



National Urban Policy Programme, Phase 2

Annual Report 2024-2025

Scaling up People-Centered Smart
Cities through National Urban Policies



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Annual Report 2024-2025

**Scaling up People-Centered Smart
Cities through National Urban Policies**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY





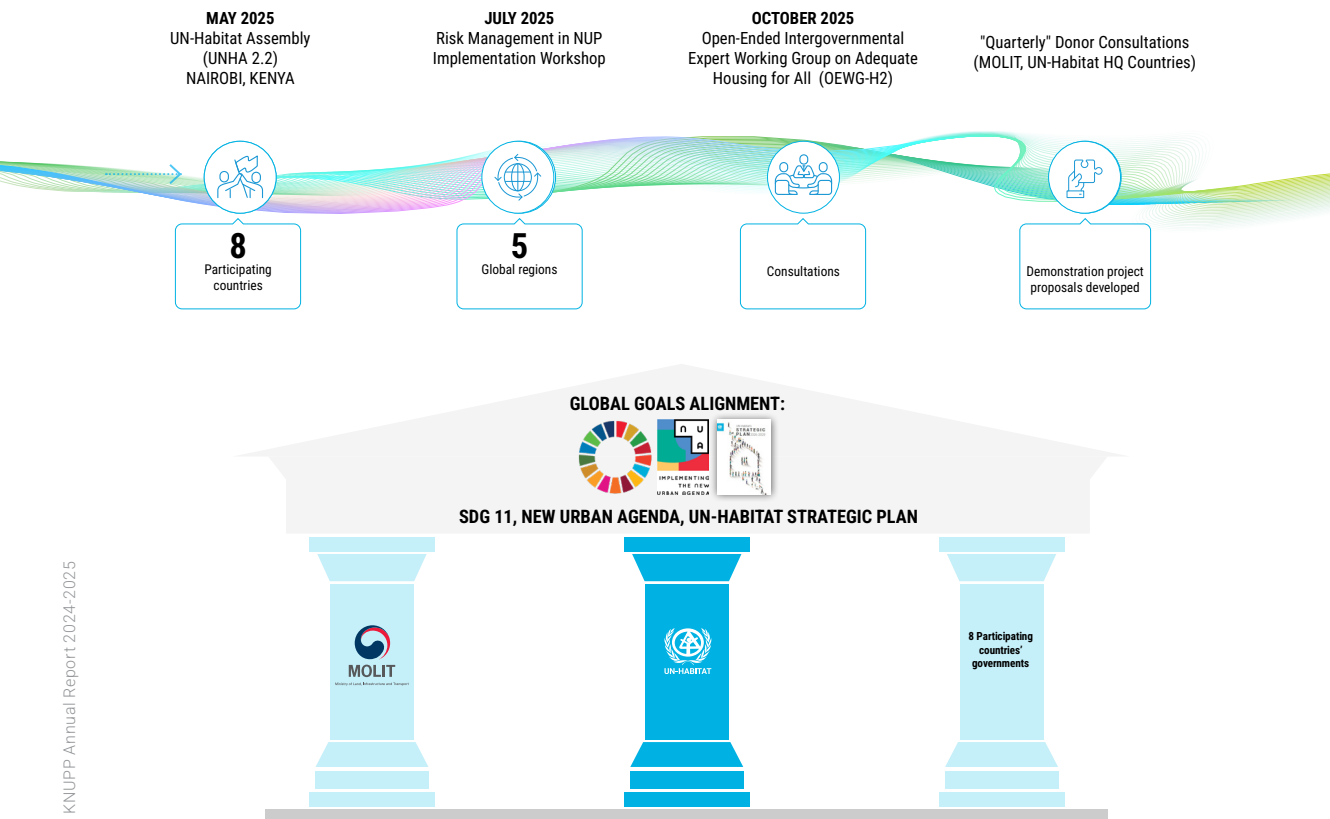
The 2024-2025 version of the Second Phase of the Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP) annual report showcases the commitment of the government of the Republic of Korea through the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) in collaboration with United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) and the governments of respective participating countries in realizing sustainable development in cities and communities. Under the theme ‘Scaling-up People-Centered Smart Cities through National Urban Policies’, the program’s objective is to improve living standards of the people in the eight participating countries (**Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, Paraguay, I.R. Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State of Nigeria**) through national and subnational urban policies. Notably, K-NUPP is implemented globally across the five regional areas according to UN-Habitat’s Regional Programme Structure, ensuring a coordinated approach that meets national and regional needs while aligning with global goals. These include the Azerbaijan in Regional Office for Eastern Europe, and Central Asia (REEECA), Cambodia, Myanmar and I.R. Iran in Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), Niger State of Nigeria and Mozambique in Regional Office for Africa (ROAf), Egypt in Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) and Paraguay in Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)

The report demonstrates how the collaboration among the three main stakeholders (MOLIT, UN-Habitat, and the eight participating countries’ governments) alongside other implementing partners at local, national, and global levels have transformed policy into impacts through contextualized solutions to curb challenges of urbanization while amplifying its positive effects in a rapidly urbanizing world. It presents an overview of major activities undertaken at global and country levels in the third year of the K-NUPP Phase 2 (November 2024 to November 2025). The report also highlights the programme’s progress made in realization of expected outcomes while linking this to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly SDG 11, , the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and UN-Habitat’s Strategic Plan.


Implementation at the **global level** entailed capacity strengthening through training sessions like the Risk Management in NUP implementation workshop in July 2025, improvement and establishment of new partnerships, knowledge development and dissemination, and increased advocacy by sharing impact stories from countries. In addition, the programme improved its governance arrangements through strengthened coordination with regional and country offices (ROs and COs), quarterly consultations between the donor (MOLIT), the Permanent Representative Office of the Republic of Korea to UN-Habitat, UN-Habitat Headquarters (HQ), and participating countries to closely monitor and report progress and promptly address challenges.

The programme also organized quarterly donor consultations and actively participated in the resumed second session of UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA 2.2) held in May 2025 and the second session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All (OEWG-H2) held in October 2025, both in Nairobi, Kenya.

At country level, implementation focused on developing and advancing National Urban Policies (NUPs) and relevant strategies and action plans, developing demonstration project proposals to implement practical interventions, and stronger mobilization of human, technical, and financial resources to actively support programme implementation.



Participating Countries' Progress at a Glance

 **Azerbaijan**, currently transitioning between the feasibility and diagnosis phases, progressed by drafting policy briefs on various themes like urban health, mobility, urban-rural linkages, and public spaces while strengthening partnerships with other UN agencies such as World Health Organization (WHO), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO) and the Switzerland Government through its Embassy in Azerbaijan. As Azerbaijan will be hosting the 13th World Urban Forum (WUF), the advocacy on the '*Road to Baku*' also entailed advanced efforts by participating in major global events like Georgian Urban Forum, COP 30, the 'Youth Dialogue' held in September 2025 in New York among others, emphasizing the importance of NUPs in guiding sustainable urbanization. Azerbaijan further scaled up its collaboration with the Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy (ADA) University and the State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA), engaging students in mapping public spaces in Baku to launch demonstration projects. Capacity building initiatives entailed training the government counterparts, SCUPA personnel, on NUPs and youths on designing vibrant and inclusive public spaces. A major milestone also featured additional human resource to support in developing Azerbaijan's NUP and programme implementation.

 **Cambodia's** milestones included finalization and endorsement of the 'Smart City Action Plan for Preah Sihanouk Province 2024–2028' in December 2024, which was officially disseminated in March 2025. This achievement in year 3 is based on the strong collaboration since the programme was launched, including regular consultations with the 'Smart City Working Group' training on people-centered smart city approaches. The programme

regularly engaged with the government and key ministries in relation to Cambodia's broader smart city agenda, including the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction, as well as with the development partners. The Country team also participated in virtual workshops and quarterly consultations organized by the HQ alongside other participating countries. Additionally, two demonstration project proposals on 'smart waste management' and 'access to basic services in informal settlements' in Preah Sihanouk Province, have been finalized in line with the action plan. Capacity building and advocacy initiatives involved participation in the ASEAN Urban Forum held in August 2025 in Malaysia.

 **Egypt** also made notable progress following the launch of its NUP in November 2024 during the 12th World Urban Forum (WUF12) in Cairo. On programme implementation, the project, led by the Egypt country team, advanced its initiatives by identifying entry points for people-centered smart city approaches to be integrated in NUP and also supported formulation of an advisory committee with the government stakeholders. The CO team also **translated the NUP from Arabic to English** to reach a wider global audience, serving as a benchmark for countries of similar context. On advocacy and knowledge advancement, a **study visit** to Germany was conducted in October on the theme 'Egypt meets Bavaria-Building Smart Cities Together'. The delegation presented the K-NUPP programme and K-City Network participation by Egypt. The visit to Bavaria and Munich strengthened cooperation between Egypt and Germany in implementing smart urbanization while building the resource base for the programme. The country team

also organized and moderated a virtual side event during the Second World Summit for Social Development (WSSD2) on 4 November 2025, titled “**National Urban Policy that Leaves No One and No Place Behind.**” The event brought various stakeholders together and focused on discussing strategies for translating policy to concrete actions through improved governance, legislation, gender-responsive planning, and advanced technical capacity of stakeholders. Country activities also included conceptualization of prospective demonstration projects to be implemented in Cairo, Alexandria, and Damietta.



Mozambique made commendable progress in programme implementation in year three (2025). After the approval of the ‘Urbanization Policy’ by the Council of Ministers in April 2024, strategic efforts in 2025 majored on dissemination and advocacy, alongside development of demonstration project proposals. A **simplified handbook** of the policy was developed and disseminated during major events held by the country office. Strong government support led to publishing of the policy featuring strategic actions in the country’s ‘Republic Bulletin n.113’. To scale people-centered smart cities approaches, the team finalized a ‘**Digital Urban Transformation Mapping and Assessment Report**’, which assessed the country’s digital readiness and entry points for digital transformation. This has since been endorsed by related government authorities and disseminated. This report together with the ‘**Metropolitan Book of Procedures for Safe School Zones**’ will significantly contribute to the implementation of two demonstration projects i) developing an urban observatory in Cabo Delgado, Pemba Municipality and ii) promoting safe urban mobility in Maputo. These will be implemented in collaboration with the government through



the Ministry of State Administration and Public Function (MAEFP) and Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources (MOPHRH), the World Bank, and German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ).

Paraguay advanced its NUP delivery through measurable milestones in 2025. Following the Presidential Decree of January 2024 approving the National Urbanism, Housing and Habitat Policy (PNUVH), the country office is in the process of developing its implementation plan, National Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat Plan (PLANUVH). This is envisioned to be done concurrently while integrating people-centered smart cities approaches through implementation of demonstration projects. Various workshops and consultations with the relevant government ministries, civil society organizations (CSO), private sector, and learning institutions were conducted over the year to validate the plan, with the UN-Habitat Executive Director and Paraguay Vice Minister of Urban planning participating in the last one held in December. This strengthened partnerships and advocacy efforts on the value of people-centered NUPs in addressing challenges impacting the lives of communities. The team is also finalizing a demonstration project proposal on public spaces in Guarambaré.

Phase 1 countries;



In 2025, the **Islamic Republic of Iran (I.R. Iran)** implemented a demonstration project aimed at improving use of renewable energy in Tehran and strengthening capacity of youths and the community through technical training. This installation of a solar-powered 30kW system in a selected community in Tehran benefitted 2,250 residents through use of clean energy, enhanced economic productivity, and strengthened capacity. The project also trained

450 youths in Rahian vocational high school on maintenance of the installed renewable energy system. This aligns with Iran's NUP objective of improved collaboration for climate resilience and adaptation. Despite the unprecedented political challenges affecting the country and the globe, the CO strengthened collaboration with respective government ministries, the private sector, and coordination with the regional offices and HQ.



Programme implementation in **Myanmar** in 2025 focused on advocacy, capacity building and knowledge sharing after the implementation of a demonstration project on provision of renewable energy in four villages (Taung Pyo, Me Ta Naw, Ohn Arr and Lone Kong) in Taung Gyi, Southern Shan State. This included 800 households (3,430 people) who benefited from off grid solar system, 600 households (2,376 people) from household solar lights distributed. 800 students in Pynnyar Monastic School benefitting from a solar-powered water pump, a 6.0kW solar energy system, and digital literacy through improved access to digital knowledge. The intervention also trained 1,105 residents and students on maintenance and continued operation of the solar systems while building community ownership. The demonstration project cumulatively improved access to clean energy, clean water, proper sanitation and hygiene, economic productivity, and climate resilience for 7,711 residents. The impact story shared by Myanmar to the world demonstrates how localized, people-centered, inclusive solutions and actions can turn national policy commitments to tangible impact and improve quality of life. This intervention contributes to Myanmar's NUP pillar on climate change, environment and disaster risk reduction.

During implementation of the initiatives, the projects adopted conflict-sensitive approaches in monitoring their impacts while focusing on strategic response to disasters like the earthquakes. capacity development initiatives were also advanced through attending a training on sustainable development and land governance in the Republic of Korea and supporting the climate action week.

Niger State- Nigeria advanced its participation in K-NUPP Phase 2 through implementation of demonstration project. The intervention aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene in an informal settlement in Kpakungu, Minna. This was done through the construction of two modern toilets and bathrooms, and a solar-powered borehole with an overhead water tank to improve access to clean water and sanitation. As a result, 2,500 inhabitants have benefitted from the demonstration project. The water tank supplies 5,000 liters of water daily to the residents of Kpakungu. This intervention addressed Niger State's SNUP focus on building resilient urban infrastructure and services.

The report further outlines **ways forward and strategic priorities for 2026** (year four of the programme), which will focus on implementation of demonstration projects aligned with national priorities for phase 2 participating countries. Phase 1 countries will draft proposals of additional demonstration projects while monitoring and assessing impacts of the interventions implemented at national and local levels.

Additionally, in 2026, advocacy efforts will be strengthened through impact stories from Phase one countries, showcasing policy impacts on lives on beneficiaries in participating countries in the regional and global front.

The programme will also co-organize and participate in key forums like the upcoming WUF13 in Baku to showcase how K-NUPP has transformed lives, and the fourth International Conference on NUP (ICNUP4) to emphasize the importance of urban policies in realizing sustainable urbanization. Strengthening capacity and knowledge sharing among countries and implementing partners also remains a key programme action.

As 2026 marks the first year of the UN-Habitat 2026-2029 Strategic Plan implementation, the programme will also ensure alignment of interventions and outcomes with the three focus areas; housing, land, and basic services; to contribute to its delivery from a people-centered urban development perspective. Experiences and lessons learned will equally inform the conceptualization and design of Phase 3.

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LIST OF ACRONYMS

ACCD	Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation
ADA	Azerbaijan Diplomatic Academy
ADB	Asian Development Bank
AFD	Development Finance Agency, Paraguay
ASCN	ASEAN Smart Cities Network
ASEAN	Association of Southeast Asian Nations
AUC	Azerbaijan Urban Campaign
CCA	Climate Change Adaptation
CCVA	Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment
CO	Country Office, UN-Habitat
COP	Conference of the Parties
CoP	Community of Practice
CPM	Metropolitan Book of Procedures for Safe Schools Zones (Mozambique)
DEGURBA	Degree of urbanization
DGCC	Korea-Cambodia Digital Government Cooperation Center
ED	Executive Director
EDCF	Economic Development Cooperation Fund, Korea
EGM	Expert Group Meeting
FAO	Food and Agriculture Organization
GDP	Gross Domestic Product
GDPC	Global Development Partnership Center
GIZ	German Agency for International Cooperation
GLTN	Global Land Tool Network
GNUF	Georgian National Urban Forum
GOPP	General Organization for Physical Planning
GSD	Global Solutions Division, UN-Habitat
GSNUP	Global State of National Urban Policy
HDP	Humanitarian-Development-Peace nexus
HQ	Headquarters, UN-Habitat
HUG	Korea Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation

ICNUP	International Conference on National Urban Policy
ICT	Information and Communication Technology
IDPs	Internally Displaced Persons
IHA	In-House Agreement
INE	National Statistics Institute, Paraguay
KEV	Knowledge Exchange Visit
KIND	Korea overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation
K-NUPP	Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
KOTRA	Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency
KRIHS	Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements
LCAP	Local Climate Action Plan, Myanmar
MAEFP	Ministry of State Administration and Public Service, Mozambique
M-CAN	Myanmar Climate Action Network
MCCA	Myanmar Climate Change Alliance
MoHUUC	Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities, Egypt
MoLD	Ministry of Local Development, Egypt
MOLIT	Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport, Republic of Korea
MOPHRH	Ministry of Public Works, Housing and Water Resources, Mozambique
MoRUD	Ministry of Road and Urban Development, I.R. Iran
MUVH	Ministry of Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat, Republic of Paraguay
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations
NUA	New Urban Agenda
NUCA	New Urban Communities Authority, Egypt
NUF	National Urban Forum
NUFA	Azerbaijan National Urban Forum
NUP	National Urban Policy
NUPP	UN-Habitat's National Urban Policy Programme
ODA	Official Development Assistance
OECD	Organization for Economic Co-operation and Development
OWEG-H2	second session of the Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on Adequate Housing for All
PCSC	People-Centered Smart Cities
PCSCA	People-Centered Smart Cities Approach

PDUL	Urban and Local Development Project, Mozambique
PLANAVI	Housing and Habitat Plan
PLANUVH	National Urbanism, Housing and Habitat Plan
PLGS	Policy, Legislation, and Governance Section, UN-Habitat
PLS	Policy and Legislation Section, UN-Habitat
PNUVH	National Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat Policy, Paraguay
RMIT	Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology, Australia
RO	Regional Office, UN-Habitat
ROAf	Regional Office for Africa
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
ROAS	Regional office for Arab States
ROEECA	Regional office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia
ROLAC	Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean
SC	Steering Committee
SCUPA	The State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture, Azerbaijan
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SENAVITAT	National Secretary for Housing and Habitat, Paraguay
SNUPs	Sub-national Urban Policies
SP	Strategic Plan (2026-2029), UN-Habitat
STA	Technical Secretariat for Economic and Social Development Planning, Paraguay
UN	The United Nations
UNDP	United Nations Development Programme
UNGA	United Nations General Assembly
UNHA	The UN-Habitat Assembly
UNITAC	United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities
UNON	United Nations Office at Nairobi
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
URCI	Urban Regeneration Corporation of Iran
URL	Urban Rural Linkage
WHO	World Health Organization
WSCE	World Smart City Expo
WSSD2	Second World Summit for Social Development
WUF	World Urban Forum

1. INTRODUCTION





A well-planned urbanization process, augmented with functional institutional frameworks, technical capacity, and legislation, is a key prerequisite for sustainable development of cities and communities. Realization of sustainable urbanization contributes to wholesome approach to global development goals as it ensures equitable access to urban basic services, reduces spatial inequalities, balances urban-rural development, fosters efficient management of available resources (human, natural, and financial) and accelerates climate resilience. National Urban Policies (NUPs) and Sub-national Urban Policies (SNUPs) implemented with effective legislative frameworks play a pivotal role in not only enabling countries to realize key urbanization priorities but also contributing to achievement of global development agenda like the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

UN-Habitat's mandate on Urban Policy and as the agency leading the UN's work on sustainable urbanization stems from the resolution of the governing council HSP/GC/24/L.6 (UN-Habitat, 2013) in which the Executive Director (ED) is requested to collaborate with the Committee of Permanent Representatives to formulate a framework for development of NUPs as appropriate and in line with international good practices. The resolution further requests that the agency supports Member States develop new, review existing, and implement urban policies. Resolution HSP/GC/25/L.12 also requests strengthening of partnerships, and capacity building initiatives like knowledge sharing, communities of practice (CoPs) at various levels to enable governments develop and implement their respective policies while monitoring policy impacts on people's lives. In response, UN-Habitat has by 2025 supported 64 countries across the globe in their NUP processes with 68% of these countries developing explicit NUPs (UN-Habitat, 2025). This support ranges from developing and disseminating normative tools, guides and strategies, country assessments, technical advice on stakeholders' participation at national and sub-national levels. It also includes documentation of good practices to benchmark policy impacts, strengthening multi-level capacity and knowledge exchange programmes, Expert Group Meetings (EGM), CoP, and the World Urban Forum (WUF).

The Global State of National Urban Policy (GSNUP) 2024 report indicates that out of the surveyed 78 countries, 84% (65 out of 77) have explicit NUPs with most prioritizing polycentric urbanization

with thematic focus to address urban systems, networks, and inclusive growth (UN-Habitat and OECD, 2024). The NUPs address issues like affordable and inclusive housing, financing urban infrastructure, inclusive development, and strengthening urban-rural linkages. This has been realized through continuous consultations, intentional collaboration, and an understanding of shared responsibility among Member States, partners, UN agencies, and Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) focused on urbanization

To scale NUP outcomes, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with Cities Alliance, and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), launched the National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP) during Habitat III conference held in Quito, Ecuador.

