

# ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

# 2019





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## Message from the Executive Director



I am pleased to present UN-Habitat's 2019 Annual Progress Report which marks the sixth and final year of monitoring and reporting on the progress made in implementing the 2014–2019 Strategic Plan.

The report provides highlights of the results achieved by the end of 2019 at the institutional level with an analysis of progress in the seven programmatic areas. While 70 per cent of the indicator targets were achieved, this was largely due to the generosity of donors providing earmarked funding at the programme level. This funding was, however, inconsistent across all subprogrammes. In particular, the lack of core funding for normative work significantly constrained overall results for programme delivery. It also undermined our potential to implement areas of work with proven track record at scale, such as municipal finance, urban and territorial planning, global monitoring, public space, urban legislation, safety and governance.

The 2019 report highlights achievements in one of UN-Habitat's key areas of strength, transformative normative tools and knowledge products. These are providing important norms and standards that are strengthening member states' capacity to deliver sustainable urbanization. *The Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Land and Conflict, the Safer Cities Guidelines and the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework*, for example, are setting principles for the global community on: sustainable urbanization planning, how to leverage the urban-rural divide for strengthened sustainable urbanization and guidelines for making cities safer. Harmonized methodologies to guide the Sustainable Development Goals global monitoring of sustainable urbanization were developed, such as the definition of cities and refining the slum area-based definition to improve its clarity and relevance. With increased funding, UN-Habitat normative tools and knowledge products, could be scaled up for greater impact.

Reflecting on 2019 and the context of constrained resources, robust results and impacts were realized from our programmatic work across some subprogrammes. The Planning Lab, for example, continues to provide technical support to member states on planning and design for inclusive, compact and integrated cities. UN-Habitat is also making a unique contribution to the humanitarian and post-conflict settlement planning through the integrated and inclusive urban tools we provide that deliver sustainable change to beneficiaries.

UN-Habitat's resilience profiling and planning tools successfully supported cities to become more climate resilient in the Africa, Asia and Pacific regions. The reconstruction and resilience work in Mozambique, undertaken through the school's programme to strengthen their structures, for example, demonstrated the benefits of cyclone resilient designs. The Global Land Tool Network, which uses an inclusive approach to tenure security through the continuum of land rights, has

expanded tenure security for over 300,000 households (approximately 1.2 million people) in 13 countries over the past six years. In addition, the Public Space programme has made cities more inclusive for some 445,000 people—many of whom are girls and women, in 2019 alone.

UN-Habitat was active in supporting the United Nations Development system reform process across all levels in 2019. Effective engagement with the new Resident Coordinator system made substantive contributions to the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in several countries, including Malaysia and Ethiopia with processes under way in eight countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

UN-Habitat's extensive country-level work, such as in Afghanistan and Iraq, has responded to member states' challenges and aspirations in regard to strengthening sustainable urbanization in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. The integrated, build-back better approach has resulted in the durable resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees. It has also resulted in safer, cleaner, more inclusive cities, showing the transformative impact possible from long-term partnerships with all levels of government and key stakeholders.

Finally, important institutional milestones were achieved in 2019. The first UN-Habitat Assembly was successfully held 27th - 31st May, 2019. The Assembly approved the new Strategic Plan 2020—2023. In addition, the first stakeholder advisory group and private sector roundtable events were convened, providing diverse perspectives and creating

new areas of collaboration. The newly elected Executive Board met in May and reconvened in November and the 2020 work programme and budget was approved. In 2019, progress was made to expand engagement with a broader range of donors. The resource mobilization strategy is now aligned with the United Nations Funding Compact that was agreed with member states in 2019.

I would like to thank our development and operational delivery partners, supporters and other key stakeholders who have worked with us across this reporting period.

I hope you find the 2019 Annual Progress Report informative and inspiring. UN-Habitat is delivering sustainable urbanization results for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. There are high hopes for ongoing support to leverage on these outcomes for greater impact during the implementation of the new strategic plan 2020—2023.



**Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif**

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

Cable cars providing alternative public transport in La Paz, Bolivia  
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# Table of Contents

<b>MESSAGE FROM THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR.....</b>	<b>3</b>
<b>SECTION 1.....</b>	<b>5</b>
Executive Summary .....	5
<b>SECTION 2 .....</b>	<b>22</b>
Subprogramme 1: Urban Legislation, Land, and Governance .....	22
Subprogramme 2: Urban Planning and Design .....	40
Subprogramme 3: Urban Economy and Municipal Finance.....	58
Subprogramme 4: Urban Basic Services .....	70
Subprogramme 5: Housing and Slum Upgrading.....	86
Subprogramme 6: Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation .....	102
Subprogramme 7: Urban Research and Capacity Development.....	116
<b>SECTION 3 .....</b>	<b>130</b>
Regional Highlights.....	130
Africa Region .....	130
Asia and Pacific Region .....	134
Arab States Region .....	140
Latin America and the Caribbean Region .....	146
Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, other Countries and Territories in Europe .....	150
<b>SECTION 4 .....</b>	<b>154</b>
Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues .....	154
Partnerships.....	158
Finance, Audit and Evaluation .....	162
Project Portfolio Development.....	172

# Executive Summary

This is UN-Habitat's sixth annual progress report on the implementation of the strategic plan 2014—2019. The Strategic Plan has been implemented through the work programme and budget.

The 2019 Annual Progress Report has been prepared in accordance with Governing Council resolution 26/3 of May 2017 and presents progress made towards planned results (expected accomplishments), measured against their indicator targets for 2019. In addition, the report describes results or changes realized by the end of 2019 at local, national, regional and global levels with the contribution of UN-Habitat and partners. Given this is also the end of the strategic plan period, the report also reflects, where relevant, on the overall achievement UN-Habitat has made across this six-year period (2014—2019).

The report presents analysis of progress on indicators against set targets for each expected accomplishment over the Strategic Plan period (2014—2019). Key achievements and detailed results across all scales are presented. Impact stories demonstrate the concrete and practical ways that UN-Habitat has transformed the lives of beneficiaries.

The report further integrates results from the five regional offices, the countries they cover, and from the seven thematic branches. There are four sections:

**Section 1** presents the Executive Summary which includes, institutional highlights of 2019 and from the 2014—2019 period; financial performance and programmatic highlights and summary of cross-cutting, advocacy and partnerships, evaluation and audit achievements.

**Section 2** presents detailed analytical briefs on the performance of each of the seven subprogrammes:

**Subprogramme 1** Urban Legislation, Land and Governance

**Subprogramme 2** Urban Planning and Design

**Subprogramme 3** Urban Economy and Municipal Finance

**Subprogramme 4** Urban Basic Services

**Subprogramme 5** Housing and Slum Upgrading

**Subprogramme 6** Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation

**Subprogramme 7** Research and Capacity Development

**Section 3** presents regional Highlights.

**Section 4** presents an analysis in the areas of partnerships and communication, cross-cutting issues, financial performance, evaluations as well as audit.



## 2019 Institutional Highlights

### Strengthened Governance of UN-Habitat



The Executive Director, Maimunah Mohd Sharif, and the Deputy Executive Director, Victor Kisob, continued implementing governance reform processes in line with the General Assembly Resolution 73/539 adopted in December 2018, which established a new governance structure for UN-Habitat.



The first UN-Habitat Assembly was successfully convened in May 2019 and attracted 2,900 delegates including national delegations from 127 countries, four heads of state and government and 49 ministers. One of the key outcomes from the first Assembly was the approval of the new UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020—2023 along with five programmatic resolutions, one decision and one ministerial declaration.



The Executive Board held its first meeting at the UN-Habitat Assembly in May and reconvened in November to complete substantive deliberations.



The results framework of the Strategic Plan 2020—2023 was developed in consultation with colleagues from across UN-Habitat and member states.



UN-Habitat spearheaded the development of a United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urbanization working with over 24 organizations. The strategy the blueprint for sustainable urban development and was adopted by the Chief Executive Board led by the United Nations Secretary-General, in April 2019.



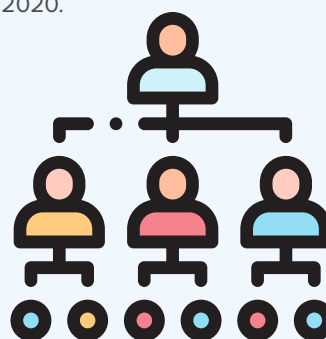
Several key changes were implemented to strengthen internal processes for a fit-for-purpose agency. These included: the development of a matrix of high-priority functions to be decentralized with timelines; agreement on policies and procedures to be decentralized; including training and capacity development; standardization of contracts for equitable treatment and organizational cost-savings; and the finalization of a new cost recovery and allocation policy.



Concrete steps were taken to address the financial deficit. Austerity measures were adopted including the freezing of recruitment, restricted travel and audits of financial practices. These measures were coupled with direct appeals to member states for support to address operational needs.

### Organizational Restructuring Process

The UN-Habitat internal restructuring process, launched in 2018, progressed. During 2019, a new organization structure was developed and approved by the Executive Board, with the structure taking effect on 1 January, 2020.



## Financial highlights

In the 2018–2019 biennium, UN-Habitat’s implementation amounted to USD 358 million representing 72 per cent of its biennial budget of USD 499.8 million. UN-Habitat’s implementation on the regular budget account, the allocation it gets from member states’ assessed contributions to the United Nations system was USD 29.7 million.

Implementation on the Foundation general purpose account, which is financed by voluntary non-earmarked contributions for core normative work, was USD 11.3 million or 43 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 26.1 million because expenditure was deliberately kept low through austerity and cost-containment measures. Member states recognized progress made on UN-Habitat’s governance and institutional reforms and increased their contributions by 38 per cent in 2018 and a further 40 per cent in 2019; however, there is a continuing shortfall in contributions on this fund.

# 2019

UN-Habitat’s implementation amounted to USD 358 million representing 72 per cent of its biennial budget of USD 499.8 million.

Implementation of specific normative programmes financed by earmarked contributions to the Foundation special purpose account amounted to USD 81 million or 58 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 139.8 million while that of earmarked technical cooperation activities amounted to USD 223.4 million or 71 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 314.4 million.

To support implementation of the programme, a percentage of direct earmarked expenditure under Foundation earmarked and technical cooperation is used for indirect overhead activities such as procurement, recruitment, and financial management of the programmes; the amount used for overhead activities amounted to USD 24.1 million against a biennial budget of USD 18.2 million.

In terms of new income acquired, UN-Habitat secured USD 385.4 million against a total target of USD 499.8 representing 77 per cent of the income target. Out of the earmarked income of USD 347.6 million, 23 per cent was for global normative programmes and 77 per cent for technical cooperation activities at country and regional levels.



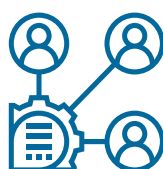
## Key subprogramme results

### Urban Legislation, Land and Governance (Subprogramme 1)



## 40 countries

undertook urban legislation reform processes during the Strategic Plan period including **Iran** and **Lesotho** in 2019. These processes have helped align legal frameworks of partner countries with the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.



By the end of 2019,

## 1,800 legal instruments on urban law

are now stored in UN-Habitat's global urban legislation database – UrbanLex (up from 560 in 2015). The database helps stakeholders access urban laws for learning and comparative analysis. The number of users has risen from 500 in 2014 to over 24,000 in 2019 alone.



**The continuum of land rights concept and fit-for-purpose land administration approaches** have influenced the implementation of the national land policies in **Nepal** and **Uganda** and the drafting of national land policies in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Zambia**, making them more inclusive and sustainable. The implementation of these policies will improve tenure security for millions of households and with their focus on inclusion, women's land rights will also be strengthened.

By the end of 2019, tenure security had been improved or land disputes resolved for **over 300,000 households or 1.2 million people in 13 countries**. Women and youth have benefitted and are now being included in land mapping and are receiving certificates of occupancy.



In 2019

## 1,600 stakeholders

(45 per cent of them women) from 36 institutions improved their capacity to promote and implement pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools and are now change agents in their respective countries.

## 57 national and sub-national authorities

are implementing fit-for-purpose land administration towards the achievement of tenure security for all.



### The UN System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements were adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019

adopted. The guidelines are a major contribution considering the Sustainable Development Goals emphasis on safe urban contexts, and reinforce the benefits of safer cities and encourage member states to strengthen key partnerships for safety especially with local authorities.

## Urban Planning and Design (Subprogramme 2)



### More than 100 cities

are now using inclusive, integrated and compact planning and design approaches in their urban development during 2019.

### National urban policy was accepted as the Sustainable Development

**Goal indicator** for Target 11.1a in the global monitoring framework at the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators tenth session.

### Over 80 cities

across all regions have adopted plans and designs that are now guiding public expenditure and private investment, flagship projects, and sustainable policy decisions.

**New Guidelines on Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlements**, adopted by resolution at the first UN-Habitat Assembly



### 53 countries

are at different stages of development, implementation and monitoring of their national urban policies promoting inclusive and participatory approaches by the end of 2019, up from 4 countries in 2014.

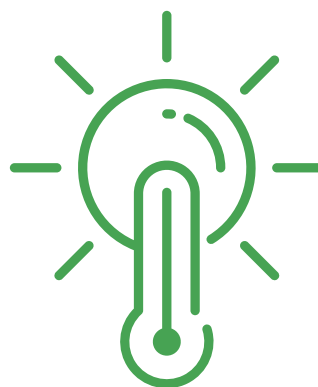
### Over 1.82 million people

in 75 cities are enjoying safe access to more than 104 public spaces that have been designed and upgraded across the strategic plan period of which 445,000 people in 22 cities benefitted in 2019 alone.



### 10,000 cities

are now part of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, making it the world's largest network of cities committed to climate action. The UN-Habitat Executive Director plays an important role on the Board ensuring urban considerations underpin key decisions.



### 31 cities

now have stronger climate change adaptive capacity through their approved climate action plans and policies.

### 14 countries

now have strengthened climate change policies, which will enable them to better prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.

## Urban Economy (Subprogramme 3)



### 30 partner cities

prepared integrated local economic development plans based on new and detailed local economic assessments that will strengthen local economic growth.



### 48 local authorities

are improving their revenue generating capacity for better service delivery.

### 61 cities

are implementing urban youth development programmes, focusing on public space, participation in governance, livelihoods and peace building.



### 69,253 youth

have gained skills in sustainable urbanization and livelihoods.



### The Global Municipal Finance Database

was launched and provides unique information for comparative analysis on municipal budgets and population data for 94 cities.

One-stop Youth Centres in Somali have trained

### 1,874 youth

of whom 1,339 have found permanent or temporary employment. The programme has also led to 87 youth business start-ups, creating jobs for other youths.

## Urban Basic Services (Subprogramme 4)



### 1 million users

benefited from water utilities with improved capacity and performance through the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance in 2019.

### Over 3.6 million people

had improved access water and sanitation in the strategic plan period with 925,165 additional beneficiaries in 2019.



### 187 water operators' partnerships

improved the efficiency and effectiveness of their service delivery from being part of the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance. In 2019, seven new water operators' partnerships joined the Alliance.



### USD 10.8 million

worth of investments was leveraged in 2019 for expanding access to urban basic services in partner countries.



### 169 cities

are now part of the global Waste Wise Cities Campaign, with 109 cities joining in 2019 for urgent action on solid waste management.

### 20 national Green Building Councils

promoting sustainable building concepts have been established in Africa and 5 in Latin America and the Caribbean.



## Housing and Slum Upgrading (Subprogramme 5)

### 43 countries

up from 30 in 2014, have formulated and implemented improved housing policies by the end of 2019.

Over the Strategic Plan period,

### 42 countries

conducted housing profiles that have been used in the development of evidence-based inclusive housing policy formulation.

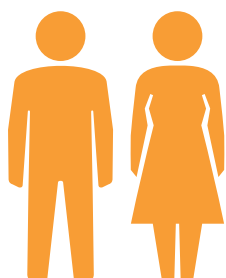


### 20 countries

have revised their policy and regulatory frameworks that promotes inclusive and integrated slum upgrading and reduces the risk of forced evictions by the end of 2019.

### 31 countries

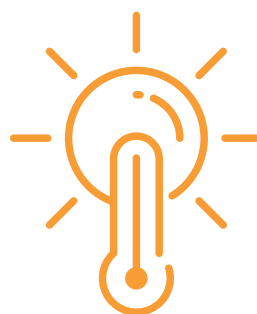
strengthened their understanding of the negative impacts of forced evictions and learnt about new alternatives resulting in reduced forced evictions by the end of 2019.



Over the Strategic Plan period,

### 5 million people

benefitted from participatory slum upgrading approaches that have improved policies and service delivery in slums and informal settlements and avoided forced evictions.



Over the Strategic Plan period,

### 53 countries

have benefitted from tools and knowledge enabling them independently to formulate inclusive, integrated gender and climate sensitive slum upgrading strategies.

By the end of 2019,

### 40 countries

have established multilevel governance frameworks that strengthen the delivery of participatory slum upgrading approaches.



### Over 2,000 urban stakeholders

had their knowledge and practical skills enhanced on participatory housing, slum upgrading and prevention approaches.



Over the Strategic Plan period,

### 800,000 people

were protected from evictions and partner countries were engaged in improving living conditions and acknowledged slum dwellers "right to stay".

## Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation (Subprogramme 6)

### 30 cities

across 11 countries in Africa are assessing their resilience needs and develop strategies and action plans to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience to natural and human-made hazards using the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool*.



### 56 cities

in 28 countries had used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* by the end of 2019 to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change.

By the end of 2019,

### Over 4,200 cities

are now part of the global *Making Cities Resilient Campaign*, which UN-Habitat chairs, and are contributing to the achievement of urban elements and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.



Since 2014

### Over 600 local government personnel and other stakeholders

gained skills on the application of the *City Resilience Profiling Tool*, and are leading the implementation of city resilience initiatives in their respective cities.

### 42 partner cities

are now implementing local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Over the Strategic Plan period

### more than 1 million people

have benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions in sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis situations and within protracted conflict environments.





## Research and Capacity Development (Subprogramme 7)



By the end of 2019,

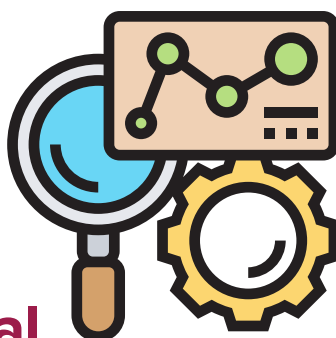
### 540 cities in 13 countries

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



### 355 urban observatories

are monitoring urban trends and conditions at national and local authority levels using UN-Habitat tools, methods and data.



### 73 national statistical offices

produced urban data for SDG and New Urban Agenda reporting using UN-Habitat tools, with an addition of 8 joining in 2019. This represents an increase of 54 from 2014.

By the end of 2019,

### 230 institutional partners

and over 1,800 individual members globally were part of UN-Habitat's University Initiative promoting knowledge exchange and learning on sustainable urbanization.



By the end of 2019,

### 383 local governments

and 42 national governments had used UN-Habitat flagship publications for evidence-based policy formulation.



Over the Strategic Plan period

### more than 60,000 views

had been recorded on UN-Habitat's Global Urban Lecture Series and associated resources.

## Mainstreaming Cross-cutting issues



In 2019, UN-Habitat developed the Climate Proofing Toolkit for Basic Urban Infrastructure. The toolkit helps urban managers to incorporate impact of climate change into their urban basic services infrastructure planning processes.



UN-Habitat's tools for developing inclusive public spaces continue to have impact in different urban contexts.



62 partner cities are implementing participatory approaches that ensure the meaningful engagement of all segments of the population in urban management processes.



71 partner local authorities are implementing gender-responsive budgeting.

## Partnerships and Communication



UN-Habitat spearheaded the development of a United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urbanization working with over 24 organizations. The strategy is now a United Nations blueprint for sustainable urban development and was adopted by the Chief Executives Board led by the United Nation Secretary-General, in April 2019.



The first UN-Habitat Assembly strengthened partnerships through the dialogues, Global Stake holders Forum, Business Engagement Forum, networking and side events that took place during the event.



A new Global Stakeholders Forum was held at the first UN-Habitat Assembly to advise the UN-Habitat Executive Director on stakeholder engagement in policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and to promote coherence, coordination and alignment.



UN-Habitat scaled up its work with the private sector starting with updating of a private sector strategy in consultation with partners. A business assembly bringing together over 50 private sector organizations took place at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019.

## Evaluation



The Independent Evaluation Unit completed eight corporate evaluations and carried over three, which are in progress and will be completed early first-quarter of 2020.

## Audit



UN-Habitat performed 7 audits in 2019.



During 2019, the overall implementation rate of audit recommendations was at 65 per cent (76 per cent in 2018), 20 per cent below target (85 per cent). The low implementation rate was a result of resource constraints, the ongoing management reform.

## Challenges

### Inadequate core funding and overall resources

A major challenge in 2019 and throughout the strategic plan period continued to be inadequate and unpredictable funding, especially core funding for staffing and normative work. Thematic areas affected most by funding shortage include urban economy and municipal finance, renewable energy, research and capacity development, local government and decentralization and urban safety. Governance and institutional reforms, which commenced in 2018 to transform UN-Habitat into a more focused, relevant, transparent, efficient and results focused organization, continued in 2019 and have started drawing positive feedback from Member States and other stakeholders.

The Executive Director also undertook strategic funding dialogues with member states but the increase in core resources still leaves a significant shortfall compared to the requirements of the approved programme of work. In addition, the limited nature of non-earmarked funds undermines the capacity to have the necessary flexible funding for core normative work that underpins much of the transformative support to member states. It also made the planning of each annual work plan across the strategic plan period difficult and resulted in imbalanced implementation of the plan. Some strategic areas received insufficient funding while other areas that were more aligned with donor interests, received more funding.

Earmarking of contributions to specific programmes also negatively affected the capacity to undertake multi-disciplinary in-house collaboration as well as broader liaison with key United Nations Sister Agencies under the 'one United Nations' approach. To address this challenge, global thematic programmes to achieve high impact at scale are being implemented under UN-Habitat's new strategic plan for 2023-2023, in line with the United Nations Funding Compact, instead of small earmarked projects.

Other areas impacted by inadequate core funds include UN-Habitat's participation in key platforms like the Inter-Agency Standing Committee to enhance response to general crises and to add value by advancing sustainable urbanization approaches to crisis situations. In addition, supporting the monitoring the urban dimensions of the sustainable development agenda is also being significantly affected. Adequate funding would allow UN-Habitat to provide crucial training to more national statistics offices and other stakeholders for the effective collection, analysis and data sharing based on standard methodology to monitor Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other urban indicators.

Finally, the capacity of UN-Habitat to deliver critical knowledge and global trends on sustainable urban development through which many associate the UN-Habitat brand and identify its value addition, is also severely compromised. Adequate resources are required to conduct state-of-the-art research to produce norms, standards and issue timely publications in the main United Nations languages. UN-Habitat has been unable to produce regular reports. The last edition of the World's Cities Report was published in May 2016, in English only. This gap between publications and other normative products, combined with the limited language representation, results in a major policy vacuum. UN-Habitat loses both visibility and opportunities to convey bold messages and evidence-based recommendations as per the New Urban Agenda and urban aspects of the 2030 Agenda.

### Fostering multisector partnerships for integrated, at scale sustainable urbanization

Successful up scaling of programmes, requires strong partnerships and quality coordination. The capacity of UN-Habitat to effectively manage and build key partnerships, particularly in the private sector, has suffered from a lack of resources. Dedicated staff time



**Insufficient resources** are limiting how UN-Habitat can respond to the urban components of the global monitoring agenda. Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other urban indicators require spatial data for reporting.



as well as specialised expertise to support and build multi-sector partnerships and strengthen coordination efforts are inadequate to leverage on the opportunities available.

Support is also required to invest in multi-stakeholder partnerships to achieve the integrated and inclusive outcomes required for sustainable urbanization to be realized at country and global levels. In particular, contextualized support to member states, often through local authorities and their urban networks could be significantly expanded should resources be enhanced.

## Lessons Learnt

UN-Habitat global programmes like the Global Land Tool Network, the National Urban Policy programme, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, the Global Urban Observatory and the Global Public Space Programme, show that normative and operational work delivers greater impact when multi-stakeholder partnerships underpin tool development and project implementation. Learning is also enhanced through inclusive cross-sectoral inputs and knowledge as local ownership is fostered and new ideas are brought to the table. These global programmes are a testament that sustainable urbanization is more likely when inclusion and partnerships, especially over the long term, lie at the heart of all approaches and activities.

Regional initiatives such as the regional land and national urban policy initiatives, the public space and climate change action are proving to be significant assets in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11. They create the necessary platforms and spaces for awareness raising and knowledge building. These platforms are also useful for bringing global advocacy on key urbanization issues at the regional level and for strengthening local level engagement with UN-Habitat normative tools. Shared regional knowledge brings a level of affiliation that builds the necessary confidence to adopt the sustainable urbanization approaches that UN-Habitat promotes.

At the same time, country level work across the strategic plan period underlines the importance of long-term partnerships with government authorities and other key stakeholders operating at the community level, for the adoption of sustainable development approaches and tools. In addition, capacity development at all stages of tool development and during programme implementation is also vital, supported by monitoring and evaluation efforts to understand what has changed and how. Pilot projects also assist in this process so that the tools can be tested and adapted to ensure they are fit for purpose and can deliver the desired transformation.

Lessons from projects and programmes such as in recovery and reconstruction and in post conflict and post disaster and urban resilience, highlight the important role that local authorities play in utilizing UN-Habitat normative products and supporting country and city level projects that result in transformative change. More support should be given to engaging with and involving local authorities in key programmes and projects as well as engaging with their networks to build partnerships and understanding of UN-Habitat's tools, approaches and value addition.



Regional initiatives such as the **regional land** and **national urban policy initiatives**, are proving to be significant assets in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 11.





Sustainable Practices and Durable Shelter Design by Shigeru Ban exhibited at 1st UN-Habitat Assembly in Nairobi. © UN-Habitat

# Subprogramme 1

## Urban Legislation, Land and Governance

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### Introduction

The role of the Urban Legislation Land and Governance, Subprogramme 1 of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019, is to promote equitable sustainable development through enabling legislation, increased access to land, and provide stronger systems of decentralized governance for improved safety and service delivery. This focus area contributes to the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 9, 11, 16 and 17.

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

To address these gaps and ineffective structures, UN-Habitat, through Subprogramme 1, provides normative tools and technical support to governments and key stakeholders on urban legislation, land and tenure security, decentralization, and safety. UN-Habitat helps governments identify key urban laws, regulations and processes requiring reform and adoption; strengthens land and tenure security for all, especially vulnerable groups such as women and those displaced by conflict or natural disaster; raises awareness about decentralization and provides tools and technical advice to promote urban safety.



## 2019 Highlights

### 43 countries



have undertaken urban legislation reform processes of which 2 were undertaken in Iran and Lesotho in 2019. These processes have helped align legal frameworks of partner countries with the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

### 1,800 legal instruments on urban law



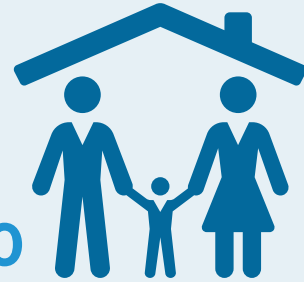
are now stored in UN-Habitat's global urban legislation database – UrbanLex (up from 560 in 2015). The database helps stakeholders access urban laws for learning and comparative analysis. The number of users has risen from 500 in 2014 to over 24,000 in 2019 alone.



**The continuum of land rights concept and fit-for-purpose land administration** approaches that UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network developed and promoted have influenced the implementation of the national land policies in **Nepal** and **Uganda** and the drafting of national land policies in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Zambia**, making them more inclusive and sustainable. The implementation of these policies will improve tenure security for millions of households and with their focus on inclusion Women's land rights will also be strengthened.

By the end of 2019

### 300,000 households



or 1.2 million people in 13 countries had benefitted from UN-Habitat and Global Land Tool Network's normative frameworks and tools on land and tenure security. Tenure security has been improved and land disputes resolved through participatory approaches. Women and youth have benefitted and are now being included in land mapping and are receiving certificates of occupancy.



### 1,600 change agents

(45 per cent of them women) from 36 institutions in 2019 improved their capacity to promote and implement pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools.

**In 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General endorsed the Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Land and Conflict** that UN-Habitat, the Global Land Tool Network and partners developed.



**The UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019 adopted the UN System-wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.** The guidelines are a major contribution considering the SDGs emphasis on safe urban contexts as part of Goal 11: *"Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable."* The guidelines reinforce the benefits of safer cities and encourage member states to strengthen key partnerships for safety, especially with local authorities.

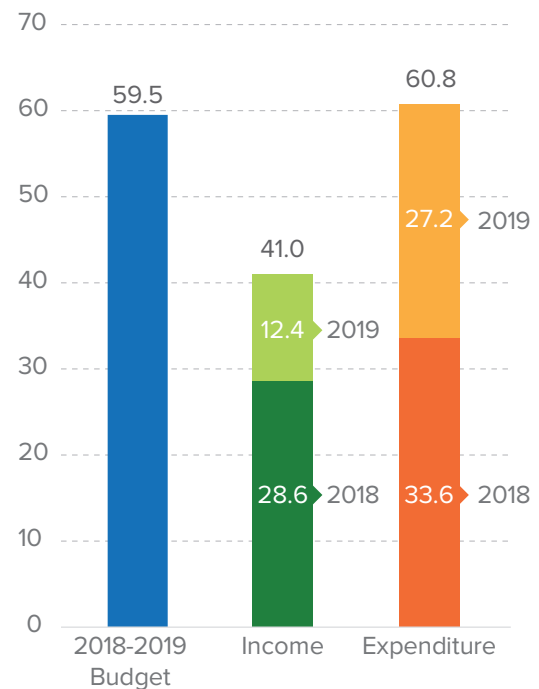


Mapping and participatory enumerations in Kampala, Uganda © ACTogether Uganda.

## Budget Performance

Figure 1.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extra budgetary implementation for urban land, legislation and governance activities of USD 60.8 million exceeded the budget by 2 per cent while income acquired in the biennium amounted to USD 41.0 million or 69 per cent of the biennial target of USD 59.5 million.

**Figure 1.1: Urban Land, Legislation and Governance - budget, income and expenditure**





## Expected Accomplishment 1.1



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



### Indicator of achievement:

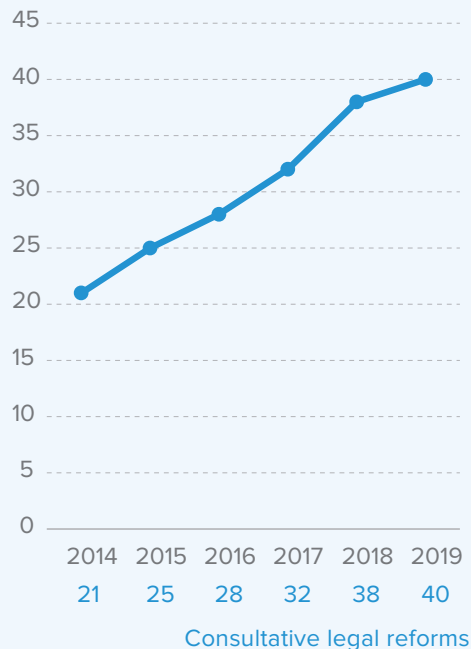
Increased number of consultative legal reform processes to improve urban extension, densification, urban planning and finance, with the technical support of UN-Habitat.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards increasing the capacity of local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement urban legislation in the areas of urban extension, densification, planning and finance. Figure 1.2 shows that the indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was surpassed with two new consultative legal reform processes initiated. Box 1.1 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

Figure 1.2: Progress towards indicator target

#### Consultative legal reforms



Target 2019: 36  
Actual 2019: 40

#### Box 1.1 2019 Progress Summary



Two consultative legal reform processes in **Iran** and **Lesotho** were concluded in 2019 to improve urban extension, densification, planning and finance.



UN-Habitat provided technical support to **Iran's** local and national governments on the analysis and review of the adequacy of the current legal and regulatory framework supporting informal settlement upgrading. The resulting reforms have enhanced the effectiveness of service delivery in informal settlements in three cities.



In **Lesotho**, the rental housing law reform processes came because of a comparative study on the issue.

## Global-level results

In recognition of urban legislation’s key role in sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat increased its leadership in this area of work throughout the Strategic Plan period 2014–2019. Normative tools, knowledge products, information exchange platforms, awareness-raising activities and capacity development initiatives had been undertaken to support member states and other stakeholders with the practical tools to engage with and strengthen the legislative frameworks that promote sustainable urban development.

Across the Strategic Plan period, UN-Habitat supported urban legal reform processes in 40 countries, surpassing the 2019 target by 4 and representing an overall increase of 19 since 2014. **Lesotho** and **Iran** were supported in 2019.

Through its normative tools, UN-Habitat continued to develop standards and benchmarks for planning law, climate change law and methodologies related to improving the lives of city dwellers, especially those living in slums and informal settlement.

In 2019, UN-Habitat introduced new normative tools to support member states with their urban legislation reform processes that promote sustainable urbanization. The *Urban Planning and Land Use for Law and Climate Change Toolkit (2019)* guides member states on ways to develop or reform appropriate legal frameworks to address the urban-climate change nexus, and for the effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement and their nationally determined carbon emission reduction accords.

The *Planning Law Survey*, developed in 2019, better equips member states with the means to assess the adequacy of their internal urban legal frameworks for sustainable urbanization. The tool has been applied in 18 cities across 18 countries in sub-Saharan Africa to assess whether existing planning laws promote sustainable urbanization. The published



# 40 countries

Across the Strategic Plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat supported urban legal reform processes in 40 countries, surpassing the 2019 target by 4 and representing an overall increase of 19 since 2014



### 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**The Urban Planning and Land Use for Law and Climate Change Toolkit** – a global resource to support countries establish the necessary legal frameworks for effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement Under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and their nationally determined contributions.



**Planning Law Survey** – an objective, evidence-based assessment of whether existing planning laws are having a demonstrable and consistent impact on urban areas.



**Rent Regulations in Kenya, Lagos (Nigeria), Botswana and South Africa: a comparative analysis** – examines the legal framework regulating the urban landlord and tenant relationship in Botswana, Kenya, Lagos State (Nigeria), and South Africa to identify what rules may be included in a comparative rent regulating regime that promotes security of tenure and affordable rental housing for the urban poor.

results were documented in *Effectiveness of Planning Law in sub-Saharan Africa (2019)* that was launched during the first UN-Habitat Assembly. The publication provides member states with first-hand information and updates on and the status of urban law in Africa. A similar study was completed for 17 cities in **Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States.**

UN-Habitat's legal database, *UrbanLex*, established in 2014, now features over 1,800 legal instruments on urban law from around the world. The database has become the premier global reference on urban legislation and UN-Habitat's principle means of collecting and openly sharing primary information on urban law. Over 24,000 users accessed the database in 2019 alone, with 45,890 pageviews.

UN-Habitat continues to take the lead in building stakeholders' capacity on urban law and its role in sustainable urbanization. *The Building Drafting Skills for Improving the Quality of Urban Legislation Programme*, co-organized with the Sir William Dale Centre for Legislative Drafting of the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies in the **United Kingdom**, has trained over 260 urban practitioners and government officials across the strategic plan period, 60 of them in 2019.

In addition, Urban Law Day, launched in 2014, continues to serve as an important platform for stakeholders to understand, better, the role of urban legislation in sustainable city development. To date, six Urban Law Days have been held in partnership with the University of London's Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, the **United Kingdom**, and three with the Fordham Law School in New York, the **United States of America**. In 2019, Witwatersrand University, in Johannesburg, **South Africa**, hosted the first Urban Law Day in the global South.

## County-level results

Progress was made in supporting member states in developing and reforming their urban legislation for more sustainable urbanization. The *Planning Law Assessment Framework* continues to enable member states' understanding of their current urban legal systems and laws and the reforms or changes required. It is now systematically applied in UN-Habitat's plans and designs. So far, over 30 cities in 10 countries have utilized the tool to assess planning laws and institute appropriate legal reforms. For example, in 2019 **Bolivia** used the framework to undertake preliminary background assessments to inform the national urban policy development process. Over 100 national and subnational legal instruments related to urban planning, public space, land economy, construction, governance and sectoral regulations were reviewed.

Developed by UN-Habitat in 2018, the *Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* enables city managers and other stakeholders to conduct quick qualitative assessments on planning laws affecting slum upgrading. The tool has been fully incorporated into UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. It supports legal reform processes to promote sustainable slum upgrading and the prevention of further slums in the 40 countries participating in the programme. In addition, in 2019, it was used in three cities in **Iran** to review and assess the adequacy of the current legal framework that underpins slum upgrading processes. In Kenya, the framework was used to support the drafting of the new Slum Upgrading Bill. This tool was selected as a finalist for an award at the 1st World Summit (2019) on "Leaving No One Behind."



UN-Habitat's legal database, *UrbanLex*, established in 2014, now features **over 1,800 legal instruments** from around the world.



For the first time, all laws, regulations and circulars related to urban planning in Saudi Arabia have been included in one database

In **Lesotho**, UN-Habitat undertook a comparative study on rental housing law to inform its housing reform processes. In **Kenya**, legal support on governance and land rights was provided to inform the implementation of the new integrated refugee settlement plan of Kalobeyei.

As part of UN-Habitat’s support to the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office, through its Future Cities Programme with the Urban Planning and Design Lab, key legislative barriers to transformative urban interventions were identified in 19 cities across 10 countries. The collaboration has created a more systematic approach to planning law work linking project compliance and the governance

context with the concept of sustainability and consistency of outcomes.

In the **Kingdom Saudi Arabia**, through the Future Saudi Cities Programme in 2014–2018, UN-Habitat supported the review of existing urban legislation and related institutions to improve their contribution to city planning and project implementation for strengthened sustainable urbanization. To achieve this, evidence-based legal policy recommendations were generated in 17 cities. For the first time, all laws, regulations and circulars (535 pieces of legislation) related to urban planning in Saudi Arabia have been included in one database.



