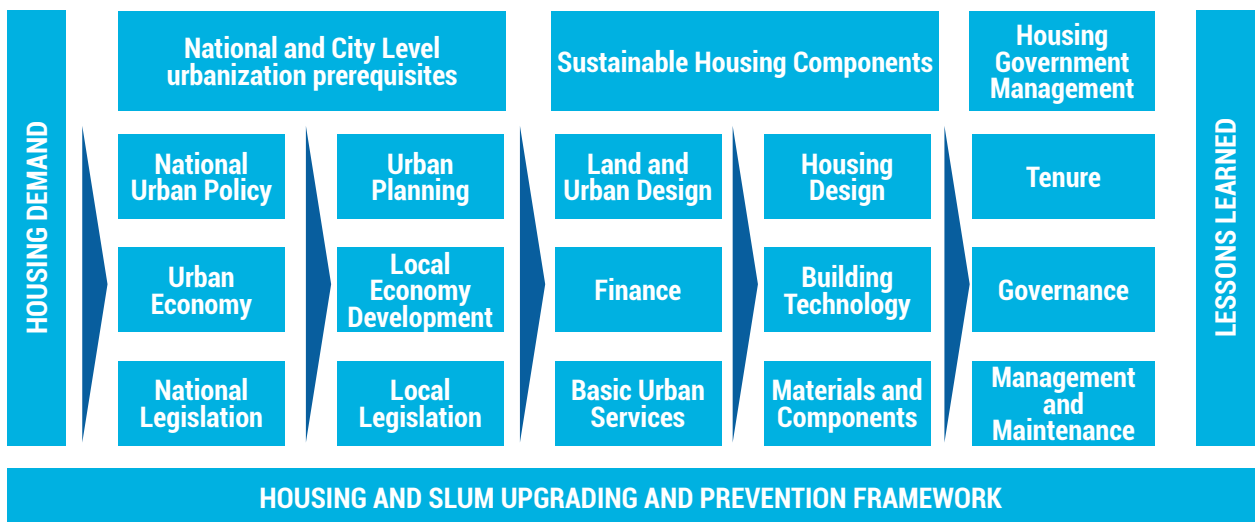
Roadmap to housing sector reform, UN-Habitat



TESTIMONY

“Having realized how successful UN-Habitat has been in supporting other African countries such as Malawi, Ghana, Zambia and Liberia in developing Housing Profiles, we approached [them] to develop the Lesotho Housing Profile. We further approached UNDP.. and I am delighted that today we form a tripartite which radiates how significant housing is to all of us. I wish to impress to all key stakeholders involved to continue our concerted efforts to make the review of the National Housing Policy and the development of a strategy an equal success.”

Dr. Pontso Matumelo Sekatle,
Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship,
Government of Lesotho



Country Housing Profiles series, UN-Habitat

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Housing Strategy: making housing affordable for all](#)

E.2. Forced eviction prevention and Eviction Impact Assessments



Summary: Advocacy for the development of policies and laws requiring thorough social and economic impact assessments for activities that may result in eviction, and participatory processes to discuss relocation plans as well as alternatives to evictions. Together with partners such as OHCHR, UN-Habitat also offers normative tools to support national and local authorities in considering alternatives to eviction and to conduct sound Eviction Impact Assessments. These include the Handbook: Assessing the Impact of Eviction (2014); Losing Your Home: Assessing the Impact of Eviction (2011); and Alternative to Forced Eviction and Slum Demolition (2016).

Challenges addressed: This service supports national and local governments to address inadequate housing and social protection. Evictions and relocations principally affect the poorest and most vulnerable populations living in deprived neighbourhoods, informal settlements and slums. Such evictions and relocations are a violation of the fundamental right to adequate housing and protection against forced eviction enshrined in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights. Every year, two million people are forcibly evicted and many more are threatened with evictions. This leads to several rights violations including the right to adequate housing, food, health, education, work, security and freedom of movement. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, they create significant additional health risks and exposure to the virus, not only to the people who are evicted but for the entire local community.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is the principal United Nations agency working on the technical, social and economic dimensions of housing. The principal objective of this service is to promote secure housing tenure which is a central element in the pursuit of inclusive, safe and resilient cities and human settlements. Over the years UN-Habitat has established strategic partnerships with key human rights actors and stakeholders at national and global levels on matters relating to the right to adequate housing and the prevention of forced evictions.

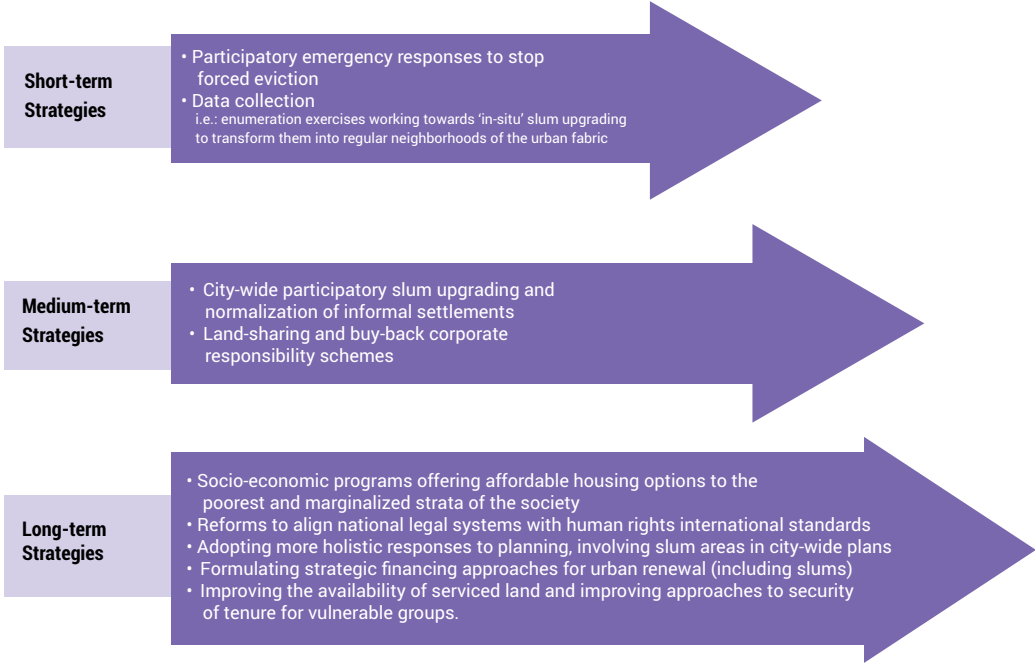
UN-Habitat is currently developing a comprehensive forced eviction reporting mechanism to ensure a standardized flow of information about alleged cases of unlawful evictions, relocations and displacement. The tool is expanding on the methodology initially developed by the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions (AGFE) and piloted in Brazil, Dominican Republic and Ghana. In the short term, support in this area contributes to a decrease in occurrence of forced eviction; in the long term, it supports governments in building capacities to investigate alternatives to evictions and in developing human-rights based policies and regulatory frameworks to conduct evictions.

Duration of support: From 1–12 months, depending on the specific case, on the availability of data and the need for fact-finding missions.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat’s advocacy work and knowledge products have enabled member states to find alternatives to forced evictions. UN-Habitat has also led the preparation of specific country profiles on “Housing and Human Rights” that have increased the knowledge base and capacities of local and national authorities to fill gaps in protection of the right to adequate housing, including in the realm of security of tenure.

Furthermore, through projects supporting adequate house provisions, UN-Habitat also contributed to reducing the risk of evictions. For instance, in Somalia, UN-Habitat has partnered with the Norwegian Refugee Committee and Banaadir Regional Administration to support the sustainable, safe and durable integration of internally displaced persons (IDPs) in Mogadishu and Kismayo. Prior to this engagement all the beneficiary households had been evicted at least once. After the project there were only 10 out of 80 disputes between landlords and tenants. In 2018, only 3 out of 80 households faced an eviction threat, and such threats were swiftly resolved through mediation stemming from UN-Habitat’s and partners’ technical assistance.

Strategies and interventions to prevent forced evictions and mitigate the risks



TESTIMONY

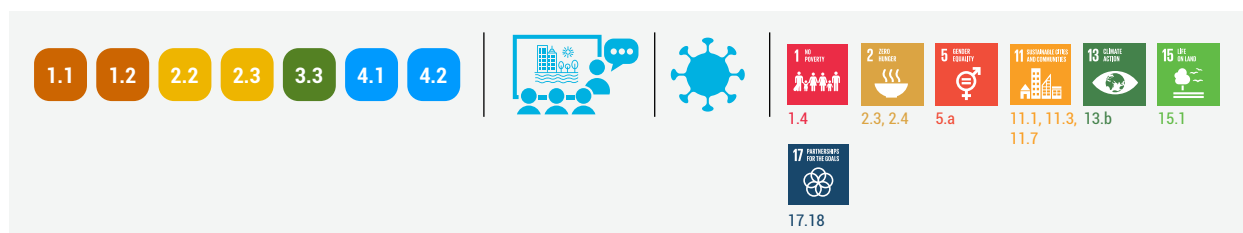
“Losing Your Home’ is an important and long overdue book, which I warmly welcome and recommend to the worldwide readership that it addresses and fully deserves. This book offers us a fresh and compelling look at one of the global and still unheralded enough crises of our times: the increasing eviction and displacement of large numbers of people – no less than tens of millions every year – who are uprooted from their houses mostly without receiving the support they need for rebuilding their lives from society as a whole. Every reader stands to benefit from studying it.”

Mr. Michael M. Cernea,
 Brookings Institution NR Senior Fellow, and Research Professor of Anthropology and International Affairs at George Washington University

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Awareness raising video on what forced evictions are, their negative consequences and how they can be prevented](#)

E.3. Pro-poor, low cost land information system



Summary: Building on the development of the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), a land information system based on open and free software packages and implemented through participatory approaches. UN-Habitat provides services on the development of information systems towards: (a) digital capture, recording and analysis of land rights, land use, land value and tax, and land related development (b) digital workflows, client service and institutional processes for efficient service delivery; and (c) digital inventory of assets, housing, buildings, open spaces, public lands, etc. for planning and management purposes.

Challenges addressed: Sustainable urban development relies heavily on accurate and reliable information for planning, decision-making, provision of services and overall urban management. However, high-end technology-driven solutions often create serious implementation constraints where issues such as those related to license costs of proprietary software have been reported to land administration programmes. In addition, despite the developments and advances in Geo-ICT, there still exists a gap in the development of tools that model people-land relationships independently from the level of formalization or legality of these relationships. Poor land management and limited security of land tenure are among the principal drivers of unsustainable housing density and inadequate affordable housing supply.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat, through Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) partners, has developed (and is continuously improving) a low-cost land information system building from the [Social Tenure Domain Model \(STDM\) tool](#). STDM, which is based on a global standard, is a flexible system that can easily be customized and developed for various purposes and contexts. While its initial deployment is geared towards land rights recognition, its applications can easily be extended in facilitating and accelerating the following objectives:

- Land rights recognition and land recording
- Local revenue generation (like land and property taxation)
- Land use and settlement planning
- Document registration, archival, tracking and issuance
- Digitalizing workflows, processes and service delivery
- Digital inventory of urban assets, houses, buildings, public spaces, utilities, service centres, etc.

The core service offered is in the customization of the tools to meet the land information requirements of the application context; this includes strengthening the capacity of implementing partners in the use of the tool and, to some extent once established, to provide technical backstopping and promoting the scaling up of its application. UN-Habitat is uniquely positioned to provide support to (a) national government authorities (and land administration institutions) to transform their manual land records and business processes into digital, transparent and efficient systems, including efforts towards improving land tenure security of urban and rural poor communities; to (b) local government authorities to digitalize their land records and documents, business processes, land use plans and revenue generation; and to (c) academic institutions and civil society organizations that requires low-cost land information systems in their projects and research work.

Duration of support: While the duration of support is dependent on many factors, the following is a typical estimated timeline of each of the steps in the process: planning and consultations (two months); scoping and capacity assessment (one month); tool customization (three months); mapping and enumeration (minimum three months); data capture, validation, and analysis (minimum three months); and capacity development and strengthening of multi-stakeholder partnerships (varied). The average total duration is about 12 months.

Previous applications: Systems development has been implemented in the following countries and context: Democratic Republic of Congo (addressing land registration gap and modernizing cadastral processes); Namibia (supporting the national government particularly to implement the Flexible Land Tenure Act and to improve the cadastral workflows and services); Kenya (supporting the Turkana County in the establishment of a multi-purpose Land Information Management System); Uganda (strengthening tenure security of smallholder farmers in customary land areas); Nepal (using low-cost technologies to support both urban and rural land registration processes.); Iraq (providing land tenure security to returnees in a post-crisis context); and Sudan (to identify and map areas to be allocated to returnees in 50 villages of Darfur).

The various applications of the low-cost land information system has accelerated land tenure security interventions,

provided evidence-based information in facilitating land reforms, including land policy development and implementation, has increased transparency and accountability, has facilitated efficiency in delivering services and strengthen capacity of partners including government authorities. Specifically, the interventions resulted in:

- Formal recognition of land rights and issuance of Certificates of Customary Ownership (CCOs) and land titles (Uganda, Namibia, Iraq)
- Efficient delivery of services and land-related transactions (DRC, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda)
- Strengthened capacity of implementing partners (DRC, Nepal, Kenya, Uganda, Iraq, Sudan)
- Increased public confidence and trust to government authorities (Nepal, Uganda, Sudan)



Inclusive and participatory mapping of informal tenure landholdings in Nepal. © UN-Habitat/Nepal

TESTIMONY

“We had very many land wrangles before the land mapping project but now they are few and far between. The people are now free to use their land for economic gain like growing more crops, which will provide a surplus for sale.”

Mr. Julius Nyeko,
Senior Land Management Officer. Pader district, Northern Uganda

“The Certificates of Customary Ownership have confirmed rights and ownership and people are now free to invite investors without fear of loss of land. There is also more work to be done since there are plans to finish issuing certificates to the rest of Pader district before moving on to other districts. The CCOs which are issued at the local level hold equal weight to titles which are issued at the Ministry Zonal Office in Gulu, so no one needs to travel to Gulu.”

Princess Namuganza Persis,
State Minister for Lands, Uganda

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Land Tool Network website](#)

[Customary Certificates of Ownership of Land Fast Reducing Land Conflict in Pader, Uganda - Story](#)

[Strengthening Women's Land Rights in Pader, Uganda - Video](#)

[Social Tenure Domain Model \(STDM\)](#)

E.4. Durable solutions for internally displaced populations and vulnerable communities in cities



Summary: Addressing urban sprawl, overcrowding and informality caused by influxes of people (such as returnees and Internally Displaced People) which also impacts on members of host communities who may themselves be extremely vulnerable. The service can be tailored to locations’ needs and populations, and can include area-based spatial planning, promoting decent living through mixed-shelter solutions, improved sustainable housing solutions through rental subsidy integration with traditional livelihood initiatives and Housing, Land and Property (HLP) services, and improved local technical capacities on durable solutions, amongst others. This support can integrate many of UN-Habitat’s other services to address challenges faced by these vulnerable groups and reduce spatial inequality.

Challenges addressed: Urban sprawl, informality and insufficient living conditions, including housing and services, can arise due to sudden or protracted influxes of people (refugees, IDPs, returnees), often caused by conflict and by natural disasters like droughts and floods.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat supports local governments and municipalities to address these challenges. With decades of experience supporting urban planning in overcrowded and complex contexts around the world, UN-Habitat builds on its experiences and networks with local governments and other international organizations to provide tailored solutions to specific challenges arising from influxes of people. UN-Habitat’s expertise in HLP services and rights are particularly relevant for such cases. In addition to technical advice, UN-Habitat produces a variety of information and guidance based on spatial data, such as urban profiles as a toolkit for evidence-based decision making; assessments of crowded and/or informal sites, town centres, social facilities; specific area-based planning approaches linked to the area masterplan to define potential areas for the future development of displaced settlements; and produces Community Action Plans (CAP), outlining the priorities defined by the communities and their leadership, among other offerings.

Most importantly, UN-Habitat interventions are grounded in human rights principles and utilize innovative processes that build social cohesion and support community ownership of integrated outcomes. An Urban Profiling exercise engages selected stakeholders from local communities and governments to not only unpack the needs and insecurities of different population groups, but to define context-specific priorities and visions for the development of their urban settlements. Inclusive community planning tackles social exclusion through inclusion of all representative groups (women, IDPs, youth and marginalized groups), and lays a foundation for community-based recovery, focused on community priorities.

Duration of support: The intervention duration depends on the needs and requests of the government or community, but can last from three weeks for profiling to many years for programmatic support to post-crisis recovery.

Previous applications: This support has been deployed through expert technical advisers to Haiti, Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, Mozambique and Somalia. In Iraq, UN-Habitat and government counterparts jointly developed a National Strategy for Long-term Durable Solutions for IDPs and a Road Map for the enumeration, upgrading and regularization of informal settlements. In parallel, UN-Habitat initiated the piloting of upgrading projects in selected informal settlements in Mosul, Ramadi and Basra through a participatory community planning approach to deliver development interventions specific to each context and contributing to the long-term socio-economic recovery of these areas. Over the course of three months, the programme has provided nearly 1,000 man/days of work to unemployed men and youth residing in the target areas, offering livelihood opportunities on a rotational basis through cash-for-work and short-term employment with implementing NGOs and contractors. Overall, some 6,000 vulnerable people residing in the informal settlements of Mosul, Ramadi and Basra gained better access to basic services and stronger security of tenure in line with the National Informal Settlements Strategy.

In the Somalia case, UN-Habitat supported the development of spatial plans linked to the Kismayo masterplan, defining potential areas for the future development of settlements. It further contributed to improved sustainable urban housing solutions through rental subsidy integrated with traditional livelihood initiatives and HLP services. The programme improved local technical capacity on durable solutions, supporting the establishment of a Durable Solutions Unit (DSU) for

Benadir Regional Administration (BRA) and a Durable Solutions Strategy (2020–2024) was developed to provide a coordinated approach to displacement crises. Programme assessments and evaluations in Somalia have demonstrated that this intervention can positively impact IDPs and returnees by improving access to basic services in places of displacement and in places of return, and the level to which IDPs and returnees experience an adequate standard of living without discrimination.

TESTIMONY

“Previously before the project, we had to incur a lot of expenses in paying rent which caused our children to miss out on education. Also, our livelihood has improved since the small money we get from the casual jobs we do now we can use to buy food for our families.”

Kismayo Camp leader

Instalment of drainage and potable water network at Hay Tanak, West Mosul, Iraq



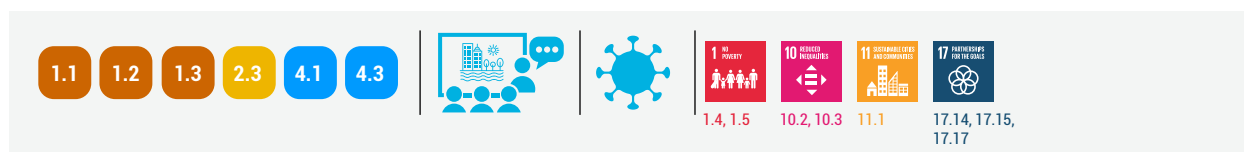
FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Kismayo Urban Profile](#)

[Somalia Country Programme Annual Report 2019](#)

[UN Somali: Towards Sustainable Urban Development in Somalia and IDP Durable Solutions at Scale](#)

E.5. Slum upgrading and prevention strategies for poverty and inequality reduction

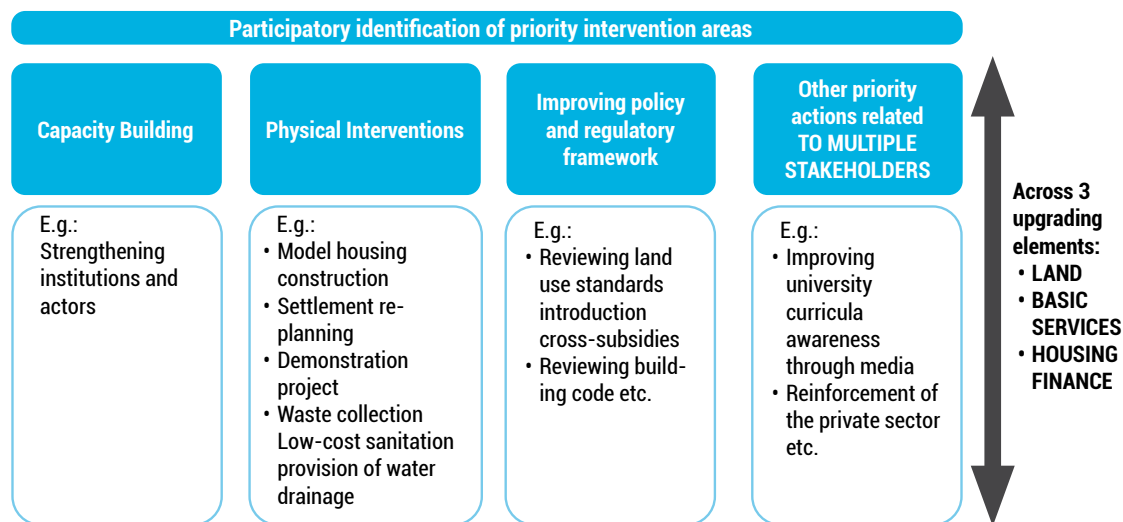


Summary: At the national or local levels, a Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy aims to integrate slums and informal settlements strategically and incrementally, and to plan ahead over time. City-Wide Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategies (CWSUPS) aim at achieving the physical, social, juridical and economic inclusion of all slums into the official planning and urban systems at the city level. Priorities are identified and designed against a vision and target for long-term transformation, with both a spatial and people-centred lens. These priorities enable coordination, partnerships and integrated programming at city and national levels. They lead to the identification of physical interventions, key changes in the policy and regulatory frameworks, actions for capacity development and to strengthen the institutional set up and stakeholder engagement.

Challenges addressed: There are one billion slum dwellers worldwide and due to increasing urbanization and the lack of policies and interventions at scale, their number is expected to grow to three billion by 2050. Slums are often not mapped and not recognized in city frameworks, and resources for slum upgrading are scarce and do not cover the magnitude of the need. Furthermore, slum upgrading interventions are often one-off projects that concentrate all investment in one neighbourhood.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has created the CWSUPS to provide a framework for slum upgrading and prevention at the city or country level. CWSUPS mainstreams slum upgrading and identifies priority actions to mobilize resources and to allocate responsibilities among stakeholders for action. The objective of the CWSUPS is to move from one-off, isolated projects to an integrated approach for slum upgrading at the city level and to achieve the physical, social, juridical and economic integration of all slums into official planning and city strategies.

UN-Habitat plays a key role in integrating sectoral challenges at city level, supporting the coordination of stakeholders at different levels (including communities) and establishing participatory approaches. The participatory approach for the development of the strategies will pave the way for the institutionalization of the strategy, mobilizing human and financial resource allocation for slum upgrading and prevention at city and national levels. UN-Habitat has decades of experience in slum upgrading worldwide including the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (ACP region 2008–2021), the Slum Upgrading Facility (SUF), Cities Without Slums and many others. UN-Habitat provides technical assistance for mainstreaming the approaches for participatory slum upgrading in policy regulatory frameworks.



Duration of support: The development of CWSUPS is a participatory process that can span approximately six months. This timeframe includes the development of the slum situation analysis; the policy and regulatory framework; the participatory identification of priority actions; and the validation event of the strategy. The CWSUPS is an action framework and is to be regularly reviewed and updated to guide the way for systematic change and transformation at scale.

Previous applications: Through the development of these strategies, more than 100 strategic pilot projects for the improvement of slums have been identified. This has enabled the mobilization of further resources for the implementation of slum upgrading interventions at

the country level, accounting for an estimated USD 1 billion. Furthermore, the CWSUPS have contributed to mainstreaming UN-Habitat's principles for participatory slum upgrading at country level informing government priorities and budget allocation and strengthening the capacities of stakeholders. The CWUSPS has been implemented in several countries and more than 50 cities in Africa (Cameroon, Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, Malawi, DRC, Zambia, Mozambique, Niger, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cabo Verde, Côte d'Ivoire, Madagascar, Mali, Mauritius, Namibia, Nigeria, R. Congo, Rwanda, the Gambia and Uganda); the Caribbean (Antigua and Barbuda, Trinidad and Tobago, Haiti, and Jamaica) and the Pacific region (Solomon Islands, Papua New Guinea and Fiji).

Pilot project identified through the CWSUPS strategy in Mtwapa, Kenya



TESTIMONY

“PSUP influenced the urban development policy in Kenya and raised awareness on slums. And there is a real consultative process with communities and ownership. This methodology allows the programme to be packaged, even budgeted as one project.”

Mr. Isaac Mungaania,

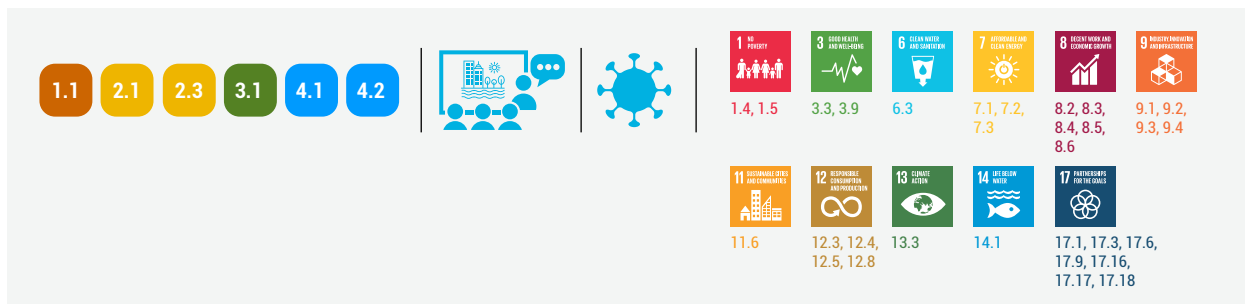
Kenya PSUP Country Team Coordinator, State Department of Housing and Urban Development, Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing and Urban Development, Kenya

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Country stories and reports](#)

F. Basic services and infrastructure

F.1. Sustainable waste management and recovery of waste as a resource



Summary: Design and implementation of solid waste management strategies, including resource recovery from municipal waste and generation of energy from organic waste. A special emphasis is put on delivering municipal solid waste management (MSWM) services with equitable access to all, especially for the urban poor and other vulnerable groups. This service can use UN-Habitat’s Waste Wise Cities Tool, which comprises of seven steps that guide cities to collect data on municipal solid waste (MSW) generated, collected and managed in controlled facilities, and plan for an improved MSWM system.

Challenges addressed: Globally 2 billion people lack access to waste collection services and 3 billion to controlled waste disposal. Open dump sites receive roughly 40 per cent of the world’s waste – contributing to 5 per cent of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions – and only 19 per cent is recycled or composted, although organic waste comprises at least 50 per cent of MSW in most regions. Every year, 8 million tons of plastic go into the oceans and by 2050 the amount of plastic waste in oceans will exceed the number of fish. Urgent action is needed to improve cities’ MSWM to mitigate climate change and reduce plastic pollution while creating employment and livelihood opportunities for urban circular economy.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has long-standing experience with MSWM projects, which puts it in a unique position to support local governments in advancing waste management and resource recovery. UN-Habitat supports local governments to improve MSWM through: data collection for evidence-based decision making; expansion of waste collection services with local communities; design and implementation of strategies for MSW resource and

energy recovery; landfill rehabilitation and construction, including through the Fukuoka method – a low-cost, safe landfill management method using natural ventilation to accelerate the decomposition and stabilization of waste; awareness-raising activities; and assistance to establish fully functional and equipped waste management departments. These services contribute to mitigating climate change and promoting equal access to public services, as well as integrating vulnerable groups, such as informal workers and women.

