



UN-HABITAT

Urban Crisis Prevention and Response

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Humanitarian reset

Focus on prioritized efficient and effective humanitarian response
Focus on the contextualization and localization of the humanitarian response

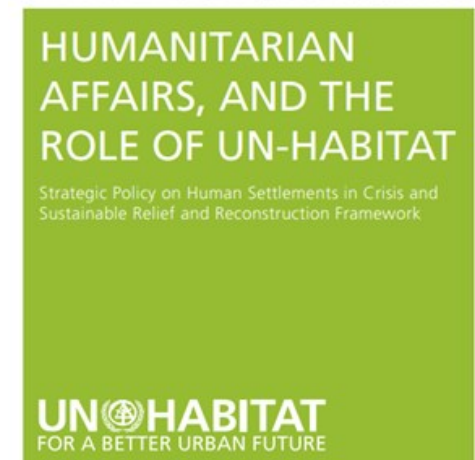
Reviewing IASC bodies and coordination / support mechanisms

UN-Habitat's within the IASC and the humanitarian community to date

- Inter-Agency Standing Committee Member since 2008
- Initial focus on better shelter response (transition to recovery, building back better) and housing, land and property rights
- Shift towards adapting humanitarian response to increasing crises in urban areas
- Shift towards earlier development solutions to urban displacement situations

Way forward: maintain IASC membership and renew added value

- Support contextualization and localization through settlements-based approaches, urban profiling and support to community- and local government-led response (ex. with OCHA)
- Technical support to help humanitarian actors deliver more qualitative integrated humanitarian response and faster exit (ex. with UNHCR, IOM, UNICEF, etc.)
- Contribute to shelter response, restoring basic services and HLP-rights (with UNHCR, NRC, etc.)



A. Progress in normative support

12th World Urban Forum in Cairo, Egypt : strong urban crisis track

- Coalition building: **60+ events** (incl. displacement), 50% increase from WUF11
- Key urban crisis-related events
 - Dialogue 6: The Loss of Home
 - Spotlight event on forced displacement
 - Spotlight event on Gaza
- In partnership with the Special Advisor on Solutions to Internal Displacement & the Special Rapporteur on the Human Rights of Internally Displaced Persons

Global Refugee Forum – Human Settlements Pledge

Advancing partnerships with UNHCR and World Bank and key refugee hosting countries: Ethiopia, Mauritania, Chad, Kenya, etc.

Normative products

- Policy Directions: Housing, Land and Property Solutions to Resolve and Prevent Displacement
- Durable Housing, Land and Property Solutions for Customary Displacement Contexts



E-learning course on Habitat Learn

- [“From Crisis to Stability: Navigating Urban Displacement and Durable Solutions for IDPs”](#)

Normative work: Framework on Solutions to Urban Internal Displacement



Download

Towards inclusive solutions to urban internal displacement:
GLOBAL FRAMEWORK for Governments, UN agencies, Resident Coordinators and partners

UNHCR, IOM, UNDP, UNICEF, WFP, FAO, WB, JIPS, etc
Sustainable, scalable, and transformative solutions



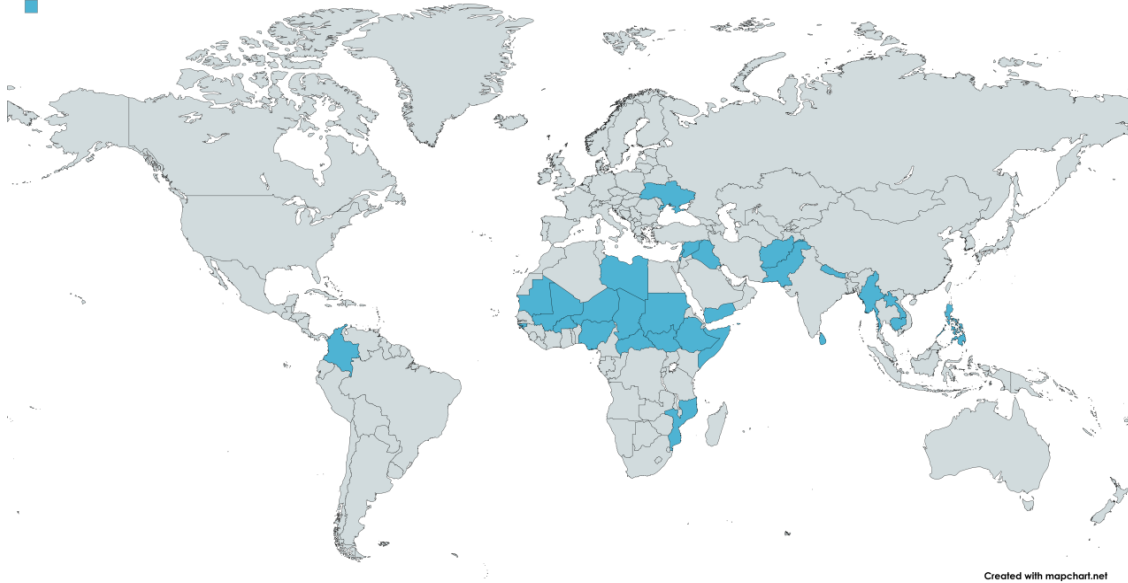
Key Mindset Shifts

- **From** “durable solutions in cities” **to** “**inclusive urban displacement solutions**”
- **From** emergency crisis **to** **development challenge... and opportunity**
- **From** IDPs as “humanitarian caseload” **to** **IDPs as urban citizens < displacement affected communities**

