

"A BETTER QUALITY OF LIFE FOR ALL IN AN URBANIZING WORLD"

# THE STRATEGIC PLAN

2020-2023

# EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT

Meeting of group on Programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters

**Agenda item 7:**  
**Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

**Briefing on UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflicts and disasters**

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# | Agenda Item 7– Supporting documents

- HSP/CPR/71/10 Resolution 26/2 Governing Council, enhancing UN-Habitat’s role in urban crisis response
- Decision 2022/2 (para 6-9) of the 2022 first session of the Executive Board
  
- Report of the Executive Director on UN-Habitat’s contribution, experiences and added value in urban crisis situation
- Annex: Briefs on UN-Habitat’s interventions in specific countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster
  - *26 countries as per Decision 2022/2: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, State of Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Yemen*
  - *Structure of the country briefs:*
    - Context
    - UN-Habitat Intervention
    - Main achievements/impact
    - Way forward



# | Urban crisis responses and the New Urban Agenda



19. [...] Special attention should be given to countries in situation of conflict, as well as countries and territories under foreign occupation, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural and human-made disasters.
29. [...] We further commit ourselves to promoting adequate services, accommodation and opportunities for decent and productive work for crisis-affected persons in urban settings and to working with local communities and local governments to identify opportunities for engaging and developing local, durable and dignified solutions [...].
30. We acknowledge the need for Governments and civil society to further support resilient urban services during armed conflicts [...].





Effective urban  
crisis prevention  
and response

**Guiding principles for UN-Habitat's work in urban crisis contexts:**

**Multilevel governance**

**Area-based and cross-sectoral coordination**

**Inclusion of all relevant stakeholders/participatory processes**

**Increased coordination between humanitarian-development-peace actors**

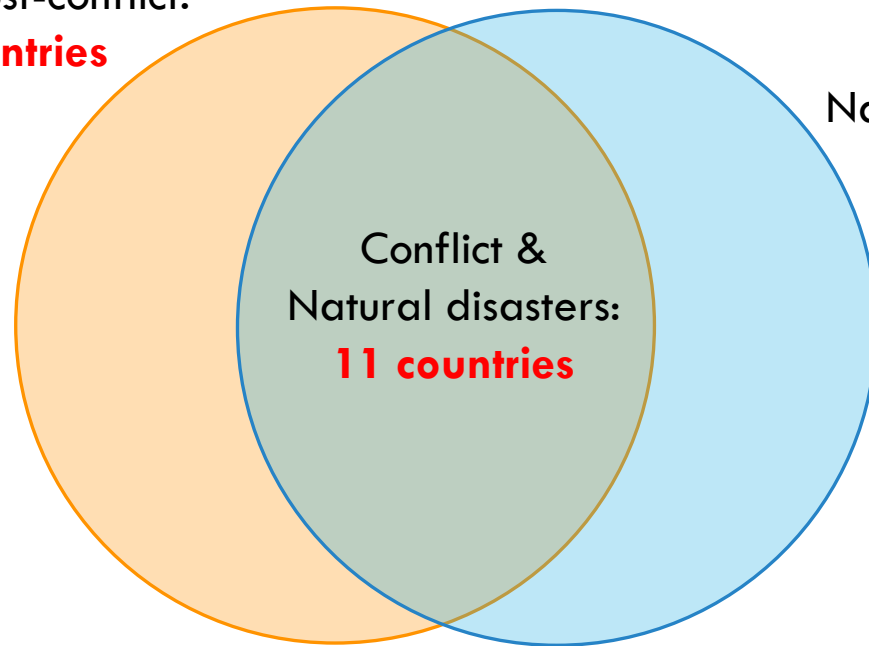
**Sustainable urbanisation to sustain peace**



# | UN-Habitat's response to urban crisis – Main trends

Out of 26 countries, where crisis/post crisis interventions are conducted:

Conflict/post-conflict:  
**16 countries**



Natural disasters:  
**20 countries**

Conflicts and/or natural disasters triggered displacements of populations in **17 countries**



**Crisis is becoming the new operational context in cities globally, due to:**

- **Climate change**
- **Instability / conflict**
- **Migration/displacement**
- **Converging factors**

# | UN-Habitat's response to urban crisis – UN-Habitat interventions

UN-Habitat is engaged from the early humanitarian response paving the way for development solutions through...

## Key areas of expertise

Housing, Urban basic services, HLP rights, Disaster Risk Reduction, Urban planning,

## Tailored approaches in crisis / conflict affected contexts

Urban profiling and urban recovery frameworks, needs/capacities assessments, participatory recovery planning, cross-sectoral interventions and monitoring systems

## Adapting and mitigating climate change impacts

Participatory planning processes, disaster risk reduction, building community resilience

## Managing urban displacement

Integration into urban growth, upgrading temporary sites (basic services, planning)

UN-Habitat is conducting interventions on housing in **73%** of the countries

In Syria, UN-Habitat has developed the Urban Recovery Framework

Climate actions are systematically undertaken in response to disasters (**88%** of the programmes), including in conflict contexts.

