Urban impact

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
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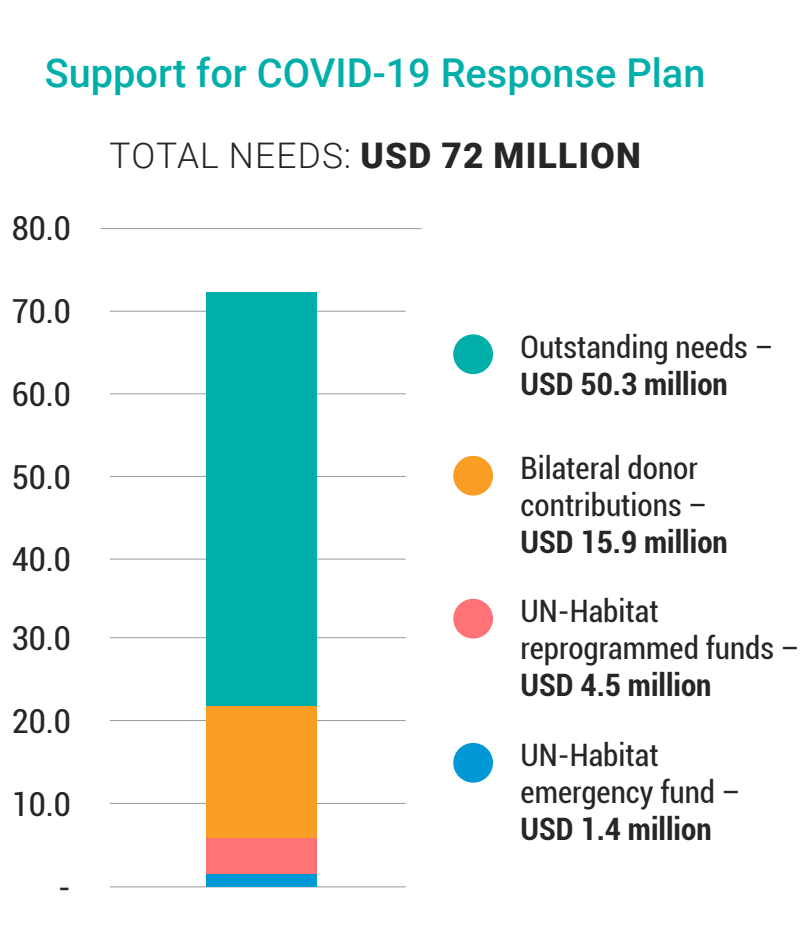
Helping Beirut families without homes after explosion

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 response, is leading digitization of data on buildings' damage assessments using mobile, GIS and mapping technology. This will provide a consolidated picture of the locations, extent of damage, and local socio-economic conditions to enable targeted response 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

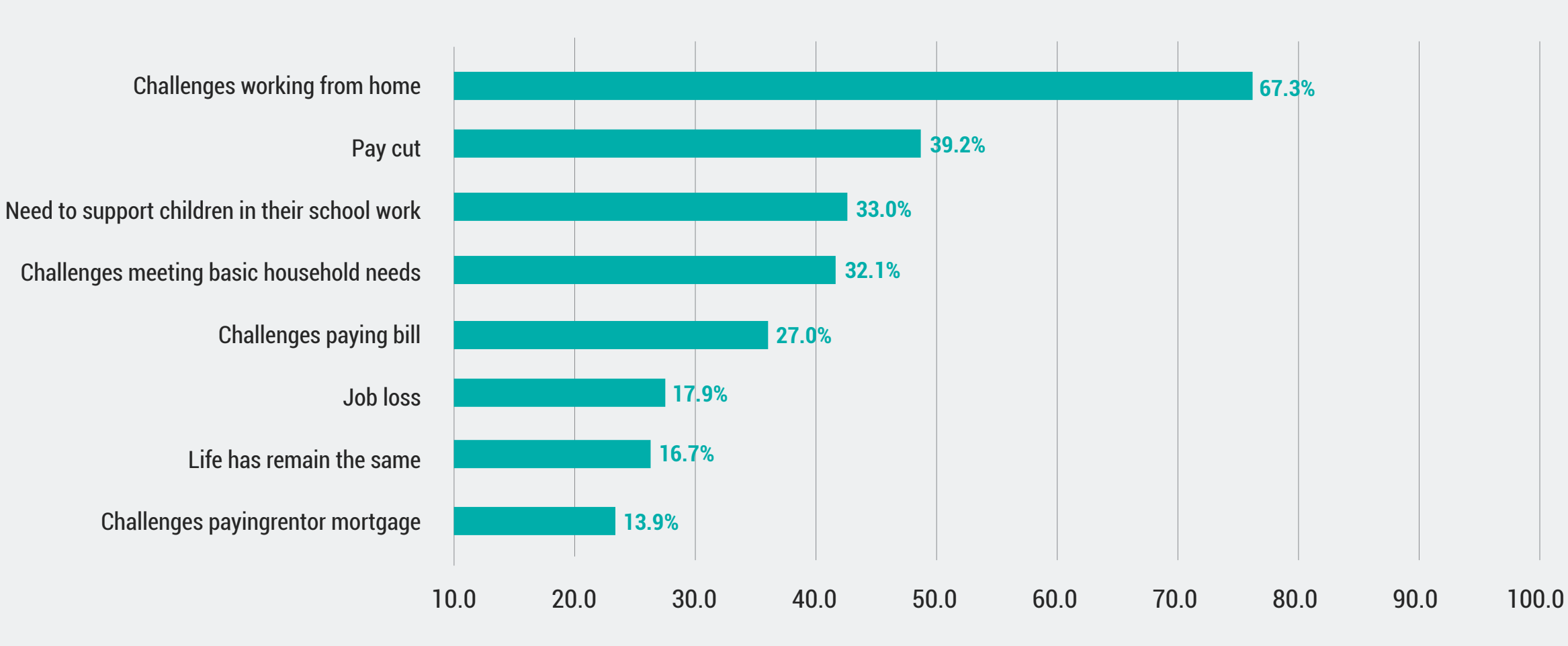
Thanks to financial support from 28 donors and collaboration with some 290 partners, UN-Habitat has provided support to national and local governments to help them respond to the pandemic in more than 250 cities in 37 countries benefitting more than 6.8 million people. The support, outlined in the progress report ranges from providing water, sanitation and hygiene facilities in informal settlements, to temporary housing and food, awareness campaigns and training to foster behaviour change, to carrying out rapid assessments to inform local responses, contributing to technical 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 1,800 people responded from 113 countries. The main findings highlight challenges in access to water and sanitation as well as earnings and jobs. The most common response measures including social distancing, masks and lockdowns. The second phase of the survey, launched on 17th August, focuses on urban design and planning priorities during and post-COVID-19. Share your ideas on how we should redefine 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 UN agencies and governments and provide input to the UN Secretary-General's Policy Brief on COVID-19 in an Urban World. The Brief, one of a series providing ideas to governments on how to address the consequences of the crisis, found that 95 per cent of all COVID-19 cases are in urban areas. It calls for conscious policy to address inequalities, strengthen local capacities, and plan for a green, resilient and inclusive recovery. The Policy Brief was highlighted in a press conference at UN Headquarters in New York, in which UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Ms. Mohd Sharif participated along with the UNDP Administrator.

