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2015
European Year
for Development

CONTEXT

We are very pleased to present this report on the partnership between UN-Habitat and the European Union on the occasion of the European Year of Development 2015.

The stories from programmes in Somalia, Afghanistan, Sri Lanka, Haiti, and many more countries show how UN-Habitat improves lives in developing countries with EU funds.

Development aid sometimes seems very abstract and very far away. However, the lives affected are as human as our neighbours'. EU funding makes a real difference, whether providing water in the north of Somalia, achieving a sense of community and employment for women in Afghanistan, or improving living conditions in slums in Cameroon.

We want to inform EU citizens about the difference they are making. We also want to encourage decision makers to continue to support development aid in cities, where today most of humanity lives.

I hope you enjoy your reading.

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Cover photo: Children playing near a community road and drainage construction project, Jalalabad © UN-Habitat.

FOREWORD

UN-Habitat has a long-lasting and fruitful relationship with the European Commission. Over the years, both institutions have become partners with the aim of contributing to achieving a life of dignity for all.

Over the last year, the role of urbanization as a driver for socio-economic transformation has been increasingly recognized by European institutions dealing with territorial cohesion, environment, and foreign policy. More recently, the European development and cooperation community has started to acknowledge the importance of urbanization. Moreover, it is also being recognized that the future is increasingly urban, and that urban human settlements have to become a priority to adequately tackle development challenges.

UN-Habitat and the European institutions do not base their relationship solely on a donor–recipient bond. The UN agency has long recognized the role of the European Union as a model when tackling the common global challenges of pollution, poverty, sustainable mobility, and social equity. The engagement of European cities in UN-Habitat’s programmes showcases the positive outcomes that can emanate from a collaborative approach with developing countries.

The purpose of this report is to provide insight into the successful work that has been jointly undertaken by UN-Habitat and the European Commission in recent years. It portrays the positive effects that a planned, accurate, and holistic intervention at the urban level can have on the lives of many people.

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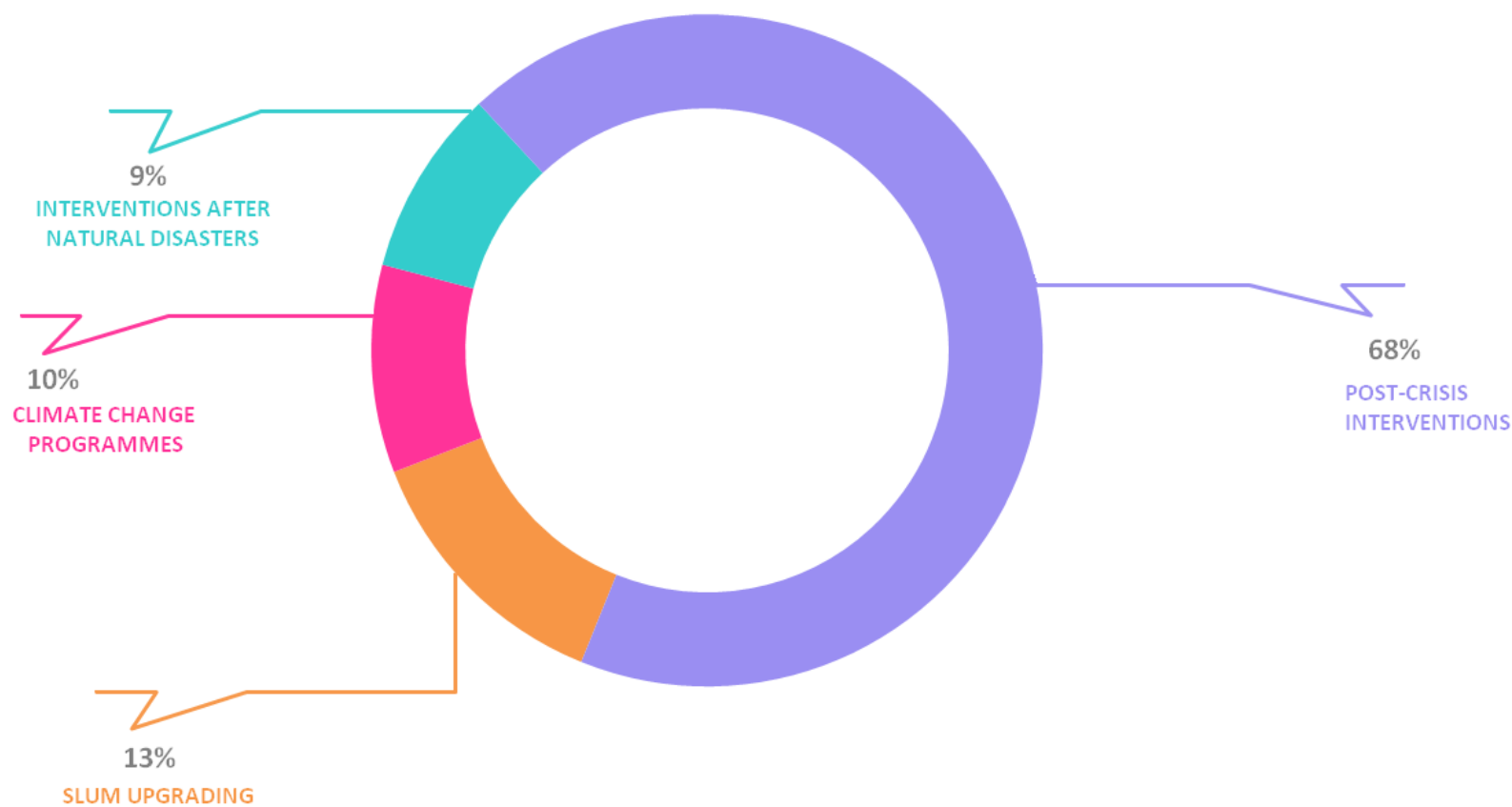
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WHERE ARE THE
EU AND UN-HABITAT PROJECTS BEING
IMPLEMENTED?



As partners for development, UN-Habitat and the European Union have collaborated on an array of successful projects in recent years. One of the agency's biggest donors, the European Commission is currently contributing over 70 million euros to enable the implementation of UN-Habitat's projects.

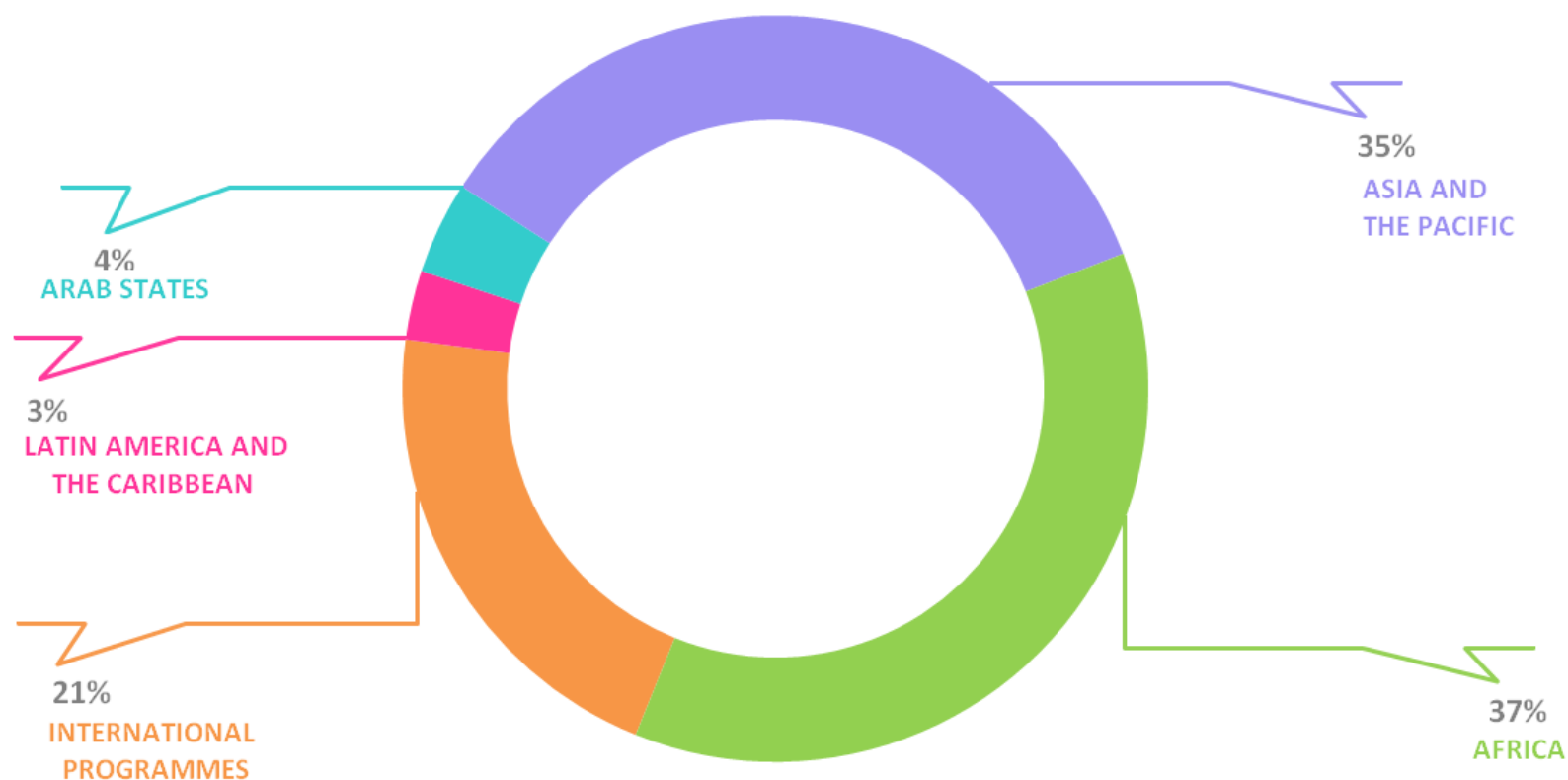
The financed activities will ameliorate living conditions in fragile or post-conflict scenarios (Somalia, Sri Lanka, Afghanistan, Palestine, and West Timor), as well as post-natural disaster contexts (Haiti, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique, Samoa, and Laos).



Current UN-Habitat projects by theme

UN-Habitat is leading several global programmes, including the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) in African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries and climate change initiatives such as the Urban Low Emissions Development Strategies (Urban-LEDs) in emerging economy countries.

Geographically, current funding from the EC covers mostly Asia and sub-Saharan Africa, although a small percentage of the projects are being conducted in Latin American countries and Arab states.



Current UN-Habitat projects by geographical scope

POST-CRISIS INTERVENTIONS

UN-Habitat's responsibilities in emergencies and humanitarian and post-crisis response are to support national governments, local authorities, and civil society in their capacity of managing disasters that affect human settlements.

The normative framework for UN-Habitat's work is its Strategic Policy on Human Settlements and Crisis, together with the Sustainable Relief and Reconstruction framework. These frameworks apply across all thematic and cross-cutting units within UN-Habitat and comprise an integrated urban response strategy.

