



**UN HABITAT Executive Board
of the United Nations
Human Settlements
Programme**

Distr.: General
21 November 2022

Original: English

Executive Board of the United Nations

Human Settlements Programme

Second session of 2022

Nairobi, 21–23 November 2022

Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2021 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and an update on the UN-Habitat response to the coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic and the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster

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 situations¹

I. Introduction

1. The present document is an annex to the report of the Executive Director on UN-Habitat’s contribution, experiences and added value in urban crisis situations. It features an overview of UN-Habitat’s interventions in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster, as reflected in Decision 2022/2 adopted by the Executive Board at its 2022 first session.

II. Briefs on specific countries, territories and areas

Table of contents

Countries / territories (in alphabetical order)²

I.	Introduction	1
II.	Briefs on specific countries, territories and areas	1
A.	Afghanistan (ROAP)	4
	Context	4
	UN-Habitat Intervention	4
	Main achievements/impact	4

* HSP/EB.2022/14.

** This document has not been formally edited.

¹ HSP/EB.2022/17

² ROAF: Regional office for Africa / ROAP: Regional Office for Asia and Pacific / ROAS: Regional Office for Arab States / ROLAC: Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbeans

	Way forward	4
B.	Bangladesh (ROAP)	5
	Context	5
	UN-Habitat Intervention	5
	Main achievements/impact	5
	Way forward	5
C.	Cambodia (ROAP)	6
	Context	6
	UN-Habitat Intervention	6
	Main achievements/impact	6
	Way forward	6
D.	Democratic Republic of Congo (ROAF)	6
	Context	6
	UN-Habitat Intervention	7
	Main achievements/impact	7
	Way forward	7
E.	Fiji (ROAP)	7
	Context	7
	UN-Habitat Intervention	8
	Main achievements/impact	8
	Way forward	8
F.	Haiti (ROLAC)	8
	Context	8
	UN-Habitat Intervention	8
	Main achievements/impact	9
	Way forward	9
G.	Honduras (ROLAC)	9
	Context	9
	UN-Habitat Intervention	9
	Main achievements/impact	10
	Way forward	10
H.	Islamic Republic of Iran (ROAP)	10
	Context	10
	UN-Habitat Intervention	10
	Main achievements/impact	10
	Way forward	10
I.	Iraq (ROAS)	11
	Context	11
	UN-Habitat Intervention	11
	Main achievements/impact	11
	Way forward	11
J.	Kosovo	11
	Context	12
	UN-Habitat Intervention	12
	Main achievements/impact	12
	Way forward	12
K.	Lao People's Democratic Republic (ROAP)	12
	Context	12
	UN-Habitat Interventions	13
	Main achievements/impact	13
	Way forward	13
L.	Lebanon (ROAS)	13
	Context	13
	UN-Habitat Intervention	14
	Main achievements/impact	14
	Way forward	15
M.	Libya (ROAS)	15
	Context	15
	UN-Habitat Intervention	15
	Main achievements/impact	15
	Way forward	15
N.	Mozambique (ROAF)	16
	Context	16

	UN-Habitat Intervention	16
	Main achievements/impact	16
	Way forward	17
O.	Republic of the Union of Myanmar (ROAP)	17
	Context	17
	UN-Habitat Intervention	17
	Main achievements/impact	17
	Way forward	18
P.	Nepal (ROAP)	18
	Context	18
	UN-Habitat Intervention	18
	Main achievements/impact	18
	Way forward	19
Q.	Nigeria (ROAF)	19
	Context	19
	UN-Habitat Intervention	19
	Main achievements/impact	19
	Way forward	20
R.	Pakistan (ROAP)	20
	Context	20
	UN-Habitat Intervention	20
	Main achievements/impact	20
	Way forward	20
S.	State of Palestine (ROAS)	21
	Context	21
	UN-Habitat Intervention	21
	Main achievements/impact	21
	Way forward	21
T.	Philippines (ROAS)	22
	Context	22
	UN-Habitat Intervention	22
	Main achievements/impact	22
	Way forward	22
U.	Somalia (ROAF)	22
	Context	22
	UN-Habitat Intervention	23
	Main achievements/impact	23
	Way forward	23
V.	South Sudan (ROAF)	23
	Context	23
	UN-Habitat Intervention	23
	Main achievements/impact	24
	Way forward	24
W.	Sri Lanka (ROAP)	24
	Context	24
	UN-Habitat Intervention	24
	Main achievements/impact	25
	Way forward	25
X.	Sudan (ROAS)	25
	Context	25
	UN-Habitat Intervention	25
	Main achievements/impact	25
	Way forward	26
Y.	Syria (ROAS)	26
	Context	26
	UN-Habitat Intervention	26
	Main achievements/impact	27
	Way forward	27
Z.	Yemen (ROAS)	27
	Context	27
	UN-Habitat Intervention	28
	Main achievements/impact	28
	Way forward	28

A. Afghanistan (ROAP)

Conflict / post-conflict; Natural disasters; Displacement/Migration

Context

2. For the last forty years, Afghanistan has been facing war, recurrent natural disasters, chronic poverty and droughts, resulting in serious economic and humanitarian crises.
3. The takeover of government by the Taliban in August 2021 exacerbated needs. Afghan people are facing multiple challenges including growing poverty, prolonged drought, food insecurity, and loss of jobs and livelihoods. Core government functions have stalled, and the provision of essential services has collapsed. The discontinuation of development funding by international partners has led to significant gaps in basic services, salaries of civil servants and replenishment of essential health equipment and supplies. These challenges have left more than 24 million people in need of humanitarian assistance since 2021.

UN-Habitat Intervention

4. UN-Habitat has been present in Afghanistan since 1992, working closely with the government, municipal authorities and Afghan communities for the physical and social reconstruction of the country. The programme's work has focused on assisting the government in the development of urban policies and regulations; strategic urban planning; increasing municipal revenue; establishing community-based organizations; addressing the land and housing needs of IDPs³ and returnees and contributing to the provision of basic urban services. To ensure the sustainability of the interventions and with the goal of building peace and solidarity amongst the people, UN-Habitat adopted the "People's process", a cross-sectoral community-development planning and implementation approach.
5. From 2015 to 2021, UN-Habitat portfolio of projects represented a total of USD 198 million.
6. Since the takeover of the government by Taliban in August 2021 and the subsequent discontinuation of development projects, UN-Habitat has been collaborating with other resident UN agencies, providing humanitarian relief and basic human needs. The interventions focus on three main sectors: sustaining essential services and addressing basic human needs for people in Afghan cities; Housing, Land and Property related projects in informal settlements; evidence-based recovery support for IDPs and returnees.

Main achievements/impact

7. Around 7 million people directly benefitted from UN-Habitat's interventions in support of urban governance, towards more effective land management, strategic urban planning and improved municipal finance between 2016 and 2020. The improved collection of local revenues and related financial management systems have allowed Afghan cities to raise over USD 35 million in revenue and to implement over 150 local infrastructure projects.
8. As part of its efforts for the reintegration of vulnerable Afghan returnees, UN-Habitat's collaboration with the government of Afghanistan resulted in the passing of a Presidential decree for the identification and allocation of suitable land for returnees and IDPs. Around 2.76 million acres of state land were identified to serve as a land bank and around 17,000 plots were planned in Kabul and Herat for resettlements from 2018 and 2021.
9. UN-Habitat has engaged with communities in Afghanistan on safer cities, directly benefiting 380,000 people, through the implementation of over 300 safety and security infrastructure projects, with a particular focus on women and girls' safety and security.

Way forward

10. The operational context has fundamentally changed due to the international sanctions imposed on Afghanistan. In this new context, UN-Habitat is currently working on the constitution of a network of more than 30,000 Community Development Councils (CDCs), which will create a platform to improve the effectiveness and equity of the delivery of assistance by UN agencies and NGOs across Afghanistan. CDCs will monitor and track assistance delivered to communities through a dedicated information system. CDCs will also assist UN agencies and NGOs to target beneficiaries, and to distribute supplies in local communities, as well as to mobilize communities to implement local

³ Internally Displaced People

projects. This approach has already attracted interest from a few donors as well as the UNCT in Afghanistan.

B. Bangladesh (ROAP)

Natural disasters; Displacement/Migration

Context

11. Bangladesh is among the most vulnerable countries to climate change. A low-lying delta characterized by a dense network of rivers, Bangladesh has been always subject to natural hazards, but as warmer temperatures cause the Himalayan glaciers to melt, and rising sea level threaten that disaster will be more frequent and claim more lives. The Bangladesh government has identified the following as major hazards: floods, cyclones, droughts, tidal surges, tornadoes, earthquakes, river erosion, water logging, rising water and soil salinity. With around 40 percent of its population aged below 18 years old, the population of Bangladesh is particularly vulnerable to natural disasters.

12. The country also hosts one of the largest refugee populations, nearly 1.2 million Rohingya community who crossed to Bangladesh from Myanmar.

UN-Habitat Intervention

13. UN-Habitat has been present in Bangladesh over the last 15 years and concluded number of projects in the areas of slum upgrading, climate change mitigation, as well as technical support to site planning and management in Cox's Bazar Rohingya refugee response. UN-Habitat has been supporting efforts of national government, city authorities and people in Bangladesh to reduce inequality, promote living standards of urban poor communities. The programme has focused particularly on promoting planned public space improvements as well as Covid response support to vulnerable communities. Khulna City has been one of the cities promoting green and quality public spaces under the UN-Habitat's interventions, in partnership with Khulna Municipal Corporation, and Khulna University.

14. From 2010 to 2021, UN-Habitat portfolio of projects in response to crises represented a total amount estimated to USD 45 million.

Main achievements/impact

15. UN-Habitat's has been collaborating with professional institutions and the government to identify policy gaps for mainstreaming climate change into urban planning and building urban planning capacity

16. Recently, UN-Habitat has been particularly active in the municipality of Khulna (2.9 million inhabitants), where a public space inventory has been established, leading to participatory design processes for the improvement of Khulna Solar Park.

17. Over 800,000 urban poor households were supported to gain urban basic services through community empowerment over five years.

18. UN-Habitat contributed to the humanitarian response in the site management sector in Cox's Bazaar Rohingya Refugee support

Way forward

19. UN-Habitat is currently working closely with the Urban Development Directorate under the Ministry of Housing and Public Works to explore new joint programming in the areas of urban planning, urban policy interventions and more importantly to build the urban planning capacities and identifying policy gaps to leave no one behind.

