



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
unhabitat-info@un.org | www.unhabitat.org

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

PRESS RELEASE

Helping Homs recover: Japan and UN-Habitat launch major urban renewal initiative

Damascus, 30 July 2026 — A landmark partnership between the Government of the Syrian Arab Republic, the Government of Japan and UN-Habitat will help restore one of Syria's most iconic urban centres while improving essential municipal services for thousands of residents in Homs.

The two-year initiative, "The Project for Integrated Urban Reconstruction and Strengthening Sustainable Solid Waste Management," supported by the Government of Japan, will help advance the city's recovery through revitalizing public spaces, strengthening municipal services and improving environmental health.

For years, Homs has stood as a symbol of both the devastating impact of conflict and the determination of its communities to rebuild. This new initiative represents a major step towards restoring the city's vitality, creating safer public spaces, improving basic services and helping residents reclaim the places that shape everyday life.

At the centre of the project is the regeneration of the historic Old Clock Square, the symbolic and economic heart of Homs. The square and its surrounding streets will be transformed into a safer, more accessible and inclusive public space. The investment is expected to improve mobility, reduce traffic risks, stimulate local businesses and strengthen the city's cultural identity.

The project will also modernize Homs' municipal solid waste management system, addressing one of the city's most pressing environmental challenges. By rehabilitating key waste management infrastructure, improving collection services and extending the operational life of the landfill through environmentally sound practices, the initiative will contribute to cleaner neighbourhoods, better public health and a healthier urban environment.

The initiative also places a strong emphasis on strengthening municipal capacity. It will equip local authorities with the tools, knowledge and systems needed to deliver transparent, efficient and evidence-based urban management long after the project is completed.

Gender equality, social inclusion and environmental sustainability are integrated throughout the initiative. Women, young people, older persons and persons with disabilities will actively participate in planning and decision-making, helping to ensure that recovery benefits all communities and leaves no one behind.

About UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat is the United Nations entity responsible for sustainable urbanization. With programmes in over 90 countries, it supports policymakers and communities to create socially and environmentally sustainable cities and towns. UN-Habitat promotes transformative change in urban areas through knowledge, policy advice, technical assistance and collaborative action. To know more, visit unhabitat.org or follow us on social media @UNHABITAT.

About the Government of Japan

The Government of Japan is a leading partner in supporting early recovery and resilience-building in Syria, focusing on restoring basic services and improving the livelihoods of vulnerable populations.

For further information, please contact:

Taimaa Mourad
Communication Assistant, UN-Habitat
taimaa.mourad@un.org
+963 965 044 536