



**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 the programmatic
activities of UN-Habitat in 2024 and the implementation of
UN-Habitat subprogrammes, flagship programmes and
technical cooperation activities**

**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. The present report is comprised of five sections, providing updates from the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and offering insights into its activities in Ethiopia and Central America (sect. II and III), across the different domains of change of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025. Addressing different contexts and challenges, the report provides an overview of how impacts can be achieved through the implementation of both normative and operational activities. Information on progress made by UN-Habitat in implementing its current capacity-development strategy is provided in section IV, while updates on UN-Habitat initiatives in areas affected by conflicts and disasters, including the Gaza Strip, are provided in section V. The report is accompanied by document HSP/EB.2025/INF/8, containing the implementation plan for the UN-Habitat capacity-building strategy for 2025, and document HSP/EB.2025/INF/9, in which highlights from subprogramme activities are provided, covering the period from July to December 2024.

**II. Normative and operational activities from the Ethiopia country
programme**

2. Since 1998, UN-Habitat has been present in Ethiopia, supporting federal, regional and local governments with technical and policy advice and project implementation. With a population of more than 120 million, Ethiopia registered a strong average real growth of nearly 10 per cent per year between 2004 and 2018, one of the highest rates in the world, led mainly by infrastructure investments

* HSP/EB.2025/1.

that expanded access to infrastructure and services and supported better living standards, according to the World Bank.¹ However, the country is also one of the poorest in the world, with high rates of poverty and low living standards fuelled by rapid urbanization.²

3. Work under the UN-Habitat Ethiopia country programme has continuously been expanded since the programme's creation, including by addressing needs for liveable and sustainable human settlements and committing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals, in alignment with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework. The partnership between UN-Habitat and the Government of Ethiopia has been bolstered by the country's engagement with the activities of the African Union Specialized Technical Committee on Public Service, Local Government, Urban Development and Decentralization, which led to the first Africa Urban Forum in September 2024.

4. Key areas of that partnership include capacity-building for sustainable urban development, implementing the Water for African Cities Programme, promoting sustainable transport solutions for East Africa, improving public spaces, developing *The State of Addis Ababa* reports, planning city resilience action, preparing structure plans and regional spatial development plans, and supporting solid waste management and durable solutions for displacement-affected communities.³

A. UN-Habitat in Ethiopia: background

5. Although it is the second most populous country in Africa, Ethiopia has a very low rate of urbanization, which stood at 23.16 per cent in 2023.⁴ However, 58 per cent of the country's gross domestic product is generated by cities.⁵ The national development plan of Ethiopia for the period 2021–2030 is designed to develop and deepen structural transformation through key strategic development pillars⁶ and a number of priority areas, which include quality and efficient infrastructure development and sustainable urban development. The plan also highlights the humanitarian-development-peace nexus that has emerged from recent trends in climate change disasters and conflicts, leading internally displaced communities to urban centres. The Government of Ethiopia is pursuing a structural transformation through which emphasis is placed on urban development as the core strategic sector, and prosperous, productive, competitive and green cities are envisioned.

6. Rising unemployment is of major concern, as the number of jobs being created falls far below the rate of population growth. Furthermore, the continuing increase in the urban population will add extra strain to the existing housing shortage. The current annual supply of 131,000 new houses is far below the annual demand of 400,000 houses on top of the existing backlog. A significant proportion of the housing stock (64.31 per cent) is of low quality, associated with slum conditions.⁷ There is a relative government monopoly of 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. Some 88 per cent of cities have approved active spatial plans. However, these plans are neither being effectively implemented nor updated.⁸ 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 increases in economic and population growth over the next 10 years. Urban mobility has also become a critical issue in Ethiopia.

¹ Mehmet Onur Ozlu and others, "Ethiopia urbanization review: urban institutions for a middle-income Ethiopia", working paper (Washington D.C., World Bank, 2015).

² Ibid.

³ UN-Habitat, "Country programme for Ethiopia 2016–2020", slide presentation, 2020. Available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2019/10/ethiopia_hcpd_presentation_rev.pdf.

⁴ Compilation of World Bank development indicators. See <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=ET>.

⁵ Ethiopia, Ministry of Urban [sic] and Infrastructure, *Urban Development and Construction Sector Ten Years (2020–2030) Perspective Plan*.

⁶ The key strategic development pillars include: (a) quality economic growth and shared prosperity; (b) economic productivity and competitiveness; (c) technological capability and digital economy; (d) sustainable development financing; (e) private sector-led economic growth; (f) resilient green economy; (g) institutional transformation; (h) gender and social inclusion; (i) access to justice and efficient civil services; and (j) regional peacebuilding and economic integration.

⁷ Ethiopia, Ministry of Urban [sic] and Infrastructure, *Urban Plan Implementation Report*, 2024 (unpublished).

⁸ Ibid.

Improvement in that area will be achieved mostly through ambitious plans for rapid economic growth set to be adopted by cities. Important shifts are needed to transition towards: (a) climate-resilient green urban economic pathways and disaster-resilient spatial reorganization; (b) improved air quality and waste management; and (c) safe, inclusive and accessible green and public spaces.

8. However, average municipal revenue is insufficient to meet demand for investments in infrastructure and services. According to the Ethiopian Ministry of Urban [sic] and Infrastructure, municipal revenue should cover 75 per cent of expenditure on infrastructure and services. Insufficient municipal revenue results partly from weak land management information systems; only 12 per cent of urban territories were covered by land registry and cadastral maps in 2022. In addition, responsiveness to land demand is weak, as only 30 per cent of urban land demand is addressed, and land demand constitutes only 46 per cent 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 and in towns, is crucially needed. Management of growth of urban areas alone does not currently contribute to unlocking the economic potential of the respective hinterlands, nor does it help to absorb any surplus labour 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 is becoming protracted, putting a heavy strain on basic services. Cities' capacity gaps are widening: internal displacement is increasingly becoming an urban phenomenon while, at the same time, cities remain insufficiently equipped to handle the incoming new populations. In addition to the ongoing durable solutions and interventions that have been piloted, harnessing lessons learned and scaling them up is of pivotal importance to be able to increase access to jobs and land, improve integration of infrastructure and service grids, and create cohesion with host communities, in accordance with Government's National Strategy to Implement Solutions Pathways to Internal Displacement in Ethiopia.

