



WE ARE THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Executive Director's Report 2022



UN-HABITAT

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01

Foreword by the Executive Director



At the end of the third year of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, **we have mobilised approximately USD 540 million** to implement the Strategic Plan

As with other organisations, UN-Habitat turned a corner in 2022 having supported Member States and vulnerable communities in cities and human settlements deal with Covid-19 and the socio-economic fallout arising from locked down economies. I am pleased to report that in 2022 we managed to turn a corner to arrive at a more positive place.

Since 2012, we have been deficit-spending with income on the foundation non-earmarked trust fund never meeting expenses. Although we narrowed the deficit gap through austerity measures and showed some marked improvement in 2019, we were not able to bridge the gap and by 2021, the foundation non-earmarked fund became insolvent. We started 2022 with a deficit of over USD 1.2 million but ended the year **with a surplus of USD 5.9 million, the first surplus in 12 years**. A combination of further austerity measures coupled with record contributions led to this positive position.

At the end of the third year of the 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, we have mobilised approximately USD 540 million to implement the Strategic Plan. This includes seven positions that were regularised by the General Assembly, the first time UN-Habitat was prioritised by the Secretary-General for additional regular budget in twenty years. We have also began to diversify our resources to include contributions from the private sector, foundations and philanthropy.

By being solutions-oriented, improving transparency and achieving greater efficiencies in project implementation, we have been able to improve our donor reporting and project completion rate. Whilst we have developed a risk register as well as a monitoring mechanism to ensure all audit recommendations are implemented, there is still a lot of hard work ahead to close all audit recommendations.

A repositioned UN-Habitat saw us increasing our visibility at important global forums including at the World Economic Forum, COP27, G7, G20 and COP15, the biodiversity COP in Montreal last December. The 11th session of the World Urban Forum, held in June in Katowice, Poland, attracted 17,000 participants including ministers of housing & planning as well as mayors and all major stakeholders of the New Urban Agenda.

The High Level Meeting on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda, which was convened by the President of the General Assembly in April last year, brought together **83 Member States including 45 ministers** attending and confirming their renewed commitment towards our mandate and to UN-Habitat. It is also heartening to see the return of key donors and the emergence of new ones thus improving the stability of the organisation.

Finally, I would like to record my sincere thanks to the Secretary-General and the Deputy Secretary-General for their continued guidance and support for UN-Habitat. We are indeed the people we serve and my thanks to all the UN-Habitat family including staff, consultants, interns, volunteers, stakeholders and implementing partners.

We can now look forward to 2023 from a stronger position to better serve our Member States and human settlements throughout the rural-urban continuum. Looking forward to having a ground-breaking 2nd UN-Habitat Assembly.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif

Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director,
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-Habitat)

02

State of Our Urbanizing World

2.1 Minding the Gap



- While they generate wealth, cities can also concentrate and perpetuate inequality. **There is an evident gap between those more privileged and less well off in any urban context.** It does not seem to be narrowing at the scale and speed required. An alarming **1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing**, of which **1 billion live in slums under highly deprived conditions mainly in developing countries.** In cities of developed countries also, pockets of poverty and destitution exist, where residents face marginalization underpinned by underinvestment in urban infrastructure.
- The risk of cities becoming more fragmented along social, economic and spatial lines is significant. People's access to opportunities, services and standards of living vary substantially both in developed and developing country cities. Income inequality within countries is on the rise and will likely be mirrored in cities.¹ The gap is particularly evident when shocks occur. During the COVID-19 pandemic, people in cities coped with the impacts differently. Those experiencing prior systemic and structural exclusions in their cities fared far worse in both developed and developing countries. **Inequalities in access to health services, virtual learning and work possibilities, public space and income opportunities shaped how the pandemic impacted those living in cities.** This observed gap in cities is not only contrary to the principle of leaving no one behind, but also perpetuates inequality among future generations.

2.2 General population overview



- Cities are here to stay, and the future of humanity is undoubtedly urban: The world that will continue to urbanize over the next three decades—from **56% in 2021 to 68% in 2050.** This translates into an **increase of 2.2 billion urban residents**, living mostly in Africa and Asia.
- Ninety-six percent of urban growth will occur in the less developed regions of East Asia, South Asia and Africa with three countries—India, China and Nigeria—accounting for **35% of the total increase in global urban population from 2018 to 2050.**
- **Africa is the rapidly urbanizing** region in the world, with an **urban growth rate of 3.4%.** The urban growth rate of Africa is almost 11 times more rapid than the growth rate in Europe. In many African countries, urbanization is taking place within the context of rising unemployment, financially weak municipal authorities, weak governance structures, increasing levels of poverty and inequality, proliferation of slums and other forms of vulnerability.
- **Asia, with 2.3 billion people living in cities**, has the highest number of urban dwellers worldwide; the region is **50.1% urbanized** and accounts for **54% of the world's urban population.**
- Over the next five decades, growth in city land area will mostly take place in low-income countries (141%), lower-middle-income (44%) and high-income countries (34%).
- Secondary cities of less than 1 million inhabitants account for 55 % of the urban population of the less developed regions of the world.²

¹ <https://wir2022.wid.world/executive-summary/>

² UNDESA, 2019.

2.3 Income and poverty

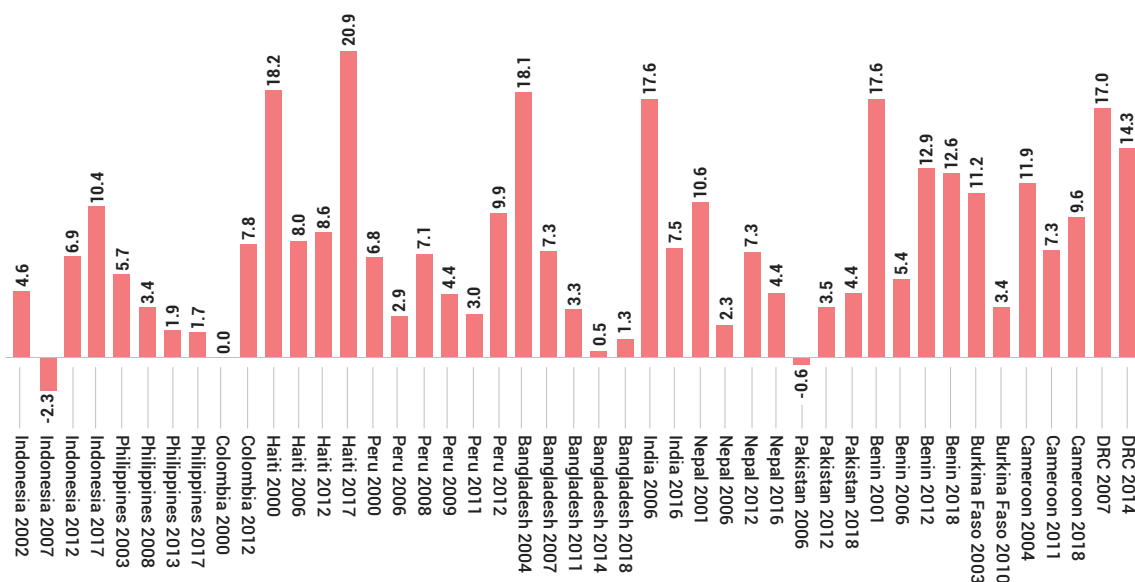


- It is estimated that **one-third of all urban residents are poor**, which represents one-quarter of the world's total poor with the majority residing in small cities and towns in developing countries.³
- Inequalities between developed and developing regions remains large. For example, **the average income of people living in North America is 16 times higher than Sub-Saharan Africa**.⁴ The COVID-19 pandemic has further exacerbated global income inequality, placing the progress over the last two decades in jeopardy. Projections suggest that between-country **inequality rose by 1.2% between 2017 and 2021**.⁵
- The COVID-19 pandemic has resulted in the emergence of newly poor people. **In 2020, the pandemic-induced new poor globally was between 119 and 124 million people**; this is projected to have risen to between 143 and 163 million in 2021.⁶ Current projections suggest that the number of people living in extreme poverty will remain above 600 million in 2030, resulting in a global poverty rate of 7.4%.⁷ A majority of the new poor will be living in urban areas; thereby, presenting additional burden to already overstretched local governments especially in developing countries.⁸
- 61.2% of global employment is in the informal sector**. Over 2 billion people across the globe are employed in this sector, concentrated in cities. The prevalence of informal employment is highest in urban areas of Africa (88.3%) and Asia and the Pacific (86%). Despite the sectors contribution to the livelihoods of the poor and urban economies, those informally employed are vulnerable given fluctuating incomes and lack of social protection coverage.

2.4 Health

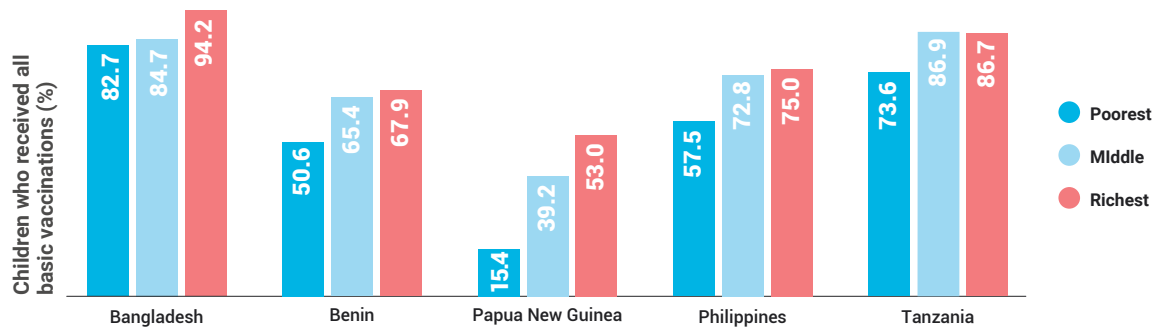


- Mental illness is on the rise in urban areas**. The number of disability-adjusted life years (DALYs) lost due to mental illness has increased by over 55% over the last two decades, from 80.8 million in 1990 to 125.3 million in 2019.⁹ Access to mental healthcare is especially rare in low- and middle-income countries. Most of the people affected – 75% in many low-income countries – lack access to the treatment they need.¹⁰
- Globally, an estimated **25 million children are missing out on basic vaccines**.¹¹ In urban areas, the *World Cities Report 2022* illustrates the prevalence of an urban health divide in terms of vaccination rates between slum and non-slum areas. For example, it shows profound inequitable access to vaccines in Haiti, where in 2017, there was a 20.9 percentage point difference between vaccination rates for measles between slum and non-slum areas; 48.2% in slum compared to 79.1% in non-slum areas. Unequal access has is also pronounced across wealth quintiles in urban areas.¹²



Urban inequalities in measles vaccination rates as shown through differences between non-slum urban areas and slums (in absolute per cent) for children aged 12–23 months, selected countries

3 Baker, 2008.
 4 UNDESA, 2020
 5 United Nations, 2022.
 6 Lakner et al, 2021
 7 Lakner et al, 2020.
 8 UN-Habitat, 2022 ; Sanchez-Paramo, 2020.
 9 GBD 2019 Mental Disorders Collaborators, 2022.
 10 WHO, 2022.
 11 UNICEF, 2022.
 12 UN-Habitat, 2022; UN-Habitat Data Analytics Unit database



Urban inequalities in basic vaccination, selected countries

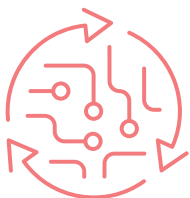
- The odds of developing tuberculosis in urban slums are five times more compared to national prevalence rates highlighting the urban health divide pervading many cities globally.¹³
- The health impacts of armed conflict disproportionately affect women and children with over 60% of preventable maternal deaths and 45 % of neonatal deaths estimated to occur in fragile conflict burdened settings.¹⁴
- There is growing consensus of the urgency to provide universal health coverage (UHC) for the 4 billion people who currently lack such guaranteed care.¹⁵

2.5 Education



- **The COVID-19 pandemic has disrupted education systems worldwide** and entrenched existing gaps. An estimated **147 million children missed more than half of their in-person instruction over the past two years**. Further, an estimated 24 million learners from the pre-primary to university level are at risk of not returning to school.¹⁶
- Entrenched inequities in education have worsened during the pandemic as evidenced by unequal participation rates. Disparities in attendance were found based on gender (39%), urban or rural location (76%) and household wealth (86%).¹⁷
- Digital literacy remains a significant additional barrier for certain communities, both in developed and developing countries. **In low-income countries, for example, less than a third (32%) of the population has basic digital skills.**¹⁸

2.6 Digitalisation



- Approximately **5.3 billion people – or 66.3% of the world's population – are using the Internet in 2022**. However, nearly 2.7 billion people are still offline.¹⁹ Africa has the lowest proportion of the population (39.7%) using the Internet whilst Europe has the highest (89.5%).
- Much of the world's digital divide is also urban/rural. Estimates show that **75.6% of urban population had access to the Internet in 2020**, a figure twice that of rural areas (38.8%). Largest gaps exist in Least Developed Countries, where only 24.6% (47.1% and 13.9% in urban and rural, respectively) are estimated to use the Internet. In terms of geographic regions, Africa faces the biggest gap with usage among 29.5% population (50.2% and 15.1% in urban and rural areas, respectively). This is followed by the Asia-Pacific region having 56.2% (74.6% and 39% in urban and rural areas, respectively).²⁰
- Whilst 100% of urban population is covered by mobile cellular network, connectivity **gaps persist in rural areas, particularly in LDCs about 15% of the population lack coverage in 2021.**²¹
- **Gender gaps exist in Internet usage, with 69.2% the male population is using the internet in 2022, compared to 63.4% of females.** Women remain woefully under-represented online in Least Developed Countries (26.9%, a figure 13.1 percentage points lesser than males). Africa has the largest gender gap in Internet usage at 11.5% (34% and 45.5% for females and males, respectively) followed by Arab States at 9.5% (65.4% and 74.9% for females and males, respectively).²²
- The elderly in urban areas are digitally disconnected. Up to **27% of the urban older population lack internet connectivity.**²³

¹³ Noykhovich et al, 2019.

