

# AFGHANISTAN

## the **IMPACT** stories

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### Key Messages

- Raise awareness and build consensus on urbanization in Afghanistan for the need for a New Urban Agenda.
- At the national level, develop a National Urban Policy and spatial strategy to help guide the urbanization transition over the coming three decades, and harness the urbanization process for economic growth, poverty alleviation, and peace and stability.
- Promote decentralization and strengthen sub-national governance, particularly municipal governance, enhancing capacities for service delivery in cities.
- Increase the involvement of communities and citizens through a participatory urban development process.
- Improve data and monitoring of urbanization to guide policy and planning. Key data is lacking, which consistently proves to be a significant obstacle for urban planning and policy making.
- Recognize and promote pro-poor urban development that facilitates the socio-economic inclusion of the poor, vulnerable people, migrants, returnees and IDPs – groups that constitute a large proportion of the nation's urban population.
- Improve the coordination of urban development efforts and scale-up support to make the best use of resources and ensure complementarity of interventions aligned to government priorities.

### Key Partners

• USAID • Japan • European Union • CIDA  
• DFID • SDC, Netherland • Australia • The World Bank • UN-Women • UNHCR • Kabul, Herat • Mazar-e-Sharif • Kandahar and Jalalabad municipalities • Deputy Ministry for Municipalities (DMM) • Ministry of Rural Rehabilitation and Development (MRRD) • Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH) • Kabul Municipality (KM) • Afghan Land Authority (ARAZI)

### Key Facts about Afghanistan

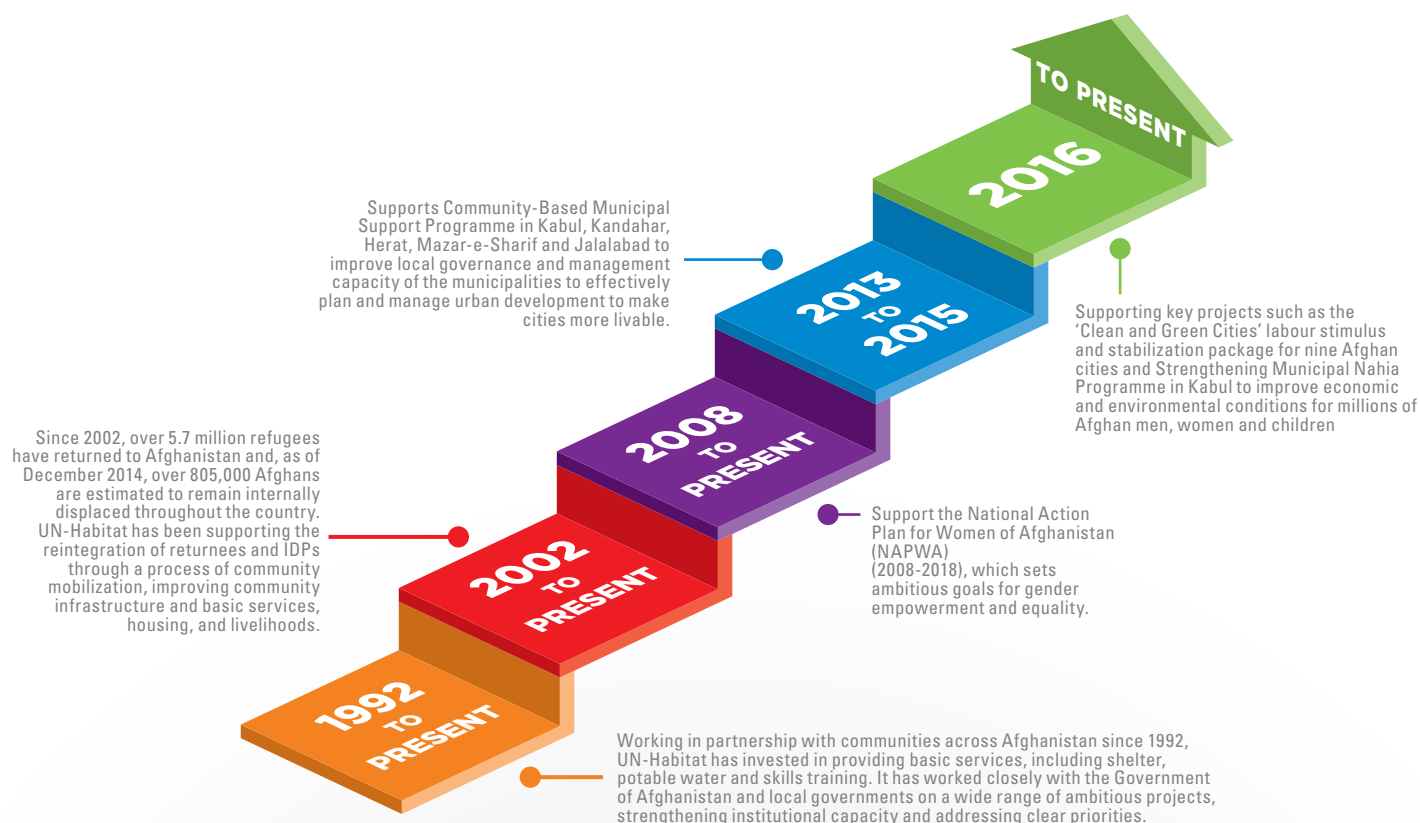
Afghanistan is still a predominately rural society with only an estimated 24% of the population living in cities. But this is changing fast. In 1950, only 1 out of every 20 Afghans lived in cities. Today, Afghan cities are growing at a rapid rate of around 4% per year, marking one of the highest rates of urbanization in the world. Within the next 35 years the country's urban population is projected to triple to 24 million. By 2060, 1 out of every 2 – 50% of the population – will live in urban areas. Despite the economic opportunities brought by urbanization, the oppression of women remains a significant barrier to the country's development. Some two-thirds of the country's urban female population is illiterate (twice that of men); only 13% of urban women work; and less than 1% of urban land and property is held by women.

**SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

**UN HABITAT**

## Timeline of UN-Habitat's Interventions in Afghanistan



## Impact in Afghanistan

### THROUGH THE STRENGTHENING MUNICIPAL NAHIA PROGRAMME IN KABUL:

**426,273 properties to be registered**, numbered, and with occupancy certificates issued

**386 Gozar Assemblies to be established**, registered, and representing citizens' voices and priorities

### THROUGH THE 'CLEAN AND GREEN CITIES' LABOUR STIMULUS AND STABILIZATION PACKAGE FOR NINE AFGHAN CITIES:

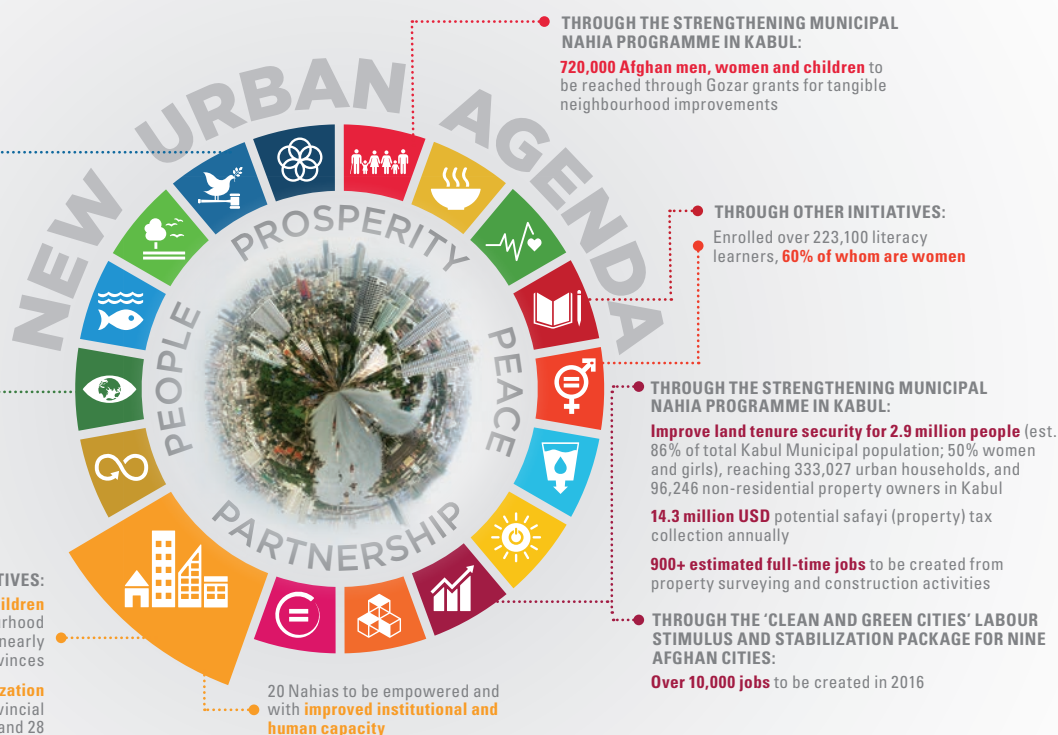
**Estimated 1.2 million citizens benefiting from urban upgrading and environmental improvement** of high-profile public spaces in five major cities

1.9 million men, women and children to be reached through labour-intensive neighbourhood renewal in four secondary cities

### THROUGH OTHER INITIATIVES:

**More than 5 million Afghan men, women and children including IDPs** directly benefited from neighbourhood improvements since 1992 through the formation of nearly 4,000 Community Development Councils in 23 provinces

**Improve data and monitoring of urbanization** to guide policy and planning in all provincial capitals, five major city-region, and 28 strategic districts



## UN-Habitat delivering on the SDGs towards the New Urban Agenda