20. The programme is also exploring new programming with other stakeholders such as the Institute of Urban Planners of Bangladesh, in the areas of urban planning, housing, climate change and urban policy interventions.

C. Cambodia (ROAP)

Natural disasters

Context

21. Cambodia is among the countries most vulnerable to climate change and is subject to disasters, such as floods and droughts, which endanger the lives of people and animals. During the rainy season, thunderstorms and floods in cities lead to mass displacements, loss of livelihood and lack of adequate housing. Additionally, the severe droughts that have hit Cambodia for many years, have contributed to water shortages, collapse of river ecosystems, erosion, urban ecosystem disruptions, and create a need for transboundary river management. Droughts have also affected the availability and the quality of drinking water, air quality, sanitation and hygiene, food and nutrition, resulting in long term public health issues in the country.

UN-Habitat Intervention

22. UN-Habitat has supported Cambodia's national government, provincial governments, city authorities and people since 1996 to reduce inequality, facilitate and empower communities to improve living conditions and to adopt early recovery measures for disaster affected communities. UN-Habitat's technical assistance in Cambodia includes water and sanitation, affordable housing, disaster risk reduction, slum upgrading and urban poverty reduction, urban planning and management, urban climate change adaptation and mitigation.

23. From 2015 to 2022, UN-Habitat portfolio of projects in response to crises represented a total amount of around USD 10 million.

24. The programme has also been active in other areas responding to the country's emerging needs such as urban knowledge generation as well as strengthened municipal finance systems.

Main achievements/impact

25. Between 2019 and 2020, UN-Habitat has substantially contributed to improving the capacities of the national government, the provincial governments, the city authorities as well as the communities in terms of resilient housing. At national level, UN-Habitat successfully provided technical support to the Government's affordable housing policy. At subnational and local levels, the capacities of government officers were built on disaster risk reduction and disaster risk reduction considerations were included into local development plans. Communities have also been provided with the skills required to reconstruct their own resilient houses. Over 200 houses, benefitting 2,000 families, were reconstructed by the communities.

Way forward

26. In 2023, UN-Habitat will strengthen its engagement with the National Committee for Disaster Management of Cambodia (NCDM), especially in disaster response, shelter and WASH. The team will strengthen its work promoting the *People's Process* approach as well as resilient housing in disaster-prone areas. Resource mobilization activities will be undertaken to identify and secure funds to enhance the portfolio on disaster recovery. Pooled funding mechanisms have been identified as a source of revenue, that enable all sectors to develop a joint strategy and action plan in the field of disaster risk reduction. The team will also explore other sources of funding.

D. Democratic Republic of Congo (ROAF)

Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disasters; Displacement/Migration

Context

27. The Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has experienced the highest number of internal displaced persons in Africa with a total of 5.53 million; In 2022, the country is counting 1.29 million of internal displaced persons in addition of 900 000 refugees in neighbouring countries (Source OCHA, 2022). Control over land and natural resources with a background of conflict between DRC and his neighbours, has been central to the protracted crisis in the DRC, mainly in the Eastern DRC (North Kivu, South Kivu), in Ituri and recently in the Tanganyika Region. The protracted crisis has exacerbated the poor conditions of basic services in secondary cities and peri-urban areas (water, sanitation), housing and shelter crisis in addition to increased numbers of land disputes that has become a bottleneck to peace, stability and long-term recovery.

28. It's worthwhile to indicate also DRC is experiencing natural disaster from various sources (flooding, volcano eruption in North Kivu) and exposed to threat from climate change with pressures on rain forest and other source of carbon (Congo Forest Basin, Virunga National Parks). This pressure can also be connected to increase of urban population, including pressure from built up areas and energy consumption based on forest resources.

UN-Habitat Intervention

29. UN-Habitat has been present in DRC for over 20 years.

30. Past interventions in partnership with UNHCR, FAO, UNDP consists in addressing emerging land disputes for the establishment of a conducive environment for durable return and reintegration of displaced persons. The approach of UN-Habitat was based on land conflict mediation, community land use planning and dialogue, support to land administration and to land reform process in the DRC for durable solutions to root causes of conflicts. UN-Habitat is also working to address the frontier risks between conflict, climate change and economic recovery. Within the framework of the Central Forest Initiative (CAFI) and the REED+ , UN-Habitat has supported the development of the land policy, the land law and the development of mechanisms for securing community land rights in various provinces (North Kivu, South Kivu, Ituri, Mai Ndombe). UN-Habitat is assisting in housing designing for internal displaced persons and has just embarked in new stream of work on improving land-based revenue taxation in North Kivu.

31. UN-Habitat portfolio of projects between 2009 and 2019 is USD 40 million; and current portfolio is USD 8 million.

Main achievements/impact

32. UN-Habitat in DRC has successfully established a model land information system and community-local authorities charter for inclusive land management. Built on land mediation lessons, this milestone has been adopted by actors working on land to foster the prevention of land and/or natural resource-based conflicts. In total 8916 land disputes have been documented among which 4588 has been peacefully settled through the land mediation program. UN-Habitat supported the establishment of 3 functioning land administration offices (Ituri, South Kivu, North Kivu). The experience borrowed from DR Congo has contributed to the development of the United Nations Guidance Note on Land and conflict to improve the UN approach in addressing root caused of conflict related to land in both political and military mission.

33. To support national and global efforts for enhancing forest management to reduce human impact on climate change, UN-Habitat has supported the Government in the elaboration of the National Land Policy, used as a steppingstone for the National Land Bill.

Way forward

34. In 2022-2023, UN-Habitat plans to focus on its work on land in line with the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus. This work would include the completion of the land law and dissemination of land policies, as well as the scale up of the Land Information System. Additionally, the programme will work further on the promotion of green investment through security of tenure sensitive to inclusive forest and peatland management in urban and rural areas. Enhancing safe and inclusive crises prevention through better integrated spatial planning and design is also part of the agenda for 2023.

35. UN-Habitat will launch a resource mobilization campaign to advance the agenda in the identified priority provinces and undertake adequate feasibility studies to assess the cost implication for achieving these goals.

E. Fiji (ROAP)

Natural disasters

Context

36. Fiji is located in the Pacific Ocean's tropical cyclone belt. The island nation experiences frequent cyclones (on average, one cyclone per year) and with them, damaging winds, rain and storm surges. Besides cyclones, the country suffers from other extreme events associated with climate change such as extreme rainfall, flooding, droughts, and temperature extremes as well as sea-level rise.

37. On February 20, 2016, Tropical Cyclone (TC) Winston, an extremely destructive Category 5 cyclone, struck Fiji and impacted approximately 540,400 people, the equivalent to 62 percent of the country's total population. About 31,200 houses were damaged or destroyed. Communities living in informal settlements were particularly affected.

UN-Habitat Intervention

38. UN-Habitat, as a non-resident UN agency, supports people and communities in Fiji, in making their settlements safer and more resilient to climate change. Activities are undertaken at different levels to prepare decision-makers as well as the population for social, environmental, and economic challenges in the present and in the future. At city level, UN-Habitat strengthens the institutions to reduce vulnerability to climate-related hazards and threats with a particular view to community level resilience. At community/informal settlement level, resilience is strengthened through increasing awareness and ownership of adaptation and climate risk reduction processes and capacity. The resilience of community level physical, natural and socio-economic assets and ecosystems is enhanced through the increase of adaptive capacity with relevant development and natural resource sectors. UN-Habitat also ensures that the implementation of the activities is fully transparent, so that all stakeholders are informed of the products and results and have access to them for replication.

39. In Fiji, the portfolio of projects for the response to crises amounts to 4.3 million over a four-year project period.

Main achievements/impact

40. As part of the efforts to strengthen the institutions in Fiji, UN-Habitat facilitated the establishment of resilience officer function in four towns (Lami, Lautoka, Nadi and Sigatoka) to support local governments beyond immediate project implementation. This included the socio-economic response to COVID-19. At local level, sixteen communities have been mobilized, Vulnerability & Risk Assessments have been conducted and communities have developed comprehensive climate change and resilience plans, including the identification of priority projects, emphasizing on nature-based solutions, urban agriculture and food-security.

41. At national level, UN-Habitat has been invited to support the emerging Housing Policy of Fiji.

Way forward

42. UN-Habitat will increasingly engage in the UNCT and strategically engage with sister UN agencies to expand its presence and to support efforts of national government and local authorities to build local resilience. UN-Habitat supports four local authorities with resilience officers and aims to consolidate their support. At the regional level UN-Habitat leads a partnership of eight organizations to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the Pacific. Climate Change and Urban resilience is one pillar of the partnership that will be further expanded upon.

F. Haiti (ROLAC)

<i>Natural disasters; Other: Crime and violence</i>

Context

43. In August 2021, Haiti was hit by a magnitude 7.2 earthquake, which caused the death of 2,248 people, 320 missing and nearly 12,800 injured. The earthquake affected no less than 800,000 people and around 650,000 required urgent humanitarian aid. Following this disaster, the Haitian government and humanitarian partners stepped up their efforts by providing food, water, non-food items, as well as health care and protection. A Post-Disaster Needs Assessment (PDNA) was developed as well as a strategy for humanitarian response presented to donors in early 2022. The housing sector remains a challenge in terms of reconstruction given the limitation of the international aid.

UN-Habitat Intervention

44. After the earthquake of 2010, UN-Habitat contributed to the efforts deployed by different international actors in the country, through strategic planning, strengthening of construction capacities and capabilities at local level, promoting a strong participation from the communities.

45. UN-Habitat has participated in the humanitarian response to the 2021 earthquake as a non-resident agency and was requested by the UN country team to support in two ways: providing

advice on the housing strategy with a view to insert the reconstruction in the humanitarian-development nexus and having a perspective of a multi/stakeholders medium term actual housing policy. UN-Habitat has also been requested to deploy specific expertise within its available resources and to promote the support to a Housing reconstruction policy advisor to be deployed in Haiti.

46. Most recently, UN-Habitat started a support programme on the National Urban Policy (NUP) in support of the government of Haiti.

Main achievements/impact

47. The government of Haiti has adopted a Strategy for Housing reconstruction, which incorporates UN-Habitat's perspective and including a portfolio of initiatives where UN-Habitat can provide leadership and expertise. This includes a diagnosis carried out on the field, in partnership with NGOs and CBOs, as well as major UN agencies active in the country, particularly UNDP, UNOPS and IOM.

