UN-HABITAT
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ISSUE 11 | OCTOBER 2020

Urban impact

Helping Beirut families without homes after explosions

Around 300,000 people lost their homes following the massive explosion in a port warehouse in Lebanon's capital Beirut on 4 August. UN-Habitat, as part of the UN Country Team in Lebanon, immediately began providing emergency assistance to vulnerable, IDP, and migrant households. Key activities included the provision of cash assistance for the locations, extent of damage, and local socio-economic conditions to enable targeted responses to address the most urgent needs. The mapping also helps to identify areas where water supply is most critically needed.

COVID-19 UPDATES

COVID-19 support to 250 cities in 37 countries

Thanks to financial support from 28 donors and collaboration with some 240 partners, UN-Habitat has provided support to national and local governments to help them respond to the pandemic in more than 250 cities in 37 countries benefiting more than 6.8 million people. The support, outlined in the **progress report** covering the period from April to June, includes technical assistance, settlements, access to temporary housing and decisions, campaigns and training to foster behaviour change, to carrying out rapid assessments to inform local responses, coordination and policy guidance, and mainstreaming urban issues in the global COVID-19 response.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Sharing experiences on COVID-19 from 113 countries

As part of the COVID-19 campaign, UN-Habitat launched a crowdsourcing survey in June to find out the social and economic impact on people, and response of their cities to the pandemic. Over 1,850 people responded from 113 countries. **The main findings** highlight challenges in access to water and sanitation as well as, openness and jobs. The most common response measures including social distancing, masks and lockdowns. The survey also highlighted the importance of the COVID-19 Adjusted Index and other design and planning priorities during and post COVID-19. **Share your ideas** on how we should rebalance the way we plan, design, build and manage cities.

COVID-19 UPDATES

United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World

UN-Habitat led the collaborative work to bring together 36 agencies and programmes under the **United Nations Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World**. The Brief, sent of a series providing ideas to governments on how to address the consequences of the crisis, found that 55 per cent of all COVID-19 cases are in urban areas. It calls for consideration of the additional inequalities, strengthen local capacities, and plan for a green, resilient and inclusive recovery. The Policy Brief was highlighted in a press conference at the UN headquarters in New York, in which UN-Habitat Executive Director Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif participated along with the UNDP Administrator.

COVID-19 UPDATES

Over 100 organizations worldwide join COVID-19 Campaign

Over 100 partner organizations and 1,500 individuals joined the COVID-19 campaign **'Take action with us in cities and communities'** to mobilize support among national, city and local governments and community leaders, urban professionals, grassroots organizations and businesses. The campaign called on participants to share their ideas on how to rebalance the way we live, work and play. Participants at 43 **Urban Thinkers Campuses** attended by more than 5,000 participants from May to July on COVID-19-related challenges ranging from homelessness, to access to water and sanitation, urban planning and design. The **first report and second report** outline the main recommendations from these discussions.

UN-Habitat publishes new Catalogue of Services

UN-Habitat's recently published **COVID-19 UN-Habitat Catalogue of Services** provides an overview of the range of services and products UN-Habitat, as lead UN agency on sustainable urbanization, can provide to national governments, local authorities and other urban actors and stakeholders to help them achieve the goals of urban Dimensions Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda. It includes case studies and examples of programmes and demonstrates the impact that can be achieved in countries through this support.

The Urban Agenda Platform

UN-Habitat is launching the **Urban Agenda Platform**, an online forum for sharing on knowledge and global action towards achievement of the urban dimension of the Agenda and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals. The platform allows national and local governments and other urban stakeholders to report on agreed targets of their urban agenda and related indicators SDGs in a systematic manner and to share their experiences and lessons learned. The platform will also provide a space for peer to peer exchanges, collaboration on sustainable urban development and to follow-up on the urban platform. The platform will be launched at the **Global Observatory on Local Democracy and Decentralization** and **Habitat Day** on 5 and 6 October in Surabaya, Indonesia, and will provide easy access to important baseline reports to inform urban policy, the reports will be presented at seminal events such as the **Biennial World Urban Forums**.