The agency pledges that humanitarian relief operations be conceived from the very start as a bridge to development, which entails the rapid restoration of homes and livelihoods. The number and plight of internally displaced persons and refugees living for months, sometimes years, in situations of prolonged dependency provide an argument in favour of more sustainable solutions that combine short-term emergency efforts with long-term development.

Moreover, UN-Habitat is also active in fragile states. The rationale behind fragile states interventions is that these states face extreme poverty and development challenges, and have a development situation that is at high risk of further decline or even failure, which is likely to trigger conflict. The common features are: weak governance, failing public institutions, and instability or conflict. These features also contribute to dismal growth prospects.

The regional and international spillover effects from these countries include violent conflict, instability, organized crime, forced migration, human trafficking, and deteriorating public health. Therefore, in order to respond to these situations, it is paramount to develop early warning and prevention responses so as to prevent future damage.

UN-Habitat has been aware of the determining changes that can be accomplished through prevention and post-crisis interventions. UN-Habitat is well-placed to deploy and implement urban programmes dealing with these issues in order to foster growth and stability.



A pregnant woman runs away from burning buildings © UN-Habitat

Helping Palestinians towards Sustainable Living

Spatial Planning Support to Palestinian Communities in Area C of the West Bank, Occupied Palestinian Territories

The European Union representation in the occupied Palestinian territories and UN-Habitat have been working together since 2013 to implement the Spatial Planning Support Programme in Area C of the West Bank. This project is conducted in conjunction with a French-funded project to support 18 vulnerable Palestinian communities in the southern part of the West Bank (Area C).

UN-Habitat assists and empowers Palestinians living in Area C to use the statutory planning framework of local outline plans to resist displacement and prevent demolitions, as well as to enhance the sustainable development and local empowerment of the community, including women and youth.

The majority of the Palestinian communities still lack a detailed outline plan that caters for their natural growth. As the development pressure on Area C is increasing, it is important to accelerate the planning effort and to address the serious planning backlog, as evidenced by the large number of demolition orders and/or stop work orders that have been issued. Furthermore, it is essential that affected village councils are fully aware of the need for planning and the risks involved, and are in a position to engage with the Israeli Civil Administration to negotiate the approval of their plans on behalf of their communities.

UN-Habitat's intervention follows a request from the Palestinian Authority to enhance planning expertise in Area C to provide a link

with the broader work of the UN on the topic, at the humanitarian, development, and political level, and to facilitate the advocacy work being done by the international community.

The project aims at improving the Palestinian management structure and process with the involvement of all relevant domestic and international community stakeholders, as well as facilitating technical cooperation with the Israeli Civil Administration in appropriate cases. In this respect, the project wants to develop planning standards and guidelines for qualitative, community-driven local planning.

An estimated 350,000 Palestinians live on the land in the West Bank designated as Area C. Here, development is tightly restricted by the Israeli authorities through limitations on the land use plans that allow for new development rights, refusal of permits for the construction of individual buildings and services, and issuing demolition orders for buildings that are constructed without permission. This situation impacts severely on the potential for economic growth and environmental conditions in Palestinian cities and towns.

Thus far, the programme has managed to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable rural Palestinian communities to define their development priorities. Thirteen action plans and cost estimates for basic community investments in the planned areas have been

elaborated and validated by the respective communities. These have already been presented to the EU, and 23 more action plans are currently being developed.

The implementation of the plans has been further enhanced by the method called “place-making”, which is designed to turn undefined or underused spaces into liveable places. This method has already been tested in four planned localities. Place-making focuses on community-guided designs for prioritized community projects, framed within a larger design proposal to improve the liveability of the entire village. These plans and community-guided designs have been produced with the active involvement of women, youth, and other vulnerable groups.

The programme has managed to strengthen the capacity of vulnerable rural Palestinian communities to define their development priorities.

Furthermore, the Palestinian National Authorities have been provided with technical and legal support so as to reach out to the Palestinian communities in Area C, outside their formal jurisdiction, and to encourage the local communities in drafting and negotiating their plans with the occupying power.

As a result, coordinated advocacy efforts between the Palestinian National Authorities and the international community have been implemented in order to promote modification in the restrictive planning system of Area C based on a comprehensive information and monitoring system.



The Urban Planning Support Programme in East Jerusalem
© UN-Habitat

Project duration: August 2013–January 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 750,070
Partner: International Peace Cooperation Centre

Water to the People

Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project, Somaliland

“Ask anyone on the streets of Somaliland’s capital Hargeisa what their city needs most urgently, and the answer is immediate: water. Every day, tankers and donkey-carts deliver water to tens of thousands of homes and businesses that have no direct access to the existing municipal piped water system.”

The principal water infrastructure for Hargeisa was constructed in the 1970s to supply water to a city which at that time consisted of 180,000 inhabitants. Since the latest system upgrade in 1988, when additional boreholes were drilled at the Geed Deeble well field some 23 kilometres north of the city, there has been no increase in the volume of water, despite a quadrupling of demand over the last 25 years.

Following rapid urbanization and resettlement, the estimated population of the city is now over 750,000 people, while the daily water supply remains the same as in 1988. If distributed evenly, this would provide 12 litres per person per day, which is far below the internationally accepted minimum urban water supply target.

The pipelines and the critical components of the water production and transmission system are outdated and at risk of failure due to lack of maintenance and rehabilitation. The rapidly growing population, dilapidated infrastructure, and inadequate coverage mean that the water supply situation in Hargeisa is precarious and on the verge of a collapse.

Water is a social and economic good. Therefore, Hargeisa’s limited water availability is a critical shortcoming in essential service delivery,

and seriously impedes the right to water access, local economic development, and employment generation across the capital.

In response to water scarcity and rapid urbanization, UN-Habitat has developed a project that will restore and replace the pipeline system. The objective of the project is to create a new high-capacity single transmission system, thus bringing more water into the municipal system and securing the supply from the Geed Deeble well field for the long term.

The project intends to achieve a significant expansion of the safe water supply coverage in Hargeisa. This will contribute to the achievement of greater accessibility and affordability of water, a lower portion of average household income dedicated to water, and improved public health and hygiene. Moreover, it is expected that



A boy accesses water in Hargeisa © UN-Habitat

greater volumes of low-cost water for commercial enterprises and industries and better practices in water catchment protection and environmental conservation will be attained.

With the completion of the construction process, the new high-capacity pipeline will bring an additional 5.5 million litres of water to Hargeisa every day. The upgraded system also has the potential to further increase the water supply – by connecting well fields, the system could provide Hargeisa with as much as 20 million litres per day. However, for this to become a reality, substantial additional funding is needed.

The Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project is laying the foundations for improved and sustainable water infrastructure for the entire city.

The Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Upgrading Project ensures that the city will benefit from an urban water system built for the future. By the completion of the project, the length of the pipeline that will be replaced and upgraded will be more than 31 km, and the daily water supply will have increased by more than 61 percent.

The capacity of the new system could exceed 20 million litres a day, therefore enabling citizens to access water on a daily basis. This will have a huge impact on the livelihoods and welfare of Hargeisa's citizens, since more than 290,000 people will benefit from improved direct access to the Hargeisa municipal water system. As a result, the project will improve general living conditions, help create new livelihoods, and encourage income generation and job creation.



© UN-Habitat

Only 40 percent of the population of Hargeisa have access to the clean water supplied by the Hargeisa Water Agency. The remaining 60 percent pay 4 times as much for their water from unreliable water resources.

Mohamed (above) is one of the donkey-cart owners who provide the essential service of delivering water to the poorest communities in Hargeisa. As there has been no new pipework in Hargeisa since 1994, Mohamed takes water from one of the 400 public kiosks directly to the residents of Somaliland's capital.

Project duration: December 2012–June 2016
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 15 million

Restoring Communities through Reconstruction

Support to Conflict-affected People through Housing, Sri Lanka

In May 2009, more than 25 years of conflict in Sri Lanka came to an end. While the entire country suffered from the conflict, districts of the north and east were devastated. Thousands of families have been displaced on multiple occasions, often being forced to leave their homes for many years. When people eventually returned, most of their houses had been either badly damaged or completely destroyed. As the majority of people affected are relatively poor with marginal incomes and little or no savings, they have been unable to sustain major financial shocks such as this loss of livelihoods and housing.

The Improving Living Conditions in Returnee Areas through Housing Project aims to contribute to a sustainable solution for the returnees in the conflict-affected Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka. The activities are implemented by UN-Habitat and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC) in over 100 villages. These activities aim to improve the living conditions and social cohesion of displaced people, returnees, and their host communities through the provision of permanent housing and small-scale community infrastructure.

This project is a continuation of the first phase of the Housing Recovery Programme, which was funded and implemented by the same partners from January 2011 to March 2014. The first phase assisted over 5,000 families to rebuild their damaged homes in the north of Sri Lanka.

Having established that a permanent house is the cornerstone for a family's recovery, the second phase of the programme is assisting

the reconstruction of a further 4,600 damaged houses (4,000 of them fully damaged and 600 partly damaged) in the districts of Mullaitivu, Killinochchi, and Mannar in Northern Province, and Batticaloa in Eastern Province. Using a homeowner-driven approach, this project is empowering beneficiary families to take charge of their own recovery process, while technical assistance is provided by UN-Habitat and SDC.

In order to assist conflict-affected families to overcome vulnerabilities, this housing recovery programme empowers families



Improved living conditions for IDPs © UN-Habitat

to become strong and active members of their community through a series of widely tested community development activities and processes. The project specifically provides cash grants and technical support to homeowners to reconstruct and repair their conflict-damaged houses. Village Reconstruction Committees have been established in all the project locations to assist families with the reconstruction activities and to monitor progress.

While key activities are centred on housing reconstruction, many other positive outcomes have been incorporated into the project. This includes the construction of vital community infrastructure: 12 preschools, 14 community centres, 34 km of local roads, and 35 drinking water wells. In addition, capacity building has been done for community members, particularly women and youth, through participatory planning processes and leadership training.

Other positive outcomes achieved through the project include the following: improving livelihood options through construction skills training, ensuring security of tenure by facilitating the provision of title documentation, and building partnerships with state agencies and development partners to ensure holistic and sustainable settlement development.

Over 300 female-headed households are being provided with housing assistance. Furthermore, over 45 percent of the members elected to the Village Reconstruction Committees are women.

The project also assists in the revival of the local economy, as materials and labour are primarily purchased locally. Environmentally friendly materials and practices are being incorporated in both housing and public buildings, and 30,000 trees will be planted in local communities.



© UN-Habitat

Project duration: January 2013–June 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 11.8 million
Partners: Government of Australia (DFAT), Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), Government of Sri Lanka, local communities

Everyone in for a Stronger Democracy

Strengthening Citizenship Participation in Urban Local Governance in Four Pilot Cities in Zimbabwe

Following the economic meltdown in Zimbabwe, urban local authorities are facing serious challenges in their efforts to deliver services expected by the citizens.

