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**United Nations Habitat Assembly of the  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
Second session**

Nairobi, 5–9 June 2023

Item 7 of the provisional agenda\*

**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements  
Programme, including coordination matters**

## **Country activities report 2022–2023**

### **Note by the Secretariat**

1. The present report is divided into two sections. The first provides a region-by-region perspective on the country activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). The second describes how these activities contribute to the domains of change of the UN-Habitat strategic plan. The report also highlights the importance of stakeholder engagement as the basis for a human-rights-based approach to sustainable urbanization. The main source of information presented in the report is from regional and country offices.
2. Oversight over the field presence of UN-Habitat, including UN-Habitat regional offices, is provided by the Regional Programme Division, which is headquartered in Nairobi. The Regional Office for Africa is also based in Nairobi and is active in 49 of the 55 countries of the region. The Regional Office for Arab States is based in Cairo and is active in 14 of the 18 countries of the region. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil and is active in 13 of the 19 countries of the region. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is based in Fukuoka, Japan and operates in 23 of the 61 countries of the region. In Eastern Europe and Central Asia, UN-Habitat does not have a regional office but is represented directly by the Regional Programme Division. UN-Habitat is still, however, active in 3 of the 10 countries of the region. UN-Habitat works closely with the resident coordinator system to ensure that it delivers as “one United Nations” in countries where it has no office representation. The Chief of Staff oversees the two UN-Habitat liaison offices in New York (for the United Nations system) and Geneva (for humanitarian actors).
3. Additionally, several global programmes are hosted in offices away from Nairobi. This includes the City Resilience Global Programme in Barcelona, Spain, the Global Water Operators’ Partnership Alliance in Bonn, Germany and the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities in Hamburg, Germany, and two programmes in the planning stage: the Local 2030 Coalition in Bilbao, Spain and the Climate and Biodiversity Office in Montreal, Canada. Other Nairobi-based global programmes also have a presence in the field whereby they develop and implement demonstration projects at the country level. These global programmes report to the Global Solutions Division and the External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division. The latter also oversees the Beijing and Moscow information offices, while the Brussels office is jointly managed by the External Relations, Knowledge, Strategy and Innovation Division and the Chief of Staff, for its donor relations and representational mandates, respectively.

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\* HSP/HA.2/1.

4. In the current reporting period until January 2023, UN-Habitat, like all other United Nations agencies, funds and programmes, faced multiple challenges, including the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic, the socioeconomic impact of locked-down economies, the climate emergency and urban crises arising from conflicts. Country activities had to adapt, especially as Member States re-allocated funding to meet emergency and humanitarian relief efforts. Nonetheless, the total portfolio of UN-Habitat country activities remains healthy. A total of \$358.4 million was raised for country activities through the UN-Habitat technical cooperation fund in the period 2020–2022. At the end of 2022, the project implementation rate was 124 per cent as a result of the clearing of the backlog remaining from the pandemic period.

## **I. Regional updates**

### **A. Africa**

5. For the 2020–2023 reporting period, the total value of the portfolio of the Regional Office for Africa stood at \$51.5 million. The portfolio mainly focused on helping countries deal with challenges associated with displacement (both internal and cross-border) as a result of conflict, the impact of climate change and other causes. UN-Habitat also provided support for housing, urban infrastructure, disaster preparedness and crisis response. Improved land titling and formalization of marginalized groups were also areas of focus. Finally, managing secondary cities' development as economic nodes for regional growth was also critical. Member States identified housing and job creation as the aspects most urgently required for all to benefit from rapid urbanization.

6. UN-Habitat services to support area-based interventions through inter-agency and multi-sector approaches to planning have also gained popularity. Scaling up through regional and cross-border programmes has proven effective, for example in the Sahel region. This entails finding the right connections, increasing impact, including through smart urban resilience projects, economic corridor development and working with regional institutions. UN-Habitat has also been working towards establishing a stronger subregional presence in West Africa and Southern Africa, and already has a subregional multi-country office supporting Central and Eastern Africa.