Advocacy

Urban October: A Month of Action for Better Lives in Cities

Help us promote a better urban future during Urban October

Partners and UN-Habitat are organizing a wide array of activities on to raise awareness of urban issues and opportunities to improve the quality of urban life. Hundreds of events are planned in around **40 countries** ranging from campaigns, workshops, book launches, open for best practices, films, site visits and more throughout the month. The month opens with the **World Habitat Day** on 5 October under the theme Housing for all in Better Urban Future. The event in Surabaya, Indonesia will host the Global Observatory on Local Democracy, a mini-day virtual celebration which will feature high-level international speakers and **award the Habitat Scroll of Honour** winners from Colombia, Malaysia, Nepal and Nigeria. The week ends with the **World Cities Day** on 31 October, which this year focuses on the theme Responsive, resilient and responsive cities for a better future. **Urban October** also includes the **Habitat Awards** the **Habitat Awards** the **World Cities Report** on the Value of Urbanization at the crossroads. The Global Observatories will be live-streamed on UT-Habitat's social media channels. Join us in promoting a better future – you can use our **toolkit** to support and get publicity for your event by posting it, and later **reporting** on it with photos, videos or simply posting your stories on social media accounts using **#urbanOctober**.

Events Around the World

UN-Habitat calls for cities to apply to host World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in 2021 and 2022

Housing for All Campaign

To promote the **World Habitat Day** theme of Housing for All A Better Urban Future, UN-Habitat will run a five-week campaign to raise awareness on the importance of adequate housing to development. The campaign will engage partners and diverse solutions to address housing gaps. Housing is not just a roof it contributes to health, dignity, safety, inclusion and wellbeing. The need for adequate housing is highlighted in the response to COVID-19 the plight of homeless and overcrowded conditions in Gaza Strip. **World Cities Day** The Campaign will end with a learning event on the best solutions to achieve the goal of Housing for All.

40 Days Safer Cities Challenge

Starting on the International Day of Peace on 21 September and ending on the **World Cities Day** on 31 October, the Global Network on Safer Cities (GNSC) will run a 40-Days Safer Cities Challenge to raise awareness and mobilize governments, local authorities, civil society and public-private partnerships to promote safer cities and communities. UN-Habitat will run the challenge together with GNSC partners including the Global Alliance against Violence in Urban Spaces, Safe Cities Africa, Safe Cities Latin America, Safe Cities Asia, Safe Africa Forum for Urban Safety, the Campaign for Safer Cities and safer UN agencies. The Challenge will support the implementation of the UN systemwide Guidelines on Safer Cities and Human Settlements.

UN-Habitat's Executive Board held its first session of the year, on 29 June and on 29 July 2020.

The meetings were held online due to the global COVID-19 pandemic. The Board elected a new Bureau, responsible for organizing Board meetings and representing the Board in between sessions. The new Bureau is made up of 10 members representing the regional groups in the Bureau: Iran as the Asian Chair, Sierra Leone for the Africa Group, Chile (Latin American and the Caribbean), Poland (Western Europe and others) as vice-chairs and, Serbia as Rapporteur (Eastern Europe). Other discussions at the Board included the draft Work Programme and Budget for the year 2021. The draft Work Programme and Budget for the year 2021 will be presented to the Board in 2021.

The Executive Board recommends that the core budget for 2021 be in the range of US$ 35.56 million to $37.5 million, it requested the ad hoc working group on programmes, budgets and administrative matters to finalize a recommended budget for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second session in 2020.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Africa

EAST AFRICA

Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas highlights urban trends

The **Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas**, recently launched by UN-Habitat, highlights the urban trends that will shape the future of sub-Saharan African governments' commitments to policy change and implementation of global sustainable development agenda in the coming decade. Drawing from the wealth of data and spatial analytics, previous Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas publications offer synergies between key implementation frameworks such as the Africa Urban Agenda, the Paris Agreement and Framework for the Implementation of the NUA developed by the African Union. The Atlas also provides a snapshot of the urban trends shaping the region over the last 10 years. Meanwhile, an **analytical paper on COVID-19 in African cities: Impacts, Responses and Policies** has been prepared in partnership with Economic Commission for Africa (ECA), United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG-A), UNICEF and Shelter Africa.

SENEGAL

Water for the displaced in Somaliland to curb the spread of COVID-19

Provision of water was such a fundamental intervention in the face of a pandemic. **"Speaking on behalf of the beneficiary communities, one of the community representatives of the settlements Mr. Yusuf Ibrahim quote**

In Somalia, UN-Habitat has been involved in the provision of water to internally displaced people, returnees and vulnerable host communities in Somaliland and Puntland, including the provision of vulnerable households in Jowhar and Baidoa in IDP settlements who lack bulk water storage facilities were provided with 300 litre containers. The activity was part of a European Union funded COVID-19 mitigation intervention under the Hargeisa Urban Water Supply Project and implemented jointly with Hargeisa Water Agency.

