



**Executive Board of the United Nations
Human Settlements Programme
First session of 2026
Nairobi, 21 and 22 April 2026
Item 7 of the provisional agenda***

**Implementation of the normative and operational activities of
UN-Habitat, including reporting on programmatic activities
in 2025 and the implementation of subprogrammes, flagship
programmes and technical cooperation activities**

Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including updates on the country programmes in Brazil and Tunisia and on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Sections II and III contain summaries of support provided by UN-Habitat to middle-income countries, as illustrated by its country programmes for Brazil and Tunisia. Through those examples of country-level operations, the report highlights the integrated, balanced and mutually reinforcing nature of normative and operational collaboration and solutions that UN-Habitat can provide in diverse contexts and in response to different sustainable urban development challenges. Section IV provides updates on assistance provided by UN-Habitat in areas affected by conflicts and disasters, covering the period July–December 2025. The report is accompanied by three information documents:

- (a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat for the period July–December 2025 (HSP/EB.2026/INF/5), which highlights subprogramme activities during the period July–December 2025;
- (b) Report on the status of the development of efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip (HSP/EB.2026/INF/6);
- (c) Revised report on the activities of UN-Habitat in Ukraine (HSP/EB.2025/INF/17/Rev.1).

* HSP/EB.2026/1.

II. Updates on the Brazil country programme

2. This section of the report provides an update on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat in Brazil, one of the most urbanized countries in the global South, with around 87 per cent of its population living in cities. The report summarizes the activities of the Brazil country programme that link normative and policy guidance with operational project support across sustainable urban development issues, in collaboration with stakeholders.

A. Context and background of the country programme

3. Rapid urbanization in Brazil, combined with structural socio-spatial inequalities, has resulted in a persistent housing deficit, widespread informality and growing exposure of vulnerable populations to climate-related risks.

4. In recent decades, Brazil has built an advanced legal and institutional framework for urban policy, including the City Statute and national housing and urban development policies, while consolidating its municipalities' leadership in urban management. Yet persistent inequality, racialized poverty and territorial fragmentation still limit the realization of the right to adequate housing and inclusive, climate-resilient urban development. Together, those opportunities and challenges make Brazil a key point of reference for solutions that are locally rooted and people-centred, and provide a strategic context for UN-Habitat to support policy reform and the scaling of innovative practices.

5. UN-Habitat has maintained a presence in Brazil since 1996 and has supported the federal, state and municipal governments, as well as civil society and academia, through technical cooperation to advance integrated, inclusive and climate-resilient urban development. The country programme is aligned with the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in Brazil and with the national priority of reducing inequalities, and promotes the country's commitments under the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

B. Highlights of normative and operational activities in Brazil

1. Integrated housing and upgrading of informal settlements

6. A core contribution of the Brazil country programme is the adaptation and application of UN-Habitat global normative frameworks to the Brazilian context. Examples include participatory housing diagnostics, applied to the generation of disaggregated data on housing conditions, tenure security and access to services in order to inform municipal and state policies; rapid participatory mapping, applied to the assessment of urban conditions, including infrastructure, mobility, sanitation and public lighting in informal settlements, and to support the evidence-based prioritization of investments; and gender-responsive planning tools adapted to Brazilian urban contexts to inform safer, more inclusive public space design.

7. An example of this approach is the support provided for the Izidora area in Belo Horizonte, one of the largest self-produced housing areas in Latin America affected by land conflict. UN-Habitat, in partnership with the United Nations Office for Project Services and the municipal government, contributed to a sustainable urbanization plan for Izidora and a catalogue of solutions for informal settlements, which was cited by the Ministry of Cities in a publication on nature-based solutions on the periphery and advances in new public policy. Those materials systematize community-led infrastructure solutions, highlighting how community-led planning, participation and negotiated solutions advance the right to adequate housing and territorial integration. The Izidora area has thus become a national point of reference for rights-based approaches to informal settlements.

8. Through the federal *Periferia Viva* (Living Periphery) programme, led by the Ministry of Cities, UN-Habitat has provided territory-specific technical assistance to municipalities such as São Gonçalo, Rio de Janeiro and Mauá. In São Gonçalo, an integrated urbanization project using participatory methodologies in the Ipuca/Jardim Catarina area, with federal resources of 152.9 million Brazilian reais, will benefit approximately 4,000 families through improvements in sanitation, pavements, public lighting, recreation areas and land regularization.

