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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

FULL CYCLE REPORT

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IMPLEMENTATION OF THE STRATEGIC PLAN 2014-2019

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Contents

The Beit Lahia site was transformed into a colorful and inclusive community garden. ©UNHabitat

Message from the Executive Director

I am pleased to present the full cycle implementation report of UN-Habitat's strategic plan 2014–2019 which not only reflected the Organization's approach to sustainable urban development but was also aligned with the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The six-year implementation period focused on supporting member states to advance sustainable urban development while leaving no one and no place behind.

This report highlights results achieved over the six-year strategic plan period and analyses progress made in the seven programmatic areas addressed by the strategic plan. Seventy percent of indicator targets were reached, thanks to financial support from our donors who provided earmarked funding for programme level implementation. However, this funding was inconsistent across all subprogrammes over the six years. In addition, significant shortfalls in core funding for normative work constrained overall programme delivery in key areas.

Despite these constraints, UN-Habitat achieved important results and impacts through its transformative normative tools, technical advice and programmatic work. The report highlights the contribution of UN-Habitat's normative tools and knowledge products in setting important norms and standards that have strengthened the capacity of member states to make progress towards sustainable urbanization.

Through its programmatic work, UN-Habitat's technical support to local and national governments led to improved living conditions for urban dwellers. Using inclusive national urban policies, housing policies and supporting normative tools, cities are being planned and designed in more inclusive, compact, integrated and safer ways. Integrated and inclusive urban assessment and profiling tools have improved humanitarian and post-conflict recovery planning in several countries. By applying UN-Habitat's resilience profiling and action planning tools, partner cities in Africa, Asia and the Pacific regions have become more climate resilient.

Over the past six years, more than 5 million people have benefitted from participatory slum upgrading approaches resulting in improved policy formulation and service delivery in slums and informal settlements, while the integrated, build-back better approach has delivered more durable resettlement solutions for internally displaced persons and refugees. The Global Land Tools Network, which uses inclusive and gender sensitive land tools and approaches to enhance tenure security through the continuum of land rights, has improved security of tenure for over 300,000 households in 13 countries. More than 1.82 million people in 75 cities are enjoying safer access to 104 redesigned and upgraded public spaces, and another 2 million people have benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions in sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis or protracted conflict environments.

We also achieved important institutional milestones. The adoption of a new governance architecture in December 2018, after 14 years, was a significant achievement in strengthening oversight, increasing visibility of the sustainable urbanization agenda, and supporting implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The new governance structure adopted by the General Assembly comprises of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board, and the Committee of Permanent Representatives.

In February 2018, UN-Habitat embarked on a bold and ambitious internal change process to transform the organization into a fit-for-purpose Agency in line with United Nations System−wide reforms.

I would like to thank member states, donors and partners who supported and worked with UN-Habitat during this six-year strategic plan period. UN-Habitat focuses on delivering outcomes that contribute to implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for achievement of the SDGs. In this respect, and given that achieving the Sustainable Development Goals is intrinsically linked to the future of cities, UN-Habitat aims to strengthen the impact of its work further with its strategic plan 2020−2023.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Executive Summary

Introduction

This is the final report on the full six-year cycle of the 2014–2019 strategic plan implemented through UN-Habitat's work programme and budgets. It has been prepared in accordance with Executive Board Decision 2019/1 para 2, requiring that the final report on the full cycle of the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019 be considered at its second session in 2020.

This report presents progress made towards achieving planned results as measured against indicator targets for the six-year period. Overall assessment of performance in implementation of the strategic plan shows that UN-Habitat made steady progress, with more than 70 per cent of the indicator targets set for the end of the six-year strategic plan having been achieved or surpassed by the end of 2019. The report outlines normative and operational results realized by UN-Habitat and its partners at local, national, regional and global levels. Key institutional milestones with a direct impact on implementation of the strategic plan have been presented.

The report comprises three sections.

- **Section I** presents the Executive Summary.

- **Section II** presents progress made and results achieved in each of the seven subprogrammes.

- **Section III** presents regional highlights.

Institutional Highlights

In its resolution 23/11, the Governing Council of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) at its twenty-third session, in April 2011, requested the Executive Director to develop, in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives, a strategic plan for the period 2014–2019, including a road map for the preparatory process, taking into account recommendations of the peer review and other reviews of the medium-term strategic and institutional plan for the period 2008–2013, for presentation to and approval by the Governing Council at its twenty-fourth session in early 2013. In April 2013, in its resolution 24/15, the Council approved the strategic plan for the period 2014–2019.

Implementation of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019

The six-year strategic plan 2014–2019 was implemented through three consecutive biennial work programmes and budgets. The Plan was designed to better position UN-Habitat within the United Nations system as the focal point in sustainable urban development within the context of Habitat III. The strategic plan was revised in 2016 following the midterm evaluation of its implementation and adoption of the *New Urban Agenda* by the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). The revised strategic plan adopted a more integrated approach to addressing the challenges and leveraging opportunities of 21st century cities and human settlements. The revision also considered, within the mandate of UN-Habitat, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals, the Addis Ababa Action Agenda of the Third International Conference on Financing for Development, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030, the Paris Agreement on climate change and the New York Declaration for Refugees and Migrants.

The strategic plan was implemented through seven subprogrammes and four cross cutting themes. The seven subprogrammes were aligned to seven corresponding Branches collaborating closely with four UN-Habitat Regional Offices and the UN-Habitat Country Teams. Progress on implementation of the strategic plan was reported annually and an external mid-term review undertaken in 2016.

The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III)

In line with General Assembly resolution 66/207 and the bi-decennial cycle (1976, 1996, and 2016), the United Nations General Assembly convened the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) to reinvigorate global commitment to sustainable urban development. The Habitat III Conference took place in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, culminating in the adoption of the New Urban Agenda.

The New Urban Agenda

The New Urban Agenda, adopted at Habitat III, was endorsed by the United Nations General Assembly at its sixty-eighth plenary meeting of the seventy-first session in December 2016. The New Urban Agenda is an action-oriented document that mobilizes member states and other key stakeholders to drive sustainable urban development at the local level. The document reaffirmed *"the role and expertise of UN-Habitat…within its mandate as a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements in collaboration with other United Nations system entities …"*. It also recognized the linkages between sustainable urbanization, sustainable development, disaster risk reduction and climate change. With seventy per cent of the world population forecasted to live in cities by 2050, the New Urban Agenda offers a concrete pathway to implementation of the SDGs through drivers of change in planning, design, management, governance and financing mechanisms for cities.

Leadership Transition

The six-year strategic plan 2014–2019 was implemented under two leadership teams. Executive Director Mr. Joan Clos and Deputy Executive Director Ms. Aisa Kacyira led the process from 2014-2017 with the new leadership team of Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif and Deputy Executive Director, Mr. Victor Kisob taking over in January and October 2018 respectively.

UN-Habitat Reforms

In 2018, UN-Habitat launched a reform process underpinned by four pillars aimed at transforming the governance, strategic and substantive focus of the Organization. These were: a) a new governance architecture; b) an internal change process; c) a new strategic plan for the period 2020-2023; and d) an organizational restructuring.

Strengthened Governance Architecture

In December 2018, the General Assembly adopted **Resolution 73/239**, which established a new governance structure for UN-Habitat. The new governance structure comprises of a universal UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The Governing Council of UN-Habitat was dissolved.

The UN-Habitat Assembly is a universal body composed of the 193 member states of the United Nations and convenes every four years. The first UN-Habitat Assembly was successfully convened in May 2019. One of the key outcomes from the first UN-Habitat Assembly was the approval of the new UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 along with five programmatic resolutions, one decision and one ministerial declaration.

The Executive Board is composed of 36 member states, representing all the regional groups. The Board exercises oversight and monitoring roles. The First meeting of the UN-Habitat's Executive Board was held in November 2019. The two-day meeting discussed UN-Habitat's annual work programme and budget, the annual report on implementation of the strategic plan, financial, budgetary and administrative matters, implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly and implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat.

Internal Change Process

The internal change process was initiated in February 2018 to transform UN-Habitat into a trusted, transparent, and accountable programme that operates collaboratively and whose expertise is relevant, valued, and in demand.

The internal change process, which also aligned the Organization with the Secretary-General's reform agenda, was implemented along 7 main streams of work, notably:

- *Vision*: to foster a values-driven way of working together to achieve shared vision and purpose;

- *Impact:* to deliver impact at scale in all that UN-Habitat does to change lives for the better;

- *Funding:* to regain trust and confidence of funders and partners to deliver mandates;

- *Collaboration:* to collaborate effectively within the UN system and externally to achieve more together;

- *Team:* to create a safe and productive workplace where talent thrives;

- *Processes:* to get systems and processes right for maximum efficiency; and

- *Leadership:* to engage and empower staff to collectively drive change.

Strategic Plan 2020-2023

The four-year strategic plan 2020-2023 was adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session in May 2019 and will be implemented through four consecutive annual work programmes and budgets. The new strategic plan contributes directly to the implementation and monitoring of urban related SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. It is designed to better position UN-Habitat as the centre of excellence on sustainable urban development and human settlements. It has four interconnected and mutually reinforcing domains of change, namely: (a) Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the rural-urban continuum; (b) Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions; (c) Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment; and, (d) Effective urban crisis prevention and response.

Organizational restructuring

To achieve greater impact in the implementation of the strategic plan 2020-2023, UN-Habitat has established a new organizational structure. The new structure, whose roll out started in December 2019, is designed to improve the organization's efficiency and to ensure it is fit-for-purpose.

Subprogramme Highlights

Subprogramme 1: Urban Legislation, Land and Governance

28 new urban legal reform processes completed, improving alignment of legal frameworks of national and local authorities for implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

1,800 urban legislation instruments are now stored in UN-Habitat's global urban legislation database, *UrbanLex*. The database, provides over 24,000 stakeholders with access to urban laws for learning and comparative analysis.

13 countries implemented land policy reforms utilizing the **continuum of land rights** and **fit-for-purpose land administration** methodologies.

More than **300,000** households or **1.2 million** people received formal tenure documents improving their security of tenure and resolving conflicts related to land and property.

77 local authorities implemented effective urban safety programmes incorporating crime prevention strategies that improve urban safety.

Subprogramme 2: Urban Planning and Design

53 countries were at different stages of national urban policy improvement processes, promoting inclusive and participatory approaches to sustainable urbanization.

International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning approved by UN-Habitat's Governing Council in 2015 strengthened planning in 19 metropolitan and subnational authorities.

Guiding Principles and Framework for Action on **Urban-Rural Linkages** adopted in 2019 by the UN-Habitat Assembly strengthened integrated planning and development across the urban-rural nexus.

Over **100 cities** are now using inclusive, integrated and compact planning and design approaches to urban development. **80 cities adopted the plans and designs** whose implementation guides public expenditure, private investment and sustainable policy decision-making.

More than **1.82 million people** enjoy safe access to more than **104 public spaces** designed and upgraded through UN-Habitat's global public space programme operating in 75 cities.

10,000 cities joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy**,** making it the world's largest network of cities committed to climate action.

31 cities now have developed stronger climate change adaptation capacity through approved climate action plans and policies.

Subprogramme 3: Urban Economy and Municipal Finance

30 partner cities prepared local economic development plans based on detailed local economic assessments and were at different stages of implementation.

61 cities adopted urban youth policies or programmes promoting youth-inclusive cities for to improved employment and sustainable livelihoods.

Livelihoods for 69,253 urban youth were improved through entrepreneurial and technical skills training and start-up grants.

40 partner cities implemented strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

Municipal revenue generation improved by over **90 per cent** in **Afghanistan** and up to **300 per cent** in **Somalia** through policy enhancements and provision of technical support.

Subprogramme 4: Urban Basic Services

More than **3.7 million people** benefited from improved access to water and sanitation through UN-Habitat interventions to promote equitable access to basic services.

187 water operators' partnerships improved water service delivery, through strengthened capacity under the global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, benefitting 39 million people.

149 local governments improved their policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services.

USD 42.3 million worth of investments catalysed for expanding access to urban basic services through UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries.

More than **100 cities** joined the global **Waste Wise Cities Campaign,** in response to UN-Habitat's advocacy efforts for urgent action on solid waste management.

Subprogramme 5: Housing and Slum Upgrading

43 countries formulated and implemented improved housing policies based on technical advice from UN-Habitat.

30 countries prevented forced evictions through support from UN-Habitat in partnership with United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

35 citywide, national and regional strategies for slum upgrading have been developed through UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

56 countries have benefitted from UN-Habitat's inclusive and multi-sectoral slum upgrading approach to formulate, independently, human-rights based, gender and climate sensitive strategies.

516,000 people, including **267,000 women,** benefitted from UN-Habitat's participatory slum upgrading interventions.

Subprogramme 6: Risk reduction, Rehabilitation and Urban resilience

More than **2 million people** benefitted from sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis situations and protracted conflict environments through UN-Habitat's interventions.

56 cities in 28 countries used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change.

30 cities across 12 countries in Africa have strengthened their resilience to natural and human-made hazards through assessment and development of strategies and action plans using the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool*.

More than **4,500 cities** joined the global *Making Cities Resilient Campaign,* contributing to the achievement of urban elements and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Subprogramme 7: Urban Research and Capacity Development

540 cities in 12 countries implemented the City Prosperity Initiative enabling them to undertake diagnostics, create baselines, propose targets, produce actions plans and make evidence-based policy decisions.

355 urban observatories used UN-Habitat tools and methods to monitor urban trends and conditions at national and local authority levels.

73 national statistical offices produced urban data that support reporting on Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda using UN-Habitat tools.

230 institutional partners and **over 1,800 individual members** globally joined UN-Habitat's **University Initiative** promoting knowledge exchange and collaboration with cities to solve problems of unsustainable urbanization.

Challenges and Lessons Learned

Challenges

Inadequate core funding and overall resources

A major challenge throughout the strategic plan period was inadequate and unpredictable funding, especially core funding for staffing and normative work. Thematic areas most affected included urban economy and municipal finance, renewable energy, research and capacity development, urban governance and urban safety. In 2018, governance and institutional reforms to transform UN-Habitat commenced, drawing positive feedback from member states and other stakeholders. The Executive Director undertook strategic funding dialogues with member states, but the increase in core resources still left a significant shortfall in funding required to implement the approved programme of work.

In addition, the limited nature of non-earmarked funds undermined the capacity to allocate flexible funding for the organization's essential core normative work which underpins the ability to provide transformative support to member states. It also made planning of each annual work plan over the strategic plan period difficult, resulting in uneven implementation of the plan across the seven subprogrammes. While some strategic areas aligned with donor interests received funding, others remained inadequately funded.

Earmarking contributions to specific programmes also had a negative effect on the capacity to undertake multi-disciplinary in-house collaboration and broader liaison with key United Nations Sister Agencies under the 'one United Nations' approach. To address this challenge, global thematic programmes that deliver high impact at scale rather than small earmarked projects are being implemented under UN-Habitat's new strategic plan for 2020-2023, in line with the United Nations Funding Compact.

Other areas impacted by inadequate core funding included UN-Habitat's engagement on key platforms such as the Inter-Agency Standing Committee, to advance sustainable urbanization approaches in crisis response situations. Support for monitoring of the urban dimensions of the sustainable development agenda was also affected significantly. More adequate funding would have enabled UN-Habitat to provide crucial training in the effective collection, analysis and sharing of data to monitor the urban dimensions of the SDGs, notably SDG 11, to more national statistics offices and other stakeholders.

Finally, UN-Habitat's capacity to deliver critical knowledge on global trends in sustainable urban development, a niche widely associated with the UN-Habitat brand was compromised. The organisation's capacity to innovate, conduct state-of-the-art research, develop norms and standards, and publish regular reports in a timely manner in all the main United Nations languages was severely hampered. The last edition of the World's Cities Report was published in May 2016, in English only. The gap in delivery of critical publications and other normative products, coupled with language limitations, resulted in a major policy vacuum.

Fostering multisector partnerships for integrated, at scale sustainable urbanization

Successful up-scaling of programmes requires strong partnerships and quality coordination. The capacity of UN-Habitat to effectively manage and build key partnerships, particularly in the private sector, suffered from a lack of resources resulting in inadequate robust and regular normative and knowledge products necessary to strengthen and position the organisation strategically to potential partners in the private sector. The integrated and inclusive outcomes required for sustainable urbanization at country and global levels were not achievable owing to inadequate dedication of staff time and specialised expertise to build multi-sector partnerships and strengthen coordination. With adequate funding, the support provided to member states through local authorities and their urban networks could have been expanded significantly.

Lessons Learnt

Sustainable urbanization is more likely to be achieved when inclusion and partnerships, especially over the long term, lie at the heart of all approaches and activities. UN-Habitat global programmes such as the Global Land Tool Network, the National Urban Policy programme, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, the Global Urban Observatory and the Global Public Space Programme, demonstrated that normative and operational work could deliver greater impact through multi-stakeholder collaboration in the development of tools, testing, and project implementation. Learning processes and the capacity to improve were also enhanced when new ideas were integrated through inclusive cross-sectoral collaboration.

UN-Habitat and its partners could deliver robust results by transferring knowledge and practices from development approaches to enhance emergency response and support sustainable recovery, and vice versa. For example, early integration of spatial planning into recovery efforts in post-conflict areas has the potential to increase coverage and impact of interventions.

Regional initiatives in climate change, land, national urban policy and public space made significant contributions towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11. They created issue-based coalitions for collective action and platforms for raising awareness and building knowledge at scale. These platforms were also useful for global advocacy on key urbanization issues at the regional level, and for strengthening the use of UN-Habitat's normative tools at local level. Knowledge sharing at the regional level fostered affiliation at the level needed to build the confidence necessary to adopt the sustainable urbanization approaches promoted by UN-Habitat in the strategic plan 2014–2019.

Initiatives undertaken at the Country level demonstrated the importance of long-term partnerships with national and local government authorities and other key stakeholders at the community level for effective adoption of sustainable urban development approaches and tools. Capacity building and the implementation of pilot projects emerged as important components of this process, allowing for testing, adaptation, and adoption of normative tools to ensure they were fit for purpose and could catalyse the desired transformation.

Partnerships with local authorities and their networks at all stages of these interventions strengthened local capacity to apply appropriate normative tools and approaches and encouraged local ownership and sustainability of outcomes. Interventions in urban safety, urban resilience, sustainable recovery and reconstruction in post conflict and post disaster situations as well as land and tenure security were successful when implemented in collaboration with multiple stakeholders, driven by local authorities and communities, and integrated into multi-level governance systems.

PLAN PARCIAL DE REDESARROLLO DE SEVILLA

01

Urban Legislation, Land and Governance

Objective of the subprogramme

To foster equitable sustainable urban development through the formulation and adoption of enabling legislation, increased access to land and the strengthening of systems of decentralized governance for improved safety and service delivery.

I. Introduction

Many developing countries lack effective and gender-sensitive urban land development, governance and management mechanisms, urban legislative frameworks, and governance institutions and systems. Without these, there can be no effective urban planning, thus limiting economic growth and development. In addition, urban legislation in many countries does not effectively support the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities. Moreover, in many developed and developing countries, existing urban governance models are inappropriate for urban centres that have grown beyond their boundaries and coalesced into large metropolitan regions.

During the strategic planning period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat's work under subprogramme 1 promoted equitable sustainable development through enabling legislation, increased access to land, and provision of stronger systems of decentralized governance for improved safety and service delivery. Through these responses, UN-Habitat's work has contributed towards the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 7, 9, 11, 16 and 17.

Members of community receive certificate of customary ownership © UN-Habitat

II. Highlights

28 new urban legal reform processes completed, improving alignment of legal frameworks of national and local authorities for implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

1,800 urban legislation instruments are now stored in UN-Habitat's global urban legislation database, *UrbanLex*. The database, provides over **24,000 stakeholders** with access to urban laws for learning and comparative analysis.

13 countries implemented land policy reforms utilizing the **continuum of land rights** and **fit-for-purpose land administration** methodologies developed by UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network.

More than **300,000** households or **1.2 million** people received formal tenure documents improving their security of tenure and resolving conflicts related to land and property.

More than **4,600 change agents from 92 institutions** improved their knowledge and capacity to promote and apply pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools, resulting in improved tenure security for communities.

77 local authorities implemented effective urban safety programmes incorporating crime prevention strategies that improve urban safety.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Increased capacity of local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement urban legislation in the areas of urban extension, densification, planning and finance.

Indicator of achievement

Increased number of consultative legal reform processes to improve urban extension, densification, urban planning and finance, with the technical support of UN-Habitat.

Progress was made towards increasing the capacity of local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement urban legislation in the areas of urban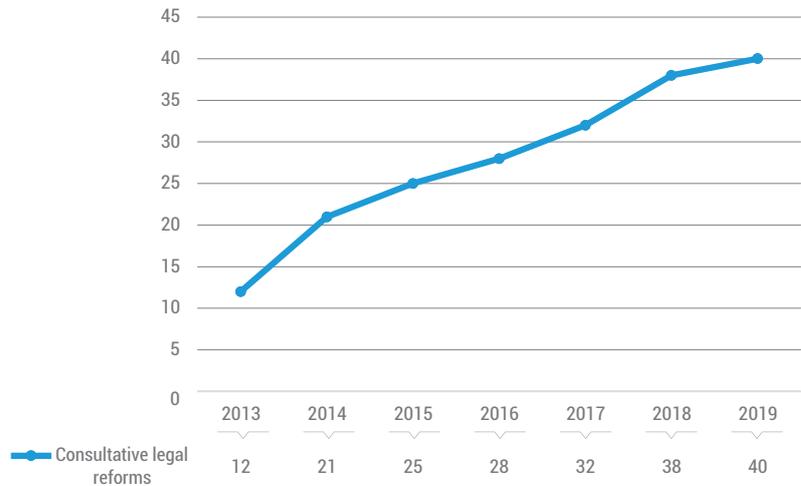 extension, densification, planning and finance. Figure 1.1 shows that the indicator target set for the end of the strategic plan was surpassed with 28 new legal reform processes completed over the six-year period.

Figure 1.1 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Consultative legal reforms	12	21	25	28	32	38	40

Target by 2019	36
Actual by 2019:	40

1.2 Key Milestones

2014

The *Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment (PILaR)* legal framework was developed. The framework helps consolidate land parcels, under different ownership, into a single unit for effective planning and infrastructure provision.

The *urban law database – UrbanLex* (a free online library of urban laws) was launched at WUF7. Today, the database features about 1,800 laws from all regions and has over 24, 000 users in a year.

Urban Law Day was launched as a platform to promote the role of urban legislation in sustainable city development. To date, six Urban Law Days have raised awareness of how legislation links to long-term sustainability.

2015

Evidence-based planning grounded in effective legislative frameworks and legislative analysis was promoted in **Egypt, Cabo Verde, Lebanon, Mozambique, Philippines** and **Rwanda**.

2016

Planning Law Assessment Framework, a quick self-assessment tool to identify strengths and weaknesses of existing urban planning law was launched. The tool is now part of UN-Habitat's integrated approach to urban planning and design, legislation and governance to build socially inclusive, integrated and connected cities.

2017

Capacity building in drafting skills for improving the quality of Urban Legislation initiative was introduced. By the end of 2019, over 260 urban practitioners and government officials had been trained, raising awareness of the role of urban legislation in sustainable urban development.
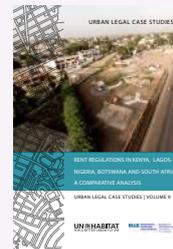
2018

The Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool was developed which allows city managers and other stakeholders to assess slum upgrading based on the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and human rights standards. The tool now supports legal reform processes promoting sustainable slum upgrading and the prevention of further slums in 40 countries.

The Urban Planning and Land Use for the Law and Climate Change Toolkit was completed and went live in December 2019. It supports countries to implement national climate change laws, as well as academia and research institutions analyzing the growing body of climate change-related legislation.

2019

The *Planning Law Survey* enables objective, evidence-based assessment of the impact of existing planning on urban areas. The survey has been conducted in cities of 32 developing and developed countries of two regions.

1.3 Key Results achieved

Capacity building and awareness raising on urban legislation

In recognition of the key role urban legislation plays in sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat enhanced its leadership in developing and promoting this area of work throughout the strategic plan period 2014–2019. Awareness-raising activities and capacity development initiatives were undertaken to support member states and Habitat Agenda partners with the practical tools to engage with and strengthen the legislative frameworks that promote sustainable urban development. These included the establishment of the urban legislation database (UrbanLex), Urban Law Day annual commemoration and capacity development initiatives**.**

The UrbanLex, an urban legislation database was launched, in 2014, as a free online global 'library' of the legal instruments that govern urban development. It was designed to fill the knowledge gap and enhance accessibility of appropriate legal frameworks to promote sustainable urbanization. The database presents information on seven critical areas of urban law that are essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas. By the end of 2019, the UrbanLex had been recognized as the premier global reference on urban legislation with 1,800 legal instruments from around the world being accessed by more than 24,000 users.

UN-Habitat played a catalytic role in the development of urban law by strengthening its partnerships with the academic community, through which research and training objectives for capacity-building were being advanced. It is in this context that, in 2014, the *Urban Law Day* annual celebration was launched to serve as an important platform for stakeholders to understand the role of urban legislation in sustainable urban development. By December 2019, six Urban Law Day commemorations had been held in partnership with the University of London's Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the **United Kingdom**, and three with the Fordham Law School in New York, the **United States of America**. In 2019, Witwatersrand University, in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, hosted the first Urban Law Day in the global South.

Norms and standards for urban legislation to advance sustainable urban development

As part of its normative work, UN-Habitat developed standards and benchmarks to support member states with their urban legislation reform processes and promote sustainable urban development.

The *Planning Law Assessment Framework* was introduced to support member states' understanding of their urban legal systems and laws, including the reforms or changes required. By December 2019, over 30 cities in 10 countries had utilized the tool to assess planning laws and institute appropriate legal reforms to effectively regulate urbanization issues such as land use, urban planning, taxation, housing, basic services, infrastructure and safety.

Through pilot projects, UN-Habitat demonstrated the important role urban legislation plays in achieving sustainable urban development. Countries received technical support to review, consolidate or adopt legislation to enhance sustainable urban development. For example, urban legislation reform processes to support implementation of the New Urban Agenda were concluded in **Bolivia, Haiti, Nepal, Palestine, Vietnam** and **Saudi Arabia;** while in five countries (**Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Kenya and Mexico**) urban legislation related instruments

were going through the approval process. The Parliament of **Nepal** enacted two important pieces of legislation: (1) Housing Rights Related Act 2018, and (2) Land Related (Seventh Amendment) Act 2018. In **Palestine**, legislation on land use was revised and evaluated to verify how functional and appropriate they are with respect to the existing situation of targeted localities.

In **Egypt,** significant urban legislation reforms were achieved in four key urban laws namely: *Building Law No. 119 of 2008 was revised in 2015; a new unified Planning Law* with land value sharing instruments *replaced the outdated law No. 70 of 1973, a Unified Planning Law in December 2017 and; a law for urban expansion areas combining land readjustment with land value sharing.* The four new laws contribute to improved urban planning and design, land-based financing and basic service delivery.

In **Rwanda**, alternative regulatory tools were piloted for implementation of the Kigali Masterplan as well as development and implementation of planned city extension master plans for secondary towns in Rubavu and Nyagatare districts. In **Cabo Verde**, wider legal reforms on urban issues started in 2016, culminated in the development of a National Housing Policy and a National Urban Policy launched in 2020. This contributed to reforms in the national spatial planning system and renewed focus on municipal master plans. The new policies recognized and strengthened the lead role of local governments in sustainable development. In **Colombia,** the governance of metropolitan areas has been strengthened following the adoption of the Metropolitan Areas National Law.

In the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,** UN-Habitat supported the generation of evidence-based legal policy recommendations to enhance sustainable urbanization through city planning in 17 cities by reviewing urban legislation and related institutions. In addition, all laws, regulations and circulars (535 pieces of legislation) related to urban planning in Saudi Arabia have been included in one database. In **Bolivia**, the Government strengthened over 100 national and subnational legal instruments related to

urban planning, public space, land economy, construction, governance and sectoral regulations using UN-Habitat's Planning Legislation Assessment Framework.

To support governments in meeting the growing demands for better urban basic services in areas where land is privately owned, UN-Habitat developed the Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment (PILaR) methodology. The tool helped consolidate small and fragmented land parcels into single units for planning and infrastructure provision. Agreed portions of the land were reallocated to the original owners. Application of the PILaR methodology contributed to increased value of land due to proper planning, rezoning, better infrastructure, and improved services. PILaR has been successfully implemented in **Rwanda, Egypt** and **Colombia.**

To support city managers and other stakeholders conduct quick qualitative assessments on planning laws affecting slum upgrading, UN-Habitat developed *Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* which was launched in 2018. The tool has been fully incorporated into UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, supporting legal reform processes to promote sustainable slum upgrading and the prevention of further slums in 40 countries. For example, in **Iran** it was used in three cities (Tabriz, Kermanshah, and Sanandaj) to review and assess the adequacy of the current legal framework that underpins slum upgrading processes. In **Kenya**, the framework was used to support drafting of the new Slum Upgrading Bill.

The *Planning Law Survey,* developed in 2019, supported member states to assess the adequacy of their internal legal frameworks for sustainable urbanization. The tool has been implemented in 18 cities across 18 countries in sub-Saharan Africa. The published results were documented in a report titled "*Effectiveness of Planning Law in sub-Saharan Africa"* which provided member states with first-hand information and updates on the status of urban law in Africa. A similar study was completed for 17 cities in **Australia, Canada, New Zealand** and **United States.**

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2
Increased capacity of partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement programmes that improve security of tenure for all, including for vulnerable groups, women, youth and indigenous people.

Indicator of achievement

Increased number of programmes to improve security of tenure for all, including for vulnerable groups, women, young people and indigenous people, implemented by partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners.

Community members participate in the Participatory enumeration, Laos PDR © UN-Habitat

Significant progress was made towards increasing capacity of partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement programmes that improve security of tenure Figure 1.2 shows that the planned result was achieved. The three indicator targets to be achieved by 2019 for this expected accomplishment were surpassed. Over the six-year strategic plan period, 15 local authorities, 11 national authorities and 25 Habitat Agenda Partners implemented programmes that improved security of tenure for all including for vulnerable groups, women, young people and indigenous people.

Figure 1.2 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Local authorities	1	3	5	6	8	9	16
National authorities	2	4	5	5	8	9	13
HAPS	5	6	7	7	16	20	30

	Local	National	HAPS
Target by 2019	12	12	25
Actual by 2019:	16	13	30

2.2 Key Milestones

2014

Tenure security at country and community levels was improved in **Colombia, Kenya, Uganda, and the Eastern Caribbean states (Antigua and Barbuda, Dominica, Grenada, Saint Kitts and Nevis, Saint Lucia and Saint Vincent and the Grenadines)** using three main tools (*Social Tenure Domain Model, participatory enumerations and gender evaluation criteria*) at scale.

The UN system-wide recognition of the importance of land issues in sustainable development led to the adoption of the *Continuum of Land Rights* and *the Fit-for-purpose Land Administration Approaches* at the *Third High Level Forum on UN Global Geospatial Information Management* in Beijing, China.

2015

Land indicators were adopted as part of the indicator framework of the SDGs.

Continuum-of-land-rights approach was officially endorsed by the Global Donor Working Group on Land.

2016

The role of land, with its social, ecological and economic functions was recognized in the New Urban Agenda (para. 35 and 128).

2017

SDG land tenure indicator 1.4.2 reclassified from tier III to II; Inter Agency and Expert Group on SDG indicators approved the methodology for measuring indicator and standards for collection of data on perception of tenure security developed and validated by National Statistical Organizations and land community.

FRAMEWORK FOR EVALUATING CONTINUUM OF LAND RIGHTS SCENARIOS

2018

Guide to data collection for SDG land indicators 1.4.2 and 5.a.1 and guideline for impact evaluation of land tenure and governance interventions developed for use by National Statistics Organizations.

First Arab Land Conference was convened by GLTN in partnership with the World Bank and regional partners to foster peace, development and social equity in the Arab region.
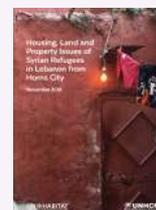

2019

For the first time, the *Secretary-General's Guidance Note on the United Nations and Land and Conflict* provides the United Nations system with a coherent approach to preventing, mitigating, and resolving land-related conflicts, as land is recognized as a main root cause of conflict.

Implementation of the Arab Land Initiative commenced. Nine partnerships agreements implementing land governance activities and policy reforms at local and national level were signed.

A study titled *"Housing, Land and Property Issues of Syrian Refugees in Lebanon from Homs City"* highlighted the main issues and needs of refugees in the current shelter market.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Improving Land and Property Rights for All

During the strategic plan period, partnership with the 80-member Global Land Tool Network increased UN-Habitat's reach in addressing urban and rural land problems significantly. Normative and operational interventions and support to local and national governments and partners have improved land and property rights. Tools such as the Continuum of Land Rights Approach, the Participatory Enumeration for Tenure Security, the Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration, the Social Tenure Domain Model and the Gender Evaluation Criteria have been implemented in a wide range of contexts.

UN-Habitat strengthened the approach to land and conflict by leading the development of a *Guidance Note on The United Nations and Land and Conflict*, which was validated by the United Nations Secretary-General in 2019. The Global Land Tool Network and UN-Habitat developed the Note in collaboration with a core group of nine United Nations agencies. The Guidance Note is significant in

that for the first time, the United Nations system has a coherent approach to address land issues to prevent, mitigate and resolve conflicts, as land is recognized as a main root cause of conflict. The Note also provided strategic guidance to United Nations agencies to develop harmonized approaches across the United Nations system that engage with land systematically for peace, stability and economic development in conflict settings.

To improve monitoring of land-related global commitments for better planning and policy decisions, UN-Habitat, the GLTN and the Global Land Indicator Initiative developed normative tools that member states could use to monitor and report on land-related Sustainable Development Goal indicators, namely: Measuring Individuals Rights to Land (2019), a globally approved methodology for measuring tenure rights, and the Guide for Impact Evaluation of Tenure Security (2019).

National Land Policies and Pro-Poor and Gender Responsive Land Tools promoted

UN-Habitat's normative and operational work through the Global Land Tool Network partners has had a significant impact on tenure security for a growing number of families and communities. More than 20 pro-poor and gender responsive land tools, frameworks and approaches were developed during the strategic planning period 2014–2019. The tools were set up to support national and local governments in the development and implementation of national land policies, addressing access to land and tenure security, land administration and information, land-based financing, land management and planning. Specific tools that address access to land and land rights of women and youth were developed and piloted in several countries including **Brazil, Ghana, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines** and **Uganda**. To strengthen the capacity of member states in land management and administration, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with GLTN, had improved the capacity of over 4,600 change agents from 92 institutions to promote and implement pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools by the end of 2019.

By the end of 2019, more than **300,000** households or **1.2 million** people had benefited from improved security of tenure and conflict resolution related to land and property, mainly in **Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iraq, Kenya, Nepal, Philippines, Sudan, Syria, Uganda** and **Zambia**. This was achieved through issuance of formal tenure documents by authorities or by having their settlement information made available to authorities for negotiation and decision making on settlement improvements. As a result, the beneficiary households were able to invest in their housing and land with less risk of being forcibly evicted.

To promote gender-sensitive and pro-poor land laws in **Uganda**, UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development in harmonizing laws, policies and programmes which strengthened institutional capacity for the implementation of the 2013 land policy. A National Gender Strategy on Land was adopted to achieve gender equality and equity in land governance. Security of tenure has been improved in informal settlements and areas under customary systems of administration by supporting implementation of the national urban policy. Thus, basic service delivery for slum dwellers and security of tenure in customary areas have improved.

To reduce forced displacement and land disputes, UN-Habitat supported the Government of **Zambia** in

integrating customary land rights in its National Land Policy using the continuum of land rights and the fit-for-purpose land administration tools. Consultations between the Government and customary chiefs resulted in the incorporation of customary land rights aspects into the draft National Land Policy, a significant achievement given the fact that 94 per cent of rural areas and informal settlements were managed by traditional authorities under an informal and undocumented land administration system. To address community level issues of land governance in customary areas, the Participatory Enumeration and the Social Tenure Domain Model land tools have been piloted since 2015, resolving land disputes and improving security of tenure for over 3,500 people.

