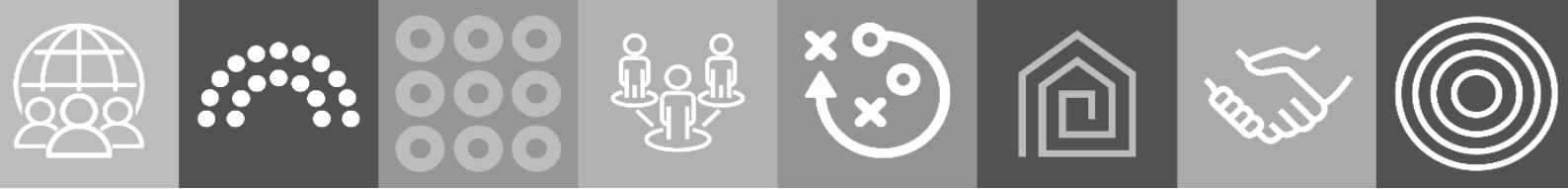


Strengthen UN-Habitat
Regional Representation in

SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA





Contents

Urbanisation in Africa	1
UN-Habitat Strategy for Sub-Saharan Africa	2
Key Areas of Work	4
Regional Representation	
Capacity Building and Research	
Cost Implications	9
Donors Funding UN-Habitat in Africa	10
Who to contact for more information?	11

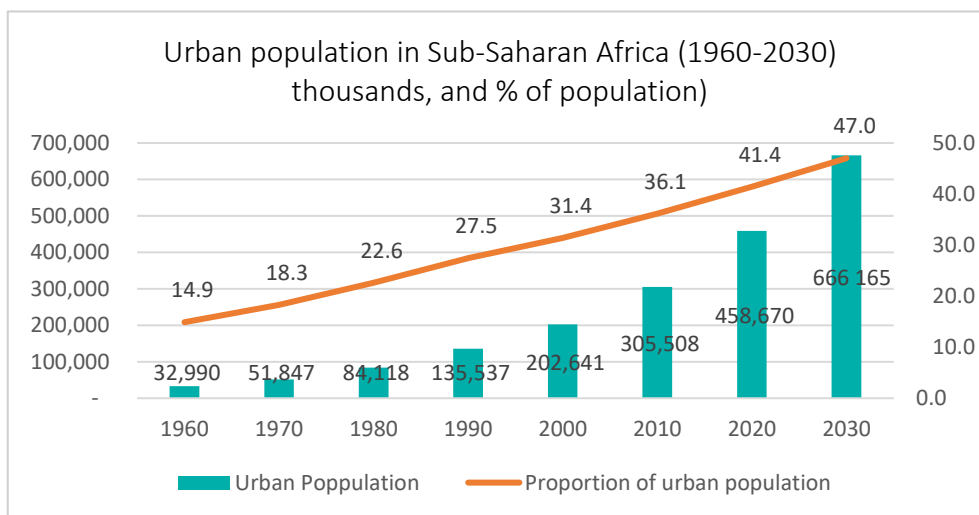




URBANISATION IN AFRICA

Urbanisation is the most profound transformation that the African continent will undergo in the 21st century. African cities are the most rapidly urbanising in the world, making them the youngest and fastest-changing areas in the world. This transformation is expected to have a significant impact on Africa's economic, social, and political landscape in the coming decades. Urbanisation, therefore, presents immense opportunities to accelerate progress towards the 2030 Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), New Urban Agenda and Agenda 2063: the Africa We Want – the blueprint and master plan of the continent. Cities continue to grow, and the future of humanity is undoubtedly urban¹. We are witnessing a world that will continue to urbanize over the next three decades—from 56 per cent in 2021 to 68 per cent in 2050. This translates into an increase of approximately 2.2 billion urban residents. The urban population in Sub-Saharan Africa has experienced a 10-fold increase in the past half century, from 32 million in 1960 to 458 million in 2020 as shown in the graph below.

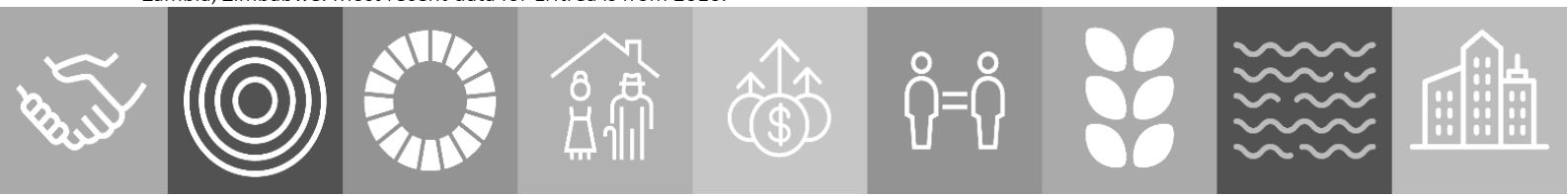
The African continent's increased urban population is a powerful asset for its overall urban transformation and can attain its full potential once cities are properly planned and adequately serviced. With interventions from different partners including the African Union, UN-Habitat, and national governments, African cities have maintained their economic performance over the last 30 years, providing several hundred million people with better jobs and improved access to services and infrastructure despite an increase of 500 million people. The urban growth in African cities is resultantly causing development of secondary cities due to positive spill over effects of urbanisation to peri urban areas.



