

PRESS RELEASE

UN-Habitat sounds the alarm on the global housing crisis in its 2024 Annual Report

Nairobi, 2 June 2025 – The [UN-Habitat 2024 Annual Report](#) reveals the urgent global need for safe, affordable, and adequate housing. Today, 2.8 billion people lack access to adequate housing, limiting their enjoyment of several human rights, including the right to work, health, social security, education and more.

The report details UN-Habitat's efforts to advance solutions to tackle the biggest challenges impacting cities and towns globally – from the climate crisis to the growing housing crisis.

From conflict- and climate-induced displacement to the commodification of housing, numerous barriers continue to hinder access to affordable and inclusive housing. With fragmented policies and uneven progress, a coordinated approach is more critical than ever to ensure decent housing for all.

“Climate change, conflicts and natural disasters continue to displace millions of people, forcing them to leave homes in search of safety, stability, and better living conditions. The global housing crisis is no longer just about housing – it is a wake-up call for action. We must rethink urban policies, land use, legislation and financing to prioritize housing and basic services as key drivers of climate action and sustainable development,” said Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director of UN-Habitat.

The gap is significant. An estimated 96,000 new housing units need to be built per day to meet adequate housing needs by 2030. We would need to construct one home every second of the day to meet this demand.

In 2024, UN-Habitat collaborated with Member States, local and national governments, and donors and partners globally to build inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities. Our impact in 2024 included:

- **205,000 people** in slums and informal settlements from 27 cities in 19 countries were supported in accessing basic services, giving them access to services such as water and clean energy.
- **98,700 households** gained more secure land tenure through improved documentation, advancing peace and prosperity at community level.
- Over **237 million people** indirectly benefited as 74 cities institutionalized mechanisms for inclusive participation of civil society, ensuring more equitable processes in urban planning and management.

- **64 countries** were supported by UN-Habitat to advance national-level urban policies, out of 162+ countries which reported having such policies, creating more inclusive, sustainable, and well-planned cities.

In 2024, UN-Habitat hosted **the first global multilateral forum dedicated to housing** – the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All – which assessed progress and shared solutions for achieving adequate housing. In November 2024, the twelfth session of the World Urban Forum gathered more than 25,000 participants from 182 countries in Cairo, Egypt. The Forum concluded with the Cairo Call to Action, reaffirming global commitments to ensuring access to adequate, safe, affordable housing and transforming informal settlements.

Looking ahead: Putting housing at the centre

Looking ahead to 2025 and beyond, UN-Habitat's [Strategic Plan 2026-2029](#) will focus on housing, land and access to basic services. UN-Habitat will continue advocating for housing prioritization in development frameworks at all levels, pushing for equitable funding flows.

To view the report in full, please visit: <https://unhabitat.org/annual-report-2024>

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About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity working for sustainable urbanization. With programmes in over 90 countries, it supports policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in urban areas through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance, and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on X @UNHABITAT.

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