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Business district in Kolkata, India
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2019 Annual Progress Report

Fourth meeting of the Ad Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters of the Executive Board

11 March 2020

1. Introduction

❑ This is the sixth and final progress report on implementation of the strategic plan (2014-2019).

❑ The report is in response to the Executive Board decision 2019/1.

❑ The report reflects results achieved by UN-Habitat and partners.

~~2014~~-~~2015~~, ~~2016~~-~~2017~~, ~~2018~~ - **2019**

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2. Report Structure

Section 1:

1. Executive Directors message
2. Executive summary
   - ✓ Institutional highlights
   - ✓ Financial highlights
   - ✓ Key subprogramme results
   - ✓ Mainstreaming highlights
   - ✓ Challenges and lessons

Section 2:

- ✓ Global and Country-level results for the 7 subprogrammes
- ✓ Normative tools and knowledge products

Section 3:

- ✓ Regional Highlights
  - ✓ Africa Region
  - ✓ Asia and Pacific Region
  - ✓ Arab States Region
  - ✓ Latin America and the Caribbean Region
  - ✓ Countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States, other Countries and Territories in Europe

Section 4:

- ✓ Mainstreaming Cross-cutting Issues
- ✓ Partnerships and communication, audit and evaluation
- ✓ Finance, Audit and Evaluation
- ✓ Project Portfolio Development

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3. Subprogramme Presentation of results

- ❑ Key normative and operational results for 2019
- ❑ Covers all regions and scales: global, national & subnational
- ❑ Progress towards indicator targets by the end of 2019
- ❑ New normative tools and knowledge products listed
- ❑ Impact stories to demonstrate the change
- ❑ Results presented in narrative and infographics

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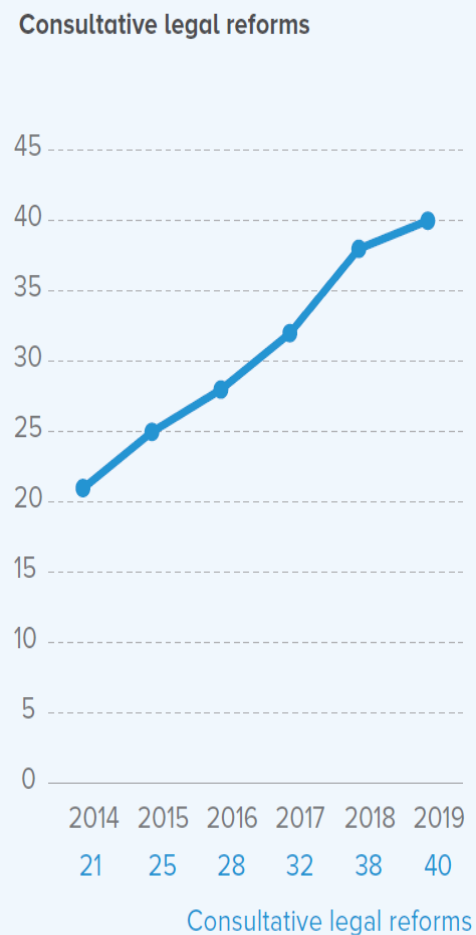# 4. Progress on indicators

Expected Accomplishment 1.1

Increased capacity of local and national governments and other Habitat Agenda Partners to implement urban legislation in the areas of urban extension, densification, planning and finance.

Indicator of achievement: Increased number of consultative legal reform processes to improve urban extension, densification, urban planning and finance, with the technical support of UN-Habitat.

Figure 1.2: Progress towards indicator target

Consultative legal reforms

2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019
21	25	28	32	38	40

Consultative legal reforms

Target 2019: 36
Actual 2019: 40

Box 1.1   2019 Progress Summary

Two consultative legal reform processes in **Iran** and **Lesotho** were concluded in 2019 to improve urban extension, densification, planning and finance.

UN-Habitat provided technical support to **Iran's** local and national governments on the analysis and review of the adequacy of the current legal and regulatory framework supporting informal settlement upgrading. The resulting reforms have enhanced the effectiveness of service delivery in informal settlements in three cities.

In **Lesotho**, the rental housing law reform processes came because of a comparative study on the issue.