Core Operational Principles

- Capitalize on pre-existing urban systems
- Agency of displacement affected communities’
- Fully embrace the central importance of location
- Prioritize ‘No Regrets’ urban investments
- Commitment to government ownership

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



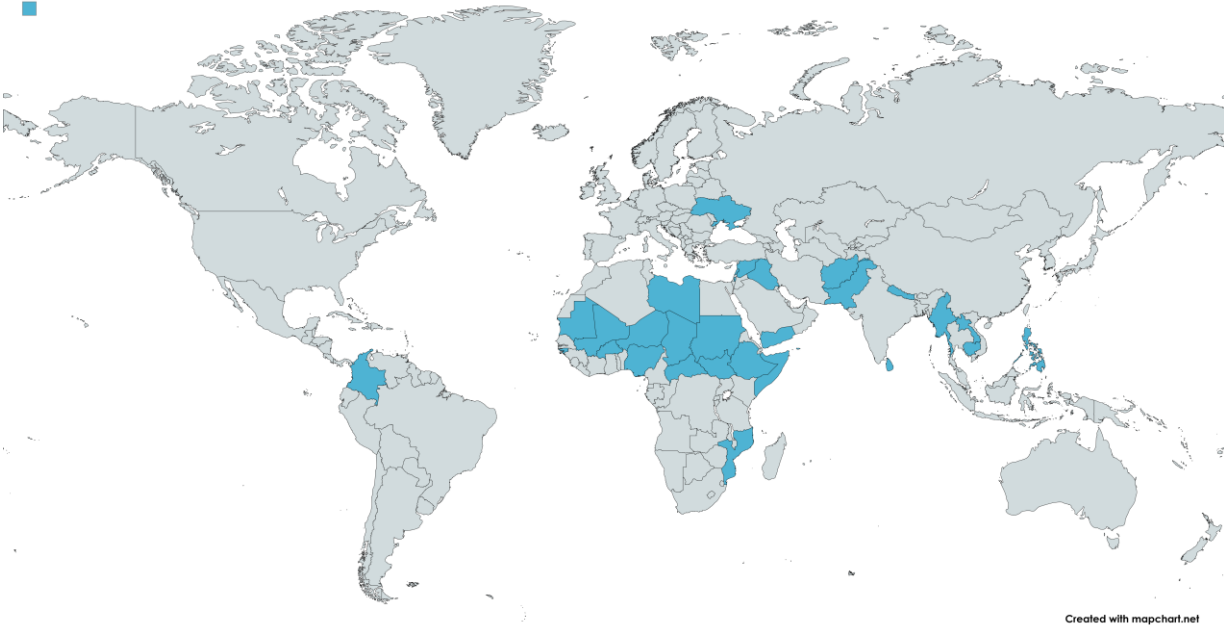
Between July – December 2024, UN-Habitat engaged in active urban crisis responses in **29 countries**.

Activities in key countries

- Under IDSF (**Colombia, Ethiopia, Iraq, Mozambique, Somalia**): Policy and planning for displacement, enhancing human settlements resilience, building capacities of local actors.

- **Afghanistan**: Shelter, infrastructure, and disaster risk reduction in return areas
- **Burkina Faso**: Supporting displaced and host communities with a focus on women and girls
- **Lebanon**: Led damage assessments and mobilized funds for housing reconstruction
- **Libya**: Flood recovery, housing rehabilitation, return support
- **Mali & Niger**: Strengthening community resilience through the Sahel project
- **Mauritania**: Proposed regional spatial planning for refugee-host integration
- **Nigeria**: Durable solutions for displaced populations in the north
- **Palestine**: Improved living conditions and resilience by sealing tents and building sand barriers to prevent flooding, while also providing solar-powered desalination units for clean drinking water
- **Philippines**: Disaster prevention and long-term spatial planning
- **Syria**: Supporting IDPs and refugee returns and urban recovery
- **Ukraine**: Assisting post-war recovery and resilience planning in municipalities

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



Natural disaster = **10%**, 3 countries
(Cambodia, Lao, Pakistan)

Conflict= **31%**, 9 countries (Burkina Faso,
Guinea-Bissau, Mali, Niger, Nigeria,
Palestine, Sudan, Ukraine, Yemen)

