

**Ad-Hoc working Group on Programmatic, budgetary and Administrative Matters of the
Executive Board.**

3rd February 2025

Questions by Member states regarding the Draft Work Programme 2026 of UN-Habitat

- **UN-Habitat’s technical assistance and funding opportunities to accelerate slum upgrading and affordable housing initiatives:**
 - ✓ In paragraph 6, UNHA resolution 2/2 calls upon the UN-Habitat’s Executive Director to mobilise resources for technical support capacity. One staff position is dedicated to this function with two others providing partial support.
 - ✓ In paragraph 1, UNHA resolution 2/7 requests the identification and sharing of policy best practices and examples. Two staff positions are partially committed to this function. One gratis personnel have been offered by France to support technical assistance and normative analysis on adequate and sustainable housing.
 - ✓ Fund raising for country level operational and technical assistance has been prioritised by the Executive Director with an emphasis on both traditional bilateral donors and on mobilising increased resources from multilateral development banks and development finance institutions. An extension of existing funding for adequate housing related work is also being sought from the UN Development Account.
 - ✓ Through its UN-Habitat country programme, South Africa has committed funds to a southern Africa sub-regional initiative on slum transformation. It is hoped that this can be leveraged to secure multiplying funds from both donors and national governments in the region.
 - ✓ UN-Habitat is partnering with Cities Alliance, and other members of the Cities Alliance convened Informality Task Force, to mobilise resources for technical assistance to national and local governments facing the highest proportions of informality and the highest projected rates of urbanisation.
 - ✓ Under a 2024 MoU, UN-Habitat is continuing to work with the Organization of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) to agree on a new framework and to mobilise resources for operational activities on slum prevention and transformation.

- **Reasons for underachievement of some results:**

- (a). **Subprogramme 2 Result 1:** voluntary local reviews to enhance the shared prosperity of cities and regions globally through Sustainable Development Goal localization

The subprogramme’s work contributed to the development of 15 Voluntary Local Reviews by local and regional governments with the subprogramme’s direct support, which met the planned target. It also monitored the development of the 46 VLRs published globally, which did not meet the planned target of 65. The target was not met due to limited awareness and capacities and competing priorities of local and regional governments

The global VLR target reflects the number of VLRs published globally (as monitored by UN-Habitat). Even if the total estimate was not met, the trend remains positive, from 29 in 2023 to 46 in 2024. UN-Habitat contributed to this growth with direct support to 15 VLRs in 2024.

- (b). **Subprogramme 3 Result 1:** conservation, management and sustainable use approaches, such as nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based approaches, to improve the livelihoods and resilience of urban poor communities

The subprogramme's work contributed to 37 nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation initiatives, which did not meet the planned target of 40. The target was not met due to operational and financial constraints

Additional initiatives were started in 2024; however, these were not yet counted as solutions. It is expected that by mid-2025 targets will be met.

- **Terminology:**

- ✓ ***Gender and reference to discussion on SP 2026-2029.***

“Gender responsive” is language coming from the New Urban Agenda.

In this sense, and following internal discussions, *gender sensitive* in 15.23 (b) has been replaced by *“gender responsive”* and para.15.15 has been changed to *“UN-Habitat mainstreams gender equality and women's empowerment in its normative and operational activities, deliverables and results, as appropriate, through its gender policy and action plan...”* in alignment with resolution UN Habitat ¼.

- ✓ ***“Vulnerable” in reference to communities.***

General Assembly language and most recent resolution on UN-Habitat A RES 79 214.

In the context of the climate change discourse the concept of vulnerability is the prevailing concept. For example, WGII of the IPCC: Impacts, Adaptation and Vulnerability uses this concept extensively - whilst the response (climate resilient development) is one that acknowledges agency/empowerment and integrated development. Refer to D3 in the *Summary for Policymakers Headline Statements*

- ✓ ***“Urban poor communities”.***

UN-Habitat's Flagship Programme: Resilient Settlements for the urban poor was endorsed by UNHA resolution 2/5.

The Building the Climate Resilience for the Urban Poor is an initiative of the Climate Action Summit of 2019.