7. For displacement there is a need to focus on durable solutions linked to climate change, conflict and rapid urbanization. There are growing opportunities for financing through alignment with government and donors through multi-lateral finance institution strategies. Activities in least developed countries have also increased with a focus on delivering basic urban services, support for the development of urban policies and securing grant financing for public infrastructure projects. Through South-South cooperation, grants amounting to over \$1 million for in-country projects and global knowledge activities have been mobilized.

### **B. Arab States**

8. The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States manages a diverse portfolio with a total value of \$171,630 million. In the past three years, 10 progress reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda<sup>1</sup> were submitted. In February 2020, the tenth session of the World Urban Forum was hosted in Abu Dhabi. In November 2022, representatives of 48 countries, including several ministers, attended the first-ever Ministerial Conference on Urbanization in conjunction with the twenty-seventh session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Conference on Climate Change in Sharm el-Sheikh, Egypt, under the patronage of the Egyptian presidency.

9. The active portfolio of UN-Habitat in the Arab region is focused on adequate housing; safe and inclusive public spaces; sustainable urban mobility; water, sanitation and hygiene and basic services; climate change adaptation (including nature-based solutions) and mitigation (including energy efficiency and low-carbon development); urban legislation and governance (including national urban policies); and housing, land and property rights, particularly of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

10. With the increased complexity and urban nature of crises in the region, the Regional Office for Arab States supported urban rehabilitation and reconstruction in several countries across the region, while adopting a focus on resilience, of both systems and people, building back better, and a rights-based approach that focused on women, children, youth, older persons and persons with disabilities in both host and displaced communities.

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<sup>1</sup> General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

11. The Regional Office also focused on developing the capacity of local governments, non-governmental organizations and other urban stakeholders, many of which participated in and benefited from training and awareness-raising activities. Furthermore, UN-Habitat strengthened its presence in the Arab region by opening two new country offices, in Bahrain and Morocco.

12. The Regional Office also launched its Regional Climate Change Strategy 2022–2025,<sup>2</sup> which guides the work of UN-Habitat, contributing to curbing the impact of climate change on Arab cities through resilience-building, reduction of urban vulnerabilities, advancing adaptation and mitigation action for the development of sustainable cities and mainstreaming climate considerations in urban policies and plans.

13. The Regional Office supported several cities around the region to develop voluntary local reviews, reporting on their progress in implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals. Amman launched its voluntary local review in 2022, while the voluntary local review for Agadir, Morocco is currently being finalized. Three more cities (Irbid, Jordan, Hay Ennour, Tunisia and Ramallah, State of Palestine) initiated the process in early 2023.

### **C. Latin America and the Caribbean**

14. The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean currently implements 23 major projects, amounting to a total value of \$49,418,350. It is focused on developing and strengthening relationships between various national and subnational governments in order to ensure the successful implementation of the New Urban Agenda. UN-Habitat has been a major player in the various events that have enhanced the relationship between civil society organizations, academia, and ministries of housing and urban development, together with national, subnational and local governments.

15. A neighbourhood-inclusive approach with communities of displaced persons has been one of the main mechanisms and approaches used for regional work. Tactical urban planning, plans focused on implementing the various Sustainable Development Goals and humanistic migration perspectives, and the consolidation of inclusive border cities for migrant communities has resulted in a number of cities throughout Latin America and the Caribbean becoming global benchmarks for sustainable and inclusive communities.

16. The Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean is working to strengthen initiatives that integrate a vision of nature-based solutions into the development of sustainable cities. Known locally as “Biodiver-cities”, the expansion and implementation of this initiative is being consolidated, thereby achieving sustainable urban improvement throughout the region.

### **D. Asia and the Pacific**

17. The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific is based in Fukuoka, Japan, with a liaison office in Bangkok, where the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific is headquartered. In the reporting period, a total of 73 projects, amounting to a total value of \$164,002,667, were implemented in 23 countries, 17 of which have country or project offices.