The Korea-funded NUPP (K-NUPP) implementation is expected to catalyze realization of the NUA and the vision of **Leaving No One Behind (LNOB)** thereby, ensuring all people benefit from the positive impacts of urbanization. Phase one of the K-NUPP titled, 'Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies' was implemented between 2017

and 2022 in three countries namely I.R. Iran, Niger State (Nigeria), and Myanmar. Finalization of this phase led to development of respective national and sub-national urban policies and smart city strategies and strengthened capacity among relevant stakeholders including government officials, policymakers, urban experts and local communities to effectively execute NUP process. Implementation of various demonstration projects benefited 732,600 residents in the three countries through humanitarian support, access to clean water, improved housing conditions, climate resilience, and improved infrastructure among selected vulnerable communities. A detailed report on Phase 1 implementation, outcomes, impact, and recommendations is documented in the [Evaluation Report](#) and [K-NUPP Phase 1 Final Report](#).

The second phase of K-NUPP, titled 'Scaling up people-centered smart cities through national urban policies' was launched in November 2022 and will be implemented till 2027 in eight (8) countries (Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, Paraguay, I.R. Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State-Nigeria) across the five regional operations of UN-Habitat.

The programme expects to achieve the following outcomes;

- i. Mainstreaming of the 'people-centered smart cities' approach into national and sub-national urban policies in selected countries.
- ii. Enhanced capacity of policy makers and stakeholders to facilitate the territorial dimension of urban innovation and steer digital transformation in NUPs / SUPs
- iii. Urban interventions apply innovative approaches and technologies while considering the people-centered dimension in National Urban Policy.
- iv. Improved knowledge creation and sharing and enhanced global awareness of experiences on the nexus of NUP and people-centered smart cities approaches and models.

Key impacts over the last three years of programme implementation include three additional countries finalizing and formally adopted their NUPs (Egypt's 'National Urban Policy', Mozambique's 'Urbanization Policy', and Paraguay's 'National Urban, Housing and Habitat Policy') while, Cambodia has developed a 'Smart City Action Plan' and Paraguay is developing a plan to guide policy implementation.

'The government of Paraguay commits to advancing wellbeing and social inclusion of its people through concrete progress in housing. The policy development enabled inclusive and participatory implementation of the 'Che Roga Pora' programme on affordable housing for middle-income countries benefitting an estimated total of 10,000 people'

*Juan Carlos,
Minister of Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat,
Paraguay*



Phase one countries which are continuing in **phase 2** have implemented a total of **four (4) demonstration projects** since 2024 impacting lives as follows;



In I.R. Iran; 2,250 people in Tehran benefited from installation of renewable energy solutions, including strengthened capacity of 450 students of Rahian Vocational High School, on use and maintenance of the energy facilities. Children and the local community also enhanced their knowledge and awareness regarding climate change and available green energy capacities



In Myanmar; 7,711 people, including students, benefitted from enhanced economic productivity, quality of education, and improved health and resilience through installation of an off grid solar system, supplied solar lights in Taung Gyi, Southern Shan State. These interventions were augmented with training of 1,105 residents and students.



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'Before, only a few of us could join computer lessons because there was not enough power. Now we can all learn computer skills together, use the internet for our studies, and even explore online courses after class. It makes me feel more confident about my future and gives us opportunities that were never possible before.'

Grade 10 student,
Pyinnyar Ooyinn Monastic School



Niger State-Nigeria implemented a set of two demonstration projects focused on clean energy, health and sanitation by rehabilitating three bi-water schemes (80,000 people), installation of 7.5KVA solar Inverter with solar powered borehole in Kuta General hospital (50,000 people) in 2024, and construction of a block of two bathrooms and toilets in an informal settlement in Kpakungu, Minna in 2025, (2,500 people). The impact story shared during WUF12 held in Cairo (attach) is a testament of the quality of lives that have improved in Niger State through the K-NUPP.

'For many years, getting clean water for domestic use in this community has been a daily struggle. Several times, our children and women will walk for several minutes to get water, which is mostly unsafe. This situation usually makes children sick. However, since the solar-powered borehole has been constructed, everything has changed. Clean water is now accessible every time within a short distance. Also, our children are now healthier, while our women now have more time for productive activities. For us, the solar borehole is more than a water facility; it is a source of good health and hope'

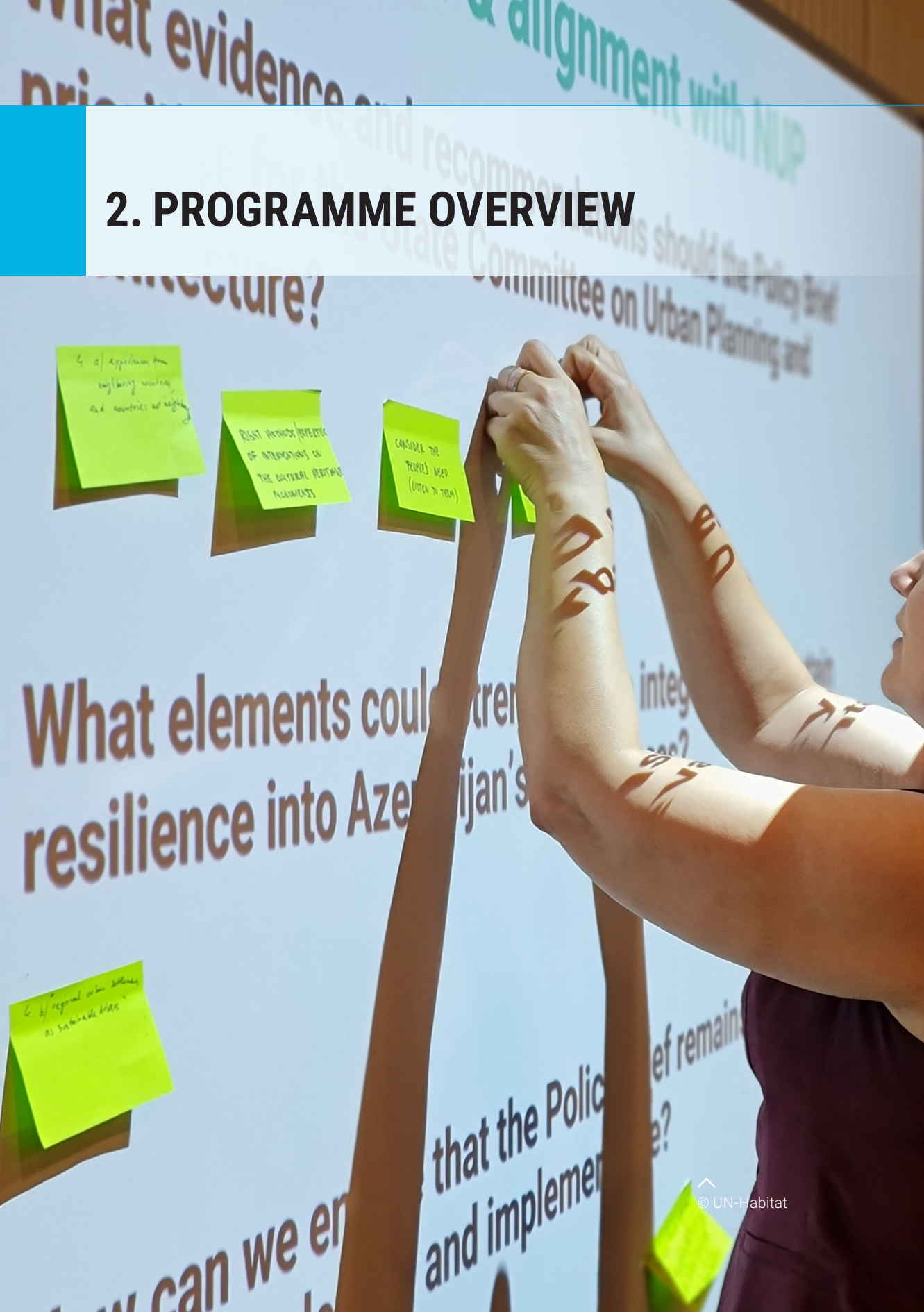
Salisu Garba,
Youth leader, Kpakungu

Phase 2 countries like Cambodia, Paraguay, Mozambique are continuing with preparing demonstration projects proposals to be implemented across various thematic areas. Building on Phase 1 which aimed at improved healthcare, humanitarian support considering the COVID-19 effects, phase 2 has **broadened the thematic focus** to include upgrading of public spaces, innovation through creation of urban observatories, improved living standards in informal settlements through equitable access to urban basic services, and more concerted climate resilient strategies in participating countries. **Capacity development** strategies have increased in scope and frequency at local, national, regional and global levels to equip policy experts, urban development officers in governments among other stakeholders. **Formation of technical teams** in the five (5) phase two countries for direct approach on key urbanization priorities, and **national urban forums** held in six (6) out of the eight (8) countries like Azerbaijan (2), Egypt, Cambodia, Mozambique, Paraguay, and Nigeria reflects the growing interest in NUPs as a guiding framework for people-centered urbanization. **Strengthened coordination between MOLIT of Korea, HQ, ROs, and COs** through quarterly donor consultations and bilateral meetings continuously ensure programme implementation is on course and

impediments identified as early as possible. In addition, **participation in global events** such as UNHA, WUF, the urban October and world cities day alongside regional events like the ASEAN forums have increased country visibility in regions where the K-NUPP is implemented, strengthening advocacy and partnership efforts both locally and globally. **Participation in the K-City Network** programme of Korean government by Azerbaijan (Aghdam City) and Egypt (Badr Smart city) has also strengthened technical capacity of the various stakeholders through training and benchmarking of Korea's urban development journey.

This report, therefore, shows detailed progress of programme implementation between November 2024 and November 2025. The report highlights milestones achieved globally and in each participating country, showcasing policy impacts on beneficiary communities. The report also cites obstacles encountered, innovative interventions, resource mobilization strategies, and opportunities identified to improve policy outcomes and quality of life. Finally, it highlights the expected outlook for 2026 in view of the 2026-2029 UN-Habitat strategic plan and the programme's expected outcomes. The annex presents a comparative country analysis, normative resources, and financial report.

2. PROGRAMME OVERVIEW





2.1. Programme Coordination

The Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP) is managed at UN-Habitat's headquarters by the Policy and Legislation Section (PLS), formerly Policy Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS), of the Global Solutions Division (GSD). PLS, which has four workstreams (National Urban Policy, Legislation, Urban-Rural Linkages, and Metropolitan Management), provides technical assistance, advisory services, knowledge dissemination, and capacity development to Member States and other partners on the four workstreams and the agency's thematic focus.

Coordination of the K-NUPP is done in liaison with Regional Offices (ROs) and respective Country Offices (COs) and in collaboration with the local and national governments of participating countries. The Republic of Korea, through the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) provides financial and technical support for the programme while UN-Habitat also provides expertise to strengthen capacity of policy and urban development experts in the eight participating countries to develop, implement, and monitor impacts of NUPs.

K-NUPP directly contributes to the mandate of the policy and legislation workstream through indicator 11.a.1¹, Strategic Plan monitoring framework indicator 10, and PLS has supported the programme outcomes throughout the first and second phases of the programme by:

¹ SDG Indicator 11.a.1: Number of countries that have national urban policies or regional development plans that (a) respond to population dynamics; (b) ensure balanced territorial development; and (c) increase local fiscal space

- » Supporting countries to develop various NUPs/SNUPs and implementing them through demonstration projects.
- » Strengthening capacity through various trainings and workshops at local, national and global levels.
- » Advancing knowledge dissemination by developing normative documents like guides, toolkits, policy papers and sharing knowledge by organizing international webinars, forums, and conferences for participating countries to share their NUP journeys.
- » Building and strengthening partnerships and networks at local and global levels.
- » Monitoring K-NUPP impacts by conducting evaluations, developing and sharing each country's, and cumulative impact stories to showcase how urban policy positively improves the quality of life to beneficiaries.

2.2. Link to SDGs, NUA, and the UN-Habitat 2026-2029 Strategic Plan

As the world transitions to the last mile of realizing the **SDGs**, particularly SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities) aims to ensure that 'no one is left behind'. K-NUPP not only ensures that Member States have policies and strong institutional and human capacity in place but also contributes to improving the living standards of people in cities and communities through practical interventions. For instance, policy implementation through people-centered demonstration projects increases access to clean energy, safer sanitation, inclusive and affordable housing, and reduced proliferation of informal settlements among others. The programme encourages partnerships at local, regional, and global levels among multi-sectoral players, hence advancing SDG 17 whereas the outcomes subsequently contribute to all the 17 development goals.

The New Urban Agenda (NUA) presents a paradigm shift on how to better plan and manage cities and communities, thus making urbanization a dependable tool for sustainable development across the globe. NUP is one of the pillars of NUA implementation. Additionally, paragraphs 86 & 89 of NUA recognize the role of urban policies and frameworks in strengthening capacity of local and national governments in implementing sustainable urbanization (UN-Habitat, 2016). By supporting countries to develop or improve their NUPs, K-NUPP directly contributes to the implementation of NUA.

K-NUPP equally contributes to the **UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026-2029**. The four expected outcomes of the second phase of the programme directly address the **three impact areas** (equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication, environment and climate action and preparedness response recovery and reconstruction).

More specifically, K-NUPP significantly contributes to the five *means of implementation* as it encourages partnerships across levels and sectors, promotes multi-level governance and SDG localization through involvement of communities, local and national governments in various consultations, trainings, workshops

and implementation of demonstration projects. K-NUPP further advances knowledge and capacity through initiatives like knowledge exchange visits, normative products, and international conferences targeting policymakers, urban development experts and other actors.

2.3. K-NUPP Impact

The far-reaching impact of K-NUPP is evidenced by the testimonies received from government officials and direct community beneficiaries in the eight participating countries.

Below are some testimonies from direct beneficiaries and governments in participating countries and implementing partners.

‘Before now, living without public access to proper washrooms was one of our biggest challenges in Kpakungu. Our women and girls suffered the most, often waiting until night to relieve themselves, thus putting their lives in danger. The block of toilets and bathrooms built through the support of UN-Habitat has restored our sense of dignity in this community, as we now have access to a safe sanitation facility that makes us feel respected as human beings.’

(Nasiru Suleiman, Kpakungu Resident, Niger State)

‘Before the solar light was installed, I had to sew by candlelight late into the night, which was difficult, costly, and unsafe. Now, with reliable solar lighting, I can work longer hours at night without worry, save money, and earn more to support my family.’

(Ma Nan Chew Lay, Me Ta Naw Village in Myanmar)

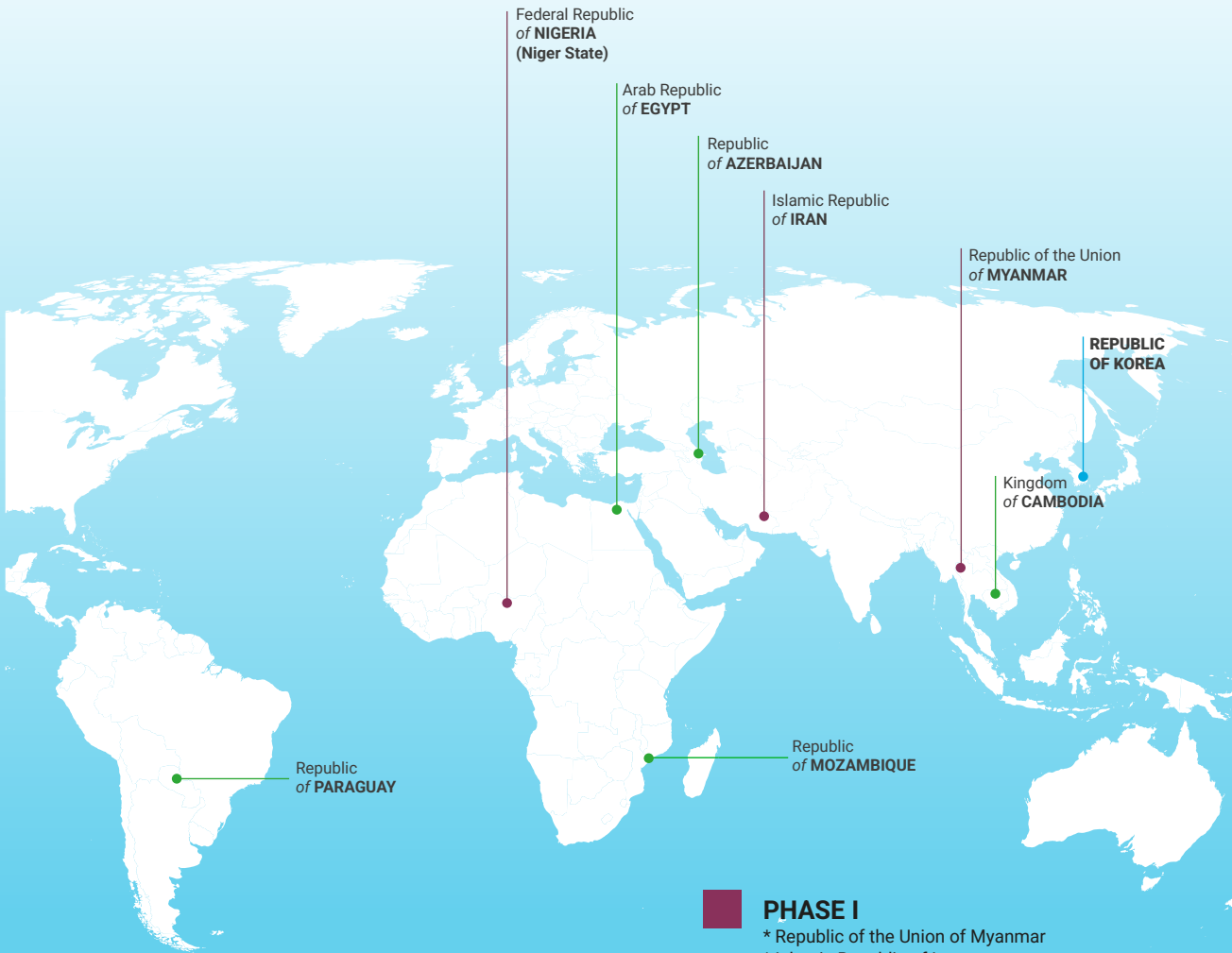
Interests by other countries to not only being part of the programme but also to be supported in developing their respective NUPs also show that K-NUPP has had a positive impact over time and is gaining global traction.

Examples of these countries include the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia (KSA) and Australia which have received technical support in developing their NUPs. For instance, Peru, Liberia, and Uganda which have shown interest to be part of Phase 3 of the programme.

Further, K-NUPP has received government support whereby both Azerbaijan and Egypt

approved allocation of additional resources from their national budgets to realize additional outcomes. Partners like Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), World Bank and GIZ in Mozambique, Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH), Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation (KIND) among others have provided human and technical support in advancement of the programme outcomes and impact.

3. PROGRAMME SNAPSHOT AT GLOBAL LEVEL



PHASE I

- * Republic of the Union of Myanmar
- * Islamic Republic of Iran
- * Federal Republic of Nigeria (Niger State)



PHASE II

- * Arab Republic of Egypt
- * Kingdom of Cambodia
- * Republic of Mozambique
- * Republic of Paraguay
- * Republic of Azerbaijan

3.1. Mid-Programme Progress (2022-2025)

As the programme reaches its midpoint of implementation, significant progress has been made and results achieved, including key policy development milestones for each participating

country as well as impact of demonstration projects, stakeholder engagement, technical cooperation, and normative documents.

Policy development milestones

The first of the four Phase 2 programme outcomes aims to support national and local governments of participating countries in developing new or improve existing national or sub-national urban policies (NUPs/SNUPs) and development plans while mainstreaming the people-centered smart cities approach (PCSCA).

The K-NUPP Phase 2 participating countries have made key milestones regarding this outcome in the last three years and are at various stages of their NUP process while integrating the three pillars (acupuncture/demonstration projects, capacity building, and participation) iteratively.

‘UN-Habitat’s work around the world shows how well-designed urban policies can help national and local governments meet housing needs by combining planning, legislation, and finance to make sure everyone has access to safe, affordable and adequate housing’

Maija Yrja,
DPR of Finland to UNEP and UN-Habitat during the OEWG session on Housing, October 2025

‘While progress has been encouraging, stronger policy coherence and more institutional coordination is needed to translate housing policies into lasting urban transformation.’

