



UN-HABITAT

Agenda item 7: Implementation of the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat, including reporting on the programmatic activities of UN-Habitat in 2025 and the implementation of its subprogrammes, flagship programmes and technical cooperation activities



Executive Board of UN-Habitat: First session for the year 2026
21-22 April 2026



UN-HABITAT

Report of the Executive Director on normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat Executive Board 21 April 2026

Agenda item 7 Ref: HSP/EB.2026/8

- I. Introduction
- II. Updates on the Brazil Country Programme
- III. Updates on the Tunisia Country Programme
- IV. Updates on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives
- V. Updates on UNITAC-Hamburg: People-centred digital innovation for sustainable urbanization

ANNEXES:

- I. HSP/EB.2025/INF/5 – Report of the Executive Director on activities of UN-Habitat for the period July - December 2025
- II. HSP/EB.2025/INF.17/REV.1 – Report of the Executive Director on the efforts to reconstruct human settlements affected by conflict in Ukraine
- III. 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



UN-HABITAT

Brazil Country Programme – Key Country Highlights 2026



Context and background of the Country programme



- **87% of the population** lives in urban areas
- Persistent **housing deficit** and widespread **informality**
- Deep socio-spatial and racial **inequalities**
- Increasing **climate-related risks** affecting vulnerable communities
- Strong **legal and institutional framework** (City Statute, national housing and urban policies)
- Alignment with the **2030 Agenda** and the **New Urban Agenda**
- Strategic country for demonstrating **integration** of normative and operational work



Presence in Brazil



VISÃO
ALAGOAS
2030

VISÃO ALAGOAS 2030
ESTADO DE ALAGOAS

BRASIL:

- CIRCUITO URBANO
- SIMETRIA URBANA



ATHIS EM REDE
SÃO PAULO – SP



Periferia Viva

PERIFERIA VIVA
MAUÁ, SANTO ANDRÉ
E FRANCO DA ROCHA - SP



VIVA O VERDE SP
SÃO PAULO – SP



PLANOS MUNICIPAIS DE SANEAMENTO
E GESTÃO DE RESÍDUOS SÓLIDOS - SP
SÃO PAULO – SP

PARANÁ RESILIENTE
ESTADO DO PARANÁ
- PR



AMBIENTE RESILIENTE
ESTADO DO RIO DE JANEIRO



TERRITÓRIOS SOCIAIS
RIO DE JANEIRO – RJ



FORTALECE SÃO GONÇALO
SÃO GONÇALO – RJ



RJ RESILIENTE
ESTADO DO RIO DE JANEIRO



TECENDO A CIDADE
JUIZ DE FORA - MG

HORIZONTES CONGONHAS
CONGONHAS - MG



PRO-IZIDORA
BELO-HORIZONTE – MG



PERIFERIA VIVA
CONTAGEM - MG



PERIFERIA VIVA
MARÉ - RJ

CEDAE
RIO DE JANEIRO - RJ



Inspiring Examples of Achievements



Integrated housing and upgrading of informal settlements: Izidora and Periferia Viva

Developed comprehensive **urbanization plans** serving as national reference for rights-based upgrading (Izidora work officially cited by Ministry of Cities)

Helped secure major federal investments: 250M BRL (Izidora Plan) and 152,9M BRL (São Gonçalo), that will **benefit +9,000 families** with improvements across sanitation, paving, public lighting, public spaces, land regularization and housing

These plans will guide urbanization and **access to adequate housing and basic services for over 100,000 vulnerable families** in Brazilian favelas

Partnered with the federal government to deliver on-the-ground technical support and community urbanization plans for 7+ cities



Integrated housing and upgrading of informal settlements: Izidora and Periferia Viva