Heritage trams in Istanbul, Turkey ©Shutterstock

## Expected Accomplishment 1.2



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



### Indicator of achievement:

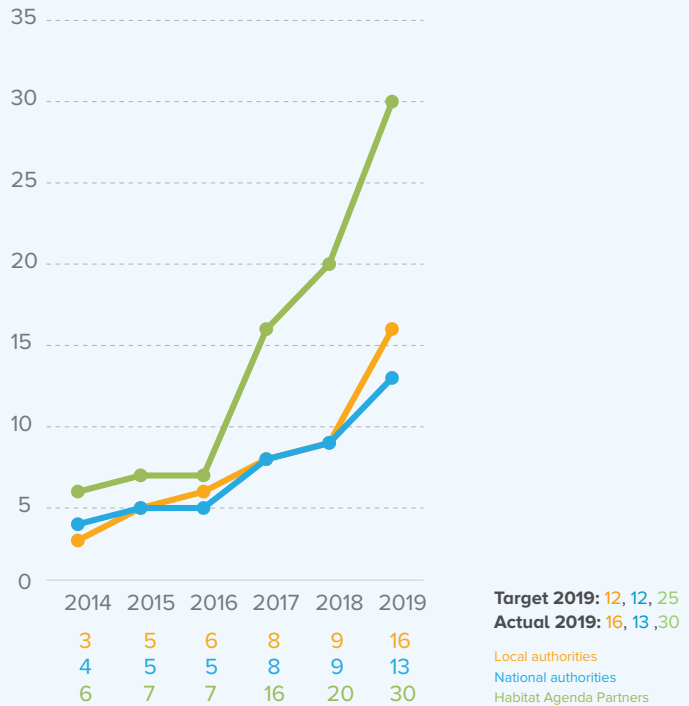
Increased number of programmes to improve security of tenure for all, including for vulnerable groups, women, young people and indigenous people, implemented by partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Significant progress was made towards increasing capacity of partner local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement programmes that improve security of tenure for all, including for vulnerable groups, women, young people and indigenous people. Figure 1.3 shows that the three indicator targets for 2019 for this expected accomplishment were surpassed with 7 new local authorities, 4 national governments and 10 Habitat Agenda Partners implementing programmes to improve security of tenure. Box 1.2 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

Figure 1.3: Progress towards indicator targets

Number of programmes to improve security of tenure implemented by partner local/national governments and Habitat Agenda Partners



### Box 1.2 2019 Progress Summary



**Local: 7** local authorities: in Uganda: **Mbale District**; Nepal: **Belaka, Bharatpur municipalities**; Zambia: **Chamuka Chiefdom**; DRC: **Rutshuru**; the Philippines: **Muntlupa** and **Davao** cities, implemented programmes to improve security of tenure.



**National: 4** countries: **Kenya, Saint Lucia, Saint Vincent** and the **Grenadines**, and **Sudan** implemented programmes to improve security of tenure.



**Habitat Agenda Partners: 10 Partners** implemented programmes where security of tenure improved in 2019.

## Global-level results

Through UN-Habitat's global land programme and the Global Land Tool Network, UN-Habitat member states are still being supported in developing and implementing more inclusive and sustainable land policies. The three indicators for this expected accomplishment have exceeded the targets set for 2019, demonstrating the steady growth of the programme in promoting improved tenure security through engagement with national and local government as well as other relevant stakeholders. The number of national governments implementing programmes had increased from 4 in 2014 to 13 by the end of 2019.

Likewise, the number of local authorities implementing programmes to improve tenure security had increased from 3 in 2014 to 16 in 2019. The most significant change in this expected accomplishment has been the increase in Habitat Agenda Partners from 6 in 2014 to 30 by the end of 2019. The overall impact of these results is that by the end of 2019, 300,000 households or 1.2 million people in 13 countries had benefitted from UN-Habitat and the GLTN's normative frameworks and tools on land and tenure security.

During 2019, member states and other stakeholders continued to benefit from UN-Habitat and GLTN's land and tenure security normative tools, frameworks, and approaches for improved gender responsive

access to land. *The Continuum of Land Rights Approach, the Participatory Enumeration for Tenure Security, the Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration, the Social Tenure Domain Model and the Gender Evaluation Criteria*, continue to have broad global reach informing other networks, academic institutions and practitioners, and have been applied in a wide range of contexts.

A major contribution was made towards strengthening the approach to land and conflict. In March 2019, the United Nations Secretary-General validated the *Guidance Note on The United Nations and Land and Conflict*. The Global Land Tool Network and UN-Habitat developed the Note in collaboration with a core group of United Nations agencies. The agencies are the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs; the United Nations Department of Political Affairs; the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations; the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights; the United Nations Peacebuilding Support Office; the United Nations Development Programme; the United Nations Environment Programme; the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; and the United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women. The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation funded the work.



# 300,000

households or 1.2 million people in 13 countries benefitted from UN-Habitat and the GLTN's normative frameworks and tools on land and tenure security.



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

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

In 2019, new publications were produced that expand knowledge on inclusive approaches to land rights. The publications provide member states and other stakeholders with important tools for increasing land tenure security.

## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**Customary Land Tenure Security: Tools and Approaches in Sub-Saharan Africa** - identifies, documents and analyses customary tenure security tools that are developed and/or delivered through customary governance systems.



**Designing and Implementing a Pro-Poor Land Recordation System** - demonstrates how pro-poor land recordation system can remedy the inability of conventional land registration systems to deliver land tenure security at scale.



**Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration in a Post-Disaster Context: Lessons and Applications from Nepal** – provides lessons from earthquake recovery and resilience responses in Nepal.



**Measuring Individuals Rights to Land** - informs the monitoring of the two land indicators and provides guidance on the collection of data necessary for their regular reporting.



**Guide for impact evaluation of tenure security** - strengthens the design and implementation of future land tenure and governance interventions.

Using UN-Habitat and the GLTN tools, the capacity of land actors continues to be strengthened on land management and administration. By the end of 2019, over 4,600 change agents from 92 institutions, of whom were 1,600 across 36 institutions in 2019 alone, had improved their knowledge and capacity to promote and implement pro-poor and gender-responsive land tools.

Through the Global Land Indicator Initiative, urban land specialists, experts and national statistical personnel were trained on Sustainable Development Goal data collection and reporting, thus contributing to the Goal's land monitoring efforts. By the end of 2019, over 200 experts (70 in 2019) had been trained. They are now guiding their countries' preparedness for monitoring the land-related Sustainable Development Goal. Moreover, GLTN partners developed the 6-module course, *Teaching Essentials for Responsible Land Administration*. These will be rolled out in 2020.

The GLTN Gender Strategy 2019–2030 was finalized in 2019 through an extensive consultative process, which UN-Habitat supported, involving GLTN members, partners and stakeholders. The Gender Strategy will guide GLTN's work on how to bridge the gender gap in land and property rights, with focus on women and girls.

## Country-level results

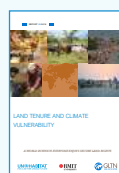
There is growing evidence from country-level work that community-level tenure security is improving with the application of UN-Habitat and Global Land Tool Network land tools, capacity-building and technical guidance. In 2019, UN-Habitat continued its support to member states and other stakeholders in strengthening their land management approaches which is contributing to change in mindsets, policies and the deliver of community-level tenure security.



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**How to Do a Root Cause Analysis of Land and Conflict for Peacebuilding** – an analytical framework that makes it possible to undertake better programming for peace outcomes in conflict settings.



**Land Tenure and Climate Vulnerability** - examines the interrelationships between land tenure and climate vulnerability and the value that considerations of land and tenure security bring to the climate change debate.



**Guidance Note of the Secretary-General: The United Nations and Land and Conflict** – to support the United Nations system in understanding the relevance of land in conflict and the potential land and tenure security-based solutions for more sustainable peaceful outcomes.

## Supporting National Land Policy development

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to partner with the Government of Zambia to develop its National Land Policy that considers customary land rights based on the continuum of land rights and the fit-for-purpose land administration tools. Following substantive negotiations, which UN-Habitat supported, the Government and local chiefs reached an agreement on amendments which allowed the policy drafting process to proceed.



Post-conflict countries also benefitted in 2019 from UN-Habitat's inclusive land management expertise. UN-Habitat continued to work with the **Democratic Republic of Congo's** national land policy development process. The initiative includes capacity development and

strengthening the knowledge of land sector actors on inclusive, gender responsive and integrated approaches to land, in line with the national land policy. In addition, UN-Habitat is also supporting the review of the land related legislation.

## IMPACT STORY

### Supporting the development of inclusive land policy in Nepal

UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network has partnered with the Government of **Nepal** and key stakeholders on land policy reform since 2015. Nepal's National Land Policy comes at a time of recovery and reconstruction. The country is implementing a federal governance restructuring programme and recovering from a decade long armed conflict (1996-2006). Parts of Nepal are still struggling to recover and re-build after the devastating 2015 earthquake, which affected millions of Nepalese citizens and destroyed nearly one million homes.

The land policy development process represents an important step forward for Nepal on good land governance and has involved several years of hard work and extensive consultations with experts, local communities and other stakeholders. Capacity has been built for all key stakeholders on various land tools promoting inclusive approaches to tenure security as well as international best practices. Over 500 actors, a third of them women, gained skills and

better understanding on the application of the fit-for-purpose land administration tools.

The new national Land Policy adopted by Parliament in 2019, recognizes all types of tenure security. Additionally, a fit-for-purpose implementation strategy has been approved alongside a new Land Use Act and two amendments that address the needs of landless groups and the issue of relocation. The amendments are important and they specifically provide land allotments to the urban poor.

Informal settlement dwellers on Government land will receive a title or assigned alternative sites. The landless *Dalits* (those who occupy the bottom of the Hindu cast system) will also receive allotments. Implementation of the policy at community level has commenced and in 2019, 4,218 poor and vulnerable households without formal land titles in three municipalities have already been mapped and enumerated.



Women farming in Mahottari District, Nepal @ UN-Habitat / CSRC

## Improving tenure security

In **Afghanistan**, insecurity of tenure and uncertainties in access to and control over land has driven conflict, fragility, and socioeconomic exclusion, especially for women and internally displaced persons. However, through the *City for All Programme* significant improvements have been made to the lives of war-affected citizens whose land and housing were often at threat or simply appropriated. Alongside the Government of Afghanistan, UN-Habitat is working to support previously internally displaced persons obtain legal rights to the land they occupied. By the end of 2019, 788,000 properties had been surveyed and registered and 15,000 occupancy certificates had been issued across eight major cities. This has improved land tenure security for about 104,062 residents. Moreover, with 80 per cent of certificates issued jointly to spouses residing on state land, the programme has enabled Afghan women the right to possess an occupancy certificate for the first time.

The Global Land Tool Network, alongside partners, has mapped and enumerated around 300,000 households in slums and informal settlement in **Kenya, Namibia, the Philippines** and **Uganda**. This is an essential first step to improving security of tenure and reducing forced evictions in these countries. Now the community and local authorities jointly own the information for more inclusive land rights and tenure options to be developed. In the **Philippines**, partnership with the local community development organization TAMPEI has led to the mapping and profiling of 186 informal settlements in eight *Barangays* (the country's smallest administrative unit) in Muntinlupa City using the Social Tenure Domain Model and participatory enumerations. For the first time, these settlements have been recognized and are more likely to be included in Government programmes and services.

In **Iraq**, UN-Habitat is addressing a 35-year-old legacy of housing, land and property rights infringements affecting the Yazidi community in the north; funding is from the United States Department of State (Bureau of Democracy and Rule of Law). By the end of 2019, over 1,700 occupancy certificates had been delivered to claimant households, 121 of which are female-headed.

During 2019, UN-Habitat chaired the Housing, Land and Property sub-cluster, which, with its partners, contributed to secure tenure rights for more than 11,000 vulnerable internally displaced persons. The sub-cluster provided legal aid to help these beneficiaries receive housing, land and property rights. The assistance restored to them ownership documentation; legal counselling for property compensation; support for women's housing, land and property rights; and raised community awareness of their rights.

In **Sudan**, by the end of 2019, security of tenure had been improved for 17,724 people who have been granted land titles. In addition, UN-Habitat supported the establishment of land conflict management mechanisms to bolster mediation and resolution of land disputes in four locations.

In **Egypt**, UN-Habitat partnered with the government in development of the land readjustment plans in three cities in Qalyoubia Governorate, 200 landowners and 12,000 people benefitted as a result of the interventions. In 2019, progress was made towards enhancing land tenure security and supporting land readjustment processes in inner-city areas as well as urban extensions. About 1200 landowners (including their families) will benefit from improved security of tenure as a result of the projects implemented, and over 30,000 residents will directly benefit from the land readjustment plans in Qena Governorate

## IMPACT STORY

## Improving tenure security for all in Uganda

By the end of 2019, the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development had issued 3,252 certificates of customary ownership in six districts which have improved land rights and tenure security in urban and small settlements in rural areas. Through UN-Habitat and the Global Land Tool Network's engagement with national and local authorities as well as traditional leaders, the application of inclusive land tools and participatory processes are delivering improved tenure security as well as strengthening the country's land administration systems. For example, normative tools such as *the Participatory Enumeration, the Social Tenure Domain Model and the Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration framework*, have supported the mapping and documentation of land relationships which are important precondition for achieving tenure security.

By the end of 2019, socioeconomic and spatial data was collected for more than 190,000 people which is now available to authorities and communities for evidence based decision-making including the granting of tenure security certificates. In addition, in 2019, 1,088 representatives of local government and community leaders across 14 municipal councils have gained skills and knowledge on key topics such as gender responsive land-use planning, alternative land dispute resolution and mediation approaches as well as customary registration processes. Land mediation committees have also been established to support post-conflict resettlement using the Global Land Tool Network and UN-Habitat land tools. In addition, the participatory tools have contributed to reducing the cost of the mapping from USD 600 to between USD 20 and 40 for one plot to be accurately mapped and land rights formally registered. The work of improving tenure security and strengthening land administration in Uganda continues with the implementation of the National Land policy.



Women receiving certificates of customary ownership in Uganda @ UN-Habitat/ Aoibheann O'Sullivan

**IMPACT STORY**

**Guaranteeing security of tenure to all residents of Bamiyan City, Afghanistan**

With a growing urban population including a significant number of internally displaced persons and returning refugees, the role of Afghan cities, and land in particular, as a catalyst for economic and social development is crucial. Despite this, insecurity of tenure and uncertainties in access to and control over it have been critical drivers of conflict, fragility, and socioeconomic exclusion, especially for women and the internally displaced. Preliminary findings indicate that only 14 per cent of the surveyed properties in Kabul (and 17 per cent in other provincial cities) have a formal title deed.

Through the Government-led City for All programme, launched in 2015, UN-Habitat is partnering with 12 municipalities to survey and register all properties within their municipal boundaries. Teams of social mobilizers and surveyors are deployed to inform citizens about this innovative initiative and to conduct the surveys. By the end of 2019, the programme had surveyed and registered 788,000 properties in eight major cities of **Afghanistan** and issued 15,000 occupancy certificates, thereby improving land tenure security for about 104,000 residents.

The City for All programme has opened a new chapter of inclusive land reform in Afghanistan by guaranteeing security of tenure to all urban dwellers, including women. It is transforming municipality by municipality. For example, in Bamiyan Municipality by the end of 2019, 12,300 properties had been surveyed and over 350 households were given their occupancy certificates. This included 150 households from the municipality’s informal settlements in Districts 1 through 4. As a result, thousands of citizens are benefitting from the change as each property hosts more than one family.

Another important impact from this project is the way that women’s access to land is being strengthened. In Bamiyan Municipality, more than 80 per cent of the occupancy certificates were issued jointly to spouses residing on state land. For the first time, Afghan women now have the right to possess such a certificate. These certificates also guarantee land rights to residents of informal settlements, encouraging them to make economic investments.



Residents of Bamiyan, Afghanistan display their certificates of occupancy © UN-Habitat

*“This initiative will stop illegal land grabbing, guaranteeing citizens their right to the land”*

**Mohammed Zaher,**  
 Director of the Arazi Office (Ministry of Urban Development and Land) in Bamiyan in June, 2019.

## Expected Accomplishment 1.3



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



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



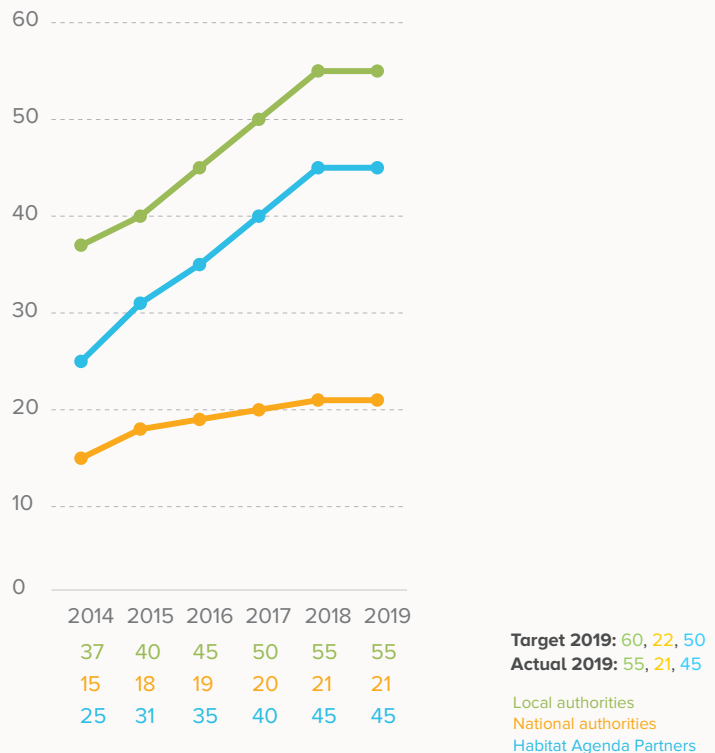
**Indicator of Achievement 2:** Increased number of partner local and national governments that have adopted local crime prevention strategies.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress on this expected accomplishment remained static across all three indicators from 2018 to 2019 due to limited resources to expand this programme. Figure 1.4 shows targets were also not met on all indicators in 2019. However, through engagement with partner’s platforms, UN-Habitat continued to promote the role of decentralization.

**Figure 1.4: Progress towards indicator targets**

**Number of local/national/Habitat Agenda Partners initiatives taking account of guidelines**



In 2019, UN-Habitat collaborated with the Local 2030 initiative in organizing the High-Level Political Forum on “local action for global commitments”, emphasizing the vital role that local authorities play in sustainable urbanization. In addition, UN-Habitat supported the Local 2030 process of integration of activities of different United Nations agencies by organizing local government forums at the Sustainable Development Goals Summit and the UN-Habitat Assembly. This brought the voices and practical experiences of local governments to report on local actions taken to deliver the Goals.

## Strengthening Urban Safety

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

During 2019, some progress was made towards the achievement of this expected accomplishment. Figure 1.5 shows that two local authorities developed crime prevention strategies in 2019, an increase of two from 2018. No new national governments were engaged due to limited resources and staff capacity.

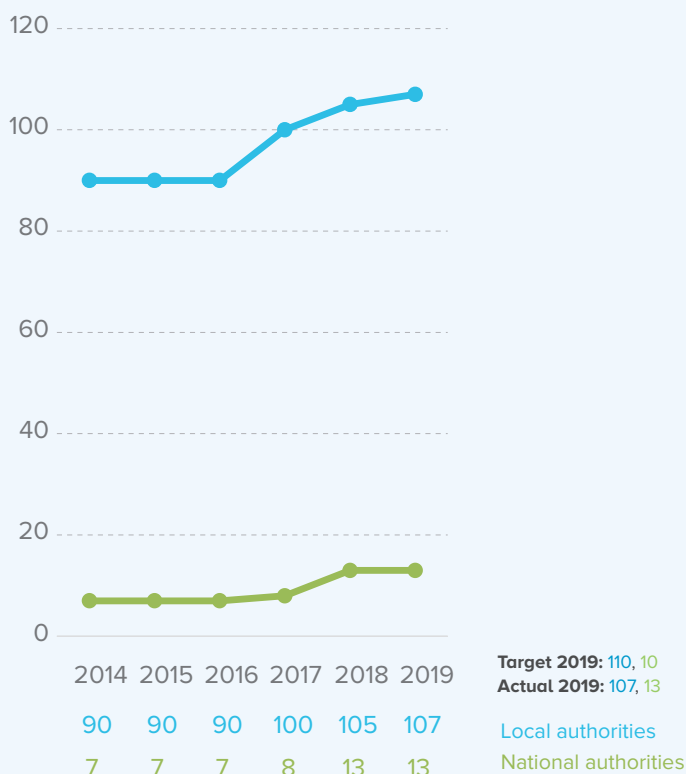
The Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda have reinforced the importance of urban safety for sustainable urbanization.

A key milestone was achieved with the development of the *Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements* that were adopted in 2019 at the First UN-Habitat Assembly. The resolution represents the culmination of years of collaboration and consultation between UN-Habitat and other United Nations bodies throughout the Strategic Plan period. The guidelines are a major contribution towards the Sustainable Development Goal's focus on safer urban contexts. The guidelines encourage member states to continue strengthening key partnerships for safety, especially those with local authorities.

UN-Habitat continued to promote urban safety to member states at country and city levels through two key initiatives, the *Safer Cities Programme and the Urban Peacebuilding Programme*. Through the Safer Cities Programme and associated Global Network on Safer Cities, UN-Habitat collaborated with urban managers and built capacity on the prevention of urban crime and enhancement of urban safety in **Argentina, Chile, Kenya, Mexico** and **South Africa** under the framework of the Network. By the end of 2019, the Safer Cities for Girls Programme was jointly implemented with UN-Habitat, Plan International and Women in Cities International. Operating across 10 cities in 9 countries globally, this has benefited over 659,145 girls since 2017.

Figure 1.5: Progress towards indicator targets

#### Partner local/national governments adopted crime prevention strategies



### Box 1.5 2019 Progress Summary



**2 local authorities** developed crime prevention strategies. **Guadalajara** (Mexico) engaged with UN-Habitat to develop a strategy in 2019 while **eThekweni Municipality** (Durban, South Africa) engaged in the process of reviewing its existing urban safety strategy.

In 2019, through the Safer Cities Programme, the eastern South African city of Durban undertook a citywide safety audit that led to the revision of the eThekweni Integrated Safety Strategy that positions urban safety as a transversal management issue. The city also hosted the Third African Forum on Urban Safety Learning Exchange in November 2019,

at which representatives from cities across Africa shared knowledge and experience on urban safety for women.

A partnership with the city of Guadalajara, **Mexico**, has resulted in the development of the *Calm and Orderly* implementation model in line with the *United Nations System-*

*wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements*. The framework informs other planning processes, enabling context specific interventions that consider safety concerns identified through profiling results. The safety indicator matrix enables the municipality to measure improvements and develop priority safety actions.

**IMPACT STORY**

**Improving urban safety governance in eThekweni Municipality, Kwazulu-Natal, South Africa**

Addressing crime and safety in urban centres requires community level data and local community engagement to effect long term change. The City of eThekweni in South Africa, is undertaking a range of initiatives to transform the city’s crime and safety record by improving the availability of accurate local area data. This will inform the existing local safety strategy and strengthen local stakeholders’ understanding of safety.

In 2019 in partnership with UN-Habitat, the local authority used the *City Safety Lab* to undertake a participatory public safety audit. Several outcomes were achieved. Local challenges and gaps in information and governance capacity issues have been identified. The audit highlighted key crime and violence trends, disaggregating its safety survey findings from 2,447 households for the first time by sex showing that women feel less safe than men.

Responding to the new information, eThekweni’s City Safety Strategy has now integrated gender into its six key thematic impact areas. The Municipality has also committed to improving street lighting, creating a specialized sexual offences court, revising existing legislation, increasing the number of social workers and police visibility, developing a monitoring framework and safety curriculum for training local municipal officials.



Mapping safety in eThekweni Municipality, South Africa ©UN-Habitat.

# Subprogramme 2

## Urban Planning and Design



### Introduction

The Urban Planning and Design, Subprogramme 2 of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019, supports countries to improve policies, plans and designs for more compact, socially inclusive, safe, integrated, connected, climate change resilient cities. It provides governments at all levels with tested approaches, guidelines and tools to promote the management of growth and improved sustainability, efficiency and equity of cities and other human settlements through planning and design. Through this subprogramme, UN-Habitat is contributing to the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.2, 11.3, 11.7 and 11.a.

Many cities are facing serious challenges including ineffective development control systems, informal and often chaotic peri-urban expansion, a proliferation of informal housing and livelihood activities, poor connectivity, traffic congestion and energy inefficiency. Unchecked and unplanned urban sprawl and inequality present perennial concerns in cities and peri-urban areas. Over 75 per cent of the world's cities have grown more unequal over the last 20 years. Social integration is declining, while the reach of urban planning to guide urban development and expansion has diminished. Cities are increasingly facing environmental challenges, including how to curb rising greenhouse gas emissions and the increasing impacts of anthropogenic climate change.

To address the above challenges, UN-Habitat supports local, subnational and national authorities through improved policies and legislation regarding urban planning and sustainability; increases the capacities of institutions and stakeholders to participate actively in participatory and inclusive planning; develops and disseminates tools and guides; and engages in transformative and illustrative urban and territorial planning and design initiatives. These interventions increase land-use efficiency, introduce more sustainable settlement patterns with higher densities and better connectivity, improves public space availability and quality, and strengthens the role of public actors in guiding territorial development and enhancing public goods and commons.





## 2019 Highlights



**100+**

**Cities have directly benefitted from UN-Habitat's design support** through its Planning and Design Lab.

**80+**

**Cities across all regions** have adopted plans and designs developed through the Lab and the Public Space Programme. Implementation of these plans guides public expenditure and private investment, flagship projects, and expands sustainable policy decisions.

**National urban policy has been accepted as the Sustainable Development Goal indicator for Target 11.1a** in the global monitoring framework at the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 10th session.



**53 countries**

**were supported in the development, implementation and monitoring of national urban policies** promoting inclusive and participatory approaches by the end of 2019, up from 4 countries in 2014.



Over

**1.82 million people**

are enjoying safe access to more than 104 public spaces that have been designed and upgraded through UN-Habitat's global public space programme that operates in 75 cities.

**445,000 people**

in 17 cities benefitted from the global public space programme.

**New Guidelines on Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlements**, adopted by resolution at the first UN-Habitat Assembly



**10,000 cities**

are now part of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, making it the world's largest network of cities committed to climate action. UN-Habitat's Executive Director's role on the Board ensures urban considerations underpin key decisions.

**UN-Habitat and partners successfully implemented an integrated settlement planning approach for refugees and host communities** in Kalobeyei, Kenya. The approach has been adopted as a model and is now being scaled up in Uganda's West Nile, North Western Region and in Cox's Bazaar in Bangladesh.



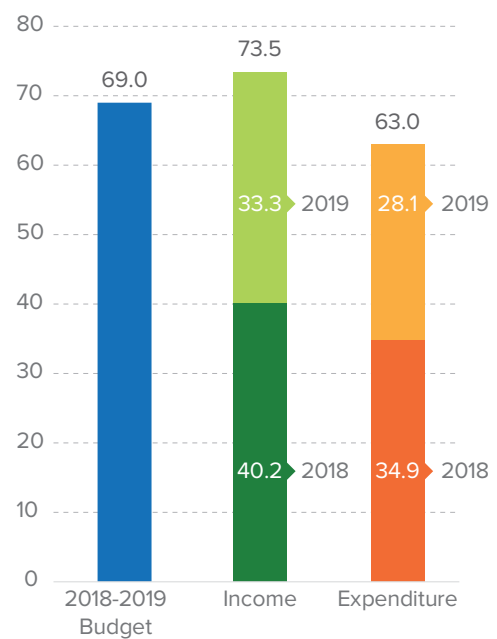


Public space in Kabul, District 15 Afghanistan © UN-Habitat

## Budget Performance

Figure 2.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extrabudgetary implementation for urban planning and design activities of USD 63.0 million was 91 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 69 million while income acquired of USD 73.5 million exceeded the biennial target by 7 per cent indicating sustained high demand for UN-Habitat’s support in this area.

Figure 2.1: Urban Planning and Design - budget, income and expenditure



## Expected Accomplishment 2.1



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



**Indicator of achievement:**

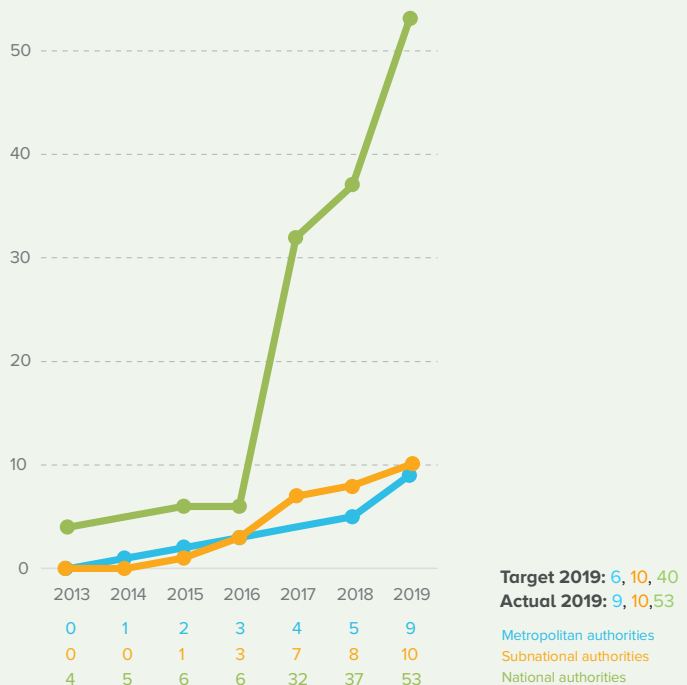
Increased number of partner metropolitan, subnational and national authorities that have adopted national urban policies or spatial frameworks that support compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Significant progress was made towards the achievement of this expected accomplishment. Figure 2.2 shows that all three indicator targets for 2019 were surpassed with 4 metropolitan authorities, 2 subnational authorities and 16 national governments adopting national urban policies and spatial framework for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities. Box 2.1 provides evidence supporting the reported progress.

**Figure 2.2: Progress towards indicator targets**

#### Adoption of NUPS by metropolitan, subnational and national authorities



### Box 2.1 2019 Progress Summary



**4 metropolitan authorities:** UN-Habitat worked with metropolitan authorities in their different stages of adopting their national urban policy: **Valle de Aburrá and Valledupar in Colombia; Santa Cruz de la Sierra in Bolivia; San Salvador** in El Salvador.



**2 subnational authorities: Zanzibar (Tanzania)** where the diagnostic phase is in progress with particular attention to climate and **Niger State (Nigeria)** where the diagnostic and feasibility reports have been completed for integration into the respective Integrated Development Plans.



**16 national authorities: Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Myanmar, Nigeria, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tunisia and Zambia** adopted policies, plans or designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighbourhoods.

## Global-level results

The acceptance of national urban policy as one of the Sustainable Development Goals indicators for Target 11.1a in the global monitoring framework was a major milestone at the Tenth Session of the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators, in 2019. The United Nations Statistical Commission is expected to adopt the indicator during its fifty-first session in March 2020. Classified as Tier II, the new indicator measures the number of countries with national urban policies or regional development plans that are responsive to population increases. This ensures balanced territorial development and increases local fiscal space. UN-Habitat’s National Urban Policy Database will support the collection of monitoring data for this indicator.

UN-Habitat’s normative tools, guides and frameworks and technical guidance on the development, implementation and monitoring of national urban policies that are transforming the way national and subnational governments are approaching urbanization. Governments have better tools and knowledge with which to promote sustainable urbanization at a fundamental level. In 2019, UN-Habitat introduced a new guide, titled *How to*

*Formulate a National Urban Policy and the National Urban Policy: A Guiding Framework*, to support member states in developing and implementing national urban policies.

By the end of the Strategic Plan period 2014–2019, 53 countries (see figure 2.3) were supported in the development, implementation and monitoring of national urban policies, up from 4 countries in 2014. In 2019, 16 countries were guided across various stages of the national urban policy planning process:

**Argentina, Bangladesh, Bolivia, Cameroon, Cabo Verde, Jordan, Liberia, Malawi, Myanmar, Nigeria, Senegal, Solomon Islands, Sudan, Tunisia, Zambia, and Tanzania** (Zanzibar).

By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat had also partnered with 6 metropolitan and 10 subnational governments with their urban policy development processes: **Bolivia, Guinea, Kiribati, Mali, Palestine, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Tonga, Tuvalu, and Vanuatu**. Demand for UN-Habitat’s tools and technical advice to subnational governments has grown given that in 2014 one metropolitan and no subnational governments were engaged.

**Figure 2.3: 53 Countries supported by UN-Habitat to undertake national urban policy processes**



## Strengthening metropolitan and territorial planning

Demand for UN-Habitat's technical tools and guidance to member states on metropolitan and territorial planning continues to grow. Capacity is being built and processes supported for the delivery of new multiscale, multisector spatial plans for strengthened sustainable urbanization. The *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning*, launched in 2015, has become the premier global reference for metropolitan and territorial planning for all stakeholders. By the end of 2019, the Guidelines had been translated into 13 languages. The English version of these has been the most popular publication on the UN-Habitat website, with over 105,000 downloads. In 2019, a handbook and policy guide, complete with inspiring cases *Leading Change: Deliver the New Urban Agenda through Urban and Territorial Planning* was developed that complements the Guidelines.

Furthermore, other United Nations agencies have recognized the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* as an effective framework to influence spatial planning and service provision in other sectors. In collaboration with the World Health Organization, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations and other partners, UN-Habitat has influenced the development of relevant guidelines for food and health using these tools.

UN-Habitat's ongoing technical advice is enabling member states to develop and implement spatial plans and projects for strengthened territorial planning. By the end of 2019, over 30 partners were engaged in localizing the Guidelines within their projects and processes.

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to use The MetroHub to respond to member states' requests for metropolitan-level policy and planning advice for strengthening sustainable urbanization. Country-level partnerships are being developed with **Uganda**; **Colombia**, providing more integration in the Bucaramanga and Bogota metropolitan areas;

and **Cameroon**, developing an interconnected blue and green corridor in Douala, and in Yaoundé, strength-ening the capital city's transport corridor.

A growing number of local authorities in East and Southern Africa have taken an interest in metropolitan planning. By the end of 2019, over 48 local governments in **Kenya**, **Mozambique** and **Uganda** had benefited from UN-Habitat's support to develop and implement their spatial and integrated plans to make their urban forms more compact, connected and people-friendly.

### IMPACT STORY

#### National Urban Policy in Myanmar: Moving towards sustainable urbanization

Rapid urbanization in Myanmar has brought many challenges, including a rapidly growing urban population which is expected to increase from 15.4 million in 2014 to 20.4 million in 2030. To address these challenges and promote more sustainable urbanization, Myanmar's Ministry of Construction embarked on the development of a National Urban Policy in 2015 with the assistance of UN-Habitat.

By the end the 2019, and using UN-Habitat's National Urban Policy tools and technical support, the Government of Myanmar was finalizing the process to redirect urban development on a more sustainable path. Integration across sectors is being prioritized as well as fostering links between urban and rural areas. A new National Urban Committee was established to advise and oversee the formulation and implementation of the country's urban policy. Overall, the following results have been achieved:

- Stakeholders have validated the key national urban policy priority areas.
- A new urban-rural economic linkage policy and a national urban policy framework has been developed which outline the key policy issues for reform in governance, legislation, finance, economic development, the environment and climate change.
- Three additional policy priority areas have been identified (balanced spatial distribution, infrastructure and service provision, and socioeconomic development) for integration into the draft national urban policy.

The draft policy was reviewed by key stakeholders in 2019 and will be finalized in 2020.



Yangon City, Myanmar © Shutterstock

## Strengthening urban-rural linkages

UN-Habitat's work in enhancing the capacities of policymakers to address the multilayered connections between urban and rural areas that affect sustainable urbanization is growing.

The adoption of the resolution on *Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlement*, tabled at the first UN-Habitat Assembly in 2019, represented a milestone and has laid a strong foundation for enabling member states to scale up their activities in this area. Building on the resolution's momentum, the *Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development* provides member states with the framework to implement integrated activities across the urban-rural nexus.

UN-Habitat's advocacy work on urban-rural linkages has contributed to their inclusion in the United Nations Convention for Combating Desertification, as part of the outcomes from the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages.

UN-Habitat's technical assistance on urban-rural linkages is being provided to **Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, Guinea, Mozambique, Nigeria, Palestine, Tanzania, Uganda** and **Zambia**. Intersectoral, multi-actor and multi-country work on urban-rural linkages is in progress in **Bolivia, Kenya, Mozambique** and **Tanzania**. Additionally, regional programmes are being developed, such as the *Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa* programme, which started in 2019 and is supporting **Cameroon, Guinea, Niger** and in **Tanzania** (Zanzibar).

## Partnering with member states for sustainable city planning and design

### Expected Accomplishment 2.2



Improved policies, plans and designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighbourhoods adopted by partner cities.



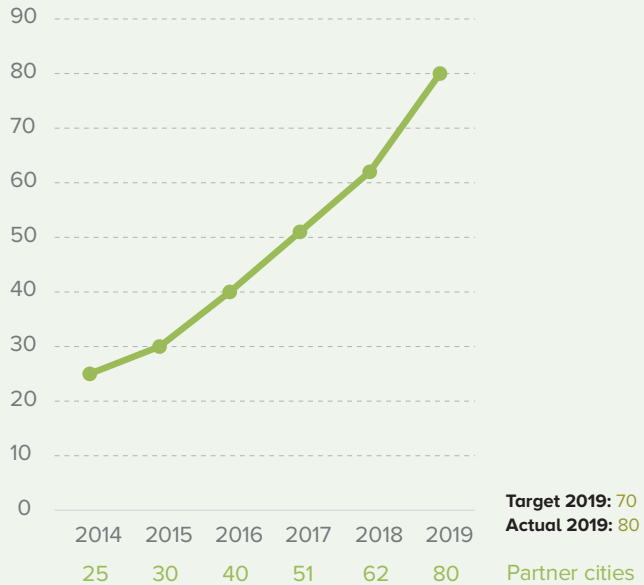
**Indicator of achievement:** Increased number of partner cities that have adopted policies, plans or designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighbourhoods.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving policies, plans and designs for compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighbourhoods and for planned urban extension adopted and implemented by partner cities. Figure 2.4 shows that the indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was surpassed with 18 partner cities adopting the policies and plans. Box 2.2 provides evidence supporting the reported progress.

Figure 2.4: Progress towards indicator targets

#### Adoption of policies/plans/designs by partner cities



### Box 2.2 2019 Progress Summary



18 cities: **Buenos Aires**, Argentina; **Sao Paulo**, Brazil; **Narion**, Colombia; **Addis Ababa**, Ethiopia; **Puerto Escondido**, Mexico; **Nairobi**, Kenya; **Lima**, Peru; **Montevideo**, Uruguay; **Sao Tome**; **Arua**, Uganda; **Lagos**, Nigeria; **Bursa**, Turkey; **Bandung**, Indonesia; **eThekwni**, South Africa; **Iskandar**, Malaysia; **Yangon**, Myanmar; **Dhaka**, Bangladesh; and **Ndjamena**, Chad adopted policies/plans/designs for more compact, integrated and connected, socially inclusive cities and neighbourhoods.