48. The contribution of UN-Habitat on the housing reconstruction has also led to discussions with several stakeholders on mechanisms to coordinate emergency housing response on the ground as well as identify relevant field of interventions, including a proto-cadastre to ensure secure land tenure of vulnerable population eligible of humanitarian aid and training of masons/carpenters with certification and industrialization with tax-exempted building materials for reconstruction.

Way forward

49. UN-Habitat is in search of resources to support the deployment of a Housing/Urban Policy Advisor that can provide inputs and guidance to DSRSG and the UNCT on an integrated housing reconstruction and area-based recovery approach, in line with the humanitarian-development perspective. The estimated cost for this deployment amounts to 0.5 million USD.

50. The Government of Haiti has also requested UN-Habitat to consolidate the housing development strategy beyond the humanitarian response. UN-Habitat is also considering the possibility to have a permanent presence in the country, to galvanize the joint work with the national partners.

G. Honduras (ROLAC)

Natural disasters

Context

51. Between 3 and 17 November 2020, tropical storms Eta and Iota pummelled most of the Honduran territory with heavy rains that caused flooding, landslides, and mudflows. Most of the damages took place in the North and the West of the country, in the 5 following departments: Cortés, Gracias a Dios, Yoro, Santa Bárbara and Atlántida. A humanitarian response was initiated, and a flash appeal was launched to provide relief to 1.4 million people in the affected areas. The response covered the traditional humanitarian sectors, including temporary shelter.

UN-Habitat Intervention

52. As a non-resident agency, UN-Habitat was invited to provide advisory services to the UN country team. In this role, UN-Habitat promoted a humanitarian-development approach, ensuring that the first shelter response paves the way to a medium-term housing strategy and an integrated area-based recovery. The programme also collaborated with UNOPS to develop key solution-oriented housing labs, generating synergies and regional exchanges, mobilizing ministerial level interventions on experience sharing (Chile, Ecuador).

53. With the support of the National Government and of the Residence Coordinator, UN-Habitat has been working on programmatic proposals for urban and housing sustainable development, integrating the reduction of vulnerabilities vis a vis climate related risks and focusing on precarious neighbourhoods and communities. Together with the Regional Social Integration System (SISCA) and other stakeholders, UN-Habitat has also been developing a new programme for the region to provide support on Urban Agenda with inputs for national urban policies and informal settlements to better plan and develop housing strategies able to cope with future crises.

Main achievements/impact

54. In Honduras, UN-Habitat has already contributed to national and local level activities, including the contribution to the National Urban Policy process, which will integrate the prevention and adaptation to climate change.

55. At local level, UN-Habitat has developed an inventory of informal settlements, identifying their vulnerability to climate change and other risks. Four pilot Urban Integrated Operations in informal settlements have been developed in areas affected by Eta/Iota Tropical Storms and including climate adaptation mechanisms. In addition, the programme is strengthening the local capacities with a specific emphasis on urban planning, urban management and intervention in informal settlements.

Way forward

56. UN-Habitat is collaborating with the Honduran Government to design a new general program with a local scale and an emphasis on comprehensive territorial and urban development to support the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the country.

57. A process of resource mobilization will start, targeting traditional and non-traditional global donors, keen to support efforts in Honduras towards Urban Sustainable Development.

H. Islamic Republic of Iran (ROAP)

<i>Natural disaster; Displacement/Migration</i>

Context

58. The Islamic Republic of Iran is highly vulnerable to natural disasters, particularly earthquakes and floods, and is severely affected by the consequences of climate change. More than ever in recent years, the country experiences destructive earthquakes annually, resulting in the death of thousands of people, destruction of human settlements, and extensive economical damage. The Islamic Republic of Iran is also experiencing a set of climate change consequences including extraordinary levels of precipitation and monsoon rain resulting in flash floods as well as extremely low rainfall, causing droughts and ground subsistence which affects the agricultural sector and people's quality of life.

UN-Habitat Intervention

59. UN-Habitat office has been established in 2006 in Tehran. Following the earthquake which hit the Kermanshah province in 2017 with a magnitude of 7.2, UN-Habitat carried out humanitarian support to the people in the affected area and prioritized its interventions on improving multi-hazard resilience of hospitals and health facilities in Iranian cities. In 2021, the interventions focused on the seismic assessment and retrofit of hospitals, construction of role models and capacity development of different stakeholders in this field.

60. The portfolio of these interventions for the period 2018-2023 amounts to USD 2,5 million.

61. UN-Habitat has also collaborated with the national government, to develop the National Urban Policy document, which was successfully presented during WUF11 in 2022.

Main achievements/impact

62. UN-Habitat has conducted inspection, assessment and retrofit of 33 hospitals, covering 580 thousand square meters. In parallel, the capacities of the national government as well as some private stakeholders were strengthened through the sharing of rehabilitation methods as well as technical guidelines for similar activities, in addition to the delivery of technical courses, the organization of an international conference and of field observations.

Way forward

63. UN-Habitat will keep collaborating with the national government, following the financial framework that will be established in the next months, focusing its interventions on the seismic resilience of health facilities as well as emergency support of people affected by earthquakes, such as the one that hit the Hormozgan province in July 2022. The country office will also engage in climate adaptation solutions in the Caspian Sea region, as part of a regional programme.

64. UN-Habitat is also ready to engage in the next phase of the work on the National Urban Policy, in support of the national government. Some discussions are also ongoing for interventions in response to water-related disasters.

I. Iraq (ROAS)

Conflict/Post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/Migration

Context

65. For the last three decades, Iraq's history has been marked with periods of prolonged political and economic instability. The country has suffered the long-lasting effects of several wars, including ISIL⁴'s 3-year long seizure of vast swaths of territory. Since ISIL's takeover in 2014, Iraq has experienced huge waves of mass displacement, which reached over 6 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) at its peak. The conflict resulted in loss of many lives, the destruction of entire towns and the severe disruption of urban infrastructure. As of today, approximately 1.2 million people are still internally displaced in Iraq. Most cannot return to their area of origin either because of security reasons or because they do not have the financial resources to rebuild their destroyed homes.

UN-Habitat Intervention

66. Since 2013, UN-Habitat has been involved in providing emergency housing and basic services for the displaced population fleeing from war. It has since expanded its work from providing durable shelter for war-affected and vulnerable displaced populations, to establishing development projects, improving infrastructure and upgrading basic services, providing technical guidance to partners, local and national government and support the locals with initiatives both on a small scale to provide employment opportunities, and larger programmes that contribute to the overall economic recovery of the targeted areas.

67. Since 2018, UN-Habitat has been supporting Housing Land and Property (HLP) rights of Yazidi minority by securing their tenure rights that were undermined by discriminatory policies and practices dating back to the 1970s.

68. In 2022, UN-Habitat portfolio of projects in response to crises exceeded USD 40 million.

Main achievements/impact

69. So far over 13,000 claims have been registered and 13,000 occupancy certificates were issued to minorities for the first time in modern history of Iraq. UN-Habitat, jointly with government officials drafted and submitted the legal decree to Prime Minister's office for approval to finally recognize Yazidi minority land rights.

70. Through ongoing and recently completed housing projects, UN Habitat has successfully rehabilitated 6,000 houses and improved the living conditions of over 12,700 beneficiaries. With the support of its partners, UN-Habitat has benefitted around 30,000 underserved households by upgrading and extending potable water networks.

71. Seven new public parks and several sports facilities in five cities were also rehabilitated, with the support of local NGOs. UN-Habitat has also recently built a maternity ward, a health clinic and rehabilitated four schools in conflict affected areas.

Way forward

72. In order to pursue its commitment to support the affected citizens of Iraq with housing, upgraded basic services and HLP rights, UN-Habitat in Iraq will continue its efforts in terms of resource mobilization.

73. UN-Habitat in Iraq is engaged in discussions with donors for interventions in support of durable solutions to IDPs and returnees, focusing on enhanced social cohesion through the rehabilitation of houses and public infrastructure, as well as vocational training.

J. Kosovo⁵

Conflict/Post-conflict

⁴ Islamic State of Iraq and the Levant

⁵ Any reference to Kosovo, whether to the territory, institutions or population, is to be understood in full compliance with Security Council resolution 1244 (1999) and without prejudice to the status of Kosovo

Context

74. Kosovo faces weak policy environment, limited institutional capacities, inadequate standard of living, growing level of informality, and irregular constructions, compounded by various shocks, including global pandemics, post-conflict conditions, unplanned urban growth, migration, and impacts of climate change. Kosovo is ranked third poorest in Europe, with an economy relying on remittances. The 1999-armed conflict directly impacted the existing housing stock, and Kosovo has still not fully recovered.

75. Following the agreements from the Belgrade-Pristina dialogue, the integration of the four Kosovo northern municipalities is highlighted as a key determinant of future stability and inclusive development.

UN-Habitat Intervention

76. Since the end of the conflict in 1999, UN-Habitat, as a resident UN agency, has been promoting good governance, security of tenure, sustainable human settlements development and inclusive spatial planning in Kosovo and region. The other line of interventions focuses on building capacities for efficient management of central and local governments, mainly through capacity-building programmes and on-the-job assistance. Since 2016, UN-Habitat has been deploying technical support to the multi-ethnic Northern part of Kosovo to support integration and dialogue process between Serbia and Kosovo. Cooperation with civil society and community representatives has been key in programme implementation.

77. The current active programme portfolio in Kosovo is 5.7 million USD.

Main achievements/impact

78. As a result of UN-Habitat interventions in support of governance, institutions have been established to deal with property and planning issues, such as Housing and Property Directorate, Kosovo Cadaster Agency, and Institute of Spatial Planning. Capacity building and on-the-job assistance have successfully conducted for the development of a new planning system, anchored, and institutionalized. Further, it has upgraded, revitalized/regenerated 40 public spaces in most Kosovo municipalities.

79. In 2022, UN-Habitat has supported Kosovo at national and local levels in urban planning efforts, completing the Municipal Development Plan (MDP) of three municipalities, through participatory processes as well as the Kosovo-wide Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan's (SUMP) Guideline, which has translated in municipal level SUMP in two cities. The seven northern municipalities of Kosovo have been targeted with specific activities, including the Gender Action Framework and the Citizen Participation Plans. At national level, the Feasibility Study for the Adequate Social Housing Programme in Kosovo has been developed, setting and elaborating the scene, parameters, and concept for a new social housing programme in Kosovo.

