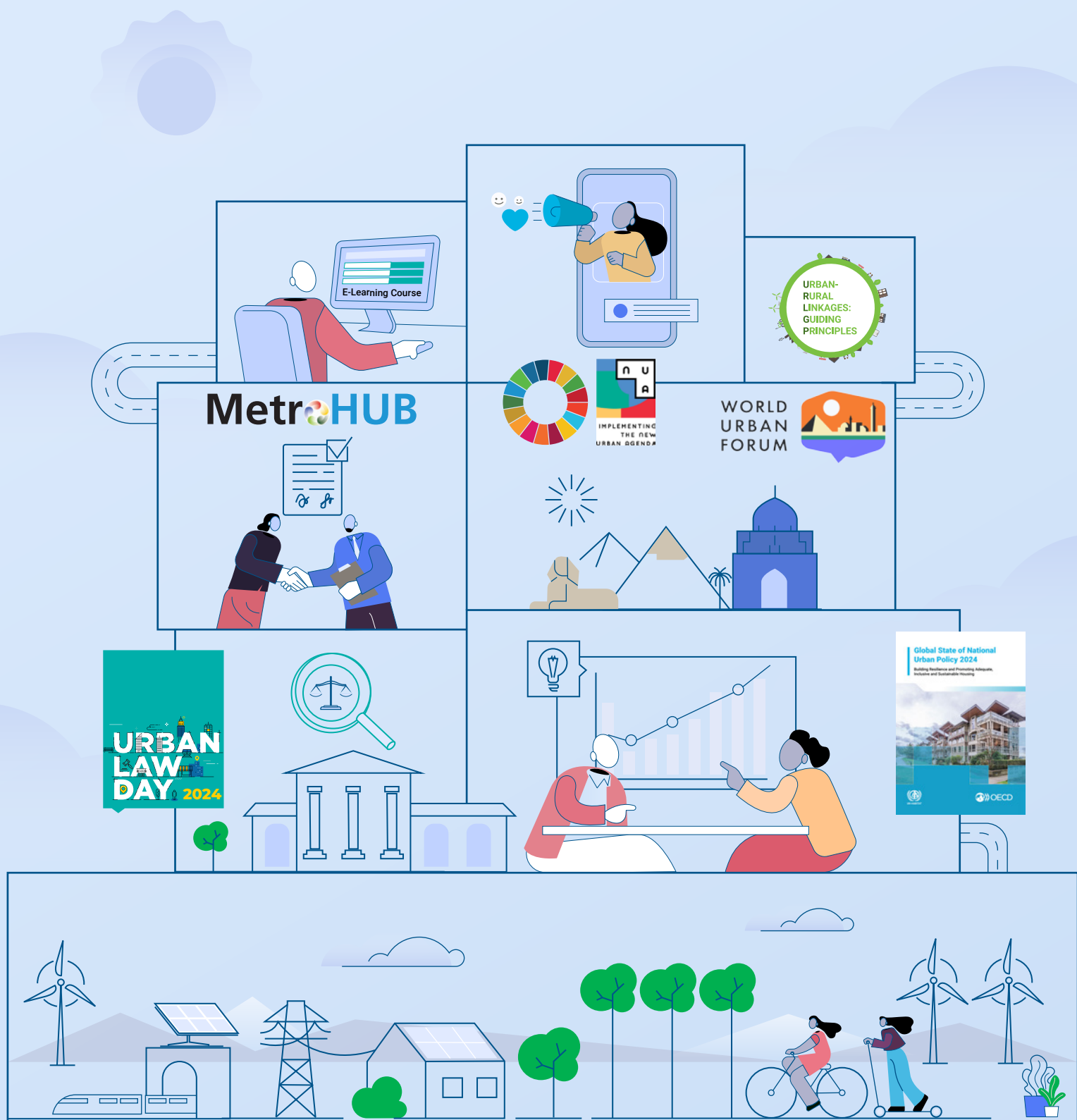


# POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE SECTION ANNUAL REPORT 2024



URBAN PRACTICES BRANCH | GLOBAL SOLUTIONS DIVISION



UN-HABITAT

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**POLICY, LEGISLATION AND GOVERNANCE SECTION**

# **ANNUAL REPORT 2024**

**URBAN PRACTICES BRANCH | GLOBAL SOLUTIONS DIVISION**



# Foreword

I am pleased to introduce the fifth edition of the annual report on the work and achievements of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS). This report exemplifies the Section's role in developing tools and methodologies, as well as integrating various substantive competencies to ensure the effective implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda and the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan.

The PLGS Annual Report 2024 illustrates the Section's contributions to UN-Habitat's overall success, encompassing both global and country-level initiatives.

The Section is aligning its efforts with the agency's priorities, including the focus on Housing, Land, and Basic Services. The Section is well-positioned to support these priority areas effectively.

Additionally, during the 12th session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat unveiled its flagship World Cities Report 2024, to which PLGS contributed its expertise in policy, legislation, governance, and intermediary cities.

The Section has collaborated closely with other departments at the Headquarters as well as country and regional offices to roll out its tools and diversify its partnership.

Looking ahead, 2025 promises to be another vibrant year as UN-Habitat prepares for the implementation of the new strategic plan, which will run from 2026 to 2029. PLGS is strategically positioned to transition into this new cycle.

I trust that the 2024 PLGS Annual Report will motivate you to actively participate in and support UN-Habitat's policy, legislation and governance work towards sustainable urban development.



Raf Tuts

Director, Global Solutions Division



I am delighted to present the 2024 Annual Report from UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS). This fifth edition builds on the achievements and insights shared in the previous four annual reports, which have been developed since the onset of UN-Habitat's strategic period 2020 to 2025. This edition provides a comprehensive overview of UN-Habitat's initiatives in policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages, including food systems. Donors, funding counterparts, colleagues, and development partners have utilized PLGS annual reports for their own documentation, monitoring and evidence collection.

I am particularly proud to bring to your attention the significant milestones reached by PLGS in 2024. You will find in the report, numerous accomplishments and 2025 outlook. Here are some key highlights:

In 2024, PLGS executed over 54 activities across 33 countries, contributing to global efforts for an inclusive and sustainable future. These activities encompassed **technical support, capacity building, dissemination of normative tools, and advocacy initiatives**. Such successes were made possible through robust collaboration with donors, partners, counterparts, and various UN-Habitat offices.

PLGS has once again enhanced its expanding collection of normative tools and **knowledge products, offering global standards and frameworks** to assist Member States and other stakeholders in aligning their development priorities with sustainability goals. Many of these tools were deployed for technical support and advisory services, facilitating the implementation of urban policies at the national level. Countries further demonstrated their dedication to sustainable urban development by adopting urban policies and advancing related projects, while legislative and governance efforts were evident in climate law initiatives and the scaling up of prior projects—underscoring the impact and effectiveness of UN-Habitat's interventions.

In 2024, PLGS made significant progress in our **capacity development initiatives**. By employing tailored tools and methodologies, our capacity development sessions imparted essential knowledge regarding urban-rural linkages and metropolitan management to an increasing number of participants, both in-person and online. These advancements were facilitated by our ongoing collaborations with academia, research organizations, and various other partners.

Our **advocacy** efforts gained momentum in 2024, particularly during the 12th session of the World Urban Forum, the 1st African Urban Forum, and the 16th session of the Conference of the Parties (COP16) of the United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification. Such events allowed PLGS to communicate important messages and narratives about the fundamental roles of policy, legislation, and governance in sustainable urban development to a broader audience.

Another notable achievement is that PLGS has consistently fostered trust and broadened its **partnership base** as demonstrated by the establishment of new cooperation agreements, letters of intent, and memorandums of understanding.

I invite you to read this report, use as you see fit, share your feedback, and disseminate it widely.



Remy Sietchiping

Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance



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# Acronyms

<b>AMB</b>	Barcelona Metropolitan Area
<b>CEPA</b>	Committee of Experts on Public Administration (United Nations)
<b>CIAT</b>	Interministerial Committee for Territorial Planning (Haiti)
<b>CoP</b>	Community of Practices
<b>CURLA</b>	Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GAIN</b>	Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition
<b>GELC</b>	Global Environmental Law Centre
<b>GDAR</b>	Global Diet and Activity Research
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GSNUP</b>	Global State of National Urban Policy
<b>HLPF</b>	High-level political forum
<b>IALS</b>	Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
<b>ICLEI</b>	Local Governments for Sustainability
<b>IFRI</b>	French Institute of International Relations
<b>IFURL</b>	International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages
<b>IUD</b>	Integrated urban development
<b>KAS</b>	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
<b>MAETUR</b>	Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Authority (Cameroon)
<b>MetroHUB</b>	UN-Habitat's Global Programme Supporting Sustainable Metropolitan and Regional Development
<b>MINHDU</b>	Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (Cameroon)
<b>MMU</b>	Marmara Municipalities Union
<b>MOLIT</b>	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (South Korea)
<b>MUVH</b>	Ministry of Urban Planning Housing and Habitat (Paraguay)
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NIUA</b>	National Institute of Urban Affairs (India)
<b>NUA</b>	New Urban Agenda
<b>NUP</b>	National urban policy
<b>NUPP</b>	National urban policy programme
<b>OCCAM</b>	Observatory on Digital Communication
<b>OECD</b>	Organisation for Economic Development and Cooperation
<b>PLANUVIH</b>	National Urbanism, Housing and Habitat Plan 2030 (Paraguay)
<b>PLGS</b>	Policy, Legislation and Governance Section
<b>RMBC</b>	Bogota-Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region
<b>ROAF</b>	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
<b>ROAP</b>	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
<b>ROLAC</b>	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
<b>ROAS</b>	Regional Office for Arab States
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SIC</b>	Société Immobilière du Cameroun

<b>TNOC</b>	The Nature of Cities
<b>UAESP</b>	Bogota Special Administrative Unit for Public Services (Colombia)
<b>UPB</b>	Urban Practices Branch
<b>UCLG</b>	United Cities and Local Governments
<b>UNCBD</b>	United Nations Convention on Biological Diversity
<b>UNCCD</b>	United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification
<b>UNICEF</b>	United Nations Children's Fund
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNSG</b>	United Nations Secretary General
<b>URA</b>	Urban-Rural Assembly
<b>URL</b>	Urban-rural linkages
<b>VMR</b>	Voluntary Metropolitan Reviews
<b>WMD</b>	World Metropolitan Day
<b>WUF</b>	World Urban Forum

# PLGS GLOBAL FOOTPRINT

## IN 2024

### Disclaimer

\*Any reference to Kosovo in UN documents and UN websites, 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. Kosovo is therefore not listed as a country.

\*\*The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

BASE MAP Map, No. 4170 Rev. 19 UNITED NATIONS - October 2020 Office of Information and Communications Technology | Geospatial Information Section

The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.

**“A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world”**

The 2024 annual report of UN-Habitat’s Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) showcases a year of significant progress made and results achieved in advancing UN-Habitat’s mission of **“A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world”**. Building upon the successes, improvement areas, and lessons of the previous years,

USA

HONDURAS

EL SALVADOR

COLOMBIA

HAITI

PARAGUAY

ARGENTINA

PLGS catalyzed the synergy that comes from collaboration with governments at all levels, donors and development partners, delivering impactful projects and initiatives across the thematic areas of urban policy, legislation & governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.



**33+**  
COUNTRIES

Overall, in 2024, PLGS expanded its reach, conducting more than 54 activities across 33 countries, encompassing country projects, knowledge development and dissemination, capacity-building efforts, as well as advocacy and outreach initiatives. This global reach was achieved thanks to the invaluable support of our esteemed donors, counterparts and development partners, as well as the collaboration of various UN-Habitat sections, branches, divisions, regional and country offices.



KEY

2024

HIGHLIGHTS



## Sustaining impact at country level

### Impacts realized through urban policy implementation

The urban policies of **Jordan, Mozambique and Paraguay** were endorsed at high government level. The Urbanisation, Housing and Habitat Policy of **Paraguay** will continue supporting the country's transformative housing programme.

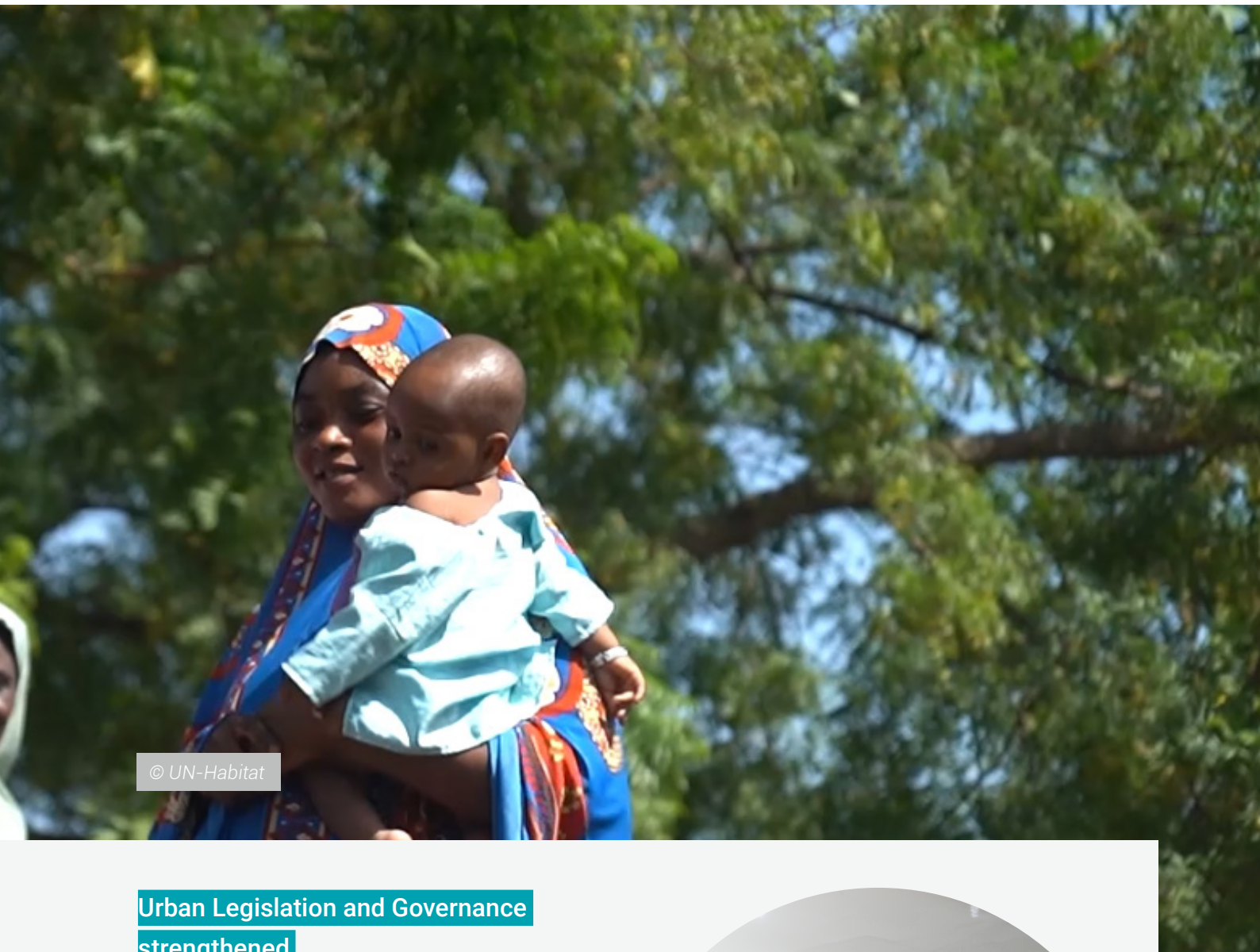
Over **250,000** people have better access to clean water in Niger State, thanks to implementation of urban policy demonstration projects in **Niger State-Nigeria** since 2022. In addition, the installation of a solar inverter in one health facility is enhancing access to sustainable and reliable energy for the hospital, and the community

Other projects on urban policy went on steadily in **Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt and I.R Iran.**



Over **250,000** people have access to clean water





## Urban Legislation and Governance strengthened

In **Malawi, Namibia** and **Zimbabwe**, stakeholders from national and local governments, civil society, and academia have gained enhanced capabilities for making localized decisions to address climate change following their participation in a series of workshops in 2024

**Expanding impact:** Lessons from the 2022– 2023 urban legislation project in **Tajikistan** were successfully replicated in **Kyrgyzstan** (2023– 2024), showcasing the transferability of best practices across different contexts.

Successfully advanced urban legislation and governance initiatives in diverse contexts, including the **Democratic Republic of Congo, Lesotho, Ukraine, and Vietnam.**



urban legislation  
project in Tajikistan  
(2022-2023)

Replicated  
successfully in  
Kyrgyzstan  
(2023-2024)



### Continued advancing metropolitan management

UN-Habitat strengthened integrative metropolitan management by applying various MetroHUB tools in technical support and capacity development efforts in **Argentina** (Cordoba), **Colombia** (Bogota), **El Salvador** (San Salvador), **Honduras** (Tegucigalpa) **Italy** (Milan), **Mali** (Bamako), **Paraguay** (Asuncion and Ciudad del Este) and **Spain**.

### Capacities enhanced on Urban-Rural Linkages



In 2024, our collaboration on urban-rural linkages with partners extended to eight countries. Notably, officials in **Kenya**, **Uganda** and **Tanzania**, gained valuable capacity on the potential of intermediary cities in enhancing urban-rural linkages. More specifically, county government officials in Nakuru, **Kenya** obtained skills to integrate urban-rural linkages in planning and development frameworks. **Mali** received support in the conceptualization and launch of the Grand Bamako initiative, which focuses on integrating urban and rural issues for integrated development. **Burkina Faso** and **Niger** have already expressed interest in learning from Mali's experience, and discussions are ongoing.

## Leveraging Partnerships for Impact



UN-Habitat through PLGS expanded its partner base with **11 more partners**.

**11+**  
partners

- ✓ Signed new or renewed **8 agreements (contribution agreements, letters of intent and memoranda of understanding)** to work together to drive progress in urban policy, legislation, and governance.

**3** Contribution Agreements  
**4** MoUs  
**1** Letter of Intent



- ✓ Expanded partnership with Academia, working with at least **six academic partners** to advance various sustainable development topics
- ✓ Appeared in at least **six partner articles** and publications, sharing valuable insights, research, and case studies.

## Developing and Disseminating Knowledge

17+  
Tools

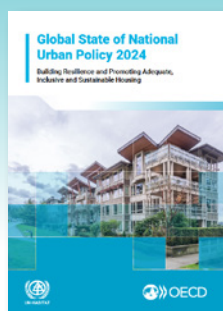


Added **17** normative tools and knowledge products in 2024 to the growing catalogue, in addition to the ones released in 2023.

