



UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States 2020 Overview



UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE





Regional Office for Arab States Overview 2020

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1. Foreword

“ Well-planned, managed, and financed cities can be leveraged in the fight against poverty, inequality, climate change and other pressing global challenges, creating a better quality of life for all. ”

Cities and urban areas in the Arab region are faced with unprecedented rates of population growth, concentration of socio-economic activities and growing rates of environmental hazards and social vulnerabilities. Moreover, the multi-faceted humanitarian crisis, civil unrest, conflict and political turmoil in several countries in the Region have led to massive destruction of housing and infrastructure, violations of housing, land and property rights as well as large-scale influx and massive displacement of people within and across borders. **Around 26 million have been forcibly displaced (refugees and IDPs),** mainly in Iraq, Libya, Sudan, Syria and Yemen due to conflicts and environmental threats. The spread of informal settlements in the Arab region has become a clear manifestation of inequalities in cities. In many cases, informal settlements are characterized by substandard physical structures that are often in hazardous or unsafe locations in central areas, or on the outskirts of urban areas lacking access to basic urban services. The urban poor and most vulnerable groups often suffer from compounded deprivations as they often settle on land unsuitable for development leading to the lack of tenure security and enhanced vulnerability to evictions.

Further, COVID-19 pandemic has exposed deep inequalities and demonstrated that tackling the virus is more challenging in urban areas, where access to quality healthcare is uneven, housing is inadequate, water and sanitation are lacking, and jobs are precarious. Cities have, so far, borne the brunt of the pandemic and the consequences are likely to be long-lasting. According to the SG's Policy Brief on The Impact of COVID-19 on the Arab

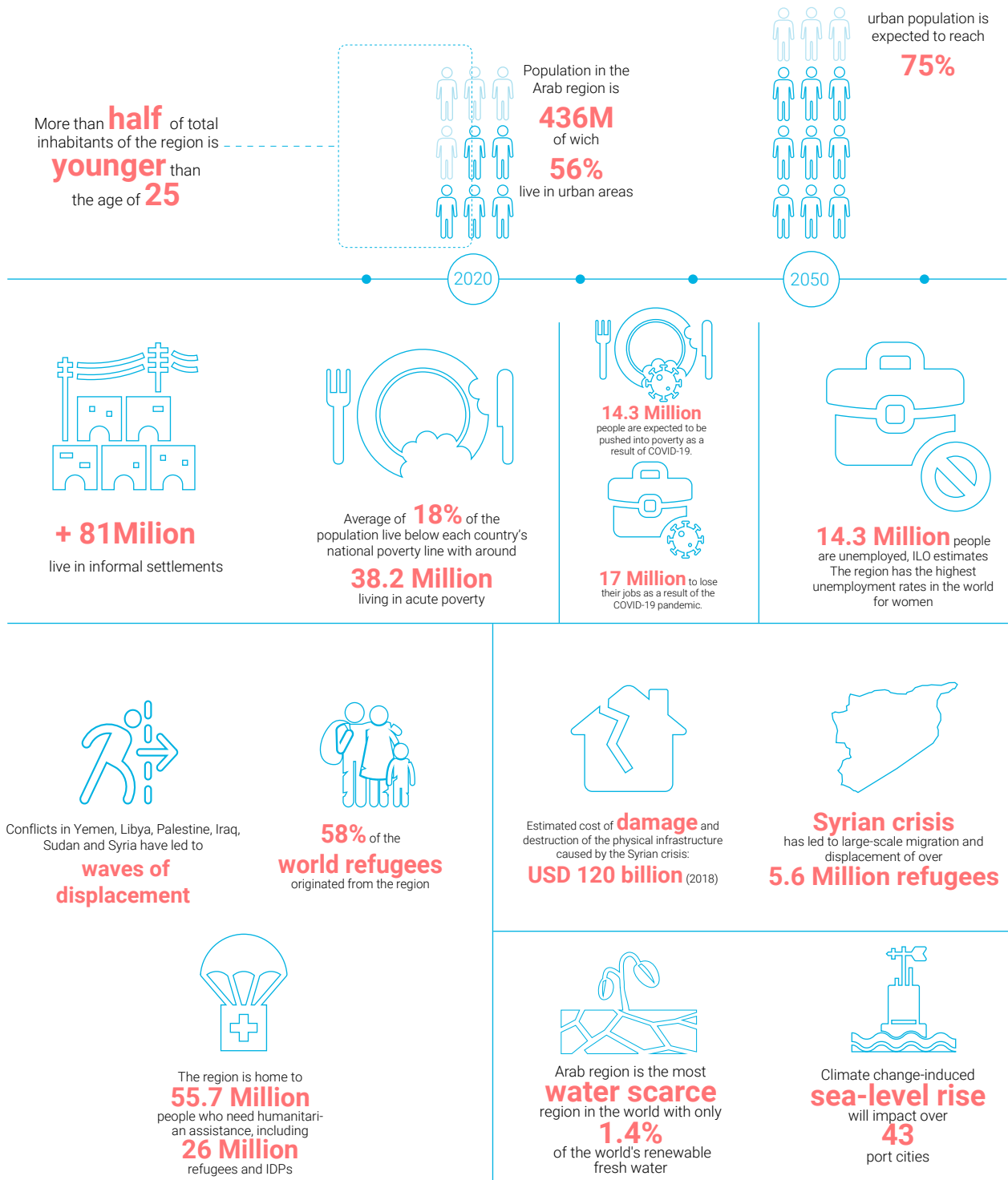
Region, the region's economy is expected to contract by 5.7 percent, with the economies of some conflict countries projected to shrink by as much as 13 percent, amounting to an overall loss of US\$ 152 billion.