¹⁴ UN-Habitat, 2022; Shaw et.al, 2021.

¹⁵ United Nations, 2021a.

¹⁶ United Nations, 2022.

¹⁷ United Nations, 2022.

¹⁸ UN-Habitat, 2021a.

¹⁹ ITU, 2022.

²⁰ Based on data from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>

²¹ Based on data from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>

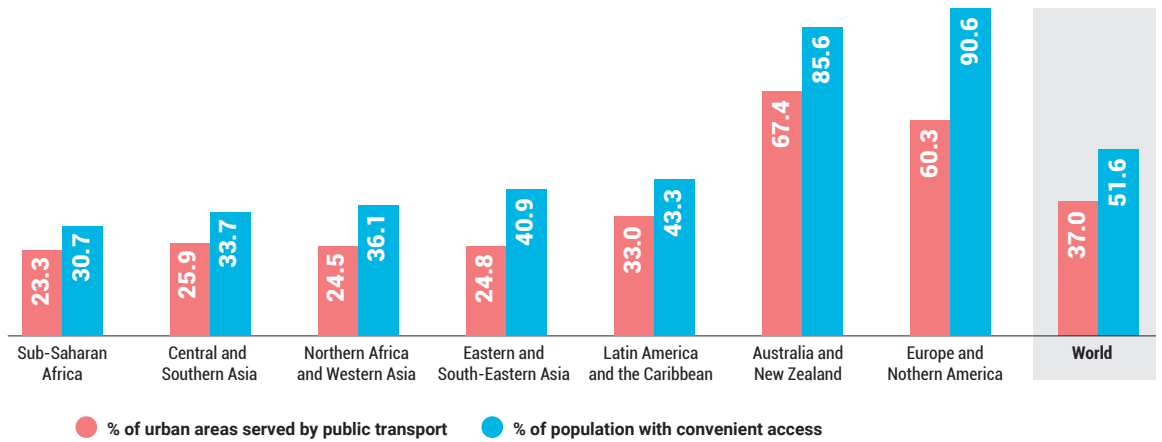
²² Based on data from ITU World Telecommunication/ICT Indicators database, <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/stat/default.aspx>

²³ UN-Habitat, 2021b.

2.7 Mobility

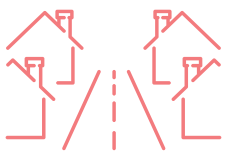


- Only 37% of the urban area across the world is served by public transport. With variations in population concentrations within the cities, this translates to only about 52% of the world population having convenient access to public transport.²⁴
- The lowest proportion of urban area served by public transport is in Sub-Saharan Africa (23.3%). This coverage translates to 30.7% of the population having convenient access to public transport. Europe and North America have the highest proportion of population with convenient access to public transport (90.6%).

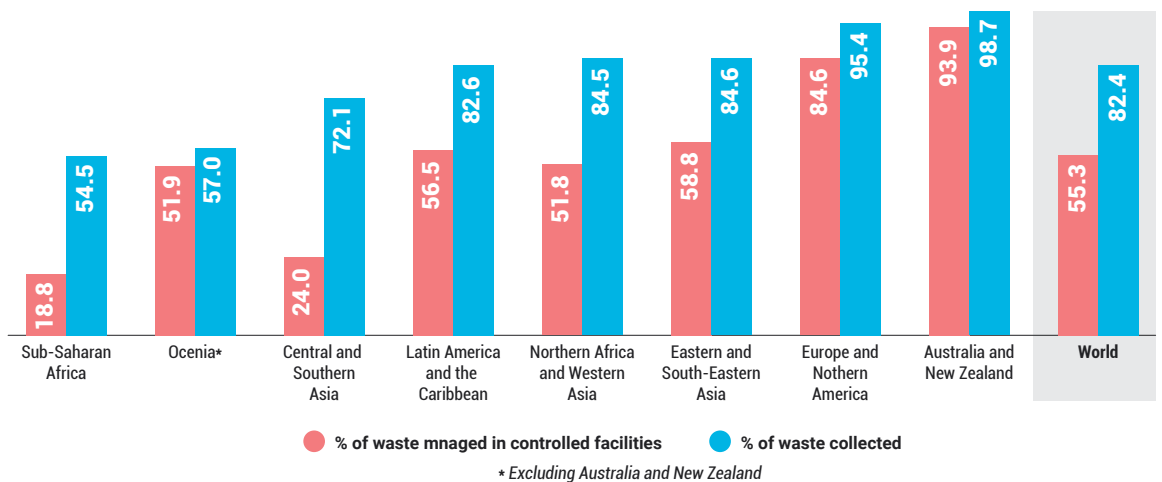


Coverage of public transport and share of population with convenient access in urban areas, 2020

2.8 Housing



- **Globally, 1.6 billion people or 20% of the world's population live in inadequate housing**, of which one billion reside in slums and informal settlements.²⁵
- **The number of slum dwellers continues to grow, and it was over one billion in 2020.** Slum dwellers are most prevalent in three regions, which are home to about 85% of the slum residents in the world – Central and Southern Asia (359 million), Eastern and Southeastern Asia (306 million), and Sub-Saharan Africa (230 million).²⁶
- **The lowest levels of infrastructure provision are to be found in Africa**, where of the urban population only 54% have access to safely managed water and only 23% have access to sanitation.²⁷ For Latin America and the Caribbean, 81 % of the region's urban population has access to safely managed water and 40% have access to sanitation.
- **In 2022, an average of 82% of municipal solid waste was being collected, globally, and 55% was being managed in controlled facilities.** Whilst most regions of the world have waste collection rates exceeding 70%, municipalities in Sub-Saharan Africa and Oceania have an average collection rate of less than 60%.



Municipal solid waste collection and management in controlled facilities, 2022

²⁴ Meaning that they reside within 500 metres walking distance to low-capacity transport systems (such as buses or trams) and/or 1,000 metres to high-capacity systems (such as trains and ferries); UN-Habitat Data Analytics Unit database.

²⁵ UN-Habitat, 2022; UN-Habitat Data Analytics Unit database.

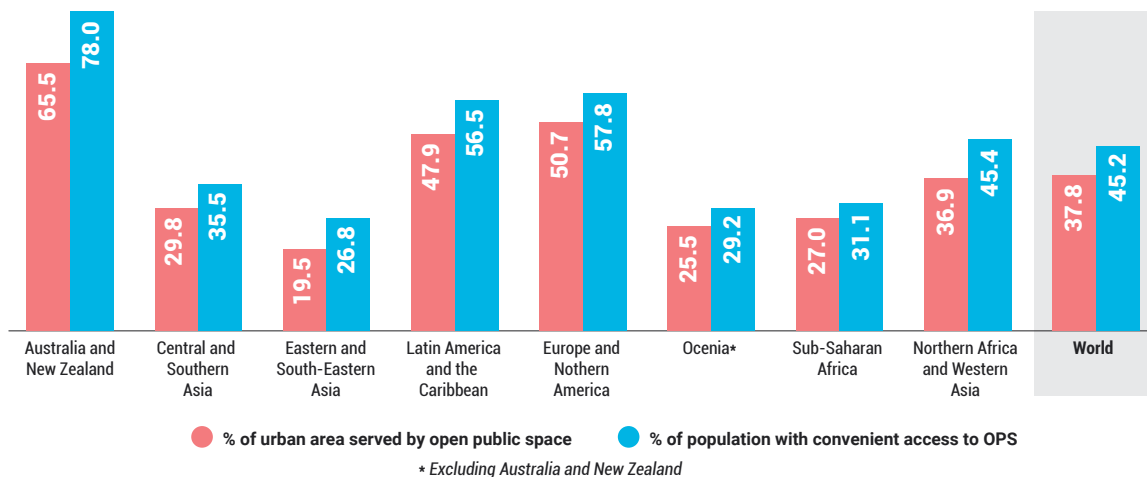
²⁶ UN-Habitat, 2022; UN-Habitat Data Analytics Unit database.

²⁷ WHO and UNICEF, 2021.

2.9 Public Spaces



- There is a poor distribution of open public spaces in most regions. On average, the percentage of urban area conveniently located within 400 metres walking distance to an open public space is 37.8%, globally. This translates into significant gaps in access to these spaces—only about 45% of the global urban population having convenient access to these spaces.²⁸
- The share of population with convenient access to open public spaces is lowest in Eastern Asia and South-eastern Asia (26.8%) and highest in Australia and New Zealand (78%). In these regions, the percentage of urban area served by public spaces is 19.5% and 65.5%, respectively.



Coverage of open public spaces and share of population with convenient access

2.10 Professional capacity to support sustainable urbanization



- There is a critical lack of capacity in the regions that are rapidly urbanizing. While Europe has one planner for about 3000 people, Asia and Africa have one planner for about 77,000 and 100,000 people, respectively²⁹. Similarly, whilst Europe has one architect for about 1500 people, Asia and Africa have one architect for about 17,000 and 30,000 people, respectively. Most of professional capacity across various fields is located in large cities, leaving major gaps in smaller cities (particularly in low-income countries) where the World Cities Report 2022 notes a significant share of future expansion will emanate.

²⁸ UN-Habitat Data Analytics Unit database.

²⁹ Town Planners per thousand head of population: Africa, 0.01; Asia, 0.13; Europe, 0.327. Architects per thousand head of population: Africa, 0.033; 0.058; Europe 0.654. (Oborn and Walters, 2021)

03

The Executive Director's Engagement with Member States

In 2022, the Executive Director worked successfully with Presidents of the General Assembly and ECOSOC, as well as the leadership of other international platforms to re-position UN-Habitat's mandate and to prioritise areas of action to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

The High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda

attracted 87 Member States including 45 ministers, resulting in the establishment of the Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization, and the New Urban Agenda.

The World Urban Forum, held in Katowice, Poland attracted 17,000 participants including Member States and key constituencies of the New Urban Agenda. At Sham-El-Sheikh, the first ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change – 60 Government representatives including 34 Ministers and 40 Mayors – was co-hosted by UN-Habitat and the COP Presidency. The Executive Director was also invited by the Presidency of COP15 to make an address at the opening segment on the role of cities in strengthening biological diversity.

3.1 Political Outcomes

This was the first time that Permanent Missions in New York established an open-ended Group of Friends, which met for the first time on 21 June. The meeting was attended by the President of the General Assembly. It was co-chaired by the President of ECOSOC and the Permanent Representative from Slovakia. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat attended with 32 Permanent Representatives. The Group of Friends will support the functions of Advisory Committee on Sustainable Urbanization, which was set up by the President of the General Assembly.

The Executive Director also engaged with regional groups in preparation for the UN General Assembly. This was the first opportunity, since Covid-19 pandemic, for the Executive Director to update Member States in New York about the Programme's reform efforts as well as seek their support for the prioritisation of UN-Habitat for additional Regular Budget.

The High Level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda was also the first time self-organized, structured local government associations had the opportunity to address the General Assembly. This sets a precedent for engagement of local governments

in meetings of subsidiary bodies of General Assembly including the United Nations Habitat Assembly. The High Level Meeting provided constituencies of the New Urban Agenda the opportunity to present actions and commitments. It was also an opportunity to support the Deputy Secretary-General's work on the urban environment and highlight the rural dimensions of sustainable urbanization. The Local2030 Coalition was given prominence, setting the stage for the first inaugural meeting its Steering Committee.

3.2 Substantive Outcomes: Priority Action Areas

Member States' Actions and Commitments, captured in President's Summary and Annex of Actions, provided much-needed prioritisation. It also clarifies what is meant by sustainable urbanization, and areas of action countries can take to accelerate the implementation of New Urban Agenda. It also highlights ways to contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, Paris Agreement, and Peace Building.

This includes the continued focus on: (i) Housing, Basic Services, and Urban Planning; (ii) Climate Mitigation, Adaptation, and Environmental Sustainability; (iii) Multilevel Governance, Decentralization, and Localization; and (iv) Post-Conflict/Disaster, Displacement, and Urban Recovery Frameworks.

3.3 Leveraging Political Support to Promote Priority Actions in Intergovernmental and Global Processes

The Executive Director continued to build on these high level outcomes in her engagement with Member States in different platforms. On 20 June, she joined His Royal Highness the Prince of Wales, the Prince Charles (as he was then) as well as the Commonwealth Built Environment Professionals, to call upon the 53 Members of the Commonwealth to support the Call for Sustainable Urbanisation. The CHOGM adopted the call and all 53 countries endorsed it.

The Executive Director further engaged with the Stakeholders of the New Urban Agenda at the 11th Session of the World Urban Forum. Over 42 Member States were represented at the ministerial and deputy ministerial level, which also included over 60 mayors and 100 stakeholder groups. At WUF11, the congregation called on the Executive Director to mainstream on transformative action, to localise the Sustainable Development Goals, to focus on climate and biodiversity enhancement; and also focus on culture & identity as well as urban crisis resilience.



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif ED at HLFP 2022 - Special event on affordable housing and ending homelessness © UN-Habitat

Building on the support from Member States at the High Level Meeting, the Executive Director continued to advocate for sustainable urbanisation at the UN General Assembly High-Level Week (19-23 Sept). This continued with meaningful engagements at the 2nd Committee of the General Assembly's adoption of the Draft Resolution on UN-Habitat (10 Oct-11 Nov).

At COP27, the Executive Director together with the COP Presidency convened ministers of housing and urban planning to ensure alignment of action by cities and local governments to ensure the implementation of COP27 commitments. This was the first time 43 ministers of housing and urban planning attended the COP.

The Executive Director's engagement with Member States ended on a high note at the 5th Committee of the General Assembly, which adopted the 2023 Regular Budget (30 Dec) endorsing the recommendation by the 2nd Committee and the ACABQ to provide additional RB funding to UN-Habitat. This was also the first time the Secretary-General prioritised UN-Habitat since we became a Programme in 2001.