Over **800** downloads in total.



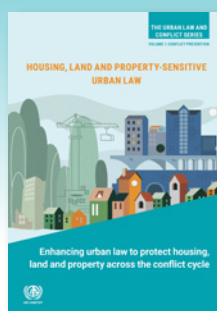
### Key PLGS publications in 2024



The 3rd Global State of National Urban Policy report



Global Insights and Trends on Urban-Rural Linkages



Part 1 of the Housing, Land & Property-Sensitive Urban Law



The Series of Voluntary Metropolitan Reviews (VMR)

## Sustaining our capacity development efforts



The ongoing **4** relevant and informative PLGS e-learning courses continued to enhance capacities on various thematic topics.



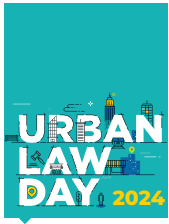
4

E-learning  
courses

**MetroHUB**

The MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme provided multiple trainings and courses for metropolitan representatives, academics, and urban practitioners in **France, Honduras, Italy, Paraguay and Spain.**





» Two **Urban Law Day** sessions were held, enhancing the knowledge and capacity of over **140 participants** on legislative and governance topics. The themes for these sessions were carefully selected to address key issues in urban law, including:



a. The role of the Judiciary in Enhancing Urban Law and



b. Effective Urban Laws to Localize the SDGs

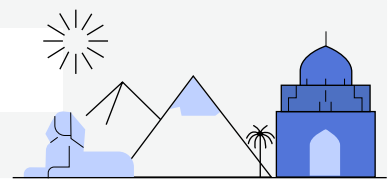
» The **PLGS Community of Practice** (CoPs) convened **4** times, facilitating the sharing of experiences, new knowledge, and lessons across key thematic areas. These sessions engaged **over 350 participants**, strengthening understanding and fostering diverse contextual perspectives.

» The Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa made significant progress in its capacity development efforts, in Nakuru, **Kenya** and Jinja, **Uganda**.



## Enhancing Advocacy

**PLGS@WUF12**



» Organized, co-organized or had a speaking role in **23 events** of varying thematic nature, engaging over **800 participants** in the process.



» Also participated in **19** bilateral and multilateral consultations to review, strengthen and refine our specific collaborations with partners



» During WUF12, **3** partnership agreements were signed.

## PLGS Social Media



**9416 Followers**

**500+ connections**

**344,163 Impressions**

**58,311 Members** reached



**1840 Followers**



**135 Followers**



**278 Subscribers**

\*2025 March



© UN-Habitat

4

editions since  
2020



## I. Setting the scene



The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) Annual Report 2024, provides a synthesis of the progress made and results achieved by UN-Habitat's PLGS in 2024, working alongside a wide array of partners. To recap, UN-Habitat is the agency within the United Nations system, responsible for guiding and supporting Member States in their efforts towards sustainable urban development. Within UN-Habitat, PLGS is one of the normative and operational hubs of UN-Habitat, leading the organization's global efforts on urban policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.

In sustaining the momentum, the 2024 annual report, the fifth edition in the series of PLGS annual reports, builds on the previous four editions, presenting progress made, trends and comparable aspects. From the "Looking Forward" chapter of the 2023 report, the 2024 report reviews how the planned initiatives have been implemented and the impacts drawn. The report also presents other projects, normative guides and tools, and advocacy efforts advanced in 2024. Much has happened throughout the year, and the 2024 annual report puts together the results, milestones reached, challenges faced, and opportunities taken, while demonstrating impact to the beneficiaries.



## About the report

The 2024 annual report collates and synthesizes all PLGS achievements, making the information more accessible to readers both internally and externally. The report also continues to advance visibility of UN-Habitat work on urban policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages making readers learn more on the above-mentioned thematic areas. The report also complements the UN-Habitat Annual Report by providing more detail to complement the PLGS-related progress reported in the UN-Habitat Annual Report.

The report remains beneficial to partner governments at national and local levels, and their communities, benefitting from the PLGS projects, tools deployed, advocacy efforts and other initiatives. The report is also of value to PLGS donors and other partners whom PLGS collaborates with to implement the projects, as well as prospective PLGS donors, counterparts

and development partners. The report remains important as well to all UN-Habitat personnel.

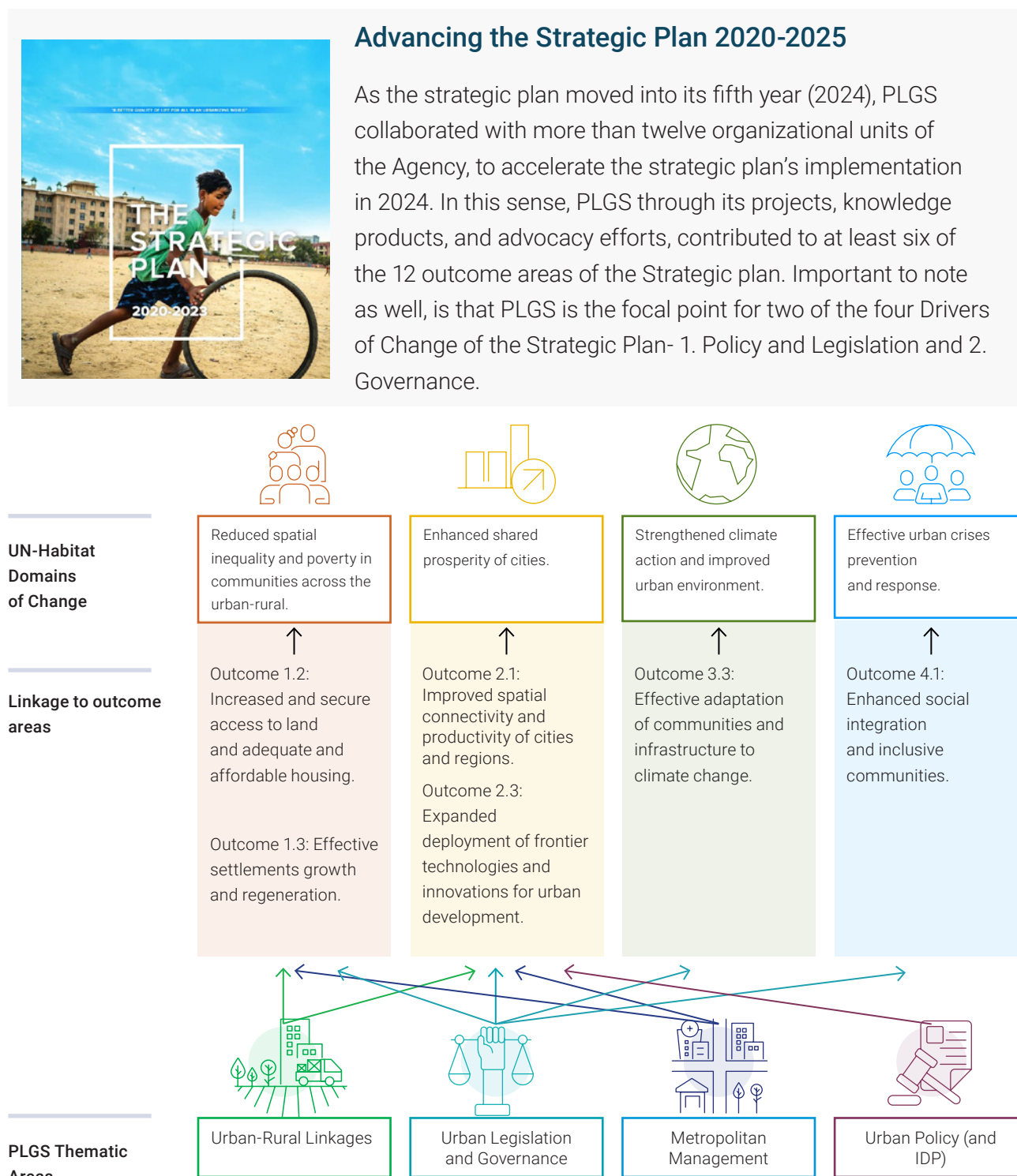
The report begins with an Introduction to contextualize the section's position and role in achieving the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025, including the UN-Habitat priority areas for 2024. The second chapter delves into the accomplishments in 2024. This is presented along four main delivery areas:

- a) Projects at global and country level;
- b) Capacity development programmes;
- c) Knowledge and tools dissemination and
- d) Advocacy and outreach.

The third chapter sheds light on PLGS partnerships and the outcomes from these collaborations. The fourth chapter then presents the PLGS financial performance while the last chapter looks at the next steps for the Section in 2025.

## II. Delivering on the UN-Habitat strategic agenda

For UN-Habitat, the year 2024 has been marked by many achievements accomplished, milestones reached, challenges faced, and opportunities taken. PLGS has during the year continued to contribute to implementing UN-Habitat's mandate through the Organization's strategic plan 2020-2025<sup>1</sup> as well including through actively contributing the UN-Habitat strategic priorities for 2024.



**Figure 1.** PLGS 2024 contributions to UN-Habitat Strategic Plan

<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat (2019), Strategic Plan 2020-2025, available at: <https://unhabitat.org/about-us/our-strategy>

## Aligning with UN-Habitat Priority Areas 2024

To accelerate implementation of the SDGs and New Urban Agenda through the Strategic Plan, UN-Habitat prioritised **five** thematic areas as key towards sustainable urban development, up from **three** priority areas in 2023 (Adequate Housing; Climate Action; Localisation of SDGs). The 2024 thematic priority areas are: Adequate Housing; Climate Action; Localisation of SDGs;

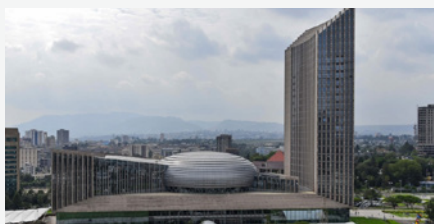
Urban Crisis Response, and Financing Urban Development.

Not only did the PLGS projects and advocacy efforts align with these priorities, but also did the released normative tools and knowledge products. Here are examples of how PLGS contributed to the five 2024 priorities:

### Adequate Housing



The [Global State of National Urban Policy 2024](#) report, launched during WUF12, includes a special chapter on housing. Specifically, the report analyses how countries use national urban policies to promote, adequate, inclusive and sustainable housing.



PLGS supported the African Union in developing the model law on housing and urban development.

In 2024, PLGS provided substantive feedback on the draft law.

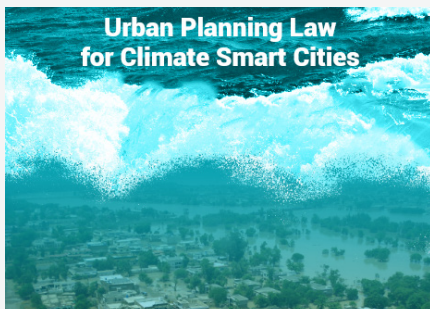


PLGS also supported the review of the second advanced draft of the Lesotho National Housing Bill.

## Cities and Climate Change



For the climate law project in **Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe**, in 2024, **two** multi-country capacity development and knowledge exchange workshops took place in **Malawi and Zimbabwe** where high-level stakeholders from national and local governments, as well as representatives of civil society and academia gained enhanced capabilities for making localized decisions to address climate change through climate-smart urban law.



In **Kyrgyzstan**, PLGS and its partners enhanced technical support to assess the resilience of Kyrgyz legislation to the effects of climate change. This included analysis of the Kyrgyz climate legislation using the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit, continuous capacity building, and gathering crucial stakeholder feedback.

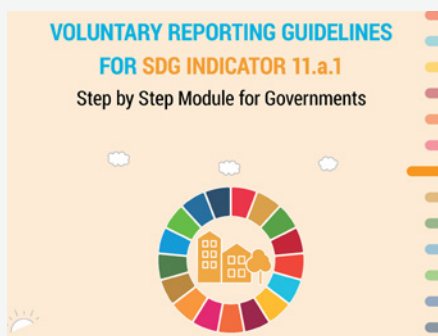


In **DRC, Vietnam and Saudi Arabia**, PLGS supported urban legal reforms with a focus on green growth as well as climate friendly urban development.

## Localizing the SDGs



PLGS supported the Metropolitan Areas of Guadalajara (**Mexico**), San Salvador (**El Salvador**), and Valle de Aburrá (**Colombia**) to review their progress in localizing SDGs through the Voluntary Metropolitan Review Series 3 - SDG 11.5, 11.6 and 11.b - on Climate Resilience.



PLGS also released the [Voluntary Reporting Guidelines for SDG Indicator 11.a.1](#), which provides a step-by-step module for governments to use national urban policy to monitor and report on their progress on SDG 11.a.1.



PLGS developed the Legal Checklist for cities as part of the online bank of tools for the SDG Cities Flagship Programme that will support evidence-based diagnostic urban legal assessments, providing a set of recommended actions to encourage countries and cities to align their domestic legal frameworks with global sustainability goals.

## Urban Crisis Response



The conflict in **Ukraine** has had adverse effects on livelihoods in communities and the built environment. PLGS is contributing to UN-Habitat's response to this crisis, towards Inclusive and Resilient Urban Recovery in Ukraine.



In collaboration with PFES and LHSS, PLGS started the development of the first publication in the Urban Law and Conflict Series, **Housing, Land and Property (HLP)-Sensitive Urban Law: Enhancing urban law to protect HLP across the conflict cycle (Conflict Prevention)**.

**Table 1.** PLGS contributions to the UN-Habitat Strategic Priorities 2024

## Contributing to “UN-Habitat as a Centre of Excellence” Goal

The strategic plan sets indicators to measure UN-Habitat's progress in becoming a centre of excellence, a thought leader, and the preferred authority. In 2024, PLGS actively supported the achievement of these targets through its combined normative and operational work, aligning with the broader organizational strategy.

## Uptake of UN-Habitat normative work

Indicator	PLGS Contribution 2024
<i>Number of countries and cities that are implementing key UN-Habitat guidelines and tools.</i>	PLGS tools were deployed in more than 20 countries in 2024. These tools continued to support these countries to develop and implement their national urban policies, strengthen legal and governance frameworks, strengthen urban-rural linkages, and advance metropolitan management.
<i>Number of (a) downloads and (b) citations of publications and reports.</i>	17 normative tools and knowledge products were released by PLGS in 2024, cumulatively generating more than 800 downloads over the year.
<i>Number of academic bodies that have integrated UN-Habitat guidelines, tools, and the New Urban Agenda into their urban professional education.</i>	PLGS expanded its partnerships with academia in 2024. Additionally, academic institutions from <b>Italy, Kenya, Malawi, Paraguay, Spain and Zimbabwe</b> integrated UN-Habitat tools and guidelines into their training sessions. The tools are 1) The <a href="#">Metrohub toolkit</a> ; 2) <a href="#">Guiding principles on urban-rural linkages</a> and 3) the e-learning module: <a href="#">Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law</a>
<i>Number of citations of UN-Habitat in key global reports.</i>	The chapter on multilevel governance for climate action in the recently released World Cities Report 2024 on cities and climate action, referenced key PLGS publications, such as the guide on Multilevel Governance for Effective Urban Climate Action in the Global South.

## Scale-up of UN-Habitat operational or demonstration projects

Indicator	PLGS Contribution 2024
<i>Percentage of UN-Habitat projects with a funded continuing phase, in which a demonstration, pilot and innovative operational project is scaled up or replicated</i>	In Niger State-Nigeria, as part of the Korea-funded National urban policy programme (currently on phase II), implemented demonstration projects on water access, renewable energy and reforestation, which benefited more than 250,000 people.

Indicator	PLGS Contribution 2024
<i>Number of countries, cities and partner organizations that have replicated UN-Habitat demonstration, pilot and innovative operational projects</i>	<p>In <b>Kyrgyzstan</b>, UN-Habitat continues supporting technical review of how resilient its legislation is to the effects of climate change. This project is a replica of the successfully concluded project in <b>Tajikistan</b> implemented in 2022.</p> <p>The Korea-funded national urban policy programme, is currently in its second phase in five countries, as a scale-up to the first phase which was implemented in three countries</p>
<i>Number of countries, cities and partner organizations that have replicated the best practices or successful solutions promoted by UN-Habitat</i>	The metropolitan areas of Guadalajara ( <b>Mexico</b> ), San Salvador ( <b>El Salvador</b> ), and Valle de Aburrá ( <b>Colombia</b> ) with the support of UN-Habitat replicated best practices promoted by UN-Habitat, by developing the series of Voluntary Metropolitan Reviews of SDGs, particularly SDG 11.5, 11.6 and 11.b- on Climate Resilience.
<i>Percentage of UN-Habitat projects with a funded continuing phase, in which a demonstration, pilot and innovative operational project is scaled up or replicated</i>	In Niger State-Nigeria, as part of the Korea-funded National urban policy programme (currently on phase II), implemented demonstration projects on water access, renewable energy and reforestation, which benefited more than 250,000 people.

## Catalytic role and change in the context of the UN Secretary-General's vision

Indicator	PLGS Contribution 2024
<i>Percentage of projects that are implemented jointly with other United Nations entities</i>	PLGS in 2024 engaged with at least five UN entities, collaborating on various initiatives, including normative tools, capacity development and advocacy efforts. These include UNCCD, UNEP, OCCAM, UNCBD, and UNCEPA.
<i>Percentage of projects that are implemented with other non-United Nations partners</i>	PLGS expanded its collaborations in 2024, working with 11 more partners in addition to the 2023 partners. These partners played key roles such as direct linkage with beneficiaries, expertise, in-kind contributions and implementing partners.

**Table 2.** PLGS contributions to strategic framework on “UN-Habitat as a Centre of Excellence”



KEY

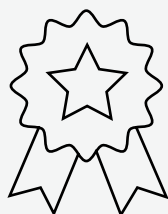
ACHIEVEMENTS

2024

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54

activities



In 2024, PLGS conducted more than **54 activities** across **33 countries**, encompassing projects, knowledge development and dissemination, capacity-building efforts, as well as advocacy and outreach initiatives. This global reach and impact are primarily attributed to the invaluable support of esteemed donors and development partners, as well as the collaboration with various UN-Habitat sections, branches, divisions, regional and country offices and other UN agencies.

## I. Projects at global and country level

In 2024, our technical support played a pivotal role in advancing urban policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages in more than **20 countries**. Through tailored guidance, UN-Habitat through PLGS helped shape inclusive urban policies, strengthen legal and governance frameworks, and enhance institutional capacity to address

the unique challenges of urban development. Similarly, our efforts on metropolitan management and urban-rural linkages supported the design and implementation of innovative strategies, fostering sustainable growth and resilience. Below is a country-by-country review of key progress and results achieved in 2024.