9. In the city of Rio de Janeiro, the *Territórios Sociais* (Social Territories) programme supports the integration of vulnerable families into the municipal social protection system and links housing conditions with access to services, education and income opportunities. By mid-2025, a total of 176 families had received new apartments, with UN-Habitat supporting the identification and selection of beneficiaries based on socio-territorial criteria.

2. Participatory planning, public spaces and smart cities

10. In Congonhas (State of Minas Gerais), the *Horizontes Congonhas* (Congonhas Horizons) initiative, developed in cooperation with the municipal government, supported the revision of the municipality's master plan and urban mobility plan. The revision emphasized inclusive mobility, compact urban development and public participation, as well as the alignment of municipal instruments with climate resilience and social inclusion objectives.

11. At the state level, the *Visão Alagoas 2030* (Alagoas Vision 2030) partnership with the government of Alagoas has produced guidelines for a state smart cities strategy. The strategy, which received the LATAM Smart City Award in 2025, promotes human-centred digital transformation across all municipalities. In parallel, the initiative is supporting the State's first voluntary local review of the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals using an action-oriented review methodology to structure data, diagnoses and strategic visions across government departments.

12. In the city of São Paulo, the *Viva o Verde São Paulo* ("Green public spaces for all") project supports improved access to, and the inclusiveness and sustainability of, urban parks. The project team has conducted diagnostics in more than 100 parks, interviewed some 5,000 users, prepared management plans for eight priority parks, held workshops on gender equity with 172 girls and adolescents, and developed financing models for green areas in cities. Designs for five parks and training in the Block by Block and Her City methodologies were completed in 2025. The municipality of São Paulo is also developing a new integrated municipal environmental sanitation plan and an integrated solid waste management plan with technical support from UN-Habitat. The environmental sanitation plan will be the main strategic instrument for the integrated planning of basic sanitation services, while the solid waste management plan will define objectives and responsibilities for solid waste management among producers, service providers and consumers. Together, these efforts represent a step towards a more sustainable, fair and climate-resilient urban development model.

3. Urban data, observatories and evidence-based governance

13. In Juiz de Fora (State of Minas Gerais), the Citizenship Observatory, created in partnership with UN-Habitat, organizes and disseminates municipal data to support planning, monitoring and transparency in public policies. Two survey methodologies were applied in 141 microterritories and generated information on urban conditions, population profiles and access to services that was transformed into data and knowledge products. By making those data sets publicly available on an online platform, the Observatory improves understanding of territorial inequalities, supports the prioritization of investments and contributes to better-informed, evidence-based and citizen-oriented urban management in Juiz de Fora.

14. In São Gonçalo (State of Rio de Janeiro), UN-Habitat supported the creation of the *Observatório Fortalece São Gonçalo*, a digital platform that was established under municipal law and aggregates 130 indicators relating to health, education, culture, public order and other areas. The observatory offers policy maps and thematic libraries and has trained more than 40 municipal government staff in data-based management.

15. In Alagoas, the Alagoas Vision 2030 programme supports an observatory of public policies and a city prosperity index that enable the state government to monitor inequalities, infrastructure gaps and progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals. Diagnostic work in the *grotas* (informal settlements) of Maceió supported the *Vida Nova nas Grotas* programme for upgrading the settlements and inspired projects relating to youth, tourism, smart cities and violence prevention that have received national and international awards.

16. In the State of Rio de Janeiro, UN-Habitat and the Secretariat of Planning and Management produced a multi-volume disaster risk and vulnerability assessment of 30 municipalities. The assessment identified socioeconomic, environmental, infrastructure and governance vulnerabilities and guided state and municipal policies for disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation.

4. Climate resilience, South-South cooperation and national dialogues

17. In the State of Rio de Janeiro, the Resilient Environment project and the Inclusive and Sustainable Rio project, carried out in cooperation with the state government and other partners, including the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, Universidade Federal do Rio de Janeiro and Local Governments for Sustainability, are strengthening municipal and community capacity to prevent, prepare for and respond to climate and environmental risks. The projects will include training on climate risks for all 92 municipalities, a state-wide flood risk study and climate adaptation and resilience plans for 25 municipalities, and several project initiatives.

18. The *Simetria Urbana* South-South cooperation initiative, coordinated with the Brazilian Cooperation Agency, connects Brazil and Cabo Verde with regard to improved social housing and condominium management. Technical missions involved exchanges on *Minha Casa, Minha Vida* (My House, My Life) projects and on self-managed housing and technical assistance for social housing in São Paulo, and resulted in municipal housing plans and capacity-building in Cabo Verde. UN-Habitat also agreed with the São Paulo Council on Architecture and Urbanism and the Brazilian Cooperation Agency/Ministry of External Relations on a new project on building capacities and connections in technical assistance for social housing in the global South, with a focus on training professionals and municipalities in the implementation of technical assistance for social housing.