B. Normative and operational activities under the Ethiopia country programme

1. Capacity-building for sustainable urban development

11. In the biennium 2020–2021, UN-Habitat, with the support of the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency and in accordance with the capacity-development strategy (see sect. IV below), contributed to strengthening the capacity of more than 200 Ethiopian city leaders and other actors from city, regional and federal levels to design, implement and monitor urban development-focused interventions. The capacity-building support typically involved between two and five days' of basic technical and urban management training (e.g. urban planning, city resilience, housing, land, job creation, urban finance and good governance). On the basis of the training provided, city leaders were able to identify specific needs and skill gaps; evaluations confirmed that there was improved understanding of the different aspects and interconnectedness of urban development issues. Learning was applied when planning, implementing, monitoring and reporting urban-development activities.

2. Enhanced urban and regional planning, implementation and monitoring

12. In 2021, under a regional spatial development plan project, nine such regional plans were completed and endorsed by the respective regional governments. The process involved the provision of 51 capacity-development training sessions at the federal and regional levels, as a result of which 10 project offices were established across all regions in order to coordinate on 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 with a 2044 horizon, based on the potential and development contexts 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 intraregional urban and rural cluster development and connectivity; (d) promote the development of secondary and tertiary cities and 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 subprogramme 2,

on enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions, and subprogramme 3, on strengthened climate action and improved urban environment.

3. **Developing green spaces, including through integrated urban planning and watershed management approaches**

13. In 2019, UN-Habitat collaborated with the city of Addis Ababa on the “Beautifying Sheger” project, an initiative aimed at rehabilitating the city’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. This included building the capacities of 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. In addition, a sustainable greening strategy, hazard mapping and guidelines on public space design and management, along with two comprehensive guidelines, were developed. The project also entailed the conduct of biodiversity assessments, surveys and visioning exercises and involved community participation in the design of riverside public spaces. UN-Habitat also supported five Ethiopian secondary cities with participatory public space development, as part of its global public space programme and through its Block by Block methodology. This has contributed to advancing UN-Habitat work on subprogramme 3.

4. **Building resilient settlements for the urban poor**

14. In 2023, UN-Habitat included Ethiopia in its multi-country flagship programme “RISE-UP: resilient settlements for the urban poor”, which leverages large-scale investment to build 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 population of internally displaced persons. UN-Habitat documented, appraised and visualized the multilayered vulnerabilities of Debre Berhan, which 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. The work is expected to build resilience in three highly vulnerable neighbourhoods, including slums and informal settlements, that lack access to drinking water because of a prolonged drought. These activities contribute to progress on subprogramme 3.

5. **Strengthening resilience among displaced and disaster-affected communities**

15. In the framework of an ongoing joint programme with the International Organization for Migration and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, entitled “Strengthening Resilience of Disaster-Affected Communities through Durable Solutions in Oromia and Somali Regions of Ethiopia”,⁹ UN-Habitat is working in the Somali and Oromia regions to strengthen spatial planning at the area-level and ensure the sustainable reintegration of disaster-affected communities through improved access to housing, land and property. As part of a review of existing land tenure systems, UN-Habitat assessed and documented the legal, policy and institutional opportunities and challenges with regard to ensuring the housing, land and property rights of disaster-affected communities. It provided capacity-building training for regional, zonal and *woreda* officials on durable solutions for disaster-affected communities; housing, land and property rights; inclusion of internally displaced persons 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 training sessions to their work. Specific capacity-building training on GIS and remote sensing was also provided to facilitate the validation of settlement plans in Goryaowl and Awbare. Training on housing, land and property and on GIS was also offered to experts from the West Hararghe zone, Meiso *woreda* and Meiso town administrations to promote disaster-affected communities’ housing, land and property rights through the issuance of occupancy certificates or land titles.

16. At the Dhurwale relocation site, UN-Habitat collaborated with local government, civil society organizations and community members to enhance the liveability of the settlement through nature-based solutions to wind and flood protection, including through the planting of 1,000 trees. A cash-for-work mechanism was established to ensure the ongoing care and maintenance of the trees while also providing economic support to the community.

17. Durable housing interventions have been strengthened through the procurement of mud-block machines to promote owner-driven and affordable housing construction, as well as youth employment,

⁹ The project covers the period 2022–2026 and is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation and the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency.

in the Awbare and Darera Arba sites. The project contributed to UN-Habitat subprogramme 1, reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum, and subprogramme 4, effective urban crisis prevention and response.

6. Spatial profiling for the durable settlement of internally displaced persons

18. In the biennium 2020–2021, UN-Habitat, supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation, developed a spatial profile for Qoloji, the largest of the country's many settlements hosting internally displaced persons, with an estimated 100,000 inhabitants in an area of 1.1 km², located in the Somali Region of Ethiopia.¹⁰ The *Qoloji Spatial Profile* mapped the settlement's current conditions, identified challenges and opportunities, developed scenarios and outlined recommendations to provide for sustainable settlement. The spatial profile is being used as a reference document and as the foundation for a wider set of initiatives on how socioeconomic development in the area could be enhanced holistically so as to benefit both internally displaced persons and host communities in ways that enhance the linkages between the humanitarian, development and peacebuilding dimensions. At the moment, UN-Habitat is carrying out an administrative and functional region-level IDP site integration spatial plan in the Qoloji camp under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund. The project is also aimed at building public space, and the initiative will enhance social cohesion between internally displaced persons and host communities. In partnership with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), the spatial profile for the Kebri Beyah refugee camp, the oldest camp in the country, was developed in 2020. The profile now serves as a road map to guide integration efforts within the community of Kebri Beyah town. The work is also contributing to subprogramme 4.

