



UN-HABITAT

Regional Office for Arab States

Overview of Activities – North Africa

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Serving **18** countries
in the Arab Region



16 countries with
current UN-Habitat
activity



14 countries with
country offices

Regional Office Presence



Key Urban Challenges in the Arab Region

Urban Challenges in the Arab Region

Conflicts & Natural Hazards

Conflicts led to widespread **destruction** and **damage** to the physical environment.

Large-scale population **migration and internal displacement** to urban areas under deteriorated humanitarian conditions.

Recent earthquakes & floods highlighted the limited capacities and investments in building resilience and crisis response

Concentrated urbanization and socio-economic development in areas prone to **climatic shocks**.

Limited Governance Systems

Centralized governance systems and **limited capacities** to adequately guide, plan and regulate urban development.

Inefficient land management systems, insecurity of tenure and property rights, lack of affordable access to land.

Rapid proliferation of **informal settlements and unplanned areas** in undesirable and hazardous locations.

Limited digitalization capacities to adequately regulate urban development and expansion.

Inadequate urban basic services

Significant shortage of affordable housing in most countries.

Limited access to clean **Water and sanitation**

Lack of sustainable modes of **Mobility**

Economic & Social Disparities

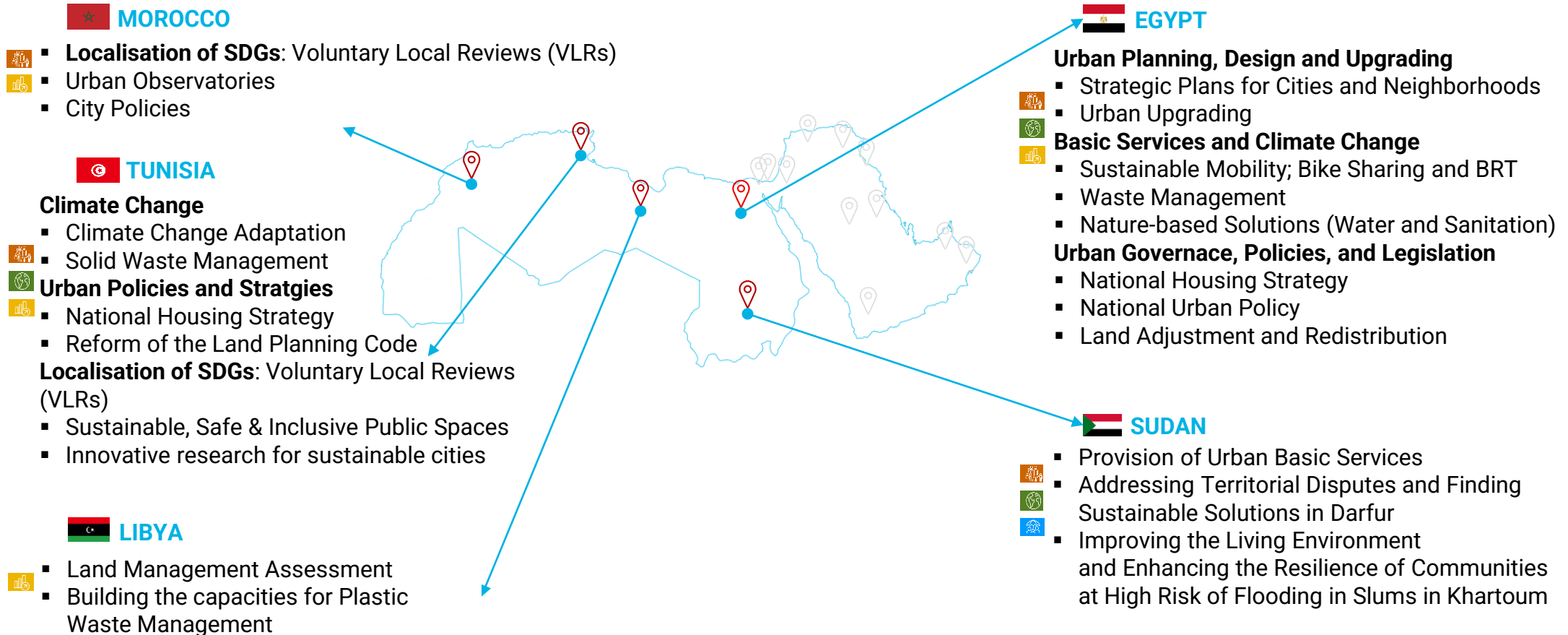
Urban inequalities in rural and urban areas with growth of informal settlements.