In **Nepal,** the Government promoted sustainable land management and access to land through its National Land Policy and Land Use Policy, both adopted in 2019. A participatory review of land governance practices, supported by UN-Habitat, led to improved land governance and a pro-poor, gender-responsive land information system. As a result, the National Land Policy and the Fit-For-Purpose Land Administration Strategy provided security for all types of tenure. The Land Use Act included two amendments providing for the allotment of land to landless groups. By December 2019, 4,218 informal tenure households had secure tenure.

Land tools contributing to conflict resolution and sustainable reconstruction

Over the strategic plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat contributed to conflict resolution, peace and sustainable recovery using land tools, especially in **Iraq**, the **Democratic Republic of Congo,** and **Afghanistan**. The Social Tenure Domain Model, a land tool developed by UN-Habitat's Global Land Tool Network, effectively contributed to resolving land related conflicts in communities in these countries.

In **Iraq,** following the ISIL/Da'ish offensive in 2014, over 275,000 people from Mount Sinjar area, including a clear majority of Yazidis, were driven out of their homes. Using the Social Tenure Domain Model, UN-Habitat supported the rehabilitation of more than 1,700 houses in 15 villages. More than 10,455 people obtained occupancy certificates and the capacity of municipalities to resolve conflicts was strengthened. The community-led approach provided security for returnees and their properties, and promoted social cohesion within communities.

In the **Democratic Republic of Congo,** land reform and land sector coordination have been supported by UN-Habitat

since 2014. To address land conflict and improve land tenure security, a land information system introduced in 2017 enabled transparent, credible and effective land administration and improved land management. A new cadastre index integrated local land tenure systems in line with the continuum of land rights by digitizing 20,316 individual plots and converting 6,974 documents into electronic format. In addition, 845 out of 1,268 land disputes were resolved, tenure security was improved for 600 households, and 2,500 land administration archives have been digitized. A draft national land policy was finalised in 2019 and countrywide consultations commenced.

In **Afghanistan**, improved tenure security facilitated the integration of Internally Displaced People (IDPs), returnees and vulnerable host communities. Seventy per cent of the urban population and 80 per cent of the rural population in Afghanistan did not possess legal documents for the land they occupied. The Occupancy Certificate programme, supported by UN-Habitat, improved security of tenure and facilitated the process of municipal revenue generation from *safayi* (land tax). By the end of 2019, more than **788,000 properties** had been surveyed and registered and **15,000 occupancy certificates** issued, improving tenure security for **104,062 residents**. Afghan women benefitted from obtaining the right to possess occupancy certificates, with 80 per cent of the certificates jointly issued to spouses residing on state land. By registering 4.5 million *Jerib* of land (900,000 hectares) in 28 Afghani provinces, the integration of Afghan returnees, IDPs and vulnerable hosting communities was advanced with over 245,000 persons in Kabul and Herat benefitting from the provision of housing and basic services by the end of 2019.

UCLG Durban © UN-Habitat.

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

Increased capacity of partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to develop and adopt or adapt policies, plans and strategies that strengthen decentralized governance and inclusive urban management and safety.
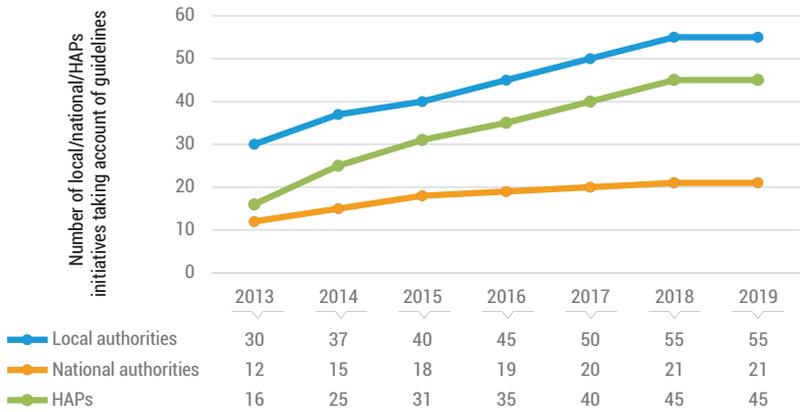
Indicators of achievement

1: Increased number of partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners that have developed initiatives that take into account the guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all.

2: Increased number of partner local and national governments that have adopted local crime prevention strategies.

Progress on this expected accomplishment was constrained across all three indicators due to inadequate funding for UN-Habitat's work in decentralized governance. However, through engagement with partner's platforms, UN-Habitat continued to promote the role of decentralization. Figure 1.3 shows targets were also not met on all indicators by the end of 2019. Over the six-year strategic plan period, 25 local authorities, 9 national authorities and 29 Habitat Agenda Partners developed initiatives that took into account the guidelines on decentralization and access to basic services for all.

Figure 1.3 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Local authorities	30	37	40	45	50	55	55
National authorities	12	15	18	19	20	21	21
HAPs	16	25	31	35	40	45	45

	Local	National	HAPS
Target by 2019	60	22	50
Actual by 2019:	55	21	45

Progress was made towards the achievement of the planned result in urban safety. The target for national authorities was met but the target set for local authorities was not met due to limited funding. Figure 1.4 shows that over the six-year strategic plan period, 30 local authorities and 9 national authorities adopted local crime prevention strategies.

Figure 1.4 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Local authorities	77	90	90	90	100	105	107
National authorities	4	7	7	7	8	13	13

	Local	National
Target by 2019	110	10
Actual by 2019	107	13

3.2 Key Milestones

2014

Launch of *Uraia platform* which facilitates knowledge sharing between local governments on SMART technologies in local public management. The platform supports local governments to improve local finances, reduce the cost of public services and reinforce transparency and accountability.

Three regional platforms of the Global Network on Safer Cities were established in Durban (**South Africa**), Seoul (**South Korea**), and Guadalajara (**Mexico**).

2015

The *International Guidelines on Decentralization and Basic Services for All were used in decentralization reforms* in **Cabo Verde Jamaica, Kenya, Solomon Islands** and **Uganda.** The *participatory review process contributed to* enhanced transparency and accountability at municipality level.

2016

100 partners shared concrete solutions about SMART technologies for municipal innovation and management using the *Uraia Platform*.

2017

Pilot programmes on evidence-based community safety policies in **Colombia, Mexico and South Africa** were implemented in collaboration with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime.

2018

The Sustainable Cities Dialogue brought together representatives from 25 countries. The outcome report included input from local governments to the High-Level Political Forum review of SDG 11.

The Safer Cities for Girls Programme was implemented in five cities.

2019

Convening the High-Level Political Forum on "*local action for global commitments*" in support of Local 2030 Initiative.

The UN system-wide *Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements* were adopted at the first UN-Habitat Assembly as a major contribution to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals by improving urban safety.

3.3. Key Results

Strengthening Urban Governance

Over the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat improved the capacity of local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda partners to develop and adopt or adapt policies, plans and strategies that strengthen decentralized governance and inclusive urban management and safety, and support localization of SDGs through its normative and operational work.

UN-Habitat supported a coalition of several UN agencies and local government networks in localizing the SDGs by raising awareness within local governments on the relevance and importance of SDGs for their own development agenda. Tools and improved support in capacity building were rolled out to help local governments in implementing local actions, sharing experiences and participating in national

development processes. The main transformative change was recognition of local and regional governments as key players in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

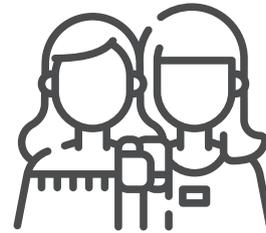## Strengthening Urban Safety

During the strategic plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme consolidated the knowledge and lessons learnt through 20 years of work in over 77 cities in 24 countries worldwide. Local authorities in 77 cities were supported to implement programmes that improve urban safety by using crime prevention strategies which address the causes of crime and involve all urban stakeholders. Several milestones, including the *UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements,* raised the significance and visibility of urban safety for sustainable urbanization on the global stage, reinforced by the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

The *UN system-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements,* adopted at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019, were a major milestone in UN-Habitat's work in urban safety. The Guidelines, a culmination of collaboration and consultation between UN-Habitat and other United Nations bodies throughout the period were a major contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goal's focus on safer urban contexts.

Throughout the six-year reporting period, UN-Habitat supported cities and built the capacity of urban managers and other stakeholders in the prevention of urban crime and enhancement of urban safety in **Argentina, Chile,**

Kenya, Mexico and **South Africa** within the framework of the Global Network on Safer Cities. To accelerate effective implementation of the Safer Cities Programme and associated Global Network on Safer Cities, three regional platforms of the Global Network on Safer Cities were established as forums for urban safety in Durban City (**South Africa**), Seoul City (**South Korea**), and Guadalajara**, (Mexico)**.

The Safer Cities for Girls Programme was implemented in five cities (Cairo, in **Egypt**, Hanoi, in **Vietnam**, New Delhi in **India**, Kampala, in **Uganda** and Lima, in **Peru**), benefitting 662,955 children. Through partnership with local authorities, institutions, communities and families, the safety of girls and their ability to access public spaces improved significantly.

662,955

Children have benefitted from the *Safer Cities for Girls Programme* implemented in five cities

Sayed Jamal Afghan Park in Afghanistan © UN-Habitat.

02

Urban Planning and Design

I. Introduction

Many cities are faced with serious challenges including uncontrolled development due to ineffective systems, informal and disorganized peri-urban expansion, proliferation of informal housing and livelihood activities, poor connectivity, traffic congestion and energy inefficiency. Over 75 per cent of the world's cities have become more unequal over the last 20 years with social integration declining as planning to guide urban development and expansion diminishes. More and more cities are grappling with serious environmental challenges such as curbing rising levels of greenhouse gas emissions and mitigating the ever-worsening impacts of climate change.

Subprogramme 2 of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019, Urban Planning and Design, supported countries to improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, safe, integrated, connected, climate change resilient cities. National and local governments were supported with tried and tested approaches, guidelines and tools to manage growth and improve sustainability, efficiency and equity in cities and human settlements. Through this subprogramme, UN-Habitat contributed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 7, 11, 13 and 17.

> **Objective of the subprogramme**
>
> To improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, better integrated and connected cities that foster sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change.

Participatory planning in Afghanistan © UN-Habitat.

II. Highlights

53 countries were at different stages of national urban policy improvement processes, promoting inclusive and participatory approaches to sustainable urbanization.

International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning approved by UN-Habitat Governing Council in 2015, strengthened planning in 19 metropolitan and subnational authorities.

Guiding Principles and Framework for Action on **Urban-Rural Linkages** adopted in 2019 by UN-Habitat Assembly to strengthen integrated planning and development across the urban-rural nexus has been applied in **11 countries**.

More than **100 cities** planned and designed sustainably with **80 of them adopting plans and designs** to guide public expenditure, private investment and sustainable policy decision-making.

1.82 million people enjoy safe access to more than **104 public spaces** designed and upgraded through UN-Habitat's global public space programme in 75 cities.

10,000 cities joined the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, making it the world's largest network of cities committed to climate action.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Improved national urban policies and spatial framework for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities adopted by partner metropolitan, region, and national authorities.

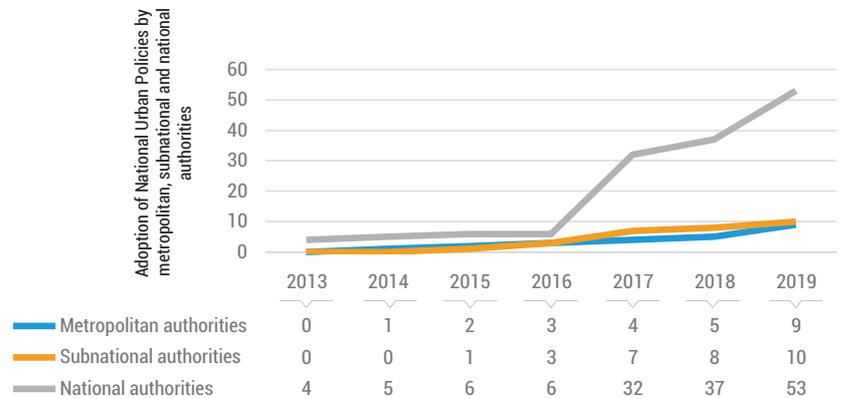**Indicator of achievement**

Increased number of partner metropolitan, subnational and national authorities that have adopted national urban policies or spatial frameworks that support compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities.

Significant progress was made towards the achievement of this expected accomplishment. Figure 2.1 shows that all three indicator targets set for the end of the strategic plan were surpassed. Over the six-year period, 9 metropolitan authorities, 10 subnational authorities and 49 national governments were at different stages of adopting and implementing national urban policies and spatial frameworks for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities.

Figure 2.1 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Metropolitan authorities	0	1	2	3	4	5	9
Subnational authorities	0	0	1	3	7	8	10
National authorities	4	5	6	6	32	37	53

	Metro	Sub	National
Target by 2019	6	10	40
Actual by 2019	9	10	53

1.2 Key Milestones

2014

The *National Urban Policy Global Overview Report* was published as a basis for designing National Urban Policy programmes and activities

National Urban Policy Framework and Diagnostic Framework were developed as an entry point for developing national urban policies. They embraced integrated legal, urban design and financial approaches to addressing the challenges and opportunities of urbanization.

The *Metropolitan Areas Latin America Network* was launched to promote exchange of best practices in metropolitan planning, governance and design and contribute to the Habitat III process.

NATIONAL URBAN POLICY:
A GUIDING FRAMEWORK

2015

International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning were approved by UN-Habitat Governing Council. They provided a global reference framework for promoting metropolitan and territorial planning for national governments, local authorities and other stakeholders.

Implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning was piloted in **Wuhan**, China.

Climate Change Markers were developed to strengthen mainstreaming of climate change into all UN-Habitat's normative and operational work.

INTERNATIONAL GUIDELINES ON URBAN AND TERRITORIAL PLANNING

2016

Implementation of the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning was scaled up in 6 countries (**Afghanistan, Kosovo, Sri Lanka, the State of Palestine, Viet Nam** and **Zimbabwe**), where it was used for the development of national, regional and city plans.

The Metropolitan Development (MetroHUB) methodology was revised and updated and integrated into planning, governance, finance, social-environmental and capacity development.

2017

National Urban Policy was proposed as an indicator for Target 11a of the SDGs, and has been reported on annually since 2017, drawing from the National Urban Policy database developed by UN-Habitat.

2018

The *first Global Report on National Urban Policy* was published. It established the foundation for understanding the national urban policies developed, implemented and monitored globally.

Five regional reports on National Urban Policy were published in *Africa, The Arab States, Europe and North America, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and the Pacific*.

The International Symposium on Urban and Territorial Planning was established as a global platform to promote and share experiences on the implementation and use of the Guidelines.

Climate Change and National Urban Policies in Asia and the Pacific - A regional guide for mainstreaming climate change into urban related urban-related policy, legislative, financial and institutional frameworks was published based on the experience of 6 countries across the Asia and Pacific Region.

2019

Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development were adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly. The guidelines provide member states with a framework for integrated development across the urban-rural nexus.

How to Formulate a National Urban Policy - A Guiding Framework was developed to support member states develop and implement national urban policies.

Leading Change: Deliver the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning, which t complements the 2015 International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, was developed.

1.3 Key Results Achieved

Partnering with Member States on National Urban Policy Processes

During the strategic plan period 2014–2019, national urban policies emerged as important strategic flagship instruments to support member states achieve their sustainable urbanization agendas. UN-Habitat's normative tools, guides, frameworks and technical guidance on the development, implementation and monitoring of national urban policies equipped governments with the means and knowledge to promote sustainable urbanization at a fundamental level. The development and roll-out of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* also strengthened the capacity of member states to promote metropolitan planning. Additionally, adoption of the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework and technical assistance from UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of member states to address urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization.

A major global milestone for UN-Habitat's normative work in national urban policy was achieved with the adoption of national urban policy as one of the indicators for Target 11.1a in the global monitoring framework by the Tenth Session of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators. The new indicator measures the number of countries with national urban policies or regional development plans that are responsive to population increases ensure balanced territorial development and increase local financial resources budgeted for delivery of basic services. UN-Habitat's *National Urban Policy Database* supports the collection of monitoring data for this indicator.

The adoption of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals provided a strong rationale for countries to embark on developing, implementing, monitoring and evaluating inclusive and participatory National Urban Policies. Over the strategic plan period 2014–2019, there was increased demand by member states for UN-Habitat's technical support in urban policy processes. UN-Habitat provided a four-tiered technical support package to member states: Global Programme, Regional Programmes (Africa, Arab States and Asia-Pacific), National Urban Policy, and Sub-national urban policy. Three regional programmes focusing on specific regional priorities (climate change in Asia and the Pacific, urban-rural linkages in Africa, and economic development in the Arab region) were also developed.

Through a government-led participatory process and using tested normative tools, UN-Habitat provided technical support to member states at various stages of national urban policy processes. By the end of 2019, 53 countries had developed, implemented and were monitoring national urban policies, up from 4 countries in 2014. 10 countries (**Angola, Guatemala, Guinea ,Haiti, Mozambique, Sierra Leone Tonga, Tunisia, Vanuatu** and **Viet Nam**) were at the feasibility phase; 4 countries (**Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Liberia** and **Senegal,**) were in the diagnosis phase; 15 countries (**Bolivia, Cameroon, Chad, Ecuador, Egypt, India, Iran, Jordan, Kiribati, Lebanon, Mexico, Myanmar, São Tomé** and **Príncipe, Solomon Islands** and **Zambia**) were at the formulation phase; 20 countries (**Argentina, Bangladesh, Belarus, Colombia, Cuba, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Saudi Arabia, Serbia, Sri Lanka, Sweden,** and **Uganda**) were implementing their national urban policies; and, 3 countries (**Cape Verde, Mali** and **Morocco,**) were at the monitoring and evaluation phase.

At the beginning of 2014, no subnational governments were engaged in urban policy development. By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat had supported 10 subnational governments with their urban policy development processes. **Sudan** developed the Regional Spatial Planning strategy for the Blue Nile state in 2015, while Niger State (**Nigeria**) completed and integrated the feasibility and diagnostic reports into their integrated development plans. In Zanzibar (**Tanzania),** the development of an urban policy incorporating the effects of climate change was at the diagnostic Development of the national urban policy in **Malawi**, which commenced in 2016, marked a major paradigm shift from a rural focused development policy to one which recognized the inherent value of sustainable urbanization. Past national development strategies largely viewed urbanization as a constraint rather than an opportunity for development. The new policy, which was adopted in 2019, provided the framework for guiding urban development programmes and driving sustainable urbanization in the country. In 2019, the Government had started mobilizing resources and strengthening partnerships for its implementation and monitoring.

To address the challenges of rapid urbanization and promote sustainable urban development, the Government of **Myanmar** embarked on a consultative process to develop a National Urban Policy in 2015 which was finalized in 2019. Several documents were developed that informed formulation of the policy such as the *Rapid Urban Diagnostic report*, the *National Urban Policy Framework*, *Housing Policy White Paper* and *Housing Policy Strategy*.

Myanmar's National Urban Policy identified eight thematic areas that included municipal governance and finance, urban legislation, land governance, housing, environment and climate change, balanced spatial distribution, infrastructure and service provision, and socioeconomic development. Furthermore, in 2019, a smart city strategy was being developed as a supplement to Myanmar's National Urban Policy.

In 2017 and 2018, the Government of **Argentina** began developing its national urban policy to address high economic, social and spatial imbalances by transforming its model of urbanization and territorial development. UN-Habitat contributed to development of operational tools, guidelines and technical documents for more balanced territorial development through a participatory policy-making process. Working with 18 Provinces and 75 municipalities, the Government adopted its first National Urban Policy in 2018 that included cities of all sizes, locations and functions to ensure they all benefit from and contribute to national development. The new Policy is now a reference document for sectoral ministries, civil society and service providers. In 2019 the Government commenced review of national and provincial frameworks based on the National Policy. Five pilot cities have reallocated resources and redirected investments for more equitable development.

Strengthening metropolitan and territorial planning

Requests by member states for UN-Habitat's technical tools and guidance on metropolitan and territorial planning increased steadily over the strategic planning period, strengthening their capacity to deliver new multiscale, multisector spatial plans for sustainable urbanization. The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, launched in 2015 and translated into 13 languages, became the premier global reference authority on metropolitan and territorial planning for all stakeholders. In 2019, a handbook and policy guide, complete with inspiring cases, *Leading Change: Deliver the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning* was developed to complement the Guidelines.

The *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* were recognized by other United Nations agencies as an effective framework for spatial planning and service provision in other sectors. They were used by UN-Habitat to influence the development of relevant guides for food and health in collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners

During the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat used the Metropolitan Development methodology (*The MetroHub)* to provide member states with metropolitan-level policy and planning advice for strengthening sustainable urbanization. The MetroHub was instrumental in preparation of the Integrated Plan for the West Nile Region, covering three towns in **Uganda** including Arua, Kaboko and Nebbi. The plan benefited these rapidly growing urban centres in the West Nile Region and provided an important spatial framework for humanitarian operations. Country support was also provided to **Colombia** to promote a more coherent system of cities through integration of the Bucaramanga and Bogota metropolitan areas.
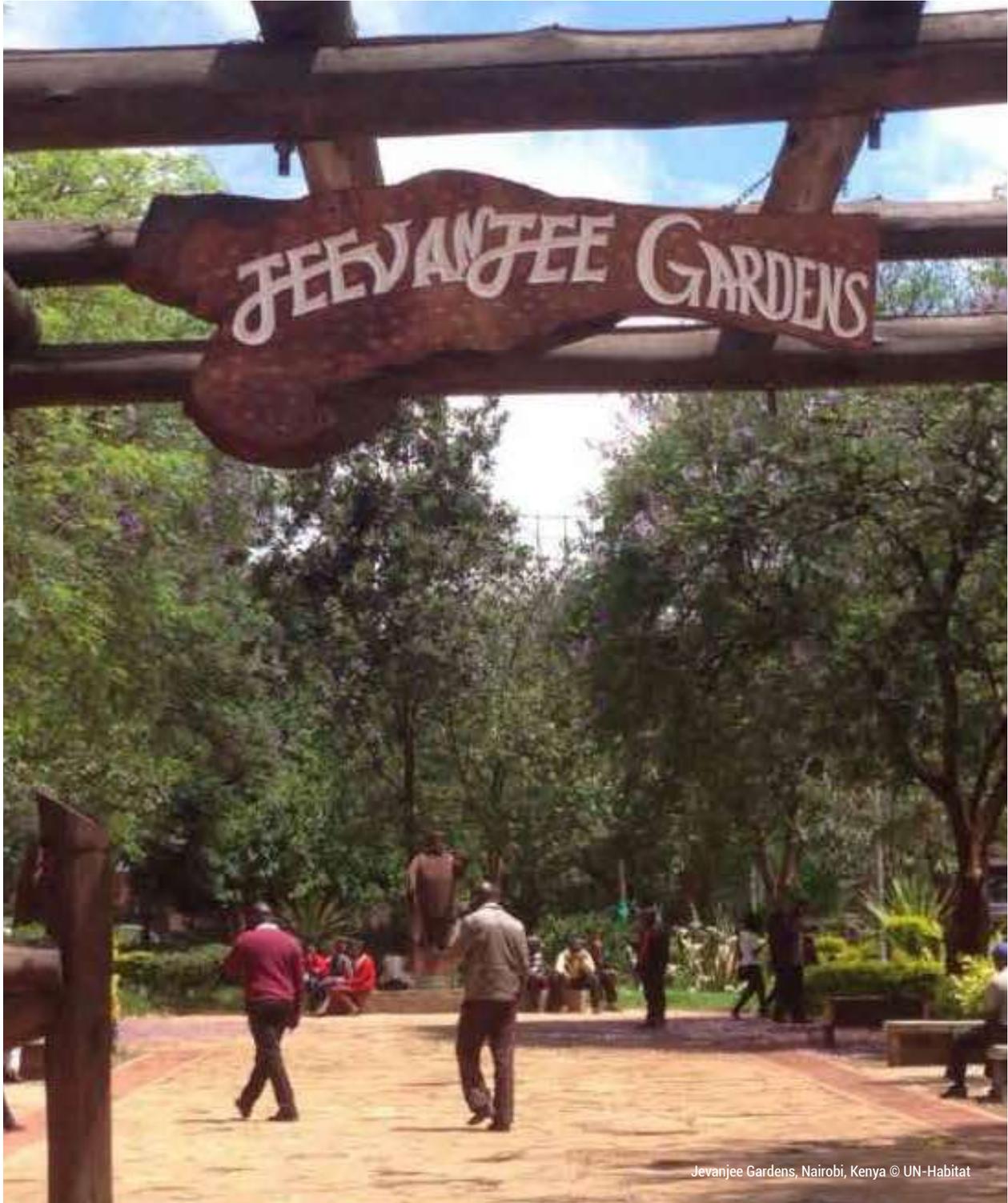
Through the MetroHUB, UN-Habitat and the International Civil Aviation Organization partnered to implement pilot projects that have fostered collaboration between civil aviation, land-use planning and urban development authorities for sustainable development in Addis Ababa (**Ethiopia**), Yaoundé (**Cameroon**) Ekurhuleni and Johannesburg (**South Africa**) and Nairobi (**Kenya**). In **Cameroon**, transport corridor planning and management were undertaken for the area between Yaoundé-Nsimalen international airport and the capital city; while in the metropolitan authority of Douala water corridor planning and management for the development of the Dibamba river was undertaken. In addition, an interconnected blue and green corridor was developed for Douala City and the transport corridor for Yaoundé City in **Cameroon**.

Strengthening urban-rural linkages

UN-Habitat's work in enhancing the capacities of policymakers to address the multi-layered connections between urban and rural areas that affect sustainable urbanization grew during the period under review. The adoption of the resolution on Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlement, tabled at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019, represented a milestone and has laid a strong foundation for member states to scale up their activities in this area. Building on the resolution's momentum, the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development were developed to provide member states with the framework to implement integrated activities across the urban-rural nexus. UN-Habitat's advocacy on urban-rural linkages has contributed to their inclusion in the United Nations Convention for Combatting Desertification, as part of the outcomes from the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages.

UN-Habitat's technical assistance on urban rural linkages was provided to **Bolivia**, **Cameroon, Colombia, Guinea, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestine, Tanzania, Uganda** and **Zambia**. For example, through a regional initiative, *Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa*, UN-Habitat supported **Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria (Niger State)** and **Tanzania** (Zanzibar) to strengthen their policy frameworks and data capacity for inclusive and integrated development where rural areas would not be left behind in the urbanization process.

Jevanjee Gardens, Nairobi, Kenya © UN-Habitat

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2

Improved policies, plans and designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighborhoods adopted by partner cities.
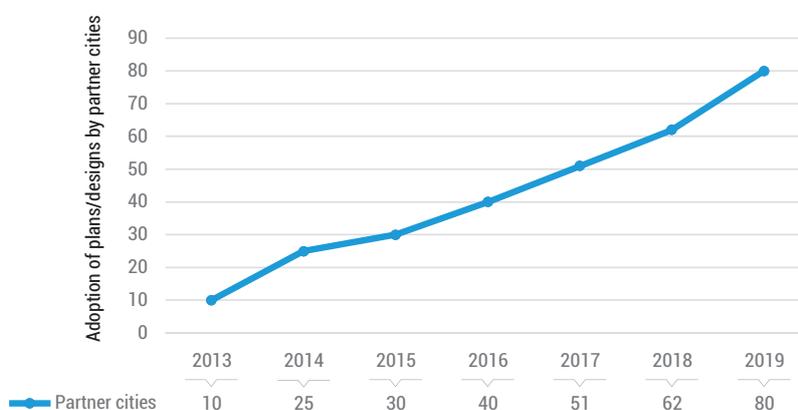
Indicator of achievement

Increased number of partner cities that have adopted policies, plans or designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighborhoods.

Significant progress was made towards the achievement of this expected accomplishment. Figure 2.2. shows the indicator target set for the end of the strategic plan was surpassed. Over the six-year period, 80 partner cities were at different stages of developing and implementing plans and designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighbourhoods.

Figure 2.2 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Partner cities	10	25	30	40	51	62	80

	Cities
Target by 2019	70
Actual by 2019	80

2.2 Key Milestones

2014

Urban Planning and Design Lab was launched. The LAB was designed in response to growing global demand from member states for technical support and utilization of UN-Habitat normative tools in planning and design of sustainable cities.

UN-Habitat refined its approach to planned city extensions as a key strategy for addressing urban growth, especially for intermediate cities with rapid population growth. This *"three-pronged approach"*, was successfully tested in the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development programme implemented in **Colombia, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines** and **Rwanda**.

URBAN PLANNING AND DESIGN LABS
tools for integrated and participatory urban planning

Quito, Habitat III Version 1.0.

UN-HABITAT

2015

Global Public Space Toolkit: From Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice was developed. A practical reference for local governments to frame and implement principles, policy recommendations and development initiatives on public space and to aid national governments' efforts with material support and enabling legislation. The toolkit was also translated into Russian, Chinese, Arabic and Spanish.

2016

The Urban Planning and Design Lab increased its impact, supporting 39 **cities** in 25 countries in sustainable urban planning. A total of 14 local LABs were set up in cities world-wide **(Afghanistan, Belize, Egypt, Haiti, Ghana, Kenya, Mexico, Myanmar, Palestine, the Philippines, Saudi Arabia, Somalia,** and **South Africa)**.

The Urban Planning and Design Lab expanded its work into conflict and post disaster situations in **Ecuador, Haiti, Kalobeyei Refugee Settlement (Kenya)** and **Somalia)**.

2017

Through the *Planning and Design Lab*, UN-Habitat supported **51 citie**s in **30 countries** in sustainable urban planning. In addition, **20 Planned City Extensions** and **23 Citywide Strategies** were developed.
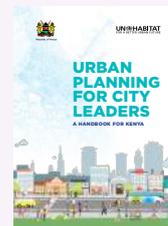
Through the Global Programme on Public Space, more than 500,000 **people** enjoyed safe and inclusive access to **40 public spaces** upgraded in **12 countries**.

2018

Urban Planning for City Leaders: A handbook for Kenya was published. It included several "how to" sections on key aspects of urban planning, answered many questions that leaders are frequently asked, and featured numerous examples of cities where urban planning made a significant, positive transformation.

A new integrated approach to refugees' settlements planning was piloted in Kalobeyei, **Kenya** and informed planning of Cox's Bazaar refugee camp in **Bangladesh** to improve **living conditions for** refugees and enhance their integration with host communities.

The *City-wide Public Space Assessment Tool* was finalized and tested in 3 cities (**Nairobi, Bamenda** and **Wuhan**). It fills an enormous knowledge gap in cities and enables management of undervalued public assets and development of local strategies and interventions.

2019

Public Space Citywide Strategies (Compendium and Guide and Public Space modules) was published, to be used as a training manual to build capacity of city leaders to produce city-wide public space strategies that are inclusive and implementable.

Sustainable Development Goal Project Assessment Tool was developed *(as part of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office Global Future Cities Programme) to* support stakeholders in assessing alignment of planning projects to the Sustainable Development Goals.
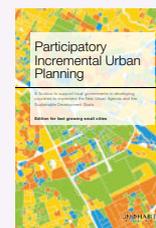
2019

⚙️ *Master Plan Self- Assessment Tool* was developed to support cities in assessing their planning instruments in relation to sustainable planning principles.

🔍 *The Incremental and Participatory Planning Toolbox* was developed *to* consolidate the LAB experience and provide guidance to countries with limited capacity in planning and design.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Partnering with member states for sustainable urban planning and design

During the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat established key normative tools and offered practical guidance relating to urban planning and design, supporting member states to develop compact, integrated and inclusive cities. Progress was made in four areas of work, namely: integrated and inclusive planning through UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design Lab, public space improvement, development of integrated settlement planning for refugees, and capacity-building for urban planning actors at city and national level.

UN-Habitat utilized the Planning and Design Lab to support member states identify, validate and formulate planning interventions that promote sustainable urbanization. Created in 2014, The LAB is a facility that includes urban legislation, planning and design, economy and environment through a participatory process. It translated the normative guidance in these areas into concrete projects and solutions for specific contexts. By the end of 2019, more than **100 cities** had directly benefitted from UN-Habitat's support through the Planning and Design Lab, out of which **80** had adopted plans and designs to guide public expenditure, private investment, flagship projects and advance sustainable policy decisions.

In the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, through the Future Saudi Cities Programme, UN-Habitat worked with 17 cities to develop plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, safe, integrated and resilient urban centres. The programme developed 17 city profiles and 3 demonstration projects, proposing spatial, financial and policy recommendations. In line with the recommendations, the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia started the reform of the national planning system, including a devolution process to decentralize planning responsibilities from the central Government to the provinces. Implementation of these plans boosted economic development and spurred infrastructure investment. For example, USD 14.4 billion of funding was allocated in 2018 for transport and infrastructure upgrading, including intercity rail networks covering all parts of the country.

The **Myanmar** *National Guidelines for Urban Planning*, adopted in 2016, guided government officials in the sustainable management of urban growth and the development of city plans. The guidelines have shaped the planning of district capitals and improved plans for secondary towns based on sustainable urban planning principles and approaches. In 2016, a comprehensive urban planning system was established, and planned city extensions developed in the north of Yangon while urban development plans in Pyay and Kalay cities were reviewed.

In **Haiti**, a city-wide extension plan for Canaan (Port au Prince) city was developed in 2015 with technical support from UN-Habitat. This plan supported significant investments in infrastructure to respond to sprawling land development after the 2010 earthquake. In 2016, the city authority prepared a strategic Development Framework for developing 15 neighbourhoods in the northern part of the metropolitan area.

In **Ghana**, a concept plan for Ningo Prampram was approved in 2015 by the District Board as part of the wider strategy for Greater Accra. This concept for the planned city extension of Ningo Prampram demonstrated a viable and effective approach to addressing urban sprawl by managing new settlements in one of the fastest growing areas of the country. It received support from relevant Government Ministries and was adopted as a presidential national priority project for implementation in 2016. To implement the plan, Ningo-Prampram pioneered a framework for the growth of a naturally evolving city.

In **Mozambique**, the City of Nacala partnered with multiple stakeholders to develop a concept for planned city extension which was approved in 2015. As a result, the Nacala-porto city, Nacalaa- velha and Nacala-porto District achieved the territorial model for the special economic zone. Action plans for implementing the city extension plans were developed in 2016, through UN-Habitat's Rapid Planning Studio approach, to manage rapid urban growth in the Nacala corridor. This has had a catalytic effect as local authorities have adopted the spatial frameworks in support of compact, integrated connected and resilient cities while provincial authorities implemented the country funded City Extension Plans.

In **Iraq,** a national urban strategy framework and governorate urban strategies were developed for selected governorates to ensure balanced and resilient urban systems in line with Iraq's National Development Plan, Poverty Reduction Strategy, Spatial Development Vision, and the New Urban Agenda.

In the **State of Palestine**, A Spatial Planning Framework was developed with the Ministry of Local Government for Bethlehem, Tubas and Qalqilya cities with UN-Habitat support. Concepts for 10 new local spatial plans (two in Hebron; three in Bethlehem; two in Qalqilya; two in Jenin; and one in Salfit) were also developed, benefitting 16,000 people. The plans have enhanced social cohesion among communities in Area C and allowed for spatially sound infrastructure investment driven by local priorities, with a focus on women and girls.

In 2014-2015, UN-Habitat supported an innovative programme in **Colombia** to improve processes of urban transformation in several cities. An approved planned city infill for La Candelaria in Medellin City was implemented. A concept plan for the planned city extension for Santa Marta was also produced and adopted by the city authority. The local authority approved integration of the concept plan into the new Land Use Plan. In addition, a comprehensive plan was designed for Cali City to improve urban extension, densification, planning and finance, which was aligned to the guiding principles of the New Urban Agenda. In 2018, the Metropolitan Area of Bucaramanga and its four municipalities adopted the proposal for a Master Plan, as a legal instrument to improve the management and planning of its border zones.

