

2020

PLGS REPORT



**POLICY,  
LEGISLATION,  
AND GOVERNANCE SECTION**



# ANNUAL REPORT

**UN HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

## Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) Annual Report

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# 2020

PLGS REPORT



**POLICY,  
LEGISLATION,  
AND GOVERNANCE SECTION**

# ANNUAL REPORT

UN  HABITAT

# Foreword



**Shipra Narang Suri**  
*Chief - Urban Practices Branch*

Since January 2020, UN-Habitat has undergone an organizational restructuring process and initiated the implementation of a new Strategic Plan (2020-23), both in the shadow of COVID-19 which has emerged as a global crisis of a type and scale unseen in recent times.

Under the new organisational structure, the work on Policy, Legislation and Governance has been consolidated within a new Section of the same name. This Section is one of five sections/units that comprise the Urban Practices Branch (UPB), which in turn is located in the Global Solutions Division of the Agency. Other Sections/Units within UPB are: Urban Planning, Finance and Economic Development; Urban Basic Services; Land, Housing and Shelter; and Human Rights and Social Inclusion.

The Urban Practices Branch (UPB) is the normative hub of UN-Habitat as well as home to most of the Agency's large global programmes. It is the tools and methodology production and skills centre of UN-Habitat, developing normative guidance and cutting-edge tools through communities of urban practice, providing technical and policy advice approaches and methodologies to government and partners, and mainstreaming them throughout the programme portfolio. It also ensures that the cross-cutting area of safety and the social inclusion issues of human rights; gender; children, youth, and older persons; as well as disability, are developed and mainstreamed across the agency.

It has also set up communities of practice to integrate the normative and operational work of the agency.

Within this setup, the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) has successfully established its own community of practice, key workstreams, programmes and projects at local, national, and global levels. The 2020 PLGS Annual Report shows how these are implemented and overseen by a dedicated team of colleagues who have also had to navigate the additional challenges brought about by the global COVID-19 pandemic.

This first PLGS Annual Report is a testament to how much can be achieved even under the most difficult of circumstances. Between the lines of the report, the numbers in the tables and the areas on the maps, there is the unmistakable energy of a group of people who are committed to the Agency's mandate, who are motivated by their collective achievements, and who also believe strongly in taking care of each other and "leaving no one behind".

There is a lot to be proud of here - yet, of course, much remains to be done. The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section has established itself firmly in the UN-Habitat family as a pacesetter and innovation hub for normative work, and with this it has established a solid foundation on which great things will continue to be built.



**Remy Sietchiping**  
*Chief - Policy, Legislation and Governance Section*

I am pleased to present this Annual Report, the first produced by UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) – one of five sections / units in the agency's Global Solutions Division's Urban Practices Branch. In collaboration with other parts of UN-Habitat, PLGS supports national and subnational governments and other partner organizations in the development of knowledge management systems and toolkits, capacity building and policy dialogues, and advisory services.

Because the PLGS has now reached a critical juncture in its new position within the Urban Practices Branch, following the agency's restructuring process and through its substantial progress and development into a 'centre of excellence' on policy, legislation and governance issues in sustainable urban development, this Annual Report has an increased importance and relevance. It showcases the work and achievements attained during a year that has been extraordinarily challenging for everyone around the world. The COVID-19 pandemic has transformed the way PLGS operates; in the 12 months reviewed in this report, the pandemic forced us to make many decisions and workplans based on limited travel options, almost no face-to-face group meetings and few opportunities to talk directly to the communities that we serve.

The impacts of this on PLGS's work are explained in the first part of the report, along with an overview of UN-Habitat's new organizational structure and progress on the PLGS Community of Practice.

Despite the difficulties associated with the pandemic, PLGS has had a productive year and the second part of this report presents details on the performance of all workstreams: policy; legislation; governance, metropolitan management, and urban-rural linkages. As always, finances and budgeting are of critical importance and the third part of this report has comprehensive details on that as well as a section that introduces the PLGS team. Ultimately, PLGS personnel have been agile and have adapted well by devoting their energy to making the section's work relevant internally and to many partners.

More than anything, the pandemic has emphasized the differences between people with resources to cope with crises and those without. For agencies such as UN-Habitat and the PLGS, this divide has re-emphasized the importance of the ongoing work to be done to close this gap. PLGS looks forward to being at the forefront of addressing public health concerns as they relate to sustainable urban development and future policymaking, legislative reform, and how these events will impact future governmental decision-making processes.

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# List of Acronyms

<b>AACID</b>	Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation for Development
<b>ACCD</b>	Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament
<b>ASOARES</b>	Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas
<b>CLES</b>	South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability
<b>COVID-19</b>	Coronavirus Disease-2019
<b>CoP</b>	Community of Practices
<b>DMO</b>	Douala Metropolitan Observatory
<b>DUHD</b>	Department of Urban and Housing Development (Myanmar)
<b>FAO</b>	Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations
<b>GIZ</b>	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit
<b>GSNUP</b>	Global State of National Urban Policy
<b>GTF</b>	Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments
<b>HLP</b>	Housing, land and property
<b>HLPF</b>	High-level political forum
<b>IALS</b>	Institute for Advanced Legal Studies
<b>ICLEI</b>	Local Governments for Sustainability
<b>IFURL</b>	International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages
<b>IG-UTP</b>	International Guidelines for Urban and Territorial Planning
<b>INDCs</b>	Intended nationally determined contributions
<b>IUD</b>	Integrated urban development
<b>KAS</b>	Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung
<b>MAETUR</b>	Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Mission (Cameroon)
<b>MOLIT</b>	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (South Korea)
<b>MoRUD</b>	Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (I.R Iran)
<b>NGO</b>	Non-governmental organization
<b>NUSP</b>	Niger State Urban Support Programme
<b>NUA</b>	New Urban Agenda
<b>NUP</b>	National urban policy
<b>NUPP</b>	National urban policy programme
<b>OECD</b>	Organization for Economic Development and Cooperation
<b>PLGS</b>	Policy, Legislation and Governance Section
<b>PPE</b>	Personal protective equipment
<b>PSUP</b>	Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme
<b>ROAF</b>	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa
<b>ROAP</b>	UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

<b>SANITA</b>	Urban Development and Sanitation Programme (Guinea)
<b>SDGs</b>	Sustainable Development Goals
<b>SPA</b>	Special planning area
<b>UPB</b>	Urban Practices Branch
<b>UCLG</b>	United Cities and Local Governments
<b>UNCTAD</b>	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
<b>UNDESA</b>	United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs
<b>UNEP</b>	United Nations Environment Programme
<b>UNFCCC</b>	United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change
<b>UN-Habitat</b>	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
<b>UNHCR</b>	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees
<b>UNDA</b>	United Nations Development Account
<b>UNDP</b>	United Nations Development Programme
<b>UNSCN</b>	United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition
<b>UNSG</b>	United Nations Secretary General
<b>URA</b>	Urban-Rural Assembly
<b>URL</b>	Urban-rural linkages
<b>URP</b>	Urban-rural partnerships
<b>VLR</b>	Voluntary local reviews
<b>VNR</b>	Voluntary national reviews
<b>WMD</b>	World Metropolitan Day
<b>WUF</b>	World Urban Forum

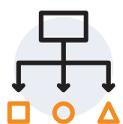
# Executive Summary

UN-Habitat's first Policy, Legislation and Governance (PLGS) Annual Report highlights the section's implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 for 2020. The Annual Report features the section's and its partners' contributions and results realized across various key programmes and projects at the local, national, regional and global levels between November 2019 and the end of 2020. The report highlights projects by global, regional, and country programmes, various normative tools, knowledge products, participation at the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10), as well as other events, workshops, and experts group meetings organized and participated in by PLGS personnel across the section's workstreams.

The Executive Summary features highlights from the PLGS workstreams and programmes during the 2019-2020 fiscal year, including an overview of UN-Habitat's newly adopted organizational structure, progress on the PLG Community of Practice, and the impact of COVID-19 on the ongoing PLGS work.

The second part of the Annual Report presents details on the performance of all workstreams, including: policy; legislation; governance, metropolitan management; and urban-rural linkages. The third part has details on budget and financing and introduces the PLGS team.

## NEW ORGANIZATIONAL STRUCTURE



In January 2020, UN-Habitat underwent an organizational restructuring process following the approval of this by the Executive Board in October 2019. The aim was to ensure UN-Habitat effectively implements its mandate to support Member States in implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. Under the new structure, four new divisions were established.

The Global Solutions Division includes the Programme Development Branch and the Urban Practices Branch. Within the Urban Practices Branch are the five sections/unit: (1) Policy, Legislation and Governance, (2) Urban Basic Services, (3) Land, Housing and Shelter, (4) Planning, Finance and Economic Development, and (5) Human Rights and Social Inclusion Unit.



## TENTH SESSION OF THE WORLD URBAN FORUM (WUF10):

In February 2020, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Abu Dhabi's local authorities and the Government of United Arab Emirates (UAE), convened the WUF10, the first one in its type held in the Arab world. The PLGS team organized and actively participated with several experts group meetings, side and networking events, and bilateral meetings. Of those, it is worth mentioning the Expert Group Meeting on the Global State of Metropolis; the networking event "Beyond the Metropolis: Inspiring and innovative initiatives to strengthen territorial management in worldwide metropolises and regions"; the side event "Urban-Rural Nexus: Challenges and innovations to govern land, municipal and ecosystem services,

on the fringes of resource constrained cities and small towns"; the Voices from Cities Session "First compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action"; the SDG in Action Session "Innovative national and local urban policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the New Urban Agenda"; side events to launch the Law and Climate Change toolkit, the Slum Upgrading Toolkit and the publication titled *Effectiveness of Planning Laws: Comparative Analysis (Sub-Saharan Africa/Land-Rich Developed Countries)*; among others. More than 200 people participated in these different PLGS events and sessions.



## PROGRESS ON PLGS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The PLGS formed the **Community of Practice (CoP)** to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, networking, awareness-raising and capacity building between UN-Habitat personnel working on policy, legislation and governance-oriented projects. The goal of the CoP is to establish a professional network of practitioners and experts to learn, inquire, resolve issues and seek information from one another's experience that is primarily focused on policy, legislation and governance issues.

In 2020, the PLG hosted three CoP sessions that were well attended and have inspired new opportunities of collaboration with other sections as well as regional and country offices from 2021. The sessions provided a platform to share the section's normative tools, knowledge products and project progress both at global and country levels, and they also provided an opportunity to exchange lessons and best practices in the fields of policy, legislation and governance. The PLGS is also involved in other Communities of Practices within the agency through designated focal points.



## EFFECTS OF COVID-19 ON PLGS OPERATIONS

Like many organizations, UN-Habitat and the PLGS have been impacted by COVID-19. The section adopted “new normal” working conditions and hosted over 10 online webinars with the inclusion of external partners, to discuss the impact of COVID-19 on urban-rural linkages, food systems, national urban policies, metropolitan management and biodiversity, and green markets. In addition to the webinars, the PLGS continued to support virtual learning, training and capacity-building workshops for the national urban policy, MetroHub and urban-rural linkages programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Africa and the Middle East.

Also, Urban Law Days and World Metropolitan Day (WMD) were commemorated through virtual trainings and webinars held jointly with universities and local organizations in Colombia, El Salvador, Spain, the United States, and the United Kingdom, among other countries. The PLGS also redirected National Urban Policy Programme funds and Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development grant, United Nations Development Account Project to support the implementation of COVID-19 relief initiatives and demonstration projects in Myanmar, Nigeria, Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo and Iran.



Yangon, Myanmar handwashing station © UN-Habitat





# PLGS IN 2020

**URBAN POLICY WORKSTREAM**

56 countries by 2020

Supporting 15 countries & 2 subnational authorities in 2020

3 regional urban policy programmes

**METROPOLITAN MANAGEMENT WORKSTREAM**

Supporting the Colombian Metropolitan Areas with:

- Policies and Legislation
- Metropolitan governance
- finance and economics
- Planning

**WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY 2020 (7th Oct)** } 20 Global Events

**COVID-19 RESPONSE**



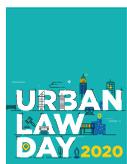
Updated In March 2021

**LEGISLATION WORKSTREAM**

**URBANLEX**

**GOVERNANCE WORKSTREAM**

**URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES WORKSTREAM**



3 URBAN LAW DAYS Held in 2020

465 Legal instruments

2,250 Laws

17% increase in download 28,193 users-from 2019-2020

1. A Guide: Leveraging Multi-Level Governance for Health Equity
2. Guide for Governance Case Studies: Urban Governance and Decision-Making in 10 Low-Income/UN-Habitat Priority Countries
3. UCLG-Platform-UN-Habitat-UNDP-GTF-DIBA (2020) Learning Module 4: Localizing the SDG through Decentralized Cooperation
4. UN-Habitat (2020) Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR)
5. UN-Habitat-UCLG (2020) Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews vol.1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs

203 WORKSHOPS  
Participants from Zanzibar + Cameroon + Niger State + Cameroon + Republic of Guinea

9 Webinars on Urban-Rural Linkages

**MYANMAR**

- 2,500 Households
- 12,600 Beneficiaries
- 17 Handwashing stations } 5 In Dala, 12 In Hlaung Tharyar
- 6 IEC Materials
- 50,580 Masks

**NIGER STATE (NIGERIA)**

- 500 People served by the Solar bolehole
- 76 Protective gowns
- 61 Face shield
- 300 Hand sanitizers

**IRAN**

- 228,802 Medical Masks

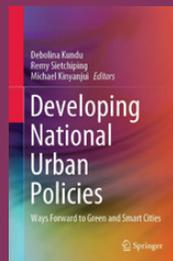


#### FOUR-TIERED TECHNICAL SUPPORT PACKAGE

1. Global programme;
2. Regional programmes focusing on specific regional priorities (Africa: urban-rural linkages, Arab states: economic development and Asia-Pacific: climate change);
3. National urban policy; and
4. Subnational urban policy.



#### KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



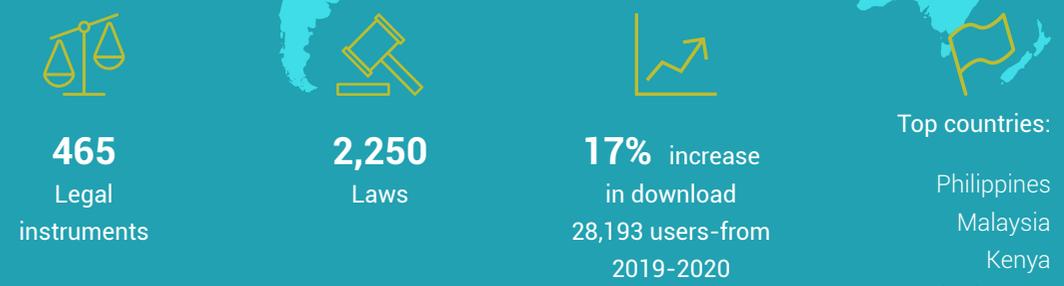
Developing National Urban Policies: Ways Forward to Green and Smart Cities



Global State of National Urban Policies 2020



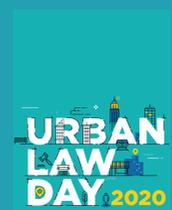
#### URBAN LEX



- Top countries:
- Philippines
  - Malaysia
  - Kenya
  - United states
  - Nigeria



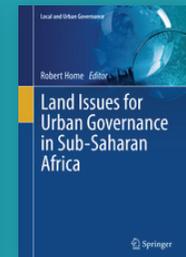
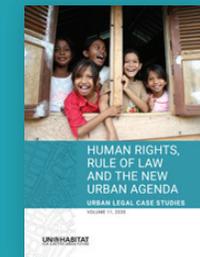
#### ADVOCACY & PARTNERSHIPS



**3** URBAN LAW DAYS  
Held in 2020



#### KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



Effectiveness of Planning Law in Latin America and the Caribbean

Urban Planning and Land-Use Module of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit

↓  
Urban Governance

GOVERNANCE SUB-AREAS



Local governance



Multi-level governance

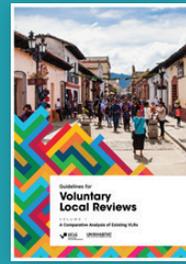


Multi-stakeholder partnerships

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



UN-Habitat (2020) **Governance Assessment Framework** for Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR)



UN-Habitat-UCLG (2020) **Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews vol.1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs**



**A Guide:** Leveraging Multi-Level Governance for Health Equity



**Guide for Governance Case Studies:** Urban Governance and Decision-Making in 10 Low-Income/UN-Habitat Priority Countries



UCLG-Platform-UN-Habitat-UNDP-GTF-DIBA (2020) **Learning Module 4: Localizing the SDG through Decentralized Cooperation**

PARTNERSHIPS



NEW YORK UNIVERSITY

↓  
Metropolitan Management

PROJECTS

> Technical Support to The Colombian Metropolitan Areas



Institutional capacity strengthening



Metropolitan planning and legislation



Knowledge management



Best practices exchange

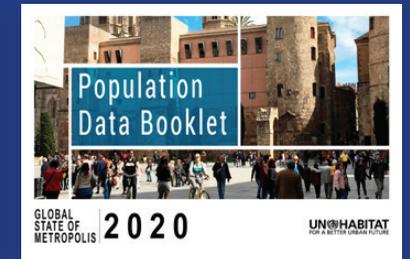
ADVOCACY



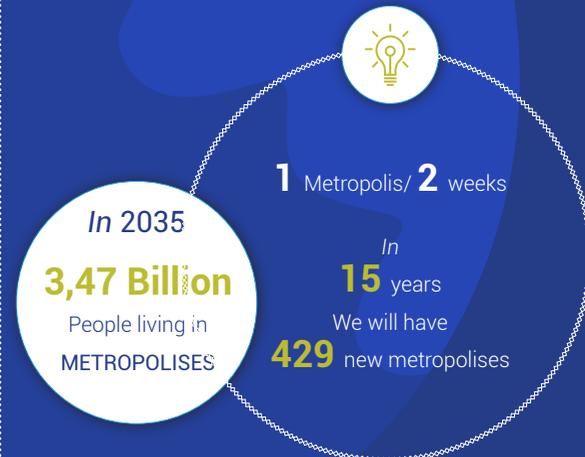
WORLD METROPOLITAN DAY 2020  
20 Global Events



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



WHY METROPOLISES



↓  
Urban-Rural Linkages



PROJECTS (2020)

- 1. Leaving No one and No Place Behind: Implementing the New Urban Agenda through Urban-Rural Linkages in Mozambique,
- 2. Leaving No One Behind: "Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Selected African Countries".

ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

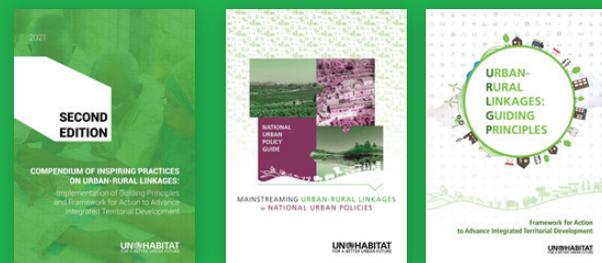
WEBINARS

**9**  
Webinars on Urban-Rural Linkages with COVID as a theme

WORKSHOPS

**203**  
Participants from Zanzibar + Cameroon + Niger State + Republic of Guinea

KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



Resources paper on smart villages, nutrition and urban-rural linkages

↓  
COVID-19 Interventions



MYANMAR

**2,500**  
Households

**12,600**  
Beneficiaries

**17** Handwashing stations  
**5** In Dala  
**12** In Hlaung Tharyar

**6**  
IEC Materials

**50,700**  
Masks

**2,529**  
Soap bars

**300**  
Hand sanitizers

**36**  
Volunteers

NIGER STATE (NIGERIA)

**500**  
People served by the Solar bolehole

**76**  
Protective gowns

**61**  
Face shield

**300**  
Hand sanitizers

IRAN

**228,802**  
Medical Masks

OTHER INTERVENTIONS



DRC



MALI



KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS



cities\_and\_pandemics-towards\_a\_more\_just\_green\_and\_healthy\_future\_un-habitat\_2021-1



First Issue Brief on Urban-rural Linkages Guiding Principles in the lens of COVID-19.



ADVOCACY & AWARENESS

The World Metropolitan Day 2020



**9**  
Webinars on Urban-Rural Linkages with COVID as a theme

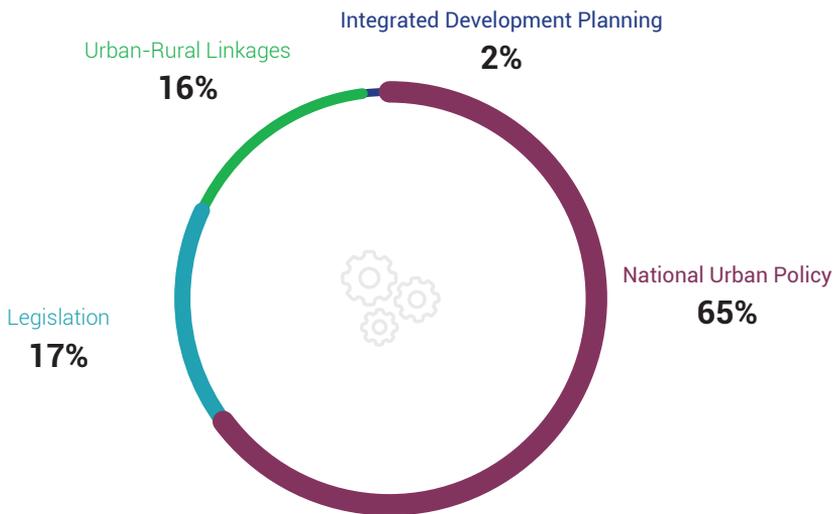


## PLG Funding 2020

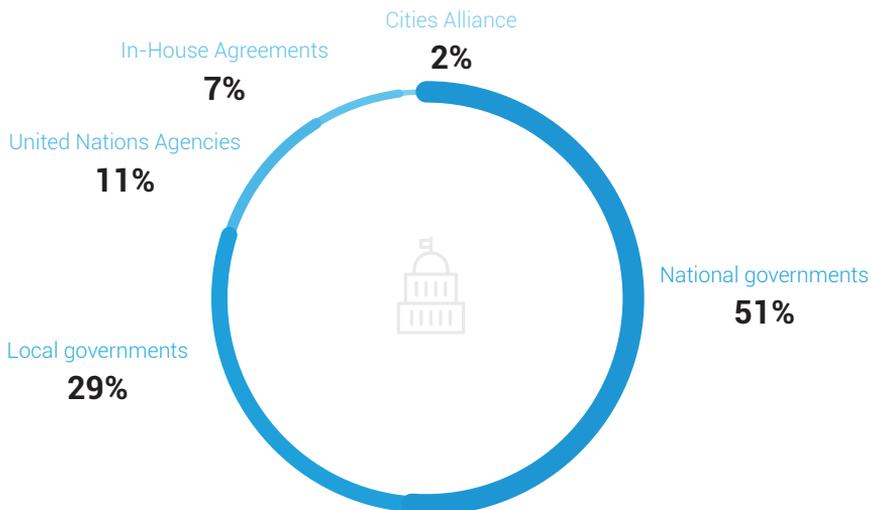
The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section's (PLGS) funding is earmarked for specific projects based on the policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management workstreams, or by

thematic area such as integrated development planning. For 2020, PLGS used **USD 2.3 million** for its projects and programmes, which represents 54 per cent of the annual budget.

**FIGURE 1.** Percentage of PLGS Total Funding by Workstream/thematic area



**FIGURE 2.** Percentage of PLGS total funding by institution





# 1. Introduction

The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) is one of UN-Habitat's five sections/units in the Global Solutions Division's Urban Practices Branch (UPB). PLGS plays a critical role in implementing the Agency's Strategic Plan 2020-2023, flagship programmes, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda, serving as UN-Habitat's focal point and centre for global solutions in

urban policy, legislation and governance. In collaboration with other parts of the agency, both at UN-Habitat headquarters and in the field, PLGS supports national and subnational governments and other partner organizations in the development of knowledge management systems and toolkits, capacity building, and policy dialogues in addition to advisory services, that are focused on the following areas:

1. Coordinating the agency's substantive, normative and operational work on policy, legislation and governance;
2. Developing, documenting and disseminating policy, legislation and governance norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks, operating procedures and inspiring practices at all levels (e.g. global, national and sub-national, and regional);
3. Designing tailored-made policy, legislation and governance solutions for cities, regions and metropolises, including enhancing the urban-rural continuum, reducing spatial inequality and poverty, and promoting shared prosperity;
4. Promoting and monitoring knowledge and database management (including the creation of indexes and collating resources into a centralized data observatory) focused on urban policy, legislation, and governance principles;
5. Leading the testing/piloting of norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks, through initiatives, programmes and projects on policy, legislation and governance;
6. Providing technical assistance, quality assurance/control, policy advice and services on norms, standards, tools, methodologies and regulatory frameworks to internal and external partners, including on design, monitoring, implementation and evaluation of operational programmes/projects with respect to policy, legislation and governance;
7. Coordinating and facilitating urban forums;
8. Building capacity development of staff (including at headquarters, across the different branches, regional offices and country offices), UN-Habitat partners and Member States on the norms, standards, tools, methodologies, regulatory frameworks pertaining to urban policy, legislation and governance;
9. Creating and maintaining platforms, networks and community of practices for peer-to-peer learning, research and design, knowledge management and relationship building.



## WHY A PLGS ANNUAL REPORT?

The primary role of the PLGS Annual Report is to disseminate the section's progress and contribution towards achieving UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023. The report demonstrates both the section's contributions towards the United Nations Agenda 2030 on Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda, and it makes clear connections between the section's commissioned programmes, projects and normative products and UN-Habitat's core mission in promoting sustainable urban development. Moreover, as the PLGS has reached a critical juncture in its new position within the Urban Practices Branch, following the agency's restructuring process and through its substantial progress and development into a 'centre of excellence' on policy, legislation and governance issues in sustainable urban development, this Annual Report has an increased importance and relevance in

demonstrating the PLGS's involvement in global programmes and projects to gain further support from Member States, national, subnational and local authorities, other agency departments, United Nations organizations and various external partners in the ongoing work on sustainable urban development.