Limited economic diversification across the region.

Wide disparities in **poverty** rates



Overview of Ongoing Programmes – North Africa





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Examples from Ongoing Programmes



Transition to Sustainable Peace and Social Cohesion in Blue Nile, Sudan

The project contributes to achieving sustainable peace and community stability through the support of the peaceful returns and resettlements of IDPs in 4 key Governorates through:

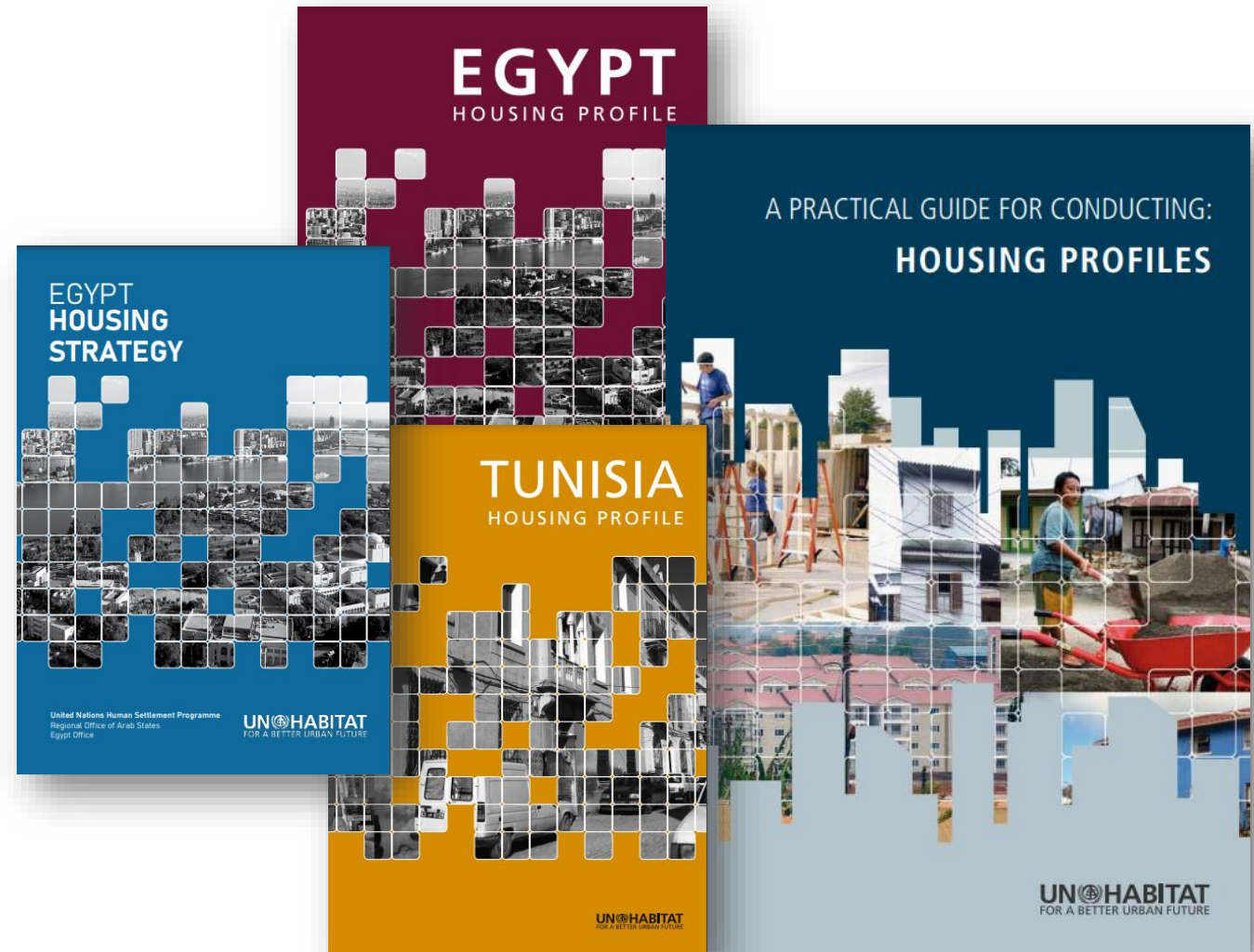
- Provision of resettlement spatial plans
- Construction of basic services
- Supporting self-help housing construction
- Securing tenure and property rights (HLP)
- Creation of livelihood opportunities through vocational training, particularly for youth and women.

