



a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING TO UN-HABITAT
2014-2020

UN  **HABITAT**
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

EUROPEAN UNION FUNDING TO UN-HABITAT, 2014-2020

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Executive Summary

This report provides an overview of the cooperation between the European Union and UN-Habitat over from 2014-2020 which corresponds to the EU's last Multiannual Financial Framework. It provides key data on funding received by UN-Habitat for programmes around the world and gives impact stories from a selection of programmes. It also outlines next steps for cooperation.



The EU Institutions and EU Member States were important donors to UN-Habitat in 2014-2020, the EU institutions even being the most important one. Out of UN-Habitat's combined total revenue of **USD 1.2 Billion** for the seven years, the European Commission funded **USD 230 million**, and EU Member States (including the UK) funded **USD 163 million**.

Out of the EU funding of USD 230 million, the biggest part (64%) went thematically to post-crisis programmes. Geographically, the funding distribution was as follows: Asia Pacific 35%, Africa 23%, Arab States 22%, across regions 17%, Latin America 3%, Europe 1%. Within the EU institutions, the Directorate-General for International Cooperation and Development was the most important partner with 75% of EU funding stemming from it, followed by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations with 22% of funding.

Nine programmes are described below in some detail to unfold the diversity of various cooperation examples that the EU or its Member States funded, and the programme's impact is analyzed.

In its conclusion, the report outlines next steps for coherence of the joint UN and EU effort to promote sustainable urbanisation worldwide. It namely suggests a better strategic, thematic and operational alignment between UN and EU programming and proposes to hold a strategic dialogue with the European Commission in 2022.

Brief examples of impact on the ground

Nine programmes are described in the second part of the report. A glimpse of each project is provided here below.

Afghanistan: City for All

- Contributed to the physical and social reconstruction of the country
- Improved economic situation of women, IDPs and returnees addressing their land and housing needs and contributing to the provision of basic urban services
- Increased tenure security and land-based municipal revenues to upgrade informal settlements in Afghan cities

Iraq

- Supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) through the rehabilitation and construction of housing, better living environment and WASH
- Provide technical and capacity development support to the national and local government counterparts through upgrading informal settlements, and integrated local area development and municipal revenue generation

- Through the provision of vocational training and by creating skilled and unskilled job opportunities, UN-Habitat enables young men and women from the affected communities to broaden their skills and increase the employment rate

Somalia

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

- Increased local and state revenues through mapping and registration of more than 21,400 properties. The revenues improve local service delivery
- Secure tenure has been achieved for over 2,000 residents in a former IDP resettlement site which has also been connected to the nearest town through a newly built road
- The capacity of local government was increased to register property and provide secure tenure. Close consultation and involvement with local residents were key success factors



Out of the EU funding of USD 230 million, the biggest part **(64%) went thematically to post-crisis programmes**. Geographically, the funding distribution was as follows: **Asia Pacific 35%, Africa 23%, Arab States 22%, across regions 17%, Latin America 3%, Europe 1%**.

Urban Low Emission Development Strategies

- Over 70 urban areas have benefitted from trainings and peer-to-peer exchanges on how to lower their local emissions. Cities have changed their policies to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Six national governments have included urban climate action and emission reductions in their reporting and communication in support of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- 14 participating cities have produced greenhouse gases emissions inventories and models compliant with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC)
- 32 pilot projects have been submitted to the Transformative Action Program as concepts seeking finance, out of which 25 have been presented to potential investors and donors

Participatory Slum Upgrading

- The programme changed local and national policies to include slum upgrading and tenure rights for informal settlements. It involved over 190 cities and 40 countries
- The programme involved communities as well as local and national governments
- Local action and investment succeeded in supporting over 98,000 people to access water and sanitation; Over 800,000 people to access secure tenure; Over 126,500 people supported to access to waste management services; USD 1 billion leveraged from development partners

Financing Sustainable Urban Development

- Incited participating cities and countries to integrate urban development in planning structural transformation, treating external finance as part of national and local finance, and to improve planning of coherent investment in infrastructure and urban development
- Motivated participating institutions to take a more nuanced and context-respecting approach to fiscal decentralisation
- Reinvigorated the notion of using investment programmes as a vehicle for policy and institutional development

Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity - Fostering communities of solidarity for Venezuelan migrants

- Local governments of several cities in Colombia, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Ecuador have received technical support on the following:
- Inclusion of refugees' and migrants' needs and social capital into Developing Plans for the next four years
- Several analytical tools and planning supports at urban scale have been jointly developed with local authorities
- In addition, Centres for Refugees and Migrants are operational in several municipalities in the concerned countries. These centres are also accessible to the local population
- Social cohesion campaigns against discrimination and xenophobia have been implemented

Defining the indicators for the sustainable development goals related to cities and supporting countries to apply a global definition of cities

- The methodology of the indicators that measure the targets related to cities in the Sustainable Development Goals have been improved. All urban SDG indicators (targets 11.1-11.7) have moved up to tier 1 or 2

- The project allowed for fostering partnerships with multiple stakeholders from UN agencies, EU institutions, academia, and civil society
- A universal definition of urban, peri-urban and rural areas called the Degree of Urbanization has been approved by the UN Statistical Commission. Its integration in the data work of several UN organizations is being enhanced

New governance strategies for urban design (U. MAESTRO)

- Through knowledge exchange and training on the governance of urban design, the project placed informal urban design governance on the policy agenda in Europe
- It established a typology of urban design governance tools and connected these to instruments of development finance. It demonstrates how this linkage has the potential to enhance place value
- It identified six overarching principles for effective urban design governance practice

The urban dimension of the European development policy in 2014-2020

Development assistance is one of the pillars of the EU's external action, alongside foreign, security, and trade policies. The EU and its member countries provide over half of all global development aid, making them the world's leading donor, investing in peace and security around the world.

There is a very high degree of convergence of policies and priorities at the global level between the EU and the UN, and the mutual wish to see those policies succeed. Together with its member countries, the EU adopted the European Consensus on Development in 2017, as part of its response to the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (2015).

The consensus reaffirms poverty eradication as the EU primary development objective, but it also integrates the economic,

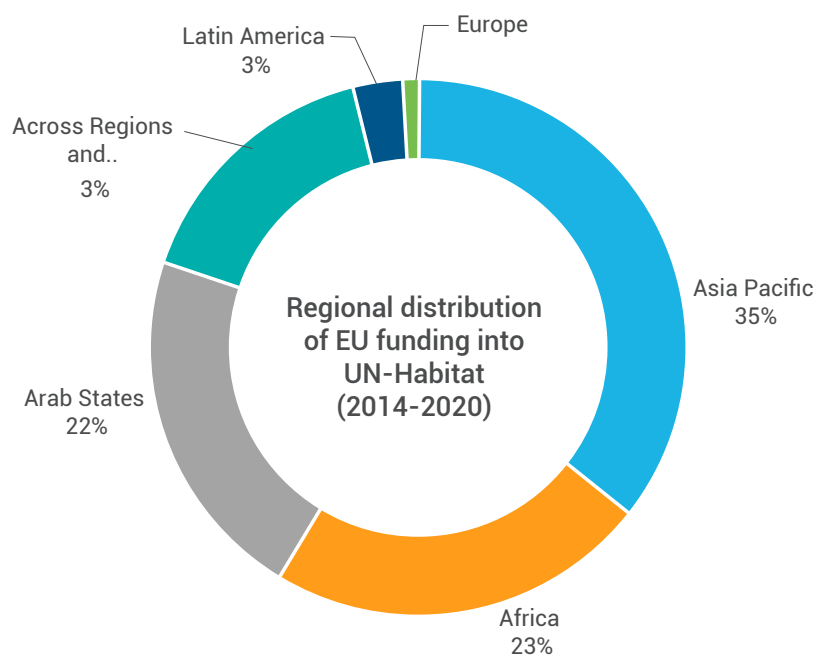
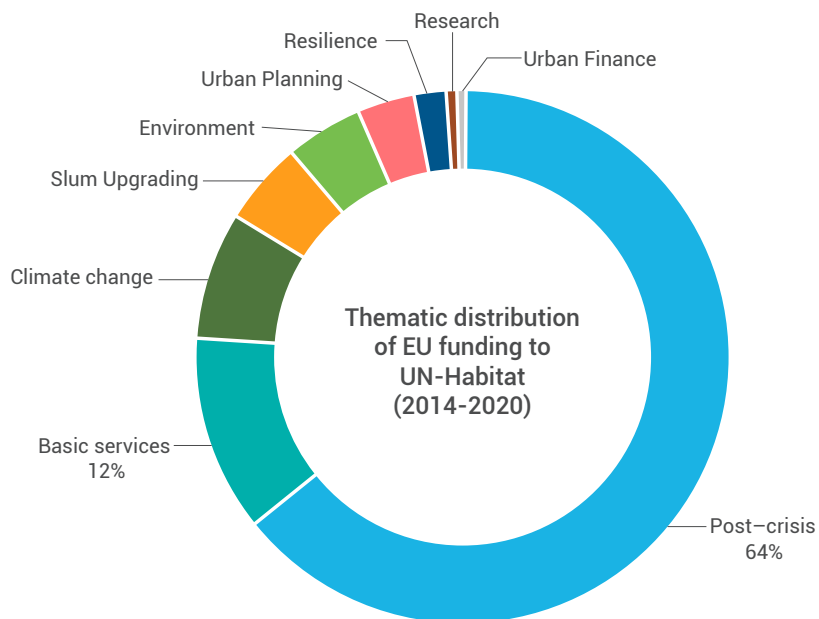
social, and environmental dimensions of sustainable development and underlines the links between development and other European policies, including peace and security and humanitarian aid. It is structured around the '5 Ps' framing the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.

