



# UN-HABITAT GLOBAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2013

## OUR PRESENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS







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ACTIVITIES REPORT 2013**  
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# UN-HABITAT GLOBAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2013 OUR PRESENCE AND PARTNERSHIPS

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# ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS

ACP	African, Caribbean and Pacific	PPAB	Programme Participatif d'Amélioration des Bidonvilles
ADB	Asian Development Bank	SUDP	Sustainable Urban Development Programme
AFD	Agence Française de Développement	UNDAP	United Nations Development Assistance Plan*
ASUD	Achieving Sustainable Urban Development	UNDP	United Nations Development Programme*
CCCI	Cities and Climate Change Initiative	UNEP/GEF	United Nations Environmental Programme /Global Environment Facility*
CERF	Central Emergency Response Fund	UNESCO	United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization*
COMESA	Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa	UNFPA	United Nations Population Fund*
Dfid	Department for International Development	UNHCR	United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees*
EAC	East African Community	UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund*
ECHO	Educational Concerns for Hunger Organization	UNIPV	Università degli Studi di Pavia*
ECOWAS	Economic Commission for West African States	UNISDR	United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction*
EC	European Commission	UNMISS	United Nations Mission in South Sudan*
FEICOM	Fonds Spécial d'Équipement et d'Intervention Intercommunale	UNOCHA	Office for the Coordination of Humanitarian Affairs*
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	UNOPS	United Nations Office for Project Services*
GiZ	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit	USAID	United States International Aid
HVWSHE	Human Values Based in Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education	VAA	Vulnerability and Adaptability Assessment
IDPs	Internally displaced persons	WASH	Water and Sanitation
IOM	International Organization for Migration*	WFP	World Food Programme*
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	WHO	World Health Organization*
MTSIP	Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan		
NGOs	Non-Governmental Organizations		


*\*United Nations Organizations and the trust funds*



 FOREWORD



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





As of the fourth quarter of 2012, UN-Habitat had cooperation programmes and projects in **over 70 countries**, with a majority of these in the least developed countries.



UN-Habitat's country activities are focused on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies with a view to creating and strengthening self-reliant urban planning and management capacity at both national and local levels and promoting sustainable urbanization. Technical and managerial expertise is provided for the assessment of human settlement development problems and opportunities.

Country-level activities also seek to identify and analyse policy options; design and implement housing and urban development programmes; and help mobilize national resources and external support for improving human settlements conditions.

National capacity-building processes involve central government institutions, local authorities and their partners among community-based and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutes. Emphasis is placed on strengthening the monitoring of governmental capacities in human settlements management.

In line with UN-Habitat's on-going institutional reforms, country-level activities are focusing on the following thematic areas: Urban legislation, land and governance; Urban planning and design; Urban economy; Urban basic services; Housing and slum upgrading; Risk reduction and rehabilitation; as well as

Research and capacity development. Acting as a catalyst in the mobilization of technical cooperation, UN-Habitat is supporting the implementation of the urban agenda at the local, national, and regional levels, as well as achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) on improving the lives of slum dwellers and improving access to water and sanitation. Lessons learned from country-level activities are utilized to formulate regional policy options and guidelines.

As of the fourth quarter of 2012, UN-Habitat had cooperation programmes and projects in over 70 countries, with a majority of these in the least developed countries. Country-level activities can be normative or operational, but in most cases they combine these two elements of UN-Habitat's mandate. More than 30 countries were further supported by UN-Habitat's *global* programmes.

As a direct consequence of increased demand from countries, UN-Habitat's portfolio of projects has grown remarkably over the past decades with its total budget for 2011/2012 of USD 442.7 million. More than 75 per cent of the financing of country projects in 2011/2012 came from multilateral and bilateral agencies; about 20 per cent from UN agencies; and the remaining 5 per cent through government's cost sharing, non-governmental sources, foundations and various financial institutions. It is important to note that the total budget

has been maintained at a high level due to several large programmes in Asia and the Arab States, financed through various global trust funds. With these activities, UN-Habitat maximizes the use of national expertise and national execution of projects and procurement from developing countries.

In addition to these country activities, UN-Habitat has embarked on the publication of a series of regional *State of the Cities Reports* providing region-wide policy analyses, with the findings intended to stimulate debate on urban issues in these regions. These reports are further intended to provide a tool towards improved national and regional policy formulation for the achievement of sustainable urban development. In 2012, this report series – which already covered Africa and Asia and the Pacific – was expanded with a State of Arab Cities and a State of Latin America and Caribbean Cities report. Preparations for a third Africa and a second Asia and the Pacific, as well as a first State of European Cities in Transition report were on-going in 2011/2012 towards their publication in 2013 and 2014.

The present report is divided into six sections. The first covers UN-Habitat's global programmes. This is followed by five sections describing activities in the regions: Africa; the Arab States; Asia and the Pacific; Latin America and the Caribbean; and Europe.



# TABLE OF CONTENTS

<b>ACRONYMS AND ABBREVIATIONS</b>	<b>III</b>	<b>CHAPTER 3: ASIA AND THE PACIFIC</b>	<b>37</b>
<b>FOREWORD</b>	<b>IV</b>	<b>Asia-Pacific:</b> Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012	39
<b>TABLE OF CONTENTS</b>	<b>VI</b>	<b>Asia-Pacific:</b> Country Achievements	40
<b>Urbanization:</b> Global Overview and Challenges	IX	Asia and the Pacific regional programmes and regional coordination	52
Challenges of 21 <sup>st</sup> Century Urbanization	IX	Asia-Pacific Achievements by Thematic Areas	54
<b>INTRODUCTION</b>	<b>IX</b>	<b>Asia:</b> The Road Ahead	56
UN-Habitat's Global Projects: Main Contributors and Thematic Areas 2011-2012	XV	Demographic and Urban Trends	59
The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)	XVI	<b>CHAPTER 4: LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN</b>	<b>59</b>
Global projects on Housing and Slum Upgrading	XVIII	<b>Latin America and the Caribbean:</b> Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012	63
<b>REGIONAL OVERVIEW</b>	<b>1</b>	<b>Latin America and the Caribbean:</b> Country Achievements	65
Demographic and Urban Trends	3	<b>Latin America and the Caribbean region:</b> Achievements by Thematic Areas	75
<b>CHAPTER 1: AFRICA</b>	<b>3</b>	<b>Latin America and the Caribbean:</b> The road ahead	77
<b>Africa:</b> Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012	7	Demographic and Urban Trends	81
<b>Africa:</b> Country Achievements	8	<b>CHAPTER 5: TRANSITIONAL EUROPE</b>	<b>81</b>
<b>Africa:</b> The Way Forward	19	<b>Europe and Former Soviet Union States:</b> Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012	84
Demographic and urban trends	21	<b>Transitional Europe:</b> The Way Forward	87
<b>CHAPTER 2: ARAB STATES</b>	<b>21</b>	<b>CONCLUSION</b>	<b>89</b>
<b>Arab States:</b> Country Achievements	25	<b>LIST OF ALL DONORS 2011-2012</b>	<b>91</b>
<b>Arab States:</b> The Way Forward	35		
Demographic and Urban trends	37		

 **PHOTO:** View of downtown Astana, the capital of Kazakhstan. © Shynar Jetpissova / World Bank





**PHOTO:** An overview of Mexico city, Mexico.  
© Julius Mwelu/ UN-Habitat



# INTRODUCTION

## Urbanization: Global Overview and Challenges

The wave of urbanization over the last four decades has been phenomenal. Indeed, urbanization is one of the defining features of the 20th and 21st centuries. Urbanization growth rates averaged 2.7 per cent per year between 1950 and 2011. This period witnessed an almost five-fold increase in the global urban population from 0.75 to 3.63 billion, increasing the level of urbanization from 29 per cent in 1950 to 52.1 per cent in 2011 (Table 1).

In 2008, a global urbanization landmark was reached when, for the first time ever, the majority of the world's population lived in urban areas. This trend is expected to continue, with the transition from a two-thirds rural population majority in 1950 to a two-thirds urban global majority by 2050. Over 90 per cent of the global urban growth is now taking place in Africa, Asia/Pacific and Latin American and the Caribbean, adding an estimated 70 million new residents to urban areas annually.

Although the general demographic trend has been towards urban population increases, some countries, in the developed and transitional regions have experienced, or are expected to record decreases in their urban

populations due to combinations of declining fertility rates, migration and economic weakening.

## Challenges of 21<sup>st</sup> Century Urbanization

### Economic Challenges

There are at least three important economic trends that have implications for urban areas all over the world. The first pertains to rates of economic growth. Today, urbanization is taking place within a weakened global economy, following the global economic crisis which started in 2008. Although global economic growth is projected to pick up again shortly, many of the advanced economies are yet to recover from the economic downturn between 2008 and 2012, because low economic growth rates have direct implications for urban economies and employment. In contrast to the advanced economy states, many emerging and developing countries have witnessed remarkable growth, with some achieving more than 7 per cent growth in the post-recession period.

A second challenge is that the economic slump in the advanced economies affects flows of official development assistance and the funding of multilateral international development agencies. Slum upgrading, slum prevention, urban renewal and urban poverty

reduction, already ranking low in priority even at the best of times, are likely to be especially adversely affected by such lowered funding flows.

Over **90%**

of this global urban growth is taking place in Africa, Asia and Latin American and the Caribbean, adding an estimated

**70 million**

new residents to urban areas annually

A third economic challenge relates to high levels of unemployment. The global unemployment level for 2011 was 6.0 per cent (up from 5.6 per cent in 2007) - affecting 200 million persons. Unemployment levels vary significantly across the world. In the advanced economies, the levels for 2010 varied from 3.8 per cent in Japan and 7.9 per cent for the USA to 26.2 per cent in Spain. While accurate information may not be readily available for developing countries, unemployment rates are considerably higher there. In the Republic of South Africa, for instance, it currently stands at 25.5 per cent, but in lesser-developed nations

TABLE 1: GLOBAL TRENDS IN URBANIZATION (1950-2050)

Region	Urban population (million)					Percentage urban				
	1950	1975	2000	2011	2050	1950	1975	2000	2011	2050
World	745	1538	2859	3632	6252	29.4	37.7	46.7	52.1	67.2
More developed region	442	718	881	964	1127	54.5	68.7	74.1	77.7	85.9
Less developed region	303	819	1977	2668	5124	17.6	27.0	40.1	46.5	64.1
Africa	33	108	288	413	1264	14.4	25.6	35.6	39.6	57.7
Asia	245	598	1392	1895	3310	17.5	25.0	37.4	45.0	64.4
Europe	281	444	514	539	591	51.3	65.2	70.8	72.9	82.2
Latin America & the Caribbean	69	196	393	472	650	41.4	60.7	75.5	79.1	86.6
North America	110	179	248	286	396	63.9	73.8	79.1	82.2	88.6
Oceania	8	15	22	26	40	62.4	71.9	70.4	70.7	73.0

\*Source: United Nations (2012) World Urbanization Prospects: The 2011 Revision

it is often much higher. Unemployment cuts across all economic sectors but is particularly severe in finance, construction, the automotive industry, manufacturing, tourism, social services and real estate – all of which are strongly associated with urban areas.

Particularly problematic is youth unemployment which, globally, stands at 12.7 per cent and is two-to-three times higher than adult unemployment. In 2011, 74.8 million youths aged 15-24 were unemployed. What all these figures imply is that urban job creation should feature prominently on the agendas of both developed and developing countries, with special attention to the youths.

### Urban Planning Challenges

A major urban challenge is to adequately plan for urban growth, especially in the context of dwindling financial resources. Urban planning within a context of rapid urbanization (as in Africa and Asia/Pacific) is not a luxury, but a necessity. High rates of urban growth in the absence of effective urban planning have resulted in spiralling urban poverty, the proliferation of urban slums and informal settlements, inadequate urban water and power supply, and degrading urban environmental conditions.

Among the most significant challenges facing urban planning today and over the coming decades is addressing the housing, water

supply and sanitation needs of rapidly-growing urban populations. This requires delivery of urban land at scale linked to provision of public infrastructure networks. Urban planning will need to manage urban development processes, because unmanaged urban growth can become a major obstacle to overall sustainable development.

### Environmental Challenges

Climate change is one of the most significant environmental concerns facing urban areas. Cities contribute significantly towards climate change, primarily through highly-concentrated consumption and waste production. In turn, climate change-induced risks (rising sea levels, changing precipitation patterns and

other extreme weather events) can disrupt or destroy cities' physical infrastructures and urban economies, seriously impacting on the lives of urban dwellers - the world's population majority. Especially vulnerable are coastal settlements where 40 per cent of the world's population resides.

A second environmental concern for cities is fossil fuel use and its likely long-term impacts. About 95 per cent of transport energy comes from petroleum. Apart from widespread pollution, fossil fuel use has promoted suburbia - low-density and sprawling urban forms - extensively dependent on private cars.

A third environmental concern relates to urban waste and sanitation management. Rapid urbanization has meant that environmental pollution and degradation overwhelm the

capacity to address them among many local authorities in the developing world. Fewer than 35 per cent of these cities have their waste water treated; worldwide 2.5 billion and 1.2 billion people lack safe sanitation and access to clean water, respectively; and between one third and one half of the solid waste generated by cities in low- and middle-income countries are not collected, let alone safely processed.

Cities contribute significantly towards  
**CLIMATE CHANGE,**  
primarily through highly-concentrated  
consumption and waste production.

Urbanization through conducive urban planning and design offers many opportunities for mitigation and adaptation strategies to deal with environmental change. Agglomeration economies, through proximity and concentration of enterprises and innovation in cities, can make it cheaper and easier to take effective actions that minimize emissions and climate-related hazards. There are also significant opportunities for disaster risk reduction, response and reconstruction in cities, including through appropriate land-use planning, building codes and regulation, risk assessment, monitoring and early warning, as well as better post-disaster response and reconstruction approaches.

Responding to a likely scenario of a post-oil era presents a whole range of new imperatives for urban planning, especially in terms of settlement density and transportation. Designing cities that facilitate and promote non-motorized transit - together with measures to reduce urban sprawl and dependence on private car-based mobility - is indispensable if cities are to become resilient to waning oil resources.



**LEFT:** Rickshaw drivers taking tourists on a tour using non-motorised transport, Beijing, China.  
© Yadid Levy/Alamy Property



## Social Challenges

There are three important social challenges: increasing urban poverty and inequality; proliferation of urban slums; and a demographic youth bulge.

Global poverty levels are increasing and compounded by rising food and energy prices. In 2008, the number of poor people increased by between 130 and 150 million on account of increased food prices. Poverty levels in developing countries appear to be increasing amid increasing levels of urbanization. This has been referred to as 'the urbanization of poverty', in which the weight of poverty incidence is moving from rural to urban areas, with urban poverty increasing faster than the national rate. The number of persons below the extreme poverty line (USD1/day) in urban areas of developing countries increased from 236 million (1993) to 283 million (2002).

One of the spatial manifestations of urban poverty in the developing world is the proliferation of slums. One-third of the urban population in developing countries resides in slums, with slum prevalence the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa (62 per cent). The twin problems of urban poverty and the proliferation of slums should be at the top of the urban agenda in many developing countries. This poses the dual challenge of financial constraints and low priority often accorded urban development programmes.

Globally, levels of inequality have also been on the rise. Increasing levels of income inequality among developed countries have been widespread and significant since the mid-1980s. Consequently, social exclusion, urban segregation and persistent pockets of destitution and poverty have become phenomena common to many cities, including in Europe and the USA. Among developing

countries, the highest levels of inequality are found in Africa and Latin America, with many countries and cities experiencing widening disparities. Closely associated with income inequality are the exclusionary factors of unequal access to employment, education, healthcare and basic infrastructure.

**One-third**  
of the urban population  
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**Africa (62%)**



**LEFT:** View towards the Medina and harbour in Tripoli, Libya. © Danie Nel /Shutterstock



Globally, levels of inequality have also been on the rise. **Increasing levels of income inequality** among developed countries have been widespread and significant since the mid 1980s.

Current trends in population-age structures also pose challenges. Developing countries have to deal with demographic youth bulges whereby as much as 60 per cent of their urban inhabitants will be under the age of 18 by 2030. Obviously, extra attention will have to be paid to the needs of this population segment. Conversely, developed and transitional countries face the challenges of demographic ageing and stagnant or shrinking urban populations. A rapidly-ageing population places increased demand for health care, recreation, transportation and other facilities for the elderly and the associated new fiscal demands. In the case of shrinking urban populations, key issues to be addressed include the challenges of population outflow, underutilized infrastructure, abandoned homes and areas and a declining fiscal support base for commercial and public services.

Despite these challenges, urbanization should be seen as a positive phenomenon and a precondition for improving access to services, economic and social opportunities, as well as better quality of life for populations. Cities account for about 70 per cent of the

global GDP, while economic activity in urban areas accounts for as much as 55 per cent of the GDP in low-income countries, 73 per cent in middle-income countries, and 85 per cent in high-income economies. Indeed, it is anticipated that 80 per cent of future economic growth will be in cities.

Over the past centuries, cities have been a major catalyst of progress in the advanced economies of today and this is now being repeated in the developing world. Cities are instruments of social transformation, cultural development, civic engagement and motivation. It is in cities that societal progress takes place, including the advancement of women and gender equality. All these suggest that capitalizing on the potentials of urbanization should be on the development agenda of developing countries.

### **UN-Habitat's Organizational Reform**

UN-Habitat's re-organizational review formally commenced in February 2011. The review had been requested by the Governing Council through its resolution 21/2, which referred to the need to give immediate

priority to institutional reforms, including the further implementation of results-based management, robust knowledge management and institutional adjustments to align the organization with the MTSIP, consistent with the wider process of the United Nations system-wide reforms. The purpose of the organizational review was to establish a structure capable of ensuring more effective and efficient delivery of UN-Habitat's mandate at the country, regional and global levels.

A transitional period has been established to allow some of the key change components to mature and take shape, besides accommodating the drafting of a Secretary-General's Bulletin to reflect the final organizational structure. Close coordination with the UN Department of Management was established and has continued up to now. UN-Habitat has received the Department of Management's clearance to proceed with the implementation of the transitional measures in anticipation of the finalization of the reorganization process.



The key changes are summarised below:

- (a) The substantive and organizational part of both the transitional and the proposed final structure consists of the following seven thematic areas and corresponding branches:
1. Urban land, legislation and governance.
  2. Urban planning and design.
  3. Urban economy.
  4. Urban basic services.
  5. Housing and slum upgrading.
  6. Risk reduction and rehabilitation.
  7. Research and capacity development.

Each branch has three to four units that implement projects with similar thematic character:

- (b) The proposed Management Office combines elements of the mandates of the former Programme Support Division and elements of the Office of the Executive Director.
- (c) The newly proposed Project Office combines elements of the former Programme Support Division as well as elements from the former substantive divisions.
- (d) The Regional Offices contribute to project identification and formulation functions, besides identifying regional resources and funding opportunities. During the transitional period, the implementation arrangements for the on-going regional and country activities remain unchanged.



**TOP** : Buenos Aires, Argentina.  
© João Monteiro

The Management Office, Project Office, External Relations Office and thematic branches are now all operational. They are responsible for the implementation of the change process, while the Executive Director's Office continues with overall coordination of the reform process. The envisaged final organizational structure will incorporate the transitional Organogram, whilst also strengthening the External Relations Office (during the transitional period part of the Office of the Executive Director) as a separate organizational unit. All staff members have been provisionally redistributed to the new organizational units.

The seven thematic or substantive areas will also become the respective Focus Areas in the Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 and the sub-programmes of the work programme and budget, thus ensuring alignment between the six-year strategic plan, the two-year strategic framework, the two-year work programme and budget, and the organizational structure of the agency.

On the programmatic side, UN-Habitat's work will continue to be guided by the MTSIP until the end of 2013, after which the Strategic Plan for 2014-2019 will take effect. The anticipated alignment will simplify accounting and reporting, while enhancing accountability and transparency. A plan has been developed to guide the delivery of the outputs of the 2012-2013 work programme and implementation of the remaining two years of the MTSIP 2008-2013 cycle under the proposed new organizational structure.

The organizational reform process is nearing completion and is expected to culminate in a Secretary-General's Bulletin on the re-organization of UN-Habitat.

## UN-Habitat's Global Projects: Main Contributors and Thematic Areas (2011-2012)

Projects classified as *global projects* are not limited to one particular country or region, but cutting across several regions. As shown in Figure 1 below, such projects accounted for 13 per cent of the UN - Habitat's portfolio in 2011-2012. A vast majority of these global projects are administratively managed at the branch level. During the 2011-2012 biennium, almost one-third of the global projects have been in the area of urban basic services. Figure 2 below shows the breakdown between the thematic branches.

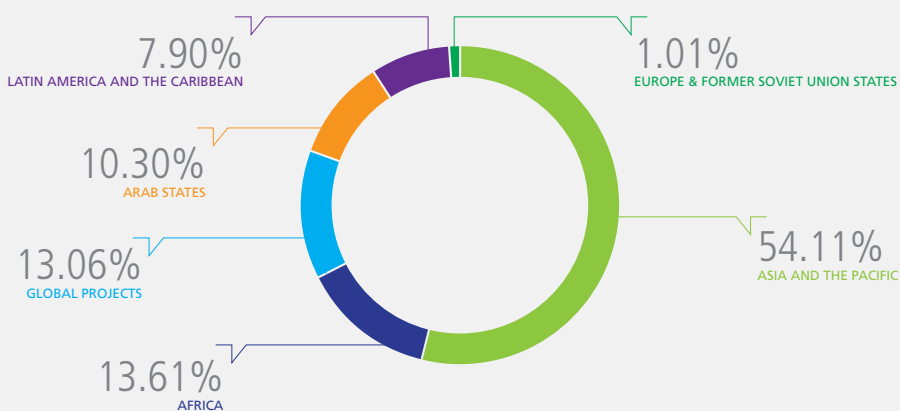
Whereas *urban basic services* accounted for a large share of these projects in 2011-2012, (see Fig. 2), the share of the organization's budget allocated to this thematic area decreased from 38 per cent in 2011 to 28 per cent in 2012 (see Fig. 3). Similarly, projects falling under the themes of *urban land, legislation and governance* as well as *the urban economy* declined marginally in their share of the global project portfolio in 2012. On the other hand, the share of projects in the area of *urban planning and design* more than doubled to 18 per cent, while those in the area of *Housing and slum upgrading* increased marginally from 14 per cent to 17 per cent.

Key global projects include the Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (Basic urban services); Participatory Slum Upgrading Programmes in ACP Countries (previously managed by the Regional Office for Africa and now managed by the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch); Dialogue on Decentralization and Governance (Urban Land, Legislation and Governance Branch); Cities and Climate Change Initiative (Urban Planning and Design Branch); Strengthening the Habitat Partner University Initiative (Research and Capacity Development Branch); and Gender Equality Programme (Project Office). Several others are also included.



**LEFT:** The aftermath of the Typhoon Ketsana in northwest of Palau, The Philippines.  
© UN-Habitat

**FIGURE 1: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF UN-HABITAT PROJECTS IN 2011-2012**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

## The Global Land Tool Network (GLTN)

The GLTN, now in its second phase, is working on the consolidation of its 2006-2011 gains, on increasing its outreach, and up-scaling tool development and implementation to secure access to land for the poor. The Network is a leader at the global level and is thus able to steer the global land agenda for the benefit of the poor. Endorsements to the continuum of the land rights framework were made at the World Bank's annual 'Annual Conference on Land and Poverty' and the International Federation of Surveyors (FIG) working week by the FIG president in 2012.

The Social Tenure Domain Model (STDM), designed by GLTN to increase the security

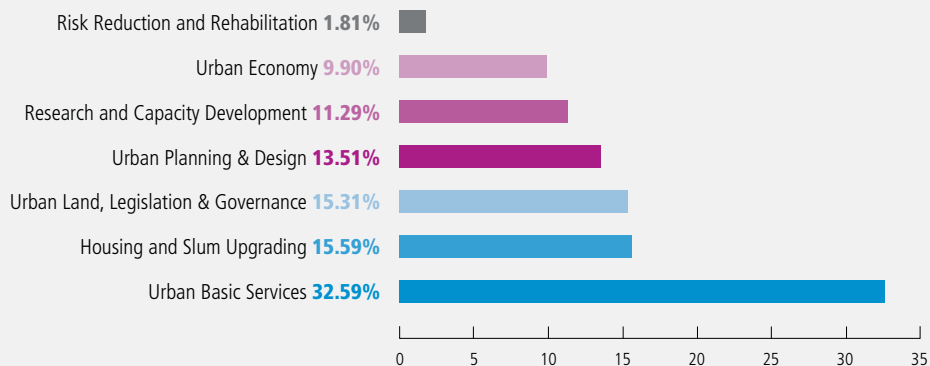
of tenure of the poor and women, was successfully piloted in Ethiopia and is now being further developed, tested and replicated in Uganda and Kenya. Follow-up activities sprouted from the initiative, including establishment of a regional Learning Centre in Uganda supporting local communities and governments in the use of STDM. In Kenya, the Government's request for the use of STDM for selected municipalities has led to some work being carried out on this model.

GLTN supports the Organization of Eastern Caribbean States to develop land policy guidelines, highlighting the importance of land management for achieving economic development, poverty reduction, social stability and protection of environmentally-sensitive areas. GLTN also supports the development of

national land policies in Grenada, St Kitts and Nevis, and St Lucia in line with the guidelines and adapted to local conditions through the 'Social Tenure Domain Model', 'How to Establish an Effective Land Sector', and 'How to Develop a Pro-Poor Land Policy'.

GLTN also supports the **Land Policy Initiative for Africa** towards the implementation of the **Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa**

**FIGURE 2: THEMATIC BREAKDOWN OF GLOBAL PROJECTS, 2011-2012**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

GLTN also supports the *Land Policy Initiative for Africa* towards the implementation of the *Declaration on Land Issues and Challenges in Africa*. UN-Habitat takes the lead in capacity development enabling member states to reform and implement their pro-poor land policies in partnership major African land sector stakeholders.

The Gender Evaluation Criteria developed by GLTN had been rolled out in Brazil, Nepal, Ghana and Uganda to assess the gender responsiveness of policies and practices of the land sector. Capacity development has since been followed up with catalytic activities for the promotion of women's land rights in the African region.

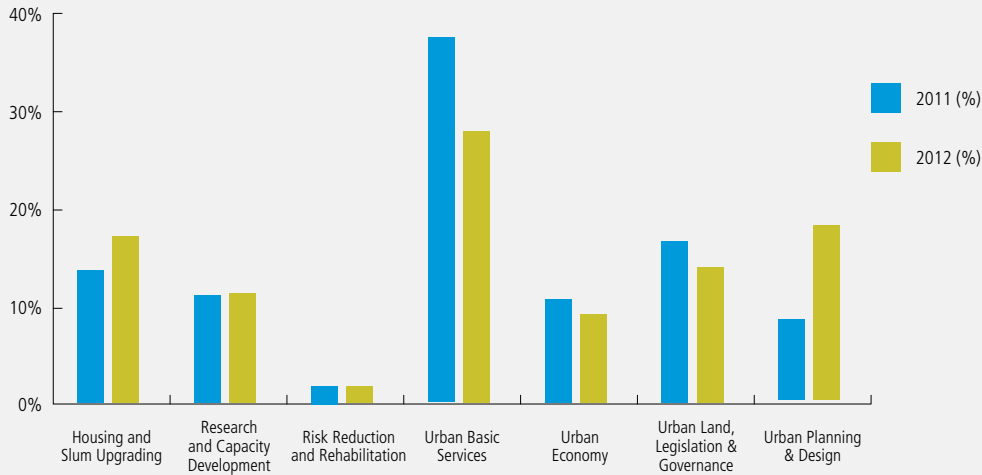
Continuing its land tool development activities in 2012, GLTN disseminated four tools. Access to land rights for the poor is now boosted by the development and

dissemination of a pro-poor land recordation tool "*Designing a land records system for the poor*". The book "*Innovative Land and Property Taxation*" presents how land and property taxation policies, legal frameworks, tools and approaches to sustainable urban development have been experimented with around the world. GLTN's work on grass roots' involvement in land policy implementation provides links between the tools and the land work carried out by communities in the past six years.

**RIGHT:** Post-disaster reconstruction activities in Afghanistan. © Eskinder Debebe /UN



**FIGURE 3: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE GLOBAL PORTFOLIO, 2011-2012**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

GLTN's strengths are in its partnerships. As of February 2013, the Network had strong ties with 53 partners; up from 47 in 2011.

UN-Habitat's engagement in global projects has been made possible by significant contributions from a number of donors. Figure 4 shows that the major donors contributing to the UN - Habitat's portfolio of projects are Norway, Spain and the European Union with about 37 per cent, 19 per cent and 15 per cent, respectively. Other key donors are the Abu Dhabi Water and Electricity Authority and SIDA, as well as the Government of Sweden.

## Global projects on Housing and Slum Upgrading

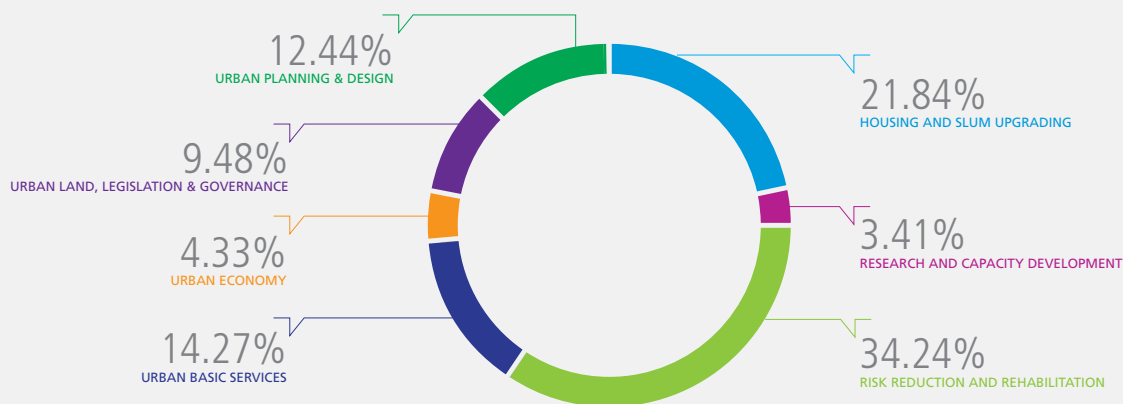
The Global Housing Strategy, mandated by GC resolution 23/16, contributes to MDGs 7D and 8B. It calls for a paradigm shift in national and local housing policies and strategies to become human rights-based, gender responsive and results-based.

The approach will rely on broad-based consultations through National Habitat Committees, Forums and other modalities such as on-line social media platforms through which over 1,000 officials, academics, professionals and civil society members have joined the consultations.

**Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP):** The PSUP was initiated by the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat, funded by the European Commission (EC) and implemented by UN-Habitat. It contributes to MDG 7D and the *Rabat Declaration* that aims at "halving the number of slum dwellers between 2015 and 2025".

The PSUP aims at improving the lives of slum-dwellers and strengthening the capacity of local, central and regional institutions and key stakeholders in the settlement and slum improvement. It is structured along three phases: 1) urban profiling, 2) action planning and 3) implementation. Launched in 2008, phase 1 was concluded in December 2011

**FIGURE 4: BREAKDOWN OF BUDGET 2011-2012 BY THEMATIC AREA ONLY**



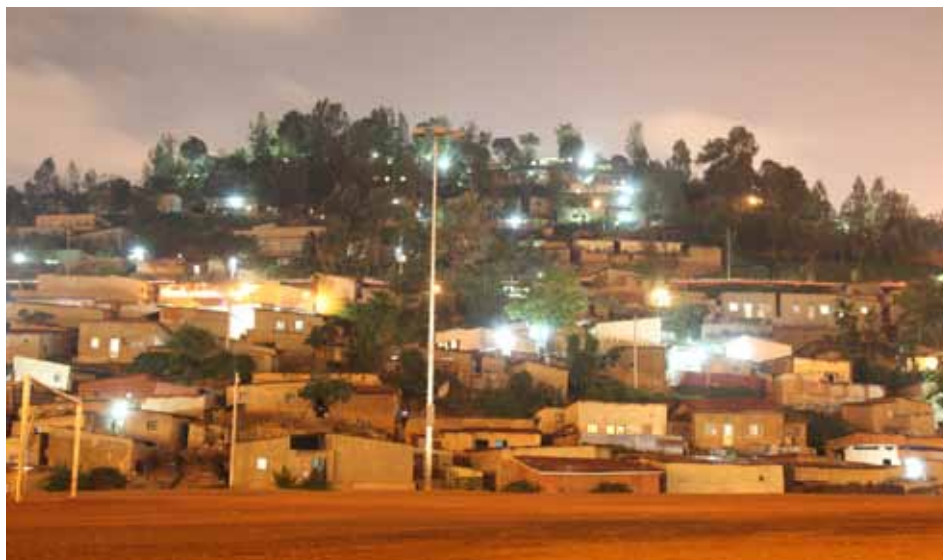
Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

and supported 18 ACP countries in developing their urban profiles and 12 countries in Africa in developing their action plans. Phase 2 was initiated in 2012.