The National Policy on Local Government in recent times has been based on the desire to promote decentralization of power and responsibilities from the centre to local communities. However, the reality in Zimbabwe is that local government is a creation of the central government, which derives its powers from statute laws made by parliament. Furthermore, local capacities have not been adequately supported with resources to assist urban authorities.

This situation has left urban local authorities with decentralized institutions, but non-operational structures, due to severe underfunding. The current 80 percent unemployment rate does not help taxpayers, who understand the need to pay their dues but are a minority of the population. However, there is a sense of misrepresentation and lack of accountability among the taxpayer community, as they do not see themselves getting basic urban services in return.

In order to improve the relationship between the communities and the local authorities, this EU-funded project has been working with four cities in Zimbabwe – Bulawayo, Gweru, Masvingo, and Kadoma – to strengthen citizenship participation in urban local governance.

Taking into account that conflict within urban councils and between the councils and their stakeholders (such as community organizations, rate payer groups, and individual citizens) was identified as a major barrier to effective communication and service delivery by the councils, UN-Habitat has elaborated a comprehensive programme to improve citizenship participation and governance and address this impediment in an inclusive manner.

Its strategy focused mainly on enhancing community stakeholder participation in the local government decision-making process; improving communication skills and strategies between each local authority and its citizens; ameliorating responsiveness to citizens' needs by each local authority; enhancing transparency and accountability in cities through the development of codes of conduct and evaluation strategies for local government; building local government capacity to address Millennium Development Goals around gender, HIV, and poverty (for which they are responsible); and developing conflict resolution skills within each local government authority.

As the project has been finalized, it has been observed that in all cities the participation of stakeholders and community representatives has proved to be very effective in ensuring local ownership of the process as well as fostering stakeholder commitment. The high degree of civil society involvement ensured that the needs and service delivery priorities of communities were addressed in a transparent and inclusive manner.

There was a strong emphasis on strengthening the communication and information flow through locally agreed communication tools and strategies. Therefore, UN-Habitat provided tools to guide cities in participatory planning processes and organized workshops and trainings so the local authorities could better understand their citizens.

Moreover, the use of Client Service Charters improved linkages and relationships with communities and stakeholders. Further, the institutionalization of these charters at the department level in some of the cities resulted in a new way to measure the performance of the local government officials. However, some of the charters are still being finalized.

The cumulative impact of the principles of the community-based planning approach (which was adopted by all the cities) continues to be evident in the participating cities, with all stakeholders assuming their responsibilities within a collaborative work framework. This positive collaborative environment created by the project has already led to a strong emphasis on public–private partnerships by some of the cities. In fact, this public–private sector approach has become a major gateway towards the mobilization of resources to implement the “change plans” that cities and their stakeholders have produced.

The cities are beginning to identify comparative learning thematic areas that are enabling them to build a strong foundation for the emergence of a learning network among the participating and other local authorities.

The fact that the participatory budgeting process was emulated by the city of Mutare – a local authority that did not participate in the programme – shows the potential for replication and the need for investment in developing a learning network among local authorities beyond the period of the programme.



Strengthening citizen participation © UN-Habitat

Project duration: September 2012–December 2013
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 329,800
Partners: UNDP, Urban Councils Association of Zimbabwe

Addressing Urbanization Challenges in Palestine

Urban Planning Support for Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem

Rapid urbanization, high population growth rates, scarcity of land, and territorial fragmentation due to Israeli occupation in Palestine are considered the main challenges facing the Palestinian urban areas today. These are creating a growing pressure on land, infrastructure, and resources. As a result, random and uncontrolled developments have expanded in the cities and around the fringes of towns, encroaching on surrounding agricultural land.

Due to Israeli restrictions in granting building permits and partisan policies with regard to urban planning, the overall quality of life in East Jerusalem continues to be degraded, and some Palestinian residents have been displaced outside of the Jerusalem municipal boundaries.

In recent years there has been an increase in the construction of houses in the surrounding plots. Those in these informal settlements also risk eviction. Thus, informal settlements, the housing scarcity, the lack of trust in the Israeli system on the side of Palestinian communities, and the lack of appropriate mechanisms to extract land for public use have resulted in neighbourhoods that are deprived of public spaces. Public spaces are essential to the quality of life, particularly if one takes into account the predominance of youth in Palestinian communities.

Since 2011, UN-Habitat and its partners have been working on the Urban Planning Support for Palestinian Communities in East Jerusalem Programme. It aims at facilitating the immediate improvement of living conditions and easing displacement pressure to support Palestinian communities in East Jerusalem in securing concrete development, building opportunities, and rights through appropriate spatial planning activities. The project focuses on the issues of informality, inequality,

regularization and building rights, in addition to enabling the provision of public spaces and public services.

Developing plans for the neighbourhoods will help the residents when they apply to obtain building permits. Moreover, the awareness campaign will help the residents understand the shortcomings of unplanned expansion and help the communities organize themselves to design interventions in priority areas. This will enhance urban awareness and integration among the residents and professionals, and increase the Palestinian capacity to plan. The project's main activity is developing outline plans and detailed plans. These will first help the community in freezing the demolition orders, which constitutes an immediate benefit. It will also enable them to legalize their building status by obtaining building permits and having plans for their future expansion and designated areas for services as well as public spaces.

Freezing the demolition orders will enable Palestinian communities and individual families to benefit directly. It will also help in improving living conditions and easing the displacement pressures, while fostering growth opportunities in East Jerusalem.

The development of the plans is based on a community participatory approach, which helps raise awareness about entitlement to property rights and creates a sense of belonging and ownership among the local residents towards their neighbourhood. Local residents become key partners in the implementation process, and their cooperation becomes crucial for the success of the planning process.

Thus far, a digital platform has been created to act as a web-based knowledge-sharing and networking platform on Jerusalem planning

issues. Moreover, qualitative surveys of works for 30 neighbourhoods, covering most of the Palestinian neighbourhoods in East Jerusalem, have been completed. All together, they provide a rich database of information regarding the needs of different communities, including operative recommendations for improvement.

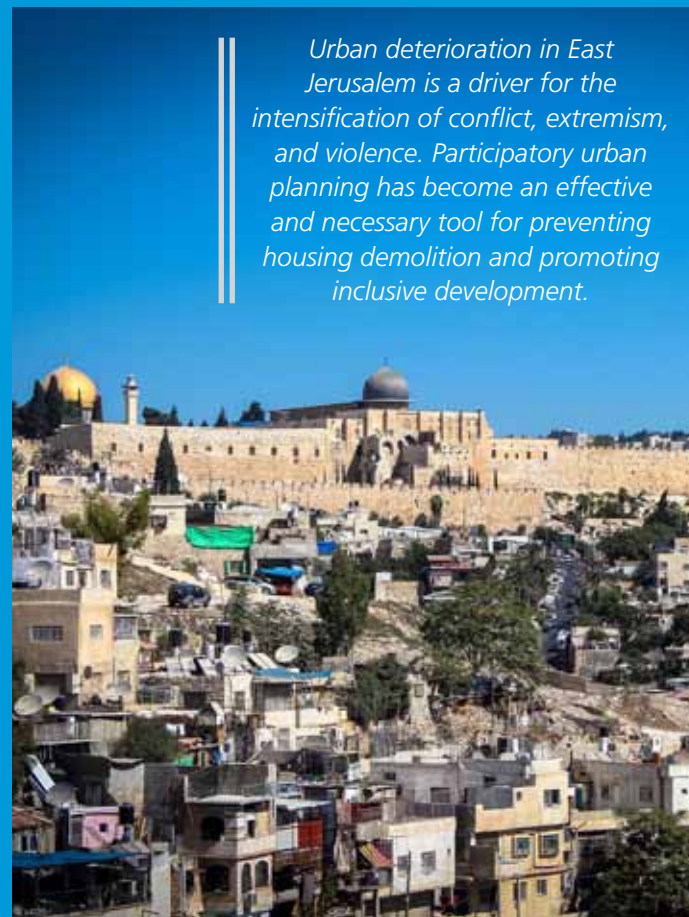
Moreover, integrated neighbourhood plans, five outline plans, and two detailed outline plans for priority areas are under development and will be submitted for the approval of the Israeli Jerusalem Municipality.

Several consultative sessions were organized with the Palestinian residents in East Jerusalem to raise awareness and build capacity on urban and planning issues. Furthermore, guiding concept notes were developed on capacity building, planning methodology, and illegal informality.

Several public awareness sessions were organized in communities where planning is taking place to enhance Palestinian communities' understanding of their "right to the city", in addition to raising their awareness about Israeli planning policies and regulations. The sessions also strengthened the understanding of the community members on participatory urban planning tools and their potential to help overcome existing demolition orders and plan for future growth. The sessions also managed to structure the community to actively participate in the planning process and to empower them. More than 220 acres of land in three communities in East Jerusalem are being planned at the outline level. Almost 300 acres in three communities are being planned with the help of the inhabitants, who have become more integrated in the process.

Additionally, demolition orders were frozen for more than 44 buildings in neighbourhoods where planning is taking place, thereby allowing the population to retain their right to the territory. The project activities have yielded such positive and evident results that they have attracted further funding from donors, which will allow for expanding the planning activities to other neighbourhoods – to institutionalize the capacity development elements, to strengthen the management set-up, and to strengthen the link with housing and land issues.

Urban deterioration in East Jerusalem is a driver for the intensification of conflict, extremism, and violence. Participatory urban planning has become an effective and necessary tool for preventing housing demolition and promoting inclusive development.



Urban Planning Support Programme, East Jerusalem © UN-Habitat

Project duration: September 2011–December 2014
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 2 million
Partners: International Peace and Cooperation Centre (IPCC), Bimkom, Centre for the Advancement of Peace Initiatives (CAPI)

Local Solutions for Global Problems

Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery, Somalia

Over the past 30 years, Somali towns have experienced unprecedented urban growth, amidst a chronic conflict and recurring natural disasters. Furthermore, violence, an ever-present component of the recent historical development in the region, has resulted in the breakdown of societies into clan divisions, making protection and survival harder. In addition, similar to other developing countries, Somalia has faced problems in creating a comprehensive and coordinated land policy, which constitutes a major impediment for national development.

The picture in the towns and cities is not promising: burgeoning informal settlements, weak institutional structures, inadequate legal regulations, poor planning, insufficient service coverage, low quality basic services, limited economic opportunities, and poverty.

The UN Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery has established an important platform for seizing the development moment and has also translated many of the ambitions of the “One UN” principles into tangible improvements in aid and wider development effectiveness. It is a common effort led by five different UN agencies to address the shortcomings in Somalia’s post-conflict development.

Currently in its second phase, the programme offers a comprehensive approach in which each agency brings in their specific expertise and knowledge. UN-Habitat, building on its

experiences and lessons learned over the past three decades in Somalia, implements the urban development and decentralization components of the programme, while adapting it to fit Somalia’s fast-changing towns.

The programme will build on the successes achieved during the past five years, while maintaining a focus on strengthening local government to enhance the delivery of services to citizens and restoring confidence and credibility in the state. It will also improve the state–citizen relationship by linking local governments to their constituent communities. Finally, the project will engage the private sector to improve the quality of service provision and integrate stakeholders to ensure transparency and accountability. The overall objective of the programme is to promote improvements in the quality of local governance that can in turn lead to peace consolidation, development, and equitable service delivery.