Current



Planned



Integrated housing and upgrading of informal settlements: Territórios Sociais

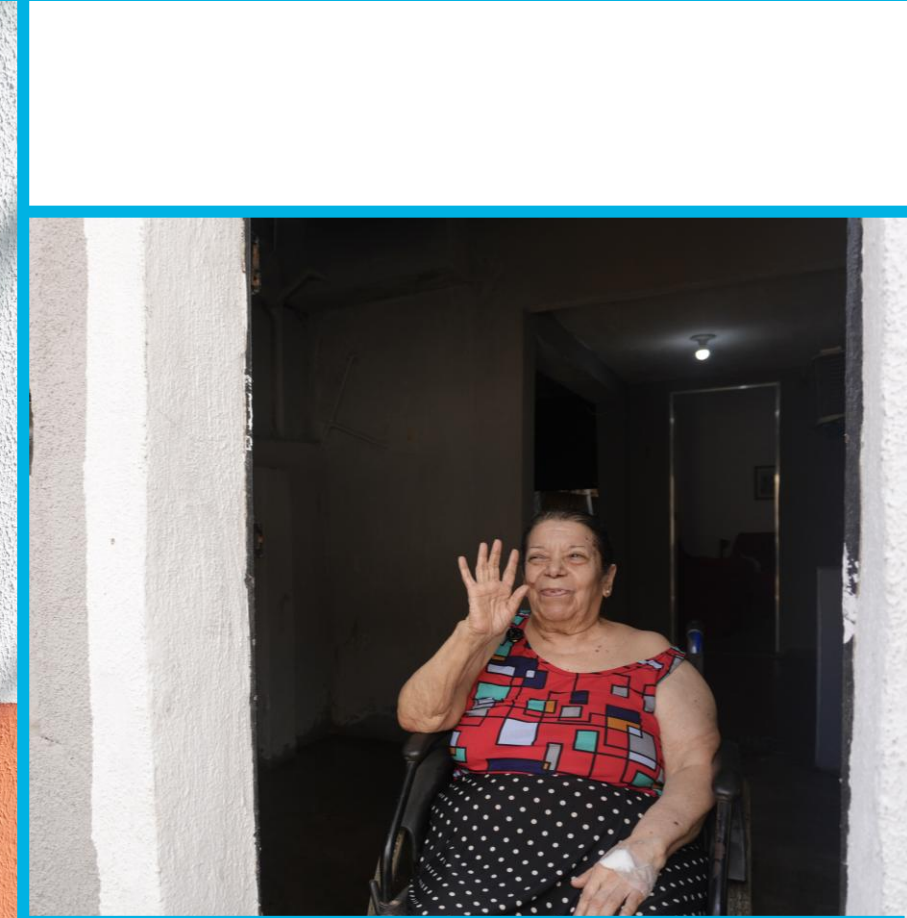
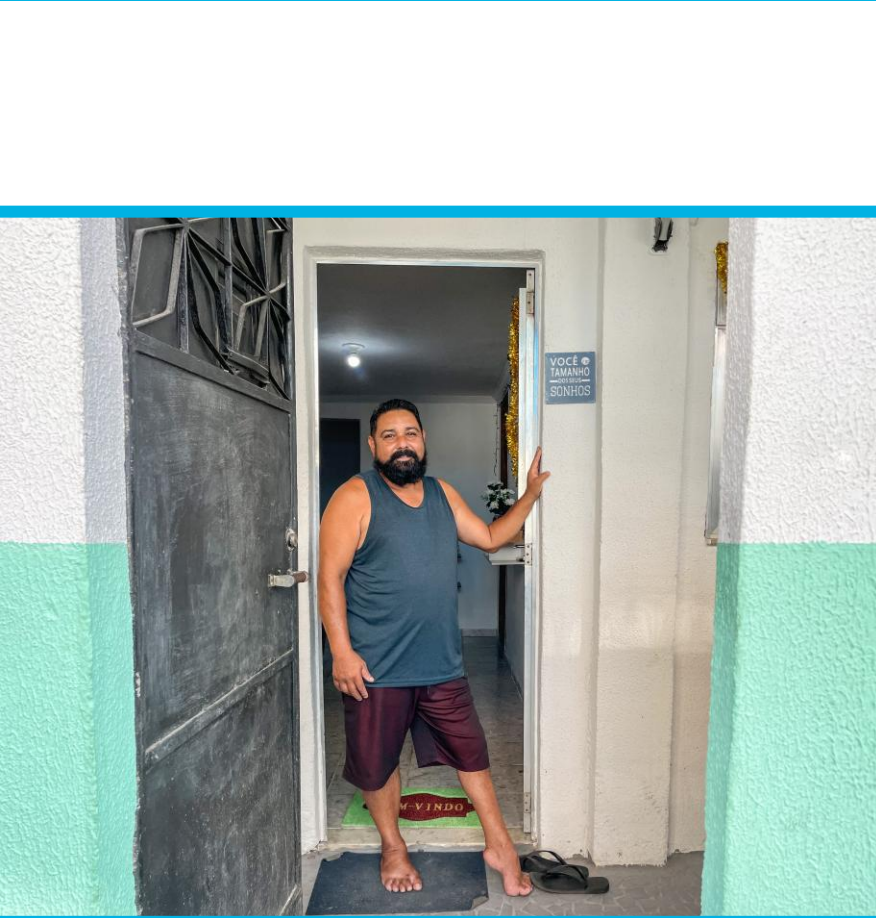
Supported Rio de Janeiro in implementing a **municipal programme integrating vulnerable families into the social protection system**, linking housing with basic services, education, and income-generation