7. Integrating landfill technology: urban solid waste management

19. Since 2018, UN-Habitat has rehabilitated open dumpsites covering 6.8 hectares in three cities (Addis Ababa, Bahir Dar and Awasa) using the innovative Fukuoka landfill method – a semi-aerobic technique for improving dumpsites – to reduce risks linked to open dumpsites and safeguard public health. UN-Habitat applied its Waste Wise Cities Tool to assess the waste generated, collected and disposed of, map waste flows and quantify plastic leakage per person and per year. UN-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. Through advocacy activities organized in primary schools, UN-Habitat sensitized students to sustainable solid waste practices, leading to improved waste segregation at source in several schools. These efforts contribute to subprogramme 3.

8. Development of minimum compliance standards for shelters hosting returning migrants

20. Since 2023, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the International Labour Organization and the World Health Organization, has been supporting the sustainable reintegration of returned migrants in Addis Ababa, with a focus on health, shelter and socioeconomic well-being. UN-Habitat supports the authorities in Addis Ababa by conducting research, developing a minimum compliance standard for shelters and related facilities, formulating policies and supporting systems in order to strengthen the city's institutional capacity to respond to the needs of returning migrants. The project supports the overall enhancement of urban governance and service delivery mechanisms, ensuring gender equity and transparency in access to essential resources and opportunities for migrants, thereby contributing to the achievement of the goals under UN-Habitat subprogramme 4.

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

21. Since 2013, UN-Habitat has been working in the eight member countries of the Central American Integration System, namely Belize, Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras, Nicaragua, Costa Rica, Panama and the Dominican Republic.¹¹ The agency's normative and operational activities have been focused on promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and supporting post-pandemic recovery in urban areas. The regional programme is building capacities and promoting

¹⁰ UN-Habitat, *Qoloji Spatial Profile* (Nairobi, 2021). Available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/06/210614_qoloji_spatial_profile_lr.pdf.

¹¹ The Central American Integration System is a regional organization that was established to promote economic, political, cultural and environmental integration among Central American countries. It was created by the Tegucigalpa Protocol to the Charter of the Organization of Central American States.

actions to create more inclusive, sustainable and resilient cities, as well as improving living conditions in slums and informal settlements. It is guided by the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025; the regional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Latin America and the Caribbean of 2018; the plan for the recovery, social reconstruction and resilience of Central America and the Dominican Republic 2020–2040; and the regional action plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Central America and the Dominican Republic of 2021. The work of UN-Habitat in the region has relied on the support of multiple partners, including the regional government of Andalusia, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.¹² In addition, the programme supports the Central America Council on Housing and Human Settlements in the implementation of the regional plan for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Central America and the Dominican Republic.

A. UN-Habitat in Central America and the Dominican Republic: background

22. In 2023, the total population of the Central American Integration System region was estimated at approximately 65 million.¹³ Over the past 20 years, the region's population has grown significantly, with estimates indicating that it has increased by approximately 37.5 per cent.¹⁴ The growth in population is expected to continue, with projections suggesting there will be an additional 15 million people in the region over the next 15 years, bringing the total population to about 80 million by 2040.¹⁵ The region also has one of the fastest urbanization rates in the world, with 59 per cent of its population living in urban areas, a figure that is expected to rise to 70 per cent in the coming generations.¹⁶

23. Approximately 29 per cent of the urban population live in informal settlements or slums, which represents a major challenge for urban policies and sustainable development.¹⁷ It is estimated that 21 per cent of the urban population, equivalent to more than 8 million people, resides in precarious housing.¹⁸ The significant housing deficit is contributing to the proliferation of informal settlements, exacerbating problems such as poverty and food insecurity.¹⁹

24. According to a UN-Habitat report,²⁰ cities in the Central American Integration System region are home to 38.3 million people distributed across 83 urban nodes, including eight metropolitan areas in which approximately 6 in 10 people in the region live. Cities in the region generally register higher levels of social well-being as urbanization increases. The eight metropolitan areas, which have urbanization rates exceeding 90 per cent, consistently score the highest values on the Human Development Index of the region's system of cities. In addition, this network of cities serves as a strategic transportation and logistical services hub, thus positioning the region as an area with the potential to drive well-being and prosperity across the entire American continent.

25. Five of the eight metropolitan areas – San José, San Salvador, Managua, Guatemala City and the Central District – which are located in the Dry Corridor and are home to some 9 million people, are highly vulnerable to drought and are at risk of water crises (e.g. droughts, floods, pollution, overexploitation of resources, water stress).²¹ In response, cities are implementing various adaptation

¹² Partners include the Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the European Union, the German Agency for International Cooperation, the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy and the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities.

¹³ See <https://odu.unah.edu.hn/dmsdocument/16034-no-2-perfil-demografico-de-centroamerica-2023>.

¹⁴ Stella Sáenz Breckenridge and Eduardo Lizano Soley, “La migración en Centroamérica: una aproximación actual”, fact sheet no. 10 (Latin American Faculty of Social Sciences, Jan. 2023).

¹⁵ Ibid.

¹⁶ Ana I. Aguilera, “How urbanization is transforming Central America”, in Augustin Maria and others, eds., *Central America Urbanization Review: Making Cities Work for Central America*, Directions in Development Series (Washington, D.C., World Bank, 2017).

¹⁷ Eurosocial, “COVID-19 en tugurios y vivienda social en Centroamérica y República Dominicana” [COVID-19 in slums and social housing in Central America and the Dominican Republic], 19 April 2020.

¹⁸ Catalina Ortiz and María Mercedes Di Virgilio, “Laboratorios de vivienda (LAVs): asentamientos precarios y vivienda social: impactos del covid-19 y respuestas”, working paper, 24 June 2020.

¹⁹ Ibid.

²⁰ UN-Habitat, *Reporte del Estado de las Ciudades de Centroamérica y República Dominicana* (Tegucigalpa, 2023).

²¹ Ibid.

strategies to address climate change, particularly drought and food insecurity, including by strengthening urban and community resilience, urban water management and urban food systems.

