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**Implementation of the normative and operational activities of
UN-Habitat, including reporting on its programmatic
activities in 2024 and the implementation of subprogrammes,
flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities**

**Report of the Executive Director on normative and operational
activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme,
including updates on the Nepal Country Programme, the
Jordan Country Programme, urban crises prevention and
response initiatives and activities for the period January–June
2024**

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report highlights progress by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on normative and operational activities. Section II provides an update on the advancements of the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme. Section III presents progress from the UN-Habitat Jordan Country Programme. The Nepal and Jordan updates demonstrate how UN-Habitat has been able to develop programmes and field presence, drawing from its comparative advantage in various thematic areas of work, across the different domains of change of its corporate strategic plan. The updates also demonstrate how normative and operational activities are balanced, linked and mutually reinforcing at the country level. Section IV is an update on the initiatives of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster, including Gaza. In addition, the annex to this report HSP/EB.2024[...] presents an update to the preliminary report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip. Further, a second annex to the report, HSP/EB.2024[...], highlights progress made on selected normative and operational activities during the period January–June 2024 that contributed to each subprogramme of the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020–2025 and the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 and other Sustainable Development Goals.

* HSP/EB.2024/14

II. Update on the Nepal Country Programme

2. UN-Habitat started to support the country of Nepal in the aftermath of the 1988 earthquake. The assistance provided by UN-Habitat, initially geared towards reconstruction, ultimately led to the formulation of Nepal's Building Code (1994)¹. In 2007, the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Office was established, with the goal of supporting the government and people of Nepal in achieving green, resilient, inclusive and sustainable development. Since its creation, the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme has continuously expanded its work, addressing needs for livable and sustainable human settlements and committing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF 2023-2027).

A. UN-Habitat in Nepal: background

3. In Nepal, the promulgation of the 2015 Constitution solidified state restructuring into a federal republic with three tiers of government – federal, provincial, and local – each with distinct authority and responsibilities. After federal restructuring, the country counted 753 local governments, out of which 293 are considered urban municipalities and 460 are classified as rural municipalities.² In 2023³, out of the 30 million national population, 27.07% was urban, 39.75% peri-urban, and 33.19% rural, showing increased urban and peri-urban populations from the last ten years.⁴ This rise in Nepal's urban population is associated with a growing migration trend, from mountainous areas to plains and urban centers, resulting in unplanned urban sprawl.
4. Since the federal restructuring, Nepalese local governments have experienced greater autonomy and resources at the local level, providing opportunities to address infrastructure deficits, enhance public services, and stimulate economic activities. However, some challenges remain, including disparities in the technical capacity of municipalities to undertake urban planning for long-term development, leading to haphazard urban expansion.
5. Nepal is highly vulnerable to climate change due to its topography, climate-sensitive livelihoods, and limited adaptive capacity of its communities.⁵ With the melting Himalayas, Nepal faces increased downstream events such as erosion, landslides, flash floods, and droughts, significantly impacting lives and livelihoods. By 2050, climate change could cost Nepal 2.2% of its annual GDP.⁶
6. Landlessness is another major concern. In Nepal, landlessness is both a consequence and cause of poverty⁷ that connects with access to food, shelter, public services and citizenship. Despite the 2015 Constitution ensuring land tenure security and land rights protection, over 1.34 million households are identified as landless and near-landless⁸. This includes people living in informal settlements, facing threats of eviction, and farmers, who depend on land to subsist. In Nepal, more than 57.3% of the population is dependent on agriculture⁹, and nearly half of the rural population that depends on subsistence farming is near-landless, frequently operating under informal tenure. For farmers and people living in informal settlements, being landless exacerbates unsustainable livelihoods and increases their vulnerability to climate risks. The lack of formal tenure systems also negatively impacts municipalities, limiting potential revenue from land, property and rental taxes.¹⁰ Property rights not recorded in formal cadasters – corresponding to 25% of all land in Nepal – furthermore results in “dead capital” that cannot be used as collateral for a loan.
7. Lastly, there are significant gaps in housing ownership, safety, and access to basic services in Nepal. In 2019, the Nepal 15th Development Plan showed that approximately 2 million new housing units were needed, in order to fill the housing gap.¹¹ Additionally, at least 3.5 million housing units remain vulnerable to large earthquakes, such as those occurring in 2015 and 2023, posing a critical threat to the humanitarian crisis.¹² Furthermore, only 57% of households have access to piped water and 16% to safe water, while 5% are without toilet facilities and 39% without safe sanitation.¹³

¹ https://gcoe.tus-fire.com/archive/uploads/2014/08/nepal_nbc.pdf

² <https://lawcommission.gov.np/en/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/Constitution-of-Nepal.pdf>

³ According to the analysis of the 2021 Census data using UN-Habitat's Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) tool and Government-endorsed results.

⁴ https://api.giwmis.gov.np/storage/36/posts/1704182419_97.pdf

⁵ [https://climate.mohp.gov.np/attachments/article/167/Second%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20\(NDC\)%20-%202020.pdf](https://climate.mohp.gov.np/attachments/article/167/Second%20Nationally%20Determined%20Contribution%20(NDC)%20-%202020.pdf)

⁶ <https://www.adb.org/sites/default/files/publication/42811/assessing-costs-climate-change-and-adaptation-south-asia.pdf>

<https://documents.un.org/doc/undoc/gen/g22/341/62/pdf/g2234162.pdf>

⁸ The near landless are those with less than 0.25 ha that comprise about 65% of the rural population. <https://moald.gov.np/wp-content/uploads/2023/02/ADS-Final-English-Part-1-2-combined.pdf>

⁹ Population and Housing Census 2021

¹⁰ https://www.researchgate.net/publication/336278915_Fit-for-purpose_land_administration_strategy_an_innovative_approach_to_implement_land_policies_in_Nepal

¹¹ 15th Development Plan, Nepal: https://www.npc.gov.np/images/category/15th_plan_English_Version.pdf

¹² <https://undpnepal.medium.com/retrofitting-of-existing-housing-stock-has-great-potential-to-manage-earthquake-risk-effectively-fcf02ccf94b4>

¹³ https://gcoe.tus-fire.com/archive/uploads/2014/08/nepal_nbc.pdf

8. Addressing these challenges and promoting sustainable urban development through normative and operational activities is the priority of the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme. Hence, the programme primarily focuses on four sectors: urban planning and climate change; land reform and management; water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH); and inclusive development through localization, all while prioritizing the needs of the most marginalized.
9. To conduct its normative and operational work, the programme is guided by a multi-ministry Steering Committee led by the Nepalese Ministry of Urban Development (MOUD). The committee facilitates effective coordination between UN-Habitat and government agencies, including on project endorsement, advice, implementation and monitoring. The programme has furthermore established strong collaborations with diverse partners, such as all levels of government, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), civil society, academia, private sector, professionals (e.g., urban planners, land surveyors) and other UN agencies. These collaborations have led to successful policy support, projects and annual national dialogues on sustainable urban development (e.g., National Urban Forum, the World Habitat Day, the World Cities Day, the World Town Planning Day, and international event the Spatial Planning Platform 2023 in collaboration with MOUD and Government of Japan (GOJ))¹⁴.

