UN-HABITAT

Report of the Executive Director on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat

Ad hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budget and Administrative matters

11 March 2026

In support of Executive Board Agenda item 7, HSP/EB.2026/8

I. Introduction
II. Update on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives
III. Updates on the Tunisia Country Programme
IV. Updates on the Brazil Country Programme
V. Update on the work of UNITAC

ANNEXES

- **HSP/EB.2025/INF/5** – Report of the Executive Director on activities of UN-Habitat for the period July - December 2025
- **HSP/EB.2026/INF/6** – Report of the Executive Director on the status of the development of the efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip
- **HSP/EB.2025/INF.17/REV.1** – Report of the Executive Director on the efforts to reconstruct human settlements affected by conflict in Ukraine

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Updates on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

AdHoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative Matters
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UN-Habitat: efforts of UN-Habitat to assist in the reconstruction of human settlements affected by conflict and disaster

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A. Progress in normative support

- Creation of the Urban Crisis Response and Humanitarian Affairs Section recalibrating added value to the humanitarian system, including support to the new global Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster.
- Continued contribution to the humanitarian reset.
- Presentation of outcomes of technical Deep Dive on Sustainable Human Settlements in Fragility, Conflict and Violence Contexts at the Global Refugee Forum Progress Review (with UNHCR, the World Bank and Ethiopia)
- Launch of comparative review of housing in national internal displacement strategies, including Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Mozambique, Nigeria and Somalia

B. Progress in the provision of support to countries settlements affected by conflict and disaster

- 24 countries
- Over 70% affected by forced displacement
- More than half affected by both conflict and natural disasters

UN-Habitat Ukraine

Continued support for the recovery of Ukraine 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 (See HSP/EB.2025/INF/17/Rev.1)

Main report update - Report revised to reflect agreed UN-Habitat terminology ("*Ukraine affected by the conflict*").

Urban development reform advancing - Draft Urban Development Code positively received by Parliament, paving the way for comprehensive post-war regulatory reform aligned with EU standards.

From planning to implementation - Ukraine Urban Lab supporting municipalities in operationalizing statutory recovery plans through roadmaps, neighborhood designs and blue-green strategies.

Capacity development strengthened - 80 additional local officials completed certified housing and urban recovery training.

Strategic spatial framework proposed - Proposal advancing for a national Spatial Development Framework to guide recovery and align investments.

Funding outlook - Project completion in April 2026 risks curtailing operational presence without additional resources.

UN-Habitat Gaza

Updates from the Report of the ED on the status of the development of efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip (HSP/EB.2026/INF/6)

Spatial distribution and displacement patterns:
1.4 million people (about 2/3 of population) across 1,000 displacement sites, mostly makeshift tents

Lack of adequate shelter **amplifies risk** of exposure to the extreme winter conditions

833,000 people moved again since Oct 2025, most south to north, highlighting a continuing cycle of return and re-displacement

Extend of housing damage:
Around **81%** of all structures in the Gaza Strip are damaged; **~50% of all structures are destroyed**.

Compared to 2014, **increase by nearly 1,080%.**

Damage Level	Building %	Villa/House %	Caravan/Tent %
Completely Destroyed	58.6%	41.2%	0.2%
Severely Damaged	74.6%	25.3%	0.1%
Moderately Damaged	74.8%	25.2%	0.1%