The European Consensus on Development specifically recognises cities as drivers for development and underlines the need to address urban inequality and slums. The delivery of basic services, promoting sustainable land use planning, mobility, and smart cities as well as cities' resilience are stressed as priority areas. Furthermore, the Consensus underlines the importance of tackling climate change and adaptation to it.

With EU funding, UN-Habitat has contributed to the implementation of the vision outlined in the European Consensus on Development. During the last financial framework of the European Union from 2014 to 2020, UN-Habitat received a total of USD 230 million to implement projects on sustainable urban development across the globe.



EU primary development policy is structured around the '5 Ps' framing the 2030 Agenda: People, Planet, Prosperity, Peace and Partnership.



Key features of EU funding

EU funding to UN-Habitat is mostly directed to post-crisis contexts

The bulk of the activities funded by the EU from 2014 to 2020 were for post-crisis work, most of which took place in Afghanistan (USD 70.8 million), Somalia (USD 28.8 million), Iraq (USD 24 million) and Palestine (USD 12 million).

An important part of UN-Habitat's work in in- crisis and post-crisis settings targets displaced people and their host communities. This has been the case in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq, but the organization also works on smaller programmes with displaced persons and their integration into the urban fabric, for example in Latin America around the Venezuela crisis, and in Burkina Faso. The focus is on access to land, basic services, and housing, as well as governance and resilience. UN-Habitat emphasises the creation of local employment and the empowerment of women during the implementation of programmes and uses as much as possible local building materials and the local workforce.

Around the world, programmes on basic services such as water, sanitation, slum upgrading or mobility also received substantial funding, as did projects on climate change mitigation and adaptation.

In addition to operational work, the EU has funded normative work that UN-Habitat conducted on the indicators of the Sustainable Development Goals on sustainable cities. This work has allowed to gather leading experts from the United Nations, EU institutions, researchers, and civil society to refine SDG indicators on mobility, public space, population density,

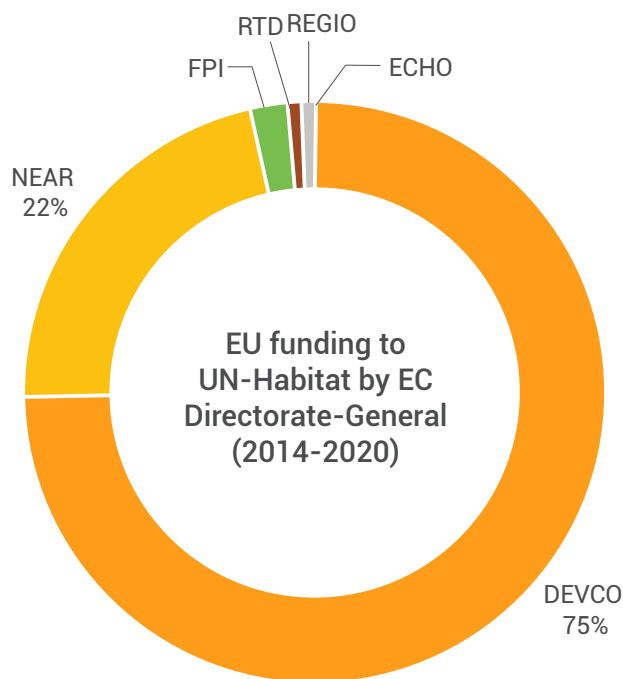
housing, air quality etc. Furthermore, the EU and UN-Habitat work together to advance a universal and globally comparable definition of what constitutes urban and rural areas. Thanks to the partnership, the universal definition of the “Degree of Urbanization” was recently approved by the UN Statistical Commission.

A global coverage, a focus on Asia and Africa

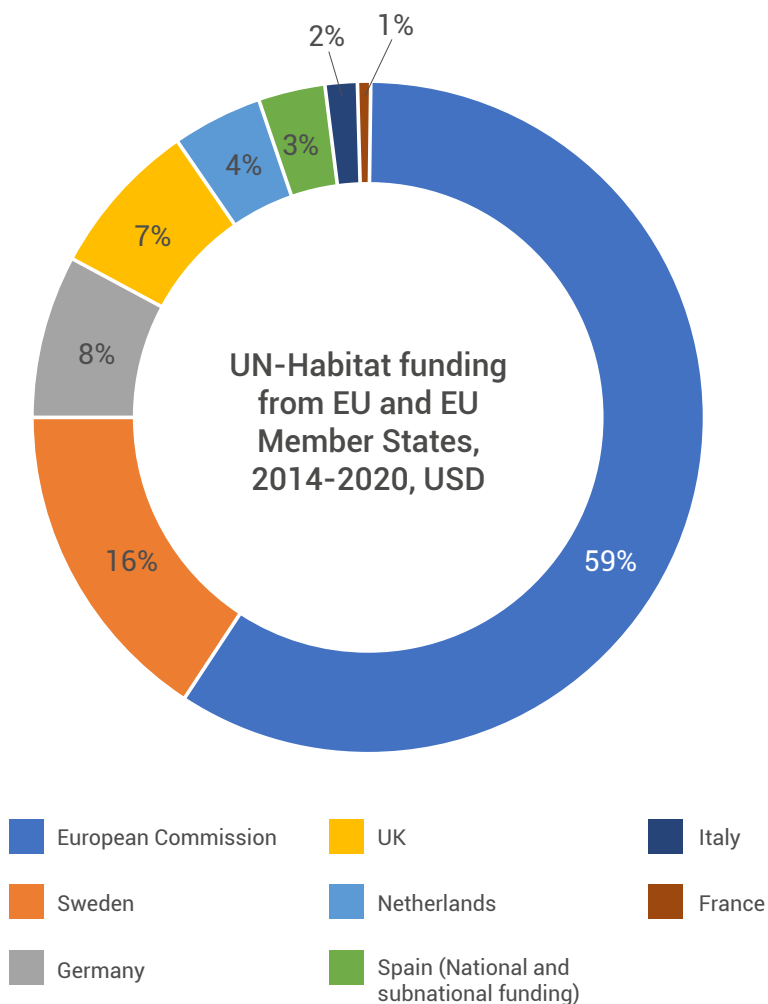
The map below highlights the countries where UN-Habitat implemented EU-funded projects between 2014 and 2020.

EU countries are highlighted as several projects targeted the European Union as a whole, for example the project “Urban Maestro” that explored urban design governance, and the project “Urban2030” that improved the methodology of SDG indicators with a focus on Europe.

In general, programmes in Asia-Pacific received most funding, followed by Africa and the Arab States. While the bulk of the funding in those regions went to countries with in-crisis or post-crisis situations, many projects were implemented on climate change mitigation and adaptation were implemented (mainly in Asia), on slum upgrading with a focus on African countries, on access to water, sanitation and waste management (mainly in Africa) and disaster risk reduction. Municipal finance and investment have received increasing attention by UN-Habitat and also the European Commission.



The bulk of the activities funded by the EU from 2014 to 2020 were for post-crisis work, most of which took place in **Afghanistan (USD 70.8 million), Somalia (USD 28.8 million), Iraq (USD 24 million) and Palestine (USD 12 million).**



DG DEVCO/INTPA and DG NEAR are the main interlocutors

The vast majority of the EU funding to UN-Habitat came from the Directorate-General for Development Cooperation (now renamed to International Partnerships) that funds programmes in Africa, Asia and Latin America, followed by the Directorate-General for Neighbourhood and Enlargement Negotiations for programmes in the Arab States.

