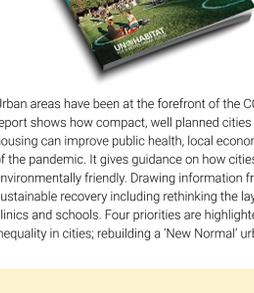


Progress to support sustainable urbanization in a challenging year for cities

Annual Report 2020



UN-Habitat's annual report gives a good overview of UN-Habitat's progress in implementing the first year of its **Strategic Plan 2020–2023** to address urban poverty and inequality, improve access to basic services, strengthen climate action in cities, respond to urban crises and to increase resilience of cities to future shocks. With cities at the forefront in tackling the COVID-19 crisis, **supporting the response** was a major priority for UN-Habitat in 2020. Other achievements include new **innovative financing mechanisms** to attract investment in urban initiatives including multi-donor funding to UN-Habitat's **flagship programmes**. UN-Habitat also produced new urban data and knowledge some of which is featured in its **World's Cities Report 2020** and **Report on Cities and Pandemics**. The annual report highlights UN-Habitat's catalytic role, working with strategic partners to provide the services outlined in the agency's **2020 Catalogue of Services**, and to co-create innovative urban solutions and advocate for sustainable urbanization through the World Urban Forum, World Urban Campaign, and Urban October. The report confirms that UN-Habitat's strategic plan remains robust, flexible and relevant in a changing global environment. The report recommends greater alignment of action plans with secured funding, further strengthening the organization's catalytic role, and customizing responses to local, country and regional contexts.



Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future

Urban areas have been at the forefront of the COVID-19 crisis, with 95 per cent of all cases recorded in cities in the first months. This report shows how compact, well planned cities which combine residential and commercial functions with public spaces and affordable housing can improve public health, local economy and the environment, and help address the huge challenges faced by cities as a result of the pandemic. It gives guidance on how cities can reduce the impact of future pandemics and become more prosperous, fair and environmentally friendly. Drawing information from over 1,700 cities, the publication makes recommendations on actions to achieve sustainable recovery including rethinking the layout and design of urban areas for compact cities with public spaces, nearby services, clinics and schools. Four priorities are highlighted: Rethinking the form and function of the city; addressing systemic poverty and inequality in cities; rebuilding a 'New Normal' urban economy; and clarifying urban legislation and governance arrangements.

Make your nomination now for the 2021 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award!

UN-Habitat is calling for nominations for its prestigious Scroll of Honour Award which will be presented to five winners at this year's World Habitat Day Global Observance on 4 October. The award recognizes initiatives that make outstanding contributions in the field of human settlements including the provision of affordable, accessible, and adequate housing and improving human settlements and the quality of urban life for all. This year, the focus will be on best practices and solutions related to SDG11, climate action and COVID-19 response in urban areas. For more information on eligibility see the **press release, call for nomination** and detailed **guidelines** for submitting your nomination including the **online nomination form**. The deadline for nominations, which should be made by a third party in English, is **8 August 2021**. For questions, contact **unhabitat-whd@un.org**

Seven leading urban experts join UN-Habitat's Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise

UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif has selected seven new members to join the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE). SAGE was established in 2019 to advise UN-Habitat on how to actively engage stakeholders to advance the goals of sustainable urban development agenda. SAGE helps to improve collaboration partnership networks and their advisory boards and to mobilize new strategic partners in the urban arena. This year, UN-Habitat's engagement with SAGE has a strong focus on policy development, advocacy, resource mobilization, design of inclusive urban programmes, and monitoring and reporting progress towards the urban dimensions of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda. The **new composition of SAGE** has eight members serving for a second term up to 2023 to ensure continuity and seven new members joining for a two-year term. The new members are Ms. **Natou Bambara-Colon** (Côte d'Ivoire), Mr. **Samuel Rajan** (India), Mr. **Hannes Juhlin Lagreluis** (Sweden), Mr. **Ulrich Sierau** (Germany), Prof. **Carol D. Archer** (Jamaica), Mr. **Jim Hanna** (United States of America), and Mr. **Peter Mill Oborn** (United Kingdom). Major stakeholder engagement drives this year include advocacy for climate action in cities leading up to COP26, Urban October and preparation for the high level meeting on the New Urban Agenda in April 2022 and the World Urban Forum in June 2022.

