REPORT OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme including reporting on the programmatic activities of the Programme in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and an update on the response of the Programme to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic

AGENDA ITEM 7
Main report: HSP/EB.2021/18
This report showcases initiatives on integrated normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat that can improve quality of life for all, promote peace and encourage a greener and more just recovery from the pandemic by harnessing the power of sustainable urban development:

1. SDGs localization approaches
2. Housing rights and policy guidance
3. Migration and displacement work
1. SDG Localization and Voluntary Local Reviews

Strategy based around **multilevel, integrated partnerships:**

**Operational**
- project implementation support
- robust monitoring and reporting

**Normative**
- inclusive data collection
- evidence-based policymaking and priority-setting

Localization work is grounded on three programme pillars:

- **Global Urban Monitoring Framework**
- **Voluntary local reviews (the ‘VLRs’)**
- **The SDG Cities flagship programme**
The Urban Monitoring Framework is the **global approach to data collection** and **indicators development** for SDGs’ localization.

**Main features and progress**

**Harmonizes existing indices** and incorporates **rural-urban linkages** and the SDGs’ principle of **leaving no one behind**.

Composed of a multilevel set of indicators, to allow for the **adaptation and analysis of each locality**.

Rollout in 2022, once endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission and fully digitized.
Voluntary Local Reviews

UN-Habitat supports cities in developing voluntary local reviews (‘VLRs’) with local data and insights and provides peer learning opportunities.

VLRs can enhance innovative data applications, stakeholder participation, policy coherence, and strategic planning.

Main features and progress

Local reviews have become a main tool for local and regional governments to monitor and report on progress towards the implementation of the SDGs.

VLRs have proved to be powerful accelerators for the localization of the Goals worldwide.

Adoption of VRLs has grown exponentially during 2020-2021.
Voluntary Local Reviews
The SDG Cities Flagship Programme

Integrated approach in 1,000 cities:
• evidence-based policymaking
• digitized tools
• digital capacity support
• technical backstopping
• matchmaking finances with catalytic projects that are aligned with the SDGs.

Main features and progress
The **data track**: VLRs and the Urban Monitoring Framework bring together data to monitor implementation of the SDGs and identify priorities.

The **capacity development track**: Diagnostic tools such as the SDGs’ Project Assessment Tool directs cities to relevant training programmes and technical resources.

The **investment track**: A city investment facility supports upstream project design to ensure projects’ alignment with SDGs, financial feasibility and match to financing sources.
Workstreams and Achievements of SDG Localization

1. Consolidating strategic partnerships
2. Normative development and knowledge management
3. Advocacy and capacity-building on sustainable urban development
4. Technical assistance to countries and cities

UN-Habitat
For a better urban future
Highlights on the Way Forward

Scale up institutional integration and multilevel governance

Reduce spatial disparities and inequalities

Increase knowledge and guidance on localizing SDGs
2. Housing Policy Issues and Priorities (with focus on Europe)

1. Elements identified in the right to adequate housing include:

- Availability of services, facilities and infrastructure
- Cultural adequacy
- Legal security of tenure
- Location
- Affordability
- Accessibility
- Habitability

2. Policy Priorities going forward:

- Improve housing affordability
- Improve knowledge to guide reform
- Share policy tools and implementation capacities with governments
Certain groups in European Union (EU) are disproportionately deprived of housing that was magnified by the COVID-19 crisis.

Housing is unaffordable to nearly 1/3 of low-income renters in OECD countries.

Investment gap in social housing is intensifying.

### Overcrowded Housing Conditions

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Percentage</th>
<th>Description</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>29%</td>
<td>Of those living in poverty</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>36%</td>
<td>Of migrants from non-EU countries</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>24%</td>
<td>Of young people</td>
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</tbody>
</table>
‘Housing 2030’ initiative
UN-Habitat provided a normative toolkit for policymakers to highlight good practices that can promote housing affordability

Influenced the action plan for the ECE region on promoting sustainable housing within the COVID-19 recovery plans

The first UN resolution on homelessness
Assisted the UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs in recognizing links between housing affordability and homelessness

Examples of UN-Habitat technical assistance in the European region in 2020-2021:

Lisbon, Portugal
Contributions to strategies on sustainable and affordable housing promotion

Bulgaria
Assistance in formulation and implementation of evidence-based and participatory housing policies
Highlights on the Way Forward

Developing a coordination platform to strengthen the capacity of European stakeholders

Promoting improved reporting on the SDGs on land and housing; Inclusion of housing-related rights in the universal periodic review process

Identified priority objectives for the future of housing policies and investments
3. Work on Migration and Displacement

Main features and progress
As increasing numbers of people move to cities in search of a better of life and job prospects, migration will remain one of the key driving forces of urbanization.

