



ANNUAL | 20  
REPORT | 25

# Housing at the centre of urban futures





UN-HABITAT

**UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS  
PROGRAMME (UN-HABITAT) - ANNUAL REPORT 2025**

Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements  
Programme (UN-Habitat) 2026

All rights reserved.

UN-Habitat

P.O. Box 30030 00100 Nairobi GPO Kenya

HS Number: HS/006/26

Cover photo: Pexels.com

**Disclaimer**

The designations employed and the presentation of material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area or its authorities, or concerning the delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries regarding its economic system or degree of development. Excerpts may be reproduced without authorization, on condition that the source is indicated.

Views expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, the United Nations and its Member States.

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

For any comments, corrections and suggestions please write to [unhabitat-info@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-info@un.org)

Photo: Juan David Morales/  
Secretary De Habitat Colombia



# Contents

1

URBAN ACTION IS...

## ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL HOUSING CRISIS

PAGE 4-5

2

URBAN ACTION IS...

## PUTTING HOUSING AT THE CENTRE OF THE SDGS AND GLOBAL AGENDAS

PAGE 6-9

3

URBAN ACTION IS...

## ADVANCING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE THROUGH ADEQUATE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

<b>Our challenge</b>	<b>11</b>
<b>Our impact</b>	<b>13</b>
<b>Achievements under the Strategic Plan 2020–2025</b>	<b>15</b>
<b>Our focus</b>	<b>16</b>
1. Reducing inequality	18
2. Promoting prosperity	23
3. Acting for climate change and nature	26
4. Building resilience to crises	30
<b>Lessons learned under the Strategic Plan 2020–2025</b>	<b>34</b>

PAGE 10-35

4

URBAN ACTION IS...

## UNITING FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION

<b>UN cooperation</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>Building coalitions</b>	<b>38</b>
<b>Enhancing capacities</b>	<b>41</b>
<b>Leading knowledge</b>	<b>42</b>
<b>Where we work</b>	<b>44</b>
<b>Financial overview</b>	<b>46</b>

PAGE 36-47

Photo: UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milham

URBAN ACTION IS...

# ADDRESSING THE GLOBAL HOUSING CRISIS



The future of humanity will be shaped in cities.

Housing is at the heart of our sustainable urban future – not only as shelter, but as the foundation for dignity, social and economic inclusion, and equal opportunities.

In 2025, UN-Habitat spearheaded a global shift toward housing-led sustainable urban development, a significant milestone in the advancement of the implementation of the fundamental human right to adequate housing. In May, 105 Member States endorsed UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029, focused on housing, land and basic services. The Strategic Plan places housing at the centre of our work to reduce poverty and inequality, strengthen climate resilience, and foster durable solutions in crisis-affected contexts. It recognizes the urgency of transforming informal settlements and slums where over one billion people live in precarious conditions.

Other decisive steps were also taken to advance adequate and affordable housing and the transformation of informal settlements and slums. A High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All at ECOSOC brought together Member States and global stakeholders to position housing as central to the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The Kenya Presidency brought together 25 countries which gave renewed political prominence to the housing agenda with a call to action adopted by the Global Champions for Adequate Housing for All at the 80th session of the General Assembly.

This momentum was reflected in key global outcomes, including the adoption of the Doha Political Declaration at the World Social Summit, which reaffirmed that access to adequate housing is essential to inclusive and equitable social development; and the Secretary-General's report on addressing homelessness, which called for coordinated national strategies and rights-based responses. For the first time, housing was also recognized as a climate priority at COP30, highlighting its role in building resilience and sustainability. These milestones affirm housing as a driving force behind social inclusion, economic prosperity, and climate action.

As this Annual Report shows, progress is possible when national governments, local authorities, communities, and partners work together at all levels. It illustrates the impact of global dialogue, evidence-based and data-driven policymaking, and coordinated action in advancing the adequate housing agenda. When housing is prioritized, cities and the people who live in them thrive. Between 2020 and 2025, 41.2 million people transitioned out of slum-like conditions, 53 million people gained access to improved water and sanitation, and over 465,000 households secured tenure rights to land. This is clear evidence that sustained commitment delivers transformative results.

Adequate housing is the foundation of sustainable urban transformation, as envisaged in SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda, and is essential to accelerating the 2030 Agenda. Together, we can ensure that no one is left behind as we shape the future of our cities by realizing the right to adequate housing for all – especially in the remaining years to 2030 and through the next decade of the New Urban Agenda.

“



**Anacláudia Rossbach**

**United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)**



Photo: Shutterstock.com/Javier Pina

URBAN ACTION IS...

# PUTTING HOUSING AT THE CENTRE OF THE SDGS AND GLOBAL AGENDAS

## A new strategic plan for a sustainable urban future

Adopted in 2025, UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 tackles the global housing crisis by prioritizing access to adequate housing, land, and basic services for all, including transforming informal settlements and slums. It delivers impact through three areas designed to help cities confront inequality, climate shocks and humanitarian crises: inclusive and equitable prosperity for poverty eradication; preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction; and environment and climate action.

## Adequate housing as a human right

Adequate housing is a fundamental right which fosters equity, social inclusion, access to opportunities, and improved quality of life in rapidly evolving cities. Through seven components – security of tenure, access to basic services, affordability, habitability, accessibility, cultural adequacy, and convenient location – adequate housing helps prevent and address urban challenges such as unaffordability, displacement and growing informal settlements.

## Accelerating global efforts on adequate housing

Throughout 2025, UN-Habitat spearheaded a global shift toward housing-led urban development, accelerating progress on the fundamental right to adequate shelter. In July 2025, UN-Habitat co-hosted a High-Level Dialogue on Adequate Housing for All with the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), to discuss the central role of adequate housing in realizing the SDGs and advancing social inclusion.

”

**A city is more than bricks and mortar. It is the promise of home.”**

**António Guterres**

United Nations Secretary-General





Anacláudia Rossbach, Executive Director, UN-Habitat, left of centre, speaks during the third session of the Executive Board of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) on 25 November 2025 at the United Nations Gigiri complex in Nairobi, Kenya. The Executive Board aims to increase the oversight of UN-Habitat operations by Member States and to strengthen UN-Habitat's accountability, transparency and effectiveness. Photo: UN-Habitat/Peter Ndolo



**Housing is truly at the centre of sustainable development. As we strive towards the Sustainable Development Goals, we must prioritize adequate, safe, and affordable housing, which is the foundation of ensuring prosperity for all."**

**Anacláudia Rossbach**

United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director,  
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

In September, the Secretary-General's report on addressing homelessness called for coordinated national strategies, improved data systems, and rights-based responses towards ending homelessness. During the 80th session of the UN General Assembly (UNGA 80), the Global Champions for Adequate Housing for All adopted the Call to Action on Adequate and Affordable Housing, marking a commitment to consolidate actions on housing and human settlements.

