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Update on normative and operational activities of
UN-Habitat, including activities in areas affected by conflict
and disasters

Normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme, including updates on the country programmes in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kenya, on the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance, and on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

Report of the Executive Director

I. Introduction

1. The present report provides an overview of the normative and operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Sections II, III and IV contain summaries of support provided by UN-Habitat to middle-income countries, as illustrated by the country programmes for the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Kenya, as well as by the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) global programme. Section V provides updates on assistance provided by UN-Habitat in areas affected by conflicts and disasters, covering the period January–June 2026. The report is accompanied by two information documents:

- (a) Report of the Executive Director on the activities of UN-Habitat for the period January–June 2026 (HSP/EB.2026/INF/11), which highlights subprogramme activities during that period;
- (b) Report on the status of the development of efforts to reconstruct the human settlements in the Gaza Strip (HSP/EB.2026/INF/12).

II. Updates on the Lao People's Democratic Republic country programme

2. This section of the report provides updates on the normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat in the Lao People's Democratic Republic. Approximately 40 per cent¹ of the country's population resides in urban areas, and urbanization is accelerating, driven by economic growth,

* HSP/EB.2026/17.

¹World Bank, "Urban population (% of total population) – Lao PDR". Available at <https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/SP.URB.TOTL.IN.ZS?locations=LA> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

regional connectivity and infrastructure investment. The capital city and secondary cities are emerging as economic centres, while also facing pressures relating to climate change, disasters, and infrastructure and land use issues.

A. Context and background of the country programme

3. Lao People's Democratic Republic's sustainable graduation from least developed country status² underscores the role of well-planned urbanization for inclusive growth and resilience. The country remains highly vulnerable to climate hazards, including riverine flooding, flash floods and droughts, which disproportionately impact urban infrastructure, housing, public services and livelihoods.

4. In response to those challenges, the Government has strengthened its urban policy framework through national planning processes, including the Tenth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026–2030), urban development strategies, climate commitments under its nationally determined contribution³ and national adaptation plan,⁴ and implementation of the New Urban Agenda⁵ and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.⁶

5. UN-Habitat has worked for more than two decades in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, with cumulative programme investment of approximately \$30 million. The organization's work has evolved from focusing on water supply and sanitation through foundational programmes (e.g. Water for Asian Cities and Mekong Regional Water and Sanitation)⁷ to an integrated portfolio spanning climate resilience, urban planning, housing, public spaces, safety, local governance and disaster risk reduction.

6. The cooperation of UN-Habitat with the national Government has contributed to addressing key systemic urban development priorities, including access to water and sanitation, urban and land-use planning, institutional and local capacities, climate and disaster resilience, and urban data for evidence-based decision-making. Experience has shown that, while project-based interventions deliver tangible results and demonstrate innovative and replicable solutions, achieving transformation at scale requires such investments to be increasingly connected to wider policy, planning, financing and institutional frameworks. Building on these achievements and aligned with the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, the country programme will strengthen the transition by linking local demonstration projects and investment with national frameworks and mechanisms for scaling through government and development partners, with greater emphasis on adequate housing, equitable access to land and basic services, and well-planned urban growth. In the Lao context, where urban development is characterized by a distinctive settlement and administrative structure, the focus and main challenge will be supporting vulnerable and underserved urban and peri-urban communities while strengthening planning and land management to promote inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development.

² United Nations, LDC Portal – International Support Measures for Least Developed Countries, “Lao PDR graduation status”. Available at <https://www.un.org/ldcportal/content/lao-pdr-graduation-status> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

³ Lao People's Democratic Republic, *Nationally Determined Contribution* (2021). Available at <https://unfccc.int/NDC/2022-06/LaoPDR.pdf> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

⁴ Lao People's Democratic Republic, Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, *National Adaptation Plan* (Vientiane, 2025). Available at https://unfccc.int/sites/default/files/resource/NAP_Lao_P.D.R_2025.pdf (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

⁵ General Assembly resolution 71/256, annex.

⁶ General Assembly resolution 70/1.

⁷ UN-Habitat, *Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative Assessment Report for the Roll Out Phase 1* (2010). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/the-mekong-region-water-and-sanitation-initiative-mek-watsan-assessment-report-for-the-roll-out-phase-1-2> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

B. Highlights of normative and operational activities in the Lao People's Democratic Republic

1. Urban resilience, climate adaptation and basic urban services

7. Drawing upon global methodologies, including the City Resilience Profiling Tool,⁸ the Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy of the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN),⁹ the Hospital Safety Index and climate-resilient urban planning approaches, UN-Habitat supports national and local authorities in translating international commitments into contextualized urban solutions.¹⁰

8. UN-Habitat has improved urban infrastructure, water security and community resilience.¹¹ Investments in climate-resilient water supply systems have expanded access to safe water and strengthened systemic endurance against floods and droughts,¹² complemented by institutional capacity-building.¹³

9. Normative work on urban resilience has advanced through integrated city diagnostics in Muang Xay, Luang Prabang and Kaysone Phomvihane. Combining spatial analysis, climate assessments and stakeholder consultations, the diagnostics identified priority interventions in flood management, drainage, nature-based solutions, wastewater treatment and critical infrastructure protection, offering replicable planning models.¹⁴

10. UN-Habitat has strengthened essential public infrastructure preparedness. Through the Hospital Safety Index, 22 health facilities were assessed for structural and functional readiness,¹⁵ alongside complementary initiatives to strengthen the safety and disaster preparedness of educational facilities. These actions ensure the continuity of essential public services during emergencies.