Ex. Kalobeye - Kenya: townplan + mobilizing financing for sustainable urbanization

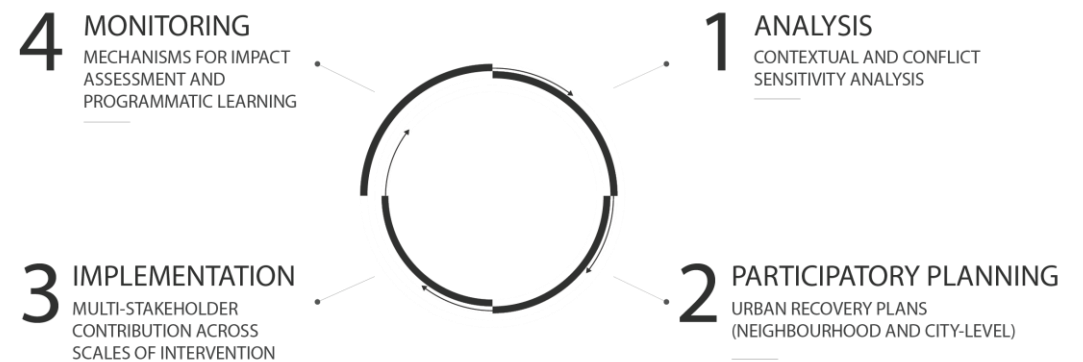
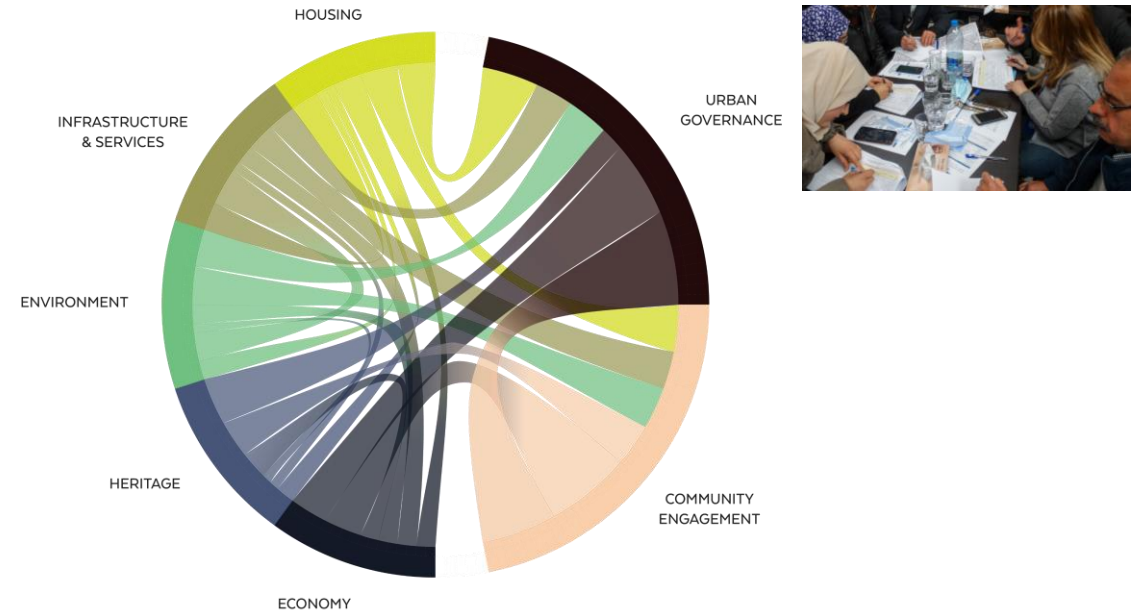
Sustainability of the interventions is achieved through systematic **capacity building** of the communities, sub-national governments and national governments (**81%** of the programmes)



# | UN-Habitat's response to urban crisis – Example of Syria

## Urban profiling and urban recovery frameworks in Syria

- Participatory neighborhood level identification of priority focus (humanitarian, recovery, peacebuilding): 85 recovery plans for targeted urban areas and for city level recovery plans (Aleppo, Dar'a, Deir Ezzour, Homs)
- Community-based ground truthing of damage assessments
- Addressing policy gaps: support to return, infrastructure and services, governance, housing/land and property issues in informal settlements
- Joint UN programme on urban-rural resilience based on recovery plans focusing on restoring basic and social services, improving and enhancing community resilience, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities



# | The role of headquarters



## Scale up initiatives from the field

*E.g. Urban Profiling, Urban Recovery Framework*



## Technical/peer support

*E.g. Programme Review Ctee*



## Integrated approaches

*E.g. area-based, ad-hoc task forces (Covid-19 / Ukraine)*



## Training, Capacity Building

*E.g. Nexus Academy, e-course on Durable Solutions*



## Targeted Programme Development

*E.g. Focus on Sahel – displacement/sustaining peace*



## Global partnerships and networks



**GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR URBAN CRISES**

**UNHCR / IOM / UNDP**

**UN Network on Migration**

**Inter-agency Standing Committee**

**Cluster system: shelter, housing/land/property**





# | Priority areas of focus

UN-Habitat will specifically focus on the below 3 priority areas

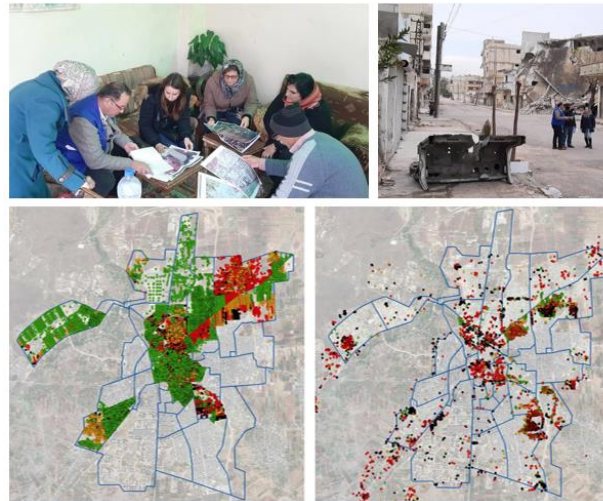
## Managing displacement

### THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL'S ACTION AGENDA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

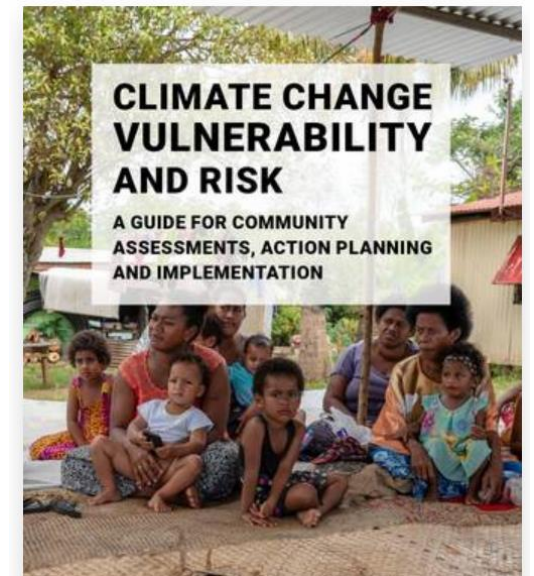
Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement



## Urban profiling / urban recovery frameworks



## Climate change and crisis Resilience building



## | New elements emerging from WUF 11

Global crises converge in cities (climate, inequality, biodiversity, etc) making it necessary to focus on crisis prevention and response, also as an unique opportunity for radical shift in policy and practice (ex. Covid 19) to accelerate towards SDGS/climate outcomes (Secretary-General)

Call to put science and data at the fingertips of local governments to be better prepared and respond

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ELEVENTH SESSION



KATOWICE, POLAND | 26-30 JUNE 2022



# | CONCLUDING MESSAGES : EXPECTATIONS AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES

- **Strengthen the analysis of its operational and normative work in support of urban crisis prevention and response** to identify regional trends and solutions; to identify gaps in normative work and tools
- **Develop options to further strengthen its urban crisis response capacities**, including the emergency director function, surge capacities and the engagement in the crisis related mechanisms in Geneva and New York (ex. IASC, humanitarian cluster system, etc.)
- Help ensure that the **science and the data** on the wide range of crises converging in urban areas is accessible and ‘at the fingertips’ of local governments and local actors
- **Elaborate the narrative on urban crisis prevention and response**, and link to climate action, durable solutions for the displaced, sustaining peace and acceleration towards the SDGs + MS to consider a discussion at the UN-Habitat Assembly as initiated in the extra-ordinary dialogue at the 11<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum in preparation also for UN-Habitat's next Strategic Plan.
- **Fast track soft earmarking for flagship 4** to take up its role of supporting UN Country Teams in managing acute urban displacement and finding durable solutions, in response to the United Nations Secretary-General's Action Agenda for IDPs and the work of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement.
- **Continue to expand the strategic partnerships** with UNHCR, UNDP, and potentially IOM and networks (ex. Global alliance for urban crises, GLTN – land and conflict)



THANK  
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