Supporting Integrated Settlement Planning for refugees

During the strategic planning period, UN-Habitat promoted spatial planning approaches to resettle and integrate refugees into host communities. The integrated and inclusive planning principles were piloted in Kalobeyei refugee settlement in **Kenya,** where refugees were integrated alongside local communities for inclusive and sustainable human settlements. The integration of humanitarian and development activities in Kalobeyei has been considered so successful, in terms of its planning and inclusive approach, that the model was adopted by the UNHCR for refugee settlement programmes in **Uganda's** West Nile, North Western Regions and at Cox's Bazaar in **Bangladesh**.

In **Iraq**, UN-Habitat's principles of sustainable neighbourhoods are being applied to transform "camp-like situations" of refugee and internally displaced persons into integrated and inclusive planned city extensions. The new integrated approach demonstrated the use of sustainable solutions in the nexus between humanitarian and urban development interventions.

Promoting inclusive, safe and accessible public spaces

Throughout the 2014–2019 strategic plan period, UN-Habitat demonstrated that inclusive public spaces deliver tangible opportunities to transform urban areas and make them dynamic interactive spaces for all. Through its Global Public Space Programme and field projects, UN-Habitat continued to develop and utilize a variety of normative and operational tools, methodologies and practices to support local and national governments and other partners in developing public spaces that are safer, more inclusive, accessible and green. This included public space assessments, policy guides, strategies and design principles, capacity building, participatory tools, technology and innovation projects, advocacy, and implementation.

By the end of 2019, more than **1.82 million** people had benefitted from UN-Habitat's global public space programme and continue to enjoy safe access to more than 104 new or upgraded public spaces in **75 cities.** This represents an increase of 71 from the 4 that were initially engaged in 2014. Of these beneficiaries, **600,000** were children and youth benefiting from child-friendly public space projects implemented in **China, Mozambique, Lebanon, South Africa, Tunisia, Turkey** and **the United Arab Emirates**.

Significant progress was made during the past six years to improve access to public space by women and girls through innovative design technology. Through partnership with the private sector company Mojang, UN-Habitat utilized *Minecraft* to facilitate integration of mixed reality technology in public space design, resulting in improved access and safety for women and girls in public spaces. For example, in Hanoi, **Viet Nam**, and **Palestine**, the safety of women and girls in public spaces was improved while in Accra, Ghana, women's market space experience was improved using *Minecraft*. In the city of Jalalabad, in **Afghanistan**, the first Women's Park with recreational areas for children was inaugurated.

UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with the Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Centre and the Government of **China** on the People-Oriented Urban Public Space Programme from 2016 to 2019. Using the Block-by-Block methodology, public spaces in Wuhan were improved and scaled up from the community and district to the whole city. In 2019, UN-Habitat and UNICEF supported the city of Sharjah, **United Arab Emirates** the Guidelines for Child-friendly Open Public Space used in designing public spaces in the country or for capacity building.

The Public Space Assessment Framework (Citywide and site-specific) and Public Space Citywide Strategies have strengthened the capacity of member states to promote public spaces as part of sustainable urban development. The Citywide Assessment Tool supported the scaling up of public space in cities in 14 countries, where 23 citywide public space assessments were completed during the strategic plan period. Based on these assessments, six

citywide action plans had been developed by the end of 2019, supported the creation and protection of public spaces in Addis Ababa (**Ethiopia**), two districts of Wuhan (**China**), Kisumu, Nairobi (**Kenya**), Kabul (**Afghanistan**) and in 5 cities, (Bethlehem, Jenin, Jericho, Khan Younis and Nablus) in **Palestine**. In addition, site-specific public space assessments were done in **Bangladesh, Lebanon, Nepal, United Arab Emirates** and **Viet Nam.**

In 2015, with support from partners, UN-Habitat developed the methodology and training toolkit to guide national and local governments in data collection and monitoring achievement of the public space targets. By the end 2019, more than 600 cities were collecting spatial, social and demographic data on public spaces to assist in the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 11.7.1. The data enabled decision makers and key stakeholders, to make evidence-based decisions aimed at achieving universal access to safe and inclusive public spaces.

MindTheStep project in Sao Paulo Brazil © UN-Habitat

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

Improved policies, plans and strategies that contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change adopted by partner city, regional and national authorities.
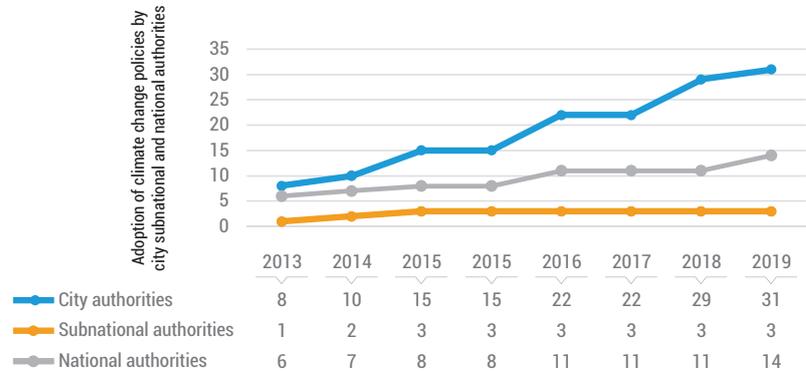
Indicator of achievement

Increased number of partner city, subnational and national authorities that have adopted and implemented policies, plans or strategies that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Significant progress was made towards the achievement of this expected accomplishment. Figure 2.3 shows all the indicator targets set for the end of the strategic plan was met with the target for city authorities surpassed. Over the six-year period, UN-Habitat supported 23 city authorities, 2 subnational and 8 national authorities with climate action planning processes. They are now at different stages of developing and implementing policies, plans or strategies that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

Figure 2.3 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
City authorities	8	10	15	15	22	22	29	31
Subnational authorities	1	2	3	3	3	3	3	3
National authorities	6	7	8	8	11	11	11	14

	City	Sub	National
Target by 2019	24	3	14
Actual by 2019	31	3	14

3.2 Key Milestones

2014

The Compact of Mayors Initiative was launched, encouraging cities to publicly commit to reducing greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change.

The Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance was launched. The objective of the alliance was to catalyze and accelerate additional capital flows to cities, maximize investment in low- carbon and climate-resilient infrastructure, and close the investment gap in urban areas.

The full version of *Planning for climate change: A strategic, values-based approach for urban planners* was published. The tool has been used by UN-Habitat to support the development of climate change vulnerability assessments and action plans in more than 50 cities.

2015

The Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning were published. They reviewed the city-level climate action planning process in line with a set of globally applicable principles. More than 45 partner organizations and seven cities endorsed the Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning.

Guidebook on Integrating Climate Change into City Development Strategies was developed to support local authorities integrate climate adaptation into their development plans.

322 cities globally had joined the Compact of Mayors Initiative indicating their commitment to comply with the Compact's requirements for target-setting and climate action planning. The City of Rio de Janeiro in **Brazil,** became the first fully compliant city.

2016

Under the *Low Emission Urban Development Strategies* (Urban-LEDS) project, councils of six (6) Urban-LEDS cities - Recife (**Brazil**), Rajkot and Panaji (**India**), Balikpapan and Bogor (**Indonesia**), and KwaDukuza (**South Africa**) adopted strategies to reduce emissions.

Number of mayors committed to the Compact of Mayors Initiative increased from 322 in 2015 to 605 cities by the end of 2016.

2017

The *Compact of Mayors* was merged with the (European Commission-supported) Covenant of Mayors to form the *Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy*. UN-Habitat retained a seat on the new entity's Founders Council.

2018

A guide entitled, *Addressing Urban and Human Settlement Issues in National Adaptation Plans* was launched. The guide supports member states and other stakeholders to strengthen the urban dimensions of national climate change adaptation plans.

Addressing the Most Vulnerable First: Pro-Poor Climate Action in Informal Settlements" was launched as a guide to support the global urban and climate change community with building climate resilience in informal settlements.

The first-ever *Scientific Conference on Cities and Climate Change*, co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change and other partners, was held in Edmonton, **Canada**, in 2018. The conference was instrumental in shaping the research agenda on cities and climate change.

2019

The Supplementary Guidelines on Addressing Urban and Human Settlements Issues in National Adaptation Plans finalized. It supports national governments integrate climate change into national adaptation planning processes.

More than 10,000 cities and local governments had joined the Global Compact of Mayors for Climate Change and Energy by the end of 2019.

31 cities and 14 countries adopted and were at different stages of implementation of policies, strategies or action plans that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

A publication entitled "*Local Climate Action in the Arab Region*" was launched in partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and the Islamic Development Bank; UN-Habitat and other regional partners.

3.3 Key Results Achieved

Partnering with member states on climate change adaptation and mitigation in cities and other human settlements.

Throughout the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat supported member states to develop improved policies, plans and strategies for strengthening mitigation and adaptation to climate change. This was undertaken through technical assistance including policy advice, normative tool development, capacity building and pilot projects. By the end of the reporting period, partner national and local government personnel were better informed, possessed improved capacities and had access to tools and guides to help adapt to climate change and lower greenhouse gas emissions.

UN-Habitat demonstrated leadership on the global stage, especially through active engagement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, improving knowledge and understanding of the nexus between sustainable urbanization and climate change. UN-Habitat's engagement in high-level global forums such as the annual UN Climate Change Conferences (COP19-26), contributed towards increased awareness of key stakeholders on the challenges and opportunities in cities for improved climate change adaptation, low-carbon development and the key role cities play.

UN-Habitat provided technical guidance to member states and local authorities to strengthen their urban climate mitigation and adaptation knowledge and responses. By the end of 2019, **31 cities** and **14 countries** had adopted policies, strategies or action plans for climate change mitigation and adaptation and were at different stages of implementation. The support was provided through several multi-country-level initiatives including Urban Low Emission Development Strategies, Cities and Climate Change Initiative, and/or regional and country-level engagement, for example the Vertical Integration and Learning for Low Emission Development.

Under the *Low Emission Urban Development Strategies* (Urban-LEDS) project, six cities, Recife (**Brazil**), Rajkot and Panaji (**India**), Balikpapan and Bogor (**Indonesia**), and KwaDukuza (**South Africa**) developed and adopted strategies for reducing emissions by the end of 2016. Local governments in **Colombia, Lao PDR, Bangladesh** and **Rwanda** joined the Urban LEDS project in its second phase, starting 2018 and began to develop urban low emission development strategies and action plans.

Through the *Cities and Climate Change Initiative*, in Asia and the Pacific UN-Habitat supported the development of local action-oriented tools to guide advocacy and capacity-building efforts. Capacity of cities in the Asia-Pacific region to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation

strategies into local development policies and plans were strengthened. 30 partner cities in **Fiji, Indonesia, Lao PDR, Myanmar, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu and Viet Nam** completed vulnerability and adaptation assessments, and **Kathmandu valley** and the **capital cities of the Solomon Islands** and **Vanuatu** developed climate action plans. Additionally, **Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka** and **Viet Nam** reviewed their national urban policies from a climate change perspective and documented the process in regional guidelines prepared with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific. **Cambodia** mainstreamed climate change into subnational planning, with a specific focus on gender, which was anchored within the Cambodia Climate Change National Strategic Plan.

Through the *Vertical Integration and Learning for Low Emission Development* initiative and based on city-level experiences in Viet Nam and the Philippines, national guidelines for local climate action planning were developed. Together with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, UN-Habitat partnered with cities in **Bangladesh, India, Indonesia**, and the **Lao PDR** to develop greenhouse gas inventories and low-emission development strategies.

Under the **Myanmar** *Climate Change Alliance* program, UN-Habitat in partnership with UN Environment Programme supported the development and adoption of the *National Climate Change Policy*, the *National Climate Change Strategy (2018-2030)* and the *National Climate Change Master Plan (2018-2030)*. The strategy and master plan have included sustainable cities and disaster risk reduction as prioritized areas to improve urban resilience. Tools for climate change vulnerability assessment and local adaptation planning were developed and piloted in 2 townships.

During the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat led the development of the *Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor cooperative initiative*, a high-level engagement that reflects the Agency's role as focal point for sustainable and inclusive urbanization within the United Nations system. Through this initiative, more than 200,000 residents of informal settlements in several countries in the Asia Pacific region benefitted from climate smart resilient spatial planning, infrastructure improvement and enhanced means of livelihoods. By the end of 2019, 43 community infrastructure projects had been completed in the targeted 16 informal settlements in **Fiji**, 5 informal settlements in **Solomon Islands,** 5 peri-urban areas in **Mongolia** and 189 small towns and villages in **Lao PDR.**

Advocacy and awareness raising on cities and climate change

UN-Habitat's advocacy and awareness-raising over the six-year period strengthened the role of cities in climate change adaptation efforts. In response to growing global demand for climate action at the city level, UN-Habitat spearheaded strategic initiatives and partnerships to promote the mitigation of and adaption to the effects of climate change. At the 2014 Climate Summit, UN-Habitat supported the Secretary-General to launch the Compact of Mayors. This was a precursor to the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, today the largest global alliance for city climate leadership with more than 10,000 member-cities.

In partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and other key partners, UN-Habitat increasingly shaped the enabling environment for cities to formulate their low-emission development strategies. In this regard, UN-Habitat also helped with national policy and capacity development initiatives. In the Least Developed Countries, for example, in **Mozambique** and **Comoros**, UN-Habitat supported two cities, signatory to the Global Covenant of Mayors, to achieve "badges" that indicated compliance with Global Covenant of Mayors on Climate Change and Energy commitments. In the emerging economies of **Brazil, India, Indonesia** and **South Africa**, UN Habitat supported seven cities to develop council-approved low-emission development strategies.

Aftermath of Cyclone Idai in Mozambique © UN-Habitat

03

Urban Economy and Municipal Finance

Objective of the subprogramme

To improve urban strategies and policies that promote inclusive economic development, sustainable livelihoods and enhanced municipal finance.

I. Introduction

The rate of urbanization in developing countries in the last two decades has been much faster than the rate at which the cities have generated jobs for their rapidly growing populations. As a result, a large proportion of the population in many cities, especially women and youth, remains unemployed or underemployed. Globally, young people are three times more likely to be unemployed than adults. In addition, many municipal authorities in developing countries face a growing gap between revenue generation and expenditure needs. Inability to mobilize adequate financial resources to meet the ever-growing demand for adequate provision of public goods and services remains a serious challenge in developing countries, with more people living in cities now than ever before.

Subprogramme 3 of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019, Urban Economy and Municipal Finance, supported local, regional and national authorities to adopt and implement policies and strategies promoting inclusive economic growth and development, create economic opportunities for all, particularly for young women, men and vulnerable groups, and improve municipal finance. UN-Habitat's efforts under this subprogramme have contributed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 8,10,11 and 17.

Young women in Afghanistan learning entrepreneurial skills @UN-Habitat

II. Highlights

30 partner cities prepared local economic development plans based on detailed local economic assessments.

61 cities adopted urban youth policies or programmes promoting youth-inclusive cities for improved employment and sustainable livelihoods.

Livelihoods for 69,253 urban youth were improved through entrepreneurial and technical skills training and start-up grants.

40 partner cities implemented strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

350,000 youth in Somalia participated in local governance and democratic institutions, because of regulatory frameworks developed to promote the youth agenda.

Municipal revenue generation significantly improved through policy and technical support in partner countries, as demonstrated by increases of more than 90 **per cent** in **Afghanistan** and up to **300 per cent** in **Somalia**.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Improved capacity of partner cities to adopt strategies supportive of inclusive economic growth.

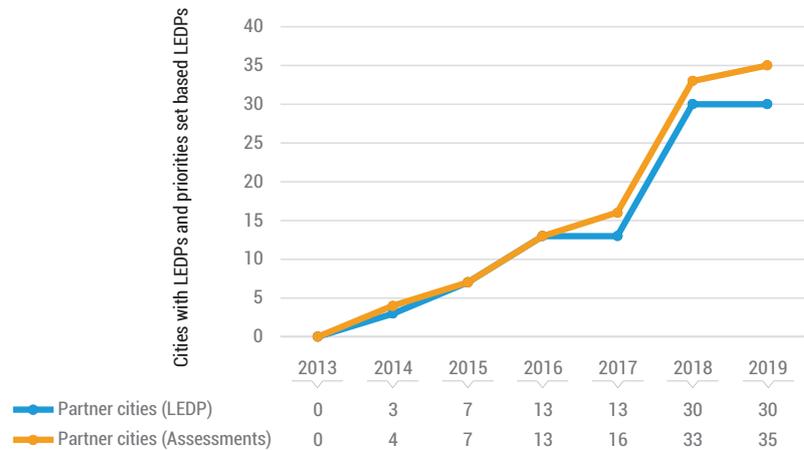**Indicators of achievement**

1: Increased number of partner cities that prepared local economic development plans.

2: Increased number of partner cities that set priorities based on local economic assessment.

Progress was made towards improving the capacity of partner cities to adopt strategies that support inclusive economic growth. Figure 3.1 shows that the two indicator targets set for the strategic plan period were surpassed. Thirty partner cities prepared economic development plans based on local economic assessments conducted in 35 cities. The cities were at different stages of implementing plans and strategies that support inclusive economic growth by the end of 2019.

Figure 3.1 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Partner cities (LEDP)	0	3	7	13	13	30	30
Partner cities (Assessments)	0	4	7	13	16	33	35

	LEDPS	Assessments
Target by 2019	20	27
Actual by 2019	30	35

1.2 Key Milestones

2014-2015

The global programme on *Achieving Sustainable Urban Development* was implemented in 11 secondary cities in **Colombia**, **Egypt**, **Mozambique**, **Philippines** and **Rwanda** to enhance their capacity to develop plans and adopt strategies supportive of inclusive economic growth.

2017-2018

Local economic and financial assessments were conducted for 17 cities in **Saudi Arabia** to promote economic diversification and improve municipal financial management. Strategic economic sectors for investment along with policy tools and mechanisms were identified to promote competition and productivity and harness economic potential in each city.

2018-2019

Planning and Productive Policies Toolkit was developed to support local governments link spatial planning with economic productivity, assess the value chain of a city, and maximise the strong interrelation between urban layouts and productivity of cities. The tool was piloted in 17 cities in Saudi Arabia and in two cities in Egypt.

*Global Municipal Database was launched, which publishes i*ndicators on the budgets of municipal governments, including per capita expenditures, revenues and debt.

2019

Basic costs of infrastructure: *The Costs of a City (SDG11) methodology* was developed to assist cities to produce baseline estimates of the local infrastructure gap and resource requirements for the realization of SDG 11. This methodology has been piloted in **Bolivia, Colombia, India** and **Malaysia**.

2019

Participatory Budgeting tool was developed, which provided municipalities with a quick methodology for implementing participatory budgeting at city level. It enabled citizens to decide how to spend part of their city's budget for improving their communities. This tool has been piloted in the Municipality of General Escobedo in **Mexico** and in Kajiado District in **Kenya**.

1.3 Key Results Achieved

Capacities for local economic development strengthened

During the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat and partners strengthened the capacity of partner cities to develop plans and strategies for supporting local economic growth. Through normative tools, capacity strengthening, technical advice and operational interventions partner cities developed and adopted plans and strategies that contribute to local economic development, value creation, and building of wealth and assets. Tools that were developed and piloted in various cities during the strategic plan period included: The *Planning and Productive Policies Toolkit that supported governments to integrate spatial planning with economic productivity of cities, piloted in 17 cities in Saudi Arabia and 2 cities in Egypt; Global Municipal Database that presented* indicators on budgets of municipal governments *(currently contains municipal data for 110 cities globally); Basic costs of infrastructure*: *The Costs of a City (SDG11) methodology* that supported cities to produce baseline estimates and resource requirements for achieving SDG 11, piloted in **Bolivia, Colombia, India and Malaysia***)* and *Participatory Budgeting tool* for implementing participatory budgeting at city level, which was piloted in General Escobedo municipality in **Mexico** and in Kajiado county, **Kenya**.

To strengthen knowledge on effective and inclusive urban economy for sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Global Fund for Cities Development developed knowledge products to enhance local economic development and the revenue of local governments. Some of the knowledge products developed during the strategic plan period include: *Developing Public Spaces and Land Values; Subnational Borrowing in Africa; Economic Benefits of the Territorial Strategy in the Zapopan Municipality, Mexico; Local Economic Development, Micro-enterprise and Crime Reduction: Lessons from Cali, Colombia; Municipal Finance in India; Finance for City Leaders Handbook and Enhancing Productivity in the Urban Informal Economy.*

By the end of 2019, 30 partner cities in several countries, including **Colombia, Egypt, Haiti, Kenya, The Philippines, Mozambique, Rwanda** and **Saudi Arabia,** that benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions had prepared and adopted local economic development plans and strategies supportive of inclusive economic growth. For example, in Bogota City in **Colombia,** 26 small-and medium-scale enterprises developed business plans based on local economic assessment and development strategy in 2014 to 2015. The strategy focused on a cluster-based approach to local economic development, with emphasis on informal sector operators in the leather and footwear industry. This resulted in the development of 100 new designs of leather footwear products introduced into the market since 2016. In the **Philippines,** an integrated and practical approach to economic development was designed to prepare local economic development strategies and an action plan for Silay City in 2014 to make the city prosperous and equitable.

In 2015, local economic assessments were undertaken based on integrated economic and spatial planning for the cities of Cagayan de Oro and Silay. As a result, in 2016, an unused military airport in Cagayan de Oro City was transformed into a productive civic and commercial area in a new mixed-use neighbourhood. The formulation of local economic development strategies and plans was scaled up to the cities of Butuan and Zamboanga, supporting inclusive economic growth.

UN-Habitat's interventions in pilot partner cities of Nacala and Nampula in **Mozambique** improved their capacity to adopt urban strategies supportive of inclusive economic growth. A strategy for the Nampula-Nacala development corridor promoted local economic development and strengthened the capacity of the two municipalities to collect taxes from 2014. Local economic development plans and legal and administrative frameworks were

established in 2016 to support inclusive local economic growth in both cities. In addition, financial capacity to address unplanned and rapid urban development around Nacala Bay was strengthened. Emerging mega projects alongside privately-owned low-income housing demonstrate improved local economic development of the area.

Local economic and financial assessments were conducted in 2017-2018 for 17 cities in **Saudi Arabia** to promote economic diversification and improve municipal financial management. The assessments informed the development of economic plans for the cities and provided benchmarks for local finance systems which are being implemented.

In **Kenya**, models for local economic development were promoted in several secondary cities including Homa Bay, Kiambu, Nyandarua and Kajiado. Local economic assessments provide critical information to the local governments for evidence-based policy decisions on how to foster equitable local economic growth and equitable access to public goods and services.

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2

 Enhanced capacity of partner cities to adopt urban policies or programmes supportive of improved and sustainable livelihoods with a focus on urban youth and women.

Indicator of achievement

Increased number of partner cities that have adopted urban policies or programmes supportive of improved employment and sustainable livelihoods with focus on urban youth and women, displaced populations, people with disabilities and other vulnerable populations.

Progress was made towards improving the capacity of 54 partner cities that adopted urban policies or programmes supportive of improved employment and sustainable livelihoods. However, the target of 63 cities set for the end of 2019 was not reached as shown in Figure 3.2

Figure 3.2 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Partner cities	7	16	26	35	55	61	61

	Cities
Target by 2019	63
Actual by 2019	61

2.2 Key Milestones

2014

The *Youth and Land Responsiveness Criteria Land Tool* was developed in partnership with the Global Land Tool Network and five youth organizations from **Brazil, Kenya, Nepal, Yemen** and **Zimbabwe**. The tool supported objective assessment of the capacity of land tools, policies and projects to respond to the needs and concerns of young people in relation to land.
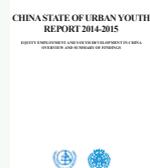
The One Stop Youth Centre model piloted in **Kenya, Uganda** and **Tanzania,** was scaled up in **Rwanda** and **Somalia.**

2015

The '*China State of Urban Youth report 2014/2015'* revealed the impact of economic and social structures on youth in China and made recommendations to enhance equity and the prosperity of cities within a framework of legislation, financial planning and urban design.

2016-2017

Based on successful implementation of the One Stop Youth Centre resource model in Kimisagara District, the model was scaled up to 29 out of 30 Districts in **Rwanda**.

The Kimisagara One Stop Youth Centre completed evaluation of its programme which found that more than 335,000 youth had benefitted from training and education programmes.

The One Stop Youth Resource Centre Accreditation Manual was piloted in 3 districts in **Rwanda** and launched in 2019.

2018

The first *State of Young Women and Men in Saudi* report was launched in Arabic and English at the World Urban Forum 9 in **Malaysia**.

The One Stop Youth Resource Centre model was adopted into the United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks for **Rwanda** and **Uganda**.

The One Stop model became the basis of the development of the UN Youth Centre in Istanbul, **Turkey**.

The One Stop Youth Resource Centre model was show cased at the *Africa Youth Connekt Summit* attended by more than 4,974 participants in **Kigali**, Rwanda. The model was highlighted as an initiative that connected youth for transformation through provision of safe urban spaces.

Through the Clean and Green Cities project in **Afghanistan**, more than two million job days were created that improved the well-being of the citizens and the quality of the urban environment in 12 cities.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Empowerment of urban youth strengthened

Over the strategic plan period, 2014–2019, UN-Habitat utilized its youth focused operational programmes and advocacy initiatives to promote youth issues in urban economics and finance as drivers of prosperity.

To this end, UN-Habitat continued to promote the One Stop Youth Centre model to support economic empowerment of urban youth, creating employment opportunities and improving their livelihoods through the Urban Youth Fund. The One Stop Youth Centres have become a model of safe public spaces for empowering youth in urban centres in the Africa region as demonstrated in **Kenya, Nigeria, Rwanda, Uganda, Somalia** and **Tanzania.** The Urban Youth Fund placed UN-Habitat on the cutting edge of urban youth development, with more than 284 youth-led groups in 66 countries and 172 cities funded. In addition, 549 social enterprises were seeded and 83,185 engaged in youth fund programming. The Global Youth-Led Development Series of 9 research reports captured the lessons learned from these groups.

The One Stop Youth Centre model has made significant contribution towards youth empowerment. After a piloting phase in three East African countries (**Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania**), the model was scaled up to **Rwanda** and **Somalia**. In **Rwanda,** the Kimisagara One Stop Youth Centre in Kigali benefitted more than 335,000 youth. After successful implementation in Kigali, the model was scaled up in 29 out of 30 districts and had empowered thousands of youth across Rwanda by the end of 2019.

Based on the lessons learned from the successful implementation of the One Stop Youth Centre Model in Rwanda, the model was introduced in **Somalia**. In 2017, One Stop Youth Resource Centres were established in two cities, Mogadishu and Kismayo and 2 satellite centres in Bosaso and Berbera municipalities with technical support from UN-Habitat. By the end of 2019, more than 1,874 youth had benefitted from vocational and entrepreneurial skills training. Of this number, 1,339 were employed, earning the average minimum wage of USD 120 per month. Additionally, 87 business start-ups were established, supporting more youth.

"There are 22 centres all over the country, out of which Kimisagara is the best performing. The Ministry has been searching for a model to replicate, and the One Stop Youth Centre concept was found to be most inclusive. Now the Ministry is planning to replicate the One Stop Model in 450 locations including at District and sector levels across

the country through the YEGO strategy." Jean Hilbert Nsengimana, Rwandan Minister of Youth and ICT (2018).

The One Stop Youth Centre in **Somalia** also emerged as a driver for youth empowerment in governance issues. Three Youth Councils were established in Kismayo City, which were embedded into the existing local governance structures to support youth policies and increase youth participation in local governance processes. These councils reached more than 24,000 youth, by the end of 2019, through various youth-led awareness raising campaigns that amplified their voices in political dialogues to shape their future and that of their country.

In **Kenya,** a One-Stop Youth Innovation Centre in Meru county provided capacity building and access to online resources as well as youth- friendly health testing and counselling. The programme had benefitted more than 1,500 youth by the end of 2018. In addition, more than 1,000 youth who benefited from various entrepreneurial skills development including brickmaking and masonry were employed by the Youth Service programme.

UN-Habitat continued to strengthen mainstreaming of youth issues into all its programmes. As a result, a growing number of countries and cities adopted polices and strategies that recognized and supported youth employment and livelihoods. Under the Future Saudi Cities programme, 15 cities in the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** adopted urban policies and programmes to improve employment and sustainable livelihoods with a focus on urban youth and women. Capacity in participatory planning and governance of more than 500 young men and women in 13 cities was strengthened.

Throughout the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat played a lead role in promoting sustainable urban development. Several knowledge products were produced which have contributed towards raising awareness and capacity building on issues affecting youth especially in urban areas. For example, the *Youth 2030: UN Youth Strategy* supported the scaling up of global, regional and national actions to meet young people's needs, realized their rights and tapped into their potential as agents of change. To highlight the issues affecting youth refugees in urban centres, UN-Habitat supported the production of materials including: *Refugee Youth: Good Practices in Urban Resettlement Context; Capacity Building in Support of Young Refugees in Metropolitans.*

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

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

Improved capacity of partner cities to adopt policies, plans and strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

Indicator of achievement

Increased number of partner cities that have implemented plans or strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

Progress was made towards improving the capacity of partner cities to adopt policies, plans and strategies for improved urban and municipal finance. Figure 3.3 shows that the indicator target for this expected accomplishment for strategic plan period was surpassed with 40 additional partner cities implementing strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

Figure 3.3 Progress made towards indicator target

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Partner cities	8	14	19	25	28	47	48

	Cities
Target by 2019	36
Actual by 2019	48

3.2 Key Milestones

2014

The capacity of 6 partner cities in **Somaliland** and **Puntland** was improved in respect to adopting policies, plans and strategies for urban and municipal finance through normative tools and technical advice provided by UN-Habitat.

Municipal financing methodologies for accessing endogenous finance were piloted in **Colombia, Egypt, Mozambique, the Philippines** and **Rwanda.**

The capacity of local authorities to borrow from private capital markets by issuing municipal bonds developed under the Municipal Credit Rating Programme was implemented in all cities in **Jordan**.

2015

UN-Habitat supported methods of land surveying, land registration, tax invoicing and collection to improve local revenue generation and spending of tax revenues, piloted mainly in **Somalia** and **Afghanistan.**

2016-2017

Nine partner cities adopted policies and programmes for improved urban and municipal financing in **Afghanistan, Kenya** and **Somalia**.

2019

A total of 48 local authorities implemented strategies that improved their local revenue generating capacity.

Own Source Revenue Toolkit was developed that supports local authorities to optimize revenue generation from local sources. It was piloted in Kisumu County, in **Kenya**.

3.3 Key Results Achieved

Generation of local revenue enhanced

During the six-year reporting period, progress was made in strengthening capacities of partner cities to adopt policies, systems and strategies to improve municipal revenue for financing provision of basic services. UN-Habitat provided technical support to 48 partner municipalities for improved urban and municipal finance through integrated normative and operational initiatives that incorporate public–private partnerships, land-based revenue and financing tools. For instance, the ***own-source revenue toolkit*** was developed that supported local authorities to optimize revenue generation from local sources. It was piloted in Kisumu County**, Kenya**.

Capacities of partner local authorities to enact institutional and legal reforms that increased revenue generation and strengthened transparency and accountability were strengthened. Capacities of partner cities on land value and land revenue for increasing own-source revenue were enhanced as has been demonstrated especially in **Afghanistan, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Mozambique, Somalia** and **South Africa.**

Significant increases in municipal revenue generation was witnessed in 15 municipalities in **Somalia** and 12 cities in **Afghanistan** where systematic policy reforms and transparent, accountable procedures were institutionalized.

In **Somalia**, a geographic information system-based property database mapped all properties in 17 cities. The database was connected to the local government's automated accounting information management system and computerized billing information management system to generate bills for tax collection. As a result, revenue collection, particularly property taxation improved by 50-85 per cent in some of the local governments where the system was installed. For example, Hargeisa local government in Somaliland increased its revenue from USD 100,000 in 2008 to USD 1.6 million in 2019. In 2004, one municipality's database had only 15,850 taxable properties as compared to 2011 when the number of taxable properties increased to 60,000 as a result of the GIS survey. Revenue raised from property tax by local governments increased and they could deliver social services and new infrastructure every year.

Nearly two thirds of properties were unregistered, and their owners did not pay any *safayi* fee (same as property tax) in **Afghanistan**. Through UN-Habitat's City for All programme, systematic reforms to the *safayi* system were introduced to make it more transparent, reliable, and comprehensive. These reforms included surveying more than 1 million properties including informal properties for property registration and collection of safayi fees; introducing an electronic database for calculation, recording, and tracking of safayi fees; establishing direct payment into a municipality's bank account; and annual delivery of safayi invoices to all properties surveyed. By end of 2019, more than USD 13.1 million in local revenue had been collected in eight Afghan municipalities. In Kabul City, annual safayi collections increased by 94 per cent.

In **Mozambique**, the municipality of Nampula, piloted property tax as a means of generating local resources to meet its financial needs. This tax was applied to about 10 per cent of municipal properties as the only local revenue enhancement component. The municipality also piloted a mobile technology introduced by UN-Habitat to generate additional revenue from property taxes. A feasibility study demonstrated that the cost of USD 200,000 to set up the system could be recovered within the first year from taxes collected from 3,000 households.

In **Kenya**, the County Government of Kiambu implemented the Revenue Enhancement project in 2014 with technical support from UN-Habitat. Baseline data on mapped properties and facilities was compiled and linked to information on land values. Initial analyses showed that the county had undeveloped portfolio of valuable assets, presenting opportunities for mobilizing additional revenue from local sources. This laid the foundation for generating increased municipal finance and for fostering inclusive economic development. With the implementation of the fully automated revenue collection system in 2015, county revenue grew by 60 per cent.

In **Colombia**, the city of Medellin piloted the Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment land tool in densifying and readjusting plots in 2014 to make space for public services and infrastructure. This supported the upgrading of La Candelaria, a low-income community in Medellin City. One of the outcomes was the creation of a land trust to enable beneficiaries collect income from the sale and rental of new residential and commercial space. By the end of the reporting period, the income generated was being used to renovate existing houses and businesses, and installation of basic infrastructure.

In **Iraq**, UN-Habitat piloted a critical initiative *Enhanced Municipal Finance and Budget Execution* in four governorates to assess their capacity to raise municipal revenues, widen the municipal tax base and manage and execute expenditure for improvement of services in specific urban related sectors. In 2016, the economic assessment of Al Alamein New City, in **Egypt**, provided information on revenue projections based on the value chains and supply chains, supply/demand effect and the local/regional economic development.

04

Urban Basic Services

Objective of the subprogramme

To increase equitable access to urban basic services and the standard of living of the urban poor.

I. Introduction

Many national governments and local authorities strive to provide urban basic services for their citizens. Despite these efforts, the number of urban residents lacking access to safe water supply and sanitation, safe and sustainable domestic energy, sustainable solid waste management and safe public transport is increasing. Rapid urban population growth, increasing poverty and growing financial resource constraints means that many governments struggle to deliver basic facilities. Additionally, urban challenges associated with the environment, climate change and the way cities manage and contribute to these issues are impacting on basic service provision.

During the strategic plan period 2014–2019 UN-Habitat's work under Subprogramme 4, Urban basic services, was to support partner countries with technical expertise

and appropriate normative tools to improve provision of water supply and sanitation, waste management, energy and urban mobility. This included (i) strengthening policy and institutional frameworks that integrate basic service delivery at all levels of city governance; and (ii) improving the capacity and efficiency of national and local governments in the provision of clean water, adequate sanitation and waste management services. UN-Habitat promoted adoption of low-carbon pathways for improvements in the delivery of basic services through initiatives to reduce transport related air pollution, and development of alternative sources of clean energy. UN-Habitat's work under this subprogramme contributed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Paris Agreement as well as the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11, 12 and 17.

Unsafe water from unprotected shallow well in Kuntulo, Northern Ghana. © UN-Habitat

II. Highlights

149 local governments improved their policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services.

More than **3.7 million people** benefited from improved access to water and sanitation through UN-Habitat interventions promoting equitable access to basic services.

39 million people benefitted from improved water service delivery in **187 water operators' partnerships** due to improved performance and equity facilitated by the global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance.