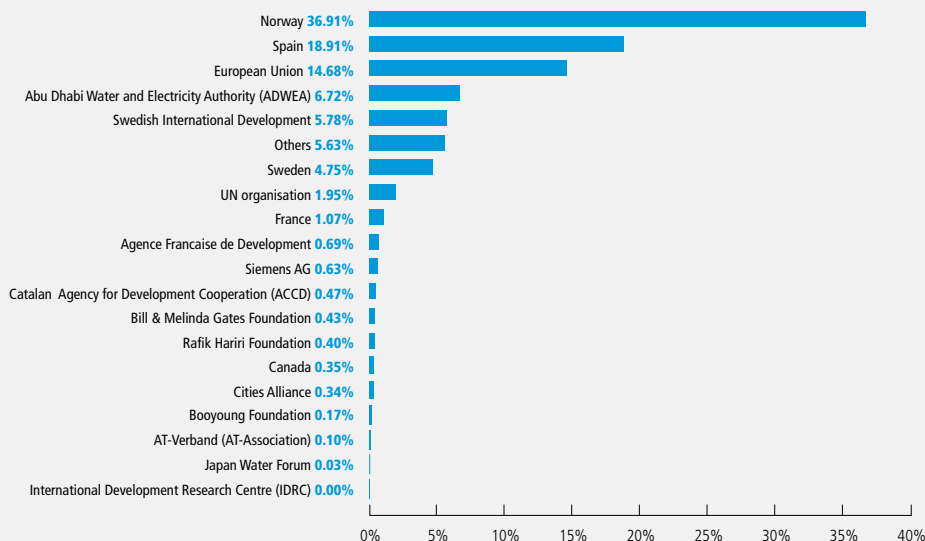
The Programme is now operational in 36 ACP countries: 26 countries in Africa; five countries in the Caribbean; and five countries in the Pacific.

**RIGHT:** Part of Kimisagara slums in Kigali, Rwanda in need of improved sanitation, water and drainage systems.

© Julius Mwelu /UN-Habitat



**FIGURE 5: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE GLOBAL PROJECTS PORTFOLIO, 2011-2012**



\*Countries under the 'Global Programme' are counted under the global programmes section

Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

### Developing Urban Low-Emission Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries

The overall objective of this global initiative is to enhance the transition to low-emission urban development in emerging economy countries. The expected accomplishment is for cities to adopt Urban Low-Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS) and reduce their greenhouse gas emissions.

The project promotes Urban LEDES in eight model cities (two in each of four countries (South Africa, India, Indonesia and Brazil), as well as in satellite cities (up to five in each of these countries). Additionally, it will disseminate information to and foster networking with other cities around the globe to further promote low-emission urban development. At the global level, the project will help strengthen mechanisms enabling cities to report on their progress towards meeting emission reduction targets.

UN-Habitat holds a contract with the European Commission for this project, while Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI) is the main implementing partner. The budget is USD 8.9 million over 3.5 years.



# REGIONAL OVERVIEW

The various regional chapters provide an overview of urban trends and challenges in each region and the major steps that UN-Habitat has taken to address or support countries to address these challenges between 2011 and 2012. In so doing, the chapters discuss UN-Habitat's project portfolio in each region, its geographic distribution, major donors, and portfolio changes in thematic focus areas. The chapters also highlight the major achievements of these projects between 2011 and 2012.



**PHOTO:** Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.

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PHOTO: Nairobi, Kenya.  
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# AFRICA

Africa should prepare for a total population increase of about **60% between 2010 and 2050**, with the urban population tripling to **1.23 billion** during this period.

## Demographic and Urban Trends

In 2009, Africa's total population for the first time exceeded one billion of which 395 million (or almost 40 per cent) lived in urban areas. Whereas it took 27 years for the continent to double from 500 million to one billion people, the next 500 million will only take 17 years. Around 2027, Africa's demographic growth will start to slow down and it will take 24 years to add the next 500 million, reaching the two billion mark around 2050, of which about 60 per cent will be living in cities. Africa should prepare for a total population increase of about 60 per cent between 2010 and 2050, with the urban population tripling to 1.23 billion during this period.

Around 2030, Africa's collective population will become 50 per cent urban. The majority of political constituencies will then live in cities, demanding means of subsistence, shelter and services. African governments should position themselves now for predominant urban populations. In the early 2040s, African cities will collectively be home to one billion people, equivalent to the continent's total population in 2009. Since cities are the future habitat for the majority of Africans, now is the time for spending on basic infrastructure, social services (health and education) and affordable housing, in the process stimulating urban economies and generating much-needed jobs. Not a single African government can afford to ignore the on-going rapid urban transition. Cities must become priority areas for public policies, with investment provided to build

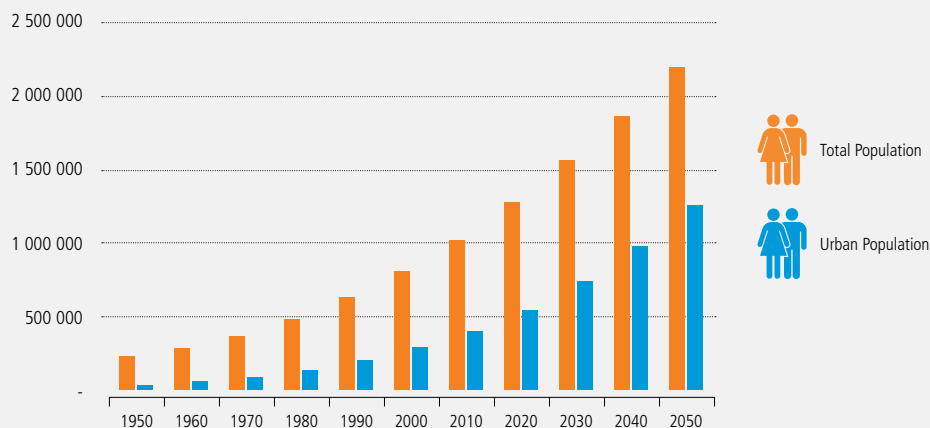
adequate governance capacities, equitable service delivery, affordable housing provision and better wealth distribution.

### New Urban Configurations

City regions, urban development corridors, mega urban regions and other new urban configurations continue to emerge or become increasingly visible across Africa. Their spatial and functional features demand new urban management methods to ensure consistent area-wide governance. Sweeping reform is also critical for effective delivery of affordable housing, social services and urban infrastructure commensurate with the magnitudes of these rapidly expanding urban concentrations. Different political traditions, economic circumstances and location-specific features make every African

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.

**FIGURE 1: AFRICAN URBAN AND TOTAL POPULATION TRENDS 1950-2050**



Source: **WUP 2012**

nation and city unique. Therefore, effective reform and adaptation must be location specific. Increasingly well-defined urban regions and urban development corridors introduce complex and highly fluid spatial, regulatory and political realities. As urban systems and interurban flows of people, goods, communications and funds extend across national borders, policies must follow suit if they are to have any realistic prospect of influencing the outcomes. The management tools of the traditional mono-centric city are not appropriate for today's multi-nuclear urban configurations. The need for governance reform to introduce holistic area-wide planning and urban management simply cannot be overemphasized.

## PROPERTY TAX

is currently the major revenue source for **municipal authorities** although, at times, it can place an inequitable burden on property owners

### Lack of Fiscal Decentralisation

Many African municipalities are financially weak because their revenue- and finance-generating structures are inadequate and inefficient. Decentralising responsibilities without fiscal decentralisation contributes

to urban decay, poor services and the proliferation of slums. Fiscal must match political decentralisation in order to create more revenue-generating options and decision-making power for local authorities. Property tax is currently the major revenue source for municipal authorities although, at times, it can place an inequitable burden on property owners.

### Urban Poverty and Inequality

Polarization and confrontation have increased in African cities due to laissez-faire attitudes to rapid urbanisation. The unfolding pattern is one of disjointed, dysfunctional and unsustainable urban geographies of inequality and human suffering, with oceans of poverty containing islands of wealth. Socioeconomic

conditions in most African cities are now increasingly showing unequal, threatening systemic stability, affecting not only the continuity of cities as social-political human eco-systems but also entire nations.

The challenge of African urban sustainability calls for a focus on cities as a people-centred concentrations of opportunity. Harnessing rather than alienating human energies is essential to maintaining urban dynamism, which cannot be fostered or maintained with rising urban inequality. The urban poor should not be punished for their poverty. Instead, national urban policy, urban planning and building regulations should reflect a

country's degree of national development and its institutional capacities while keeping costs at affordable levels for all. Construction standards should be set more realistically in order to facilitate rather than restrict the creation of housing and livelihoods.

### Informal Settlements

In recent years, Africa as a whole has shown that informal settlements can be reduced effectively as 24 million African slum dwellers saw their living conditions improved during the 2000/10 decade. Progress has been uneven across the continent, though. Northern Africa collectively managed to reduce from 20 to 13 per cent the share of slum dwellers in its urban population. However, south of the Sahara the number of slum dwellers decreased by only five per cent (or 17 million). Much remains to be done with regard to urban poverty and slum incidence, because slums are one of the major threats to African urban stability

and, by extension, to overall political stability. One aspect that needs more attention is that formal urban markets, by their very operations and rules, prevent access to land by the majority of city dwellers all over Africa. As a result, informal markets fill this exclusion gap and this is where the overwhelming majority of African urban land transactions take place nowadays. Governments should seek the most effective entry points for an overhaul of the often abysmal failures of their formal urban land administration systems, with their unresponsive institutions, excessive delays, cumbersome land transaction administration and the associated corruption. Stigmatising informal urban land markets as inappropriate, illegal, illegitimate or undesirable negates the realities on the ground.

A second aspect is that slums are largely the outcome of lack of access to urban land and housing finance. Land plots under informal tenure expose those occupying them with eviction, and they cannot be used as collateral for bank loans. These two factors do not encourage slum dwellers to improve their homes. This situation must be changed to encourage the urban poor to undertake improvements through self-help.

### Urban Food and Water Insecurity

Many urban managers deeply underestimate the risks associated with urban food and water insecurity. African governments should heed the warning bells of 2008 and seriously consider the potential effects of urban food and water shortages. Significant amounts of African land and water resources are purchased or long-term leased by foreign governments and foreign food-processing corporations. Africa is well placed to make strategic, forward-looking decisions on the wise use of its rich water and agricultural resources. However, governments must

**BOTTOM:** Open air market in Mbale, Uganda.  
© Abdallah Kassim/UN-Habitat



bargain harder for better and more transparent deals, so that foreign investment can contribute to Africa's future food and water security, with benefits spread out among local communities in terms of additional business, cash payments and employment opportunities.

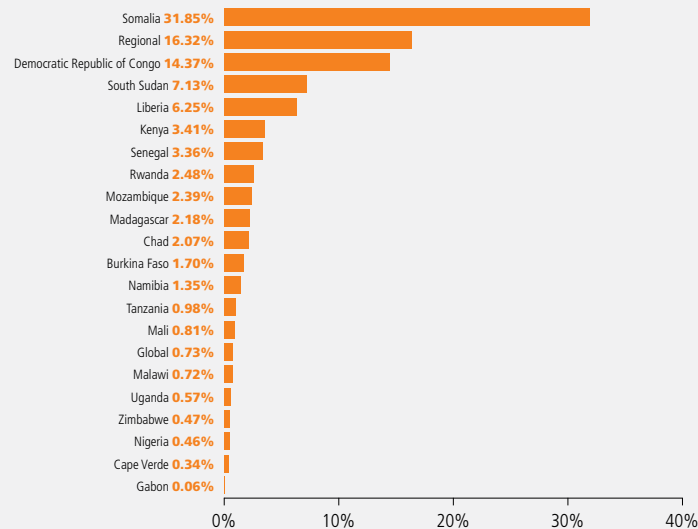
### Climate Change

Today's planning decisions can cause inefficiencies and ecologically-unfriendly urban configurations further down the road. Spatial separation of related urban functions is evident among most metropolitan areas and this increases transportation needs. Urban

mobility must become a key factor in spatial decisions, and improved mass transit systems can significantly reduce private vehicle use. Cities are in a unique position to contribute to global and local climate change adaptation, mitigation and protection, and they must take advantage of it. However, forward-looking spatial planning decisions alone are not enough. To prevent any policy gaps, it is important to link national, regional and local environmental adaptation and mitigation policies through vertical and horizontal cooperation across all tiers of government as well as all relevant stakeholders.

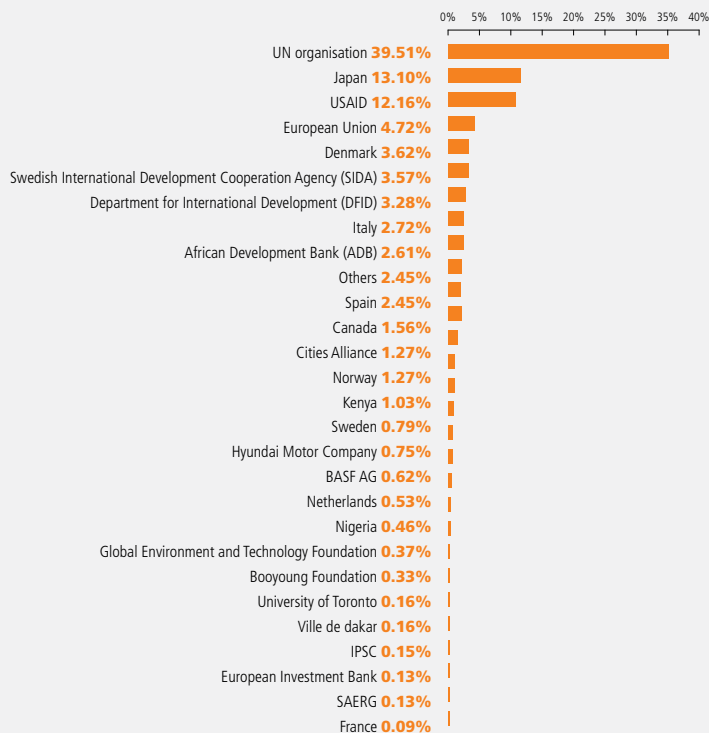
The challenge of **African urban sustainability** calls for a focus on cities as a **people-centred** concentrations of opportunity

**FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN AFRICA, 2011-2012**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

**FIGURE 3: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN AFRICA, 2011-2012**



\*Countries under the 'Global Programme' are counted under the global programmes section

Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

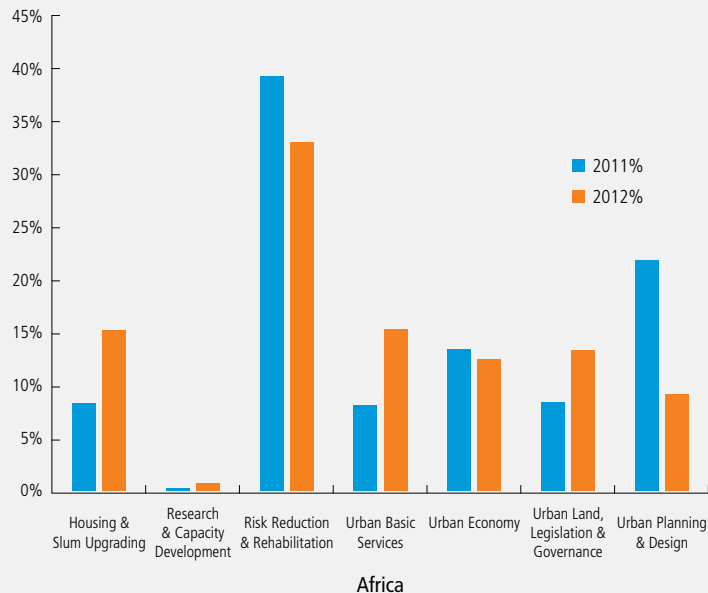
## Africa: Portfolio of Projects and Achievements, 2011-2012

UN-Habitat was active in over 21 African countries with the projects' total amounting to USD60.2 million during 2011-2012. This represents 14 per cent of the total global portfolio of the organization.

Almost one-third of UN-Habitat's Africa portfolio is concentrated in Somalia's post-crisis recovery and rehabilitation projects, including basic service delivery and technical and institutional assistance. Similar UN-Habitat interventions are also on-going in the Democratic Republic of Congo and Southern Sudan; countries with the second- and third-largest shares of UN-Habitat's Africa projects, 14 per cent and 7 per cent, respectively.

In Africa, UN-Habitat also has projects that cover more than one country and which are listed as 'regional'. Such projects constitute 16 per cent of the Africa portfolio and predominantly concern the provision of urban basic services. Figure 2 gives the overview of these projects.

**FIGURE 4: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE PORTFOLIO IN AFRICA, 2011-2012**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2011-2012*

UN-Habitat's strategic engagement in Africa, as reflected in Figure 3, has been possible through significant contributions from amongst others the Government of Japan, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union, UN sister organizations, bilateral and multilateral donors, international financial institutions as well as foundations and private organizations.

UN-Habitat's coverage of the Africa region covers a wide spectrum of human settlement issues. Figure 4 illustrates projects under our seven thematic areas in Africa for 2011-2012. Acknowledging that many African countries have not been able to meet the targets of the MDGs, especially those related to water,

sanitation and slums, UN-Habitat almost doubled its budgetary allocation for the biennium to urban basic services and housing/slum upgrading, from 8 to 15 per cent. Over the 2011-2012 biennium, there has also been a notable increase in the share of the budget allocated to urban land, legislation and governance, from 8 to 13 per cent. This reflects in part the agency's renewed emphasis on urban planning, especially in African cities, which have benefited the least from effective urban planning in the past.

However, there has been a reduction in the share of budget allocation to risk reduction and rehabilitation. This theme accounted in 2011 for close to 40 per cent of UN-Habitat's Africa portfolio. By 2012, the share had fallen

to 33 per cent, reflecting a lower incidence of disasters in Africa *vis-à-vis* other regions. Similarly, projects relating to urban planning and design, which comprised 22 per cent of UN-Habitat's Africa portfolio in 2011, fell to just 9 per cent in 2012.

## Africa: Country Achievements

Notable achievements of UN-Habitat projects in selected African countries are summarized below. Box 1 shows the impacts of a project on generating income for women while simultaneously improving the environment in Kyotera town in Uganda.

## BOX 1: LINKING WASTE RECYCLING TO INCOME-GENERATION FOR VULNERABLE GROUPS

Members of Rakai Women Group, a community-based organization in Kyotera Town, Uganda, dirty their hands at a downtown workshop to serve the growing market for solid charcoal bricks used by households for cooking. The women are part of a growing population of waste recyclers in Kyotera who, through the UN-Habitat Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative have turned to solid waste recycling for revenue while improving the environment.

The group is made up of widows, many of them in their 60s. "We thought it fit to have enterprises that can utilize solid waste from the town, so we decided to go into charcoal brick production because of the problems we, as women, face with accessing clean energy at home" says Khadija Serwanga, Chairperson of Rakai Women's Group.

Through the capacity-building component of the Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative, women in Rakai have been trained in solid waste recycling and provided with business management skills.

"It's a timely gesture from UN-Habitat for the training we attended on the local economic development opportunities in solid waste management. The training exposed us to several technologies on how we can benefit by using solid waste, organizing collective marketing, lobbying and how to design a waste management system, among others. We now receive many orders from around the country to supply bags of charcoal bricks; we earn a living from the project and, at the same time, enjoy clean cooking energy," says the chairperson of the group.

as a reference tool for local authorities and government decision making on security issues. A total of 400 community volunteers were deployed in more than 60 zones of the city to regulate traffic. Road safety equipment (signs, traffic lights, portable radios), cleaning equipment (shovels, wheelbarrows and picks) were purchased for Ouagadougou.

More than 8,000 men and women have been trained in the collection and analysis of safety data and participatory prevention of insecurity. About 2,000 members of safety local committees have been trained on the legislation, detention and use of small arms.

**Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP):** Following the results of phase I of the PSUP, Burkina Faso has successfully conducted the study (validated in a national workshop) and formulation of phase II of the programme. Evaluations were conducted by independent consultants.

**Cities and Climate Change in Bobo-Dioulasso, Burkina Faso:** Participatory studies and capitalization were conducted in Bobo-Dioulasso City; communities' knowledge on how to help communities and the city to become more resilient to climate change impacts were shared. The promotion of urban agricultural practices in adaptation and mitigation of emissions of GHGs and increased incomes for most vulnerable populations was carried out during workshops and meetings.

**Guidelines on decentralization and access to the basic services for all in Burkina Faso:** Studies were conducted under the leadership of the Burkina Faso municipalities Association and the Ministry of Territorial Administration, decentralization and security. The studies were shared during the World Urban Forum in Naples and Africities Conference in Dakar. Memoranda of

## BURKINA FASO

A total of  
**400**  
community volunteers  
were deployed in more than  
**60 zones**  
of the city to regulate traffic.

cooperation was promoted to strengthen knowledge-sharing community on safety and integrated urban violence prevention. Advisory services were also to enhance access to clean water and sanitation.

**Development Partners** - Bujumbura City Council, UNDP, GIZ

### Burkina Faso

**Key Achievements:** Ouagadougou's *Urban Safety Strengthening Programme* achieved the following: A policy of proximity was implemented with the effective participation of local communities; leading to better management of security issues in the city. A "Women and Minors Unit" was established within the Municipal Police in Ouagadougou, which provided support in more than 100 cases of violence against women and children. The project has supported with housing, food, psychological assistance for the victims of abuse. A safety observatory was created

### Burundi

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat assisted the Government of Burundi in formulating a normative and operational framework for joint urban security committees. South-South



understanding have been signed between UN-Habitat and the Burkina Faso Municipalities Association and the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization.

**Water for African Cities:** An exploratory mission to restart education relating to water, sanitation and hygiene was held in Ouagadougou to facilitate the participation of a delegation from Burkina Faso in a high-level meeting in Dakar.

Training for Francophone surveyors on land governance in Ouagadougou was organized by GLTN and its partners. A documentary film and posters have been produced and disseminated. A delegation from Burkina Faso shared their experiences during the World Urban Forum held in Naples.

**Development Partners** - The Government of Burkina Faso, Ouagadougou City Council, Cities Alliance, World Bank, France, Netherlands, Regional centre for Clear Water and Sanitation and UNDP

 **TOP:** Dakar, Senegal.  
© Worldbank

### Cameroon

**Key Achievements:** In cooperation with UN-Habitat, Cameroon is implementing the Participatory Slum Improvement (PPAB) and the Safer Cities Programmes.:

Following participatory mapping and strategic planning for slum reduction in Kribi, a baseline assessment was conducted and a report produced, while the final evaluation reports of phase 2 of PSUP in Nkolbikok were approved. The European Commission decided to put more emphasis on the urban sector.

A participatory safety audit of Douala was carried out and the report adopted. An international conference with experts from several countries on crime prevention and urban delinquency was held in Douala in 2012. In Bafoussam and Ebolowa, a rapid

needs assessment was undertaken as a basis for municipal policing, and two workshops capacity building were held for actors in urban crime prevention approaches.

**Development Partners** - The Government of Cameroon, French Cooperation, FEICOM

### Cape Verde

**Key Achievements:** A Rapid Situation Assessment (RSA) was conducted on the relationship between the organization of urban space and urban violence in Cape Verde to identify priority redress actions. An urban observatory was established.

*Capacity Building for Urban Citizenship* targeted professionals, social workers and community animators, NGOs, OBC and the media.

**DRC**

# 140

traditional authorities  
trained on land disputes  
resolution, **34 judges**  
and **lawyers** and  
**50 women** trained  
on ADR related to  
**land disputes**

### **Participatory Slum Upgrading**

**Programme:** Phase 1 was completed with profiles for all 22 municipalities. Technical assistance was provided to the Government in the preparation of *Local Economic Development Strategies* and the *National Urban Development Programme and Capacity Building of Cities*. Donors were brought together at a donor round table.

**Development Partners** - Government of Cape Verde, UNDP

### **Chad**

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat provided advisory services and technical support to the Government of Chad to develop a nine-year programme in three phases aimed at improving access to urban land and adequate housing; and strengthening the capacities of national and local government, the private sector and NGOs to tackle urbanization challenges and provide access to housing and basic services.

Nationwide improvement of urban development and housing conditions has been achieved, as well as land development for the new settlement, rehabilitation and renovation of inner-urban areas, housing construction and related capacity-building for participatory governance.

Parliament adopted two laws in the construction code and on land and urban planning. Strategies for National Housing Improvement and National Poverty Reduction were established and two key institutions – social housing construction and housing finance – were created and are operational. Capacity building on urban planning and management took place for central and municipal staff of Moundou, Doba, Sarh and Bongor. The master plan for Sarh, Doha and Moundou was adopted.

Feasibility studies for a site in Doba (secondary city and site of oil production) for developing housing and serviced plots programmes and for constructing social houses were prepared. The Master plans for Ndjamen and the secondary city of Djermaya are under implementation.


Awareness was raised among National Authorities and community leaders on the importance of participatory prevention of disorder and crime in cities. A report on Safety Audit in the Municipality of Moursal in N'Djamena was completed and adopted. South-South Cooperation on community urban security and sustainable development was promoted.

**Development Partners** - Government of Chad, French Cooperation, UNDP

### **Democratic Republic of Congo**

**Key Achievements:** The general focus has been on supporting land policy reform and land disputes resolution through awareness raising, capacity development, promoting knowledge management, logistical and technical support, and the sharing and scaling up of lessons learnt on land mediation.

Three community land mediation centres were established in North and South Kivu, five land mediation offices were established, five dialogue and mediation committees set up, 140 traditional authorities trained on land disputes resolution, 34 judges and lawyers and 50 women trained on ADR related to land disputes. Logistical assistance and training was provided to the land administration: GPS, theodolites, software, computers.

 **BOTTOM:** Owino Market in Kampala, Uganda.  
© UN-Habitat



The Government adapted a national pro-poor land policy, documented land conflicts and developed a methodology for land mediation. Local institutions/organizations were trained on alternative dispute resolution mechanisms. Training in budgetary and financial management was conducted for the municipalities of Masina and Ndjili. A best practices workshop was organized to assess the training impact and share the challenges and successes of the participatory budgeting implementation in the two municipalities. The Housing, Land and Property Working Group was set up in Kinshasa.

A Guide for Land Mediation on Eastern DRC experiences was developed and disseminated, e.g. through a learning exchange with Central African Republic on land reform during a workshop in Bangui. A national workshop on land challenges in DRC was held and a road map on development of land reform produced. A donor sensitization and advocacy meeting on land reform was held.

A delegation from DRC attended the Regional Workshop on Urban Disorder and Crime Prevention in Douala and a report on Safety Audit in the Municipality of Limete in Kinshasa is underway.

*Development Partners – Government of DRC, UNHCR, Canada, the United States of America*

## Eritrea

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat provided technical support to the Government for a housing/urban development policy, a housing development plan and building capacity within the Ministry of Public Works, as well as low-cost housing intervention training to regional administrations.

Over 200 people were trained in the production of stabilized soil blocks for cost-effective construction, including the construction of demonstration buildings.

*Development Partners – Government of Eritrea, UNDP*

## Kenya

**Key Achievements:** The key areas supported were on revitalizing public spaces in Nairobi; providing support to the land sector donor group; humanitarian assistance; promoting sustainable transport solutions; participatory slum upgrading; promoting energy efficiency in buildings; and water and sanitation.

Public spaces in Nairobi have been revitalized through community-led design and improvement of selected sites, community and Nairobi City Council training and capacity building on public space recovery/upgrading and maintenance, as well as advisory services on a citywide strategy on public spaces.

The Land Sector Donor Group in Kenya has supported land reform, including the *National Land Policy Formulation and the Implementation Framework for Land Reform Support* programme; UN-Habitat has coordinated policy dialogue among the donors and strengthened their commitment to a pro-poor land policy. The Development Partners Group on Land is also working with non-state actors on land reform and ensuring the participation of land-dependent communities in implementation of the Truth, Justice, and Reconciliation process.

Local implementing partners mobilized the community, drew up a project design and started the physical works for the Mandera Town Water Supply and Sanitation Project. Training and capacity building were conducted for the *Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation*

*Initiative Phase II.* Replenish Africa Initiative (RAIN) Water for Schools Project for Schools in East Africa worked with 20 beneficiary schools to construct rainwater harvesting tanks and ancillary facilities, and 20 toilet blocks. Twenty school health clubs were formed and made operational.

To promote sustainable transport solutions for East African Cities, a Project Management Unit was established at the Kenya Urban Roads Authority (KURA); selection of the bus rapid transport corridor is in progress; and clean Technology (ICCT) has finalized the first phase of their technical assistance.

## Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme

(PSUP) Phase II: a stakeholders' analysis identified key stakeholders, their roles, and their impact on the project; a participatory approach was adopted; consultations were held with the Mtwapa Council and the residents of the informal settlement for sensitization and data updating/verification.

## ERITREA

Over **200 people** were **trained** in the production of **stabilized soil blocks** for **cost-effective construction**, including the construction of demonstration buildings.



The Kibera Soweto East Resource Centre building was completed and is operational under the Supervisory Board and Management Committee. Plans are underway for the centre's sustainability.

To promote energy efficiency in buildings in East Africa, a workshop was held during the AMCHUD 4 meeting in Nairobi and a training workshop held in Kampala for East African architects.

Kisumu City was supported in urban planning through a Rapid Planning Studio and report preparation.

In support of Mavoko County's Sustainable Neighbourhood Programme, land was allocated by the Government of Kenya, the Mavoko Development Advisory Committee was established, social-economic mapping completed, and urban poor settlement plans completed by Shelter Afrique.



**TOP:** Residential housing facilities in Cape Verde.

© UN-Habitat

**Development Partners** – Government of Kenya, SIDA, BASF-Germany, UNEP/DGEF, European Commission, African Development Bank (AfDB), Coca Cola Africa Foundation, Spanish Fund/Booyung (Korea), Cisco Systems, Orange

### Liberia

**Key Achievements:** The Government of Liberia has been supported in decentralized capacity strengthening of local administration for better service delivery. Both UN-Habitat's *'Liberia Rapid Urban Sector Profile (RUSP)* and the *Habitat Country Programme Document (HPCD)* highlight the need for interventions in local governance challenges through building of local governance capacities, institutional frameworks and linkages between central and local governance structures.

Strengthened institutional capacities of the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Ministry of Planning and Economic Affairs, and the Liberia Institute of Public Affairs to deliver county level trainings for local administrations. Capacities of local county officials were also strengthened in leadership and local economic development.

**Development Partners**– Government of Liberia, UNDP, Liberia Institute of Public Administration

### Madagascar

**Key Achievements** Technical assistance was provided for the improvement of sanitation through waste recycling and the development of charts of shared responsibility at the community level. Three hundred small entrepreneurship plans were funded to support local job creation. Capacity development of 2,000 people on community-led basic-service provision, generation of livelihoods and life opportunities were achieved. Technical assistance was provided to the DIPECHO implementing partners and local/central government for developing simplified territorial planning tools and alternative architectural solutions adapted to cyclone/flood-prone areas. Advisory services were provided for the promotion of local interventions on personal, health, economic and environmental security. A report of urban crime and insecurity prevention was finalised. Local leaders have been trained on community-empowerment, resilience building and functional protection mechanisms for the most vulnerable, especially women, children and youth.

**Development Partners** - Government of Madagascar, UN Human Security Trust Funds



**TOP:** A view of Kisumu city, Kenya  
© Julius Mwelu/ UN-Habitat

## Malawi

**Key Achievements:** Improving sanitation formed the core activities in Malawi. Projects including the *Urban Household Sanitation* project, and the *Lilongwe Water for Wealth* project improving environmental conditions of low-income settlements and household incomes through integrated and sustainable waste management. Households and communities were accorded increased access to sanitation facilities through capital loans. There was an improved community awareness and commitment to improve sanitation and general hygiene.

Malawi has transitioned onto phase III of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP).

**Development Partners** – Government of Malawi, UNDP

## Mali

**Key Achievements:** The *National Housing Strategy 1992* was assessed with UN-Habitat assistance and a participatory approach by the *Cities Without Slums* programme developed including action plan, monitoring and evaluation.

Key documents produced were: an evaluation report on the national housing strategy; a situation analysis report on slums in 17 selected cities; and the national action plan for operationalization of the national strategy on slum improvement and prevention, including a resource mobilization strategy to boost public and private sector investments in slums upgrading.

The lessons learnt and best practices were disseminated.

**Development Partners** – Government of Mali, Cities Alliance, the World Bank, France

## Mozambique

**Key Achievements:** An Agreement of Cooperation with the Maputo Municipal Council (MMC) was signed and the corresponding Project Document approved.

Technical support was provided for the production of handbooks and manuals for disaster preparedness and architectural designs for risk environments. Capacity of Government and Civil Society for disaster risk reduction was strengthened at central, provincial and local levels. Action plans and strategies were produced and tools and methodologies adopted. Situation analyses and assessments were completed.

Innovative local solutions and activities for “living with floods” were carried out in Mutarara District. The architectural design of an elevated school was produced and 10 houses constructed. Eleven cyclone-resistant houses were designed and built in Vilankulo City. An elevated platform to house a school in Inhangoma settlement, a moderate flood prone area in the Zambezi River valley, and seven elevated houses for vulnerable families were built in the same region. Rainwater harvesting techniques were identified and innovative models designed. A total of 50 domestic water tanks and two community tanks were constructed. Three innovative construction models were implemented: ferro-cement roofing vaults, a thin concrete catenary roof and an Earth Dome house using compressed earth bricks.