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5. Institutional Highlights

- ❑ First UN-Habitat Assembly in May
  - ✓ 5 resolutions, 1 decision and 1 ministerial declaration
  - ✓ stakeholder and private sector forums
  - ✓ the new strategic plan 2020-2023 and the programme of work 2020
- ❑ Executive Board convened (May and reconvened November 2019)
- ❑ The new organizational structure finalized
- ❑ United Nations system-wide strategy on sustainable urbanization

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6. Key Normative results

- ❏ 3 critical thematic guidelines for member states and the international community
  - ✓ Secretary General's Guidance note on land and conflict
  - ✓ Guidelines on Enhancing Urban-Rural Linkages for Sustainable Urbanization and Human Settlement
  - ✓ International guidelines on safer cities and human settlements
- ❏ Contribution to the SDG global monitoring framework
- ❏ Regional report: the Future of Asian and Pacific Cities
- ❏ Existing UN-Habitat tools continued to support sustainable urbanization

7. Subprogramme results Highlights

40 countries

undertook urban legislation reform processes during the Strategic Plan period including **Iran** and **Lesotho** in 2019. These processes have helped align legal frameworks of partner countries with the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

More than 100 cities

are now using inclusive, integrated and compact planning and design approaches in their urban development during 2019.

14 countries

now have strengthened climate change policies, which will enable them to better prepare for and respond to the impacts of climate change.
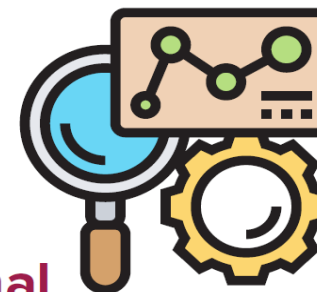
57 national and sub-national authorities

are implementing fit-for-purpose land administration towards the achievement of tenure security for all.

8. Subprogramme results Highlights

48 local authorities

are improving their revenue generating capacity for better service delivery.

42 partner cities

are now implementing local disaster risk reduction and resilience strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction.

57 national and sub-national authorities

are implementing fit-for-purpose land administration towards the achievement of tenure security for all.

73 national statistical offices

produced urban data for SDG and New Urban Agenda reporting using UN-Habitat tools, with an addition of 8 joining in 2019. This represents an increase of 54 from 2014.

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9. Subprogramme Results Highlights

Over the Strategic Plan period

more than 1 million people

have benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions in sustainable urban reconstruction in post-crisis situations and within protracted conflict environments.

69,253 youth

have gained skills in sustainable urbanization and livelihoods.

1 million users

benefited from water utilities with improved capacity and performance through the Global Water Operators Partnership Alliance in 2019.

By the end of 2019, tenure security had been improved or land disputes resolved for **over 300,000 households or 1.2 million people in 13 countries**. Women and youth have benefitted and are now being included in land mapping and are receiving certificates of occupancy.

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10. Subprogramme results - narrative

Global and regional-level results

Strengthening the monitoring of urban basic services

In 2019, UN-Habitat continued to guide initiatives to strengthen the Sustainable Development Goals monitoring agenda for urban basic services. In water and sanitation, UN-Habitat continued to contribute to the work of the Global Expanded Monitoring Initiative for Water in establishing a coherent country-level water and sanitation monitoring framework for Goal 6. The framework utilizes cost-effective approaches for data collection, including the use of Earth observations for data acquisition, which is especially useful for resource-constrained states. Building on the data collected for the first global status report *Progress on Wastewater Treatment: Piloting the monitoring methodology and initial findings for* Sustainable Development Goals Indicator 6.3.1, in 2019, UN-Habitat partnered with member states in their scaling up efforts by compiling country data and reporting on global progress towards achievement of Goal 6.

Country-level results

Improving Access to Water and sanitation

The Government of **Myanmar** partnered with UN-Habitat to improve access to safe drinking water, sanitation and electricity to almost 1,300 communities situated in post-disaster and post-conflict areas. Over 700,000 people have benefited from the improved basic services through the people-centred approach to project implementation. In addition, UN-Habitat's flagship approach, the *People's Process*, supported interventions in the country's dry zone, to improve access to safe drinking water for 168,656 people from 221 communities. Covering six dryland areas, including Maghlaing, Myingian, Natogy, Pakoku, Taunghtha and Yesagyo, the communities now have piped water installations where households pay for the service and keep savings in a bank to support the maintenance of the water infrastructure.