The Waste Wise Cities programme (WWC) aims to enhance waste management and resource efficiency in the world’s cities with a global network to inspire, catalyse, guide, monitor, enable and mobilize support for local governments. In support of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), WWC and its affiliates share knowledge and good practices, build capacity for waste data collection and monitoring, advocate and educate, and assist in the preparation of waste management projects. The African Clean Cities Platform (ACCP) is a platform to share knowledge and promote the SDGs on waste management in Africa with the aim of African countries realizing clean and healthy cities. Interested local governments can join both WWC and ACCP. As the custodian agency of SDG indicator 11.6.1,³ UN-Habitat supports the development of the monitoring methodology for this indicator, coherent with other global waste statistics systems, through the Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT). The WaCT enables cities to establish a baseline for indicator 11.6.1 while monitoring progress on the set goals and identifying key intervention areas for improved MSWM. Cities implementing the tool can rely on the WWC network, including its expert advisory group (with

3 “Proportion of municipal solid waste collected and managed in controlled facilities out of total municipal solid waste generated, by the city”

members from United Nations agencies, academia, private sector, city networks and other inter-governmental organizations) and its established partners' network, to support its work and maximize the impact of activities. UN-Habitat and supporter cities also support changemaker cities to improve their waste management and clean up their cities under the Waste Wise Cities Challenge.

Duration of support: The timeframes for services in sustainable waste management and the recovery of waste as a resource can vary, depending on needs. Typical interventions take between one and four years. The WaCT can provide a rapid assessment, with data collection taking about six weeks.

Previous applications: WWC is a global programme which over 200 local governments have joined. ACCP has 37 member countries and 80 member cities. Some examples of recent progress made on sustainable MSWM include: establishment of baseline data for solid waste management with the WaCT in about 20 cities around the world, including Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Karachi (Pakistan),

Lagos (Nigeria) and Mangaluru (India); development of the Sustainable Waste Management Action Plan 2020–2022, and potential funding opportunities for Nairobi, Kenya, which will improve access to MSWM services for about 1.2 million city residents; emergency rehabilitation of the Koshe and Bahir Dar city dumpsites, Ethiopia; as well as construction of a national model landfill using the Fukuoka method in Kiambu, Kenya and Bahir Dar, Ethiopia; provision of waste collection and street cleaning in informal settlements in Iraq; community-based collection and recycling through women in Za'atari Syrian Refugee Camp, Jordan; development of sustainable strategies for improved waste management in Bethlehem City and refugee camps, Palestine; development of integrated waste management plans and support in their establishment (composting and sorting facilities, awareness raising, etc.) in several cities in Lebanon; preparation of a strategic solid waste management plan for Kabul, Afghanistan; development of a comprehensive integrated solid waste management plan for targeted provinces of Sri Lanka; and emergency rehabilitation and construction of a new landfill using the Fukuoka method in Yangon, Myanmar.

Waste composition analysis of household waste (WaCT assessment), Nairobi, Kenya

© UN-Habitat



TESTIMONY

“Waste management has been one of the pressing issues in Nairobi, the capital city of Kenya. UN-Habitat’s survey with the Waste Wise Cities Tool, supported by the African Clean Cities Platform, was well received considering that the Nairobi City County Government had been relying on a study done with the Japan International Cooperation Agency back in 2010.”

Patricia Akinyi K’Omodho,
Environment Information Officer, Nairobi Metropolitan Services.

“Municipal solid waste management is one of the biggest challenges for Mombasa, especially as it is a major tourist hub and the largest port in East Africa. Uncollected and mismanaged waste are also contributing to marine litter pollution in the Indian Ocean. The assessment through UN-Habitat’s Waste Wise Cities Tool, supported by the African Clean Cities Platform and UNEP, was extremely useful for Mombasa County Government to have a clear picture of the current status and to identify the key intervention areas. The tool application is also providing the scientific data that we are using to develop bankable project proposals and to mobilize funds and private sector investment.”

Dr Godffery Nyongesa Nato,
Minister of Environment, waste management and energy, Mombasa County

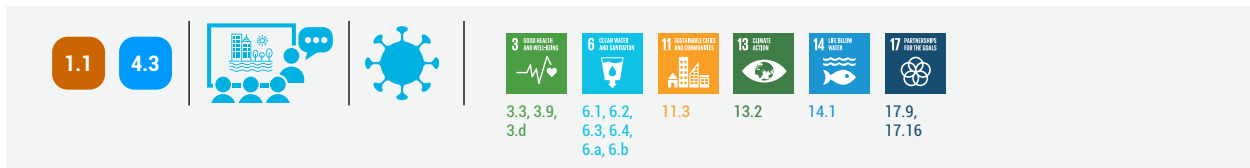
“The extensive data assessment being done by UN-Habitat will give us a clear idea of where Mangaluru city stands with respect to solid waste management at multiple stages, starting from household segregation to the landfill site. The data generated after the application of WaCT will help the city in preparing a clear-cut roadmap of solid waste management which will include usage of resources, stakeholders and technology. Starting from methods of segregation to collection intervals of segregated waste to transportation of waste involving vehicles and manpower to processing techniques to creating a circular economy, a detailed plan may be prepared to help Mangalore tackle the problem of municipal solid waste in the years to come.”

Akshy Shridhar,
IAS, Commissioner, Mangaluru City Corporation, Mangaluru, India

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Waste Wise Cities web page](#)
[Africa Clean Cities Platform website](#)
[Waste Wise Cities Newsletter #5](#)
[WaCT Data and Step-by-Step Guide](#)

F.2. Water and sanitation planning and infrastructure investments



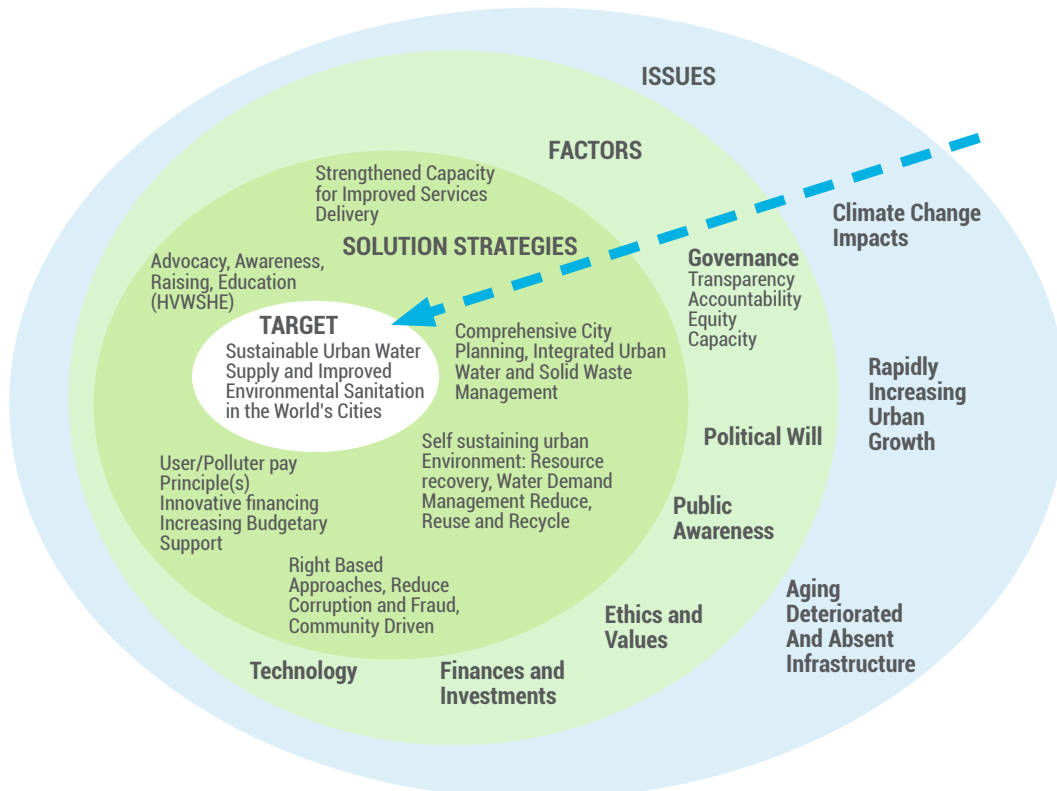
Summary: Development of rational, comprehensive and financeable medium-term water and sanitation infrastructure investment programmes to support local governments and water and sanitation service providers. This approach supports the implementation of existing city development strategies and comprehensive development plans. Key elements of the service include diagnoses, identifying opportunities for investment, assisting cities to prioritize investments, preparing pre-feasibility studies, strengthening government and service providers' capacities, and supporting them in the preparation and implementation of investment projects.

Challenges addressed: Today one in three, or 2.2 billion people around the world lack safe drinking water. Over half of the global population or 4.2 billion people lack safe sanitation. Many local authorities and other service providers who focus on water supply do not have the tools, governance frameworks and resources required to carry out such responsibilities. More reliable data is also required to provide improved water and sanitation

planning. Most of the COVID-19 guidelines are almost impossible to implement in slums and informal settlements where the lack of water and sanitation facilities make simple public health interventions, such as regular washing of hands, extremely difficult. The provision of water and sanitation in slums and informal settlements is therefore critical in controlling the spread of health pandemics such as COVID-19.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat provides support to local governments and water and sanitation service providers to address these challenges focusing on policy and governance reform, long term institutional development and capacity enhancements to provide long-term service improvements. This is complemented by global advocacy and knowledge dissemination to prioritize water and sanitation through platforms such as UN-Water and the Global Wastewater Initiative. UN-Habitat has a wealth of experience and best practices from all parts of the world which can be contextualized to the needs of local governments and utilities. Its pro-poor focus and capacity

Water and Urbanization: Issues and Solutions



building programmes ensure that no one is left behind and that sustainability is built into water and sanitation infrastructure. UN-Habitat also brings results through its strategic partnerships, especially with financing institutions and the private sector to increase investments and ensure that big infrastructure projects have a stronger focus on the poor. By providing pre-investment planning and capacity development to partner countries, UN-Habitat ensures that such projects benefit from faster appraisal and preparation, stronger focus on the poor, greater ownership by recipient cities and sustainability of investments through training and capacity building.

Changing climate conditions and more extreme weather events are expected to negatively affect the operation and performance of urban infrastructure and services. The programme therefore supports a low-carbon pathway to improving urban basic services, building on the Urban Pathways Project. The urban poor and other marginalized

groups including women, children and youth, older persons, persons with disabilities and migrants are engaged in programme planning, implementation and monitoring through local-level multi-stakeholder platforms.

Duration of support: This water and sanitation support, depending on the local context, typically lasts 1–2 years.

Previous applications: This programme has supported over 100 cities in 36 countries in Africa, Asia and Latin America and the Caribbean. The programme supports a combination of policy and normative work with on-the-ground pilot and demonstration initiatives through regional “Water for Cities” programmes in Asia, Africa and Latin America.

The number of people with access to water and sanitation services as a result of UN-Habitat interventions is 1.5 million.



A child washes himself in Kallyanpur, a slum in Bangladesh's capital Dhaka ©UN Photo/ Kibae Park

TESTIMONY

“No words can express our gratitude for the support we have received from UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation division in making tariff development for WASAC a success.”

CEO of the Water and Sanitation Corporation (WASAC), Mr. James Sano, in recognition of the support to Rwanda to adopt a new water tariff designed with UN-Habitat’s help

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat water and sanitation web page](#)

F.3. Enhancing sustainability and effectiveness of water utilities through Water Operators' Partnerships



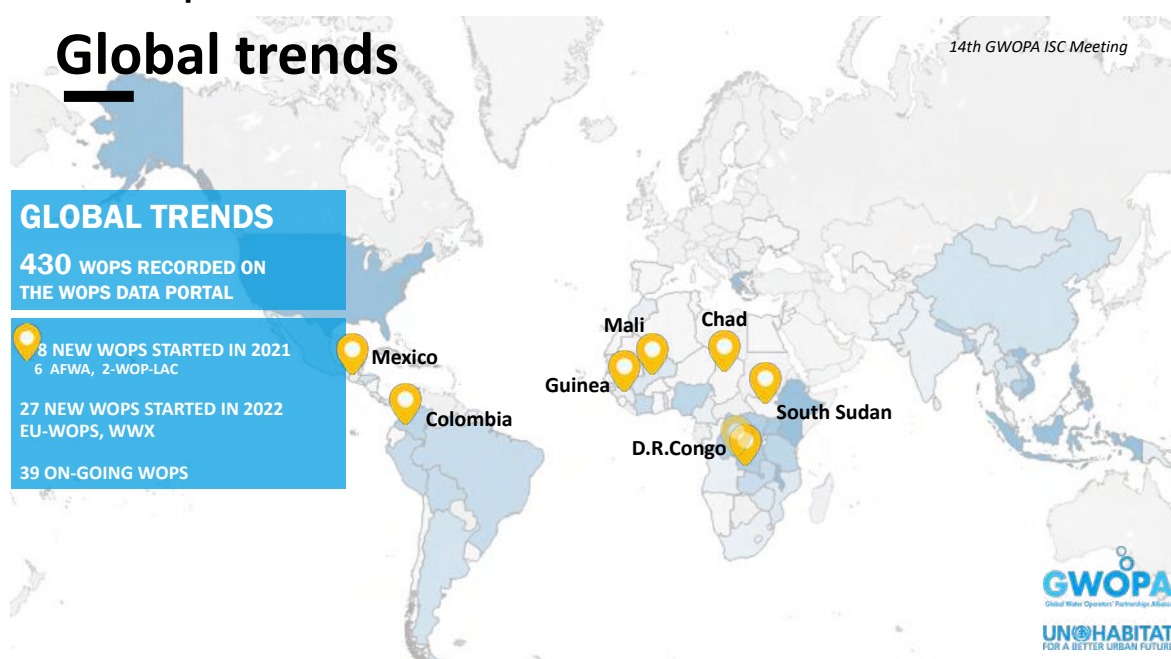
Summary: Supporting water and sanitation operators in settlements of all sizes to help deliver services that are fundamental to inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. This service utilizes the convening power of the UN-Habitat-led Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance (GWOPA) to mobilize governments (local and national), civil society groups, labour unions, financial institutions and the private sector to promote water operators' partnerships (WOPs). WOPs strengthen the capacity of water and sanitation operators to ensure the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all focusing on inclusive access to services, water quality, water use efficiency, integrated water management and conservation, capacity development and community engagement.

Challenges addressed: Worldwide, one in three people do not have access to safe drinking water and two out of five people do not have a basic hand-washing facility with soap and water. Water quality is declining and water scarcity now affects 40 per cent of the global population. Sanitation services and wastewater treatment are

generally inadequate or inexistent, and many utilities rely on diminishing sources of water. Compounded by outdated and wasteful urban water management, poor governance and weak management, financial and operational approaches, many service providers are unable to address this widening scope of social and environmental challenges. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated these challenges and highlighted the crucial need for access to safe water for drinking and hand-washing to support healthy people and economies.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat supports public water operators or associations representing different regions, donors and development partners, civil society organizations, labour unions and private operators to address these challenges. With an estimated USD 1.7 trillion in funding needed to meet only SDG 6.1 and SDG 6.2 by 2030, building the institutional capacity to effectively manage these investments for sustainable public benefit is critical. In 2006, The United Nations Secretary General Kofi Annan requested UN-Habitat to lead this global initiative as most water utilities in the

Global WOPs Map



Disclaimer: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: United Nations Geospatial/UN-Habitat.

world are municipal services and many are linked to local government and urban development. As the world continues to urbanize at a rapid rate, cities are where many of our water-related challenges are most acute. Building on its expertise and project experience in urban basic services, UN-Habitat is well-placed to lead the efforts to promote WOPs, with convening power of major events and a key role to mobilize key WASH partners.

WOPs contribute to improving water and sanitation service providers' capacity and performance, and progressive local realization of the SDGs to the benefit of all, particularly the poor. All WOPs tracked by GWOPA seek to gather disaggregated data and all resources and trainings are delivered in a gender-sensitive way with monitoring mechanisms in place. Engaging in a WOPs under the GWOPA umbrella increases the effectiveness of the partnerships as UN-Habitat has developed over 60 tools (e.g. [the Climate Change Toolkit for Coastal and Small Islands](#)) and the [Green Utility Toolkit](#) to address circular management, climate and environmental action through WOPs that support every aspect of the partnership. Furthermore, the associated communities of practice facilitated by GWOPA provide ongoing, current additional expertise and knowledge.

Duration of support: For utilities seeking to engage in WOPs, there is no fixed timeline. However, the minimum period encouraged by UN-Habitat is one year, and several WOPs have lasted over a decade. This includes initiation, basic peer exchange and capturing results.

Previous applications: GWOPA is a global alliance with nearly 500 members, largely public water utilities and their associations. The network has implemented over 350 partnerships between 2009 and 2019. By the end of 2019, Water Operators' Partnerships undertaken in the GWOPA network have helped more than 270 water utilities across 94 countries to improve their capacity (positive organizational changes) and key performance indicators to provide better services to an estimated 52 million people globally. GWOPA provides guidance for successful partnerships and has co-developed over 60 different knowledge products (case studies, reports, tools and training) to help water operators learn better from, and with one another.

Since 2010, the WOP practice has seen over USD 330 million in funds for Water and Sanitation Operators' Partnerships to strengthen the capacity of local water and sanitation utilities. Many have led to improved financial performance or facilitated access to needed investment finance, such as in documented WOP Case Studies in Fiji, Belize and Vietnam. Government recognition of WOPs is growing, with new programs and facilitating frameworks to enable their water utilities to contribute to the SDGs through WOPs. Partnerships between utilities are increasingly focusing specifically on increasing services for the poor (18 per cent of registered WOPs).



TESTIMONY

“It has been a very eye-opening experience learning from them every day. We apply what we learnt to be the best.”

Mr. Hugo Rancharan.

Assistant Operation Manager at BWS (Story of the WOP between Belize Water Services (Belize) and Contra Costa Water District (USA))

“Learning different ways of doing the same thing. On both sides of the Atlantic we have the same task: provide water to the community. It’s a two-way relationship in which both parties learn.”

Mr. Ricardo Vasquez Castro,

City Council of Zaragoza, Story of the WOP between Aguas de Xelaju (Guatemala) and the Municipal Operator of Zaragoza (Spain)

Aerial view of Bonn, Germany, Host city of GWOPA Secretariat and key sustainability hub.

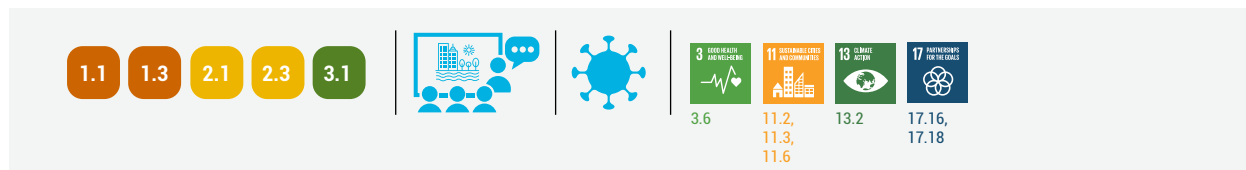
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance](#)

F.4. Sustainable urban mobility planning



Summary: Development of Sustainable Urban Mobility Plans that are designed to satisfy the mobility needs of people and businesses in cities and their surroundings for a better quality of life. These plans integrate all transportation modes, and include a long-term vision and clear implementation strategies. This service introduces new concepts and methodologies for data collection on walking and cycling; provides advice on institutional and policy aspects of non-motorized transport (NMT); includes technical assistance for street design that caters for pedestrians and cyclists such as the design of footpaths, bike lanes and street crossings; as well as providing technical advice on electric-mobility, Bus Rapid Transit, street design standards and capacity building of officials.



Bicycle tour through Khayelitsha, a partially informal township in Cape Town ©UN-Habitat, 2018

Challenges addressed: Transport accounts for nearly a quarter of total energy-related CO2 emissions (which are increasing at a rate faster than any other sector), contributing to global warming as well as air pollution (7 million deaths annually), traffic congestion (draining national and city economies), road traffic crashes (1.3 million deaths annually). The growth in this sector and ever-increasing transport demand is a worldwide phenomenon challenging most cities in emerging and developing economies. ⁴While walking and cycling have been shown to address these challenges and increase health, poor infrastructure and safety discourages these forms of transport. Most countries' Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) for the Paris Agreement include action on sustainable transport with strong references to public transport. The Covid-19 pandemic presents new threats: due to increased risk of infections in public transport, people and policy makers may lose confidence in public transport, reinforcing car-centric planning. This will further exacerbate the climate emergency and will cause increased inequality and disadvantages for the poor, for whom remote working or travel by car may not be an option.

Urban Mobility Plans (SUMP), to prepare for the future performance of its mobility system, based on demand forecasting, participation and multi-sectoral cooperation. UN-Habitat has a strong convening role with national, local governments, transport operators, civil society and financial institutions and interdisciplinary expertise enabling it to provide technical capacity on sustainable urban mobility planning, street design, transit-oriented development, planning and management of public transport systems, and improvements of national and city road safety standards.

What UN-Habitat can offer: These challenges require sustainable and integrative planning processes and policies. Increasing mobility and connectivity in cities brings enormous benefits to society and provides the essential means by which a city can function effectively. UN-Habitat supports cities to create Sustainable

The COVID-19 pandemic has shifted the global mobility paradigm. With public transport severely disrupted and a renewed attention for walking and cycling in cities, there is now both a pressing need and unique window of opportunity to accelerate sustainable urban mobility planning through the modernisation of the bus sector and the stimulus of NMT policy and practice. UN-Habitat has supported cities to scale up the implementation and safe NMT infrastructure, and to plan and budget for walking and cycling – the healthiest modes of transport for all. UN-Habitat has developed guidance tools and resources on these topics, including the 'Quick Guide to Bus Sector Modernisation', the toolkit 'Streets for walking and cycling – designing for safety, accessibility and comfort in African cities' and other resources as part of the United Nations

⁴ In 2010 there were one billion motor vehicles worldwide (excluding two wheelers). By 2035, the number of light duty motor vehicles (cars, sports utility vehicles, light trucks and minivans) is expected to reach 1.6 billion and by 2050 this number will exceed 2.1 billion. Some countries, notably in Asia and Africa, are seeing a huge increase of motorized two wheelers on their roads.

Road Safety-funded ‘Scaling Up Safe Street Designs in Ethiopia’ project.

UN-Habitat is supporting the uptake of innovative **electric mobility** in over 10 cities in different regions of the world by providing technical assistance in developing business models and demonstration projects.

UN-Habitat also supports **innovation** in this field by facilitating startups in the mobility sphere and by using innovative approaches to data collection (i.e. the Multimer App to measure stress levels of cyclists through brain waves), NMT analyses, transport planning and transport management. In addition, UN-Habitat engages with NGOs in the field, such as Open Streets Cape Town, to jointly organize regional capacity development events that include cutting-edge technology use and best practices.

UN-Habitat is also the custodian agency for **monitoring SDG 11.2 “Access to Public Transport”** and supports governments in improving, expanding and tracking efforts on sustainable urban mobility. UN-Habitat promotes the mutually reinforcing, integrated, and cost-effective achievement of the SDGs, NUA, and other global frameworks, for example through gender-sensitive and inclusive public transport, such as through the project on “Gender-sensitive public transport in Cairo” that collects data on mobility patterns of women.

Duration of support: Technical assistance on NMT or the development of SUMP or a Street Design Manual can take one or two years, with capacity building efforts taking place over a number of days. Longer programmes of policy advice and technical assistance on public transport can be spread over 3–5 years.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has supported countries in East Africa (Kenya, Uganda, Ethiopia, Mozambique); MENA (Egypt); Asia (Indonesia, India, Vietnam); and LAC (Colombia, Brazil) in promoting sustainable public transport and better street design for walking and cycling.

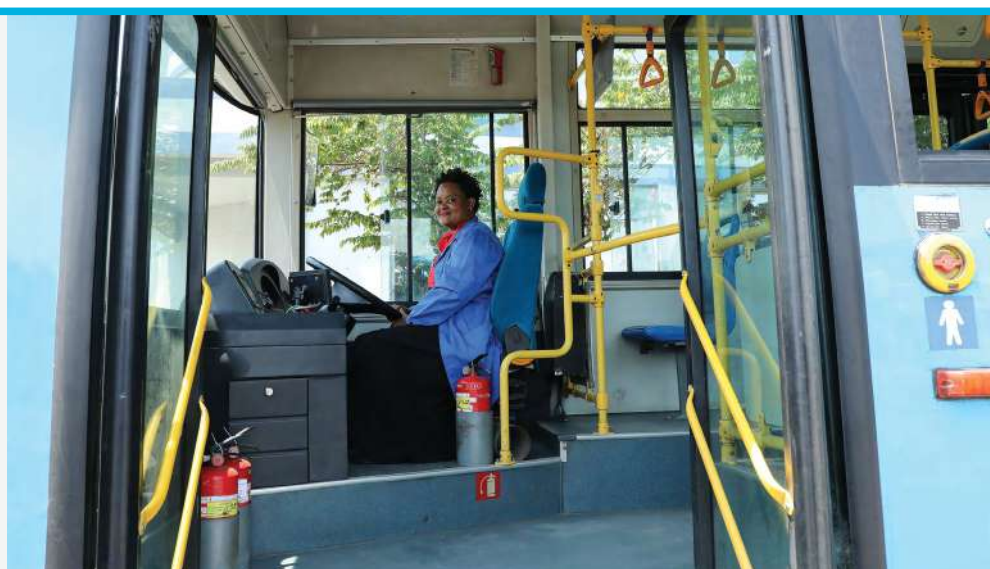
Specifically, with support from the Global Environment Facility (GEF), and in collaboration with the Institute of Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) and GIZ, UN-Habitat has supported the governments of Ethiopia, Kenya and Uganda in their efforts to introduce Bus Rapid Transit Systems in Addis Ababa, Nairobi and Kampala. UN-Habitat supported the preparation of operational plans and advised on the design of infrastructure for busways integrated with improved bike lanes and foot paths and trained a number of city and national government officials including through city-city exchanges. Through a similar intervention, UN-Habitat is currently working with the Government of Egypt to introduce a Bus Rapid Transit system in Cairo. Through all these initiatives, UN-Habitat has specifically focused on the mobility needs of women and other vulnerable groups.

UN-Habitat has supported various cities in implementing safe infrastructure for walking and cycling. For example in Medellin, UN-Habitat supported the creation of a segregated bike lane, increasing bicycle use by 270 per cent. Other examples include the pedestrianization of an inner-city street in Nairobi (Luthuli Avenue) and the National NMT Strategy for Addis Ababa.

UN-Habitat also supported the small, rapidly growing town of Ruiru in the metropolitan area of Nairobi to develop a Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan, one of the first such efforts in the African region.

One of the first female to join the men-only brigade of DART bus drivers in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2019'

© UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu



TESTIMONY

“There is little doubt that the SUSTRAN Project has built a critical mass of activities and momentum intended to boost the confidence of international donors and financial institutions for providing financial support for the construction of viable SMT systems for all 3 cities. The significance of SUSTRAN assistance has been to build institutional capacity for Sustainable Urban Transport (SUT) developments in these cities and ensure pilot designs for BRT systems in these cities will maximize ridership and demonstrate the socioeconomic and environmental benefits of SUT systems “

An external evaluation completed in 2018 of the “Sustainable Transport of East African Cities” (SUSTRAN) project through UNEP

Passengers using a ticket turnstile in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, 2019

© UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat mobility web page](#)
[Nairobi BRT service plan](#)
[GEF SUSTRAN East Africa – overview](#)
[Streets for Walking and Cycling – Designing for safety, accessibility and comfort in African cities](#)
[SCALING UP Safe Streets in Ethiopia](#)
[Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan Ruiru](#)
[Planning and Design for Sustainable Urban Mobility – Global Report on Human Settlements 2013](#)
[Quick Guide to Bus Sector Modernisation](#)
[Scaling Up Safe Street Designs in Ethiopia](#)

F.5. Creating energy and resource efficient buildings

1.1 1.3 2.1 2.3 3.1



Summary: Technical assistance and methodologies for creating energy efficient buildings including advice on institutional changes, policies and standards for green buildings and low carbon affordable housing. This includes supporting the integration of energy and resource efficiency into national building codes; supporting the design and construction of pilot demonstration projects for low-carbon buildings; providing technical advice on design standards; building capacities of officials, building practitioners and national association of architects and quantity surveyors; and providing advisory services on national and local government transition to renewable energies.