19. At the national level, the Brazil country programme has been active in multi-stakeholder dialogues, such as the sixth State Cities Conference of Rio de Janeiro, at which UN-Habitat highlighted linkages between housing, resilience and climate change, and the *Circuito Urbano*,¹ an initiative to raise awareness and foster debate on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda by promoting events to celebrate Urban October. Those platforms connect local debates to global agendas and reinforce the country's leadership in preparation for the discussions during the high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the midterm review of the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum. During the preparations for the thirtieth Conference of the Parties, the UN-Habitat office in Brazil embedded housing and sustainable urbanization topics into the agenda of the "One UN Brazil Pavilion", closely engaged Brazilian partners, secured strong participation by ministers and local leaders, and showcased its work in Brazil across relevant high-level events.

20. Together, these normative and operational activities show how integrated, data-driven and participatory approaches can address complex urban challenges while contributing to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 11 and related goals, and how experiences in Brazil increasingly contribute to the global knowledge and South-South cooperation portfolio of UN-Habitat. The activities position Brazil as a key partner in advancing inclusive, resilient and rights-based urban development.

C. Partnerships, collaborations and lessons learned

21. The effectiveness of the UN-Habitat country programme in Brazil is grounded in strong, diversified and long-term partnerships.

22. Brazil has been a valued partner in the work of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All. The UN-Habitat country office in Brazil has facilitated the country's participation, supported by national focal points and contributions, in expert group meetings, intersessional meetings and the second annual session of the Working Group, held in October 2025. Brazil shared its experiences with informal settlements, social housing and land tenure issues. The concept and operationalization of the social function of land and housing were key contributions from Brazil that were included in the recommendations validated at the second session of the Working Group.

23. At the federal level in Brazil, UN-Habitat works closely with key national institutions, including the Ministry of Cities, the Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs. It provides specialized technical assistance to national programmes by supporting policy formulation and aligns global commitments with national priorities. For example, UN-Habitat participated in the development of the Brazilian Charter for Smart Cities and follows the work of the National Council of Cities, within the Ministry of Cities, which is participating in the preparation of the national progress report on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda.

24. In addition, Brazil served as a member of the Steering Committee of the Local2030 coalition in 2024. Further, the Ministry of Cities joined the Partnership Platform on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, together with representatives from eight other countries. The Platform, jointly promoted by the Ministry of Environment and Energy Security of Italy and UN-Habitat, is embedded in the Local2030 coalition. It seeks to enhance the coherence, effectiveness and impact of sustainable development from the national to the local level by supporting countries in designing national Sustainable Development Goal localization frameworks that consist of a comprehensive architecture of policies, governance mechanisms, initiatives and financing tools for effective localization of the Goals.

¹ See <https://www.circuitourbano.org/>.

25. At the subnational level, partnerships with state and municipal governments are central to programme implementation. UN-Habitat provides technical assistance, participatory diagnostics and support for knowledge exchange that fosters horizontal learning and the dissemination of good practices across territories in the country. The State of Paraná hosts one of four Local2030 hubs that serve as incubators for locally driven solutions of global relevance. The Paraná hub supports all municipalities within the State of Paraná in localizing the Sustainable Development Goals and in reporting on the implementation of the Goals.
26. Strategic collaboration with national data and research institutions, such as the Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics, reinforces urban data ecosystems and evidence-based policymaking. In turn, that improves methodologies for measuring housing deficits, housing inadequacy and urban vulnerability, and strengthens the use of data in planning, monitoring and evaluation and in monitoring outreach regarding the New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goal 11 and the Goals in general.
27. At the community level, partnerships with civil society organizations, community-based groups and social movements help to ground interventions in local realities and rights-based approaches. Those partnerships strengthen participation and support community-led solutions, particularly in informal and underserved areas.
28. Partnerships with academic institutions and professional councils, including architecture and urban councils and technical assistance networks, are key for knowledge production, innovation and capacity-building. Such partners contribute to the development of methodologies and to training and practices that align with public interests in urban development, including technical assistance for social housing.
29. Key lessons learned from the Brazil country programme show that normative products such as guidelines, plans and methodologies translate into concrete transformations only when they are accompanied by continuous, on-the-ground technical assistance to the implementing institutions. Participatory, gender-responsive and rights-based approaches consistently produce more relevant, legitimate and sustainable urban and housing policies than technocratic, top-down designs. At the local level, simple but robust urban data systems and observatories are essential for guiding policies, monitoring impacts and adjusting programmes on the basis of evidence.