The 2020 Annual Report offers an overview of the section's progress and impact on the ground and provides insight on the planned work and outlook for 2021. This report is particularly beneficial to UN-Habitat colleagues at large and partner countries where PLGS provides technical support on the design, implementation and monitoring and evaluation of global, regional, and country focused development priorities related to policy, legislation, and governance.

### Overview of the newly created Policy, Legislation and Governance Section based on UN-Habitat's Restructuring Process

In June 2018, UN-Habitat underwent an institutional reform process which involved restructuring the organization, in terms of strategic and substantive focus, to achieve better results in realizing UN-Habitat's mission. The restructuring involved four major areas, including: a) reorganizing UN-Habitat's governance structure; b) developing a new four-year strategic plan; c) an internal change process; and d) restructuring the organization to redefine UN-Habitat.

In January 2020, UN-Habitat operationalized the fourth component of the reformation process: the organizational restructuring of the programme, both at headquarters and in the field, following approval by the Executive Board in October 2019. The purpose of the reformation process is for UN-Habitat to effectively fulfil its mandate to support Member States and various development partners in the implementation, realization and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and of the New Urban Agenda at the national, subnational, and local levels, 'leaving no one and no place behind'.

Under the new structure, UN-Habitat established the Global Solutions Division; the Regional Programmes Division; and the Management Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division; the External Relations, Advisory and Compliance Division.



The PLGS coordinates the agency's substantive, normative and operational work on various dimensions of policy, legislation and governance, fostering high impact initiatives, programmes and projects to deliver timely, fit-for-purpose and targeted solutions across five major workstreams that are based on a broader sustainable urban development framework across local, metropolitan, regional, national and transnational scales.

Collectively, 'policy, legislation and governance' form two of the four drivers of change identified in the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023. The drivers support delivery of services and products that lead to change or drive results and will ultimately achieve the objectives of the Strategic Plan.

WORKSTREAM	DESCRIPTION
<b>Policy</b>	<p>The policy workstream supports national and subnational governments in the development of their urban policies in accordance with the country or local authority's identified development priorities. The workstream also supports projects on integrated urban development (IUD).</p> <p>National urban policy (NUP) has been identified as one of the key tools for member states to promote sustainable development and the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and SDGs.</p> <p>From 2014 to 2020, UN-Habitat has supported 55 countries and over 10 subnational authorities through the different phases of urban policy development.</p>
<b>Legislation</b>	<p>The workstream supports national and subnational governments in advancing sustainable urbanization and the achievement of globally agreed goals and strategies by supporting the assessment and development of enabling legislation. The workstream provides technical cooperation support to assist national and subnational governments in the review and reform of legal frameworks in key areas. The legislation workstream also develops knowledge products and comparative legal reviews in priority thematic areas such as urban planning, informal settlements upgrading, climate change, housing, land and property rights and land-based financing. Additionally, the workstream supports improving capacities of national and subnational governments to design and implement legal reform.</p>
<b>Governance</b>	<p>The New Urban Agenda and the SDGs call for institutional coordination at all levels through new governance arrangements and improved metropolitan governance structures. This is strongly reaffirmed by the United Nations Secretary General through the Decade of Action. UN-Habitat supports local and national governments to effectively advance the implementation of the global goals and global agendas by providing tailored expertise on local governance arrangement (fiscal decentralization to capture domestic revenue; urban displacement management etc.) and multilevel governance for policy formulation, alignment and implementation. Such activities are based and embedded in a multi-stakeholder partnership approach and promote the use of innovation and technologies.</p> <p>The governance workstream currently has three sub-areas:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>i. Local Governance:</b> Strengthening urban governance to realize the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (including localizing the SDGs and working with local governments and their associations);</li> </ol>

WORKSTREAM	DESCRIPTION
	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li><b>ii. Multi-Level Governance:</b> Focusing on vertical and horizontal coordination for policy implementation, including metropolitan management; and</li> <li><b>iii. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships:</b> Re-thinking the relationship between public and private actors to enhance public sector investment.</li> </ol>
<b>Metropolitan Management</b>	<p>The workstream develops normative tools and provides technical support, advisory services and builds capacity for local, subnational and national government officials among other metropolitan management stakeholders, to address national and regional priorities and overarching metropolitan challenges. The integrative approach for metropolitan management involves local, subnational and national governments in improving metropolitan governance, policies and legislation, planning and finance, and economics throughout metropolises and regions across the world.</p>
<b>Urban-Rural Linkages</b>	<p>This workstream develops normative tools and provides technical support, advisory services and builds capacity for local, subnational and national government officials among other urban-rural nexus stakeholders to address national, territorial, local URL priorities and challenges. The workstream is guided by the <i>Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding principles and framework for action</i>, which is established on the idea that urban and rural areas should not be treated as separate entities when creating new development plans, policies and strategies, but rather combines efforts and establishes synergies so that every person and every place benefits from the circular flow along the urban-rural continuum.</p>



## PROGRESS ON PLGS COMMUNITY OF PRACTICE

The PLGS formed the **Community of Practice (CoP)** to facilitate peer-to-peer learning, networking, awareness-raising and capacity building between UN-Habitat personnel working on policy, legislation and governance-oriented projects. The purpose of the PLGS CoP is to create a professional network of practitioners and experts who can learn, inquire, resolve issues and seek information from each other's

experience within the focus area of policy, legislation and governance. The CoP also facilitates further engagement in substantive discussions, including the development, peer review and application of PLGS normative tools and products. The PLGS is also involved in other Communities of Practice within the agency through designated focal points.

The **CoP** helps to close the research-to-policy-to-practice gap by:



- **Creating** an open relationship between those producing knowledge and those using it across the agency;



- **Sharing and disseminating** information, practices, norms and experiences on what different sections/units, country and regional offices of UN-Habitat are working on in policy, legislation and governance-related issues;



- **Raising awareness** and diffusing capacity on the expertise around UN-Habitat on PLG-related thematic areas;



- **Mainstreaming** PLG positions and approaches across UN-Habitat projects and programmes;



- **Promoting** collaboration in the application of tools and PLG projects.

The CoP strives to ensure that quality PLGS interventions of the agency are implemented worldwide, therefore the sharing and dissemination of best practices and peer-to-peer learning is relevant.

The core mandate of the CoP is to share ideas, knowledge and skills on the PLG thematic areas, including how to mobilize resources for the thematic areas of work. The goal and mission of the CoP activities are to contribute to the work of the PLGS and the operations in the field, which include:

- Discussing the development of new tools and methodologies, their finalization and their internal and external dissemination;
- Discussing strategies for widespread use of tools and methodologies internally and by governments, development partners and other United Nations agencies;
- Convening webinars and workshops to share country experiences and to present new tools and studies or peer-review normative tools;
- Convening learning sessions and seminars to exchange best practices and ideas.

In 2020, the PLGS hosted three CoP sessions. The inaugural meeting was held in July 2020 with 55 participants, stemming from the five sections in the UPB, innovation, two regional offices and six country offices. The first meeting was an introductory forum to gain a collective understanding of the CoPs objectives and expectations, and to discuss how it could support the co-creation of norms and standards on policy, legislation and governance across UN-Habitat and effectively disseminate and implement them across global programmes and projects. It featured presentations from the Policy, Legislation and Governance work stream as well presentations on an Integrated Urban Development Project in Egypt; the national urban policy (NUP) development process in Bolivia, and key initiatives on matters related to policy, legislation and governance undertaken by the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP).

In September 2020, the second CoP had 66 participants and included presentations on the National Urban Policy Learning Manual, a do-it-yourself learning course on the NUP process; an overview of ongoing projects within the legislation workstream offered insights into the implementation of various projects in the legislation work stream, including the Housing, Land and Property Rights in Syria; Saudi Arabia Housing Development Project;

and strengthening urban governance through planning and slum upgrading in Guinea through the SANITA programme. The Governance Assessment Framework (GAF-MTR) showcased an overview of the Urban Maestro Project, which is sponsored by the European Union, on new governance strategies for urban design and improving the built environment; this generated much of the conversation for the second CoP meeting. The primary finding and learning aspect of the sessions highlighted the need for greater clarification on the definition of governance and how governance can be used to improve knowledge management over different urban processes.

The third CoP session was held at the beginning of December 2020 and covered several themes, including healthy cities, NUP development and climate change. It featured discussions on the Multi-level Governance Guide to Promote Health Equity; highlighted progress of the South Korea-funded NUP programme in three countries: Myanmar, Iran and Niger State (Nigeria); and introduced the Law and Climate Change Toolkit for enhanced mitigation and adaptation action in urban areas. Notably, this session took stock of the utility of the two previous ones with a view to improving the effectiveness of the CoP going forward.

## PLGS participation at the World Urban Forum 2020

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 10) was held from 8-13 February 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The theme was 'Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation'. Culture brings together knowledge, art, belief, capabilities, habits, morals and behaviours, is widely recognized as playing a key role in the growth and development of cities.

WUF10 brought together PLGS partners, including national and subnational authorities, metropolises, international organizations and academia among others to share experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the areas of policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management and urban rural linkages.

During WUF 10, UN-Habitat's PLGS and partners organized different official events: side events, networking events and publication launches as well as informal sessions with partners on various thematic areas. The forum offered an opportunity for PLGS and partners to showcase normative tools and knowledge products developed and applied to support implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda.

From the sessions organized by PLGS it is worth mentioning the Expert Group Meeting on the Global State of Metropolis; the Networking Event 'Beyond the Metropolis: Inspiring and innovative initiatives to strength territorial management in worldwide metropolises and regions'; the Side Event 'Urban-Rural Nexus: Challenges and Innovations to Govern Land, Municipal and Ecosystem Services, on the Fringes of Resource Constrained Cities and Small Towns'; the Voices from Cities Session 'First Compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action'; the SDG in Action Session 'Innovative national and local urban policies to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals and implement the New Urban Agenda'; side events to launch the Law and Climate Change toolkit, the Slum Upgrading Toolkit and the publication titled *Effectiveness of Planning Laws: Comparative Analysis (Sub-Saharan Africa/Land-Rich Developed Countries)*; among others.

More than 200 people participated in these PLGS events and sessions.

## COVID-19 interventions supported by the PLGS

UN-Habitat, like many organizations across the globe, has been impacted by COVID-19 and its spread. Since March 2020 to the end of the year, PLGS personnel have been working remotely, ensuring that programmes, projects and normative products continue to be developed.

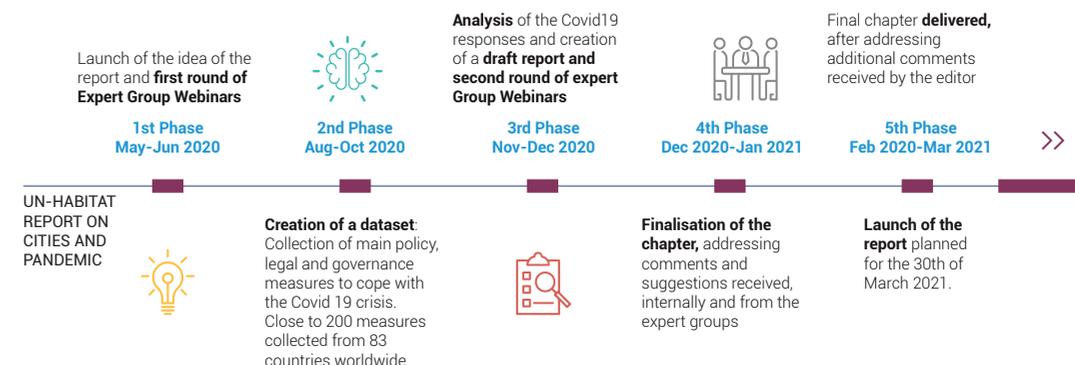
In response to the coronavirus pandemic in 2020, UN-Habitat's PLGS supported national and subnational authorities and other partners through humanitarian support, normative interventions and advocacy and awareness activities.

In terms of advocacy, the PLGS adapted to "new normal" working conditions and hosted over **ten** online webinars that included external partners discussing the impact of COVID-19 on urban-rural linkages, food systems, national urban policies, metropolitan management and biodiversity, and green markets. Through offering these webinars and online discussions, the PLGS increased awareness about the section's ongoing projects, and disseminated guides, toolkits and other learning packages across a wider audience and platform. In addition to these webinars, the PLGS continued to support virtual

training and capacity building workshops for the national urban policy, MetroHub and urban-rural linkages programmes in Latin America and the Caribbean, West Africa and the Middle East. Additionally, Urban Law Days and World Metropolitan Day (WMD) were commemorated through virtual trainings and webinars held jointly with universities and local organizations in Colombia, El Salvador, Spain, the United States and the United Kingdom, among other countries, with COVID-19 being one of the key themes in these events. PLGS also provided humanitarian support in **Cameroon, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Iran, Mali, Myanmar and Niger State (Nigeria)**.

Normatively, UN-Habitat's PLGS published the **First Issue Brief on Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles in the Lens of COVID-19**. The section also developed a global survey of national and subnational policy, legal and governance responses to the COVID-19 pandemic, which includes reviewing trends and approaches and identifying global emerging trends. The survey and the analysis were the basis for the UN-Habitat flagship report on COVID-19 and cities titled *Cities and Pandemic*.

**FIGURE 3.** A timeline of the development of PLGS chapter to the Cities and Pandemic report



COVID-19 has re-emphasized the PLGS's ongoing work on urban-rural linkages, food systems, metropolitan management and the integration of public health in its policy, legislation and governance workstreams.

For metropolises to recover from COVID-19 and build back better, the governance and metropolitan management workstreams propose three fundamental themes that should be considered:

**Inequalities**, which have increased in recent decades, were exacerbated and became more visible during the pandemic, while new forms of conflict and violence were heightened in metropolises around the globe. Incorporating a social inclusion lens into metropolitan management is fundamental for economic recovery and to rebuild the social fabric.

**Democracy**, and its fundamentals have been harmed by authoritarianism and human rights violations. Due to this prevalence across the globe, the impending threat to democracy offers an opportunity for metropolitan authorities to innovate and offer citizens new ways for their voices to be heard and considered in public affairs as metropolises become new political spaces.

**Governance**, new governance approaches based on cooperation, collective action and solidarity are critical in overcoming COVID-19. Outcome-oriented metropolitan governance is essential in ensuring that all citizens reap the benefits and share the burden of investing in sustainable urbanization. The newly released Governance Assessment Framework<sup>1</sup> promotes a practical vision of governance in which institutional solutions, decision-making and collective action work together.



*Handwashing station installed by UN-Habitat that aims to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in informal settlement in Yangon, Myanmar © UN-Habitat*



## 2. Urban Policy

The role of the urban policy workstream is to support national and subnational governments to develop and implement national and subnational urban policy in accordance with their development priorities. It contributes to Sustainable Development Goal 11, targets 11.1, 11.2, 11.3, 11.7 and 11.a.1, 11.b and the New Urban Agenda. National urban policy (NUP) has been identified as one of the key tools for government to promote sustainable development that cuts across urban, peri-urban and rural areas and the achievement of the New Urban Agenda and SDGs.

The work of UN-Habitat on NUPs is rooted in the Governing Council resolution HSP/GC/24/L.6, which "requests the Executive Director in consultation with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to develop a general framework for the development, where appropriate, of national urban policies, based on international good experiences, to further support Member States when developing and improving their urban policies".

**National urban policy** is defined as "a coherent set of decisions derived through a deliberate, government-led process of coordinating and rallying various actors for a common vision and goal that will promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development for the long term" (UN-Habitat and Cities Alliance, 2014).

In most developing countries, urbanization brings about enormous changes in spatial distribution of people, resources and the use of land. Many countries lack the supporting policies, strategies and frameworks that can leverage the process for increased sustainable development gains. Unchecked and unplanned urban sprawl and inequality present perennial concerns in cities and peri-urban areas. Due to lack of policy, strategies, or frameworks to address urbanization issues in these countries, the challenges seem to outpace the development gains associated with urbanization.

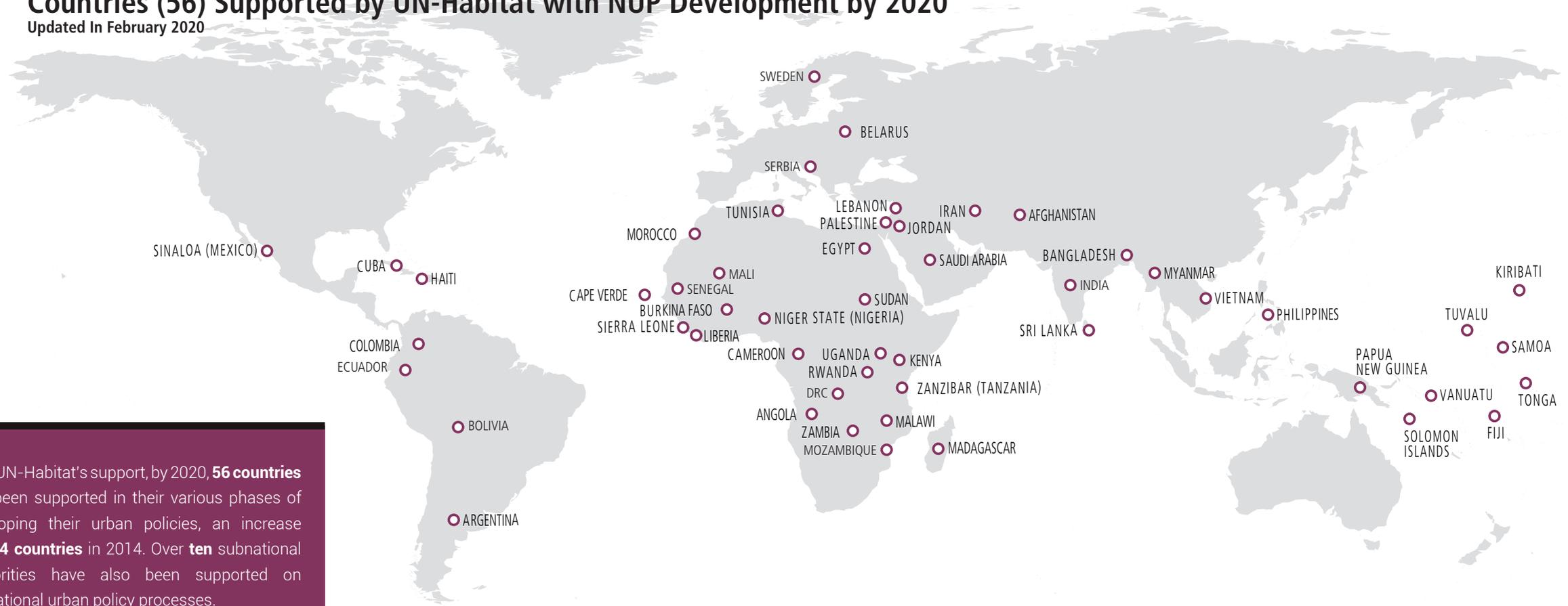
To address these challenges, UN-Habitat develops and disseminates normative tools and guides, advisory services as well as

technical support to support partner countries, subnational and local authorities in development and implementation of their urban policies.

UN-Habitat's approach appreciates the importance of due process in developing and implementing national urban policy that positively impacts the life of people across the urban-rural continuum. Therefore, the approach is informed by an interactive process that has five interwoven phases: feasibility, diagnosis, formulation, implementation and monitoring and evaluation. All these phases are supported by three important pillars: participation, capacity development and acupuncture projects.

# Countries (56) Supported by UN-Habitat with NUP Development by 2020

Updated In February 2020



With UN-Habitat's support, by 2020, **56 countries** had been supported in their various phases of developing their urban policies, an increase from **4 countries** in 2014. Over **ten** subnational authorities have also been supported on subnational urban policy processes.

A key milestone is that the national urban policy was accepted by the United Nations Statistical Commission as the Sustainable Development Goal indicator for Target 11.a.1 in the global monitoring framework at the Inter-Agency and Expert Group on Sustainable Development Goal Indicators 10th session. The new indicator, which became effective in 2020, includes: number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that: (a) respond to population dynamics, (b) ensure balanced territorial development, (c) increase local fiscal space

Department of Field Support  
Cartographic Section



## PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

### 1. Iran, Myanmar and Niger State, Nigeria:

The National Urban Policy Programme is funded by **South Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT)**. In 2020, UN-Habitat supported the countries in the formulation phase of their national urban policy (NUP).

During the 10th World Urban Forum in February 2020, UN-Habitat presented the project's progress to stakeholders, with a particular focus on Myanmar.



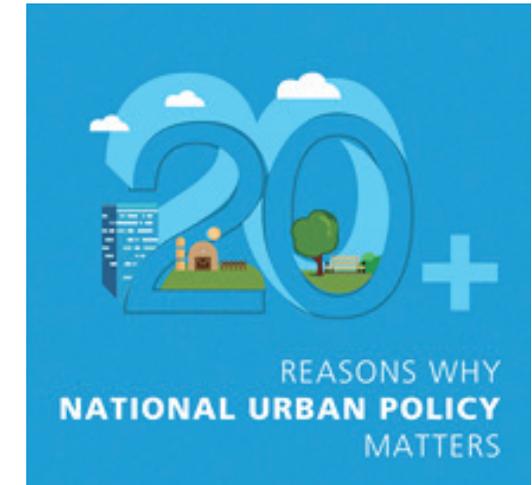
Presentation of the Myanmar NUP programme at the World Urban Forum 2020 in Abu Dhabi © UN-Habitat

Additionally, in 2020, a Knowledge Management Strategy and Sharing Action Plan was also developed to support the development of NUP for the three countries. Some key progress points for each country are:

In **Iran**, the second edition of the Inception Report was finalized and shared with the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) for review. UN-Habitat also supported the preparation of a report to review the Diagnostic Report and the Capacity Development Gap Assessment.

This was important to ensure challenges and issues specific to Iran are covered.

Normatively, UN-Habitat Iran translated two knowledge products into Persian for a wider reach. These are How to Formulate a National Urban Policy and *20+ Reasons Why National Urban Policy Matters*.



#### 2020

##### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IN IRAN

##### APRIL 2020

- » Drafting of two proposals for NUP Demonstration Projects for COVID-19 Response
- » Recruitment for Development of NUP and Smart City Strategy

##### MAY 2020

- » Implementation of COVID-19 Demonstration project

##### SEPT 2020

- » Review of NUP Diagnostic Report and Capacity Gap Assessment
- » Development of NUP Knowledge Management Strategy and Sharing Action Plan.

In **Myanmar**, the 3rd National Urban Policy Formulation Committee meeting was held on 3 February 2020. It was chaired by the Union Minister and several government officials participated to discuss the progress and culmination of Myanmar's National Urban Policy.

The final national urban policy was reviewed by Myanmar's Department of Urban and Housing Development (DUHD) and the Ministry of Construction.

#### 2019

#### 2020

##### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IN MYANMAR

##### DEC 2019

- » National Urban Forum

##### FEB 2020

- » National Urban Policy Committee Meeting III
- » Presentation of NUP at the 10th World Urban Forum, Abu Dhabi

##### APRIL 2020

- » Resource Procurement and proposal for NUP Demonstration Project for COVID-19 response

##### SEPT 2020

- » Implementation of NUP COVID-19 Demonstration Project in Yangon informal settlements

##### SEPT-DEC 2020

- » Final NUP version Reviewed with DUHD, Ministry of Construction
- » Draft NUP Implementation plan discussed with DUHD, Ministry of Construction

In **Niger State, Nigeria**, an Expert Group Meeting attended by officials from seven institutions was held on 8 January, 2020 to inform the technocrats/policymakers on the significance of smart city initiatives in urban development process in Niger State and, more importantly, on the on-going process of Niger State Urban Policy. The workshop equally served to bring together policymakers to identify areas to be considered for smart initiatives in the Niger State Urban Sector.

A key outcome was the formulation of the Drafting Committee for Niger State urban policy. In 2020, the Niger State Urban Policy Feasibility and Policy Note were finalized. UN-Habitat also conducted a policy briefing for all institutions on Niger State Subnational Urban Policy and its mandates.



Policy actors during a briefing at the Office of the Secretary to the Government of Niger State © UN-Habitat



### Integrated Urban Development for Minna and Suleja in Niger State (Nigeria)

A key component in the Niger State Urban Support Programme (NUSP) is the formulation of regional plans for Minna and Suleja regions. The Integrated Regional Development Plans are based on applied research, evidence-based, participatory process among other UN-Habitat tools and guidelines.

#### Inception Report

Inception reports on the formulation of the Integrated Regional Development Plan for Minna and Suleja, Niger State have already been finalized. An Inception Report presents methodologies, project structure, initial findings and considerations to the two plans. It includes background information; overview of the study areas; project approach and methodologies; project plan and activities to be performed; challenges and potentials.

#### Steering Committee

The steering committees with representatives from Minna and Suleja have been appointed. The steering committee comprises of high-level technical-political drivers of development to give strategic direction to the plans, provide political will and support, not only to formulation, but future implementation of the plans.

#### MIDP/SIDP Stakeholder Forums

To ensure a bottom-up process / strategy and to ensure the plans are based on community participation, a forum consisting of 30 stakeholders from public, private and civil society has been constituted.

#### Diagnostic Studies

Diagnostic studies on five key thematic areas - institutional, territorial, environmental, economic and social cultural - have been completed for both Minna and Suleja regions. They not only provide historical development and baseline indicators of the regions but also include data collection and field surveys, interviews and strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analyses to have a complete understating of future possibilities.

#### Partnerships on Integrated Development Planning

PLGS also worked with Stanford University on two projects in Niger State: 1. Increasing government accountability in Suleja and contributing to more effective local budget allocation and better service delivery; and 2. Improving water services in Suleja, Niger State.