UN-Habitat Gaza

Loss of neighborhood functionality: urban profile almost final

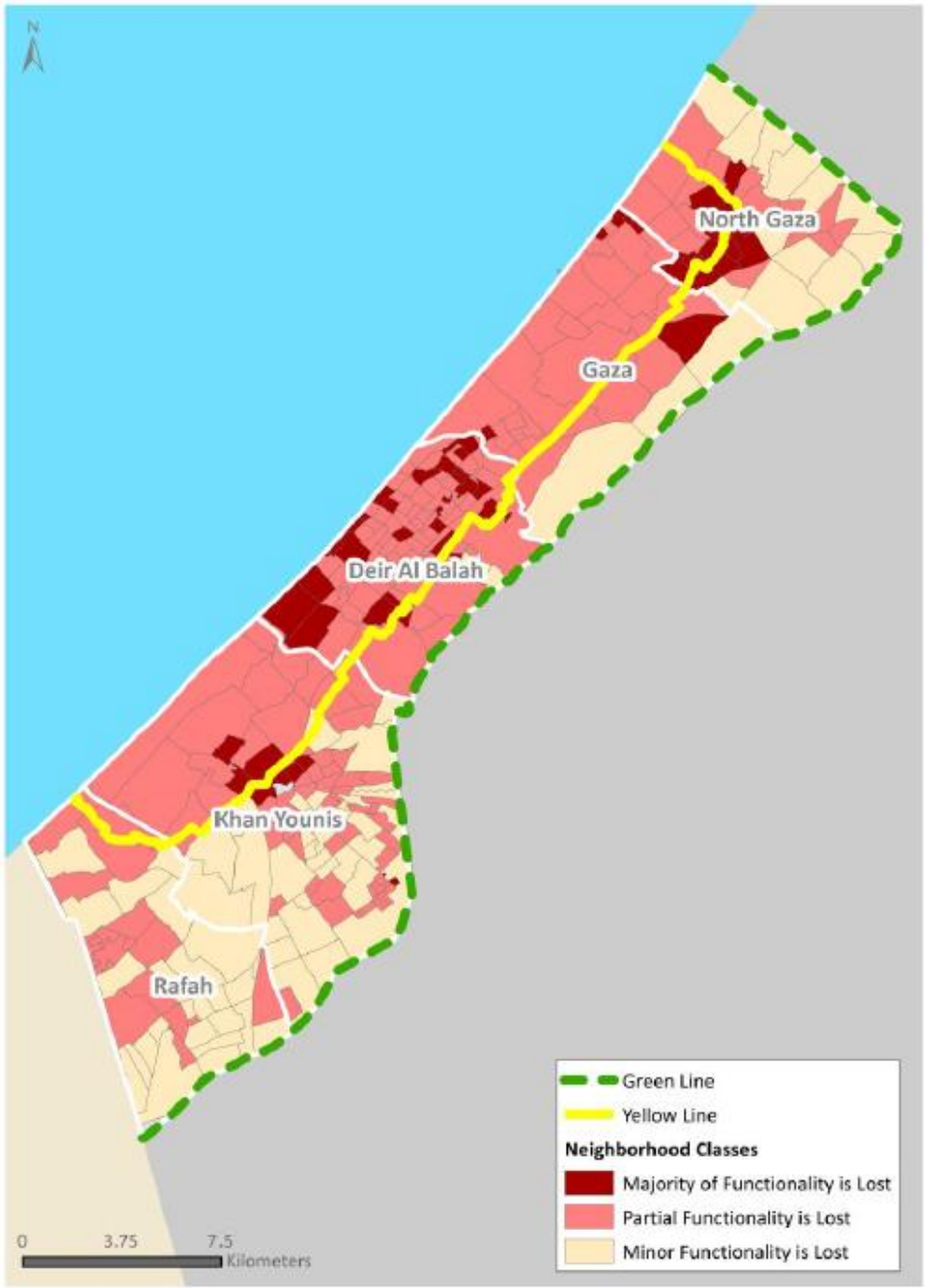
Ongoing:

- The **neighborhood approach** advocated by UN-Habitat has widely been adapted.
- UNDP active in 10 neighborhoods. UN-Habitat to expand its neigborhood profiling and planning support here.
- Retrofitting of 70 partially damaged housing units through self-help; already **3 water wells** now support **275,000 people** creating an additional **2x hosting capacity**.
- **Strategic HLP Framework**

Way forward

The new data allows recovery and reconstruction strategies to be more targeted, including

- Differentiating responses by housing damage and functionality
- Introducing special planning tools for destroyed neighborhoods
- protecting diverse housing, land and property rights across Gaza.



Thank you!

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