In **Nepal**, more than 6 million people have benefitted from improved access to sanitation through the Global Sanitation Fund Programme. In 2019, UN-Habitat supported the campaign in nine districts (Bara, Dhanusha, Jhapa, Mahottari, Morang, Parsa, Rautahat, Sarlahi and Sunsari) to complete the final miles of sanitation campaign. The Government has reported that the sanitation coverage was 100 per cent by the end of 2019 in those districts, reaching over 6 million people.
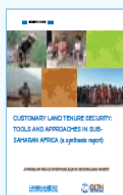
better storm water drainage. UN-Habitat's technical guidance enabled the communities to implement the Flood Resilience in Ulaanbaatar Ger-Areas project.

In **Lao People's Democratic Republic** under the Adaptation Fund and Nordic Climate Facility projects, UN-Habitat strengthened the capacity of local communities in the construction of small-scale water supply infrastructure. A total of 53 resilient water and sanitation infrastructures have been completed across the provinces of Attapeu, Saravane and Sekong with 45 being built in 2019 alone. The improved access to water and sanitation has benefitted 6,750 people, of whom 3,300 are in Attapeu, 2,250 in Saravane, and 1,200 in Sekong Province.

In **Cambodia,** UN-Habitat supported the Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Programme in implementing a pro-poor community-based approach which has increased access to affordable and sustainable water supply. The participatory approaches used in the programme have strengthened the capacity of the local Svay Rieng Water Supply Utility and district authorities in delivering sustainable water and sanitation services. Access to safe piped water in selected communities in Svay Rieng town has been improved. By the end of 2019, over 6,500 people, of whom 30 per cent live below the poverty line, had benefited from the expansion of water supply and sanitation.

11. 2019 Normative products highlighted

2019 Normative tools and knowledge products

Customary Land Tenure Security: Tools and Approaches in Sub-Sahara Africa - identifies, documents and analyses customary tenure security tools that are developed and/or delivered through customary governance systems.

Designing and Implementing a Pro-Poor Land Recordation System - demonstrates how pro-poor land recordation system can remedy the inability of conventional land registration systems to deliver land tenure security at scale.

2019 Normative tools and knowldege products

National Sample of Cities — An unbiased statistical method for approximating urban-related indicators using a representative sample of cities.

City definition methodology — An initiative to develop a global definition of the city, enabling accurate comparative analysis of urban areas globally using geospatial analysis.

Slum area definition tools and methodologies — A toolkit of innovative methodologies for defining and measuring slum areas.

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12. Impact stories

Guaranteeing security of tenure to all residents of Bamiyan City, Afghanistan

With a growing urban population including a significant number of internally displaced persons and returning refugees, the role of Afghan cities, and land in particular, as a catalyst for economic and social development is crucial. Despite this, insecurity of tenure and uncertainties in access to and control over it have been critical drivers of conflict, fragility, and socioeconomic exclusion, especially for women and the internally displaced. Preliminary findings indicate that only 14 per cent of the surveyed properties in Kabul (and 17 per cent in other provincial cities) have a formal title deed.

Through the Government-led City for All programme, launched in 2015, UN-Habitat is partnering with 12 municipalities to survey and register all properties within their municipal boundaries. Teams of social mobilizers and surveyors are deployed to inform citizens about this innovative initiative and to conduct the surveys. By the end of 2019, the programme had surveyed and registered 788,000 properties in eight major cities of **Afghanistan** and issued 15,000 occupancy certificates, thereby improving land tenure security for about 104,000 residents.

The City for All programme has opened a new chapter of inclusive land reform in Afghanistan by guaranteeing security of tenure to all urban dwellers, including women. It is transforming municipality by municipality. For example, in Bamiyan Municipality by the end of 2019, 12,300 properties had been surveyed and over 350 households were given their occupancy certificates. This included 150 households from the municipality's informal settlements in Districts 1 through 4. As a result, thousands of citizens are benefitting from the change as each property hosts more than one family.

Another important impact from this project is the way that women's access to land is being strengthened. In Bamiyan Municipality, more than 80 per cent of the occupancy certificates were issued jointly to spouses residing on state land. For the first time, Afghan women now have the right to possess such a certificate. These certificates also guarantee land rights to residents of informal settlements, encouraging them to make economic investments.

"This initiative will stop illegal land grabbing, guaranteeing citizens their right to the land"

Mohammed Zaher,
Director of the Arazi Office (Ministry of Urban Development and Land) in Bamiyan in June, 2019.