Amidst all these challenges, cities offer an opportunity to emerge stronger and build back better. With appropriate policies and supportive frameworks and governance, cities can bounce back from the devastating impacts of disasters into sustainable, inclusive and green recovery. Well-planned, managed, and financed cities can be leveraged in the fight against poverty, inequality, climate change and other pressing global challenges, creating a better quality of life for all. It is only through sustainable urbanization can we advance the achievement of the SDGs by 2030 in the decade of action.

In 2020, UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States adopted its regional strategic plan (2020-2023) as a roadmap for achieving inclusive and sustainable urban development in the Arab region. The strategy puts forward an integrated vision for addressing the region's most critical urban issues in line with strategic priorities and goals at the global, regional and country level and in close collaboration with the Governments and key regional organizations. This strategy will also be implemented in coordination with the United Nations Resident Coordinators and UN Country Teams.

Erfan Ali
Regional Representative for Arab States
UN-Habitat

2. Key Urban Figures in The Arab Region



3. Regional Summary



UN-Habitat strives to advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development, poverty reduction and peace in a way that brings benefits across the Sustainable Development Goals and accelerates their implementation in the Arab region. In line with the overarching goal of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan: "Advancing sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace, to improve living conditions for all in line with the SDGs", the **Regional Strategic Plan for Arab States (2020 –2023)** was developed to present the strategic priorities and focus areas of work and lay out the roadmap for achieving the four mutually reinforcing and integrated goals or "**domains of change**" in the Arab region,



The Regional Strategic Plan for Arab States provides a key tool for addressing the regions' most pressing urban challenges and ensuring the successful implementation of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2020 - 2023 by maximizing interaction between operational and normative work at both regional and country level and leveraging change across the four interconnected domains of change, aiming for long-term impact on sustainable urbanization.