Source: UN-Habitat Urban Indicator Database¹



¹ Analysis based on data from SSA region data aggregated across 21 countries: Angola, Botswana, Burundi, Comoros, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Namibia, Rwanda, Somalia, South Africa, South Sudan, Swaziland, Tanzania, Uganda, Zambia, Zimbabwe. Most recent data for Eritrea is from 2010.





UN-HABITAT STRATEGY FOR SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

The Regional Office for Africa in 2020 developed a Regional Representation Strategy to steer its work with African governments (national and local), international and regional institutions to take early action to position themselves for responding to the needs of urban populations. The current active portfolio of projects spread across twenty-four (24) countries is promoting change for increased impact in Africa towards the said Agendas.

Lessons learnt from many years of interventions in the countries continue to contribute towards the Regional Representation Strategy's implementation. This makes it feasible to achieve the objectives of structural transformation and well-coordinated urbanisation in Africa in line with the Global UN-Habitat strategic plan 2020-2023. The main goal through this Regional Representation Strategy is to "Leverage Sustainable Urbanisation for Transformative, Resilient and Peaceful Cities and Human Settlements in Africa" and the following objectives will help to achieve that:

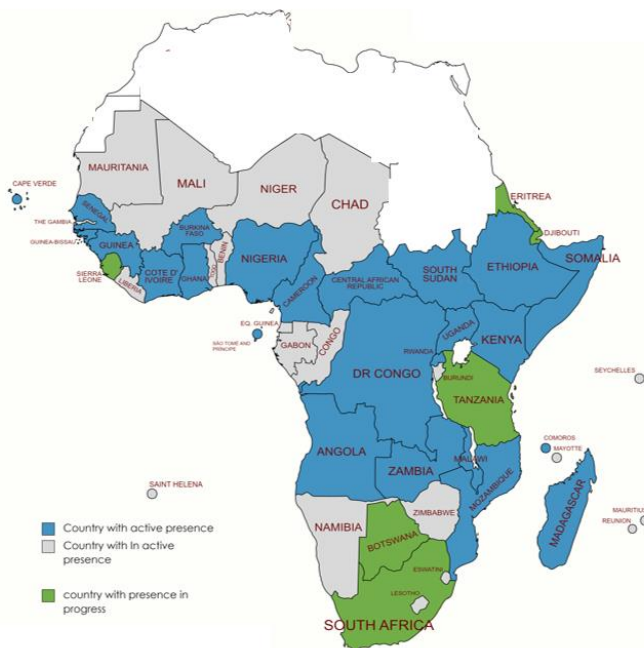
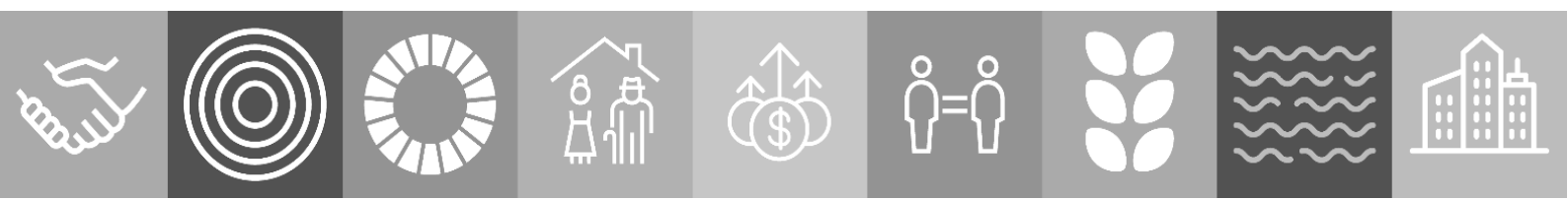


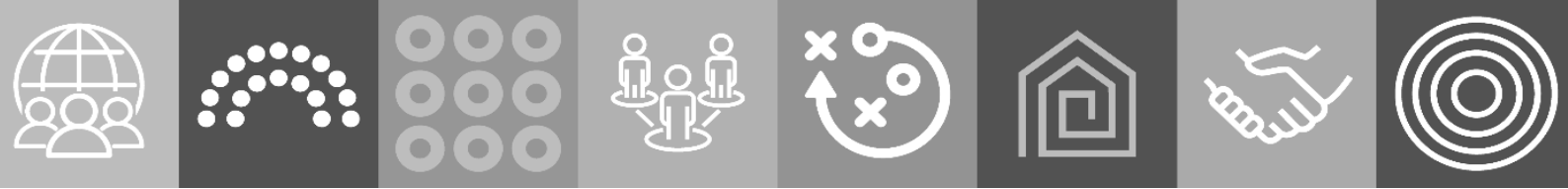
Figure 1: UN Habitat Presence in Africa

- a. Enable African cities and human settlements to become engines of economic growth.
- b. Leverage sustainable urbanization for contributing to reducing social inequalities.
- c. Ensure that African cities are resilient to conflicts, disasters, disease outbreaks and climate shocks.
- d. Capacitate African cities and local governments to achieve both regional and global goals.