Applied Multidimensional Poverty Index (MPI) across all favelas helping the municipality reach, in 2025, **7,506 families through health services and 6,503 through social assistance** (total 15,896 women and 13,908 men)

Supported municipal actions to deliver **634 homes** with structural improvements and **240 new housing units**, plus **480 clay water filters** for families in resettlement and vulnerability contexts



Integrated housing and upgrading of informal settlements: Territórios Sociais



Urban Data, Observatories and evidence-based Governance: São Gonçalo

Developed **Fortalece São Gonçalo Observatory**, a digital platform with 130 cross-sectoral indicators that was formally **institutionalized by municipal law** following its launch, guaranteeing long-term sustainability of evidence-based management and public transparency

Trained and certified 40+ municipal civil servants in data-driven public management, building internal institutional capacity for monitoring and evaluation

Enabled the official territorial demarcation for all 208 Family Health teams. This was achieved by supporting the Municipal Health Secretariat to **overcome data limitations through the data-driven workshops** and the new observatory



Global Engagement and South-South Cooperation

- Translated Brazilian experiences in informal settlement upgrading into UN-Habitat global normative frameworks, integrating the "**social function of land and housing**" into international recommendations
- Coordinated **South-South cooperation to address Cabo Verde's housing deficit through technical exchanges on Brazil's ATHis** (Technical Assistance for Social Housing) models and support for municipal housing plans.
- Secured a **new project with the São Paulo Council of Architecture and Urbanism** to expand this work across the Global South, creating a structured platform and forum for joint training and collaborative housing interventions





Federal level (5)

- Ministry of Cities
- Ministry of Environment and Climate Change
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs

State and municipal governments (7)

- State Government of Rio de Janeiro
- State Government of Alagoas
- Municipality of São Paulo

Research and data institutions (4)

- Brazilian Institute of Geography and Statistics
- Academic and professional councils

Community-level partnerships (9)

- Civil society organizations
- Community-based groups
- Social movements

Driving Systemic Changes



- Advanced urban legal frameworks, but persistent local inequality → need for continuous **policy reform** and **technical support**
- UN-Habitat turns **commitments** into **implemented policies** across all government levels
- Field-tested tools and methodologies enter government policies. From community-co-designed instruments to participatory diagnostics shaping investment decisions, **closing the gap between policy and practice**
- Data and urban observatories enable **evidence-based, rights-informed** decisions
- **Climate risk and adaptation** integrated into urban agendas
- Brazil informs global frameworks and **South-South cooperation** on inclusive, resilient cities





UN-HABITAT

Tunisia Country Programme – Key Country Highlights 2026



1

Tunisia is one of the most urbanized countries in North Africa, with **71%** of its population living in urban areas, and **urbanization growing** at around **1.5%** annually.

2

Since 2011, Tunisia has experienced an **accelerated expansion of informal settlements**, driven by socio-economic pressures and limited access to affordable housing.

3

The country faces significant **climate vulnerabilities**, including rising temperatures, water scarcity, coastal and urban flooding, and more frequent heatwaves making cities being the most exposed.