UN-Habitat has actively contributed to achieving policy and legislative reforms for effective decentralization. It enhances the role of the local government and clarifies their relationship with the national authorities. Decentralization strengthens the capacity of the local governments to deliver services efficiently and inclusively. The agency has developed new and sustainable service delivery models for solid waste management. It has promoted the creation of regional and district councils that have developed facilities to provide basic urban services.

UN-Habitat has provided urban planning assistance and developed urban regulatory frameworks for Somaliland and Puntland, and a road network plan in Garowe.

More importantly, in order to help the local authorities increase their revenues, the UN-Habitat Somalia Programme has developed an innovative approach that combines spatial urban property information with improved revenue systems. After successfully implementing spatial databases linked to automated billing information systems in cities in Somaliland and Puntland, UN-Habitat developed a geographic information system (GIS) database to capture properties and buildings.

At the policy level, UN-Habitat has signed an agreement of cooperation with the Ministry of Public Works, Housing, and Transport in both Somaliland and Puntland to train selected technical staff in districts, line ministries, and mayoral offices. This is supported by the joint programme, to build and improve the capacity of the local authorities and the central government to implement the new frameworks.

In all of these efforts, the programme recognizes the paramount importance of respecting and promoting local ownership, commitment, and leadership. Without these constituents, the prospect of long-term sustainability is substantially diminished. For this purpose, the strategy is to seek support and political commitment at the highest levels of government and maintain the pre-existing commitments.

Furthermore, throughout the programme, strong emphasis is placed on local governance, gender issues, women in local government, human rights, and the principles of transparency, accountability, and participation.



UN-Habitat Somalia employment and urban solid waste clean-up service project in Mogadishu © UN-Habitat

Project duration: Phase I 2008–2012, Phase II 2013–2017
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 1,545,667 (for the 2013–2014 period)
Partners: ILO, UNICEF, UNDP, UNCDF, and Emergency Relief Organization

Building Back What Was Left Behind

Settlement Upgrading and Reintegration of Returnees and Internally Displaced Persons through Community Empowerment, Improved Infrastructure and Services, and Local Government Support, Afghanistan

During the conflict-ridden years in Afghanistan, a large number of Afghans left their country, seeking refuge in neighbouring countries. The return of nearly six million refugees between 2002 and 2005 from Pakistan and Iran has increased the total population by more than 20 percent.

As a result of the conflicts, the urban physical infrastructure and basic services remain damaged. The steady inflow of refugees has further exacerbated the problem, particularly in larger cities. With a fragile institutional framework and a constant inflow of refugees and internally displaced persons (IDPs), achieving sustainable return and reintegration is becoming increasingly difficult. The local institutions struggle to resolve land disputes, prevent violence, and deliver basic services.

UN-Habitat has been present in Afghanistan since 1992, with operations in five cities and nine provinces. Its approach to development is the “people’s process” – mobilizing and empowering men and women to form Community Development Councils, to plan and manage their own development, and to strengthen institutional capacity in urban governance, service delivery, and municipal finance.

UN-Habitat has contributed to reintegrating refugees from Iran and Pakistan, as well as the IDPs, in support of the process of

peacebuilding through consolidating community solidarity, providing basic services, improving community infrastructure, building housing, and improving livelihoods.

UN-Habitat has supported the upgrading of settlements (in Kabul, Jalalabad, and the Sheikh Mesri township) with large numbers of refugees, rural–urban migrants, and other extremely vulnerable households, such as female heads of households.

The reintegration of returnees and IDPs is supported through a process of community mobilization and improvement of infrastructure, basic services, housing, and livelihoods. By targeting the urban poor in informal settlements, UN-Habitat helps provide them with access to a safe urban environment and adequate housing through community-driven settlement upgrading. The project also aims to support host communities.

UN-Habitat’s approach of incremental regularization of informal settlements is based on an agreement between the community

Informal settlements have been significantly upgraded through the provision of roads, drainage, and basic services such as refuse collection.

and the local and central authorities and aims to strengthen local governance through an effective city–community partnership to achieve improved living conditions and security of tenure.

Socio-political reintegration of refugees and IDPs has been successful. Establishing Community Development Councils and setting up governance structures has inserted communities into the decision-making process. Moreover, cooperating and participating in these councils to discuss their needs has enhanced community cohesion.

UN-Habitat's model of developing community-based support systems has been shown to promote local governance and has facilitated the social acceptance of the returnees in urban settings, which ultimately promotes their integration.

The UN agency continues to upgrade informal settlements using the Community Development Councils, which are the participation model under the Government of Afghanistan's National Solidarity Programme.

Informal settlements have been significantly upgraded through the provision of roads, drainage, and basic services such as refuse collection.

Local governments' capacity and responsiveness has increased. Thanks to UN-Habitat's involvement of national staff in supporting infrastructure development, trust has been enhanced between local governments and communities.

In total, over 20,000 poor families benefit from the programme, with older male family members contributing their own labour and even assisting in the work being carried out on their neighbours' houses. This carefully designed intervention, which builds on the extraordinary resilience of the Afghan people, has ultimately engendered community spirit and a sense of ownership.



Settlement upgrading and reintegration of returnees, Afghanistan
© UN-Habitat

Project duration: January 2012–December 2014
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 8.95 million
Partners: Afghanistan Ministry of Urban Development Affairs, Department of Refugees and Repatriation, Independent Directorate of Local Governance, Kabul Municipality, Jalalabad Municipality

Cleaner Cities, Better Lives

Sustainable Employment Creation and Improved Livelihoods for Vulnerable Urban Communities in Mogadishu, Somalia

The prevailing unstable political context in Somalia has produced widespread adverse social and economic consequences. Since the collapse of the state in 1991, the private sector and civil society have become the main providers of social services, as investment in the productive sector has been marginal and employment opportunities have been very limited.

However, despite attempts to fill the vacuum created by the lack of governmental institutions, deficits in basic infrastructure and the provision of essential services prevail. This affects the welfare of citizens negatively. These problems are exacerbated in the capital, Mogadishu, with its large youthful population.

UN-Habitat has been active in the Somali urban sector for more than 25 years. Project activities have evolved from targeting immediate local needs to more systematic attempts to address sustainable urban development through integrated human settlement programmes. The agency promotes the understanding that sound urbanization can only be achieved if the economic development aspect is properly addressed.

If employment is low, revenue from taxes will be low as well. This will impact municipal finance, which in turn will slow down urban development projects that are needed to provide attractive environments that are conducive to economic activities and investments.

Following this rationale, the project aims to create livelihoods and employment opportunities by providing a model for service delivery in the areas of economic infrastructure, solid waste management, construction, water and sanitation, energy, and environmental protection. There is a particular focus in this service delivery model on income-generating activities for poor and marginalized communities.



Fatima, a solid waste collector in Mogadishu, now has a stable job that provides her with a regular income to support her family. Her children are now able to play in the newly clean streets around their house and her community is generally healthier and safer.

© UN-Habitat

In order to enhance sustainability, the approach incorporates capacity development activities that are delivered through the creation of training manuals and a series of training sessions for the local government, the private sector, and the community.

For example, positive outcomes of the project can be found in the solid waste management sector, where the project has created over 120 permanent jobs and supported the development of livelihoods through the establishment of 20,000 temporary workdays.

Furthermore, the technical support and expertise provided to private enterprises has led to the establishment of solid waste management services in four pilot districts of Mogadishu, with 20,000 households receiving regular solid waste services. The recent expansion of solid waste collection services to cover all 17 of Mogadishu's districts will increase this number significantly in the remaining months of the project.

The project has also supported the de-sludging of 1,164 pit latrines situated in IDP camps throughout Mogadishu, thereby allowing over 41,900 of the most marginalized people to benefit from access to clean and hygienic sanitation facilities.

The Municipality of Mogadishu has taken the leadership in all the project components. The creation of an interim legal framework, which was completed with UN-Habitat's support, has enhanced the capacity of the municipality to deliver urban services. A clear example of this can be seen in the adoption of an environmental decree that prohibits improper disposal of waste.

Through engagement in activities that target the provision of urban services, the project has made immense strides, not only in fostering the municipality's capacity to deliver these services, but also in stimulating employment opportunities and livelihoods in the urban economy.



A SECIL programme (UN-Habitat Somalia) employment and environmental project in Mogadishu, producing charcoal from an invasive tree © UN-Habitat

Project duration: October 2011–January 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 3.5 million
Partners: European Commission, Cooperazione E Sviluppo Onlus (CESVI), Human Relief Foundation, and the Benadir Regional Administration

Making Women's Voices Heard

Strengthening Local Governance in Support of West Timorese Women and Communities Left behind after Conflict, Indonesia

The ethnic conflicts that shook Indonesia until the mid-2000s led to the displacement of approximately 1.3 million people. Recent calm has led to the Government of Indonesia withdrawing the “internally displaced person” status of the people affected by the conflict.

However, between 150,000 and 200,000 people still remain displaced in Indonesia. The government expects to focus on other policy priorities. Displaced people should become full citizens – they should be part of the communities. But upon return, these displaced people have had difficulty recovering their previous livelihoods and socio-economic relationships with the surrounding communities.

This lack of legal recognition (as affected and displaced people) has exacerbated their already vulnerable situation, and many have joined the statistics of the urban poor. Responding to the needs of these groups requires a different approach than the one used for those being sheltered in a refugee camp.

They are primarily interested in finding a sustainable return or resettlement solution, accessing community services and livelihood opportunities, exercising basic rights, and living in a secure environment with host communities.

Displacement problems are most acute for women. The underlying reason is that many of the specific vulnerabilities of uprooted people correspond to women's responsibilities in the gender-based division of labour. Moreover, women and girls represent a high percentage of the entire refugee population, and in many societies they face specific

risks and are less likely than men and boys to access their rights, due to gender roles and their position in society. Areas of discrimination against women in displaced communities range from cash allotment to food, housing, and economic support.

In several locations in West Timor, women's access to aid is usually determined by men who are members of aid committees or “heads of households” speaking on women's behalf.

In order to strengthen peace in West Timor, the provision of basic services needs to be implemented with local policies on land and its usage adapted to help in the integration of displaced people. Moreover, special attention needs to be placed on having capacity-building programmes for displaced women. UN-Habitat proposed strengthening advocacy on issues of land that are linked to gender, vulnerability reduction, and peacebuilding, since land disputes cause violence.

The vulnerability of women, children, and female-headed households is understood, but gender-specific land policies are not being developed despite women's vulnerability regarding property. Sometimes they are not even granted access to land tenure. To strengthen peace, such policies are indispensable – for regulation, protection, and empowerment.

The objective of UN-Habitat's work in the field is to improve the socio-political integration of uprooted people as citizens. At the same time, it aims at providing training, capacity building, and advocacy

interventions so local parliamentarians are better able to respond to the needs of displaced people in the West Timor districts of Kupang and Belu.

