



**UN-HABITAT GLOBAL  
ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015**  
INCREASING SYNERGY FOR  
GREATER NATIONAL OWNERSHIP



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## INCREASING SYNERGY FOR GREATER NATIONAL OWNERSHIP

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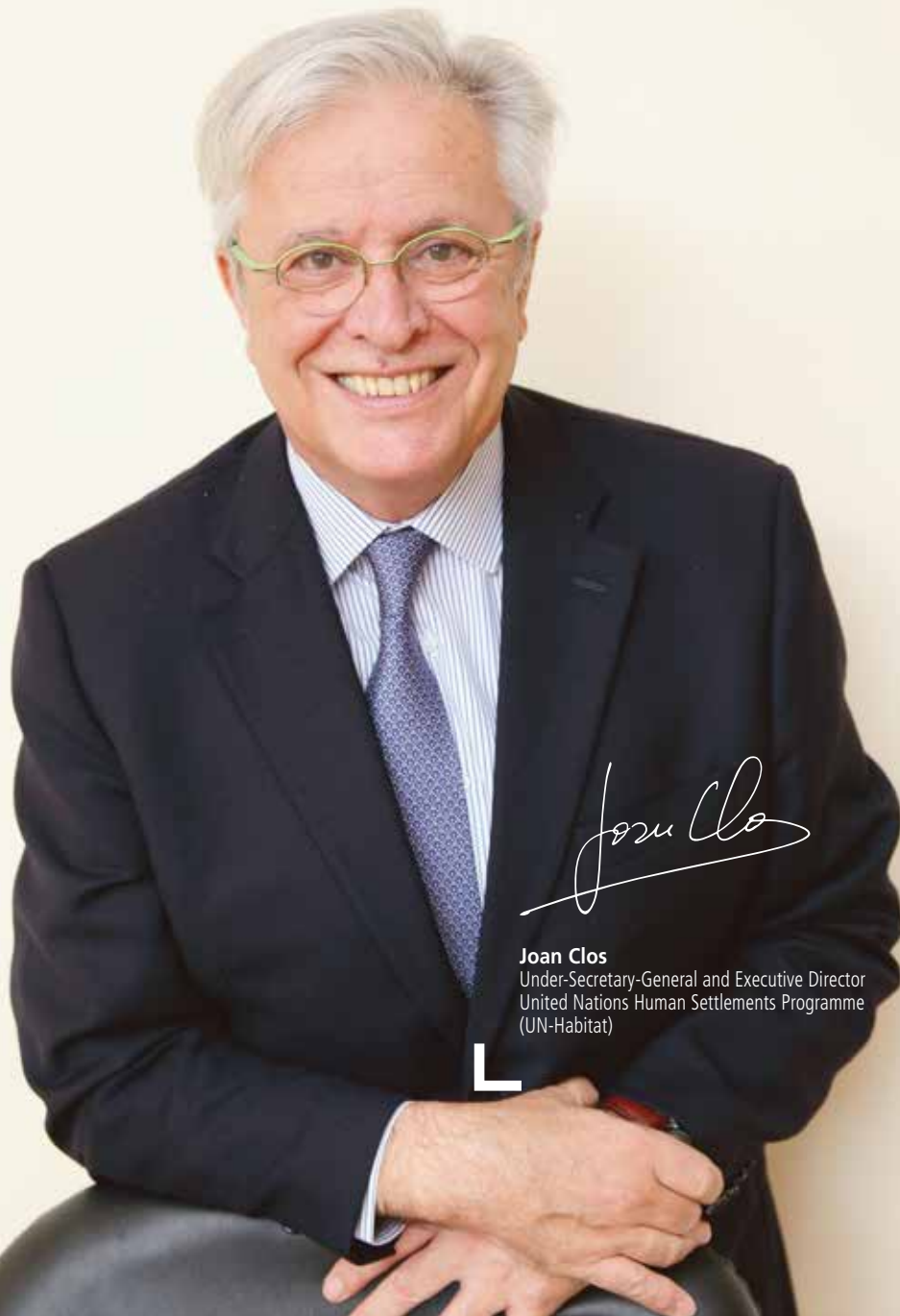
# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific	HWSHE	Human Values Based in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency
ADB	African Development Bank	IASC	Inter Agency Standing Committee	STDM	Social Tenure Domain Model
ADB	Asia Development Bank	IBRD/WB	International Bank for Reconstruction and Development/World Bank	SUDP	Sustainable Urban Development Programme
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	IDPs	Internally displaced persons	SUSTRAN	Promoting Sustainable Transport Solutions for East African Cities
AFD	French Development Agency	INU	National Planning Institute	UCLG	United Cities and local Governments
AMCHUD	African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development	IOM	International Organization for Migration*	ULN	Urban Legal Network
ASUD	Achieving Sustainable Urban Development	ISUDP	Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan	UN	United Nations
AusAID	Australian Agency for International Development	ITDP	Institute of Transport Development and Policy	UNCT	United Nations Country Team
BMBF	German Federal Ministry for Education and Research	JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme*
CPI	City Prosperity Index	KMP	Kenya Municipal Programme	UNEP	United Nations Environment Programme*
DfID	Department for International Development	MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	UNESCAP	United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific
EAC	East African Community	MTSIP	Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*
EC	European Commission	NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund*
ENEL	Foundation	NSDFU	National Slum Dwellers Federation	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund*
EU	European Union	OCHA	Office for Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs	UNMEER	United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response
EU-UDG	European Union Urban Development Group	OECS	Organization of Eastern Caribbean States	UNOHCHR	Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations	PAG	Project Advisory Group	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services*
FF	The Ford Foundation	PI	Plan International	UPPR	Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction
FMDV	Global Fund for Cities Development	PILaR	Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment	USAID	United States Agency for International Development
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	RAMA	Network of Metropolitan Areas of the Americas	WASH	Water and Sanitation
GEC	Gender Evaluation Criteria	RP	Rapid Planning	WB	World Bank
GEF	Global Environment Facility	RUSPS	Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability	WHO	World Health Organization*
GEMI	Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative	SDC	Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation	WUF	World Urban Forum
GiZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	SIDA	Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency		
GFCD	Global Fund for Cities Development				
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network				
GWOPA	Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance				
HUWSUP	Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project				

\*United Nations Organizations and the trust funds



# FOREWORD



**Joan Clos**  
Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme  
(UN-Habitat)

Over the past two years, UN-Habitat has engaged in developing global norms and supporting innovative models to assist national governments and local authorities increasing their knowledge on sustainable urbanization as well as improving national and local policies on housing and urban development. This is meant to enhance regional, national and local capacities for the effective implementation of pro-poor human settlements policies much needed for poverty elevation in line with the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

More concretely, the main focus of UN-Habitat's work at the global, regional, national and local levels has been on promoting policy reforms as well as building institutional and human capacities and supporting the implementation of local and national plans of action for sustainable urbanization. In view of the current rapid urbanization in much of the developing world, the development of efficient legislation and policies, the promotion of adequate infrastructure and basic services as well as effective



UN-Habitat's strategy to expand its earmarked projects portfolio, has been sustained, from a level of **USD 136 million** in 2012, to **USD 171 million** in 2013 – representing a **25 per cent** increase, and to **USD 172 million** by November 2014.



urban planning and design are of utmost importance for the creation of socially inclusive, resilient, economically prosperous and energy-efficient cities that maximize the benefits of agglomeration, minimize the demand for urban mobility and transport, and provide conditions necessary for urban economic growth and job creation.

As sustainable urban development remains one of the most pressing global challenges of the twenty-first century, national governments and their partners must consequently pay greater attention and make joint efforts to build greener, more harmonious, equitable, inclusive and environment-friendly cities.

The Global Activities Report 2015, takes into account the progress made in addressing UN-Habitat's projects portfolio with a view to increasing its impact and facilitating national ownership. An encouraging trend during the current reporting period is that the earmarked portfolio has continued to grow, confirming rising demand for the Agency's technical expertise. This upward trend, consistent with UN-Habitat's

strategy to expand its earmarked projects portfolio, has been sustained, from a level of USD 136 million in 2012, to USD 171 million in 2013 – representing a 25 per cent increase, and to USD 172 million by November 2014. These contributions have enabled UN-Habitat to provide strong support of more than USD 162 million in 2014 alone to 16 countries in sub-Saharan Africa, 18 countries in Asia and the Pacific, 9 countries in the Arab States region, and 19 countries in Latin America and the Caribbean, in addition to regional programmes and normative global initiatives.

At the same time, the Agency has also continued its collaboration with multilateral and bilateral institutions by progressively adopting the "ONE UN" approach and "delivering as One". In that connection, the Agency recognizes the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) and its results matrix as the collective, coherent and integrated programming and monitoring framework for the operations of the United Nations development system at the country level, bringing increased opportunities for joint

initiatives, including joint programming, and urges the United Nations development system to fully utilize such opportunities in the interest of enhancing aid efficiency and effectiveness.

This report is structured around six major chapters, following an introduction providing a global overview of urbanisation and its transformative powers. The first five chapters, covering Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean, as well as the European Union and Eastern Europe, highlight key activities implemented by the Agency over the past two years. The sixth chapter seals with activities carried out by the thematic branches in collaboration with regional offices in the five regions in which UN-Habitat has been present.

It is my hope that this document, which serves mainly the purpose of information sharing, will be easy to read in order to disseminate results and call for more collaboration with interested partners where appropriate and when possible.



**PHOTO:** View of downtown Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. © Shynar Jetpissova / World Bank



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# INTRODUCTION

## Urbanization: Global Overview

### The urban age and the transformative power of urbanization

It is remarkable that only one century ago, 20 per cent of the world's population resided in urban areas. In the least developed countries, this proportion was just 5 per cent. The world has since been rapidly urbanizing, for the first time in history in 2008, urban population outnumbered the rural population. This milestone marked the advent of a new 'urban millennium' and, by 2050, it is expected that two-thirds of the world population will be living in urban areas.

Urban areas account for **70 per cent** of the world's gross domestic product.

With more than half of humankind living in cities and the number of urban residents growing by nearly 73 million every year, it is clear that urban residents now have an "urban mind-set". It is estimated that urban areas account for 70 per cent of the world's gross domestic product and has therefore generated economic growth and prosperity for many. However, when not properly designed and managed, cities quite often pay too high a price of negative externalities, such as congestion, contamination and large inequalities.

The transformative power of urbanization is even visible in Africa and Asia-Pacific. In Africa, the urban population will be growing 1.8 times faster than the global urban population between 2015 and 2020. This means that some cities will double their population in 15 years, and others even in a shorter period. All these numbers underline a qualitative dynamic unleashed by urbanization forces.

In Asia, 2.1 billion people live in urban areas; the region is no longer a development scourge as once feared. Being 48 per cent urbanized, the region has become a global powerhouse, generating close to 30 per cent

of world output in 2010. China's remarkable economic transformation for example is driven by urbanization and industrialization; the top ten cities in China account for 20 per cent of the country's GDP.

Urban planning requires a shift from viewing urbanization mainly as a problem, rather towards seeing it as a powerful tool for development.

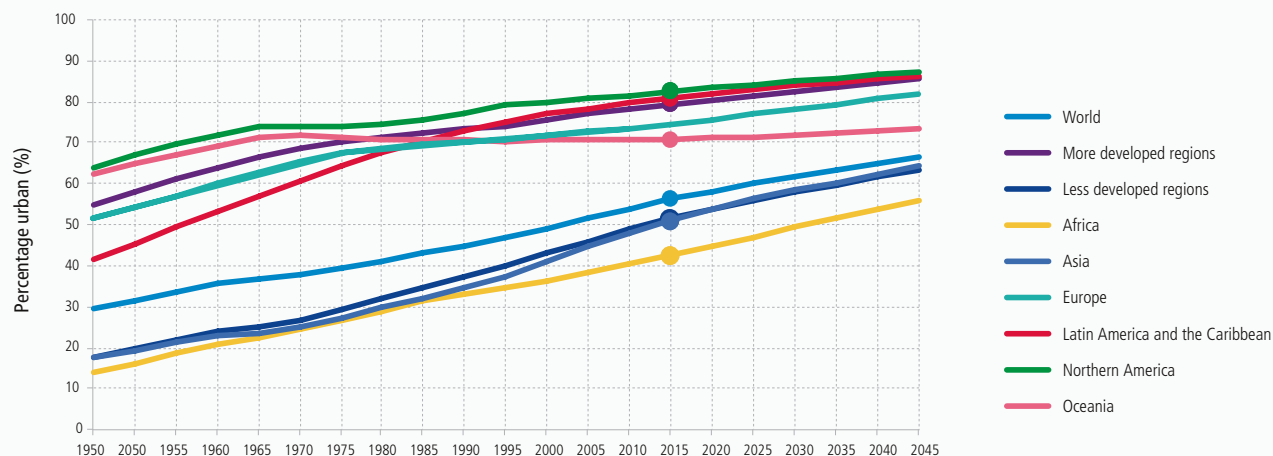
To address the problem of sustainable urbanization, a three-pronged approach is needed with respect to: (i) urban regulations, (ii) urban planning and (iii) urban financial strategy. The coordinated effect of efficient and implementable measures in each one of these three areas is crucial for moving from an unsustainable to a more sustainable urban future.

### Current and Emerging Urban Challenges

Some of the key current and new urban challenges that have emerged over the years are discussed in detail below.



**FIGURE 1: GLOBAL TRENDS IN URBANIZATION (1950-2050): PER CENTAGE URBAN**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

## Climate change and resilience of cities

Sea-level rise, tropical cyclones and storms, inland flooding and drought are inflicting heavy losses that are particularly acute among slum dwellers and the poorest populations, particularly in the coastal areas. Between 1994 and 2003 the average annual number of disasters reported stood at 307. This increased to 373 between 2003 and 2012. At the same time, the annual average number of countries affected rose from 104 to 118, while the average number of people killed rose from 53,678 to 106,597, and the reported economic damage rose from an annual average of USD 55

billion to USD 156 billion. It is crucial to recognize that cities must also be part of the solution to the problem of climate change.

## The increase of inequalities in cities

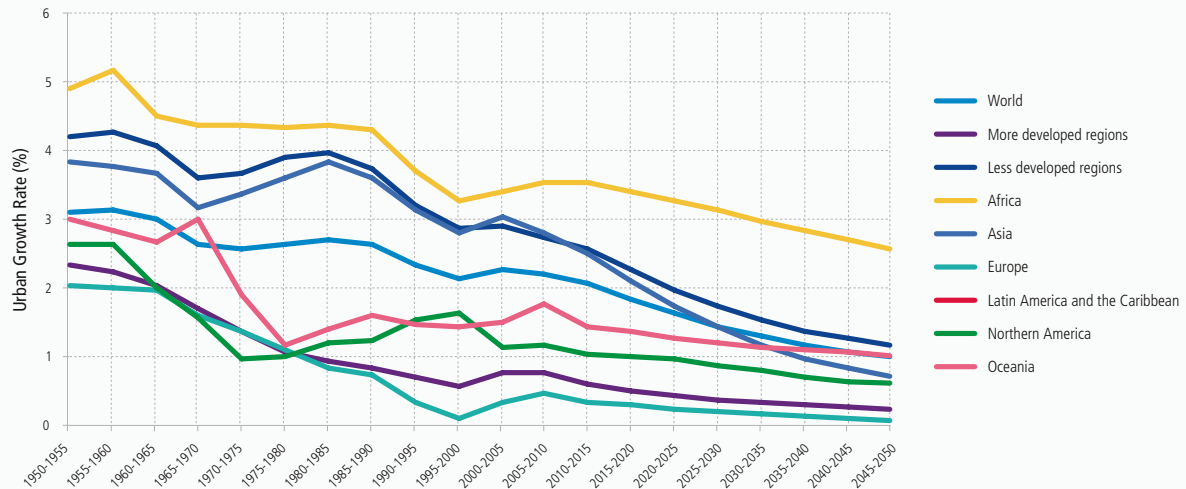
Differentials in access to opportunities, income, consumption, location, information and technology are now the norm, not the exception. Gender inequalities persist in many countries and contexts (lower rates of secondary education, access to decent employment, political representation, and the gendered nature of the HIV pandemic). Youth inequalities manifest in discrimination in access to education, differentiated

levels of employment and livelihood opportunities, lack of participation in decision making and prejudice against sexual preferences.<sup>1</sup>

Slums continue to increase in most developing countries, reinforcing other forms of inequality. For the majority of the world's population, income disparities are bigger today than what they were a generation ago. With the exception of most countries in the Latin America and

<sup>1</sup> UNICEF and UN Women (2013) 'Young People and Inequalities, Online Discussions' Global Thematic Consultation on Addressing Inequalities, New York; Also see UN-Habitat (2010) 'State of Urban Youth Report', dealing extensively with the notion of equity and proposes policies to attenuate lack of a level playing field.

**FIGURE 2: GLOBAL TRENDS IN URBANIZATION (1950-2050): URBAN GROWTH RATES**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*

the Caribbean region, income and wealth inequalities have increased since the early 1980s, including the developed regions.<sup>2</sup>

Income inequalities combined with other forms of inequalities in society reinforce the deprivation faced by many groups and individuals based on gender, age, ethnicity, location, disability and other factors.<sup>3</sup> Inequalities generate an urban geography of concentrated disadvantage.

<sup>2</sup> World Bank (2008) 'World Development Indicators 2008', Washington, DC.; OECD (2011) 'Divided We Stand: Why Inequalities Keep Rising', OECD Publishing, Paris.

<sup>3</sup> UN Open Working Group (2013) 'Post-2015 Development Agenda', New York.

### Emergence of new forms of urban poverty, risk and marginalisation in developed countries

An increasing number of urban residents in developed countries experience or are at risk of poverty or social exclusion. In the European Union, 24 per cent of the population falls in this category, one out of ten people live in severe material deprivation, and 17 per cent live on less than 60 per cent of their country's average income.<sup>4</sup> In many other cities, the persistence of inter-generational poverty and economic disadvantage is inextricably linked

<sup>4</sup> European Commission (2014) 'Poverty and social inclusion', <http://ec.europa.eu/social/main.jsp?catId=175>

to location and place.<sup>5</sup> However, in addition to these 'conventional' forms of poverty, new forms of social exclusion and marginalisation are emerging: 'infrastructure-poor', immigrant poverty, young people at risk, vulnerable elderly, among others.<sup>6</sup>

<sup>5</sup> Sharkey, P. (2013) 'Stuck in Place: Urban Neighbourhoods and the End of Progress', University of Chicago Press, Chicago.

<sup>6</sup> López M.E. (2010) 'Addressing new forms of poverty and exclusion in Europe', European Commission, World and European Sustainable Cities, Insights from EU Research.



## Unemployment: the youth and social unrest

Rising levels of unemployment remain a major global challenge. In 1996, there were 161 million unemployed people worldwide.<sup>7</sup> This increased to 202 million in 2013.<sup>8</sup> Global unemployment is particularly severe in finance, construction, automobile, manufacturing, tourism, services and real estate. In most developed countries unemployment rates varied between 4.5 and 10 per cent, although some countries had rates as high as 18 per cent in 2013. In developing countries the unemployment

rates range between 5 and 30 per cent in some countries as high as 50 per cent.<sup>9</sup> Youth unemployment is on average 2-3 times higher than adult unemployment;<sup>10</sup> however, in some countries, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, South Europe, and in parts of Central America and the Caribbean, it can be 5 to 6 times higher.

Youth unemployment causes prolonged inactivity, e.g. “worklessness”, and is also associated with demoralization and depression. Youth unemployment served as a major catalyst for the “Arab Spring” in North Africa and the Middle East, and other countries that had recent social demonstrations.

## Demographic changes in cities: aging populations and the youth bulge

Globally, the number of people aged 60 or over rose from 8 per cent in 1950, to 10 per cent in 2000; it is estimated that it will reach 21 per cent by 2050. In 2013, the number of older persons in the world was estimated at 841 million (12 per cent of the global population), and it is expected to reach more than 2 billion in 2050. Projections show that this age group will increasingly be concentrated in the developing regions.<sup>11</sup> While high population growth is still a concern in the least developed countries, in many

<sup>7</sup> ILO (2007) ‘Global employment trends brief’, January 2007, ILO, Geneva.

<sup>8</sup> ILO (2014) ‘Global Employment Trends 2014: The Risk of a Jobless Recovery’, ILO, Geneva.

<sup>9</sup> UN-Habitat (2012) ‘State of Arab Cities Report’, UN-Habitat, Nairobi.  
<sup>10</sup> ILO (2014), op cit.

<sup>11</sup> United Nations (2013) *World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision, Volume I: Comprehensive Tables*, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division, New York,



**LEFT:** aerial panorama of Nairobi, Kenya.  
© John Wollwerth/Shutterstock



**Urban planning** requires a shift from viewing urbanization mainly as a problem, rather towards seeing it as a powerful tool for development.

other parts of the world, countries are grappling with slower population growth or even population decline.<sup>12</sup> One of every two cities in Europe and the countries of the former Soviet Union experienced negative population growth in the last 20 years. This proportion was as high as 25 per cent in Japan, Australia and New Zealand and 20 per cent in North America. In developing countries, nearly 10 per cent of the cities have experienced shrinking populations.<sup>13</sup>

Many countries experience *youth bulge*— a significant increase in the proportion of persons aged 15 to 24. There are 1.19 billion people within this age bracket worldwide with 88 per cent in developing countries in 2014.<sup>14</sup> Youth bulge can represent a potential opportunity to spur social and economic development if countries harness the power of age-structure transformation. They can also increase the risk of

domestic conflict<sup>15</sup> in a context of poor governance as witnessed in the unfolding of the Arab Spring.

### Commodification of land and housing

Governments in some parts of the world have played a major role in the commodification of land through land expropriation mechanism, land-use planning powers, informal and illegal arrangements. City growth in many parts is dictated by real estate developers and housing finance corporations. The supply of subsidized public or social housing has been reduced in favour of the production of middle- and high-income developments. The housing crash in 2007/2008 was only the most recent and most severe in a line of housing bubbles.<sup>16</sup> Housing has become a speculative asset rather than a productive one.

### Amplification of different types of crises

The world has faced cascading crises of all types since 2008; soaring unemployment, food shortages and attendant price rises, strains on financial institutions, insecurity and political instability, among other crises. Participants in the recent protests and riots in various cities of the world (Cairo, Madrid, London, New York, Istanbul, Stockholm, Rio de Janeiro and São Paulo) were demanding more equality and inclusion.

**Global unemployment** is particularly severe in finance, construction, automobile, manufacturing, tourism, services and real estate.

<sup>12</sup> UNFPA, UNDESA, UN-Habitat and IMO (2013) 'Populations Dynamics in the Post-2015 Development Agenda, Report of the Global Thematic Consultation on Population Dynamics'.

<sup>13</sup> UN-Habitat (2010) *State of the World's Cities 2008/2009: Harmonious Cities, Earthscan, London.*

<sup>14</sup> United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division (2013). 'World Population Prospects: The 2012 Revision', New York

<sup>15</sup> Urdal, H. (2004) 'The Devil in the Demographics: The Effect of Youth Bulges on Domestic Armed Conflicts, 1950-2000', *Social Development Papers, Conflict Prevention and Reconstruction* 14. World Bank, Washington, DC

<sup>16</sup> Daily Kos (2011) 'De-commodifying Housing', 18 August, <http://www.dailykos.com/story/2011/08/18/1008351/De-commodifying-Housing>.

## UN-Habitat Portfolio Overview

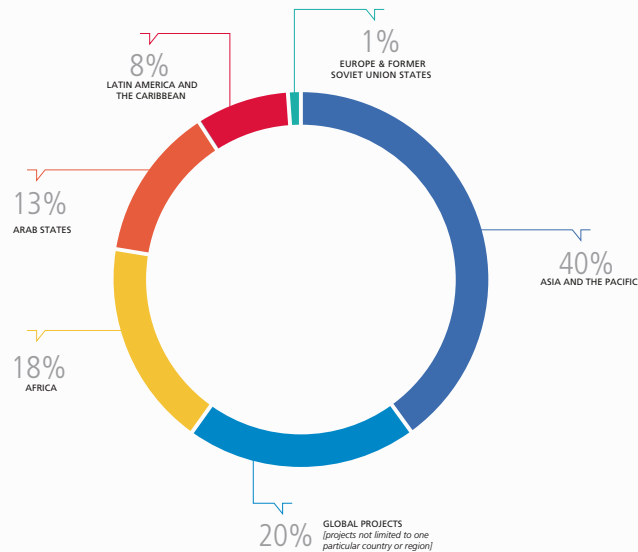
UN-Habitat has its presence and its work organized along five geographic regions and seven thematic areas. During the 2013-2014 biennium, projects in Asia and the Pacific region took the largest share UN-Habitat's project portfolio at 40 per cent whilst projects in Europe and the former Soviet Union States formed the smallest share, at one per cent. Other geographic regions such as Africa, the Arab States, and Latin America and the Caribbean constituted 18 per cent, 13 per cent, 8 per cent, respectively (see

Figure 3). Projects that are not limited to any particular region comprised 20 per cent of the organization's project portfolio.

The overall spending on all projects in 2013-2014 was USD 336 million, representing a 24 per cent decrease in expenditure when compared to the previous biennium. The most notable decline in spending was on projects in two regions; Asia and the Pacific region project where spending dropped by 44 per cent [USD 105 million] whilst Latin America and the Caribbean it fell by 22 per cent [USD 8 million] (see Figure 4).

An analysis of the 2013-2014 period's annual expenditures show an increase in the budgets for four thematic areas and a decline in budgets for three areas in 2014 from the previous year.

**FIGURE 3: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UN-HABITAT PROJECTS IN 2013-2014**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*

## Global Projects

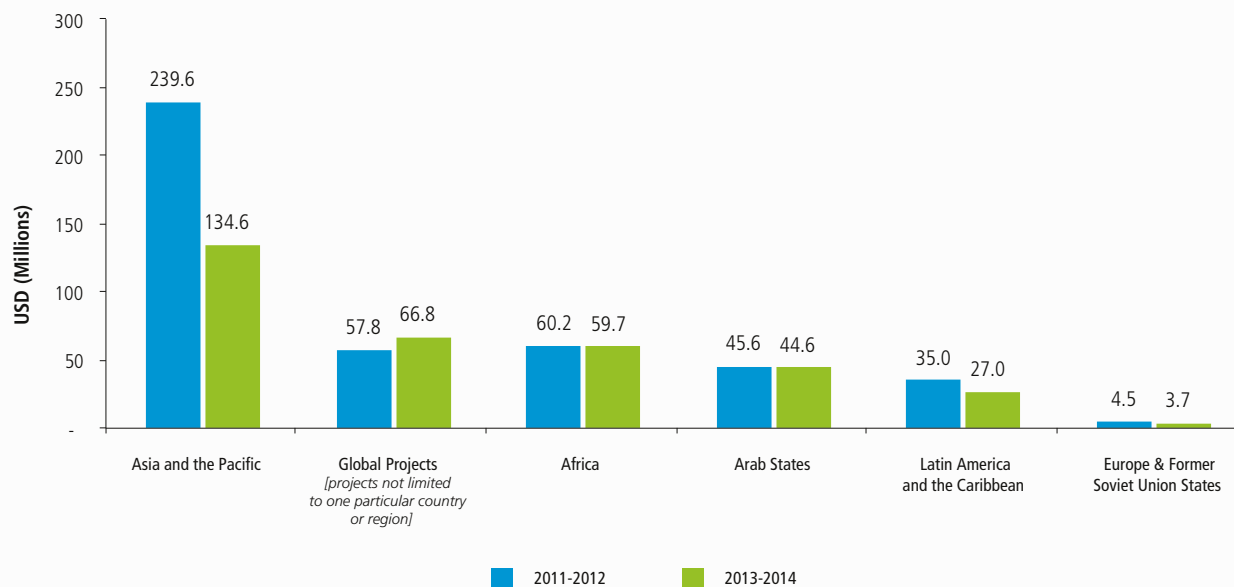
In the geographic distribution of UN-Habitat's portfolio, there are projects that are not limited to one particular country or region. These have been classified as global projects and should not be confused with UN-Habitat's overall portfolio of projects. A vast majority of these global projects is administratively managed at the

branch level. During the 2013-2014 biennium, these projects accounted for a fifth of UN-Habitat's overall spending. As shown in the thematic distribution of *global projects* in Figure 5, a quarter the expenditure was on projects relating to *urban land and legislation and governance* while projects relating to *risk reduction and rehabilitation* comprised only two per cent.