UN-HABITAT

Inspiring Examples of Achievements



Kerkennah Climate Resilience Initiative: Soumoud Project

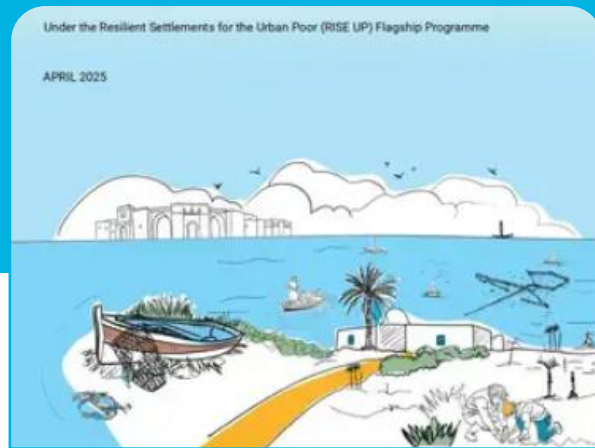


Donor



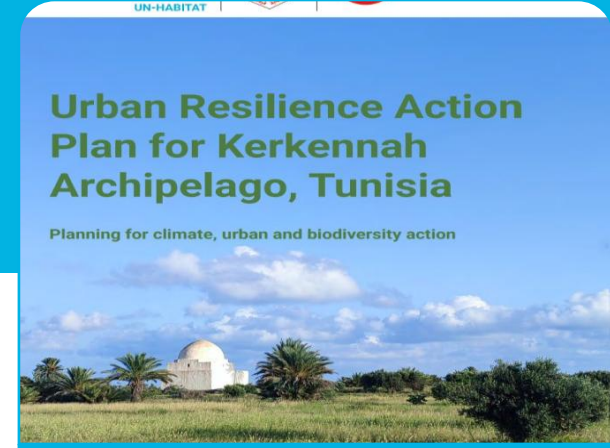
Duration

2024- 2027



A **Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment (MVA)** identified climate, environmental and socio-economic risks.

1



The **Urban Resilience Action Plan** was developed through extensive local engagement, defining priority resilience actions.

2



An ICLEI-supported feasibility study for an **integrated eco-tourism and wetland restoration project** was launched and identified as a Urban Resilience Action Plan priority.

3



A tripartite MoU (UN-Habitat, Bank of Tunisia & Emirates, The Environmental & Development Federation) was signed to implement the Urban Resilience Action Plan projects.

4

Karamti (My dignity)



Public spaces in a vulnerable neighbourhood in Tunis were upgraded through community-driven approach.

1



Residents, youth and local authorities were engaged through co-design process to identify priorities and solutions.

2



Multifunctional public spaces integrating safety, accessibility and climate-sensitive design were delivered.

3

Donor



Duration

2023- 2026



Social cohesion were strengthened and local ownership of public space was increased.

4



Municipal capacities in waste collection methods and small-scale urban interventions was strengthened.

5



The project model was replicated as a best practice for inclusive urban upgrading in similar contexts.

6

Renewable Energy from Biomethane: Oued Laya Pilot Unit

Donor



من الشعب الياباني
From the People of Japan

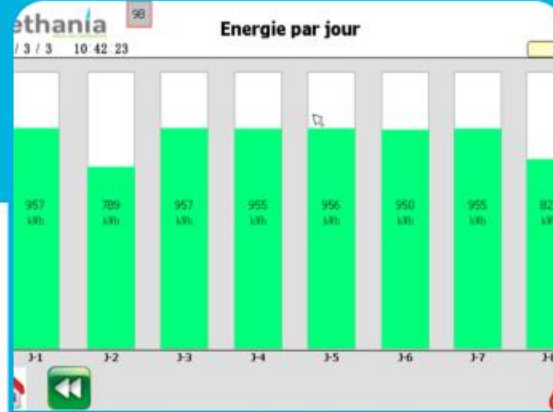
Duration

2024- 2025



A pioneering **biomethane energy unit** converting household waste into renewable energy was launched and made operational.

1



Tunisia's shift toward a greener and more inclusive urban economy was supported.

2



Electricity equivalent to the annual consumption of **around 500 households** is generated, fully injected into the national Electricity & Gas Company grid for the first time in Tunisia.

3



A systemic policy change happened: the government adopted an **official biogas electricity purchase tariff (307 millimes/kWh)** in August 2025, enabling long-term financial viability for future biogas investments.

4



Provided a **national reference unit** for researchers, public institutions and private-sector actors exploring renewable energy and circular-economy models.

5



UN-Habitat's effective technical assistance and advocacy in unlocking regulatory reforms was demonstrated.