Way forward

80. In the next years, UN-Habitat in Kosovo plans to engage in social housing programmes, for delivering social housing units for vulnerable families and establishing a functional and comprehensive set of instruments to enable policy formulation, programming, implementation of projects, and provision of social housing services. Discussions are currently ongoing with potential donors.

81. The programme is also engaging in discussions with donors for interventions in support of eco-tourism, to activate the socio-economic potentials of Kosovo's cultural heritage.

K. Lao People's Democratic Republic (ROAP)

<i>Natural disaster; Displacement/migration; Other: COVID 19, economic crisis</i>

Context

82. Lao People's Democratic Republic (PDR) is exposed to high natural disaster risks, exacerbated over the last years by climate change. In 2018, extreme floods severely affected Lao PDR, impacting over 616,000 people. Six villages were destroyed by flash floods following an auxiliary dam collapse. In 2019 more than a million people were affected by flooding and in June 2021 Tropical Storm Koguma caused numerous landslides and floods.

83. These events caused extensive damages, significantly affecting the housing sector. In addition, Covid-19, and its associated restrictions, combined with the resulting economic downturn, have impeded development efforts and contributed to a rise in poverty. One of the most impacted groups has been migrant labourers who have returned to Lao PDR from neighbouring countries during the pandemic.

UN-Habitat Interventions

84. As a resident UN agency, UN-Habitat in Lao PDR, has been supporting the floods affected areas through interventions focusing on water and sanitation, rehabilitation, and reconstruction in the housing sector, in addition to the support provided in terms of land and governance, urban planning and design with a particular focus on climate change, as well as urban basic services. UN-Habitat in Lao PDR has been instrumental in developing strategic interventions, which aim to respond to disasters in a systematic manner to enhance resilience of the communities-at-risk. The interventions include risk and vulnerability assessments, action planning and physical infrastructure interventions in response to the action plans.

85. Since 2021, UN-Habitat has been partnering with several UN agencies in Lao PDR in response to the COVID-19 pandemic, providing improved WASH infrastructures and services into cities. As part of this response, UN-Habitat has also engaged in the protection and improved access to services for vulnerable settlements, migrants and youth to tackle the health and socio-economic crisis caused by COVID-19.

86. In the last 5 years (2018- 2022), UN-Habitat portfolio of projects in response to crises (including building community resilience) represented a total of USD 13.6 million.

Main achievements/impact

87. UN-Habitat has established a climate risk and vulnerability model, which is now being institutionalized by the national government. A nation-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment was carried out jointly by the Government in partnership with UN-Habitat in 2020-21.

88. Through its intervention in support to the areas affected by the 2018 and 2019 flood, UN-Habitat supported the efforts of the country towards normalizing resilient housing, through capacity building activities as well as the construction of resilient houses. As part of the interventions 81 resilient houses were provided to displaced households. More than 514 people directly benefited from housing, capacity building and employment and 1,271 people benefited from water supply and improved sanitation facilities. The interventions also included building provincial capacities of 4 provinces (3 northern provinces and 1 southern province) on building back better principles.

89. A focus in the past year has been the impacts of the Covid-19 pandemic. Two projects focusing on improved WASH infrastructure benefitted 15,000 vulnerable beneficiaries, particularly returning migrants and people with COVID-19. UN-Habitat has developed a vulnerability mapping model to plot the communities at risk due to potential community spread.

Way forward

90. UN-Habitat will continue its interventions towards safer and more resilient cities in Lao PDR. This includes projects in response to COVID-19 and in climate resilience, including resilience to flooding. In the next year, UN-Habitat will engage in developing a national vulnerability and risk assessment capacity and as well as building such capacities in some target districts.

91. Pending availability of resources, the programme could work on enhancing the adaptive capacities of vulnerable communities in Lao PDR and to build resilient shelters. Additional funding would also allow UN-Habitat to conduct an analysis of housing in urban areas, especially settlements that are frequently impacted by climate induced hazards.

L. Lebanon (ROAS)

Displacement/migration; Other: manmade disaster – Beirut Port

Context

92. Since 2019, the urban crisis response in Lebanon has necessitated a strengthened UN-Habitat approach, with the country sinking into one of the most severe global crises amidst deliberate inaction. The 2019 civil uprising, the COVID-19 pandemic, the Beirut Port explosion, complete collapse of the electricity sector, political deadlock, and multiple cabinet resignations in the context of complete

currency and financial collapse have plunged more than 80% of the population into multidimensional poverty, with almost 90% of Syrian refugees living in extreme poverty.

UN-Habitat Intervention

93. For more than fifteen years, UN-Habitat in Lebanon has immersed itself in responding to crisis after crisis facing the country. From reconstructing 1,435 homes and infrastructure devastated by the 2006 July War across 30 villages, to assisting hundreds of thousands of Syrian refugees and host community beneficiaries across Lebanon since 2011 – the onset of the Syrian war, the world’s largest displacement crisis – and with Lebanon, hosting more than 1.5 million of 6.8 million Syrian refugees.

94. Urban crisis interventions combine UN-Habitat’s normative expertise and work in Lebanon, with evidence-led area-based and multi-sectoral interventions spanning urban upgrading, basic services, housing, environment, climate change adaptation, public spaces, housing, land and property rights, renewable energy, profiling, urban policy development, urban planning, municipal support, technical expertise and capacity building, among other interventions.

Main achievements/impact

95. As a resident UN agency, UN-Habitat’s strengthened urban crisis prevention and response ranges from climate change water resilient solutions benefiting more than 60,000 vulnerable displaced persons and members of the host community; to strengthening subnational authorities and provision of basic and local economic development services to more than 240,000 beneficiaries affected by the Syrian refugee crisis; to improving local socio-economic development planning for local authorities and associated local economic-development interventions set to benefit more than 100,000 beneficiaries; to enhancing living conditions and well-being for more than 380,000 residents living in a vulnerable sub-neighbourhood in Greater Beirut through improving their built environment; to working with the Municipality of Beirut to establish a Municipal Social Cell that worked to mitigate social and protection issues encountered by vulnerable people living in Beirut – to name but a few..

96. UN-Habitat’s urban crisis expertise proved critical in immediately responding to the Beirut Port explosion on 4 August 2020. By deploying technical support to Beirut and Bourj Hammoud municipalities, UN-Habitat supported local authorities in applying normative expertise in mapping, urban analysis and damage assessment techniques to buildings – combined with a tangible on-the-ground operational response through multiple interventions that provided immediate cash for rent support, housing repairs, rehabilitation of public facilities such as municipal services, public spaces and health centres. UN-Habitat worked with the UN country and humanitarian teams and donors to ensure that urban complexities, such as housing, land and property rights were and continue to be addressed immediately and in the longer term.

97. UN-Habitat’s continued role in housing rehabilitation and reconstruction after the explosion continues and has been enlarged. Through completed and ongoing projects in this domain, UN-Habitat will support at least 680 households return to their homes. Several of these households reside in multistorey buildings of heritage value that require specialized expertise to build them back better and stronger than they were before the explosion, in addition to maintaining their traditional elements. In completed projects, this has been done by UN-Habitat through fitting buildings for renewable energy, equipping them with fibre mesh within the walls to protect these buildings from any possible future shocks including earthquakes and more. Furthermore, UN-Habitat through its operational and normative work has showcased the interlinkages between the different elements that constitute a city – public spaces, basic services, commercial and residential areas and more – and how important it is for work being done in cities across the country to be holistic, far-reaching and address the needs of the community by working with them hand in hand.

98. Two pivotal reports were produced: the Beirut City Profile in early 2021 – which provides an in-depth analysis of the state of a city in crisis, and a detailed urban recovery framework proposal; and the State of the Lebanese Cities report 2021 – which advocates for an urban lens to the recovery of the country from multi-fold urban/non-urban crises – as a key imperative for reversing the negative human development trends, to a more sustainable and inclusive future for Lebanon. As part of the National Urban Policy (NUP) programme in Lebanon, and following the publication of a diagnosis report, UN-Habitat developed two mainstreaming guides for (1) mobility and transport and (2) housing. The mainstreaming guides provide sector specific policy orientations, recommendations and priorities to outline the necessary steps for designing and implementing national transportation and housing strategies.

99. Almost 58 projects, with a value of more than USD 110 million, have been implemented to date. Currently, 21 projects, with a value of more than USD 54 million are being implemented or will soon start – all under the agency’s urban crisis approach.

Way forward

100. UN-Habitat will continue its role in the urban crisis and recovery of Beirut through a few key entry points, including housing, heritage, cultural and creative industries support, renewable energy, debris management, municipal services and public space rehabilitation and revival.

101. UN-Habitat intends to undertake a detailed study on how urban interventions from an area-based and multi-sectoral approach has helped mitigate the multiple urban crises facing the country since 2006. Based on the findings of the Beirut City Profile and the State of the Lebanese Cities Report, important, strategic and amplifying urban interventions can be implemented, particularly in strengthening local authority capacities and enhancing resilience and the local level. An enhanced focus on providing urgent basic services, such as solid waste management solutions, clean energy and water, including interventions in vulnerable neighbourhoods focusing on de-escalating heightened intra and inter communal tensions, particularly in youth, are an urgency. Additional resources would allow UN-Habitat in Lebanon to initiate these interventions and studies, and scale up its interventions in Lebanon, particularly in the volatile context facing the country – with a view to contributing to the wider UN family’s efforts in adding a stabilizing effect to the current rapidly deteriorating situation.

M. Libya (ROAS)

<i>Conflict/post-conflict; Displacement/migration</i>

Context

102. Since 2011, Libya has witnessed protracted political unrest affecting people’s lives and the national socio-economic development. Cities face severe challenges related to shortage of houses and basic services, degradation of living environment, unregulated urban sprawl, lack of land tenure security, and other challenges that constitute both short-term priorities and long-term development objectives.

UN-Habitat Intervention

103. UN-Habitat has been working closely with the Urban Planning Authority on spatial planning issues since 1979. Due to the political instability in Libya, since 2017, UN-Habitat Libya is operating from Tunisia. Since then, direct operation inside Libya has been limited, however, some others have been operationalized from outside.

104. UN-Habitat interventions in the country aim at paving the ground for peace and stability in the country while addressing land administration and land rights issues, as well as support to rapidly growing urbanization through housing programmes and urban and spatial planning activities, in close collaboration with the Libyan Ministry of Housing and the Urban Planning Authority.

