Eightieth session
Items 139 and 140 of the preliminary list*

Proposed programme budget for 2026

Programme planning

Proposed programme budget for 2026

Part IV
International cooperation for development

Section 15
Human settlements

Programme 12
Human settlements

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* A/80/50.
** In keeping with paragraph 10 of General Assembly resolution 77/267, the part consisting of the programme plan and programme performance information (part II) is submitted through the Committee for Programme and Coordination for the consideration of the Assembly.

A.   Proposed programme plan for 2026 and programme performance in 2024

Overall orientation

Mandates and background

15.1   The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements in the United Nations system. It supports Member States in the development of sustainable cities and human settlements through its normative and operational work at the global, regional, national and local levels. UN-Habitat leads and coordinates the monitoring of and reporting on global progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11. The mandate derives from the priorities established in relevant General Assembly resolutions and decisions, including resolution 3327 (XXIX), by which the Assembly established the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation, and resolution 32/162, by which the Assembly established the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat). The Assembly, through its resolution 56/206, transformed it to the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), effective 1 January 2002. The Assembly, through its resolution 73/239, established a new governance structure for the Programme, consisting of the universal UN-Habitat Assembly, the 36-member Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. The UN-Habitat Assembly adopted resolutions providing further guidance on the work of UN-Habitat at its first and second sessions, held in May 2019 and June 2023, respectively.

15.2   The Programme's support is aimed at developing the capacity at all levels of government and other key stakeholders to formulate and implement policies, plans and concrete activities for sustainable urban development. Such support is also provided through the implementation of projects under the regular programme of technical cooperation and the United Nations Development Account.

Strategy and external factors for 2026

15.3   UN-Habitat operates in a world that will continue to urbanize over the next three decades. Around 90 per cent of urban growth is taking place in less developed regions, where unplanned growth is driving the rise of informal settlements, slums and homelessness, exacerbating urban poverty, inequality and a lack of adequate and affordable housing. In contrast, many cities in other parts of the world are facing negative growth and shrinking populations. The Global Housing Crisis is intensifying, with the demand for affordable and adequate housing outpacing supply, further deepening inequality and vulnerability, particularly in urban areas. Globally, over 1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing and over 1 billion reside in slums and informal settlements[1]. Additionally, there are 281 million international migrants, most of whom live in urban areas, and 55 million internally displaced persons.[2]

15.4   Growing inequalities, housing crisis, climate change and biodiversity loss, conflicts, crisis, and other natural and human-made disasters often converge in cities. The urban poor suffer the worst consequences of them. Being prepared for and overcoming these challenges is critical for a better urban future. UN-Habitat will focus on pathways to

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[1] United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), Global Urban Indicators database (2022).
[2] M. McAuliffe and A. Triandafyllidou (eds.), *World Migration Report 2022* (International Organization for Migration, Geneva, 2021).

transformative change and showcase examples of cities that reached a tipping point and turned the corner by instituting innovative policies and planning regimes.

15.5   Cities are hotspots for environmental challenges, accounting for approximately 75 per cent of global energy consumption, 70 per cent of global greenhouse gas emissions and over 70 per cent of resource use[3]. UN-Habitat will support cities in integrating urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance and both national and local governments in developing sustainable construction value chains and policies that help overcome inequalities build resilience and that are supported by innovations and technology.

15.6   The deterioration of progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement in the context of interrelated global crises calls for more transformative multilevel action. UN-Habitat- will continue to fast-track integration between its normative and operational work, scaling up and accelerating the impact of the organization. In line with the Pact of the Future that envisions a transformative approach to urbanization, UN-Habitat recognizes that rapid urban growth requires bold, forward-looking and collective action to shape cities in ways that address the most pressing urban challenges—particularly the Global Housing Crisis. As a global advocate for urban development, UN-Habitat will continue playing a central role in supporting the Pact's principles by helping countries navigate complex housing issues, including by supporting the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All and through evidence-based policy advice, technical support, and by driving urban programmes to tackle complex housing issues.

15.7   Under the UN 2.0 framework and in line with its capacity-building strategy for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat will continue localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and responding to local challenges through identifying and targeting specific capacity gaps whilst raising knowledge awareness and building skills on transformative solutions. UN-Habitat will strengthen capacity development as a cross-cutting function across its operations, with the continued digitalization and dissemination of knowledge and tools, supported by strategic partnerships for innovation, knowledge and learning across practices.

15.8   In its catalytic role as a knowledge hub and partner convenor, UN-Habitat will carry out advocacy, communication and outreach activities and mobilize broad-based support for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. It will operationalize stronger stakeholders' engagement and collaboration with universities, centres of knowledge and research to continue leveraging advocacy and knowledge, including the XIII World Urban Forum, the Urban Agenda Platform, Coalitions, global corporate events, regional ministerial conferences, the ministerial meeting on urbanization and climate change and the inter-sessional activities of the Open-Ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All.

15.9   As a focal point for sustainable urbanization and human settlements, UN-Habitat will continue to monitor and report on global trends and provide evidence for policymaking, including through the enhanced use of technologies for data collection and analysis, visualization and management of information. It will continue expanding the roll-out of the Global Urban Monitoring Framework and the support to Member States and stakeholders in monitoring and reporting on the progress on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and other global agendas.

15.10   With regard to cooperation with other entities at the global, regional, national and local levels, UN-Habitat will continue its close cooperation with international and regional

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[3] International Energy Agency, *Empowering Urban Energy Transitions, Smart cities and smart grids* (2024).

organizations, such as the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development, the World Bank, the European Union- and regional development banks. UN-Habitat will also explore and deepen partnerships with relevant institutions from the global South. UN-Habitat will maintain its focus on partnerships and coalitions with local authorities, their associations and city networks, grass-roots organizations, foundations, international financial institutions, the private sector and academia to support participatory multilevel governance and municipal efforts in the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals and will continue to serve as the secretariat and co-chair of the Local2030 coalition.

15.11   With regard to inter-agency coordination and liaison, UN-Habitat will continue to collaborate with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs and the United Nations regional economic and social commissions and strengthen its strategic inter-agency partnerships, building on the United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urban development and agency-specific collaborative frameworks. UN-Habitat will also continue advancing the goals of the United Nations reform that focus on increasing sustainable development impacts at the country level. Regional collaboration focus will be articulated through the regional development cooperation platforms and issue-based coalitions. UN-Habitat will also deepen its collaboration with the Development Coordination Office to strengthen the UN system-wide impact on sustainable development by working on its mandated areas with the resident coordinator system and UN country teams on the common country analyses and United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Frameworks.

15.12   To pursue stronger integration of environmental, social and economic sustainability and the protection of biodiversity into urban development, UN-Habitat will continue to strengthen its collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme in serving as the secretariat for the Secretary General's Advisory Board of Eminent Persons on Zero Waste and as a partner in the UNEP led Global Alliance for Buildings and Construction (Global ABC) as well as with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the United Nations Development Programme, the International Organization for Migration, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, the World Food Programme and all relevant United Nations entities and international actors to integrate sustainable urban development into resilience, humanitarian response, ensuring solutions from the start to forced displacement and urban recovery.

15.13   With regard to the external factors, the overall plan for 2026 is based on the following planning assumptions:

(a)   Adequate unearmarked extrabudgetary resources are available to implement the planned work and produce deliverables;

(b)   Countries remain committed to the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development;

(c)   National and local governments continue to request policy advice and technical assistance from UN-Habitat in the development and implementation of their urban legislation, policies, plans and strategies;

(d)   Urban indicators, data and information are used to formulate policies, with adequate mechanisms available for impact monitoring and performance assessments;

(e)   Countries in which UN-Habitat delivers large programmes maintain political, economic and social conditions that allow for the implementation of programmes and projects.

15.14   UN-Habitat will continue to mainstream social inclusion to address cross-cutting issues relating to women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, children and youth. It will also continue to implement platforms and mechanisms to engage youth, such as the UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board and the one-stop youth resource centres, and develop

critical programmes in the areas of livelihoods, public space and climate change, such as the Youth 2030 Cities programme and the Young Gamechangers initiative.

15.15   UN-Habitat integrates a gender perspective in its normative and operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, through its gender policy and action plan. During 2026, UN-Habitat will ensure that UN-Habitat Gender Policy and Plan (GPP) will be aligned with the new Strategic Plan 2026-2029.

15.16   In line with the United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy, UN-Habitat will continue to work with its partners, including the World Blind Union and World Enabled, to integrate disability inclusion into its programmatic work. It will implement an action plan that ensures that disability inclusion is mainstreamed throughout the organization's work, highlight good practices and identify key areas that require capacity development, technical resources and assistance. The action plan will strengthen the established environmental and social safeguards framework that is applied to all projects.

Legislative mandates

15.17   The list below, which was reviewed in the preparation of the proposed programme budget, provides all mandates entrusted to the programme.

General Assembly resolutions

3327 (XXIX)	Establishment of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
34/114	Global report on human settlements and periodic reports on international cooperation and assistance on human settlements
42/146	Realization of the right to adequate housing
53/242	Report of the Secretary-General on environment and human settlements
S-25/2	Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium
56/206	Strengthening the mandate and status of the Commission on Human Settlements and the status, role and functions of the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat)
70/1	Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
71/256	New Urban Agenda
71/327	The United Nations in global economic governance
79/223,	Women in development
79/225,	Eradicating rural poverty to implement the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
79/226,	Quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations system: amendment to draft resolution A/C.2/79/L.60
76/136	Promoting social integration through social inclusion

76/137	Policies and programmes involving youth
76/140	Improvement of the situation of women and girls in rural areas
76/141	Violence against women migrant workers
76/183	Integrating sport into youth crime prevention and criminal justice strategies
77/161	Promoting zero-waste initiatives to advance the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development
79/211,	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all
79/214,	Implementation of the outcomes of the United Nations Conferences on Human Settlements and on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
77/212	The right to development
77/286	World Sustainable Transport Day
78/122	World Cleanup Day
78/150	Achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls for realizing all Sustainable Development Goals
78/149	The pivotal role of reliable and stable energy connectivity in driving sustainable development
78/172	Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)

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79/1   The Pact for the Future

UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions and decisions

1/2	United Nations System-Wide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements	2/8	Urban planning and sustainable infrastructure
1/3	Enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development	2/9	Creation of a human settlement's resilience framework for early warning, foresight, risk reduction, crisis response and post-crisis recovery and reconstruction
1/4	Achieving gender equality through the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to support inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements	2/10	Equitable financing and effective monitoring of the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly
2/1	International guidelines on people-centred smart cities	Decision 1/3	Arrangements for the transition towards the new governance structure of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
2/2	Accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030	Decision 2/1	Extension of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 until the year 2025
2/3	World Cleanup Day	Decision 2/2	Dates of the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
2/4	Biodiverse and resilient cities: mainstreaming biodiversity and ecosystem services into urban and territorial planning	Decision 2/3	Term of office of the members of the Executive Board and the Bureau of the United Nations Habitat Assembly
2/5	Enhancing the interlinkage between urbanization and climate change resilience	Decision 2/4	Stakeholder engagement policy of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
2/6	Localization of the Sustainable Development Goals		
2/7	Adequate housing for all		