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif gives her remarks during the first session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board that took place in Nairobi, Kenya 31 March 2022 © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu



Ministers, Mayors, and urban non-state actors are joining forces at the First Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change hosted by the COP28 Presidency and coordinated by UN-Habitat at COP27 Solutions Day, Sham-El-Sheikh, Egypt © UN-Habitat

04

Continued Engagement with the Stakeholders @ WUF11

In March 2022, the UN-Habitat Executive Board endorsed the decision by the Government of Poland to continue with the hosting of the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum (WUF11) in June 2022. A mission led by the Permanent Representative of Kenya further reported positively about the preparations to host the 11th session of the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Republic of Poland.

The WUF11 theme, “Transformation of cities for a better urban future” was aligned with the World Cities Report 2022 Envisaging the Future of Cities, which was also launched during WUF11. The overall programme was supported by six dialogue spaces, each of which explored a different dimension of urban transformation. Dialogue spaces were curated by UN-Habitat and enhanced by global thought leaders.

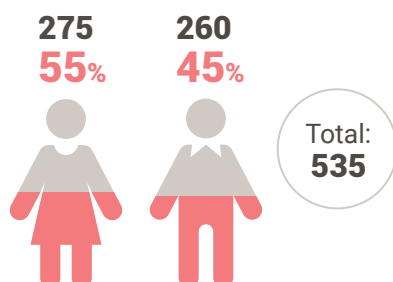
In response to current urban crisis, recovery, and reconstruction needs globally, UN-Habitat leveraged its Strategic Plan Domain of Change 4: Effective urban crisis prevention and response, and thus created an “extraordinary dialogue” and an Urban Crisis track for events.

Overall, WUF11 attracted a total of **17,003 attendees**, with 10,799 participants from **155 countries** attending in person. Female representation at WUF11 accounted for 56% of the total, and there was an average of **52% of female speakers in the main sessions**, making the WUF11 successful in achieving panel gender parity. Further, it was also the first hybrid World Urban Forum, with 36% of participants attending virtually.

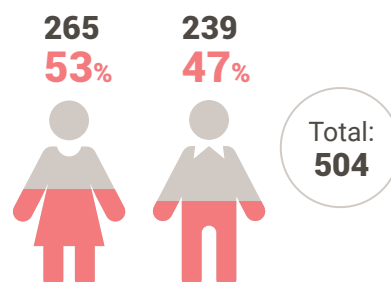
The top countries who attended the WUF11 were **Poland, Germany, Malaysia, France, Kenya, Ukraine, Italy, USA, Spain, and India**. WUF11 managed to draw high-level representation, including the **Polish Prime Minister**, the **Prime Minister from Guinea-Bissau**, the **President of ECOSOC**, and the **President of the UN-Habitat Assembly**. There was also in-person attendance of **20 Ministers** and **22 Vice Ministers**, and more than **60 Mayors and Governors**.

Speakers:

Confirmed speakers for all sessions



Confirmed speakers for all sessions excluding Ministerial Roundtable



(Improvement) * Female: 265 (53%) compared to 51% in WUF10



Participants at WUF11 in Katowice, Poland 30 June 2022 © UN-Habitat/Fredrick Maitaria

High attendance at WUF11 has demonstrated UN-Habitat's convening power and its efforts to mainstream global knowledge on sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities.

Furthermore, WUF11 established a new benchmark for accessibility, with full interpretation in all **6 UN languages**. Both the **International and Polish sign languages** were also provided. **CART (Communication Access Realtime Translation)** and numerous improvements for the visually and physically impaired demonstrated that transformative action to ensure accessibility for all through universal design is possible in our built environment.

There was a total of **451 events** in the main sessions and partner-led events. These events were covered live by **UN Web TV streaming** (webtv.un.org) and received a total of **46,145 views**. Moreover, there were more than **350 media representatives registered** and **200 of them were present at WUF11**.

UN-Habitat social media coverage via Twitter grew more than **400% in the week of WUF11**. This increase was even higher in online news platforms (500% higher) and in newspapers it was 200% higher.

The Urban Agenda Platform has now been updated with over **49 of commitments** that have already been received from city planners, mayors, governments, civil society, and community groups as of 31st July 2022. www.urbanagendaplatform.org

In brief, in the **"Katowice Declared Actions: Transforming our Cities for a Better Urban Future,"** WUF11 participants declared their voluntary actions and commitments for the next two years and beyond, including:

- Move from incrementalism towards fundamental shifts in urban environments, systems of governance and forms of habitation, in line with human rights treaties;
- Focus on imminent urban crises such as climate and biodiversity emergencies, pandemics,

violence and conflicts, and other natural and man-made disasters, that all converge in cities and surrounding territories;

- Reconfirm culture as a core component of local identity;
- Reconfirm that accessibility and universal design are an integral part of the solution to the challenges of urbanization; and
- Encourage all development actors to mobilize their capacities in the UN Decade of Action, and appeal to governments to better fund UN-Habitat.

The **World Urban Forum Alumni Network** met in Katowice and it was agreed to focus on the following areas during the inter-sessional period:

- Its role as a global think tank on sustainable urbanisation issues;
- Provision of technical advisory services especially to the in-coming WUF host;
- Knowledge management to ensure efficiency of future WUF events;
- Champion voluntary local reviews;
- Continue to advocate for SDG11 by supporting global projects.

Part of the WUF11 legacy is to press for a paradigm shift to translate **National Urban Forums into national urban policies** and have them incorporated into development plans for **implementation**. This shift is facilitated by multi-level urban forums which target both national- and state-level urban policies as drivers of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals, and other international agendas.

In 2021, **67%** of countries globally reported³⁰ that National Urban Policies can contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable

³⁰ OECD/UN-HABITAT/UNOPS (2021), Global State of National Urban Policy 2021: Achieving Sustainable Development Goals and Delivering Climate Action, OECD Publishing, Paris, <https://doi.org/10.1787/96eee083-en>.

451

The total number of events in the main sessions and partner-led events.

46,145

The total number of views received when events were covered live by UN Web TV streaming (webtv.un.org).

400%

The percentage above which UN-Habitat social media coverage grew via Twitter in the week of WUF11.

The Urban Agenda Platform has now been updated with over

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of commitments that have already been received from city planners, mayors, governments, civil society, and community groups



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif at the launch of World Cities Report 2022 during the World Urban Forum 11 in Katowice, Poland June 2022 © UN-Habitat/Fredrick Maitaria

Development. Urban Policy is an indicator for the achievement of SDG target 11.a and as of 2021. During the WUF intersessional period, UN-Habitat is supporting **56 Countries** to develop their NUP of which **20 are Implementing, 13 are Formulating, 7 at the diagnosis stage**, while **6** are undertaking their **Feasibility** studies.

Going forward, National Urban Forums will be an opportunity to support Member States review, develop, or initiate the implementation of National Urban Policies. More importantly, they will support Member States integrate normative guidance on sustainable urbanization into national development plans, and in turn scale-up the impact by localizing the Sustainable Development Goals.

The twelfth session of the World Urban Forum will be held in Cairo in 2024. Cairo will be the second African city to host a World Urban Forum after the city of Nairobi in 2002. UN-Habitat is striving to raise the profile of urban stakeholders from the African region to ensure that the issues and solutions of the African region are considered, with examples of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements and communities.

The theme of the twelfth session of the Forum is under discussion by the Government of Egypt. Likewise, the theme will include the concerns highlighted by Member States at the high-level meeting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, held in April 2022 in New York.



The UN-Habitat Arena at the World Urban Forum 11 Expo in Katowice, Poland June 2022 © Maiken Thonke/UN-Habitat

Looking ahead, the deadline for expressions of interest in hosting the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in 2026 was 1 December 2022. **A total of eight cities** submitted expressions of interest. UN-Habitat shared the hosting bidding guidelines with those cities on 15 December 2022. In line with the schedule

shared, cities are to send their official bids to UN-Habitat by 1 June 2023. The bids will be reviewed by a selection committee appointed by the Executive Director and the selection process will run until September 2023. The selected city will be announced during Urban October in 2023.



Opening ceremony at WUF11 in Katowice, Poland 30 June 2022
© UN-Habitat/Fredrick Maitaria



Joint Opening of Assemblies at WUF11 Urban Expo in Katowice, Poland 30 June 2022
© UN-Habitat/Monika Pasieczna



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif at WUF11 Urban Expo in Katowice, Poland 30 June 2022 © UN-Habitat/Monika Pasieczna © UN-Habitat/Fredrick Maitaria



Participants at a lobby during WUF11 in Katowice, Poland 30 June 2022
© UN-Habitat/Fredrick Maitaria

05

Preparations for the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (Assembly) to be held from 5 to 9 June 2023.

The UN-Habitat Assembly, the main legislative body for global urban policy, convenes for its second session from 5 to 9 June 2023 in Nairobi, Kenya under the overall theme: **A sustainable urban future through inclusive and effective multilateralism: Achieving the SDGs in times of global crises.**

Indeed, the world is off-track in the implementation of the global agendas, including several targets of Sustainable Development Goal 11. Member States have therefore prioritized five action areas during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. These include 1) universal access to adequate housing, 2) urban climate action and environmental protection, 3) urban crisis recovery, 4) localization of the SDGs and multi-level governance, 5) prosperity and finance.

These action areas will guide the dialogues at the UN-Habitat Assembly and enable to explore pathways for sustainable urban transformation. In this regard, special efforts are required to enhance the role of Local and Regional Governments in developing and implementing global agreements. The outcomes of the Assembly are expected to contribute to the SDG Summit as well as the Summit of the Future: Multilateral Solutions for a Better Tomorrow.

5.1 Internal preparations

The Executive Director's report on the special theme will orient the structure of the Dialogue and the Ministerial Declaration, as well as inspire possible resolutions to be adopted by the Assembly. This paper also allows Member States to position UN-Habitat for the High-Level Political Forum to be held in July 2023.

5.2 Engagement with Member States

Member States will start consultations on draft resolutions, guided by the provisional Agenda for the session. The Bureau of the CPR is expected to hold monthly meetings until June 2023 to prepare for the open-ended meeting of the CPR in preparation of the Assembly and for the second session of the Assembly. In addition, the CPR will hold further informal consultations towards preparations for the second-open ended meeting of the CPR and the Assembly itself, for enhanced engagement of with Member States. Such informal consultations will begin early February 2023.

The detailed roadmap of engagement with Member States in Nairobi can be accessed [here](#).

In addition, UN-Habitat will engage in the preparations towards the second session of the Assembly with Permanent Missions to the United Nations in New York, notably through the "Group of Friends of UN-Habitat, Sustainable Urbanization and the New Urban Agenda" established during the High-Level Meeting of the General Assembly to Assess Progress on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda on 28 April 2022. Organized through a cross-regional membership, interested Permanent Representatives can mobilize support for the Assembly, and help to sustain this momentum by ensuring the New Urban Agenda remains a top priority of the Member States and international community.

The Executive Director will also engage with regional groups in preparation for the UN-Habitat Assembly.

It is also expected that the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its second session of 2023 consider approving the extension of the current strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until 2025 to cover the period 2020–2025 in order to align the planning cycle of UN-Habitat with the quadrennial comprehensive policy review, in line with the recommendation made by the Executive Board in its Decision 2021/6.

06

Responding as One UN to a World in Crisis

6.1 Local2030 Coalition

The Local2030 Coalition Secretariat was opened on the occasion of World Cities Day 2022 in Bilbao, Spain, by the United Nations, the Government of Spain, the Basque Government, the City Council of Bilbao, and BBK Foundation.

The Local2030 Coalition is the UN System-wide platform and network for supporting and accelerating the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. It is a shared space to mobilize, engage and empower every local actor to bolster the localization of the SDGs. Fourteen UN Agencies, Funds, Programmes, and Offices are also part of the Local2030 Coalition, acting as the advisory body to its Steering Committee. Together with its partners, the Coalition will generate innovative solutions for local action and impact, thus actively contributing to SDG acceleration, and will report progress in the first instance at the SDG Summit in September 2023.

The opening of the Local2030 Coalition Secretariat was a significant milestone in the life of the revamped Coalition. Several partners (SC, UN Directors Group, Local2030 Hubs, and partners) have shown their support and interest in collaborating closely with the Coalition and its Secretariat.

In November 2022, the Local2030 Coalition organized an **official COP27 side event** at the Egyptian Pavilion in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt. The side event, *“SDG localization as a driver of urgent climate action”*, promoted a multi-level and multi-stakeholder discussion on the importance of SDG localization to ensure local actors are equipped to overcome climate-related challenges.

At the COP27 side event, the Government of Egypt announced their interest in launching a **Regional Hub for Arab States in Cairo** to advance the localization agenda in the region. A proposal is currently being developed with the support of UN-Habitat. Discussions are ongoing with existing

Local2030 Hubs to strengthen their collaboration with the Coalition in 2023 and beyond. For instance, the Secretariat is supporting **Paraná Hub's** restructuring process and aligning advocacy plans with the **Hawai'i Green Growth**.

The **SDG Localization Window's** initial concept was jointly finalized with the Joint SDG Fund, and the Strategic Framework for the Window is currently being developed. Spain already provided Euro 4 million for the first funding round, with similar amounts to follow for the next two years. The goal is to launch the first call for proposals with the Spanish commitment while continuing to advocate for additional financial resources with Member States and donors for the window.

Local 2030 and local actions to accelerate progress towards the SDGs will feature prominently at the United Nations 2023 Water Conference (March 2023); the United Nations Habitat Assembly (June 2023); the High Level Political Forum (July 2023); the Food Systems Stocktaking moment (July 2023); the SDGs Summit (September 2023); and the COP28 (November-December 2023).



Partners and Stakeholders of the Local2030 Coalition

6.2 Global Urban Monitoring Framework

The Global Urban Monitoring Framework was endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission in March 2022 for implementation as part of the Harmonized Global UN Systemwide Strategy for monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and New Urban Agenda (NUA) and other regional, national, and subnational urban programmes. It harmonises existing urban indices and tools, including the widely implemented City Prosperity Index (CPI). The framework aims at ensuring thematic integration and interlinkages among various dimensions of development, disaggregation of data, and inclusion of groups that are traditionally excluded. It promotes working at different scales and functional urban areas, including ecological functional areas, enabling city comparability, and the possibility of more in-depth policy analysis.

