

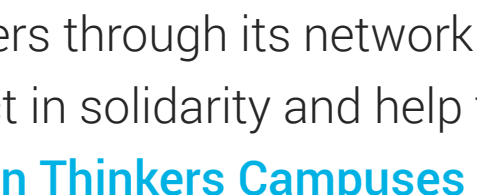
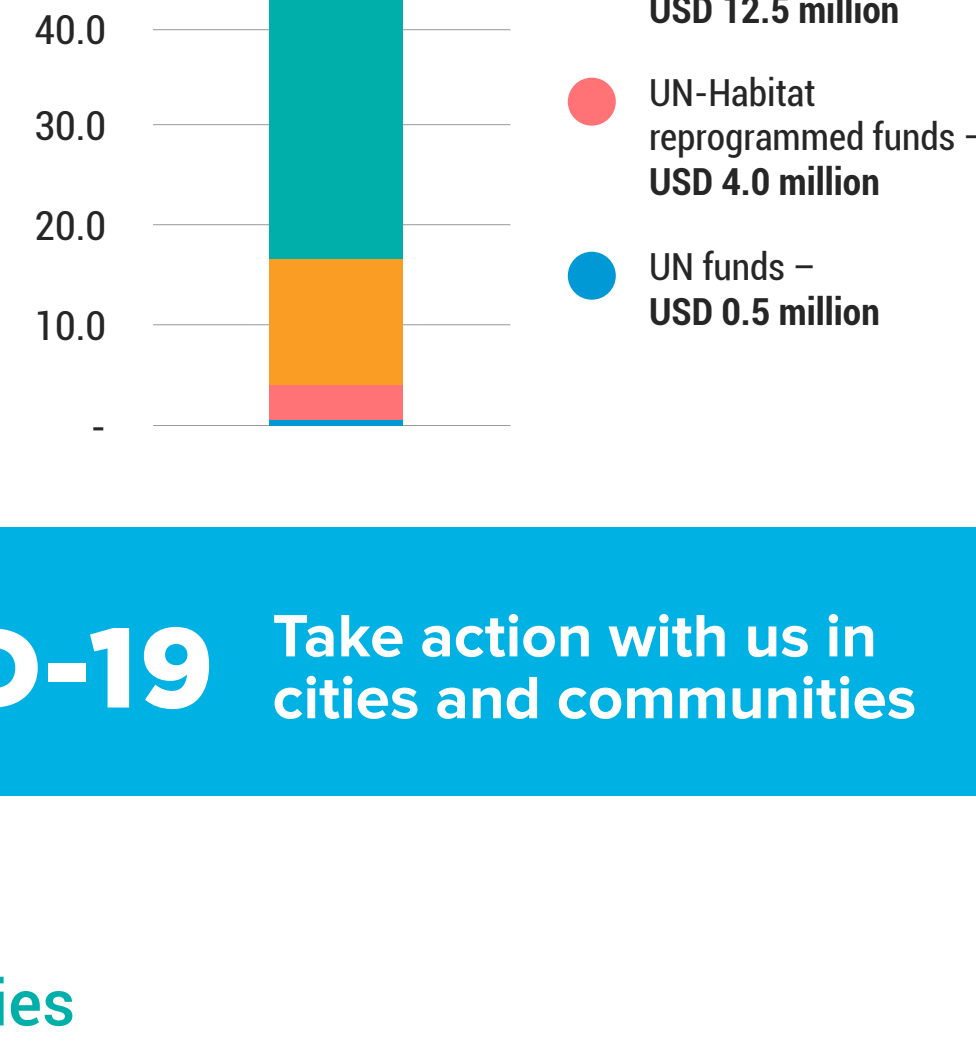


## COVID-19 Update

As the pandemic continues, UN-Habitat has been moving forward to implement its **COVID-19 Response Plan** for 64 countries focusing on immediate action for the most vulnerable.

