



**UNITED  
NATIONS**

**HSP/EB.2025/XX**



**UN-HABITAT**

**United Nations  
Human Settlements  
Programme**

Distr.: General

January 2025

Original: English

---

**Executive Board of the United Nations  
Human Settlements Programme  
First session of 2025  
Nairobi, 25–27 March 2025  
Item 8 of the provisional agenda\***

**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, and UN-Habitat engagement in countries, territories and areas affected by conflicts and disasters**

**Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including updates on the Ethiopia and Central America programmes, capacity development initiatives, urban crises prevention and response, and activities for the period July–December 2024**

**Report of the Executive Director**

**I. Introduction**

1. This report is comprised of five sections, presenting updates by the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Sections II and III offer insights into UN-Habitat's activities in Ethiopia and Central America, across the different domains of change of UN-Habitat's strategic plan. Addressing different contexts and challenges, this report demonstrates how impact can be achieved through the implementation of both normative and operational activities. Section IV presents UN-Habitat's progress in implementing its current capacity development strategy, and Section V provides updates on UN-Habitat's initiatives in areas affected by conflicts and disasters, including the Gaza Strip. This report is accompanied by HSP/EB.2025/INF/8, containing the implementation plan of UN-Habitat's capacity building strategy for 2025, and HSP/EB.2025/INF/9, summarizing highlights from subprogramme activities, for the period July-December 2024.

---

\* HSP/EB.2025 /1

## II. Normative and operational activities from the Ethiopia Country Programme

2. UN-Habitat has been present in Ethiopia since 1998, supporting federal, regional and local governments with technical and policy advice, as well as project implementation. With a current population of more than 120 million, Ethiopia registered a strong average real growth of nearly 10% per year between 2004-18, one of the highest rates in the world, led mainly by infrastructure investments that expanded access to infrastructure, services, and supported better living standards, according to the World Bank<sup>1</sup>. However, the country is also one of the poorest in the world with high rates of poverty and low living standards fueled by rapid urbanization<sup>2</sup>.
3. Since its creation, the UN-Habitat Ethiopia Programme has continuously expanded its work in the country, addressing needs for liveable and sustainable human settlements and committing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. UN-Habitat's partnership with the Government of Ethiopia has witnessed the country's engagements with the activities of the Africa Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development - which led to the first ever Africa Urban Forum in September 2024.
4. Key partnership areas include capacity building for sustainable urban development, water for 'African Cities Programmes', promoting sustainable transport solutions for East Africa (SUSTRAN), improving of public spaces, developing the State of Addis Ababa Reports, city resilience action planning, preparing the Structure Plan and Regional Spatial Development Plan, and supporting solid waste management and durable solutions for displacement-affected communities.<sup>3</sup>

### A. UN-Habitat in Ethiopia: background

5. Being the 2<sup>nd</sup> most populous country in Africa, Ethiopia's rate of urbanization is still very low, at 23.16 % in 2023<sup>4</sup>. However, 58% of the country's GDP is generated by cities<sup>5</sup>. The Development Plan of Ethiopia (2021-2030), deepens and elaborates structural transformation through key strategic development pillars<sup>6</sup> and priority areas, two of which are 'quality and efficient infrastructure development' and 'sustainable urban development'. Also prevailing from this Plan is the humanitarian, development and peace nexus emerging from recent trends in climate change disasters and conflicts, leading internally displaced communities to urban centers. Ethiopia pursues a structural transformation that emphasizes urban development as its core strategic sector and envisions prosperous, productive, competitive and green cities.
6. Unemployment growth is of high concern - as the number of jobs created falls far below population growth. Furthermore, the ongoing rise in urban population will add an extra strain on the existing housing deficit. The current annual housing supply of 131,000 is far below the annual demand (400,000 houses), on top the existing backlog. A significant proportion of the current housing stock (73%) is of low quality, associated with slum conditions (MUI, 2020). There is a relative government monopoly in the development and supply of urban land and housing, which stifles the development of a secondary land and housing market while encouraging informality. Housing development is further hindered by the lack of available mortgage financing, with market options being limited to deposit-based loans by commercial banks (mostly at high interest rates).
7. Eighty-eight percent of cities hold approved active spatial plans. However, these plans are not effectively implemented nor updated (MUI, 2020). An increasing number of spatial developments are not connected to the urban infrastructure and service grid, and only a low proportion of households have access to basic water services, solid and liquid waste disposal coverage, and basic hygiene facilities. Waste generated in cities is expected to increase threefold due to projected increase in economic and population growth in the next 10 years. Urban mobility has also become a critical issue in Ethiopia. Improvement will mostly emanate from ambitious plans for rapid economic growth, set to be fostered by cities. Important shifts are needed to transition towards (1) climate-resilient green urban economic pathways and disaster-resilient spatial reorganization; (2) improved air quality and waste management; and (3) safe, inclusive and accessible, green and public spaces.
8. However, the average municipal revenue is insufficient to respond to investments in infrastructure and service demands. According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure (MUI, 2020), municipal revenue

<sup>1</sup> World Bank (2015): Ethiopia urbanization Review - <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/pt/543201468000586809/pdf/100238-WP-EUR-Box393221B-PUBLIC.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Ibid.

<sup>3</sup> Habitat country program Document (HCPD) (2020) - [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2019/10/ethiopia\\_hcpd\\_presentation\\_rev.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2019/10/ethiopia_hcpd_presentation_rev.pdf)

<sup>4</sup> Compilation of the World Bank's development indicators.

<sup>5</sup> Ministry of Urban and Infrastructure (MUI), 2020. Urban Development and Construction Sector Ten Years (2020-2030) Perspective Plan.

<sup>6</sup> 1. Quality Economic Growth and Shared Prosperity, 2. Economic Productivity and Competitiveness, 3. Technological Capability and Digital Economy, 4. Sustainable Development Financing, 5. Private Sector-led Economic Growth, 6. Resilient Green Economy, 7. Institutional Transformation, 8. Gender and Social Inclusion, 9. Access to Justice and Efficient Civil Services, and 10. Regional Peace Building and Economic Integration.

should cover 75 % of expenditure on infrastructure and services. This challenge is sediment upon weak land management information systems. Only 12% of urban territories were covered by land registry and cadastral maps in 2022 (MUI). In addition, responsiveness to land demand is weak, as only 30% of urban land demand is addressed and as land demand only constitutes 46% of the planned land supply. This mirrors an inadequate institutional governance hampering urban land markets to generate increased property and land-based fiscal resources and meet infrastructure health, education and housing needs.

