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Normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities and the engagement of UN-Habitat in countries, territories and areas affected by conflict and disaster.

Highlights of normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat for the period January–June 2025**

Report of the Executive Director

I. Activities towards implementation of the strategic plan 2020–2025

1. Under **Subprogramme 1, ‘Reduced spatial inequality and poverty’**, and in line with UNHA resolution 2/7 on adequate housing and 2/2 on accelerating the transformation of informal settlements and slums by 2030, UN-Habitat convened *Expert Group Meetings of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEIWG-H)*. Held virtually, the meetings focused on housing finance, tenure security, informal settlements, and social housing, as determined by the co-chairs France and Kenya. Inputs from participants are informing preparations for the 3rd session of the OEIWG-H in 2026, including the development of the global housing monitoring framework, pursuant to UNHA resolution 2/7, OP 1 (c).
2. In parallel, UN-Habitat is facilitating diagnostics and local housing strategies in Chisinau (Moldova), Samarkand (Uzbekistan) and Bishkek (Kyrgyzstan). UN-Habitat also supported the preparations of the Secretary General’s progress report on inclusive policies and programmes, presented to the General Assembly at its 80th session. The report serves as a benchmark and offers actionable recommendations to end homelessness.
3. The *Partnership for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Kenya (PINUA)* achieved several milestones. Strategies for implementation and community mobilization were finalized, fostering inclusive

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housing processes, in alignment with national priorities. A draft financial model was developed to test viability, alongside a report on housing analytics for cooperative social rental housing. Further, a baseline survey and material supply value chains reports were completed for the pilot sites of Muhoroni, Kibuye (Kisumu) and Ex-Grogon (Nairobi).

4. The *Global Land Tool Network* (GLTN) has finalized a high-level policy brief on monitoring land tenure security, within the framework of SDG 1.4.2. GLTN also supported capacity-building in Mazyopa, an informal settlement in Lusaka, Zambia, for the use of innovative land tools. Additionally, UN-Habitat released a summary brief outlining approaches used to strengthen gender equality and land tenure security for women and girls in various contexts, countries and regions.
5. Through the *EU-funded SOLUTIONS Plus project*, UN-Habitat piloted e-mobility solutions in 10 cities and replicated them in 20 more. In Dar es Salaam, 43 electric e-wheelers were deployed by four companies, allowing for an estimated 43,000+ tons of CO₂ savings by 2050. UN-Habitat is scaling up its support to Dar es Salaam, through the *EU Global Gateway Port of Dar es Salaam Trade and Transport Improvement Project*, which aims to enhance port efficiency, facilitate trade and green mobility, while integrating port-city planning.
6. The digital *Her City toolbox* (under the Global Public Space Programme) continued to support inclusive urban planning. The toolbox registered 1,500 users —across more than 50 countries and 125 cities— while capacity building projects reached nearly one million participants in 150 workshops, 30 trainings and over 100 events, with particular attention put on crisis settings, including in Ukraine and in Mozambique.
7. The *Global Observatory of Sustainable Proximities* organized its first international convening that focused on the global application of the 15-minute city concept. During the event, over 500 stakeholders advocated for proximity-centered urban planning as a key approach to addressing the climate and housing crises.
8. The *'Inclusive Communities, Thriving Cities' Flagship Programme*, in collaboration with the Urban Basic Services section, published guidance on *Integrated Approaches to Financing Sustainable Urban Mobility*. This publication guides policymakers and city leaders in low- and middle-income countries on integrating planning, financing and governance approaches to support sustainable urban mobility. The Programme also completed the *Towards Inclusive Urban Futures* paper, which connects integrated urban regeneration with means to address spatial inequality as well as provides practical case studies.
9. Under **Subprogramme 2, 'Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions'**, UN-Habitat continued to support subnational governments in strengthening their financial strategies. In collaboration with the UN Economic Commission for Africa, UN-Habitat facilitated the expansion of fiscal space in six African capital cities. This diagnosed the existing fiscal spaces, and subsequently developed action plans to help cities strengthen their fiscal capacity thereafter.
10. Contributions of UN-Habitat to the *Fourth Financing for Development Conference* outcome document, the "[Sevilla Commitment](#)", emphasized the importance of local finance, reframing land as a strategic asset for more inclusive urban investments, mobilization of private finance for public service delivery and more effective usage of existing resources. Ultimately, these efforts alongside those of key partners contributed to the inclusion of a dedicated section on subnational finance in the Outcome document.
11. Subprogramme 2 continued roll-out and implementation of the methodology for *Own Source Revenue* (OSR) optimization, including in Cabo Verde where UN-Habitat delivered a capacity-building workshop to local authorities and supported the development of action plans. Support was also provided in Homa Bay, Kenya, to analyze OSR optimization, in Guinea Bissau on scoping OSR opportunities, and to local governments in Costa Rica to apply the OSR methodology.
12. UN-Habitat is developing guidelines for the application of its *Spatial Impact Investment Planning* (SIIP) approach. SIIP bridges the gap between city development strategies and investment capacities by translating urban priorities into sequenced and costed infrastructure projects. Contrary to fragmented project implementation, SIIP promotes an integrated area-based investment model that measures how infrastructure directly contributes to planned goals, such as resilience, economic growth, and reduced spatial inequality. The SIIP Guidelines provide normative guidance for sub-national authorities in aligning investments and sustainable urban planning principles.
13. As part of the *Water as Leverage programme*, UN-Habitat supported the city of Nakuru and the Government of the Netherlands in preparing conceptual designs tailored to Kenya's finance and policy environment. UN-Habitat helped prioritization between possible 'nature-based solutions' projects before pre-feasibility and financing stages.
14. UN-Habitat supported the city of Homs, Syria, with economic recovery recommendations. In parallel,