Challenges addressed: Buildings globally account for 40 per cent of energy used and are responsible for 30 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions. 75 per cent of the buildings that will be standing in Africa by 2050 will be built in the next 30 years, underscoring the crucial and urgent need for ecological and low carbon building design now. Over 30 per cent of energy is wasted in buildings due to poor design that does not take into consideration the local climate and environment. Buildings also have major carbon footprint due to the use of imported materials and carbon intensive materials like steel and cement.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has extensive experience and expertise in low-carbon energy, resource efficiency, climate mitigation and adaptation, as well as planning low-carbon basic services and infrastructure. Through integrated assistance, UN-Habitat supports gender-sensitive and inclusive low-carbon and energy efficient buildings that use locally available building materials as well as supporting innovation by facilitating development of low-carbon building design and the adoption of new building material from recycled products. UN-Habitat also uses its convening ability with national governments, local governments, power utilities, civil society and financial institutions to deliver tailored and integrated solutions supported by the latest technology and developments. In addition, UN-Habitat provides an advisory service for the development of municipal energy strategies and sustainable energy access and climate action plan. (See also offering E.4. on sustainable, affordable housing and H.2. on supporting urban low-emission development strategies).



Street light assembly, Kalobeyei © UN-Habitat

Duration of support: Depending on the needs addressed, this support typically lasts between one to four years.

Previous applications: This support can be delivered globally, and UN-Habitat has provided technical assistance to mainstream energy and resource efficient building codes and housing regulations in Rwanda, Uganda, Burundi, Kenya, Cameroon, Nigeria and Tanzania to promote the adoption of low carbon building principles. UN-Habitat has implemented a six-year regional programme on energy efficiency in buildings for East Africa.

UN-Habitat has developed and continues to update tools for capacity building and guidelines for energy and resource efficient buildings. Handbooks on tropical building design developed by UN-Habitat are used for training building practitioners (architects, urban planners, surveyors, engineers, etc.). Eight universities in East Africa are using these documents in their curriculum.

UN-Habitat has worked with several municipalities in Africa in developing their Sustainable Energy Access and Climate Action Plan (SEACAP) through the Global Covenant of Mayors for energy and climate.



Demonstration of a low-carbon, adequate and affordable housing unit built during UN-Habitat General Assembly and visited by over 1000 people. © UN-Habitat / Kirsten Milhahn

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[UN-Habitat energy web page](#)

[Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings in East Africa project website](#)

[Energy and Resource Efficient Urban Neighbourhood Design Principles for Tropical Countries. Practitioner's Guidebook](#)

[Build Green: Charter for Sustainable Building, Neighborhood Design and Urban Mobility in Tropical Countries](#)

G. Economy and finance

G.1. Enhancing Own Source Revenues (OSR) through rapid analysis



Summary: Supporting local governments to optimize their Own Source Revenues (OSR). The Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis (ROSRA) tool quantifies revenue leakages and deconstructs known bottlenecks to identify root causes and entry points for reform. By supporting local revenue administrations to better understand and communicate the weaknesses of their OSR systems, it facilitates strategic and resource effective interventions and helps to build reform momentum within local governments.

Challenges addressed: This service supports local governments to address challenges in municipal finance, own source revenue; government transparency, accountability and perception, and corruption.

What UN-Habitat can offer: This service is relevant for all secondary cities and subnational and local governments in developing countries. UN-Habitat deploys the ROSRA tool for a more equitable and transparent OSR system which supports citizens in understanding their tax obligations and thus aligning their economic decisions accordingly. The ROSRA tool is based on UN-Habitat's successful experiences in optimizing OSR in Afghanistan, Hargeisa (Somalia), Kiambu (Kenya) and around the world. The ROSRA methodology was thus developed by extracting the key lessons from UN-Habitat's own experiences and complementing them with a comprehensive literature review. Due to its track record and intimate understanding of the political processes involved in carrying out sensitive OSR reform, UN-Habitat is best positioned to accurately use this analytical tool in a cost-effective manner to provide strategic insights to local governments for OSR optimization. UN-Habitat provides ongoing assistance and support in regard to the implementation of provided recommendations: partnering with UN-Habitat means partnering with a long-term ally to transform local OSR systems.

The success of this service can be measured through the annual OSR per capita; the annual OSR/annual budget of revenue administration or annual OSR from the top five revenue streams/total annual OSR; and the tax incidence by income group (property tax/annual OSR or property tax arrears/annual OSR can be used as a proxy indicators). The tool is available on demand and accessible online.

Duration of support: A full analysis of the OSR system of a local government takes from 2–6 months. Trainings to support local governments in carrying out components of the analysis themselves can be offered within one month's notice.

Previous applications: The initial development of the tool was carried out in Kiambu County, Kenya in 2018. Its application in Kisumu County, Kenya in 2019 found that the Kisumu County Government was collecting around 18 per cent of its revenue potential in the financial year 2018/19. Challenges with property taxes (locally referred to as land rates) led to the loss of almost USD 20 million, or twice the county's annual OSR.



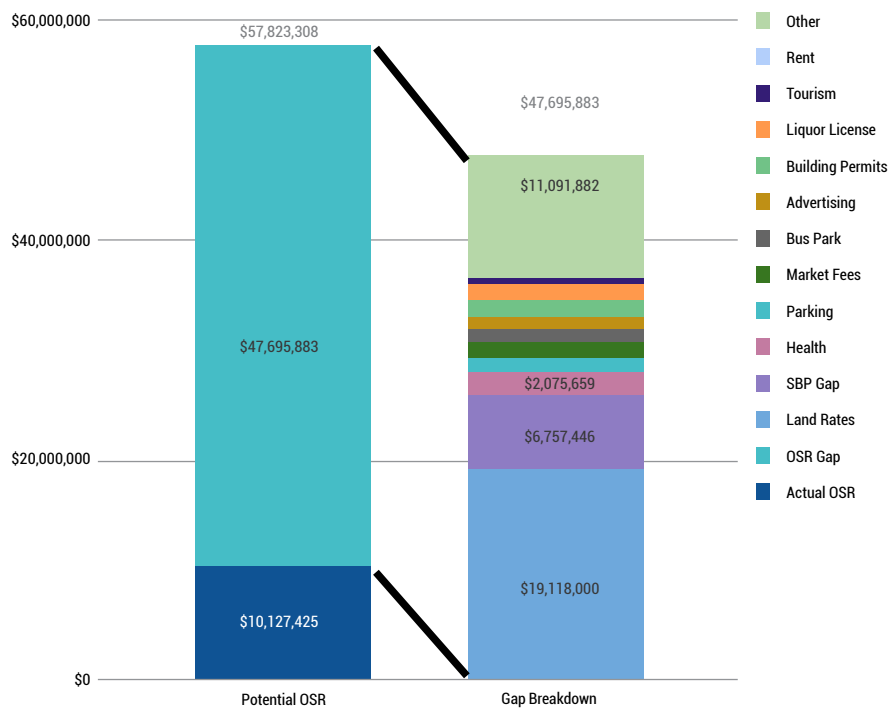
©UN-Habitat/Kristen Milhahn

One of the root causes of the inability to fully leverage property tax revenue was the non-compliance of large landowners who greatly contributed to the amassing of property tax arrears equal to 10x the total annual OSR collected by the county.

Another key challenge of the County Government was allocating resources and tax effort to the revenue streams which have the most potential. For the financial year 2018/19, the Revenue Administration spent close to 75 per cent of its budget on collecting daily “unstructured”

revenue streams (essentially user fees: parking fees, market fees and bus park fess) which represent less than 10 per cent of the overall revenue potential.

The challenges around collecting revenues from property taxes and the prioritization of unstructured revenues streams (user fees) over other more progressive revenues led to an unequitable/regressive overall tax system where lower income groups actually pay in taxes more than upper income groups.



Own Source Revenue Potential and Gap Analysis by Revenue Stream, Kisumu County, Kenya, 2019

Urban Economy and Finance Branch
Municipal Finance Unit

Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis of Kisumu
October 2019

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

TESTIMONY

“This is the most accurate analysis of our OSR system that we have received until now and it is spot on.”

Mr. Eric Orangi,
Former Chief Financial Officer, Kisumu County, Kenya

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Supporting Revenue Enhancement in Kiambu County, Kenya](#)
[Finance for City Leaders Handbook](#)

G.2. Land-based finance for good governance and inclusive development



Summary: A flexible set of instruments that can be adapted to a variety of institutional and cultural contexts aiming to enhance the availability of resources for local development through leveraging land. Improved local finances and the ability to improve local infrastructure and service provision can have far-reaching social and economic benefits. Compared with other often-used revenue streams, land-based finance tends to increase the progressivity of the tax system thus promoting equity, has fewer negative impacts than many other revenue tools, and can help to establish reciprocal relationships of accountability between resident communities and government.

Challenges addressed: This service supports national and local governments, affected residents, international and local partners to address challenges in municipal finance for delivery of infrastructure and essential services, as well as promoting building the social contract and good governance for all.

What UN-Habitat can offer: This service engages UN-Habitat's innovative land-based finance tools and approaches and a wealth of knowledge in a growing set of partnerships, both international and in pilot countries and cities. It leads to an increase in revenue collection through land-based finance mechanisms, local expenditure of the raised revenue on provision of infrastructure and essential services to all, with participation by affected populations including marginalized groups in the process. It takes an inclusive approach to land tenure across the full continuum of land rights and allows for innovative approaches, for example, allowing participation of occupants (with recognition of their occupation rights) as much as of the owners of the land on which people live. This approach can also increase social inclusion, which is the focus of a current two-year project in Afghanistan and Somalia. Land-based finance can also make funds available for essential services such as sanitation and electricity to contribute to a cleaner environment.

This service integrates the following land-based finance resources:

- *Leveraging land: Land-based finance for Local Governments*, including a *Reader* and a *Trainers' Guide* (in English but currently being translated into French)
- [Where to start? A Guide to Land-based Finance in Local Governance](#)
- A set of nine Instructional Videos on a range of land-based finance tools by which local authorities can leverage land to expand their revenue base, in order to finance urban development and the delivery of essential services to all: [Global Land Tool Network eLearning Platform](#).

Duration of support: Orientation and preliminary policy and technical advice can be provided at short notice. More detailed training and implementation guidance can be provided, funds permitting, within a two-month timeframe from inception to delivery. Concrete projects are multi-year by nature.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat (in partnership with other local and global actors) has conducted trainings in Iran, Egypt, Philippines, Kenya, Canada, Haiti, Malaysia and Saudi Arabia, and has implemented particular projects in Somalia and Afghanistan.

In Afghanistan, for example, UN-Habitat has been supporting 12 municipalities through the use of innovative land tools to survey and register all properties within municipal boundaries. In just two years urban communities were involved in surveying 670,000 properties in eight municipalities and 2,000 occupancy certificates were issued to households in informal settlements. Based on the updated property register, target municipalities have collected USD 8 million in safayi (a property tax/municipal charge that is levied by municipalities) fees from 150,000 properties in two years.

UN-Habitat has supported Somaliland and Puntland authorities in Somalia in developing and enacting a relevant regulatory framework for municipal financial management, including a local government finance policy. Together with local authorities, UN-Habitat has established a Geographic Information System (GIS) property database where data on the location of properties and urban parcels

are surveyed, catalogued and regularly updated. In all, 15 districts in Somaliland and Puntland now collect a total of USD 3 million per year from property tax, which benefited both local authorities and communities resulting in road construction and subsidized health and education services, amongst others.

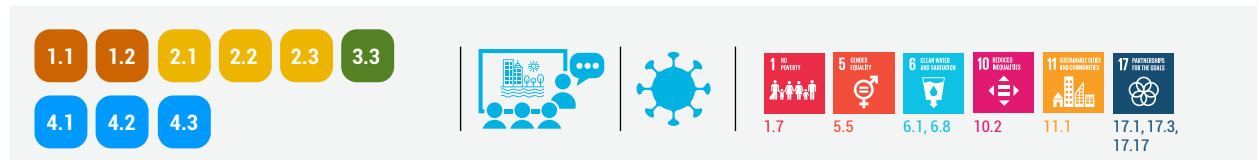
Securing Land Tenure Security through Community Mapping in Kenya. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[The New Deal for Engagement in Fragile States](#)
[United Nations Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Land and Conflict](#)

G.3. Innovative financing arrangements and Public-Private-People-Partnerships (PPPPs) for slum upgrading



Summary: It is clear that innovative financing models involving not just national and local governments but also communities and the private sector are critical to the realization of the SDGs. Finance at scale is also needed to address the challenge of slums, however available resources are limited and the enabling environment to mobilise finance in novel ways, often doesn't exist. For this reason, UN-Habitat is implementing and supporting a combination of tools and services for financing slum upgrading: (i) Innovative financing tools and PPPPs to support financing frameworks, (ii) Community Managed Funds and setting up Public-Private-People-Partnerships (PPPPs), and (iii) Market studies to identify innovations and opportunities for investment for slum upgrading and prevention.

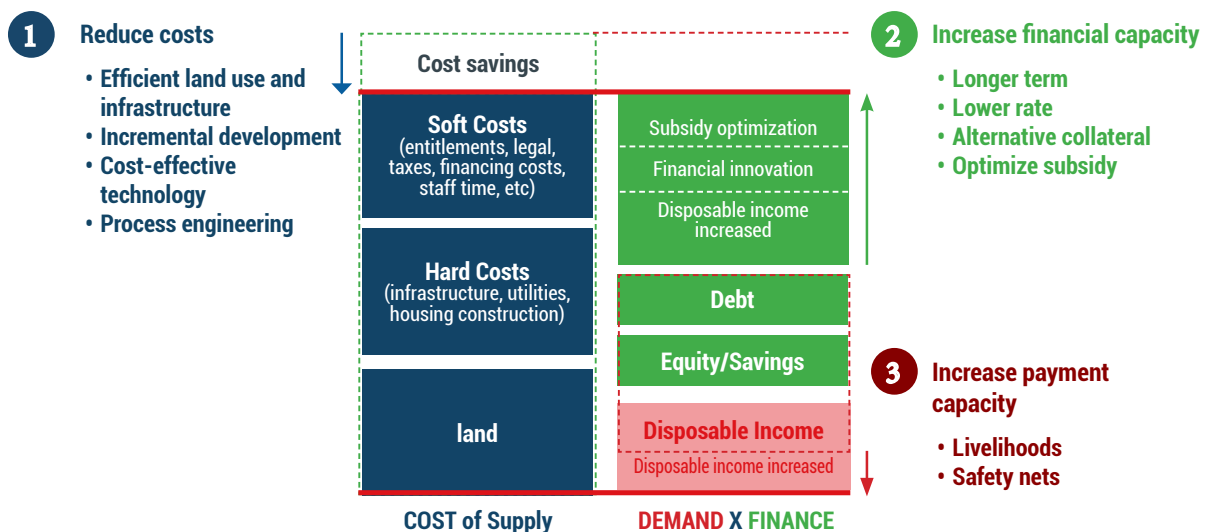
Challenge(s) addressed: One billion people worldwide live in slums. Despite the progress in improving slums and preventing their formation, absolute numbers continue to grow. The magnitude of the slum challenge has been recognized globally and included as part of the international development agenda, including as SDG target 11.1. Finance

at scale is needed to address the challenge, but available resources are limited. Even though approximately 60% of urban populations in Africa live in informal settlements, the economic potential of this large informal market remains untapped. Companies and investors lack the enabling environment needed to develop modern solutions and affordable innovations for informal urban areas, which requires specific attention and support.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat uses a combination of innovative approaches to address this challenge:

- Innovative financing tools and financing frameworks for slum upgrading and prevention:** A financing strategy for slum upgrading helps to assess the magnitude of the need, the cost of interventions, and proposes financing and delivery frameworks. Innovative financing strategies for slum upgrading are key to ensuring the strategic allocation of the available funds to leverage human and financial capital from national budgets, the private sector, investors, financing partners, and communities for impact at scale.

The key principles of the financing framework



2. **Community Managed Funds and PPPs for slum upgrading and prevention:** Participatory mechanisms and PPPs have been proven to result in sustainable outcomes in slum upgrading. UN-Habitat plays a key role as enabler of partnerships between diverse stakeholders for the setup of Community Managed Funds and PPPs for inclusive finance, and to link businesses, communities, and national and international stakeholders. Together with governments, UN-Habitat formulates and reviews policy towards community-led interventions for slum upgrading and prevention.

3. **Market studies to identify innovations and opportunities for investment for slum upgrading and prevention:** UN-Habitat identifies private sector innovations and develops market studies identifying the key opportunities and entry-points for private sector investment and business cases for slum upgrading and prevention. The opportunities for investment partnerships are analysed and specified by sector – housing, water, sanitation, waste management, transportation, energy, health services, education and economic infrastructure – and recommendations are based on evidence-based market potential. The market studies can be utilized by municipalities, investors, and the private sector to identify potentials for low-cost innovative solutions for implementation in informal settlements and slums.

and market potentials of innovative private sector solutions to prevent infections with COVID-19 in the high-risk environment of slums and informal settlements. These are then co-financed by public and private partners and rolled out with UN-Habitat’s support and advice.

Duration of support: The typical duration of support for innovative financing tools is about 6 months (including a participatory process in parallel to the development of national or city-wide strategies, design of national programmes and policies); for Community Managed Funds it is typically 11 months (comprising community sensitization and organization, training and capacity building for partners, neighbourhood planning and setting up of the funds); and for market studies the duration of support is about 4 months.

Previous applications: These approaches and support have been applied in numerous communities. 40 Community Managed Funds have been implemented in nine countries in Africa (Kenya, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Niger, Senegal, Mozambique, Malawi, DRC and Ghana); and in two countries in Asia (Sri Lanka and Afghanistan). Market Studies have been conducted in Kenya, Senegal, Nigeria and Cameroon. Thus far, our financing framework has been applied to the development of city-wide slum upgrading strategies in Cabo Verde, where the key principles of the framework have been mainstreamed for the identification of sustainable priority actions for slum upgrading at the city level.

This service also supports COVID-19 response, as UN-Habitat analyses and costs community-led responses

Repairs and maintenance of community-managed water points in Mtwapa, Kenya



TESTIMONY

“UN-Habitat has strengthened the country's capacity on slums upgrading. This has enabled the Government to launch projects in about five cities on 1,700 hectares for a total population of 250,000.”

Ms. Celestine Ketcha Courtes,
Minister of Housing and Urban Development, Republic of Cameroon

Newly paved streets for the community of Jamestown, Old Accra, Ghana. © UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhahn



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme \(PSUP\) website](#)

H. Climate change and cities

H.1. Integrating human settlements in National Adaptation Plans (NAPs), Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), and National Climate Policies



Summary: Supporting national governments in comprehensively integrating urban and human settlement issues into their NAPs, NDCs and national climate policies. The NAP Guide is a tried-and-tested resource that integrates these issues at the formulation, implementation and measuring, reporting and verification stages.

The NDC Guide is a new tool that outlines a step-by-step approach and set of recommendations to support national governments to integrate urban and human settlement related issues into their NDCs. The guide addresses both content (e.g. urban relevant sectors like transport, housing) and process (e.g. participation of local governments, other stakeholders).

Learning from international experience and best practices, policymakers can fully address the urban dimension of climate change policies and successfully strengthen national climate policies from a human settlements perspective.

Challenges addressed: These tools address the specific urban dimension of the challenges affecting countries and cities in relation to climate change: assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities, climate action planning for mitigation and adaptation, mobilizing climate finance, improving enabling environment and governance. National Adaptation Plans, as well as Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) are the primary national commitment and planning instruments under the UNFCCC, and UN-Habitat's tools can assist cities and countries in integrating human settlements issues into these national documents and their national climate policies.

In the current COVID-19 context, there is a call by the NDC partnership to support governments to link their post-COVID recovery plans with accelerated climate action, indicating that the current crisis presents an opportunity to better articulate subnational climate action, post-COVID-19 recovery and NDC enhancement.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has extensive expertise and experience in supporting national and local governments in addressing urban-related climate change issues. UN-Habitat has been implementing urban climate projects in more than 100 cities worldwide and is continuously supporting countries to access climate finance from UNFCCC financial mechanisms. With each of the discussed tools and guides, UN-Habitat offers tailored capacity building and technical cooperation supporting the implementation of the Paris Agreement.

UN-Habitat's guide *Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans: A Supplement to the UNFCCC Technical Guidelines on the National Adaptation Plan Process* offers a replicable methodology to integrate human settlements into those pending NAPs to create high-level impact. The guide primarily benefits decision-makers at the national level working on NAPs, both within and outside UNFCCC focal point ministries, while it also adds value for a broader set of stakeholders at the national and sub-national levels who are interested in or may be involved in the implementation of NAPs. Finally, it supports NAP 'readiness' proposals supported by the Green Climate Fund.

The recently released *Enhancing NDCs Through Urban Climate Action* guide is extremely timely. NDCs are the apex plans for national governments to address climate change and UN-Habitat supports national governments, including NDC coordinators in ministries of environment, as well as urban-relevant government ministries and local governments in this work. The guide can be used at three stages: (a) before the commencement of an NDC review/update process; (b) during this process; and (c) after the submission of an NDC to review and plan for future revisions.

Countries interested in other national-level policy processes on cities and climate change, even in addition to NDCs, NAPs, NAMAs, etc., can improve adaptation

and mitigation in the same framework and at a higher level than plans with specific projects. To meet this need, the **Addressing Urban Issues in National Climate Change Policies** tool and its associated trainings have supported a number of countries with integrating the urban dimension into these policies.

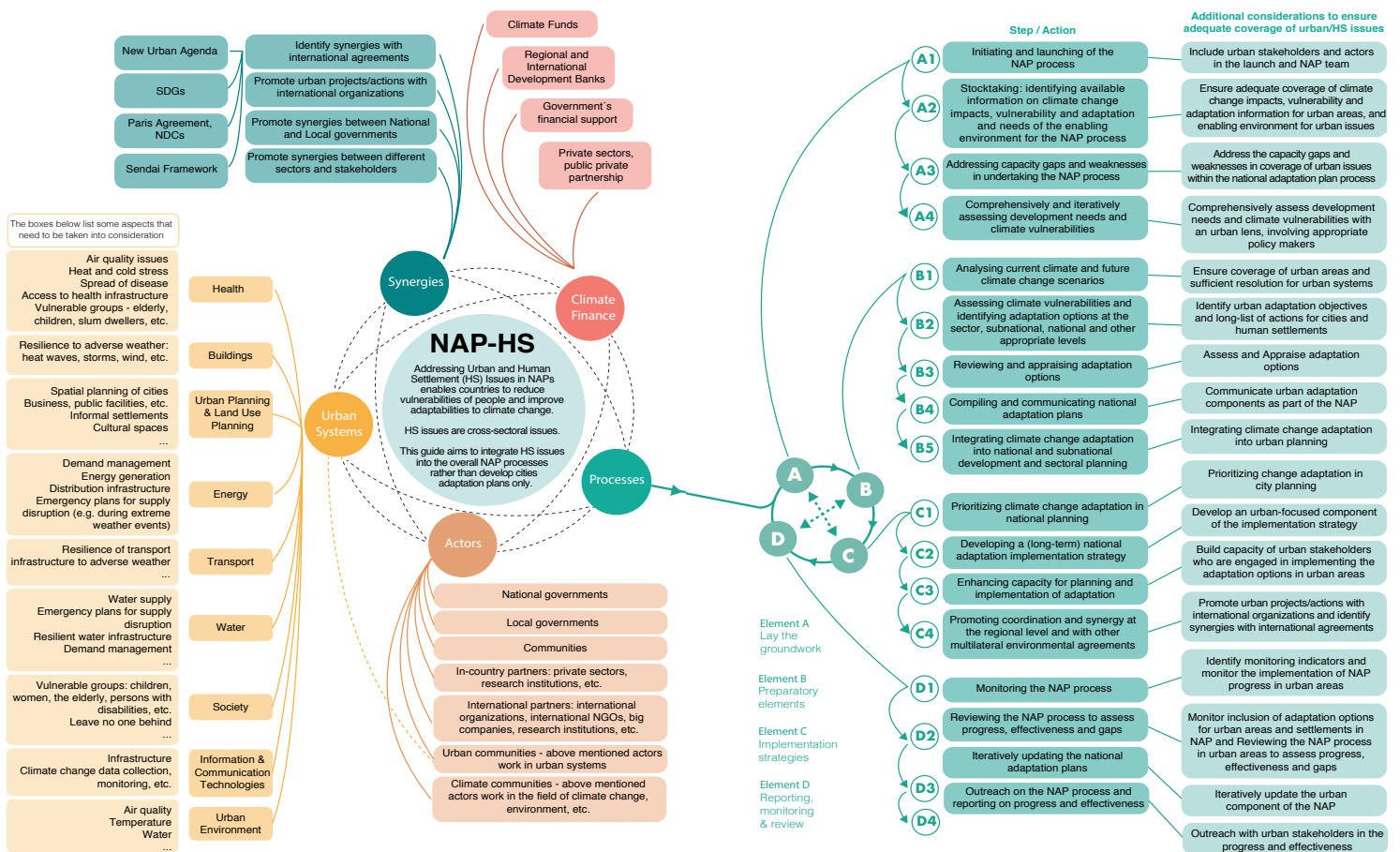
Duration of support: Support for national climate change policies can range from one day capacity building to introduce the decision-support tool and relevant international examples, to sustained support to policy formulation over several months and possibly years. UN-Habitat has been developing Green Climate Fund readiness proposals for several countries using **Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans** since 2019, with the proposal development process normally taking two to five months.

Enhancing NDCs through urban climate action can be used with UN-Habitat support in the following ways: (i)

desktop review of country NDC with a country-specific recommendations paper provided to Member States, based on the guide's decision tree (see figure below); (ii) technical assistance to NDC coordinator on applying the guide during the NDC review process (help desk + in-person support over three to six months); and (iii) workshop-based support to NDC team and sectoral national government departments working on their contributions to the NDC (this can take one day per sector workshop training and one day of collective training).

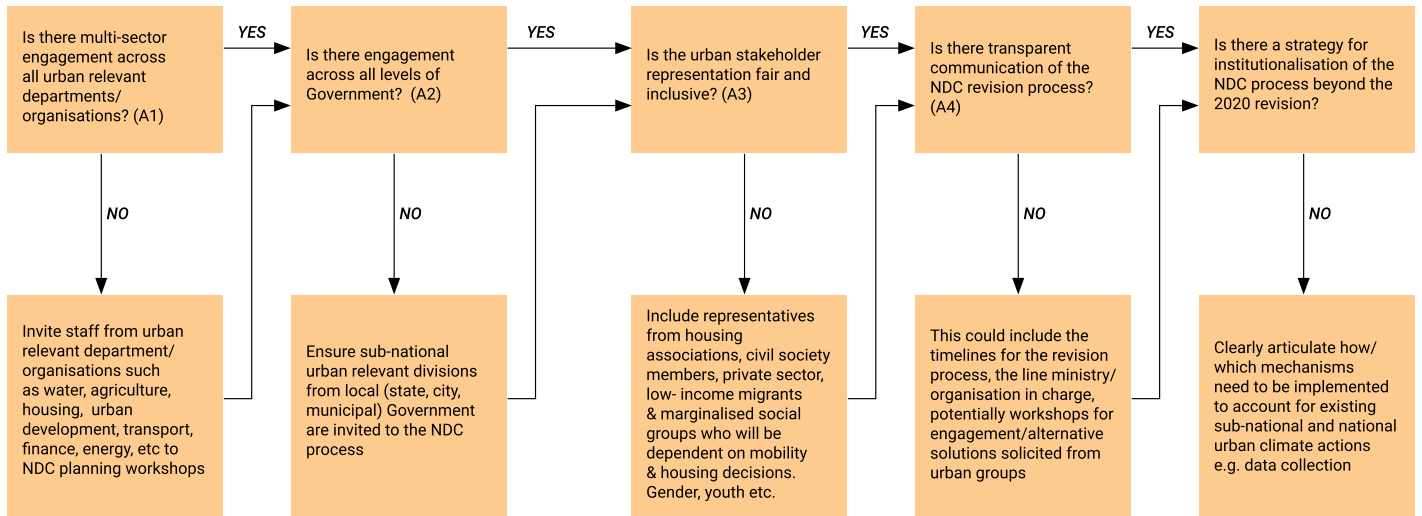
Previous applications: Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans applies globally. Currently, UN-Habitat has developed or is committed to developing Green Climate Fund readiness proposals using this NAP-HS guide for Laos, Guinea, Ethiopia, Liberia, Egypt, Bolivia and Nigeria. UN-Habitat has used its experience to assist in the development of national climate change policies for Fiji, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Papua New Guinea. [See PNG's policy.](#)

The diagram below demonstrates the overall structure of how to address urban and human settlement issues in National Adaptation Plans and synergies with key elements.