## Youth unemployment

is on average 2-3 times higher than adult unemployment; however, in some countries, particularly in the Middle East, North Africa, South Europe, and in parts of Central America and the Caribbean, it can be **5 to 6 times higher.**

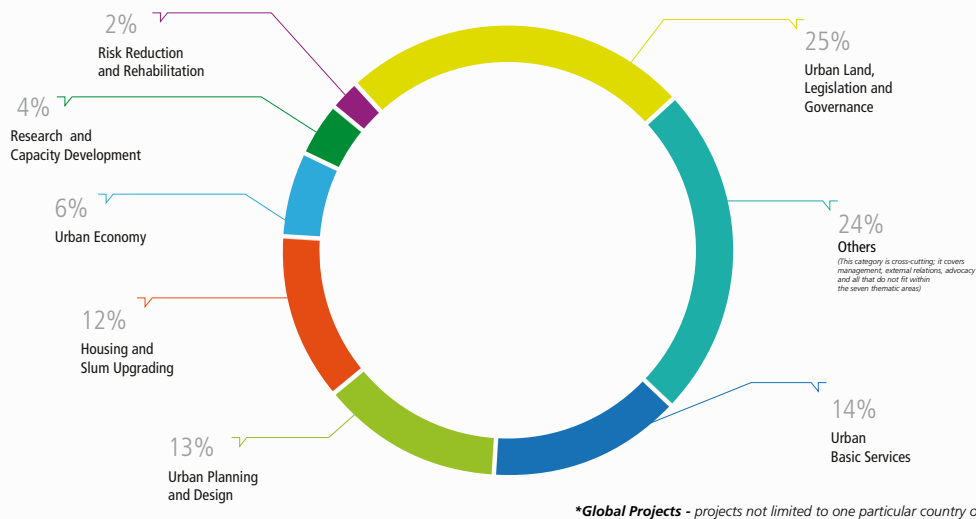
**FIGURE 4: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UN-HABITAT PROJECTS, 2011-2012 AND 2013-2014**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*



**FIGURE 5: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF GLOBAL PROJECTS\*, 2013-2014**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2013-2014**

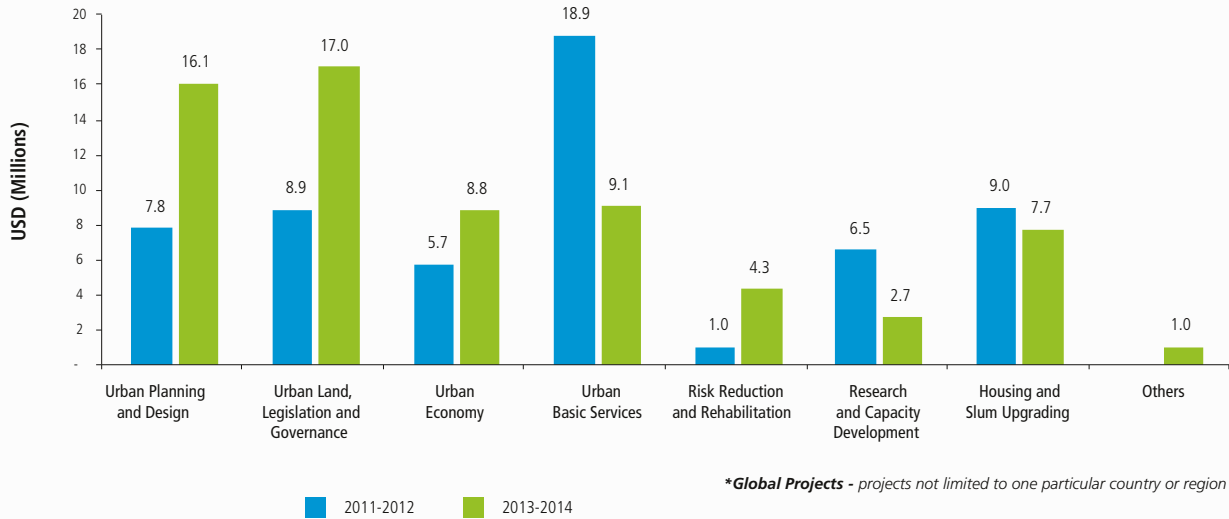
As compared to the previous period, the organization's spending on global projects during the 2013-2014 biennium increased in four thematic areas whilst reductions were seen in three areas. As illustrated in (Figure 6), the increases were in the following areas: urban planning and design (USD 8 million); urban land, legislation and governance (USD 8 million); urban economy (USD 3 million); risk reduction and rehabilitation

(USD 3 million). Expenditure reductions were in projects relating to: urban basic services (USD 9 million); research and capacity development (USD 3 million); and housing and slum upgrading (USD 1 million).

An analysis of the 2013-2014 period's annual expenditures show an increase in the budgets for four thematic areas and a decline in budgets for three areas in 2014

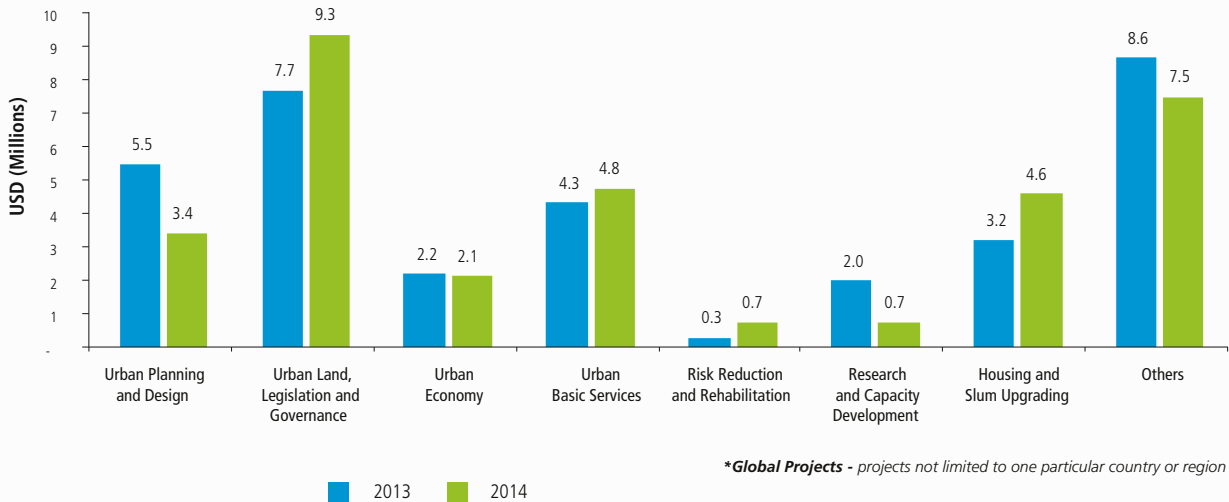
from the previous year (see Figure 7). In 2014, spending in the housing and slum upgrading and urban land, legislation and governance, increased by 44 per cent (or USD 1.3 million) and 22 per cent (or 1.6 million), respectively. A notable decline was in research and capacity development where the spending fell by 62 per cent (or USD 1.2 million) in 2014.

**FIGURE 6: BREAKDOWN OF GLOBAL PROJECTS\* BY THEME, 2011-2012 AND 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

**FIGURE 7: BREAKDOWN OF GLOBAL PROJECTS\* BY THEME IN THE 2013 - 2014 BIENNIUM**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014



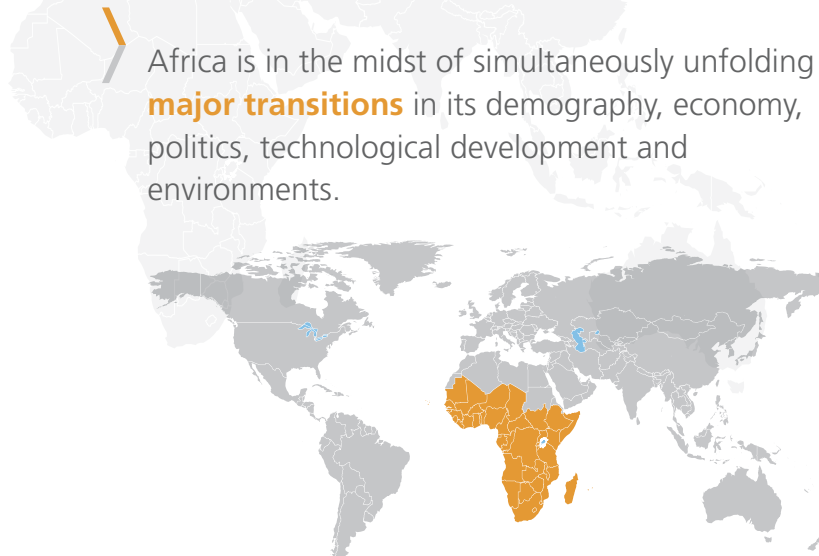
**PHOTO:** Luanda is both Angola's chief seaport and its administrative center.

© Anton\_Ivanov / Shutterstock

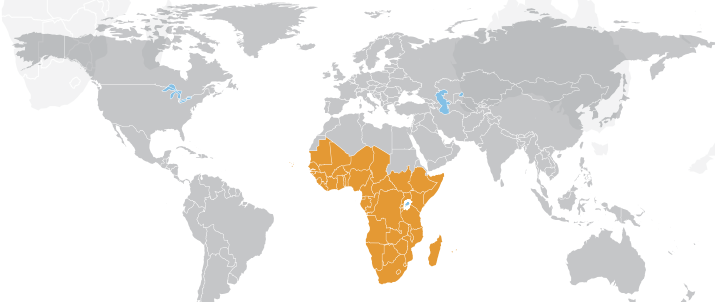




# AFRICA



Africa is in the midst of simultaneously unfolding **major transitions** in its demography, economy, politics, technological development and environments.



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

## Introduction

African urbanization is entering a critical phase at which the growth momentum presents an opportunity for accelerating national development towards sustainable urban future. African cities are exhibiting increasing productivity, innovation, and infrastructural investment.

UN-Habitat through the Regional office has continued to provide urban planning to guide this urban growth that is almost doubling in the next two decades. There is also need to improve liveability and increase productivity of the city through expanding access to basic services.

Integration of the sustainable urbanization agenda as a priority area in the final outcome document of the United Nations Conference on Sustainable Development (Rio+20) Conference, “*The future we want*”, was a major achievement and a manifestation of the effectiveness of UN-Habitat’s awareness raising platforms and strategies. This document commits Governments to a broad framework for sustainable development over the next decades and articulates substantive areas of importance to the UN-Habitat’s future work, including: (i) the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements, and (ii) promotion of an integrated approach to planning

and building sustainable cities and urban settlements. Equally, the Africa Ministerial Conferences on Housing and Urban Development were used to build consensus on how to effectively respond to the challenges of rapid urbanization. Through their standing platform of the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), African Ministers have exchanged experiences, jointly explored possibilities for action and, in the last seven years, and also adopted strategies for guiding and steering the Continent’s urban development agenda.

In 2014, AMCHUD was institutionalized under the African Union Standing Technical Committee responsible for Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization. The institutionalization will promote sustainable urbanization at the highest political level in Africa. UN-Habitat has held high level meetings with the UN Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes Region (O/SESG-GL). Subsequent meetings have led to expectations of UN-Habitat partnering with the office of the Envoy in the implementation of the programme based on UN-Habitat's previous experience in the region in regard to

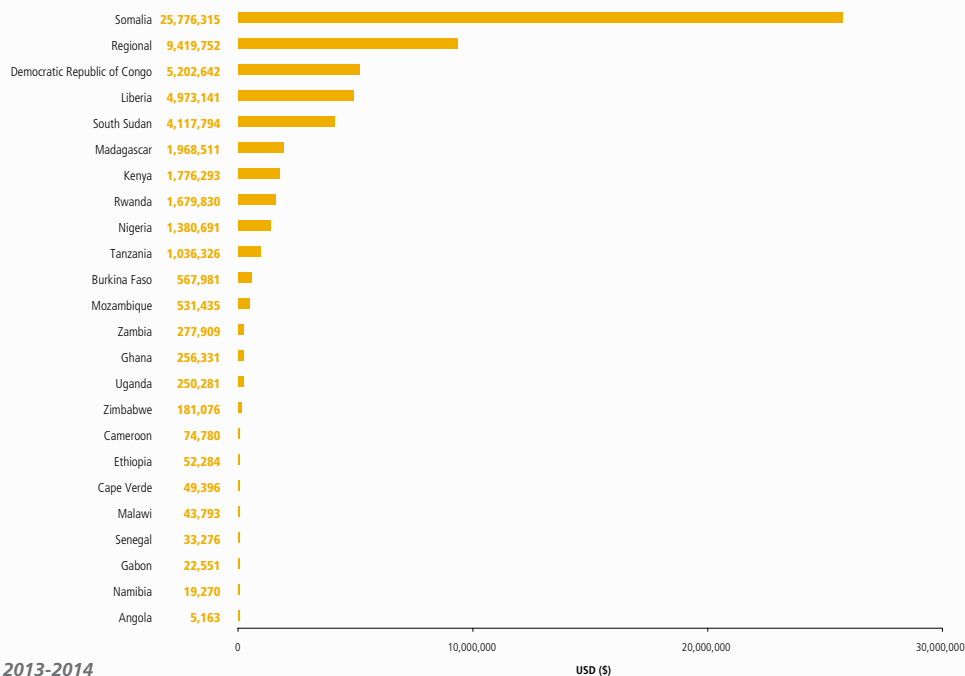
Land Management in post conflict countries, energy sector and urban youth livelihoods.

In order to benefit adequately from urbanisation, Regional level interventions by national and local governments have to guide the urbanization process and support the related economic growth. Across the region, UN-Habitat has worked with countries in Africa to prepare National Urban Policies in order to reassert the role of cities and towns in national development.

UN-Habitat has provided support to strengthen countries' planning

capacities to ensure that basic services and environmental infrastructure become accessible and affordable to all. UN-Habitat has made good progress towards achievement of sustainable urban development in the Africa region utilizing the seven sub-programmes in the UN-Habitat strategic plan 2014-2018 as an entry point. The African Ministers Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD), Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD), Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) and Habitat III projects have provided impetus to the region's effort to achieve sustainable urbanisation for poverty eradication.

**FIGURE 8: DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN AFRICA, 2013 - 2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

During the period under review, countries have set up National Habitat committees. The National Habitat Committees in the region have been collaborating with UN-Habitat to oversee and guide country level preparations for Habitat III.

In terms of project expenditure, as shown in (Figure 8) in the largest share of spending was in Somalia [43 per cent] and in projects that cut across African countries [16 per cent]. Conspicuously, three thematic areas constitute more than two-thirds of the project spending in Africa: urban basic services [29 per cent], urban land, legislation and governance [23 per cent] and risk reduction and rehabilitation [18 per cent] (see Figure 9). A breakdown of the spending in each of the year of the biennium (from 2013

In Puntland and Somaliland, through three projects funded by the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat provides security of land tenure and **1,310 permanent houses**, basic social infrastructure and skills training for long-term and most vulnerable IDPs.

and 2014) indicates that expenditure on two of these dominant thematic areas (i.e. urban basic services and urban land, legislation and governance) doubled in 2014 (see Figure 10). Nearly two-thirds of the financing for projects in Africa came

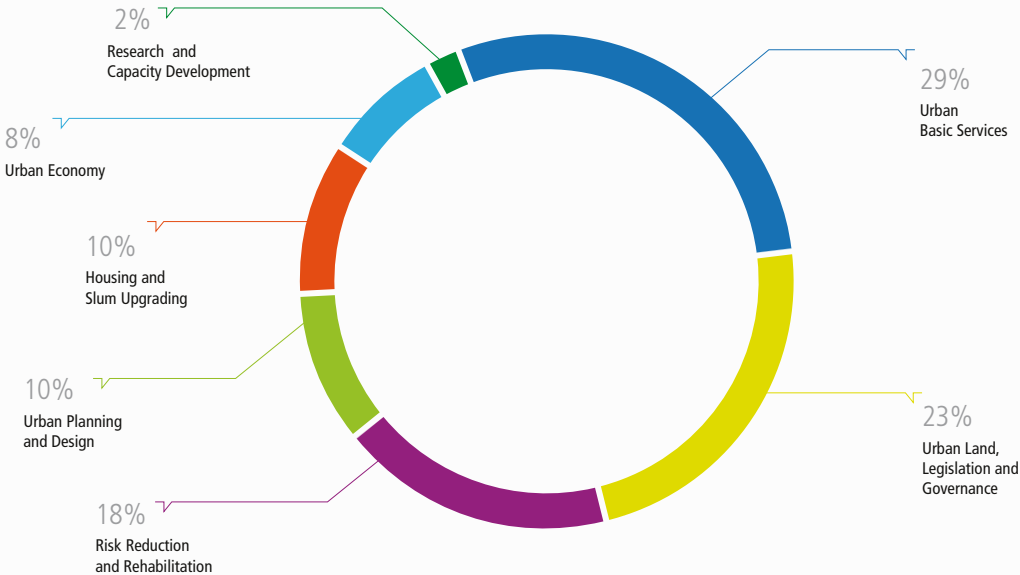
from three sources: the United Nations, the European Union and the government of Japan (see Figure 11).

## Projects activities and outcomes in Africa

### Burundi

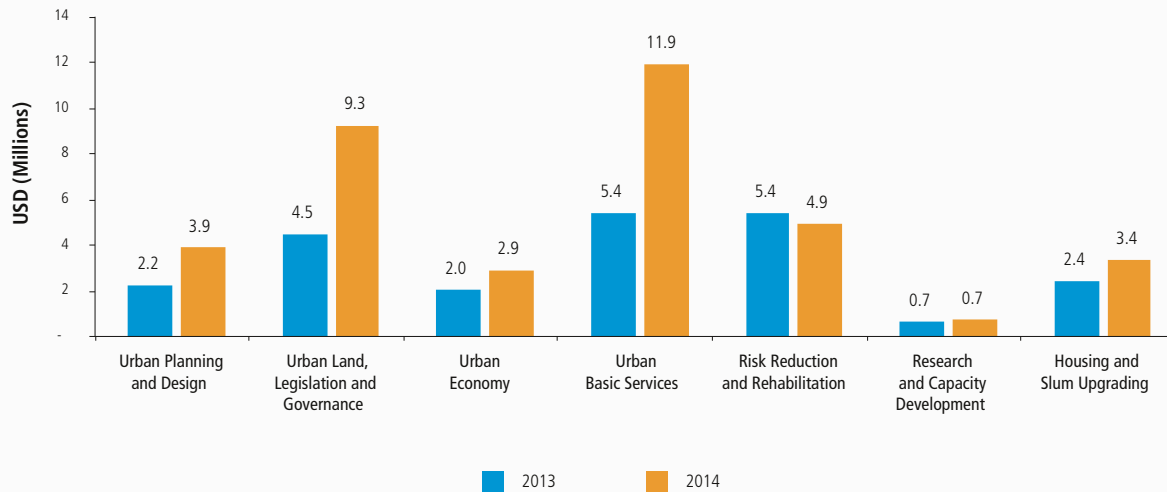
A Partnership between UN-Habitat and the Office of the Special Envoy of the Secretary General for the Great Lakes region to support the International Conference on the Great Lakes region (ICGLR) secretariat to organize a high level consultation on land and property issues in displacement context for durable solutions and support the Peace Security and Cooperation Framework (PSC-F).

**FIGURE 9: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIO IN AFRICA, 2013 - 2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

**FIGURE 10: THEMATIC BREAKDOWN OF PORTFOLIO IN AFRICA, 2013 - 2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

### Democratic Republic of the Congo

A Programme Support to Land Governance for Peace, Stability and Reconstruction in DR Congo Post Conflict is being implemented and funded by the Department for International Development (DfID). The aim of the programme is to address Land disputes which are fuelling security concerns.

UN-Habitat also continued to support the Land Governance Assessment Framework exercise in cooperation with the World Bank and the National Ministry of Land Affairs. The mediation initiatives and alternative land dispute resolution methodology were institutionalized into

local land governance and administration processes. Gathered evidence will be used to strengthen gender responsiveness in the implementation of land reforms. Also UN-Habitat with the technical support of GLTN and ROAF supported a joint initiative at the provincial level (UN-Habitat, UNDP, and FAO) on land tenure security integrated approach linking land dispute resolution, community participatory mapping, food security and economic recovery. After the pilot phase, this integrated approach will be replicated in other provinces in DRC. GLTN tools, such as Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) and participatory enumeration are expected to be incorporated into the approach.

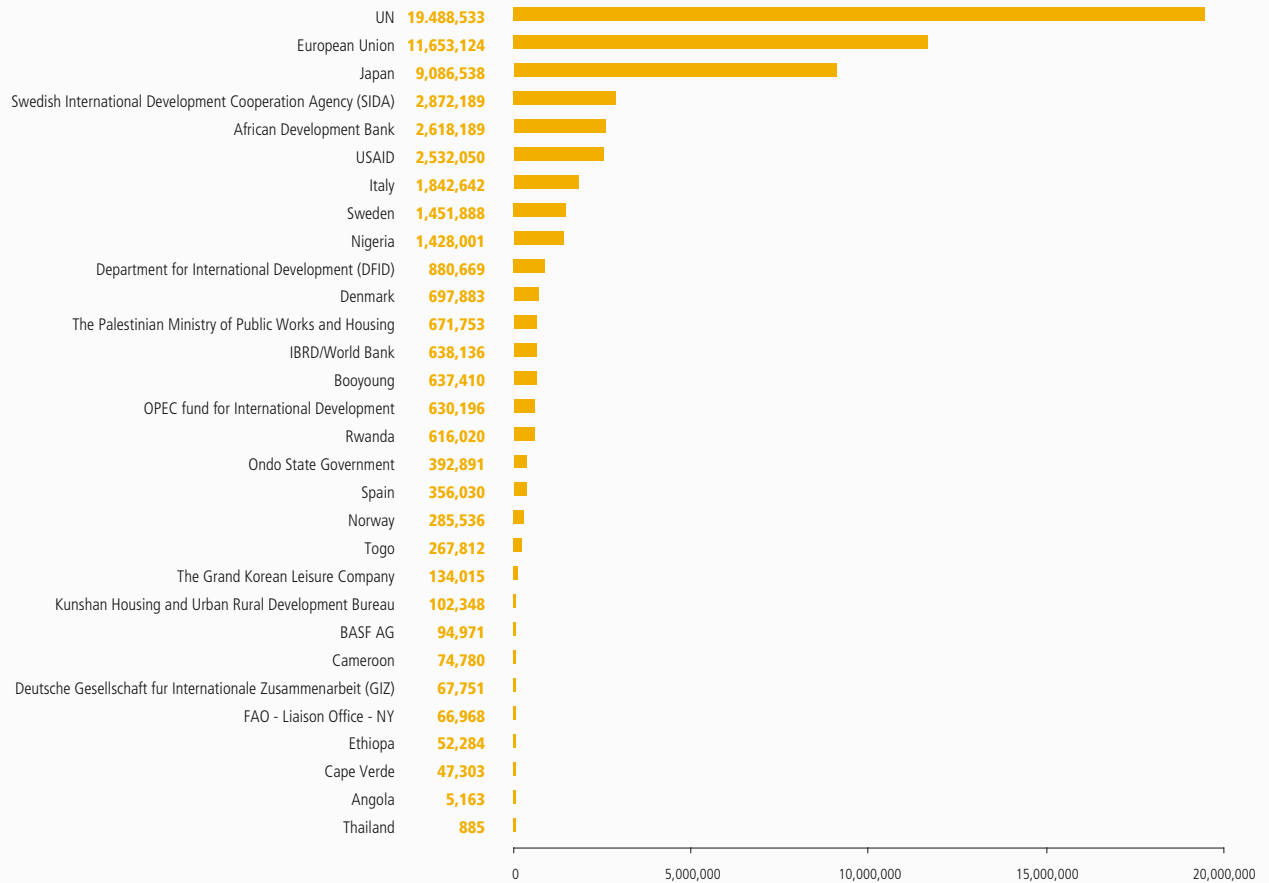
### Ethiopia

Since 2011, UN-Habitat is implementing the Sustainable Transport (SUSTRAN) project in Addis Ababa, funded through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which concerns the design of the Bus Rapid Transit (BRT) system for the city, the assessment of the transport demand and the promotion of non-motorized mobility solutions. In connection to the SUSTRAN, a public space project in Addis Ababa with Swedish funding is being developed.

In accordance to the needs expressed by the Ethiopian government in 2013, training was organized for mayors of cities from Oromia Region using existing UN-Habitat training materials, learning



**FIGURE 11: CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN AFRICA, 2013 - 2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*



modules and methodologies with the aim of enhancing the capacity of mayors and city managers of Ethiopian cities.

## Ghana

The joint UN programme is designed to influence policy on disaster resilience, Water Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) systems in the country. UN-Habitat in close collaboration with WHO, UNICEF, UNDP and National partners developed a water and sanitation programme targeting 265 disaster prone communities in 21 Districts of Northern Ghana and secured funding from DFATD (Canada) in June 2014. A joint Programme Operational Manual has been developed to better coordinate actions on the ground, enhance mutual understanding of the programme implementation issues, and to facilitate implementation of resilient WASH solutions in the disaster prone communities.

Regional and District stakeholders have also been mobilised and made aware of the potential solutions to mitigate the effects of recurrent floods on the livelihood of the communities. A national steering committee has been set up that brings together all the WATSAN actors at national, regional and district levels to facilitate joint decisions on the project.

A slum upgrading and prevention strategy has been finalized and awaiting validation. Principles of the participatory slum upgrading programme were incorporated in the strategy.

## Kenya

Since 2013, the implementation of the Support of the Sustainable Urban Development Sector in Kenya is ongoing, and it has achieved the following; a) Improved coordination within the urban sector in Kenya; b) Improved

capacity of key actors for participatory urban planning and management; c) Mainstreamed poverty reduction and human rights based approaches; d) Strengthened Kenya urban network; e) Sustainable waste management system developed; f) Improved revenue mobilization.

Kiambu County for example, has mapped its properties and facilities. The baseline data compiled with UN-Habitat technical support were linked to information on land values, which are rapidly rising as a result of Kiambu's proximity to the city of Nairobi. Initial analyses show that the county has an undeveloped portfolio of valuable assets, presenting various scenarios for mobilizing additional revenue from existing sources.

## ETHIOPIA

UN-Habitat is implementing the **Sustainable Transport (SUSTRAN) project** in Addis Ababa, funded through the Global Environmental Facility (GEF), which concerns the design of the **bus rapid transit (BRT) system** for the city, the assessment of the transport demand and the promotion of non-motorized mobility solutions.



**LEFT:** Aerial view on the suburbs of Hwange in Zimbabwe. © UN-Habitat



**TOP:** Aerial view of the city of Dakar, Senegal, showing the densely packed buildings and a highway. © Shutterstock

### Liberia

One of the main programmes implemented was on strengthening capacity of the Land Commission and related institutions to address priority land issues in Liberia. The Land Commission, through the “Support to the establishment of a land disputes prevention and resolution system in Liberia” programme, improved capacities and awareness on land law, land rights and land alternative dispute resolution mechanisms among urban and rural landholders, including women.

Of the target population, 27 per cent are women who are aware of their land rights and prefer to use alternative dispute resolution methods to resolve land disputes. During the year under review, out of 256 cases reported, 34 were resolved, compared to 148 cases, with 17 resolved, in 2013.

### Mozambique

UN-Habitat’s engagement in Mozambique has led to increased capacity of partnership between local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda partners.

The results achieved in Nacala and Nampula will be used to feed the national urban policy or programme for Mozambique.

The activities are firmly anchored in the Government of Nampula, the city and district of Nampula and the Mozambique’s Office for Economic Areas with Accelerated Development (GAZEDA), the authority managing the special economic zone of Nacala, and institutionalization ensured through agreements.

Through collaboration between the regional office and the branch of the urban economy, Local Economic Development (LED) projects has been proposed by UN-Habitat and is now fully owned by the provincial Government of Nampula, which is now developing a strategy to support all municipalities. Nampula and Nacala cities have integrated employment

generation strategies, in cooperation with International Labour Organization (ILO) and the One-UN youth employment programme.

Urban mobility practices have been disseminated as a result of the Nacala/Nampula experience, Maputo and Habitat III. The street-led slum upgrading experience of Muhala has been documented and will soon be replicated in at least one additional City. In Beira, the multifunctional biogas centre in Munhava is almost completed and is meant to be replicated in other slum areas.

## MOZAMBIQUE

More than  
**30 schools**  
were **rehabilitated** and **built**  
with improved practices,  
community radios, community  
centre, health posts  
and houses.

Mozambique has piloted social housing financing scheme based on UN-Habitat advice and tests for low income population in partnership with the Fundo de Fomento de Habitacao. Mozambique is one of the countries benefiting from the establishment of the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change Adaptation for Southern Africa (DIMSUR). At least 2 faculties



LEFT: Praia City, Santiago Island, Cabo Verde.  
© Francisco Livramento

have included Urban Risk Reduction and Resilience modules in different undergraduate and master's programmes (e.g. architecture, engineering, environmental studies) through the DIMSUR programme. In addition, the shelter cluster is now effectively coordinated to include sustainable reconstruction and rehabilitation practices and resources.

The programme operated in Mozambique, Malawi and Madagascar and focused on two main issues: transforming pilot practices on Disaster Resilient Basic Services and Architecture into policies and practices as well as to pioneer Urban Resilience assistance in cities of the three countries. Among others, the following important results were achieved:

Technical assistance was provided to 40 entities in the sub-region, now able to reproduce methodologies initiated by UN-Habitat in 2002 and now common practice in the 3 countries. More than 30 schools were rehabilitated and built with improved practices, community radios, community centre, health posts and houses. Support was given to flood affected populations in Chokwe, with 70,000 beneficiaries as catchment population.

All practices developed were captured and approved by the national Governments in Mozambique, Malawi, and Madagascar. An innovative methodology for urban resilience training was produced and 11 Cities were trained and benefited from risk mapping and physical planning.

## Nigeria

Following the launch of the global Good Urban Campaign in Abuja in April, 2001, UN Habitat Programme Support Office (HAPSO) has been providing technical, managerial and logistics support in the implementation of programmes and projects of the campaign development and management, as well as advocacy at the three tiers of government in the country, enabling citizens to have a greater role in the articulation of priority issues affecting them and contributing to the design and management of their cities through Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability (RUSPS). Hence, with the success of the intervention, from residents of only three cities of Anambra State who participated

for the first time in formulating Structure Plans, many more residents in a growing number of cities have subsequently been able to participate in the planning of four cities in Nasarawa State (2010) and nine cities in the State of Osun (2014), with Ondo, Kogi and Zamfara State now negotiating Technical Assistance to facilitate the implementation of the preparatory planning process in their cities. To address the slum challenge in Nigerian cities, an estimated 70 per cent of Nigeria's urban population have been offered a platform to articulate their priority issues through the convening of the first ever National Housing and Slum Summit, which drew representatives from all key stakeholder groups from cities across the country.

### Rwanda

Since 2013, Implementation of the "Achieving Sustainable Urban Development" (ASUD) which is being promoted by the UN-Habitat has supported Rwanda's ambition to become a middle-income country by 2020. Through the ASUD programme, UN-Habitat is strongly supporting the Government's efforts by providing technical support to the formulation of a National Urbanisation Policy, the definition of a Spatial Development Framework, and the improvement of local urban plans at the level of the six secondary cities which were strategically selected. Other UN-Habitat initiatives include the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), the Rapid Planning (RP) Project supported by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research, the Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment (PILaR) initiative.



**TOP:** From Housing Project in Bosaso.  
© UN-Habitat

### Somalia

In Somaliland, Hargeisa city, UN-Habitat is implementing presently the most important infrastructure project in this region: EU and Somaliland Development Fund (SDF) funded Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP). Hargeisa has grown from less than 180,000 in the 1970s, when the existing water supply system was built, to as much as 1,000,000 today, increasing the demand for water more than 5-fold within approximately 40 years. Hargeisa's population will continue to grow, and could reach 1.35 million by 2020. This large-scale engineering and construction project represents the first part of the complete expansion and rehabilitation of Hargeisa's water infrastructure and supply.