9. Weak urban-urban and urban-rural linkages have not leveraged on particular symbiotic relationships. Urban economic development, geared towards improving economic performance and social well-being in rural areas as well as within towns, is crucially needed. The management of the growth of urban areas alone does not currently unlock the economic potential of their respective hinterlands, nor absorb any surplus labor displaced by technology-driven agro-industrial developments in rural and peri-urban areas.
10. Lastly, internal urban migration is rising, triggered by conflicts and climate-related disasters. This displacement becomes protracted, putting a heavy strain on basic services. Cities' capacity gaps are widening, as internal displacement is increasingly becoming an urban phenomenon concurrently to cities remaining insufficiently equipped to handle incoming new population. In addition to ongoing piloted durable solutions and interventions, harnessing lessons learnt and scaling them up is pivotal, to increase access to jobs and land, improve integration to infrastructure and service grids and create cohesion with host communities - as per the "National Strategy to Implement Solutions Pathways to Internal Displacement" in Ethiopia.

## **B. Normative and operational activities under the Ethiopia country programme**

### **i. Capacity Building for Sustainable Urban Development**

11. In 2020-2021, UN-Habitat, with the support of SIDA and according to the capacity development strategy described in section IV of this report, contributed to strengthening the capacity of more than 200 Ethiopian city leaders and other actors from city, region and federal levels to design, implement and monitor urban development-focused interventions. This capacity-building support typically involved 2-5 days of basic technical and urban management (urban planning, city resilience, housing, land, job creation, as well as urban finance and/or good governance). From the delivered trainings, city managers were able to identify specific needs and skill gaps, and evaluations confirmed improved understanding of the different aspects and interconnectedness of urban development issues. Learning was applied when planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting urban development activities.

### **ii. Enhanced urban and regional planning, implementation, and monitoring**

12. In 2021, under the Regional Spatial Development Plan (RSDP) project, 9 RSDPs were completed and endorsed by respective regional governments. The RSDP processes involved 51 capacity development trainings at federal and regional levels that led to the establishment of 10 project offices across all regions to coordinate the preparation of the regional plans. A Geographic Information System (GIS)-based regional spatial database was established in each of the 10 regions providing rich data to (a) develop a regional spatial development framework visioning the year 2044 based on the potential and the development context of each region and its integration within the country and the Horn of Africa; (b) provide an integrated framework to guide growth and development in a sustainable manner; (c) improve intra-region urban and rural cluster development and connectivity; (d) promote the development of secondary and tertiary cities/towns based on their potential, and; (e) ensure sustainable development and protect ecological assets. The development of these regional plans contributed to the advancement of UN-Habitat's subprogramme 2, "enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions", and 3, "strengthened climate action and improved urban environment".

### **iii. Developing green spaces including through integrated urban planning and a watershed management approach**

13. In 2019, UN-Habitat collaborated with Addis Ababa City on the 'Beautifying Sheger Project', an initiative aimed at rehabilitating Addis Ababa's rivers and surrounding areas. The project successfully advanced the sustainable development of the Sheger riversides while strengthening the capacity of the Addis Ababa City Administration (AACAA). This included capacitating 12 agencies, engaging 200 trainees, and reaching 11 sub-cities. Integrated watershed management was advanced through spatial mapping and analysis of the urban hydrological system. Additionally, a sustainable greening strategy, hazard mapping, and the preparation of a public space design and management guideline, along with two comprehensive guidelines, were developed. The project also completed biodiversity assessments, surveys, visioning exercises, and community participation for the design of riverside public spaces. UN-Habitat further supported five Ethiopian secondary cities with participatory public space development under its global public space programme and using UN-Habitat's 'Block by Block' methodology. This contributed to advancing UN-Habitat's subprogramme 3, "strengthened climate action and improved urban environment".

### **iv. Building Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor**

14. In 2023, UN-Habitat included Ethiopia in “RISE-UP”, a UN-Habitat multi-country flagship programme leveraging large scale investment for urban adaptation and climate resilience. Funding was mobilized to support community-led urban adaptation and climate resilience in Debre Berhan, a city near the capital, characterized by rapid infrastructure development, urbanization, informal settlement growth, migration, and a sizeable IDPs population. UN-Habitat documented, appraised and visualized the multilayered vulnerabilities of Debre Berhan. This led to the identification of bankable gender-inclusive climate projects that will feed into local and municipal development plans and climate change strategies in the coming five years. This work is expected to build resilience in three highly vulnerable neighborhoods, including slums and informal settlements, that are currently without access to drinking water due to a prolonged drought. These activities contribute to advancing subprogramme 3.

**v. Strengthening resilience among displacement and disaster-affected communities (DAC)**

15. In an ongoing joint programme with IOM and FAO<sup>7</sup>, UN-Habitat is working in the Somali and Oromia Ethiopian regions to strengthen area-level spatial planning and ensure sustainable re-integration of DACs with improved access to housing, land, and property (HLP). As part of a review of existing land tenure systems, UN-Habitat assessed and documented the legal, policy, and institutional opportunities and challenges towards ensuring HLP rights of the DACs. UN-Habitat provided capacity building training to regional, zonal, and woreda officials on durable solutions for DACs, HLP rights, inclusion of IDPs into delivery plans and budgets, improved solid waste management, introduction to GIS and remote sensing, and settlement planning. Participants provided positive feedback, emphasizing the relevance of various trainings to their work. A specific capacity building training was also provided on GIS and remote sensing to facilitate settlement plans validation in Goryaowl and Awbare. HLP and GIS trainings were also offered to experts from West Hararghe Zone, Meiso Woreda, and Meiso town administrations, to promote DAC’s HLP rights through the issuance of occupancy certificates.
16. In Dhurwale relocation site, UN-Habitat collaborated with local government, CSOs and community members to enhance the livability of the settlement through nature-based solution for wind and flood protection, through the planting of 1,000 trees. A cash-for-work mechanism was established to ensure ongoing care and maintenance of the trees whilst providing economic support to the community.
17. Durable housing interventions have been strengthened through the procurement of mud-block machines for production by youths to promote owner-driven and affordable housing construction as well as youth employment in Awbare and Darera Arba sites. The project contributed to UN-Habitat’s subprogrammes 1 (“reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum) and 4 (“effective urban crisis prevention and response”).

**vi. Spatial profiling for IDP Durable Settlement**

18. In 2020-2021, UN-Habitat, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), developed the Spatial Profile of Qoloji, the largest of the many settlements hosting IDPs in the country (estimated 100,000 population in 1.1square kilometer) located in the Somali Region of Ethiopia (UN-Habitat, 2021<sup>8</sup>). The Qoloji Spatial Profile mapped its existing conditions, identified challenges and opportunities, developed scenarios, and outlined recommendations for a durable settlement. This spatial profile is currently used as a reference document and the foundation for a wider set of initiatives that examine how socio-economic development in the area can be enhanced holistically to benefit both IDP and host communities in ways that link humanitarian, development, and peace building. At the moment, UN-Habitat is undertaking administrative and functional region-level IDP site integration spatial plan in Qoloji camp (Somali Region) under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF). The project is also building public space, an initiative that will enhance social cohesion between IDPs and host community. Pursuing a partnership with UNHCR, the spatial profile for Kebrebeyah refugee camp, the oldest in the country, was developed in 2020. The profile now serves as a road map for integration efforts within Kebrebeyah town community. This work is also contributing to subprogramme 4.

