

# EMERGING ISSUES & PARTNERSHIPS

UN-Habitat's global strategy for 2014-2019 derives from the Habitat Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, mandated for achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all, and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. UN-Habitat's substantive work programme is delivered through 7 thematic sub-programmes:

- Land, Legislation and Governance
- Urban Planning and Design
- Urban Economy
- Urban Basic Services
- Housing and Slum Upgrading
- Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
- Research and Capacity Development

The agency strategy in Asia and the Pacific focuses on two complementary objectives:

- To support sustainable development focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable cities and communities in the region.
- To develop innovative partnerships in support of sustainable urbanization and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Asia and the Pacific

The below core and emerging issues are being addressed in the region through partnerships, building on existing collaborations and through new engagements with member states and institutions in the region.

## A renewed emphasis on land as a precursor for governance and planning

### Core & Emerging Issues

Tenure security, plot mapping in informal settlements; land use planning and strategies for urban extensions; land use and territorial planning

### Partners

For example, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), FAO, surveyor associations, regional organisations advocating land and slum dweller issues, planning and design institutes

## Anchoring urban and territorial planning as a central component in projects on sustainable urbanization

### Core & Emerging Issues

National urban policies; planning guidelines; planned city extensions; strategic planning for infrastructure investments and their financing; public space strategies

### Partners

For example, national associations of professional planners, City Development Initiative Asia (CDIA), multilateral banks, planning and design institutes, Shelter Program (Arcadis), UNDP, UNESCO

## Transform people-driven settlement development into genuine urbanization programmes contributing to ending poverty

### Core & Emerging Issues

Slum upgrading, community development, skills development, urban housing, improved access infrastructure, improved municipal & local governance,

### Partners

For example, slum communities; national and local governments; multilateral banks, donor-government trust funds, slum dweller associations, UNDP, UNICEF

## Urban Resilience: Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, COP21 and the Sendai Framework

### Core & Emerging Issues

Compact, green, low-carbon and resilient city planning and development. adaptation strategies

### Partners

For example, multi-lateral & bilateral climate facilities, UN-ISDR, UNEP

## Responding to cities and communities in crisis

### Core & Emerging Issues

Cluster coordination (shelter, land, DRR), technical guidelines, land, house and property issues for IDPs and host communities, resettlement

### Partners

For example, national governments, UN humanitarian coordination, IASC cluster mechanism, IFRC, UNHCR

## Knowledge, Research and Capacity Development

### Core & Emerging Issues

National and regional State of Cities reports, youth exchange initiatives, urban observatories and indicators, localizing the SDGs, sharing of lessons-learned and south-south collaboration

### Partners

For example, national governments, leading academic institutions, youth initiatives of multilateral banks, IUTC Training Academy Korea, UN-ESCAP



ROAP operates with generous support from the Government of Japan, Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, and the Cooperating Committee for UN-Habitat ROAP. The Office is based in the ACROS Fukuoka, an iconic early example of green architecture.

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# TOWARDS SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC

## PROSPERITY

*Engines for sustainable growth*

A vast system of cities has emerged in Asia and the Pacific as a result of phenomenal economic growth over the past 20 years. Due to its scale, cities in Asia and the Pacific have become engines for global economic growth and are increasingly at the forefront of global sustainable development agendas.

Over the next 2 decades, Asia-Pacific's sub-regions will face extraordinary but diverse opportunities and challenges for sustainable urbanization and shared prosperity. Investments and decisions taken now will shape the future of cities for decades to come. In turn, how Asia and the Pacific urbanizes will have a great impact on the sustainability of the planet as a whole. The development of the region's cities needs to be guided by the New Urban Agenda, with inclusiveness, resiliency and sustainability at its core.

- 2.1 billion people or 60% of the world's urban population currently live in the region's cities and towns
- In 2015, there were 27 mega-cities with a population of over 10 million in the world, with 18 in Asia and the Pacific, including the global top-3: Tokyo (38m), New Delhi (25m) and Shanghai (23m)
- Half of all urban households in the region live in cities of less than 500,000
- Currently, 50 million people a year are being added to Asia's urban population
- UN-Habitat and UN-ESCAP published the latest overview and statistics in the State of Asian and Pacific Cities Report 2015



All figures, statistics and statements in the document are derived from the State of Asian and Pacific Cities Report 2015 and from the UN-Habitat-UN-ESCAP Habitat III regional report.

## INCLUSIVITY

*Ensuring human security for all*

By 2050, the Asia Pacific urban population will exceed 3.2 billion and account for two out of every three city-dwellers on the planet. The growing population will place enormous demands on city governments for the provision of housing and associated services; moreover compete for finite city – and national, regional and global resources.

Ensuring balanced development requires that the urban poor, the most vulnerable and dis-empowered are not forgotten, are given voice through appropriate multi-level governance frameworks, have rightful access to a share of the resources and to economic opportunities. Many urban informal businesses in Asia Pacific are set to become thriving economies of people and communities. Cities must continue to ensure their access to land, space, credit, markets, information and professional education.

## RESILIENCE

*Shifting from risk to resilience*

Asia Pacific, occupying 30% of the world's landmass, is the region most affected by natural disasters. Between 1970 and 2011, the region accounted for 1.9 million fatalities from disasters. South & South-West Asia alone lost 980,760 lives. South-East & North-East Asia suffered massive economic losses amounting to \$367 billion. Economic costs tend to be larger in wealthy cities than in poorer ones but lives lost are inversely related to incomes. As the region's cities develop, greater concentrations of population, infrastructure and assets become exposed.

With Asia Pacific set to become 50% urban by 2018, the growing focus of the international community on resilience building, climate change adaptation & mitigation and green growth in urban contexts is crucial – as articulated in the Sendai Framework for Action and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which envision a prominent role for cities.