6

1

Government and public institutions

- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Equipment and Housing
- Ministry of Interior
- Ministry of Environment
- Municipality of Tunis
- SNIT: National Real Estate Company

2

Academic institutions in Tunisia

- University of Manouba
- Faculty of Legal, Political and Social Sciences of Tunis
- Institute of Urban Planning
- School of Architecture

3

Civil society

- Environmental and Development Federation (FTED)
- LAMS association: Supporting people with visual and hearing impairments

4

International partners

- University of Gustave Eiffel
- Bank of Tunisia and Emirates
- WWF north Africa
- Arab Institute for Human Rights
- French National Research Institute for Sustainable Development (IRD)
- Association of Volunteers in International Service (AVSI)

Driving Systemic Changes



- **National Housing Strategy and Planning Law** was reformulated to align with the National Urban Policy.
- **Land Development Code** was reformed, enabling Ministry of Equipment & Housing to address land planning; enhanced coordination for evidence-based urban governance.
- **Environment & Climate Action**
 - Expanded urban greening & inclusive public spaces nationwide with UN agencies/CSOs.
 - Developed climate-sensitive vulnerability tools; Kerkennah Sensitive Area Master Plan.
 - Launched first biomethane/biogas unit from household waste –powers 500 households, feeds national grid.
 - Adopted first biogas electricity tariff for scalable waste-to-energy projects.
- **Urban Crisis Response**
 - Enhanced public spaces in Tunis vulnerable neighborhoods.
 - Ennour city (Kasserine) first Voluntary Local Review – identified 44 projects for national scale-up.
 - Karamti project showcased community-led public space improvements.



UN-HABITAT

Updates on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

UN-Habitat efforts to assist in the reconstruction of human settlements affected by conflict and disaster



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)
- 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

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

Urban development reform advancing - Draft Urban Development Code positively received by Parliament, paving the way for comprehensive post-war regulatory reform aligned with national priorities and regional good practices

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 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 – Main project completion (April 2026) puts operational presence at risk without additional resources.

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

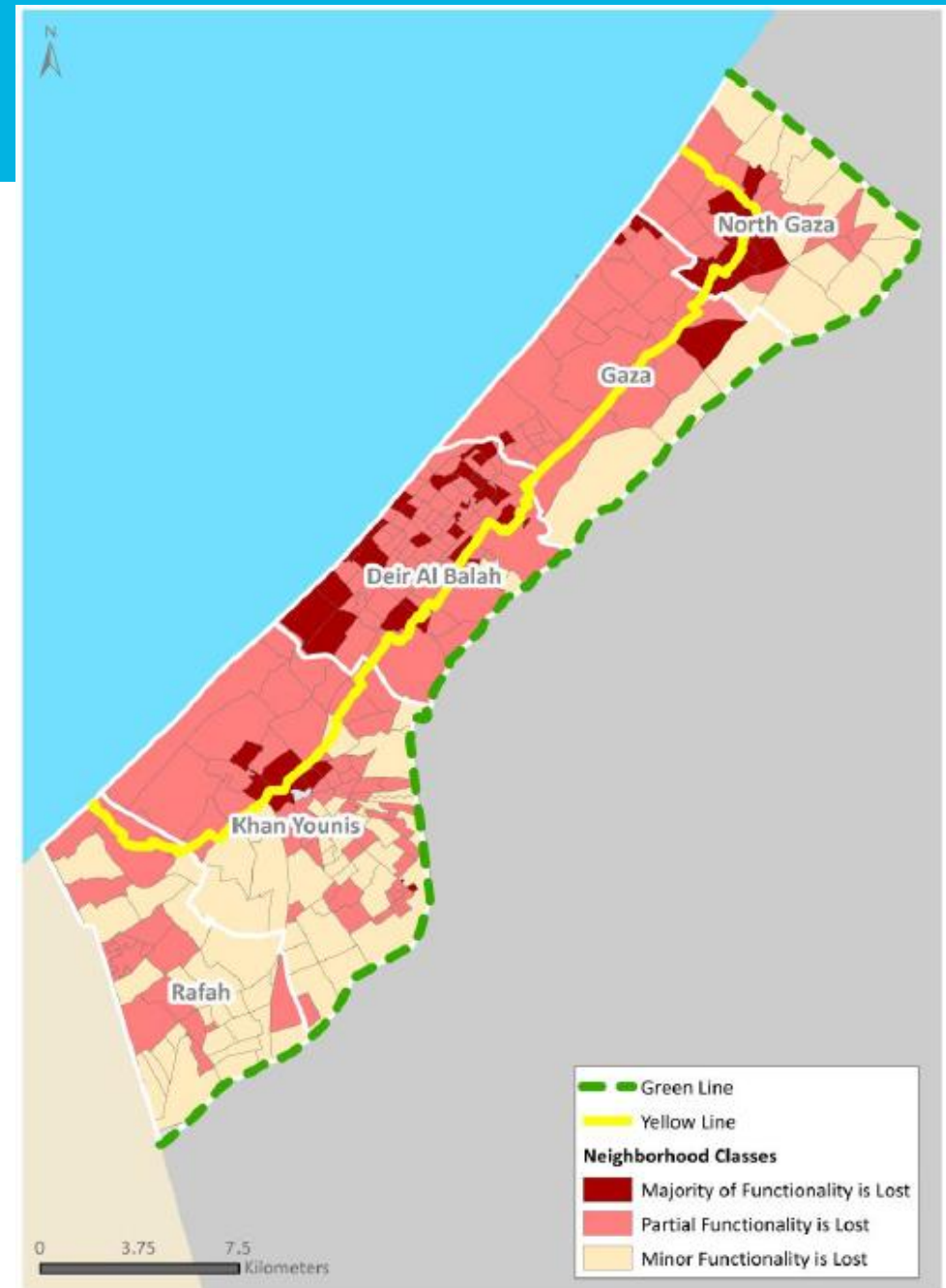
Ongoing:

- The **neighborhood approach** advocated by UN-Habitat has widely been adapted.
- UNDP active in 10 neighborhoods. UN-Habitat to expand its neighborhood 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





UN-HABITAT

Digital tools and data for sustainable urban development

UNITAC – United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities



A partnership between:

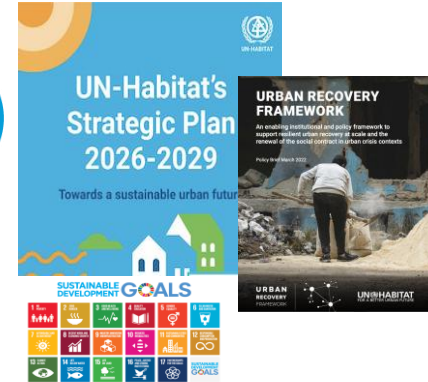


Based in Hamburg, Germany at the HafenCity University

UNITAC-Hamburg supports the
UN-Habitat **People-Centered Smart Cities** program.

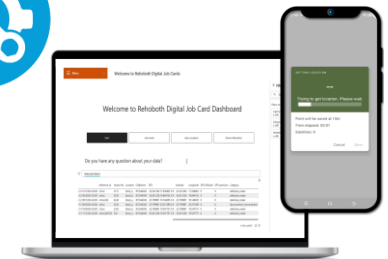
Strategy

Strategies, mission and vision to guide people-centred sustainable development.



Tools

We offer innovative approaches, digital tools, and data platforms.



Capacity

Practical training, knowledge exchange and technical support.



Housing, informal settlements and land

Building and Establishment Automated Mapper (BEAM):

- AI-based tool that automatically maps building footprints and structures from aerial imagery
- Distinguishes between formal and informal structures

Impact Areas:

- Accelerated mapping process and provision of data
- Enhanced urban planning and more equitable allocation of resources



Predictions in Guatemala



Predictions in Cape Town

Key Outcomes:

eThekwini

- 1,530,546 residential and non-residential building footprints mapped
- Reduced mapping time from months to 72 hours

Central America (8 cities)

- Identified 6,324 informal areas and mapped 550,776 buildings across all cities
- Enabled analysis of the informal settlement morphologies

Cape Town

- Detected and integrated 822,390 additional building footprints into the municipal geographic database

Improving access to basic services



Enhancing water access in Hargeisa

- 63-65% of Hargeisa's residents have no access to piped water infrastructure
- Prevents women and girls from education and economic opportunities

Digital Water app: Connects users in disadvantaged settlements who do not have a piped water connection with certified vendors via mobile-based orders

Impact areas:

- Improving access to affordable and clean water
- The app strengthens affordability while enhancing transparency and quality in the water supply chain



Improving basic urban service delivery in Namibia

- Paper-based record slowed down coordination of basic service provision and emergency response

Digital Job Card:

Digitalizes the process of creating and tracking job cards for different urban services or issues

Impact areas:

- Improving basic service delivery, digital capacities and data driven decision making in local government
- Strengthening preparedness and response

Climate resilience and crisis response

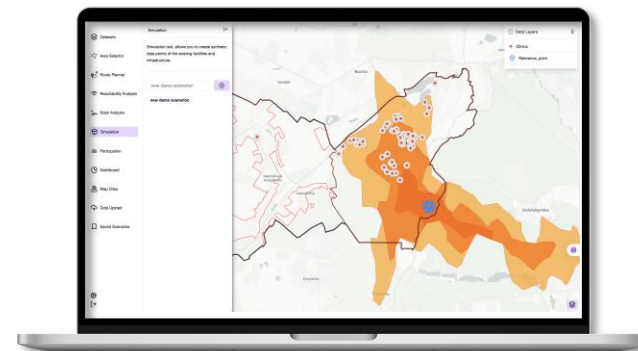
Urban Recovery Planning System (URPS - Ukraine):

Platform to visualize and analyze datasets across various sectors, assessing damage, climate vulnerability and deficit in infrastructure provision.