SOMALIA

Local tax payments in Somaliland and Puntland soar due to mobile phone payments

The introduction of a mobile money payment platform will not only strengthen our revenue generation capacity but also improve the quality of our services to the taxpayers. **and Mohamed Ali, Minister of Finance of Hargeisa and Director Administration at the Ministry of Interior in Somaliland.**

In Somaliland, UN-Habitat implemented a pilot project in 2019 that supported the Ministries of Interior for Somaliland and Puntland to introduce a mobile phone based payment system which helped raise revenues increase. Games. Puntland's capital introduced the system in 2019 and Hargeisa in Somaliland in 2020. Revenues such as water and electricity. As a result, USD 500,000 has been raised and the funds used to reconstruct 1.5 kilometres of the main road serving Hargeisa. The system has gradually spread the mobile-money payment system to other target districts. This initiative is implemented by the Ministry of Finance, the Ministry of Interior, Hargeisa City Administration, the United Nations Development Programme Kenya, the Danish International Development Agency, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, the Swedish Agency for International Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

Joining hands with people with disabilities in Guinea to produce COVID 19 prevention kits

To support the Government of Guinea's National Response Plan, UN-Habitat has provided cash to 3 local enterprises in Kindia and Mamou to produce face masks for free distribution to marginalized communities in the capital. Contracts. Thanks to EU support, the Multi-Stakeholder Solidarity Response against COVID-19 distributed preventive equipment, such as hand washing stations, masks, and hand sanitizer, to 10 vulnerable neighborhoods, crowded markets and mobility hubs across Conakry. Out of the 70,000 masks 10,000 were made by the Association of People with Disabilities for Action and Development and community tailors in the Municipality of Matoto.

GUINEA

Emergency WASH in Ga Mashie, Ghana helps community response to COVID-19

To enhance community response to COVID-19, UN-Habitat rolled out an emergency programme at Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Ga Mashie, Ghana in partnership with Plastic Collection for Settlements. The project supports communities with education and awareness on COVID-19 and WASH, and provides the people in the selected informal settlements have improved access to handwashing facilities, running water and reliable sanitation services. COVID-19 impacts and the response. Engagement opportunities have also been created for youth and women in the form of cash for work activities, including sorting, sprayed and assembling of handwashing facilities, and new skills in servicing community members on all aspects of COVID-19 including on good hygiene, and vulnerability assessments.

GHANA

Redesign of Ethiopia's open-air markets to limit COVID-19 spread

Ethiopia's Minister of Urban Development and Construction Ms. Aida Mohammed said in a press conference in Addis Ababa on the northern city of Bahir Dar to mark the beginning of the redesign of Ethiopia's open-air markets to limit the spread of COVID-19. Changes made in the markets to ensure the markets are extremely safe for people to buy and sell goods. Ethiopia's Minister of Urban Development and Construction said "We will ensure we are extremely of the market with markers to designate spots for the women's market while in other markets we will ensure there is adequate space between the traders between shoppers, safety barriers between vendors and shoppers and hygiene centres at the entrances. Thanks to the support from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida), the new guidelines will promote physical distancing, hygiene, and safety measures, and have created some markets and observance of personal hygiene.

ETHIOPIA

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SOMALIA

COVID-19 prevention for schools in cyclone affected central region of Mozambique

"Before Cyclone Idai hit, we didn't have a Disaster Risk Emergency School Plan to prepare ourselves. Many of the things we learned from the cyclone we have put into our School Plan. Now, every school should have access to this tool." **Inger Bryan-Gore, Headmaster of Dondo Secondary School.**

As schools plan to reopen around their classes in March 2020 due to the pandemic, new COVID-19 preventive measures are being implemented including the number of students in classrooms and instituting hygiene measures. UN-Habitat, in partnership with Save the Children, Oxfam, Plan International, World Vision, and Cuamba Water, across the country since 2019 and is adapting BESP to include COVID-19 prevention and preparedness. Thanks to the support of the European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations - ECHO and the Education Cannot Wait Fund, UN-Habitat is rolling out the programme in Dondo, Nhamatanda, Gorongosa, Chibabava and the central region in the Districts of Dondo, Gondola and Chimoio.

MOZAMBIQUE

Arab States

EGYPT

Supporting Innovation in Water and Sanitation in Egypt

Water scarcity is a major problem in Egypt and expected to worsen due to climate change, rapid population growth and displaced flow of River Nile. Out of Egypt's 27 Governorates, the Governorate of Upper Egypt such as Sohag, Assiut, and Luxor lead over 90% of the population without access to improved water and sanitation. Terms of access, quality, affordability and availability of these services. **A programme funded by Coca Cola and Replenish for Africa** working with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Utilities and UN-Habitat, will use innovative technology to provide quick access to water and sanitation services to the most vulnerable to vulnerable communities that can be replicated easily.