Main achievements/impact

105. In early 2021, UN-Habitat started to engage in the land sector in Libya with research about land and conflict nexus, with a focus on housing, land, and property rights (HLP) and land management and land administration. The aim of this study is to analyze land management and administration in Libya to come up with the gaps and areas for intervention for better land management and administrative system.

106. UN-Habitat has been working with other UN agencies, including UNFPA, to produce urban profiles of Benghazi, Sirte, Sebha, Kufra, Ubari and Janzour. The information collected was made available on online open digital portals, on the basis of the requests from the municipalities which needed reliable, geospatial data to guide decision making, develop evidence-based projects and programmes, and monitor the implementation of the ongoing interventions.

Way forward

107. UN-Habitat aims to accelerate the processes of cooperation with Libyan counterparts. Currently, UN-Habitat and the Libyan Ministry of Foreign Affairs are discussing substantive

cooperation on issues related to reconstruction and Building-Back-Better (BBB), with particular focus on land administration and urban planning.

108. UN-Habitat will strengthen humanitarian response and urban recovery in Libya. A programme has already been developed by the Regional Office for Arab States, which identifies the key projects needed to be implemented in Libya to support the progress toward achieving SDG goals 11 & 16. Key 4 projects with total budget of \$ 22 M, over 3, 5, and 10 years. UN-Habitat has engaged in a resource mobilization campaign to raise the funds necessary to the implementation of the programme.

N. Mozambique (ROAF)

Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration

Context

109. Mozambique has been confronting several crises with significant impact on its urban areas. Between 2000 and 2019, Mozambique was the African country most affected by extreme climatic events. In 2019, two highly destructive cyclones – Idai and Kenneth – hit the country, and five additional cyclones have landed on the Mozambican coast since then. In addition, since 2017, the country’s Northern region has been affected by armed conflict which have led to large population displacement, massive infrastructure destruction, and disruption of the state administration and the local economy.

110. These crises have impacted the country’s human geography, increasing population numbers in cities and urban settlements where affected communities have sought protection. In Northern Mozambique alone, more than 800,000 people have been displaced.

UN-Habitat Intervention

111. UN-Habitat established its physical presence in Mozambique in 2002 supporting the national government on issues related to disaster risk reduction and resilience, urban and policy development, and resilient infrastructure. The programme has become one of the Mozambican Government’s key partners in disaster risk management. Since 2020, the Country Programme has grown rapidly due particularly to the response to the cyclones that had hit the country in 2019. A USD 35 million Umbrella Programme targeting Mozambique’s Central Region was designed out of which USD 21 million has been implemented, promoting an integrated approach, and building back better towards long term urban adaptation and resilience.

112. Following the intensification of the armed conflict in the North since 2020, UN-Habitat has advocated for a territorial dimension of displacement based on durable solutions that will promote a sustainable integration of IDPs, social cohesion, peace building and development. A USD 42 million “Northern Mozambique Umbrella Programme” has been developed to support the Government in the response to this crisis. Initial seed funds have already been mobilized.

113. The Programme’s portfolio has now reached US\$ 26 million with around 55 staff working on projects in every province of the country.

Main achievements/impact

114. In the cyclone affected central region, UN-Habitat has been implementing several programmes, several programmes have started, which include the provision of technical assistance to the National Reconstruction Office (GREPOC) with the resilient reconstruction of 15,000 housing units, 3,400 classrooms and 85 health centres (“Safer Schools and Hospitals”), improving at the same time the building codes and capacities along with the construction supply chain (from contractors to communities). Interventions also include integrated area-based approaches for resilience building in urban areas to mainstream adaptation in local institutions and communities, including in displacement affected areas, from participatory planning up to community infrastructures, to break the vicious cycle of the disasters and reconstruction/resettlement. In response to the challenges caused by displacement, UN-Habitat has been piloting approaches on durable, gender-sensitive housing solutions.

115. To implement this ambitious portfolio, UN-Habitat is partnering, often with a leading role, with other UN agencies (FAO, ILO, UNESCO, UNICEF, UNDP, UN-Women) in line with the “Delivering as One UN” approach.

Way forward

116. UN-Habitat will continue boosting disaster preparedness and urban resilience in the Central region. The goal is to advance with multidimensional assessments on flood and cyclone prone areas to propose adaptive approaches at different scales, from national and local policies and planning instruments to community adaptive building solutions.

117. In the Northern region, UN-Habitat seeks to mobilize funds to promote sustainable and gender sensitive integration of IDPs through the implementation of durable solutions at neighbourhood level, (in partnership with IOM. UN-Habitat aim at turning this project into a model that could be scaled up to support IDPs integration in urban areas across the Northern Region. Inclusive urban planning and management approaches have been included in the Resilience and Peace Building Assessment (RPBA) through UN-Habitat technical support, which are now part of the Government recovery strategy and will be included in all UN-Habitat project proposals. Financial support will be required regarding the usage of some tools such as Urban Profiling within the context of IDPs urban crisis.

O. Republic of the Union of Myanmar (ROAP)

Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration

Context

118. The Republic of the Union of Myanmar is facing an unprecedented multidimensional crisis of political, socioeconomic, human rights and humanitarian dimensions, with the needs of people escalating dramatically since the military takeover in February 2021, and further aggravated by the impacts of COVID-19 lockdowns. This crisis is estimated to have increased the poverty rate to 40%⁶ in 2022, doubling the rate of March 2020. Over 14 million persons are estimated to be in need of humanitarian assistance in 2022⁷. Myanmar is also prone to disaster risk and is consistently placed as one of the top three countries in the world most impacted by extreme climate events in the last two decades.

UN-Habitat Intervention

119. UN-Habitat re-established its presence in Myanmar after the devastating Cyclone Nargis in 2008 to provide humanitarian assistance through rehabilitation and reconstruction of cyclone affected areas. UN-Habitat continued its presence in disaster risk reduction and urban resilience while also embarking upon its normative work. Since 2008, the office has implemented 42 projects of portfolio USD 94.6 million across the country through funding support from diverse donors.

120. UN-Habitat has been focusing on four key thematic areas through a range of interventions from policy and planning to knowledge and technology transfer, capacity building, and local action to improve the living conditions and build climate resilience of vulnerable communities. These interventions have been aiming to improve housing settlements and rebuilding communities, enhance disaster risk management and build resilient communities, improve urban planning, management and governance and address the issues of climate change and resilience building.

Main achievements/impact

121. UN-Habitat has supported Myanmar in developing the National Urban Policy (draft), climate change policy, strategy, and master plan, and has recently provided technical assistance in developing tools and guidelines for strengthening the disaster resilience of health infrastructure.

122. Since the beginning of COVID-19, UN-Habitat has been actively engaged in the informal settlements' areas of Yangon and Sittwe cities to provide COVID-19 prevention and management assistance to the vulnerable communities. Amidst the challenging operational environment in Myanmar, UN-Habitat reached over 230,000 school children in 341 schools, 35,500 households and 37 health centres through the distribution of relief protection items and Information, Education and Communication (IEC) materials and installation of over 1,300 units of handwashing stations in the informal settlements.

⁶ World Bank (2022), Myanmar Economic Monitor July 2022: Reforms Reversed.

⁷ OCHA (2021), Myanmar Humanitarian Needs Overview 2022.

123. UN-Habitat has also supported Yangon city in the rehabilitation of the existing landfill and construction of new environmentally friendly landfill using the Fukuoka method.⁸

Way forward

124. In 2022-23, UN-Habitat will continue building the resilience of communities against COVID-19 impacts through implementation of resilient infrastructure such as water supply systems, sanitation facilities and access roads to schools. To scale up the ongoing interventions, UN-Habitat is working with UNDP and UN-Women to launch a new programme to improve the resilience of vulnerable communities living in informal settlements impacted by the triple challenges of COVID-19, conflict, and climate change.

125. UN-Habitat will start implementing climate change programmes in 2022 to build resilience of vulnerable communities in eight townships through engagement of non-state actors.

126. To implement planned interventions in 2022-23, UN-Habitat will need USD 10 million, of which USD 5 million is already received.

127. UN-Habitat is also supporting Myanmar Development Observatory in mapping of SDG11 indicators for which the country office will seek support from the Global Urban Observatory team in headquarters.

P. Nepal (ROAP)

Natural disaster

Context

128. Nepal is highly vulnerable to earthquake (11th World rank) and Climate Change (4th World rank). The last major earthquake occurred in April 2015 with series of aftershocks, resulting to damage of about 1 million houses and public infrastructure in both urban and rural areas. As Nepal is in highly active seismic zone, large scale earthquakes are recurrent and are devastating and disrupting the economy.

129. In addition, the impact of climate change is increasing yearly with frequent heatwaves and changing pattern / increasing intensity of rainfall, directly impacting infrastructure, agriculture, and human settlements.

UN-Habitat Intervention

130. UN-Habitat in Nepal was established in 1978. After the previous major earthquake of 1988, UN-Habitat engaged in school reconstruction and supported the development of the National Building Code in the early 90's. After the 2015 earthquake, UN-Habitat contributed to the emergency response, targeting the most vulnerable households in urban and rural areas, through vulnerability mapping, temporary shelter support, access to land, WASH services and winterization relief. UN-Habitat also supported the establishment of a Housing Reconstruction and Recovery Platform to enhance the coordination and facilitate the liaison between the government and partners working in national and sub-national level. More recently, UN-Habitat is also implementing projects focusing on green recovery through sustainable tourism and Green Growth for Heritage Settlements impacted by 2015 earthquake, urban areas in Kathmandu Valley.

131. UN-Habitat portfolio for disaster risk reduction and response in Nepal amounts to about USD 5 million.

Main achievements/impact

132. About 10,000 people in 5 districts, mostly vulnerable and marginalized communities, affected by the 2015 earthquake directly benefitted from temporary shelter, which introduced an innovative approach of using local materials, access to land, and further enhancement of interior living environment.

⁸ Fukuoka Method (semi-aerobic landfill structure) is a low-cost, sustainable, and simple landfill technology that was developed by Fukuoka City in collaboration with Fukuoka University in the 1970s. This method was certified in 2011 as an innovative method of Clean Development Mechanism (CDM) that is specified in United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

133. UN-Habitat is currently working with 12 heritage settlements in Kathmandu Valley to support green recovery, that benefits about 250,000 people with policy support to the municipalities on various sectors. In addition, 11 public heritage infrastructure have been reconstructed through community engagement with over 600 youth and women provided with training on skill development on tourism related enterprises and 50 such enterprises supported to be established.