Users explore scenario planning, and participatory prioritization of reconstruction projects.

Impact areas:

- Inclusive, smart and resilient urban recovery
- Strengthened local digital capacity
- Agile, data-driven crisis response
- Collaborative innovation for climate-resilient planning



Urban Recovery Planning System and user tests in Makariv hromada, Ukraine

Participatory processes and inclusive governance

Inclusive, transparent and multilevel governance

- Multi-stakeholder approach that realizes sustainability, inclusivity, prosperity and human rights for the benefit of all.

AOVI, real-time digital participation, GioMap 2.0 and DIPAS:

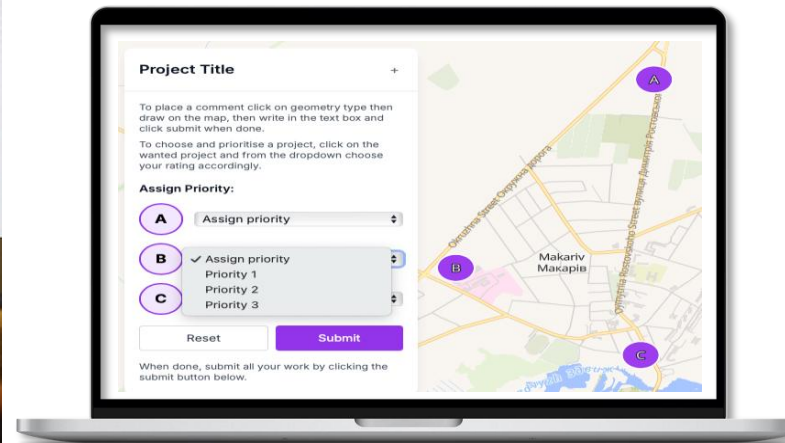
- Consultation tool for inclusive agenda setting, ideas generation, strengthening dialogue and participatory digital governance
- Location-based feedback for spatial analysis and integrated urban planning
- Modular approach complementing other tools and innovation processes
- Digital platform to improve public participation in urban planning

Impact areas:

- Participatory recovery planning in crisis-affected areas
- Community-driven climate resilience initiatives
- Inclusive and transparent policymaking



AOVI and workshops in Brazil



GioMap 2.0



Participatory urban planning with DIPAS in Botswana

UNITAC priority areas for 2026-2028



1

Mapping, spatial analysis, data analytics, and visualization

Promoting adequate housing and in particular, the SDG 11.1 target of “adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums”

2

Data-enabled urban resilience and recovery

Leveraging data, spatial analysis, and digital tools to build resilience, particularly in crisis-affected regions

3

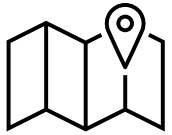
Open, transparent, and participatory data governance

Empowering diverse stakeholders to engage in urban dialogues and decision-making.

UNITAC operates as UN-Habitat’s dedicated digital innovation facility

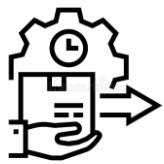
- Supports implementation of UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029
- Works through UN-Habitat regional and country offices to address local needs
- Contributes to SDG 11 monitoring and global frameworks and supports the work of the Global Urban Data Coalition

Alignment with the Strategic Plan 2026-2029



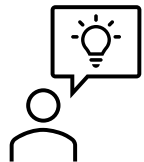
Digital mapping and spatial analysis

AI-driven mapping and geospatial data analysis for mapping and upgrading informal settlements, optimizing land use plans and modernizing urban plans for sustainable urbanization .