**Over 445,000** people in 17 cities are benefitting from improved public spaces.



Sustainable development principles have informed the use of **over USD 600 million** worth of planning project investments in 19 cities in 10 countries.

## Global-level results

### Partnering with member states for sustainable city planning and design

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued partnering with member states to implement sustainable city planning and design approaches for developing compact, integrated and inclusive cities. Progress was made throughout 2019 in four areas of work, namely: integrated and inclusive planning through UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design Lab, public space improvement, the development of integrated settlement planning for refugees, and capacity-building for urban planning actors.

At the global level, UN-Habitat continued to utilize the Lab, an integrative facility to support member states in identifying, validating and formulating planning interventions that promote sustainable urbanization. During 2019, UN-Habitat expanded its suit of tools on urban planning and design to respond to the diversity of urban contexts and challenges. The *Incremental and Participatory Planning Toolbox* provides guidance for planning in contexts of constrained capacity, especially in developing countries. The new *Master Plan Self-Assessment Tool* enables cities to assess their planning instruments in relation to sustainable planning principles. In addition, the *Rapid Planning Studio Methodology* focuses on how to integrate urban planning with financing and legislation. So far, it has been implemented in 35 cities in 3 countries, thereby strengthening the engagement of planners with decision makers and improving the quality of planning work.

During 2019, UN-Habitat, through the Lab, also provided member states with strategic planning guidance and advisory services to develop and implement large-scale urban investment programmes. For example, Phase 2 of the United Kingdom Foreign Office's Global Future Cities Programme, involves city level work as well as the development of the *Sustainable Development Goal Project Assessment Tool*. It also involves a

global training programme on sustainable urbanization. City-level planning and projects were developed in the first phase in 19 cities across 10 emerging economy countries. So far, **Brazil, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Nigeria, Philippines, South Africa, Thailand, Turkey and Viet Nam** have been engaged. City-context reports and capacity building initiatives are now resulting in the development of impact orientate projects.

UN-Habitat is also supporting the incubation of urban innovation with the Smart City Master Plan for Kigali, **Rwanda**. Together with Microsoft, UN-Habitat is also developing solutions to mitigate the environmental and spatial impact of data centres.

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# 2019

UN-Habitat, through the Lab, also provided member states with strategic planning guidance and advisory services to develop and implement large-scale urban investment programmes.

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In addition, UN-Habitat is providing strategic planning and advisory services, in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the Government of Japan, for the development of sustainable solutions in the nexus between humanitarian and urban development interventions. The new settlement of Kalobeyei, Kenya, integrates refugees alongside local communities for inclusive and sustainable human settlements. This normative work is changing the refugee



response landscape and has now contributed to the adoption of sustainable planning principles and tools in humanitarian work. In 2019, the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees requested UN-Habitat to develop guidance for other refugee settlement communities. The integration of humanitarian and development activities in Kalobeyei has been considered so successful, in terms of planning and inclusive approach, that the model has been adapted to refugee settlement programmes in Uganda’s West Nile, North Western Region and Cox’s Bazaar, Bangladesh.

UN-Habitat has made considerable investment in building the capacity of planners, decision makers and community leaders using innovative tools to manage and steer planning processes towards sustainable outcomes. The popular Handbook *Urban Planning for City Leaders* has been updated and a Kenya version produced. A training programme has been designed around the handbook, and during the 2014–2019 strategic plan period over 380 planners, city and community leaders from 104 cities were trained based on the handbook.

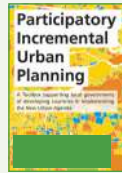


**380+**

planners, city and community leaders from 104 cities were trained based on the *Master Plan Self Assessment Tool*.



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**Incremental Planning Tool** - consolidates the Lab experience and provides guidance for planning in contexts of constrained capacity especially in developing countries.



**Master Plan Self-Assessment Tool** - supporting cities to assess their planning instruments in relation to sustainable planning principles.



**Sustainable Development Goal Project Tool** (as part of the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office Future Cities programme) which supports stakeholders to assess how planning projects align with the Sustainable Development Goals.

## Country and city-level results

So far, more than 100 cities have directly benefitted from UN-Habitat’s support through the Planning and Design Lab. Of these cities, more than 80 had adopted plans and designs by the end of 2019, an increase of 17 cities from 2018. Implementation of these plans and designs is guiding public expenditure and private investment, flagship projects as well as further sustainable policy decisions.

In several countries, UN-Habitat’s integrated and inclusive planning principles are being applied in the context of improving refugee settlements. In **Iraq**, UN-Habitat’s principles of sustainable neighbourhoods are being applied in the transformation of refugee and internally displaced persons “camp-like situations” into integrated and inclusive planned city extensions.



**100+**

cities have directly benefitted from UN-Habitat’s support through the Planning and Design Lab.

For example, national guidelines on planning are now shaping the planning of district capitals in **Myanmar**, while the adoption of sustainable development principles of urbanization are supporting the Government of **Haiti** strengthen urban development. Additionally, *Guidelines for Planning of Zero-carbon Villages* have been developed in **China**, with a focus on the Shanghai area.

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

At city level, UN-Habitat’s engagement has resulted in many cities increasing their capacity and developing plans for more sustainable urban development. The Spatial Development Framework 2040 for Johannesburg, **South Africa**, now guides action on key challenges associated with spatial inequality gaps. These includes ways to unlock land assets and infrastructure potential for urban structuring. It also includes attracting investments into the city, such as the large Global Environmental Facility project focusing on greenhouse gas emissions.

In **Haiti**, the 2017 city extension plans for the Cnaan Area have supported significant investments in infrastructure to respond to sprawling land development after the 2010 earthquake. Also, as a result of UN-Habitat’s collaboration in **China**, in 2014 four cities adopted sustainability principles into their plans in Wuhu, Chengdu in 2017, Wuhan in 2018, and Xuxhou in 2019. The concept plan for the planned city extension in Ningo Prampram, **Ghana**, developed in 2015, demonstrates a viable and effective approach to addressing urban sprawl by managing new settlements in one of the fastest growing areas in the country.



On-site meeting with Saida Municipality’s technical office for data validation. © UN-Habitat

## Global-level results

Across this strategic plan period, UN-Habitat continued to demonstrate that inclusive public space delivers tangible opportunities to transform urban areas and make them dynamic interactive spaces for all. Over 1.82 million people have benefitted from UN-Habitat's public space programme, and are enjoying safety and access to more than 104 new or upgraded spaces in 75 cities and 23 countries globally. Of these beneficiaries, 600,000 were children and youth where specific child-friendly public space projects were implemented between 2017–2019 in **China, Mozambique, South Africa, Turkey** and the **United Arab Emirates**.

By the end of 2019, over 75 cities globally were engaged in the Public Space Programme, an increase of 71 from the 4 that were initially engaged in 2014. In 2019, more than 445,000 people benefitted from the 22 public space upgrading projects completed in **Argentina, Bangladesh, Brazil, Colombia, Ethiopia, Kenya, Mexico, Peru** and **Uruguay**.

Through the global Public Space Programme, UN-Habitat continue to make a significant contribution to the monitoring of such space. In 2019, over 600 cities globally were supported to collect spatial, social and demographic data on public spaces to assist in the monitoring of Sustainable Development Goal 11.7.1.

New normative and operational tools were added in 2019 to support local and national governments and other partners in scaling up efforts to achieve Goal 11.7, making public spaces more safe, inclusive, accessible and green. The *Public Space Assessment Framework (Citywide and site specific)*, *Public Space Citywide Strategies (Compendium and Guide and Public Space modules)* were developed. The Site-specific Public Space Assessment Tool is being applied in **Bangladesh, Lebanon, Nepal, United Arab Emirates** and **Viet Nam**.

Regional Strategies were initiated to better address public space contexts in **Africa, Arab states** and **Asia**. In 2019, the Global Public Space Toolkit: From *Global Principles to Local Policies and Practice* was translated into Arabic and Spanish.

To promote the broader engagement and uptake of sustainable approaches to public space, UN-Habitat continued to strengthen the capacity of key stakeholders. Accordingly, over 900 urban managers and other stakeholders were trained in 2019 on public space.

## City-level results

The Citywide Assessment Tool continues to support the scaling up of public space in cities. To date, 23 citywide public space assessments in 14 countries have been completed. Of these, 17 citywide and 27 site-specific assessments were completed in 2019. The information generated from the assessments has increased the capacity for evidence-based decision-making on the development, implementation and monitoring of public space performance for the monitoring of SDG indicator 11.7.1. Based on these assessments, six citywide action plans had been developed by the end of 2019, which are supporting the creation and protection of public spaces in Addis Ababa (**Ethiopia**), Jiangnan, Wuhan (**China**), Kisumu, Nairobi (**Kenya**) and Kabul (**Afghanistan**).

UN-Habitat continued its collaboration with the Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Centre and the **Government of China** on the People-Oriented Urban Public Space Programme. Using the block-by-block methodology, public spaces in Wuhan have been improved and scaled up from the community and district to the whole city level. In 2019, UN-Habitat and UNICEF supported Wuhan in developing the *Child-friendly City's Spatial Planning Guideline*.

IMPACT STORY

### Using technology to engage women and girls for safer public spaces

Access to public space by women and girls is being improved through innovative design technology, which is enabling more inclusive data on safety challenges to be collected and more inclusive public space designs to be developed. In addition, the use of technology is engaging new private sector partners to promote greater access to public spaces around the world.

Through its Global Public Space Programme, UN-Habitat and the private sector company Mojang are partnering to facilitate the integration of mixed reality technology in public space design, resulting in improved access and safety for women and girls in public spaces around the world. Using the Minecraft game, women and girls can use their safety audit results to remove from design any perceived threats. They can also create new safe spaces using the Minecraft technology as they use the software to create new spaces reflecting their key issues and aspirations. In doing so, the needs of women and girls are captured in local area public space projects which translate into safer spaces for all urban dwellers.

In Accra, **Ghana**, women’s market space experience was improved in 2019 while in Hanoi, **Viet Nam**, and **Palestine**, girls’ safety in public spaces was improved using the Minecraft technology.



Young Palestinian women undertaking public space planning using Minecraft © UN-Habitat



The Beit Lahia site, Lebanon, was transformed into a colorful and inclusive community garden. © UN-Habitat

## Partnering with member states on climate change adaptation and mitigation

### Expected Accomplishment 2.3



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



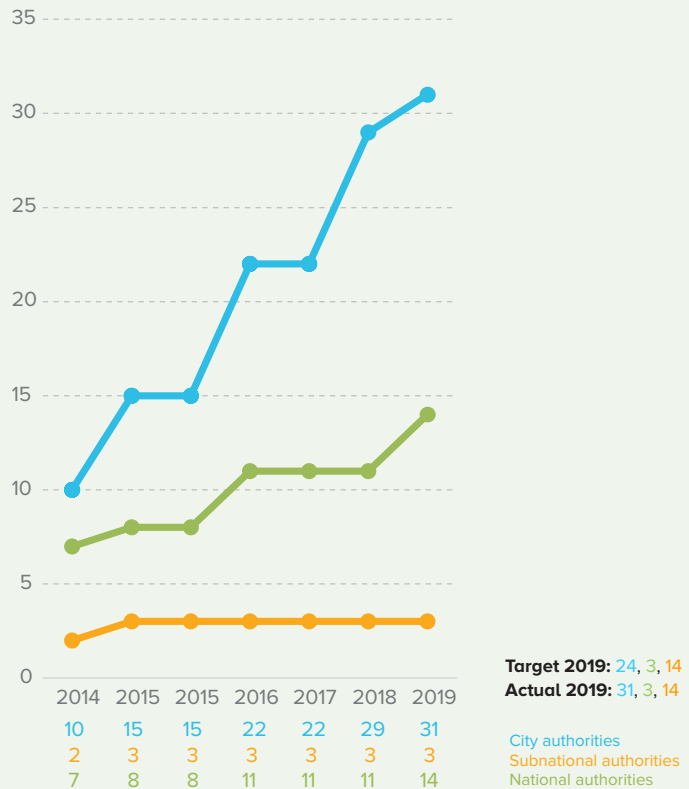
**Indicator of achievement:** Increased number of partner city, regional/subnational and national authorities that have adopted and implemented policies, plans or strategies that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving policies, plans and strategies that contribute to the mitigation of and adaptation to climate change adopted by partner city, subnational and national authorities. Figure 2.5 shows that the three indicator targets for 2019 for this expected accomplishment were met with 2 cities approving climate change adaptation plans and 3 national authorities adopting climate change policies. Box 2.3 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

Figure 2.5: Progress towards indicator targets

#### Adoption of climate change policies by city subnational and national authorities



### Box 23 2019 Progress Summary



**2 cities: Labutta and Pakokku** in Myanmar, approved Climate Change Adaptation Plans which will lead to strengthened resilience for residents.



**3 national authorities: Cambodia, Fiji and Myanmar** adopted strengthened climate change policies. Myanmar strengthened its policy framework, with a Climate Change Policy, Climate Change Strategy (2018–2030), and Climate Change Master Plan (2018–2030) for six priority sectors. This will lead to strengthened resilience and improved climate governance for residents across the country.

## Global-level results

Throughout the strategic plan period, UN-Habitat's raised awareness about the role of cities in relation to environmental and climate change challenges as well as the role of local authorities in climate change mitigation and adaptation. Member states and urban managers are now better informed and have access to normative products to help their cities adapt to climate change.

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to demonstrate leadership on the global stage, in improving knowledge to understand the nexus between urbanization and climate change. Through its engagement in high-level global forums, key stakeholders are more aware of the challenge and opportunities in cities for improved climate change adaptation and the key role local authorities play.

During the 2019 Climate Action Summit (COP25), UN-Habitat partnered with member states in coordinating the Infrastructure, Cities and Local Action track. Through the Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor cooperative initiative, UN-Habitat continued to raise awareness of cities and climate change with other United Nations agencies as focal points, within the United Nations system, for sustainable and inclusive urbanization. In addition, UN-Habitat is supporting the Green Climate Fund.

Normative tools developed over the Strategic Plan period continued to support member states and stakeholders understand the importance of planning for climate change. The *Supplementary Guidelines on Addressing Urban and Human Settlements Issues in National Adaptation Plans*, for example, supports national governments integrate climate change into national adaptation planning processes. The *Pro-Poor Climate Action in Informal Settlements (2018)* is being used to address the challenges residents of informal settlements and slums face.

UN-Habitat's advocacy and awareness-raising efforts strengthened the role of cities in climate change adaptation efforts. In response to growing global demand for climate action at the city level, UN-Habitat spearheaded strategic initiatives and partnerships to promote the mitigation of and adaptation to the effects of climate change. In partnership with the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy and other key partners, UN-Habitat is increasingly collaborating with cities in formulating their low-emission development strategies. In this regard, it is also helping with national policy and capacity development initiatives. With over 10,000 member cities participating, the Covenant represents the largest global alliance for city climate leadership.

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to spearhead key global cooperative initiatives, including the Planners for Climate Action and Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor. The Planners for Climate Action Global Cooperative launched a planning studio process as an entry point for global planners to support local climate change actions. The first studio was held in Zanzibar, **Tanzania**, which helped key stakeholders build capacity and identify catalytic projects such as urban regeneration, neighbourhood gridding and green networks.

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to support the country-level initiatives of a global multi-partner project, the Vertical Integration and Learning for Low Emission Development in Africa and Southeast Asia. Based on city-level experiences in **Viet Nam** and **the Philippines**, national guidelines for local climate action planning were supported. Together with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, UN-Habitat continues to partner with cities in **Bangladesh, India, Indonesia**, and the **Lao PDR** to develop greenhouse gas inventories and low-emission development strategies.

## Country and city-level results

Throughout the Strategic Plan period, UN-Habitat provided technical technical guidance to member states and local authorities to strengthen their urban climate mitigation and adaptation knowledge and responses.

The comprehensive programme, Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor, continues to assist in community planning for concrete interventions. By the end of 2019, 43 community infrastructure projects had been completed. Similarly, nearly 200,000 people are targeted in **Fiji** (16 informal settlements), the **Solomon Islands** (5 informal settlements) and **Mongolia** (5 peri-urban areas).

UN-Habitat supported **Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka** and **Viet Nam** to review their national urban policies from a climate change perspective, and documented the process in regional guidelines prepared with the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific. In **Cambodia**, UN-Habitat facilitated the mainstreaming of climate change into subnational planning with a specific focus on gender, which is now anchored within the Cambodia Climate Change National Strategic Plan.



Community consultations on resilience building in the Solomon Islands @ UN-Habitat / Bernhard Bath

IMPACT STORY

### Enhancing urban resilience in Lao, PDR

The Government of **Lao PDR**, in partnership with UN-Habitat, has made major strides in enhancing urban resilience to strengthen climate change responses, particularly in three southern provinces. Through different initiatives, including capacity development, local government officials and technical staff have increased understanding and knowledge on how to localize their climate change and resilience responses in relation to relevant international frameworks and agreements, including the Sustainable Development Goals, and how to make economic development more environmentally friendly.

At the community level, 189 villages of eight districts in the provinces of Sekong, Saravane and Attapeu were all trained in resilience planning. Participatory vulnerability assessments were undertaken and 60 national and local government officials were trained on the development of action planning process and data management. They are now supporting the data collection and analysis towards resilience planning.

Climate change action plans were also developed at the provincial, district and settlement levels, providing a framework to enhance resilience in the communities by designing local adaptation measures. By the end of 2019, 42 small-scale adaptation infrastructure had been built in all 189 target villages as a result of these action plans.

In partnership with the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, a global network of local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development, the implementation of the climate change action plans was boosted through the UN-Habitat supported initiative. *Accelerating climate action through the promotion of Urban Low Emission Development Strategies.* Since 2018, and in partnership with the Nordic Climate Facility and local actors, UN-Habitat has supported the setting up of the Water and Sanitation Private Public Sector Consortium in two provinces of Laos, which have resulted in the development of options to boost private sector engagement in local-level resilience building activities.



Improving lives in Lao PDR through resilience building in communities © UN-Habitat/Bernhard Barth





## Subprogramme 3

# Urban Economy and Municipal Finance



## Introduction

The Urban Economy and Municipal Finance, Subprogramme 3 of the Strategic Plan 2014–2019 supports local, regional and national authorities in adopting and implementing policies and strategies that promote inclusive economic growth and development, create economic opportunities for all, particularly for young women, men and vulnerable groups, and improve municipal finance. UN-Habitat’s efforts in this focus area contributes to the New Urban Agenda and to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

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

To address these issues, UN-Habitat promotes urban strategies and policies that strengthen the capacity of cities to realize their potential as engines of economic development and enhance their contribution to employment and wealth creation. UN-Habitat also collaborates with local governments to formulate and implement effective policies and strategies that enhance municipal finance, tax revenue for improved delivery of basic services, as well as contribute to the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods, especially for young people and women.



## 2019 Highlights



### 30 partner cities

had prepared local economic development plans based on detailed local economic assessments.

### 61 cities

have been engaged by UN-Habitat on urban youth development programmes, focusing on public space, participation in governance, livelihoods and peace-building.

### 48 local authorities

had been provided with technical assistance for improving their revenue generating capacity.



### 69,253 youth

were trained by the Urban Youth Fund in areas of sustainable urbanization and livelihoods.

One-stop Youth Centres in Somalia have trained **1,874** youth among whom **1,339** have found permanent or temporary employment. The programme has also led to **87** youth business start-ups, creating jobs for other youths.

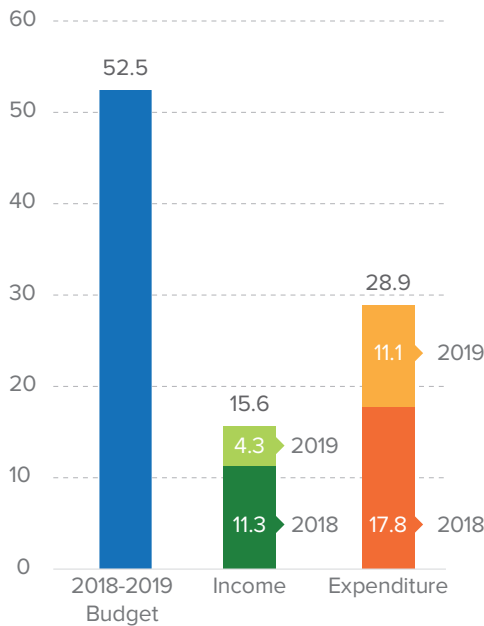


**The Global Municipal Finance Database was launched.** It now contains municipal budgets and population data for 94 cities.

## Budget Performance

Figure 3.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extrabudgetary implementation for urban planning and design activities of USD 63.0 million was 91 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 69 million while income acquired of USD 73.5 million exceeded the biennial target by 7 per cent indicating sustained high demand for UN-Habitat’s support in this area.

**Figure 3.1: Urban Economy - budget, income and expenditure**



### 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis Toolkit:** a tool that diagnoses the challenges of own-source revenue systems and uses the evidence to provide decision makers with strategic guidance to optimize such revenue.



**Global Municipal Finance Database:** contains indicators for municipal budgets and includes data on per capita expenditures, revenues etc. in cities worldwide.



**Basic costs of infrastructure: Costs of a City (SDG11)** a tool that provides costing of local infrastructure at city level.



**Planning and Productive Policies Toolkit:** a tool that assess the link between planning and productivity by evaluating the value chain and spatial configuration of the city. The tool is based on the UN-Habitat normative research report, Economic Foundations for Sustainable Urbanization.

## Expected Accomplishment 3.1



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



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



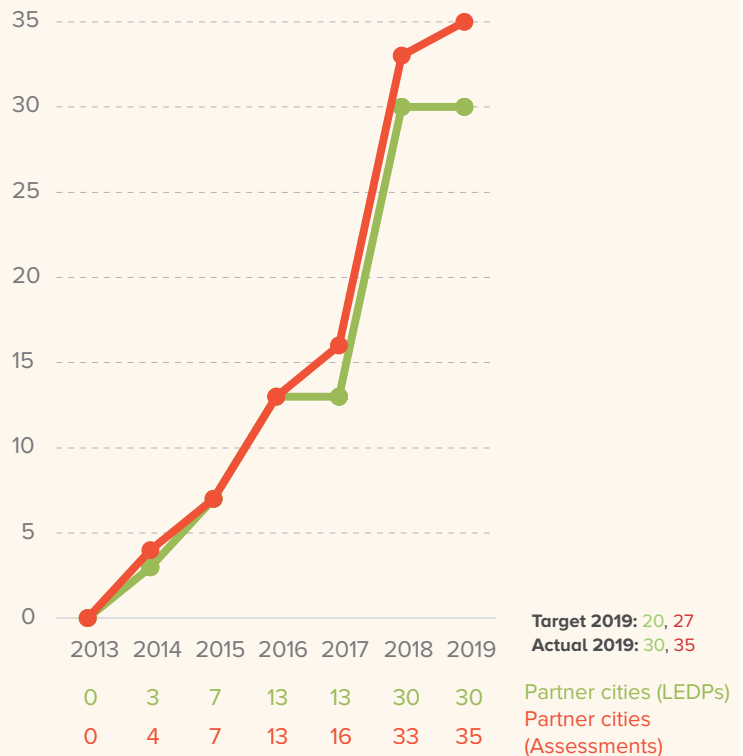
**Indicator of achievement 2:**  
Increased number of partner cities that set priorities based on local economic assessment.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving the capacity of partner cities to adopt strategies that support inclusive economic growth. Figure 3.2 shows that one indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was surpassed with 3 partner cities undertaking local economic assessments in 2019, while for one indicator no change was recorded in 2019 and the target was not reached. Box 3.1 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

**Figure 3.2: Progress made towards indicator targets**

**Cities with Local Economic Development Plans (LEPDs) and priorities set based on Local Economic Assessments**



### Box 3.1 2019 Progress Summary



2 local economic assessments were undertaken in 2 counties in **Kenya, Nyandarua and Kajiado**, that will inform the development and implementation of local economic development plans.

## Global-level results

By the end of 2019, 35 partner cities had undertaken detailed local economic assessments, with an increase by 2 from 2018 surpassing the target set for 2019 by 9 cities. The number of partner cities that prepared local economic development plans based on assessments with technical support from UN-Habitat remained at 30, indicating no increase in 2019.

The local economic assessments and development plans have strengthened capacities of local authorities to adopt evidence-based strategies and programmes that are supportive of inclusive economic growth.

In 2019, partnerships to strengthen knowledge on effective and inclusive urban economy for sustainable urbanization were enhanced. In collaboration with the Global Fund for Cities Development, UN-Habitat developed tools to enhance endogenous local economic development and the revenue of local governments. The normative products developed in 2019 include: *Developing Public Spaces and Land Values*; *Subnational Borrowing in Africa*; *Economic Benefits of the Territorial Strategy in the Zapopan Municipality, Mexico*; *Local Economic Development, Micro-enterprise and Crime Reduction: Lessons from Cali, Colombia*; *Municipal Finance in India*.

## Country-level results

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to use its normative tools and technical expertise to guide local authorities strengthen their economic development for sustainable urbanization.

In **Kenya**, local economic assessments were undertaken in Nyandarua and Kajiado counties in 2019. The assessments examined conditions of access to public goods as well as the relative contribution to economic output at local level. These assessments will support the preparation of economic development plans for the two counties. The outcome of the assessments will also provide critical information to the local governments for evidence-based policy decisions for promoting local economic growth.

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# 2019

35 partner cities had undertaken detailed local economic assessments, with an increase by two from 2018 surpassing the target set for 2019 by eight cities.

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Business district in Kolkata, India @ Shutterstock

## Expected Accomplishment 3.2



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



### Indicator of achievement 1:

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



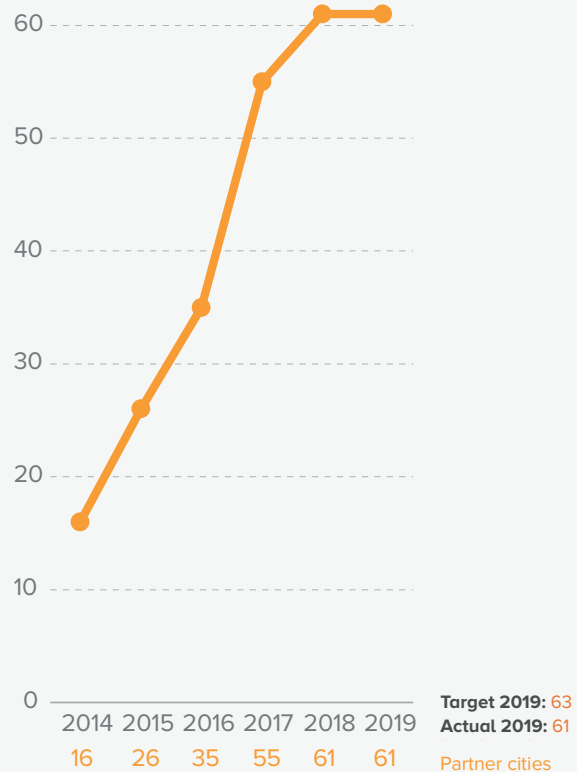
Youth undergoing training on construction techniques in Somalia @ UN-Habitat

## Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

There was no progress recorded on the indicator in the 2018–2019 period due to limited resources to grow this programme. Figure 3.3 shows that the target for the indicator in 2019 was also not met. However, UN-Habitat continued to provide technical advice to existing programmes with partner cities as well as advocacy work to promote adoption of urban policies or programmes supportive of improved employment and sustainable livelihoods.

**Figure 3.3: Progress made towards indicator target**

### Cities that have adopted urban policies supportive of improved employment and sustainable livelihoods



## Country-level results

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to use its normative tools and technical expertise to support local authorities and other stakeholders in promoting youth inclusive cities. By the end of 2019, 61 cities were engaged in urban youth development programmes, an increase of 45 from 2014.

Through the Urban Youth Fund and using the *One-Stop Youth Resource Centres*, 69,253 youth were trained by the end of 2019 in areas of sustainable urbanization and livelihood generation.

## Regional and country-level results

In 2019, UN-Habitat's partnership with the Techo resulted in an Urban Campus in **Argentina** where over 4,200 youth developed a plan to support the *Regional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin American Countries*. The result was the presentation of the strategy *CitiesXYouth* that was then shared officially with Latin American ministers for housing and urban development to inform their urbanization policies.



Through the Urban Youth Fund and using the *One-Stop Youth Resource Centres*,

**69,253 youth**

were trained by the end of 2019.

### IMPACT STORY

#### Empowering youth in Somalia for economic development and leadership

Due to the long-term conflict and ongoing insecurity in Somalia, the capacity of young people to interact, learn and grow has been greatly restricted. In addition, youth unemployment has grown significantly, and there are limited opportunities for them to develop new skills.

In response, UN-Habitat has supported the establishment of two “one-stop centres” in Mogadishu and Kismayo that offer safe and multipurpose spaces for youth to engage and access a holistic range of support. The centres are equipped with a library, computer laboratory and sporting activities, and around 250 young people visit per day. The one-stop centres also promote youth livelihood opportunities, and through them UN-Habitat and partners have provided 3-month skill building courses on construction, entrepreneurship and life skills coupled with practical engagement.

The programme works closely with the private sector and organizes job fairs to link youth to

employment opportunities. For example, by the end of 2019, 580 young people had been trained and 12 start-ups launched as a result of the joint capacity-building project “Rajo” (hope in Somali) implemented by UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Public Works, Reconstruction and Housing. In addition, 1,874 youths from the cities of Berbera, Bosaso, Kismayo, and Mogadishu have graduated, of whom 1,339 (71.4 per cent) have been employed with an average minimum wage of USD 120 per month. Additionally, 87 business start-ups have been established employing other youths.

UN-Habitat is also partnering with the Government to engage youth through the youth council mechanism. These have been set up in three districts: Kismayo and Dollow districts in Jubaland State and Baidoa in South West State. The councils are officially recognized as a representative of youth tasked with advocating for increased youth participation in decision-making processes. So far, 24,000 youths have been reached through youth-led awareness-raising campaigns.



**Beyond employment to an advocate for women rights: the story of Fatuma Ali Abdikani**

Fatuma Ali Abdikani, 28, has used her entrepreneurial skills gained through the UN-Habitat's livelihood generation programme, to start a local shampoo-making business with support from a local non-governmental organization. She employs a team of four women and six men at her business, which supplies local shops and hotels, and makes a USD 300 profit per month. She is also pursuing her undergraduate degree in public administration at Plasma University. Recently, Fatuma was elected as a member of the Jubaland State Parliament.

According to Fatuma, the life skills training UN-Habitat has developed many new skills for her including the qualities of good leadership. As she says:

*“This training shaped the person I am today, it gave me the confidence to campaign, and it has given me the wisdom to advocate for the rights of young women like me.”*

Currently, Fatuma is the chair for the House Committee on Human Rights and Gender. She would like to get further training on these subjects to advocate for the inclusion of young women in leadership roles.



Youth practising new construction skills at the Banadir University training centre, Jubaland, Somalia © UN-Habitat.

## Expected Accomplishment 3.3



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



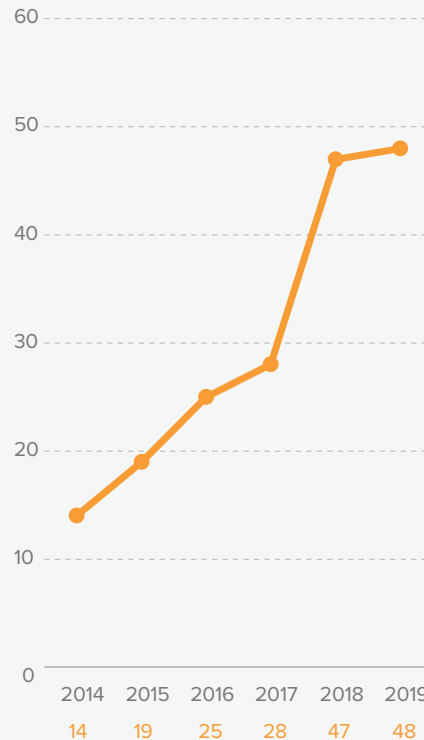
**Indicator of achievement 1:** Increased number of partner cities that have implemented plans or strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving the capacity of partner cities to adopt policies, plans and strategies for improved urban and municipal finance. Figure 3.4 shows that the indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was surpassed with one additional partner city implementing strategies for improved urban and municipal finance in 2019. Box 3.2 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

**Figure 3.4: Progress made towards indicator target**

Cities that implemented strategies for improved urban and municipal finance



### Box 3.2 2019 Progress Summary



One city, **Kisumu** (Kenya), implemented plans or strategies for improved urban and municipal finance.

## Global-level results

By the end of the Strategic Plan period, UN-Habitat had provided technical assistance to 48 local authorities to improve revenue generating capacity, representing an increase of 1 partner city and surpassing the 2019 target by 12.

In 2019, UN-Habitat in partnership with New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, launched the Global Municipal Financial Database. The platform enables capacity-building in municipal financial management. The database contains standardized municipal budget indicators for 94 cities around the world. The database is the first of its kind and reports city-specific data rather than country-level aggregations. It fills an important knowledge gap on typical levels of spending and revenues within local governments around the world.

UN-Habitat also completed the first version of the Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis tool that helps local governments diagnose the specific problems that they have in regard to their Own Source Revenue system and prioritize their interventions. The tool thus enables local governments in coming up with evidence-based and strategic interventions to optimize their revenue systems. In 2019, the tool was successfully piloted in Kisumu, western Kenya, and will now be tested globally and developed into a web interface for local government self-diagnosis.

# 2019

UN-Habitat launched the Global Municipal Financial Database, with support from New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, to support capacity-building in municipal financial management.

## Country-level results

UN-Habitat made progress in strengthening the capacity of local authorities to improve their municipal finance streams through its normative, advocacy and training initiatives.

UN-Habitat partnered with municipalities in **Afghanistan** to create and maintain accurate *safayi* tax records through property surveys and registration and the creation of guidelines and a manual. This municipal revenue generation system (*safayi*) resulted in a 15 per cent increase in revenue in some cities and 30 per cent for the Government in 11 major cities and municipalities where it was implemented. By the end of 2019, 328,181 *safayi* invoices were distributed and more than USD 13.1 million collected in additional revenue in eight Afghan municipalities. In Kabul, the nation's capital, annual *safayi* collections have increased by 94 per cent since the programme began. UN-Habitat has also provided training on municipal finance to over 4,000 government staff.

UN-Habitat piloted the critical initiative called the Enhanced Municipal Finance and Budget Execution in four governorates in **Iraq** to assess and build their capacity to raise municipal revenues, widen the municipal tax base, and manage expenditure for improvement of services.

By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat had supported the development of the Municipal Business Plan pilot for the Tehsil Municipal Administration, Peshawar, **Pakistan**. The plan, which the Asian Development Bank's *Provincial Strategy for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Growth* facilitated, has developed a series of pilot projects which test the challenges in implementing improved business planning, revenue collection, cost reduction, and increased application of information technology to improve efficiency in municipal planning and service delivery.



## 328,181

*Safayi* invoices were distributed and more than **USD 13.1 million** collected in additional revenue in **eight** Afghan municipalities.

**IMPACT STORY**

**Strengthening municipal revenue collection for improved basic services and infrastructure in Somalia**

Somalia continues to strengthen its municipal revenue collection capacity to improve basic services delivery and infrastructure development. Municipal governments are now benefitting from UN-Habitat’s contribution through the *Joint Programme on Local Governance* and reinvesting revenue into local basic services. For example, revenue generated in Berbera Municipality has now funded 30 development projects. Data collected from other municipalities where the programme is active, also shows that revenue collection rates have risen by 50–85 per cent in some districts, translating into improved basic urban services as well as enhancing the transparency and accountability of public funds.

Different levels of government are now building on this experience to scale up and developing systems in other sectors for improve revenue collection and management. In the federal state of Jubaland, South-West State, Galmudug, Hirshabele, and Benadir Regional Administration, a Local Government Finance Policy was developed to guide financial management at the subnational structures. The policy is in line with the financial requirements of the Federal Government.

In 2019, the Government of Puntland extended the automated finance systems to the two new districts of Burtinle and Galdogob, as part of the state

government-led expansion strategy. UN-Habitat worked in partnership with the Federal Ministry of Interior in the development of an Internal Audit Charter that clarifies roles and responsibilities of internal audit units. Several districts in Somaliland undertook internal audits to strengthen accountability and transparency. As a result, those districts produced, for the first time, internal audit reports focusing on revenue collection performance, expenditure management and implementation of their work plan.

In addition, Somaliland and Puntland introduced a mobile money payment system as a platform where local people can pay tax using mobile phones. The system was successfully implemented in Garowe (Puntland), and it is about to be finalized in Buroa and Borama in Somaliland. Revenue collection also continued to increase and is a major source of income for other municipalities. In Somaliland, Hargeisa Municipality collected USD 1.3 million in 2018 which increased to USD 1.6 million in 2019. Through the increased revenue, local governments were able to deliver social services and new infrastructure. With its increased revenue, Berbera municipality, Somaliland, for example, implemented 30 development projects in 2019, including construction of roads and improvements to the health and education sectors.



Hargeisa, Somaliland © Shutterstock



A street market selling traditional crafts, La Paz, Bolivia © UN-Habitat

# Subprogramme 4

## Urban Basic Services

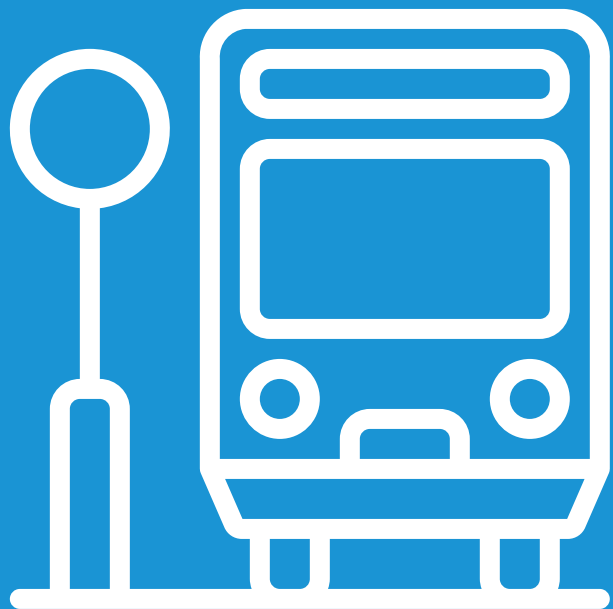


### Introduction

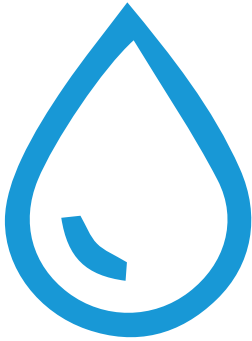
UN-Habitat's work in urban basic services provides partner countries with technical expertise to strengthen policy and institutional frameworks that integrate basic service delivery at all levels of city governance, in order to improve their capacity and efficiency in the provision of clean water, adequate sanitation and waste management services. UN-Habitat also supports initiatives to reduce greenhouse gas emissions to support the Paris Accord, foster inclusive accessibility in cities and promote development of clean energy sources. UN-Habitat's work under this subprogramme contributes to the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 3, 6, 7, 9, 11 and 12.