11. A second pillar of the UN-Habitat country programme is integrated urban planning to manage rapid urbanization, while improving resilience, accessibility and quality of life. Building upon global normative frameworks, UN-Habitat has supported national and local authorities in translating strategic goals into practical planning and investment decisions, demonstrating that resilience requires strong governance, coordinated land use and public participation.¹⁶

12. Partnering with the Ministry of Public Works and Transport and local authorities, UN-Habitat supported planning in Xay, Luang Prabang and Kaysone Phomvihane. Diagnostic findings informed Urban Resilience Action Plans that integrate climate adaptation, disaster risk reduction and environmental management, and emphasis was placed on universal accessibility, pedestrian

⁸ See UN-Habitat, "City Resilience Profiling Tool". Available at <https://urbanresiliencehub.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/02/CRPT-Guide.pdf> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

⁹ ASEAN Secretariat, *ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy* (Jakarta, 2018). Available at <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/11/ASEAN-Sustainable-Urbanisation-Strategy-ASUS-1.pdf> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹⁰ Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, "A framework for action: Developing LAO PDR's NDC 3.0 Roadmap" (2025). Available at <https://www.unescap.org/kp/2025/framework-action-developing-lao-pdrs-ndc-30-roadmap> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹¹ UN-Habitat, "Multi-layered Vulnerability Assessment and Urban Resilience Workshop Report" (2026). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/multi-layered-vulnerability-assessment-and-urban-resilience-workshop-report> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹² UN-Habitat, "Operational assessment of small-scale water supply systems in Attapue, Sekong, and Saravane provinces in Lao PDR" (2025). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/operational-assessment-of-small-scale-water-supply-systems-in-attapue-sekong-and-saravane-provinces-in-lao-pdr/> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹³ Adaptation Fund, "Building climate and disaster resilience capacities of vulnerable small towns in Lao PDR – Adaptation Fund". Available at <https://www.adaptation-fund.org/project/building-climate-disaster-resilience-capacities-vulnerable-small-towns-lao-pdr-3/> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹⁴ UN-Habitat, "Accelerating the implementation of the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy Kaysone City Diagnostic Report" (2025). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/asus-kaysone-city-diagnostic-report/> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹⁵ UN-Habitat, "UN-Habitat: Strengthening Healthcare Resilience: Implementation of the Hospital Safety Index in Lao PDR" (2024). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/implementation-of-the-hospital-safety-index-in-lao-pdr> (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

¹⁶ UN-Habitat, *International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning* (2015). Available at https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/ig-utp_english.pdf (accessed on 21 Sept. 2026).

infrastructure and transport connectivity to ensure inclusive and liveable cities. These approaches offer replicable models for cities facing similar challenges.¹⁷

13. The programme strengthened attention to urban safety and social inclusion in planning processes. Drawing upon the global Safer Cities Programme and gender-responsive planning methodologies,¹⁸ UN-Habitat has supported the inclusion of safety considerations in public space design, mobility planning and neighbourhood improvement initiatives. Participatory safety assessments have engaged women, children, older persons and persons with disabilities in identifying barriers to safe access and mobility, informing recommendations for improved lighting, safer pedestrian environments, accessible transport facilities and inclusive public spaces.¹⁹

14. UN-Habitat's work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic has demonstrated how secondary and small cities can serve as laboratories for innovation in sustainable urbanization, while the use of integrated diagnostics, participatory planning and pilot investments has informed national policy dialogue while contributing practical lessons for other ASEAN member States.

2. Urban data, evidence-based governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals

15. Consistent with the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goal 11, UN-Habitat has supported national and local governments in strengthening urban information systems, spatial analysis and monitoring frameworks that improve planning, investment prioritization and policy implementation.²⁰

16. Cities have generated comprehensive assessments of demographic trends, infrastructure, housing, mobility, environmental conditions, disaster risks and service delivery. Geographic information systems, spatial analysis and participatory data collection have enabled local authorities to identify infrastructure gaps, climate vulnerabilities and areas requiring priority investment.

17. UN-Habitat has also supported efforts to strengthen the localization of the Sustainable Development Goals through urban diagnostics and monitoring, sensitization for voluntary local reviews and capacity development for local governments,²¹ helping local governments better understand trends and align planning with national and global commitments.

3. Regional cooperation, policy dialogue and knowledge exchange

18. By linking national experiences with regional and global normative processes, the UN-Habitat country programme strengthened knowledge exchange, promoted South-South cooperation and facilitated the adaptation of international good practices to national and local contexts. These efforts have reinforced the country's role within ASEAN and the wider Asia-Pacific region in advancing integrated approaches to resilient urban development.²²

19. National policy dialogues were strengthened through support to the Lao National Urban Forum,²³ involving a range of stakeholders, including development partners, academia, civil society and the private sector. The facilitated discussions addressed urban resilience, climate change, housing, sub-national climate finance, disaster risk reduction and sustainable infrastructure, aligning national priorities with the New Urban Agenda while showcasing local innovations.

¹⁷ UN-Habitat, *Proceedings of the Lao National Urban Forum 2025* (Vientiane, 2025). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/lao-national-urban-forum-2025-proceedings-2> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

¹⁸ UN-Habitat, *Gender Issue Guide: Urban Planning and Design* (Nairobi, 2012). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/download-manager-files/Gender%20Responsive%20Urban%20Planning%20and%20Design.pdf> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

¹⁹ UN-Habitat, "Safer Cities Project Completion Report: Interventions against the recent community outbreak of COVID-19 in LAO PDR" (2024). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/safer-cities-completion-report/> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²⁰ UN-Habitat, *UN-Habitat Lao PDR Annual Report 2025* (2025). Available at https://unhabitat.la/wp-content/uploads/2025/12/UN-Habitat_Annual_Report_2025_lowres.pdf (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²¹ Department of Economic and Social Affairs, "Global Guiding Elements for Voluntary Local Reviews (VLRs) of SDG implementation" (2021). Available at https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/07/globalguidingelementsforvlrs_final.pdf (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²² ASEAN, "Plan of Action to Implement the Joint Declaration on Comprehensive Partnership between ASEAN and the United Nations (2026–2030)". Available at <https://asean.org/wp-content/uploads/2025/10/ASEAN-UN-POA-2026-2030-Final.pdf> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²³ See <https://unhabitat.la/urban/>.

20. Beyond national dialogue, the programme has contributed to regional and global knowledge products and policy processes. The programme's experience in climate adaptation, resilience assessments and city planning informed regional guidance and national reports on the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals, while participation in forums, including the World Urban Forum and Urban October,²⁴ enhanced national visibility and knowledge exchange with countries facing similar challenges. The Lao People's Democratic Republic contributes to regional learning while benefiting from experience in addressing complex development challenges.²⁵

C. Partnerships, collaborations and lessons learned

21. At the national level, UN-Habitat works closely with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs, the Ministry of Public Works and Transport, the Ministry of Agriculture and Environment, the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Education and Sports, the Ministry of Labour and Social Welfare and the Ministry of Health and other relevant ministries to support policy development, institutional strengthening, and implementation of integrated urban development initiatives. Collaboration with provincial, district and city authorities translates national policies into local planning and investments, strengthening cross-sectoral coordination and local capacity.