COVID-19 RESPONSE **UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan**

COVID-19 **Take action with us in cities and communities**

COVID-19 UPDATES

Over 100 organizations worldwide join COVID-19 Campaign

Over 105 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 for commitment to act in solidarity and help the most vulnerable communities, and has organized 42 Urban Thinkers Campuses attended by more than 3,000 participants from May to July on COVID-19 related challenges ranging from basic services, housing, safety and security to urban planning and design. The first report and second report outline the main recommendations from the Campuses.

UN-Habitat publishes new Catalogue of Services

UN-Habitat's recently published 2020 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 and regional authorities, and other 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 New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. The platform allows national and local governments and other urban stakeholders to report on agreed targets of New Urban Agenda and urban-related SDGs in a systematic and structured way in order to track progress towards their achievement. It allows multiple stakeholders to interact and promotes collaboration on sustainable urban development initiatives. The online platform, to be launched at the Global Observance of World Habitat Day on 5 and 6 October, in Surabaya, Indonesia, 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.

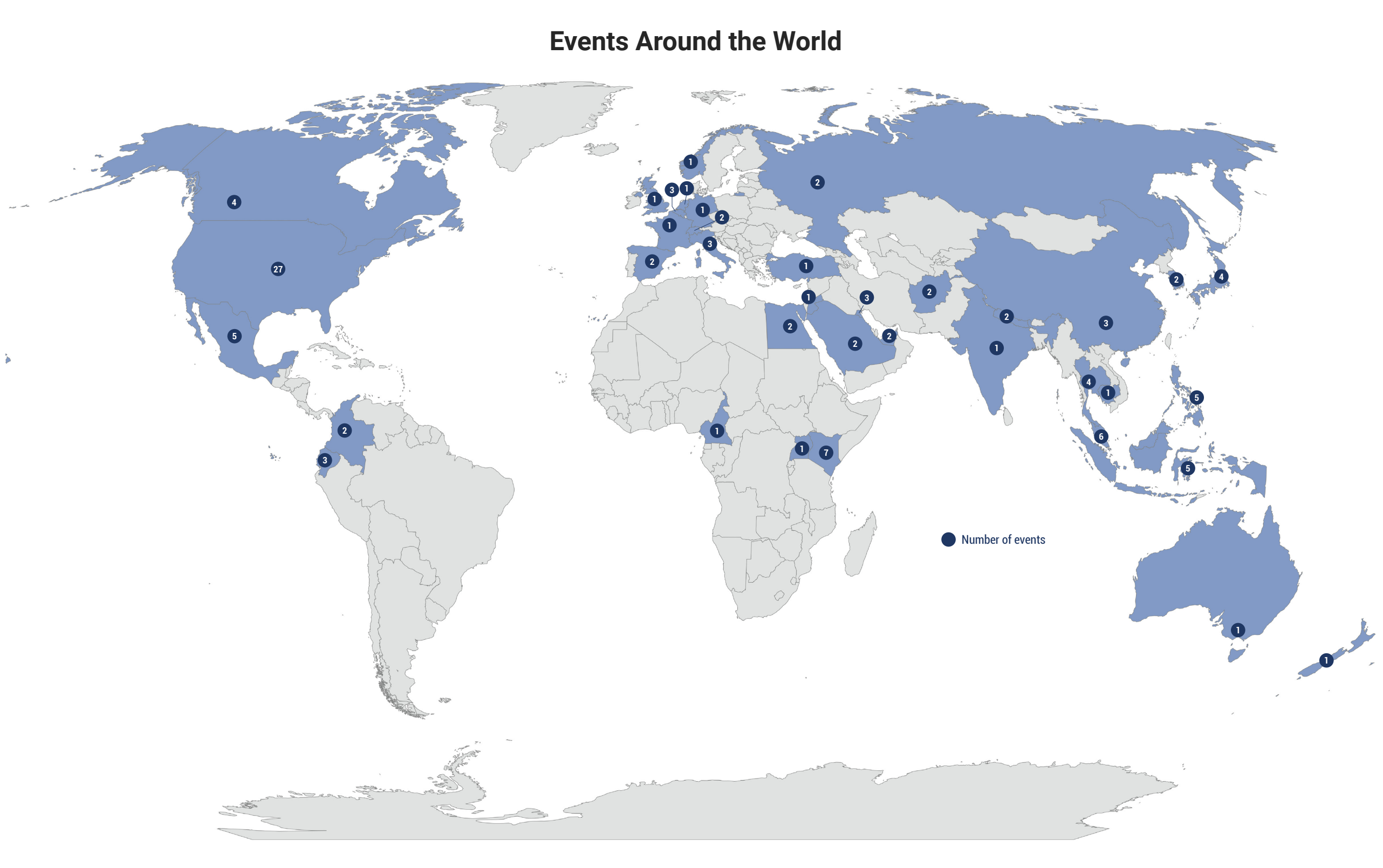
Advocacy

Urban OCTOBER

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, awards 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: A Better Urban Future.* The Mayor of Surabaya, Indonesia will host the Global Observance, a two day, largely virtual, celebration which will feature high level international speakers and award the Habitat Scroll of Honour winners from Colombia, Malaysia, Mexico, Nepal and Uganda. Urban October will conclude with World Cities Day on 31 October with the Global Observance being hosted by the Government of Kenya under the theme *Valuing our Communities and Cities*. UN-Habitat launch its *World Cities Report on The Value of Urbanization* at the occasion. The Global Observances will be live streamed on UN-Habitat's social media channels. Join us in promoting a better urban future - you can use our toolkit for support and get publicity for your event by posting it and later reporting on it with photos, videos or simply posting your ideas on social media account using #urbanoctober.



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 showcase solutions to address housing gaps. Housing is not just a roof; it contributes to health, dignity, safety, inclusion and well-being. The need for adequate housing is highlighted in the response to COVID-19, the plight of homelessness underscored on World Homelessness Day 10 October. 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 mobilise organisations to act on safety in cities around the world and spotlight outstanding innovations for cities and communities. UN-Habitat will run the challenge together with GNSC partners including the Global Parliamentarians of Mayors, Plan International, the Canadian Municipal Network on Crime Prevention, the Africa Forum for Urban Safety, the European Forum for Urban Safety and sister 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, facilitating transparent decision making and guiding the Board in its conduct of work. The new members who represent their regions in the Bureau are Iran as Chair (Asia Pacific), Egypt (Africa), Chile (Latin America and the Caribbean), France (Western Europe and others) as vice Chairs and, Serbia as Rapporteur (Eastern Europe). Other discussions of the Board included the draft Work Programme and Budget for the year 2021. The Board's second session for the year is planned tentatively for 27 to 29 October 2020.

The Executive Board recommends that the core budget for 2021 be in the range of $5.58 million to $10 million; it requested the ad hoc working group on programmatic, budgetary and administrative matters to finalize a recommended budget for the consideration of the Executive Board at its second session in 2020.

REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Africa

SUB-SAHARA AFRICA

UN-HABITAT
SUB-SAHARAN
AFRICA
ATLAS

Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas highlights urban trends

The Sub-Saharan Africa Atlas, recently launched by UN-Habitat, provides an overview on key urban data and trends, highlighting African governments' commitments to policy change and implementation of global sustainable development agenda in their countries. It supports peer to peer learning among African countries, promotes South-South Cooperation, and shows the synergies between key implementation frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda (NUA), and the Harmonized Framework for the Implementation of the NUA developed by the African Union. The Atlas also gives an overview of the impact of UN-Habitat's work in 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), UNCDF and Shelter Africa.

SOMALIA

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

Ethiopia's Minister of Urban Development and Construction Ms. Aisha Mohammed laid a cornerstone in a ceremony in the northern city of Bahir Dar to mark the beginning of the redesign of markets in the country to curb the spread of COVID-19. In Fara Gebaya market in Hawassa city where the markets are extremely congested, some traders will be relocated to other open spaces. A local street in the city will be used as an extension of the market with markers to designate spots for the women's market while in the main market there will be spaced queues, physical distancing markers 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, controlled access to the markets, crowd control in markets and observance of personal hygiene.

SOMALIA

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 chairpersons of the settlements Mr. Yusuf Ibrahim Qaalib***

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

GUINEA

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

> *"Since the outbreak of COVID-19, the situation has deteriorated completely. We don't receive clients anymore, people can't afford the price of sewing and they complain about the tough economic conditions,"* ***lamented Sam Guilavogui, one of the community tailors.***

To support the Government of Guinea's National Response Plan, UN-Habitat and 18 partners teamed-up with an organization of people with disabilities to produce face masks for five municipalities in the capital, Conakry. Thanks to EU support, the Multi-Stakeholder Solidarity Response against COVID-19 distributed prevention equipment, such as hand-washing machines, water tanks and face masks, in poor and vulnerable neighborhoods, crowded markets and mobility hubs across Conakry. Out of the 75,000 masks 10,000 were made by the Association of People with Disabilities for Action and Development and community tailors in the Municipality of Matoto

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 accountability as payments will be easily tracked..."* ***said Mohamed Ali, the Director of Regions and Districts Administration at the Ministry of Interior in Somaliland.***

UN-Habitat's Joint Programme on Local Governance (JPLG) has supported the Ministries of Interior for Somaliland and Puntland to introduce a mobile phone-based tax payment system which has seen revenues increase. Garowe, Puntland's capital, introduced a one-dollar service tax to its residents which was tied to utilities such as water and electricity. As a result, USD 558,000 has been raised and the funds used to reconstruct 1.8 kilometers of the main road serving Garowe town. JPLG plans to gradually expand the mobile-money payment system to other target districts. This system is supported by the European Union, the UK's Department for International Development, the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency, Norway, the Danish International Development Agency, the United States Agency for International Development and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation.