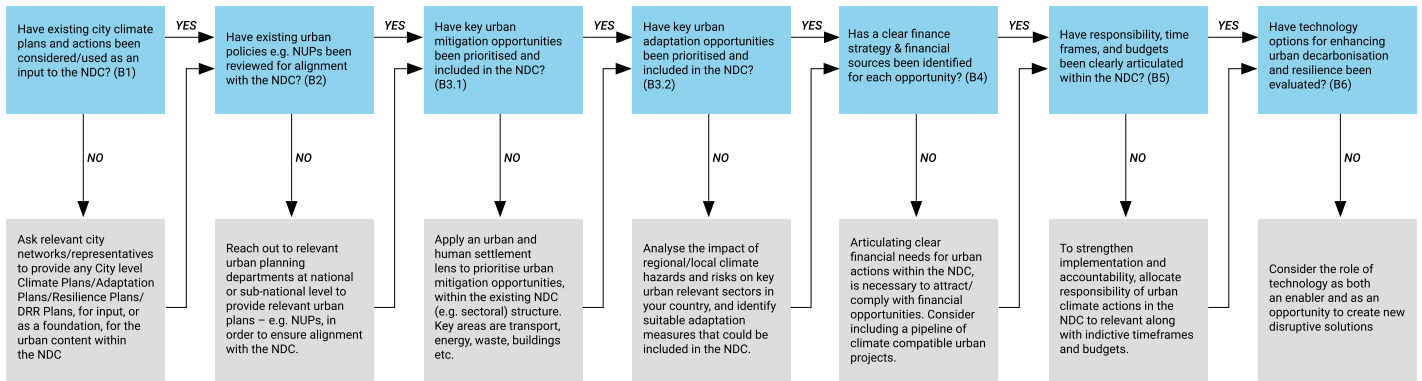
Key Opportunity A: Engage a diverse range of urban stakeholders in NDC planning

In the process of the NDC revision:



Key Opportunity B: Identify concrete policies and actions for integrating human settlements in the NDC, by applying an urban lens.

In the content of the NDC revision:



TESTIMONY

“This tool will help us operationalize our NAP in human settlements.”

Mr. Asrat Yirgu Senato,
Senior Climate Change Adaptation advisor, Ethiopia

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [UNFCCC supplementary materials to the NAP technical guidelines](#)
- [Addressing Urban Issues in National Climate Change Policies](#)
- [The Climate Change and National Urban Policies in Asia and the Pacific – A regional guide for mainstreaming climate change into urban related policy, legislative, financial and institutional frameworks, its associated tools and case studies focus on National Urban Policies, however, many of the tools and experiences support national climate change, policies, NAPs and NDCs](#)
- [Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions \(NDCs\) through urban climate action](#)

H.2. Supporting urban low-emission development strategies



Summary: Technical support for low emission development strategies. This is provided primarily through the Urban-LEDS II project, focusing on integrated low emission and resilient development in over 60 cities in eight countries. ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and UN-Habitat work directly with cities to accelerate the low-emission development process.

Peer-to-peer exchanges allow cities to learn from each other’s challenges and successes. In parallel, vertical integration of climate efforts among different levels of government provide sustainable benefits at the local and national level.

Challenges addressed: This addresses challenges faced by different levels of government in climate mitigation and adaptation, traffic congestion, urban pollution and waste management. The project targets reductions in emissions in participating cities and countries.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is uniquely placed to bridge local technical support to cities with national government policy and governance systems. UN-Habitat has experience working with all levels of governments in the global South and especially Least Developed Countries – and integrates “climate” concerns into development terms.

The city climate action planning process includes instructions and reminders on ensuring that a broad range of stakeholders are consulted in the development of the climate plan and that gender issues are considered in the entire process.

In Phase 1 of this Urban-LEDS project led by implementing partner ICLEI, 79 MtCO₂e emissions were reported by participating local governments as being reduced as a result of city projects carried out during the project period.

Impacts of Phase 1



Duration of support: The drafting and approval of low emission development strategies (LEDS) follows a city climate action planning methodology that includes data collection, strategy development, action identification and council approval.

This can take two years if done comprehensively - one year in a compressed timescale. Discrete pilot projects to support national governments to enhance the integration of climate change into urban policy, and urbanization into climate policy, and to enhance linkages between national and local governments are carried out through technical assistance packages of between 6 and 12 months.

Previous applications: This has been applied globally, including in Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, India, Indonesia,

Laos, South Africa, Rwanda and several European cities. The impacts from Phase 1 include: eight low emission development strategies finalized; 30 community greenhouse gas inventories reported from project cities; 60+ pilot projects on energy efficiency, renewable energy, sustainable buildings, implemented; and 58 climate commitments made by local governments.

Impacts from Phase 2 (to date this is ongoing) include: 269 local government officials trained on city climate action planning; 23 city low-emission infrastructure projects submitted to international donors for funding; six new community greenhouse gas inventories developed; and eight climate risk and vulnerability assessment frameworks developed.

Planned impacts of Phase II (ongoing):



TESTIMONY

“Highlights from Phase I of Urban-LEDS include the increased focus on climate change at the highest level of the municipality, as a result of project training, policy development and the green homes and solar streetlight demonstration project implemented in a community in Groutville. The municipality has recently become compliant with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, and it is beginning to develop a City Resilience Programme to increase community resilience to flooding and protect its wetlands.”

Mr. Sikhumbuzo Hlongwane,
Executive Director, Economic Development, KwaDukuza Municipality, South Africa

Solar panels installed through project funds on a community building in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, South Africa



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Urban-LEDS project website](#)
- [Project case studies](#)

H.3. Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning



Summary: Supporting planned or ongoing city-level climate action planning processes with the aim of strengthening those processes to reflect international best practices as represented in eight guiding principles. City-level decision-makers receive an easy-to-follow review of their processes, with concrete suggestions for improving these. The guiding principles are structured in two volumes: (i) supporting cities to take climate action (Introduction), and (ii) toolkit with indicators.

Challenges addressed: Comprehensively addressing climate change at the local level requires strong planning to make an impact and such plans touch upon broader issues; these include urban sprawl, social inclusion, the vulnerabilities of urban populations, including marginalized groups, the need to break down silos and work across municipal departments, the need to coordinate with surrounding local governments, multi-level governance to list a few.

Climate action planning provides city governments and their partners with strategic direction, new ideas, tools and a community of practice to address climate change while meeting other long-term goals such as socio-economic development and environmental protection.

What UN-Habitat can offer: The *Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning* is a core tool that consolidates the collective wisdom of 45 endorsing partners, including the World Bank, UNEP, UNDRR, the Global Environment Facility, UCLG, ICLEI, WRI, CPI, the International Society of City

and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and many others. This capacity-building and decision-support tool can be applied in a one-off application to cities without requiring a year or more of extended engagement. UN-Habitat has extensive experience in providing support to local governments in strengthening their climate action planning processes, including by applying these guiding principles and their associated indicators. *Guiding Principles* has two volumes: (i) Supporting cities to take climate action (Introduction), and (ii) Toolkit with indicators. The Introduction is available in English, French, Spanish and Arabic. The Toolkit is available in English, French and Spanish.

The *guiding principles* are aimed primarily at city-level actors. They provide a common reference point for local official and local planning practitioners, as well as other local stakeholders in cities around the world. At the same time, national and subnational (e.g. State, provincial) governments that are developing or revising policy frameworks that govern climate change, urban development and local planning processes are encouraged to use the *Guiding Principles* in order to provide a consistent and effective approach. International initiatives and programmes that support city climate action planning are urged to use and reference the guiding principles in their work. The guiding principles will help a city to deliver an integrated and inclusive climate action plan consistent with the objectives of the Paris Agreement, and will support the implementation of the climate change dimensions of the New Urban Agenda

Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning

City climate action planning should be:



Ambitious

Setting goals and implementing actions that evolve iteratively towards an ambitious vision



Inclusive

Involving multiple city government departments, stakeholders and communities (with particular attention to marginalized groups), in all phases of planning and implementation



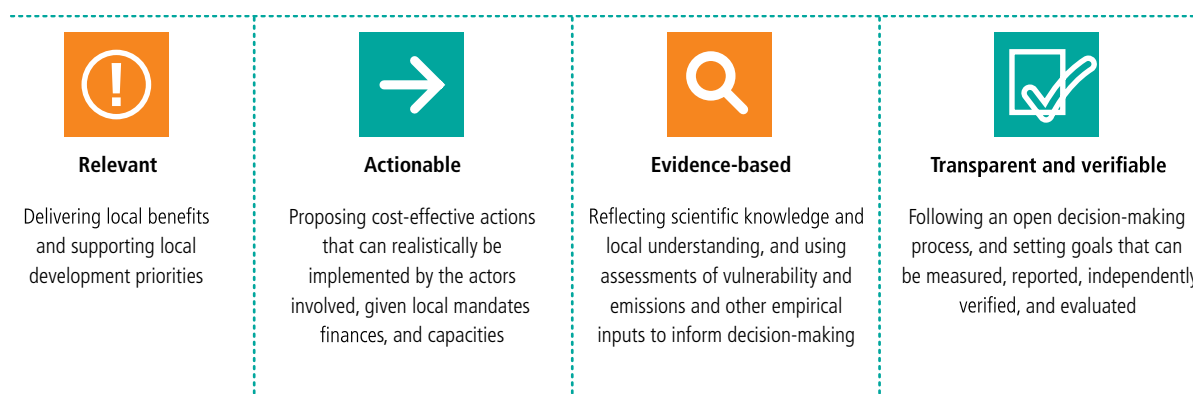
Fair

Seeking solutions that equitably address the risks of climate change and share the costs and benefits of action across the city



Comprehensive and integrated

Coherently undertaking adaptation and mitigation actions across a range of sectors within the city, as well as supporting broader regional initiatives and the realization of priorities of higher levels of government when possible and appropriate



Duration of support: The preferred methodology for applying, testing and capturing feedback on the guiding principles is via “accompanied missions” of one week. After the mission, the final assessment report is revised and prepared in approximately two weeks.

Previous applications: The guiding principles have been used in the planning processes of a number of cities, and guiding principles assessments have been conducted in seven cities (Glasgow (UK), Lemon Grove (USA), Vilankulo (Mozambique), Rajkot (India), Legazpi and Angeles (Philippines), and Cuenca (Ecuador)) to date.

With the support of UN-Habitat and endorsing partners, cities have applied the guiding principles at different stages of their policy planning processes, with different impacts. Glasgow turned to the guiding principles because advocates for ambitious climate action wanted to use the review as a way to encourage policymakers to set more ambitious climate action.

Lemon Grove used them to stimulate thinking about climate planning in the future. Vilankulo used them as a part of a broader resilience planning exercise; the review resulted in some strengthening of the underlying decision support tool (B.2. City Resilience Action planning – CityRAP) that was used as a basis for the resilience planning process in that city. The strengthened CityRAP tool has been and is being applied in a number of cities, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. Finally, Metro Vancouver’s use of the guiding principles to orient their Climate 2050 initiative occurred without UN-Habitat facilitation.

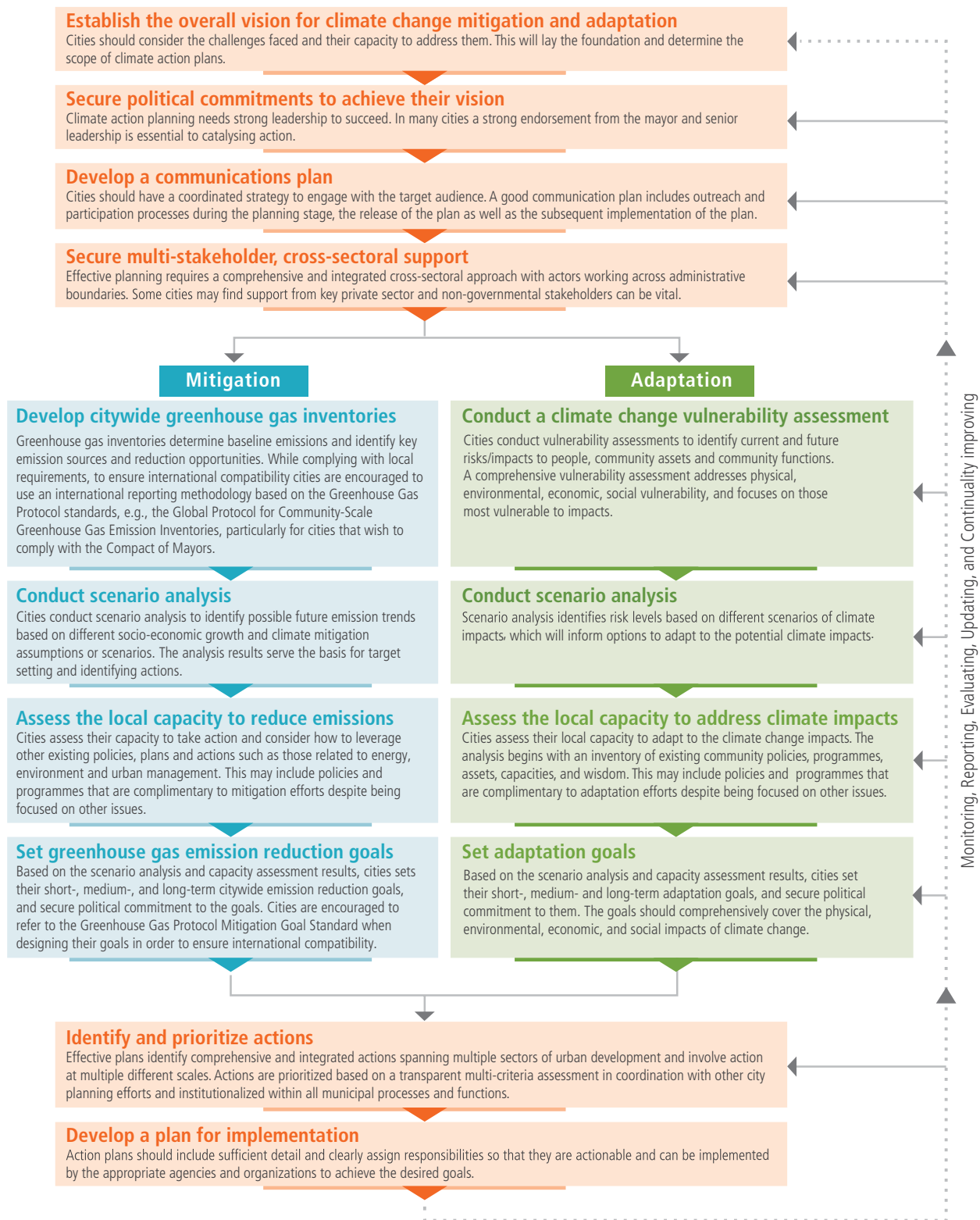
Additionally, the guiding principles have had institutional impacts: UN-Habitat and ICLEI worked together to integrate the Guiding Principles and its indicators into the reporting protocols for their global reporting platform, Carbons. A group of faculty and sustainability officials from universities in the United States and Canada have also adapted the guiding principles for use as a tool to improve the sustainability and climate-friendliness of their campuses and strengthen their campus planning processes.

TESTIMONY

“To guide the Climate 2050 Strategy, the following principles have been identified that reflect Metro Vancouver’s mandate and role and the specific climate challenges of our region. These principles are based on the United Nations-Habitat principles for local-level climate action, which were established to encourage consistent and comparable approaches to developing effective climate action planning by local and regional governments around the world.”

Metro Vancouver Climate 2050 Discussion Paper, April 2018

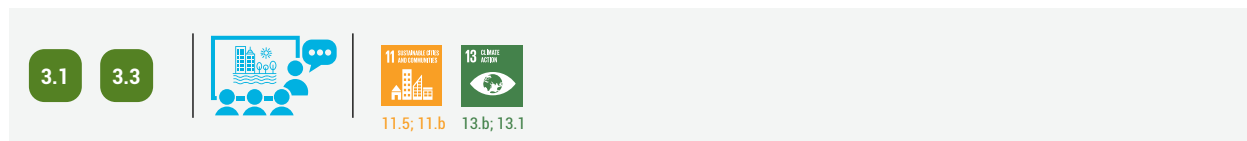
Typical climate action planning process



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning](#)

H.4. Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic, Values-Based Approach for Urban Planners



Summary: A tool for city planners to better understand, assess and take action on climate change at the local level. It is specifically targeted to the needs of planners and allied professionals in cities in low and middle-income countries where the challenges of planning for climate change are particularly high. It provides an approach that allows local decision makers to develop climate action plans that reflect local values.

Challenges addressed: This guide and its associated tool and training address climate change issues in urban areas from small towns and settlements to large cities. Several studies have shown that urban planners and other built environment professionals are not adequately aware of the challenges or the contribution of cities to climate change, or of the scale of the impact of climate-related hazards on cities. They are also ill-equipped to propose policy options or on-the-ground interventions in cities which can help in climate change mitigation or adaptation at the local level. This capacity gap is especially evident in low- and middle-income countries, and among planners who work in secondary or tertiary cities.

What UN-Habitat can offer: *Planning for Climate Change:*

A Strategic, Values-Based Approach for Urban Planners is a systematic tool for secondary cities in developing countries based on UN-Habitat’s decades of experience in planning for climate change. The structure, with Volume 1 providing step-by-step guidance on the overall process and Volume 2 including a more detailed toolkit, is accessible and tailored for planners working in cities in low- and middle-income countries that have a basic knowledge of climate change and the desire to address it.

The tool also adds value for all types of planners (disaster risk reduction, civil engineers, local economic development specialists, environmental experts, etc.) at all levels (e.g. local government, region, state, province); professionals working in the larger field of urban land management and social development (e.g. civil engineers, local health officials, local economic development officers, etc.); elected representatives, non-government professionals, civil society groups, donor agencies and private sector organizations who individually and collectively affect how cities manage climate change risks, impacts and vulnerabilities. This tool recognizes that climate-vulnerable groups are likely to bear disproportionate hardships with respect to climate change impacts.

Planning for climate change cycle



As illustrated, this tool's planning cycle is organized into four modules that correspond to the four key strategic planning questions:

- What is happening?
- What matters most?
- What can we do about it?
- Are we doing it?

Answering these questions requires users to go through a corresponding set of individual steps. Each of the nine planning steps is further broken down into more detailed tasks, many of which are supported by corresponding tools. The planning tools are provided in a companion document, *Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic Values-Based Approach for Urban Planners – Toolkit*.

These groups include urban poor, women, girls, youth and others, and are considered in the sensitivity analysis. The tool has been developed through an extensive consultative and peer review process that involved UN-Habitat, United Nations Environment Programme, Canadian Institute of Planners, MIT, University of Twente, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, World Bank, University of British Columbia, Arcadis, Commonwealth Association of planners, University of Auckland, Rockefeller Foundation, Mercy Corps, International Institute for Sustainable Development, Arup and Bond University.

Duration of support: The tool can be used for the development of city-level climate change action plans, climate change vulnerability assessment and training. The development of action plans based on vulnerability assessment reports and mitigation baseline studies can take from a few months to more than a year, while the training normally lasts for a few days.

Previous applications: This tool has been applied globally with a focus on the Asia-Pacific region, including numerous cities in the Philippines (where the tool has been adapted into national government guidelines); in Cambodia (Sihanoukville, see video); Fiji (including Lami Town and three other towns, ongoing), Indonesia (Makassar), Nepal (Kathmandu), Papua New Guinea (Port Moresby), Pakistan (Islamabad), Samoa (Apia), Solomon Islands (Honiara), Sri Lanka (Negombo and Batticaloa); Vanuatu (Port

Vila). UN-Habitat has also organized numerous trainings for urban planning educators (university level) in local government training institutes in Africa and Asia.

This tool has been used intensively to support UN-Habitat's city-level climate change work. For example, in 2014 floods devastated Honiara and destroyed one highly vulnerable settlement, Koa Hill. This destruction gave added impetus to adaptation planning. After the floodwaters receded, UN-Habitat assisted Honiara to undertake climate action planning. Based on the Planning for Climate Change tool, the Honiara Solomon Islands Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment report and the Honiara Urban Resilience & Climate Action Plan were developed and clearly refer to the tool.

UN-Habitat has also supported Vietnam in strengthening the city governments' capacity in developing City Climate Action Plans. A capacity building workshop on climate adaptation was held for Can Tho's stakeholders on 14 May 2020, and the Planning for Climate Change tool was used as the training material.

The tool has also been included in academic reading lists (RMIT, Australia, UCL, UK) and is a key tool for the Institute for Housing and Urban Development (IHS, Netherlands) "Urban Management Tools for Climate Change" course. The relatively high number of downloads (42,757) speaks to the uptake by practitioners and learners.



TESTIMONY

“We, the undersigned, recognize the importance of this agenda for the city of Honiara, endorse this vulnerability assessment, and declare an ongoing commitment for the Planning for Climate Change process.”

Hon. Alfrece Fatai, the Lord Mayor of Honiara City; **Minister Andrew Manepora’a**, the Minister for Lands, Housing & Survey of Solomon Islands Government; and **Hon. Samuel Manetoali**, Minister for Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management, Conservation and Meteorology of Solomon Islands endorsed the Planning for Climate Change in the Foreword of the Honiara Solomon Islands Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment report.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic, Values-Based Approach for Urban Planners](#)

[Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic, Values-Based Approach for Urban Planners – Toolkit](#)

[Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic Values-Based Approach in Sihanoukville - Video](#)

[The Government of the Philippines “Enhanced Local Government Unit Guidebook on the Formulation of Local Climate Change Action Plan \(LCCAP\) Book 3”](#)

H.5. Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk: Community Assessments, Action Planning and Implementation



Summary: Supporting community-based vulnerability assessments and action plans. This service provides crucial information for resilience planning and the identification of transformative projects, supporting risk-reduction and climate adaptation. Participatory approaches are followed engaging communities and capturing local knowledge. Particularly in the context of informal settlements, community-based vulnerability assessments provide invaluable data, appropriately disaggregated, that can support the development of strategies for resilient informal settlements upgrading.

Challenges addressed: This service helps national and local governments as well as community organizations to overcome challenges around resilience, informality and climate change. The tool is placed at the intersection between informal settlements upgrading and community resilience.

What UN-Habitat can offer: This is a core service for sub-city-level work which has been recently updated and builds on over 10 years of UN-Habitat’s city-level climate change resilience building experience as well as informal settlements upgrading. UN-Habitat has supported the development of numerous vulnerability assessments (VAs) and action plans (APs) both at the

city and community levels through several initiatives. Furthermore, UN-Habitat has extensive experience in informal settlement profiling and upgrading. Having implemented these approaches in numerous projects, UN-Habitat is uniquely positioned to provide technical support and expertise that will build the climate resilience of the urban poor following a human-based approach.

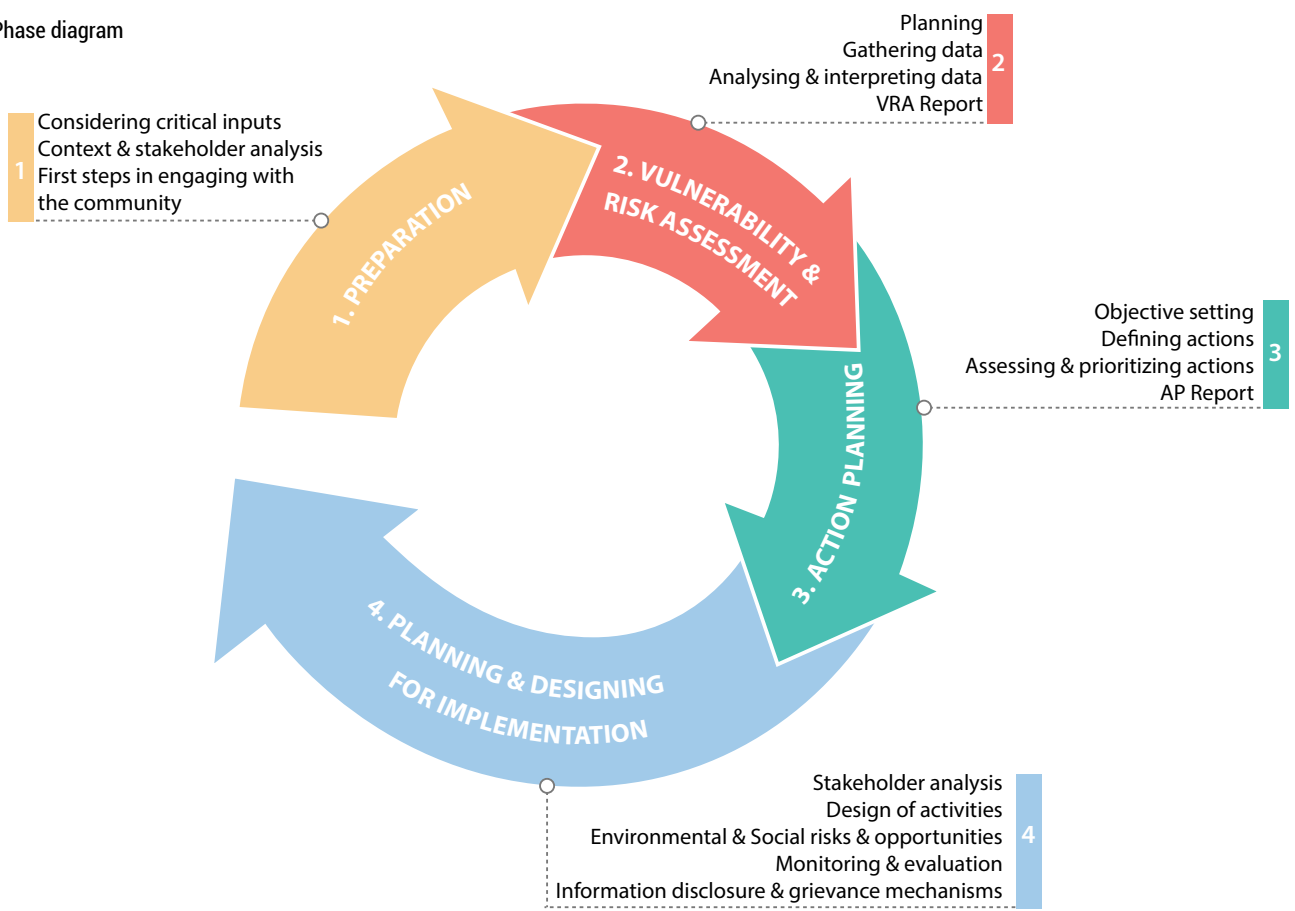
Technology and innovation are used in the data collection processes. Drones can be used to obtain high quality imagery to create maps and 3D models. In contexts where there is a lack of data, this type of solution can help produce valuable hazard and risk maps that can be used to guide future investments, project design, etc.

The differentiated needs from community members are recognized, providing disaggregated and people-driven data and information. Inclusive and participatory approaches are followed in order to empower people. Identifying the differentiated needs and vulnerabilities supports integrated and equity-focused interventions. The relevant risk and hazard information generated and disseminated to stakeholders helps reduce exposure to hazard and threats. VAs and APs support communities in adapting to climate change.