building on the recommendations on local economic development (LED) received during the World Urban Forum, UN-Habitat is updating its *LED Strategic Planning Series*.

15. Through the Cities Investment Facility (CIF), UN-Habitat is engaging with the Kingdom of Morocco on a sustainable waste management infrastructure project. The CIF is a public-private, multi-stakeholder initiative that sources and prepares projects for investments. For the period 2025-2029, CIF's objective is to leverage financing to identify, support, and promote sustainable infrastructure projects, particularly on basic services and other focus areas of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for 2026-2029.
16. Under **Subprogramme 3, 'Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment'**, UN-Habitat continued to support Member States, particularly with biodiversity and multilevel climate action. The *RISE UP Flagship Programme* anchored this effort, with two global projects underway, across nine countries. Using the *Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment* (MVA), cities are identifying risks, designing and implementing resilience action plans. MVA results are available in the *Urban Vulnerability Atlas* (UVA).
17. Following the May 2024 Executive Board Decision to operationalize the COP27 Sustainable Urban Resilience (SURGe) Initiative, the Government of Slovakia announced its commitment to fund the SURGe Secretariat and Regional SURGe Hubs in Africa, Asia-Pacific, and Latin America and the Caribbean. In addition, the Slovak Republic will establish an in-kind SURGe Central and Eastern Europe Hub in Bratislava. A contribution agreement, signed in June 2025, commenced its operationalization.
18. In support of the *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities* (SRCities), UN-Habitat and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) hosted IPCC scientists and urban practitioners at the second Pre-Lead Author Meeting (Pre-LAM II) at UNON, Nairobi. This connected research with on-the-ground practice to support the SRCities process. It involved the launch of the GRAA literature database, a knowledge tool tailored to SRCities needs. A reflection session of the IPCC Chair, the IPCC Working Group II Co-Chair and the Executive Director of UN-Habitat set the stage for continued collaboration. A visit to Korogocho and Kibera, Nairobi, was organized to learn from community-driven climate resilience in informal settlements. The Pre-LAM II workshop formed a milestone in the lead-up to the 2026 Innovate4Cities Conference in June 2026 in Nairobi.
19. To address underrepresentation of urban content in national climate planning, UN-Habitat published *Seizing the Urban Opportunity: A 3-Step Guide for Strengthening Urban Content in Nationally Determined Contributions 3.0* (2025). This report provides national governments and partners with a practical framework to enhance the urban dimension of climate policy and was accompanied by a targeted capacity-building programme. UN-Habitat is also working on an automated tool for extracting and classifying urban content across NDC 3.0.
20. In the lead-up to COP30, UN-Habitat developed concept notes for the *4th Ministerial Meetings on Urbanization and Climate Change* in Belém and advanced preparations for the Cities and Regions Hub in the COP30 Blue Zone. As secretariat of the Baku Continuity Coalition, UN-Habitat worked with Member States on continuity across COP Presidencies, including through consultations at the resumed second session of the United Nations Habitat Assembly, where UN-Habitat also presented the urban roadmap to COP30 and WUF13, and announced the revitalized Greener Cities Partnership with UNEP. Collaborating with Member States, city networks, and the Brazil COP30 Presidency, UN-Habitat is positioning housing, urban climate action, inclusive urban development, and multilevel governance at the center of the climate agenda.
21. UN-Habitat is finalizing the second five-yearly mandatory reaccreditation process to the Adaptation Fund. Five projects, with a total value of USD 62.6 million, are in the pipeline, adding to the USD 150 million mobilized since accreditation in 2015. UN-Habitat is also submitting its stage one accreditation application to the Green Climate Fund for small-scale funding and is in discussion with the Global Environment Facility to strengthen its executing role under GEF's *Sustainable Cities Programme*.
22. Under **Subprogramme 4, 'Effective urban crisis prevention and response'**, UN-Habitat actively supported the *Global Solutions Working Group's* strategic direction on solutions for internally displaced persons (IDPs) and positioned itself as the lead for housing solutions and settlement approaches.
23. UN-Habitat also contributed to the *Humanitarian Reset*, led by the Emergency Coordinator, and refined its role through focus on settlements and rapid urban profiling that support area-based coordination. The humanitarian reset is merging the HLP, Shelter, and Camp Coordination and Camp Management clusters. UN-Habitat will participate in the design of the new structure with contributions to housing, land and property rights, area-based approaches, and durable solutions.
24. At the *Third Arab Land Conference* in Rabat, UN-Habitat convened a special session marking the 20th anniversary of the Pinheiro Principles and published the handbook *Housing and Property Restitution for*