## Cameroon

In Cameroon, PLGS has continued supporting the government and its agencies on national urban policy, and on two projects on integrated development planning in Douala and Yaoundé.

In 2024, UN-Habitat organized a technical mission to continue engaging with and providing technical advice to the various partner agencies.

In September 2024, a symposium on urban modernization was held in Cameroon. The symposium aimed to enhance the skills of national and international experts in urban project implementation, evaluate the effectiveness of these projects, gather contributions and recommendations, facilitate the exchange of best practices, and improve local authorities' mastery of planning tools. Following inauguration by the Minister of State Property, Surveys, and Land Tenure, more remarks were delivered by representatives from the UN, the City of Yaoundé, MAETUR, and the Minister of Cadastre and Land Affairs.

The first day featured workshops on strategies for creating new cities and the integration of artificial intelligence in urban planning.

UN-Habitat moderated a plenary session on the interventions by major stakeholders, discussing the current state and prospects of urban development in Cameroon.

The second day of the symposium focused on the contributions of technical and financial partners, city mayors, and professional orders. Workshops covered innovative approaches to urban restructuring and the design, and financing of projects. UN-Habitat presented on various topics, including financing development projects, the support offered by UN-Habitat's Cities Investment Facility, and the Capital Investment Planning tool. Moving forward, several key actions were identified. These include responding to feedback from the sessions, collating potential projects for technical assistance and financing, and creating an action plan to support Cameroonian cities in financing public projects. In summary, the symposium on urban modernization in Cameroon was a highly productive session, fostering valuable exchanges among stakeholders and setting the stage for future collaboration and development in urban planning and modernization.



*Symposium on urban modernization, Yaoundé, Cameroon © studiosppa23*



## Colombia

UN-Habitat has continued working with various Colombia metropolises, to enhance their metropolitan approaches towards sustainable urban development.

Several activities have been conducted in recent years in Colombia, including advocacy efforts such as the World Metropolitan Day of 2022, capacity development efforts, tools development such as the voluntary metropolitan review reports by Valle de Aburrá, and technical support to metropolitan authorities. In 2024, this collaboration went on steadily, featuring the signing of new agreements to enable continued technical support.

These new contribution agreements were signed with:

- a) the **Metropolitan Area of Barcelona (Spain)** focusing on metropolitan solutions and digital metropolises and;
- b) the **Metropolitan Region of Bogota-Cundinamarca (Colombia)** to support its Regional Strategic Plan and Regional Observatory; and the **Bogota's Special Administrative Unit for Public Services (Colombia)** to provide guidelines to escalate the Waste Management System to the metropolitan and regional scales.



Following signing of the agreement between UN-Habitat and Bogota-Cundinamarca metropolitan region, Colombia © Bogota-Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region



## Democratic Republic of Congo

UN-Habitat is providing support to the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) through strengthening the capacities of the DRC Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction.

In 2023, UN-Habitat and the Ministry facilitated inter-provincial multi-stakeholder workshops in **6 regions** in DRC whereby provincial stakeholders provided substantive comments and inputs to the draft Urban Planning and Construction Code. Building on these impactful regional sessions, in July 2024, a two-day national and final validation workshop with over 200 stakeholders was held in Kinshasa to discuss the Urban Planning Code and Impact Assessment of the draft law.



*National validation workshop in Kinshasa, DRC © UN-Habitat*

The findings from the workshop have supported the revisions to the Urban Planning Code as well as development of its subsidiary legislation.

A capacity-building session was also organized for ministry officials focused on the content of the draft Urban Planning and Construction Code and the challenges of urban planning, including global and national issues in urban planning and land management, institutional mechanisms introduced by the draft code, urban planning tools (their content, validity, development stages, and stakeholders), planning standards through practical exercises, and real estate taxation related to the draft code's proposed taxes.



*To foster a participatory process during the two-day workshop, participants engaged in focus group discussions to review the draft urban planning code and provide feedback © UN-Habitat*



## Haiti

In this project that began in May 2021 and funded by the European Union, UN-Habitat (PLGS), provided technical assistance to the Haitian Government, specifically the Interministerial Committee for Spatial Planning (CIAT) in its mission the of spatial planning through technical assistance to define and guide implementation of an urban agenda for Haiti.

In 2023, UN-Habitat and the government held a series of three multistakeholder and participatory workshops in the three regions of Haiti, not only to enhance stakeholder capacities, but to also to understand and put together their contextual challenges and priorities, for inclusion in the draft urban agenda for Haiti.

Considering the information gathered during the different stages, consultations and workshops, it was possible to develop a guide document for

the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for Haiti- called **the Urban Agenda for Haiti**.

In 2024, the project reached its conclusion, delivering key outcomes as a result of its implementation:

- a) Improved knowledge and support for policy, governance and regulatory reforms
- b) Improved multi-level governance and participatory approaches through the various multistakeholder forums held.
- c) Strengthened stakeholder capacities for institutional reforms.
- d) The institutional frameworks for urbanization in Haiti were strengthened, including through development of the Urban Agenda for Haiti.



## Phase II of the Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme



Phase II of the Korea-funded national urban policy programme advanced steadily in 2024, across the 5 beneficiary countries (**Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique and Paraguay** (K-NUPP). Additionally, Niger State and I.R Iran (Phase 1 countries transitioned into the second phase) made notable progress in implementing their urban policies.

### Global level progress

At the **global level**, the programme, along with donor and beneficiary countries, actively participated in the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) in November 2024, in Cairo, Egypt. This included co-hosting side events and bilateral consultations, and engaging in various other activities focused on national urban policy. The side events held with partners during WUF12 include the “multi-country knowledge sharing and global awareness session on urban policy”, and “Creating an Enabling Environment for the Localization of National Urban Policy through Effective and Inclusive Multilateralism. The programme also took part in two events “National Urban Policies Impacts: From National to Local Actions” and the “Launch of Global State of National Urban Policy 2024”.

Each of these events had over forty (40) participants. KNUPP was also engaged in bilateral and multilateral consultations with various partners throughout the week-long Forum. Through these activities, the programme achieved the intended outcomes. These include enhanced capacity of policy makers and stakeholders, improved awareness of the K-NUPP programme and its global impacts, and the vital role of urban policies in sustainable urbanization. Overall, the programme showcased its expertise, shared valuable insights, and contributed to global discussions on advancing urban policy, fostering multilateral collaboration, and promoting effective localization strategies to address urban challenges.



Participants following the K-NUPP Knowledge Sharing and global awareness event on National Urban Policy © UN-Habitat



As part of the country knowledge exchange event during WUF12, representatives from the 10 participating countries visited the Al-Asmarat Neighbourhood. © UN-Habitat

## Key NUP milestone



In 2024, the urban policies of **Mozambique**, and **Paraguay** received high-level government endorsement and approval, marking significant stepping stones that now pave the way for the continued implementation of these policies.

## K-NUPP progress at country level

At **country level**, the programme made progress in all the five countries:

### Azerbaijan

**Featured paper in *Baku Dialogues*:** During WUF12, a paper titled “Implementing the New Urban Agenda in Azerbaijan Through Transformative Policy Making” was presented, after being published in *Baku Dialogues*, supported by the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) University. This was a culmination of a series of consultations with Azerbaijan’s State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), and ADA University.



#### **Continuing capacity development:**

As part of the NUP process in Azerbaijan, the SCUPA personnel received training using the NUP e-learning course to strengthen their knowledge and capacity on the NUP process. The e-learning course is currently being translated into local languages to enable wider access and more capacity enhancement at local level.



#### **National Urban Assessment:**

Working with the Asian Development Bank (ADB), UN-Habitat provided in-depth review and technical inputs to the Azerbaijan National Urban Assessment.



**COP 29 Participation:** The UN-Habitat Azerbaijan country program also supported planning and participated in the 29<sup>th</sup> held in Baku, Azerbaijan.



*The 2024 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP29) was held in Baku, Azerbaijan © UN-Habitat*



## Cambodia



**Cambodia Urban Forum:** Successfully organized and implemented the second Cambodia Urban Forum in May 2024, fostering dialogue and collaboration on urban development. The forum featured in various national media outlets including [AMS Central](#) and [Bayon TV Cambodia](#).

### Draft Smart City Action

**Plan:** A comprehensive draft 'Smart City Action Plan' for Preah Sihanouk Province was prepared, aimed at mainstreaming a people-centered smart city approach.



### Continuing knowledge and capacity

**enhancement:** Consultative and capacity-enhancing workshops were conducted throughout the year with the Preah Sihanouk province administration to refine the draft Smart City Action Plan.

### Policy Review and Development:

The country program completed the review of the land management plan and other urban development frameworks, and developed the smart city action plan to guide mainstreaming people-centered smart city approaches into the existing plan.



*A participant shares reflections at the Cambodia Urban Forum © UN-Habitat*

Cambodia Urban Forum © UN-Habitat



### National Urban Policy

**Launch:** The NUP of Egypt approved by the supreme council on Planning and Development, was launched in November during the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF 12).



**Capacity Building:** Successfully hosted the K-City Network and Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development (KIND) teams from the Republic of Korea during a capacity-building mission from June 13th to 14th. The mission focused on enhancing Egypt's technical capacity for smart city development and implementation.

### Badr Smart City Master Plan:

Finalized the Badr Smart City master plan report, setting a strategic direction for the city's development.



### K-NUPP Knowledge Sharing

**Event:** As host country, the country program supported the planning, hosting, and participation in the K-NUPP knowledge sharing event on November 3rd. This included a site visit to the Al-Asmarat neighborhood.



Top and bottom: During launch of the Egypt NUP at WUF12 © UN-Habitat

## Mozambique

**Urbanization Policy Approval:** Mozambique achieved a significant milestone in April 2024 with the Council of Ministers' approval of the country's urbanization policy.



**Partnerships with World Bank, the Catalan government, and GIZ:** The country project secured and advanced key partnerships with the World Bank, the Catalan government, and GIZ, enhancing project implementation through financial and human resources.



**Digital Urban Transformation Report:** Finalized the "Digital Urban Transformation Mapping and Assessment Report," offering practical applications for policymakers and supporting decision-making in urban governance and innovation based on open and big data.



**Urban Mobility Week Pilot:** Successfully planned and implemented a pilot project during Urban Mobility Week, which included training school-going girls on safe cycling to and from school.

**National Seminar on Territorial Management:** The program supported the National Seminar on Territorial Management by providing training dedicated to policy dissemination and endorsement for provincial and municipal authorities' staff.



**Stakeholders Mapping:** Conducted a stakeholders' mapping, particularly targeting relevant government authorities, to expedite the design of the demonstration project on digital innovation. The pilot project aims to promote active mobility in an urban context, potentially within the Maputo Metropolitan Area.



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## Paraguay

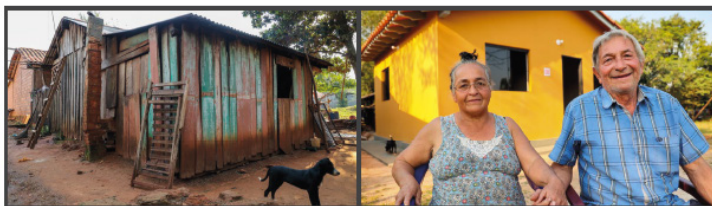
**Urban Policy Approval:** The National Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat Policy of Paraguay was approved by Presidential Decree in January 2024. This follows a close collaboration between UN-Habitat since 2018, which saw completion of the above-mentioned policy, with a stronger urbanization nexus.

*The recently approved policy will continue supporting Paraguay's development agenda, including the transformative housing programme- Che Róga Porã © Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Habitat, Paraguay.*

### ANTES



### AHORA



© Ministry of Urban Planning, Housing and Habitat, Paraguay

**Multilevel consultations:** The program conducted consultations with civil society and government representatives in Asunción, Ciudad del Este, and Encarnación, to gather development priorities to include in the NUP.

**Consultation with MUVH:** Held the first consultation with the Ministry of Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat (MUVH) in June to validate the objectives and targets of the National Urbanism, Housing and Habitat Plan (PLANUVIH 2030).

**Technical mission to Paraguay:** Successfully conducted a mission to Paraguay, where the team met with government representatives to discuss strengthening project implementation. The mission was also an opportunity to enhance capacities of government officials on urban policy.

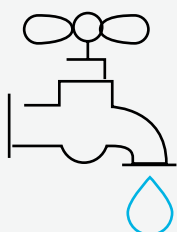


## Special Feature

### Touching People's life in Niger State, Nigeria

As part of the sustained collaborative efforts under Phase 2 of the Korea National Urban Policy Programme, UN-Habitat and MOLIT of Korea have supported the Niger State Government in implementing the state urban policy. Implementation of the state urban

policy through pilot/demonstration projects has positively impacted the lives of communities in Niger State. The interventions mainly involved enhancing access to safe water, and secondly, improving access to reliable and sustainable energy solutions.



#### a. Increasing access to safe drinking water:

With UN-Habitat's intervention, over **250,000** people are benefitting from improved access to safe water. Before 2022 (when the first phase of the demonstration projects was implemented), only **4** out of the **53** bi-water schemes were operational, representing a **7.5** percent functionality rate.



©UN-Habitat

However, following the rehabilitation of six (6) bi-water schemes between 2022 and 2024, the number of functional water schemes has increased to 10, increasing the functionality rate to 18.9 percent and making clean, safe water more accessible to the residents of semi-urban towns in the State.

The intervention spearheaded by UN-Habitat rejuvenated ten existing boreholes, drilled two new boreholes, installed thirteen submersible pumps and auto-starting panels, and booster pumps, repaired damaged pipes, and overhauled the pumping system in each of these water schemes.



#### **b. Enhancing access to reliable, sustainable energy:**

In June 2024, the Niger State Government successfully installed a 7.5kVA solar inverter and a solar-powered borehole with a 10,000-liter water tank at the new maternity ward of Kuta General Hospital in the Shiroro Local Government Area. Supported by MOLIT and UN-Habitat, this initiative builds upon community efforts to improve maternal healthcare and strengthen overall service delivery at the hospital.

UN-Habitat's intervention has not only addressed the hospital's power supply challenges but has also led to a 15% reduction in costs previously spent on alternative power sources.

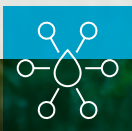


*The Deputy Governor of Niger State, Alhaji Yakubu Garba Inaugurating the New Maternity Ward at Kuta General Hospital © UN-Habitat*



As part of evaluating the water demonstration project's impact, UN-Habitat reached out to various beneficiary stakeholders whose message was the same: That the interventions brought a much-needed transformation for Niger State. These include residents, village heads, engineers and technicians, as well as local government officials.

Sailu Babangida, the district head of Tunga Mallam, Niger State, recalled how the once thriving water scheme of Tungan Mallam used to be functional and served the rapidly growing population of Tungan Mallam, he recalled that when the water scheme was constructed in 1984, residents solely relied on the scheme for clean water for drinking, cooking and other domestic uses, however, when the scheme broke down and could no longer supply clean water, the residents of Tanga Mallam had to endure higher prices, unsafe water from wells and trekking for long just to access water for their daily use as stated by Sailu.



Before UN-Habitat stepped in, only **7.5%** of the state's water schemes were operational. Today, we've not only improved access to clean water but also significantly increased our production capacity by over **2** million liters



"Before, I used to spend one thousand naira (N1000) every day to buy water from informal vendors. It was hard on my family," she says. "Now that our water scheme has been repaired by UN-Habitat, I only spend two hundred and fifty naira (N250) daily, and the water is safe for my children." Ms Amina Mohammed, resident and beneficiary from Niger State shared.



### We are happy!

A sense of relief washes over the resident's face after fetching water from a rehabilitated bi-water scheme © UN-Habitat.



# Urban Law for Resilient and Low Carbon Urban Development in Malawi, Namibia, and Zimbabwe



In this project, UN-Habitat PLGS and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme for Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS) collaborated to support Malawi, Namibia and Zimbabwe's climate efforts through urban law. The Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit was used to assess the effectiveness of each country's legal frameworks in promoting climate-friendly urban development.

Local and national governments actively participated, ensuring the assessments were well-informed and validated, which strengthened the regulatory foundations for implementing the Paris Agreement.

As the project concluded in 2024, significant progress was achieved during the year:

- » 18-19 March 2024: 20 high-level stakeholders from national and local governments, civil society, and academia gained enhanced capabilities for making localized decisions to address climate change following their participation in a stocktaking event. Moreover, 56 students from different universities of Malawi benefitted from a training through the e-learning course on advancing climate action through urban law which has built their capacity to understand the importance of urban law in promoting low carbon, green, resilient and sustainable urban development.



*High-level session of Malawi's stock-take of urban climate legal reforms © UN-Habitat*

» 10-11 June: UN-Habitat and Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS) organized a two-day event to review progress of climate-related urban legal reforms and enhance knowledge of climate smart planning legislation in Zimbabwe. 15 high-level stakeholders from national and local governments, civil society, and academia enhanced their capabilities to make localized decisions addressing climate change. Moreover, 22 students and climate youth advocates from Zimbabwe (10) and Malawi (12) benefitted from peer-to-peer learning and training through the e-learning course on advancing climate action through urban law which has built their capacity to understand the importance of urban law in promoting low carbon, green, resilient and sustainable urban development.



Harare, Zimbabwe 10<sup>th</sup> – 11<sup>th</sup> June 2024 © UN-Habitat



## Kyrgyzstan

UN-Habitat through the Planning, Finance and Economy Section (PFES), and PLGS is supporting Kyrgyzstan under the project: A Resilience Informed Urban Planning Support to the Naryn Urban Resilience Programme (NURP). This project is a replica of the successfully concluded project in [Tajikistan](#) implemented in 2022.

Building on the 2023 milestones and planned activities for 2024, also saw significant progress, with PLGS making several contributions towards achieving the project objective:

- » February: The Legislation and Governance chapter for the Naryn City Profile was delivered for the project.
- » March: UN-Habitat (PLGS) participated online in a workshop (Bishkek, Kyrgyzstan)

and presented findings from the analysis of Kyrgyz legislation, conducted using the application of the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit.

- » April: The analysis of Kyrgyz legislation, conducted using the [Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#), was finalized and disseminated for internal and external feedback.
- » June: PLGS conducted a joint mission to Kyrgyzstan, which was a welcome platform to showcase the findings from the analysis of the Kyrgyz legislation done using the [Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit](#) as well as the building codes and gathering practical feedback from the local stakeholders.





## Saudi Arabia

The National Urban Policy (NUP) for the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia and the Spatial Planning Act (SPA) are two of the six initiatives in which UN-Habitat is working with the Ministry of Municipalities and Housing (MOMAH).