UN-Habitat launches "Rebuilding Lives Together" online appeal for Arab States

UN-Habitat has launched an online humanitarian appeal to raise funds for people and communities most affected by humanitarian crises in the Arab region with the support of the agency's Regional Goodwill Ambassador, Her Royal Highness Princess Lamia Al Saud. The Arab region faces multiple and complex crises, including conflicts and natural disasters. The political unrest and protracted emergencies in countries such as Syria and Yemen, the violence and instability in Palestine and Iraq and the deteriorating situation in Libya and Lebanon have affected the lives of millions of people in the region. These have led to mass displacement, disease outbreaks such as cholera and COVID-19 and the destruction of housing, health care facilities and basic infrastructure. You can help by donating **online** to support the humanitarian response in the region and provide clean water, sanitation, and shelter, and rebuild critical infrastructure to serve those most affected by humanitarian crises.

#ClimateAction4Cities



As the world battles the impact of climate change, UN-Habitat has established an internal taskforce to coordinate all initiatives on climate action for cities. These include a **#ClimateAction4Cities Campaign** in the lead up to the **Climate Change Conference (COP26)** in November this year. Launched on 15 April 2021, the Campaign focuses collaboration with cities and national governments to reduce urban-based carbon emissions and build resilience to climate change. It also calls on all urban actors to advocate for the most vulnerable and realise a more resilient future after the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN-Habitat is joining hands with partner organizations to this global mobilization, amplifying key messages, sharing climate action solutions, and inspiring others through examples on the **#ClimateAction4Cities Campaign platform**. Solutions will be promoted on social media, **World Urban Campaign, Urban October, Urban Thinkers Campuses** and explored with researchers and policy-makers at the **Innovate4Cities Conference (I4C)** being hosted by UN-Habitat and the **Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM)**, to be held from 11-15 October 2021. The conference is expected to attract more than 1,200 city leaders, policymakers, scientists, researchers, innovators, academics, youth, and private sector representatives to advance practical and action-oriented research and science to help cities reduce their carbon footprint and climate change resilience. The aspiration is for the conference to become a biennial event informing UNFCCC and IPCC processes and strengthen the long-term relationship between GCoM and UN-Habitat. Contact **steven.bland@un.org** to support the conference or for more information.

First session of UN-Habitat Executive Board in 2021

UN-Habitat's Executive Board held its **first virtual session of the year** from 7 to 8 April 2021 with over 250 participants. A major item in its agenda was the organization's **annual work programme and budget for the year 2022** where a total budget of USD 255.4 million was proposed. The Board tentatively recommended a reduced budget of USD 10 million for the Foundation non-earmarked fund, which is funded by voluntary contributions from member states for core activities, and asked the Ad-hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to continue discussion with a view to recommending a budget level of between USD 10 million to USD 12 million. The final proposed work programme and budget will be presented for decision by the Executive Board at its second session in 2021. Other items discussed included the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, an update on the COVID-19 response, progress on the work on four thematic pillars of the strategic plan, funding, and an outlook for a more country and city-adapted support. The Board elected a **new Bureau** for the period 2021-2022 and **adopted five decisions**. The next session of the Executive Board will be held between 16 and 18 November 2021.

Biennial meeting of the Committee of Permanent Representatives to review progress on UN-Habitat strategic plan

UN-Habitat's **Committee of Permanent Representatives (CPR)** met from 29 June – 1 July. The main item on its agenda was the high-level mid-term review of progress made in the implementation of UN-Habitat's 2020-2023 strategic plan. The CPR, one of the elements of **UN-Habitat's three-tier governance structure**, convenes in an open-ended manner, twice every four years: once prior to the UN-Habitat Assembly in preparation for that session and a second time for a high-level mid-term review of the strategic plan.

Enhancing stakeholder engagement in UN-Habitat's inter-governmental meetings

Number of accredited non-governmental organizations at UN-Habitat's Executive Board meetings as observers



Representation of stakeholders at UN-Habitat's inter-governmental meetings provides an opportunity for governments to learn how stakeholders can contribute to an inclusive urban future and a chance for stakeholders to play a role in shaping global urban development agenda.

The High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development in 2021

The High-Level Political Forum on sustainable development is being held from 6 to 15 July 2021, under the auspices of the Economic and Social Council, and includes a three-day ministerial meeting from 13 to 15 July 2021. Its overall theme is **"Sustainable and resilient recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic that promotes the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development: building an inclusive and effective path for the achievement of the 2030 Agenda in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development."** At the Forum, UN-Habitat will engage with partners in several side events on the New Urban Agenda and SDG11 and its main corporate event will be on homelessness, sustainable recovery from COVID-19 and poverty reduction. **"Homelessness, SDG 1 and Sustainable Recovery from COVID19: Poverty left behind"** During the segment of the three-day ministerial meeting on Voluntary National Reviews (VNRs), UN-Habitat will highlight the local aspects that contribute to achieving the SDGs. It will also engage in the Local and Engage Regional Governments.