22. The programme leverages strategic partnerships with multilateral development banks, bilateral agencies and climate finance institutions. Through collaboration with the Adaptation Fund, World Bank and several United Nations agencies, it has scaled up climate-resilient infrastructure, resilience planning and capacity development, supporting coherent implementation of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework.²⁶

23. Partnerships with universities, professional institutions, civil society organizations and local communities have strengthened the country programme by promoting innovation, knowledge generation and participatory planning.²⁷ Community engagement has been key to ensuring that planning responds to local priorities and that interventions are inclusive of women, young and older persons, ethnolinguistic minorities, and persons with disabilities. These partnerships have enhanced local ownership while strengthening the relevance, cost efficiency and long-term sustainability of programme outcomes.²⁸

24. The Lao People's Democratic Republic country programme exemplifies the "One UN-Habitat" approach by integrating normative expertise from headquarters with regional capacities and operational delivery. Sustained for more than two decades – originating in the Water for Asian Cities and Mekong Regional Water and Sanitation programmes – this approach ensures that global normative expertise informs country-level delivery, while country experience enriches regional and global knowledge and programming. Recent cooperation on water utilities between Kenya, the Lao People's Democratic Republic and GWOPA further demonstrates the value of this integrated model in bridging normative capacities with tangible impact at the country level.

D. Conclusions

25. UN-Habitat experience in the Lao People's Democratic Republic demonstrates how normative and operational activities mutually reinforce sustainable urban development.²⁹ By integrating policy advice, technical assistance, capacity-building and demonstration projects, the programme has strengthened national and local institutions to deliver more inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban services, infrastructure and public spaces across the rural-urban continuum.

²⁴ See <https://unhabitat.org/urban-october>.

²⁵ UN-Habitat, "Lao PDR: Habitat Country Programme Document 2022–2026" (2024). Available at <https://unhabitat.la/download/hcpd-2022-2026/> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²⁶ United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, "Multi-hazard early warning systems in Lao PDR", 14 Nov. 2024. Available at <https://www.undrr.org/resource/case-study/multi-hazard-early-warning-systems-lao-pdr> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²⁷ UN-Habitat, *Our City Plans: An incremental and participatory toolbox for urban planning* (Nairobi, 2024). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/our-city-plans-an-incremental-and-participatory-toolbox-for-urban-planning> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²⁸ UN-Habitat, *Enabling Meaningful Public Participation in Spatial Planning Processes* (Nairobi, 2023). Available at

https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2023/01/final_enabling_meaningful_public_participation_in_spatial_planning_processes.pdf (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

²⁹ UN-Habitat, "UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029" (2025). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/un-habitats-strategic-plan-2026-2029> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

26. Collaboration with national and local governments, development partners, United Nations agencies, academic institutions and civil society has strengthened national ownership and accountability, while enabling the mobilization of technical expertise, financial resources and innovation. Such partnerships have also facilitated policy dialogue and strengthened coordination across sectors, improving the effectiveness and sustainability of interventions.

27. The feedback loop between country implementation and global normative work in the Lao People's Democratic Republic demonstrates how normative expertise translates into delivery, while country experience, in turn, informs wider UN-Habitat work: looking forward, integrated urban development remains essential for the implementation of the Tenth National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026–2030)³⁰ and the New Urban Agenda and to accelerate progress towards the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals.

28. The integrated UN-Habitat approach and the strong partnerships built in the Lao People's Democratic Republic align with the overall objective of the UN80 initiative reform by contributing to a coherent, efficient and more accountable United Nations system as well as stronger alignment between UN-Habitat operational support and country demands, focusing on better results for people and on the impact at the country level. Institutionalizing community participation is essential to enhancing the quality, legitimacy and long-term sustainability of urban interventions. These local-level experiences provide vital feedback loops for national policy development and regional knowledge, operationalizing the mutually reinforcing dual mandate of UN-Habitat.³¹

III. Updates on the Kenya country programme

29. This section highlights normative and operational activities of UN-Habitat in Kenya, a country experiencing rapid urban growth of 4.3 per cent a year, with half of the total population projected to be living in urban areas by 2050.³²

A. Context and background of the country programme

30. The Kenya country programme operates under the Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework and is guided by the Kenya Habitat Country Programme Document 2023–2027, which borrows from the Kenyan Government's Fourth Medium-Term Plan 2023–2027 "Bottom-up Economic Transformative Agenda for Inclusive Growth". The country programme document was developed jointly with the Ministry of Lands, Public Works, Housing, and Urban Development and will support the National Urban Development Policy, as well as operationalizing the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029 at the country level through four outcome areas: improved access to housing, quality urban basic services and infrastructure and upgraded slums and informal settlements; improved land management and sustainably planned human settlements; promotion of innovative mechanisms in urban economy and financing; and climate change, resilience and disaster risk management.

31. Kenya is undergoing rapid demographic and spatial transformation across its urban areas. The accelerated pace of urbanization necessitates proactive, sustainable planning to mitigate infrastructure deficits and foster inclusive growth. In alignment with the development agenda of the Government of Kenya, UN-Habitat is spearheading 33 strategic projects and activities across 22 counties. In its portfolio, UN-Habitat adopts a dual-track approach: normative influence, focusing on enabling environments, policy frameworks and capacity-building; and operational delivery, encompassing tangible on-the-ground infrastructure installation.