Community groups in Fiji



Phase diagram



Vulnerability and Risk Assessment process flow



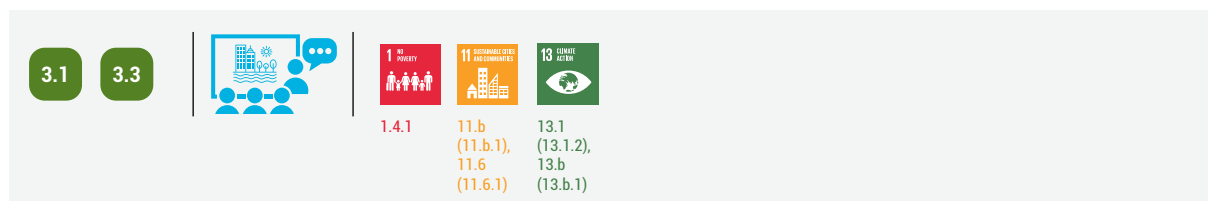
Duration of support: Trainings on how to collect data, carry out the community profiles and the vulnerability assessments and action plans can be conducted as a one-day session to introduce the topics, to engagements that build strong expertise among personnel over several months. The development of VAs and APs depends on data availability and can vary from a month to several months.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has developed numerous VAs and APs combining community resilience and slum upgrading in several countries in the Asia-Pacific region, including Fiji, Laos, Myanmar and Solomon Islands. It is applicable to all regions with climate threats, urban poor communities and informal settlements.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk: A Guide for Community Assessments, Action Planning and Implementation](#)

H.6. Local leadership for climate change action



Summary: Practical measures that cities can take to respond to climate change. Climate change presents local leaders with an opportunity to put their communities onto paths towards more sustainable, liveable, vibrant and environmentally friendly cities. Key messages are illustrated with inspiring examples of local-level leadership drawn from cities around the world.

Challenges addressed: This service supports local governments to address challenges related to informal settlements, inadequate access to urban services, sanitation and waste management, climate change impacts (floods, droughts, rising sea levels, cyclones, storms, etc.), preparedness, excessive bureaucracy and the lack of climate funding directly earmarked for cities.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has more than a decade of extensive experience in helping secondary cities in developing countries around the world to take climate action. As such we can draw from a host of inspiring examples of city leadership to help inspire and tangibly support local leaders. UN-Habitat deploys this service using the tool Local Leadership for Climate Change Action, which is written in easy-to-digest language with urban examples. Its associated trainings help local leaders understand the actions they can take to make climate action a reality.

UN-Habitat is also active both politically and substantively in the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) (GCoM), and so can help local leaders join this important network of mayors committed to climate action. This service clarifies how climate action can provide cities with many opportunities that include taking a long-term perspective, developing an integrated strategy, accessing technologies and practices and urban renewal.

Duration of support: This introductory tool is best used as part of a several-day, city-level capacity-building workshop. One effective training model is to have: (1) an initial day to which local elected officials are invited (and during which the present tool can be used as a

basis for capacity building), followed by (2) another two days in which appointed officials are introduced to more technical and substantive tools and methodologies focused on addressing climate change.

Previous applications: This service is applicable globally. Examples and case studies showcased in the knowledge product are drawn from: Africa: Kampala, Uganda (Wastewater programme); eThekweni Municipality (Durban), South Africa (Headline Climate Change Adaptation Strategy, Municipal Climate Protection Programme), Mozambique (Living with Floods Initiative); Asia-Pacific: Port Vila, Vanuatu (city-wide vulnerability assessment); Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia (Retrofitting of buildings); Sorsogon City, Philippines (cooperation between local and national institutions); Latin American and the Caribbean: Esmeraldas, Ecuador (participatory planning); Medellin, Colombia (public transport cable car, using Clean Development Mechanism financing); Sao Paulo, Brazil (partnership with the private sector); Europe: Rotterdam, Netherlands; Barcelona, Spain; and North America: Atlanta, US.

While more than 10,000 mayors have committed to climate action by joining the [Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy](#) (GCoM), by far the largest number of those mayors have been from developed countries. City dwellers from least developed countries (LDCs) face various urgent challenges. Supporting them to better understand and implement that climate action is a priority requires considerable local leadership.

However, mayors from two smaller cities in LDCs, Moroni in the Comoros Islands and Nacala in Mozambique, were early committers to GCoM. UN-Habitat assisted these farseeing leaders to undertake the several rigorous steps in completing the GCoM roadmap – from target-setting, through baseline greenhouse gas emission and vulnerability assessments, to development of comprehensive climate action plans. As a result, these two cities were among the first to receive “badges” indicating that they were fully compliant with GCoM requirements – a true sign of local climate leadership.



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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Local Leadership for Climate Change Action](#)

I. Capacity building

I.1. Sustainable transfer of skills and knowledge to governments and urban stakeholders



Summary: Capacity building and training projects delivered by UN-Habitat to strengthen the ability of institutions and individuals to effectively intervene, transform and improve themselves and the environment in which they operate. UN-Habitat leverages partnerships with training institutions and delivers quality needs assessments, tools and trainings that bring together local and national governments, civil society, and academia to create new ways of working and positively impact their capacities to manage urban challenges in the long term.

Challenges addressed: Inadequate capacities and skills to develop projects, identify priorities and opportunities, create appropriate institutional frameworks, policies and supportive legislation, access finance and use the right technologies hinder the ability of government institutions to effectively implement sustainable urban development policies, falling short in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat, being the leading agency for Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG 11) and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, provides experience-based capacity building services that enable Member States, cities, local governments, and urban stakeholders to work towards making their cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The selection of specific forms of capacity building interventions is tailored to the specific needs and contexts of the target groups and is designed to respond to well-defined urban challenges and institutional and organizational requirements.

These training services strengthen the capacity of national and local governments, their institutions and their employees, senior managers, decision makers, policymakers, and personnel in charge of overall planning, designing, managing and implementing housing and urban development policies, programmes and projects that address a wide range of urban issues and disciplines.

Youth taking part in a computer class at the UN one stop center in Kigali, Rwanda

© Julius Mwelu / UN-Habitat



Services include in-situ training and specialized courses, policy seminars, expert group meetings, tailor-made trainings, peer-to-peer learning and knowledge exchange workshops. It also includes online distance learning programmes, in-situ city labs, cooperative problem-solving oriented and results-based workshops closely connected with a real problem identified by the host institution, action-learning seminars, city-to-city cooperation and exchange, South-South and North-South cooperation, technical tours and thematic site visits, as well as on-the-job technical assistance and multiple forms of knowledge transfer and acquisition.

This support is grounded in the latest learning and best practices on sustainable urban development and implementing the global goals, leveraging advanced digital solutions and facilitation techniques. UN-Habitat mobilizes renowned universities and research and training institutions to explore new ways of addressing urban challenges and needs of city leaders and other stakeholders involved, to accelerate the dissemination and use of normative tools and knowledge, research and human capital towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and achievement of SDG 11. These tools and methods include collaboration with research hubs, joint research ventures, technology and innovation for capacity building, e-learning, Massive Open Online Courses, and the UN-Habitat Universities Partnership Initiative, [Habitat UNI](#). Examples of capacity building tools and efforts are included throughout this catalogue. UN-Habitat increasingly offers targeted and demand-driven sessions on urban innovation and frontier technologies to foster an innovative mindset and to support urban managers and cities to mainstream cutting-edge tools and approaches for sustainable and inclusive management of urban centres. Sessions can

be delivered to promote an understanding of innovation methods, frontier technologies, how to promote human rights in digital environments, assessing and addressing the digital divide.

Duration of support: Capacity building services can be delivered through online classes (starting from two hours), training workshops (two to seven days), building institutional training programmes (one to five or more years) and other tailored activities (the duration of which varies based on needs). Training sessions are delivered virtually or in-person, depending on the preference, topic and COVID-19 situation.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat capacity building services have been conducted for decades and apply across all geographies where capacity building needs are identified or expressed by national or local governments. More recently, UN-Habitat programmes such as the *Global Land Tool Network* and the *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme* have developed packages of digitally available training tools.

UN-Habitat was a lead partner at COP25 and the Capacity Building Hub, hosted by the Paris Committee on Capacity-building, setting a significant precedent for the importance of capacity building in the fight against the climate crisis, especially in urban contexts. For further information, please review the [Paris Committee on Capacity-building's "The 2nd Capacity-building Hub Summary Report for COP25."](#) UN-Habitat has provided innovation, technology and digital rights capacity support to a number of partners. One example is supporting the development of a smart, inclusive and innovative greenfield site in Cameroon through workshop exchanges.



TESTIMONY

“UN-Habitat UNI [UN-Habitat’s partnership with universities] is the medium of change of ideas and expertise. Being a member of UNI, we had the opportunity to meet and collaborate with global academics and researchers within a multi-disciplinary platform for sustainable cities.”

Dr. Sahar Attia,
Professor of Architecture & Urban Design, Habitat UNI Chairperson

“We found the workshop [Building Participatory Accountability Systems for City Policies – End of Programme Workshop, 2020] fantastic; it was very good to know the experiences of other cities. There is a lot of diversity but also a lot of similarity between the projects.”

Mr. Daniel Gaspar,
Director of the School of Government and Management of the Municipality of Niterói, Brazil

Group exercise presentation during workshop at the International Urban Training Centre (IUTC) in Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, 2019



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Capacity Building online repository](#)
[Online housing barometer](#)
[Capacity Building page on the UN-Habitat website](#)
[UN-Habitat UNI page on the UN-Habitat website](#)
[Global Urban Lectures repository](#)

I.2. Advancing government capacities through regional training centres of excellence

1.1 1.2 3.2 3.3 4.3 |  |   17.9

Summary: Establishment of regional training centres of excellence to fill the critical capacity needs of municipal and city leaders to effectively respond to pressing demands of urbanization. Capitalizing on more than 10 years’ experience in building regional capacities across Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat extends its expertise to partners by jointly establishing training institutes and co-producing bespoke and cutting-edge training courses and materials, whilst providing unparalleled opportunities for city-to-city exchange and cross-fertilization of ideas through its wide alumni network.

Challenges addressed: Due to limited resources, many local governments do not have adequate capacity and institutional arrangements to strive for excellence, hence being unable to improve their processes, upskill their workforce, promote challenge-driven innovation and cross-fertilization of ideas, and adopt new ways of doing things, new polices and new technologies.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat uses over 13 years of experience in facilitating cutting-edge learning in sustainable urban development through regional training centres in Asia and the Pacific for this service and can replicate and further tailor this knowledge transfer model in other regions. The centres bring in a network of city leaders and urban practitioners, thus providing a platform for the exchange of knowledge and experiences, while also fostering a long-term network of alumni. Innovative approaches and best practices are incorporated into UN-Habitat’s trainings. Learning modules and site visits are carefully selected to provide cutting-edge perspectives to participants, as in the example of site visits to eco/ smart cities in the Republic of Korea.

Duration of support: The establishment and operationalization of a regional training centre of excellence depends on specific capacity building plans, funding opportunities and terms of partnership. The

Participants enjoyed the interactions and experience during regional training courses organized by UN-Habitat and IUTC in 2018 and 2019



duration of the training courses usually lasts between five to seven days but can be tailored to meet specific demands and constraints.

Previous applications: Through its partnership with the Gangwon Provincial Government, Republic of Korea, UN-Habitat has created a competitive urban training and capacity building provider in the Asia-Pacific region, leveraging the synergies between the parties in urban excellence and training. This initiative has led to a large alumni network consisting of senior decision-makers and policy-makers across Asia, and unparalleled access to a

wealth of knowledge and opportunities for cooperation. The regional training centres can increase in the uptake and regional outreach of practical tools, such as in the case of the City Prosperity Index (CPI), which saw its application increase in Vietnam, Afghanistan, Nepal and Bangladesh.

An average of 90 per cent of surveyed participants stated that the training course had met their expectations. 63 per cent of the surveyed alumni indicated that the support from IUTC will help them apply the knowledge learned from the training course in their work and programmes.

TESTIMONY

“The course has provided us with a new tool and guidance in making analysis and assessment on our urban situation regarding the housing sector. With the knowledge we have been given, we are very excited to continue working on it for further consolidation and development to put it to good use.”

Ms. Bui Thi Hong Hieu,
Researcher, Ministry of Construction – Vietnam Institute for Urban and Rural Planning, Vietnam

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[International Urban Training Center website](#)

[UN-Habitat's Capacity development website](#)

A selection of trainings held at IUTC and facilitated by UN-Habitat can be found below with accompanying learning materials:

- [Innovative Approaches to deliver affordable housing options for Asia](#)
- [In-country training course in Mongolia on Fundamentals of Affordable Housing](#)
- [Sustainable Transportation in Asian cities – For a Greener Globe and Better Life](#)
- [Climate Resilient Cities and Urban Environmental Sustainability](#)

I.3. The Cities and Climate Change Academy (online)



Summary: Educational modules for the curricula of universities, higher education and training institutions on climate change in urban areas. These modules provide an overview of theory and concepts of climate change including mitigation, adaptation, risk and vulnerability, and demonstrate how climate change is a key issue in urban areas. Each of the seven modules includes PowerPoint slides, lecture notes, syllabi and reading lists.

Building Urban Climate Resilience for South-Eastern Africa project.
© UN-Habitat



Challenges addressed: The Cities and Climate Change Academy addresses the challenges facing cities and towns around climate mitigation and adaptation, water, mobility, energy and housing.

What UN-Habitat can offer: When applying these modules in capacity-building contexts, UN-Habitat can draw on a wealth of on-the-ground experience from cities in developing countries to flesh out and update this content. UN-Habitat can also provide relevant information on global frameworks and city networks such as the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy.

The academy is available entirely online, making it accessible to people around the world in the pandemic context. The online module list is as follows:

- Module 1: Theory and Concepts of Climate Change and Cities
- Module 2: The Practice of Urban Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation
- Module 3: Planning for Climate Change
- Module 4: Climate Change and Urban Water Cycle Management
- Module 5: Climate Change and Urban Energy
- Module 6: Climate Change and Urban Mobility
- Module 7: Climate Change and Shelter & Housing

Duration of support: These resources can be used freely online by local governments and university educators at a time of their choice.

Flooding of buildings near the Ping River in Thailand © Shutterstock.



The UN-Habitat team that developed the climate change in urban planning education module and toolkit.

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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[The Cities and Climate Change Academy](#)

Powerpoint slides (without accompanying materials) can be found on the UN-Habitat [capacity building page](#)

I.4 E-learning platform and capacity building package for participatory slum upgrading



Summary: The myPSUP e-learning platform provides a basis for continuous capacity development, technical support and innovation in mobilizing a community of practice to spearhead action in slum upgrading. It comprises 12 courses covering UN-Habitat’s methodology and approach for participatory slum upgrading, and is a repository of reference materials and opportunities for networking, peer-to-peer learning and online webinars.

Challenges addressed: Local and regional governments often lack access to global learning and exchange platforms on relevant topics such as slum upgrading. The limited funding available and the changes in governance can create capacity gaps in effectively rolling out and implementing slum upgrading actions and addressing the intersectionality of the issue.



E-learning Online Platform for Participatory Slum Upgrading.
© UN-Habitat

What UN-Habitat can offer: The e-learning platform expands opportunities for capacity building and knowledge sharing at the national, regional and global levels, while reducing the costs usually associated with such activities, by providing readily accessible training materials. The resources hosted on the platform include courses on the fundamentals of participatory slum upgrading, repository of reference materials, case studies as well as materials for training of trainers. As a centre of excellence on urban issues, UN-Habitat has extensive experience in providing capacity building, knowledge and technical assistance to partners, building on its vast partnership network and central role in addressing slum upgrading in a participatory and inclusive way.

Duration of support: This support is continuously available: UN-Habitat assists in setting up national or local knowledge hubs with the vision to become centres of knowledge and tools. Global e-learning material are suited for local and national contexts as they are enriched by local examples and translated into local languages. It takes approximately one year to set up a knowledge hub.

Previous applications: Capacity building is at the core of UN-Habitat’s support to countries. This e-learning tool complements the overarching capacity building and technical support for slum upgrading, provided to diverse stakeholders at country level. It has proved instrumental in the response to the COVID-19 outbreak by facilitating knowledge and providing tools and opportunities for exchange in partner countries.

TESTIMONY

“The e-learning in the myPSUP platform is a very good initiative as it will enable us to have access to the materials before the workshops and at any time during the implementation. And, as it is available online, all the country team members will be able to access the contents easily.”

Mr. Jean Kouadio,
Bureau national d’études techniques et de développement (BNETD, National Office of Technical Studies and Development), Côte d’Ivoire

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

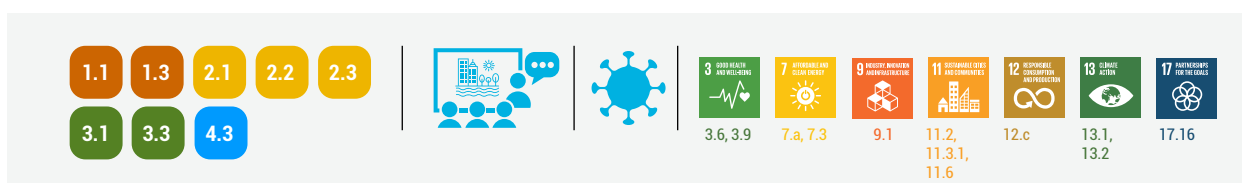
E-Learning Platform
for Participatory
Slum Upgrading

PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING



UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

I.5. The Academy of Sustainable Urban Mobility (AoSUM)



Summary: The objective of the Academy of Sustainable Urban Mobility is to equip global decision-makers with knowledge and tools to assess the current mobility challenges and to prepare feasible strategies and actions towards more sustainable, safe, accessible, efficient, innovative and clean mobility in their city. The Academy orients decision makers to urban mobility paradigms in the context of the global agendas; facilitates exchanges; provides a platform for learning on innovative mobility projects; and introduces sustainable funding mechanisms to participants.

Challenges addressed: Promoting sustainable mobility not only requires political will, strong leadership and technical knowledge but also the development of strategic alliances with relevant stakeholders, including transport service providers, mobility innovators, private developers, civil society, academia and research institutions, development banks or international organizations. The Academy of Sustainable Urban Mobility (AoSUM) brings these stakeholders together and empowers participating governments and stakeholders to develop action-oriented and informed policies on sustainable mobility combined with the implementation of projects on the ground.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat offers a unique learning opportunity for decision-makers who wish to gain an advanced understanding of sustainable, inclusive and innovative urban mobility and exchange their experience with other practitioners through AoSUM. The Academy is an annual capacity building programme, comprising a course that links field visits to best practice mobility solutions, with expert lectures and e-learning products. Topics covered include the need for sustainable urban mobility, multi-modal transport systems, low carbon mobility, gender and mobility, policy options and economic instruments for sustainable urban mobility or financing opportunities.

UN-Habitat invites governments, transport operators or transport authorities to participate in the Academy and ensures a gender balance of the participants. UN-Habitat has the power to bring together strategic partnerships of public and private institutions as well as financiers and can tap into a diverse pool of technical experts. The combination of theoretical lessons and practical field visits to best practice mobility solutions (e.g., to the multimodal public transport system in Vienna, the Bus Rapid Transit in São Paulo or the cable car system in La Paz) has proven to be successful, as indicated by the increasing number of applications each year.

The Academy specifically:

- Orients decision-makers to develop an alternative paradigm for urban mobility in their city, aimed at improving accessibility by introducing more efficient, inclusive, safe and innovative public transport integrated with active mobility modes in alignment with the 2030 Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement and New Urban Agenda
- Facilitates exchange among decision makers and practitioners on best practices around sustainable urban mobility and land-use integration and foster discussion among experts and private sector
- Provides a platform to learn from innovative mobility projects on the ground
- Introduces sustainable funding mechanisms, including the applicability of public-private partnerships, and green public procurement

The e-learning module was established during the COVID-19 pandemic, complementing future face-to-face workshops with an e-learning product: [“The online classroom video series”](#).



Participants on a walking tour in La Paz, 2019. ©UN-Habitat

Previous applications: The Academy was established in 2017 in collaboration with the private sector. After the successful launch, positive feedback by participants, and interest to collaborate from additional partners, this has become an annual event. Previous editions of the course have taken place in Germany, Austria, Bolivia and Brazil and since 2017, totalling 72 participants from 37 different countries who benefited from AoSUM.

Duration of support: A pre-training exercise is conducted prior to the week-long course, in which participants are

asked to prepare a presentation of an innovative mobility example from their city. These are then presented during the actual Academy in a peer-to-peer exchange. After the week-long Academy, participants are invited to join the alumni network (on social media) to continue exchanging as a Community of Practice. Since 2021, the Academy is complemented by a series of self-paced video courses that are freely available online.

Exploring São Paulo's bike share system during the Academy in 2019.

© UN-Habitat



TESTIMONY

“I expected the Academy to be more like the usual transport workshop, but it was much more useful for my real work, bringing new solutions and different points of view.”

“From the most significant learnings of the Academy, I can point out the aspects that unite inter-modality and the development of appropriate solutions for the local context.”

“I am taking away more than the acquired knowledge on mobility. An added plus is also the network I have been able to create among my peers, and the site visits we had, allowing for learning exchanges and through sharing.”

Quotes from 2019 participants

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Online Mobility Classroom](#)

[News story on the Academy 2019 in Bolivia and Brazil](#)

J. Monitoring and Reporting for SDG Localization

It is widely acknowledged that the achievement of the SDGs will depend on local action and local leadership. If the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda are to achieve their transformative potential, they must be fully realized at the local level – they must be *localized*. The importance of localization has been recognized by the United Nations Secretary General in the *Decade of Action*,⁵ the [Report on Our Common Agenda](#) as well as the [Policy Paper on COVID-19 in an Urban World](#). Many cities and local governments worldwide are developing innovative strategies, policies and initiatives to localize the SDGs, both to achieve the 2030 Agenda and to avoid back-sliding in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic and the humanitarian devastation caused by the war in Ukraine.

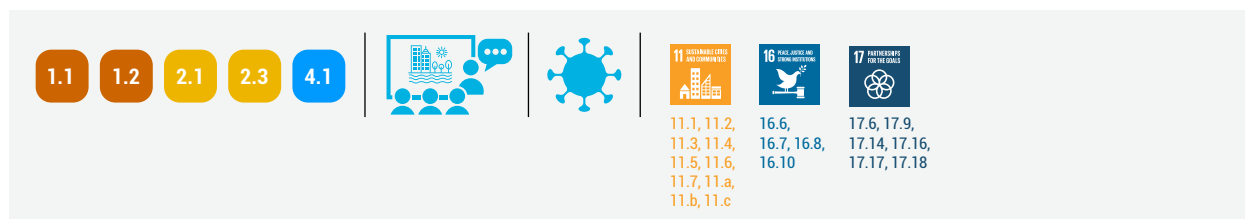
Localization is the process of transforming the global goals and targets into reality at the local level, *leaving no one and no place behind*. It is a two-way process where the local meets the national and the global in a mutually reinforcing manner. This requires increased capacities of local governments and local actors to plan, implement and monitor sustainable policies and initiatives anchored in the SDGs, as well as to engage their constituencies and coordinate with their national counterparts.

As the United Nations agency mandated to lead the human settlements workstream, UN-Habitat has been at the forefront of helping countries and cities increase their access to reliable information that provides insights into urban conditions and trends worldwide and supporting the monitoring and reporting on global agendas.

UN-Habitat's strategy to support SDG localization leverages multi-level, multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder partnerships to connect all components of the SDG implementation chain – from collecting data in an inclusive and transparent manner, to evidence-based policymaking and priority setting, implementing projects and establishing robust monitoring and reporting systems. As the Secretariat and permanent co-chair of the recently revamped [Local2030 Coalition](#), UN-Habitat also helps support various United Nations agencies, funds, offices and programmes in localizing their own programming.

UN-Habitat's SDG localization approach rests on three main pillars: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs); Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF); and the SDG Cities Flagship Programme. Whilst the first two are elaborated in this section, the SDG Cities Flagship Programme is covered under Section 3 'Our Flagship Programmes' of this Catalogue.

J.1. Voluntary Local Reviews



Summary: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) are monitoring and reporting mechanisms which serve as a powerful accelerator of SDG localization. UN-Habitat supports the VLR global movement through the development of cutting-edge knowledge development by providing technical expertise to cities and opportunities for learning and capacity building, and by elevating the voices of local governments within United Nations-led and international fora.

Challenges addressed: The challenge of effective monitoring is at the centre of the global debate on SDGs due to the difficulties faced by many cities in collecting relevant data, aligning local monitoring efforts with national SDG frameworks and accessing adequate resources for SDG-advancing plans, projects and investments. Many regional and local governments worldwide are adopting VLRs as a tool of choice to monitor and report on their SDG progress, but the potential of VLRs goes beyond

⁵ The [Decade of Action](#) calls for accelerating sustainable solutions to all the world's biggest challenges – ranging from poverty and gender to climate change, inequality and closing the finance gap.

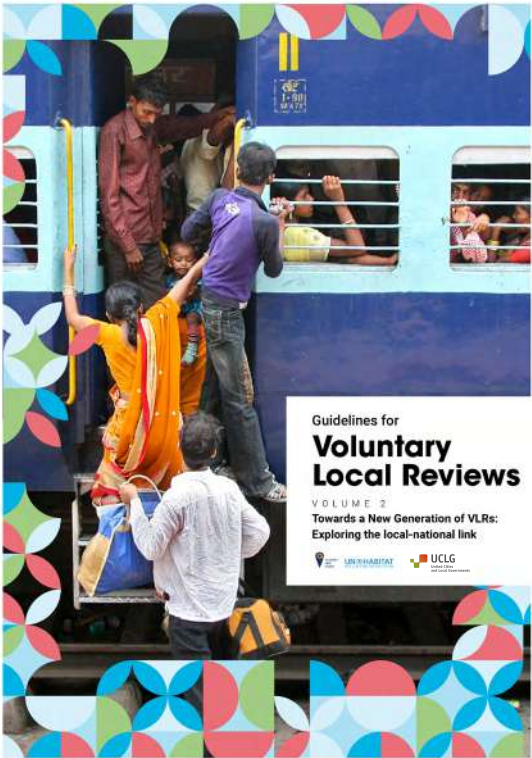
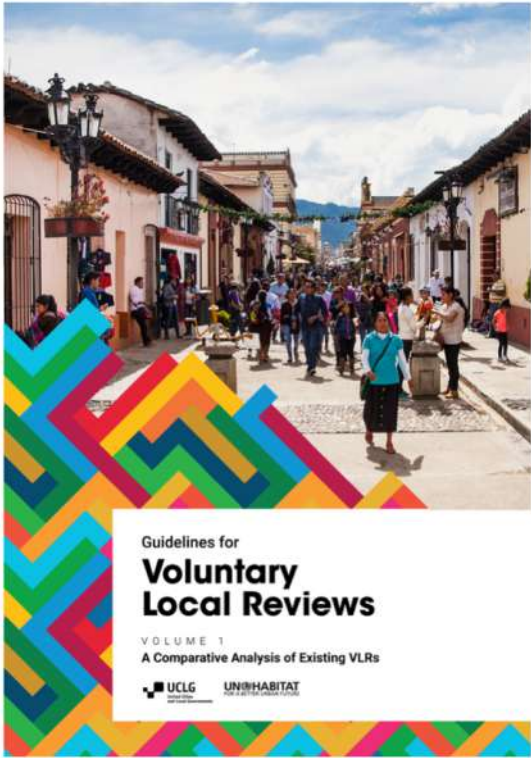
their monitoring function. UN-Habitat considers VLRs to be a powerful accelerator of SDG localization as they can enhance innovative data applications, stakeholder inclusion and participation – including that of minorities and vulnerable groups - as well as policy coherence, strategic planning, and multilevel governance. Interaction between the local and national levels is also strengthened by the connections between VLRs and Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs).