D. Conclusions

30. The experience of the UN-Habitat country programme in Brazil offers valuable lessons for global urban agendas by underscoring adequate housing as a key response to inequality and climate change, and by highlighting the importance of continued engagement in the country to scale successful approaches and guide urban policies globally.
31. The work of UN-Habitat in Brazil is a source of normative developments from the field that has inspired global normative developments, South-South and interregional cooperation, and exchanges with other Lusophone countries and with emerging economies. The work of UN-Habitat in Brazil also demonstrates that partnerships at various levels have been important for supporting progress in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in the country.

III. Updates on the Tunisia country programme

32. The second example of a country programme in the present report highlights the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat in Tunisia, a country experiencing rapid urbanization marked by a deteriorating natural environment and infrastructure, as well as a shortage of social housing.

A. Context and background of the country programme

33. As of 2024, Tunisia had a population of nearly 12 million, and the country has been experiencing a historic slowdown in population growth. At the same time, the country is urbanized, with approximately 72 per cent of the population living in urban areas. This rapid urbanization, fuelled by internal migration and urban sprawl, places increasing pressure on infrastructure, housing, basic services and the labour markets in cities, while exacerbating territorial inequalities between coastal and inland regions.
34. The UN-Habitat office in Tunisia was established as a project office in 2017 and became a country office in 2019.

35. In a context of persistent economic and institutional unpredictability, Tunisia faces complex migration dynamics, functioning simultaneously as a country of origin, transit and destination. Migrants and refugees, particularly from sub-Saharan Africa, are concentrated in major urban agglomerations, where they constitute a highly vulnerable population. The instability of the national context has limited their access to adequate housing, healthcare services, formal employment and social protection. Those vulnerabilities heighten the risks of social exclusion and urban tensions, and place local authorities and cities at the centre of responses to demographic, migration and social challenges.

B. Highlights of normative and operational activities in Tunisia

36. The Tunisia country programme leverages normative guidance to inform operational interventions implemented on the ground; in turn, lessons learned from those projects contribute to strengthening strategic frameworks, policy recommendations and tools both in the country and at the global level.

37. In the context of Tunisia, which is marked by a renewed centralization of governance and strong territorial dynamics, socio-environmental vulnerabilities and national and local governance challenges, sustainability, local ownership and the replicability of interventions are critical. To that end, Tunisia joined the Partnership Platform on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals. During the first phase of the collaboration, the Platform is contributing to the country's national development plan for the period 2026–2030. Together with the United Nations country team, the Platform is also supporting the 2026 voluntary national review and preparing voluntary local reviews in priority territories, as well as facilitating the identification of high-impact operational projects.

1. Enhanced urban and regional planning, implementation and monitoring

38. UN-Habitat has provided technical assistance for the development and updating of strategic urban planning tools, participatory territorial diagnostics and integrated urban project frameworks in several Tunisian cities, such as Beni Khalled, Sousse and Tunis, within the framework of the national urban policy adopted in 2022. In 2024, UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Equipment and Housing in conducting a study related to the update of the national housing strategy.

39. Based on the strong engagement of local stakeholders – including municipal authorities, civil society organizations, community actors and sectoral institutions – this assistance has fostered ownership of approaches and improved the quality of public sector decision-making. It has also strengthened local technical capacities and supported inclusive and resilient planning practices. UN-Habitat also actively contributed to the reform of the land use planning and urban development code through the facilitation of broad participation, technical discussions and policy dialogue.

40. Furthermore, under the inter-agency statistics group that is supporting the current United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework, UN-Habitat provided technical capacity to the National Institute of Statistics of Tunisia in order to strengthen evidence-based urban governance and social housing.

41. UN-Habitat contributed to strengthening evidence-based urban governance in Tunisia through its support for the national application of the degree of urbanization classification. Tunisia was highlighted in the 2026 edition of the Eurostat publication *Review and Implementation of the Degree of Urbanisation* for having used the degree of urbanization in disseminating the 2024 population and housing census results, demonstrating the country's commitment to internationally harmonized settlement classification. That recognition reflects ongoing national efforts to align statistical practices with global standards.

2. Strengthened urban environment and climate action

42. The interventions of UN-Habitat in Tunisia have contributed to strengthening environmental management and climate action in cities by integrating mitigation, adaptation and environmental protection dimensions into urban development processes. Those efforts have supported national and local partners in advancing sustainable and climate-sensitive approaches to urban planning, environmental health and governance and resilience-building.