The Sustainable Development Agenda for **people, planet & prosperity**, strengthening universal peace and eradicating extreme poverty; will require an **inclusive, people-centered approach** to **human settlements development** and an **innovative management** of the huge **environmental footprint of urbanization** on the planet.

Progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda will thus hinge especially strongly on the contribution of cities in Asia and the Pacific.



# SUPPORTING CITIES AND COUNTRIES IN ASIA PACIFIC FOR A PROSPEROUS URBAN FUTURE



UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), was established in 1997 and has been providing technical expertise through an expanding programme portfolio designed in response to the challenges of urbanization and slums, housing, basic

services, land and multi-level governance. A wide range of development projects inspired by the community-driven "People's Process", are applied to diverse development contexts; in response to disasters, post-conflict & for peace-building. The agency

covers 28 countries in Asia and the Pacific either via in-country presence or via substantial technical cooperation engagements supported by the Regional Office based in Fukuoka, Japan and a liaison and partnerships office based in Bangkok, Thailand.

## OUR ASSISTANCE SINCE 2005



Urban informal settlements, Bangladesh  
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- Operational in 28 countries, and regionally.
- Implemented 351 projects of value \$831 million.
- Operational Projects on resilient human settlements: \$612million on housing & security of tenure, slum-upgrading, basic services and risk reduction.
- Normative projects around sustainable urbanization: 100 on urban planning, urban economy, climate change, research and capacity development.
- ROAP's top 3 donors are Japan, the European Union and USAID.
- Supported by over 115 donors comprising member states, municipalities, ministries, multi-donor trust funds (MDTF), UN agencies, international financing institutions (IFI's), private sector, INGOs, research institutions, international foundations & local voluntary funds.\*

\*Donor information since 2005

## OUR PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES



Urban informal economy, Yangon, Myanmar  
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- Policy Advice to National Governments, supported by UN-Habitat's thematic branches and international and national institutions.
- Capacity Building for national, sub-national, local governments.
- Field Projects in response to national development agendas, programmed through UN partnership and assistance frameworks, implemented with communities, local authorities, local partners and national agencies.
- Responding to Crisis, assisting communities and cities with seamless recovery, rehabilitation and development.
- Regional Normative and Partnership Engagements, consolidating and mainstreaming global tools and guidelines through UN mechanisms, or through UN collaborations with sub-regional inter-governmental associations.

## SNAPSHOTS OF OUR ACTIVITIES

### PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

ROAP organizes annual Expert Group Meetings between countries and cities in Asia Pacific & Japanese partners from the public and private sectors, in particular SMEs - on solutions to address critical issues and challenges around water, sanitation, sewage, solid waste, energy, and smart cities and in parallel to introduce innovative and sustainable environmental technologies through pilot projects. More than 10 pilot projects have been implemented in cities & countries including China, Laos, Mongolia, Myanmar, Nepal, Philippines, Sri Lanka, and Vietnam.



### THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

The Indonesian Government hosted a number of important regional events in the run up to Habitat III. The 6th Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF), with UN-ESCAP, and the first Asia Pacific Urban Youth Assembly (APUY), with UN-Habitat and ADB. Both were held in Jakarta in 2015. Indonesia also supported the Habitat III process as a member of the Bureau, by hosting the Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific in October 2015 and also by having the 3rd Preparatory Committee in Surabaya in July 2016. At the occasion of the events, it published several UN-Habitat guidelines and toolkits in the Indonesian language.

### PLANNING FOR IMPROVED URBAN PUBLIC SPACES

UN-Habitat signed a significant programme with Wuhan, to promote urban public spaces in China, in support of SDG 11.7. Improved urban public spaces and quality planning in support of urbanization are in demand in China. Similar engagements are being undertaken in collaboration with partners in Guangzhou and Chengdu. "Better Cities, Better Lives" is the recurring theme of collaboration in China, in the wake of the 2010 Shanghai Expo, which also led to the UN supported World Cities Day.



### HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT

Under the auspices of the President of Afghanistan, over 350 civil society representatives and community members from five major Afghan cities took part in a series of events to promote inclusive and gender sensitive urban development. A key focus of inclusive week was on the pivotal role of urban 'Community Development Committees (CDCs) which have now become essential entities in the sub-national governance structure as part of the institutionalization of the People's Process.

### BUILDING HOMES & COMMUNITIES - POST-CONFLICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT

Three decades of ethnic and religious conflict in the North & East of Sri Lanka had left the majority of families unable to recover from major financial shocks, years of chronic poverty and displacement. The Government of India funded the construction of 45,000 houses through a UN-Habitat supported homeowner driven process, in the process empowering families to rebuild their homes and their lives.



### DEVELOPING NATIONAL BUILDING CODES & BY-LAWS

Under the auspices of the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development and in partnership with Myanmar Engineering Society, UN-Habitat supported the development of the Myanmar National Building Codes and by-laws which was launched in 2012. The MNBC reviewed existing global codes and latest international guidelines to incorporate principles of resilience and green building.

### CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING & RESILIENCE BUILDING

UN-Habitat's regional programme for the Pacific currently active in Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu strengthens capacities of governments and urban stakeholders for the development of vulnerability assessments and resilience planning and integrating of climate change into strategic and land use plans. In parallel the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme supports participatory planning, community empowerment, sustainable construction practices and innovative financing.



### NATIONAL URBAN POLICY & PLANNING FOR RAPID URBAN GROWTH

UN-Habitat supported the promotion of national urban policy reforms by enhancing the National Urban Development and Housing Framework, and the formulation of the national report for Habitat III & New Urban Agenda in the Philippines. Technical and institutional capacities of local government entities on Planned City Extensions were enhanced in 4 cities & a number of related knowledge products generated, allowing for replication.