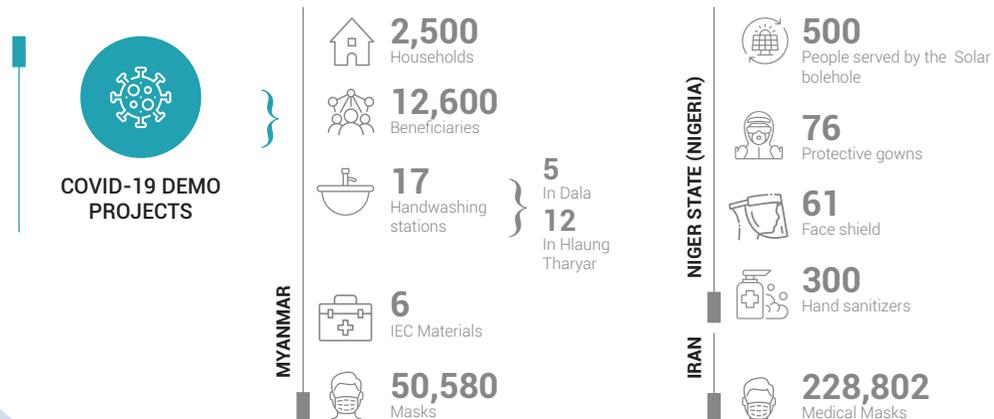


Stakeholder engagements for the Integrated Development Planning project in Minna and Suleja in Niger-State © UN-Habitat

### COVID-19 demonstration projects in Iran, Myanmar and Niger State:

As part of the National Urban Policy Programme funded by South Korea, demonstration projects were implemented in the three countries in response to the COVID-19 pandemic. In **Myanmar**, over **2,500 households (12,600 beneficiaries)** were supplied with **17 handwashing stations** in strategic locations across two of Yangon's informal settlement townships, including 5 in **Dala** and 12 in **Hlaing Tharyar**. In addition, 6 different types of information, education and communication materials and prevention kits were supplied, including **50,580 masks**, handwashing soap and sanitizers in markets, bus terminals and other common areas and displayed in handwashing stations.

**Thirty-six** volunteers were also trained to support the communities during this period. In **Niger State (Nigeria)**, a **smart-metered solar borehole** was installed at the general hospital in Minna, enabling a 24-hour, clean water supply (over 500 people access this daily). Additionally, personal protective equipment (PPE), including **76 protective gowns, 61 face shields and 300 hand sanitizers**, were provided to front-line health workers. In **Iran**, in a partnership led by the United Nations Resident Coordinator and other United Nations agencies, personal protective equipment, including **228,802** three-layer medical masks, were distributed to vulnerable communities in Tehran.



COVID-19 support in Iran, Myanmar and Niger State (Nigeria). © UN-Habitat



A community volunteer being trained on awareness materials in Myanmar © UN-Habitat

## 2. Arab States

The national urban policy (NUP) programme in the Arab States, currently at the formulation phase, strengthens the capacities of policy makers in four countries: **Tunisia, Jordan, Sudan** and **Lebanon**. This programme provides a coordinating framework and action plan that brings coherence across various urban sectors and scales of urban management to develop more informed, sustainable, inclusive national

urban policies through a participatory process. It is also designed to go beyond the primary beneficiaries (at multiple levels of government) whose capacities the project strengthens. This is achieved through creating awareness about UN-Habitat's tools and best practices and engaging a range of other non-state actors through workshops, public consultations and regional dialogues and national media.

### Progress for 2020 in the four Arab States, include:



#### JORDAN

In Jordan, the onset of the NUP programme has increased the understanding of the country's urbanization challenges and led to greater appreciation of using urban policy as a tool to promote sustainable urbanization. Furthermore, by partaking in various NUP workshops and meetings, participants of the *NUP Training of Trainers* were successful in circulating knowledge to other stakeholders and a greater sense of ownership over the NUP process

was adopted by the local technical team, which is the most involved in the urban policy process. As progress continues throughout this **diagnostic phase** of the NUP process, Jordanian stakeholders have identified **housing, transport and local economic development** as priority areas the NUP will help to address. Country specific guide on mainstreaming these priority areas in the NUP process.



#### LEBANON

Lebanon has experienced challenges related to violence, changes in government and governance, and most recently the explosion of ammonium nitrate at the Beirut port in August 2020. This disaster left the economy of Lebanon in a state of crisis, with major economic losses and massive destruction of its infrastructure. Additionally, the transition of government authority disrupted and reduced previously established government buy-in, which was compounded with political protests and economic and social instability.

The overlapping functions of the different government agencies, planning constituencies and public authorities has also delayed consensus on moving the NUP process forward. Despite these challenges, UN-Habitat carried out various capacity building workshops in 2020 and the priority areas that have been identified as key sectors of Lebanon's NUP, include **transport** and **housing**. Local appreciation of the urban policy process and growth of urban policy knowledge and capacity among many urban practitioners also increased.



#### TUNISIA

Over the past few years, Tunisia has faced challenges in its transition between urban and rural areas and general regional divide. With the participation of 60 Tunisian stakeholders, UN-Habitat supported the development of a web platform to aid future policy consultations.

While UN-Habitat's current engagement in Tunisia ends in the fourth quarter of 2020, the web platform will remain operational and will be an important component as Tunisia navigates its future policy implementation as well as monitoring and evaluation phases.



#### SUDAN

While the Government of Sudan experienced a number of setbacks during the NUP programme project period, including political instability which has caused delays in advancing the country's NUP, the government and its stakeholders have addressed some of its persisting urban issues, including land conflicts. Through various ongoing policy consultations

that have been hosted in clusters throughout the country, the knowledge and importance of the NUP programme increased. It is important that a more stable political framework to replace the transitional government is instituted to ensure long-term policy development and implementation in Sudan.

Based on the identified prioritized sectors and urban issues throughout Jordan, Lebanon, Tunisia and Sudan, some upcoming knowledge products include:

- » Mainstreaming transport and mobility in the Lebanese and Jordan context
- » Mainstreaming housing in Lebanese and Jordan context
- » Mainstreaming local economic development and governance in the Tunisia and Jordan context
- » Mainstreaming social cohesion and social development in the Tunisian context
- » Mainstreaming health in urban policies in the Arab Region

### LESSONS LEARNED

Developing coherent multi-sectoral urban policies is a process that involves a diverse set of actors and requires buy-in from national, sub-national and local governments to achieve both quick wins but also short-, medium- and long-term impacts to move forward country specific urban development initiatives. It is important to recognize that the four countries involved in the programme will reach or realize the different levels or stages of the NUP process at different timeframes, largely due to the local context and diverse conditions. As a result, approaches are flexible and do not conform to a 'one-fits-all' approach.

## DIGITAL PROGRAMMING

In 2020, as a result of COVID-19 and the consequent stay-at-home orders that caused both postponements and cancellations of training workshops and capacity building activities, **Tunisia** established an online platform to further facilitate the NUP consultation process virtually.

In **Lebanon**, the government is in the process of developing a documentary to share project experiences, lessons learned and contents of the NUP programme and process to further realize Jordan's urban development initiatives.



## 3. Zanzibar

In Tanzania, the Zanzibar Urban Policy Project supports the creation and implementation of a coordinating framework to address the most pressing urban issues as a result of the country's rapid urbanization, while mitigating potential adverse externalities. The project aims

to directly impact Zanzibar's population of 1.5 million people in the Unguja and Pemba Islands in promoting a framework that emphasizes 'leaving no one and no place behind' as it relates to strengthening urban-rural linkages in Zanzibar.

### Some key priorities from the project include:

- 1. Enhancing knowledge creation and exchange.** This effort is supported by the Islands' Development Control Unit, which is composed of 16 officers (14 men and 2 women) of which 4 (1 woman) are from Pemba, representing the COLA, ZIPA, municipal and district councils, among other institutions. Two rural district councils are also undertaking technical training on elementary planning and land surveying techniques at the Lands Commission.
- 2. Improving urban dialogue and increasing human, financial and institutional capacity across all urban policy development levels.** These efforts are being coordinated and strengthened by the Department of Urban and Rural Planning and the Development Control Unit. To date, at least two trainees from the North A District Council are continuing their training at the Zanzibar Commission for Land (COLA).
- 3. Monitoring progress on implementing the NUA,** by establishing a networking platform where all stakeholders are engaged.

Between June 2019 and October 2020, five major meetings and five local urban-rural linkages-focused workshops were held and

included stakeholders from the central and local government, members of the project's advisory board, constituency representatives,

councillors, regional leadership and various civil society groups from Stone Town, Ng'ambo, Zanzibar, which included representation from Shehas (local leaders) from urban and rural communities, representing under-represented groups such as women, youth and people living with disabilities. Over 300 stakeholders from Zanzibar's two islands, Unguja and Pemba, participated in the five workshops, identifying priority areas addressed in the Diagnostic Report, including environmental challenges, the economy and the resurgence of the tourism industry, the importance of preserving cultural heritage, improving the country's infrastructure and addressing housing issues, while also discussing urban governance and institutional structures.

The fifth and final workshop in 2020 was held, summarizing key highlights from the five workshops as well as creating an action plan to move the work on Zanzibar's urban policy forward. Attended by various stakeholders including Niger State Government officials who are also being supported by UN-Habitat in developing their own NUP, the workshop and open dialogues provided cross-fertilization of information and experience which led to Zanzibar expanding the NUP project priority areas to cover key cross-cutting issues, including improving access to medical and humanitarian aid, redirecting substantial investment to rural development and improving the food supply chain, emulating the success in Niger State.

As a result of the URL-focused October 2020 workshop in Pemba, some initial activities were proposed, including:

1. improving rural service roads from distant hotels and village farmlands to major service centres
2. urban gardening and nature forest conservation at Masingini Hills in Zanzibar City's peripheries
3. supporting institutional capacity building and participatory urban management initiatives

In moving the NUP project and proposed activities forward in 2021, some insights and lessons learned from this past year that are based on the new partnership with UN-Habitat

and the knowledge shared during the workshops and with colleagues from Niger State. These include:

1. It is critical to build capacity and empower municipal staff including on urban planning to ensure policies are promoted and services are delivered.
2. A guiding framework is imperative to govern future housing development that is environmentally sustainable.
3. In Stone Town, an ongoing review of its master plan and management plan, funded by the World Bank, will improve its institutional performance.

4. Inclusive and dialogic planning approaches in land and municipal management and urban planning should therefore be encouraged.
5. The involvement of civil society, governmental agencies and other communities has created an immense sense of ownership, inclusivity and willingness to participate throughout the different stages of the NUP programme.
6. There is a need to improve checks and balances within the planning and service delivery system.

#### New New Partnerships/Collaborations:

- Government officials and colleagues participating in the Niger State NUP programme;
- Officer in Charge, Lands and Human Settlements Development, Pemba;
- Regional and District Administrative Offices, Pemba;
- Departmental of Forestry, Zanzibar and Pemba;
- Zanzibar Environmental Management Authority;
- Zanzibar Disaster Management Authority;
- Building Initiatives and Growth project (formally, Zanzibar Urban Services Project) supported by the World Bank, Zanzibar;
- Ardhi University, Dar es Salaam, Tanzania;
- Ministry of Finance and Planning, Zanzibar.

## 4. Liberia

### Government Departments involved in Liberia's NUP Diagnostic Phase

- Ministry of Internal Affairs, housing the Dept. of Urban Department
- Ministry of Finance & Development Planning
- Ministry of Gender, Children & Social Protection
- Ministry of Agriculture
- Liberia Institute of Statistics & Geo-Information Services (LISGIS)
- National Water, Sanitation & Hygiene Commission (NWASHC)
- National Disaster Management Agency (NDMA)
- Environmental Protection Agency (EPA)
- National Housing Authority
- John F. Kennedy Medical Centre
- National Legislature
- The Governance Commission

Over the entire period of developing NUP for Liberia, the involved stakeholders have been instrumental in representing urban and rural areas outside of Monrovia by disseminating NUP messages through national and regional news and radio interviews such as Truth FM<sup>1</sup>, and being featured in national newspapers such as Front-Page Africa and social media platforms, Facebook and Twitter pages for the PLGS, to reach a wider audience. This has increased civil society's awareness of how UN-Habitat is supporting Liberia's urbanization process.

In November 2019, over 250 delegates attended the Liberian National Urban Forum to assess ongoing progress towards designing the NUP, providing inputs and raising additional regional issues to enhance the Diagnostic Report. The National Urban Forum also served as a platform for key interest groups (e.g. local authority representatives, women, youth, slum dwellers and street vendors) to increase their participation in the Liberia Country Programme and the NUP process. A key outcome of the National Urban Forum was participants' adoption of a **communiqué**<sup>2</sup> presented by the Deputy Minister for Urban Affairs as a binding commitment by all participants and stakeholders to support the NUP process in Liberia.

The purpose of Liberia's NUP is to complement and operationalize the country's long-term national development framework, *Liberia's National Vision 2030*, and propel Liberia to middle-income status by 2030. It is also expected to help achieve goals outlined in the *Liberia Vision 2030* by creating more opportunities and stable conditions to achieve the desired urban goals.

In 2020, the PLGS continued to support Liberia in the completion of the Diagnostic Note by building capacity, providing advisory services and organizing a validation workshop in October 2020 and setting the foundation for the project to move forward to the Formulation Phase.

<sup>1</sup> <http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Audio-Message-Liberia-NUF-2019-Remy-ColbertWilliam-Nketsia.mp3>  
<sup>2</sup> <http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/12/Liberia-NUF-Thank-you-note.pdf>

Aligned with COVID-19 guidelines, the Validation Workshop, attended in person and virtually, was led by the Ministry of Internal Affairs. It brought together 80 stakeholders comprising of 31 representatives of the national government, 43 local government representatives, two media personnel and 5 private sector players, to adopt the Diagnostic Note as well as to learn about and be trained on the NUP process, themes, pillars

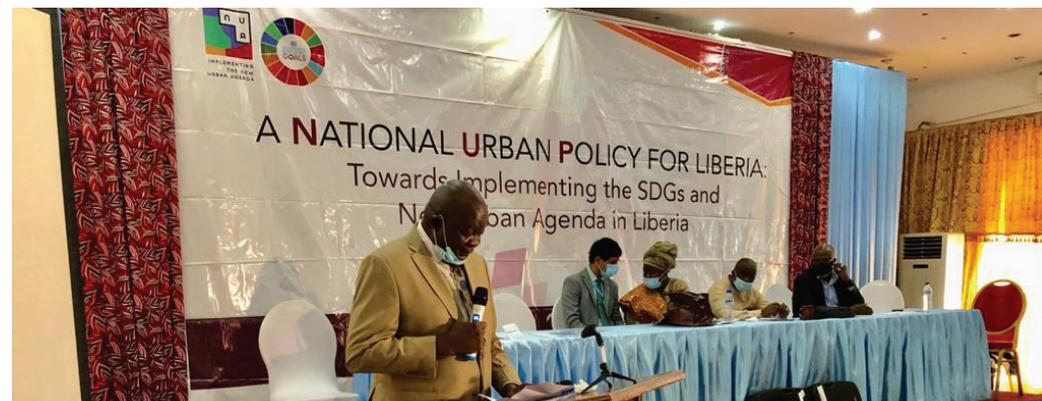
and the role of NUP in achieving sustainable urbanisation in Liberia.

The Validation Workshop agreed on the following priority areas to move forward in developing the NUP Formulation Phase in the first quarter of 2021. Negotiations are underway to mobilize additional resources to continue the Liberia NUP process:



#### PRIORITY ACTIONS:

- 1. Reform urban legislation** to adequately serve urban areas in Liberia.
- 2. Streamline the roles of institutions**, such as local authorities' administrative and managerial roles over land, to amend current land governance structures in secondary cities.
- 3. Boost economic activity** in urban areas to improve socioeconomic inequities and quality of life.
- 4. Mobilize more revenue** at the local level to provide more basic services as local authorities must operate with limited or no financing.
- 5. Protect the environment** against pollution and natural resource incidences such as floods and marine erosion.
- 6. Increase planning** activities in urban areas, particularly throughout the Greater Monrovia Region, which hosts the majority of Liberia's urban population.



Policy actors at the validation workshop for the Liberia urban policy © UN-Habitat



A handover of the Liberia NUP Diagnosis Report © UN-Habitat

## 5. Sierra Leone

In 2018, the NUP programme in Sierra Leone was launched through an Urban Breakfast Dialogue where various stakeholders were brought together to discuss the ways forward in identifying priority areas to address in the proposed National Urban Policy. Since the Urban Breakfast, the NUP programme had stalled, but in January 2020, a national consultant in Sierra Leone was brought onboard and is currently working to reconvene the participants from the Urban Breakfast Dialogue to create a National Habitat Committee, who will engage in capacity building and validation workshops and help

review the NUP at its different stages throughout the design and implementation process. In addition to establishing the National Habitat Committee, in coordination with the Regional Office of Africa and the national consultant, PLGS is engaging in the NUP feasibility phase, collecting primary and secondary data sources, interviewing different government officials at the national and local levels, NGOs, academia and civil society to inform the capacity gaps and needs assessment report as well as the NUP Diagnosis Report.

## 6. Ghana

The Government of Ghana produced its first National Urban Policy in 2012. Since then, the government has worked with several organizations, including Cities Alliance and the Coalition of Urban Transitions, as well as academia to review the Ghana Action Plan and Policies to determine which areas of the NUP were being addressed and which areas implementable and feasible projects and programmes were launched.

In 2020, the Government of Ghana hired two consultants to revise the 2012 National Urban Policy and determine how to strengthen various action points to ensure that various programmes and projects reflect the original intent of the policies outlined. UN-Habitat is providing advising and review services during the NUP revision process which is still ongoing into 2021.

## 7. Francophone African Countries

The purpose of the NUP programme in Francophone African countries is to improve national policy frameworks, integrated planning, and strategic and development plans to address urban issues and the urban-rural continuum. The programme provides advisory services to national and subnational governments on how to best respond to changing population and spatial dynamics and transform partner cities into inclusive centres of dynamic economic growth, social prosperity and environmental sustainability.

The NUP programme is a bold step forward that uses a proactive and participative approach to better plan, design and manage the Francophone countries' urban development process, ensuring that different regions and territories maximize their potential by reducing economic, social, cultural and environmental disparities and improving overall living conditions. In 2020, UN-Habitat's PLG supported six African Francophone countries: Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Guinea, Senegal, Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo, in the various phases of developing their NUPs.

### i) Burkina Faso



Burkina Faso faces challenges with the onset of rapid urbanization and its subsequent linkages to increased urban sprawl, lack of planning, limited accessibility to basic services and infrastructure, weak governance, and financial systems, among others. Rural-urban migration is but one factor that has contributed to the rise in rapid urbanization, which creates an obstacle for public policies to offer real-time consideration and solutions for these impending urban issues. The goal of the new NUP is to provide a platform that brings greater coherence among urban stakeholders in their actions and interventions in Burkina Faso through different

projects and programs, while mobilizing the financial resources necessary for an effective and efficient implementation of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urban development. For this project, the Strategic Action Plan and the Diagnostic Note were merged to create an overarching strategy that is slightly different from the traditional five phase structure of the NUP Programme, allowing the NUP Programme to progress at a faster rate. Governance, urban planning, land management, housing, migration, and urban basic services were identified as priority areas to be addressed by the Burkina Faso NUP.

A direct impact of better governance will support Grand Ouaga and other metropolitan areas, ensuring access to decent housing especially for vulnerable groups. In 2021, efforts will be directed towards approving the National Strategy for Habitat and Urban Development (NSHUD) considered to be Burkina Faso's NUP document by the National Committee, which is comprised

of local authorities, civil society, and the government. The URL Policy recommendations are also used to address certain challenges such as the rural-urban migration, and finally, the projects initiated through the NSHUD will be evaluated and best practices identified and documented.

**Project partners:** Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AACID)

### ii) Senegal



The Senegal NUP project integrates various sectoral policies to formulate a common and global vision and create appropriate conditions for sustainable urbanization. This can be achieved by supporting the development of Senegal's frameworks which articulate horizontal and vertical coordination and integrate elements of urban-rural linkages. In Senegal, the Intended Nationally Determined Contributions

(INDCs) highlight several challenges as a result of climate change, including reduced rainfall, higher average temperatures, increased sea levels, water salinity and agricultural production reduction. These climate-focused factors are being considered in the assessment and formulation of the NUP and in establishing the country's action frameworks.

Other priorities that the NUP will address include:

1. Strengthening the attractiveness of secondary and intermediate cities while strengthening urban-rural linkages;
2. Preserving the environment and restoring urban ecosystems;
3. Financing cities and building the capacities of local authorities;
4. Preserving culture and history in urban areas;
5. Improving urban insecurity;
6. Providing more sustainable public transport, urban mobility and access to clean energy;
7. Preventing and reducing the risk of flooding.

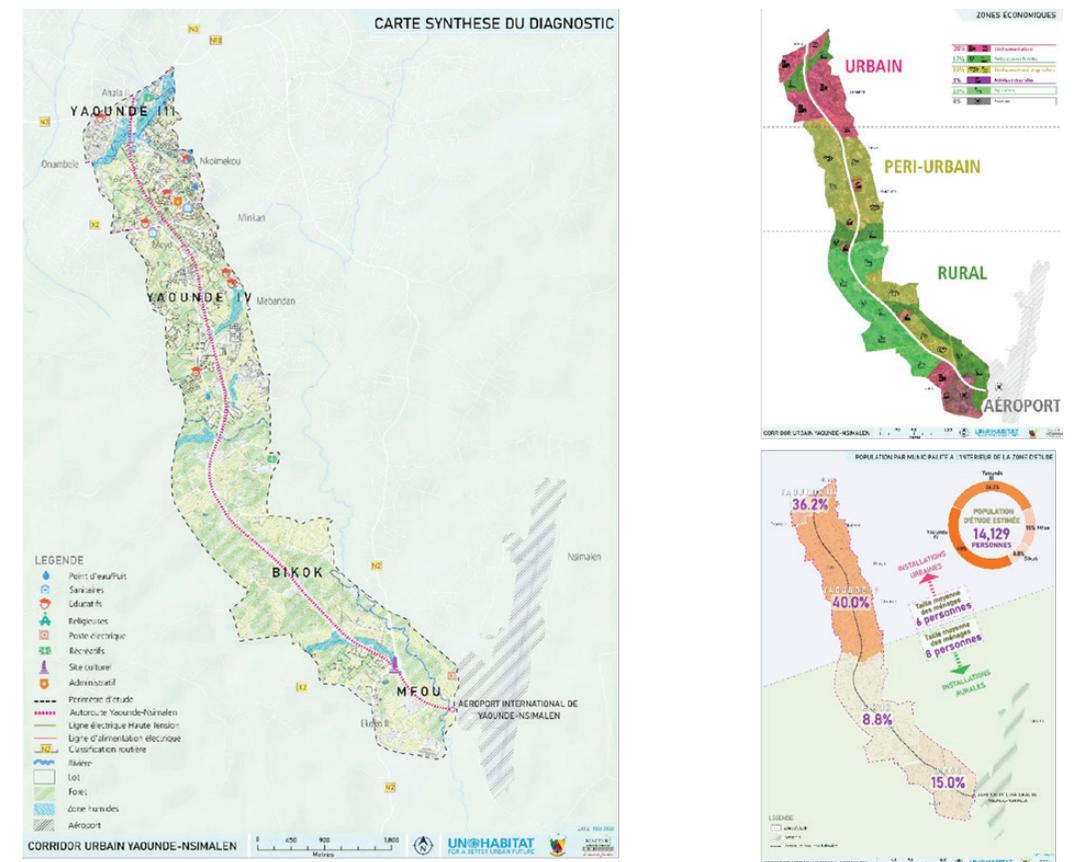
**Project partners:** Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AACID), Spain; Senegal Government /Ministry of Urbanism, Housing and Public Hygiene (MPLH) still expected

The intended long-term impacts from the NUP include:

- » Refining the country's regional long-term urban development;
- » Improving national spatial planning through the implementation of transport and energy corridors in addition to improving the country's overall urban planning and design;
- » Implementing more effective urban regulations and legislation;
- » Emphasizing economic and financial design for urbanization;
- » Improving basic services and infrastructure.

**Project partners:** Ministry of Housing and Urban Development (MINHDU), Cameroon

### b. Development Study of the Yaounde – Nsimalen Urban Highway Corridor



Diagnostic synthesis maps of the Yaounde-Nsimalen Corridor in Cameroon © UN-Habitat

### iii) Cameroon

In Cameroon, the PLGS supported the development of national urban policy, currently at the Feasibility Phase, as well as integrated development planning projects in Yaoundé and Douala cities.



#### a. National urban policy

The NUP project in Cameroon serves as a platform to promote and ensure coherent investment planning in urban and peri-urban areas, offering a better quality of life for all while protecting the environment and mitigating the effects of climate change. Governance, land management, climate change, institutional arrangement and infrastructure finance have been identified as priority areas to be addressed in the Cameroon NUP.

By the end of 2020, 10 regional consultations had been hosted across Cameroon to ensure an inclusive and participatory approach was undertaken in the NUP project. A validation workshop led by the Prime Minister's office was also held in 2020 to provide insights for the Policy Steering Committee.

The purpose of the Urban Corridor Project in Cameroon is to provide the four municipalities of Bikok, Mfou, Yaoundé II and Yaoundé IV, crossed by the Yaoundé-Nsimalen Highway, with a planning and development programme to control the onset of rapid and undesired urbanization.

This integrated development and infrastructure project will support the construction of the highway with strategic and operational measures that ensure proper land management

which improves tenure security for occupants. The objective involves the development of sector plans, which promote a more harmonious occupation of the surrounding spaces limiting anarchic urban expansion, while improving the land tenure security. As one of the main gateways to Yaoundé, this project provides the Yaoundé-Nsimalen motorway corridor with a layout that will offer residents and future travellers a new identity of the city and of Cameroon.

Indirect impacts from the implementation of this development plan will include:

**Renewed importance in spatial analysis:** Based on UN-Habitat's development of sectoral plans and programmes, authorities have a refreshed perspective on how the areas could be further developed by the implementation of the corridor projects.