32. UN-Habitat engagement in Kenya has evolved towards a more systematic response to the country's structural urban challenges, including persistent housing deficits, the prevalence of slums and informal settlements, and inadequate access to basic services. Experience from earlier interventions highlighted the limitations of fragmented, project-oriented approaches in achieving transformation at scale, prompting a shift towards more coherent, programme-led interventions across

³⁰ Lao People's Democratic Republic, *10th Five-Year National Socio-Economic Development Plan (2026–2030)* (Vientiane, 2025). Available at https://rtm.org.la/wp-content/uploads/2025/11/10th_NSEDP_10112025_Eng.CLN1_.pdf (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

³¹ UN-Habitat, "Climate-resilient Urbanization in Emerging Secondary Towns: Lessons from Lao PDR". Available at <https://unhabitat.la/article/climate-resilient-urbanisation-in-emerging-secondary-towns-lessons-from-lao-pdr/> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

³² Kenya National Bureau of Statistics, *2019 Kenya Population and Housing Census: Analytical Report on Urbanisation*, vol. IX (Nairobi, April 2022). Available at [2019 KPHC Analytical Report on Urbanization - Volume IX](#).

multiple counties.³³ The shift was complemented by stronger engagement with the United Nations country team and Programme Management Team, which enhanced UN-Habitat integration within the wider United Nations system and enabled greater joint programming with agencies including the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), the International Labour Organization, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) and the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP). Building on these lessons and partnerships, a strengthened country programme anchored in the latest UN-Habitat strategic plan provides an opportunity to consolidate this programme-led approach and address Kenya's urban challenges at scale, with a sharper focus on expanding access to adequate housing, land and basic services, and accelerating the transformation of slums and informal settlements.

33. Over the past 15 years, UN-Habitat has mobilized and delivered urban development investments worth more than \$53 million in Kenya, demonstrating robust implementation capacity and enduring partnerships with Government and international development partners. Of the 51 projects concerned, 38 are now operationally closed. The 13 that remain ongoing account for a total value of \$29 million, of which a \$22.3 million portfolio is led by the Regional Office for Africa, while a \$5.6 million portfolio is led by the Global Solutions Division. Supported by four operational field offices and a team of 17 staff, UN-Habitat continues to advance these activities in alignment with the Government's commitment to sustainable urbanization.

34. The portfolio includes the Kenya Urban Support Programme second phase project "Window for refugee and host communities" in Dadaab and Kakuma Municipalities in northern Kenya, funded by the Government with World Bank participation (\$5.9 million); "Building opportunities for refugee and host community resilience in northern Kenya" of the European Union Emergency Trust Fund for stability and addressing root causes of irregular migration and displaced persons in Africa (\$4.2 million); the Partnership Implementing the New Urban Agenda (\$8 million); the Greater Busia Metro Project, with funding from the Danish International Development Agency (DANIDA) (\$4 million); the Turkana Water Infrastructure Improvement Project, with funding from the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) (\$4.3 million); the Nakuru Voluntary Local Review, with the Ministry of Economic Affairs and Climate Policy of the Kingdom of the Netherlands (\$103,883); the Kilifi Integrated Urban Development Plan, funded by TradeMark Africa (\$95,000); and the Go Blue Project Result Area 2, with funding from the European Union (€7 million).

B. Highlights of normative and operational activities in Kenya

35. Over the past decade, UN-Habitat has evolved from implementing small-scale urban pilots to managing large, integrated programmes focused on the following thematic areas:

1. Normative-policy integration

36. From a normative perspective, the Kenya country programme continues to serve as a pilot site for the implementation of UN-Habitat global normative tools, including the City Prosperity Index. Kenya's urban areas, including Homa Bay, Kiambu, Kisumu, Mombasa, Nairobi, Nakuru and Taita Taveta, have particularly benefited from urban waste policy formulation support through the UN-Habitat Waste Wise Cities Tool, a data collection methodology that produces solid waste datasets for policy and decision-making at the city level. The National Environment Management Authority is using aggregated waste datasets from these urban areas to strengthen the national plastic waste baseline and support evidence-based policy and planning within the framework of the National Plastic Action Partnership.

37. The normative work of UN-Habitat on urban planning has yielded territorial, metropolitan and cross-border frameworks across terrestrial and coastal jurisdictions in Kenya. These frameworks include the Hola municipality local physical and land use development plan for 2025–2035, the Kilifi municipality integrated strategic urban development plan for 2024–2034, the Moyale local physical and land use development plan, and the *Feasibility Study for Coastal and Harbour Water Transportation in Mombasa*, which has identified viable routes for passenger transport along the coastline in the city. The *Street Design Manual for Urban Areas in Kenya* informed the provision of inclusive street designs in Nairobi within the framework of the Pan-African Action Plan for Active Mobility, and UN-Habitat also supported the digital mapping of Nairobi's bus route network.

38. The normative UN-Habitat publication *Sustainable Building Design for Tropical Climates: Principles and Applications for the Design of Sustainable Buildings in Eastern Africa* served as a

³³ UN-Habitat, *Kenya National Progress Report on the New Urban Agenda* (2025). Available at <https://www.urbanagendaplatform.org/node/2737> (accessed on 25 Sept. 2026).

foundational model for housing typology designs under the Kenyan Government's Mavoko affordable housing project. Furthermore, UN-Habitat facilitated the development of 5,360 affordable housing units in Mavoko Municipality by making a 55-acre site available for a public-private partnership with the Government and provided related technical advisory services.

2. Key programmatic pillars and operations: climate resilience and sustainable urbanization

39. At the operational level, UN-Habitat provided support for the development of material recovery facilities and the application of geographic information systems across selected counties in Kenya. In alignment with the New Urban Agenda commitment to promoting safe, inclusive, accessible, green and high-quality public spaces, UN-Habitat established such spaces in the municipalities of Kilifi and Lamu. Furthermore, UN-Habitat provided technical design support for non-motorized transport facilities to accelerate electric mobility. This initiative serves as a practical pathway towards achieving Kenya's nationally determined contribution targets, since reducing transport-related emissions contributes to the country's climate ambition to lower greenhouse gas emissions by 32 per cent by 2030.³⁴ The Go Blue Project provided a unique opportunity for UN-Habitat to demonstrate how sustainable urbanization can unlock the economic, social and environmental potential of coastal and marine ecosystems. Through these initiatives, UN-Habitat has strengthened its capacity to assist cities and communities in transitioning from fragmented coastal interventions towards integrated approaches.

40. Work on the Nairobi River system has demonstrated how river regeneration at scale can support environmental, economic and social value. UN-Habitat supports this system transformation by providing technical advice to the Nairobi Rivers Commission and implementing small-scale interventions that are community-centred and aim to anchor participatory approaches with tangible opportunities through data collection, river maintenance and waste recovery.