18. Operating in an extremely diverse region, the Regional Office has had to be nimble to meet the needs of some of the largest countries in the world as well as small island developing States. Like in other regions, the Regional Office portfolio is focused on supporting Member States, local governments and other urban stakeholders in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and other international agendas such as the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030.

19. UN-Habitat is an active member of country teams across the region to ensure the integration of urban development in the work of the United Nations. Collaborations are diverse and complementary, in transnational frameworks (e.g., with the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN)), through regional programmes and in joint programming with United Nations programmes and funds. The Regional Office also works closely with regional entities such as the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific in support of Sustainable Development Goal localization, voluntary local reviews and on internal migration issues.

20. The Regional Office has adapted country programmes in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Pakistan and Sri Lanka to the changing contexts of crises. Vulnerability assessments have focused on housing, land and property challenges of extremely vulnerable populations, at extreme risk of displacement and in

<sup>2</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/climate-change-strategy-for-the-arab-region-2022-2025>.

acute poverty. The Office has started new programmes focused on basic services, community infrastructure and land rights. There is also a growing climate adaptation initiative supported by the Adaptation Fund to help countries mitigate and adapt to extreme climate events.

21. The Regional Office continues to work in least developed countries and small island developing States and with a large number of middle-income countries with significant demand for supporting national urban and sectoral policies and legislative reform, urban development practices and innovative solutions to achieve sustainable, resilient and carbon-neutral cities.

## **E. Türkiye, Eastern Europe and Central Asia**

22. Since 2020, UN-Habitat has been providing technical support to several countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. Most activities were undertaken by the Programme through its office in Kosovo, liaising with line ministries and local governments on an ad hoc basis, while exploring opportunities for a more robust presence targeting urban priorities. UN-Habitat was able to mainstream housing and sustainable urban development into common country assessments and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in the majority of countries in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and South Caucasus, and thus gradually increase the demand for its expertise in the region.

23. UN-Habitat has finalized a set of country programme documents, outlining its engagement mainly in Azerbaijan, Serbia and Türkiye, alongside discussions on the establishment of country programmes supporting the localization of the New Urban Agenda, in collaboration with United Nations resident coordinators and line ministries, in those three countries. Both Azerbaijan and Türkiye have committed non-earmarked core contributions in addition to soft-earmarked budgetary funding to support joint activities with UN-Habitat. At the same time, several climate-related projects were initiated around the Caspian Sea area with the support of Azerbaijan, Iran and Turkmenistan. A project proposal document is currently being reviewed by the Adaptation Fund for implementation in 2024. It is worth noting that the UN-Habitat Moscow office has supported the translation of key documents related to the localization of the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda into Russian.

24. As UN-Habitat continues to assert its presence in the region, additional technical support and interregional advisory services have been provided direct from UN-Habitat headquarters in Nairobi through the Regional Programme Division. Following the vibrant eleventh session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland, in June 2022, dynamic World Habitat Day celebrations took place in Balıkesir, Türkiye, in October 2022. Prior to that, in April 2022, Serbia held its first national urban forum, while Azerbaijan did the same, in Baku and Ağdam, in October 2022. UN-Habitat also entered into a memorandum of understanding with the Organization of Turkic States to jointly implement the New Urban Agenda and in support of the call to action on sustainable urbanization. This provides an opportunity to offer UN-Habitat services to an underserved region.

25. The United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities recently mobilized resources for a multi-year programme entitled “Just transitions in vulnerable places: digital solutions for climate resilient informal areas” in Namibia and “Climate-smart urban recovery of communities affected by crisis” in Ukraine. At the request of Member States following the Executive Board meeting in March 2022, UN-Habitat carried out a preliminary fact-finding mission to Kiev, Ukraine to gauge the technical support requirements in the country. With donor funding, city profiling work is expected to commence later this year. Based on the same request, UN-Habitat also sent a mission to the earthquake-affected areas in Türkiye to help the needs assessment and identify areas of interventions to accelerate urban recovery (e.g. debris clearing, city profiling and planning as requested).