**vii. Integrating landfill technology: Urban Solid Waste Management**

19. Since 2018, UN-Habitat rehabilitated open dumpsites covering 6.8 hectares in three cities (Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar and Hawassa Cities) using the innovative Fukuoka Method of landfill, to reduce risks linked to open dump sites and safeguard public health. UN-Habitat applied its Waste Wise Cities Tool (WaCT) to assess generated, collected, and disposed waste, map waste flows and quantify plastic leakage per person and per year. UN-

---

<sup>7</sup> “Strengthening Resilience of Disaster Affected Communities through Durable Solutions in Oromia and Somali Regions of Ethiopia: 2022-2026”, supported by SDC and SIDA.

<sup>8</sup> UN-Habitat 2021. Qoloji Spatial Profile. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/06/210614\\_qoloji\\_spatial\\_profile\\_lr.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/06/210614_qoloji_spatial_profile_lr.pdf)

Habitat further implemented better waste and resource management strategies that created opportunities for green businesses and jobs and facilitated the transition towards a circular economy based on reliable data for municipal solid waste management (MSWM). Through advocacy activities organized in primary schools, UN-Habitat sensitized students to sustainable solid waste practices. Successful sensitization was proven in several schools, with improved waste segregation at source. This contributes to subprogramme 3.

**viii. Development of minimum compliance standards for shelters hosting returning migrants**

20. Since 2023, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with WHO, FAO and ILO, is supporting the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants in Addis Ababa, with a focus on health, shelter and socio-economic well-being. UN-Habitat supports Addis Ababa in conducting research, developing a ‘minimum compliance standard’ for shelters and related facilities, formulating policies and supporting systems to strengthen Addis’ institutional capacity to respond to the needs of returning migrants. The project supports overall enhancement of urban governance and service delivery mechanisms, ensuring gender equity and transparency in access to essential resources and opportunities for migrants, contributing to UN-Habitat’s subprogramme 4.

### **III. Update on the Central America and the Dominican Republic – regional programme**

21. Since 2013, UN-Habitat has been working within the eight countries of the Central American Integration System-SICA (Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama, and the Dominican Republic). The agency’s normative and operational activities have focused on promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and supporting post-pandemic recovery in urban areas. The programme is building capacities and promoting actions to create more inclusive, sustainable, and resilient cities, and improving the living conditions in slums and informal settlements. It is guided by the Strategic Plan of UN-Habitat 2023-2025, the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the NUA in Latin America and the Caribbean 2018, the Recovery, Social Reconstruction and Resilience Plan for Central America and Dominican Republic 2020 and the Regional Action Plan for the implementation of the NUA in Central America and Dominican Republic 2021. UN-Habitat’s work in the regions has counted on the support of multiple partners, including the Junta de Andalucía, Spanish Cooperation, the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), among others<sup>9</sup>. Additionally, the programme supports the Central American Council of Housing and Human Settlements (CCVAH) in the implementation of the Regional Plan for the Implementation of the NUA in Central America and Dominican Republic (PRINAU-SICA for its acronym in Spanish)<sup>10</sup>.

#### **A. UN-Habitat in Central America and the Dominican Republic: Background<sup>11</sup>**

22. In 2023, the total population of the SICA region was estimated at approximately 65 million. Over the past 20 years, the region's population has grown significantly, with estimates from FLACSO<sup>12</sup> indicating an increase of approximately 37.5%. This growth is expected to continue, with projections suggesting an additional 15 million people in the next 15 years, expecting a total population close to 80 million by 2040. The SICA region also has one of the fastest urbanization rates in the world, with 59% of its population currently living in urban areas. This figure is expected to rise to 70% in the coming generations.<sup>13</sup>
23. Approximately 29% of the urban population live in informal settlements or slums. This represents a major challenge for urban policies and sustainable development<sup>14</sup>. It is estimated that 21% of the urban population resides in precarious housing, equivalent to more than 8 million people. The significant housing deficit

<sup>9</sup> Spanish Agency for International Cooperation AECID, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), German Society for International Cooperation GIZ, Lincoln Institute, UNITAC, European Union.

<sup>10</sup> <https://sisca.int/centro-de-documentacion/6-ccvah/2-documentos-estrategicos/1297-plan-regional-de-implementacion-de-la-nueva-agenda-urbana-prinau-sica/file>

<sup>11</sup> It is a regional organization established to promote economic, political, cultural, and environmental integration among Central American countries. SICA was created through the Protocol of Tegucigalpa, signed on December 13, 1991, which modernized and expanded the goals of the Organization of Central American States (ODECA). SICA’s full members are Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic.

<sup>12</sup> <https://www.flacso.org/sites/default/files/users/user14/Hoja10-w.pdf>

<sup>13</sup> World Bank 2018. <https://documents1.worldbank.org/curated/zh/811611517808775995/pdf/Central-America-urbanization-review-making-cities-work-for-Central-America.pdf>

<sup>14</sup> Eurosocial 2021.

contributes to the proliferation of informal settlements, exacerbating problems such as poverty and food insecurity<sup>15</sup>.