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat is the United Nations focal point for local and regional governments and, together with its partners, is leading the support to the VLR global movement, including through global

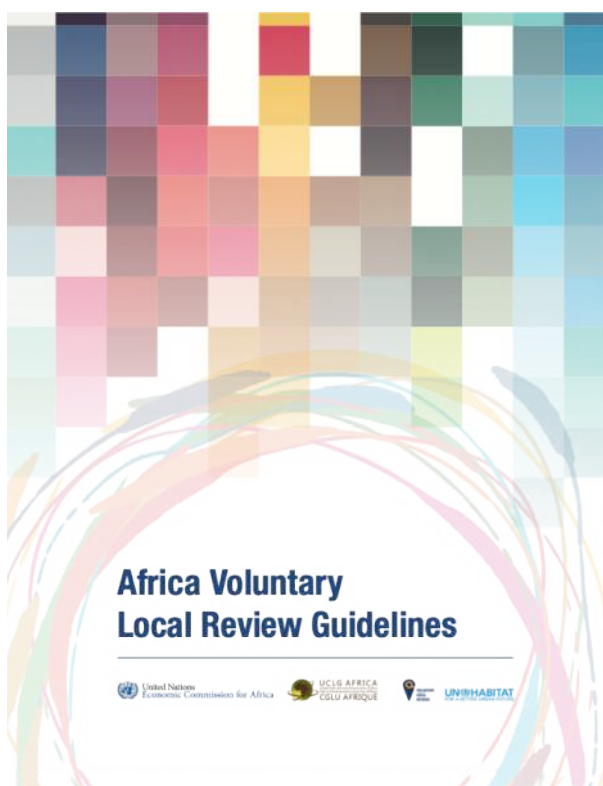
research, advocacy and technical assistance. In addition, UN-Habitat is also the custodian of the New Urban Agenda and of various indicators of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, especially under Goal 11.

Between 2020 and 2022, UN-Habitat developed two global guidelines on VLRs aimed at guiding local governments and actors to kickstart and deepen their work on VLRs in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG): VLR Guidelines Volume One. A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs; VLR Guidelines Volume Two. Towards a New Generation of VLRs: Exploring the Local-National Link

Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews Volume One (left) and Two (right)



Regional Guidelines for Africa for Voluntary Local Reviews (left) and Voluntary Local Reviews Toolbox (right)



In addition, UN-Habitat has developed a **VLRs Toolbox** in partnership with the International Centre for Local Democracy (ICLD) Sweden; it has joined forces with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UN-ECA) and UCLG Africa to develop the regional **Africa Voluntary Local Review Guidelines**; and is developing a host of other guidelines and tools to support local and regional governments in launching VLR processes. The agency hosts a VLR **online platform** collecting all relevant resources and a complete list of existing VLRs.

Alongside knowledge development, UN-Habitat closely supports local and regional governments worldwide to develop their VLRs through technical cooperation, based on four key methodological principles: 1) data innovation; 2) inclusion and participation; 3) policy coherence; and 4) multilevel governance. The agency directly assists selected national and local governments upon request to better articulate their efforts to monitor and report on the SDGs, specifically looking at enhancing the link between VLRs and VNRs.

UN-Habitat also leads the global advocacy efforts on SDG localization and VLRs by raising the voices and experiences of local and regional governments in international and United Nations-led fora such as the High Level Political Forum, through the **VLR-Voluntary Subnational Reviews (VSR) Days** and the **World Urban Forum**.

Previous applications: With an ever-expanding global community, the number of VLRs expected to be published by the end of 2022 is more than 110—tripling previous figures in less than two years. Since 2019, UN-Habitat has assisted cities such as Chimbote, Trujillo (Peru), Rio de Janeiro, Niteroi (Brazil), Florence (Italy) and Moscow (Russian Federation). Ongoing and upcoming VLR processes include Bhopal (India), Amman (Jordan), Agadir (Morocco), Katowice (Poland), Madrid (Spain), Kosovo (two municipalities) and Zimbabwe (four municipalities). To foster the multilevel connection on SDG reporting and implementation, UN-Habitat has collaborated with the United Nations Country Team and National Government

in Malaysia to involve local governments and reference to VLRs in Malaysia’s second VNR presented in 2021. An important partnership was also established with Finland in 2021, strengthening connection between the Finnish cities, the national association of cities and municipalities and the Prime Ministers’ Office in charge of SDG implementation.

Duration of support: With UN-Habitat providing technical support to cities, the development of a VLR typically takes from six to nine months depending on the local context and the availability of resources and information. This includes the collection and elaboration of data, the running of the participatory process involving communities and the drafting of the actual report.

Map of existing Voluntary Local Reviews available in the UN-Habitat’s VLR online resource



The boundaries and names shown on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Source: United Nations Geospatial/UN-Habitat

TESTIMONY

“Finland values the global leadership and the close support of UN-Habitat in advancing SDG localization. In Finland, the VLR process acted as a lever for multi-level dialogue, de-siloing of administrative processes, while empowering local and regional governments to deliver on their mandate on the SDGs. Finland and UN-Habitat, with the support of the Ministry of Environment, the direct involvement of The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (Kuntaliitto) and the VLR frontrunner cities, are leading a strategic partnership aimed at harnessing the Finnish experiences on VLRs and SDGs to support partners around the globe.”

The Ministry of Environment of Finland; City of Espoo, Finland; The Association of Finnish Local and Regional Authorities (Kuntaliitto)

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [UN-Habitat VLR platform](#)
- [VLR Guidelines Vol.1](#)
- [VLR Guidelines Vol.2](#)
- [SDG Localization training module 3 \(webpage\)](#)
- [SDG Localization training module 3 \(pdf\)](#)

J.2. Global Urban Monitoring Framework



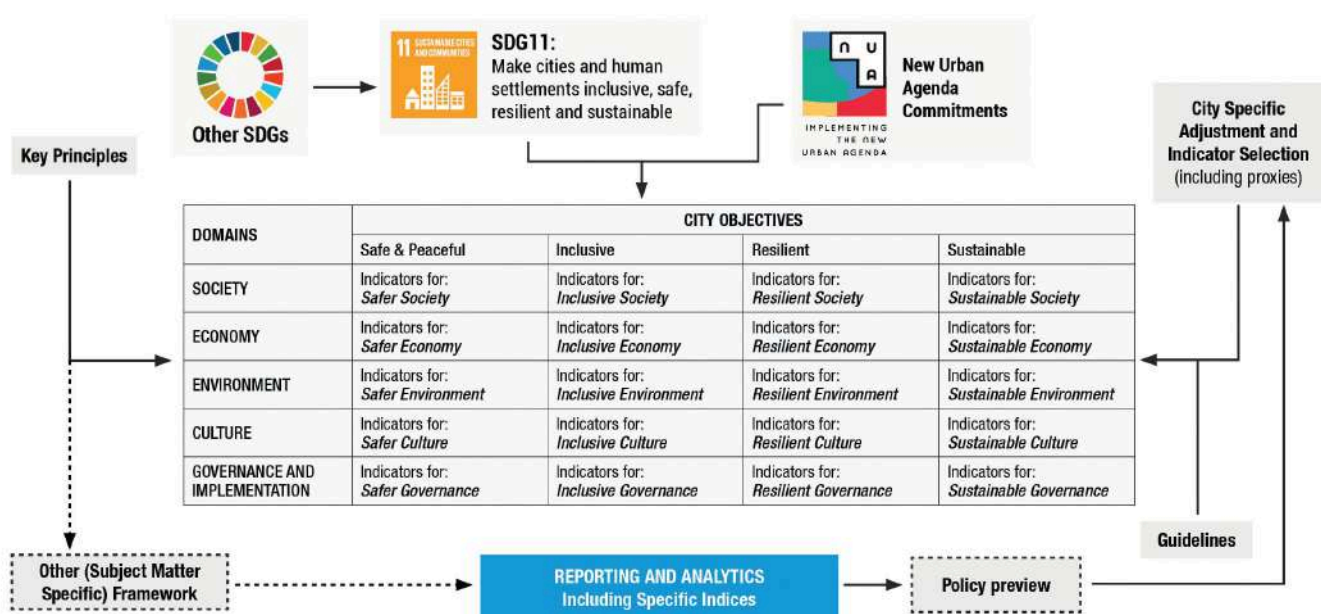
Summary: The Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF) harmonizes existing urban indices and tools and offers an agreed universal framework to track progress on the urban SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). Developed with a wide range of partners, it enables cities to evaluate their progress against other comparable cities, ensuring thematic integration and inter-linkages among various dimensions of development, as well as the disaggregation of data and the inclusion of previously excluded groups. The UMF allows for working at different scales and for the functionality of urban areas - including ecological functions - to be improved through enabling city comparability and in-depth policy analysis.

Challenges addressed: There are numerous frameworks and indices for tracking the performance of urban areas. e.g., UN-Habitat’s City Prosperity Index, the OECD’S tool for measuring the distance to SDGs in regions and cities, and the United for Smart Sustainable Cities (U4SSC) monitoring framework based on quantifiable measures

for smart and sustainable cities. In order to harmonize these, as part of the efforts of the United Nations system to advance the measurement frameworks of the SDGs, UN-Habitat was tasked to lead the UMF development process by the United Nations Statistical Division (UNSD) and the United Nations Chief Executive Board in its 36th session (9-10 October 2018). The UMF aligns protocols for data sharing at the global level and ensures thematic integration and inter-linkages among various dimensions of development, as well as the disaggregation of data and the inclusion of groups that are traditionally excluded.

What UN-Habitat can offer: The UMF development process was led by UN-Habitat as part of its leadership role in the consultation process towards a United Nations system-wide strategy on urban sustainable development. The framework was endorsed by the UNSD at its sitting in March 2022 and introduces a harmonized approach and system that facilitates efficient monitoring for urban areas to provide a holistic and comprehensive picture.

Global Urban Monitoring Framework – structure and process © UN-Habitat



It comprises a set of metrics that, when combined, accurately describes the conditions and trajectory of an urban area. The framework is organized along four city objectives and domains generated (see the structure and process below). Various indicators are mapped across this structure of objectives and domains that are easily applicable at the local, regional, and global levels.

The framework also serves as a monitoring tool for the UN-Habitat Flagship Programme SDG Cities (see Section III, Flagship 5), and it supports reporting through VLRs and the preparation of urban data for the VNRs and Common Country Assessments with the UN Country Teams.

Through the implementation of the framework, UN-Habitat provides coordination for application, helps build capacities, and supports the selection of indicators and their rationale as well as computation methodologies, structuring of available data from existing frameworks, and the localization of the framework. This support is

usually in the form of meetings, trainings, workshops, data sharing and other forms of collaboration.

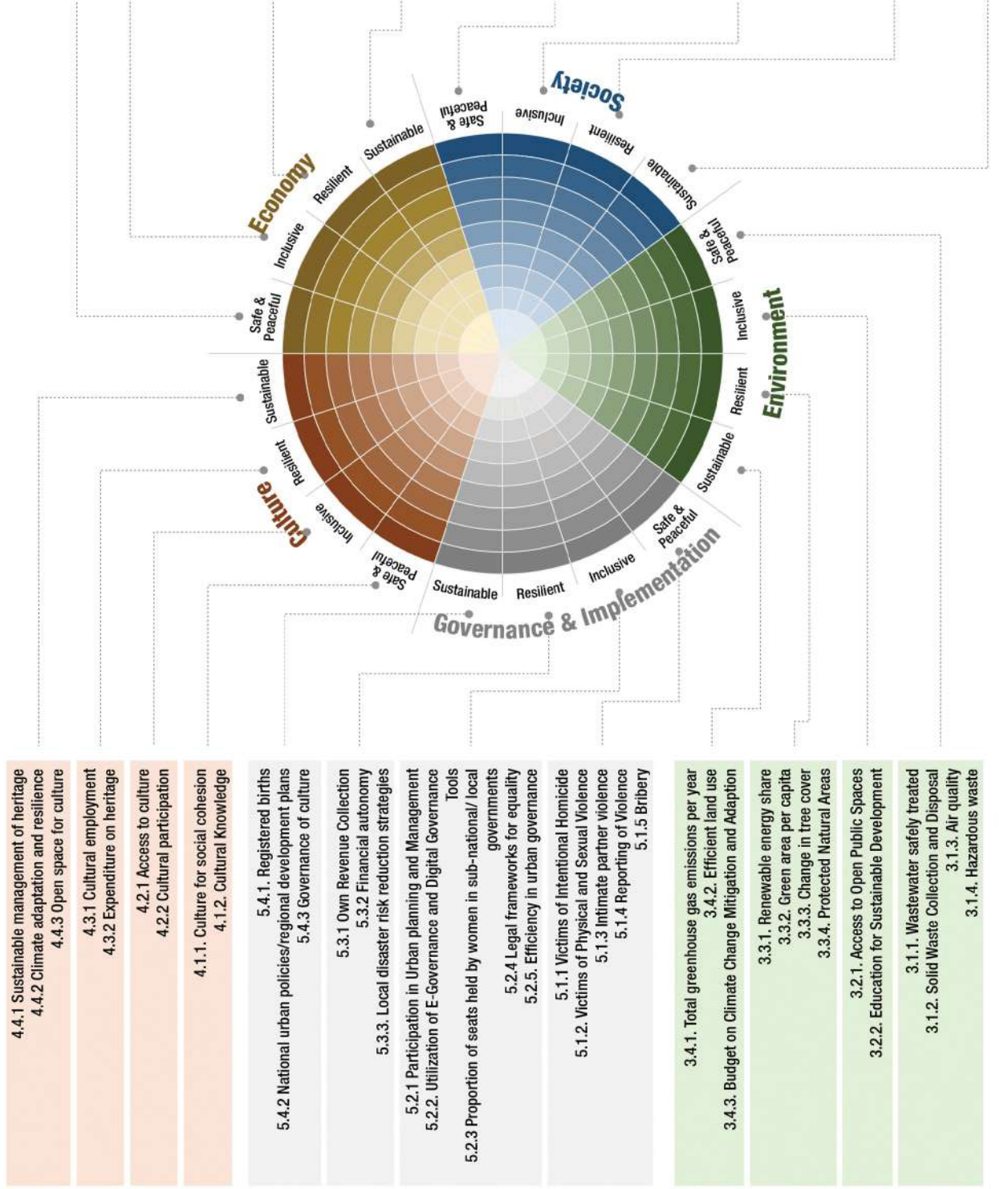
Duration of support: The duration of support to adopt or adapt to the UMF ranges from three months to two years depending on the urban area or city's state of data and human resource expertise. Generally, successful adoption of the UMF approach can be achieved within three to six months.

Previous application: UN-Habitat builds upon its extensive experience in developing and applying innovative indices and approaches to data and monitoring in the context of global agendas, such as the City Prosperity Index (CPI) which has been applied in over 400 cities across all regions of the world. Early adopters of the UMF include the cities of Shanghai (China), Madrid (Spain), Sydney (Australia), Kigali (Rwanda), Mombasa (Kenya), Dar es Salaam (Tanzania), Qassim (Saudi) and over 10 cities in Bolivia, among others.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

- [Urban Monitoring Framework website](#)
- [United Nations System-Wide Urban Monitoring Framework \(Urban Agenda Platform\)](#)
- [SDG Cities Global Conference Session 2: Global Urban Monitoring Framework and its local application](#)

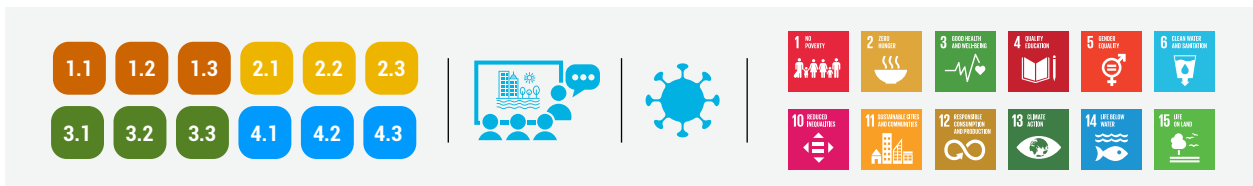
Global Urban Monitoring Framework indicators wheel. ©UN-Habitat.



- 2.1.1 Children engaged in child labor
- 2.1.2 Time spent on unpaid domestic and care work
- 2.2.1 Unemployment Rate
- 2.2.2 Youth not in education, employment or training (NEET)
- 2.2.3 Use of Public transport
- 2.2.4 Internet use
- 2.3.1. City Product (GDP) per Capita (PPP)
- 2.3.2 Youth and adults in formal and non-formal education and training
- 2.3.3 Adult population with a qualification from a recognized tertiary education institution
- 2.3.4 Fixed Internet broadband subscriptions
- 2.3.5 Small-scale industries in total industry value added
- 2.3.6 Days to start a business
- 2.3.7 Patent application
- 2.4.1 Sub-national debt
- 2.4.2 Mean household income

- 1.1.1 Under-5 mortality rate
- 1.1.2 Safely managed drinking water services
- 1.1.3 Safely managed sanitation services
- 1.1.4 Safely managed hand-washing facility with soap and water
- 1.1.5 Proportion of births in all health facilities
- 1.1.6 Neighborhood safety
- 1.1.7 Adolescent birth rate
- 1.1.8 Traffic fatalities
- 1.2.1 Basic services
- 1.2.2 Access to public transport
- 1.2.3 Education completion rate
- 1.2.4 Secure tenure rights to land
- 1.2.5a Prevalence of malnutrition (Overweight) in children under 5
- 1.2.5b Prevalence of malnutrition (Wasting) in children under 5
- 1.2.6 Proportion of vaccinated children
- 1.2.7 Welfare of migrants
- 1.2.8 Multilingual education
- 1.3.1 Life expectancy at birth
- 1.3.2 Mortality rate (diseases)
- 1.3.3 Suicide mortality rate
- 1.3.4 Population affected by hazardous events
- 1.3.5 Mortgage debt relative to GDP
- 1.3.6. Food Insecurity
- 1.4.1 Slum population
- 1.4.2 Gini coefficient

J.3. The Global Urban Indicators Database



Summary: The Global Urban Indicators Database (GUID) provides data and data links to numerous urban datasets and guides for cities and urban settlements from all global regions. This compilation of urban data includes data shared by statistical offices, data generated by the UN-Habitat’s data team, and data acquired from other trusted sources including partners and ongoing thematic projects run by UN-Habitat branches and sections. The online open access platform allows users to explore, visualize, compare, and download data, including their metadata files. Datasets are tagged for convenient searching, mostly corresponding to SDGs and the NUA indicators.

Challenge addressed: Reliable city-level and urban data is in high demand and yet the supply does not match the demand for this granular data to support the local level planning and actions. When the right data are in the right hands at the right time, decisions can be better informed, more equitable and more likely to protect the rights of urban citizens and vulnerable populations.

The Urban Indicators database is designed to be the global go-to for data on cities and urban areas. It provides validated, and the most recent statistically sound, internationally comparable urban data. UN-Habitat upholds the quality, integrity and organization of these data and makes them accessible as a global public good on the [Global Urban Indicators website](#). The data on the site details important progress achieved in various SDGs urban targets and NUA commitments at the city, national and global levels. Data on the site is sourced from collaborations that exist between UN-Habitat and the statistical arms of governments, other UN agencies, international NGOs, think-tanks and academics, media and civil society. Through this initiative, UN-Habitat also works at the country level to support the development of all aspects of national statistical systems that contribute to the production of data that feeds into the Global Urban Indicators database.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat collects, generates, and collects data to open data portals and dashboard



Sustainable Development Goal 11 – Sustainable Cities and Communities can be implemented and monitored through data production.

©UN-Habitat

accessible via the [Urban Indicators data site](#). The main data access platform is commonly referred to as the Global Urban Indicator Database (GUID) and is constituted with nearly 142 indicators with open access for the public, covering 193 countries and over 1,500 urban areas. The data is structured thematically and can be downloaded or visualized on dashboard charts and web maps.

UN-Habitat offers data capacity building support, including support in data generation either through training or direct data production for city or national levels. National statistical offices are invited to review and validate the data for their use in monitoring progress in urban indicators, preparation of VNRs and VLRs, and inclusion into their local decision-making mechanisms.

Duration of support: The GUID's datasets and documentation metadata are continually updated by UN-Habitat's data teams, but all these data come from local and national sources. Countries and cities

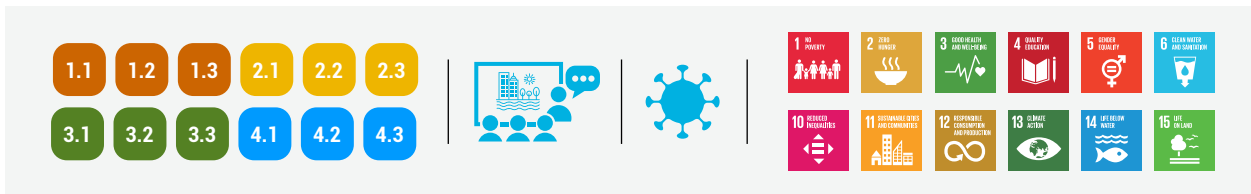
challenged in production of data for cities or urban-related SDGs targets and NUA commitments can be supported over a period of 6 to 24 months to set up the enabling environment for local urban data production. This includes direct technical training of staff, advice on technological applications, and sharing best practices that can easily be adapted for efficient data production at the urban levels.

Previous application: Previous versions of the database mostly covered MDG targets on slums and access to urban basic services and was run on the DEVINFO engines. The new version of the database is web-based and covers nearly all countries and over 142 indicators which are drawn from SDGs and NUA frameworks and new adaptations from the Global Urban Monitoring Framework. The database is also linked to the Urban Agenda platform where secondary data analysis is available in the form of visualizations linked to the NUA transformative commitments.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Urban Indicators Database](#)
[COVID-19 Readiness and Response Database](#)
[Urban Agenda Platform](#)

J.4. Urban Observatories



Summary: An urban observatory is a local network of stakeholders responsible for producing, analysing and disseminating urban data on a meaningful set of indicators that reflect collectively prioritized issues on sustainable development in a given area or country. Data and information resources produced by the local network are used to support decision making and the formulation of evidence-informed policies. An urban observatory is therefore a local hub for urban monitoring at the local or national level, provides a platform to facilitate data collection, analysis, interpretation, and reporting on performance against different indicators, and supports effective knowledge exchange and evidence-based governance.

Challenges addressed: In many parts of the world, lack of good quality, relevant, accessible, and timely local data on cities is a key element impeding progress in monitoring and reporting on global agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development and its related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA). The lack of sound urban data also affects the formulation of evidence-based policies and designing of programmes that respond to urban dynamics and related challenges. As countries move towards increased decentralization and localized decision making, there is a need for local monitoring systems and networks that can support tracking of progress, identification of setbacks using new approaches and techniques, and supporting the formulation of evidence-informed policies. Local authorities also require periodic assessments of their state of development and accurate tools to evaluate policy outcomes and the impact of specific plans and actions.

What UN-Habitat can offer: An urban observatory serves as a local hub for urban monitoring at the local or national level, supporting effective knowledge exchange and evidence-based governance. As the global coordinator of the Global Urban Observatory Network, UN-Habitat develops the capacity of local and national authorities to establish urban observatories. This assistance includes the provision of guidance to local authorities and

networks on resource requirements, creation of databases, prioritization of indicators and their alignment with global reporting frameworks and tools such as the application of the national sample of cities,⁶ global urban monitoring framework, etc.

Through this support, authorities are able to develop, collect and analyse data on a set of localized indicators to monitor a range of local or national priority issues; establish permanent mechanisms for monitoring SDGs and urban indicators; promote the use of urban data in planning and policymaking at local and national level; disseminate information to strengthen accountability and transparency; and promote local ownership of the urban indicator system and a culture of monitoring and assessment.

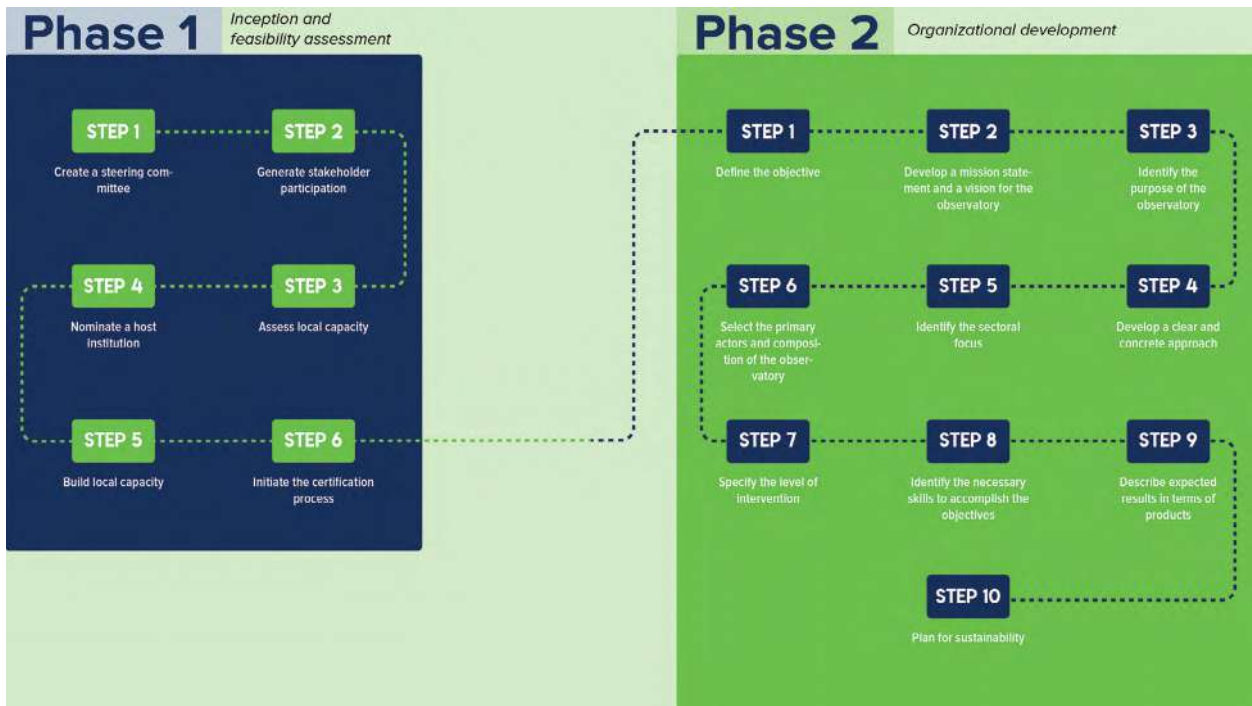
Duration of support: The level of support provided depends on numerous factors, including the availability of resources and complementary local data systems, as authorities are at different stages of data-systems development. Typically, the setup of Phase 1 requires about eight months to complete.

For example, a three-day capacity-building workshop provides stakeholders with a comprehensive understanding of the model and the skills to get started. Training support can be offered throughout the different stages of the process to establish the observatory, as highlighted in the chart below.

Previous application: UN-Habitat manages and coordinates local and national urban observatories operating around the world. As of May 2021, 31 observatories were identified as operational/actively working on COVID-19 data needs, with continued efforts being spearheaded to ensure more observatories adapt to the needs for COVID-19 data to guide a better local response. See for example the Newcastle urban observatory that is collecting and locally disseminating cutting edge urban data on various aspects of the city. Such data has influenced policies and investments in the city. Globally, the network has over 360 regional, national, and local observatories worldwide.

⁶ National Sample of Cities: A Model Approach to Monitoring and Reporting Performances of Cities at National Level

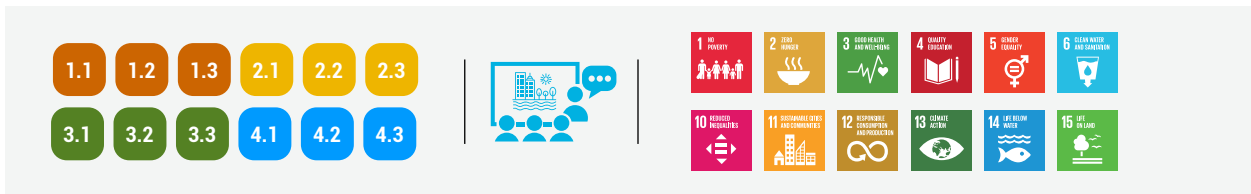
The process of setting up an urban observatory. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Global Urban Observatories](#)
[A guide to setting up an urban observatory](#)

J.5. Direct Support on SDG indicator monitoring



Summary: UN-Habitat - as the designated custodian agency for 9 of the 15 indicators under SDG 11 and supporting the monitoring and reporting of 4 indicators in other goals – engages with countries through National Statistical Offices to offer support in SDGs and NUA monitoring and reporting processes. UN-Habitat works with various stakeholders to support Member States to set up the required monitoring systems for SDG 11 and other urban SDGs, creating the conditions for producing and using urban data for policymaking and informing transformative actions.

