



UN-HABITAT

Report of the Executive Director on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat

**Executive Board, 4-6 December 2024, Agenda item 7,
HSP/EB.2024/19**

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- IV. Initiatives on urban crises prevention and response and activities**
- V. Conclusion**

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- HSP/EB.2024/INF.13 - Preliminary report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip**
- HSP/EB.2024/INF.14 - Progress made on selected normative and operational activities during the period January – June 2024**

II. Updates on the Nepal Country Programme

Nepal: A UN-Habitat Country Programme since 2007



The office at a glance: 23 staff + \$6.75 million portfolio

Key challenges: unplanned urban sprawl; migration leading to rapid urbanization; technical capacity gaps at local level; increased climate-related vulnerability; landlessness; housing and basic services gaps.

Key areas of work:



Urban planning and climate resilience



Land reform and management



Water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH)



Inclusive development through
localization



Reduced spatial
inequality and
poverty in
communities across
the urban - rural
continuum



Enhanced
shared
prosperity of
cities and
regions



Strengthened
climate action
and
improved urban
environment



Effective urban
crisis prevention
and response

II. Updates on the Nepal Country Programme

Low-carbon planning for sustainable urban development



II. Updates on the Nepal Country Programme



Land-tenure security and sustainable management

**FIT-FOR-PURPOSE
LAND ADMINISTRATION**
A COUNTRY LEVEL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY
FOR NEPAL



**National Land Policy, recognized
informal land tenure and
participatory approach**



**Policy implementation, tools
embedded in legislation,
issuance of land certificates**



**Addressing the land tenure,
climate and land-use nexus**

II. Updates on the Nepal Country Programme



Inclusive WASH normative guidance and infrastructure



National Sanitation Campaign & ODF Status obtention



Supporting global methodologies & championing national Inclusive Sanitation Alliance and movement



WASH facilities installation in vulnerable areas



Policy and design normative guidance for inclusive sanitation

II. Updates on the Nepal Country Programme



Urban data for localization, planning and investment



III. Updates on the Jordan Country Programme

Jordan:

A UN-Habitat Country Programme since 2005



The office at a glance: 14 staff ; \$12 million portfolio

Key challenges: the Syrian refugee crisis; migration; rapid, concentrated urbanisation; inadequate distribution and access to basic services and public facilities; unaffordable housing market; water and food insecurities.

Key areas of work:



Urban planning frameworks for sustainable urban development



Community-led public space development



Localizing the SDGs & implementing the NUA



Building climate resilience



Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban - rural continuum



Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions



Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment

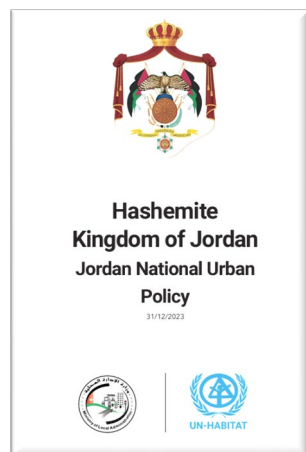


Effective urban crisis prevention and response

III. Updates on the Jordan Country Programme



Urban planning frameworks for sustainable urban development



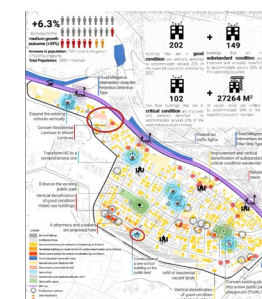
Creating a national framework for urban development



