UN-HABITAT
Urban Practitioners Network
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Urban impact

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Helping Beirut families without homes after explosions

Around 300,000 people lost their homes following the massive explosion in a port warehouse in Lebanon's capital Beirut on 4 August. UN-Habitat, as part of the UN Country Team in Lebanon, immediately started providing emergency assistance to vulnerable, IDP and migrant families in Beirut, including through distributions of the locations, extent of damage, and local socio-economic conditions to enable targeted responses to address the urgent needs. The mapping also helps to identify areas where water supply is most critically needed.

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 support to 250 cities in 37 countries

Thanks to financial support from 28 donors and collaboration with some 240 partners, UN-Habitat has provided support to national and local governments to help them respond to the pandemic in more than 250 cities in 37 countries benefiting more than 6.8 million people. The support, outlined in the **Programme Progress Report**, has included: rapid assessments; emergency settlements; access to temporary housing and decentralized services; capacity and training to foster behaviour change; to carrying out rapid assessments to inform local response; mainstreaming land and policy guidance; and mainstreaming urban issues in the global COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Sharing experiences on COVID-19 from 113 countries

As part of the COVID-19 campaign, UN-Habitat launched a crowdsourcing survey in June to find out the social and economic impact on people, and response of their cities to the pandemic. Over 1,850 people responded from 113 countries. **The main findings** highlight challenges in access to water and sanitation as well as: openness and jobs. The most common response measures including social distancing, masks and lockdowns. The survey also highlighted the importance of the COVID-19 Aug4 focuses on urban design and planning priorities during and post COVID-19. **Share your ideas** on how we should rebalance the way we plan, design, build and manage cities.

COVID-19 UPDATES

United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World

UN-Habitat led the collaborative work to bring together all agencies and programmes under the **United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World**. The Brief, sent of a series provides ideas to governments on how to address the consequences of the crisis, found that 55 per cent of all COVID-19 cases are in urban areas. It calls for concentrating on the settlement inequalities, strengthen local capacities, and plan for a green, resilient and inclusive recovery. The Policy Brief was highlighted in a press conference at UN headquarters in New York, in which UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif participated along with the UNDP Administrator.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Over 100 organizations worldwide join COVID-19 Campaign

Over 100 partner organizations and 1,500 individuals joined the COVID-19 Campaign **"Take action with us in cities and communities"** to mobilize support among national, city and local governments and community leaders, urban professionals, grassroots organizations and businesses. The campaign called on participants to share their ideas on how to rebalance the way we live, work, and play in our cities. **A21 Urban Thinkers Campaign** attended by more than 5,000 participants from May to July on COVID-19-related challenges ranging from homelessness to mobility, from urban design and urban planning and design. The **first report and second report** outlines the main recommendations from the campaign.

UN-Habitat publishes new Catalogue of Services

UN-Habitat recently published 2020 UN-Habitat Catalogue of Services provides an overview of the range of services and products UN-Habitat, as lead UN agency on sustainable urbanization, can provide to national governments, local authorities, and other partners and stakeholders to help them achieve the goals of urban dimensions Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda. It includes case studies and examples of programmes and demonstrates the impact that can be achieved in countries through this support.

The Urban Agenda Platform

UN-Habitat is launching the **Urban Agenda Platform**, an online forum for sharing on knowledge and global action towards achievement of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. The platform allows national and local governments and other urban stakeholders to report on agreed targets of their urban agenda and related SDGs in a systematic manner, to share knowledge and to connect with other partners. The platform also provides a space for national and local governments to collaborate on a sustainable urban development agenda. The online platform is the backbone of the Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization and **Habitat Day** on 5 and 6 October in Sundaiyao, Indonesia, will provide easy access to important baseline reports to inform urban policy, the reports will be presented at seminal events such as the biennial **World Urban Forums**.