26. In recent years, the Central American Integration System region has experienced rapid urban growth and changes in social dynamics owing to a greater concentration of the population in large and medium-sized cities, the impacts of increasingly frequent meteorological phenomena, and increased public insecurity and social vulnerability associated with housing conditions, employment, income, health and education. In order to effectively transform urban growth into an engine for development, all levels of government and society must establish alliances to guide the development of urban centres and generate the conditions for 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 with regard to 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, all of which are needed to develop growth strategies, build social capital and promote collective action. These shortcomings have hindered the development of the region's major cities and have led to unequal, segregated and environmentally unsustainable territories. As a result, many people struggle to meet their needs and demands.

28. The Central American Integration System region has high potential due to its strategic geographical location²² and rich social, natural and cultural assets. To fully leverage the region's potential, updated spatial and statistical information on cities must be generated so as to facilitate the effective planning, management and targeting of actions and investments for sustainable urban development. In addition, it is crucial to leverage the network of transportation hubs and logistical services extending across Latin America and the Caribbean to promote the diversification and economic specialization of cities. Efforts must also be focused on developing greater opportunities in medium-sized cities by improving services and infrastructure and harnessing the endogenous potential of each area. This includes giving consideration to each area's natural vocation and productive specialization within a framework of sustainability that respects the specific characteristics of each country and city, while also balancing the region's system of cities.

B. Recent normative and operational activities in the Central American Integration System region

29. In recent years, the normative and operational work of UN-Habitat in the Central American Integration System region has been focused on two strategic axes, both of which advance work under subprogramme 1, on reducing spatial inequality and poverty, of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, as follows:

- (a) National urban policies that contribute to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals;
- (b) Slum and informal settlement upgrading.

30. As part of its efforts, UN-Habitat has designed a regional umbrella programme aimed at contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the post-pandemic recovery in Central America and the Dominican Republic, through the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025 and in the context of the decade of action and delivery for sustainable development. Through the programme, UN-Habitat has promoted knowledge generation, capacity-building, policy advice, support for national urban policies and the implementation of urban interventions at the neighbourhood, or *barrio*, level, enabling cities in the Central American Integration System region to become active players in sustainable development. UN-Habitat has worked with several regional and development partners in the implementation of the programme, including the Swiss Agency for Development Cooperation, a key financial contributor.²³

31. Implementing the programme has successfully raised awareness of urban issues among national and local decision makers and highlighted the need for comprehensive and participatory urban and territorial planning. It also laid the foundations for ongoing support towards the development and

²² Central America forms a natural bridge between North and South America, thereby facilitating international trade. Its location allows for more efficient access to key markets and helps to optimize global supply chains, making it a major logistics epicentre.

²³ Other international allies, donors and non-donors included the Andalusian Agency for International Development Cooperation, the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation, Central American Bank for Economic Integration, the German Agency for International Cooperation, Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities and the European Union.

implementation of urban policies, the comprehensive upgrading of neighbourhoods and the generation of data and indicators to strengthen informed decision-making.

C. Development and implementation of national urban policies

32. UN-Habitat supported the Government of Honduras in the development of a national urban policy aligned with the commitments under the New Urban Agenda and the targets of the Sustainable Development Goals. Together with the national and local institutions in charge of territorial and urban management, the urban policy was jointly drafted and included a diagnosis, scenario analysis, instrument proposals, policy formulation, and a monitoring and evaluation plan. To ensure that national urban policies are well-integrated and holistic in nature, a proactive approach was adopted, taking into account the territory of Honduras and its system of cities as vectors of sustainable development, the proper management of which could have an impact on efforts to address various challenges, including poverty, social inequality, socio-spatial segregation, vulnerability to the effects of climate change, pandemics, migration, security, gender inequality, lack of access to services and job opportunities.

33. UN-Habitat also supported the Government of Costa Rica in reviewing its regulatory frameworks, through the country's Legislative Assembly. Support was also provided in Honduras and Panama with regard to reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

34. In El Salvador, a joint project with UNHCR was developed to support the Government in upgrading slums and informal settlements, with a view to facilitating urban recovery for areas previously affected by gang violence. UN-Habitat also supported and advised the Governments of Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Honduras and Panama with regard to institutionalizing and implementing their respective national urban forums.

D. Data generation, mapping and upgrading of vulnerable human settlements

35. In the Central American Integration System region, informal settlements are the result of multiple interrelated factors, including rural–urban migration, a shortage of affordable housing, a lack of adequate urban planning and limited investment in public infrastructure. Such settlements are often inhabited by vulnerable populations facing high levels of economic and social exclusion, as well as poor living conditions.

36. There is a scarcity of reliable data on the socioeconomic and cultural conditions of slums in the region. Census information is often confusing or non-existent, making it difficult to make accurate diagnoses and design effective policies. This lack of data contributes to the making the specific needs of these communities invisible, especially in contexts such as pandemics.

37. In response, UN-Habitat prepared a cartography and inventory of slums for the eight capital cities in the Central American Integration System region, with a view to supporting planning and public policy development in the corresponding countries. To aid in the development of the inventory and cartography, useful algorithms such as MAIIA of the Inter-American Development Bank²⁴ and the Building and Establishment Automated Mapper of the United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities²⁵ were taken into consideration. The cartography process included an analysis of public data and information and a territorial comparison using satellite images. The GIS-based territorial cartography that was generated enabled the identification of the location and main characteristics of informal settlements in the major cities of the region.

38. UN-Habitat also supported the transformation of vulnerable settlements through its integral urban operations framework, 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 the physical territory and socioeconomic factors that may limit access to quality goods and services. Integral urban operations frameworks 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 on eight integral urban operations frameworks in four countries in the region – Guatemala, El Salvador, Honduras and Costa Rica – supporting more than 45,000 direct

²⁴ For more information, see www.iadb.org/es/quienes-somos/topicos/desarrollo-urbano-y-vivienda/maiiia.