To achieve these objectives and deliver on UN-Habitat vision of "a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world" and making sure no one and no place is left behind, the measures listed below will be taken to support the region. They will build upon the innovative tools and approaches already employed by UN-Habitat's country and regional projects and programs.

- a. Enhance Urban Policy, Legislation and Governance Systems.
- b. Enhance Locally Generated Revenues and Integrated Spatial Planning at different Scales.
- c. Increase Equal Access to Land, Adequate Housing, Basic Services Provision and Urban Regeneration.
- d. Support implementation of Durable Solutions for Displaced Populations and Settlements in Crisis.





- e. Support Climate Change Adaptation and Climate Conscious Development, Disaster Risk Reduction and Blue/Green Economies.
- f. Ensure key considerations for the work to include the social inclusion dimension, which encompasses human rights; gender; children, youth, and older persons; and disability.
- g. Full engagement with the UN- system and demonstrate the relevance of urbanization in the UN wider reform in achieving the SDGs.

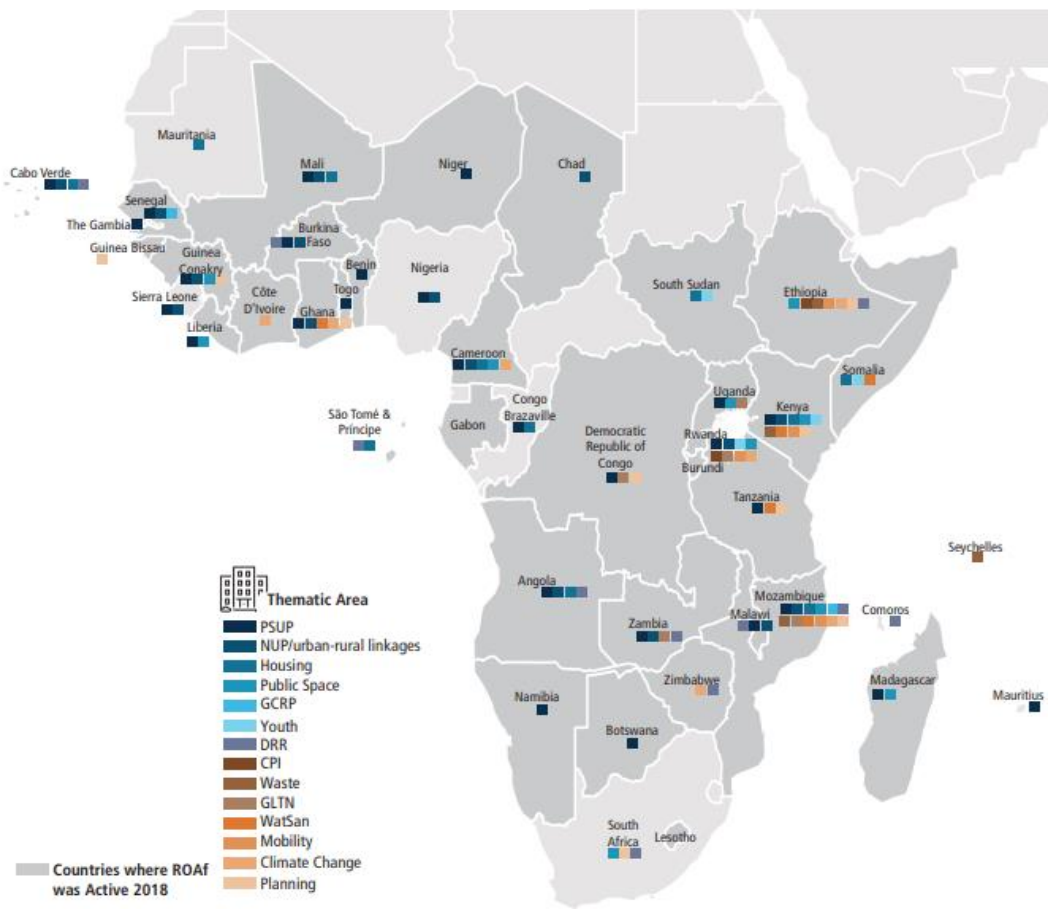
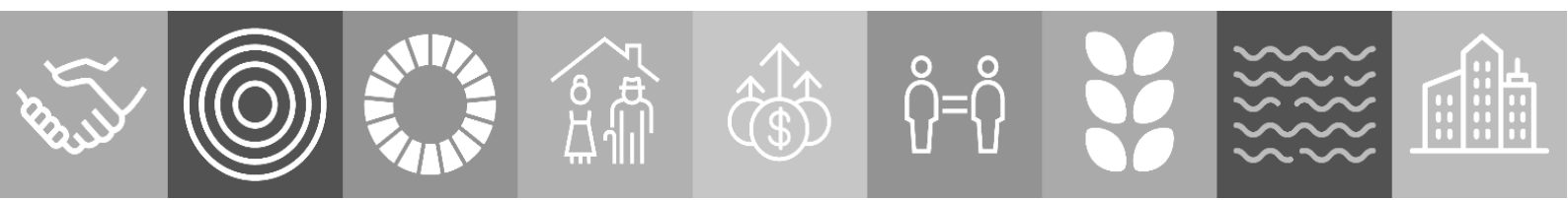