26. At the regional level, several United Nations Development Account projects are ongoing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, ranging from the development of smart and sustainable city profiles in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan and Montenegro (twelfth tranche – T12); localization of the New Urban Agenda in Kazakhstan (T12); preparation of voluntary local reviews (T14) in Georgia, Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Tajikistan; and nature-based solutions and urban air pollution in Kyrgyzstan, Serbia and Tajikistan (T14). Two additional projects were acquired during the reporting period and are being developed, including the selection of pilot locations, on urban mobility (T15) and affordable housing policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (T16). Moreover, Azerbaijan has been selected for a global national urban policy project and the mobilization of partners has begun.

## II. Regional and country activities by domain of change

### A. Under domain of change 1: reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum

27. In Africa, activities under domain of change 1 included applying participatory planning tools to urban resilience planning in Mozambique; support to four Somali cities to become investment-ready, including the preparation of strategic spatial economic plans; support to urban observatories as the focal points for data gathering and analysis and report preparation in the light of the review of Sustainable Development Goal 11 in July 2023.

28. In the Arab States, priority was given to supporting innovation in water and sanitation management in Egypt through alignment of policy and practice. This included blended financing on a public-private partnership model. More than 5,000 vulnerable inhabitants benefited from sewage treatment, particularly in Tabal village in the Nile Delta and in the communities living around Damietta Canal and Lake Manzala. This new sanitation and water treatment approach is expected to extend sanitation services to remote small communities not included in the national plan for Egypt. It is also improving downstream water quality in the Nile Delta.

29. Through the participatory city-wide urban upgrading initiative in Egypt, UN-Habitat shifted the focus from informal settlements to a city-wide development approach that involved cross-financing mechanisms to localize the Sustainable Development Goals. The initiative was successfully implemented in four cities in Damietta governorate to ensure applicability and possible scaling up. In 2022, after the official launch of the final report and guidelines, the new approach was included in the review of Egyptian Act No. 119 of 2008 and integrated in the preparation and updating of the terms of reference of the strategic plan for Egyptian cities. This new tool is a practical way to implement urban development plans, helping the Government to prioritize budget allocation based on integrated action areas, with alignment with Sustainable Development Goal acceleration at the local level.

30. In Asia and the Pacific, UN-Habitat collaborated with member countries, nationally and locally, on a wide range of issues in support of liveable and inclusive communities recovering in the wake of the COVID-19 pandemic. In Sri Lanka, vulnerable communities engaged through the UN-Habitat People's Process, leading to the completion of 1,615 new houses and creating access to basic services such as water, sanitation and electricity. Housing support in Marawi, in the Philippines, was completed as well. In Nepal, rooftop farming in dense urban neighbourhoods was promoted. In Myanmar, the basic needs of slum communities were supported with water stations and planning for water systems. Waste collection was assisted in Yangon at the community level and a project to stabilize a landfill site was completed. Philippine cities analysed their solid waste generation and leakages using the Waste-Wise Cities Tool, resulting in city plans of action on marine litter with sound baseline information. The Chinese version of the online course entitled "From data to tangible impact: achieving waste Sustainable Development Goals by 2030" was developed and made available for use in China. Waste-Wise Cities support was also provided in India and Pakistan. Plastic waste programmes were implemented in India and the Philippines. Water and wastewater management was supported in Lao People's Democratic Republic and Cambodia. Comprehensive advocacy and policy support was delivered in India, Nepal and Sri Lanka on mainstreaming disability inclusion and accessibility.

31. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat supported eight countries to integrate informal settlements in their national social policy: Belize, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, Nicaragua, and Panama. In Peru, UN-Habitat supported the country to revise its national housing policy and contributed to the promulgation of a new act on Sustainable Urban Development. In Brazil, the Alagoas State Fund for Combating and Eradicating Poverty supported the publication of the guidelines for Alagoas' housing policy for analysis, monitoring and evaluation of project proposals. In Cuba, UN-Habitat provided technical support to help integrate the New Urban Agenda into its legislation on land management.