In order to achieve these goals, UN-Habitat's project implementation started in early 2011, and after three years of work in the field, significant progress has been made to increase the capacity of local government officials and help communities left behind and women.

These objectives were achieved through direct assistance to communities and improved monitoring and early warning capacity. Moreover, local government staff were trained in collecting and analysing gender-disaggregated data and needs assessments.

Planning was based on concrete evidence. The implementation of small improvement projects will help in furthering women's and girls' voices and promoting their participation in public development work.

The ongoing activities have successfully focused on working with local governments to bridge the communication gap between owners and land settlers in new housing areas, as well as assessment, mobilization, training, technical facilitation, and advocacy.

So far, more than 90,000 households have been reached through various training activities and advocacy programmes. The involvement of women in decision making has been enhanced through the training and capacity building of female legislative candidates. UN-Habitat has assisted more than 5,000 families, especially in Kupang District, through conflict-sensitive resettlement facilitation and land resolution schemes.

Additionally, UN-Habitat has provided assistance to identify and verify the data collection on refugees, which has already been approved by the district head and submitted to the Ministry of People's Welfare and Public Housing. These activities pave the way for appropriate land discussions and land acquisition for the new citizens, creating spaces for recognition and social integration.



Internally displaced people in West Timor © UN-Habitat

Training and empowerment approaches provide long-term solutions. This is why UN-Habitat stresses leadership, advocacy, and networking, in the expectation that governmental actors will operate and provide services better, but also lead better, including on gender issues.

Project duration: February 2011–January 2014
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 949,785
Partner: Institute for Research and Empowerment Foundation

INTERVENTIONS AFTER NATURAL DISASTERS

Natural hazards become disasters when they impact the people and assets that are exposed to their destructive effects. Nowhere is this more significant than in the world's cities, towns, and villages.

In recent years, the world has witnessed increasing series of disasters, which have resulted in the dramatic loss of human life, the destruction of homes, property, infrastructure, and services, and the displacement of entire communities.

UN-Habitat is the lead agency within the United Nations System for coordinating activities in the field of human settlements. It is mandated by the Habitat Agenda to take the lead in disaster mitigation and post-crisis rehabilitation capabilities in human settlements.

UN-Habitat's responsibilities in emergencies and humanitarian and post-crisis response are to support national governments, local authorities, and civil society in strengthening their capacity for managing human-made and natural disasters affecting human settlements.

Moreover, experience has shown that the potential for development gain is highest in the immediate aftermath of a crisis, and this is a key principle underlying UN-Habitat's efforts to deploy at the earliest opportunity following a disaster.

A key area of work for the agency is ensuring the prevention, protection, and early recovery of basic service provision and critical infrastructure for transport, water, sanitation, waste management, and hygiene systems. To achieve this, UN-Habitat practices the philosophy of sustainable reconstruction.

It has been proved that the best way to help survivors get back on their feet again is by involving them in planning, managing, and rebuilding their homes and neighbourhoods, within a longer-term development strategy.

Additionally, UN-Habitat advocates for special attention being paid to the environment and women's secure tenure, right to land, and adequate housing during the reconstruction process following a disaster.



Reconstruction work in Haiti © UN-Habitat

Learning from Disaster to Promote a Safer Future

Safer Coastal and Urban Communities through Disaster Risk Reduction, Myanmar

Myanmar is exposed to a plethora of natural hazards – cyclones, floods, droughts, earthquakes, tsunamis, and seasonal fires.

The poorest sections of society and their human settlements and livelihood systems are particularly exposed to these threats. As a result, they face a high risk of severe damage and loss from natural disasters.

This was the case when Cyclone Nargis struck Myanmar in May 2008, making landfall and directly impacting a number of villages, which came to be designated a major disaster area. There were large numbers of deaths due to a lack of adequate shelter, the geographical location of the delta, the poor communication systems in the area, and the deficient evacuation protocols. Given that coastal communities are more prone to hazards, the perils in such an area are exacerbated.

UN-Habitat had been active in Myanmar since the early 1990s. Nevertheless, following Cyclone Nargis, it reinforced its commitment to the country by establishing a permanent presence and assigning a special mission to assist in the transition from emergency to early recovery.

Since then, the agency has provided technical assistance to the government and implemented a number of good practice projects in sectors pertaining to its mandate – shelter, disaster risk reduction, water and sanitation, and community infrastructure. These projects

have resulted in over 25,000 families being provided with shelter, and over 500,000 people getting access to hygiene, water and sanitation, education, and infrastructure services under the Post-Nargis Recovery Programme.

UN-Habitat has undertaken a holistic approach, in which the “people’s process” serves as a leitmotif to guide its support activities and facilitate recovery by placing society at the centre of the project. The affected communities are not only fully integrated in the reconstruction process, but also play a major role in the prioritization of their needs, project design, and project implementation.

To ensure resilience and quality standards, UN-Habitat furnishes close technical supervision, financial support, and guidance.

The agency also promotes community awareness and the training of community artisans, carpenters, and other construction workers. This will enable them to build back safer and better through appropriate, contextual shelter construction. The transfer of know-how and disaster risk reduction approaches will enhance the capacity of the coastal communities to recover from disaster in a safe and integrated manner.

Additionally, the programme is designed to support key national priorities to promote disaster resilience in Myanmar and to mainstream disaster risk reduction into sectoral development.

UN-Habitat has allied with other humanitarian partners in the field to create the Consortium for Community Resilience, in order to promote a more comprehensive and coordinated response to the communities' needs. The project supports carpenter trainings in eight townships to promote safer construction and prioritized small-scale mitigation activities at the community level.

In addition, the agency collaborates with the Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group to conduct advocacy training aimed at raising awareness among regional government ministries, members of parliament, and officials who are engaged in policymaking. The project design took into account other humanitarian partners' actions in the field, so all efforts could be complementary, build synergies, and therefore create added value.

UN-Habitat has also worked alongside the Ministry of Construction and Myanmar Engineering Society to provide assistance in the development of training modules for carpentry trade along the lines of the National Skills Standards Authority curriculum. Furthermore, the project has supported the Relief and Resettlement Department at the national and state/region level in the provision of expertise to elaborate training outreach and awareness programmes.

UN-Habitat has actively engaged the local authorities so that they are able to participate in the regional and national prioritization of needs and introduce their inputs to complement the national directives. This collaboration will result in the promotion of a decentralization process at the political level. The agency's technical advice has also served to complete disaster management plans in the townships of Laputta, Pathein, and Kyunsu.

According to the most recent reports, 9,200 people have been reached through trainings, workshops, community-level interventions, land use policies, early warning systems, and improved shelter construction activities. Since the project targets all levels, it is expected that the spillover impacts will benefit a much wider number of people.



Devastation after Cyclone Nargis © UN/Evan Schneider

Project duration: June 2012–January 2014
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 367,950
Partners: Relief and Resettlement Department, Ministry of Social Welfare, Relief and Resettlement Department of Human Settlements and Housing Development, Ministry of Construction Central Training School, Public Works Department Ministry of Construction Myanmar Engineering Society Myanmar Geo-Sciences Society Myanmar Earthquake Committee Regional Government, City and Township Authorities, Action Aid UK, Plan International, Oxfam International, Helpage International, and Malteser

Coping with Disaster: Going Back to a Safer Home

Support Programme for Neighbourhood Reconstruction and Planning, Haiti

The 2010 Haiti earthquake destroyed homes that were located in neighbourhoods in informal settlements. Eighty percent of the urban population resided in these earthquake-hit neighbourhoods.

These slums occupy 20 percent of the city territory, are extremely dense, lack basic urban services and infrastructure, and are usually exposed to greater risks in the event of a natural disaster.

The Interim Haiti Recovery Commission, which is the government-created planning body for the Haitian recovery process, had one strategic objective: to reduce the displaced people's camps by returning the residents to their homes.

However, the lack of coordination between humanitarian and development actors, and the shortcomings in the actions of the government and local authorities, have jeopardized the reconstruction efforts in Haiti and the relocation of the affected population to their homes.

The Interim Haiti Recovery Commission consequently considered it very important that UN-Habitat lead the Support Programme for Housing and Reconstruction.

UN-Habitat has been collaborating with the Government of Haiti on urban issues for more than 20 years. The UN agency's expertise and support were integral in the aftermath of the earthquake. Learning

from past experiences, UN-Habitat advocates for the integration of the affected communities into the recovery strategy.

By positioning the communities at the centre of the approach and the decision-making process, equity can be ensured and social cohesion enhanced. The beneficiaries of the support programme for the neighbourhood reconstruction and planning are the local authorities, the local committees, and the residents of the neighbourhoods.

The programme provides technical support for the reconstruction of houses. It promotes planned and safe procedures for housing reconstruction and the planned development of infrastructure and basic services. This will allow the return of displaced populations to safe housing and an improved urban environment, while minimizing the costs.

In 2013, UN-Habitat conducted a technical analysis on issues relating to construction and housing quality to inform the training-of-trainers component of the strategy and improve the ongoing training strategies and curriculum targeted for construction professionals.

To ensure the relevance and quality of the activities, the project participates in the creation of a common framework for donors in Haiti. The project supports the governmental authorities, especially

the Ministry of Public Works, in the monitoring and coordination of reconstruction activities. Furthermore, the project relies on existing services of the Ministry of Public Works to implement the field activities and to develop building norms.

In addition, UN-Habitat has supported inter-ministerial cooperation so that the different government branches can effectively share their experiences in dealing with post-disaster situations and create synergies for better future collaboration.

At the national policy level, UN-Habitat has actively contributed to the development of the Housing Policy, presented in 2013.

At the local level, several technical groups were configured, focusing on service delivery and self-building, with the technical support of UN-Habitat. Furthermore, the agency managed to capitalize on the added value of the aggregated work to collect good practices, methodologies, and tools that could set an example for future actions by the different groups.

Awareness of seismic-resistant and cyclone-resistant construction principles is also being diffused to the population through communication campaigns with civil society.

In 2014, UN-Habitat supported the Ministry of Public Works in the national public awareness campaign on safer construction, and provided support linked to safer housing for quality control, the harmonization of construction training curricula, and monitoring and evaluation.



Artisans and masons being trained by Ministry of Public Works engineers on safer construction practices, with the support of UN-Habitat staff
© UN-Habitat

Project duration: August 2011–February 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 2.033 million
Partner: UNDP

From Shelter to Home

Emergency Water, Sanitation, Hygiene, and Shelter Assistance to Communities Affected by Flooding Caused by Tropical Storm Nock-Ten, Laos

In July 2011, Laos was struck by the tropical storm Nock-Ten, which resulted in severe flooding. Several villages were cut off for weeks due to damaged roads, collapsed bridges, and continuous rain.

Thousands of people had to be evacuated and placed in temporary shelters. After the recession of water, the families came back to severely flood-damaged houses and properties.

This assistance programme was launched to support the victims of Nock-Ten in Laos, within UN-Habitat's Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative. The main aim of the project is to repair and rehabilitate water and sanitation facilities, provide shelter to affected people, and prevent outbreaks of water-borne and other diseases among the vulnerable population.