Technical support was provided to the Municipality in the design and construction of a cyclone-resistant kindergarten; and for DRR building techniques, including training communities on “Building with the winds” techniques. The architectural design of an ice production plant in Lumbo was produced and a rehabilitation project of a warehouse in Chupanga established. A new re-designed multi-purpose centre was built in Chicualacuala.

Training sessions on the use and interpretation of climate change risk maps were conducted.

Maps of communities under risk for Cachaço, Sucamiala and Chirembue and three settlements of Mutarara district were produced; the *District Land Use Plan for Chicualacuala* produced; as well as the report of the “*Assessment of the potential and sustainability of existing and future boreholes and rehabilitation of selected small dams and irrigation schemes in Chicualacuala District*”; a study on urban land markets in Mozambique;

a draft strategy for “*Vulnerability Reduction and Sustainable Development in Flood Prone Areas*”; and a manual on “*Histories of Resettlement*”.

**Development Partners** – Government of Mali, Spain, Norway, MDG Trust Fund, FAO, UNDP, UNEP, UNIDO, UNCDF, UNHCR UNICEF, UNFPA, UNESCO, IOM, ILO, WFP, WHO, UNIFEM and One UN Fund.

## KENYA

Kisumu City  
was supported in  
**URBAN PLANNING**  
through a **Rapid Planning**  
**Studio** and report  
preparation

## Namibia

**Key Achievements:** With UN-Habitat support, the Government of Namibia has commenced the formulation of a national urban policy. The first step was a national workshop for Central, Regional and Municipal authorities, academia and civil society. Consultations were carried out and the study was completed with analysis and recommendations. The third step was a conference which addressed the two critical issues: spatial strategic planning and urbanization. Rapid Urban Profile Reports were produced for Walvis Bay, Opuwo and Aroab towns.

Through a joint project on cultural tourism, three cultural pilot sites were established: Munyondo gwaKapande in Kavango Region,

Omugulugwombashe in Omusati Region and Ozombu Zovindimba in Omaheke Region.

**Development Partner** – Ministry of Regional and Local Governments, Housing and Rural Development (MRLGHRD)

## Nigeria

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat completed work on the *Preparation of Structure Plans for Four Urban Areas in Nasarawa State*, and is currently preparing structural plans for nine cities and towns in Osun State aimed at promoting and implementing capacity building through rapid urban profiling. UN-Habitat also assisted Nasarawa State in setting up a framework for the programme implementation and publishing the *Nasarawa State Master Plan*. Staff was trained on the use of rapid urban profiling techniques and the social economic and land use reports were published.

**Development Partner** – Nasarawa and Osun States

## Rwanda

**Key Achievements:** Capacity building to central and decentralized Government entities was provided on institutional development and management, urban development and policy formulation.

Fifty social houses were built for returnees, and a review and updating of the existing urban legislations carried out. Policy documents were adapted including the policy on urban development.

Training workshops were held on the implementation of the *Hyogo Plan of Action*. The *Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative* built capacity in three secondary cities. Slum upgrading took place (Amélioration des Quartiers Précaires des

Villes Secondaires de la Province de l'Ouest (AQUPO)). The Rubavu Hillside Ecosystem was restored and rehabilitated. A 'One stop Youth Centre' was established.

**Development Partners** – Government of Rwanda, UNDP

## Senegal

**Key Achievements:** A Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) was signed between four municipalities and UN-Habitat on participatory budgeting with an investment plan for two priorities.

The *Senegalese National Housing Profile* was completed, edited, translated and dissemination is on-going. A National Urban forum was set up, with an action plan approved. A national social housing workshop was conducted on two topics: definition and promotion.

One national and three urban profile reports for each city have been finalized and printed. The *Action Plan for PSUP Phase II* was finalised and local urban plans formulated in two districts of Dakar. The building of emergency housing for people affected by coasted erosion and floods is underway in Saint Louis. The *Dakar Metropolitan Strategic Plan* was produced and funding of projects is underway. The *CCCI phase I* was completed and an action plan formulated. Multi-stakeholder platforms were strengthened citywide in Ziguinchor. Strategic urban planning was supported by the National Urban Planning Department. Monitoring of water conservation and sanitation was improved based on demand in different sites and public infrastructure. Improvement was made on low cost sanitation and water access schemes for vulnerable and poor people. Participatory budgeting in municipalities was institutionalised.

A joint programming framework on the mobilization of UN agencies delivering through one process for pilot projects was initiated.

**Development Partners** – Government of Senegal, Cities Alliance, UNDP, UNEP, World Bank, Agence Française de Développement (AFD), Municipal Development Partnership (MDP)

## MOZAMBIQUE

Capacity of **Government** and **Civil Society** for disaster risk reduction was strengthened at central, provincial and local levels

## Somalia

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat provided mapping of services in existing IDP settlements to identify needs and assisted in the site planning of settlements identified for long-term resettlement of IDPs.

Baseline assessments were conducted in Mogadishu targeting IDP settlement sites; recruitment for the urban planning and data management teams were completed; the site planning and design of the IDP settlement roads and drainages is in progress.

**Integration of long-term IDPs into the Host Community in Bossaso:** Two projects provide security of land tenure and permanent housing, social infrastructure and skills training for IDPs. 4,050 houses have been built at eight locations accommodating 25,000 IDPs at a cost of USD 3,600 per house.

**Bossaso Port and Roads Infrastructure Upgrading:** Decongestion of the Bossaso Port area was achieved through road and lorry terminal construction, improving port efficiency and livelihoods.

**Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project (HUWSUP):** The project entailed the replacement of existing trunk water infrastructure and increasing volume of water supply for Hargeisa city.

**Development Partners** – Government of Somalia, Regional Authorities of Puntland and Somaliland, Benadir Regional Administration, Districts and Municipalities, various Ministries, UN agencies, NGOs and multiple donors

## South Africa

**Key Achievements:** Plans are afoot to revisit UN-Habitat's work on the preparation of the 'Eastern Cape Provincial Spatial Development Plan' to prevent a continuation of past settlement patterns and fragmentation of limited resources and to ensure optimally invested resources and areas of development potential are promoted for sustainability.

Development of the 'Human Settlements Index' to guide indices-based settlement development planning acceptable to the Government of South Africa.

Important achievements made included the establishment of the management systems for spatial planning and land use.

**Development Partners** – Government of South Africa

## South Sudan

**Key Achievements:** *Capacity Building for Land Conflict Management* was completed in 2012, aiming at strengthening national and state-level land coordination mechanisms;

improved public awareness of land-related laws, policies and institutions; increased capacity of South Sudan Land Commission; increased capacity for land dispute management; and increased capacity for land administration.

*Land Surveying and Settlement Planning Capacity Building* (completed in 2012) has provided local authorities with recovery assistance that fills the existing gap between the emergency assistance and longer term land administration system development support. It has also provided immediate benefits to returnees and host communities and established the first steps towards sustainable urban development.

**Piped Water Supply Systems:** the project provided access to clean water by institutions, clinics, markets and the general population in the selected four towns.

Capacity building took place for the caretakers/operators of water supply systems for more effective technical and financial management; awareness was created within the community to support operation and maintenance. Safe disposal of human faecal waste and proper management of solid waste in the towns was promoted.

*Development Partners – Government of South Sudan*

### Tanzania

**Key Achievements:** A Social economic study was completed and an action plan published. Capacity trainings sessions were undertaken plus a citywide action plan for the improvement of unplanned and unserved settlements in Dar es Salaam established. The upgrading strategy was produced. A report on the lessons learned from the upgrading program published and a long-term Sustainable Financing Strategy was produced.

*Development Partners – Government of Tanzania, Cities Alliance, World Bank and the International Labour Organization*

### Uganda

**Key Achievements:** The key activities included the Lake Victoria water and sanitation project, sustainable transport solutions, slum upgrading, energy efficiency, empowering urban youth and women, among others.

With the signing of the Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the Ministry of Works and Transport and UN-Habitat, a stakeholders' workshop was held to promote ownership of the project and to jointly share

 **BOTTOM:** The construction of water trench in Karongi, Rwanda. © Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat



the findings of the mission. The stakeholders were: the Ministry of Works and Transport (MoWT), and Uganda National Road Authority (UNRA). Under urban profiling (Participatory Slum Upgrading Project), one national and three urban profiles were finalized (Mbale, Mbarara and Kitgum).

*The Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings in Eastern Africa* project held one workshop to acquaint planners, architects and civil engineers and other participants with principles and tools that can be applied in the design of energy efficient buildings and development. The *UN Joint Programme on Gender Equality* project produced a draft Cooperation Agreement with Uganda Police Force, and is at UN-Habitat HQ for signing. The *Kasoli Slum Upgrading* project produced contractual agreements between UN-Habitat and DFCU Bank and completed fund disbursement. The physical planning/surveying was completed and a project steering committee established. With the design and approval of housing plans accomplished, a contractor to build the houses was identified and now awaits the signing of contract.

Through the project on *'Promoting Urban Youth Development Policies and Strategies in attaining MDGs/ Kampala One Stop Youth Centre'*, a youth centre is under construction, due to be completed by end of the year.

The *'Cities in Climate Change Initiative (CCCI)'* completed a vulnerable assessment report, and held a stakeholder workshop. The Initiative sponsored a youth caravan from Nairobi to attend the COP17 in Durban, South Africa in November and December 2011; tested the Planning for Climate Change toolkit at Cities and Climate Change Academy Kampala Workshop; held a screening in three Kampala primary schools in December 2011, and produced a set of five posters from

children's drawings. The CCCI midterm review was conducted and a consultancy on flood mapping is being undertaken in KCCA by ITC from the Netherlands.

An MoU with the participating UN agencies was signed for the UN Joint Programme of support for the Implementation of the national population policy (Arua and Gulu municipalities). Work plans and the M&E matrix have been approved. A youth needs assessment study has been carried out. Training of youths in different skills is being conducted. Youths have been placed in vocational training institutions for skills development.

#### SOMALIA

**4,050 houses**  
have been built at eight  
locations accommodating  
**25,000 IDP's**  
at a cost of **USD 3,600**  
per house

The *Lake Victoria Water and Sanitation Initiative* has improved access to water and sanitation services, capacity strengthening of water service providers, improved energy efficiency of water service providers, improved access to micro credit schemes, improved capacity for solid waste management, strengthened citywide multi-stakeholder platforms, supported the strategic urban planning, and improved monitoring of water and sanitation coverage.

**Development Partners** – DFCU Bank, DFID, EU, GEF, Norway, Spain

#### Zambia

**Key Achievements:** Zambia established an informal group of donors to coordinate slum upgrading and prevention in Lusaka. Two stakeholders' workshops were held to promote participatory slum upgrading processes (PSUP) and to solicit stakeholder feedback towards the Zambia Urban Housing Profile. Zambia's first Urban Housing Profile was commissioned and published. Three PSUP Country Team meetings resulted in three concept notes identifying key areas of intervention in two unplanned settlements in Lusaka, Kanyama and John Laing.



A woman makes a low fuel stove in Terabunka IDP camp, Mogadishu, Somalia. © Kate Holt/IRIN

A new project was started to reinforce the institutional capacity for urban planning, especially on city extensions and urban densification of Lusaka, and to promote inter-sectoral coordination and multi-stakeholder dialogue for developing a National Urban Policy.

## Zimbabwe

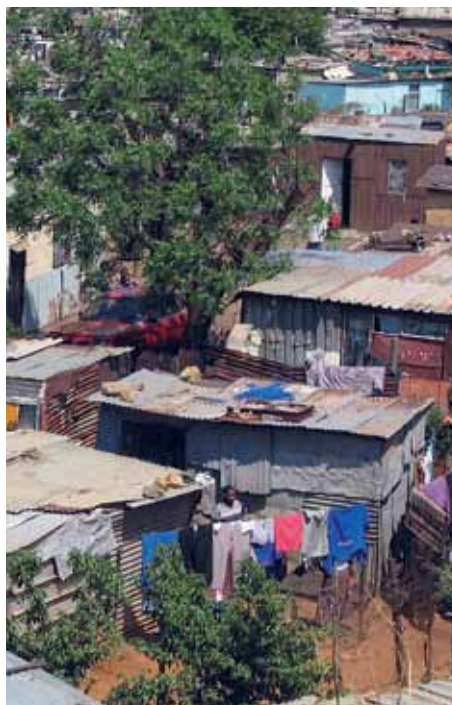
**Key Achievements:** There was increased participation in local governance mainly in five cities of Kadoma, Kwekwe, Gweru, Bulawayo and Masvingo. The local authorities enhanced their MDG capacities. Stakeholders' participation in city decision-making processes was enhanced through effective communication skills and strategies. There was improved responsiveness towards citizens' needs and an enhanced transparency and accountability and capacity to respond to the MDGs created.

Cities' capacity to manage and resolve conflicts improved, and funding increased for the Habitat Country Programme Documents.

**Development Partners** – Government of Zimbabwe, Sweden

## Africa: The Way Forward

The African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) held in Nairobi, Kenya, on 20-23 March 2012 and attended by 36 Member States. The theme of the Conference was *Territorial Planning and Access to Basic Services for all and Implications of Climate Change in Africa*. The conference considered a strategy document on *Optimizing the Urban Advantage* and adopted important documents including the *Nairobi Pact Towards Habitat III*. The highlights of the documents are summarized below:



**LEFT:** Soweto township, South Africa.

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## Learning to Work Together

Achieving higher levels of sustainable urban development requires clear policies, simple norms and basic principles, and concerted efforts from public, private and social actors and requires that different levels of government learn to work together.

Effective decentralization demands strong coordination capacities from the central government and should lead to dynamic and well-governed cities.

## South-South Cooperation

Africa can optimize its potential by learning from the experiences of other parts of the world, particularly those from the South. Apart from bilateral arrangements, collaboration among ministerial bodies of these regions needs to be developed, and UN-Habitat is ready to play a facilitating role in this process.

UN-Habitat remains committed to Africa. With the support from the African Development Bank and other development partners, UN-Habitat is keen to strengthen positive collaboration and partnerships with all levels of governments, non-governmental organizations, private sector and regional economic communities such as the Common Market for Eastern and Southern Africa (COMESA), the East African Community (EAC), and the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) etc. towards eradicating urban poverty and in transforming Africa's urban development agenda.

## Compact Cities

African cities need to move away from rigid planning and urbanization that creates low densities and long distances: an unsustainable model that generates socially divided and poorly connected cities.

## Initiating Legal Reforms and Enhancing Institutional Capacities

Following the reform process, existing laws and regulations need to be reviewed, while simplified norms and basic principles need to be adopted to guide urban development and facilitate the use of tools and guidelines. Partnerships with governments can reduce social conflict, political instability, bureaucratic procedures and corruption to create an environment conducive to strong and flexible institutions.



PHOTO: Cairo, Egypt.

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# ARAB STATES

The urban population in Arab countries grew by more than **four times** from **1970 to 2010** and will more than double again from **2010 to 2050**.

*Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.*

## Demographic and urban trends

Home to the oldest urban civilizations in the world, the Arab region<sup>1</sup> is also one of the most urbanized. As of 2010, the Arab countries were home to 357 million people, 56 per cent of whom live in cities; by 2050, these countries will be home to 646 million people, 68 per cent of whom will live in cities (see Figure 1). The urban population in Arab

countries grew by more than four times from 1970 to 2010 and will more than double again from 2010 to 2050. Most of the growth to date has taken place on the peripheries of each country's primary cities' although, today, secondary cities are experiencing the fastest rate of growth.

Across the region, around 18 per cent of residents live under each country's national poverty line, with significant variation between the Gulf countries, which have an average per capita income of USD 29,000, and the Southern Tier countries (not including Somalia), which have an average per capita income of USD 1,300. In the Gulf, oil revenues typically represent 40 to 50 per cent of government budget and as much as 90 per cent in Sudan. Most oil-rich countries have invested significantly in infrastructure,

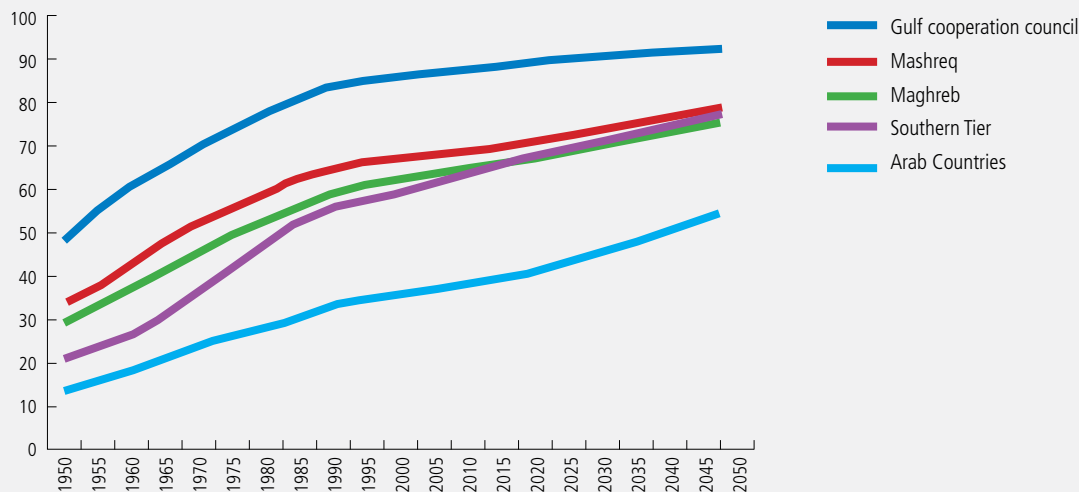
housing improvements and subsidies for food, water and energy. In the oil-poor countries, governments have been constrained in their ability to dampen the shocks of rising food and energy prices while simultaneously supporting the production of affordable housing.

### Progress towards the MDGs

The economic divide is also reflected in the progress towards the MDGs. Significant disparities continue to exist between rural and urban areas as well as between the high-income countries of the Gulf Cooperation Council, which are expected to meet most Millennium Development Goal targets and the countries of the Southern Tier, Mauritania, Iraq and the Occupied Palestinian Territories, which are expected to miss most of the Goals' targets by 2015. Also the Mashreq and

<sup>1</sup> *The Arab States cover the Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) (Bahrain, Kuwait, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia and the United Arab Emirates), Mashreq (Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Lebanon, the Occupied Palestinian Territories (OPT) and Syria), Maghreb (Algeria, Libya, Mauritania, Morocco and Tunisia) and the Southern Tier (Comoros, Djibouti, Somalia, Sudan and Yemen).*

**FIGURE 1: PERCENTAGE OF ARAB STATES POPULATION LIVING IN URBAN AREAS (1950-2050)**



Source: UN-Habitat 2011-2012

Maghreb countries face particular challenges in reducing youth unemployment, child mortality and, in a few countries, achieving universal primary education. This should be addressed as a matter of inter-Arab solidarity.

### Conflicts and Internally Displaced People (IDPs)

Urbanization has been driven by the region's economic development, migration to the oil rich countries, drought and conflict driven displacement. As of 2010, there were 7.4 million registered refugees in Arab countries, most of them Palestinians and Iraqis living in Jordan and Syria; 9.8 million internally displaced people (IDPs), mostly in Sudan, Iraq, Somalia, Lebanon, Syria and Yemen and 15 million international migrants in the GCC. As

of September 2012 the number of IDPs due to the civil war in Syria has risen to estimated 1.5 to 2.5 million. Most live in cities and, together, represent one-third of the sub-region's population.

### Urban Unemployment

In general, access to services, infrastructure, health and education attainment is better in cities than in rural areas, although unemployment and continuing poverty is a growing urban phenomenon. With 60 per cent of the population below 25 years of age, Arab countries face the challenge of providing employment opportunities for their young people whose current unemployment rates range from 11 per cent in Kuwait to 35 per cent in Morocco. Disenchantment and poverty

induced by a lack of mobility has been one of the fuelling mechanisms for the recent political polarization of the region.

### Slum Prevalence

The proportion of substandard housing varies from country to country, with slum dwellings forming isolated, marginalized pockets in some countries, while in Mauritania and especially Somalia and Sudan, 67 to 94 per cent of urban residents live in slums with one or more housing deprivations. In the Maghreb and Mashreq, middle-to-low-income groups tend to live in informal settlements that are of decent quality and infrastructure but lack land title.

Most countries in the Maghreb and the Mashreq have made significant progress in developing initiatives to increase the supply of affordable housing through targeted programmes while the Gulf Cooperation Council countries and Saudi Arabia have policies to provide their citizens with adequate housing. In the Gulf countries, the housing conditions of low-income expatriate workers present a challenge. Morocco, Tunisia and Egypt have made the most notable national commitments to slum upgrading and the production of affordable housing. Although using different models, all three have developed dedicated national housing agencies that conduct planning, fund projects with private sector participation and coordinate implementation on behalf of local municipalities. The lessons learned offer important models for other Arab countries, as in most countries there is still a significant shortage of affordable housing and a lack of housing finance mechanisms for lower and middle-income households.

### Environmental Issues

With the exception of Iraq, Arab countries have some of the scarcest water resources per capita in the world and groundwater reserves are being depleted at alarming rates. Although 85 per cent of the region's water is used for agriculture, most countries in the region import more than 50 per cent of their caloric intake. Climate change-induced temperature increases and precipitation declines are projected to increase water scarcity and the frequency of severe droughts and also decrease agricultural productivity by 10 to 40 per cent, potentially leading to further poverty-induced rural to urban migration.

Desertification and the associated threats of future water and food insecurity for its growing urban populations are among the key defining problems of the region. In



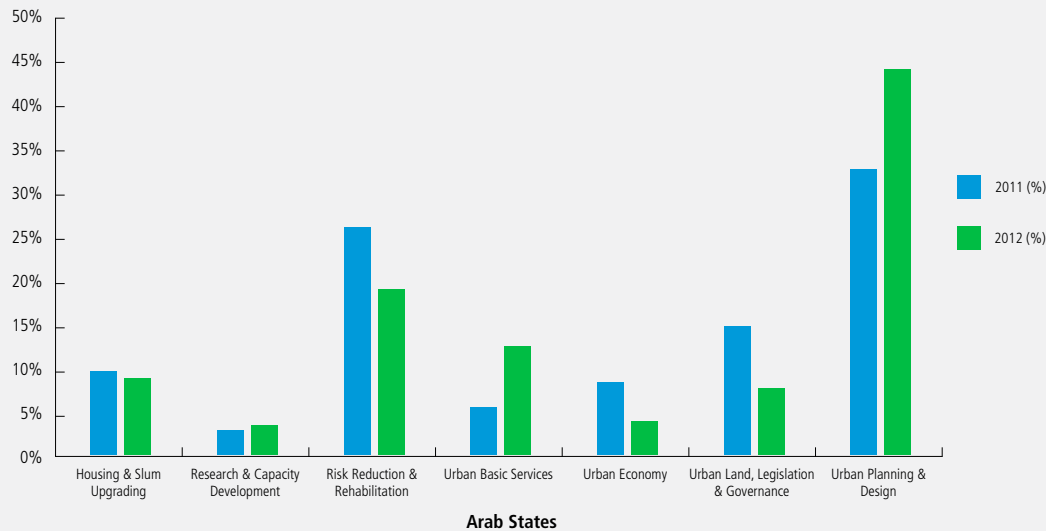
**TOP** : Rubbish being picked up in Cairo by an unofficial garbage collector, known locally as 'Zabalin'.

© Emmanuel Dunseath/IRIN

addition, most of the region's major cities, economic centres and transportation hubs activity are in low-lying, coastal areas. A rise in sea level could be disastrous for many of the region's densely populated coastal cities. Faced with these pressures, most of the region's governments have embarked on spatial interventions to guide new urban developments. Many cities are drafting strategic plans, linking various development projects and renewal programmes under the umbrella of a broader vision. New cities are being created as centres of excellence, innovation, technology and research.

To implement these plans successfully and manage increasingly large and complex urban systems, governments in Arab countries will need to better coordinate the complementary roles of central and local governments and increase the participation of the private sector in urban development. Historically, these countries have been highly centralized and the devolution of responsibilities to local authorities has been uneven, with a tendency for central governments to devolve responsibilities without a commensurate redistribution of funding or giving local authorities the power to raise revenue at the local level. The need for a new participatory approach to governance, including women's rights, still prevails after the Arab Spring.

**FIGURE 2: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE PORTFOLIO IN ARAB STATES IN 2011-2012**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

### Arab States: Portfolio of Projects and Achievements (2011-2012)

In 2012, UN-Habitat launched the *State of the Arab Cities 2012: Challenges of urban transition* - the first comprehensive region-wide analysis of urban and housing policies in the Arab States region, (available in Arabic and English, <http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/>)

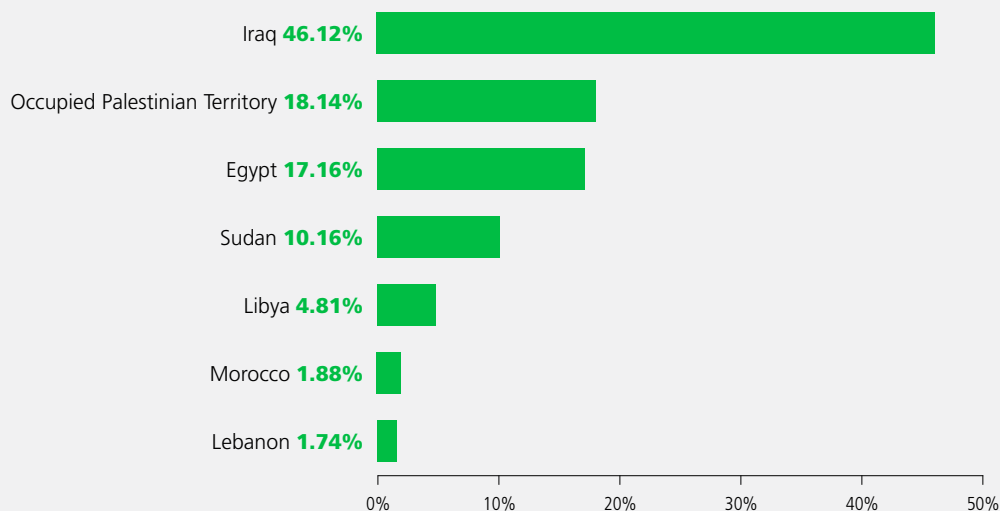
UN-Habitat was active in seven countries in the Arab States during the period under consideration (2011-2012). The value of projects in the region during this time amounted to USD 45.6 million, representing 10 per cent of the global portfolio of the organization.

Nearly half of the UN - Habitat's portfolio in the Arab States was concentrated in Iraq with interventions largely on risk reduction and rehabilitation which largely entailed the provision of durable shelter solutions and urban basic services. Occupied Palestinian Territories and Egypt have projects whose share of the region's portfolio was 18 per cent and 17 per cent, respectively. The Occupied Palestinian Territories focused on risk reduction and rehabilitation, and urban planning and design, whilst Egypt concentrated on urban planning and design. Figure 1 gives the overview of the geographic distribution of projects in 2011-2012.

The main financial contributors to the regional portfolio include various bilateral donors such as Saudi Arabia, Egypt, Libya and the United States of America, as well as multilateral donors such as the European Union, various UN Agencies, and the Swedish International Development Agency amongst others.

UN-Habitat's coverage of the Arab States is diverse and its engagement with countries spans an entire spectrum of human settlement issues. Urban planning and design as well as risk reduction and rehabilitation in the form of post-crisis recovery dominated thematic activities in both 2011 and 2012. Projects which had a thematic focus on urban planning and design with the aim of enhancing

**FIGURE 3: DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN ARAB STATES IN 2011-2012**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

institutional capacities cut across all the countries with the exception of Morocco. In 2011 these projects accounted for a third of the organization's portfolio for the region; this increased to 44 per cent in 2012. On the other hand, post-conflict recovery projects relating to shelter provision largely in the Middle East accounted for 26 per cent of the total budget in 2011 and dropped to 19 per cent in 2012. Conspicuously, the share of the UN - Habitat's portfolio devoted to the delivery of urban basic services particularly in Iraq and Sudan increased from 5 per cent in 2011 to 13 per cent in 2012.

## Arab States: Country Achievements

Some of the notable achievements of a UN - Habitat's portfolio of projects in the Arab States are summarized below.

### Egypt

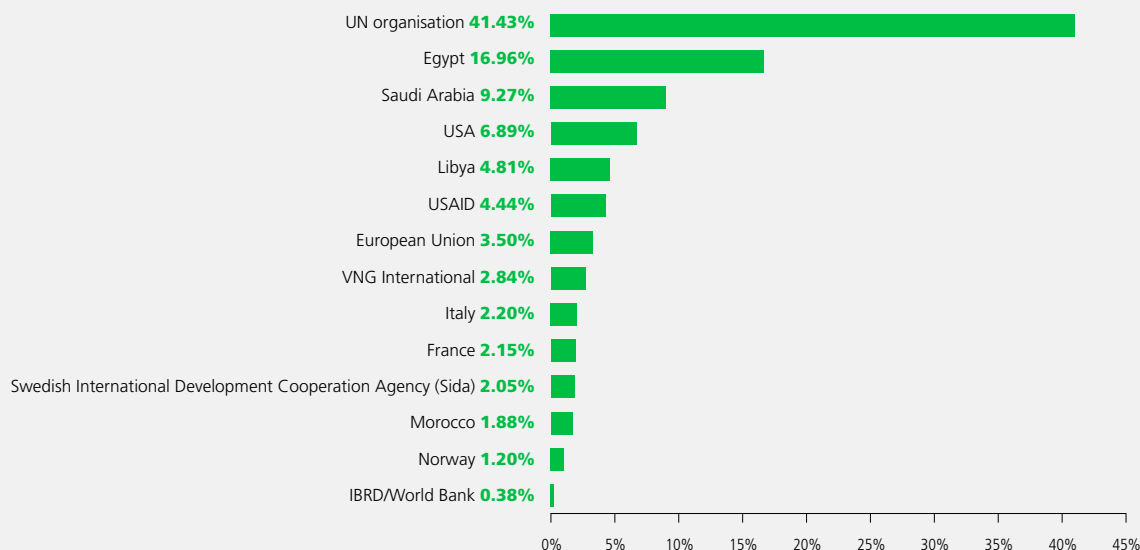
**Key Achievements:** National authorities have been supported in preparing *Strategic Urban Development Plans (SUDP)* for 48 small cities and Greater Cairo Region as well as the decentralization process by conducting strategic planning and participatory budgeting in three pilot districts/governorates. Urban safety for women and girls has been promoted. Egypt is a pilot

country for the ASUD project, focusing on guided city extensions and land readjustment mechanisms. During recent missions, UN-Habitat has been providing support to the Ministry of Housing in developing a vision for the housing sector.

### Strategic Development Plans for Small Cities in Egypt

The project has been assisting the Government of Egypt in adopting a decentralized and integrated strategic urban planning approach. While strengthening urban-rural linkages, the project supports local economic development, enhancement of basic urban services and the improvement of living conditions of slum dwellers.

**FIGURE 4: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN ARAB STATES IN 2011-2012**



\*Countries under the 'Global Programme' are counted under the global programmes section

Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

Through a participatory process, strategic visions are developed for the cities and priority interventions identified. These focus mostly on projects to improve housing conditions, urban services and local economy. On-the-job capacity building to local authorities includes the training of local authorities in information management, strategic urban planning, land regularization and administration. UN-Habitat has been supporting the preparation of 48 SUDPs for small cities across the country. So far, 17 SUDPs have been finalized and approved while 29 are in the process of being finalized. SUDPs support local and national decision makers in decision-making processes towards more accountable local government. The documentation of several city profiles has been completed and fact sheets published.

### **Strategic National Development**

**Support Programme:** The project has been providing targeted capacity building to stakeholders at national and local levels. Strategic planning at district level is currently being piloted in three governorates. Based on documenting international experience in territorial governance and planning for urban and economic development, the project has provided a policy brief on the legal and institutional framework governing local economic development in Egypt as well as a white paper on the reform considered necessary for enhancing territorial governance. UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Planning and International Cooperation in hosting a conference on the future of planning in Egypt. Technical backstopping was provided

to the newly-elected Egyptian government on reforming the legal and institutional set up governing planning. Roundtable discussions were held and the key principals of local and regional governance documented along with a decentralization draft to inform the constitutional review.

The *Strategic Development Plan for Greater Cairo Region* has provided support to the General Organisation for Physical Planning (GOPP) in consolidating the *Greater Cairo Region Urban Development Vision* and brought together modifications and updates following the recent Arab Spring. The plan outlines long and medium-term strategies while highlighting short-term interventions. Two successful capacity building programmes

for the planning institutions at national and local level were held (professional communication skills and Detailed Planning in relation to the Urban Planning Law). The project is currently preparing for a social impact assessment study in addition to the implementation of a consolidated vision and strategic direction report to be launched in early 2013.