Executive Board decisions

2024/1	Draft work programme of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and draft budget of the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation for 2025, and financial, budgetary and administrative matters and the strategic plan of UN-Habitat	2024/6	Implementation of the normative and operational activities of the UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2024, implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities
2024/3	Update on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly	2024/7	Update on the implementation of resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly and preparations for its resumed second session
2024/5	Financial, budgetary and administrative matters of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); The work programme of UN-Habitat and budget for 2025 and 2026; Implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 and preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026 – 2029; and, Implementation of the report of the Joint Inspection Unit on the findings of its review of the management and administration of UN-Habitat;	2023/5	Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat; reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2022; implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities
		2023/6	Implementation of the outcomes of the second session of the UN-Habitat Assembly including preparation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029

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Committee of Permanent Representatives recommendations

| 1/1 | Implementation of the resolutions adopted by the United Nations Habitat Assembly at its first session, in May 2019 |
| 1/2 | Implementation of resolution 1/1 on the United Nations Human Settlements strategic plan for the period 2020–2023 |

1/3 Quadrennial report of the Secretary-General on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the high-level meeting of the General Assembly to assess progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, and the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum

Governing Council resolutions

19/4	Cooperation between the United Nations Human Settlements Programme and the United Nations Environment Programme
19/11	Strengthening the United Nations Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation
20/6	Best practices, good policies and enabling legislation in support of sustainable urbanization and the attainment of internationally agreed development goals
20/16	Enhancing the involvement of civil society in local governance
21/3	Guidelines on decentralization and strengthening of local authorities
21/7	Sustainable public-private partnership incentives for attracting large-scale private-sector investment in low-income housing
21/8	Africa fund/financing mechanism on slum prevention and upgrading
21/9	Women's land and property rights and access to finance
21/10	Strengthening the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation: experimental financial mechanisms for pro-poor housing and infrastructure
22/9	South-South cooperation in human settlements
23/3	Support for pro-poor housing
23/4	Sustainable urban development through access to quality urban public spaces
23/8	Third United Nations conference on housing and sustainable urban development
23/10	Future activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme in urban economy and financial mechanisms for urban upgrading, housing and basic services for the urban poor

23/17	Sustainable urban development through expanding equitable access to land, housing, basic services and infrastructure
24/2	Strengthening the work of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme on urban basic services
24/5	Pursuing sustainable development through national urban policies
24/7	Making slums history: a worldwide challenge
24/9	Inclusive national and local housing strategies to achieve the Global Housing Strategy paradigm shift
24/11	Promoting sustainable urban development by creating improved economic opportunities for all, with special reference to youth and gender
24/13	Country activities by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
25/1	Contribution of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to the post-2015 development agenda in order to promote sustainable urban development and human settlements
25/2	Strengthening national ownership and operational capacity
25/6	International guidelines on urban and territorial planning
25/7	United Nations Human Settlements Programme governance reform
26/4	Promoting safety in cities and human settlements
26/5	Regional technical support on sustainable housing and urban development by regional consultative structures
26/6	World Urban Forum
26/9	Human settlements development in the Occupied Palestinian Territory

Economic and Social Council resolutions

| 2024/19 | Progress in the implementation of General Assembly resolution 75/233 on the quadrennial comprehensive policy review of operational activities for development of the United Nations |

system: resolution / adopted by the Economic and Social Council

| 2003/62 | Coordinated implementation of the Habitat Agenda |
| 2017/24 | Human settlements |

2020/7	Affordable housing and social protection systems for all to address homelessness		poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions to achieve the 2030 Agenda
2022/7	Inclusive and resilient recovery from COVID-19 for sustainable livelihoods, well-being and dignity for all: eradicating	2024/3	Mainstreaming a gender perspective into all policies and programmes in the United Nations system

Subprogramme 1
Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum

General Assembly resolutions

67/291	Sanitation for All	76/255	Integration of mainstream bicycling into public transportation systems for sustainable development
69/213	Role of transport and transit corridors in ensuring international cooperation for sustainable development		
74/299	Improving global road safety	78/148	Strengthening the links between all modes of transport to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals
75/212	United Nations Conference on the Midterm Comprehensive Review of the Implementation of the Objectives of the International Decade for Action, "Water for Sustainable Development", 2018–2028	78/172	Inclusive policies and programmes to address homelessness, including in the aftermath of the coronavirus disease (COVID-19)
		78/206	The human rights to safe drinking water and sanitation

Subprogramme 2
Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions

General Assembly resolutions

79/175	The right to privacy in the digital age	78/160	Science, technology and innovation for sustainable development
79/194	Information and communications technologies for sustainable development		

Governing Council resolutions

24/3	Inclusive and sustainable urban planning and elaboration of international		guidelines on urban and territorial planning

UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions

1/5	Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization and human settlements

Economic and Social Council resolutions

2024/14	Science, technology and innovation for development	2021/30	Open-source technologies for sustainable development

Subprogramme 3
Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

General Assembly resolutions

63/217	Natural disasters and vulnerability		development and international cooperation
67/263	Reliable and stable transit of energy and its role in ensuring sustainable		

73/228	Follow-up to and implementation of the SIDS Accelerated Modalities of Action (SAMOA) Pathway and the Mauritius Strategy for the Further Implementation of the Programme of Action for the Sustainable Development of Small Island Developing States	77/162	Promoting sustainable consumption and production patterns for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, building on Agenda 21
75/218	Implementation of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification in Those Countries Experiencing Serious Drought and/or Desertification, particularly in Africa	79/208	Implementation of the Convention on Biological Diversity and its contribution to sustainable development
		79/205	Disaster risk reduction
		79/206	Protection of global climate for present and future generations of humankind
		78/157	Ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable and modern energy for all

Governing Council resolutions

| 22/3 | Cities and climate change |

United Nations Environment Assembly of the United Nations Environment Programme resolutions

| 5/5 | Nature-based solutions for supporting sustainable development |

Subprogramme 4
Effective urban crisis prevention and response

69/280	Strengthening emergency relief, rehabilitation and reconstruction in response to the devastating effects of the earthquake in Nepal	79/140,	Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations
69/283	Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015–2030	76/214	Culture and sustainable development
73/230	Effective global response to address the impacts of the El Niño phenomenon	77/176	International migration and development
79/139	International cooperation on humanitarian assistance in the field of natural disasters, from relief to development	78/185	Assistance to refugees, returnees and displaced persons in Africa
		78/205	Protection of and assistance to internally displaced persons

Governing Council resolutions

| 20/17 | Post-conflict, natural and human-made disaster assessment and reconstruction | | as a contribution to sustainable urban development |
| 23/18 | Natural disaster risk reduction, preparedness, prevention and mitigation | 26/2 | Enhancing the role of UN-Habitat in urban crisis response |

Economic and Social Council resolutions

| 2024/8 | Strengthening of the coordination of emergency humanitarian assistance of the United Nations |

Deliverables

15.18   Table 15.1 lists all cross-cutting deliverables of the programme.

Table 15.1

Cross-cutting deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Section 15   Human settlements

Category and subcategory	*2024 planned*	*2024 actual*	*2025 planned*	*2026 planned*
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	**1**	**1**	**–**	**2**
1. Implementation of the outcome of the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat): report of the Secretary-General	1	1	–	1
2. Progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda: Report of the Secretary-General	0	0	0	1
Substantive services for meetings (number of three-hour meetings)	**15**	**21**	**30**	**22**
Meetings of:				
3. The governing bodies (UN-Habitat Assembly, Executive Board and Committee of Permanent Representatives)	12	18	26	18
4. The Committee for Programme and Coordination	1	1	1	1
5. The Advisory Committee on Administrative and Budgetary Questions	1	1	1	1
6. The Fifth Committee	1	1	1	1
7. The General Assembly on the review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda	–		1	1
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Publications (number of publications)	**2**	**2**	**1**	**2**
8. World Cities Report	1	1	–	1
9. UN-Habitat Annual Report	1	1	1	1
C. Substantive deliverables				
Consultation, advice and advocacy: consultations with all Member States on resolutions of the General Assembly and of the Economic and Social Council; briefings to all Member States on sustainable development issues and processes.				
Databases and substantive digital materials: Global Urban Indicators database with approximately 3000+ users updated with new data for 114 urban-related indicators; Global Urban Monitoring Framework, indicator framework to monitor the implementation of the quadrennial comprehensive policy review and SDGs progress and the housing indicators. substantive improvements include additions of 20 new housing focused indicators. Operationalization of the integrated Partner Information Management System including networks and alliances for housing and urban development				
D. Communication deliverables				
Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: digital and print materials about UN-Habitat and ministerial meetings at the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change; materials and reports for the commemoration of international days, events, and main publications, including the XIII World Urban Forum, Urban October, the UN-Habitat Annual Report, and the World Cities Report.				
External and media relations: interviews and commentaries about UN-Habitat focus themes: housing, urban climate action, urban crisis response, shared prosperity; articles and blogs about Sustainable Development Goal 11 and local action to achieve sustainable cities and communities.				
Digital platforms and multimedia content: Urban Agenda Platform; materials on adequate housing, land and basic services, urban climate action, urban crisis response, shared prosperity; social media materials for the UN-Habitat annual report, and online and social media materials for sustainable urban development topics at UNGA.				

Evaluation activities

15.19   The following evaluation(s) completed in 2024 have guided the proposed programme plan for 2026:

(a)   OIOS Mid-term evaluation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2025

(b)   UN-Habitat conducted 10 internal project and programme evaluations relating to Futures cities programme, climate change, water sector, urban policies, response to covid-19 and accountability systems

(c)   MOPAN Assessment of UN-Habitat

15.20   In response to the results of the evaluation(s) referenced above, UN-Habitat has taken their outcomes and lessons learned into account for the proposed Programme Plan for 2026. Findings and recommendations from OIOS mid-term evaluation of UN-Habitat's strategic plan 2020-2025, have fed into the development of the new strategic plan 2026-2029. The results and recommendations from the Mid-Term evaluation of Go Blue project, have fed into the implementation of the remaining activities and the programming of an extension of the project implementation period.

15.21   The following evaluations are planned for 2026:

(a)   Final evaluation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025.

(b)   Evaluation of thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

(c)   One Country Programme Evaluation.

(d)   One Cluster Evaluation.

(e)   16 project and programmes evaluations of relevance to UN-Habitat and those of high investment.

Programme of work

Subprogramme 1

Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum

Objective

15.22   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to reduce inequality between and within communities and to reduce poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum through increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility, accessible and safe public space, increased and secure access to land, adequate and affordable housing and effective human settlements growth and regeneration.

