



INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES, THRIVING CITIES

This Programme is UN-Habitat's
Flagship for the reduction of spatial
inequality and poverty in communities



UN-HABITAT

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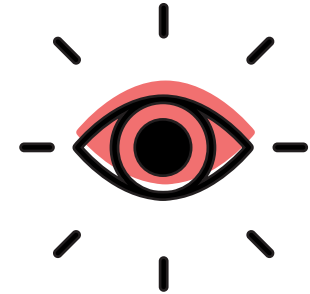
The Challenge

- 1** The world's urban population is set to increase to 68% by 2050. However, cities are not ready to accommodate the increasing need for infrastructure, basic services, housing and job and leisure opportunities.
- 2** In 75% of cities globally, spatial inequality is higher compared to two decades ago. Fragmentation of the urban space frequently manifests itself as segregation and a concentration of poverty and multiple forms of deprivations in certain areas of the city.
- 3** Climate change and environmental hazards amplify inequalities and the vulnerability of a significant share of the world population. Responsible for 75% of the world's CO2 emissions and hosting 68% of the world's population by 2050, cities are essential to promote climate action. Climate action is a key justification for urban health and inclusion, with urban regeneration representing an operational tool for climate action.
- 4** Such unequal distribution of opportunities and the prevalence of hazards is reflected in urban health. Survey data from 220 cities, in 77 countries, suggests that almost 80 per cent of urban residents do not have convenient access to open public spaces, and about 621 million urban residents do not have access to basic sanitation facilities worldwide.
- 5** Conflicts and migration dynamics also increase vulnerable urban populations. In 2015, 60 per cent of the then 14.4 million refugees worldwide and 80 per cent of the world's 38 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) resided in urban areas.

Our Vision

Urban regeneration is a powerful planning tool to promote spatial inclusion and climate action, by improving the social, physical, environmental, and economic conditions of an urban area, and connecting the improvements to the overall city. It has been recognised as one of the most comprehensive and effective processes that governments can adopt to promote more inclusive, resilient, safe, and sustainable cities.

A key to urban regeneration is to preserve, protect and enhance socio-economic assets, natural heritage and tangible and intangible cultural heritage. Building on local assets and strong participation processes, it is able to strengthen the sense of identity, contribute to community 'self-sustaining' regeneration, promote inclusion beyond the intervention area, and enrich urbandiversity overall.



The Flagship Programme

The 'Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities' Flagship Programme is a convening initiative for multistakeholder collaboration, technical assistance and financial resource mobilisation to promote inclusive and sustainable urban regeneration and to transform cities, neighbourhoods and communities into more inclusive, vibrant and resilient places to live.

This Flagship Programme focuses on urban regeneration to address the challenges of spatial inequality and

a changing climate and to promote social value creation, environmental resilience and shared economic prosperity.

UN-Habitat's comprehensive approach to urban regeneration builds a strong spatial foundation and human rights-based and inclusive processes, placing people at the centre with strong policies to avoid, mitigate and manage risks associated with urban regeneration.

Goals and Outcomes

The main goal of the Flagship Programme is to promote social and environmental value creation globally by supporting governments and urban actors to build more inclusive and climate resilient cities, neighbourhoods and communities through urban regeneration.

To achieve this goal, UN-Habitat works towards three main outcomes:



1. Producing data and knowledge

such as guidelines, data platform, monitoring tools and consolidating best practices on spatial inclusion and climate action in cities.