City Investment Facility and feasibility fund attract urban investments in emerging markets



By 2050, 68% of the world's population or 6.7 billion people will live in cities, with most of this growth being in poorly serviced and underdeveloped urban areas. This creates a growing and urgent need for innovative financing mechanisms to support urban infrastructure, jobs and meaningful livelihoods for everyone living in these growing cities.

To attract investment in sustainable urban infrastructure and services in emerging economies, particularly in the global south, UN-Habitat is engaging with foundations, the private sector, local governments and urban stakeholders as well as national governments and development banks.

It is doing this through the **Cities Investment Facility (CIF)**, launched at the World Urban Forum (WUF10) in February 2020. The facility brings public and private capital to close the infrastructure investment gap, contribute to the achievement of the SDGs and aid recovery from the pandemic. CIF engages city authorities, investors and other stakeholders through the Cities Investment Portal (CIP) where project proposals can be entered online, a Cities Investment Advisory Platform (CIAP) where proposals are assessed by an Urban Lab on their alignment with the SDGs and their financial feasibility, and finally, through the Cities Investment Vehicles (CI Vehicles), successful proposals are presented to potential investors. Three of the nine proposals presented through this process at WUF10 are now close to finalising investment deals. Investors so far include the Green Climate Fund and Asian Infrastructure Investment Bank.

Experience with the CIF has highlighted the need for support for development of viable proposals that are attractive to investors. UN-Habitat is, therefore, establishing **feasibility fund** to finance feasibility studies as well as due diligence work to de-risk and develop viable proposals that can attract and leverage large investments from private and public entities, and in the long term, realise good return on investments while delivering sustainable and high impact urban development results. The fund, under discussion by UN-Habitat's Foundations and Philanthropy Platform's innovative financing working stream, has attracted a lot of interest and possible seed capital of around USD 500,000; it is an important element of UN-Habitat's strategy to diversify sources of funding and financing for sustainable urbanization.

To submit a project to the CIF pipeline please fill out the **online form** which can be accessed through the **CIP website**. For potential donors, investors, or other general enquiries, contact **unhabitat-cip@un.org**.

Solutions start with cities: UN-Habitat's Foundation Fund

Solutions to the world's most pressing challenges start with cities, which are home to about 70% of the world's population. With core support from donors, UN-Habitat has a proven track record in managing urban growth, mitigating urban displacement, improving access to basic municipal services, analyzing best practices for public space and public transport, upgrading slums and informal settlements, and monitoring global urban indicators. Yet, mobilizing core funding for UN-Habitat's normative work remains a challenge.

UN-Habitat's **Solutions Start with Cities** provides a platform for its normative mandate and work to provide comprehensive research on cutting-edge issues facing cities and urban settlements which shows how core funding enables the agency to utilize its experts, systems, knowledge, and capacity to deliver norms, guidance and solutions in an urbanizing world. It also features compelling stories on how this normative work is creating an impact in countries working with partners.



Greater visibility for partners' contribution to urban development

Partners play an important role in supporting the work of UN-Habitat's advance sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat's **partnership site** now gives greater visibility to partnerships by showing the organizations that are accredited to take part in its inter-governmental processes to help shape the urban agenda. It also provides a database of partners with whom UN-Habitat has formal agreements including those helping to implement global and country programmes. Partnership networks focusing on particular themes and peer group priorities are also featured. The value of partnership agreements, where relevant, is also provided for greater transparency. For more information, contact **unhabitat-partners@un.org**.

Urban October - Climate Crisis Themes for World Habitat Day and World Cities Day 2021

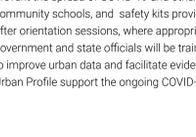
Urban October celebrations will promote the climate action agenda starting with the theme of 'Accelerating urban action for a carbon free world' on **World Habitat Day** on Monday 4 October and concluding with the theme of 'Adapting cities for climate resilience' on **World Cities Day** on 31 October 2021.