In Puntland, Bosaso city, UN-Habitat aims to decongest the port area in Bossaso/Puntland through road construction, improving port efficiency and creating related livelihoods and increased space for economic activities around the port.

In Puntland and Somaliland, through three projects funded by the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat provides security of land tenure and 1,310 permanent houses, basic social infrastructure and skills training for long-term and most vulnerable IDPs.

## South Sudan

UN-Habitat is active in South Sudan for 7 years with 2 ongoing projects valued at approximately USD 4 million. UN-Habitat is working in close cooperation with the Ministry of Land, Housing and Physical Planning. An MoU as signed between UN-Habitat and the Ministry in March 2012, outlines the parties' intentions to develop, share and transfer capacity development tools, methods and best practices; to train professionals in the fields of sustainable human settlements development and urban management; to support the formulation of National Urban Policy for South Sudan; and to promote exchange of experiences and institutional capacity building.

Through a Japan funded Project (2013 – 2014), which provided support for integration of returnees after independence of this new country, 600 basic housing units are available in the settlements in Durupi, Nesitu (Juba, Central Equatorial State), Naivasha, Alel Chok (Wau, Western Bahr El Ghazal State) and Rumtit (Northern Bahr El Ghazal State). Basic roads were improved in the Durupi settlement and access to clean water supply improved in all five settlements as a result of the successful completion of the 'Housing and Livelihood Support for Returnees' project completed in 2014.

The Government of Japan has allocated USD 2.4 million in 2015 for the 12-months project **"Flood Protection, Water and Sanitation and Livelihoods for Returnees and IDPs in South Sudan"**, through which UN-Habitat is supporting a population of 17,160 internally displaced and returnee families in Katigiri boma, Juba County (Central

Equatorial State) and Alel Chok boma, Jur River County (Western Bahr El Ghazal State). Some of the expected outcomes include: improved living conditions, reduced health risks and increased access to basic water supply. UN-Habitat has been engaged in South Sudan since 2006.

## Tanzania

Support to productive employment and decent work for youth, particularly in renewable energy. Support to water and sanitation in secondary cities around Lake Victoria.

## Uganda

Support to the implementation of the Land Policy 2014 and implementation of the National Urban Policy and strategy.

Review and support for the implementation of the Slum Upgrading Strategy and action plan through profiling, project development and upgrading. Focus on reducing youth unemployment by facilitating better access to quality education and vocational training. Support for water and sanitation in 6 Secondary Towns of Buwama, Kayabwe, Bukakata, Lambu, Ntungamo and Mayuge as well as infrastructure development.

## Zambia

The UN-Habitat Activities in Zambia include support to the Ministry of Local Government in the on-going implementation of the National Urbanisation Policy Road Map. In collaboration with UNDP, it supported the Lusaka City Council in developing the Disaster Risk Reduction Strategy and conduct demonstration activities in selected settlements. Also supported

was the review and improvement of the slum upgrading documents for Zambia to move into the implementation phase (phase 3) of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

The role of the analytical regional State of the Cities reports and using their findings in determining emergent issues.

## The State of the African Cities Report, 2014

*The State of the African Cities 2014: Re-imagining sustainable urbanisation* was the third report on Africa cities following similar publications in 2008 and 2010. This 2014 report takes insights developed in the 2008 and 2010 reports further.

## Emergent issues

The report has determined the following urgent issues in the sub region, which are now guiding the design of country activities by UN-Habitat:

Africa is in the midst of simultaneously unfolding major transitions in its demography, economy, politics, technological development and environments. Demographic trends the Africa region are proceeding on a steep upward trend that is challenging the provision of socially just, sustainable and well-serviced living and working conditions for its rapidly expanding urban populations. This trend is now exacerbated by increasing risks and vulnerability is associated with proceeding climate and environmental change for not just the largest population concentrations but for all African settlements.



**TOP:** View of Kigali, Rwanda.  
© Arianna Francioni/UN-Habitat

The ubiquitous urban poverty and urban slum proliferation so characteristic of large African cities is likely to become even more widespread and become replicated in the secondary cities. The new towns and satellite cities now being established to relieve population pressures on Africa's largest urban concentrations will also add further to urban slum proliferation because these new towns almost exclusively cater for the residential needs of higher-income groups. It is a near certainty that these new towns will soon be surrounded by the informal accommodations of the low-income labour needed to service these cities.

Over the past decades, Africa has experienced a shift in the incidence and nature of insecurity, conflict and violence. Inter-state conflict has significantly declined, but urban insecurity and violence have notably increased. The latter may have deeply negative impacts on the international investment flows required for the sustained economic growth that could produce the much needed urban-based employment generation for Africa's young population cohorts.

The 2014 State of African Cities report concludes that prevailing development concepts applied to Africa's rapidly expanding urban areas seem incapable of attaining the post-independence visions of human development and prosperity for all, which seems to indicate that Africa's approaches to urbanism and major rethinking. Applying in Africa the urban development practices developed for the very different circumstances in the advanced economies during the 1960s to 80s, is proving increasingly impractical.



**TOP:** Maputo, Mozambique.  
© Svetlana Arapova / Shutterstock

That is moreover the case since rapidly changing global conditions, especially those associated with environmental and climate change, looming resources scarcity and the dire need to move towards greener and more sustainable development options, now weigh heavy on all nations, including those in Africa. Since Africa's population is still well below the 50 per cent urban threshold, there is a window of opportunity for major reconceptualization of new approaches to African urbanism.

Urbanisation, industrialisation, sustained economic growth and broad-based human development feed on each other and, under the correct guidance, can become mutually reinforcing. For the latter to happen, Africa will need to profoundly re-imagining what exactly constitutes the road to sustainable urban transitions.

### Impact of the report

The report was well received and launched at the high-level segment of the 2014 African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD). Thousands of electronic copies of the report have meanwhile been downloaded and UN-Habitat has embarked on identifying the modalities that can help African nations raise the funds for renewed approaches to urban development.


 **PHOTO:** Dar es Salaam, Tanzania.  
© Shutterstock







PHOTO: Amman, Jordan  
© Shutterstock





# ARAB STATES

The urban population in Arab countries grew by more than **four times** from **1970 to 2010** and will more than double again from **2010 to 2050**.

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

## Background Urbanization Trends and Impact on the Arab Region

### Urban demographics

High urbanization rates in the Arab region have been driven by various factors. Despite natural population growth, socio-economic transformation and imbalanced economic development have stimulated not only rural-urban population movements, but also increased international labour migration nationally and across the Arab region.

Social inequality in many Arab countries is most apparent in urban areas, both within and between cities. The traditional gender bias has been normative in both urban and rural settings, and is the most critical challenge to gender equality. Arab countries face an enormous youth bulge challenge, with 60 per cent of the population below the age of 25. Employment opportunities for youth are limited, besides exclusion from decision-making processes.

### Land and Urban Planning

In order to dwell on the economic advantage of cities, most governments in the Arab region have embarked

on the development of national strategies and ambitious projects by paying greater attention to secondary agglomerations and improving conditions in urban areas. A key challenge has been the disconnection of national socio-economic, sectorial and financial planning cycles and targets with spatial planning efforts addressing urban management and basic urban service requirements. Cities often lack management and technical capacities and human resources needed to adequately guide their development and plan for urban expansion.



**TOP** : Ezbet El Haggana, Egypt.  
© UN-Habitat

The lack of enforcement of building codes and disaster resilient construction methods contributes to disaster risk, and insufficient institutional capacity hinders emergency preparedness and response.

Particularly Arab countries with high levels of agricultural production representing the economic base have been very concerned about unplanned urban expansions on valuable agricultural land. Only recently some Arab countries have recognized inclusive and integrated approaches to urban development planning as drivers for economic development and enhanced productivity of cities. Many countries in the Arab region have commenced the preparation of Strategic Urban Development Plans as a broader development vision for human settlements, prepared with wide stakeholder consultations aiming to address local area development requirements.

## Environment and Urbanization

Largely, Arab countries embrace among the scarcest water resources per capita in the world. Groundwater reserves, aquifers and fossil water supplies are being depleted at alarming rates. Sea level rise could be devastating to many of the region's densely populated low-lying coastal cities.

The lack of enforcement of building codes and disaster resilient construction methods contributes to disaster risk, and insufficient institutional capacity hinders emergency preparedness and response.

## Urban Governance and Legislation

Limited coordination between the different ministries and institutions across the Arab region concerning urban development, between central and local levels of governance and between local government units, result in the lack of comprehensive and transparent governance frameworks.

Central technical agencies and ministries set national, regional and local urban policies while the power of municipal authorities is restricted to the implementation of local plans. Municipal governments often lack the trained personnel to plan and manage urban growth and do not have the power to set local taxes and fees. The financial dependence of municipalities on the central government introduces a political dimension in central-local relations that partly erodes the benefits of participatory local governance.

## Urban Economy

Increasingly, Arab leaders acknowledge the economic advantage of cities and wish to harness this potential within national systems of cities. These include systems of interdependent urban agglomerations; economic strategies generate spatial networks of growth nodes linked by development corridors leading to the emergence of metropolitan urban regions. In recent years, many Arab countries have placed an emphasis on secondary cities. In order to alleviate pressure on the primary agglomerations, all Arab governments recognize the importance of the city as a laboratory for innovation, a magnet for investment and a source of job creation.

Economic performance of Arab states varies, ranging from exceptional to modest or poor economic performance. Recent events in Arab states underscore the need to re-examine existing systems of governance to achieve a more equitable distribution of the benefits of economic development.

The high economic dependency on natural resources, particularly hydrocarbons, causes vulnerability to economic shocks and fluctuations in international prices, with profound repercussions on growth, employment and economic stability, and on the environment. Moreover, Arab countries are highly dependent on imported food supply and global food chains. Regional trade and economic complementarity is underdeveloped and regional physical and policy infrastructures remain uncoordinated. Cultural heritage initiatives seek to promote the cultural identity of cities and places in the Arab region.

## Housing and Basic Services

Most Arab countries have made significant progress in developing initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing through targeted programmes. The significant shortage of affordable housing in most countries of the Arab region resulted in continuous informal growth, especially on the urban periphery. Programmes involving large scale social housing and relocation projects.

In order to keep up with ever increasing urbanization rates, governments in most Arab countries face the challenge of providing increased access to and provide for sufficient urban basic services and infrastructure.

In the Arab States, Iraq had the largest share of project expenditure in 2013-2014, at 30 per cent. It was followed by Palestine and Lebanon at 19 per cent and 18 per cent, respectively (see Figure 12).

Nearly half of the budget spending on projects in this region related to risk reduction and rehabilitation, and about a fifth of the projects were in the area of urban planning and design (Figure 13). A breakdown of the 2013-2014 expenditure by year indicate that spending in all the thematic areas increased, with the exception of urban planning and design. Notably, budgetary allocation for projects relating to risk reduction and rehabilitation increased nearly four times in 2014 (see Figure 14).

## Egypt

### *Strategic National Development Support Project*

In addition to providing decentralization support for national, regional and local level planning, the project has been supporting the development of the first Housing Profile and National Housing Strategy in Egypt; both forming a strong fact-based foundation for decision makers to develop effective housing policies and programmes.

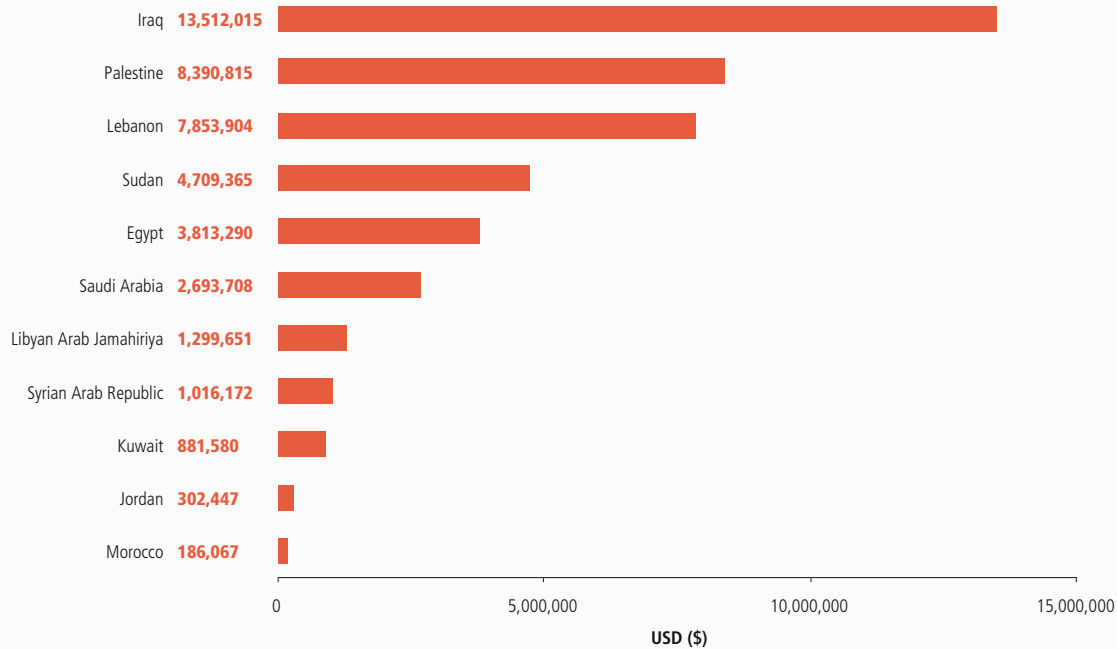
### *Strategic Urban Plans for Small Cities in Egypt*

Following several expert discussions and technical consultations, the project has introduced a revised and more comprehensive planning methodology for Strategic Development Plans in secondary cities, addressing both urban planning and implementation measures based on lessons learnt from previous practices.

### *Strategic Development Plan*



**FIGURE 12: DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN ARAB STATES, 2013-2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*

Iraq had the largest share of project expenditure in 2013-2014, at **30 per cent**. It was followed by Palestine and Lebanon at **19 per cent** and **18 per cent**

#### *for Greater Cairo Region*

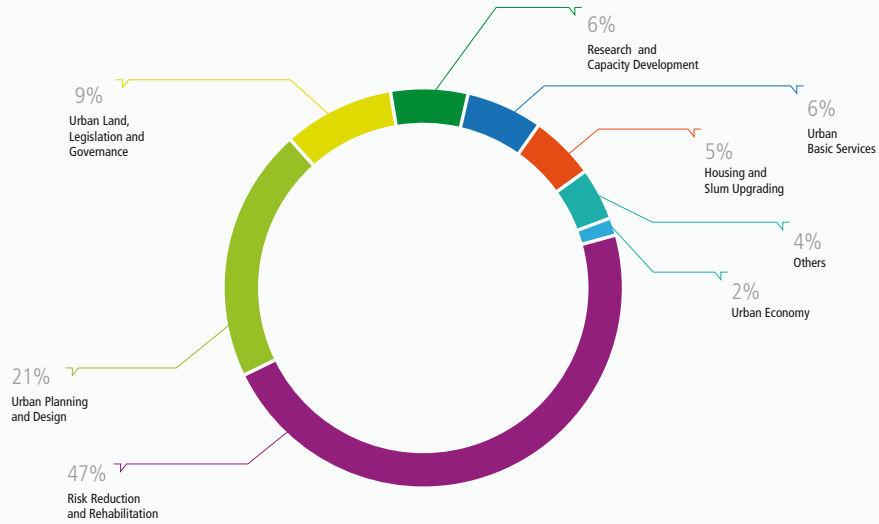
Supported by UNDP and UN-Habitat, the project has provided technical assistance to national and local stakeholders in launching a bottom-up Community Mobilization Strategy as well as a Socio-Economic Impact Assessment for the Strategic Urban Development Vision for Greater Cairo Region.

#### *Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) Project: City Extension*

New City Development – Al Alamain City: Based on lessons learnt from the planning process, implementation and management of New Urban Communities (NUC) in Egypt, the Government of Egypt has introduced the 4th Generation of NUCs in the country piloted in the case of the New Alamain City.



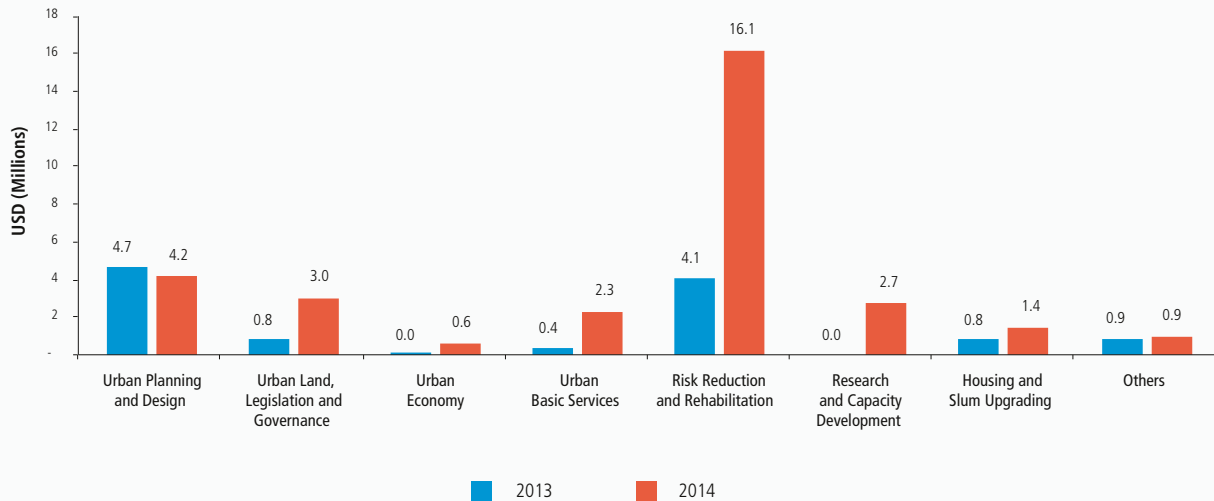
**FIGURE 13: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIO IN ARAB STATES, 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014



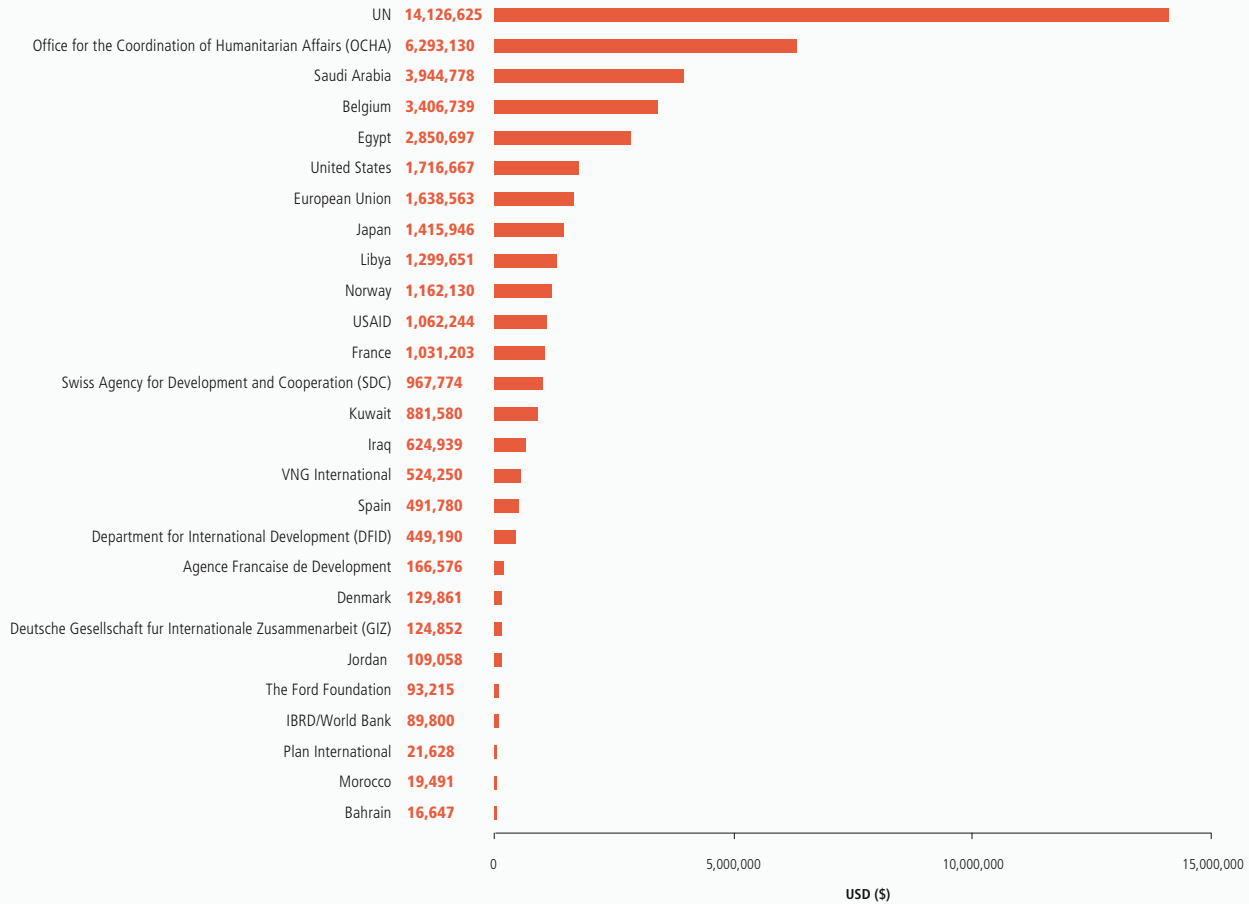
**FIGURE 14: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIO IN ARAB STATES, 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014



**FIGURE 15: CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN ARAB STATES, 2013-2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*

Land readjustment was piloted in a 6 ha urban expansion area in Banha, by identifying different scenarios for engagement of key stakeholders in planning expansion areas and ensuring the maintenance of the public realm and public services.

For the first time in the Egyptian urban history, the project has introduced land readjustment as a tool that enables cities to significantly increase the supply of serviced land at the urban fringe through orderly and negotiated processes of land acquisition.

### *Participatory Review of Egyptian Planning and related urban Development Legislation to support sustainable urban Development*

The project has analysed the current land regularization practices at the city and national level in order to encourage planned urban expansions and improve the capacities of local authorities to design and implement legal reforms.

### *Human Security through Inclusive Socio-Economic Development in Upper Egypt*

By ensuring inclusiveness and participation from all segments of communities, the joint UN project addresses sustainable pathways to local economic development for impoverished communities that are currently undergoing conflict.

### *Public Space and the Right to the City*

The project also created and built the capacity of a community committee to manage and maintain the public space; it is composed of school staff and community members.

The creation of a public space accessible by women will increase the dwelling in these areas and consequently reduce the harassment opportunities.

With high mobility during daytime, the Women Safety Audit identified the surrounding areas of highest harassment rates at night.

The project has created a safe place for women and girls turning a school yard into a playground.

### *Safer Cities and Because I Am a Girl - Urban Programme in GCR*

UN-Habitat while actively engaging local communities, their civil society partners and respective authorities, communities took active steps towards enhancing public spaces and making them safer for all residents, especially girls and women.

### *Integrative Neighbourhood Development in refugee hosting Area – Faisal, Cairo*

The project developed and supported the establishment of two youth centres that encourage the collaboration and community life among the Egyptian host and Syrian refugee communities. Through awareness raising at central and local levels, the upgrading of urban areas through effective cooperation has been documented.

### **Iraq**

Since 2003, the focus of UN-Habitat's technical assistance has been on housing and sustainable urban development issues. Substantial efforts have been exerted to produce national and local development policies as: Iraq National Housing Policy, Iraq National Strategy - Long-Term Shelter Solutions for People

Affected by Displacement, Affordable Housing Strategies for Kurdistan Region and Baghdad Strategic Perspective on Informal Settlements/ IDP Sites.

UN-Habitat is engaged in humanitarian support to Syrian refugees and Iraqi IDPs through two main programmes, Urban Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) support of Syrian Refugees and Hosting communities and durable Shelter support for IDPs in Iraq. Considering the recent unprecedented IDPs caseload, UN-Habitat, jointly with other resident UN agencies, extended the scope of the UNCT in Iraq programme to involve other UN agencies and the World Bank. UN-Habitat Iraq has also been largely engaged on early recovery efforts and particularly on IDPs stabilization through shelter support and reconstruction efforts. At the regional level UN-Habitat contributed together with other UN agencies to support the Syrian internally displaced people and the Syrian refugees in the neighbouring countries including Iraq.

### *Safer City Programme*

The project successfully encourages the sustainable urbanization model and related processes as (1) the free, active and meaningful participation of the beneficiaries; (2) application of a rights-based model that ensures the accountability of duty-bearers (national, regional and local government) and the claims of rights-holders; (3) the address of root causes that violate the principles of non-discrimination and equality, participation and inclusion, and accountability and the rule of law; (4) the incorporation of strategies for the political and economic empowerment of people, especially prioritize the



need of the most vulnerable and most marginalized.

Working in close coordination with civil society on the ground, the project promotes, at the local level, a different approach to security and safety was undertaken.

In order to develop a more holistic approach to community security, the project looks at strengthening the relationship between civil society, citizens, local authorities, Regional government and the security sector officials through the creation of coordination platforms as well as the implementation of trust building and crime prevention activities. The project seeks to protect human rights and enhance the rule of law in Kurdistan Region.

### *Iraq Public Sector Modernisation Programme*

The role of UN-Habitat in the ongoing joint UN IPSM Phase II programme is to support the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works and the Governorates of Najaf and Duhok in Decentralized water management.

### *Private Sector Development Project for Iraq*

It has also provided training to management staff from construction and development companies and basic construction skills training to unemployed youth and is now implementing a capacity building project involving the Ministry of Municipalities and Public Works and the Ministry of Planning and Development Co-operation.

The aim of this Programme and approach was to assist Iraq, both as

a country and as a government, in developing a growth-orientated and rules-based private sector economic reality to enhance the living standards of the population as well as laying the groundwork for future economic stability.

An overall upstream private sector development strategy was designed in co-operation with the Government of Iraq, based upon wide-ranging primary data production exercises, to anchor a long-term policy vision.

UN-Habitat is thoroughly familiar with city planning processes and land allocation and titling systems through

the implementation of its Urban Sector Strengthening Project and Housing Sector Strengthening Projects in Iraq.

### *Strengthening Urban and Regional Planning in KRG*

The project aims to improve system for urban and regional planning, establishing urban planning units in Erbil Governorate and within Ministry of Municipalities and Tourism, and improve the capacity of staff so that they can perform planning duties.

After the request of the Ministry of Planning to strengthen the capacity of the Urban Planners within the Ministry



**TOP:** Water tanks for domestic use a community initiative in Aleppo, Syria.

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and the Erbil Governorate, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Planning are developing a joint project under the Kurdistan Development Vision 2020.

### *Establishing a Building Control Regime for KRG*

UN-Habitat has vast experiences in building codes and urban legislation globally in terms of approach and methodology, and the Iraq Programme Office build on this experience to support the region of Kurdistan in Iraq to establish building control regime.

Building codes in the Kurdistan Region of Iraq have not been addressed adequately, UN-Habitat received a direct request from the Government of the Region for technical assistance to support the Ministry of Planning in preparing a project document on Building Control for KR-I.

### *Improving the Housing Delivery System in Erbil – Phase II*

The project equipped the governorate with necessary capacities, plans and equipment for facilitating and expanding housing partnerships, energy efficient housing and slum upgrading.

The project deliberated from an extensive and in-depth participatory process of situation assessment and housing strategy development led by the governorate.

### *Shelter and Infrastructure Support for Non-Camp Refugees*

The purpose of this project is to provide adequate shelter needs for the most vulnerable, establish practices that can be replicated and also to support the provision of basic WASH services

in communities under strain. The proposed solutions include a range of affordable shelter support options, basic improvements of incomplete houses being rented to allow basic appropriate shelter and provision of supplementary support.

In Sulaymania 36 houses were upgraded and the procurement of materials for paving an internal street, creating water channel, connections of households with main water supply and grey water disposal, and a water tanker for Bardaqaraman municipality.

### *Arab Secretariat Office of National Habitat Committees*

The Arab Ministerial Council of Construction and Housing of the League of Arab States has approved the establishment of the National Habitat Committee Secretariat in Baghdad to support Arab countries to establish their National Habitat Committees.

### **Jordan**

UN-Habitat provided support to the Jordan Response Platform for the Syria Crisis (JRPSC) in developing the Jordan Resilience Plan (JRP) for 2015, being a key member in both the Shelter and Municipal task forces that are led by the Secretary General of the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC) and the Ministry of Municipal Affairs (MMA) respectively. The JRP is a comprehensive humanitarian and resilience-building annual plan (2015), representing a coherent national programme consolidating national and international efforts to address the impact of the Syria refugee crisis on Jordan.

In coordination with MMA, HUDC, Ministry of Interior (MoI) and other relevant partners, UN-Habitat has mobilized resources for the Jordan Affordable Housing Programme. UN-Habitat has been supporting the UNCT in Jordan to realign the United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF 2013-2017) to the Jordanian National Resilience Plan (2014 – 2016), ensuring that the UN's support addresses emerging national priorities as a result of the impact of the Syria crisis.

### *Jordan Affordable Housing Project Phase I*

In response to the Syria crisis, UN-Habitat has started the implementation of Phase I of the Jordan Affordable Housing Programme leading to the delivery of 30,000 affordable housing units. In partnership with the Jordan Engineering Association, UN-Habitat is formulating a National Design Competition inviting architectural firms and individuals across Jordan to provide their most innovative ideas for a range of housing unit prototypes designed for smaller-sized houses for future expansion.

### *Mainstreaming Biodiversity Conservation in Tourism Sector Development in Jordan*

UN-Habitat has provided technical and managerial support to the implementation of the UNDP run Mainstreaming Biodiversity into Tourism Planning Project, focusing on the land use component.



**TOP:** Aleppo, Syria.  
© UN-Habitat

### *Conference on municipal credit rating*

In December 2014, UN-Habitat organized the 1<sup>st</sup> Conference on Municipal Credit Rating in Jordan, in order to share the final results of the interactive credit ratings of five municipalities in Jordan and to hand over the credit rating certificates to mayors of the five municipalities that participated in the project: Maadaba, Gharb Irbid, Al Mazar Al Shamali, Al Shawbak, and Al Feheys.