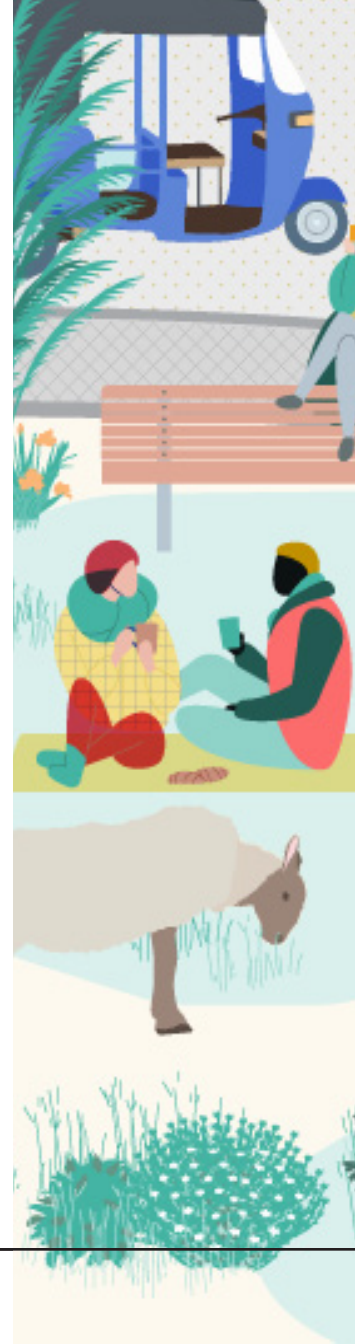
2. Fostering collaboration and learning

through a global network of experts and practitioners (researchers, governments, private sectors, community organisations), events and capacity development activities for inclusive and climate resilient urban regeneration.



3. Implementing solutions

fostering urban regeneration processes, providing technical advice, and developing plans.





Engage With Us

Share Your Experience and Co-Develop Outputs With Us

If you represent a government or public institution, private sector, community or research group, university, or any other interested urban actor.

Reinforce your global presence by sharing experiences, co-developing knowledge products or fostering high-level discussions in your cities targeting local issues.



Join forces with us: If our goals align, you can exchange knowledge with the Flagship Programme and co-develop products and projects with us. Let's generate better value together.



Lead the way: Share your best practices and lessons learnt from projects and initiatives. Contribute to a UN-Habitat's publication on best practices for spatial inclusion and urban regeneration.



Host an Expert Group Meeting (EGM): experts from different sectors in the world will discuss key local challenges for a few days and recommend possible solutions.

Receive Customised Technical Support to Implement Solutions

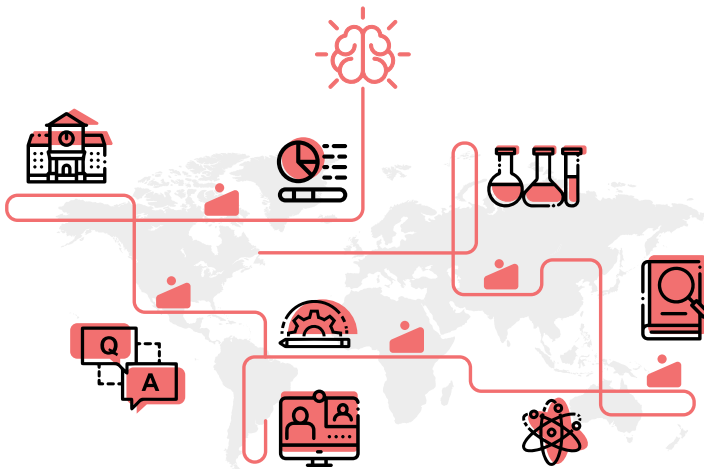
If you represent a local or regional government, development agency, or another interested urban stakeholder.

The Flagship brings together whole-agency expertise to support governments, private sector and community organisations to foster inclusive, sustainable urban regeneration processes. While each project is unique and entails specific outputs, the Flagship can support creating and measuring impact, and mobilising relevant stakeholders as detailed below.



Impact Creating

- Integrated Urban Regeneration Plans
- Socio-economic Assessment for the city
- Pilot projects and tactic urbanism
- Environmental Social Governance Framework, aligned with the SDGs, for companies working with urban regeneration
- Community-led urban regeneration guidelines
- Local legal and governance framework
- Review and plan for community-led processes
- Capacity development activities and technical advisory



Be part of Our Network

The Flagship Programme 'Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities' is expanding as urban regeneration represents a priority worldwide for the localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals and to achieve concrete impact within communities. Our approach is rooted in robust collaboration and the exchange of expertise from a variety of actors across sectors. Our goal is to achieve cooperation, knowledge-sharing and local impact, as well as to advance the agenda of inclusive and sustainable urban regeneration.

To ensure the Network's continued relevance and impact UN-Habitat collaborates with innovative, experienced, and motivated professionals to collaborate with us. We believe that this vibrant mix of people, ideas, and resources will help us in our mission of promoting inclusive and sustainable urban regeneration.