Post your 2021 Urban October event on UN-Habitat's website

National, regional, and local government, NGOs, universities, schools, local media, communities and individuals are encouraged to organize events to raise awareness. UN-Habitat helps to promote events through its Urban October page. Please post your event or activity **here** and promote it using **#UrbanOctober #WorldHabitatDay #WorldCitiesDay**. For ideas about events please see the full **2020 Urban October Report** or the **Summary 2020 Urban October Report**. Please feel free to contact us on **unhabitat-events@un.org** or for World Habitat Day **unhabitat-whd@un.org** and for World Cities Day **unhabitat-wcd@un.org**.

Partners organize over 750 events during 2020 Urban October

Partners play a big role in promoting sustainable urbanizations solutions as highlighted in UN-Habitat's recently published **Urban October 2020 report** which features a record 753 events in 74 countries and 230 cities organized by partner organizations with all aspects of sustainable urbanization.



Africa

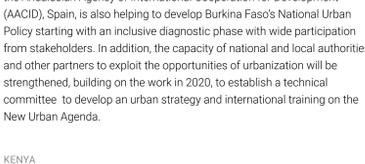
NIGERIA



Improved WASH facilities support COVID-19 Response for six communities in Karu, Nigeria

Karu is a densely populated local government area in Nasarawa State on the outskirts of Nigeria's capital Abuja. A large part of the population commutes daily to the capital, which has the second highest rate of COVID-19 infections in the country. Thanks to support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), water, sanitation and hygiene facilities have been completed to serve six communities in Karu under a project implemented by UN-Habitat. The project is part of UN-Habitat's COVID-19 Response and Resilient Recovery strategy, in partnership with Tulusi Channal Foundation and the Karu Local Government. Around 100,000 residents will be served by boreholes with solar pumps and a network of hand washing and water fetching points to three locations from each borehole. WASH Committee members were established in each participating community, and members trained in basic management to ensure equitable use. Training was also given on hygiene practices to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other communicable diseases at three community schools, and safety kits provided for over 280 waste collectors, after orientation sessions, where appropriate. Moving forward, local government and state officials will be trained in data collection and analysis to improve urban data and facilitate evidence-based planning to produce a Karu Urban Profile support the ongoing COVID-19 response in the state.

BURKINA FASO



Supporting IDPs and host communities in vulnerable situations in four cities in Burkina Faso

Burkina Faso is among the poorest countries in the world, and heavily impacted by the Sahel crisis, with more than 1.1 million people being internally displaced, most seeking refuge in cities. Thanks to support from the European Union, UN-Habitat is helping to strengthen the capacity of central and local government authorities in Burkina Faso in urban and territorial planning. The support will help four cities (Dori, Kaya, Kongoussi and Tougouri) in the northern part of Burkina Faso affected by rapid urban population growth because of the massive influx of Internally Displaced Persons - some municipalities have tripled their urban population within a year. The project includes construction of about 500 housing units with better access to basic and social services units for families in vulnerable situations. **"The European Union created the Instrument contributing to Stability and Peace (IcSP) to provide rapid support to the country in crisis. With this project, the European Union aims to increase the capacities of local actors in urban planning and promote or establish mechanisms for participation of all relevant stakeholders, including representatives of host municipalities and vulnerable populations."** says EU Ambassador to Burkina Faso, Wolfram Vetter. Meanwhile, support from the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AACID), Spain, is also helping to develop Burkina Faso's National Urban Policy starting with an inclusive diagnostic phase with wide participation from stakeholders. In addition, the capacity of national and local authorities and other partners to exploit the opportunities to urbanization will be strengthened, building on the work in 2020, to establish a technical committee to develop an urban strategy and international training on the New Urban Agenda.

SOUTHERN EAST AFRICA



Enhancing climate resilience in Southern East Africa's cities

Cities in Southern East Africa share similar threats and vulnerabilities due to their high exposure to recurrent natural hazards such as cyclones, floods, sea level rise, coastal erosion and drought. Thanks to support from the Adaptation Fund, the **"Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa"** programme **officially launched** during a two-day online event attended by around 200 participants, 23 interventions to improve resilience. This includes reconstruction of bridges, rehabilitation of mangrove and construction of sea-havens, among others. The work will be carried out through Oxfam as the main implementing partner in the four cities of Zomba (Malawi), Morondava (Madagascar), Chokwe (Mozambique), and Moroni (Union of Comoros) and will be concluded by 2024. The interventions were identified as priority actions in the four cities by **CITYRAP** a UN-Habitat's participatory resilience planning tool. Project activities affected by the COVID-19 pandemic are now gaining pace in the four cities where technical studies and tendering processes for construction works are in their final phase.