To promote urban safety for women and girls in Egypt, both projects: *Safe Cities Greater Cairo Region – Free of Violence against Women and Girls*, as well as the *Because I am A Girl – Urban Programme* conducted a literature review on international experiences and best practices. Toolkits such as the *Women Safety Audit* are currently being transferred to the Egyptian context. UN-Habitat is providing input to the urban dimension of safety and community mobilization, in close collaboration with the Joint Programme partners and UN-Women. Civil society organizations have been mobilized, Community Development Councils were established and several focus group discussions with communities conducted.

Egypt has been selected as one of the five pilot countries in the global initiative Achieving Sustainable Urban Development. The project supports the development of innovative urban planning tools for physical and strategic planning in the city-region, citywide densification/renewal, and city-extension scales, thereby facilitating the creation of public open spaces and ensuring the provision of basic urban services in particular for fast-growing intermediate cities. Based on analyses of urbanization trends, the ASUD project builds on the most relevant experience of UN-Habitat projects and other experience gained in the country on city and regional planning, and urban governance, legislation and land. The work plan for the second phase

was agreed upon. Key stakeholders are being consulted and pilot intervention areas being identified. As a result, the project document was drafted.

*Development Partner – Government of Egypt*

### Iraq

**Key Achievements:** More than 200 Iraqis benefited from trainings on urban planning tools, project development and management, good governance, economic development, sustaining cultural heritage and land management, and innovative approaches to urban planning. Training manuals were disseminated to academic and government institutions as well as an e-learning website launched. UN-Habitat contributed USD30,000 to a joint-UN media campaign to eradicate violence against women. Resource materials produced included a draft technical

note dealing with aspects, challenges and operations of City Master Plans; a *Guidance Manual on Inclusive Cities*; and two videos on *Executive Training in Good Governance* and *Smart Growth Training*. The Iraqi Minister and Deputy Minister of Planning as the Director Generals from Iraqi ministries conducted an exchange study tour of Malaysia. In May 2011, 32 Iraq Local Government Association members participated in the International Conference on Decentralization, Local Governance and Service Delivery in Amman.

**BOTTOM :** Egyptian women line up to vote in the first free and fair parliamentary elections in Cairo, Egypt. © Heba Aly/IRIN



A legislative and institutional assessment report related to land reform and property rights was produced and translated. Senior Government Officials conducted a study tour to Germany to learn about management systems and to exchange experience on transition following the unification of Germany and the role of state land administration in a free market economy. UN-Habitat secured the Government of Iraq's commitment to developing a land management and administration policy as well as setting out the principal components of the land reform process and preparing the roadmap for land reform following the *Berlin Statement* methodology. The Council of Ministers ordered the establishment of a Land Policy Commission and UN-Habitat supported the drafting of the ToRs. UN-Habitat also completed studies on legal and institutional arrangements, urban land tenure, state land management and fragmented land ownership. Downstream activities in all three pilot governorates were completed, and 525 unemployed youth (30% women) trained in the construction industry. The training is part of the Integrated Business Packages project launched under the project.

**Improving Access for IDPs and Returnees to Acceptable Shelter Solutions:** 297 shelter units (core houses) were constructed in four governorates. A shelter strategy for IDPs/ returnees was finalized, following a transparent and inclusive process involving a wide range of stakeholders.

**Improving the Housing Delivery System in Erbil:** An institutional assessment identifying key capacity gaps was completed. Master Plans for two settlements and their relocation sites were prepared. The Kurdistan Regional Government (KRG) contributed a total of USD842,800 to neighbourhood upgrading - a result of the positive work achieved in the project with government counterparts.

**Strengthening the Capacity of the Housing Sector in Iraq, Phase III:** Studies and an institutional assessment focusing on housing policy implementation were completed, translated and adopted by the Ministry of Construction and Housing (MoCH). A Housing Committee for KRG Governorate was established to oversee the implementation of the KRG housing strategy, and act as a hub for information and coordination.

**Initiating Durable Shelter Solutions for Iraqi IDPs and Returnees:** A high-level Consensus Building Workshop on "Addressing IDP Camps and Informal Settlements in Baghdad" was held in Amman and a technical committee to support the implementation and coordination was established. A training workshop was held in Baghdad on settlement options to reach durable shelter solutions for IDPs and returnees. Pilot sites were identified for feasibility studies to assist in allocating sites through Land Readjustment, and an initial site plan for one settlement prepared as well as calculations for land readjustment conducted.

**Iraq Public Sector Modernisation Programme, Phase I:** The *Road Map for Water and Sanitation Sector in Iraq* was completed by a Consultancy Bureau "SGI Studio Galli Company".

**Improving Quality and Relevance of Technical and Vocational Education and Training in Iraq:** A ToT training was conducted for six senior trainers of the Foundation of Technical Education (FTE) on operations and maintenance of laboratory and survey equipment as well as on teaching skills. Capacities of 75 trainers/teachers and 174 teachers and engineers from FTE and the Ministry of Education were enhanced in the field of construction trades. A study tour was organized for five FTE senior managers to the USA and three MoE senior managers

to Tunisia, focusing on knowledge exchange on international and regional best practice in vocational and technical education. New civil engineering testing and survey equipment was provided to 10 institutes. Twelve new school design models were developed based on a child-friendly schooling concept. The new schools include separate water and sanitation units for girls and boys to raise enrolment rates. The total numbers of beneficiaries were 1921 (870 girls, 1051 boys). UN-Habitat supported the drafting of a *School Maintenance Manual*.

IRAQ

**297**  
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constructed in four  
governorates

**Water and Sanitation Master Planning and Capacity Building Programme:** The project trained 58 municipal engineers and managers from six Governorates facilitated by the International Solid Waste Association. Chemonics & BC Berlin Companies conducted training on Best Practice in Solid Waste Management in Turkey for 40 operators and respective technicians from six Governorates. In September 2012, 15 engineers from the Planning and Environment Departments were trained in Amman (Jordan) on landfill design and effects on the environment. Garbage containers were provided by UN-Habitat to three selected Governorates: Anbar (130), Thiqr (130) and Sulaimaniya (227).

### **Bridging for Local Area Development**

**Programme - Phase II:** An Urban Planning workshop was conducted, focusing on GIS use and a feasibility studies workshop took place to build the capacities and skills of Planning Core Teams. The project produced a *Handbook on Participatory Inclusive Provincial Annual Planning Process* as a toolkit for urban practitioners. In April 2012, the project organized a workshop on “Urban Plans and Building Control - Process and Prospects in selected Cities of Iraq” attended by senior authorities of respective planning departments.

### **Support to Decentralisation and Local Governance for Service Delivery:**

UN-Habitat organized an international Conference on Decentralization and Local Governance in Amman. A decentralization toolkit was developed and a six-day ToT on Local Government Leadership for Elected Representatives was conducted. A WatSan assessment was piloted in Diwaniyah District and training conducted for the Water Department staff. The Iraq Local Government Association (ILGA) conducted a study tour to Turkey to learn about a different type of decentralized local government system.

*Development Partner – Government of Iraq*

### **Jordan**

**Key Achievements:** In April 2012, a staff member was appointed to explore the potential for programmatic engagement in Jordan and various substantial commitments to project-based cooperation are currently being developed. This includes the development of a national urban policy, support to the revision of the *Strategic Plan for Greater Amman Municipality* as well as disaster-risk reduction in urban areas and support to Palestinian and Syrian refugee camps and their host communities. A housing sector assessment for



Jordan has been completed. The Information Office has organized a knowledge-sharing workshops, seminars and conferences to advance the urban agenda in the region. UN-Habitat flagship reports and periodicals in the Arab world in Arabic language produced.

*Development Partner – Kingdom of Jordan*

### **Kuwait**

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat supports the State of Kuwait in achieving the *National Mid-Range Development Plan*, mainly in the field of human and social development and efficient and effective government administration. In close partnership with the Kuwait Municipality, UN-Habitat supports efforts in improving urban planning and development, affordable housing mechanisms, urban governance and land management. On-going activities in Kuwait include regional capacity building of national authorities responsible for urban governance and urban sector reform, with a focus on sustainable urban growth management.



**TOP:** The construction of the 120 mud brick houses for dozens of homeless Palestinian families in Gaza City.

© Suhair Karam/IRIN

### **Plan of Action for Workers Housing in**

**Kuwait:** The Kuwait Municipality focused on the implementation of housing regeneration schemes for deteriorated areas through public private partnership in order to provide affordable housing for low-income workers (Bnied Al-Qar); and it also developed a “Workers City” in the urban periphery, aiming at the resettlement of workers. In April 2012, a workshop on “Low-income workers housing in Kuwait” advanced the discourse on sustainable solutions, laws and regulations on low-income workers housing. A plan of action was developed and an inter-ministerial coordination mechanism for low-income workers’ housing introduced.



### ***Municipal Management and Urban Development for Sustainability in Arab Cities Conference:***

The conference provided a platform for understanding cities in the region facing both economic and demographic growth as well as undergo economic and population decline. As a result of the conference, an Arab Forum for Dialogue on Sustainable Urban Development established a platform and raised awareness on sustainable urban development among government officials across the Arab Region. The *State of Arab Cities 2012: Challenges of urban transition* was launched at the conference.

### ***UN Country Strategy for Kuwait:***

UN-Habitat proposed technical assistance and knowledge management activities particularly in the field of governance, urban and regional planning, housing policy and disaster risk reduction. The Kuwait Country Cooperation Programme 2012-2016 was formulated in close collaboration with the Government of Kuwait and line ministries.

The Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI), a close partner of UN-Habitat, promoted the World Urban Campaign for Arab Cities through technical and institutional support for establishing an “Urban Observatory” and the dissemination of knowledge.

UN-Habitat invited representatives of the GCC countries and governmental institutions for the launching of the High Level Advisory Committee on Urban Development, which provides advice on the formulation of projects and activities for sustainable urban development in the Gulf States. The Committee functions as an advisory body, promoting linkages among UN-Habitat, GCC and the governments for the joint efforts in tackling sustainable urbanization in the Gulf States.

A joint project *Promoting Urban Monitoring and Observation for Sustainable Urbanization in Arab Towns and Cities* was formulated. UN-Habitat and partners have selected



**TOP** : Occupied Palestinian Territories.  
© UN-Habitat

Kenitra City in Morocco, Madina City in Saudi Arabia and Alexandria in Egypt for support to institutionalization of an Urban Observatory. UN-Habitat and AUDI organized sub-regional workshops, in the Maghreb and the Pan-Arab region as well as one regional workshop targeting the entire Arab States to share knowledge and good practices in the region as well as to promote Urban Observatories in the Arab States.

***State of Arab Cities Report 2012:*** This is the first report on the Arab States in UN-Habitat’s regional state of cities report series covering urban conditions and trends in the four Arab regions: Maghreb, Mashreq, Gulf Cooperative Council (GCC) and the Southern Tier. The report was launched during the Municipal

Management and Urban Development for Sustainability in Arab Cities Conference.

AUDI, with the support of UN-Habitat, organized a Network Event at WUF6 entitled “Arab Mayors Workshop on City Strategies”. It enhanced regional cooperation on sustainable urban development and advanced the dialogue on urban information systems as well as on urban management.

UN-Habitat in Kuwait provided technical support to the Gulf States (Kuwait, Bahrain, Qatar, UAE, Saudi Arabia and Oman) and to Egypt, Jordan, Libya and Occupied Palestinian territories in the field of governance, urban and regional planning, housing policy and disaster risk reduction.

*Development Partner – Government of Kuwait*

## Lebanon

**Key Achievements:** The joint UN-Habitat and UNDP programme *Towards Sustainable Solutions for Improved Living Conditions of Palestinian Refugees in Lebanon* aims at improving the living conditions of the communities living in Palestinian gatherings and adjacent areas of Palestinian refugee camps in Lebanon through enhancing the governance of access to basic urban services.

**Safe and Friendly Cities:** This Joint UNICEF, UN-Habitat and UN Women five-year programme seeks to increase safety, reduce violence and improve quality of life for women, youth and children in public settings. It is implemented in cooperation with Beirut Municipality and two NGOs (Makassed Association and World Vision). During the first phase, a number of activities were undertaken, including: (i) a baseline survey of vulnerability to safety, lack of basic services and violence in selected marginalized communities and informal settlements; (ii) the assessment of

community knowledge gaps around violence and prevention; (iii) the establishment of community and municipal partnerships for the five-year programme and conducting of initial consultations on prevention with women’s, adolescent girls’ and children groups in targeted communities; (iv) the development of a five-year work plan, based on needs assessed, together with women and adolescent girls, municipal leaders and UN Women and UN-Habitat partners; and (v) the implementation of initial interventions in target communities, including lighting, police consultations, simple infrastructure upgrading and/or public awareness campaigns.

## LEBANON

The reconstruction of homes for more than **300 families** and rehabilitation of **25 community facilities** aimed at restoring basic services was achieved

**Addressing Urban Hotspots:** The Joint UNDP and UN-Habitat Programme aims at reducing and mitigating tensions in areas of Lebanon with the potential for conflict to promote coexistence and civil peace. The project comprises two main outputs: (i) inclusive strategies for safer neighbourhoods in the two selected areas, and (ii) locally agreed peace building interventions are implemented with

concerned stakeholders in the three selected areas.

**Reforming Urban Planning Systems in Lebanon:** The project strengthens the urban planning coordination system and enhances the role of the Directorate of Town Planning (DGU) as the main national actor in the overall urban planning reform process, including regional urban development frameworks and approaches. The project strengthens the technical capacities of governmental and non-governmental actors in addressing regional urban development planning in a comprehensive and integrated manner as well as making recommendations to the institutionalizing of regional urban development planning through the design, adoption and promotion of regulatory instruments.

The reconstruction of homes for more than 300 families and rehabilitation of 25 community facilities aimed at restoring basic services was achieved.

Strategic engagement includes establishment of three Local Urban Observatories which house important data and statistics on urban trends and development plus training of 21 municipalities in municipal financial management, archiving and strategic planning, completing urban profiles of 21 municipalities; and formulating three regional strategic plans. A training manual and toolkit for Local Strategic Planning were also developed which enabled national training workshops to more than 100 municipalities.

*Development Partner – Government of Lebanon*

## Libya

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat has provided institutional development and capacity-building support to the Urban Planning Agency (UPA), including technical support to the development of a *National Spatial Policy 2006 -2030*, the preparation of more than 500 urban development plans and institutional development and capacity building of UPA. The processing, protection, updating and accessibility of all UPA data via intra/internet and hardcopies were accomplished. The duration of the project was extended to 2014 to accommodate a wider scope of technical assistance. The 2011 revolution has impeded full implementation of this project. After the installation of a new Government, the project started a review of the *National Spatial Policy* and is preparing a new project component for technical support to and capacity building for settlement planning and urban rehabilitation. UN-Habitat has also contributed to the development of a *National Housing Policy* through advisory missions and preparation of a project document for further support to the housing policy.

**Development Partner** – Government of Libya

## Morocco

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat continues to support the Moroccan slum upgrading policy and development of partnerships. It provided technical support to local authorities in 10 cities, and continued support for improving local governance frameworks for the national slum upgrading programme which facilitated Morocco to achieve the MDG target 7-4 on slums.

UN-Habitat promotes the integration of slum upgrading programmes within the broader urban development agenda. A major achievement was the inclusion of slum components into urban development



plans. UN-Habitat has been developing a communication strategy to promote best practices at the local level towards adequate housing and improvement of living conditions for slum dwellers. The newsletter *Habitat Info* was dedicated to the relocation of slum dwellers in Casablanca and 1,500 copies were circulated during the national consultation process on city development issues.

In close cooperation with UNICEF and UN-Women, UN-Habitat has been implementing the *Safe and Friendly Cities for All* programmes. The Municipality of Marrakech as well as regional and civil society organizations were supported in the development of a conceptual framework and the mobilization of funds to reduce vulnerabilities among women, youth and children. This included awareness raising, training and networking of stakeholders on addressing urban violence and insecurity. A workshop took place to share the components of the project, present the specificities of Marrakech related to security and violence and agree on a local-level diagnostic tool to assess security and violence against women, youth and children.

**TOP:** Buildings in need of repair in Gaza.  
© Natalia Cieslik World Bank

UN-Habitat has supported the Ministry of Housing, Urban Planning and City Policies (MHUPV) to promote national policies on sustainable urban development and foster South-South cooperation. This included the participation of the Moroccan delegation at the World Urban Forum 6 in Naples, as well as the preparations for the African Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (AMCHUD) in Morocco. UN-Habitat supported the preparation of the International Conference on *Making Slums History: a worldwide Challenge for 2020* (November 2012) where the *Rabat Declaration* was adopted, advocating for strategic development goals on slum upgrading.

**Development Partner** – Government of Morocco

## Occupied Palestinian Territories

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat's portfolio has been re-aligned with Governing Council Resolution 23/2 and the Habitat Programme Framework 2012-2014. Agreements have been signed with the Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Public Works and Housing and the Ministry of Planning to jointly address urbanization challenges as requested in the Resolution. The first Palestinian Urban Forum provided both a good analysis of the challenges and a shared way forward. UN-Habitat has also established strong technical partnerships with the World Bank (housing policy), UNDP (urbanization policy, national spatial plan, Area C), GiZ and the Belgian Technical Cooperation (Area C) and with a series of key local NGOs (housing, planning).

### **Establishment of a Housing and Income Generating Programme for Poor Women in Hebron:**

Construction activities for three blocks (eight residential buildings comprising 68 shelter units) and 986 m<sup>2</sup> production units were completed. Internal roads that connect residential buildings were constructed. Additional funding for the completion of Block 4 (32 housing units) were secured and construction activities initiated. 100 underprivileged women-headed households were selected and training programmes for income-generating micro and small enterprises (MSE) and/or cooperatives are being implemented for selected households.

### **Establishment of a Technical and Vocational Training Centre (TVTC) for Underprivileged Women in Hebron:**

A participatory rapid appraisal workshop on training needs and income generation initiatives for marginalized women in Hebron was held. Detailed designs were prepared for the TVTC building integrating the building within nature and emphasizing the discourse of "Green and Function" as well as indoor and

outdoor spaces. The building was completed and a vocational training programme is currently being designed, focusing on SMEs management and entrepreneurship.

### **Technical Cooperation and Trust Fund:**

The First Palestinian Urban Forum took place and resulted in a list of recommendations. A Palestinian delegation, led by the Minister of Local Government, participated in the 6<sup>th</sup> World Urban Forum. The Palestinian Authority approved the *Strategic Action Plan Planning Support for Palestinian Communities in Area C* and the Planning Support Facility for Area C within the Ministry of Local Government was established. An Agreement was signed with the Ministry of Planning to develop a national urbanization policy and support the development of a national spatial plan. The outline for the *State of the Palestinian Cities Report* was finalized.

### **Prince Nayef Bin Abdulaziz Project for Reconstruction in Gaza:**

P011: The project is implemented in four phases. Phase I: An AoC with the implementing partner (Palestinian Housing Council) was signed. A Zaitoun Neighbourhood Planning Workshop was held aiming at engaging community leaders and other stakeholders in the planning process. Following the issue of *Self-help Construction Booklet - How to build your own house*, training workshops for beneficiaries were conducted. Self-help reconstruction activities for 22 selected beneficiaries are on-going. The assessment of community infrastructure resulted in the preparation of ToRs for designing basic community infrastructure. The design contract was awarded and the concept design for the community infrastructure developed. Phase II: The AoC with the implementing partner (Palestinian Housing Council) was signed and data on the beneficiary households collected as well as beneficiaries selected. Selection criteria

included bio-data and family status and the physical conditions of destroyed housing units.

### **Urgent Housing Rehabilitation for the Poor and Marginalized Palestinian Families in East Jerusalem 2012:**

Phase I: A humanitarian shelter assessment was conducted according to a list of candidates of poor and marginalized families obtained from PHC, the Ministry of Finance and the community based organizations as well as national figures. Around 100 skilled and unskilled workers (family members and relatives of selected beneficiaries) were trained on basic housing rehabilitation skills. Fifty six shelters were self-rehabilitated, following the approaches in the Self-help Rehabilitation Booklet. Phase II; The project document has been finalized and submitted to the donor.

OPT

More than **916 dunums** in three communities in East Jerusalem are being planned at the outline level and **1,205 dunums** in three communities are planned

### **Urban Planning Support Programme for Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem:**

Guiding concept notes were developed on capacity building, planning methodology and illegality/informality. In most of the East Jerusalem Palestinian neighbourhoods, a participatory planning

survey is underway; three survey chapters have been completed and four are in the process. More than 916 *dunums* in three communities in East Jerusalem are being planned at the outline level and 1,205 *dunums* in three communities are planned. Demolition orders were frozen for more than 44 buildings in neighbourhoods where planning is taking place. An awareness campaign was organized with several public awareness sessions in eight communities to build Palestinian communities' understanding of their "right to the city" and on Israeli planning policies and regulations. The additional funding for the *East Jerusalem Planning Programme* was secured to be utilized to scale-up the programme and strengthen its impact.

### **Housing Policy Advice to Ministry of Public Works and Housing occupied**

**Palestinian territory:** A multi-stakeholder consultation and working groups were established, while the local Aid Coordination Secretariat Housing Working Group was re-established. The outline for the housing profile was finalized and the housing profile and policy process established and approved.

Planning support to Palestinian communities in Area C has started. A total of 200 homes were built and several community centres provided medical support, technical and vocational training, schooling, and public parks in the West Bank and Gaza, targeting the most vulnerable. UN-Habitat mobilized the international community on behalf of the most vulnerable Palestinian communities. As a result, European Commission committed €5 million for further work in planning, including the rehabilitation of 56 homes in East Jerusalem.

**Development Partner – The Palestinian Authorities**

## **Sudan**

**Key Achievements:** UN-Habitat has been working closely with the Government of Sudan at the federal level in partnership with Ministry of Environment, Forestry and Urban Development as well as at the state level in partnership with state Ministries of Planning and Urban Development. The collaboration focused on enhancing institutional and human capacities to strategically address rapid urbanization; and addressing rural-urban migration and internally displaced populations as a result of armed conflict. UN-Habitat developed pro-poor urban planning, strategies and policies and completed the rapid urban assessments in three informal areas around Khartoum city.

The project has been providing targeted capacity building activities to government stakeholders and technical staff of the five States of Darfur taking advantage of the lessons learned from UN-Habitat accumulated experience, focusing on urban and regional planning and land management. The project assists the Ministries of Health in the three states of Darfur in addressing institutional capacity gaps and increasing the number of operational primary health care facilities using low-cost and environmental-friendly construction techniques. A comprehensive assessment was undertaken in villages that lack health services. Priority villages were identified for installing/rehabilitating primary health care facilities.

The project is being implemented in partnership with the World Health Organization (WHO) benefiting approximately 215,000 people. Activities included post rehabilitation in Darfur, where economic profiles for two settlements were developed; the assessment for customary land dispute mechanisms; and the construction of six community buildings, a clinic, four schools

and 19 public latrines. Two pilots for slum upgrading and sustainable housing development were undertaken in southern Darfur for 237 people. These included 37 low-cost homes for vulnerable displaced people. Other achievements were the construction of 100 houses; a youth development project which addresses the primary health care needs; and on-going regional planning strategy for Darfur.

UN-Habitat has completed the construction of public latrines, a primary school, one clinic and 37 shelters in Sakali settlement on the outskirts of the Nyala City in partnership with the targeted community. Moreover, UN-Habitat has been advocating the use of affordable and environmentally friendly technologies in construction since the Comprehensive Peace Agreement (CPA) was signed in 2005. The success with the pilot demonstration buildings using Stabilized Soil Blocks (SSB) has proven to have a significant potential for replication in humanitarian and early recovery assistance particularly in construction of basic infrastructure and shelters. UNHCR and UN-Habitat have agreed to increase the coverage based on the request from the Humanitarian Aid Coordinator (HAC) for South and West Darfur. The on-going project will provide 100 shelters to most vulnerable families, including single household female, widows, and families with disabled children, and establishments of two new community centres. The project is also providing technical assistance and capacity building including testing sustainable alternatives to address challenges of accelerated urbanization in the region.

The project is providing guidance to the local government and local leaders for strategically supported decision making on investing in reconstruction activities through an integrated participatory regional and urban planning approaches. Rural and urban dwellers of the

Blue Nile State will benefit from the project, especially IDPs and returnees, as well as unemployed youth and women through capacity building within the Ministry of Planning and Urban Development on regional and urban planning and land administration.

*Development Partner – Government of Sudan*

## Arab States: The Way Forward

UN-Habitat's work across the Arab States region has been extensive, its expansion made possible thanks mainly to increased contributions from partners. Whilst much has been achieved over the last few decades, the region itself has also transformed phenomenally which calls for renewed engagement and sustainable partnerships to address the ever-increasing urban progression.

Intervention are required to improve youth employment, better urban management capacity, improved urban development plans involving the private sector, and enhanced devolution of responsibilities to local governments together with the required financial resources.

Steps should also be taken to address shortage on the affordable housing markets plagued by speculatively escalating property prices, expensive property registration procedures, and limited access to housing finance for lower income households. It is crucial also to address urban water and food insecurity - the region's defining social problems of the very near future and harbingers of potential further social unrest. There is also a need for greater intra-Arab cooperation to strategically position Arab nations and their cities in a relentlessly globalizing world.

The challenges are daunting but can be addressed if the political will is mustered; adequate financial support provided and strategic interventions in urban development undertaken; and adequate housing, economic, environment and financial policies implemented. This will require the support of major Arab funding institutions and Islamic banks, backed by effective partnerships with regional organizations such as Arab League, Gulf Cooperation Council and Arab Towns Organization.

UN-Habitat stands firm in its commitment to the region through enhanced engagement and supportive partnerships with regional bodies, national and local governments, and with tools like *The State of the Arab Cities* and *UN-Habitat Regional Strategy for engagement* to guide policies and interventions to manage urban growth. UN-Habitat brings a wealth of knowledge, expertise and experience in sustainable urban development through its presence and engagement in over 70 countries across the globe. As a convening power on sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat will continue to create knowledge platforms to support regional and bilateral dialogues on urban priorities. This will also facilitate the expansion of long-term partnerships to identify financial resources for programmes addressing the urban challenges faced by the Arab States.



**LEFT:** Khartoum, Sudan.  
© Abdallah Kassim/UN-Habitat

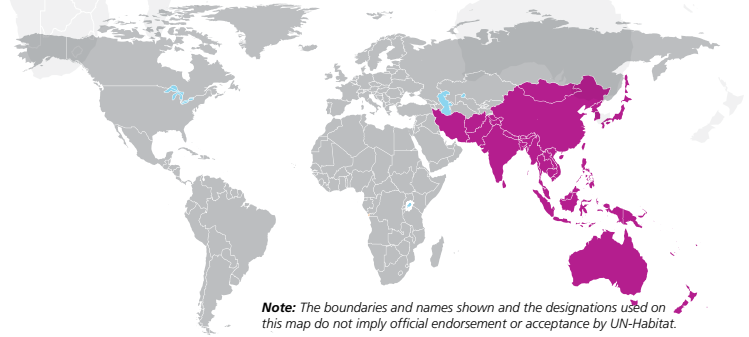


**PHOTO:** A street scenario of a main road in Shanghai, China.  
© Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat



# ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

The region is the second least urbanised region in the world after Africa with ranked with **42.2 per cent** of its population residing in urban areas.



*Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.*

## Demographic and Urban trends

Asia has 30 per cent of the world's land mass and 60 per cent of its population. The region is the second least urbanised region in the world after Africa with ranked with 42.2 per cent of its population residing in urban areas. In 2010, Asian cities were home to 1.76 billion people. While the world became predominantly urban in 2008, Asia is not expected to reach the 50 per cent mark before 2020. Between 2010 and 2020, a total 411 million people will be added to Asian cities, or 60 per cent of the growth in the world's urban population.

The number of mega-cities (>10 million) is increasing worldwide and half (12 out of 21) are now found in the Asia-Pacific region (see

Figure 1). Seven of the ten most populous cities are now found in Asia (Tokyo, Delhi, Mumbai, Shanghai, Kolkata, Dhaka and Karachi)

Many of these mega-cities have grown on the back of concentrations of urban-based manufacturing industries. The services sector too is strongly prone to agglomeration and prefers central city locations. Mega-cities account for only 11 per cent of Asia's urban population, but like their counterparts around the world they act as dominant forces in both the regional and global economies. Many urban agglomerations in Asia are evolving into mega urban regions and urban corridors, which are very large urban areas the size of fully-fledged regions and are often referred to as Extended Metropolitan Regions (EMR). While the concentration of economic

activities in these large regional urban areas stands out as one of the positive outcomes of agglomeration economies, the sheer size of these areas can generate diseconomies of scale. For instance, the mega-cities at the core of mega urban regions are beset with high real estate prices, traffic congestion and poor environmental quality. These negative externalities drive firms and households away from core city locations to the periphery with cheaper land and better environmental quality.

### Investment in Green Infrastructure

The scale of Asia's urban population growth calls for significant increases in infrastructure investment, but it is imperative to ensure that urban development in Asia is 'green' and low-carbon. Short of this, the growth and prosperity of Asian cities could be seriously jeopardised.

**FIGURE 1: MEGACITIES WORLDWIDE**



Source: **WUP 2012**

### Youth Bulge

The Asia-Pacific population is young and the region has benefitted from the 'demographic dividend' - the temporary increase in the proportion of working-age people. 'Approximately one third of East Asia's increase in gross domestic product between 1965 and 1990 can be attributed to the economic activities of the 'youth bulge'. On the other hand, demographic ageing and reduced fertility rates will affect most Asian countries within one or two generations. Faced with unprecedented demographic ageing, Asian cities should prepare to cater to the special needs of the elderly, including housing, medical facilities (and attendant

financing), changes in building regulations, and changes to urban planning standards.

### Urban Poverty and Inequality

There is no doubt that economic growth in Asia and the Pacific has pulled millions out of extreme poverty and the region is leading the global reduction of overall poverty. Between 1990 and 2005, extreme poverty was reduced worldwide from 43 to 26 per cent, largely reflecting a 50 per cent decline (from 49 per cent to 25 per cent of the population) in Asia and the Pacific. However, progress on urban poverty reduction remains slow and as a result, urban inequality is on the rise. The simple truth is that rapid urbanization has gone hand

in hand with the urbanization of poverty since urban economic growth has not benefited all equally, and the poor are left to bear most of the drawbacks and shortcomings in terms of tenure, shelter, jobs, health, education and the environment.

### Urban Informal Economy

Synergies between the formal and informal sectors account for the socioeconomic dynamism of Asian cities. However, the urban informal economy is usually seen as a problem by policymakers even though it generates many million dollars in revenues. Large urban informal sectors have provided employment to the millions who are unable to secure formal

jobs. Informal-sector incomes may not be enough for the urban poor to pull themselves out of economic deprivation, but at least they provide basic subsistence. Informal markets also give the urban poor access to various housing options which suit their incomes although they are far from ideal. The informal sector should be supported rather than harassed, and play a more positive role in employment generation. Public policies should enhance the positive linkages between the formal and informal sectors of the economy, ensuring that work conditions are decent for all, including women.

### Slums and Access to Basic Services

Since the year 2000, the lives of 172 million slum dwellers in Asia have been improved through various policies and programmes. But the region still hosts 505.5 million slum dwellers, over half of the world's slum population. Market-oriented policies have failed to solve the housing problems of the poor. Instead, they have led to a situation where the housing needs of the majority of Asia's urban populations are not catered for either by the market or by government.

As regards access to basic urban services, Asian cities have fared fairly well on drinking-water. In some countries access to urban water supply has declined, though. Targeted initiatives are needed in these countries to ensure that safe water is supplied to all urban residents. On sanitation, the performance of Asian cities is poor. A large segment of urban residents depends on shared facilities or simply have no access to any sanitation. The situation is particularly bad for South Asia's urban poor.

The urban poor play an important role in solid waste management as they routinely sort, recover, re-use and recycle waste. Moreover, informal sector participation in solid waste collection and disposal saves urban authorities significant amounts of money. Therefore,

local authorities and private sector enterprises should support the initiatives and efforts deployed by informal sector and community groups to improve solid waste management at the local level.

### Environmental Challenges

Many Asian governments have accepted that environmental problems are the price of economic growth, but that these can be addressed once the nation reaches a certain level of development, by which time it is believed that more public funds can be allocated to environmental management and improvements. The prognosis for many Asian cities is that environmental conditions are to worsen for some time to come. However, improvements can be expected once better urban environmental planning and management practices are adopted and the economic benefits of growth to become more widespread.

Efforts will also need to be made for better environmental management in Asian cities. More specifically, cities will have to improve air quality management in order to reduce premature deaths caused by air pollution. Similarly, Asian cities will have to make greater efforts to improve water and wastewater management if they are to avoid further contamination of supplies and meet increasing demand.

