

Regional Office for Arab States Overview of Activities – North Africa

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Serving 18 countries in the Arab Region

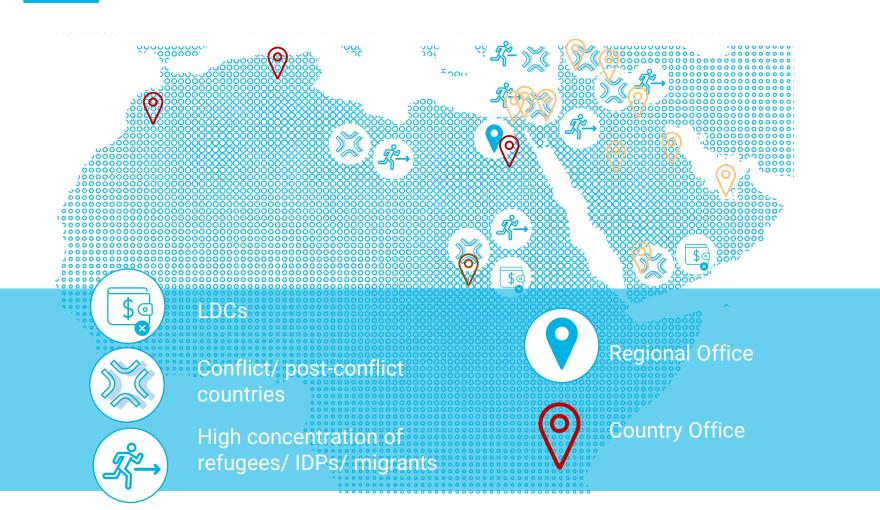


16 countries with current UN-Habitat activity



14 countries with country offices

UN-Habitat Presence in North Africa



Urban Figures - Arab Region



464 million inhabitants expected to reach **646 million** by 2050



Nearly 60% urban population, expected to reach 75% by 2050



The region hosts 15% of the total global migrant and refugee population



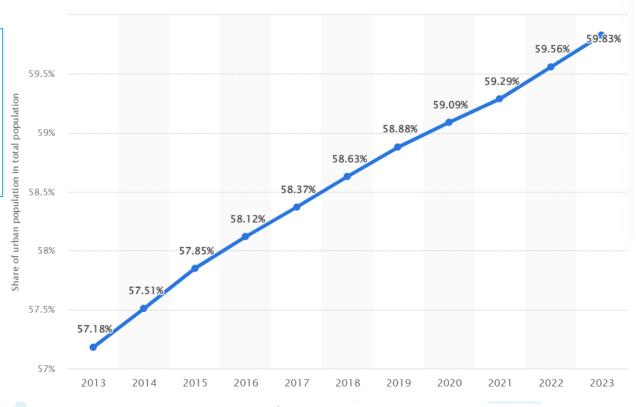
70 million people in the region need Humanitarian Assistance



Climate change induced Sea Level Rise will impact over 43 port cities



81M people living in informal settlements and 47M people without adequate access to drinking water



Percentage of Urban Population in Total Population

Regional Trends and Urban Context - Arab Region

Crises

- 9 of the world's top 50 conflict-affected countries are in the Arab region
- Region has seen the largest displacement crises since WWII
- Recent floods & earthquakes reveal limited resilience & crisis response
- Urban growth is concentrated in climate-vulnerable areas

Governance

- Centralized governance systems with limited capacity for urban planning
- Inefficient land management & insecure property rights
- Limited data and digital tools for managing urban expansion

Inequalities

- Rapid spread of informal settlements and unplanned areas
- Growing inequalities in urban & rural areas
- Stark disparities in poverty levels across the region

Basic Services

- Widespread shortage of affordable housing
- Limited access to clean water & sanitation
- Lack of sustainable, inclusive transport options

Regional Priorities 2025

Urban Recovery

Urban Planning & Governance

Housing, Land & Property Rights

Urban Basic Services

Environment & Climate Change

- Area-based recovery planning
- · Durable solutions for IDPs
- Urban Recovery Framework
- Early recovery projects
- · Rehabilitation of housing and infrastructure
- Human-centered urban regeneration & upgrading
- Spatial planning
- · National Urban Policies
- Housing Strategies
- Urban Laws and Legislations
- SDG Localization Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)
- Adequate housing
- Tenure security
- · Women and minorities' HLP rights
- Land management systems
- Solid waste management
- · Water and Sanitation services
- · Sustainable urban mobility
- · Climate mitigation and adaptation
- Green and inclusive public spaces
- · Nature-based solutions
- Sustainable urban food systems
- Water security

Programmatic Overview in the Region

Overview of Ongoing Portfolio - North Africa









- Localisation of SDGs: Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)
- Urban Observatories
 - City Policies

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Environment and Climate Change

- Climate Change Adaptation
- Solid Waste Management

Urban Policies and Stratgies

- National Housing Strategy
- Reform of the Land Planning Code

Localisation of SDGs: Voluntary Local Reviews

- Sustainable, Safe & Inclusive Public Spaces
- Innovative research for sustainable cities

LIBYA

- Land Management Assessment
- **Building capacities for Plastic Waste** Management