In October, the second Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H2) session advanced recommendations on housing finance, tenure, and informal settlements, establishing a Member State-led roadmap for final policy development.

During the second World Summit for Social Development in November, the Doha Political Declaration called on Member States to ensure housing policies address the needs of vulnerable groups including low-income households, female-headed households and persons with disabilities.

## Advancing gender equality through housing

Empowering women and girls through adequate housing remained a central priority for UN-Habitat in 2025, from advocating at the 69th session of the Commission on the Status of Women in March to mainstreaming gender equality ahead of the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum. The publication *Stronger women, stronger cities: UN-Habitat's action for change 2020–2025* showcased the impact of adequate housing on gender equality.

UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 elevated gender equality as a high-level outcome, ensuring that women's empowerment is mainstreamed through the Organization. Additionally, UN-Habitat's Executive Director joined the International Gender Champion programme in 2025, joining other global leaders in breaking down gender barriers.

## COP30

At COP30 in Belém, Brazil, the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change featured housing as a climate priority for the first time. The Chair's Summary set out eight areas for action including incorporating housing and informal settlements into Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), expanding local finance and strengthening multilevel action – all which emphasize that housing is critical to meeting global climate goals.

## Checkpoint for the New Urban Agenda

UN-Habitat continued to implement the New Urban Agenda through reporting, dialogues and capacity-building initiatives. Globally, 67 Member States are expected to submit National Progress Reports to analyse progress made in the implementation of the Agenda.

Engagement efforts included the New Urban Agenda European Union Dialogues which focused on data sources and reporting formats to deliver sustainable, functional and resilient cities.

Globally, 144 participants from 75 organizations contributed to the New Urban Agenda Write-Shop – which mobilized Member States and other key stakeholders on equitable housing and climate justice.

Capacity-building efforts included an e-learning course in four languages on monitoring commitments of the New Urban Agenda, with more than 240 enrolments, and 9 learning series events attracting more than 1,100 participants from 106 countries and 55 Member States.



African village submerged by flood  
Photo: Shutterstock.com/Chinedu Chime

URBAN ACTION IS...

**ADVANCING A  
BETTER URBAN  
FUTURE THROUGH  
ADEQUATE HOUSING  
AND SUSTAINABLE  
URBANIZATION**

# Our challenge

In 2025, cities and human settlements around the world continued to face multiple, overlapping challenges including housing shortages, record-setting climate emergencies, and a lack of access to clean water and sanitation services. Across its thematic areas and through its flagship programmes, UN-Habitat contributed to addressing these challenges, striving for social inclusion and a better quality of life for all.



## 1.2 billion

people live in slums around the world. Globally, 90% of slum dwellers live in Asia and Africa.



## 318 million

people worldwide are homeless, denied of the right to adequate housing and access to essential services – a reflection of widespread systemic failures.



## 1 out of 4

people around the world lack access to safely managed drinking water, putting them at risk of infections and diseases which may lead to death.



## 2 out of 5

people lack access to safely managed sanitation services, putting them at severe health risks, including malnutrition and high child mortality.



## 70%

of all refugees and asylum seekers are fleeing from highly climate-vulnerable countries, with rates quickly rising due to natural and man-made disasters.



## 1 in every 5

households spends more than 40% of their disposable income. This rate has more than quadrupled since 2010, reducing financial stability and increasing vulnerability to debt.



# Our impact

By working towards a better urban future, UN-Habitat is reducing inequality, promoting sustainable development and economic progress. In 2025, UN-Habitat achieved the following milestones:



**816,000 more**

people benefitted from access to safe, equitable public transport



**2,760,000+**

people have gained access to basic services such as clean water



**37,000+**

households have gained secure tenure rights to land with officially recognized documentation



**93 Voluntary**

Local Reviews were developed and published globally, accelerating the process of localizing the SDGs



**270,000+**

people benefitted from climate change adaptation actions



**93 more**

cities are implementing disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Photo: Shutterstock.com/Simlinger



# Achievements under the Strategic Plan 2020–2025

From 2020 to 2025, UN-Habitat achieved significant results across its strategic domains and outcomes, while advancing advocacy, communications, and outreach to support the New Urban Agenda and provide evidence-based insights for policymaking.



**41.2 million**

people have transitioned out of slum-like conditions



**465,000+**

households have had their secure tenure rights to land documented



**53 million**

people have improved water and sanitation services



**38 cities**

improved municipal solid waste management, benefiting 5.2 million people



**2.9 million**

people in 104 cities have gained access to safe and inclusive public spaces



**64 countries**

have received support with developing national urban policies



**425,000**

people have gained access to public transport and sustainable mobility options



**89 cities**

are implementing local disaster risk reduction strategies

Photo: UN-Habitat/Flavia Scholz

# Our focus

1

## Reducing inequality

PAGE 18-21

2

## Promoting prosperity

PAGE 22-25



3

## Acting for climate and nature

PAGE 26-29

4

## Responding to crises

PAGE 30-33

# Reducing inequality

In 2025, UN-Habitat reduced inequality through the following achievements:



**2,760,000+**

people gained access to basic services



**3 million**

people in UN-Habitat partner cities gained convenient access to open public space



**37,000+**

households gained secure tenure rights to land with officially recognized documentation





## Africa

Through UN-Habitat support, in Sierra Leone, the Town and Country Planning Act 2025 was enacted, modernizing the spatial planning and governance framework. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, technical support from UN-Habitat supported the government in promulgating its land law. In Kenya, public spaces in Kilifi and Lamu were redesigned and reconstructed to promote socioeconomic development. In Guinea Bissau, UN-Habitat supported 4,000 families in accessing safe water. In Madagascar, communities in Marondova received technical training and equipment provision, strengthening local waste management capacity.

## Asia and the Pacific

In 2025, UN-Habitat promoted urban equity by increasing access to sustainable and resilient housing and basic services in the region. The provision of permanent houses-on-stilts in Surigao, Philippines, strengthened the housing resilience of the vulnerable sea-based Sama Bajau Indigenous community.