B. Normative and operational activities under the Nepal Country Programme

a) Building resilience through low-carbon climate actions for sustainable urban development

10. In 2015, Nepal was struck by the devastating Gorkha Earthquake, resulting in damage and destruction of over 785,000 houses.¹⁵ Within affected urban areas in the Kathmandu Valley, a significant portion of the damaged houses were located in historical urban centers and lagged behind in reconstruction.¹⁶ Under the project titled “Sustainable Tourism and Green Growth for Heritage Settlements in Kathmandu Valley” (2019-2022), UN-Habitat Nepal, funded by the European Union (EU), supported the reconstruction of twelve heritage settlements. The reconstruction process put communities and environmental respect first, using a community-centred planning approach, as well as indigenous construction technology and local materials. While rebuilding physical homes, this project also aimed to revitalize the local tourism industry and create new jobs for impacted communities (i.e., with the development of 60 tourism-based enterprises, with improved access to finance, and the promotion of handicraft, heritage and food-based activities). The project also leveraged established tourism networks to promote restored heritage settlements as touristic destinations. These activities were supported by a step-by-step urban planning methodology developed jointly with the Lalitpur Metropolitan City, UN-Habitat’s Our City Plans team and Arcadis (Shelter Mission). Multiple normative products were generated (videos, booklets, publications) contributing to the advancement of global knowledge on the linkages between physical reconstruction, green local economic development, and disaster readiness. Overall, these operational and normative activities advanced the work of UN-Habitat under subprogramme 1 (“reduced spatial inequality and poverty”), with the reconstruction of heritage settlements, subprogramme 2 (“enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions”), with the creation of jobs, and subprogramme 3 (“strengthened climate action and improved urban environment”), with the use of green and low-carbon technologies to support disaster recovery.
11. Working towards strengthening the resilience of Nepal to climate change (under subprogramme 3), the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme has also been supporting the implementation of low-cost climate adaptation and mitigation technologies. Through the implementation of two projects, “Emergency Support Initiative for Green Building-based Prevention and Control Measures for Vulnerable Communities in Cambodia, Nepal and Sri Lanka” (2022-2023) funded by the Japan Supplementary Budget (GoJ), and “Water for Life” (2015-2021) supported by the Fukuoka City, UN-Habitat Nepal provided capacity-building support and low-cost infrastructure to low-income vulnerable communities. Key operational solutions included heat insulating paint for public schools in regions facing extreme heat, low-cost rainwater harvesting systems for water-scarce communities, permeable pavements, urban agriculture and support for renewable energy utilization through the installment of off-grid solar electrification and improved cooking stoves. The implementation of these climate-smart technologies was guided by tested regional technologies such as the Tametotto rainwater harvesting system and Miracool heat insulating paints. Such initiatives attracted interest from the government, other agencies and organizations, for replication.

¹⁴ first international urban event co-hosted jointly with MOUD and Government of Japan

¹⁵ [https://www.icimod.org/article/lessons-from-nepals-2015-earthquake/#:~:text=The%20earthquake%20caused%20widespread%20damage,damaged%20\(NPC%2C%202015\).](https://www.icimod.org/article/lessons-from-nepals-2015-earthquake/#:~:text=The%20earthquake%20caused%20widespread%20damage,damaged%20(NPC%2C%202015).)

¹⁶ https://www.hrrpnepal.org/uploads/media/UrbanStatusPaper-min_20210811154749.pdf

12. Under subprogramme 3, the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme is also currently developing normative national and local guidelines that promote climate and gender-responsive urban development. These guidelines are developed through the “Cities 4 Women” project, in partnership with UNOPS and Cities Alliance, with funding from the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) and from the European Union. This ongoing project is highly collaborative. It builds on previous support provided to the MOUD and involves direct cooperation with beneficiary municipalities in the implementation of participatory approaches to identify and develop climate and gender-responsive projects and investments. As part of this project, UN-Habitat Nepal also supports municipalities to strengthen their urban planning processes. To this end, UN-Habitat Nepal has been working closely with experts from the UN-Habitat Global Public Spaces Programme and Our City Plan team. Experts from the Global Public Spaces Programme are providing technical support in contextualizing and implementing the Her City toolkit for developing gender and climate responsive public spaces. The Our City Plan team supports the development of Municipal Planning Guidelines.
13. Bolstered by this solid experience in making Nepalese urban areas more sustainable, inclusive and resilient, UN-Habitat Nepal has recently engaged in a new collaboration with the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) and the Kathmandu Valley Development Authority (KVDA) to implement a Global Environment Fund (GEF) project on ecosystem-based adaptation in an urban context. Under this “Urban Ecosystem-Based Adaptation for climate-resilient development in the Kathmandu Valley, Nepal” project (2019-2025), the country programme is providing contextualized training materials and technical guidelines to KVDA and local governments of the Kathmandu Valley region. These normative products are aimed at building capacity and promoting urban ecosystem-based adaptation through urban planning, project development and implementation. Their content builds on resource materials previously generated through multiple regional and multi-country projects supported by UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Asia Pacific.
14. To further its contributions to subprogramme 3 and strengthen its response to climate-related needs, the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme is intensifying its efforts to build a strong climate portfolio. Firmly guided by the UNSDCF (2023-2027) and supporting the OneUN approach, UN-Habitat Nepal has been actively establishing partnerships with other UN agencies (e.g., ongoing joint projects with the World Food Programme (WFP) and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the SDG Joint Fund).

b) Advancement of land tenure security and sustainable land management

15. Since 2012, UN-Habitat has stood next to the Government of Nepal in its efforts to prioritize access to land and housing. Directly contributing to the implementation of subprogramme 1, the Nepal Country Programme, with the support of UN-Habitat’s Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) since 2016, has applied GLTN’s tools and approaches, including the continuum of land rights¹⁷ and contextualized the Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM).¹⁸ Internalizing learnings from these interventions, the primary achievement was the adoption of the National Land Policy (2019) with the integration of the fit-for-purpose strategy in land administration, which for the first time recognized informal land tenure and the importance of participatory approaches in land management.
16. From 2020 onwards, the Nepal Country Programme, through GLTN’s continued support, engaged with national and local governments in the implementation of Nepal’s National Land Policy¹⁹ with due consideration to the multifaceted aspects of land administration and management (i.e., land tenure, livelihoods, shelter, gender, human rights, climate change, conflicts and natural disasters). Country-wide policy implementation was guided by UN-Habitat’s engagements with 14 municipalities, customizing and implementing solutions, as well as UN-Habitat’s guidance and tools (the Fit-for-Purpose Land Administration Strategy²⁰, the Participatory Land Use Planning Resource Book²¹, and the Localization of Land Governance in Nepal²²). The work of UN-Habitat Nepal with these 14 municipalities (i.e., using the Social Tenure Domain Model for the identification, verification and recording of informal tenure and the development of participatory land use processes) has since been embedded in the national legislation and has successfully been rolled out in 723 of the 753 existing Nepalese municipalities. As a result, social tenure information has been collected for 984,000 households and 5,000 land ownership certificates have already been distributed²³.