The inclusion in the Strategic Plan of the domain of change on effective urban crisis prevention and response allows for the development of a more tailored normative tools. This complements the vast operational experience of UN-Habitat in that area.
Strengthening Normative Tools

1. Urban recovery frameworks

Recovery frameworks developed by UN-Habitat encapsulate institutional and policy assistance, and related programme design, building on experiences gained through operations in post-disaster and post-conflict situations in Iraq, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

Frameworks support resilient recovery at scale and help facilitate the renewal of the social contract for peace.

2. High-level Panel on Internal Displacement

UN-Habitat and partners prepared a submission to the Panel based on consultations between Panel members and local authorities in Burkina Faso, Colombia, Honduras, Iraq, Somalia and Ukraine.

Findings from the consultations recommended, among other priorities, fundamental changes to global and local financing structures to better address displacement issues.
1. Refugee crisis in the Bolivarian Republic of Venezuela

A joint UN project seeks to achieve effective integration of migrants through targeting both the socioeconomic and spatial determinants of inclusion.

The project prepares human mobility profiles and territorial intervention plans to guide urban policies and plans that facilitate integration of refugees based on evidence.

2. Support to the internal displacement crisis in Burkina Faso

UN-Habitat works in four cities to help find durable solutions that focus on the social and economic inclusion of internally displaced persons, while enhancing the capacities of local actors to provide services for all and foster social cohesion.

The project has established municipal cells of urban resilience as a vehicle for all-inclusive local decision-making.
Highlights on the Way Forward

The flagship programme ‘Inclusive cities: enhancing the positive impact of urban migration’ will help further integrate the operational and normative work on migration and displacement.

Dual focus on durable solutions by:
• maximizing the positive contribution of migration to urban development, and
• ensuring social cohesion with host communities.
The three cases of interlinked normative and operational work demonstrate the following:

- UN-Habitat’s approach has leveraged the universal agendas and rights-based goals towards sustainable development outcomes.

- UN-Habitat’s territorial and spatial approaches and local monitoring and reporting systems have proven their value for governments and for broader development community.

- **Further enhancing normative and operational linkages** can help meet the targets of the Strategic Plan given the challenges of COVID-19 recovery.

- Strong **collaboration** with UN agencies and other partners in both the development of normative guidance and country level implementation
UN-Habitat capacity-building strategy: updated implementation plan for the period 2021–2024 with priorities for the year 2022 (see next slides)


Draft terms of Reference for the Peer Review Mechanism on the implementation of the UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements
CAPACITY-BUILDING STRATEGY: IMPLEMENTATION PLAN

1. **Cross-cutting function**: Align and coordinate current and new initiatives through existing resources, processes and programmes

2. Strengthen **partners’ mobilization** around UN-Habitat’s CoPs (Academia, specialized institutions, UN progr, donors) by leveraging existing mechanisms

3. **Better understand capacity gaps**, needs and expectations from member States: Capacity Building financing dialogue at WUF

4. **Build on the Catalogue of services** to strengthen capacity-building offer, tools for stronger normative and operational integration (support to CCAs CF processes)

5. **Seize the digital opportunity** for relevance and innovation, upscaling and opening new opportunities
THE GLOBAL NUA ILLUSTRATED CAPACITY-BUILDING TOOLKIT

Incremental development of the global New Urban Agenda Illustrated toolkit produced internally:

- **Jan 2021 - Launch**
  NUA ILLUSTRATED HANDBOOK

- **2021 Q3 – 2022 Q1**
  DISSEMINATION OF NUA TOOLKITS THROUGH REGIONAL FORA

- **Oct 2020 - Launch**
  NUA ONLINE COURSE PART 1

- **Sept 2021 - Launch**
  NUA ONLINE COURSE PART 2 + TOOLKIT PROMOTIONAL PAGE

**June 2022**

- DISSEMINATION
- PARTNERS MOBILIZATION
- MOBILIZATION OF RESOURCES
- TOOLKIT PROMOTION AND GLOBAL LAUNCH IN ALL LANGUAGES AT THE WORLD URBAN FORUM
- FINANCING DIALOGUE FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING
INCREASE SKILLS AND USE OF DIGITAL TOOLS TO DELIVER CAPACITY-BUILDING

NUA TOOLKIT INTERACTIVE PROMOTIONAL PAGE: UNHABITAT.ORG/NUA.ILLUSTRATED-TOOLKIT
HARNESSING DIGITAL INNOVATION FOR CAPACITY-BUILDING

In house development of a Learning Management System (Online learning platform)

Currently hosting five online courses produced internally
CONCLUDING MESSAGES: next steps

• Priorities implementation plan 2021 – 2024 indicating what can be done with core resources and what requires soft or hard earmarking.

• Call for interested member states and partners to help prepare the financing dialogue on capacity building at the World Urban Forum

• Soft earmarked funding needed on digitalization, roll out of capacity building related to the New Urban Agenda

• Building a new coalition of strategic capacity building partners at global, regional and country level
THANK YOU

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