The NUP and SPA are developed within the overall framework of the umbrella project called “Support to The Spatial Planning Reform and Visual Appeal Program in Saudi Arabia. Enabling Systemic Municipal & Planning Reforms and Providing Implementation & Capacity Building Support for the Sustainable Urbanization of Saudi Cities”.

In 2024, as part of support to the SPA process, a report was shared on country examples and draft recommendations on compliance and enforcement. Additionally, UN-Habitat provided substantive feedback on the legislative gap analysis concerning the scope of the SPA and is preparing a comprehensive case study report on planning laws. UN-Habitat also shared a comparative analysis of NUPs of five countries, to support the preliminary process of developing the NUP for Saudi Arabia.



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## Senegal

In 2024, Senegal's National Urban Policy (NUP) process focused on consolidating and building upon the outcomes of the **11+** multi-stakeholder regional workshops conducted in 2023.

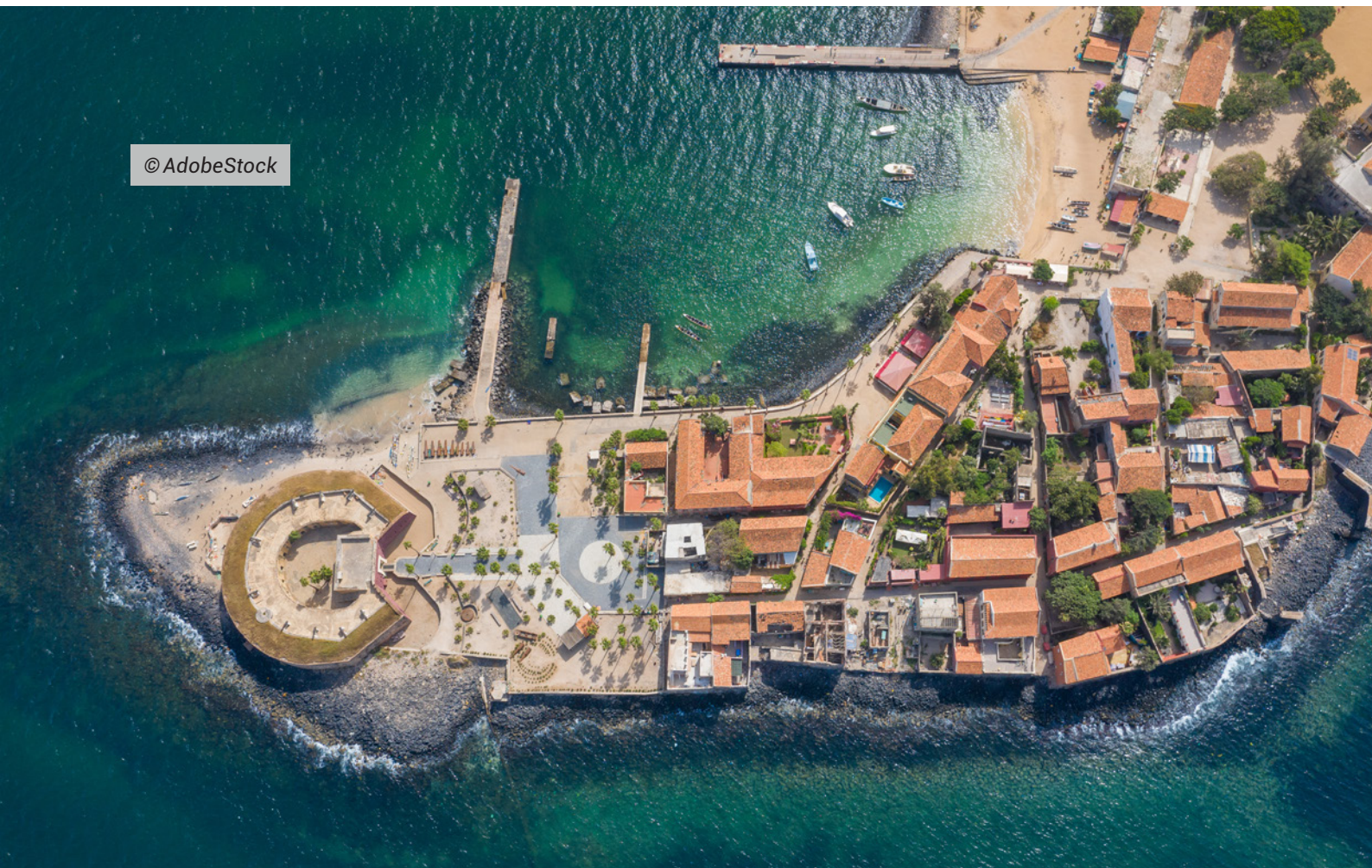
These workshops, which engaged local authorities, elected officials, decentralized administration representatives, social groups, and grassroots organizations, provided critical insights and priority areas for the policy.

In May 2024, one more regional workshop for Senegal's NUP was held in the Fatick region, further advancing the participatory process.

The stakeholder inputs gathered both in 2023 and 2024 were synthesized and integrated into the draft diagnosis note, marking a significant step forward in the NUP process.

The initiative continues to prioritize inclusivity and participation, ensuring that diverse voices contribute to shaping a comprehensive and inclusive urban policy for Senegal.

Following delivery of the draft Diagnosis Note, the next objective is to pull in all stakeholders to collaborate and mobilize resources for the remaining activities and to facilitate the formulation phase of the Senegal NUP.





## Ukraine

The conflict in Ukraine has significantly affected the built environment and communities across the country. In response, the Government of Ukraine has committed to a “build back better” approach, prioritizing sustainable recovery and aligning efforts with the SDGs.

Thus, since mid-2022, UN-Habitat has been providing support in achieving these goals by offering technical expertise, policy recommendations, and capacity-building initiatives tailored to Ukraine’s unique recovery needs.

Since August 2023, UN-Habitat, through its country office, has been implementing the “Towards Inclusive and Resilient Urban Recovery in Ukraine” project focusing on recovery activities with the aim to:

- » provide targeted urban recovery planning support at the local level - hromadas;
- » support the government in improving policies, regulatory frameworks, and tools to enable more sustainable urban recovery efforts, paving the way for urban and

territorial regeneration as well as more sustainable, inclusive, green, and healthy urbanization in the future;

- » enhance Ukrainian capacities in urban planning and design.

As part of these efforts, PLGS has been actively providing diverse forms of support, ranging from legislative overviews and meeting facilitation to developing a comprehensive chapter analyzing Ukraine’s legislative context and governance structure. This chapter, being further integrated into several relevant documents, emphasizes the key components of these foundational pillars, focusing on defining essential urban planning documents at the regional and local levels.

Among the next steps, the UN-Habitat Office in Ukraine is finalizing recovery plans for eight hromadas, continuing to build capacity for local authorities to implement these plans effectively, as well as paving the way for an Urban Recovery Framework that will guide sustainable, inclusive, and resilient rebuilding efforts.

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## Vietnam

Vietnam Urban Forum, 2024 © Ministry of Construction, Vietnam

PLGS technical support in Vietnam, which began in 2023, involves supporting preparation of **a new law on urban development and management** and secondly, **a new planning law**. This is all under the project “Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development in Vietnam” where PLGS closely collaborates with the Planning, Finance and Economy Section (PFES), and the UN-Habitat Vietnam country office.

The momentum built in 2023 was sustained in 2024, with significant progress made through the year:

- » June: A kick-off consultation with Vietnam’s Department of Planning and Management was held to discuss the methodology for the planning law review as well as the methodology and country selection for the international benchmarking case studies. The session clarified the department’s vision for the new planning law as well as their expectation regarding the countries selected for the case studies.
- » July: A full day planning law workshop took place on 16<sup>th</sup> July with 100 participants composed of senior representatives from the Ministry of Planning and Investment as well as provincial representatives. Inspiring best practices from the international planning law case studies in nine (9) countries were presented focusing on institutional coordination mechanisms, hierarchy of plans and integrated planning approaches.

Interactive surveys through [Mentimeter](#) provided real-time feedback on the planning law issues regarding theory and enforcement; planning system; provincial planning components and sustainable planning approaches.

- » September: PLGS took part in an in-person mission and workshop in Vietnam from 23<sup>rd</sup> – 27<sup>th</sup> Sep. The workshop aimed at advancing urban development initiatives. This technical workshop with Urban Development Agency and local experts assessed executive summaries on urban development, green growth, and policy recommendations, with UN-Habitat providing feedback. There was also a meeting with the Ministry of Planning and Investment, where UN-Habitat presented urban challenges, planning assessments, and recommendations for a national spatial planning framework.
- » Vietnam Urban Forum: The [Vietnam Urban Forum](#) was hosted by the Ministry of Construction on 8<sup>th</sup> November 2024. PLGS supported the Forum by developing a policy brief containing the key challenges and opportunities for urban legal reforms that were used to outline the session. A pre-recorded presentation set the scene for discussion. The remarks underscored the critical role of robust urban legal frameworks in fostering sustainable development.



Vietnam Urban Forum, 2024 © Ministry of Construction, Vietnam

## Other country initiatives



### Australia

As part of the ongoing global initiatives on national urban policy, UN-Habitat provided technical review of the draft Australia Urban Policy. This comprehensive strategy addresses pressing issues like housing affordability, equitable access to services, and climate resilience. The urban policy is premised on three goals, that Australian urban areas are: liveable and equitable; productive and innovative; and sustainable and resilient. In continuing the collaboration, representatives from Australia attended the country knowledge exchange session during WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt, presenting key progress made and next steps in the country's NUP development process.



### France

In 2024, UN-Habitat through PLGS advanced its global reach on metropolitan management by establishing and continuing partnerships in France. In 2024, a road map was defined with the Paris Institute (France) to establish a MetroHUB Centre in the Paris Region, focused on megacities and planning agencies. The Centre will support research, policy dialogue, and capacity building for managing large urban systems. A new partnership with the French Transfrontier Operational Mission (MOT) was also established to strengthen cross-border metropolitan cooperation, enhancing governance, mobility, and integrated spatial planning across national boundaries.



## Jordan

Following years of UN-Habitat technical support to the Ministry of Local Administration, in March 2024, the Jordan Council of Ministers officially endorsed the country's first national urban policy. The Jordan National Urban Policy (JNUP) represents a proactive approach towards establishing comprehensive national policies aimed at fostering environmentally sustainable, economically prosperous, socially inclusive, resilient, and well-connected cities and neighbourhoods. In addition to serving as a guiding framework for national urban development, the JNUP acts as an incubator for sectoral plans across various ministries, authorities, institutions, and special administrative regions, including the Greater Amman Municipality, Aqaba Special Economic Zone Authority, the Petra Development and Tourism Region Authority, and the Jordan Valley Authority.<sup>2</sup>



## Italy

UN-Habitat through PLGS has continued working with Politecnico di Milano, Italy, particularly on knowledge and capacity development, which has positively impacted various academia members. Through relevant and bespoke metropolitan diploma and certificate courses, academia members as well as policymakers have received more technical knowhow to advance their metropolitan management in their contexts. In 2024, a memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was renewed with Milano Polytechnic (Italy) for the period 2024-2027 focusing on setting-up a MetroHUB Centre on Metropolitan Dynamics.



The MetroHUB Centre will serve as a knowledge hub, fostering collaboration among policymakers, practitioners, and researchers to address key challenges related to metropolitan dynamics, including spatial planning, mobility, resilience, and sustainable urban development. Through this partnership, UN-Habitat, Milano Polytechnic and its partners will contribute to advancing innovative metropolitan solutions, supporting policy formulation, and enhancing the capacities of metropolitan institutions and stakeholders.

## Kenya

Based on a request from the Government of Kenya through the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), PLGS provided a substantive review of the Kenya National Land Policy 2024. PLGS also supported a technical discussion organized by ROAF to support the Nairobi City County in developing a robust legal and institutional framework for flooding and disaster management response.



## Lesotho

UN-Habitat through PLGS is supporting Lesotho in developing their National Housing Bill. Following preparation and presentation of the Comparative Analysis of Housing Acts in Five Countries in 2023, PLGS provided technical review of the second advanced draft of the Bill, with plans underway for the Bill to be presented to the Ministerial Management for validation and endorsement.

<sup>2</sup> Read more here: <https://jordan.un.org/en/263374-jordan-endorse-its-first-urban-policy-developed-un-habitat-and-local-administration>

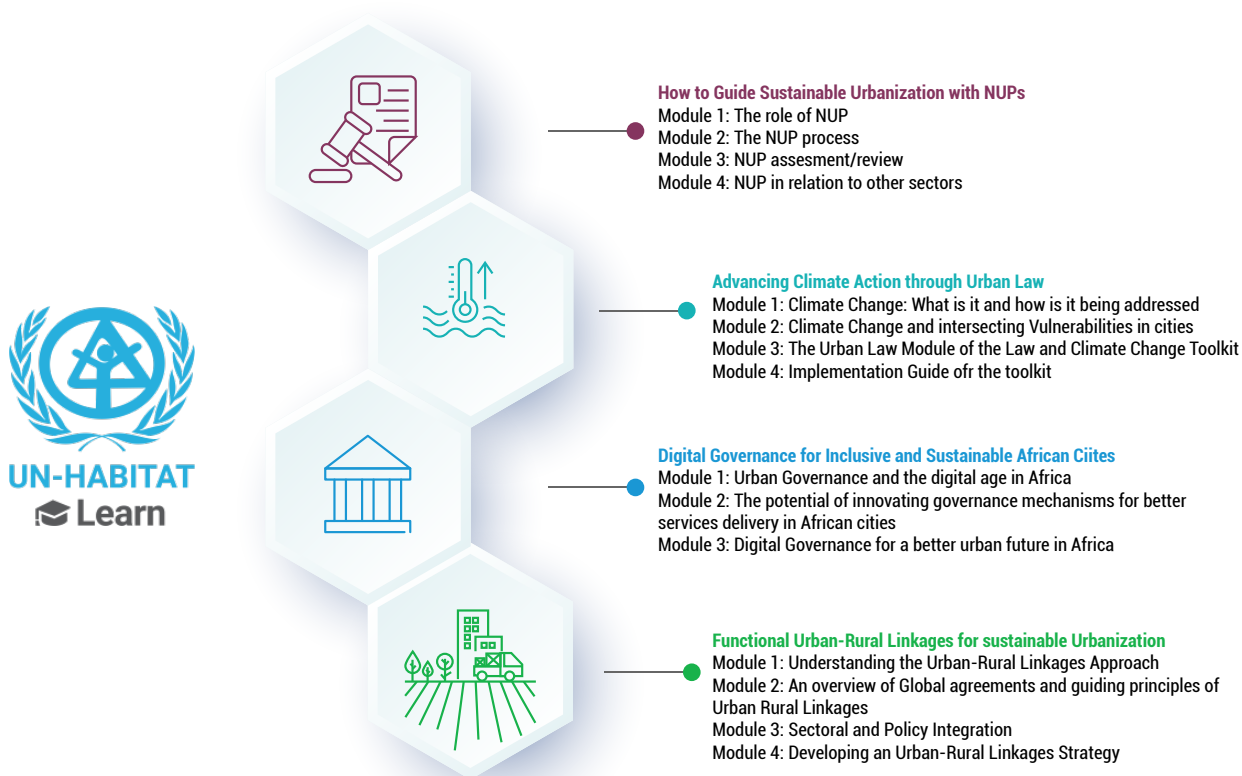
## II. Capacity development

The year 2024 saw an expansion and revamping of PLGS capacity development tools and initiatives. PLGS also utilized a blend of in-person and digital modalities to carry out various capacity development sessions, thereby reaching more people in 2024, building on the learners who benefitted in 2023.

### A. Capacity development tools:

UN-Habitat's PLGS currently offers **four** relevant and informative e-learning courses covering diverse thematic areas.

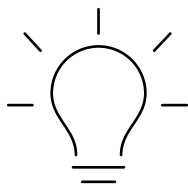
These courses continued to be accessed throughout 2024, effectively enhancing the knowledge and capacities of interested urban actors globally. In 2024 PLGS also began developing a short e-learning governance course focussing on public oversight, dispute resolution mechanisms, equality, and non-discrimination. These topics were among the **two** of out **10** themes in the governance diagnostic assessment tool that needed dedicated learning resources to effectively support peer-to-peer city learning and institutional capacity-building.



### B. Capacity development initiatives:

#### i. MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme

The MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme continued to strengthen knowledge and capacity on key metropolitan issues in 2024. Throughout the year, the programme provided multiple trainings and courses for metropolitan representatives, academics, and urban practitioners. In 2024, participants from **France, Italy, Paraguay and Spain** enhanced their knowledge and skills in metropolitan management through the four capacity development sessions held.



A **key result** of 2024 is that UN-Habitat and Politecnico di Milano (Italy) renewed the partnership agreement. This paves way for **establishment of the MetroHUB Centre on Metropolitan Dynamics**. The centre will be a key hub to disseminate globally the metropolitan tools and expertise and facilitate continuous advocacy and capacity development on metropolitan management.

13-17 May  
Milan, Italy

17 June  
Virtual (Paraguay)

	Course "Integrated Learning Approach to Metropolitan Complexity: DESIGN FOR ANTIFRAGILITY"
	Milano Polytechnic
	30+
	The participating bachelor and master students as well as urban professionals were trained on the UN-Habitat Drivers of Change for metropolitan sustainable development, metropolitan management, and cartography tools, as part of the first series of the MetroHUB Centre's demonstrative projects.

	Masterclass on "Metropolitan management as response to the 21st Century's city challenges"
	NGO Alma Cívica
	20+ mayors and councilors candidates.
	During this masterclass, participants received insights on the current metropolitan context and strategies to navigate new challenges of 21st-Century cities

1-2 July  
Paris, France

3-4 July  
Barcelona, Spain

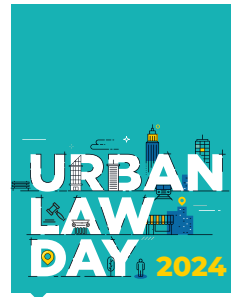
	Transfrontier Metropolises for Cooperation and Peace: Challenges and futures for the Rafiah   Gaza   Ashkelon Metropolitan Area.
	Paris
	20+
	Organized by the UNI Metro hub, metropolitan heritage academics and experts participated in this session to cross-share knowledge and experiences, as well as increase their awareness of UN-Habitat's MetroHUB experiences on cross-border metropolises.