¹⁷ <https://gltn.net/tag/continuum-of-land-rights/>

¹⁸ <https://www.fig.net/resources/publications/figpub/pub52/figpub52.pdf>

¹⁹ <https://gltn.net/2019/04/05/special-announcement-nepal-government-adopts-a-national-land-policy/>

²⁰ <https://gltn.net/download/full-report-fit-for-purpose-land-administration-a-country-level-implementation-strategy-for-nepal/>

²¹ https://unhabitat.org.np/recent_publish_detail/formulation-of-participatory-land-use-plan-resource-book

²² https://unhabitat.org.np/recent_publish_detail/localization-of-land-governance-in-nepal-in-nepali

²³ Source: National Land Commission, March 2024

17. Building on its expertise and strong collaboration with the Government of Nepal, the UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme recently acquired funding from the Government of Korea to work on tackling landlessness and tenure insecurity while promoting climate-smart agriculture technologies to foster climate-resilient development. The project, titled “A Safety Net of Innovative Land Tenure Solutions for Near-landless Sharecroppers and for a Greener Rural Nepal” (2023-2027), is supporting four municipalities from the province of Lumbini in accelerating their delivery of land and tenure security to informal settlers and farmers. With the support of UN-Habitat’s GLTN and Urban Lab, this project also aims at improving the land-use planning practices of engaged municipalities to comprehensively address the climate change and land use nexus. This ongoing project has already enabled the four municipalities to prepare policies, initiate documentation for landless individuals, allocate budget and put in place a local-level structure to take the lead in upscaling initiatives. This project advances the work of UN-Habitat under both subprogrammes 1 and 3.

c) Improving quality of life for all through inclusive sanitation

18. The UN-Habitat Nepal Country Programme has intensively engaged in the water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) sector since 2005. Key early normative and operational milestones included support for the formulation of national policy and guidelines (i.e., Bagmati Action Plan,²⁴ ii. International Year of Sanitation,²⁵ iii. Environment Guideline,²⁶ iv. Solid Waste Management Technical Guideline,²⁷ v. Legal framework for Rainwater Harvesting,²⁸ and vi. National Sanitation and Hygiene Master Plan²⁹) and implementation of innovative WASH technologies for the urban poor (e.g., rainwater harvesting, ground water recharge, community led water supply and solid waste). Notably, through the National Sanitation Campaign (2011-2021) and under the leadership of the Government of Nepal, UN-Habitat’s role was instrumental in reaching 6 million people in 19 districts to successfully raise the status of Nepal as an Open Defecation Free (ODF) Country in 2019, first to be declared ODF in South Asia.
19. With continued technical support from UN-Habitat’s Urban Basic Services team, the Nepal Country Programme is focusing on city-wide inclusive sanitation systems through policy integration, information data strengthening and partnership building, aiming to achieve safely managed sanitation in the three tiers of Government. This global normative project, called “Scaling Citywide Inclusive Sanitation Systems” (2021-2023; 2023-ongoing), co-implemented with UNICEF, aims to support UN-Habitat’s ongoing efforts to refine global methodologies and assessment tools for SDG 6.2 and SDG 6.3.1.
20. As an ODF country, Nepal has been recognized as a driver of safely managed sanitation. UN-Habitat Nepal acts as the Secretariat of the City-Wide Inclusive Sanitation Alliance Nepal, which aims to drive collective action to accelerate the adoption of Citywide Inclusive Sanitation (CWIS) in national, provincial and local policy, programming and practices. The alliance is composed of 22 diverse partners (including UN agencies, non-governmental organizations, academic institutes, private companies, media and expert individuals) to create a national sanitation movement for WASH services for all at national and sub-national levels.
21. Notably, during the COVID-19 pandemic, as the need for WASH facilities became paramount, UN-Habitat Nepal, through Global Sanitation Fund project, supported the installation of hand-washing stations in 20 poor pockets areas and coordinated with UN sister agencies to provide cash support to women in informal settlements and fulfill immediate basic needs. Additionally, through the EU project on heritage recovery, home-based women were trained to produce face masks and sanitizers.
22. More recently, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP), and the United Nations Information and Communication Technologies Task Force (UNOICT), engaged in the “Mainstreaming *Leaving No One Behind* in national urban policies and programmes (SDG 11 & 6) in South Asia”, a project led by the UNDESA. This project sought to develop urban policy and urban planning normative tools to support national and local governments in developing inclusive sanitation projects that cater to the needs of persons with disabilities. In Nepal, major normative outputs for this project included i. design catalogue of accessible public toilets,³⁰ ii. MOUD’s Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) guideline,³¹ and iii policy review report with solid recommendations for mainstreaming GESI. The above-mentioned projects directly contributed to UN-Habitat’s subprogramme 1, with increased access to basic services.

²⁴ https://unhabitat.org/featured_news_detail/bagmati-action-plan-prepared-with-support-of-un-habitat

²⁵ <https://unhabitat.org/tackling-a-global-crisis-international-year-of-sanitation-2008>

²⁶ https://unhabitat.org/featured_news_detail/urban-environmental-management-guideline-under-preparation-in-nepal

²⁷ <https://unhabitat.org/solid-waste-management-technical-guideline-for-municipalities-of-nepal>

²⁸ <https://mirror.unhabitat.org/content.asp?cid=1430&catid=335&typeid=6>

²⁹ <https://www.exemplars.health/-/media/files/egh/resources/stunting/nepal/part-2/sanitation-and-hygiene-master-plan.pdf>

³⁰ https://unhabitat.org/recent_publish_detail/design-catalogue-of-accessible-public-toilets-in-nepal

³¹ <https://www.moud.gov.np/storage/listies/July2019/GESI-Guidelines-en.pdf>

d) Strengthening urban data analysis for evidence-based planning and investments

23. In December 2023, the Government of Nepal launched the report “Degree of Urbanization in Nepal”³². This report re-defined the classification of Nepalese urban areas and became a crucial reference for the formulation of national policies and strategies, including the 16th Development Plan.³³ It facilitated Nepal’s production and reporting of data for SDG 11 and demonstrated innovative ways to analyze and use data for urban management and decision making. This report resulted from the collaboration of UN-Habitat Nepal, UN-Habitat Data and Analytics Unit (DAU), Nepal’s National Statistics Office (NSO), supported by the European Commission (EC). The UN-Habitat methodology used, called DEGURBA, aims to harmonize the definition of urban and rural areas globally in support of producing comparable data within and across countries. A series of technical trainings were conducted by experts from DAU and EC with Nepalese representatives from various ministries, professional bodies, academia, municipal associations, and NSO as the lead, resulting in the analysis of urbanization trends in Nepal. The results, after field verifications and national validation, were formally endorsed by the government.
24. To further accelerate the achievement of the SDGs and the implementation of UN-Habitat’s subprogrammes, UN-Habitat Nepal is also actively supporting SDG localization. As a part of the global project led by UN-Habitat’s SDG Localization team called “Fostering COVID-19 Recovery and SDG Implementation Through Local Action in Asia-Pacific, Arab and African Countries”, UN-Habitat has collaborated with the Chandragiri municipality to prepare its Voluntary Local Review (VLR) and produce local datasets to draw concrete steps towards achieving the 2030 targets. The process is well-recognized by the Government of Nepal, and UN-Habitat Nepal is preparing to support other municipalities in conducting their VLR and taking local actions towards achieving the SDGs.

