



UN-HABITAT

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**



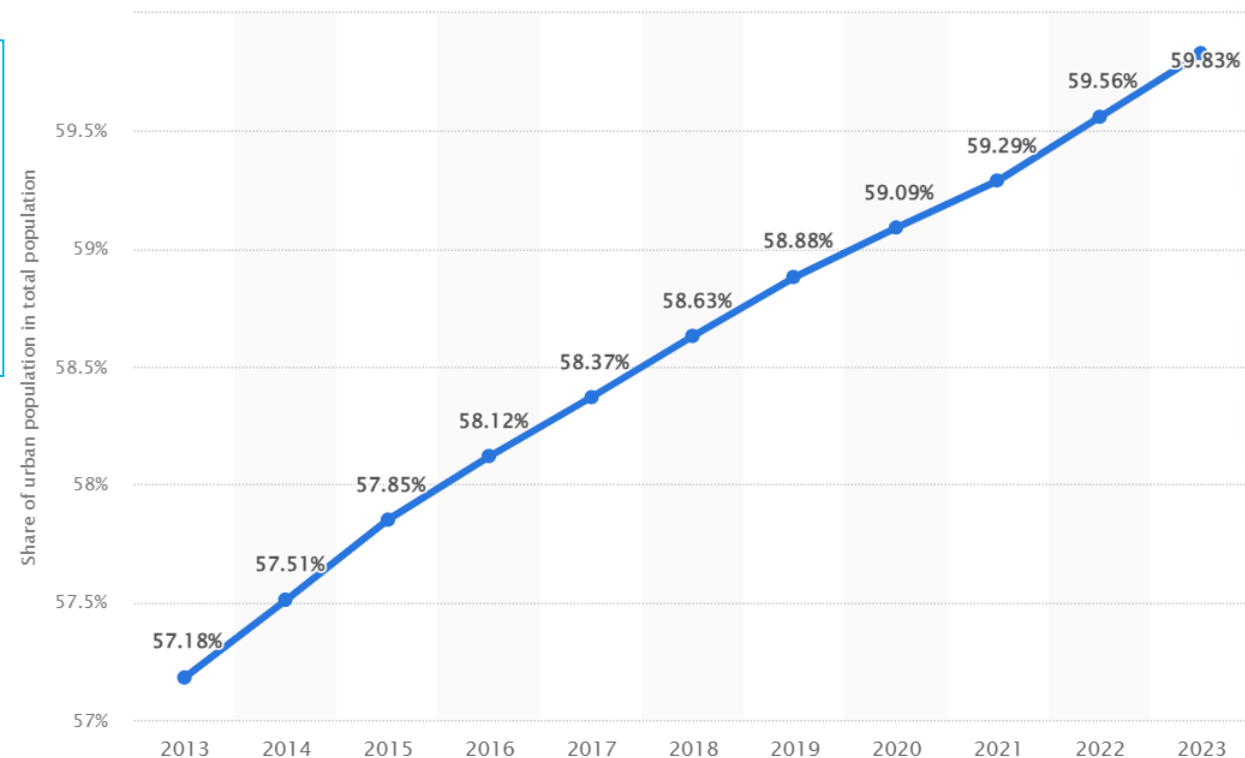
70 million people in the region need **Humanitarian Assistance**



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

- Area-based recovery planning
- Durable solutions for IDPs
- Urban Recovery Framework
- Early recovery projects
- Rehabilitation of housing and infrastructure

Urban Planning & Governance

- Human-centered urban regeneration & upgrading
- Spatial planning
- National Urban Policies
- Housing Strategies
- Urban Laws and Legislations
- SDG Localization - Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs)

Housing, Land & Property Rights

- Adequate housing
- Tenure security
- Women and minorities' HLP rights
- Land management systems

Urban Basic Services

- Solid waste management
- Water and Sanitation services
- Sustainable urban mobility