Challenges addressed: For cities to build a strong evidence base for both policymaking as well as monitoring and reporting, they require the establishment of basic data systems, complemented by relevant expertise. Surveys by UN-Habitat have established that many countries are in, or slightly past, the infant stage of data systems development. These less developed systems limit governments' ability to integrate data into decision-making models and hinder up-to-date and evidence-based policy formulation.

Similarly, a clear understanding of urban inequalities and trends, the places where access to basic services is most acute or which neighbourhoods are being left behind requires use of Earth Observation and Geospatial Information (EO & GI) technologies, which are central not only to the production of data but also critical for translating multiple data into easy-to-understand products for identifying what transformative actions and investments are needed when and where. Today, EO & GI technologies are no longer an optional consideration but a must-have in every data management strategy at all levels. The UN-Habitat led Spatial Data Integration Model provides a detailed guide on how countries and cities can leverage new spatial technologies in their planning, monitoring and progress reporting, which is also aligned with the harmonized global urban monitoring framework approach.

What UN-Habitat can offer: Using its expertise in data collection, monitoring and capacity development, and its unique position as a custodian agency on various

SDG and urban indicators, UN-Habitat offers direct and indirect support to governments in the form of workshops, knowledge-sharing engagements, trainings and tailored support. This capacity support can: (a) assist governments, local authorities and organizations of local civil society to enhance their capacity to collect, manage and maintain and use information on urban development; (b) promote the use of knowledge and urban indicators for policy formulation, planning and urban management through participatory process; and (c) aggregate and disseminate the results of global, national and city level monitoring activities, as well as good practices as part of the global monitoring and information exchange.

UN-Habitat has developed training modules with detailed indicators' metadata, covering the rationale for indicator monitoring, processes for monitoring and reporting, definitions of key concepts, measurement approaches, description of tools as well as potential data sources.

Through continuous engagement, UN-Habitat reaches out and responds to requests from cities and countries seeking capacity support. The agency organizes meetings, webinars, knowledge-sharing sessions and workshops – at regional, national and local levels – to offer trainings on urban data management, including for SDGs monitoring and reporting. In addition, support can be delivered through an e-learning platform, which is a web-based resource that allows users to systematically interact with indicators' monitoring processes, including their rationale for monitoring, key concepts and involved methodologies. With a harmonized Global Urban Monitoring Framework, the SDG and NUA monitoring framework support for the urban dimensions is integrated and, hence, country capacity development and technical assistance will be provided through this harmonized approach instead of the previously fragmented system.

On the urban spatial data side, UN-Habitat collaborates with partners/agencies involved in advancing GIS and Earth Observation technologies to create tools (standard and custom) for city data generation and processing. These tools include data extraction and processing codes, GIS software plugins, and harmonized data curation

UN-Habitat and partners discussing why a harmonized definition for urban and rural areas is important for monitoring the SDGs. Workshop on application of the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) approach for production of comparable urban data in Kenya, April 2022, Nairobi, Kenya.

© UN-Habitat



workflows. These tools are vital for countries producing NUA and SDG data for progress reporting. Various metadata are also available for partners interested in detailed descriptions of all the methods and rationale.

For some countries, UN-Habitat provides direct support for spatial data generation upon request. In such instances, UN-Habitat generates baseline spatial data on urban indicators for countries and cities. The data is shared with National Statics Offices (NSOs) for validation, use in reporting, local planning, and inclusion in the UN-Habitat Global Urban Indicators Database.

Earth Observation Toolkit – The Earth Observations (EO) Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements is an online knowledge resource, which serves as a first step for countries and cities interested in applying Earth Observation (EO) to support their SDG 11 monitoring and urban policy planning and implementation needs.

Duration of support: The duration of support varies widely depending on the levels of system development requested by a country through their NSO. A one-week workshop is sufficient to cover the training modules for 10 SDG indicators and associated tools, such as national sample of cities and EO toolkit application amongst others, but regular follow-ups may be required for up to a few years.

The time required to cover one module on the e-learning platform is two to three hours.

Previous application: UN-Habitat and partners have jointly conducted several regional, national, and local workshops in which more than 50 countries and hundreds of urban authorities have participated. The agency has also contacted all NSOs to assess the current levels of SDG data production for urban indicators, thereby being able to identify countries where the support is most needed, but also understanding the underlying challenges they face in the production of urban data. In Botswana for example, capacity development support between 2017 and 2019 from UN-Habitat to 80 technical officers resulted in production of data for 50 urban indicators and City Prosperity Index (CPI) reports for Gaborone and Francistown with specific actionable recommendations. Through the support, key agencies (including the Ministry of Infrastructure and Housing Development, Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, Statistics Botswana, departments/agencies in charge of land, waste management, roads and public transport, cultural heritage, disaster risk reduction, etc.) have enhanced their understanding on the value of local urban data and institutional coordination in development processes and are cooperating in the setup of a national urban observatory to support urban development in Botswana.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[The Earth Observations Toolkit for Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements](#)
[GIS Handbook for Municipalities](#)
[GIS as a Planning Support System for the Planning of Harmonious Cities, No 3](#)

K. Innovation

K.1. Challenge-driven innovation for local governments



Summary: Cities can use open and challenge-driven innovation to identify innovative and smart solutions that solve urban challenges. UN-Habitat supports local governments with challenge definition, stakeholder and community engagement, producing challenge briefs, conceptualizing innovation competitions and reaching out to innovators. The cities identify the challenge and work with UN-Habitat and partners to refine the response based on the stakeholders' input and feedback. Challenge initiatives have been widely used to engage vulnerable groups such as youth, girls and women in developing innovative local solutions.

Challenges addressed: Cities today are in a state of constant change and new ways to solve existing urban problems are needed. Local governments around the world face challenges in identifying, procuring and implementing appropriate innovative and smart solutions.

Challenge-driven innovation is a way to bridge the gap between local governments and the private sector in an inclusive way, while putting the needs of the people front and centre in the development of solutions. Challenge initiatives promote an environment where cities can capture how and in what ways innovations are incorporated into the everyday life of city dwellers and contribute to diverse strategies from the commonly used supply-driven approach to demand-driven methods centred around human needs. Challenge-driven innovation is a people-centred methodology, in which public participation and inclusion are inherent in the different phases of the process.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat has developed a bespoke methodology which uses challenge-driven and open innovation to help cities identify, test and procure innovative solutions through crowdsourcing, bringing

University students, teachers, humanitarian workers, government officials and communities gather in the first clean technology hackathon to address humanitarian issues in Marawi City.

© UN-Habitat/Mark Padida



public and private stakeholders together to implement innovations that solve urban challenges. UN-Habitat takes local governments through a process of challenge definition, innovator engagement, system demonstration, implementation and investment. Throughout the process, technical support and resources are provided to develop local capacities in procuring and experimenting with innovation processes and system demonstrators. With its extensive expertise and experience in urban challenges, UN-Habitat can provide cities with tailored support, based on local needs, which includes the participation of stakeholders from different sectors, especially the community. Women and youth participation is predominant in existing applications of the methodology and has shown positive results in sparking innovation.

Challenge-driven innovation offers cities and local governments the opportunity to experiment with and test solutions to better understand the innovation ecosystem. Such practical experience enhances local capacities in different areas, including procurement and investment in solutions aimed at addressing social and environmental challenges, and the achievement of the SDGs at the local level.

Previous applications: UN-Habitat has a long history of working with innovation challenges, starting in 1995 with the Dubai International Best Practices Award for Sustainable Development. Since the 2000s, UN-Habitat has supported many initiatives, such as the Innovate Kenya Counties Challenge, which contributed to increasing the engagement and inclusive participation of Kenyan youth in local governance via ICT-based solutions. In 2020,

UN-Habitat led the Future Cities Challenge in partnership with the Botnar Foundation, encouraging young people from around the world to creatively imagine the cities of their future. Since 2020, UN-Habitat has been working with several Swedish partners and Nesta Challenges in the Climate Smart Cities Challenge to explore innovative, cutting-edge solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions in cities while improving the quality of life of marginalized communities in the cities of Bogotá, Bristol, Curitiba and Makindye Ssabagabo. In June 2021, through the project Healthy Oceans and Clean Cities Initiative, UN-Habitat supported the implementation of the Plastic 3R Hacks PH, a nationwide virtual hackathon, in collaboration with partners. It identified solutions for marine plastic pollution in the Philippines, including artificial intelligence-based solutions, mobile applications and disruptive non-technical ideas like business concepts for creative upcycling processes.

Duration of support: A full challenge-driven innovation process can take up to two years from start to finish, but it is possible to use parts of the process to innovate on a wide range of programmatic initiatives. For example, practical challenge definition workshops can be completed in two to four hours, challenge statements can be developed in a few days, and a wide range of community and stakeholder engagement processes can be done over several days. Some rapid development applications of the methodology, such as hackathons, can be conducted in two to three days. UN-Habitat offers an overall presentation of the methodology and previous challenges to assist cities and local governments to understand the opportunities of challenge-driven innovation.

TESTIMONY

“I am impressed with the outputs and, more importantly, I am very thrilled the youth were able to pinpoint the root cause of the environmental problem in our community: our behaviour.”

Inshirah Alonto Ala,
Zoologist and environmentalist from Marawi City - Mindanao Youth Innovation Hackathon

“Although the green homes concept is being adopted fast in urban cities in Asia, Europe and North America, the innovation is relatively new in Ugandan urban settings, and this therefore calls for diverse international expertise with the participation of local stakeholders to pinpoint what will work best in order to reduce GHG emissions.”

The City of Makindye Ssabagabo,
Climate Smart Cities Challenge

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Climate Smart Cities Challenge – Preparing cities to scale climate solutions](#)

[Young people design their cities through #FutureCitiesChallenge](#)

[Future Cities Challenge – Young people design their cities of the future to address urban challenges](#)

[Urban Resilience Hackathon Driving Innovation for Better Cities, Lessons Learnt Report](#)

[Innovate Kenyan Counties Challenge - Improving local governance for youth using ICTs](#)

K.2. United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC)



Summary: The United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC) – a collaboration between UN-Habitat, HafenCity University and the United Nations Office of ICT – is an innovation accelerator based in Hamburg, Germany. UNITAC works with a variety of innovation, prototyping and applied research methodologies to develop innovative solutions that accelerate the achievement of the SDGs. It complements UN-Habitat technical and normative support on frontier technologies and mechanisms for digital cooperation and governance to ensure digital technologies are built on a foundation of respect for human rights and provide meaningful opportunities for all people and nations. The United Nations accelerator model develops prototypes and concepts that can be implemented by United Nations regional and country offices in partnership with national and local governments.

Challenges addressed: Urbanization and digitalization are the two most important trends in the twenty-first century. To contribute effectively to urban sustainability, frontier technologies and innovation need to be applied appropriately to ensure that the prosperity they bring is shared among people, cities and regions. UNITAC

operates a needs-driven approach, focusing on real urban challenges and existing needs experienced by local governments and cities, and developing technologies that meet them. It provides an opportunity for governments to develop capacity and expertise in digital transformation that is inclusive, ethical and that prioritizes quality of life, human rights and focuses on society’s most pressing issues.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UNITAC provides an environment for experimentation and learning, where solutions and pilots can be tested and prototyped in collaboration with a network of partners. UNITAC has three thematic work streams:

1. Open, transparent and participatory governance of data and digital platforms
2. Mapping, spatial analysis, data analytics and visualization
3. People-centred smart cities (See Section 3: Flagship 2 for details on UN-Habitat’s people-centred smart cities flagship programme).

Virtual reality experience at UN-Habitat Assembly.

© UN-Habitat/
Kiara Worth



Through a team of data scientists, technologists, smart city specialists and urban development experts, UNITAC provides innovation and technology support to national, regional and local governments. Projects and use cases are selected through regular open calls in which potential partners are invited to present their urban challenges and technology needs related to UNITAC's three themes. The UNITAC team then works collaboratively to develop prototypes, technologies, data tools, methodologies and approaches to meet these challenges. Each technology project sets its own objectives and expected outcomes, which are evaluated at the end of the process.

Previous applications: In 2021, UNITAC has launched three projects:

Data Observatory in the State of Alagoas, Brazil

UNITAC is working with UN-Habitat Brazil and the State Government of Alagoas to improve data collection, management and visualization to influence urban public policymaking in Alagoas. A specific focus is on developing data collection tools for the informal settlements in the city of Maceio.

Informal settlements mapping in eThekweni, South Africa

In eThekweni, South Africa, UNITAC has developed a tool, the AI Building Tracker that uses machine learning to radically accelerate the spatial recognition of informal settlements and structures on satellite imagery, enabling the municipal government to automatically detect informal structures and improve their upgrading and service delivery interventions.

City Resilience Diagnostic Tool

UNITAC is supporting the digitalization of the UN-Habitat City Resilience Diagnostics tool currently being applied in Asuncion, Barcelona, Dakar, Maputo, Port Vila and Yakutsk. By using machine learning and automatic data collection methodologies, resilience data collection processes can be accelerated.

Duration of support: The time to implement UNITAC projects varies depending on the scope. Short-term projects can take from six to nine months. The accelerator operates with co-creation and challenge methodologies, which include workshops to discover and define challenges with governments and stakeholders that can take an estimated one or two days up to six months. Projects of bigger scope can take several months or up to three years and cover different stages, including assessing the challenge, testing and prototyping and implementation.

TESTIMONY

“The unique structure of UNITAC represents this global perspective itself and is the result of an excellent cooperation between UN-Habitat, UN-Office of Information and Communication Technology, the city of Hamburg, HafenCity University Hamburg and the German Federal Government.”

Mr Niels Annen,
Minister of State, Federal Republic of Germany

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

News story: [UN-Habitat and the Federal Republic of Germany establish a United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities \(UNITAC-Hamburg\) at the HafenCity University in Hamburg](#)
[Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Prosperity in the State of Alagoas](#)
[UNITAC website](#)



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Section 03

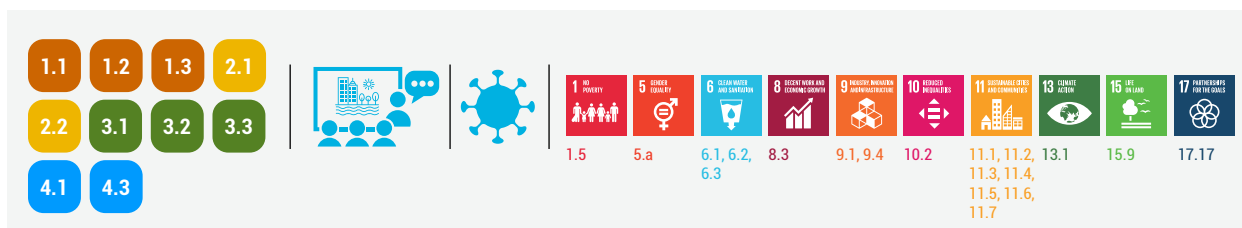
Our flagship programmes

UN-Habitat’s five flagship initiatives focus on inclusive urban regeneration, people-centered smart cities, the climate resilience of the urban poor, harnessing the positive impacts of urban migration, and putting cities and human settlements on the path of achieving the SDGs through data, technical assistance and generating investment. These initiatives consolidate the agency’s tried and tested services of UN-Habitat, bringing forward “integrated” and holistic approaches that promote innovation to address major global urban challenges and accelerate the progress towards the achievement of the global goals.

Each flagship integrates a variety of services, tools and expertise, and is grounded in equality, human rights and gender-sensitive approaches. They are designed to

achieve impact at scale and to accelerate key urban contributions to the achievement of the New Urban Agenda, SDGs and implementation of UN-Habitat’s 2020–2023 Strategic Plan. The flagships provide an arena to pilot recently developed instruments and approaches (including the Innovation Challenge Fund; sub-regional technical resource hubs; New Urban Agenda platform and online learning; SDG City Certification; and City Investment Facility), working to strengthen impact investment towards COVID-19 economic recovery and building resilience against future pandemics. Cities and countries that prioritize these themes are invited to become part of one or more flagship programmes by writing to UN-Habitat at UNHabitat-GSD@un.org.

Flagship 1: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities



Summary: Flagship 1: Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities focuses on urban regeneration to reduce spatial inequality and poverty by transforming urban areas into connected, dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods that incubate development for the entire city and the respective hinterland. UN-Habitat's regeneration approach has a strong focus on human rights and increased accessibility for people with disabilities, elderly, youth, children and women, whilst opening pathways for broader socio-economic transformation.

Challenges addressed: In 75 per cent of cities globally, **spatial inequality** is higher today than it was 20 years ago. The majority of cities and towns have areas where multiple deprivations intersect and overlap, where socioeconomic and spatial exclusion (with higher levels of poverty, unemployment, crime, delinquency and at greater risk of environmental hazards and shocks) is higher than at city average.

The **COVID-19 crisis** has clearly demonstrated the importance of focusing on spatial inequality within cities. Those living in inadequate housing and working in informality are at greater risk of being exposed to pandemics and other crises due to poor living and working conditions with inadequate access to food, water, sanitation and other basic services, as well as limited livelihood opportunities. As the **climate changes**, increased number of extreme events, pollution and the scarcity of resources also impacts the most vulnerable and challenges social equity. To sustainably accommodate the continued urban growth, it is crucial to renew neighbourhoods and to adapt under-used spaces for new uses.

Inclusive urban regeneration can help address these underlying inequalities that make particular neighbourhoods and communities vulnerable to pandemics and other urban crises.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat's approach to urban regeneration **encompasses a combination of different physical, environmental and socioeconomic strategies** to transform urban areas into dynamic, diverse and vibrant neighbourhoods and communities and improve their connection to the wider city. Such efforts also offer the benefit of preserving cultural heritage and helping to build a sense of identity and belonging in cities.

If done right, restoration, rehabilitation, upgrading, retrofitting, conservation and revitalization, among other measures, can unlock the value of neglected assets and community resources, leveraging their potential and generating mid- and long-term investments. In partnership with local authorities, these strategies can create jobs, homes and infrastructure, paving the way towards sustainable and inclusive cities and communities that are resilient to a variety of shocks and stresses.

This Flagship Programme aims to promote urban regeneration globally by supporting governments and urban actors to build inclusive, resilient, and integrated processes. To achieve this, it offers:

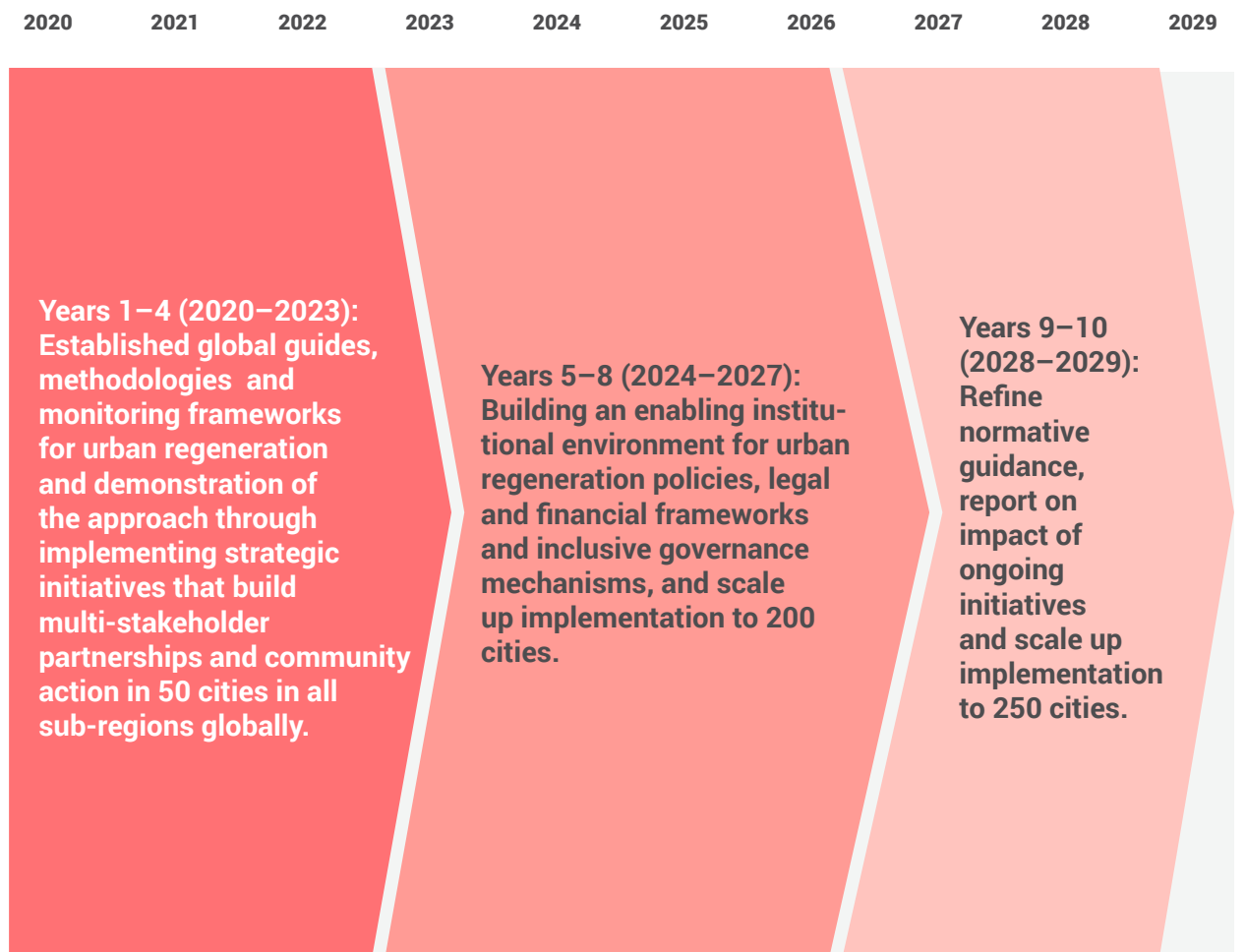
- **Capacity building** for cities and local governments, private sector and local communities' associations on key components for inclusive policy, governance and legislation on urban regeneration.
- **A knowledge platform** for urban actors in different countries to share experiences, learn from each other and pilot methodologies to advance urban regeneration globally.
- **Guidance and capacity building** for national and local governments to set an enabling institutional environment for urban regeneration with policies, legal and financial frameworks and inclusive governance mechanisms.

- **Technical assistance, tools and methodologies** for the development, implementation, and monitoring of localized policies, plans and projects, promoting integrated approaches and partnership models for urban regeneration.
- **Support to multi-stakeholder partnerships** for the development and implementation of successful urban regeneration processes in the long-term.

The programme contributes to the coordination of the urban dimension within United Nations Country Teams and Regional Coordination mechanisms as part of the

United Nations System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development. UN-Habitat uses its expertise and long-standing experience of working with local authorities and community structures, bringing in a new perspective. Within the United Nations system, partnerships with UNESCO, ILO, UNDP, UNEP and UNIDO will be leveraged, in particular the collaboration with UNESCO for urban regeneration in historic urban areas.

Duration of support: Urban regeneration requires long-term engagement. The flagship is envisioned to last until at least 2030 in three phases:



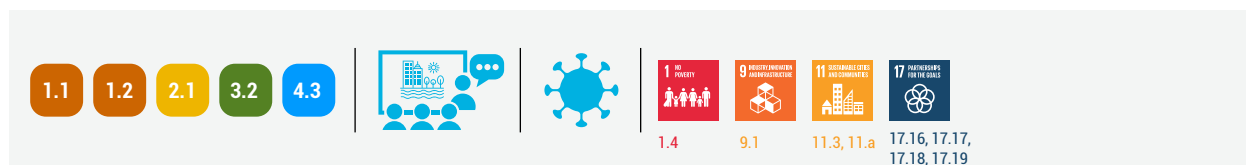
Newly created parks in Afghanistan provide many women and children with access to safe public areas. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Inclusive, Vibrant Neighbourhoods and Communities Programme web page](#)

Flagship 2: People-centered Smart Cities



Summary: Flagship 2: People-centered Smart Cities enhances shared prosperity of cities and regions by making urban digital transformation work for the benefit of all, driving sustainability, inclusivity and prosperity and the realization of human rights. Together with the other flagship programmes and in collaboration with other United Nations agencies, as well as State and non-State actors, this flagship is expected to achieve: (i) digital policy transformation; (ii) financing digital urban innovation; and (iii) digital empowerment and capacity building.

Challenges addressed: Today, while more than 50 per cent of the world's population is online, there are still 3.6 billion people without affordable access to the internet. This severely restricts the ability of cities to ensure an even digital transformation of society. There is a strong inequality component to this challenge: among the world's 47 least-developed countries, more than 80 per cent of the population is still offline, and the gender gap in connectivity continues to widen, excluding women further from participation at all levels and in being counted and considered in important urban decisions. The COVID-19 pandemic exposed the inequalities underpinning the digital divide at global and local scales. Many households, schools and neighbourhoods are not able to access remote education, telemedicine and teleworking due to weak, absent or unaffordable internet connectivity or lack of computers. Cities are increasingly relying on digital technologies and connectivity to sustain operations and deliver services, while not all residents have access to these tools and are further marginalized. Residents of slums and other marginalized and deprived neighbourhoods and communities in cities may face higher gaps in digital literacy and access to the internet, particularly women.

The full potential of the urban digital transformation and the 'smart city' to contribute to the SDGs has in many cases not yet been realized. A lack of digital technology skills in local governments, missing digital governance frameworks, overreliance on private sector innovation, not enough consideration of the impact of digital

technologies on human rights and the persistent digital divide are challenges that need to be overcome. The UN System-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development highlights digital transformation and new technologies as one of the four frontier issues that require a special, coordinated response. UN-Habitat is working to set a new people-centered direction for smart cities.

UN-Habitat is taking an active role in coordinating the field and working towards setting a new smart city approach that favours inclusive, resilient and sustainable use of technologies by local government¹. Collaboration frameworks relating to smart cities and digital transformation of cities and communities have been signed with the International Telecommunication Union and UNDP.

What UN-Habitat can offer:

- Technical advice and guidance to local, regional and national governments on putting people at the centre of their digital transformation and smart city strategies based on the 2021 guidance note *Putting People at the Centre of Smart Cities*.
- Technical advice and guidance to local, regional and national governments on assessing and addressing the urban digital divide based on guidance in the 2021 playbooks *Assessing the Urban Digital Divide and Addressing the Urban Digital Divide*.
- Technical advice and guidance to local and regional governments on setting up effective data platforms and systems, including people-centered and inclusive data governance frameworks, strategies, and policies.
- Technical advice to local governments on issues related to digital human rights, digital inclusion, and digital governance as part of a collaboration with the Cities for Digital Rights Coalition, United Cities and Local Governments and Eurocities.

¹ This is outlined in the *New Urban Agenda* that calls for the "adoption of a smart-city approach that makes use of opportunities from digitalization, clean energy and technologies."

- Capacity building for cities and local governments on key issues related to people-centered smart city strategies, inclusive data systems and platforms, digital human rights, assessing and addressing the digital divide and digital public participation.
- Challenge definition workshops with cities who want to take a people-centric, needs-driven, and challenge-based approach to procuring and implementing appropriate digital services and technologies.

It is critical that smart city planning focuses on solving specific sustainability problems and key missions such as battling climate change, reducing poverty and increasing citizens' participation rather than following a technocratic industry-driven approach. The flagship expects to achieve the following outcomes:

1. **Digital policy transformation:** Increased focus and mainstreaming of people-centered, sustainable and inclusive digital transition as a critical policy topic in high-level political forums and global dialogues on smart cities.

2. **Financing digital urban innovation:** Increased investment and financing for people-centered smart cities to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs with a specific focus on developing countries, small- and medium-sized cities and grassroots urban communities.

3. **Digital empowerment and capacity building:** Enhanced capacity of governments at all levels to adopt a people-centered, privacy-enhancing and rights-preserving approach to digital technologies for inclusion and sustainable urban development in the achievement of the SDGs.

Duration of support: This flagship programme is intended to provide support to national and local governments in close collaboration with the private sector, civil society, academia and communities for at least eight years under an overall umbrella which will include a variety of pilot projects, coordination mechanisms, policy and normative tools, technical advisory services and the financing facility.