43. In terms of operations, UN-Habitat has provided support for the implementation of the Tunisia State development agenda and the national urban policy, and enhanced the capacity of the Municipality of Tunis. This has included urban greening, gardening and rehabilitation, carried out in the development of inclusive and accessible public spaces for the most vulnerable populations. Those interventions have also emphasized climate-appropriate solutions, such as the use of low-water-

consumption plant species in the enhancement of urban biodiversity and resilience. Environmental considerations have been systematically integrated into planning processes, public space design and infrastructure assessments, thereby consolidating nature-based and climate-sensitive approaches. The initiatives have also contributed to improved waste management practices, to reduced environmental pollution and to measurable reductions in methane emissions. Collectively, those actions have strengthened urban environmental quality and positioned cities as key actors in the country's climate response.

44. Furthermore, the UN-Habitat office in Tunisia reached a milestone for climate resilience in the Kerkennah Archipelago by developing a multi-layered vulnerability assessment and the Kerkennah Urban Resilience Action Plan. The assessment integrated spatial, social, environmental and economic data, complemented by participatory engagement with local authorities, civil society organizations and communities. The resulting data supported the identification of key vulnerability hotspots, notably Kellabine, Attaya and Kraten, which are affected by sea-level rise, ecosystem degradation, fragile livelihoods and limited access to services.

45. Building on that evidence base, the Kerkennah Urban Resilience Action Plan provides a structured, participatory operational framework to reduce climate, urban and ecological vulnerabilities, to strengthen local institutional capacities and to protect biodiversity and traditional practices with a view to promoting inclusive local development. Anchored in a shared vision of a resilient archipelago characterized by solidarity, the plan proposes objectives and priority actions for nature-based solutions, ecosystem restoration, resource conservation, climate-sensitive urban planning and sustainable livelihoods. Aligned with national strategies and multilateral agreements, the multi-layered vulnerability assessment and the Action Plan support the mobilization of climate finance and the advancement of equitable and climate-resilient development plans for the Archipelago.

46. UN-Habitat supported Tunisia's transition towards a greener and more inclusive urban economy by promoting circular economy approaches and waste-to-energy solutions. A key milestone was the establishment of a pioneering biomethane and biogas unit that converts household waste into renewable energy, generating the equivalent annual electricity consumption of around 500 households and feeding it directly into the national grid. The initiative also contributed to a major policy breakthrough: in August 2025, the Government adopted an official purchase tariff for biogas-generated electricity (307 Tunisian millimes/kilowatt-hour), providing long-term regulatory clarity and enabling the scaling up of similar projects. Today, the installation serves as a national point of reference for public institutions, researchers and private sector partners, reinforcing innovation and shared prosperity within the country's urban sustainability agenda.

3. Effective urban crisis prevention and response

47. In 2025, Tunisia managed a record number of migrants, with more than 10,000 people returned to their countries of origin through voluntary programmes, a 28 per cent increase from 2024. Tunisian authorities focused on reducing transit through the country, which resulted in a large number of voluntary returns in 2025.

48. As for normative activities, UN-Habitat, in partnership with the Government and the Ministry of Equipment and Housing, supported a reform of the land use planning and urban development code to be enshrined in law. The code has been the main legal source governing land use planning and urban development in Tunisia since 1994.

49. In terms of operations, UN-Habitat has reinforced the resilience of the most vulnerable communities living in the most precarious unplanned neighbourhoods through project partnerships with local governments, including with regard to reducing spatial inequalities and improving living conditions in vulnerable urban and peri-urban areas through community-based interventions. Under the Karamti project, funded by Monaco, UN-Habitat has supported upgrading processes for inclusive public spaces, grounded in detailed, site-specific assessments that combined technical analysis with community consultations.

50. Between 2021 and 2025, UN-Habitat conducted assessments that informed designs prepared by architects and landscape experts in order to ensure that proposed interventions responded to local needs, social dynamics and environmental constraints. The assessments also promoted active community participation, especially by women and children, and accounted for the fact that co-design and co-ownership are essential to sustainable outcomes, even though such approaches require longer implementation timelines.

C. Partnerships, collaborations and lessons learned

51. The work of UN-Habitat in Tunisia is founded on partnerships and on close operational relationships with stakeholders.

1. Collaborations and partnerships

52. The UN-Habitat country office in Tunisia strengthened its strategic partnerships by signing several memorandums of understanding with civil society organizations, academic institutions, financial actors and research partners. Those partnerships reinforce a multi-stakeholder approach to the support provided by UN-Habitat for inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development.