The objective of the actions undertaken by UN-Habitat is to disseminate sufficient information to prevent water-borne diseases, and provide shelter materials and hygiene kits for the affected population.

Furthermore, the project intends to integrate better house construction practices into the emergency response to provide appropriate long-term shelter and mitigate the adverse consequences of future hazardous events and potential disasters.

A key area of work for the agency is to ensure the protection and provision of basic services and critical infrastructure such as transportation, water, sanitation, waste management, and hygiene systems. To achieve this, UN-Habitat practices sustainable reconstruction. It has shown that the best way to help survivors get back on their feet is by involving them in planning, managing, and rebuilding their homes and neighbourhoods, within a longer-term development strategy.



Hygiene awareness activities © UN-Habitat

This was done by planning and organizing awareness and information dissemination workshops for community members.

Besides housing, over 100 wells and more than 2,000 latrines were constructed or repaired, thereby allowing people in the affected areas to have access to clean water and toilets.

Construction techniques were ameliorated and shared with the local communities in order to build more resilient facilities that can resist future natural hazards.

Shelter materials were distributed to the affected population to assist in the reconstruction process. Furthermore, several local training seminars were conducted to provide technical advice on safe building practices.

Aimed at reducing health risks and water-borne infections, numerous campaigns and talks were organized to raise awareness on the importance of respecting minimum hygiene measures, and hygiene kits were distributed among the affected families.

In less than a year, over 26,842 people have been assisted through this project.

UN-Habitat implemented its “building back better” approach. This approach provides not only for quality materials and secure design of the housing infrastructure, but also includes a local training dimension so that the communities can integrate these guidelines and expertise into the construction process once the project is over.

Appreciating the good results and the cost-effectiveness of UN-Habitat’s strategy, the national government requested for “building back better” activities to be scaled up and replicated in other geographical locations.



Shelter work, as part of the emergency water, sanitation, hygiene, and shelter assistance programme © UN-Habitat

Project duration: June 2012–June 2013
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 100,000
Partners: NPSE Khammouane under Department of Housing and Urban Planning, Department of Public Works and Transport, and Department of Health, Lao PDR Government

Joint Efforts to Overcome Disaster

Shelter Recovery Coordination Support, Samoa

In 2012, Cyclone Evan and subsequent flooding caused severe destruction in the housing sector of Samoa. The combined impact of strong winds and a very high level of flooding affected 2,088 houses. As a result of these damages, about 7,500 people were temporarily displaced.

Shelter being the most affected sector, the role and the leadership of the shelter cluster had to be supported and enhanced. The shelter cluster is a coordination group of government agencies, several international organizations, and NGOs.

At the national level, the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure had limited capacity to provide the necessary leadership for shelter recovery.

UN-Habitat responded to a request from the Minister of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure to strengthen the shelter coordination team in support of governmental and international efforts.

In line with the agency's mandate "to promote socially and environmentally sustainable urban development with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all", UN-Habitat's intervention in this post-crisis situation relied on identifying synergies among a wide range of humanitarian and development actors, as well as providing adequate technical assistance to ensure the reconstruction process followed safety standards.

It has been observed that reconstruction often starts right after a disaster strikes and that if this process is not supported and guided, bad decisions tend to get locked in early on in the process. This can undermine the possibility of reducing future vulnerabilities through more resilient and hazard-resistant construction, as well as resettling the displaced to less exposed places.

The aim of the project was to ensure equitable shelter assistance to the affected population, with a focus on the most vulnerable groups in all the affected areas. The medium-term objective is to develop adequate guidelines and design a coordination framework for shelter recovery and reconstruction activities, with the ultimate objective of resilient building in the shelter and housing sectors.

The project also promoted the "people's process", which engages communities and families in the whole rebuilding process. For UN-Habitat, it is important to build a well-articulated and coordinated effort that enables the communities to be the drivers of their own recovery and reconstruction, while simultaneously strengthening and complementing their knowledge about safer building methods.

As a result, a well-functioning coordination mechanism among shelter partners can be achieved under the leadership of national and local authorities. Furthermore, a national framework for shelter recovery and housing reconstruction can be strengthened – one that is based on a people-driven approach and contributes to the establishment of an adequate shelter recovery process.

Strengthened reconstruction coordination can enable the significant contribution of the NGO sector in post-crisis situations by working with the communities and individual families to rebuild their houses.

This action therefore included the opportunity to influence the safety of the housing sector by contributing to the adoption of safer construction techniques and mechanisms.

It also offered the chance to contribute to the establishment of better preparedness structures, contingency planning, and response mechanisms and strategies, since the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure was fully committed to leveraging lessons learned from this disaster and post-disaster period to avoid future losses.

The project managed to establish a better functioning coordination mechanism among shelter partners under the leadership of the Ministry of Works, Transport, and Infrastructure. This enabled the inclusion of the housing sector, risk planning, and affordable construction standards in the country's national recovery programme.

Moreover, the incorporation of climate and hazard risks is being reinforced through the revision of the National Building Code and through a national framework for shelter recovery and housing reconstruction based on a people-driven approach.

This approach is further supported in UNDP's Shelter Reconstruction Project. In addition, a training and learning centre on "building back better" and traditional construction techniques is being proposed.

In the end, more than 208 homes have been rebuilt, while about 100 homes have been repaired.



Destruction after the cyclone © UN-Habitat

Cyclone Evan caused the severe destruction of houses in Samoa. To respond to this disaster, a specific post-disaster needs assessment and technical support (to complement the assistance provided to homeowners at all stages) were provided to ensure an environment that would enable recovery among the affected families.

Project duration: February 2013–August 2013
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 168,000

Building Human Capital for Resilient Societies

Regional Multi-sectoral Disaster Risk Reduction Assistance Programme – Basic Infrastructure, Shelter, and Urban Risk Reduction Assistance, Southern Africa

Recent and recurrent events related to climate change seem to confirm that southern Africa is very exposed to impacts resulting from natural hazards such as cyclones, floods, droughts, and earthquakes.

Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique, which present similar vulnerabilities to natural disasters, have joined efforts since 2010 to explore ways to address common technical, strategic, and governance weaknesses to implement their disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change agendas in a more sustainable way.

The governments of these countries want to gradually reduce dependency on external agents and move away from project-based interventions. In order to do so, they are intending to establish a solid partnership and creating synergies among themselves.

Cities and towns are not yet equipped to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change and increased natural hazards. Simultaneously, they are becoming more and more vulnerable due to fast, mostly unplanned growth and high concentrations of people. To a large extent, the risks of disasters and their impact on the built environment can be mitigated through a disaster-sensitive approach to planning, construction, maintenance, and reconstruction, including the implementation of adaptive architecture.

This notion of adaptive architecture is part of the “learning how to live with hazards” approach implemented by UN-Habitat. It includes understanding risks and vulnerabilities, planning settlements in a

participatory and resilient manner, and adopting resilient basic service provision.

UN-Habitat, in collaboration with other partners, promotes capacity building and expertise in the field of climate change and disaster risk mitigation. Resilience programmes are seen as the best solution for preparing the country for extreme events. The project thus focuses on capacity building for national and local authorities.

The purpose of this project is to develop action plans in the following areas: basic community infrastructure and shelter, training and technical support in the areas of intervention of DRR partners, and regional capitalization of practices, technical assistance, and documentation.

The guiding principle is to shift away from stand-alone shelter and other types of building and offer the communities a basic set of “know-how” tools and simplified techniques, which can be reproduced by any member at any time. If sustained over a period of time and accompanied by basic training material, this approach is expected to carry sustainable, positive, long-standing consequences. It should durably influence the construction behaviour of the communities. Moreover, the project serves as a tool to consolidate existing practices and ensure the integration of proven measures and experiences into strategies, norms, and standards.

UN-Habitat designed a number of technical products to be transformed into guidelines and norms. This way, the agency is promoting the entire

cycle of testing and piloting through policies and legislation. The aim is to embed good practices and adaptive architecture in policies, strategies, and improved regulations, thereby transforming practices into policies.

By the end of the project, thousands of slum dwellers were sensitized and at least 1,000 community members were trained on disaster risk reduction from districts and municipalities in Madagascar, Malawi, and Mozambique. These regions had been reached directly or indirectly through campaigns on urban risks.

UN-Habitat also promoted the exchange of experiences from international actors and national authorities to complement their activities and create a pool of good practices. Moreover, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance and data management support to each DRR partner in its field of expertise.

In an analytic effort to recognize and promote safer construction, adaptive architectural practices were documented in the subregion following numerous field visits, stakeholder interviews, and document reviews. These include safe havens, elevated public buildings, low-cost adapted housing, evacuation centres, and water catchment systems, among others.

Technical assistance on DRR architecture (community basic infrastructure, shelters, and housing) was provided. Training was organized to inform technicians, planners, institutions, and technical partners. Furthermore, UN-Habitat created tutorials and user-friendly materials to allow the communities to build safe replications of the model projects developed.

The methodology developed for urban risk reduction and resilience – “understand, plan, act, and manage urban resilience” – was created to inform municipalities and was validated by city experts, universities, and technical partners. In addition, improved DRR measures, adaptive architecture, basic and community infrastructure, and housing were introduced into national and urban policies, norms, and strategies.

At the end of the project, cities had increased their preparedness capacities due to comprehensive urban disaster risk reduction actions.



A participatory building process for disaster-resistant construction: the local communities are sensitized and trained on new building techniques that adapt structures and local materials © UN-Habitat

Project duration: January 2013–January 2014
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 615,390
Partners: Associazione per la Cooperazione Internazionale (COOPI), Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO), and CARE International

A Common Battle against Climate Change

Myanmar Climate Change Alliance, Myanmar

According to the Department of Meteorology and Hydrology under the Ministry of Transport, Myanmar's climate is changing, with certain observable trends over the last six decades.

A closer look at observed data reveals that intense rainfall events are experienced within shorter monsoon periods. Extreme events like destructive cyclones cause landslides along Myanmar's coastline every year.

These findings, combined with recent natural disasters, demonstrate the importance of climate issues to Myanmar's development, due to the country's exposure to natural hazards and its vulnerability.

Currently, the institutional framework for climate change in the country is in its inception. Nonetheless, there is limited capacity in most ministries and key departments to engage in climate change adaptation and planning, and in mainstreaming climate change and mitigation elements into their regular functions.

Notably, there are challenges in increasing and expanding the disaster preparedness initiatives being implemented in Myanmar vis-à-vis the projected impacts of climate change.

Institutional capacity development has therefore become a priority action area for partnership with the Government of Myanmar.

The programme aims at addressing these institutional weaknesses by assisting the government to develop a national strategy on climate change, multi-sectoral action plans, and capacity enhancement on climate change in the government, the private sector, and civil society.

This will be achieved by developing climate change knowledge and elaborating a communication and advocacy strategy to be delivered at national, subnational, and local levels.

The programme focuses on several activities that will allow the accomplishment of the intended results.

As an initial step, the programme has established Technical Working Groups and a Programme Steering Committee, which will provide management supervision to the entire project. Due to its integrative structure, the committee will include all points of view.