## Arab States

In 2025, UN-Habitat advanced urban equity by expanding access to housing, basic services, and public spaces across the Arab region. We delivered nearly 50 social housing units in Mosul, rehabilitated 12 heritage residential buildings in Beirut, upgraded Cairo's Al-Ataba Market and supported the launch of Iraq's National Housing Policy. Across Arab States, UN-Habitat enhanced access to safe water and sanitation and supported national housing analyses and strategies to promote sustainable urban development.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

In Rio de Janeiro, UN-Habitat connected 14,000 vulnerable families to essential health and social assistance municipal services. We advanced the inclusion of waste pickers in Bolivia, developed solutions for informal settlements in Cancún, and supported the government of Bolivia in measuring localized data towards SDG 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. UN-Habitat advanced Bogotá's transition toward a metropolitan circular economy through targeted governance and technical support. By training over 550 people across 36 cities in the region, UN-Habitat also advanced the right to adequate housing and inclusive local urban planning.





Photo: UN-Habitat

# Restoring dignity through secure land tenure in Nepal

For 54 years, Ramkali Chaudhary and her husband Mahabir wondered what a land ownership certificate – *Lalpurja* in Nepali – looked like. As members of the Tharu indigenous community in Nepal's Dang district, the couple raised three children while tilling land that belonged to landlords, constantly living under the threat of eviction.

From accessing loans to water and electricity, every necessity required the land certificate they didn't possess. "For whatever we needed, they asked us to produce the *Lalpurja*, which we didn't have," Ramkali recalls. "Without it, everything was a struggle."

Despite decades of political pledges to formalize land rights, Ramkali faced a cycle of unfulfilled commitments and persistent insecurity causing stress and uncertainty. One day, officials came knocking on her door to share good news: the family's right to land was finally being recognized.

Through a collaborative initiative between UN-Habitat, the Government of Nepal, and the Republic of Korea, local authorities conducted community-based verification which led to nearly 24,000 landless and informal settler households obtaining temporary land cards, establishing a pathway toward land ownership certificates. To date, 32 final land ownership certificates were issued, including to Ramkali.

Today, Ramkali holds a land ownership certificate issued jointly with her husband. To her, it represents dignity and security after a lifetime of marginalization.

“

Without the security of land tenure, life was full of hardship, pain and humiliation. For the first time, we feel a sense of belonging, of ownership.

Ramkali Chaudhary

# Promoting prosperity

In 2025, UN-Habitat contributed to the following outcomes:



## 14 cities

implemented participatory approaches, ensuring meaningful engagement in urban management processes



## 80 cities

joined the SDG Cities Global Community, accelerating sustainable development and improving well-being for all



## 93 Voluntary

Local Reviews were developed and published globally, accelerating the process of localizing the SDGs



Photo: UN-Habitat/Kirsten Milhahn



## Africa

Along the Kenyan coast, UN-Habitat supported the development of a land use plan in the town of Hola to designate land for residential, commercial, and public use, addressing unplanned settlements and improving infrastructure. Marine spatial planning guidelines along the coast and the spatial plan of the coastal town of Lamu were also reviewed to harmonize land-sea governance. In Ethiopia, UN-Habitat handed over eight regional plans to the government in addition to technical equipment for regional planning.

## Asia and the Pacific

The *Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2025: AI and Cities* report explored how artificial intelligence can be harnessed for sustainable urban development, documenting China's practical experiences and policy innovations. UN-Habitat continued to provide support to 23 cities in 8 countries in South Asia through the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy, providing a framework to manage rapid urbanization.

## Arab States

In 2025, UN-Habitat promoted prosperity by advancing sustainable urban development, local economic opportunities and city-led innovation across the Arab region. Achievements included the creation of Urban Labs and walkable neighbourhood guidance in Saudi Arabia.

We continued to develop partnerships with universities, municipalities, and international agencies to strengthen governance, frontier technologies, and promote inclusive urban planning.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

In Brazil, UN-Habitat supported master and mobility plans, smart-city and tourism guidelines and SDG Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs). In Colombia, dialogues were held in eight territories to reduce physical, environmental, legal and social vulnerabilities in informal settlements. We also provided guidance to the first metropolitan regional Voluntary Metropolitan Review (VMR) in Bogotá and supported delivery of the Observatory of Metropolitan and Regional Dynamics, laying the foundation for inclusive metropolitan integration. UN-Habitat developed an inclusive territorial-productive strategy and five strategic projects focused on competitiveness, innovation, and industrial consolidation.



Photo: UN-Habitat/Alexia Saraiva



# Community leadership paves the way for dignified housing in Izidora

In northern Belo Horizonte, Brazil, the community of Izidora has grown into one of the country's largest housing rights movements. Among its leaders is Josimar das Dores Coelho, also known as Josy, who has spent more than a decade advocating for secure housing and basic services for residents.

Izidora's four settlements – Helena Greco, Rosa Leão, Hope and Victory – are all named after women, reflecting the leadership and history of women in the movement. Arriving with her two young children and neighbours in 2011, Josy was among the first residents to settle in Helena Greco. Today, the settlement is home to around 500 residents, while the broader Izidora area includes about 5,000 families.

Josy's connection to the struggle for housing began in childhood. After moving from Ouro Preto to Belo Horizonte, she lived in neighbourhoods near Izidora where her mother was active in land occupations. Her influence led Josy to develop that same passion for land rights.

"When the urbanization project was announced, I said: now, we fight," Josy shares.

Over the years, Josy helped mobilize residents to participate in the Izidora Sustainable Urbanisation Plan, which was developed through a partnership between Belo Horizonte City Hall, UN-Habitat and the United Nations Office for Project Services.

In 2025, implementation began, enabling Josy and other residents to see their work come to fruition. Over the next seven years, the plan will bring new housing, roads, sanitation networks and public services to the area.

Josy reflects on how these achievements have come as a result of her community's courage and struggle.

“

When everything is completed, and I see families happy in their homes – in the very place where our struggle for housing began – my heart will be full of happiness.