Figure 2: Map of Africa with UN Habitat presence and stream of work





KEY AREAS OF WORK

STRENGTHEN REGIONAL REPRESENTATION

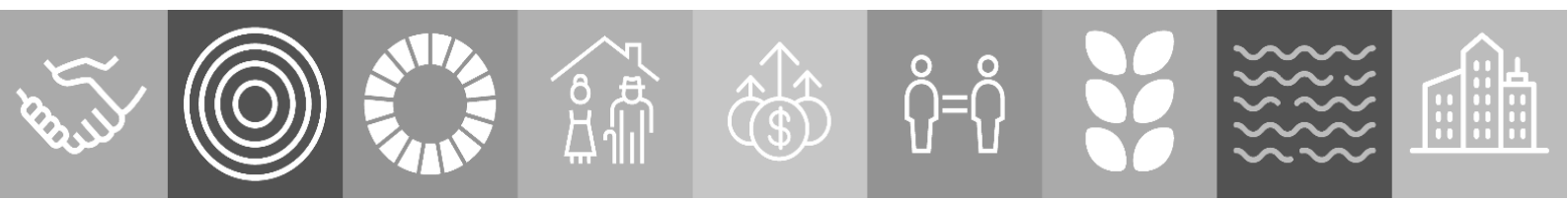
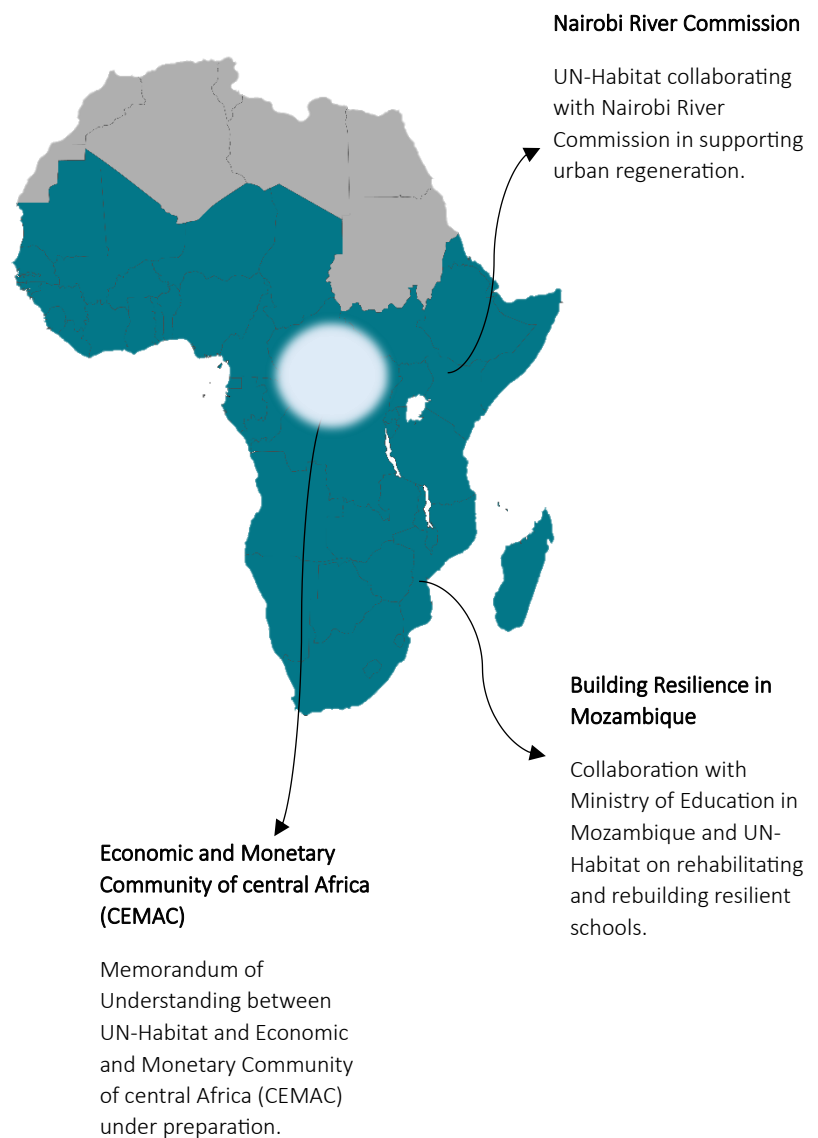
This Regional Representation Strategy developed marks a paradigm shift towards sustainable urbanisation as an engine for growth by proactively tackling urban challenges. Leveraging on the opportunities presented by the phenomenon and building on the lessons learnt over the years in the implementation of the projects and programmes, the Regional Representation is a mechanism for effective delivery of the needs of the African region.