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

To overcome these challenges, UN-Habitat interventions under this subprogramme are focused on the achievement of three main results: (i) improving policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services implemented by partner local, regional and national authorities; (ii) increasing flow of investments into urban basic services catalysed by UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries; and (iii) increasing coverage of sustainable urban basic services in targeted communities.



## 2019 Highlights



### 187 water operators' partnerships

have improved their service delivery from being part of the Global Water Operators' Partnership Alliance that continues to strengthen water service delivery globally. In 2019, 7 new water operator partnerships joined the alliance.



### Over 3.6 million people

had improved access water and sanitation with 925,165 additional beneficiaries in 2019.

### 31 local governments

were supported in 2019 to develop their sustainable energy access and climate change action plans, enabling them prioritise interventions and investments in sustainable energy and climate change projects.



### 1 million users

will benefit from water utilities whose capacity and performance have improved through the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance in 2019.

### Over USD 330 million

was mobilized for water and sanitation operators' partnerships to strengthen the capacity of local water and sanitation utilities globally by the end of 2019.



### 169 cities

are now part of the global Waste Wise Cities Campaign, with 109 cities joining in 2019 in response to UN-Habitat's advocacy efforts for urgent action on solid waste management.



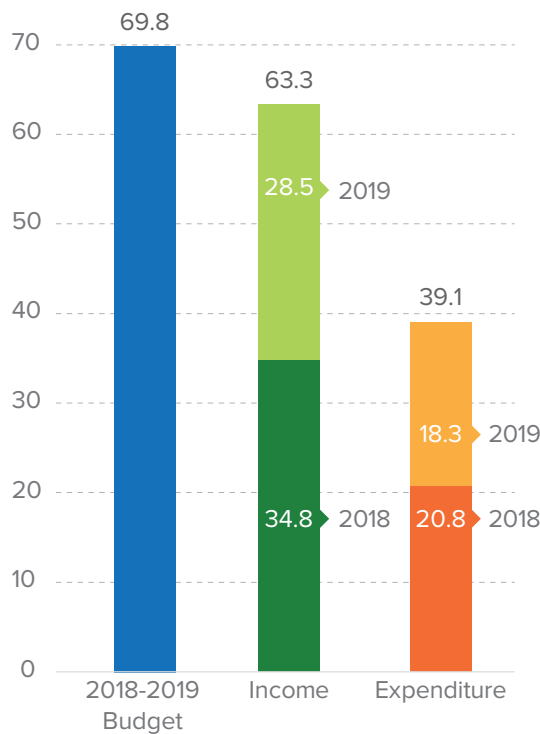
### USD 10.8 million

worth of investments was catalysed in 2019 for expanding access to urban basic services through UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries.

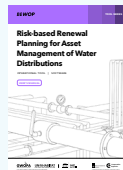
## Budget Performance

Figure 4.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extrabudgetary implementation for urban basic services activities of USD 39.1 million was 59 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 69.8 million while income acquired of USD 63.3 million was 90 per cent of biennial target.

**Figure 4.1: Urban Basic Services - budget, income and expenditure**



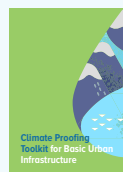
## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**The BEWOP Operational Tool series:** is a guide to support water utility operators covering topics such as asset management, utility decision-making, water safety planning and sustainability mapping.



**Guidelines for the Application of Small-Scale, Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems: A Code of Practice for Decision Makers:** provides guidance on all steps of setting up and managing decentralized wastewater treatment systems project-cycle.



**Climate Proofing Toolkit for Basic Urban Infrastructure,** with a focus on water and sanitation offers guidance on how to undertake climate change sensitivity and vulnerability assessments and to identify possible ways of integrating climate actions and responses into infrastructure planning and investment.



**Net Zero Carbon Village Planning Guidelines:** Yangtze River Delta region, China – is a guidebook to assist decision makers and planners with integrated and sustainable planning strategies for a net balanced carbon emission, using passive building design practices and renewable energy technologies.



## Improving policies and guidelines for equitable access to sustainable urban basic services

### Expected Accomplishment 4.1



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



**Indicator of achievement:**

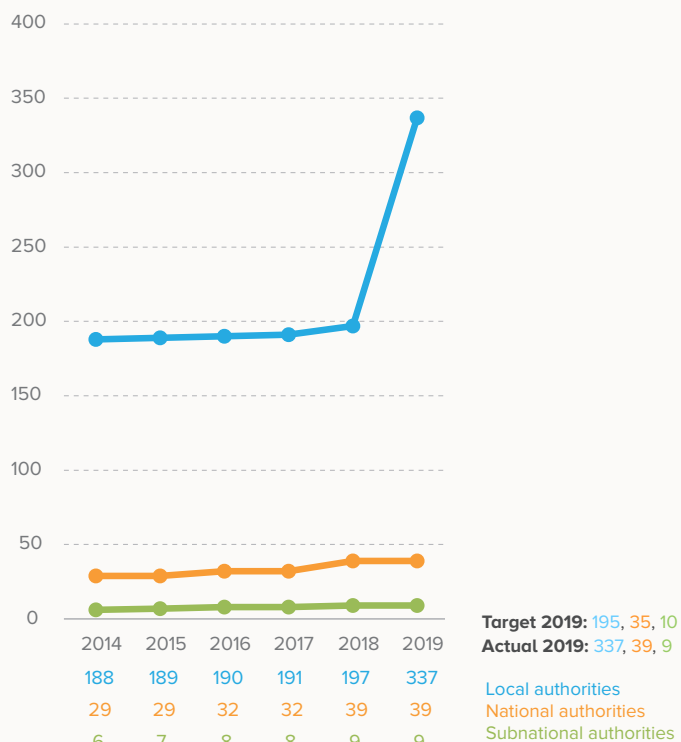
Increased number of partner local, subnational and national authorities implementing institutional and legislative frameworks for increasing equitable access to urban basic services, the international guidelines on decentralization and the guidelines on access to basic services for all.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving policies and guidelines on equitable access to sustainable urban basic services implemented by local, regional and national authorities. Figure 4.2 shows that the two 2019 indicator targets for this expected accomplishment were surpassed, with 109 cities joining Waste Wise Campaign and 31 local governments supported in developing their sustainable energy access and climate change action plan. Box 4.1 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

**Figure 4.2: Progress towards indicator targets**

Legislative frameworks for equitable access to urban basic services (USD millions)



### Box 4.1 2019 Progress Summary



**109 Cities** joined the Waste Wise Cities campaign in 2019.



**31 Local Governments** developed their sustainable energy access and climate change action plans in 2019. UN-Habitat also disseminated a street design guidebook to more than 1,000 African government officials and supported the adoption of complete streets in the road design frameworks of various cities including **Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), Cairo (Egypt)** and **Nairobi (Kenya)**.

## Global and regional-level results

### Strengthening the monitoring of urban basic services

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to guide initiatives to strengthen the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring agenda for urban basic services. In water and sanitation, UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the work of the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative for Water in establishing a coherent country-level water and sanitation monitoring framework for Goal 6. The framework utilizes cost-effective approaches for data collection, including the use of Earth observations for data acquisition, which is especially useful for resource-constrained states. Building on the data collected for the first global status report *Progress on Wastewater Treatment: Piloting the monitoring methodology and initial findings* for Sustainable Development Goals Indicator 6.3.1, in 2019, UN-Habitat partnered with member states in their scaling up efforts by compiling country data and reporting on global progress towards achievement of Goal 6.

With regard to waste management, UN-Habitat together with United Nations Environment Programme developed a consolidated approach to monitor waste-related Goal indicators 11.6.1 and 11.2 “*Access to Public Transport*”. Alongside partners, data was collected for more than 500 cities which the national statistical offices are verifying.

### Advocacy and campaigns for improved urban basic services

UN-Habitat continued to provide strategic inputs into the global Waste Wise Cities Campaign launched in 2018. By the end of 2019, 169 cities were part of the campaign of which 109 joined that same year. This was in response to UN-Habitat’s call for local authorities to act urgently to curb the growing problem of solid waste. To strengthen the capacity of member states

to focus on waste management, UN-Habitat developed the Waste Wise Cities Tool, a monitoring methodology for Sustainable Development Goal indicator 11.6.1 on waste management. The tool provides information on the waste flows in a city. The generated information helps local governments to identify stakeholders and develop evidence-based interventions and waste management plans. Key data collected includes the amount of waste generated, collected, treated in controlled facilities, recycled and what is left in the environment.

The African Clean Cities Platform continues to facilitate knowledge sharing and promotes the Sustainable Development Goals on waste management in the African context. By the end of 2019, 65 cities in 35 African countries were participating in the Platform’s initiatives.

The Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa for Climate and Energy continues to advocate for local governments to join the compact and be active members in the fight against climate change. By the end of 2019, over 200 municipalities in Africa had signed the covenant policy and over 20 municipalities that have joined the covenant have developed their energy and climate action plans. For example, after joining, the municipality of Tsevie in **Togo** continues to promote the adoption of energy-efficient stoves among households to reduce their dependence on firewood for cooking.

### Improving performance and efficiency of local public water and sanitation service providers

The Global Water Operators’ Partnership Alliance expanded its support to member states in achieving Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the New Urban Agenda by helping utility companies improve their technical and management capacity for more sustainable and equitable provision of services. The Alliance works to support peer partnerships between utilities. There are now nearly 500 members representing public water utilities and their associations globally. An increasing



## By end of 2019

over 200 municipalities in Africa had signed the covenant policy and over 20 municipalities that have joined the covenant have developed their energy and climate action plans.

number of water operators' partnerships in the Alliance's database are focusing on helping operators to attend to critical challenges such as climate change, water scarcity, pollution and service inequality.

In 2019, seven new water operators' partnerships commenced, bringing to 187 the number of new additions to the Alliance's database over the strategic plan period 2014–2019. As a result, about 1 million users will benefit from utilities whose capacity and performance had improved in 2019 through their association with the Alliance.

In **Cambodia**, implementation of the Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Programme continued. Using a pro-poor community-based approach access to affordable and sustainable water supply has been increased in 2019.

The participatory approaches used in the programme has strengthened the capacity of the local Svay Rieng Water Supply Utility and district authorities in delivering sustainable water and sanitation services. Access to safe piped water in selected communities in Svay Rieng town has been improved. By the end of 2019, over 6,500 people, of whom 30 per cent live below the poverty line, have benefited from the expansion of water supply and sanitation.

### Strengthening green energy policies and guidelines for urban resource efficiency

UN-Habitat assists national and local governments to develop and implement sustainable urban energy and climate action plans and strategies, and promotes adoption of appropriate legislation to enable a gradual transition to low-carbon economies with environmentally sound urban infrastructure and services. In 2019, UN-Habitat supported the development of guidelines for net zero carbon villages in **China's** Yangtze Delta Region, which was launched during the United Nations Environment Assembly. The guidelines are now being used for the rehabilitation of other polluted urban rivers in **China**.

UN-Habitat has played a significant role in stimulating adoption of new policies and triggering creation of an enabling environment for policy reforms in which decision makers appreciate the importance of green building and resource efficiency as a development agenda. To date, **Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania** and **Uganda** have integrated green building criteria into their construction policies. The Government of Uganda has integrated sustainability principles, such as environmental conservation, through efficient utilization of renewable energy and other resources into the housing policy approved in 2016. A new building code with a chapter on energy was developed in 2018, bringing recognition and institutionalization of energy efficiency in all buildings. In 2019, the Government of **Tanzania** partnered with UN-Habitat to review its building permit policies to be more sustainable and energy efficient.

UN-Habitat continues to help green building associations developed across East Africa to strengthen their capacity to deliver more sustainable building outcomes. In 2019, green building councils were established in **Kenya, Tanzania, Rwanda** and **Uganda**. So far, these have contributed to the rapid recognition and promotion of sustainable building in the region. These green building advocacy groups continue to play a key role in promoting sustainable building at national and local levels. With well over 500 practitioners and 20 journalists trained and 50 articles published, adoption of the green building concept is expanding in East Africa. Moreover, demand for training has led to UN-Habitat developing an online training platform for stakeholders.



By the end of 2019, **over 6,500 people**, of whom 30 per cent live below the poverty line, have benefited from the expansion of water supply and sanitation.



In 2019, UN Habitat finalized the first draft of the policy brief on women’s safe mobility and accessibility to safe public transport in Egypt.

The Government of Kenya has consulted widely with the Kenya Building Association to provide technical support on matters of sustainability and affordability of green buildings. Green building principles have been fully or partially incorporated into over 5,000 housing units, so far. In addition, UN-Habitat has been facilitating energy audits to assess consumption trends and establish energy benchmarks for 1,200 buildings. This work is particularly relevant as it is the basis for establishing an energy rating system.

### Strengthening transport policies and guidelines for sustainable and equitable access

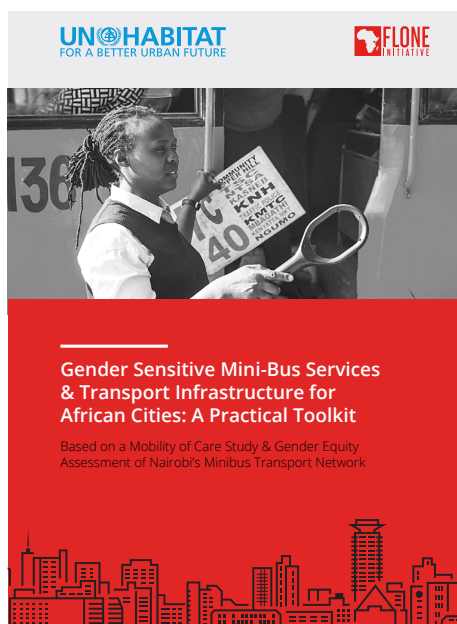
UN-Habitat in partnership with the Fione Initiative, a women-led organization, collaborated towards the creation of safe, sustainable and accessible public transport spaces for women and vulnerable groups in Africa. A toolkit on “Gender-Sensitive Mini-Bus Services and Transport Infrastructure for African Cities” was developed and widely disseminated to transport decision makers, city officials and transport operators. The toolkit provides public transport stakeholders with guidelines for a minimum level of service, to make public transport safer and more

accessible for women in African cities. As a result of UN-Habitat’s engagement, two public transport cooperatives have developed service charters and reporting mechanisms for commuters to seek redress in the event of harassment. In addition, the Ministry of Transport has committed to develop the Bus Rapid Transport system based on participatory planning mechanisms to ensure that designs align with universal designs principles.

UN-Habitat continues to promote the guide *Streets for Walking & Cycling*, which emphasizes designing for safety, accessibility and comfort in African cities. By the end of 2019, the guide had been disseminated to more than 1,000 stakeholders.

In 2019, UN Habitat finalized the first draft of the policy brief on women’s safe mobility and accessibility to safe public transport in **Egypt**. The collected data allowed for a comprehensive analysis for women’s needs and mobility patterns in their daily lives, ensuring that results and recommendations will lead to safer public transport experiences. The findings of this study pave the way for gender-sensitive planning for future public transport services.

## Country-level results



In **Nepal**, UN-Habitat and the Global Sanitation Fund of the Water Supply and Sanitation Collaborative Council jointly supported the implementation of the national water and sanitation masterplan. By the end of 2019, sanitation coverage had been expanded into 6 districts and 6 municipalities in 5 developmental regions, increasing overall national sanitation coverage to 100 per cent.

**Lao PDR** partnered with UN-Habitat in building capacity for integrity and management in the water sector at all levels has contributed to the development of strong, effective and resilient water utilities in the country. For example, UN-Habitat in partnership with a local water utility Nam Papa State Enterprise, developed key performance indicators measuring effectiveness and efficiency standards of

water utilities in 2018 and 2019. These were applied to 10 water utilities. As a result, Nam Papa State Enterprise Attapeu received the ISO 9001 certification, being the first water utility in the country. By the end of 2019, more than 26,420 people in new and emerging towns had improved access to water supplied through the target water utilities.

### Promoting energy and resource efficiency in national housing policies and building practices

UN-Habitat continued to partner with the Governments of **Burundi, Kenya, Rwanda, Tanzania and Uganda** to promote energy and resource efficiency in national housing policies and building practices through tools development; it also provided technical advice. **Uganda's new** building code, adopted in 2019, integrates clean energy and resource efficiency. In **Kenya**, more than 30 new certified green buildings are in place where, prior to the initiative, there were five. In **Rwanda**, a national Green Building Council has been established, and with the adoption

of the new building code a “Smart Sustainable Cities White Paper” has been developed. In **Burundi**, the manual on tropical building design is being used to train architects and engineers on sustainable building and design principles. In **Tanzania**, the Government reviewed its master plan of Dodoma, the capital city, in an effort to integrate sustainability elements.

UN-Habitat's work on integrating energy and resource efficiency in national housing policies and building practices has now expanded to Central and West Africa. By the end of 2019, **Cameroon, Nigeria and Senegal** had benefitted from UN-Habitat's knowledge and capacity-building effort in this area. As a result of these interventions, governments have given special attention to energy and resource efficiency in their programmes. Also, the youth are now aware of the opportunities renewable energy technologies present, and can now establish entrepreneurship businesses provided they access seed capital. Green building councils have been established in almost all the countries with support from the UN-Habitat projects.



Electric car powered using solar energy, exhibited during the first UN-Habitat assembly in Nairobi. ©UN-Habitat

## Increasing the flow of investment into urban basic services

### Expected Accomplishment 4.2



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



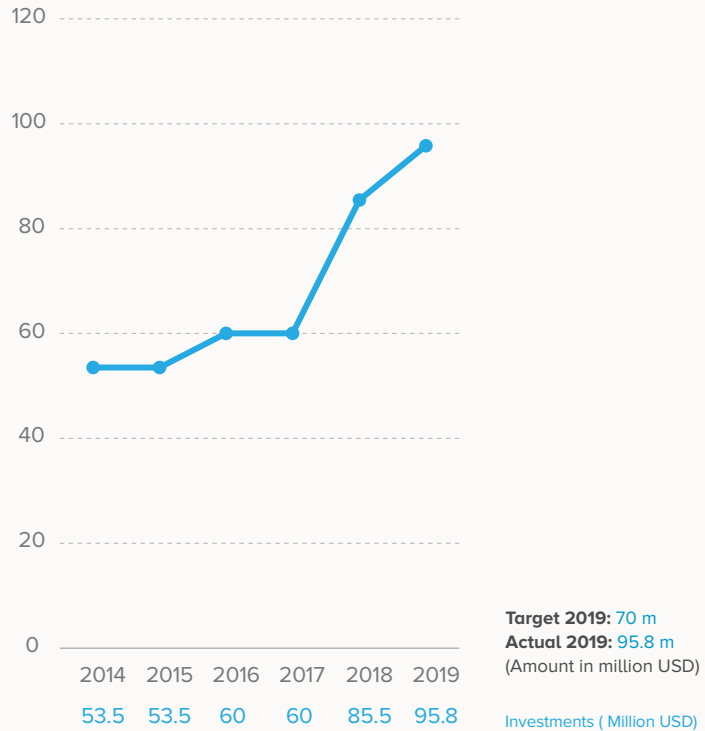
**Indicator of achievement:** Increased amount of investments into urban basic services catalyzed by UN-Habitat programmes in partner countries.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards an enabling environment for promoting investments in urban basic services in partner countries with a focus on the urban poor. Figure 4.3 shows that the indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was surpassed with additional UN-Habitat-catalysed investments into urban basic services of over USD 10 million. Box 4.2 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

**Figure 4.3: Progress towards indicator target**

Investments into urban basic services catalysed by UN-Habitat



### Box 4.2: 2019 Progress Summary



In 2019, **EUR 10 million** were committed for new multi-year water operators' partnerships initiative by the European Commission and the Governments of **Germany** and **Finland**. This will strengthen the performance of approximately 30 peer utilities over the coming four years.

## Global-level results

By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat's Water and Sanitation Trust Fund had leveraged over USD 1 billion in matching grants and loans to improve water and sanitation in informal settlements in more than 36 African and Asian cities. In 2019, USD 9.9 million was leveraged through the Trust Fund. UN-Habitat's technical support in pre-investment capacity improvements, including pro-poor components, has ensured that large-scale projects, supported by regional banks, result in increased water and sanitation coverage among the urban poor.

Government recognition of water operators' partnerships is growing, and new programmes are being developed that enable water utilities to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals. The European Commission, Finland and Germany were among those that created new, multi-year water operators partnership initiatives, committing over **EUR 10 million** to enable utilities strengthen the performance of approximately **30 peer utilities** over the next four years.

In 2019, water operators' partnerships contributed to improved financial performance or facilitated access to needed investment finance in **Belize, Fiji** and **Viet Nam**.

In **Egypt**, by the end of 2019, UN-Habitat had attracted investments that incentivized the private sector and international financial institutions to partner on sustainable public transport projects. The Governments of **Germany** and **Sweden** invested, through the Swedfund and the *Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative*, providing USD 700,000 in mobility projects in **Egypt**. In collaboration with UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Transport set up a team to address different sustainable mobility projects such as the Bus Rapid Transit system.



# USD 9.9 million

was leveraged through the Trust Fund



Government recognition of water operators' partnerships is growing, and new programmes are being developed that enable water utilities to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals



Belmopan City Market, Belize © UN-Habitat

## Increasing access to sustainable urban basic services in partner cities

### Expected Accomplishment 4.3



Increased coverage of sustainable urban basic services in targeted communities.



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



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



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

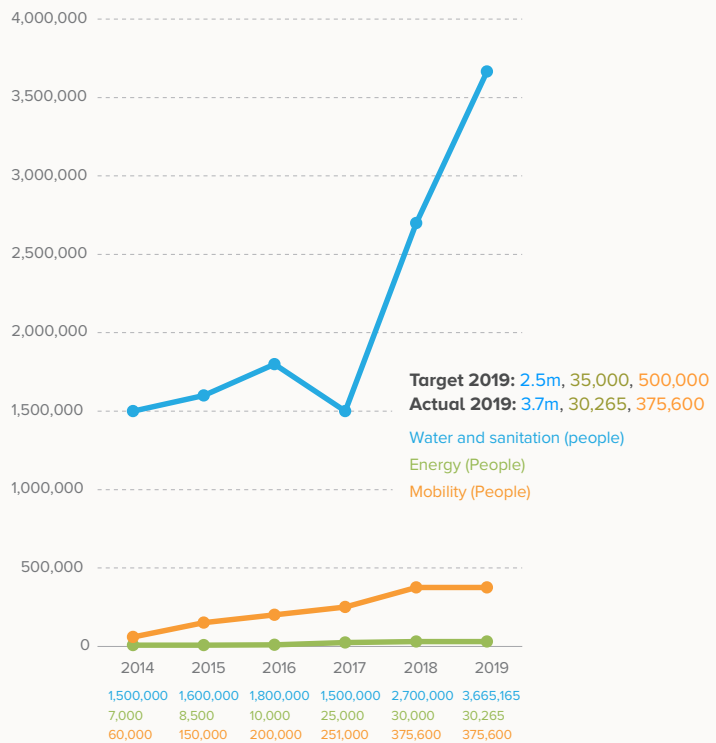
### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards increasing coverage of sustainable urban basic services in targeted communities. Figure 4.4 shows that the one indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was achieved; the number of people in targeted communities with access to sustainable water and sanitation services was over 3.6 million. At the same time, there was minimal increase in the number of people in targeted communities

with access to sustainable energy supply in 2019. Box 4.3 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

**Figure 4.4: Progress towards indicator targets**

People accessing basic services, energy supply and modes of transport



### Box 4.3 2019 Progress Summary



Access to sustainable water and sanitation services: 925,165 people gained access to sustainable water and sanitation services (**Iraq** (6,600), **Lao PDR** (6,700), **Mongolia** (200), **Myanmar** (868, 656), **Nepal** (36,751) and **Syria** (6,258)).



Access to sustainable energy supply: 200 youth in **Guinea** trained in renewable energy with a focus on assembling solar streetlights in 2019. Sixty-five youth in **Cameroon** trained in renewable energy with a focus on assembling solar home systems in 2019.



## Country-level results

### Improving Access to Water and sanitation

The Government of **Myanmar** partnered with UN-Habitat to improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation and electricity to almost 1,300 communities situated in post-disaster and post-conflict areas. Over 700,000 people have benefited from the improved basic services through the people-centred approach to project implementation. In addition, UN-Habitat's flagship approach, the *People's Process*, supported interventions in the country's dry zone, to improve access to safe drinking water for 168,656 people from 221 communities. Covering six dryland areas, including Maghlaing, Myingian, Natogy, Pakoku, Taughtha and Yesagyo, the communities now have piped water installations where households pay for the service and keep savings in a bank to support the maintenance of the water infrastructure.

In **Nepal**, more than 6 million people have benefitted from improved access to sanitation through the Global Sanitation Fund Programme. In 2019, UN-Habitat supported the campaign in nine districts (Bara, Dhanusha, Jhapa, Mahottari, Morang, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sunsari) to complete the final miles of sanitation campaign. The Government has reported that the sanitation coverage was 100 per cent by the end of 2019 in those districts, reaching over 6 million people.

In **Syria**, through the implementation of UN-Habitat-supported water, sanitation and hygiene services and durable housing projects, 6,258 persons in Al-Kallaseh neighbourhood in Aleppo now have access to safe water; 1,500 houses have been connected to the main network; and capacity for 3,000 persons on solid waste disposal and management has been strengthened.

In **Mongolia**, over 200 residents living in wetland areas of the seven most vulnerable sub-districts of Ulaanbaatar city now have access to improved sanitation facilities and

better storm water drainage. UN-Habitat's technical guidance enabled the communities to implement the Flood Resilience in Ulaanbaatar Ger-Areas project.

In **Lao People's Democratic Republic** under the Adaptation Fund and Nordic Climate Facility projects, UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of local communities in the construction of small-scale water supply infrastructure. A total of 53 resilient water and sanitation infrastructures have been completed across the provinces of Attapeu, Saravane and Sekong with 45 being built in 2019 alone. The improved access to water and sanitation has benefitted 6,750 people, of whom 3,300 are in Attapeu, 2,250 in Saravane, and 1,200 in Sekong Province.

In **Cambodia**, UN-Habitat supported the Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Programme in implementing a pro-poor community-based approach which has increased access to affordable and sustainable water supply. The participatory approaches used in the programme have strengthened the capacity of the local Svay Rieng Water Supply Utility and district authorities in delivering sustainable water and sanitation services. Access to safe piped water in selected communities in Svay Rieng town has been improved. By the end of 2019, over 6,500 people, of whom 30 per cent live below the poverty line, had benefited from the expansion of water supply and sanitation.

### Improving waste management

In **Malawi**, UN-Habitat worked with local authorities and other partners to introduce sustainable waste management initiatives that promoted public-private partnerships. The initiatives directly address waste management as a business and promote the engagement of women in urban service delivery. As a result of the innovative "Waste for Wealth" intervention in Mtandile, an informal settlement on the periphery of Lilongwe city is now a clean settlement. The indiscriminate dumping

of waste has been reduced as well as waterborne disease outbreaks. The initiative has been scaled up into the cities of Blantyre and Mzuzu, and has strengthened climate smart urban agriculture; improved incomes of the urban poor; reduced local authority budgets for solid waste management; and contributed to the increased coverage of waste management services.

During 2019, UN-Habitat introduced the semi-aerobic landfill method in the Yangon City Development Committee in **Myanmar** to improve solid waste management in the city's biggest final disposal site. UN-Habitat also worked with the Committee in reducing fire risks and environmental hazards by establishing resilient, safe and sustainable waste management systems for the city's Htein Bin dump site through the implementation of the Fukuoka Method of Solid Waste Management. This initiative will directly benefit more than 150,000 people in the community.

In 2019, the Government of **Pakistan** partnered with UN-Habitat to develop the first Integrated Resource Recovery Centre in Islamabad, with capacity to process 3 tons of municipal solid waste per day. This initiative has enabled the capital city to turn waste into resources through composting, recycling and bio-digestion, thereby diverting municipal solid waste from landfills and open dump sites. In addition, the Akhtar Hamdeed Khan Memorial Trust developed a five-year business plan to ensure ongoing sustainability of the centre with technical inputs from UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific.



## Improving Access to Sustainable Transport

In 2019, UN-Habitat partnered with Member States to develop sustainable transport options. In **Egypt** and **Lebanon**, for example, UN-Habitat supported partners to strengthen alternative modes of transport such as cycling for more sustainable transport options.

In **Egypt**, through the partnership with the

Cairo Governorate, the Danish Embassy and the Nahdet el Mahrousa, a local non-governmental organization, demonstration bicycle lanes have been introduced into the heart of Cairo. The project, known as Sekketak Khadra, is presenting cycling as an alternative transport mode. By the end of 2019, 110 cycle racks had been installed accommodating up to 200 cycles in three Cairo neighbourhoods.

Towards improved water and sanitation. Dry Zone, Myanmar ©UN-Habitat

## Improving access to water and sanitation using the People’s Process, Myanmar

In the Dry Zone of Myanmar, only 58 per cent of households have year-round access to protected water (including rainwater); about a fifth of households in Magway are not using improved water sources, whereas in Mandalay it is 18 per cent.

The People’s Process has benefited 168,656 people in 186 communities with access to safe drinking water in **Myanmar**, mostly through water-piped installations where households pay for the service and keep savings in a bank account to maintain the water infrastructure. The tool improves access to water and sanitation through its participatory approach, where the affected communities are at the centre of planning, implementing, monitoring and

taking responsibility for sustainability. Community development committees were engaged for example, and almost 2,500 volunteers, 63 per cent of them women, were trained to support their communities’ social and behaviour communication change. Furthermore, 17,951 people have participated in developing water safety plans for their community to ensure the importance of planning of their water sources sustainability.

The project has also contributed to a reduction in the incidence of open defecation (96 per cent zero open defecation achieved), with 6,000 households having built their own latrines with no financial project support.



Young boys bathing at newly installed piped water points in Myanmar © UN-Habitat

In **Lebanon**, UN-Habitat is also working with partners to promote cycling as an alternative mode of transport in the city of Tyre. Two stations with 20 to 30 bicycles in each were piloted in two locations within the city, drawing positive feedback from users.

In partnership with other stakeholders, UN-Habitat helped develop concepts for pilot projects to develop sustainable urban mobility solutions such as the introduction of electric rickshaws in Kochi, **India**, and an assessment for electric vehicle readiness in 20 cities in **Brazil**.

### **Strengthening capacity to develop sustainable energy systems**

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to partner with local authorities in developing more sustainable and green energy-efficient systems to reduce greenhouse gas emissions. In 2019, UN-Habitat participated in two continuing professional development training workshops in **Kenya** and **Côte d'Ivoire** where 650 and 350 practitioners were trained on sustainable energy options respectively.



Electric rickshaw vehicle with passengers West Bengal, India © Shutterstock



# Subprogramme 5

## Housing and Slum Upgrading



### Introduction

The role of Housing and Slum Upgrading, Subprogramme 5, is to support member states increase access to adequate and affordable housing to improve the standard of living in existing slums and curb the growth of new ones in an inclusive manner. This subprogramme contributes to the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5 and 11.

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

In responding to these challenges and to contribute towards the reduction of poverty and inequalities, UN-Habitat's work in Subprogramme 5 supports all levels of government in formulating and implementing housing sector reforms that promote the progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Housing. This includes adapting and reforming legislation, planning frameworks and developing integrated programmes that improve the standard of living in existing slums and curb the growth of new ones and informal settlements.

## 2019 Highlights



### 43 countries

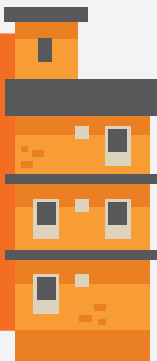
by the end of 2019, up from 30 in 2014, received technical advice from UN-Habitat to formulate and implement improved housing policies.



### 30 countries

strengthened their understanding of the negative impacts of forced evictions and learnt about new alternatives resulting in reduced forced evictions by the end of 2019.

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



### Over 2,000

urban stakeholders had their knowledge and practical skills enhanced based on UN-Habitat's participatory housing, slum upgrading and prevention approaches.



### 800,000

people were protected from evictions and partner countries were engaged in improving living conditions and acknowledged slum dwellers "right to stay".

### 5 million

people benefitted from UN-Habitat's participatory slum upgrading approach.



### 56 countries

have benefitted from tools and knowledge aligned with UN-Habitat's inclusive and integrated slum upgrading approach to independently formulate gender and climate sensitive strategies

UN-Habitat's slum upgrading innovative financing model has attracted the interest of the private sector to engage with inclusive slum upgrading approaches.



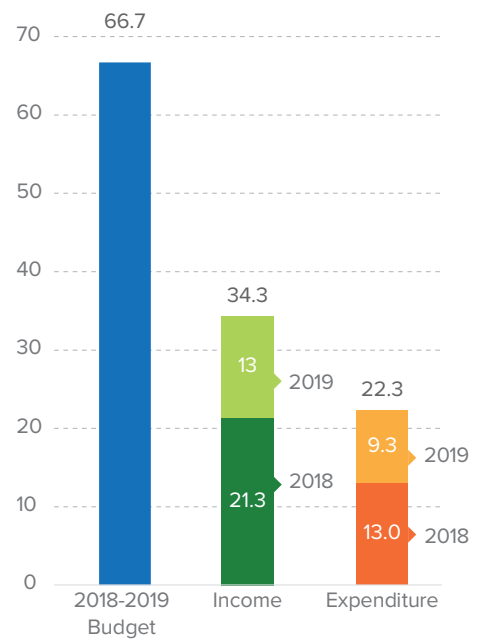


Yaounde, Cameroon © Kirsten Milhahn /UN-Habitat

### Budget Performance

Figure 5.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extrabudgetary implementation for housing and slum upgrading activities of USD 22.3 million was 33 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 66.7 million while income acquired of USD 34.3 million was 51 per cent of biennial target.

Figure 5.1: Housing and Slum Upgrading - budget, income and expenditure





## Expected Accomplishment 5.1



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



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



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



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

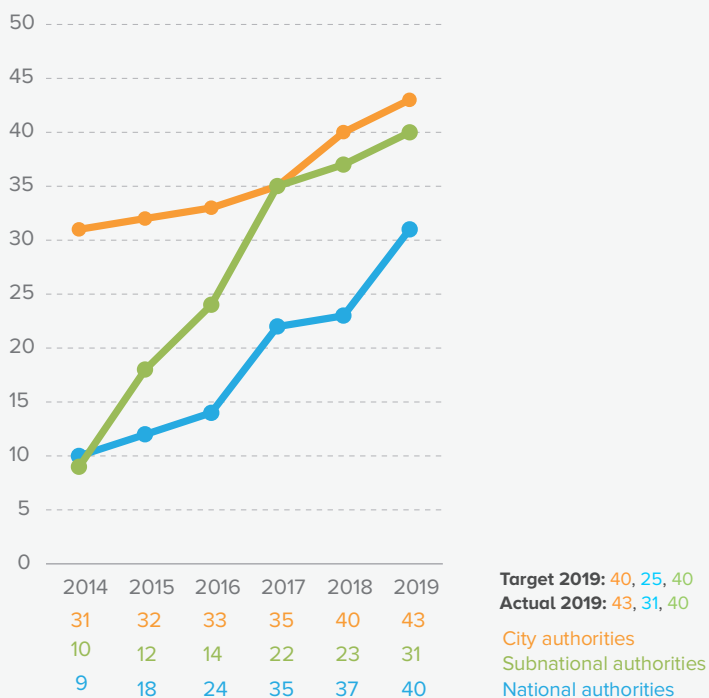
### Global Housing Strategy implementation promoted

#### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result.

Progress was made in supporting member states and other key stakeholders in formulating and implementing sustainable housing policies and strategies in line with the Global Housing Strategy. Figure 5.2 shows that the three indicator targets for 2019 for this expected accomplishment were achieved, with 3 countries implementing improved housing policies, 8 countries implementing frameworks or programmes preventing unlawful forced evictions and 3 implementing sustainable building codes, regulations or certification tools. Box 5.1 provides evidence supporting the reported progress in 2019.

Figure 5.2: Progress towards indicator targets

Alignment of policies/strategies to Global Housing Strategy, prevention of forced eviction and implementing building codes



#### Box 5.1: 2019 Progress Summary



**3 countries: Angola, Kenya and the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia** implemented their housing policies, strategies or programmes in line with the principles of the Global Housing Strategy and the promotion of the realization of the Right to Adequate Housing as a component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living.



**8 countries: Albania, Kirgizstan, Georgia, Ukraine, Bulgaria, Colombia, Brazil and Ecuador** for the implementation of a framework to prevent forced evictions.



**3 countries: Australia, Mozambique and Pakistan** implemented sustainable building codes/regulations/certification tools in 2019.

## Global-level results

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to develop normative tools and undertake research which have expanded global knowledge on the Right to Adequate Housing. New knowledge products were produced: *The Prevention of Homelessness as a component of the Right to Adequate Housing and Housing Migrants*. In addition, two interactive and innovative tools for the housing sector were developed. *The Sherpa Mobile Application*—open source in English, French and Spanish, is a first of its kind and supports stakeholders assess housing design incorporating cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations. The *MaS-SHIP* tool supports decision-making and allows practitioners to compare affordable housing designs against a range of key factors including employment generation, carbon dioxide emissions, complexity of skills needed, and sustainability in the supply chain.

UN-Habitat’s advocacy work and knowledge products enabled member states to identify alternatives to forced evictions by guiding policy and programme development alignment with the Right to Adequate Housing and undertaking awareness-raising initiatives to highlight the negative consequences of forced evictions. In 2019, forced evictions were reduced in seven countries through UN-Habitat efforts to support negotiations with partner countries. Sixteen regional and country offices were also assisted in engaging with the United Nations human rights mechanisms to dissuade evictions from taking place and promote the Right to Adequate Housing.

By the end of 2019, 43 countries received technical advice from UN-Habitat based on the human rights-based approach to programmatic development and on how to conduct a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the urban housing sector (housing profiles). The same member states also created frameworks that promote the Right to Adequate Housing. UN-Habitat worked with the Government of **Iraq** to update its housing policy and develop a new national strategy for the reconstruction of damaged housing, which the country’s Council of Ministers endorsed in 2019.



### 2019

Forced evictions were reduced in seven countries through UN-Habitat efforts to support negotiations with partner countries.



### 43 countries

received technical advice from UN-Habitat, based on the human rights-based approach to programmatic development.