Urban Planning, Design and Upgrading

- Strategic Plans for Cities and Neighborhoods
- Urban Upgrading

Basic Services and Climate Change

- Sustainable Mobility; Bike Sharing and BRT
- Waste Management
- Nature-based Solutions (Water and Sanitation)

Urban Governace, Policies, and Legislation

- National Housing Strategy
- National Urban Policy
- Land Adjustment and Redistribution

SUDAN

- Provision of Urban Basic Services
- Addressing Territorial Disputes and Finding Sustainable Solutions in Darfur
- Improving the Living Environment and Enhancing the Resilience of Communities at High Risk of Flooding in Slums in Khartoum

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Activities in the region - Housing and Basic Services



Development of healthy and qualitative public spaces adapted to girls, women, and children in informal settlements



Preparation and updating of the National Housing strategies and supporting priority initiatives









Activities in the region - Urban Governance and Planning



Supporting urban

Ensuring the alignment of planning interventions with the NUA, SP, SDGs, and most importantly national visions

Enhanced land management and detailed planning while integrating Local Economic

Development and

PFM

Improvement of local assessment and data generation systems to localize SDGs







Activities in the region - Environment and Climate Change

Improvement of Oued Laya Waste Management Site by Using Biomethane Gas for Renewable Energies

Innovative and low-cost solutions for water and sanitation; naturebased solutions; renewable energy



Building capacity
of local
government in
management of
municipal solid
waste through UNHabitat's Waste
Wise City Tool
(WaCT)

Modernization of Irrigation Techniques to Improve Water Efficiency and Livelihoods of



Farmers

Promote food
security of
vulnerable people,
at the local level
especially
migrants and the
homeless





Activities in the region - Urban Crisis and Fragility

Development of Rapid Urban Profiles for Cities Affected by Conflict and Natural Hazards (e.g., Port Sudan City)

Early restoration of urban basic services, capacity building of local authorities, protection of HLP rights Area/settlementsbased humanitarian and recovery assistance planning with the participation of communities and local authorities Emergency Shelters
for Internally
Displaced Persons
(IDPs), while
supporting host
communities

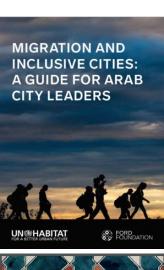


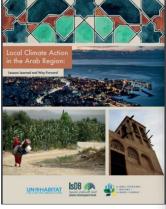


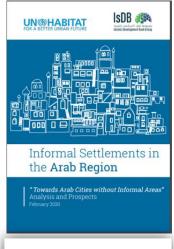
Activities in the region - Knowledge Generation and Capacity Building





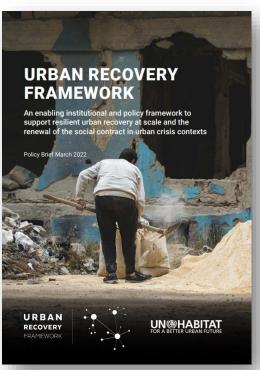












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UN-Habitat ROAS Portfolio Overview



22 Projects

Initiated in the Arab region in 2024, with total value:

USD 34 Million



USD 3.3 Million

Value of newly signed projects in Arab States in 2025 Q1



USD 45 Million

Value of Hard-pipeline projects in 2025

Looking forward

Recent Event Outcomes

- 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12), November 2024: Cairo Call to Action Key Highlights:
 - Local action is key to achieving sustainable urbanization and global development goals.
 - trgent call to address the global housing crisis, especially in slums and informal settlements.
 - Inclusive urban planning must empower youth, women, persons with disabilities, and marginalized groups.
 - Equity and justice should guide access to housing, services, and climate resilience.
 - 5 Unlocking local finance is essential for implementation of urban plans and priorities.
 - Oulture, heritage, and local data are vital assets for sustainable, people-centered development.
 - Stronger coalitions and partnerships are needed to scale up local impact.
- 3rd Arab Land Conference, February 2025: Morocco Declaration for Land Governance Key Highlights:
 - Advance regional cooperation on land, housing, and sustainable development.
 - Modernize land systems through digital and legal reforms.
 - Promote inclusive investments and protect land rights, especially for women.
 - Support post-crisis recovery, notably in Gaza and the West Bank.
 - For Strengthen land governance for food security and climate resilience.

Important Upcoming Events

Event	Date	Location
Arab European Cities Dialogue (AECD)	11 - 13 May 2025	Riyadh, KSA
United Nations Habitat Assembly (UNHA 2.2)	29 - 30 May	Nairobi, Kenya
4 th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)	30 June - 03 July	Seville, Spain
Cairo Water Week	12 - 16 October	Cairo, Egypt
2 nd World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2)	04 - 06 November	Doha, Qatar
UN Climate Change Conference COP30	10 - 21 November	Belém, Brazil
Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development (AMFHUD)	December 2025	Doha, Qatar
13 th World Urban Forum (WUF13)	May 2026	Baku, Azerbaijan

Key Considerations

- Strong representation and engagement in UNHA 2.2 to position Africa's urban issues and priorities.
- Strong engagement in relevant events and platforms to promote importance of sustainable urban development, and how it addresses many global challenges.
- Core contributions ensure sustainability and upscaling of support provided to member states and implementation of UN-Habitat's approved workplan.
- Host Country Agreements strengthen UN-Habitat's ability to address urban challenges and respond to national needs.

Thank you!

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