	Global Challenges, Metropolitan Solutions
	Barcelona Institute of International Studies (IBEI).
	20+ master students and metropolitan public officers
	In this session, master students and metropolitan public officers from Barcelona enhanced their abilities on metropolitan decision-making processes and metropolitan sectoral policies

**Table 3. MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme 2024**

## ii. Urban Law Days 2024

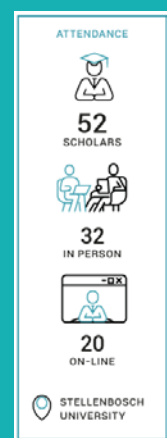
Urban Law Days, organized by UN-Habitat in collaboration with academic partners, remain central to global dialogues on urban law and related themes. As is becoming customary, in 2024, two sessions were held, enhancing the knowledge and capacity of over **140 participants** on legislative and governance topics. The themes for these sessions were carefully selected to address key issues in urban law, including a) the role of the Judiciary in Enhancing Urban Law and b) Effective Urban Laws to Localize the SDGs



### ULD 1, January 2024: The Role of the Judiciary in Pushing the Legal Frontiers for City-level Transition and Sustainability

The first ULD of 2024 was organized in symposium format by UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, the University of Stellenbosch Faculty of Law Chair in Urban Law and Sustainability Governance, and the Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung Regional Programme on Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa, with partner institutions including the Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (North-West University, South Africa) and the University of Freiburg (Urban Footprints Project). The symposium featured

four panel sessions discussing the judiciary's role in advancing urban law through conceptual ideas and relevant cases. Participants, including academics, jurists, and practitioners, concluded that the judiciary, through its role in enforcing legislation, is crucial in upholding the rule of law and promoting access to justice, particularly in the context of climate crises and urbanization challenges. Around 52 scholars attended, with 32 participating in person and 20 attending online.



### ULD 2, July 2024: Effective Urban Laws to Localize the SDGs PLGS

The second ULD of 2024 (the 11th Urban Law Day overall) was co-organized with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, UK, attended by 89 participants from multidisciplinary backgrounds. The session achieved the objectives of showcasing the Draft SDG Cities Legal Checklist (developed in collaboration with the Commonwealth Association of Architects, Commonwealth Association of Lawyers and the

Commonwealth Association of Planners); providing a platform to share country and city best practices (Kenya, Uganda, Cameroon) on how urban laws can promote sustainable urban development especially in resource-poor contexts; and providing a unique platform to facilitate dialogue and exchange on how to address shortcomings in urban legal frameworks.

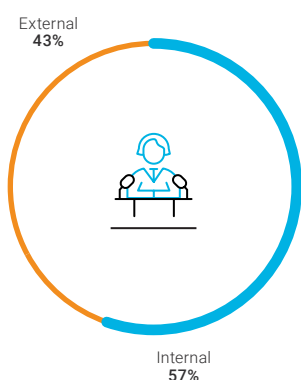


Effective Urban Laws to  
Localize the SDGs

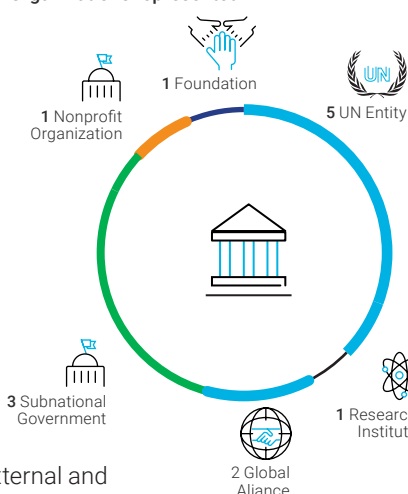
### iii. PLGS Community of Practice

In 2024, the PLGS community of practices (CoPs) was convened **four times**, enabling the diffusion of experiences, new knowledge and lessons on various thematic areas. Through these sessions, more than 350 internal and external participants gained more understanding on these topics while some shared their contextual perspectives. The CoPs also provided opportunities to hear from development partners as well as beneficiary partners on the results from working with UN-Habitat through PLGS.

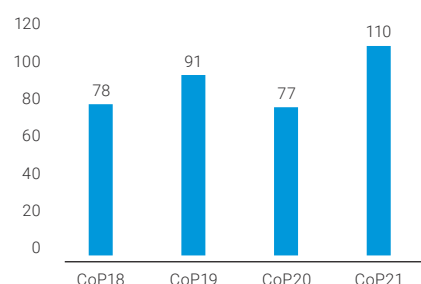
Internal and External Speakers



Organizations represented

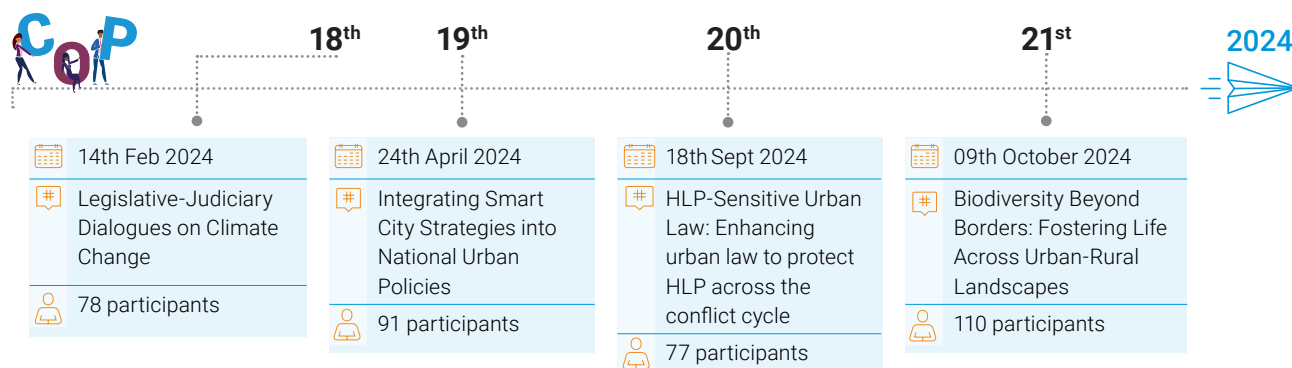


Participation



**Figure 3.** PLGS CoP 2024 External and Internal Speakers

**Figure 2.** PLGS 2024 CoPs Participation



This 18th CoP session centered on climate and urban law reform with **78 attendees**. Key themes included integrating climate change legislation into broader policies, judicial adaptability, and urgent urban climate action. Experts from UN-Habitat, UNEP, and the Commonwealth Lawyers Association

discussed global climate litigation trends, city-led lawsuits, and the intersection of human rights with climate law. Participants emphasized accountability, coalition-building, and proactive legal responses.



This 19th PLGS CoP session focused on integrating smart city strategies into National Urban Policies (NUPs) with **91 attendees**. Presentations and case studies from Korea, Niger State, and Egypt emphasized innovation, governance, and stakeholder engagement in addressing urbanization challenges.

Key insights included the importance of digitalization, governance, and UN-Habitat's support through the Korea-funded NUP programme. Tools discussed were the draft Quick Guide for Integrating Smart City Strategy in NUPs and the International Guidelines on People-Centered Smart Cities.



This joint session with the Urban Crisis Community of Practice, titled "HLP-Sensitive Urban Law," drew **77 participants** and introduced the Urban Law and Conflict publication series. The series highlights how urban law can protect and promote HLP rights for urban dwellers, including displaced populations, during crises. The session covered securing HLP rights in conflict-affected contexts, emphasizing

legal framework revisions, transitional justice, adaptive urban law, community inclusion, flexible governance, and localized legislation. Tools like the UrbanLex Database and FAO's Voluntary Guidelines were showcased, alongside strategies such as participatory land boundary demarcation in Somalia and "fit-for-purpose" urban planning laws in Syria.



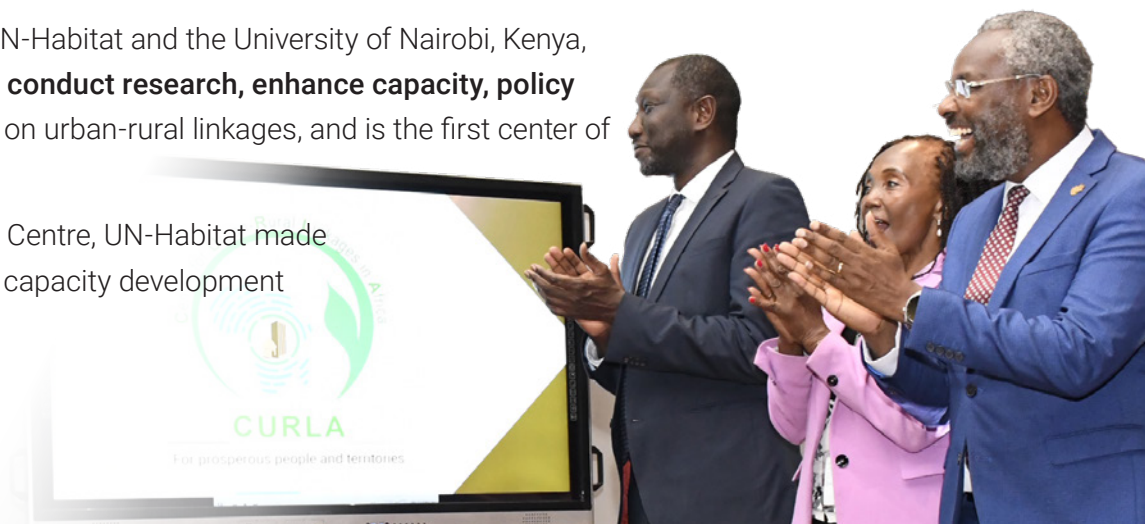
The 21st PLGS Community of Practice session on October 9, 2024, brought together **110 participants** to explore urban-rural interdependence in biodiversity conservation. Presentations highlighted how urban areas rely on rural ecosystems and vice versa, with examples from Arusha, Monteria, and Berlin.

Key topics included community involvement, financial mechanisms, and integrated policies for ecological and economic sustainability. Panellists from UN-Habitat and other organizations shared insights on governance, financial restructuring, and leveraging global platforms.

#### iv. Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa

Launched in 2023 by UN-Habitat and the University of Nairobi, Kenya, CURLA is a platform to **conduct research, enhance capacity, policy reviews and advocacy** on urban-rural linkages, and is the first center of its kind in Africa.

In 2024, jointly with the Centre, UN-Habitat made significant progress in capacity development efforts.



© University of Nairobi

#### a. Expert Group Meeting on Intermediary Cities and Urban-Rural Linkages



In April 2024, a two-day expert group meeting was organized by UN-Habitat in Jinja, Uganda, to address the urgent need for optimizing the role and potential of intermediary cities for urban-rural synergy and territorial resilience in East Africa. Central to the deliberations was the **exploration of intermediary cities** as key players in facilitating the exchange of goods and services between urban and rural areas while promoting key aspects such as the sustainability of food systems and ecosystems.



Participants from diverse backgrounds converged to explore strategies for enhancing urban-rural linkages, along the themes of:

	leveraging <b>digital solutions</b> ,
	preserving <b>biodiversity</b> ,
	promoting sustainable <b>food systems</b> , and
	the use of <b>e-commerce platforms</b> .

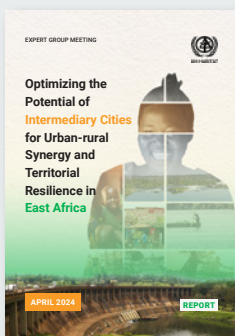
©UN-Habitat

Insights gleaned from East African case studies underscored the importance of ecological conservation and effective governance in intermediary cities.

Read the article [here](#)



In addition, some partners underscored the need to reimagine intermediary cities as integrated ecosystems, where, for example, urban and peri-urban farming play pivotal roles. Discussions also highlighted the importance of inclusive governance, diverse stakeholder involvement, and the development of comprehensive frameworks to drive sustainable development in intermediary cities across Africa and beyond.



Participants went into groups discussions to further unpack the EGM's theme © UN-Habitat

## b. Enhancing capacity of policymakers on urban-rural linkages

In September 2024, UN-Habitat and CURLA co-organized a capacity development session for Nakuru County officials, Kenya. Government officials, planners, environmentalists, land surveyors and senior county officials gained valuable insights into the vital role of urban-rural linkages and how their work impacts these interconnections. The session emphasized strategies that would enhance a territorial approach to development in Nakuru.



*Ongoing training session on the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles © UN-Habitat*



UN-Habitat contributed by showcasing global case studies on urban-rural linkages, offering relevant insights tailored to Nakuru's developmental context. In addition, UN-Habitat customized the urban-rural linkages training course specifically for the attendees, equipping them with practical tools to contextually strengthen territorial development and foster sustainable growth across urban and rural areas.



*Participants after the training session © UN-Habitat*

## III. Knowledge developed and disseminated

In 2024, PLGS developed and refined its normative tools and knowledge products, providing robust frameworks and actionable insights to support sustainable urban development. More than **17** knowledge materials ranging from normative guides, reports, policy briefs and newsletters were released in 2024, in addition to the **15** released in 2023.

# Top PLGS publications 2024

## a. Beyond the City: Global Trends and Insights on Urban-Rural Linkages - Key Highlights Booklet



*During launch of the report at WUF12 @ UN-Habitat*

This insightful booklet serves as a concise summary of the detailed report set to be released in 2025, providing an overview of global efforts on urban-rural linkages (URLs), showcasing their significance in today's development landscape. Delve into the challenges, opportunities, and transformative trends that have shaped URLs, examining the evolving dynamics that influence how urban and rural areas interact. Through comparative analysis of Member States' survey responses and experts contributions, the report explores how URLs are integrated into national and subnational frameworks, and the diverse actions taken globally to enhance these crucial connections. It aligns with the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and Resolution 1/5 on Urban-Rural Linkages adopted during the inaugural UN Habitat Assembly (2019).



In an informal session during the World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo, Egypt, the report was launched. Participants were guided through the report where the presentation highlighted the concept of Urban-Rural Linkages (URL), UN-Habitat work over the years, the evolution of the concept since Habitat I conference in 1976 and emerging issues, select thematic entry points contributions by partners and their implications, experiences from different countries and policy recommendations. The discussion centered on recognizing the richness of the report and exploring the next steps, with a strong emphasis on the importance of building robust partnerships and actively involving youth in advancing Urban-Rural Linkage (URL) initiatives.

**b. Global State of National Urban Policy 2024 -  
Building Resilience and Promoting Adequate,  
Inclusive and Sustainable Housing**



*During launch of GSNUP2024 © UN-Habitat*

The report offers a unique framework for understanding how and in what forms NUPs have been developed, implemented and monitored globally. Building on the previous two editions (2018 and 2021), this third edition features key trends, country experiences and other cross-cutting thematic topics related to NUPs.

Drawing from diverse experiences through a survey of 78 countries globally, it offers lessons and recommendations to guide policymakers and ensure sustainable urban development for future generations.

The report highlights the global progress of NUPs, with over 80 per cent of surveyed countries implementing them and 90 per cent addressing resilience to crises and climate change. In addition, NUPs were emphasized as critical for fostering adequate housing, and alignment with the SDGs.

**Global State of National  
Urban Policy 2024**

**Building Resilience and Promoting Adequate,  
Inclusive and Sustainable Housing**



The report was launched in a well-attended session at WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt. During the launch, countries shared their NUP experiences: Nigeria prioritizes multi-level governance and housing development; Morocco focuses on urban growth, climate resilience, and mobility; Korea leverages decades of structured NUPs domestically and abroad; and Brazil integrates environmental and economic goals to address urban concentration. The session was an opportunity to underscore that NUPs are a cornerstone of sustainable urbanization, urging global adoption to tackle urban challenges effectively.

### c. Methodology for Consolidation of Metropolitan Zones



INSTITUCIÓN METROPOLITANA  
funcionales  
Metropolitana Central

Criterios para la delimitación de la zona metropolitana central

MARCO LEGAL DEL SISTEMA DE GESTIÓN METROPOLITANA

MARCO ESTRUCTURAL DEL SISTEMA DE GESTIÓN METROPOLITANA  
Instancia De Gobierno  
Instancia Institucional  
Instancia Técnica Consultiva  
Instancia De Participación Ciudadana  
Instancia De Conocimiento  
Instrumentos De Gestión

INSTITUCIÓN METROPOLITANA

MARCO CONCEPTUAL DE LAS INSTITUCIONES METROPOLITANAS

CATEGORÍA INSTITUCIONAL DE LAS ZONAS METROPOLITANAS EN HONDURAS  
Marco normativo de las instituciones metropolitanas en el ordenamiento territorial  
Oportunidades de las instituciones metropolitanas para Honduras

UNA INSTITUCIONALIDAD PARA LA ZONA METROPOLITANA CENTRAL DE HONDURAS  
Estructura Organizativa de la Institución Metropolitana de la Zona Central

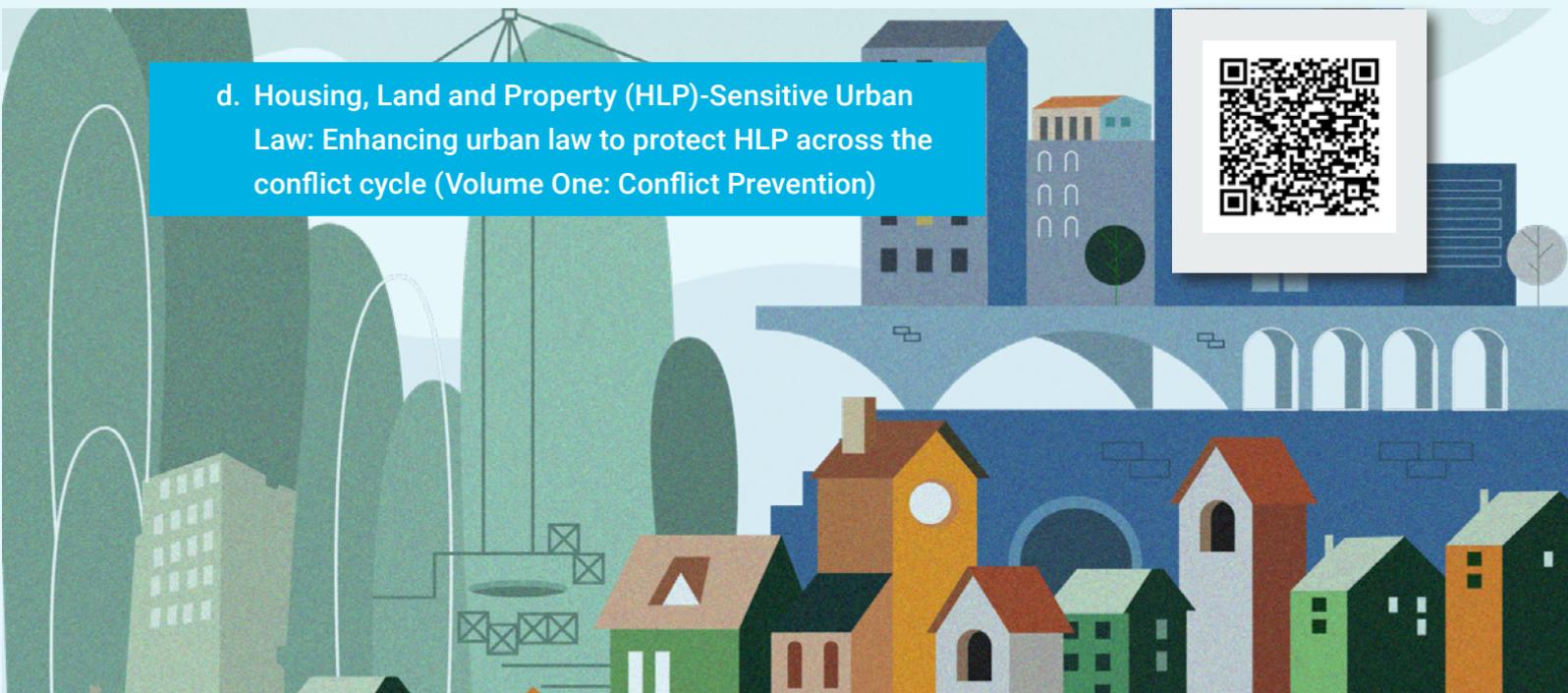
ruta de PROTOCOLIZACIÓN DE LA ZONA METROPOLITANA CENTRAL



This knowledge material offers a practical and comprehensive framework designed to promote the sustainable development of metropolitan areas in Honduras and other Central American countries. It provides clear steps and strategies for local, regional, and national authorities to effectively consolidate and manage metropolitan zones. It addresses key dimensions such as policy, legislation, governance, planning, and financing, offering a holistic approach to metropolitan development. Additionally, it zooms into the case of the Central Metropolitan Zone, presenting an integrative solution to address its ongoing “metropolization” process. By focusing on metropolitan development, collaboration, and infrastructure enhancement, the methodology aims to improve regional competitiveness and the overall quality of life in Honduran metropolitan areas.