- ✓ ***“Integration” between normative and operational work.***

“Integration” is drawn from recurrent UN-Habitat GA Resolutions, including the most recent one A RES 79 214. Example: 24. Urges UN-Habitat to ensure that its normative and operational activities are balanced, that its normative work guides and is integrated into its operational work and that its experiences in the operational field feed into its normative work.

- **How to narrow the relationship between normative and operational work of the organisation be operationalized and guidance on how these two broad objectives (normative and operational) are to be achieved:**

Currently, the Regional Programme Division and the Global Solutions Division have identified ways to ensure more effective collaboration to work towards the implementation

of the Strategic Plan. More work will be done to identify good practices to build on. The upcoming guidance implementation of the new Strategic Plan will look at ways to ensure horizontal and vertical coherence and integration (incl. between normative and operational work).

- **Specific questions on the Subprogrammes:**

- ✓ **Clarifications on figures in 15.4, 15.8, 15.12, 15.13, and 15.4:**

- Figure 15.4 - Performance measure: number of partner cities promoting and implementing strategies, tools or approaches to increase secure tenure rights to land. This land indicator was introduced last December 2024. As such there are no actuals for past years because it was not being tracked prior to that date.
- Figure 15.8 - Performance measure: identified cities and climate change action priorities. The tracking for this result is linked to when the last Innovate4Cities conference happened. The conferences took place in 2021 and 2024, and no conference was held in 2022 and 2023, hence no assessment and tracking.
- Figure 15.12 - Performance measure: number of regional and local administrations supported to integrate DACs for improved access to HLP in Ethiopia (cumulative). The project started in July 2023.
- Figure 15.13 - Performance measure: number of countries adopting a context-specific response to urban migration and displacement (cumulative). The countries were identified when the UN-Habitat institutional plan on solutions to internal displacement as launched in June 2023.
- Figure 15.14 - Performance measures - number of land title deeds in Somalia: The actual numbers for 2022 and 2023 have been provided

- (a). **Subprogramme 1 :**

- ✓ **What are the main strategies for improving access to basic services in rural and urban communities?**

The UN-Habitat strategy for improving access to basic services in rural and urban communities involves a multi-faceted approach which includes policy and governance reforms, capacity building, mobilisation of investment, technological innovation, and strategic partnerships. By focusing on these strategies, UN-Habitat aims to bridge service gaps, improve urban and rural infrastructure, and create more equitable, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities. UN-Habitat's work on integrated urban basic services is guided by the following strategies:

- Leveraging investments through strategic partnerships with multilateral development banks and international financing institutions - Collaborating with multilateral development banks and financing institutions enables large-scale infrastructure investments while ensuring sustainability through pre-investment planning and capacity development. In addition, promoting Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to attract investments, improve service efficiency, and develop innovative solutions for service delivery.
- Technical and Advisory Support for Legislative and Policy Reforms - Strengthening governance frameworks and institutional capacity, promoting pro-poor policies ensures long-term service improvements and effective coordination between national, subnational, and local governments for efficient basic service

delivery. For example: UN-Habitat has supported WASH policy development in Nepal, contributing to regulatory reforms that define key performance indicators and enhance institutional arrangements for service expansion. In Rwanda, tariff reforms have improved financial sustainability while maintaining a focus on equitable access for the poor.