MOZAMBIQUE

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

> *"When Cyclone Idai hit, we didn't have a tool like the Basic Emergency School Plan to prepare ourselves. Many of the things I learned today on disaster preparedness I didn't knew at the time, every school should have access to this tool."* ***says Sergio Gove, Headmaster of Dondo's Secondary School.***

As schools plan to reopen since their closure in March 2020 due to the pandemic, new COVID-19 preventive measures are being put in place including reducing the number of students in classrooms and instituting hygiene measures. UN-Habitat, in partnership with UNICEF, has been implementing the Basic Emergency School Plan (BESP) in schools across the country since 2015 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, capacity trainings and direct implementation of the BESP began on 5 August 2020 in the central region in the Districts of Dondo, Gondola and Chimoio.

GHANA

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 on Water Sanitation and Hygiene in Ga Mashie, Ghana in partnership with People's Dialogue on Human Settlements. The project supports communities with education materials and handwashing equipment. As a result, vulnerable people in the selected informal settlements have improved access to handwashing facilities, running water and reliable information on COVID-19 impacts and the protocols for prevention. Employment opportunities have also been created for youth and women in the areas of production of soap, sanitisers masks; plumbing and assembling of handwashing facilities, and new skills in sensitising community members on all aspects of COVID-19 including on good hygiene, and vulnerability assessments.

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 disrupted flow of River Nile. Out of Egypt's 27 Governorates, the Governorates of Upper Egypt such as Sohag, Assiut, and Luxor host over 90 per cent of Egypt's most vulnerable and marginalized villages in terms of access, quality, affordability and sustainability of basic 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 and cost-efficient solutions for water and sanitation to vulnerable communities that can be replicated locally.

YEMEN

Yemeni residents repair homes destroyed by fighting

> *"The walls and the roof fell off and the house had no doors or windows. The roof could not protect us from the rain anymore and the house was not safe to live in...."* ***Mariam Saleh Mahdi a resident from Yeme****n.*

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

LEBANON

First communal handwashing stations in Lebanon aim to tackle COVID-19 spread

The recent explosion in Beirut brought into focus the multitude of problems that Lebanon is facing. The COVID-19 response in the country has seen first communal handwashing stations installed to prevent the spread of COVID-19 and other health risks in four urban neighbourhoods in Beirut (Sabra and Daouk Ghawash) and Mount Lebanon (Maraach and Nabaa in Bourj Hammoud). The stations will benefit nearly 30,000 people including vulnerable Lebanese residents, refugees and migrants in poor urban neighbourhoods. UN-Habitat worked closely with the Municipalities of Beirut and Bourj Hammoud, and the Popular Aid for Relief and Development (PARD), a local NGO in Beirut.

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 in their homes"* ***21-year-old Timocy Soqili, Kalekana Community in Lami.***

Children and youth in Fiji are working closely with local artists to create community murals to raise awareness of COVID-19 prevention. The artwork is an important aspect of UN-Habitat's rapid response support for more than 70 informal settlements across Fiji to raise awareness and help alleviate the impacts of COVID-19. Local artists help the youth to design eye-catching messages to inspire positive change in their communities. The murals are featured in the 'Pacific Unite' virtual concert held on 15th of August, 2020 celebrating Pacific talent which was streamed simultaneously in most of the Pacific countries.

MYANMAR

Slum dwellers happy in their new housing in Yangon, Myanmar

"We were in horrible condition," recalls Daw San San Aye mother of three, who previously lived in a 100 sq ft house near a congested riverbank with 4,000 slum houses.

As part of the continued advocacy against potential evictions and efforts to provide alternative solutions to the problem of slums, the UN-Habitat programme in Myanmar on selective resettlement using a peoples' process approach is a good case study of successful resettlement through an intense community process with emphasis on security of tenure based on 30 years' of experience. Funded by the Government of Japan, the programme houses the most vulnerable dwellers from informal settlements.

NEPAL

Opportunities for poor urban women in Nepal during COVID-19

> *"My source of livelihood had completely stopped since the lockdown. I would have been left with no income..."* ***says Ms. Bidhya Nakarmi, a resident of Bungamati, Lalitpur who works as a seamstress for her livelihood.***

Bidhya represents many of her folks, the informal sector workers who lost their jobs during the COVID-19 crisis. Health issues have become secondary for them as they struggle to live hand to mouth each day. Parya Sampada, a UN-Habitat led project funded by the SWITCH Asia programme of the European Union in Nepal, repurposed its activities to support low income urban women to produce COVID-19 protective gear immediately after lockdown measures were instituted in the country. Bidhya works with others from the Bungamati community with everyone joining hands to help these unrecognized, 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 living in their own homes 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 armed battle, in 2017, between the 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 partnered with the Philippine army's Engineering Brigade which contributed voluntary labor, equipment and expertise to ensure continued construction amid COVID-19 mobility restrictions and work safety precautions, while 32 cooperatives organized by UN-Habitat from among the affected families are contributing to the local economy with their businesses providing transport service, water, groceries, construction supplies and fresh farm produce from a community vegetable and livestock farm.