24. Cities in the SICA region are home to 38.3 million people, distributed across 83 urban nodes, including 8 metropolitan areas. Approximately 6 out of 10 people in the region reside in these metropolitan areas. SICA cities generally experience higher levels of well-being as urbanization increases. The eight metropolitan areas, with urbanization rates exceeding 90%, consistently show the highest Human Development Index (HDI) values within the region's city system.<sup>16</sup> Additionally, this network of cities serves as a strategic hub for transportation and logistical services, positioning the region as a potential driver of well-being and prosperity for the entire American continent.
25. Five of the eight metropolitan areas (San José, San Salvador, Managua, Guatemala and Central District), located in the Dry Corridor and home to some 9 million people by 2050, are highly vulnerable to drought and are at risk of suffering a water crisis<sup>17</sup> (drought, floods, pollution, overexploitation of the resource, water stress). In response, cities are implementing various adaptation strategies to address climate change, particularly drought and food insecurity by strengthening urban and community resilience, urban water management, urban food systems, among others.
26. In recent years, the SICA region has experienced significant urban growth and changes in social dynamics - attributed to considerable population concentration in large and intermediate cities, the impacts of increasingly recurrent meteorological phenomena, increased citizen insecurity and social vulnerability associated with housing conditions, employment, income, health, education, and others. In order to effectively transform urban growth into an engine of development, different levels of government and society must establish alliances to guide the development of urban centres and generate conditions of well-being, prosperity and sustainability for the entire territory.
27. The work of UN-Habitat in the region has contributed to raising awareness and political commitment towards addressing persistent challenges related to urban growth and opportunity inequalities in cities. These challenges include a lack of planning, ineffective regulatory mechanisms, and weak governance frameworks needed to develop growth strategies, build social capital, and promote collective action. These shortcomings have hindered the development of the region's main cities and led to unequal, segregated, and unsustainable territories. As a result, many inhabitants struggle in meeting their needs and demands.
28. The SICA region holds high potential due to its strategic geographic location<sup>18</sup> and rich social, natural, and cultural assets. To fully leverage this potential, updated spatial and statistical information on cities must be generated. This will facilitate effective planning, management, and targeting of actions and investments for sustainable urban development. Additionally, to promote the diversification and economic specialization of cities, it is crucial to leverage the network of transportation nodes and logistic services that extend across Latin America and the Caribbean. Efforts must also focus on developing intermediate cities with greater opportunities by improving services, infrastructure, and harnessing the endogenous potential of each territory. This includes considering the natural vocation and productive specialization of each area within a framework of sustainability that respects the unique characteristics of each country and city, while balancing the regional system of cities.

## **B. Recent normative and operational activities in the SICA region**

---

<sup>15</sup> UHPH2020. [https://www.uhph.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/lav\\_covid-10\\_y\\_asentamientos\\_sisca.pdf](https://www.uhph.org/sites/default/files/2020-11/lav_covid-10_y_asentamientos_sisca.pdf)

<sup>16</sup> UN-Habitat 2023. <https://publicacionesonuhabitat.org/onuhabitatmexico/Reporte-del-Estado-de-las-Ciudades-Centroam%C3%A9rica-RepDominicana.pdf>

<sup>17</sup> UN-Habitat 2023. <https://publicacionesonuhabitat.org/onuhabitatmexico/Reporte-del-Estado-de-las-Ciudades-Centroam%C3%A9rica-RepDominicana.pdf>

<sup>18</sup> Central America acts as a natural bridge between North and South America, facilitating international trade. This location allows for more efficient access to key markets and optimizes global supply chains, making it a major logistics epicenter.

29. In recent years UN-Habitat's normative and operational work in SICA has focused on two strategic axes – both advancing subprogramme 1 of the agency's 2020-2025 Strategic Plan ("Reduced spatial inequality and poverty"):
- National Urban Policies in line with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
  - Slums and informal settlements upgrading
30. In response, UN-Habitat has designed a regional umbrella programme called "Contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and post-pandemic recovery in Central America and the Dominican Republic through UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020-2025 and in the context of the Decade of Action". This programme has promoted knowledge generation, capacity building, policy advice, support for National Urban Policies and the implementation of urban interventions at the neighborhood level, enabling SICA cities to become active players in sustainable development. UN-Habitat has worked with several regional and development partners in the implementation of this programme, including the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation (SDC) as a key financial contributor<sup>19</sup>.
31. The programme successfully raised awareness of urban issues among national and local decision-makers. It highlighted the need for comprehensive and participatory urban and territorial planning. It also laid the foundations for ongoing support towards the development and implementation of urban policies, the comprehensive improvement of neighborhoods, and the generation of data and indicators to strengthen informed decision-making.

### C. Development and implementation of National Urban Policies

32. UN-Habitat has provided support to the National Government of **Honduras** for the co-creation of its national urban policy, in alignment with the commitments of the New Urban Agenda and the SDG targets. Together with national and local institutions in charge of territorial and urban management, the urban policy was jointly elaborated, including diagnosis, scenario analysis, instrument proposal, policy formulation, monitoring and evaluation plan. To ensure that integrate national urban policies are well-integrated/holistic, a proactive approach was adopted, considering the territory and the system of cities in Honduras as a vector of sustainable development, whose proper management can have an impact on addressing various challenges, including poverty, inequality, socio-spatial segregation, vulnerability to the effects of climate change, the impact of pandemics, migration, security, gender inequality, lack of access to services and job opportunities, among others.
33. UN-Habitat also supported **Costa Rica** in the review of regulatory frameworks through its Legislative Chamber. Support was provided in **Honduras** and **Panama** as well, in their reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.
34. In **El Salvador**, an inter-agency project<sup>20</sup> was developed to support the Government in improving slums and informal settlements, aiming at post-gang urban recovery. UN-Habitat also supported and advised the **Dominican Republic, Panama, Costa Rica and Honduras** on institutionalizing and implementing their respective National Urban Forums.

### D. Data generation, mapping and upgrading of precarious human settlements

35. Informal Settlements in the SICA region result from multiple interrelated factors, including rural-urban migration, lack of affordable housing, lack of adequate urban planning and scarce investment in public infrastructure. They are often inhabited by vulnerable populations facing high levels of economic and social exclusion, as well as poor living conditions.
36. There is a notable scarcity of reliable data on the socioeconomic and cultural conditions of slums in the SICA Region. Census information is often confusing or non-existent, making it difficult to make accurate diagnoses and

---

<sup>19</sup> Other international allies of the program, donors and non-donors were: Andalusian Agency for International Cooperation AACID, Spanish Agency for International Cooperation AECID, Central American Bank for Economic Integration (CABEI), German Society for International Cooperation GIZ, Lincoln Institute, UNITAC, European Union.

<sup>20</sup> With UNHCR.

design effective policies. This lack of data contributes to the invisibility of the specific needs of these communities, especially in contexts such as pandemics.