### *Kuwait Second International Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria*

On 15 January 2014, the 2<sup>nd</sup> Humanitarian Pledging Conference for Syria was hosted for the 2<sup>nd</sup> time in Kuwait. In total, the donors pledge reached USD 2.4 billion in response to the call of H.H the Amir, in comparison to 2013's conference which donors pledged USD 1.5 billion only to support 6.5 million people who are internally displaced and more than USD 4.1 million refugees in host countries.

### *National Consultations on housing and urban development*

A 3-day meeting attended by representatives from key national ministries in the housing and urban development sector as well as local authorities in Kuwait discussed the Sustainable Urban Development Strategy for Kuwait. A particular issue of discussion was the housing shortage in Kuwait.

### *Regional Workshop on the role of 'Urban Observatories' in the Post-2015 Development Agenda*

In line with the Post 2015 Development Agenda and the proposed Sustainable Development Goal 11 on *"Making Cities and Human Settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable"*, UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Arab Urban Development Institute Organization (AUDI) co-organised an Arab regional workshop on the role of 'Urban Observatories' in monitoring the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

### *UN-Habitat World Cities Day at Yarmouk Eco-Friendly Park*

On 20 and 21 November 2014, the World Cities celebrations were held at Yarmouk Park in Kuwait city, in close collaboration with Ooredoo Telecommunications. The event highlighted the importance of sustainable urbanization, the improvement of city life by involving local residents.

### **Lebanon**

#### *Enhancing the Role of Unions of Municipalities to Respond to Refugees' & Host Communities' Needs*

Within the emergency response context, UN-Habitat supported RTOs to respond to the emergency through rehabilitation of houses, identification of vacant houses for refugees, implementing various community support projects, concerning sewage network upgrading, water, garbage collection, etc. Through this project, UN-Habitat established the Regional Technical Offices (RTOs) in various Unions of Municipalities (UoMs) including the UoM of Sahel El Zahrani, Iqlim El Kharoub Chemali, Tyr, Chqif, and Ghareb El Aala Chahar.

### *Towards Sustainable Solutions for Improved Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon*

The Programme aims to improve access to basic urban services in Palestinian gatherings through targeting both the physical environment as well as the governance mechanisms among stakeholders in these areas. Of the 80,000 Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria into Lebanon, an estimated 30,000 in addition to some 5,000 Syrian refugees are living in Palestinian gatherings.

### **LEBANON** .....

Of the **80,000** Palestinian refugees displaced from Syria into Lebanon, an estimated **30,000** in addition to some **5,000** Syrian refugees are living in Palestinian gatherings.

#### *Improving Living Conditions in Palestinian Gatherings in Lebanon*

Under this project, Shelter and WASH initiatives were implemented in 30 Palestinian gatherings in the areas of Beirut, North, Bekaa, Saida and Tyr benefiting residents, Palestinian refugees from Lebanon and Syria, Syrian refugees and Lebanese. UN-Habitat through the Peace Building Fund worked with municipalities to address informal areas and include them in the wider urban planning efforts.

### *City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP)*

Since 2014, UN-Habitat in partnership with World Vision, has worked with the Municipality of Beirut on initiating the use of the City Resilience Profiling tool to enhance the municipalities' awareness and role in monitoring and addressing urban resilience.

### *Publications and Assessments*

The Reforming Urban Planning System Report (2014) assesses key urban planning institutions in Lebanon. The Housing, Land and Property Issues in Lebanon Report (2014) review the impact of the Syrian crisis in four specific areas i.e. shelter options, housing, land and property rights, housing and property markets, and land-use to inform humanitarian and government entities.

### **Libya**

#### *Institutional Development and Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Agency*

The government of Libya, through its Ministry of Housing and Utilities and Urban Planning Agency (UPA) agreed to expand the programme on *"Institutional Development and Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Agency"* until 2016 aiming to revive the spatial planning process in Libya.

UN-Habitat Libya Office, in collaboration with the UPA, has been exploring most suitable urban planning approaches under the current transitional period in Libya through this *"Institutional Development and Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Agency"* programme. UN-Habitat has been providing technical support to the UPA of Libya on urban planning and spatial information system, as well as on their institutional

capacity development for decades. The *“Institutional Development and Capacity Building of the Urban Planning Agency”* programme was initially developed to support the National Spatial Planning and introduce Geographical Information System (GIS) to the UPA.

### **Emergency Housing Policy and Technical Advice to the Ministry of Housing and Utilities**

After the 2011 uprisings in Libya, UN-Habitat has been tasked to support the Ministry of Housing and Utilities in the preparation of an Emergency Housing Policy and provide technical advice to the Ministry in the field of housing reconstruction.

### **Morocco Support to the Cities without Slums Programme**

The programme focuses on three areas: i) support and technical support to Al Omrane programs to improve the living conditions, socio-economic integration and urban poverty reduction, by supporting the definition of a strategic framework ii) new town, enhancing the attractiveness and socio-economic integration, by supporting the dialogue and cooperation framework among partners and promoting local governance and iii) development of HAO's and Ministry's international programs.

The activities developed are the support to the production and dissemination of publications, networking and participation of national decision-makers into international conferences to promote city policy process in Morocco.

### **Activities at international level**

In 2013, UN-Habitat Morocco participated in the International Colloquium on Urban Agriculture (Casablanca), the International Conference on Cultural Heritage, Tool for Local Development and Democracy (Tunisia) and the United Cities and Local Government's World Summit of Regional and Local Leaders (Rabat).

#### **KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA**

improve evidence-based policy analysis and government responses achieved by seventeen Saudi cities, as measured by the **City Prosperity Index**

In 2014, UN-Habitat Morocco participated in the 5<sup>th</sup> Plenary Session of the Euro-Mediterranean Regional and Local Assembly (ARLEM) (Tangier) and the 5<sup>th</sup> African Ministerial Council on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) (Ndjamena).

### **Palestine**

UN-Habitat presence in the occupied Palestinian territory is governed by resolutions adopted in Governing Council. In its resolution 19/18 of 9 May 2003 the Governing Council established the Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People (SHSPPP). The objective of the SHSPPP is

to facilitate the immediate improvement of living conditions and easing of displacement pressures. Resolution 23/2 (April 2011) called on the Agency to “further focus its operations on planning, land and housing issues in view of improving housing and human settlement conditions of Palestinians.

### **Prince Nayef Bin Abdul-Aziz Project for Reconstruction of Gaza**

UN-Habitat constructed 80 units for non-refugee families through the Palestinian Housing Council programme. The beneficiaries have completed training and support for income generation activities such as running a mini markets. A total of 95 women and their dependents moved into their newly constructed housing units in October 2014.

### **Construction of Technical, Vocational and Entrepreneurship Training Centre for Underprivileged Women**

The Centre for Women has been constructed and equipped. Various courses have been commissioned and run from the Centre, after the participatory rapid appraisal workshop on training needs. The management arrangement is being concluded with Hebron Municipality.

### **Palestinian National Spatial Plan**

Support to the Ministry of Planning on preparation of a development vision for independent Palestine within the 1967 boundaries. Various sector papers have been prepared, including work on mobility, freight and external transport links as inputs to the exercise, staff recruited for the Planning Office and regular technical advice provided to the National Spatial Planning Team.

### ***National Urbanisation Policy and Palestinian Cities Report***

Expert committees and working groups were established to direct the work. Participatory seminars were held to discuss and agree on the focus and issues. The drafting of both reports is ongoing.

### ***National Housing Policy***

The Housing Policy was prepared to address priority issues such as access to land, access to basic infrastructure, affordable building standards and materials, effective construction and access to finance. Preparation of a Housing Sector Profile through consolidated mapping of the sector and the development of an inclusive and pro-poor policy framework.

### ***Planning Support to Palestinian Communities in Area C Programme***

The project aims at strengthening the resilience of Palestinian Communities in Area C to facilitate basic infrastructure, service upgrading and local development by scaling up planning activities, improvement planning methodologies, building local capacity and strengthening monitoring and advocacy.

The project aims at strengthening the resilience of Palestinian Communities in Area C to facilitate basic infrastructure, service upgrading and local development by scaling up planning activities, improvement planning methodologies, building local capacity and strengthening monitoring and advocacy. Land use and investments Plans for 100 communities have been prepared. Place for making 'local urban design' plans has been prepared with communities in 30 villages.

### ***Urban Planning Support for Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem***

The results of this programme include freezing of 44 house demolitions orders and preparation of three guiding concept notes. A total of 2100 dunums in six communities in East Jerusalem are currently being planned.

### ***Rehabilitation of Dar Al Consul into Residential and Civic Complex***

The project aims to improve the living conditions of Palestinian families in the Old City of Jerusalem and enhancing the Palestinian cultural and civic identity through achieving new sustainable model of residential and urban environment development, establishing a new economically viable model of eco-friendly development. The design work is underway and rehabilitation activities have started.

### ***Urgent Housing Rehabilitation for Poor and Marginalised Families in East Jerusalem***

The programme has included immediate maintenance and support for livelihood improvement aiming to improve living conditions for low-income families and disabled people who live in deteriorating housing. The programme has reached 109 families and 654 beneficiaries.

### ***Kingdom of Saudi Arabia The Future Saudi Cities Programme***

The programme contributes to the achievement of sustainable urbanization in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. It is expected to: i) improve evidence-based policy analysis and government responses achieved by seventeen Saudi cities, as measured by the City Prosperity Index; ii) mitigate urban sprawl and address

urban expansion in a well-informed manner; iii) support coordination among Ministries and partners engaged in the urban sector; iv) enhance institutional technical capacity to plan and manage urbanization in a sustained manner; v) engage and integrate the needs of all residents, in particular those of women and youth in the formulation and implementation of urban plans; and vi) enhance public awareness about prosperous cities and sustainable urbanization.

The UN-Habitat office in the United Nations building in Riyadh was set and equipped in June 2014 and the MoU finalized with UNDP for the common services and ready for signature.

### ***Sudan***

UN-Habitat has been engaged in a series of housing and urban initiatives in Sudan. Moreover, UN-Habitat supported the development of pro-poor policies, strategic urban and regional planning and rural-urban linkages as well as environmentally friendly construction technologies to mitigate deforestation to increase access to housing, basic services and infrastructure.

### ***Institutional Capacity Development in Darfur on Urban and Regional Planning and Land Management***

These sessions involved: (i) participatory planning approach applying both urban and regional planning concepts; and (ii) facilitating land demarcation, registration and allocation operations, as well as the implementation of land conflict management mechanisms; and (iii) providing support to the MPUDs' housing reconstruction and infrastructure development effort in terms of

planning, design and identification of proper technical solutions. A capacity development programme was delivered to the three Ministry of Planning and Urban Development (MPUDs) focusing on urban and regional planning and land management.

### *Participatory and Gender-Balanced Urban and Regional Planning, Land Management, environmental friendly Construction and Sustainable Livelihood in Blue Nile State*

This project is contributing to the application and the realization of a number of human rights articulated under Paris Declaration, including people of the Blue Nile have the right to a standard of living for their health and well-being, and other human rights also include access to employment, basic services and land, housing and property rights.

The project provides guidance to the local government and local leaders for supporting decision making on where to invest and carry out reconstruction activities.

### *Peace Building through Natural Resource and Land Management and Livelihoods in South Darfur*

The project promotes community level trust, confidence and peace building throughout the Southern State of Darfur. Hereby, the project contributes to the peace building along the selected migration route through a realistic participatory approach to address the competition over natural resources being one of the main root causes of the conflict, particularly land and water between farmers and pastoralists along

one of the traditional migration routes in Southern Darfur. The two communities are benefiting from demarcation of the 115 km routes, establishment of new water projects, and income generating activities for young unemployed men and women along the route.

### *Emergency Flood Response in Khartoum States for Vulnerable Communities*

This strengthens government and community capacities to conduct emergency construction of public facilities and the necessary infrastructure through adaptation and implementation of resilient to floods urban planning and building techniques. Some of the expected results are to develop the required institutional and managerial capacity of the state and locality government institutions regarding urban planning, land management and public services delivery through a “learning by doing” process.

## **Syria**

Major displacement from and to urban centres have occurred putting 12.2 million people in a vulnerable situation and in urgent need for humanitarian assistance; 7.6 million of those in need are internally displaced (OCHA, 2014). Basic infrastructure and social services have been severely affected by damage and lost capacity. UN-Habitat’s Syria programme focuses on emergency shelter and housing, water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), solid waste management, and urban information management, including City Profiles and Neighbourhood Profiles.

## **SYRIA**

The profiles assess **urban functionality**, highlight “hotspots” where vulnerability is acute, and include more detailed analysis of housing, water supply, sanitation, road networks, electricity, health and education, food security, mobility.

### *City Profiling*

UN-Habitat has produced four City Profiles for Aleppo, Homs, Dara’a and Lattakia. The profiles assess urban functionality, highlight “hotspots” where vulnerability is acute, and include more detailed analysis of housing, water supply, sanitation, road networks, electricity, health and education, food security, mobility.

### *Urban Information Management System*

UN-Habitat has established two GIS units in the municipalities of Lattakia and Ma’raba and conducted training for a total of 9 staff members who will operate the system from their municipalities. A wider training was also conducted for 65 municipal staff on urban information management during emergencies. A web-based urban information system has been developed and implemented.

### *Shelter Support*

UN-Habitat used the City Profile process to conduct more detailed neighbourhood level shelter assessments in Al Tal and Ashrafyeh Sahnaya in Rural Damascus as well as in Salah ad Din neighbourhood of Aleppo. In Aleppo, UN-Habitat piloted an IDP host family shelter support programme including minor repairs, rent support, and provision of simple household equipment.

### *Community Level Infrastructure and Basic Services Projects*

Two pilot community-based infrastructure and services project were implemented benefitting 8,000 IDPs and host community members. The projects implemented included construction of a storage tank to improve access to safe drinking water.

### *Urban Water Supply and Sanitation*

In late 2014, UN-Habitat initiated collaboration with UNICEF to develop more detailed data and maps on the status of urban water supply and sanitation systems in Homs and Aleppo. The information will be used to support response prioritization and contingency planning.

### *Solid Waste Management*

In late 2014, UN-Habitat initiated a programme to improve solid waste management in Homs, Aleppo and Rural Damascus. Inventories of solid waste management infrastructure will be developed and community-based solid waste management projects implemented.

### *Slum upgrading project in Erbil - Kurania Einkawa Iraq*

In 2009, UN-Habitat engaged in assisting the Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) with the design and implementation of an 'Improving the Housing Delivery System Project in Erbil'. This initiative built upon Iraq's National Slum Upgrading Strategy (2005) and upon Phase II of UN-HABITAT's 'Strengthening the Capacity of the Housing Sector in Iraq' project. Key to its initiative within the KRG has been a pilot project to upgrade an informal settlement in Erbil – Kurani Ainkawa.

Community organization and civil society at the local or neighbourhood level is weakly developed in Iraq. Based on this challenge an intermediary structure was established for the neighbourhood – the Housing Facilitation Unit (HFU). It successfully addressed the problem of mobilizing collective action, brokering a solution between residents, landlords and government authorities. The project improved Governorate's capacity to implement the Erbil Housing Strategy, demonstrated innovative approaches to energy efficient housing in slums.

### *Local Area Development Programme in Erbil- Iraq*

The Local Area Development Programme is a multidimensional and integrated approach combining more participatory local development processes, stimulation of local economic development and the improvement of social and physical infrastructure. The Local Area Development Plans (LADP) started in 2007 as a joint effort of seven United Nations agencies and the Iraq Ministry of Planning and Development Cooperation.

UN-Habitat contributed to the local development planning process by introducing spatial analysis of the districts and an implementation plan prioritized around available financial resources. LADP has demonstrated how strong local and participatory planning and engagement could make a difference. Despite the strong centralized tendencies in Iraq and some scepticism, the LADP has been met with "enthusiastic support" from Iraqi stakeholders.

### *"Cities without Slums" Programme -Morocco*

The Kingdom of Morocco has experienced a huge success in slum reduction and improvement programmes. In a concept already being replicated in Egypt and Tunisia, the Moroccan programme was widely considered the best of its kind in Africa. The Government had set a target in 2004 of humanely clearing the slums in 85 cities by the year 2012. In the past decade, the Government has improved or eliminated 45.8 per cent of the country's slums. The innovative aspects of Cities without Slums are drawn from the development of the institutional capacities of Morocco, in particular in terms of urban governance.

### *Stabilized Soil Blocks (SSBs) in Darfur - Sudan*

Due to prolonged conflict in Darfur, around 2.3 million people have been displaced. The formation of IDP camps and migration to urban areas creates enormous environmental threat.



## BOX 2: RTOS MODEL ESTABLISHED IN UNIONS OF MUNICIPALITIES - LEBANON

Following the UN-Habitat's well-received initiative of establishing and funding of three Regional Technical Offices (RTOS) at the level of Unions of Municipalities (UoMs), in response to address the July 2006 Israeli war on Lebanon, UN-Habitat replicated the model and currently supports two RTOs in Chouf and Saïda district. The RTO model provides an example of the importance of working in a strategic manner to enhance capacities at the municipal level to respond to emergencies, in addition to planning and community development.

UN-Habitat initiated its Darfur programme in 2007 responding to one of the main recommendations of the 2006 report by the Darfur Joint Needs Assessment Team. UN-Habitat has identified Stabilised Soil Block (SSB) technology as the one that can potentially provide an alternative building material for the re-construction challenge facing the returning population in Darfur. The SSB cost effectiveness has been proved by comparing BoQ of fired bricks construction with the SSB alternative showing that no cost increase and even it can be reduced a 30% through the adoption of the latter. The UN-Habitat programme included community involvement in building model homes, school and clinics using the stabilized soil blocks. Training of trainers has also been used to disseminate skills in the major cities, towns, and villages in Darfur.

### *Planning Support to Palestinian Communities in Area C, West Bank - Palestine*

Over 60 per cent of the West Bank is considered "Area C", an area that Israeli government retains control (security and civil). An estimated 150,000 Palestinians live in Area C, most vulnerable Palestinian communities inhabit this area. Lack of adequate planning has been a major driver of vulnerability of the people in Area C.



**BOTTOM:** Manshiet Nasser, Egypt  
© UN-Habitat

The UN-Habitat's programme focuses on capacitating Palestinian institutions on spatial planning and housing through policy strategies and capital investment projects. It aims at supporting the formulation of a National Spatial Plan (NSP) for the State of Palestine by providing a holistic guide to planning efforts in Area C.

### Challenges in the Arab Region

Political and economic instability in some countries in the Arab region causes major human migration and displacement induced by conflict and climate change.



**PHOTO:** Khartoum, Sudan.  
© Al Pidgen/Shutterstock



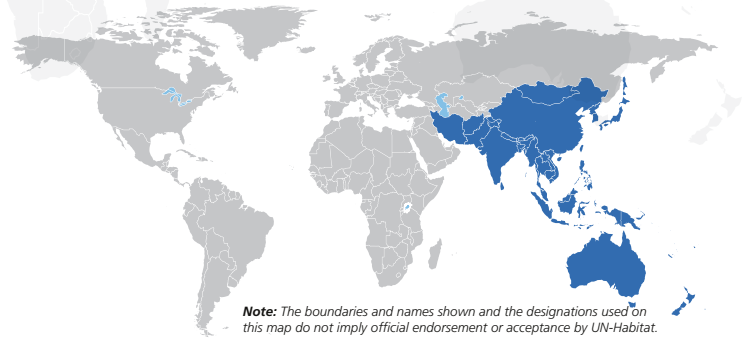


**PHOTO:** Auckland's CBD after dusk during a storm, hence the wet roads and dramatic sky.  
© Shutterstock



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The vast spread of the Asia-Pacific region features **high, middle** and **low-income economies**, as well as a wealth of diverse societies and cultures.



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

## Introduction

The Asia Pacific is the most populous region and a home to the world's largest population of urban slum dwellers. It also boasts of being a host to seventeen megacities (cities exceeding 10 million inhabitants) and the projections are that by 2030, the region will have increased its megacities to twenty-two. The region is host to highly urbanized countries such as Australia, New Zealand and Japan and others much less urbanized such as Nepal, Papua New Guinea and Sri Lanka.

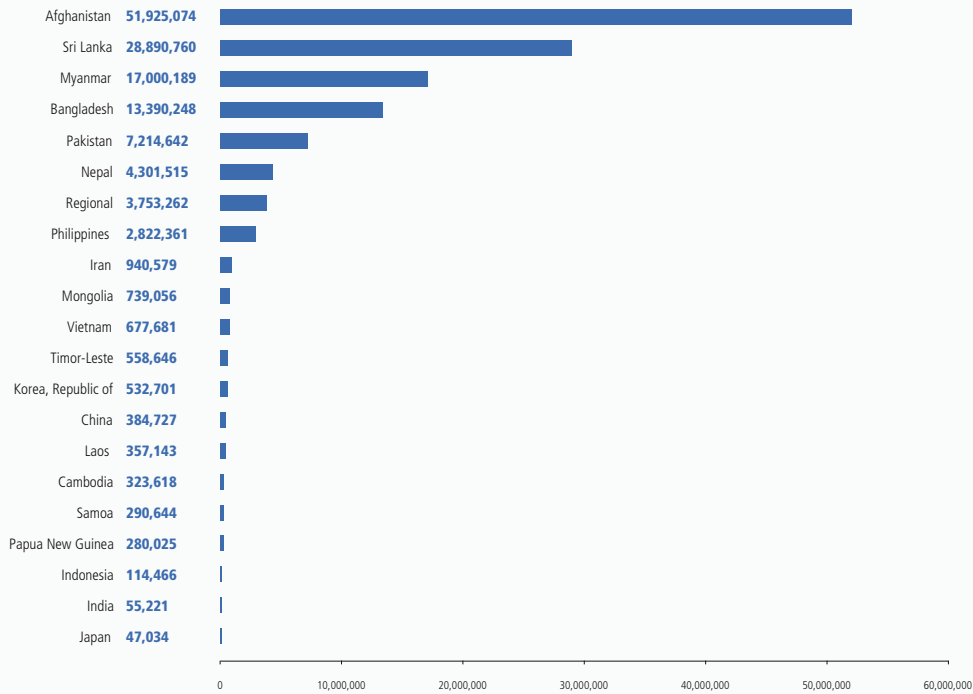
The vast spread of the Asia-Pacific region features high, middle and low-income economies, as well as a wealth of diverse societies and cultures. In 2014, the overall level and annual growth rate of urbanization (47.7 per cent and 2.3 per cent) were close to the global averages (53.6 per cent and 2.0 per cent, respectively).

However, despite the urbanization addressing some of the needs of the region's very poorest, inequalities and limited access to infrastructure and services remain serious challenge that needs to be addressed.

In close collaboration with diverse stakeholders, **620 youths** have been trained on advanced construction skills (masonry and carpentry) and **14,800 homeowners** trained on basic construction skills while **633** of community members, including **300 women**, have been provided with leadership training.



**FIGURE 16: DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 2013-2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



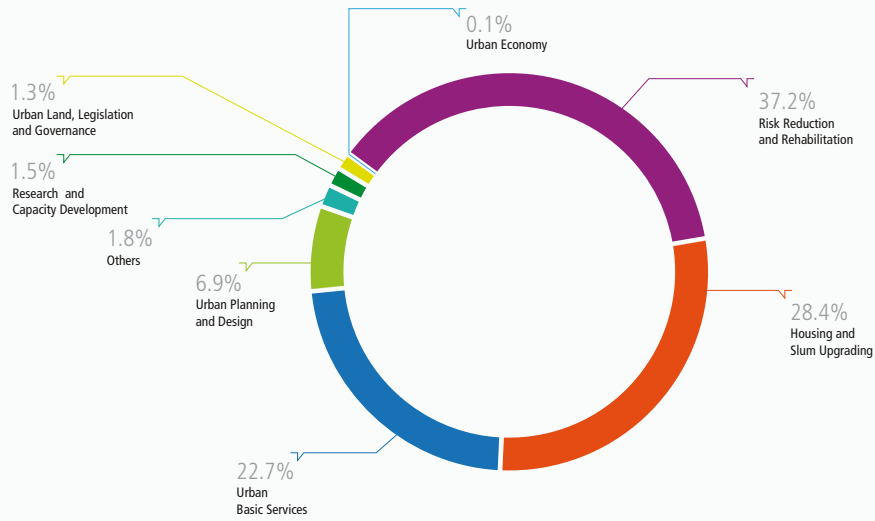
Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*

In the 2013-2014 biennium, as illustrated in Figure 16, nearly two-thirds of UN-Habitat project expenditure in the region was in three countries: Afghanistan (39 per cent), Sri Lanka (21 per cent), and Myanmar (13 per cent).

In these countries, and the region as a whole, three thematic areas constitute nearly 90 per cent of project spending: risk reduction and rehabilitation, housing and slum upgrading and urban basic services (Figure 17). An analysis of the yearly spending in the biennium shows that the budget allocation for housing

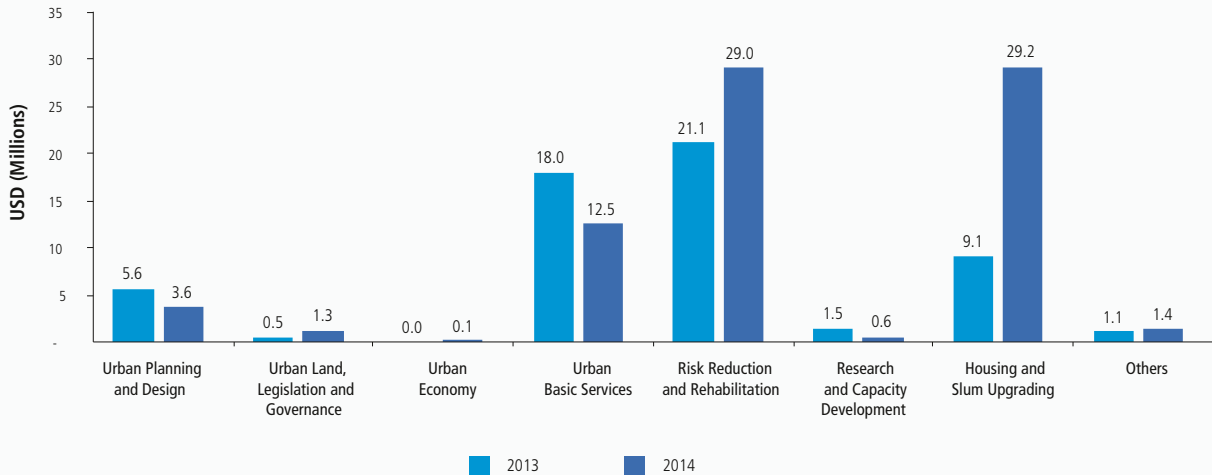
and slum upgrading increased threefold, from USD 9.1 million in 2013 to USD 29.2 million 2014. Also, there was a significant increase in disbursements to projects in the areas of risk reduction and rehabilitation (see Figure 18).

**FIGURE 17: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIO IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

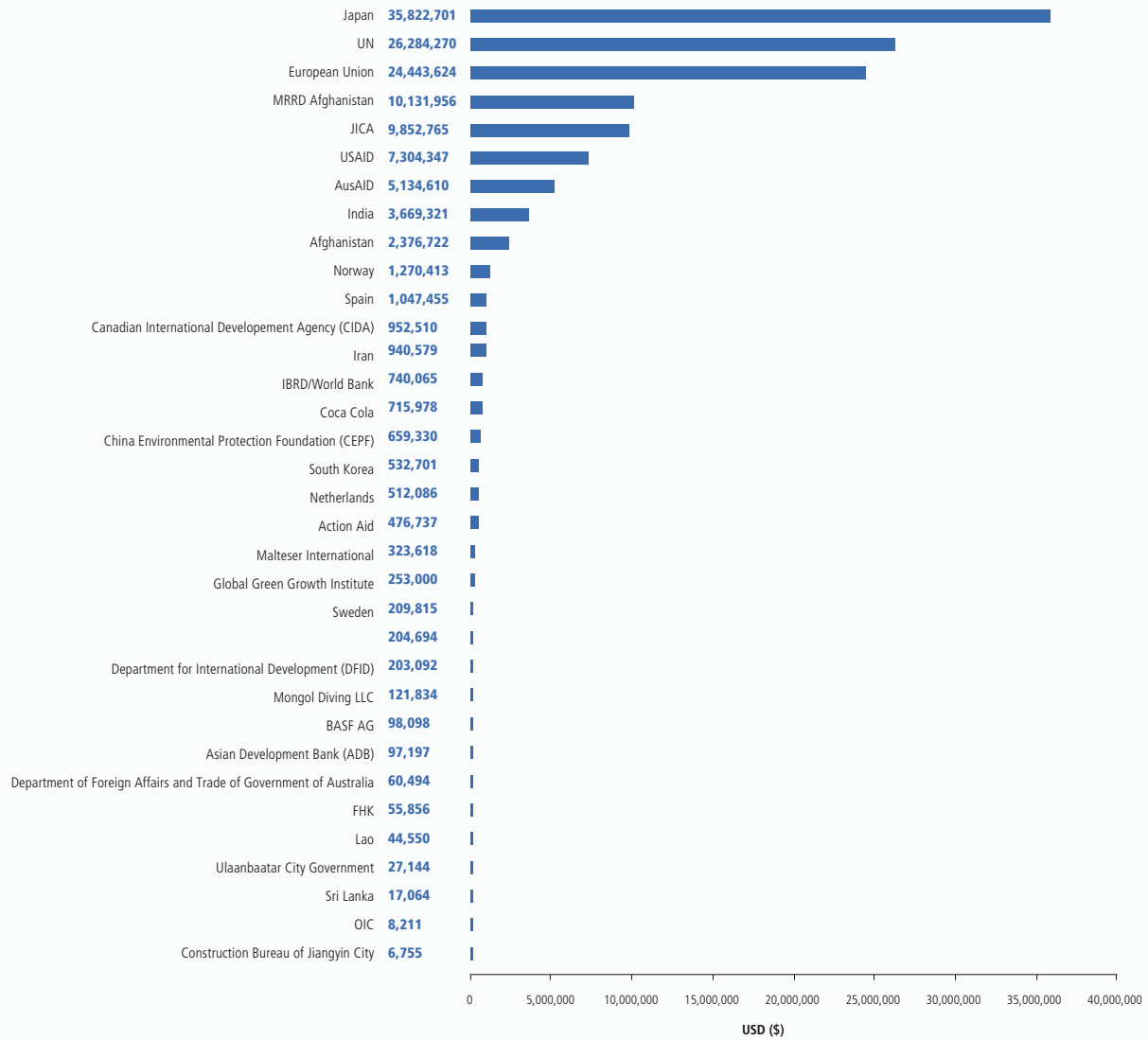
**FIGURE 18: THEMATIC BREAKDOWN OF PORTFOLIO IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014



**FIGURE 19: CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN ASIA AND THE PACIFIC, 2013-2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

## Projects activities and outcomes in Asia and the Pacific

### Bangladesh

In August 2014, the “Urban Partnerships for Poverty Reduction” (UPPR) formally came to a successful end in Bangladesh, after 6 years of urban poverty alleviation with 2,588 communities in 24 municipalities. This DfID funded programme focused on access to services and improved livelihoods. In 2014, UN-Habitat expanded its technical support to the Ministry of Local Government and UNDP to engage 24 City Corporations and Municipalities and some 5,330 community groups in urban informal settlements. During the implementation of this project, 63,669 improved latrines, 9,815 water points (tube wells and reservoirs), 909

km of footpaths and 234 km of drains were constructed by the community development committees with support from UN-Habitat. During the final year, UPPR undertook a study in 12 towns to measure short-term outcomes for households that had benefited from latrines. Almost all households using the latrine believed that the latrine had made a positive contribution to their quality of life.