The Global Urban Monitoring Framework for Urbanization calls for evidence-based policies, action plans and programmes in cities for them to achieve their full potential. In 2018, the UN Secretary General convened a meeting of UN principals and tabled a discussion on urban issues and sustainable development which resulted in the Secretary General's proclamation that urbanization is no longer confined to one UN agency, but a system approach is necessary. Due to the inherent interlinkages of the SDGs, four main areas of change were identified as key if sustainable urban development is to be achieved.

This formed the basis of the United Nations system wide strategy on urban development: a. Eradication of poverty and reduction of spatial inequality, b. Advancing prosperity and bringing about economic transformation, c. Promoting climate action and environmental sustainability and, d. Prevention of urban crises and ensuring effective recovery in urban settings.

<https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/documents/2019-07/un-system-wide-strategy-on-sustainable-urban-development-1.pdf>

This strategy provides for an accelerated approach to work with the New Urban Agenda (NUA) as a key driver for achieving the urban dimensions of the SDGs. It also offers an opportunity to unpack the NUA and make it more available as a tool for Member States and other UN agencies to speed up the implementation of the SDGs, Paris Agreement for Climate Change, Sendai Framework for Disaster

Risk Reduction and other urban related global and national frameworks. Some key areas for broader implementation include a) National Urban Policies b) How to strengthen the relationship between central and local governments c) Inclusive urban planning and d) Urban economy and finance.

In 2019 UN-Habitat and various stakeholders formally requested the United Nations Statistics Commission to consider approving and using a single monitoring framework for the urban dimensions of the SDGs and NUA targets. Also, during the 36th session of the UN Executive board, UN-Habitat was tasked to lead the consultation process towards a UN System-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and the resulting document recognized the need for a UN System-wide approach to urban data management that would align to the protocols of data sharing and comparability at the global level.

Drawing together the outcomes from the EGM and Task Team discussions, the Global urban monitoring framework (UMF) objective, which has guided its development and should guide its implementation, is: "An efficient, effective and harmonized framework to monitor the transformation towards a more sustainable, inclusive, safe and resilient urban area."

Efficient – that is the UMF should not be a burden on cities, many of which will have limited (albeit improving) data collection and analytics capacity and many other competing demands on resources.

Effective – that is, the UMF should be able to assist cities to track how they are progressing in their efforts to meet the SDGs, particularly, but not exclusively SDG11, as well as the NUA commitments. So, for example, measuring an indicator should produce actionable information for making policy or investment decisions.

Harmonized – this refers to the essential requirement to ensure data is comparable. To achieve this requires an accepted definition of an urban area and agreement on the type of data to be collected. Moreover, the monitoring should be undertaken in the context of achievement of the six transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda and, at the least, the objectives of the core goal of SDG11. However, as cities are increasingly the dominant form of settlement, they are central to all SDG targets' achievement. So, the UMF must assist in measuring some aspects of SDGs other than SDG11

6.3 National Urban Forums

Since the first session of the World Urban Forum (WUF) in 2002, National Urban Forums (NUF) and urban forums at sub-national levels have subsequently played a critical role in countries' mobilisation of political commitments towards sustainable urbanisation. Urban Forums are critical and inclusive platforms to domesticate and localize global agendas and to advance evidence-based policymaking and review, as well as communicating policy outcomes and progress. They provide a valuable policy feedback loop.

However, NUF have had major challenges in increasing awareness, inclusivity, and relevance to urban development debate, as well as in providing broad-based and holistic substantive inputs to urban policies formulation, implementation, and monitoring processes. Many countries and regions have not been able to organise urban forums, and where held they have not been fully guided and structured to achieve policy objectives. As a result, formulation, implementation, and review of urban policies as tools to guide sustainable urbanisation has lagged and so has been progress in implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The importance of urban forums as mechanisms for meaningful and inclusive participation in all stages of urban policy debates, processes, implementation, and evaluation are reaffirmed in paragraphs 41 and 92 of the New Urban Agenda. Urban forums also contribute to the Outcome Areas of UN-Habitat's strategic plan as well as the programme of work, contributing to our advocacy, awareness and outreach efforts. In countries without a National Urban Policy, National Urban Forums can facilitate and engineer the inclusive urban policy process. Urban forums can increase awareness of the need for a cross-sectoral urban policy to guide and coordinate sustainable urban development processes. UN-Habitat identifies eight (8) core components³¹ of urban policy.

There are several ways urban forum could be used to steer urban policy engagement, accountability, and delivery³². For instance:

while undertaking urban policy review or diagnostic, an urban forum can be useful to pull together all stakeholders, map them as well as validate some of the diagnostic note findings.

- When a country is at the formulation phase of its urban policy, an urban forum is the place to discuss the draft policy, build broad consensus around core visions, identify policy objectives and agree on transformative actions and investments.
- At policy implementation phase, urban forum can offer the opportunity to raise awareness, present progress of the urban policy, and mobilise and streamline urban projects and programmes investments.
- During urban policy monitoring and review, the urban forum can provide a platform for employing feedback loop mechanisms between the policy and its implementation, helping stakeholders to reflect on the policy's achievements, shortcomings and lessons learned about what has and hasn't worked.

The same way, urban policies are developed at various levels³³, it is becoming crucial for urban forums to be designed to map and support the policy processes. At all the levels, policy dialogues would take place and impact the life of people. In 2023, UN-Habitat will use this initiative to design normative guides, tools and support a new generation of multi-level Urban Forums (e.g. sub-national urban forum such as city forum, provincial forums, regional urban forums) which would be feeding and enforcing each other. This initiative will develop a concerted framework of actions to operationalize individual country's National Urban Policy initiatives while harnessing territorial advantages of urbanization. This initiative will support the legacy WUF projects and will provide more predictable resources to link urban forums with policy making and implementation

31 These components are: Feasibility, Diagnostic, Formulation, Implementation, Monitoring and Evaluation, Capacity Development, Participation/Engagement, and Projects/Programmes. For more information see National Urban Policy: A Guiding Framework | UN-Habitat (unhabitat.org): <https://unhabitat.org/national-urban-policy-a-guiding-framework>

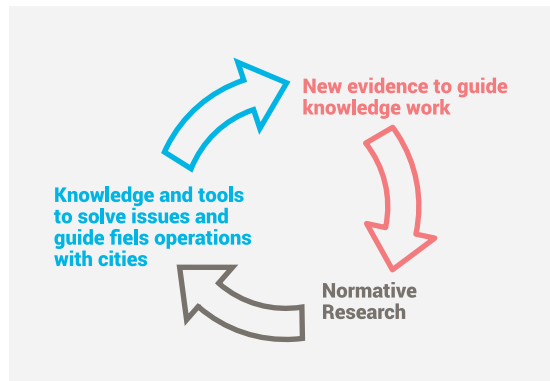
32 For more information on how National Urban Forum could be used to shape and support urban policy in a country, read this publication: National Urban Policy to Support Participatory and Inclusive Urban Policy: <https://unhabitat.org/national-urban-forum-to-support-participatory-and-inclusive-national-urban-policy>

33 (e.g. (1) subnational-Provincial urban policy in many decentralised systems where urban functions re developed; (2) national, through national urban policy; (3) sub-regional level (East Africa Community) (4) regional in the quest for policy coherence in a political or regional bloc through a collection of countries such as in the European Union, Africa Union Agenda and (5) and global through instrument such as the New Urban Agenda.

07

Normative Guidance

Central to the relevance and impact of UN-Habitat work is the aim for an iterative relationship between the normative³⁵ and operational work. This means that knowledge building - the normative - programmes inform and develop policy guidance and technical tools, which in turn improve understanding of urban issues from local to global scales.



During 2022, UN-Habitat developed norms and tools that respond to the priority needs and challenges of the Member States, local governments and other urban stakeholders. Examples of new normative guidance across the work streams of UN-Habitat:



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif with Norwegian Crown Prince Haakon and Crown Princess Victoria of Sweden, during the launch of 'Leaving no one behind' report in 2022 at the UN HQ in Nairobi, Kenya © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

7.1 Housing



150 million people around the world were living in homelessness in 2022³⁵. In 2021, the UN General Assembly adopted resolution 76/133 on Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of COVID-19. The resolution requested the UN Secretary-General to report to the General Assembly in 2023 on the progress achieved and challenges that remain in the implementation of inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, such as through recommendations for possible indicators on social protection and access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing in the aftermath of COVID-19. During 2022, UN-Habitat and UNDESA, the leading agencies for the development of the SG's report, have been consulting the main regional and global stakeholders on homelessness. The report will seek to overcome the pressing need to identify a definition of homelessness that is inclusive and differentiates among degrees and types of homelessness. The report will also consolidate research on the existing policies, successful initiatives and provide recommendations to the Member States. The report will also identify less visible experiences of homelessness, particularly where it intersects with gender, age, sexual orientation, migratory and indigenous experiences and disability.



7.2 SDG Localization and multi-level governance



Local action is indispensable to global progress, whether to address inequalities, combat climate change, or advance peace and security. The role of local and regional governments as frontline actors is increasingly recognized in international processes and platforms such as the annual High-level Political Forum for Sustainable Development and the biennial World Urban Forum.

SDG localization refers to the process of transforming the Sustainable Development Goals into reality at the local level in coherence with national development frameworks and communities' priorities. It is a two-way process where the local meets the national and the global. Localizing the SDGs entails a multilevel governance approach to development action, focusing on empowering communities and creating an enabling environment for local and regional governments.

UN-Habitat, along with the UN and international partners, has been driving the localization movement since the very endorsement of the 2030 Agenda. The localization movement has created space for the positioning of the local and regional governments' constituency within the UN and international processes and amplified its voice and visibility. UN-Habitat's integrated support to SDG localization, anchored on the **Global Urban Monitoring Framework, Voluntary Local Reviews, and the SDG Cities** support cycle, is being delivered through local projects, country programmes, and international partnerships. In addition, UN-Habitat leads the Local 2030 Coalition, a UN system-wide platform to support SDG localization (see section 6.1).



7.3 Slum Transformation



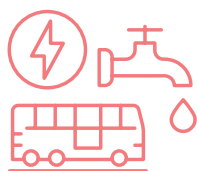
UN-Habitat presented the **Global Action Plans - Accelerating for Transforming Informal Settlements and Slums by 2030 ('GAP')** during Urban October 2022 with the motto: "Mind the GAP – leaving no one and no place behind!". The initiative builds on the momentum of the Decade of Action and the High-level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda putting housing and informal settlements at the core of the global 2030 Agenda. Slum transformation will implement multiple SDGs as it can establish spatial justice, social inclusion (SDG 16), economic prosperity (SDG 8) and environmental protection (SDG 15), generating positive impacts on health (SDG 3), safety (SDG 11), and resilience (SDG 13) of all residents, empowering women (SDG 5) and improving the lives of children (SDGs 10 and 11). The co-production of GAP has facilitated a political process for broader stakeholder engagement and stronger political commitments to slum transformation. The objective is to gain stronger commitments, accountability and monitoring as well as greater impact of transformative slum programmes.



³⁴ In 2012, UN Evaluation Group's Task Force defined the normative work of the UN System in three categories: the development of norms and standards; the support to governments and others to integrate the norms and standards into legislation, policies and development plans; and the support to governments and others to implement legislation, policies and development plans based on the international norms, standards and conventions.

³⁵ <https://make-the-shift.org/homelessnessaction/>

7.4 Urban services



The world generated about 2.4 billion tonnes of municipal solid waste, of which 45% was mismanaged, due to lack of collection services and mismanagement³⁶. These numbers from 2018 would be even higher without the informal waste collection and recovery sector, which improves **solid waste management by collecting, processing and recycling plastic** and other discarded materials. The informal waste collection and recovery sector engages an estimated 15 million people globally, recovering up to 58% of the recycled waste. While positively contributing to public health, cleaner communities, resource efficiency and circular economy, they are heavily affected by plastic pollution. Many of those are women, youth, and often children. In 2022, UN-Habitat, with the Norwegian Institute for Water Research, published normative guide, titled '*Leaving no one behind* - How a global instrument to end plastic pollution can enable a just transition for the people informally collecting and recovering waste' which delves into current sector challenges and explores the measures that can be taken on a just transition of the informal waste workers across local, national and global levels. The '*Leaving no one behind*' report was selected as 'spotlight report' by the Intergovernmental Negotiating Committee on plastic pollution, being recommended as a 'must read' for negotiators from member states.



7.5 National Urban Policy



Grounded on the well-established work on national urban policy guidance³⁷, UN-Habitat worked with UNICEF during 2022 to integrate guidance on developing and operationalizing **child-responsive urban policies, laws, and standards into national urban policies**. Policy and legislation set the normative standards and minimum expectations for duty-bearers in all aspects of children's life, survival, and development. This concerns access to basic services, protection from all types of disasters, and children's participation in urban governance and management, specifically on issues affecting their needs, interests, and priorities. The child-responsive guidance mainstreams rights and interests of children in reform processes using multilevel governance principles.



7.6 Urban planning



Normative guidance to urban and spatial planning is central to efforts to reduce inequalities and poverty in urban areas. In 2022, UN-Habitat launched **Our City Plans** toolbox to guide local governments and urban actors around the world to better understand, customise, and develop inclusive and integrated urban planning processes. The toolbox which comes in both online interactive format and in print, is a valuable guide to the use of participatory methodology that adapts to local context and needs. Drawing from the comprehensive planning framework of the Our City Plans toolbox and adapting this to their available resources, city leaders and urban planning stakeholders can articulate and customise their own planning journey and map their progress and activity status.



7.7 Digital development



Smart city approaches have conquered global development discourse as a way to build more efficient and liveable urban environments. The smart cities development market is projected to grow at a rate of return of over 20%, reaching 2.5% trillion by 2025³⁸. UN-Habitat has created people centered approach to managing urban digital transformation and the 'smart city' concepts. The 'people centered' approach means that technology is used to advance human development, address challenges of urban change, demonstrate commitment to human rights, both in online and offline environments, and ensure technological interfaces do not replace direct citizen engagement. In 2022, UN-Habitat produced a **digital rights governance** framework for cities and, in collaboration with the International Telecommunication Union and other United Nations entities, it developed a toolkit for local governments on digital transformation towards people centered city. A 'smart city strategy toolbox' is being developed to support national and local smart city policies and strategies. The implementation focus will first be on African countries.