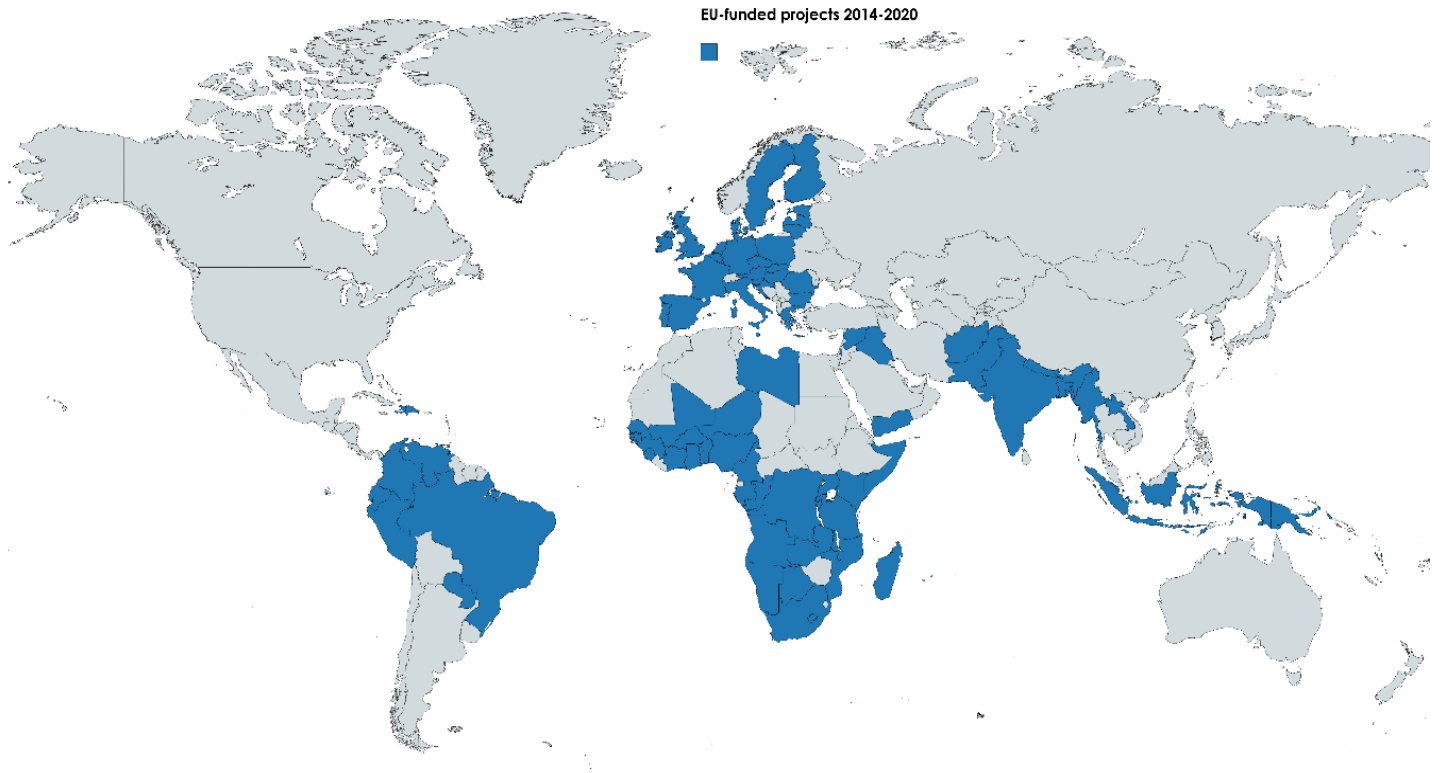
Much smaller amounts were contributed by several other Directorate-Generals, namely Research and Innovation, Regional and Urban Policy, Humanitarian Aid, and the Foreign Policy Instrument managed by the European External Action Service.

EU institutions and EU Member States contribution

Member States of the EU-28 were also important donors to UN-Habitat. For the period 2014-2020, out of UN-Habitat's combined total revenue of USD 1.2 billion, EU Member States (including the UK) contributed a total of USD 163 million to the organisation. For comparison, the European Commission funded projects were worth USD 230 million during the same period. Among EU Member States, the most important donors to UN-Habitat were Sweden (USD 62 million), Germany (USD 31 million) and the UK (USD 29 million).



IDPs and women were the main target groups who benefitted from increased access to basic services such as sanitation, could improve their economic situation through vocational training and cash-for-work programmes, and could access land and increase tenure security.



The impact of EU-funded projects

Different evaluations of EU-funded programmes have demonstrated the positive impact of UN-Habitat's interventions.



Communities have been empowered, informal settlements have been recognized and upgraded, women have tripled their income, families have gained access to safe drinking water and to sanitation, people have improved their homes thanks to new tenure security, the governance of cities has improved, and cities are making an increasing contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emission through smarter mobility, urban greening and sustainable land use planning.

Results of selected EU-funded interventions are presented below, including country-based programmes in Afghanistan, Somalia, and Iraq, as well as thematic interventions in the field of climate change mitigation,

slum upgrading, migration, financing urban development, SDG monitoring and use of digital technologies, and innovative governance or urban design.

1. Afghanistan
2. Iraq
3. Somalia
4. Low Emission Development Strategies (LEDS)
5. Participatory Slum Upgrading (PSUP)
6. The Financing Sustainable Urban Development Initiative
7. Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity for Venezuelan migrants
8. Defining the indicators for the sustainable development goals related to cities and supporting countries to apply a global definition of cities (URBAN 2030)
9. New governance strategies for Urban Design (MAESTRO)

1. Afghanistan

- Contributed to the physical and social reconstruction of the country
- Improved economic situation of women, IDPs and returnees addressing their land and housing needs and contributing to the provision of basic urban services
- Increased tenure security and land-based municipal revenues to upgrade informal settlements in Afghan cities

UN-Habitat has been active in Afghanistan since 1992. In the period 2014-2019, 30 projects were implemented. UN-Habitat has worked closely with the previous government, municipal and local authorities, and especially Afghan communities, contributing to the physical and social

reconstruction of the country. The work has focused on assisting the government in the development of urban policies and regulations; strategic urban planning; increasing municipal revenue; establishing community-based organisations;

Subprojects implemented following the below process (UN-Habitat People's Process Application for Community Development)





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



IDPs and women were the main target groups who benefitted from increased access to basic services such as sanitation, could improve their economic situation through vocational training and cash-for-work programmes, and could access land and increase tenure security.

empowering women; addressing the land and housing needs of internally displaced persons (IDPs) and returnees and contributing to the provision of basic urban services. The European Union funded projects worth more than USD 70 million in the period 2014-2020 with tremendous

impact on the ground. IDPs and women were the main target groups who benefitted from increased access to basic services such as sanitation, could improve their economic situation through vocational training and cash-for-work programmes, and could access land and increase tenure security.

Since the Taliban takeover in Afghanistan in mid-2021, UN-Habitat has been closely coordinating with the European Union and other UN agencies to ensure that, as much as possible, development gains are not lost and that communities can continue to receive much needed support.

PROJECT EXAMPLE

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

Donor: European Union, United States Agency for International Development

Unplanned urbanization brings challenges in land tenure security, land use planning, provision of basic services and protection of the environment. In Afghanistan, increasing urbanization during the last four decades of conflict has resulted in over 80 per cent of the urban population living in informal settlements.

Because these settlements are not recognised or protected by law the municipal authorities tend not to invest in them. This in turn makes the households undervalue their properties and stop paying revenues to the local authorities.

To address this challenge, the government introduced a National Priority Programme to regularise urban informal settlements through registration and the issue of occupancy certificates. In return, households pay a service fee to the municipality which enables investment in better infrastructure and facilitates the registration of land documents effectively. The settlements are also incorporated in the municipality's development plans and official maps which further ensures provision of basic urban services for all. In 2016, the five-year **City for All** programme was launched as a flagship action of the government's National Priority Programme.

Impact

This project has significantly expanded the revenue base of the municipalities through a complete and accurate register of property. Based on updated property registers, the municipalities issued 720,000 municipal service charge invoices and collected USD 30 million in revenues from 2017 to 2020.

The programme contributes to SDG target 1.4 by providing reliable data to measure SDG indicator 1.4.2 on perception of tenure and legally recognized land documentation.



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



In 2016, the five-year City for All programme was launched as a flagship action of the government's National Priority Programme. It has surveyed **912,000 properties** and issued **30,000 occupancy certificates in informal settlements in the last four years.**

Over time, it will enable residents to enjoy better services and improved infrastructure as the municipalities strengthen their revenue base and formally recognize neighbourhoods.



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



Based on updated property registers, the municipalities issued **720,000 municipal service charge invoices** and collected **USD 30 million in revenues from 2017 to 2020.**

Project background

Harnessing Afghanistan's cities for state and peacebuilding requires three fundamental components: Effective land management including clear and increased land and property rights; Strategic urban planning to establish a common vision and guide investments in public infrastructure; Improved municipal finance and governance systems to increase local revenues and citizen engagement by municipal authorities.

The City for All programme is based on these actions which create the fundamental conditions for improved state-society relations, strengthen municipal institutions and stimulate the urban economy. The programme supports 12 municipalities to survey and register all properties within their boundaries. Communities are directly involved in the collection and verification of property data for registration.

The programme has surveyed 912,000 properties and issued 30,000 occupancy certificates in informal settlements in the last four years. The City for All programme is also undertaking strategic action planning at municipal district level using participatory methods to develop a common vision for local development. The survey data provides the baseline from which to carry out strategic planning, and the planning process is driven by local stakeholders, focusing on linking strategic plans with financing to ensure that the resultant action plans are realistic and get implemented. The programme has provided USD 15 million in grants to implement 150 infrastructure projects in the municipalities.