Residents of Bamiyan, Afghanistan display their certificates of occupancy © UN-Habitat

Safer Schools build resilient communities across Mozambique

Climatic, geographic and geological factors place **Mozambique** at continued risk of extreme natural disasters. To strengthen the resilience of schools across the country, the Government of Mozambique has had a long-term partnership with UN-Habitat to develop cyclone-resistant schools under the Safer Schools Programme. In 2019, the value of the programme proved successful in the face of the Cyclones Idai and Kenneth, as the only schools to withstand the full force of the storm were those designed and built under UN-Habitat's school cyclone resilience-building programme.

The Safer Schools Programme includes a comprehensive assessment of cyclone and flood-damaged schools; hazard risk mapping; improved site planning and zoning; development of normative standards, including building guidelines and building codes to bolster school structures. These standards were developed in consultation with local stakeholders. The schools were built using local mixed materials, which reduced construction costs by one third.

Over the Strategic Plan period 2014–2019, UN-Habitat worked to embed these normative standards and tools into policy and practice. In partnership with the Ministry of Education and Human Development, UN-Habitat produced six pilot Safer Schools Project packages in 2015, inserting anti-cyclonic and anti-seismic measures into school construction. The same year, UN-Habitat partnered with UNICEF to pilot the Basic Emergency School Plan, providing schools with an action plan for dealing with disasters. The *Zoning Map for Cyclones and Strong Winds* established zoning rules to define school construction standards in 2016.

In 2017, Mozambique became a founding member of the Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience Centre, a subregional technical facility for disaster management, preparedness and resilience which UN-Habitat and partners govern. Through a joint-partnership with local stakeholders, UN-Habitat supported a reconstruction project that, in 2018, launched the rehabilitation of 400 classrooms using the Safer Schools model.

Cyclones Kenneth and Idai struck Mozambique in early 2019, destroying or damaging 4,000 classrooms. Every classroom built to Safer Schools standards remained undamaged and fully operational. As a result, the minister of education asked that future school construction apply the Safer School standards. Then, the nation's Cyclone Reconstruction Cabinet and UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding to build 2,000 cyclone-resistant school rooms, a 20-fold increase over the Strategic Plan period.

The impact of the Safer Schools Project's has demonstrated the value of UN-Habitat's normative disaster risk reduction management standards and strategies. They are now recognized in legislative frameworks for resilient construction across different sectors in Mozambique, including within basic infrastructure and housing. The Ministry of Health, for example, approached UN-Habitat in 2019 to develop a similar project for health-care facilities.
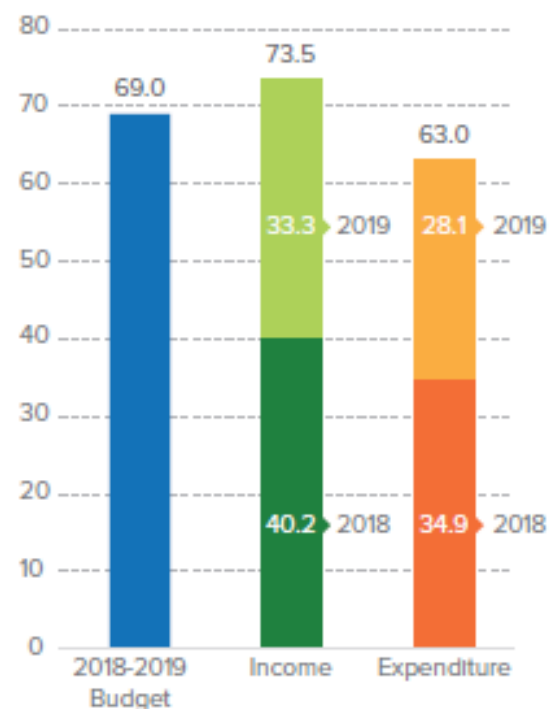
BEFORE

AFTER

UN-Habitat cyclone resilient design used to rebuild schools in Nampula District, Mozambique ©UN-Habitat

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13. Budget performance

Budget Performance

Figure 2.1 shows that in 2018—2019, extrabudgetary implementation for urban planning and design activities of USD 63.0 million was 91 per cent of the biennial budget of USD 69 million while income acquired of USD 73.5 million exceeded the biennial target by 7 per cent indicating sustained high demand for UN-Habitat's support in this area.