Advocacy

Urban October: A Month of Action for Better Lives in Cities

Help us promote a better urban future during Urban October

Partners and UN-Habitat are organizing a wide array of activities on to raise awareness of urban issues and opportunities to improve the quality of urban life. Hundreds of events are planned in around **40 countries** ranging from campaigns, workshops, book launches, open for best practices, films, site visits and more throughout the month. The month opens with the **World Habitat Day** on 5 October under the theme Housing for all in Better Urban Future. The event in Sundaiyao, Indonesia will host the Global Observatory on Local Democracy, urban celebration which will feature high level international speakers and award the Habitat Scroll of Honour winners from Colombia, Malaysia, Nepal, Philippines and Tanzania. The Urban Thinkers Campaign **A21 Urban Thinkers Campaign** will host a series of webinars on the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the Sustainable Development Goals. UN-Habitat launch its *World Cities Report on The Value of Urbanization* at the occasion. The Global Observatory will be live-streamed on UT-Campaign social media channels. Join us in promoting a better urban future - use **#UrbanOctober** and **#Habitat** and get ready to share your event by posting it, and later reporting on it with photos, videos or simply posting your stories on social media accounts using **#UrbanOctober**.

UN-Habitat calls for cities to apply to host World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in 2021 and 2022

Housing for All Campaign

To promote the **World Habitat Day** theme of Housing for All *Better Urban Future*, UN-Habitat will run a five-week campaign to raise awareness on the importance of adequate housing to development. The campaign will engage partners and diverse solutions to address housing gaps. Housing is not just a roof it contributes to health, dignity, safety, inclusion and wellbeing. The need for adequate housing is highlighted in the response to COVID-19 the plight of homeless and overcrowded communities. Join the UN-Habitat campaign on Twitter and with a starting event on the best solutions to achieve the goal of housing for All.

40 Days Safer Cities Challenge

Starting on the International Day of Peace on 21 September and ending on the **World Cities Day** on 31 October, the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) will run a 40 Days Safer Cities Challenge to raise awareness and mobilize government, civil society, private sector and youth organizations and communities for safer cities and communities. UN-Habitat will run the challenge together with GNSC partners including the Global Alliance against Violence in Public Spaces, Safe Cities Africa, Safe Cities Latin America, Safe Cities Asia, Safe Africa Forum for Urban Safety, the Coalition for Urban Safety and Safer UR agencies. The Challenge will support the implementation of the UN systematic Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.

UN-Habitat's Executive Board held its first session of the year, on 29 June and on 29 July 2020.

The meetings were held online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Board elected a new Bureau, responsible for organizing Board meetings and preparing decisions for the Board to adopt. The new Bureau is made up of 10 Member States representing different regions in the Executive Board, as the Chair (New Delhi's Ajay Sobti), Chile (Latin American and the Caribbean), Germany (Western Europe and others) as vice-chairs, Serbia as Rapporteur (Eastern Europe). Other discussions at the Board included the draft Work Programme and Budget for the year 2021. The next Executive Board meeting will be held from 9 to 13 November 2020.

The Executive Board recommends that the core budget for 2021 be in the range of US $5.66 million to $5.9 million, it requested the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to finalize a recommended budget for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second session in 2020.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Africa

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas highlights urban trends

The **Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas**, recently launched by UN-Habitat, highlights the urban trends that are shaping the future of sub-Saharan African governments' commitments to policy change and implementation of global sustainable development agenda in the region. Highlighting the urban trends that are shaping the future of countries, promotes South-South cooperation and collaboration for synergies between key implementation frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda and the Africa Union Agenda 2063 for the implementations of the NUA developed by the African Union. The Atlas also highlights the urban trends that are shaping the future of the region over the last 10 years. Meanwhile, an **analytical paper on COVID-19 in African cities Impacts, Responses and Policies** has been prepared in partnership with Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG), UNICEF and Shelter Africa.

SENEGAL

Redesign of Ethiopia's open-air markets to limit COVID-19 spread

Ethiopia's Minister of Urban Development and Construction Ms. Aida Mohammed said it is important to redesign open markets in the northern city of Bahir Dar to mark the beginning of the redesign of markets to limit the spread of the COVID-19 virus. The Ethiopian market is however city where the markets are extremely congested and people are in close contact with each other. Bahir Dar's local market is the city will be used as an extension of the market with markers to designate spots for the women's market while in other markets, there will be clear demarcations between different traders between shoppers, selling butchers between vendors and shoppers and hygiene centres at the entrances. Thanks to the support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (SIDA), the new guidelines will promote physical distancing, hygiene, and safeguard the most vulnerable traders in markets and observance of personal hygiene.