37. In response, a cartography and inventory of slums was prepared by UN-Habitat for the 8 SICA capital cities, supporting planning and public policies development in corresponding countries. For the development of this inventory and cartography, useful algorithms such as MAIIA (IDB)<sup>21</sup> and BEAM (UNITAC)<sup>22</sup> were taken into consideration. The cartography process included an analysis of public data and information, as well as a territorial comparison using satellite images. The generated territorial cartography, using geographic information systems (GIS), enabled the identification of the location and main characteristics of informal settlements in the main cities of the region.
38. UN-Habitat also supported the transformation of precarious settlements through its Integral Urban Operations (IUO) framework. IUOs are designed to provide a structuring framework for urban development aimed at improving the living conditions of the most vulnerable populations. Territorial challenges are addressed using a systemic approach, tackling both physical-territorial and socioeconomic factors that may limit access to quality goods and services. IUOs can involve a multidisciplinary intervention of projects and policies, focusing for example on settlement regeneration through infrastructure, basic services, public spaces and social cohesion - all while involving the community in the planning and implementation process.
39. In total, UN-Habitat worked in eight IUOs in four countries in the SICA Region (**Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica**), supporting **45,000+ direct beneficiaries** in vulnerable communities and **320,000+ indirect beneficiaries**. IUOs were carried out in different neighborhoods including in Barrio Armenta de **San Pedro Sula (Honduras)**, Colonia Nueva Capital, **Tegucigalpa MDC (Honduras)**, Sector VI, **San Salvador (El Salvador)**, Miravalles Sector, **Curridabat (Costa Rica)**.
40. In addition, actions aimed at implementing IUOs in 5 neighborhoods (4 in **Honduras** and 1 in **Guatemala**)<sup>23</sup> were carried out during 2024, including the strengthening of community capacities for the implementation of the participatory governance strategy, and the promotion of inter-institutional alliances between local government, national government, academia, private sector, international cooperation, in order to implement the strategic projects of the IUOs.
41. Notably, through IUOs as well, UN-Habitat developed the initiative '*Vamos al parque!*' for the Armenta in San Pedro Sula, and '*¡Vivamos Villa Guadalupe!*' for the Villa Guadalupe in **San José de Colinas**, both in **Honduras**, resulting in the improvement of public spaces, infrastructure and housing improvement projects, implementation of land management instruments, among other actions that allow the implementation of the IUOs.

#### **E. Regional, national and local capacity building**

42. A comprehensive training strategy was developed and implemented by UN-Habitat for national and local government officials as well as relevant actors involved in urban planning and the regeneration of slums and informal settlements. This strategy provides tools and knowledge to trigger action and address segregation, vulnerability and multiple risks faced by the populations living in slums and informal settlements.
43. Within the framework of the training programme, **96 capacity building sessions** were held in various formats, involving the participation of more than **1,600 officials** from national and local governments, as well as academia, civil society and other urban actors, across the SICA region. In this way, UN-Habitat has strengthened the

---

<sup>21</sup> <https://www.iadb.org/es/quienes-somos/topicos/desarrollo-urbano-y-vivienda/maiaa>

<sup>22</sup> [https://unitac.un.org/sites/unitac.un.org/files/beam\\_user\\_manual-v2.pdf](https://unitac.un.org/sites/unitac.un.org/files/beam_user_manual-v2.pdf)

<sup>23</sup> Neighborhood Armenta (San Pedro Sula), Neighborhood Villa Guadalupe (San José de Colinas), Sector Venecia (Tela), Neighborhood Nueva Capital (Tegucigalpa MDC) in Honduras and Neighborhood 3 de Julio (Guatemala City) in Guatemala.



technical knowledge of decision makers and practitioners at different scales, reinforcing capacities on issues related to urban planning and development.

44. Among the key components of this training programme was the establishment of strategic alliances with relevant institutions. These partnerships led to the creation of a specific needs assessment, which helped define the structure, technical content, and curriculum of the training. The programme was designed based on all expertise of the agency in improving slums and informal settlements, including its flagship program for slum upgrading<sup>24</sup>.
45. In addition, a series of workshops were implemented in virtual, face-to-face and hybrid format under the “learning by doing” methodology, to provide different participants with practical knowledge on the implementation of informal settlement upgrading strategies.

#### **F. Impacts, SICA region with a vision for the future**

46. Key results and impact of UN-Habitat’s normative and operational activities in the SICA Region span over institutional, regulatory, and social realms.
47. In **Honduras**, inter-institutional coordination was fostered between the Secretariat of Governance, Justice and Decentralization (SGJD), the National Housing and Human Settlements Program (PNVAH) and the Secretariat of Strategic Planning of Honduras (SPE). This collaboration led to a remarkable collaborative work in the National Urban Policy of Honduras, which in turn contributed to the creation of the General Directorate of Municipal Urban Planning of Honduras (DGUM) on October 18, 2023, as part of the SGJD. Its objective is to promote initiatives aimed at planning, regulation, coordination and execution of urban development, as well as to contribute to the territorial organization of human settlements in the municipality.
48. Training and capacity building efforts have contributed to the strengthening of institutional capacities in public institutions and municipalities in the eight countries of the SICA region through the application of new technologies and methodologies. These efforts facilitated knowledge-sharing with national and local officials (working in urban and territorial development) towards an improved understanding of territorial and urban needs of the population.
49. UN-Habitat has advised on the generation of methodologies for the preparation of Urban Development Plans in Central America. **San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa and Guatemala City** have formally started the institutionalization of the methodology for the elaboration of IUO as an official planning instrument at the neighborhood level. Specifically in 4 slums, the implementation of the IUO has allowed the development of strategic projects in housing, land management, public space, infrastructure, equipment and basic services, currently being implemented and with direct positive impacts on more than 30,000 inhabitants in the region.
50. Finally, the subregional modality of work of this programme has proved to be cost-effective and inclusive for the eight countries of the subregion. The subregional mutualization of the cooperation effort proposed by UN-Habitat allowed all countries to receive benefits. It also distributed efforts according to different levels of needs/demand in the territory and in alignment with subregional plans. This approach is giving UN-Habitat, but also donors, additional evidence to advance with subregional work where it can provide collective benefit.

## **IV. Update on capacity development global support**

51. Resolution 1/3 of the UN-Habitat Assembly on “Enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development” (HSP/HA.1/Res.3) called for the development of a UN-Habitat Capacity Building Strategy.
52. Shared with UN-Habitat’s Executive Board in 2020, this Strategy provided a road map to transform UN-Habitat into a knowledge-based organization. It aimed at addressing capacity gaps impeding the implementation of the

---

<sup>24</sup> <https://unhabitat.org/programme/the-participatory-slum-upgrading-programme-psup>

New Urban Agenda (NUA) and accelerating progress towards the urban dimensions of the SDGs. This report provides an update on the implementation of the Strategy. It is structured around the Strategy's two objectives and contains perspectives on the way forward for capacity development in the upcoming Strategic Plan (2026-2029).