The Plan focuses on supporting local governments who are at the forefront of the response and community driven solutions particularly in overcrowded slums and informal settlements which lack adequate water and sanitation, and on urban mapping, data and knowledge to support decision making, mitigating the pandemic's economic impact and post-COVID-19 recovery. USD 72 million is needed to support 64 countries in Africa, Arab States, Asia Pacific and Latin America and the Caribbean of which USD 13 million has been pledged or received since the Plan was shared. In addition, UN-Habitat has reprogrammed USD 4 million of existing activities to prioritize COVID-19 response and provided seed funding of USD 1.3 million to scale up programmes in 13 countries (Bolivia, Brazil, Fiji, Ghana, Guinea, Kenya, Iraq, Lebanon, Mexico, Mozambique Myanmar, Philippines, Syria) for community preparedness, outreach and hygiene support. [Support the response to COVID-19](#)

### Support for COVID-19 Response Plan



UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan

COVID-19

Take action with us in cities and communities

### COVID-19 UPDATES

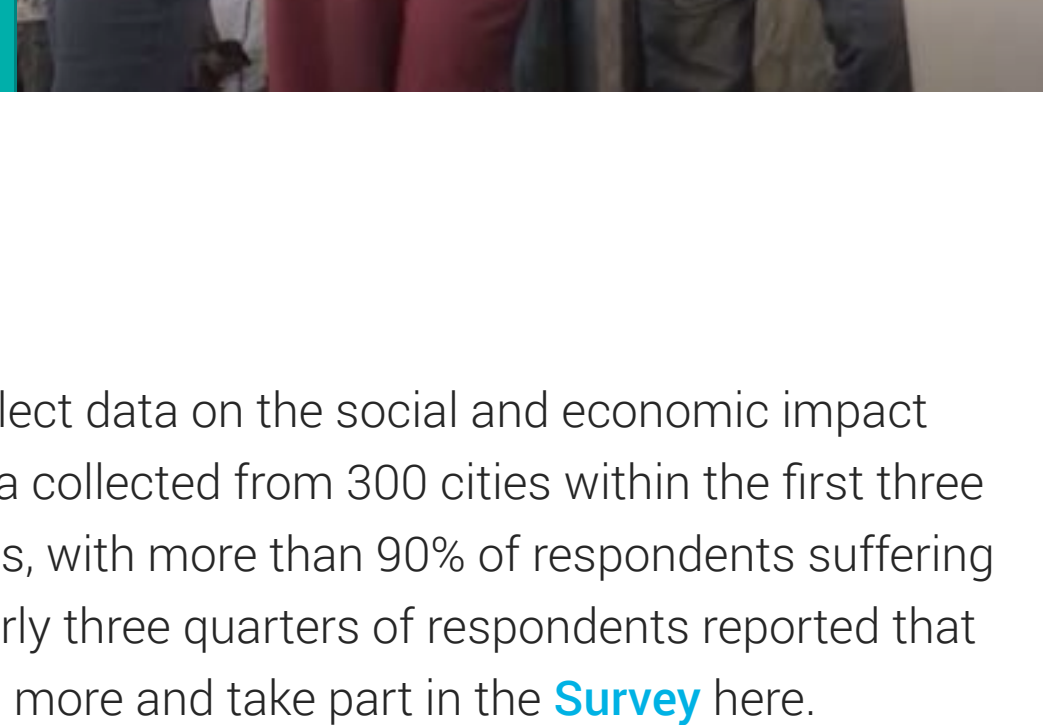
#### COVID-19 Campaign - Take Action with us in Cities and Communities

Over 75 new partner organizations and more than a thousand individuals have joined the **COVID-19 Campaign** [Take action with us in cities and communities](#) launched by UN-Habitat in April to mobilize support among national, city and local governments and community leaders through its network of urban professionals, grassroots organizations and businesses. The Campaign calls for commitment online to act in solidarity and help the most vulnerable communities. Under the Campaign, UN-Habitat and partners organized nine **Urban Thinkers Campuses** in May on COVID-19 related challenges from basic services, shelter, safety and security to wages, social security, small and medium enterprises and reporting on the pandemic resulting in [key recommendations](#) the COVID-19 response. More Campuses are planned for June and July. [The Campaign received support from the Habitat Professionals Forum](#) and the [World Urban Campaign partners](#).