Tadashi Matsumoto,
Head of Sustainable Urban Development Unit, OECD during OEWG session on Housing, October 2025



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Key policy development milestones in K-NUPP phase 2 include;

- 
 » **Azerbaijan** developed policy briefs, published in the *Baku Dialogue* in 2024 and 2025, along themes like urban health, urban rural linkages, and public spaces. These will feed into feasibility and diagnostic reports and finally the NUP while informing identification and implementation of demonstration projects.
- 
 » **Cambodia** translated the 'Land Management and Land Use Policy for Developing Preah Sihanouk Province as a Multi- Purpose Special Economic Zone 2022 – 2038' to English to reach a wider audience in September 2023. In addition, a 'Smart City Action Plan for Preah Sihanouk Province' was finalized in March 2025 to mainstream people-centered smart city aspects into the policy and guide implementation of demonstration projects
- 
 » In **Egypt**, following the NUP launch in November 2024, the NUP was translated from Arabic to English and disseminated in December 2025.
- 
 » **Mozambique's** "Urbanization Policy" approved by the Council of Ministers in April 2024
- 
 » **Paraguay** approved its National Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat Policy (PNUVH) in January 2024 through a Presidential Decree² and developed the 'National Urbanism, Housing and Habitat Plan (PLANUVIH)' to guide implementation of the policy, which is currently being validated.

² Paraguay Presidential Decree officially adopted the National Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat Policy (PNUVH). policy seeks to address the country's housing needs through a focus on integrated urban management, inclusive housing, and sustainable development, aligned with SDG 11

The table below summarizes each of the policy documents developed

Table 1. Phase 2 NUP Development Summary

Country	Document Developed	Key Pillars	Priority Areas	Implementation Strategy	Stakeholder Engagement	Next Steps
Cambodia	Smart City Action Plan 2025 for Preah Sihanouk Province Link	Creation of smart city command and control center establishment of smart youth centers for digital literacy development of digital platforms for citizen-government communications and economic transactions	Digital governance Smart waste and environment management Digital economy Smart living Smart Mobility	Smart city planning and implementation framework (with a 4-phase, 20-step methodology) Capacity building programme Communication and citizen engagement programme	Manage relationships among diverse stakeholders, including government, private sectors, service providers, and community groups. Facilitate multi-sectoral coordination to ensure integrated service delivery and project execution.	Oversight and Governance for the strategy implementation Demonstration project implementation Continuously monitor progress and impact of the initiatives, adjusting strategies as needed to meet objectives establish technical and support units

Country	Document Developed	Key Pillars	Priority Areas	Implementation Strategy	Stakeholder Engagement	Next Steps
Egypt	National Urban Policy (2024) NUP_Egypt_English.pdf	<p>Regional Balance and Integrated Development.</p> <p>Urban Growth Management and Guidance.</p> <p>Enhancing Connectivity Within and Between Cities.</p> <p>Promoting Local Economic Development.</p> <p>Strengthening Urban Governance Frameworks.</p>	<p>Addressing low urbanization rates and spatial imbalance across governorates</p> <p>Guiding urban expansion while curbing informal and unplanned growth</p> <p>Enhancing environmental sustainability, resilience, and climate adaptation</p> <p>Promoting balanced regional and economic development across Egypt's urban system</p> <p>Strengthening institutional, legislative, and administrative frameworks for urban governance</p>	<p>Diagnosis Phase: spatial, demographic, economic & governance analysis</p> <p>Formulation/Drafting Phase: policy directions + policy packages</p> <p>Implementation Phase: operational plans, programs & legislative actions</p> <p>Monitoring & Evaluation Phase: indicators, periodic reporting mechanisms</p>	<p>Inclusive consultations with government, academia, private sector, civil society, and local authorities</p> <p>Engagement through national forums (e.g., Egypt Urban Forum 2015–2016)</p> <p>Multi-level coordination between ministries, governorates, and development partners</p> <p>Focus on enhancing transparency, participation, accountability, and coordination</p>	<p>Operationalize NUP through sectoral & regional plans</p> <p>Institutional capacity building</p> <p>Align governorate plans with NUP directions</p> <p>Demonstration projects implementation</p> <p>Mobilize additional resources and partnerships for scaling up.</p>

Country	Document Developed	Key Pillars	Priority Areas	Implementation Strategy	Stakeholder Engagement	Next Steps
Mozambique	Urbanization Policy (2024) Link	<p>Governance and decentralization</p> <p>Land management and spatial planning</p> <p>Economic and financial development</p> <p>Access to housing and adequate settlements</p> <p>Inclusive access to resilient, basic infrastructure and services</p> <p>Mobility and accessibility</p> <p>Urban resilience and environment</p>	<p>Cross-cutting themes include</p> <p>Realization of the right to city</p> <p>Gender equality and social inclusion</p> <p>Spatial inclusion sustainability of informal settlements</p> <p>Digital transformation</p>	<p>Capacity strengthening of locals and the government officials</p> <p>Implementation of demonstration projects</p> <p>Continuous monitoring and evaluation to keep track of policy objectives</p>	<p>Robust stakeholder engagement led by technical scientific committee; including community focus groups, local provincial and national government consultations, public consultations</p> <p>1217 men and 1065 women were engaged (2282 total) in the policy formulation process</p> <p>Methods used factored diversity, local community engagement, leveraged public events, and continuous feedback, upheld openness and building trust among participants.</p>	<p>Implement demonstration projects</p> <p>Assess policy impacts</p> <p>Continuous stakeholder engagement</p>

Country	Document Developed	Key Pillars	Priority Areas	Implementation Strategy	Stakeholder Engagement	Next Steps
Paraguay	National Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat Policy (2024) (PNUVH) Link	<p>The right to housing and adequate habitat</p> <p>Sustainable territorial development</p> <p>A multi-sectoral and multi-level approach</p> <p>Inclusion and territorial equity</p> <p>Participatory and transparent governance</p> <p>Technological innovation for people-centered smart cities</p>	<p>A Governance and institutional framework, which strengthens the legal framework, inter-institutional coordination, and citizen participation</p> <p>Urban and territorial planning and design aimed at sustainable land use, secure land tenure, and improved equitable access to basic services.</p> <p>Economic and financial, promoting efficiency in public investment, alternative financing mechanisms, and fiscal sustainability.</p>	<p>Institutional coordination between the ministry, local governments, and key stakeholders</p> <p>Development of management tools like plans, regulations, financial mechanisms, and digital platforms</p> <p>Implementation of demonstration projects to test and innovate in specific territories</p> <p>Strengthening institutional and technical capacities</p> <p>Active citizen participation and social control</p> <p>Monitoring and evaluation system with indicators, data platforms, and feedback mechanisms</p>	<p>Held regional and sectoral workshops with participation from the academia, government and public institutions, private sector, and civil society organizations (CSO)</p> <p>Inclusion of vulnerable groups like women, indigenous persons, persons with disabilities, youth in consultations</p> <p>Multi-level and multi-sectoral policy formulation led by National Habitat Committee</p>	<p>Finalize the plan (PLANUVH) to guide policy implementation</p> <p>Implement demonstration projects</p> <p>Evaluate policy impacts</p>

PHASE 1

Phase 1 countries finalized the relevant NUP and Smart City strategies and are currently implementing the policies through demonstration projects.

I.R. Iran developed a National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy in 2022 during the first phase of K-NUPP. Policy implementation during Phase 1 in Iran through demonstration projects aimed at 'providing humanitarian support and resilient infrastructure in a

COVID-19 affected vulnerable community' positively impacted 200,000 beneficiaries. The second intervention implemented as part of its continuity in Phase 2 focused on provision of renewable energy and capacity building in Tehran impacted 2,250 persons.

The resulting impact includes

Installation of a **30-kW** grid-connected solar PV system...



...(40 × 720 W panels) 2,250 people benefitted from improved access to renewable energy and enhanced economic productivity.



22 student trained...



...(682 total hours) with over **70 community participants**,

Educational materials and visual guides



...on solar energy and environment produced thus benefitting 450 students with **improved knowledge** on renewable energy and its contribution to sustainable urbanization

Long-term projected **increase** in the school's monthly income...



...by approximately 144 million IRR monthly income to be generated from these activities for the school in the long term.

Myanmar developed a National Urban Policy in 2020. The policy has since been implemented through various demonstration projects in partnership with Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs) and local communities. In phase 1, the interventions focused on mitigating the negative impacts of COVID-19 in informal settlements, positively impacted over 32,600 residents.

In the second phase of K-NUPP, demonstration project implementation between 2024-2025 aimed at providing renewable energy solutions in Taung Gyi, Southern Shan State. Key activities included supply of 600 household solar lights, installation of 4 off-grid solar PV systems and a water pump to a school.

The resulting impacts are;

90% of homes powered by clean solar energy...



in Taung Gyi, enabling families to use safe energy and **increased economic productivity**

Over 800 students learning...



...in **well-lit homes** and schools, **increased digital literacy** through improved internet access, and **more hygienic sanitation practices**

Over 800 community members trained...



...to maintain the solar equipment, thus ensuring sustainable scale-up and community ownership.

Niger State, Nigeria developed a sub-national urban policy (2021) and Niger State Smart City Strategy (year?). The State has made tremendous progress in implementation and subsequent policy impacts. During **Phase 1**, the pilot **intervention** included rehabilitation of three bi-water schemes and urban reforestation directly benefiting 500,000 residents.

In 2024, continued participation in K-NUPP Phase 2 involved installation of a clean energy infrastructure (7.5kVA solar inverter and solar powered borehole) in Kuta General Hospital, Kuta town, rehabilitation of three bi-water schemes in Beji, Kataeregi, and Tungan Mallam towns thus enabling over 250,000 residents access clean water and improved healthcare.

Between March and August 2025, the state government collaborated with the government of Korea and UN-Habitat to construct the much-needed sanitation facilities in Kpakungu, an informal settlement in Minna. This demonstration project aimed at improving hygiene, sanitation, and access to basic sanitation services and clean water for communities exposed to vulnerabilities in Minna, Niger State.

The intervention constituted two main activities;

- » construction of a block of two (2) community toilets and bathrooms
- » installation of a solar-powered borehole with an overhead water tank

The resulting impact

Over 2,500 residents...



...directly benefit from **improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities daily.**

Table 2. Phase 1 NUP Development Summary

Country	Document Developed	Key Pillars	Priority Areas	Goals and Objectives	Policy Implementation	Stakeholder Engagement
I.R Iran	National Policy and Smart City Strategy (2022) Link	urban governance social sustainability spatial sustainability financial sustainability economic sustainability environmental sustainability	Sustainable management of water Suitable housing for everyone integrated urban management organizing and empowering informal settlements promoting health of citizens adaptation to climate change improved public participation in urban development process spatially balanced network of sustainable cities recognition and definition of metropolitan governance system development of sustainable new towns hierarchical system of urban programs and plans financial sustainability of local governments effective urban land management	enable effective legal and institutional frameworks Improve capacity of urban development experts Enhanced stakeholder engagement in NUP process Advanced collaboration for climate resilience Promote and provide sustainable housing for all Strengthen multi-level governance in urban development Ensure technical readiness and financial capacity to implement interventions Build healthy cities and communities Establish integrated urban water resources Improved livability, identity, and communal ownership in new towns	Phase 1 providing humanitarian support and resilient infrastructure to selected Covid-19 affected vulnerable community which benefited over 200,000 residents through improved urban health Phase 2 installation of 30-kW grid-connected solar PV system enabling access to safe energy for over 2,500 residents capacity development of 22 students and youths in a vocational institution in Tehran to strengthen knowledge on smart energy management	continued collaboration with the national and local governments through MORUD, and other institutions active participation of the locals during implementation of demonstration projects outreach to other prospective partners like UN sister agencies, NGOs, and the private sector advocacy of policy impacts resulting from the interventions (social media posts, participation in international fora's like WUF

<p>Myanmar</p>	<p>National Urban Policy (2022) (Link)</p>	<p>equity poverty reduction integration environmental sustainability good governance subsidiarity participation efficiency</p>	<p>balanced spatial development socio-economic development housing municipal governance and finance infrastructure and service provision land governance urban legislation Climate Change, the Environment and Disaster Risk Reduction</p>	<p>Economic Development Enhance livability of urban settlements Long term sustainability of Myanmar’s urban settlements, resilient to climate change, disasters, and featuring inclusive processes Strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages Preserving Rural-Urban Balance Development of Professional Capacity on urban development especially spatial planning</p>	<p>Phase 1 mitigating negative impacts of COVID-19 in informal settlements which benefited over 32,600 residents Phase 2 providing renewable energy solutions in Taung Gyi, Southern Shan State through supply of 600 household solar lights, installation of 4 off-grid solar PV systems and water pumps to monastic schools Resulting impact 90% of homes powered by clean solar energy, families use safe energy and increased economic productivity over 800 students learning in well-lit homes and schools, increased digital literacy through improved internet access, and more hygienic sanitation practices over 800 community members trained to maintain the equipment, thus ensuring sustainable scale-up and community ownership.</p>	<p>consultations and active engagement of local and national authorities in the policy development process close collaboration with NGOs like the M-CAN and MCCA in implementation of interventions active participation of local communities in policy process especially implementation in both phases enhanced advocacy efforts through local and regional platforms, impact stories shared on social media, participation in global events like WUF highlighting Myanmar’s story</p>
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<p>Niger State</p>	<p>Sub-National Urban Policy 2021 (Link)</p> <p>Smart City Strategy 2021 (Link)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ integration ▪ inclusion ▪ resilience ▪ coordination ▪ innovation 	<p>Inclusive, Productive and Competitive Urban Economies</p> <p>Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages</p> <p>Effective Urban Governance and Coordinated Management</p> <p>Effective Land Governance</p> <p>Urban Security and Safety</p> <p>Sustainable Transportation and Mobility</p> <p>Resilient Infrastructure and Services</p> <p>Resilience, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p> <p>Smart City Strategies</p> <p>Monitoring and Evaluation.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Improved access to safe, decent and affordable housing ▪ Sustainable use of land and natural resources, integrated and balanced territorial development, and improved trade links ▪ strengthened governance systems and institutional capacity ▪ improved resilience of urban communities against economic shocks and stresses, climate change and disasters ▪ attain global targets on social, economic, and environmental sustainability ▪ -upgrade inter-city neighborhoods and control growth of informal settlements ▪ strengthened capacity on financial security, effective use of resources, state planning and programming 	<p>Phase 1</p> <p>rehabilitation of three bi-water scheme and urban reforestation directly benefitting 500,000 residents through access to clean water, improved health in urban communities</p> <p>Phase 2 in 2024;</p> <p>installation of clean energy infrastructure and a solar borehole in Kuta General Hospital, Kuta town, rehabilitation of three bi-water schemes in three towns. 250,000 residents access clean water and improved healthcare</p> <p>In 2025</p> <p>construction of sanitation facilities in Kpakungu, an informal settlement in Minna</p> <p>drilling and installation of a solar-powered borehole with an overhead water tank. 2,500 residents benefit from improved access to clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ continuous and close collaboration with the State government and relevant ministries ▪ involvement of the private sector, NGOs, ▪ active participation of the local residents in implementation of demonstration projects ▪ capacity building activities of the local authority officials, and the community ▪ advocacy to showcase policy impacts through impact stories, factsheets, participation in global activities like WUF and knowledge exchanges
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Stakeholder engagement and consultations

Major milestones in stakeholder engagement and consultations for K-NUPP include change of the donor consultation sessions to feature 2 webinar sessions for country knowledge sharing. This is expected to improve the programme outcomes and anticipate issues that could potentially impede effective programme implementation in the respective participating countries.

Stakeholder engagement was also reflected in concerted efforts to strengthen partnership with various partners at the local, national, and global level. At the HQ, the programme maintained partnerships with the OECD, various Korean institutions like Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS), Housing and Urban Guarantee Corporation (HUG), Korea Overseas Infrastructure and Urban Development Corporation (KIND), among others. Following the signing of an MOU between KRIHS and UN-Habitat during WUF12 in Cairo, Egypt in 2024, K-NUPP's analytical work has been strengthened with the sharing of technical expertise, research and policy guidance, particularly through the Global Development Partnership Center (GDPC) of KRIHS.

At local levels, countries advanced partnerships which originally only involved ministries concerned with urbanization to now incorporate other ministries, local communities, UN sister agencies, international development partners at various capacities, and NGOs. For instance, Azerbaijan advanced collaboration with the Swiss Embassy and WHO while Mozambique

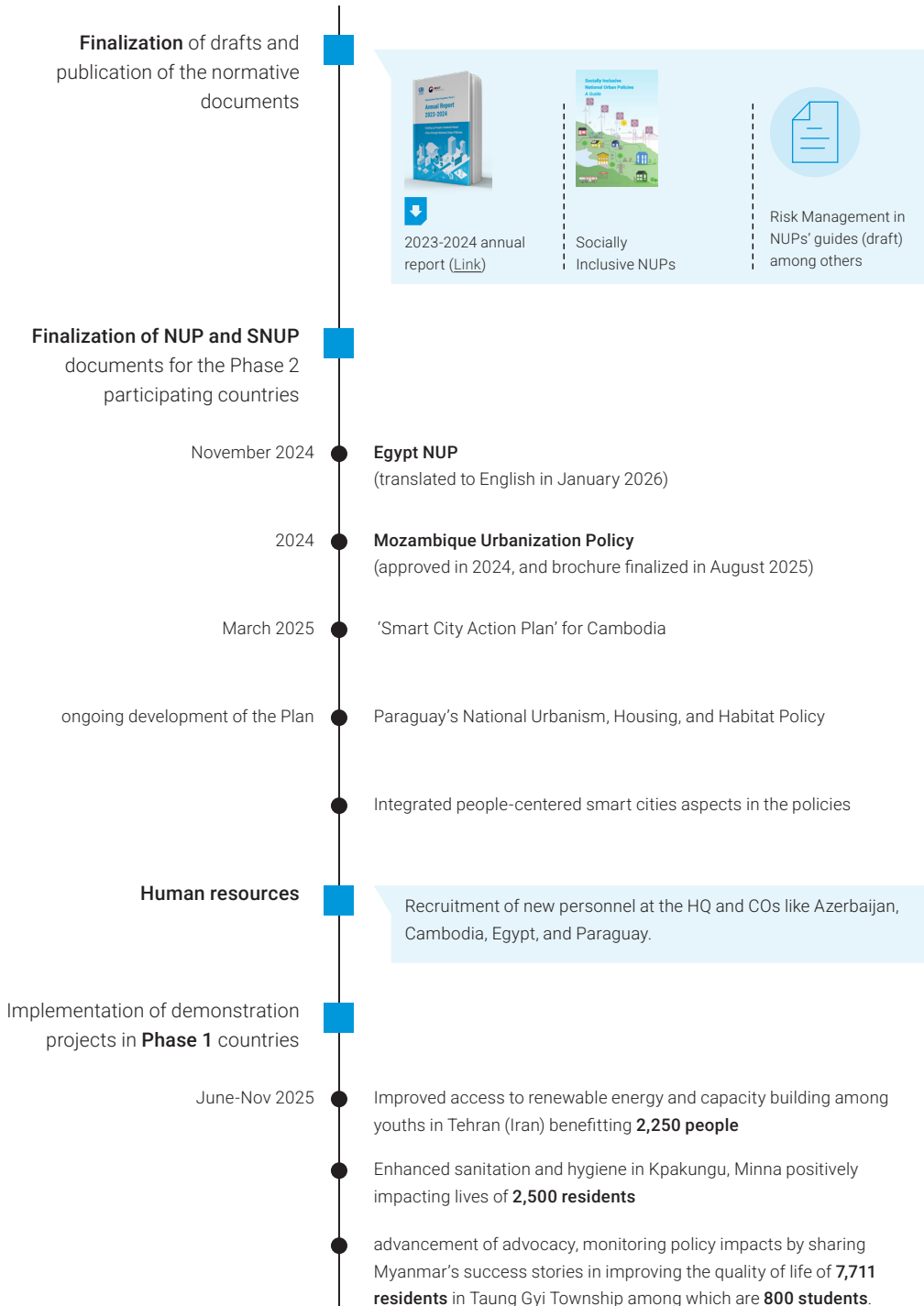
strengthened its partnerships with GIZ and the Catalanian Government. Furthermore, Egypt is in the process of firming up partnerships with regional, academic, and non-profit institutions, including Badr University Foundation for Community Development (BUF). This will build on a previously developed UN-Habitat Badr City 'smart city proposal' that explored integrated, people-centered approaches under the NUP. Egypt is also working on a partnership with the Regional Information Technology and Software Engineering Center (RITSEC) to explore digital urban innovation through three pilot projects supporting scalable NUP implementation.