KENYA



The Go Blue initiative in Kenya

The blue economy relies on natural resources from marine and coastal ecosystems. In March 2021, Team Europe together with Kenya's Governors of the six coastal counties, the Ministry of Devolution and the Blue Economy Secretariat, launched the **Go Blue** initiative in Kenya which has an abundance of untapped maritime resources along its coast. Thanks to support of EUR 25 million from the European Union and its member states, the initiative will harness important coastal and marine resources to achieve a sustainable blue economy and bring jobs to over 3,000 youth and women. Initiatives under programme will include small-scale fisheries, waste recycling, aquaculture or tourism, and entrepreneurial and technical skills in blue economy sectors to strengthen value chains and tackle regional bottlenecks. Go Blue will be implemented with Jumuiya ya Kaunti za Pwani, Kenya's coastal regional counties Economic Development Organization together and national government departments and ministries including the Blue Economy Secretariat, Kenya Coast Guard Service, Bandari Maritime Academy, and Ministries of Agriculture and Fisheries; Interior; and Transport. The four EU Member States France, Germany, Italy, and Portugal are providing their expertise to foster economic growth, while the two UN agencies UN-Habitat and UNEP will ensure that interventions are in line with obligations of environmental conservation and urban planning, and adapt and mitigate coastal cities while communities will help protect against the adverse effects of climate change.

French international football star Blaise Matuidi appointed Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Africa

"I'm very honored to be part of this partnership. I have been a champion on the pitch, but it has always been my hope to be a champion in changing people's lives, especially the children in informal settlements," said Mr. Matuidi during the virtual signing ceremony.

The French international footballer and World Cup winner, Blaise Matuidi, has been appointed as Regional Goodwill Ambassador for Africa for UN-Habitat. The footballer, who was part of the French team that won the World Cup in 2018 and currently plays for Inter Miami CF, will work with UN-Habitat to promote decent housing for all, focusing on families living in slums and informal settlements in Central Africa. The appointment was announced on the International Day of Sport for Development and Peace, which recognizes the role sport and physical activity play in communities and in people's lives across the world. This follows an agreement between UN-Habitat and the Tremplins Blaise Matuidi foundation to work together to promote equal access to decent housing and basic services including schools, recreation, water, sanitation, health and public spaces, for children and families living in informal settlements in Central Africa. His role will help raise awareness and mobilize support from partners including governments, the private sector and civil society for projects to improve social and sports facilities in informal settlements Angola, Cameroon, Congo Brazzaville, Central African Republic, the Democratic Republic of Congo and São Tomé and Príncipe.



Asia Pacific

AFGHANISTAN



Afghanistan's Urban Safety and Security reaches four million

The Afghanistan Urban Safety and Security Program (AUSSP) promotes safe, secure, and inclusive cities, working in eight strategic cities of Afghanistan. The programme has reached over four million people across eight major cities and established approaches to make Afghanistan cities safer, accountable, and more productive. Over 370,000 people have benefited from the programme which has helped communities to implement 110 prioritized safety projects. Bringing women to the forefront of development works in Afghanistan has been a tremendous challenge for many decades. More than half of the implementers were women; the programme involved over 2,000 women directly in the urban development processes, community policing, and safety projects implementation. More than 80 municipal and urban governance officers, including culture and gender specialists from 52 municipalities across 33 Afghanistan provinces, took part in a workshop to share experiences, lessons learned and best practices on urban governance, safety, and security in Afghanistan cities. *"The capacity development sessions improved our knowledge, we have become strategized in our role in the implementation of the sustainable development..."* said Ms. Nasrin, a female participant from Herat municipality.

THE PHILIPPINES

Cagayan de Oro city in the Philippines first complete Waste Wise Cities Tool assessment

"...this initiative presented an opportunity for the city to update and know the current waste generation and composition to evaluate if the implemented Solid Waste Management programmes and initiatives have contributed to our goals and set a baseline to improve our plans and strategies." says Elvina Mabelin of the City Local Environment Office.

Cagayan de Oro City in the Philippines became the first city in the world to successfully complete a Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) assessment on their own under UN-Habitat Philippines' Healthy Oceans and Clean Cities Initiative funded by the Government of Japan. The city collected data on household and non-household waste and completed a Waste Flow Diagram assessment to identify plastic leakages. The city will now process its data using the Data Collection Application tool.



NEPAL



Promoting entrepreneurship through conservation of intangible heritage in Nepal

"Entrepreneurship Development Training (EDT) built confidence among participants in business planning, idea formulation, start up, rational investment and marketing of products" said Subeshkya Shrestha, a graduate student and resident of Chandragiri Municipality.