III. Update on the Jordan Country Programme

25. Since its establishment in January 2005, the UN-Habitat Jordan Country Programme has grown to support the Government of Jordan in addressing emerging challenges, responding to the Syrian refugee crisis, COVID-19 pandemic, and other global crises. The programme entered a new phase in 2018 and witnessed a significant increase in its budget, staffing, and operations. Between the years of 2020-2024, UN-Habitat’s programmes in Jordan made significant collaborative achievements towards advancing sustainable urban development and resilience-building, focusing on urban planning frameworks, inclusive and accessible infrastructure development, socioeconomic empowerment, urban resilience, and climate change adaptation. These programmes underscored a commitment to advancing the SDGs, implementing the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and contributing to UN-Habitat’s 2020-2025 subprogrammes.

A. UN-Habitat in Jordan: background

26. The Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan faces persistent and systemic challenges that impede its sustainable development efforts. With a population of 11.5 million (2023)³⁴, of which 2.3 million are aged 15-24, Jordan’s demographics have been significantly influenced by regional conflicts, being the second largest refugee host per capita worldwide³⁵.
27. Migration has played a key role in shaping Jordan’s politics, economy, society, and urban characteristics. With over 80% of refugees in Jordan, particularly Syrian refugees, living in host communities³⁶, municipalities experience increased pressure to provide services within their limited capacities and resources. Jordan’s role in hosting Syrian refugees since 2012 has attracted substantial international aid, yet economic challenges persist due to limited government revenues, exacerbated by the impacts of COVID-19 and global inflation. This has led to reduced municipal capital spending and increasing debt, with stark investment disparities across regions. Meanwhile, municipalities grapple with a cycle of short-term, sector-specific interventions. Despite reforms aimed at enhancing quality of life and public sector capabilities, economic hardship continues.

32 <https://censusnepal.cbs.gov.np/results/downloads/degree-urbanization-report>

33 https://npc.gov.np/en/category/periodic_plans

34 Department of Statistics. (2024). (rep.). Estimated population at the end of 2023. Department of Statistics. Retrieved from https://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/DataBank/Population/Population_Estimates/PopulationEstimates.pdf.

35 UNHCR. (2021). (publication). Jordan Fact Sheet. Retrieved from

<https://reporting.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/Jordan%20country%20factsheet%20-%20September%202021.pdf>.

36 UNHCR. (n.d.). Jordan Operational Data Portal. UNHCR Data Portal. <https://data.unhcr.org/en/country/jor>

28. Urbanization presents another major challenge, with 90.3% of the population living in urban areas³⁷. Rapid, concentrated urbanization, driven partly by refugee influxes, has led to inadequate distribution and access to basic services and public facilities. The housing market faces critical affordability challenges due to inflated land, construction, and energy costs³⁸. Inadequate mobility options exacerbate vulnerabilities, particularly for low-income individuals, due to costly and time-consuming public transportation.
29. Additionally, natural resources are scarce, with heavy dependency on imports³⁹. As the second most water-scarce country, Jordan struggles with domestic water needs. Climate change exacerbates water and food insecurities, reducing agricultural productivity and increasing land fragility. Climate change risks, such as floods, droughts, and heatwaves, are increasing and disproportionately impacting already-vulnerable host communities and refugees⁴⁰. Yet, disaster prevention and mitigation efforts are hindered by insufficient institutional capacities, limited awareness, and poor policy implementation.
30. To address these challenges, the Jordan Country Programme has partnered with a wide range of national and local partners, including line ministries, municipalities, civil society organizations, academia, and the private sector, as well as United Nations sister agencies⁴¹. The Jordan programme's portfolio grew from \$1.02 million in 2020 to over \$12 million in 2024. Resources were mobilized through the generous support of international donors, namely the Government of Japan, Mediterranean City-to-City Migration (MC2CM), Global Public Space Programme, UN COVID-19 Response and Recovery Multi-Partner Trust Fund, Adaptation Fund, Government of Italy through the Italian Agency for Development Cooperation, the European Union, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs, Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, 2030 Agenda Sub-fund, and, most recently, the Government of Netherlands.

B. Normative and operational activities under the Jordan Country Programme

a) Multistakeholder urban data and planning frameworks for sustainable and resilient cities

31. The country programme has addressed reduced spatial inequality and poverty (subprogramme 1) by enhancing national and local urban planning frameworks, focusing on creating comprehensive normative products such as urban policies, guidelines, profiles, and plans through spatial analysis and technical support. By strengthening planning regulations and strategies, UN-Habitat has built institutional capacities and promoted informed, participatory decision-making. These efforts are crucial for fostering sustainable cities and identifying viable investment projects at the local level.
32. A landmark achievement for the country programme was the development of Jordan's first National Urban Policy⁴² (JNUP) in collaboration with the Ministry of Local Administration (MOLA). The development of the policy was a milestone in the modern history of Jordan and provides a national framework for urban development, transforming urbanization patterns into a development engine. As a normative framework, the JNUP supports integrated regional and local planning for compact, inclusive cities that are resilient to climate change, offering a structured, coordinated, and proactive approach that responds to the country's urban opportunities and challenges, based on Jordan's unique national assets, interests, and priorities. As part of the JNUP development, UN-Habitat additionally developed thematic guides on mainstreaming local economic development⁴³, housing⁴⁴, transport and mobility⁴⁵ into Jordan's National Urban Policy. Endorsed in 2024 during a steering committee meeting led by the Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Local Administration, the policy underscores Jordan's commitment to sustainable urbanization and inclusive growth.

³⁷ Department of Statistics. (2024). (rep.). Estimated population at the end of 2023. Department of Statistics. Retrieved from https://dosweb.dos.gov.jo/DataBank/Population/Population_Estimares/PopulationEstimates.pdf.

³⁸ UN-Habitat. (2024). (rep.). *Mafraq Spatial Profile*. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/08/240714-msp-final.pdf>.

³⁹ UN-Habitat. (2024). (rep.). *Mafraq Spatial Profile*. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/08/240714-msp-final.pdf>.

⁴⁰ Ghazal, M. (2022, September 6). *Climate change to hit impoverished Jordanians the hardest, streamlining funding process vital to build resilience*. Jordan Times. <https://jordantimes.com/news/local/climate-change-hit-impoverished-jordanians-hardest-streamlining-funding-process-vital>

⁴¹ Namely, UNESCWA, UNEP, UNDP, UNICEF, UNOPS, ILO, UNESCO.

⁴² UN-Habitat. (2024). (publication). Jordan National Urban Policy. Retrieved 2024, from <https://unhabitat.org/jordan-national-urban-policy>.

⁴³ UN-Habitat. (2021). (publication). Mainstreaming Local Economic Development into Jordan's National Urban Policy Thematic Guide. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/mainstreaming-local-economic-development-into-jordans-national-urban-policy-thematic-guide>.

⁴⁴ UN-Habitat. (2021). (publication). Mainstreaming Housing into Jordan's National Urban Policy Thematic Guide. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/mainstreaming-housing-into-jordans-national-urban-policy-thematic-guide>.