**Improved land tenure for local owners:** Based on the proposed infrastructure and implementation of basic services, land tenure may be improved in the area that is included in the corridor development territory.

**Implementation of mitigation measures:** Based on the proposed mitigation measures, there could be an increased sense of safety of people and retention of property in areas surrounding the corridor development territory.

**Inter-communality:** The development of the Yaounde-Nsimalen Highway corridor will benefit the municipalities as they share this infrastructure among other services.

**The Cameroon corridor project missions include:**

**Mission 1:** 'Development of the diagnosis': The main objective of this mission was to develop a general description of the study area and produce a needs analysis highlighting the sectoral interactions (land, social-economic and population).

**Mission 2:** 'Proposal and analysis of development scenarios': This mission was focused on the general programming and establishing development scenarios and subsequently assessing the scenarios based on the situational context.

**Mission 3:** 'Decision-making process development scenario selected for the preparation of sector plans in the districts of Yaoundé 3 and Yaoundé 4, Mfou and Bikok': Based on the development scenario adopted for each of the sectors, town-planning regulations that apply the rules to the various zones in the identified territories can be drafted.

**Mission 4:** 'Governance of the project': Project governance is required throughout the duration of the study, including the facilitating feedback workshops, capacity building of human resources (e.g. workshops on Geographic Information System (GIS), the use of UN-Habitat's Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM) and exchange trip between Cameroon and Senegal), the preparation of the Implementation Report and the evaluation of project.



Participatory enumeration using the STDM tool © UN-Habitat



Participatory planning and boundary delineation in Yaoundé, Cameroon © UN-Habitat

### c. Development Study of the Dibamba Riverbanks in Douala, Cameroon

The aim of this integrated project is to protect and preserve the Dibamba River and the biodiversity of the area. Urban health has also become a priority issue and is now intertwined with the river corridor's conservation and development efforts. A *Training Manual on Urban Health* was developed in parallel. Additionally, the Douala Metropolitan Observatory (DMO) will be established to help collect data that will inform the environmental conservation efforts. The *Guide on the Douala Metropolitan Observatory* will outline efforts in collecting, analysing, disseminating data and

monitoring information on various urban issues and planning opportunities in Douala. The DMO will build on the existing infrastructure and data from the Metropolitan Council to design a multi-functional platform to showcase information on metropolitan development. It is envisaged that the platform will be used by researchers, policymakers, civil society and other stakeholders to share data and information to ensure informed decisions and actions are made in respect of the planning and development of Cameroon's environmentally sensitive areas.

Some deliverables that are aimed at protecting and preserving the Dibamba River include:



- Developing a proposal for long-term development along the Dibamba River;
- Establishing a multi-disciplinary team to design the Douala Metropolitan Observatory, a knowledge management platform;
- Creating a database to enhance the basic knowledge on the Dibamba River Corridor Project and the area's metropolitan development and urban-rural linkages;
- Providing a set of recommendations for a new approach for the development and conservation of the Dibamba River Corridor.

**Project partners:** Government of Cameroon, Douala Municipality; **Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Mission (MAETUR)** and the city of Douala



### iv) Mali and the Democratic Republic of Congo

In both Mali and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), rural-urban migration has been exacerbated by armed conflicts which have contributed to more than half of the world's 65 million refugees and internally displaced persons (IDP)s who live in urban areas, and the spread of diseases and greater susceptibility and vulnerability to public health epidemics, including the Ebola outbreak and most recently COVID-19 pandemic.

This project advocates for community development and well-being, cooperating in areas of mutual interest related to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs, strengthening the capacities of local authorities and other partners to respond positively to the opportunities presented by the impacts of urbanization, to transform cities into inclusive centres of dynamic economic growth, prosperity, social progress and environmental sustainability.

2021 >>

#### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IN DRC

- » Developing a strategic framework that guides the implementation of the NUA and SDGs in North Kivu.
- » Supporting the North KIVU Province in establishing a Provincial Urban Forum (FUP), including training on Urban Policy and integrating URL, land tenure and natural resources (possibly remotely, considering the COVID-19 situation)
- » Assessing and implementing urban-rural linkages in and around Goma city.
- » Drafting a case study for Democratic Republic of Congo that will be included in the *Guide for Strengthening urban-rural linkages for Integrated Development in Post-Conflict and Conflict Migration Zones*.

2021 >>

#### CALENDAR OF ACTIVITIES IN MALI

- » Developing a strategic framework that guides the implementation of the NUA and SDGs in Greater Bamako
- » Assessing and implementing better relationships between rural towns in Greater Bamako
- » Drafting a case study for Mali that will be included in the *Guide for Strengthening urban-rural linkages for Integrated Development in Post-Conflict and Conflict Migration Zones*.
- » Organizing the Provincial Urban Forum (PUN) in Greater Bamako, which will include a training on NUP and integrating urban-rural linkages, land tenure, and the protection and conservation of natural resources
- » Organizing training workshops and raising awareness on the urban-rural continuum through the New Program for Cities and NUPs.

## v) Guinea Conakry SANITA Project

As Guinea undergoes its own urban transition in the capital, Conakry, and its secondary and tertiary towns and villages, the adoption of a NUP will improve inclusive land-use management as well as better planning of peri-urban and rural areas. Guinea's participation in the NUP programme will bring together different stakeholders (e.g. state, communities, civil society, private sector) around a single

vision and principles intended to promote more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient urban development in the long-term. The NUP will be a guide for the national and subnational government to establish a roadmap to Guinea's sustainable urban development through stakeholders' adherence to participatory urban planning requirements.

**Project partners:** Government of Guinea, the European Union



CALENDAR OF  
ACTIVITIES  
IN GUINEA  
CONAKRY

### PROGRAMMED ACTIVITIES IN GUINEA CONAKRY

- » Identify policy options that help formulate and strengthen the NUP process.
- » Develop short, medium- and long-term National Urban Forum (NUF) implementation action plan
- » Organize validation workshops for the NUF and support its adoption by the Council of Ministers
- » Support the adoptions and implementation of land codes and other priority town planning texts that will offer a more effective and direct implementation of legal instruments that will shape the future NUP.



## NORMATIVE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Global State of National Urban Policy 2020 Report

The Global State of National Urban Policy Report is a collaborative flagship publication co-authored by National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP) partners, including UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), to monitor and evaluate national urban policies at the global scale. Prepared every two years, the inaugural Global State of National Urban Policy (GSNUP) Report was produced in 2018 and was the first ever to monitor and evaluate NUPs at a global scale, covering 50 countries across all continents. The report serves as an important tool and guide for policymakers, practitioners and academics to monitor and evaluate the progress of NUPs at the global level, through commonly

defined methodologies and processes, and provides valuable insights on cross-cutting issues and country-level experiences. The formal launch of the second report is scheduled for the second quarter of 2021.

The report collates information on countries that have either explicit or implicit national urban policies, national development plans, or some form of a national urban development agenda, including countries that are undertaking one of the five phases (feasibility, diagnosis, formulation, implementation, and monitoring and evaluation) of the broader national urban policy process.

The report classifies the national urban policies under different categories:

- a. Explicit or implicit policy documents;
- b. The stages of their development;
- c. The level of governance from national, subnational, regional and local governments;
- d. The level of attention designated to thematic focus areas: spatial structures, economic development, human development, environmental sustainability and climate resilience.

These measurements provide a comprehensive overview of the impact and reach of national urban policies on a global scale. Furthermore, the report survey provides both regional and international comparisons on the progress of NUPs, highlighting key case studies and programme successes. This informs future action plans and the feasible and implementable

urban acupuncture projects that can advance country NUP processes and countries' overall urban development agendas. Moreover, the survey also helps Member States and their national governments understand the current governance structure of NUP, identify the policy and capacity development gaps that may hinder the advancement of certain areas within a

country's global agenda, and more effectively direct where future efforts and support should be channelled.

In comparison with the 2018 Global State of NUP Report, the 2020 report assessed the progress on SDG target 11.a. and the revision of indicator 11.a.1. The revised indicator 11.a.1 has been redefined as the "number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that: (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space".

### **"Developing National Urban Policies: Ways Forward to Green and Smart Cities"**

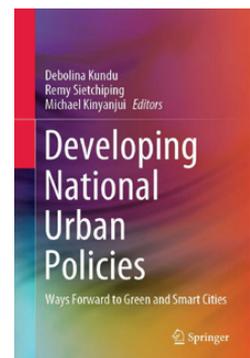
This publication "Developing National Urban Policies: Ways Forward to Green and Smart Cities" discusses and analyses past and ongoing national urban policy development efforts from around the globe, particularly those that can lead the way toward smart and green cities.

The knowledge product illustrates how a national urban policy and smart cities approaches can serve as a framework to address urban challenges such as increasing disparity, unemployment, growth of slums, lack of basic services and spread of violence and crime, many of which have emerged precisely due to the absence of or ineffective urban policies. Furthermore, such smart cities approaches can help achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) on making cities and humans settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

The book brings together NUP experiences of countries across the globe which are at different levels of urbanization and economic development. It gathers contributions from academics, planners and urban specialists,

The 2020 report assesses whether NUPs contain the elements of these qualifiers and have a more in-depth analysis of NUP's contribution to the adoption and integration of climate policies. Based on the results and responses from the 2018 survey, the 2020 survey assesses new progress updates and has engaged more countries and national urban policy programme (NUPP) partners, which has led to greater accuracy and reporting quality. With an improved response rate from the 2020 survey, there was a greater sense of ownership from national governments over the NUP programme and, as a result, enhanced political buy-in.

reviews existing urban policies from developing and developed nations, and discusses various countries' smart and green urban policies. It contains a review of the national urban policies of 15 countries or regions (India, Pakistan, Afghanistan, China, Philippines, Iran, Singapore, Korea, Nigeria, Zanzibar Islands, Lusophone Countries, South Africa, Australia, Germany and France) and is essential reading for all social scientists, planners, designers, architects, and policymakers working on urban development around the world.



<https://www.springer.com/in/book/9789811537370>





### 3. Urban Legislation



The legislation workstream promotes sustainable development by enabling legislation. It contributes to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 5, 10, 11, 15, 16 and 17.

UN-Habitat recognizes urban law as one of the foundations of effective urban management and development. Well-formulated urban law, based on sound policy, evidence and context specificities, supports effective policy implementation. It creates a stable and predictable framework for both public and private sector action and can guarantee the inclusion of the interests of vulnerable groups while also being a catalyst for local and national discourse.

Legal systems are among the major impediments preventing city leaders and other urban managers from creating reforms and overcoming the pressing challenges of their cities and urban systems. Many cities and other human settlements are burdened by laws that do not match the prevailing urban reality, in addition to the limited capacity to enforce the laws and regulations already in place. Often, local authorities have limited access to legislative expertise and therefore struggle to address impending urban challenges.

The multiplicity and rigidity of laws and regulations compel citizens to pursue informal routes to conduct business, acquire means of livelihood and access to basic services. As a result, parallel systems flourish and urban legal informality becomes the norm.

To address these shortcomings, the legislation workstream provides normative tools, technical support, knowledge and advisory services to partner countries at national, subnational and local levels, increasing the capacity to improve their urban legal frameworks as they influence the urban environment. UN-Habitat prioritizes practical interventions that are tailored to national, subnational and local contexts and needs, and supports the improvement of local and national governments' urban legal frameworks, while developing innovative solutions to shape future urban development.

In 2020, UN-Habitat's legislation workstream provided legislative support to national and local governments through technical cooperation projects as well as normative tools and knowledge products to enhance the capacities of national and subnational actors in addressing their development priorities.



## PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

### 1. Legal Support on Housing, Land and Property Rights in Syria

The EU-funded Syria Joint Programme provides knowledge and guidance on a series of legal issues related to housing, land and property (HLP) rights in Syria. The project integrates the restoration and protection of HLP rights into all peacebuilding and remediation efforts in Syria, with support from the United Nations and other international non-governmental organizations, for transitional and post-conflict rehabilitation and development. The ongoing conflict in Syria has led to immense devastation to the built environment of countless cities, towns and rural

communities leading to the greatest case of forced migration witnessed in the modern era, with millions living both as refugees and IDPs. As a result, many Syrians' HLP rights – their right to have a home, free from the fear of forced eviction, a place that offers shelter, safety and the ability to secure a livelihood – have been neglected or infringed. The work of the Joint Programme on HLP aims to restore pre-conflict HLP rights and establish a path for urban rehabilitation and development.

In collaboration with other United Nations agencies, including the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees and the United Nations Development Programme, the joint programme on housing, land and property rights in Syria aims to achieve:

- a. equitable reconstruction of cadastral records damaged during conflict;
- b. improved access to Syrian urban legislation and streamline legal processes to claim HLP rights;
- c. build knowledge on HLP challenges and inform future property restitution frameworks and plans for urban redevelopment;
- d. establish best practices and provide guidance for land-based programming such as shelter and infrastructure rehabilitation, cultural heritage restoration, mine action and debris removal.

In 2020, in collaboration with UN-Habitat office in Syria, PLGS produced **three guidance** notes to inform, advise and assist United Nations and international non-governmental organization

actors working on Syrian land-based humanitarian and development programming with the resources to strengthen HLP rights during and after conflict.

1. **Guidance Note on Due Diligence for the Use of Land**- discusses how to mitigate the risk of HLP rights infringements and weakening security of tenure, and to maintain compliance with 'do no harm' standards.

2. **Guidance Note on Housing, Land and Property and Cultural Heritage**- offers guidance on the nexus between cultural heritage, private housing, land and property rights, and describes best practices for protecting cultural heritage and HLP rights when developing neighbourhood regeneration plans and rehabilitating both private and public heritage properties.
3. **Guidance Note on HLP Risk Analysis**- identifies and evaluates context-based HLP risks and programming-based HLP risks in Syria, and offers safeguards to mitigate and manage such risks.

In addition to these guidance notes, PLGS also developed **thematic legal papers** providing analyses on tenure rights in informal settlements, Syrian urban law, HLP rights of Palestinian refugees and HLP best practices. These legal papers highlight the legal environment of Syria and build capacity

on property restitution, reconstruction of land administration and cadastral systems, rehabilitation of damaged urban environments, urban planning and land-use development, management of informal settlements, real estate and housing policies and agricultural land management and productivity.

### Analytical Framework for Urban Recovery: The data collection process in adapting urban profiling methodologies in Syria

This framework collates different data collection methodologies (e.g. informant interviews, asset surveys, remote sensing (satellite imagery) and morphological and visual data (verified photos, videos and base-maps)) into a coherent and holistic urban analysis that highlights the physical and social conditions of Syrian cities. The benefit of the framework can be applied in other conflict contexts where urban environments have also been impacted.

**Project Partners:** The EU-funded Syria Joint Programme has brought together several United Nations agencies and NGO's specializing in HLP, land administration and displacement issues. Accordingly, UN-Habitat is working in partnership with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Norwegian Refugee Council, and the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ).

## 2. Technical Support in Saudi Arabia in the Effective Implementation of Development Housing Initiatives



Presentation of project progress in Saudi Arabia © UN-Habitat

In 2020, UN-Habitat collaborated with the Saudi Arabia's Ministry of Housing to review and analyse that country's current legislative and governance frameworks, decrees and regulations related to developmental (affordable) housing, specifically Decree Number 198 and Housing Vision 2030.

The goal of this collaboration is to enhance adequate housing provision through the non-profit sector, meeting the demands of households most in need (e.g. 300,000 new housing units for low-income households) and therefore contribute to inclusive, sustainable and liveable cities and communities.

In 2020, the following progress had been achieved in promoting affordable housing for the citizens of Saudi Arabia:

- a. Developed an international benchmarking report that features experiences of non-profit housing development in Austria, England, Netherlands and South Africa. The report focuses on 1) governments/NGO relationships; 2) NGOs and housing provision mechanisms, and 3) NGOs and beneficiary relationships.
- b. Reviewed and analysed over 35 legislative and governance frameworks, decrees and regulations related to developmental housing in Saudi Arabia and used international best practice standards to form recommendations.
- c. Established a partnership agreement between the Saudi Ministry of Housing and the NGOs defining individual and joint responsibilities to meet affordable housing needs and tenure services.

In response to the technical support provided, several recommendations and outcomes that are expected in 2021, include:

- Ensure flat fee beneficiary monthly contributions that do not exceed 25 to 30 per cent social security benefits and incomes;
- Develop a mechanism for employment incentives that allows residents to retain their developmental housing unit if the income of the beneficiary increases;
- Introduce mechanisms for tenant participation in decision making (e.g. design, construction and unit allocation);
- Establish clear, efficient and simple registration process of NGOs;
- Downsize NGOs internal governance bodies from four to two executive bodies (e.g. chief executive for operational matters and Board of Directors for strategic direction);
- Provide legal support for NGOs to seek alternative funding (e.g. rent, equity and loans);
- Outline NGO five-year business plans and their priorities that include staffing resources, risk and business development and financial projections.

## 3. Guidelines for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Regeneration in Nairobi - Kibera Special Planning Area

In May 2020, the Nairobi City County Government declared the informal settlement of Kibera as a Special Planning Area (SPA). The intention within the next two years is to develop and

implement a plan as a reference framework for developers and regulatory agencies, to enhance the fundamental rights to live with basic dignity and decent conditions.

### Special Planning Areas

A Special Planning Area (SPA) is a defined geographical precinct in which a Local Physical and Land-use Development Plan is prepared due to the unique development, natural resources, environmental challenges that would not be effectively handled through normal planning processes.

The SPA approach has previously been applied to map Nairobi's informal settlement of Mukuru to promote sustainable slum upgrading and in Kenya's Kiambu County Tatu City Special Economic Zone to scale up private sector investment through reducing building approval bureaucracy and therefore guiding the implementation of projects that are of strategic national importance.

Following the declaration of Kibera as a SPA, the *Guidelines for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Regeneration* in Nairobi were developed to highlight and address related slum upgrading issues and prevent exclusionary and unequal outcomes that could occur in conjunction with the SPA planning process. The guidelines contain ten key principles: legislation, governance, finance, economy, land rights, planning, basic services, housing, the environment and urban health; these will complement the Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool. This tool is used to analyse the legal frameworks on land, planning, basic services, housing and financing, and is a reference for other slum upgrading projects in Kenya and other countries.

The *Guidelines for Inclusive and Sustainable Urban Regeneration in Nairobi* included Principle 1 (**pro-poor legal frameworks**) and Principle 2 (**participatory, inclusive, transparent and accountable decision-making and management**) as part of the greater SPA process. The two principles share some of UN-Habitat's best practices that are relevant to the planning and developing of the SPA in Nairobi, providing case studies and planning principles to address issues related to slum upgrading and prevent exclusionary and unequal outcomes from occurring in the special planning area and throughout the slum upgrading process.

**Some key findings that informed Principles 1 & 2 include:**

- a. While occupancy rights do not have legal recognition, there is an informal practice of chiefs issuing temporary occupancy permits, which are not grounded on any particular legal instrument and have no legal value, but are useful for accessing basic services, loans from microfinance institutions and reducing conflicts in obtaining space in slums;
- b. Adverse possession is not an instrument that supports regularization as it is inapplicable to public land, where most slums are located.
- c. Informal settlements are not included in city-wide plans despite a legal obligation to do so;
- d. The land registration process is cumbersome, taking between 60 and 90 days to register land, and involves different organizations and entities, including local authorities (for clearance of rates), the Ministry of Lands, the Kenya Revenue Authority (for payment of stamp duty), surveyors and valuers.
- e. Without formal services, slum dwellers must use informal channels to access water, electricity and energy;
- f. The current legal framework does not include low-income earners as the beneficiaries of affordable housing; and locally raised taxes are not required for affordable housing or slum upgrading, since budgeting is made possible through integrated development plans.

This work in Kibera is another medium that illustrates support for the implementation of SDG 11.1 which aims to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and to upgrade slums by 2030. The project raised awareness on what a successful slum upgrading initiative could look like: slum

upgrading needs to be pro-poor and requires the establishment of legal constraints, including the recognition of occupancy and tenure rights, access and affordability of basic services, financing for infrastructure and pro-poor plot sizes, and planning and construction standards.

**4. Land and property tax revenues for service delivery, reconstruction, citizenship building and sustaining peace in Somalia and Afghanistan.**

The project aims to evaluate, improve and deploy land-based finance and support tools and practices to make a lasting contribution to solutions in fragile situations.

Under this project, funded by the Norwegian Agency for Development and Cooperation, UN-Habitat's legislation workstream:

- a. Supported the assessment of existing policy, legislation and regulatory frameworks in Afghanistan and Somalia, in collaboration with locally hired consultants and experts (review existing documents, development of terms of reference, review, contribute and comment draft reports)
- b. Contributed to the production of land and property taxation business process evaluations in Afghanistan and Somalia by reviewing business process analysis (review, contribute and comment draft reports)
- c. Contributed to the formulation of recommendations to key stakeholders of relatively quickly implementable (low-hanging fruit) pilot-type improvements within the legal, policy and decentralization framework.
- d. Contributed to the formulation of comprehensive recommendations (based on what worked and what did not, following the initial set of recommendations provided and the overall assessment) for improvements to the relevant legal, policy and decentralization frameworks.

## 5. Urban Development and Sanitation Programme in Guinea (SANITA):

### Development, Implementation and Monitoring Urban and Spatial Planning and Policy Tools

The Guinea SANITA programme, with the support of the European Union, aims to improve the sanitary environment and the quality of life of Guinea's urban populations of Conakry and Kindia. In cooperation with UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa, the legislation workstream used UN-Habitat's *Planning Law Assessment Framework and Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* to benchmark legislative quality and identified the strengths and

weaknesses in planning and slum upgrading regulatory frameworks and training packages on legal drafting and regulatory quality.

To develop and implement these urban and spatial planning and policy tools that aim to improve basic sanitation services and strengthen urban governance, the Guinea programme has two objectives based on legal and regulatory frameworks.

#### Progress in the Guinea SANITA Programme, entering 2021:

Findings from the legal and regulatory framework will inform sections of the **diagnostic study of Guinea's National Urban Policy**

Identify the legal and institutional barrier to the implementation and enforcement of the current **Schéma National d'Aménagement du Territoire** and provide recommendations for a White Paper that will inform a new schéma.

Analyse the legal process and requirements for the development and approval of the **Schéma Directeur d'Urbanisme de Grand Conakry** and its mandatory content while identifying the institutions responsible for its approval and implementation.

Implement pilot projects that support the efforts of the identification of the Schéma Directeur d'Urbanisme de Grand Conakry.

**Secondary objective 1.** To improve the legal, regulatory and institutional framework of urban development in a participatory manner, at the national level and in the city of Conakry. Reports on the legal and institutional assessment for land and planning frameworks are underway and a validation workshop took place in November 2020.

**Secondary objective 2.** Strengthen the institutional capacity and skills of stakeholders in the development and implementation of urban and territorial policy and planning documents through a participatory, gender-sensitive approach.

In understanding the current processes, responsibility mechanisms and institutional capacity levels of the city, a baseline map and process analysis of urban law and institutions was prepared through a rapid review of the legal instruments regulating urban planning, land, housing, access to basic services and land-based finance.

The map informed the development of the *Master Plan for Urban Planning for Grand Conakry (Schema Directeur d'Urbanisme de Grand Conakry)* and provides legal support for the implementation of pilot projects in informal settlements.



Developing, implementation and monitoring urban and spatial planning and policy tools in Guinea © UN-Habitat

## 6. Integrated Spatial Plan for Environmental and Socio-Economic Resilience. Khorog, Tajikistan

The project aims to build the capacity of the local government, to provide technical assistance, a set of spatial strategic plans, guidelines and policies integrated with governance and management plans, to guide the future growth of Khorog.

In 2020, UN-Habitat's legislation workstream conducted a policy, legal and governance review of land and urban planning legislation to assess its adequacy to support the planning exercise and the project's objective to advance climate action.



## NORMATIVE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### UrbanLex Database

UrbanLex is a free global database which aims to improve access to the legislation that regulates the urban environment. The laws can be searched using various indicators including theme, region, country or keywords. The laws are primarily available in their original language and accompanied by a digest in English.

The digest is an important added value, as it increases the accessibility of instruments and describes the core functions and mechanisms of the law. The database features seven critical areas of urban law that are essential to the sustainability and development of urban areas:

-  a. Taxation, Finance and Economic Development;
-  b. Governance and Government;
-  c. Infrastructure and Basic Services;
-  d. Urban Planning;
-  e. Disaster Recovery and Urban Resilience;
-  f. Building and Construction;
-  g. Land and Environment.

The use of UrbanLex increased by 17 per cent between 2019 and 2020 in terms of both the number of sessions and the number of users. In 2020, the database was expanded by **465 legal instruments** and now contains over **2,250 laws**.

The number of users also increased significantly to **28,193 users** and **32,533 sessions**. The database continues to be accessed globally, with the top five countries according to usage being: 1) Philippines, 2) Malaysia, 3) Kenya, 4) United States 5) Nigeria.



URBAN LEX

 **465**  
Legal instruments

 **28,193**  
Users

 **2,250**  
Laws

 **32,533**  
Sessions

 TOP FIVE COUNTRIES

- 1) Philippines
- 2) Malaysia
- 3) Kenya
- 4) United States
- 5) Nigeria

### Law and Climate Change Toolkit

The Law and Climate Change Toolkit guides Member States on ways to develop or reform legal frameworks to address the urban-climate change nexus and the effective national implementation of the Paris Agreement and their Nationally Determined Carbon Emission Reduction Accords. The tool is designed to be used by government policy makers, officials involved in technical and legal drafting, international organizations and experts engaged in assisting countries in implementing national climate change laws, as well as academia and research institutions. The open-ended approach founded in each of the toolkit's modules ensures that legislative development can be done in a manner that best suits the unique climate change challenges of each individual country.

The toolkit continues to be updated with new climate-related legislation and has been used as a diagnostic tool in providing countries with technical legal assistance to review existing and develop new legislation.