This structure aims to coordinate inputs from sectoral ministries and to guide the formulation of the National Climate Change Strategy and sector action plans, which will include adaptation and mitigation in key sectors.

Furthermore, the programme is also producing a capacity needs assessment report that will constitute the basis for additional

capacity building in the form of twinning arrangements, sector partnerships, and peer-to-peer collaboration.

This particular development will allow for a fruitful linkage between the government departments and climate change research and policy development institutions, as well as with other countries in the Global Climate Change Alliance.

Another question that is currently being addressed through the programme is the need for enhanced synergies within the development sector.

Formal coordination among donor agencies in Myanmar on environmental and climate change issues is in the process of being established. UN-Habitat is the co-chair of the Environmental Working Group and is therefore well placed for coordinating a platform that will link this project with other climate change initiatives.

Moreover, policy planners, decision makers, civil society, and journalists will be sensitized on climate change issues. Therefore, workshops, seminars, and other events in the region are being organized, and attendance is being promoted.

The project also stresses the need to engage civil society in the operation of the programme, in order to enrich the content with their experience.



Local authority representatives attending a training session on risks and the measures needed to successfully prevent natural hazards © UN-Habitat

Project duration: July 2013–June 2017
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 3.9 million
Partners: UNEP (co-implementing partner), Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Ministry of Transport (Department of Meteorology and Hydrology), and Ministry of National Planning and Economic Development

CLIMATE CHANGE PROGRAMMES

The effects of urbanization and climate change are converging in dangerous ways. Cities are major contributors to climate change. Although they cover less than 2 percent of the earth's surface, cities consume 78 percent of the world's energy. Cities produce more than 60 percent of all carbon dioxide and significant amounts of other greenhouse emissions, mainly through energy generation, vehicles, industry, and biomass use. The world is grappling with a record number of devastating floods, more intense storm surges in coastal areas, droughts, and growing water scarcity.

The economic development of cities will become increasingly difficult to sustain if the impact of climate change on urban infrastructure and services such as water supply, sanitation, transport networks, drainage, and energy facilities is not adequately managed. Climate change-induced risks (rising sea levels, changing precipitation patterns, and other extreme weather events) can disrupt or destroy cities' physical infrastructure and urban economies, seriously impacting on the lives of urban dwellers – the world's population majority. Especially vulnerable are the coastal settlements where 40 percent of the world's population resides.

A second environmental concern for cities is fossil fuel and its likely long-term impacts. Apart from widespread pollution, fossil fuel use has promoted suburbia – low density and sprawling urban forms that are 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 overwhelms the capacity of many local authorities in the developing world to address it.

Urbanization through progressive 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.

UN-Habitat has extensive expertise in assisting countries to deliver basic services. The agency is focused on urban issues and has experience in undertaking climate change vulnerability assessments and adaptation planning in urban areas. These combined attributes position UN-Habitat well to deliver an integrated programme of assistance to local authorities to improve systems aimed at "climate proofing" urban infrastructure, and to ensure that climate change adaptation becomes a key component of infrastructure design and urban planning.

Other important areas of intervention include the development of sustainable urban energy plans, strategies, policies, and legislation to enable a gradual transition to a low-carbon economy, with environmentally sound urban infrastructure and services. Other outputs include the development of awareness and capacity-building tools on planning sustainable urban energy.



Children negotiate a flooded area © UN-Habitat

Learning from Each Other: Working in Partnership for a Clean Urban Environment

Sharing Opportunities for Low Carbon Urban Transportation (SOLUTIONS)

In a time of rapid urbanization, UN-Habitat's work is driven by a vision of cities as engines of economic and social development. In this vision, "transport" is seen as a means and not an end in itself.

The ultimate objective of all transportation is thus to bring access to opportunities for people and provide goods, services, and amenities. UN-Habitat's growing urban mobility portfolio reflects this unique people-centred approach towards better urban mobility.

The portfolio combines a set of projects on the ground in partner cities and countries that demonstrate innovative approaches with normative work to develop better tools and guides for planners and city managers. UN-Habitat focuses on better coordination and integration between land-use and transport planning, and also promotes public transport and non-motorized transport as part of an overall "avoid-shift-improve" strategy for better urban mobility.

UN-Habitat works with a range of partners, including national and local governments, the private sector, other UN agencies, and a number of specialized and knowledge-based organizations.

For the project titled Implementing Innovative and Green Urban Transport Solutions in Europe and Beyond, UN-Habitat has partnered with 22 other organizations, under the umbrella of the SOLUTIONS (Sharing Opportunities for Low Carbon Urban Transportation) project, which aims to access and transfer innovative and appropriate solutions to urban mobility problems.

The project entails analysis, evaluation, and dissemination of successful approaches and other important lessons at policy, planning, and implementation levels. In order to facilitate and encourage the uptake and adaptation of locally appropriate solutions, the project brings together "leading cities" and "take-up cities".

For example, European cities are involved as leading cities in the area of sustainable urban mobility and will also benefit from the mutual learning process. In Asia, China and Singapore have contributed specific solutions related to e-mobility, public transport, and Intelligent Transport Systems. The Latin America region shares its expertise in bus rapid transit and modal integration.



The city of Hangzhou in China, which has partnered with the city of Kochin in India
© UN-Habitat

UN-Habitat's role in the project focuses on global dialogue, knowledge dissemination, and coordination. A series of international events linked to the dissemination of UN-Habitat's *Global Report on Human Settlements 2013: Planning and Design for Sustainable Mobility* has furthered discussions on feasible solutions to the challenge of urban mobility. The SOLUTIONS project was also presented at the 7th World Urban Forum, in Medellin, Colombia.

In April 2014, UN-Habitat organized an international expert group meeting in Barcelona on the subject of urban electric mobility. The participants included experts and representatives of city and national governments.

Successful cities across the globe show that effective systems for urban mobility are essential for achieving socio-economic growth. These systems are also vital in ensuring that the positive agglomeration effects and synergies of urban settlements materialize in a way that is environmentally, socially, and economically sustainable.

The recommendations emanating from this meeting are informing the development of a new international initiative on urban electric mobility, to be launched at the Climate Summit in September 2014.

This initiative aims at the widespread adoption of electric vehicles in cities (including cars, public transport, and bikes) in the overall context of better and compact urban planning.

UN-Habitat will continue to disseminate lessons and experiences from the SOLUTIONS initiative at global forums such as the UN-Habitat Governing Council, the World Urban Forum, events relating to the climate dialogue, and HABITAT III.



© TONETA Project

Project duration: May 2013–April 2016
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 127,000
Partners: Wuppertal Institute for Climate, Environment, and Energy; Rupprecht Consult; Polis; ICLEI; EMBARQ; Centre for Research and Technology Hellas / Hellenic Institute of Transport; Forum of European National Highway Research Laboratories; French Institute of Science and Technology for Transport, Development, and Networks; AustriaTech; China Academy of Transportation Sciences; Technion; Clean Air Initiative Asia; Laboratório Nacional de Engenharia Civil; Mobili-T; International Council for Clean Transportation; Zaragoza Logistics Centre; European Association for Battery, Hybrid, and Fuel Cell Electric Vehicles

A Smaller Ecological Footprint in the Construction Sector

Green Homes: Promoting Sustainable Housing, Nepal

Nepal is one of the lowest-income countries in the world. At the same time, it is predominantly rural, but has the highest urbanization rate in South Asia.

Population growth, sparse and unplanned settlements, migration, rapid urbanization, and environmental degradation are issues of increasing concern. Meeting the new and increased housing demand with conventional building practices will contribute notoriously to pollution and climate change.

The municipalities who in principle carry the main responsibility for the provision of urban services are ill-equipped to meet the quickly growing demand. Therefore, interventions to improve construction quality, ensure affordability, and promote sustainable use of building materials are much needed.

As most of the conventional housing products in Nepal are imported, limited jobs are created locally, providing fewer economic opportunities to the poor. The sector workers need skill training for quality services and better links to specialized job markets. The government offices are overburdened and need support to scale up the sector. On the beneficiary side, there is a huge gap in understanding the importance of green products and services.

Many conventional products and services are not only unsustainable but uneconomical, and yet people are still relying on them, due to absence of consumer awareness.

UN-Habitat started a project in support of green growth, focusing on environmentally sustainable housing technologies and urban planning strategies in the Kathmandu Valley. The project aims at promoting sustainable housing technologies and services that would mitigate effects of climate change and reduce poverty.

Collaborating with the European Union under the SWITCH-Asia Sustainable Consumption and Production initiative, UN-Habitat and its partners have been working together since January 2013 to promote sustainable housing, strengthen supply chains for ecological housing products, and build the capacity of small businesses to deliver household-level green technologies and services.

This three-year project is being implemented primarily in three cities – Lalitpur, Pokhara, and Dharan – with a spillover impact in other municipalities.

The Green Homes programme focuses on five major areas: green building, passive solar design, energy efficiency, water conservation, and sustainable management of waste and wastewater. The aim is to reduce pressure on natural resources and carbon emissions, thus resulting in human well-being and a green economy.

Moreover, following UN-Habitat's focus on empowerment, the programme works very closely with stakeholders and ensures a participatory approach to ensure ownership and sustainability.

The programme provides support to the government in preparing policies and guidelines that will create an overall framework for promoting sustainable housing throughout the country.

Furthermore, by directly assisting the selected municipalities, the project is promoting the inclusion of sustainable housing in their plans, drafting by-laws, and designing incentive mechanisms to encourage green housing in these cities.

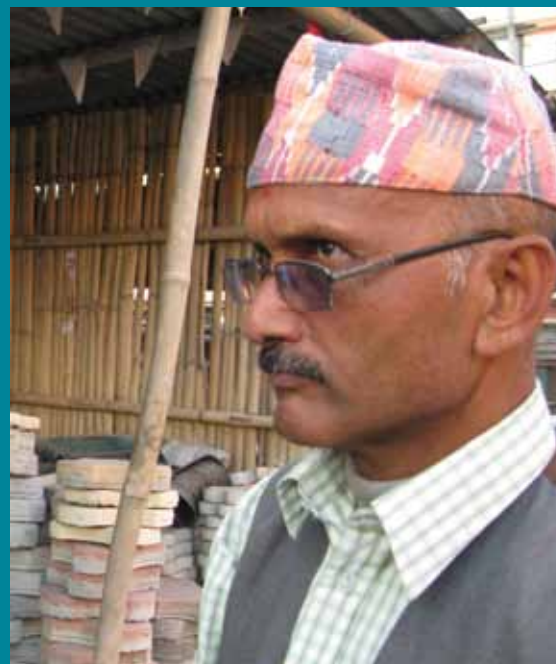
The project has established a partnership with the Department of Urban Development and Building Construction and the Ministry of Urban Development.

Municipalities have incorporated promotional activities and incentive mechanisms for promoting green housing in their plans and incorporating by-laws. Through municipal interventions, the project is expected to increase the demand for sustainable housing.

Two training programmes have been conducted for poor urban youth and women in association with the selected municipalities. Youth groups interested in green products were trained on sustainable construction materials. Women's groups were trained in water, wastewater, and solid waste management at the household level, including urban agriculture.