“Josy” Josimar das Dores Coelho

# Acting for climate change and nature

In 2025, UN-Habitat supported climate change action through the following:



## 270,000+

people benefited from climate change adaptation actions



## 13,000

students and practitioners enrolled in the UN-Habitat Learn Platform



## 35

Member States have improved access to policy-relevant data on housing, land and basic services, to support their decision-making

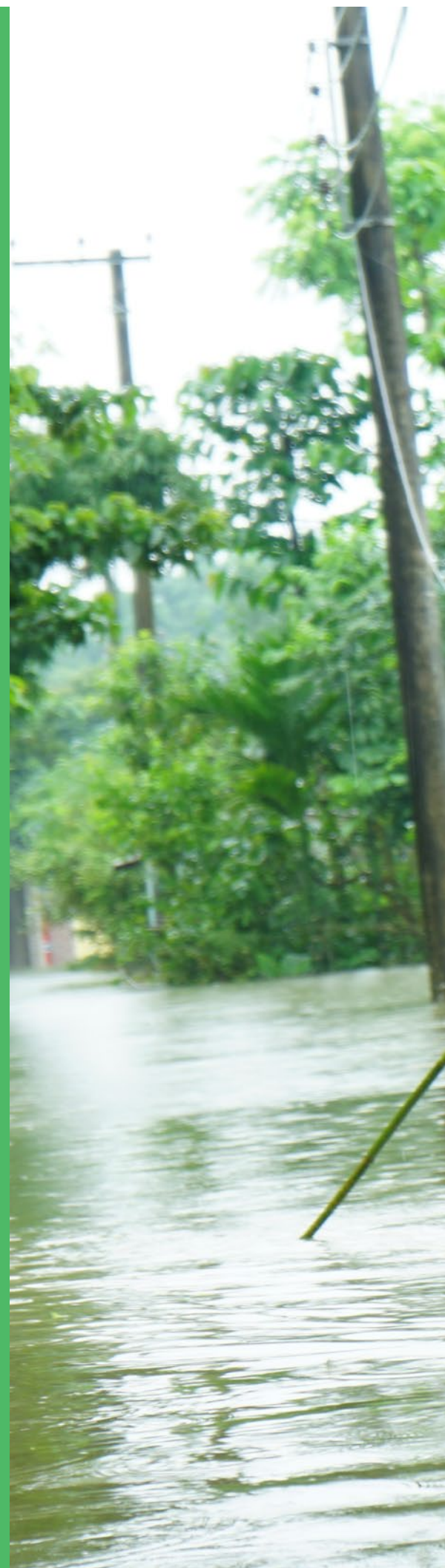


Photo: Shutterstock.com/SM AKBAR ALI PJ



## Africa

In 2025, UN-Habitat validated the national strategy on urban climate adaptation and resilience in Madagascar, assessing multilayered vulnerabilities of Morondava and Toamasina and assessing urban content in the country's third Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC 3.0), helping to advance climate action in vulnerable communities.

## Asia and the Pacific

Asia and the Pacific region continued to advance climate change action and resilience through the support of UN-Habitat. In Cambodia, the most at-risk households in coastal settlements were supported through the provision of affordable, replicable, climate-resilient demonstration houses, including elevated, wind-resistant, solar-powered, and inclusive designs. In Fiji and the Solomon Islands, 12,000 people benefited from the construction of facilities including community evacuation halls and elevated paths.

## Arab States

Across the Arab region, countries advanced climate action through urban water security, nature-based solutions, and resilience building. UN-Habitat made significant investments in sand and dust storm mitigation alongside water, sanitation and urban greening climate-responsive initiatives. Our work also contributed to Arab States strengthening national climate commitments and engaging in regional knowledge exchange to accelerate inclusive urban climate resilience.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

In São Paulo, gender-responsive, digitally managed park designs were piloted in a project that diagnosed 100 parks and engaged 5,000 residents. We strengthened climate action in more than 200 cities through the development of a BioDiverCities methodology. UN-Habitat also published and disseminated multi-layer vulnerability analyses for cities in Colombia and Bolivia to strengthen evidence-based decision-making in addition to developing and publishing Urban Resilience Plans for three cities to guide adaptation, risk reduction and sustainable investment priorities.



Photo: Shutterstock.com/Beto Santillan



# Turning waste into watts: A Zambian utility's move toward energy security

Every morning in Mansa, Jane Mulenga monitors the settling tanks at the city's wastewater treatment plant with a newfound sense of relief. For years, Zambia's frequent power outages, which have been exacerbated by climate-induced droughts, have caused major challenges to the plant. Today, however, the facility generates its own power.

"We used to worry that power cuts would stop the pumps and overflow the system," Jane says. "Now, we have our own energy. We no longer have to worry about disruptions, and we know we're doing something great for the environment."

The province's Luapula Water Supply and Sanitation Company (LpWSC) together with German water utilities, designed a system that captures methane from organic waste to produce electricity. By capturing methane, the plant mitigates climate change while ensuring uninterrupted water services. The remaining sludge is then repurposed as organic fertilizer for local farmers, creating a circular economy. This system has been transformative as services can now continue when the national grid goes down.

"We saw the challenges of climate change and energy insecurity and chose to respond with innovation," says Golden Manyanga, Senior Manager of Engineering at LpWSC. "By turning waste into power, we're showing that a Zambian utility can lead the transition to clean, reliable and homegrown energy solutions."

The project, supported by UN-Habitat and the European Union, supports Zambia's national development plans and contributes to international commitments on climate and clean energy.

“

Mansa is providing a proof of concept for what utilities across Africa can achieve with the right support.

Golden Manyanga, Senior Manager of Engineering at LpWSC



# Building resilience to crises

In 2025, UN-Habitat contributed to the following outcomes:



## 93 cities

are implementing disaster risk reduction strategies in line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction



## 1,300+

land title deeds were issued in support of displaced communities



## 9 City

Recovery Plans were developed, providing long-term approaches for cities to restore infrastructure and revive economies after disasters





## Africa

In 2025, UN-Habitat supported durable solutions by providing housing units for more than 1,000 displaced persons in Burkina Faso and upgrading more than 100 housing units in Ethiopia. More than 1,400 residents in both countries benefited from skills training, including in entrepreneurship. In Lamu, Kenya, over 10,000 hectares of coastal ecosystems were mapped and integrated into climate adaptation and mitigation frameworks. In Côte d'Ivoire and Ghana, coastal communities were supported to adapt to the impacts of climate change. We further advanced climate action in vulnerable communities in Madagascar through the validation of a national strategy on urban climate adaptation and resilience.