The Representation Role in the region will be very important in building relationships with stakeholders in the regions.

This can be accomplished through the following ways:

- a. Outreach and engagement. Influencing action at all levels and engaging various stakeholders, including governments, communities, and the private sector, is crucial to tackling urban challenges in Africa.
 - **Knowledge generation and exchange:** This representation role facilitates the use and exchange of data, knowledge and innovation generated not only by UN-Habitat but also a wider range of urban stakeholders. Additionally, strong narratives that are tailored to different audiences and considers regional diversity are essential.
 - **ONE-UN approach:** Ensuring collective efforts is crucial. This requires UN-Habitat and other United Nations agencies to speak with one coherent voice.
 - **Outreach to the Least Developed Countries (LDCs),** predominantly located in Africa, will bring significant benefits to

these countries through enhanced technical support and capacity building including through the South-South Cooperation. Through this collaboration, countries can share knowledge, skills, expertise, and resources to meet their development goals through concerted efforts.





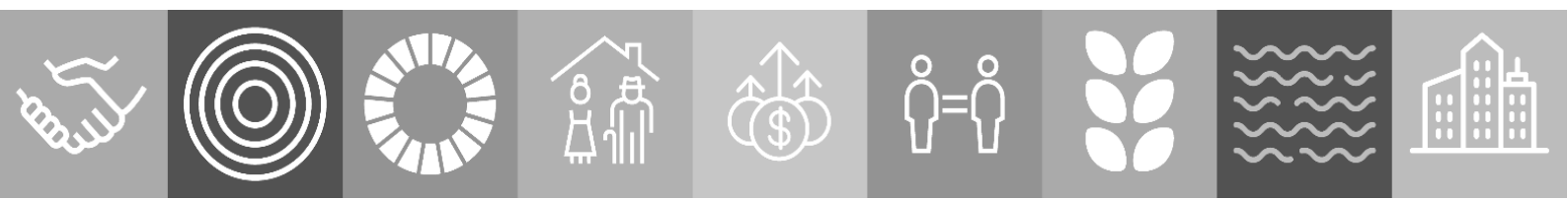
b. Advocacy and communication: Effective communication tools and packages that showcase the accomplishments and initiatives in cities, countries, and the region play a crucial role. UN-Habitat is experienced in amplifying the voices of decisionmakers, citizens, slum-dwellers, grassroots women’s organizations, community groups and other partners working in urban development. This has been evident at major conferences, such as the World Urban Forum, Africa Urban Forum, Africities, Africa Regional Forum for Sustainable Development Goals and other opportunities. Advocacy and communication will enhance collective knowledge in the region on sustainable urban development through open and inclusive debates, exchange of best practices and policies, and sharing of lessons learnt.

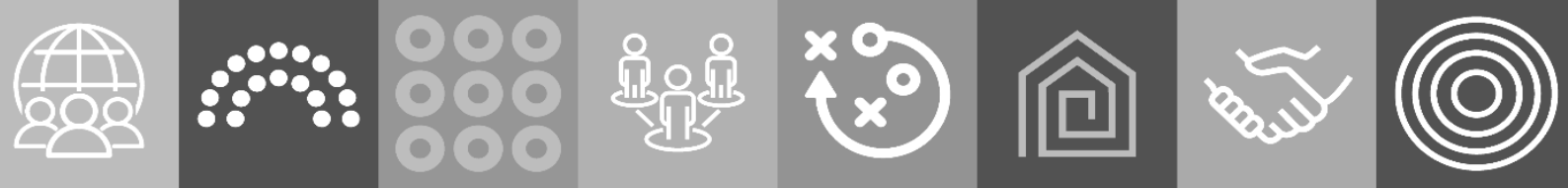
“The Africities conference supported by UN-Habitat in Kisumu, Kenya in May 2022 was attended by approximately 11,000 participants and reaffirmed the role of intermediary Cities in Africa in the implementation of Agenda 2030 of the United Nations and the African Union Agenda 2063.”

c. Technical and programmatic: UN-Habitat has demonstrated the ability to capitalise on and strengthen support and political will from governments, and to foster partnerships with other UN entities, NGOs, and traditional authorities. Showing tangible results has been key to building trust and impact. UN-Habitat’s capacity for triggering major national processes such as urban development policy and legislative reforms is built on peer learning, demonstrating its strengths and capacities, using catalytic funding, and leveraging on UN-Habitat’s technical expertise to add value. The availability of diverse tools has contributed to impact. Cross fertilization of ideas among regions and countries continues to provide opportunities for joint fundraising, underpinned by rigorous use of data and other evidence that informs envisioning of strategies.