Complex emergencies = **34%**, 10
countries (Afghanistan, Ethiopia, Iraq,
Lebanon, Libya, Mozambique, Myanmar,
Somalia, Sri Lanka, Syria)

Forced displacement = **72%**

Updates on Ukraine

Context and key challenges

- **\$176 billion in damages**; reconstruction and recovery costs estimated at **\$524 billion** (Source: WB UN EU RDNA4)
- **6.2 million refugees** and **4.6 million IDPs**, creating urgent housing and infrastructure needs (Source: WB UN EU RDNA4)
- **Gaps in urban planning**

UN-Habitat's response

Supporting national and local governments in rebuilding cities in a sustainable manner, focusing on:

- Data access for evidence-based decision-making.
- Accelerating recovery toward **green, inclusive, resilient urban areas**.
- Capacity-building in urban planning & digital solutions

Urban recovery actions at multiple scales

- Territorial and city-level planning
- Capacity Development - Training 250+ people
- Policy Development in housing law, urban development code and spatial planning reforms

Emerging needs & future directions

- Scale up existing work
- Enhance cross-border cooperation and territorial strategies.
- Sectoral planning: sustainable mobility, public space development, etc.
- Affordable housing, smart city strategies, urban education.

Key programmes and initiatives

- Inclusive & Resilient Urban Recovery in Ukraine (\$8M, BMZ, 18 months, till Dec 2025).
- Digital Tools for Urban Recovery (\$4.2M, BMZ, till Dec 2025, with UNITAC).
- Water & Sanitation Support (\$900K, UNICEF, till Jan 2026).
- Soft earmarked funding from Slovakia (\$270K) and the USA (\$50K).

Updates on Sudan Crisis

Context and key challenges

- **11.5 million displaced persons** within Sudan and over **3.5 million refugees** crossing into neighboring countries (Source: IOM)
- **396,738** returnees to their locations of origin in Aj Jazirah, Sennar, and Khartoum. (Source: IOM)
- **Infrastructure collapse:** 70% of health facilities in Khartoum non-functional, severe water and electricity shortages (Source: WHO)
- **Housing destruction:** 118,000 houses damaged by conflict and floods (Source: OCHA)

UN-Habitat's response and engagement

- **Urban profiling & regional strategies**
 - Developed **spatial strategies** for Blue Nile State & IDP resettlement plans in West Darfur.
 - Rapid **urban profiling** for conflict-affected cities, village profiling for 92 return villages in Darfur and Blue Nile States.

- **HLP rights**
 - Supporting legal access to tenure and land titles.
 - Advocacy on forced evictions and land grabbing.
- **Shelter and reconstruction**
 - **40 housing units** built in Dorti Village, Darfur
 - **Environmentally friendly construction** techniques
 - Supporting **community-based urban planning**.
- **Livelihoods & services**
 - Water infrastructure for 30% of Port Sudan city.
 - Solar systems for health centers & water services in Red Sea & Al Jazira states.
 - Income-generating training for women in Port Sudan

UN-Habitat's regional response to the Sudan crisis

- **Collaborating with UNHCR & World Bank** to develop integrated settlement plans across affected countries.
- **Displacement lab for solutions** to coordinate responses across Chad, Ethiopia, South Sudan, Uganda & CAR
- Raising \$10M in funding to:
 - Implement urban profiling in affected cities
 - Scale up HLP rights protection
 - Enhance community-based settlement solutions

Updates on Gaza

Context and key challenges

- **1.9 million IDPs** (90% of the population), scattered returns (Source; UNRWA)
- **96% of the population faces acute food insecurity** (Source: [IPC - Integrated Food Security Phase Classification](#))
- Challenges:
 - Stalled transitional shelter solutions.
 - Extensive debris requiring urgent management.
 - Governance and security instability, delaying sustainable recovery

UN-Habitat's response and engagement

- **WB-UN-EU Interim Rapid Damage and Needs Assessment (IRDNA)**: contribution on housing
- **Gaza Recovery Framework (GRF)**: Guides reconstruction, sectoral planning, and institutional coordination

Key sectoral leadership roles:

- Urban Planning & HLP Recovery Strategies (led by UNH)
- Housing Recovery Strategy (with UNDP)
- Municipal Services Strategy (with UNDP)
- HLP Technical Working Group (co-coordinated with NRC)
- Active in Shelter Cluster, Site Management (ACTED, IOM) and Debris Management (with UNEP)

Technical assessments & data collection

- Building Footprint Update
- Debris Management: Over 51 million tons of debris requiring structured removal and recycling plans (Source: UNEP)
- New project through Japan Supplementary Budget:
 - Urban Profiles & Master Plans for two neighborhoods.
 - HLP support campaigns for vulnerable families.
 - Area-based projects for public service rehabilitation.
 - Community-led rehabilitation of 50 partially damaged houses.

Thank you!

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