Technical advice and normative guidance

Review of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia's (KSA) NUP, stakeholder engagement strategy and NUP action plan, Technical consultations for Cambodia & Azerbaijan entailed review of various demonstration projects proposals and discussion of PRC review for the Phase 3 of the ACCD project in Mozambique, and development and dissemination of Myanmar and Niger State impact stories following the finalized implementation of demonstration projects. Bilateral consultations with country teams also provided guidance on how to curate proposals that are people-centered and feature 'smart' in its implementation and outcome. To this regard, the team developed a monitoring and impact measurement framework. The workshop on 'Risk Management in NUP implementation', organized by the HQ, provided normative guidance to COs on how to counter risks and ensure optimal programme outcome and impact.

3.2. Year Three Outcome versus workplan

Year three (2024 Nov-2025) programme implementation realized the following milestones against the planned outcomes.



Successful planning and implementation of four (4) quarterly donor consultations

The project team is continuously navigating an improved modality of governance to enhance the multilateral benefit of the project. As a result, the recent donor consultation meeting secured more allocated time for various speakers across the HQ and COs.

May 2025
Participation in the resumed session of the UN-Habitat Assembly (UNHA 2.2)

The Open-ended Intergovernmental Expert Working Group on **'Adequate Housing for All'** in October 2025 offered the opportunity to present NUP impacts for participating countries and further enhanced importance of NUPs in addressing major urbanization challenges.

Finalization of demonstration project proposals by Phase 2 countries

on various themes like renewable energy, provision of urban basic services, health and sanitation, affordable housing, improved lives in informal settlements, better public spaces among others to be implemented in 2026 and 2027.

Technical support

in reviewing various demonstration project proposals, developing normative documents, NUPs and action plans, addressing specific country challenges during implementation.

Contractual processing

Finalization of contractual processing and ongoing mid-term evaluation of K-NUPP Phase 2 (2022-2025) by Royal Melbourne Institute of Technology (RMIT).

Capacity building and knowledge sharing

Countries participated in various workshops, trainings and forums co-organized locally and internationally. For instance, Egypt participated in a study visit to Germany, Cambodia attended the ASEAN forum and Expert Group Meeting in China, while the Myanmar team participated in land governance training in the Republic of Korea. Other sessions participated included the various UN-Habitat Communities of Practice (COPs) and risk management workshop organized by the HQ. Notably, the UN-Habitat Executive Director participated in Paraguay's PLANUVH validation workshop.

3.3. Innovation and Partnership

To strengthen programme outcome and impact, the UN-Habitat HQ team in collaboration with COs and key partners developed and successfully executed the following innovative approaches.

- » Drafted an **'impact measurement framework'** which will guide participating countries to monitor policy impacts in terms of contribution to the new strategic plan 2026-2029, while addressing key issues like housing, provision of urban basic services, and land management. In addition, the framework requires baseline data for statistical analysis of the beneficiary population in cities and communities where interventions have been implemented.
- » Introduced bilateral monthly consultations between HQ and COs provided a platform for detailed discussion on programme implementation in respective countries, sharing and addressing identified challenges impeding seamless operation.
- » Advanced partnership with GDPC of KRIHS, collaboration across PLS workstreams (Urban-Rural Linkages, Metropolitan Management and Legislation) and relevant colleagues from different teams from HQ.
- » Change in quarterly meetings to feature more country progress; this will feature two (2) donor consultations and two (2) knowledge sessions held interchangeably to enable both routine progress monitoring and deeper policy/technical dialogue with COs on programme implementation.

3.4. Challenges and Opportunities

Overall programme implementation in 2025 faced **challenges** as highlighted below;



- » **Governments transitions;** new leaderships come with changes in national priorities which to an extent resulted in delayed momentum on K-NUPP implementation in some respective countries.



- » **Political unrest and geo-political dynamics;** 2025 marked a lot of changes in global geo-politics. For instance, I.R Iran experienced delayed implementation of demonstration project hence the project was extended from June to November 2025.



- » **Natural catastrophes;** an earthquake that took place in Myanmar in 2025 slowed down subsequent impact monitoring and evaluation of the demonstration project implemented in Myanmar. As a response, the project was extended to address the earthquake effects albeit limited resources.

- » **Limited financial resources;** inadequate financial resources hindered timely



execution of activities. The change in disbursement schedule affected project implementation in participating countries in 2025 to demonstrate NUP impacts and potential. Activities like mapping and finalization of proposals, implementation of demonstration projects have been moved to 2026.



- » **Inadequate human capacity;** the programme faced operational challenges due to limited technical capacities of the country teams and of the government counterparts, including on addressing 'people-centered smart cities' perspectives of their NUPs



- » **Fragmented urban mandate;** For instance, some participating countries do not have government ministries focused on urbanization. Rather this is merged in other departments like public service, planning, among others. This limits coordinated technical support and hinders effective collaboration with government institutions.



- » **Personnel transitions;** Personnel changes at both headquarters and country levels affected continuity and slowed implementation, as incoming personnel needed time to familiarize themselves with the programme and integrate into ongoing work.

However, the aforementioned challenges also presented **opportunities** through which the remaining period of Phase 2 and K-NUPP overall implementation can be improved to strengthen its contribution to sustainable urban development. Identified opportunities in 2025 include;

- » **contingency plans for natural catastrophes** in affected countries. The natural hazards like the earthquake in Myanmar in March 2025 also present opportunities to scale up or implement new demonstration projects as well as to broader thematic/strategic areas of intervention.
- » **strengthened partnerships** with local institutions, UN agencies, and other international organizations like RMIT to amplify importance of NUPs in sustainable urbanization, monitor and evaluate the programme, advance project impact through implementation of demonstration projects, knowledge sharing, and capacity building initiatives.
- » **peer learning among countries** since each is at various technical capacity levels to help participating countries develop evidence-based policies, implement impactful demonstration projects and conduct joint global advocacy and capacity building on NUP contribution to sustainable development.
- » **robust mobilization of financial and human resources** at country and global levels is expected to ensure timely implementation of programme outcomes, improve coordination between the governments of participating countries, partners, UN-Habitat's COs, ROs, and the HQ while drawing synergy on global capacity building and advocacy efforts for overall programme impact

3.5. Looking into year 4 (Dec 2025- Nov 2026)

Demonstration Projects



Some forthcoming actions on this include finalization of proposals for Azerbaijan, Egypt, Mozambique, and Paraguay, while two additional pilot projects will be implemented in Cambodia. and Myanmar and Niger State will each draft proposals for second demonstration projects. Implementation of demonstration projects will be complimented by monitoring and evaluation of policy impacts through dissemination of impact stories in local and global platforms to showcase evidence-based, people-centered contribution of NUP to sustainable urbanization across the globe. Some of the proposed demonstration projects include:

- » Smart and inclusive waste management & improved access to urban basic services in informal settlements in Preah Sihanouk, Cambodia.
- » Development of an urban observatory for Pemba Municipality and promoting safe urban mobility in Maputo, Mozambique.
- » Improved accessibility to public spaces and road safety in Baku, Azerbaijan.
- » Improvement of public spaces in Guarambaré, Paraguay.
- » Participatory upgrading of under-used plots into gender-inclusive sports and recreation areas in Alexandria, Egypt.
- » Heritage-led regeneration of the Mamluk Desert area through small-scale public-space improvements and community-based activation in historic Cairo, Egypt.
- » Upgrading Abdel-Rahman Street with practical, low-cost interventions that organize street activity, enhance accessibility, and improve the environment for craftsmen, shop owners, and residents in Damietta, Egypt,

Knowledge sharing,
Advocacy, and Capacity
Development



17th -22nd May
in Baku, Azerbaijan

Participation in major events like WUF13 is aimed at enhancing knowledge and capacity of local and national government officers, urban development, and policy experts among other stakeholders to develop, implement, and monitor impactful, people-centered urban policies. ***Impact stories will also be widely disseminated***, showcasing policy impacts and how implemented interventions are changing people's lives.

Monitoring
and Evaluation

Following the finalization of the contractual process, RMIT is expected to lead the K-NUPP Mid-term evaluation (2022-2025) to assess progress, identify gaps, and provide recommendations for successful programme delivery in the remaining period.

Contribution to SDG, NUA
and SP 2026-2029



Normative products




Finalize and publish 2024-2025 annual report, draft new knowledge products such as the 'Socially Inclusive NUP' and 'Housing in NUP', revamp and scale up the impact of existing publications related to NUP and thematic areas in tandem with the new strategic plan and contextualized to country needs to reach a wider global audience and scale up impact on people's lives.



Strengthening existing
and establishing new
partnerships

This is to be done at both local and global levels to not only increase awareness of the value that urban policies adds on realization of resilient, inclusive, equitable human settlements but also to build a stronger resource base for phase 3 which is envisioned to have more participating countries.

4. COUNTRY PROGRESS



Stunning view of Baku's skyline featuring the iconic Flame Towers on a cloudy day. © Muhammed İKİTEPE

K-NUPP PHASE 2 COUNTRIES

4.1. AZERBAIJAN



Capital: Baku

UN-Habitat Region: Eastern Europe and Central Asia (EECA)

Currency: Manat (₼) (AZN)



GDP Per Capita: USD 7,283.8 (2024)

GDP: USD 74.32 billion (2024)

Income Level Group: Upper Middle



Official Language: Azerbaijani



Area in sq. km: 86 600 km²



Access to piped water: 75% (2024)²



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 69%



Life expectancy at birth: 74 years (2022)



Urban growth (annual): 1.2%

Urban population growth: 1990 - 3,856,598 (0.81%) ;2000 - 4,135,854, (1.21%);
2010 -4,835,557, 1.60%; 2020 - 5,592,217, (1.34%) ; 2024 – 5,547,800

Population: 10,202,850 (2024)



Annual Population growth rate: 0.5% (2024)

Population living in cities (%): 58% (2024)

Population living in slums:27%



Azerbaijan's commitment to sustainable urbanization and the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) is explicit in its active involvement and participation in both national and global activities. The country has over time developed key national policies/documents to guide its realization of sustainable cities and communities while contributing to other global development frameworks. In 2019, the government launched the **Baku City masterplan**. In addition, the '**Azerbaijan 2023; National Priorities for Socio-economic Development**' approved in 2021 aims at balancing regional development between Baku, Azerbaijan's capital and secondary cities, while harnessing creativity and innovation.

The main objective is to have a competitive human capital that fosters dynamic, resilient, inclusive cities and communities.

Following cessation of hostilities in Karabakh region in 2020, the government approved the State program on '**The Great Return to the Liberated Territories of Azerbaijan**' in 2022 to reintegrate the internally displaced persons (IDPs) in the regained region. In the next twenty (20) years under the theme '**safe return, lives first**', the program is expected to provide basic services, reconstruct infrastructure and provide affordable housing to the 680,000 displaced persons. To realize people centered smart cities, the government also developed '**New Baku Master Plan**' which was approved in 2023.

Azerbaijan government has actively participated in and hosted both national and international events leading key discussions on sustainable urbanization in collaboration with UN-Habitat, other UN agencies, and partners

like the government of the Republic of Korea. With the first National Urban Forum (NUF) held in 2022, the two subsequent forums have shaped urbanization processes in the country through partnerships, advocacy and awareness raising. The third NUF themed **‘Towards climate-resilient and healthy cities: Harnessing regional partnerships and innovative solutions’**, was held in October 2025 on the sidelines of the ‘Urban October’.

Azerbaijan also hosted the 29th UN Climate Change Conference (COP 29) in November 2024 in Baku. Ministerial meetings on urbanization and climate change emphasized the alignment of national and local policies for resilient and healthy cities and communities while addressing pressing the climate crisis through the multi-sectoral action pathways (MAP). Azerbaijan has equally participated in the previous World Urban Forums (WUFs) and is set to host the 13th WUF themed ‘Housing the World’ between 17th and 22nd May 2026 in Baku.

Azerbaijan is a participating country, together with seven (7) other countries globally (Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, Paraguay, I.R. Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State) in the second phase of the Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP). The programme implementation at country level is led by The State Committee on Urban Planning and Architecture (SCUPA) in collaboration with UN-Habitat. Since its launch in 2022, the second phase of the programme themed ‘Scaling up people centered smart cities through NUP’, has realized notable progress and impact in Azerbaijan.

Following the receipt of the acknowledgement letter from the government through SCUPA, the third year of the programme focused on operationalization through improved stakeholder engagement, strengthening capacity through dialogues and participation in forums and conferences, diagnosis and feasibility of current policies and alignment to draft an explicit NUP as shown in the logical framework below.



Logical Framework and Implementation Plan (Year 3)

2025	JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
OUTCOME 1.												
National and local governments mainstream the people-centred smart cities approach into NUPs and/ or sub-national urban policies in selected countries and sub-national regions.												
Output 1: Contribution to one (1) National Urban Policy document integrating housing, climate resilience, urban recovery and people centered smart city approach												
Activity 1.1: Establish a NUP Steering Committee and thematic working groups						X						
Activity 1.2: Conduct 3 diagnostic thematic consultations / “policy dialogues”						X			X		X	
Activity 1.3: Mainstream key policy concepts, issues and draft policy briefs			X		X		X		X		X	
OUTCOME 2.												
Capacity of policy makers and stakeholders enhanced to facilitate the territorial dimension of urban innovation and steer digital transformation in NUPs												
Output 2: Capacity building activities for Azerbaijan policy makers and stakeholders to facilitate the territorial dimension of urban innovation and steer digital transformation in NUP process												
Activity 2.1: Collect and share relevant data, and information to inform territorial smart city strategic recommendations									X			
Activity 2.2: Mobilize and guide Azerbaijan NUP stakeholders’ participation in Expert Group Meeting and workshops					X	X			X	X		
Activity 2.3: Share experience of NUP preparation at WUFs, at Azerbaijan National Urban Fora (NUFAs) and regional forums									X	X		
Outcome 3.												
Urban interventions apply innovative approaches and technologies while considering the people-centred dimension in National Urban Policy.												
Output 3: One (1) acupuncture project/ pilot intervention implemented based on NUP action plan												
Activity 3.1: Prioritize an acupuncture /normative projects, based on the analysis of the NUP action plan									X	X	X	X
Activity 3.2: Conduct a stakeholders mapping and inception meetings					X	X						
Activity 3.3: Realize a needs assessment and roadmap for pilot project			X								X	X
Outcome 4.												
Improved knowledge creation and sharing, and enhanced global awareness of experiences on the nexus of NUP and people-centred smart cities approaches and models.												
Output 4: Improved knowledge creation and sharing and enhanced global awareness of experiences on the nexus of NUP and people-centered smart cities approaches and models.												
Activity 4.1: Support organization, facilitation and implementation of Exchange Visit(s)					X				X			
Activity 4.2: Deliver annual reports on activities and financial updates	X											
Activity 4.3: Share Azerbaijan experience in Global Campaign on NUP and People-centered Smart City networks					X							

Key achievements for the project implementation in Azerbaijan for the period November 2024 - November 2025 constitute the following;

- » Co-drafted Azerbaijan's Common Country Analysis (CCA), summary shared with the government of Azerbaijan in April (outcome 1)
- » Held workshops on Foresight and Strategic Prioritization and Theory of Change, the UNSDCF's Strategic Priority on Advancing Inclusive Economic Growth and Human Development". The UN Country Team also contributed to evidence-based policies and capacity building to design and develop inclusive, people-centered public services integrating digital solutions (outcome 1).
- » Established collaboration on policy-related research and dissemination with two newly established Schools at ADA University of Baku (outcome 1)
- » Contributed to the webinar on "Accessible Mobility: Ensuring Safety and Inclusion in Public Spaces," organized in the context of the UN Global Road Safety Week in May
- » Participated in the third NUFA held in Baku from 15th-17th October 2025. Discussions addressed how to strengthen urban rural linkages through presentation 'From Growth to Balance;The role of NUPs in shaping equitable territories' with recommendations to strengthen institutions and cross-sector coordination for a unified approach in addressing urbanization.
- » Urban practitioners from the town of Shusha participated in the Georgian Urban Forum (GNUF3), held in Kazbegi on 11th -13th June 2025 and themed '**sustainable development of high-altitude urban settlements located in the Caucasian mountainous regions**'. The **Azerbaijan** country team shared its experience regarding planning and policy development. (outcome 1)
- » **Delivered a session titled "Next-Gen Cities: Youth leading change in how we design safe, vibrant and healthy public spaces"** at the 11th National Selection Conference of the European Youth Parliament Azerbaijan, organized on Youth Day 2025 held in August 2025 and attended by over 70 high-school students. The discussions from this event will feed into a policy brief on public spaces (outcome 1)
- » Participated in the 'Youth Lead Dialogue **2025** hosted by the Non-Aligned Movement Youth Organization (NAMYO) office in Baku in August, organized in preparation for the Youth Lead Festival at the United Nations General Assembly (UNGA) in September 2025 in New York

- » Initiated a collaboration with the World Health Organization (WHO) Azerbaijan to develop a joint policy note titled “*The City We Need: Planning Healthy Cities in Azerbaijan*” to be published in the academic journal *Baku Dialogues* (outcome 1)



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Opportunities, Challenges, Risks and Mitigation

The Azerbaijan country office (CO) encountered several **challenges and risks** in execution of its planned activities for 2025. The challenges to a large extent slowed down activities, hence some projected timelines were not adequately met. Some challenges and risks include:

- » Delays in organizing the steering committee
- » Limited human capacity
- » Limited institutional capacities and coordination across sectors and government ministries
- » Overlapping mandates and uncoordinated operation of various government ministries and institutions
- » Low citizen participation especially at local levels
- » Inaccessibility/unavailability of disaggregated spatial data to inform the diagnosis analysis of Azerbaijan’s urbanization along themes like housing and urban health due to perceived sensitivities
- » Gaps in legislative frameworks and sector strategies to implement urban development plans

The feasibility and diagnostic studies conducted through the various policy briefs developed in collaboration with ADA University, workshops and forums present a wide array of **opportunities** through which Azerbaijan, participating in K-NUPP, can align

- » Improved coordination with SCUPA and other government ministries.
- » Strengthened relationships with other UN agencies like WHO and FAO, external organizations like the Swiss Embassy, Asian Development Bank (ADB) and academic institutions like the ADA University.
- » Advancing advocacy through the Azerbaijan Urban Campaign (AUC 2026) in preparation for the upcoming WUF13 session to be held in Baku to scale up NUP impacts

its local and national urbanization policy, streamline development priorities, and realize greater impact contributing to improved living standards for its citizens Opportunities identified in 2025 include

One **innovative approach** employed to implement activities and strengthen impact in Azerbaijan involved outreach to academic institutions, especially ADA. This approach encouraged active and inclusive participation not only among young people and students, but also academic institution leadership, neighbouring community, and the national government.

Resource mobilization remains a key factor as it ensures effective implementation of the project’s activities. In addition to the initial resources from the government of Korea, Azerbaijan government through SCUPA provided in-kind contribution projected at USD 1.3 million to support additional outcomes like organization of NUFA and WUF 13 in 2026. An additional USD 100,000 has been earmarked to support Azerbaijan country office on NUP processes when host country agreement will be signed with the government.