### China

UN-Habitat, in cooperation with Kunshan Municipality and Tongji University, organized 3 workshops for 36 senior urban development professionals from six cities in four Western African countries: Cotonou (Benin), Treichville (Cote d’Ivoire), Bamako and Sikasso (Mali) and Dakar and Saint Louis (Senegal)). The participants were exposed to local practices for the development of urban policies and projects.

A new edition of “*The State of China’ Cities 2014/2015*” was published in association with the China Science Centre of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences, China Association of Mayors and Urban Planning Society of China. In an academic partnership, the translation of the UN-Habitat’s guide “*Urban Planning for City Leaders*” into Chinese language was initiated. This Guide will be published by the Central University for Finance and Economics in China in 2015.

UN-Habitat, in cooperation with Guangzhou Urban Planning Institute, provided its visions and recommendations for the revision of the Master Plan for Wuzhou 2030. Proposals made by the UN-Habitat expert group and accepted by the Municipality of Wuzhou such as the control industrial expansion in the north and encourage industrial extension in the south, where the city can provide much more sufficient land.

UN-Habitat and its partners are developing an “eco-civilization indicator system” to monitor the eco-city and low carbon development of the Chinese cities. Guiyang will be the pilot city to use the indicator system.

### Indonesia

In 2014, UN-Habitat and the Government of Indonesia transitioned from a conventional relationship of technical cooperation supported by traditional donors to a relationship of strategic collaboration, with the preparation for Habitat III and the formulation of a New Urban Agenda as a launching pad.



**LEFT:** Building blocks for a brighter tomorrow—constructing preschools in conflict affected villages, Sri Lanka. © UN-Habitat





**TOP :** Traffic jam in Beijing's Central Business District, China.  
© Hung Chung Chih /Shutterstock

In January 2014, UN-Habitat completed the European Union funded project on Post-Conflict Assistance to West-Timorese Women and Indigenous Communities that had absorbed large numbers of ex-combatants. Over 3 years, UN-Habitat provided training to 621 government officials, of which 240 were female. At the end of the programme, UN-Habitat supported the National Development Planning Ministry (BAPPENAS) to absorb strategic advice on indigenous land tenure management and on the accelerated basic service provision for the next 5-year' national development plan of Indonesia, especially with regard to development in the poorest Eastern parts of the country.

In 2014, UN-Habitat completed the Cities Alliance funded project "Making Urban Investment Planning Work; building on the Indonesian CDS experience". The CDS approach – consultative and citywide – was proposed to complement the budgeting exercises of the Ministry of Public Works and Public Housing.

A new MOU was signed, with Indonesia to support Habitat III preparations and UN-Habitat to support capacity building of young Indonesian urban officials and professionals. On World Habitat Day 2014, the Ministry of Public Works launched its own City Changer campaign. In November 2014, the Ministry convened a first EGM on the Asia Pacific Preparations for Habitat III, with selected Least Developed Countries for the preparation of National Reports.

## Myanmar

UN-Habitat supports the Government of Myanmar to enhance knowledge and skills to introduce and re-engineer land administration systems which are outdated and inefficient. It has also trained local government and land registration department staff to work on the new platform of land registration.

UN-Habitat has as well been supporting affected communities with a comprehensive recovery concept and has also initiated urban management and governance programme. UN-Habitat is conducting a number of researches to supplement the ongoing policy work with the Urban Resource and Development Institute.

Essential **community infrastructure facilities** have been constructed through a participatory process in approximately **250 villages** in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, including **54 community centres, 39 preschools, 36 common wells** as well as **240 Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RWH)** and **9 school toilets and hand wash facilities**.

UN-Habitat has been actively supporting the Government of Myanmar to implement the Hyogo Framework for Action and to create resilient cities through the implementation of the Myanmar Action Plan for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). UN-Habitat's involvement in climate change actions through the Myanmar Climate Change Alliance programme will strengthen capacity in the government, private sector and civil society actors and to assist the government in the preparation of a national strategy for climate change.

### Pakistan

During 2014, UN-Habitat started the facilitation of Pakistan's participation in the Habitat III preparation and the National Report drafting with funding from OXFAM GB through the Pakistan Government's Climate Change Division and the National Habitat Steering Committee.

### Land and local governance:

UN-Habitat used ongoing projects for exploring new approaches for government-led and community-driven slum upgrading initiatives to improve community livelihood in informal settlements. WASH interventions were conducted in Karachi to tackle problems of solid and liquid waste, promote behavioural change and to reduce the incidence of polio in the urban slum communities. Humanitarian assistance through shelter support and provision of WASH were provided to selected IDPs of KP and FATA.

**Basic services:** The establishment of an Integrated Resource Recovery Centre in Islamabad with UN-ESCAP in 2014 improved the capacity of local authorities to deliver basic services in Pakistan. Other service delivery interventions include a joint programme with UNICEF to improve access to potable water and improved sanitation in polio high risk areas, with funding from the Coca Cola Foundation.

### Disaster risk reduction:

UN-Habitat is the convener on Disaster Risk Management under the One UN Programme II 2013-2017, in collaboration with the National and Provincial Disaster Management Authorities. UN-Habitat undertook a multi-hazard assessment of selected government buildings throughout Pakistan.

### Sri Lanka

UN-Habitat has assisted to develop human settlement policies in Sri Lanka since 1978. The agency has supported the nation to benefit from global trends ranging from the City Master Planning in the 1980's to advocating approaches

that promote participatory planning, focusing on the reduction of poverty and inclusiveness.

Working closely with the Government of Sri Lanka, development partners and communities, UN-Habitat's post-conflict programme is assisting communities to construct over 31,000 homes while providing essential small-scale community infrastructure facilities to over 250 villages. At the end of December 2014, 23,000 permanent houses and toilets for returnees were completed through a homeowner driven process in conflict affected districts in the Northern and Eastern Province. The construction of 8,500 houses is on-going and will be completed in 2015.

Essential community Infrastructure facilities have been constructed through a participatory process in approximately 250 villages in the Northern and Eastern Provinces, supporting post conflict recovery and reconstruction efforts of the country, including 54 community centres, 39 preschools, 36 common wells as well as 240 Rainwater Harvesting Systems (RWH) and 9 school toilets and hand wash facilities. In order to improve accessibility in rural villages, 156 km of internal roads and 6 km of storm water drainage has been rehabilitated.

During the past 4 years, UN-Habitat has supported eight disaster-prone cities (Balangoda, Ratnapura, Kalmunai, Akkaraipattu, Batticaloa, Mannar, Vavuniya and Mullaitivu) with Disaster Risk Reduction Planning and capacity building for Local Authorities and communities. Concluded in December 2014, this programme developed disaster risk reduction and preparedness plans.

### BOX 3: CREATING A ROAD MAP FOR THE MYANMAR URBAN FUTURE

The Urban Research and Development Institute, established in 2012 with the partnership of UN-Habitat, the Government of Myanmar and Government of Norway, has gradually developed as the hub of all urban initiatives ranging from training municipal staff on city development strategies in formulating documents of strategic importance such as Myanmar National Building Code.

At the city level, engagement through training events, support for resilient city planning, and facilitation to link to urban networks such as 100 resilient cities

programme made the city leaders understand that the urban planning is an emerging need for Myanmar cities if their cities were to be competitive and efficient in the region.

UN-Habitat was recognized as the key partner to formulate a National Urban Policy and National Housing Policy at the Government's National Conference on urban and housing policies which UN-Habitat expertise shall be provided for the development of a road map for better urban future for Myanmar.

Funding for this programme has been provided by the Government of Australia (DFAT).

In close collaboration with diverse stakeholders, 620 youths have been trained on advanced construction skills (masonry and carpentry) and 14,800 homeowners trained on basic construction skills while 633 of community members, including 300 women, have been provided with leadership training.



**RIGHT :** Panorama of Delhi  
Jama Masjid Mosque minaret.  
© Nowak Lukasz/ Shutterstock

**LEFT :** Aerial of Dhaka, the Capital of Bangladesh.  
© Dmitry Chulov / Shutterstock





PHOTO: Havana, Cuba.  
© KKulikov/Shutterstock





# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Latin America and the Caribbean will be nearly **87 per cent** urban in 2050, by which time the annual average pace of growth in the urban population is expected to slow down to **0.3 per cent**.

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

## Introduction

The Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) is the most urbanized region in the world, with a rate of around 80 per cent. The region has reached a stable urban growing pattern; however, this pattern was basically created during the rapid urbanization period (1960-2000) when new urban dwellers were hosted by poorly planned cities. The result is a number of negative externalities (inefficiency in land use, urban sprawl, congestion, etc.).

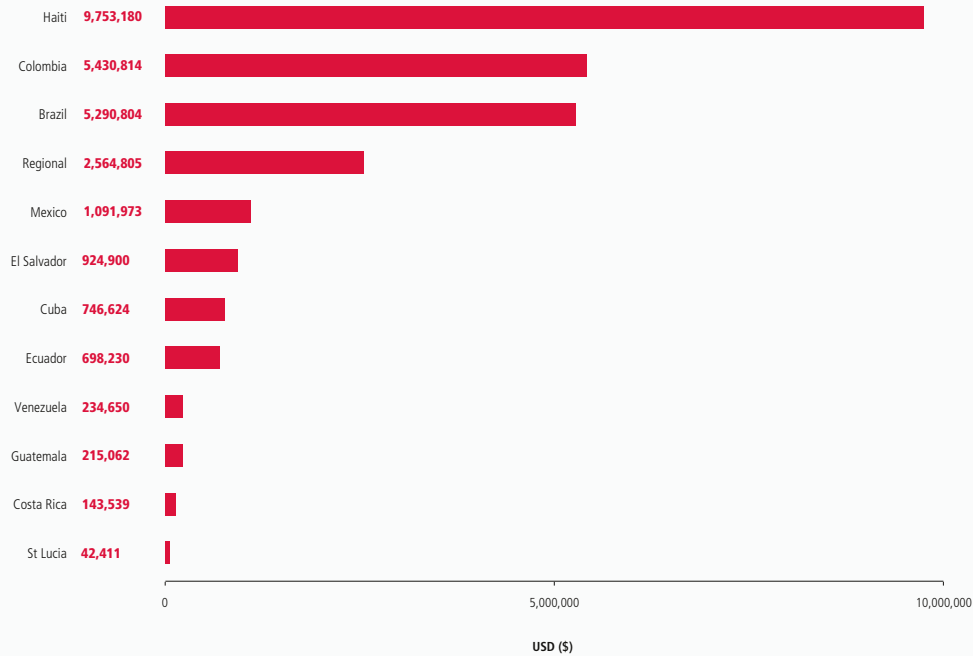
The region continues to record the highest disparity of incomes in the world and this is also true for cities as demonstrated by recent UN-Habitat reports. The Latin America and the Caribbean region are mostly composed of Middle income Countries (MIC) and have only one Least Developed Country (LDC), Haiti. There are willingness and interest to employ good technical cooperation services. For this reason, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean has received in the last four years a high per centage of

non-traditional funds from national, sub national and local governments who request and fund technical advice on UN-Habitat expertise.

The culture of informed decision making, planning and monitoring are spreading over the region. For this reason there is a great interest for methodologies like the City Prosperity Index (CPI), which is now being implemented in several cities. City or sector Profiles are also being requested and have been developed in Colombia, Cuba, El Salvador, and Mexico and in



**FIGURE 20: DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2013-2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2013-2014*

Eastern Caribbean Countries. However, other thematic challenges in the region include urban security, urban equality and resiliency. The Regional Office has prioritized the mainstreaming of gender and youth in all programmes in order to contribute to a more just society.

### Lessons learned

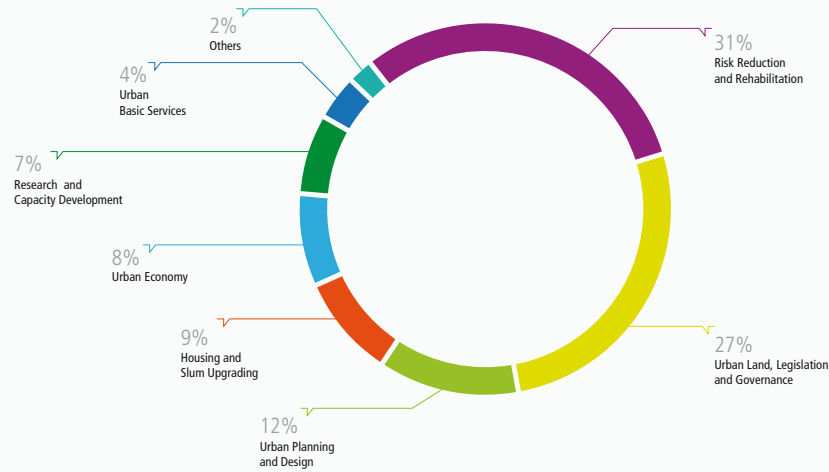
- The Technical cooperation environment in Latin America and the Caribbean has evolved from

one led by traditional donors to a very competitive to one where the actual expertise is what partners are looking for.

- Administrative and financial framework supporting traditional cooperation models are proving not to fit for purpose in the new Latin America and the Caribbean middle income technical-cooperation-business-environment.

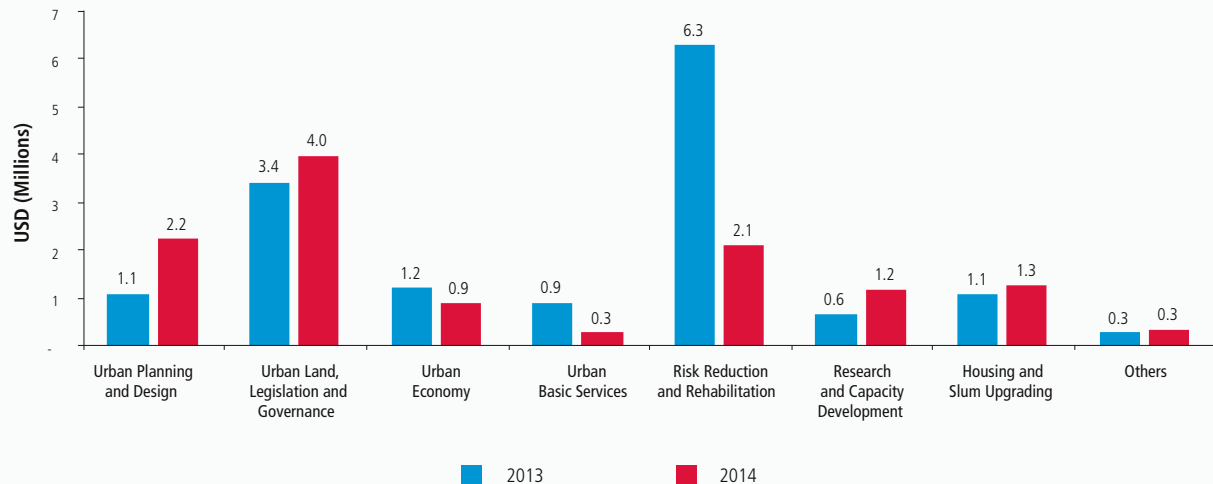
More than three years after the earthquake, camps remain a major issue in Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area. According to the CCCM cluster, **55,371 households** are still living in **312 camps**

**FIGURE 21: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF PORTFOLIO IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

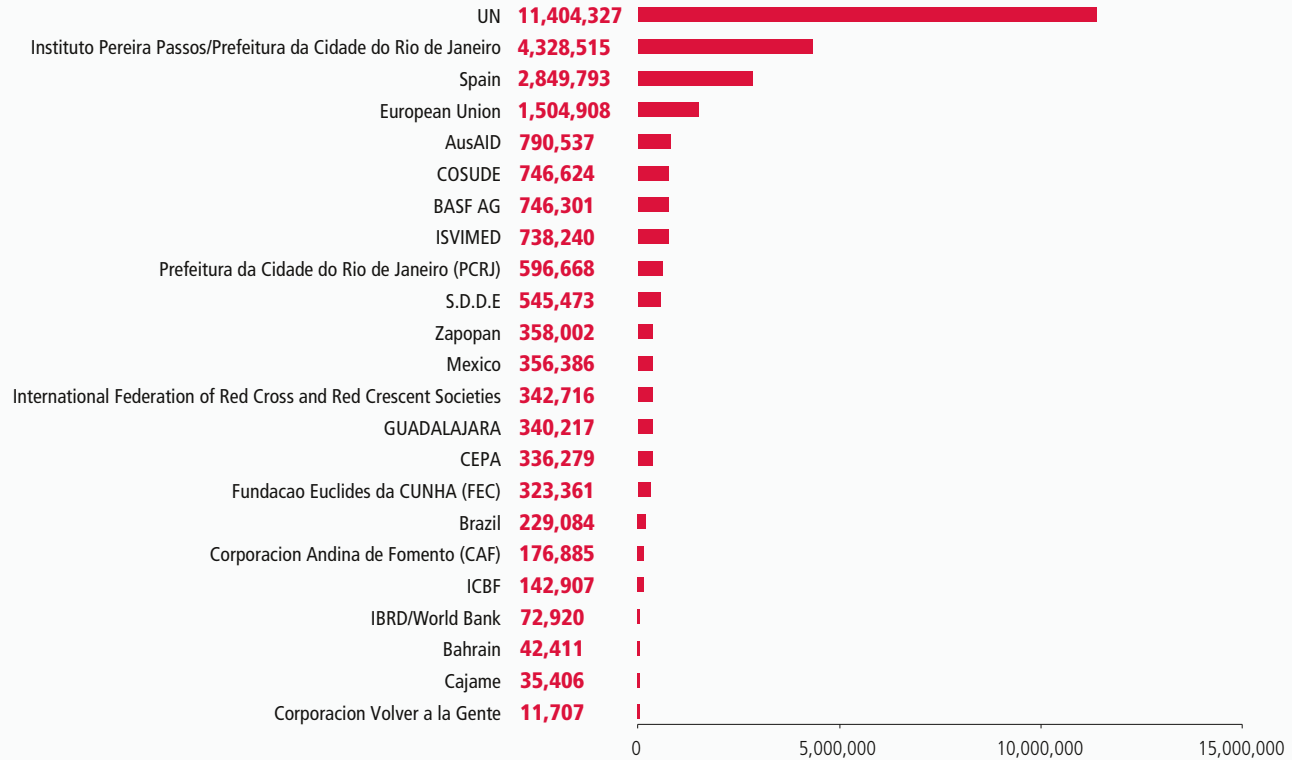
**FIGURE 22: THEMATIC BREAKDOWN OF PORTFOLIO IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2013-2014**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014



**FIGURE 23: CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2013-2014 (IN MILLIONS)**



Source: UN-Habitat 2013-2014

- Dedicated attention shall be paid to new development partners, i.e. cities and governments of the region, including the private sector.
- Tailored strategies and projects shall be developed by the agency in order to develop evidence to show the way the new expertise (urban development integrated approach, city prosperity initiative, etc.) can result in relevant but new responses to countries and cities own social and economic priorities.

- Special emphasis shall be done towards the only LDC country in the region.

In terms of the UN-Habitat projects in the region, three-quarters of the organization's portfolio in the LAC are in three countries: Haiti, 36 per cent; Colombia, 20 per cent; and Brazil, 19 per cent (see Figure 20). As shown in Figure 21, over half of the project expenditure in the 2013-2014 biennium is in two thematic areas: risk reduction and rehabilitation (31 per cent) and urban land, legislation and governance (27 per cent). Notably, spending in projects relating risk reduction and rehabilitation significantly decreased (from USD 6.3 million in 2013 to USD 2.1 million in 2014) whilst an increase of USD 1.1 million was observed in projects encompassing urban planning and design (see Figure 22).

## Projects activities and outcomes in Latin America and the Caribbean

### Brazil

#### *Social Reintegration of 30 Pacified Favelas*

The development of this initiative is needed to complement the actions of public security with the promotion of local development, enabling the physical and social integration of these slum areas to the formal city. UPP Social focuses on improving urban governance and public management, and to create the conditions necessary for an integrated public intervention through the

production of high quality data on these territories. As a result, the following should be noted:

- Guidelines for Management of UPP.
- Local projects prepared with community organisations in the pacified communities.
- Support the activities of several organizations in the territories: inter-location, articulation, and support to

the implementation of action by 12 Municipal Secretariats

- Knowledge Management improved through the development of participatory methodologies for data collection.
- Identification of 213 NGOs working in pacified Favelas and the establishment of 49 partnerships for joint action in these Favelas.



**TOP :** San Pedro la Laguna, Guatemala.  
© Milosz\_M / Shutterstock



**TOP :** A view of sunny Bogotá center with the Santamaria bullring and the Andes mountains in the background.  
© De Jongh Photography / Shutterstock

### *Metropolitan Governance in the State Of São Paulo – Facilitating The Formulation And Implementation of São Paulo Macro Metropolis Action Plan and its Portfolio Projects*

The accelerated process of urbanization and the increasing importance of metropolitan regions in Brazil have recently brought to light the debate around metropolitan governance and planning in the country. The overall objective of this initiative is to support EMPLASA in the implementation of São Paulo Macro-Metropolis Action Plan through the development of a model of metropolitan governance. The overall objective of this initiative was to support EMPLASA in the implementation of São Paulo Macro-Metropolis Action Plan through the development of a model of

metropolitan governance. The outcomes include: (i) facilitation by UN-Habitat of the implementation of the Macro-metropolitan Action Plan (PAM), through the elaboration of a governance strategy for PAM portfolio projects and by ensuring the implementation capacity of the key involved actors.

### *Urban Planning and Territorial Management in Metropolitan Regions - Inputs for the Elaboration of the Brazilian Policy on Metropolitan Governance*

In 2013, the Brazilian Ministry of Cities wanted to elaborate the National Legal Framework for Metropolitan Governance and the Integrated Urban Development Plan in order to establish common legal definitions and guidelines for metropolitan and regional development

in the country. It was for this reason that UN-Habitat was requested to offer input for the elaboration of these documents focusing on territorial planning processes and urban management to articulate urban policies with the full development of the municipalities affected by metropolitan dynamics. It is expected in mid-2015 to increase awareness around metropolitan and regional management and governance shall be achieved among national and sub-national institutions through the consolidation and advocacy of the proposals for the a) National Legal Framework on Metropolitan Governance and for the b) methodology of Integrated Urban Development Plan (PDUJ).

### *Monitoring the MDGs at the Municipal Level in the States of Rio de Janeiro and Maranhão and Strengthening Local Capacities on Public Policies (Fec and Fsadu)*

In 2006, Petrobras announced the installation of the COMPERJ (Complexo Petroquímico do Rio de Janeiro) in the Municipality of Itaboraí, in the Eastern region of the State of Rio de Janeiro. According to the Environmental Impact Study conducted in 2008, the economic and social impacts of the industrial operation will directly reach 11 municipalities of the region. Consequently, those 11 municipalities have decided to institutionalize their cooperation to cope with the forthcoming development challenges through the creation of CONLESTE (the Inter-municipal Consortium for the Development of the Eastern Fluminense Region).

This project aimed at monitoring the impacts of the construction and operation by Petrobras of the petrochemical complex COMPERJ (State of Rio de Janeiro) and the Refinery Premium I (State of Maranhão) in the municipalities concerned with these private industrial investments. Based on the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) declined to local targets and indicators and UN-Habitat Urban Observatory indicators, the monitoring also aims at providing input and instruments for municipalities in the design of public policies, programmes and provision of infrastructure in line with the rapidly evolving reality. It builds a Geo-referenced database with social, economic and environmental information on the regions impacted by COMPERJ and Premium I. The project

enhances local capacities for poverty eradication and sustainable development by contributing to the improvement of municipal territorial knowledge and know-how for urban management. It made it possible for Petrobras to measure the impacts of its industrial activities on the surrounding territories.

### **Colombia**

#### *Support and Assistance of the enhancement of the Major's Office of Medellín in the Municipal Development Plan of 'Construyamos unidos un hogar para la vida Let's Build a Home for Life*

Over the past years Medellín has gone through a successful urban and social transformation process in which it now recognizes its achievements and understands itself to be a laboratory for creative public policies and strategies. Nevertheless, the city continues to face significant challenges such as inequality, inadequate urbanization processes in mountain areas, and the lack of land that can be urbanized for low-income housing. The project aims to support the development of strategic interventions (through technical assistance, policy advice and project development), that will support the consolidation of ongoing institutional reforms aiming at improving the management of the habitat in the city in a more comprehensive manner.

#### *Urban Planning and Land Management in the Metropolitan Area of Aburra Valley*

Some of the problems that the Metropolitan Area is facing are the weak articulation between the municipal scale of urban planning and the regional and metropolitan scales. UN-Habitat

and the Metropolitan Area of Valle de Aburrá have agreed on working together for the promotion of local capacities for sustainable urban planning in the context of the Land Management Plans revision. It is expected to strengthen the integration of the metropolitan area on land use issues through the design and implementation of management tools, the articulation of regional land use guidelines to local level and the promotion of opportunities for knowledge exchange and research.

.....

The free-market ideology has promoted, and will continue to generate, **new urbanization modalities, spatial patterns and configurations** that may have an impact on how **'urban areas'** are defined and managed.

.....

#### *Technical support to the formulation of the National Policy for the System of Cities and to the strengthening of the Association of Colombian Capital Cities*

The project that sought to provide the strategy to solve the problem, is framed within the UN-Habitat Executive Director's strategic programme "Achieving Sustainable Urban Development-ASUD", seeking to provide the necessary support to the formulation of a national urban strategy for Colombia, through the design of public policies aiming to consolidate the System of Cities and

strengthen the Association of Colombian Capital Cities (ASOCAPITALES).

The overall objective of ASUD programmes in Colombia is to strengthen national and local governments as well as relevant stakeholder's capacities for improving urban planning and urban policies leading to sustainable urban development. This should contribute to Improved national focus on sustainable urbanization policies through a public system of consolidated Colombian cities policy.

### *Capacity building in the City of Santa Marta for sustainable urban development*

Particularly, the objective of the project in Santa Marta is to articulate strategies for sustainable urban development, supporting the management of the city based on a UN-Habitat's global campaign "I'm a city changer". New instruments and models were developed for the Municipality of Santa Marta (Formulation of the Master Plan and the upgrading of the Land Use Plan), the capability of implementing them was strengthened through the following thematic pillars: i) Sustainable City expansion, ii) Development of the seaport, iii) Recovery of the Rio Manzanares; iv) Connectivity through the development of the railroad and the airport's remodelling; and v) City integration based on social and territorial cohesion. As a result, the city of Santa Marta has developed a new urban planning and management models and tools, which enhanced its institutional capacities and local governance, and the citizens of Santa Marta now participate actively in the process as change agents.

### *Piloting an Inclusive and Participatory Land Readjustment (PILaR) in Colombia for Sustainable Urban Development at Scale*

This project is designed as the UN-Habitat's global pilot to demonstrate how to undertake a participatory and inclusive land readjustment initiative in a developing country through the example of Medellin. A pilot site within Medellin will be selected and a participatory process will be undertaken with all local stakeholders to design a compact, connected and inclusive neighbourhood. This should strengthen policy framework by Medellin and other relevant levels of government in Colombia with enabling policies and plans to undertake land readjustment in a participatory and inclusive manner for city extension/densification in pilot site. The results will

include increased capacity of Medellin and stakeholders to undertake PILaR for city extension/densification.

- Improved global knowledge on land readjustment for city extension/densification for developing countries with PILaR (PILaR systematization).
- Initiated discussions by Medellin and other relevant levels of government in Colombia for improved land-use planning for city extension/densification in pilot site in Medellin.
- Adoption of policy instruments and land-use plan for improved land readjustment for city extension/densification in pilot site.



**TOP:** Historical part of Quito, capital of Ecuador as seen from Panecillo statue at dusk.  
© Ammit Jack/Shutterstock

- Initiation of implementation of new inclusive and sustainable policies and plans by Medellín and other relevant levels of government in pilot site.

### ***Potentiate Popular Economy of the Agglomeration Areas in Bogotá and the Knowledge Management of the Urban and Regional Economy***

Informality, segregation and exclusion are important challenges faced by the City of Bogotá, to the extent that the population's economic activities are unevenly distributed in the territory. The project seeks to discourage the main causes for informality by promoting economies of scale, and improvement of the productive chains benefiting small and medium business in the city. A report using the critical mass of information and indexes shows in a more comprehensive way, the current State of the cities of Colombia and thus contributing to the strategic positioning of the urban agenda of the Colombia supporting project of structuring of the national urban strategy providing baselines in terms of urban prosperity.

### ***Mexico Assessment of the impact of crime on urban economic competitiveness, a pilot case in Zapopan Municipality***

Crime and violence rates have increased through past years in Mexico and have affected most of the country. Furthermore, this phenomenon has had a negative impact on cities' ability to achieve their development goals. The UN-Habitat's project aimed to contribute to urban safety through the improvement of local authorities' capacities to formulate and implement

urban strategies for prevention and mitigation of urban crime. Decision makers are now able to receive accurate and reliable information regarding urban crime and the connection with economic competitiveness.