SENEGAL

Water for the displaced in Somaliland to curb the spread of COVID-19

"Provision of water was such a fundamental intervention in the face of a pandemic." **Speaking on behalf of the beneficiary communities, one of the community representatives and committee members Mr. Yusuf Ibrahim Guelleh**

In Somalia, UN-Habitat has been involved in the provision of water to internally displaced people, returnees and vulnerable host communities in Somaliland and Puntland, including the provision of vulnerable households in Jowhar and Baidoa in IDP settlements who lack bulk water storage facilities were provided with 200 litre containers. The activity was part of a European Union funded COVID-19 mitigation intervention under the Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Project and implemented jointly with Hargeisa Water Agency.

SOMALIA

Joining hands with people with disabilities in Guinea to produce COVID-19 prevention kits

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the situation has deteriorated complexly. We don't receive clients anymore, people can't afford the basic needs and they are worried about their health and their sensitivities, **Jeremiah Sam Gulakonga, one of the community members**

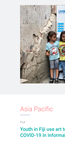
To support the Government of Guinea's National Response Plan, UN-Habitat has been working with local partners to produce and distribute masks for people with disabilities to protect their health for their municipalities in the capital. Conakry. Thanks to EU support, the Multi Stakeholder Solidarity Response against COVID-19 distributed preventive equipment, such as hand washing stations, masks, and hygiene kits, to people living in vulnerable neighbourhoods, crowded markets and mobility hubs across Conakry. Out of the 70,000 masks 10,000 were made by the Association of People with Disabilities for Action and Development and community tailors in the Municipality of Matoto.

MOZAMBIQUE

COVID-19 prevention for schools in cyclone affected central region of Mozambique

"Before Cyclone Idai hit, we didn't have a Disaster Risk Emergency School Plan to prepare ourselves. Many of the things we learned from the cyclone we put into the School Plan. Now, every school should have access to this tool." **Inger Boyes-Gove, Headmaster of Dondo Secondary School.**

As schools plan to reopen around their classes in March 2020 due to the pandemic, new COVID-19 prevention and preparedness measures are implemented by the central region's Ministry of Education and Human Development. UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Ministry of Education and Human Development, has been working in 4 affected areas across the country since 2019 in adapting BESR to include COVID-19 prevention and preparedness. Thanks to the support from the European Union's Humanitarian Aid and Civil Operations - ECHO and the Education Cannot Wait Fund, UN-Habitat is now implementing the adapted BESR in 20 schools in the Municipalities of Dondo, Gorongosa and Chiveso.



Emergency WASH in Ga Mashie, Ghana helps community response to COVID-19

In collaboration with Ministry of Sanitation COVID-19 Hotspot rolled out an emergency programme at Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Ga Mashie, Ghana in partnership with Plastic Exchange in Settlements. The project supports communities with education and provision of sanitation facilities. Over 1,000 people living in people in the selected informal settlements have improved access to handwashing facilities, running water and reliable sanitation services. COVID-19 awareness and Behaviour Change Engagement opportunities have also been created for youth and women to take part in community sanitation and hygiene promoting and assembling of handwashing facilities, and new skills in servicing community members on all aspects of COVID-19 including on good hygiene, and vulnerability assessments.

Arab States

EGYPT

Supporting Innovation in Water and Sanitation in Egypt

Water scarcity is a major problem in Egypt and expected to worsen due to climate change, rapid population growth and displaced flow of River Nile. Out of Egypt's 27 Governorates, the Governorate of Upper Egypt such as Sohag, Assiut, and Luxor lower net WASH coverage and are more vulnerable to climate change and lack of access to safe, sustainable, affordable and acceptable WASH services. A **programme funded by Coca Cola and Replenish for Africa** working with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Utilities and UN-Habitat, will use innovative technology to provide quick access to water and sanitation services and to demonstrate to vulnerable communities that can be replicated easily.

YEMEN

Yemeni residents repair homes destroyed by fighting

"The walls and the roof left on the house had no doors or windows. The roof was damaged, and the rain poured into the house. We had to repair it." **Mariam Saleh Mahdi a resident from Yemen**

Mariam's house was rehabilitated as part of UN-Habitat's programme **on responding** to the immediate needs of shelter needs, sanitation and hygiene in **Al-Hudaydah Governorate, Yemen**, funded by the Government of Japan, to mitigate the impact of conflict on the internally displaced and vulnerable communities in Al-Hudaydah Governorate. Special focus is given to help women, children, the elderly, and disabled people, who face challenges, job opportunities, for communities, including those who have broad security and their families by engaging them in the repair and rehabilitation works of their homes.