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).

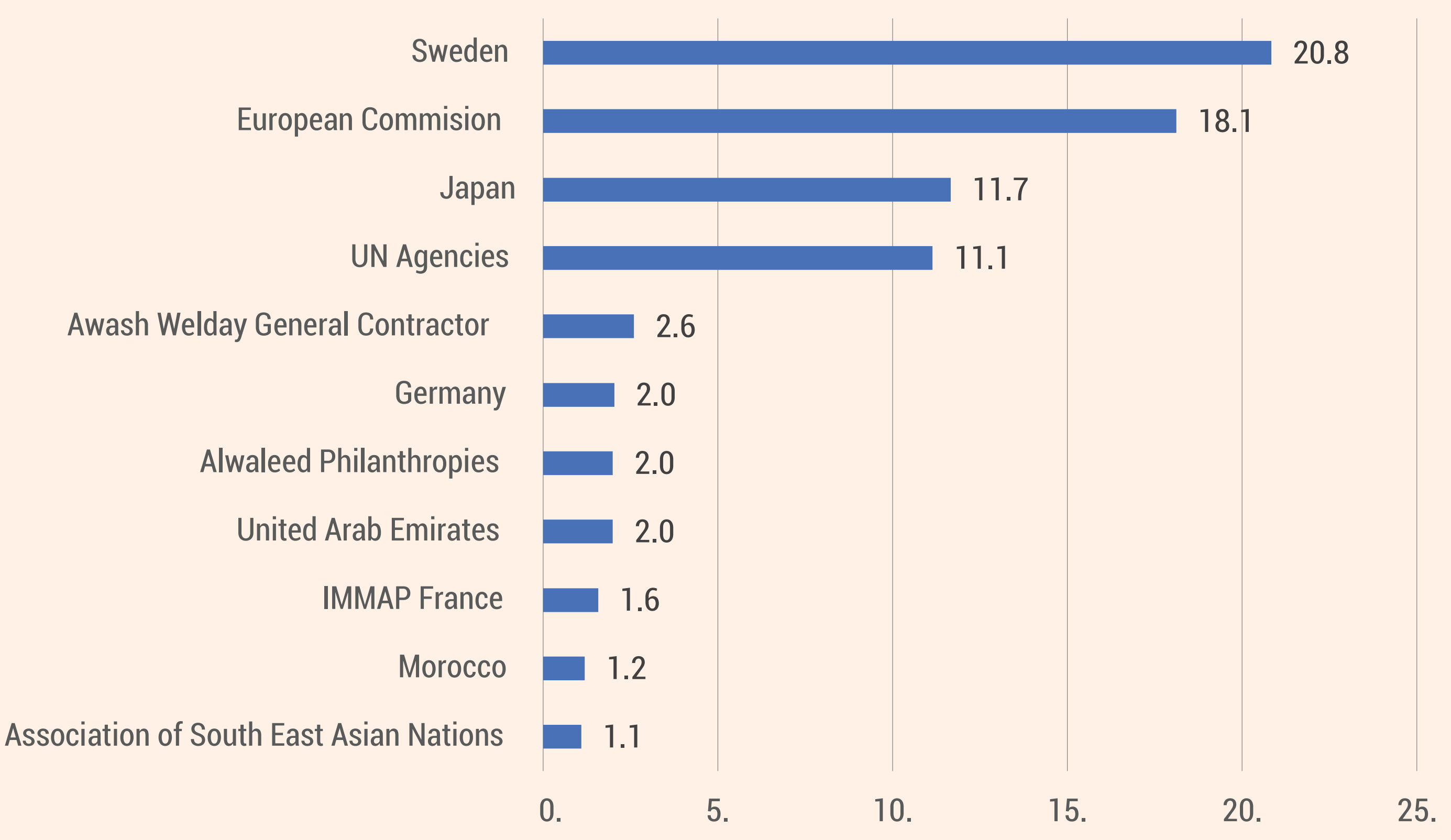
MEXICO

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.