Refugees and Displaced Persons: Implementing the Pinheiro Principles in the Middle East and North Africa, produced with OHCHR, FAO, IOM, and NRC. The handbook gives governments and partners practical guidance on the application of the Principles to address restitution challenges.

25. During the UN-Habitat Assembly, UN-Habitat, UNHCR, and the World Bank co-organized a *High-Level Panel* and launched a collaboration to transform camps into sustainable human settlements.
26. UN-Habitat, IGAD and UNHCR organized a roundtable on the *Human Settlements Pledge* with participation from Ethiopia, Somalia, South Sudan, Djibouti, Kenya, and Uganda. The meeting reviewed progress and advanced work on urban displacement.
27. UN-Habitat contributed to the *Development Action Platform* that scales up action in countries impacted by the Sudan emergency. The platform shares data, supports the sustainable human settlement approach, and builds partnerships.
28. UN-Habitat, with IIED and JIPS, provided inputs to the report on the (re)integration of IDPs in urban settings, prepared by the Special Rapporteur on the human rights of IDPs for the General Assembly. UN-Habitat also supported mayoral consultations with UCLG.
29. UN-Habitat continued to advance implementation of the *Global Framework for Inclusive Solutions to Urban Internal Displacement*.
30. The *City Resilience Global Programme* (CRGP) implementation began in Saida (Lebanon) and Medellin (Colombia), with the support of Barcelona City Council. Meanwhile, capacity building efforts continued with the support from the UN Development Account -funded joint project with the five UN Regional Economic Commissions. Together with the Arctic Mayors Forum, UN-Habitat held a consultation workshop with 7 arctic municipalities to assess the resilience needs and capacities for future project definition.
31. In parallel, CRGP advocated city resilience through signing an MoU with the *Resilient Cities Network* and participating in the *Global Workshop on Urban Climate Resilience* organized by the Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation (AECID), RISE UP and UN-Habitat in Madrid.
32. UN-Habitat's Executive Director visited Barcelona to reinforce partnerships with the Government of Catalonia and Barcelona City Council, to deepen commitments with leading city networks—including the Resilient Cities Network—and to expand engagements with Fira de Barcelona and the Smart City Expo World Congress.