2. Iraq

- Supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) through the rehabilitation and construction of housing, better living environment and WASH
- Provide technical and capacity development support to the national and local government counterparts through upgrading informal settlements, and integrated local area development and municipal revenue generation
- Through the provision of vocational training and by creating skilled and unskilled job opportunities, UN-Habitat enables young men and women from the affected communities to broaden their skills and increase the employment rate

UN-Habitat has been active in Iraq since 1996. After 2003, UN-Habitat was largely engaged in early recovery efforts, particularly those supporting IDPs through the provision of shelter and reconstruction solutions. Since then, the portfolio of UN-Habitat Iraq has expanded beyond emergency responses to include humanitarian programmes, such as providing IDPs and returnees with dignified shelter and living environment.

The agency also implements development programmes that provide technical and capacity development support to the national and local government counterparts through activities such as development of the National Urban Strategy and the National Housing Policy, upgrading informal settlements, and support to decentralisation. UN-Habitat also chairs the Housing, Land

and Property Rights Sub-Cluster in Iraq under the Protection Cluster and represents on the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) Cluster and Shelter Cluster Strategic Advisory Groups.

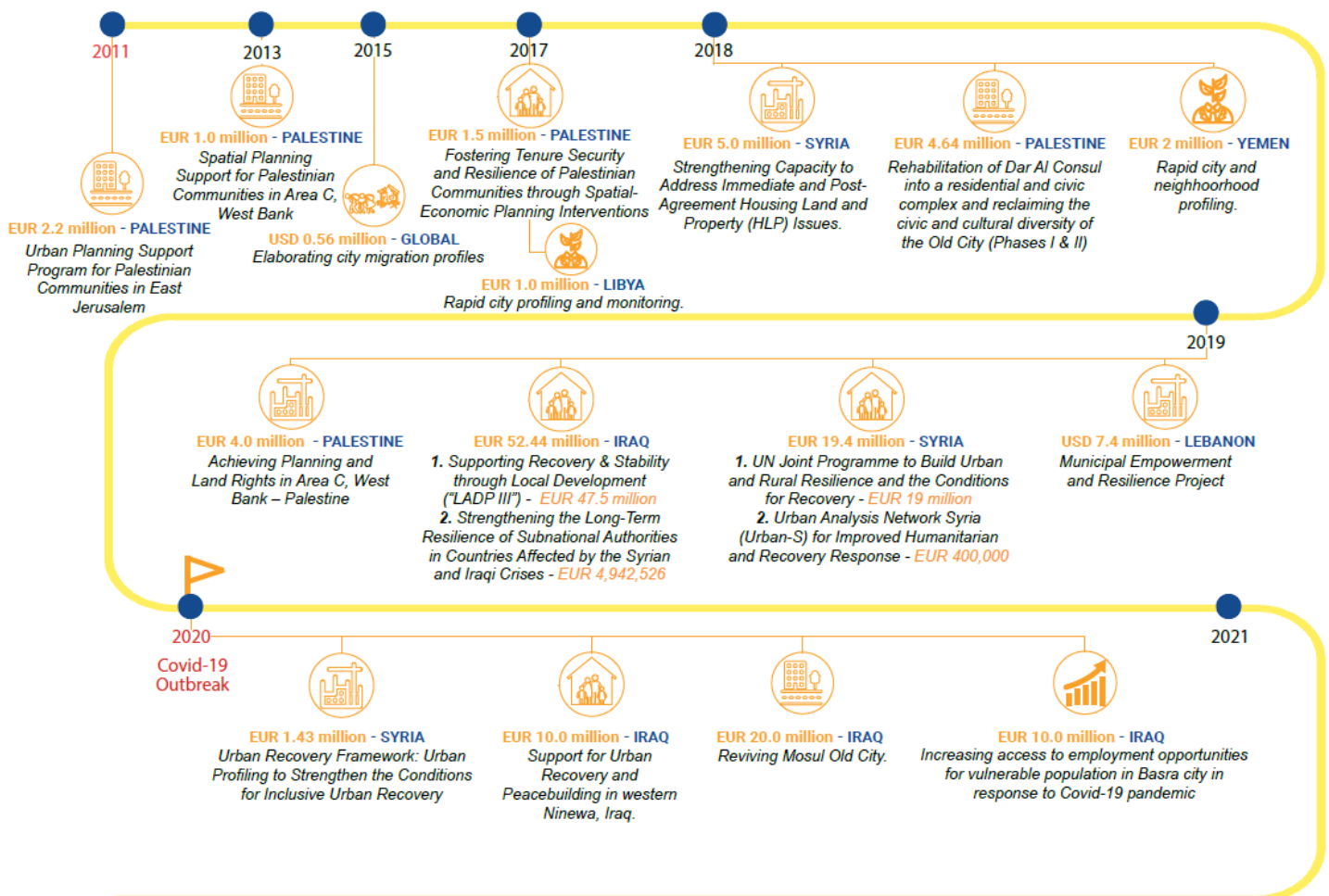
Following the conflict with by Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant (ISIL), UN-Habitat has been engaged in the rehabilitation of war damaged houses and WASH and communal infrastructure, enabling local skilled and unskilled workers to be engaged in rebuilding their communities. In addition, through the provision of vocational training and by creating skilled and unskilled job opportunities, UN-Habitat enables young men and women from the affected communities to broaden their skills and increase the employment rate.

Mosul, Iraq. March 2021. After struggling to support her family for the past six years, due to displacement and her husband losing his job, Nafia Mohamed Ali is now a gardener at Al Yarmouk Park currently being transformed as part of the EU-Funded area-based recovery programme. "If I did not work for one day, my family would have nothing to eat for lunch," she remembers. "I was stressed and completely desperate for an opportunity." She came across UN-Habitat's horticulture training programme which was recruiting female gardeners as one of the initiatives under the EU-funded urban recovery programme. She says her financial situation has improved drastically. Nafia is one of the 30 vulnerable women selected from the 410 women and who applied to UN-Habitat's Horticulture Training Programme for Women.



[UN-Habitat/Ms Shehla Alhaly]

Timeline of EU funding in the Arab region



IMPACT STORY

Rehabilitating public space to increase access for all in Iraq

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

Through the area-based programme Supporting Recovery and Stability in Iraq through Local Development (2019-2022), UN-Habitat is working to rehabilitate war-damaged houses and restore essential public services, helping the government to strengthen its institution, renewing the social contract between citizens and state.



The newly trained gardeners have planted over 200 trees including 45 mature Iraqi and Washington palms to replace the tree that were cut down or burned during the conflict with ISIL ©Dheras Sultan

Restoring Al Yarmouk Park through public participation

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

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

UN-Habitat is providing technical support to restore Al Yarmouk Park as a multi-purpose public space. During the first phase of

rehabilitation, UN-Habitat led the construction of three new multi-use sports courts and an open-air gym that includes equipment for persons with disabilities. The boundary wall, gates and guard rooms were repaired, a new well excavated, and 10 large water storage tanks for irrigation fed by a solar-powered water pump and panel system were installed.

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



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



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

3. Somalia

Property registration drive, planned city extension and integration of IDPs in Somalia

- Increased local and state revenues through mapping and registration of more than 21,400 properties. The revenues improve local service delivery
- Secure tenure has been achieved for over 2,000 residents in a former IDP resettlement site which has also been connected to the nearest town through a newly built road
- The capacity of local government was increased to register property and provide secure tenure. Close consultation and involvement with local residents were key success factors

UN-Habitat has been active in Somalia's urban sector for more than 30 years. The interventions have evolved from responding to immediate local needs to systematic attempts to address sustainable urban development through integrated human settlement programmes.

This has been accomplished through interventions that strengthen the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding nexus in the areas of livelihoods, youth engagement, governance and sustainable urban development.

Key achievements:

- Developed systems, processes and regulatory frameworks for financial management at the sub-national structures resulting in increased local revenue generation up to 300 per cent.
- More than 3,000 long-term jobs created, skills training to more than 1,000 people and improved access to urban basic services for more than 200,000 households.
- Five-thousand-five-hundred houses constructed that provide shelter to 36,000 beneficiaries (since 2007).
- Increased capacity for water delivery in Hargeisa town by 150 per cent through installation of 23 km of main water pipeline, new pumping stations, installation of water pumps and power generators and drilling, equipping and connection of three new boreholes at Hora Hadley.
- Nine urban profiles published to unlock additional resources for the implementation of Community action plans and local projects to improve lives of displacement affected communities.

- Ten community infrastructure projects handed over to local authorities, among them clinics, schools, market structures and access roads to informal settlements.