UN-Habitat in 2019 provided technical and programmatic assistance to the Ethiopian government to implement the Integrated Housing Development Programme (IHDP) launched in 2015 to provide 1 million Affordable Housing Program to address the county’s severe housing deficit. The support was based in areas of urban planning, housing finance, and infrastructure development including developing the national housing policy and strategy, the housing finance system.

d. Role of Multi Country Offices (MCO) in the context of UN-Habitat Africa would entail set-ups that will enable effective and efficient delivery of the Regional Representation technical support to several programme countries and facilitate collaboration with UN system at the country level. The MCO set-up will enable the Regional Representative to efficiently serve multiple countries in a manner that better leverages assets and resources, increases scale to improve the scope and quality of services offered, and enable coordinated delivery. The MCO will also allow fast and efficient collaboration with sub-regional institutions on issues related to urbanization (IGAD, ECOWAS, UEMOA, SADC, EAC.). The MCO set up will incrementally build on already existing country office already operation at the country level. These country offices serve as the frontline of UN-Habitat’s engagement with national and local governments, and other stakeholders. By building on these existing structures, the MCO would be able to leverage the expertise and knowledge of local staff and partners to support regional programming and collaboration.





DIMSUR: The Technical Center for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience

Member States: Comoros, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique.

Headquarters: Maputo, Mozambique.

DIMSUR provides technical assistance and knowledge for:

- Disaster Risk Reduction
- Climate Change Adaptation
- Urban Resilience: -

in Southern Africa and the South-West Indian Ocean.

COUNTRIES IN AFRICA UN HABITAT SUPPORTED IN DEVELOPING THE UN- CCA/ UNSDCF

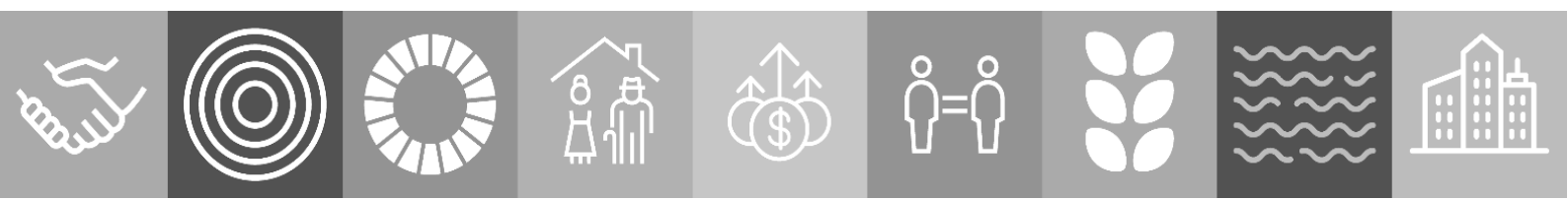
Angola	eSwatini	Namibia
Benin	Ethiopia	Niger
Botswana	Gabon	Nigeria
Burkina Faso	Gambia	Rwanda
Burundi	Ghana	São Tomé and Príncipe
Cabo Verde	Guinea	Senegal
Cameroon	Guinea-Bissau	Sierra Leone
Central African Republic	Kenya	Somalia
Chad	Lesotho	South Africa
Comoros	Liberia	South Sudan
Congo	Madagascar	Tanzania
Côte d'Ivoire	Malawi	Togo
Democratic Republic of Congo	Mali	Uganda
Djibouti	Mauritius	Zambia
Equatorial Guinea	Seychelles	Zimbabwe
Eritrea	Mozambique	

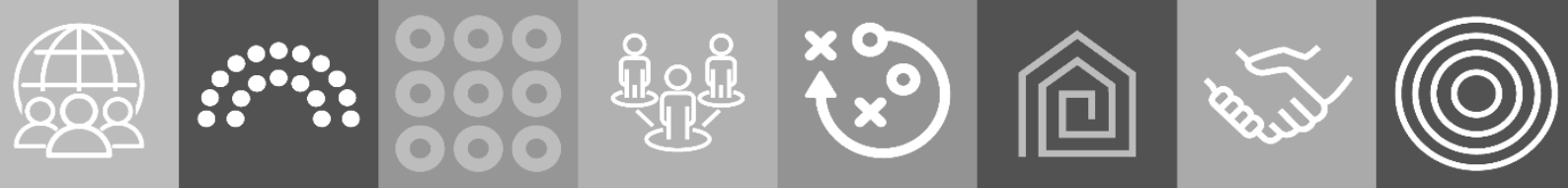
IMPLEMENTATION OF THE REGIONAL REPRESENTATION STRATEGY AND COST IMPLICATIONS

Sub-Saharan Africa, a vast geographic region encompassing multiple countries, often faces challenges in terms of connectivity between nations and sub-regions. UN-Habitat has been involved in programmatic activities to varying degrees across several countries in Sub-Saharan Africa, but there is a lack of formalization and consistency in operational approaches.

The continent would greatly benefit from enhanced support at the sub-regional and country levels, encompassing advocacy, strategic planning, technical expertise, and political engagement.

Establishing a decentralized system through sub-regional architecture would provide effective backing for sub-regional and country-specific activities in the region. This support would encompass program delivery, development/fund liaison with potential donors, negotiation with government partners, and collaboration with regional institutions. Coordination with other UN agencies, particularly for joint programming, would also be strengthened.