32. Ensuring women are included in shaping policy, more than 320 women leaders contributed to the women-led safety audits and participatory public spaces inclusive design in the state of Pernambuco, Brazil. Extensive and inclusive participatory processes ensured that the urban social policy of Rio de Janeiro municipality, Brazil, was comprehensive. An estimated 24,000 families living in extreme poverty without access to benefits were identified and included in the social policy programme. Similar work was carried out in four border cities between Brazil (Barracão and Bom Jesus do Sul, Paraná state; Dionísio Cerqueira, Santa Catarina state) and Argentina (Bernardo de Irigoyen, Misiones province), with city-wide public space assessments conducted identifying the main

places with high potential for social cohesion. In Cartagena, Colombia, a land management plan involving four urban integrated operations was successfully initiated.

## **B. Under domain of change 2: enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions**

33. In Africa, UN-Habitat worked with local authorities to increase own-source revenue. Rapid own-source revenue analysis tools were developed, which allowed local governments to self-diagnose their own-source revenue systems in order to increase revenue. This work is ongoing in Somalia, Kenya and Zambia.

34. The Regional Office for Africa has been working with the people-centred smart cities flagship programme to provide strategic and technical support on digital transformation to national, regional and local governments. This helps Member States achieve urban sustainability goals (e.g., improved environment, affordable housing or good urban planning), including the promotion of human rights and overcoming the digital divide. UN-Habitat is exploring a collaboration with the Governments of Botswana and Namibia to co-create smart city solutions.

35. In the Arab States, the municipal empowerment and resilience project in Lebanon contributed to strengthening the long-term resilience of subnational authorities in Lebanon as well as host communities, refugees and displaced persons affected by the Syrian crisis. In 2022, three local economic development assessments for the municipal union of the municipalities of Al-Fayhaa, Matn and Tyre were launched to build robust knowledge of national and local governance systems, urban and territorial constraints and potential and existing economic and market structures, and available human capital.

36. The first National Urban Forum of Lebanon<sup>3</sup> was held and a 2021 report entitled “State of the Lebanese Cities: Governing Sustainable Cities beyond Municipal Boundaries” was developed jointly with the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia. The report featured 10 cities across 19 themes, identifying entry points for moving towards a more sustainable urban realm.<sup>4</sup>

37. Egypt formulated its national urban policy, which is the guiding framework for transforming its urbanization process as a source of wealth by promoting more compact, socially inclusive, better connected and integrated cities and clusters which are resilient to climate change as a basis for sustainable urban development. A methodology for implementing the national urban policy at the local level was developed and tested in two governorates. This helped identify the most efficient and effective use of all available resources based on location and economic and social benefits.

38. In Viet Nam, a joint United Nations programme with strong UN-Habitat collaboration yielded youth-centred city development strategies aiming to make Hanoi a creative capital, and the capacities of national agencies were improved to strengthen national urban legislation processes. In India, integrated planning was supported for the city of Jajpur. In Nepal, an international spatial planning platform conference was held on 2 and 3 February 2023, with the participation of 15 countries of the region, to support the formulation and implementation of more effective spatial plans at all territorial levels. UN-Habitat also concluded a significant programme on heritage revitalization and green growth for the Kathmandu Valley and introduced a new tailored planning tool. In India, sustainable city strategies supported by an adapted integrated planning tool were completed for five pilot cities. In China, UN-Habitat collaborated with news agencies and innovation and digital technology partners to launch the 2022 report on building new urban resilience. UN-Habitat also completed the first phase of its support to cities in ASEAN member States on the challenges of sustainable urbanization. With UN-Habitat technical support, the *ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Report: Sustainable Cities Towards 2025 and Beyond*<sup>5</sup> was released.

39. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat supported Mexico to develop the Atlas for Territorial Industrial Investment<sup>6</sup> and Localization of Sustainable Development Goals in the municipalities of San Nicolás de los Garza and Ciudad Juárez, Quintana Roo state. In the Plurinational State of Bolivia, local urban agendas in 19 cities were delivered as part of the implementation of the national urban policy. Four of the biggest cities of the Plurinational State of Bolivia and two cities in Ecuador submitted voluntary local reports. In Colombia, territorial Sustainable Development

<sup>3</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/first-national-urban-forum-of-lebanon>.

