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**Implementation of the strategic plan of UN-Habitat: annual
report for 2024 on the implementation of the strategic plan
for the period 2020–2025**

Summary of the annual report for 2024 on the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2020–2025**

Report of the Executive Director

1. The world is facing compounded crises that are increasingly manifesting in cities and human settlements. The annual report for 2024 of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), entitled *Adequate Housing for All*, underscores the urgent need for sustainable urban transformation to address the global housing crisis, tackle climate change and reduce inequality.
2. In 2024, UN-Habitat worked with partners, governments and cities to ensure that housing, land and basic services remained central to sustainable urbanization, the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. The organization continued to integrate its normative and operational work, generating measurable global impact.
3. The report presents the following global impacts to which UN-Habitat contributed in 2024:
 - (a) Some 237 million people indirectly benefited from improved urban planning and management processes, as 74 cities adopted inclusive mechanisms to engage civil society in decision-making.
 - (b) Some 205,000 people in slums and informal settlements in 27 cities across 19 countries were supported in accessing basic services, including water, sanitation and clean energy.
 - (c) More than 98,000 households gained secure land tenure through improved documentation, fostering peace and prosperity in their communities.

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(d) 64 countries were supported in advancing national-level urban policies to create more inclusive, sustainable, and well-planned cities, while 27 countries were assisted in collecting SDG data and implementing the globally harmonized approach to defining cities and human settlements, enabling better urban decision-making.

4. The work of UN-Habitat is anchored in the thematic areas of its strategic plan for the period 2020–2025: reducing inequality; promoting prosperity; acting for climate and nature; and responding to crises. Its activities in 2024 to tackle poverty and reduce inequality between and within communities included:

(a) More than 316,000 people benefited from improved water and sanitation services.

(b) Over 70,000 people across 14 cities gained access to safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces.

(c) In Africa, UN-Habitat rehabilitated water infrastructure in Nigeria benefiting over 250,000 people, and established a material recovery facility in Kenya creating 100 green jobs, and launched the revised Ghana Housing Profile.

(d) In Asia and the Pacific, 25,000 households and 250 schools in Yangon, Myanmar, gained access to clean water, and nearly 20,000 land-insecure households in Nepal received support to register land rights.

(e) In the Arab States, a regional housing programme benefitted 64,000 people across nine countries.

(f) In Latin America and the Caribbean, inclusive urban development projects strengthened 76 national and local institutions and benefited 400,000 people.

5. The activities of UN-Habitat in 2024 to enhance the shared prosperity of cities and regions included:

(a) More than 5.7 million people live in areas where UN-Habitat developed urban plans.

(b) 17 Voluntary Local Reviews were produced globally.

(c) In Africa, technical support to 6 countries led to spatial frameworks and city strategies that strengthened urban management.

(d) In Asia, UN-Habitat and Cambodia completed a national assessment on people-centred smart cities, while the *Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2024* shared insights on digital governance.

(e) In the Arab region, UN-Habitat and UNESCWA launched the Arab Mayors Academy to equip city leaders with the tools to implement the SDGs.

(f) In Latin America, participatory urban management initiatives in Brazil advanced inclusion and data-driven governance.

6. UN-Habitat activities in 2024 with the aim of strengthening climate action and improving urban environments included:

(a) Some 44,500 people benefited from climate adaptation actions in Jordan, Lebanon and the Syrian Arab Republic.

(b) 13 City Resilience Frameworks for Action were developed in sub-Saharan Africa; 10 cities in 6 countries were supported in building infrastructure for climate resilience, directly benefiting 350,000 urban residents.

(c) In Asia, climate-resilient drainage and water infrastructure improved living conditions for more than 110,000 residents in Cambodia, Lao PDR and Mongolia.

(d) In Latin America, the RISE-UP initiative strengthened urban resilience in Colombia and Bolivia.

7. In 2024, UN-Habitat implemented a broad portfolio of interventions to support effective urban crisis prevention and response, including:
- (a) Over 6.7 million displaced people benefited from tailored urban responses.
 - (b) In Africa, resilient housing projects in Mozambique and Somalia improved living conditions for internally displaced persons while providing vocational training.
 - (c) In Asia, over 44,000 displaced and returnee households in Afghanistan benefited from upgraded infrastructure.
 - (d) In the Arab region, 1,400 housing units were rehabilitated in Iraq, Yemen and Lebanon, creating nearly 20,000 workdays.
 - (e) In Latin America, UN-Habitat supported reconstruction of 22,000 homes in Cuba and advanced refugee and migrant integration initiatives across six countries.
8. In 2024, UN-Habitat facilitated global events that brought together key stakeholders to explore approaches and propose solutions to local action for sustainable development. The twelfth session of the World Urban Forum, co-organized with the Government of Egypt, gathered over 25,000 participants from 182 countries, resulting in the Cairo Call to Action. UN-Habitat convened the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, the first global intergovernmental platform dedicated to housing. Publications, including the *World Cities Report 2024: Cities and Climate Action*, the *World Smart Cities Outlook*, continued to shape policy and knowledge exchange.
9. The activities mentioned in the present report demonstrate the implementation in 2024 of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2020–2025, which continues to provide a robust framework for accelerating the implementation of the New Urban Agenda for the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.
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