## Asia and the Pacific

In 2025, UN-Habitat strengthened resilience in crisis-affected areas by promoting integrated, area-based approaches that support durable solutions for displaced people and their reintegration into communities. We supported disaster-resilient housing, risk-informed planning and inclusive services for displaced communities in Afghanistan, Myanmar, Iran, Nepal, Sri Lanka, and the Pacific Islands. Our work also focused on building the capacities of local institutions at all levels and supporting local economic development, helping communities recover in a more sustainable and resilient way.

## Arab States

In 2025, we strengthened resilience to crises by advancing urban recovery, housing, land and property rights, and emergency preparedness across fragile contexts. In Iraq, UN-Habitat supported over 1,300 conflict-affected households to secure housing, land, and property rights, alongside inclusive land governance reforms and strengthened partnerships enabling recovery and reconstruction. In Lebanon, UN-Habitat supported post-crisis rehabilitation. In Syria, we delivered a rapid diagnostic of key urban laws to inform reconstruction and strengthen tenure security for millions of displaced and returning Syrians.

## Latin America and the Caribbean

Across the region, UN-Habitat helped design Territorial Intervention Strategies through more than 25 workshops, benefiting over 40,000 people. We also provided disaster risk assessments for 30 municipalities in the State of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil, guiding state and local policies on climate resilient planning. In Colombia, UN-Habitat supported durable solutions for internally displaced persons in the country. Through the Mesoamerica Hub, we led disaster risk reduction training for 10 local governments, helping to improve responses to subnational urban and territorial challenges. Together with IOM, UN-Habitat co-led the steering group on durable solutions, promoting a coordinated interagency platform.



Photo: Shutterstock.com/NavinTar



## Building urban belonging for urban refugees and host communities in Amman

When Saswan arrived in Amman from Syria, she and her children often passed Queen Noor Park in Al Hashmi Al Janoubi, a dense neighbourhood in eastern Amman. At the time, the park was mostly empty. Without seating or play areas, it offered little reason for families to stop, and many residents – especially women and children – did not see it as a place for them. “There was nothing that made me want to stay there,” Saswan says.

Over the past decade, Al Hashmi Al Janoubi has welcomed many displaced families, mainly Syrian refugees, alongside Jordanian residents. As the population grew, pressure on infrastructure and public spaces increased, highlighting the need for safe and inclusive places where people could gather.

With support from UN-Habitat, the Swiss State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (SECO) and the Goethe-Institut, local stakeholders worked with youth, designers, and community members to improve the park. The redesign introduced shaded seating, swings and play structures, and tables for informal games and gatherings. Community input, particularly from women, young people, and refugee residents, helped guide the changes.

Today, families visit the park more often, and children from nearby streets gather to play. For women like Saswan and Ayat, a Jordanian mother who has lived in the neighbourhood her whole life, the space now offers a comfortable place to meet and spend time outdoors. Ayat reflects: “It’s not just a park anymore; it’s where our kids play together, where we greet each other in the mornings, where we feel like one community. It gave us a place to belong.”

“

Now, I come almost every morning to meet other women, and my kids love the new games. It finally feels like a place for all of us.

Saswan

# Lessons learned under the Strategic Plan 2020-2025

With the conclusion of the Strategic Plan 2020–2025, evaluations have identified critical lessons which UN-Habitat will carry into the implementation of the Strategic Plan 2026–2029. Analysis confirms that integrated programming, which involves fusing policy advice, technical assistance and partnerships, consistently achieves stronger delivery and policy uptake than stand-alone projects. Furthermore, multi-country and regional approaches demonstrated superior scalability and efficiency compared to fragmented interventions, which aligns with increased demand from donors in favour of multi-country programming and greater returns on investment.

After observing how rapid urbanization overwhelms poorly resourced local governments, UN-Habitat emphasizes the need for stronger local institutions to manage growth, basic services, and land issues. To overcome fragmented regional planning, methodologies must be paired with sustained, on-the-ground technical assistance and long-term capacity building.

Operational flexibility proved necessary for resilience. Evaluation findings showed that adaptive designs allowed UN-Habitat to sustain implementation and re-prioritize resources during external shocks including COVID-19, climate disasters and conflict. Given ongoing climate disasters and geopolitical factors, prioritizing flexibility continues to be a priority to strengthen resilience.

These insights, among others, inform UN-Habitat's strategic pivot toward the Strategic Plan 2026–2029. By shifting from pilot-based activities to longer-term, scalable frameworks and strengthening the nexus between national and local governments, UN-Habitat will ensure that urban solutions are technically sound and locally-led and that impact is long-term and sustainable.



Photo: UN-Habitat



UN-Habitat

www.urbanagendaplatform.org



#UN-Habitat



IMPLEMENTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

New Urban Agenda

#UN-Habitat #New Urban Agenda #NUA  
#2026 Momentum #Our New Urban Agenda



UN-HABITAT



NEW  
URBAN  
AGENDA



urbanagendaplatform

URBAN ACTION IS...

# UNITING FOR ADEQUATE HOUSING AND SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION



Photo: UN-Habitat/Thayane Massopust

# UN COOPERATION

UN-Habitat advances adequate housing and sustainable urbanization through strong system-wide cooperation across the United Nations. It promotes efforts to build country perspectives on housing and urbanization with UN Country teams and works with UNDP to integrate housing and urban development into national policies and resilience strategies, with UNICEF on basic services, the World Meteorological Association (WMA) on climate risk and resilience and FAO on land management and green city initiatives. UN-Habitat collaborates with the International Telecommunication Union (ITU) on digital and smart cities solutions and with the UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD) on matters relating to urban economies, trade, and investment.

UN-Habitat also advocates for the UN System-Wide Strategy on Sustainable Urban Development and the New Urban Agenda through the United Nations Sustainable Development Group, the Local2030 Coalition, the Chief Executives Board and the Senior Management Group. These efforts are reinforced through engagement in major UN processes and events, including the General Assembly, the UN Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), the High-Level Political Forum (HLPF), the UN Commission on the Status of Women (CSW), and the Sustainability Week and Youth Week.



# BUILDING COALITIONS

## Strengthening local action and SDGs through global coalitions

UN-Habitat is the permanent co-Chair of the Local2030 Coalition, the UN system-wide platform to accelerate the localization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, driven by 14 UN entities. The Coalition is a bridge between the UN and local development stakeholders, co-creating solutions for systemic transformation. The Coalition engaged more than 2,000 local development stakeholders in global policy dialogues and materialized strategic alliances on localizing finance, such as the Seville Platform for Action (SPA) bringing together 10 Member States and local actors from 20 countries. Additionally, USD 24 million was mobilized through the Joint SDG Fund in 2025 to support eight joint programmes focused on localized financing solutions for food systems transformation.