3. UN-Habitat innovative approach to cross-border economic corridors in Africa

41. Through the country programme, UN-Habitat provides expertise in corridor-city spatial planning, housing and land systems, smart-city and digital governance, local economic development, metropolitan coordination, resilience planning, and the localization of Sustainable Development Goal 11.

42. The "Harnessing property rights" element of the Greater Busia Metro Project, which spans the Kenya-Uganda border, is being implemented to strengthen land tenure security and improve livelihoods for women and youth in the informal trade sector. During the reporting period, key institutional foundations were established, including the signing of memorandums of understanding and the formation of a joint technical committee to provide oversight. Furthermore, baseline studies comprising gender assessments and tenure security analyses were completed. Data collection and stakeholder training for the Greater Busia Metro Urban Observatory have also been finalized, and the Observatory will be formally launched in the fourth quarter of 2026.

43. The comprehensive political economy analysis of the Greater Busia Metro area found that Busia is not merely a border crossing, but a functional cross-border urban economy that occupies a strategic position, serving as a critical node for trade, logistics, mobility and regional integration in East and Central Africa. Despite their economic importance, the informal traders face persistent challenges, including weak property rights, insecure access to trading spaces, limited awareness of formal trade procedures, restricted access to finance, harassment, irregular payments, institutional fragmentation and a lack of cross-border coordination.

4. Strengthening host and refugee communities in support of the Socioeconomic Hubs for Integrated Refugee Inclusion in Kenya plan

44. The Kenya Urban Support Programme represents an important national platform for advancing sustainable urbanization, strengthening municipal institutions and improving the delivery of urban infrastructure. The first phase was launched by the Government of Kenya in collaboration with the World Bank to strengthen urban governance, institutional capacity and infrastructure investment. Building on this foundation, the second phase, led by the Government with UN-Habitat providing

³⁴ See Kenya, Ministry of Environment, Climate Change and Forestry, *National Climate Change Action Plan (NCCAP) 2023–2027* (Nairobi, 2023), available at <https://faolex.fao.org/docs/pdf/ken229355.pdf> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026); and *The National Long Term Low Emission Development Strategy 2022–2050* (Nairobi, 2022), available at <https://kcckp.go.ke/media/LTLED%20Strategy%20for%20Kenya%202021-2050%20-%20Final%20DRAFT%20FINAL.pdf> (accessed on 22 Sept. 2026).

technical assistance, places greater emphasis on resilient urban infrastructure and services, stronger urban institutions, private sector engagement in urban planning and the transition of refugee camps towards integrated host community and refugee settlements.

C. Partnerships, collaborations and lessons learned

45. The Kenya UN-Habitat programme platform has emerged as one of the most robust in Africa, attracting significant bilateral and multilateral investment. This portfolio reflects strong donor confidence and establishes Kenya as a proven hub for scaling innovative urban solutions. During the past year, UN-Habitat has secured funding through various partnerships, including: the European Union (\$16 million); JICA (\$4.3 million); DANIDA (\$4 million); the Gates Foundation (\$2 million), and the Government of Italy (\$500,000).

46. To strengthen internal and external collaboration, UN-Habitat established the programme coordination task force for Kenya. The task force is guided by the Kenya Habitat Country Programme Document 2023–2027, a critical instrument for resource mobilization and the implementation of programmes at all levels of government. By promoting agency-wide consultation and streamlining communication between the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa and the Global Solutions Division, the task force scales up existing internal coordination mechanisms and strengthens integrated programming and accountability modalities across country, regional and global levels.

47. UN-Habitat also participates in joint programming led by the Resident Coordinator in Kenya, such as the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund, in collaboration with UNDP and the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction, for the scale-up of the Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor initiative and the Nairobi sustainable cities integrated programme of the eighth replenishment of the Global Environment Facility, which brings together UNEP, UN-Habitat, the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, and the State Department for Environment and Climate Change.

48. These models are being adapted for more than 20 African countries that have expressed interest in the Building Climate Resilience with the Urban Poor regional readiness programme. The countries have developed detailed logical frameworks and identified specific urban neighbourhoods for intervention.

D. Conclusions

49. In a new context of shrinking resources and the UN80 initiative reform, the UN-Habitat country programme for Kenya successfully adopted a new funding model as a catalytic tool to unlock additional resource opportunities, as represented by the Joint Sustainable Development Goals Fund. The model enhances the impact of initiatives at the country level, while fully aligning and supporting the UN80 initiative objective of a more efficient and coherent United Nations system in which partnerships and integrated approaches contribute to achieving greater impact.

50. The unique synergy between UN-Habitat and the Government of Kenya, underpinned by the host country's increased voluntary contributions and the secondment of national expertise by the State Department for Housing and Urban Development, demonstrate how a robust platform for partnership increases the impact of the UN-Habitat programme, while keeping the principle of accountability at the centre of the UN-Habitat presence in the country. This partnership, bolstered by high-level political commitment, aligns national priorities with the wider global objectives of the New Urban Agenda and United Nations reform.

51. By centring housing, land and basic services in national urban development, the current UN-Habitat portfolio directly advances the implementation of the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, demonstrating how government support coupled with the in-country location of the headquarters, field presence and technical expertise together contribute to global urban sustainable goals. The complexity of the Kenya country programme also presents an opportunity for more coherent UN-Habitat programming.

52. Given the scale and diversity of the UN-Habitat portfolio in Kenya, the effort to achieve greater complementarity across country and regional offices as well as between national and global capacities remains key to implementing coherent UN-Habitat programming. The UN-Habitat integrated approach therefore contributes to clear governance at the country level, complementary roles for regional and global capacities, and overcoming fragmented delivery approaches by efficient mobilization of specialized expertise across different levels of operations, while keeping at its core the principle of accountability, in line with the UN80 initiative reform.

IV. Update on the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance

53. This section presents the normative and operational activities of GWOPA, which is managed by UN-Habitat and based in Bonn, Germany. Established in 2009 upon the recommendation of the Secretary-General's Advisory Board on Water and Sanitation, GWOPA promotes not-for-profit, peer-support partnerships to strengthen utilities. Water operator partnerships advance work towards Sustainable Development Goal 6 and the New Urban Agenda commitment to enhancing public water and sanitation utilities to improve and expand service delivery.