More than **USD 330 million** was mobilized for water and sanitation operators' partnerships to strengthen the capacity of local water and sanitation utilities globally.

USD 42.3 million worth of investments catalysed for expanding access to urban basic services through UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries.

100 cities joined the global **Waste Wise Cities Campaign,** in response to UN-Habitat's advocacy efforts for urgent action on solid waste management.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Improved policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services implemented by local, regional and national authorities.
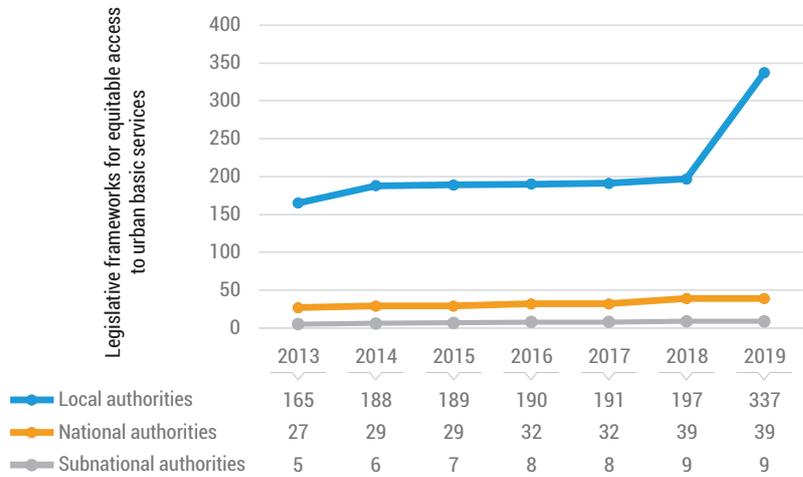
Indicator of achievement

Increased number of partner local, subnational and national authorities implementing institutional and legislative frameworks for increasing equitable access to urban basic services, the international guidelines on decentralization and the guidelines on access to basic services for all.

Progress was made towards improving policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services delivered by local, regional and national authorities. By the end of 2019, two indicator targets for this expected accomplishment had been surpassed as shown in Figure 4.1. Over the strategic plan period, a total of 172 local governments, 12 national governments and 4 subnational authorities improved policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable basic services including water and sanitation, energy, solid waste management and transport.

Figure 4.1 Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Local authorities	165	188	189	190	191	197	337
National authorities	27	29	29	32	32	39	39
Subnational authorities	5	6	7	8	8	9	9

	Local	National	Sub
Target by 2019	195	35	10
Actual by 2019	337	39	9

1.2 Key Milestones

2014

The *Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative* was established under the UN Water platform, an inter-agency initiative led by UN-Habitat. It provided opportunities for introducing integrated approaches for monitoring wastewater treatment and water quality, water scarcity, and water use-efficiency especially by resource-constrained States.

The *Urban electric mobility initiative* was launched at the UN Climate Summit to promote a reduction in dependency on vehicles using conventional sources of fuel.

The *Energy and Resource Efficiency Building Code for Tropical Countries* was prepared to support countries in tropical regions with policy guidance on how to incorporate resource and energy efficiency into construction.

2015

The *Covenant of Mayors for Sub Saharan Africa for Climate and Energy* was launched to support Sub-Saharan cities in the fight against climate change and in their efforts to ensure access to clean energy. By the end of 2019, more than 150 municipalities had signed the covenant.

2016

A *Tool for Coastal and Small Island State Water Utilities to Assess and Manage Climate Change Risk* was developed.

2017

The African Clean Cities Platform was established to share knowledge and promote attainment of Sustainable Development Goals on waste management. By the end of 2019, 64 cities in 35 countries in Africa were participating in the platform.

2018

The *Waste Wise Cities Campaign* was launched on World Habitat Day as a global call to action to address the increasing challenge of municipal solid waste management.

The first global status report on wastewater management was published, entitled *"Progress on Wastewater Treatment: Piloting the monitoring methodology and initial findings for SDG indicator 6.3.1"*.
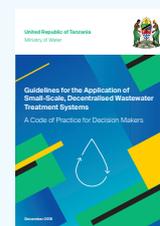
2019

Guidelines for the Application of Small-Scale, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems: A Code of Practice for Decision Makers was published.

Climate Proofing Toolkit for Basic Urban Infrastructure, with a focus on Water and Sanitation was developed. The Toolkit seeks to ensure that potential climate change impacts are factored into the design, construction, location and operation of basic urban infrastructure.

The *Waste Wise Cities Tool* was piloted as a monitoring methodology for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1 on municipal solid waste management. It provides information on waste flows in cities.

1.3 Key Results Achieved

During the six-year reporting period UN-Habitat supported member states in their efforts towards the improvement of policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services including water and sanitation, waste management, energy and urban mobility implemented at local, subnational and national levels. Significant progress was achieved through a wide range of interventions and normative tools developed to facilitate technical and policy advice, operational projects, capacity building and advocacy.

Strengthening the monitoring of urban basic services-related SDGs

UN-Habitat supported member states to achieve urban basic services-related SDGs by refining indicators, improving monitoring methodology and developing national and local capacity. In water and sanitation, UN-Habitat supported the work of the *Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative for Water* to establish a coherent country-level water and sanitation monitoring framework for Goal 6. The framework utilized cost-effective approaches for data collection, including the

use of Earth observations for data acquisition, which was especially useful for resource-constrained states.

UN-Habitat also assisted member states in monitoring their progress towards achievement of *indicator 6.3.1* on wastewater. As a co-custodian of the wastewater indicator, it published the first global status report on wastewater management i in 2018 entitled, *Progress on Wastewater Treatment: Piloting the monitoring methodology and initial findings for SDG indicator 6.3.1.* Under SDG indicator 11.2 *"Access to Public Transport",* UN-Habitat and its partners further refined the monitoring methodology through Expert Group Meetings and collected data for more than 500 cities.

As the custodian agency of SDG indicator 11.6.1. on municipal solid waste, UN-Habitat led the work on its monitoring methodology in coherence with other waste statistics systems in the world. In collaboration with UN Environment, the custodian agency for other waste SDG indicators (SDG 12.3.1, 12.4.2 and 12.5.1 alignment among all waste related SDG indicators was strengthened.

Strengthening capacity for solid waste management

During the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat increased its efforts to support member states in effectively addressing the ever-growing challenge of municipal solid waste management. The Waste Wise Tool was developed to assist member states generate information on waste flows at city-level, strengthen their capacity, help them identify stakeholders, and develop evidence-based interventions for effective waste management. The tool also served as a monitoring methodology for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1 on waste management. Furthermore, the global *Waste Wise Cities* Campaign, launched in 2018, promoted the need for urgent action to curb the rapidly increasing problem of solid waste management and making cities resource efficient. By the end of 2019, 110 cities had joined the campaign, committing to promote sustainable waste management.

The Fukuoka Method, a low-cost sanitary landfill technology, was piloted in **Kenya** and **Ethiopia**. After successful completion of the first landfill site to use the Fukuoka method in Kiambu County in **Kenya** in 2015, the initiative was scaled up to other municipalities. In **Ethiopia**, construction of landfills commenced in the cities of Addis Ababa and Bahir Dar in 2018. Addis Ababa City Government used the Fukuoka method to retrofit, environmentally recover and sustainably close the Koshe dump site. Prior to this intervention, parts of the 50-year old open landfill collapsed in March 2017, killing about 200 waste pickers and residents. In **Myanmar**, introduction of the Fukuoka Method led to resilient, safe and sustainable waste management, thereby reducing fire risks and environmental hazards and benefitting more than 150,000 people.

In **Malawi**, an innovative "Waste for Wealth" intervention was introduced in three cities, which reduced indiscriminate dumping of waste as well as outbreaks of waterborne disease, and contributed to increased coverage of waste management services. In **Pakistan,** the first Integrated Resource Recovery Centre developed in Islamabad, with capacity to process 3 tons of municipal solid waste per day, transformed the city's solid waste management. This initiative enabled the capital city to divert municipal solid waste from landfills and open dump sites by turning waste into resources through composting, recycling and bio-digestion.

Improving efficiency and equity of local public water and sanitation service providers

Through the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, UN-Habitat expanded its support to member states towards achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 and implementing the New Urban Agenda by building the technical and management capacity of utility companies in the provision of sustainable and equitable services. Over the strategic plan period 2014–2019, a total of 187 water operators' partnerships were developed and joined the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance.

By the end of the period under review, there were nearly 500 members in the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance, representing public water utilities and their associations supporting operators to address critical challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, pollution and service inequality. More than 200 water operators recorded improved efficiency within their utilities or created enabling conditions for more sustainable and equitable service provision through their association with the Alliance, benefitting about 1 million users.

Strengthening green energy policies and guidelines for resource efficiency in cities

Over the six-year reporting period, UN-Habitat supported member states towards creating an enabling environment for policy reforms that factor in green building and resource efficiency as part of the development agenda. National and local governments were supported to develop and implement sustainable urban energy and climate action plans and strategies. Adoption of appropriate legislation was also promoted for a gradual transition to low-carbon economies with environmentally sound urban infrastructure and services.

To support cities in Sub-Saharan Africa, strengthen their capacity to respond to climate change by ensuring access to clean energy, UN-Habitat contributed towards the establishment of the *Covenant of Mayors for Sub Saharan Africa for Climate and Energy.* The Covenant was launched in 2015. By the end of 2019, more than 150 municipalities in Africa had signed the covenant, of which more than 20 have already developed energy and climate action plans.

Significant progress was made in advocating for the integration of energy and resource efficiency into national housing policies and building practices in seven countries in Africa. UN-Habitat promoted sustainable building approaches that integrate passive design elements, resource efficiency, and renewable energy technologies into building design and construction. **Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania** and **Uganda** integrated green building criteria into their housing and construction policies. For example, in **Uganda**, sustainability principles such as efficient utilization of renewable energy were integrated into the housing policy approved in 2016; and a new building code with a chapter on energy was developed in 2018, recognizing and institutionalizing energy efficiency in all buildings. **Rwanda** adopted a new building code with a full chapter on energy in 2016, while **Kenya** adopted regulations on mandatory use of solar water heating systems in new buildings in 2017. **Tanzania** reviewed its building permit policies to make them more sustainable and energy efficient in 2019, while **Cameroon, Nigeria** and **Senegal** received capacity-building support from UN-Habitat in this area. In **China**, Guidelines for net zero carbon villages in Yangtze Delta Region were developed in 2019 and are now being used for the rehabilitation of other polluted urban rivers in the country. As a result of these interventions, governments have given special attention to energy and resource efficiency in their programmes, thus contributing to reducing emissions of Greenhouse gases while catalyzing eco-friendly economic development.

Strengthening transport policies and guidelines for sustainable and equitable access

Over the strategic plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat supported various interventions and pilot solutions to promote sustainable urban mobility, including the Bus Rapid Transit System (BRT) and non-motorized transport modes such as cycling. National governments and local authorities were provided with a comprehensive package of knowledge, advocacy and technical assistance to support r development and implementation of sustainable urban mobility systems.

UN-Habitat worked through a regional initiative, *Promoting Sustainable Transport Solutions for East African Cities (SUSTRAN),* to support the cities of Addis Ababa (**Ethiopia**), Nairobi (**Kenya)** and Kampala (**Uganda**), to plan and design sustainable public transport systems. By the end of 2019, the capacity of the Metropolitan Transit Authorities in the three countries to plan for and implement Bus Rapid Transit systems had been strengthened. Technical designs for the Bus Rapid Transit Systems were finalized for Nairobi

and Addis Ababa, which led to funding commitment for implementation between governments and financing partners. For Addis Ababa EUR 85 million co-financing from the French Development Agency supported the design and construction of the Bus Rapid Transit System, expected to be operational by the end of 2020.

Findings from a terminal external evaluation, of the SUSTRAN project, conducted during 2018, revealed that *"the project served as a necessary and useful contributor to the institutional development of sustainable transport systems in East African cities. 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 Sustainable Mobility systems for all 3 cities".*

In Cairo, **Egypt**, UN-Habitat partnered with the Government of Egypt and UN Women to provide technical support for the introduction of a modern BRT system. A unique feature of this initiative was to make public transport more responsive to the needs of women, leading to safer public transport experiences. By the end of 2019, the first draft of the policy brief on women's safe mobility and accessibility to safe public transport in **Egypt** was finalized to support gender-sensitive planning of future public transport services.

In addition to the efforts African cities made to introduce high capacity public transport systems such as Bus Rapid Transit, UN-Habitat also supported member states in the region to promote non-motorised modes of transport such as walking and cycling. Walking and cycling together constitute the bulk of the "mode share" of urban transport across African cities. In 2018, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Institute for Transportation and Development, developed a design guidebook "*Streets for walking and cycling – Designing for safety, accessibility and comfort in African cities*". The guidebook was disseminated to more than 1000 stakeholders.

UN-Habitat also supported member states in other regions to improve their policies and strategies in support of sustainable non-motorized modes of transport. For example, in **Colombia**, cycling master plans were developed for three metropolitan areas: the Valle de Aburra metropolitan region in 2014, Medellin City in 2015 and the Metropolitan Area of Bucaramanga in 2018. The Metropolitan Area of Bucaramanga and its four municipalities legally adopted a long-term Bicycle Strategy for the period 2019-2030 and finalized designs and terms of references for construction of the first 20km cycling tracks. This created opportunity for expanding cycling as an important mode of mobility in this metropolitan area.

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2

Enhanced enabling environment for promoting investments in urban basic services in partner countries, with a focus on the urban poor.

Indicator of achievement

Increased amount of investments into urban basic services catalyzed by UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries.

Progress was made towards an enabling environment for promoting investments in urban basic services in partner countries with a focus on the urban poor. Figure 4.2 shows that the indicator target set for the end of the strategic plan of USD 70 million additional UN-Habitat-catalysed investments into urban basic services was surpassed with USD 95.8 million catalysed by the end of 2019.

Figure 4.2 Progress made towards indicator target

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Investments (Million USD)	0	53.5	53.5	60	60	85.5	95.8

	Investments
Target by 2019	70m
Actual by 2019	95.8m

2.2 Key Milestones

2014

EUR 90 million long-term loan secured from European Investment Bank with the government of **Tanzania** contributing EUR 14 million euros to extend the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme to Mwanza Town.

2016

USD 6.5 million was catalyzed as follows: USD 1.2 million to scale up urban mobility and energy projects in Lao PDR, USD 1.3 million for sanitation in Nepal and USD 1.5 million for water and sanitation projects in **Ghana**.

2018

About USD 22.2 million was catalyzed for urban basic services. Out of this, USD 20.8 million was for UN-Habitat-led interventions in 3 governorates most affected by the conflict with ISIL in **Iraq**.

2019

EUR 10 million was committed for new multi-year water operators' partnerships initiative by the European Commission and the Governments of **Germany** and **Finland**. This will strengthen the performance of approximately 30 peer utilities over the coming four years.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Resources catalysed for scaling up urban basic services

Over the six-year reporting period, notable achievements were made towards enhancing an enabling environment for the promotion of investments in urban basic services in partner countries. UN-Habitat's Water and Sanitation Trust Fund leveraged over USD 1 billion in matching grants and loans, which contributed towards significant improvement in access to water and sanitation for settlements in more than 36 African and Asian cities. The technical support provided by UN-Habitat in pre-investment capacity improvements, including pro-poor components, ensured that large-scale projects supported by regional banks increased water and sanitation coverage among the urban poor.

Through the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance, over USD 390 Million was mobilized and utilized to strengthen the capacity of local water and sanitation utilities. This contributed towards significant improvement in financial performance of the utilities or facilitated access to needed investment finance.

UN-Habitat strengthened its efforts to catalyse investments in urban basic services which led to significant impact in partner countries. This is attributed largely to UN-Habitat's successful implementation of its operational programmes in partner countries, creating an enabling environment for the promotion of investments in urban basic services. For example, in 2018 USD 22.2 million was catalysed, out of which the largest contribution of USD 20.8 million was funding from the European Union earmarked for UN-Habitat-led interventions including urban basic services in 3 governorates most affected by the conflict with ISIL in **Iraq**.

In **Ethiopia**, the African Development Bank provided EUR 35 million that was used to support preparation of the Feasibility and Operational Plan for the Bus Rapid Transit demonstration corridor in Addis Ababa. In **Egypt,** USD 1 million was catalyzed from Coca-Cola and Replenish for Africa which supported innovative water and sanitation projects, in addition to government own investments estimated at USD 2 million. In addition, USD 700,000 was catalyzed from Swedfund and the *Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative* to support sustainable urban mobility projects such as the design of the Bus Rapid Transit system and cycling. In **Nepal,** over USD 700,000 was leveraged to improve sanitation facilities for 20 local authorities. In **Tanzania,** a EUR 90 million soft loan from the European Investment Bank and the French Development Agency facilitated the expansion of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme to Mwanza Town.

Kathmandu, Nepal @UN-Habitat

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

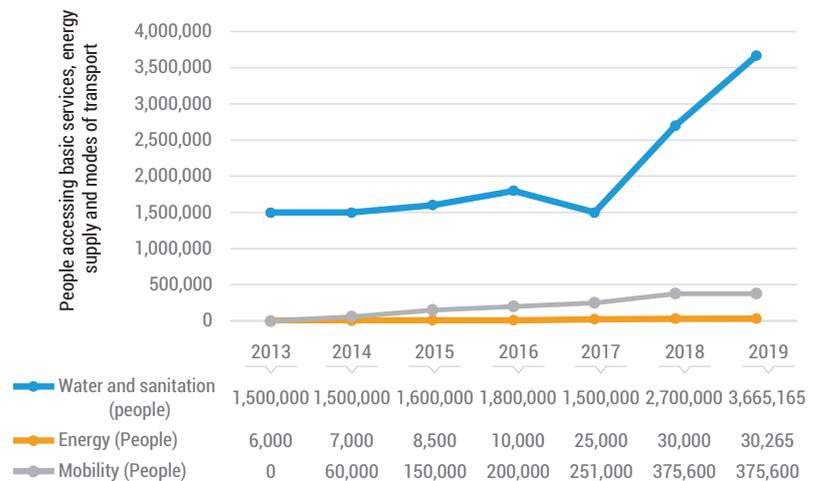**Increased coverage of sustainable urban basic services in targeted communities.**

Indicators of achievement

1: Increased number of people in targeted communities with access to sustainable water and sanitation services as a result of UN-Habitat interventions.

2: Increased number of people in targeted communities with access to sustainable energy supply as a result of UN-Habitat interventions.

3: Increased number of people in targeted communities with access to sustainable modes of transport as a result of UN-Habitat interventions.

Progress was made towards increasing coverage of sustainable urban basic services in targeted communities. Figure 4.3 shows that one indicator target was surpassed while two were below the target. Between 2014 and 2019, 3.7 million people in targeted communities gained access to sustainable water and sanitation services. The number of people in targeted communities who had access to sustainable energy was more than 30,000, while 375,600 people in targeted communities had access to sustainable modes of transport as a result of UN-Habitat interventions.

Figure 4.3 Progress made towards indicator target

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Water and sanitation (people)	1,500,000	1,500,000	1,600,000	1,800,000	1,500,000	2,700,000	3,665,165
Energy (People)	6,000	7,000	8,500	10,000	25,000	30,000	30,265
Mobility (People)	0	60,000	150,000	200,000	251,000	375,600	375,600

	Water	Energy	Mobility
Target by 2019	2.5m	35,000	500,000
Actual by 2019	3.7m	30,265	375,000

Before   **After**

Solid Waste management at Goshe dumpsite, Adis Ababa, Ethiopia © UN-Habitat

3.2 Key Milestones

2014

1.685 million people benefited from improved access to water and sanitation as a result of new water and sanitation projects, or the rehabilitation of existing facilities mainly in **Ghana, Kenya, Lao People's Democratic Republic, South Sudan** and **the United Republic of Tanzania**.

60,000 people benefitted from improved access to sustainable urban mobility through pilot projects on non-motorized modes of transport.

2015

1.815 million people benefited from improved access to water and sanitation from new water and sanitation projects.

More than 200 water operators recorded improved efficiency within the utility or created enabling conditions for more sustainable and equitable service provision in **Argentina, Australia, Brazil. Fiji, France and Morocco** with support from Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, ICLEI & United Cities and Local Governments.

2016

More than 2 million people in **Nepal** benefited from improved sanitation and began living in Open Defecation Free environments.

More than 3,000 people in marginalized communities benefited from improved access to sustainable energy

Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance registered 16 new Water Operators' Partnerships

2017

1.93 million people benefited from improved access to water and sanitation.

251,500 people gained access to sustainable modes of transport.

36,000 university of Nairobi (Kenya) students and 10,000 residents of Hyderabad (India) benefitted from the pilot bike-share system.

2018

2.7 million people benefitted from improved access to water and sanitation, mainly in **Egypt, Nepal, Ghana, Iraq, Jordan, Myanmar,** and **Sri Lanka.**

Gender Sensitive Mini-Bus Services & Transport Infrastructure for African Cities: A Practical Toolkit was developed, providing public transport stakeholders with guidelines for a minimum level of service required to make public transport safer and more accessible for women in African cities.

2018

The *Streets for Walking & Cycling tool* was developed, which supports city leaders and other stakeholders to design cities for safety, accessibility and comfort.

20 million people in Africa benefitted from improved performance and equity in nine water utilities facilitated by Water Operators Partnerships.

2019

In **Nepal**, more than 6 million people benefitted from improved access to sanitation through the Global Sanitation Fund, and the country achieved 100 per cent open defecation free status.

More than 1.5 million people from 1,300 communities in post-disaster and post-conflict areas in **Myanmar** benefitted from improved basic services delivered through the people's process approach.

More than 39 million people globally benefited from improved access to water and sanitation services and more efficient operations and maintenance of water and sanitation systems in utilities supported by the Global Water Operators' Partnerships.

375,600 people in targeted communities had access to sustainable modes of transport.

3.3 Key Results Achieved

Increased access to water and sanitation

Over the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat interventions with its partners increased coverage of sustainable urban basic services in target communities. Significant progress was made in improving access to water and sanitation mainly through field projects implemented using pro-poor and participatory approaches to ensure no community was left behind. The pilot projects to improve access to sustainable energy supply targeted marginalized communities by offering affordable options to ensure many people benefit. In urban mobility, focus was on improvement in access to non-motorized modes of transport, cycling and walking.

Significant improvement in access to water and sanitation was achieved in target communities thanks to the interventions of UN-Habitat and its partners. Through the Global Sanitation Fund Programme, UN-Habitat supported nine districts (Bara, Dhanusha, Jhapa, Mahottari, Morang, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sunsari) to complete the final miles of sanitation campaign **Nepal** in 2019. The Government reported that sanitation coverage in those districts was 100 per cent by the end of 2019. As a result, more than 6 million people benefitted from improved access to sanitation.

With technical support from UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO, more than 270,000 people, including 55,000 school children, benefitted from access to flood-resilient water and sanitation facilities in 265 disaster- prone communities in Northern **Ghana.** In **Tanzania**, through implementation of the Lake Victoria Water Supply and Sanitation Initiative in Mwanza which was supported by UN-Habitat, 10,000 households and 32,952 school children benefited from improved sanitation upon completion of the pilot simplified sewerage system in informal settlements. In **Chad**, UN-Habitat supported implementation of communal sanitation programmes in 12 communities, and more than 82,000 people are now live in 150 Open Defecation Free environments. In **Egypt**, the introduction of low-cost provision techniques and use of environmentally friendly River-Bank Filtration Technology Units was scaled up to national level, improving access to clean water for about 500,000 people.

In **Jordan**, more than 120,000 Syrian IDPs and refugees inside and outside camps Za'atari and Azraq camps had access to safe drinking water and sanitation services in 2018. In **Lao PDR**, more than 35,750 people had accesses to improved water and sanitation services in Attapeu, Saravane, and Sekong Provinces, after the completion of 53 resilient water and sanitation infrastructures at the end of 2019.

In **Myanmar,** more than 1.5 million people in 1,300 communities situated in post-disaster and post-conflict areas benefitted from improved basic services achieved through the people's process approach to project implementation. In addition, more than 168,656 people in 186 communities in 6 dry zones had access to safe drinking water, through water-piped installations. The money paid for the piped water by households was used to maintain the water infrastructure. The water treatment plant provided nearly 1,800 households (7,650 people) in informal settlements with access to reliable and safe drinking water.

Globally, more than **39 million people** benefited from improved access to water and sanitation services through improved policies and strategies for efficient operations and maintenance of water and sanitation systems supported by the Global Water Operators' Partnerships.

Increased access to sustainable Energy

During the strategic plan period, more than 30,000 people in marginalized communities benefitted from UN-Habitat's pilot sustainable energy programmes. More than 7,000 households in informal settlements in Nairobi, **Kenya** and in Yaoundé, **Cameroun** benefitted from clean day lighting systems (solar bottle bulbs) that enable them to have light during the day without using candles or kerosene lamps.

In **Myanmar**, 2,368 people in 368 households from Muizawl, Suang Zang, Suang Sang villages, Tedim Township gained access to electricity through the Micro-hydro power project in Chin. While in **Sudan**, the rehabilitation and heightening of Takro Dam was completed and a Solar System installed to pump water from the dam to the water points for irrigation, domestic use and livestock.

Increased access to sustainable Urban Mobility

UN-Habitat partnered with member states to develop and pilot sustainable transport options and strengthen alternative non-motorised modes of transport such as cycling. Over the six-year strategic plan period, more than 375,000 people in targeted communities benefitted from improved access to sustainable modes of transport from pilot interventions. For example, in **Egypt**, the use of cycling as an alternative transport mode was promoted. By the end of 2019, 110 cycle racks had been installed accommodating up to 200 cycles in three Cairo neighbourhoods. This improved cycling infrastructure in the city and encouraged cycling as a sustainable mode of transport. In **Lebanon**, cycling was introduced as an alternative mode of transport in the city of Tyre where two stations with 20 to 30 bicycles in each were piloted, drawing positive feedback from users. In **India,** pilot project concepts for sustainable urban mobility solutions such as the introduction of electric rickshaws (e-Tuk Tuks) were promoted in Kochi city in 2018, benefiting more than 150,000 residents. In **Kenya**, more than 10,000 people benefitted from the Open Streets and Placemaking events.

Garbage compactor truck in use in Qardho, Puntland. © UN-Habitat

05

Housing and Slum Upgrading

Objective of the subprogramme

To improve access to adequate and sustainable housing, improve the standard of living in slums and curb the growth of new slums in an inclusive manner.

I. Introduction

The provision of adequate housing remains one of the enduring critical development challenges. It is estimated that more than 1 billion people, or a seventh of the world's population live in slums or informal settlements. It is also estimated that many more live in inadequate housing. Slums are a physical manifestation of poverty and inequality. In developing and developed countries, urban housing, whether for rent or ownership, is becoming increasingly unaffordable. Many cities have entrenched pockets of inadequate housing and rising homelessness. In some countries, young people are continuing to live with their parents for longer as they cannot afford independent housing. From slums to gated communities, overcrowding to sprawl, homelessness to vacant houses and apartments, there is evidence reinforcing the role played by housing in shaping cities worldwide.

During the strategic plan period 2014–2019, subprogramme 5, housing and slum upgrading supported member states increase access to adequate and affordable housing, improve the standard of living in existing slums, and curb the growth of new ones in an inclusive manner. UN-Habitat's work in this area contributed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5,10, 11 and 17.

Before

After

Improving living environment in informal settlements in Kabul, District 2 © UN-Habitat

II. Highlights

43 countries formulated and implemented improved housing policies based on technical advice from UN-Habitat.

30 countries prevented forced evictions with support from UN-Habitat in partnership with United Nations Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

800,000 people protected from evictions, partner countries improved living conditions in slums and acknowledged slum dwellers "right to stay".

35 citywide, national and regional strategies for slum upgrading have been developed through UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

56 countries formulated human-rights based, gender and climate sensitive slum upgrading strategies using UN-Habitat's inclusive and multi-sectoral slum upgrading tools and approach.

516,000 people, including **267,000 women,** benefitted from UN-Habitat's participatory slum upgrading interventions.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Improved Housing policies, strategies or programmes in line with the principles of the Global Housing Strategy and the promotion of the realization of the Right to Adequate Housing as a component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living.

Indicators of achievement

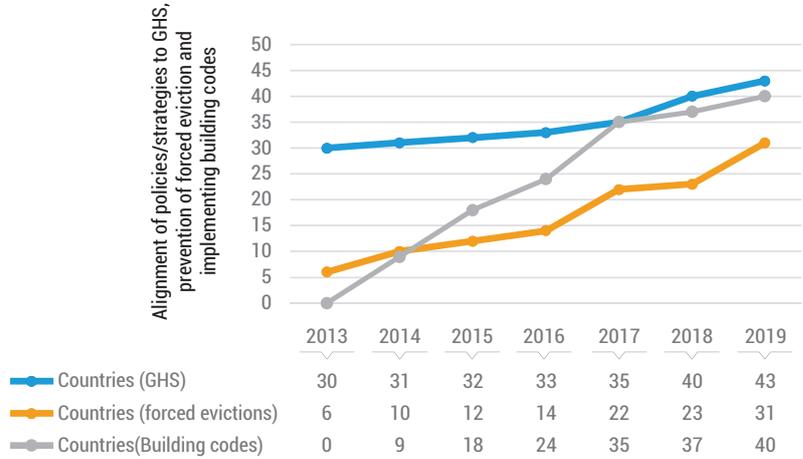**1:** Increased number of partner countries that are implementing improved housing policies, strategies and programmes in line with the Global Housing Strategy.

2: Increased number of partner countries that are implementing frameworks or programmes preventing unlawful forced evictions.

3: Increased number of partner countries that are implementing sustainable building codes, regulations or certification tools.

Progress was made in supporting member states to improve housing policies, strategies or programmes in line with the Global Housing Strategy principles and the realization of the right to adequate housing as a component of the right to an adequate standard of living. Figure 5.1 shows that the three indicator targets for the end of the strategic plan period for this expected accomplishment were achieved and two of them were surpassed. Over the six-year period, 13 countries implemented improved housing policies, 25 countries implemented frameworks or programmes preventing unlawful forced evictions, while 40 countries implemented sustainable building codes, regulations or certification tools.

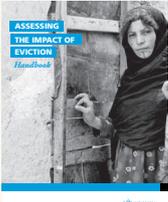**Figure 5.1 Progress made towards indicator target**

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Countries (GHS)	30	31	32	33	35	40	43
Countries (forced evictions)	6	10	12	14	22	23	31
Countries (Building codes)	0	9	18	24	35	37	40

	GHS	Forced Evictions	Building codes
Target by 2019	40	25	40
Actual by 2019	43	31	40

1.2 Key Milestones

2014

The *Assessing the Impact of Eviction Handbook* was published which provided a framework for raising awareness and assessing the impact of evictions on individuals as well as communities.

The *UN-Habitat Global Mass Housing competition* attracted 97 teams from 64 cities, 55 universities, and 35 countries in 2014, demonstrating recognition and implementation of the Global Housing Strategy principles by Habitat Agenda partners.

2015

The *Housing at the Centre Approach* adopted as part of the New Urban Agenda shifted focus from simply building houses to a holistic framework for housing development.

The *Green Housing Rating Tool-SHERPA* was developed and used to measure the sustainability of housing construction projects to ensure cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations are incorporated.

2016

Housing at the Centre was the theme for the 2016 World Habitat Day which demonstrated that housing sector development and access to an adequate home for all was emerging as a central component of sustainable urban development.

Eight countries in the Asia-Pacific region adopted policies for increased energy and water efficiency in the building sector.

Green Building Councils established in 20 countries in Africa and five in Latin America and the Caribbean promoted development and implementation of green building codes.

2017

The *Building Sustainability Assessment and Benchmarking tool* was developed. It established the rationale for building sustainability assessment and benchmarking.

19 cities in the **USA** and 26 countries in **Europe**, adopted mandatory or voluntary policies for incorporation of energy efficiency options in the building sector.

2018

The *Pro-Poor Climate Actions in Informal Settlement Report* was published. It supported the global urban and climate community to build climate resilience in informal settlements.

2019

MaS-SHIP tool was developed and piloted in **India** to support practitioners compare affordable housing designs against a range of key factors.

The *Prevention of Homelessness report* was published. It provided analysis on homelessness and its prevention in the context of the Right to Adequate Housing.

The *Housing Migrants report*, published in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, explored options to improve access to housing by migrants.

1.3 Key Results Achieved

Supporting housing sector reforms for progressive realization of the right to adequate housing

Over the strategic plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat provided technical advice, normative and operational support to member states in formulating and implementing housing sector reforms that promote the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. Normative tools were developed, and best practices documented which have contributed to setting standards and benchmarks in the housing sector. The *Housing at the Centre of the New Urban Agenda approach* adopted in 2016, marked a major milestone in recognizing the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing. It shifted the focus of housing policy and practice from simply building houses to a holistic framework that addresses the right to

adequate housing as an integral part of sustainable urban development. This led to the *housing at the centre* as well as the *human rights-based approach* being fully integrated in housing profile development and housing policy reforms undertaken by member states.

To support member states in delivering inclusive and affordable housing for all, UN-Habitat developed two interactive and innovative tools. The *Sherpa Mobile Application,* an open source tool, offered member states a holistic approach to incorporating cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations when assessing the sustainability of housing projects. The tool was availed

in English, French and Spanish. The *MaS-SHIP* tool, on the other hand, supported member states and allows practitioners to compare affordable housing designs against a range of key factors including employment generation and low-carbon emissions.

To realize the Right to Adequate Housing, local and national governments were increasingly adopting the *Housing at the Centre approach* to creating more inclusive cities through housing profiles, policies and strategies within the framework of the SDGs, especially SDG11.1. Through evidence-based methodologies and analytical frameworks, UN-Habitat supported member states in the development of national housing profiles which informed housing policy formulation processes. Forty-three countries received technical advice from UN-Habitat on the conduct of comprehensive and in-depth analysis of the urban housing sector using a human *rights-based approach.*

Partner countries promoted the *Housing at the Centre approach* and the *Global Housing Strategy.* Based on findings of their housing profiles[1], UN-Habitat supported A**fghanistan, Angola, Bahrain, Bangladesh, Burkina Faso, Cabo Verde, Cameroon**, **El Salvador, Egypt, Lesotho**, **Mozambique, Senegal, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Tunisia** and **Uganda** in formulating their housing policies, programmes and strategies. In addition, **Angola, Colombia, Cuba, Ghana, Iraq, Mexico, the Philippines, Sri Lanka** and **Zambia** used findings of the housing profiles to update existing housing policies and strengthen their overall housing policy frameworks.

For example, through the *Future of Afghanistan Cities Programme,* The Government of **Afghanistan** developed its first national housing profile in 2017. The profile presented a systematic analysis of the legislative, regulatory, institutional, economic and customary challenges faced by millions of Afghans in securing adequate housing. The housing profile was instrumental in the development of an evidence-based national housing programme under which the national housing policy was prepared. In the Kingdom of **Bahrain,** the Government shifted its approach from direct provision of housing to facilitation and regulation of affordable housing by Government. This paradigm shift included partnership with the private sector especially for development and financing of affordable housing. A National Housing Profile made recommendations for review of the National Housing Policy and Strategy of 2022.

Partner countries including **Angola, Kenya** and the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** aligned their housing policies, programmes and strategies with the principles of the Global Housing Strategy to contribute to the achievement of SDG 11. For example, in **Angola**, implementation of the housing policy included the development of a housing toolkit to promote housing affordability. In 2019 **Angola** was developing a national housing sector profile with UN-Habitat's technical assistance. In the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, the housing policy repositioned housing as part of a renewed approach to urban form and sustainable development. The policy utilized a holistic framework for housing development that was aligned with the fundamental principles of sustainable urban development and recognized the catalytic role of housing for economic development.

In 2018, in **Sudan,** in collaboration with local authorities and other partners, 215 Housing units were constructed in 5 Darfur States using Stabilized Soil Blocks and 14,300 people, most of them returnees, benefited from this initiative. The Government of **Jordan** initiated the innovative Jordan Affordable Housing Programme in 2014 with the overall goal of providing 30,000 housing units over 3 years through market mechanisms. In 2016, demonstration units were launched in Ramtha, Amman, Dhleil and Karak.