Strategy

15.23   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Develop standards, tools and guidelines for local and national governments, and engage them in policy dialogues, learning and best practices, in addition to capacity-building with regard to adequate housing, infrastructure, planning, water, sanitation, mobility, waste management and energy, localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and designing low-emission and climate-resilient actions;

(b)   Provide technical support to Member States with policy, legislation, strategic planning and financing instruments to implement integrated, inclusive, low-emission, climate-resilient and gender-sensitive land and housing policies, strategies and action plans, and provide technical support to an intergovernmental expert working group on accelerating progress towards the universal achievement of adequate housing;

(c)   Advocate for adequate, safe and affordable housing, a more integrated, comprehensive and inclusive approach to housing, including the prevention of

unlawful forced evictions, and the implementation of sustainable building codes, regulations and certification tools;

(d) Provide technical assistance to national and local governments seeking to implement sustainable and inclusive urban transformation, expansion and regeneration, and support partner cities in institutionalizing urban regeneration and adequate housing through planning, policies and equitable solutions, in line with the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning and the principles of sustainable urbanization;

(e) Support national and local governments in addressing structural inequalities, developing technical guidelines, scaling up access to basic and social services and infrastructure, sustainable mobility and safe public spaces, taking transformative actions targeting homelessness, slums and informal settlements, and putting the most vulnerable first, by co-producing programmes with a multilevel governance and partnership approach and initiating learning, innovations and long-term commitments towards inclusive and sustainable urbanization.

15.24   In doing so, the subprogramme will assist Member States in making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 2, 5, 6, 7, 10, 11 12, 14, 15 and 17.

15.25   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Safer, more accessible and inclusive public spaces integrated into national and local urban policies and sectorial plans, with diverse stakeholders supporting the localization of transformative actions, in particular for the most vulnerable;

(b) Increased accessibility to low-emission, adequate and affordable housing, and strengthened capacities of policymakers, in particular local and regional governments, to implement sustainable transformative actions, including land governance systems, while leaving no one behind;

(c) Sustainable, integrated transformation and regeneration of urban areas into socially and economically inclusive and climate resilient neighbourhoods that offer improved quality of life to all, including improved access to basic services.

Programme performance in 2024

Enhancing WASH Services for building climate resilience

15.26   Over 70% of Lao PDR's population depends on small-scale, climate-sensitive water sources for daily needs, which are increasingly vulnerable to climate change impacts such as droughts, erratic rainfall, and floods. The subprogramme has played a pivotal role to address these challenges and UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport (MPWT) and the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environment (MONRE), has implemented transformative projects funded by the Adaptation Fund. In the provinces of Sekong, Attapeu, and Saravan, a comprehensive climate risk and vulnerability assessment informed urban planning, resulting in development of WASH resilience plans. This initiative directly benefited around 123,000 people and prompted the Government of Lao PDR to develop a national climate risk and vulnerability assessment, which was later presented to the National Assembly. In Savannakhet province, two climate-resilient water supply systems are under construction, set to benefit 65,000 residents, ensuring reliable water access during extreme weather events such as floods. Capacity-building workshops have trained over 200 local stakeholders, enhancing knowledge of climate-resilient practices and infrastructure management. These projects have not only improved water and sanitation services but also fostered healthier, more sustainable communities. Lessons learned are

the importance of influencing national policies, including the National Climate Resilience Framework for WASH Services, setting a strong foundation for broader climate adaptation efforts.

15.27   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.I).

Figure 15.I
Performance measure: number of people benefiting from enhanced WASH services
[(number of people)]
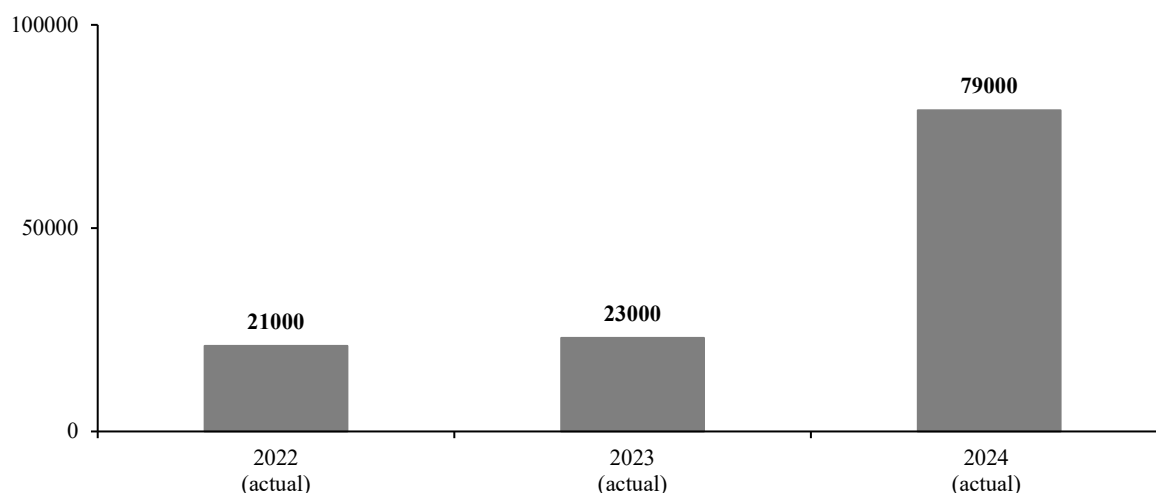
Planned results for 2026

Result 1: inclusive cities and communities through urban regeneration

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

15.28   The subprogramme's work contributed to the implementation of urban and territorial regeneration initiatives in 51 cities across 8 countries in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) and, Latin America and the Caribbean regions, which exceeded the planned target of 50 cumulative cities for 2024.

15.29   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.II).

Figure 15.II
Performance measure: number of partner cities that have implemented urban and territorial regeneration initiatives (cumulative)
[(number of partner cities)]
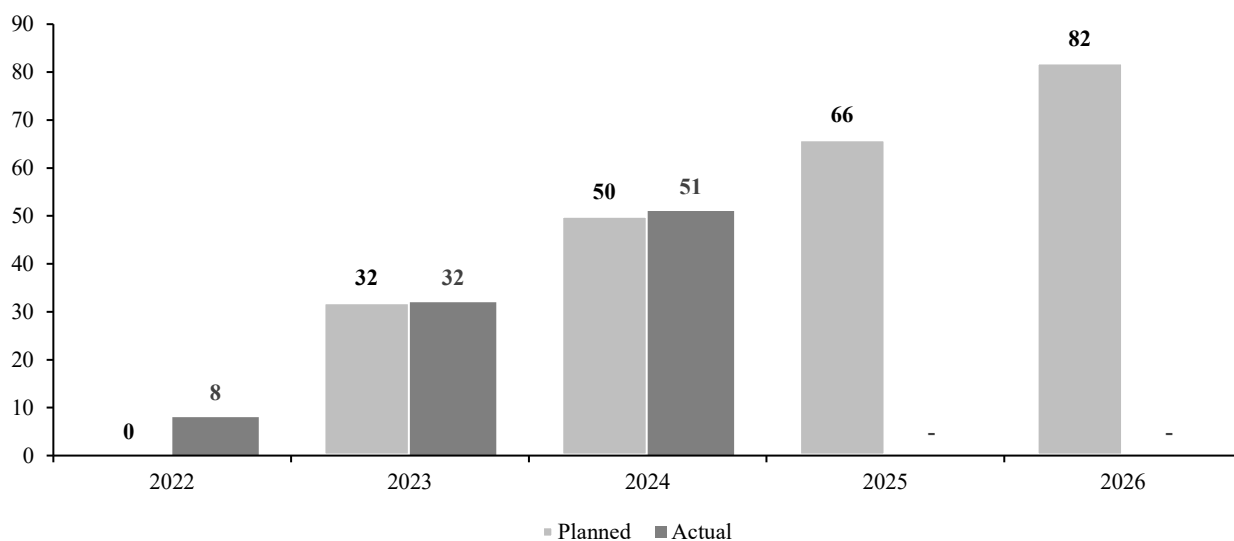
Result 2: cities and countries commit to providing adequate housing for all and addressing homelessness and housing exclusion

**Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026**

15.30   The subprogramme's work contributed to 14 city mayors signing the declaration on ending homelessness, which exceeded the planned target of 3 cities; additionally, the subprogramme supported 2 countries which took steps to address housing challenges through white papers and housing policy review, which met the cumulative target of 50 countries.

15.31   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.III).

Figure 15.III
Performance measure: number of partner cities and countries that have adopted strategies towards ending homelessness and ensuring sustainable access to adequate housing for all (cumulative)
[(number of partner cities)]
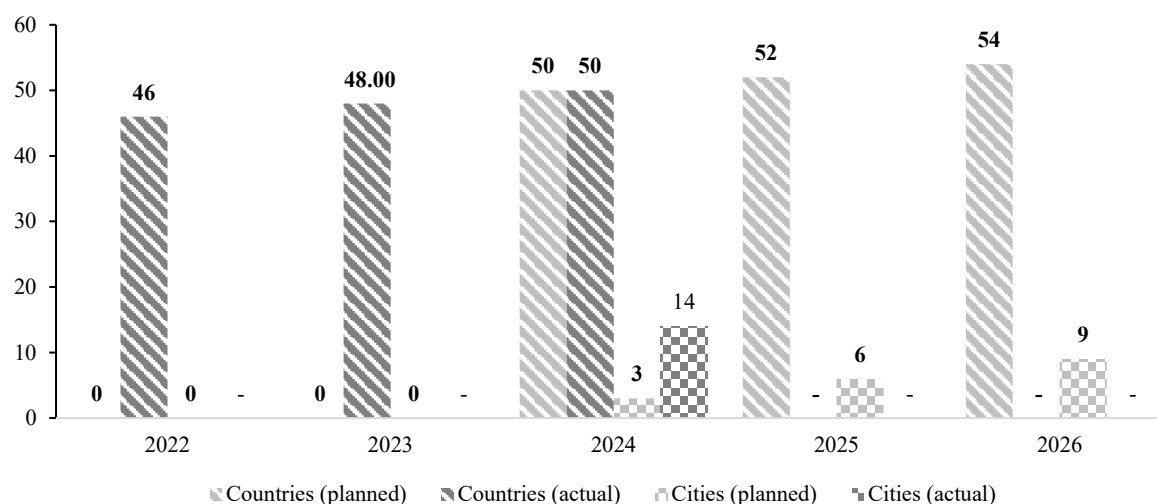
Result 3: cities promoting and implementing strategies, tools or approaches to increase secure tenure rights to land

Proposed programme plan for 2026

15.32   Access to land, other natural resources and the associated security of tenure have significant implications for human development. However, land tenure insecurity remains a significant challenge for many countries and cities, especially for the poor and vulnerable. Conventional ways to manage and administer land and housing have largely failed to deliver secure tenure, fairness, and broad coverage of the cadastre at an affordable cost for all. Further, the complex interplay between land tenure security and housing availability, can severely limit individuals' ability to access and maintain stable housing. The subprogramme supported 40 cities in implementing pro-poor, inclusive, gender responsive land tools and approaches, strategies, policies and legislation to improve tenure security for all.