The project benefits **75,809** representing **68%** of Blue Nile total population.



Participatory Evidence-based National Urban Policies and National Housing Profiles & Strategies in Arab States

- UN-Habitat builds the technical and institutional capacities of national, sub-national, and local institutions to guide housing programmes and realize the right to adequate housing.
- This is done through two interconnected components; (1) A comprehensive National Housing Profile based on an evidence-based analysis and stakeholder engagement, (2) Updating the Policies and Implementation Plan of National Housing Strategy.
- UN-Habitat has supported the development of a Housing Profile for **Egypt & Tunisia** and a National Housing Strategy in **Egypt**, with additional countries initiating the process in 2024.



RISE UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor in Tunisia

Aligned with RISE UP Flagship programme, the project has two main outcomes:

- Improved engagement of communities in participatory and gender-inclusive climate resilience planning towards the development of “bankable” projects.
- Increased institutional capacities of national and local authorities to address the climate impacts of urban poor communities.

The direct beneficiaries of the project are at the same time key stakeholders, based on the participatory approach adopted since the kick-off, who represent the **2/3 of Kerkennah island population (=10,500 inhabitants)**.

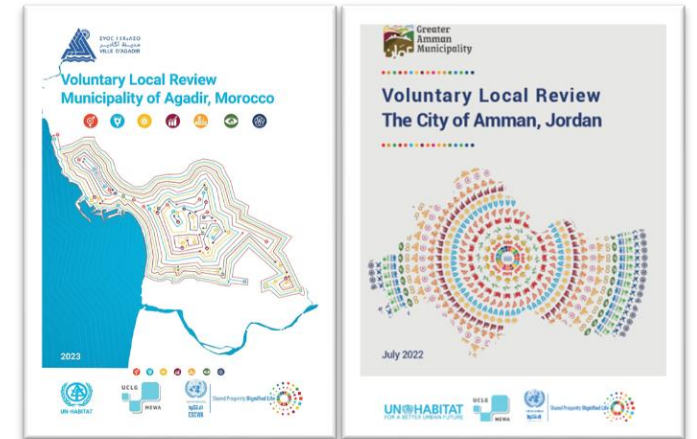


Localizing the SDGs: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

VLRs assess the progress in achieving SDGs at the city level, informing development plans, and aligning various local policies and plans with the SDGs. This is done through:

- Activating political and societal dialogue on sustainable development.
- Developing & improving available data at the local level.
- Enhancing transparency & strengthening the social contract.
- Identifying opportunities to prioritize & attract funding.

In the Arab region, the first VLR for Amman was launched in 2022. Since then, multiple cities have developed their VLRs including Al-Madinah, Saudi Arabia and **Agadir, Morocco**. **Hay Ennour, Tunisia** is launching their VLR in April and will be followed by Ramallah in Palestine, Irbid in Jordan, and Abu Dhabi, UAE.



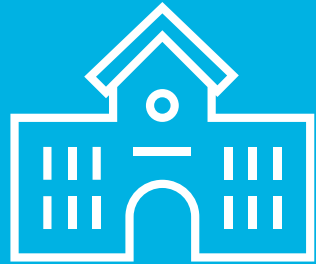
VOLUNTARY LOCAL REVIEWS

Expanding Access to Adequate Water and Sanitation through Innovation in Egypt

- *“Supporting Innovation in Water and Sanitation”* aims to reduce vulnerability of inhabitants in underserved areas through increased access to improved water and sanitation services using innovative approaches.
- Utilizing a compact, environmentally friendly, and low-cost technology, a wastewater treatment plant was installed in Tabal village, Damietta, benefitting **5,000** inhabitants.
- The project also enhanced the walkability of the village by clearing its streets of informally dumped sewage, and protected Manzala lake from contamination by raw sewage.