### COVID-19 UPDATES

#### Partnering on COVID-19

In addition to engaging partners through the COVID-19 Campaign, UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, invited the Stakeholder Advisory Group Enterprise (SAGE) to a dialogue on 21 April 2020 on working together on emerging issues such as the impact of COVID-19 on the urban SDGs, how to address gaps in global and urban responses to the pandemic, and develop strategies for collective action and advocacy. Other current areas of collaboration include stakeholders' contribution to the State of Cities Report on post-COVID-19. Meanwhile in Kenya, UN-Habitat is working with partners to map facilities, services and partners in informal settlements to strengthen coordination in servicing informal settlements. This work address gaps in service distribution, programmes and policy and it is hoped that the approach can be replicated other countries.



### COVID-19 UPDATES

#### Crowdsourcing on COVID-19 trends in cities

As part of the COVID-19 Campaign, UN-Habitat launched a crowdsourcing survey to collect data on the social and economic impact COVID-19 is having on people, and how their cities are responding to the pandemic. Data collected from 300 cities within the first three days of the launch shows that residents of all cities face severe socio-economic impacts, with more than 90% of respondents suffering reduced incomes, job losses and inability to pay for basic needs and recurrent bills. Nearly three quarters of respondents reported that their cities were implementing targeted as opposed to mass testing for COVID-19. Read more and take part in the [Survey](#) here.

## Organizational Developments

#### UN-Habitat's Executive Board holds its first session virtually on Monday 29 June 2020

This will be the **first session of the Executive Board in 2020** and will be held virtually. The Executive Board will consider the organization's financial, budgetary and administrative matters, its draft annual work programme and budget for 2021, the status of implementation of resolutions and decisions adopted by the UN-Habitat Assembly at its first session and election of officers of the new Bureau of the Executive Board. The Board has 36 members from Africa (10 seats); Asia-Pacific (8 seats); Eastern Europe (4 seats); Latin America and the Caribbean (6 seats); and Western Europe and Others (8 seats).

Meanwhile the Executive Board's Ad-Hoc Working Group on Programmatic, Budgetary and Administrative matters met mid-June to discuss UN-Habitat's 2021 draft work programme and budget, progress on implementation of the 2020-2023 strategic plan and the organization's strategies on partnership, resource mobilization and engagement with the private sector and with non-governmental partners.