Lessons learned and planned change

15.33   The lesson for the subprogramme was that capacity building for land actors on innovative land tools and approaches and the institutionalization of these tools has significantly contributed to land reforms at local and national levels. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will support sustained attention to secure land and housing tenure by strengthening partnerships with cities, building capacity to promote scaled implementation and institutionalizing tools within countries' policy and implementation frameworks.

15.34   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.IV)

Figure 15.IV
Performance measure: number of partner cities promoting and implementing strategies, tools or approaches to increase secure tenure rights to land
[(Number of partner cities)]
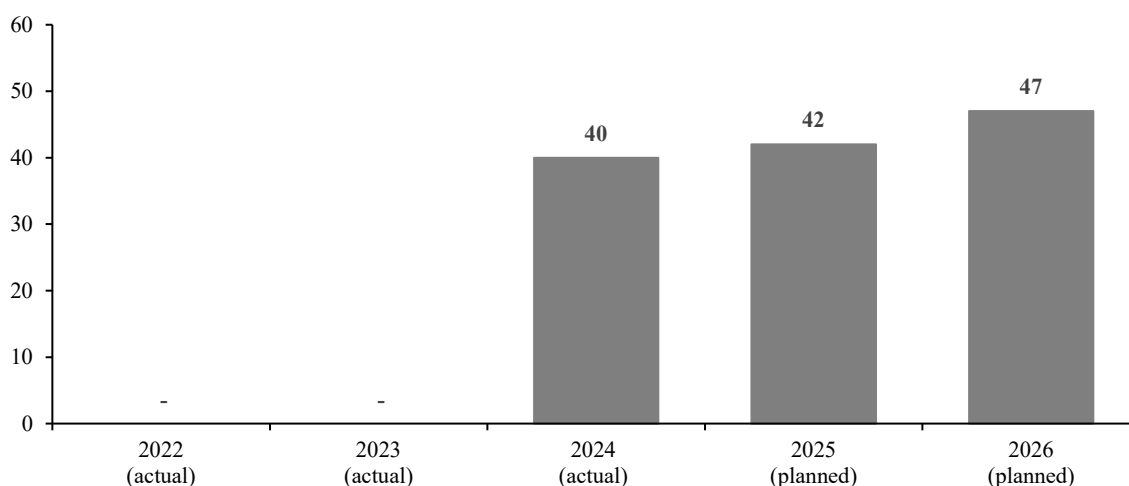
Deliverables

15.35   Table 15.2 lists all deliverables for the subprogramme.

Table 15.2
Subprogramme 1: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
A. Facilitation of the intergovernmental process and expert bodies				
Parliamentary documentation (number of documents)	–		–	
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**38**	**38**	**38**	**38**
1. Projects on urban basic services: mobility, water and sanitation, energy and solid waste management and safe, inclusive and accessible public space	14	14	15	15
2. Projects on development of national and local policies on urban heritage, historical landscape and culture	1	1	1	1
3. Projects on housing, slum upgrading, innovative financing for housing and land readjustment and on integrated urban and territorial renewal and regeneration	9	9	9	9
4. Projects on land tenure security, land-based financing and implementation of the Secretary-General's guidance note on land and conflict	7	7	6	6
5. Projects on integrated urban and territorial planning and effective planning laws	5	5	6	6
6. Projects on urban monitoring, evidence-based policies for crime prevention and community safety and social cohesion in cities and human settlements	2	2	2	2
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**57**	**57**	**59**	**60**
7. Training sessions on urban basic services: mobility, water and sanitation, energy and solid waste management	23	23	25	25
8. Training sessions on slum upgrading, housing, heritage in urban development, regeneration and urban growth, urban design governance, public space, urban planning, design labs, crime prevention and urban safety	13	13	14	15
9. Global and regional training workshops on land, housing, slum upgrading, housing studios and practitioner labs	6	6	6	6
10. Technical workshops on monitoring the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda	5	5	5	5
11. Training sessions on policy, planning and design, governance, legislation and finance and data collection	7	7	7	7
12. Training sessions on land and conflict and on land tenure, governance and financing; and expert group meetings on urban land governance	3	3	2	2
Publications (number of publications)	**3**	**3**	**6**	**5**
13. Publication on land tenure and land degradation	1	1	1	1
14. Publication on land governance, finance and territorial planning	1	1	2	2
15. Publication on affordable and sustainable housing, including homelessness and slum transformation	1	1	2	2
16. Global report on localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and the state of water and sanitation service providers	–	1	1	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	**13**	**13**	**15**	**14**
17. Compendium of policies, plans and good practices on urban planning, regeneration, heritage conservation and extension	1	1	1	1
18. Best practices, guides and case studies on increased and equal access to basic services, sustainable mobility and public space	3	3	4	4
19. Guide for land management and spatial plans for poverty reduction and spatial equality	1	1	1	1
20. Guidelines on the right to adequate housing and prevention of homelessness among those in vulnerable situations, including migrants	1	1	1	1

Category and subcategory	*2024 planned*	*2024 actual*	*2025 planned*	*2026 planned*
21. Guide series for innovative land, legal and financial mechanisms in relation to conservation and regeneration	1	1	1	1
22. Toolkits, housing profiles and technical guides for city leaders on planning, on managing and implementing affordable and sustainable housing and on slum upgrading programmes	2	2	3	3
23. Guides and tools to improve land management and tenure security	1	1	1	1
24. Guidelines and handbooks on slum upgrading solutions	2	2	2	1
25. Neighbourhood planning guidelines on participation and inclusive regeneration	1	1	1	1

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: technical advice to requesting Member States on monitoring and implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals and UN-Habitat Assembly resolutions; urban basic services and integrated inclusive slum upgrading; inclusive and integrated urban planning; the right to housing and tenure security for all, urban law reform and effective urban regeneration and growth management and urban land administration and management.

Databases and substantive digital materials: UrbanLex database; global knowledge platforms on adequate housing; digital materials on global commitments related to land, housing, urban basic services, mobility, energy, water and sanitation, solid waste management, air quality, climate change mitigation and adaptation and cultural heritage; African Clean Cities Platform and the Waste Wise Cities platform.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: on the Global Network of Public Space; dedicated housing campaign under the World Urban Campaign umbrella; Best Practices Awards; global initiative on transforming informal settlements and slums by 2030; slum upgrading, urban regeneration, public space and housing, urban land governance and management, and urban basic services.

External and media relations: media kits, press releases, web stories and social media content on inclusive cities.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: video documentaries, infographics, webinars and open digital platforms on urban safety, heritage, regeneration and urban growth.

Subprogramme 2

Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions

Objective

15.36   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance the shared prosperity of cities and regions through improved spatial connectivity and productivity, increased and equitably distributed locally generated revenue and expanded deployment of frontier technologies and innovation.

Strategy

15.37   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Support Member States and other partners through the formulation of national urban policies and related legal, financial and implementation frameworks integrated into whole-of-government planning, policy and financing frameworks; knowledge transfer; capacity-building; and the development of tools on urban and rural territorial planning and design in support of adequate housing, land and basic services;

(b)   Provide technical assistance, capacity-building and advisory services to cities on:

(i)   Developing participatory and accountable budgeting approaches, optimizing local revenue systems through data collection and the development of municipal databases, and leveraging private sources of capital for sustainable urban development, in support of adequate housing, land and basic services;

(ii) Effectively procuring, testing and implementing people-centred frontier technologies and innovations such as sensor networks, machine-to-machine communication, artificial intelligence, virtual and augmented reality, geographic information systems, remote sensing and big data processing and visualization, in support of adequate housing, land and basic services;

(c) Build on the lessons learned from challenges to local revenue generation exposed by global risks to develop tailored policies and technical assistance, with a focus on effective local public financial management.

15.38　In doing so, the subprogramme will assist Member States in making progress towards Sustainable Development Goals 1, 8, 9, 10 and 11.

15.39　The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a) Balanced territorial development and better-connected human settlements while contributing to improved poverty reduction and prosperity, climate action and improved urban environment, and crisis prevention and response;

(b) Enactment by local authorities of institutional and legal reforms conducive to the generation of additional financial resources, including through public-private partnerships, land-based revenue and financing tools;

(c) Strengthened urban-level action to address inequalities and bridge social, spatial and digital divides and address the global housing crisis.
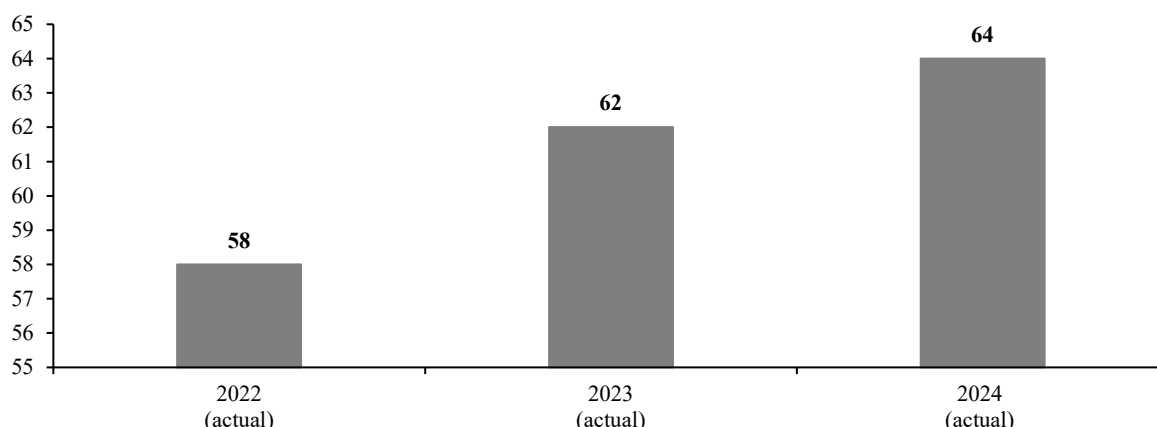
Programme performance in 2024

Driving Sustainable urban development through effective urban policies

15.40　Home to around half of the world's population, cities are hubs of economic, social, and cultural activity – acting as engines of growth, innovation, and global interconnection, accounting for over 80% of the world's GDP. Despite varying degrees of decentralization and capacity across and within countries, cities often hold key policy and investment responsibilities to address urban challenges. However, they cannot address all urbanization challenges alone and must collaborate with national governments. This is where the National Urban Policy (NUP) becomes crucial, guiding efforts across government levels towards sustainable urbanization. The subprogramme has used National and Sub-National Urban Policies (NUPs) to enhance spatial connectivity and productivity, supporting 64 countries so far, in advancing sustainable urban development. NUPs, adopted as an SDG 11.a.1 indicator, are key for monitoring progress. The Global State of National Urban Policy Report 2024 showcases how countries leverage NUPs to monitor and advance this indicator. The report emphasizes housing as a powerful "development multiplier" with transformative economic and social impacts. Significant progress has been driven by NUPs globally. For example, in Paraguay, the NUP was adopted by presidential decree and will support the country's transformative housing programme, where the government has managed over 17,000 housing units to date.

15.41　Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.V).