Rehabilitation solutions in vulnerable refugee-hosting areas



Spatial profiling, plans, and normative guidelines for migration planning



City-level urban regulations and neighbourhood action plans

III. Updates on the Jordan Country Programme



Community-led public space development



Participatory public space building and rehabilitating



Providing WASH facilities, & improving safety and resilience in refugee camps



Supporting socio-economic empowerment of vulnerable women

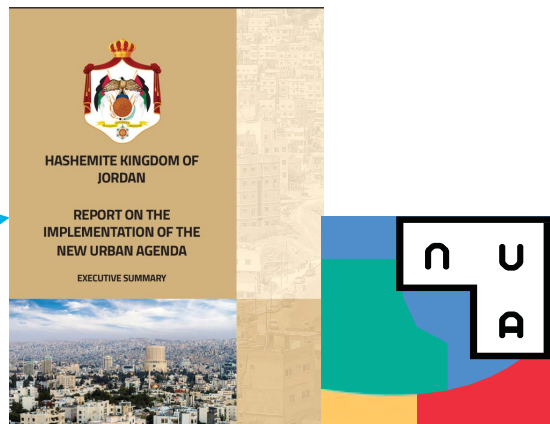


Community urban gardens for food and water security

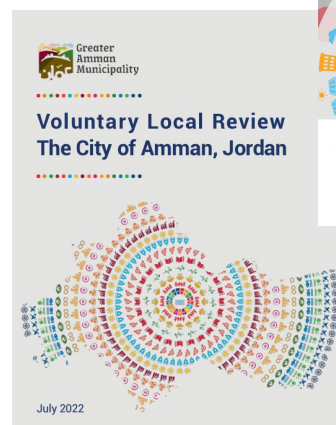
III. Updates on the Jordan Country Programme



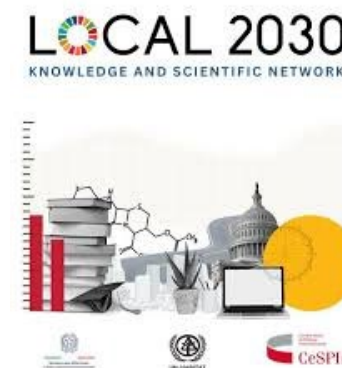
Localizing the SDGs and implementing the New Urban Agenda



Progress report on the implementation of the NUA



VLR, VNR, and practical guidelines for other VLRs in the Arab Region

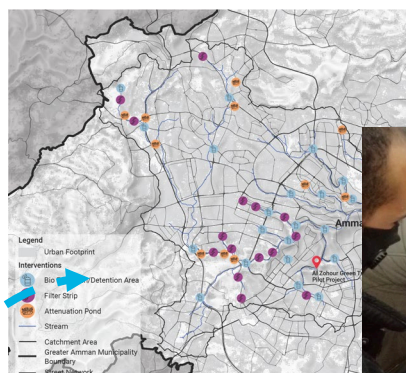


Collaborations with cities & academia to collect data on the 6 SDG transitions

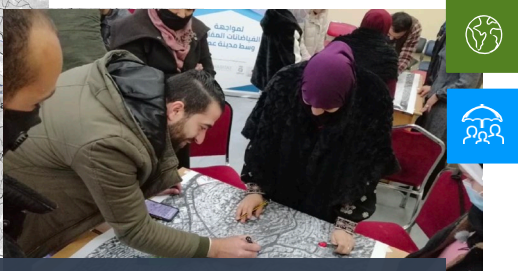
III. Updates on the Jordan Country Programme



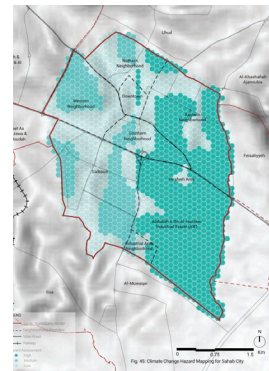
Building climate resilience



CityRAP Tool
CITY RESILIENCE
ACTION PLANNING TOOL



Climate risk assessment and targeted interventions



Integrating green growth, climate adaptation & sustainable development



Addressing water-related challenges for refugees and host communities

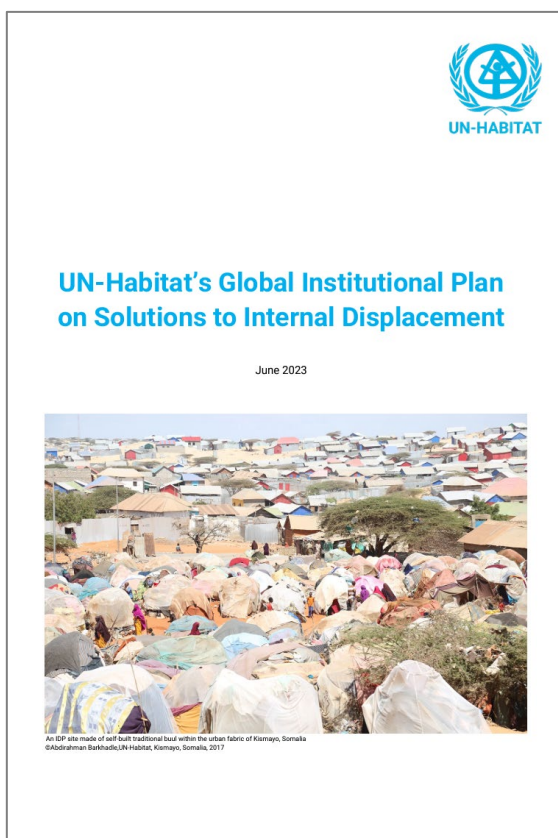


Leveraging nature-based solutions for flood adaptation measures

IV. Initiatives on urban crises prevention and response and activities



UN-Habitat's compass: The Global Institutional Plan on Solutions to Internal Displacement (2023)