²⁵ For more information, see <https://express.adobe.com/page/kyYWPHoATpii6/>.

beneficiaries in vulnerable communities and more than 320,000 indirect beneficiaries. The frameworks were implemented in various neighbourhoods, including Barrio Armenta in San Pedro Sula and Colonia Nueva Capital in Tegucigalpa, Municipality of the Central District (Honduras), Sector VI in San Salvador (El Salvador) and the Miravalles sector in Curridabat (Costa Rica).

40. In addition, actions aimed at implementing integral urban operations frameworks in five neighbourhoods (four in Honduras and one in Guatemala)²⁶ were carried out in 2024. These actions included strengthening the capacities of communities to facilitate implementation of a participatory governance strategy and promoting inter-institutional alliances between local governments, the national Government, academia, the private sector and international cooperation agencies in order to implement integral urban operations strategic projects.

41. Notably, through integral urban operations frameworks, UN-Habitat developed the “¡Vamos al parque!” (Let’s go to the park!) initiative for Barrio Armenta in San Pedro Sula and the “¡Vivamos Villa Guadalupe!” (Let’s live Villa Guadalupe!) initiative for Villa Guadalupe in San José de Colinas, both in Honduras, resulting in the upgrading of public spaces, infrastructure and housing improvement projects, implementation of land management instruments and other actions enabling the implementation of the frameworks.

E. Regional, national and local capacity-building

42. UN-Habitat developed and implemented a comprehensive training programme for national and local government officials and for relevant actors involved in urban planning and the regeneration of slums and informal settlements. This strategy provides the tools and knowledge needed to encourage action and address the 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 members of academia, civil society and other urban actors, across the Central American Integration System region. As a result, UN-Habitat strengthened the technical knowledge of decision makers and practitioners at various levels, building capacities on issues related to urban planning and development.

44. The key components of the training programme included the establishment of strategic alliances with relevant institutions. These partnerships led to the creation of a specific needs assessment, which helped in defining the training structure, technical content and curriculum. The programme was designed on the basis of UN-Habitat expertise in upgrading slums and informal settlements, including its flagship Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

45. In addition, a series of workshops were held, in virtual, face-to-face and hybrid format and using a “learning-by-doing” methodology, to provide a variety of participants with practical knowledge on the implementation of informal settlement upgrading strategies.

F. Impacts: Central American Integration System region with a vision for the future

46. The key results and impact of UN-Habitat normative and operational activities in the Central American Integration System region span the institutional, regulatory and social realms. In Honduras, inter-institutional coordination was fostered between the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization, the Honduran Housing and Human Settlements Programme and the Ministry of Strategic Planning. This collaboration led to remarkable collaborative work on the national urban policy of Honduras, which in turn contributed to the creation, on 18 October 2023, of the Directorate General for Municipal Urban Planning, attached to the Ministry of the Interior, Justice and Decentralization. The objective of the Directorate General is to promote initiatives aimed at urban development project planning, regulation, coordination and implementation, as well as to contribute to the territorial organization of human settlements in the municipalities.

47. Training and capacity-building efforts have contributed to the strengthening of institutional capacities in public institutions and municipalities in the eight countries of the Central American Integration System region through the application of new technologies and methodologies. These efforts facilitated knowledge-sharing among national and local officials working in urban and

²⁶ Barrio Armenta (San Pedro Sula), Barrio Villa Guadalupe (San José de Colinas), Sector Venecia (Tela), Barrio Nueva Capital (Tegucigalpa Municipality of the Central District) in Honduras and Barrio 3 de Julio (Guatemala City) in Guatemala.

territorial development, with a view to improving understanding of the territorial and urban needs of the population.

48. UN-Habitat has provided advice on generating methodologies for the preparation of urban development plans in Central America. In San Pedro Sula, Tegucigalpa and Guatemala City, the authorities have formally started to institutionalize the methodology for developing integral urban operations frameworks as an official planning instrument at the neighbourhood level. Specifically, in for slums, the implementation of integral urban operations frameworks has enabled the development of strategic projects in areas such as housing, land management, public space, infrastructure, equipment and basic services. These projects are being implemented and are having direct positive impacts on more than 30,000 inhabitants.

49. Lastly, the subregional modality of work of this programme has been cost-effective and inclusive in the eight countries of the region. All eight countries benefited from the mutualization of cooperation efforts, as proposed by UN-Habitat. It also enabled such efforts to be distributed according to the different levels of need and demand in the territory and in alignment with subregional plans. This approach is giving not only UN-Habitat but also donors additional evidence to advance on subregional work that can provide collective benefit.

IV. Update on global support for capacity development

50. In resolution 1/3 on enhancing capacity-building for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimension of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the United Nations Habitat Assembly called for the development of a UN-Habitat capacity-building strategy.

51. The strategy, which was shared with the Executive Board of UN-Habitat in 2020, has provided a road map for transforming UN-Habitat into a knowledge-based organization. It was designed to address the capacity gaps impeding the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and accelerating progress on the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. This section provides an update on the implementation of the strategy, structured around the strategy's two objectives, and contains perspectives on the way forward on capacity development with regard to the upcoming strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.

A. Filling the institutional and operational gap for greater coordination, coherence and monitoring of results

52. The Capacity Development and Training Unit of UN-Habitat has provided continuous support to strengthen capacity development as a cross-cutting organizational function. This was realized through multiple collaborations across the agency, as well as through the sharing of expertise and practices, webinars, advisory services regarding tools and project development, and innovation through digitalization and e-learning.

53. On the basis of an agency-wide survey on capacity-development needs, measures were taken to increase support. For example, webinars were organized on priority topics;²⁷ an internal community of practice was created to facilitate knowledge-sharing across the organization, including between UN-Habitat headquarters, regions and countries; and direct advice continued to be provided to country offices to support the inclusion of capacity development in project formulation, training methodologies and needs assessments.

54. In 2024, the Capacity Development and Training Unit increased its support to country offices in Ukraine, such as through the design and implementation of training needs and capacity needs assessments; Malawi, including through in-person training on the topic of advancing climate action through urban law; and Myanmar, such as through in-person training on building community resilience through nature-based solutions and ecosystem-based adaptation in Myanmar. In addition, an internal helpdesk was set up to further facilitate the provision of support across UN-Habitat activities.