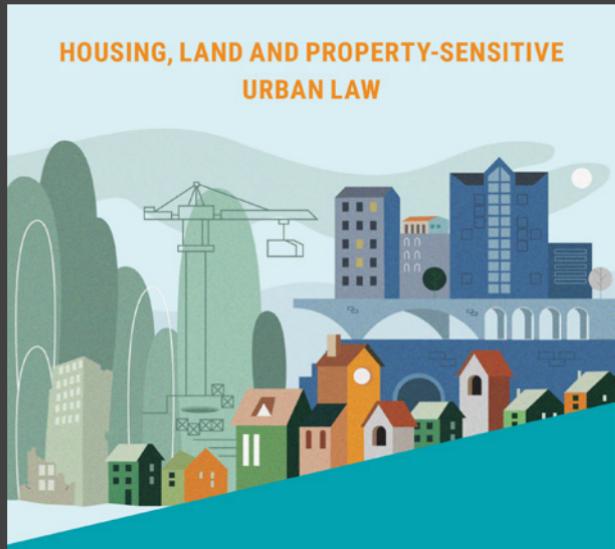
The report was officially launched as part of cooperation with the German international cooperation agency (GIZ).



d. Housing, Land and Property (HLP)-Sensitive Urban Law: Enhancing urban law to protect HLP across the conflict cycle (Volume One: Conflict Prevention)



The impacts of conflict are increasingly being experienced in urban areas around the world – as seen in modern crises such as those in Ukraine, the Gaza Strip, Yemen and Syria – putting the housing, land and property (HLP) rights of civilians at risk. HLP issues arise in conflict contexts, but many of the challenges surrounding these issues, such as return, restitution, adjudication and dispute-resolution, can be traced back to tenure insecurity caused by poor governance, chaotic urbanization, weak land administration and inadequate housing law and policy. For this reason, urban law has a critical role to play in preventing conflicts and their collateral impacts on people's access to their HLP.




**HOUSING, LAND AND PROPERTY-SENSITIVE  
URBAN LAW**

This publication series – “Urban Law and Conflict” – aims to support the identification of where (in what laws, policies, rules or regulations and dealing with what subject matters) and how (suggested best practices and reforms) urban law can better protect and promote the HLP rights of urban dwellers in periods of crisis to “ensure that all inhabitants, of present and future generations, without discrimination of any kind, are able to inhabit and produce just, safe, healthy, accessible, affordable, resilient and sustainable cities and human settlements”.

Other normative tools and knowledge products


a. Guides



SDG Legal Checklist for Cities



Multi-level Urban Forums: A Guide



Implementing National Urban Policy Through Demonstration Projects



Voluntary Reporting Guidelines for SDG Indicator 11.a.1: Step by Step Module for Governments

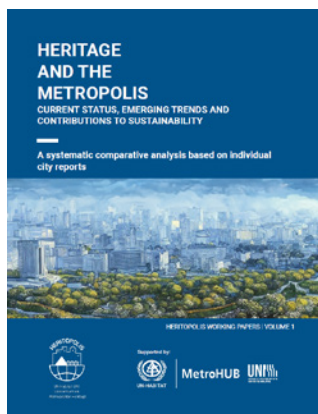


Evaluating the Impacts of Urban Policies: A Guide for Urban Policy Leaders



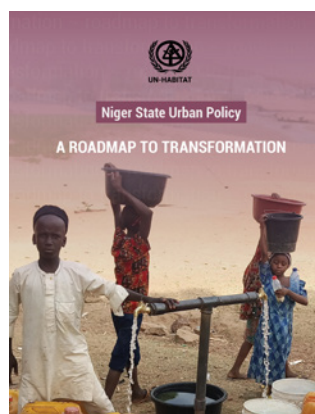
Primer on Urban-Rural Linkages and Land

## b. Reports, newsletters, and other technical materials



### Heritopolis Working Papers | Volume 1

DOWNLOAD



### Niger State Urban Policy: A Roadmap to Transformation

DOWNLOAD



### Greater Bamako and City-Country Relations (CCR)

DOWNLOAD



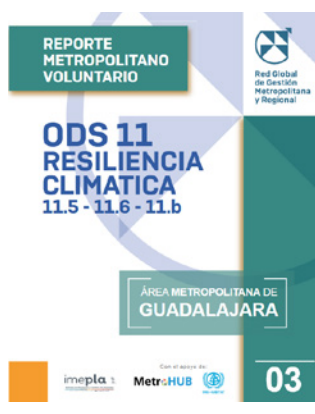
### White Paper for Policy Formulation and Project Implementation

DOWNLOAD



### Policy brief: Retos Globales, Soluciones Metropolitanas

DOWNLOAD



### San Salvador | Valle De Aburra | Guadalajara

DOWNLOAD



### Seventh edition of the newsletter on urban-rural linkages

DOWNLOAD



### Eighth edition of the newsletter on urban-rural linkages


DOWNLOAD

## IV. Advocacy and Outreach

UN-Habitat works to increase awareness about the transformative potential of sustainable urbanization: a docking station to achieve the SDGs.

In 2024, PLGS advanced its advocacy efforts, using various platforms (including partner-led ones) to showcase what UN-Habitat is doing to promote sustainable urban development, and to continue to reinforce the message on sustainability.

### A. PLGS @ AUF



**Addis Ababa, Ethiopia | 4<sup>th</sup> to 6<sup>th</sup> September 2024**

The inaugural Africa Urban Forum (AUF), explored the opportunities and challenges of urbanization in Africa under the theme “Sustainable Urbanization for Africa’s Transformation: Agenda 2063.” Anchored by sub-themes on financing urbanization and sustainable, resilient development, the three-day event gathered over **2,300** participants, including policymakers, urban planners, and community leaders.

#### Policy, legislation, and governance focus

As key drivers of positive transformation in the urban development journey, policy, legislation, and governance featured prominently across plenaries, side events, and bilateral sessions. Here are some of the events held with a policy, legislative and governance nexus:

**1. Inclusive Urban Policy for Integrated**

**Territorial Planning:** The session spotlighted territorial planning’s role in fostering equitable, resilient cities through global trends and case studies from Djibouti, Liberia, the Gambia, and Lesotho.

**2. Enabling City Diplomacy in Africa:**

Mayors and other leaders from Kenya, Liberia, Ethiopia, and South Africa discussed subnational agency in climate action and multilevel governance.

**3. AU Model Law on Urban Development:**

Attendees reviewed the draft model law, which aims to harmonize regulatory instruments to enact equitable, impactful legislation. UN-Habitat presented an alternative approach where law-making should be context-specific and guided by a set criterion on functional effectiveness.

**4. Transport Corridors Development in**

**Africa:** In this engaging session, UN-Habitat presented on the ongoing technical support to Cameroon on corridor development in Douala and Yaoundé, including progress made, and results achieved.



### Purpose of the law

What does the law aim to achieve? ☒



### Content of the law

Can the law achieve its aim? ☒



### Feasibility of the law

Can it be implemented? ☒



### Accessibility of the law

Can it be understood? ☒



### Structure of the law

Is it coherent? Are the institutional mandates clear? ☒

Presentation of the urban legal best practices during the AU Model Law session © UN-Habitat



## Bilateral Engagements

During AUF, UN-Habitat facilitated bilateral sessions with Burundi on governance strengthening, engaged with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, and shared global experiences and tools with Portuguese-speaking African nations, including offering support to Guinea-Bissau's urban policy process.

## The AUF Declaration

The Forum concluded with a [Declaration](#) which significantly featured policy, legislation, and governance aspects. These outcomes well informed the World Urban Forum in Cairo (November 2024). Participants called for transformative, inclusive governance to harness urbanization's potential for economic diversification, efficient service delivery, and climate resilience.

The AUF set a decisive tone for shaping Africa's urban future aligned with Agenda 2063. Therefore, re-envisioning PLGS' approach to socially inclusive, transformative policy, legislation, and governance processes is crucial for shaping the future of African cities.



## B. PLGS @ WUF12

Twenty years after the first forum in Nairobi, Kenya, the World Urban Forum (WUF) returned to the African continent. Over this period, the Forum has been held in all regions globally, growing in participation and expanding awareness on the need to harness the power of urbanization for sustained good.

The twelfth edition (WUF12) was held in Cairo, Egypt, from 4 to 8 November 2024, under the theme, “It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities.” Co-organized with the Government of Egypt, it was the first time the Forum was held in a megacity with a population of over 20 million people.

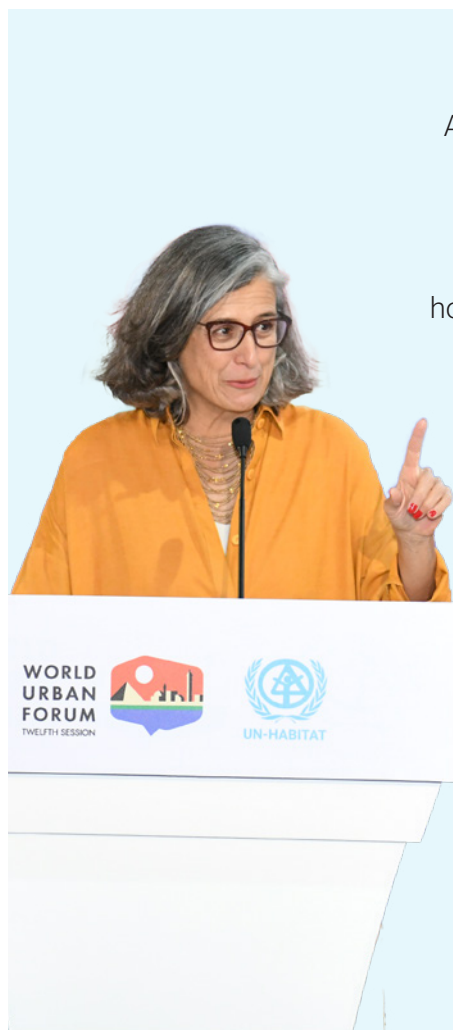
### Housing at the centre of WUF12

Amidst a raft of urbanization challenges due to rising populations in urban areas, adequate, inclusive and sustainable housing is currently among the top crises-turned-priorities for governments across the world. This is because, as a “development multiplier”, housing has an interface with practically every social development sector, playing a quintessential role in the growth of cities and communities.

The theme of housing featured centrally at WUF, as it did in the recently released Global State of National Urban Policy.

Dialogue 1, themed “Housing Our Future,” highlighted housing’s central role in UN-Habitat’s mandate. Stressing the urgency of addressing the housing crisis, UN-Habitat Executive Director Anacláudia Rossbach remarked:

**We don’t have to have another generation of children born in slums.**



## Key Figure: GSNUP 2024



**82 per cent** of countries have a national-level housing policy or strategy outside the NUP to address specific housing challenges related to cities and urban areas.



*UN-Habitat Executive Director, Anaclaudia Rossbach and the President of Egypt, H.E Abdel Fattah El-Sisi, during the official opening of WUF12 © UN-Habitat*

UN-Habitat's PLGS actively led and participated in the on-site discourse on crucial urban development themes including urban policy, legislation, governance, urban-rural linkages, and metropolitan management. These core PLGS themes were interwoven throughout WUF12, featuring in the main Plenaries, Roundtables, Dialogues, Side Events, and Bilateral Consultations. This was crucial to reinforce the importance of policy, legislation, and governance in achieving sustainable urban development.

During this eventful week, PLGS was engaged in at least **23 events**, either by co-leading, moderating, or speaking. PLGS was also represented in over **20 other events** of thematic relation, playing active roles to advance the sustainable urban development agenda through urban policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.



## Overall participation

- » **Attendance:** Over 25,000 participants
- » **Main Sessions:** 37
- » **Partner-led Events:** 600+
- » **High-Level Attendees:** 3 presidents, 4 deputy prime ministers, 60+ ministers, 37 deputy ministers, and 61 mayors from 68 countries.
- » **Speakers:** 341 (164 male, 177 female)
- » **Regional Representation:** Africa 70.5%, Asia 12.6%, Europe 9.5%, Americas 7%, Oceania 0.3%
- » **Sector Composition:** Academia 24%, Government 18%, Private Sector 12%, International Organizations 9%, Civil Society 8%, Media 3%



## PLGS Highlights

- » **23 events** led and participated
- » **Over 800** participants directly engaged
- » **More than 15** bilateral and multilateral consultations
- » **2** global reports launched
- » **3** Agreements signed

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**Table 4.** WUF12 Numbers



## Key PLGS events at WUF12

Date	Event title	Co-organizing partner
<b>Sunday 03 Nov 2024</b>	Knowledge sharing event on National Urban Policy	MOLIT (Korea)
<b>Monday 04 Nov 2024</b>	WUF12 Opening Ceremony	
	Joint Opening of the Assemblies (Grassroots; Children and Youth; Local and Regional Governments; Business and Foundations)	
<b>Tuesday 05 Nov 2024</b>	Launch of Global State of National Urban Policy-3rd Edition	OECD
	Creating Enabling Environment for the Localization of National Urban Policy through Effective and Inclusive Multilateralism	MOLIT (Korea)
	Journal Launch - Urban Regeneration. Producing Knowledge on Sustainable Urban and Rural Transformation	Shanghai University
	Strengthening Local Institutions Through Transformative Digitization and Capacity Building for the SDGs	The Global CEO Alliance
	The role of cultural and natural heritage in addressing polycrises and urban recovery	Heritopolis
	Beyond & between - launching the global compendium of Peri-Urban-Rural Linkages	University of Manchester
	Promoting Climate-Resilient Cities Through Climate-Smart Urban Laws	Konrad-Adenauer Stiftung Regional Programme for Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa (KAS)
<b>Wednesday 06 Nov 2024</b>	Empowering Children through Urban Policy and Legislative Decision-Making Processes	UNICEF
	Spatial co-visioning and stakeholder engagement in the urban-rural interface. Methods, tools and processes.	Technical University of Berlin
	National Urban Policies Impacts: From National to Local Actions	UN-Habitat
	Launch of Global Trends and Insights on Urban-Rural Linkages Report	UN-Habitat
	Bridging Divides - Residential Segregation in Asia and Africa	National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), India
	Linking Agrifood Systems to Urban Development: a collaborative roadmap for achieving collective impact	FAO
	Nature, Land, and Cities: What nature positive cities look like in the Arab region	UNCCD
	Building Sustainable Urban Futures - Metropolitan Governance and Antifragility	Politecnico di Milano
<b>Thursday 07 Nov 2024</b>	National Urban Policy: The New Constitution of Urbanization in Egypt	General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP), Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities, Egypt
	Planning megacities in the age of digital technology	Seoul Institute
	Localizing the SDGs for Inclusive Multilateralism: SDG Cities Legal Checklist	Commonwealth Associations: Planning, Architects and Lawyers as well as the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, UK
	Pioneering Urban Law in Vietnam. Knowledge Sharing on Urban Legislation for Sustainable Urban Development in Saudi Arabia	Ministry of Construction Vietnam and Ministry of Municipalities and Housing, Kingdom of Saudi Arabia
	Parliamentarians Roundtable	Government of Egypt and UN-Habitat

Friday 08 Nov 2024	Urban-rural linkages: experiences from Bamako and Ouagadougou	Greater Bamako
	Local Solutions for an integrated River Resource Management for Urban Development with Dibamba River in Douala- Cameroon	Arcadis
	Official Closing of WUF12	

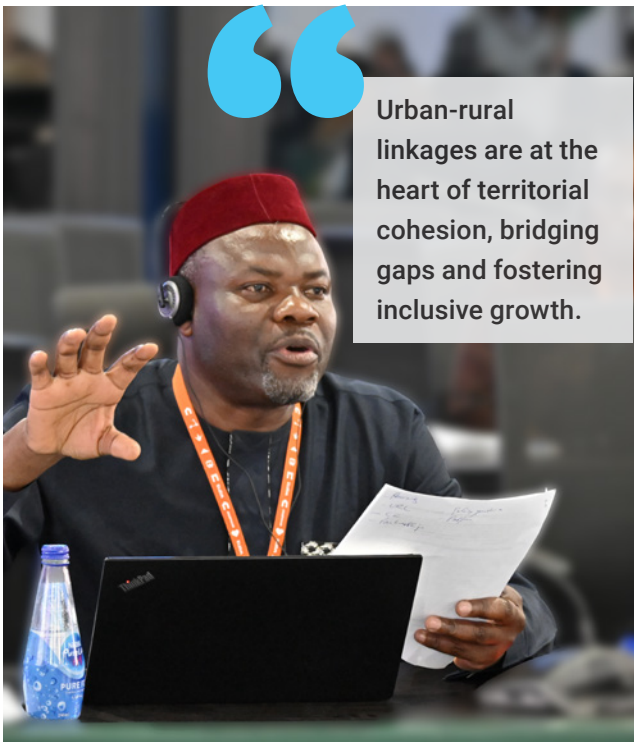
### Key takeaways



Shipra Narang Suri, UN-Habitat



Cemil Arslan, Director-General, Marmara Municipalities Union- Speaking on the impact of AI in planning megacities in the age of digital technology.