LEBANON

First communal handwashing stations in Lebanon aim to tackle COVID-19 spread

The coronavirus has been hard-hit Beirut's Bourj Hammoud, one of the neighbourhoods of Lebanon's capital. The COVID-19 response in the country has seen first communal handwashing stations installed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other health risks in four urban neighbourhoods in Beirut. The project, funded by the Government of Lebanon's Betterworld and Nature in Beirut Network. The initiative will benefit nearly 20,000 people including vulnerable Lebanese residents, refugees and migrants in poor urban neighbourhoods. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Municipalities of Beirut and Bourj Hammoud, the Lebanese Red Cross for Relief and Development (PHCS), a local NGO in Beirut.

Asia Pacific

FIJI

Youth in Fiji use art to raise awareness of COVID-19 in informal settlements

"I was doing the paintings for my community people to encourage them to practice good hygiene and stay at home." **21-year-old Tinoay Gayle, Kalabana Community in Lami.**

Children and youth in Fiji are using creativity with local artists to create community murals to raise awareness of COVID-19 and promote good hygiene practices. The murals encourage people to repeat respective support for more than 10 informal settlements across Fiji to raise awareness and help alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. Local artists helped the young people use their messages to inspire positive change in their communities. The project, funded by the Government of Japan, was launched on 15th of August, COVID restrictions have which was streamed simultaneously in most of the Pacific countries.

MYANMAR

Opportunities for poor urban women in Nepal during COVID-19

"My source of livelihood has completely stopped since the lockdown. I would have been left with no income." **says Mrs. Bidhya Kalamee, a resident of Bungamati, Lalitpur who works as a seamstress for her livelihood.**

Bidhya represents many of her folks, the informal sector workers in Nepal, who have been hit hard by the COVID-19 pandemic. Have become unemployed, for them as they struggle to feed their mouth each day. Para Samudaya, a UN-Habitat led project funded by the SWITCH Asia programme of the European Union is helping repurposed its activities to support low-income urban women to produce masks and sanitizers. Approximately 10,000 sanitizer and masks were distributed in the country. Bidhya works with women from the Bungamati community with everyone joining hands to help these unprecedented, marginalized groups of informal sector workers.

MYANMAR

Slum dwellers happy in their new housing in Yangon, Myanmar

"We were in terrible conditions" recalls Daw San San Aye mother of three, who previously lived in a 150 sq ft house near a congested Yangon railway station.

As part of the continued advocacy against potential eviction and forced relocation of informal settlements in Myanmar's capital city, the UN-Habitat programme in Myanmar on selective resettlement using a peoples' process approach is a good case study of how to implement a participatory resettlement process and minimize the disruption to livelihoods and access of services. Further, the Government of Japan, the programme houses the most vulnerable dwellers from informal settlements.

PHILIPPINES

Displaced families help rebuild homes Marawi City in the Philippines

More than 200 internally displaced families are moving closer to finally living in their own homes before Christmas as construction of 200 permanent shelters progresses under the Rebuilding Marawi Through Community Driven Shelter and Livelihood programme, funded by the People of Japan. Around 1,500 families, displaced by the five-month long Marawi City Siege, participated in the initiative will receive their own homes under the programme. Families themselves are involved as partners in the design and construction of their homes. **UN-Habitat has partnered with the Philippine Army Engineering Brigade** which coordinated the construction of the shelters and provided construction and COVID-19 mitigation measures and safety precautions, while 32 cooperatives organized by UN-Habitat from the Marawi City Siege Affected Communities, helped to provide and train businesses providing construction services, provision construction supplies and fresh farm produce from community vegetable and livestock farms.

Latin America and The Caribbean

MEXICO

Participatory urban planning positions public space as central element for the sustainable development of Cancun, Mexico

> *"This Equity Park allows inclusion, creates a space for human coexistence, meets the main objective of promoting care for the environment within a culture of peace and citizen protection,"* ***said the governor of Quintana Roo.***

Equity Park will reverse the lack of public spaces and green areas in the city reducing urban segregation and social Inequality existing in the city. This Park will develop, improve and consolidate the infrastructure, services and equipment, essential to improving the living conditions of all population groups in Cancun, particularly in underdeveloped neighborhoods. The project is expected to directly benefit about 200,000 people and entails development of a linear park of more than 16 km, equivalent to 89 hectares of public space and 2,064 hectares of spheres of influence in Cancun Metropolitan Area. It is led by UN-Habitat Mexico and the Agency for Strategic Projects of the State of Quintana Roo, (AGEPRO).