Azerbaijan’s **prospects for 2026** include

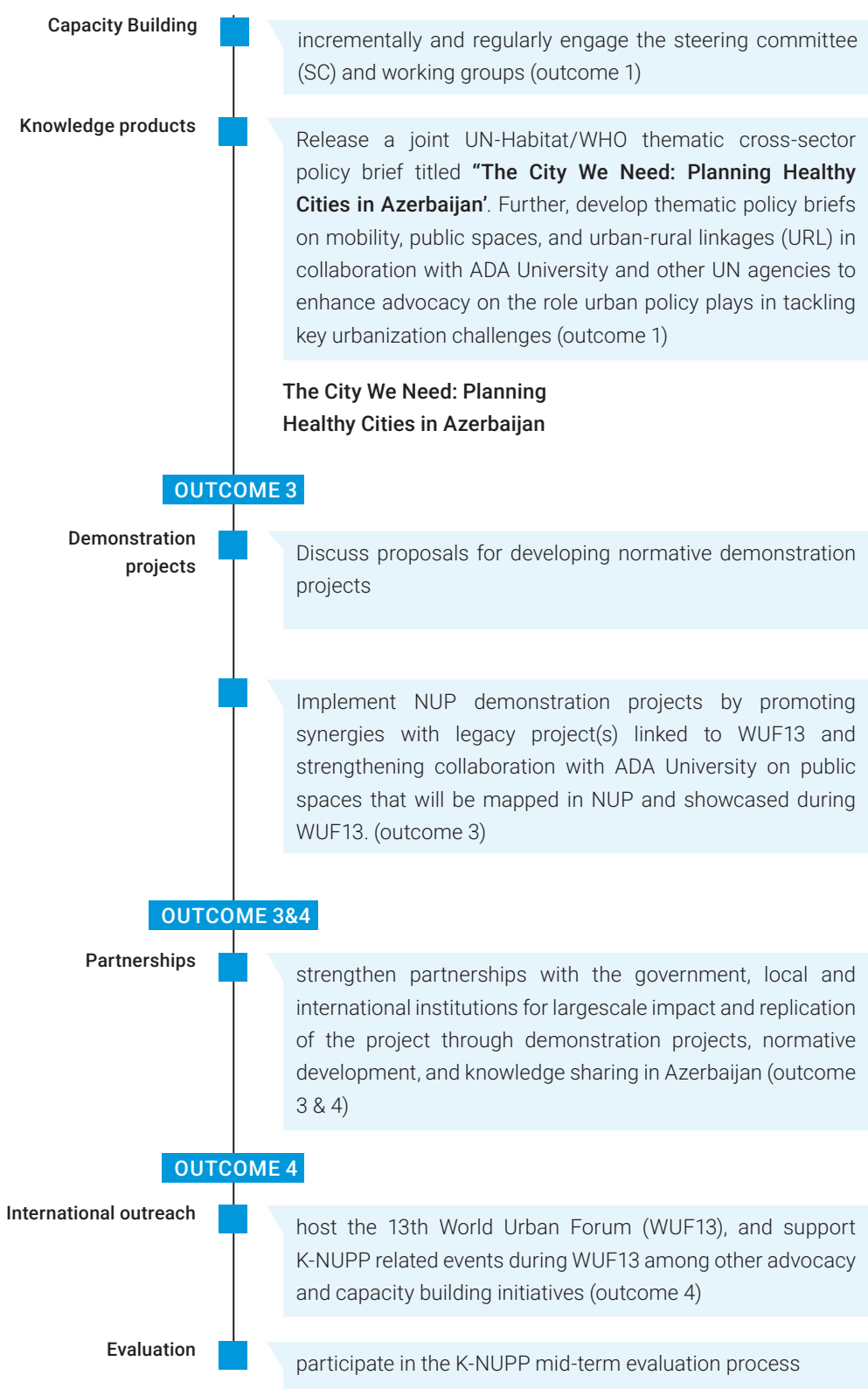
OUTCOME 1

Finalize recruitment of personnel to support project implementation

This will fast track implementation of country activities like revision of In-House Agreement (IHA) and workplan among others

key deliverable

Submit a report titled “Azerbaijan National Policy”- A Guiding Framework for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urbanization” to SCUPA
 Draft Azerbaijan’s NUP which is a key deliverable for the programme (outcome 1)





4.2. CAMBODIA



Capital: Phnom Penh

Province: Preah Sihanouk ; Capital: Sihanoukville or Preah Sihanouk City;

Population: 310,072; Sq. kms (area): 2,659 Km²

Year of formation: 1957, provincial status in 2008

UN-Habitat Region: Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

Location in the country: Southwest of Cambodia on the Gulf of Thailand

Currency: Riel (KHR)



GDP Per Capita: USD 7,283.8 (2024)

GDP: USD 46.35 billion (2024)

Income Level Group: lower middle-income



Official Language: Cambodian or Khmer



Area in sq. km: 181,035 km²



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 37% (2022)

Access to basic sanitation services: 77%

Access to basic drinking water: 78%



Life expectancy at birth: 71years

Urban growth (annual): 1.2%



Percentage of urban population: 41.5% (2024)

Urban population growth: 1990 (6.1%), 2000 (3.1%), 2010 (3.3%), 2020 (2.9%)

Urban population trend: 1980: 584,000; 2000: 2,313,000; 2020: 6,135,194



Population: 17,683,801 (2024)

Population growth: 1.2% (2024)

Population living in slums: 42% (2022)



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Preah Sihanouk Province in southwest of the country has been identified as the location for the second phase of the National Urban Policy Programme (K-NUPP Phase II) in Cambodia alongside other eight (8) countries globally, supported by the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of the Republic of Korea. Building on the province’s rapid urbanization and growing strategic importance, the programme aims to mainstream a ‘people-centered smart cities approach’ into urban policies and implementation processes at both national and subnational levels.

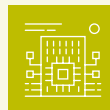
Aligned with ***Preah Sihanouk’s 2030 Vision***, the recently approved ***Land Management and Land Use Policy (2023)*** for Developing Preah Sihanouk Province as a Multi-Purpose Special

Economic Zone 2022-2038 provides an entry point for integrating inclusive and digitally enabled perspectives. Since the K-NUPP launch in Cambodia in September 2023, the strong collaboration with Cambodia’s national government, Smart City Working Group in Preah Sihanouk Province, and UN-Habitat Cambodia Country Office (CO) has led to a review of existing urban policies and planning documents through a series of consultations and training sessions with the province’s Smart City Working Group.

The outcome of these efforts is visible in the endorsement of the ***Smart City Action Plan for Preah Sihanouk Province 2024–2028*** in December 2024, which was officially disseminated in March 2025.



Land Management and Land Use Policy (2023)



Smart City Action Plan for Preah Sihanouk Province 2024–2028

The document reflects locally identified needs while complementing regional frameworks such as the ASEAN Smart Cities Network (ASCN).

In relation to Cambodia's broader smart city agenda, UN-Habitat CO has collaborated with key ministries including the Ministry of Interior and Ministry of Land Management, Urban Planning and Construction who are working on their sectoral plans. The CO has been engaged in the drafting process of the country's **National Urban Development Strategy and National Smart City Strategy** along with the government and other development partners using the Preah Sihanouk '**Smart City Action Plan**' as an overall guide.

Implementation of the '**Smart City Action Plan**' will feature two demonstration projects in the year 2026 in Preah Sihanouk Province. The two proposals focus on; i) smart waste management and ii) improving resilience and access to urban basic services in informal settlements in Preah Sihanouk Province.

Further to this, Cambodia will participate in knowledge exchange and consultations with other participating countries to share Cambodia's urbanization experience, supporting in preparation of and participating in forums and conferences like WUF13 among others. The country team will also continue collaborating with and organizing internal consultations with various provincial departments and government ministries.



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Logical framework and implementation plan (Year 3)

		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
Outcome 1	National and local governments mainstream the people-centered smart cities approach into NUPs and/or SNUPs in selected countries and sub-national regions												
Output 1.1	National and sub-national urban policies with the appropriate instruments to ensure people-centered smart cities approach align with local priorities												
1.1.7	Dissemination of Preah Sihanouk’s Smart City Action Plan mainstreaming people-centred smart city approach												
1.1.8	Regular quarterly meeting with Smart City Working Group and training on people-centred smart city approach and other relevant training and knowledge products/ dissemination												
Outcome 3	Urban/metropolitan interventions apply innovative approaches and technologies while considering the people-centred dimension in NUPs and/or SUPs.												
Output 3.2	Completion of supported people-centred smart urban/metropolitan intervention with government and/or partners												
3.2.1	Finalization two (2) acupuncture projects/pilot interventions implemented based on action plan												
3.2.2	Execution of demonstration projects for the implementation of people-centered NUP and smart city action plan												

Achievements

Cambodia made steady progress and the following milestones significantly contributed to the programme execution in 2025:

- » Finalized the ‘*Smart City Action Plan*’ ([link](#)) to enable Preah Sihanouk Province mainstream people-centered smart city aspects in its urbanization processes (outcome 1.1.7)
- » Finalized two demonstration project proposals (outcome 3.2.1)
- » Supported members of the ‘Smart City Working Group’ to participate in an Expert Group Meeting (EGM) on Future Cities in April 2025 in Shanghai, China and ASEAN Urban Forum held in August 2025 in Malaysia in order to wider share and disseminate a smart city action plan for Preah Sihanouk Province (outcome 1.1.7)
- » Facilitated bilateral consultations between UN-Habitat and delegates from Preah Sihanouk Province to strengthen partnership and collaboration while seeking opportunities to implement the Smart City Action Plan towards smart, sustainable, and inclusive urban development (outcome 1)

- » Held regular quarterly meetings with Smart City Working Group and provided an orientation on people-centered smart city approach and other relevant trainings (1.1.8)
- » Jointly organized a national level consultative workshop on 12th Dec 2025 to provide inputs on National Smart City Strategy formulation, taking ‘smart city action plan’ for Preah Sihanouk case study and people-centered approaches (outcome 3.2.2)

Opportunities, challenges, risks and mitigation

Cambodia was not exempted from **challenges and risks** while implementing the project activities in 2025. These are summarized herein;

No.	Risks	Probability	Impact	Status	Mitigation
1	Financial constraints	High	High	Active	HQ, CO and government to mobilize other sources of fund from national and international partners Request for additional funding from donors
2	Political risks	Low	High	Active	Maintain regular communication with key government counterparts in Cambodia Proactive measures/ early warning systems
3	Human resource capacity issues (HR)	High	Medium	Active	HQ support for governance structures and recruitment of personnel (UNV, consultant, other modality) for the global and country level implementation
4	Limited resource mobilization	High	High	Active	HQ colleagues guide/advising CO on proposal development and identifying donor entry points CO engaging directly with potential partners



Resource mobilization efforts in Cambodia involved engaging with partners at international, national and local level to expand the project's resource base and advance the urban policy development process. For instance, the Preah Sihanouk Provincial administration provided an

in-kind contribution of USD 100,000 to support staffing, meetings, logistical coordination, and secondary data collection. Other in-kind engagements to offer technical and human resources included:

- » Initial dialogue with the Korea-Cambodia Digital Government Cooperation Center (DGCC) with prospects to include Preah Sihanouk Province in a project proposal on big data policy consulting, in line with expected outcomes for the second phase of K-NUPP.
- » Engagement with the Korea Research Institute for Human Settlements (KRIHS) to explore collaboration on a capacity building programme.
- » Bilateral meeting between UN-Habitat ROAP Director and Preah Sihanouk Provincial Administration during the ASEAN Sustainable Urban Forum (11th -14th Aug 2025) in, Malaysia emphasized the commitment for strong collaboration and partnership for implementation of Smart City Action Plan.
- » A special coordination meeting in Shanghai, China between UN-Habitat and China Future Cities Council of Partners and the Cambodian Smart City Project team including CO and delegates from Preah Sihanouk Province was organized to disseminate the action plan in the region and further discuss potential collaboration and. As result, the China Future Cities Council of Partners will support the informal settlements demonstration project survey in Preah Sihanouk Province.
- » Additional prospective stakeholders identified include the Korea Green Growth Trust Fund, Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), Korea Trade-Investment Promotion Agency (KOTRA), Economic Development Cooperation Fund (EDCF) and the World Bank.

Emerging issues and innovative approaches

In addition, the following **emerging issues** impeded programme implementation in Cambodia in 2025

- » Limited capacity of government counterparts in applying innovative smart city technologies and data-based service delivery. Continued training efforts are required to build digital knowledge and foster application of these skills
- » Further technical support needed by the CO to enable transition from planning and formulation to execution of people-centered smart city interventions, including demonstration projects and related capacity building activities.

The CO thus devised the following **innovative approaches** to address the emerging issues and enable timely implementation of the planned activities.

- » Diversified resource mobilization efforts from national and international partners, including the Korean Embassy and related agencies, and private sector. Potential partners include the World Bank, KRIHS, KOICA, KOTRA, EDCF, Korea Green Growth Trust Fund, China Future Cities Council of Partners
- » Collaboration with academic institutions, including the Royal University of Phnom Penh, Faculty of Urban Planning to strengthen capacity in people-centered smart city implementation and encourage inclusion for additional long-term impact and replicability.

Prospects for 2026 in Cambodia programme implementation are as outlined below

- » Implement demonstration projects as part of showcasing the potential of the smart city action plan (outcome 3.2.2)
- » Monitor and evaluate policy impacts of the demonstration project(s), develop narrative reports and impact stories showcasing the positive results on living standards of beneficiary residents
- » Participate in K-NUPP knowledge and advocacy initiatives such as WUF13 (outcome 4).
- » Conduct relevant capacity building initiatives for national and local leaders, and the community, emphasizing the importance and contribution of a comprehensive NUP and demonstration projects towards sustainable urbanization (outcome 1.1.7)
- » Participate in the K- NUPP mid-term evaluation to assess programme implementation in Cambodia since 2022.
- » Co-organize a national consultative workshop to provide inputs towards formulation of Cambodia's National Smart City Strategy considering the Preah Sihanouk Smart City Action Plan (outcome 1.1.8)
- » Co-organize a national urban forum in collaboration with Preah Sihanouk province administration and the national government (outcome 3.2.2)



4.3. EGYPT



Capital: Cairo

UN-Habitat Region: Arab States (ROAS)

Currency: Egyptian Pound



GDP Per Capita: USD 3,338.5 (2024)

GDP: USD 389.06 billion (2024)

Income Level Group: Lower middle income



Official Language: Arabic



Area in sq. km: 1,002,000km²



Access to clean water: 99%



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 67%



Life expectancy at birth: 72 years (2022)



Urban population growth (annual): 2.1% (2024)

Urban population growth: 1990 (4.2%), 2000 (3.1%), 2010 (1.7%), 2020 (1.8%)

Population: 116,538,258 (2024)

Population growth: 1.7% (2024)



Population living in cities (%): 43% (2024)

Population living in slums: 4% (2022)



In Africa, Egypt ranks second after South Africa in terms of Gross Domestic Product. However, the country is not exempted from key urbanization challenges such as regional imbalance, rapid growth of the urban population, and unequal access to urban basic services. In response, the country has made pivotal steps in aligning its national urbanization efforts through key frameworks such as the **Egypt Vision 2030** and the **Strategic Development Plan 2052**.

Egypt's participation in the second phase of K-NUPP, 'Scaling up people-centered smart cities through NUP', alongside other seven countries has amplified its deliberate efforts towards realizing inclusive, resilient, and sustainable cities and communities.

Egypt launched its **National Urban Policy** in November 2024 during WUF12 which was hosted in Cairo. This positioned the policy as a guiding framework for sustainable and inclusive urban development.

With continued technical support and the mobilization of new partnerships, the NUP is expected to provide a coherent platform for advancing integrated, resilient, and future-oriented urban transformation in Egypt. The policy has been translated from Arabic to English to reach a global audience and serve as a reference for countries in similar context yet to develop their urban policies.

In addition, Egypt's **Badr Smart City** was selected as a participant in the K-City Network Programme in 2024 and has since finalized the master plan through a series of technical consultations with various government ministries, the government of Korea through MOLIT, and other international partners.

Successful implementation of the K-NUPP Phase 2 through various demonstration projects or interventions will significantly contribute to the success of the policy. These programme outcomes will positively impact the people by improving their quality of life through addressing the five urbanization pillars identified in the NUP including;

- » Regional Balance and Integrated Development.
- » Urban Growth Management and Guidance.
- » Enhancing Connectivity Within and Between Cities.
- » Promoting Local Economic Development.
- » Strengthening Urban Governance Frameworks.

Further, Egypt's efforts on capacity building, knowledge sharing and global advocacy on sustainable urban development especially, on relevance of NUPs has been evident over time, culminating in its hosting of WUF12 as well as the National Urban Forums and urban weeks held locally. Additionally, Egypt's contribution to sustainable development has been recognized globally as the '**Hayenna Project**' was shortlisted for the UN Secretary-General Awards in the international category in 2025.

This project is transforming how cities grow in Egypt through digital innovation, community leadership, and smarter land governance thus scaling up the country's initiative on participatory land readjustment plans to prevent informal settlements' sprawl. The project is expected to benefit over **120,000 residents** in Qena and Damietta.



Logical Framework and Implementation Plan (Year 3)

OUTCOME 1. National and local governments mainstream the people-centered smart cities approach into NUPs and / or sub-national urban policies in selected countries and sub-national regions.		JAN	FEB	MAR	APR	MAY	JUN	JUL	AUG	SEP	OCT	NOV	DEC
OUTPUT 1.1													
1.1.1	Formation of one in-country advisory board/ committee, per country in the selected regions												
1.1.2	Review of existing/ or formulation of the NUP with people-centred smart city strategy												
1.1.5	Completion of a reviewed National Urban Policy per each country												
1.3 (MOH Fund)	Develop NUP Implementation framework with participation and consensus of relevant stakeholders												
1.4 (MOH Fund)	Coordination framework for agencies and institutions responsible for the NUP												
1.5 (MOH Fund)	Clear monitoring framework of NUP including indicators, required data, sources of information is developed that is aligned with global urban framework commitments												
1.6 (MOH Fund)	Develop an online/user-friendly web-based Egyptian System of Cities Tool/Application												
OUTPUT 3.2													
3.2.5	Execution of demonstration projects for the implementation of people-centered NUP and smart city strategy (Phase 2)												

Achievements

Programme implementation in Egypt recorded key milestones in 2025 as shared herein;

- » Formulated advisory committee with members from the Ministry of Housing, Utilities, and Urban Communities (MoHUUC), General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP), New Urban Communities Authority (NUCA), and UN-Habitat to expedite implementation (Outcome 1.1)
- » English version of Egypt’s NUP finalized (Outcome 1.1.2)
- » Prepared a presentation on entry points for the mainstreaming of the people-centered smart city approach into the NUP and currently being validated through stakeholder consultations. It outlines how PCSA principles can be practically integrated into the NUP to support its operationalization, serving as a key advocacy and awareness tool during upcoming engagements (Outcome 3.2)

- » Co-organized a capacity building workshop on smart cities and digitalization in partnership with United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities (UNITAC) (outcome 3)
- » Finalized recruitment of personnel to fast-track programme implementation in Egypt (outcome 1)
- » Conducted a study visit to Bavaria and Munich, Germany titled 'Egypt Meets Bavaria; Building Smart Cities Together' between 12th and 17th October 2025. The mission contributed to peer learning on smart city development in relation to Egypt's Badr Smart City while strengthening cooperation between Egypt and Germany regarding smart and sustainable urban development. (Outcome 3)
- » Held consultative meetings with various ministries and institutions (GOPP, MoHUUC to align the NUP–PCSA framework with ongoing national smart city initiatives aimed at localizing smart city approaches at the city level, a key entry point for the NUP–PCSA project (outcome 1.1.2)

Challenges, risks, mitigation efforts and opportunities

Egypt experienced some **challenges and risks** in 2025 as highlighted below.

- » ***Institutional fragmentation and coordination barriers:*** Coordination across GOPP, MOHUUC, Ministry of Local Development (MoLD), governorates, and local authorities remains a challenge.
- » ***Capacity gaps:*** Limited technical expertise on smart cities and digitalization at local levels.
- » ***Complexity of smart projects in traditional urban contexts:*** Demonstration cities, like Rosetta, face heritage protection strains, informality, and infrastructure deficits, making high-tech smart interventions difficult to embed without extensive groundwork.
- » ***Scaling and replicability risks:*** Some pilot projects may succeed at a micro-scale but may suffer from weak design features or financial model needed for replication across other Egyptian cities.

Identified **opportunities** include;

- » Scaling up the Badr Smart city initiative under the K-City Network programme in collaboration with academic institutions and relevant government ministries
- » Advancing partnerships with prospective partners following the study visit held in Germany to integrate PCSC in Egypt's NUP and to implement innovative interventions

Resource mobilization

The national government has committed and approved a financial contribution of USD 400,000 to support realization of two (2) additional outcomes in the K-NUPP phase 2 as well as implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of the NUP.