<sup>4</sup> See <https://lebanon.un.org/en/175682-first-national-urban-forum-lebanon-kicks-un-habitat-and-escwa-launch-state-lebanese-cities>.

<sup>5</sup> ASEAN secretariat (Jakarta, 2020).

<sup>6</sup> See [https://publicacionesonuhabitat.org/onuhabitatmexico/Resumen-Atlas\\_ENG.pdf](https://publicacionesonuhabitat.org/onuhabitatmexico/Resumen-Atlas_ENG.pdf).

Goal-oriented regional development plans were produced for Santa Marta. In neighbouring Ecuador, 15 cities adopted the Sustainable Development Goals Cities process in urban planning.

40. Member States continued to request support for capacity-building. 372 local officers from 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean were trained in the implementation of the global agendas through urban planning (Argentina, Bolivia (Plurinational State of), Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, Mexico, Peru, Venezuela (Bolivarian Republic of)). In the Northeast region of Brazil, UN-Habitat provided technical support to train 276 civil servants from 52 municipalities to develop inclusive urban development plans and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals. In the reporting period, the UN-Habitat City Prosperity Index was developed for 102 municipalities of state of Alagoas, Brazil. 987 local officers (54 per cent of whom were women) were trained in Cuba, in 29 municipalities through 20 workshops, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the local level.

41. At least 1,000 local officers took part in training sessions in Mexico on participatory urban planning. At the same time, 244 local officers were trained in five states in southeast Mexico (Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Campeche, Tabasco and Chiapas) and empowered with capacities related to territorial development. Four urban development municipal plans (for Mérida and Valladolid, Yucatán; and Calakmul and Escárcega, Campeche); technical input for two territorial and ecological development plans (for Bacalar and Tulum, Quintana Roo); and technical recommendations in land management for four stations of the Tren Maya railway project (Chetumal, Palenque, Mérida and Chichén Itzá) were produced in Mexico.

### C. Under domain of change 3: strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

42. In Africa, priority was given to climate resilience programmes in sub-Saharan Africa, urban resilience and climate change adaptation, and disaster risk reduction programmes. Through the latter, UN-Habitat has been able to scale up tools and initiatives, such as city resilience action plans and ecosystem-based adaptation, to facilitate city-to-city learning and collaboration, enhance the capacity of secondary cities to access climate finance, build resilience of informal settlements and replicate best practices. The United Nations Development Programme–UN-Habitat Joint Regional Programme On Smart Urban Resilience, targeting three countries, aims to reach 50 million beneficiaries.<sup>7</sup> A programme on inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements in the Sahel is targeting seven countries.<sup>8</sup> The flagship programme Rise Up: Building Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor aims at empowering informal communities in Malawi and Madagascar. The Go Blue programme, developed in collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme and Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani, focuses on the coastal bloc of counties in Kenya. In Mozambique, UN-Habitat is helping to enhance disaster preparedness for effective response, through building back better in recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction.

43. In the Arab States, UN-Habitat has supported Cairo’s first public bicycle sharing system, “Cairo Bike”. The initiative is a signature project added to the mix of solutions to diversify transport options in Cairo. The bike-sharing concept aims to provide a network of publicly available bicycles that can be safely used between stations using an app and with competitive pricing and various subscription packages.<sup>9</sup>

44. UN-Habitat also worked with Member States to build the resilience of vulnerable Jordanian and Syrian refugees, particularly against flash floods in the Al Zohour Green Triangle.<sup>10</sup> Furthermore, UN-Habitat worked to strengthen the capacities of subnational authorities and key actors in the water sector to adapt to climate change in the Tuban Delta, a project launched in Yemen.<sup>11</sup> In Khartoum,

<sup>7</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/09-may-2022/un-habitat-and-undp-partnership-to-build-urban-resilience-in-small-island>.

<sup>8</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/03-nov-2020/durable-solutions-for-internal-displacement-in-the-sahel-zone>.