Parya Sampada, a UN-Habitat led project, funded by the European Union SWITCH Asia programme in Nepal, is helping to build entrepreneurial skills for women and youth while supporting the conservation of intangible heritage and traditional skills to support livelihoods through the home-based working. The project has trained 330 individuals including women and youth in five local governments of Lalitpur and Kathmandu. This includes Chandragiri Municipality, a newly formed municipality within Kathmandu District which has several heritage settlements like Kisipidi and Balambu. Shrestha, one of the EDT trainees, had a stall of knitting and embroidery products in a two-day exhibition as a part of training to enhance entrepreneurship skills conducted at Chandragiri Municipality, one of her most saleable products was the hand-sanitizer holder.

FIJI



Fijian Youth appeal for recognition as agents of change in first Youth Climate Action Summit

"Climate Change is a big challenge for all of us. No matter where we live." Timoci Naulusala, youth climate activist in Fiji

Over 200 youth attended the first ever Fiji Youth Climate Action Summit to learn about climate change and how it affects the world and Fiji in particular. Through group discussions, lectures, presentations, videos and interactive sessions, they reflected on how the new climate change bill being introduced in Fiji can have a positive impact on their lives provided feedback on the draft bill. In an impact statement handed to the Fijian Government during the closing ceremony, youth called for their recognition as enabling partners and not just as beneficiaries. UN-Habitat supported the summit as a member of the technical organizing committee. It also organized the stall on the **Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements (FRIS)** project at the 'open marketplace' session to show how climate change affects informal settlements and what adaptation options are possible.

Arab States

SUDAN



Support to IDPs and host communities in South Darfur, Sudan

"With the rising need to support IDPs' living conditions and their daily security, the efforts of UN-Habitat are valuable because they focus on both the provision of urgent support, and on sustainable solutions for IDPs to effectively settle down in their desired destinations with a more concrete sense of their land property," said Mr. Takashi Hattori, Ambassador of Japan to the Republic of the Sudan.

Um Ganah is one of the communities which has seen a tremendous number of Internal Displaced Persons (IDPs) returning home in South Darfur State. The returnees live in severe conditions, lack basic services and need public facilities, security of their own land and COVID-19 mitigation measures. Thanks support of USD 810,000 pledged by the government of Japan, UN-Habitat's project on "Emergency Support to IDP Returns in Eid Elifursan Locality, South Darfur State" will benefit over 17,000 returned IDPs and host communities in Um Ganah, which consists of Um Ganah village and 17 surrounding cluster villages. The project will help improve security, develop guiding principles for IDP returns to help secure their land rights and enhance community members' self-reliance particularly youth and women through self-help construction and improvement of basic services and public facilities. The project will also introduce COVID-19 mitigation measures in the community.

IRAQ



Gardening skills improve women's livelihoods and public spaces in Mosul

"If I did not work for one day, my family would have nothing to eat for lunch..." Nafla Mohammad Ali narrates.

After struggling to support her family for the past six years, Nafla is now a gardener at Al Yarmouk Park currently being transformed as part of the EU-funded area-based urban recovery programme. UN-Habitat's Horticulture Training Programme for Women recruited female gardeners as one of the initiatives under urban recovery programme. One of the 30 vulnerable women selected to join programme, Nafla says her financial situation has improved drastically. The initiative provided the women with an intensive 10-day long vocational training in horticulture including soil composition, plant species, planting, pruning and general maintenance. It was held in close consultation with Agriculture Department in Mosul University, Nineva Agriculture Department and Mosul Municipality. On a large-scale, such public space rehabilitation initiatives can contribute to social cohesion within war-torn communities. The urban recovery programme seeks provide access to public spaces to improve physical and social inclusion of the population by restoring public access for over half a million people living in west Mosul to the park. The shade of the trees planted by Nafla and her colleagues will provide shade during the blistering heat of Mosul's summer.