Promotion of the youth agenda through development of regulatory frameworks that

increase the democratic participation of the youth in politics, (45 per cent youth in South West State parliament and 27 per cent in Jubaland), amplification of youth voices where over 350,000 youth across Somalia have utilised innovative technologies to achieve this and creation of One Stop Youth centres in Kismayo and Mogadishu

Youth Empowerment and Livelihood



2 Youth centers established
(Mogadishu and Kismayo)



1,523 young men and women trained on construction entrepreneurship and life skills



1,116 (73%) job placements for young women and men



Increased Youth representation in Parliament
(Jubaland 27% and Southwest 45% youth members in the parliament)

Durable Solutions



Development of the **2020-2024 Durable solutions strategy**



79 houses (i.e. 74 standard houses and five proto-type houses) and a **community centre** constructed



30 government officials trained on land policy development



Community consultation forums held in 3 states: South West State, Jubaland and Johwar

Infrastructure Development



22,977M long water pipeline completed



All **27 air-valve** and **washout chambers** fully installed and completed



Wellfield Collector LOT-1 installed with **6.7Km of DI pipes** provided to Hargesia Water Agency

Governance



5 Federal member states and BRA supported to **develop a Local Government Finance Policy**



Urban Land Management Law developed and approved in Puntland state



10 government officials trained on formulation of inclusive land policy



15 districts in Somaliland and Puntland trained on implementation of the internal audit charter



326 local council members administration trained in local leadership

EU projects in Somalia

The Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralised Service Delivery. 2018-2023. This project has resulted in developing the necessary policies and legal frameworks, strengthening capacity through systems and procedures and contributing to increased service delivery in Somaliland and Puntland.

Support Innovative durable solutions for IDPs and returnees in Mogadishu. 2017-2021. The project facilitates the gradual resolution of the protracted displacement of IDPs, in Mogadishu, by enhancing local integration capacity, implementing innovative, replicable and scalable solutions for basic and protective service delivery and employment.

Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project. 2014-2021. This project replaced over 23 km of pipeline from the main wellfield of Geed Deeble, with a new, high-capacity transmission main to bring more water to Hargeisa. Four additional boreholes have

been drilled in the new well field areas or Hora Haadley and Laas Duur and the Geed Deeble wellfield collector has been extended by 7KM to connect the three new water sources.

EU Stabilisation. 2018-2020. This project focuses on providing rapid stabilization and early recovery support in fragile areas of Somalia. The programme is aligned with and built on existing government priorities, planning frameworks and strategies for both catalysing stability gains in the country, restoring state authority in recovered areas and finding lasting solutions to displacement.

Berbera Urban Development Project. 2020-2023. This project works towards achieving an inclusive local governance, contribute to urban waste management and promote livelihoods and entrepreneurship.

EU Response to Health and Socio-Economic Impact of Covid-19 in Mogadishu. 2020-2021. Improved access to water and sanitation and cash transfers for vulnerable populations.



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

PROJECT EXAMPLE

Property registration drive, planned city extension and integration of internally displaced persons in Somalia (multi-donor programme in several phases, 2016-2024)

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



In the Baidoa district, South West State, more than **21,400 properties** were mapped and registered through a United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance in coordination with government counterparts and other stakeholders.

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

The programme, concluded in February 2021, led to demarcating sub-zones boundaries, updating district administrative maps, classifying and naming roads, and installing road signs. These improvements are expected to generate an estimated USD 500,000 per year in untapped revenue streams.

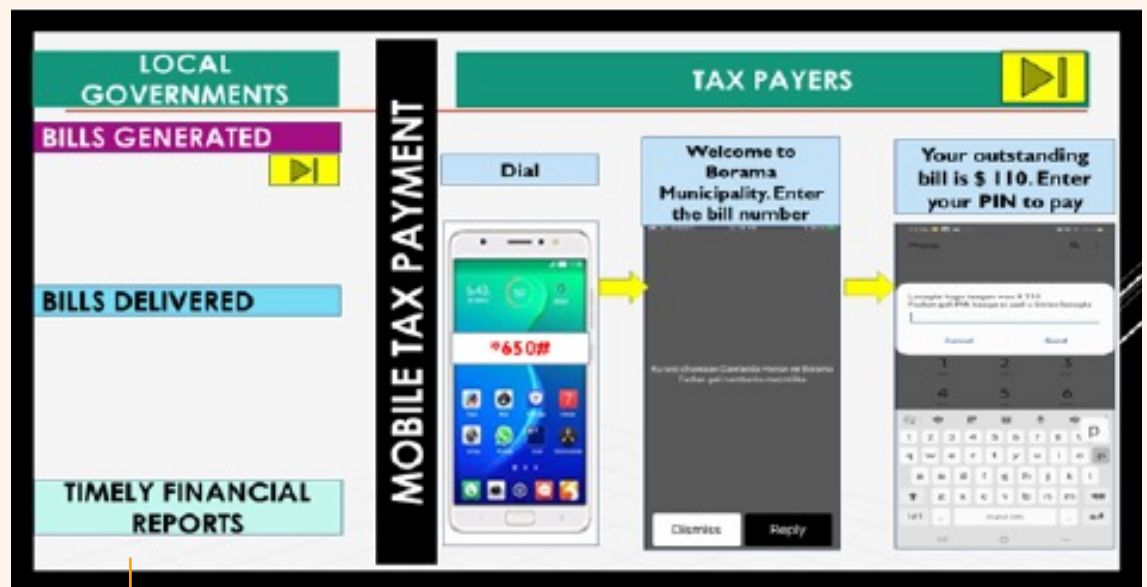


Two other initiatives have also been launched aimed at supporting local and state authorities to tackle protracted displacement in Somalia's South West State.

More than 55,000 households of displaced communities in 483 sites around the former agricultural centre of Baidoa were recorded in 2020. Under the United Nations Peacebuilding Fund supported Midnimo (Unity) project, implemented by UN-Habitat and the International Organization for Migration (IOM), a 3.3km trail was upgraded into an access road connecting the urban centre of Baidoa with the new Barwaaqo IDP resettlement site that provides secure tenure for over 2,000 households.

The case of Somalia demonstrates that:

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



An overview of the installed digital payment platform

4. Urban Low Emission Development Strategy

- Over 70 urban areas have benefitted from trainings and peer-to-peer exchanges on how to lower their local emissions. Cities have changed their policies to integrate climate change mitigation and adaptation.
- Six national governments have included urban climate action and emission reductions in their reporting and communication in support of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs).
- 14 participating cities have produced greenhouse gases emissions inventories and models compliant with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC)
- 32 pilot projects have been submitted to the Transformative Action Program as concepts seeking finance, out of which 25 have been presented to potential investors and donors

The Urban Low Emissions Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS), a project implemented jointly by UN-Habitat and ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and financed by the European Commission, is drawing close to the end of its second phase. UN-Habitat and ICLEI worked for eight years with local governments to advance urban low-emission development strategies and their implementation.



71 cities and towns (in Colombia, Brazil, South Africa, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, India, and Europe) have benefitted from Urban-LEDS assistance and peer-to-peer learning opportunities.

Urban-LEDS cities from both phase I (2012-2015) and phase II (2016-2021) have benefitted from trainings, peer-to-peer exchange sessions, and opportunities to submit their projects to potential investors.

During the first phase, 37 urban areas in 12 countries joined Urban-LEDS, followed by an additional 34 in the second phase of the initiative. A guidance and support package including practical process guidance, technical and policy expertise, and advice on vertically integrated climate action was provided to participating local governments.

The Urban-LEDS peer-to-peer learning opportunities have also strengthened collaboration, knowledge generation and

sharing of learnings on urban low-emission development between local governments at the national and international level. And while Urban-LEDS is active in the urban realm, the project does not benefit local governments exclusively.

Participating countries also receive guidance and support at the national scale. As a result, six national governments have now included urban climate action and emission reductions

in their reporting and communication in support of the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). At the same time, being an Urban-LEDS beneficiary means gaining international visibility: ICLEI and UN-Habitat join forces to showcase Urban-LEDS climate action as part of global climate agenda events and processes. Since 2012, 34 Urban-LEDS II project presentations have been displayed at international events.



CITY EXAMPLE

Rubavu, Rwanda

The project supported Rubavu, the second biggest city in Rwanda located on the shore of Lake Kivu, and its flood risk management efforts. One of the outputs generated in the framework of Urban-LEDS was the development of a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment with input from local stakeholders to supplement the district's disaster mitigation strategies.

In the Assessment, district stakeholders indicated the risk of increase in frequency and intensity of riverine flooding in the short term, likely to negatively affect tourism – one of Rubavu's key drivers of development.

To mitigate the identified risk, the Rwanda Water Resources Board (RWB), in cooperation with Rubavu districts and with support from the Netherlands Embassy, has designed the Sebeya Catchment Management Plan, which aims to effectively manage land, water, and related natural resources that contribute to sustainable socio-economic development and improved livelihoods, taking into consideration environmental flow, downstream water demands, resilience to climate change, and minimising water-related disasters.

This shows how on the one hand the technical support of Urban-LEDS has been catalytic in identifying urban mitigation needs and opportunities for integrated mitigation and adaptation approaches, and on the other hand

its role in elevating the issue of low-emission urban development to an international audience and attracting international support.