<sup>9</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/24-oct-2022/cairo-launches-the-first-public-bike-sharing-system>.

<sup>10</sup> See <https://jordan.un.org/en/205406-un-habitat-strengthening-social-stability-and-resilience-vulnerable-population-amman-against>; and <https://unhabitat.org/news/19-jan-2021/strengthening-urban-resilience-in-amman-jordan-to-mitigate-flashfloods-and-protect>.

<sup>11</sup> See <https://www.greenclimate.fund/document/strengthen-capacitiesof-sub-national-authorities-and-key-actors-water-sector-adapt-climate>.

UN-Habitat provided training and support to the most vulnerable to protect against the COVID-19 pandemic and floods in informal settlements.<sup>12</sup>

45. In Asia and the Pacific, in response to the high degree of urban vulnerability in the region, the climate resilience programme is growing. In Cambodia, Fiji, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Malaysia, Mongolia, Myanmar, Pakistan, the Philippines, the Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam, urban climate change adaptation programmes have provided not only technical and policy advisory services but also direct implementation support, with an emphasis on the climate resilience of urban poor communities as well as resilient urban basic services, the introduction of innovative technologies and increased access to climate finance. Urban ecosystems-based approaches which support sustainable livelihoods, food security and climate resilience have been implemented in Bhutan, Cambodia, the Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, the Philippines and the Solomon Islands, increasingly in close collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme. Integrated resource management, including land-based solutions to marine plastic litter, have been implemented in Afghanistan, India, the Philippines and Thailand. Solutions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions at the city, neighbourhood and building level have been supported in China, Pakistan and Viet Nam.

#### **D. Under domain of change 4: effective urban crisis prevention and response**

46. In Africa, efforts have focused on internally displaced persons and urban planning and settlements, including in Somalia through durable solutions at scale and sustainable urban development,<sup>13</sup> and disaster risk reduction and the safer schools initiative in Mozambique.<sup>14</sup>

47. In the Arab States, the focus has been on land rights. In Iraq, housing, land and property rights for Yazidi minorities were included in a new legal framework.<sup>15</sup> In Syria, the focus has been on improving the lives of Palestinian refugees in camps by restoring services and ensuring social safety recovery.<sup>16</sup> UN-Habitat was also involved in support for the reconstruction and rehabilitation of the most vulnerable urban areas in Beirut affected by the port explosion in the city. In the State of Palestine, work has focused on alleviating quarantine effects among the elderly through home garden interventions.<sup>17</sup> In Yemen, the focus has been on adequate housing for the most vulnerable groups.<sup>18</sup>

48. The UN-Habitat Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts programme aims to improve access to reliable services and socioeconomic opportunities for all, including migrants and displaced persons in urban settlements (implemented in Cameroon, Egypt and Jordan).<sup>19</sup> Under the programme in Jordan, two spatial profiles have been launched for Irbid and Amman. Other initiatives include improving the well-being of host and refugee populations through enhanced access to social and basic services in Tripoli, Lebanon<sup>20</sup> and access to adequate and dignified housing in Iraq.<sup>21</sup>

49. The Urban Recovery Framework is a key instrument to enhance responses to urban crises. The aim of the Framework is to create an enabling environment for more effective recovery in urban areas affected by natural or human-caused crises, including conflict. It clarifies the institutional and multilevel governance arrangements, policies and plans, coordination mechanisms and financing instruments needed to drive and steer the implementation of immediate and medium-term urban recovery interventions while laying the foundations for longer-term resilience. In Syria, the Framework has been framed around seven intersecting pillars. In 2022, a policy brief and series of

<sup>12</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/19-apr-2022/un-habitat-project-in-sudan-contributes-to-climate-adaptation-measures>.

<sup>13</sup> See <https://somalia.un.org/en/20602-towards-sustainable-urban-development-somalia-and-idp-durable-solutions-scale>.

<sup>14</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/24-jun-2022/mozambique-launches-decree-to-enforce-school-buildings-be-climate-resilient>.