55. The work of the UN-Habitat Project Review Committee has also been leveraged to ensure that specific attention is given to projects' capacity-development components and ensure project quality, coherence and impact. For reference, more than 80 per cent of new projects have a capacity-development component. Reviews ensure that projects incorporate capacity development tailored to the various stakeholders and target groups and the use of training needs assessments.

²⁷ Six webinars were delivered on topics including innovative capacity-building for impactful learning, instructional design of capacity-development tools, planning of instructor-led training, and presentation and facilitation skills.

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

1. Scaling up understanding, implementation and reporting regarding the New Urban Agenda

56. 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 and unpack the proposed transformative commitments, accompanied by concrete examples and case studies. After being translated into Arabic, Chinese, French, Portuguese and Spanish, with the support of partners such as the Government of France and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia, *The New Urban Agenda Illustrated* was digitized to create two online self-paced courses, one on the core dimensions of the New Urban Agenda and the other on means of implementation.

57. Building on the success of *The New Urban Agenda Illustrated* and aiming to bolster information on reporting, in 2024 UN-Habitat issued revised guidelines on reporting on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. These guidelines are intended to respond to feedback on excessive reporting burdens by introducing new reporting modalities, including options to update previous reports or create synergies with other reporting processes (e.g. multilevel/national urban forums and voluntary national reviews). The guidelines are also aimed at improving the quantity and quality of submissions by clarifying the reporting process and encouraging national progress reporting that is evidence-based, analytical, connected to practices, inclusive of all relevant stakeholders and ultimately useful in evaluating global progress and challenges in implementing the New Urban Agenda.

58. In November 2024, ahead of the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat, led by the Knowledge and Innovation Branch and the Capacity Development and Training Unit, launched an e-learning companion to the guidelines, entitled “Monitoring the transformative commitments of the New Urban Agenda”. The aim is to provide national Governments with an engaging self-paced course to guide them through the process of reporting on the New Urban Agenda. In early 2025, as a follow-up to the e-learning course, UN-Habitat is planning to host a moderated webinar aimed at providing additional information and support to national Governments with regard to their reporting on and implementation and understanding of the New Urban Agenda.

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

2. Digital innovation for knowledge management and learning offerings

60. UN-Habitat has set up [UN-Habitat Learn](#), a publicly available online-learning platform and the main UN-Habitat vehicle for digital transformation in knowledge and learning. Initially created to host the first New Urban Agenda courses, the platform was further designed to progressively host self-paced and free of charge interactive learning products, reflecting the agency’s value proposition to practitioners. Through the creation of online learning products, the digitalization process of UN-Habitat has established and transformed normative guidance, practical knowledge, methodologies and best practices into accessible learning paths for all.

61. Since the platform’s creation in 2020, more than 30 learning products have been created by UN-Habitat and partners and made available, free of charge, 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, webinars, and interactive synchronous and asynchronous online courses).

62. The platform’s offering covers 13 key themes and related practical tools, all contributing to illustrating and guiding users through the means of implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The themes include:

- (a) Understanding, implementing and reporting on the New Urban Agenda;
- (b) Monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals in cities;
- (c) National urban policies;

- (d) Investment for cities;
- (e) Municipal finance, own source revenue;
- (f) Urban law for climate action;
- (g) Public space assessments;
- (h) Sustainable urban mobility;
- (i) Urban ecosystems-based adaptation;
- (j) Solid waste management;
- (k) Urban safety and human security;
- (l) Durable solutions for internally displaced persons;
- (m) Environmental and social safeguard systems.

63. Additional courses on neighbourhood planning, resilience planning and people-centred smart cities are being designed. The use of instructional design alongside digitalization has been strengthened to deliver new and catalytic e-learning products and evaluate the extent to which they are driving behavioural change among learners.

64. Demand is growing for new e-learning solutions, and digital knowledge offerings are evolving fast. UN-Habitat continues to explore innovations in the instructional design process and in technological possibilities in order to maximize reach and impact, for example by blending in-person delivery with digital components, including the use of “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.

65. The digitalization of high-impact methodologies and tools has the potential to enhance the capacities for New Urban Agenda 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.

3. Strategic partnerships, coalition-building and advocacy

66. Partnerships are central to the UN-Habitat capacity-building strategy, particularly those with academia and knowledge and training institutions. The UN-Habitat University Network Initiative was reviewed with a view to revitalizing UN-Habitat engagement with universities and research centres. The Network, created in 2014, has 203 institutional members and 1,978 individual members worldwide. After the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat received more than 60 new membership applications from both institutional and individual members.

67. A new UN-Habitat university and research partnerships framework is being developed through a broad consultative process. The objective is to ensure a whole-of-house approach and to strengthen the convening and mobilizing role of UN-Habitat, thereby increasing the coherence and efficacy of initiatives. By clarifying strategic directions and establishing structured engagement channels, the framework constitutes a guide to foster meaningful partnerships and coalitions, aligned with the goals of UN-Habitat. The following five strategic directions are proposed:

- (a) **Knowledge co-creation and research.** High-quality and focused research and knowledge are produced;
- (b) **Data monitoring and reporting.** There is increased availability of quality data on key urban indicators, and global urban definitions are adopted by more countries;
- (c) **Capacity-building.** Capacity gaps and solutions for the current and next generations of urban professionals are jointly assessed and addressed by UN-Habitat and academic and research institutions;
- (d) **Urban policy and practice.** High-impact practices are promoted through joint action by knowledge institutions, UN-Habitat and urban stakeholders;
- (e) **Advocacy, stakeholder engagement and outreach.** There are efficient stakeholder engagement mechanisms and coalitions for change and impact.

68. Implementation of the framework will help to shape the development of financing strategies to fund priority global initiatives across impact areas. A renewed University Network Initiative steering

committee will continue to guide the strategic direction, and the framework will be further piloted in the run-up to the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum.