2026 prospects for Egypt's programme implementation include:

- » Disseminate the English version of Egypt's NUP (outcome 1)
- » Draft a report on all conducted consultations reflecting feasibility and diagnosis of Egypt's urbanization process and the people-centered smart cities approach (outcome 1)
- » Finalize and disseminate a draft of the reviewed NUP mainstreaming people-centered smart cities approaches (outcome 1)
- » Implement three (3) demonstration projects focusing on participatory upgrading of Abdel-Rahman Street in Damietta, heritage-led public-space regeneration in the Mamluk Desert area in Cairo, and activation of inclusive urban sports and cycling spaces in Alexandria. (outcome 3)
- » Monitor and evaluate policy impacts of the demonstration projects and disseminate the results to advance advocacy at local, national, and global levels (outcome 3 & 4)
- » Support in preparation of and participate in WUF 13 and other relevant forums organized locally and internationally (outcome 3 & 4)
- » Strengthening partnerships through more advocacy efforts especially identified potential opportunities like Germany (outcome 4)



4.4. MOZAMBIQUE



Capital: Maputo

UN-Habitat Region: Africa (ROAf)

Currency: Mozambican Metica



GDP Per Capita: USD 647.3 (2024)

GDP: USD 22.42 Billion (2024)

Income Level Group: Low



Official Language: Portuguese



Area in sq. km: 799,380km²



Access to basic drinking water: 63% (2022)



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 37%



Life expectancy at birth: 64 years (2022)



Urban population increase: 1990 - 3 325 865, 2000 - 5 170 280 and 2020 - 11 559 020

Urban population growth: 1990 - 7.6%, 2000 - 3.1%, 2010 - 4.4% and 2020- 4.4%

Population: 34,631,766 (2024)



Population growth (annual %): 2.9

Population living in cities (%): 39% (2024)

Population living in slums: 55% (2022)



Mozambique faces unique urbanization challenges attributed to its exposure and vulnerability to effects of climatic hazards like floods, cyclones, droughts and political uncertainties. The outstanding challenges in cities and urban communities include unequal access to urban basic services, inadequate infrastructure, overcrowding and insecurity, limited institutional and technical capacity. The government has thus made deliberate efforts to curb these challenges and ensure sustainable urbanization process in Mozambique with the sole purpose of improving the quality of life among Mozambicans.

Key government interventions include hosting the **first NUF in 2016** during which it advocated for the then launched NUA.

Continuous collaboration with UN-Habitat over the years led to the finalization of an **'Urbanization Policy Foundation Paper'** in 2017. The second NUF in 2022 paved way for preparation of the first draft of Mozambique's National Urbanization Policy and selection of Mozambique as a participating country in the second phase of K-NUPP (2022-2027), 'Scaling up people-centered smart cities through NUP.

Following a series of technical consultations and public participation sessions locally and nationally, in collaboration with key ministries like Ministry of State Administration and Public Service (MAEFP), Mozambique's **Urbanization Policy** was approved by the Council of Ministers in April 2024.

The country expects to guide its urbanization strategy through seven (7) key pillars of the urban policy which include; governance and decentralization, land management and spatial planning, economic and financial development, access to housing and adequate settlements, inclusive access to resilient, basic infrastructure and services, mobility and accessibility, urban resilience and environment. Planned **implementation of demonstration projects** on ‘urban mobility in Maputo’ and ‘development of an urban observatory in Pemba Municipality’ will strengthen policy impacts in Mozambique while impact stories shared from the country’s urbanization experience will further act as a benchmark for similar contexts.

K-NUPP implementation in Mozambique has seen great support from the government as well as the international community. This is evidenced by various partnerships that have led to financial, human, and technical support from GIZ, the World Bank, and the Catalan Agency for Development Cooperation (ACCD), Spain. The country’s participation in global forums like WUF has strengthened knowledge sharing and advocacy efforts on relevance of NUPs in shaping the urbanization processes while contributing to global development agendas like NUA and SDGs



Logical Framework and Implementation Plan (Year 3)

		2024				2025			
Detailed descriptions	Activities	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Estimated complementary budget to be mobilized by the CO for development of the NUP									
OUTCOME 1 National government Mainstream the people-centered smart cities approach into NUPs									
OUTPUT 1.1	Contribution to elaborate one (1) National Urban Policy document is provided								
1.1.1	Organize and report on meetings of the NUP Steering Committee, for NUP elaboration								
1.1.2	Organize and report on consultations to elaborate on the NUP diagnostic, through ad hoc sessions.								
1.1.3	Mainstream concepts, issues, recommendations and analysis on digitalization in urban areas and smart cities throughout all the NUP document. This includes the NUP diagnostic, objectives, axes, strategic lines, indicators and action plan.								
1.1.4	Elaborate a “Digital Urban Transformation Mapping and Assessment Report” for NUP								
1.1.5	The NUP Technical-Scientific Committee validate the “Digital Urban Transformation Mapping and Assessment Report” prepared by the Technical Team, in order to submit it to the Policy Directorate for inclusion into the policy final document.								
OUTCOME 3. Urban/metropolitan interventions apply innovative approaches while considering the people-centered dimension in National Urban Policy.									
OUTPUT 3.2	One (1) acupuncture project/pilot intervention implemented based on NUP action plan								
3.2.1	Prioritize the acupuncture project and its location with the Government, based on the analysis of the NUP action plan and of the documents/reports produced through Output 1								
3.2.2	Conduct a stakeholders’ mapping and inception meetings with the national and local institutions and partners/CSOs identified for project implementation								

3.2.3	Realize a needs assessment and roadmap for pilot project implementation, with a view of prioritizing the municipal needs in terms of innovation									
3.2.4	Implement a pilot project to support a metropolitan or urban areas on access to urban basic services									

Major progress and achievements for Mozambique NUP programme implementation in 2025 include the following.

- » Presentation of the Digital Urban Transformation Mapping and assessment through an ad-hoc policy team meeting (outcome 1.1.4)
- » Discussion of the DRAFT policy action plan (outcome 1.1)
- » Conducted stakeholders mapping and inception meetings for pilot project design and implementation with national and local administrations (outcome 3.2.2)
- » Ongoing coordination with other donors like ACCD to support policy dissemination and implementation, especially at the provincial scale (policy management training and guidelines) to strengthen sustainable, integrated, and equitable territorial development and integration (output 1.1.3)
- » Reactivated the policy technical team and directive council (output 1.1)
- » Held several meetings to mainstream concepts, issues, recommendations and analysis on digitalization in the final NUP action plans (output 1.1.3)
- » Conducted a needs assessment and roadmap for pilot project design and implementation prioritizing the innovative municipal needs (output 3.2.3)
- » Developed and launched the urban observatory pilot project in Pemba Municipality (output 3.2.4)
- » Launched the 'Metropolitan Book of Procedures for Safe School Zones' (CPM) (output 3.2.4.2)
- » Ongoing elaboration of the 'Policy Manual' for dissemination. This will include the mainstreaming of the people-centred and smart cities policy approach for different audiences, with the aim of disseminating it to neighbourhood level (output 1.2)

Opportunities, Challenges, Risks and Mitigation

	Risks	Probability (L/M/H)	Impact (L/M/H)	Status (Active/ Closed)	Mitigation
1	Financial constraint	Medium	High	Active	<p>The country office (CO) is making efforts to mobilize other sources of funds at the national and international levels.</p> <p>The CO requested partial funds disbursement from 3rd to 2nd year to make sure to provide the best possible results in terms of action plan elaboration through the international expert.</p> <p>GIZ and World Bank are keen to support the phase of elaboration of action plans and of dissemination through their experts. to facilitate the last phase of elaboration of the NUP.</p> <p>Funds have also been secured from the ACCD funded project, for the implementation of the NUP and part of the dissemination process.</p>
2	Low speed of government reactivation affecting continued leadership for policy implementation	High	Medium	Active	<p>Prepare in advance packages of material/session to reactivate the policy teams and directorates. Activate internal resources.</p> <p>Increase the mobilization of the involved partners.</p> <p>Prepare material for NUP endorsement and dissemination and organize training and meetings with the government policy team</p>



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Resource mobilization efforts in Mozambique towards K-NUPP Phase 2 implementation continues steadily:

Resources mobilized from the World Bank sums up to a cumulative total of USD 1.5 million for overall NUP implementation. This has supported human resources and technical capacity focusing on Urban and Local Development Project (PDUL) in collaboration with K-NUPP.

The Catalanian government through the Catalan Agency for Cooperation and Development (ACCD) supported with a total budget of USD 290,000 spread over two years.

This goes towards Phase 3, 'Strengthening sub-national dialogue on Urban and Territorial Sustainable Development in Mozambique', targeting dissemination and capacity building for the urbanization policy endorsement at various territorial levels, as well as support for key technical meetings.

The German Development Cooperation Agency (GIZ) also contributed 94,000 Euros which will be implemented in partnership with MAEFP on 'Good Financial Governance Partnership' program (2023-2026) and aimed at improving local governance in Mozambique.

Innovative approaches

Mozambique has made commendable efforts to innovatively ensure inclusion and active participation at local and national levels, strengthening partnerships locally and globally. This was achieved in the following ways:

- » Mozambique's Urbanization Policy has four transversal themes reflected in the diagnostic, pillars and action plans of the implementation strategy. These are (1) the Right to the City, (2) Social Inclusion and Gender, (3) Informal Settlements and (4) Digitalization of Society. Public consultation discussions have focused on specific and vulnerable groups, **using these cross-cutting issues as entry points** for gathering information, establishing expectations and propositions, with the goal of creating a NUP aimed at the development of people-centered smart cities.
- » The NUP approach in Mozambique supports the mainstreaming of **digital innovation** in urban services in general and will support key capacity building and training at all territorial level for such purpose. A good example is the development of an 'Urban Observatory' for Pemba Municipality.
- » In order to realize the policy objectives, the country is proceeding towards **substantial conceptual, legislative and administrative changes/innovations** as prerequisites for policy implementation. Part of this is the re-classification of the definition of urban. In this, through the Urbanization Policy, UN-Habitat is leading technically the process, involving key relevant stakeholders and proposing the adoption of relevant global tools such as DEGURBA methodology and the Urban Monitoring Framework, including the creation of urban observatories.

- » **Innovative approaches measuring the urban areas** have been demonstrated and implemented through dissemination of key tools and delivery of capacity building workshops.

Prospects for 2026

- » Disseminate the 'policy manual' and finalize 'policy action plan' (output 1.1.2)
- » Activation of data collection and data feeding for the Pemba Urban Observatory (output 3.2.4)
- » Organize meetings to mainstream concepts, issues, recommendations and analysis on digitalization in the final NUP action plans (output 1.1.3)
- » Implement a pilot project by developing an urban observatory for Pemba Municipality (output 3.2.4)
- » Develop the second demonstration project proposal focused on 'urban mobility' in Maputo (outcome 3.2.4)
- » Monitor and report policy impacts through impact stories on Mozambique's urbanization policy experience (output 3.2)
- » Carry out needs assessment and roadmap for pilot project design and implementation prioritizing the municipal needs in terms of innovation (output 3.2.3)
- » Support in the organization and participate in major events like WUF13 to showcase Mozambique's policy experience and its impact on beneficiary communities (Outcome 4)



4.5. PARAGUAY



Capital: Asuncion

UN-Habitat Region: Latin America and the Caribbean

Currency: Paraguayan Guarani (PGY)



GDP Per Capita: USD 6,416.1 (2024)

GDP: USD 44.46 billion (2024)

Income Level Group: Upper middle-income



Official Language: Spanish, Guarani



Area in sq. km: 799,380km²



Access to basic drinking water: 64%



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 55%



Life expectancy at birth: 74 years (2023)



Urban population growth (annual): 1.8% (2024)

Urban population increase: 1980 (1,283,537), 2000 (2,835,060), 2020 (4,115,703)

Urban population growth: 1990-2000 (6.6%), 2001-2010 (3.9%), 2011-2020 (2.6%)

Population: 6,929,153 (2024)



Population living in cities (%): 63%

Population living in slums: 15%



Paraguay's urbanization is marked by an annual population growth rate of 1.8% as of 2025 (World Bank). The country's population is largely concentrated in metropolitan areas like Ciudad del Este, Asuncion, and Encarnacion. Key urbanization challenges include poor coordination resulting from inefficient metropolitan plans, policy gaps, and weak institutional frameworks. This has led to widespread spatial inequalities, limited access to basic services like affordable housing, and high poverty rates especially among people living in informal settlements. The government has shown strong commitment in tackling these challenges and realizing sustainable urbanization since **the establishment of a dedicated ministry, Ministry of Urbanism, Housing, and Habitat** in 2018.

Further to this, the country developed and introduced a **draft National Housing and Habitat Policy** in 2018 focused on three urbanization themes; Planning and Design, Finance, and Governance and Institutions.

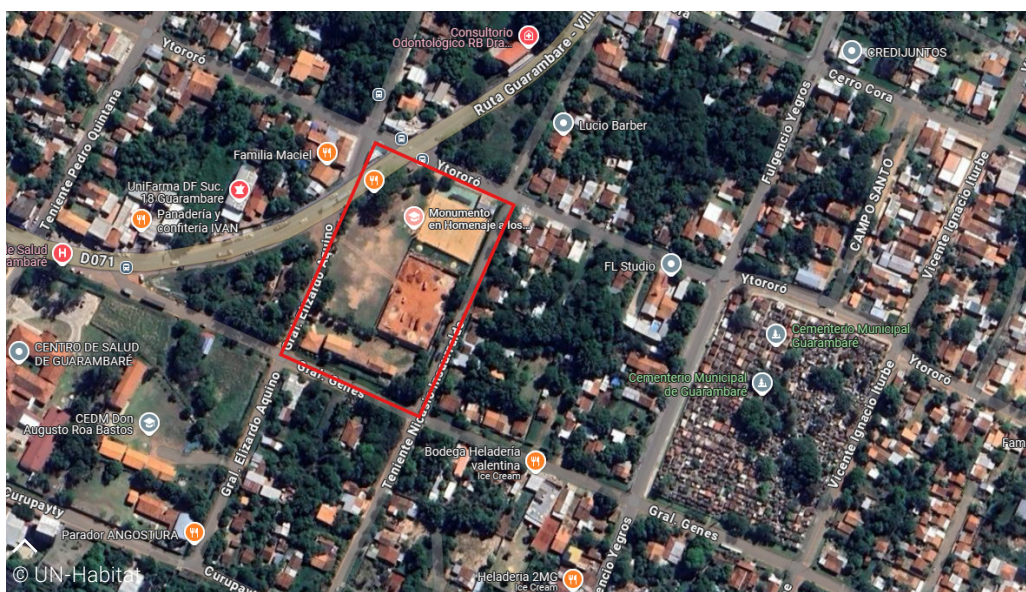
Continued collaboration between the government and UN-Habitat led to its selection to participate in the second phase of K-NUPP from 2022. In the process, Paraguay has finalized its **National Urban, Housing and Habitat Policy** (PNUVH), approved through a presidential decree in January 2024, and with UN-Habitat's support. This framework has strengthened the country's commitment to fulfilling SDGs through adequate housing and sustainable cities.

Development of a **National Plan to implement the policy** (PLANUVH) is underway, including diagnostic, policy document and action plan. This will compliment implementation of demonstration projects, to ensure the development of a people-centered smart-cities-oriented PLANUVH document.

To mainstream co-ordination between the government and UN-Habitat, the team worked with the Government through its Ministry of Urbanism, Housing and Habitat (MUVH). Paraguay has recorded **high-level engagement by the government** in local and global events related to sustainable urban development as shown by the participation of the Vice-Minister of Urbanism, Housing and Habitat of the Republic of Paraguay in second session of the UNHA (June 2023), hosting of the National Urban Forum on 28 and 29th July 2023, and an in-person training on metropolitan management and the engagement of the target cities of the K-NUPP phase 2 project in Asunción, Encarnación and Ciudad del Este. In further strengthening the partnership, the **Executive Director (ED) of UN-Habitat visited**

Paraguay in December 2025. In her visit, the ED met with the President of Paraguay, the first Lady, ministers and the Mayor of Asunción with the main objective of strengthening partnerships to advance people-centered and sustainable urban development. Key discussions featured establishment of a UN-Habitat country office in Paraguay for effective operation, and long-term urban visioning to connect heritage, innovation, metropolitan coordination and citizen participation. Concrete progress on affordable housing projects also highlighted the need to finalize PLANUVH to support implementation of housing initiatives.

Successful implementation of K-NUPP Phase 2 in the remaining period through implementation of demonstration projects on people-centered metropolitan aspects, strengthened partnerships with the government and local institutions, technical cooperation, capacity building while other contextual interventions will substantially contribute to Paraguay's vision of keeping people at the heart of urban development as well as realization of SDGs, NUA and other global goals.



Logical framework and implementation plan (Year 3)

		2025				2026	
Detailed descriptions	Activities	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4	Q1	Q2
OUTCOME 1.	National government mainstream the people-centered smart cities approach into NUPs						
OUTPUT 1.1	Draft National Urbanism, Housing and Habitat Plan; draft Implementation guide for the Plan at subnational levels						
1.1.1	Definition/recruitment of the team in charge of development of the plan						
1.1.2	Familiarization of the team with the existing PLANUVH documentation, elaboration of the detailed work plan and material for consultation						
1.1.3	Conduct stakeholder consultations to validate the objectives and targets of the plan						
1.1.4	Consolidation of the results of the consultations and elaboration of the first version of the plan						
1.1.5	Discussion with internal and external focus groups regarding elements of the Plan (e.g. resources with Secretariat of economic and social development planning(STP) and Development Finance Agency (AFD), monitoring with National Statistics Institute (INE))			X			
1.1.6	Consolidating the results of the discussions and drafting the second version of the plan				X		
1.1.7	Dissemination of the plan through public presentations and publication on official websites for comments				X		
1.1.8	Finalization and approval of the plan after consolidation of the public dissemination results					X	
1.1.9	Engagement with implementing agencies and monitoring of activities and results					X	
1.1.10	Elaboration of draft implementation guidelines					X	
1.1.11	Dissemination of the guidelines through public presentation and publication on official websites for comments					X	
1.1.12	Finalization and approval of the guidelines after consolidation of the public dissemination results						X
1.1.13	Identification and articulation with host country and elaboration/validation of detailed Terms of Reference of the visit						X
1.1.14	Preparation of logistics associated with Eds visit						X
1.1.15	Realization of visit according to plan						X
1.1.16	Report on the visit and follow up						X
OUTCOME 3.	Urban/metropolitan interventions apply innovative approaches while considering the people-centered dimension in National Urban Policy.						
OUTPUT 3.2	Three (3) interventions / demonstration projects implemented						

3.2.1	Identification of interventions to be realized with the three participating subnational governments/authorities			X		
3.2.2	Preparation of city-specific workplans for the activities			X		
3.2.3	Procurement of services and equipment necessary for the implementation of the interventions				X	
3.2.4	Realization of the interventions according to workplan				X	
3.2.5	Preparation of report for realized interventions				X	
Sub Total (Outcome 1, 3)						

Achievements

Key achievements in Paraguay's K-NUPP implementation in 2025 constitute;

- » Organized a series of technical workshops to review the first version of the co-developed PLANUVH with the Ministry's technical team (Outcome 1.1.8)
- » Co-designed the Plan's validation process and dissemination with external focus groups and developed specific work plans for each city participating in the interventions (outcome 1.1)
- » Identified interventions to be carried out in three participating national/sub-national authorities, developing specific workplans for each city. Guarambaré city confirmed and two more to be selected in consultation with the government. (output 3.2.1)
- » Sent out calls for proposal for pilot intervention in Guarambaré (output 3.2.1)
- » Consolidated the results of the discussions which have informed preparation of the second version of the 'National Urbanism and Habitat Plan' (output 1.1.4 & 1.1.6)
- » Disseminated the plan through public presentations and publication on official websites for feedback (output 1.1.11)
- » Strengthened stakeholder engagement after the visit by the UN-Habitat ED and ROAP Regional Director in December 2025 during the launch of the participatory design of public space in Guarambaré (outcome 3 & 4)

Opportunities, challenges, risks and mitigation

Major challenges that have limited effective implementation of the programme in Paraguay can be summarized into three (3) aspects: financial constraints, inadequate human capacity, and low engagement of local governments. The table below summarizes these challenges, their impact and mitigation measures undertaken.

	Risks	Probability	Impact	Status	Mitigation
1	Financial constraints	Medium	High	Active	HQ, CO, and government to mobilize other sources of funds from national and international partners. Request additional funding by the donor
2	Low engagement of local governments	Low	High	Active	Mission in November 2023 already engaged with local governments; need for more MUVH support in this regard
3	Inadequate human capacity	Medium	High	Active	Technical support from MUVH and UN-Habitat. Capacity building and ongoing support during implementation are planned.

Identified opportunities to strengthen programme implementation and scale-up policy impacts in Paraguay include:

- » Strengthened partnerships with other UN agencies; defined collaboration opportunities with UNDP and reached a consensus on the cooperation agreement format. In addition, execution of key action points following UN-Habitat ED’s visit to Paraguay will strengthen coordination with government and other stakeholders for greater policy impacts
- » Enhanced government commitment to implement the policy through the PLANUVIH; held a meeting with the Vice Minister of Urban Planning and Housing to define the outlook of the Guarambaré pilot project and the validation process of the plan.
- » Plans are underway for establishment of a UN-Habitat country office in Paraguay; this will improve coordination and hence enable seamless programme implementation for increased policy impact.

Innovative approaches; K-NUPP Paraguay team is in the process of establishing a collaboration with UNDP Paraguay for participatory design, call, and implementation of pilot interventions in three selected cities.