### ***Urban Poverty Reduction in Mexico***

The project focuses on strengthening UN-Habitat and SEDESOL knowledge, visibility and network in order to develop the portfolio of activities in the country. Together with SEDESOL, UN-Habitat achieved reviewing the Local Urban Observatories, National Network index, roster in order to update and consolidate national comparison tools. UN-Habitat also promoted and participated in the elaboration of the Urban Development Agencies and Local Urban Observatories Methodological Guideline publication, which contributes to strengthen local authorities' capacities towards local planning procedures. Awareness and political support towards the Habitat Agenda was raised through public events such as the World Habitat Day, as well through institutional participation in UN Inter-Agency meetings and groups.

### ***Haiti From Camps Transformation to Urban Revitalization (CATUR project) - Port-au-Prince, Haiti***

More than three years after the earthquake, camps remain a major issue in Port-au-Prince Metropolitan Area. According to the CCCM cluster, 55,371 households are still living in 312 camps [1]. Camp committees and private initiatives are investing in the provision of basic services such as community schools, free clinics and shops. The project aims to strengthen analysis and decision making with a view to ending displacement based on a case-by-case survey of specific

camps in consultation with the CCCM Cluster. The project also proposes to formalize 2 or 3 selected camps through urban integration with the surrounding neighbourhood and through housing support, job creation, rental subsidies, access to basic services such as road, water and sanitation networks, or a combination of these options. The ultimate goal of the project is to pave the way for ending internal displacement of the camp populations through technical assistance at the governmental and local authorities level in terms of evidence based decision making regarding scenarios for camp exit strategies.

### ***Support Programme for the neighbourhoods reconstruction and planning and the returns Programme to support the reconstruction of housing and neighbourhoods in Haiti***

The earthquake that occurred on 12 January 2010 had tragic consequences for the housing sector with over 250,000 houses destroyed or damaged. The EU funded programme of institutional support was developed to strengthen the Government of Haiti and assist agency capacity to support recovery, reconstruction and rehabilitation of earthquake affected housing and neighbourhoods. The results show that national housing, settlement and urban development policy launched and the national communication strategy for safer and better housing construction devised. Public information products for safer and better housing, (video, print, radio) have been produced, while the monitoring and analysis of key reconstruction progress and issues underway.

### *Reconstruction with a view to sustainable improvement of housing and living conditions of the population affected by the 12 January 2010 earthquake in the Southeast*

The earthquake has caused serious damages in the South East Department where more than 21,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. Families have started low-cost improvements to repair their homes. In both urban and rural contexts, we observed major reconstruction issues such as the lack of skilled labour and poor quality construction materials. The project has been developed as a response to the priorities defined by the Interim Commission for the Reconstruction of Haiti. Thus, it is important to train construction professionals in earthquake - and hurricane-resilient building strategies, with techniques that are financially and technically accessible to local populations. This has led to a compact masonry training of trainers for 12 engineers and 2 masons, and construction of a didactic building, as well as the vernacular construction training of trainers for 20 engineers or technicians, 2 masons and 2 carpenters – construction of one model house. A better and safer construction public awareness campaign for 87 artisans or technicians can be added up to the good results of this activity.

### *Programme to support the reconstruction of housing and neighbourhoods in Haiti*

This Joint Programme involving four (4) UN Agencies proposes concrete measures to limit the effects of an uncoordinated answer to the January 2010 earthquake, which could be

inconsistent with the Action Plan for the Recovery and Development of Haiti. In a reasonable time, capacities were strongly strengthened at IHSI in terms of personnel and equipment. The IHSI was also provided with technical and methodological tools (data collection, GIS, etc.) and intensive training and accompaniment. The premises, damaged by the earthquake, were renovated for satisfactory working conditions. The Methodology for the Census was developed and tested (tools, methods of collection, mapping); it will support the exercise of national census foreseen for 2014. The inventory of buildings is completed in 2,505 SDE and the census is completed in 587 SDE.

Further, the SILQ platform has been conceived, its functions developed and tested, and is on-line since January 2014. CNIGS staff is being trained to assure SILQ management. Information from component 1 is already available in the database while data from other stakeholders is being gathered. The personnel of the Local Technical Agencies (ATL – 60 staff in line with priority municipal jobs) for ten municipalities and the Monitoring, Evaluation and Communication Unit at the Ministry of Interior and Local Government (MICT – 3 staff) are on post since the beginning of 2013. The Eleven Community Resource Centres are already in place with a total of 38 staff. Information and sensitisation events were organised with the new Mayors appointed by the Government for exhaustive comprehension of the municipal project planning concept and definition of the roadmaps for respective ATL and CRC. Equipment has been provided to the Municipalities and the Ministry. An on-the-job training

programme for ATL and CRC staff is being carried out.

The Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation department in town and country planning and regional and local development has progressively been involved in the coordination and monitoring of the production of regional and local plans, and the participatory processes deployed with them. The support of UNDP and UN-Habitat has allowed for the strengthening of its capacities and leadership to carry out similar schemes in the future. A participatory process has been carried out for in each of the five regions for the formulation of the plans.

### **Cuba** *Support to transformations of the Housing Sector in Cuba*

The project's general objective is to contribute to the transformation of the Cuban housing sector with cognitive, technological, normative and financial support. The main intervention strategy is to secure this important objective based on the concept of Popular Education (Practice-Theory-Transformed Practice). Conducted case studies of the Historical Centre, Palma Soriano and Holguin, drafts of the chapters of the profile were developed, as well as the public consultation to analyse the chapters of the profile. The survey of the population incorporated their results to the various chapters of the profile. The Housing Sector Profile was finished in September 2014. Cuban authorities approved the housing profile, which was shared in November 2014. In addition, 30 dwellings have been acquired, to benefit 30 families affected by Sandy Hurricane. Centres of local production

of materials of construction equipment and tools were strengthened. The technical capacities and citizens on issues of safe and healthy housing were also strengthened. The urban restoration / environmental areas where housing guaranteed the integration of the inhabitants to their environment were carried out, while the territorial and urban plan of two municipalities with participatory approach through popular consultation was developed.

### **Eastern Caribbean States Supporting to Eastern Caribbean States to Improve Land Policies and Management**

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with National and Regional partners (Organization of Eastern Caribbean States (OECS), University of West Indies, National Land Agencies and Land Stakeholders), supported OECS and National governments to develop foundations for sustainable land management reflecting the Region's aspirations for equity, efficiency and sustainability. This entailed the development of OECS Land Policy guidelines highlighting the crucial importance of land management to the achievement of economic development, poverty reduction, social stability and the protection of environmentally sensitive areas; in addition supported to develop National Land Policies in Grenada, St Kitts & Nevis and St Lucia in line with the guidelines and adapted to local conditions. The coordination capacities were enhanced for regional and national institutions to develop effective land policies through inclusive and extensive consultative processes. National Land Policies were also developed with National Land Policies

and implementation tools approved in Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis and St Lucia based on the OECS Land Policy guidelines and adapted to national conditions. The land records were improved. The Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) is a pro-poor tool for land administration to record persons to land relations along the continuum of land rights. It was also witnessed an enhanced understanding of sustainable land management, development and implementation of a communication strategy; and the enhanced understanding of the role of sustainable land management in regard to climate change and climate variability for economic resilience by all key stakeholders.

### **Participation and Metropolitan Governance – the case of the State of São Paulo**

During the year of 2014, UN-Habitat developed a project with the State of São Paulo in the scope of the Macro-metropolitan region. Considered as a whole, the region is an asset where 83 per cent of the state GDP (30 per cent of the national GDP) is produced; 16 per cent of the national population live; and where 14 per cent of the territory is composed of area with protected environmental assets.

#### **BOX 4: RIO DE JANEIRO: FROM COERCION TO TRUST – UPP SOCIAL PROGRAMME**

Drug trafficking is the source of much of the organized violence of Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city in Brazil. The inhabitants of these communities have been exposed to a high degree of insecurity and violence, excluded from the benefits provided by the city and state services. In 2008, the sheer level of violence and criminality made resolving this problem a government priority and, in December of that year, the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro began the deployment so-called Police Pacification Units (UPP) to recapture these territories. In January 2011, the municipality of Rio de Janeiro took a second step in this direction: the introduction of UPP Social in 72 already pacified areas. By May 2012, peace had been achieved in 87 Favelas spread over the city, benefiting about 300,000 people with freedom of movement and regular access to services. These units, which have a high degree of social acceptance, have helped build a safer city. Culture has been important and very successful tool for the inclusion of youth. Arts, culinary, dance and music have motivated participation of the community in activities promoted by the municipality and other partners, generating social and economic inclusion. "We appear dancing, but is very fast. They like the little step [so called *passinho*, a local dance]. In the beginning [when he won the *Passinho* Dance Competition], I went to very cool and chic places, São Paulo, Olinda ... met several artists. The phone kept ringing and I was living from it, of presentations. But I had in my head that this was going to finish one day and finally got a job. That is when it really decreased. But if I have the opportunity of living from the dance I'll take the opportunity" (Jackson Carvalho, 20 years, champion of the "Batalha competition in 2011", participating in the 2013 competition and explaining the opportunities he got over 2011, particularly his participation in a television soap opera in 2013.

*Source:* <http://uppsocial.org/2013/03/esta-dada-a-largada-para-a-batalha-do-passinho-2013/> (in Portuguese)



In 2011, an initial assessment revealed that São Paulo's metropolitan development suffered from unarticulated investments. Thereby, facing the challenge of urban sustainable development the State of São Paulo created a Metropolitan Development Secretariat with the objective to structure a Macro-metropolitan Plan of Action towards the objective of the 2040 (PAM 2013-2040). In 2012, based on this assessment, together with the São Paulo Company of Metropolitan Planning SA (Emplasa). Selected sectorial projects were articulated at the scale of the macro-metropolis and oriented towards three axis of intervention: 1. Connectivity and economic competitiveness; 2. Territorial cohesion and inclusive urbanization, and 3. Metropolitan governance.

By 2013, Emplasa a strategic document with a portfolio of projects different scenarios and a desired future was produced. Yet, the portfolio of projects had to find new strategies of financing, open the methodology to participatory processes and articulate itself with institutionalized sub-regional authorities, 172 municipalities, the federal government, civil society and the private sector.

In October 2013, UN-Habitat firmed a Contribution Agreement with EEMPLASA to provide a threefold technical cooperation in order to structure the metropolitan governance axiom. The first output consisted in the mapping of total of 266 macro-metropolitan actors that would be influenced by the project portfolio. Secondly, throughout 2014, UN-Habitat organised and moderated 6 regional consultations, a meeting

with the federal government and 4 thematic meetings. Thirdly, UN-Habitat built propositions of macro-metropolitan governance model, based on the existing legislation and the feedbacks from the participatory process; as a matter of fact some actors were maps consequently to the meetings.

The instrumental organization of meetings allowed a first step towards the culture of multi-level governance and participatory methodologies among State institutions. The first successful accomplishment is the dissemination and exposure of PAM 2013-2040 to all the mapped actors and beyond.

The proposed governance model structures an overall efficient coordination of technical and political institutions with the decision-making bodies. At both macro-metropolitan and regional levels, the PAM 2013-2040 will adapt to conjectural changes since stakeholders' participation are efficiently coordinated at the level of a Management Committee. At the macro-metropolitan scale, the PAM Working Group plays a decisive technical role in coordinating inter-sectorial projects at the macro-metropolitan scale, while special regional chambers discuss local development issues. Overall, the methodology promises to influence the design, implementation and monitoring practices of new projects at the regional and national level beyond 2040.

## **El Salvador**

### *Mainstreaming gender, human rights and youth in UN-Habitat interventions*

The Joint Programme on Urban and Productive Settlements in El Salvador (F092) has indirectly produced results at the policy level (please see details in MTSIP Report on El Salvador). UN-Habitat's components were closely related to housing, infrastructure and regularization of land and security of tenure but also supported participatory activities aiming at community development and the connection to productivity. A field visit to review the implementation of the mainstreaming of gender, human rights and youth was organized in 2013, aiming at documenting the results and positive changes in the lives of the target groups.

## **Brazil**

Monitoring the MDGs at the municipal level in the states of Rio de Janeiro and Maranhão (Brazil) and strengthening local capacities of public policies. This project aims at monitoring the effects of the construction and operation by Petrobras of the petrochemical complex COMPERJ (State of Rio de Janeiro) and the Refinery Premium I (State of Maranhão) in the municipalities impacted by these initiatives.

The MDGs showed great potential for the construction of productive coalitions and partnerships between local governments, civil society organizations and the private sector.



**TOP :** Panoramic view of Lima city, Peru.  
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The municipalities that adopt the MDGs and establish local targets and indicators for the development of their plans, policies and programs have the following advantages:

Potential for attracting the local community to the dialogue, considering the nature of the MDGs message;

Defined targets and indicators for increasing the supply and to improve the quality of public services; facilitating the monitoring and evaluation of public policies and measuring their results using consolidated indicators;

Adopting a management strategy oriented towards concrete results, which can be measured; having local policies in line with developmental strategies adopted by State and Federal governments, what allows the allocation of financial resources of Federal and State governments in their territories; aligning public policies around common goals.

An inter-municipal consortium, such as the CONLESTE, which aggregates 15 municipalities, enhances the improvement of the conditions for sustainable development in the participating municipalities.

UN-Habitat/ROLAC has provided technical cooperation to the Consortium including the institutional design of the consortium itself and the development of proposals that guarantees the principle of the right to the city for all. On December 2012, the fifteen Mayors sent an official letter to UN-Habitat and Petrobrás recognizing the importance of the project and asking for the continuity.

**PHOTO** : Aerial view of Moscow city.  
© Pavel Burchenko / Shutterstock



# THE EUROPEAN UNION AND EASTERN EUROPE

The capitals of the **Visegráds countries** are doing comparatively well, the outlook for many other cities and towns is rather gloomy and regional disparities in well-being are on the rise.

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

UN-Habitat has so far treated Eastern Europe as defined by the informal UN regional grouping, represented in the voting blocs comprised of at least 23 countries<sup>17</sup>. As of 2013, 11 among these countries have joined the EU. 3 are Candidate countries to the EU. 6 are covered by EU “Neighbourhood Policy” as “Eastern Neighbourhood”.

<sup>17</sup> Albania; Armenia; Azerbaijan; Belarus; Bosnia and Herzegovina; Bulgaria; Croatia; Czech Republic; Estonia; Georgia; Hungary; Latvia; Lithuania; FY Republic of Macedonia; Moldova; Montenegro; Poland; Romania; Russian Federation; Serbia; Slovakia; Slovenia; Ukraine.

In another dimension, 6 countries remain members, associate members or the de facto participants of the Commonwealth of Independent States, which includes, in addition the 5 countries of Central Asia: Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Tajikistan, Turkmenistan and Uzbekistan.

## Russian Federation, Eastern Europe and Central Asia (CIS)

The work of UN-Habitat in the sub region is supported by the annual contribution of the Russian Federation (USD 400,000) which is used for financing the activities managed by the Habitat Programme office in Moscow. In this

period this work has been focussed on determining priorities for co-operation and to supporting the preparation of the national reports to Habitat III – which will be the main source for sourcing the priorities.

## European Union and its neighbourhood

Since November 2013, UN-Habitat has been actively engaging with the EU Member States through participating in the work of the informal EU Urban Development Group. The group convenes under each successive Presidency of the European Union.

UN-Habitat informs the UDG on the work relating to the New Urban Agenda and preparations to Habitat III. Participation in the work of UDG provides direct contacts with the Ministries in charge of Urban Development.

## The Western Balkans

The flagship project in this sub region remained Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo<sup>18</sup>. It has entered into its final phase, during which, among other work the Spatial Planning Toolbox is being finalised. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat actively discussed country activities with the UNCT in Bosnia and Hercegovina.

## The role of the analytical regional State of the Cities reports and using their findings in determining emergent issues

### State of the European Cities in Transition 2013 report *Emergent issues*

The report has determined the following urgent issues in the sub region, which are now guiding the design of country activities by UN-Habitat:

- Demographic trends in the transitional region indicate two important phenomena that are somewhat related: depopulation of rural areas and smaller cities and b) strong tendencies towards demographic ageing. Given the

<sup>18</sup> Kosovo designation is used as defined by the UNSC Resolution 1244.



**TOP** : Busy street Rruga Justiniani near The Roman Catholic Cathedral of Blessed Mother Teresa in Pristina, Kosovo. © OPIS Zagreb / Shutterstock

agricultural potentials of much of the rural areas currently being abandoned, what interventions (and by whom) can reverse the rural depopulation? What role can international land outsourcing play in generating investments in declining agricultural areas in terms of restarting production, investment in road and agro commerce infrastructures? How can adequate provisions be made for the rapid ageing populations in the transitional region and how are such investments to be financed by current and future generations?

- The desire to rapidly pass through the transitional phase has led, at times, to short-term governance interventions insufficiently based on reliable, forward-looking policy, legislative and regulatory foundations. Among others, this has led to misalignments of regional, national and local policies and strategies for urban development. Which (and whose) interventions would be most suitable to effect early policy alignment for increased coherence among urban strategies at all levels and how can holistic, single, integrated and cross-sectorial policies be generated in the short-

term to create desirable regional and national urban hierarchies in support of functional city clustering and networking for national and regional integration?

- In many transitional countries, governance decentralization processes remain less than optimal. Decentralization either occurred to rapidly for local authorities to learn and adjust, or because centralization.

Options are available to improve urban governance and to:

- Make decentralization efforts more effectively; b. Increase fiscal decentralization to the local level, and; c. Achieve effective multi-level governance.
- Whereas significant improvements have been achieved over the past two decades of reform in the transition countries, the environmental record and especially the urban environmental record needs to be notably improved.

Opportunities to rapidly enhance the urban environmental record in transition countries, especially in key areas like:

- Urban brown field rehabilitation to rapidly make valuable urban land available for development,
- Energy-efficiency upgrading of existing housing stocks to reduce demand for urban energy,
- Rapid boosting of municipal services extension, rehabilitation and more efficient management.
- Rapid and wholesale housing privatization throughout the transitional region has generated significant numbers of owner-occupiers too poor to maintain their residential assets while it virtually wiped out the social housing stock at a time that urban housing costs are escalating.

Which public and/or private sector interventions in the national and local housing markets are best suited to address the dilemma of rapidly declining accessibility of urban housing, lack of affordable rental housing and lack of social housing?

- The free-market ideology has promoted, and will continue to generate, new urbanization modalities, spatial patterns and configurations that may have an impact on how 'urban areas' are defined and managed. Conceiving sub-urbanization processes as resulting in the declining sizes of the 'city proper' may theoretically be a correct interpretation, but appears to ignore that the concept of 'urban area' is changing with increasing real and virtual mobility of citizen who spread over larger territorial areas for residential or commercial purposes while maintaining intricate linking with the 'core city'.

#### *Impact of the report*

- Before the launch of the report, the Urban Intergroup of the European parliament hosted a round table with the key stakeholders of the European Union to discuss the finding of the report. The report was well received, and it was launched during Open Days of European Cities and Regions in October 2013 at a common workshop with the Directorate General for Regional Policy discussing the progress of the transition countries in sustainable urbanisation.

**TOP** : Miraflores Town landscapes in Lima, Peru.  
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# SELECTED ACTIVITIES BY THEMATIC BRANCHES

'The urban transition' - a demographic trend whereby, roughly speaking, the **global population** changes from a **two-thirds** rural majority in 1950 to a **two-thirds** urban majority around 2050

## Urban Land, Legislation and Governance

### Urban Legislation

Evidence shows that well formulated law, based on sound policy, i) supports equitable governance, planning and project implementation; ii) creates a stable and predictable framework for both public and private sector actors; and iii) provides a platform for integrated local and national sustainable urban development practice. The UN-Habitat Urban Legislation Unit was established in May 2012 to lead the Agency's work on developing evidence-based, collaborative approaches to urban development assistance; developing innovative tools and methodologies to address particular problems in urban law reform; and, building knowledge and understanding of urban law via effective information and communication platforms.

The 2013 and 2014 period reflected growing interest in the Agency's urban law approach and demand for its services. In Latin America, legislative analysis was undertaken in Medellin, Colombia, as part of the Agency's global pilot project on Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment ('PILaR'). The urban legal baseline study conducted for this project contributed directly to the City of Medellin's detailed plan for the pilot.

In Africa and Asia, detailed legislative analysis and advisory work continued in the Philippines, Rwanda, Mozambique and Egypt, as part of UN-Habitat's 'Achieving Sustainable Urban Development' (ASUD) programme. This programme provides case studies of sustainable urban development based on the elements of planning, finance and legislation. The empirical evidence gathered provides vital inputs for national legal and policy reform processes and

informs the implementation of city-level concept plans and recommendations. Participatory workshops have also been instrumental in developing local 'legal' capacity to manage urban challenges. The studies will be completed by mid-2015 and include normative conclusions on the development of appropriate legal structures for urban development.

A key part of the UN-Habitat's urban law work is to understand the current and emerging legal challenges in urban development. Building on the interest in debates about law, equity and inclusion in the 2014 World Urban Forum, a gathering of international and local planning and legal experts was held in Guinea Bissau (July 2014). Organised in partnership with the Faculty of Law (Bissau), this event deepened participants' understanding of the foundational legal and planning frameworks required for sustainable urban development. The



outcomes report will be translated into Portuguese and used as a tool to engage the new government on essential urban development challenges facing Guinea Bissau.

UN-Habitat's work on urban law includes the gathering of empirical evidence that helps answer questions such as 'Where do urban laws facilitate change and growth?', or 'Which laws are contributing to regressive urban outcomes?' We conducted case studies from developing contexts (Ghana), emerging economies (South Africa) and developed country contexts (Australia, the United Kingdom and Portugal). Two land management case studies were also added to the existing legal publication portfolio on the Urban Legal Network (ULN) website, documenting the experiences of land readjustment in Gujarat and Turkey.

A landmark achievement of UN-Habitat's legal information dissemination was the launch of a unique legal database, 'UrbanLex' – a free online 'library' of laws, policies and relevant secondary information. The database includes a digest for each law, which provides an accessible description of its key contents. It is being progressively populated by a global partnership including the Urban and Environmental Planning and Research Centre in Istanbul Technical University, Turkey; Renmin University, Beijing, China; and the International Islamic University in Malaysia.

Through its urban legislation programme UN-Habitat has actively promoted urban law as a key thematic area in the sustainable urbanization agenda. In partnership with the Institute for Advanced Legal Studies at the University

of London, the first 'Urban Law Day' was held in February 2014. UN-Habitat's approach to urban law is gaining traction within the United Nations system.

### Urban Land

During 2013-2014 the Land and GLTN Unit supported interventions on tenure security in four regions (Africa, Asia-Pacific, Arab States and Eastern Caribbean) and directly in seven countries (Uganda, DRC, Kenya, Colombia, Haiti, Iraq and Namibia). UN-Habitat facilitates the secretariat of the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), an alliance of 66 international partners contributing to poverty alleviation through land reform, improved land management and security of tenure.

GLTN's work is part of a global paradigm shift in land administration, which has resulted in the endorsement of the continuum of the land right model among major global and national land actors. A number of affordable pro-poor, gender responsive tools have been identified to fill existing gaps in land administration and management and to support implementation of the continuum of land right approach.

#### *Highlights of 2013-2014 include the following:*

GLTN's pro-poor land information management system, the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) was used, together with supporting tools and approaches such as participatory enumerations, in Uganda, DRC, Colombia, Kenya, Haiti and the Eastern Caribbean States. This significantly contributed to the land dispute resolution and improvement of living conditions in informal settlements.

The Gender Evaluation Criteria (GEC) tool was implemented in 40 countries and contributed to more equitable access to land for women. In collaboration with other units in the Agency, a Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment methodology were piloted in Colombia.

The Land Policy Initiative in Africa was also supported with capacity development to implement the 2009 Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa. Other regional platforms on land issues were also strengthened.

Besides the development and implementation of tools, GLTN also supported pro-poor land policy development and implementation. In Eastern Caribbean States, the support resulted in the development of national land policies in St Lucia and St Vincent. In Uganda and DRC the policy implementation was supported through strengthening of land sector coordination mechanisms.

At the global level, a set of core global indicators for measuring tenure security were developed, as well as a roadmap for the engagement with the inclusion of land issues in the Sustainable Development Goals process and the Africa Development Goals. Additionally, the urgent need for effective policies and measures to enable, promote and protect a diversity of tenure forms, and the importance of developing enabling tools such as those of GLTN, were given prominence in the Special Rapporteur on adequate housing's Recommendations on Security of Tenure for the Urban Poor (September 2013) and her report to the Human Rights Council (December 2013).

**BOX 5: 'INFORMATION IS POWER': USING THE GLTN PRO POOR LAND INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM (SOCIAL TENURE DOMAIN MODEL - STDM) IN UGANDA**



A slum settlement at Mbale, Uganda, supported by project partners, the National Slum Dwellers Federation (NSDFU) and ACTogether, used STDM and other support tools such as Participatory Enumerations and the Continuum of Land Rights to create maps

of their area showing each household, the roads, taps, toilets and drains, and identified where there were gaps. The residents used the information and evidence gathered to negotiate with the Mbale municipality for additional services. Neumbe Angela, a Community Development Officer in Mbale Municipal Council said: "... STDM is specifically helping us to get detailed information at the household level. Nambozo Sarah, from NSDFU, said that "in the community we learn by doing. We have learnt data updating, management; we have also learnt to generate reports using the software. This software is very easy for anyone to learn and use."

A number of new areas were also brought to the attention of major actors. Land in post-conflict contexts was brought to a UN System wide agenda and GLTN initiated the development of global Guidelines on Land and Post-conflict. Furthermore, in partnership with the UN-Habitat Youth Unit and a number of emerging youth champions from around the world, the body of knowledge on youth and land issues was significantly strengthened.

The STDM software application has proven to be very youth friendly and as a result, a majority its users are young people. This is significant as it empowers them to participate meaningfully in processes of identifying problems, gathering evidence and finding solutions in the development of their communities. In Mbale STDM information has led to the provision of five public water pipes,

security lighting, improved sanitation, public toilets and drainage. The activities have been expanded to cover four additional municipalities, though profiling of informal settlements.

### **Local Government and Decentralization**

Strengthening partners' capacities for decentralized governance and inclusive urban management requires a complex setting of political dialogue and inclusion of the different stakeholders that make urban governance possible. To achieve this objective, our global and normative programmes are addressing three main issues: transparency, urban governance and financial and institutional sustainability.

A significant achievement has been the continuous support of local government associations channelled through

the Global Task Force of Local and Regional Governments ([www.gtf2016.org](http://www.gtf2016.org)) – in engaging with the post-2015 development agenda process, thereby exerting UN-Habitat's key role as the voice of local government within the UN system. UN-Habitat co-organised a global consultation on the Localization of Sustainable Development Goals together with UNDP and the Global Taskforce which represents approximately 340,000 local and regional government bodies. UN-Habitat intensively engaged in an 8-month multi-stakeholder consultation during 2014: mobilizing more than 4,200 participants from 80 countries in a series of dialogues at local, national and regional levels. UN-Habitat facilitated the e-discussions (<http://www.worldwewant2015.org/localising2015>) and supported local and national dialogues in 13 countries (Armenia, Burundi, Cameroon, El Salvador, Ecuador, Ghana, Jamaica, Malawi, Philippines, Portugal, Tajikistan, Tanzania and Vanuatu). The recommendations of the consultation were included in the final report "Delivering the post-2015 agenda: opportunities at the national and local level" highlighting the importance of local and regional governments in achieving sustainable development.

UN-Habitat also consolidated its technical capacities on metropolitan governance, following on the success of 2013 activities in Latin America and scaling at the normative level during 2014. UN-Habitat supported the formulation and implementation of the São Paulo Macro-metropolitan Action Plan, contributing to the identification of roles for the macro-metropolitan actors and the design of the macro-metropolitan dialogue model, including

consultations at sub-regional level. In Rio de Janeiro, a new governance model for the Metropolitan Region resulted in federal legislative action to address the metropolitan challenges. In Medellin (Colombia), the strengthened capacities of the municipality have resulted in the formulation of the Metropolitan Land-Use Strategic Plan. UN-Habitat also facilitated the creation of a new network, the Network of Metropolitan Areas of the Americas (RAMA), bringing together metropolitan authorities all along The Americas.

UN-Habitat also made substantial progress to promote Information and Communications Technology (ICT) as a tool for enhanced transparency and participation. A conceptual framework “ICT, Youth and Urban Governance” has been developed in 2013 to inform these new trends and to highlight how ICT represent an extraordinary instrument to increase the level of participation of urban poor and youth and the accountability of urban policy managers. Thanks to the Future Policy Modelling (FUPOL) research consortium, UN-Habitat started a pilot project in 2013, which is now being rolled-out in Mtwapa (Kenya) to develop an e-participation tool which brings together community and local authorities in the field of slum upgrading. At the global level, UN-Habitat has supported the creation of the Uraia Platform (meaning “citizenship” in Swahili) designed to support cities seeking innovation in municipal management with the increased use of SMART Technologies. The Platform, managed by the Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV) has been designed to benefit local administrations.

At the global level, UN-Habitat successfully conducted a survey of urban governance in 80 cities in partnership with the London School of Economics Cities programme and with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG). The results were presented at the Urban Age conference in New Delhi in 2014 and they will further inform the UCLG GOLD Report, which represents the main technical contribution of local government associations to Habitat III.

## Urban Planning and Design

### Global Projects on National Urban Policies

National Urban Policies provide an overarching coordinating framework to address the most pressing issues related to rapid urban development, including slum prevention and regularization, access to land, basic services and infrastructure, urban legislation, delegation of authority to sub-national and local governments, financial flows, urban planning regulations, urban mobility and urban energy requirements, as well as job creation. UN Habitat has received a range of requests to support national governments to develop, implement and/ or track the progress of their national urban policies.

UN-Habitat is prioritizing NUP in low and middle income countries with rapid urbanization. UN-Habitat has supported several urban policy development processes, including those of Burundi, Malawi, Rwanda, Zambia, Mongolia, Gabon, and Sri Lanka (National Urban Sector Policy Framework). Negotiations

are on-going with Cameroon, Uganda, Chad, and Haiti to provide technical assistance for the formulation of urban policies. UN-Habitat’s contribution to a national urban policy includes country assessment; advice on setting up of national processes and stakeholder participation; documentation of best practices to support national processes; analysis of urban planning policies and instruments; facilitation of local-national dialogue on reforms; dissemination and capacity development of the urban policy across the full range of actors.