II. Activities on safety, gender, human rights and social inclusion

33. UN-Habitat continued to mainstream human rights and gender equality across its normative and operational activities, ensuring that projects maximize opportunities to deliver human rights and gender equality outcomes.
34. UN-Habitat participated in the 58th and 59th sessions of the *Human Rights Council*, engaging on the right to adequate housing, access to basic services and land rights. It also participated in system-wide coordination bodies such as the *Call to Action* and the *Environment Management Sub-group on Human Rights*. A publication on human rights-based urban planning was drafted and UN-Habitat contributed to the institutionalization of international norms, including on land and human rights. Internal capacity-building activities continued through the *Human Rights and Social Inclusion Community of Practice*.
35. UN-Habitat issued *Stronger Women, Stronger Cities*, highlighting its global impact on gender equality over the past five years. The Executive Director attended the 69th session of the *Commission on the Status of Women* and contributed to the *Beijing+30* discussions, where UN-Habitat held an event on adequate housing for all women and girls. Project teams in Afghanistan, Lao PDR and Yemen were awarded as UN-Habitat's 2025 gender champions for their exemplary impact on gender equality and women's empowerment. Internally, UN-Habitat initiated the roll out of the UN system-wide *Gender Equality Marker* (GEM) to track financial expenditures related to gender equality.
36. UN-Habitat advanced its disability inclusive urban agenda and strengthened its overall implementation capacity of the *United Nations Disability Inclusion Strategy*. A MoU was signed with the *Global Disability Fund*, to access funding opportunities related to disability inclusive development. UN-Habitat participated in the *2025 Global Disability Summit*, which resulted in the endorsement of the *Amman-Berlin Declaration* and planned MoUs with the *International Disability Alliance* and the *Global Disability Innovation Hub*. UN-Habitat supported the development of the *Kenya Joint Disability Inclusion Strategy*, in collaboration with UN Agencies and other Nairobi-based stakeholders.
37. UN-Habitat is conducting global stakeholder consultations to develop a learning report on the *Global Safer Cities Programme*. The report will consolidate three decades of practice and inform the future of urban

safety.

38. UN-Habitat continued to advocate for the localization of SDGs by and for youth. It supported youth-led organizations to develop national and local action plans, including through Expert Group Meetings on youth-led localization, and *International Youth Day* in Nairobi. UN-Habitat expanded the *Emergency Youth-led Response Model* to address climate-related emergencies. In partnership with youth-led organizations and UNEP, geospatial training was offered in informal settlements and conflict-affected areas. As co-chair of the *Inter-agency Network on Youth Development*, the *UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board* worked to assure that urban youth played a leading role in shaping the next phase of the UN Youth 2030 strategy and contributed to the *Pact for the Future* follow-up. The *Youth 2030 Cities* initiative advanced with the implementation of pilot projects through the *Sister Neighborhoods* programme, and the adoption of local *DeclarActions on Youth and Sustainable Urbanization*, now endorsed in 14 cities.

III. Technical support and collaboration on data and knowledge

39. UN-Habitat's Global Reports and Trends Unit partnered with Copenhagen Business School and CONCITO in May 2025 to organize a *World Cities Report 2024* themed event "*Cities at the Heart of Climate Action and Just Transition*" in Copenhagen. This amplified the Report's uptake by engaging various stakeholders, including municipalities, NetZeroCities, C40 Cities, Nrep and a lead author of the *IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities*.
 40. The *World Cities Report 2026* preparations are underway, including the report concept, outlines of chapters, constitution of the Report's advisory board and a drafting team for background papers, and the first Expert Group Meeting on concept review in April 2025.
 41. UN-Habitat continues to advance the implementation of the *Global Urban Monitoring Framework* (UMF). An increasing number of national and local governments have integrated it into their monitoring systems. Complementing this effort, UN-Habitat has supported a number of countries to apply the Degree of Urbanization (DEGURBA) methodology, endorsed by the UN Statistical Commission, to ensure globally comparable and consistent reporting on urban and rural trends. This support has resulted in more regular reporting of SDG and the New Urban Agenda data, including a modest expansion of data within the *Global Urban Indicators Database*. However, the increase in data points has not yet met the threshold required to update global estimates for the indicators under UN-Habitat's custodianship.
 42. UN-Habitat has been working to produce housing-related data for countries and cities. These newly produced datasets provide valuable insights into issues such as adequacy, affordability, and access to basic services— which will support the forthcoming *World Cities Report* and the *2026 SDG 11 Synthesis Report*. By integrating these housing datasets into global reporting, UN-Habitat is working to highlight the centrality of adequate housing as a driver of sustainable development, poverty reduction, and resilience. Housing data also provides an important lens for understanding inequalities within cities and identifying populations most at risk of being left behind.
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