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

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

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HSP/CPR/71/10 Resolution 26/2 Governing Council, enhancing UN-Habitat’s role in urban crisis response

Decision 2022/2 (para 6-9) of the 2022 first session of the Executive Board

Report of the Executive Director on UN-Habitat’s contribution, experiences and added value in urban crisis situation

Annex: Briefs on UN-Habitat’s interventions in specific countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster

- 26 countries as per Decision 2022/2: Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran, Iraq, Kosovo, Lao People’s Democratic Republic, Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, Republic of the Union of Myanmar, Nepal, Nigeria, Pakistan, State of Palestine, Philippines, Somalia, South Sudan, Sri Lanka, Sudan, Syria, Yemen

Structure of the country briefs:
- Context
- UN-Habitat Intervention
- Main achievements/impact
- Way forward
19. [...] Special attention should be given to countries in situation of conflict, as well as countries and territories under foreign occupation, post-conflict countries and countries affected by natural and human-made disasters.

29. [...] We further commit ourselves to promoting adequate services, accommodation and opportunities for decent and productive work for crisis-affected persons in urban settings and to working with local communities and local governments to identify opportunities for engaging and developing local, durable and dignified solutions [...].

30. We acknowledge the need for Governments and civil society to further support resilient urban services during armed conflicts [...].
Guiding principles for UN-Habitat’s work in urban crisis contexts:

- Multilevel governance
- Area-based and cross-sectoral coordination
- Inclusion of all relevant stakeholders/participatory processes
- Increased coordination between humanitarian-development-peace actors

Sustainable urbanisation to sustain peace
Out of 26 countries, where crisis/post crisis interventions are conducted:

- Conflict/post-conflict: 16 countries
- Natural disasters: 20 countries
- Conflict & Natural disasters: 11 countries

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

Crisis is becoming the new operational context in cities globally, due to:
- Climate change
- Instability / conflict
- Migration/displacement
- Converging factors
UN-Habitat’s response to urban crisis — UN-Habitat interventions

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

Key areas of expertise
- Housing, Urban basic services, HLP rights, Disaster Risk Reduction, Urban planning,

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

Tailored approaches in crisis / conflict affected contexts
- Urban profiling and urban recovery frameworks, needs/capacities assessments, participatory recovery planning, cross-sectoral interventions and monitoring systems

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

Adapting and mitigating climate change impacts
- Participatory planning processes, disaster risk reduction, building community resilience

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

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

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

Sustainability of the interventions is achieved through systematic capacity building of the communities, sub-national governments and national governments (81% of the programmes)
Urban profiling and urban recovery frameworks in Syria

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

Scale up initiatives from the field
- E.g. Urban Profiling, Urban Recovery Framework

Technical/peer support
- E.g. Programme Review Ctee

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

Training, Capacity Building
- E.g. Nexus Academy, e-course on Durable Solutions

Targeted Programme Development
- E.g. Focus on Sahel – displacement/sustaining peace

Global partnerships and networks

UNHCR / IOM / UNDP

UN Network on Migration

Inter-agency Standing Committee

Cluster system: shelter, housing/land/property
UN-Habitat will specifically focus on the below 3 priority areas

Managing displacement

**THE UNITED NATIONS SECRETARY-GENERAL’S ACTION AGENDA ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT**
Follow-Up to the Report of the UN Secretary-General’s High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement

Urban profiling / urban recovery frameworks

Climate change and crisis
Resilience building

CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY AND RISK
A GUIDE FOR COMMUNITY ASSESSMENTS, ACTION PLANNING AND IMPLEMENTATION
Global crises converge in cities (climate, inequality, biodiversity, etc) making it necessary to focus on crisis prevention and response, also as an unique opportunity for radical shift in policy and practice (ex. Covid 19) to accelerate towards SDGS/climate outcomes (Secretary-General)

Call to put science and data at the fingertips of local governments to be better prepared and respond
• **Strengthen the analysis of its operational and normative work in support of urban crisis prevention and response** to identify regional trends and solutions; to identify gaps in normative work and tools

• **Develop options to further strengthen its urban crisis response capacities**, including the emergency director function, surge capacities and the engagement in the crisis related mechanisms in Geneva and New York (ex. IASC, humanitarian cluster system, etc.)

• Help ensure that the **science and the data** on the wide range of crises converging in urban areas is accessible and ‘at the fingertips’ of local governments and local actors

• **Elaborate the narrative on urban crisis prevention and response**, and link to climate action, durable solutions for the displaced, sustaining peace and acceleration towards the SDGs + MS to consider a discussion at the UN-Habitat Assembly as initiated in the extra-ordinary dialogue at the 11th World Urban Forum in preparation also for UN-Habitat’s next Strategic Plan.

• **Fast track soft earmarking for flagship 4** to take up its role of supporting UN Country Teams in managing acute urban displacement and finding durable solutions, in response to the United Nations Secretary-General’s Action Agenda for IDPs and the work of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement.

• **Continue to expand the strategic partnerships** with UNHCR, UNDP, and potentially IOM and networks (ex. Global alliance for urban crises, GLTN – land and conflict)
THANK YOU

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