Join us in shaping a future of inclusive and sustainable Urban Regeneration, nurturing a Network that thrives on collaboration, learning, and a shared commitment to making our cities better places for everyone.

Impact Measuring

- Local Spatial Inclusion Assessment Tool
- Situation Report on Spatial Inclusion for the city
- Monitoring Framework to evaluate social and environmental value creation of projects
- Project Performance Analysis Report
- Capacity development activities and technical advisory

Cases Index

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EQUITY PARK

“Develop a master plan for urban regeneration, with land-value capture mechanisms, and conceptual public space design”

 Cancun, Mexico

GROTA DO CIGANO Linear Park

“Co-create and implement the community vision for a public space, strengthening community engagement and ownership.”

 Maceió, Brazil

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THE NAIROBI RIVERS BASIN

Regeneration Programme

“Enhance Nairobi Rivers Basin related infrastructure in an integrated way to promote safe, inclusive and healthy environment and unlock the local socio economic potential”



Nairobi, Kenya

SHUANGJING SUBDISTRICT

Innovation for Sustainable Development

“Create an inclusive governance system to foster multi-sectoral collaboration and citizens active engagement”



Beijing, China

A WALK IN HISTORY

“Promote inclusive urban regeneration of the historical area of Vushtrri through a network of public spaces, and cultural and economic activities.”



Vushtrri, Kosovo

EQUITY PARK

UN-Habitat Mexico Office

Project Background

In recent years, due to the increase in the tourism and hotel industry, Cancun has experienced an accelerated urbanisation that has propagating deep spatial and social inequalities. The Equity Park was proposed to create a safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and high-quality public space that integrates the city in spatial, social, economic, and environmental dimensions.

Promoted by the government of the state of Quintana Roo through the Strategic Projects Agency (AGEPRO), Equity Park is part of Cancun's comprehensive urban plan that seeks to place public space as the central element for the sustainable development of the city. Public participation is a key component of the project and was facilitated in collaboration with UN-Habitat, in line with UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme 'Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities'.

The project will be carried out along three main avenues of the city and in total will regenerate more than 16 linear kilometres with an extension of 62 hectares, improving the conditions of infrastructure, services, and facilities for more than 200,000 people.





Participatory activities with local communities

Urban Regeneration Impact

“Develop an Urban Regeneration Masterplan outlining the conceptual public space design and land-value capture mechanisms.”

Equity Park was designed and implemented in line with Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 and has been recognised as an SDG Good Practices project. It was conceived through a highly engaging participatory planning process that integrated stakeholders from a wide range of social sectors, with a particular emphasis on local inhabitants.

The participatory actions included targeted activities for specific groups such as students, women, families and neighbours through itinerant modules, collective events, and social media with the help of Fundación Hogares as a partner. UN-Habitat also carried out several virtual approaches such as online workshops with diverse local stakeholders.

The park is aimed to become a common space for cultural exchange and growth in the community, as well as access to a new green space at a time when the COVID-19 pandemic highlighted the vital importance of parks to healthy urban environments.

Those involved in the project shared the hope that Equity Park will become a symbol for the city at large and the backbone of its green and social regeneration process, in alignment with the goals and objectives of the 2030 Agenda and the principles of the New Urban Agenda.

GROTA DO CIGANO LINEAR PARK

*UN-Habitat Office for Latin America and the Caribbean -
Brazil and Southern Cone*

Project Background

Grota do Cigano is one of the largest precarious settlements in Maceió, the capital city of Alagoas State and presents one of the lowest Human Development Indexes in Brazil. Situated between areas with good infrastructure and low-income areas with precarious sanitation and housing conditions, the settlement, locally known as 'grotas', demonstrates well the spatial and social inequality of the city.

The UN-Habitat Alagoas team and the State government facilitated a co-creation workshop based on the Block by Block methodology to catalyse the inclusive regeneration process. Through participatory activities, the local residents proposed a design of the space which reflects the community's vision but is also feasible to be implemented by the Alagoas government in a short timeframe and within the available budget. The activity involved 30 young people and children who worked collaboratively to incorporate their needs and wishes in the design.