### Climate Change

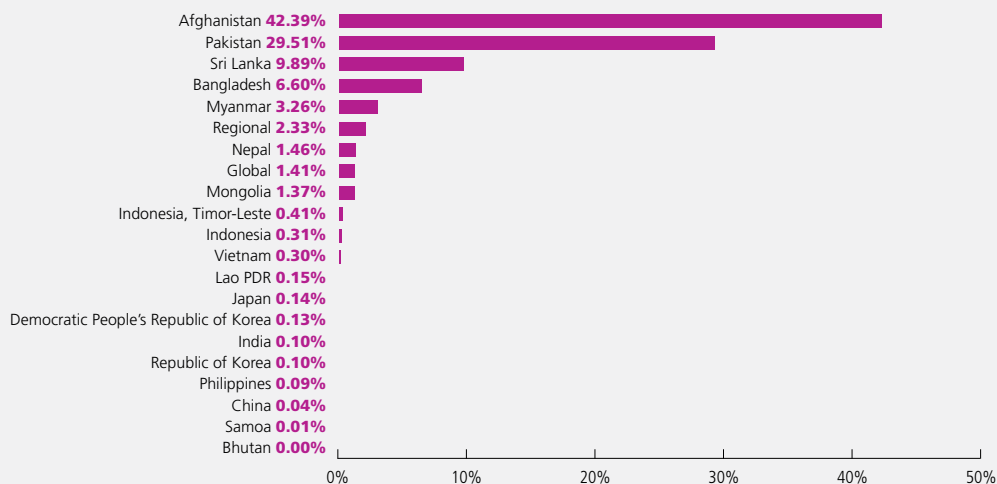
As in other developed and developing regions, Asian-Pacific cities have the potential to influence both the causes and consequences of climate change. They can also contribute to national and international strategies to prevent unacceptable climate change impacts. Therefore, Asian-Pacific cities should provide leadership and direction, and implement practical initiatives for the benefit of their and national populations.

With regard to the effects of climate change and the challenge of adaptation, a particularly difficult issue will be dealing with refugees inside and across borders. This will be a very significant problem in Bangladesh, China, India and the Pacific island-states. At the same time, governments must also address poverty and the issues of food and water security, and create sustainable economic development opportunities. Most Asian-Pacific cities and governments face a difficult balancing act in this regard. The sheer number and sizes of Asian-Pacific cities and the resources needed to service them pose great challenges to governments and urban planners and managers committed to sustainable urban development. Few cities in Asia have the massive resources required to reinvent themselves. They lack the capacity to inject the vast amounts of capital that could radically transform development, production and consumption practices. However, the 'business-as-usual' approach to development and environmental management is no longer an option.

## Asia-Pacific: Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012

UN-Habitat was active in over 20 countries in the Asia and Pacific region with a total portfolio of USD250 million for 2011-2012. This represents over 50 per cent of the organization's global portfolio. Over 40 per cent of the region's portfolio is concentrated in Afghanistan, followed by significant engagement in Pakistan, Bangladesh, Sri Lanka and Myanmar. Figure 2 gives the overview of the geographic distribution of the region's portfolio in 2011-2012.

**FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN ASIA PACIFIC (2011-2012)**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2011-2012*

UN-Habitat's impressive portfolio in Asia-Pacific has been possible by the generous and unwavering contributions from, amongst others, the Government of Japan, United Nations organizations, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), the European Union, Department for International Development (DFID), Canadian CIDA, the Australian Agency for International Development (AusAid), as well as multi-donor trusts and thematic funds.

Although UN-Habitat's coverage of the region is diverse and while its engagement with countries covers a wide range of human settlement issues, projects relating to post-disaster and post-conflict recovery, as well

as housing and slum upgrading have been dominant in the region, comprising over 83 per cent of the 2011 portfolio. 2012 saw reduction of the share of the UN-Habitat's portfolio for the two aforementioned thematic areas to 29 per cent with more resources allocated to water and sanitation programmes in the region. The portfolio for urban basic services witnessed a threefold increase from about 7 per cent in 2011 to 21 per cent in 2012. Similarly, the portfolio for urban land legislation and governance increased from 1 per cent in 2011 to 11 per cent in 2012 with Afghanistan being the major beneficiary of this increase.

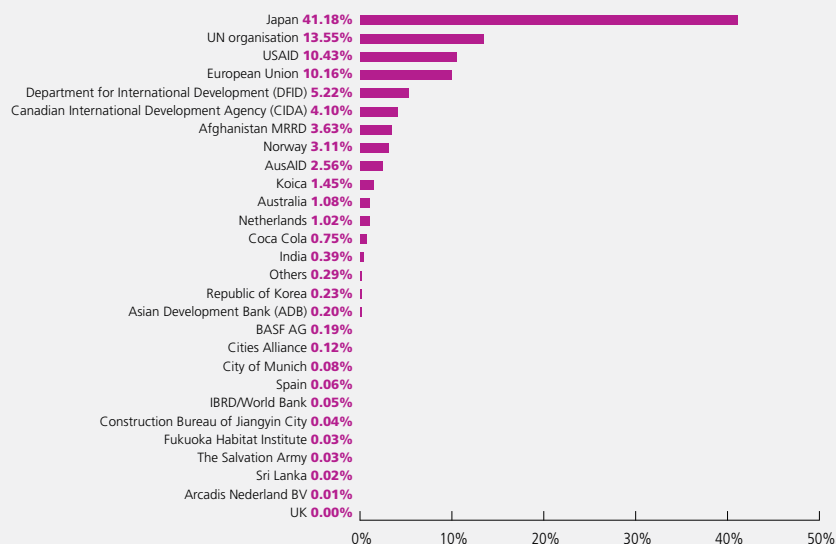
## Asia-Pacific: Country Achievements

Some of the notable achievements of UN-Habitat's portfolio of projects in the Asia-Pacific region are summarized below. Box 2 describes a joint project between UN-Habitat and USAID has improved livelihood in Afghanistan.

### Afghanistan

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been present in Afghanistan since 1992 and has operations in 20 of its 34 provinces. Its approach to development is the "people's process", mobilizing and empowering men and women to form Community Development

**FIGURE 3: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO IN ASIA PACIFIC (2011-2012)**



\*Countries under the 'Global Programme' are counted under the global programmes section

Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

Councils to plan and manage their own development, and to strengthen institutional capacity in urban governance, service delivery and municipal finance. Over the last 10 years UN-Habitat's programmes in Afghanistan have helped more than 15 million people improve their lives in the face of immense obstacles.

To strengthen the capacity of local governments to deliver services and raise revenues through property registration and taxation, UN-Habitat assists in land regularization and securing tenure policies for the informal settlements dwellers in cities through the implementation of the land regularization scheme in Herat, Kandahar and Lashkar Gah. The Municipality of Kandahar

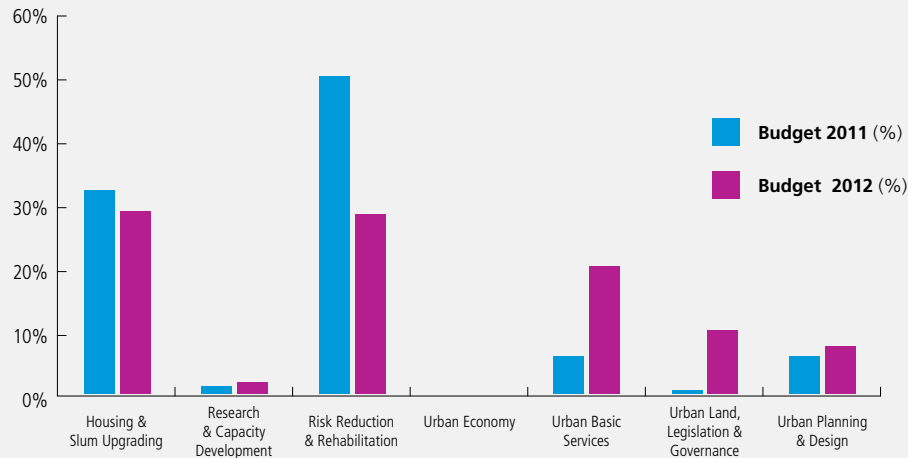
has registered 27,800 plots while the Municipality of Lashkar Gah has registered 13,700 plots. The Municipality of Herat has completed the registration of 10,000 plots.

To strengthen institutional capacity of local governments, UN-Habitat developed Strategic Municipal Action Plans for six of the nation's largest cities. In line with the fourth *National Priority Programme* (Local Governance) of the Government of Afghanistan and its *Transition Strategy for Urban Development*, UN-Habitat has improved the quality of governance by enhancing administrative capacity and accountability in the local governments as well as empowering local communities. UN-Habitat has initiated urban solidarity programmes

aiming at strengthening municipal institutions, urban governance structures and effective service delivery.

UN-Habitat has started implementing the urban solidarity programmes in Kabul, Herat, and Mazar-e-Sharif and Lashkar Gah in close cooperation with the Independent Directorate of Local Governance and Kabul Municipality with the aim of strengthening technical and financial capacity of these municipalities especially for the delivery of urban basic services and infrastructure.

**FIGURE 4: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE PORTFOLIO IN ASIA PACIFIC (2011-2012)**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

With the established Community Development Councils (CDC), clustered CDCs and municipalities, UN-Habitat has contributed to improving the quality of life of urban citizens through community/municipal infrastructure projects. These involve construction of footpaths, improvement of roads levelling and gravelling and drainage (Lashkar Gah); and construction of three municipal district office buildings (Herat, Mazar-e-Sharif and Bamyan). Through the urban solidarity programmes people have benefited from improved infrastructure and services in Kabul, Herat and Mazar-e-Sharif.

UN-Habitat has contributed to reintegrating returnees from Iran and Pakistan and internally displaced persons in support of the process of peace building through consolidation of community solidarity, providing basic services, improving community infrastructure, building housing and developing livelihoods. UN-Habitat has supported upgrading of settlements in Kabul, Jalalabad and Sheikh Mesri Township with a large numbers of returnees, internally displaced persons, rural-urban migrants, other extreme vulnerable households and reintegrating them into the cities through provision of basic community infrastructure and services, and shelter packages.

UN-Habitat has worked alongside the Government of Afghanistan in the design and implementation of its flagship National Solidarity Program through which governance structures are established at the village level to facilitate planning and infrastructure and service projects. As a facilitating partner UN-Habitat supports the formation of nearly 4,000 communities in nine provinces and provides technical support for the preparation of Community Action Plans, the development and implementation of proposals for the constructions of schools, health facilities, roads, drains and micro-hydro power and irrigation systems.

## BOX 2: FINDING COURAGE IN KACHOOR

In a small village in Afghanistan a victim of civil strife starts his own grocery business— and succeeds beyond his dreams.

“Now I can save money, feed my children, and am no longer a burden on society.

My shop has given me a reason to live!” —Samiullah from Kachoor village

Decades of war in Afghanistan have exacted a heavy toll on people from all walks of life, and particularly those from the poorest elements of society. An example of someone who has demonstrated extraordinary resilience in the face of immense obstacles is Samiullah, a father of four living in the remote village of Kachoor in Laghman province. After losing the use of both his legs Samiullah became despondent from having to rely on others for support, and not being able to care for his own family. In addition he was illiterate, and he held out little hope for the future.

Every aspect of his life changed when UN-Habitat implemented the USAID-funded Learning for Community Empowerment Program (LCEP-2) to begin offering literacy and skills training classes for the residents of Kachoor. At first hesitant to sign up on account of his disability Samiullah soon became

an enthusiastic learner, rarely missing a lesson. He quickly learned how to work with numbers, and acquired basic accounting skills. He discovered that he had a passion for small business, and joined the Self Help Group established through the program that provided start-up loans to its members.

Samiullah knew from his own experience that the people of Kachoor badly needed a new grocery store. The existing store offered a limited variety of items for the village residents. He applied to the Self Help Group and received a loan of 5,000 Afis (approximately USD110) to set up one on his own.

In less than three months Samiullah's small shop expanded to four times its original size. He invested most of his profits in a wide range of goods from wholesalers in the city that he knew would quickly sell in Kachoor. He used his newly acquired literacy skills to label items for sale, and to keep records of his enterprise.

“I feel extremely happy when I calculate my benefits at the end of the day”, Samiullah reported. “Now I can save money, feed my children and am no longer a burden on society. My shop has given me a reason to live!”

*UN-Habitat Afghanistan: [www.afg-unhabitat.org](http://www.afg-unhabitat.org)*

### Literacy and Skills Development

**Programme:** UN-Habitat has supported development of literacy and skills training across Afghanistan by supporting the Ministry of Education's literacy programme linked to livelihoods and community banking. *Education for All* is supported by UN-Habitat through an ambitious literacy, skills training and micro-credit programme in partnership with the Ministry of Education reaching over 250,000 learners across 20 provinces, of whom more than 60 per cent are women.

**Development Partner** – Japan, USAID, CIDA, DFID, EU, MRRD (Afghanistan) /World Bank, JICA and UNICEF.

### Bangladesh

**Key achievements:** In 2000, UN-Habitat and UNDP collaborated to design and implement in 11 towns and cities the *Local Partnership for Urban Poverty Alleviation* project to alleviate poverty in urban communities through people's process and supported through improving community level basic services and infrastructure and skills training. By the end of 2011, the *Urban Partnership for Poverty Reduction (UPPR)* project covered over 2.8 million people in 685,000 households in 23 cities. They were mobilized into 24,678 primary groups in 2,221 Community Development Committees (CDCs) where 98 per cent are female members. Among the

households, 81 per cent are extremely poor. These numbers make the UPPR project the largest organized urban community-based programme. During the past four years, UN-Habitat has processed 2,500 community contracts with a budget of USD16.4 million to provide better physical access and environmental conditions for 230,000 households. A total of 167,000 households have improved drinking water; 142,249 households are benefiting from 284 km of footpaths and 122 km of drainage; 94,000 households benefited from improved latrines; and 42,000 households have improved cooking stoves.

**Development Partners** – Government of Bangladesh, UK (DFID), UNDP

## AFGHANISTAN

As a facilitating partner UN-Habitat supports the formation of nearly

# 4,000

communities in **nine provinces** and provides **technical support** for the preparation of **Community Action Plans**

## Bhutan

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been working in Bhutan for more than 25 years in the areas of urban planning and management, urban and rural housing, water and sanitation, training and institutional development. In the 1990s, UN-Habitat provided technical advice in urban management and human settlements sector planning; focusing in Thimpu and Phuntholing, and contributed to the development of the land registration system, enhanced municipal finances through capacity building, improved local area planning and stimulated lending schemes.

Under the *Water for Asian Cities (WAC)*, rainwater harvesting and sanitary hygiene were improved in the province of Mongar.

Since 2011, policy and technical advice has been provided to the Royal Government of Bhutan in the formulation of the *National*

*Human Settlements Policy*, which will be finalized in early 2013.

**Development Partners:** *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP)*

## Cambodia

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been supporting urban poor communities through activities ranging from *in-situ* upgrading, planned relocations, policy and capacity development, strengthening of local governance, and institution building for urban poor community organizations. UN-Habitat also provided technical assistance in the formulation of a draft Housing Policy for the rapidly urbanising nation.

More than 160 new community organizations have been formed and more than 350 community based infrastructure and urban

basic services improved, benefiting more than 31,000 families. These efforts resulted in a resolution on temporary settlements on state land, which was previously illegal as well as key inputs to the National Housing Policy.

The *Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN)* has been supporting seven provincial towns in Cambodia, providing improved sanitation facilities to over 100,000 people beneficiaries and safe piped water to over 145,000 people.

## Climate Change and Cities Initiatives

**(CCCI):** A City Vulnerability Assessment was completed leading to a technical assistance project under the Cities and Climate Change Initiative in Sihanoukville with support from the Cambodia Climate Change Alliance Trust Fund, under the Ministry of Environment.

**Development Partners:** *Government of Cambodia, Change Alliance, Trust*

## China

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been working with the Government of China since the 1980s. In 2012, a new MOU between UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development was signed to extend the in-country and international technical cooperation activities.

The *State of China Cities Report 2012/2013* was published in 2012 in partnership with the China Science Centre of International Eurasian Academy of Sciences and the China Association of Mayors.



**LEFT :** Wells built in Aqee Boy and Ortabiz- e-Farghana vilages. © Imal Hashemi /World Bank

UN-Habitat supports many international and national conferences organized by the Chinese Government to promote sustainable urban development, housing for low income residents and related issues.

UN-Habitat works together with Chinese institutions and universities to conduct training and capacity building in human settlements both for domestic and international participants. A city to city cooperation initiative is on-going with cities from the Lake Victoria region in East Africa. In recent years, UN-Habitat successfully extended into China the *Water for Asia Cities* programme and the *Mekong Water and Sanitation Initiative*.

UN-Habitat collaborates with cities and local authorities within China on low carbon development, green and sustainable urbanization, and urban wetland development.

In 2012, the city of Nanning invited UN-Habitat as a co-organizer of the 2012 China-Asean Forum on Ecological and Liveable Cities.

*Development Partner – Government of China*

## India

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat and the Government of India jointly organized the First Asia-Pacific Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (APMCHUD). The Government of India has supported the activities of the Bureau of APMCHUD since APMCHUD I.

UN-Habitat in partnership with the National Housing Bank (NHB), a top financial institution in India, has established a revolving fund to microfinance water and sanitation services for the poor in India.

A 'training of trainers' programme was initiated in collaboration with HUDCO (Human Settlements Management Institute for Elected Leaders from the Asia Pacific region) which belongs to national local government training institutes. This training programme has over the last 10 years benefited 500,000 users. The Information Office will be relocated to Delhi in the current biennium (2012-2013). The establishment of a Local Urban Observatory in Ahmedabad and Kolkata cities respectively is underway.

*Development Partners – Government of India, National Housing Bank, Coca-Cola India, BASF Germany, Water Aid Australia, Asian Development Bank, National Housing Bank of India, Sulabh International*

## Indonesia

**Key achievements:** During the past ten years, UN-Habitat's development partnerships with government agencies have focused on city development strategies and capacity building for municipal authorities, with regard to land management, planning, environmental management and budgeting.

In 2013-2014, UN-Habitat continues to collaborate with the Ministry of Public Works to improve participatory budgeting protocols for cities, with support of Cities Alliance and the Mayors of the cities of Solo, Pekalongan and Banjarmasin. With funding from the EU, UN-Habitat is supporting two districts in West Timor, Kupang and Belu overcoming tenure and other legacy issues related to the refugee influx when Timor Leste became independent. UN-Habitat also collaborates with the *City Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA)* to develop the capacity of national partners in support of sound decision making for municipal infrastructure projects.

Political decentralization and local democratization since 1999 has promoted security of tenure and participatory planning and budgeting. UN-Habitat and the Cities Alliance supported citywide midterm strategy and pro-poor planning and development. In 2011-2012, the third round of the support went to the cities of Pekalongan, Banjarmasin and Solo. In collaboration with the Ministry of Public Works, a new approach to medium-term infrastructure budgeting and development planning was tested.

UN-Habitat's assistance to the recovery and reconstruction in Aceh and Nias after the 2004 Indian Ocean tsunami was concluded in 2012. This USD40 million UN-Habitat programme was implemented over eight years. The last component was the *Training for Improved Solid Waste Management* project, in collaboration with UNDP and overseen by BAPPENAS and the Ministry of Public Works. UN-Habitat trained many cities and districts in Aceh and Nias and published an 18 volume training manual as well as customized operational guidelines for six districts.

With EU funding, UN-Habitat is helping two districts in West Timor, Kupang and Belu to overcome tenure and other legacy issues related to the refugee influx when Timor Leste became independent.

*Development Partners – Government of Indonesia, Cities Alliance, UNDP, Asian Development Bank (ADB), European Union (Aid for Uprooted People programme)*

## Japan

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been enjoying strong support of Japan since its establishment, and this partnership was further strengthened when a Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) was established in Fukuoka in August 1997. The office has since been overseeing and backstopping effectively field projects and programmes in the region and has been mobilizing significant amounts of resources, including from Japan. The national and local partners in Japan have been providing financial assistance to UN-Habitat for the operation of the ROAP Office.

UN-Habitat ROAP has developed positive relationships with in-country partners, including local academia, business community and social associations. In recent years UN-Habitat has supported national and local government offices in strengthening their international partnerships with the other countries of the region through several projects such as *Enhancement of Technical Cooperation towards Environmentally Sustainable Development in Asia and the Pacific* and *Enhancement of Sustainable Regional Development through Technical Cooperation from Japan*. With support from the Japanese government, UN-Habitat has also developed emergency response arrangements to facilitate efficient and effective rehabilitation and reconstruction from natural disasters through the "Rehabilitation and Reconstruction Response Facility". In March 2012, ROAP implemented the *Emergency Workshop for the Great East Japan Earthquake* project in support of early reconstruction of the disaster-stricken prefectures.

**Development Partners:** Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Ministry of Land, Infrastructure, Transport and Tourism, Fukuoka Prefecture, Fukuoka City, Cooperating Committee of UN-Habitat ROAP

## Lao Peoples Democratic Republic

**Key achievements:** A UN-Habitat office was opened in Lao PDR in 2005, now operating as a sub-regional hub for the water and sanitation programme for South-East Asia. UN-Habitat has been engaged in provision of community-based water supply and sanitation services in settlements across Lao PDR through its two programmes *Water for Asian Cities (WAC)* programme and *Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN)*. The aim of the interventions is to help the Government achieve the MDGs. UN-Habitat is also actively involved in issues related to disaster response, climate change, renewable energy and decentralisation of basic services.

Under the *MEK-WATSAN* and *WAC* programme, 27 projects were implemented in 14 provinces, with a total volume of USD 9 million, and UN-Habitat is thus contributing significantly to the improvement of water and sanitation facilities in the country.

**Development Partners:** *Water Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF)* UN-Habitat, *Central Emergency Relief Fund (CERF)*, *UNDP*, *ECHO* and *Government of Netherlands*.

## Mongolia

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been active in Mongolia since 2006, focusing on upgrading living conditions of the *Ger* areas (unplanned informal areas of the city).

UN-Habitat assisted the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar (MUB) in the preparation of the citywide pro-poor *Ger area Upgrading Strategy and Investment Plan (GUSIP)* with support from the Cities Alliance. Through developing GUSIP, it was recognized officially that the issue of the *Ger*-area should be mainstreamed in the municipality's priority policy agenda.

## MYANMAR

Over **2.1 million** people were supported though developing **community social infrastructure networks** and facilitating access to **safe water**

UN-Habitat started the *Community Led Ger Area Upgrading* project in Ulaanbaatar City assisting the Government in addressing the under-urbanization problem in selected five priority areas with over 50,000 target population. The community mobilization approach was applied; and 47 community groups and additional 5 upper-level community groups were organized.

UN-Habitat assisted community groups in prioritizing and determining their needs in improving the quality of life in *Ger* area. Fifteen medium-sized public service centres (called sub-projects, such as kindergarten, public bath house, etc.) and 123 small community infrastructures (called micro-projects, such as water kiosks, street lights, footpaths, playgrounds, bus-stops, etc.) were designed are being implemented. 64 saving groups were organized, out of which 18 started to lend out to the members.

**RIGHT :** A quake survivor waits for aid amid the ruins of her house in Ketaping Village, Padang Pariaman district, West Sumatra © **Jefri Aries/IRIN**

UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Road, Transportation, Construction, and Urban Development in the establishment and launching of the Mongolian National Urban Forum and in the review of policies such as land acquisition and resettlement.

**Development Partners:** *Government of Mongolia, Cities Alliance, Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA)*

## Myanmar

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat established a presence in Myanmar in the early 1990's through 2004 where the agency pioneered the 'people's process' by establishing the first community-led projects as part of the *Human Development Initiative*. Over 2.1 million people were supported through developing community social infrastructure networks and facilitating access to safe water.

Today, UN-Habitat continues to implement several normative and operational activities focusing on basic access of services to settlements and land management and administration, while addressing crosscutting issues of gender, risk reduction, environment and climate change. As part of its normative activities, the agency is providing technical assistance on issues related to Habitat Agenda to its partners in Myanmar.

UN-Habitat scaled-up in 2012 its normative programmatic support and technical assistance in Myanmar to several line ministries and stakeholders in the areas of urban planning, urban-rural linkages for poverty reduction, national building codes development, research, training and capacity building, urban land governance, and urban development.

Since 2008, UN-Habitat Myanmar has supported over 25,000 families with shelter and over 500,000 people with water, sanitation, hygiene education and access infrastructure as part of the *Post Nargis Recovery Programme*.

**Development Partners:** *Government of Myanmar, BASF Social Fund, Japan Habitat Association, Rotary International 3450, Hong Kong, Macao & Mongolia, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF), USAID, Japan (ODA), Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, European Commission, DFID (Department for International Development), Australian Agency for International Development (AUSAID), International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (ISDR), Swiss Aid, New Zealand Aid Programme (NZ Aid), Livelihoods and Food Security Trust Fund (LIFT).*

## Nepal

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been working with the Government of Nepal since 1990s, and established the country office in Kathmandu in 2006. UN-Habitat supported completion of the *Nepal Urban Housing Sector Profile Study* in 2011, which helped to diagnose the urban housing situation of the country and highlighted areas for government interventions.

UN-Habitat started a project in support of green growth, focusing on environmentally-sustainable housing technologies and urban planning strategies in the Kathmandu Valley, and a project to assist the government in land and conflict issue through a joint initiative with UNDP and IOM. UN-Habitat is further seeking partnerships on sustainable urbanization by supporting cleaner transportation in the Kathmandu Valley.





The *Water for Asian Cities* programme supported the government in improving pro-poor urban water and sanitation services. UN-Habitat provided its support in improvement of technologies, management, governance and capacity building for the urban WASH sector in 35 municipalities, 18 small towns and 8 proto-urban settlements.

Through the *Global Sanitation Fund* project UN-Habitat helps the government in five selected municipalities and five districts in promoting 'open defecation free zones'. Implemented various emergency projects which include; providing support in building 235 shelters for Koshi flood victims, the recovery need of fire victims in Aurahi, Siraha, and implementing health projects funded by the Central Emergency Response Fund. Climate change adaptation plans were developed for the five municipalities of Kathmandu Valley.

**Development Partners:** *Ministry of Urban Development, Ministry of Physical Planning and*

*Works, Ministry of Federal Affairs and Local Development, Kathmandu Valley Development Authority, Ministry of Environment. Municipal Association of Nepal, Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries, various municipal governments, Village Development Committees, and Non-governmental Organizations (NGOs) and International Non-governmental Organizations (INGOs); United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), Central Emergency Response Fund, (CERF), Global Sanitation Fund, International Organization for Migration (IOM), the European Commission.*

### The Pacific region

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat is working with the Governments of Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu and Vanuatu.

Guided by the *Pacific Urban Agenda 2* UN-Habitat has completed rapid urban assessments in nine cities in three Pacific countries); supported the reporting on MDG Goal 7, Target D in participating in countries

**TOP:** A submerged street near Nowshera, Khyber-Pakhtunkhwa province. Rising water in dams could create more havoc © **Abdul Majeed Goraya/IRIN**

*National Progress Reports* on the MDGs and the adoption of rapid profiling assessment tool by the Pacific Capital Cities Forum; and provided technical advice and support for post-tsunami housing rehabilitation (Samoa 2009) and the formulation for Fiji National Housing Policy (2011). The policy process has been documented as part of the Pacific toolkit focusing on paradigm shift for the creation of an enabling environment and attention to squatter housing.

UN-Habitat initiated *City Development and Settlement Upgrading Strategies* in Samoa and Papua New Guinea as well as urban and housing policy dialogues for Solomon Islands and Vanuatu; included the urban sector in national climate change policy and the

promotion of the role of the city in climate change decision making and actions through the Cities and Climate Change Initiative for Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Samoa and Vanuatu; and replicated the rapid urban vulnerability assessment undertaken in Fiji to the Solomon Islands.

**Development Partners:** *Cities Alliance, European Commission - Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (EC-ACP), Government of Norway*

## Pakistan

**Key achievements:** The Kashmir earthquake of 2005 brought along the first sizeable deployment of UN-Habitat in Pakistan, with a focus on shelter, housing, DRR and land management, in support of ERRA. Emergency shelter and WASH assistance were provided subsequently to disaster and conflict victims in Baluchistan and the present Khyber Pakhtunkhwa provinces.



During 2010-2012, UN-Habitat's engagement further expanded in the fields of housing, community infrastructure, basic services, urban development, disaster risk management and geographic information management. Post-disaster assistance was the focus of the programme, in the wake of the floods of 2010, 2011 and 2012 during which a cumulative 3,600,000 houses were damaged or destroyed. In addition, UN-Habitat became a full partner of the first *One UN* programme for Pakistan (2007-2012).

In 2011-2012, UN-Habitat's post-flood programme consisted of 13 emergency and early recovery projects with a combined valued of over USD51 million. The largest donor was the Government of Japan, which supported the *Pakistan Settlements Flood Recovery* programme, an integrated community-based programme providing integrated early recovery assistance in five provinces, targeting vulnerable and very vulnerable households. The project resulted in 32,466 one-room shelters, close to 22,000 latrines, and a package of community infrastructure, prioritized by people. Over 200,000 were involved in hygiene training. DfID provided more assistance for another 2,700 households. The implementation approach used by UN-Habitat in Pakistan is primarily community led development, in which affected populations take charge of their recovery, rehabilitation and development.

In response to the subsequent 2011 and 2012 floods, primarily in south Punjab, Sindh and Baluchistan, UN-Habitat was engaged in another seven emergency shelter and WASH projects with a combined value of more

than USD 4 million, supported by UN CERF and the Government of Japan. As part of the flood response programme, land tenure protection was enhanced by introducing a land digitisation programme in flood affected district in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa. A new Guide on Land and Property Rights in Pakistan and a related Training Manual was published and used, among others, to train more than 1,000 female notaries and lawyers involved in land administration.

UN-Habitat also continued to provide assistance to IDPs and host communities in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa and FATA, through seven projects with a combined value of USD 6 million. The largest project was supported by KOCIA.

UN-Habitat was a critical member of the shelter cluster, in collaboration with IOM, and the WASH cluster. UN-Habitat participated also in the protection cluster, on land issues, the community restoration cluster (focused on community infrastructure) and the early recovery work group. Through funding of UNHCR and UNDP, support was started to Afghan refugees residing in urban areas and hosted by communities, under the multilaterally-supported Refugee Affected and Hosting Areas programme.

As part of the *One UN* programme 2007-2012, UN-Habitat focused on GIS development, water and sanitation and gender mainstreaming, disaster risk mitigation and sustainable urbanisation. UNFPA, UNICEF, UNDP, UNESCO and WHO participated in the various initiatives and with additional bilateral funding. UN-Habitat also supported IT and online knowledge management for the *One UN* programme and the IASC clusters.

**LEFT:** A girl drinks from a public tap in Nawalparasi, Nepal. © Marcus Benigno/IRIN

UN-Habitat has a unique collaboration with UNFPA and the Pakistan Bureau of Statistics, to develop GIS automation and do capacity building in support of the national census. Provincial GIS offices have been set up and staff trained by UN-Habitat.

Water and Sanitation engagements focused on environment clubs in schools and communities. In addition, UN-Habitat supported the *Pakistan Water Operators Partnerships*, as part of UN-Habitat's global partnership. With support of Coca Cola Inc. and in partnership with WWF, sanitation improvements in coastal communities are endeavoured, as well as groundwater recharge initiatives through schools and communities. A new initiative on urban solid waste management was started with UN-ESCAP and the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The purpose is to *pilot Integrated Resource Recovery Centres* in cities.

The DRM component under the One UN programme has been focused on developing a new *Resilient Cities* programme, in collaboration with UN-ISDR. Thirty-one cities were screened on DRR issues, both technical and institutional. The new programme was presented at the end of 2012 to development partners, with support of the government's National Disaster Management Agency. In addition, UN-Habitat Pakistan started collaboration with UNESCO on technical guidelines for safer schools and hospitals, which UN-Habitat and ISDR have been developed for South Asia.

Finally, in collaboration with the Habitat Agenda focal agency, the Ministry of Climate Change, sustainable urbanisation was supported in eight cities, through the development of urban observatories, planning initiatives with cities, the support to Pakistan's Urban Forum.



**Development Partners:** Government of Pakistan, Government of Japan, DFID, the Korean International Cooperation Agency (KOICA), CIDA, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC), the World Bank, the Central Emergency Response Fund (UN CERF), the Pakistan One UN Fund, UNICEF, UNDP, UNHCR, UNFPA, WHO, UNESCO, UN ESCAP, IUCN, BASF, Coca Cola, WWF

## Philippines

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been supporting the Government of the Philippines since 1998 and has worked with 40 cities on various developments and humanitarian projects.

Through the *Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI)* project in Sorsogon City, the nationally-mandated local planning guidelines and the local shelter planning manuals have been "climate-proofed". These experiences have been replicated in other cities like Tuguegarao, Santiago, Cauayan and Olongapo and are being further applied, initially, in the cities of Iloilo, Cagayan de Oro, Butuan and Davao.

**TOP:** Shanghai, China.  
© Julius Mwelu /UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat, together with the government, has provided shelter cluster coordination and showcased innovative shelter repair approaches with flood resilience in the wake of major typhoons (2009, 2011).

The MDGs were localized in 30 cities as demonstration sites and knowledge hubs. The localization strategy translated the MDGs from the national targets to city plans and ultimately to 'Family MDGs' managed by the families themselves who have been empowered as development partners. In the last phase of the programme implemented through *Family-based Actions for Children and their Environs in the Slums (FACES)* project, the quality of the lives of 607 children were improved through better access to food security, education, secure tenure, potable water, better sanitation, protection and security. Fifteen cities developed 56 "quick

response mechanisms” and 31 child-focused demonstration projects supported household and community-based actions. The national government, through the Local Government Academy, still continues to replicate the FACES approach in 32 additional cities.