#### **A. Fill the institutional and operational gap for greater coordination, coherence, and monitoring of results**

53. UN-Habitat's Capacity Development and Training Unit (CDTU) has provided continuous support to strengthen capacity development as a cross-cutting organizational function. This materialized in multiple collaborations across the agency, as well as sharing of expertise and practices, webinars, advisory services in tools and project development, and innovation through digitalization and e-learning.
54. Drawing on an agency-wide capacity development needs survey, measures were taken to increase support: 1) **webinars were organized on priority topics**<sup>25</sup>; 2) an **internal Community of Practice** was created to facilitate knowledge sharing across the organization, including between headquarters, regions and countries; 3) **direct advice to country offices** continued to support the inclusion of capacity development in project formulation, training methodologies, and needs assessments.
55. For instance, throughout 2024, CDTU increased its support to country offices in Ukraine (e.g., design and implementation of a 'Training Needs Assessment', and 'Capacity Needs Assessment'), in Malawi (e.g., in-person training on "Advancing Climate Action through Urban Law"), and in Myanmar (e.g., in-person training on "Building community resilience through Nature-based solutions and Ecosystem-based Adaptation in Myanmar"). Additionally, an internal helpdesk was set up in 2024 to further facilitate the provision of support across UN-Habitat activities.
56. UN-Habitat's **Project Review Committee** has also been leveraged to ensure that specific attention is given to projects' capacity development components and ensure quality, a coherent approach and impact. For reference, over 80% of new projects have a capacity development component. Reviews ensure that projects consider tailoring capacity development to various stakeholders and target groups, and the use of training needs assessments.

#### **B. Improve the delivery of capacity development services to Member States, local governments and other key urban stakeholders for greater impact and resource efficiency**

##### **i. Scaling the understanding, implementing and reporting on the New Urban Agenda**

57. In 2020, UN-Habitat launched the '**New Urban Agenda Illustrated**', a practical handbook to guide all stakeholders through the content of the New Urban Agenda (NUA), and unpack the proposed transformative commitments illustrated with concrete examples and case studies. The '**New Urban Agenda Illustrated**' was translated into French, Spanish, Arabic, Portuguese and Chinese with the support of partners such as the government of France and the UNESCWA. Afterwards, the '**New Urban Agenda Illustrated**' was digitalized in the form of online self-paced courses: Part 1 – '**The Core Dimensions of the NUA (2021)**'; and Part 2 – '**The Means of Implementation (2022)**'.
58. Building on the success of the New Urban Agenda Illustrated and aiming to bolster information on reporting, in 2024 UN-Habitat issued the **Revised guidelines on Reporting on the Implementation the New Urban Agenda**<sup>26</sup>. These guidelines aim to respond to feedback on excessive reporting burdens by introducing new reporting modalities, including options to update previous reports or leverage synergies with other reporting processes (e.g., Multi-level/National Urban Forums and Voluntary National Reviews). The guidelines furthermore aim to improve the quantity and quality of submissions by clarifying the reporting process and encouraging National Progress Reporting that is evidence-based, analytical, connected with practices, inclusive of all relevant stakeholders, and ultimately useful in evaluating global progress and challenges in implementing the agenda.

59. In November 2024, ahead of the 12<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum (WUF12), UN-Habitat, led by the Knowledge and

---

<sup>25</sup> Six webinars were delivered, including on innovative capacity building for impactful learning; instructional design of capacity development tools; planning of instructor-led training and presentation and facilitation skills.

<sup>26</sup> <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/sites/default/files/2024-05/NUA%20Reporting%20Guidelines.pdf>

Innovation branch (KIB) and CDTU, launched an **e-learning** companion to the guidelines: “**Monitoring the Transformative Commitments of the New Urban Agenda**”. This course aims to provide national governments with an engaging self-paced course to guide them through the process of reporting on the NUA. In early 2025, as a follow-up to the e-learning, UN-Habitat is planning on hosting a moderated **webinar** aimed at providing additional information and support to national governments in their reporting, implementation and understanding of the NUA.

60. To further facilitate capacity building on NUA reporting and implementation, UN-Habitat developed the **Urban Agenda Platform**. The Platform is designed as a global knowledge portal, hosting up-to-date information, training, and data, to support Members States and stakeholders. The Platform is currently being improved, to be more user- and mobile-friendly. Regional NUA platforms are also being developed.

**ii. Digital innovation for knowledge management and learning offerings**

61. UN-Habitat has set up ‘**UN-Habitat Learn**’, a publicly available online learning platform and UN-Habitat’s main vehicle for digital transformation in knowledge and learning. Initially created to host the first NUA courses, the platform was further designed to progressively host self-paced and free interactive learning products, reflecting the agency’s value proposition for practitioners. Through the creation of online learning products, UN-Habitat’s digitalization process materializes and transforms normative guidance, practical knowledge, methodologies and best practices into accessible learning paths for all.

62. Since its creation in 2020, **30+ learning products** were created by UN-Habitat and partners, free of charge, and made available in multiple languages. They have been accessed by **14,800 registered learners**. This e-learning ecosystem is delivered in diverse formats (e.g., video-recorded mini-lectures on, webinars, interactive synchronous and asynchronous online courses).

63. The platform’s offering currently covers **13 key themes** and related practical tools, all contributing to illustrating and **guiding users through the Means of Implementation of the NUA**. Themes include:

- Understanding, Implementing and Reporting on the New Urban Agenda
- SDGs Monitoring in Cities
- National Urban Policies
- Investment for Cities
- Municipal Finance: Own Source Revenue
- Urban Law for Climate Action
- Public Space Assessments
- Sustainable Urban Mobility
- Urban Ecosystems Based Adaptation
- Solid Waste Management
- Urban Safety and Human Security
- Durable Solutions for Internally Displaced Persons
- Environmental and Social Safeguard Systems

64. Additional courses are being designed on neighborhood planning, resilience planning, as well as people-centered smart cities. The use of instructional design, coupled with digitalization, has been strengthened to deliver, and evaluate new and catalytic e-learning products driving learners’ behavioral change.

65. Demand is growing for new e-learning solutions, and digital knowledge offering is evolving fast. UN-Habitat continues to explore innovation both in the instructional design process and the technological possibilities to maximize reach and impact, for example by blending in-person delivery with digital components, including “online classrooms” on UN-Habitat Learn. Exploratory learning modules (to be launched as scenario-based chatbots), accessible via applications such as WhatsApp and Messenger, are also being tested on the topic of climate resilience action planning.

66. The digitalization of high-impact methodologies and tools has the potential to enhance capacities for NUA implementation. Courses on UN-Habitat Learn are funded through existing projects and initiatives, making the process mostly ad-hoc. A more programmatic approach, supported by soft-earmarked resources, would allow for more strategy, visibility and growth.