UN-Habitat also advanced the implementation of the approach and tools of the Local2030 Coalition at the country level through its Regional and Country Offices, providing operational support on SDG localization and multilevel governance. The Partnership Platform on Localizing the SDGs, designed to support countries in developing National SDG Localization Frameworks – such as in Senegal and Tunisia – and SDG Cities, UN-Habitat's corporate approach to promoting city prosperity and development through the SDGs and working with local governments, bringing together a global community of more than 180 cities across 45 countries, are two flagship initiatives in this regard.

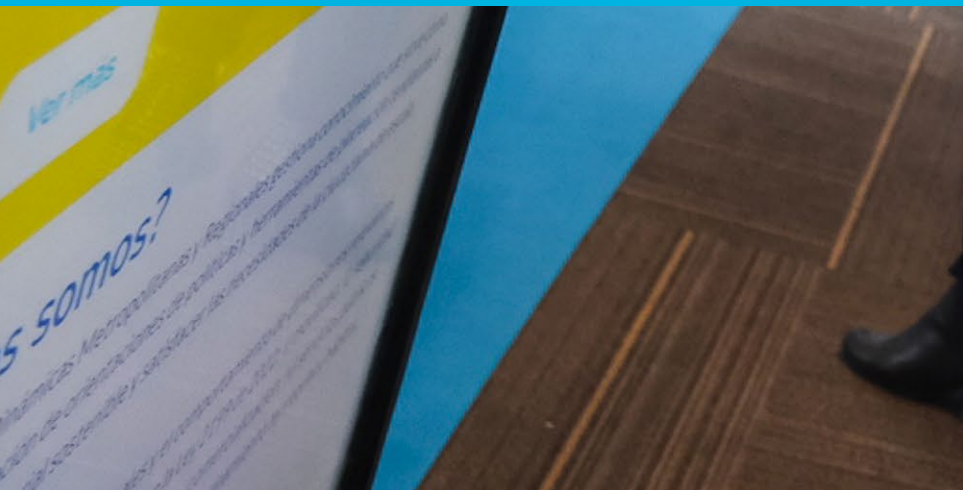




Photo: Juan David Morales/  
Secretary De Habitat Colombia

## Shaping sustainable cities through Urban October

Urban October, which opens with World Habitat Day and closes with World Cities Day, offers a platform for people everywhere to take part in conversations about the challenges and possibilities created by the rapid evolution of cities and towns. In 2025, Urban October focused on urban crisis response and people-centred smart cities and featured 579 events held in 242 cities and 58 countries, bringing together thousands of individuals and organizations dedicated to sustainable urban development.

## Recognizing global innovators through the Scroll of Honour Award

The UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award recognizes initiatives that have made outstanding contributions to improving human settlements, providing housing, addressing the challenges faced by people living in poverty or displacement, and enhancing the quality of urban life. In 2025, UN-Habitat received 141 nominations, selecting four winners and awarding one Special Citation to recognize best practices and innovative approaches for sustainable cities and communities.



# ENHANCING CAPACITIES

**To accelerate sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat empowers local leaders and institutions through targeted capacity building. Through collaborative training and peer-learning networks, we ensure city leaders are equipped to drive equitable and resilient urban growth.**

## **Building capacity through accessible education**

In 2025, UN-Habitat continued to leverage digitalization and instructional design through the UN-Habitat Learn platform course. Six new online courses were released on topics including effective urban governance and using Minecraft as an urban design tool. More than 17,000 users accessed free course content in 8 languages, covering more than 25 core methodologies and tools for implementing the New Urban Agenda.

## **Building capacity at the local level**

Building capacities at the local level is critical in supporting the effective delivery of urban sustainability at all levels. Partnerships with academics, training institutions and professional organizations have continued to accelerate the delivery of programmes on the ground and across regions. Engagements with partners also focused on innovations to map, understand and address core capacity gaps at scale.

# LEADING KNOWLEDGE

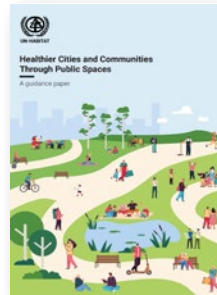
UN-Habitat produces a range of publications that disseminate critical urban data and global best practices. These publications serve as vital instruments for driving the global transition toward sustainable and inclusive urbanization.

# URBAN LIBRARY



Photo: Khaled Ali

The following reports, published in 2025, were the most downloaded in 2025\*. Visit UN-Habitat's website to access the publications in full.



**1. Healthier Cities and Communities through Public Spaces** This publication explains how well-designed and maintained public spaces improve urban health by promoting physical activity, supporting mental well-being and strengthening social connections while enhancing quality of life and sustainability.



**2. AI for Spatial Mapping and Analysis: GeoAI Toolkit for Urban Planners** This report explains how geospatial Artificial Intelligence can improve urban planning, decision-making and sustainable development and guides urban planners in adopting GeoAI and considering its risks.



**3. Handbook on Urban Heat Management in the Global South** This handbook provides practical guidance for city leaders to assess heat risk, plan resilience strategies and implement solutions to safeguard lives and economies from extreme urban heat.

\*The UN-Habitat Annual Report 2024, which has been excluded from this list to focus on substantive reports, was UN-Habitat's most popular 2025 publication in 2025.

# WHERE WE WORK

NORTHERN AMERICA

LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

\*Countries marked with an asterisk indicate where UN-Habitat has programme operations but no office presence.

The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by the United Nations. Final boundary between the Republic of Sudan and the Republic of South Sudan has not yet been determined. Final status of the Abyei area is not yet determined.

**BASE MAP** Map, No. 4170 Rev. 19 UNITED NATIONS - October 2020 Office of Information and Communications Technology | Geospatial Information Section  
The boundaries and names shown, and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.