As a result, the linear public park, now implemented, features inclusive, communal spaces and several options for leisure and physical activities practice. These include a playground, board games area, multi-sports courts, outdoor gym, walking track, bicycle parking facilities and a daycare center, capable of serving more than 10 thousand people.

 Maceió, Brazil

 2018

 Neighbourhood Scale





Grota do Cigano Linear Park during a collective activity

Urban Regeneration Impact

“Co-create and implement the community vision for a public space, strengthening community engagement and ownership”

Through the collaborative efforts of UN-Habitat, the Government of Alagoas, and the active participation of the community, Grota do Cigano Linear Park has become a vibrant and inclusive public space that meets the aspirations and needs of its residents. Completed in 2021, based on the results of the public space design workshop, Grota do Cigano Linear Park is currently the largest and main public space of the 100 ‘grotas’ of Maceió. The appropriation of the park by the residents – with more small businesses and use of the space throughout the day – has changed the local dynamics and increased perception of safety.

These results contributed to the territorial integration of the ‘grotas’ reducing social inequalities. The participatory process for the construction of the park strengthened the bonds of care, maintenance and belonging of the community and its surroundings and helped mitigate negative effects of gentrification. Promoting inclusion in the community, the project shows the opportunities of urban regeneration presented for the City of Maceió to thrive socially, economically, and environmentally.

THE NAIROBI RIVERS BASIN REGENERATION PROGRAMME

UN-Habitat HQ, Nairobi

Project Background

The city of Nairobi enjoys the strategic geographic advantages of the three main rivers running through its territory – the Ngong, Mathare and Nairobi River. However, the rivers are heavily polluted, posing extreme health risks to humans and non-humans. Each day, approximately 3,000 metric tons of waste is generated, yet the city manages to collect only 2,800 metric tons. The majority of the uncollected waste finds its way into the rivers, exacerbating the problem. Pollution from the informal settlements in the city is in form of open sewers and human waste direct disposal into the rivers due to lack of proper sanitation facilities. The resulting effect of this pollution goes beyond the city, affecting residents further downstream as the river drains its water in the Indian Ocean. Encroachment of informal and formal developments on the riparian areas, increases vulnerability of the communities to environmental risks and hazards such as flooding, resulting in loss of lives and destruction of property.

The Programme, spearheaded by the Nairobi Rivers Commission, therefore seeks to regenerate, restore and enhance the Nairobi Rivers Basin and related infrastructure, to enhance the quality of life in the city and other affected areas.

 Nairobi, Kenya

 2023 - 2050

 Region Scale





Participants during a Nairobi River Regeneration Workshop

Urban Regeneration Impact

“Enhance Nairobi Rivers Basin related infrastructure in an integrated way to promote safe, inclusive and healthy environment and unlock the local socio economic potential”

The Nairobi Rivers Basin Regeneration Programme leverages existing local knowledge, expertise and related initiatives amongst stakeholders in various sectors and communities along the rivers. Through its 9 goals, the programme applies urban regeneration as an engine for socio-economic, and environmental transformation in the city: Habitat restoration and biodiversity, Sustainable water resource management, Waste management, Food and agriculture, Place and community, Economic transformation, Climate resilience, Health and wellbeing, and Community engagement.

The programme is promoting open participation of different players, to allow effective partnership that builds consensus to address challenges and community needs, not only for enhanced social cohesion, but also to ensure inclusion of all key groups in the urban regeneration process.

Through this approach, the programme seeks to achieve a more sustainable and resilient river system that can better adapt to changing environmental conditions and enhance the quality of life through increased access to basic services, creation of livelihood opportunities, increased opportunities for active mobility, better connectivity between settlements along the river, and enhanced access to green public spaces. In the long run, this is expected to contribute to local economic development, better urban health, enhanced environmental wellbeing and climate resilience.

SHUANGJING SUBDISTRICT INNOVATION FOR SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

UN-Habitat Office China

Project Background

Shuangjing Sub-district is located between the East 2nd and East 4th Ring Roads in Chaoyang District, Beijing, adjacent to one of Beijing's business centres in the north. It covers 5.08 sq.m. with a population of 96,000 inhabitants. In recent years, with its distinctive geographical location and population base, Shuangjing has become one of the most rapidly developing areas in the district.