Figure 15.V
Performance measure: number of countries supported in national urban policy development
[(Number of countries)]

Planned results for 2026

Result 1: voluntary local reviews to enhance the shared prosperity of cities and regions globally through Sustainable Development Goal localization

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

15.42   The subprogramme's work contributed to the development of 15 Voluntary Local Reviews by local and regional governments with the subprogramme's direct support, which met the planned target. It also monitored the development of the 46 VLRs published globally, which did not meet the planned target of 65. The target was not met due to limited awareness and capacities and competing priorities of local and regional governments.

15.43   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.VI).

Figure 15.VI
Performance measure: number of voluntary local reviews prepared by local and regional governments (annual)

[(number of VLRs)]

■ *Number of voluntary local reviews developed globally (planned)*

■ Number of voluntary local reviews developed globally (actual)

■ *Number of voluntary local reviews developed with the subprogramme's direct support (planned)*

▩ Number of voluntary local reviews developed with the subprogramme's direct support (actual)
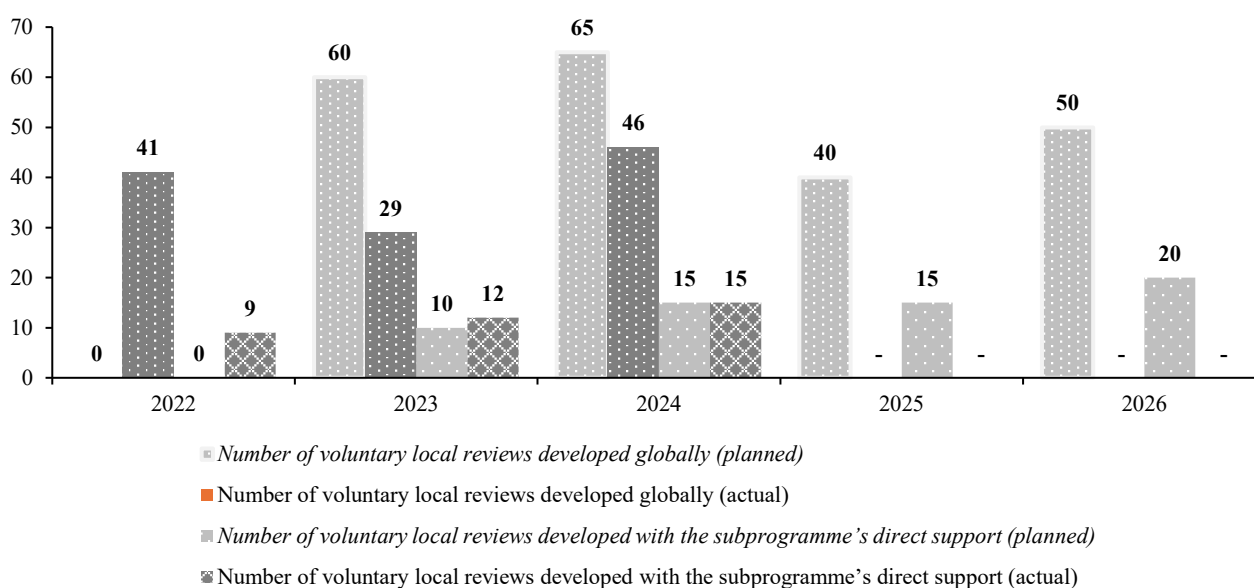
Result 2: digital transformation for sustainable urban development

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

15.44 The subprogramme's work contributed to the expansion of the frontier technologies and innovation, by delivering 37 digital transformation projects, leveraging digital tools and data for sustainable urban development, with a people-centred smart cities approach, which exceeded the planned target of 25 cities implementing cities pilot strategies, plans and projects to inform the development of the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities for 2024.

15.45 Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see table 15.5).

Table 15.5
Performance measure

2022 (actual)	2023 (actual)	2024 (actual)	2025 (planned)	2026 (planned)
Thirty cities adopted people-centred smart city strategies	United Nations Habitat Assembly adopted resolution 2/1 Fifteen cities developed people-centred smart city strategies and plans	Thirty-seven cities pilot strategies, plans and projects to inform the development of the international guidelines on people-centred smart cities implemented	The international guidelines on people-centred smart cities are endorsed by the UN-Habitat Assembly	Implement smart cities solutions and people centred approaches in **10 cities** through the guidelines

Result 3: improved own source revenue performance of local governments

Proposed programme plan for 2026

15.46 Effective devolution of authority and service delivery requires robust Own Source Revenue (OSR) systems for local governments. OSR enhances flexibility, creditworthiness, and accountability, driving improved service delivery and representation in exchange for tax contributions. To support OSR reforms, the subprogramme has provided technical assistance to over 30 local governments, developed an e-learning course on OSR, and upgraded the Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis tool for self-assessment. Efforts also include fostering participatory budgeting and engaging civil society, alongside reforming national fiscal decentralisation and inter-governmental transfer mechanisms

Lessons learned and planned change

15.47 The lesson for the subprogramme was OSR reforms are inherently political, requiring multi-level interventions for sustainability. UN-Habitat recommends tracking progress through process variables, such as the number of local governments with improved OSR strategies. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will expand its online tools to empower more local governments in strengthening their OSR frameworks, ensuring broader and more sustainable implementation.

15.48 Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.VII)

Figure 15.VII

Performance measure: number of Local Governments that have developed OSR strategies and reform initiatives based on the input of UN-Habitat
[(Number of Local governments)]
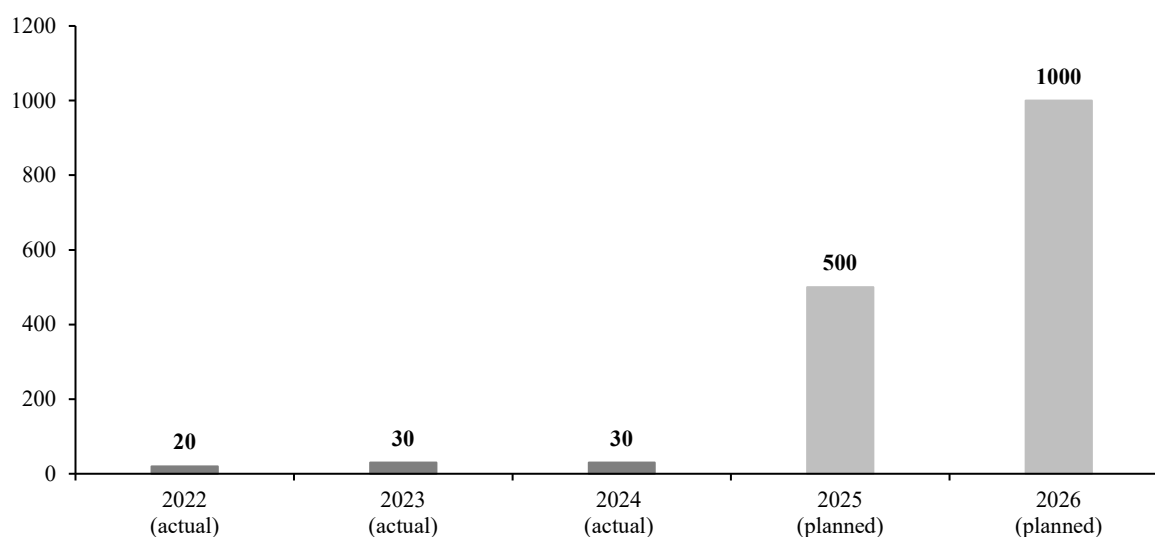
Deliverables

15.49   Table 15.3 lists all deliverables for the subprogramme.

Table 15.3

Subprogramme 2: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**27**	**27**	**27**	**27**
1. Projects on spatial connectivity, urban policies and spatial frameworks, urban planning and design, urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development	13	13	13	13
2. Projects on spatial productivity, local economic development, urban and municipal finance, financing urban basic services and infrastructure	6	6	6	6
3. Projects on best practices, centres of excellence, university partnerships, prosperity indices, frontier technologies and legal and governance frameworks for sustainable, inclusive and innovative development of cities and regions	8	8	8	8
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**41**	**41**	**40**	**40**
4. Training events and dialogues on spatial connectivity, urban planning and design, metropolitan planning, urban and rural linkages, action planning, urban and territorial planning and national urban policies	26	26	26	26
5. Training events and workshops on frontier technologies and innovation, best practices, legal and governance frameworks and prosperity indices for sustainable urban development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals	6	6	6	6
6. Training events and workshops on urban productivity, local economic development, urban and municipal finance, public financial management and local governance	9	9	8	8
Publications (number of publications)	**2**	**2**	**2**	**2**

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
7. National cities reports	2	2	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	**12**	**12**	**12**	**12**
8. Technical materials on spatial connectivity, urban planning and design, metropolitan planning, urban and rural linkages, action planning, urban and territorial planning, national urban policies and people-centred smart cities.	6	6	6	6
9. Technical materials on spatial productivity, local economic development, urban and municipal finance, financing urban basic services and infrastructure	3	3	3	3
10. Technical materials on frontier technologies and innovation, best practices, legal and governance frameworks and prosperity indices for sustainable urban development and implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals	3	3	3	3

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to 20 Member States on national urban policy, urban-rural linkages, metropolitan development, territorial development, urban monitoring, financing sustainable urban development, smart cities and private-sector focused engagement frameworks.

Databases and substantive digital materials: national urban policy database comprising approximately 160 countries; compendium of urban-rural linkages case studies; e-learning courses on urban policy and urban-rural linkages; global municipal database, comprising 50 countries and approximately 110 cities.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: brochures, leaflets, profiles and events on national urban policy, urban-rural linkages, metropolitan development, territorial development, urban monitoring, financing sustainable urban development, smart cities and private-sector focused engagement frameworks.

Digital platforms and multi-media content: content for social media.

Subprogramme 3

Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

Objective

15.50   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is strengthened climate action and improved urban environments through reducing greenhouse gas emissions and improving air quality, improving resource efficiency and protecting ecological assets, and the effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change.

Strategy

15.51   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Provide technical support for the development of low-emission and climate-resilient cities and the integration of climate action into domains of sustainable urban development;

(b)   Provide assistance on sustainable approaches to urban climate action to requesting Member States through innovative technologies, knowledge transfer, capacity-building, data and development of an evidence base, policy advice and peer-to-peer engagement in global and regional networks;

(c)   Provide assistance to Member States on the integration of the urban dimension in nationally determined contributions, national adaptation plans and other national climate change policies, strategies and plans and support their implementation across all levels of governments;

(d)   Promote solutions to environmental protection, renovation and restoration through the development of tools, guidelines and field projects;

(e)   Promote innovative solutions to address climate change adaptation, mitigation, loss and damage and climate finance through the facilitation of global, regional and national joint practitioner and researchers' networks and the development of tools and guidelines;

(f)   Provide assistance in the formulation of policy and legislation, urban planning and design, multilevel governance and financing instruments, including through its flagship programme entitled "RISE-UP: resilient settlements for the urban poor", which focuses on mobilizing investments to address climate resilience issues affecting urban communities in vulnerable situations;

(g)   Support the implementation of global adaptation initiatives, such as the National Adaptation Plan Global Support Programme and the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership;

15.52   In doing so, the subprogramme will assist Member States in making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 6, 7, 8, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 14 and 15.