Nine local government units and urban poor communities worked together to develop shelter upgrading plans for capital investment financing through the *IMPACT* project implemented in the cities of Puerto Princesa, Iligan, Science City of Muñoz, Sorsogon, Iloilo, Escalante, Butuan, Valenzuela and Municipality of San Vicente and Palawan.

The framework for the Philippine Urban Observatory was endorsed by the Philippine Urban Consortium, which involves a data management system of collection, consolidation, analysis, use, and dissemination of urban statistics at the city level to help planners and decision-makers make better-informed decisions and policies.

As one of the five pilot countries of the *Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) Priorities Global Programme* of UN-Habitat, Philippines will work in eight cities on the areas of urban planning, economy, energy, mobility, governance and legislation, shelter and climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. It is also one of the eight pilot countries of the UNICEF-UN Women- UN-Habitat Joint Programme on *Safe and Friendly Cities for All* being implemented in the cities of Pasay, Quezon and Mandaluyong to address issues on safety and security of women and children in urban areas.

**Development partners:** *United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) through the Democratic Governance Thematic Trust Fund, Asian Development Bank (ADB), Cities Alliance, Government of Japan Partnership Fund,*

*AECID through the MDG Achievement Fund, Government of Spain, Government of Norway, WFP, UNICEF, UN Women, Sagittarius Mines Inc (SMI), BASF, Swedish Sida.*



**TOP:** Improved drainage at Ibbagwatte, Colombo, Sri Lanka. © Suzi Mutter

## Sri Lanka

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been operational in Sri Lanka since 1978. It provided assistance in the preparation and implementation of the *Master Plan for Colombo* (1978-1983) as well as for the *Government of Sri Lanka's Million Houses Programme* (1984-1989). UN-Habitat developed community action planning, community contracting and other community based methodologies. Support was provided for the preparation of the *National Climate*

*Change Policy* (2011) that entailed the preparation of *Climate Resilient Action Plans* for selected coastal cities in Sri Lanka (2010-2012) and to local authorities in four disasters-prone cities to prepare disaster risk reduction (DRR) plans.

Support was provided to the Government's *Million-and-a-Half Houses Programme* and communities were rebuilt in North East Sri Lanka. A total of 10,600 tsunami-damaged houses were reconstructed and essential community infrastructure provided. Through a post-conflict housing programme, post-conflict communities were rebuilt in the Northern Province - 4,200 houses have been reconstructed and another 20,800 house reconstructions are in progress.

Slum/Low-income settlement were upgraded and a National Guarantee Fund for credit enhancement was established. Supported was provided to about 2,000 families. A *National Urban Policy Note* was prepared in collaboration with the World Bank (2011-2012).

**Development Partners:** *Government of Sri-Lanka, Centre for Liveable Cities*

## Viet Nam

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been working with the Government of Viet Nam since the 1990s, and established its country office in 2007. As Viet Nam is moving towards a middle-income country status, UN-Habitat assistance has shifted to partnership in policy and technical advice, strategic planning for sustainable urban development, institutional capacity support, and information and data systems development in the urban sector. The following are the achievements:

UN-Habitat supported the formulation of sustainable urban development policies and planning law and strengthened the role of the Vietnam Urban Forum (VUF) in national and local policy dialogues. It advised and supported the formulation of a national *Housing Development Strategy* through low-income housing analyses, studies and strengthened the capacity of policy makers, researchers and planners at national and local levels through a broad training programme.

The *Vietnam Housing Profile* was produced: a systematic analysis of five aspects (housing institutional and policy framework; land supply, infrastructure, housing finance and construction industry and materials) of housing delivery system at national and city level, including recommendations on improvement of housing sector. A *Social and Economic Development Strategy* in Quang Nam Province was formulated through analyses, policy dialogues and leadership trainings. Strategic planning for Hoi An Eco city development was supported. The eco city development framework has been examined and reformulated.

### **Climate change Vulnerability and Adaptability assessment (VAA) for Hoi An eco-city:**

The VAA team has been working in close coordination with local government and community to verify findings from climate change scenarios developed for Hoi An city - identifying potential impacts of climate change to vulnerable groups; identifying hotspots and adaptability at both city and community level; and coming up with long term recommendations and participatory adaptability measures to integrate into urban management plans.

Local Urban Observatories and city-level performance index were developed in 77 typical cities (Vietnam Cities' profile) to

facilitate the better evidence-based reviews and local decision-making processes.

Current projects include strengthening green growth agenda in Vietnamese cities and provinces through sustainable city development strategies and related leadership training and participatory planning approaches.

UN-Habitat initiated *WAC* and *MEK-WATSAN* for secondary towns to support the participating Governments attain their water and sanitation related MDG. Achievements in environmental improvement include: 1) the solid waste management initiatives in different towns - provision of community-based solid waste collection system to 45,000 beneficiaries in three towns: Song Cau (Phu Yen), Thap Cham (Ninh Thuan) and Lao Bao (Quang Tri); 2) Promoting green growth through collaborative initiatives with Hanoi Civil Engineering University: by establishing a Rainwater Harvesting Demonstration Model in the university campus; implementing

a demonstration of bio-gas project in the university; and developing a *Module on HVWSHE* for inclusion in the curriculum; and the *Human Values Based Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE)*.

**Development Partners:** Multi-Donor Trust Fund, Cities Alliance, Global Green Growth Institute.

## Asia and the Pacific regional programmes and regional coordination

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has been implementing regional programmes targeting cities, with a view to consolidating city level learning and sharing experiences amongst similar programmes, for example, Urban Management Programme - Asia and the Pacific and Cities and Climate Change Initiative: Climate Change and Cities Initiatives in Asia-Pacific:





**LEFT :** A girl proudly shows off a new drain in her neighbourhood in Kabul's District. © UN-Habitat

Country level advocacy activities are being supported by UN-Habitat to highlight the importance of the urban sector in national climate change response policies and guidelines, supported by initiatives of local government training institutions and universities in the region to mainstream climate change response capacity-building into their support programmes and curricula. The programme now intends to consolidate the lessons through the regional resource centre. The regional component is implemented in partnership with ESCAP;

**Tools for the Assessment of School and Hospital Safety for Multi-Hazards in South Asia:**

User-friendly tools were jointly prepared with ISDR and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Disaster Management Centre, Delhi (DMC), that help countries implement the complex process of retrofitting of existing facilities as well as ensuring safe construction of new infrastructure, in a simple and practical manner.

Despite various development partners' efforts to strengthen urban planning and management over recent decades through preparation of *City Development and Slum Upgrading Strategies*, the estimated Asian urban infrastructure investment needs of over USD 100 billion per annum over the next 20 years are clearly not being met. Whilst UN-Habitat has been strengthening the capacity of urban poor communities to improve their shelter and community level services through savings and credit schemes, as well as strengthening local government capacities to work with communities and the private sector,

there is a huge infrastructure investment financing gap.

UN-Habitat is supporting the *City Development Initiative for Asia (CDIA)* to develop training manuals and build the capacity of national partner organizations, so that they may "bridge the investment divide" by strengthening the *Capital Infrastructure Investment Project Prioritization (CIIPP)* and feasibility study process through the preparation of pre-feasibility studies (pfs), to be prepared through national partner organization (npo/city) partnerships and linked to domestic and international public/private sector financing opportunities. UN-Habitat has supported CDIA preparation of a CIIPP and PFS user guide, and their customisation to national/city contexts through NPO partnerships in China, Indonesia, Philippines and Sri Lanka.

**Regional Coordination and Inter-agency Collaboration:**

Through the UN-Habitat Bangkok Office, the organisation enhanced the coordination with other UN Agencies and promoted system wide coherence and One UN in the region, by engaging in the Regional Coordination Mechanism (RCM), chaired by ESCAP, United Nations Development Group (UNDG) AP, chaired by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), as well as other inter-agency forums. UN-Habitat Bangkok Office is the Leading agency for UNDG-AP Task Team on Urbanization in preparing a position paper on urbanization, supporting the country level activities and United Nations Development Assistance Framework (UNDAFs), through the UN Country Team.

To address the impacts of climate change on cities in developing countries, in August 2008, UN-Habitat launched its Cities and Climate Change Initiative. The CCCI-Asia/Pacific was launched early 2010 to disseminate, replicate and scale-up country and city experiences amongst UN-Habitat's regional network of partners in China, Fiji, Indonesia, Mongolia, Nepal, Papua New Guinea, Philippines, Samoa, Sri Lanka, Vanuatu and Vietnam, with 20 cities carrying out participatory assessments of their vulnerabilities to climate change.

**LEFT :** Newly constructed girl schools in Herat, Afghanistan. © UN-Habitat

**Development Partners:** Asian Development Bank, Asia Coalition for Housing Rights, National and International Local Government Training Institutions, Universities, ISDR and South Asian Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Disaster Management Centre, Delhi (DMC), ESCAP, United Nations Development Group (UNDG) AP, United Nations Development Programme (UNDP).

## Asia-Pacific Achievements by Thematic Areas

The achievements by thematic areas in the Asia-Pacific region are summarized as follows:



### Urban Land, Legislation and Governance

- UN-Habitat has been successful in the Asia-Pacific in addressing land issues at two levels through interventions in 2012: addressing land regularization and pro-poor access as part of housing and urban planning interventions through small scale land adjustment.
- Requests from host governments and donor partners to UN-Habitat for comprehensive land regularization and tenure security programmes are increasing in the Asia-Pacific region.

- UN-Habitat has intensified its effort in supporting post-conflict reconstruction and post-disaster local governance, using participatory urban and land-use planning and basic service delivery as an entry point and applying the successful models of Afghanistan and Pakistan governance support programmes that build on the benefits of incremental land regularization.

### Urban Planning and Design

- Success in UN-Habitat advocacy on urbanization issues is evident in the increasing interest in internal policy design on responses to urbanization by our development partner. For example, in the Pacific region and in Sri Lanka, there are growing numbers of urban partnerships, such as with the Asian Development Bank (ADB) (developing urban planning and resilience programme), SPC (urban resilience, land management), UNDP (such as Solomon Islands' Urban Vulnerability Assessment) and the World Bank.
- Over the recent years, UN-Habitat has been successful in introducing and mainstreaming climate change mitigation (through the CCCI) and eco-city concepts to city development strategies (CDS), planning tools and national policies through successful pilot projects and regional advocacy. CCCI, for example, has been now replicated in 50 cities networking across 15 countries.



**LEFT** : Singapore.

© Madanmohan Rao/UN-Habitat

- Areas of increasing relevance for UN-Habitat in the Asia-Pacific region includes planning for risk preparedness and implementing disaster resilient city plans through the institutionalized framework (see Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation theme), as well as broadening the advocacy on sustainable urban planning through the use of green growth led urban and regional strategies. There are also successful examples of using national and regional urban forum as a platform for policy dialogue, such as in the Pacific, Vietnam and five other countries.

Success in UN-Habitat advocacy on **urbanization issues** is evident in the increasing interest in **internal policy design** on responses to urbanization by our development partner

### Urban Economy

- UN-Habitat has been widely involved in supporting sustainable city development strategies (CDS) and tools through ADB's *City Development Initiative for Asia* (CDIA) interventions.
- UN-Habitat is expanding its collaboration with CDIA in additional countries in the region in an effort to bridge this financing and implementation gap in city planning and project investment processes by supporting city authorities to adopt robust tools for project feasibility assessments for potential loan or grant financing.

- UN-Habitat is improving the sustainability of the CDIA approach by providing ADB and other financing partners with the essential link between local participatory planning and national or local training institutions that can provide capacity support to the local authorities in investment planning in the long term. For example in Indonesia CDIA work has built on the collaboration between UN-Habitat and progressive mayors on participatory budgeting.
- In Vietnam, the present regional and city development strategies of target cities will be improved through climate and green growth sensitive gap analysis and subsequently used for identifying local solutions, priorities and sources for green growth based investments during a Regional Investment Forum.

### Urban Basic Services

- Through the regional *Water for Asian Cities* and *Mekong Region Water and Sanitation* programmes, disaster response basic service projects, and acting as the lead of the Shelter Cluster, UN-Habitat has made a difference in countries such as Lao PDR using an intervention strategy that addressed the water and basic services through an integrated urban governance (planning and institution building) support to local authorities, and uses community participatory process for shelter upgrading and basic services provision.

### Housing and Slum Upgrading

- UN-Habitat's largest response activities in housing have taken place in a humanitarian crisis of rebuilding houses through community-led participatory people's process approach in post-conflict and post-disaster contexts.

- UN-Habitat has responded to the large number of requests for housing policy development experiences and programmer support is increasing, especially in the middle-income countries of the Asia-Pacific region (Vietnam, China) and already earlier in Sri Lanka and Indonesia. At the moment, strategic assistance to local and national authorities in slum upgrading is continuing in Mongolia, Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, and in the Pacific, boosted by the changing donor and government focus from a transitional shelter to permanent shelter.

### Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation

- UN-Habitat has advocated an approach where the affected people were placed at the centre of their development and recovery process after such crisis situations. This people-centred approach has been an important link between communities, cities and national governments to promote resilient communities and settlements. These processes coupled with build-back better principles have been applied in Myanmar, Sri Lanka and Nepal.
- UN-Habitat continues to emphasize the need to institutionalize disaster risk reduction to settlement planning through housing policies, national building codes and city planning acts/laws/frameworks. The large reconstruction project portfolio of the past few years in the Asia-Pacific region has given UN-Habitat an opportunity to assist the affected people rebuild their lives rapidly on one hand, whilst provided a platform to advocate for progressive policies on recovery, reconstruction and development.

## Research and Capacity Building

- UN-Habitat is partnering with the universities, research and training institutions in the region to strengthen the capacities of national and local officials to implement and sustain urban monitoring in the long term. Training institutions are increasingly important urban sector partners for UN-Habitat's interventions in the region.
- The creation of wider networks of cities and regional training institutions as a part of the Cities and Climate Change Initiative is creating strategic alliances with national government ministries, associations of local governments, academic institutions and the United Nations Country Team on urban themes, such as city and regional development strategies, housing and urban planning. Vietnam is a successful example of such synergies.
- UN-Habitat is proving added value to local and national institutions in knowledge networking. It is expected that there will be more demand for assistance on urban data and analysis systems support especially from the middle-income country authorities in the region.

## Asia: The Road Ahead

### Investing in infrastructure

UN-Habitat's engagement and support to the region has been remarkable and its commitment to the region remains unaltered. No developing region has invested more than Asia in advanced knowledge infrastructure for economic development. A combination of public and private sector capital expenditure has provided the modern infrastructure required for industrial expansion, research and development, innovation

and entrepreneurship, which in turn have enhanced the economic potential and competitiveness of so many cities in Asia.

### Economic Disparities and Poverty

While the region's over-all economic dynamism over the past decades have been at a scale and speed that are impressive, there are still issues that are relevant for UN-Habitat to look into, such as: addressing economic disparities and poverty reduction, managing the growth of cities and towns, preventing the proliferations of slums and informal settlements, addressing environmental challenges, and re-building communities ravaged by wars and conflicts.

### Knowledge Management

Through the *State of the Asian Cities* reports ([www.unhabitat.org/pmss](http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss)), a collaborative effort with the UN-ESCAP, UN-Habitat will continue to provide valuable and strategic data on urban policies, trends and development to support and guide sustainable urban development in Asia and the Pacific. The first *State of the Asian Cities Report* was published in 2010; the next report is due in 2013.

### Working with Partners

The rapid and consistent growth of middle income countries in Asia-Pacific requires UN-Habitat to work with national and local government institutions, civil society partners and business sector in providing strategic policy advice in coping with challenges of urbanization. The opportunities in working with and expanding operations with middle income countries is an area which UN-Habitat is fully expanding in countries such as China, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Thailand and Vietnam.

## Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation

Overall, UN-Habitat's activities in the region are driven by three forces: the first, is recovery and reconstruction after disasters, whether natural or human-made; the second is those that are a consequence and driven by global or regional Agendas, such as climate change or regional watershed management; and the third is providing and improving basic services at the settlement level.

### Innovative Methodologies

To service the region better, and facilitate sustainable urban development, UN-Habitat is developing more innovative methodologies to support the needs of cities and aims for a higher level of involvement which seeks to address future challenges arising from rapid urbanization, climate change and rapid economic growth. Furthermore we are also endeavouring to help the region to enhance and link urban planning and development to support and sustain its vast economic growth. As we move toward the "Asian Urban Century" UN-Habitat counts on the support and engagement of our major contributors, including new partners, to forge new partnerships and continue supporting the urban development of a sustainable Asia Pacific Region.



 PHOTO: Overview of Fukuoka City, Japan  
© Fumio Hashimoto



**PHOTO:** An overview of Rio de Janeiro, Brazil.  
© Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat

# LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

Half the urban population now lives in cities with fewer than **500,000 inhabitants** and **14 per cent** in megacities (more than **222 million** in the former, and **65 million** in the latter).

## Demographic and Urban Trends

Since the start of the last century, the population of Latin America and the Caribbean has increased almost tenfold, from 60 million to nearly 588 million in 2010. The region now represents 8.5 per cent of the world's total population, a proportion that is projected to decline slightly through 2030. The Latin American and the Caribbean region is the most urbanized in the world, although it is also one of the least populated in relation to its territory. Almost 80 per cent of the population lives in cities (see Figure 1), a proportion even higher than the group of most developed countries. Population growth and urbanization, processes that were

accelerating in the past, have decelerated. Currently, the evolution of urban populations tends to be limited to natural growth only.

The number of cities has increased six fold in fifty years. Half the urban population now lives in cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants and 14 per cent in megacities (more than 222 million in the former, and 65 million in the latter). Progress regarding access to water, sanitation and other services has increased the attractiveness of intermediate cities, which helps more balanced urban systems in these countries.

Mass migration from the countryside to the city has lost its urban growth-feeding importance in most countries. Migration

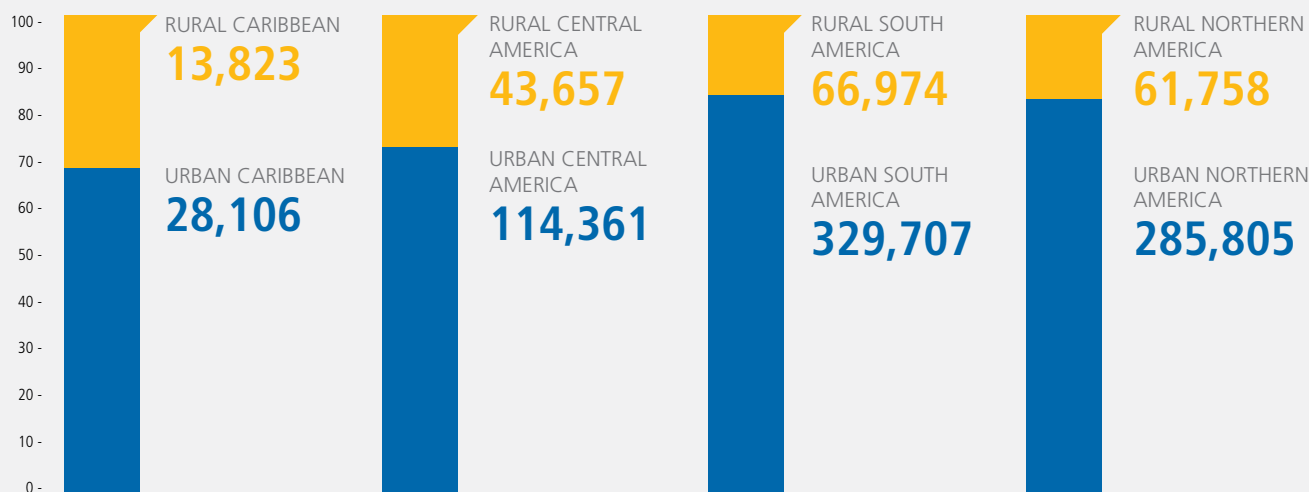
has now become more complex and occurs mainly between cities, sometimes crossing international borders. Also relevant are population movements within cities, between the city centre and its periphery and between secondary cities.

### Urban Sprawl

Urban expansion has caused many cities to spill over their administrative boundaries and physically absorbing other urban centres in a conurbation process. The result has been the emergence of large urban territories, sometimes formalized in a single metropolitan area consisting of multiple municipalities and intense activity across all areas. Urban sprawl continues to expand, despite the demographic deceleration. Cities are growing

Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.

**FIGURE 1: URBAN AND RURAL POPULATION PER SUB-REGIONS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2011-2012*

in a less compact way and they are expanding physically at a rate that exceeds the increase in their population, a pattern that is not sustainable. The region needs to develop territorial policy and urban plans to improve current urban growth patterns, avoiding the dispersed expansion of cities, encouraging greater density, making better use of available space to avoid physical and social fragmentation.

### Economic Development and Inequality

Cities are the true drivers of the Latin American and Caribbean economies. The 40 main cities produce an annual GDP of more than USD 842 billion and estimates show nearly two thirds comes from urban areas,

where services and industry are located. The increase in migrations has resulted in more remittances, which represent over 10 per cent of GDP in several countries. Since 1970, per capita income in Latin American and the Caribbean has nearly tripled, but with wide disparities.

Latin American and the Caribbean have made significant progress in their fight against poverty over the past 10 years. The proportions of urban poor have fallen, but in absolute terms, the numbers are still very high. About 124 million urban inhabitants live in poverty, or one in four urban dwellers.

Besides poverty, the region suffers from serious and persistent inequality. Income

inequality is extremely high. Although there is a significant shortfall of formal employment opportunities there is abundant informal work, which is mainly taken by young people and women. Inequality is also expressed in socially and spatially-divided cities, despite the many opportunities for economic and social development that urbanization offers. To overcome social and urban fragmentation and segregation, urban cities need strategies that combine economic growth with policies that address income inequalities and quality of life, as well as measures aimed at social and spatial integration. To this end it is crucial to coordinate national economic policies and urban development strategies, both in cities and regions.

## Housing

Inequality and poverty can be expressed in terms of the prevalence of urban slums in the region. In general, the proportion of people living in slums has fallen, but the actual population in these areas is 111 million, a higher figure than twenty years ago. The regional situation is heterogeneous. The proportion of urban population living in slums varies from Suriname, with almost 5 per cent to 70 per cent in Haiti.

The region has considerable experience in housing policies and neighbourhood improvement schemes. However, the housing deficit is so deep that few countries can aspire to universal housing in the short or medium term. House rental and land markets are poorly developed and regulated, despite their decisive role in the housing problem. Faced with budgetary constraints, it is essential to generalize planning policies and land management to harness the value of public investment and give greater support to improving existing housing and the incorporation of segregated and fragmented urban areas. Housing policies should always include an urban dimension, with specific measures promoting access to basic services, mobility and public spaces. In the region, there is some experience with historic urban centre revitalization and integrated neighbourhood improvement schemes that could be replicated.

## Insecurity and Public Spaces

Shopping malls are becoming the main public spaces for socializing. Governments pay little attention to the creation and maintenance of formal public spaces. The region's cities experience high levels of violence and insecurity; a problem with important social and economic consequences which also has an impact on the organization and layout of cities. Lack of security in cities is an enormous

problem requiring coordinated action by different state institutions, including local authorities, who can also contribute to small-scale programmes involving the communities and encouraging coexistence and social cohesion.

## Access to Basic Urban Services

Latin America and the Caribbean have reached the MDG on water supply. Currently, 92 per cent of the urban population has piped water and the figure rises to 98 per cent if we include other water sources. However, there are significant shortfalls in service quality. Estimates show that 40 per cent of the treated water is lost due to infrastructure malfunction, leaks and misuse, while pricing policies do not always cover running costs and rarely benefit the poor. Progress in sanitation has been less dramatic. Seventy-four million people (16 per cent) still do not have adequate sanitation in cities. In general, the situation is slightly better in larger cities than in smaller ones, but less than 20 per cent of waste-water and sewage is treated before discharge, resulting in health and environmental hazards.

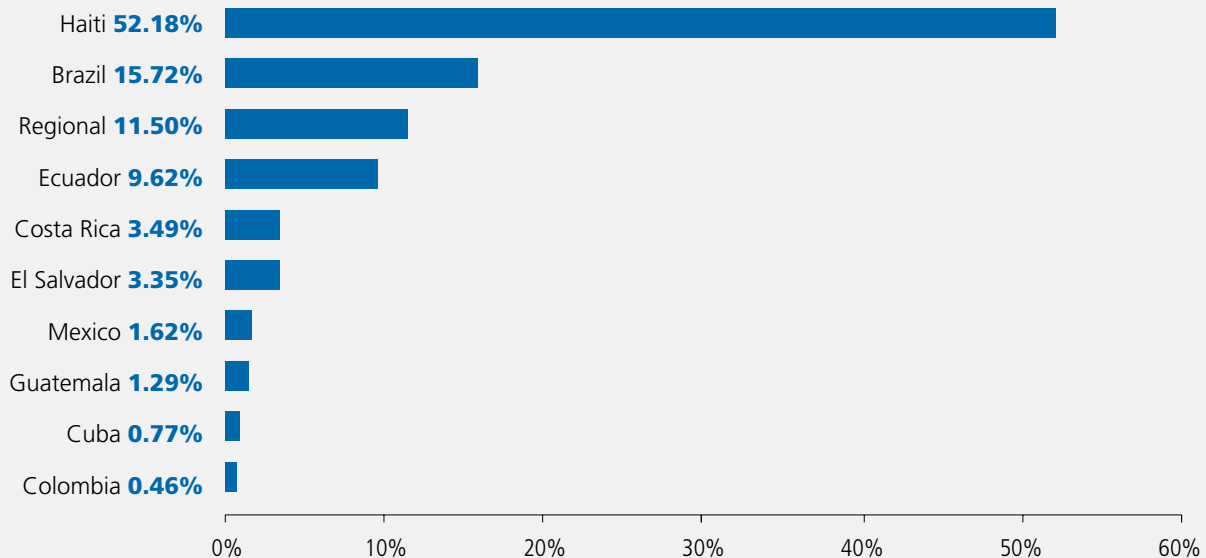
Management of basic urban services has become more complex because of urban sprawl and conurbation. Integrated approaches are needed that go beyond traditional administrative municipal boundaries, promoting compact cities and linking with urban planning and land management policies. Guaranteeing the right to water and sanitation is not limited to providing infrastructure. Although countries have made progress with decentralization, regulation and control of water and sanitation, there are still challenges in terms of efficiency, availability, quality, affordability and continuity of services. Overcoming these requires reviewing and refining current governance, management and financing models.

**BOTTOM :** Public workers, during the construction of an overpass in the Pan American highway, in Chimaltenango, Guatemala.

© Maria Fleischmann / World Bank



**FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS IN LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN, 2011-2012**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2011-2012*

## Environmental Challenges and Risk Management

In the region, the frequency and geographical distribution of extreme weather events has begun to change as a result of global climate change. Changes in rainfall patterns, the progressive disappearance of glaciers and rising sea levels have already been verified. Projections indicate that these phenomena will increase in the future, increasing the risks of natural disasters throughout the region.

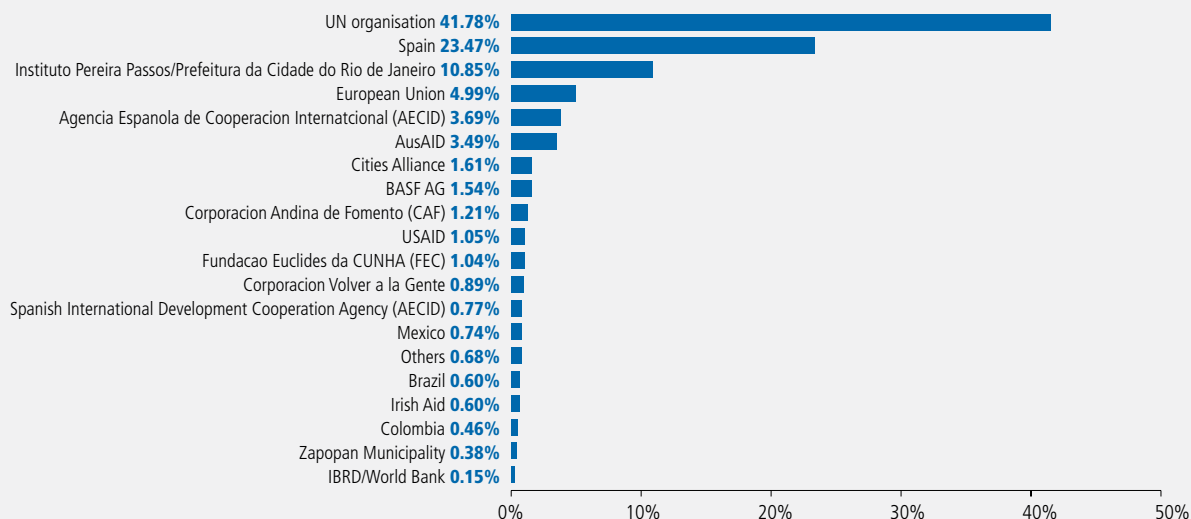
The extent to which cities are vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, epidemics and geological activity depends on external factors such as preparedness. In general, slums are particularly vulnerable because of their

**Lack of security** in cities is an enormous problem requiring **coordinated action** by different state institutions, including local authorities, who can also contribute to **small-scale programmes** involving the communities and **encouraging coexistence** and **social cohesion**

location, lack of infrastructure and services, as well as the socio-economic and cultural profile of their inhabitants.

Some cities already have explicit plans for addressing climate change, like greenhouse gas audits, hazard and vulnerability maps, with associated action plans that have already been approved institutionally. At the local level, city planning departments and urban and transport planning play a particularly important role because they have the capacity to influence the location of housing, mobility demand, energy consumption and the risk reduction of disasters.

**FIGURE 3: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO (2011-2012)**



\*Countries under the 'Global Programme' are counted under the global programmes section

Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

## Urban Governance

Significant progress has been made in terms of governance, mainly democratization and decentralization. Election of mayors by universal suffrage is widespread, while mechanisms and initiatives to ensure citizen participation in government affairs have been strengthened, including mandate revocation, participatory budgets and neighbourhood commissions. Furthermore, greater accountability in the management of resources has been achieved, both by local authorities and contributing citizens.

Decentralization of competencies has not always been accompanied by the transfer of resources and capabilities. Only the largest

municipalities manage to be self-financing while the others continue to depend heavily on central government fund transfers. Progress has been limited in building local government capacities, a pending matter in the region.

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012

In 2012, UN-Habitat published the first issue of *The State of Latin America and Caribbean Cities: Towards a new urban transition*. This report comprises a region-wide analysis of

urban and housing policies, conditions and trends.

UN-Habitat was active in over ten countries in the region with a total portfolio of USD 35 million for 2011-2012. This represents 8 per cent of UN-Habitat's entire portfolio for the period under review. Figure 1 gives an overview of the distribution of projects across various countries in 2011-2012. UN-Habitat has a significant presence in Haiti, Brazil and Ecuador where the portfolio in these countries account for 52.2 per cent, 15.7 per cent and 9.6 per cent respectively of the entire region's portfolio. Programmes and projects that cut across the regional level constitute 11.5 per cent of the portfolio for

the region. These projects have largely focused on the improvement of land policies and land management in the Caribbean.

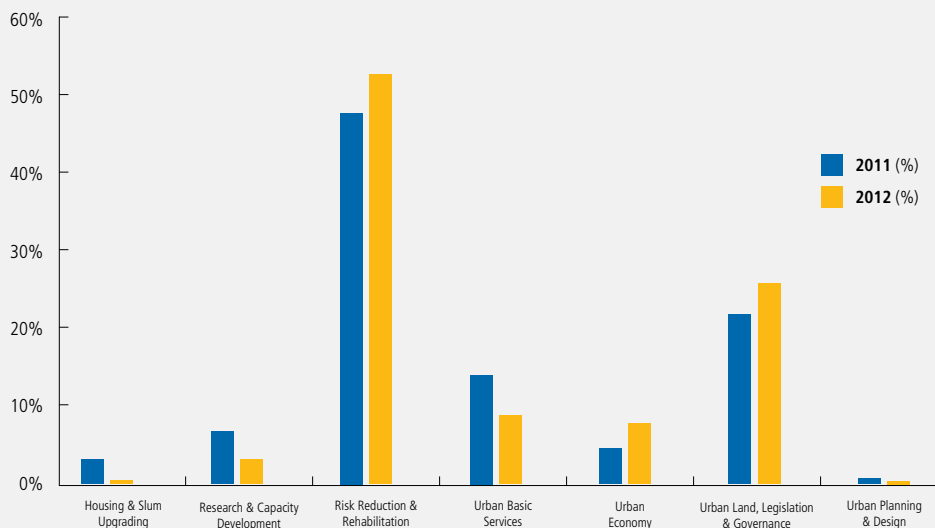
The major financial contributors to the portfolio of Latin America and the Caribbean region for 2011-12 include multilateral donors such as UN organizations, the World Bank, the European Union, and Australian Agency for International Development and the United States International Development Assistance (USAID). The main donor countries within the region are Brazil, Mexico and Colombia. Amongst the bilateral funding partners, Spain

is the significant contributor, as it accounts for 24 per cent of the region's entire portfolio, mainly supporting programmes that enhance urban governance, better management of urban basic services, as well as promoting local economy in the region. The private sector is playing a pivotal role in funding development initiatives – BASF AG is supporting the delivery of urban basic services in Brazil.