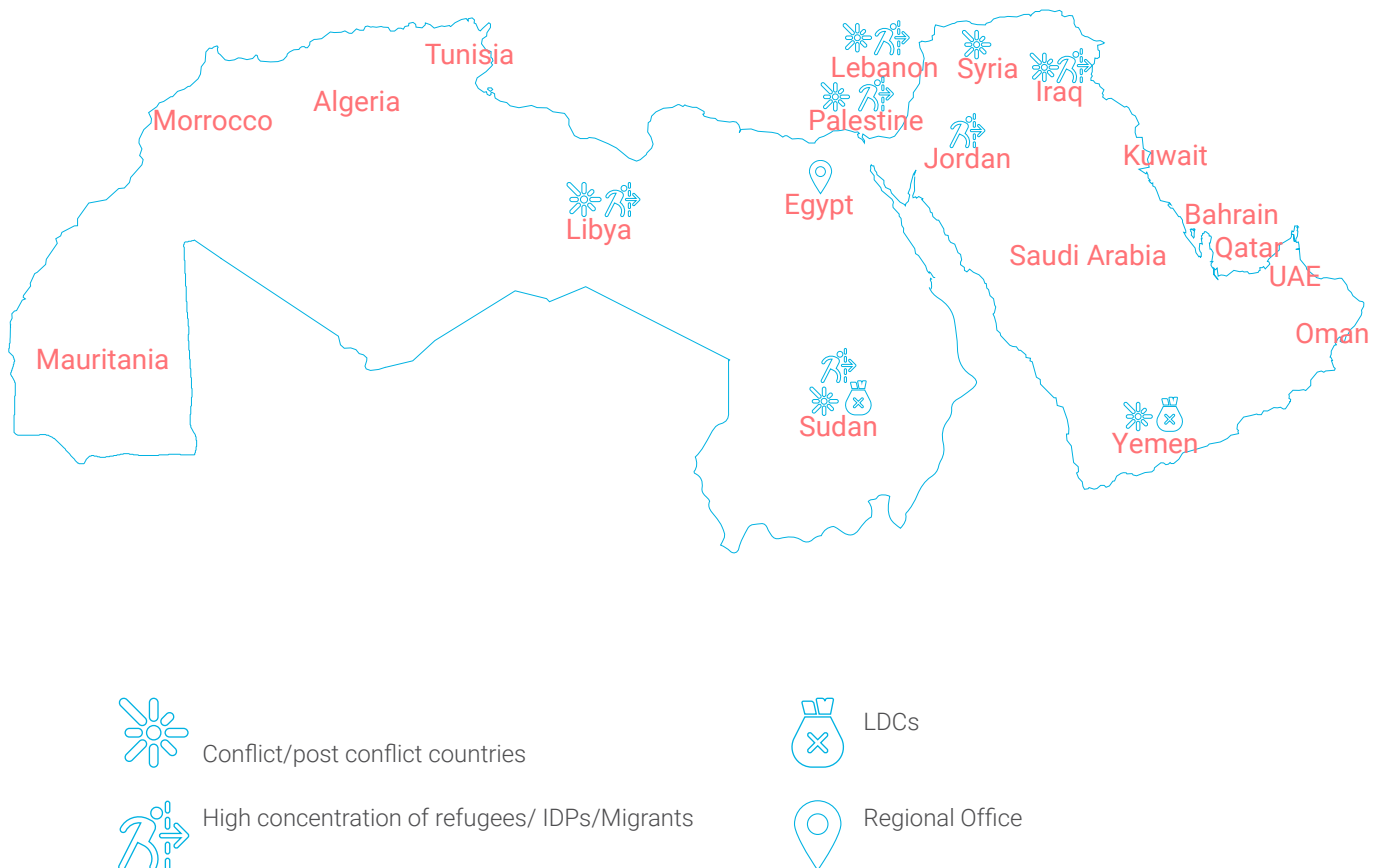
New Projects Acquisitions



New acquisitions in 2020 with a total value of **61.2 Million**

Country Presence

UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) has a mandate to provide policy advice, technical cooperation and capacity building for eighteen countries across the Arab region: Algeria, Bahrain, Egypt, Iraq, Jordan, Kuwait, Lebanon, Libya, Morocco, Palestine, Oman, Qatar, Saudi Arabia, Syria, Sudan, Tunisia, the United Arab Emirates, and Yemen. ROAS currently has operational projects in **16 countries** and **13 operating** country offices



Mauritania, Somalia, Djibouti and Comoros are under UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa

4. Mainstreaming Human Rights and Social Inclusion

All the work carried out by UN-Habitat is underpinned by human-rights-based approach, which ensures that those furthest behind are targeted first



Supporting Gender Equity in the Arab Region

Through mainstreaming Gender as a crosscutting issue in its Strategic Plan 2020-2023, UN-Habitat ROAS works to make urban settings safe and empowering for all women and girls. We support safety in urban development plans, gender-responsive local programmes, inclusive mobility and transport networks, and safe and economically viable public spaces through partnerships with local and national governments, women's groups and other community actors.

UN-Habitat collects gender-specific data and conducts gender-sensitive analysis that addresses men's and women's respective roles, needs, and aspirations. Building on its urban profiling experience, and through community consultations, the data feeds into evidence based and community led interventions which yields in needs-based interventions.

In conflict and post conflict contexts, UN-Habitat ensures "Building Back Better" through identifying gender specific sensitivities and implementing gender responsive infrastructure. Further, UN-Habitat's work addresses Housing, Land and Property (HLP) rights infringements and builds awareness of equal HLP rights among vulnerable IDP and refugee communities. Through its normative and operational work, UN-Habitat seeks to improve women's access to land as a key contributor to stabilizing societies in crisis and/or post-conflict.

Housing, Land and Property Rights Awareness sessions for women, Iraq 2020 @UN-Habitat



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https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_17505