- Capacity Development – Enhancing the technical and management skills of local authorities, service providers and utility companies, and communities to improve infrastructure planning, governance, and maintenance of essential services like water, sanitation, energy, waste management, and transport.
 - Supporting local governments (both urban and rural) in managing and maintaining infrastructure investments - UN-Habitat supports governments in managing and maintaining basic service infrastructure investments by strengthening Own-Source Revenue (OSR) generation through improved tariff structures, land value capture mechanisms, and sustainable financing models. By integrating these approaches into policy and governance frameworks, cities can enhance cost recovery, ensure long-term service provision, and promote equitable access to water and sanitation.
 - Sustainable Climate Resilient Infrastructure Planning & Development – Supporting cities in planning and implementing infrastructure projects that are environmentally sustainable and resilient, ensuring equitable access to services for marginalised and priority groups such as women, children, the elderly, persons with disabilities, and migrants. For example, in Lao PDR, climate risk and vulnerability assessments have led to climate-resilient water systems, benefitting thousands while shaping national policy frameworks.
 - Advocacy and Knowledge Sharing – Developing global knowledge products, toolkits, and guidelines to guide cities and communities in improving access to basic services, while also promoting awareness and policy discourse through global and regional networks such as the Waste Wise Cities, African Clean Cities Platform, GWOPA, Alliance of Cities for Road Safety, Climate Resilient Sanitation Coalition, etc.
 - Promoting Equity and Social Inclusion - Addressing service disparities in informal settlements and slums is essential for inclusive urban development. Initiatives like the Kibera Integrated Water Sanitation and Waste Management Project in Kenya demonstrate how water, sanitation, and waste management improvements can enhance living conditions while fostering community participation.
 - Harnessing Technological Innovation – Leveraging digital solutions, smart technologies, and data-driven approaches to optimize service delivery, improve resource efficiency, and promote sustainable urban development.
- ✓ **UN-Habitat’s plan to measure the impact of initiatives to reduce poverty and spatial inequalities and overcome challenges encountered in implementing affordable housing policies:**
- UN-Habitat employs different level of indicators and benchmarks to measure the impact of initiatives to reduce poverty and spatial inequality. Level 1 is related to the SDG Targets and indicators and applied to measure impact in poverty reduction

and spatial inequalities linked to the SDG implementation. Level 2 is related to the poverty reduction and spatial inequality indicators contained in the Global Urban Monitoring Framework, as the UN-wide System framework to measure impact in urban areas and human settlements. Level 3 is related to project indicators, bringing in additional and more disaggregated indicators on poverty reduction and spatial inequality that is assessed at the project level. Although these three levels have not been applied at the corporate level, UN-Habitat has utilized this approach to measure poverty reduction and spatial inequality reduction in specific projects.

- UN-Habitat considers housing within the framework of the seven elements of adequate housing considered by Member States within the framework of the International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights and as reflected in activities under SDG 11.1. UN-Habitat also welcomes the proposals of some Member States to add consideration of sustainability, particularly where this includes both climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to consider housing systems at the scale of communities and cities, rather than only in terms of individual units. Affordability is measured in terms of the percentage of their disposable income that households must dedicate to meeting housing costs. We recommend considering this in terms of direct housing costs – i.e. rent and mortgage or loan payments – as well as essential related costs such as utilities and, where possible, also essential transport costs. If a household has to commit more than 30% of their disposable income to housing costs, we would consider them as being in housing poverty.
- Solutions for overcoming the challenge of adequate housing vary according to the circumstances and to the income levels of the intended beneficiaries. UN-Habitat's methods start with strengthening city and national land policies and management frameworks, along with the development of appropriate spatial plans and associated regulation, to increase the availability of serviced land in appropriate locations and at an appropriate scale. The development of housing profiles, along with the best available demographic and economic projections, can then be used to adequately characterise the nature and extent of the challenges.
- For low-income groups, the fundamental challenge of housing policy is how to bridge the gap between the average disposable income of the working poor and the lowest cost to produce housing units meeting adequate standards of space, services, location and habitability. Ideally, this is done through a combination of approaches, but public finance and governance constraints usually mean that policy has to rely heavily on a variety of aided self-help strategies such as site and service plots with incremental self-building or the facilitation of cooperatives. Basing these strategies on robust land management strategies and a diversity of tenure types can be used to limit speculation and promote flexibility in the housing system.
- For higher income groups with a disposable income that can meet, or come close to meeting, minimum unit costs, simpler strategies focused on housing finance, public works or public-private partnership construction for sale and different forms of subsidy may be considered.
- In all cases, reasonably stable and consistent government policy over long periods of time (decades), the cultivation of diverse tenure types and policies that

encompass the full scale and nature of housing systems and their needs are important determinants of successful outcomes.