Remy Sietchiping, Chief of Policy, Legislation, and Governance Section, UN-Habitat



Mr. Jin Hoon Jung, Director, Urban Policy Division, MOLIT



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## Cairo Call to Action

Twelfth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF12)

*It All Starts at Home: Local Actions for Sustainable Cities and Communities*

### Preamble

We, the participants of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum in Cairo, Arab Republic of Egypt:

**Recognize** that urbanization is an irreversible megatrend and a transformative force that, if harnessed effectively, can drive social equity, economic growth, environmental protection, and well-being. How we plan, govern, and manage territories and urban spaces shapes our progress toward achieving inclusive, resilient and sustainable societies and communities.

**Reaffirm** our commitment to promote sustainable urbanization through the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda thereby accelerating progress with other global development goals.

**Recall** that the Pact for the Future, adopted at the Summit of the Future in September 2024, includes commitments to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing; support plan and implement just, safe, healthy, accessible, resilient and sustainable cities; pursue the localization of sustainable development while considering future generations as well as the role of digital technologies in advancing the Sustainable Development Goals.

**Acknowledge** that it all starts locally as local action is essential to achieve sustainable development; it all starts together as accelerating progress towards sustainable cities and communities requires all actors to join hands across sectors, levels and locations; and it all starts now as it is urgent to tackle unprecedented and interlinked global crises.

**Recognize** that the effective participation and collaboration of all relevant stakeholders, in line with the New Urban Agenda, including local governments, the private sector and civil society, women, organizations representing youth, as well as those representing persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples, professionals, academia, trade unions, employers' organizations, migrant associations and cultural associations.

**Recall** that access to adequate housing is a human right, but that the scale of the global housing crisis is unprecedented, with almost 3 billion people facing some form of housing inadequacy worldwide, with 1.1 billion living in slums and informal settlements. Addressing this global crisis requires collective commitment to policies and investments that prioritize housing as a foundation to realize the sustainable development goals.

DOWNLOAD

The closing ceremony saw the unveiling of the Cairo Call to Action, a document encapsulating key messages and ideas from the discussions. Egypt then officially passed the baton to Azerbaijan, host of WUF13, marking a momentous transition. PLGS concluded its active engagement at WUF12 by solidifying its contributions within the forum's key messages while promoting policy, legislation, governance, urban-rural linkages, and metropolitan management.

## C. Other events of 2024

Throughout the year, PLGS represented UN-Habitat in events through, co-organizing, moderating, as panelist, or actively participating. These events once more proved to be effective platforms to convene diverse stakeholders to explore various themes directly contributing to sustainable urban development.

The events were also convenient opportunities to forge new partnerships while strengthening existing ones.

PLGS used these events to further advance UN-Habitat's work, especially urban policy, legislation and governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.

	 Title	 Organizer/Partner	 UN-Habitat (PLGS) Contributions
FEBRUARY		 Borneo Rainforest Law Conference  Multidisciplinary legal approaches to climate action.	
MARCH		 Water as Leverage – Third Deep Dive Session  Government of the Netherlands  Presented the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change toolkit.	
APRIL		 Launch of the International Center for Territorial Innovation and Smart Performance  University Mohamed 6 Polytechnic,  How to use urban-rural linkages approach in architectural work.	
		 Africa Smart City Forum  University Mohamed 6 Polytechnic,  UN-Habitat's perspective on digital governance, smart cities and metropolitan management was shared	



- ✍ 23<sup>rd</sup> info Poverty Conference
- ⚙ Contributed two topics: 1. Urban-Rural linkages to promote sustainable development and clean energy of urban and rural communities (through UNH URL work) 2. The Ethics and Governance of AI Towards Equitable Cities



- ✍ Kongamano Event
- 👤 Global Alliance for Improved Nutrition (GAIN)
- ⚙ Food systems governance and resilience markets



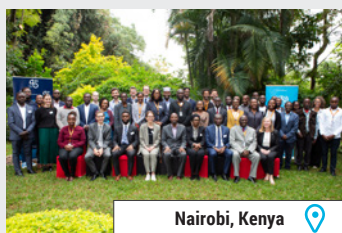
- ✍ Sustainable Metropolis Futures: Navigating Resilience, Metabolism, and Anti-Fragility in Contested Landscapes
- 👤 Politecnico di Milano
- ⚙ Metropolitan management



- ✍ Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa
- 👤 Local Public Sector Alliance on Elevating the Debate on Decentralization and Multilevel Governance in Africa
- ⚙ PLGS focus was on the localization of public services and development outcomes to achieve inclusive and effective development



- ✍ Global Game Changers Series
- ⚙ Panelist during the episode on Green Infrastructure Revolution.



- ✍ City Diplomacy Conference
- 👤 French Institute of Research in Africa.
- ⚙ Presented on How to finance city diplomacy and local government partnerships

JULY



- ✍ Second General Assembly of the World Farmers Market Coalition
- 👤 World Farmers Market Coalition
- ⚙ Contributed to sessions on: 1. partnerships for farmers markets in cities and 2. Farmers markets, cities and territories.



- ✍ Creating Climate Resilient Cities through Climate Smart Urban Laws (During HLPF 2024)
- 👤 Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme for Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa
- ⚙ Presented case study findings from Malawi and Zimbabwe from using the Urban Law Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit.

SEPTEMBER



- ✍ Urban Agrifood Systems Global Workshop
- 👤 Food and Agriculture Organization
- ⚙ Shared UN-Habitat and global efforts in integrating food systems into urban and territorial policy

OCTOBER



- ✍ Launch of Greater Bamako
- 👤 Greater Bamako.  
Mali Government
- ⚙ Urban-rural linkages mainstreamed in the event

NOVEMBER



- ✍ Annual meeting of the Global Activity and Diet Research Network
- 👤 Global Activity and Diet Research Network
- ⚙ Mainstreamed themes such as urban policy and urban-rural linkages throughout the sessions in 2024



- ✍ Vietnam Urban Forum
- 👤 Vietnam Government
- ⚙ Shared insights in the critical role of robust urban legal frameworks in fostering sustainable development.

Table 5. PLGS participation in other events in 2024

# PARTNERSHIPS

## FOCUS



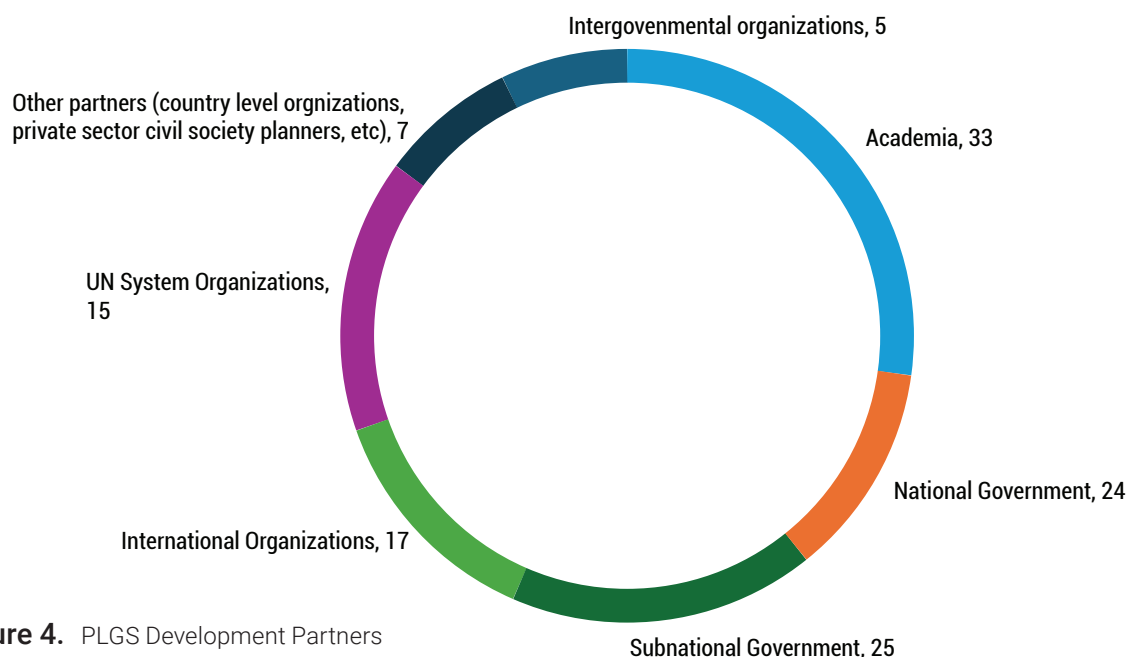
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**11**  
MORE  
PARTNERS



Partnerships played a pivotal role in PLGS's activities throughout 2024. These collaborative efforts generated a synergistic impact that would have been difficult to achieve independently. Internally, within UN-Habitat, PLGS engaged with more Sections, Branches, and Regional and Country Offices through in-house agreements to collaboratively implement projects. Externally, with a steadily expanding network of partners, PLGS actively represented UN-Habitat at various events, co-authored publications, co-implemented projects, and contributed to partner articles, journals, and other initiatives, reflecting the strength and depth of these alliances.

In 2024, UN-Habitat through PLGS expanded its partner base with **11 more partners**. This expansion signifies a growth not only in PLGS's network, but also in the potential of a wider global reach and impact on urban development initiatives.



**Figure 4.** PLGS Development Partners

## Internal collaborations

Internal collaboration between sections, branches, regional and country offices is enshrined in the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan. It is through these combined efforts that synergistic results are achieved. Building on the solid internal collaboration in 2023 and before, PLGS in 2024 engaged in **at least 14** joint projects with various UN-Habitat organizational units. Specifically, PLGS transferred resources to other units to

implement components of **6** projects (see table 6, outgoing IHAs), while on the other hand, PLGS received resources to implement components of 8 projects (see table 7, incoming IHAs)

These collaborations were crucial in fostering greater synergy and alignment in achieving organizational objectives in 2024. demonstrates **strengthened internal collaboration** between different units of UN-Habitat.

2024 Outgoing Agreements (PLGS to other Units)	
Project	Organizational Unit
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Egypt	Regional Office for Arab States
Phase II of the project on Strengthening the capacities of the DRC Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction	Planning, Finance and Economy Section
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Mozambique	Regional Office for Africa
Phase II of the project on Strengthening the capacities of the DRC Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction	
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Cambodia	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Paraguay	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
Phase II of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies- Azerbaijan	Europe and the CIS

**Table 6.** In-coming in-house agreements

2024 Incoming Agreements (From other units to PLGS)	
Organizational Unit	Project Title
Urban Basic Services Section	Scaling Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Service Systems (CWIS)
External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge, and Innovation Division	Urban-Rural Linkages support
Regional Office for Africa	Urban development and sanitation programme in Guinea (SANITA)
Planning, Finance and Economy Section	Legislative support to the Resilience Informed Urban Planning Support to the Naryn Urban Resilience Programme (NURP), Kyrgyzstan
Urban Practices Branch	BMI Project on Urban Policies
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific	Legislative and governance support to the Institutional Strengthening and Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development" (ISCB) project in Vietnam.
Europe	Towards Inclusive and Resilient Urban Recovery in Ukraine
Regional Office for Arab States	Support to The Spatial Planning Reform and Visual Appeal Program in Saudi Arabia. Enabling Systemic Municipal & Planning Reforms and Providing Implementation & Capacity Building Support for the Sustainable Urbanization of Saudi Cities".
	Child-Friendly Ramallah City Project IHA

**Table 7.** Outgoing inhouse agreements

## External partnerships

UN-Habitat recognizes the crucial significance of working with partners in the sustainable development space.

In 2024, PLGS continued with this collaborative spirit, working with national and subnational governments, UN agencies, international organizations, academia, research institutions,

among various other partner groups. It is also worth noting that some partnerships were concluded in 2024 having accomplished the objectives, while most continued, as new partnerships got established from various platforms throughout the year.

In 2024, with a steadily growing network of partners, PLGS actively represented UN-Habitat across various platforms. The partner engagements included:



» **Event Participation:** Representing UN-Habitat at numerous events to advance shared goals.



» **Collaborative Knowledge Production:** Co-authoring publications that contribute to thought leadership and innovation.



» **Joint Project Implementation:** Co-implementing impactful projects that strengthen partnerships.



» **Visibility in Partner Initiatives:** Featuring in partner-authored articles, journals, and other prominent works.

These efforts underscore PLGS's role in amplifying UN-Habitat's mission and fostering strategic and impactful collaborations.



## Special Feature: Partnership with Academia

In 2024, PLGS deepened its collaboration with academia, strengthening the bridge between research and practice to advance sustainable urban development. Through partnerships with universities and research institutions, PLGS co-developed knowledge products, facilitated evidence-based policy dialogues, and integrated new and relevant research into project implementation. In addition, through bespoke capacity development programmes, courses, workshops and forums, PLGS and these partners

collaborated to enhance capacities of policymakers, students, urban planners and other stakeholders. These collaborations enriched UN-Habitat's initiatives with academic rigor while providing students and researchers opportunities to engage with real-world challenges and opportunities. By fostering these synergies, PLGS not only enhanced the impact of its work but also contributed to building a global knowledge base for inclusive and sustainable urban solutions.

The main collaborations with academia in 2024 include:



**Academia Partner**



**Description of Collaboration**



PLGS continued working with POLIMI under the MetroHUB Global Capacity Development Programme. The programme enhanced capacities of more policymakers, students and other metropolitan actors from France, Italy, Paraguay and Spain. In 2024, the MoU was renewed, in which the next step in this collaboration will be launch a MetroHUB Centre.



Having launched the Centre for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa in 2023, UN-Habitat (PLGS) advanced this collaboration with CURLA, supporting initiatives such as the research work on Urban-Rural linkages and Intermediary Cities in East Africa countries. UN-Habitat also worked with CURLA to facilitate capacity development sessions in Jinja (April 2024) and in Nakuru, Kenya (July 2024)



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UN-Habitat and Shanghai came into a partnership to collaborate on urban-rural linkages, specifically urban regeneration.

This partnership also paved way for other partnerships. UN-Habitat through PLGS, facilitated establishment of friendly relations between Shanghai University, China and the University of Nairobi, Kenya. The two institutions are currently working on a memorandum of understanding.



In 2023, UN-Habitat worked closely with UM6P to design and develop an International Centre for Territorial Innovation and Smart performance. In 2024, UN-Habitat was part of the launch of the Centre, during the inaugural Africa Smart City Forum.





In 2024, PLGS continued its collaborative efforts with PAU. Further to implementing the Letter of Intent (LoI) signed with one of the institutes (PAUGHSS), UN-Habitat hosted the PAU delegation between 16<sup>th</sup> and 17<sup>th</sup> December in Nairobi, Kenya. The exchange visit enabled extensive discussions on strengthening the partnership through the LoI implementation. In addition, UN-Habitat joined the PAU delegation in consultations with like-minded institutions (CURLA of UON, African Population and Health Research Center (APHRC), and the Kenya School of Government (KSG). It is hoped that the LoI will be advanced into an MOU to enable extension of the partnership to all the four PAU institutes across Africa.








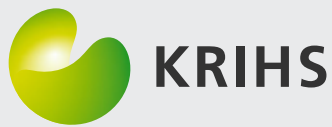
UN-Habitat continued working with these institutions to co-organize the 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> Urban Law Days in 2024.



Table 8. Partnerships with Academia

# More agreements reached in 2024

 Partner	 Description of Agreement
	UN-Habitat and the OECD renewed their agreement, to continue collaborating on various thematic areas on urban development, including national urban policy, housing, planning and design, urban and metropolitan governance, mobility, financing urban development, and localization of the SDGs.
<b>Bogota-Cundinamarca Metropolitan Region (RMBC)</b>	Signed under the MetroHUB Global Programme, the agreement provides the framework to support the metropolitan region in various metropolitan management aspects, including strategic planning, foresight and citizen participation.
	UN-Habitat and TNOC signed a letter of intent, where UN-Habitat contributed to the TNOC Festival in April and June 2024.
	<p>In this MoU signed with FAO, the specific objective of this MoU signed with FAO is:</p> <p>Strengthening and developing sustainable and inclusive urban and territorial food systems, urban and peri-urban agriculture and urban and peri-urban forestry for: i) enhanced food security, nutrition and healthy diets; the preservation of natural and agricultural ecosystems in and around cities; iii) sustainable development through the urban-rural continuum.</p>
	This new partnership was established with the French Transfrontier Operational Mission (MOT) to work together on cross-border metropolitan cooperation.
	Under this agreement, UN-Habitat and the Special Administrative Unit for Public Services of Bogota will co-develop guidelines to escalate the Waste Management System to the metropolitan and regional scales.



In this MoU, UN-Habitat and KRIHS agreed to collaboratively engage in the production and exchange of knowledge, expertise, inspiring practices and capacity on metropolitan management, as well as urban policy and governance.

This kicked off with UN-Habitat developing **four** courses as part of the 2024 KRIHS World Campus



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In demonstrating the confidence in the positive outcomes of the partnership with AMB, the agreement was renewed, and UN-Habitat will continue supporting AMB mainly in the areas of metropolitan policy development, capacity development and advocacy efforts.

**Table 9.** Agreements Reached in 2024

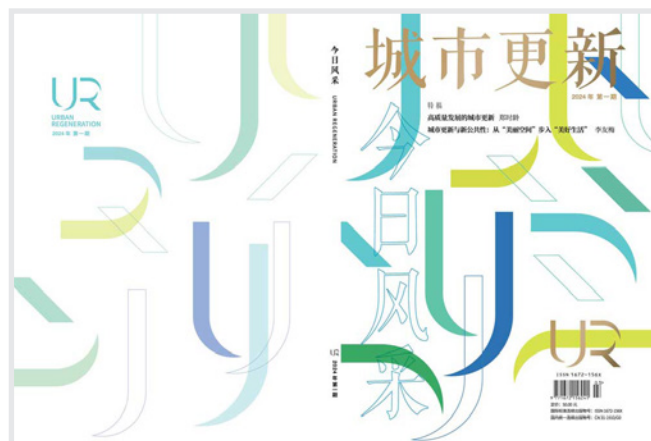
## Appearance in partner articles

In 2024 UN-Habitat through PLGS maintained a strong presence in partner articles and publications. These collaborations enabled UN-Habitat to amplify valuable insights and technical expertise to global discussions on sustainable development. By featuring case studies, research findings, and thought leadership in these platforms, UN-Habitat visibility was enhanced, fostered collaboration and continued advancing shared goals.