The toolkit is accessible online for free and guides stakeholders and interested counterparts on developing legislation specific to their country context. Since the toolkit is relatively new, efforts are ongoing to use the toolkit in the implementation of UN-Habitat projects and those by partners. Furthermore, an accompanying publication of the Urban Planning and Land Use Module of the toolkit is currently underway, which will help to explain the normative underpinnings of the module and highlight best practices in climate action throughout urban contexts.

The toolkit is expected to continue playing an important role in the implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023 Flagship Programmes as more national, sub-national and local governments use the tool in developing or reforming their legislation related to land, urban planning and climate change.

**Innovative aspect of the normative tool:** One of the key features of the toolkit is the ability to assess a selected country's legislation. The functionality of the legal assessment includes guiding questionnaires designed to analyse the most critical aspects of the country's climate-related legislation and identifies legislative gaps. Users of the toolkit receive feedback on their assessments with suggestions to address and fill the identified gaps. By associating specific legal provisions with key terms used in the questionnaire, legislative examples are provided that refer not only to the legal instrument as a whole, but to specific legal provisions that may help in addressing these gaps.

**Partners:** UNEP, UNFCCC Secretariat and the Commonwealth Secretariat, UN-Habitat, FAO, UNCTAD, UNHCR, Grantham Research Institute (London School of Economics) University College London, School of Transnational Law (Peking University) and Legal Atlas.

## Effectiveness of Planning Law in the United Nations Global Sample of 200 Cities

In 2017, UN-Habitat initiated a global study on the real implementation of planning law in different regions across the world to better understand and recognize the challenges found in urban legislation and to determine the key entry points to strengthen the capacity of national, subnational and local authorities in developing or improving urban legislative frameworks. The study, using the Planning Law Survey and regionally representative samples derived from the United Nations Global Sample of 200 Cities, examines whether planning laws are truly effective. The focus of these planning laws has been on four dimensions of planning systems: **urban growth, spatial planning, land management & administration and institutional capacity.**

Following the success of the first study, a second series of planning laws was analysed across 17 cities in land-rich developed countries, including: **Australia, Canada, New Zealand and the United States** and launched at the 10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates, in 2020.

The findings of the studies have been further used by UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa during the 2020 IGC Webinar on Urban Density post-COVID, as well as the basis for a chapter on 'Effectiveness of Planning Laws in Sub-Saharan Africa' in the Springer series book **Land Issues for Urban Governance in Sub-Saharan Africa** edited by Robert Home (2020).

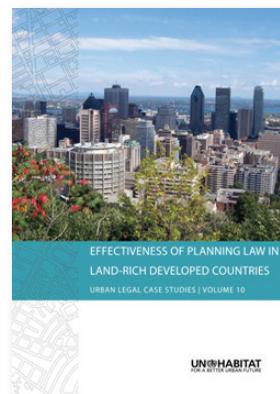
A third series features the effectiveness of planning law in the Latin America and the Caribbean region. **Nineteen out of 26 cities across 12 countries**, approximately 73 per cent, were analysed by the fourth quarter in 2020. The COVID-19 pandemic has hindered the completion of the study as many local governments have been unreachable during this time. In documenting the state of planning law regionally and globally, these three series of studies continue to help city managers rethink the sustainability of the urbanization model and the feasibility in creating systems that exemplify equity, shared prosperity and environmental sustainability. Furthermore, these studies offered different municipalities the ability to push forward policy dialogues, project development and legislative reforms.



### KEY STATISTICS FROM THE TWO STUDIES:

- In the land-rich developed countries, there is a low average density of development and could take cities 272 years to attain the target density of 15,000 per km<sup>2</sup>.
- The number of plans legally required are not proportional to the planners available. In sub-Saharan Africa for instance, the compliance rate of legally required plans is at 28 per cent. This results in planning laws lacking contemporary relevance.
- Land expropriation is not systematically recorded which may create problems with accountability against planning and public service objectives.
- Planning capacity is inadequate to respond to local needs and priorities. For instance, in sub-Saharan Africa, for every 100,000 people, there are only 1.35 planners.

**Partners:** University of the Witwatersrand, South Africa; Development Workshop, Angola; Urban Law Centre, Fordham University School of Law; The Centre for the Comparative Study of Metropolitan Growth at Georgia State University College of Law; Anglia Ruskin University, UK; RMIT University, Australia; Principal, Reeves and Associates, New Zealand and Redpoll Environmental Consulting, Canada.



**17**  
Cities analysed

Effectiveness of Planning Law in Land-rich Developed Countries

Third series

**12**  
Latin America and the Caribbean region Countries

**19/26**  
Cities were analysed >> 70%

Planning laws  
FOCUS



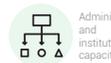
urban growth



spatial planning



land management



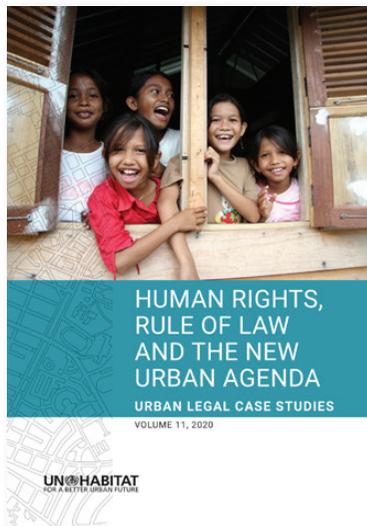
Administration and institutional capacity

## Human Rights, Rule of Law, and the New Urban Agenda (2020)

In the second quarter of 2020, the publication **Human Rights, Rule of Law and the New Urban Agenda**, was published. Using international human rights standards and the New Urban Agenda as entry points, the book assesses the impact of legal frameworks on human rights within the urban context across six key development areas: **land, urban planning, urban economy, housing, basic services and urban governance**.

The book's purpose is to identify areas in the urban legal frameworks where human rights are undermined either through the rule of law or within the overall structure of the country's legal system. The book provides recommendations for proposals for reform to advance the New Urban Agenda's commitment of 'leaving no one behind'. The publication has two key proposals to ensure positive human rights outcomes in cities.

1. It advocates for a 'back to basics' approach called Essential Law. This approach assesses the current situation, identifies necessary standards for health and safety as well as development and humanitarian objectives, and develops practical and realistic responses that can be assessed against the need and provides a realistic projection of impact. The approach does not propose the development of a comprehensive law, but rather a law that focuses on the basic needs of the population that can be scaled as capacity and resources increase.
2. It also calls for the adoption of human rights-based frameworks as supported by the NUA which envisions cities where 'all persons are able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as their fundamental freedoms' and repeatedly includes the term 'for all' indicating that every urban resident is a right-holder.



 **480**  
Viewing

 **322**  
Downloads

 **153**  
Likes

To date, the **publication has been viewed 480 times, with 322 downloads and 153 likes**. The findings of the study are being integrated into training materials, while providing a foundation for evaluating the human rights and legal dimension of UN-Habitat and PLGS projects.

## PLGS collaboration with the University of Michigan: Implementation of the Law and Climate Change Toolkit in India and Colombia.

In November 2020, the PLGS established a partnership with the University of Michigan Taubman College of Architecture and Urban Planning in which the PLGS will be both facilitating and supporting a Masters' capstone and studio project in collaboration with UN-Habitat's Innovation Section and the India and Colombia country offices.

The main objective of the capstone and studio course is to use the law and climate change toolkit to assess the adequacy of national and subnational legal frameworks in supporting climate change mitigation and adaptation in urban settlements, and to provide students with a hands-on experience working for a client-partner. Students will provide technical assistance on the Urban Low-Emission Strategies (Urban-LEDS) project, with a focus on sustainable urban development and multi-level governance for climate change.

Initially launched in eight cities across Brazil, India, Indonesia and South Africa, the Urban-LEDS project develops comprehensive urban low-emission development strategies and action plans with primary objectives of enhancing vertical and horizontal integration of climate action in support of national and local strategies and policies and promoting multi-level government cooperation and stakeholder capacity on urban climate action. With the launch of the Urban-LEDS second phase and its expansion across 23 cities in Colombia, Bangladesh, Laos and Rwanda, students will have a special focus on India and Colombia where they will provide recommendations on how to enhance multi-level governance for climate action, determining the different types of legal requirements needed for sub-national climate action plans, and how to integrate SDGs 11 and 13 into countries' national urban policies, to strengthen national climate change policies, NDCs, and climate change management within the housing and water sectors.

The capstone and studio project began in January 2021 and will complete in May 2021.



**1st**  
Phase focus



**2nd**  
Phase focus



**23**  
Cities to be analysed

**RESULTS**  
Legal requirements needed for sub-national climate action plans





## ADVOCACY ON URBAN LEGISLATION

### Participation in World Urban Forum 2020

During the tenth session of UN-Habitat's World Urban Forum held in February 2020, UN-Habitat's legislation workstream was involved in several events to demonstrate UN-Habitat's tools and knowledge products on urban law:

- UN-Habitat's legislation workstream—in partnership with United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP), the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change secretariat, and the Commonwealth Secretariat—held a panel discussion at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi on 12 February, 2020 to showcase how the *Law and Climate Change Toolkit* works.
- In partnership with UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), PLGS presented the *Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* handbook and matrix.
- PLGS also held an event on rental housing regulations which provide an opportunity to launch the knowledge product: *Rent Regulations in Kenya, Lagos-Nigeria, Botswana and South Africa: A Comparative Analysis*
- The *Effectiveness of Planning Laws: Comparative Analysis (Sub-Saharan Africa/Land-Rich Developed Countries)*, was also launched during WUF10.

### 2020 Urban Law Days



The Urban Law Day is a specialized forum that brings together a multidisciplinary circle of academics and practitioners interested in urban legislation, including planners, architects, policy makers, economists, urbanists and lawyers. Since its inception in 2014, the forum has continued to serve as an important platform for stakeholders to understand better the role of urban legislation in sustainable city development.

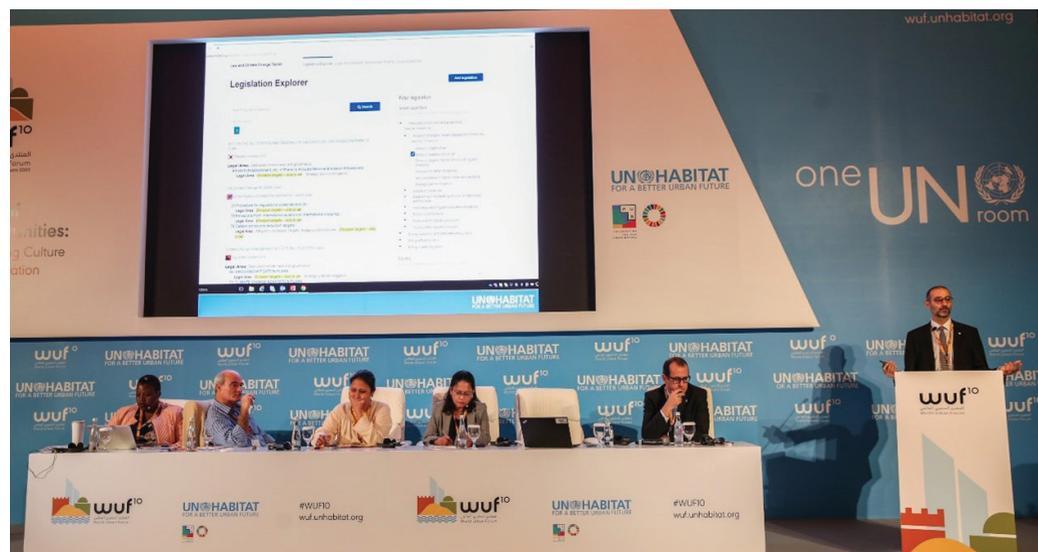
In 2020, UN-Habitat jointly organized three 'Urban Law Days' with its partners: the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies, University of London, Fordham University and its Urban Law Centre, the South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (CLES) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS).

On 10 July, the first session of the three Urban Law Days kicked off virtually for the first time, organized in collaboration with the Institute of Advanced Legal Studies (IALS), University of London.

Attended by over 60 participants from various organizations, the session's theme, *The Post-COVID City: Lessons for the future in law and development*, provided a timely discussion on the impacts of the pandemic on cities from an urban governance and legal perspective and identified good practices and lessons learned to mitigate the effects and enhance resilience towards similar crises in future.

Some of the key lessons learned for post-COVID cities included:

- For laws to be powerful tools, coherence among related legal and policy frameworks is paramount;
- Emergency responses need to be grounded in the Rule of Law;
- Urban governance may be transformed as sub-national governments and local authorities fill gaps left by national governments;
- There is great need to strengthen the role of civil societies and community groups;
- Legal rights should be perceived holistically;
- Political will is important not only to ensure effective crisis management but also in the implementation process of a country's, region's or local area's sustainable development agenda.



Presentation of the Law and Climate Change toolkit at WUF10 @ UN-Habitat

During the annual World Habitat Day celebrations, on 6 October, UN-Habitat's PLGS joined the Urban Law Centre, Fordham University, for an Urban Law Day Roundtable Discussion on the recent publication, *Law and the New Urban Agenda*, that featured contributions by UN-Habitat and several urban legal scholars. In her opening statement, UN-Habitat Executive Director, Ms Maimunah Mohd Sharif, pointed out the important alignment between urban legislation and that of shared commitments to sustainability, economic and social progress, and inclusion, calling on legal experts, policymakers and academics to translate the work of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) into a practical vision for local governance. The roundtable discussions offered a constructive and critical evaluation of the legal dimensions of the NUA and appreciated the deep urgency in understanding how law can be harnessed to advance the NUA's global mission of sustainable urbanization.

In partnership with the South African Research Chair in Cities, Law and Environmental Sustainability (CLES) and the Konrad-Adenauer-Stiftung (KAS), the third and final Urban Law Day in 2020 focused on *The City, Climate Change and Vulnerability: Leveraging Law for Climate Resilience*. Bringing together lawyers, academics, local government practitioners, researchers and natural scientists, the colloquium discussed the nexus between urban law, local governance and climate change action. The session also provided an opportunity to debate the strengths and weaknesses of the strategies and legal interventions that cities globally are adopting to become more climate change-ready and address community vulnerability. In addition, this colloquium also served as a platform to demonstrate various legal tools and knowledge materials, including the Law and Climate Change Toolkit to which UN-Habitat contributed by leading development of the Urban Planning and Land Use Module of the toolkit.

### Key takeaways from the colloquium include:



- The fight against climate change will be won or lost in cities;
- The law is central to long-term success of climate change initiatives and in some contexts a legal reform may be necessary;
- The human rights principles of inclusivity and public participation should go hand in hand with city-level climate change response;
- Multi-level governance is a fundamental tenet of effective climate change action;
- Climate finance must be enhanced if urban areas are to effectively address climate change.





## 4. Urban Governance

While the governance workstream seems relatively new, UN-Habitat has been working on governance issues since 1999 with the launch of the Global Campaign on Urban Governance. The goal of the campaign was to contribute to the eradication of poverty through improved urban governance.

Today, the international consensus is still the same: the quality of urban governance is among the most important factors for the eradication of poverty and prosperous cities. With the establishment of the PLGS, it is now more important than ever to emphasize the quality and effectiveness of governance to meet the New Urban Agenda and SDGs, especially in their urban dimension.

**Governance** has been defined as the structures and processes that ensure accountability, transparency, responsiveness, rule of law, stability, equity and inclusiveness, empowerment and broad-based participation. Governance represents the norms, values and rules of the game through which public affairs are managed in a manner that is transparent, participatory, inclusive and responsive. Governance is about how power is distributed and shared, how policies are formulated, priorities set and stakeholders made accountable. In the urban context, it is the process by which governments and stakeholders collectively decide how to plan, finance and manage urban areas.

**Urban governance:** Effective and inclusive urban governance ensures that all urban residents reap the benefits of urbanization, is outcome-oriented and promotes the rights of all people. It reduces poor administration practices, and frameworks ensure that the views and voices of minorities are considered and heard within the decision-making process.

These elements are recognized by UN-Habitat Strategic Plan, which notes that *weak institutions and poor governance mechanisms increase the risk of low performance, wasted resources, inefficient sectoral interventions, human rights violations and an overall lack of progress.*

For the 2020-2021 workplan, the PLGS has focused on developing **three sub-areas of governance:**



**i. Local Governance:** Strengthening local governance and particularly its urban dimension to realize the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda (including localizing the SDGs and working with local governments and their associations);



**ii. Multi-Level Governance:** Focusing on vertical and horizontal coordination for policy implementation including metropolitan management;



**iii. Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships:** Re-thinking the relationship between public and private actors to enhance public sector investment.

## Local Governance and SDG Localization

UN-Habitat is the focal point for local and regional governments within the United Nations system. As such, it has traditionally worked to improve local governance systems, specifically by creating coordination channels with national frameworks – through a multilevel governance approach.

In doing so, UN-Habitat partners with local and regional governments worldwide and their national, regional and global associations, with these objectives:

- a. Provide technical support on local governance and SDG localization.
- b. Create opportunities for peer learning and exchange.
- c. Elevate the voice of local and regional governments within international fora and processes (intergovernmental and United Nations-led).

## Global Advocacy

Throughout 2020, UN-Habitat has been engaged in a series of advocacy activities at all levels with the participation of local and regional governments.

In partnership with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Metropolis Association, UN-Habitat launched the Live Learning Experiences #Beyondtheoutbreak, a unique learning exercise gathering local and regional governments and partners worldwide to discuss some key topics linked with the COVID-19 pandemic. It engaged 256 speakers, 94 cities and 50 countries in 17 sessions of discussion that were finally gathered into a unique knowledge hub online. The partnership evolved into a new phase under the name #Citiesarelistening.

In May 2020, in partnership with UCLG, Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI), the Covenant of Mayors, United Nations

Development Programme (UNDP) and United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), UN-Habitat organized a unique event on the role and contribution of local and regional governments to the nationally determined contributions that gathered the three principals of the United Nations agencies involved.

In partnership with ICLEI, within the framework of ICLEI's daring cities, UN-Habitat moderated a session on Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs), in which the UN-Habitat Executive Director shared a video message congratulating the city of Bonn for its engagement. UN-Habitat also organized, in October 2020, the VLR session at the Urban 20 (the meeting of local and regional governments towards the G20).

During the 2020 High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), UN-Habitat was involved in the organization of the Local and Regional Governments Forum together with the United

Nations Department for Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), UNDP, UCLG and the Global Taskforce of Local and Regional Governments (GTF). Moreover, during the HLPF, UN-Habitat officially launched the Guidelines for VLRs

developed with UCLG and co-organized the Bolstering Local Action session; the closing ceremony of the Live Learning Experience; the Local 2030 event and the side event on Venice City Solutions.

## Local2030 Initiative

UN-Habitat holds the co-secretariat of the Local2030 Initiative hosted by the Executive Office of the Secretary General. In terms of progress in 2020, UN-Habitat managed the Local2030 online platform, supported the work of the Local2030 hubs and organized the key advocacy efforts such as the Spotlight Series and the Local2030 event at the HLPF.

During 2021, UN-Habitat will continue managing the initiative, including the definition of a baseline for SDG localization and the 10 year strategy for the Local2030 initiative.

## Voluntary Local Reviews and SDG Localization Strategy

During 2020, work has focused on building the workstream linked to Voluntary Local Reviews as the cornerstone of the strategy on SDG localization. Within a year, UN-Habitat is among

the international institutions leading the work on VLRs from a technical, normative and political point of view.

The work on VLRs in 2020 has been based on different but intertwined workstreams:



**Strategic Partnerships.** UN-Habitat holds strategic partnerships with key international, national and local actors around the VLR topic. Among others, UNDESA, the United Nations Regional Commissions, the European Union, think tanks and academia as well as the main associations of local governments such as UCLG and ICLEI.



**Technical Cooperation:** UN-Habitat provides technical support to cities in developing their VLRs through a comprehensive and fully fledged methodology. UN-Habitat has been supporting Moscow, Florence, Rio de Janeiro and Niteroi, among others, and will support Amman in drafting the first VLR of the Arab States. More partnerships are underway with Madrid, Katowice and Kisumu.



**Normative development:** UN-Habitat built a strategic partnership with UCLG named the VLR Series aimed at providing LRGs and local stakeholders with guidance and cutting-edge knowledge on VLRs.

The first volume of the guidelines for VLRs was launched during HLPF 2020. The second volume, exploring the connection between VNRs and VLRs, will be published in April 2021 and will provide analysis and recommendations on how to strengthen multilevel coordination for SDG reporting. This is together with some spin-off thematic research on VLRs and (i) megacities; (ii) COVID-19; (iii) gender. Moreover, UN-Habitat has been supporting UNESCAP to produce the Asia Pacific Guidelines for VLRs and will co-publish with UNECA the VLR regional guidelines for Africa.



**Advocacy:** the increasing relevance of UN-Habitat's work and the growing network of partners have coincided with the organization of specific advocacy activities and the participation of UN-Habitat in partners' workshops and events. UN-Habitat will organize the first ever international Expert Group Meeting on VLRs on February 23 and 24 and, together with UNDESA, is in charge of the organization of the Local and Regional Governments Forum at HLPF.

UN-Habitat does not look at VLRs as an end *per se*, but as a means to foster the implementation of the SDGs. Hence, the work on VLRs has been accompanied by the crafting of a strategy to localize the SDGs based on cross-branch and

cross-section cooperation and anchored on the following components: (i) Global Urban Monitoring Framework (UMF); (ii) VLRs support and VNR connection; (iii) SDG Cities Flagship Programme.

## Multilevel Governance

Some of the ongoing governance normative outputs include promoting the *Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Management (GAF-MTR)*, which consists of qualitative tools and international case studies, and further elaborated in the Metropolitan Management section, devising a governance action framework for smart and liveable cities and a knowledge product on multi-level governance on health and equity.

In 2020, the PLGS also engaged in governance-focused technical cooperation advocacy in San Salvador related to metropolitan management by collecting some inspiring practices in Guadalajara (Mexico) and Barcelona (Spain) and a developmental housing project in Saudi Arabia, which includes evaluating technical capacity, human capital and housing provision mechanisms as well as providing a roadmap for related institutional reforms and governance frameworks in the country .

## PLGS collaboration with New York University: promoting health equity and healthy communities through mainstreaming urban governance policy.

Based on preliminary conversations with the New York University (NYU) College of Global Public Health and its Urban Health Lab in February 2020 at the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, the PLGS seeks to provide learning and internship opportunities to students in the NYU Global Public Health programme and aims to lay the groundwork for establishing

stronger mechanisms for cooperation and communication in mainstreaming urban governance in the urban health discourse. Potential collaborative projects and normative products that include components of policy, legislation and governance and mainstreaming health in national urban policies and legislation include:

1. assessing the negative impacts associated with current policy, legislative and governance frameworks as they relate to health outcomes and urban development;
2. advising countries and country-led urban policy programmes in understanding how urban development and climate change impact community health outcomes to support the reformation of current urban policy and legislative frameworks;
3. building local government capacities and improving on the existing policy, legislation and governance frameworks by increasing and sharing knowledge on different approaches used to support health in urban development.

Plans for these engagement opportunities began in January 2021.

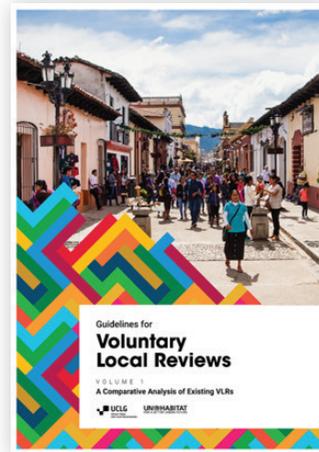


## NORMATIVE TOOLS AND KNOWLEDGE PRODUCTS

### Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol. 1 : A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs (2020)

Volume 1 of the VLR Series, the Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews, provides overview and analysis of all the documents that local governments have issued to review and assess their implementation performance, looking for common traits, comparable variables and the thread binding the VLRs together.

The outcome is a study on the key features of VLRs, the institutional environment and capabilities through which they were designed, and a set of recommendations to invite many more local governments to undertake this effort and contribute local data, information, experiences and practices for others to learn and build upon.



UN-Habitat-UCLG (2020) Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews vol.1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs

### UCLG-Platform-UN-Habitat-UNDP-GTF-DIBA (2020) Learning Module 4: Localizing the SDG Through Decentralized Cooperation.

The training module follows the success of UCLG's first three modules on the SDGs and provides guidance for decentralized cooperation

activities considering the principles of the 2030 Agenda and its 17 SDGs as a new way of learning and cooperating.



## Advocacy on governance

In **July 2020** – UN-Habitat held a webinar on the topic of health and equity through multi-level governance gathering over 50 participants in a lively debate with urban managers, health experts, academia, and governance

practitioners. This is a part of the COVID-19 Urban Thinkers Campus Series organized by the UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section.

PLANNED  
NORMATIVE  
OUTPUTS 2021

- » Governance Framework for Urban Migration.
- » A Guide: Leveraging Multi-level Governance Approaches to Promote Health Equity .
- » UNECA-UN-Habitat-UCLG-Africa Regional Guidelines for VLRs in Africa, Vol 2. (2021).
- » Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews: Connecting VLRs and VNRs (UN-Habitat-UCLG (2021).
- » Guide for Governance Case Studies: Urban Governance and Decision-Making in 10 Low-Income/UN-Habitat Priority Countries.



Bogota Metropolitan Area, Colombia © Taty Caballero

## 5. Metropolitan Management

Metropolises are becoming the most common typology of urban settlements in the twenty-first century. There are 1,934 metropolises globally. 34 metropolises have more than 10 million inhabitants; 51 have a population of between 5 and 10 million; 494 have a population of 1 to 5 million; and 1,355 inhabited by between 300,000 and 1 million people.

They account for 2.6 billion people which is equivalent to one third of humanity.

By 2035, about 3.47 billion people will live in metropolises, representing 39 per cent of global population and 62.5 per cent of urban population - an increase of almost 1 billion over current numbers.