YEMEN

Yemeni residents repair homes destroyed by fighting

"The walls and the roof left all the house had no doors or windows. The roof was destroyed. We had no electricity and no water. We had to repair it." **Mariam Saleh Mahdi a resident from Yemen**

Mariam's house was rehabilitated as part of UN-Habitat's programme on **responding to the immediate needs of shelter needs, sanitation and hygiene in Hodeidah Governorate, Yemen.** Funded by the Government of Japan, to mitigate the impact of conflict on the internally displaced and vulnerable communities in Hodeidah Governorate. Special focus is given to help women, children, the elderly, and disabled people. Overall, job opportunities for community members are created, the main broad impact is on their families by engaging them in the repair and rehabilitation works of their homes.

Asia Pacific

FIJI

Youth in Fiji use art to raise awareness of COVID-19 in informal settlements

"I was doing the paintings for my community people to encourage them to practice good hygiene and stay at home." **Fi year-old Timoci Kuyat, Kalabana Community in Lami.**

Children and youth in Fiji are using creativity with local artists to create community murals to raise awareness of COVID-19 and promote good hygiene practices. The initiative was implemented to rapid response support for more than 5,000 informal settlements across Fiji to raise awareness and help alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. Local artists helped the youth to create graffiti messages to inspire positive change in their communities. The initiative, funded by the Government of Japan, commenced on 15th of August, 2020 celebrating the talent which was streamed simultaneously in most of the Pacific countries.

MYANMAR

Opportunities for poor urban women in Nepal during COVID-19

"My source of livelihood has completely stopped during the lockdown. I would have been left with no income." **says Mrs. Dolfan Kalamo, a resident of Bungamati, Lalitpur who works as a seamstress for her livelihood.**

Bidhya represents many of her fellow, the informal sector workers in Nepal. Since the lockdown, the informal sector workers have become vulnerable for them as they struggle to survive. Much each day. Pay Samaiya, a UN-Habitat-led project funded by the SWITCH Asia programme of the European Union is helping repurposed its activities to support low-income urban women to cope with the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic. Initially, 1,000 masks were distributed to the country. Bidhya works with women from the Bungamati community with everyone giving hands to help these unorganized, marginalized groups of informal sector workers.

PHILIPPINES

Displaced families help rebuild homes Marawi City in the Philippines

More than 200 internally displaced families are moving closer to finally being in their own home before Christmas as construction of 200 permanent shelters progresses under the Rebuilding Marawi Through Community Driven Shelter and Livelihood programme, funded by the People of Japan. Around 1,500 families, displaced by the five-month long battle between government forces and militants will receive their own homes under the programme. Families themselves are involved as partners in the design and construction of their homes. **UN-Habitat has also worked with the Philippine Army Engineering Brigade** which contributed construction equipment and manpower to the shelter construction and COVID-19 response measures and safety precautions, while 32 cooperatives organized by UN-Habitat from Lanao del Sur have been hired to provide the local government with their construction services. Meanwhile, local government construction supplies and fresh farm produce from community vegetable and livelihood farms.

Latin America and The Caribbean

MEXICO

Participatory urban planning positions public space as central element for the sustainable development of Cancun, Mexico

> *"This Equity Park allows inclusion, creates a space for human coexistence, meets the main objective of promoting care for the environment within a culture of peace and citizen protection,"* ***said the governor of Quintana Roo.***

Equity Park will reverse the lack of public spaces and green areas in the city reducing urban segregation and social Inequality existing in the city. This Park will develop, improve and consolidate the infrastructure, services and equipment, essential to improving the living conditions of all population groups in Cancun, particularly in underdeveloped neighborhoods. The project is expected to directly benefit about 200,000 people and entails development of a linear park of more than 16 km, equivalent to 89 hectares of public space and 2,064 hectares of spheres of influence in Cancun Metropolitan Area. It is led by UN-Habitat Mexico and the Agency for Strategic Projects of the State of Quintana Roo, (AGEPRO).