Way forward

134. UN-Habitat in Nepal will focus on crisis prevention, by prioritizing the retrofitting of existing non-engineered houses (about 2 million housing stock), which are still vulnerable to earthquake. UN-Habitat will focus on designing guidelines, raising awareness and training of local engineers and artisans for mass outreach and upscaling. To complete these interventions, UN-Habitat will engage in resource mobilization activities.

135. UN-Habitat will also work on mitigation and adaptation to climate change in rapidly urbanizing cities. Over 60% of the population lives in urban areas. Rapid urbanization is not sufficiently reflected and prioritized in the climate change adaptation policies and plans, while cities are increasingly exposed to the impacts of climate change (heatwaves, floods, landslides). UN-Habitat would require financial and technical support to make progress on this issue.

Q. Nigeria (ROAF)

Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration; Other: COVID-19

Context

136. Nigeria is facing rapid urbanization, with an urban population growth rate of 4.1% yearly and expansion of slums, facing under-provision of essential urban infrastructure and services. This trend has been significantly impacted by two crisis-induced factors. First, the outbreak of a violent insurgency in 2009 which forced 1.8 million people to leave their homes in the North-East sub-region, forcing most of them to seek safe places mainly in towns and cities. The insurgency also resulted in the destruction of the few available social amenities and facilities such as markets, schools, water supply, electricity, toilets, among others. Second, the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic substantially amplified the already challenging conditions of poverty, with limited access to water, sanitation and health, overall lack of hygiene, poor access to electricity and high dependency on daily income with little or no savings capacity.

UN-Habitat Intervention

137. The UN-Habitat Programme Support Office in Nigeria (HAPSO) was established in 2001. Since then, UN-Habitat has been focusing on providing technical, managerial and logistics support to Federal and state governments. It also collaborates with other United Nations Agencies in Nigeria as a Member of the United Nations Country Team.

138. The country programme established for 2022-2027 aims to achieving sustainable urbanisation, through poverty reduction and social inclusion, the implementation of resilient and durable solutions in human settlements and the implementation of people centred smart cities approach, using innovation to enhance local governance. These activities are implemented through human and institutional capacity building interventions as well as advocacy, partnerships and resource mobilisation efforts.

Main achievements/impact

139. UN-Habitat has supported eight states and 25 cities in Nigeria and between 2008 and 2020, facilitated the formulation of 20-year Structure Plans for 20 cities in four states, comprising Anambra (3), Nasarawa (4), Kogi (4) as well as all nine major cities in the State of Osun.

140. UN-Habitat's response to the dual factors compounding the urban crisis in Nigeria has supported the communities, resulting in over 28,700 people, including 49% of female, and more than 9,000 children from six communities have benefitted directly from improved access to water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), health and other urban services. In addition, three Primary Health Centres (Uke, Ado and Masaka), six markets and six religious centres in Karu as well as one market from Jajere and six religious centres in Yobe State were rehabilitated. Improved access to water has significantly decreased time spent fetching water by households, while storage of water for days has also reduced due to 24/7 availability of water, which also ensures improved water quality.

Way forward

141. UN-Habitat will expand on successes achieved and focus essentially on implementing activities in three main areas: the implementation of durable solutions in crisis/conflict affected situations to facilitate the attainment of the Humanitarian-Development-Peace Nexus in support of displaced populations and host communities. UN-Habitat will also scale up its interventions to improve access to water and to transfer knowledge in WASH activities to mitigate the negative health impacts of contagious diseases, reduce disaster risk vulnerability and support resilient recovery processes. Activities will also include the support to local governments to improve the urban environment and mitigation of the adverse effects of unmanaged rapid urbanization and spread of COVID-19.

R. Pakistan (ROAP)

<i>Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration</i>

Context

142. Pakistan is highly geographically diverse, and is facing numerous critical environmental challenges, which are being exacerbated by climate change. Pakistan is one of the most vulnerable countries in the world to the threatened impacts of climate change, as evidenced by its consistent top-10 rank in the global risk index. Pakistan experienced repeated devastating floodings resulting in large number of people killed and displaced. In this context, reducing the impact of flooding and droughts is becoming one of the top priorities of the government of Pakistan.

UN-Habitat Intervention

143. UN-Habitat office in Pakistan was established in 2005 and is part of the One UN Programme. Its main thematic focus areas are in climate resilience, disaster preparedness, housing, and city-level capacity building. UN-Habitat has been part of the Humanitarian Country Team supporting affected communities mainly in the areas of shelter and basic services.

144. Based on its long-standing experience on humanitarian interventions in Pakistan, UN-Habitat has engaged in partnership with the Ministry of Climate Change to enhance community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity, caused by floods and droughts in Rawalpindi and Nowshera, Pakistan.

145. The country portfolio as of May 2022 was USD11.2 million.

Main achievements/impact

146. UN-Habitat has recently engaged in enhancing community, local and national-level urban climate change resilience to water scarcity, caused by floods and droughts in Rawalpindi and Nowshera. UN-Habitat has just started the identification of the 5000 most vulnerable households in urban poor communities in Rawalpindi and Nowshera and 50 public buildings through vulnerability assessments, flood mapping and awareness creation on construction and maintenance of flood resilience rainwater harvesting facilities. Interventions on promoting disaster resilient infrastructure in the earthquake prone areas have been implemented in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa Province.

147. UN-Habitat has built partnerships with the National Disaster Management Institute, the Ministry of Climate Change and the city authorities of Rawalpindi and Nowshera.

Way forward

148. Discussions are currently being held with the line ministry and provincial government ministries to enhance community resilience in other provinces such as Sind province focusing on climate resilience and sustainable urban development for a total portfolio of USD 7 million. The country office is also working with several UN-agencies to workout joint programmes in the areas of disaster preparedness, land management and climate resilience.

149. UN-Habitat has been actively engaged in the emergency response cluster working groups mainly shelter and WASH sectors in responding to recent devastated floods and exploring resources to support flood-affected and extremely vulnerable households and communities start to build back better by improved, evidence-based and inclusively developed flood-resilient shelter and settlement rebuilding,

S. State of Palestine (ROAS)

Conflict/post-conflict; Other: COVID-19

Context

150. The Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT) consists of the West Bank, including East Jerusalem and the Gaza Strip with a relatively small mass area of 6,025 km² and a total population of around 5 million inhabitants. The OPT is engulfed with many urban challenges. In Palestine, urbanization exceeds the global average given the particularity of its complex geopolitical situation, standing at 77% of its population living in cities. With a 2.85% urban population growth rate in 2020, Palestine is classified among the top 25% of urbanizing countries. The global COVID-19 pandemic also became another governance challenge facing urban areas, along with global finance, climate change, and peace and security issues.

UN-Habitat Intervention

151. The Special Human Settlements Programme for the Palestinian People (SHSPPP) was established in 2003 to support the Palestinian people under the two-state framework with focus on spatial planning, land management, and housing interventions. Under the UN-Habitat Country Programme Document in Palestine 2018-2022, SHSPPP has focused its support to the Palestinian Authority and the people of Palestine on providing support to participatory spatial planning and land registration processes, specifically on the West Bank and East Jerusalem, to safeguard collective and individual tenure rights.

152. The focus on East Jerusalem has been on rehabilitation interventions inside the Old City of Jerusalem. Additionally, by Building-Back-Better in the Gaza Strip, the SHSPPP induces resilience into communities that have been torn by war and conflict. The SHSPPP promotes safer and more inclusive communities through fit-for-purpose interventions on enhancing the safety of Palestinian public spaces and through the promotion of urban farming initiatives as a COVID-19 response strategy.

153. The SHSPPP portfolio over 2020-2022 amounted to USD 22 million.

Main achievements/impact

154. The SHSPPP has supported the Palestinian Authority and people of Palestine with the preparation of the National Urban Plan (NUP) in support of sustainable urban development and the realization of the SDGs, especially SDG11 in face of the cascading urban challenges facing the OPT. The main pillars identified under the NUP are housing, transportation, natural and cultural heritage, sustainable urban-rural development, disaster risk management, urban governance, and urban economy.

155. 2.57 million beneficiaries (49.4% of which are females) received technical and policy support to foster tenure security through spatial planning, land management, and housing rehabilitation interventions.

156. The SHSPPP contributed to the preparation of 54 multi-layered plans covering an area of 3.4 million dunums⁹ of the OPT using participatory processes mainly fostering social cohesion and enabling local development interventions.

Way forward

157. Over the next year, the SHSPPP will continue its focus on delivering technical support to Palestinian partners on issues related to spatial planning including public spaces, land management and administration, and housing along with of rehabilitation work of historic places .The SHSPPP aims to leverage additional financial resources of around USD 10 million to continue its technical and policy support to expand the support in the area of urban financing to foster territorial economic development and urban farming in response to climate change considerations. The SHSPPP aims to support the preparation of the housing policy for Palestine with continued support to coordinated advocacy efforts to safeguard the right to urban development.

⁹ A dunum is equivalent to 1000 square meters.

T. Philippines (ROAS)

Conflict/post-conflict; Displacement/migration

Context

158. In May 2017, fighting between security forces and armed insurgents in Marawi City in Lanao del Sur forced at least 360,000 people to leave their homes. The fighting lasted for 5 months, leaving the city core in ruins. Around 30% of its 201,000 residents uprooted not only from their homes but from a life they have built. As of May 2022, the government has allowed families to return to the most affected area (ground zero) while hundreds of families are still in transitory shelters and host families.

UN-Habitat Intervention

159. The UN-Habitat Philippines Office opened in 2003 and is located in the UN House together with the rest of the UN agencies operating in the country. The main thematic focus areas are in climate resilience, post-disaster response and environmental sustainability particularly marine plastic pollution.

160. To augment and hasten the recovery efforts in Marawi, UN-Habitat has engaged in community-driven housing and livelihood solutions. The interventions include capacity building activities while the national and local governments have provided the land on which houses are built. Families living along the easements of the Lanao Lake and the Agus river are considered as priority beneficiaries, as these families will not be able to return to these areas, now declared as no-build zones by the government.