After the trainings, workshops, and seminars, several small and medium-sized enterprises have started producing hollow concrete blocks. Furthermore, the urban poor from slums have started to construct their own houses following the technical advice provided by UN-Habitat (and using the hollow blocks).

Furthermore, several actions have been undertaken in order to raise awareness and stimulate demand for green housing products. To convey the message, the project is participating in several trade fairs and expositions.



Hari Karki, business owner, Dharan: "The Green Homes project provides me with skills and creates a new market; now there is a growing interest in my products" © UN-Habitat

Project duration: January 2013–December 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 863,196
Partners: Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (Erasmus University), Federation of Nepalese Chambers of Commerce and Industries, Environment and Public Health Organization, Clean Energy Nepal, Shelter and Local Technology Development Centre (and in collaboration with the Government of Nepal and the Municipalities of Lalitour, Pokhara, and Dharan)

Innovative Solutions for a Cleaner Urban Environment

Urban Low Emission Development Strategies (Urban-LEDS) Project in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa, with Support from European Cities

Cities account for a significant proportion of global greenhouse gas emissions, which exacerbate climate change. The proportion of the emissions is increasing with increased urbanization. A direct cause is the manner in which the cities are designed, built, and managed. The post-World War II trends for urban growth are simply not sustainable. In the next four decades, our urban population will double. The way we design and build cities now will define the future success of our commitments to preventing global warming reaching dangerous levels.

While it appears politically and economically complex to modify urban patterns of cities that are already consolidated, it is still possible and economical to guide the massive wave of urban development that is taking place in emerging economies. These countries represent the bulk of the world's growing urban areas, with the fastest growing ones being the small and secondary cities. The challenge is to guide these cities and their local governments towards more sustainable patterns of development – patterns that are structurally associated with lower greenhouse gas emissions.

The Promoting Low Emission Urban Development Strategies in Emerging Economy Countries project focuses on addressing this critical gap. It supports the development of low emission urban development strategies and action plans in cities in Brazil, India, Indonesia, and South Africa. Concrete emission reduction projects will be outlined and will be initiated in the project lifetime.

Participating cities will define a pathway to transit to a low emission, green, inclusive urban economy by integrating this into their city

development plans and processes. Areas of intervention include urban planning, mobility, buildings, energy, water, and solid waste management.

The Urban-LEDS project addresses climate change from the local community level. This is a key area where strategies and actions can effectively be implemented in a process led by local governments. The project is also designed to exploit the full potential of city-to-city cooperation and networking. In each of the participating countries, the project is working with two “model” cities to gauge current emissions, set emission reduction targets, and develop coherent multi-sectoral strategies to achieve these goals. These cities share their experience with four to six other cities in the same country, while eight European cities serve as resource centres for the entire international city network.

The project has managed to establish a vivid South-South-North exchange among project participants, along with the European cities, which offer study visits, an informal mentoring programme, and technical guidance.

The project improves the capacities of local decision makers and municipal technical personnel. To date, more than 250 practitioners have been trained in the project's methodologies and tools. Several national support teams have been created, and a pool of experts has been established to facilitate and support training and the use of tools and to offer advice on practical low emission applications.

Beyond demonstrating results in lowering greenhouse gas emissions at the city level, the project also contributes to enhancing vertical integration between the countries' different levels of government. While local governments have a critical role to play to guide cities towards more sustainable patterns of development, adopting an integrated multi-level governance approach is essential for ensuring meaningful and lasting success – from joint planning to monitoring and reporting.

The commitment of national governments to the project guarantees a smooth articulation within national urban policies and offers opportunities for local governments to engage in the wider climate change discussion.

At the global level, the project advocates in favour of the integration of cities and local authorities into national and international climate frameworks. The latter includes a contribution to the enhancement of systems that support measurement, reporting, and verification of greenhouse gas reductions in cities. This is done through the global reporting platform for local climate action – the carbonn Climate Registry (cCR). This ensures the coherence of low emission urban development strategies with the development of urban Nationally Appropriate Mitigation Actions (NAMA), thereby offering a range of new opportunities for vertical integration.

Following years of intensive advocacy efforts, local governments are now recognized as “governmental stakeholders” in the global climate regime. Their planning and implementation of low emission development will not only support national plans but also effectively contribute to global climate change mitigation and resilience, as well as result in multiple other local benefits.

This project is implemented in partnership between ICLEI and UN-Habitat, which has allowed the project to count on the world's most advanced specialized expertise, mobilize a large network of state and non-state actors, and promote global policy reforms regarding cities and climate change.



Kota Balikpapan has been chosen to become the model city of Indonesia. As part of the project, the city has implemented action on sustainable transport models, the promotion of “green” and energy- efficient buildings, and innovative and environmentally friendly ways of dealing with urban waste and sanitation. Photo: Wikimedia Commons

Project duration: March 2012–August 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 6.7 million
Partners: ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and 37 local governments in Brazil, India, Indonesia, South Africa, and several European countries (and cooperation with the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, WWF, UNEP, and GIZ)

More information at www.urban-leds.org

SLUM UPGRADING WITH COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION

For slum upgrading, huge investments in infrastructure and housing are needed.

However, national and local governments first and foremost need to adopt the right policies to guarantee that the urban poor have access to land and tenure security. It is equally important to ban illegal forced evictions and to consider the communities' own priorities regarding the upgrading of their neighbourhoods.

Balanced policies, urban planning ahead of growth, and the supply at scale of affordable land are crucial to avoid the proliferation of new slums. In the coming 30 years, the space taken by cities is expected to triple.

The greatest pressure will be on the peripheries of cities. In light of these developments, governments must imperatively plan their cities' expansion to avoid congestion and housing shortages, and to secure public space dedicated to roads, schools, hospitals, and other infrastructure.

UN-Habitat builds on over three decades' worth of experience in continuous work on slum upgrading to support city authorities and national governments willing to implement participatory citywide slum upgrading.

UN-Habitat has successfully supported such projects around the world. Its experience has been vital for the development of normative tools and knowledge. These can be harnessed for citywide slum-upgrading programmes, the strengthening of institutional capacity, and the skill development of technical staff from governments and other stakeholders involved in these urban operations.

In this process, a number of participatory planning tools have been developed. These include tools for enumeration and mapping, programme management guidelines, and general guides to support the implementation of complex slum-upgrading projects.



A family living in a slum © UN-Habitat

A Right to Live Decently

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, African, Caribbean, and Pacific Countries

Currently, almost one billion people live in slums worldwide. Projections indicate that the number may reach two billion by 2050: this is almost four times the number of inhabitants of the European Union. The situation is especially worrying in sub-Saharan Africa, where 65 percent of all urban dwellers live in slums.

Under Goal 7 of the Millennium Development Goals, one of the targets was to “achieve, by 2020, a significant improvement of the living conditions of at least 100 million slum dwellers”. The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme aims to contribute towards this target.

Launched in 2008, the programme strengthens the capacity of local, central, and regional institutions and key stakeholders in settlement and slum improvement through the use of good governance, management approaches, and pilot projects. The approach is based on global best practices of over two decades of international experience with participatory slum upgrading. It fosters participation and community empowerment as guiding principles, while simultaneously bringing forward an explicit human rights and gender-sensitive approach.

UN-Habitat coordinates the establishment of country teams that ensure the sustainability of the programme. These consist of the ministries in local government, finance, and planning, as well as any other relevant line ministry, plus municipal focal points, academia, and representatives of non-governmental and community-based organizations. Moreover, local implementation partners are contracted.

The structure of the programme is based on the necessity of giving a role to local authorities and communities in order to have a long-lasting impact.

The implementation is structured in four different stages. Urban profiling focuses on the rapid, participatory, citywide, action-oriented assessments of the needs of citizens, with the aim of identifying challenges and response mechanisms.

As a second step, action planning and programme formulation build upon the needs identified through urban profiling and engage stakeholders to prioritize interventions at the neighbourhood level. At the same time, planning and development frameworks are established for slum upgrading and prevention. Once those preliminary phases are accomplished, project implementation commences. Municipal, regional, and national authorities are supported to implement some of the tangible projects identified by all the actors involved in the consultative process.

The final phase, where possible, is replication. The best projects that have produced positive and tangible results on the ground can be replicated and scaled up nationally, thereby creating a spillover effect that improves the living conditions in cities.

To date, the project has succeeded in raising awareness on urban development at the regional, national, and local levels. More than 200 urban projects and programmes, including housing and infrastructure

plans, have been approved in the implementing countries. Furthermore, 50 national development plans, strategies, and policies were revised to incorporate slum-upgrading and prevention strategies in 34 countries.

The programme has also demonstrated effectiveness in identifying and addressing urban challenges faced by slum dwellers. The progress undergone by the implementing countries is exemplified by land reforms that allow for the provision of secure tenure to slum dwellers, and by the ability to trigger national funding allocations for slum upgrading and sustainable urban development.

This change of perspective can also be attributed to the intense advocacy and training efforts conducted by UN-Habitat, which have resulted in more than 190 senior national and local officials and representatives from NGOs, academia, and the private sector being sensitized on these issues.

Considering that partners further trained an average of 5 colleagues in their respective organizations, in total more than 1,000 urban actors were trained on the programme's approach, methodology, and principles.

Moreover, the technical capacities of more than 200 stakeholders were enhanced through workshops in Africa, the Pacific, and the Caribbean. In this manner, it was ensured that partners can keep on ameliorating the situation in their respective countries – by their own means, thereby assuring the sustainability of the project.

So far, 18 countries have produced a National Urban Profile, a city profile, or both. Twelve countries have presented slum-upgrading project proposals and resource mobilization strategies, and a number of them are starting the implementation phase.

Some other non-participating countries have replicated the programme's approach: Iraq, Afghanistan, Liberia, Sudan, Central African Republic, Egypt, Samoa, Sudan, and Ecuador. The towns of Eldoret and Nakuru in Kenya are replicating similar initiatives.



PSUP PARTICIPATING COUNTRIES – Africa: Benin, Botswana, Burkina Faso, Burundi, Cameroon, Cape Verde, Cote d'Ivoire, Democratic Republic of Congo, Gambia, Ghana, Kenya, Lesotho, Madagascar, Malawi, Mauritius, Mali, Mozambique, Namibia, Niger, Nigeria, Republic of Congo, Rwanda, Togo, Uganda, Zambia. Pacific: Fiji, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands, Tuvalu, Vanuatu. Caribbean: Antigua and Barbuda, Haiti, Jamaica, Trinidad and Tobago. More than 200 urban projects and programmes have been launched since 2008, including infrastructure or housing programmes in Gambia, Mauritius, Kenya, and Niger. Citywide slum-upgrading programmes have been launched in Lilongwe, Accra, and Yaoundé. Small-scale projects have been launched through community-based organizations in Fiji, Uganda, and Jamaica. © UN-Habitat

Project duration: January 2012–December 2015
Funding allocated by the EC: EUR 9.8 million
Partner: ACP Secretariat



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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