**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 **31 August 2020**.

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

## Africa

### ETHIOPIA

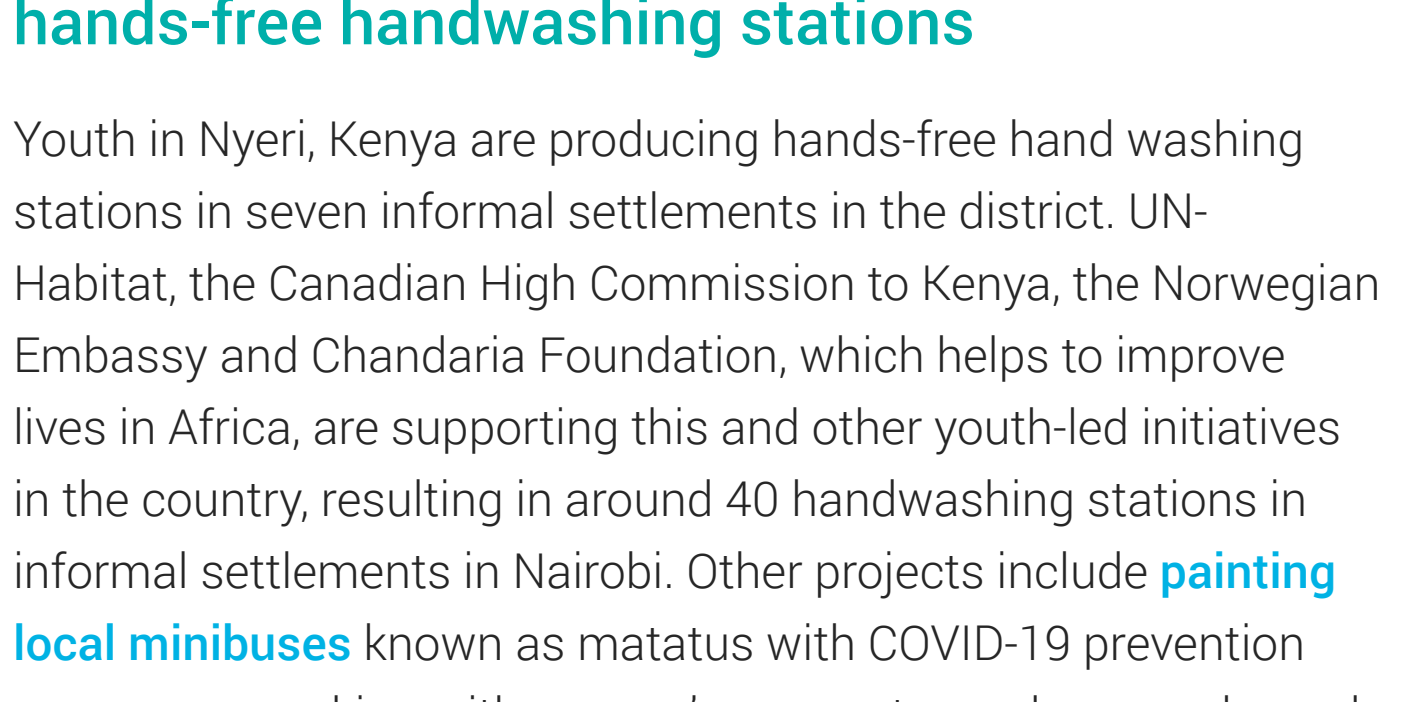


#### Reducing COVID-19 through better design of Ethiopia's outdoor markets

The Ethiopian Government and UN-Habitat are working together to redesign overcrowded city markets and set up temporary markets to help prevent the spread of COVID-19 in four cities.

The markets, which sell food, vegetables and other commodities, sometimes even cattle, are still open and very crowded. The new designs will incorporate physical distancing, handwashing stations, waste containers and controlled access to the markets.