Figure 4 shows the seven thematic areas covered by projects in the region (2011-2012). UN-Habitat's portfolio in the region is dominated by projects relating to risk

reduction and rehabilitation. These comprise 53 per cent of the organization's budget for the region and are mostly in disaster management and reconstruction of Haiti following the earthquake of 2010. The second major thematic area of focus is *urban land, legislation and governance*, which accounts for 26 per cent of the portfolio in the region; the focus of such projects has been in the areas of governance and the improvement of land policies and land management. Other thematic areas are urban economy, research and capacity development, as well as housing and slum upgrading.

**FIGURE 4: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE PORTFOLIO (2011-2012)**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

## Latin America and the Caribbean: Country Achievements

*"We appear dancing, but it is very fast. They like the little step [so called 'passinho', a local dance]. In the beginning [when he won the Passinho Dance Competition], I went to very cool and chic places, São Paulo, Olinda ... met several artists. The phone kept ringing and I was living from it, of presentations. But I had in my head that this was going to finish one day and finally got a job. That is when it really decreased. But if I have the opportunity of living from the dance I'll take it."* (Jackson Carvalho, 20 years, champion of the "Batalha competition" in 2011, selected for the 2013 competition, describing his participation in a television soap opera in 2013 and the opportunities he got after 2011)

Source: Project reports and UPP Social official website: <http://uppsocial.org/2013/03/esta-dada-a-largada-para-a-batalha-do-passinho-2013/> (in Portuguese)

### Bolivia

**Key achievements:** In 2011, UN-Habitat signed a Memorandum of Understanding with the Ministry of Environment and Water to implement joint projects in the water sector. UN-Habitat has also supported the drafting of the Terms of Reference for master plans in the cities of La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Tarija within the *Peri-urban Water and Sanitation Programme* (USD 120,000.000 from the Spanish Fund and IDB).

In alignment with the *Plan of Water and Sanitation 2011* approved by the Bolivian Government, UN-Habitat and its partners work in five areas with the following achievements to date: interventions in intermediate cities (water, sanitation, solid wastes management,

### BOX 3: RIO DE JANEIRO: FROM COERCION TO TRUST – UPP SOCIAL PROGRAMME

Drug trafficking is the source of much of the organized violence of Rio de Janeiro, the second largest city in Brazil. For decades, the favelas have been under the control of criminal gangs who have used these areas for illegal economic activities. They gradually took over these territories by providing services, such as selling gas cylinders or cable television connections, administering 'criminal' justice and charging fees for real estate transactions. These parallel structures have benefited from the complexity and corruption of police groups. The inhabitants of these communities have been exposed to a high degree of insecurity and violence, excluded from the benefits provided by the city and state services.

In 2008, the sheer level of violence and criminality made resolving this problem a government priority and, in December of that year, the Government of the State of Rio de Janeiro began the deployment so-called Police Pacification Units (UPP) to recapture these territories. In January 2011, the municipality of Rio de Janeiro took a second step in this direction: the introduction of UPP Social in 72

already pacified areas. This new programme aimed to consolidate peace and control of areas by combining public and private sector efforts with those of the civil society and the citizens themselves. By May 2012, peace had been achieved in 87 favelas spread over the city, benefiting about 300,000 people with freedom of movement and regular access to services. These units, which have a high degree of social acceptance, have helped build a safer city. This social and public commitment aims to reverse the legacy of violence and socio-territorial exclusion, consolidating peace and security, promoting social development, citizenship and the full integration of these areas and the population into the rest of the city.

Culture has been an important and very successful tool for the inclusion of youth. Arts, culinary, dance and music have motivated participation of the community in activities promoted by the municipality and other partners, generating social and economic inclusion.

sanitation infrastructure in schools and strengthening of water operators); and increased water and sanitation coverage to poor households in peri-urban areas in intermediate cities (Patacamaya, San Ignacio de Velasco, District 9 and 14 in Cochabamba and Sacaba). The municipalities and beneficiaries are also participating through communal work to build and expand water systems (more than 10,000 beneficiaries estimated to date). To meet increased service demand, staff of four water municipal companies were trained in management, water resources and water quality. Water laboratories and equipment were provided to operators; solid waste management strategies are also implemented to reduce pollution in cities.

In Patacamaya and San Ignacio de Velasco, new sanitary infrastructure was built in 17 public schools. Promotion of decentralised sanitation systems and alternative technologies. UN-Habitat in partnership with the Municipality of Cochabamba in a participatory process with local communities has implemented a pilot decentralised wastewater treatment plant (PTAR) in the Lomas del Pagador neighbourhood, benefiting 250 families. The waste water treatment plant reduced soil pollution and helped in reforestation of the neighbourhood. The decentralized treatment plants are replicated in Tiquipaya and San Ignacio de Velasco. UN-Habitat also financed ecological toilets in peri-urban areas in Cochabamba with the NGO 'Water for People'.

## ECUADOR

The lives of **11,000 inhabitants** improved with secure access to water and sanitation plus **6,100 students** trained on hygiene

More than 20,000 students and 1,000 teachers were trained in the methodology of *Human Values Based on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education (HVWSHE)* in local schools with the aim of reducing water borne diseases in schools and to create a culture of hygiene and good water use.

**Climate Change in cities:** Since 2010, UN-Habitat and the Municipality of La Paz have been working on a project to promote responsible use of water and raise awareness about climate change in the city, with participatory involvement of local neighbourhood associations, youth groups and women's associations. The project completed the first activities in 12 neighbourhoods and it is expected to benefit 22,000 inhabitants in another 30 neighbourhoods by 2013.

**BOTTOM :** A Metrobus system bus, part of the new mass transportation system in Panama City, Panama.  
© Gerardo Pesantez / World Bank



**Knowledge Management:** UN-Habitat, SNV and the SEI promoted a *Knowledge Management Node* to disseminate the experiences in decentralized sustainable sanitation with the potential of applicability in the Andean Region. Additionally, Bolivia, Peru, El Salvador, Mexico, Colombia and Ecuador are part of the regional project on gender and water with the GWA (Gender Water Alliance), *Sanitation as a Business with Water for People* and water education with *Project Wet*.

**Development Partners:** Government of Bolivia, IDB (Interamerican Development Bank), SEI (Stockholm Environmental Institute), NGO Plan International, Water for People, Yaku Association, SNV (Netherlands Cooperation Agency), EMAPAS (Sacaba Municipal Water company)

## Brazil

**Key achievements:** Brazil, a highly decentralized country, has several fast-growing cities due to big investments from energy and mineral companies. As the country is poised to host the World Cup in 2014 and Olympic Games (Rio 2016) the challenges ahead are promising and stimulating. In 2012, UN-Habitat supported the country with the following activities:

**Dialogues on Sustainable Urban Development in Brazil:** In connection with Rio+20, the Government of Brazil launched a citizen's debate on strategic development issues. Nine citizens' dialogues were hosted, one of them focused on "Sustainable Development of Cities". The Ministry of Cities, with funding from the Ministry of the Environment in Brazil, requested UN-Habitat to prepare a provocative position paper for Rio+20 based on cases in Brazil and related experiences from other emerging economies. The results of the debate during Rio+20 were incorporated in all papers. The results of the WUF 6 were incorporated in the final version of the documents and

presented to the public during WHD-2012 activities in Brazil. The final document was published, supporting more than 90 favelas of Rio de Janeiro in local planning, slum upgrading and safer city actions.

The *UPP Social Programme* was launched to make use of innovations in public management for the articulation of the actions of several organizations (public and private, NGOs, CBOs) in the territories. The approach of *the UPP Social Programme* focuses on improving urban governance and public management.

The expected results are *Guidelines for Management of UPP Social Prepared; Information Management of UPP* socially more effective and efficient; *Institutional Action in the Territories* more effective and efficient; 30 action plans prepared and implementation started; Local projects prepared with community organisations; and knowledge management improved; Promotion of gender and racial/ethnic equality.

The Inter-Agency program to promote gender, race and ethnic equality intends to support the implementation and assessment of *National Policy Plans for Women and for the Promotion Racial Equality*. Urban safety and citizenship awareness in various Brazilian Communities

**Security with Citizenship:** Preventing violence and strengthening citizenship with a focus on children, adolescents and youths in vulnerable conditions in Brazilian communities, aims to reduce violence in a situation of vulnerability through the voluntary compliance with rules, self-regulation of behaviour and promotion of mechanisms of social control. The programme also intends to build and strengthen capacities among local actors to ensure that actions are carried out within the framework of full citizen coexistence and a

security plan, as well as the strengthening of conditions of local governance that ensure the sustainability of the actions. The programme is targeted at children, youths and adolescents between 10 and 24 years who are especially vulnerable because they are often excluded from education, victims of domestic or intergenerational violence, involved in drug-related activities, or belong to a community affected by perverse or detrimental social capital.

## BOLIVIA

More than **20,000 students** and **1,000 teachers** were trained in the methodology of **Human Values Based on Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Education**

**Expected Results:** Local capacity to prevent and reduce violence and to promote civic culture and coexistence strengthened with a focus on adolescents, children and youths in vulnerable conditions; and Urban spaces generated and promoted.

**Regional Urban Observatories:** This project aims at monitoring the effects of the construction and operation by Petrobras of the petrochemical complex COMPERJ (State of Rio de Janeiro) and the Refinery Premium I (State of Maranhão) in the municipalities impacted by these initiatives. Basing on the MDGs and defining local targets and indicators to be monitored which can also be used in the design of public policies and programmes, the project contributes to the improvement

of municipal urban management. Petrobras requested its replication in Maranhão, where the Refinery Premium I will be installed.

*Development Partners – Government of Brazil, MDG Fund (AECID), Federal Universities, NGOs.*

## Chile

**Key achievements:** Even though UN-Habitat has no project office in Chile, the country has been a key partner in topics such as urban planning, risk reduction, urban resilience and housing. In recent years, Chile has suffered severe earthquake impacts and UN-Habitat has been providing technical assistance in risk reduction and by the end of 2010/2011 finalized a proposal for a Resource Center, aiming at providing advice and Technical assistance to municipalities, authorities and local actors. Since then, UN-Habitat has received requests for advice and follow up on related areas, including the monitoring of urban conditions and trends. The Country Focal Point of the Iberoamerican Forum on Best Practices has also steadily contributed to the Best Practices Database in a ongoing basis, guaranteeing an important amount of exemplary practices for the region.

**Intermediate results:** SUBDERE and UN-Habitat are negotiating an association for technical advice on risk reduction, municipal planning and resilience, and exchange and documentation of Good Practices. MINVU has expressed interest in developing a Housing Profile. Ongoing exchange also included the country presence in international events such as the World Urban Forum and Habitat III.

*Development Partners: Government of Chile, SUBDERE (Administration and Regional Development Sub Secretariat), MINVU (Urban and Housing Ministry), Santiago Local Government, Bio Bio and Itata Valley Regional Government Associations, SUR (NGO)*



**TOP** : An overview of Mexico City, Mexico.  
 © Julius Mwelu/UN-Habitat

## Colombia

**Key achievements:** In 2012, its focus was on providing technical advisory services to governments ministries and partner municipalities, particularly advocating for urban sustainable development and partners mobilization, focusing on UN-Habitat strategic priorities (urban planning, urban economy, urban legislation and governance). In 2012, efforts were made to implement Regional Urban Forums and a successful National Urban Forum (more than 1,500 participants in Colombia, as well as to support Medellín to host the 7<sup>th</sup> session of the World Urban Forum (WUF). The National Office is currently working with the National Government to develop a country agreement and prepare for the 7<sup>th</sup> WUF.

**Intermediate results:** Needs assessments in support of sub-national entities provided; Indicators Systems established at the provincial level; Best Practices disseminated; Collaboration agreements with national, and sub national governments established (UN-Habitat has been acknowledge as Steering Committee for Colombia’s Capital Cities Association); White Papers on Safety and Social Cohesion developed in two Colombian cities (Bogotá and Medellín); Urban safety toolkit developed and implemented; and Youth platform established in Colombia.

**Development Partners:** *Government of Colombia, National Agency for International Cooperation, Habitat Foundation, Fundación Promotora Canal del Dique, World Bank, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), Latin American Development Bank (CAF), Colombian governmental development financing institution (FINDETER), National Savings Fund, UN Agencies.*

## Costa Rica

**Key achievements:** The National Office focuses on strengthening Municipal capacities.

Improved safety was realized in nine of the least-safe cantons of Costa Rica, through the *Convivial Networks Community without Fear* project. This project seeks to improve the Cantonal Security Index in nine of the least-safe cantons by simultaneously reducing levels of fear and violence, and turning these cantons into communities without fear.. Local capacity for preventing violence and promoting peace will be strengthened as called for in the *National Plan for Preventing Violence and Promoting Social Peace: A Country without Fear*.

**Intermediate results:** National Inter-Institutional Strategy for locally implementation of the *National Plan for the Prevention of Violence and Promotion of Peace and Public Safety*; Offers of training and information are available and customized for police, teachers, officials, local governments and community organizations; Nine Peaceful Convivial Networks with the participation of national and local governmental institutions, local and community organizations, the citizenry, and an inter-community network; Local policies, action plans and budgets with a gender perspective; Nine cantons have adapted and reclaimed at least one public space for recreation and civic fellowship, and/or have improved a public service; Campaign in local media, educational centers and places of recreation reaffirming the virtues of dialogue and peaceful and fear-free conviviality; and *Strengthening Municipal Capacities in Local Human Development Planning and Neighbourhood Improvement and Slum Eradication Policy*

The project aims to develop a national neighbourhood improvement and slum eradication policy and strategy, as well as to execute specific programmes which contribute to overcoming urban poverty and improving life standards of a vulnerable population, while giving special attention to woman-headed households in slums. It is expected that the project will involve local authorities in the coordination of efforts for the interventions, investment and mobilization of resources toward basic infrastructure for neighbourhood improvement and slum eradication with the participation of the communities and the private sector. Fourteen pilot interventions will be implemented based on an intervention model for neighbourhood improvement and slum eradication, which contains lessons learned, international and national best practices and experiences from the intervention.

**Development Partners:** *Government of Costa Rica, MDG Fund, Cities Alliance, World Bank, European Commission, University of Costa Rica, UN Agencies, National Institute for Women, National Institute for Promotion and Assistance to Municipalities, IDRC, National University for Distance Education (UNED) and the Ombudsman.*

## Cuba

**Key achievements:** Contribution to housing recovery in three Provinces in Cuba is a project aimed at involving the population in housing solutions and carrying out on-site demonstrations of innovative, natural-disaster-resistant solutions to minimize damage, so that it can be replicated in other Cuban provinces.

**Results Achieved:** citizens capacity for building hurricane resistant roofs was developed; transferred technology solutions for the construction and rehabilitation of housing; three training centers housing system

in the area of risk management practices in habitat and housing had their capacity strengthened, through knowledge transfer exercises, methodologies and best practices; disseminated the Cuban experience in research and housing solutions facing the impact of natural disasters; the project results were disseminated at the highest level (National Assembly); and local production of materials in the Pinar del Rio province was strengthened, contributing to the national strategy for housing construction.

## HAITI

Since 2010, approximately **USD20 million** spent on urban planning, community development, social mobilization, land tenure, access to basic services, municipal management, housing policy and **13,000 housing units** reconstructed

**Cuba-Colombia South-South Cooperation:** To respond to new urban problems in Cuba, the *Improving Citizen's Participation and Capacities in Adaptation to Climate Change and Risk Reduction Process* project is expected to support conception and implementation of community initiatives linked with climate change impacts and disaster risk reduction.

The themes were identified through workshops held in 2010 with technical support from the Colombian NGO Volver a

la Gente. As a result of those activities, the two main targets were identified for a Cuban Agenda on Climate Change and Cities in Risk.

**Results Achieved:** Strengthened technical capabilities on climate change and disaster risk reduction; Network of Community Leaders and youth leaders was created; The Popular Consultation of Bartolome Maso in the cities of Santa Clara, Cienfuegos, Holguin, and Bayamo was replicated; A new participatory method in the process of the Popular Consultation was introduced; Five demonstration projects of urban environmental improvement were implemented in four cities; The network identified three priority projects for each city to seek financing; The Community Newsletter *My neighborhood in action* was created for continued dissemination and exchange of experiences; The Institutional Consultations of Housing and Climate Change were developed in the four cities and the most efficient technologies and solutions at local level identified; The importance of the national strategy for the production of materials at the local level and within it the role of the centers of local production of materials (CPLM) was recognized; and the good practices in housing and habitat were collected, in order to make a subsequent process of systematization.

**Support for transformations of the housing sector in Cuba:** This project is part of a 5-year cooperation program of UN-Habitat and the Cuban Government and meets the updating of the Cuban economic model in the habitat and housing structure.

**Development partners:** *Government of Cuba, Spain, Sweden, Volver a la Gente; National Institute of Housing, Physical Planning Institute, Volver a la Gente*

## Ecuador

**Key achievements:** Governance in the water and sanitation sector in Ecuador within the Framework of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) will contribute to the implementation of the *National Water Plan* and the creation of democratic and sustainable governance in water and sanitation services, focusing on integrated water management by river basins and promoting social, territorial and gender equality. It contributes to the State reform process being pushed through by the current government within the framework of the National Development Plan in a sector that is crucial for fulfilling the MDGs and sustainable human development in Ecuador.

**Intermediate results:** operational plan was approved; four provincial programme teams were formed for institutional management; a base line was defined; bid documents were prepared for 20 future contracts; 15 national and one international bid for the construction of water and sanitation infrastructure received; 15 contracts signed for the rehabilitation of water systems, building new water system and improvement of sanitary batteries (toilets) of schools; seven of the 15 contracts signed, and beneficiaries agreed to pay a fee and to maintain the infrastructure; improved the lives of 11,000 inhabitants with secure access to water and sanitation and trained them on water maintenance and provision; improved the sanitary conditions of 6,100 girls and boys and trained them on sanitation aspects as well as on water maintenance and provision; developed five gender training workshop with the participation of the JAAPs and national institutions; developed two permaculture workshops at province level in each province (Esmeraldas, Los Rios, Bolivar and Manabí); developed a MOU with PROTOs to continue working within one community involved in the Programme; identified a community to implement a pilot on permaculture;

developing the sole Capacity Building Plan for service confederations; and developing the formulation of guidelines to establish “mancomunidades”.

**Development Partners:** Government of Ecuador, MDG Fund, Spanish, Inter-American Development Bank (IADB), UN Agencies

## El Salvador

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has mainly focused on strengthening national and local governments in El Salvador. The most recent project on *Productive Settlements* has contributed directly to an innovative new legal framework to enable the legalization of more than 20 per cent of the existing housing stock.

Urban and Productive Integrated Sustainable Settlements in El Salvador: a UN Joint Programme geographically focused on the municipalities of the San Salvador Metropolitan Area. It aims at implementing an integrated strategy to improve housing and living conditions, at the same time that it promotes local economic development through private sector-generated livelihoods for the urban poor. The programme has three main components. UN-Habitat will contribute to the first component that aims at improving the housing and living conditions of 750 families.

**Intermediate results:** 884 families selected, seven settlements focused, 438 families’ land tenure reviewed in Apopa, identified 90 cases for legalization, 15 legalized; Action plan for urban activities in Santa Tecla finalized; National architectural contest for housing design in Santa Tecla and public spaces in Apopa finalized; Final design for Santa Tecla APUS finalized; Public space and community infrastructure design for Apopa APUS in progress; Revision of urban basic services in Apopa focused communities

finalized; Five initiatives on urban legislation supported by the JP: Land use, Sudivisions, National Development Bank, Social Housing, Condominius; Three initiatives on urban legislation approved by the national congress supported: land use, sudivisions, national development bank; and Capacity building activities supported for the Housing Vice Ministry, municipalities, congressman and other stakeholders implemented.

**Shelter response:** Construction and rehabilitation to ensure the safe return of 175 families affected by the Tropical Depression 12E. Due to the extent and magnitude of the impact, as well as the severe damage caused by rains in agricultural areas and infrastructure, El Salvador now faces one of the greatest disasters in its history. Following the return of the families from collective centres, the Government requested coordination support in the shelter sector. The coordination mechanism in the shelter has been integrated under the “Mesa Sectorial” led by Housing Vice-Ministry and co-led by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) as convener of the Shelter Cluster, in collaboration with UN-Habitat.

Shelter partners, in associations with local governments, plan to attend individual shelter needs for the most vulnerable communities. Actions to cover proper shelter needs have therefore been enhanced to ensure safer living conditions. A preliminary analysis conducted to identify housing vulnerabilities, developed with the technical support of the shelter coordination team, reveals that more than 50 per cent of households within the country are vulnerable to extreme weather conditions.

**Development Partners:** Government of El Salvador, Spain, UN Agencies.

## Guatemala

**Key achievements:** *Consolidating Peace in Guatemala through Violence Prevention and Conflict Management* is a UN Joint programme to establish more effective national and local capacities to prevent crime and focus attention on public safety. UN-Habitat's specific objective is to implement a pilot programme *Communities and Safe Spaces* in three municipalities with a focus on age, gender and cultural pertinence.

**Main activities:** Advisory team MINGOB/UPCV for defining the process for developing the model approach for the prevention of crime and social unrest; Counseling on the development and operationalization profile of observatory prevention and public safety; Advice for the profiling of projects to implement recovery demonstration projects for coexistence spaces; Preparation of four pilot recovery demonstration projects spaces for peaceful coexistence; Advising UPCV delegates and municipal staff to implement the model policy development, prevention plans, observatory and projects recovery demonstration spaces; Technical assistance for specific application of the model approach and the development of plans, including support for the organization of sectorial tables; and Advice for the creation of the web portal for the analysis of data to produce georeferenced maps of violence and social conflict. A UN Joint Programme aiming to establish more effective national and local capacities to prevent crime and focus attention on public safety.

**Development Partners:** *Government of Guatemala, MDG Fund, Spain, UN Agencies*

## Haiti

**Key achievements:** Following the 2010 earthquake, UN-Habitat has been supporting the reconstruction process alongside national and municipal governments and civil society.



**TOP:** Guadalajara, Mexico.  
© Sergio Eduardo Bernal

UN-Habitat supported the mobilization of partners and coordinated and provided technical advice to national and municipal governments, NGOs (international and national) and UN sister agencies.

UN-Habitat is now participating in the transition phase, supporting the reconstruction of communal urban areas and housing, and the long-term development of cities, as well as providing advice on complex urban problems. UN-Habitat has received approximately USD20 million since January 2010, which has allowed the agency to focus on urban planning, community planning, social mobilization, reconstruction of 13,000 housing units, land and housing tenure, access to basic services, municipal management and housing policy.

### **Activities in 2012: Debris Management in Informal Districts of Port-au-Prince:**

The project contributes to the rehabilitation of urban areas by implementing recycling, disposal and treatment of debris in six specific areas of Port-au-Prince's agglomeration. The project responds to priorities identified by the Interim Committee for the Reconstruction of Haiti (CIRH).

The joint programme to support the reconstruction of housing and neighbourhoods in Haiti proposes concrete measures to limit the effects of an uncoordinated response to the earthquake, which could be inconsistent with the *Action Plan for the Recovery and Development of Haiti*.

**Development Partners –** *Government of Haiti, Haiti Reconstruction Fund (Multi-Donor); European Union, Spain, United States of America, Ireland, BASF Foundation, Central Emergency Response Fund (CERF)*

## Mexico

**Key achievements:** In Mexico, UN-Habitat has provided continued support for the development and application of local development policies to reduce urban poverty.

### **Urban poverty reduction in Mexico:**

This project complements the efforts of Mexican authorities in keeping a political and administrative environment conducive to the implementation of the Habitat Agenda in the country. It focuses on strengthening knowledge, visibility and networks to develop the portfolio of activities in the country, including support to monitoring of urban trends and conditions; promotion of technical and policy dialogue on sustainable urbanization issues; awareness-raising activities; mobilization of Habitat partners and the expansion of the UN-Habitat portfolio. Intermediate results: more than 40 local urban observatories were established; municipality staff, state governments and their partners in the civil society were trained; and municipal and state governments implemented urban planning methodologies.

*Assessment of the Impacts of Crime on Urban Economic Competitiveness, a Pilot Case in Zapopan Municipality:* This project improves local authorities' capacities to formulate and implement urban strategies for prevention and mitigation of urban crime in a context of economic competitiveness. The pilot case in the first phase focused on the Mexican Municipality of Zapopan and shall produce: a) a methodology for impact analysis and assessment of crime and violence; b) a report on crime and violence and their impact in local urban economic competitiveness; c) identification of local stakeholders for a coalition to promote and safeguard urban safety; and d) strategies for preventing and addressing crime and violence while improving local economic competitiveness, structured

by programmes, projects, and underpinning assessment methodology. A second phase is planned, for further replication in another municipality.

**Development Partners:** Government of Mexico, National Association of Water Operators (ANEAS), National Institute of Ecology (INE), Instituto Mexicano de Tecnología del Agua (IMTA), UN Agencies, MDG Fund, CENVI (NGO), Habitat International Coalition (HIC).

## BRAZIL

Brazil, a highly decentralized country, with several fast-growing cities due to its big investments in energy and mineral sectors

## Nicaragua

**Key Achievements:** The Water and Sanitation activity in Nicaragua contributed to the capacity improvement of Solid Waste Management in Managua. It was part of a larger programme called Solid Waste Management (SWM) Technical and Institutional Assistance Programme for Central America, which covered other countries in the region, namely Honduras, Costa Rica, Guatemala and El Salvador

**Intermediate Results:** Provided direct support to the AECID Programme, with particular emphasis on the strengthening of livelihoods in the value chain of waste collection and recycling; Improved municipal efficiency in

solid waste management; Improved public, private and social partnerships within the recycling sector, through direct support to the informal and formal waste recycling sectors; and strengthened regional capacity for improved solid waste management. (see regional programme above-mentioned)

**Development Partners:** Government of Nicaragua, Association of Municipalities of Nicaragua (AMUNIC), Spain.

## Panama

**Key achievements:** Panama is an important UN hub in the region and UN-Habitat has participated in some UN events in order to share Best Practices and exchange knowledge on resilient cities and climate change. The UNDG LAC has also been the regional partner for the coordination of UN-Habitat activities in the region with other agencies.

**Intermediate results:** UN-Habitat contributes to the thematic working UNDG Working Groups and participates in regional UN working documents. Important UN regional approaches are proposed and disseminated, on topics such as Middle Income Countries and UN work in the Caribbean, aiming at achieving a regional alignment through UNDG coordination. UN-Habitat, through the Iberoamerican Forum on Best Practices, has also participated and exchanged knowledge on LAC practices in the South Knowledge Fair – Regional Solutions Exchange, a Regional UN event.

**Development Partners:** Government of Panama, United Nations Development Group/Latin America and Caribbean Region (UNDG/LAC), UN Agencies

## Peru

**Key achievements:** UN-Habitat has implemented “Capacity building for adaptation to climate change effects in water use and management, Junin Region, Peru”. The programme contributed to the development of adaptive capacity and resilience to the impacts of climate change issues related to water and sanitation on population, government and main actors in the Junin region, especially in urban populations.

**Intermediate Results:** Promotion of tools for water resource management based on scientific information related to climate change, by the Regional Government, Local and water and sanitation companies; Increased awareness and commitment of policy makers, authorities and leaders to implement policies and strategies for integrated water resources

management in a context of climate change; development of knowledge, attitudes and practices among the population and social learning in adaptation to climate change, particularly efficient water use in cities.

**Development Partners:** Government of Peru, CARE-Peru

## Latin American

**Key achievements:** The Iberoamerican and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices is a regional network of public and private sector partners who came together in 1997 to identify, analyse, document and disseminate regional best practices that have contributed to improving the quality of life in the region's cities. It operates through sub-regional nodes and national focal points engaged in the search for best practices in sustainable human settlements development.

The project outputs and results are the dissemination of publications and studies on best practices; two case studies reports compiling cases on governance and risk prevention; *Systematized Best Practices* sent to the Dubai Award Committee; organization of events, exhibitions and conferences to discuss and disseminate best practices; and regional presence in the last Dubai Award. The nodes and focal points sent 168 practices to the Dubai Award. Latin American and Caribbean Practices constituted more than 43 per cent of all best practices sent to the Dubai Award Committee. Out of 100 best practices selected by TAC, 46 practices are from Latin America.

**BOTTOM :** A view of Delmas 32, a neighborhood in Haiti which many residence are beneficiaries of the PRODEPUR- Habitat project, in Delmas 32, Haiti.  
© Dominic Chavez /World Bank





**TOP** : A row of new houses in a new public housing complex being built southwest of the city centre. The project includes the building of hundreds of independent houses, all with autonomous solar water-heating systems. The first lots of houses have already been handed over to their inhabitants.  
 © Alessandro Scotti /UN-Habitat

### **Global Water Operators Partnerships'**

**Alliance:** Hosted by UN-Habitat Headquarters, the Global Water Operators Partnerships' Alliance is a cooperation between water utilities worldwide to nurture the information exchange, joint learning and twinning between operators within regions, while acting as a window for exchange beyond the region. In Latin America and the Caribbean, the Water Operators' Partnership has established platforms in Mexico, Colombia, Brazil and the Caribbean.

### **The solid waste management, technical and institutional assistance Initiative for Central America:**

The main objective of the programme is to carry out sector assessments and use them as a basis to develop national solid waste management intervention

strategies for each participating country with a focus on the development of key technical assistance and pre-investment projects. In 2008, UN-Habitat started a project to improve the efficiency of the solid waste management system in Managua and in the region. Subsequently, this evolved into a regional initiative, built upon the outcomes from Nicaragua, which is now being replicated and up scaled in Costa Rica, El Salvador, Honduras and Guatemala.

### **Water for Cities Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean:**

The *Water for Cities Programme in Latin America and the Caribbean* (WATSAN-LAC) aims to increase the flow of investments in the water and sanitation sector in the region through strategic partnerships amongst different institutions and organisations, donor countries, central governments, local authorities, the private sector, non-governmental organisations and local communities. It has provided technical support in Bolivia, Colombia, Ecuador, El Salvador, Mexico, Nicaragua and Peru. The strategic lines of intervention for the regional programme are adaptation to climate change

impacts; promotion of sustainable sanitation networks and technologies; promotion of the sanitation as a business concept; water governance and civil participation; integral water and sanitation projects and piloting low-cost innovative technologies for sustainable sanitation in peri-urban areas.

**Development Partners:** Spanish Government; IADB (Inter-American Development Bank) and other multi-lateral agencies, national and local governments

## **Caribbean Region**

**Key achievements:** The Supporting Eastern Caribbean States to Improve Land Policies and Management programme brings enhanced regional, national and local capacity to implement human settlement policies, strategies and programmes with special focus on the reduction of poverty and the response to natural and man-made disasters; and improved national policies on housing and sustainable development and increased regional knowledge of rural and urban conditions and trends. The implementation approaches will be improved with the clear understanding that land policy development depends on political goodwill. The National Land Policy sets the foundation for all activities related to land including subsidiary policies such as land use policies, housing policies and relevant legal framework. The Slum Upgrading Programme is being implemented in five countries (Antigua & Barbuda, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia and Trinidad and Tobago) through Urban Profiling and Action Planning.

**Development Partners:** Governments of Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Jamaica, Saint Lucia, Trinidad and Tobago, the University of West Indies, Organization of the Eastern Caribbean States, Australia, Intra-ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) Funds / European Commission.

## Latin America and the Caribbean region: Achievements by Thematic Areas

The achievements by thematic areas for the Latin America and the Caribbean region are summarized as follows:

Strategic lines of intervention for the regional programme are adaptation to **climate change** impacts; promotion of **sustainable sanitation** networks and technologies; promotion of the **sanitation** as a business concept; **water governance** and **civil participation**

### Urban Land, Legislation and Governance

- UN-Habitat has received several advisory requests concerning urban issues and related legislation. In El Salvador, advice on urban legislation and regulatory framework has contributed directly to an innovative new legal framework to enable the legalization of more than 20% of the existing housing stock.

- Achievements related to Security of Tenure through improvements in the legislation were supported by UN-Habitat, particularly in El Salvador and Ecuador, targeting housing or/and land issues.
- UN-Habitat has implemented several activities for capacity building and strengthening of local governments in governance and decentralization throughout the region, focusing on national and local requests but also as part of an Iberoamerican Programme, supported by the Spanish government. The main objective is sharing and dissemination of knowledge, experiences and best practices, as well as good governance advocacy.

### Urban Planning and Design

- UN-Habitat has also promoted and supported the drafting of the Terms of Reference for Master Plans in several countries. One example is in Bolivia, in the cities of La Paz, Cochabamba, Santa Cruz and Tarija within the Periurban Water and Sanitation Programme.
- Local Agenda 21 has been actively supported by the Regional Office in the past years. Even though main joint initiated processes are already independent, in some countries, such as Cuba, local consultations and meetings are still facilitated by UN-Habitat. Available reports from previous initiatives may be downloaded through UN-Habitat's and Regional Office online publications' link.