### iii. Strategic partnerships, coalition building and advocacy

67. Partnerships are central to UN-Habitat's Capacity Building Strategy, particularly with academia, knowledge and training institutions. **UN-Habitat UNI Network** was reviewed, to revive UN-Habitat's engagement with universities and research centers. The UNI Network, created in 2014, currently has **203 institutional members** and **1,978 individual members** from around the world. After WUF 12, UN-Habitat received over 60 new membership applications from both institutional and individual members.
68. A new **UN-Habitat University and Research Partnerships Framework** is being developed through a broad consultative process. Its objective is to ensure a whole-of-house approach and strengthen UN-Habitat's convening and mobilizing role, increasing coherence and efficacy of initiatives. By clarifying strategic directions and establishing structured engagement channels, the framework is a guide to foster meaningful partnerships and coalitions, aligned with UN-Habitat's goals. Five strategic directions are proposed:
- **Knowledge co-creation and research:** high-quality and focused research and knowledge produced
  - **Data, monitoring and reporting:** increased availability of quality data on key urban indicators and global urban definitions adopted by more countries
  - **Capacity-building:** capacity gaps and solutions for current and next generations of urban professionals, jointly assessed and addressed by UN-Habitat, academic and research institutions
  - **Urban policy and practice:** high-impact practices promoted through joint action of knowledge institutions, UN-Habitat and urban stakeholders
  - **Advocacy, stakeholder engagement and outreach:** efficient stakeholder engagement mechanisms and coalitions for change and impact
69. Framework implementation shall inform the development of financing strategies to fund priority global initiatives across impact areas. A renewed Steering Committee of the UNI Network shall continue guiding strategic directions, and the framework will be further piloted in the run up to the 13th World Urban Forum.
70. Apart from financing, policy and data gaps to implement the New Urban Agenda, there is a growing recognition of a capacity gap. In partnership with the International Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS), UN-Habitat is researching approaches to qualify and quantify capacity gaps to implement the NUA, for instance through SDG Cities diagnostic tools and the use of competency frameworks. This could also help shape university curriculum and be used for adaptive skills needs assessments. Pilot projects are under preparation to test the approach.
71. Overall, efforts were made to increase strategic engagement on capacity-building at World Urban Fora (WUFs), including with universities. The **WUF 11 Academia Roundtable** stressed the need to bridge academic training and urban practitioners' skills (e.g., integrate practical projects into curricula to align academic outputs with demands). Strengthening partnerships between universities and local governments was expressed as critical to ensuring that evidence-based research informs urban strategies. The **WUF 12 Academia Roundtable** discussed collective housing models, highlighting the importance of partnerships between academia, local communities, and policymakers in addressing interconnected issues like housing equity and climate resilience.
72. Beyond the UNI network and WUF engagements, UN-Habitat has continued to form large-scale partnerships across various professional networks. For example, in 2023, UN-Habitat has signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the [Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative](#) (CSCI),<sup>1</sup> a multi-discipline coalition of networks (universities, architects, planners, local governments) leading the [Call to Action on Sustainable Urbanisation across the Commonwealth](#) and the subsequent [Declaration on Sustainable Urbanisation](#). This partnership responds to well-identified needs, as Commonwealth countries account for nearly 50% of the projected growth in the world's urban population to 2050. A survey of Commonwealth built environment professionals highlighted the lack of built environment professionals in many of the countries - urbanizing most rapidly and among the most vulnerable to climate change, confirming the need for collaborations to build the capacities of those responsible for planning and managing cities.

### iv. Building capacities across regions and contexts

73. Since 2019, UN-Habitat has supported the creation of a **Center of Excellence on Housing in West Africa**, with the potential to inform the eight countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU). The WAEMU Center of Excellence in Housing is a research and skills development institution focused on actors

involved in the housing sector in the sub-region. This project resulted in knowledge production and tailored training sessions for urban stakeholders on housing and urban planning.

74. Through a United Nations Development Account project (15<sup>th</sup> Tranche), UN-Habitat is supporting capacity development for resilience and the scale-up of the **New Urban Agenda in French-speaking Least Developed Countries (2023-2025)**. This includes selecting, adapting, translating, digitalizing, and delivering tools, training materials and other activities.
75. Through the **International Urban Training Centre**, a partnership between UN-Habitat and Gangwon Province (Republic of Korea), established since 2007, local government officials are trained on sustainable urbanization. In 2024, 6 training sessions were carried out under this partnership, on themes such as ecosystem-based adaptation and local economic development.
76. In 2024 in Ukraine, UN-Habitat initiated analyses of capacities and needs of built environment professionals, at the enabling (e.g. legislation), institutional (e.g. organizational structures) and individual (e.g. competencies, attitudes) levels, to support a **Ukrainian-led urban recovery and reconstruction**.
77. In 2011, UN-Habitat set up a **partnership with the company Arcadis**, to allow for the **delivery of pro-bono technical services** (learning by doing). Between 2020 and 2024, the joint initiative supported 43 projects, 5 global projects, 10 national level projects, and 25 cities. Delivered services focus on various technical areas such as climate resilience, energy transition, public space planning, green spaces, urban regeneration and more. This partnership provides cutting-edge knowledge to UN-Habitat teams and partners that complements available capacity and resources.

### **C. Way forward for enhanced Capacity Development across UN-Habitat programmes**

78. In 2025, based on lessons learned from application of the Capacity Building Strategy, and towards the agency's new Strategic Plan (2026-2029), UN-Habitat intends to continue strengthening its capacity development function across its operations. Capacity development will continue to further innovation and impact across practices, regions and stakeholder groups, in three key impact areas:

#### **i. Strengthened capacity development as a cross-cutting function**

79. Continue improving the integration of capacity development into UN-Habitat's projects and programmes, notably through the internal helpdesk, the Programme Review process and the expansion of a community of practice;
80. Further develop and reinforce the use of 'UN-Habitat Learn' as a global digital platform to promote learning, based on thematic priorities and available digital content including through a dedicated communication campaign, partnerships and a more programmatic approach to resource mobilization;

#### **ii. Strengthened partnerships and coalitions**

81. Develop approaches to quantify and provide solutions to capacity gaps to implement the NUA across different stakeholder groups, including through competency gap analysis and focused attention to least capacitated and most vulnerable settings;
82. Build coalitions with a wide range of actors, including through the University and Research Partnerships Framework, anchored around a roadmap and joint high-impact priorities and strengthen the role of capacity development in the new Strategic Plan;
83. Set up mechanisms to monitor trends in research and practice through academia, research and stakeholder engagement;
84. Build on the UN System-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization to mobilize the UN system and its capacity development potential, including through their networks and training centers, as well as through the Resident Coordinators System;

#### **iii. Strengthened innovation, advocacy and forward-looking culture for impact and scale**

85. Build UN 2.0 Capabilities: develop briefing notes on Foresight, Behavioral sciences, Digital and Innovation for Data and their connection with capacity development in UN-Habitat's work;

86. Identify high-impact approaches related to social innovation, such as Community-led Collaborative Urbanism, Place-making, (etc.) and pilot civil society/academia-led initiatives to support accelerated sharing of knowledge and practices, including through universities and students as local changemakers;
87. Strengthen and scale-up digitalization and the 'UN-Habitat Learn' platform: improve structure, review content and identify gaps in themes, priorities and opportunities in line with the above and upcoming Strategic Plan.