69. Apart from the financing, policy and data gaps in implementing the New Urban Agenda, there is growing recognition of a capacity gap. In partnership with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, UN-Habitat is researching approaches for qualifying and quantifying capacity gaps in implementing the New Urban Agenda, for instance through Sustainable Development Goals Cities diagnostic tools and the use of competency frameworks. This approach could also help to shape university curricula and be used in adaptive skills needs assessments. Pilot projects are being prepared to test the approach.

70. Overall, efforts have been made to increase strategic engagement on capacity-building at World Urban Forums, including with universities. At the eleventh session of the World Urban Forum, members of the academia round table stressed the need to bridge academic training and urban practitioners' skills (e.g. integrate practical projects into curricula in order to align academic outputs with demands). Strengthening partnerships between universities and local governments was identified as being critical to ensuring that evidence-based research is used in urban strategies. At the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, members of the academia round table discussed collective housing models, highlighting the importance of partnerships between academia, local communities and policymakers in addressing interconnected issues such as housing equity and climate resilience.

71. Beyond the University Network Initiative and World Urban Forum engagements, UN-Habitat has continued to form large-scale partnerships across various professional networks. For example, in 2023, UN-Habitat signed a memorandum of understanding with the [Commonwealth Sustainable Cities Initiative](#), a multidisciplinary coalition of networks (e.g. universities, architects, planners, local governments) leading the [call to action on sustainable urbanization across the Commonwealth](#) and the subsequent Commonwealth [Declaration on Sustainable Urbanization](#). This partnership responds to well-identified needs, as Commonwealth countries account for nearly 50 per cent of the projected growth in the world's urban population to 2050. A survey of Commonwealth built-environment professionals highlighted the lack of such professionals in many of those countries that are urbanizing most rapidly and are among the most vulnerable to climate change, confirming the need for collaboration to build the capacities of those responsible for planning and managing cities.

4. Building capacities across regions and contexts

72. Since 2019, UN-Habitat has supported a project to create the Centre of Excellence on Housing in West Africa, with the potential to provide information to the eight countries of the West African Economic and Monetary Union. The Centre of Excellence in Housing is a research and skills development institution focused on stakeholders involved in the housing sector in the subregion. The project resulted in knowledge production and the provision of tailored training sessions for urban stakeholders on housing and urban planning.

73. Under the fifteenth tranche of the United Nations Development Account project, UN-Habitat is supporting capacity development for resilience and scale-up of the New Urban Agenda in French-speaking least developed countries for the period 2023–2025. This includes selecting, adapting, translating, digitizing and delivering tools, training materials and other activities.

74. Through the International Urban Training Centre, a partnership established in 2007 between UN-Habitat and the authorities in Gangwon Province, Republic of Korea, local government officials are being trained in sustainable urbanization. In 2024, six training sessions were carried out under this partnership, covering themes such as ecosystem-based adaptation and local economic development.

75. In 2024, in Ukraine, UN-Habitat initiated analyses of the 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 Ukrainian-led urban recovery and reconstruction.

76. In 2011, UN-Habitat set up a partnership with Arcadis to allow for the delivery of pro bono technical services (“learning by doing”). Between 2020 and 2024, the joint initiative supported 43 projects, including 5 global projects, 10 national projects and 25 cities. The services delivered were focused on various technical areas, such as climate resilience, energy transition, public-space planning, green spaces and urban regeneration. The partnership provides UN-Habitat teams and partners with cutting-edge knowledge to complement available capacity and resources.

C. Way forward for enhanced capacity development across UN-Habitat programmes

77. In 2025, on the basis of lessons learned from the implementation of the capacity-building strategy and the planning for the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, UN-Habitat intends to continue strengthening its capacity-development function across its operations. Capacity development will continue to further innovation and make an impact across practices, regions and stakeholder groups, in three key impact areas, as is outlined below.

1. Strengthened capacity development as a cross-cutting function

78. UN-Habitat will continue to improve the integration of capacity development into its projects and programmes, in particular through the internal helpdesk, the programme review process and the expansion of a community of practice.

79. It will 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, possibly through a dedicated communication campaign, partnerships and a more programmatic approach to resource mobilization.

2. Strengthened partnerships and coalitions

80. Approaches will be developed to quantify and provide solutions to capacity gaps in implementing the New Urban Agenda across different stakeholder groups, including through competency gap analysis and more focused attention to vulnerable settings where capacities and skills are insufficient.

81. UN-Habitat will build coalitions for knowledge and capacity development, including through the university and research partnerships framework, anchored around a road map and joint high-impact priorities, and strengthen the role of capacity development in the new strategic plan.

82. Mechanisms will be set up to monitor trends in research and practice through academia, research and stakeholder engagement.

83. UN-Habitat will build on the United Nations system-wide strategy for sustainable urbanization to mobilize the United Nations system and its capacity-development potential, including through its networks and training centres, as well as through the resident coordinators system.

3. Strengthened innovation, advocacy and forward-looking culture for impact and scale

84. Building on United Nations 2.0 capabilities, UN-Habitat will develop briefing notes on foresight, behavioural sciences, digitalization, innovation for data, and their connection with capacity development for urban sustainability.

85. UN-Habitat will identify high-impact approaches related to social innovation, such as community-led collaborative urbanism, placemaking and civil society- and academia-led pilot initiatives, to support the accelerated sharing of knowledge and practices, including through universities and with students as local changemakers.

86. UN-Habitat will strengthen and scale up digitalization efforts and the UN-Habitat Learn platform, improving its structure, reviewing content, and identifying gaps in themes, priorities and opportunities in accordance with the above-mentioned three impact areas and the upcoming strategic plan.