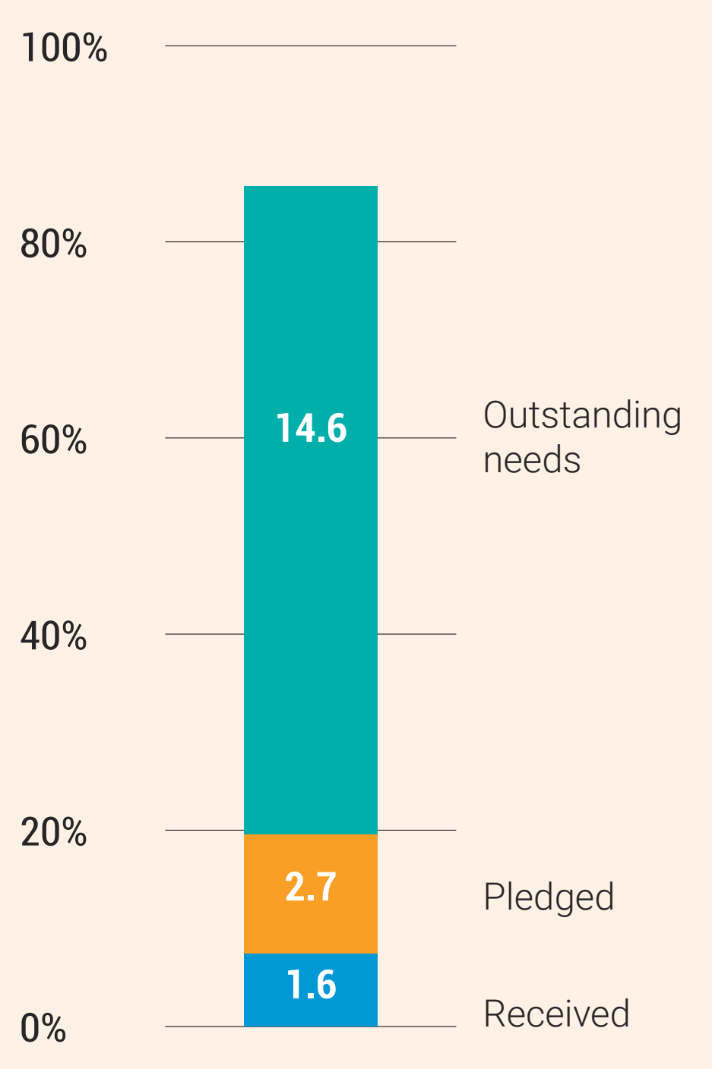
Financial Update

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

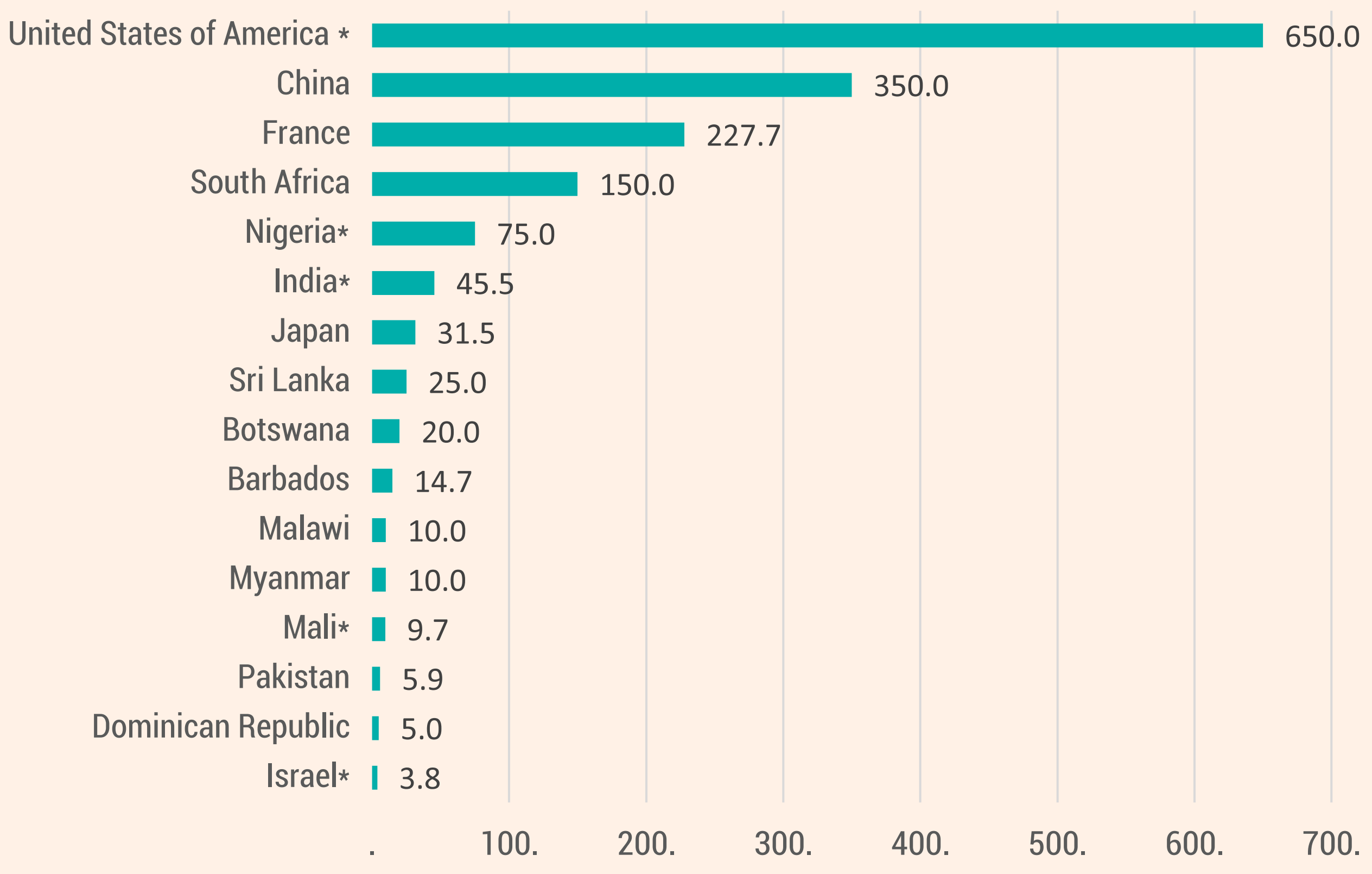


Core support for UN-Habitat's 2020 programme of work

Total needs USD 18.9 million

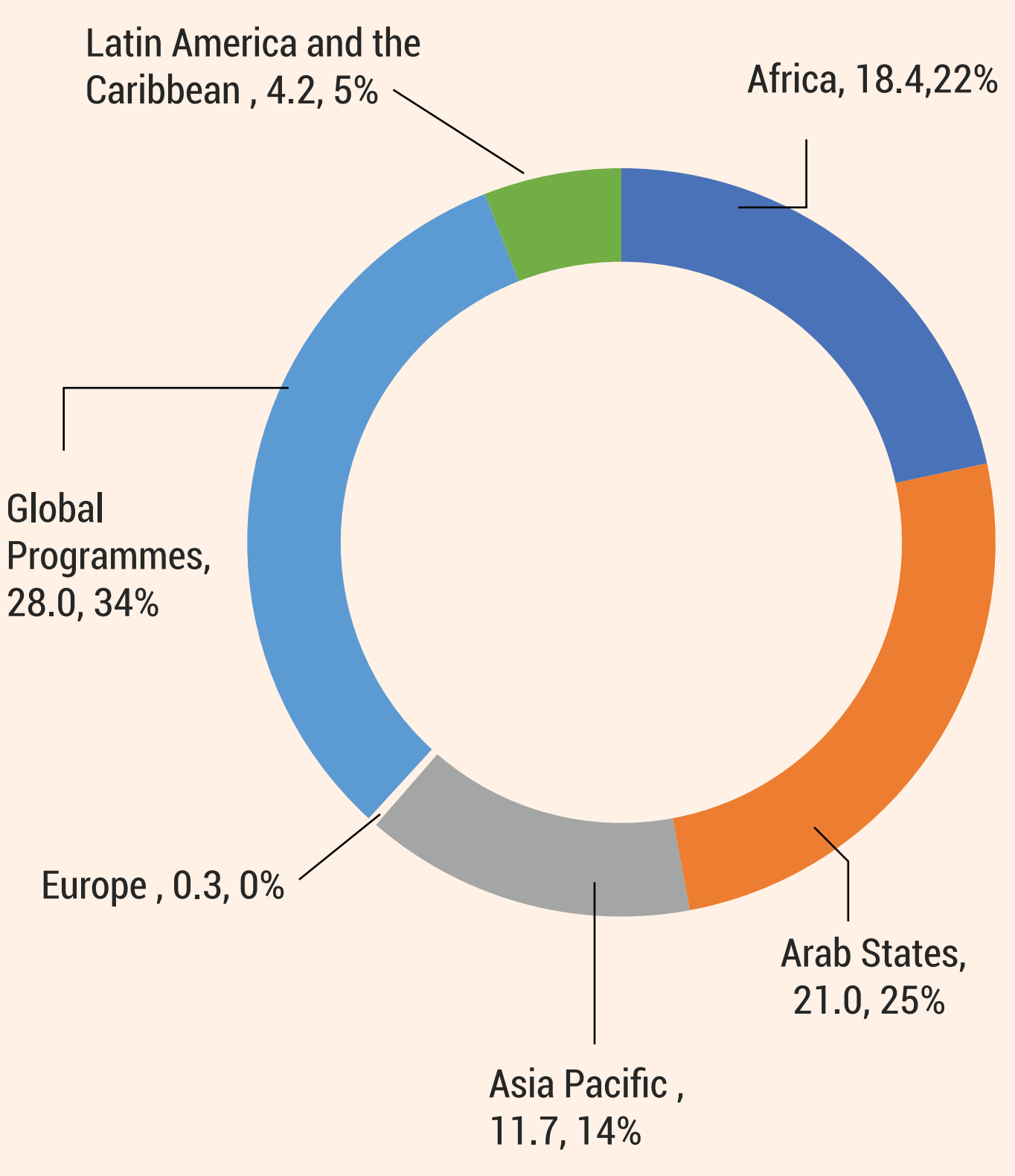


Non-earmarked core contributions donors in 2020 in thousands



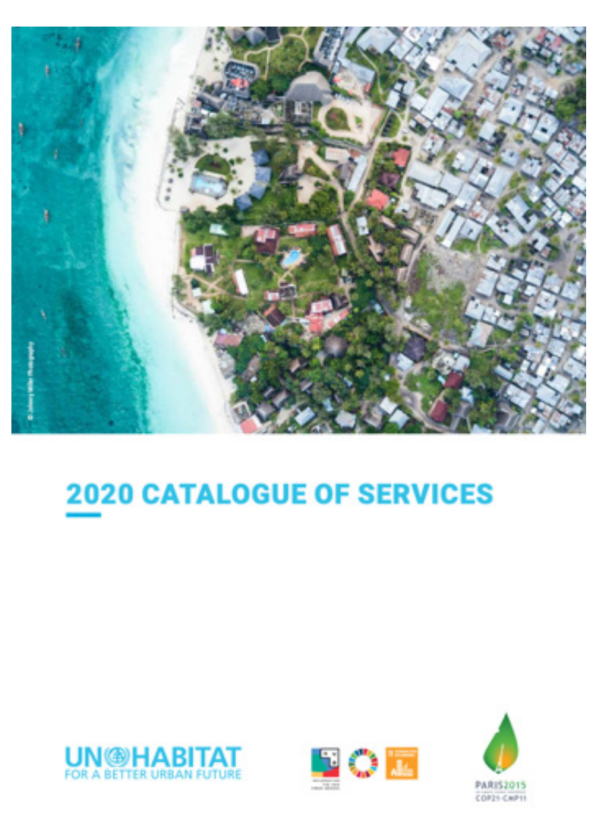
*includes previous years' contributions