A. Context and background

54. As of 2024, with 2.1 billion people lacking managed drinking water and 3.4 billion without safe sanitation, the achievement of Goal 6 remained significantly off track.³⁵ For the 2.8 billion people affected by inadequate housing and 1.1 billion living in informal settlements³⁶, water and sanitation services are often absent, unsafe, intermittent or unaffordable, exacerbating health risks and climate vulnerability. Conflict and displacement place immense strain on the providers of services that are vital for survival, dignity, public health, stability and recovery.

55. With housing, land, water and sanitation and other basic services being inseparable, and the transformation of slums and informal settlements essential to achieving sustainable urban development, improving local water and sanitation services directly supports the housing ambitions of the UN-Habitat strategic plan for the period 2026–2029.

56. Progress on Goals 6 and 11 depends on local and regional governments, and the water and sanitation operators mandated to deliver services. Many of the more than 285,000 utilities worldwide face persistent challenges, including inadequate infrastructure, limited finance, rapid urban growth and rising climate pressures. Strengthening them is fundamental to realizing human rights, not only to water and sanitation, but also to housing.

57. GWOPA implements the UN-Habitat mandate by fortifying service providers to be agents of sustainable urban development. Water operator partnerships are a practical and effective way to strengthen utilities and help cities thrive, aligned with the Secretary-General's emphasis on multilevel governance, localization and the Pact for the Future.

58. GWOPA nurtures global membership, comprising more than 300 institutional and 2,300 individual members. Of those, public utilities make up the majority, along with development cooperation agencies and finance institutions, civil society organizations, trade unions, national and subnational governments, academic institutions, and regulators.

59.

B. Highlights of normative and operational activities

60. GWOPA has built a global movement for water operator partnerships, with uptake globally benefiting at least 388 utilities through 493 partnerships, 59 per cent of which are between operators in the same region.

61. Countries including Germany, Colombia and the Netherlands are institutionalizing the partnerships with GWOPA support. With the United Nations Children's Fund (UNICEF), GWOPA has established national water operator partnership platforms in Ethiopia and will soon do the same in Ukraine. The European Union has committed to partnerships through a 10-year, €23 million programme for GWOPA to support utilities in Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. More than 40 donors and financial institutions have supported partnerships or use them to back investments, including more than \$1.1 billion of Asian Development Bank participation.

62. Building on operational experience, GWOPA has driven the research agenda on water operator partnership practice, including the publication *Global Outlook on Water and Sanitation Service Providers: Water for Sustainable Cities* and the *Journal of Water Sanitation and Hygiene for Development* special issue on water operator partnerships.

³⁵ UN-Habitat, *Global Outlook on Water and Sanitation Providers: Water for Sustainable Cities* (2025). Available at <https://gwopa.unhabitat.org/resources/library/global-outlook-water-and-sanitation-service-providers-water-sustainable-cities>.

³⁶ UN-Habitat, *Annual Report 2024* (2025). Available at <https://unhabitat.org/annual-report-2024>.

63. The GWOPA Observatory tracks global water operator partnership typologies and trends, such as an increase in South-South partnerships. Its Partnership Management Platform is used by leading practitioners, including the Inter-American Development Bank and Germany's Utility Platform.
64. Drawing on normative evidence, GWOPA advocates advancing both utilities and water operator partnerships to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals. GWOPA has convened a growing global community at six biannual Global Water Operators' Partnership Congresses. It facilitates utility representation in forums like the World Urban Forum, the conferences of the parties to multilateral environmental agreements, including those on climate and desertification, and the United Nations Water Conference.
65. In its first phase, the European Union programme supported 35 utilities in 20 countries that provide water to more than 53 million people by improving their operational efficiency, financial sustainability and environmental performance. Through the programme, 368,997 people have gained access to an improved drinking water source and 28,145 to improved sanitation. Operators trained 7,976 staff and leveraged approximately \$6 million in counterpart contributions.
66. Impact assessments show institutional capacity changes that enable concrete results. Between 2022 and 2025, European Union water operator partnerships have enabled operators to map networks and plan maintenance of assets in Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia and Uganda; monitor and reduce non-revenue water losses from leaks and unbilled supply in Kenya, Mali, Pakistan and South Africa; monitor drinking water quality in Somalia and Uganda; handle customer complaints and billing in Pakistan, Somalia and Zambia; and finance household connections in low-income areas in Ethiopia and Sierra Leone. In Kenya, the Kisumu Water and Sanitation Company supported five peer utilities to map low-income areas and raise pro-poor service delivery scores from 52 to 84 per cent. The Guma Valley Water Company in Sierra Leone approved a social connection policy and pro-poor strategic plan. In Bahir Dar, Ethiopia, a financing manual for low-income households was applied to construct and finance new connections. Operators in Banjarmasin in Indonesia, Mombasa in Kenya and Kitwe in Zambia strengthened sanitation regulation and faecal sludge management. In Pakistan, consultations supported sector regulations, demonstrating how partnerships contribute to an enabling environment.
67. Sanitation-focused water operator partnerships implemented in the Lao People's Democratic Republic and Nepal under a United Nations Development Account project combine peer mentoring with city sanitation plans and national policy reviews to address climate resilience, gender equality and service to low-income communities.
68. Institutional change translates into performance. Among operators in the European Union partnership programme, 94 per cent reported improvements in operational, social or financial areas, 79 per cent reported strengthened organizational capacity, 65 per cent had integrated climate change, human rights or gender dimensions into their work, and eight operators had secured additional financing for infrastructure or operational improvements.
69. Anchoring improved performance in sustained service coverage requires supportive multi-level governance, regulatory and financing frameworks. This is a third pillar of GWOPA work in its revised 2025 strategic plan outcomes and an expanding area of its work.