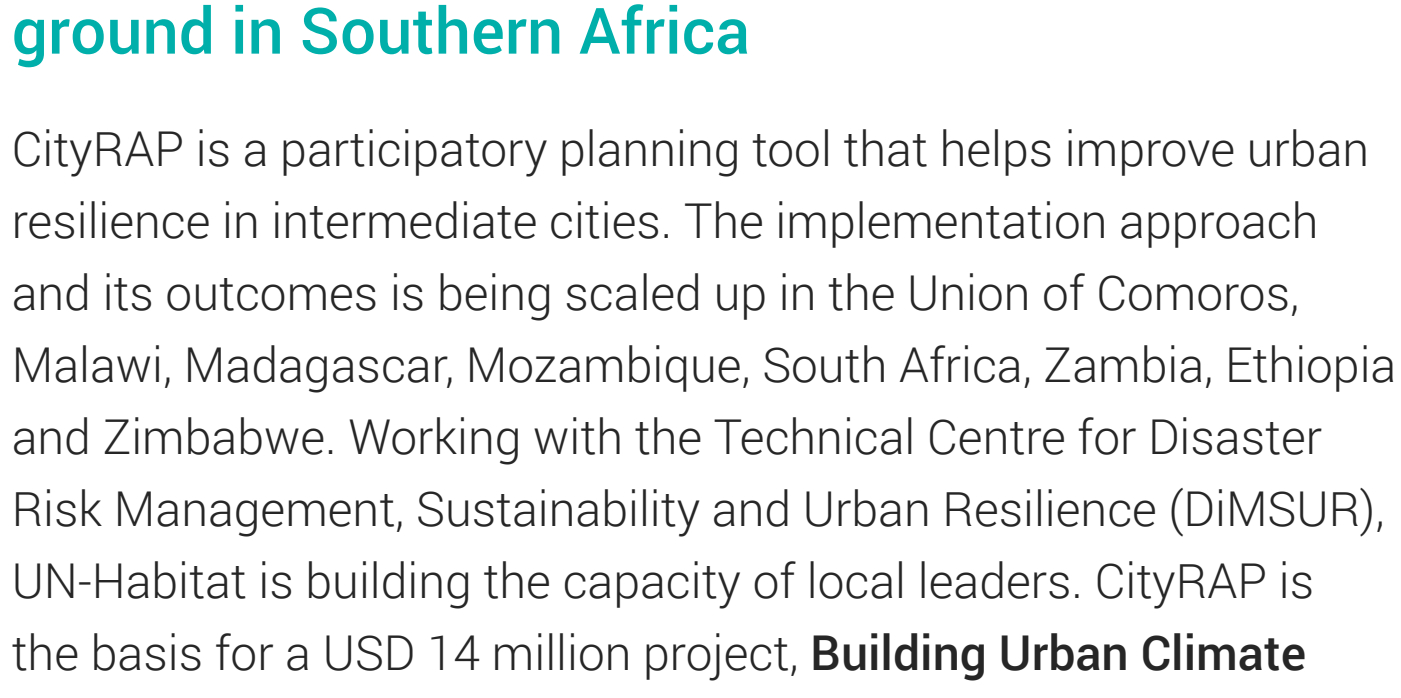
### KENYA



#### Youth in central Kenya produce innovative hands-free handwashing stations

Youth in Nyeri, Kenya are producing hands-free hand washing stations in seven informal settlements in the district. UN-Habitat, the Canadian High Commission to Kenya, the Norwegian Embassy and Chandaria Foundation, which helps to improve lives in Africa, are supporting this and other youth-led initiatives in the country, resulting in around 40 handwashing stations in informal settlements in Nairobi. Other projects include [painting local minibuses](#) known as matatus with COVID-19 prevention messages, working with women's groups to produce masks and [community data collection](#).

### SOUTHERN AFRICA



#### City Resilience Action Planning gains ground in Southern Africa

CityRAP is a participatory planning tool that helps improve urban resilience in intermediate cities. The implementation approach and its outcomes is being scaled up in the Union of Comoros, Malawi, Madagascar, Mozambique, South Africa, Zambia, Ethiopia and Zimbabwe. Working with the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience (DIMSUR), UN-Habitat is building the capacity of local leaders. CityRAP is the basis for a USD 14 million project, **Building Urban Climate Resilience in South-Eastern Africa**, funded by the Adaptation Fund, that UN-Habitat is launching virtually on 23 June at 10:00 hours (East Africa Time).

### SOMALIA



#### Youth win nearly half of elected seats in Somalia's South West State

Thanks to the Youth Political Empowerment Project, an initiative of UN-Habitat and sister agencies, representation of youth in the South West State parliament in Somalia has increased to 45% allowing them to engage in peacebuilding and governance. Osman Nur Adam, a Public Administration degree holder plans to improve legal policies to support youth to participate in governance and says the project has enabled youth to engage with government officials while Amina Omar says "...I had to challenge the perception from my community and even members of my own family who felt that women should not be participating in politics..."

## Arab States



### IRAQ

#### Unemployed construction workers hit by COVID-19 employed to rehabilitate war damaged houses

"There was no work during curfew. It was a very difficult period, I am happy with work now, and I hope that reconstruction in the city will continue," says Khaled Salem construction worker from the Iraqi city of Mosul, who is finally receiving an income to support his family of seven children through a housing rehabilitation project. He had suffered during the restrictions imposed for COVID-19 and is relieved to have work again. Some 80 labourers have been given work through the project to rehabilitate war damaged houses in two cities in northern Iraq resulting in improved housing.

UN-Habitat is promoting a broad coordinated response to COVID-19 through rapid assessment of water, sanitation, hygiene, shelter and mobility in nearly two thirds of Lebanon's 1,000 municipalities. The assessment allows municipalities to identify mitigating measures for the most vulnerable locations and populations. Preliminary findings point to a severe lack of clean water in disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods, improper treatment of wastewater and solid medical waste, the need to adapt national directives and guidance to local contexts, and clearer procedures on COVID-19 preventative measures at the community level.