- Over the years, UN-Habitat has promoted Observatories and its use for planning purposes in the region. Recent examples are the Regional Observatories in Brazil, aiming at monitoring the effects of the construction and operation by Petrobras of the petrochemical complex COMPERJ (State of Rio de Janeiro) and the Refinery Premium I (State of Maranhão) in municipalities impacted by these initiatives. Having as base the MDGs and defining local targets and indicators to be monitored which can also be used in the design of public policies and programmes; it contributes to the improvement of municipal urban management in a regional integration context. The consolidation of several observatories and capacity building has also been part of country programmes, particularly in Mexico and Colombia.

### Urban Economy

- UN-Habitat has been actively promoting urban productive settlements models and strengthening capacity in local economic development. In some cases, such as El Salvador, a broad support for the inclusion of slums into the cities' economy was guaranteed through joint implementation with different UN agencies.
- Specialized observatories have also been implemented. An example can be traced in Costa Rica, where a platform for the Entrepreneur Development Observatory for the South Region of Costa Rica was designed, in alliance with other UN agencies and representatives of local governments and other sectors of the society.



**TOP :** Partly flooded streets. The floods cause health and security hazards for the residents of low lying areas. Gamarra, Colombia. © Scott Wallace / World Bank

- In Haiti, the reactivation of local economies linked to local needs such as debris removal and recycling have contributed to risk management and facilitated the return of populations affected by the earthquake in 2010.

### Urban Basic Services

- The access to Water and Sanitation in the region has been intensely promoted by UN-Habitat in several countries of the Latin America region and also the Caribbean. Other than technologies for sustainable sanitation, the awareness and knowledge exchange has been an important part of the activities in the region.

- In 2008, UN-Habitat started activities in Bolivia in the framework of the Water and Sanitation for Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean Program (WATSAN LAC). Over 4 years, UN-Habitat achieved positive results with the implementation of several projects in water sanitation and solid wastes management in urban and periurban areas, training events and workshops with public sector officials and water operators in topics like water safety plans, hygiene education, basic services and public finance, among others.
- Activities focused on governance in the water and sanitation sector have been the focus of the country programme in Ecuador. It has been identifying needs, and appropriate administrative and technical tools, connecting main national and local actors to a regional and international water and sanitation network.

### Housing and Slum Upgrading

- UN-Habitat has been acknowledged as the main UN partner for Housing related issues. The government of Cuba has chosen the agency for advisory services and technical support for its important housing reform. The first step is a participatory situation analysis of the housing sector – the Housing Profile, which shall deliver reliable information for governmental decision making and related policies.
- The reconstruction of housing and neighbourhoods has been one of UN-Habitat's focuses in Haiti. It has been prepared in close coordination with the Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, in cooperation with the Haitian Government and its financial and technical partners. It includes the enumeration of affected populations and districts, a housing and District information system, municipal and community support centres and strategic urban and regional planning activities. The programme implements concrete measures and links all activities to the Action Plan for the Recovery and Development of Haiti, improving the access to adequate housing.
- UN-Habitat advanced new strategies and approaches to successful integrated slum upgrading interventions. Innovative proposals seek to integrate security issues, cultural, environmental, social and economic aspects to previous upgrading proposals. Important examples are: security linked to social services and inclusion in Brazil, productive settlements in El Salvador, neighbourhood improvement in Costa Rica, cultural and environmentally sustainable communities in Ecuador and poverty reduction in Mexico, among others. Adequate action planning is envisaged through the

Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in the Caribbean Region, which focus on the Caribbean islands and sub-regional knowledge exchange.

### Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation

- The region largest response of UN-Habitat in rehabilitation and risk reduction has taken place in the humanitarian crisis in Haiti, in the post-disaster context through UN joint programming, integrating other substantive areas, particularly housing and urban waste recycling and management and mainly through participatory methodologies. Community and other stakeholders' involvement were crucial for temporary solutions that bridged humanitarian to development activities.
- Awareness around Climate Change, adaptation and mitigation measures has been growing in the region. Smaller but also more important actions have taken place in the region. For instance, in Ecuador, the city of Esmeraldas has already approved a Local Adaptation and Mitigation Strategy on Climate Change. In Brazil, cities have just been called to contribute to a global initiative, the Urban Low Emission Development Strategies, being implemented in Brazil, South Africa, India and Indonesia.
- The need for regional and national pools of knowledge, information and tools management and databases has been waived in different situations. In Chile, a Resource Centre for advice and technical assistance to municipalities, authorities and local actors has been designed, focused on local development, risk prevention and post-disaster reconstruction. Other countries such as Cuba and El Salvador have also identified the need for preventive measures, following risk reduction and rehabilitation programmes.

### Research and Capacity Building

- The Iberoamerican Forum on Best Practices has proved to be an excellent tool for identification, dissemination and transfer of Best Practices in Latin America and the Caribbean. In the last two Dubai Awards, 2010 and 2012, almost 50% of the whole submitted practices were from the region. An equally important amount of practices have been nominated for the award or selected as good and best practice references.
- The Regional Office has seriously committed to the promotion of gender equality and youth inclusion. Through partnerships with the private sector and the Millennium Development Goals Fund, actions focused on gender and safety, as well as inclusion of Youth could be successfully implemented in different countries.
- The Regional Office has been contributing to the LAC UN Development Group in a common proposal for the Middle Income Countries in the region, which will target the eradication of poverty and promotion of South-South Cooperation. Since most of LAC countries are MICs, this could help the Regional Office to further adequate its working programme to the specific needs of the region.
- Urban issues have proved to be a crucial issue in Latin America. In 2010, the region has received the 5th Session of the World Urban Forum and the intense participation of LAC actors, concerned with urbanization and sustainable development in the region have led Colombia to campaign and be accepted as the guest country to the 7th Session of the World Urban Forum, to be held in Medellín. Another main motivation for further interest has been the development and

launch of the State of the Latin American and Caribbean Cities Report in 2012, acknowledged as an important source of urban information on the region by the Assembly of Ministers and Maximum Authorities of Housing and the Urbanism of the Latin America and the Caribbean (MINURVI).

## Latin America and the Caribbean: The road ahead

Latin America and the Caribbean cities can surmount the decades-long vicious cycle of inequality and environmental unsustainability. The region is rich in knowledge, experience and institutional capacities to promote innovative urban policies aimed at economic development and social and cultural inclusion, in areas as housing provision, public space design, basic services, water and sanitation, as well as public transport, urban mobility, urban economy and local finance.

Significant progress has been achieved in urban governance as an outcome democratization and decentralization. In that sense, the region has entered a new cycle of urban transition, which does not demand accommodating more people coming from rural areas, but to ensure fundamental improvement of the quality of life and competitiveness of cities. What looms on the horizon is a transition to urban inclusion, equity, and sustainability.

While it is certain that the above transformation is possible, the urban growth models promoted so far have been marked by a high degree of unsustainability and will need to be thoroughly re-examined. Without a review of the urban development model there is every chance that the region's cities will once more embrace the errors of their past, such as deep social inequalities and environmental



deterioration. UN-Habitat's presence in the region therefore remains more relevant than ever, and begs for new areas of cooperation and partnerships, responding effectively to the changing realities.

**Themes to be developed and promoted**

**include:** National and thematic urban policies; Urban governance and safety; Urban densification; Urban planning capacities in intermediary cities; Inter-municipal cooperation; Regional and metropolitan integration; Urban competitiveness and job creation; Municipal and local finance; Slum upgrading; Mobility and access to basic services; Urban resilience, Natural disasters and climate change impacts.



**TOP :** A washed off bridge due to heavy rains in Trinidad.  
© UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat stands firm in its commitment to the region through enhanced engagement and supportive partnerships. Emblematic tools like *The State of the Cities in Latin America and the Caribbean 2012* ([www.unhabitat.org/pmss/](http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/)) and best practices in Latin America help guide policies and interventions to better manage urban growth.

The key asset to making our involvement in the region visible is enhancing partnerships with development partners. Given the

diversity of countries in the region, the range of partners is equally diverse. UN-Habitat is currently operating with support from bilateral donors in least-developed and lower-middle-income economies, while our presence in the region is increasingly being championed by local and national governments themselves. Regional banks are also a natural partner complementing our areas of expertise. In addition, corporations in the private sector are becoming important partners in the region through their corporate social responsibility policies. UN-Habitat is also commending South-South cooperation in the region and overseas through the identification, sharing and transfer of successful and innovative urban practices.



**PHOTO** : An informal settlement on the Picacho hill in Medellín, Colombia. © A. Padrós /UN-Habitat



PHOTO : Naples, Italy.  
©Shutterstock

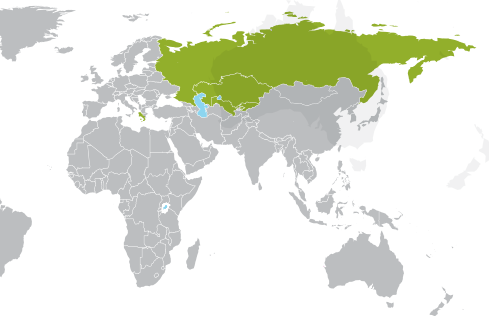




# TRANSITIONAL EUROPE



Growth started again around 2002, with **58.9 per cent** urban to **60 per cent** in 2011 and projected **73 per cent** in 2050



*Note: The boundaries and names shown and the designations used on this map do not imply official endorsement or acceptance by UN-Habitat.*

## Demographic and Urban Trends

The 23 countries that constitute Transitional Europe<sup>2</sup> experienced a 1.4 times population increase from 1950 to 1990, from around 148 million to 212 million. After the breakdown of the Soviet Union, the figures declined considerably to 201 million in 2010 and a further decline to around 177 million is projected (see Fig. 1). Likewise, the urbanization rate increased until 1990, with 32 per cent living in urban areas 1950 and

1990. Rates of urbanization were stagnating in the decade 1990-2000. Growth started again around 2002, with 58, 9 per cent urban to 60 per cent in 2011 and projected 73 per cent in 2050.

### Major Challenges

Over the past 20 years, all 23 transitional European countries have made great strides in their transformation from socialist centrally-planned economies to democratic and market-based systems. But changes have often been embarked upon in haste and were not always based on solid policy, legislative and regulation foundations. Driven by the desire to rapidly pass through the transitional phase, the sound forward-looking policy has at times been compromised by much shorter political time horizons and associated opportunistic

interventions. The impacts of these early decisions now start to be felt with complex and daunting realities on the ground.

### Urban and Rural Population Decline

Urban and rural population shrinkages are among the region's most noteworthy and worrisome demographic trends. Geographically concentrated prosperity differentials have fuelled recent and current migratory and fertility trends in the region and resulted, among others, in decelerating city growth and significant depopulation among smaller cities and in the rural areas of all transition countries. Rural depopulation trends are so strong that the share of urban dwellers in the total population rises despite urban shrinkage.

<sup>2</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo (UN Resolution 1244), Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine

Progressing urbanization processes, due to increased mobility, connectivity and communications technologies, produce new urbanization forms and new urban configurations. Increasingly, urban areas composed of clusters of municipalities act as single demographic, socioeconomic and political entities.

### Urban Policy and Governance

Although the transition introduced institutional reform and planning innovations, in many cases former state controls and closed decision-making processes have not been fully dismantled. Accelerated decentralization, introduction of local self-governance and local autonomy have left many local authorities little

time to adjust; especially among intermediate and small cities. This is compounded by lagging or lacking fiscal decentralization to enable local authorities to perform effectively and execute their traditional and new responsibilities.

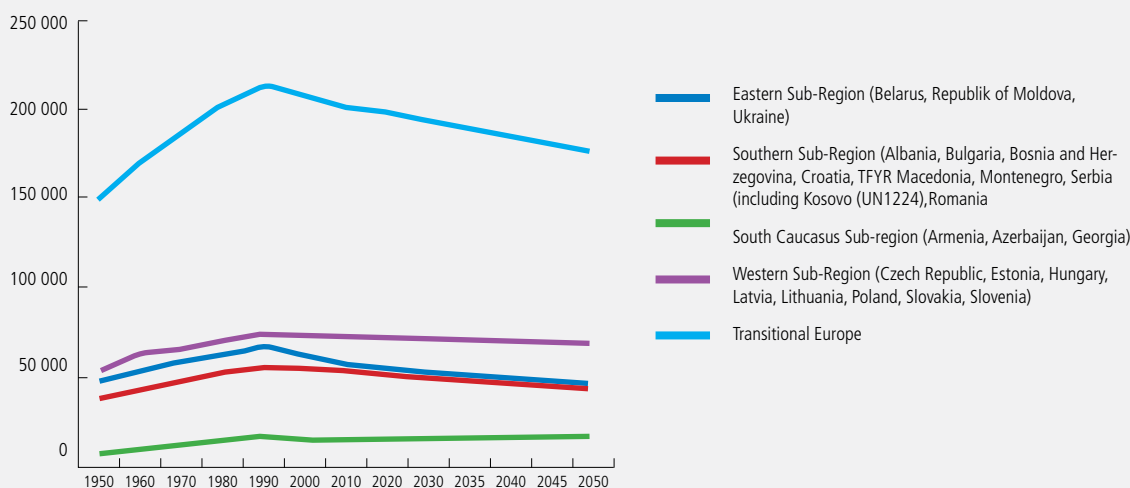
### Urban Economies

Several of the region's larger cities, for instance Budapest and Warsaw, have mostly adjusted and, in economic terms, have moved comparatively smoothly through the transition because their more diversified urban economies and the concentrated availability of international investment capital positioned them better for European and global competition. Although most

of the capitals and other large cities in the region can potentially compete in the European economy, they still require further and deep modernization interventions, urban governance capacity-building, major infrastructure enhancements and environmental improvements. The potential to compete internationally is much more limited for cities in the non-EU member states and those whose undiversified urban economies proved uncompetitive after their international exposure.

The locational benefits of small and intermediate cities in the vicinity of major trans-European corridors and other geographic advantages need to be better

**FIGURE 1: POPULATION DEVELOPMENT IN EASTERN EUROPEAN SUB-REGIONS**



Source: **WUP 2012**

explored in coordination with enhancing their administrative capacities as factors that can contribute to their development. The agricultural and tourism potentials of small towns in rural areas require attention to further assist their positioning and development.

Achieving balanced urban development at both the regional and national levels is critical for promoting more local, national and inter-regional coherence. Declining economic competitiveness and population losses mostly occur in the city-size classes that need demographic and economic reinforcement. Strategies for mitigating complex urban population shrinkage should concentrate on redefining the economic base as the start of the economic recovery policy.

### Inequality

Improved living standards and quality of life neither reached all strata of society nor all parts of countries. Inequality is increasing because economic growth concentrates in the capitals, their functional urban areas and in some other cities, while the smaller cities cannot catch up. Geographically concentrated prosperity differentials have grown rapidly and fuelled outmigration and declining fertility trends.

### Housing Privatization and Low Affordability

In most transitional countries, the housing privatizations of the 1990s took place very fast and in the absence of clear forward-looking policy, legislation and regulation contexts.



Consequently, low affordability of urban residential units is widespread with housing costs rising particularly rapidly in the more prosperous large cities where lack of urban housing supply is pushing up prices at a time when privatization has wiped out national social housing stocks.

### Basis Services and the Environment

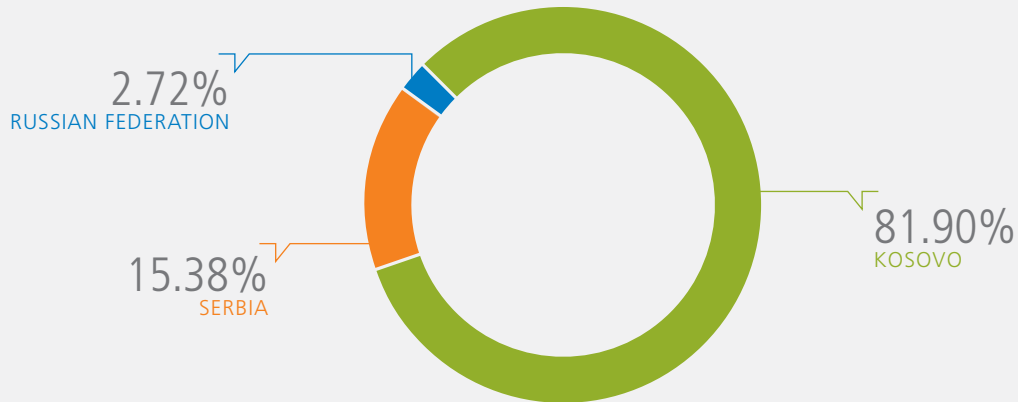
With rising oil and gas prices, energy consumption and efficiency are becoming strategic issues. Households are major users of energy, which exacerbates current systemic inefficiencies because housing stocks are mostly old, energy-inefficient and equipped with energy-intensive appliances. To achieve energy efficiency both state and municipal levels will have to play an active role in more efficient heat and energy production, for example through reducing losses in transmission and distribution of energy, and introducing more stringent energy standards

for buildings. The problem of waste water and solid waste disposal is critical in a large number of the region's cities. Combined with problematic water supply experienced by many local communities, prudent policy interventions are needed at the local and regional tiers.

Achieving balanced **urban development** at both the regional and national levels is critical for promoting more **local, national** and **inter-regional coherence**



**FIGURE 2: GEOGRAPHIC DISTRIBUTION OF ON-GOING PROJECTS (2011-2012)**



Source: *UN-Habitat 2011-2012*

## Mobility

Although the road infrastructure network is reasonably well-developed in the region, intermediate-size cities in particular suffer from transport infrastructures that insufficiently connect city clusters, cities or even neighbourhoods within cities. Interurban connections are also hampered by underdeveloped or defunct railway networks. Large urban areas need better and faster transport infrastructure to connect among themselves and with the wider European city networks and markets to foster networking economies.

## Competition and Cooperation

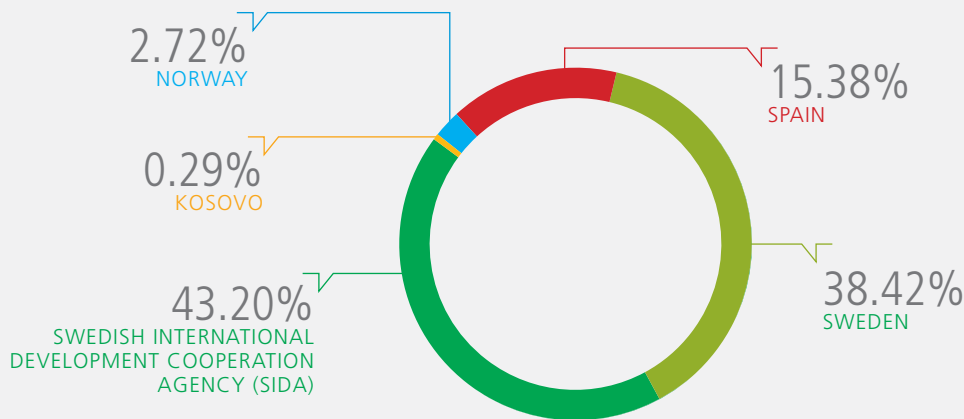
Many interventions are still required to realize the potentials for significantly improved intra-regional (and particularly intercity) cooperation. Clustering regions and municipalities can positively impact on their attractiveness, on integral approaches towards knowledge-based societies and on the systemic boosting of competitiveness. But regional cooperation is still quite limited if compared to other EU countries and even in the region's EU member states this is a new issue that requires further adaptation of legal, governance, macro-economic and financial systems.

## Europe and Former Soviet Union States: Portfolio of Projects and Achievements 2011-2012

UN-Habitat was active in three countries - Kosovo, Serbia and the Russian Federation - in Europe and Former Soviet Union States with a total portfolio of USD5 million for 2011-2012. As Fig. 2 shows, Kosovo alone accounts for the lion's share of UN-Habitat's portfolio in the region with 82 per cent, followed by Serbia and the Russian Federation with 15 and 3 per cent, respectively.



**FIGURE 3: MAJOR CONTRIBUTORS TO THE PORTFOLIO (2011-2012)**



\*Countries under the 'Global Programme' are counted under the global programmes section

Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

The financial contributors to UN-Habitat's portfolio in the region (as shown in Fig. 3) are Sweden with 82 per cent; Spain with 15 per cent; Norway with 3 per cent; and Kosovo with 0.3 per cent..

The main thematic area of focus has been *urban planning and design* mainly through the *Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo* which accounted for almost 82 per cent of the region's portfolio in 2011, increasing marginally to 84 per cent in 2012. The second thematic area is urban land, legislation and governance. In 2011, this constituted 20 per cent of the region's portfolio, and declining to 10 per cent in 2012. The third thematic area in the region's

portfolio is risk reduction and rehabilitation, which accounted for just 5.4 per cent in 2011.

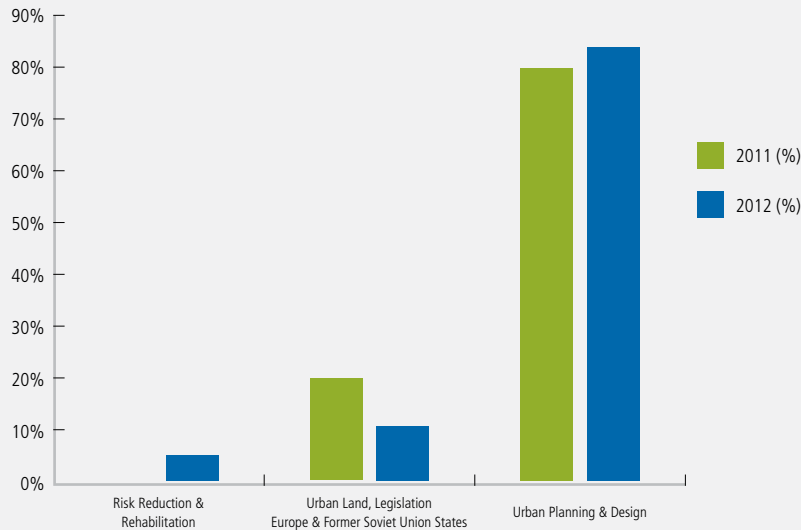
### Highlights of Activities and Achievements

In 2011, the UN-Habitat Warsaw Office was closed following a request by the host country. Consequently, the efforts in the region had to be restructured. UN-Habitat increased efforts to develop technical cooperation in the Transitional European region. With funding from Sweden (USD30,000) for monitoring the regional relations and reporting, UN-Habitat took stock of its relations with the Member States in the region.

Following the conclusions of this report, the efforts were exercised in three directions:

1. Re-engaging with the Eastern European states which have become Members of the European Union.
2. Formalizing collaboration with the Commonwealth of Independent States, consisting of Russian Federation, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Moldova, Tajikistan, Uzbekistan, and informal participation of Turkmenistan and Ukraine.
3. Strengthening collaboration in the Western Balkans.

**FIGURE 4: THEMATIC DISTRIBUTION OF THE PORTFOLIO (2011-2012)**



Source: **UN-Habitat 2011-2012**

## European Union and its Eastern Neighbourhood

In 2011, with funding provided by Norway (USD100,000), UN-Habitat started preparing a report titled: *State of the European Cities in Transition 2013: Taking stock after 20 years of Reform*. This report complements the results of the debate with the national authorities with the analytical insights on the aftermath of post-socialist development and regional development policy of the EU. The Report covers the 23 transitional countries of Europe.<sup>3</sup>

<sup>3</sup> Albania, Armenia, Azerbaijan, Belarus, Bosnia-Herzegovina, Bulgaria, Croatia, the Czech Republic, Estonia, Georgia, Hungary, Kosovo (UN Resolution 1244), Latvia, Lithuania, Macedonia, Moldova, Montenegro, Poland, Romania, Serbia, Slovakia, Slovenia and Ukraine.

With **rising oil and gas prices**, energy consumption and efficiency are becoming **strategic issues**

The work is coordinated by UN-Habitat in cooperation with the Urban Development Institute in Krakow, Poland. The report will be launched by UN-Habitat during the European Commission's "Open Days: European Week of Regions and Cities" in October 2013. It will pave the way for a new UN-Habitat

regional state of the cities report *The State of European Cities 2015*, agreed upon with the EC in March 2013, to analyse the role of the European Cities in the European Neighbourhood and in the world.

## Commonwealth of Independent States

Benefitting from the Russian Federation's annual contribution (USD400,000) and in collaboration with UNECE, in March 2011, a training course was organized in Minsk for the CIS Member States. This training course, and subsequent meeting of the UN-Habitat-CIS Collaboration Commission, established in 2010, was used to establish the needs of the CIS Member States within the mandate of UN-Habitat.

Following the findings, in 2011, relations were developed with the regional International Assembly of Capital and Major Cities, uniting 75 cities in the region. Negotiations took place with the Intergovernmental Council for Cooperation in construction activities of the Commonwealth of Independent States, resulting in a Memorandum of Understanding, defining the framework of regional cooperation, and agreeing of foundation of the CIS Urban Forum. Subsequently to this MoU, in September 2012, the Intergovernmental Council for Cooperation in construction activities of the CIS approved preparation of the State of the Eurasian Cities report, focussing on the role of the cities in the territorial economic integration. In this endeavour, UN-Habitat is working on strengthening partnerships with the regional economic Commissions: both UNECE and UNESCAP.

In May 2012, the Executive Director of UN-Habitat visited Kazakhstan and the Russian Federation, laying foundations for further development of collaboration with the member States and cities in the region. In particular, collaboration started to be forged with the City of Saint Petersburg, focussing on administrative and legal framework for redevelopment of industrial brownfields in the City, and with the City of Sochi, discussing eventual collaboration in developing a post-Olympic sustainable development strategy. Hence the thematic scope in the region is becoming enhanced from previous focus on housing to urban policies, economic role of the cities, and inner city regeneration, including issues of urban governance and land management.

Since agreement was reached with the CIS nations at the WUF-6 in Naples, UN-Habitat has in 2012 embarked on the preparation of another publication in the regional state of the

cities report series: *The State of the Eurasian Cities 2015: Regional planning for economic cooperation*. This report, covering the CIS and allied states, will analyse housing and urban development policies, conditions and trends with a region-wide perspective.

### Western Balkans

In 2011, following several years of successful operation in Kosovo (UN resolution 1244), UN-Habitat negotiated with Sweden extension of funding to the third phase of the *Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme in Kosovo* for 2012-2014 (USD4,600,000). The programme was extended geographically and thematically, and now includes support to the central level of Kosovo (UN resolution 1244) administration.




In 2012, relations were also re-established with the UNCT in Bosnia-Herzegovina, UN-Habitat joining UNCT as a non-resident agency and taking part in the formulation of the Joint Programme for the country, continuing in 2013.

The further efforts in the Western Balkans will refocus from municipal spatial planning to the regional collaboration in sustainable urban and territorial development, with the view of finalising the post-conflict reintegration and preparations of the member states to further territorial integration with the rest of Europe and the European Neighbourhood.

## Transitional Europe: The Way Forward

### Slow population growth and declining cities

In Transitional Europe, slow or reduced population growth, the phenomenon of complex shrinking cities and demographic ageing have presented problems of dealing with deteriorating buildings and infrastructure in a context where the local tax base is severely constrained. A rapidly ageing population places further demands on healthcare, pensions and other old-age facilities while municipal budgets are constrained by out-migration of working-age population cohorts.

 **LEFT** : Workers building a new road. Albania.  
© Albes Fusha / World Bank



**RIGHT** : View of Sofia, Bulgaria.  
© Boris Balabanov / World Bank

## Urban Sprawl, Fragmentation and Inequality

Population shrinkage in Transitional Europe has occurred along with growing demands for space and facilities by an emerging wealthy class. Urban development is now strongly driven by foreign investments (including remittances), which has fuelled new property development, primarily for the wealthier groups. This new growth has focused on suburban development and upmarket inner-city neighbourhoods, raising issues for planning of sprawl containment, the preservation of heritage buildings in older inner-city areas, and dealing with rapidly increasing car ownership. At the same time, urban property prices are reaching levels beyond affordability and labour mobility starts to get affected by the lack of affordable urban housing. Likewise, problems such as derelict industrial urban sites, deteriorating public housing estates, aged and failing infrastructure, and informal settlement on the urban edge need to be addressed.

## Environmental Issues

Socialist-era industries were some of the worst polluters in the world and, while some of these have closed, many remain and present serious environmental problems. The rapid growth of vehicle ownership has also worsened air quality. Unconstrained private property developments, particularly in the form of sprawl on the urban edge (suburbanization) and beyond (ex-urbanization) have encroached upon many open spaces and agricultural land.



## Decentralization of Government and Resource Constraints

Decentralization in Transitional Europe has been strongly promoted and has been mostly successful in the EU member states of the region. In non-EU members' states, decentralization has generally been less vigorously pursued and the centralized forms of decision-making have yet to be fully dismantled. In both EU and non-EU member states, fiscal decentralization is lagging, rendering the administrative decentralization less effective. Consequently, local governments have relied on privatized measures to provide and run services, but due to fragmentation of authority over too many geographical or political units, many are too small to be of interest to the private sector. Urban development has become the concern of multiple parties – the once powerful public authorities, private owners, builders, developers, non-profit organizations and various interest groups.

Urban planning has been shifted to local governments who have little previous

experience in dealing with these matters under market conditions. New local regulatory systems and administrative processes have had to be developed from scratch and few are effectively in place at this point in time.

## The Changing Legislative Framework for Planning

Many transitional countries have now produced new planning legislation in response to the changed circumstances of democracy and market forces. Frequently, this new legislation reinforced the conventional master planning approach; but several countries adopted strategic planning in addition to master plans. Exposure to the European and global markets has introduced new issues of city competitiveness, economic growth, municipal financial reform, improved quality of life and citizen participation. Given that strategic plans are not legally recognized, their coexistence with master plans greatly complicates the legislative environment for planning.



## CONCLUSION

'The urban transition' - a demographic trend whereby, roughly speaking, the **global population** changes from a **two-thirds** rural majority in 1950 to a **two-thirds** urban majority around 2050

In 2008, the world reached a demographic milestone when, for the first time ever, the number of people living in urban areas exceeded that of rural dwellers. That moment was the half-way point in 'the urban transition' - a demographic trend whereby, roughly speaking, the global population changes from a two-thirds rural majority in 1950 to a two-thirds urban majority around 2050. This irreversible urban transition may ultimately lead to a global urban population of around 80 per cent. The future of humanity is inevitably an urban one and even currently less-urbanized countries should prepare for the following broad challenges associated with a world of cities:

### Economic Challenges

- Today, urbanization is taking place within a weakened, post-2008 global economy with the implications declining urban economies and rising unemployment. The global economic slump also affects development assistance flows and funding

of development agencies. Urban slums and urban poverty, already low among development cooperation priorities, are likely to be especially adversely affected at a time that the South is urbanizing very rapidly.

### Planning Challenges

- Adequate planning for urban growth, especially given dwindling financial resources, remains a major problem. Unless addressed by effective planning, rapid urban growth will continue to produce deep urban poverty, proliferating urban slums, inadequate urban services provision, and degraded urban environments.

### Environmental Challenges

- Climate and environmental change are now significant urban concerns because they introduce and reinforce many hazards that can disrupt or destroy urban infrastructures and economies.

### Social Challenges

- Unemployment rates are high in developing countries and particularly severe in economic sectors strongly associated with urban areas. Youth unemployment is especially problematic. Extreme poverty incidence in developing countries' urban areas increases and one-third of the urban population in developing countries now resides in slums, with slum prevalence the highest in Sub-Saharan Africa (62 per cent). The twin-problem of urban poverty and proliferation of slums is among the main humanitarian problems the world needs to address; including in the interest of global social stability.

### Demographic Challenges

- Current trends in population-age structures also pose significant challenges. Developing countries have to deal with large demographic youth bulges and associated rising demands for livelihoods,

shelter and services, while many developed and transitional countries face the challenges of demographic ageing and all the fiscal problems these will bring.

- Despite these daunting challenges, urbanization should nevertheless be seen as a positive contribution to achieving better quality of life for populations. The drawbacks of concentrated consumption, waste production and pollution in cities are well-known. But absorbing people in urban areas is the sole feasible precondition for combining rapidly-expanding populations with sustainable management of our planet, because cities are humankind's best instrument for social transformation, cultural development, civic engagement and addressing the challenges to be faced.

The continuously changing and growing challenges all coalesce in our villages, towns and cities. It is precisely in these human settlements that the answers to these challenges can and must be found.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), as indicated by this publication, is the United Nations custodian of urban development and related housing knowledge and expertise. At the global, regional, national, local and neighbourhood levels, UN-Habitat's normative, policy and technical know-how can help guide the rapidly-unfolding urban transition into desirable and sustainable patterns.

UN-Habitat stands ready to work with all towns, cities, nations and regions in addressing these challenges, applying the knowledge resources and experience at our disposal.

UN-Habitat is currently preparing for the third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) in 2016. The conference will follow previous UN conferences on human settlements - Habitat I, held in Vancouver, Canada, in 1976, which led to the creation of the UN Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat); and Habitat II, held in Istanbul, Turkey, in 1996. Habitat III will have a highly appropriate focus on reinvigorating the global commitment to sustainable human settlements for an inevitable world of cities.



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