⁴⁵ UN-Habitat. (2021). (publication). Mainstreaming Transport and Mobility into Jordan's National Urban Policy Thematic Guide. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/mainstreaming-transport-and-mobility-into-jordans-national-urban-policy-thematic-guide>.

33. Globally the Jordan country programme has highlighted the importance of evidence-based normative studies in guiding decisions and operational work. Through the “Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Contexts” (UPIMC) programme (2021-2024), accurate data and multi-sectoral analysis have enabled stakeholders to make informed and impactful decisions, particularly in vulnerable areas hosting refugees. In Jordan, comprehensive spatial profiling has been conducted in Amman⁴⁶, Irbid⁴⁷, and Mafraq⁴⁸ cities. This integration of normative frameworks with operational implementation is a core strength of the programme work. Benefitting from the lessons learned across three countries and multiple cities, UN-Habitat Jordan, Egypt, and Cameroon country programmes and the Planning, Finance and Economy Section developed the *Normative Guidelines for Urban Planning and Infrastructure in Migration Planning*, for local and national planning uses. Additionally, UN-Habitat conducted training sessions using a “learning-by-doing” methodology for local planning and GIS departments, which has institutionalized spatial profiling within municipal practices, enhancing knowledge exchange between municipalities and government institutions. For instance, the Greater Irbid Municipality is currently using UN-Habitat’s methodology to develop comprehensive “Needs Guidelines” addressing community needs.
34. Within the same UPIMC project, spatial profiling at city and neighborhood levels has enabled the identification of critical projects in highly vulnerable neighborhoods. For example, in 2023, a collaboration with Arcadis, through the Shelter Program, focused on designing 16 deteriorating staircases to improve mobility and wellbeing in refugee-hosting neighborhood. Additionally, a partnership with the Goethe Institute and Greater Amman Municipality led to the rehabilitation of Queen Noor Park, through innovative interventions by young local artists. The revitalized park has been warmly embraced by residents, symbolizing a renewed sense of community.
35. In addition to these efforts, the country programme has been advancing multi-stakeholder urban planning frameworks to promote inclusive, sustainable development. Partnering with the Greater Amman Municipality, UN-Habitat provided in-kind technical support for the development of Amman’s first Urban Planning Regulation, emphasizing community participation and equitable access to services. Similarly, UN-Habitat extended its support to the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in developing the Karak Governorate Spatial Development Plan, steering local authorities towards tangible development initiatives.

b) Community-led Public Space Development

36. The Jordan country programme combines normative and operational tools to leverage public spaces to enhance socioeconomic conditions, climate resilience, social cohesion, and overall wellbeing of vulnerable communities. Targeting dense urban areas, heritage cities, affordable housing projects, poverty pockets, and refugee camps, these community-driven initiatives emphasize empowering vulnerable groups and evolve along with the needs of communities. In addition to supporting the achievement of SDGs 1, 5, 8, 11 and 13, these initiatives contribute to advancing work under UN-Habitat’s subprogramme 1 (“reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum”), subprogramme 3 (“strengthened climate action and improved urban environment”) and subprogramme 4 (“effective urban crisis prevention and response”).
37. Responding to the Syrian refugee crisis, UN-Habitat aimed to foster social cohesion between migrants and host communities through rehabilitating safe, inclusive, and accessible public spaces in Amman and in Zarqa. Through the “Safe, Inclusive, and Accessible Public Space for Social Cohesion in Marka Neighborhood and Al-Majd Residential City, Zarqa” project (2020-2022), UN-Habitat Jordan worked with the Global Public Space Programme to localize the Global Public Space Toolkit and employ the Block-by-Block Methodology, engaging refugees, Jordanian youth, and people with disabilities in participatory public space co-design using Minecraft. This approach ensured the reflection of community voices and needs into the local design.
38. In 2021, to mitigate the negative socioeconomic impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, a joint UN project titled “The Socio-Economic Empowerment of Vulnerable Women in Ghor Al Safi Through Improving Access to Safe and Green Public Spaces” (2021-2022) co-implemented by UN-Habitat, ILO, and UNOPS, focused on supporting vulnerable women living in the poverty pocket of Ghor Al Safi. This project enabled the creation of a gender-sensitive, inclusive, accessible, and safe public space and community center. It followed the participatory Public Space Site-Specific Assessment⁴⁹ process, designing a child-friendly space. In partnership with a local NGO, the

46 UN-Habitat. (2022a). (publication). Amman Spatial Profile. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/amman-spatial-profile-jordan>.

47 UN-Habitat. (2022b). (publication). Irbid Spatial Profile. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/irbid-spatial-profile-jordan>.

48 UN-Habitat. (2024a). (publication). Mafraq Spatial Profile. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/mafraq-spatial-profile>.

49 UN-Habitat. (2020). (publication). Public Space Site-Specific Assessment: Guidelines to Achieve Quality Public Spaces at Neighbourhood Level. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/public-space-site-specific-assessment-guidelines-to-achieve-quality-public-spaces-at>

space is being maintained as an incubator for training and entrepreneurial activities for local women and youth.

39. Between 2021-2024, under the project “Enhancing the Safety and Resilience of Palestinian Refugees through Improving Access to Water and Sanitation Facilities in Public Spaces”, the Public Space Site-Specific Assessment tool allowed UN-Habitat Jordan to not only provide WASH facilities, but also improve safety and resilience in the Souf and Al-Shahid Palestinian refugee camps. Youth were engaged in space design and urban gardening activities, transforming neglected spaces into vibrant community areas, fostering a sense of ownership and active participation among residents.
40. Public spaces have also been utilized by the country programme to address broader challenges, such as food and water insecurity. In Amman, a community garden, developed through project "Inclusive, Safe, Resilient and Sustainable Development in Urban Areas Hosting Syrian Refugees in Jordan and Turkey" (2022-2023) in partnership with UNEP and Greater Amman Municipality, features sustainable urban agriculture components, such as a greenhouse, water tank, composting system and inclusive facilities. These components not only aim to enhance food security and promote sustainable practices but also prioritize community involvement and capacity-building for long-term self-sufficiency, aiming at empowering local stakeholders to replicate and sustain similar projects. Normative knowledge resources, including "Exploring Community Urban Gardens: Typologies and Best Practices" and the "Guidebook and Operational Manual for Establishing an Urban Community Garden", are being developed to support replication.
41. In Al-Salt city, a UNESCO World Heritage Site, public spaces are being leveraged to address the emerging issues of heritage loss, unplanned urbanisation, and inclusivity. Under the “Green Al-Salt: Public Spaces and Living Heritage for Socio-Economic Development” project (2024-2026), UN-Habitat and UNESCO are conducting a City-Wide Public Space Assessment and creating a City-Wide Public Space Strategy, the first in Jordan. This will ultimately create an evidence-based blueprint for urban planning and development initiatives in the city. Through collaborating with the Greater Salt Municipality, this strategic framework will be integrated into municipal policies, institutionalizing the principles of safe, inclusive, and accessible urban spaces in heritage conservation.
42. Furthermore, the country programme is exploring the potential of transforming public spaces into hubs for innovative upcycled products, creating livelihood opportunities for vulnerable women. Promoting a circular economy approach, the “E.A.R.T.H.: Enabling Advancements in Recycling and Transforming Habits through Women-led Initiatives in Jordan” project (2024-2025) encourages waste reduction through recycling, upcycling, and reuse, supported by normative guidelines that foster sustainable practices and behavioral change.