- Aligned with the SG's Action Agenda on Internal Displacement, position UN-Habitat as a strategic partner to national/local governments, UN agencies, NGOs, and the international community in addressing internal displacement in urban areas.
- Approach: Urban Expertise: Leverage UN-Habitat's territorial and urban planning capabilities, HLP nexus.
- Strategic Global Partnership: With UNHCR, IOM, UNDP and JIPS. Develop agreements to extend expertise to partners where UN-Habitat lacks direct programming.

IV. Overview of Institutional Plan on Solutions to Internal Displacement

1. Develop and Strengthen global partnerships to maximise impact and make them operational



THE WORLD BANK



2. Develop an Urban Displacement Lab capacity dedicated to urban displacement solutions

- Provide **capacity building**, back-office support, surge support, and application of approaches & tools developed and tested

3. Mobilise additional resources to fully deliver on the Plan

- Develop an **emergency fund** aimed at facilitating the rapid deployment of UNH in response to urban crisis and emergencies
- Additional country support through **Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF)** from the Officer of Special Advisor

4. Enhance interventions at country level in support of UNCT

- Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia received IDSF enhancing territorial approach to IDPs and establishing dedicated pathways to solutions in cities.

5. Enhanced in-house data capacity on displacement

- Strengthen the **Data and Analytics Unit**, with a focus on displacement data and trends, development of indicators

6. Establish a network of displacement focal points

- Create a network of urban displacement focal points **in each sub-region** and in sections working on relevant technical areas **at HQ**.
- Collaborate and share experience on programme development and mobilization of resources

7. Set up a community of practice on solutions to internal displacement

- Five CoP sessions have completed in collaboration with IIED, JIPS, UNCDF, OSA and NRC, covering Urban IDPs solutions, Profiling and Data, Funding and financing, HLP, and territorial assessment and investment strategies

8. Build internal capacities on solutions to urban displacement

- New training material and existing digital training materials will be made accessible on **UN-Habitat's digital learning platform**
- Additional resources will be available to UN-Habitat Staff (ex. GP2.0, Nexus Academy)

9. Develop normative works to scale up solutions

- Towards inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement
- Guide to Mainstream Migration and Displacement into Urban Policy
- Mainstreaming Migration and Displacement in Urban Planning and Public Space Development
- Housing, land and property rights for local integration and durable solutions in customary contexts

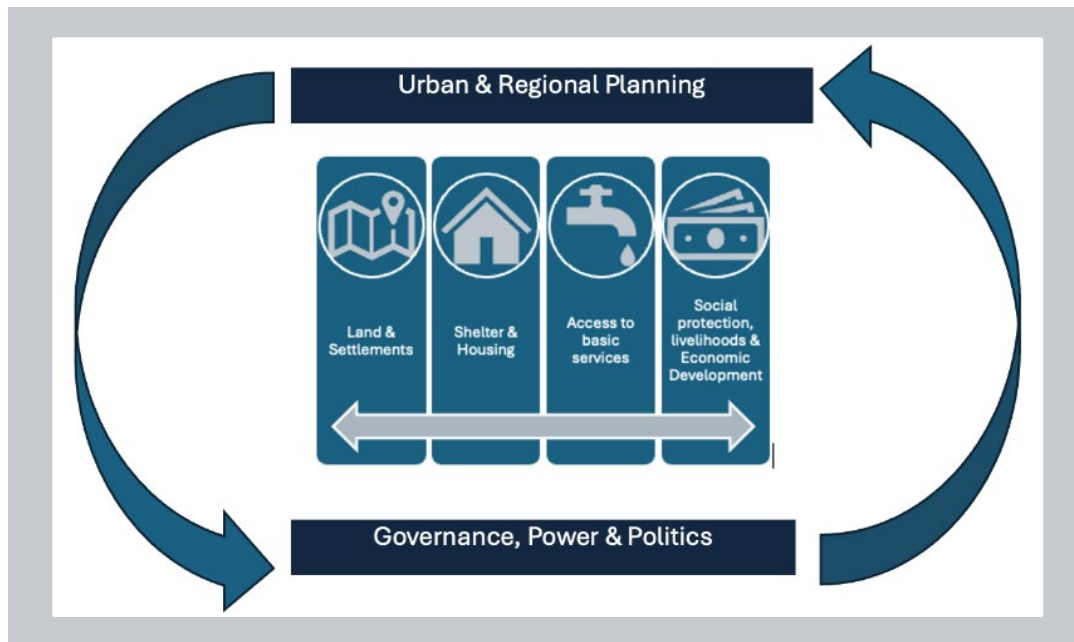
IV. Initiatives on urban crises prevention and response and activities