Latin America and the Caribbean

THE REGION

Inclusive Cities, Solidarity Communities launches web platform on refugee and migrant integration

In recent years, the cities and countries of Latin America and the Caribbean have faced mixed migratory flows of refugees and migrants from Venezuela. National and local governments have shown strong commitment to reduce the vulnerabilities and alleviate the immediate needs of this population but the greatest challenge is the integration refugees and migrants, most of whom prefer to live in cities. The Inclusive Cities, Solidarity Communities web platform is an inter-agency initiative between UNHCR, IOM, UN-Habitat, and the European Union designed to reduce the vulnerabilities of refugees and migrants and increase the resilience of host communities in six Latin American countries and Caribbean. It provides a virtual space for a broad global community and structured around two axes: The first is an urban-territorial approach of migration whose objectives are explained and the cities show of where the approach is being implemented. The second axis is the **+1 in the City** which focuses on promoting constant two-way dialogues with people, organizations, and other stakeholders interested in effective integration of migrants and refugees in host cities. The platform offers a **Toolkit for Integration**, where users can access information on the different determinants to integrate communities.

BRAZIL



Data informs public policy and brings help to the most vulnerable in Brazil's informal settlements

In Brazil, the Social Territories project developed by Rio de Janeiro's local government supported by UN-Habitat since 2019, collects data and qualified information to identify vulnerable individuals in large slum complexes that have the lowest rates of social development in the city. A major innovation of the project is an information and monitoring system shared by municipal departments and designed on a geo-positioning platform to allow follow-up of each family in the program in an integrated way. It facilitates active search and introduction to the programme and oversight of each action to help them. The project has so far assisted around 420,000 people in over 148,000 homes. The data gathered by Social Territories has played a key role to help formulate public policies, develop solutions to address the most urgent needs of the most vulnerable families, support local government actions to enhance efficiency of its health system, adapt economic aid programmes and guide emergency responses. Since the beginning of the pandemic, 400 pregnant women were granted access to prenatal care, over 2,000 families have received health assistance, over 4,000 food baskets and 30,000 hygiene kits were distributed, and more than 3,000 families were included in Social Services public programmes.

MEXICO

Mexico Innovation Center for Excellence in Cities to promote new solutions and financing for urban development

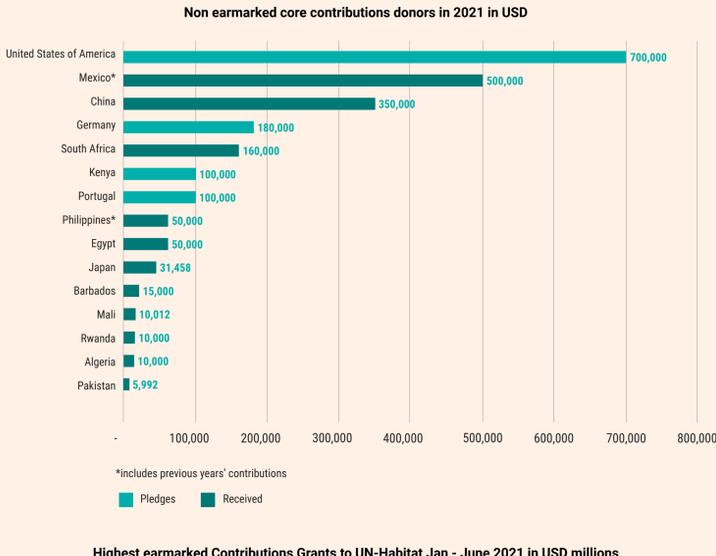
Mexico and UN-Habitat are joining hands to establish an Innovation Centre for Excellence in Cities to create and promote financing solutions for sustainable urban development. UN-Habitat will provide technical assistance to develop new ideas and solutions to respond to the most pressing urban problems such as poverty and inequality, and to make cities more efficient and productive, enhance connectivity and minimize environmental costs. The centre will also look at how to design innovative financial solutions to attract different sources of funding. This will entail designing new financing models with investment incentives and opportunities to merge resources from different sources of funding to attract new investments in cities from public, private, community and other domestic and international sources.

Martha Delgado, President of the 1st Assembly of UN-Habitat and Undersecretary of Multilateral Affairs and Human Rights of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Mexico, projected the Innovation Center as a revolution for urban solutions in the region. She stated *"I can certainly affirm that accelerating efforts in this initiative will allow us to build urban solutions based on knowledge, good practices and financing, among decision makers, in the public and private sectors. We are very committed to create solutions, especially for the most vulnerable communities, and in that sense, we will continue to work together with UN-Habitat to collaborate in these efforts."*