c) Localizing the SDGs and Implementing the New Urban Agenda

43. The Jordan country programme is supporting localized data collection, monitoring, and analysis processes and platforms, to ensure that local actions contribute effectively to national and global SDG achievements. By bridging local and national gaps, UN-Habitat and partners are striving to ensure that the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda is tailored to the needs and context of Jordanian cities, in alignment with UN-Habitat’s subprogrammes.
44. A key achievement is the development of the first progress report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) in Jordan in collaboration with the Housing and Urban Development Corporation⁵⁰. This report provided key insights on Jordan’s progress against relevant indicators, and recommendations for the effective implementation of the NUA.
45. Further, in partnership with the United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (UNECSWA), and United Cities and Local Governments Middle East and West Asia Section (UCLG-MEWA), and in close cooperation with the Greater Amman Municipality, UN-Habitat developed the first Voluntary Local Review (VLR) in the Arab region, analysing and presenting recommendations to improve Amman’s performance against SDGs. This VLR report was developed in parallel with the second Voluntary National Review (VNR) of Jordan, creating the opportunity to reinforce national-local policy coherence. In 2022, the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF) presented both Jordan’s 2nd VNR and 1st VLR together. This significant milestone showcased Jordan as a pioneer in fostering national-local development dialogue. Subsequently, this project also contributed

neighbourhood#:~:text=The%20Site%20specific%20Assessment%20consists,the%20design%20of%20the%20site.

⁵⁰ Housing and Urban Development Corporation. (2022). (rep.). Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan National Progress Report on the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda. Retrieved from <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2022-04/%D8%A7%D9%84%D8%AA%D9%82%D8%B1%D9%8A%D8%B1%2520%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%88%D8%B7%D9%86%D9%8A%2520%D8%A7%D9%84%D9%86%D9%87%D8%A7%D8%A6%D9%8A.pdf>.

to the joint development of the Practical Guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews in the Arab Region⁵¹. This VLR process is currently being replicated in Irbid City, in alignment with Global Urban Monitoring Framework⁵² and UN-Habitat's Action-Oriented VLR Methodology⁵³.

46. Furthermore, through the "Local 2030 Knowledge and Scientific Network (KSN)" programme, UN-Habitat is collaborating with young researchers and the municipalities of Irbid and Aqaba to collect data and enable evidence-based policymaking for the localization of 6 SDG transitions.
47. The country programme has also been selected to lead joint UNCT efforts and build on its current work with SDG localization and data collection to strengthen participatory data collection and monitoring through digital platforms, under the "Pathways to Inclusive Development: Bridging Data, Participation, and Human Rights for the Localization of SDGs" project. This planned collaboration with the RCO, UNDP, OHCHR, and national and local authorities fosters coordination to advance SDG localization within a human rights-based framework, combining capacity development, digital reporting and monitoring systems, and advocacy. It positions Jordan to effectively localize and advance the 2030 Agenda.

d) Addressing climate change and building climate resilience

48. Directly advancing subprogramme 3, UN-Habitat Jordan is focusing on responding to water and food insecurities and enhancing the adaptive capacities of vulnerable populations, including refugees, the urban poor and women. The followed approach integrates environmental sustainability with human rights, supporting the achievement of multiple SDGs.
49. In collaboration with UNDP, UNEP, and the Greater Amman Municipality, UN-Habitat conducted the Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk Assessment for Amman City (2023). Along with C40 Cities, partners updated the Amman Climate Action Plan, aiming to create a sustainable future for Amman and achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. By integrating comprehensive risk assessments and targeted actions, these normative products set a clear path towards mitigating climate impacts in Amman.
50. In partnership with the Greater Amman Municipality, under the project "Strengthening the Social Stability and Resilience of Vulnerable Jordanian Communities and Syrian Refugees in Amman Against Flash Floods" (2020-2022), UN-Habitat has also enhanced institutional and community resilience to flash floods in Downtown Amman. A flood risk assessment identified 120 flood hotspots, and targeted interventions were identified using the City Resilience Action Planning Tool⁵⁴, tailored for the first time in the Arab region. This initiative engaged stakeholders in capacity building, vocational training, and awareness activities, focusing on community priorities like water harvesting systems and green infrastructure. Pilot projects, such as the Al-Zohour Green Triangle, applied sustainable urban drainage systems to manage stormwater through bioretention and detention methods, benefiting 35,000 individuals. This project, praised by the Mayor of Amman, served as a catalyst for future strategic solutions and expanded resource mobilization to strengthen Amman's resilience to water challenges. Accordingly, through the subsequent "Smart Urban Water Management: Enhancing the Adaptive Capacity and Urban Resilience of Amman through Urban Green Infrastructure" project (2024-2026), green infrastructure, stormwater detention, and water harvesting solutions will be scaled across Amman's hotspot areas to reduce flood risks for vulnerable communities, including refugees. The project fosters public engagement with academia, through initiatives like the National Award for Green Innovation and Awareness campaigns, which promote environmental responsibility. The proposed "Typologies of Urban Green Infrastructure" toolkit will help sustain these practices.
51. Additionally, in Sahab City, through the Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE UP) flagship programme, UN-Habitat Jordan is working with the Climate Change and Urban Environment (CCUE) Team to pilot innovative tools and interventions to address urban, climate, and biodiversity vulnerabilities. Following the UN-Habitat Multi-layered Vulnerability Assessment Methodology, this project "Accelerating the Implementation of the Paris Agreement by Building the Climate Resilience of the Urban Poor in Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Tunisia" (2024-2025) will identify the most at-risk areas, focusing on urban poverty and climate exposure. The project bridges the gap between normative guidance and practical application, ensuring recommendations are

51 UCLG-MEWA, UN-Habitat, & UNESCWA. (2024). (publication). Practical guidelines for Voluntary Local Reviews in the Arab region. UNESCWA. Retrieved from <https://www.unescwa.org/publications/practical-guidelines-voluntary-local-reviews-arab-region>.

52 UN-Habitat. (2022). (publication). The Global Urban Monitoring Framework. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/the-global-urban-monitoring-framework>.

53 UN-Habitat, & UCLG. (2024). (publication). Action-Oriented Voluntary Local Reviews: A Methodology for the Partners of UN-Habitat. UN-Habitat. Retrieved from https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/02/action-oriented_vlr_methodology.pdf.

54 UN-Habitat, & Sub-Regional Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DiMSUR). (2018). (rep.). City Resilience Action Planning Tool (CityRAP). UN-Habitat. Retrieved from <https://unhabitat.org/city-resilience-action-planning-tool-cityrap>.

integrated into local planning practices. It also plays a critical role in resource mobilization, supporting targeted actions to address pressing climate-related challenges in Sahab.