#### UN-Habitat helps municipalities undertake rapid assessment of COVID-19 challenges in Lebanon

"Municipalities are the foundation of every city, they know what neighbourhoods are desperately in need of, and how long people will still be able to manage the ongoing crisis" **Mayor of Lebanon, Dr. Riad Yamaq.**

### YEMEN

#### Emergency repair of damaged wastewater facilities to prevent waterborne disease outbreak in Yemen

Thanks to a contribution of USD 1.8 million from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat and the Local Water and Sanitation Corporation launched a project in May to rehabilitate and upgrade wastewater treatment plants to reduce outbreaks of cholera and other water borne diseases in Aden. Over 75,000 people, mainly women and children, will benefit in the districts of Al Tawahi, Sirah, Al Sheikh Othman and Al Buraqiah.



## Asia Pacific

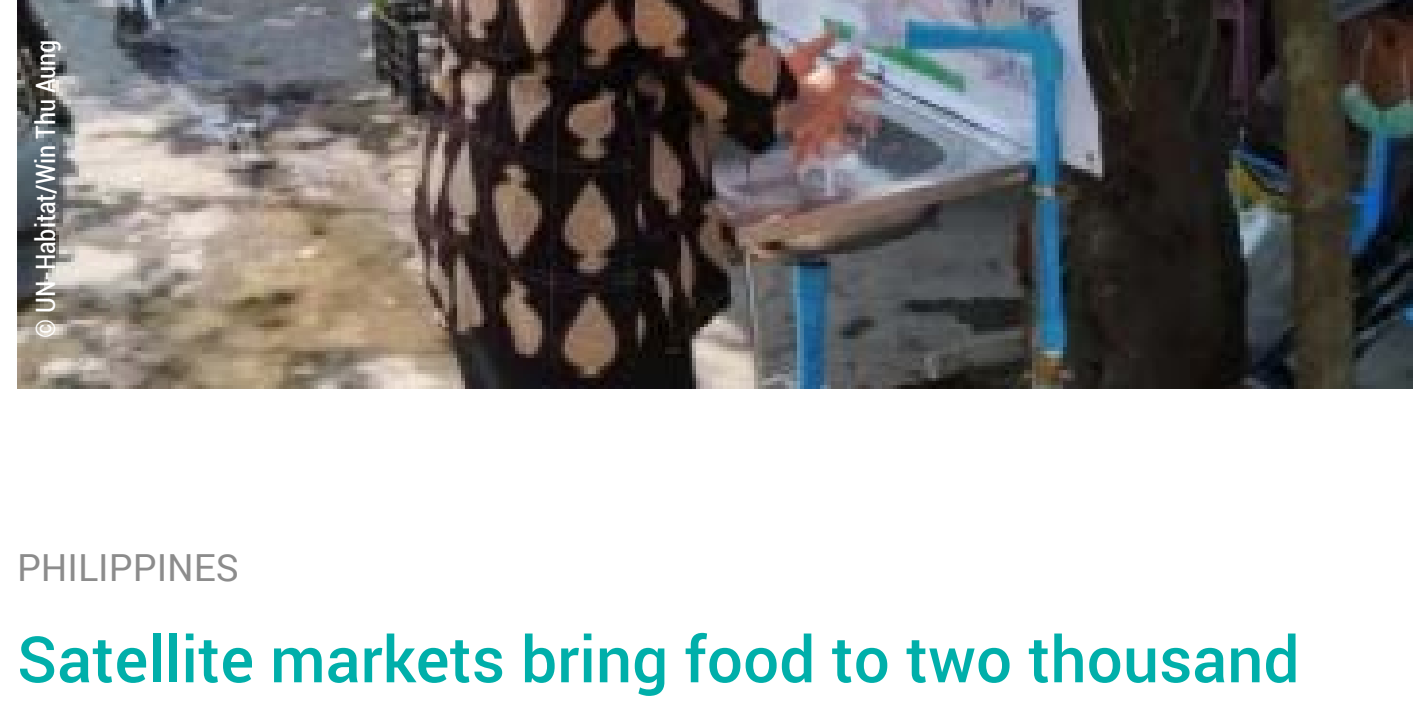
### MYANMAR

#### Store owners and customers welcome hand-washing stations in Myanmar

"The hand washing station near the market is very useful; people who are going back home after buying fish, meat, and vegetables can wash their hands here and be safe from COVID-19."