Forced eviction reduction frameworks and alternatives promoted

UN-Habitat's advocacy work, knowledge products and tools enabled member states to identify, develop, and implement alternatives to forced evictions. The, *Assessing the Impact of Eviction Handbook,* was published in 2014 to raise awareness on the impact of evictions on individuals as well as communities. The report '*Alternative Solutions to Forced Evictions and Slum Demolitions'* provided practitioners and governments with information on the consequences, cost-benefits, and socio-economic impacts of avoiding forced evictions.

Partner countries such as **Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Kenya, South Africa** and **Swaziland** took legislative, judicial or programmatic actions to strengthen land tenure and find alternative solutions to unlawful forced evictions. As a result, the number of forced evictions declined in more than seven countries, benefiting more than 800,000 people including 267,000 women. For example, in **Cameroon**, the government revised the National Planning Act in 2016 which recommended devolving slum upgrading to

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1   The Housing Profile is a diagnostic tool that provides a systematic analysis of housing delivery systems at city and national level, helping to disclose bottlenecks, identify gaps and opportunities in the housing sector that prevent the housing market from working properly. Housing Profiles help to identify critical constraints that prevent the provision of diversified housing opportunities and support the formulation of appropriate recommendations and policy responses.

local authorities and criminalising forced evictions. In 2019, the Government of **São Tomé e Príncipe** relocated the community of Roça Sundy in Principe Island in an inclusive manner that avoided forced evictions. Through the participatory approach adopted, tenure security was guaranteed and new housing developed in a participatory manner.

Policies and strategies for environmental sustainability developed

Through technical assistance and normative tools, awareness and knowledge were enhanced on the green economy and sustainable building technologies and materials. The *Green Housing Rating Tool*, developed with partners in 2015, supported member states in measuring the sustainability of housing construction projects. The tools ensured that cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations were incorporated into housing development projects. Additionally, an online platform for knowledge sharing and networking was launched, and publications on green building materials, energy-efficient housing and green building interventions for social housing were disseminated.

During the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat supported member states to develop and implement policies and strategies for increased environmental sustainability. For example, the Government of **Nepal** adopted Green Homes and Sustainable Housing policies and guidelines in 2015. In **Mexico**, the Government developed sustainable building codes, regulations, and certification tools in 2018 with the support of UN-Habitat. A Sustainable Development Goal certification tool for social housing was also produced in partnership with Infonavit, a private sector mortgage company. The tools enabled the government to assess compatibility of real estate development projects with SDG11.

As part of UN-Habitat's response to Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in **Mozambique** in 2019, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance to the municipal government of the city of Beira. The application of resilient and sustainable building codes was prioritized in all projects and sustainability criteria were integrated in the formulation of urban development plans, housing reconstruction strategies and policies.

In **Pakistan**, a *Green Building Guide* was developed for the prime minister's Five Million Housing Programme. This first step towards achieving the greening of Pakistan's housing sector reduced costs for social housing construction and utilities. **Kenya** and **India**, in a joint pilot project, developed a model that informed regulation and certification programmes, policy, and building code formulation based on the assessment of housing life cycles and financial performance of neighbourhoods.

Raising awareness on rights of migrants and strategies to prevent homelessness

A new strategic entry point for UN-Habitat's contribution to addressing the migration crisis was established in 2016 with the creation of a partnership with various Mediterranean cities and the International Centre for Migration Policy Development. The aim of the partnership was to ensure that cities have the necessary knowledge to better address the housing needs and rights of migrants, including refugees. During the strategic planning period, UN-Habitat supported member states in raising awareness and mainstreaming rights of migrants and strategies to prevent homelessness through normative tools. In 2018, the *"Housing Migrants"* report, published in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe, presented options to improve access to housing for migrants. In 2018, UN-Habitat worked with the Norwegian Refugee Council and local authorities in **Somalia** o support sustainable, safe and durable integration of internally displaced persons in Mogadishu and Kismayo. As a result, financial incentives to landlords for the provision of housing, vocational training programmes, and livelihood opportunities benefited internally displaced persons.

Migration profiles of four Arab cities, Beirut (**Lebanon**), Tangiers (**Morocco**), Tunis (**Tunisia**), Amman (**Jordan**), were developed under the *Mediterranean City-to-City migration* project to establish future priorities by collecting data and information on local migration. In Beirut, a pilot intervention raised awareness on challenges faced by migrants in accessing the city, and informed policies that address disadvantaged groups and communities. In Amman, staff of Amman Urban Observatory were trained to use the City Prosperity Initiative in assessing the impact of migration on the urban development of the city and informing decision-making on mainstreaming migrants' needs into local development policies. In Tunis, photos and visual arts showed the positive impact of migrants on the city's development with a view to strengthening their inclusion in city planning.

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2

Improved slum upgrading and prevention policies, strategies or programmes.
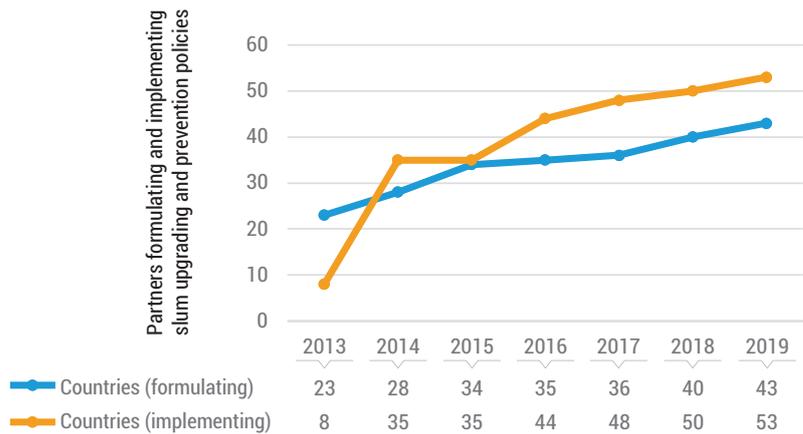
Indicators of achievement

1: Increased number of partner countries that are formulating slum upgrading and prevention policies or strategies.

2: Increased number of partner countries that are implementing sustainable and participatory slum upgrading and prevention programmes.

Progress was made towards improving slum upgrading and prevention policies, strategies or programmes. Figure 5.2 shows that the indicator target set for the end of 2019 for one indicator was surpassed while one was not met. Over the six-year strategic plan period, 43 partner countries, against a target of 42, were at different stages of formulating slum upgrading and prevention policies or strategies, while 53 partner countries, against a target of 56, were implementing sustainable and participatory slum upgrading and prevention programmes.

Figure 5.2 Progress made towards indicator target

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Countries (formulating)	23	28	34	35	36	40	43
Countries (implementing)	8	35	35	44	48	50	53

	Formulating	Implementing
Target by 2019	42	56
Actual by 2019	43	53

2.2 Key Milestones

2014

28 countries implemented programmes and strategies on slum upgrading and prevention.

The *Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme* catalysed growing action and investment in slum improvement and prevention in more than 160 cities in 35 countries across Africa, the Caribbean and the Pacific regions.

2015

In **Cabo Verde,** 22 City Urban Profiles and the National Urban Profile were completed and used as the basis for an inclusive policy development process.

Cameroon and **Ghana** developed National Slum Upgrading Strategies.

The participatory slum upgrading programme was implemented in more than 160 cities.

2016-2017

More than 10 cities globally formulated and implemented improved slum upgrading and prevention policies or strategies

The *Slums and Informal Settlements Network* was established to promote knowledge sharing and innovation on implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals in informal settlements and slums among participating countries.

2018

Four countries (**Madagascar, Cameroon, Kenya** and **Cabo Verde**) formulated improved slum upgrading and prevention policies and strategies.

The *Third International Tripartite Conference on Transforming African, Caribbean and Pacific Cities* in Brussels was convened where 36 participating countries renewed their commitment to improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

The *Citywide Slum Upgrading Strategy* tool was revised and rolled out to 25 countries globally as the basis for co-financing participatory and integrated neighbourhood planning pilot projects.

The *Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool was developed to* support urban managers and other stakeholders to conduct quick qualitative assessments of legislation on slum upgrading.

2019

35 citywide, national and regional strategies for slum upgrading were developed through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

53 countries independently formulated and implemented gender and climate sensitive strategies in line with UN-Habitat's inclusive and integrated slum upgrading approach.

An integrated financing framework for transforming informal settlements and slums was developed.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Improved slum upgrading and prevention policies and strategies or programmes formulated

Through UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, member states and other stakeholders gained access to normative tools to formulate evidence-based policies, strategies and transformative programmes that promote inclusive and integrated slum upgrading and slum prevention. For example, the Slum *Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* was used by national and local governments to assess their legal frameworks for implementing inclusive approaches to slum upgrading. In addition, UN-Habitat's expertise in land regularization, value capture and reallocation processes was utilized in slum upgrading programmes through the Participatory and Inclusive Land Adjustment tool (PiLAR).

Over the six-year strategic plan period, 20 countries revised their policy and regulatory frameworks for slum upgrading and 15 countries formulated new strategies. In these countries, 35 city-wide, national and regional strategies for slum upgrading were developed. For example, in **Cameroon,** the National Planning Act was revised in 2016 to facilitate participatory citywide slum upgrading and prevention. The Government of Cameroon devolved slum upgrading to local authorities, made forced evictions illegal, and made participatory planning mandatory for all slum upgrading projects. The Yaoundé City slum upgrading, and prevention strategy was replicated in seven cities throughout the country, and the Government co-financed implementation of slum upgrading initiatives in the towns of Bamenda and Kribi under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

The National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy for **Ghana** developed in 2015 was aligned with principles of the *Participatory Slum Upgrading* process and the *Global Housing Strategy*. Through slum upgrading interventions implemented in Ga Mashie slum, in Accra City, more than 100,000 residents benefitted from a healthier, more accessible and safer environment and public space in the neighbourhood. A community managed loan programme enabled more than 2000 community members, mostly women, to improve their businesses and consequently, their socio-economic conditions.

In **Cabo Verde,** UN-Habitat supported the Government to develop communal and citywide slum upgrading strategies in five municipalities in 2016. These strategies were aligned with the country's National Housing Policy to ensure that cities could effectively mobilize resources and implement strategic actions for slum upgrading and prevention.

Three neighbourhoods benefited from participatory planning approaches, which supported the development of community-managed and co-funded local initiatives using the Community Managed Fund model.

The Government of **Fiji** reviewed its strategy for slum upgrading and prevention to include climate resilience and recovery after the devastating cyclone Winston that hit the country in April 2016. Through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, a situation analysis informed review of the Slum Upgrading Policy and regulatory framework for the country. The City-wide Slum Upgrading Strategy guided the recovery and reconstruction of informal settlements most affected by Cyclone Winston.

In **Papua New Guinea,** the National Slum Upgrading and Prevention Strategy was developed in 2016. In the **Solomon Islands,** the Honiara Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy built on existing approaches of tenure regularization whilst incorporating new components to address shelter deprivations. The implementation of the strategy was integrated into the resilience building action plans for informal settlements.

In **Myanmar,** the first comprehensive mapping of informal settlements in the city of Yangon was completed which served as a key reference and guiding document for all stakeholders on the issue of informal settlements in Yangon. The report highlighted the importance of mainstreaming issues affecting residents of slums into overall city planning processes. It also facilitated conversations among key stakeholders exploring sustainable solutions to informal settlements, and moving away from the preferred response of evictions and forced resettlements.

In **Rwanda,** legislative frameworks and innovative practices for slum upgrading were formulated that guided upgrading of its unplanned settlements. A citywide informal settlement strategy for Kigali City was developed in 2016 based on the National Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy. Urban master plans for city planning and slum upgrading were developed for most secondary cities in the country.

The Government of **Kenya** adopted its Slum Upgrading and Prevention Policy in 2017. The policy promoted implementation of more inclusive approaches and mainstreaming of slum upgrading within the national policy and development agenda. It provided an institutional and legal framework to coordinate, implement and finance slum upgrading programmes in urban centres. City-wide slum upgrading and prevention strategies developed at city and county levels guided implementation of slum upgrading initiatives in Nairobi, Kilifi and Mombasa counties.

Improved slum upgrading and prevention policies and strategies or programmes implemented

Over the six-year strategic plan period, the number of countries implementing sustainable and participatory slum upgrading and prevention programmes increased from 35 in 2014 to 53 in 2019. 18 countries independently formulated gender and climate sensitive strategies in line with UN-Habitat's inclusive and integrated slum upgrading approach. These countries implemented slum upgrading interventions aligned with UN-Habitat's principles.

The tripartite financing model of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme was recognized as a sustainable funding model that could effectively support implementation of slum upgrading initiatives. Development banks, such as the Caribbean Development Bank considered the feasibility of turning the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme into a profitable model. Budget allocations for slum upgrading and for promoting investments in slum upgrading increased in several countries during the period under review.

Member states have wholeheartedly embraced UN-Habitat's inclusive tripartite financing model, which prioritizes multilateral inputs from all parties and facilitates real community-level impacts. More than 516,000 people living in informal settlements in 9 countries benefited

directly from pilot projects implemented with community-managed funds. Over the six-year strategic plan period, direct co-financing for slum upgrading was realized in several countries including **Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Republic of Congo, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa** and **The Gambia.**

In **Madagascar,** the Government used the citywide strategy for slum upgrading and prevention for Antananarivo to raise investments amounting to USD 100 million from the African Development Bank and the World Bank. In **Senegal**, the revised National Strategy for upscaling slum upgrading was aligned with the national slum upgrading programme "Zero Bidonvilles". With its innovative investment approach, the strategy was expected to benefit more than 50 per cent of Dakar's poorest residents by 2025.

In **Burkina Faso**, the PSUP programme yielded notable improvements in basic infrastructure and livelihoods, especially for women and young people. More than 14,000 slum dwellers benefited from the programme through the collection, sorting and recycling of urban waste. In **Afghanistan**, the *Local Integration of Vulnerable, Excluded and Uprooted People Programme* contributed to large-scale slum upgrading and integration of displaced communities from informal housing areas into the urban fabric. These interventions improved urban governance and the provision of adequate housing for all.

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

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

Enhanced capacity of communities living in slums to partner with national and local authorities in implementing policies or programmes on access to adequate housing and improved standard of living in slums.

Indicators of achievement

1: Increased number of partner countries that are enabling equitable community representation in coordinating bodies such as the national habitat committees.

2: Increased number of partner countries where communities are empowered to lead initiatives.

Progress was made towards enhancing capacity of slum communities to partner with national and local authorities implementing policies or programmes on access to adequate housing and improved standard of living in slums. Fi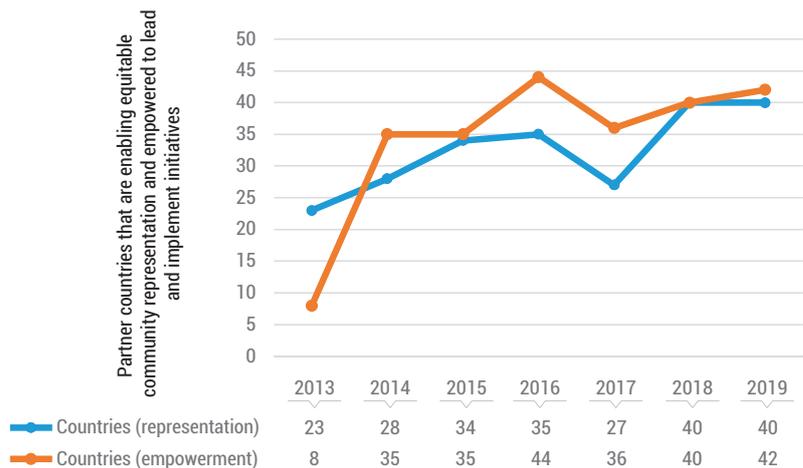gure 5.3 shows that the indicator target set for the end of 2019 for one indicator was surpassed while one was not met. Over the six-year strategic plan period, 40 countries allowed equal participation in coordinating bodies while 42 countries empowered slum communities to lead implementation of the slum upgrading process, demonstrating their strengthened capacities.

Figure 5.3 Progress made towards indicator target

Partner countries that are enabling equitable community representation and empowered to lead and implement initiatives

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Countries (representation)	23	28	34	35	27	40	40
Countries (empowerment)	8	35	35	44	36	40	42

	CR	EC
Target by 2019	36	46
Actual by 2019	40	42

3.2 Key Milestones

2014-2015

Local and national governments in 35 countries implemented city and community development plans for slum upgrading.

Ten Pacific and Caribbean island countries and 25 African countries strengthened collaboration between national and local governments and community organizations representing slum dwellers.

34 city and community development plans were formulated and implemented by partner cities and local governments.

2016

32 policies were developed to complement ongoing slum upgrading initiatives.

Representatives of slum community committees from five countries (**Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana,** and **Kenya**) were recognized officially and presented with association legal documents by local authorities thus institutionalizing community participation in slum upgrading.

2017

36 communities in partner countries implemented participatory slum upgrading and prevention initiatives.

2018

In the Asia-Pacific region, an online learning portal was launched that allowed access to UN-Habitat learning materials on slums and participatory slum upgrading globally.

2019

40 partner countries established diverse multisector teams comprising youth, women and traditional leaders as representatives of slums and informal settlements.

3.3 Key Results Achieved

Enhanced capacity of communities living in slums to partner with national and local authorities implementing policies or programme

During the strategic plan period, through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, capacity of communities living in slums was improved to advocate on their own behalf for equitable community representation and implementation of community-led projects or programmes on access to adequate housing and improved standards of living. Participation and representation of slum communities and vulnerable groups in relevant coordinating bodies increased. These representatives ensured that priorities of slum dwellers were integrated into relevant policies, decision making and implementation of projects. This increased ownership of all actors involved in implementing and scaling up the provision of inclusive, sustainable and adequate housing, and slum upgrading and prevention initiatives.

Over the six-year strategic plan period, slum dwellers were represented in National Habitat Committees and other coordinating bodies in 40 countries supporting community-led initiatives under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. For example, community representatives from the slums in **Burkina Faso, Cameroon, the Democratic**

Republic of the Congo, Ghana, and **Kenya** obtained official and legal documents that gave formal recognition of the role of representatives of their communities by the local authorities, which strengthened their capacity and gave them opportunities for equal participation.

Slum communities in partner countries have applied participatory integrated approaches that led to the development of inclusive policy frameworks and at the same time put policies into action through implementation of tangible community-led projects. The *Community Managed Funds model* provided financial resources that support community-led projects and initiatives. For example, in **Senegal**'s capital Dakar, community-led projects in the informal settlements of Medina and Arafat benefitted over 30,000 people and improved mobility options, security of tenure and access to microfinance for women and youth. In **Cameroon**'s capital Yaoundé, communities living in the Melen slum led initiatives to improve their own living conditions and livelihood opportunities in collaboration with a local non-governmental organization. A community garbage collection cooperative was formed, which received

skills training on garbage collection and employed young people to collect community rubbish. The community also benefitted from improved general access and widened roads that created a link for the community garbage collection cooperative to connect with the municipal waste disposal service. In **Cabo Verde**, three neighbourhoods benefited from participatory planning approaches, strengthened the development of community-managed and co-funded local initiatives using the Community Managed Fund model.

In **Burkina Faso**, where about 65 percent of the urban population resides in slums, a pilot water and sanitation community project implemented in Bissighin, was based on the City-wide Slum Upgrading Strategy from 2014 to 2016. The water project benefitted over 6000 households affected by floods. The Government scaled up implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading initiatives with additional funding of USD 3 million under the *Cities without Slums* initiative. Community-managed projects connected over 60 per cent of the 12,500 residents of Bissighin slum in Ouagadougou to the formal water supply system.

In **Kenya**, over 12,000 households benefitted from slum upgrading projects in the Mtwapa informal settlement implemented by seven youth and women community groups. Community managed funds financed the projects which improved access to water and sanitation,

garbage collection as well as tenure security. In **Lebanon**, neighbourhood upgrading projects in 13 neighbourhoods rehabilitated public spaces and improved water, waste and storm water infrastructure, and solar street lighting. Through the profiling, community committees comprising host and refugee population were established. In **Iraq**, the government constructed a Community Development Centre and a neighbourhood park in Kurani Ainkawa slum, giving shelter to more than 2000 households. Through the *Rehabilitation and Regularization of Informal Settlements and Internally Displaced Persons Areas project*, appropriate technical solutions for informal settlements were developed in a participatory manner. In 2019, slum upgrading community pilot projects were implemented through a participatory process with beneficiary communities, improving living conditions in three informal settlements in Mosul, Ninewa Governorate; Ramadi, Anbar Governorate; and Basra, Basra Governorate.

In **Myanmar**, a community engagement approach which included a beneficiary vulnerability selection criterion in the resettlement process of deserving families from informal settlement was successfully piloted. This approach was then adopted for scaling up implementation of large-scale city-wide informal resettlement programmes in the city of Yangon and the Yangon region that will benefit 400,000 poor habitants of informal settlements.

A slum in port au prince, Haiti © UN-Habitat /Julius Mwelu

House Rehabilitation in Iraq © UN-Habitat

06

Risk Reduction, Rehabilitation and Urban Resilience

Objective of the subprogramme

To increase the resilience of cities to the impacts of natural and human-made crises and undertake rehabilitation in ways that advance sustainable urban development.

I. Introduction

The world is rapidly urbanizing and more urban centres are experiencing a variety of crises arising from conflict, migration and climate change. In addition, global crises are increasingly complex, multidimensional and interconnected across geographical and regional boundaries. These crises disproportionately affect the urban poor, particularly women and children, the elderly and the disabled. The capacity of cities and other human settlements to prevent, respond, recover and prosper after urban crises is becoming increasingly important.

The primary objective of the Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019, Subprogramme 6, was to support member states build resilience to the impacts of crises in cities and provide technical support to recover from crisis events. UN-Habitat advocated and influenced the global community to strengthen urban resilience as well as sustainable crisis response and recovery programming. During the period under review, through this subprogramme, UN-Habitat contributed to Sustainable Development Goals 5,11,13,16 and 17.

IDP shelter site in Iraq @UN-Habitat

II. Key Highlights

More than **2 million people** benefitted from sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis situations and protracted conflict environments through UN-Habitat's interventions.

56 cities in 28 countries used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change.

30 cities across 12 countries in Africa used the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool* to assess their resilience needs and develop strategies and action plans to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience to natural and human-made hazards.

More than **2,000 local government personnel and other stakeholders** were trained on the application of the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* and are leading the implementation of city resilience initiatives in their respective cities.

More than **4,500 cities** joined the global campaign, *Making Cities Resilient Campaign,* contributing to the achievement of urban elements and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Improved urban risk-reduction policies, strategies and programmes adopted for greater resilience of cities and other human settlements.
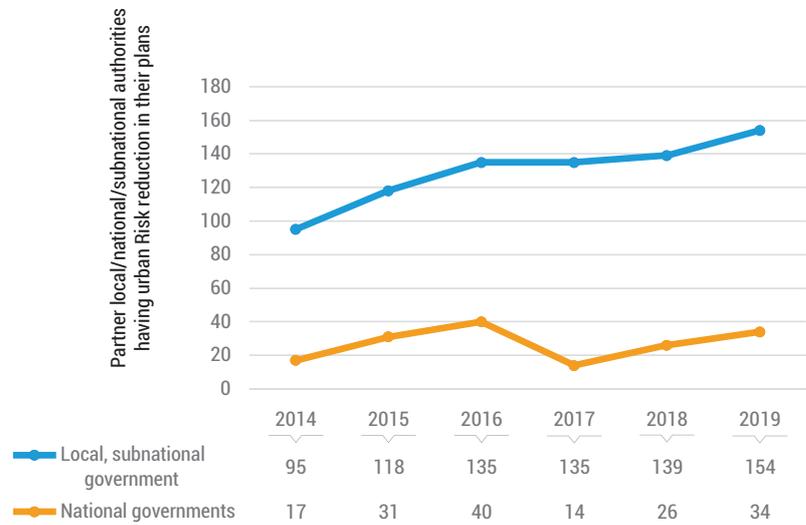
Indicator of achievement

Increased number of partner local, subnational and national governments that have included urban risk reduction and management in their plans.

Progress was made towards improving urban risk-reduction policies, strategies and programmes adopted for greater resilience of cities and other human settlements. Figure 6.1 shows the indicator target for the end of the strategic plan period in 2019 on local and subnational governments for this expected accomplishment was surpassed with 154 incorporating urban risk reduction in their plans, against the target of 147. The target for national governments was not achieved as only 34 national governments had included urban risk reduction and management in their plans against a target of 62.

Figure 6.1 Progress made towards indicator target

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Local, subnational government	95	118	135	135	139	154
National governments	17	31	40	14	26	34

	Local and Subnational	National
Target by 2019	147	62
Actual by 2019	154	34

1.2 Key Milestones

2014

The *Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience* was launched to mobilize resilience actors on the international stage to facilitate knowledge exchange to help cities strengthen their resilience against systemic shocks and stresses, including from climate change and natural disasters.

The *Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience in Southern Africa* (DiMSUR) established. The Centre provides technical assistance and knowledge exchange for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and urban resilience in Southern Africa and the South-West Indian Ocean.

10 partner cities tested the *City Resilience Profiling Tool and Guidelines*.

2015

The *City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) Tool*, the DiMSUR flagship product, was developed. CityRAP is a participatory resilience planning tool which enables local governments of small to intermediate sized cities to understand risks and plan practical actions to progressively build urban resilience.

First edition of the Barcelona Resilience Week: Cities contributed to the development of the indicators on urban resilience that set the foundation for the City Resilience Profiling Tool and further technical cooperation.

2015

140 indicators of the global City Resilience Profiling programme were developed and were piloted in 33 cities in 12 countries to establish risk reduction and resilience building policies, strategies and programming.

2016

The *Global Alliance for Urban Crises* was launched as an inclusive platform to increase awareness and effective response to urban crises.

Second Edition of the Barcelona Resilience Week: Academic institutions contributed to the development of the City Resilience Profiling Tool.

2017

The *Making Cities Resilient Campaign,* a joint initiative of UNISDR, UN-Habitat and the European Commission was launched to improve an understanding of, and the capacity to address Disaster Risk Reduction & Disaster Resilience at the local level, including in crisis-prone cities.

Implementation of the City Resilience Profiling Tool was launched in four pilot cities Maputo, in Mozambique; Dakar, in Senegal; Port Vila, in Vanuatu; and Asunción, in Paraguay.

Trends in Urban Resilience publication was released which provides comprehensive review of urban resilience methodologies and approaches. It included progress illustrated in case studies from cities around the world on action taken to achieve their goals of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements. By the end of 2019, the publication had been downloaded more than 10,000 times.
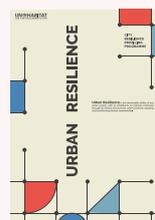
2018

139 cities in 27 countries were using *the City Resilience Profiling Tool* to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change.

The Urban Resilience Hub was launched which is now a reference platform for many actors in the resilience field in terms of publications, news and information exchange.

2019

The City Resilience Action Planning Tool has been implemented, in 30 locations in 12 countries in Africa, to assess city vulnerabilities and prepare action plans for city-resilience building.

Urban Profiling for Better Responses to Humanitarian Crises guidelines were developed as part of city and neighborhood profiling tools.

Asunción and **Maputo** became the first cities to produce Actions for Resilience reports setting out their vision for a resilient future.

Making Cities Resilient Campaign chaired by UN-Habitat reached 4,500 signatory cities.

Mozambique resilience building programme was validated when cyclones Idai and Kenneth hit the country. Resilient school buildings designed by UN-Habitat were the only structures that withstood the effect of the cyclones.

1.3 Key Results Achieved

Supporting member states to strengthen the resilience of cities

Over the six-year reporting period UN-Habitat, supported a growing number of partner national and local governments in strengthening resilience of cities and other human settlements through its resilience building global and regional programmes and projects. The development of normative tools which were tested in various countries and contexts, enabled stakeholders to strengthen resilience to multi-hazard impacts in many urban centres.

Using its two main resilience building tools, the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* and the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool*, UN-Habitat strengthened local capacities for building resilient cities and other human settlements. The tools provided the norms and standards that enabled stakeholders to assess, measure and develop evidence-based action plans, and to sequence and plan their resilience responses towards increasing city resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change. The strategies and action plans supported the development of evidence-based bankable projects for investment from external partners or national governments.

By the end of 2019, 56 cities in 28 countries had used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* training material to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts. Fifty-two of these cities have subsequently completed development of detailed citywide resilience profiles. The following pilot cities developed resilience strategies which included specific actions for change: Asunción (**Paraguay**), Dakar, (**Senegal**), Maputo (**Mozambique**) and Yakutsk (**Russia**).

In Asunción, **Paraguay**, more than 120 multi-sector stakeholders were trained on resilience-related issues and developed an in-depth resilience strategy for the city setting out a vision for making it resilient. In Maputo**, Mozambique**, an in-depth city resilience building strategy was developed for the municipality and 100 stakeholders trained. The municipality approved a proposal to develop a permanent resilience unit to ensure implementation of the strategy and to sustain the momentum of strengthening the resilience of Maputo and its environs.

The city of Dakar (**Senegal**) developed key data for 75 indicators on the city's urban performance in areas such as the economy, environment, basic services and mobility. Risk reduction and resilience-building priorities for the city were identified and 30 staff from municipal departments trained on resilience building. In **Russia**, the regional capital city of Yakutsk used the Profiling Tool to address major resilience challenges. For example, analysis of the satellite

data showed that temperature increases brought forward the spring flooding each year, informing decision-making on which sites were safe for construction. In 2019, the city produced a first draft of its resilience strategy and is building consensus on the priority areas for action.

The Technical Disaster Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) was established in 2014, with the facilitation of UN-Habitat and at the request of the Governments of **Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique,** and **The Union of Comoros.** The DiMSUR provided technical assistance, capacity building, normative tools and exchange of knowledge and best practices and for disaster risk reduction, climate change adaptation, and urban resilience in Southern Africa and the South-West Indian Ocean. During the period under review, the Centre also supported national governments through providing advice on risk-based approach to disaster management and recommendations to national policies.

The City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) tool was developed in 2015 by the DiMSUR and UN-Habitat. The tool enabled municipalities to conduct quick and effective assessments of the city's vulnerabilities to help prepare priority actions to strengthen their resilience. The City Resilience Framework for Actions was the final product of the CityRAP Tool process. It allowed local governments and other institutions to mainstream resilience into their existing and future policies, plans, budgets, institutional set-up and actions.

By the end of 2019, 30 cities across 12 countries in Africa had used this tool to assess their resilience needs and develop strategies and action plans for reducing vulnerabilities and building resilience to natural and human-made hazards. The partner cities were at different stages of implementing the tool and identifying key actions to strengthen resilience, such as reinforcing drainage systems, ecosystem restoration, improved solid waste management, and establishing early warning systems and safe havens to protect lives and city assets. An independent final evaluation, conducted in 2018, on the application of the City Resilience Action Planning tool in three countries (**Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau** and **Sao Tome & Principe**), concluded that *"The effectiveness of the CityRAP tool's implementation as well as the relevance of its methodology was confirmed by the project's results and impacts. Its unique urban resilience approach, an almost entirely participatory process, partly succeeded to spur a shift in local practices and approaches to achieve urban resilience objectives."*

Countries affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes have also benefitted from resilience planning. UN-Habitat played a key role in advocating for earthquake risk assessments in various urban centres of **Myanmar** that the Government included in their planning documents. Between 2014–2019, UN-Habitat worked in 12 townships developing disaster management plans and trained more than 500 artisans on disaster resilient construction practices. A consortium led by UN-Habitat also supported Myanmar in establishing a national disaster management training centre in Hinthada. UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Construction in updating Myanmar National Building Code in 2016, and developed a legal and institutional framework for implementing building codes in urban areas. In 2019, UN-Habitat supported non-structural risk assessments in the 2 major public hospitals in the cities of Yangon and Mandalay. These assessments assisted the Ministry of Health and Sports to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the health sector beyond solely providing immediate medical care to disaster victims. UN-Habitat's support in strengthening capacity on seismic risk assessment in **Myanmar** also assisted the World Bank in utilizing the trained officials in their larger disaster risk reduction programme in Yangon city.

In 2015, the Government of **Sudan** adopted a neighbourhood planning policy for greater resilience against floods in two neighbourhoods in Khartoum City. This policy discouraged construction of houses in high-risk areas and encouraged the use of building codes and standards for construction materials. In 2016, more than 170,000 persons benefited from the Emergency Flood Response in Khartoum for Vulnerable Communities implemented to respond to the 2013 emergency resulting from heavy rainfall and flooding that led to tremendous losses and social disruption. The project strengthened government and community capacities to conduct emergency construction of public facilities and necessary infrastructure through adaptation and implementation of building techniques and urban planning resilient to floods.

In **Afghanistan**, through the City Resilience Programme, the post-2015 framework and agendas have been successfully embedded into urban policies and plans in a coherent and integrated manner, leading to safe, resilient and sustainable urban development in the country. In 2018, the country developed a national disaster risk reduction strategy with six associated policy documents and guidelines that contributed to the achievement of credible results up to the community level. For example, retrofitting of houses and schools and the removal of boulders has benefitted 47,737 people in the t cities of Kabul and Mazar-e-Sharif.

Partnerships and advocacy for resilient cities

UN-Habitat's leadership on partnerships and advocacy for more collaborative cross-sectoral approaches to urban resilience saw the launch of several global advocacy platforms across the strategic plan period. These platforms played an important role in advocating for the city-resilience nexus. Global commitments strengthening urban resilience have grown substantially over the past six years, in part, due to initiatives such as *the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, the Urban Resilience Hub, the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises* and the *Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Affairs*.

UN-Habitat led the *Making Cities Resilient Campaign,* launched in 2017, promoted the role of local governments in building resilience in cities, and supported them to report on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. With more than 4,500 signatory cities, the *Making Cities Resilient Campaign,* which UN-Habitat chaired, is the largest global movement of its kind focusing on urban resilience. The signatory cities made commitments to improve resilience through actions and awareness-raising initiatives. For example, Sabana de la Mar, in the **Dominican Republic**, has undertaken an in-depth assessment of safety in hospitals and educational centres and subsequently developed a Municipal Emergency Plan. In addition, Albay Province, (**the Philippines**), has established a Climate Change Academy for local government units.

The *Urban Resilience Hub,* launched in 2018, emerged as a reference platform for many actors in the resilience field in terms of publications, news and information exchange. In addition, the *Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience*, which UN-Habitat chaired, established partners working together in more than 4,000 cities globally, with more than USD 2 billion committed annually toward advancing resilient and sustainable urban growth. Other members were Cities Alliance, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the World Bank Group.

UN-Habitat continued its active engagement in the *Global Alliance for Urban Crises* which led urban work in the exchange of knowledge and good practice. UN-Habitat led in setting norms and standards for addressing crises in cities through normative tools such as the *Urban Profiling for Better Responses to Humanitarian Crises* guidelines produced in 2019.

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2

Improved settlements recovery and reconstruction interventions for long-term sustainability in cities and other human settlements.
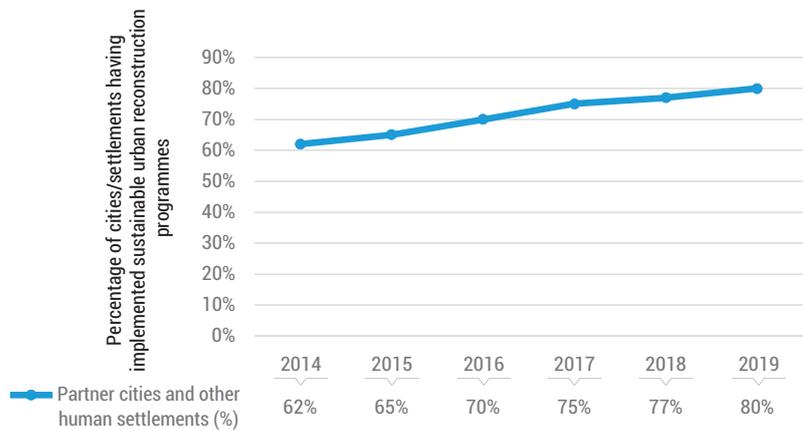
Indicator of achievement

Increased percentage of partner cities and other human settlements that have implemented sustainable urban reconstruction programmes including risk reduction.