Shuangjing has a complex urban structure and is a typical model of unequal development and population distribution. The unbalanced distribution of resources and services make Shuangjing a potential site for innovation and grassroots governance activities and structures. Through an urban regeneration initiative focusing on inclusive governance, the private sector and social actors participated in activities to improve social welfare based on the principles of government-led and public-private partnership. The initiative 'Shuangjing No.13 Virtual Community' reflects the public interest for Shuangjing, creating a platform to promote the development of inclusive and sustainable communities.

 Beijing, China

 2020 -2021

 Neighbourhood Scale





*Shuangjing Practice Project-
Participatory Design Workshop
for Jingdian No.1 Renovation of
Shuangjing Subdistrict*

Urban Regeneration Impact

“Create an inclusive governance system to foster multi-sectoral collaboration and citizens active engagement”

As part of the initiative, UN-Habitat and its local partners, China Centre for Urban Development (CCUD), and Shuangjing Subdistrict Government, have jointly conducted the Sustainable Development Pilot Communities Assessment. The assessment criteria integrated SDG 11 targets with community indicators to develop a scientific framework for the pilot. CCUD then proposed interventions in various dimensions, with the impact scaled to different parts of the city – improvement of mobility and public services; strengthened participatory planning and governance; renovation of public spaces and enhanced cultural vitality; increased climate resilience and urban safety; and decreased air pollution. Additionally, Shuangjing has optimised the distribution of basic service facilities and provided high-quality green and convenient public services, supporting compact and mixed-use development.

The initiative has also contributed to the ‘15-minute community Life Circle’, with education, medical, commercial, elderly care, and leisure facilities accessible for all residents, especially for vulnerable groups such as women, children, the old and people with disability. Shuangjing proposes the concept of joint-contribution, co-governance, and shared benefits.

A WALK IN HISTORY⁽¹⁾



UN-Habitat Kosovo through the Inclusive Development Programme financed by the Government of Sweden

Project Background

The Municipality of Vushtrri developed an integrated project to address the deficient access and use of public spaces and the need to protect the area's rich cultural heritage. The project was supported by a detailed urban analysis and developed in alignment with various municipal strategic priorities, including the objectives of the Municipal Development Plan, draft Conservation Plan, Municipal Zoning Map, and the 2030 Agenda.

Promoted by the municipality in collaboration with UN-Habitat, the activities followed a participatory process, involving citizens and various stakeholders through online surveys in response to the Covid-19 pandemic. The project 'A walk in history' consisted of a comprehensive solution that went beyond a typical capital investment project. Through infrastructure upgrades and the transformation of city centre streets into shared spaces, the area became more socially and culturally vibrant, attracting visitors and services. As part of this inclusive urban regeneration initiative, the project also sought to revive and preserve the town's collective memory by restoring lost ancient and medieval settlements, thus serving as a model for regenerating other historic areas.

(1) All references to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of United Nations Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).

 Vushtrri, Kosovo  2020-2021  Neighbourhood Scale





Site post
implementation

Urban Regeneration Impact

“Promote inclusive urban regeneration of the historical area of Vushtrri through a network of public spaces, and cultural and economic activities.”

Institutionally, the project promoted positive social and environmental impacts, while also considering risk-adjustment and market rate. The municipality strengthened its capacity to protect cultural heritage, and to maintain public spaces. The initiative has become an example for future capital investment projects thanks to data-driven decision-making, transparency, and management and maintenance plan, allocating financial resources regularly and promoting job creation.

Socially, it has improved the quality of life and social inclusion, addressing gender equality, public health, safety, and fostering a sense of community ownership thanks to the participatory processes. By renovating the existing green market and creating employment opportunities, it has also brought about cultural changes and increased the attractiveness of the area for tourists. Environmentally, the project has contributed to a more ecologically sustainable environment. Raising awareness of environmental issues, it has led to reduced motorised vehicle use and prioritisation of walking and cycling modes of transport, thus improving air quality, urban heat island effects, and the overall microclimate.

Economically, the project promoted the restoration of the city's identity through façade design and shopfront adaptation attracting more commercial and tourist activities. Providing additional space for socialising and community gathering, it enhanced the overall value of the area. This has generated new job opportunities and improved the financial sustainability of businesses.

Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities
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