161. The country portfolio as of May 2022 was USD16.1 million.

Main achievements/impact

162. As a result of the interventions for the recovery in Marawi, 1,000 families have received their permanent homes and land in May 2022, in 5 resettlement sites equipped with community facilities and peace councils. More than 4,000 direct beneficiaries of the 33 cooperatives established for the livelihood support. A GIS-based database was established to document secure tenure of families.

163. Recent activities have focused on building the climate resilience through urban plan and designs and provincial climate risk diagnostics and resulted in climate resilient plans and designs developed for 5 cities based on extensive climate assessments and translated into investment portfolios. The tool to establish the provincial climate risk diagnostics (PCRD) is being finalized for use at the provincial level for upscaling by national government.

Way forward

164. Three new projects will take place in 2022-2027 focusing on climate resilience and sustainable urban development for a total portfolio of USD 5 million from various donor countries.

165. Discussions are ongoing with Marawi City and the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region of Muslim Mindanao (BARMM) on sustaining the gains of rebuilding towards longer-term sustainable development. This requires working with other UN agencies and donors.

166. UN-Habitat will work with the whole UN system in conducting the Common country Assessment and preparing the new Country Cooperation Framework (2023-2028) to ensure alignment of work with country priorities and programme.

U. Somalia (ROAF)

Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration

Context

167. With an estimated 50% of urban population (7.3 million people) and growth rate of 4.24%, Somalia's urbanization rate is arguably the fastest in Eastern Africa. The urban crises are shaped by three main features: increase in recurrent natural disasters in conjunction with persistent instability due to insurgency groups in many rural areas, triggering new waves of displacement; acute shortage of critical urban basic services; and weak government institutions. The delayed election process that led to a new parliament and president in 2022 has hampered the coordination of programmes and service delivery. Currently, 50% of the population require humanitarian and protection assistance.

UN-Habitat Intervention

168. UN-Habitat office has been established in Somalia in 1991. In the last three decades the programme has promoted sustainable and participatory urban development, contributed to the implementation of the National Urban Development Plan, and supported the protection of fragile livelihoods and communities, including during the COVID-19 pandemic. Interventions have been focusing on strengthening local governance and urban basic service delivery, providing durable solutions for the growing internally displaced communities, protection and livelihoods support for marginalized groups such as women and the youth, and provision of critical urban basic services, e.g., water and solid waste management infrastructure.

169. In 2022, the programme portfolio is worth USD 44 Million.

Main achievements/impact

170. As a result of the support to initiatives for better urban land management and capacity building, the Southwest State enacted the Urban Land Management law in February 2022. The law has resulted in a framework for better coordination among state entities and anchoring rights for IDPs and refugee returnees. Building on the urban regulatory frameworks, UN-Habitat developed masterplans and city extensions plans notably in Baidoa, Boroma, and Gabiley. The programme also supported adoption of solid waste management municipal by-laws for municipalities in Somalia. In Somaliland, the implementation of the by-laws has resulted in improved service delivery in all 8 districts for approximately five million people.

171. In response to the COVID-19 pandemic, the programme supported over 3,000 households in Mogadishu through unconditional cash transfers, representing a total of 24,110 direct beneficiaries, including women headed households, displaced families, and children. In Kismayo and Berbera, 250 and 575 households respectively have received cash transfers. Additionally, the programme provided children-friendly designed wash facilities in three public schools to improve hygienic conditions for 3,272 students from IDPs and urban poor communities.

172. UN-Habitat has also contributed to the improvement of local governments and communities' capacities to promote social cohesion, resilience, recovery and rebuilding the social fabric. In Baidoa, urban profiling and mapping resulted in the *Integrated Community Action Plan* which serves as district tool for durable solutions to displacement and drought crises. In districts targeted by UN-Habitat, local revenue collection has improved by utilizing the Accounting Information Management Systems (AIMS) and the Building Information Management Systems (BIMS). In Somaliland, a 13% increase of locally generated revenue from USD 43 million in 2020 to USD 48,5 million was realized in 2021.

Way forward

173. In the next years, UN-Habitat in Somalia plans to support the city of Hargeisa, through improved access to water. The city of Berbera will be supported through the completion of the Berbera Strategic Spatial plan and the development of its beachfront, the provision of a sanitary landfill and a material recycling facility.

V. South Sudan (ROAF)

<i>Conflict/post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration; Other: COVID-19</i>
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Context

174. South Sudan is emerging from decades of civil war. The crisis resulted in mass migration of its population within the country and also to neighbouring countries. However, due to the relative peace that has been experienced recently, there has been an influx of returnees to the country. The proportion of IDPs remains high. Displacement has led to a rapid urban population growth. The challenges caused by this unplanned urbanization was worsened by the advent of the COVID-19 pandemic.

UN-Habitat Intervention

175. In South Sudan, UN-Habitat is a resident agency. It has been focusing on supporting cities' three main interventions: resettlement, reintegration and resilience building of IDPs and returnees, National urban policy and physical planning for equitable development, and local economic development and youth empowerment.

176. In 2021, UN-Habitat partnered with Juba Municipality, the Ministry of Lands Housing and Urban Development and the National Bureau of Statistics, to implement the COVID-19 response in poor urban areas of Juba city. The responses included aimed at improving health in the city through support to solid waste management through awareness raising; fabrication and installation of handwashing station in 15 markets and training of women on liquid soap manufacturing.

177. Currently UN-Habitat is formulating the Strategic Plan for Juba Municipality, a 100,000 USD project that seeks to establish a comprehensive database of facilities in Juba.

178. UN-Habitat portfolio for urban crisis response in South Sudan amounts to about USD 1 million as at 2020.

Main achievements/impact

179. The programme has contributed to the COVID-19 response in poor urban areas of Juba city, focusing on mitigation with emphasis on markets and informal settlements through cleaning campaigns and dialogues on solid waste management, where 160 tons of waste were collected, 20 handwashing facilities were installed, and community members trained to support the manufacturing of liquid soap. UN-Habitat also produced the Juba settlement profile and COVID-19 vulnerability report to support evidence-based interventions.

180. UN-Habitat engaged in enhancing women's access to land to consolidate peace in South Sudan, in partnership with FAO, NRC and the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development. The interventions led to the enhancement of women's access and rights to land through capacity building of traditional authorities', leaders, and communities (female and male) to feel more confident and committed to gender responsive land and conflict/dispute resolution. Land management and administrative systems at state and county levels were improved, enhancing access and secure land tenure rights for the most vulnerable women, mainly IDPs and Returnees. 979 women were supported with land documents, 102 cases for women on pending land documents were resolved through the help of the law firm, 48 cases on legal counselling were done through information centres for land registration and over 4'800 beneficiaries were reached through awareness campaigns.

Way forward

181. UN-Habitat is currently planning to collaborate with UNDP, IOM, and the national government of South Sudan to improve sustainable settlement of returnees and IDPs. A resource mobilization campaign, both financial and technical, will be launched to support this intervention. Discussions are also under way with UNHCR on the Solutions Initiative which will support sustainable returns to geographical areas.

W. Sri Lanka (ROAP)

<i>Natural disaster; Other: COVID-19</i>
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Context

182. After 30 years of civil war, Sri Lanka has been progressing well in political and economic stability despite continuing natural disasters such as floods, droughts, landslides in frequent cycles. The COVID-19 pandemic provoked a severe economic setback, increasing particularly the vulnerability of informal settlement, due to the long lockdowns in the country.

183. Today, Sri Lanka is facing its worst economic crisis since its independence in 1948 due to debt crisis, diminished foreign reserves, with serious consequences for the most vulnerable people. Food security, agriculture, livelihoods, and access to healthcare are affected and nearly 5.3 million people are now in urgent need of humanitarian assistance.

UN-Habitat Intervention

184. UN-Habitat has been engaged in Sri Lanka since 1980's. Its country office was established in 2004. The country programme has built partnerships with several national, provincial and city governments. The programme has been focusing mainly on the following thematic focus areas: climate resilience, disaster risk reduction, post-disaster response, housing, community infrastructure and basic service, policy guidance and knowledge sharing.

185. Based on its long-standing experience in supporting vulnerable communities, UN-Habitat was identified as a key partner of local authorities in Sri Lanka to minimize the vulnerabilities to the

COVID19 pandemic and its negative socio-economic impact on marginalised communities, in two districts.

186. The country portfolio amounts to around USD11 million.

Main achievements/impact

187. In Sri-Lanka, UN-Habitat has been very active in supporting vulnerable communities affected by disasters and conflicts through rehabilitation and reconstruction programmes. Over 31,000 families were supported to reconstruct their conflict damage houses in the North and East of the country from 2012 to 2015. In the same area, 420,000 people benefitted from improved community infrastructure facilities, such as internal access roads, community wells and stormwater drainage systems. UN-Habitat has also collaborated with eight cities to develop their disaster risk reduction plan, and thereby minimize the impacts from natural disasters on residents.

188. The response to the socio-economic impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic focused on improving awareness on safety and health measures and hygiene practices to minimise the risk of spread of COVID-19, improved measures on COVID-19 infection prevention and control and increasing food security, nutrition, and economic sustainability. UN-Habitat supported around 1,000 individuals from the communities and built the capacities of the government institutions in the target districts.

Way forward

189. UN-Habitat has identified new interventions for the period 2022-2027, focusing on climate resilience, housing, and sustainable development, in a total amount of USD 9.5 million.

190. Discussions are ongoing with the government ministries and development partners to promote sustainable human settlements addressing the urgent needs of vulnerable communities due to ongoing economic and political instability in the country. UN-Habitat will strengthen the collaboration with other UN agencies as well as donors, to improve the support to the national government.

X. Sudan (ROAS)

<i>Conflict/Post-conflict; Natural disaster; Displacement/migration</i>

Context

191. In 2020, Sudan experienced a flood that affected over 860,000 people. Following this natural disaster, UN-Habitat conducted an assessment and found that around 30% of houses surveyed had damages in the Almansora area, Jabal Awlia locality of Khartoum, where 10 million people reside, including one million displaced people, migrants, and street children living in a deprived living condition in informal settlements. The COVID-19 outbreak exacerbated the vulnerability of informal settlement dwellers, due to overcrowded housing conditions and inadequate hygiene measures available. Additionally, the large influx of IDPs in urban areas have been causing tensions and competition over the scarce basic services between IDPs and the host communities.