"We recognize the role of UN-Habitat and require consider its technical support when necessary to strengthen metropolitan management and advance the sustainable development of our metropolises"

### METROPOLITAN PARTNERS:

- Montreal (Canada)
- Barcelona (Spain)
- Guadalajara and Ensenada (Mexico)
- San Salvador (El Salvador)
- Quito (Ecuador)
- Kanata and Santa Cruz de la Sierra (Bolivia)
- Grand Bamako (Mali)
- Cairo (Egypt)
- Centro Occidente, Valledupar and Valle de Aburrá (Colombia)
- Specialists of the Academy

UN-Habitat's integrative approach for Metropolitan Management involves local, subnational and national governments in improving **metropolitan governance, policies and legislation, planning, and finance and economics throughout metropolises and regions** across the world. This programme contributes to the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG11, SDG13 and SDG16.

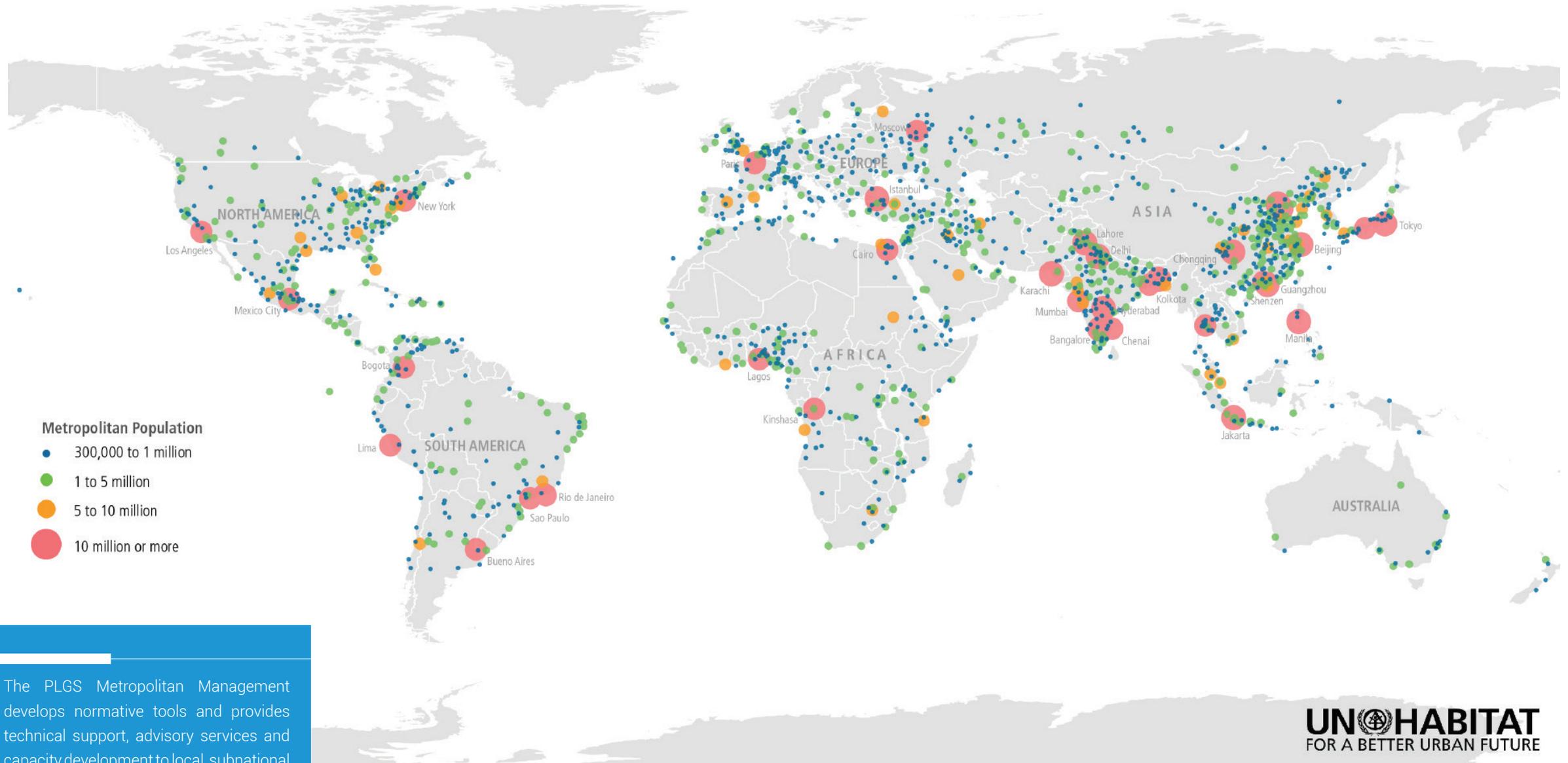
UN-Habitat worked jointly with the European Commission, International Labour Organization (ILO), FAO, OECD, the World Bank and other organizations to harmonize definitions of metropolitan areas to improve international comparability. In March 2020, the United Nations Statistical Commission endorsed the definition of metropolitan areas as a city and its suburban, peri-urban and rural areas that are economically and socially linked<sup>3</sup>.

Rising urban populations, in addition to uncontrolled land use, have been the major factors for larger and denser metropolises. Unplanned urban sprawl and inequality also impede sustainable urban development in these metropolises. By the end of 2020, at least 2.59 billion people were inhabitants of metropolitan areas, approximately a third of the global population. There are 1,934 metropolises each with more than 300,000 people, which represents about 60 per cent of the world's urban population<sup>4</sup>.

<sup>3</sup> <https://unstats.un.org/unsd/statcom/51st-session/documents/BG-Item3j-Recommendation-E.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> <https://unhabitat.org/global-state-of-metropolis-2020-%E2%80%93-population-data-booklet>

## WORLD METROPOLISES WITH MORE THAN 300,000 INHABITANTS IN 2020 BY SIZE



The PLGS Metropolitan Management develops normative tools and provides technical support, advisory services and capacity development to local, subnational and national government among other metropolitan management stakeholders to address national and regional priorities and overarching metropolitan challenges.

Source: metropolitan data booklet



## PROJECT PROGRESS: METROHUB

The MetroHub Initiative was established to support sustainable urban development in metropolises by providing tailored innovative solutions to local priorities and contexts, and to inform decision making processes. These interventions include increasing the capacity development of metropolitan and regional authorities, supporting formulation of metropolitan policies, drafting and revising legal frameworks, strengthening supra-municipal governance mechanisms, supporting metropolitan and regional planning, and innovating new financing mechanisms at the metropolitan and regional level.

In cooperation with governmental and development partners, MetroHub has carried out trainings, field visits, technical assistance, normative support, knowledge exchange and studies to meet the needs of the beneficiary metropolises and regions. During 2019-2020, these have been achieved in the following countries: **Bolivia, Cameroon, Colombia, El Salvador, Mali, Mexico and Spain**



*"Collaborating with UN-Habitat is crucial for the accomplishment of Metropolis' mission (...)"*  
- **Octavi de la Varga, Secretary General of Metropolis**

In 2020, the Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas (ASOAREAS) recognized MetroHub for its contributions. For the last four years, UN-Habitat supported Colombian metropolitan areas on aspects such as institutional capacity strengthening, metropolitan planning and legislation, advocacy, knowledge management as well as best practices exchange.

ASOAREAS also integrated aspects of the Global State of Metropolis, urban-rural linkages, MetroHUB and metropolises and migration into their work plan for 2020-2021, and continues to seek the support from the MetroHub initiative.



## NORMATIVE PRODUCTS

**A) MetroHub Toolkit:** The tool was developed in 2019-2020 to enhance the capacity of metropolitan managers on governance, planning instruments, policy development, financing mechanisms and regulatory frameworks at the regional and metropolitan levels.

The MetroHub Toolkit was officially launched during Urban October 2020 and consists of three guides which have been applied in Santa Cruz (Bolivia), Yaoundé (Cameroon), Bucaramanga (Colombia) and San Salvador (El Salvador):



- I. Metropolitan Institutions.
- II. Metropolitan Management and Planning Methodologies.
- III. Metropolitan Observatories.



**B) Governance Assessment Framework for Metropolitan, Territorial and Regional Management (GAF- MTR):** This is a qualitative assessment tool used to improve territorial governance at metropolitan and regional levels. The framework also includes case studies which inform the concepts and policy recommendations presented to metropolitan actors. In collaboration with partners, the framework has been piloted in the metropolitan areas of Montreal (Canada), Barcelona (Spain), San Salvador (El Salvador) and Valle de Aburrá (Colombia)<sup>5</sup>.

**C) Global State of Metropolis 2020 - Population Data Booklet:** Contains an analysis of the global database on metropolises which was built on the 2018 revision of the United Nations World Urban Prospects. The booklet is a contribution to the forthcoming Global State of Metropolis Report currently being prepared by UN-Habitat. Key achievements: the English and Spanish versions of the booklet are showcased online at Metropolis.org and have been viewed more than 3,000 times and downloaded over 2,000 times, leading to greater visibility among a broader audience of the central role metropolises play in urban development.

The Population Data Booklet was adopted as bibliographical reference by the University of Buenos Aires (Argentina), the University of Los Andes (Colombia), the Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (Jerusalem) and Cambridge University, among others. The booklet was also presented during the Metropolitan Urbanism Postgraduate Programme of the University of Buenos Aires, the Cities PhD Programme of the University of Guadalajara and the Regional Planning Master Programme of the University of Los Andes (Colombia).

<sup>5</sup> Case studies are accessible here: <https://unhabitat.org/governance-assessment-framework-for-metropolitan-territorial-and-regional-management-gaf-mtr>



"There are many synergies between the UN-Habitat's initiative and the work we have been carrying out with the Metropolis Observatory (...) The metropolitan indicators launched this year provide information that could be used in the UN-Habitat's Global State of Metropolis Report, and their continuous revision by our members and stakeholders will help us to refine some data collection methods."

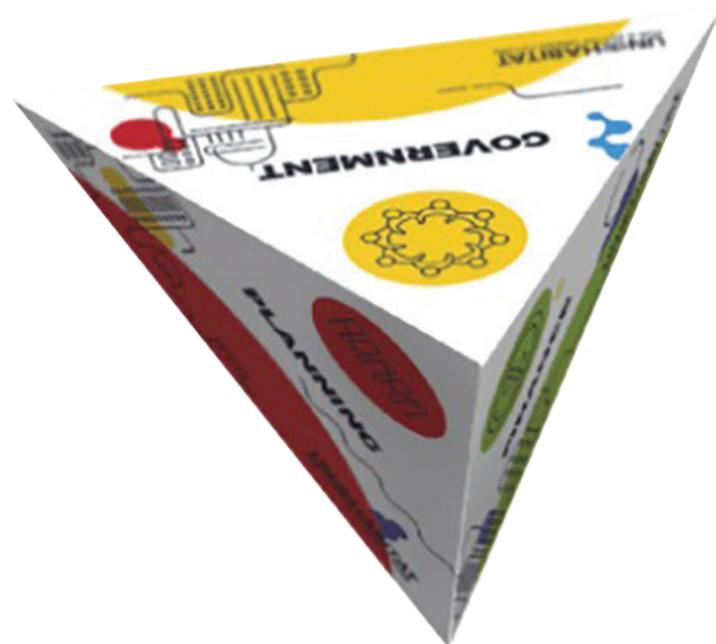
**Lia Brum, Metropolis' Observatory Officer**



**D) Metropolitan Management Pyramid:** In 2020, the tool was officially launched during the global observance of World Metropolitan Day on 7 October. This is a three-dimensional guiding methodology for metropolitan actors to define a framework for metropolitan management in the three areas of planning, finance and governance. Integrating the three dimensions of planning,

governance and finance, the pyramid illustrates the concept and scope of metropolitan management and identifies 12 issues that should be addressed "to leave no one and no place behind in metropolitan management". Between 2019 and 2020, the tool was applied in Bolivia and Colombia to structure their new national and subnational legal frameworks.

*Metropolitan actors at the metropolitan Expert Group Meeting during the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE."*



## ADVOCACY ON METROPOLITAN MANAGEMENT

### World Metropolitan Day 2020

Every year on 7 October, UN-Habitat, Metropolis and other partners celebrate metropolitan spaces worldwide and promote cooperation to achieve more sustainable and integrated territorial development. The 2020 edition of World Metropolitan Day provided a platform to discuss the opportunities and challenges

metropolises face in addressing the world's premier crisis and responding to the Decade of Action in delivering the Global Goals. The 2020 commemoration included more than 20 events<sup>6</sup> which were attended by several metropolises and institutions which shared their initiatives, exchanging knowledge and ideas with peers.

Various partner websites and media outlets such as the popular and well-regarded El Pais reported on World Metropolitan Day 2020. El Pais highlighted five elements that should be considered to ensure effective governance at the metropolitan level, including: leadership and political will, a strategic and forward-looking vision, an appropriate legal and institutional framework, technical and financial capacities, and the incorporation of citizens in decision-making processes and co-creation of the metropolitan space.

Governance will respond to the real needs of society and places citizens and the improvement of their quality of life at the centre of decisions which have been forgotten in the construction of metropolitan spaces.

#### MetroHub Partners

- Metropolis Association
- The International Society of City and Regional Planners
- Colombian Association of Metropolitan Areas (ASOAREAS)
- National University of Colombia and Bezalel Academy of Arts and Design (Israel)
- Planning Office of the Metropolitan Area of San Salvador
- Metropolitan Area of Barcelona
- Planning and Management Development Institute of the Metropolitan Area of Guadalajara Transversal Think Tank

<sup>6</sup> <https://www.metropolis.org/campaigns/world-metropolitan-day#related-events>



## Participation in the World Urban Forum 2020

The tenth session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) offered a platform for partners, metropolises, organizations and academia, among other participants, to share their experiences, best practices and lessons learned in the metropolitan and regional management area. The PLGS leveraged WUF10 as an opportunity to continue supporting subnational and metropolitan authorities and other partners through events, advocacy, bilateral meetings and advisory services as a way to strengthen partnerships and advance the work on metropolitan management.

One key event held was the Expert Group Meeting on the Global State of Metropolis. The event was a subsequence of the international dialogue settled in Medellin in October 2019 between development actors and metropolises' representatives to propose and define conceptual

approaches, methodologies, contents, case studies and inspiring experiences for structuring the *UN-Habitat Global State of Metropolises Report* on metropolitan management and development as well as the global database of metropolises.

Other side events including networking sessions and bilateral meetings brought together international organizations and metropolitan authorities to showcase metropolitan management toolkits such as MetroHub and to discuss how to address the fact that metropolises are becoming the main feature of urban settlements in the twenty-first century. The dialogues highlighted the importance of political and governance approaches to strength metropolitan management and the role of leadership and political will to implement metropolitan institutional solutions.



Metropolitan actors at the metropolitan Expert Group Meeting during the World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi, UAE.

## MetroHUB Global Capacity Development

These capacity development processes on metropolitan management are being carried out through several trainings and academic programmes with an emphasis on metropolitan governance, legislation, policies and planning. They aim to strengthen the knowledge of urban leaders, actors and practitioners to manage metropolitan areas and develop instruments and tools that allow better governance and planning of metropolises and regions.

During the World Metropolitan Day 2020 and Urban October, UN-Habitat launched the MetroHUB Toolkit for Metropolitan Management and, in partnership with the National University of Colombia, presented the post-graduate programme on **Spatial Analysis, Metropolitan Management and Governance**.

This was done through a virtual event in which participants had the opportunity to exchange ideas about the role of universities in generating skills and specialized knowledge to better manage metropolises and advance the development of a metropolitan discipline from Latin America.

The programme uses, among other UN-Habitat innovative tools, the MetroHUB Toolkit and the GAF-MTR to train participants<sup>7</sup>.



To achieve the programme's objectives, the different stages of collaboration consist of:



**Line 1. Training:** Establish a postgraduate programme and specialized training programmes in metropolitan affairs;

**Line 2. Exchange:** Develop a programme for the knowledge exchange of best practices in metropolitan management and governance for students and professors, and facilitate an internship programme at UN-Habitat for undergraduate, masters and doctoral students;

**Line 3. Research:** Promote applied research projects on metropolitan management, governance and spatial analysis, among others;

**Line 4. University-state alliance:** Present research to institutions responsible for metropolitan development and facilitate cooperation between academia and institutions for the implementation of the SDG, NUA, Paris Agreement, and other global agendas.

<sup>7</sup> More info on the UN-Habitat metropolitan management tools available in: <http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/metropolitan-management/>

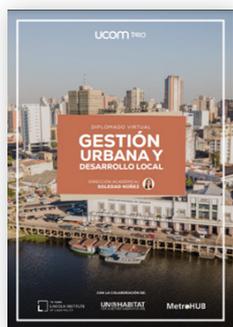


### Example of the Postgraduate Programme's courses:

- Geographical Information Statistics and Technologies (GIS)
- Analysis and Spatial Modelling Techniques
- Application of geostatistics for Metropolitan Analysis
- Metropolitan Governance and policies
- Urban and Metropolitan Legislation
- Urban and Metropolitan Planning Theory and Practice
- Regional Development and Territorial Planning

The MetroHUB capacity development programme starts its implementation in the first quarter of 2021 in Colombia, with the participation of 30 people enrolled in the postgraduate programme, from different disciplines such as social, political and economic sciences; engineering of different specialties;

urban planners and architects, all of them under doctorate, master's and specialization studies. The MetroHub programme has received widespread recognition in the Latin America region as it was featured on several partner websites.



<https://www.ucom.digital/gestionurbana>

The post-graduate programme launched in Colombia has also been adapted as a metropolitan-emphasis Diploma in Urban Management and Local Development in Paraguay currently being developed in alliance with the Universidad Comunera to start in August 2021. This new diploma targets public officials from government at national, sub-national and local levels to be trained in specific metropolitan management skills. In addition, scholarships for this diploma have been awarded to practitioners who are part of the UN-Habitat metropolitan governance network of Latin America.

Currently, UN-Habitat is working with more than 20 universities and academic institutions worldwide to package the capacity development programmes on metropolitan management and establish a specialized hub on metropolises in the Universities Network Initiative (UNI). This UNI-MetroHUB partnership will continue strengthening the linkages and networking among the universities, academics and metropolitan experts participating in the numerous learning sessions, trainings, field visits, knowledge exchanges, studies and other capacity building related services supported by the agency.



## 6. Urban-Rural Linkages



The urban-rural linkages (URL) workstream supports national and subnational governments to develop and implement policies and strategies that ensure inclusive, resilient and sustainable development across the urban-rural continuum. Urban-rural linkages contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals, not only in working towards targets related to SDG 11, but also SDGs 2, 9 and 12, providing a pragmatic, country-specific way to meet different objectives. With over 17 paragraphs referencing the importance of integrated territorial development, the New Urban Agenda (NUA) also clearly supports policies and strategies that enhance the urban-rural continuum.

The integrated nature of urban-rural linkages includes a wide variety of thematic areas, which includes integrated urban and territorial planning, strengthening small and intermediate towns, enabling the spatial flow of people, products, services and information, discussing the need to improve food security and mobility systems which play a role in migratory issues, reducing the environmental impact in urban-rural convergences, developing legislation and governance structures, and promoting inclusive financial investments, among many others.

The onset of rapid urbanization in most developing countries has widened the gap between urban and rural areas, where rural areas have been left behind across all aspects of development and

more vulnerable to environmental and climate change issues, food insecurity and limited economic opportunities. It is crucial for national, subnational and local governments to promote and implement programmes that foster sustainable development across the urban-rural continuum.

To enhance urban-rural linkages globally, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with over 130 actors ranging from urban, rural, and territorial development experts, representatives of national and subnational governments, development partners, think tanks, academia and intergovernmental organizations, developed the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action*. The principles and framework are founded on the idea that urban and rural areas should not be treated as separate entities when development plans, policies and strategies are made, but rather combine efforts and create synergies so that every person and every place benefits from the circular flow through the urban-rural continuum.

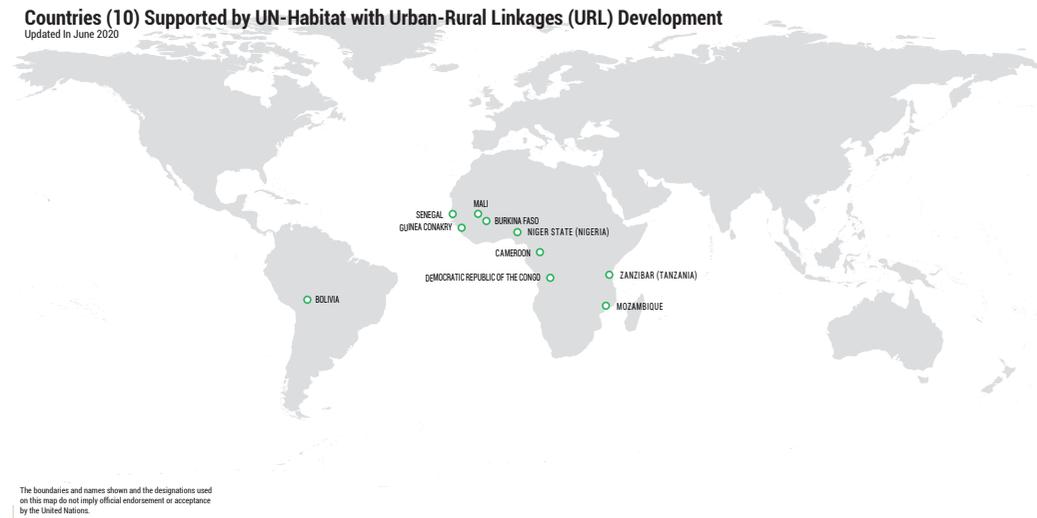
In 2020, UN-Habitat and its partners continued to develop and pilot normative and capacity development tools, to host virtual and physical workshops and to offer advisory services and operational support to national, subnational and local governments to address challenges and opportunities associated with urban-rural linkages.



UN-Habitat has supported ten countries to strengthen URL in their policies, plans and strategies through various activities.

The countries which are part of three broad projects are: **Bolivia, Burkina Faso, Cameroon, DRC, Guinea, Mali, Mozambique, Nigeria (Niger State), Senegal and Tanzania (Zanzibar).**

**FIGURE 4.** Countries supported by UN-Habitat with Urban-Rural Linkages Development



## PROGRESS ON PROJECTS

### 1. Leaving No one and No Place Behind: Implementing the New Urban Agenda through Urban-Rural Linkages in Mozambique,

The project, funded by the Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament, led to the publication of the Urban Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles in Portuguese and the *Urban Rural Linkages Trainers Guide*. *The Regional Planning Assessment Tool Application Report* derived from this project as well.

This project supports the Government of Mozambique in developing and implementing methodologies to support processes for sustainable urban development by localizing UN-Habitat's existing global tools, such as the Spatial Development Framework, the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP)*, and the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and the Framework of Action*.

The project focuses on how, through policies and plans, the territorial approach can be used in implementing the NUA and SDGs in Mozambique. One of the primary goals is to strengthen urban-rural linkages to address the challenges and opportunities of new urbanization trends. In Mozambique, there is an urgent need to strengthen the capacity of national and local authorities on urban and territorial planning to establish a foundation for integrated development.

UN-Habitat organized Expert Group Meetings, workshops and other training events between the last quarter of 2019 and beginning of 2020. Forty representatives from government agencies, international organizations, academia and the private sector were trained using the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP)* and *The Framework of Action*, in which participants deliberated on issues such as the relevance of the New Urban Agenda in the local context of Mozambique, concluding that while some actions have been addressed, more progress is required.

From these sessions, three key recommendations were made:

- A **"whole government approach"** should be adopted to overcome silos;
- **Community and all relevant stakeholder engagement** should be strengthened in decision-making process;
- **Financial and technical capacity** of local and rural authorities should be enhanced to achieve territorial development.

 **URL MOZAMBIQUE**

 **40** Government representatives

 **3** Key Recommendations

In Mozambique and the Maputo metropolitan area, UN-Habitat's PLGS supported the localization of the *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP)* and *URL-GP*. The IG-UTP was used to assess the alignment of urban and territorial planning guidelines to the Mozambican context, which revealed a greater need for interventions that advances territorial development. The URL-GP tool was used to assess the level of regional development and the lag in development in rural areas. It was concluded that the linkage between urban and rural areas needs to be strengthened to enhance the flow of goods (particularly food), ideas and opportunities.

With respect to improving mobility and its connectivity between the different territorial areas, the Metropolitan Transport Agency operating in the metropolitan area of Maputo expressed interest in using these recommendations to justify its plans and activities to reinforce sustainable mobility.

The National Statistics Institute (INE) noted that the **matrix of function** was a useful spatial analysis tool and expressed interest in future collaborations, offering the direct use of INE data in cyclic censuses and surveys.



### Challenges

- Cyclone Kenneth and Cyclone Idai, which displaced local residents, destroyed property and increased the loss of life, disrupted the project's implementation process as much of the focus was redirected towards humanitarian assistance and disaster management. Stakeholders needed to be reengaged following the natural disaster to continue the project's efforts.
- Piloting the matrix of functions tool and its engagement with the local community was impacted by the COVID-19 pandemic. As a result, UN-Habitat adopted virtual meeting techniques while facilitating in-person meetings that observed all health protocols.



### Lessons learned

- Due to COVID-19, field data collection became a challenge. Alternative data collection measures were established to ensure project implementation continued.

## 2. Leaving No One Behind: "Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Selected African Countries".

This urban-rural linkage-focused project supports Cameroon, Guinea, Nigeria (Niger State) and Tanzania (Zanzibar) in strengthening their urban-rural linkages and overcoming the urban-rural divide by enhancing capacities of policy makers and change agents of all levels to use evidence-based research to

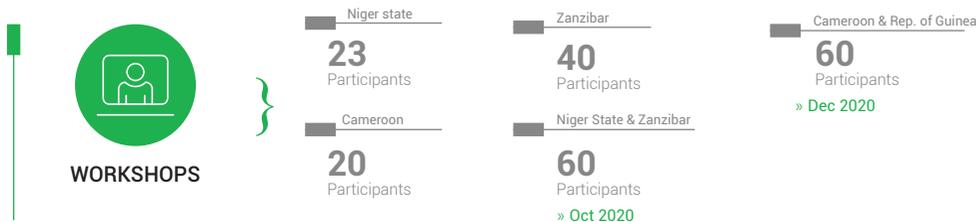
foster cross-sectoral, multi-level frameworks, strategies and action plans for integrated and inclusive territorial development. In 2020, UN-Habitat continued providing support to policy makers, highlighting the interdependencies and synergies between urban and rural areas in the four selected African countries.