UN-Habitat is currently assisting Rwanda in formulating an inclusive urbanisation policy. This reflects the strong ambitions of the President to boost the country’s prosperity and reduce poverty. One aim is to raise the level of urbanisation to 35 per cent by 2020. The aim of the draft policy framework is to enhance technical and administrative capacities in government; private sector and civil society ensure a coherent urbanisation process.

**Zambia:** has recently taken tentative steps towards establishing an urban policy. UN-Habitat has been supporting the process with technical advice. One of the first steps taken was to convene a national conference April 2013. A discussion document has been discussed and approved by the national cabinet, with some funds allocated to facilitate the process of preparing the NUP.

UN-Habitat is also involved in trying to prepare the ground for a NUP in Mozambique.

Cameroon just completed a feasibility study on NUP development, and Mongolia is in the process of completing the Country assessment phase.

In collaboration with the Barcelona City Council, in May 2014, UN-Habitat organized an Experts Group Meeting in Madrid on National Urban Policies. The meetings were held under the framework of the Project “Towards a New urban Agenda” which is building debate and consensus in the run up to the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, Habitat III, which will be held in 2016. The Madrid meeting, “Towards Effective National Urban Policies: Lessons from current practice” was attended by several urban policy experts from national and regional governments, international organizations and academia including research and training institutions. The meeting, also supported by Cities Alliance and the Spanish Ministry of Development, aimed to share recent experiences and approaches on National Urban Policies (NUP), and develop a broad “roadmap” for National Urban Policy implementation strategy. As a result, the participants drew a joint communiqué capturing what was discussed.

UN-Habitat in 2014 published a book on “The Evolution of National Urban Policies, A Global Overview.” The purpose of this publication is to review the experience of national urban policies (NUPs) in selected countries around the world in order to draw broad lessons and principles that would inform other countries interested in formulating or implementing their own policies. Through case studies, the book identifies specific urbanization problems

and how they have been addressed in various contexts.

### **Planned Cities Extension and City Wide Planning**

A reinvigorated back to basic approach to urban planning has been identified as a core element for a New Urban Agenda which sets the basis for sustainable urban growth and development UN-Habitat has refined its approach to planned city extensions as a key strategy for addressing urban growth, especially for intermediate cities where population growth is rapid. Ideally, this approach requires adequate public space (50 per cent), proper density (61 people per acre), mixed use (40 per cent of floor area for commercial use), social mix (20-50 per cent) in a good plan with a sound legal framework and sustainable financial plan.

UN-Habitat has started to elaborate, test and implement a new generation of plans and design which supports cities, in particular rapidly urbanizing low income countries, to guide urbanization. UN-Habitat has worked to analyse experience, develop tools and support countries and cities to develop planned city extensions.

Progress towards improving policies, plans and designs that support the development of compact, integrated and connected cities and neighbourhoods has been notable in 2013-14, as reflected in the growing number of partner cities that adopted relevant policies, plans and designs during the reporting period.

UN-Habitat core work on such topics has been supported by SIDA, Norway and Boo-young Ltd through their soft

earmarked contribution. Other partners have contributed in-kind or financial resources on the same agenda which is central to the work of Focus Area 2 – Urban Planning and Design of the 2014-19 Strategic Plan. Collaboration with the ASUD (Achieving Sustainable Urbanization) projects at the country level has been instrumental in advancing such agenda.

In terms of normative work with the Barcelona City Council in September 2013, UN-Habitat organized an Experts Group Meeting on Planned Cities Extension: Public and Private Space for Growing Cities. The meeting, attended by 35 experts from all continents, established criteria and principles for planned cities extension and growing cities in general, reflected in a communiqué’. Building on case studies presented during the meeting, a publication on Historic experience of Planned City Extension was developed and published in 2014. In parallel, Site and Services experiences were also analysed, as well as other case studies, leading to the development of a global searchable database of planning practices which is presently being peer reviewed for publication online. A discussion on the 5 principles of Sustainable Neighbourhood provides the key criteria for a new planning approach, focused on its spatial main characteristics and has been widely distributed and discussed.

In 2014, in collaboration with the Municipality of Zoppoan, Mexico, a regional EGM gathering 10 regional and international experts, discussed urban redevelopment and densification. The topic which complements the issue of extension and is of particular relevance

in Latin America, established some key criteria for redevelopment and sustainable densification of city cores and peripheral areas.

In order to translate principles and general criteria into action, UN-Habitat has devised several implementation mechanisms such as Several planning and analysis tools have been developed, focused on planning principles and on PCE and sustainable neighbourhoods. UN-Habitat also produced tool for assessing the quality of the Master Plan and provide feedback to member states. Materials have been shared with partner cities in both English and local languages for better understanding and to convey the key planning messages.

Training has been an integral part of the promotion and dissemination of the NUA approach to planning. The capacity of planners and city leaders of partner cities in planning, designing and implementation is strengthened through training based on the unique publication 'Urban Planning for City Leaders'. Over 383 planners and decision-makers from 104 partner cities were trained in Bangladesh, Malaysia, Mexico, Nigeria, Rwanda, Somalia and. Vietnam.

Rapid Planning Studio workshops, cities and local partners have been engaged in planning work on specific topics and exposed to the tools discussed above. This method, developed initially in Kisumu, has been replicated with 9 Kenyan towns as well as in Rwanda, the Philippines and Mozambique. In Rwanda in particular a series of 4 seminars was conducted in 2014 with 6 secondary cities for urban expansion, urban extension criteria, public space,

density and planning in a hilly context. Such seminar will be complemented in 2015 with sessions on urban legislation and municipal finance related to plan implementation.

In 2014 UN-Habitat also creates an in-house Urban Planning and Design LAB, with the objective to assist in turning principles into practice through targeted planning support and services for partner cities, as well as to test and contextualize planning concepts and principles. Support to cities provided by UN-Habitat through the LAB or its network of experts include analysis and assessment of existing urban plans and designs, as conducted in the case of Kigali, Lusaka and Lima. In addition, UN-Habitat has also supported planning processes through the coaching of the clients and provision of capacity building as well as through direct management of the design process on behalf of cities and national governments.

Among experiences and plans developed, the following can be mentioned:

**China:** the City Wide Strategy of Wuzhou was drafted using skills enhanced by UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Guangzhou Planning Institute. Young Professionals of the Institute learnt sustainable urban planning methodology and UN-Habitat's principles UN-Habitat with the Guangzhou Planning Institute led to planning of two secondary cities in Rwanda.

**Colombia:** a Planned City Infill for La Candelaria, Medellin city was approved. UN-Habitat supported an innovative programme being implemented to improve processes of

urban transformation. Planned City extension for Santa Marta was produced and adopted by the city authority. The authority agreed that the Concept Plan inputs will be reflected in the new Plan de Ordenamiento Territorial.

**Kenya:** a concept plan for Kisumu City Extension and the City County authority through participatory processes was approved. Kisumu county has made a financial commitment to UN-Habitat for preparation of detailed planning steps of the lakefront area.

**Rwanda:** concept plans of the towns of Rubavu and Nyagatare were approved following six thematic training modules offered for the local planners of six cities. The Guangzhou Planning Institute contributed to the planning exercise.

**Egypt:** concept plan for the New Town Al Alamein (developed based on a baseline study) and a concept plan for PCE of Banha city were approved. The planning process brought together technical staff of Ministry of Physical Planning, UN-Habitat and local consultants.

**The Philippines:** three cities (Cagayan de Oro, Iloilo and Silay) developed planned city extension conceptual frameworks and designs based on principles of the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development global programme, on a pilot basis. The planned city extension to showcase innovations in urban planning and design.

**Mozambique:** the planning studio workshop was conducted to enhance the capacity of local experts and consultants to prepare the extension plans for 2

sites (Nacala Velha and Nacala Porto). Expertly prepared metropolitan analysis in collaboration with Maputo University and the Ministry. The Concept plan will be ready by January, 2015 and a detailed plan will be ready by June, 2015.

Preparation of urban plans and designs has been completed in Wozhou, China, Bhana, Egypt, Santa Marta, Colombia, and Kisumu, Kenya. It is well advanced in Rwanda, Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro and Silay, Philippines, Bogota and Medellin, Colombia, Nacala Velha and Nacala Porto, Mozambique, El Alamein New Town, Egypt, and Nigeria.

In Bogota, the focus on urban economy will add value through Urbanism in a low income neighbourhood. In Medellin ASUD focus is on City Planning infill and knowledge management.

### Global Public Space Programme

UN-Habitat takes a trans-disciplinary approach in supporting local governments to develop working partnerships with a range of organisations; including multilateral, civil society, academia and the private sector, around the issues of public space. The Global Programme on Public Space of UN-Habitat started in 2013.

In 2013-2014, UN-Habitat made a steady progress in public space planning through both its normative and operational work. The value and contribution of public space to sustainable urban development were elaborated by experts and partners at the 'Future of Places Conference II' (Buenos Aires, Argentina Sept. 2014). More than 300 experts attending this meeting discussed 'Streets as Public Spaces and Drivers of Urban Prosperity'.

Kirtipur (Nepal), Mumbai (India), Mogadishu (Somalia) and Lima (Peru) prepared public space plans and designs at neighbourhood level. These projects are being implemented by UN-Habitat together with Mojang through participatory trainings. Under the Global Public Space Programme, UN-Habitat has provided partner cities with small grants to implement the design plans and physical works. The major country level achievements in 2013-2014 are illustrated below:

**India:** Lotus Garden project in Mumbai. This is located in one of the most neglected and poorest areas of Mumbai. The Garden, owned by the Municipal Corporation, has been upgraded involving the local councillor, municipality and local communities. The space is now completed and there is such pressure from the community surrounding the space to an extent that a limitation to the number of people using the space at any given time, had to be put in place.

**Nepal:** Dey Pukhu Public Space Project in Kirtipur. This has been completed and inspired the Municipality to also complete a Public Space Revitalization Plan for the entire Kirtipur, which includes an analysis of all the existing public and open spaces, strategies for their revitalization. Communities around the Dey Pukhu site have been continuously engaged in the up-grading of a pond and public square to enhance community use.

**Peru:** Villa El Salvador in Lima. Here, UN-habitat has supported the Municipal Parks Service, SERPAR, to develop a plan for the revitalization of a small public park in Villa El Salvador, which is a big settlement divided into zones. Each zone

or group has a small public space for different activities. There is little support or funds (in some cases no support or funds) from local authorities, so most of the maintenance and public construction work is by community members.

**Somalia:** Proposal to Upgrade Sinay Market in Mogadishu). A design proposal has been developed and approved by the Planning Department of the Mogadishu Municipality. The upgrading of the main market building which is in progress will harness the huge potential for economic growth, besides providing the community with a central public space for meetings, gatherings and events that will contribute to strengthening social links.

**Kenya:** UN-Habitat has completed the first phase of upgrading of the Jeevanjee Gardens to improve security, make the park more appealing to the public and provide services such as a public transport terminus stage and free Wi-Fi. New pathways, street furniture, waste bins, etc. have been completed.

**Les Cayes (Haiti):** the Upgrading and Revitalization of Parc de la Paix. This was also completed in 2014. The project has involved the redevelopment of a small park; fixing the broken play equipment, installing and repairing the concrete benches, and fixing the open drainage which runs alongside the park. The park walls and pavilion have been repainted and lighting installed. The project is now complete and very popular with the young people.

In 2014, an advanced draft of the publication: "Public Space Principles, Policies and Practices: Towards a Global Toolkit" was formulated and now it is

under revision and will be published in early 2015. Partners are involved in both the normative and the operational work with regards to public space, for example, in 2014, the National Planning Institute (INU) in Rome contributed to the development of the Global Charter on Public Space and the publication on Public Space Principles, Policies and Practices.

### Rapid Planning Project

The Rapid Planning (RP) Project is a 5-year project, which started in July 2014. It is an action oriented research project that is supported by the German Federal Ministry for Education and Research (BMBF). RP seeks to develop a rapid trans-sectorial urban planning methodology with a focus on targeting supply and disposal infrastructure. Therefore, the research project compliments effectively UN-Habitat's efforts in the development of urban planning methodologies.

UN-Habitat is playing a facilitating role in the project implementation of this global project, which gathers a Consortium of 10 Universities and involves 3 cities; namely: Kigali (Rwanda), Da Nang (Vietnam) and Assiut (Egypt). The agency will host the project offices in the case cities and will also play a role in the steering of the overall project, particularly in order to ensure its relevance for the cities involved and for the new urban agenda. On-going internal reviews, external feedback from the case cities and practical application of the results in entry projects will ensure that the available resources are efficiently used. Examples of activities in the case cities include;

In Kigali, the key institutional partners have been identified: The City of Kigali (with its Construction and Urban Development One Stop Centre), The University of Rwanda, and the National Ministry of Infrastructure with its focus on urbanisation. The MoUs with partners were signed and the recruitment process for project staff has been finalized.

### Overview Country Project *Support to a Sustainable Urban Development Sector in Kenya: Support to the Kenya Municipal Programme*

As part of the Kenya Sustainable Urban Sector Support Programme, UN-Habitat is supporting the Kenya Municipal Programme (KMP) with urban planning expertise and technical advice inputs.

The KMP is jointly supported by the World Bank, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) and Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA) and its lead agency is the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development. The Programme is being implemented in Four (No.) Components, namely: 1. Institutional Support; 2. Participatory Urban Planning; 3. Infrastructure investment; and 4. Monitoring and Evaluation.

UN-Habitat is supporting KMP Component 2 on Participatory Urban Planning. Here, the role of UN-Habitat is to identify capacity needs/gaps, develop and provide adequate technical support program to the "Participatory Strategic Urban Development Planning". This planning process will result in an Integrated Strategic Urban Development Plan (ISUDP) for each respective town. The collaborative approach to this project

is a unique example of leveraging UN Habitat principles, tools and approaches to providing technical advice towards the participatory urban planning exercise conducted in a town (s) within the counties involved in KMP.

In 2014, UN-Habitat organised a series of training sessions for KMPs' Cluster I (Mombasa), II (Malindi: Kilifi and Kitui), III (Thika: Kiambu, Embu and Machakos) and IV (Naivasha, Nakuru, Nyeri). Training sessions were adjusted to the different target groups, with the training content developed through preparatory meetings and discussions with different experts.

Based on the success of the training, UN-Habitat was requested to provide enhanced support (of enhancing the capacity of MCAs); targeting whole teams tasked with urban planning and management from Kitui and Mombasa county assemblies. UN-Habitat was also asked to support urban planning and management in several counties; Kisumu, Nairobi, Mandera, Kitui etc., using a similar methodology that as that applied for KMP.

## Urban Economy

### Introduction

The objective of the Urban Economy sub-programme is to support city, regional and national authorities in adopting improved urban policies and strategies that promote economic development. To achieve this objective, UN-Habitat has promoted urban strategies and policies that strengthen the capacity of member states and cities to realize their full potential as drivers of inclusive economic growth.

### *Promoting urban policies and strategies that are supportive of inclusive economic growth*

Normative outputs in this area comprise mainly of the creation and dissemination of knowledge, particularly in areas of urban productive transformation, economic benefits of good urban form, and local economic development. These outputs and efforts have resulted in tangible production and marketing support services that have benefited micro enterprises and informal sector operators.

### **Key achievements at the global level**

- Opportunities for knowledge creation and joint programming for promoting the role of the urban economy and financing were established and strengthened. Solutions for enhancing endogenous local economic development and the revenue of local governments are being promoted through an agreement between UN-Habitat and the Global Fund for Cities Development.
- Research and capacity building were strengthened through the enhanced engagement of the Development Bank of Latin America, UN-Habitat and UNESCAP with cities and national Governments on the urban economy. Six city case studies, drawn from Nairobi and Cape Town in Africa, Dili-Timor Leste and Ho Chi Ming in Asia and Quito and Lima in Latin America, led to improved awareness of spatial and structural economic transformation of urban economies during the seventh session of the World Urban Forum in Medellin.

- The capacity of 31 participants from the Latin America region was strengthened through a training programme on land markets and informal settlement regularization. The participants included mayors, deputy mayors, heads of departments and senior managers (60% from municipal and local governments). The programme was organized by UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Valle University of Cali (Colombia) and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy (United States).
- UN-Habitat has produced and disseminated a publication entitled, “The Economics of Urban Form: a Literature Review.” The report critically reviews the literature on the economic benefits of good urban form, characterized by population density, Centricity and city size.
- UN-Habitat has assisted local authorities in Cagayan de Oro, Philippines and the Nacala region, Mozambique in developing scenario, planning tools and indicators to help local governments assess economic benefits of good urban planning and policy decisions through pilot projects. In addition, a toolkit has been developed and piloted in Rwanda to project future land use patterns under baseline conditions.

### **Key achievements at the country level**

**Colombia:** Twenty six enterprises have developed business plans following UN-Habitat’s support to the design and implementation of a local economic development strategy. Twenty-four of them were trained in the design of leather and footwear products.

10 groups secured funds and two are in the process of refining their business plans. In addition, 100 new designs of leather and footwear products were introduced to the market.

**The Philippines:** Silay City has developed local economic development strategies and an action plan. These tools are linked to the broader plan for the extension of Silay City. This integrated and practical approach to economic development is expected to contribute towards a prosperous and equitable future, within UN-Habitat’s New Urban Agenda.

**Nigeria:** Akure city in the Ondo state has expanded urban policies and strategies supportive of local economic development under the Youth Inclusive Planning and Urban Space project. As part of its commitment to empower youths, the Ondo state government has allocated a land for the construction of a one-stop youth centre to be built partly by 250 youth trained in construction.

**Mozambique:** A new strategy for local economic development is developed in the Nampula-Nacala development corridor. The strategy to support municipalities is based upon local human, social and natural resources that can be leveraged into economic assets. Reinforcing the capacity of the municipalities to collect taxes and mobilizing the private sector (for territorial planning and future project implementation) in the Nacala Special Economic Zone, including the municipality of Nacala, are priority areas of this strategy.



**Zimbabwe:** The capacity of residents to pay revenue for targeted service delivery, improved as a result of the promotion of the informal sector and sustainable urban agriculture in the city of Masvingo. By the end of 2014, the business community had developed a common front in seeking services from the municipality. These gains are occurring through a European Union-funded project being implemented by UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe.

**Morocco:** New aspirations for the city and its development were articulated in the recently adopted National Urban Policy aimed to reinforce the inter linkages between towns. The goal is to support the development of a better-structured urban fabric that will ensure the macroeconomic balance of cities.

**Egypt:** A socioeconomic impact assessment conducted in the Greater Cairo region was adopted as an integral activity for planning assignments at the national, regional and local levels. The assessment outlined the added value in alleviating poverty, enhancing the quality of life, and linking displaced members with their new communities while compensating them for adverse economic impacts.

### *Promoting urban policies and programmes that are supportive of increased employment, livelihoods and opportunities, and with focus on urban youth and women*

The key objective of UN-Habitat's youth programme is to assist in the design and implementation of economic and social empowerment models for young men and women in urban areas of developing

countries. Its outputs contribute to increasing the access of urban youth to entrepreneurship, livelihoods and incomes, and developing model programmes derived from best practice.

### **Key achievements at the global level**

- The World Urban Forum maintained its importance as an international advocacy platform for advancing the urban youth agenda. Through the World Urban Youth Assembly in Medellin, youth made important recommendations to further their agenda, including the promotion of the state and private sector support to youth programmes for financing skills development and youth integration into the labour market. The assembly also recommended the engagement of youth in the Habitat III preparatory process. A draft report on the role of youth in the New Urban Agenda has been prepared, based on the engagement of the Youth Advisory Board.
- Through the Research and Capacity building program of the Youth Unit, UN-Habitat has a strong focus on producing research-based policy reports and papers supporting UN agencies, member states' and partner cities' quest for the sustainable and inclusive organization. The China State of Urban Youth Report 2014-2015: Equity, Employment and Youth Development in China was produced in 2014. Building on previous UN-Habitat reports.
- The State of the Indian Urban Youth Report: Employment, Livelihood and Skills produced by UN-Habitat and IRIS Knowledge Foundation together with researchers from other Indian research institutes and universities. The report provides a comprehensive, research-based evidence and policy guidance on urban youth issues such as migration, employment, gender equality, health and political participation. The report has used in parliamentary debates in India, and the second edition will be launched in 2015.
- The Global Youth-Led Development Series of short and reader-friendly policy papers have been a success in terms of outreach and impact. These publications enable partners mainstream and build internal capacity and possibility to develop youth-friendly policies and programmes at the local and national level.
- As part of the Youth and Urban Space programme, The Global Land Tool Network's (GLTN) and Youth Unit initiated the project on "Youth and Land" that has emphasized that the linkages between youth and land are not yet adequately addressed or understood by land sector actors and youth groups. The Youth-led Action Research for Land project was therefore initiated by UN-Habitat, in partnership with GLTN in 2013 to address this research gap. Five youth organizations were selected to undertake action research projects in their home regions of São Paulo (Brazil), Kathmandu and surrounds (Nepal), Yemen (countrywide), Nairobi (Kenya) and Harare (Zimbabwe). These projects broadly encompassed the themes of land and governance,

agriculture and livelihoods, public space and land tenure security.

**Collaboration with the UN Secretary General's Envoy on Youth:**

A donor meeting was organized under the auspices of the UN Resident Coordinator for Somalia in order to strengthen the international community's commitment to youth programming in Somalia. The Envoy also participated in UN-Habitat organized side-events at the Commission that reviewed the Status of Women in New York in March 2014, as well as the side-event organized on Harnessing the Potential of Urban Public Space for Women and Youth during Preparatory Committee I for Habitat III in New York in September 2014.

**Collaboration with UN agencies on youth issues.** UN-Habitat has throughout worked closely with other UN agencies on direct programming and mainstreaming of youth issues in the UN system as part of the executive group of the Inter Agency Network on Youth Development. UN-Habitat introduced a mentorship programme and an e-learning programme in collaboration with the private sector, Samsung, BASF and Refine+focus.

As part of the youth-led development programme, the Urban Youth Fund in a partnership with BASF Social Foundation and the government of Norway supported the establishment of more than 630 social enterprises in the Latin America, Africa and Asia Pacific regions.

An important part of the Youth and Urban Space programme, has been scaling up the One Stop Youth Centre Model in different countries. A One Stop

youth centre has been established in Akure city in the Ondo State in Nigeria. UN-Habitat has also supported the East African Community and the Southern African Development Community to utilize the model to implement regional youth policies and strategies. The core areas of the model include job skills and entrepreneurship training, sports and recreation, health services (HIV/AIDS testing and counselling), and youth-led governance and planning.

The Oslo Youth and Governance Project have been established as a platform for knowledge generation and awareness raising of youth engagement in governance in partnership with the Norwegian Youth Council. The project has also closed contact and partnership with the major youth organizations globally through the Major Group Children and Youth (MGCY) and the International Coordination Meeting of Youth Organizations (ICMYO).

**Key achievements at the global level**

**India:** About 100 youth from 14 youth groups has benefited from capacity building and resource mobilization through a national window of the Urban Youth Fund. The India Youth Fund Window is currently funding 14 youth-led organizations in project management training, designed to build the capacities of youth project coordinators.

**India:** About 300 youths from all over India were trained in sustainable urbanization issues and establishment of enterprises in social development. The Mumbai Youth Conclave was organized jointly with Narotam Sekhsaria Foundation and UN-Habitat to build

capacity and awareness of urban youth issues in India.

**Rwanda:** The lives of 1,000 youth have been transformed through the services of the Kimisagara One Stop Youth Employment and Productive Centre in Kigali. A parent of a beneficiary of the centre recognized the change in his son's life as follows: "My child has earned three medals in karate due to training and sponsorship from the centre. He has increased his confidence, and his academic performance has improved. Our family is treated with respect by the neighbours as a result of these achievements."

**Uganda:** Incomes of the members of the Kajjansi Youth in Development Initiative have improved. Started by Kenneth, a jobless youth who received entrepreneurship skills training at the Kampala One Stop Youth Centre, the initiative runs a garbage management project specializing in organic gardening. Its clients increased from just 3 in 2013 to over 80 by the end of 2014. The initiative employs 8 young people who earn regular incomes. In addition, through a partnership involving UN-Habitat and the KiBO Foundation, 400 Ugandan youth gained skills in leadership, information and communications technology, and community resource mobilization.

**Brazil:** UN-Habitat and its partners have supported the city of Rio de Janeiro to leverage projects that increase employment and livelihood opportunities for urban youth and women. Agentes da Transformação (Agents of Transformation) supports a participatory research project on youth livelihoods and employment in 10

different Favelas. The project, financed by a telecommunications enterprise has, developed profiles for 5,400 youths.

### *Promoting cities to adopt policies, plans and strategies for improved urban and municipal finance*

A fundamental problem of municipal finance in developing countries is the lack of financial resources. The fiscal deficit in most cities is widening because the rapid urban population growth is creating an ever-growing demand for basic services, new infrastructures and maintenance. Revenues generated by municipal authorities are insufficient to meet the growing municipal expenditure needs aimed to help local authorities identify, develop, test and disseminate municipal financing tools

International discourse on sustainable municipal financing for improving delivery of urban basic services has advanced. A global dialogue on innovative financing instruments for local authorities, held during the seventh World Urban Forum in Medellin, discussed the challenges cities face in mobilizing revenue from local sources. A follow-up expert group meeting held in Barcelona in 2014 on local government financing in developing countries identified political, economic challenges facing local governments in revenue generation.

The capacities of local authorities to adopt policies, plans and strategies to improve financing of services and infrastructure were strengthened, partly as a result of integrated normative and operational initiatives supported by UN-Habitat in a number of countries. Using the land-based financing, training

package, UN-Habitat supported the development and testing of several innovative approaches to land-based financing.

A guidebook on municipal finance was prepared based on lessons learned from the 2013 publication "Urban planning for city leaders and financing for city leaders". The 3 key pillars of the new urban agenda that is being promoted by UN-Habitat i.e. good governance, good urban planning and sustainable urban finance, was integrated into the guidebook.

In 2014, UN-Habitat successfully completed the first-ever municipal credit rating initiative in Jordan under the auspices of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. Under this initiative, five municipalities (Greater Maadaba, New Mazar, West Irbid, New Shawbak and Al Fuheis) were rated for their creditworthiness.

**Afghanistan:** Under the Community-Based Municipal Support programme, the citizens in settlements benefiting from land regularization are paying municipal tax revenue. The revenue has increased by an average of 15% in the last few years through the use of a UN-Habitat cost-effective methodology of property registration that was approved by the government for the collection of property tax.

**Mozambique:** Nampula municipality is piloting ways to meet its financial needs through a property tax – Imposto Predial Autárquico. This tax applies to about 10% of municipal properties, which is the only local revenue enhancement component. The municipality will also

pilot the mobile technology introduced by UN-Habitat to generate additional revenue from property taxes. The total cost of this technology is about USD 200,000 including setting up the system to operationalize and institutionalize it. A feasibility study has demonstrated that this cost could be recovered within the first year from taxes collected from 3,000 households.

**Kenya:** The county government of Kiambu has mapped its properties and facilities. The baseline data compiled with UN-Habitat technical support were linked to information on land values, which are rapidly rising as a result of Kiambu's proximity to the city of Nairobi. Initial analyses show that the county has an undeveloped portfolio of valuable assets, presenting various scenarios for mobilizing additional revenue from existing sources. UN-Habitat is assisting the county government to use its statutory authority to set up a county assets management and development company.

**Rwanda:** Local economic development activities in Nyagatare and Rubavu towns were identified. The proposed municipal finance strategies developed were tested through a diagnostic analysis of the urban economy and municipal finance in the country, including on the macroeconomic environment, bond market and infrastructure development, urban financing, job creation and the land value sharing system.

**The Philippines:** Silay City is working on planned city extensions closely linked to an economic strategy that considers supply chain linkages and income multipliers, addresses labour

force capacity, and plans for strategic investment in key infrastructure. The city's economy is dominated by sugar production. UN-Habitat is providing technical support to Silay City as part of the local economic development plan taking advantage of tariffs that protect the industry from international competitors, set to end in 2015. This necessitates a new strategy for economic transition capitalizing on Silay city's role in the region and the presence of large agricultural plots that can accommodate rapid urban development.

**Somalia:** The capacity of local governments in municipal finance was strengthened under the United Nations Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, with technical assistance from UN-Habitat. This is manifested in increased municipal

revenue generation for local governments in 7 districts (Hargeisa, Borama, Berbera, Gabiley, Sheikh, Odweine and Buroa) in Somaliland and 6 districts (Garowe, Qardo, Bosasso, Bander Beyla, Eyl, Jariiban) in Puntland. In addition, a geographical information system (GISO)-based building and property database was developed and updated.

**Mexico:** Tlalnepantla municipality is promoting policy dialogue and inclusive and participatory processes. UN-Habitat assistance, which includes training on a gender approach, has enhanced women's participation, improved the provision of information disaggregated by gender, and strengthened municipal governance for participatory budgeting. The outcome of this process includes a budget allocation that takes into account local needs and priorities, helping the

municipality to build infrastructure and provide better urban public services.

**Kingdom of Jordan:** UN-Habitat organized a conference in December 2014 in Amman, Jordan to finalize the results of the first ever credit rating project conducted in Jordan. UN-Habitat organized this conference in collaboration with the Muhanna Foundation in Lebanon and under the auspices of the Ministry of Municipal Affairs of Jordan. The objectives of the conference were to share the final results of the interactive credit ratings of five municipalities in Jordan and to hand over the credit rating certificates to the representatives of the five municipalities that participated in the project - *Maadaba, Al Karak, Al Mazar Al Shamali, Al Shawbak, and Al Feheys.*

	MENTOR	MENTEE
1	RandWater (Johannesburg/South Africa)	Harar Water and Sewerage Authority (Ethiopia)
2	RandWater (Johannesburg/South Africa)	Namibia Water Corporation -NamWater (Namibia)
3	Swaziland Water Services Corporation (Swaziland)	Nkana Water and Sewerage Company (Zambia) 2d phase
4	Swaziland Water Services Corporation (Swaziland)	Kigoma Urban Water and Sewerage Authority KUWASA (Kigoma/Tanzania)
5	National Water and Sewerage Corporation (NWSC Uganda)	Nairobi City Water and Sewerage Company (NCWSC Kenya)
6	NWSC (Uganda)	GWCL (Ghana Water Company Limited) 2d phase
7	Office National de l'Eau et de l'Assainissement (ONEA - Burkina Faso)	Societe des Eaux de Guinee SEG (Guinea)
8	ONEA (Burkina Faso)	Societe Togolaise des Eaux (TdE Togo)
9	E-Thekwini Water and Sanitation Unit/E-Thekwini Municipality (Durban/South Africa)	Lilongwe Water Board (Malawi)

## Urban Basic Services

### Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance (GWOPA)

In 2014, GWOPA have been equally busy promoting WOPs and guiding its effective practice as we have been in supporting WOPs implementation in the world, including Asia and the Pacific, Latin American and the Caribbean with the financial contribution by the Spanish Government (1 million euros/year from 2013 to 2017). As intended by our 2013-2017 Strategy, the two types of activities feed into one another in useful ways: the African WOPs provide research and testing ground for BEWOP and BEWOP provides guidance and structure

for the WOPs facilitation. In addition, four WOPs facilitated by GWOPA are currently under implementation as part of the collaboration between the French Development Agency (AFD) and GWOPA.