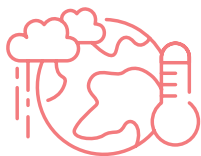


36 Based on a study using the Spatio-temporal Quantification of Plastic Pollution Origins and Transportation (SPOT) model with recently collected Waste Wise Cities Tool data inputs (UN-Habitat and the University of Leeds, 2022).

37 See for example <https://urbanpolicyplatform.org/national-urban-policy-database/>

38 <https://www.nasdaq.com/articles/world-reimagined%3A-the-potential-of-smart-cities>

7.8 Climate Change



The UN Climate Change Conference of Parties 27 (COP 27) Presidency in Egypt convened **the first ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change** on 17 November 2022. This responded to the request from Member States to the UN-Habitat's Executive Director to explore the possibility of convening a housing and urban development ministerial meeting on cities and climate change since national governments are increasingly supporting local climate action. As of 2021, around 84 % of the updated Nationally Determined Commitments have strong or moderate urban content compared to 69% in the initial Nationally Determined Commitments³⁹. Bringing together ministers of housing, urban development, environment, and climate change as well as the representatives of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency to the UNFCCC, this first ministerial meeting focused on housing, urban development, and multilevel governance commitments and action for climate change.



The COP27 ministerial meeting also launched the **Sustainable Urban Resilience for the Next Generation (SURGe)** initiative. SURGe supports the achievement of sustainable and resilient urban systems through strengthening the implementation of the climate agenda in and with cities, unlocking urban climate finance, providing capacity-building while ensuring equity. The COP27 Presidency, with the support of UN-Habitat, ICLEI and UNFCCC developed an extraordinary partnership evidenced by the 150 registrations to SURGe by the end of 2022. The Executive Director of UN-Habitat noted that "building on the commitments of the Paris Agreement and COP26, the SURGe Initiative and the Housing and Urban Development Ministerial Meeting on Cities and Climate Change give me hope that that we can shift the needle towards winning the battle against climate change by fully supporting the over 11,000 cities that want to take climate action."

7.9 Urban crisis response



The geo-political conflict in Ukraine threatened to compromise the work of the governing body of UN-Habitat during 2022. However, under the stewardship of the Chair of the Executive Board, a possible crisis was turned into an opportunity to revisit and boost UN-Habitat's work on urban crises response. This together with other guidance from Member States encouraged UN-Habitat to continue the analysis of its operational and normative work in support of urban crisis prevention and response, to recognise regional trends and solutions, and address possible gaps in tools and services provided by UN-Habitat. At the same time, resulting from joint efforts of the Programme Development Branch and Regional Offices of UN-Habitat the first support project to Ukraine gained funding in 2022. This will be a stepping stone for strong engagement in the areas of UN-Habitat's experience.



³⁹ <https://unhabitat.org/nationally-determined-contributions-ndcs-white-paper>

08

Operational Activities at country level⁴¹

In 2022, the field architecture policy was revised to include a pragmatic business plan whereby post and function was aligned to funding source. This meant the appropriate placement of colleagues based on project funds. Technical cooperation and field presence is therefore more demand-driven with the co-creation of project proposals overseen by the Project Review Committee (PRC). All regional offices have submitted their reports on the contribution of field operations to the Strategic Plan at the level of the sub-programmes. UN-Habitat has also met the deadline set by DCO to submit its reports on its contribution, at country level, to the systemwide sustainable development goals.

In the past twelve months, UN-Habitat has also revised the Regional Programme Division's Responsibility & Accountability matrix (RACI). In order to better serve where the need is greatest, three multi-country offices have been initiated including in Mexico City and Bangkok (existing), and in Dakar, Senegal to serve West Africa. With regards to advocacy work, particularly for the purposes of resource mobilization, soft earmarking by donors including SIDA (Sweden) and SDI (Swiss) was particularly innovative. These multi-country project offices are aligned to the wider UN System objectives of ensuring timely and cost-effective delivery of technical advisory and services.

Further, we have developed a comprehensive 21-Action plan for 2023–2025 for RPD with the

aim to continue improving internal coordination and cooperation between Headquarters and the field-based offices charged with implementing programmes and projects. This is in support to both the normative and operational functions of UN-Habitat at different levels of interventions for an effective and efficient delivery of our mandate. The plan also increases our monitoring and reporting capacities and as well preparedness to service our governing bodies and related organs.

The RPD 21-Action plan provides for dedicated support addressing key commitments such as the preparations of regional groups, executive board and UN-Habitat Assembly meetings with inputs from the field; the World Urban Forum 12; the preparations for the mandatory Secretary General Reports & Report for SDG11; the implementation of Board of Auditors (BoA) and Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS) reports and recommendations; Donor reports; the preparations for UN-Habitat Work Programme & Budget with the inputs from the field; rolling out of the field architecture and related activities; regional advocacy, communications & campaigns; the support to UN reforms; the support to RCO & RC System; the inter-regional advisory services; the support to South-South cooperation; the support to least developed countries (LDCs) and Small Islands Developing States (SIDS) as well as the support to development of the national reports on the implementation of the new urban agenda.

⁴⁰ This is covering countries where UN-habitat has been present in Africa, Arab States, Asia Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, Eastern Europe and Central Asia

UN-Habitat support to Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and other Partner countries

8.1 Africa

UN-Habitat's activities in Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are significantly dependent on donor commitment and support. In **Africa**, 33 out of 54 countries are categorized as LDCs, and currently, UN-Habitat - through its Regional Office for Africa (ROAf), has representation in 49 countries of the above, with 24 active portfolios amounting to at least 60% of ROAf's budget.

In 2022, UN-Habitat has continued implementing various projects in Africa contributing to improving living condition for its inhabitants as well as providing resilience to the harsh conditions occasioned by climate change and rapid urbanization. Specific achievements included, e.g in **Angola, Benin and Burkina Faso**. The Angola National Housing Policy developed in joint efforts a few years ago continues to be a building block for the government's action; in **Benin** where the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) Centre excellence de l'Habitat (CEH) and Participatory slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) provide platforms for the implementation of various projects of urban poverty alleviation; in **Burkina Faso** where activities of stabilization, peace and integration of IDPs, with the support of the European Union (EU), were provided in 4 secondary cities (Dori, Kaya, Kongoussi and Tougouri) in the northern part of the country affected by rapid urban population growth because of the massive influx of Internally Displaced Persons.

We also pursued our partnerships in countries such as **Burundi** building on earlier projects such the safer Bujumbura on water and sanitation, and in **Chad**, where previous initiatives such as the Urban Development and Housing Improvement (DURAH) programme helped to foster a new political dynamic for the sector and the establishment of



Garowe roads © UN-Habitat

the Land and Real Estate Promotion Corporation (SOPROFIM). In the **Union of Comoros**, the collaboration with local authorities through the implementation of the Plan d'Aménagement du Grand Moroni and the City RAP programme for resilient urban planning continues to benefit communities in needs. Mangroves restoration in **Morondava, Madagascar**, as part of the innovative awareness approach on Nature Based Solutions as natural climate solutions. In **Ethiopia**, reprogrammed funds recently have enabled to address COVID-19 Support striving to improve the state of Ethiopian cities and thereby the urban livelihood by supporting the Government of Ethiopia in implementing the urban component of GTP II in alignment with the SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, as part of the UN-Habitat Country Programme for Ethiopia. In Guinea Conakry, a joint peace building fund (PBF) project led by UN-Habitat with FAO on land and environmental governance was launched early 2022, while in **Guinea Bissau**, a grant of ten millions Euro negotiated with the EU shall support the implementation of the Green and Inclusive Cities initiative for the period 2023-2027. In the **Democratic Republic of Congo**, the focus of UN-Habitat's remains on land reform and conflict mediation in the Eastern DRC through the prevention and resolution of land conflicts for the strengthening of peace, stability and economic development, with a land reform commission currently fully functional.

In **Mozambique**, building on momentum created by the first national urban forum in 2016, which brought increased focus on urbanization and territorial planning, the second forum in 2022 graced by the Head of State of that country facilitated launching of the National Urbanization Policy meant to support government action in the urban sector. A recent mission in **Niger**, early March 2022 at the request of the Minister of Urban Development and a couple of interested paved the way to proposals from UN-Habitat to be followed-up for funding. We are also present on various fronts in countries such as **Rwanda, Sao Tome Principe, Senegal, Somalia, Sierra Leone, South Sudan, Tanzania, Togo, Uganda** and **Zambia**, where UN-Habitat's expertise and interventions are still demanded and appreciated. Delivering aspirations by; ensuring that interventions are driven by country



ROAf Waste management © UN-Habitat



ROAF Mangroves Morondava Madagascar © UN-Habitat

requests, full engagement with the wider UN reform system as well as establishing and re-enforcing a strong public partnership. Beyond the Sustainable Development Goal and the New Urban Agenda, the Regional Office for Africa is leveraging on the African Union vision 2063 for transformative cities and human settlements in Africa.

8.2 Arab States

In 2022, **At the Arab States regional level**, 10 progress reports on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda were submitted, and the first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) from Amman, Jordan was developed with 4 more under development. During COP27, held in Egypt, the first-ever Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change at a UN Climate Change Conference of Parties took place, focusing on housing, urban development, and multi-level action in relation to climate change, in addition to the launch of the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation (SURGe) initiative.

Iraq

Through the housing, land and property rights programme, UN-Habitat is mapping and registering the land occupancy claims of Yazidi returnees and holding community consultation meetings so that the returnees can verify their claims among themselves and have them endorsed by local authorities and community leaders. To date, 14,550 claims are registered and as many land occupancy certificates were issued to prove occupancy or ownership land rights of displaced persons and returnees in Sinjar. In 2022, the Iraqi Prime Minister, Mr. Mohammed S. Al-Sudani, recognized the land

ownership rights of the Yazidi minority in Iraq after more than 47 years of discrimination against Yazidis.

Jordan

With an aim to increase the resilience of vulnerable communities in Amman against flash floods, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Greater Amman Municipality and supported by the Government of Japan, implemented Sustainable Urban Drainage Systems (SUDs) pilot projects. SUDs are systems designed to efficiently manage the drainage of surface water in the urban environment. This intervention benefited 35,000 people in Amman.

Egypt

UN-Habitat, in cooperation with Cairo Governorate, supported by Drosos Foundation and through technical assistance and supervision by the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy, launched the first phase of Cairo Bike in Downtown Cairo. The first two kilometres of bike lanes and 26 stations, holding 250 bicycles, were also constructed. The stations are situated in youth hotspots around downtown, where people from any age can rent bikes from one station and drop them off in another. Renting the bikes is facilitated by a mobile application or a prepaid membership card.

Lebanon

UN-Habitat implemented a multi-sectoral urban recovery and reconstruction project targeting vulnerable areas highly impacted by the Beirut explosion. This involved the complete rehabilitation of 11 multi-story buildings of heritage-value (of which 2 were propped) from a Build Back



ROAS © UN-Habitat

Better approach through multiple innovative and forward-thinking techniques, while safeguarding housing, land and property rights of tenants. It also developed the skills of men and women to take part in the rehabilitation works. Response capacity and functions of the Beirut Fire Brigade were improved and two public spaces, William Hawi and Laziza parks were reactivated. Public infrastructure in Maraach, Bourj Hammoud was upgraded and repaired in three alleyways besides installing 15 handwashing stations in various areas to mitigate COVID-19 community transmission. The interventions directly benefited 7,400 and indirectly benefited over 13,500 people.

8.3 Asia and Pacific

The region supported the ASEAN Secretariat in implementing ASEAN Sustainable Urbanization Strategy assisting 8 ASEAN cities in planning and managing sustainable urbanization and creating platform for policy development and knowledge sharing. We also facilitated developing the "Study on Urbanization, People's Mobility and Inclusive Development along the Urban-Rural Continuum", a joint initiative of the ASEAN Secretariat, and UN agencies, providing policy recommendations to inform joint actions by ASEAN Member states for inclusive development and ensure that no one is left behind.

Further UN-Habitat continued providing assistance to LDCs member states including Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Bhutan, Cambodia, Lao People's Democratic Republic, Myanmar, Nepal, Solomon Islands, Timor-Leste focusing housing, slums and settlements upgrading, urban poverty, access to basic services, secure tenure, crisis recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction, climate change and community resilience, empowerment of communities through local economic development and strengthening of

national and sub-national institutions. So far UN-Habitat has mobilized over 400 million USD in the recent past, to address the challenges in the above indicated areas focusing on policy initiatives to field projects in LDCs in this region.

More specifically:

Lao PDR (LDC)

- 1) UN-Habitat leads the urban output group of UNSDCF. First Lao National Urban Forum was held with the government and provided technical advice to develop the urban development strategy.
- 2) National and sub-national climate mitigation and adaptation capacity strengthened. Two cities established low emission strategy. National climate vulnerability and risk assessment was presented to the National Assembly to formulate climate-wise policies. Community resilience built in 145 settlements, benefitting nearly 100,000 people, through improved access to water supply.



WASH System placed in Sekong, Lao PDR © UN-Habitat



India: Felicitation ceremony on Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive Cities Award © UN-Habitat

Cambodia (LDC)

Increased governance capacity through developing “Guideline on Public Participation in Wastewater Management Services at the Sub-national Level”. Launched Adaptation through small-scale protective and basic-service interventions in coastal settlements to support over 165000 people.

Philippines

A few highlights included activities in Marawi City, where 1,000 families were assisted in rebuilding their lives after the armed conflict in 2017 with permanent housing securing tenure through the Social Tenure Domain Model adopted by government; or the localization of the National Plan of Action on Marine Litter in six cities responding to the global issue of marine plastic pollution; and the facilitation of Resilient and Green Human Settlements Framework, development of a national Guide on Urban Planning and updating of the National Urban Development and Housing Framework.

India

We facilitated the implementation of evidence-based spatial planning and financing anchored in the principles of Leaving No One Behind (LNOB), to promote decarbonizing urban development and nature-based solutions in three intermediary cities. We also partnered in a collaborative initiative by UN Resident Coordinator, Smart Solutions Challenge and Inclusive Cities Award promoting crowd-sourced innovative solutions for making Indian cities inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities, women and girls, and the elderly.