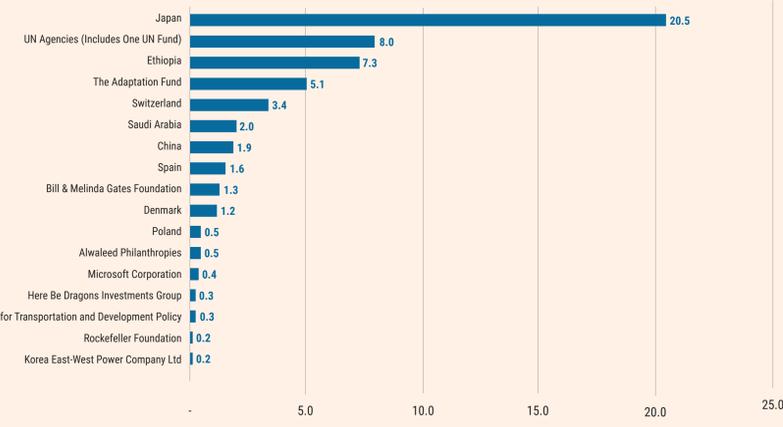
The Innovation Centre for Excellence will be the first of its kind in Latin America and the Caribbean, a highly relevant location, considering there is no other region in the world that has urbanized more rapidly, and with so many challenges and opportunities.

Financial Update

Non earmarked core contributions donors in 2021 in USD



Highest earmarked Contributions Grants to UN-Habitat Jan - June 2021 in USD millions



Resources

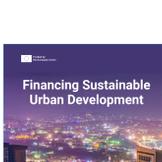
UN-Habitat articles and blogs

Opinion pieces and interviews by the UN-Habitat Executive Director were published in the media and high level platforms including on **Cities as the vanguards for action, on COVID-19 and Cities** and jointly with the President of the UN General Assembly on **youth in Kenya**. Senior UN-Habitat staff featured in **El Pais**, **New Africa Magazine** and the **OECD website**. There was extensive coverage of the Executive Director's visit to **Turkey, Iraq** and Lebanon.

Recent publications



Global State of National Urban Policy 2021



Financing Sustainable Urban Development



Building Participatory Accountability Systems for City Policies - Handbook



Global Compendium of Practices on Local Economic and Financial Recovery

More publications

- 🔗 The Abu Dhabi Declared Actions: One year of implementation
- 🔗 Her City - A Guide for Cities to Sustainable and Inclusive Urban Planning and Design together with Girls
- 🔗 Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages
- 🔗 Regional Office for Africa: Annual Report 2020
- 🔗 Analysis of Multiple Deprivations in Secondary Cities in Sub-Saharan Africa

- 🔗 Habitat Country Programme Document Lebanon 2021 - 2023
- 🔗 Guideline on Riverbank Filtration in Egypt
- 🔗 Qoloji Spatial Profile
- 🔗 Dadaab Spatial Profile
- 🔗 Kakuma and Kalobeyei Spatial Profile

Events

Upcoming

- 🕒 26-30 JUL WREC 2021: World Renewable Energy Congress Lisbon, Portugal
- 🕒 15-30 SEPT UN General Assembly Meeting (UNGA 76) Virtual
- 🕒 15 SEPT -02 SEPT Pre-COP 26 Summit Milan, Italy
- 🕒 03-08 OCT Fifteenth session of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD 15) Bridgetown, Barbados and Geneva, Switzerland, (Hybrid)
- 🕒 04 OCT World Habitat Day 2021
- 🕒 04-05 OCT 3rd Urban Economy Forum 2021 Toronto, Canada
- 🕒 04-07 OCT Spain Urban Forum Madrid, Spain (Hybrid)
- 🕒 11-15 OCT Innovate4Cities Conference Virtual
- 🕒 19-21 OCT The Second Session of the Executive Board Meeting 2021 Virtual
- 🕒 18-29 OCT 4th WOPs Congress Virtual
- 🕒 28 OCT The Asia Pacific City Summit Fukuoka
- 🕒 30-31 OCT G20 Leaders' Summit 2021 Rome, Lazio, Italy
- 🕒 31 OCT World Cities Day
- 🕒 31 OCT -12 NOV UNFCCC Conference of Parties (CoP 26) Glasgow, Scotland

Messages and social media material are on the Trello <https://trello.com/b/1TD9250l/un-habitat-covid19>

Stories and key messages are all on UN-Habitat's corporate website www.unhabitat.org.

Urban Impact replaces the quarterly donor brief <https://donors.unhabitat.org/news>

Corporate Social Media
Twitter and Facebook: @UNHABITAT
Instagram: @unhabitat

Executive Director's social media:
Twitter: @MaimunahSharif
Facebook: @UNHabitatMaimunah
Instagram: maimunahsharif

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



COVID-19 RESPONSE