The capacity for long-term sustainability in cities and other human settlements in recovery and reconstruction improved steadily over the strategic plan period, as shown in Figure 6.2 due to increased adoption of UN-Habitat's strategies and approaches. The percentage of partner cities and other human settlements that implemented sustainable urban reconstruction programmes, including risk reduction, increased from 62 per cent in 2014 to 80 per cent by the end of 2019. Therefore, the indicator target set for the six-year period was met.

Figure 6.2 Progress made towards indicator target

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Partner cities and other human settlements (%)	62%	65%	70%	75%	77%	80%

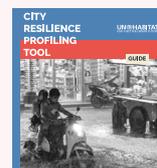|	% of partner Cities
Target by 2019	80%
Actual by 2019	80%

Hurricane damage in Philipines @UN-Habitat

2.2 Key Milestones

2014

UN-Habitat developed City and Neighbourhood Profiling Tools that support comprehensive analysis for integrated recovery and reconstruction planning. The tools were piloted in the **Syrian** crisis and in response to Cyclone Haiyan in the **Philippines** by the humanitarian country teams.

2015

UN-Habitat continued to influence emergency response in cities and other human settlements through its membership in the Inter Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs, thereby strengthening global knowledge of post-crisis urban recovery.

UN-Habitat hosted the first Principals Meeting of 2015 in Nairobi, where members committed to ensuring inclusion of urban dimensions in on-going and future humanitarian responses.

2016

UN-Habitat's normative work in the crisis response in **Iraq** (*City Profile of Mosul* and *the Multi-sector assessment of a city under siege) was* recognized by the Humanitarian community as a major contribution to urban analysis and planning for recovery and reconstruction.

2017

Mosul Portal was launched in **Iraq** as a key platform to present damage assessments and thematic overviews of Mosul, based on satellite imagery analysis and information gathered from various actors on the ground. It offers a live Geo-Portal for humanitarian actors to overlay various layers of analysis to assess urban complexities and plan area-based responses in the city.
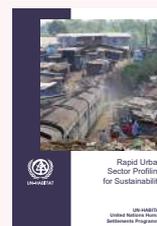
2018

Rapid Multi-Sectoral Urban Assessment Methodologies. Used to establish up-to-date impacts of crisis on cities. It was developed in the **Syrian** context for Homs, Aleppo, Dara'a, Latakia and its neighbourhood where it was first piloted to support recovery and reconstruction work.

Evaluation of UN-Habitat's 6 years' work on conflict affected communities in **Afghanistan** and **Sri Lanka** programmes was concluded. Evaluation findings revealed significant impact achieved and demonstrated strong engagement with government, local authorities and communities.

Housing reconstruction programme in post-conflict **Sri Lanka** ended. It was designed and technically supported by UN-Habitat and provided more than 100,000 families (400,000 people) with durable housing solutions.

Supporting Safer Housing Reconstruction After Disasters – Planning and Implementing Technical Assistance at large Scale was developed. These guidelines provide practical and adaptable guidance on technical assistance, empowering actors on the frontlines of post disaster housing reconstruction.

UN-Habitat's cyclone resistant designs developed for schools in Mozambique were recognized and adopted for scaling up to all schools at national level. The designs were also adopted for application in other sectors including health facilities and transportation.

The schools built in Mozambique using the cyclone resistant designs developed by UN-Habitat withstood Cyclone 'Idai' and 'Kenneth' in April and May 2019, considered the worst cyclones in the history Mozambique.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Supporting durable solutions in humanitarian crises for long-term integrated recovery and reconstruction

Throughout the six-year reporting period, UN-Habitat built on its high-level advocacy efforts, promoting the value of sustainable urban approaches for long-term integrated recovery and reconstruction outcomes. UN-Habitat's normative tools and advocacy efforts were integral in promoting resilient approaches to shelter and housing reconstruction. By the end of 2019, 80 per cent of shelter rehabilitation programmes had contributed to disaster-resilient permanent housing in various countries globally. UN-Habitat provided urban expertise to support the Global Shelter Cluster within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs on reconstruction in urban areas to ensure more durable solutions and not just tents and temporary housing.

Given the importance of linking normative and operational work, UN-Habitat promoted disaster risk reduction interventions to support durable and sustainable solutions in humanitarian crises at country level. Several member states successfully used UN-Habitat's normative tools and benefitted from high-level advocacy on key global networks to improve their recovery and reconstruction in ways that advance sustainable urban development. The *City and Neighbourhood Profiling tools* provided member states with the capacity to assess urban recovery needs and to mainstream sustainable urbanization in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. The tools were piloted in the **Syrian** crisis and in response to Cyclone Haiyan in the **Philippines** by the humanitarian country teams. *The Urban Profiles* developed provided a cross-sectoral and spatial perspective of damage in urban areas, the functionality of cities as well as urban vulnerabilities. These profiling tools were used extensively in **Iraq, Lebanon, Libya,**

Mozambique, Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, Syria and **Yemen.**

By the end of 2019, more than 70 city and neighbourhood profiles had been completed or were in progress, providing a cross-sectoral and spatial perspective of damage in urban areas, the functionality of cities as well as urban vulnerabilities. The profiles informed interventions by humanitarian agencies, recovery-driven and development partners, including local authorities, civil society and the private sector to jointly develop humanitarian/recovery action plans and coordinate their resources and programmes; contributing towards evidence-based knowledge for short, medium- and long-term public sector planning and investment.

UN-Habitat's *"People's Process"* tool developed through its programmes in the Asia-Pacific region, was used extensively in **Afghanistan, Myanmar,** the **Philippines** and **Sri Lanka.** The People's Process approach ensures fully inclusive community participation in post-crisis reconstruction programmes, by placing crisis-affected people and communities at the centre of the planning process. From day one, the People's Process tool supported families to build resilience, reduce vulnerability and dependency, and work towards durable solutions. In addition, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with over 20 leading sector organizations, developed standards to guide sustainable post-disaster housing reconstruction in 2019. The *Supporting Safer Housing Reconstruction After Disasters–Planning and Implementing Technical Assistance at Scale* now serves as a reference document for all participating organizations and five universities.

In post-conflict **Sri Lanka**, UN-Habitat supported the government to design and coordinate a massive housing recovery programme for more than 100,000 conflict affected families. Rather than short-term temporary shelter, the programme advocated and achieved permanent housing and related infrastructure. Through a methodology of community participation 'People's Process' a 'conditional cash transfer' approach was taken, distributing more than USD500 million in cash for housing reconstruction and achieving more than a 99 per cent success rate.

In **Syria**, the *Rapid Multi-Sectoral Urban Assessment Methodologies* were used in 2018 and 2019 to establish up-to-date impacts of crisis on cities, developed in the Syrian context for Homs, Aleppo, Dara'a, Latakia and its neighbourhood. This resulted in improved information for prioritized rebuilding of the most-affected areas of these cities.

A major transformation was achieved, during the reporting period, with regard to the sustainable integration of refugees with host communities. The design for the settlement of **Kalobeyei** in Kenya focused on long-term sustainability by providing refugees with a proper human settlement rather than a traditional refugee camp, integrating the local host community with refugees and incorporating a provision for environmentally sensitive basic services. Host communities are now partially integrated into the settlement, have access to schools and medical facilities and have benefitted from livelihood development, along with funding to support durable housing. The Governments **of Kenya and Japan,** and UNHCR supported the effort. Lessons learned from 2019 were scaled-up and applied to major displacement sites worldwide, such as Cox's Bazar in **Bangladesh** and the West Nile region of **Uganda**.

Before   **After**

Construction of cyclone resilient schools in Mozambique ©UN-Habitat

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

Improved shelter rehabilitation programmes in crisis responses contributing to sustainable and resilient cities and other human settlements.
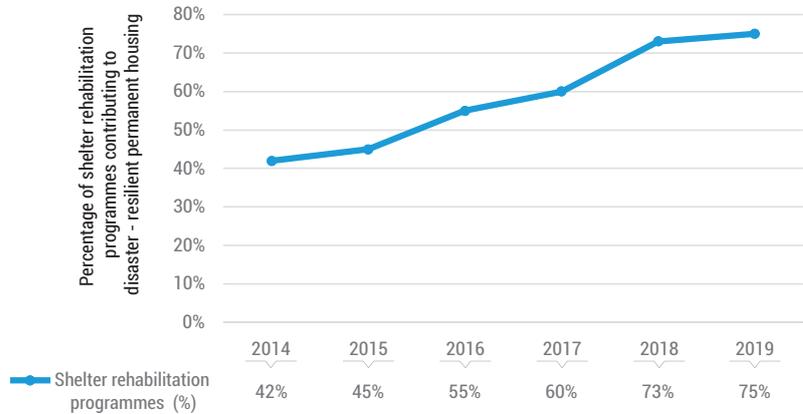
Indicator of achievement

Increased percentage of shelter rehabilitation programmes that are contributing to disaster-resilient permanent housing.

Progress was made towards improving shelter rehabilitation programmes in crisis responses contributing to sustainable and resilient cities and other human settlements. Figure 6.3 shows that the indicator target for the end of the six-year period for this expected accomplishment was achieved. The percentage of shelter rehabilitation programmes that are contributing to disaster-resilient permanent housing increased from 42 per cent in 2014 to 75 per cent in 2019. This is demonstrated by the increasing number of humanitarian response agencies changing their approaches from pure emergency solutions to durable, sustainable solutions that improve the lives of affected communities.

Figure 6.3 Progress made towards indicator target

Percentage of shelter rehabilitation programmes contributing to disaster - resilient permanent housing

	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Shelter rehabilitation programmes (%)	42%	45%	55%	60%	73%	75%

	% of Programmes
Target by 2019	75%
Actual by 2019	75%

3.2 Key Milestones

2014

Shelter recovery planning and programmes embracing integrated and sustainable approaches were implemented in **Jamaica, Lebanon, the Philippines** and **Sri Lanka.**

IDP/Refugee crisis in **Syria**, led to the establishment of a new programme in Syria and the development and refinement of the 'City Profiles' whereby assessments of damage and functionality of cities were undertaken. These have become important tools for planning recovery action including shelter.

2015

In **Iraq**, 900 families displaced from Sinjar in August 2014 due to conflicts with Islamic State were settled in a camp built through joint efforts with eight UN agencies. UN-Habitat planned the camp in line with urban planning principles.

The **Kenya** Government and UNHCR requested UN-Habitat to support the design of an integrated refugee camp for Kalobeyei, **Kenya**. This has resulted in one of the first ever integrated urban settlements for refugees and the host community.

Shelter and water, sanitation and hygiene were provided in **Afghanistan, Iraq, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Myanmar, Nepal and South Sudan. Iraq, Jordan, The Philippines.**

2016

As a member of the Inter Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and chair of the shelter cluster, UN-Habitat supported shelter rehabilitation activities in 35 of 47 fragile states including **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, DRC, Iraq, Somalia** and **South Sudan**. UN-Habitat also responded directly to disasters in **Afghanistan, Chad, Colombia, Ecuador, the State of Palestine, Somalia** and **Sudan.**

2017

Following the World Humanitarian Summit (2016), the *'Humanitarian Development Peace and Security Nexus'* approach, was formally rolled out in crisis affected countries, and was endorsed by the Secretary-General. This was a validation of UN-Habitat's approach of *'Build Back Better'*, which strengthens resilience and supports development and sustainability from day one of the crisis event.

2018

UN-Habitat provided support for implementation of disaster resilient permanent housing programmes in **Afghanistan, Iraq, Lebanon, Mozambique** and **The Philippines**.

The 'People's Process' was recognized and accepted as an effective process for empowering communities and delivering transformative change, including sustainable shelter rehabilitation as demonstrated in the post cyclone Haiyan shelter rehabilitation in **The Philippines.**

2019

As a member of the Inter Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and chair of the shelter cluster, UN-Habitat led the housing Post-Disaster Needs Assessment work in **Mozambique** following the two cyclones Idai and Kenneth in 2019.

UN-Habitat provided technical support on integrated settlements planning to improve crisis response in Cox's Bazar refugee camp in **Bangladesh** in collaboration with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees.

3.3 Key Results Achieved

Supporting shelter rehabilitation and building back better for sustainable settlement recovery and reconstruction

During the six-year strategic plan period, progress was made in supporting member states to implement their sustainable settlement recovery and reconstruction interventions. UN-Habitat's support to member states in recovery efforts from natural disasters and protracted conflicts especially in urban areas, was in line with the United Nations Secretary-General's call to incorporate sustainable development approaches into humanitarian efforts. More than two million people benefitted from UN-Habitat shelter recovery related programmes. These included reconstruction of durable housing, improved

design for cyclone and earthquake protection, improved land and security of tenure and reconstruction of infrastructure in multiple countries mainly in **Afghanistan, Democratic Republic of Congo, Iran, Iraq, Kenya, Lebanon, Mozambique, Myanmar, Nepal, Pakistan, Philippines, Somalia, Sri Lanka, State of Palestine** and **Syria.**

 UN-Habitat also empowered member states to manage reconstruction processes and housing delivery in post-disaster settings through the "build back better" approaches that provided greater resilience against future

natural disasters. For example, by the end of 2018, 660 families affected by Haiyan typhoon in the **Philippines** had benefitted from resilient housing and 54 community infrastructure projects implemented in 28 communities through the participatory People's Process. In **Sri Lanka**, 89,877 people, affected by flooding due to Cyclone Roanu in May 2016, benefitted from critical shelter support to underserved informal settlements where humanitarian agencies were hesitant to implement shelter activities due to the challenges in implementation. In **Mozambique**, through a partnership with local stakeholders, UN-Habitat supported rehabilitation of 400 classrooms, in 2015, using the cyclone resilient *Safer Schools model*. The model proved successful in the face of the cyclones Idai and Kenneth, which destroyed or damaged 4,000 classrooms in early 2019. The only schools that withstood the full force of the cyclones were those designed and built in compliance with UN-Habitat's school cyclone resilience-building programme. As a result, the Government adopted the Safer School standards for scaling up construction of cyclone resilient schools countrywide. UN-Habitat supported the Government of **Ecuador** in the response and post-earthquake planning for recovery at local levels in eight municipalities.

UN-Habitat supported the Governments of **Afghanistan, Iran** and **Nepal** to develop and apply building codes and guidelines for earth-quake-resistant infrastructure, especially in urban areas where maximum impact is experienced. With strong enforcement of building codes, impacts of earthquakes and recovery periods could be significantly reduced. In 2018, 75 'non-engineered' masonry houses in two informal settlements in **Afghanistan,** were retrofitted and reinforced for seismic resilience. Based on the lessons from this pilot phase, two sets of guidelines were developed to support scaling up to all Afghan cities. In Iran, earthquake-resistance building guidance was developed and adopted; the guidance was subsequently used to protect housing and infrastructure against future seismic shocks. These standards and guidelines were planned to be adapted for wider application in other earthquake-prone countries. In **Nepal**, traditional earthquake resistance building techniques were promoted, and local engineers trained in these techniques. This approach motivated local communities to return to successful, historic building methods, increasing resistance to hazards and

promoting the resilience of communities. Under the Central Emergency Flood Response, ten existing Shelter Hubs were strengthened in the three target districts of Kerala, **India.** Operational manuals were developed for the functioning of the hubs, guidelines developed for retrofitting existing houses and safe construction practices, and local engineers and masons were trained on disaster resilient construction practices to ensure Build Back Better and Safer.

Throughout the six-year strategic plan period, durable and sustainable solutions were applied in shelter recovery and reconstruction programmes in post-conflict countries such as in **Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, Syria** and **Yemen.** For example, in **Iraq:** 900 families displaced due to conflict in 2015 were settled in 665 pre-fabricated shelter units in Erbil city for Syrian refugees and hosting communities. In 2018 and 2019, UN-Habitat introduced minimum quality and safety standards and environmental sustainability for the rehabilitation of war-damaged buildings, improving their living conditions and resilience. The standards were applied in the establishment of 286 low-cost core housing units and basic infrastructure to accommodate vulnerable returnees in Garma, Fallujah and Ramadi in Anbar Governorate, **Iraq**.

 In **Sudan,** 170,000 people benefited from upgrading and rehabilitation of health facilities and basic health services in Darfur 'returnee' sites in 2018. In the **State of Palestine**, about 520 residents in Gaza city benefited from housing and tenure security. By the end of 2019, approximately 34,000 people in Bethlehem city and the Aida and Beit Jibrin refugee camps had benefitted from introduction of sustainable strategies and improved basic services such as solid waste management, wastewater drainage as well as public transport. In the **Philippines**, UN-Habitat's shelter recovery response to families displaced due to armed conflict in Marawi region, had benefitted 1,500 families from durable housing while more than 4,000 households benefitted from community infrastructure by the end of 2019. The community driven approach focused on cultural, peace building and livelihood activities to ensure transition from the humanitarian crisis to development and peace. In **Democratic Republic of Congo,** UN-Habitat's land projects are increasing security of tenure, acting as a catalyst for successful shelter recovery programmes, and contribution to peace building.

WORLD CITIES REPORT 2016

URBANIZATION AND DEVELOPMENT

Emerging Futures

UN@HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

07

Urban Research and Capacity Development

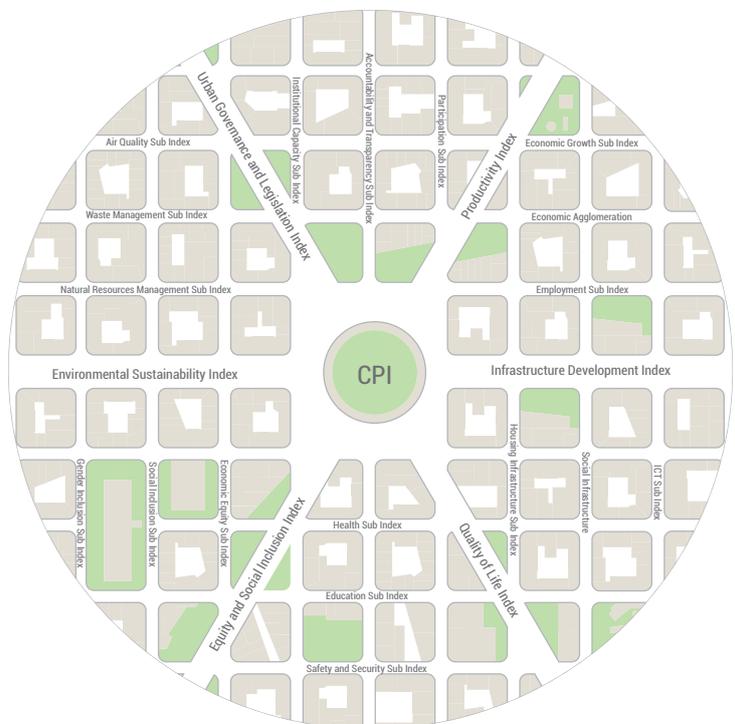## Objective of the subprogramme

To improve knowledge on sustainable urbanization issues and capacity for the formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes at the local, national and global levels.

I. Introduction

A high percentage of cities formulate policies and action plans without clear evidence and information. It is estimated that 65 per cent of local authorities in the in the world do not know how and why cities are growing. At the same time, evidence shows that knowledge and data on sustainable urbanization lead to improved formulation and implementation of evidence-based policies and programmes that contribute to better management of cities and other human settlements in a way that leaves no one behind.

With a focus on normative work, this subprogramme contributed to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for the achievement of the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals, notably SDG 11. Under this subprogramme, urban data, research outputs and knowledge were transformed into learning products that guide and support member states, local authorities and other stakeholders to formulate informed decisions and policies for sustainable urban development. The capacity of member states and other stakeholders in monitoring and assessing the implementation of the

Sustainable Development Goals was strengthened. UN-Habitat coordinated the preparation of the Quadrennial Report on the New Urban Agenda and the SDG 11 synthesis reports. This subprogramme also supported the preparation of regional reports and other thematic studies.

II. Highlights

540 cities in 12 countries implemented the *City Prosperity Initiative* to undertake diagnostics, create baselines, propose targets and produce actions plans and policy decisions.

355 urban observatories used UN-Habitat tools and methods to monitor urban trends and conditions at national and local authority levels.

73 national statistical offices produced urban data for Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda reporting using UN-Habitat tools.

416 local governments and **42 national governments** used UN-Habitat flagship knowledge products for evidence-based policy formulation.

230 institutional partners and more than **1,800 individual members** globally joined UN-Habitat's *University Initiative* promoting knowledge exchange and collaboration between academic institutions and cities in solving problems of unsustainable urbanization.

III. Progress Made and Results Achieved

1.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 1

Improved monitoring of global urbanization conditions and trends.
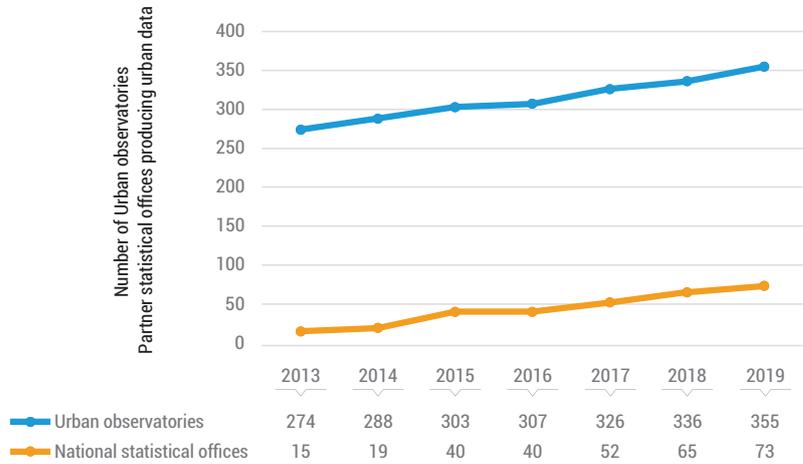
Indicator of achievement

1*:* Increased number of urban observatories using, upon approval by appropriate authorities, UN-Habitat monitoring tools, methods and data.

2: Number of partner national statistical offices producing urban data and indicators to support reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

Progress was made towards improving monitoring of global urbanization conditions and trends. By the end of the strategic plan period the two indicator targets for this expected accomplishment were surpassed as shown in Figure 7.1. 355 urban observatories were using UN-Habitat monitoring tools and methods, and 73 statistical offices were producing urban data on several thematic areas using UN-Habitat global guides and tools.

Figure 7.1 Progress made towards indicator target

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Urban observatories	274	288	303	307	326	336	355
National statistical offices	15	19	40	40	52	65	73

	Urban Observatories	Statistical offices
Target by 2019	335	45
Actual by 2019	355	73

1.2 Key Milestones

2014-2015

Over 300 cities globally had implemented the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) for evidence gathering, diagnosis and generating information about the city to create action plans based on participatory processes.

303 urban observatories and National Statistical Offices in 40 countries were using UN-Habitat's methodology to produce, for the first time, consistent and reliable data on inequalities at city level.

2016

UN-Habitat was recognized by the Inter-Agency Expert Group and the Statistical Division of UNDESA as the leading Agency to monitor nine urban indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals.

The CPI was adopted as a national monitoring framework by the Mexican Government and was used in 152 cities.

2017

326 urban observatories used UN-Habitat tools, methods and data in monitoring urban trends and conditions at national and local authority levels.

More than 400 cities were implementing the City Prosperity Initiative.

52 national statistical offices produced urban data and indicators to support reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

2018

City Performance Monitoring Framework was developed to support the monitoring of city-level input and output data across all sectors that contribute to the broader outcomes and impacts. It has been piloted in **17** Ethiopian cities.

The National Sample of Cities Methodology was developed. This is an unbiased statistical method for approximating urban related indicators using a representative sample of cities.

The *1st series of the SDG 11 synthesis report* was published. This documented early progress, and challenges in implementing SDG 11 targets at the city and national levels.

NATIONAL SAMPLE OF CITIES

A MODEL APPROACH TO MONITORING AND REPORTING PERFORMANCE OF CITIES AT NATIONAL LEVELS

GLOBAL URBAN OBSERVATORY
UN-HABITAT, NAIROBI

UN@HABITAT

2019

540 cities were implementing the City Prosperity Initiative to undertake diagnostics, create baselines and set targets for evidence-based planning and policy implementation.

City definition methodology was published to develop a global definition of the city, enabling comparative analysis of urban areas globally using geospatial analysis.

Slum area definition tools and methodologies were developed. This is a toolkit of innovative methodologies developed for defining and measuring slum areas.

New Urban Agenda Implementation Guidelines were developed that support member states in voluntary member state reporting on implementation of the New Urban Agenda. These reports provide essential inputs to the Secretary General's Quadrennial Report.

WHAT IS A CITY?

Guidelines for Reporting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

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UN@HABITAT

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1.3 Key Results Achieved

Strengthening capacity of member states for evidence-based decision making for sustainable cities

UN-Habitat provided knowledge and capacity development to advance the global monitoring agenda through new tools and methodologies such as the Global Urban Indicators Database, national sample of cities, geospatial Sustainable Development Goal-linked analytical toolkits, strengthening of urban observatories and national statistical offices, as well as the data generated through the City Prosperity Initiative (CPI). These initiatives improved the monitoring of sustainable urbanization on two fronts: (i) quantitatively with an increased number of urban observatories and national statistical offices; and (ii) qualitatively with the inclusion of indicators and indices that assess key issues in sustainable urbanization.

Strengthening the monitoring capacity of urban observatories and national statistical offices

Throughout the six-year reporting period, UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of urban observatories and national statistical offices in indicators development and monitoring. The number of national and local urban observatories and national statistical offices using UN-Habitat monitoring tools, methods and data increased significantly. This is, for example, demonstrated by the establishment of 81 new local and national urban observatories by member states. Additionally, 58 new partner national statistical offices started using UN-Habitat tools and guidelines to generate urban data and indicators that support monitoring and reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda by member states.

In collaboration with the United Nations regional economic commissions, UN-Habitat provided training in Africa, Asia-Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean regions to raise awareness on the urban-related monitoring agenda, share knowledge and introduce new tools. Through its Global Urban Observatory programme, UN-Habitat supported the establishment of urban observatories in various countries including **Bahrain, Botswana, Brazil, Colombia Ecuador, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana, Mexico, Nigeria, Peru, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Sudan, Tunisia, Vietnam** and **Zambia.**

During the period under review, member states were better positioned to produce detailed city-level reports and make evidence-based policy decisions as a result of support received from UN-Habitat. They also improved the capacity to monitor and report progress on the implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. In **Egypt**, the Government developed an integrated framework that enabled cities to monitor sustainable urbanization by utilizing sectoral indicators. In **Argentina**, data from the new national urban observatory contributed to the establishment of the national monitoring framework and the evidence-based selection of the national sample of cities to monitor urban development.

By December 2019, the national statistical office of the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia,** was producing data on SDG 6,7, 11, 12 and 17. In addition, data was also being collected on demographics (homes, household population); services (water, electricity, sewage) and infrastructure. In Latin America, Metropolitan Area governments of San Salvador (**El Salvador**), San Jose (**Costa Rica**) and Santo Domingo (**Dominican Republic**) used UN-Habitat monitoring tools, methods and data for the localization of the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11. In **Nigeria,** the urban observatories in Ondo and Kogi states provided data for evidence-based policies and strategies for sustainable development.

New Urban Agenda Implementation Guidelines

To improve the United Nations system wide collaboration and global reporting on sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat developed the *New Urban Agenda Implementation Guidelines* in 2019. The guidelines were intended to support member states in submitting voluntary national reports on implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat's capacity building initiatives contributed to improved reporting on urban-related indicators of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda by member states. More countries now have the knowledge and tools to produce voluntary national and city reviews. Since the global monitoring agenda commenced in 2016, the number of Voluntary National Reviews increased from 19 countries in 2016 to 45 in 2018, bringing the total number of countries submitting voluntary national reports to 98.

Normative tools to strengthen urban monitoring of SDGs and the New Urban Agenda

Over the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat developed new tools and methods to support member states to better monitor urban related SDG indicators and the New Urban Agenda. This was in response to the shift in monitoring of urban trends and conditions from national to city level monitoring, and from single targets and indicators focusing on developing countries to global coverage on multiple spatial indicators, most of which were new in the human settlements monitoring sphere. The key tools and methodologies include: the *City Prosperity Initiative* to monitor SDG 11 indicators locally; *City Performance Monitoring Framework*; *New City Definitions;* the *Global and National Sample of Cities Approach* and; *the Slum Area Measurements.*

The City Prosperity Initiative

UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) was established in 2012 as a global initiative to strengthen the capacity for monitoring and evidence-based policy formulation at city level. The CPI introduced the use of city level data and could be applied at different scales. It supported member states to identify opportunities for cities to become more prosperous. By the end of 2019, more than 540 cities had used the CPI to generate city-level data across key urban sustainability themes. Cities were enabled to take informed decisions about which policies to implement, where to allocate resources, how to identify setbacks and opportunities, and how to measure change and infer possible impacts. In **Mexico,** the CPI has been implemented in more than 300 municipalities, contributing to improved quality of life for inhabitants. In the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**, the CPI provided spatial analysis data for 17 cities that demonstrated the importance of a strong relationship between public space, economies of agglomeration, residential and infrastructure densities and informed urban planning and policy making. In **Egypt**, implementation of the CPI in 32 cities informed the development of an integrated framework for monitoring urbanization. In **Ecuador**, CPI reports with policy recommendations were implemented in 27 cities. The CPI has also been scaled

up in several countries in the Latin America and Caribbean region including **Costa Rica, Dominican Republic** and **El Salvador**.

The cities of Maceio and Sao Paolo in **Brazil**, Merida in **Mexico**, Tomsk in **Russia**, Penang in **Malaysia**, and Wuhan in **China** implemented customized versions of the CPI. A new method of measuring perception using an interactive survey tool with a Google application was designed and successfully implemented in Cyberjaya city (**Malaysia)** in 2019.

The *City Performance Monitoring Framework* was developed in 2018 and rolled out in 2019 to support the monitoring of city-level inputs and outputs. It has been implemented in 17 cities in **Ethiopia** to guide their monitoring, planning, policy decisions and investments.

Defining cities to strengthen global reporting on urban-related SDGs

During the reporting period, UN-Habitat spearheaded work on the definitions of cities to support the monitoring of urban-related SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. Several SDG targets and indicators refer directly to cities as the new units of analysis for tracking and reporting progress. However, many countries define cities differently. UN-Habitat worked with various global partners including the European Commission, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank and national statistical offices to develop and test a global methodology for defining cities. Over 90 countries have built a broader acceptance and consensus around what defines a city by participating in one of the seven regional workshops organized by UN-Habitat. Beyond 2019, the consensus established on the definition of cities would improve international statistical comparisons of city performance across urban and rural areas and complement existing national indicators. Further refinement of the definitions of cities would be facilitated by the guidelines for the new definitions and delineation of cities as statistical units of analysis, developed by UN-Habitat in 2019.

National Sample of Cities methodology: Statistical methods to reduce cost of reporting on urban indicators

Recognizing that substantial resources are required for city-level data collection across all urban-related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat developed the national sample of cities methodology. The approach was specifically designed to support countries with low technical capacity and limited resources to undertake systematic data collection and analysis on urban geospatial indicators and targets within more than 10 available national cities. The approach was piloted in four countries, **Botswana, Colombia, Ecuador** and **Tunisia**. It helped countries select a non-biased sample of representative cities to collect detailed data. By using a representative set and smaller number of cities to monitor geospatial and other urban indicators, the approach reduced costs for national and local governments monitoring activities. Countries that have implemented this methodology reduced resource requirements for city-level monitoring by nearly 30 per cent.

Counting slum dwellers for improved sustainable development that leaves no one behind

Significant progress was made in refining the slum area-based definition. New approaches for spatial urban monitoring to understand the position and extent of slums and informal settlements as well as their population numbers have been advanced. To ensure member states produce more reliable data for monitoring indicators on spaces and areas with slums and informal settlements, UN-Habitat deployed earth observation technologies and artificial intelligence techniques. This approach, which has been tested in **Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda** and **South Africa,** enabled countries to report better on SDG indicator 11.1.1 on housing and slums as well as other spatially dependent indicators.

2.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 2

Improved knowledge of sustainable urbanization issues at the local, national and global levels for evidence-based policy formulation.
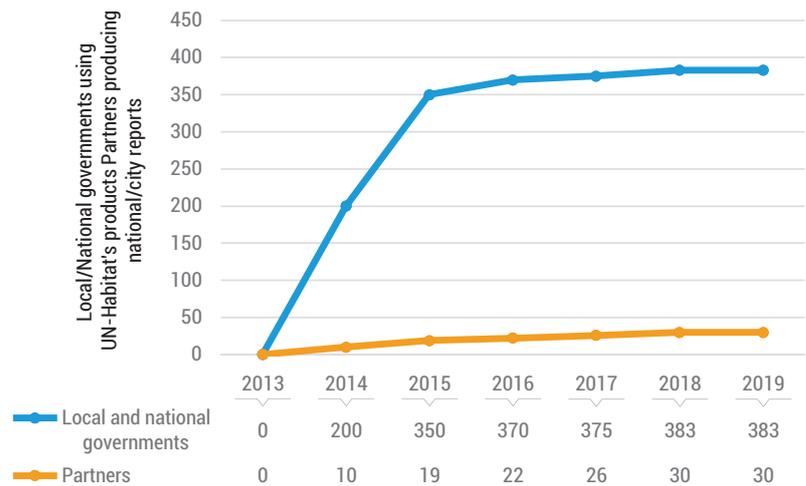
Indicators of achievement

1: Number of local and national governments that have used UN-Habitat knowledge products for policy formulation.

2: Increased number of partners producing national and city reports to enhance local and national policy formulation.

Progress was made towards improving the monitoring of global urbanization conditions and trends. By the end of the strategic planning period, one indicator target for this expected accomplishment was surpassed while the other was not met as shown in Figure 7.2. **383** local and national governments were using UN-Habitat knowledge products for policy formulation while **30** Habitat Agenda partners were producing national and city reports to enhance local and national policy formulation.

Figure 7.2: Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
Local and national governments	0	200	350	370	375	383	383
Partners	0	10	19	22	26	30	30

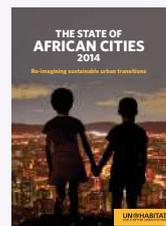|	Local	National and Partner
Target by 2019	400	35
Actual by 2019	383	30

2.2 Key milestones

2014

UN-Habitat contributed towards the proposed inclusion of a goal (SDG 11) on urbanization as part of the sustainable development goals and the post-2015 development agenda.

City Prosperity Initiative was integrated as a policy assessment and formulation tool in **Colombia, Egypt, Ethiopia, Mexico, Saudi Arabia** and **Viet Nam.**

The State of African Cities 2014 was published to increase knowledge on urbanization in the Africa region.

2015

The number of local and national governments that used flagship publications and best practice databases for policy formulation increased from 200 to 350.

About 130 cities reports were produced in **Mexico** based on the CPI toolkit and UN-Habitat's three-pronged approach to planning, legislation and local economy.

In **Egypt**, UN-Habitat supported preparation of the *State of Egyptian Cities Report*, establishment of the national urban observatory, and calculations of the CPI for 230 cities.

The second *State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015* was published under the theme; n transformations, shifting from quantity to quality.

2016

22 partner countries were producing national cities reports to enhance local and national policy planning.

Mexico continued developing city reports based on information derived from the CPI. A total of 152 reports were produced.

The *'World Cities Report 2016'* was translated into various languages including Mandarin, Persian and Spanish - The report conveys a clear message that the pattern of urbanization needs to change to address urbanization challenges. By the end of 2019, the report had been downloaded more than 166,000 times.

2017

375 local governments and 25 national governments were using UN-Habitat flagship publications and best practice data bases in policy formulation.
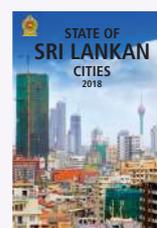
2018

UN-Habitat produced the first report on Goal 11 entitled "*Tracking Progress Towards Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements: SDG Synthesis Repor*t".

The *Quadrennial Report* on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda was produced and presented to the General Assembly by UN-Habitat in May 2018.