- In **Cameroon**, a country team was formed, comprising of government officials, civil society and academia among others. The PLG built capacity among the team, an effort that has been replicated to share knowledge on urban-rural linkages at the local level. This has necessitated cross-department and inter-regional discussions on matters relating to policy and urban-rural linkages.
- In August 2020 in **Guinea**, Decree D/2020/185/PRG/SGG was adopted which established and organized the Local Government Finance Agency and is now operational. With UN-Habitat's support, a team of multi-sectoral government officials, academia, civil society and the private sector was established to lead urban-rural linkages initiatives at the national level through a series of consultations, workshops and awareness-raising sessions.
- In Nigeria (**Niger State**), the development of the state's urban policy is ongoing with UN-Habitat's technical support. Urban-rural linkages were identified as one of the key priority issues. In 2020, engagement and collaboration among different governmental sectors and departments increased; this had previously been a project shortfall. Moreover, the Government of Niger State identified a rural area (Kuta in Shiroro Local Government) as a pilot for the resiliency assessment with the aim of scaling up to other rural areas. Niger State received additional funding from Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) to conduct a study on four markets located in Minna, the main city in the region, and other rural centres because of the increased awareness of the project aims and goals. A second initiative that has stemmed from the urban-rural linkage engagement is the implementation of a rural electrification programme which has since been completed in Tungan Jika (Magama Local Government Area), Rokota (Edati Local Government Area), Gulu General Hospital (Lapai Local Government Area), Goto Sarki (Paikoro Local Government Area) and Bisanti community (Katcha Local Government Area). These initiatives continue to ensure that rural areas are not 'left behind' in core development efforts.
- In Tanzania (**Zanzibar**), the capacity of 30 government officials on urban-rural linkages and similar initiatives was addressed and increased through the participation in various workshops and consultations. Based on this project's results regarding Zanzibar's peri-urban activities, the overall project received substantial recognition and was included as a case study in the Africa Agriculture Status Report 2020<sup>8</sup>.

<sup>8</sup> <https://agra.org/wp-content/uploads/2020/09/AASR-2020-Feeding-African-Cities.pdf>

## Workshops held

1. Niger State virtual data collection training workshop; 23 participants
2. Cameroon URL stakeholder awareness workshop; over 20 participants
3. Zanzibar local URL awareness workshops (2); 40 participants
4. Niger State and Zanzibar joint virtual workshop–October 2020; over 60 participants
5. Cameroon and Republic of Guinea joint virtual workshop; December 2020; over 60 participants



## Challenges

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, which halted or delayed some activities such as data collection and hosting workshops, the project faced no significant challenges. In Cameroon, the transition of government power and leadership slightly delayed project activities which had been scheduled around the election period. This has since been addressed and the new administration is supportive of the project's continuity.



## Lessons learned

1. Despite similar topics and thematic areas relating to urban-rural linkages, countries maintain different development priorities and approaches. Adaptability of toolkits and guides for the local context is essential to ensure success and project continuity.
2. Government support and response to projects plays a major role in project delivery and success. The Government of Niger State, for example, offered substantial support and was responsive to project needs and deadlines which aided in the advancement of URL activities that went beyond the scope of the project.

## Outlook for 2021



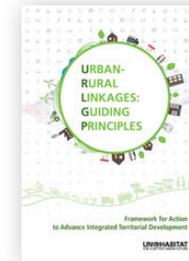
### OUTLOOK FOR 2021

- » Perform data collection in defined functional territories;
- » Report and develop a database on specific data collection methodologies;
- » Organize more regional workshops to share experiences and lessons learned from the project;
- » Develop and publish documentaries on lessons learned;
- » Publish Data Collection Toolkit;
- » Publish URL Assessment Toolkit

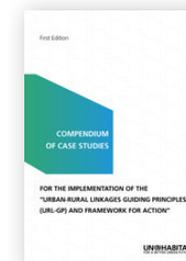
## URL Knowledge Products 2020

In 2020, in collaboration with various partners, several knowledge products focusing on

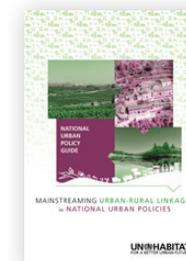
urban-rural linkages and their relationship were developed. These include:



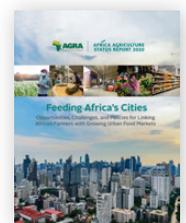
Implementing the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and framework of action through the Food system and Nutrition lens (2020)



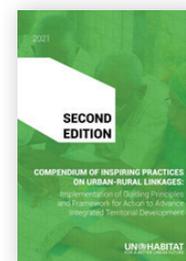
First Compendium of Case Studies for the Implementation of Guiding Principles on Urban-Rural Linkages and Framework for Action;



National Urban Policy Guide: Mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages into National Urban Policies



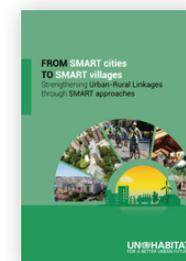
Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA): Africa Agriculture Status Report; Chapter 6 on The Role of African Cities in Strengthening Agri-food Systems



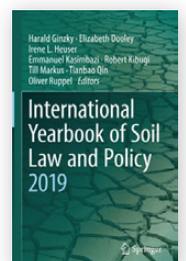
Second Compendium of Case Studies for the Implementation of Guiding Principles on Urban-Rural Linkages and Framework for Action. (2020)



Discussion Paper: Urban-Rural Linkages through Nutrition Lens by UNSCN



From SMART Cities to SMART Villages: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages through Smart approaches



International Yearbook of Soil and Land Policy; The UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles – Assessment of the adaptability to topical land management challenges in Germany, Kenya and Tanzania;



Second Issue of the Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter.



Forum Re: The First international Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages



Synthesis report: Urban-Rural Linkages at the tenth session of the world urban Forum



iii. Increase awareness on urban-rural linkages and integrated territorial development approaches in relation to global processes;



iv. Expand the scope of applications of the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action*.

## Advocacy on Urban-Rural Linkages

### URL webinars 2020



Seizing the challenge and opportunity of the COVID-19 crisis to generate knowledge, raise awareness and strengthen the collaboration with a broad range of stakeholders including international organizations, subnational

governments and community organizations, UN-Habitat started a learning process in the form of a webinar series in May 2020 with four objectives:



i. Contribute to the thinking and developing processes of integrated territorial development with the knowledge that COVID-19 is a learning opportunity to reorient policies and development practices;



ii. Co-develop a deeper understanding with partners on how urban-rural linkages and other territorial approaches can be an integral part of the COVID-19 recovery responses and long term sustainable actions;

The virtual sessions were inspired by the success of the first series of webinars focused on urban-rural linkages in which the PLG team piloted tested and technically improved each webinar. Not only were these webinars an important step in identifying the challenges in hosting virtual forums, but they also served as learning platforms, providing an opportunity to broadcast the tools and work of the PLGS to a wider audience, increasing awareness, interest and potential future engagements for ongoing projects and programmes.

UN-Habitat collaborated with partner organizations to hold two series of webinars, comprising nine sessions. These saw 4,000 people register and over 2,200 people participating in one or more webinars, up from 300 participants in 2019. The series substantially expanded UN-Habitat's outreach to the urban-rural community of practices, The geographic reach (over 75 countries) of this series underscored the effectiveness of on-line platforms to disseminate inspiring practices, regulatory frameworks, operating procedures and methodologies.

In addition, the webinar series was instrumental in fostering new relationships and identifying new areas of engagement in coordination with multilateral organizations, subnational governments, civil society organizations, research and professional institutions. These areas of engagement included integrated urban-rural policy and governance, metropolitan and intermediate cities governance, food and market systems, migration as well as the application of the URL-GP in the context of the Convention of Biological Diversity and the other two Rio Conventions (United Nations Convention to Combat Desertification and United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change).

The increasing recognition of urban-rural linkages by national and local authorities, civil society and the private sector among other organizations indicates their appreciation of critical role urban-rural linkages play in ensuring sustainable development through the urban-rural continuum.



**1st Webinar Series  
MAY 4**

"Urban-Rural Linkages in the Time of COVID-19"

**1st Session  
MAY 4**

Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/url-webinar-series/#1589898836167-c9b72606-9c2e>

**2nd Session  
MAY 14**

'Metropolitan Perspectives'

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/url-webinar-series/#1589898836251-99bca6ba-a2a6>



PLGS WEBINAR SERIES

**3rd Session  
MAY 21**

'Small Towns and Intermediate Cities'

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/url-webinar-series/#1589898848740-3daf61c8-bdef>

**4th Session  
MAY 28**

'Impact on the urban poor in Asia and Africa'

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/url-webinar-series/#1589972353771-627f6f8a-a8a7>

**5th Session  
MAY 28**

'Neighbourhood Governance and Community Response'

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/url-webinar-series/#1590767072590-18defb83-f4d1>



**6th Session  
JUNE 29**

Towards the New Normal: Learning from the crisis to improve territorial governance

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/policy-legislation-and-governance-webinar-series/#1593014227305-a9a1bcd7-eb2d>

**7th Session  
JULY 21**

'Human mobility across the urban-rural continuum'

<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/policy-legislation-and-governance-webinar-series/#1593014660107-40c493cf-3825>

**2nd Webinar Series  
MAY 28**

'Strengthening our communities for the future we want: urban-rural linkages policy, legislation and governance'



**1st Session  
JUNE 29**

Market cities: How can public markets pump life into regional food economies and forge social cohesion

**2nd Session  
JUNE 29**

Why should we care about urban-rural linkages? Managing the impacts of cities on ecosystems, land and climate change



**Participation at the World Urban Forum 2020**

UN-Habitat's PLGS co-organized one County Peoples' Government, China and one networking event with Shaanxi Village and book launch, not forgetting various discussions Town Construction Research Centre of Xi'an conducted at the exhibitions. The three main University, China, one side event with Songyang events on urban-rural linkages were:

EVENT	TITLE	ORGANIZERS
Voices from Cities/ Side Event	Rural revitalization to strengthen the urban rural linkages through innovations a case of Songyang County, China	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Songyang County People's Government, China</li> <li>UN-Habitat</li> </ul>
Publication Launch	First compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN-Habitat</li> </ul>
Networking Events	Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>UN-Habitat</li> <li>Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Centre of Xi'an University, China</li> </ul>

The events focused on the thematic applications of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP), drawing lessons and experiences by various stakeholders in different geographical contexts.

The stakeholders included: academia, national and local governments, private sector and international organizations. Further details of the events can be found in the Synthesis Report: Urban-Rural Linkages at the tenth session of the world urban Forum



## External Engagements 2020

### Urban-Rural Assembly (URA)



The Urban-Rural Assembly (URA) Project is a four-year research project. Through the development of transferable planning and governance approaches, including enabling tools and guidelines (e.g. Raumbild/Leitbild approach which has already been tested in Germany), the project seeks to foster knowledge dissemination across the coastal urbanization corridor - contributing to the urgent need for creative approaches towards localization and implementation of the SDGs and the New Urban Agenda in China and beyond.

UN-Habitat signed a Letter of Agreement with the URA project in which a framework of collaboration was established to bring the UN-Habitat inputs and approach to urban-rural linkages. In 2020, UN-Habitat delivered inputs on the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action* during the Urban-Rural Assembly in September 2020, conducted as the closing meeting of the Definition Phase of the URA project. UN-Habitat and the URA project look forward continuing this engagement in 2021 by developing joint policy paper and publications.

### Urban-Rural Partnerships (URP) 2020



**THEME**  
"Integrated Urban-Rural Planning and Governance: A Global Perspective"

SEPTEMBER  
23-24, 2020

Hosted by Stadt Land Plus and the German Federal Ministry of Education and Research, the URP 2020 scientific conference brought together over 400 participants from academia, international organizations and government authorities, for which UN-Habitat co-organized three sessions out of the 60 parallel sessions. The goal of the conference was to share experiences on ongoing projects, increase learning across territorial levels and create a platform for the exchange and co-

design of ideas related to sustainable and resilient regional development. UN-Habitat shared tools, methodologies and case studies on Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles (URL-GP), which was promoted as one of the global tools that could enhance urban-rural partnerships. The conference was also a prime event for the PLG to soft launch its upcoming publication on SMART villages.

## Events Outlook for 2021

### Nutrition for Growth Summit 2021



Hosted in Tokyo, Japan and led by FAO and GAIN, the Nutrition for Growth (N4G) Summit is a pledge summit, bringing together various stakeholders, including UN-Habitat, to put forward either a financial, policy or programmatic commitment that advances the nutrition agenda, working towards achieving the global nutrition goals and targets. These targets are tracked at each N4G Summit using the Global Nutrition Report tracking tool.

The Tokyo N4G Summit will be preceded by the Global Food Systems Summit in 2021, an important forum in the lead-up to the Tokyo N4G Summit. The goals of the Tokyo N4G Summit 2021 are to (1) position nutrition as an essential driver of sustainable development, and (2) to revise and secure new policy and financial commitments from stakeholders towards mitigating malnutrition. UN-Habitat's PLG will bring forward a territorial approach and integrate urban issues into the nutrition discussion.

### Global Food Summit 2021



Hosted by the United Nations, and with over 100 agencies and organizations participating in the preparation of the United Nations Food Summit scheduled to take place in 2021, UN-Habitat's PLGS will contribute to the five tracks of work: ensuring access to safe and nutritious food for all; shifting to sustainable consumption patterns; boosting nature-positive production; advancing equitable livelihoods; and building resiliency to shocks and stressors. It will do this by integrating territorial

approaches and bringing together local authorities, cities networks and respective agencies working in cities into the discussion on the importance of interconnecting urban and rural continuum. The purpose of the summit is to develop principles that will help guide governments and other stakeholders to leverage their food systems to support the SDGs. The primary contribution of UN-Habitat and PLG will be promoting the work on urban-rural linkages and urban policies.

## Second International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages



The International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL) is one of the key activities of the UN-Habitat urban-rural linkages programme which includes, capturing, analysing and promoting the inspiring practices implemented in rural Songyang County among other territories in the world.

The story of Songyang's rural revitalization in the context of urbanization provides valuable lessons and inspiration to other rural areas in other parts of the world.

Innovative sustainable development initiatives have the potential to improve rural areas, strengthen urban-rural linkages and contribute to the overall development and prosperity of human settlements.

The second IFURL will be co-hosted and co-organized by UN-Habitat, Zhejiang Provincial Department of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, Lishui Municipal People's Government and Songyang County People's Government.

The overall objectives of the forum will be:

1. To share recent experiences and good practices in the prevention and containment of infectious diseases and the post-outbreak recovery measures in urban, rural and peri-urban areas.
2. To highlight the relevance and importance of urban-rural linkages in public health to promote well-being for all.
3. To discuss ways to promote inclusive development in public health and improve health and well-being for all across the urban-rural continuum.
4. To share and promote innovative tools and methods to integrate comprehensive health approaches in national, subnational and regional planning policies in the context of the implementation of SDGs and the New Urban Agenda.

## Other Planned Events

### WEBINARS 2021

- » Rural Reality in the Context of Addressing the Indian Urban Challenge Learning from Best Practices in the World
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Community Engagement
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Indigenous Communities
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Land
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and SMART Villages
- » Impacts and Resilience to COVID-19 on Transportation of Food, People in the urban-rural continuum in Niger State (Nigeria), Cameroon, and Kenya

### PUBLICATIONS PLANNED FOR 2021

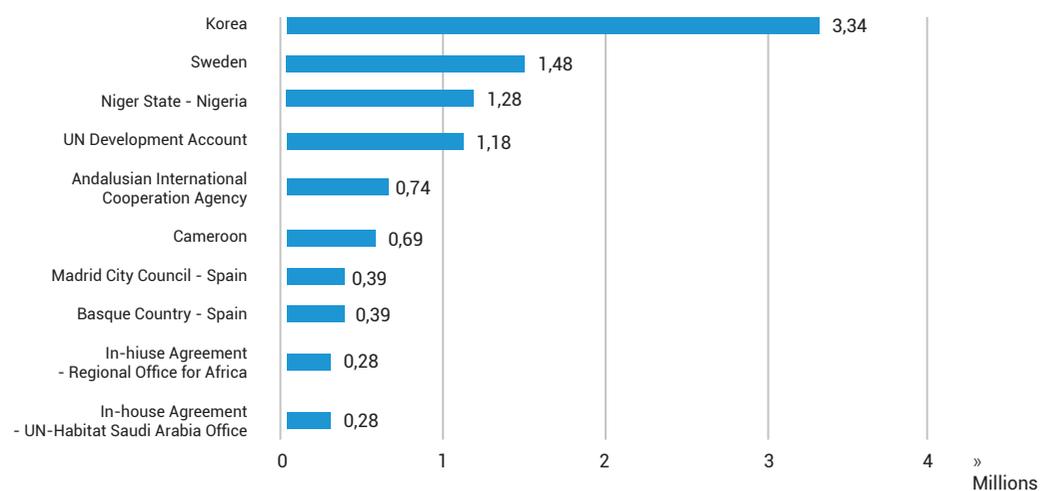
- » Report and Second Issue Brief on Urban-Rural Linkages in the Time of COVID-19
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Biodiversity
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Climate Change
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Land
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Migration
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and Health
- » Urban-Rural Linkages and SMART Villages
- » Third compendium on Urban-Rural Linkages
- » Urban-Rural Linkages Training Manuals for Participants and Trainers
- » E-Learning Urban-Rural Linkages Course

# 7. Finance

The Policy, Legislation and Governance Section's (PLGS) funding is primarily earmarked for specific projects based on the policy, legislation, governance, metropolitan management workstreams, or by thematic area, such as integrated development planning. The section's annual operating budget was approximately USD 4.2 million for delivery of its various programmes, projects and normative outputs. During 2020, PLGS directed USD 2.3 million towards project

implementation, which represents 54 per cent of the annual budget. In 2020, PLGS received the majority of its funds from its national and local government partners to address their individualized urban development priorities. The section is actively seeking new funding opportunities from government agencies and foundations, as well as being involved in several academic grant funding opportunities.

**FIGURE 5.** Top ten donors and development partners in 2020 (in millions USD):

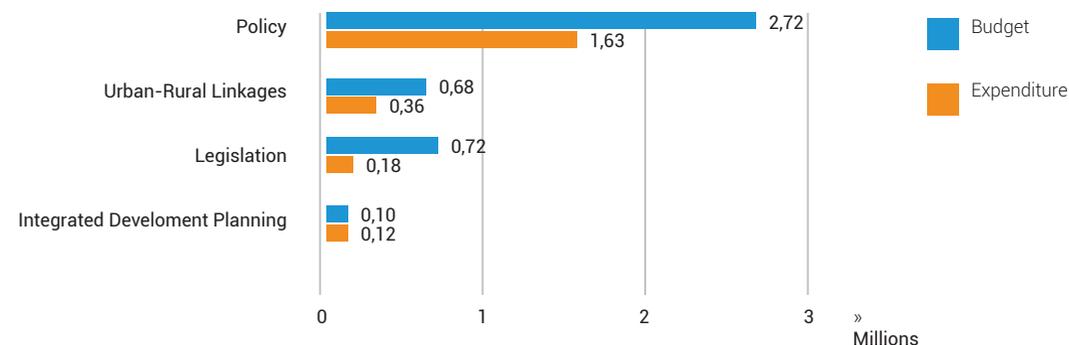


## Funding distribution by thematic area or workstream

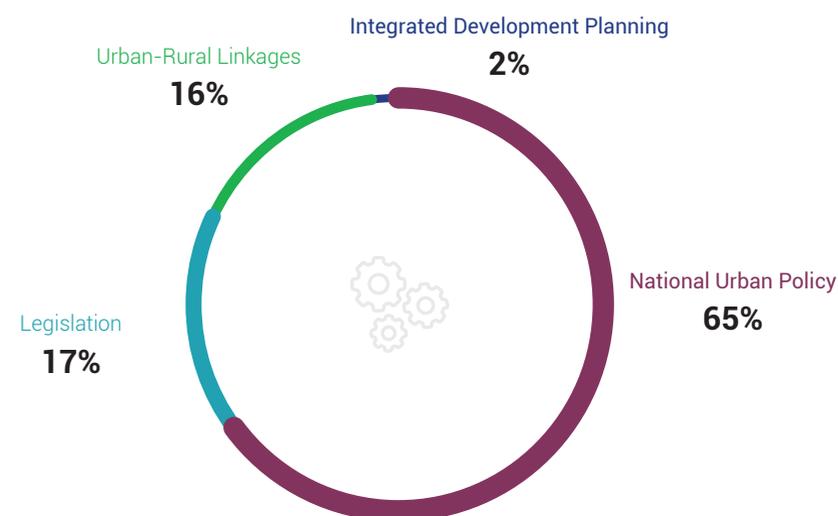
In 2020, the PLGS used USD 2.3 million, 54 per cent of its annual USD 4.2 million budget, for project implementation. Sixty-five per cent of the funding was earmarked for various national and subnational urban policy projects. The legislation workstream received 17 per cent for its various projects, urban-rural linkages received 16 per cent, while integrated development planning

in Niger State received 2 per cent. While the governance workstream did not directly receive funding, some of the funding from other workstreams was directed to governance activities. Similarly, some of the country projects, particularly in-house agreements, include governance components that have been subsidized by legislation workstream.

**FIGURE 6.** Budget vs Expenditure 2020 (in millions USD)



**FIGURE 7.** Funding by thematic area/workstream



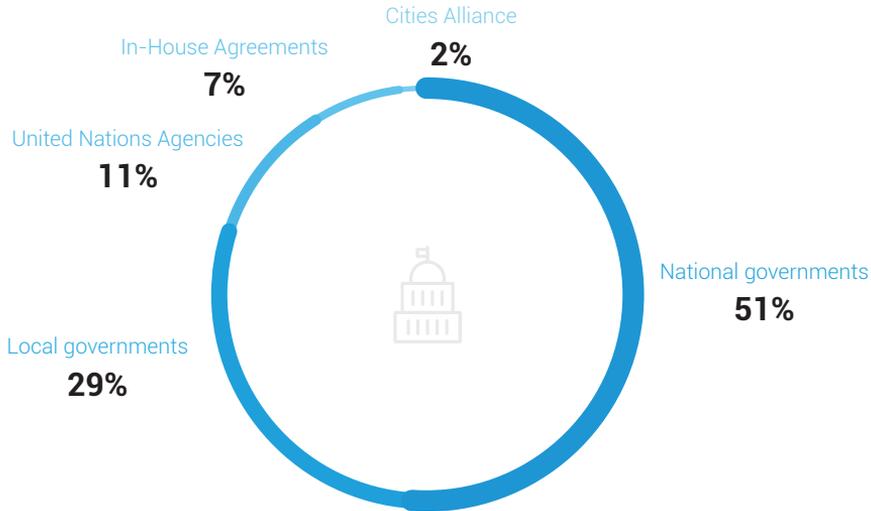
## Funding Sources

Eighty per cent of PLGS funding comes primarily from national and local governments, at 51 per cent and 29 per cent, respectively. A significant portion – 11 per cent – also comes from the broader United Nations system, which indicates the high level of inter-agency collaboration as well as the need for stronger collaboration within the United Nations family. Seven per cent of the funding is sourced from in-house agreements, with 2 per cent stemming from Cities Alliance,

a global partnership that comprises of government entities, private sector, research institutions, non-governmental organizations and multilateral organizations.

In alignment with UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023, the section also puts great emphasis on broadening and diversifying its donor base.

**FIGURE 8.** PLGS Funding Sources and their Distribution in 2020



### Funding for COVID-19 Projects

In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, PLGS repurposed a portion of its project funds towards supporting COVID-19 humanitarian activities. Key activities included distributing personal protective equipment and implementing

handwashing stations in key urban areas and informal settlements where projects have been operational. See the COVID-19 demonstration project section for further detail on the distribution process.

DONOR	BENEFICIARY COUNTRY	AMOUNT (USD)
Andalusian Agency for Cooperation and Development	Democratic Republic of the Congo	25,000
Andalusian Agency for Cooperation and Development	Mali	20,000
Cameroon	Cameroon	104.00
South Korea	Iran	25,000
South Korea	Myanmar	24,717
South Korea	Niger State (Nigeria)	25,000



## 8. Meet the Team



### Shipra Narang Suri

*Chief, Urban Practices Branch, UN-Habitat, Nairobi*

Dr. Shipra Narang Suri is an urban planner with a Ph.D. in Post-War Recovery Studies from the University of York, UK. She leads UN-Habitat's Urban Practices Branch, which is the hub for UN-Habitat's normative work and the home of its portfolio of global programmes. Shipra is also the senior advisor within UN-Habitat for local governments and their networks.

Shipra has extensive experience in advising national and local governments, as well as private sector organisations and networks, on issues of urban planning and management, good urban governance and indicators, livability and sustainability of cities, urban safety, women and cities, as well as post-conflict/ post-disaster recovery. She has worked with the United Nations, specifically, UN-HABITAT, UNDP, and UNESCO, as well as international NGOs and private sector organisations, for over two decades. She is the former co-Chair of the World Urban Campaign, and the former Vice-President of the General Assembly of Partners, a platform established to bring stakeholder voices to Habitat III and in the drafting of the New Urban Agenda. She is also a former Vice-President of ISOCARP, the International Society of City and Regional Planners. She is a regular public speaker at national and international fora, and has several publications to her credit.



### Remy Sietchiping

*Chief- Policy, Legislation and Governance Section*

Remy Sietchiping leads UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, coordinating of the substantive, normative and operational work of the section's workstreams. He has led programmes and projects focused on integrating spatial frameworks in national urban policies, implementing the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, regional and metropolitan planning, city-region planning, development of urban clusters and corridors, green economy and smart green cities, systems of connected cities, urban-rural linkages.