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**Sherpa tool:** supports stakeholders assess housing design incorporating cultural, social, economic and environmental considerations.



**MaS-SHIP tool:** supports decision-making and allows practitioners to compare affordable housing designs against a range of key factors.



**Prevention of Homelessness:** a report that provides analysis on homelessness and prevention in the context of the Right to Adequate Housing. Developed in partnership with the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs.



**Housing Migrants:** a report in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe exploring options to improve migrants’ access to housing.

## Promoting frameworks and programmes to prevent unlawful forced evictions

### Country-level results



### In 2019

the High Urban Development Council approved the national housing policy, which will now act as a tool to help institutionalise adequate housing for all Afghans.

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to influence member states to adopt more inclusive and integrated approaches to housing as well as provide specific support on developing sustainable housing policies and programmes. In doing so, UN-Habitat has improved the Right to Adequate Housing and supported the prevention of forced evictions. Forty-two countries have received technical advice from UN-Habitat based on the human rights approach to programmatic development, and on how to conduct a comprehensive, in-depth analysis of the urban housing sector. National housing sector profiles, national housing policies and housing implementation strategies were supported. These countries are now at different stages of creating frameworks that promote the Right to Adequate Housing. Middle-income as well as developed countries and cities such as **Bahrain, Bulgaria, Malaysia, Peru** and the capital of **Saudi Arabia, Riyadh** requested

technical assistance. Consequently, new programmes have commenced with UN-Habitat's expertise on housing and urban renewal.

Hawassa City, **Ethiopia**, has been partnering with UN-Habitat to develop a housing strategy that prioritizes affordable housing to offset the current deficit exacerbated by rapid urbanization.

UN-Habitat has continued to support the Government of **Afghanistan** on housing policy development. In 2019, the High Urban Development Council approved the national housing policy, which will now act as a tool to help institutionalise adequate housing for all Afghans. It will also direct programmes on the ground such as the ongoing housing building that UN-Habitat supports. In Kabul and Herat cities, for example, UN-Habitat is partnering with the Government to build houses for over 3,500 families.



Community mapping in Herat, Afghanistan. © UN-Habitat



Housing design processes, Cabo Verde ©UN-Habitat

In 2019, UN-Habitat strengthened the capacities of national and local governments in Angola to formulate and implement housing policies to support the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 on “making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable”, as well as in line with the principles of the Global Housing Strategy. An important outcome included the development of a housing toolkit to guide policy and promote housing affordability. Angola is now developing a national housing sector profile with UN-Habitat technical aid.

In 2019, the Government of **Cabo Verde**, under the Ministry of Infrastructure, Territorial Planning and Housing, partnered with UN-Habitat in the development of the National Housing Policy based on the national housing sector profile. Informed by the new policy, UN-Habitat has since partnered with the Municipal Government of Roca Sundry to relocate communities in the archipelago in an inclusive manner that avoids forced evictions. Through the participatory approach adopted, tenure security has been guaranteed, mobility and livelihood issues have been considered, and new housing has been developed with the communities to ensure they are climate resistant and culturally adequate.

## IMPACT STORY

## Promoting integrated and inclusive housing at scale in Bahrain

The Government of Bahrain, endorsed a new dynamic National Housing Policy of Bahrain in 2019, which represents a paradigm shift in the direction of affordable housing provision. The policy pro-motes Government facilitation rather than direct provision. It also encourages a diversity of stake-holders to become involved in the delivery of affordable housing including recommendations on how to increase private sector involvement while strengthening the regulatory function of the Government.

The policy process has also contributed to fostering the development of more compact cities in Bahrain as higher densities and multistorey buildings are being used to expand the range of the country's housing typologies. For example, UN-Habitat is now supporting the Government to implement large-scale

housing programmes to meet the needs of more than 60,000 families and the construction of over 40,000 housing units as well as the delivery of associated services.

In addition, the policy is promoting the inclusion of youth and women. Public housing programmes now include options of apartments benefitting youth and small families. The Government has also revised the conditions of eligibility in some of the housing programmes, giving the opportunity for women to contribute to the repayment of houses for joint ownership. This is a significant step in the fulfilment of the Right to Adequate Housing, especially for women who do not have direct rights across many key development sectors.

## IMPACT STORY

## Promoting affordable housing options for displaced persons in Somalia

UN-Habitat's partnership with the Norwegian Refugee Council and local governments in **Somalia** is supporting the development of sustainable, safe and durable housing for the integration of internally displaced person's (IDP's) in Mogadishu and Kismayo. Two innovative approaches are being used to deliver inclusive affordable housing.

In Kismayo, a rental subsidy scheme is being applied, structured around rental subsidies for the internally displaced and financial incentives for landlords. The approach ensures that the IDPs are protected against forced evictions and have access to adequate housing. In addition, vocational training and livelihood opportunities are integrated to increase income and support regular rent payments. For landlords, innovative "asset-based lending" financing mechanisms have been applied which support loan recovery.

In the Benadir region, UN-Habitat and the regional administration have applied a housing trust fund option to support durable housing solutions for returnees. Land from the local government has been secured for the construction of housing units and a sustainable design approach applied. The trust fund helps secure the social and economic sustainability of the project.



Mogadishu Durable Solutions Project, EU Re-Integ @ UN-Habitat



Local residents undertaking community planning in Mtwapa, Kenya © UN-Habitat

## Supporting the implementation of sustainable building codes, regulations or certification tools



UN-Habitat worked with the Ministry of Climate Change in **Pakistan** on the Green Building Guide for the prime minister's **Five Million Housing Programme**.

As part of UN-Habitat's response to Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in Mozambique in 2019, UN-Habitat has provided technical assistance to the municipal government of the city of Beira to ensure resilient and sustainable building codes were applied in all projects as well as integrated sustainability criteria to the formulation of urban development plans, housing reconstruction strategies and policy proposals.

UN-Habitat worked with the Ministry of Climate Change in Pakistan on the Green Building Guide for the prime minister's Five Million Housing Programme. The guide is the first step towards achieving the goal of greening the housing sector. It is expected that this project will result in cost savings for social housing construction and utilities during the operational phase.

In 2019, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, **Australia**, finalized a project assessing the housing life cycle and financial performance of neighbourhoods in **Australia** and two selected countries (**India** and **Kenya**). The study has resulted in a model that now informs regulation and certification programmes, policy, and building code formulation.

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# 2019

UN-Habitat in collaboration with the University of Melbourne, **Australia**, finalized a project assessing the housing life cycle and financial performance of neighbourhoods in **Australia** and two selected countries (**India** and **Kenya**).

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## Expected Accomplishment 5.2



### Improved slum upgrading and prevention policies, strategies or programmes.



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



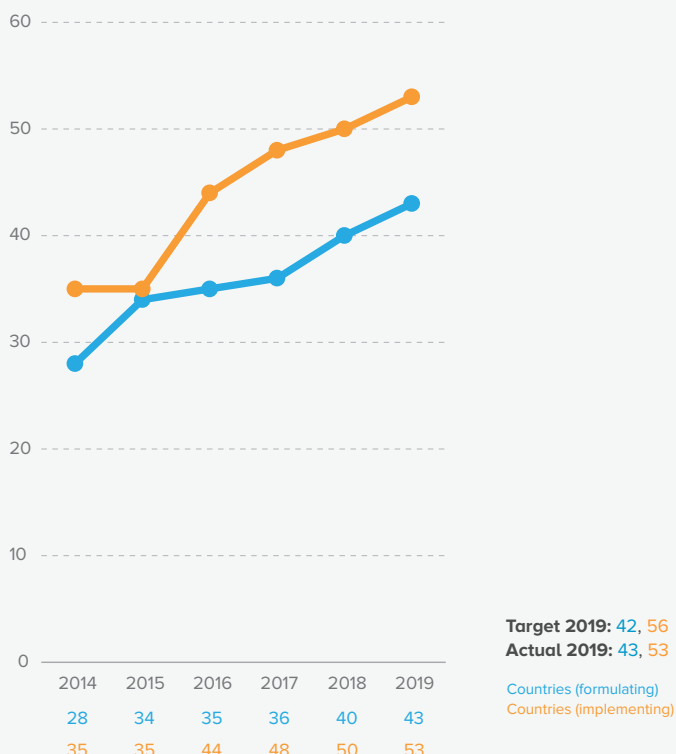
**Indicator of achievement 2:** Increased number of partner countries that are implementing sustainable and participatory slum upgrading and prevention programmes.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving slum upgrading and prevention policies, strategies or programmes. Figure 5.3 shows that for 2019, one indicator target for this expected accomplishment was exceeded by one partner country formulating improved slum upgrading and prevention strategies. Although there was an increase of three countries which implemented sustainable and participatory slum upgrading and prevention programmes, from 50 in 2018 to 53, the target of 56 for 2019 was not met. Box 5.2 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

**Figure 5.3: Progress towards indicator targets**

#### Partners formulating and implementing slum upgrading and prevention policies



### Box 5.2 2019 Progress Summary



**2 Countries and 1 region: Kenya, Zambia and the Caribbean region** formulated improved slum upgrading and prevention strategies.



**3 Countries: Cameroon, Niger and Senegal** implemented sustainable and participatory slum upgrading and prevention programmes.

## Global-level results

Through UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, member states and other stakeholders continue to utilize the normative tools to design evidence-based policies and transformative programmes that promote inclusive and integrated slum upgrading and slum prevention. The Slum Upgrading Programme has been able to influence member states at various stages of policy and planning. Since 2014, 20 countries have revised their policy and regulatory frameworks for slum upgrading with the technical support of UN-Habitat's Slum Upgrading Programme. In these countries, 35 citywide, national and regional strategies for slum upgrading have been developed through the UN-Habitat Programme. Fifty-three countries have benefitted from tools and knowledge aligned with UN-Habitat's inclusive and integrated slum upgrading approach to formulate, independently, gender and climate sensitive strategies. These countries are implementing slum upgrading interventions aligned with UN-Habitat's principles.

The tripartite financing model of UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme has been recognized as a sustainable funding model that can effectively support slum upgrading initiatives. Development banks are seeking to understand the model. The Caribbean Development Bank, for example, is financing 10 additional countries to benefit from the UN-Habitat Slum Upgrading Programme's inclusive financing model. The Islamic Development Bank is financing a regional study on how better to support improved housing through innovative financing. There has also been an increased budget allocation for slum upgrading and influencing of investments for slum upgrading in several countries. In this regard, there have been more than 90 concept notes written for slum upgrading and resource mobilization and financing strategies, and direct local intervention in 9 countries through community-managed funds and pilot project implementation with 516,203 direct beneficiaries.

During 2019, the *Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* launched in 2018 was tested in Kenya. It has now been scaled up in other countries participating in UN-Habitat's Slum Upgrading Programme, which are using it to make initial assessments of their legal frameworks to strengthen their inclusionary approaches to slum upgrading.



Since  
**2014**

**20 countries** have revised their policy and regulatory frameworks for slum upgrading with the technical support of UN-Habitat's Slum Upgrading Programme



The Caribbean Development Bank is financing

**10 additional countries**

to benefit from the UN-Habitat Slum Upgrading Programme's inclusive financing model



A community managed water kiosk in Mtwapa, Kenya ©Kirsten Milhahn/UN-Habitat



## Country-level results

UN-Habitat has continued its technical advice to member states in using normative tools to promote inclusive and integrated approaches to slum upgrading and prevention.

UN-Habitat continued its support to the Government of **Kenya** in promoting the implementation for more inclusive approaches to slum upgrading. The Government of Kenya is partnering with UN-Habitat to promote the implementation of more inclusive approaches to slum upgrading and Prevention Policy as well as in the formulation of the national Slum Upgrading and Prevention Bill in 2019. UN-Habitat has also introduced the slum indicators that now inform Kenya's national definition for slums and informal settlements through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme Country Team.

In **Senegal**, the National Strategy for upscaling slum upgrading at the national level was reviewed in 2019 with the support

of UN-Habitat. It is now aligned with the national slum upgrading programme “Zero Bidonvilles”, including its investment approach, and will benefit more than 50 per cent of Dakar's poorest residents by 2025 when the programme is completed.

UN-Habitat's member states have wholeheartedly embraced its inclusive tripartite financing model, which prioritizes multilateral inputs from all parties and facilitates real community-level impacts. Direct co-financing was received from several partner countries including **Bahrain, Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Madagascar, Mali, Niger, Republic of Congo, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, South Africa** and **The Gambia**. In **Madagascar**, for example, the citywide strategy for slum upgrading and prevention helped the Senegalese Government to mobilize USD 100 million through investments from the African Development Bank and the World Bank.

### IMPACT STORY

#### Transforming waste into business in Yaoundés slums, Cameroon

Local residents living in Melen slum, in the heart of Cameroon's capital city Yaounde are benefiting from the inclusive community funding approaches of UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading programme.

As part of the upgrading initiative, communities are encouraged to collaborate and develop local initiatives, often with the support of local non-governmental organizations, to improve the living conditions and livelihood opportunities for slum dwellers. The initiatives are supported through an inclusive funding mechanism, the Community Managed Funds, which require that residents form a multi-stakeholder local resident body to generate and manage the projects.

With the support of local partner Recherche-Action, Tam Tam Mobile received skills training on garbage collection. UN-Habitat collaborated with local partners to assist in widening the slum's roads to

improve general access and to create a link for Tam Tam Mobile to connect with the municipal waste disposal service.

The initiative is part of a slum regeneration pilot project implemented by the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme of UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the local partner Recherche-Action of **Cameroon** which advises and works with the slum community for the residents to improve their own living environment.

Like most informal settlements, Melen slum in Yaounde is not connected to the city's public garbage disposal system. So, the slum dwellers improvised their own garbage collection system. Tam Tam Mobile community garbage collection was formed, which pays young people to collect community rubbish.



The staff pull carts from door to door, using used rice sacks to collect the garbage from their paying customers. At the end of each shift, the collectors unload their full carts at a municipal waste collection point outside the slum.

The initiative has been so successful that it has diversified beyond waste collection to developing the skills of other local residents. Today, Tam Tam

Mobile provides employment for 60 young men from Melen slum in waste management and has a customer base of close to 300 households. The project has improved the community's environment, fostered the spirit of participation and is changing the community's mindset. It also trains women from the head office to become seamstresses. The initiative continues to be largely self-financing, only requiring occasional support from its partners.



Young men collecting garbage, Tam Tam Mobile initiative, Melen, Yaounde, Cameroon @ UN-Habitat/ Kirsten Milhahn

## Expected Accomplishment 5.3



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



### Indicator of achievement

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



### Indicator of achievement

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

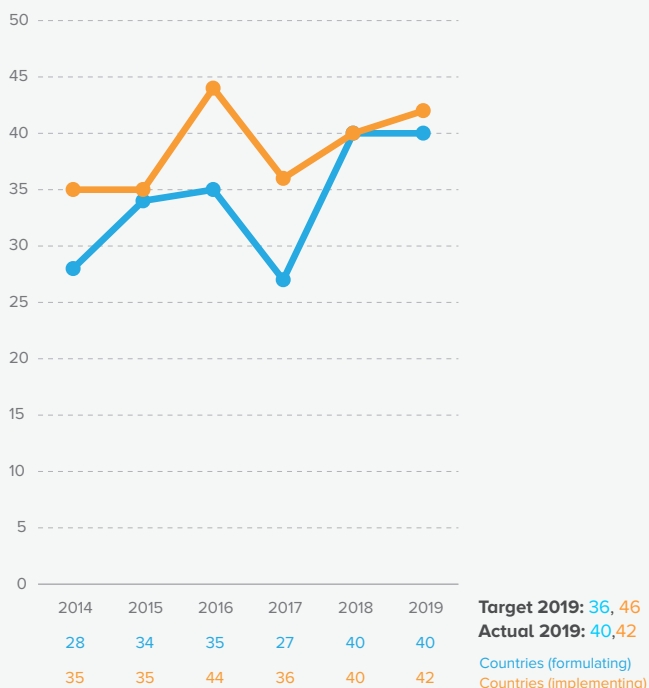
## Strengthening capacity of slum communities for community-level slum upgrading programme implementation.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

UN-Habitat continued to work with the same partner countries to enable equitable community representation and promote community-led slum upgrading initiatives. Figure 5.4 shows that the target for the first indicator in 2019 was met while the target set for the second indicator was not met, although there was an increase in partner countries from 40 in 2018 to 42 in 2019. Box 5.3 provides evidence supporting reported progress.

Figure 5.4: Progress towards indicator targets

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



### Box 5.3 2019 Progress Summary



**Country empowerment:** 2 new partner countries where communities are empowered to lead initiatives (**Lebanon** (Mina and Beddawi, and Jabal Mohsen in Tripoli, Maraach in Bourj Hammoud, Al Jazzar in Sabra, and the Old City of Saida) and **Iraq** (Mosul, Ninewa Governorate, Ramadi, Anbar Governorate, and Basra, Basra Governorate).

## Country-level results

UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading programme continues to provide support for the development of policies and programmes that empower slum communities to be represented in key government decision-making bodies pertaining to slum upgrading and in local initiatives to deliver improvements at the community level.

By the end of 2019, 40 partner countries had established diverse multisector teams comprising youth, women and traditional leaders as representatives of slums and informal settlements. These representatives ensure that the perspectives, concerns and aspirations of their settlement dwellers are brought into all key aspects of projects and policy decisions.

The tripartite funding model through the Community Managed Funds provide the financial muscle for community-led projects and initiatives driven by slum dwellers themselves. During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to support 40 community-led initiatives through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. For example, in Senegal's capital Dakar, it helped implement pilot projects in the neighbourhoods of Medina and Arafat. These projects are reaching over 30,000 people and improving mobility options, security of tenure and access to microfinance for women and youth through the Community Managed Funds model.

Through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in **Cabo Verde**, UN-Habitat has supported the Government to review and develop citywide slum upgrading strategies in five municipalities. These strategies are aligned with the country's National Housing Policy to ensure that cities can effectively mobilize resources and implement strategic actions for slum upgrading and prevention. Three neighbourhoods have already benefited

from participatory planning approaches, which are strengthening the development of community-managed and co-funded local initiatives using the Community Managed Fund model.

In **Lebanon**, neighbourhood upgrading projects are being implemented in eight targeted neighbourhoods to deal with key challenges such as the rehabilitation of public spaces; water, waste and storm water infrastructure; public spaces; and solar street lighting. In 2019, five more neighbourhoods were targeted: Mina and Beddawi, and Jabal Mohsen in Tripoli, Maraach in Bourj Hammoud, Al Jazzar in Sabra, and the old city of Saida. A range of community-level projects are being implemented, among them the rehabilitation of public spaces, football fields, upgrading of buildings and streets, and installation of local street lighting.

In 2018 and 2019, the government of **Iraq** and UN-Habitat collaborated through the *Rehabilitation and Regularization of Informal Settlements and Internally Displaced Persons Areas in Iraq* project, to develop appropriate technical solutions for the regularization and rehabilitation of deteriorating informal settlements. An innovative and functional technical solution based on modern and successful experiences was adopted, satellite images and remote sensing technologies were introduced and provided by the programme to delineate the boundaries of the informal settlement and those of internally displaced persons. Informal settlements and areas for displaced persons were mapped in 13 governorates in 2018, and a partnership has been established with the Central Statistical Organization within the Ministry of Planning to collect the defined indicators to identify the most appropriate urban intervention in each area. In 2019, slum upgrading pilot projects were implemented that improved living conditions in three informal settlements in Mosul, Ninewa Governorate; Ramadi, Anbar Governorate; and Basra, Basra Governorate.

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# 2019

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

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Hillside housing Kabul District 3,  
Afghanistan © UN-Habitat



# Subprogramme 6

## Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation

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### Introduction

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

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

To address these challenges, UN-Habitat's work in this subprogramme focuses on reducing urban risks and strengthening responses to urban crises by promoting inclusive, integrated “rebuilding by design” approaches, and by promoting resilience building in cities and human settlements. In doing so, human settlements are better prepared for natural and human-made disasters and can rehabilitate in a way that advances sustainable urban development.



## 2019 Highlights



### 56 cities in 28 countries

in 28 countries had used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* by the end of 2019 to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change.



### More than 1 million people

have benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions in sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis situations and within protracted conflict environments.

### 30 cities across 11 countries in Africa

are using the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool* to assess their resilience needs and develop strategies and action plans to reduce vulnerabilities and build resilience to natural and human-made hazards.



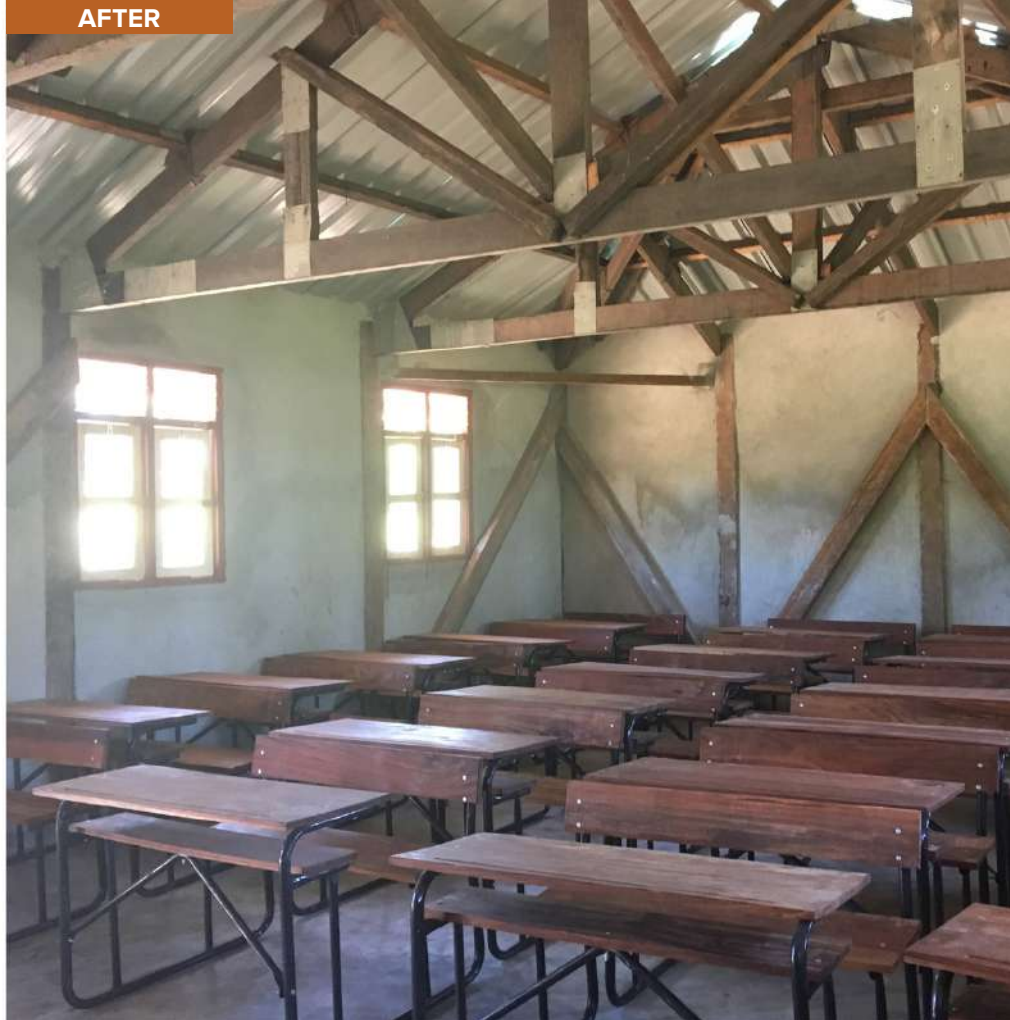
### Over 600 local government personnel and other stakeholders

gained skills on the application of the *City Resilience Profiling Tool*, and are leading the implementation of city resilience initiatives in their respective cities.



### Over 4,200 cities

are now part of the global campaign, the Making Cities Resilient Campaign, which UN-Habitat chairs, and are contributing to the achievement of urban elements and targets of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

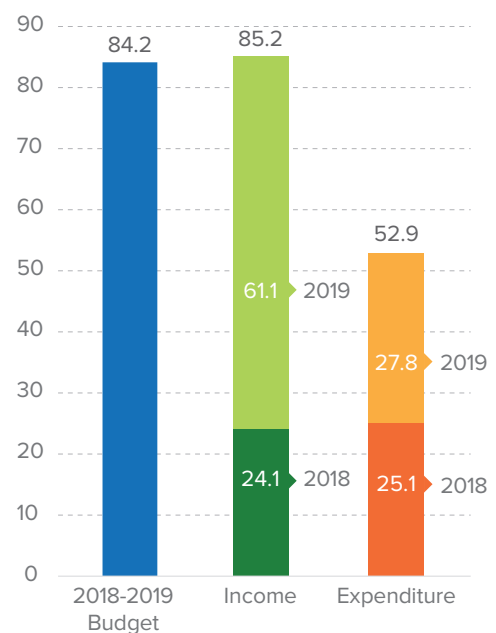


UN-Habitat Build Back Better Initiative repairs classrooms in Beira City, Mozambique © Eskinder Debebe/UN Photo

### Budget Performance

Figure 6.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extrabudgetary implementation for risk reduction and rehabilitation activities of USD 52.9 million was 63 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 84.2 million while income acquired of USD 85.2 million was 101 per cent of biennial target.

Figure 6.1: Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation – budget, income and expenditure





## Expected Accomplishment 6.1



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



### Indicator of achievement

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

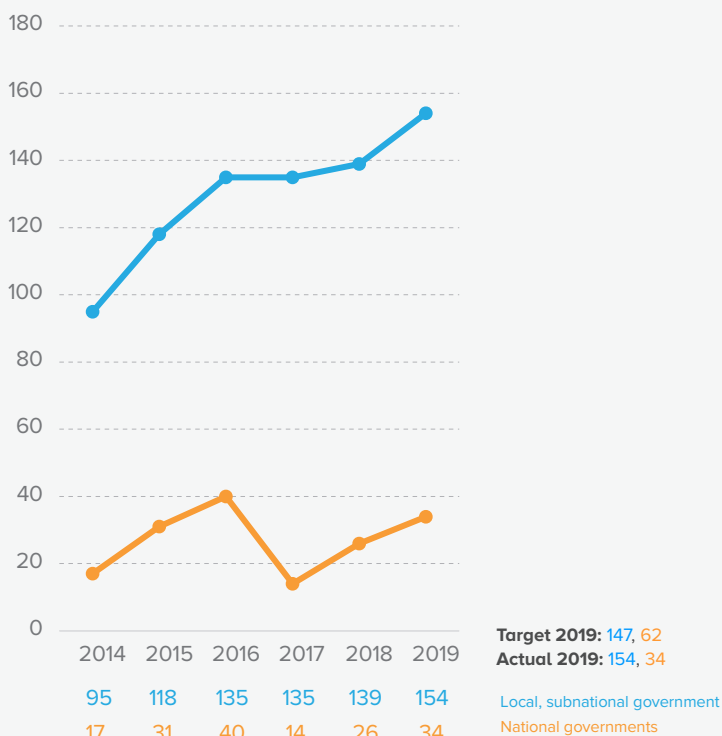
### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Some progress was made towards improving urban risk-reduction policies, strategies and programmes adopted for greater resilience of cities and other human settlements.

Figure 6.2 shows that one indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was achieved with 15 new partner cities and subnational governments, including urban risk reduction and management, in their plans. The other indicator target for 2019 was not achieved. Box 6.1 provides evidence supporting the reported progress.

Figure 6.2: Progress towards indicator targets

### Partner local/national/subnational authorities having urban risk reduction in their plans



### Box 6.1 2019 Progress Summary



In 2019, two cities: Teresina and Santa Marta municipalities, **Colombia**, initiated *the City Resilience Profiling Tool* to develop a citywide resilience plan.



The national government of **Brazil** endorsed the initiation of the implementation of the *City Resilience Profiling Tool*. Additionally, in 2019 CityRAP was implemented in cities in **Ethiopia** (Adama, Arada and Dire Dawa), **Malawi** (Lilongwe), **Mozambique** (Dondo), **South Africa** (George, Port Alfred and Potchefstroom), **Union of Comoros** (Fomboni), **Zambia** (Chipata and Lusaka) and **Zimbabwe** (Chipinge and Mutare).

## Global-level results

Through its resilience building global and regional programmes as well as projects, UN-Habitat continues to support a growing number of partner national and local governments in strengthening resilience of cities and other human settlements. The concurrent development of normative tools, which were then tested in various countries and contexts, has enabled stakeholders to strengthen resilience to multi-hazard impacts in many urban centres.

Using its two main resilience building tools, the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* and the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool*, UN-Habitat has continued strengthening local capacities for building resilient cities and other human settlements. The tools provide the norms and standards that enable stakeholders to assess, measure and develop evidence-based action plans for increasing city resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change sequence, and plan their resilience responses.

By the end of 2019, 56 cities in 28 countries had used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* training material to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change. Fifty-two of these cities have subsequently completed development of detailed citywide resilience profiles. The following cities are at the final step and have developed resilience strategies which include specific actions for change: Asuncion (**Paraguay**), Dakar, (**Senegal**), Maputo (**Mozambique**) and Yakutsk (**Russia**). All partner cities had no or minimal resilience strategies in place prior to the intervention.

The Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience developed the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool* with UN-Habitat support. The Planning Tool continues to empower municipalities with low technical capacity and scarce information, through participatory



# 56 cities

in 28 countries have used the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* training material to measure and strengthen their resilience to multi-hazard impacts.



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**Urban Profiling for Better Responses to Humanitarian Crises** – guidelines that support the city and neighborhood profiling tools.

instruments and methodologies, to undertake rapid profiling processes to assess and plan for urban resilience. The Planning Tool also enables stakeholders to develop priority actions to strengthen the resilience of their cities, towns, peri-urban and rural areas.

By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat had supported 30 cities across 11 countries in Africa in the application of the Planning Tool to enhance the capacity of city leaders and experts to assess the state of resilience of their cities. The beneficiary cities are at different stages of implementing the tool and are identifying key resilience strengthening actions, such as reinforcing drainage systems, ecosystem restoration, better management of solid waste, and establishing early warning systems and safe havens to protect lives and city assets.

# 2019

30 cities across 11 countries in Africa had used the *CityRap* tool to assess the state of resilience of their cities and identify priority actions.

UN-Habitat's city resilience building programmes have also strengthened capacities of 600 local authorities, professionals and other stakeholders as change agents to deliver the prioritized actions. By the end of 2019, over 20 openly available learning resources and knowledge products had been developed. For example, a flagship report on urban resilience, *Trends in Urban Resilience*, has been downloaded over 10,000 times.

UN-Habitat continues to lead the global advocacy campaign "*Making Cities Resilient*", to raise awareness about the role of local governments in building resilience in cities and help them report on the implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. With over 4,200 signatory cities, the campaign, which UN-Habitat chairs, is the largest global movement of its kind focusing

on urban resilience. The signatory cities have made commitments to improve resilience through actions and awareness-raising initiatives. For example, Sabana de la Mar, in the **Dominican Republic**, has undertaken an in-depth assessment of safety in hospitals and educational centres and subsequently developed a Municipal Emergency Plan. In addition, Albay Province, (the **Philippines**), has produced an executive order establishing a Climate Change Academy for local government units.

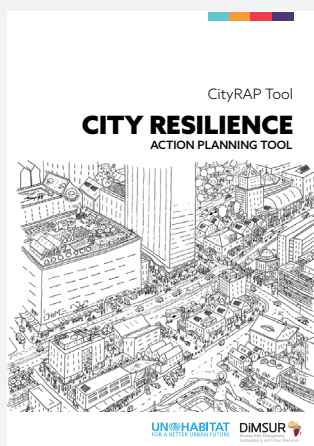
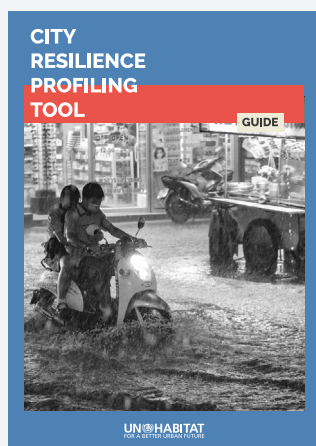
UN-Habitat's leadership on partnerships and advocacy for more collaborative cross-sectoral approaches to resilience has seen the launch of several global advocacy platforms across the strategic plan period that continue to play an important role in advocating for the city-resilience nexus. The Urban Resilience Hub, launched in 2018, is now a reference platform for many actors in the resilience field in terms of publications, news and information exchange. In addition, the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience, which UN-Habitat chairs, has now established partners working together in over 4,000 cities globally, with more than USD 2 billion committed annually toward advancing resilient and sustainable urban growth. Other members are Cities Alliance, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the Inter-American Development Bank, the International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives, 100 Resilient Cities, the Rockefeller Foundation, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, and the World Bank Group.

UN-Habitat is also actively involved in the Global Alliance for Urban Crises and leads urban work in the exchange of knowledge and good practice. UN-Habitat also raises awareness on the specific requirements of dealing with crises in cities. In 2019, the Alliance's production of standards and guidelines saw UN-Habitat, alongside the Joint Internally Displaced Persons Profiling Service, produce the guideline *Urban Profiling for Better Responses to Humanitarian Crises (2019)*.



600

UN-Habitat's city resilience building programmes have also strengthened capacities of 600 local authorities, professionals and other stakeholders as change agents to deliver the prioritized actions.



## Country and city-level results

Through its two key normative tools, the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* and the *City Resilience Action Planning Tool*, UN-Habitat has continued to build on its effective collaboration with member states to support the implementation of national and subnational resilience policies and strategies. Application of these tools, to date, equips countries and local governments with the skills and information to develop informed strategies and priority actions. Through the strategies, they also have the evidence-based bankable projects for investment from external partners or national governments.

Using the *City Resilience Profiling Tool*, with its 140 indicators and benchmarks, partner countries are able to develop detailed resilience plans to address multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change, as demonstrated through the progress made in the four pilot cities. In **Paraguay**, UN-Habitat is partnering with the Asuncion city government to implement the Profiling Tool, in collaboration with over 120 multisector stakeholders who have also been trained on resilience-related issues. By the end of 2019, an in-depth resilience strategy had been developed for Asuncion setting out a vision for making the city resilient.

In **Mozambique**, the partnership between UN-Habitat and the Maputo Municipality is resulting in the implementation of the City Resilience Profiling Tool. By the end of 2019, an in-depth city resilience building strategy had been developed and 100 stakeholders trained. In addition, the municipality approved a proposal to develop a permanent resilience unit to ensure implementation of the strategy and to sustain the momentum of strengthening the resilience of Maputo and its environs.

The city of Dakar, **Senegal**, has worked with UN-Habitat and by the end of 2019 key data had been gathered for 75 indicators on the city's urban performance in areas such as the economy, environment, basic services

and mobility. To support the data gathering process, over 30 individuals from municipal departments were trained on how to map the data each department had collected and identified risk reduction and resilience-building priorities for the city.

In **Russia**, UN-Habitat is working with the regional capital city of Yakutsk to implement the Profiling Tool to address the major resilience challenges. Data gathered is now informing urban planning decisions. For example, analysis of the satellite data collected shows that temperature increases are bringing forward the spring flooding each year. This data has informed decision-making on which sites are safe for construction. In 2019, the city produced a first draft of its resilience strategy and is building consensus on the priority areas for action.

During the reporting period, through the implementation of the City Resilience Action Planning Tool, progress had been made in supporting low-capacity and information-scarce partner countries and cities to assess and plan actions aimed at reducing risk and building resilience. In 2019, the tool was scaled up at different stages into 13 cities in **Ethiopia** (Arada, Dire Dawa and Adama), **Malawi** (Lilongwe), **Mozambique** (Dondo), **South Africa** (George, Port Alfred and Potchefstroom), **Union of Comoros** (Fomboni), **Zambia** (Lusaka and Chipata) and **Zimbabwe** (Mutare and Chipinge).

In **Malawi**, for example, UN-Habitat's partnership with the Government helped support the development and implementation of the National Disaster Risk Management Policy, which resulted in integration of the City Resilience Action Planning Tool into the national guidelines for disaster risk management plans. Partnerships with several local governments resulted in the application of the tool. The city of Zomba, for example, has adopted a City Resilience Action Plan, making it the country's first city to do so.

In **Ethiopia**, the City Resilience Action Planning Tool has been scaled up to other cities because of its effectiveness and relevance. In addition to Lideta sub-city (Addis Ababa), CityRAP is under implementation in Adama, Arada sub-city (Addis Ababa) and Dire Dawa. The robust nature of the tool is being adapted to other elements of **Ethiopia's** planning process. Key elements have now been included in the methodological guide for the elaboration of urban plans that the Ministry of Land, Environment and Rural Development has developed to enhance its disaster risk management and resilience dimension.

Countries affected by natural disasters such as earthquakes have shown a particular benefit from resilience planning. In **Afghanistan**, through the City Resilience programme, the post-2015 framework and agendas have been successfully embedded into urban policies and plans in a coherent and integrated manner, leading to safe, resilient and sustainable urban development in the country and in producing some credible results for this new concept. The country now has a national disaster risk reduction strategy with six associated policy documents and guidelines. Additionally, community-level improvements have been made. The retrofitting of houses

and schools and the removal of boulders has benefitted over 47,737 people and approximately 4,250,000 people at the city level.

In **Myanmar**, UN-Habitat has actively supported the development of seismic hazard mapping and profiles of 5 major cities and earthquake risk action plans for 3. The country has also developed its own norms and standards for assessing seismic vulnerability and retrofitting.

UN-Habitat played a key role in advocating for earthquake risk assessments in various growing urban centres of **Myanmar** that the Government has now included in their planning documents. In 2019, UN-Habitat supported non-structural risk assessments in the cities of Yangon and Mandalay. These assessments assisted the Ministry of Health and Sports to mainstream disaster risk reduction in the health sector beyond solely providing immediate medical care to disaster victims. UN-Habitat's support in strengthening capacity on seismic risk assessment in Myanmar also assisted the World Bank in utilizing the trained officials in its larger disaster risk reduction programme in Yangon city.



Main street Yangon, Myanmar © Shutterstock

**IMPACT STORY**

**Safer Schools build resilient communities across Mozambique**

Climatic, geographic and geological factors place **Mozambique** at continued risk of extreme natural disasters. To strengthen the resilience of schools across the country, the Government of Mozambique has had a long-term partnership with UN-Habitat to develop cyclone-resistant schools under the Safer Schools Programme. In 2019, the value of the programme proved successful in the face of the Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, as the only schools to withstand the full force of the storm were those designed and built under UN-Habitat’s school cyclone resilience-building programme.