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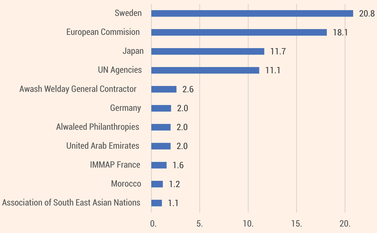
MEXICO

Digitizing participatory budgeting in General Escobedo, Mexico

Participatory Budgeting lets citizens propose ideas and decide how to spend part of the public budget. It was first implemented in Porto Alegre, Brazil over three decades ago. New technology is being used in Escobedo, Mexico using a digital platform, to enhance and facilitate participation and engagement of citizens and the local government in planning their city. Citizens can find many resources including videos, publications, and news on the digital platform to help them create proposals linked to the SDGs. General Escobedo, Mexico became one of the first cities in the world to put in practice a policy responding to civil society calls for climate change action after the United Nations 2019 General Assembly. In 2020, the initiative is helping to build social resilience as part of the COVID-19 response. The platform has attracted interest from other countries and UN-Habitat hopes to garner support from partners and donors to expand the initiative to new cities in in the region and globally to enhance governance and citizen participation in city strategy, policy and programmes.

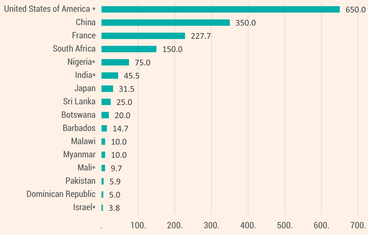
Financial Update

Highest Earmarked Contribution Grants to UN-Habitat Jan - Aug 2020 in USD Millions



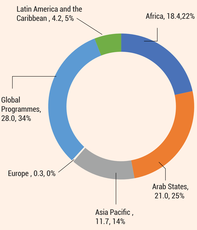
Core support for UN-Habitat's 2020 programme of work

Non-earmarked core contributions donors in 2020 in thousands



*includes previous years' contributions

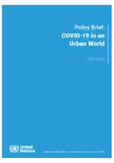
2020 income allocation by UN-Habitat implementing region in USD millions



Resources

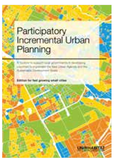
Recent publications

2020 Catalogue of Services



UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World

Settlement Profiling Tool: A Spatial Analysis Framework for Settlements Accommodating Displaced Populations



Participatory Incremental Urban Planning Toolbox: A Toolbox to support local governments in developing countries to implement the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals

More publications

- Future Cities Advisory Outlook 2020: Urban Technologies in China
- Housing Practice Series - Singapore
- Guidance for Voluntary Local Reviews Vol.1: A Comparative Analysis of Existing VLRs
- City-wide Public Space Assessment: Technical Guide
- Public Space Site-Specific Assessment: Guidelines to Achieve Quality Public Spaces at Neighbourhood Level
- National Urban Policy: Pacific Region Report
- Exploring the Role of Participatory Budgeting in Accelerating the SDGs: A Multidimensional Approach in Escobedo, Mexico
- Ethiopia Non-Motorised Transport Strategy 2020-2029
- Report of the Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum
- An Analysis of Flood Risk and Urban Resilience in Beledweyne
- Darfur Land Administration Assessment: Analysis and Recommendations

COVID-19 related publications

- COVID-19 Wuhan Guidance Papers-Emerging Experiences on Responding to COVID-19 in Chinese Cities and Townships
- Impact of COVID-19 on Livelihoods, Food Security & Nutrition in East Africa - Urban Focus
- UN-Habitat Guidance on COVID-19 and Public Space
- Decongestion of IDP Settlements
- COVID-19 Response Report of Activities

Events

Recent

- Urban Thinkers Campuses - **June-July**

Upcoming

- Urban October – Over 100 events will be held across the globe to advocate for a better urban future.
- 05 OCT World Habitat Day
- 31 OCT World Cities Day
- 31 JUN – 11 DEC Urban Thinkers Campus

Apply to host the Twelfth **World Urban Forum in 2024** - the deadline for governments to apply to host the biennial premier conference on cities is now extended to **30 November 2020.**

WUF10 was held in Abu Dhabi in February 2020, and the next will be held in Katowice, Poland in 2022.

Messages and social media material are on the Trello https://trello.com/b/tTD925ol/un-habitat-covid19
Stories and key messages are all on UN-Habitat's corporate website www.unhabitat.org.

Corporate Social Media
Twitter and Facebook: **@UNHABITAT**
Instagram: **@unhabitat**

Executive Director's social media:
Twitter: **@MaimunahSharif**
Facebook: **@UNHabitatMaimunah**
Instagram: **maimunahsharif**

UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

COVID-19 RESPONSE