He coordinates global and regional projects as well as country and county projects in Africa, Asia and Latin America. Mr. Sietchiping joined UN-Habitat in 2007, concentrating on land and urban issues, helping formulate the Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and the Global Land Indicators Initiative (GLII). Over the last 20 years, he has managed projects that have included elements of land management, spatial information systems (GIS), policy analysis and advising, strategic planning, community development, urban and slum, social and environmental sciences, and research techniques.

Prior to UN-Habitat, Mr. Sietchiping worked for the State Government of Victoria in Australia, the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa, the private sector, the University of the West Indies in Jamaica, University of Melbourne and Deakin University in Australia, and the University of Yaoundé and civil society organization in Cameroon. He holds a PhD in Geography specializing in urban and spatial planning, GIS, and modelling from Melbourne University in Australia. Mr. Sietchiping can be reached at [remy.sietchiping@un.org](mailto:remy.sietchiping@un.org).



### Kibong Lee

*Senior Technical Advisor*

Kibong Lee manages the National Urban Policy Programme in Iran, Nigeria, Myanmar etc. Mr. Lee holds a Master's degree in Public Affairs from the University of Indiana, Bloomington, in the United States and a Bachelor's degree from Seoul National University in Korea. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Lee worked for more than 17 years for several departments in South Korea's Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. He oversaw new towns development and public agencies relocation projects in South Korea. As director of the Overseas Infrastructure Development Division, Mr. Lee supported urban and infrastructure master plans in the developing countries. He also served other Korean government agencies as an Assistant Secretary for the Office of the President, and Director for the Office of Development and Settlement of Sejong City. Mr. Lee is fluent in Korean and English and can be reached at [kibong.lee@un.org](mailto:kibong.lee@un.org)



### Gianluca Crispi

*Legal Specialist*

Gianluca Crispi oversees activities of the urban legislation workstream within the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Mr. Crispi is a legal specialist supporting UN-Habitat's normative work and country offices technical projects. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Crispi worked in Nairobi at the Permanent Mission of Italy to UNEP and UN-Habitat as a multilateral affairs consultant. He holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Palermo. He is fluent in Italian, English and Spanish and can be reached at [gianluca.crispi@un.org](mailto:gianluca.crispi@un.org)



### Anne Amin

*Legal Specialist*

Anne Amin runs the activities of the newly created governance workstream within UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. She is a legal specialist with more than 20 years of international professional experience in a variety of areas, including advisory services in legislative processes, legislative drafting, capacity building and research. Her areas of expertise include urban governance, physical planning law and human rights. Ms Amin holds a Master's degree in Law from the University of Helsinki, Finland, with a specialization in International Tax Law and a Master's degree in International Law from the University of Paris VIII, France. She is fluent in English, French, Spanish and Finnish. She can be reached at [anne.klen@un.org](mailto:anne.klen@un.org)



### Elizabeth Kahwae

*Administrative Assistant*

### Grace Githiri

*Associate Programme Management Officer*

Grace Githiri managed the Urban-Rural Linkages Programme which includes Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles, SMART Villages, Food Systems and Nutrition, Small and Intermediary Cities, etc. Ms. Githiri oversees the development of capacity building tools and events, advocacy, forming new partnerships and providing project technical support to Member States. Ms. Githiri also supports the National Urban Policies Programme on thematic areas, including health, migration and their intersection with legislation and governance. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Githiri worked for Slum Dwellers International (SDI) as a programme officer in Kenya where she led community trainings, informal settlements spatial planning, mapping, project management and research, and co-authored several papers on food security in Nairobi's informal settlements. Ms. Githiri holds a Master's degree in Sustainable Urban Development with a focus on Food Security and Nutrition from the University of Nairobi. She is fluent in Kiswahili and English. Ms. Githiri can be reached at [grace.githiri@un.org](mailto:grace.githiri@un.org).



**Frédéric Happi Mangoua**

*Programme Management Officer*

Frédéric Happi Mangoua works in the Policy, Governance and Legislation Section as a programme management officer and focuses on managing and developing programmes and projects in Francophone countries including Cameroon, Haiti, Burkina Faso, Mali, Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC), Guinea and Senegal on national urban policy, metropolitan development, the development of transport and water corridors, and urban-rural linkages. Mr. Happi Mangoua also supports the implementation of urban-rural linkages particularly in the context of small and intermediate cities.

Mr. Happi Mangoua has more than 20 years of research, operations and project management experience on land and urban management acquired in Cameroon, Italy and Canada both in the public and private sector. He holds a Master's degree in Geographical Sciences specializing on Applied Geomatics and Land-Use Management from the University of Sherbrooke in Quebec, Canada, has a certificate in Applied Sciences with focus on Land Surveying and Land Management from the University of Laval in Quebec and a Bachelor's degree on Technical Education with a focus on Surveying and Mapping from the University of Douala in Cameroon. Mr. Happi Mangoua speaks French, English and Italian. He can be reached at frederic.happimangoua@un.org



**Janet Obara**

*Senior Programme Management Assistant*

Jannet Joy Obara is a Senior Programme Management Assistant in Finance, Budgets, Administration and HR Management Support. She is providing project, programme and financial management support for PLGS. She joined PLGS in March 2020 and is the longest serving UN-Habitat staff member having completed 35 years of service on 14 October 2020. She is a Travel and Shipment Approver and UMOJA Travel Local Process Expert (LPE) for the branch and UN-Habitat. Ms. Obara hold a Bachelor of Business Management degree from the University of Sunderland in the U.K. She is fluent in English, Kiswahili, French and Spanish, with basic knowledge of Arabic and is currently pursuing Russian language classes. She can be reached via email: jannet.obara@un.org.



**Peter Wamwiri Wainaina**

*Programme Management Assistant*

Peter Wamwiri Wainaina is a programme management assistant in Finance, Budget and Administration, providing financial and administrative support to the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. He is the focal point in preparing all programme budgets and supports section travel, recruitment, conference facilitation and workshop planning and budgeting. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Wainaina worked for the Finance and Procurement Department at the Ministry of East African Affairs, Commerce and Tourism of Kenya. He also worked as a Finance Assistant in the private sector at Teleyetu East Africa Limited and joined JD Kirigatu & Associates, Samuami Consultancy Audit Firms as a Junior Auditor. Mr. Wainaina holds a Master's of Science degree in Commerce, Finance and Investments from Kenya College of Accountancy (KCA) and Bachelor's degree in Business Administrator with a concentration on Finance and Accounting from Kenya Methodist University. He is fluent in English and Kiswahili. Mr. Wainaina can be reached at peter.wamwiri@un.org.

**PLG CONSULTANTS**



**Rashid Abubakar**

*Legal Consultant*

Rashid Abubakar is a legal researcher specializing in environmental law, climate change law, human rights law and urban planning law for the legislation workstream within the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Prior to joining the PLGS, Mr. Abubakar worked as an urban law consultant for UN-Habitat's Legislation Unit and as a climate change law researcher for UNEP. Mr Abubakar holds a Master's degree in International Law (LL.M) and Bachelor's degree in Law (LL.B) from the University of Nairobi. He can be reached at rashid.abubakar@un.org.



**Emmanuel Adeleke**

*Urban Development Consultant*

Emmanuel Adeleke supports the implementation of subnational urban policy, urban-rural linkages and other urban support programmes in Niger State, Nigeria. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Adeleke worked as an urban planner and project coordinator for VistaPlan Consulting and MasterPlan Consult, two urban planning consulting firms in Nigeria.

Mr. Adeleke was also a programme management intern with the Regional Office for Africa Branch of UN-Habitat and worked with the Lagos State Ministry of Physical Planning and Urban Development as a volunteer urban planner. He holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Lagos, Nigeria. He is a certified Urban Planner by the Town Planners Registration Council of Nigeria and a member of Nigerian Institute of Town Planners. Mr. Adeleke is fluent in English and Yoruba and can be reached at emmanuel.adeleke@un.org.



**Zahra Aden**

*Programme Management Officer*

Zahra Aden works as a programme and project management officer for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, supporting the National Urban Policies Programme. Prior to joining the PLGS, Ms Aden worked for UN-Habitat's Somalia Programme where she coordinated and advanced the Youth Political Empowerment Programme. Ms. Aden also worked for the United States Nuclear Regulatory Commission (U.S.NRC), the District of Columbia Government (U.S), and Qatar Foundation (Qatar). She has over 15 years of experience, working with different institutions under different capacity and holds an MBA in from the University of Maryland and a Bachelor's degree from George Mason University in the United States. She can be reached at zahra.aden@un.org.



**Eol Chae**

*Urban and Territorial Policy Consultant*

Eol Chae works on the National Urban Policy Programme, urban-rural linkages and other associated projects for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Chae worked as a senior researcher and led and participated in national research and design projects to develop strategies for sustainable city, smart city and urban regeneration projects at the global, national, territorial and metropolitan scale. She holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urban Design and has over nine years of experience working with different institutions in this field. Ms. Chae can be reached at eol.chae@un.org.

**Rafael Forero***Urban Policy, Governance and Metropolitan Expert*

Rafa Forero oversees urban governance and metropolitan management projects at the global level. Mr. Forero is an Engineer, Magister in development, and a specialist in development, public policies and project management. He joined UN-Habitat in 2010, where he has held several positions on public information, knowledge management and project management, collaborating with UN-Habitat offices in Colombia, Ecuador, Bolivia, Brazil, Mexico, and Kenya. In 2014, Mr. Forero founded the Programme of Metropolitan and Urban-Regional Integration of UN-Habitat in Colombia. From 2017-2018, he led UN-Habitat's Urban Safety, Governance and Legislation portfolio for the Andean countries and since 2019 he has been working with the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Mr. Forero has co-authored several publications and served as an instructor, lecturer and visiting professor for universities in Colombia, Mexico, Argentina, and the United States. He is fluent in Spanish, English and Portuguese. He can be reached at [rafael.forero@un.org](mailto:rafael.forero@un.org).

**Jean Robert Gatsinzi***Visual Designer*

Jean Robert Gatsinzi supports the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section with a focus on the conceptualization, design, development and production of infographics, publications, website and videos. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Gatsinzi worked for creative design agencies as a graphic and animation designer, with five years of professional experience. Mr. Gatsinzi is currently pursuing a Master's degree in Communication Studies at the United States International University Africa, Nairobi (USIU Africa), and holds a Bachelor's degree in Communication Design from University of Rwanda, College of Science and Technology. Mr. Gatsinzi is fluent in English, French and Kiswahili. He can be reached at [jeanrobert.gatsinzi@un.org](mailto:jeanrobert.gatsinzi@un.org).

**Stephanie Gerretsen***Urban Policy Specialist*

Stephanie Gerretsen works in the National Urban Policy Programme on several country projects, in addition to producing various normative products on the development and monitoring and evaluation of urban acupuncture projects, mainstreaming public health matters in national urban policies, and integrating the private sector in urban development projects. Ms. Gerretsen's focus areas and interests include national urban policies, municipal planning and financing, local economic development and the promotion of healthy cities. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Gerretsen completed her Ph.D. focusing on land-use planning and changes of property assessment values around major league sports facilities in the United States and consulted on several large-scale stadium financing projects. Ms. Gerretsen holds a Ph.D. and a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning with a concentration in Global and Comparative Planning for Developing Countries from the University of Michigan, Ann Arbor, and a dual Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Biological Anthropology from the University of California, San Diego. She is fluent in English and German, speaks Spanish and is currently learning French and Kiswahili. She can be reached at [stephanie.gerretsen@un.org](mailto:stephanie.gerretsen@un.org).

**Sara Habibi***National Urban Policy Officer*

Sara Habibi is National Urban Policy Officer and Project Manager at UN-Habitat, in Tehran, Iran. Her work focuses on urban and regional planning related issues, including national urban policies, urban and territorial planning, sustainable development, housing, slum upgrading and social inclusion.

Ms. Habibi holds a Ph.D. in Urban Planning from the University of Tehran. She also holds a Master's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Tehran and a Bachelor's degree from the University of Art in Tehran. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Habibi worked for several consulting engineering groups and research centres such as Rah Shahr International Group and Research Centre for Development of Environment and Human Settlements Iran. Ms. Habibi has also lectured on urban planning issues at the University of Art and Azad University of Qazvin and published in academic journals on strategic and spatial planning, sustainable development and the urban form. She can be reached at [sara.habibi@un.org](mailto:sara.habibi@un.org).

**Solomon Karani Imujaro***GIS and Mapping Specialist*

Solomon Karani Imujaro is a GIS and remote sensing specialist providing technical support in GIS and mapping for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Mr. Karani Imujaro manages the mapping and design of the Yaounde Nsimalen Highway Corridor and prepares the Integrated Regional Development Plans for Niger State. His interests are focused on geospatial analysis, geo-design and data management and he has advanced skills and experience in Desktop GIS, WebGIS, CAD and remote sensing applications. In addition to working for UN-Habitat, Mr. Karani Imujaro has worked for international firms such as Ramani Geosystems Kenya and on various Kenyan county planning projects. He is fluent in English, Kiswahili, Kalenjin and Teso. Mr. Karani Imujaro can be reached at [solomon.karani@un.org](mailto:solomon.karani@un.org).

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Michael Kinyanjui is an urban policy specialist with the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, and manages the formulation, review and implementation stages of national urban policies and regional and spatial planning frameworks. He is also the task manager for the Niger State Urban Support Programme (NSUSP). Mr. Kinyanjui has also worked as research consultant within Policy Analysis Branch of UN-Habitat supporting research and drafting of global reports on human settlements and was a national officer with United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) supporting the formulation of integrated regional development plans and capacity development of local and regional governments.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Kinyanjui managed integrated urban development programmes on urban poverty and slum upgrading and urban shelter delivery with practical action. He holds a Master's degree in Urban Management and a Bachelor's degree in Geography from the University of Nairobi, Kenya. He is fluent in English and Kiswahili and can be reached at michael.kinyanjui@un.org.



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Antonio Kipyegon supports the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section's resource mobilization, monitoring and reporting efforts in implementing UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2023. Prior to joining the PLGS, Mr. Kipyegon worked for the Strategic Monitoring and Reporting Unit as a monitoring and reporting consultant and supported the development of tools and guidelines to collate programme performance information, conduct indicator data analysis, compiled normative tools and knowledge products and draft impact stories which supported the preparation of the 2020 Work Programme, the 2018 and 2019 UN-Habitat Annual Reports, and the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan Report.

Mr. Kipyegon is working towards his Master's degree in Business Administration majoring in Strategic Management at the United States International University-Africa (USIU) in Kenya. He is fluent in English and Kiswahili and can be reached at antonio.kipyegon@un.org.



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Suzanne Koufana currently provides technical support for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section and is involved in the development and implementation of national urban policies across several Francophone countries, including monitoring the project 'Leaving No Place Behind – Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in selected countries in Africa'. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Koufana worked as a civil engineer in road construction with the private sector and was a policy action expert working as a researcher at the General Directorate of Technical Studies in the Ministry of Public Works of Cameroon. Ms. Koufana has a Master's degree in Management of Public Institutions from the HEC-Lièges in Belgium and a Civil Engineering Diploma at the Polytechnic School of Douala in Cameroon. She is fluent in English and French and can be reached at suzanne.koufana@un.org.



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Camilo Romero Mera works on the National Urban Policy Programme and on urban-rural linkages for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, he worked with the Federal Foundation of Baukultur in Germany and as a civil engineer in Colombia. Mr. Romero Mera holds a Master's degree in Urban Development from the Technical University of Berlin and a Bachelor's degree in Civil Engineering from the Universidad de los Andes in Colombia. He is fluent in Spanish and English, and speaks German. He can be reached at camilo.romeromera@un.org.



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Martino Miraglia is UN-Habitat's technical focal point for local governments and their associations worldwide. He is also the technical lead for the portfolio on Voluntary Local Reviews. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Miraglia worked as project manager in the context of the EU-UNDP CapDeL Programme on democratic local governance in Algeria. He joined the United Nations family in 2013, working with the UNDP Brussels Office and the UNDP ART Initiative on issues related to local development and SDG localization. Martino holds a Master's degree in International Security Studies from the Université libre de Bruxelles and a Bachelor's in Political Studies from the Università degli Studi di Firenze. Mr. Miraglia can be reached at martino.miraglia@un.org..



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Dennis Mwamati works on National Urban Policies, Governance and Programme management in Iran, Niger State and Myanmar amongst other countries within the NUP Programme. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mr. Mwamati worked in New York with the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development as a Policy Unit Coordination and Reporting, Monitoring and Evaluation consultant on the preparatory process of the New Urban Agenda. Mr. Mwamati holds a Master's degree in Human Settlements from the Katholieke University of Leuven, Belgium and a Bachelor's degree in Architecture majoring in Landscape Architecture from Jomo Kenyatta University, Kenya. Dennis is fluent in English and Kiswahili and has basic knowledge of French. He can be reached at mwamati@un.org.



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Samuel Njuguna is a lawyer specializing in international comparative urban law and governance and supports UN-Habitat's normative and country technical projects. His areas of expertise include urban governance, physical planning law, climate change & environmental law and human rights and has extensive experience in legislative processes, legislative drafting, capacity building and research. Mr. Njuguna holds a Master's degree in International Law (LL.M) from the University of Manchester in the UK and a Bachelor's degree in General Law (LLB) from the Catholic University of Eastern Africa, Kenya. He is fluent in English and Kiswahili. He can be reached at samuel.njuguna@un.org



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John Omwamba oversees the Liberia National Urban Policy Programme, transport corridors, national spatial frameworks, urban and rural linkages, and regional and metropolitan planning. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, he worked in Kenya at IPE Global (K) Ltd as Research Coordinator on Kenya Informal Settlements Improvement Programme (KISIP) and was a board member for the Kisii County Land Management Board. Mr. Omwamba holds a Master's degree in Transportation Planning and Engineering from the University of Southampton in the UK and a Bachelor's degree in Urban and Regional Planning from the University of Nairobi. He is fluent in English, Kiswahili and Gusii. He can be reached at john.omwamba@un.org.



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Anuradha Panigrahi works as an Urban Specialist for UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, specifically focusing on the National Urban Policy Programme in Yangon, Myanmar since 2018. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Panigrahi worked for the Mumbai Environmental Social Network in India as an urban researcher and architect on slum upgrading, public space development and waste management projects. She holds a Master's degree in International Planning and Development from Cardiff University in the UK and a Bachelor's degree in Architecture from University of Mumbai, India. Ms. Panigrahi is fluent in English and Hindi. She can be reached at anuradha.panigrahi@un.org.



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Maria del Pilar Tellez Soler works on global frameworks and tools on urban governance, metropolitan management and subnational urban policy for the Policy, Legislation, and Governance Section. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Pilar Tellez Soler has more than 20 years of experience working for national, regional, metropolitan, and local governments. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, she worked as an advisor in Colombia overseeing urban policy, planning and legislative issues. She has a specialization in Urban Strategic Thinking from the Ibero-American Centre for Urban Strategic Development of Barcelona and is a lawyer. She is fluent in Spanish. Ms. Pilar Tellez Soler can be contacted at maria.tellezsoler@un.org



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Rossana Poblet focuses on the policy work in the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, specifically in Niger State, Nigeria. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Poblet worked as a consultant in Berlin with findQ and Digital Diva Deluxe; as a researcher for the Bartlett Development Planning Unit of the University College London in the United Kingdom; as a research associate for the Institute for Landscape Planning and Ecology (ILPÖ) at the University of Stuttgart in Germany; as a liaison officer for the United Nations Mission to Kosovo; and a team leader and consultant for the Peruvian Ministry of Housing, Construction and Sanitation – Techo Propio Programme and the Lima Metropolitan Planning Institute and the Commission of Formalisation of Property. She is a Ph.D. candidate at the University of Stuttgart in Germany, holds a joint Master's degree in International Cooperation and Urban Development from Technische Universität Darmstadt (TUD) in Germany and Sustainable Emergency Architecture from Universitat Internacional de Catalunya (UIC) in Barcelona, Spain, and a Bachelor's degree in Architecture and Urban Planning from Universidad Ricardo Palma in Peru. Ms. Poblet is fluent in English, Spanish and German. She can be reached at rossana.poblet@un.org.



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**Lei Sun**

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Lei Sun works on the national urban policy and urban-rural linkages programmes and projects for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section and was fundamental in organizing the 3rd International Conference on National Urban Policy and liaising with counterparts in Songyang County, China. Ms. Sun holds a Master's degree in Applied Linguistics from the University of Edinburgh in Scotland. She is fluent in Chinese and English, and is learning French. She can be reached at lei.sun@un.org.



**Anna Kvashuk**

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Anna Kvashuk is currently working on developing a global city COVID-19 response measure analysis and progressing various urban law and legislation projects for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. She has experience in the development of city transport strategies using an urban planning framework. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Kvashuk worked as a legal assistant for various organizations in the public and private sectors. Ms. Kvashuk holds a Master's and Bachelor's degree in International Law from the Taras Shevchenko National University of Kyiv in Ukraine. She is fluent in English, Ukrainian and Russian and she can be reached at anna.kvashuk@un.org.



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**Valentina Ricca**

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Valentina Ricca is supporting the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section's normative and governance work for sustainable urban development including the ongoing COVID-19 response activities. Her areas of focus include international public law, human rights and the complex political, economic, legal, social and cultural interdependencies linked to international development cooperation, while gaining more experience in urban legislation. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Ricca worked as an international cooperation assistant at the European Food Safety Authority (EFSA) and as a researcher at International Research Institute and Archive for Disarmament on international legal and political issues. She holds a five-year Integrated Master of Arts in Law degree from Roma Tre University in Italy, and a Master's degree in International Relations from the University Institute for European Studies (CEU-San Pablo University of Madrid) in Spain. She is currently working towards her Master's degree in International Development Cooperation. Ms. Ricca is fluent in Italian, English and Spanish. She can be reached at [valentina.ricca@un.org](mailto:valentina.ricca@un.org)

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**Jaimy Rippe**

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Jaimy Rippe is supporting the development of land-based taxation frameworks in Somalia and Afghanistan, the COVID-19 response measures across African countries, and various other country projects as part of the legislation workstream for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. Ms. Rippe is completing her Juris Doctor degree concentrating on International Law and Taxation from Quinnipiac University School of Law and holds a Bachelor's degree in English Literature from the University of New Haven. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ms. Rippe worked in Ghana at three law firms as a trainee associate on tribal land transactions and rural banking advisory working on international structuring and taxation for private entities and pro bono cases focused on public health and environmental protection matters. She speaks English, French, Spanish and Twi. She can be reached at [jaimy.rippe@un.org](mailto:jaimy.rippe@un.org).



## Remy Sietchiping

Chief POLICY LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE SECTION  
UN-HABITAT

## END YEAR REMARK

I would like to take this opportunity to say **"thank you"** to each member of the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section of UN-Habitat.

I would like to thank those colleagues who were instrumental in getting the new PLG section up and running as well as those colleagues who joined us this year in establishing the PLGS family as a result of the UN-Habitat restructuring.

Although we are a new section with diverse expertise and complementary capacities, with different life perspectives, professional expertise and experiences, we have been able to adjust and participate successfully in the dynamic PLGS formation journey. I want to thank and congratulate every one of you for your tireless efforts to work together in that respect.

I have been impressed by colleagues' willingness to engage, collaborate, develop new ideas and take risks. Like all good journeys, there are ups and downs. However, I have really appreciated everyone's efforts thus far to make PLGS a dynamic section of the Urban Practices Branch of the Global Solutions Division.

There are many successes worth recognizing in 2020 :

» We are working in over 50 countries with more than 10 active projects. I appreciate colleagues working in various field projects and countries to make a difference;

» We have collaborated internally with each other, supporting our respective work areas through various entities at headquarters and in the field;

» Our fundraising efforts have gone well, noting that with the new dispensation, we need to find innovative ways to mobilize more funds to carry out all our activities effectively. Fortunately, many of you have joined the effort to prepare funding applications, explore different opportunities internally and externally, and we are not giving up. This effort should continue in the coming years;

» We have made significant progress in advancing our normative work and have produced a range of useful tools and knowledge products as captured in the PLGS 2020 catalogue of publications. These tools have now been used in various projects, particularly in Africa and Arab States;

» We have successfully established our community of practice (CoP) and held three meetings which is a great start. We can build on the growing whole-of-the-house participation and interest in the CoP in 2021;

» We have innovated with products such as webinars series, CoP and developing tools to support the flagship programmes.



Moving forward, I encourage you to keep up the spirit of supporting each other both through formal and informal avenues that you have initiated: the virtual chai hangouts and other virtual events have worked well this year and helped colleagues remain connected with the team and with our broader endeavors.

I know that 2020 has not been an easy year due to the workload pressure and the ongoing context of the COVID-19 pandemic. However, I am confident that our collaborative work efforts will make us stronger for the months ahead.

As we move toward the next year, we are planning to have another retreat early in the year to consolidate our work, reflect on 2020 and the key lessons and on how we can jumpstart 2021 with some innovative ideas to move forward together.

I encourage each member of the team to continue to be mindful of our collective call of duty, to continue to play our respective critical role as a team member and to honour the privilege of contributing to the work of the United Nations.

With the hope to meet virtually and physically again early next year as a team, I would like to encourage you to continue to remember and support colleagues, especially those who are alone, to reach out and offer some festive cheers as relevant.

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I count on you for your usual support

Merry Christmas and Happy 2021

**Remy Sietchiping** | Chief Policy, Legislation and Governance



# 2020

PLGS REPORT



This is the first Annual Report of UN-Habitat's Policy, Legislation and Governance Section. It highlights the section's implementation of the Strategic Plan 2020-2023 for 2020 and outlines the contributions and results realized across various key programmes and projects at the local, national, regional and global levels between November 2019 and the end of 2020.

The period reviewed not only encompassed a major organizational restructuring by UN-Habitat in January 2020, but it also featured one of the most serious global health crises in living memory. COVID-19 raised challenges few people had ever encountered before.

Nevertheless, it was a productive and dynamic period for the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section and this report bears witness to the strength, courage, energy, resourcefulness and resilience of the people in the section's team as well as communities they serve.

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