C. Partnerships, collaborations and lessons learned

70. Currently, financial support for GWOPA comes from the Governments of Germany and the Kingdom of the Netherlands, the European Union, and United Nations partners, including UNICEF and the United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. Partnerships with development banks and financial institutions, including the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, are integrating water operator partnerships into public infrastructure financing.
71. The "One UN-Habitat" approach links global normative work with country operations, ensuring mutual learning through collaboration in water operator partnership projects. By engaging with the United Nations System-wide Strategy for Water and Sanitation, UN-Habitat has leveraged catalytic funding in Kosovo, Nepal and Peru, advocating for water operator partnerships.
72. Contributions to United Nations system-wide collective action include work to integrate the water operator partnership approach in the work of the Department of Economic and Social Affairs, the Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific and the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights. The commitment by GWOPA to the Water Action Agenda of 2023 encourages governments, financiers and utilities worldwide to implement at least 100 new partnerships by 2030, 40 of which had been initiated by August 2026.

73. Several lessons drawn from the “Mid-term Review of the GWOPA Strategy 2020–2024” reaffirm the value of the water operator partnership approach:

- (a) Water operator partnerships show durable change where utility capacity is consolidated in an institutional instrument, such as a social connection policy or a tariff schedule;
- (b) Strong engagement of local and regional governments is critical for sustaining service delivery improvements, as long-term results depend on supportive governance, planning and financing frameworks;
- (c) Capacity built through partnerships is readily applied, expanded and shared beyond projects, making water operator partnerships highly scalable;
- (d) Sanitation partnerships require a wider set of actors, including regulators and small-scale service providers, for which GWOPA has adapted its approach.

D. Conclusions

74. The work under GWOPA shows how global programmes can systematically connect normative expertise and global networks to country demand and delivery, while ensuring that country experience feeds back into global knowledge.

75. Furthermore, GWOPA demonstrates how normative leadership, convening power and operational delivery reinforce one another in support of the UN-Habitat mandate, especially when rooted in local partnerships and drive by data and evidence.

76. Through evidence generation, knowledge exchange and peer partnerships, GWOPA strengthens the institutions responsible for delivering services while contributing to the achievement of Sustainable Development Goals 6 and 11, the New Urban Agenda and related sustainable urbanization objectives. The 2026 United Nations Water Conference builds on the thirteenth session of the World Urban Forum in translating global commitments on water and sanitation into measurable improvements for housing and cities.

77. In accordance with the principles of partnership and integrated approach as key drivers for more effective, coherent and coordinate United Nations actions, the GWOPA programme shows how a robust partnership remains critical for ensuring that the UN-Habitat programme has an impact on people’s lives. The programme not only demonstrates the power of innovative and locally driven solutions, ensuring the sustainability of services, it also remains a model for connecting normative expertise to country demands.

V. Update on urban crisis prevention and response initiatives

A. Progress in normative support

78. UN-Habitat continues to support the humanitarian reset, including the roll-out of the Shelter, Land and Site Coordination Cluster, focusing on area-based approaches and housing, land and property. UN-Habitat is also working with FAO, the International Council of Voluntary Agencies, the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies and UNDP, including to support transitions to recovery starting with Syria and Cameroon.

79. UN-Habitat has worked on the consolidation of crisis-related tools, including urban and neighbourhood profiling, to enable a more agile, localized and contextualized response. UN-Habitat has strengthened the link between country-level operations and global normative development, ensuring that operational experience informs tools and guidance and that lessons from the field translate into improved programming.

80. Through the global solutions working group, UN-Habitat drives urban and housing solutions in displacement settings, applying the framework on solutions to internal displacement in urban areas at the country level. The framework is now available in Arabic, English, French and Spanish.

B. Progress in the provision of support to countries experiencing crisis

81. From January to June 2026, UN-Habitat supported human settlements affected by conflict and disaster in multiple countries, as shown in the table below.

82. Through the Geneva Technical Hub 2.0,³⁷ UN-Habitat provides technical advice on profiling and planning in Burundi, the Central African Republic and Chad on enhancing climate resilience in settlements hosting displaced persons.

83. UN-Habitat completed two projects in Ukraine: the inclusive and resilient urban recovery project and the digital tools and capacities project in partnership with United Nations Innovation Technology Accelerator for Cities. Ongoing engagement is sustained through the water operator partnerships supported by GWOPA and UNICEF and the newly established Ukraine Urban Recovery Support Hub financed by Slovakia.

84. In response to calls from the Government of Ukraine to support recovery in frontline conflict areas in the country, UN-Habitat co-developed two project proposals: with UNHCR, on housing solutions for internally displaced persons in Kharkiv; and with UNICEF, on urban recovery and resilience planning in Dnipro Oblast. These projects aim to integrate water and sanitation planning into a broader recovery strategy. UN-Habitat also engaged with the Government of Ukraine on a possible spatial recovery and development framework to identify priority areas for recovery investment. Engagement is ongoing with donors, including Japan, Poland, Spain, States in the Persian Gulf and international financial institutions, to mobilize the needed resources for continued engagement on urban recovery. The Executive Director addressed these areas of engagement at the Ukraine Recovery Conference, held in Gdańsk, Poland, on 25 and 26 June 2026, in discussions with the Government of Ukraine, United Nations agencies and potential financial and technical partners.

C. Update on the financial situation of UN-Habitat in Ukraine as at 30 April 2026

85. Owing to limited financial resources, UN-Habitat has transitioned to a limited presence in Ukraine for the period July–December 2026, consisting of one mid-level international staff member and three national staff. The staff members support programme development and resource mobilization, with assistance from the Regional Office for Eastern Europe and Central Asia in Istanbul and the Regional Programme Division in Nairobi. Since currently available resources are insufficient to sustain a full presence in the country, UN-Habitat is exploring options for providing expertise on demand, in line with the UN80 initiative.