Mongolia

We contributed to increased resilience and adaptive capacity to climate change in Ger areas in Ulaanbaatar focusing on flooding through construction of infrastructure and improved sanitation services and knowledge through a community-based gender-responsive approach reaching over 190,000 people.

Myanmar

UN-Habitat helped built resilience capacity of informal settlements in Yangon against COVID-19 impacts creating community resilient infrastructure reaching over 400,00 persons in 48 settlements. We also contributed to implementing Myanmar Climate Change Alliance initiatives; training of at least 31 journalists on Climate Change reporting;



A community volunteer visiting a community household to raise COVID-19 awareness and health education, as well as to distribute IEC and COVID-19 prevention materials © UN-Habitat/Myanmar



A network of hand-washing stations to combat COVID-19 at key locations for the community in the informal settlements area in Yangon
© UN-Habitat/Myanmar



Community volunteers are distributing COVID-19 home care packages to the most vulnerable families in Yangon's informal settlements townships as a prevention and response to COVID-19 © UN-Habitat/Myanmar

establishment of Myanmar Climate Action Network bringing 19 non-state climate actors for advocacy; co-organization of awareness raising events on climate change reaching over 22000 people.

Afghanistan

We supported gender mainstreaming in all programming in urban sector; facilitated establishment of gender unit and developed a draft gender strategy ensuring significant women participation in relevant activities. We contributed to building capacities through skill training of 120 people (90 girls; 30 boys) on IT in Mazar-i-Sharif. 3. Over 1,250 nomad families gained access to safe drinking water, promoted safety and increase climate resilience capacity in Kabul, Kandahar, Herat and Mazar-i-Sharif.



A female community member is explaining her community's plan to the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan (STFA) donors under ABADEI programme © UN-Habitat/Afghanistan

Malaysia

1) Launched Nature-based Climate Adaptation Programme focusing urban greening, floodwater management, social resilience programme and institutional knowledge exchange reaching over 340,000 people.

2) City Prosperity Initiative was launched for a common monitoring framework with Penang State Government supporting localization of the SDGs and NUA.

Pakistan

Activities initiated to increased community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity caused by floods and droughts in Pakistan benefitting over 200,000 people.

Sri Lanka

Supported 1465 economically and socially vulnerable families to gain access to adequate housing and basic services through community driven housing programme.

8.4 Latin America and the Caribbean

In this region, the only LDC is Haiti. Within the context of Haiti's UNSDCF 2023-2027, UN-Habitat continues to lead on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda catalyzing the localization of SDGs. From this perspective UN-Habitat aims at advancing the housing sector and strengthening local government agendas through focused policy advisory services. It is anticipated that a process of programme development and resource mobilization will support the delivery of the Agency's commitments contributing to Haiti's cooperation framework.

Recently, a special focus was put on concrete actions addressing the four subprogrammes of UN-Habitat's work programme as follows:

1. Reduction of spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum:

8 countries received support to integrating informal settlements in their social policy national process: **Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic.** **Peru** has a new National Housing Policy and **a new Law on Sustainable Urban Development.** **In Brazil,** we supported the development of guidelines for analysis, monitoring and evaluation of project proposals financed by Alagoas State Fund for Combating and Eradicating Poverty. Further, more than 320 women leaders were empowered with new capacities on Women Safety Audits and Participatory Public Spaces Inclusive Design in the State of Pernambuco. Urban social policy of Rio de Janeiro municipality, count with new 138,112 surveyed households, 2,707 out-of-school children and youth referred for enrollment. 40,146 monitored families and 24,000 families in extreme poverty without access to benefits identified. More than 500 inspected homes with housing inadequacies ready for housing improvement works. Forty (40) young residents of informal settlements in Maceió, Alagoas, we supported in taking part in training and

media experimentation cycles on the right to the city and communication skills. Five (5) thousand dwellings with families in situations of extreme poverty and without available public infrastructure and services benefited from action oriented strategy and plans to limit urban land conflicts in Izidora, Belo Horizonte. Finally, four (4) border cities between **Brazil** (Barracão and Bom Jesus do Sul, Paraná State; Dionísio Cerqueira, Santa Catarina State) and **Argentina** (Bernardo de Irigoyen, Misiones Province) were supported with city wide public space assessments conducted to identify main places with high potential for social cohesion. In Cuba, a General Law on land management was approved as a tool for the implementation of the National Action Plan for the implementation of the NUA. Cartagena in **Colombia** benefited from a Land Management Plan. We started in **Honduras** and **Costa Rica**, 4 Urban Integrated Operations.

2. On enhanced shared prosperity for cities and regions: In **Brazil**, 276 civil servants from the 52 municipalities in the Northeast were trained with new capacities to develop inclusive urban development plans and localization of SDGs. In Alagoas State, we supported development of the Observatory of Public policies based on a SDG oriented digital platform. The City Prosperity Index was developed for 102 municipalities of state of Alagoas. In **Bolivia**, Local Urban Agendas in 19 cities were delivered as part of implementation of National Urban Policy. Four (4) biggest cities of Bolivia and two (2) in **Ecuador** received support for the development of their Voluntary Local Reports (VLRs). Further, fifteen (15) cities in **Ecuador** benefited from support to adopting the SDG cities process. Territorial SDG oriented regional development plans were developed in Manabi Province, Ecuador and Santa Marta, **Colombia**. With UN-Habitat's assistance, nine (9) countries have been generating or reviewing their National Urban Policies with different entry points. Those include: **Belize, Honduras, Guatemala, El Salvador, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, Dominican Republic, Ecuador**. In **Mexico**, we developed a model instrument for promotion of foreign investment on territorial industrial development process, namely the Atlas for Territorial Industrial Investment. We also facilitated localization of SDGs in municipalities of San Nicolas de los Garza and Ciudad Juárez, State Quintana Roo. Costa Rica just recently presented a National Voluntary report on the New Urban Agenda. Five (5) **Capacity building programmes** were launched in **Mesoamerica** (Interconecta; Ministry of Urban Development; Urban planning in the southeast region of Mexico; Global agendas applied to urban development for Cuba, Costa Rica y Ecuador; Diplomado NUA with TEC de Monterrey V edition). 244 local officers (68% males) trained for the 5 states of the southeast of Mexico (Yucatán, Quintana Roo, Campeche, Tabasco, Chiapas) with capacities on territorial development. 372 local officers from 12 countries LAC trained on the implementation of the global agendas through the urban planning (**Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Cuba, Ecuador, Guatemala, Honduras, México, Perú, Dominican Republic and Venezuela**).

In Mexico, **1000 local officers** have been in training on participatory urban planning. Four (4) Urban Development Municipal Plans **were developed in Mérida and Valladolid, Yucatán; Calakmul and Escárcega, Campeche**. Further, technical inputs were provided for two (2) Territorial and Ecological Development Plans in Bacalar and Tulum, Quintana Roo, Mexico. In Cuba, 987 local officers (54 % women) were trained on the implementation of the NUA at local level in 29 municipalities through 20 workshops. National Urban Forums were held in **Cuba, Costa Rica, Ecuador and Perú**.

3. On effective urban crises prevention and response: **Nine** (9) Cities including Barranquilla, Cúcuta/Villa del Rosario, and Bucaramanga in **Colombia**, Lima in **Perú**, Quito and Manta in **Ecuador**, La Chorrera in **Panamá**, Mancomunidad del Gran Santo Domingo in **Dominican Republic** and Chaguanas in **Trinidad and Tobago** developed a human mobility profile and with territorial intervention plans to support integration of refugees and migrants with hosting communities. Further, five (5) Cities ranging from Barranquilla, Cúcuta/Villa del Rosario, to Bucaramanga in **Colombia**, including Lima in **Perú**, and Quito in **Ecuador** already have developed an Urban Inclusion Marker to support migrant integration process around 5 key areas such as Housing, Employment, Health, Education, Public Space.

More than 150 children and young people from 9 communities (Barranquilla, Cúcuta/Villa del Rosario, and Bucaramanga in **Colombia**, Lima in **Perú**, Quito and Manta in **Ecuador**, La Chorrera in **Panamá**, Mancomunidad del Gran Santo Domingo in **Dominican Republic** and Chaguanas in **Trinidad and Tobago**) have designed public spaces as part of integration of refugees and migrants with host communities.

More than 260 public servants have participated in trainings on human mobility, MGI, protection, inclusive planning, and socio-economic integration. More than 500 persons have been trained to acquire new capabilities in entrepreneurship and business skills, in protection and orientation services to refugees and migrants, in conflict resolution and prevention, VBG, life purposes, personal relations, public space use, in leadership and community reinforcement, in self- construction skills. 67 Integr-Habitat Centers have adopted principles for integration between migrants/refugees and hosting communities in **Colombia, Ecuador, Peru, Trinidad and Tobago, Dominican Republic, Panama, Mexico and Costa Rica**.

Regional Platforms and protocols for integration of migrants have endorsed the territorial and neighborhood improvement based approach proposed by UN-Habitat to reduce xenofobia (R4V and Quito Process). We also provided technical support to the formulation of the document "Towards an inclusive and discrimination-free future in cities: a practical guide to address human mobility at the local level" by UNESCO (2021) to reinforce the territorial perspective for effective integration. Finally, one (1) **regional** new tool for impact assessment of public spaces and tactical urbanism in integration between migrants and host communities.

8.5 UN-Habitat in Eastern Europe & Central Asia

During the year 2020, UN-Habitat has commenced more active technical support to countries in Eastern Europe and Central Asia. The UN-Habitat Kosovo office continued to provide technical support to line ministries and local governments on ad-hoc basis, and a more robust project presence targeting urban priorities is being explored with development partners. While mainstreaming housing and sustainable urban development to Common Country Assessments (CCA) and UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks (UNSDCF) in the majority of countries in South-Eastern Europe, Central Asia and Southern Caucasus, UN-Habitat has finalized Habitat Country Programme Documents (HCPD), outlining UN-Habitat's engagement in Azerbaijan, Türkiye and Serbia alongside the discussions on the establishment of UN-Habitat programmes in support of localizing the New Urban Agenda in the respective countries. Both Azerbaijan and Türkiye have committed non-earmarked core contributions in addition to soft-earmarked budgetary contributions to establish project offices in their countries. In October 2022, the World Habitat Day was held in Balıkesir, Türkiye. In April 2022, Serbia held its first National Urban Forum and Azerbaijan in October 2022. The UN-Habitat Moscow office has supported the translation of key documents

related to the localization of the New Urban Agenda and 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda into Russian language.

The United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC Hamburg) has mobilized a multi-year programme for Just transitions in vulnerable places - digital solutions for climate resilient informal areas (Namibia) and climate smart urban recovery of communities affected by crisis (Ukraine). UN-Habitat's urban response to the prolonged crisis in Ukraine is being mobilized, and an initial mission to the country was conducted in autumn 2022. At a regional level, several UN Development Account are ongoing in Eastern Europe and Central Asia, ranging from the development of smart and sustainable city profiles in Belarus, Georgia, Kazakhstan, Kirgizstan and Montenegro (T12); localization of the New Urban Agenda in Kazakhstan (T12); preparation of Voluntary Local Reviews (T14) in Georgia, Kirgizstan, Tajikistan, Serbia; and nature-based solutions and urban air pollution in Kirgizstan, Tajikistan and Serbia (T14). Two additional projects were acquired during the reporting period and are being elaborated as well as pilot locations selected: on urban mobility (T15) and affordable housing policy in Eastern Europe and Central Asia (T16). Moreover, Azerbaijan has been selected for a global National Urban Policy project and the mobilization of partners has commenced.

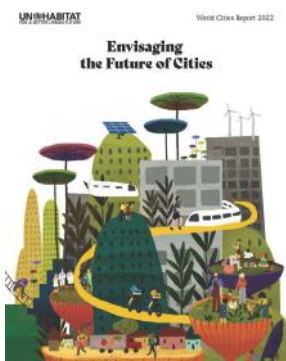
09

Accelerating action through communications and advocacy

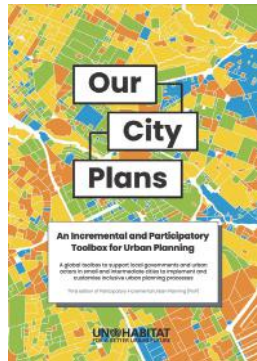
UN-Habitat's objective is to promote a better quality of life for all in a rapidly urbanizing world. We focus on people, where and how they live, and the state of human settlements for current and future generations.

Through our advocacy and communication, we are working to flip the narrative on urbanisation and position UN-Habitat as a thought leader on sustainable urban development and planning, the agency that helps translate policies and norms into tangible actions. Cities and towns present the most sustainable form of human settlements when planned and managed well. Urban areas have a transformational potential and catalyse change to address global priorities and challenges captured in our global agendas.

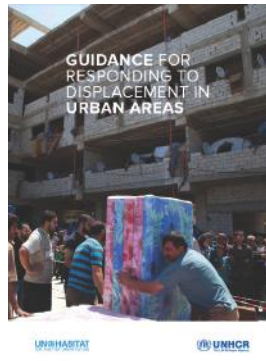
9.1 In 2022 we launched these key publications



**World Cities Report 2022:
Envisaging the Future
of Cities**



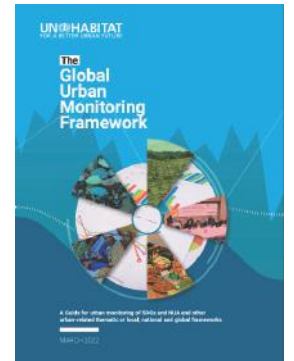
**Our City Plans:
An incremental and
participatory toolbox for
urban planning**



**Guidance for
Responding to
Displacement in Urban
Areas**



**Global Review
of Smart City
Governance Practices**



**The Global Urban
Monitoring Framework**



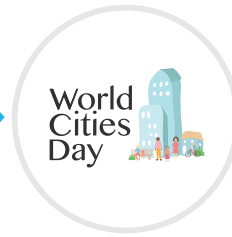
9.2 Events in October



In October, we celebrate Urban October – **31 days** to promote sustainable urbanisation and human settlements.