Prospects for 2026 in Paraguay include;

- » finalization of consultations with relevant stakeholders and consolidating the second version of the plan (PLANUVH) and its validation process in collaboration with the relevant government ministry (output 1.1)
- » implementation of demonstration projects in the three selected cities (output 3.2.1 & 3.2.4)

- » monitoring and evaluation of policy impacts of the demonstration project on the lives of people in the respective areas and developing narrative reports and impact stories to enhance advocacy (output 3.2.5)
- » dissemination of the Plan through public presentation and publication on UN-Habitat and the government's official websites for awareness, knowledge sharing, and advocacy (output 1.1)
- » supporting in organization and participate in global forums and conferences like the WUF 13 to showcase Paraguay's policy and urbanization journey, realized and expected impact towards improving quality of life in Paraguay. (outcome 3 &4)

PHASE 1 COUNTRIES



4.6. I.R. IRAN



Capital: Tehran

UN-Habitat Region: Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

Currency: Iranian Rial



GDP Per Capita: USD 4,771.4 (2024)

GDP: USD 436.91 billion (2024)

Income Level Group: Upper Middle Income



Official Language: Persian



Area in sq. km: 1,648,195 km²



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 55%

Access to safe drinking water: 94%



Life expectancy at birth: 78years

Urban growth (annual): 1.2%

Percentage living in cities: 78% (2024)



Urban population living in slums: 45% (2022)

Urban population increase: 1980: 66,230,561 2000: 41,975,934 2020: 66,230,561

Urban population growth: 1990- 6.6%, 2000- 8%, 2010- 6%, 2020- 5%



Population: 91,567,738 (2024)

Population growth (annual): 1.1%



I.R. Iran has made steady progress in its urbanization journey in the last five decades. However, this progress is strained by complex, multi-faceted challenges spanning from growing negative impacts of climate change, inadequate housing, the prevalence of informal settlements, inadequate access and provision of urban basic services, the deterioration of vulnerable urban fabrics caused by rapid population growth, to global geopolitics. To counter some of these challenges, I.R. Iran participated in Phase 1 of the K-NUPP (2017-2022) together with Myanmar and Niger State, Nigeria. Under the theme 'Developing National Urban Policies and Smart City Strategies' I.R. Iran through Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) collaborated with the government of Korea through MOLIT, and UN-

Habitat to develop [Iran's NUP and Smart City Strategy](#). A demonstration project was also implemented through which 200 residents from vulnerable communities received humanitarian support and improved infrastructure during the COVID-19 pandemic. These documents serve as a guide to enable the country to address the following priority areas;

- » sustainable management of water
- » adequate housing for everyone
- » integrated urban management
- » organizing and empowering informal settlements
- » promoting health of citizens
- » adaptation to climate change

- » improved public participation in urban development processes
- » spatially balanced network of sustainable cities
- » recognition and definition of metropolitan governance system
- » development of sustainable new towns
- » hierarchical system of urban programmes and plans

I.R. Iran continues to participate in the second phase of K-NUPP (2022-2027) through which the country aims to address emerging urbanization challenges while contributing to the global advocacy initiatives and knowledge sharing platforms by highlighting the country's experience. In the last two years, I.R. Iran, alongside the other seven K-NUPP Phase 2 countries participated in the 'Global Sharing and Awareness' event and a networking event organized during WUF13 in Cairo, Egypt. The Iran country team also took part in several bilateral and donor consultative meetings to monitor progress of programme

implementation. In 2025, Iran implemented a demonstration project titled '*Implementing NUP in I.R Iran for Thriving Climate-Adaptive Cities*'. Executed in collaboration with MoRUD, the Urban Regeneration Corporation of Iran (URCI), the Ministry of Education (MEDU), Ministry of Foreign Affairs (MFA), the Ministry of Energy, and local governments, the intervention contributed to enhancing climate resilience, urban sustainability, and capacity building among youths and communities in Tehran. This implementation of this demonstration project has positively impacted 2250 people in Tehran, through use of safe renewable energy, increased economic productivity, and strengthened capacity in use and maintenance of renewable energy.

Continued policy implementation through similar people-centered interventions, monitoring and reporting of the policy through impact stories will not only contribute to expected outcomes of K-NUPP Phase 2 but also, elevate the importance of NUPs in guiding sustainable urbanization and realization of the NUA and other global development goals by extension.



Logical framework and implementation plan (Year 3)

I.R. Iran’s continued participation in K-NUPP Phase 2, mainly focused on demonstration project, is guided by a detailed work plan showing planned activities implemented between December 2024 and November 2025 as shown below.

June-November (23 Weeks)																							
Activity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	21	22	23
Area investigation	■	■			■	■																	
Site Assessment of CCA			■	■	■	■																	
Design of the System of Climate Change Adaptation (CCA)			■	■	■	■																	
Procurement of solar equipment				■	■	■	■	■	■														
Installation of solar power systems										■	■	■	■	■									
Evaluation and handover of the solar system														■	■	■	■						
Public awareness programmes																■	■	■					
Vocational training for youths and local technicians									■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■	■
Submission of the report by consultant																							

Major **Achievements** in I.R Iran’s year three project implementation include

- » Finalized the in-house agreement IHA between UN-Habitat Policy and Legislation Section (PLS) and the Regional Office for Asia Pacific (ROAP) to define the framework for coordination and implementation of the phase 2 demonstration project
- » Implementation of the demonstration project proposal aimed at improving access to renewable energy and strengthening capacity in a technical institution in Tehran
- » Recruited of project personnel to support implementation of the project
- » Drafted the national progress report in close coordination with MRUD to reflect the country’s milestones towards NUA and NUP

Opportunities, challenges, risks and mitigation

I.R Iran has experienced recurrent **risks and challenges** in its programme implementation in 2025 as summed below

	Risks	Probability	Impact	Status	Mitigation
1	Conflict in the area through attack by other countries	High	High		Contingency plans are being developed for considering preparation in case of a probable accident.
2	Technical Failures	Medium	Probable failure in construction work and technical issues in installation of solar system		Preparedness and detail planning of the construction work using experienced experts.
3	Limited availability of disaggregated data and challenges in cross-institutional coordination for the National Progress Report	Medium	Medium-High	Ongoing	Applied UN-Habitat's NUA reporting data options (A-D); established clear data request templates; engaged MRUD, NHC, URCI, and municipalities early to secure contributions.

In addition to the risks, the following **emerging issues** negatively impacted the programme, thus delaying execution of the planned demonstration project.

- » **The ongoing conflict in I.R Iran** severely affected the progress of the activities. The consequences of the conflict have continued to exacerbate community tensions. In addition, expectation for a probable continuing conflict is considered a potential risk for the project's sustainability, and overall international relations could impact potential partnerships.
- » **Coordination across multi-level stakeholders:** While the project benefits from strong institutional partnerships, the complexity of coordinating across national ministries, municipal authorities, and technical agencies has presented operational challenges. Differences in administrative procedures, procurement, decision-making timelines, and technical expectations have occasionally slowed implementation. Ensuring consistent communication and harmonization of roles, particularly between MRUD, URCI, and local government units remains critical to maintaining project momentum and delivering integrated outcomes.
- » **Financial limitations and request for extension of support;** The national and local partners - including MRUD, URCI, and affiliated ministries- have demonstrated strong commitment and enthusiasm for deepening collaboration with UN-Habitat. Their eagerness to expand the project's reach and integrate its methodologies into broader urban development frameworks reflects a shared vision for resilient, inclusive cities

in I.R Iran. In light of this momentum, the request from the partners for extension of UN-Habitat's support has been expressed and recommended to consider extending its technical and financial support to the project. Such continued engagement would not only reinforce the achievements to date and sustain them but also catalyze transformative change in urban policy and practice across the country.

Innovative approaches

Implementation of the demonstration project integrated strong partnership among various government ministries, the academia, and local community hence improving inclusion, scale of impact and outcomes. Going forward, the project is considering 'women-centered local community cooperatives' to promote the generation of green energy. This has been discussed during the project meetings with various stakeholders and welcomed by the representatives of the local community and the responsible government authorities.

Resource mobilization

Throughout project implementation, the UN-Habitat team in I.R Iran and ROAP has continuously engaged with the partners and stakeholders for further contribution of these entities in extension of the activities, providing financial and other resources. This has been through negotiations with URCI, the NGOs in the region, and Tehran Municipality.

Prospects for 2026 regarding K-NUPP implementation in I.R. Iran are as follows;

- » Monitor and evaluate demonstration project progress and report policy impact through narrative reports and impact stories to reflect I.R. Iran's policy journey
- » Completion of the draft 'National Progress Report' which will outline a pathway for institutionalizing the reporting process and sustaining the national collaboration network
- » Support in preparation of and participate in key events like WUF 13, quarterly consultations, among others
- » Continued follow-up with MoRUD on use of the NUP as a high-level document to inform architecture and urban planning
- » Strengthen existing and establish new partnerships with key government ministries like MFA, MoRUD, MEDU to replicate implementation and scale up NUP impact in I.R. Iran
- » Draft a proposal for I.R. Iran's participation in the prospective K-NUPP phase 3



4.7. MYANMAR



Capital: Naypyidaw

UN-Habitat Region: Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

Currency: Myanmar Kyat



GDP Per Capita: USD 1,359.3 (2024)

GDP: USD 74.08 billion (2024)

Income Level Group: Lower Middle Income



Official Language: Burmese



Area in sq. km: 676,579 km²



Access to hygienic sanitation facilities: 61%

Access to basic drinking water: 82%

Access to clean water: 57%



Life expectancy at birth: 67years

Urban growth (annual): 1.8% (2024)

Percentage living in cities: 32%



Urban population living in slums: 58% (2022)

Urban population increase: 2020: 1.7%, 2010: 1.4%, 2000: 1.8%, 1980: 2%

Urban population growth: 1990-2000 (6.6%), 2001-2010 (3.9%), 2011-2020 (2.6%)



Population: 54,500,091 (2024)

Population growth (annual): 0.7% (2024)



Myanmar has experienced significant challenges in recent years due to the evolving impacts of urbanization, climate change, and the ongoing political situation. Following Myanmar's participation at Habitat III in 2016, the country demonstrated a strong commitment to addressing its urbanization challenges through the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA). This momentum was further enhanced by participation in the first phase of the K-NUPP, 'Developing National Urban Policies and Smart City Strategies, from 2017 to 2022 together with I.R. Iran and Niger State-Nigeria, which laid the groundwork for sustainable urban development.

During Phase 1, Myanmar developed its **National Urban Policy and Smart City Strategy**, to promote sustainable urbanization by enhancing spatial integration, fostering horizontal and vertical coordination, and improving urban infrastructure development. The policy document will also support implementation of **'Myanmar's Sustainable**

Development Plan'. This phase also included two impactful demonstration projects in Yangon that addressed effects of the COVID-19 pandemic subsequently improved living standards of 32,600 residents.

In the second Phase of KNUPP, Myanmar continues to advance its commitment to sustainable and inclusive urban development by successfully completing the implementation of the one demonstration project aimed at the 'Provision of Sustainable Solar Energy Solutions in Taung Gyi Township. This demonstration project was designed to introduce practical, scalable renewable energy solutions, including household solar lights, off-grid solar photovoltaic (PV) systems, and solar-powered water pumping systems in five vulnerable villages and a monastic school in Taung Gyi. By expanding access to clean and reliable energy for over 600 households, the project not only addressed immediate needs but also supports long-term goals of reducing carbon emissions, improving

livelihoods through economic productivity, and strengthening community resilience. These efforts reflect the NUP's broader mission to promote environmentally sustainable and socially inclusive urban development across Myanmar.

This demonstration project exemplifies how the NUP framework can drive transformative urban and rural development. By incorporating innovative and sustainable solutions, the project serves as a model for scaling up similar interventions nationwide.

The implementation aligns with Myanmar NUP's goal of fostering well-organized urbanization while ensuring local communities are empowered as key stakeholders in the process.

Despite the challenges posed by the country's ongoing conflict and population displacement, this initiative demonstrates UN-Habitat Myanmar's commitment in collaboration with the local communities, and the government of Korea through MOLIT to supporting climate-resilient and inclusive urban development in Myanmar.



UN-Habitat

Logical framework and implementation plan (Year 3)

Outcome 1	Improved access to clean energy and climate-resilience in five climate-vulnerable villages and schools of Taung-Gyi	Deliverable	Percentage completion					
				2024	2025			
Activities				Q4	Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
1.1.1	Identify and select the beneficiaries in collaboration with local authorities and community representatives. Develop technical specifications for the off-grid solar PV hybrid systems, household lights and solar pumping based on energy needs and site conditions. Obtain necessary approvals from local authorities for the installation.	Beneficiary lists and selection reports. Concept note and proposals for the required solar systems. Meeting minutes with the established community committees.	100%					
1.1.2	Procurement of 4 off-grid solar PV hybrid systems, 600 household lights and 2 solar pumps ensuring compliance with UN procurement standards.	Procurement reports.	100%					
1.1.3	Conduct site inspections at the schools to determine suitable locations for the installation of solar panels and battery storage units. Prepare installation sites, including leveling ground or reinforcing rooftops where panels will be mounted. Ensure the safety and security of installation areas during the project.	Site inspection reports.	100%					
1.1.4	Assemble and install the solar PV hybrid systems, including panels, batteries, inverters, and cabling. Connect the systems to the school's electrical infrastructure to ensure compatibility and reliability. Conduct system testing to verify functionality and efficiency.	Installation completion reports	100%					

1.1.5	Capacity Building and Training Organize training sessions for school staff on the operation and basic maintenance of solar systems	Training reports	100%				
1.1.6	Monitoring and Evaluation (M&E) Establish baseline data for energy usage and school performance prior to system installation. Develop monitoring tools to track energy generation, usage, and system performance. Conduct regular site visits to assess system functionality and address any issues.	Beneficiaries' interviews, site visits	Completed				

Key achievements on Myanmar's programme implementation in year 3 included:

- » Post-Installation Monitoring of solar energy systems supplied monastic school
- » Conducted impact assessment of solar energy systems for the 600 households and monastic school in Taung Gyi, Southern Shan State
- » Disseminated a success story on "Empowering Livelihoods through Solar Energy in Me Ta Naw Village" on UN-Habitat social media platforms
- » Developed several case studies on 'Water-Energy-Food Nexus Approach to Resilience Building', 'school-led climate action', 'gender-responsive climate action', 'sustainable architecture for post-disaster recovery in Southern Shan State'
- » Supported preparation of and participated in the Myanmar Climate Action Week from 15th to 20th September 2025, emphasizing integration of climate and disaster resilience into recovery
- » Participated in Land Governance and Sustainable Urban Development Training organized by UN-Habitat's Capacity Development and Training Unit (CDTU), Global Land Tool Network (GLTN) and International Urban Training Centre (IUTC) in Gangwon State, Republic of Korea in December 2025

Opportunities, challenges, risks and mitigation

Myanmar has faced several **challenges** and risks in the course of its programme implementation especially from the end of phase 1 through to its continued participation on the second phase of K-NUPP. The table below highlights key risks unique to Myanmar projected for 2025.

	Risks	Probability	Impact	Status	Mitigation
1	Earthquake	Medium	Damage to solar infrastructure, delays in implementation, increased costs	Recent earthquake caused damage to infrastructure	Structural assessments of installations, emergency response plans and disaster-resilient designs should be conducted to improve long-term system durability and reduce repair costs.
2	Aftershocks	Medium	Potential further damage to installed systems and community facilities	Recent continuous aftershock caused potential damage to infrastructure	Monitor seismic activity, install flexible steel structure frame (ground mounts) for solar panels to minimize future damage, ensure project continuity, and reduce downtime.
3	Other natural disasters: Extreme weather events, such as floods or landslides.	Medium	Could damage solar installations, particularly in vulnerable areas.	The Yagi cyclone caused flash floods.	Train local technicians and community members on solar system maintenance and repair to ensure long-term sustainability and create local ownership.
4	Political conflict and restricted access.	Medium	Political conflict may impact project continuity.	No conflict in the selected areas.	Regular security and site assessments should be conducted in collaboration with local partners to ensure safe project implementation. Strong coordination with local community leaders and non-governmental actors could also help reduce risks.
5	Technical failures	Medium	System breakdown could disrupt energy supply and increase repair costs.	No major technical issues in solar installations.	Train a local technical support team for regular maintenance, troubleshooting, and repairs; provide spare parts of stock at community level. Ensure the suppliers follow the warranty terms and conditions.

In addition to these risks, some **challenges** were encountered in Myanmar in 2025 during finalization of demonstration project implementation, monitoring and impact assessment.

- » **Disaster resilience and infrastructure vulnerability;** buildings and infrastructure in most towns and cities across Myanmar, especially in mountainous regions like Taung Gyi may lack the strength to withstand earthquakes. This structural vulnerability places both existing assets and new investments at considerable risk. In the event of strong earthquakes, the likelihood of damage or collapse can significantly delay project implementation, increase reconstruction costs, and endanger community lives. Myanmar lacks adequate systematically incorporated seismic hazard mapping, risk assessments, or building code enforcement mechanisms, especially at the township and local levels. Planning decisions may often overlook geological risks, leading to the infrastructure site in areas prone to soil instability, or landslides. This not only threatens the sustainability of project initiatives but also undermines long-term urban resilience goals.
- » **Community engagement and social acceptance;** large-scale infrastructure, often involve land acquisition, which can lead to displacement or conflicts within local communities. Ensuring transparent, inclusive consultations with affected communities is crucial to avoid disputes and delays. Project implementation particularly in border regions may be affected by ongoing conflicts involving ethnic groups and bordering countries. It is important to consider conflict-sensitive approaches and establish strong local partnerships.
- » **Political instability and governance challenges;** impact of the 2021 military coup poses challenges like slow decision-making processes, the complex regulatory environment, and project approvals delaying project implementation. Weakening international relations hinder receipt of support from willing organizations to scale the programme. At the same time, humanitarian and development work faces growing constraints due to access restrictions, administrative barriers, banking and procurement limitations, donor compliance requirements, and the need to maintain strict neutrality while navigating fragmented authority, parallel governance systems, and ongoing insecurity
- » **Financial constraints and investment barriers;** currency fluctuations and economic instability due to significant depreciation of Myanmar's kyat has impacted the cost of imported materials and equipment for the project. In addition, the ongoing post-coup economic instability has reduced investor confidence, making access to financing more difficult. Inadequate infrastructure of transmission and distribution networks is essential for effectiveness of new energy solutions.
- » **Climate change and environmental risks;** Myanmar is prone to extreme weather like cyclones, earthquakes, and droughts, which affect the stability of both infrastructure and energy supply. Integrating climate resilience into project planning, particularly for renewable energy systems, is essential for long-term energy security. In addition, projects

must consider the potential impacts on biodiversity, forests, and water resources, particularly in environmentally sensitive areas like the Delta region and central Myanmar.

- » **Technological advancements;** incorporating digital tools like smart grids and IoT-based energy monitoring can enhance efficiency but requires massive capacity-building and technological infrastructure, which is currently limited. As Myanmar increases its reliance on renewable energy, incorporating energy storage solutions becomes critical to maintaining grid stability, especially with intermittent sources like solar and wind.
- » **Over reliance on electricity and transitioning to renewable energy;** Myanmar is heavily dependent on hydropower, which contributes around 60% of its electricity. However, fluctuations in water availability due to climate change make this source less reliable, creating the need for a diversified energy mix. Developing solar and wind energy, and off-grid solutions especially in rural areas could curb this challenge while Ensuring equitable access to clean and reliable energy to all.



Innovative approaches

The Myanmar team implemented several **innovative approaches** to counter the above challenges and risks highlighted while ensuring successful programme implementation. These include;

- » Adopted a **conflict-sensitive approach** in implementing demonstration project. This ensured that the interventions do not exacerbate tensions but instead promotes peacebuilding and community cohesion where possible.
- » **Strengthened youth-led innovation hubs and green entrepreneurship;** this included green energy startups for youth to foster entrepreneurship among young people, skills development and vocational training on renewable energy, and establishment

of 'youth climate ambassadors' for resilient climate action and energy conservation in communities of project implementation.