UN-Habitat Intervention

192. As a resident UN agency in Sudan, UN-Habitat has supported national and local governments in response to urban crisis through various interventions in the past years. In Khartoum, UN-Habitat collaborated with the State Ministry of Social Development in response to the damages caused by the floods in September 2020, providing support in terms of shelter and basic urban services, in the context of the COVID-19 pandemic.

193. UN-Habitat is also supporting the subnational governments to address the challenges of internal displacement in the Blue Nile region as well as in the South Darfur, as well as the response to the sudden large influx of South-Sudanese refugees in the town of Al Jabalain. The areas of interventions to address these challenges focus on urban strategic planning, HLP rights and social cohesion between IDPs, refugees and returnees and the host communities.

194. In 2020, the portfolio of UN-Habitat in Sudan amounted to USD 3million.

Main achievements/impact

195. In response to the damages caused by the floods in 2020, 300 vulnerable households, representing an estimated 1,800 people, benefitted from the reconstruction and rehabilitation of shelters. To reduce overcrowding and mitigate the community spread of COVID-19 virus, an

extension of one room was made to every shelter unit. Among the beneficiaries supported by the interventions, 15% were female-headed households and 10% of whom were families with a family member with disability.

196. To prevent and address the tensions and competition over scarce basic services between IDPs and the host communities in the urban areas of Ad Damazine and Al Roseries, Blue Nile, UN-Habitat provided technical support to the regional authority in developing strategic urban development plans. Land plots were demarcated, allocated and land tenure was secured for voluntary returnees. This intervention was conducted in a broad partnership led by the Department of Planning and Urban Design (DUPD), Faculty of Architecture, University of Khartoum, and German Jordanian University. UN-Habitat improved access to basic services to the returnees and host community including water yard, health centre, school shared by both reintegrated IDPs and the host communities. The programme also provided vocational training for female and male youth in Ad Damazine and Al Roseries towns to improve their livelihood and diversify their income generating activities. The intervention benefited 17,724 persons from IDP and vulnerable families including war-affected children and women.

197. UN-Habitat supported the urban fabric of Al Jabalain town in accommodating the sudden and large influx of South Sudanese refugees. The interventions included improving the town market and the basic infrastructure including water and sewage facilities, access roads, and solar lighting systems in the main market and roads. Rehabilitation of public spaces was also made with interlocking and pedestrian curbstones along the paving road.

198. In South Darfur, Nyala town accommodates over half a million IDPs in camps surrounding the town. In May 2021, UN-Habitat partnered with the municipality to strengthen the health system, through the construction and rehabilitation of health facilities.

Way forward

199. In South Darfur, UN-Habitat will support the municipality of Nyala town in building the urban planning capacities of the staff of the locality, using information management programme, fit for purpose tools and techniques for mapping. An expected outcome of this intervention is the production of a digital map of Nyala town.

200. In August 2022, UN-Habitat and UNHCR launched a new three years joint PBF Project aims to create viable options for the voluntary and sustainable return, local integration, and/or relocation of IDPs, as well as mitigate inter-communal tensions related to their displacement through enhancing the ability of disputing communities to peacefully coexist in areas of return and local integration; through comprehensively mapping potential sites for sustainable return, relocation and integration; through empowering male and female youth through small grants and capacity building for self-help housing, and through contributing to the realisation of housing, land, and property rights at local and national levels. Discussions are under way on the inclusion of UN-Habitat in the UNHCR Solutions Initiative which should target Darfur.

Y. Syria (ROAS)

<i>Conflict/Post-conflict; Displacement/migration</i>

Context

201. While the outcome of the Syrian crisis remains unclear, military hostilities have largely ceased in different parts of the country. Multiple crises (economic, climate change, COVID-19, recent cholera outbreak etc.) continue to negatively impact on the functionality of public services and related infrastructure, and new risks are emerging related to institutional brain drain and capacity deficiencies. Furthermore, the prevailing economic conditions, exacerbated by global food shortages and a significant anticipated reduction in aid allocations, are expected to further aggravate these challenges, which will shape the landscape for Syria's recovery for decades to come. In the absence of an internationally recognized political solution, new forms of war economy, *ad hoc* military confrontations, and other spill-over effects are expected to continue and proliferate.

UN-Habitat Intervention

202. UN-Habitat has been present in Syria since 2014. Through the development of the Urban Recovery Framework (URF) and in line with the guidance it provides, UN-Habitat's Syria Programme has contributed to the advancement of wider UNCT discussions on Early Recovery and Resilience through the application of an area-based approach. The Programme has also supported the

development of the recently adopted UN Strategic Framework 2022–2024, which will guide resilience interventions for the coming two-year period.

203. The URF represents an enabling institutional and policy framework to support resilient urban recovery at scale, and the renewal of the social contract in urban crisis contexts. The URF relies on contextual analysis inclusive of multi-sectoral urban information analysis, damage and service functionality assessments and risk screening including housing, land and property risks, as well as analysis of related regulatory and policy environments that will set parameters for urban recovery planning and interventions.

204. The Syria Programme’s interventions under the URF, while anchored in an approach that seeks to bridge the humanitarian-resilience (development)-peace nexus, have become increasingly diverse, as it has secured funding for programmes that extend beyond infrastructures and services, to URF pillars on environment, heritage and the economy.

205. The current annual budget is about US\$8 million.

Main achievements/impact

206. Building on the urban analysis, 85 basic recovery plans for targeted urban areas and four full-scale recovery plans (Aleppo, Dara’a, Deir Ezzour, Homs) have been developed through participatory processes involving local stakeholders, authorities and communities. In Syria, the URF has contributed to breaking new grounds on participatory planning processes over time, this has allowed for an increasingly balanced approach to recovery planning, with formal and informal representation centring on participatory planning with local authorities, and extensive community consultations to capture the voices of a wide breadth of conflict affected populations.

207. URF implementation covers relevant projects that contribute to short-term (‘shock absorbing’), medium-term (‘adapting’), or long-term (‘transformative’) processes. UN-Habitat has worked with UNCT to pursue assistance modalities that help to overcome challenges related to the replication of prevailing models for humanitarian assistance, particularly in terms of a shift towards more sustainable and multisectoral area-based programming.

208. The application of URF in Syria has led directly to the adoption of a Joint Programme on Urban-Rural Resilience, that brings together six United Nations agencies, to collectively implement priority actions based on recovery plans. In the programme, targeted recovery plans, or ‘action plans’, are developed on a neighbourhood level to localise the multisectoral priorities from the city recovery plans. Interventions under the Joint Programme focus on restoring basic and social services, improving and enhancing community resilience, strengthening social cohesion, and promoting sustainable livelihood opportunities.

Way forward

209. UN-Habitat Syria programme will continue to play a key role in shaping the area-based approach of UNCT to Early Recovery and Resilience in Syria, in addition to gradually increasing the implementation of multi-sectoral urban recovery interventions in crisis-affected communities in Syria, especially in the light of the Security Council Resolution 2642 of 2022. Furthermore, UN-Habitat is deepening its engagement with UNCT on conflict-sensitive programming, sharing effective practices and contributing to the development of harmonised operational solutions to the management of related risks.

210. Following its successful application in Syria, URF was central focus at WUF 2022. It has now been integrated into the UN Transitional Framework for Ukraine, where UN-Habitat expects to deploy its expertise in support of the wider UNCT and Ukrainian national and local governments over the coming months.

Z. Yemen (ROAS)

Conflict/Post-conflict; Natural Disaster; Displacement/migration

Context

211. The protracted crisis in Yemen has had a staggering impact on its population affecting host communities, IDPs, returnees as well as migrants and refugees alike. The country remains the most devastating humanitarian catastrophe in the world with millions of people having suffered the compounded effects of war, economic breakdown, and lack of public services. Three quarters of the Yemeni population are in need of multi-sectoral humanitarian assistance in 2022, 13% higher than in

2021. Amongst the most urgent needs are matters related to UN-Habitat's core interventions: rehabilitation, WASH and HLP.

UN-Habitat Intervention

212. UN-Habitat established its presence across Yemen in 2018 through a thorough city profiling exercise to identify key urban and multi-sectoral challenges triggered by the Yemen crisis in cities. Based on the results, the programme focused on improving living conditions of the most vulnerable regarding shelter/housing, clean water, and appropriate sanitation facilities.

213. UN-Habitat further expanded its operational reach to address HLP and climate-related issues in 2021. As of August 2022, the agency is present in the five governorates: Sana'a, Aden, Ta'iz, Al Hudaydah and Lahj.

214. Currently, UN-Habitat's secured portfolio accounts for the sum of around USD 7.2 million, of which USD 5 million for shelter, housing and WASH interventions, USD 700,000 for climate action and USD 1.5 million for HLP activities.

Main achievements/impact

215. UN-Habitat has completed the analysis of the situation in ten cities and produced urban profiles for eight cities that showed access to shelter/housing, clean water, and appropriate sanitation facilities were some of the urgent needs. Through UN-Habitat interventions, 74,000 beneficiaries benefitted for repair and upgrade of damaged water and wastewater facilities in Aden City.

216. Through its interventions so far, UN-Habitat has positioned itself as reliable partner in Yemen for both local government entities and CSOs, increasing its visibility. This materializes in three main achievements: the establishment of an HLP sub working group under the Protection Cluster in Yemen, as advocated for by UN-Habitat, the increase of the project portfolio throughout Yemen by 30% in 2022 and the increase in the staff number, from 8 to 14, along with the decisions to strategically strengthen the field office in Aden where it has a strong presence.

Way forward

217. UN-Habitat in Yemen has identified several goals for the period 2022, 2023, including the contribution to the Yemen Humanitarian response plan, to strengthen the Internationally Recognized Government (IRG) in Yemen, the enhancement of the capacity of national and local stakeholders including key decision-making entities (e.g., government; community and faith leaders, CSOs). The programme will also enhance the affected Yemenis' resilience through medium- and long-term shelter solutions, improving sub-standard conditions to people affected by protracted crises, returnees and the vulnerable host community. The efforts will include the restoration and maintenance of water and sanitation infrastructure to enable sustained access to safe WASH services for the affected Yemenis. UN-Habitat will also implement strategic HLP operations supporting the most vulnerable with anticipated ripple effect to (a) establish UN-Habitat as a leading agency in the sector and (b) increase financial HLP portfolio across the country.

218. These efforts will be supported by a resource mobilization campaign, as a total of USD 25 million in funding for 2022-2023 is required, out of which ap