53. The country office also signed a memorandum of understanding with Lams, an association working for the rights of persons with hearing and visual impairments, to advance universal urban accessibility and the autonomy, safety and dignity of persons with disabilities. The partnership supports capacity-building, awareness-raising, the sharing of good practices and the implementation of projects that promote inclusive public spaces, in line with Sustainable Development Goal 11.

54. Regarding partnerships with academic institutions, the country office signed a memorandum of understanding with the Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis to promote inclusive and sustainable campuses. The collaboration is aimed at improving accessibility and mobility and establishing food gardens to foster inclusive ecological transitions that encourage student engagement in civic, cultural and environmental initiatives.

55. With regard to climate resilience, the UN-Habitat country office in Tunisia formalized a partnership with the Bank of Tunisia and Emirates and the Tunisian Federation for the Environment and Development for the creation and supervision of climate resilience and sustainable development clubs in primary schools in the Kerkennah Archipelago.

56. Furthermore, the country office signed a memorandum of understanding with the Research Institute for Sustainable Development that established a framework for cooperation in research, innovation, training and applied action relating to sustainable cities. The partnership supports core normative work, including co-designed urban solutions, policy advocacy and applied research on heritage, urban resilience and climate change adaptation in Tunisia.

57. Since its participation in the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016, Tunisia has been implementing the New Urban Agenda with support from the League of Arab States. Key work includes the national urban policy, which aligned the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030 with the New Urban Agenda, guides regional urban growth dynamics and supports the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 11 at the local, regional and national levels. The Government of Tunisia, through the Local2030 coalition and its Partnership Platform on Localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, supports municipalities in aligning their localization efforts to ensure coherent, efficient and impactful implementation of the Goals based on collaboration among local governments, with civil society and with business partners at the local, regional and national levels.

58. At the global level, in the framework of the implementation of UN-Habitat Assembly resolution 2/7, Tunisia has engaged in the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All, including by participating in the second annual session, held in October 2025.

2. Lessons learned and replicability

59. The collaboration between UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs of Tunisia underscores the relevance of ongoing normative and operational support activities. The experience of Tunisia offers lessons that can strengthen the normative work of UN-Habitat globally and inform its future operations, including through:

(a) *Technical expertise combined with local participation.* Initiatives such as the upgrading processes for inclusive public spaces (Karamti project) and participatory urban diagnostics under the national urban policy demonstrate that effective normative frameworks must be developed in a participatory manner in order to ensure local ownership and adaptation to city-specific challenges;

(b) *A programmatic, not a project-based, approach.* The development of integrated planning tools, such as the updated national housing strategy and multilevel urban assessments, shows that strategic territorial approaches are essential to achieving sustainable, large-scale impacts;

(c) *Partnerships across governance, development cooperation and research.*

Collaboration with local authorities, ministries, civil society organizations and local communities, as well as with academic and research institutions, has confirmed that sustainable urban solutions require the integration of expertise from the academic sphere into technical assistance and governance in order to inform evidence-based decision-making, increase the quality of urban planning, support social inclusion and enhance resilience. In that way, operational interventions are grounded in a research-action approach and continuous learning;

(d) *Normative tools in scaling up efforts.*

Methodologies such as participatory urban diagnostics, nature-based solutions and climate-sensitive planning provide replicable approaches that can be adapted to other cities in Tunisia and similar contexts.

D. Conclusions

60. The UN-Habitat country programme in Tunisia is a strong example of how normative and operational activities are linked to achieve impact in a middle-income context. Grounded in policy frameworks, community-level projects and broad partnerships, the work of UN-Habitat is contributing to sustainable urban development in the country. It demonstrates that pilot projects, normative tools and lessons learned from field-level interventions provide replicable models that can guide future operational activities in other urban contexts and will contribute to shaping the global strategy of UN-Habitat.

IV. Update on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

A. Progress in normative support

61. UN-Habitat continues to support the humanitarian reset, which is being led by the Under-Secretary-General for Humanitarian Affairs and Emergency Relief Coordinator. A dedicated Urban Crisis Response and Humanitarian Affairs Section has been created under the Regional Programmes Division and is recalibrating its added value to the humanitarian system, including with regard to the use of the settlements-based approach and rapid urban profiling to support area-based coordination. UN-Habitat is also supporting the new global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster.

62. At the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review, held in Geneva in December 2025, UN-Habitat, together with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, the World Bank and the Government of Ethiopia, presented the results of the “Deep dive into sustainable human settlements in fragility, conflict and violence contexts” workshop, held in Nairobi in November 2025. The workshop again confirmed the broadening movement of Governments committed to a human settlements approach in order to drive more sustainable responses to refugee situations.