- » World Fit for Children Report 2023: As part of UN-Habitat's contribution, PLGS represented UN-Habitat in submitting inputs to the UN Secretary General's World Fit for Children Report 2023 being drafted by UNICEF to capture programming as well as examples of children rights mainstreaming. Specifically, PLGS contribution was the developed Guidance with UNICEF on child-oriented urban law, policies and standards.
- » Springer Handbook on Urbanization in the Global South: UN-Habitat (PLGS), as editor for the section on governance for the Springer Handbook on Urbanization in the Global South, provided substantive review of four chapters; a) From village to neighbourhood: The formation of informal urban settlements and their formalization and b) People-Centred, Digitally Informed Urban Governance and Planning in Global South Cities; c) Strategies for putting tricky demographic dynamics at the heart of urban policies; and d) governance and urbanization in Africa – a systems approach.
- » Contribution to materials for the 23<sup>rd</sup> UN Session Committee of Experts on Public Administration: on behalf of UN-Habitat, PLGS submitted reports to support two agenda items during the 23<sup>rd</sup> session of the Committee of Experts on Public Administration in New York, USA. Principles of effective governance for sustainable development and Institutions (agenda item 6), and institutions, climate action and environment (agenda item 5).
- » Africa Union Model Law on Housing: Beginning 2023, PLGS supported the African Union (AU) in developing a model law on urban development and human settlements. In 2024, PLGS reviewed and provided substantive feedback to the African Union regarding the draft AU Model Law.
- » KRIHS World Campus: As part of the memorandum of understanding between UN-Habitat and the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements, UN-Habitat developed four courses as part of the 2024 KRIHS World Campus. This initiative aims to share knowledge and know-how on national territorial and regional planning with policy practitioners in various countries. The course had a total 14 core thematic subjects, with UN-Habitat developing four of these subjects, on a) national urban policies; b) People-centred smart cities; c) urban-rural linkages and d) metropolitan management.



- » Shanghai University Urban Regeneration journal: As part of the new collaboration with Shanghai University, UN-Habitat contributed to the inaugural Urban Regeneration Journal. This included a Foreword and an interview article providing a Global Perspective on Urban Regeneration and Rural Revitalization.



## Voices from partners and beneficiaries

A portrait of Adamu Ada Idri, a man with short dark hair, wearing a dark shirt with a gold-colored necklace. He is looking directly at the camera with a serious expression.
 

Adamu Ada Idri- Resident and beneficiary of Tungan Mallam bi-water scheme, Niger State © UN-Habitat

“

This bi-water scheme in Tungan Mallam had broken down, so we used to get up as early as 2.a.m in the morning to go fetch water in the natural dam, while it is still clean. So, this was what we have been going through for years, before the plant was repaired. But now, with UN-Habitat’s intervention to repair the bi-water scheme, we now have access to clean water any time of day.



Before the intervention, people used to trek long distances to find clean water, others used to buy every day. But now, thanks to UN-Habitat, the water problem in Tungan Mallam is solved.

*Alhaji Isah Garba, Village Head-Tungan Mallam village, Niger State © UN-Habitat*

**Raphael Mathanki, Lilongwe University of Agriculture and Natural Resources, Malawi**

"We are writing to express our sincere gratitude for the opportunity to participate in the recent trip to Harare, Zimbabwe, for the peer-to-peer discussions on Climate Urban Legal Reform. We deeply appreciate your consideration in selecting us for this valuable experience. The provided accommodation allowed us to fully focus on the discussions and engage productively. The peer-to-peer discussions were incredibly insightful. The knowledge and perspectives shared by our Zimbabwean colleagues were invaluable and the open dialogue fostered a deep understanding of the current challenges and potential solutions for climate urban legal reform in Zimbabwe and Malawi. Beyond the discussions, the visit itself provided a wealth of knowledge about the urban landscape, and local initiatives. The interactions with our Zimbabwean counterparts were particularly enriching. Building these connections allows for future collaboration and knowledge exchange. We are truly grateful for this opportunity to contribute to such an important conversation and look forward to many more dialogues and collaborative efforts with you and your team. Thank you once again for your support."

**Anja Casper-Berretta, Director, Konrad Adenauer-Stiftung Regional Programme for Energy Security and Climate Change in Sub-Saharan Africa**

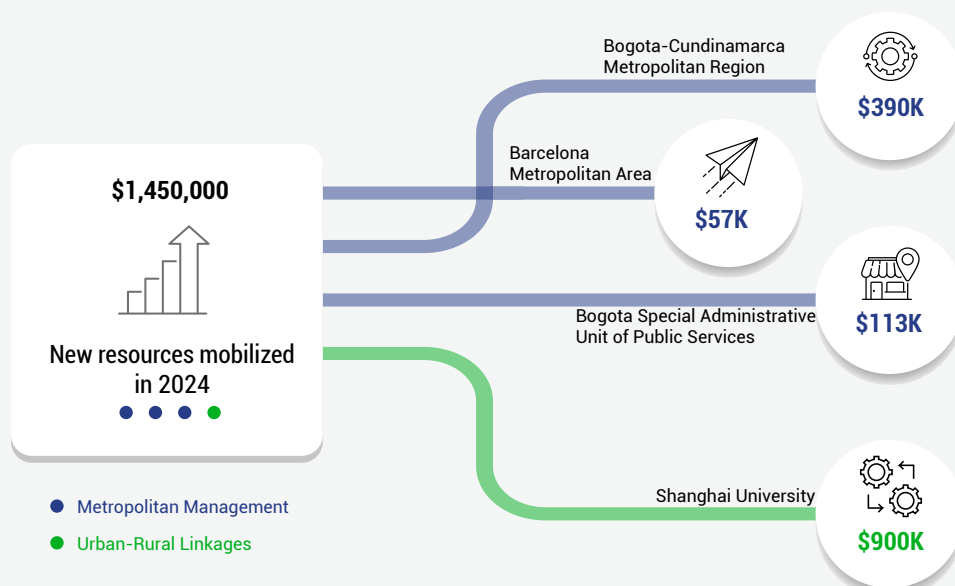
"I went through the report (end of project evaluation) and have no further comments or suggestions. Amazing work putting all this on paper, it really demonstrates how much the project has achieved, especially also on the unintended impact side such as reaching a broader international audience.... Thank you for being such motivated, professional and hands-on partners. It has been a true pleasure working with you!"



## New resources mobilized



Building on the resources mobilized in 2023, PLGS engaged with diverse donors, counterparts, and development partners, further securing additional resources to implement various activities from 2024 onwards. For some of the existing funding, the outcomes achieved enhanced donor confidence for extension of the projects and initiatives. For example, for the PLGS work on metropolitan management, the resources mobilized in 2024 totalled USD **560,000**, up from USD **58,000** acquired in 2023. Additionally, on PLGS work to advance urban-rural linkages, the resources mobilized saw a significant upward trajectory, from USD **27,000** in 2023, to USD **900,000** mobilized in 2024.



## Top contributors 2024

The PLGS funding portfolio for 2024 highlights robust collaboration with national governments, their subnational counterparts, and a foundation. Additionally, a significant portion of the 2024 budget was made of in-house agreements (IHAs), reflecting the ongoing collaborative spirit within the Organization.

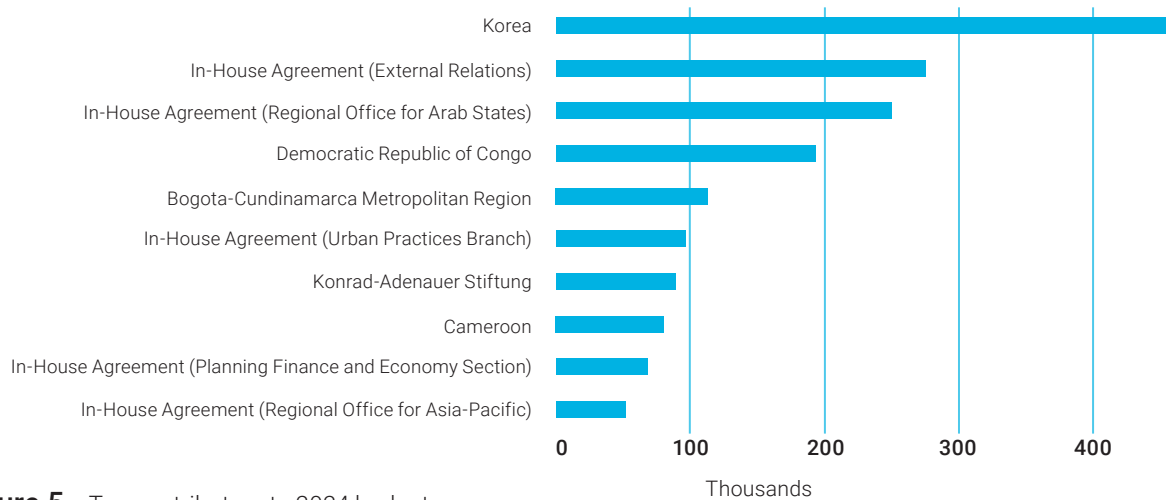
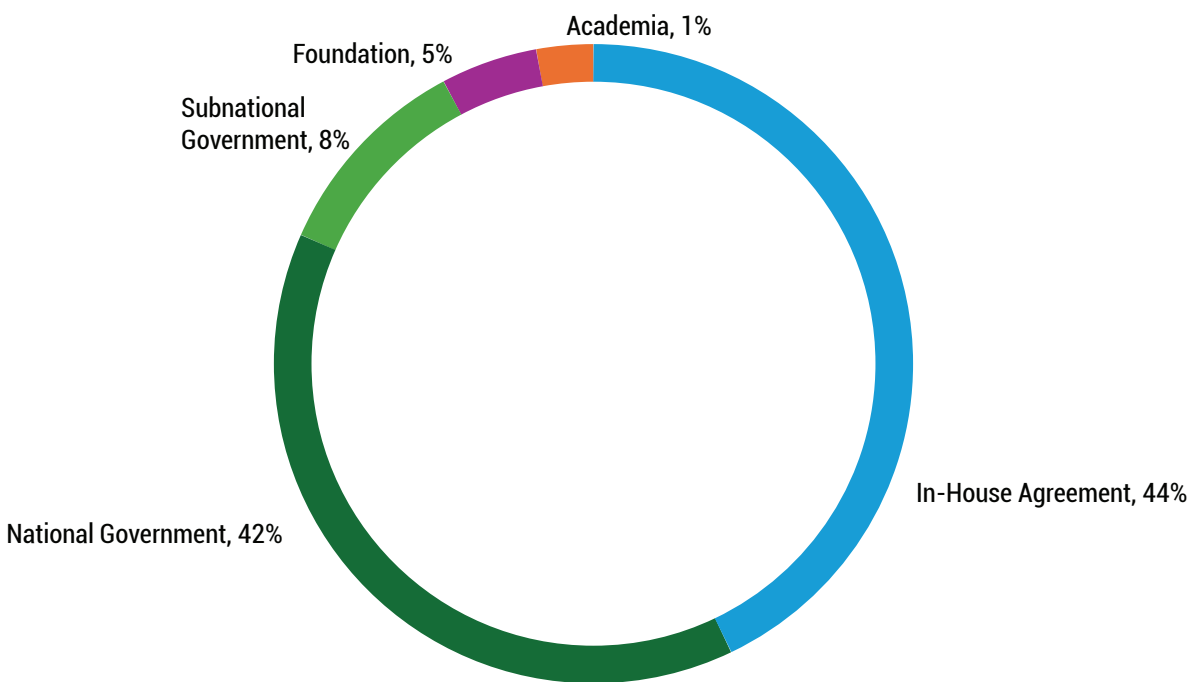


Figure 5. Top contributors to 2024 budget

## 2024 Budget implementation by partner category

The implementation of PLGS budget for 2024 reflected a diversified structure. The proportion of in-house agreements to the total PLGS budget execution for 2024 increased to **44%** from **38%** in 2023, demonstrating stronger internal collaborations. Contributions from national governments accounted for **42%** of the 2024

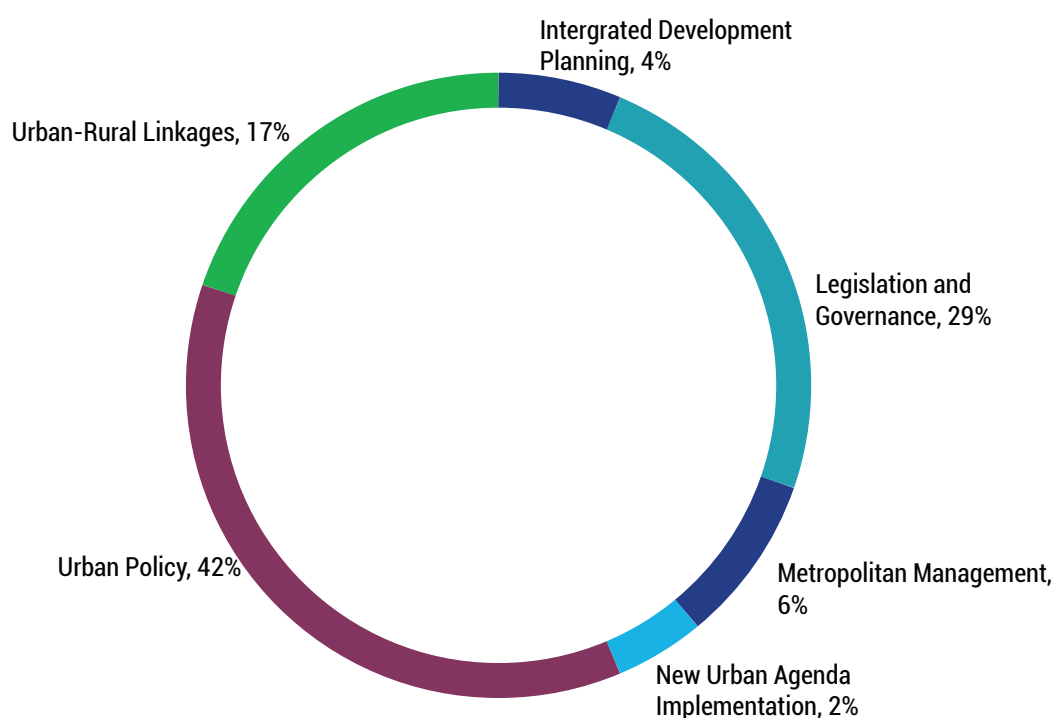
budget, while budget execution supported by subnational governments doubled to **eight** per cent in 2024, from **four** per cent in 2023. Budget implementation in 2024 was also attributed to foundation funding, remaining steady at **five** per cent, consistent with the previous year.



## 2024 Budget implementation by thematic area

From a thematic viewpoint, the 2024 PLGS budget was implemented at varying proportions. **29** per cent of the 2024 budget executed involved projects and initiatives on urban legislation & governance. The proportion of funding resources implemented for activities on urban policy went up to **42%** in 2024, from **30%** in 2023. Budget implementation for PLGS initiatives

on metropolitan management grew from **five** to **six** per cent in 2024, similar to funding implementation for integrated development planning, which was at **four** per cent, up from **two** per cent in 2023. Additional funds were committed in 2024 to implement activities on urban-rural linkages, making up **17** per cent 2024, up from **11** per cent.





# LOOKING

# AHEAD TO 2025

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The 2024 achievements presented in this report will certainly form the building blocks for 2025. At the global level, UN-Habitat is keen to continue making concerted contributions to the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda, as well as new frameworks such as the Pact for the Future, the Global Digital Compact and the Declaration on Future Generations.

Within UN-Habitat, the year 2025 marks the conclusion of the current strategic plan. It will be a year to reflect

upon the achievements made and accelerate efforts to accomplish more expected outcomes in the strategic plan. Additionally, PLGS will continue providing technical contributions as part of the transitions into the new strategic plan 2026-2029.

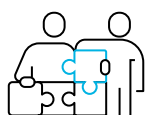
In 2025, PLGS will continue to forge its partnerships to further support national and subnational governments as they develop and implement effective urban policies, legislative and governance frameworks.



**Country progress:** as some of the country projects ended in 2024, a few others are kicking off in 2025. In addition, majority of the current projects are continuing in 2025. For example, Phase II of the Korea-funded national urban policy programme will enter its third year, with even more impacts expected from implementation of these urban policies. Additionally, on legislation and governance, one of the key priorities will be advancing planning law reforms while expanding efforts into critical areas such as climate-resilient housing legislation.



**Advancing Advocacy and Outreach:** PLGS will also continue working with various other partners such as international organizations, academia, civil society and even different government levels to advance advocacy and outreach on sustainable development. For example, for the 4<sup>th</sup> time running, the 4<sup>th</sup> International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages is set to be co-organized with Songyang County, China. The thematic annual events led by UN-Habitat through PLGS will also continue in earnest. These include the World Metropolitan Day Commemoration, Urban Law Days, Community of Practices, among other global, regional, national and subnational-level events. The Multi-Level Urban Forums Guide will also be piloted in at least five forums during 2025.



#### **Expanding knowledge and capacity development:**

- » A range of not only new but relevant normative tools and knowledge products will be released to complement the current, impactful knowledge materials in the PLGS catalogue. For example, guides on a) mainstreaming social inclusion and b) smart cities approach into urban policies are on course to be released. The inaugural Global State of Metropolis will also be released in 2025.
- » Through the tailored capacity development toolkits and programmes, PLGS will work with partners to expand capacity development efforts, thereby extending its global reach in 2025. For example, the Center for Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa (CURLA) will sustain its initiatives, expanding research, policy advice and advocacy on urban-rural linkages. The renewed agreement with Milano Polytechnic ushers in the opportunity to launch the MetroHUB centre- an innovative hub that will facilitate increased knowledge and capacity on metropolitan management globally. The PLGS e-learning courses are also expected to foster greater global interaction and learning. These courses include Digital Governance for Inclusive and Sustainable African Cities, the course on Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law and courses on Urban Policy, and on Urban-Rural Linkages. A new course on Governance (Key Principles for Urban Governance: Tackling Corruption, Dispute resolution, and Ensuring Equality for All), to be launched in 2025, is also envisioned to shape governance across countries, towards more effective and participatory governance approaches.



## PLGS Annual Report 2024

Building upon a successful 2023, the 2024 Annual Report of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) showcases continued progress towards achieving sustainable urban development. Through a range of impactful activities, PLGS strengthened its collaboration with donors, development partners, and beneficiary countries, advancing UN-Habitat work on policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages.

This report highlights key achievements, financial performance, and outlines ambitious plans for 2025 to further contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

### Previous PLGS Annual reports



2020



2021



2022



2023

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