52. The regional Adaptation Fund project titled “Increasing the Resilience of Both Displaced Persons and Host Communities to Climate Change-related Water Challenges in Jordan and Lebanon” (2021-2025) in Jordan is a critical initiative within the humanitarian-development nexus that addresses climate change within the Syrian crisis context. This project focuses on the needs of displaced persons and host communities, particularly women and youth, by promoting sustainable water management practices, such as rooftop rainwater harvesting and greywater treatment systems, to reduce tension and reliance on unsustainable water sources. This is integrated with guidelines and knowledge resources, including Climate Change Adaptation Action Plans and Climate Resilient Master Plans. Support to the Regional Knowledge Management Platform and municipal Urban Observatories in Irbid and Mafraq will strengthen data-driven decision-making.
53. Further resource mobilization has resulted in expanded efforts to address climate-related water risks. This includes the “Enhancing Climate Change Resilience through Water-related Interventions and Non-conventional Nature-based Solutions in Areas Hosting Displaced People in Jordan and Lebanon” (2024-2026), through which rainwater harvesting systems will be installed in Jordan and Lebanon and a lagoon will be constructed. This lagoon, guided by best practice frameworks, leverages natural processes—solar radiation, wind circulation, and biological activities—to treat wastewater and enhance water quality. Additionally, the Jordan programme is conducting a Flash Flood Risk Assessment and Hazard Mapping for Mafraq Wadi, prioritizing adaptation measures in collaboration with local stakeholders.
54. In Madaba City, the “Climate-Smart Pathways for an Agile and Resilient Economy (CARE)” project (2024-2026) is following the Water, Energy, Food, and Ecosystem (WEFE) Nexus approach to integrate green growth, climate change adaptation, and sustainable development goals into strategic frameworks. An innovative Urban-WEFE Nexus Lab will be developed as a demonstration site showcasing hydroponics, aquaponics, solar-powered irrigation, and a community garden in a public space. Alongside this, comprehensive baseline analyses and strategic plans will guide monitoring, evaluation, and communication, ensuring the project's lasting impact on sustainable development in the region.

IV. Update on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

A. Progress in institutional and normative support

55. In June 2024, UN-Habitat finalized a publication that advances global normative knowledge on the relationship between urban planning, public space development and migration. *“Mainstreaming Migration and Displacement in Urban Planning and Public Space Development”* demonstrates how, through participatory urban planning and the implementation of inclusive public spaces, cities and local governments can leverage innovative and complementary strategies to manage migration flows and harness the opportunities that they bring. This publication presents best practices, case-studies and recommendations, drawing from UN-Habitat's recent experiences through operational programming work. Showcasing examples from cities in Burkina Faso, Latin America and the Caribbean, Palestine, Jordan, Uganda, Somalia, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, Lebanon, Kenya and Nepal, the publication outlines how bridging humanitarian and development activities is paramount to effective urban crises response.
56. In addition, as a key contribution to the Secretary-General's Action Agenda on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the work led by the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, ASG Robert Piper, UN-Habitat has worked with a wide variety of stakeholders on a global framework, *“Towards inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement.”* This document seeks to guide international actors in their support to national and local governments to program internal displacement solutions that are more sustainable, scalable and transformational in urban areas. It results from a collaboration with the International Institute for Environment and Development and consultation with IMPACT Initiatives, IOM, JIPS, Office of the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, office of the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of IDPs, UN-Habitat, UNDP, UNHCR, UNICEF, WFP, and the World Bank, amongst others. The framework provides guidance on a better alignment of the response across the humanitarian, peace and development nexus, ensuring that solutions are initiated from the start during a humanitarian response.
57. In addition, UN-Habitat released a compendium of its work on “Sustainable Urbanization and Forced Displacement: UN-Habitat Practices towards Solutions”. The document includes case studies reflecting on solutions in crisis-affected countries including Colombia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia. This work also served as a basis to contribute to the High-Level Committee Programme policy paper on Internal Displacement, to be

published in the last quarter of 2024.

58. UN-Habitat has also been working on developing a policy paper on “Housing, land and property rights for local integration and durable solutions in customary contexts”. This paper intends to complement the body of knowledge on durable housing, land and property (HLP) solutions incorporating lessons learnt from customary contexts. The review of displacement trends and case studies, as well as the analysis of key concepts and underlying assumptions, form the basis of key findings and lessons learnt on how to prevent and provide durable solutions to displacement in customary contexts through housing, land and property rights’ interventions.
59. Since January 2024, UN-Habitat has also expanded the work of its community of practice on solutions to internal displacement to increase knowledge exchanges and peer-learning across the agency and improve the impact of operational activities. Five sessions have taken place, covering the topics of social inclusion, urban profiling, financing and HLP rights, and foresight analysis on displacement flows, territorial assessments and investment strategies. Priority topics were selected based on a survey identifying knowledge gaps related to forced displacement across UN-Habitat. The sessions are used to develop further training material.

B. Progress in the provision of support to countries experiencing crisis

60. According to Decision 2024/2 (a) 3, UN-Habitat has continued to support efforts to reconstruct the human settlements affected by conflict and disaster, through a comprehensive system-wide response, and has continued to provide assistance to countries affected by urban crises, using urban profiling to assess the needs, vulnerabilities and capacities of urban areas and to establish urban recovery frameworks. Some examples of UN-Habitat’s work are listed below.
61. In **Lebanon**, facing multiple concurrent crises (socioeconomic, political, financial, armed conflict), UN-Habitat continues to support local authorities, service providers and communities in coping with crises impact. In South Lebanon, support includes providing operational emergency assistance through the Regional Technical Office in the Union of Tyre Municipalities (UTM), rehabilitation and equipping of the Disaster Risk Management Unit within the UTM and increasing its IT capacities to enhance data-driven decision-making during the ongoing conflict. Strategically, UN-Habitat is also working closely with (a) the humanitarian WASH and shelter sectors to identify and assess collective shelters for IDPs, (b) the UNCT on planning ahead of future damage assessment and debris management needs, and (c) the Lebanese Red Cross and the Council for the South (a public entity) to develop and use mobile damage assessment tools, to enhance local response strategies. Other country-wide crisis prevention and response support includes strengthening of civil defense and firefighting capacities in Tripoli, Beirut, and Zahle.
62. In the **Republic of Syria**, affected by the ongoing crisis and the impacts of the 2023 devastating earthquake, UN-Habitat continues to play a vital role in the broader transition of international support from life-saving humanitarian assistance to resilience-oriented early recovery. During the reporting period, UN-Habitat supported communities in assessing conflict and earthquake damages and prioritising needs. The agency also facilitated the formulation of city recovery plans in eight municipalities, including Arbin and Nashabiyah in Rural Damascus, Jableh in Lattakia, Hama, Mahaldeh, Halfaya, and Salamiyah in Hama, and Aleppo city in Aleppo. Based on these analysis and plans, UN-Habitat supported the restoration of essential city infrastructures and services, while also providing capacity development support for Housing, Land, and Property (HLP) rights protection measures. Furthermore, UN-Habitat contributed to the formulation of the “Early Recovery Strategy” by the Syria Humanitarian Country Team and the “Area-Based Return Support Initiative” led by UNDP and UNHCR.
63. In the **Sahel region**, UN-Habitat is developing, in partnership with UNDP, a “Spatial Development Strategy” to support strategic decision-making to reduce existing vulnerabilities, reinforce on-going development efforts and contribute to peace and stability. Following the preparation of a preliminary diagnosis at the regional level, UN-Habitat has advanced the methodology to develop Strategic Spatial Action Plans (SSAPs) in four identified transboundary areas under the leadership of the eight concerned governments. The SSAPs are meant to promote an integrated territorial approach that fulfils the humanitarian, development and peace (HDP) nexus by addressing issues related to displacement, food security, resilience, and livelihoods. The development approach used is mainly driven by infrastructural investments.
64. In **Burkina Faso**, with funding from the Japanese government, UN-Habitat is implementing a second project to provide durable solutions for internally displaced people (IDPs) in the towns of Boussouma and Nagreongo. Besides building 300 new durable housing solutions, the project aims at improving the living conditions of host communities and reinforcing social cohesion through the improvement of basic and social services and supporting the economic inclusion of both population groups. It also seeks to reinforce the capacities of local governments

to harness accelerated urbanization in a context of massive displacement.