The month starts with **World Habitat Day**, on the first Monday of October,...



...and ends with **World Cities Day** on October 31.

More than **402 events** on urban issues and housing were **organised worldwide**

Urban October hashtag (#) used over **500 times**; overall engagement of **5,200 people** and a total reach of **almost 5 million people**

Media coverage during October exceeded **2,000 clips**

9.3 World Urban Forum and National Urban Forums

17,000 The minimum number of participants that were attracted to the **Eleventh session** of the World Urban Forum in June 2022 in Katowice, Poland, from **158 countries**

51 The number of countries in which **National Urban Forums** were held (7 in ROLAC, 8 in ROAS, 22 in ROAF & 14 in ROAP)

162 The number of countries that have **National Urban Policies**

38 The number of countries that submitted their **New Urban Agenda Implementation reports**

9.4 Social Media



We increased our organic social media footprint across corporate channels on average by 20 percent, growing from **440,000 followers** to more than **536,000 followers**. The most significant growth achieved across these channels

Organic social media footprint **20% increase** followers

in **57% increase:** From 100,000 followers to more than **157,000 followers**

Instagram **17% increase:** From 53,000 followers to more than **62,100 followers**

9.5 Website performance



Our website audience across key web platforms increased, on average, by **30 percent**.

Audience **30% increase**

UN-HABITAT **32% growth** in traffic to unhabitat.org from **58,000 visits** to more than **77,000**

Urban OCTOBER **800% increase** in web traffic to the Urban October platform to **8,100 visits**

WORLD URBAN FORUM **1,300% growth** in web traffic to the World Urban Forum site grew to **134,000 visits** in June 2022

9.6 Media coverage

On average, our media coverage returned around **2,000 articles** and **online stories monthly**, with an **engagement of between 7,000 to 12,000 people**. Media coverage of the Executive Director's activities and missions returned between 20 and 40 articles each month, with an overall reach and engagement of 1,200 to 6,000. In addition, more than **35 interviews** were prepared and organised **for the Executive Director**.



a documentary on **rising sea levels and floating cities**



interview on the **New Urban Agenda and urban planning**



for Sustainable Views on Cities series on **climate action and cities**



series on **climate action and urban planning** in the run-up to COP27



interview in Singapore on **climate action, SDGs, and gender issues**



(Spanish edition)
- on **SDG Localization and urban issues**

Six opinion pieces were placed in various publications during the period:



on the **New Urban Agenda**



on the **Asian tour** to Japan, Singapore, and Malaysia



on Stockhol+50 and **climate action in cities**



(Spain) on the **localisation of SDGs** and local action



The **Parliamentarian** (UK magazine) and **Cities Today** on the **New Urban Agenda**



El Pais (Spain) and **Nation** (Kenya)
- on 8 billion population



More than 20 news outlets interviewed UN-Habitat experts and specialists; key interviews included:



(French) – programme on **population growth** and the need for **affordable housing**



The **Parliamentarian** (UK magazine) and **Cities Today** - on the **New Urban Agenda**

10

Mobilising Resources

In 2019, the UN-Habitat Assembly in its first meeting approved the UN-Habitat Resource Mobilisation Strategy 2020-2023 (henceforth UNH Strategic Plan). The aim of the strategy was to **secure adequate, predictable and flexible funding** to implement the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023.

The mission is to be results-focused, efficient, transparent, and accountable to maximise grants and investments' return on value. Since 2020, the UN-Habitat Resource Mobilisation Strategy is guided by these six major objectives:

- secure adequate funding to implement the UNH Strategic Plan
- support delivery of urban SDG targets and the New Urban Agenda by aligning with the UN Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework at the country level and by adhering to the UN Funding Compact
- develop and enhance strategic partnerships with donors and recipient communities
- diversify UN-Habitat's donor base
- demonstrate that UN-Habitat implements programmes in an accountable, efficient and transparent manner that produces transformative results and impact
- find innovative methods for funding raising

In 2022 (as of 31 December), the total amount raised to support the implementation of the UN-habitat Strategic Plan (dating back to 2020) stands at USD 540 million. Specifically, in the past 12 months, the foundation earmarked budget for normative activities has acquired USD 29.6 million and Technical cooperation acquired USD 106.1 million.⁴¹

In terms of the donors of the core fund to UN-Habitat, the amount received is USD 7.3 million. 24 Member States have made contributions in 2022 as of 31 December, of which 55% give consistent and

predictable funds. We have four new contributors⁴² to UN-Habitat core funding from Angola, Azerbaijan, Guinea and Somalia. Three member states including Angola, Guinea and Somalia also provided funds to cover previous commitments. Azerbaijan is the biggest single contributor with USD 3 million whilst Malaysia provided USD 1 million and Germany provided EURO 1 million respectively. Six Member States including Malaysia, Germany, Portugal, Singapore and the United Republic of Tanzania have returned⁴³ to providing core contributions. Additional six (6) countries have made one-time pledges⁴⁴

In terms of earmarked funds, in 2022, 7 out of the top 15 donors are foundations, intergovernmental organisations, private sector, civil society, local authorities or UN agencies. This shows a greater diversification of funding sources. Geographically, the Arab States office is implementing activities funded by 36% of all income generated. This is followed by Asia Pacific (26%), Africa (15%), Latin America (7%), and Europe (1%). UN-Habitat's Global programmes now constitute 15% of total revenues. This healthy performance shows continuing demand for UN-Habitat's core normative work guidance and technical advisory.

To address the objective of further diversifying the UN-Habitat donor base, UN-Habitat continues to engage foundations through the Foundations

7 out of the top 15 donors of earmarked funds in 2022 are:



Foundations



Inter-Governmental Organization



Private Sector



Civil Society



Local Authority

OR



UN Agencies

⁴² These are Member States that we consider to be first-time contributors to the core fund.

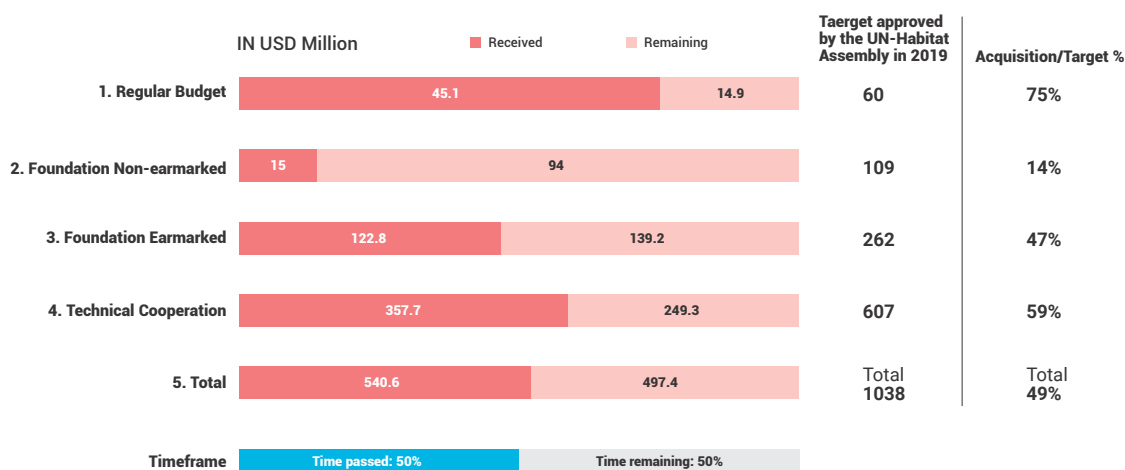
⁴³ Member States that were once contributing to the core fund and stopped for at least two years but have now resumed contributing to the core fund.

⁴⁴ Pledges are commitments made by Member States (with definitive timelines) to contribute to the core fund. Requests for banking details are not considered pledges.

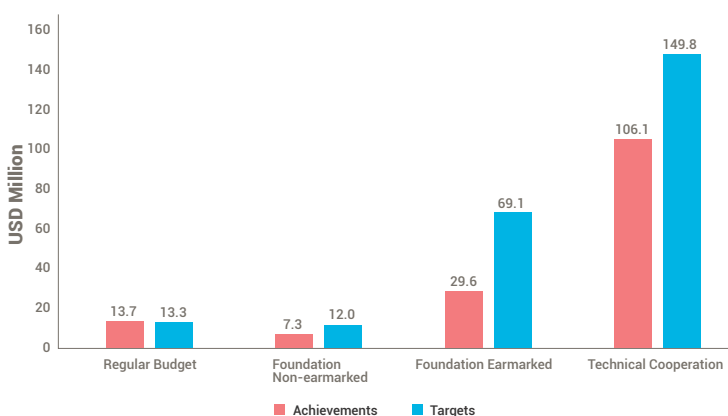
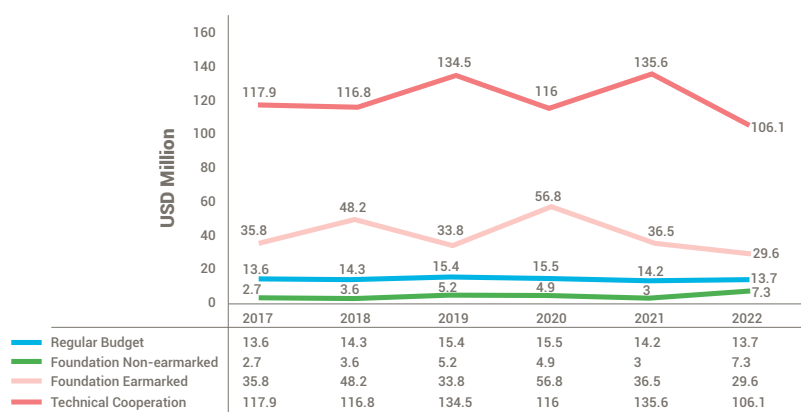
⁴¹ This does not include the value signed in the agreements but yet to be transferred.

and Philanthropy Platform. A successful foundation round table was held during the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum with over 100 in-person and 513 online participants. The event concluded with eight new foundations expressing an interest in joining the Foundations and Philanthropy Platform. We are also working with the Sustainable Human Settlements Foundation to raise private sector and sovereign wealth funds support for UN-Habitat.

Additionally, we have also been working to make sure that work of UN-Habitat is result-focused, transparent, accountable and efficient, and that the progress, results and impact are effectively communicated with the donors and the public. We conduct regular communications and send reports to Member States on a regular basis, including Monthly Updates on funding status and Urban Impact newsletters that highlight the key activities and upcoming events of UN-Habitat. We are monitoring the Key Performance Indicators that show the implementation progress of various funds.



UN-Habitat resource mobilization overall progress (2020 – 31 December 2022)



TOTAL CONTRIBUTIONS

In 2022 (as of 31 December), UN-Habitat acquired 156.7 Million USD (64% of the total target of 2022).

Regular Budget

Consistent. The acquisition for the Regular Budget in 2022 has slightly exceeded the yearly target by 3%.

Foundation Non-earmarked

A significant increase in the Foundation Non-earmarked funding, USD 7.3 Million which is the highest among the last 6 years. Although it didn't meet the target of USD 12 million, it well exceeded the expenses under the austerity measures and realistic budget control, resulting in a reserve of over USD 5.9 million in the core fund.

Foundation Earmarked

Foundation earmarked budget for normative activities has acquired USD 29.6 Million in 2022 (43% of the yearly target). This does not include the amount that has been signed in agreements yet to be transferred.

Technical Cooperation

Technical cooperation has received USD 106.1 Million in 2022 (71% of the yearly target). This does not include the amount that has been signed in agreements yet to be transferred.

11

Emerging from Austerity on the Foundation Non-Earmarked Trust Fund

At the end of 2021, emerging from the COVID-19 pandemic and the socio-economic crisis that ensued, UN-Habitat's non-earmarked foundation fund was effectively insolvent. Although deficit spending had been on the downward trend since 2019, the Programme had run down all its reserves. We entered 2022 with a negative USD 1.2 million in net assets.

Austerity measures were enhanced to stem the bleed. At the same time, resource mobilisation efforts were doubled to ensure that cost-cutting measures did not lead to retrenchments which would prevent the Programme from meeting its mandated activities. The key action here was to adopt a policy where the annual budget is regarded as a spending plan rather than a resource mobilisation proposal. At the first Executive Board meeting in March, a budget ceiling of USD 3 million was instituted. A spending limit of USD 10 million was established on the Programme Support Cost fund to ensure reserves could be built up.

The main challenge was to institute these spending plans without losing staff members. As efforts to align budget with function and posts were initiated in 2020, staff members were moved to project funds. UN-Habitat's earmarked funds had remained relatively stable throughout the Covid pandemic averaging USD 150 million per-year. This allowed the retention of staff and personnel.

The alignment process of budget, function and posts also allowed for additional regular budget. Since 2002, UN-Habitat has not been successful in its many attempts to secure additional regular budget. An in-depth analysis of the posts serving inter-governmental and inter-governmental normative functions formed the basis for the request. With guidance from the Controller's office, UN-Habitat was successfully prioritised by the Secretary-General for the additional regular budget funding. This was further confirmed by the ACABQ

and ultimately, approved by the General Assembly in December 2022.

As of 31 December 2022, UN-Habitat has kept expenses to USD 1.6 million and expenses on PSC to within the USD 10 million limit. At the same time, resource mobilisation for the foundation non-earmarked fund reached USD 8 million, which represents a surplus. This is the first surplus on the foundation non-earmarked fund, the first time in 12 years.

With a surplus of approximately USD 5.9 million, UN-Habitat was able to meet the USD 3 million reserve that the Executive Board established in its November 2022 meeting. A first repayment of USD 500,000 was made to reduce the USD 3 million loan that the foundation borrowed from programme support costs in 2017.

Also, it is important to take note that the austerity measures did not result in any separation with staff members. In fact, it resulted in some positive adjustments as UN-Habitat continues to reform to ensure that post and function is aligned with sources of funding. UN-Habitat also met gender parity at P2-P4 levels, increased women colleagues at P5-level (by three) and D1-level (by one). UN-Habitat also successfully recruited a Deputy Executive Director, announced by the Secretary-General on 22 December.

