



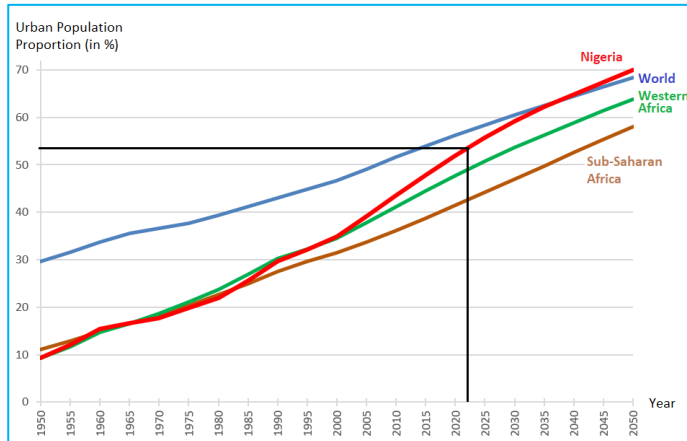
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UN-Habitat in Nigeria: Linking Policy with Action

Presented at the 2025 2nd session of the UN-Habitat Executive Board

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The Nigerian Context: Opportunities and Challenges



Rapid Growth:

- *Population: Over 206 million.*
- *On track to be 3rd most populous by 2050.*
- *Urban growth rate: 4.7% per year.*
- *Rapid proliferation of slums and informal settlements in cities & towns*



Critical Challenges:

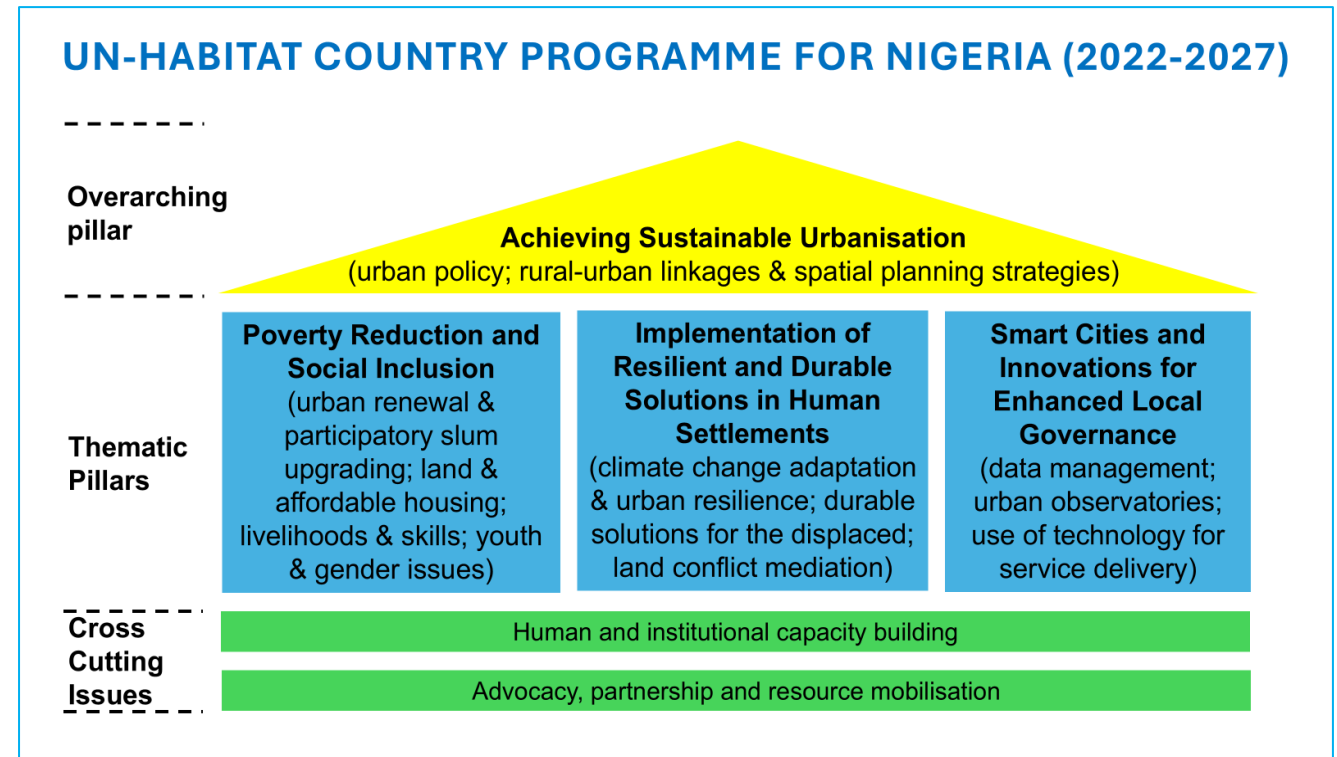
- ***Housing deficit: 16-18 million units.***
- ***Slum population: Over 60 million.***
- ***Challenges in land administration (<5% registered).***
- ***Growing Strain on cities from influx of Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs)***
- ***Lack of access to basic services and adequate shelter***