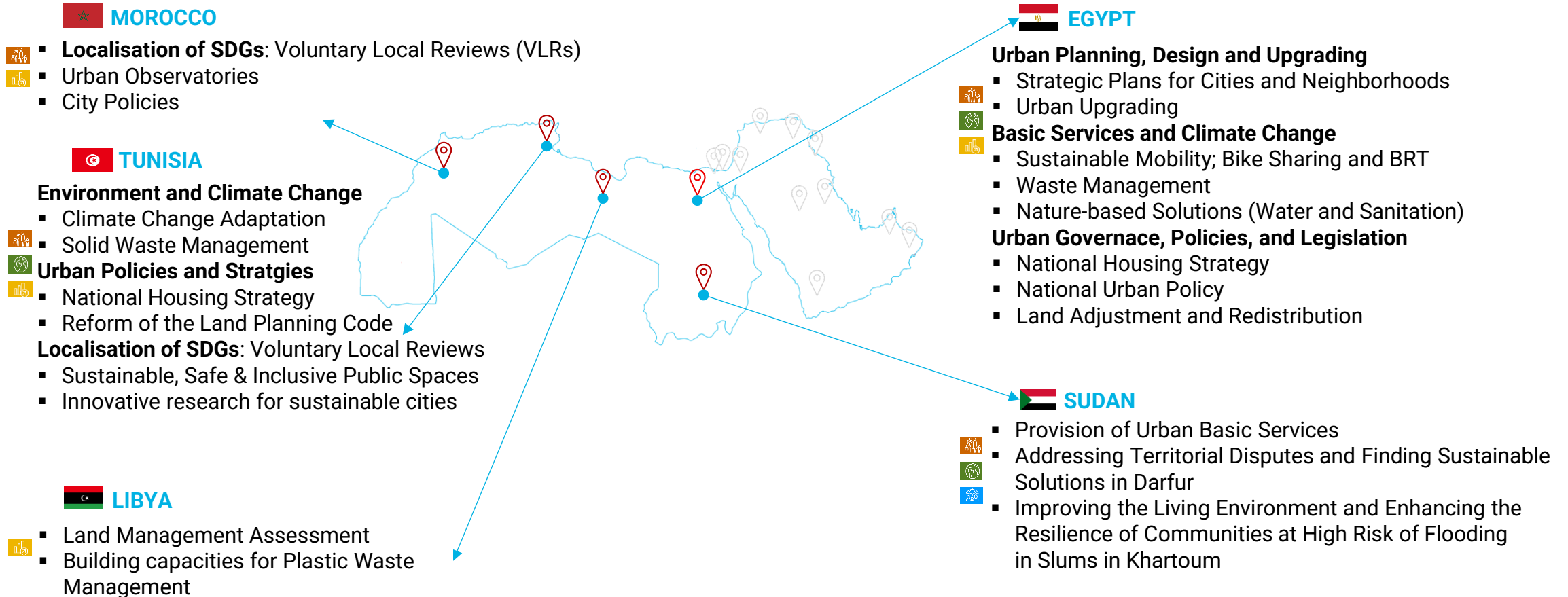
Environment & Climate Change

- 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



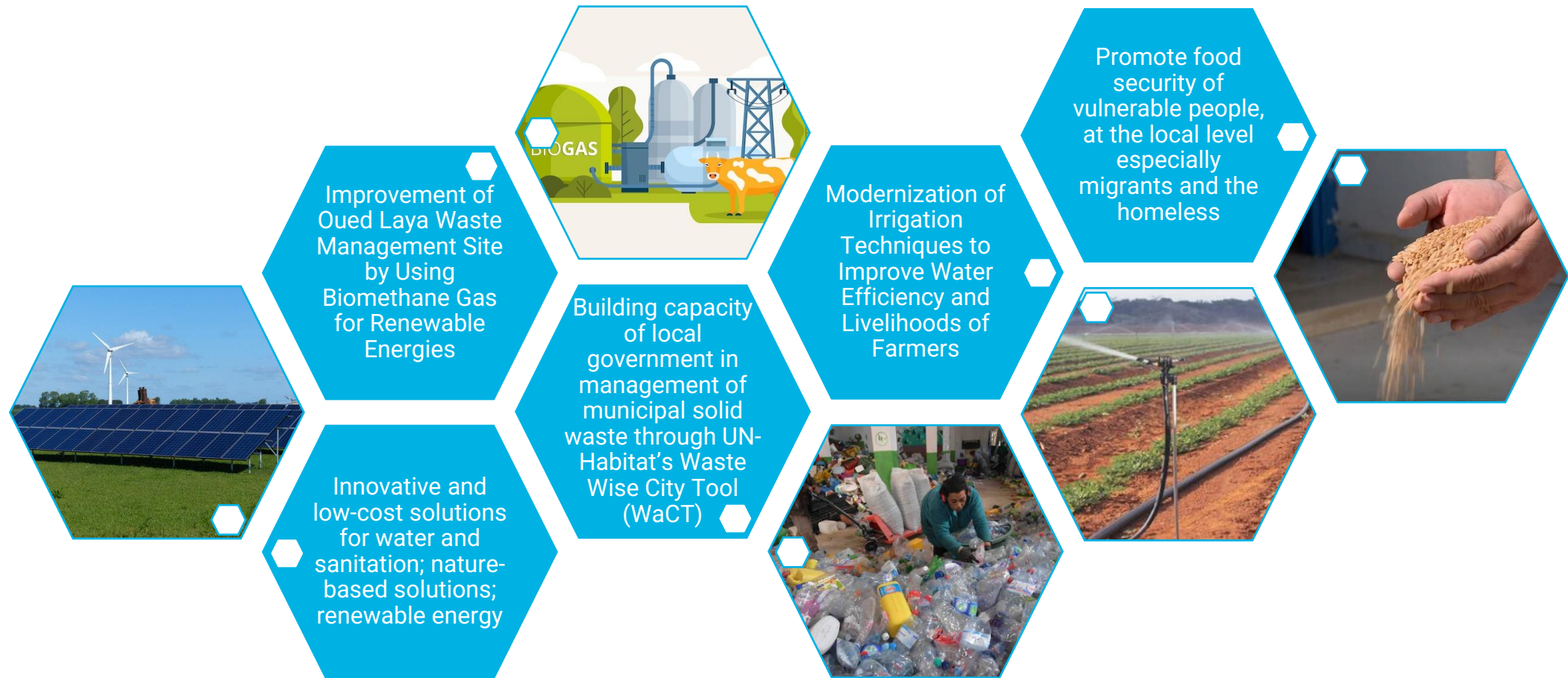
Activities in the region - Housing and Basic Services



Activities in the region - Urban Governance and Planning



Activities in the region - Environment and Climate Change



Activities in the region - Urban Crisis and Fragility



Activities in the region - Knowledge Generation and Capacity Building



UN-Habitat ROAS Portfolio Overview



22 Projects

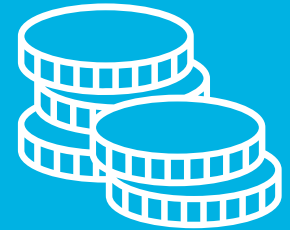
Initiated in the Arab region in
2024, with total value:

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.
 - 🏠 Urgent 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.
 - 💰 Unlocking local finance is essential for implementation of urban plans and priorities.
 - 🕒 Culture, 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.
 - 🌱 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
4th International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4)	30 June - 03 July	Seville, Spain
Cairo Water Week	12 - 16 October	Cairo, Egypt
2nd 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
13th 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.
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- **Core contributions** ensure sustainability and upscaling of support provided to member states and implementation of UN-Habitat's approved workplan.
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- **Host Country Agreements** strengthen UN-Habitat's ability to address urban challenges and respond to national needs.

Thank you!

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