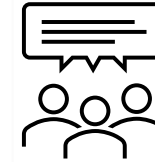
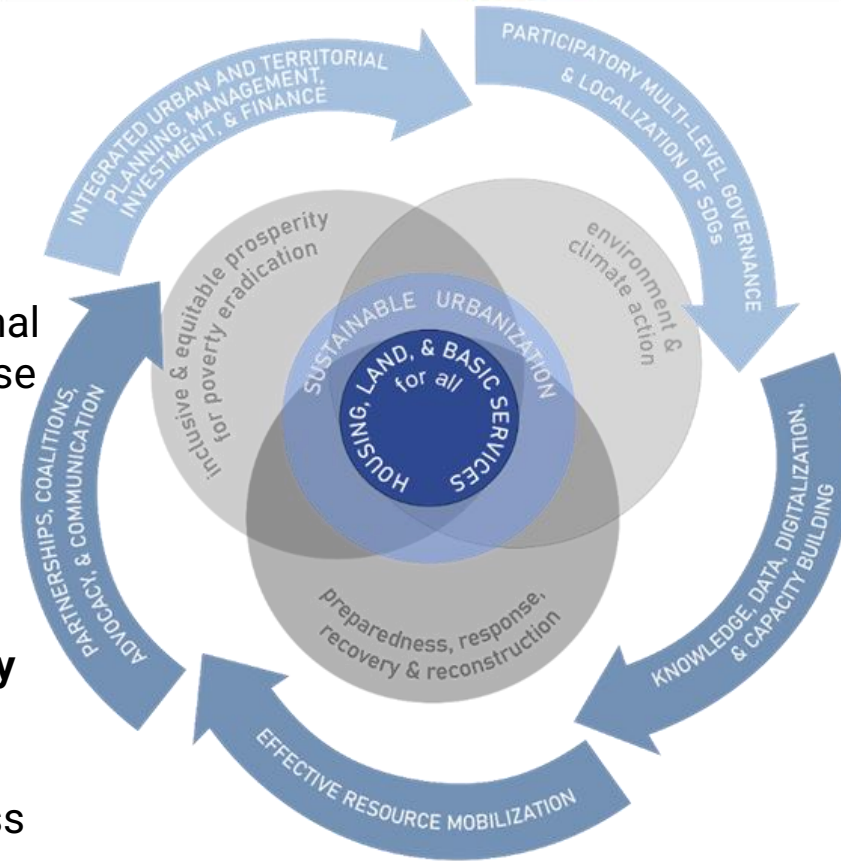
Digital public service delivery

Enhancement and development of digital tools improving delivery and access to essential urban services.



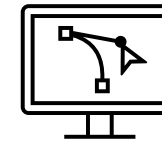
Capacity building and Knowledge development

Training city leaders and public servants and providing urban innovation toolkits.



Public participation and data-driven decision making

Tools for community engagement and evidence-based policy making and urban planning, including climate action, poverty reduction and preparations, recovery and reconstruction strategies.



Housing information and Recovery systems

Digital platforms and data-driven approaches for housing policies and post-disaster recovery.



Urban data partnerships and interoperability

Strengthening data production and system-wide collaboration to support SDG 11 monitoring through the Global Urban Data Coalition, and the OEWG-H.

Supporting global initiatives and UN processes

UNITAC translates innovation into operational capacity for global processes



**Global Urban
Data Coalition**



**SDG 11 Global Synthesis
Report 2026**

OEWG on Adequate Housing

NUA midterm review

**UNSC and UNDESA
collaboration**

(SDG 11 monitoring, the Degree of Urbanization, the Quality-of-Life Initiative, and the Expert Group on Slums and Informal Settlements)

**Pact for the Future, and
Global Digital Compact**

Engagement opportunities for Member States

Member States can engage with UNITAC through:



Government-led pilot projects co-designed with UN-Habitat offices



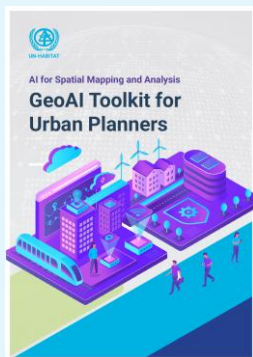
Technical cooperation and capacity-building programmes



Resource mobilization through bilateral or multi-donor contributions



Participation in open calls for innovation and co-creation of digital solutions



UNITAC also provides training, toolkits and methodological guidance, including the Step-by-Step Guide for People-Centred Smart City Strategies and the GeoAI Toolkit.

Partnering with UNITAC enables countries to:

- strengthen evidence-based decision-making,
- enhance service delivery,
- promote inclusive governance
- institutionalize ethical, people-centred digital transformation

Thank you!

unhabitat.org