- » **Ensured inclusive decision making and communal project ownership** through participatory planning and decision-making, design, and implementation integrating perspectives of diverse groups like women, young people, community leaders, and governance bodies. Community driven initiatives built a sense of ownership, responsibility, and conflict resolution toward the success of the project
- » **Integration of climate education and awareness campaigns** in schools and educational programmes enabling young people to learn about sustainable energy from an early age. Schools in Taunggyi will serve as demonstration sites for solar energy projects, with students involved in managing school-based renewable energy systems. [Myanmar Climate Action Network](#) (M-CAN) platform is being established for women and youth from rural villages to share knowledge and experiences on energy and climate action. This also supports to peer-to-peer learning, enabling women to scale up energy solutions and climate resilience strategies
- » **Solar microgrid networks** to build energy resilience. Developing solar-powered microgrid networks in disaster-prone areas will ensure that critical services such as health centers, water supply systems and community shelter continue functioning during and after disasters. Placing microgrids enhances energy independence and supports emergency response capabilities. Linking energy access with disaster recovery support livelihoods and post-disaster recovery by powering small businesses, schools and agricultural tools. Access to stable electricity can help families rebuild livelihoods, power communication tools, and reduces the use of non-renewable fuels like diesel or firewood.
- » **Leveraging technology for social impact;** Mobile platforms for energy management: Develop mobile applications tailored for rural users to manage energy systems, track consumption, and share real-time data on energy availability. These platforms could also provide financial tools, allowing women and youth to access micro-loans or crowd-funding opportunities to support energy-related entrepreneurial ventures. Digital storytelling for advocacy whereby participants document and share their experiences from the programme, raising awareness and attracting support for sustainable energy solutions in Myanmar.
- » **Ecovillages and energy-resilient climate agriculture initiatives** by deploying solar-powered irrigation systems to improve agricultural productivity and food security, while reducing energy costs. Advancing agroforestry and bioenergy solutions to complement the solar energy by scaling reforestation and reducing reliance on traditional firewood, which is largely used in rural areas.

Despite the risks and challenges experienced in K-NUPP implementation 2025, Myanmar team identified a few **opportunities** to improve outcomes and impact of the programme.

- » **Strengthening collaboration** at local and international levels to scale up the demonstration projects and overall policy impacts.
- » **Local-level and community-driven implementation:** While national-level policy engagement is constrained, many NUP priorities such as climate resilience, basic services, disaster risk reduction, and inclusive public space can be advanced through township, ward, and community-level initiatives. Working with local technical departments, community committees, CSOs, and faith-based institutions allows NUP principles to be translated into action without requiring high-level political endorsement.
- » **Humanitarian–Development–Peace (HDP) nexus programming:** NUP implementation can be supported through nexus-aligned projects that link humanitarian response (WASH, shelter, basic services) with early recovery and longer-term urban resilience. This approach allows NUP principles to be embedded in crisis response and recovery programming, an area where UN-Habitat can retain operational space even in politically sensitive contexts.
- » **Regional and normative anchoring:** Framing NUP-related activities as contributions to regional agendas (ASEAN sustainable urbanization, SDGs, Sendai Framework, climate commitments) helps maintain legitimacy and donor confidence. This positions Myanmar’s urban work as part of broader international commitments.
- » **Incremental, demonstration-based approaches:** Small-scale pilots and demonstration projects allow NUP principles to be tested, adapted, and showcased at the local level. These practical examples help build trust, show tangible benefits to communities, and create a foundation to eventually scale up when political conditions allow.



Resource mobilization

The Myanmar Country Team is actively engaging in **resource mobilization** efforts aimed at bridging the funding gaps to sustain and scale the impacts of its demonstration projects and thus ensure long-term program viability. This has been done in two main aspects. First, by **forging strategic partnerships** with international development agencies, M-CAN partners, climate finance institutions, and the private sector. By leveraging the alignment of MCCA2 with global frameworks such as the SDGs and the Paris Agreement, as well as national policy priorities under the K-NUPP, UN-Habitat Myanmar seeks to attract investments in nature-based solutions, renewable energy systems, and capacity-building initiatives.

In addition, **community-led, people-centered approaches** in project implementation are continually highlighted to donors as scalable, inclusive, and impactful models, capable of addressing climate resilience challenges in both urban and rural areas. These efforts are further supported by evidence-based results, such as the findings from the Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment (CCVA) and Local Climate Action Plans (LCAP), to demonstrate the effectiveness of implemented and proposed interventions in creating sustainable and climate-resilient cities and communities.

Crucially, the active participation and contributions of local communities are integral to the success and scalability of these projects. This includes **in-kind contributions** such as volunteer manpower for project activities, seamless coordination between

community members and the project team, provision of suitable locations for infrastructure development (e.g., land for solar installations or water storage), and **local knowledge sharing** which enhances the effectiveness and cultural appropriateness of the interventions.

Highlighting these community-driven approaches to donors underscores their scalability, inclusivity, and impactful nature as models capable of addressing climate resilience challenges in both urban and rural areas, fostering local ownership and long-term sustainability

Myanmar's **prospects for 2026** include the following;

- » Draft a proposal for the second demonstration project under K-NUPP phase 2
- » Continue to utilize results from demonstration projects to advocate for continued support and funding from the ASEAN region, international donors, and UN partners, emphasizing the importance of climate resilience in urban planning. This will also strengthen collaboration with the ASEAN community.
- » Support in the organization and participate in global capacity building, advocacy, and knowledge sharing platforms like WUF 13 to share Myanmar's policy experience

4.8. NIGER STATE, NIGERIA



Capital: Abuja

Capital (Niger-State): Minna

Location: Borders the Republic of Benin to the West, Kebbi and Zamfara states to the North, Kaduna, and Federal City Territory (FCT) to the East, and Kogi and Kwara to the South

UN-Habitat Region: Africa (ROAf)

Currency: Nigerian naira (₦)



GDP Per Capita: USD 806.9 (2024)

GDP: USD 187.76 Billion (2024)

Income Level Group: lower middle-income



Official Language: English



Area in sq. km: 923, 769km²; 76,469.903 (Minna)



Access to Hygienic sanitation: 32 % (2022)

Access to basic drinking water: 80% (2022)

Access to safe water: 29% (2022)



Life expectancy at birth: 54years

Urban growth (annual Nigeria): 3.4% (2024)



Percentage living in cities: 55% (2024); **Urban population living in cities:** 48% (2024)

Urban population: 1980: 16,027,431, 2000: 42,801,631, 2020:108,242,753

Urban population growth: 1990- 5.5%, 2000- 4.2%, 2010- 4.8%, 2020- 4%



Population: 232,679,478 (2024); 6,783,300 (Minna)

Population growth: 2.1%



Niger State is the largest of the 36 states in Nigeria with an estimated population of over 6.7 million and the largest in Nigeria's North Central geopolitical region covering 76,469.903 km² (10% of Nigeria's landmass). Niger State faces a series of urban challenges resulting from rapid urbanization. Unprecedented population growth in urban centers like Minna has strained existing infrastructure thus causing inequitable access to basic services, acute shortage in housing, inadequate infrastructure, increased urban poverty, environmental degradation, the proliferation of informal settlements, urban sprawl, and unsustainable consumption of ecological resources,

Particular focus on access to urban basic services highlights the dire need for clean water and consistent supply of renewable energy in

Niger State. Access to safe drinking water and hygienic sanitation facilities stand at 29% and 32% respectively while only 57% of the state's population has access to electricity from the national grid (World Bank, 2025). In addition, poor communication and transportation infrastructure, like poorly maintained roads, has impeded effective inter-urban, intraurban, and urban-rural mobility and transportation of agricultural produce thus leading to longer commuting hours. This has adversely affected economic productivity, increased cases of road carnage and air pollution negatively affecting the quality of life among the residents.

To overcome these challenges, the government has committed to harnessing the transformative potential of urbanization. In the first phase of K-NUPP, Niger State

government collaborated with UN-Habitat and MOLIT of Korea to formulate its sub-national urban policy and smart city strategy which was approved in 2021. The policy's ten (10) priority areas; integrated and balanced territorial development, productive and competitive economy, effective land governance, urban security and safety, strengthening urban-rural linkages, smart city, resilient infrastructure and services, sustainable transportation and mobility, urban resilience, climate change mitigation and adaptation, effective urban governance, and coordinated management are expected to maximize the transformative potentials of sustainable urbanization to attain compact, connected, socially inclusive, and self-sustaining towns and cities in Niger State. Implementation of demonstration projects focusing on rehabilitation of six bi-water schemes and urban reforestation, and capacity building which improved access to clean water and enhanced climate resilience for over 500,000 residents.

UN-Habitat and MOLIT continue to provide support to the government of Niger State under Phase 2 (2022-2027) of the K-NUPP, more importantly in policy implementation and capacity building. The interventions in 2024 and 2025 included installation of clean energy infrastructure (7.5kVA solar inverter and a solar powered borehole) in Kuta General hospital, Kuta town, rehabilitation of three additional bi-water schemes in Beji, Tungan Mallam, and Kataeregi towns, and construction of sanitation facilities (a block of two toilets and bathrooms) in Kpakungu, an informal settlement in Minna. These demonstration projects have improved over 132,000 residents' quality of life by reducing cases of open defecation, providing stable power supply for proper healthcare, and improving access to clean water for domestic and business use. This collaboration reinforces ongoing efforts to support both national and subnational governments in advancing the targets and objectives of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.



Logical framework and implementation plan (Year 3)

S/No	Activity	2025			
		Q1	Q2	Q3	Q4
Outcome 2	Capacity of policymakers and stakeholders enhanced to facilitate the territorial dimension of urban innovation and steer digital transformation in NUPs/ SUPs.				
2.1	Organize technical session on institutional collaboration for the implementation of the NSUP				
Outcome 3	Urban/metropolitan interventions apply innovative approaches and technologies while considering the people-centered dimension in National Urban Policy.				
3.1	Implement NSUP through Innovative Demonstration Projects				

Key Achievements in Niger State, Nigeria in 2025 include:

- » Organized several community engagement workshops to sensitize the public on the demonstration project implementation in Kpakungu, Minna (output 2.1)
- » Organized interministerial technical session on the Implementation of the Kpakungu Demonstration Project (Output 2.1)
- » Signed an AOC between UN-Habitat and Niger State Water and Sewage Corporation for implementation of one (1) demonstration project on sanitation and hygiene (output 3.1)
- » Finalized implementation of one demonstration project aimed at improving sanitation and hygiene in an informal settlement in Kpakungu, Minna through the construction of sanitation facilities and an overhead solar-powered water tank. (outcome 3.)

Opportunities, challenges, risks and mitigation efforts

Niger State encountered the following risks and challenges in 2025 programme implementation.

	Risks	Probability	Impact	Status	Mitigation
1	Financial constraints	High	High	Active	UN-Habitat, State government, and international development partners to mobilize funds to support the programme
2	Political challenges	Low	High	Active	Proactive measures like early warning systems
3	Resource mobilization	High	High	Active	UN-Habitat HQ will guide/ advise the country office personnel on proposal development and resource mobilization.

Innovative approaches and opportunities

Continuous collaboration with state institutions and communities in SUP implementation;

In Niger State, one of the innovative approaches adopted to ensure participation, transparency, and accountability in the SUP implementation process is continuous engagement of both state-level actors and community people. This approach was consistently applied across all demonstration projects implemented with the support of UN-Habitat.

Community members were actively consulted on the choice and location of the interventions, while the state-level actors coordinated the technical aspect of the project implementation.

This collaborative mechanism ensured that interventions were well aligned with community needs, which supports effective SUP implementation.

Integration of 'SMART' element in SUP intervention;

Considering the existing infrastructure gaps and service deficit in Niger State, ensuring the sustainability of SUP interventions is imperative. This was achieved through the integration of smart elements into SUP interventions implemented in Niger State. This action does not only enhance the functionality of the intervention but also establishes a strong foundation for resilience, scalability, and sustainability of the demonstration projects in Niger State.

Niger State's prospects for 2026 programme implementation include;

- » support in preparation of and participate in major global knowledge sharing, capacity building, and advocacy platforms like WUF13 to showcase Niger State's and Nigeria's urbanization progress through policy impacts
- » continuously monitor policy outcomes through the implemented demonstration projects over the years, develop and share impact stories
- » draft a proposal and implement the second demonstration project under K-NUPP phase 2

5. FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

Interim Financial Report (November 2025)



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MI-32FOD-000224 -National Urban Policy Programme: Phase 2 Scaling up People-centred Smart Cities Through National Urban Policies

Donor: MIN OF LAND INFRASTRUCTURE & TRANSPORT REPUBLIC OF KOREA

Certified Interim Financial Statements for the period ended 07 November 2025

(Expressed in US dollars)

Income	
Contributions received	1,989,956.80
Total Income	1,989,956.80
Expenditures	
Staff and other personnel cost	440,879.43
Supplies, Commodities and Materials	284.00
Equipment, Vehicles and Furniture	5,896.25
Contractual Services	80,662.99
Travel	50,779.40
Transfers and Grants	30,000.00
General Operating and Other Direct Costs	114,145.47
Total direct expenditures	722,647.54
Indirect Support Costs (United Nations) ^{a/}	93,944.18
Total expenditures	816,591.72
Net excess/(shortfall) income over expenditure	1,173,365.08
Exchange rate (loss)/gain	(138.74)
Available Balance	1,173,226.34

^{a/} Indirect support cost has been manually adjusted pending PSC batch run.



Approved by:

Maryam Kagoru
Maryam Kagoru
 Chief, Accounts Section, **BAMS**
 Budget and Financial Management Service
 UNON

Date: Nov 26, 2025

Certified by:

Salome Gathu-M'Mbgori
Salome Gathu-M'Mbgori
 Programme Management Officer
 UN-Habitat

Date: 26.11.2025

6. ANNEX

6.1. Niger State Project Completion Letter



NIGER STATE WATER AND SEWAGE CORPORATION

OFFICE OF THE MANAGING DIRECTOR
Western By-Pass, P.M.B 70 Minna, Niger State, Nigeria.
Tel: 08083531111, 08175664400, 08052277877
E-mail: customercareniswasec@gmail.com



Date: November 18, 2025

Ref:

To Chief
Policy, Legislation, and Governance Section
Urban Practices Branch
UN-Habitat
Nairobi

COMPLETION OF THE CONSTRUCTION OF THE SANITATION AND HYGIENE FACILITY IN KPAKUNGU IN MINNA, NIGER STATE.

Dear Sir

I am pleased to formally inform you that Niger State Water and Sewage Corporation (NISWASEC) has successfully completed the construction of sanitation and hygiene interventions at the Kpakungu community in Minna, Niger State. This project consolidates the ongoing Urban Renewal effort of the State Government towards the implementation of the State Urban Policy, more importantly in the aspect of providing basic amenities.

All planned activities, ranging from construction of the WASH facility to community capacity-building, have been fully implemented in accordance with the project's approved scope, timelines, and quality standards.

We appreciate the collaboration, guidance, and support received from all partners throughout the project lifecycle. Your commitment has been instrumental in improving access to safe water and enhanced sanitation services for the Kpakungu community.

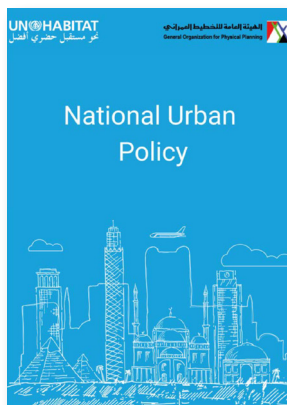
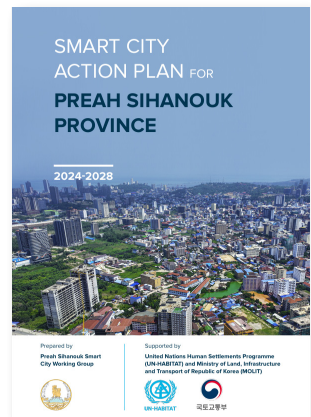
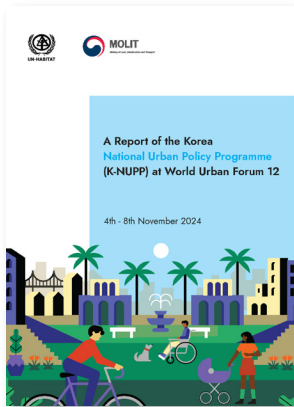
Please do not hesitate to reach out for any additional information or clarifications.

Sincerely,

Engr. Gimba Yisa (MNSE)
Managing Director
NISWASEC

*We provide safe water and sewage service for public well being
through effective use of resources*

6.2. Knowledge Products



6.3. Country Comparative Analysis

Table 6.1: Phase 1 Comparative Analysis

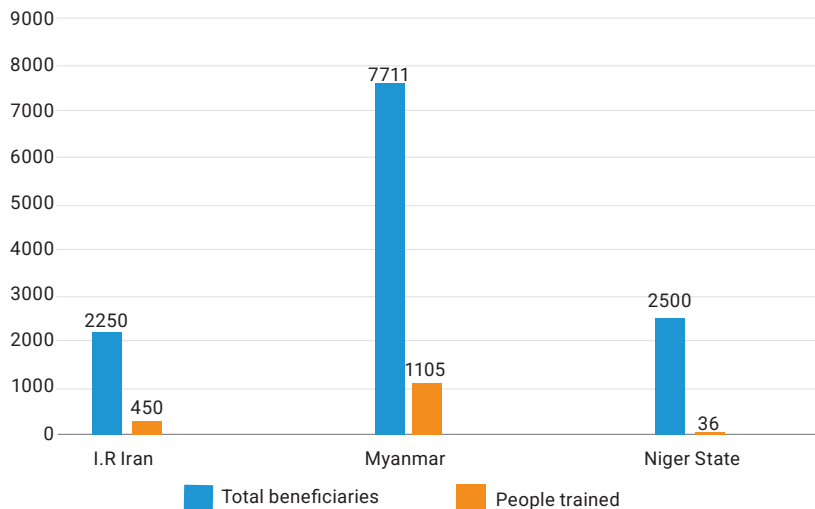
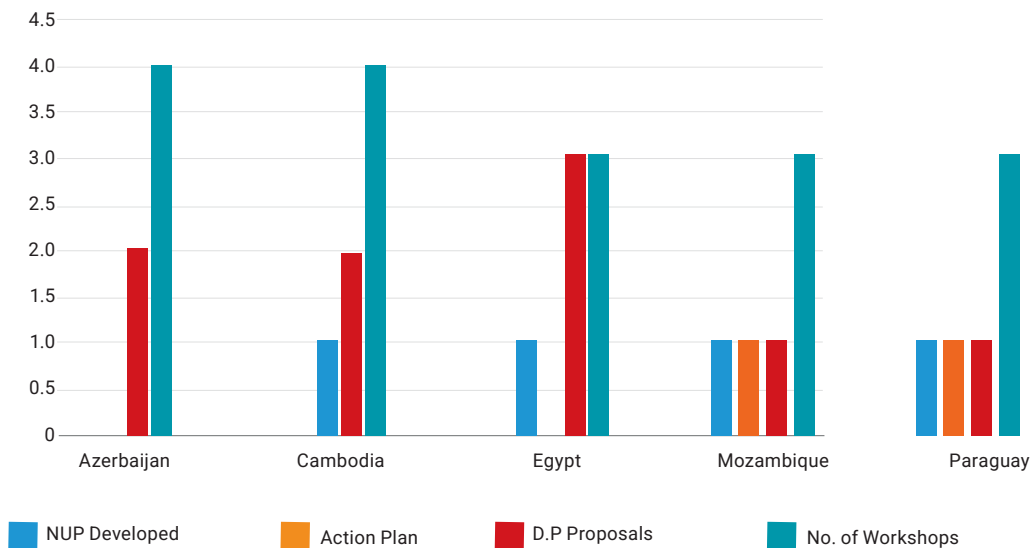


Table 6.2: Phase 2 Countries Comparative Analysis



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National Urban Policies (NUPs) serves as a key guiding frameworks towards the realization of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Urbanization. The Korea-funded National Urban Policy Programme contributes to this by not only supporting countries in developing and implementing NUPs but also strengthening the capacity of relevant stakeholders. The 2024-2025 Annual Report shows the progress of the programme implementation at global and local scale among the eight participating countries of Phase 2. It showcases the commitment of UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, and Transport (MOLIT) of Korea to support programme implementation in Azerbaijan, Cambodia, Egypt, Mozambique, Paraguay, I.R. Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State of Nigeria. In line with the four expected programme accomplishments, the report details progress made in relation to implementation of demonstration projects, capacity development, advocacy, and knowledge improvement on matters urban policy and people-centered smart cities. In addition, it also highlights the programme’s contribution to SDGs, UN-Habitat strategic, and planned activities for 2026.

This report is a co-creation of the Republic of Korea, UN-Habitat, Republic of Azerbaijan, Kingdom of Cambodia, Arab Republic of Egypt, Republic of Mozambique, Republic of Paraguay, Islamic Republic of Iran, Myanmar, and Niger State (Federal Republic of Nigeria)



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