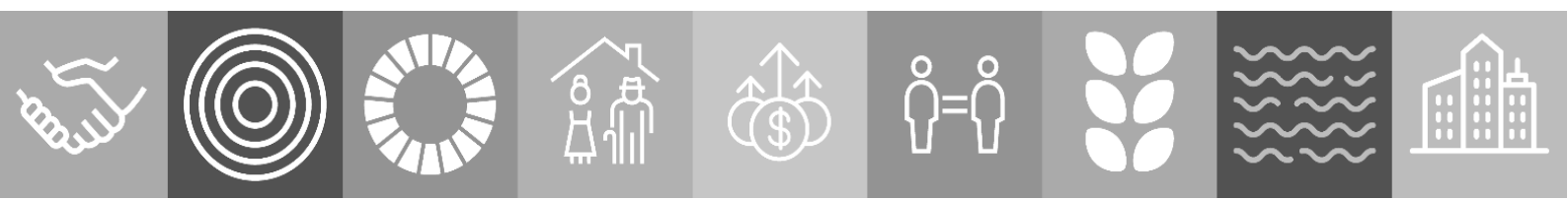
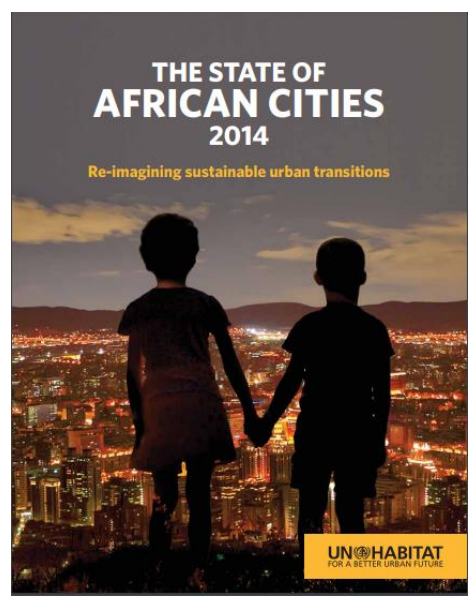




Currently, the Regional Office for Africa is piloting a sub-regional hub model, deploying operations from four hubs covering multiple countries: **West Africa from Senegal, East Africa and the Horn of Africa from Kenya, Central Africa from DRC, and Southern Africa from South Africa.** This is the first phase of implementation, and the lessons learned from this model will contribute to future efforts aiming to cover the entire sub-region of Africa through similar approaches.

CAPACITY BUILDING AND RESEARCH

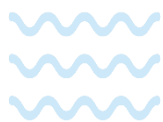
Over the years the Regional Office has worked closely with the Capacity Building Branch to make available the wealth of resources developed to its constituencies in the region. Combining research, training, human resources capacity, skill development, urban practice, knowledge, institutional capacity and tools will be very crucial in delivering the Regional Representation Strategy. A coherent capacity development strategy or plan to provide capacity, knowledge, skill and address gaps of individuals, organizations and institutions will be key. This should target diverse needs of the region and support cities to transform into sustainable, safe, resilient, and just cities where people can live and work in dignity. In terms of research, it will be useful to build on the research work done in the past in the region, so it becomes a tool for continuous knowledge building and facilitating learning as well as understanding of issues and increasing awareness. It is crucial to foster collaboration with universities and research institutions such as the African Centre for Cities and Tongji University to further enhance the continuous process of knowledge building, learning, and understanding of issues in the region. By leveraging the research work, these collaborations can facilitate the identification of emerging trends and issues, provide new insights, and can also contribute to the dissemination of research findings, promote knowledge exchange, and enhance the capacity of local researchers and scholars to conduct high-quality research. This will also facilitate policy development processes that is evidence-based.