<sup>15</sup> See <https://iraq.un.org/en/214088-joint-statement-iraq%E2%80%99s-prime-minister-and-un-decision-grant-yazidis-ownership-their-lands>.

<sup>16</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/23-aug-2022/palestinian-refugees-return-to-their-homes-in-refugee-camp-in-syria-after-more>.

<sup>17</sup> See <https://www.facebook.com/unhabitatpalestine/videos/271910637986901/>.

<sup>18</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/30-nov-2022/yemenis-benefit-from-adequate-housing-project>.

<sup>19</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/24-may-2022/un-habitats-unique-tools-help-build-consistency-in-urban-planning-worldwide>.

<sup>20</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/project/improving-the-well-being-of-host-and-refugee-populations-through-enhanced-environmental-and>.

<sup>21</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/news/24-may-2022/returnees-receive-the-keys-to-their-apartments-in-bab-sinjar-housing-complex-under>.

thematic papers were developed through multi-stakeholder initiatives funded by the European Union, with the aim of informing humanitarian and resilience policy dialogue on Syria and beyond.<sup>22</sup>

50. UN-Habitat is remaining in Afghanistan and Myanmar in order to deliver programmes on basic human needs assistance for human settlements recovery support, although the situation in the countries is extremely challenging due to sanctions which limit the capacity of the United Nations to engage with de facto authorities. In Afghanistan, despite the de facto authorities' ban of female staff employment with United Nations bodies, UN-Habitat female staff are still employed and working from home until further notice. In all countries facing crisis and transition, UN-Habitat interventions that support United Nations and humanitarian country teams in connection with housing, land and property rights issues inject cash into the local economy to preserve livelihoods and sustain urban systems to avert further humanitarian disasters and stem migration to neighbouring countries. Cash-for-work programmes through community platforms established by former governments and still respected by the de facto authorities are key to providing essential community infrastructure; livelihood support; maintenance of water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure; and provision of renewable energy to sustain critical services. In Pakistan and Iran, UN-Habitat is assisting the governments in recent post-flooding recovery efforts for affected persons across the country and improving earthquake resilience infrastructure in the health and education sectors.

51. In Latin America and the Caribbean, UN-Habitat provided support to nine cities to develop a human mobility profile and new territorial intervention plans to support integration of refugees and migrants with host communities.<sup>23</sup> Five cities already have an urban inclusion marker to support the migrant integration process in five key areas: housing, employment, health, education and public space.<sup>24</sup> A total of 150 children and young people from 9 communities were involved in designing public spaces as part of the integration of refugees and migrants with host communities. Sixty-seven inter-habitat centres adopting principles for integration between migrants and refugees and host communities were established in Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, the Dominican Republic, Panama, Mexico and Costa Rica.

### III. Conclusion

52. The field architecture of UN-Habitat is still a work in progress. A lack of core funding means that its presence is largely project-based (90 per cent). Efforts have started to secure soft-earmarked funding from Member States to support the representational role of UN-Habitat to incorporate sustainable urbanization and Sustainable Development Goal localization through the resident coordinator system as well as through strong engagement in common country assessments and cooperation frameworks at the country level.

53. At the regional level – despite very limited core resources – UN-Habitat has contributed to the activation of the regional collaborative platforms, in line with United Nations reform at the regional level. All regional offices ensured engagement in the relevant issue-based coalitions to support the resident coordinator and United Nations country teams in areas related to sustainable urbanization as well as in areas related to cross-border issues such as climate change, water management and migration.

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<sup>22</sup> See <https://unhabitat.org/urban-recovery-framework-publication-series>.

<sup>23</sup> The cities are Barranquilla, Cúcuta/Villa del Rosario and Bucaramanga in Colombia; Lima in Peru; Quito and Manta in Ecuador; La Chorrera in Panama; Mancomunidad del Gran Santo Domingo in the Dominican Republic; and Chaguanas in Trinidad and Tobago.

<sup>24</sup> The cities are Barranquilla, Cúcuta/Villa del Rosario and Bucaramanga in Colombia; Lima in Peru; and Quito in Ecuador.