15.53   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a)   Multidimensional climate action and urban environment planning by Member States and partner cities that reduces greenhouse gas emissions, builds climate resilience of urban systems and communities, preserves, regenerates and restores urban biodiversity and reduces air and water pollution;

(b)   Mobilization of additional financial resources for adaptation to climate change at the national and subnational levels;

(c)   Member States' nationally determined contributions and national climate adaptation plans incorporating urban dimensions;

(d)   More climate- and pandemic-resilient cities, human settlements and communities.

Programme performance in 2024

Urban Climate Change Innovation significantly advanced globally

15.54   The accelerated dissemination and application of urban climate change innovations are necessary to stimulate urban climate action. The subprogramme, in response to the UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/5 of 2023 advanced the urban climate change innovation work with emphasis on closing research and knowledge gaps. As its flagship event in 2024, the subprogramme organized the Innovate4Cities 2024 conference, convening nearly 2,000 experts, leaders, and advocates across research, government, business, and civil society at urban climate change science – policy – action nexus. Innovate4Cities also co-developed an updated Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science (GRAA) identifies current research gaps to help the climate action in cities: the foundational evidence base and home to the 160 knowledge gaps and 250+ action priorities that – if addressed – can accelerate urban action implementation at the speed and scale needed to meet Paris Agreement goals and the Sustainable Development Goals. The GRAA also aims to infuse cutting-edge practice, research, and innovation into each step of the city climate action journey—while tackling

knowledge gaps and action priorities surrounding the new pillars of justice and equity, systems approaches, and city-level models, data, and knowledge. UN-Habitat's World Cities Report – Cities and Climate Action drew on the cutting-edge knowledge presented at Innovate4Cities, expert authors and good practice. The Subprogramme ensured that the outcomes of the Innovate4Cities conference and the World Cities Report are in support the emerging Special Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) Special report on Climate Change and Cities.

15.55   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.VIII).

Figure 15.VIII
Performance measure: identified cities and climate change action priorities
[(Cities and climate priorities)]
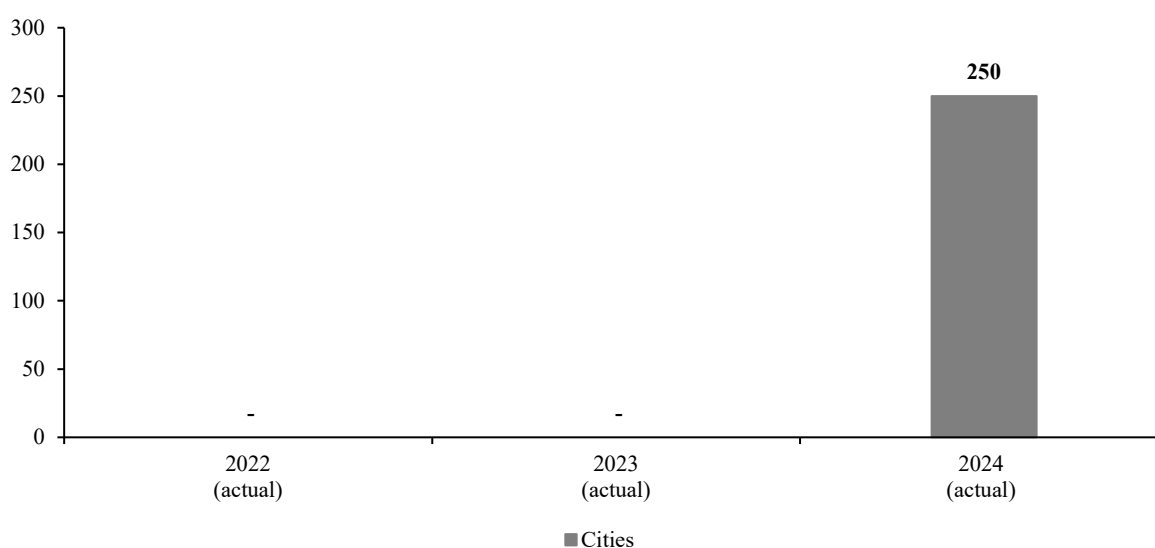
Planned results for 2026

Result 1: conservation, management and sustainable use approaches, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, to improve the livelihoods and resilience of urban poor communities
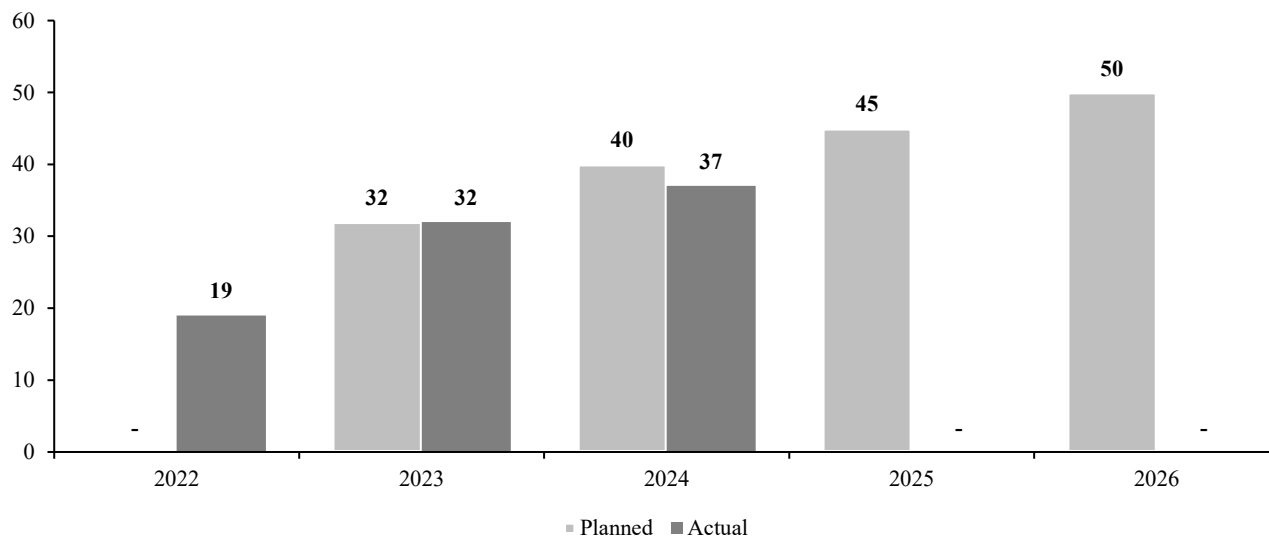
Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

15.56   The subprogramme's work contributed to 37 nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives, which did not meet the planned target of 40 for 2024. The target was not met due to operational and financial constraints.

15.57   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.IX).

Figure 15.IX
Performance measure: number of towns and cities implementing conservation, management and sustainable use approaches, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches (cumulative)
[(Number of towns and cities)]

Result 2: nationally determined contributions increasingly contain urban content

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026
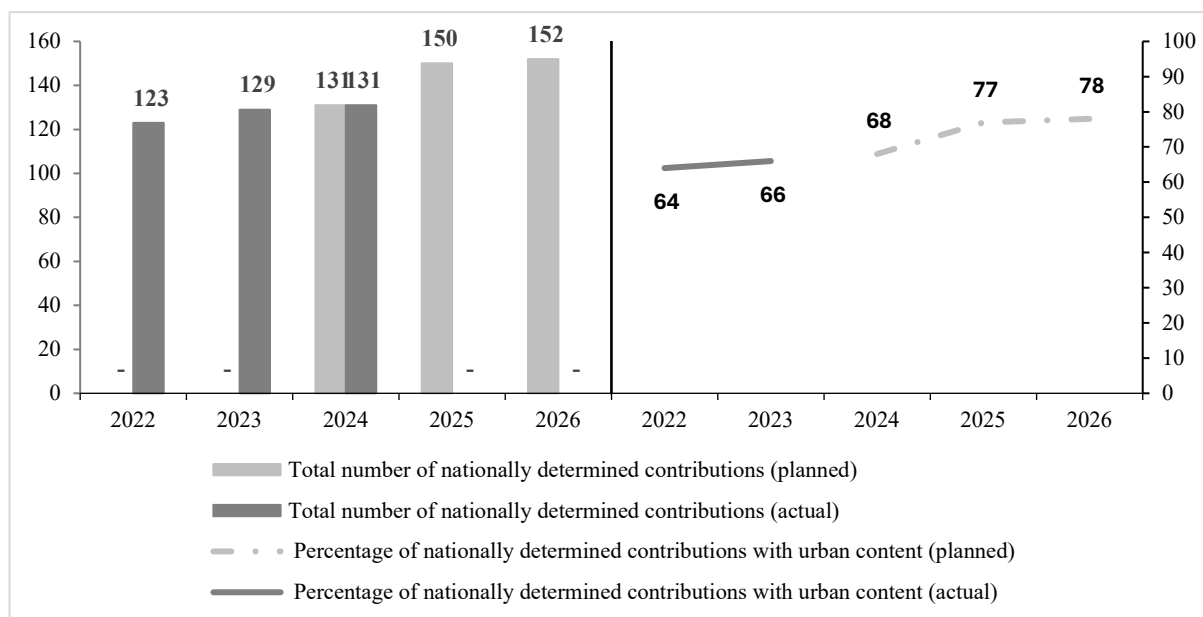
15.58   The subprogramme's work contributed to stronger urban content in NDCs, which met the planned target.

15.59   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.X).

Figure 15.X
Performance measure: nationally determined contributions with urban content (cumulative)
[(number of action plans)]

Result 3: urban climate action plans to build the climate resilience of urban poor communities

Proposed programme plan for 2026

15.60   Approximately one in four urban dwellers or more than 1.1 billion people live in slums or informal settlements globally, the majority of whom are extremely vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. At the same time the climate crisis is exacerbating pre-existing vulnerabilities within slums, trapping the urban poor in an unrelenting cycle of enduring hardship. The subprogramme has, supported climate resilience of urban poor communities with emphasis on climate resilient informal settlement. Building on the agency's long-standing experience in participatory slum upgrading, member states have been supported through direct interventions at the community level and through capacity and governance support at the city level.

Lessons learned and planned change

15.61   The lesson for the subprogramme was that integrated approaches to climate resilience that take into account poverty eradication, social integration, nature-based solution, economic development and disaster risk reduction tend to improve resilience and development outcomes. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will support such integrated approaches through urban climate action plans, that are coordinated at the sub-national level, and that can attract further climate and development finance and that are backed up by National Adaptation Plans, Nationally Determined Contributions or national climate change policies and strategies.