NORMATIVE WORK

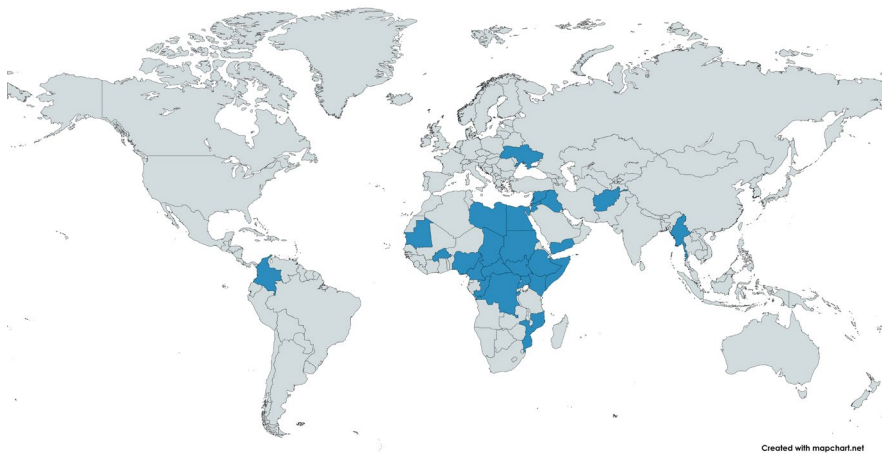
Zooming in on : “Towards inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement” A global framework for Governments, UN agencies and partners

- A task force (UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO) with external partners (WB, JIPS, IMPACT)
- With the objective to provide **sustainable, scalable, and transformative** responses to urban internal displacement
- **Key Mindset Shifts, Core Operational Principles, and 6 Programmatic Elements** for integrated responses (below)



- **Key Mindset Shifts**
 - From delivering “durable solutions in cities” to facilitating “**inclusive urban displacement solutions**”
 - From emergency crisis to **development challenge... and opportunity**
 - From IDPs as a “humanitarian caseload” to **IDPs as urban citizens within Displacement Affected Communities**
- **Core Operational Principles**
 - Understand and capitalize on pre-existing urban systems
 - Emphasize agency and voice of ‘displacement affected communities’
 - Fully embrace the central importance of location
 - Prioritize ‘No Regrets’ urban investments
 - Truly ‘own’ the commitment to government ownership

IV. Initiatives on urban crises prevention and response and activities at the country levels



Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF)

- UN-Habitat has been implementing support through IDSF in five countries: **Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia**.
- Focuses on finding durable solutions for IDPs, especially in protracted situations.
- Continue enhanced partnerships with IOM, UNDP, and UNHCR at the country level and seek additional support to leverage the initial catalytic project.

Sudan crises response

- Collaboration with UNHCR on integrated human settlement approaches for Sudanese refugees in **CAR, Chad, Egypt, Ethiopia, Libya, South Sudan and Uganda**.

Activities in key countries

- **Burkina Faso**: Durable housing solutions for IDPs and improved social cohesion.
- **Iraq**: Development of national housing policy, land rights protection, and climate adaptation initiatives.
- **Lebanon**: Emergency assistance in South Lebanon, disaster risk management, and strengthening of firefighting capacities.
- **Myanmar**: Climate resilience building, water and food security, and support for local climate action.
- **Gaza**: Focus on damage assessments, shelter strategy advisory and transitional shelter solutions. Proposals target for debris management, profiling and early recovery plans.
- **Syria**: Focus on resilience-oriented recovery, earthquake and conflict damage assessment, and city recovery planning.
- **Sahel Region**: Spatial Development Strategy to reduce vulnerabilities and promote peace.
- **Ukraine**: Urban recovery planning, housing policy reform, and digital solutions for urban recovery.
- **Yemen**: City profiling for conflict recovery, WASH interventions, and housing rehabilitation.

IV. Status of the development of efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip



UNITED
NATIONS

HSP/EB.2024/INF/13



United Nations
Human Settlements
Programme

UN-HABITAT

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Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme
Second session of 2024
Nairobi, 4-6 December 2024
Item 7 of the provisional agenda*

Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2024 and the implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities, and UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflicts and disasters.