## AFRICA

Angola  
Botswana\*  
Burkina Faso  
Cabo Verde  
Cameroon  
Central African Republic\*  
Chad\*  
Congo\*  
Côte d'Ivoire  
Democratic Republic of the Congo

Ethiopia  
Gabon\*  
Gambia  
Ghana  
Guinea-Bissau  
Kenya  
Madagascar  
Malawi  
Mali  
Mauritania

Mozambique  
Namibia  
Niger\*  
Nigeria  
Rwanda\*  
Sao Tome and Principe  
Senegal  
Sierra Leone  
Somalia  
South Africa\*

South Sudan  
Tanzania\*  
Togo  
Uganda  
Union of Comoros  
Zambia  
Zimbabwe

## AMERICAS

Argentina\*  
Belize\*  
Bolivia\*  
Brazil  
Canada

Colombia  
Costa Rica\*  
Cuba\*  
Dominican Republic\*  
Ecuador\*

El Salvador\*  
Guatemala\*  
Honduras\*  
Mexico  
Nicaragua\*

Panama\*  
Paraguay\*  
Peru\*  
Trinidad and Tobago\*  
United States of America



## ARAB STATES

Bahrain  
Egypt  
Iraq  
Jordan

Kuwait  
Lebanon  
Libya\*  
Morocco

Oman\*  
Saudi Arabia  
State of Palestine  
Sudan

Syria  
Tunisia  
United Arab Emirates\*  
Yemen

## ASIA-PACIFIC

Afghanistan  
Bangladesh  
Cambodia  
China  
Fiji\*  
India  
Indonesia\*

Iran (Islamic Republic of)  
Japan  
Kazakhstan\*  
Kyrgyzstan\*  
Lao People's Democratic Republic  
Malaysia  
Mongolia

Myanmar  
Nepal  
Pakistan  
Philippines  
Solomon Islands\*  
Sri Lanka  
Tajikistan\*

Thailand  
Turkmenistan\*  
Uzbekistan\*  
Viet Nam

## EUROPE

Armenia\*  
Azerbaijan  
Belgium  
Bosnia and Herzegovina\*

Georgia\*  
Germany  
Kosovo  
Republic of Moldova\*

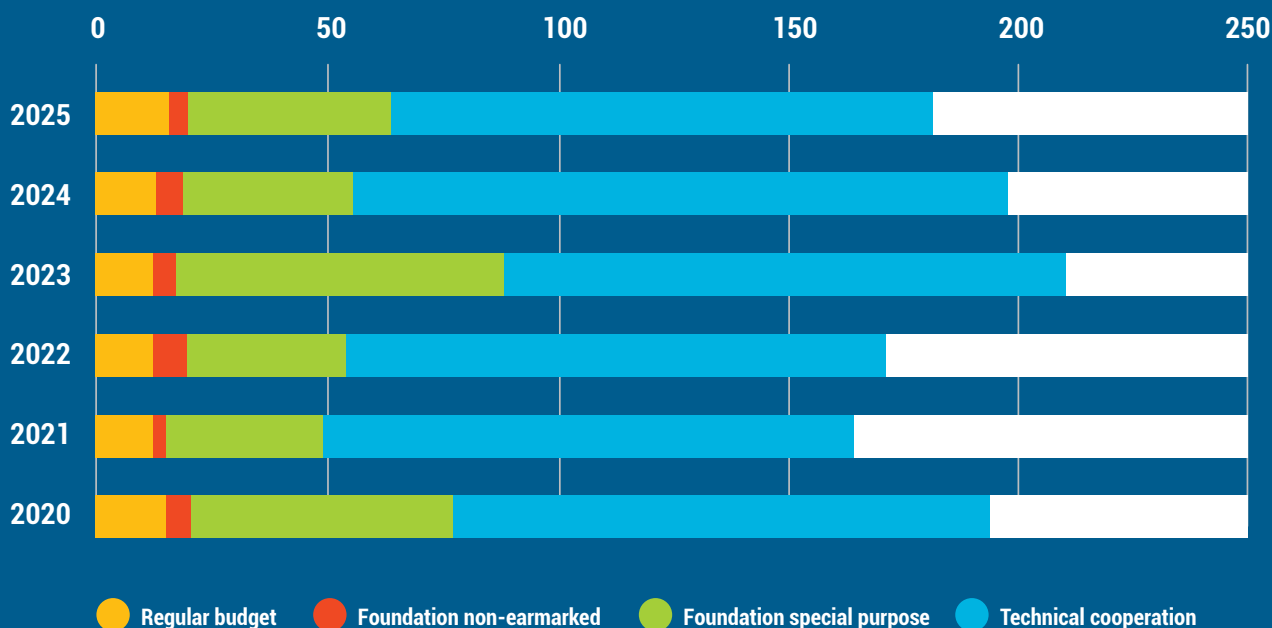
Russian Federation  
Serbia\*  
Spain  
Switzerland

Türkiye\*  
Ukraine

# FUNDING OVERVIEW

In 2025, UN-Habitat had revenue amounting to USD 200.2 million. Of this amount, approximately 8.3 per cent came from the UN Secretariat's regular budget allocation, while 91.7 per cent consisted of voluntary contributions from donors and partners to UN-Habitat's extrabudgetary funds. The Organization extends its gratitude to all donors for their continued support.