³⁷ See <https://www.unhcr.org/sites/default/files/legacy-pdf/62c7f9204.pdf>.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New UN-Habitat activities (January–June 2026)</i>
Afghanistan	ROAP	X	X	X	X	Community-driven projects, supported shelter, HLP, basic services and climate-resilient infrastructure, facilitating IDP/returnee integration in high-return and earthquake-affected areas.
Burkina Faso	ROAF		X		X	Advanced sustainable solutions for IDPs and host communities, strengthening local capacities in three additional cities. Cross-border territorial investment planning continued towards formal approval with Mali and the Niger.
Colombia	ROLAC				X	Supported victim reparations through technical mapping of informal settlements, management plans and advice on temporary rental subsidies. Used Our City Plans and Her City tools to strengthen multilevel governance for displaced persons.
Ethiopia	ROAF	X			X	Supported local integration through settlement planning, HLP, community cohesion and area-based approaches in nine displacement sites in the Somali and Oromia regions. In the Benishangul-Gumuz and Amhara regions, support covered hazard mapping, land suitability, HLP certification and solid waste management.
Guinea-Bissau	ROAF		X			Strengthened conflict prevention and natural resource management through territorial analysis, conflict monitoring, community mediation and participatory planning, increasing women's participation, while reforestation and water infrastructure supported peaceful coexistence in the Bafatá, Gabú and Tombali regions.
Iraq	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Advanced housing policy and land reform, including e-cadastre and land e-registry, to strengthen tenure security for IDPs and returnees. Legal support addressed compensation claims and access to title deeds, while social housing projects continued.
Lao People's Democratic Republic	ROAP	X		X		Supported disaster prevention and response through climate-informed urban planning across six projects, while strengthening disaster risk management coordination through inter-agency mechanisms.
Lebanon	ROAS	X	X	X	X	Supported recovery for IDPs, including a spatial position paper on displacement impacts on host municipalities and shaping housing reconstruction.
Mali	ROAF		X		X	Initiated solutions for IDPs and host communities, strengthening local capacities. Helped advance cross-border territorial investment planning with Burkina Faso and the Niger towards formal approval.
Mauritania	ROAF	X			X	Advanced resource mobilization for a regional spatial plan for the Hodh ech Chargui region to foster refugee self-reliance and host-community integration.

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New UN-Habitat activities (January–June 2026)</i>
Mozambique	ROAF	X	X	X	X	Post-disaster needs assessments informed government flood reconstruction plan. City resilience action planning methodology identified resilience priorities in five cities. Finalized urban displacement profiling with IOM and the Joint Internal Displacement Profiling Service, while Peacebuilding Fund support strengthened land management and participatory planning in Cabo Delgado Province.
Myanmar	ROAP		X	X		Supported earthquake-affected communities through improved water and sanitation access (WASH) and resilient community facilities that serve as evacuation shelters and safe spaces.
Nepal	ROAP	X		X		Supported community-led infrastructure reconstruction, contributing to economic revitalization and continuity of public services, empowering women in reconstruction.
Niger	ROAF	X	X		X	Helped advance cross-border territorial investment planning for crisis prevention and response with Mali and Burkina Faso towards formal approval.
Nigeria	ROAF	X	X		X	Supported solutions for IDPs and host communities in four states with IOM and UNHCR, including through spatial development strategies, urban plans and settlement design and capacity-building.
Pakistan	ROAP	X		X		Contributed to contingency planning related to regional instability and cross-border displacement. Conducted risk assessments of informal settlements and municipal infrastructure and supported climate-resilient and conflict-sensitive settlement planning.
Philippines	ROAP	X	X	X		Supported the updated spatial development plan in the Bangsamoro region, sustaining peace and more resilient, culturally appropriate housing and sustainable livelihoods for Indigenous families displaced by Typhoon Rai.
Somalia	ROAF	X	X	X	X	Advanced housing solutions using a national housing catalogue. In Bosaso, 30 families benefited from improved neighbourhood infrastructure, housing and occupancy certificates. Supported land administration and dispute resolution in Jowhar and spatial economic development strategies in Burcao and Afgooye.
South Sudan	ROAF		X	X	X	Delivered integrated settlement planning in Aweil and Malakal with UNHCR, supporting IDP reintegration and expansion planning. Supported the Intergovernmental Authority on Development support platform to develop guidelines on conflict- and climate-induced displacement.
State of Palestine	ROAS		X		X	Developed the UNCT strategic HLP framework for Gaza. Finalized community-led housing repairs and water well rehabilitation and an HLP pilot with UNDP on HLP documentation, participatory

<i>Country</i>	<i>Regional office</i>	<i>Prevention</i>	<i>Conflict response</i>	<i>Natural disaster response</i>	<i>Forced displacement</i>	<i>New UN-Habitat activities (January–June 2026)</i>
Sudan	ROAS	X	X		X	mapping and dispute resolution. Completed the Gaza Urban Profile and three neighbourhood functionality assessments. Supported access to water for vulnerable IDPs, returnees and host communities in Gezira State, alongside water and sanitation (WASH) improvements in schools and solar systems for health facilities. In Kassala, support focused on urban data and recovery planning, linked to regional guidelines on conflict- and climate-induced displacement.
Syrian Arab Republic	ROAS	X	X		X	Developed a national housing profile, building damage assessment methodology, recovery tools and a comprehensive damage database. Area-based recovery approaches supported sustainable return and reintegration while strengthening local capacities for recovery planning and land management.
Ukraine	ROEECA		X		X	Supported recovery at policy and local levels through a national housing strategy, urban development code, and partnerships with eight municipalities on urban planning, digital tools and capital investment projects.
Yemen	ROAS	X	X		X	Supported integrated recovery efforts in Aden, Lahj and Taiz, including WASH rehabilitation and emergency services addressing water scarcity and flooding. A grant was established to rehabilitate housing units across three governorates.

Abbreviations: HLP – housing, land and property; IDP – internally displaced person; IOM – International Organization for Migration; 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; UNCT – United Nations country team; UNHCR – Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees; WASH – Water, Sanitation and Hygiene for All.

VI. Conclusions

86. The present report, providing information on documented progress in the Lao People's Democratic Republic, the strategic evolution of the Kenya country programme, the global reach of GWOPA, and the UN-Habitat response to urban crisis, confirms the operational validity of an integrated approach, in which field-level implementation informs global policy and global expertise elevates field-level impact.

87. The examples demonstrate how the dual normative-operational mandate of UN-Habitat translates into impact at the country level. Building on these experiences, and on the strategic plan for the period 2026–2029, UN-Habitat has an opportunity to progressively strengthen this integrated business model by connecting normative expertise, regional and country capacities, partnerships, risk management and operational delivery through clearer governance and accountability.

88. Furthermore, an enhanced, integrated normative-operational approach remains the key to ensuring more agile and focused United Nations actions, positioning UN-Habitat within the wider trajectory of the reform of the United Nations and its overall objectives.

ADVANCE