The Safer Schools Programme includes a comprehensive assessment of cyclone and flood-damaged schools; hazard risk mapping; improved site planning and zoning; development of normative standards, including building guidelines and building codes to bolster school structures. These standards were developed in consultation with local stakeholders. The schools were built using local mixed materials, which reduced construction costs by one third.

Over the Strategic Plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat worked to embed these normative standards and tools into policy and practice. In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Human Development, UN-Habitat produced six pilot Safer Schools Project packages in 2015, inserting anti-cyclonic and anti-seismic measures into school construction. The same year, UN-Habitat partnered with UNICEF to pilot the Basic Emergency School Plan, providing schools with an action plan for dealing with disasters. The *Zoning Map for Cyclones and Strong Winds* established zoning rules to define school construction standards in 2016.

In 2017, Mozambique became a founding member of the Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience Centre, a subregional technical facility for disaster management, preparedness and resilience which UN-Habitat and partners govern. Through a joint-partnership with local stakeholders, UN-Habitat supported a reconstruction project that, in 2018, launched the rehabilitation of 400 classrooms using the Safer Schools model.

Cyclones Kenneth and Idai struck Mozambique in early 2019, destroying or damaging 4,000 classrooms. Every classroom built to Safer Schools standards remained undamaged and fully operational. As a result, the minister of education asked that future school construction apply the Safer School standards. Then, the nation’s Cyclone Reconstruction Cabinet and UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding to build 2,000 cyclone-resistant school rooms, a 20-fold increase over the Strategic Plan period.

The impact of the Safer Schools Project’s has demonstrated the value of UN-Habitat’s normative disaster risk reduction management standards and strategies. They are now recognized in legislative frameworks for resilient construction across different sectors in Mozambique, including within basic infrastructure and housing. The Ministry of Health, for example, approached UN-Habitat in 2019 to develop a similar project for health-care facilities.



UN-Habitat cyclone resilient design used to rebuild schools in Nampula District, Mozambique ©UN-Habitat

## Expected Accomplishment 6.2



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



### Indicator of achievement

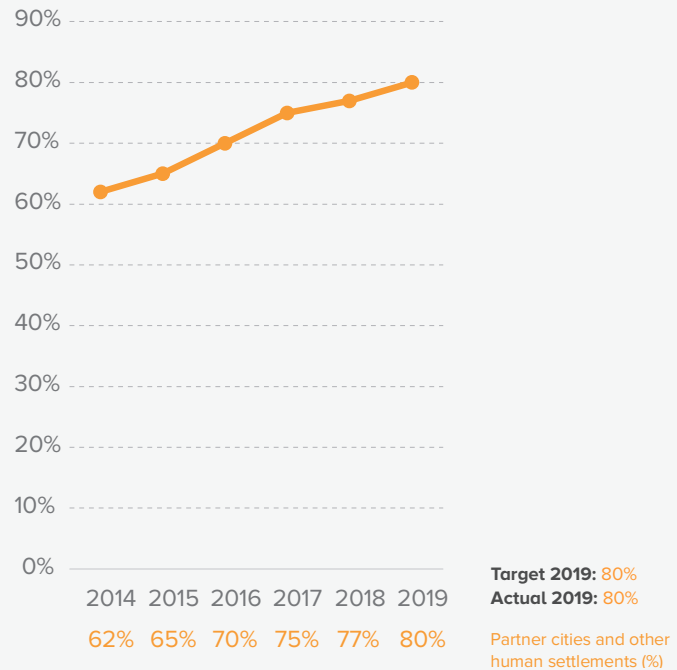
Increased percentage of partner cities and other human settlements that have implemented sustainable urban reconstruction programmes including risk reduction.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Figure 6.3, therefore, shows that the indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was met. Box 6.2 provides evidence supporting the reported progress.

**Figure 6.3: Progress towards indicator target.**

**Percentage of cities/settlements having implemented sustainable urban reconstruction programmes**



### Box 6.2 2019 Progress Summary:



More than **1 million people** have benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions in sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis situations and within protracted conflict environments.



More cities than ever before are recognizing the importance of durable housing and infrastructure solutions in post-crisis recovery.



More humanitarian response agencies are changing their approaches from pure emergency solutions to durable, sustainable solutions that improves the lives of affected communities.

## Global-level results

Several member states have successfully used UN-Habitat’s normative tools and benefitted from high-level advocacy on key global networks to improve their recovery and reconstruction in ways that advance sustainable urban development.

The City and Neighbourhood Profiling tools provided member states with the capacity to assess urban recovery needs and to mainstream sustainable urbanization in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. For example, these have been used extensively in **Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, Palestine, Somalia, Syria Yemen**. The *Urban Profiles* have also been developed for 36 cities in **Palestine, Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, Yemen** and **Libya** providing a cross-sectoral and spatial perspective of damage in urban areas, the functionality of cities as well as urban vulnerabilities. The profiles inform interventions by humanitarian agencies, recovery-driven and development partners, including local authorities, civil society and the private sector and contributing towards evidence-based knowledge for short, medium and long term public sector planning and investment.

# 2019

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with over 20 leading sector organizations, developed transformative norms and standards for guiding sustainable post-disaster housing reconstruction.

Additionally, UN-Habitat’s “People’s Process” tool developed in Asia was used extensively in several countries such as **Afghanistan, Myanmar, the Philippines** and **Sri Lanka**.



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**Supporting Safer Housing Reconstruction After Disasters**  
– Planning and Implementing Technical Assistance at Scale guidelines.

The tool is well documented as a mechanism that ensures fully inclusive community participation in post-crisis reconstruction programmes.

In 2019, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with over 20 leading sector organizations, developed transformative norms and standards for guiding sustainable post-disaster housing reconstruction. So far, all participating organizations and five universities are using the *Supporting Safer Housing Reconstruction After Disasters – Planning and Implementing Technical Assistance at Scale (2019)* guidelines as reference documents.

Throughout 2019, UN-Habitat continued to build on its high-level advocacy efforts, promoting the value of sustainable urban approaches for long-term integrated recovery and reconstruction outcomes. For example, UN-Habitat continued its role in the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs and supported the results group on humanitarian and development coordination, building on UN-Habitat’s earlier leadership of the reference group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas. Through this Committee, UN-Habitat promotes the inclusion of urban dimensions in humanitarian responses, especially for durable, sustainable solutions for supporting refugees, internally displaced persons and migrants.



## Country-level results

UN-Habitat supported member states to recover from natural disaster and protracted conflicts in **Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Myanmar, Pakistan, Philippines, the State of Palestine, Somalia, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria and Yemen**. UN-Habitat's spatially integrated approach was used to link different sectors, people and structures across the city space, aligning with the United Nations Secretary-General's call for humanitarian efforts to incorporate sustainable development approaches.

During 2019, progress was made in partnering with member states to implement their sustainable settlement recovery and reconstruction interventions. In **Syria**, the *Rapid Multi-Sectoral Urban Assessment Methodologies* were used in 2018 and 2019 to establish up-to-date impacts of crisis on cities, developed in the Syrian context for Homs, Aleppo, Dara'a, Latakia and its neighbourhood.

This resulted in improved information for prioritized rebuilding of the most-affected areas of these cities.

UN-Habitat also continued to empower member states to manage reconstruction processes and housing delivery in post-disaster settings. In particular, UN-Habitat continued to promote "build back better" approaches that provide greater resilience against future natural disasters. For example, by the end of 2019, approximately 34,000 people (21,111 of whom were women) in Bethlehem city and the Aida and Beit Jibrin refugee camps in the **State of Palestine** had benefited from UN-Habitat support. UN-Habitat assessed the state of basic services; encouraged sustainable strategies for the management of solid waste, waste water and drainage; as well as public transport. In 2019, earthquake-resistance building guidance, developed in **Iran** was being used to protect housing and infrastructure against future shocks. These standards and guidelines will be adapted for wider application in other earthquake-prone countries.



Building a concrete retaining wall in Sri Lanka © Shutterstock

## Expected Accomplishment 6.3



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



### Indicator of achievement

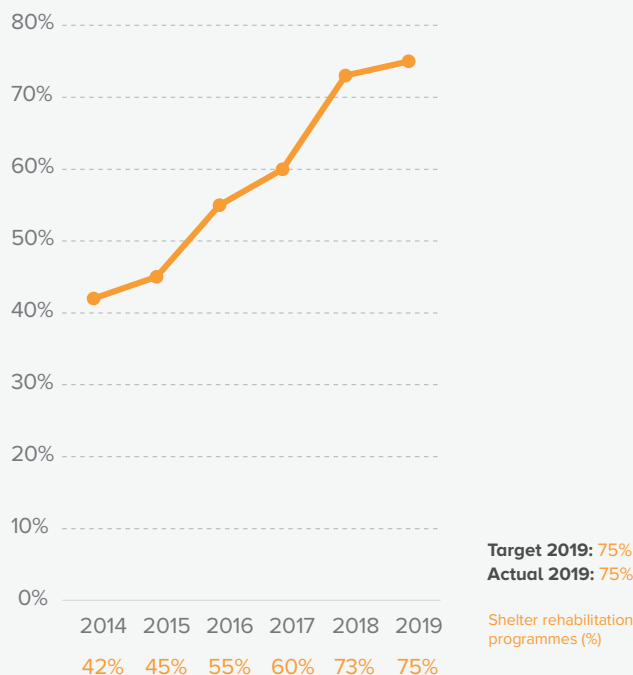
Increased percentage of shelter rehabilitation programmes that are contributing to disaster-resilient permanent housing.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving shelter rehabilitation programmes in crisis responses contributing to sustainable and resilient cities and other human settlements. Figure 6.4 shows that the indicator target for 2019 for this expected accomplishment was achieved. Box 6.3 provides evidence supporting the reported progress.

**Figure 6.4: Progress towards indicator target**

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



### Box 6.3 2019 Progress Summary



**Iraq Shelter Cluster:** UN-Habitat leading role on urban assessments and area-based approaches.



**Mozambique:** UN-Habitat led the housing Post-disaster Needs Assessment.



**Bangladesh:** UN-Habitat embeded urban professionals with the United Nations refugee agency, UNHCR, to improve crisis response in Cox's Bazar.



**Kenya:** UN-Habitat supported the Government and UNHCR plan an urban settlement for refugees to improve social services to the host community.

## Global-level results

UN-Habitat's normative tools and advocacy efforts were integral in promoting resilient approaches to shelter and housing reconstruction. By the end of 2019, 75 per cent of shelter rehabilitation programmes had contributed to disaster-resilient permanent housing in various countries globally.

UN-Habitat continued to provide urban expertise to support the Global Shelter Cluster within the Inter-Agency Standing Committee on Humanitarian Affairs. During Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in **Mozambique** (April 2019), UN-Habitat supported the Shelter Cluster's policy on reconstruction in urban areas, to ensure more durable solutions and not just the provision of tents and temporary shelter. As part of the detailed post-disaster needs assessment (led by the United Nations Development Programme, the World Bank, and the European Union), UN-Habitat led the entire housing sector and prepared the assessment and support for the Government's reconstruction strategy. UN-Habitat also provided urban expertise to the Global Shelter Cluster on reconstruction in urban areas to advocate for more durable, permanent housing solutions.

The design for the settlement of Kalobeyei in Kenya focuses on long-term sustainability by integrating the local host community with refugees and incorporating a provision for environmentally sensitive basic services. The **governments of Kenya and Japan**, and The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees supported the effort. Lessons learned from 2019 were being scaled up and applied to major displacement sites worldwide, such as Cox's Ba-zar in **Bangladesh** and the West Nile, North Western Region of **Uganda**.

## Country-level results

Reflecting the importance of linking normative and operational work, UN-Habitat has been driving disaster risk reduction interventions to support durable and sustainable solutions in humanitarian crises at country level. In **Iraq**, for example, UN-Habitat has introduced minimum quality and safety standards for the rehabilitation of war-damaged buildings, and to mainstream issues of environmental sustainability. In 2018 and 2019, basic infrastructure and 286 low-cost core housing units were established to accommodate vulnerable returnees. The returnees' homes were destroyed in Garma, Fallujah and Ramadi in Anbar Governorate. UN-Habitat also takes a lead role in Iraq's Shelter Cluster Technical Working Group on War-damaged Buildings, UNHCR and the Government, both key partners, appreciate and acknowledge UN-Habitat's role.

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During Cyclones Idai and Kenneth in **Mozambique**, UN-Habitat supported the Shelter Cluster's policy on reconstruction in urban areas, to ensure more durable solutions.

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In **India**, UN-Habitat and the UNDP, working with the Central Emergency Respond Fund, in 2018 and 2019 implemented the project *Operationalizing Shelter Hubs in Severely Flood-affected Districts of Kerala, India*. In partnership with the State Government of Kerala, the project's execution mitigates the severe impact of flooding and landslides in the heavily affected districts of Pathanamthitta, Wayanad, and Idukki. UN-Habitat supported the recovery of temporary houses reaching 5,000 homeowners. UN-Habitat also built local capacity on disaster-resilient construction practices in 10 shelter hubs.

# Subprogramme 7

## Urban Research and Capacity Development

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### Introduction

Subprogramme 7 transforms urban data, research outputs into products that guide member states, to formulate informed decisions for sustainable urban development. It contributes to monitoring and assessment of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and coordinate preparation of the Quadrennial Report on the New Urban Agenda. Subprogramme 7 contributes to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

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

To address these challenges, UN-Habitat helps countries improve knowledge on sustainable urbanization issues and enhances their capacity to formulate and implement evidence-based policies, plans and programmes at the local, national and global levels. This is done through the creation of national and local urban observatories that use unified monitoring frameworks and standardized products that offer comparability of results. Training staff of national statistical offices and partners on the use of specialized monitoring tools such as the City Prosperity Index for spatial analysis, the national sample of cities approach, disaggregation of information, and best practices is a major area of capacity strengthening. Working with local systems of data collection, governments can produce timely and reliable data for the monitoring and review of their own policies.



## 2019 Highlights



### 540 cities in 13 countries

are implementing the City Prosperity Initiative to undertake diagnostics, create baselines, propose targets and produce actions plans and policy decisions.

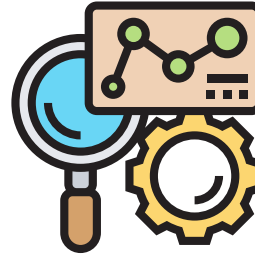
### 73 national statistical offices

produced urban data for Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda reporting using UN-Habitat tools. Eight more offices joined in 2019. This represents an increase of 54 from 2014.



### 230 institutional partners

and over 1,800 individual members globally are part of UN-Habitat's University Initiative that focuses on cities and other human settlements.



### 355 urban observatories

are using UN-Habitat tools, methods and data in monitoring urban trends and conditions at national and local authority levels, an increase of 17 in 2019.



### 416 local governments

and 42 national governments have used UN-Habitat flagship publications for evidence-based policy formulation.

### 60,000+ views



have been recorded on UN-Habitat's Global Urban Lecture Series and associated resources.



### 134 participants from 24 countries

representing national statistical offices and urban observatories, benefitted from the regional training on monitoring and reporting tools in 2019.

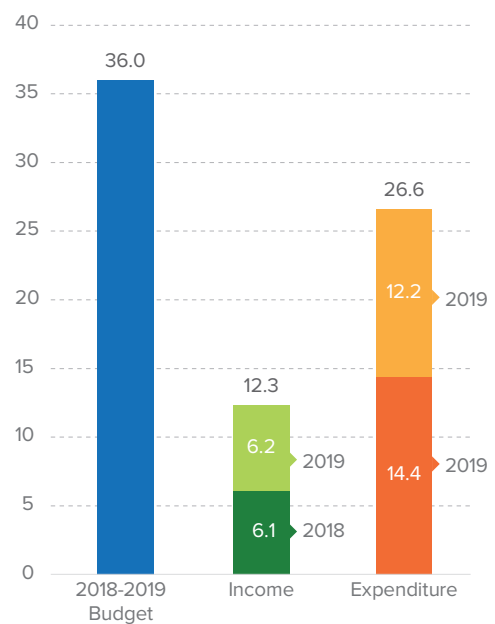


The city of Merida, Mexico implemented a customised version of the City Prosperity Index ©Shutterstock

## Budget Performance

Figure 7.1 shows that in 2018–2019, extrabudgetary implementation for research and capacity development activities of USD 26.6 million was 74 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 36.0 million while income acquired of USD 12.3 million was 34 per cent of biennial target highlighting the continuing challenge of securing predictable long-term funding for global research which is crucial for monitoring implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

**Figure 7.1: Research and Capacity Development - budget and income expenditure**



## Expected Accomplishment 7.1



### Improved monitoring of global urbanization conditions and trends



#### Indicator of achievement 1:

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



#### Indicator of achievement 2:

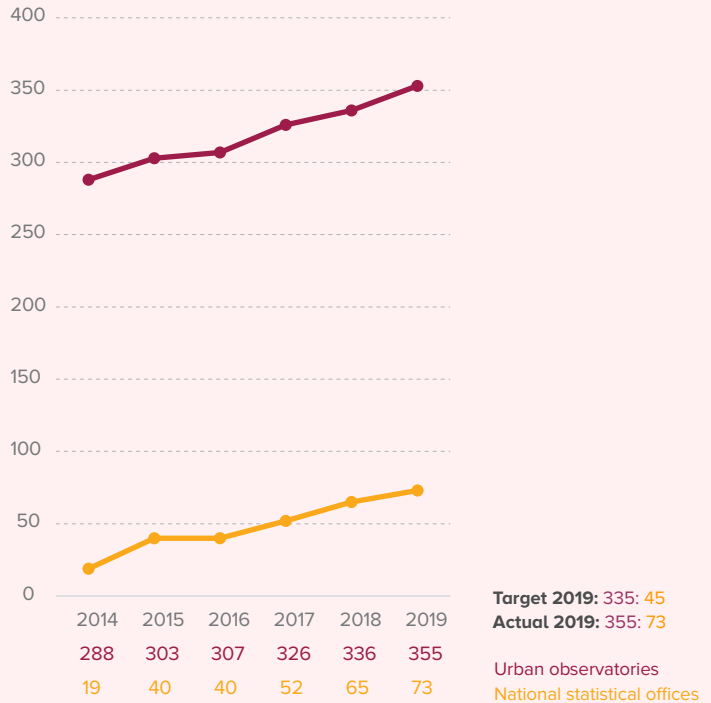
Number of partner national statistical offices producing urban data and indicators to support reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals.

### Progress on indicator of achievement for the planned result

Progress was made towards improving monitoring of global urbanization conditions and trends. Figure 7.2 shows that the two indicator targets for this expected accomplishment were achieved, with two targets surpassing the 2019 targets with 19 urban observatories added in 2019 and 8 new statistical offices producing urban data on several thematic areas using our global guides and tools. Box 7.1 provides evidence supporting the reported progress in 2019.

Figure 7.2: Progress towards indicator targets

#### Number of Urban observatories Partner statistical offices producing urban data



### Box 7.1 2019 Progress Summary



#### 19 urban observatories were added in 2019:

National observatories - **Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, Egypt, Kuwait, South Africa, Sudan, Thailand, Uruguay and Viet Nam**. Local observatories - Botswana (**Gaborone, Francistown**), Ethiopia (**Addis Ababa, Mekele**), Ghana (**Accra**), Tunisia (**Tunis, Monastir**) and Zambia (**Lusaka, Kabwe**). These urban observatories are now reporting on the status of urbanization using the 72 indicators for which they were trained.



#### 8 new statistical offices were added in 2019:

**Bahrain, Botswana, Egypt, Ghana, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia and Zambia**. They are now producing urban data on several thematic areas using our global guides and tools.

## Global-level results

Significant capacity improvement was achieved in 2019 for the local, national and global monitoring of urban conditions and trends through UN-Habitat’s multifaceted approach to monitoring. UN-Habitat provides knowledge and capacity development to advance the global monitoring agenda through new tools and methodologies, the Global Urban Indicators Database, national sample of cities, geospatial Sustainable Development Goal-linked analytical toolkits, the strengthening of urban observatories and national statistical offices, as well as the data generated through the City Prosperity Initiative. These combined initiatives translate into the progressive improvement in monitoring sustainable urbanization; quantitatively with the increased number of urban observatories and national statistical offices engaged, and qualitatively with the inclusion of new indicators and indices relevant for the assessment of emerging issues key to sustainable urbanization.

### Developing tools, methods and approaches for the global monitoring agenda

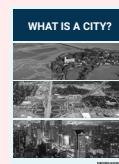
UN-Habitat made major progress in advancing the capacity of its member states and other stakeholders to monitor related urban conditions and trends, responding to new country and local monitoring requirements for the Goals. This is in recognition that monitoring urban trends and conditions has shifted from single targets and indicators focusing on developing countries to global coverage on multiple spatial indicators, most of which are new in the human settlements monitoring sphere.



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**National Sample of Cities** – An unbiased statistical method for approximating urban-related indicators using a representative sample of cities.



**City definition methodology** – An initiative to develop a global definition of the city, enabling accurate comparative analysis of urban areas globally using geospatial analysis.



**Slum area definition tools and methodologies** – A toolkit of innovative methodologies for defining and measuring slum areas.



In response, UN-Habitat has continued to develop new tools and methods including the City Performance Monitoring Framework, the global and national sample of city approach, new city definitions, and slum area measurements using Earth observation spatial analysis techniques, and the City Prosperity Index to monitor Goal 11 indicators locally.

### **The City Prosperity Initiative and the City Performance Monitoring Framework**

UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative established in 2012 and adapted in 2018 continues to strengthen the capacity for monitoring at city level. By the end of 2019, over 540 cities in 13 countries were using the City Prosperity Index to generate city-level data across key urban sustainability themes. In 2019, the City Prosperity Index was also integrated as a monitoring and certification tool within the Sustainable Development Goal Cities Programme, enhancing the capacity of decision makers across all levels of government, development partners, civil society, and the private sector to formulate integrated evidence-based strategies, interventions and policies.

The cities of Maceio and Sao Paulo in **Brazil**, Merida in **Mexico**, Tomsk in **Russia**, Penang in **Malaysia**, Wuhan in **China**, for example, implemented customized versions of the new Index. A new tool to measure perception, using an interactive survey tool of the Index with a Google application was designed and successfully implemented in Malaysia in 2019. In addition, the City Performance Monitoring Framework was developed in 2018 and rolled out the following year. The Framework supports the monitoring of city-level input and output data across all sectors that contribute to the broader outcomes and impacts. It has been implemented in 17 cities in **Ethiopia** to guide their monitoring, planning, policy decisions and investments.

### **Defining cities to strengthen global reporting on urban-related SDGs**

Guidelines for new definitions and the delineation of cities as statistical units of analysis were further refined in 2019. UN-Habitat continued to spearhead the initiative to refine the definitions of cities to support the monitoring of urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Many targets and indicators refer directly to cities as the new units of analysis for tracking and reporting progress. Many countries, however, define cities differently based on diverse criteria.

During 2019, UN-Habitat worked with various global partners including the European Commission, the Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development, the Food and Agriculture Organization, the World Bank and national statistical offices to test a global methodology for defining cities. UN-Habitat organized seven regional workshops to introduce, discuss and customize the global cities definition methodology. Over 90 countries have participated in these consultations, building a broader acceptance and consensus around what defines a city. The outcome from these consultations will improve international statistical comparisons of city performance across urban and rural areas and complement existing national indicators.

### **Developing statistical methods to reduce cost of reporting on urban indicators: national sample of cities**

Recognizing the substantial resources required for data collection across all urban-related indicators for the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat has developed the national sample of cities methodology. The approach is specifically designed to support countries with low technical capacity and limited resources to undertake systematic data collection and analysis on urban geospatial indicators and targets. The approach helps countries select a non-biased sample of representative cities. By the end of 2019,

UN-Habitat had piloted the approach in **Botswana, Colombia, Ecuador and Tunisia**. This approach has been a real cost saver for national and local governments. Countries that have implemented the approach to reporting progress have reduced resource requirements by nearly 30 per cent, as the number of cities requiring geospatial indicators that are technologically intensive and require skilled geospatial personnel are reduced.

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

In 2019, significant progress was made in the ongoing work of refining the slum area-based definition to improve its clarity and relevance. This involved advancing new approaches for spatial urban monitoring to understand, better, the position and extent of slums and informal settlements as well as their population numbers. To ensure member states produce more reliable data for monitoring indicators such as 11.1.1, UN-Habitat deployed Earth observation technologies and artificial intelligence techniques to detect spaces and areas with slums and informal settlements.

This approach has been tested in **Brazil, Colombia, Democratic Republic of the Congo, Ghana, Kenya, Malawi, Nigeria, Uganda and South Africa**. The new approach will enable countries to report better on Goal indicator 11.1.1 on housing and slums as well as other spatially dependent indicators on which it has been largely difficult to report for the last five years.

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UN-Habitat continued to respond to the increased and urgent demands for global reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals' urban indicators at city levels by strengthening the monitoring capacity of urban observatories and national statistical offices.

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### **Strengthening monitoring capacity of urban observatories, national statistical offices**

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to respond to the increased and urgent demands for global reporting on the Sustainable Development Goals' urban indicators at city levels by strengthening the monitoring capacity of urban observatories and national statistical offices. This is being achieved mainly through training and direct technical support on the application of monitoring tools and methods.

In collaboration with the regional commissions, UN-Habitat has continued to provide regional training in Africa, Asia and the Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean, as a cost-effective way to raise awareness on the urban-related monitoring agenda, share knowledge and introduce new tools. A total of 134 participants from 24 countries benefitted from the regional trainings in 2019. The training has often led to additional country-level work as member states seek additional substantive technical support.

Through its Global Urban Observatory programme, training on the tools and setting up urban observatories were conducted in 2019 in **Botswana, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Jordan, Kuwait, Mexico, Saudi Arabia, Tunisia, Viet Nam and Zambia**. By working with UN-Habitat, member states, through their urban observatories, are in a better position to produce detailed city-level reports based on strengthened urban observatory systems and personnel skills. For example, in **Egypt**, UN-Habitat strengthened the capacities of the National Urban Observatory of the General Organization of Physical Planning and developed an integrated urban monitoring framework to track and monitor urban changes in Egyptian cities and support evidence-based decision-making at the local level. In 2019, local urban observatories were established in four small cities in the Nile Delta whose data will feed into future national urban policy debates.

Additionally, specific demand-driven country advisory missions for direct technical support to in-country teams were undertaken in **Bahrain, Botswana, Ghana, Kuwait, Saudi Arabia, Senegal, Swaziland, Tunisia** and **Zambia**. These missions assisted national statistical offices to localize urban monitoring tools for the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda reporting as well as to help member states make evidence-based policy decisions.

UN-Habitat's capacity strengthening efforts have had a direct positive impact on member states' country-level reporting on the urban-

related indicators of the Goals and the New Urban Agenda. More countries now have the skills and tools to produce voluntary national reviews and voluntary city reviews with detailed analysis of the urban-related targets and indicators of progress. Since the global monitoring agenda commenced in 2016, the number of Voluntary National Reviews countries have submitted increased from 19 countries in 2016 to 45 in 2018, bringing the total number which have submitted at least one voluntary national report to 98 across the 2016–2018 period.

## IMPACT STORY

### Enhancing Sustainable Development Goal 11 reporting in Botswana

The Government of Botswana has strengthened its capacity to monitor and report on sustainable urbanization. Urban data collection for evidence-based policy decision-making and planning is being improved. Between 2017 and 2019, approximately 80 technical officers and officials from Statistics Botswana, Gaborone and Francistown, civil society, academia, public and private institutions were trained and sensitized on the importance, collection and use of urban data for decision-making and the urgent need to adopt a systematic approach to urban monitoring.

Since 2017, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa have collaborated to implement the project titled “*SDG 11: Monitoring and reporting on human settlement indicators in Africa and Latin America*” in Botswana, Columbia, Ecuador and Tunisia. The main objective of the project was to address the challenges that countries face in deploying new data systems and

tools for monitoring and reporting urban-related Sustainable Development Goals at the city level. This included strengthening the capacities of national governments to monitor and report on Goal 11 and improve the availability of and access to data and statistics at city and urban national levels for the formulation of evidence-based policies.

In Botswana, in 2019, two pilot cities, Gaborone and Francistown, developed urban prosperity status reports using the City Prosperity Initiative methodology and forming the content of a database of 50 indicators now available to urban decision makers. Urban observatories have also been established that support the monitoring of the country's progress towards achievement of the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. **Botswana** now serves as a model for other countries in the region, as they develop their own data collection, monitoring and reporting capacities.

## Expected Accomplishment 7.2



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



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



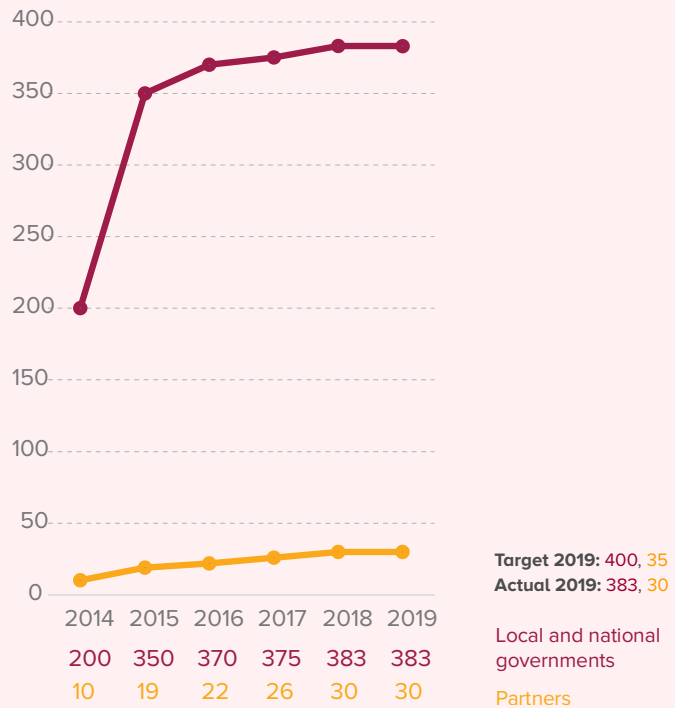
**Indicator of achievement 2:**  
Increased number of partners producing national and city reports to enhance local and national policy formulation

### Progress on indicator of achievement of the planned result

Slight progress was made on indicator two in that one report was produced. Figure 7.3 shows no progress was reported on indicator one as no data was collected.

**Figure 7.3: Progress towards indicator targets**

Local/National governments using UN-Habitat's products, partners producing national/city reports



## 2019 Normative tools and knowledge products



**New Urban Agenda Implementation Guidelines** – The Guidelines support voluntary member state reporting on implementation of the New Urban Agenda. These reports are direct inputs to the quadrennial report.



**The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019: Transformative Pathways Towards Sustainable Urban Development** – Makes the case for four priorities and four approaches to realize a sustainable urban future in Asia and the Pacific.

In 2019, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, the Asian Development Bank, the Centre for Livable Cities, Singapore, the European Union, the Rockefeller Foundation and the United Nations Development Programme developed the third State of Cities report for the Asia-Pacific region. *The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019: Transformative Pathways Towards Sustainable Urban Development* provides analysis of the major urban trends in the region, the key issues. It also identifies four major development challenges including natural resource management, climate change, disaster risk and inequalities. It outlines the key means of implementation to accelerate the achievement of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, suggesting emerging policy opportunities to realize urban sustainability for the Asia-Pacific region. The report informs policies and actions from a sustainable development perspective, putting cities at the centre of development policy debates.

### Global reports

In 2019, UN-Habitat made progress towards the preparation of the 2020 *World Cities Report*, which will explore the value of sustainable urbanization. The report is prepared in partnership with United Cities and Local Governments and the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa urbanization section. An advisory board of 12 different organizations reviewed the first draft in 2019. The final report will be launched during World Cities Day, October 2020.

## Strengthening knowledge on global urbanization

### Regional reports

In line with UN-Habitat mandate to raise awareness on important global and regional trends, the *Future of Asian and Pacific Cities Report* was produced in 2019. Reports on the regional state of cities provide a comprehensive view and analysis on the state of cities through a regional lens. These reports identify information and data gaps, challenges and opportunities for sustainable development, and contribute to enrich local and regional information and knowledge to support evidence-based policy decisions.

### New Urban Agenda Guidelines

UN-Habitat is mandated to produce qualitative and quantitative analysis of the progress made in implementing the New Urban Agenda and internationally agreed goals and targets relevant to sustainable urbanization and human settlements. In 2019, UN-Habitat led the way in developing guidelines for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda to improve the United Nations system-wide collaboration and global reporting on

sustainable urbanization. *The New Urban Agenda Implementation Guidelines* support member states in reporting progress on implementing the New Urban Agenda and to inform the national voluntary reports that inform the quadrennial reports. The best practices, lessons learned and case studies included in the national reports will contribute to country-to-country learning and provide a common resource for policymakers.

The Guidelines provide clear direction on the activities, accomplishments and indicators that should be included in the national voluntary reports. The reporting guidelines for member states cover the following areas: (i) the transformative commitments; (ii) effective implementation; and (iii) follow-up and review. The reports will provide essential inputs to the United Nations Secretary-General's Quadrennial report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Saudi Arabia first Voluntary National Review.



Main street of Riyadh City, Saudi Arabia © Shutterstock

## Expected Accomplishment 7.3



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



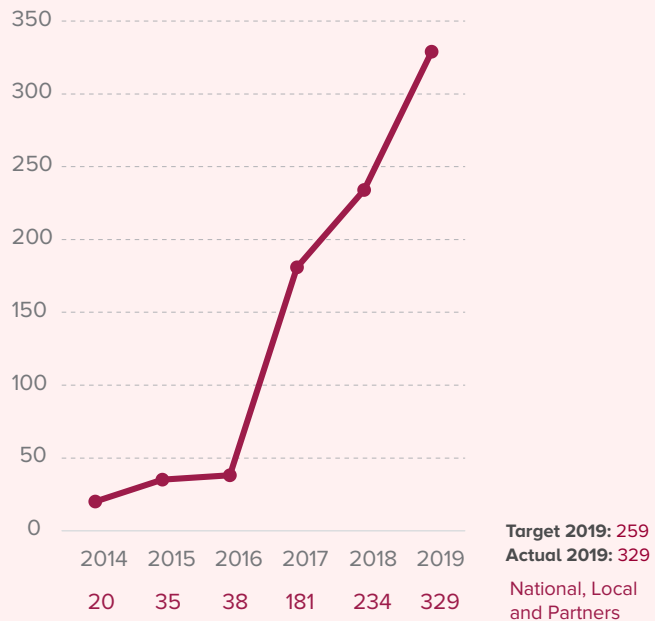
**Indicator of achievement 1:** Increased number of national and local authorities and partners that have implemented plans or strategies for sustainable urbanization.

### Progress on indicator of achievement of the planned result

Progress was made towards improving the capacity of national and local authorities and partners to implement plans or strategies for sustainable urbanization. Figure 7.4 shows that the three indicator targets for 2019 for this expected accomplishment were achieved, with two targets surpassing the 2019 targets, with 95 national and local authorities implementing plans and strategies for sustainable urbanization. Box 7.3 provides evidence supporting the reported progress in 2019.

**Figure 7.4: Progress towards indicator targets**

**National/Local authorities/Partners that have implemented plans/strategies for sustainable urbanization**



### Box 7.2 2019 Progress Summary



**95 national and local authorities and partners** implemented plans and strategies for sustainable urbanization in 2019.



Of these, **26 countries** are in **Africa**, 41 in the **Asia-Pacific**, 2 in the **Arab States**, 23 in **Latin America and Caribbean**, and 3 in **Europe**.

## Identifying and Promoting Best Practices in Sustainable Urban Development

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to share stories of change, impact and lessons through its globally orientated best practices using its best practices database. The 2019 Dubai Best Practices Award continued to promote global examples of sustainable urbanization and were presented in a new online format: 524 number of practices were submitted, and 100 practices were on the short list across each key theme. Ten practices emerged as the final winners in the different categories. These different streams of practices are hosted on the best practices database on the Platform for monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and urban-related Sustainable Development Goals.

In its role as a global adviser and expert in identifying and harnessing best practices on urban development to promote sustainable urbanization, UN-Habitat supported several strategic best practices award platforms during 2018 and 2019. The identification and promotion of best practices as a member of the selection boards (i) Cities Alliance's *Best Practices on Follow-Up and Review of Global Agendas at Local Level*; (ii) the United Nations Department of Social and Economic Affairs SDG Good Practices Programme; (iii) the *Shanghai Manual: A Guide for Sustainable Urban Development in the 21st Century* in collaboration with Shanghai Municipality; and (iv), the Dubai EXPO Best Practices Programme.

### Interactive platform for monitoring implementation of the New Urban Agenda and promoting the uptake of best practices

To share UN-Habitat's knowledge on sustainable urbanization further, learning forums to facilitate monitoring, reporting, knowledge, quantitative and qualitative data sharing to accelerate the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals were initiated.

### Capacity-building for implementing the New Urban Agenda and urban-related Sustainable Development Goals

UN-Habitat's capacity-building programme has expanded across the strategic plan period in response to member states' requests for training on sustainable urbanization. More countries and cities are interested in following a comprehensive and integrated approach toward capacity-building, including conducting training needs assessments, linking monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals to existing urban development policies.

During 2019, UN-Habitat continued to provide stakeholders with new ideas and opportunities to learn new skills about sustainable urbanization. The capacity, knowledge and skills of over 2,000 practitioners and officials was strengthened by the end of 2019, representing more than 67 cities in over 52 countries through capacity development activities.

In 2019, the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted the capacity-building resolution (HSP/HA/1/Res.3) requesting UN-Habitat to prepare a clear and coherent strategy for global capacity-building for sustainable urban development.

UN-Habitat expanded its training and capacity-building activities during the Strategic Plan period 2014–2019. In 2019, UN-Habitat launched the online Capacity-building Repository, a learning resource to support the uptake and implementation of UN-Habitat normative tools and provide continuous, global access to key training. In addition, the online Global Urban Lectures Series and in-situ courses were enhanced in partnership with training centres of excellence in **Brazil, Namibia, Netherlands, Peru, Singapore, South Korea, Sweden and the United States**. By the end of 2019, the Global Urban Lectures and associated resources had reached more than 60,000 views, with capacity development



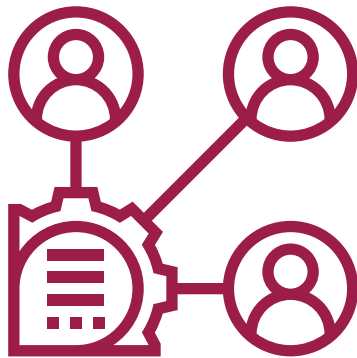
material comprising 15 of the top 20 most-watched UN-Habitat video list.