Status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. This information note is an addendum to the Preliminary report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip submitted to the Executive Board in its first session of 2024 (HSP/EB.2024/INF/6) in response to Decision 2024/2 of UN-Habitat's Executive Board which in paragraph 5 requests the Executive Director to present an updated report to the Executive Board at its second session of 2024.

II. Limitations

2. It was not possible to update the report as a whole taking into account that the situation on the ground has not allowed for further detailed assessments and ground-truthing of the data. The war in the Gaza Strip is still ongoing with no durable ceasefire reached¹. This short note contains some updated data on debris quantification, jointly done with UNEP, dated July 2024. Preparations are under way by the World Bank, United Nations and European Union for a new interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA).

3. The challenges and uncertainties in planning for recovery and reconstruction efforts in the context of Gaza noted in the preliminary report remain valid. The immediate focus continues to be on the humanitarian response. The principles derived from lessons learned from previous response and reconstruction efforts in the Gaza Strip and elsewhere and the proposed pathways from acute humanitarian response to recovery and reconstruction remain valid.

* HSP/EB.2024/14.

¹ As of 30 September 2024.

Introduction

- **Purpose:** This update builds on the preliminary report from the first session of 2024, responding to Decision 2024/2 of UN-Habitat's Executive Board.

Limitations and Current Challenges

- **Restricted access:** The ongoing conflict has made ground assessments impossible; data validation is pending.
- **Humanitarian focus:** The primary concern remains humanitarian aid. Recovery and reconstruction efforts depend on future ceasefire conditions.
- **Debris management:** a new debris quantification completed with UNEP, while planning for a 2nd Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (RDNA) by World Bank, UN, and EU is underway.

IV. Status of the development of efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip

Impact on Human Settlements (July – September 2024)

- **Debris accumulation:** The conflict has produced 47 million tonnes of debris, an increase of **107%** since January 2024.
 - **Rafah:** 1447% increase
 - **Khan Younis:** 166% increase
 - **Deir Al-Balah:** 115% increase
 - **Gaza Governorate:** Highest total debris, 72% increase
- **Damage overview:**
 - affecting **66%** of all structures in Gaza
- **Displacement crisis:** 90% of Gaza's population (1.9 million) displaced by September 2024
- **Shelter challenges:** Progress on transitional shelter solutions stalled due to active military operations

UN-Habitat's initiatives

- **Debris Management Framework:** A framework ensuring a coherent and sustainable debris management approach, engaging all key actors in the sector.
- **Gaza Debris Management Working Group:** Established, co-chaired by UNDP and UNEP, addressing housing, land, and property rights concerns.
- **Resource Mobilisation:** CNs developed for needed resources to implement emergency shelter support, urban profiling and recovery planning interventions.
- **Technical intervention:** Initial mapping of possible sites for transitional shelter solutions and the related methodology finalised.

Next Steps

- **Collaboration:** Continued collaboration with **UNEP, UNDP, Shelter Cluster** (led by **NRC**), Gaza Site Management Working Group (led by **UNRWA** and **ACTED**) on debris management and transitional shelters.
- **Future assessment:** advancing towards comprehensive report is only possible if the situation improves

IV. Way forward

Strengthen Partnerships

With UNHCR

- **Global Refugee Forum:** UN-Habitat and UNHCR supported the first **Multistakeholder Pledge for Climate Resilient Sustainable Human Settlements** for Refugees and Host Communities, led by Ethiopia and Kenya. The pledge promotes climate adaptation, sustainability, social equity, and community participation in urban and rural areas.
- **Sudan Crisis Response:** UN-Habitat is developing integrated settlements for refugees and hosts via a regional platform consolidating data and evidence. Initiatives include:
 - Urban Displacement Lab: Capacity building, back-office support, surge support, and application of approaches & tools developed and tested

With UNHCR & World Bank

- Joint efforts to address climate resilience and develop sustainable settlements for forcibly displaced populations and hosts, focusing on potentially **CAR, Chad, Kenya, Ethiopia, Uganda, and Mauritania**.

Emergency fund

- Develop an emergency fund aimed at facilitating the rapid deployment of UN-Habitat in response to urban crises and emergencies

Engagement with the ASG Special Advisor's Office

- UN-Habitat is providing technical advice and discussing a post-ASG mandate strategy, including a guide for internal displacement.

12th World Urban Forum

- 60+ events on urban migration and displacement planned
- Spotlight events on internal displacement and Gaza
- Arena event on the solutions framework

Thank you

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