EXECUTIVE BOARD OF UN-HABITAT
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AGENDA ITEM 7

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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
Agenda Item 7—Supporting documents

Agenda item 7:

**HSP/EB.2022/17**: Report of the Executive Director on the contribution, experiences and added value of UN-Habitat in urban crisis situations

**HSP/EB.2022/INF.4.- Rev.1**: Briefs on UN-Habitat interventions in specific countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster. An Annex to the report of the Executive Director on UN-Habitat’s contribution, experiences and added value in urban crisis situations.
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 [...].
UN-Habitat’s response to urban crisis - Principles

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
UN-Habitat’s response to urban crisis – Main trends

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

Crisis is becoming the new operational context in cities globally, due to:
- Climate change
- Instability / conflict
- Migration/displacement
- Converging factors

Conflicts and/or natural disasters triggered displacements of populations in 17 countries
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
UN-Habitat’s response in countries newly affected by conflict and disaster

The case of Ukraine in 2022 – the approach

Ad Hoc UN-Habitat Task force for Ukraine
(led by acting Emergency Director – ensuring whole of house approach)

- WUF dialog
- UN planning
- Scoping mission
- Engagement with partners (local government, decentralization, planning)
UN-Habitat’s response in countries newly affected by conflict and disaster

The case of Ukraine in 2022 – Programmatic framework

Principles for action:

- Supporting to initiatives-led by Ukrainian authorities and communities
- Area-based and evidence-based across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus
- Strengthening existing approaches and capacities in Ukraine
- Rebuilding sustainable neighbourhoods and communities

Areas of engagement

Technical support for complex recovery programmes at regional and local levels

Capacity building of local authorities on urban planning
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*

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**Global partnerships and networks**

**GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR URBAN CRISES**

**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:

1. 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

2. Urban profiling / urban recovery frameworks

3. Climate change and crisis

   Resilience building
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
CONCLUDING MESSAGES:

EXPECTATIONS AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES
CONCLUDING MESSAGES: EXPECTATIONS AND PROPOSED OUTCOMES

- **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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