The UN-Habitat University Initiative continued to expand; by the end of 2019, it comprised 230 institutional partners and over 1,800 individual members from university programmes that focus on the urban context and the built environment. The Initiative has become an important catalyst in integrating and mainstreaming the global sustainable development agenda and cross-cutting issues into academic research. The programme also builds synergistic linkages between partners in support of research-based and data-driven policymaking processes at the national and city levels.

A significant part of UN-Habitat's work on capacity development is building capacity around city-level transparency, particularly in monitoring the progress on urban Sustainable Development Goal indicators. In 2019,

the citizen consultation process in **Brazil** expanded to several South America cities in **Bolivia** (La Paz and Tarija) and **Peru** (Chimbote, Trujillo, Barranco and Miramar). In **Brazil**, 6,637 citizens from 545 cities have participated, while in **Bolivia** and **Peru** a total of 1,376 citizens from the six participating cities are now participating.

UN-Habitat's capacity development work also creates partnerships to promote learning on sustainable urbanization. For example, the short international courses with the government of Gangwon Province, **Republic of Korea**; Government of **Singapore** and the private sector (Arcadis consultancy, the **Netherlands**) continued in 2019. By the end of 2019, the capacity development work had benefited over 2,500 stakeholders from African, Asian and Latin American countries through face-to-face training events and many more thousands of people through online participation.



## 2,500+ stakeholders

from African, Asian and Latin American countries had benefited from capacity development work through face-to-face training events and many more thousands of people through online by end of 2019 participation

# Regional Highlights

## Africa Region

### Introduction

UN-Habitat's Regional office for Africa is present in 33 countries. Although the least urbanized of all the regions, at about 43 per cent, it is nevertheless the most rapidly urbanizing one at 3.5 per cent annually.

Through various tools, advisory services, capacity development and technical support, UN-Habitat works with governments to address urbanization challenges including poverty and inequality; informal settlements; urban food and water insecurity; climate change and disaster risk reduction. Priority areas of support at national and local levels provided in 2019 include housing and slum upgrading, urban basic services, land management, urban economy, urban and regional planning, policy development, disaster risk reduction and recovery and post-conflict reconstruction.

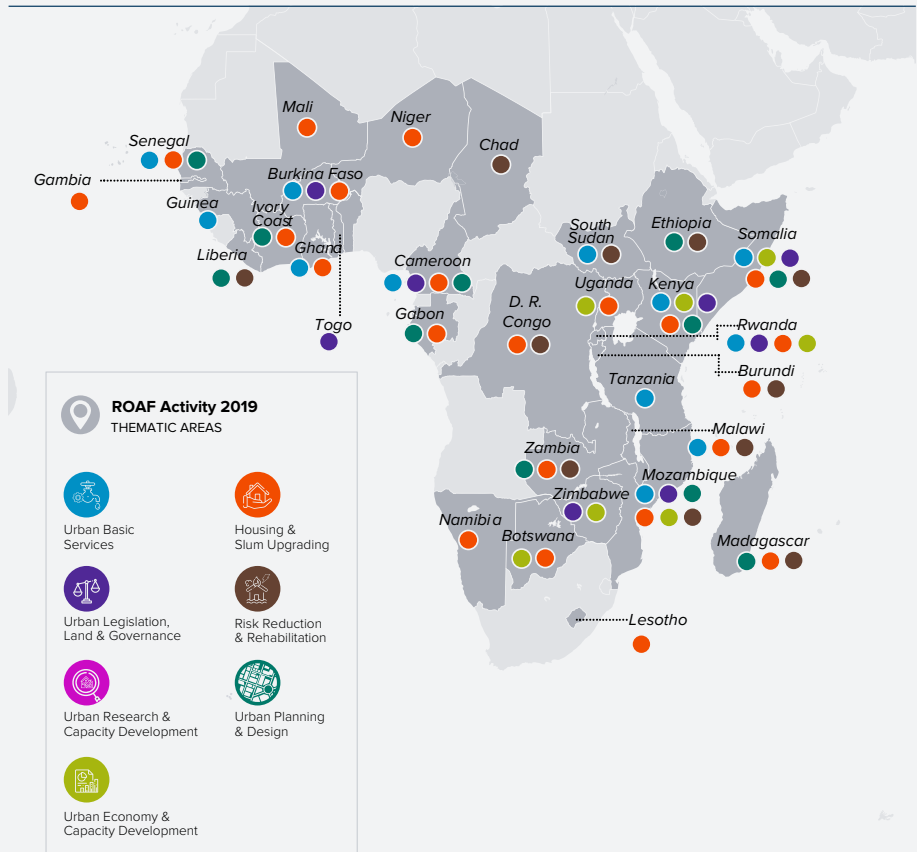


Women selling eggs at Kimironko market, Kigali, Rwanda.  
© Sarine Arslanian/Shutterstock

## Regional Summary



**Figure 8.1: Shows the countries where UN-Habitat is active in the region and what key thematic areas are supported**



## Reducing risk and strengthening urban resilience

Many cities in the Africa region are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change and natural disasters while at the same time often have low adaptive capacities. This makes them highly vulnerable to events and limits their capacity to respond and prevent disasters. Member states in the region continue to use the City Resilience Action Planning (CityRAP) to facilitate resilience planning at the city level.

By the end of 2019, 30 cities in 11 African countries had implemented the tool, and identified their resilience needs such as

reinforcing drainage systems, ecosystem restoration, better management of solid waste and establishing early warning systems and safe havens to protect lives and the city's assets. In 2019, the City Resilience Action Planning continued to be implemented in cities in **Ethiopia** (Arada, Dire Dawa and Adama), **Malawi** (Lilongwe), **Mozambique** (Dondo), **South Africa** (George, Port Alfred and Potchefstroom), Union of Comoros (Fomboni), **Zambia** (Lusaka and Chipata) and **Zimbabwe** (Mutare and Chipinge).

## Enhancing youth engagement and livelihood opportunities

In 2019, UN-Habitat and partners supported member states to develop urban strategies and policies to strengthen stakeholder capacity for more inclusive economic development that enhances livelihood generation opportunities for youth. Through flagship programmes such as the One-Stop Youth Centre, over 69,000 youth in the Africa region have received training on entrepreneurship, computer technology, health education, tailoring, building construction peacebuilding in **Guinea, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan** and **Uganda**. In 2019 alone, One-Stop Youth Centres in **Somalia** trained 1,874 youth and 1,339 youth have found permanent or temporary employment. The programme has also led to 87 youth business startups, creating jobs for other youth.

## Improving access to land and tenure security

UN-Habitat works with local and national authorities in the region to improve security of tenure through development of inclusive national land policies, property enumeration and mapping as well as issuance of certificates of occupancy. The continuum of land rights concept and fit-for-purpose land administration approaches, including the social tenure domain model, continue to influence the implementation of inclusive national land policy in **Uganda** and drafting of national land policies in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo** and **Zambia** in 2019.

By the end of 2019, the Global Land Tool Network, facilitated by UN-Habitat, had supported the issuance of over 6,000 formal tenure documents in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Uganda** and **Zambia** while more than 217,000 people in these countries had their spatial data collected, mapped and enumerated to increase prospects for improved tenure security. In 2019 for example, in **Uganda** 1,088 representatives of local government and community leaders across 14 municipal councils gained skills and knowledge in

fit-for-purpose and gender responsive land administration tools and approaches such as tenure responsive land-use planning, participatory, pro-poor recordation and the social tenure domain model. A total of 3,252 Certificate of Customary Ownership have been issued in **Uganda** across the strategic plan period.

## Promoting inclusive and integrated national urban policy processes

Over the strategic planning period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat supported the development of inclusive National Urban Policies in more than 19 countries in the region. In 2019, **Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Liberia, Malawi, Mali, Nigeria, Senegal, Tanzania** (Zanzibar) and **Zambia** continued developing national urban policies.

UN-Habitat has also supported the development of Habitat Country Programme Documents as implementation tools for national development programmes aimed at improving people's living conditions and urban development. By the end of 2019, new documents had been developed in **Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique, Nigeria, Uganda, South Sudan** and **Zambia**, enabling the implementation of more sustainable projects and programmes whilst integrating both the normative and operational aspects of the work.

UN-Habitat continued to support the African region's commitment to sustainable urbanization and the implementation of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the New Urban Agenda. The Africa Urban Agenda Programme promotes partnerships with regional institutions such as the African Union and the Economic Commission for Africa to ensure a harmonized regional framework for monitoring the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The framework will ensure that identified priorities are both transformative and in tandem with what countries have prioritized for their national level implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11.



Over **6,000** formal tenure documents in the **Democratic Republic of the Congo, Namibia, Uganda** and **Zambia** were granted.

## National Urban Policy to leverage the value of sustainable urbanization in Malawi

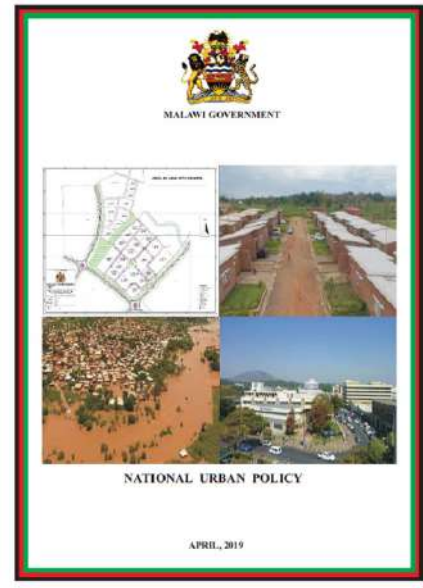
The development of Malawi's national urban policy marked a major paradigm shift from a rural-focused development policy to one which recognizes the inherent value of sustainable urbanization. Past national development strategies in Malawi have largely viewed urbanization as a constraint to development rather than an opportunity. In 2016, following the *World Bank report Republic of Malawi Urbanization Review, Leveraging Urbanization for National Growth and Development*, the Government of Malawi requested UN-Habitat to support the development of its national urban policy.

The final draft of the policy was validated during the Third Session of the Malawi Urban Forum of August 2018. It was eventually passed by the Government in 2019 and provides the framework for guiding urban development programmes and driving sustainable urbanization in Malawi. It promotes 8 key priority areas:

1. Spatially balanced and integrated hierarchy of urban centres.

2. Urban governance and coordination of urban development.
3. Integrated planning and urban development.
4. Shelter, infrastructure, and services.
5. Competitive and inclusive urban economic development.
6. Urban resilience, climate change adaptation; and disaster risk management.
7. Socially inclusive urban development.
8. Resource mobilization for urban development.

The Government is now mobilizing resources and strengthening partnerships for its implementation and monitoring. The policy advocates for the strengthening of the National Habitat Committee which played a vital role in the policy formulation and is a key contributor in the implementation and monitoring phases. Additionally, the ministry will establish the National Urban Observatory as an innovative tool for monitoring the implementation of the National Urban Policy and all urban development programmes.



Malawi National Urban Policy Report © UN-Habitat

# Asia and Pacific Region

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## Introduction

The Regional Office in Asia and the Pacific oversees 23 country programmes. Urbanization is one of the major trends defining the Asia-Pacific Region and is increasingly being compounded by the impacts of human conflict, climate change and natural disasters, especially in Small Island Developing States. In addition, 54 per cent of the global urban population, or more than 2.2 billion people, live in Asia, highlighting the significance of urbanization to the region.

Against this backdrop, UN-Habitat promotes climate sensitive sustainable urbanization with a focus on inclusive and integrated approaches of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. In particular, UN-Habitat is playing a key role in expanding knowledge and interventions on the climate-urban nexus, piloting inclusive initiatives which have strengthened climate resilience and response effectiveness.



Typhoon Nina aftermath in Iriga City, Camarines Sur, Philippines.  
© Rainier Ampong/Shutterstock

## Regional Summary



**Figure 8.2: Shows the countries where UN-Habitat is active in the region and what key thematic areas are supported**



Through partnerships with global bilateral and regional donors, UN-Habitat continued country-level programme work in the least developed countries as well as countries in crisis. Ongoing significant support from the Government of Japan enabled programme expansion in post-crisis contexts in **Afghanistan, Cambodia, Laos, Myanmar, Nepal, the Philippines** and **Sri Lanka**.

**Afghanistan**, for example, continues to utilize UN-Habitat’s normative tools,

such as the People’s Process and the Continuum of Land Rights, which have supported systematic, integrated and inclusive programme implementation. Building on long-term multisector partnerships, programmes such as the City for All and Clean and Green Cities have contributed to policy, institutional, and subsequent service delivery improvements that have transformed people’s lives and the urban context in **Afghanistan**.

## Promoting inclusive approaches to urban planning and design

In 2019, UN-Habitat provided support in urban planning and design as an important focus of its work. *The Public Space Assessment Tool*, for example, which enables cities to assess public space adequacy and design more inclusive processes, was applied in **Afghanistan**, the **Philippines** and the Chinese city of **Wuhan**. Public space programmes in the region engaged with the needs and aspirations of children. In Wuhan, for example, the people-centred Urban Public Space Programme has, since 2016, implemented public spaces in three districts. In addition, the collaboration with the Wuhan Land Use and Urban Spatial Planning Research Centre, promoted the inclusion of children using child-friendly city spatial planning guidelines.

Urban planning has underpinned the work being undertaken in the 9 emerging megacities worldwide involved in the City Prosperity Initiative, which the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office is funding. UN-Habitat's Lab provided strategic urban planning technical advice to **China, Indonesia, Malaysia, Myanmar, Philippines, Thailand** and **Viet Nam**. The Programme is developing sustainable urban strategies and pilot projects to avoid urban sprawl and promote inclusive prosperity to alleviate urban poverty.

In 2019, UN-Habitat also collaborated with the United Nations system to mainstream urban development issues in a new generation of Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in **Cambodia, Malaysia, Thailand, India, Sri Lanka, China, Indonesia** and **Timor-Leste**.



Hanoi, Vietnam © Shutterstock



## Using public space for more inclusive, safer and greener cities in Afghanistan

UN-Habitat worked closely with 12 municipalities in Afghanistan to construct new parks and improve existing ones as part of the Clean and Green City Programme. The provision of high-quality public spaces is considered an important part of the ongoing social and cultural change in Afghan cities. The creation of these new public spaces changed the lives of residents and their relationship with their city. Public spaces drive inclusion, social cohesion and gender equality.



The first female park in Jalalabad, Afghanistan © UN-Habitat

By the end of 2019, 49 parks and green areas had been developed or upgraded in 12 Afghan cities. Over 450,000 trees were planted. The Programme resulted in safer spaces and more livelihood opportunities, especially for women. Between 2017 and 2019, more than 20,000 people were employed through the programme, among them women, creating 2.6 million job days.

For women and children in particular, these parks were transformative and offered new opportunities. In cities where there were previously almost no green spaces, residents now have access to public areas that promote their participation in public life.

*"We are very happy to have a dedicated space for us where we can spend time and enjoy*

*ourselves freely," said a regular female user of the Women's Park, Jalalabad.*

The city of Jalalabad, for example, recently inaugurated the first Women's Park. Facilities includes a community centre, green areas, a water fountain and recreational areas for children. City residents received the park enthusiastically.

## Strengthening advocacy and knowledge generation

Building on the work of previous collaborations, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Economic Commission for Asia and the Pacific produced *The Future of Asian and Pacific Cities 2019 Report*, which analyses major regional urbanization trends and issues and recommends policy pathways to tackle key challenges. In addition, UN-Habitat supported the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages in Sonyang, **China**, in collaboration with a range of partners. The forum promoted the new international guidelines on urban-rural linkages, *the Territorial Urban Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Development*, that the UN-Habitat Assembly adopted in May 2019.

Against this backdrop, UN-Habitat has been making the most of its convening capacity to facilitate country-to-country and city-to-city learning and collaboration within the region and beyond. UN-Habitat organized, with various partners, three major advocacy events in 2019. The Pacific Urban Forum in Nandi, **Fiji** in July, the Asia Pacific Urban Forum in Penang, **Malaysia** in October and the **Cambodia** Urban Forum in Phnom Penh city in November. The Asia Pacific Urban Forum saw the launching of several groundbreaking initiatives. These included the new Asia-Pacific Mayors Academy and the Penang Platform for Sustainable Urbanization.

## Accelerating urban responses to climate change in Asia-Pacific

Given the severe impact climate change has caused in the Asia-Pacific, mainstreaming climate change into urban development policy, strategy and programming has become increasingly important for national governments. UN-Habitat continued its work on climate change and resilience building in 19 countries and 53 cities in the region.

The *Integration of Climate Change Concerns into National Urban Policies Initiative Guide*, developed in 2018, supported countries to review and develop national urban policies from a climate change perspective. The regional guide is based on experiences in **Bangladesh, Myanmar, Philippines, Solomon Islands, Sri Lanka** and **Viet Nam**. 2 of the 6 countries developed new national urban policies (**Myanmar and Solomon Islands**) as a result of the process. **The Philippines** significantly revised its National Urban Policy, and **Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Viet Nam** enhanced urban-related policies in the process.



Community Climate Action Planning in Bilo Informal Settlement in Fiji © UN-Habitat.

In addition, through the Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor Initiative, UN-Habitat supported the implementation of community planning as a tool to strengthen local climate resilience. By the end of 2019, for example, 189 towns and villages in the **Lao People's Democratic Republic** had benefitted from inclusive planning processes that have guaranteed year-round water supply and better road access. Forty-three new community infrastructure projects were completed. Meanwhile, 16 informal settlements in **Fiji**, 5 in the **Solomon Islands**, and 5 peri-urban

ger areas (a form of residential district) in **Mongolia** undertook climate change assessments to guide priority actions benefitting nearly 200,000 people.

For the next Strategic Plan period 2020–2023, further acceleration of comprehensive support programmes is planned with emphasis on the Building the Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor programme. In 2020, new projects will be launched in **Cambodia, the Lao PDR, Pakistan** and **Viet Nam**.



A busy bus terminal in the city centre of Suva, Fiji © Shutterstock

# Arab States Region

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## Introduction

The Regional Office for Arab States covers 18 countries in the Middle East and North Africa region. The region is 56 per cent urbanized. Urban growth in the region remains largely due to rural-urban migration. However, population displacement due to conflict continues. Most cities in **Iraq, Libya, Syria** and **Yemen**, for example, have been largely destroyed by conflict, causing significant numbers of displaced persons and pressure on neighbouring cities to absorb those displaced. Land disputes and competing land claims due to secondary occupation during displacement of the original owner is another major challenge affecting the region. At the same time, UN-Habitat member states have been grappling with difficulties related to urban sprawl, the delivery of basic urban services, and are seeking more sustainable solutions to these problems.

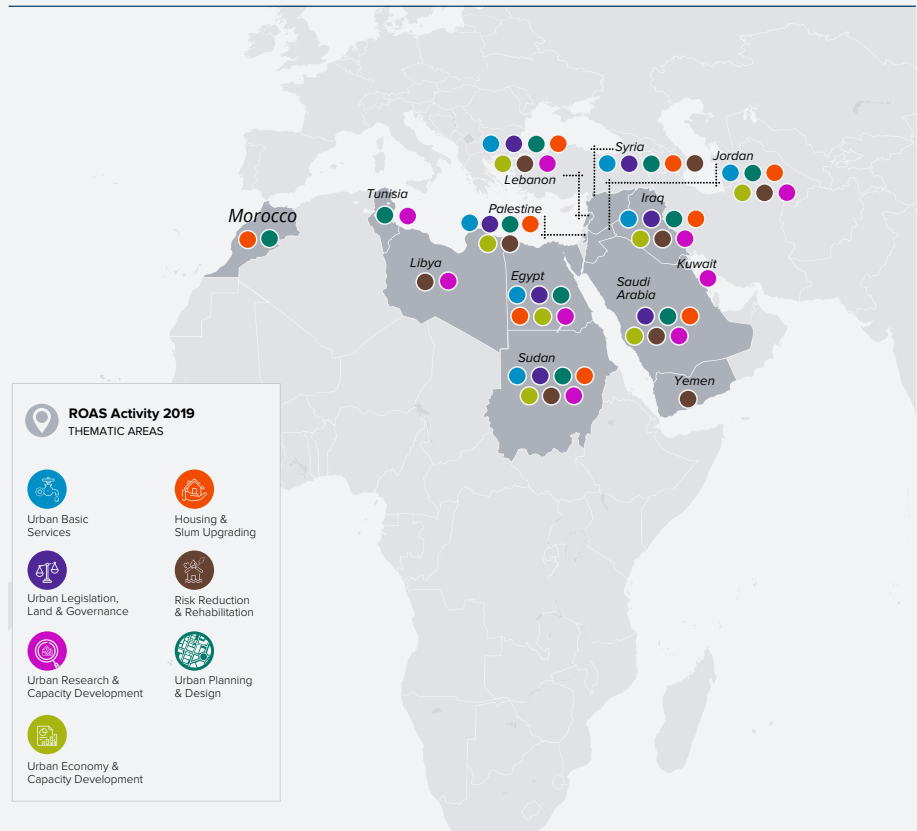
In this region, UN-Habitat is supporting partners deliver a diverse portfolio of more than USD 348 million. The programmes span across all thematic areas, and stem from the priorities of the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030 that the Arab Ministerial Council on Housing and Urban Development approved in 2016. Many projects are implemented as integrated interventions, focusing on multiple issues with varying levels of emphasis. In addition to contributing to regional priorities, the work promotes sustainable urbanization and climate resilience goals outlined in the New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 11 as well as the Sendai Framework through the sustainable recovery and reconstruction work.

UN-Habitat's work in the region in 2019 maintained a focus on managing conflict-related urban challenges. For example, sustainable recovery and reconstruction interventions in post-conflict countries, such as **Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria** and **Yemen** were prioritized. The portfolio also dealt with issues of integrated sustainable planning on policy, housing, legislation, financing and capacity development, such as in **Egypt** and **the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia**. In addition, new areas of work commenced in **Egypt** on the nexus between urbanization and climate change as a regional initiative and sustainable urban mobility.

## Regional Summary



**Figure 8.3: Shows the countries where UN-Habitat is active in the region and what key thematic areas are supported**



### Strengthening integrated and inclusive urban crisis reconstruction and recovery

In 2019, UN-Habitat's continued to support member states use the City and Neighbourhood Profiling Tools in **Iraq, Lebanon, Libya, Syria** and **Yemen** to assess and identify urban recovery needs to mainstream sustainable urbanization in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. Over 70 city and neighbourhood profiles have been

completed or are in progress. In addition, profiles for Basra and Sinjar (**Iraq**) are being finalized, others for Daraa (**Syria**), Derna (**Libya**) and Maareb (**Yemen**) are under development. The profiles have improved evidence-based humanitarian, stabilization and reconstruction planning in post-crisis recovery in the selected cities.

## Inclusive Neighbourhood Profiling for coordinated and integrated post-conflict resettlement in Mosul, Iraq

When the Iraqi Government regained control of Mosul in 2017, it was faced with widespread damage and lack of functionality in the city. *The City and Neighbourhood Profiling Tools* provided detailed analysis of the damage to infrastructure, housing and urban systems upon which the city relies. This information guided the return of displaced residents as an integrated approach to post-conflict planning could be adopted.

The tool was used to inform the development of the *City Profile of Mosul, a Multisector Assessment of a City Under Siege*, which provided holistic information about the city in its post-conflict state. The assessment also enabled other agencies and development partners to prioritize investment to ensure that functionality would return to the city, saving time and money and providing communities with essential services. From 2018 through 2019, after using the tool, over 3,500 units of war-damaged



Using urban profiling to strengthen post-conflict sustainable recovery and reconstruction  
© UN-Habitat

houses and the accompanying basic infrastructure in liberated areas were revitalized. The rehabilitation was carried out in Bartella, Bashika, Mosul and Sinjar, and Teleskuf in Ninewa Governorate, as well as Fallujah and Ramadi in Anbar Governorate.

Using information gathered from the profile, UN-Habitat also helped develop an initial planning framework for the reconstruction of Mosul to support the Government's recovery efforts. This, and in partnership with the United Nations

Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization, has shaped a more detailed plan for the old city of Mosul. The Deputy Special Representative of the United Nations Secretary-General, who also doubled as the Resident Humanitarian Coordinator, endorsed the document and shared it with Government counterparts in January 2019. The humanitarian community has now recognized the approach as a dynamic analytical tool that all agencies could use more effectively in targeting resources.

## Strengthening National Urban Policies

With urbanization increasing in the Arab region, national urban policy is being identified as a key instrument to guide and initiate a coordinated approach to sustainable urbanization. In 2019, UN-Habitat continues to partner with and **Tunisia** at different stages of their national urban policy development and implementation.

In **Jordan**, UN-Habitat supported the diagnosis phase of the national urban policy process, ensuring the participation of all national stakeholders. In **Tunisia**, UN-Habitat has collaborated with the Government and Cities Alliance to support an inclusive diagnostic process as the precursor for national urban policy development. In **Sudan** and **Lebanon**, UN-Habitat supported the analysis of the diagnosis phase, and in 2020 will start the formulation of the policy proposal.

**Sudan** has established a national urban observatory in the Ministry of Environment in addition to two local urban observatories in Darfur.

## Improving security of tenure and providing sustainable land management

UN-Habitat focus in this area improves the capacity of regional and national stakeholders to manage and administer urban, peri-urban and rural land in the Arab States. The focus on land and tenure security supports inclusive social and economic development, particularly for women, youth and the displaced, and fosters peace and stability.

These improvements are carried out through regional initiatives as well as country-level work with an emphasis of sharing lessons learned as they apply more

broadly to the Arab States. For example, UN-Habitat continued to the Arab Land Initiative, a regional network of member states and key stakeholders involved in developing more inclusive and sustainable approaches to land and tenure security. In 2019, an e-platform was finalized for information sharing, especially of normative tools and products. The e-platform has been particularly useful as a tool to increase the visibility and profile of land governance in the region, provide a mechanism to engage different partners, raise awareness, and develop their capacities.

At country level, work has concentrated on how land and tenure security are important aspects of sustainable recovery and reconstruction. In **Iraq**, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United States Department of State, continued to support the Yazidi community. At the end of 2019, over 1,700 occupancy certificates had been delivered to claimant households, 121 of which were female-headed. In **Sudan**, 17,724 people had their tenure security improved.

Other country-level work focuses on the role of tenure security as part of broader sustainable urbanization and managing land in the context of urban expansion and

densification. In **Egypt**, UN-Habitat enhanced land tenure security and supported land readjustment and city extension processes in inner-city areas. About 1,200 landowners (including their families) benefitted from improved security of tenure as a result of the projects implemented. Over 20,000 residents have directly benefitted from the land readjustment plans developed in two cities in the Greater Cairo Region.

In **Sudan**,  
**17,724 people**  
 had their **tenure security improved**.

### Promoting sustainable and gender-sensitive transport options

Since 2017, UN-Habitat has been working on increasing access to sustainable urban mobility through the introduction of sustainable transport projects in the Arab States region. In **Lebanon**, UN-Habitat is promoting alternative mobility in the city of Tyre. In 2019, a pilot of two bicycle stations in two locations within the city was successfully undertaken through a participatory approach. In **Egypt**, new bike racks were introduced in Cairo's city centre. In addition, 2019 saw a draft of the first women's safe mobility and accessibility policy developed to promote safe public transport for women and girls. In addition, Cairo's Bus Rapid Transit system will stretch 42 kilometres and is expected to carry around 126,000 passengers per day through its express and regular services. It will decrease the single trip time by 15 minutes.

Render of proposed plaza area in Cairo. © Institute for Transport and Development Policy



## Strengthening climate change adaptation and resilience in cities

In 2019, city-level climate action became a more serious consideration in many parts of the Arab region. This is reflected in UN-Habitat's support for the Climate Change and Urban Resilience for the Arab Region programme. The programme, which provides tools to tackle greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to climate change impacts, supported capacity development initiatives with funds from the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy, and the Islamic Development Bank. Case studies and recommendations have been documented in the *Local Climate Action in the Arab Region: Lessons Learned and Way Forward*.

This report was launched during the Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development in October 2019. The document provides a new policy resource for city leaders to plan climate actions.

UN-Habitat also worked on enhancing regional strategies and implementation mechanisms for managing climate risks in cities and building resilience to manage multidimensional risks for sustainable urban development. Building a foundation for action, UN-Habitat joined the regional Sustainable Development Goal Climate Nexus Facility in 2019, which is a multiphase programme enabling countries to integrate climate measures into broader policies and plans.



Located in the city center near the Citadel of Erbil, Iraq. © Shutterstock



Busy market in Bab El-Tabbeneh neighbourhood, Tripoli, Lebanon.  
© UN-Habitat



# Latin America and the Caribbean Region

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## Introduction

UN-Habitat is present in 12 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean. In this highly urbanized region (81 per cent), cities are facing significant socioeconomic disparities, reflecting deep-seated structural challenges. In addition, many cities have been poorly planned during the period of rapid urban transition resulting in urban sprawl, informal neighbourhoods and urban inequalities.

UN-Habitat supports national and local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector in the Latin America and the Caribbean region, to strengthen institutional capacity for sustainable urbanization and knowledge transfer between regional counterparts, using key UN-Habitat tools such as the national urban policy guides, the City Prosperity Initiative and the Urban Integrated Solutions approach.



Building Family-friendly walkways in Sao Paulo, Brazil. © Cidade Ativa

## Regional Summary

### New projects started in 2019



9

Projects



6

Countries



USD  
17.45

Million

Figure 8.4: Shows the countries where UN-Habitat is active in the region and what key thematic areas are supported



## Promoting evidence-based policymaking through the City Prosperity Initiative

UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative continued to be utilized by city authorities and national stakeholders to identify opportunities and potential areas of intervention. In particular, the initiative supports the gathering of quality data for evidence-based public policymaking. By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat's City Prosperity Initiative was being applied in **Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Dominican Republic, Ecuador, El Salvador** and **Perú** and allowing them to

improve their planning and public policy design process. Cities like **San Salvador, San José, and Santo Domingo**, for example, now have well-structured urban integrated operations, that are ready for public-private investments based on data collected from the Initiative. In **Mexico**, a total of 305 cities have benefited from the City Prosperity Initiative, and in 2019 the initiative was applied in 8 states and 40 municipalities.

## Partnering for the development of inclusive national urban policy

UN-Habitat continues to work with member states in the region through technical support for developing more inclusive national urban policies to address spatial, social and economic urban inequalities. By the end of 2019, UN-Habitat had partnered with the Governments of **Argentina, Bolivia, Colombia, Cuba** and **Ecuador** in their national urban policy development processes. In 2019, **Argentina** and **Bolivia** continued to receive technical support across various stages of the national urban policy planning process.

With support of UN-Habitat, the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, and the regional Assembly of Ministers of Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, National Urban Policy has been made a priority for its 33 member states. At subnational policy support level, UN-Habitat has worked with metropolitan areas in Colombia (Valle de Aburrá, Valledupar, Bucaramanga and the Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas), **Bolivia** (Santa Cruz de la Sierra) and **El Salvador** (San Salvador), as well as in Sinaloa, **Mexico** to develop metropolitan urban policies and plans.

## Supporting integrated urban solutions to guide regional urban development

UN-Habitat continues to facilitate subregional strategic work to produce the Subregional Caribbean action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This plan has become a reference for different subregional plans like the Caribbean Strategy on Informal Settlements Upgrading. This strategy builds on work undertaken to support neighbourhood upgrading diagnostics in **Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago, Saint Vincent and the Grenadines** and **Guyana**. The Caribbean Urban Forum held in 2019 in **Trinidad and Tobago** also promoted this agenda with a particular focus on urban resilience affecting Small Island Developing States.

In 2019, UN-Habitat also deployed expertise in Central America on the structuring of Urban Integrated Operations in three metropolitan areas: San José (**Costa Rica**), San Salvador (**El Salvador**) and Santo Domingo (**Dominican Republic**). This was done in partnership with the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. These processes enable the development of partnerships with the Central American Council on Housing and Habitat towards the Subregional Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

## Promoting urban poverty reduction in cities

In 2019, UN-Habitat supported the development of urban poverty reduction strategy in cities at subnational level, in **Brazil** including the State of **Alagoas** and cities of **Rio de Janeiro** and **Maricá**. The work ensures that the urban and human rights perspectives are integrated and capacities strengthened for monitoring and identifying the poorest households in precarious neighbourhoods.

## Addressing forced migration in urban settings

In 2019, UN-Habitat became more actively engaged in regional initiatives to address the challenges of forced migration, bringing urban and human rights perspectives to the attention of key stakeholders. Through the *Comprehensive Development Plan for North of Central America*, which includes **El Salvador, Guatemala** and **Honduras** as well as southern **Mexico**, UN-Habitat is supporting cities at various stages of the migration experience, including those which are cities of origin, transit or arrival to plan more effectively for the influx of migrants. In addition, and through the Cities of Solidarity Initiative, UN-Habitat is providing guidance to local governments in **Colombia, Ecuador** and **Peru** to improve their capacity and processes to receive Venezuelan migrants for better integration.



# Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, other Countries and Territories in Europe

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## Introduction

UN-Habitat's work in the region responds to growing concerns about urban inequalities, especially in relation to affordable housing, energy efficiency, urban regeneration and climate resilience. While many of the cities in the member state countries are highly urbanized, there are pockets of dilapidated infrastructure including limited and low-quality housing and other basic services. In this regard, UN-Habitat's normative tools on urban planning and affordable housing are of interest to member states in this region. Moreover, the formulation of adequate urban policies and the respective implementation contributing to the localization of Sustainable Development Goals have been highlighted.

During 2019, UN-Habitat had increased and prioritized its work with the Commonwealth of Independent States, responding to the upgrade of the Moscow Office to an expanded regional focus as well as in selected European countries undergoing transition.



Commuters on bikes in Malmö, Sweden © Shutterstock



The Global Observance of the World Cities Day held in Ekaterinburg, Russia.  
© Shutterstock

## Strengthening country-level initiatives for sustainable urbanization

With a strengthened and expanded focus, in 2019, UN-Habitat was actively engaged in the development of eight new generation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks in **Serbia** and **Turkey**, and the Commonwealth of Independent States of **Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Turkmenistan** and **Uzbekistan**. Kosovo<sup>1</sup> was also supported.

In this regard, UN-Habitat has been coordinating the analysis of urbanization trends in the Western Balkan region which informed the ongoing Common Country Assessment. A “Western Balkan Urban Profile” has been prepared that informed the ongoing United Nations partnership discussions and the prioritization of urban interventions of the respective United Nations Country Teams. In addition, UN-Habitat has continued to strengthen actions on sustainable urbanization and inclusive approaches to adequate housing, evidence-based urban policy and planning as well as climate adaptation.

The ongoing Global Future Cities Programme, under the United Kingdom Foreign and Commonwealth Office’s Prosperity Fund aims to deliver targeted interventions in 19 cities across 10 countries to encourage sustainable development, increase prosperity whilst alleviating high levels of urban poverty. Four cities in **Turkey** are part of the initiative, and in 2019 UN-Habitat provided technical support to various urban planning projects in each city. In Istanbul Metropolitan Municipality, sustainable urban mobility strategy development progressed in addition to capacity-building on urban planning and resilience building. In Bursa Metropolitan Municipality, a smart city strategy is being developed to promote urban transformation. In Ankara Metropolitan Municipality, a strategy and a master plan for non-motorized transport are being developed to enhance mobility. While in Cankaya District Municipality, UN-Habitat is supporting initiatives to improve quality and accessibility of streets in the Cankaya neighbourhoods.

<sup>1</sup> Any reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo.

In 2019, through collaboration with the city of Tomsk, **Russia**, the *City Prosperity Initiative* was used to collect key urban data that is now influencing the development of evidence-based policies for urban planning in the city. It has also strengthened UN-Habitat's capacity to engage with specific urban challenges in Russian cities and in the wider region, such as on the growing phenomenon of shrinking cities.

In the city of Yakutsk, **Russia**, UN-Habitat continues to support capacity-building efforts on the *City Resilience Profiling Tool* through the UN-Habitat *City Resilience Programme* to increase the capacity of its people and systems to survive extreme events, adapt and even prosper, regardless of the acute shocks they may experience. The work has resulted in a Resilience Action Plan and the establishment of a pioneering Arctic Cities Ministry. This ministry will ensure that other arctic cities can also run the city resilience diagnosis to establish priorities for action.

As an immediate area of follow-up on urban data, UN-Habitat will be an implementing partner with the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe for the Twelfth Tranche of the United Nations Development Account project on *Smart Sustainable Cities for the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda* in the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe region, starting January 2020. **Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan** as well as **Georgia** and **Montenegro** will participate.

In **Belarus**, a country profile on housing and land management was published by the United Nations Economic Commission for Europe in collaboration with UN-Habitat in 2019. The Government also supported a launch of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* and a training of senior city-level urban managers was held.

UN-Habitat collaborated with United Nations Economic Commission for Europe to implement the 10<sup>th</sup> Tranche Development Account project, *Evidence-based policies for sustainable housing and urban development*

*in selected countries with economies in transition in **Kazakhstan** and **Kyrgyzstan, Albania, Georgia** and **Ukraine**. The methodology developed through this initiative now guides data collection on housing and urban development that informs national guidelines and evidence-based urban policy development.*

In **Serbia**, UN-Habitat has extended technical advisory services to the preparation of the "Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy 2030, and in partnership with the Government of Serbia UN-Habitat has been outlining the respective implementation mechanisms. Moreover, areas of collaboration include large-scale urban regeneration for derelict areas and brownfield sites as well as marginalized communities with poor living conditions in addition to strengthening climate resilience of secondary cities, planning for better air quality and preparedness for investments into green infrastructure and green growth.

UN-Habitat supported Kosovo in the design of an Inclusive Development Programme to improve the alignment of northern Kosovo municipalities with the Kosovo-wide planning framework. The framework will strengthen the social contract through civil society mobilization and public dialogue, and foster integration by nurturing local-central and inter-municipal dialogue and cooperation, including through practical infrastructure and service delivery improvements. The Programme will continue until 2021.

### **Advocacy to promote sustainable urbanization**

UN-Habitat's awareness-raising efforts in promoting sustainable urbanization, including inclusive planning approaches, continues to be an important aspect of work in this region. The 2019 World Cities Day global observance in Ekaterinburg, Russia's fourth largest city, was the first time for the event to be held in this region and the most international to date. The World Cities Day attracted more than 650 people from over 32 countries.



In **Serbia**, UN-Habitat has extended technical advisory services to the preparation of the "*Sustainable and Integrated Urban Development Strategy 2030*".



**Russia** also strengthened its cooperation with UN-Habitat through the memorandum of understanding with the Moscow Urban Forum. UN-Habitat engaged as a Global Partner for the second consecutive year, providing technical advice and training of urban managers on the *Essentials of Urban Policies and Planning for Sustainable Cities in the Commonwealth of Independent States*.