Several *'State of Cities'* reports were published including: *State of African Cities Report 2018, State of Saudi Cities Report 2018, State of Pakistani Cities Report 2018 and State of Sri Lankan Cities 2018*.
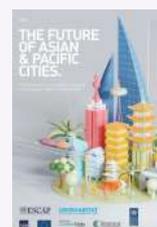
2019

More than 60,000 views had been recorded on UN-Habitat's Global Urban Lecture Series and associated resources.

The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019: Transformative Pathways Towards Sustainable Urban Development was published. The report makes the case for four priorities and four approaches to realizing a sustainable urban future in Asia and the Pacific.

2.3 Key Results Achieved

Knowledge on sustainable urbanization strengthened

Global and Regional State of Cities Reports

During the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat supported the production of one global and four regional state of cities reports which have contributed to improved monitoring of urban trends and conditions. The state of cities reports serve as main vehicles of the results of both monitoring and substantive research for global reporting and dissemination on sustainable urbanization issues at the local, national and global levels**.** The *World Cities Report* of 2016 highlighted, with compelling evidence, new forms of collaboration and cooperation, planning, governance, finance and learning that can sustain positive change. To better respond to the challenges of our time, urbanization needed to address issues such as inequality, climate change, informality, insecurity, and the unsustainable forms of urban expansion. The report has been translated into Mandarin, Persian and Spanish languages and has been widely used as reference.

The regional reports provided a comprehensive view and analysis of the state of cities, which supported evidence-based policy decisions at regional and national levels. The *State of African Cities 2014* report focused on re-imagining sustainable urban transitions while the 2018 edition highlighted the links between urbanization and sustainable national development by providing options to alleviate poverty and reduce inequality and exclusion. The *State of Asia Pacific Cities 2015*: *from quantity to quality* captured the region's rapid urban transformation, highlighting growing gaps between urbanization patterns and the needed shift towards more inclusive and sustainable cities. *The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019* focused on identifying transformative pathways towards sustainable urban development.

National and Metropolitan State of Cities Reports

During the reporting period, UN-Habitat provided technical support and strengthened the capacity of local and national urban observatories and statistical offices to collect and analyze urban data on indicators. Evidence-based sustainable urbanization policy formulation at the local level improved significantly over the strategic plan period as demonstrated by the number of sustainable urbanization knowledge products published by partners at local and metropolitan levels. Application of UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative (CPI) was a key driver in this trend. For example, in **Mexico**, implementation of the CPI at national level has generated data used in the production of city reports with evidence-based recommendations that inform development of municipal plans and programmes. The transformative impact achieved by the Government of **Mexico** was recognized by the Dubai Best Practices Awards, in 2017, as a best practice in the category of Monitoring the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs.
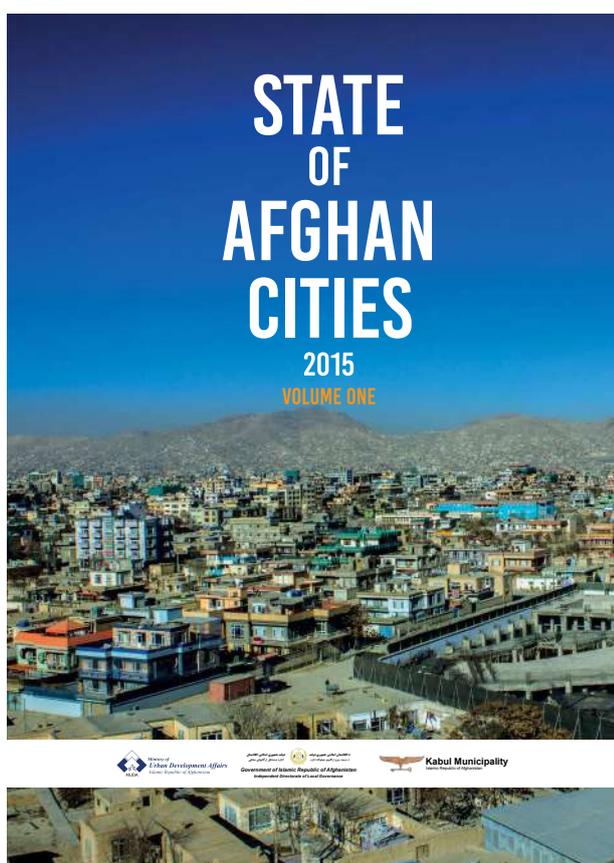
In **Costa Rica, Dominican Republic** and **El Salvador** the CPI methodology has been used to produce state of cities reports used to inform policy formulation in San Salvador, San Jose, and the Municipality of Los Alcarrizos. For the first time, the reports provided a complete vision of these territories based on application of the City Prosperity Index.

In **Colombia**, the production of CPI reports in 23 cities contributed towards significant capacity improvement of national and local governments and institutionalised evidence-based policy decision making. Policy recommendations proposed in the first *State of Colombian Cities Report*, launched in 2015, have been implemented, strengthening the monitoring and reporting system of cities throughout the country. The *2018 State of the Bogota Urban Localities Prosperity Report* informed policy decisions on sustainable and equitable urban development in Bogota's 19 local authorities. The Government also utilised the disaggregated information in the preparation of *State of Youth reports* to design policies and programmes on the issues affecting youth in cities.

The **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** produced 8 City Prosperity Index reports in 2016, the *State of Saudi Cities Report*, and the first *Voluntary National Review **Report*** in 2018 as a result of strengthened capacity of the local urban observatories and the General Authority of Statistics in the application of CPI. In **Ethiopia**, several city reports used in policy formulation and decision making significantly improved capacity on sustainable urbanization at national and local levels. *The State of Ethiopian Cities Report* and the *State of Addis Ababa Report* were produced in 2015 and 2017, respectively. The Government used the CPI to integrate performance monitoring of hunger in cities, governance and resilience and the development of a Cities Performance Measurement Framework. National and local authorities are now able to better measure the implementation of urban policies and plans.

In **Afghanistan**, the *State of Afghan Cities 2014/15 Report in two volumes* and the *'Atlas of Afghan City Regions 2016'* provided the Government with comprehensive and reliable urban data used in the planning and design of strategic programmes and evidence-based decision making promoting productive and inclusive urban growth. In addition, **Ecuador, Iran, Pakistan, Sri Lanka, Syria** and **Vietnam** produced national cities reports on local and national policy planning, demonstrating recognition and use of UN-Habitat research and policy formulation tools.

3.1 Progress on indicator of achievement

Expected Accomplishment 3

Improved capacity of national and local authorities and partners to implement plans or strategies for sustainable urbanization.
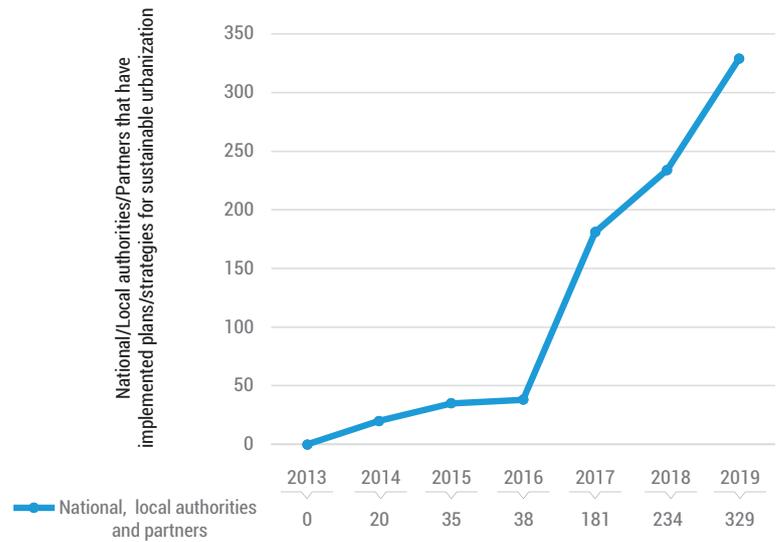
Indicator of achievement

Increased number of national and local authorities and partners that have implemented plans or strategies for sustainable urbanization.

Progress was made towards improving monitoring of global urbanization conditions and trends. By the end of strategic planning period, the indicator target for this expected accomplishment was surpassed as shown in Figure 7.3. **329** national and local authorities had implemented or were at different stages of implementing plans and strategies for sustainable urbanization.

Figure 7.3: Progress towards indicator targets

	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
National, local authorities and partners	0	20	35	38	181	234	329

	National/Local authorities and partners
Target by 2019	259
Actual by 2019	329

3.2 Key Milestones

2014

Over 1,600 participants were trained on the application of UN-Habitat tools and knowledge products to monitor urbanization trends and conditions during the seventh session of the World Urban Forum in Medellin, **Colombia**.

200 local governments and 10 national governments used UN-Habitat's publications and best practices database for policy formulation. This is largely attributed to the rapid growth in demand for the City Prosperity Initiative.

The UN-Habitat University Network Initiative increased its membership to 1,473 individual and 162 institutional. The initiative increased open access to higher education lectures on sustainable urbanization as well as the Global Urban Lecture Series.

2015

158 local and national governments had improved their capacity to formulate evidence-based urban policies and programmes, up from the baseline (2013) number of only 10.

The *Global Urban Lecture Series* was voted the world's second best Massive Open Online Courses on cities with 50,000 viewers.

2016-2017

289 mayors, executives, officials and practitioners from local and national governments and NGOs from Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America improved their capacity in monitoring urban indicators and evidence-based policy formulation.

2018

Over 470 mayors, policy makers and urban experts from 87 cities in 52 countries enhanced their capacity for the implementation and reporting on the New Urban Agenda and SDG 11.

UN-Habitat's Global Urban Lectures delivered by renowned urbanization experts were viewed by 166,000 people in more than 65 countries.

A regional guide for Arab city leaders entitled *Migration and Inclusive cities in the Arab World* was published, identifying promising local government and NGO led initiatives to support local governments to manage migration efficiently in challenging urban environments.

2019

230 institutional partners and more than 1,800 individual members were part of UN-Habitat's University Initiative promoting knowledge exchange and learning on sustainable urbanization.

Out of 524 practices submitted for the Dubai Best Practices Award, 10 emerged as winners, promoting global examples of sustainable urbanization.

3.3 Key Results Achieved

Sustainable urbanization best practices promoted

During the strategic plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat shared stories of change, impact and lessons through its globally orientated best practices approach. The Dubai Best Practices Award recognizes the world's best practices that demonstrate valuable contributions to sustainable urban development, because of effective partnerships between public, private, and civic sectors.

In its role as a global adviser and expert in identifying and harnessing best practices to promote sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat supported several strategic best practices award platforms during strategic planning period. These included: (i) Cities Alliance's Best Practices on Follow-Up and Review of Global Agendas at Local Level; (ii) the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs SDG Good Practices Programme; (iii) the Shanghai Manual: A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century in collaboration with Shanghai Municipality; and (iv), the Dubai EXPO Best Practices Programme.

Capacity for implementing the New Urban Agenda and urban related Sustainable Development Goals strengthened

UN-Habitat's capacity-building programme on sustainable urbanization expanded across the strategic plan period in line with the increased role of the agency in monitoring urban related SDGs.

During the strategic planning period, more than 2,000 decision makers and technical cadre of national and local governments from 52 countries and 87 cities enhanced their knowledge and skills to support localization of SDG11 in cities in Asia, Africa and Latin America. The training focused on methodologies, the design of indicators, and the planning, implementation and reporting on SDG11 and the New Urban Agenda. As a result, In **Brazil** for example, 6,637 citizens from 545 cities took part in a participatory process to support the monitoring of urban related Sustainable Development Goal indicators. This process has been scaled up to **Bolivia** (La Paz and Tarija) and **Peru** (Chimbote, Trujillo, Barranco and Miramar) where more than 130 citizens from six cities are now participating.

The *Global Urban Lectures* and associated resources contributed to capacity strengthening for more effective implementation of sustainable urbanization policies and programmes. The urban lectures have been viewed by more than 166,000 **people** in more than 65 countries. Additionally, the online Global Urban Lectures Series and *in situ* courses were enhanced in partnership with training centres of excellence in **Brazil, Namibia, Netherlands, Peru, Republic of Korea, Singapore, Sweden** and **United States**. The UN-Habitat University Initiative became an important catalyst in integrating and mainstreaming the global sustainable development agenda and cross-cutting issues into academic research. The programme built synergistic linkages between partners in support of research-based and data-driven policymaking processes at the national and city levels. It comprised 230 institutional partners and more than 1,800 individual members from university programmes that focused on the urban context and the built environment.

Under the University Network Initiative, the *Gender Hub* was launched in **Argentina,** in 2014. The hub, hosted by the National University of Córdoba, provided evidence and academic research to advance the integration of diverse social actors and gender issues into urban governance models. The Gender Hub also disseminated knowledge on processes and tools to deliver sustainable urban development with a gender perspective in the framework of current critical global trends.

In 2019, the Government of **Iraq** officially launched the main *National Platform for Construction and Development*, which supported the Government in evidence-based decision making on recovery, reconstruction and development. It provided a Geographical Information System for collecting up-to-date information on recovery, reconstruction and development activities in all 18 governorates across **Iraq**. The online platform has contributed to improved information sharing and Government transparency.

The city of Merida, Mexico implemented a customised version of the City Prosperity Index ©Shutterstock

Regional Highlights
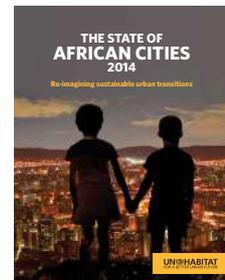
Africa Region

I. Introduction

UN-Habitat's Regional office for Africa covers Sub-Saharan Africa, consisting of 49 countries, and is active in 22 countries. This region is the least urbanized of all the regions at about 43 per cent. However, it is also the most rapidly urbanizing region at 3.5 per cent annually. Thus, African countries face several challenges that come with rapid and unplanned urbanization including poverty and inequality, weak urban governance and service delivery, rising informal settlements and vulnerability to the effects of climate change, natural disasters, as well as increased conflict with impact on cities.

During the six-year strategic plan period, 2014–2019, UN-Habitat interventions in the region were in response to these overarching urbanization issues, which were also articulated in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11. Priority areas of support at national and local levels included urban and regional planning, urban policy development, disaster risk reduction and recovery and post-conflict reconstruction, urban basic services, land management, urban economy and housing and slum upgrading.

UN-Habitat's regional interventions during the six-year strategic plan period were also guided by the *African Union Agenda 2063* which serves as a strategic framework for
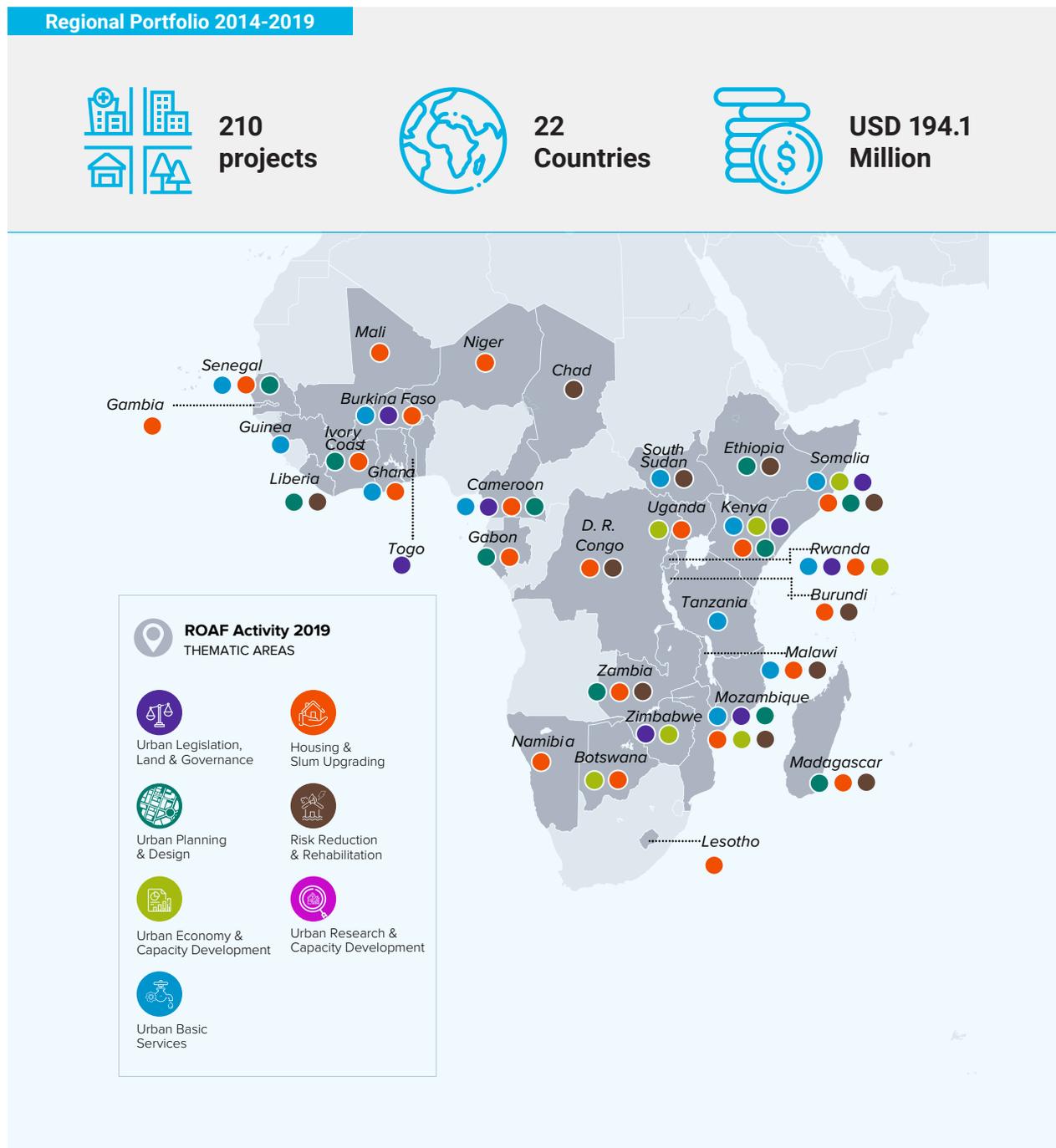
ensuring inclusive socio-economic transformation and the continent's vision for sustainable human settlements development in the New Urban Agenda. The *Africa Urban Agenda Programme,* developed through the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development, with technical support from UN-Habitat and launched in 2015, ensures that identified priorities are both transformative and aligned with what countries have prioritized for their national level implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals. It also supports multi-stakeholder partnerships for a harmonized regional framework for monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat also supported partner member states in the development of nine Habitat Country Programme Documents (**Ethiopia, Guinea Bissau, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, South Sudan, Uganda** and **Zambia)** for promoting sustainable urban development. The country programme documents served as implementation tools that anchored UN-Habitat's engagement with national and local governments, linking national development plans and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for more coordinated support to achieve the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

UN-Habitat worked with both national and local governments as well as other stakeholders to implement programmes at country level. Engagement with United Nations Country Teams strengthened collaboration with sister UN Agencies at country level and ensured urbanization was prioritized within the UN development framework. Partnership with the African Union Commission contributed to the development of the model law on housing, urban development and human settlements. Collaboration with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa and the African Union Commission facilitated the development of the African position paper in preparation for Habitat III in 2016. Partnership with the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR) contributed to scaling up the resilience programme to the Southern Africa Development Community. The map below shows thematic coverage of UN-Habitat's initiatives in the region.

Regional Portfolio 2014-2019

210 projects

22 Countries

USD 194.1 Million

ROAF Activity 2019
THEMATIC AREAS

- Urban Legislation, Land & Governance
- Housing & Slum Upgrading
- Urban Planning & Design
- Risk Reduction & Rehabilitation
- Urban Economy & Capacity Development
- Urban Research & Capacity Development
- Urban Basic Services

II. Key Highlights

Promoting inclusive and integrated national urban policy processes

Over the strategic planning period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat worked with member states in the region to develop more inclusive national urban policies, addressing key issues such as rapid and unplanned urbanization, urban governance, as well as social and economic urban inequalities. UN-Habitat supported 20 countries in the development and implementation of inclusive National Urban Policies as a key instrument for achieving sustainable urban development. This was accomplished through government-led participatory processes and application of normative tools.

As a result of the work of UN-Habitat, National Urban policies have been adopted as coordination tools used by national and local governments to direct and manage rapid urbanization processes towards sustainability. By the end of 2019, the Governments of **Cape Verde** and **Mali** were undertaking monitoring and evaluation of their national urban policies. Seven countries, **the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Madagascar, Malawi, Nigeria** and **Uganda** were implementing their national urban policies while **Cameroon**, **Chad, Sao Tome & Principe** and **Zambia** were undertaking policy formulation**.** Three countries, **Burkina Faso, Liberia** and **Senegal** were at the diagnostic phase. The Governments of **Angola, Guinea, Mozambique** and **Sierra Leone** were undertaking feasibility assessments to guide the formulation of their policies.

Improving land governance, access to land and tenure security

Through the Global Land Tool Network UN-Habitat worked with local and national authorities in the region to improve security of tenure and promote development and implementation of inclusive national land policies. In this regard, the continuum of land rights concept and fit-for-purpose land administration approaches, including the social tenure domain model, influenced the drafting and implementation of inclusive national land policies in the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Namibia, Uganda** and **Zambia**. Application of pro-poor and gender responsive land tools at scale in these countries has demonstrated the transformative impact on land administration, governance as well as direct benefits at community level. For example, implementation of the inclusive land policy in **Uganda** has improved security of tenure for more than 190,000 households in informal settlements and enhanced customary land systems through issuance of formal tenure documents.

At the regional level, UN-Habitat provided technical support to the Africa Land Policy Initiative in promoting land policies and governance agenda of the African Union during the six-year strategic plan period. In collaboration with the African Land policy Centre, UN-Habitat sustained its support in land policy development and implementation processes in **Democratic Republic of Congo, Somalia, South Sudan, Uganda** and **Zambia.**

To strengthen the capacity for implementation of the Land Policy Initiative, UN-Habitat supported development of the *Framework and Guidelines for Land Policy in Africa* which reflected a consensus on land issues and served as a basis for commitment of African governments to land policy formulation and implementation. In addition, the Gender Strategy for the Land Policy Initiative was validated, leading to improved mainstreaming of gender in land policy development and implementation in the region.

Strengthening Urban Resilience

Strengthening resilience of cities and other human settlements was a major focus of UN-Habitat's work in the region over the period under review. The focus on resilience was a response to the growing frequency and impact of natural disasters affecting cities and other human settlements especially in the context of rapid and unplanned urbanization. To strengthen regional capacity for cities to build resilience, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with member states and partners in the southern Africa region, supported the establishment of the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience in 2014. One of the key contributions of the Centre to date has been the development of the City *Resilience Action Planning Tool* which was instrumental in strengthening the capacity for resilience by cities and municipalities. The application of this tool has been adopted in more than 11 countries and is being scaled up throughout the region. This has enabled communities to understand and plan actions aimed at reducing risk and building resilience through the development of a Resilience Framework for Action to mitigate disasters.

UN-Habitat's interventions strengthened member states' capacity to develop resilience action plans, undertake vulnerability mapping, disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation. Over the strategic plan period, 30 cities mainly in **Ethiopia, Malawi, Mozambique, São Tomé and Príncipe, South Africa, Union of Comoros, Zambia and Zimbabwe** have made progress in building their resilience. These cities are at different stages of developing and implementing resilience frameworks for action using *the City Resilience Action Planning Tool*. Through the resilience

frameworks for action, partner cities have identified local context challenges and priorities and defined key actions to be implemented in the short, medium and long-term to strengthen resilience. For example, in 2019 a 5-year comprehensive strategy for *building back better and resilience building* in the areas affected by Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in **Mozambique** was developed. This approach helped increase local climate adaptation capacity and promoted a culture of resilience at all levels. It supported resilient recovery and reconstruction of cities and communities, including **resilient school reconstruction and rehabilitation with a view to ensuring uninterrupted access to education.**

Advocacy, awareness raising and capacity building

UN-Habitat continued strengthening the capacity of member states to implement strategies and programmes that promote sustainable urban development and the New Urban Agenda, through various advocacy platforms, partnerships and awareness raising events. Two major regional advocacy platforms were established during the report period that have contributed to increased awareness on issues of climate change and solid waste management. The *Covenant of Mayors for Sub Saharan Africa for Climate and Energy*, launched in 2015, has been instrumental in mobilizing local authorities to make commitments to implement climate and energy actions in their communities. By the end of 2019, more than 200 municipalities in Africa had signed the covenant and more than 20 of these municipalities had developed and were implementing their energy and climate action plans.

African Clean Cities Platform, established in 2017, contributed to increased awareness on the problem of waste management in Africa and supported cities to find innovative solutions for appropriate waste management. By the end of 2019, 64 cities in 35 countries in Africa were benefiting from shared knowledge and best practices for promoting joint action to realize clean and healthy African cities.
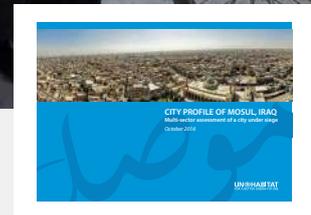
2019

Over 200 municipalities in Africa had signed the covenant and over 20 of these municipalities had developed and were implementing their energy and climate action plans

Bira City, Mozambique ©SHUTTERSTOCK

Arab States Region

I. Introduction

The Regional Office for Arab States covers 18 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. At a 56 per cent urbanization level, urban growth in the region remains largely driven by rural–urban migration. Most cities in **Iraq, Libya, Syria** and **Yemen,** for example, have been largely damaged by conflict, leading to massive displacement of people within (internally displaced people, IDPs) and across borders (refugees), which increased pressure on neighbouring cities to absorb IDPs and refugees. Land disputes and competing land claims due to secondary occupation during displacement of original owners is another major challenge affecting the region. At the same time, member states are also grappling with difficulties related to urban sprawl and the delivery of basic urban services, while seeking more sustainable solutions to these problems.

In this region, UN-Habitat supported partner countries to deliver a diverse portfolio of more than USD 348 million of projects. Many of these projects were implemented as integrated, multi-thematic interventions with varying levels of emphasis. Interventions by UN-Habitat and partners during the six-year strategic plan period were aligned to regional priorities, and contributed to implementation of global priorities, mainly the Sendai Framework, through sustainable recovery and reconstruction. They also promoted localization of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for the achievement of the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially Goal 11.
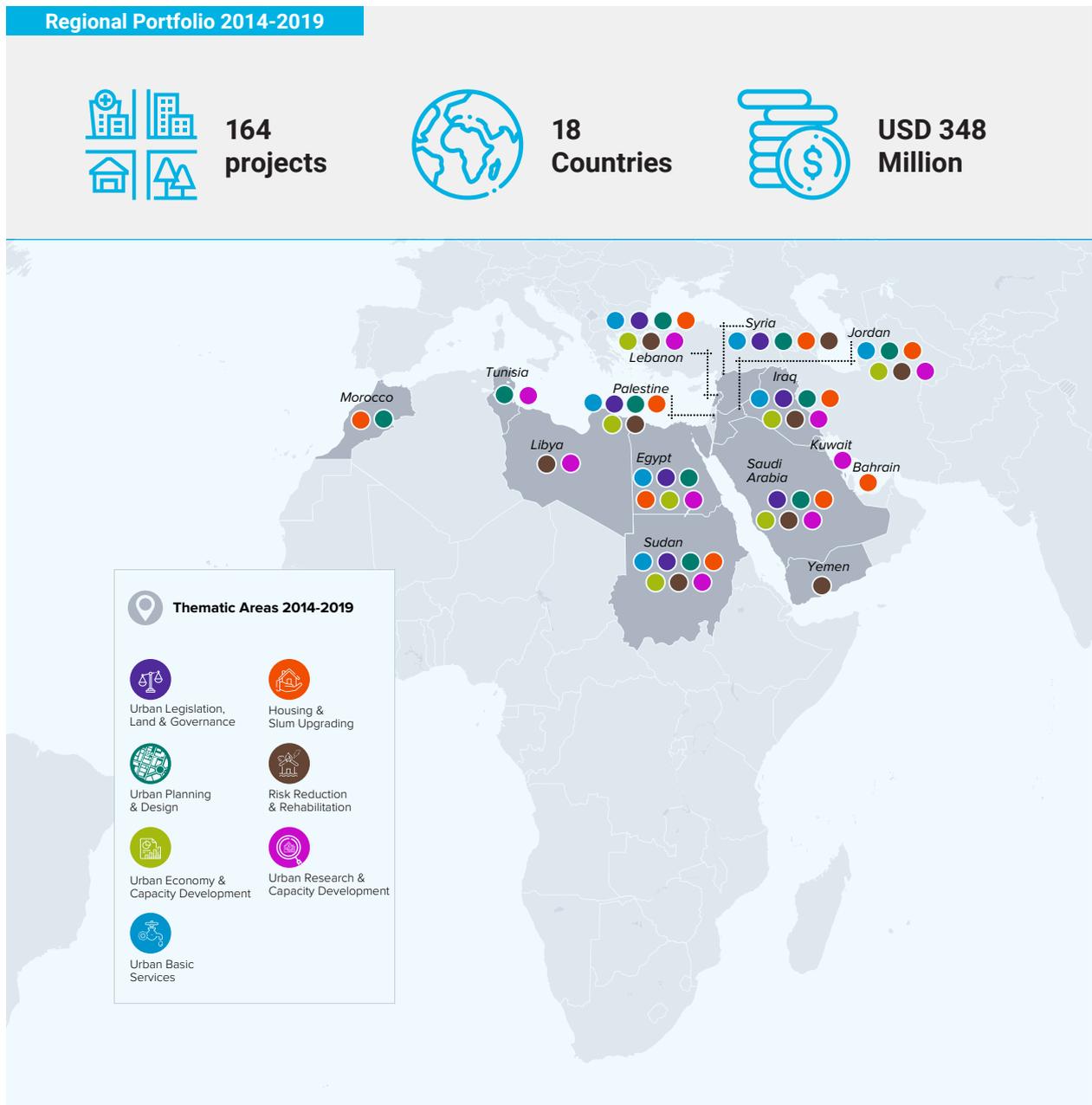
The programmes implemented during the reporting period reflected priorities identified in the *Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030* approved by the Arab Ministerial Council on Housing and Urban Development in 2016. The *Migration and Inclusive cities: A Guide for Arab City Leaders,* along with a complementary toolkit were developed to support local authorities to address the issues of migration in the region. UN-Habitat also supported operationalization of the humanitarian-development nexus and urban resilience within the region through its contribution to the development of the *Regional Refugee and Resilience Plan.* The Plan, an interagency response coordination framework for the Syria crisis, contributed to addressing the resilience needs of Syrian refugees, impacted host communities, and national systems in neighbouring **Iraq, Egypt, Jordan, Lebanon** and **Turkey**.

In addition, UN-Habitat supported the development of new Habitat Country Programme Documents for the **State of Palestine** and **Sudan** and revision of country documents for **Iraq, Lebanon, Morocco** and **Tunisia.** The country

programme documents served as implementation tools that anchored UN-Habitat's engagement with national and local governments, linking national development plans and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework, for the delivery of urban related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat established strategic partnerships that were instrumental in maximizing the reach and impact of its interventions in the region over the six-year strategic plan period. Partnership with the Islamic Development Bank contributed to and strengthened research and development of knowledge products on the topics of informal settlements

and climate change. Partnerships with the private sector also played an important role in strengthening technical support for the delivery of UN-Habitat's work in the Arab region. For example, partnership with Arcadis contributed to technical support to member states in the areas of urban planning and design as well as shelter interventions for refugees in conflict affected countries such as in **Lebanon** and **Jordan**. UN-Habitat also partnered with civil society organizations, academic institutions and research centres in the Arab region in policy dialogues, implementation of projects, and other initiatives. The map below shows thematic coverage of UN-Habitat's initiatives in the region.

Regional Portfolio 2014-2019

164 projects

18 Countries

USD 348 Million

Thematic Areas 2014-2019

Urban Legislation, Land & Governance

Housing & Slum Upgrading

Urban Planning & Design

Risk Reduction & Rehabilitation

Urban Economy & Capacity Development

Urban Research & Capacity Development

Urban Basic Services

Morocco

Tunisia

Libya

Syria

Lebanon

Palestine

Jordan

Iraq

Kuwait

Bahrain

Egypt

Saudi Arabia

Sudan

Yemen

II. Key Highlights

Integrated and inclusive urban crisis reconstruction and recovery

Over the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat supported efforts by member states to promote sustainable and inclusive urban crisis reconstruction and recovery initiatives. This support included technical advice, capacity strengthening, operational support, as well as development and application of appropriate normative tools. *The City and Neighbourhood Profiling Tool* is one of the main tools developed and widely utilized for sustainable and coordinated recovery and reconstruction in conflict affected urban settings. The city and neighbourhood profiles developed provided detailed assessments of urban functionality and services, creating a shared understanding of the impact of the crisis for more contextualized, coordinated, complementary and holistic urban responses. Over the reporting period, more than 70 city and neighbourhood profiles were developed in **Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria** and **Yemen** using the *City and Neighbourhood Profiling Tool,* contributing to better coordinated sustainable recovery and reconstruction interventions in affected cities.

The profiling tool was first piloted in **Iraq** in 2016 where it facilitated development of the *City profile of Mosul* and *the Multi-sector assessment of a city under siege*, which were recognized by the Humanitarian community as a major contribution to planning for recovery. The two assessment reports enabled other agencies and development partners to prioritize investments that restored the functionality of the city. This approach also contributed to major savings in time and money in providing affected communities with essential services.

In **Libya**, the *Rapid City Profiling Monitoring system* was finalized in 2018 and informed the design and tracking implementation of recovery programmes. In **Yemen**, city and neighborhood profiles for six cities were completed, facilitating the development of sustainable city and national level recovery and reconstruction plans that were implemented.

National Urban Policies for sustainable urbanization promoted

With urbanization increasing in the Arab region, national urban policies were key instruments to guide a coordinated approach to sustainable urbanization. Over the six-year period of the strategic plan, UN-Habitat supported seven countries (**Egypt, Jordan, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, Lebanon, Morocco, Sudan** and **Tunisia**) through different stages in their government-led participatory national urban policy processes and application of normative tools. By the end of 2019, **Tunisia**, was at the feasibility phase, while **Egypt, Sudan**, **Jordan** and **Lebanon** were undertaking policy formulation, and the **Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** was implementing its national urban policy. The Government of **Morocco** was supported in the monitoring and evaluation of its national urban policy. The National Urban Policy development process strengthened inclusive policy dialogue between national and city authorities, and enhanced horizontal and vertical coordination among urban stakeholders in these seven countries.

Improving security of tenure and promoting sustainable land management

UN-Habitat's interventions on land and tenure security focused on strengthening capacity of regional and national governments and other stakeholders to promote inclusive and equitable management and administration of land. Crisis-affected countries in the region (**Lebanon, Iraq, Jordan, Syria** and **Sudan**) took active steps to develop an issues-based coalition on land, housing and property at country level. The coalition played an important role in addressing tensions created by competition over land resources, the discrepancies between customary land rights and formal legal systems, forced displacement and accelerated migration. The coalition resulted in an improved understanding of the challenges and solutions available to improve land tenure security and promote sustainable land management in conflict-affected contexts.

Thousands of internally displaced people, returnees and other vulnerable groups saw their security of tenure improved over the six-year reporting period. For instance, through the Global Land Tool Network, **Iraq** facilitated the issuance of occupancy certificates to 4,331 households, thus improving their security of tenure and helping resolve conflicts related to land and property. A regional land governance e-platform established in 2019 has contributed to increased visibility and profile of land governance in the region. The platform also supported stakeholders in the land sector of member countries to share information, knowledge and best practices and develop their capacities.

UN-Habitat supported the *Arab Land Initiative*, a regional network of member states and key stakeholders involved in developing more inclusive and sustainable approaches to land and tenure security. The Initiative promoted the collaboration and coordination of land sector stakeholders in the region, developed and shared knowledge and

best practices and strengthened local capacity on land management. The initiative also supported the implementation of existing land-related programmes and interventions in selected countries using fit-for-purpose land tools and approaches.