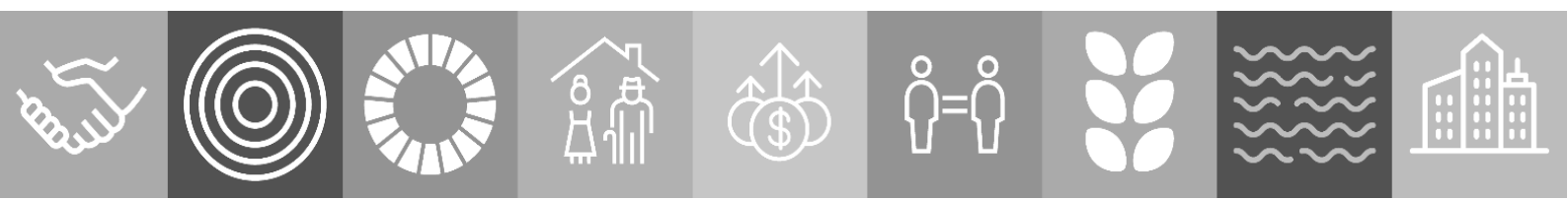


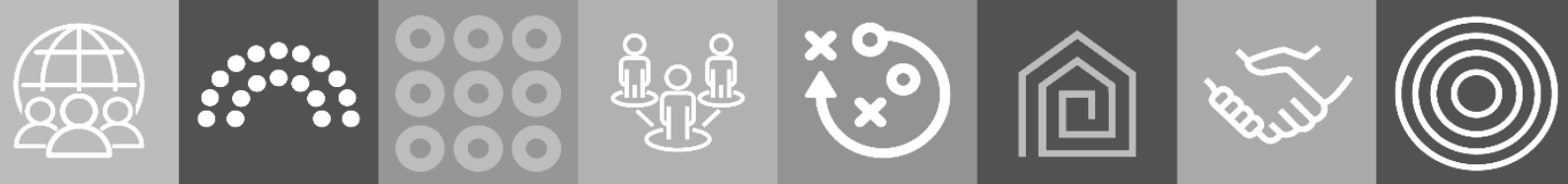
IMPACT STORY - NIGERIA

Lagos is Nigeria's largest city and main economic hub but rapid expansion has brought several challenges, such as inadequate infrastructure, road traffic congestion, and a high proportion of the population living in slums. The UK Government funded Global Future Cities Programme promotes sustainable development and increased prosperity in Lagos, among 18 other cities across 10 countries. UN-Habitat is a strategic and capacity building partner of the Programme. Two projects are being developed in Lagos, with technical assistance of delivery partner Adam Smith International. The first project provides guidelines for urban renewal and slum upgrading, benefiting communities living in slums through provision of adequate housing and infrastructure. The other intervention will foster and improve water transport within Lagos' integrated urban transport system, promoting inclusive and sustainable mobility for all. As highlighted by Famuyiwa Ibrahim, the Head of Operations at Lagos State Waterways Authority, "we are better positioned than we were a year ago and the local communities currently expect more engagements and possible investments to improve accessibility and mobility." In both projects, UN-Habitat is applying the SDG Project Assessment Tool, an instrument that guides city authorities and delivery partners to develop more inclusive, sustainable and effective urban projects aligned to the Agenda 2030. For example, in Lagos the tool has encouraged mainstreaming social inclusion: since the beginning, several stakeholder engagement forums have been established to address the needs of affected communities and disadvantaged groups throughout different project stages.



8



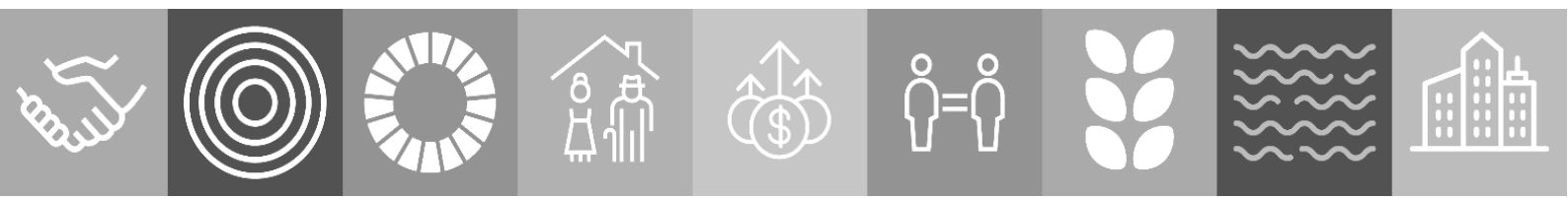


COST IMPLICATIONS

Descriptions	Yaoundé - Cameroon	Cape Town - South Africa	Dakar - Senegal	Nairobi - Kenya
Recurrent Costs				
Staffing and Operational costs				
1 SHSO (P5)	240,000	240,000	240,000	240,000
1 National Officer	55,000	50,000	55,000	60,000
1 national Program assistant G5/6	30,000	30,000	30,000	30,000
Driver - G2	24,000	24,000	24,000	
Rental Cost	24,000	24,000	24,000	24,000
Office Supplies, materials	25,000	25,000	25,000	25,000
Sub-total personnel & Operations	398,000	393,000	398,000	379,000
Activities: Capacity building and Advocacy				
Workshops & Seminars	80,000	80,000	80,000	80,000
Travel	40,000	40,000	40,000	40,000
Sub-total - Activities	120,000	120,000	120,000	120,000
	518,000	513,000	518,000	499,000
Non-Recurrent Costs (1st Year)				
Relocation cost (intl staff) -	55,862	39,512	62,240	61,122
Equipment - one off costs for 1st year (Vehicle = 40,000; IT equipment - \$2500 * 4=10000; Furniture - \$5,000)	55,000	55,000	55,000	55,000
	110,862	94,512	117,240	116,122
Total Costs	628,862	607,512	635,240	615,122

Assumptions:

1. For Cameroon the duty station is Yaoundé as not mentioned.
2. International staff calculated at step 8
3. National staff calculated at NOA/8 and GS6/8
4. Costs of offices estimated based on market prices but may need to be verified.
5. Assumptions PMOs are at HQ or funded directly by project for specific countries





DONOR'S FUNDING UN-HABITAT IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

One UN Fund

National and Local Governments

DFIO

Peace Building Fund

Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation

SIDA

JICA

European Union

NORAD

Nordic Development Fund

DANIDA

USAID

The Global Fund

UK AID

Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs

Italian Agency for Development Cooperation

African Development Bank

Global Canada

Belgian Cooperation

Spanish Cooperation

GIZ

BMZ

Foundations

Private sectors





Who to contact for more information?

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