## Contributions to UN-Habitat 2020-2025 (million USD)



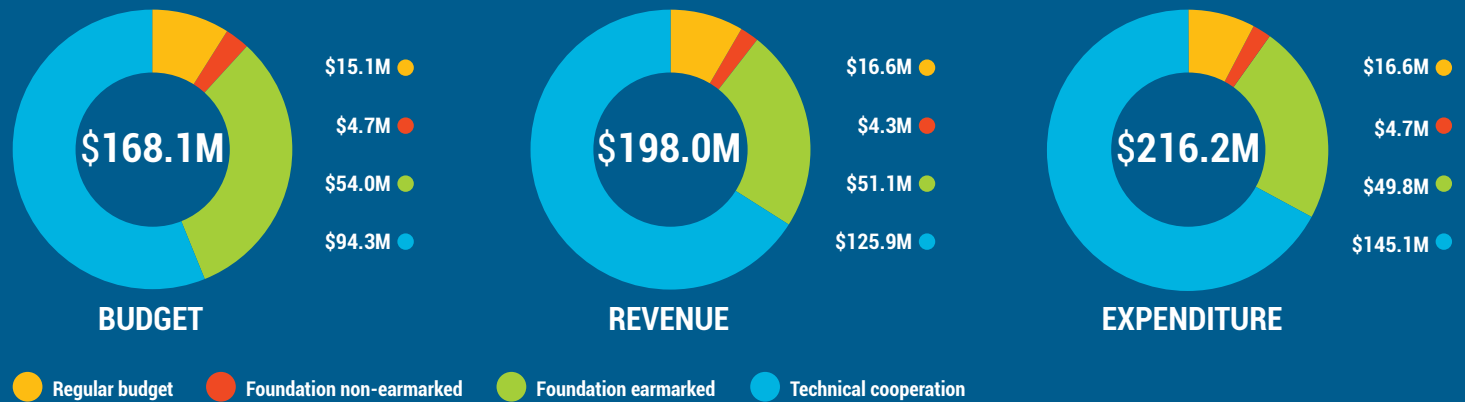
### Earmarked contributions

A total of USD 160.6 million was mobilized and earmarked for UN-Habitat's projects, supporting both foundation special purpose for global normative programmes and technical cooperation on the ground. This reflects strong demand for UN Habitat's expertise and interventions in addressing global sustainable urban development challenges. Of the total funds mobilized, 49.2 per cent came from Member States while the remaining 50.8 per cent was contributed by other donors, including intergovernmental organizations, UN agencies, foundations, civil society and the private sector.

### Core contributions

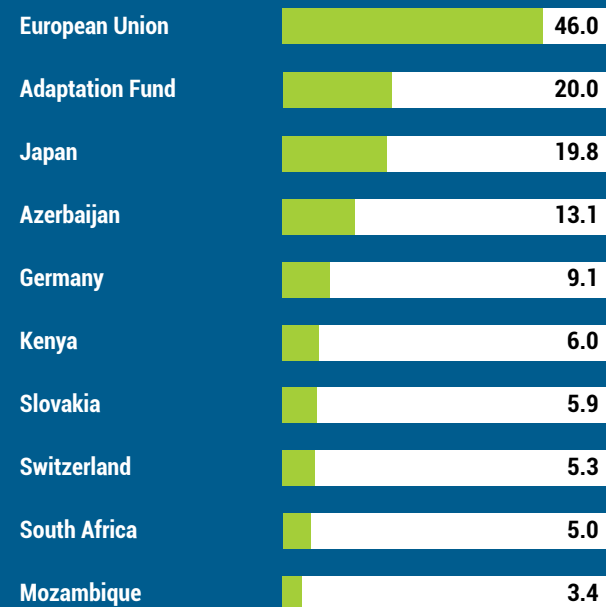
UN-Habitat's core resources consist of its regular budget allocation and foundation non-earmarked funding. In 2025, the Organization received USD 16.6 million in regular budget allocations as well as 3.9 million in voluntary contributions to the non-earmarked foundation from 31 Member States, resulting in a total of USD 20.5 million in core contributions. This represents 11.3 per cent of total contributions and is essential for ensuring consistency in implementing UN-Habitat's mandate and programmes.

## Financial summary (by funding source)

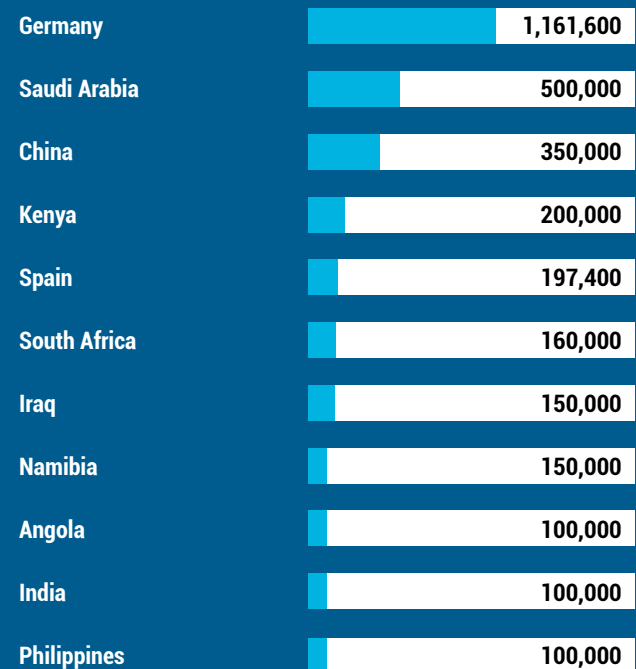


The above includes contributions as well as investment income generated within these segments. The difference of USD 2.2 million between the revenue and the figure in the chart is due to investment income generated from other segments.

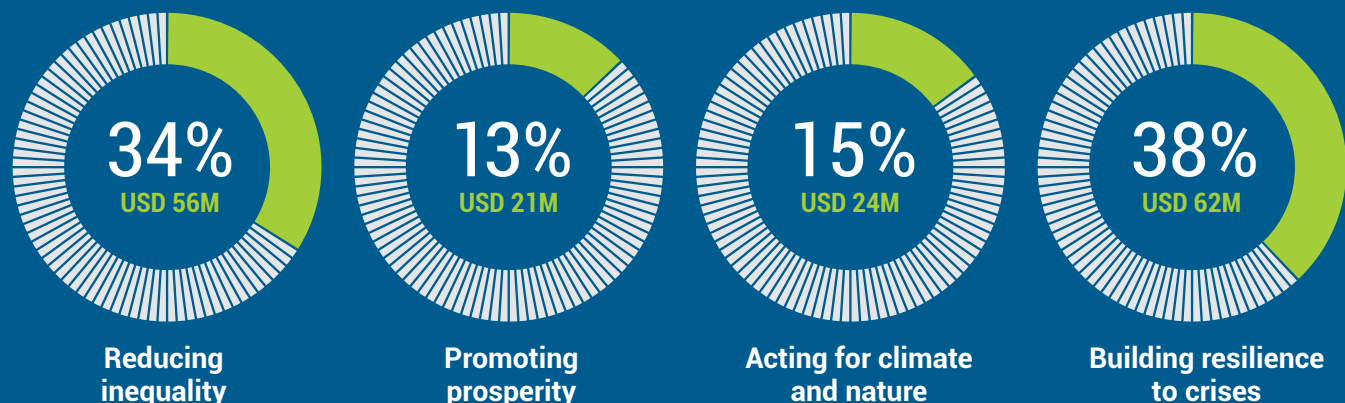
### Top 10 donors (earmarked) Amount (million USD)



### Top 11 donors (non-earmarked) Amount (USD)



## Budget allocation (by thematic area):





UN-HABITAT

---

## UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya  
E: [unhabitat-info@un.org](mailto:unhabitat-info@un.org)



UN-HABITAT



@UNHABITAT



UN-HABITAT