IV. Update on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

A. Progress in normative support

87. At the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, more than 60 events were held on the theme of urban crises, with participation from the Special Adviser of the Secretary-General on Solutions to Internal Displacement and the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of internally displaced persons. UN-Habitat soft-launched an advance draft of its global framework towards inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement, which was finalized after consultations with stakeholders, including United Nations system entities, the International Institute for Environment and Development, the World Bank and non-governmental organizations. The framework is designed to guide international stakeholders in supporting national and local governments to design sustainable, scalable and

transformational urban displacement solutions, aligning responses across the humanitarian-peace-development nexus, thereby ensuring early solution initiation in humanitarian responses.

88. UN-Habitat also launched e-learning courses on urban displacement and on durable solutions for internally displaced persons, with a view to equipping practitioners with the tools to create inclusive solutions. The course integrates materials from community of practice webinars and field experiences and is targeted at development and humanitarian professionals, policymakers, researchers and donors.

89. On 11 December 2024, the first round table on the Global Refugee Forum pledge on human settlements was held, co-organized by the Permanent Mission of Ethiopia to the United Nations Office and other international organizations in Geneva, UN-Habitat and UNHCR, with participants including representatives of Governments, multilateral and bilateral agencies, non-governmental organizations and private entities. Key contributions were made by representatives of the Governments of Mauritania, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Switzerland regarding progress made on pledges, challenges faced and future strategies.

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

90. From July to December 2024, UN-Habitat continued to support human settlements affected by conflict and disaster in multiple countries, as is shown in the table below.²⁸ The conditions in the Gaza Strip have so far not allowed for the preparation of a comprehensive report on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip.

UN-Habitat provision of support to countries experiencing crisis

Country	Regional office	Prevention	Conflict response	Natural disaster response	Forced displacement	New activities July–December 2024
Afghanistan	ROAP	X	X	X	X	Shelter, housing, land and property, and disaster risk reduction projects, including infrastructure investments and community consultations, in high-return areas, with the support of the Japan International Cooperation Agency.
Burkina Faso ^a	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	Promoting climate resilience through small-scale infrastructure and the adaptive capacity of vulnerable communities through the Adaptation Fund.
Central African Republic ^a	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	See para. 93 below.
Chad ^a	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	See para. 93 below.
Colombia ^a	ROLAC	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	National policy for durable displacement solutions, localized diagnostics, mapping, indicators in seven

²⁸ Countries including those referred to in the Executive Board document containing briefs on UN-Habitat interventions in specific countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster (HSP/EB.2022/INF/4).

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New activities July–December 2024</i>
Ethiopia ^a	ROAF	X	X	X	X	cities, framework to measure solutions' costs and impacts. Under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund, a draft costed action plan for IDPs in Qoloji Camp.
Guinea-Bissau ^a	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	N/A	Preventing natural resource-related conflicts in the Bafatá and Gabú regions.
Iraq	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Under the Internal Displacement Solutions Fund, legislative land 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 the city of Kaysone Phomvihane on vulnerability assessments, governance and road safety.
Lebanon	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Co-led a United Nations task force on debris, standardizing damage assessments, developing repair-related standard operating procedures and mobilizing funds for housing reconstruction, debris management and governance support.
Libya	ROAS	X	X	X	N/A	With IOM, flood-affected action plans, fundraising for Darnah housing rehabilitation and enabling voluntary returns to disaster-impacted areas.
Mali ^a	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	X	Under the Sahel project, completed a diagnostic draft, enhancing community resilience through an inclusive, safe and sustainable approach across the humanitarian-development-peace nexus.
Mauritania ^a	ROAF	N/A	N/A	N/A	X	Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund proposal submitted for a regional spatial plan in Hodh ech Chargui region to foster integration and self-reliance of refugees and host communities.
Mozambique	ROAF	X	X	X	X	Facilitated durable solutions for 716,878 IDPs and 610,981

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New activities July–December 2024</i>
Myanmar	ROAP	X	X	X	X	returnees, advancing housing strategies, artisan training, cyclone recovery and urban resilience projects amid post-election unrest. Flood risk management, resilient shelters and nature-based solutions following Typhoon 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 landless households in Indigenous communities.
Niger ^a	ROAF	N/A	X	N/A	X	The same regional project as in Mali (see above).
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 host communities in five cities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh Provinces.
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	Housing policy for the poor, 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 para. 93 below.
Sri Lanka	ROAP	X	X	X	N/A	Data collection (multilayered vulnerability assessment) addressing climate change,

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New activities July–December 2024</i>
State of Palestine	ROAS	N/A	X	N/A	X	biodiversity degradation and urbanization impacts in target areas. Implemented winterization interventions in IDP sites to improve conditions in and around IDP shelter areas.
Sudan	ROAS	X	X	N/A	X	See para. 93 below.
Syrian Arab Republic	ROAS	X	X	X	X	After the November 2024 offensive escalation and change in Government, continued supporting large-scale returns of IDPs and refugees, fostering sustainable recovery and social cohesion in cities.
Ukraine ^a	N/A	N/A	X	N/A	X	Assisted eight municipalities in post-war recovery, participating in the 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.

Abbreviations: HLP – housing, land and property; IDPs – internally displaced persons; IOM – International Organization for Migration; ROAF – Regional Office for Africa; ROLAC – Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; ROAP – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; ROAS – Regional Office for Arab States; WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene.

^a Country not included in the document containing briefs on UN-Habitat interventions in specific countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster (HSP/EB.2022/INF/4), but had active crisis responses during the reporting period.

91. No active crisis responses were made by UN-Habitat in Bangladesh, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Fiji, Haiti, Honduras, the Islamic Republic of Iran or Kosovo²⁹ during the reporting period.

92. Regarding the Sudan displacement crisis, in collaboration with UNHCR, missions in the Sudan and neighbouring countries addressed the displacement of more than 11.5 million people. Spatial profiling in Farchana camp, in Chad, recommended upgrades and renewable energy. Workshops in Malakal and Aweil, in South Sudan, focused on land allocation and water improvements. In Baoro and Birao, in the Central African Republic, sustainable shelters and better services were proposed, while in the Ura settlement, in Ethiopia, shared service models were recommended for resource sustainability.

²⁹ References to Kosovo should be understood to be in the context of Security Council resolution 1244 (1999).