(b). Subprogramme 2 :

✓ **Expansion of online tools regarding owned source revenue, and identify which resolution mandated:**

The objective is to continuously refine and enhance the two existing online tools concerning Own Source Revenue (OSR), namely: a) the Rapid Own Source Revenue Analysis (ROSRA) tool, and b) the OSR Online Course. By improving these tools, UN-Habitat aims to amplify their impact for users. Furthermore, there is a planned initiative to advance the dissemination of these tools, integrating them with other related municipal services to promote their adoption and ensure that services are effectively scaled up. Decision to improve on the tools and advance their dissemination was internal in order to move forward for achieve a greater impact

✓ **Relation between the Result on OSR, especially on improvement on the local strategies for revenue gathering, and the work already being done under the flagship programme of SDG cities:**

The work on OSR directly seeks to improve the financial position of local governments through increased OSR revenues. The SDG Cities programme seeks to assess the alignment of cities with SDGs and help inform closer alignment going forward. It therefore draws on data that is generated in the course of the application of the OSR tools to get a better sense of the financial situation of the local government, i.e. whether it is able to effectively manage its own revenues and has put in place solid public financial management practices and systems.

✓ **Concrete measures to enhance financing for local governments, ensuring or supporting that financial flows effectively reach the cities:**

- OSR Optimization: UNH will continue to work on OSR optimization supporting local and national governments in improving the management of devolved revenue authority. In doing so, UNH is increasing the creditworthiness of local governments and thereby facilitating access to finance (OSR is a key component of local government credit ratings needed to access affordable finance)
- Capital Investment Planning (CIP): UNH is working to increase the efficiency of existing expenditure by helping local governments prioritize among existing capital expenditure projects. CIPs are a prerequisite for many local governments to unlock finance as investors/lenders want to know that capital projects are part of a long-term vision of the city.
- Local Finance Framework (LFF): UNH is developing the LFF to help more effectively match finance and funding with existing infrastructure projects. At present 90% of bankable projects in Africa do not reach financial close, leading to very significant wastage of public resources. The LFF seeks to assist governments and development partners to better gauge from the onset how infrastructure projects should be financed – thereby increasing the efficiency of ODA more broadly.

- Fiscal Space Diagnostics: In collaboration with UNECA, UNH is developing and piloting a methodology for assessing fiscal space in African cities. This methodology can be used to carry out a comprehensive scan of the financial situation of a local government and accordingly recommend areas for improvement. Additionally, by compiling data and showcasing it on an online platform this initiative seeks to increase the incentives that partnering governments face to improve their position – to avoid unfavourable comparisons with peer cities.
- Local Economic Development Planning: by developing a tool to help cities identify ideal entry points to kick-start local economic development, UNH seeks to boost local economies and thereby increase tax revenues.
- ✓ **New UN-Habitat’s strategies to overcome obstacles in meeting the global targets for voluntary local reviews (VLR), including limited awareness, capacity constraints and competing priorities of local and regional governments and measures taken:**

The strategy is threefold and falls under the implementation of the Resolution on Localizing the SDGs: 1) Advocacy: the SDG Cities Global Community was launched at WUF12 and will feature dedicated international sessions on VLRS. In addition, UN-Habitat will further expand the annual VLR-VSR Days organized on the occasion of HLPF by expanding its partnership with UNDESA and the UN Regional Commission for further reach within the Regions. 2) Capacity Building: VLR and SDG Localization capacity development workshops are planned including the launch of the Africa Localization Academy in April 2025; 3) Multilevel Governance: with the support of the Italian Government, the Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs will focus on fostering policy coherence and multilevel governance looking specifically at the VLR-VNR connection as a strategic entry point.

- ✓ **Clarification on “ implementation of smart cities solutions and people centred smart cities approaches in 10 cities through the people centred smart cities international guidelines”:**

Based on the international guidelines on people centred smart cities, its principles and actions, UNH foresees to support at least 10 cities in implementing the latter through normative work (e.g. smart city strategies, policies, AI, data regulations etc.), technology solutions (e.g. technical assistance to develop technology to address specific challenges related to inclusivity, sustainability etc.), capacity development (dedicated training addressing public officials or general public to develop digital skills or long life learning training).

- ✓ **How national urban policies can improve the spatial connectivity and productivity of cities:**

- The SDGs recognise that urbanization serves as a significant catalyst for economic, social, and cultural activities, where growth, innovation, and interconnectedness are prominently showcased. Member States regard National Urban Policies (NUP) as essential tools for effectively managing population dynamics, territorial cohesion and fiscal space. UN-Habitat assists Member States in formulating and implementing policies as strategic documents that articulate a long-term, collective vision for national

development, facilitating the integration and coordination of various sectoral policies.