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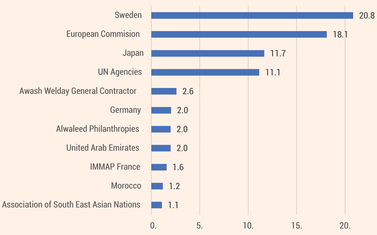
MEXICO

Digitizing participatory budgeting in General Escobedo, Mexico

Participatory Budgeting lets citizens propose ideas and decide how to spend part of the public budget. It was first implemented in Porto Alegre, Brazil over three decades ago. New technology is being used in Escobedo, Mexico using a digital platform, to enhance and facilitate participation and engagement of citizens and the local government in planning their city. Citizens can find many resources including videos, publications, and news on the digital platform to help them create proposals linked to the SDGs. General Escobedo, Mexico became one of the first cities in the world to put in practice a policy responding to civil society calls for climate change action after the United Nations 2019 General Assembly. In 2020, the initiative is helping to build social resilience as part of the COVID-19 response. The platform has attracted interest from other countries and UN-Habitat hopes to garner support from partners and donors to expand the initiative to new cities in in the region and globally to enhance governance and citizen participation in city strategy, policy and programmes.

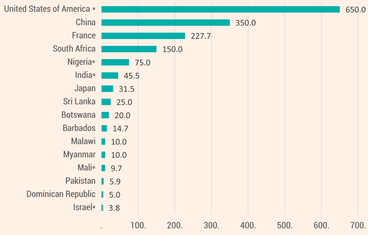
Financial Update

Highest Earmarked Contribution Grants to UN-Habitat Jan - Aug 2020 in USD Millions



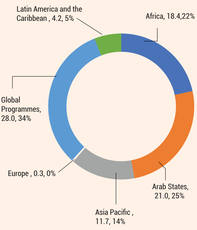
Core support for UN-Habitat's 2020 programme of work

Non-earmarked core contributions donors in 2020 in thousands



*includes previous years' contributions

2020 income allocation by UN-Habitat implementing region in USD millions



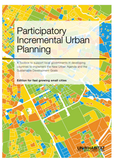
Resources

Recent publications

2020 Catalogue of Services

UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World

Settlement Profiling Tool: A Spatial Analysis Framework for Settlements Accommodating Displaced Populations



Participatory Incremental Urban Planning Toolbox: A Toolbox to support local governments in developing countries to implement the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

More publications

- Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2020: Urban Technologies in China
- Housing Practice Series - Singapore
- Guidance for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol.1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs
- City-wide Public Space Assessment: Technical Guide
- Public Space Site-Specific Assessment: Guidelines to Achieve Quality Public Spaces at Neighbourhood Level
- National Urban Policy: Pacific Region Report
- Exploring the Role of Participatory Budgeting in Accelerating the SDGs: A Multidimensional Approach in Escobedo, Mexico
- Ethiopia Non-Motorised Transport Strategy 2020-2029
- Report of the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum
- An Analysis of Flood Risk and Urban Resilience in Beledweyne
- Darfur Land Administration Assessment: Analysis and Recommendations

COVID-19 related publications

- COVID-19 Wuhan Guidance Papers-Emerging Experiences on Responding to COVID-19 in Chinese Cities and Townships
- Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods, Food Security & Nutrition in East Africa - Urban Focus
- UN-Habitat Guidance on COVID-19 and Public Space
- Decongestion of IDP Settlements
- COVID-19 Response Report of Activities

Events

Recent

- Urban Thinkers Campuses - **June-July**

Upcoming

- Urban October – Over 100 events will be held across the globe to advocate for a better urban future.
- 05 OCT World Habitat Day
- 31 OCT World Cities Day
- 31 JUN – 11 DEC Urban Thinkers Campus

Apply to host the Twelfth **World Urban Forum in 2024** - the deadline for governments to apply to host the biennial premier conference on cities is now extended to **30 November 2020.**

WUF10 was held in Abu Dhabi in February 2020, and the next will be held in Katowice, Poland in 2022.

Messages and social media material are on the Trello https://trello.com/b/tTD925ol/un-habitat-covid19
Stories and key messages are all on UN-Habitat's corporate website www.unhabitat.org.

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

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Instagram: **maimunahsharif**

UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

COVID-19 RESPONSE