Achievements:

- 71 cities and towns (in Colombia, Brazil, South Africa, Rwanda, Bangladesh, Indonesia, Lao PDR, India, and Europe) have benefited from Urban-LEDS assistance and peer-to-peer learning opportunities
- 275 local decision-makers and staff have been trained on Urban-LEDS process methodology, tools, and reporting procedure
- 14 participating cities have produced greenhouse gases emissions inventories and models compliant with the Global Protocol for Community-Scale Greenhouse Gas Emission Inventories (GPC)
- 16 climate risk and vulnerability assessments have been completed with support of Urban-LEDS
- 32 pilot projects have been submitted to the Transformative Action Program as concepts seeking finance, out of which 25 have been presented to potential investors and donors
- 22 peer-to-peer exchanges have taken place, involving local and national staff

5. Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme

- ▶ The programme changed local and national policies to include slum upgrading and tenure rights for informal settlements. It involved over 190 cities and 40 countries.
- ▶ The programme involved communities as well as local and national governments.
- Local action and investment succeeded in supporting over 98,000 people to access water and sanitation; Over 800,000 people to access secure tenure; Over 126,500 people supported to access to waste management services; USD 1 billion leveraged from development partners.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) started in 2008 and is currently in its third phase. It is an initiative by Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States, the European Commission and UN-Habitat. In more than 40 countries and 190 cities, national and local authorities participated in the programme and invested in participatory slum upgrading activities together with the local communities. The PSUP also works with NGOs, the private sector and universities to advocate to create and analyse evidence that informs planning approaches. The aim is to have city-wide slum upgrading and prevention strategies.

PSUP engages with communities and key urban stakeholders and promotes a participatory approach. It also aims to integrate slums within the wider urban context. Financially viable programmes and projects at the local level are used to improve slums through People Public Private Partnership (PPPP) and job opportunities are created, and local economies improved through the Community Managed Funds (CMF).

CITY EXAMPLE

Montego Bay, Jamaica

Small island states in the Caribbean are most affected by shifting climate patterns and every year the residents of the informal settlements in Jamaica's coastal cities are at risk during the hurricane. Especially North Gully - an informal settlement on the hillside near the centre of Montego Bay - has narrow, almost inaccessible footpaths, limited waste management and little security. PSUP tackled the challenging situation on the ground through a joint programme called "Pro-poor Planning of Climate Resilience in Marginalized Neighbourhoods".



Lorem ipsum

PSUP conducted a situation analysis of informal settlements based on urban profiling through detailed mapping to identify the drivers of risk and to support the local authorities to deliver a policy and regulatory framework review and a prevention strategy for Montego Bay. As a result, the whole area has become more accessible thanks to a proper waste management system to prevent garbage clogging up the gully and improved streets condition.

Achievements of the programme 2008-2021

- SDG 1: 51 governments committed to participatory slum upgrading
- SDG 4: 1,200 government and non-government partners with strengthened capacity in slum upgrading
- SDG 6: Over 98,000 people supported to access water & sanitation
- SDG 10: Over 800,000 people with secure tenure
- SDG 11: 5 million slum dwellers and 190 cities supported by PSUP
- SDG 13: Over 126,500 people supported to access to waste management services
- SDG 17: USD 1 billion leveraged from development partners
- 40 countries worldwide involved into the programme

6. The Financing Sustainable Urban Development Initiative

- Incited participating cities and countries to integrate urban development in planning structural transformation, treating external finance as part of national and local finance, and to improve planning of coherent investment in infrastructure and urban development;
- Motivated participating institutions to take a more nuanced and context-respecting approach to fiscal decentralisation;
- Reinvigorated the notion of using investment programmes as a vehicle for policy and institutional development.

Financing Sustainable Urban Development initiative was requested by the European Parliament. Its first phase has been implemented in 2018-2021 by the European Commission and UN-Habitat, supported by the International Growth Centre (a research centre based at the London School of Economics).

These partners have been working to identify relevant measures to help mobilise financing for urban development at all levels of government. The work has been undertaken through case studies conducted in Dakar (Senegal), Hargeisa (Somaliland, Somalia), Kampala (Uganda), Kisumu (Kenya), Mzuzu (Malawi), meetings with experts and practitioners, and empirical literature.

The initiative works with an Advisory Group, chaired by Sir Paul Professor Collier from the University of Oxford, and consisting of representatives from the European Investment Bank, African Development Bank, UN Capital

Development Fund, UN Economic Commission for Africa, and United Cities and Local Governments.

In 2021, it delivered a Policy brief focusing on three core issues: improving investment planning, raising local revenues, and enhancing access to external finance. The Policy brief was launched at the European Parliament. An **interactive online report**¹ was presented at the European Commission InfoPoint of International Partnerships, and discussed at the EU Cities and Regions Forum for International Partnerships.

There are several kinds of impact achieved through the initiative. Whereas the primary targets were the cities in developing countries, participating in the initiative as cases, national governments have also been impacted. It was determined during the work that coordination across sectors and levels of governance is even more important, than focussing on the subnational levels such as the cities.

¹ <https://unhabitat.org/online-reports/financing-sustainable-urban-development>

The notion of the importance of coordinated governance, comprising all necessary levels, all relevant sectors of governance and multiple territorial scales has also had impact on the policies and expertise of the partners of the initiative: the UN and EU institutions, the city networks, and academia. It refocused on investment planning and using investment programmes as catalyst for institutional development.

The initiative also demonstrated the importance of more nuanced approaches to fiscal decentralisation, particularly to own source revenue at subnational level, attracting attention to specific conditions of countries and cities, and outlining the importance of factors such as political will, realistic expectations measuring the taxable income base, linking technical assistance to loans that encourage policy reforms, and setting lending conditions rewarding progress in policy and frameworks. It exposed the value of treating national, sub-national and

external financing for investment in sustainable urban development as a well-coordinated system, enabling achievement of broader goals, anchored in the national development and structural transformation, and fostering productivity driven by well-planned and managed sustainable urban development. It also emphasised the role of intermediary financing institutions making external financing available to intermediary cities.

The Initiative is preparing for a second phase which will focus on implementing the policy brief in the countries of Sub-Saharan Africa. The European Commission, the European Investment Bank and UN-Habitat selected four countries to represent diversity of contexts: Ghana, Kenya, Senegal, and South Africa. These partners are currently working on contextualizing policy recommendations in these countries. This initiative underpins strengthening collaboration of UN-Habitat and European partners in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Panoramic view of Kampala, Uganda ©Shutterstock

7. Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity - Fostering communities of solidarity for Venezuelan migrants

Local governments of several cities in Colombia, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Ecuador have received technical support on the following:

- Inclusion of refugees' and migrants' needs and social capital into Developing Plans for the next four years
- Several analytical tools and planning supports at urban scale have been developed jointly with local authorities
- In addition, Centres for Refugees and Migrants are operational in several municipalities in the concerned countries. These centres are also accessible to the local population
- Social cohesion campaigns against discrimination and xenophobia have been implemented

With EUR 16 million funding from the EU and implemented by UN-Habitat, UNHCR and IOM from 2019 to 2022, the 'Inclusive Cities, Communities of Solidarity' project is designed to show that migrants and refugees can make a real contribution to socio-economic and cultural diversity in their host cities and communities across Latin America.

With inclusive urban planning and action that gives refugees and migrants a chance to take part, urban communities can promote intercultural dialogue, social cohesion, and integration. The project helps creating strategies that local authorities can implement

to this effect. It uses "hands-on" knowledge about how refugees and migrants are integrating into Latin American cities with a differentiated approach and, in doing so, enables local authorities to do more in this area and boost socio-economic opportunities for the population as a whole.

Furthermore, the project seeks to encourage decision-makers to come up with a holistic response to mitigate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and meet the needs of all vulnerable people in their localities, be they refugees, migrants or locals.

What has been done so far?

The project has carried out workshops with local governments in all the targeted cities to select the locations where pilot activities are going to be implemented. The project has conducted a series of analyses of socioeconomic and territorial dynamics at these locations and conducted co-creation workshops to formulate Territorial Intervention Plans.

The project created the first baseline instrument showing demographic and territorial data of refugees and migrants in the region through Human Mobility Profiles. These include information on refugees, migrants and locations, the impact of the migration crisis and opportunities for cities.



With the COVID-19 pandemic, the project has set up **Cash Based Interventions (CBI) of EUR 3.2 million** that benefited refugees, migrants, and host communities in vulnerable situation as an emergency response to support families during the pandemic-related curfews and provide them with access to banking services. **Over 60,000 persons** were supported with cash during the lockdowns which they mainly used for buying food and paying rent.



Medellin, Colombia ©Shutterstock

The impact achieved so far is as follows:

Local governments of several cities in Colombia, Peru, Dominican Republic, and Ecuador have received technical support on the following:

- inclusion of refugees and migrants needs and social capital into developing plans for the next four years.
- Several analytical tools and planning supports have been developed jointly with the local authorities, or delivered to them. These tools include:
 - Human Mobility Profile
 - Urban monitoring viewer
 - Urban inclusion marker
- In addition, Centres for Refugees and Migrants are operational in several municipalities in the concerned countries. These centres are also accessible to the local population
- Social cohesion campaigns against discrimination and xenophobia have been implemented
- Communities have participated in co-creation workshops for the definition of actions of the Territorial Intervention Plan. These include tactical urbanism activities
- Virtual trainings with local official have been conducted to strengthen local capabilities to adequately respond to territorial challenges towards effective integration of refugees and migrants.