UN-Habitat's Project Coordination Office for the Commonwealth of Independent States, also serves as a centre for UN-Habitat publication distribution with a focus on translating key documents into Russian. Across the strategic plan period, key publications were translated including *the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, Urban Planning for City Leaders, City Prosperity Initiative Methodology, a series of information briefs about the City Resilience Profiling Programmes, Smart Cities, and the Public Space Toolkit*. These have now been distributed and are being used by urban managers at both national and city levels as well as other key stakeholders.

### **Strengthening partnerships for sustainable urbanization**

In 2019, the Regional United Nations Sustainable Development Group and the Cooperation Mechanism agreed to form a Regional Issue-Based Coalition of the United Nations. Collaboration will focus on Sustainable Urban Development to support United Nations Country Teams in the programme countries. As a follow-up, UN-Habitat presented the first principles of the Regional Issue-Based Coalition of the United Nations entities on Sustainable Urban Development at the first meeting of the resident coordinators of Europe and the central Asia region in **Istanbul**.

UN-Habitat continues to partner with the **European Union** in policy dialogues while engaging with the European Union delegations to strengthen country-level United Nations and European Union priorities. In 2019, UN-Habitat collaborated with the Urban Dimension of Development Cooperation to explore increasing financial

capacities of cities from developing countries to deliver productive and sustainable urban development. The initiative aims to identify and analyze constraints for effective financing of urban development, looking at pertinent practices and possible responses based on experiences from the European Union and other cities.

In 2019, UN-Habitat also continued to contribute to a foreign policy instrument-funded programme on International Urban Cooperation which focuses on sustainable and innovative cities in Asia and the Americas. This programme encourages city-to-city cooperation on sustainable urban development, on energy and climate change (building upon the European Union Covenant of Mayors initiative) and on innovation for local and regional development.

Collaboration on global reporting has resulted in UN-Habitat's involvement in the European Union's reporting on implementation of the urban and territorial dimensions of Agenda 2030 in the European Union. UN-Habitat collaborates with the European Commission's Directorate-General for Regional and Urban Policy and the Joint Research Centre and the Directorate-General for Research and Innovation, to analyze the impact of the European Union's cohesion policy on delivering the Sustainable Development Goals in Europe. It also includes monitoring the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda at the local level.

Frequent exchanges with the Directorate-General of Research and Innovation in 2019, has led to the award of the *Horizon 2020 Programme funding* to a project on Urban Design Governance *UrbanMAESTRO*, dedicated to exploring and sharing the innovative use of informal design governance mechanisms in Europe. The aim is to reveal practices that have the potential to enhance urban place quality across Europe, to contrast them with international experience, and to network and support key organizations and individuals with the potential to deliver that change at the European and global levels.

# Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues

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The United Nations General Assembly has mandated UN-Habitat to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities. It is also mandated to respect, promote, and protect human rights in all its activities. Values contained in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights that promote the right to an adequate standard of living inclusive of the right to adequate housing underpin all UN-Habitat's interventions. In addition to human rights, these values also include addressing cross cutting issues such as gender, youth and climate change.

UN-Habitat measures its capacity to address human rights and other cross cutting issues through in several means including the compliance of projects at the planning and design stage, the development of normative tools and products to promote human rights, gender and youth responsive sustainable urbanization and the implementation of projects and programmes that directly improve the living conditions and participation of women and youth. Analysis by the internal Programme Advisory Group of the mainstreaming of cross-cutting issues at project planning and design stage, showed an increase in compliance in 2019 in line with the set markers in the four cross cutting areas: gender, youth, climate change and human rights. Overall, projects were slightly more responsive to cross cutting issues in 2019 at 67 per cent of the projects reviewed compared to 59 per cent in 2018.



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<sup>3</sup> Gender, Human Rights, Youth and Climate Change markers were introduced at the end of 2015



Traditional vegetable market in the city of Manado, Sulawesi, Indonesia. © Dudarev Mikhail /Shutterstock

UN-Habitat continues to develop and promote the use normative tools as entry points to mainstream cross-cutting issues in country-level project implementation. In 2019, UN-Habitat developed the *Climate Proofing Toolkit for Basic Urban Infrastructure*. The toolkit helps urban managers to incorporate impact of climate change into their urban basic services infrastructure planning processes. Through the toolkit, cities can factor climate change impacts into the design, construction, location and operation of current and future basic urban infrastructure. In doing so, more resilient urban basic service infrastructure is developed.

Member states are using UN-Habitat normative tools to promote human rights, the inclusion of specific groups and to integrate climate change into their national urban policy development processes. By the end of 2019, 62 partner cities were implementing participatory approaches that ensure meaningful engagement of all segments of the population in urban management processes. In addition, seventy-one partner

local authorities were implementing gender-responsive budgeting.

Metropolitan planning tools such as the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and the National Urban Policies Guide support the mainstreaming of these aspect into the national urban policy processes. For example, the **Government of Bolivia** commenced a national urban policy reform process in 2019, using UN-Habitat tools to integrate social inclusion with the participation of grass-roots organizations and the civil society. While in **Tanzania**, climate change has been integrated into the urban policy development processes for Zanzibar for long-term solutions using UN-Habitat's *Policy Guide for Low-Carbon and Climate-Resilient Urban Development*.

UN-Habitat's tools for developing inclusive public spaces continue to have an impact in different urban contexts. The capacity to embrace diverse perspectives into public space planning is being enhanced through technologies like Minecraft computer



Participants in the 2019 Nairobi Bike Train, Kenya © UN-Habitat

programmes. The technology enables beneficiaries to identify challenges and create public spaces that are inclusive and safe. In **Palestine** and **Afghanistan**, for example, the tools were used to create more inclusive public spaces including women only and child-friendly parks. An increasing number of countries are incorporating the needs of children into urban planning processes. UN-Habitat's public space and safer cities programmes, for example, are being used as entry points to improve the participation of children in public space, such as the series of child-friendly parks developed in Wuhan city, **China**. Cities are also continuing to undertake safety audits and assessments to improve safety for women and girls, such as in eThekweni Municipality in Durban South Africa.

In 2019, UN-Habitat sustained its efforts in raising awareness on the issues of homelessness in cities as well as the nexus between migration and homelessness as part of addressing the right to adequate housing. In collaboration with key partners, two technical reports were produced. One highlights the prevention of homelessness as a component of the right to adequate housing. The other draws attention specifically to the prevention of homelessness and the links to migration under the framework of the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Project, which addresses the needs of migrant populations.

Zhulin Theater Songyang High Cavity  
Performance during the First International  
forum on urban rural linkages in Songyang,  
China 2019. © UN-Habitat



## Partnerships and Communication

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### United Nations System-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urbanization

UN-Habitat spearheaded the development of a *United Nations System-wide Strategy on Sustainable Urbanization* working with over 24 organizations. The strategy adopted by the Chief Executives Board led by the UN Secretary-General in April 2019 is now a United Nations wide blueprint for sustainable urban development. The strategy provides guidance on a series of actions ranging from poverty reduction, inequality, governance, disaster risk reduction, migration, urban and territorial planning, data and information, national urban policies, global, regional, interregional, national and local level strategies.

### Stakeholder engagement at the UN-Habitat Assembly

During the first UN-Habitat Assembly held between 27–31 May, 2019, UN-Habitat enhanced stakeholder engagement through accreditation, dialogues, Global Stakeholders Forum, Business Engagement Forum, networking and side events. Altogether, 172 organizations were accredited to the UN-Habitat Assembly, and 20 organizations delivered statements at the UN-Habitat Assembly, an increase of 42 per cent from the last UN-Habitat Governing Council held in 2017. A Global Stakeholders Forum, attended by over 200 participants, was held on 25–26 May 2019. In addition, the UN-Habitat Stakeholder's Advisory Group comprising 16 independent experts was launched to advise the UN-Habitat Executive Director on stakeholder engagement in policy and programme design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and to promote coherence, coordination and alignment. A stakeholder engagement declaration was adopted as a commitment to work in collaboration with member states and UN-Habitat to deliver the New Urban Agenda, relevant Sustainable Development Goals and targets, and the UN-Habitat Strategic 2020–2023.

UN-Habitat scaled up its work with the private sector starting with updating of a private sector strategy in consultation with partners. A business assembly bringing together over 50 private sector organizations took place on 26 May 2019. The City Investment Platform and Capital Advisory Facility advocated at the business assembly have drawn interests from corporates, national and local governments as well as that of investment banks.





Heads of state discussing sustainable urbanization at the UN-Habitat Assembly © UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat joined the United Nations Global Communications Department and other partners to organize the 68<sup>th</sup> Session of the civil society conference held in Salt Lake City, **United States**, in August 2019, with the theme – *Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities and Communities* within the context of Sustainable Development Goal 11. The session on Goal 11 monitoring stressed a need for capacity-building of key partners starting with national statistical offices. This also led to a partnership with the Better Cities Film Festival.

During the Assembly, UN-Habitat reached out to and worked with new media partners including Kenya media, the Kenya Editors’ Guild, locally-based Chinese media, BBC, Al Jazeera and the Foreign Correspondents’ Association. This resulted in wide-ranging media coverage over 1,500 articles. UN-Habitat worked with a wide range of existing and new partners from 25 countries during the Urban Expo including global brands. UN-Habitat’s social media raised public awareness on the theme of the Assembly “*innovation for better quality of life in cities and communities*,” particularly in **Kenya** where the related hashtags were the first and third most popular trending topics on twitter for two days.



UN-Habitat worked with a wide range of existing and new partners during the **Urban Expo** from **25 countries** including **global brands**.

## Regional urban forum

At the 7<sup>th</sup> Asia Pacific Urban Forum, held in Penang, **Malaysia**, where the Penang Partnership for Sustainable Urbanization was launched, UN-Habitat mobilized stakeholders to engage to accelerate city actions for sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat also continued to support the United Nations regional task team on sustainable urban development in the Asia-Pacific Region, which brings together 24 United Nations agencies, funds and programmes.

## Urban October

In 2019, Urban October continued to inspire a range of global partner-initiated activities, such as World Habitat Day, World Cities Day and the Stakeholder’s Advisory Group where consultations and partners engagement were facilitated. UN-Habitat’s messages were amplified through pre-planned material available in several languages on a Trello and curated content leading to UN-Habitat tweets earning 1.1 million impressions during the month.



Participants at the Global Observance of the World Cities Day in Ekaterinburg, Russia © UN-Habitat/Georgy Sapozhnikov

The 2019 World Habitat Day theme *Frontier technologies as an innovative tool to transform waste to wealth* was celebrated by a wide range of partners around the world with the Global Observance taking place in Mexico City where the Waste Wise Cities campaign was promoted. The Government of **Cameroon** designated a *Habitat Week* on waste, **Kenya** celebrated in Nakuru city at a factory that turns human waste into cooking fuel.

World Cities Day Global Observance was held for the first time in **Russia** under the theme *Changing the world: Innovations and a better life for future generations*. Over 650 participants from various countries attended including local, regional and national Russian media. The 2019 **China** Observance of World Cities Day was held in Tangshan City. Other cities which held World Cities celebrations included Barcelona, Islamabad, Havana, Toronto, Nairobi, Kuwait, Tunis, Bangkok, New York, Fukuoka and Chicago.

The Urban Circuit created by UN-Habitat and now in its second year, involved 154 events in 61 cities and 23 countries demonstrating how innovation enhances urban services delivery and improves policies. In Bangkok, **Thailand**, the Four Regions Slum Network mobilized hundreds of representatives from informal settlements calling for action on homelessness and land rights. Meanwhile in **Spain**, mayors and city representatives discussed waste management at an event UN-Habitat co-organized with the International Solid Waste Association at their World Congress.

During the year UN-Habitat featured in media across the world from the New York Times to Al Jazeera and on the global un.org website. The new-look UN-Habitat website featuring faster loading and human interest stories, attracted nearly 400,000 new users and the World Urban Forum website launched in September 2019, had 40,000 new users.



**Urban Circuit** created by UN-Habitat and now in its second year, involved **154 events** in **61 cities** and **23 countries** demonstrating how innovation enhances **urban services delivery** and **improves policies**.





Asia-Pacific Urban Forum 7 held in  
15 - 17 October 2019 in Penang,  
Malaysia. © UN-Habitat

# Finance, Audit and Evaluation

## Financial Performance

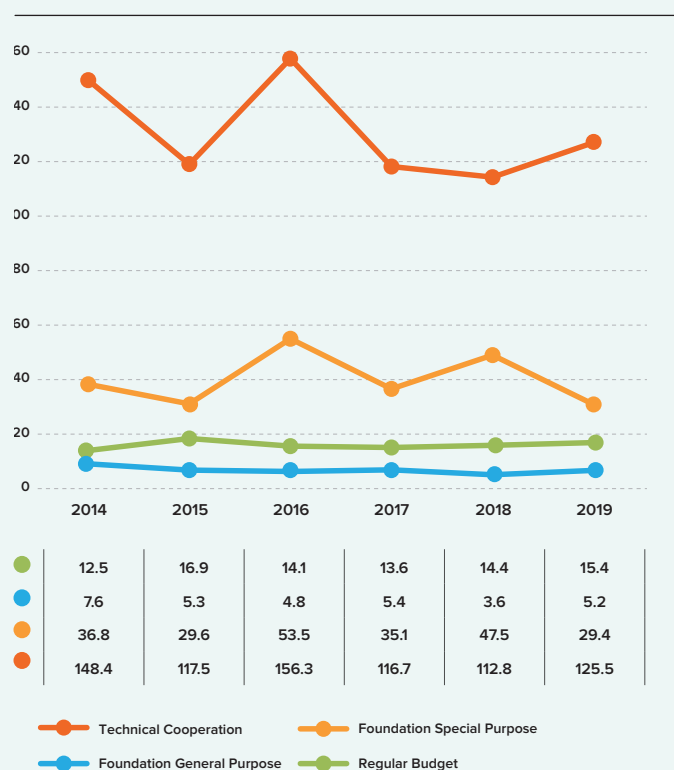


### Introduction

The work programme of UN-Habitat is financed from three broad funding sources which comprise (i) regular budget allocations from the United Nations assessed contributions approved by the General Assembly; (ii) contributions to the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation in the form of non-earmarked voluntary contributions approved by the Governing Council and earmarked contributions to the Foundation for specific normative programmes; and (iii) technical cooperation contributions that are earmarked for regional and country programmes.

Until 2019, UN-Habitat follows a biennial planning and budgeting cycle. For the most part, the financial performance is shown for the biennium 2018–2019. Figure 9.1 shows the income trends for the four segments for the six years of the strategic plan from 2014 to 2019.

**Figure 9.1: Revenue trends from 2014 to 2019 (USD millions)**



**Regular budget** allocations for the recurring work of UN-Habitat generally remained constant over the five-year period except for additional allocations in 2015 and 2016 to enable UN-Habitat to organize the Habitat III Conference, and in 2018 for preparation of the Quadrennial Report on the progress of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

Since 2018, as a result of progress made on UN-Habitat’s governance and institutional reforms, and the Executive Director’s strategic dialogues with member states voluntary contributions to the **Foundation non-earmarked** account increased by 38 per cent in 2018 and another 40 per cent in 2019. However, the total revenue of USD 8.8 million for the biennium was still short by a significant USD 17.2 million against the approved 2018–2019 biennial budget of USD 26 million. *(Revenue figures for 2015–2017 include cost recovery amounts; actual contributions for those years are USD 2.0 million, USD 2.3 million and USD 2.7 million, respectively).*

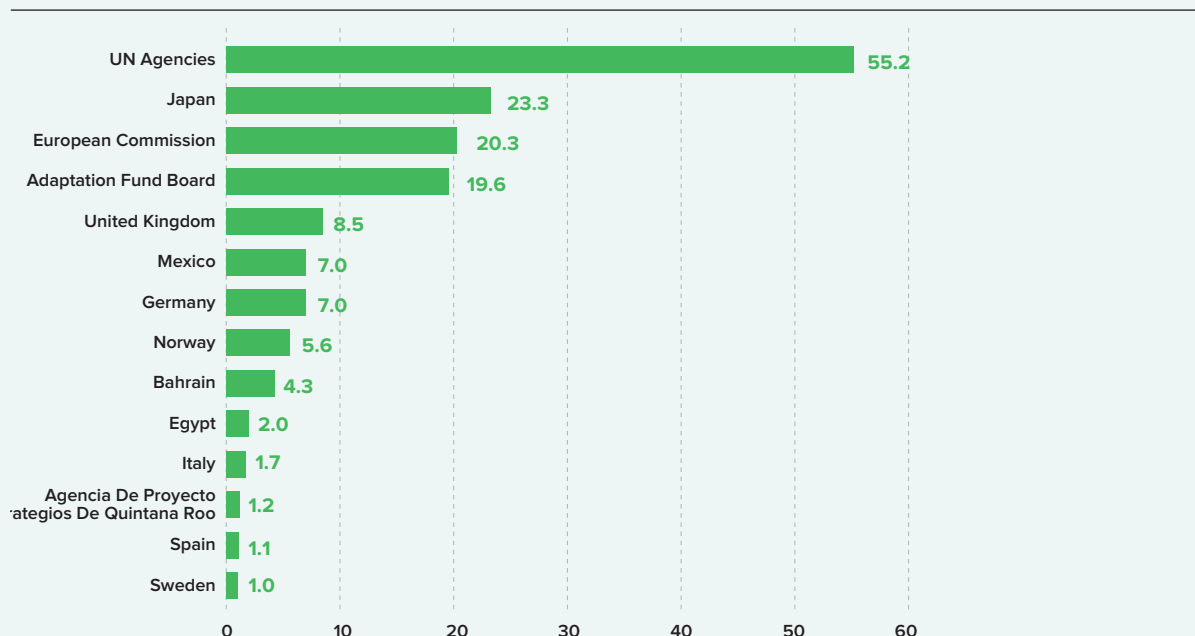
Revenue for Foundation Special Purpose activities fell by 38 per cent to USD 29.4 million compared with 2018. The main area

affected by the decrease in funding are land legislation and governance, urban economy and housing and slum upgrading. UN-Habitat’s strategy for 2020–2023 increases the focus of the organization by reducing the strategic domains of change from seven to four thematic areas and introduces global thematic programmes to achieve greater impact at scale. It is expected that this strategy will increase multi-donor funding for high impact programmes and achieve a better balance in income across the different subprogrammes. This strategy is in line with the 2019 United Nations Funding Compact in which member states commit to increasing resources for single agency thematic funds.

Revenue for **technical cooperation** activities in 2019 increased by 11 per cent compared with 2018, reflecting continuing demand by member states for UN-Habitat’s support for their sustainable urbanization programmes. Around 40 per cent of the income for technical cooperation activities in 2019 came from joint programmes with other United Nations agencies, demonstrating UN-Habitat’s alignment with the wider United Nations reform.

## INCOME

**Figure 9.2: Top donors and development partners in 2019 (USD millions)**



**Table 9.1: Foundation non-earmarked core fund**

Newcomers	Comebacks	Top Increases
Iraq	Burkina Faso	Norway
Malawi	France	South Africa
Senegal	Spain	
Singapore		
South Sudan		

## IMPLEMENTATION

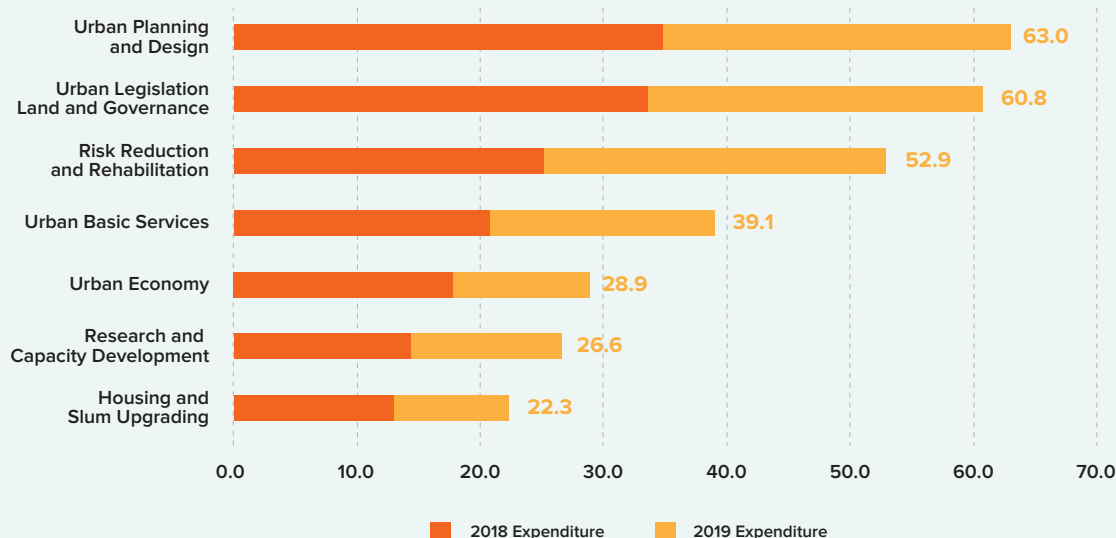
**USD 358 million** – total implementation representing 72 per cent of biennial budget of USD 499.8 million

**USD 223.4 million** – expenditure technical cooperation activities at regional and country level

**USD 81 million** – expenditure on earmarked normative programmes

**USD 39.6 million** – expenditure on core normative work

**Figure 9.3: Extrabudgetary expenditure by subprogramme for 2018–2019 (USD millions)**



## Funding against 2018–2019 Plan

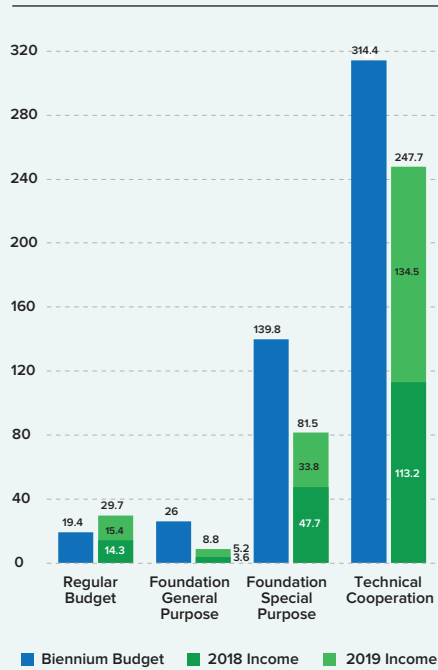
Interim financial results for the 2018–2019 biennium show total income acquired at USD 367.8 representing 73 per cent of the total biennial work programme budget of USD 499.8. Figure 9.4 shows income against budget for each fund. The regular budget income of USD 29.8 million exceeded the initial budget of 23.9 million by 25 per cent due to a higher allocation to cover regular budget positions,

which had a high post-occupancy and production of the Quadrennial Report on implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

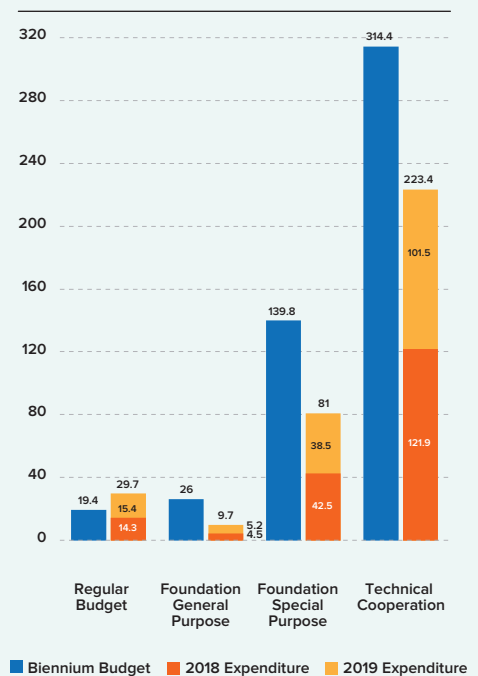
Income for the Foundation non-earmarked account was USD 8.8 million or 34 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 26.0 million, reflecting the ongoing difficulty of securing funds for core normative work, even with the increases in contributions

in 2018 and 2019, funding for specific normative programmes under the foundation earmarked account amounted to USD 81.5 million, representing 58 per cent of the annual budget of USD 139.8 million, while funding for technical cooperation activities at regional and country level amounted to USD 247.7 million or 79 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 314.4 million.

**Figure 9.4: Income secured in 2018–2019 by segment (USD millions)**



**Figure 9.5: Budget against implementation in 2018–2019 by fund (USD millions)**



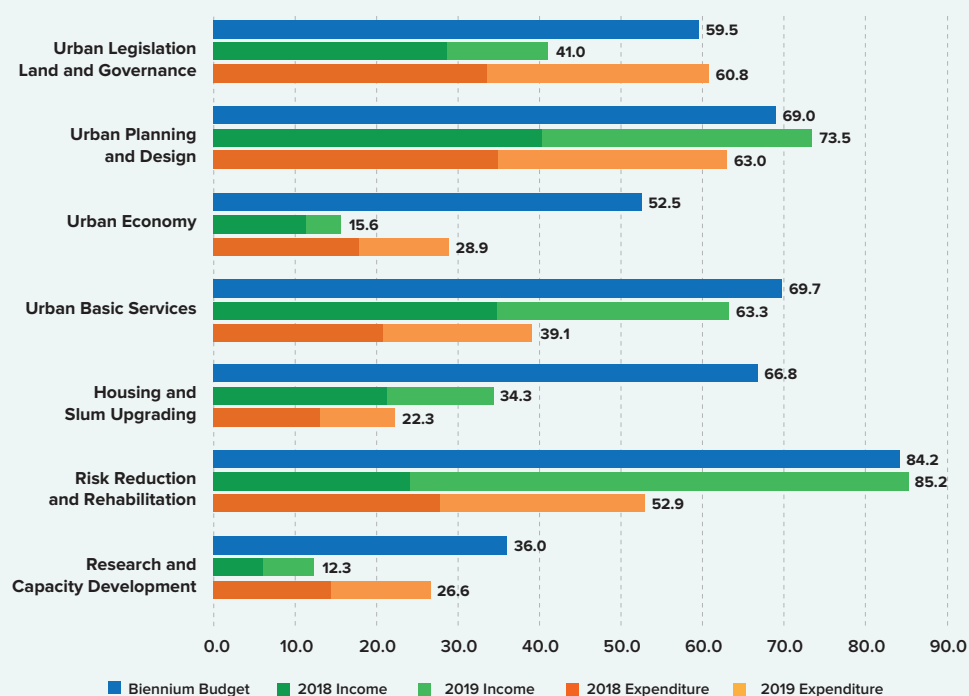
## Implementation against 2018–2019 Plan

UN-Habitat’s implementation for the 2018–2019 biennium was USD 358 million or 72 per cent of the biennial budget. Regular budget expenditure was by 25 per cent higher than initial plans due to higher post-occupancy and preparation of the Quadrennial Report on implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Expenditure on the foundation general purpose account was 37 per cent of the biennial budget because it was kept low through austerity measures, expenditure controls and prioritization of activities to align it to the income. Implementation of specific normative programmes funded by foundation special purpose resources amounted to USD 81 million, representing 58 per cent of the biennial budget; while that of regional and country-level technical cooperation activities amounted to USD 223.4 million, representing 71 per cent of the biennial budget.

## Financial performance of extrabudgetary-funded programmes in 2018–2019

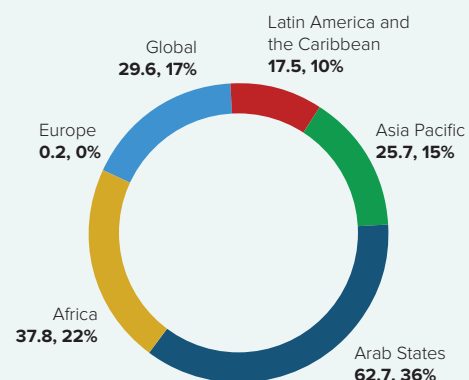
Figure 9.6 shows the level of extrabudgetary income and expenditure during the biennium compared to the budget. Total extrabudgetary income acquired stood at USD 325.5 million, representing 72 per cent of the budget. Thematic areas that secured a high percentage of their income target were urban planning and design, risk reduction and rehabilitation, and urban basic services, while those that experienced significant funding shortfalls were urban economy, and research and capacity-building. With regard to implementation, total earmarked expenditure stood at USD 318.4 million or 71 per cent of extrabudgetary budget. Areas that achieved over 75 per cent in financial implementation compared to the budget include urban legislation land and governance (104 per cent), urban planning and design (94 per cent) and research and capacity development (79 per cent). Housing and slum upgrading delivered 37 per cent of planned implementation mainly due to funding shortage.

**Figure 9.6: Extrabudgetary income and expenditure in 2018–2019 by subprogramme (USD millions)**



### Income by Region

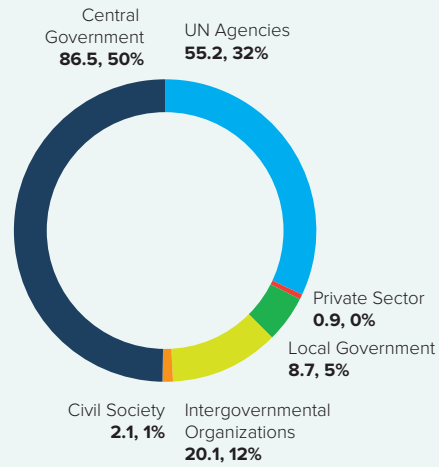
**Figure 9.7: Income allocation by region in 2019 (USD millions)**



Around 71 per cent of new income acquired in 2019 was for technical cooperation activities at regional or country level. The Arab States region recorded the highest income of USD 62.7 million or 36 per cent of total funding. The top countries that received new funding in 2019 in each region were **Ethiopia, Kenya, Mozambique** and **Somalia** in Africa; **Bahrain, Iraq, Lebanon, Palestine** and **Syria** in Arab States; **China, India, Laos, Myanmar** and **Nepal** in Asia Pacific; and **Brazil, Mexico** and **Venezuela** in Latin America and the Caribbean.

## Funding sources

Figure 9.8: Funding sources in 2019 (USD millions)



Half of the organization's income came from central government as compared with 75 per cent in 2018 while 32 per cent came from other United Nations agencies, demonstrating the higher level of inter-agency collaboration in line with the United Nations reform. Around 12 per cent was from intergovernmental funds such as the Adaptation Fund.

UN-Habitat's 2020–2023 Strategic Plan places emphasis on broadening and diversifying its funding base.

# Audit

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UN-Habitat is subject to internal and external audit functions, performed by the United Nations Office of Internal Oversight Services and the United Nations Board of Auditors, respectively, as prescribed by the United Nations Financial Regulations and Rules. UN-Habitat auditing practices comply with the international best practices. UN-Habitat performed 7 audits in 2019 as shown in Table 9.2.

**Table 9.2: UN-Habitat Audits in 2019.**

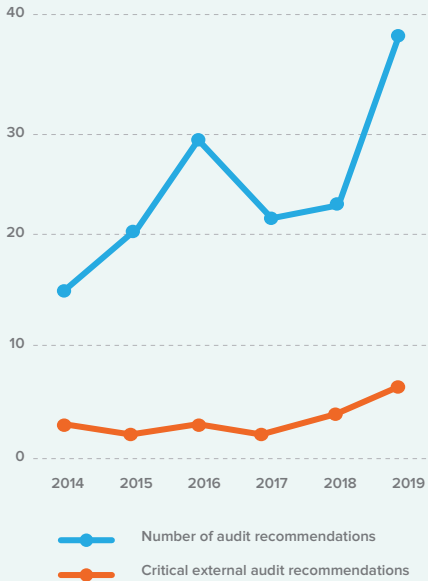
Type of coverage	Type of audit	Audit coverage
Country Operations	External	Audit of three country operations: Myanmar, Sri Lanka, Philippines
Regional Operations	External	Audit of one regional operation: Regional Office of Asia Pacific in Fukuoka, Japan
Critical business processes	Internal	Audit of one critical business process (on major UN conferences): Audit of the Ninth session of the World Urban Forum convened by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and Audit of financial management of the Habitat III Conference at the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
Consolidated Operations	External	Audit of one consolidated operation: Audit of the financial statements of UN-Habitat for the year ended 31 December 2018.





Figure 9.9 below outlines the 5-year trend analysis of recommendations across the strategic plan period.

**Figure 9.9: Audit recommendations across the strategic plan period.**



*\*38 audit recommendations were issued in 2019 of which 4 were considered critical by the internal auditors and 6 by the external auditors. Critical audit recommendations identify high risk areas. The total number of recommendations and critical audit recommendations were higher in 2019 due to the higher risks of the operations audited in 2019: the external auditors focused on project management, grant management and cost recovery while external audit focused on major UN-Habitat conferences (Habitat III conference and World Urban Forum 9).*

During 2019, the overall implementation rate of audit recommendations was at 65 per cent (76 per cent in 2018), 20 per cent below target (85 per cent). The low implementation rate was a result of resource constraints, the ongoing management reform and staffing change in the oversight team in charge of implementation.

In 2019, following the audit of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat was able to incorporate all the management controls (6 audit recommendations in total) recommended by the auditors in the planning, management and monitoring of the tenth session of the World Urban Forum. This resulted in more effective resource mobilization events, monitoring and accounting of resources administered by third parties.

# Evaluation

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In efforts to ensure that UN-Habitat evaluations serve three main objectives of accountability, learning and decision-making, in 2019, the Independent Evaluation Unit completed eight corporate evaluations and carried over three, which are in progress and will be completed early first quarter of 2020. The evaluations continued to reflect a balance of UN-Habitat's work in 2019 including the subprogrammes: Mid-term evaluation of the Urban LEDs Phase II; the global programmes: WUF9; the country programmes: **Lebanon**; projects: the Future Saudi Cities Programme, Clean and Green Cities Programme and strategy and impact: Evaluation of impact of UN-Habitat's Housing Approach to Adequate, Affordable Housing and Poverty Reduction.

In 2019, project managers reported considerable usage of the evaluation findings, lessons, and recommendations in terms of improving project performance. An online survey conducted in December 2019 revealed that 76 per cent of the 104 respondents indicated that evaluation contributed or improved the performance of projects and programmes. A further 63 per cent of respondents indicated that evaluation findings, lessons and recommendations are always or somehow influencing management decision-making.

UN-Habitat is a member of the Programme Advisory Group, and in its advisory role, ensures evaluation findings are considered and used in the designs of new projects. In addition, the web-based Recommendation Tracking System supports the monitoring and follow-up on the implementation of UN-Habitat evaluation recommendations. By December 2019, UN-Habitat tracked 417 recommendations from 35 evaluations of which 72.7 per cent were implemented, 21.7 per cent in progress and 4.4 per cent not started while 1.2 per cent had expired. UN-Habitat also tracked the implementation of Office of Internal Oversight Services and Joint Inspection Unit using their tracking systems.



## 2019 EVALUATIONS

### Completed:

- ✓ Impact and outcomes of the ninth session of the World Urban Forum – WUF9.
- ✓ Project for City Resilience in Afghanistan.
- ✓ The Future Saudi Cities Programme.
- ✓ The Strategic Development Phase for the Global Future Cities Programme.
- ✓ The Kabul Strengthening Municipal Nahias Programme, Mid-term Programme Evaluation.
- ✓ Evaluation of the Clean and Green Cities Programme.
- ✓ Evaluation of the UN-Habitat Country Programme in Lebanon, 2014–2019.
- ✓ Mid-term evaluation of the Urban LEDS Phase II.

### In Progress:

- ⊙ Impact of UN-Habitat's Housing Approach to Adequate, Affordable Housing and Poverty Reduction, 2008–2019 (in progress).
- ⊙ End of programme evaluation of support to land governance for peace, stability and reconstruction in DRC post-conflict (in progress).
- ⊙ Mid-term evaluation of the Municipal Governance Support Programme in Afghanistan (in progress).

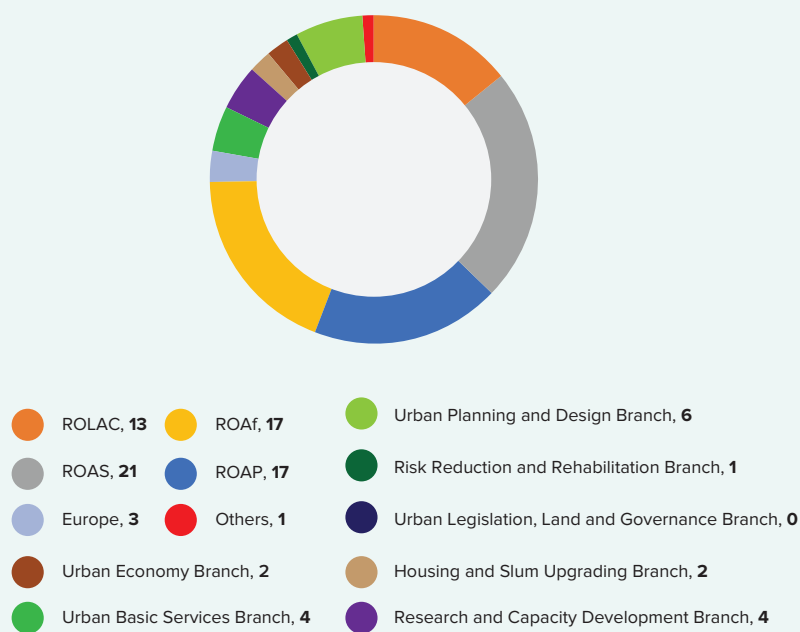
UN-Habitat continued to innovate, looking beyond evaluation reports, pioneering other products like evaluation newsletters, briefs and videos to increase uptake of evaluations. Participation in the Office of Internal Oversight Services, Joint Inspection Unit and United Nations Evaluation Group evaluation activities also continued in 2019.

There were several areas for improvement noted in 2019. Evaluation activities in the organization require more resources. Ongoing low levels of funding has an impact on the extent that evaluation is fully integrated into the work of all subprogrammes. The quality of decentralized evaluations needs to improve and comply with the United Nations Evaluation Group Standards. While there is an evaluation recommendations tracking system in place, there is no compliance requirement for staff to provide regular updates.

# Project Portfolio Development

The Programme Advisory Group supports the collaboration between branches and regions and ensures clarity of roles and responsibilities of various parties. The Programme Advisory Group reviews and approves all project documents ensuring they adopt an integrated and holistic approach towards addressing development problems and promotes multi-thematic projects that fully integrate normative and operational work. In 2019, a total of 91 new projects worth over USD 180 million were reviewed in by the Programme Advisory Group, with an approximate average project size of USD 2 million of the total amount; 66 per cent was generated through the regional offices, 33 per cent through the branches and 1 per cent through other cost centres. Figure 9.10 illustrates the total value of new projects per branch/region while figure 9.11 shows the number of new projects in 2019 per region.

Figure 9.10: The number of new projects in 2019 per region





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