- A crucial aspect of successfully developing and implementing National Urban Policies lies in ensuring adequate focus on territorial and urban-rural linkages, as well as the systems of cities. By adopting this approach, urban policies extend their influence beyond city boundaries, enhancing connectivity among urban, peri-urban, and rural regions, and promoting integrated and balanced territorial development to ensure that no one and no place is left behind.
 - To achieve effective outcomes, UN-Habitat advocates for the adoption of various implementation mechanisms, which encompass legal, regulatory, and financial instruments, while also promoting capacity building and encouraging the involvement of subnational governments and diverse stakeholders, including citizens, the private sector, and academia, in policy-making processes. The success of robust National Urban Policies is closely tied to the quality of evidence available. In this regard, the urban policy database maintained by UN-Habitat, along with urban-scale data, serve as crucial foundations for ensuring that NUPs adequately address both urbanisation challenges and opportunities, allowing for regular monitoring and evaluation of their impacts. For further insights into how UN-Habitat is assisting over 50 countries in integrating spatial connectivity into their NUPs, please refer to the publication titled *National Urban Policy Guide: Mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages in National Urban Policies*¹ | UN-Habitat. Additionally, to explore how UN-Habitat has assessed countries in terms of connectivity and productivity, please consult the latest *Global State of National Urban Policy 2024* | UN-Habitat².
 - Since 2018, UN-Habitat and partners have been monitoring global national urban policies trends. It emerges that Member States are utilizing NUPs to identify and enhance territorial assets for economic growth, thereby boosting productivity and competitiveness within cities and communities. Concurrently, Member States illustrate how they have leveraged NUPs to tap into the potential of the social and solidarity economy and to promote sustainable tourism, among other initiatives. Urban policy can shape medium-term urban trends by considering economic, social, and environmental dynamics, as well as production factors. It can facilitate equitable access to productive land use that respects property rights while simultaneously mitigating regulatory barriers that may hinder urban productivity and the availability of affordable housing. Furthermore, urban policy can delineate the roles and responsibilities of actors and various levels of government, grounded in the principles of subsidiarity and public engagement
- ✓ **Best practices for optimising local revenue systems and attracting sources of private capital for sustainable urban development particularly in African cities:**
- OSR: Strengthening property tax collection through improved valuation, digital cadastral systems, and enforcement can significantly boost municipal revenues. Expanding user fees for utilities, parking, and waste management while ensuring affordability and service delivery improvements enhances revenue sustainability.

¹ [mainstreaming-urban-in-nup-guide- _web.pdf](#)

² [Global State of National Urban Policy 2024 | UN-Habitat](#)

- Land-value Capture (also usually an OSR): By capturing a greater percentage of the rapidly appreciating urban land values, local governments can generate very significant revenues to fund sustainable urbanization. These LVC tools include betterment levies, developer charges, land-readjustment, public land leasing, etc.
- Cities should improve creditworthiness by enhancing financial transparency, adopting multi-year budgeting, and securing municipal credit ratings to attract external investment.
- Public-private partnerships (PPPs) can mobilize private capital for critical infrastructure projects, supported by blended finance instruments that de-risk investments – where appropriate.
- Private investment: fostering investor confidence through clear urban policies, streamlined regulatory frameworks, and investment promotion initiatives can make African cities attractive destinations for investment and thereby boost economic growth.

✓ **UN-Habitat’s support to cities in adopting advanced technologies for urban development:**

Based on the international guidelines on people centred smart cities, its principles and actions, UN-Habitat foresees, pending resources and expressed interest from member States and partners, supporting at least 10 cities in implementing the latter through normative work (e.g. smart city strategies, policies, AI, data regulations etc.), technology solutions (e.g. technical assistance to develop technology to address specific challenges related to inclusivity, sustainability etc.), capacity development (dedicated training addressing public officials or general public to develop digital skills or long life learning training).