63. UN-Habitat also launched a comparative review and analysis of housing, settlements policies and programming in national strategies to address situations of internal displacement. Housing is a critical component of sustainable solutions, but its treatment within national strategies varies in scope, comprehensiveness and feasibility. The review includes five countries: Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Somalia. The preliminary results indicate that housing for internally displaced persons remains inconsistently addressed in displacement-affected countries and is often overshadowed by short-term humanitarian responses that focus on emergency shelter rather than long-term housing solutions. The review will provide principles that can inform actions and future programming, with an emphasis on the need for context-specific, market-based, government-led approaches, and that are embedded in broader sustainable and affordable housing systems.

B. Progress in the provision of support to countries experiencing crisis

64. From July to December 2025, UN-Habitat continued to support human settlements affected by conflict and disaster in multiple countries, as is shown in the table on pages 10–12. Conditions in the Gaza Strip still do not allow a comprehensive report on the status of the development of efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in that area.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New activities (July–December 2025)</i>
Afghanistan	ROAP	X	X	X	X	Community-driven projects relating to shelter, HLP, basic services and climate-resilient infrastructure in informal settlements are continuing with displaced people in earthquake-affected and/or high-return areas, supported by the Japan International Cooperation Agency, the Afghanistan Humanitarian Fund and the Special Trust Fund for Afghanistan.
Burkina Faso	ROAF	n/a	X	n/a	X	Work is continuing on sustainable solutions for IDPs and host communities and on reinforcing local capacities to respond to displacement crises. Cross-border territorial investment planning for crisis prevention and response is continuing, with a focus on Mali and the Niger.
Chad	ROAF	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	In eastern Chad, UN-Habitat continues to pilot an integrated urban planning initiative to improve land use management, basic services, land governance and social cohesion amid the large-scale influx of refugees from the Sudan, with the aim of scaling up the approach to other towns in eastern Chad.
Colombia	ROLAC	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	UN-Habitat supported the inclusion of a strong housing component using an area-based approach in the national strategy for sustainable solutions, which was approved in several cities in December 2025. Solutions are being co-created with communities and local governments. Demonstration projects in public spaces are being implemented in Florencia, Tumaco, Quibdó and Buenaventura. The focus of support is now on national strategies: housing programmes for displaced persons, informal settlement mapping and habitat management plans. The area-based methodology is being digitalized for replication in other cities.
Ethiopia	ROAF	X	n/a	n/a	X	In the Qoloji IDP camp, UN-Habitat supports mapping, decongestion and an action plan for the local integration of IDPs with a view to transforming the camp into a permanent settlement, organized in collaboration with the Office of the President of the Somali Regional State and the Ethiopian Disaster Risk Management Commission. Capacity-building training sessions were provided for technical staff from regional government bureaux and tailored to address identified skills gaps. UN-Habitat also supported sustainable solutions in the Oromia and Somali Regional States during the preparation of settlement plans; the delivery of training sessions on geographic information systems and remote sensing, settlement planning and HLP issues; the implementation of a housing upgrade initiative; the distribution of housing repair kits; the construction of mud block production sheds; and the formalization of solid waste collection.
Guinea-Bissau	ROAF	n/a	X	n/a	n/a	Two Peacebuilding Fund projects (Prevention of Natural Resources Conflicts related to Pastoralism and Transhumance in the Bafata and Gabu Regions, and Peaceful Natural Resources Management in the Koliba-Corubal Basin, in the Gabu and Tombali regions) are focused on community-level conflict and crisis prevention.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New activities (July–December 2025)</i>
Iraq	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Work on land legislative reform and the development of an e-cadastre and a land e-registry are ongoing, to support secure tenure for IDPs and returnees. Legal assistance is provided to IDPs and returnees regarding their compensation claims for damaged or destroyed property and in obtaining title deeds. Social housing projects for IDPs and returnees continue.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	ROAP	X	n/a	X	n/a	UN-Habitat supported a national urban forum on urban crisis response. As the representative of the Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster in the inter-agency contingency plan, UN-Habitat participated in the joint rapid assessment mission with the Government following Tropical Storm Wipha. The target cities of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) Sustainable Urbanization Strategy developed technical proposals for urban resilience.
Lebanon	ROAS	X	X	X	X	UN-Habitat continues to support assessments and recovery activities.
Mali	ROAF	n/a	X	n/a	X	Continued cross-border territorial investment planning for crisis prevention and response (in cooperation with Burkina Faso and the Niger)
Mauritania	ROAF	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	Resource mobilization for a joint proposal on a regional spatial plan for the Hodh ech Chargui Region to foster self-reliance and integration of refugees and host communities
Mozambique	ROAF	X	X	X	X	Assessments were carried out in Nampula Province to strengthen evidence-based, inclusive and climate-resilient urban planning in municipalities and neighbourhoods. Neighbourhood-level assessments using the CityRAP tool were carried out in consultation with local residents in Maúa, Marrupa, Metarica, Nipepe and Nampula to identify local risks, capacities and priority actions. In the District of Pemba, using the Her City methodology, the implementation of priority actions progressed with regard to accessibility, the use of public space, water and sanitation access, safety and environmental conditions. The establishment of a solutions-focused working group on mainstreaming displacement and urbanization strengthened national and local coordination capacities. The application of data-driven planning tools that enable rapid analysis and reduce the time and costs of urban design processes further reinforced local capacities.
Myanmar	ROAP	X	X	X	X	In response to the earthquake in Myanmar in March 2025, UN-Habitat is constructing a school as a refuge from natural disasters.
Nepal	ROAP	X	n/a	X	n/a	In cooperation with the United Nations Development Programme, UN-Habitat is supporting early recovery in five remote municipalities affected by the 2023 earthquake, through community infrastructure, transitional public buildings and livelihood recovery for the affected population.
Niger	ROAF	n/a	X	n/a	X	Cross-border territorial investment planning for crisis prevention and response (in cooperation with Mali and Burkina Faso).
Pakistan	ROAP	X	n/a	X	n/a	Continued implementation of inclusive and sustainable urban development and social cohesion projects between Afghan refugees and host communities in five cities in the Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Balochistan and Sindh Provinces