65. In **Myanmar**, grappling with the impact of a climate and conflict polycrisis, UN-Habitat, in alignment with the UN System's Transitional Cooperation Framework in Myanmar, prioritizes local actions targeted at enhancing resilience building efforts for the most vulnerable communities. Priority interventions include sectors such as water safety and security; energy security; food security (reinforcing the water/energy/food nexus); public health and disaster risk reduction; education, science and technology; along with cross-sectoral interventions, such as inclusive and gender responsive climate action, as well as support to green/blue growth opportunities. With funding from the European Union, UN-Habitat developed a simplified methodology for community-based climate change vulnerability assessment (CCVA) and is currently providing support to local communities in resilience building and developing local level climate action plans. Multisectoral climate dialogue is being promoted through the engagement of the private sector and the establishment of Myanmar Climate Action Network (M-CAN), currently composed of over 200 non-state climate actors. The programme is also developing the capacities of professional organisations such as Myanmar Journalism Institute and Myanmar Engineering Society, in critical areas such as climate reporting, ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions, aiming to expand outreach and replicate resilience building initiatives. These include, for example, WASH and waste management support in informal settlements, community rainwater harvesting, mangrove restoration, or school-led climate action in monastic schools, where thousands of IDP children are hosted.
66. In **Mozambique**, the support to the Government and displacement-affected communities lies at the centre of UN-Habitat's Country Programme. UN-Habitat promotes integrated approaches towards achieving sustainable urbanization in resettlement areas and sustainable integration of IDPs in urban areas, focusing on participatory urban planning, provision of housing, promotion of security of land tenure, increased access to basic services and community infrastructure, livelihood and employment. In order to increase data quality and information, UN-Habitat Mozambique is also partnering with the Joint IDP Profiling Service (JIPS) to implement an urban displacement profiling for the metropolitan area of Pemba, as a collaborative exercise that will produce a baseline for national authorities and partners to inform solutions-oriented interventions in the area and support impact monitoring. UN-Habitat in Mozambique also continues to perform an important role in the "Solutions to Internal Displacement" Working Group, at national level and in the regional sub-groups, as well as in co-leading with UNHCR the "Community Engagement" workstream.
67. Currently, UN-Habitat is collaborating with the Government of **Iraq** to develop a new National Housing Policy, housing finance tools, and review the regulatory and legal framework to enable affordable housing supply and address complex housing challenges in Iraq. UN-Habitat is also assisting the Government of Iraq in finalizing the Law on Informal Settlements. UN-Habitat is securing the tenure rights of the Yazidi minority by mapping and registering land occupancy claims to recognize informal land rights and supporting the government to issue the land Title Deeds. UN-Habitat is also conducting policy dialogue on the land legislative reform to improve land governance to regulate e-land governance and establish the E-cadastre system and E-land registry. UN-Habitat Iraq is also addressing climate change impacts, focusing on mitigating sandstorms in urban and rural areas by restoring ecosystems in affected areas in southern Iraq to adapt to the impact of desertification and mitigate the causes of sandstorms resulted from climate change. Finally, UN-Habitat is supporting the Government of Iraq to strengthen the legal frameworks to access compensation scheme for the damaged/destroyed properties.
68. In **Yemen**, where UN-Habitat is operational since 2018 and has established a strong presence, a City Profiling exercise, carried out in cooperation with local universities, has been started to assess the impact of the 2015 protracted armed conflict. For UN-Habitat Yemen, sectoral focus includes basic services provision (i.e., WASH interventions), shelter and housing rehabilitation, Housing, Land and Property (HLP) programming, and climate-readiness projects. Fruitful governmental partnerships have also been established, most notably with the Ministry of Water and Environment, the Ministry of Public Works and Highways, the Ministry of Justice, and the General Authority for Lands, Surveys and Urban Planning.
69. In **Ukraine**, UN-Habitat's response is now well under-way, delivering a comprehensive approach that combines policy advice, capacity building and practical planning work. Emphasis is placed on building local and national capacities to drive an evidence-based and participatory recovery process, including through digital solutions. UN-Habitat has been operating in partnership with Ukrainian and international organisations, through the establishment of an Urban Lab based in Kyiv. This collaborative platform also aims at convening, strengthening and solidifying the role of Ukrainian urban experts in the recovery of Ukrainian human settlements. At the local level, UN-Habitat is focusing on urban profiling and recovery planning in eight municipalities affected by physical damage and/or high levels of internal displacement. At national level, UN-Habitat works closely with the government, contributing to key policies and mechanisms for urban recovery, including the reform of the housing policy, the review of the urban planning code, the development of the national cadastre, and the use of digital solutions for a green and inclusive urban recovery in Ukraine.

70. In reference to the ongoing crisis in the State of **Palestine**⁵⁵, the update to the Preliminary Report of the Executive Director on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip continues to act as a foundation for UN-Habitat's operations. As the situation on the ground has not drastically changed as of early September 2024, a brief update of this preliminary report is attached in ANNEX as INF [xxx]. UN-Habitat's response in the reporting period has focused on further contributions to damage assessments, on technical support to the strategic advisory group of the shelter cluster, and on the sites-management working group. The latter is exploring solutions for transitional shelter. UN-Habitat has submitted three project proposals to potential donors, including on debris management, innovative profiling and emergency response and early recovery plans.
71. As a follow up to the Human Settlements Pledge launched at the **Global Refugee Forum** in December 2023, UN-Habitat has stepped up its support to UNHCR and its collaboration with the World Bank to support the implementation of the pledge and further engagements in Ethiopia, Kenya, Mauritania, Somalia, and Sudan, among others.
72. Lastly, under the **Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF)**, UN-Habitat started implementing new support in five countries including Afghanistan, Colombia, Iraq, Mozambique and Somalia, in alignment with the fund's goals of developing solutions for IDPs, particularly in protracted contexts. Moving forward, UN-Habitat will appeal for further support from IDSF, with due consideration to lessons learned. The Fund has also incentivized new country-level partnerships with IOM, UNDP and UNHCR.
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⁵⁵ The terminology employed in this document and its annexes, including but not limited to the terms "State of Palestine", "Palestine", "Government", "country" and "national", is without prejudice to the status of Palestine and the Occupied Palestinian Territory (OPT): the West Bank, including East Jerusalem, and the Gaza Strip as recognized by the United Nations.