Short-term action plans have been developed and are currently being implemented, with strong emphasis on Non-Revenue Water, billing and collection, customer care and geographic information system (GIS). Medium-term Performance Improvement Plans are being drafted and will be available at the end of the project in April 2015. During this first phase, the PIP manual is being tested and the experience gathered from its use will feed into a second version of the manual.

## Urban Mobility

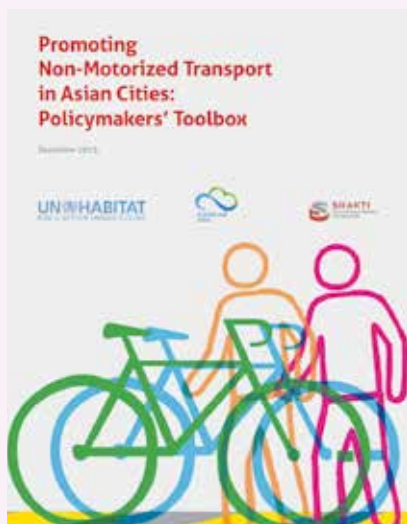
### Overview:

UN-Habitat's work in urban mobility is driven by a vision of cities as engines of economic and social development and "Transport" is seen as a means and not an end itself - the ultimate objective of all transportation being access to opportunities, goods, services and amenities.

In East Africa, with support from the Global Environment Facility, UN-Habitat is implementing the "Promoting Sustainable Transport Solutions for East African Cities (SUSTRAN)" project. This USD 2.9 million initiative is linked to proposed investment projects of the World Bank and the French Development



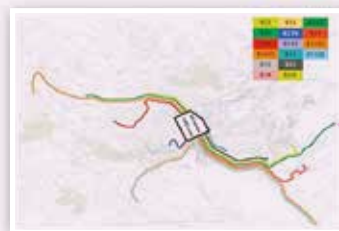
**TOP** : Kampala Uganda  
© UN-Habitat



1. Mapping Nairobi Matatu Routes



2. Students being trained on conducting demand surveys



4. BRT Service Plan



3. Results of Demand Survey (Matatu Load)

Corporation. UN-Habitat's partners in this initiative include the Governments, the Institute of Transport Development and Policy (ITDP) and the Transport Research Laboratory (TRL).

UN-Habitat is actively working to make cycling and walking safer and more attractive while promoting NMT as a sustainable alternative to private vehicle dependency in cities. A "Policymakers' Toolbox for Promoting Non-Motorised Transport" for Asian Cities was also developed. Among UN-Habitat's partners are city and national governments, Clean Energy Nepal, Clean Air Asia, India and Despacio, Colombia.

UN-Habitat launched the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative that seeks to increase the uptake of electric vehicles in cities.

### Project Highlight:

Initial efforts to develop operational plans for a BRT service in Nairobi were hampered by the lack of information on the travel patterns and demands for people, while statistics on vehicular travel demand seemed to be more available. Based on pioneering work done by the University of Colombia, USA and the University of Nairobi, Kenya, maps of all informal public transport routes in Nairobi (step 1) were produced. In addition, through a collaboration between UN-Habitat and ITDP, rapid surveys of matatu ridership patterns were carried out (steps 2+3).

This resulted in the Service Plan (step 4) for the first BRT demonstration corridor in the city which is providing the basis for the design of the infrastructure. The

methodology has demonstrated how a new paradigm of people based planning can be implemented as opposed to the unsustainable conventional way of car or vehicle based planning which leads to more and more infrastructure construction.

### Urban Energy

Cities today are home to more than half of the World's population, consume 60 to 80 per cent of the World's energy resources and produce over 70 per cent of the World's Carbon emissions. The global urban population will grow from the 3.3 billion people in 2008 to almost 5 billion by the year 2030. The benefits of improving Access to Modern Energy Services in poor urban and peri-urban areas are transformational: Lighting for productive activities, increased security,

energy for basic service provision, including water and sanitation, cleaner indoor air, faster food-processing/cooking, more income-generating opportunities, industrial development and so on. Developing green cities and green economies will need supportive policies, capacity building, knowledge transfer, financial support mechanisms, market stimulation and sensitizing the population, at the regional, national and local level.

Under this program, we have been able to conduct trainings from architects and other building practitioners on sustainable building design that take into consideration local climate, make use of locally available building materials and make particular attention on affordability. This program is funded by the Global Environment Fund (GEF).

The project “Mainstream Energy Efficiency and Conservation Measures into Building Codes in West Africa” is implemented in Nigeria, Cameroon and Senegal with the financial support from the German Government and the three west African countries. The main objective is to integrate energy efficient measures in existing building legislations. This project is funded by ENEL Foundation, Italy. Under the project “Hands-on training on energy efficiency and renewable energy Technologies for Youth Empowerment”, we have trained over 120 youth in the construction of renewable energy appliances in Kenya, Burundi and Tanzania.

## Water and Sanitation

### Overview

During the reporting period, an important focus of UN-Habitat’s work in water and sanitation was to engage in the post-2015 consultations on the Sustainable Development Goals, which has led to the adoption by the Open Working Group (OWG). The proposed water goal encompasses waste water treatment, water quality, water use efficiency and integrated water resources management. Building in this development, UN-Habitat has been working with UNEP, WHO and other UN-Agencies to establish a Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative (GEMI).

UN-Habitat’s engagement in global normative work has been supported by a portfolio of projects at the regional and country levels. The project portfolio for the reporting period covered projects in over 20 countries in Africa and have targeted over 100 national and city-level institutions, while the level of investment leveraged by UN-Habitat’s work is estimated at over USD 150 million.

In the next two years, UN-Habitat will seek to expand its technical assistance to Municipalities and Urban Utilities to improve the enabling environment for investment in basic services for the urban poor.

### Global Activities

A milestone of UN-Habitat’s engagement in the post-2015 process was the contribution towards the establishment of the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative for Water (GEMI). UN-Habitat joined the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the World

Health Organization (WHO) (under the UN-Water platform), with initial funding from The Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, to lead the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative for Water.

Progress was made towards the identification of the main governance and institutional barriers to effective storm water drainage management, with examples from four cities – Kigali (Rwanda), Casablanca (Morocco), Dhaka (Bangladesh) and Bordeaux (France).

### Africa Region

A Gender Focused Micro-credit Sanitation Programme in Africa was launched to advance the rights and dignity of women supported through the UN-Habitat water and sanitation activities. The programme consists of small loans, on favourable payment terms, to poor households for improved latrine construction.

### Ghana

In Ghana, the Canadian Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development provided C\$19.915 million for the UN-Habitat-led WASH in Disaster-Prone Communities in Northern Ghana project. This initiative is a collaborative effort by a group of United Nations agencies, with UN-Habitat (as the lead agency), UNICEF, WHO and UNDP working with government institutions in the WASH and disaster management sectors. UN-Habitat is managing C\$9.32 million for the new programme.

### Kenya

Approximately 10,000 people are benefiting from improved water supply and sanitation in low-income settlements of Mandera town. A new borehole fitted with a new pumping station, a 135,000

litre storage tank and a distribution line to strategic water collection outlets was established in Neboy and Bulla Juhumia informal settlements. The capacities of the local utility, Mander Water and Sewerage Company, and the Mander Water Users' Association were strengthened. In addition, four schools in Mander benefited from improved sanitation with the completion of 10 double-door latrines, observing gender considerations in the design. The BASF evaluation report (2014) applauded the contribution of UN-Habitat's gendered initiatives to the safety for women and children, and improved sanitation facilities for girls.

### *Malawi*

A EU€0.98m agreement was signed between the European Union and UN-Habitat for the implementation of a water and sanitation project in 2 local authorities in Malawi at the end of 2014. Preparatory activities for the project to take off were being worked on as at the end of the year.

### *Rwanda*

UN-Habitat supported the urban water tariff study conducted jointly with the relevant government institutions. The capacity of staff of the Ministry of Infrastructure, Rwanda Utility Regulatory Authority, and Energy, Water and Sanitation Authority was strengthened using the findings of the study. A review of drainage problems facing Kigali was carried out during an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) in Kigali in 2013. The meeting examined the link between storm water drainage management and integrated urban water resources management.

### *Senegal*

A High Level Stakeholders Meeting on Human Values-based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE) was held in Dakar in 2013. Education Ministers and staff from Ghana, Cote d'Ivoire, Burkina Faso, Mali, Cameroon and Niger participated in the meeting during which an evaluation of the HVWSHE Programme in West Africa was discussed to chart a way forward for the programme.

### *Somalia*

UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Hargeisa Water Agency and the Ministry of Mining, Energy, and Water Resources, continued the implementation of the EU funded Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP). The project is envisaged to improve water supplies to Hargeisa from nearby wells, and to ensure that the supply system is secure and sustainable.

### *South Sudan*

Over 90,000 people in seven towns (Yirol, Turalei, Gok Machar, Kapoeta, Magwi, Ezo and Nyin Akok) now have access to clean water. This was achieved under phases I and II of the quick impact water projects funded by the United Nations Mission in South Sudan. The communities are operating and maintaining the projects through payments of agreed guideline tariffs. One more system in Rumbek is scheduled for completion in early 2015 to serve about 10,000 more persons.

### *Tanzania/Zanzibar*

UN-Habitat continued to support partner local authority urban basic service providers. Support was provided to the Dar es Salaam Water and Sewerage

Authority. A Similar groundwater quality monitoring exercise has commenced in Zanzibar and is ongoing.

In Zanzibar, UN-Habitat has worked with the Zanzibar Water Authority (ZAWA) on the following:

- Rainwater harvesting systems in 15 schools which were completed in two phases between 2013 and 2014, in partnership with AfDB, and collaboration with the Ministry of Education and Vocational Training. A total of 16,613 school community members are benefitting from the systems.
- A sanitation scoping study was completed in September 2013. The study, which recommended the transfer of sewerage services from the Zanzibar Municipal Council (ZMC) to ZAWA, was validated and endorsed by various stakeholders during a workshop in September 2014.
- Completed the implementation of pilot Water Demand Management (WDM) interventions in Tumbwe.
- UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Zanzibar Municipal Council (ZMC) is initiating a capacity building programme for the CBOs. The programme includes the introduction of a Non-Motorized solid waste collection system. An experience sharing visit was organized for two staff members of ZMC to UN-Habitat supported projects in Kibera and Naivasha.





**TOP** : Lilongwe, Malawi.  
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The Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme expansion to Mwanza commenced following a EU€90 million loan agreement signed between the Tanzanian Government, the European Investment Bank (EIB) and the French Development Agency (Afd). UN-Habitat provided technical inputs and supported the preparation of the wastewater treatment and sanitation for the informal settlements components of the project document.

### **WATSAN Model Setting Initiatives**

#### *Lake Victoria Region*

Activities to promote pro-poor water and sanitation investments and improve the realization of upstream water sector reforms in these secondary urban centres were undertaken in Bukoba, Muleba,

Mutukula and Bunda towns in Tanzania as part of LVWATSAN II. Improvements in solid waste management as a result of these activities would complement the achievements of the overall LVWATSAN Phase II programme.

The Muleba Water Supply Project was inaugurated by the President of the United Republic of Tanzania, H.E Jakaya Kikwete. UN-Habitat provided technical assistance for the implementation of the project in collaboration with local actors. Over 10,000 residents, who in the past relied on polluted sources of water to meet their needs, are now benefiting from safe drinking water supplies as a result of the project. A Guide Book for the Lake Victoria Climate Change Study was published in 2013.

UN-Habitat is leading the implementation of the Capacity Building and Training Component for effective delivery of

the capital investment and long term sustainability of LVWATSAN II in 15 towns in the East African Community. As at the end of 2014, technical support has been provided through 31 tailor made training workshops organized at regional, national and town levels for a total of 1400 persons.

### *Lake Tanganyika Region*

In July 2013, a roadmap to mobilize financial resources to improve the water, sanitation and environmental conditions in the Lake Tanganyika Region was endorsed by Ministers from the riparian countries in Bujumbura, Burundi. A communique issued by the ministers reaffirmed their countries' commitment to regional collaboration and cooperation on matters of sustainable management of the resources of the Lake Basin.

### **Urban Waste Management Global**

As part of the global thematic consultations on water for the Post 2015 development agenda, the Wastewater Management and Water Quality thematic group, chaired by UN-Habitat and UNEP, launched its consultations in February 2013. Co-chaired by UNEP and UN-Habitat, the initiative held back-to-back events at the World Water Week in Stockholm, in August 2014. Working groups were established in the identified priority areas of the initiative.

### **Africa Regional**

Meetings were held in 2013 to conceptualize the 'The Land Raise Technology', a low cost solid waste disposal system for secondary cities. The outcome included production of a brochure to market the technology. A Quelemani town in Mozambique and

Botheville in South Africa have been identified as possible towns to pilot the technology.

### **Kenya**

UN-Habitat supported the sustainable urban development sector by sensitizing key policymakers through expert group meetings and workshops on the implications of the current challenges of solid and liquid waste in secondary towns. Kiambu County improved its capacity for waste management. The lessons on solid waste management drawn from phase I of the UN-Habitat Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Programme, implemented in seven secondary towns in Kenya, Uganda and the United Republic of Tanzania, are being applied in phase II.

### **Somalia**

In December 2013, UN-Habitat supported the launch of a regular solid waste collection service. In 2014, a citywide clean-up campaign was organised in Mogadishu involving regional authorities, district commissioners, private partners, community volunteers and civil society.

Project activities include an improved legal framework for service delivery; public awareness campaign; procurement of vehicles for door-to-door solid waste collection; equipment for street sweeping; and provision of secondary storage containers. The construction of a biomedical waste treatment facility is in progress. A Training of Trainers (TOT) was conducted in 2013 in Mogadishu, covering the operations and preventive maintenance of the UN-Habitat.

## **Asia Region Nepal**

In 2013-2014, UN-Habitat expanded its activities in Nepal, where it has supported the government since 1990s in the water sanitation, sustainable urban development, land management, and mobility related issues.

UN-Habitat, together with Coca Cola implemented "Support My School" campaign in 33 schools with the aim of creating healthy and active schools. Over 18 thousand students have benefited from this campaign.

In order to promote sustainable urban mobility in Kathmandu, UN-Habitat supported in drafting standards for urban roads, conducted various training and awareness campaigns and helped initiate a "Kathmandu Walk" campaign aimed at making the historic core of Kathmandu more pedestrian friendly.

Government of Nepal has initiated the preparation of Green Building Code" and three municipalities have introduced incentives to promote green buildings. Similarly about 300 engineers and entrepreneurs have received training on green buildings.

The project "Catalytic Support of Land Issues" initiated participatory land use planning process at the national level and piloted it in three districts. Women's empowerment for improving their access to land has been prioritised for the next phase which will start in 2015.

## **Lao PDR**

The UN-Habitat portfolio of projects has focused on provision of basic services to the poor through community-based interventions in settlements across Lao PDR and issues related to disaster response, climate change, renewable energy, land management and decentralization of basic services.

The projects aims to bring in value addition to International Fund for Agriculture Development's (IFAD) project on improving agricultural productivity under the Southern Laos Food and Nutrition Security and Market Linkages Programme (FNML), in Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu provinces by conducting assess and improve existing water and sanitation infrastructure, schools, medical dispensaries and community resilience through design/structural improvements of shelters of the poor and vulnerable households.

Clean water access will be supported in the 60 selected villages of 5 districts in the 3 southern provinces of Saravane, Sekong and Attapeu provinces under FNML and will further improve families' nutrition. This set of activities will be implemented by UN-Habitat, in collaboration with relevant district departments.

**MDG GoAL WASH on Realizing the MDGs: Enhancing pro-poor water governance in Lao PDR:** Developed of sector strategy for emerging towns to strengthen pro-poor water governance in the country as well as developed capacity for speeding up access to basic services with established water treatment plan database for water utilities as tools.

### **UN-Habitat's partnership with Rural Livelihoods improvement Programme (RLIP) project in Sansax of Attapeu province:**

Established the new water supply network to provide of Safe Piped Water (6,444 beneficiaries) for the 6 villages of Nam Pa's cluster (namely Vangxay, Somboun, Mixay, Phouxay, Dakhied and Phiakeo) in Sansay district of Attapeu province.

### **Pilot on Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) in Sanxay of Attapeu Province:**

Constructed of Decentralized Wastewater Treatment Systems (DEWATS) in two villages namely Mixay and Phouxay of Sanxay district (2,393 beneficiaries) and improved sanitation facilities for sixty (60) poor's households.

**Water for Life Phase II:** "Expanding Access to Safe Water through Underground Rainwater Harvesting (URWH)" in Phouvong District of Attapeu Province (funded by Fukuoka's institute, Japan: Constructed two underground rainwater harvesting (uRWH) in Taoum's and Phouxay's schools of two most vulnerable communities in Phouvong district.

### **Building Small-scale Climate Resilient Rural Infrastructure to Enhance Agricultural Productivity in Saravane Province:**

Construction the new gravity feed system in Paju-Kapa with totalling number beneficiaries of 374 people; Upgrading an existing gravity feed system in Kokbok with totalling number beneficiaries of 863 people; Upgrading an existing gravity feed system in Kape with totalling number beneficiaries of 647 people; Upgrading an existing gravity feed system in Phoxen with

totalling number beneficiaries of 659 people, and Upgrading an existing gravity feed system in Pangandao with totalling number of beneficiaries of up to 329 people.

## **Urban Housing and Slum Upgrading**

### **Overview**

35 countries endorsed the vision of the Global Housing Strategy which inter alia, has been translated into the PSUP principles for housing, slum upgrading and prevention. Countries have approached UN-Habitat for technical support and have shown the political will to co-finance activities. The number of national housing, slum upgrading and prevention strategies and programmes aligned to the Global Housing Strategy and vision rose from 28 to 36 in 2014. Over the same period, the number of partner national authorities working towards implementation of slum upgrading programmes increased from 8 to 35.

Advocacy for slum upgrading and prevention, poverty reduction in tandem with sustainable urban development contributed to improved knowledge and visibility of the challenge of slums internationally and especially within the UN system. The Kigali Conference outcomes and Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization for Poverty Reduction, demonstrated increased awareness of the five deprivations<sup>19</sup> and

<sup>19</sup> UN-HABITAT defines a slum household as a group of individuals living under the same roof in an urban area who lack one or more of the following: Durable housing of a permanent nature that protects against extreme climate conditions;

strengthened international cooperation and partnerships with countries. These attracted funding and requests from member states to join the Participatory Slum Upgrading programme. Currently, 24 programmes have already been implemented and are currently documented. This brings an increase from 8 to 24 in 2014, against a target of 34 to be met by the end of 2015.

In 2014, the status of resource for focus area 5 was as follows: USD 31 million was planned; USD 42.1 million was allocated; and expenditure was USD 39.7 million, giving a utilization rate of 94 per cent, which is satisfactory.

### **UN-Habitat Human Rights Mainstreaming**

UN-Habitat is bound by the UN Charter, which recognizes human rights as one of its pillars, and is specifically mandated by the UN General Assembly. According to the human rights-based approach, the process of urbanization should adhere to the human rights principles. Concurrently, the city, as the outcome of this process, should meet specified human rights standards, for instance:

**The human rights-based approach adds value to urban planning by legitimizing prioritization of the interests on the most marginalized in society and their participation in the planning process.** Indeed, the creation and implementation of an appropriate form of urban planning is a precondition

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*sufficient living space which means not more than three people sharing the same room; easy access to safe water in sufficient amounts at an affordable prices; access to adequate sanitation in the form of a private or public toilet shared by a reasonable number of people; security of tenure that prevents forced evictions.*

in many national contexts for the fulfilment of human rights obligations in the urban context.

UN-Habitat has made progress towards the promotion of human rights, both in operational and normative activities, as detailed in the sections below on normative/technical tools, institutional progress, partnerships, and country achievements.

### **Global Achievements** *Normative/technical tools*

UN-Habitat has finalized a Programmatic Guidance Note on Human Rights in Cities for UN-Habitat Staff. This Note provides staff with an introduction to the international human rights system and the human rights of most relevance to UN-Habitat's mandate.

Other guidance and information materials have been developed, including a number of Briefing Notes on issues relevant to human rights and urbanization, such as UN-Habitat engagement with the Human Rights Up Front Initiative and the Universal Periodic Review.

### **Institutional Progress**

The UN-Habitat Project Cycle is becoming increasingly human rights-based. A Human Rights Project Document has been approved by UN-Habitat senior management to guide the Human Rights Policy and Strategy until the end of the current Strategic Plan in 2019. A Human Right focal point is present at the meeting of the Project Advisory Group (PAG) where specific advice and guidance is provided on appropriately strengthening the human rights-based approach in all phases of the UN-Habitat project cycle.

There has been a strong integration of human rights into the processes of the **Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)** in 2014, particularly through UN-Habitat work on access to land, tenure security and the continuum of land rights. Technical assistance for implementation of the Flexible Land Tenure Act has been provided in Namibia.

Human Rights have been mainstreamed at global and country level, for 35 participating ACP countries, with the inclusion of the Human Rights Based Approach to Development methodology in the **Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP)** methodology. Furthermore, countries are required to review their regulatory framework relating to access to water, sanitation and adequate housing, in alignment with international legal instruments, in support of the implementation of the PSUP phase II.

The Agency's pilot project testing a new approach to **land readjustment – Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment (PILaR)** is making significant headway in promoting a rights-based approach to land readjustment that recognises the basic right to adequate housing beyond those holding orthodox property and tenure rights.

UN-Habitat in 2013 published a report on Advancing Youth Civic Engagement and Human Rights. Human Rights Day Celebrations in December 2014 included a UN-Habitat Brown Bag Debate on the Youth and Human Rights.

### **Partnerships**

UN-Habitat has strengthened its partnership with the **Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (UNOHCHR)**. The UN Housing Rights Programme has been formally upgraded to include the human rights mainstreaming component of the shared work related to housing rights and evictions.

UN-Habitat further works with the **UN Development Group Human Rights Mainstreaming Mechanism** to leverage the human rights-based approach in the post-2015 Agenda. UN-Habitat is also collaborating with the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Adequate Housing and the Right to Safe Drinking Water and Sanitation.

Through its membership of the **United Nations Rule of Law Coordination and Resource Group**, in partnership with the Rule of Law Office and the Department of Political Affairs, UN-Habitat has launched a UN system-wide dialogue on developing appropriate measures for land in post conflict situations. A draft Guidance Note for the UN system will be developed by the end of 2015.

### **Country Achievements**

In **Sri Lanka**, UN-Habitat has integrated security of tenure and property rights into its work as a fundamental component to shelter and livelihoods, and a cornerstone for the realization of poverty reduction.

In **Nigeria**, the first National Housing Slum Summit was held in November 2013. As a consequence, the federal and state governments have started to implement a results-based national programme on mainstreaming human rights into public policies, program designs, and decision-making.

The Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment project (PILaR) in the City of Medellin, **Colombia** is 1) protecting the rights and interests of those without formal property rights and 2) integrating all residents into the decision-making processes of the project, regardless of their property rights status. The rights based approach developed in this

project is being integrated into other methodologies and a PILaR methodology Sourcebook will be completed in mid-2015.

## Urban Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation

### Disasters and conflicts have become increasingly urban

The goal of the Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation, sub Programme is to build resilience, promote sustainable relief and reconstruction and to increase the resilience of cities to the impacts of natural and human-made crisis. Activities

relate to post-disaster and post-conflict recovery and rehabilitation of shelter and settlements in ways that advance sustainable urban development.

### Shelter Rehabilitation and Settlements Recovery Units

The scale and complexity of humanitarian emergencies, and urban emergencies in 2013-2014 has challenged the entire humanitarian community as never before. UN-Habitat is increasingly engaged at the forefront of humanitarian activities. More than USD 1 billion of projects in shelter, resilient, and sustainable recovery has been implemented in the past decade, and approx... USD 120million in 2013-2014, in partnership with a wide range



**TOP** : Sharia Camp in Dukuk, Iraq.  
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of member states and benefitting tens of thousands of families and hundreds of communities.

Post-crisis emergency and recovery projects account for the largest percentage of UN-Habitat's annual expenditure. As the world continues to urbanise, and complex conflicts and natural disasters increase, the more likely it is that urban areas will be affected.

UN-Habitat's current emergency and recovery programmes encompass Syria, Iraq, Lebanon, occupied Palestinian territories, Somalia, South Sudan, Central Africa Republic, Pakistan, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Philippines and the West Africa Ebola crisis, and others.

UN-Habitat is one of only nine UN agencies as permanent members of the Humanitarian Affairs coordinating body, the Inter Agency Standing Committee (IASC), with a mandate and responsibility to predictably respond and provide humanitarian support to member states in times of crisis.

During the 2014 the West Africa Ebola Virus Disease (EVD) crisis, it became apparent that there was a strong urban dimension to the spread of the disease. The United Nations Mission for Ebola Emergency Response (UNMEER) requested UN-Habitat to provide urban expertise in Accra, Ghana and Ebola affected capitals of the cities of Monrovia, Liberia and Freetown, Sierra Leone. In collaboration with the Global Shelter Cluster, UN-Habitat has established a new role of Shelter Cluster Americas Coordinator.



**TOP** : Sharia Camp in Dukuk, Iraq.  
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### *Case Study – Sinjar, Iraq*

Families had been displaced from Sinjar in August 2014 due to the ongoing conflict in the region eventually took temporary refuge in a tented camp in Sarrensk, Dohuk and arrived at the Dawodye camp for longer term settlement in early 2015.

### *A new model of IDP camp*

In areas of protracted conflict, UN-Habitat noted that many camps in the region become permanent or semi-permanent settlements and over time developed into urban slums. Poor choice of site and or poor drainage can prove to be disastrous for families already traumatized by their conflict related experiences.

### *Initial humanitarian response, Sharia Camp in Dukuk, Iraq 2014*

This project has been developed in full consultation with Local Authorities and affected families. This is an excellent initiative of the Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS). The project involves seven UN organizations: UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNESCO, (4) elementary schools, WHO, UNOPS and IOM.

The camp was funded by the Government of Saudi Arabia is well planned in line with urban planning principles, and housing is provided in prefabricated units. Parents remarked on how they looked forward to their children returning soon to school, and returning to a more normal life.



## CONCLUSION

UN-Habitat's mandate over the past **15 years** since the adoption of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, has been achieved by improving the living conditions of more than **220 million slum dwellers**, surpassing the target of **100 million**.

The outputs and results of UN-Habitat's activities at the global, regional, national and local levels as highlighted in this report provide a clear evidence of the key role played by the Agency in supporting national and local governments to build capacity to promote sustainable urbanization as a driver of development. It also advocates for a well-prepared and planned urban development across the regions.

It is worth noting that the new strategic plan of UN-Habitat for the period of 2014-2019 provides a conducive framework for realizing a model that links normative and operational activities. This paves the way to achieving of well-defined and tangible results for a greater impact at the field level by increasing the synergy of the ongoing programmes and ensuring a greater ownership by the recipients.

Promoting self-reliance and improving capacity building as described in some of the stories highlighted in this report (in the boxes) confirm UN-Habitat's strategy

in support of the national ownership of urban development tools and processes.

However, many challenges need to be addressed in order to secure the gains of the ongoing operations and future activities so that the emerging trend of "*planning together for a better urban future*" becomes sustainable.

No doubts, the Goal 7 of the MDGs — which provided a significant boost to the UN-Habitat's mandate over the past 15 years — has been achieved by improving the living conditions of more than 220 million slum dwellers, surpassing the target of 100 million. However, an additional 360 million slum dwellers have been added to the global urban population, which calls for new approaches to slum prevention and upgrading. A key lesson learnt from this report is that slums, which are the manifestation of urban poverty across the regions, are not a stand-alone phenomenon. They are linked to urban inequalities, lack of mixed urban land use as well as inadequate land and housing

options. Therefore, slum upgrading must be part of a broader framework of urban and housing policies underpinned by urban planning as a tool to prevent the formation of new slums.

In this perspective, the "three pronged" strategic track pursued by UN-Habitat in its recent interventions addressing the challenges of urbanization by integrating legal, political, urban design and financial modelling approaches in a coherent manner proves to be efficient.

As we embark on the post-2015 development framework ahead of Habitat III in 2016, UN-Habitat is working closely with national governments and local authorities in identifying and implementing programmes and projects that have the potential to empower the recipients and boost the ownership by the beneficiaries.



# LIST OF ALL DONORS 2013-2014

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**UN-HABITAT GLOBAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2015**  
INCREASING SYNERGY FOR GREATER NATIONAL OWNERSHIP

The UN-Habitat Global Activities Report is an historical progress report to the Governing Council that takes into account developments in addressing the project portfolio of the United Nations Human Settlement Programme (UN-Habitat) at the national, regional and global levels.

Over the years, the report – formerly known as the operational activity report – has been transmitted to the Governing Council on a biennial basis as an information document that provides project portfolio trend analysis based on project acquisition and expenditures.

The Programme's work has been focused on promoting national urban policy reforms together with building institutional and human capacities, including providing support to Governments in the implementation of national urban plans. UN-Habitat activities and programmes at the global, regional and national levels are crucial in increasing synergies for greater national ownership of the various sustainable urban development tools and best practices being promoted by the United Nations and Habitat Agenda partners around the world.

The report is available from [www.unhabitat.org/gc25documents](http://www.unhabitat.org/gc25documents).

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