15.62   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.XI)

Figure 15.XI
Performance measure: number of integrated urban climate action plans focusing on the most vulnerable communities
[(number of action plans)]
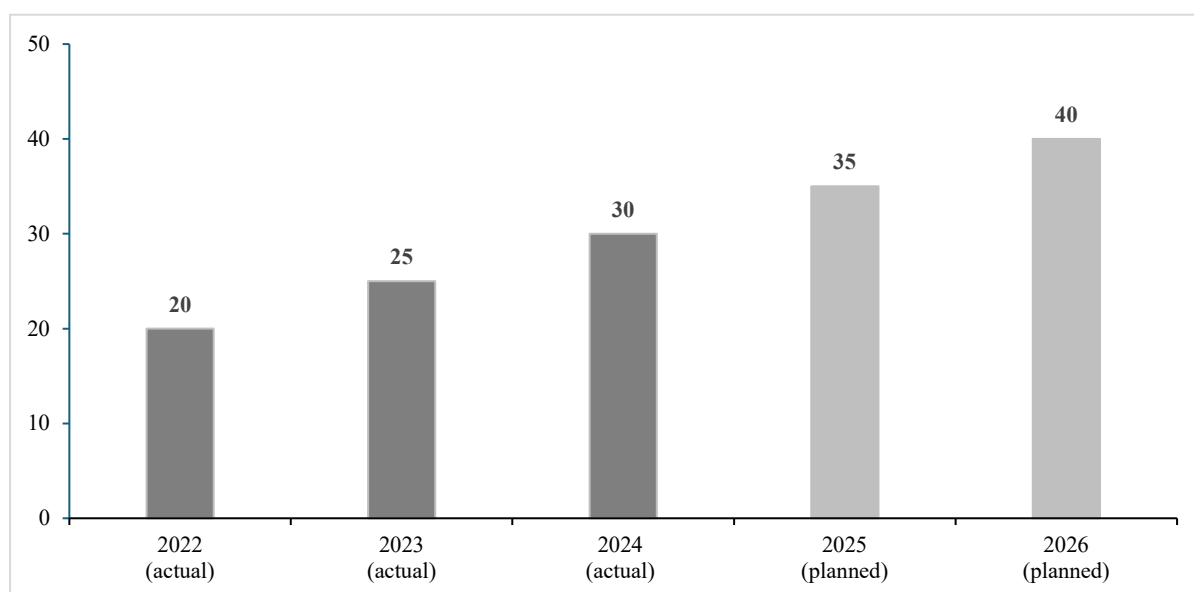
Deliverables

15.63   Table 15.4 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 15.4
Subprogramme 3: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**28**	**28**	**37**	**45**
1. Projects on improving urban air quality, the urban environment, climate change mitigation, and increased access to low-emission basic services, more sustainable infrastructure and buildings	4	4	5	5
2. Projects on policies, legal instruments, plans and strategies for better urban air quality, the urban environment, climate change mitigation and low-emission basic services and sustainable infrastructure and buildings	2	2	3	6
3. Projects on resilience-building and adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change, and disaster risk reduction	–		–	
4. Projects on effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change, informed by participatory processes, assessments of local vulnerabilities and innovative data collection (i.e., remote sensing) and processing	16	16	18	20
5. Projects on policies, legal instruments, plans and strategies for strengthened resilience and effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change	4	4	5	6
6. Projects on urban environmental management and restoration, biodiversity protection, circular economy and ecosystem services	2	2	4	4
7. Projects on urban resource management and efficiency, including circular economy, efficient use of urban land, service provision and sustainable water and waste management, and promotion of cleaner energy and energy efficiency	2	2	2	4
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**47**	**47**	**61**	**61**
8. Training events for partners and those in vulnerable situations (e.g., in informal settlements) on climate change mitigation, air quality and low-emission basic services	12	12	15	15
9. Training events on effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change	30	30	35	35
10. Training events on sustainable city models and their application, sustainable infrastructure and urban planning	–	-	6	6
11. Training on environment and climate dimensions and Sustainable Development Goal monitoring in urban areas	–	-	–	
12. Training events for national and local government partners and other urban stakeholders on urban environmental management, restoration and renovation, biodiversity protection, circular economy and ecosystem services.	5	5	5	5
Publications (number of publications)	**4**	**4**	**6**	**6**
13. Publications on climate change mitigation and air quality	2	2	2	2
14. Publications on effective adaptation of communities of slums and other urban communities in vulnerable situations in urban neighbourhoods, and infrastructure, to climate change	1	1	2	2
15. Publications on improved low-emission urban services and resource efficiency (e.g. focusing on technological innovation)	1	1	2	2
Technical materials (number of materials)	**8**	**8**	**10**	**11**
16. Technical materials on improved resource efficiency and protection of ecological assets, including sectoral materials	2	2	2	3
17. Technical materials on climate change mitigation and air quality	2	2	2	2
18. Technical materials on climate action, basic services or environment in human settlements	2	2	2	3

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
19. Technical materials on national, regional and local guidelines, plans, coordination mechanisms and strategies on climate action, the urban environment, ecosystems and biodiversity, ecological assets and ecosystem services	1	1	2	2
20. Technical materials on improved low-emission urban services, resource efficiency and (electric) mobility solutions and infrastructure (including monitoring)	1	1	2	2

C.   Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services to 20 Member States on reducing urban greenhouse gas emissions to achieve climate change mitigation and adaptation, improving air quality and low-emission urban services, improving resource efficiency and protecting ecological assets.

Databases and substantive digital materials: databases on urban climate- or environment-relevant subjects, and simulations, including a global database on the urban dimension of nationally determined contributions; urban climate resilience frameworks in Southern Africa, ecosystems-based adaptation solutions in South-East Asia, the Arab region and Latin America and the Caribbean and a toolbox for urban biodiversity solutions; e-mobility toolbox supporting the shift to electric mobility.

D.   Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: brochures, campaign and events on greenhouse gas emissions and air quality, resource efficiency, protection of ecological assets and effective adaptation of communities and infrastructure to climate change.

External and media relations: press articles on climate action and the urban environment.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: websites and content for social media accounts; multimedia content on urban climate- or environment-relevant subjects.

Subprogramme 4

Effective urban crisis prevention and response

Objective

15.64   The objective, to which this subprogramme contributes, is to enhance urban crisis prevention and response and advance social integration and inclusive communities as well as improved living standards and the inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees.

Strategy

15.65   To contribute to the objective, the subprogramme will:

(a)   Engage in-country comprehensive, participatory and inclusive operational programmes that respond to crises to establish fit-for-purpose land administration and secure land tenure in affected areas and promote national urban frameworks with inclusive governance and planning;

(b)   Support Member States in adopting evidence-based recovery approaches, settlements-based approaches and community participatory processes while ensuring equitable representation;

(c)   Build the capacity of national, regional and local actors to increase social cohesion, reduce discrimination in urban crisis situations and prevent disaster risk, including through foresight and early warning;

(d)   Prioritize improved living standards and the inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees, focusing on housing, land and basic

services and by supporting integrated urban development strategies for host communities and the displaced;

(e)   Develop evidence-based local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies and support their implementation in target cities and territories.

(f)   Advance the humanitarian-development-peace nexus through 'solutions from the start,' transitioning humanitarian responses into urban recovery and reconstruction.

15.66   In doing so, the subprogramme will assist Member States in making progress towards achieving Sustainable Development Goals 1, 5, 8, 9, 10, 11, 13 and 16.

15.67   The above-mentioned work is expected to result in:

(a)   Increased community participation in crisis-affected areas in local decision-making related to recovery, thereby ensuring social inclusion;

(b)   Increased number of cities offering secure tenure, sustainable basic services, adequate housing, safety and security for the displaced and host communities;

(c)   Reduced multidimensional risks and increased protection for those in vulnerable situations in cities;

(d)   Strengthened city-level infrastructure analysis and decision-making, with a focus on resilience, in particular in crisis settings.

(e)   Increased adoption of integrated settlement approaches and participatory urban planning to ensure secure access to housing, land, and basic services for displaced and host communities.

(f)   Housing, land and access to basic services remain core priorities to ensure resilient solutions for displaced and host communities.

Programme performance in 2024

Sustainable integration of displacement-affected communities (DACs) for improved access to Housing, Land, and Property (HLP)

15.68   Ethiopia hosts one of the world's largest populations of internally displaced persons (IDPs), with 4.51 million identified as of February 2022 (IOM Displacement Tracking Matrix). In response, the Federal Government of Ethiopia launched the Durable Solutions Initiative in 2019, providing a framework for multi-sectoral programs support in return, relocation, and local integration of IDPs. The Somali and Oromia regions, particularly the Harage zones, are key areas for durable solutions interventions. The subprogramme has achieved several milestones. It completed a report on the Legal, Policy, and Institutional Frameworks for HLP rights in Oromia and Somali regions, providing a foundational analysis for advancing durable solutions. Over 116 regional, zonal, and woreda officials have been trained on durable solutions, HLP rights, mainstreaming IDPs into planning and budgets, solid waste management, and introduction to GIS and remote sensing-based early warning and monitoring systems to strengthen mitigation and response to shocks. Two settlement plans have been finalised, with six others currently undergoing consultation. The programme co-delivered, with DACs and CSOs, nature-based solutions for wind and flood protection through tree plantation initiatives, while solid management equipment and awareness materials in local languages were distributed across six sites. The programme contributed to increased capacities of seven local and two regional administrations to enhance DACs' access to HLP. Additionally, the programme strengthened institutional responses to the long-term impacts of displacement and improved government capacities for GIS-based early warning and monitoring systems to address future shocks.
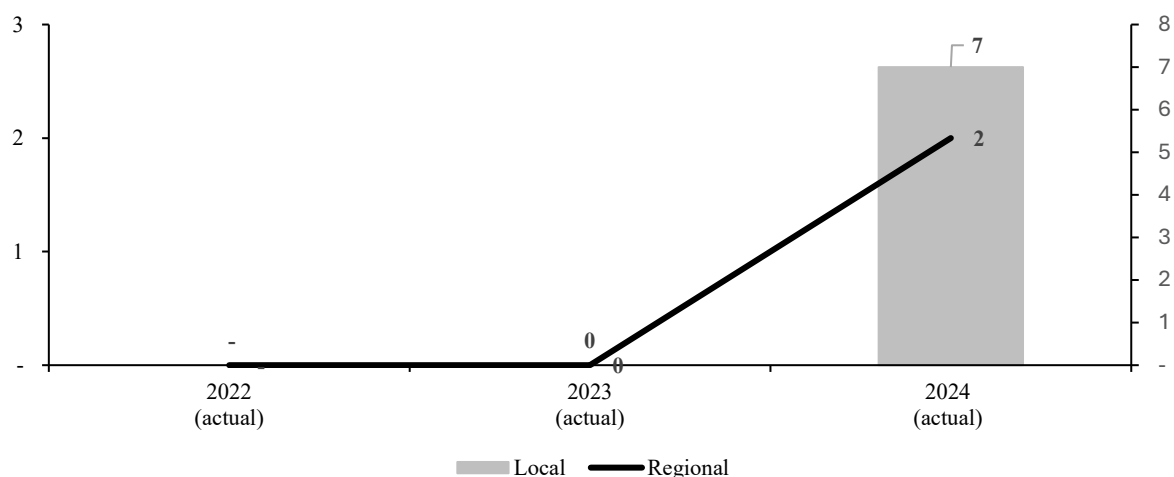
15.69   Progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.XII).