4,331

In Iraq, through the Global Land Tool Network facilitated the issuance of occupancy certificates to 4,331 households, thus improving their security of tenure and helping resolve conflicts related to land and property.

Advocacy, Awareness raising and capacity building

Over the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat continued advocating for, raising awareness and strengthening the capacity of member states in the region to promote sustainable urban development and the New Urban Agenda. This was done through various thematic programmes and regional events.
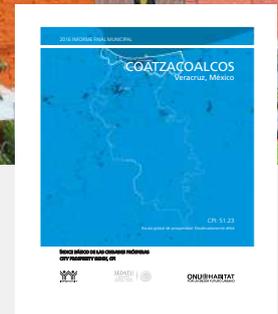
In 2014, the *Second Arab Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction* co-organized by the Government of **Egypt** and the League of Arab States provided a platform that shaped regional priorities towards the successor framework for disaster risk reduction beyond 2015. The conference highlighted progress on disaster risk reduction efforts and reviewed the implementation of the Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015 in the Arab region.

The *Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development* established in 2015 served as a key regional advocacy and awareness raising platform on sustainable urban development in the region. Over the reporting period, three biennial sessions were convened in Cairo (**Egypt**), Rabat, (**Morocco**) and Dubai, (**United Arab Emirates**) which advocated for monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban related Sustainable Development Goals in the Arab region. For example, the third Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development, held in 2019, adopted the Dubai Declaration which reiterated the commitment of partner countries towards placing urban sustainability at the heart of socio-economic development while promoting innovation and creativity in the planning and management of Arab cities.

The Government of the **United Arab Emirates** in partnership with UN-Habitat, the Global Land Tool Network, the World Bank, the Arab League and the Arab Union of Surveyors held the first Arab Land Conference in 2018. A key outcome was the Dubai Declaration on Land Governance in the Arab States aimed at promoting regional cooperation, and developing capacities and innovation in land governance and real estate reforms to promote the social and economic development in the Arab region.

Egypt @ UN-Habitat

Latin America and the Caribbean Region

I. Introduction

UN-Habitat is present in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this highly urbanized region (81 per cent), cities are facing significant socio-economic disparities, reflecting deep seated structural challenges. In addition, many cities have been poorly planned during the period of rapid urban transition resulting in urban sprawl, informal neighbourhoods and urban inequalities. Sectoral policies dominate the public management landscape. Integrated policies are the exception and usually perceived as theoretical and non-pragmatic.

During the six-year strategic plan period, 2014–2019, UN-Habitat interventions in the region were in response to these overarching urbanization issues which were also articulated in the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11. As part of the implementation of the strategic plan, UN-Habitat developed and implemented regional strategies and action plans to address key challenges in priority areas. The *Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda (2016-2036)* was adopted by the Assembly of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and Urban Planning of Latin America and the Caribbean. The Action Plan has been instrumental in promoting evidence-based policy making, setting out potential actions and interventions as well as relevant and priority policy guidance for all Latin American

and Caribbean countries towards the achievement of sustainable urban development. The *CitiesXYouth strategy* was also developed to support the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin American countries by mainstreaming issues affecting youth in urban areas.
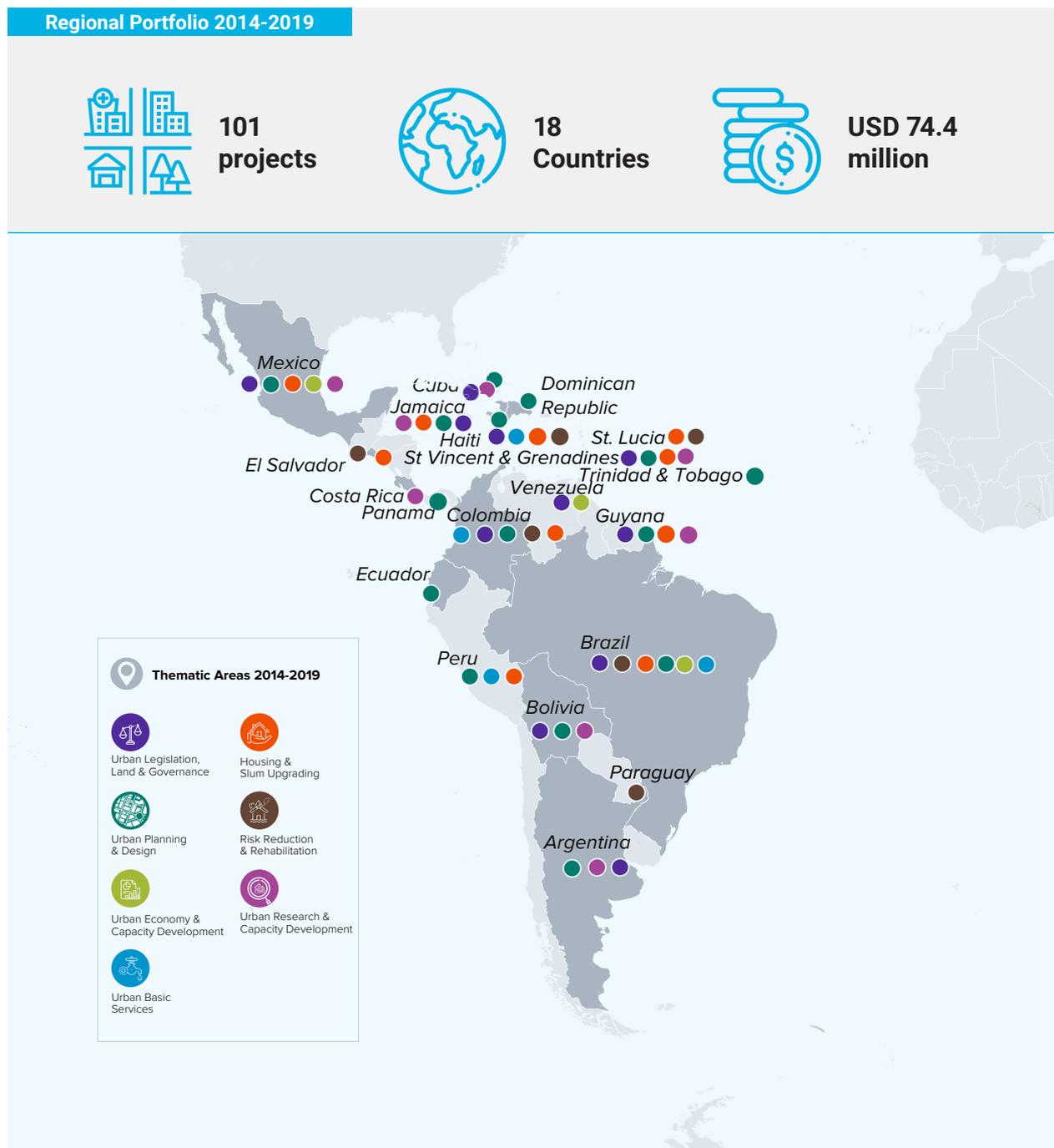
In addition, UN-Habitat supported the development of new Habitat Country Programme Documents for **Brazil**, **Colombia, Cuba** and **Mexico.** The country programme documents served as implementation tools that anchored UN-Habitat's engagement with national and local governments, linking national development plans and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework for the delivery of urban related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat supported the development of the *Sub-regional Caribbean action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda*. This plan became a reference for different sub-regional plans like the *Caribbean Strategy on Informal Settlements Upgrading.* In **Brazil**, a subnational level *Urban poverty reduction strategy in cities* was developed for the State of **Alagoas** and cities of **Rio de Janeiro** and **Maricá**. It ensured that the urban and human rights perspectives were integrated, and capacities strengthened for monitoring

and identifying the poorest households in precarious neighborhoods.

UN-Habitat established regional strategic partnerships that were instrumental in the implementation of the six-year strategic plan. Partnership with the Latin American and the Caribbean Regional Coordination Mechanism and the UN Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean contributed to the development of the Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This has resulted in development and implementation of a new generation of national urban policies in **Argentina, Bolivia,** **Colombia, Cuba, Ecuador and Mexico** which are aligned to the New Urban agenda. At the regional ministerial level, UN-Habitat's collaboration with the Assembly of Ministers of Housing and Urban development in the Latin American and Caribbean (MINURVI), facilitated the adoption of guidelines and fostered political commitment to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda at national and local level, in the 33 member countries. Partnerships with the private sector, civil society and development banks also played a critical role in resourcing and implementation of the six-year strategic plan in the region. The map below shows thematic coverage of UN-Habitat's initiatives in the region.

Regional Portfolio 2014-2019

101 projects

18 Countries

USD 74.4 million

Mexico

Cuba

Jamaica

Dominican Republic

Haiti

St. Lucia

El Salvador

St Vincent & Grenadines

Trinidad & Tobago

Costa Rica

Venezuela

Panama

Colombia

Guyana

Ecuador

Brazil

Peru

Bolivia

Paraguay

Argentina

Thematic Areas 2014-2019

Urban Legislation, Land & Governance

Housing & Slum Upgrading

Urban Planning & Design

Risk Reduction & Rehabilitation

Urban Economy & Capacity Development

Urban Research & Capacity Development

Urban Basic Services

II. Key Highlights

UN-Habitat supported national and local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector in the Latin America and the Caribbean region in strengthening institutional capacity for sustainable urbanization. This included knowledge-transfer between regional counterparts, using key UN-Habitat tools such as the National Urban Policy Processes, the City Prosperity Initiative and the Urban Integrated Solutions approach.

Promoting National Urban Policies

UN-Habitat worked with member states in the region to develop more inclusive national urban policies, addressing spatial, social and economic urban inequalities. Over the six-year period of the strategic plan, UN-Habitat supported eight countries in their national urban policy processes through government-led participatory processes and application of normative tools. By the end of 2019, **Argentina, Colombia** and **Cuba** were implementing their national urban policies while **Bolivia, Ecuador** and **Mexico** were undertaking policy formulation processes. The Governments of **Guatemala** and **Haiti** were undertaking feasibility assessments towards the formulation of their policies. At the sub-national level, UN-Habitat supported the development of urban policies and plans for metropolitan areas in **Bolivia, Colombia, El Salvador** and **Mexico**.

Promoting evidence-based policy-making for sustainable urbanization

City Prosperity Initiative (CPI)

UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative was utilized by city authorities and national stakeholders to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention for urban development. The initiative supported the gathering of quality data for evidence based public policy making. Over the six-year strategic plan period, the City Prosperity Initiative was implemented in **Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador, Panama** and **Perú** allowing these countries to improve their planning and public policy design process. Cities like San Salvador **(El Salvador),** San José **(Costa Rica),** and Santo Domingo **(Dominican Republic**) for example, now have well-structured Urban Integrated Operations, ready for public-private investments based on data collected as part of the CPI. In **Mexico**, a total of 305 cities have benefited from the City Prosperity Initiative and in 2019, the initiative was implemented in 8 states and 40 municipalities.

During the period under review, the CPI was used to produce *National State of the Cities Reports* in **Colombia, Ecuador** and **Mexico** thus providing critical information for evidence-based policy making and programming for sustainable and equitable urbanization. The CPI was also utilised by the Development Bank of Latin America and the Bank for the Economic Integration of Central America in the analysis and monitoring of urbanization.

To accelerate the reduction of urban poverty and inequality in cities, UN-Habitat promoted the integration of human rights perspectives in urban policies and strengthened capacities for monitoring and evidence-based decisions. In this context, the report, *Construction of More Equitable Cities in Latin America, was* produced to present an analysis of the factors that create and produce inequalities in **Latin America**. The study presented policy recommendations that local authorities and other tiers of governments can implement to achieve more equitable cities. Moreover, UN-Habitat supported the identification of the poorest households in precarious neighborhoods with a view to formulating policies and strategies. As a result, for instance, the State of **Alagoas** and cities of **Rio de Janeiro** and **Maricá** in **Brazil** developed and adopted urban poverty reduction strategies in 2019.

Housing and slum upgrading in cities

Through its normative work in the housing sector, UN-Habitat contributed to a better understanding of the problem of adequate and affordable housing affecting many countries in the region, including recommendations for addressing identified issues. An analysis of the state of housing supply in the Latin American and Caribbean region was undertaken which was documented in the report *Déficit habitacional en América Latina y el Caribe*, published in 2015. The report highlighted housing deficits and presented survey-based, country-specific information on challenges in the entire region. The case study *Building Financial Resilient Neighbourhoods: The Case of José Carlos Mariátegui, Lima, Peru,* published in 2017, explored financing alternatives and proposed a financial scheme for providing safe and resilient housing in **Peru**. Similarly, strategic guidelines and actions to address **Mexico's** housing challenges and achieve compliance with the 2030 Agenda were presented in the report *Housing at the Centre of the SDGs in Mexico,* published in 2019.

Addressing forced migration in urban settings

The *Comprehensive Development Plan for North of Central America* which included **El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras**

and **Southern Mexico,** supported cities at various stages of the migration experience to plan more effectively for the influx of migrants. Through the *Cities of Solidarity Initiative*, UN-Habitat supported five local governments in **Colombia, Dominican Republic, Ecuador** and **Peru** to improve their capacity and processes to receive and integrate migrants from **Venezuela**. By the end of 2019, more than 1,000 families, had been integrated into hosting communities in five cities, benefitting more than 100,000 people.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

UN-Habitat continued to play a key advisory role in the work of the Assembly of Ministers of Housing and Urban development in the Latin American and Caribbean region (MINURVI) promoting sustainable urban development. Over the six-year strategic plan period, six annual sessions of MINURVI were convened which focused on promoting the implementation of urban related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda in the region. In 2016, the Assembly adopted the *Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda*. The Ministers committed to the principles of sustainable urban development such as poverty reduction and the incorporation of climate mitigation and adaptation measures into urban planning. In 2017, the Assembly adopted the *Buenos Aires Declaration* that promoted links with sub-national and local governments and other stakeholders to advance inclusive, secure, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements. During the 2018

session, the Assembly nominated UN-Habitat as a key advisor, supporting member states in developing national urban policies. In 2019, UN-Habitat presented a draft of the *Caribbean strategy for the informal settlements upgrading* to the Assembly that was developed in collaboration with local stakeholders from seven countries in the region.

UN-Habitat's support to MINURVI Assembly, representing 33 countries, has ensured that the mechanisms and orientations of the New Urban Agenda and other urban related global agendas are adapted to the Latin American and Caribbean context. The impact is reflected in national policies guided by the global agendas that seek to leave no one behind at local level.

To strengthen cooperation with regional and local institutions, associations and networks for promoting the New Urban Agenda in the region, a regional urban platform was established to monitor the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Subnational entities jointly produced the *Sub-regional Caribbean action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda*. The *Metropolitan Areas Latin America Network*, launched in 2014, contributed to the Habitat III process and continues to promote the exchange of best practices in metropolitan planning, governance and design in the region. The network, a joint effort of the metropolitan area of Aburra valley (**Colombia**) and the Metropolitan Community of Montreal (**Canada**), brings together metropolitan authorities of South America, Central America and North America with the support of UN-Habitat.

Afghanistan @ UN-Habitat

Asia and the Pacific Region

I. Introduction

The Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific oversees 23 country programmes. Urbanization is one of the major trends defining the Asia-Pacific region and is increasingly being compounded by the impacts of human conflict, climate change and natural disasters, especially in Small Island Developing States. In addition, the region represents 54 per cent of the global urban population. Negative environmental trends are alarming in many cities in the region. Given the number of urban disasters in the region, cities are increasingly recognized as being highly vulnerable to climate change, with the urban poor being the most at risk population.

As part of the implementation of the six-year strategic plan in the region, UN-Habitat developed a regional strategy, The *UN-Habitat Regional Strategy for Asia-Pacific* launched in 2014. The strategy prioritized strengthening the role of national and local governments for effective implementation of urban related SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in line with their respective priorities.

As part of the implementation of its regional strategy, UN-Habitat supported partner countries in the development of four Habitat Country Programme Documents (**Afghanistan,**

Myanmar, Philippines and **Sri Lanka)** aligned to the national priorities for promoting sustainable urban development. The country programme documents served as implementation tools that anchored UN-Habitat's engagement with national and local governments, linking national development plans and the United Nations Development Assistance Framework.

UN-Habitat mobilized partners for regional engagement in the Habitat III process as well as supporting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals through its regional and country programmes. This led to the development of several partnerships at country level that strengthened the focus on sustainable urban development in national development plans as well as in south-south cooperation initiatives. Through continued partnerships and assistance with global bilateral and regional donors, UN-Habitat sustained its support in the implementation of integrated programmes especially in Least Developing Countries as well as post-crisis contexts mainly in **Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines** and **Sri Lanka.** The map below shows thematic coverage of UN-Habitat's initiatives in the region.

Regional Portfolio 2014-2019

206 projects

23 Countries

USD 523 Million

Mongolia

China

South Korea

Japan

Afghanistan

Iran

Pakistan

Nepal

Bangladesh

India

Myanmar

Laos

Phillipines

Thailand

Vietnam

Cambodia

Sri Lanka

Malaysia

Indonesia

Timor-Leste

Solomon Islands

Fiji

Thematic Areas 2014-2019

Urban Basic Services

Housing & Slum Upgrading

Urban Legislation, Land & Governance

Risk Reduction & Rehabilitation

Urban Research & Capacity Development

Urban Planning & Design

Urban Economy & Municipal Finance

II. Key Highlights

Accelerating urban responses to climate change in Asia-Pacific

Given the severe impact of climate change on cities and other human settlements in the region, mainstreaming climate change into urban development policy, strategy and programming has become increasingly important for national governments. Over the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat supported 19 countries and 53 cities in the region in their resilience building efforts, and adaptation and mitigation to climate change. UN-Habitat played a key role in expanding knowledge and interventions by member states on the climate-urban nexus, piloting inclusive and integrated initiatives which have strengthened climate resilience and response effectiveness.

Integrating climate change into national urban policies

UN-Habitat supported member states in the region in strengthening the mainstreaming urban climate change adaptation and resilience building in national urban policy. As a result, **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam** reviewed their national urban policies and integrated climate change perspectives for more effective response to urban challenges. For example, in Cambodia, mainstreaming climate change into subnational planning with gender focus is anchored within the Cambodia Climate Change National Strategic Plan. Overall, regional efforts, including country case studies, were documented in 2018 in "*A Regional Guide for integrating climate change concerns into urban related policy, legislative, financial and institutional frameworks*".

During the period under review, the demand for UN-Habitat's support in the development of National Urban Policies increased as demonstrated by the growing number of countries initiating new national urban policy development processes or revising their existing policies. By the end of 2019, seven countries (**Bangladesh, Fiji, Myanmar, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa** and **Sri Lanka**) were implementing their national urban policies. Three countries (**India, Kiribati** and **Solomon Islands**) were at the formulation phase and two countries (**Afghanistan, Tuvalu,**) were in the diagnosis phase while three countries (**Viet Nam, Tonga** and **Vanuatu**) were at the feasibility phase.

Resilience and adaption to climate change of cities strengthened

At local level, UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of cities in the Asia-Pacific region to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation strategies into urban development, aimed at making cities more resilient. In this regard, the establishment of the *Regional Knowledge Platform on Climate Change and Cities in Asia and the Pacific* has contributed to increased capacity for local action and awareness raising through development of appropriate normative tools.

Moreover, through the *Climate Change and Cities Initiative*, partner cities in **Fiji, Indonesia, Pakistan, Papua New Guinea, the Philippines, Samoa, the Solomon Islands, Vanuatu** and **Viet Nam** completed vulnerability and adaptation assessments. The assessment informed the development of early recovery plans, climate resilience plans, and settlements upgrading strategies.

Through *UN-Habitat's Regional Cities and Climate Change programme*, capacities of governments and stakeholders in 17 countries were strengthened for the development of vulnerability assessments, resilience planning, and integrating climate change into strategic and land use plans. UN-Habitat supported five countries **Bangladesh, Cambodia, Lao PDR, Philippines** and **Vietnam** in the implementation of climate change action plans with concrete adaptation projects.

In addition, through the *Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor Initiative*, UN-Habitat supported the implementation of community planning as a tool to strengthen local climate resilience. By the end of 2019, for example, 189 towns and villages in the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** had benefitted from inclusive planning processes that have guaranteed year-round water supply and better road access. Forty-three new community infrastructure projects were completed. Meanwhile, 16 informal settlements in **Fiji**, 5 in the **Solomon Islands**, and 5 peri-urban *ger* areas (a form of residential district) in **Mongolia** undertook climate change assessments to guide priority actions benefitting nearly 200,000 people.

UN-Habitat strengthened the capacities of line ministries in several South and South-East Asian countries coming out of crisis including **Afghanistan, Cambodia, India, Indonesia, Laos PDR, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines, Sri Lanka** and **Vietnam** to implement the *Hyogo Framework of Action* and the *Sendai Framework*. In partnership with Government agencies, city and local authorities and civil societies, partner cities developed action plans and implemented respective national disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation actions, improving their capacity to respond to disaster situations.

Promoting inclusive approaches to urban planning and design

During the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat provided support in urban planning and design, guided by the needs of national and local authorities. As a result, the *Public Space Assessment Tool*, developed in 2018, for example, which enabled cities to assess public space adequacy and design more inclusive processes, was applied in **Afghanistan, the Philippines** and the Chinese city of **Wuhan.** In Wuhan, the people-centred Urban Public Space Programme has, since 2016, implemented public spaces in three districts. In addition, the collaboration with the Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Centre, promoted the inclusion of children using child-friendly city spatial planning guidelines.

Through the Urban Planning and Design Lab (the LAB), UN-Habitat provided strategic urban planning and technical advice to national and local governments in **China**, **Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand** and **Viet Nam**. The LAB supported the development of sustainable urban strategies and pilot projects which aided in reducing urban sprawl and promoted inclusive prosperity to alleviate urban poverty.

The *Spatial Planning Platform* established in 2018 enabled partner cities to share their experience and knowledge on the design and implementation of national and regional spatial plans, and supported formulation and implementation of better spatial plans, thus contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda as an accelerator for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Strengthening capacity and conditions of communities living in informal settlements

UN-Habitat's programmes in Asia and the Pacific maintained a strong focus on bridging citywide planning with local action by communities in informal settlements. It is in this context that the "People's Process" was developed and rolled out in several countries including **Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Sri Lanka, Pakistan, Myanmar and the Philippines**. This process supported local communities in building more than 1 **million homes** benefiting more than **3 million people** with improved access to basic services.

Partnerships between UN-Habitat and national and local authorities on participatory slum upgrading in different countries (**Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu**) were strengthened. As a result, for example,

in **Papua New Guinea**, a national settlement upgrading strategy was developed, while in **Fiji**, the government has integrated housing rights in the constitution. In **Tuvalu**, a first national consultation on informal settlements took place in 2019 and in **Vanuatu** the challenges facing informal settlers were reviewed in a post-disaster context with a view to build community resilience.

Advocacy and Awareness Raising

Given the critical role that advocacy plays in raising awareness and influencing broader action, UN-Habitat used events and knowledge products that promoted sustainable urbanization in the region. During the strategic planning period, UN-Habitat collaborated with regional partners to produce regional and country reports. The regional reports produced include: *The State of Asian and Pacific Cities 2015: Urban transformations: Shifting from quantity* and *The Future of Asian & Pacific Cities Report 2019*. The national reports produced include: *State of China Cities Report 2014/2015; State of Afghan Cities report 2015, the State of Pakistan Cities report 2018* and the *State of Sri-Lankan Cities Report* in 2018.

UN-Habitat leveraged its convening power on urbanization issues to facilitate several high-level regional events in partnership with other UN agencies. It facilitated awareness and information exchange among member states and other stakeholder on the implementation and monitoring of urban related SDGs, especially SDG 11 through the *Asia Pacific Forum for Sustainable Development*, held annually.

During the period under review, two sessions of the *Asia Pacific Urban Forum* were held, in 2015 and 2019. Two outcomes were achieved from the 6th Asia-Pacific Urban Forum of 2015, held in Jakarta Indonesia. The launch of the *State of Asia-Pacific Cities Report* and the *Jakarta Declaration* for Habitat III Process which encouraged member states to honour their political commitments towards achievement of SDG 11 through the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The 2019 session was held in Penang, Malaysia, where the Penang Partnership for Sustainable Urbanization was launched, through which UN-Habitat mobilized stakeholders to accelerate city actions for sustainable urban development.

The *Twelfth Asia-Pacific City Summit* held in 2018, co-organized by UN-Habitat and the City of Fukuoka, with representatives from 32 cities in 16 countries in the region, adopted the "*Fukuoka Declaration*", which stressed the need for increased exchange and cooperation between cities, towards implementing and achieving the SDGs.

In 2018, UN-Habitat chaired a *Regional Task Team on Sustainable Urbanization*, bringing together urban focal points from over 20 UN agencies. The team provided In 2018, UN-Habitat chaired a *Regional Task Team on Sustainable Urbanization*, bringing together urban focal points from more than 20 UN agencies. The team provided inputs on the review of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and launched a pilot initiative to develop a strategic value proposition on sustainable urban development for the UN System in **Cambodia** and **Nepal**. UN-Habitat also collaborated with the United Nations system to mainstream urban development issues in a new generation of Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in **Cambodia, China, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Sri Lanka, Thailand** and **Timor-Leste.**
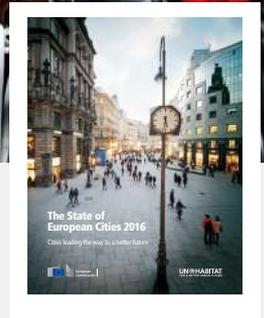
The *Fifth Pacific Urban Forum* held in 2019 in Nadi, **Fiji,** with more than 200 participants from 25 countries in attendance focused on "*Accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in the Pacific*". The forum increased awareness on sustainable urbanization issues through exchange of best practices and increased action among relevant stakeholders for implementation, review and monitoring of the Pacific New Urban Agenda.

Girls use Minecraft to improve safety in their neighbourhood in Hanoi, Vietnam © Lovestrandell

Commuters on bikes in Malmö, Sweden © Shutterstock

The European Union, Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, other Countries and Territories in Europe

I. Introduction

Strengthened partnerships with the European Union for sustainable urban development

During 2014-2019, UN-Habitat developed a new, more strategic relationship with the European Union institutions and its member states, adding several dimensions of strategic nature at both global and country levels to the previously existing partnership. The European Union is the largest donor to UN-Habitat work, with a total project value in the last decade of almost USD 400 Million. Over the six-year strategic plan period, large country conflict/ post-conflict, or post disaster recovery programmes were funded by the European Union, in **Afghanistan** (USD 154 million), **Somalia** (USD 72 million) and **Sri Lanka** (USD 31 million). The European Union recognized the value of new normative tools developed by UN-Habitat that targeted programming in humanitarian and recovery work, such as urban profiling in **Iraq, Libya, Syria** and **Yemen**

UN-Habitat's strategic cooperation with the European Union at the start of the strategic plan period centered on the preparations for Habitat III. UN-Habitat was invited to join the European Union Urban Development group as observer in 2013. Through this partnership, in 2014 to 2016, the *State of the European Cities Report 2016* was prepared as a joint initiative to support the Urban Agenda for the European Union and the new global Urban Agenda that had been adopted. The report highlighted how the unique characteristics of European cities could support the regional priorities of jobs and growth, migration and climate action. To help cities learn from each other, the report provided comparisons on the performance of cities and examples of policies that had been successful.

The policy development on the European Union side recognized the importance of urbanization in sustainable development. This was reflected in the renewed *European Consensus on Development of 2017*[1] which included multiple references to the New Urban Agenda and sustainable urban development. Under the *External Investment Plan*,[2] adopted in 2017, a *Sustainable Cities window* was created which included a USD 5 billion programme targeting Africa and the European Union neighbourhood. UN-Habitat's key role in the field of urbanization was also recognized *in Council conclusions on European Union cooperation with cities and local authorities in third countries*[3]*, in 2018.*

UN-Habitat's partnered with the European Union in policy dialogues and promoting country-level priorities of the United Nations and the European Union. For example, Supporting *the Urban Dimension of Development Cooperation: Increasing financial capacities of cities from developing countries to deliver productive and sustainable urban development* was promoted through collaboration with the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development. This programme which was initiated by the European Parliament supported partner countries, identified and analysed constraints for effective financing of urban development, looking at pertinent practices and possible responses based on experiences from the European Union and other cities with relevant solutions.

Since 2016 UN-Habitat has also contributed to a Foreign Policy Instrument funded programme on *International Urban Cooperation, sustainable and innovative cities in Asia and Americas*. This programme encouraged city-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development, on energy and climate change (building upon the *European Union Covenant of Mayors initiative*) and on innovation for local and regional development.

UN-Habitat's collaboration with the European Union in promoting the urban and territorial dimensions of the 2030 Agenda has contributed to several outcomes. Contribution to global reporting by the European Union on the implementation of the urban and territorial dimension of the Agenda 2030 was supported in partnership with European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy, the Joint Research Centre, and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation.

Additionally, collaboration with the Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy since 2017 contributed to the preparation of the *First Quadrennial report of the UN Secretary-General to the UN General Assembly on implementation of the New Urban Agenda* and the *SDG 11 Synthesis Report* and the development of *a global, people-based definition of cities and settlements.*

Frequent exchanges with the Directorate- General of Research and Innovation since 2017, led to the award of the Horizon 2020 Programme funding to a project on Urban Design Governance Urban MAESTRO, dedicated to exploring and sharing the innovative use of informal design governance mechanisms in Europe. The aim was to reveal practices that have the potential to enhance urban place quality across Europe, to contrast them with international experience, and to network and support key organizations and individuals with the potential to deliver change at the European and global levels.

Strengthening country-level initiatives for sustainable urban development

Countries in Europe and Central Asia

UN-Habitat collaborated with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe and implemented the 10th Tranche Development Account project, *Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development* in five countries with economies in transition, **Kazakhstan** and **Kyrgyzstan**, **Albania, Georgia** and **Ukraine**. The methodology developed through this initiative now guides data collection on housing and urban development that informs national guidelines and evidence-based urban policy development.

In 2019, the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the Cooperation Mechanism agreed to form a Regional Issue-Based Coalition of the United Nations. Collaboration would focus on Sustainable Urban Development to support United Nations Country Teams in the programme countries. As a follow-up, UN-Habitat presented the first principles of the *Regional Issue-Based Coalition of the United Nations* entities on Sustainable Urban Development at the first meeting of the resident coordinators of Europe and the central Asia region.

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1   The European Consensus on Development – a joint document of the Council of the European Union, the European Parliament, and the European Commission - is a shared vision and framework for action for development cooperation for the European Union (EU) and its Member States. It is a blueprint which aligns the Union's development policy with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2   The External Investment Plan (EIP) was adopted in September 2017 to help boost investment in partner countries in Africa and the European Neighbourhood. It aims to: contribute to the UN's sustainable development goals (SDG) while tackling some of the root causes of migration; mobilise and leverage sustainable public and private investments to improve economic and social development with a particular focus on decent job creation.

3   EU cooperation with cities and local authorities in third countries - Council conclusions (25 June 2018)

Western Balkans

During the six-year strategic plan period, UN-Habitat coordinated the analysis of urbanization trends in the Western Balkan region which informed the ongoing Common Country Assessment. The *Western Balkan Urban Profile* informed the ongoing United Nations partnership discussions and the prioritization of urban interventions of the respective United Nations Country Teams. In addition, UN-Habitat supported interventions on sustainable urbanization and inclusive approaches to adequate housing, evidence-based urban policy and planning as well as climate adaptation.

UN-Habitat actively engaged in the development of nine new generation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks, including in **Serbia.** In 2019, UN-Habitat provided technical advice in the preparation of the *Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy 2030* and identification of implementation mechanisms. In addition, UN-Habitat also provided technical support in several initiatives including large-scale urban regeneration for derelict areas and marginalized communities with poor living conditions and strengthening climate resilience of secondary cities.

After the conclusion of the *Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme* in Kosovo in 2014, UN-Habitat facilitated the design of an *Inclusive Development Programme* that supported the alignment of northern Kosovo municipalities with the Kosovo-wide planning framework. The framework was designed to strengthen the social contract by nurturing local-central and inter-municipal dialogue and cooperation as well as practical infrastructure and service delivery improvements.

Commonwealth of Independent States (CIS)

During the reporting period, UN-Habitat scaled up its work with the Commonwealth of Independent States, including the upgrade of the Moscow Office in 2018 with an added regional focus. The office covers a total of ten countries (**Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Russian Federation, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**), and received an annual contribution USD 400,000 from the Russian Federation for core activities and funding from projects funded by the UN Development Account for projects.

During the period under review, UN-Habitat's work in the CIS countries responded to growing concerns about urban inequalities, especially in relation to affordable housing, energy efficiency, urban regeneration and climate resilience.

While many of the cities in the CIS countries are highly urbanized, there are pockets of dilapidated infrastructure including limited and low-quality housing and other basic services. In this regard, UN-Habitat's normative tools on urban planning and affordable housing were of interest to member states in this region as well as formulation and implementation of urban policies that contributed to the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals.

A key regional priority of UN-Habitat support to the CIS countries was capacity building. In this regard, a Methodology Center was established in Minsk, **Belarus**, in 2014, that supported the Commonwealth of Independent States in preparing national regional reports for the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III). Capacity building programmes on urban planning, sustainable housing, urban resilience and urban data and indicators were implemented in these countries. The Russian version of Urban Planning for City Leaders and International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning were developed which contributed to capacity strengthening efforts.

With a strengthened and expanded focus, UN-Habitat engaged in the development of new generation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in the Commonwealth of Independent States of **Armenia**, **Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan** ensuring prioritization and integration of sustainable urbanization in the frameworks.

The Russian Federation

In 2019, through collaboration with the city of Tomsk, **Russia**, the City Prosperity Initiative was used to collect key urban data that influenced the development of evidence-based policies for urban planning in the city. The work in Tomsk also strengthened UN-Habitat's capacity to engage with specific urban challenges in Russian cities and in the wider region, such as on the growing phenomenon of shrinking cities.

In the city of Yakutsk, **Russia,** UN-Habitat supported capacity-building efforts on the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* through its *City Resilience Profiling Programme* to increase the capacity of its people and systems to survive extreme events, adapt and even prosper, regardless of the acute shocks they may experience. The work has resulted in a *Resilience Action Plan* and the establishment of a pioneering Arctic Cities Ministry. One the missions assigned to the Ministry would be to ensure that other arctic cities implement the city resilience profiling tool to build their resilience.

UN-Habitat's awareness-raising efforts in promoting sustainable urbanization, including inclusive planning approaches, continued to be an important aspect of work in this region. The 2019 World Cities Day global observance in Ekaterinburg, **Russia's** fourth largest city, was the first time for the event to be held in this region. The World Cities Day attracted more than 650 people from over 32 countries.

Russia also strengthened its cooperation with UN-Habitat through the memorandum of understanding with the Moscow Urban Forum. UN-Habitat has since 2017 been a Global Partner providing technical advice and training of urban managers on the Essentials of Urban Policies and Planning for Sustainable Cities in the Commonwealth of Independent States.

UN-Habitat's Project Coordination Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States also served as a centre for publication distribution with a focus on translating key documents into Russian. During the strategic plan period, key publications were translated including the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, Urban Planning for City Leaders, City Prosperity Initiative Methodology, a series of information briefs about the City Resilience Profiling Programmes, Smart Cities, and the Public Space Toolkit. The publications were used by urban managers at both national and city levels as well as by other key stakeholders.

Turkey

The ongoing Global Future Cities Programme, under the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office's Prosperity Fund aims to deliver targeted interventions in 19 cities across 10 countries to encourage sustainable development, increase prosperity whilst alleviating high levels of urban poverty. Four cities in **Turkey** were part of the initiative in 2019. UN-Habitat provided technical support to various urban planning projects in each city. In Istanbul, Metropolitan Municipality, sustainable urban mobility strategy development progressed in addition to capacity-building on urban planning and resilience building. In Bursa, Metropolitan Municipality, a smart city strategy was developed to promote urban transformation. In Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, a strategy and a master plan for non-motorized transport were developed to enhance mobility. While in Cankaya District Municipality, UN-Habitat supported initiatives to improve quality and accessibility of streets in the Cankaya neighbourhoods.