## **V. Update on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives**

### **A. Progress in normative support**

88. At WUF12, over 60 events addressed urban crises, with participation from the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons. UN-Habitat soft-launched the advanced draft of [its Global Framework Toward Inclusive Solutions to Urban Internal Displacement](#), finalised after stakeholder consultations, including UN agencies, the World Bank, the International Institute for Environment and Development, NGOs, amongst others. This framework seeks to guide international actors in their support to national and local governments to design sustainable, scalable and transformational urban displacement solutions, aligning responses across the humanitarian, peace and development nexus, ensuring early solution initiation in humanitarian responses.
89. UN-Habitat also launched an e-learning course on urban displacement and durable solutions for IDPs, equipping practitioners with tools to create inclusive solutions. The course integrates materials from Community of Practice webinars and field experiences, targeting development and humanitarian professionals, policymakers, researchers, and donors.
90. On 11 December 2024, the first biannual roundtable on the Human Settlement Global Refugee Forum pledge took place, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the UN in Geneva, UN-Habitat and UNHCR, with representatives from governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, NGOs, and private entities. Key contributions were made by government representatives from Mauritania, Mozambique, Ethiopia, and Switzerland, discussing pledge progress, challenges, and future strategies.

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

91. From July to December 2024, UN-Habitat continued supporting human settlements affected by conflict and disaster in multiple countries<sup>27</sup>. Conditions in the Gaza Strip did not allow for a comprehensive report on the “status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip” yet.

Country	Regional Office	Prevention	Conflict response	Natural disaster response	Forced displacement	New activities July-December 2024
Afghanistan	ROAP	X	X	X	X	Shelter, HLP, and disaster risk reduction projects in high-return areas, including infrastructure investments and community consultations with JICA <sup>28</sup> support.
Burkina Faso*	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	X	Vulnerability reduction among displaced and host populations, especially women and girls.
Cambodia	ROAP	X	N/A	X	N/A	Climate resilience through small-scale infrastructure and vulnerable communities' adaptive capacity via the Adaptation Fund.
Central African Republic*	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	See below.
Chad*	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	See below.
Colombia*	ROLAC	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	National policy for durable displacement solutions, localized diagnostics, mapping, indicators in seven cities, framework to measure solutions' costs and impacts.
Ethiopia*	ROAF	X	X	X	X	Under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund (IDSF), a draft costed action plan for IDPs in Qoloji Camp.
Guinea-Bissau*	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	Natural resource conflicts prevention in the Bafata and Gabu regions.
Iraq	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Under the IDSF, land legislative reform, e-cadastre and e-land registry to secure tenure for IDPs and returnees.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	ROAP	X	N/A	X	N/A	Partnered with Kaysone Phomvihane City on vulnerability assessments, governance, and road safety.
Lebanon	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Co-led UN Debris Task Force, standardizing damage assessments, developing repair SOPs, and mobilizing funds for housing reconstruction, debris management, and governance support.
Libya	ROAS	X	X	X	N/A	With IOM, flood-affected action plans, Derna housing rehabilitation fundraising, enabling voluntary returns to disaster-impacted areas.
Mali*	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	X	Under Sahel project, completed a

<sup>27</sup> including those referred in the Executive Board report HSP/EB.2022/INF.4

<sup>28</sup> Japan International Cooperation Agency.

						diagnostic draft, enhancing community resilience through inclusive, safe, and sustainable approach across the Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus.
Mauritania*	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	Joint SDG Fund proposal submitted for a regional spatial plan in Hodh Chargui region to foster refugees/hosts' integration and self-reliance.
Mozambique	ROAF	X	X	X	X	Facilitated durable solutions for 716,878 IDPs and 610,981 returnees, advancing housing strategies, artisan training, cyclone recovery, and urban resilience projects amid post-election unrest.
Republic of the Union of Myanmar	ROAP	X	X	X	X	Flood risk management, resilient shelters, and nature-based solutions post-Yagi, while fostering private sector engagement for green growth.
Nepal	ROAP	X	N/A	N/A	N/A	Addressing (near)landlessness among rural populations in four municipalities, focusing on indigenous communities' landless households.
Niger*	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	X	Same regional project as in Mali
Nigeria	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	X	Joint programme submitted to deliver durable solutions for forcibly displaced populations, with a focus on women and children, in Northern Nigeria.
Pakistan	ROAP	X	N/A	X	N/A	Secured funding to promote inclusive and sustainable urban development and social cohesion between Afghan refugees and hosting communities in five cities of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Baluchistan and Sind province.
State of Palestine	ROAS	N/A	X	N/A	X	Implemented winterization interventions in IDP sites to improve conditions in and around IDP shelter areas.
Philippines	ROAP	X	X	X	N/A	Strengthened disaster prevention institutions and facilitated a 26-year spatial development plan for Bangsamoro, integrating security risks and peace objectives.
Somalia	ROAF	N/A	X	X	X	Pro-poor housing policy, relocation to government land, and joint durable solutions integrating settlement planning, tenure security, and livelihoods.
South Sudan	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	See below.
Sri Lanka	ROAP	X	X	X	N/A	Data collection (Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment) addressing climate change, biodiversity degradation and urbanization impacts in target areas.
Sudan	ROAS	X	X	N/A	X	See below.



Syria	ROAS	X	X	X	X	After November 2024's escalation and government change, continued supporting large-scale returns of IDPs and refugees, fostering sustainable recovery and social cohesion in cities.
Ukraine*	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	X	Assisted eight municipalities in post-war recovery, participating in Shelter Academy to address water management issues caused by the conflict.
Yemen	ROAS	X	X	N/A	X	HLP Women's Network and Legal Alliance with the Ministry of Justice, financial aid for tenure security, housing rehabilitation, and WASH and transitional shelter projects.

92. No active crisis responses were made by UN-Habitat in Bangladesh, Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, Islamic Republic of Iran, and Kosovo<sup>29</sup> in the reported period. Countries marked with an asterisk were not included in HSP/EB.2022/INF.4, however had active crisis responses during this period.

93. Sudan displacement crisis: in collaboration with UNHCR, missions in Sudan and neighboring countries addressed the displacement of over 11.5 million people. Spatial profiling in Chad's Farchana camp recommended upgrades and renewable energy. Workshops in South Sudan's Malakal and Aweil focused on land allocation and water improvements. In CAR's Baoro and Birao, sustainable shelters and better services were proposed, while Ethiopia's Ura settlement saw shared service models recommended for resource sustainability.

---

<sup>29</sup> All references to Kosovo should be understood in the context of UNSCR 1244 (1999)