Lima, Peru - copyright: 'Ciudades Incluyentes'

8. Defining the indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals related to cities and supporting countries to apply a global definition of cities

The methodology of the indicators that measure the targets related to cities in the Sustainable Development Goals have been improved. All urban SDG indicators (targets 11.1-11.7) have moved up to tier 1 or 2.

The project allowed for fostering partnerships with multiple stakeholders from UN agencies, EU institutions, academia, and civil society.

A universal definition of urban, peri-urban and rural areas called the Degree of Urbanization has been approved by the UN Statistical Commission. Its integration in the data work of several UN Organizations is being enhanced.

UN-Habitat and the European Commission (Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy – DG REGIO) are working together to improve the methodology of the indicators related to cities' achievements of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

In this collaborative high impact project, UN-Habitat and DG REGIO convene experts from the European Commission, EU Member States, the Commission's Joint Research Centre, UN experts and from other international organisations such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank, academia, city networks and civil society.

The joint work allowed to submit secondary indicators that enhance the measurement of the SDGs to the UN Statistical Commission.

All indicators related to SDG targets 11.1 -11.7 are now at tier 1 or tier 2 level, meaning they are conceptually clear and have an internationally established methodology.

A consortium of the European Commission, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), UN-Habitat, the International Labour Organization (ILO), the OECD and The World Bank have developed and promoted the global definition of cities².

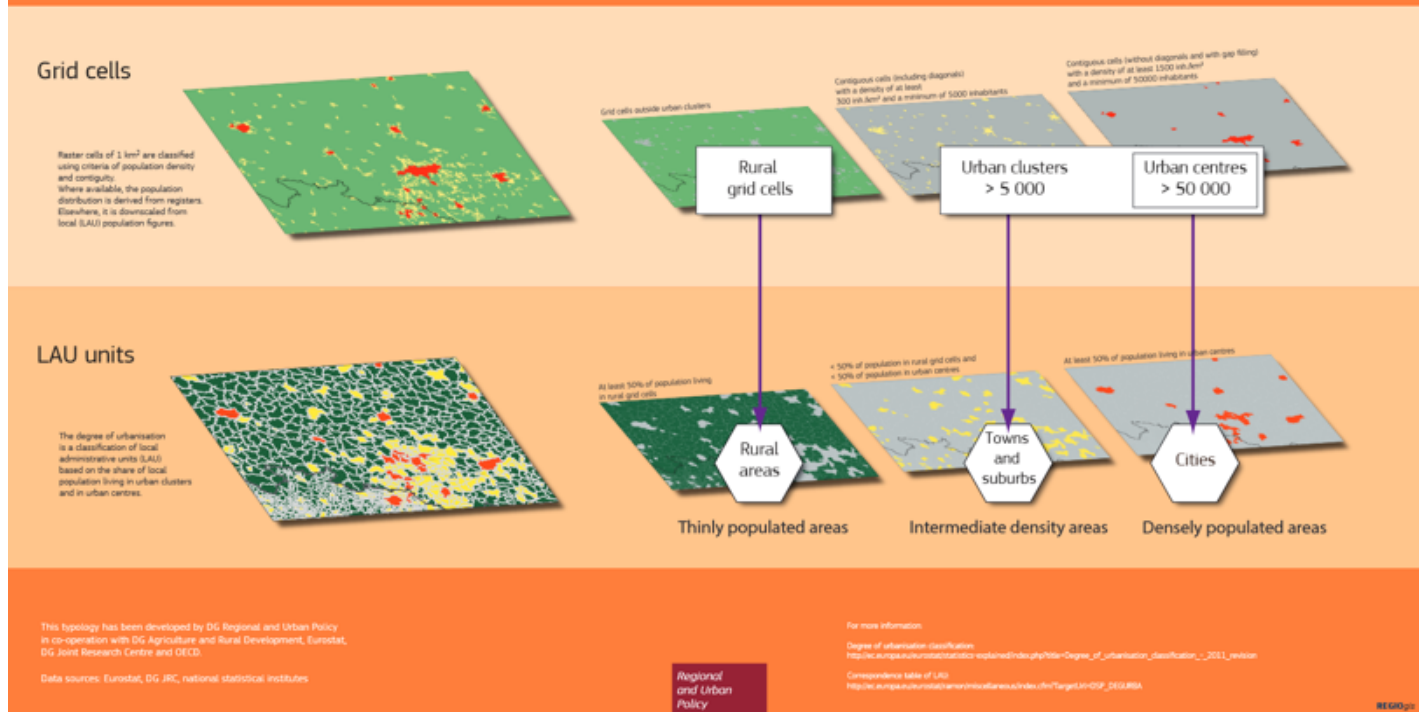
A harmonised, simple, and cost-effective methodology facilitates international comparisons of data for the entire territory of a country along an urban-rural continuum to enable evidence-based decisions on investment in infrastructure and monitoring provision of basic services.

2 <https://ec.europa.eu/eurostat/web/products-catalogues/-/ks-04-20-676>



Degree of urbanisation

A classification of local administrative units



This new methodology has resulted in the degree of urbanization classification endorsed by the 51st session of the UN Statistical Commission. It relies on geospatial data that are generally available in National Statistical Offices and can be implemented with open and free data and tools. A functional urban area classification is particularly useful to support policy making in several domains,

including urban planning, such as transport infrastructure and services, as well as economic development.

The consortium has published *Applying the Degree of Urbanization – A methodological manual to define cities, towns, and rural areas for international comparisons*³.

³ <https://unhabitat.org/applying-the-degree-of-urbanisation-a-methodological-manual-to-define-cities-towns-and-rural-areas>

9. New governance strategies for urban design (U. MAESTRO)

Through knowledge exchange and training on the governance of urban design, the project placed informal urban design governance on the policy agenda in Europe.

It established a typology of urban design governance tools and connected these to instruments of development finance. It demonstrates how this linkage has the potential to enhance place value.

It identified six overarching principles for effective urban design governance practice.

Urban Maestro is an initiative that sought to identify, document, analyse and encourage innovative strategies for the governance of urban design, in Europe and beyond. The project was implemented from 2019 to 2021 and led by three partners: UN-Habitat, the Brussels Bouwmeester Maître Architecte and the University College London. It was funded by the European Union's Horizon 2020 research and innovation programme.

At its core, the Coordination and Support Action Urban Maestro aimed at understanding the contribution of alternative, non-regulatory approaches to the quality of the built environment. These approaches - that were qualified as 'soft-power' in contrast to the 'hard-power' of formal regulation and control - consider that the role of governments in urban development can be wider than acting as simple regulators or direct investors. They enhance the ability of public authorities to intervene as enabler, broker, or inspirational leader in shaping the future of cities, therefore emphasising the political dimension of urban design policy making.

Formal and informal tools

European cities have established sophisticated laws and regulations to organise and guide the great number of interventions and decisions that shape the urban environment over time. These rules are meant to secure diverse public interest objectives such as creating environmental sustainability, human scale, land use mix, conviviality, inclusivity, or supporting cultural meaning. However, if these sophisticated regulatory frameworks are good at protecting against the worst forms of urban development, they do not necessarily lead to satisfactory results. More than often, the quality of the resulting urban places is disappointing.

Strategies to promote a high-quality built environment often combine different formal and more innovative informal tools to guide, encourage and enable better design. Example of informal tools include supplementing a zoning-based planning system with non-mandatory guidance, organising architectural competitions, establishing a peer review

mechanism for design proposals, instigating temporary urban interventions, or creating financial incentives linked to achieving certain design or other social objectives. Of these various strategies, financial mechanisms and their relationship to informal tools of urban design governance represented a particular focus of the project, as synergies between such tools have the potential to make both approaches more effective in attaining their desired outcomes.

Urban Maestro highlighted and captured knowledge about how such initiatives are used in practice, with what purpose, and with what impact on delivering better-designed places. Ultimately, Urban Maestro has contributed to the global urban debate and the realisation of United Nations Sustainable Development Goals by spotlighting the potential of urban design governance practices within Europe and beyond.

Activities and Results

Over two years the project was able to conceptualise a new typology of urban design governance tools, build a picture of the European landscape of informal tools of urban design governance through a Europe-wide survey, and collect data on over 95 governance practices that are either innovative or representative of a particular type of tool and approach.

The project team and its advisors explored selected examples of these practices through research and live exchanges in a series of bilateral conversations, workshops and a Masterclass to also mobilise a younger audience.

Complementary to this, the team worked up 37 detailed case studies to explore some of the most innovative practices. All of this helped to provide the material for the range of engagement activities that constitute the core of the Urban Maestro project.

Building on the overall work conducted across the project's life, the team summarized the key findings of the project in a number of recommendations, which were presented during the concluding Policy Dialogue and Expert Forum, and disseminated through an online publication, available through the website www.urbanmaestro.org.