Our Approach: Integrating Normative & Operational Work

- **Normative Work:** *Foundational policies, guidelines, and frameworks.*
- **Operational Work:** *Effective project formulation, implementation and showcasing of best practices*

The Nigeria Model: Fundamental Principles

- *Policy guides projects.*
- *Lessons from projects refine policy.*



- **Strategic Focus of the Country Programme:** *To promote the development of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities and communities as transformative forces for achieving economic growth, peace and improved living conditions for all in Nigeria.*

Focus Area 1: Enhanced urban and regional planning, implementation and monitoring



- **20-City Structure Plans (2008-2020):**
 - *Provided 20-year frameworks for coordinated growth across 4 states (Rapid Urban Sector Profiling for Sustainability (RUSPS) methodology)*
 - *Built local capacity through participatory processes.*
- **Aba City Master Plan 2050 (2024-2025):**
 - *A comprehensive framework to tackle slums, environmental issues and boost the economy.*
- **Lagos & Abeokuta Partnership:**
 - *Developed normative guidelines for urban renewal and master plans.*
 - *Promoted social inclusion using the SDG Project Assessment Tool.*

Focus Area 2: Strengthened Urban Environment & Climate Action



■ Policy Impact:

- *Mainstreamed energy efficiency into **National Code (2013-2016)***

■ State-Level Support:

- *Niger State Development Agenda - a comprehensive framework to tackle slums, environmental issues and boost the economy.*

■ Community Success Stories

- ***Water for Africa Cities (Jos):** Improved water access for 40,000 people.*
- ***COVID-19 Response:** Provided emergency water sources (boreholes) and generated the Karu Urban Profile for future planning social inclusion using the SDG Project Assessment Tool.*

Focus Area 3: Effective urban crisis prevention and response



■ Addressing the IDP Crisis:

- *Supporting sustainable integration of displaced populations into cities.*

■ Normative Leadership:

- *Co-developing a Spatial Development Strategy for the Sahel (7 countries).*

■ Operational Action:

- *EU-funded Joint Programme (Started Jan 2025) in Adamawa, Borno, Yobe.*
- *Focus on durable solutions for women and children, tackling land disputes and economic recovery.*
- *Multiscale, area-based approach is being piloted for the first time: a model for other middle-income countries.*

Key Partnerships for Impact



- **Government of Nigeria:**
 - *Long-standing MoU provides the foundational framework.*
- **UN Agencies (UNDP, IOM):**
 - *Co-developing a Spatial Development Strategy for the Sahel (7 countries).*
- **International Partners (e.g., UK FCDO, EU):**
 - *Enable development of innovative tools and funding for programs.*
- **Civil Society, Academia & Private Sector:**
 - *Ensure work is participatory, inclusive, and grounded in local reality.*

Key Lessons Learned



- **Technical Expertise + Local Participation:**
 - *Participatory planning ensures local ownership and success.*
- **Programmatic over Project-Based:**
 - *City-wide strategies (like for water) are needed for sustainable impact.*
- **Partnerships Bridge the Nexus:**
 - *Long-term coordination is key for durable solutions for IDPs.*
- **Normative Tools Scale Up Impact:**
 - *Tools like the SDG Assessment Tool allow replication of success.*

Conclusion: A Model for Sustainable Urbanization



- *The Nigeria Country Programme showcases the strong potential for promoting sustainable urbanisation by integrating normative with operational frameworks*
- *It is essential to effectively link policy with practice to achieve desired results*
- *By building frameworks on informed Spatial Analysis and implementing projects simultaneously, UN-Habitat contributes significantly to Nigeria's sustainable urban development.*



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