(c). Subprogramme 3:

✓ **UN-Habitat’s support provided to National Adaptation Plan, NAP-Global Support Programme and National Determined Contributions- Partnership:**

National Adaptation Plan:

1. UN-Habitat has engaged in NAP development processes (and has NAP guidelines)
2. UN-Habitat is leading the NAP development process in Lao PDG
3. UN-Habitat is part of the UN4NAP mechanism and has provided reviews. UN-Habitat also engages in the UNFCCC LEG (Least Developed Countries Expert Group), however, due to resource constraints is not able to attend all meetings.

NAP-Global Support Programme:

1. UN-Habitat engaged in this mechanism with UNDP but was unsuccessful in mobilizing resources
2. The Global Support Programme closed in 2021.

National Determined Contributions-Partnership:

1. UN-Habitat is a member of the NDC Partnership, attends coordination meetings with a view to improve the efficacy of support to member states; there have also been discussions how UN-Habitat can support the requests coming in from countries.
2. UN-Habitat provided support to member states directly (e.g. Uganda and Ethiopia).

3. In the context of the DSG / UNDP Administrator call to action (NDC 3.0 Push) UN-Habitat engages with NDC-P, including discussion on country support.
4. We engage with UNDP (through the Climate Promise programme) with the NDC-P programme towards NDC implementation.

✓ **UN-Habitat’s support to Member States to integrate urban dimensions into their Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans?**

UN-Habitat is actively engaging in UNCTs and with UNDP (designated as the lead of the NDC3.0 push). In order to support member states:

- UN-Habitat has been publishing regular updates on the urban content of the NDCs identifying key gaps (including through country dashboards).
- Provide training for country offices on how to support the urban content (an initial training tool is currently being updated).
- Upon request of member states provide tailored support.
- The formulation of Climate Action Roadmaps for building and construction in Bangladesh, Ghana and Senegal have provided adaptable assessment tools for decarbonisation of buildings and construction sectors and support setting NDC targets

✓ **UN-Habitat support to cities to scale up nature-based solutions, promote biodiversity, sensitive urban planning and strengthen governance frameworks that prioritise water security and ecosystem conservation:**

- ✓ In support of cities scaling up nature-based solutions, UN-Habitat recently presented its Hotspot Stoplight tool, mandated by UNHA resolution 2/4, in a technical session of the Global Environment Facility (GEF) and World Bank and is discussing ways in which the agencies’ respective nature-oriented tools might be modularly deployed at a wider scale in respective partner cities. UN-Habitat is also refining and upscaling the application of the Hotspot Stoplight, in discussion with several interested Member States.
- ✓ Nature-based solutions are also being scaled up in Kenya, through the GEF8-funded Nairobi Sustainable City Integrated Programme, which will help address the national and local biodiversity strategies action plans. Mesoamerican countries through the project ‘BiodiverCities for the acceleration of the New Urban Agenda’, funded by the Development Bank of Latin America and the Caribbean (CAF) and building on the ongoing work of the BiodiverCities network, a joint initiative of the World Economic Forum and the Humboldt Institute.
- ✓ Additionally, UN-Habitat is scaling up nature-based solutions through the joint application in Costa Rica of the Hotspot Stoplight and City-Wide Public Space Assessment, which is developing a biodiversity layer for diagnosing and designing site-scale green spaces within cities.
- ✓ Also in line with the achievement of UNHA resolution 2/4, UN-Habitat has supported governance frameworks that prioritize ecosystem conservation by convening a expert group meeting in Costa Rica in 2024. Global participants discussed challenges and share practices related to coordinated decision-

making between municipalities across fragmented city-regions. The synthesis report of the meeting will promote multi-scalar and supra-municipal planning for city-regions to avoid further loss of natural capital.