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

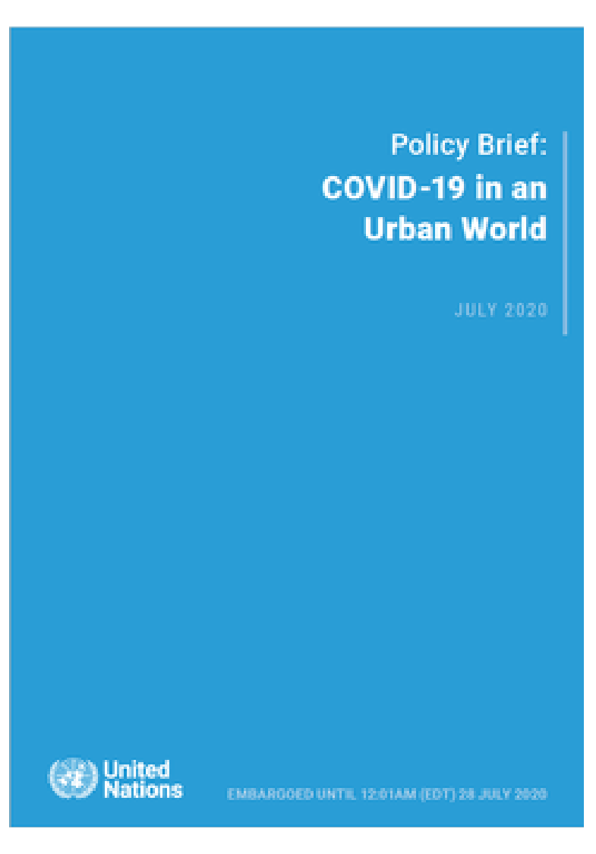


Resources

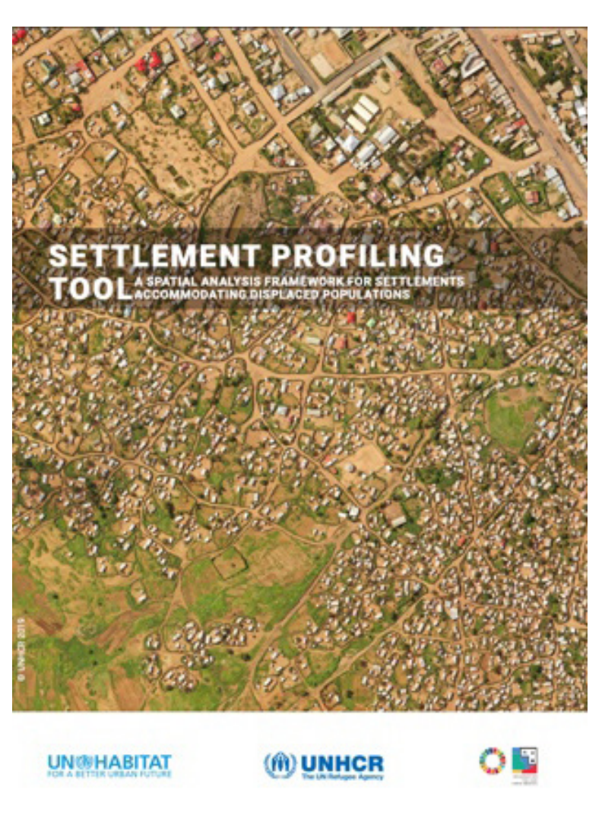
Recent publications



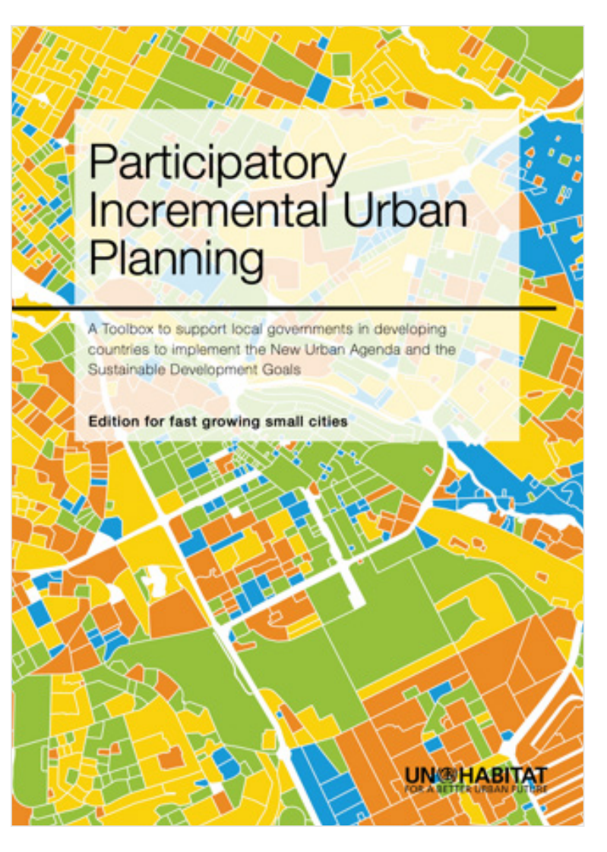
2020 Catalogue of Services



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
UN-HABITAT
UNHCR

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


Participatory Incremental Urban Planning
Edition for fast growing small cities
UN-HABITAT

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

31 October 2020
Global Launch

World Cities Report 2020
The Value of Sustainable Urbanization

12:00 – 12:10 EAT   Launch ceremony
15:00 – 17:30 EAT   Roundtable on the World Cities Report 2020

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**

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COVID-19 RESPONSE