UN-Habitat will continue to adhere to this confident but conservative approach whereby budgets are regarded as spending plans. The systematic approach to align resources with function and posts is an on-going process that will result in greater job security for all staff and personnel. Although we started the year with negative net assets in the foundation non-earmarked fund, we have emerged with reserves at the right levels in all budget sources including the foundation non-earmarked fund, the programme support cost fund and the earmarked foundation fund.

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Accountability - JIU, BOA, OIOS recommendations

In the year 2022, efforts were taken to embed audit and evaluative evidence within UN-Habitat's management and accountability frameworks. As a follow-up to concerns from the management of the Business Transformation and Accountability Division (BTAD) regarding low acceptance and implementation rates of JIU recommendations.

JIU Review Recommendations

– For 2020-2022, UN-Habitat was tracking a total of 79 JIU recommendations from 13 JIU review reports. As of 31 December 2022, 40% of the recommendations were implemented; 26% were in progress and 34% had not started. Low implementation rates of JIU recommendations is systemwide issue, especially for JIU participating organizations affiliated to the United Nations Secretariat, including UN-Habitat, UNEP, ITC, UNCTAD and UNODC. To improve implementation rate of JIU recommendations, in January 2023, a road map to ensure implementation of the JIU recommendation, specifically those addressed to me as the Executive Head of UN-Habitat was introduced. The results and recommendations from the JIU review of management and administration of UN-Habitat 2022 are already being used to further strengthen the efficiency and effectiveness of UN-Habitat.

OIOS Evaluation Recommendations

Implementing of the OIOS evaluation recommendation has been adequate in UN-Habitat and no OIOS evaluation recommendations were due in 2022. Evaluation findings from the OIOS biennial study on strengthening biennial the role of evaluation and application of evaluation findings on programme design, delivery and policy directives and UN-Habitat score card, found 13 out of 14

review evaluation reports from UN-Habitat to be of high quality and were selected as good examples to be share with others United Nations organizations via the OIOS-administered Evaluation Knowledge Management Platform that hosts evaluation reports conducted by all Secretariat entities.

UN-Habitat evaluation recommendations

An evaluation management response mechanism is in place and has led to enhanced corporate accountability by tracking implementation of evaluations resulting from evaluations commissioned by UN-Habitat. In 2022, the Independent Evaluation Unit of UN-Habitat was tracking 168 recommendations from evaluation conducted from 2020 to 2022. Of these evaluations, 39% were implemented, 51% are in progress, and 10% had not started. Details of evaluations undertaken by UN-Habitat are available on the UN-Habitat evaluation website: www.unhabitat.org/evaluation. Also there is evidence of use of evaluations. For example, based on the recommendations from Evaluation of UN-Habitat's National Urban Policy Programme 2022, UN-Habitat has strengthened results-based management of National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies in three selected countries (Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar and Nigeria (Phase 1), with improved indicators and appropriate baselines and targets to measure impact and outcomes.

[Project Implementation (financial) rate is at 83% (2021 financial report from UNON).]

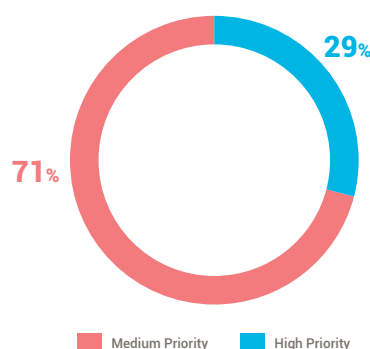
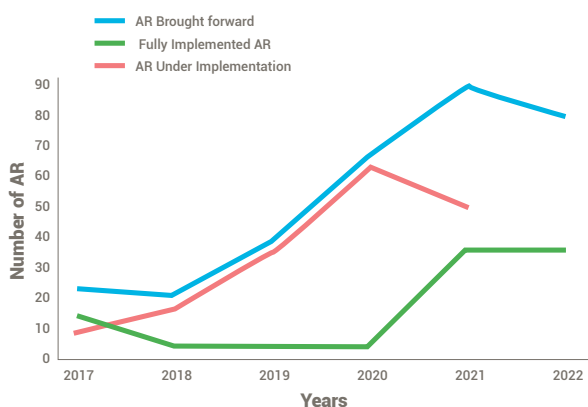
[Achieving financial closure of un-closed grants - from 797 unclosed grants in 2018 to less than 10 (Nov 2022)]

Board of Auditors (BoA)

As a result of the prioritization and intentional focus, the implementation rate of BOA audit recommendations picked up substantially in 2021. 40% of the prior year audit recommendations were implemented and closed. From the current 79 outstanding BoA prior year audit recommendation, 29% are of high priority and 71% are of medium priority and there are ongoing efforts to close as many as possible within the current year.

	FY 2017	FY 2018	FY 2019	FY 2020	FY 2021	FY 2022
Audit Recommendations brought forward from prior year	23	20	38	66	88	79
Audit Recommendations Implemented	13 (56%)	4 (20%)	3 (8%)	3 (4.5%)	35 (40%)	Estimated (45%)
AR Overtaken by events	2 (9%)	–	1 (3%)	–	4 (4%)	
Audit Recommendations Under Implementation/Not Implemented	8 (35%)	16 (80%)	34 (87%)	63 (95.5%)	49 (56%)	
Current Year Audit Recommendations	12	22	32	25	30	
End of Year Audit Recommendations carried forward	20	38	66	88	79	

Overview of Implementation of BoA Recommendations for the past 5 years



Overview of Implementation of BoA Recommendations for the past 5 years

Total Prior Year Audit Recommendations as at October 2022

Office of Internal Oversight Services (OIOS)

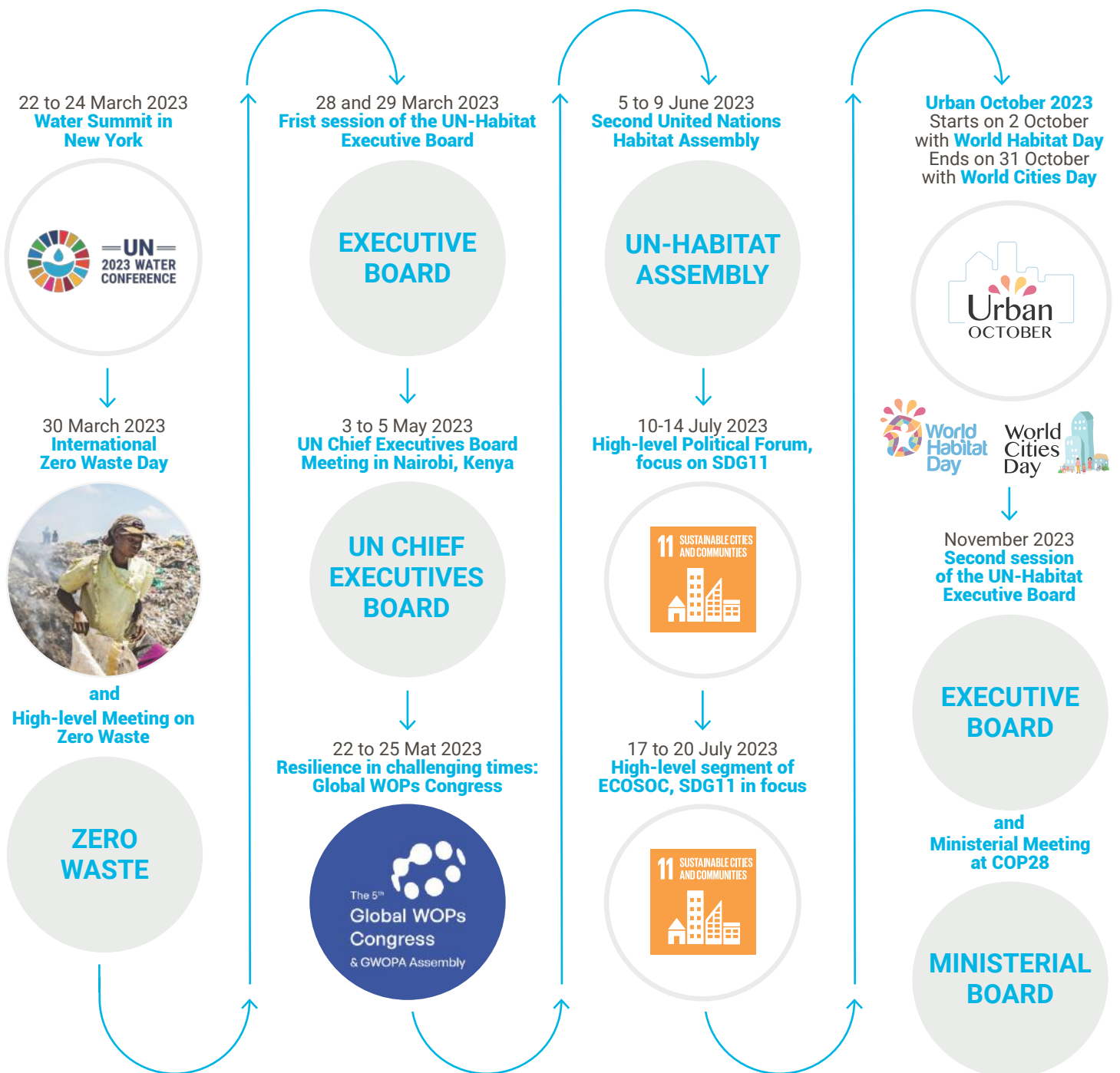
From the 50 OIOS Audit recommendations brought forward into 2021, 29 recommendations representing 58% were implemented and closed. There is currently a total of 40 audit recommendations under implementation (21 balance from prior year and 19 issued in 2021/2022) with the intention of closing as many as possible within the current year.

YEAR	Audit Description/Project Name	Number of Recommendations
2016	Audit of Resource Mobilization at UN-Habitat	1
2017	Audit of Urban Legislations	1
2018	Audit of Research and Capacity Building Sub-programme	4
2019	Audit of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa	4
	Audit of Financial Management at UN-Habitat	1
	Audit of World Urban Forum 9 at UN-Habitat	1
2020	Audit of Grants Management at UN-Habitat	6
	Audit of Programme Support Cost at UN-Habitat	3
2021	Audit of Response to COVID-19 at UN-Habitat	3
	Audit of Accounts Receivables and Payables at UN-Habitat	2
2022	Audit of Land, Housing & Shelter Programme	5
	Audit of Somalia Country Office	9
Total		40

Overview of Implementation of OIOS Audit Recommendations

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Roadmap for 2023



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UN-Habitat in Numbers

Resources raised

\$540 Million
to support implementation of
the 2020-2023 **Strategic Plan**

\$346.1 Million
for UN-Habitat's
technical work

\$110.5 Million
for UN-Habitat's
policy work

Projects acquired

\$128.3 Million
received for **project work**

Project Support Cost Fund

\$10 Million
reserve fund

Projects pipeline

\$179 Million

\$39.5 Million
will go towards
projects in **Africa**

\$38.9 Million
will go towards projects
in the **Arab states**

\$8.9 Million
will go towards projects in **Latin America and the Caribbean**

World Urban Forum

17,000+
participants from
158 countries

451
events featuring
630 speakers

2 heads of
government

22
ministers

20
vice ministers

75
mayors

National Urban Forums

51 countries
countries held **National Urban Forums**

162 countries
countries have **National Urban Policies**

38 countries
submitted implementation reports
on the **New Urban Agenda**

Urban October

more than **402** events
on **urban issues** were held globally and
reached almost **5 million people**.

Executive Director

204
bilateral
meetings

23
missions and delivered
60 policy speeches

Executive Director's **social media accounts** increased
on average by **23%**

15

Epilogue: We are who we serve

At the second session of the Executive Board in 2022, the Board invited five partners to give testimonies on the impacts of the support from UN-Habitat in areas affected by conflicts and disasters and on the progress on and achievements of the Flagship Programme implementation. The representatives of partner organisations came with insights into the role and value of UN-Habitat's innovative support on sustainable development and crisis response in their respective countries and cities.

Mr. Marwan Abboud, Governor of Beirut, Lebanon, and a partner of UN-Habitat's response to the explosion in Beirut in 2020 "...The building rehabilitation completed in this project is an irreplaceable pilot, particularly as it pertains to safeguarding housing, land, and property rights in Beirut. This project benefitted almost 7,200 individuals directly, and 13,000 indirectly."

Mr. Ai Watiin, Mayor of Baidoa, Somalia, and a partner of UN-Habitat's response to the internal displacement and environmental crises in Somalia "...The joint response by the Baidoa Local Government and UN-Habitat [to the challenges of rapid urban growth and internal displacement] has helped to reshape the city of Baidoa in ways that have not only provided the host communities and the displaced household alike with better livelihoods and housing but are also improving the capacity of the local authority to work with the communities to respond to climate and other crises."

Ms. Sara Thabit, Associate Researcher at Edinburgh Napier University and Tallinn University of Technology, and a partner of the Flagship Programme 'People-Centered Smart Cities' "...UN-Habitat as a key partner [in smart city governance development] has a decisive role to ensure that smart cities are built upon a people centered approach ...including guiding principles of human digital rights and social inclusion."

Mr. Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco, and a partner of the Flagship Programme 'SDG Cities' "...We believe the SDG Cities programme is a very important initiative in that it supports us as mayors in putting into place effective processes to achieve the SDGs with strong data, indicators and inclusive evidence based planning processes... As it expands, we hope the initiative will generate a global network of cities that can share experiences and work together in accelerating the achievement of SDGs."

Ms. Rose Molokoane, Coordinator for the South African Federation of the Urban Poor and a partner of the Flagship Programme 'RISE UP - Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor' "...The RISE UP does not consult the communities, the programme works with the communities... Last June at WUF11, we talked about "No Solution for Me, Without Me" and this is something that RISE UP has been working with and continues to push forward."



UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif with UN-Habitat staff members at the first session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board that took place in Nairobi, Kenya 31 March 2022 © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

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WE ARE THE PEOPLE WE SERVE

Executive Director's Report 2022

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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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