- ✓ In the absence of specific new funding from Member States for the implementation of UNHA resolution 2/4, UN-Habitat has responded to many thematic funding calls related to biodiversity, cities, and nature.
- ✓ UN-Habitat's RISE UP projects also include programme development funding opportunities for participating cities - based on the needs of cities and national governments project development is supported.
- ✓ **UN-Habitat's support to countries in integrating biodiversity sensitive urban planning into their development strategies, particularly in vulnerable territories:**

Based on open-source data, to which any country has access, UN-Habitat's Hotspot Stoplight tool projects urban expansion and the risks of biodiversity loss and climate change, overlaying and mapping all three at a scale. This novel functionality equips cities with the evidence for making quick decisions about how and where to plan and develop with minimal risk to people and planet. A major aim is to redirect development investment away from vulnerable territories and into areas of lower risk, avoiding both loss of biodiversity (due to unnecessary destruction of natural habitat) and property (due to inappropriate location).

- ✓ **Innovative solutions being proposed to improve the climate resilience of vulnerable urban communities:**
 - Tools and case studies have been compiled in the 2024 World Cities Report: <https://unhabitat.org/world-cities-report-2024-cities-and-climate-action>
 - The Innovate4Cities conference also collected case studies / innovative practices and updated the global research and action agenda: https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2024/11/2024_innovate4cities_conference_outcomes_report_un-habitat_x_gcom_compressed_12.pdf
 - UN-Habitat is a leading partner in the climate smart cities challenge: <https://climatesmart.citieschallenge.org/>

(d). Subprogramme 4:

- ✓ **Clarification of the Subprogramme Strategy:**

The notion that humanitarian response adopts a 'Solutions from the start' approach is in line with IASC Management Response to the ODI Independent Review of the Humanitarian Response to Internal Displacement [link]. It is also part of the IASC – UNSDG Guidance on Solutions to Internal Displacement.

UN-Habitat has helped to articulate how this can be done in urban areas as part of the collaboration with the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement, ASG Robert Piper, and as included in its own Institutional Plan on Solutions to Internal Displacement [link]. This is detailed in UN-Habitat global framework towards inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement which will be published shortly. [link]

✓ **UN-Habitat's support Member States in adopting evidence-based recovery approaches and community participatory processes:**

UN-Habitat supports national and local authorities to adopt evidence-based recovery. Through spatial profiling and participatory assessments, (local) authorities receive tools to guide recovery strategies. Technical assistance strengthens municipal capacities to incorporate tenure security, infrastructure planning, and service provision into the recovery processes. Training for government officials ensures that urban planning frameworks reflect displacement realities and provide durable solutions. To utilise community engagement mechanisms and participatory approaches supports displaced populations to contribute to inclusive planning and decision-making.

✓ **Strategies for improving the living conditions and inclusion of migrants, refugees, displaced persons and returnees in urban:**

To support urban inclusion of migrants, refugees, displacement populations and returnees UN-Habitat works on tenure security and access to land, housing, and services combined with spatial profiling. UN-Habitat works with governments on strengthening legal frameworks to prevent evictions and provide long-term stability. Local authorities receive guidance on integrating displacement into urban planning, ensuring infrastructure, mobility, and service delivery meet the needs of both displaced and host communities. Public spaces are designed to encourage economic opportunities and interaction, creating shared environments that foster social cohesion.

✓ **UN-Habitat's plan to strengthen the resilience of urban infrastructure in crisis contexts:**

UN-Habitat works with national and local authorities to enhance the resilience of urban infrastructure and ensure that risk reduction and climate adaptation are included in urban plans. Cities experiencing displacement crises receive technical assistance to regulate land use, preventing unsafe urban expansion to promote sustainable settlement planning. In this process, spatial profiling identifies vulnerabilities and maps investment needs in infrastructure, transport, and essential services to anticipate future shocks. UN-Habitat further upgrades informal settlements in collaboration with authorities and communities to minimise exposure to recurrent hazards, ensuring that displacement does not become cyclical. The significance of stronger governance is recognised and integrated into Habitat's technical support to guarantee that service delivery remains effective during crises and assists in long-term urban recovery.

✓ **UN-Habitat's position regarding the new developments globally, as far as migration, refugees is concerned, and whether UN-Habitat sees this as one of the challenges it's going to meet:**

A focus on forced displacement and migration is central to the proposed impact area in the draft Strategic Plan on crisis prevention, response and reconstruction, as a continuation of the focus in the current Strategic Plan under Domain of change 4. This will include an increased focus, not just on urban areas, but also on displacement across broader territories (ex. Sahel, Horn of Africa).