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New activities (July–December 2025)</i>
Philippines	ROAP	X	X	X	n/a	UN-Habitat strengthened disaster prevention institutions and provided technical assistance for a 26-year spatial development plan for the Bangsamoro Autonomous Region in Muslim Mindanao that included peace and security risks. UN-Habitat also supported the Government in providing resilient, culturally appropriate housing and sustainable livelihoods for sea-based Sama-Bajau Indigenous families displaced by Typhoon Rai in the city of Surigao.
Somalia	ROAF	n/a	X	X	X	UN-Habitat continues its work on pro-poor housing policy, relocation and joint sustainable solutions that integrate settlement planning, tenure security and livelihoods.
South Sudan	ROAF	n/a	n/a	n/a	X	UN-Habitat and UNHCR continue their partnership on integrated settlement planning.
State of Palestine	ROAS	n/a	X	n/a	X	UN-Habitat is finalizing an urban profile for the Gaza Strip ^a and two neighbourhoods. UN-Habitat has developed a framework for HLP across the humanitarian and development nexus and continues to support community-led self-help repairs of housing and the rehabilitation of water wells.
Sudan	ROAS	X	X	n/a	X	UN-Habitat launched a new project to increase access to drinking water for vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host communities in Gezira State, funded by the King Salman Humanitarian Aid and Relief Centre.
Syrian Arab Republic	ROAS	X	X	X	X	UN-Habitat supported the transitional authority in urban recovery through damage assessments, city profiling, recovery planning, a national housing strategy, housing, rehabilitation, municipal service restoration, HLP rights and informal settlement upgrading.
Ukraine	n/a	n/a	X	n/a	X	UN-Habitat continues to support the recovery of Ukraine ^b at the policy and local levels, including through a national housing strategy and an urban development code, and by partnering with eight municipalities on urban planning and digital tools.
Yemen	ROAS	X	X	n/a	X	UN-Habitat established an HLP support network for women. A legal alliance with the Ministry of Justice was established to identify HLP laws requiring reform in order to support peacebuilding and work on the root causes of conflict, while providing HLP awareness and legal advisory services. To strengthen government systems, UN-Habitat collected information from 2,000 households using the Social Tenure Domain Model. A project focused on nationally determined contributions and climate mitigation projects are under way.

Abbreviations: HLP – housing, land and property; IDPs – internally displaced persons; OCHA – Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs; ROAF – Regional Office for Africa; ROAP – Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific; ROAS – Regional Office for Arab States; ROLAC – Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean; Sida – Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency; UNDP – United Nations Development Programme; UNEP – United Nations Environment Programme; UNHCR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; UNOSAT – United Nations Satellite Centre; WASH – water, sanitation and hygiene.

^a See document HSP/EB.2026/INF/5 for full details.

^b See document HSP/EB.2025/INF/17/Rev.1 for full details.