The ultimate contribution of the has been:

1. Placing informal urban design governance on the policy agenda in Europe;
2. Establishing an illustrated panorama of innovative practices spanning the continent, many explored in some depth;
3. Establishing a typology of urban design governance tools as a means to relate practices;

4. In so doing formulating a new common language that can be used to take discussions forward;
5. Connecting urban design governance tools to instruments of development finance and demonstrating how this linkage has the potential to enhance place value;
6. Identifying six overarching principles for effective urban design governance practice;

Relevance and policy impact

European countries have been engaged in formal processes of regulating their built environment for centuries, and in the modern era these formal processes have become the mainstay of approaches to ensure that the built environment properly reflects a range of public policy objectives. Urban Maestro's primary innovation is to look beyond these mechanisms, which can be quite blunt and lack sophistication, and which arguably are complicit in the production of a sub-standard built environment.

The project looked instead at the range of informal urban design governance tools that are today increasingly shaping European cities. Whilst studies have previously looked in a selective manner at different informal tools of urban design governance, Urban Maestro's focus on the full gamut of approaches and taking a European-wide perspective is unique.

It is hoped that revealing the latest and sophisticated practices in Europe will inspire and provide a boost for less advanced practices, in Europe and further afield, leading in time to a widespread improvement in the governance of urban design and to enhancements in the quality, sustainability and liveability of the built environment.

These are long-term goals, and whilst the impact of the project is limited by the time and resources available, it has begun a process of pan-European learning that has the potential for significant and fundamental impact, both in Europe and beyond.

Benefitting from lessons learned

As the presentation of selected projects demonstrates, all projects had a policy impact and developed useful knowledge.

Most of the projects selected for this publication have created online presence through online resource libraries, global definition, or toolboxes that contain all policy proposals and often methodological tools developed by them.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, whilst working in 40 countries, has created significant body of knowledge on preventing and upgrading slums across Africa, Caribbean, and Pacific regions. The Programme has made consistent and extensive effort to organise knowledge developed and tested for broader use. The PSUP e-learning platform contains both online courses on approach, and thematic online e-learning modules. This is a model that should be considered to be included in the EU-UN collaboration.

Another shining example is the People's Process, extensively used in Afghanistan, that has been developed by UN-Habitat through many years of evolution in practice and thematic contexts in many countries in Asia-Pacific, and is now edging as a method to other regions.

Among the more normative UN-Habitat projects has been changing the "definition" of cities. The changes in the global definition have been well documents and the EU Joint Research Centre has made all relevant GIS and methodological tools available online free of charge. UN-Habitat has supported countries in various regions that have shown interest in applying the new definition through country-level support on the application of the new definition. There have been many good examples of knowledge management and sharing. However, the knowledge developed across projects funded by the EU needs to be harvested even better, systematised, and

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made available beyond the geographical and thematic scope of the projects, where required, and supported through active dissemination and adaptation efforts. This is certainly one dimension of the EU – UN-Habitat cooperation that needs to be strengthened

and institutionalised by applying systemic all-UN-Habitat approach. Such an approach can be developed, benefitting from available practices outlined in this publication, but it will require dedicated and concerted effort of all institutions involved.



Looking forward

Collaboration between UN-Habitat, European Member States and European Union institutions encompasses various dimensions, geographical extension, and policy contexts.

It extends to both the internal EU urban agenda and the urban dimension of the EU external action. It includes both normative and operational components, and it applies to a variety of contexts including industrialized countries, emerging economies, developing countries, and crisis contexts. Adopting a more strategic approach would help defining the right balance between all these dimensions.

The communication on rules-based multilateralism and alignment of the EU and UN priorities have given new impetus to better UN-EU coordination in development cooperation. Jointly addressing emerging trends in urban development should be the next step.

These may include, but not be limited to, investment in cities and urban finance, urban migration, people-centred and green digital and smart cities, cities' role in mitigation and adaptation to climate change, urban resilience, and other focal areas.

Renewed EU priorities for development cooperation in 2021-2027, more emphasis on country-level work, and reshaping financial instruments towards blended finance and investment guarantees require reviewing of common strategic framework between UN-Habitat and the EU.

A periodic strategic dialogue will be established in 2022, creating aligned framework of joint thematic and operational priorities, connecting the four domains of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan for 2020-2025, and EU Priorities for Global Europe.

Considering the role of cities as infrastructure hubs in the EU Global Gateway strategy, and the European Fund for Sustainable Development Plus (EFSD+) window targeting cities, UN-Habitat will seek strengthening relationship with EU Direct Foreign Investments (DFIs).

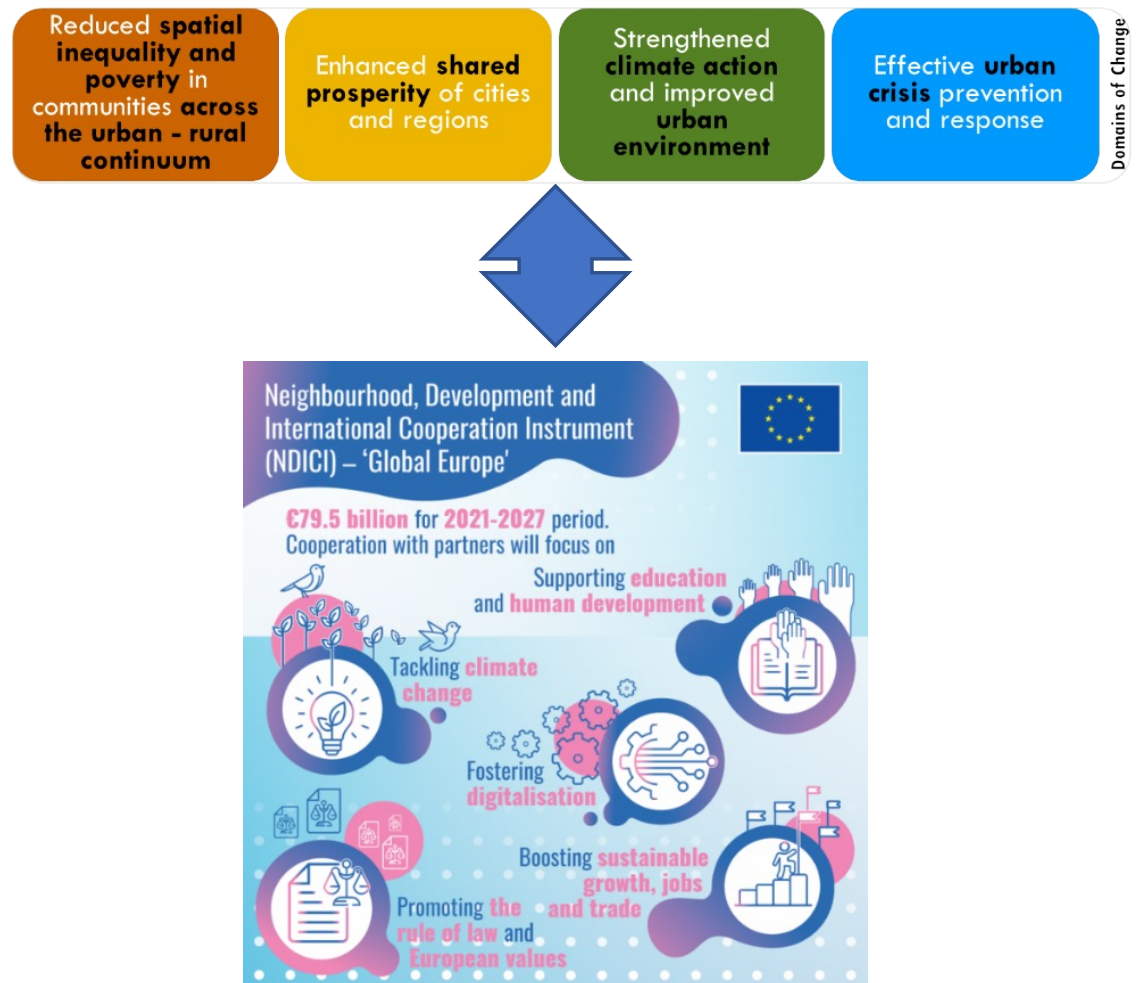
In 2020, UN-Habitat issued a Joint Communication with the European Investment Bank (EIB), agreeing to "exchange experience and, where required, support each other's work, through technical level cooperation sharing standards and concepts, UN-Habitat focusing on public policies of sustainable urban development and adequate housing, and the EIB focusing on project financing on this respect and, where required, mobilizing other partners to contribute to our joint efforts."

We will now explore opportunities of working with the European DFIs on dimension of coordinating investment planning on multiple territorial scales, using transformative power of well-planned and well-managed sustainable urban development to support structural transformation.

UN-Habitat, supported by relevant UN entities, will initiate a policy dialogue with the European institutions to determine main thematic axes of an aligned collaboration framework on sustainable urban development supporting

EU goals and priorities. Once determined, technical workshops on central issues can be organised, leading to strategic dialogue on sustainable urban development between the EU and the UN.

The strategic dialogue will be informed by the outcome of the High-Level Meeting on Implementation of the New Urban Agenda at the General Assembly of the UN on 28 April 2022. It will create a platform for periodic review and adjustment of cooperation.



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