UN-Habitat ROAS Portfolio



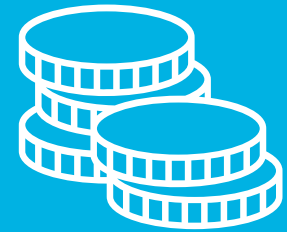
28 Projects

Initiated in the Arab region in
2023



USD 46 Million

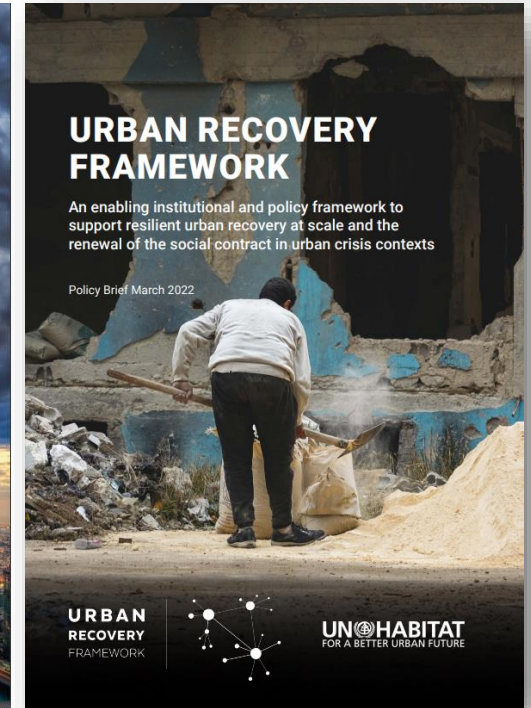
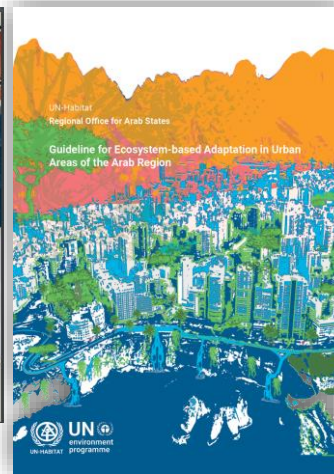
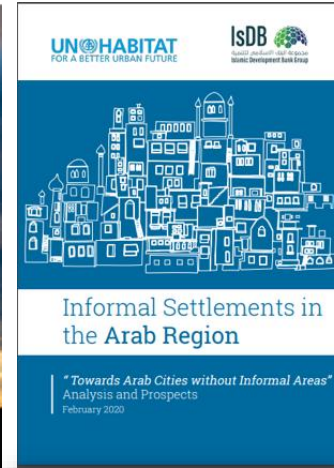
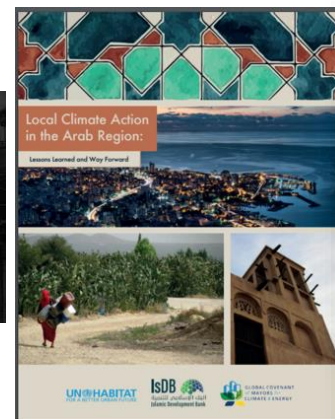
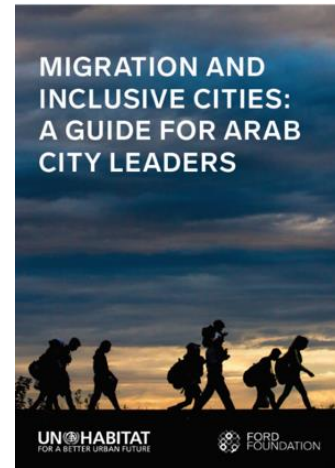
Value of newly signed
projects in Arab States in
2023



USD 25 Million

Value of Hard-pipeline
projects in 2024 (Q1&Q2)

Knowledge Generation and Capacity Building



World Urban Forum (WUF12) – Returning to Africa!

- The Twelfth Session of the World Urban Forum WUF12, convened by UN-Habitat, will take place in **Cairo, Egypt**, from **4 to 8 November** 2024, returning to the African continent after more than 20 years after its inception in Nairobi, Kenya, in 2002.
- Registration for participants is open until **31 October 2023** and registration for partner-led events is open until **8 April 2024**.



Thank you!

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