Figure 2.1: Urban Planning and Design - budget, income and expenditure
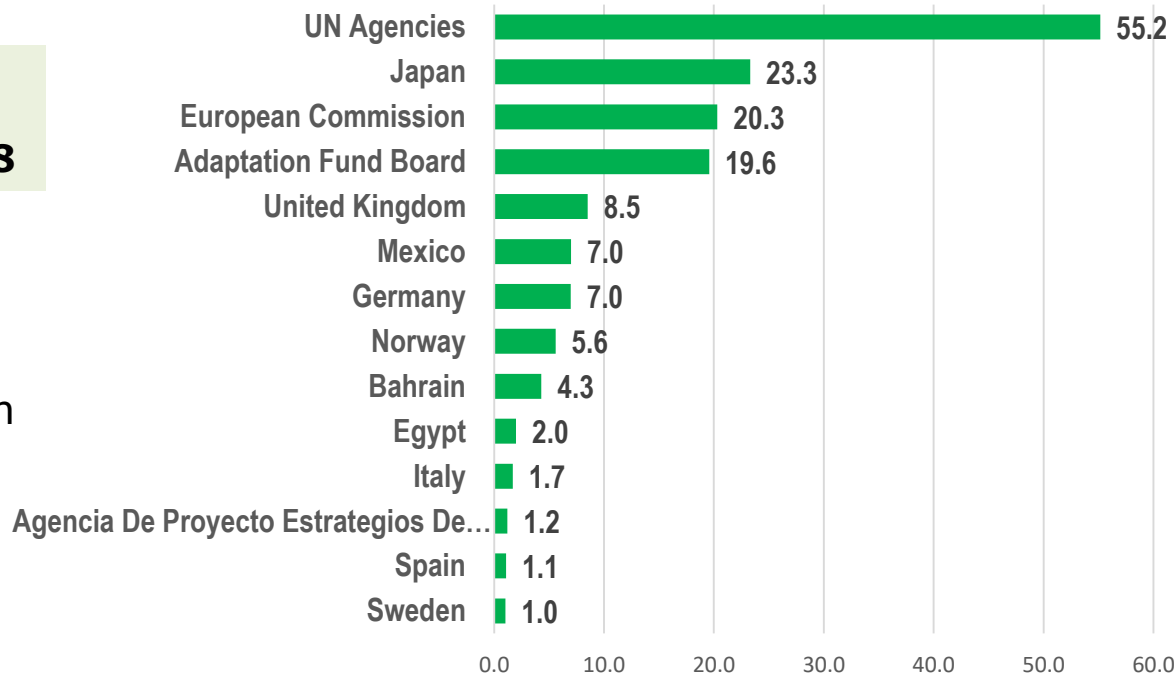
14. Key financial highlights - implementation

❑ UN-Habitat sources of funding are foundation non-earmarked account, regular budget assessed funds, foundation earmarked account and technical cooperation funds;

❑ Aggregate planned activity and target for 2018-2019 work programme amounted to USD 499.8 million for all these funding segments.

❑ UN-Habitat executed 72 per cent of its biennial budget of USD 499.8 million for the 2018-2019 which is an expenditure level of USD 358.0 million.

	Planned	Implementation
Aggregate expenditure	**499.8**	**358.0**
Foundation non-earmarked	26.1	23.9
Regular budget	19.5	29.7
Foundation earmarked	139.8	81.0
Technical cooperation	314.4	223.4

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15. Key financial highlights 2019– income secured

- ❑ Total income **USD 367.8 Million**
- ❑ 73% of biennial target of **USD 499.8**

- ❑ Increased UN collaboration
- ❑ Increased support from Adaptation Fund

UN Agencies	55.2
Japan	23.3
European Commission	20.3
Adaptation Fund Board	19.6
United Kingdom	8.5
Mexico	7.0
Germany	7.0
Norway	5.6
Bahrain	4.3
Egypt	2.0
Italy	1.7
Agencia De Proyecto Estrategios De…	1.2
Spain	1.1
Sweden	1.0

- ❑ Non-earmarked income **USD 8.8** Million
- ❑ **34%** of biennial target of **USD 26** Million

- ❑ Increase in non-earmarked contributions still leaves significant shortfall

VOLUNTARY NON EARMARKED CONTRIBUTIONS

Newcomers	Comebacks	Top Increases
Iraq	Burkina Faso	Kenya
Malawi	France	Norway
Senegal	Spain	South Africa
Singapore		
South Sudan		

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16. Moving forward

❑ Implementation of the new strategic plan cycle 2020-2023, commenced this year.

❑ The new organizational structure being implemented.

❑ Resource mobilization strategy 2020-2023 has Member States comments

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Thank you

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