Timing and Milestones

2020 2021 2022 2023 2024 2025 2026 2027

The issues of urban equality, social inclusion, human rights and environmental sustainability are mainstreamed in the global dialogue on smart cities

Investment and financing are directed to inclusive smart cities for accelerated achievement of the SDGs with a specific focus on the developing countries and small- and medium-sized cities

Enhanced capacity among all levels of government to use frontier technologies for inclusion and sustainable urban development

Digital technologies, depending on their use, can be a force that widens social gaps or reduces them. Recognizing the ever-increasing digital gap, the Secretary General sounded one of his top five alarm bells for 2022 as “going into emergency mode to put humanity at the centre of technology,” and is pursuing every opportunity to “help close the digital divide, and ensure affordable, safe and secure internet services for all.”

Secretary-General’s remarks to the General Assembly on his Priorities for 2022

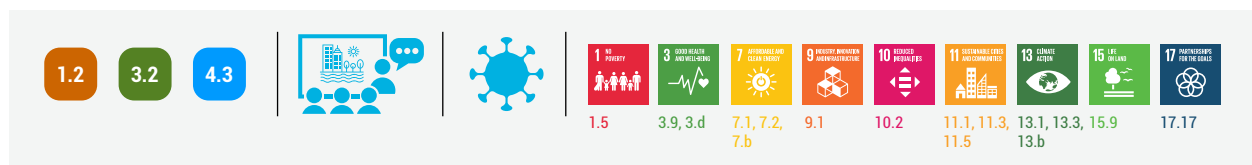
Participants use Minecraft to improve safety in their neighbourhood in Hanoi, Vietnam © Lovstrandell



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[People-centered Smart Cities programme web page](#)

Flagship 3: RISE-UP. Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor



Summary: Flagship 3: RISE-UP. Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor improves the socio-economic prosperity of the urban poor by reducing climate disruptions and enhancing service provisions and community resilience. RISE-UP provides comprehensive technical assistance to integrate pro-poor climate action in national and local policy and planning frameworks and engages at the local level to facilitate community driven profiling and planning processes. Working at multiple levels provides enabling factors for RISE-UP partners to help prepare and mobilize investment into global hotspots of urban climate vulnerability.

Challenges addressed: One of the greatest challenges for climate change adaptation is how to build resilience for the almost one billion urban dwellers who live in informal settlements today. The impacts of climate change, such as floods, heatwaves, droughts, landslides, storms, coastal erosion and inundation, and sea surges, are affecting cities around the world. The expected climatic changes in means (temperature, precipitation, and sea-level rise), extremes (extreme rainfall, drought, heat- or cold-waves) and changes in exposure resulting in population movements and bio-climatic changes, will have particularly severe impacts on informal settlements. The heightened vulnerability is due to three underlying factors: (i) the physical location is often on fragile sites such as steep slopes, coastlines or floodplains; (ii) the socio-economic characteristics of the residents, such as high levels of poverty and illiteracy, mean that these communities have low capacity to deal with climate impacts; and (iii) the political and institutional marginalization of these communities, stemming from non-recognition of informal settlements as part of the larger city fabric, often results in the absence of meaningful investments in risk-reducing services and infrastructure.

A second challenge is to channel climate investments to where it matters most, at the local level. The local and national finance gap is compounded by the fact that also globally, only around 5 to 8 per cent of climate finance goes to adaptation, a fraction of what is needed in the rapidly growing cities.

What UN-Habitat can offer: UN-Habitat's long-standing experience gained through the implementation of the climate and slum-upgrading programmes signals the need for addressing those two issues in an integrated manner. Since 2016, the agency has piloted this integrated approach in 14 countries, developed tools and methodologies, and the operational concept proven to be of high-impact and able to leverage significant amounts of climate co-funding². Through the agency's lead role in building a global coalition for climate action for the urban poor as part of the efforts to support the United Nations Secretary General's 2019 Climate Summit, UN-Habitat has helped shape a unique global partnership for policy and advocacy impact, and the present flagship programme can be understood as the complementary operational initiative to deliver transformative impact on the ground to complete the 'do' aspect of the four dimensions of our new approach: think, do, share and partner.

1. Supports governments and investors to collect and make appropriate use of data and methodologies;
2. Bridges city issues to global debates and global policy to local city actions; harmonizing and synergizing pro-poor climate action along the global – national – local – community level; and
3. Supports national governments to shape policies and frameworks, and help cities improve plans and strategies.

Potential locations for the roll-out of the flagship programme have been identified in around 140 cities in 40 countries (48 cities in Africa, 57 in Asia and Pacific and Arab States, 35 in Latin America and the Caribbean). The proposed first phase until 2023 is targeting 30 cities in 26 countries, with phase two (2023–2030) targeting more than 80 million people in up to 100 cities across the globe.

Duration of support: The Flagship Programme will be a reliable development partner to cities and national governments until 2030. City-level processes will range

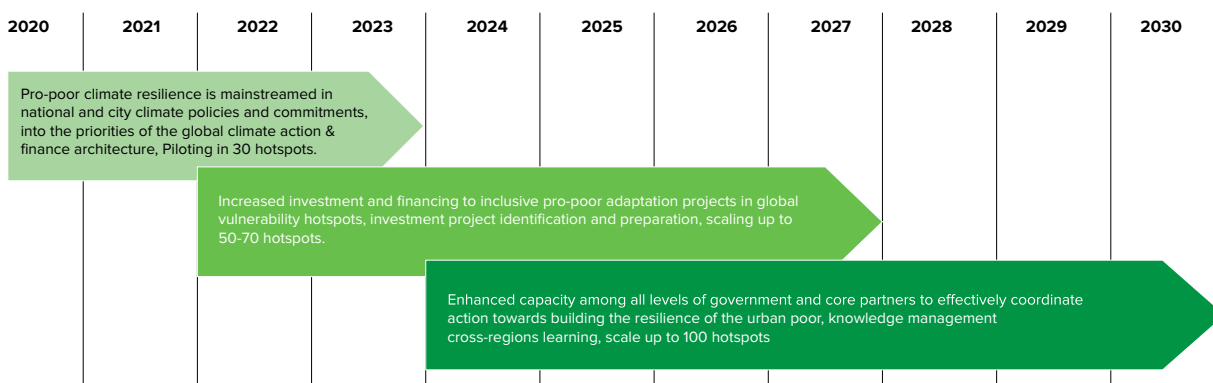
² The underlying methodology of "planning for climate change" consisting of participatory vulnerability assessments and climate action planning for community-based adaptation has proven to be suitable for project development for the Adaptation Fund, as well as being the basis for all of the agency's proposals approved in the pipeline totaling over USD 77 million as of July 2021 in approved projects, and over USD 42 million in endorsed proposals at various stages of development.

in duration from profiling (six months), planning (6–8 months) to identifying and completing investments (3–4 years), typically taking 3–5 years in total. Improving national enabling environments typically requires

long-term processes as well and are estimated to range from support to NDC/NAP development (three months) to more sophisticated policy support processes (1–2 years).

This flagship emerges from the successful launch of the Building Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor (BCRUP) collaborative initiative at the Secretary-General’s Climate Action Summit in September 2019. Led by the national governments of Kenya and Brazil, and announced by President Uhuru Kenyatta at the Summit, the initiative brought together an unusual coalition of partners (slum dweller organizations, local authorities, planning associations and their networks, national governments and international organizations), to develop a multi-level approach towards building climate resilience of the urban poor, keeping communities and their needs, knowledge and experience at the centre.

Phasing and milestones



TESTIMONY

“With more and more of the world’s citizens living in unsustainable informal settlements and with climate change worsening as global temperatures rise, the need to “rise up” is clear to address the sustainability of our urban poor. Fiji strives for that future every day. We do so for our sake, particularly for those of our most vulnerable ones. But we also do so knowing that our successes are shared by our fellow global citizens. Every problem we solve adds knowledge and experience that strengthens cities and communities across our region and around the world. That’s why I’m so glad to be here today to mark another milestone in our global cooperation.”

Mr. Frank Bainimarama,
 Prime Minister of Fiji, at UN-Habitat’s flagship
 RISE-UP launch (World Urban Forum 10, Abu Dhabi, February 2020)

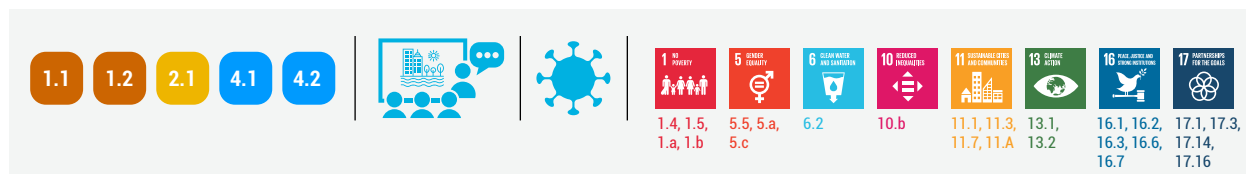
Applying mixed materials for enhanced resilience in a local community affected by cyclones, Primary School Anchilo, Nampula District, Nampula Province, Mozambique. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor programme web page](#)

Flagship 4: Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration



Summary: Flagship 4: Enhancing the Positive Impact of Urban Migration supports creating inclusive, non-discriminatory urban environments and improving social cohesion between host and migrant/displaced communities, including in acute crisis contexts. It will increase the capacity of governments at all levels to harness the positive impact of migration to cities and advance inclusive and sustainable urban development while improving living conditions and access to services for all. The flagship is instrumental to advancing and maintaining partnerships (at global, regional, national and local levels), producing data and research that address migration and urbanization, and driving and supporting regional, country and multi-country activities regarding the development of migration and displacement-related programmes.

Challenges addressed: Migration is a dynamic process and involves several parameters; it is multi-causal (push and pull factors), involving different decision-making approaches (voluntary or involuntary) and geographical boundaries (internal and international). Migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons (IDPs) or returnees often face discrimination and social and economic exclusion, with women and youth among those in the most vulnerable situations. When not properly planned, the rapid influx of people in many cases puts stress on urban systems, including services (e.g. water, sanitation and waste), housing, infrastructure and employment, and might lead to environmental degradation. Additionally, many displaced people face increased vulnerabilities and lack of access to their human rights as they live in inadequate housing situations, have reduced access to basic services or settle in underserved or unsuitable areas of a city prone to flooding, landslides, or disasters. As many displaced people, migrants, or people on the move live in precarious situations, this flagship is particularly relevant regarding COVID-19 response and recovery.

What UN-Habitat can offer: The flagship focuses on reducing vulnerabilities and inequalities in access to housing, services and livelihood opportunities as well as increasing social cohesion between communities and fostering women’s empowerment. By adopting the

Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus, the flagship promotes the development-oriented engagement in humanitarian contexts for sustainable urban development that improves the lives of migrants/displaced people and local communities. UN-Habitat collaborates with and supports local, national, and subnational governments in urban migration/displacement contexts.

Migration to urban areas has proven to have a positive impact on the social, cultural, and economic development of a city, when it is well planned and well managed. Migrants increase the city’s labour force, bring additional skill sets, they invest and establish businesses and when formally integrated add to a city’s tax base. Many cities have flourished due to their cosmopolitan and multi-cultural image attracting tourists but also investments.

But a rapid influx of people put strains on cities in regard to their ability to provide services, adequate housing and infrastructure, leading to informal settlements or unplanned urban sprawl. Perceived competition for jobs, housing and services can result in xenophobia and social exclusion of migrants. The objective of the flagship on migration is to support local and national authorities to create inclusive and non-discriminatory urban environments, especially in situations where a rapid influx of people has led to an urban crisis.

UN-Habitat has long-standing experience to work in migration and displacement in urban contexts, including in countries such as Syrian, Somalia, the Sahel region, Latin American countries, and most recently cities in Poland in the midst of the Ukraine crisis. By promoting solutions through an integrated “urban lens” (instead of clusters), UN-Habitat is able to bring together stakeholders from different sectors, multiple governance levels, humanitarian and development actors as well as relevant urban stakeholders, including civil society, academia and the private sector. UN-Habitat’s participatory approaches increase ownership by beneficiaries and involved stakeholders. UN-Habitat is the United Nations agency with expertise in working with local authorities and community structures, and our support improves urban systems, thus benefiting not one specific

population/ethnic/religious group but improving the lives of host and migrant/displaced communities, making sure not to leave anyone or any place behind.

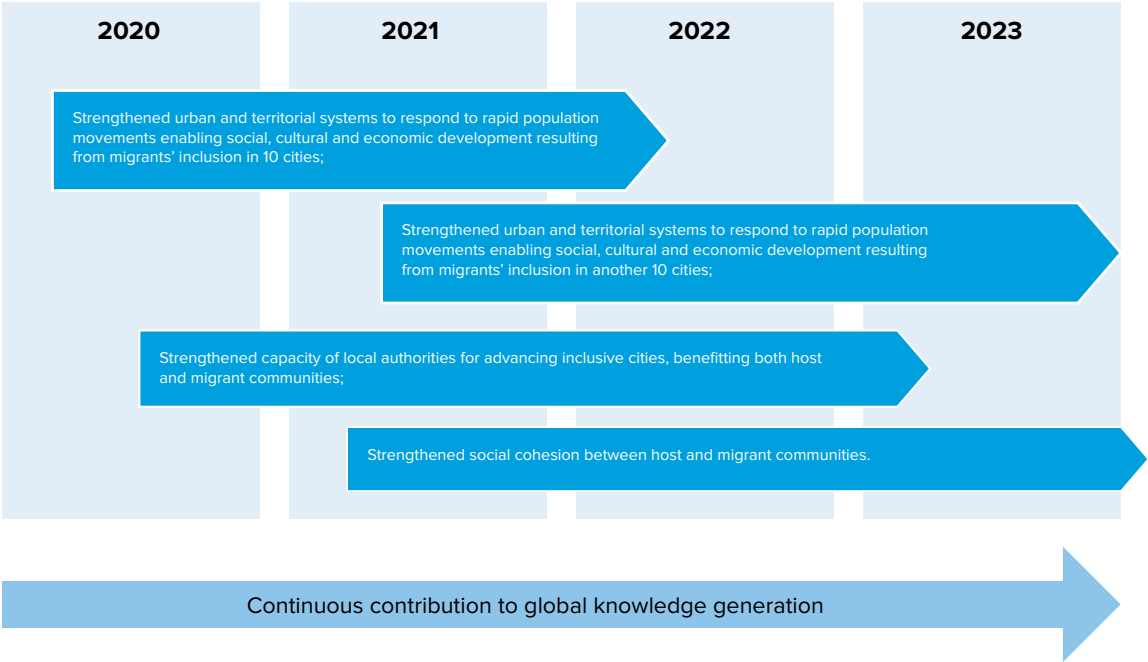
The flagship will support governments at the national, subnational and local levels in data collection on priorities for human rights, based on principles for inclusive urban development in migration and displacement contexts along with capacity building, tool development and knowledge exchange.

The programme has a strong urban crisis dimension, so flexibility to respond where/when urgently needed is a priority. It builds on existing and ongoing projects in different regions and countries, including participatory processes, such as

inclusion of public space or for mapping housing solutions which are then adapted to the migration/displacement context. The flagship also links to existing global networks and mechanisms, including the Global Alliance for Urban Crisis, the United Nations Migration Network or city networks such as UCLG, Mayors Migration Council or the KNOMAD knowledge network. UN-Habitat adheres to the OECD DAC recommendation on the development-humanitarian-peace nexus, particularly with regards to the role of local authorities and to basic services delivery, housing, social integration, with emphasis on the social inclusion component.

Duration of support: Services and duration will be tailored to local contexts and in coordination with other actors in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.

Phasing and milestones



Children play in a rehabilitated public space in Ramadi, Iraq. © UN-Habitat



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION

[Enhancing the Positive Impacts of Urban Migration programme web page](#)

Flagship 5: SDG Cities



Summary: Flagship 5: SDG Cities was developed as the battle for sustainable development will be won or lost in cities. While it is estimated that 80 per cent of global GDP is generated in cities, it is also estimated that 70 per cent of the world's waste and 70 per cent of greenhouse gas emissions are created in cities. Cities can be planned and managed well and in doing so can be engines for sustainable development and the achievement of SDGs. SDG Cities therefore focuses on the potential of cities to drive the achievement of the SDGs and thus improve quality of life for all, leaving no one and no place behind. SDG Cities works with cities, other levels of government, communities, the private sector and development partners to leverage public and private sector financing for sustainable urbanization.

Better urban data, starting from the SDGs, creates the basis for evidence-based strategies and planning and impact investments whose performance can be measured against progress towards the SDGs.

Challenges addressed: There is an urgent need to accelerate the achievement of SDGs in cities by 2030, which will depend on the progress made at the local and regional levels. The COVID-19 pandemic demonstrates all too clearly the consequences of poor urban management and while there is a need to rethink how cities can become sustainable and resilient, it is equally important to avoid reversing the progress made.

TESTIMONY

“Adhering to all the global agendas is complicated, so we compiled what we want as inhabitants of the city with what the global agendas require, and we then reached seven goals with 420 indicators to measure progress. This was captured in a document, and we now organize our budgets in accordance with this. Every New Year we gather – over 10,000 inhabitants of the cities – to take stock and celebrate our achievement. This (SDG Cities) programme, with its measurable system to plan and show progress and its ambition to reach 1,000 cities worldwide, is the most important programme that is now on the table.”

Dr. Peter Kurtz,
Mayor of Mannheim
Launch of the SDG Cities Global Initiative WUF, 10 February 2020

What UN-Habitat can offer: To achieve the scale and reach necessary to meet this challenge (with a goal of reaching 300 directly participating cities, passing knowledge to further 600 cities), the SDG Cities Global Initiative measures SDG performance of cities in three key development areas in line with the New Urban Agenda transformative commitments:

1. Sustainable urban development for social inclusion and ending poverty;
2. Sustainable and inclusive urban prosperity and opportunities for all; and
3. Environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development.

It then supports a continuous value chain of strategic planning to 2030, capacity development in core areas of inclusive governance, planning and revenue and supports the development and financing of investment-ready impact projects that accelerate SDG achievement and resilience. Technical assistance will be systematized through developing user-friendly online tools that can be reached by any city in any location where there is internet connection, backstopped by regional technical support centres that provide hands-on guidance through, for example, Microsoft Teams, in the implementation and tailoring of the tools to specific contexts. This massively cuts costs of flying experts all over the world, greatly increases reach and provides for more effective backstopping. This also makes the service more readily available in pandemic context.

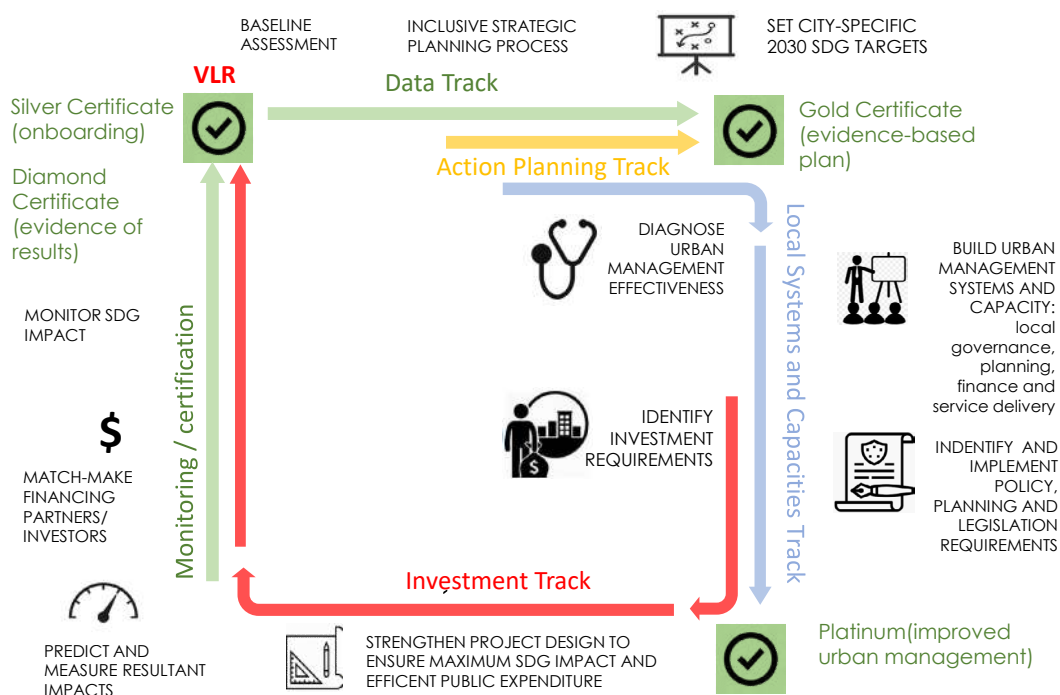
UN-Habitat offers the SDG Cities Certification – a prestigious United Nations award that recognizes the performance of individual cities to drive the SDGs. This certification rewards a balanced weighting of achievement across socioeconomic and environmental dimensions and across UN-Habitat’s social inclusion criteria of human rights, gender, children, youth and older people, and disability. Indicators used will also assist cities in their Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs).

UN-Habitat is uniquely positioned to offer this due to its global focal point role for sustainable urban development.

The initiative builds on UN-Habitat’s core areas of experience as follows:

- **Data:** Cities Prosperity Initiative, implemented in 539 cities in 54 countries spread across all major regions of the world.
- **Strategic Planning:** Over the past decade, UN-Habitat has developed and refined several tried and tested methodologies and tools to support inclusive, participatory, strategic planning and priority-setting processes in cities. The Future Cities Programme has linked these processes effectively to investments in infrastructure in several cities.
- **SDG Project Formulation and Review:** UN-Habitat’s Future Cities Programme has developed and piloted a ‘SDG project assessment tool’ which reviews and improves the SDG value of major urban projects in 19 cities in 10 countries across four regions.
- **City Investment:** UN-Habitat’s City Investment Facility was launched at the tenth World Urban Forum (WUF10) in February 2020. Since then, it has accumulated an investable global pipeline of urban SDG projects worth USD 6.24 billion and by the end of May 2020 has neared closure on a portfolio value of USD 48 million. The City Investment Facility aims to broker USD 500 billion in urban SDG investments by 2025.

SDG Cities summary diagram. © UN-Habitat



- **Integrated capital investment planning:** Integrated Capital Investment Plans can also be produced as part of a strategic spatial planning process, integrating infrastructure investments (projects), municipal finance allocations (budget), and spatial plans (development outcomes) to achieve spatially targeted area-based investment. This planning process can help to address a disconnect between the plan and the financial allocations in the municipal budget for interventions required to realize the plan considering competing priorities.
- 900 cities have improved capacity in one or more of the sustainable urban development-enabling functions–policies, planning, financing–informed by baseline analysis.
- 900 cities have invested in SDG impact initiatives.
- 900 cities have been recognized for their SDG achievement through SDG Cities Certification.

Through this flagship, UN-Habitat expects to impact one billion urban dwellers worldwide with improved quality of life through a systematic approach undertaken by city authorities to assess baseline achievement of SDGs, prioritize targets for 2030 and tackle areas of deficiency through high-impact initiatives that aim to reduce social inequality, advance shared prosperity, and ensure environmental sustainability. Other expected results include:

- 900 cities have established baseline and target profiles for SDG achievement and strategic implementation plans.

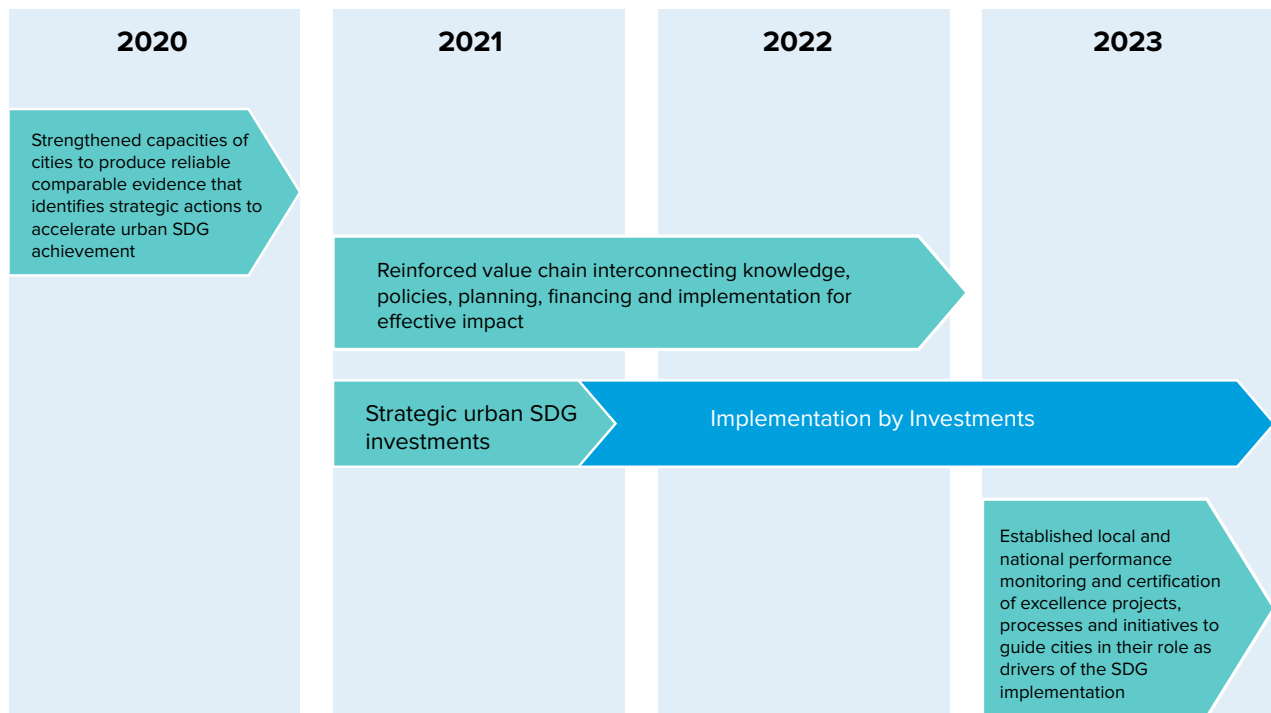
Duration of support: Each participating city will be engaged in the initiative for around four years. The first year will identify baselines and provide a diagnostic assessment of key capacities, plans and investment requirements needed to drive the achievement of priority SDGs by 2030. The second and third years will focus on putting in place the key drivers (plans, legislations, governance frameworks financing mechanisms) needed by the city to enable the acceleration of SDGs; the fourth year will focus on the development and preparation of impact initiatives and linking them to blended sources of finance for impact at scale.

Timeframe and Budget

New cities onboarded direct (indirect)	Cumulative impact # cities	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024	2025	2026	2027	2028	2029	2030	
2020	25 (75)	25 cities directly participating. 75 engaged											
2021	25 (75)	50 cities directly participating. 150 engaged											
2022	25 (75)	75 cities directly participating. 225 engaged											
2023	25 (75)	100 cities directly participating. 300 engaged											
2024	50 (150)	125 cities directly participating. 375 engaged											
2025	50 (150)	150 cities directly participating. 450 engaged											
2026	50 (150)	175 cities directly participating. 525 engaged											
2027	50 (150)	200 cities directly participating. 600 engaged											
Average city population: 1.5 million													
Impact: 1.35 billion people													
Cost - city level (USD)		3,125,000	11,000,000	14,750,000	16,000,000	19,125,000	27,000,000	30,750,000	32,000,000	25,750,000	10,000,000	2,500,000	
Other costs*	(USD)	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	2,500,000	
Total Cost per year		5,625,000	13,500,000	17,250,000	18,500,000	21,625,000	29,500,000	33,250,000	34,500,000	28,250,000	12,500,000	5,000,000	
Total Cost over 4 years		USD 54,875,000											
Total Cost over 10 years		USD 219,500,000											

* Other costs include programme management, management of the Capital Advisory Platform, New Urban Agenda Platform, Global Network of Urban Labs

Phasing and milestones



Reykjavik, Iceland ©Shutterstock/ Alexey Stiop



FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
[Sustainable Development Goals Cities programme web page](#)

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