Figure 15.XII
Performance measure: number of regional and local administrations supported to integrate DACs for improved access to HLP in Ethiopia (cumulative)
[(number of action plans)]


Planned results for 2026

Result 1: enhanced sustainable solutions to migration

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

15.70   The subprogramme's work contributed to the adoption of context-specific responses to urban migration and forced displacement in seven countries (Afghanistan, Burkina Faso, Colombia, Iraq, Mozambique, Somalia, and Ukraine), which met the planned target.

15.71   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.XIII).

Figure 15.XIII
Performance measure: number of countries adopting a context-specific response to urban migration and displacement (cumulative)
[(number of countries)]
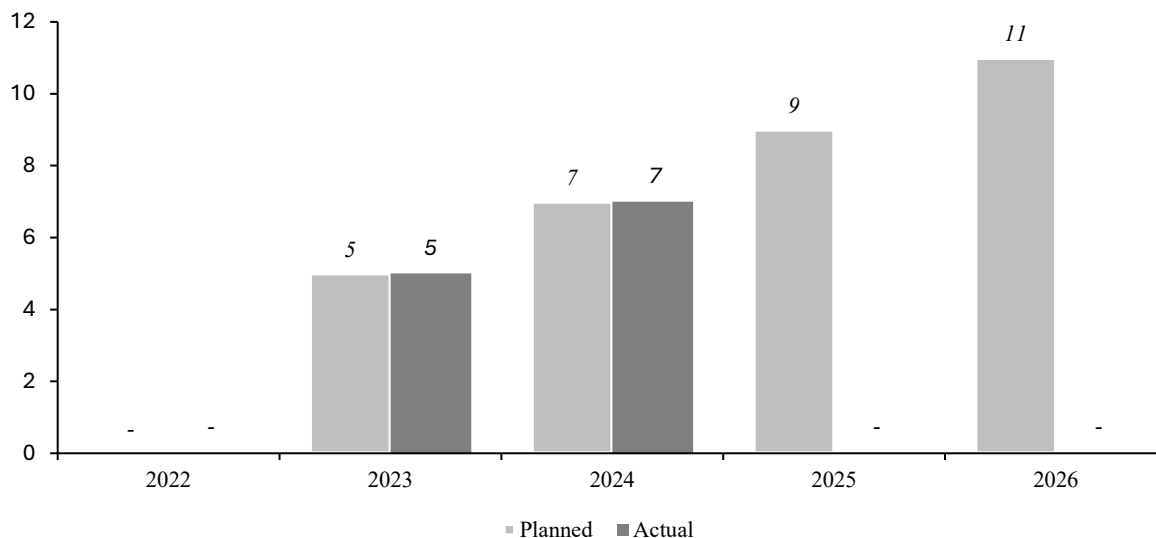
Result 2: sustainable integration of displaced communities in urban areas

Programme performance in 2024 and target for 2026

15.72   The subprogramme's work contributed to integration of displaced communities in Somalia through issuing of 1,554 land title and tenure security documents which exceeded the planned target of 1,500 land title deeds.

15.73   Progress towards the objective and the target for 2026 are presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.XIV).

Figure 15.XIV
Performance measure: number of land title deeds and tenure security documents issued in Somalia in support of integrating displaced communities (cumulative)
[(number of land title deeds)]
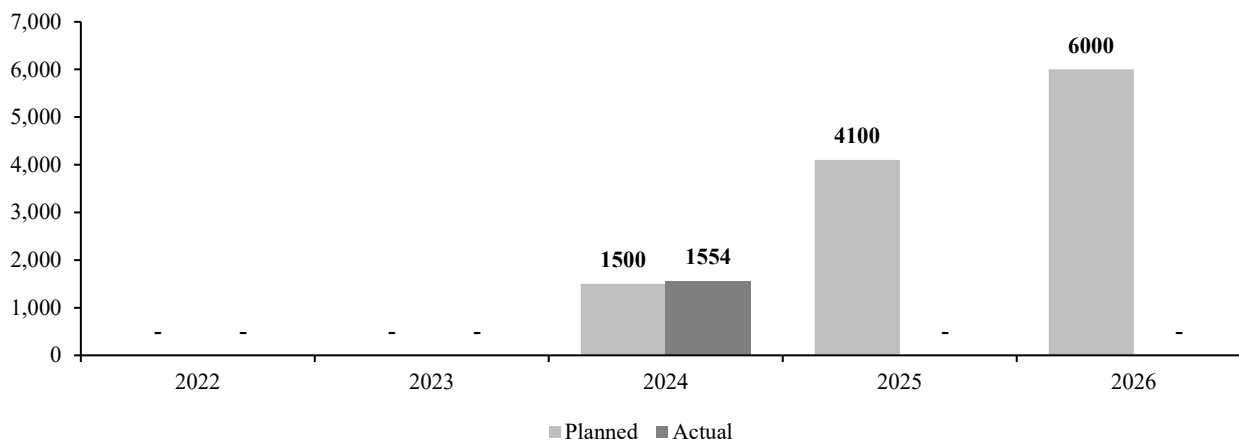
Result 3: integrated and participatory urban planning and inclusive development

Proposed programme plan for 2026

15.74   Displaced populations increasingly settle in urban areas, underscoring the need for sustainable, scalable, and transformative solutions. Rapid urbanization of displacement strains urban systems, demanding inclusive approaches that address the needs of both displaced and host communities. The subprogramme continuously worked on sustainable responses focusing on housing, land, and basic services for displaced populations, bridging the Humanitarian Development Peace nexus. Efforts include urban planning initiatives, community-based approaches, and enhancing partnerships with local governments to ensure durable solutions in displacement contexts. These strategies align with the Secretary General's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, emphasizing urban resilience and development-oriented responses, and contribute to sustainable human settlement pledge launched at the 2023 Global Refuge Forum (2023).
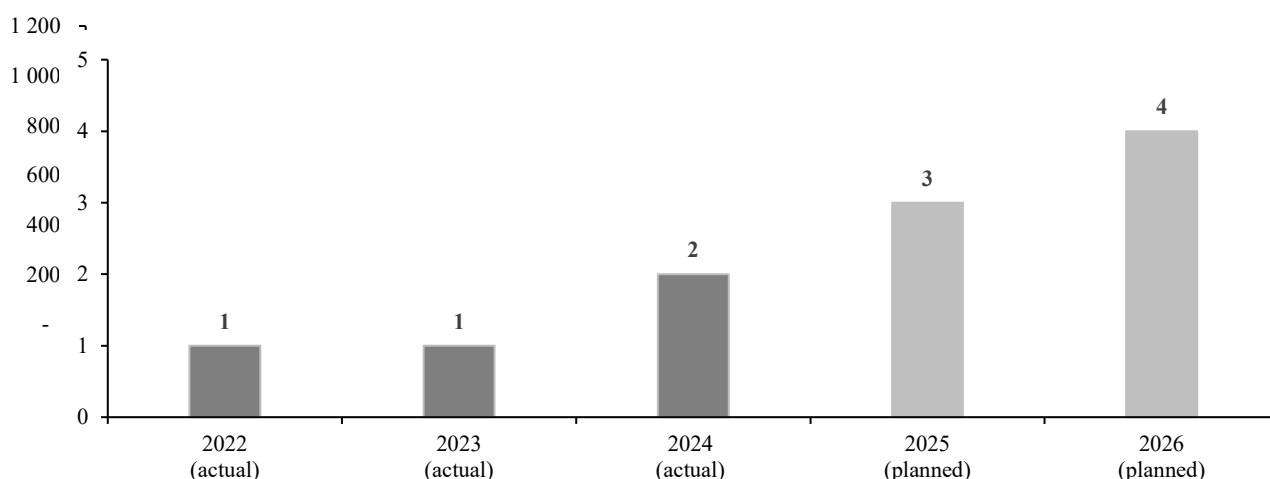
Lessons learned and planned change

15.75   The lesson for the subprogramme was the need to better integrate development-informed humanitarian approaches and prioritize collaboration with local actors. Insufficient alignment between humanitarian and development activities limited the scalability of previous interventions. In applying the lesson, the subprogramme will strengthen engagement with local governments and adopt cross-sectoral, area-based approaches that integrate displaced and host communities. Future focus includes spatial urban planning, enhancing land tenure security and housing, building upon urban systems for sustainable infrastructure development. The subprogramme's aim is to embed resilience-building into crisis responses to support inclusive urban development.

15.76   Expected progress towards the objective is presented in the performance measure below (see figure 15.XV)

Figure 15.XV
Performance measure: number of settlements with displaced populations adopting an integrated, participatory urban planning and inclusive development approach (cumulative)
[(Number of settlements)]

Deliverables

15.77   Table 15.5 lists all deliverables of the subprogramme.

Table 15.5
Subprogramme 4: deliverables for the period 2024–2026, by category and subcategory

Category and subcategory	2024 planned	2024 actual	2025 planned	2026 planned
B. Generation and transfer of knowledge				
Field and technical cooperation projects (number of projects)	**22**	**22**	**22**	**22**
1. Projects on enhanced social integration and cohesive communities	8	8	8	8
2. Projects on improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons	8	8	8	8
3. Projects on enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure	6	6	6	6
Seminars, workshops and training events (number of days)	**31**	**31**	**31**	**31**
4. Seminars, workshops and training events on enhanced social integration and cohesive communities	10	10	10	10
5. Seminars, workshops and training events on improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons	9	9	9	9
6. Seminars, workshops and training events on enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure	12	12	12	12
Publications (number of publications)	**–**	**1**	**1**	**1**
7. Publication on improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons	–	–	1	1
8. Publication on enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure	–	–	–	–
Technical materials (number of materials)	**7**	**7**	**7**	**7**
9. Technical materials on enhanced social integration and cohesive communities	2	2	2	2
10. Technical materials on improved living standards and inclusion of migrants, refugees and internally displaced persons	3	3	3	3
11. Technical materials on enhanced resilience of the built environment and infrastructure	2	2	2	2

C. Substantive deliverables

Consultation, advice and advocacy: advisory services provided to five Member States on urban crisis mitigation and response and on enhancing urban resilience to multi-hazard threats, including impacts from ongoing conflicts, climate change and crises related to migration and displacement.

Databases and substantive digital materials: urban migration indicators in the UN-Habitat Global Urban Monitoring Framework.

D. Communication deliverables

Outreach programmes, special events and information materials: brochures, leaflets and online awareness-raising and digital learning materials on social inclusion and the response to migration and displacement, urban recovery and reconstruction, risk reduction, and early warning systems and foresight.

Digital platforms and multimedia content: content for social media accounts, blogs and websites related to the social and economic inclusion of migrants, refugees, internally displaced persons and returnees in urban crisis contexts; risk reduction and recovery in urban areas.