**Sittwe store owner, Daw Yin Thein**

27 hand-free handwashing facilities have been installed in key locations including markets and bus stations in western Myanmar as part of the UN-Habitat supported COVID-19 response project working with communities.



### PHILIPPINES

#### Satellite markets bring food to two thousand COVID-19 affected displaced families in the Philippines

COVID-19 restrictions on travel and goods transportation have made access to affordable food difficult, especially in places recovering from conflict such as Marawi. The satellite markets, set up by UN-Habitat with support from the UN-Habitat Global Emergency Response Fund, are located near transitory sites and allow 2,000 families, displaced by conflict three years ago, to buy fairly priced food. Beneficiaries manage these markets and provide vehicles for mobile stores to reduce travel time and decongest central markets to limit the spread of COVID-19.

## Latin America and The Caribbean

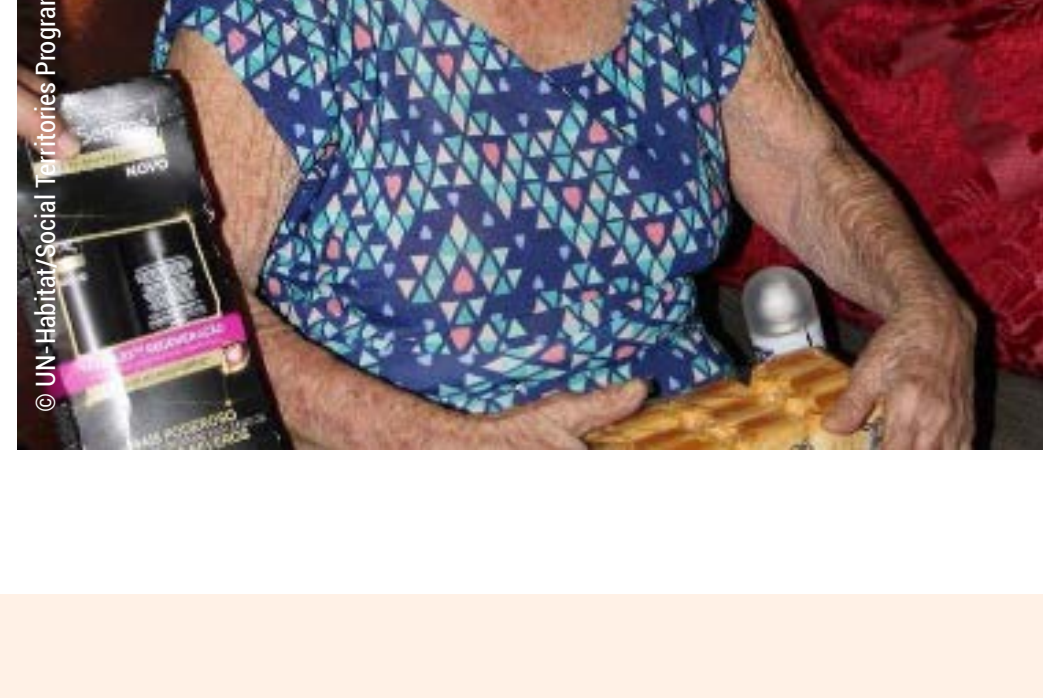
### BRAZIL

#### Community mapping ensures support for the most vulnerable during Brazil's COVID-19 outbreak

"It is very important to know that we have someone we can count on during this pandemic and very good to receive the visit of these professionals here bringing this kit and some affection, because at this moment we are very alone. I am very grateful!"

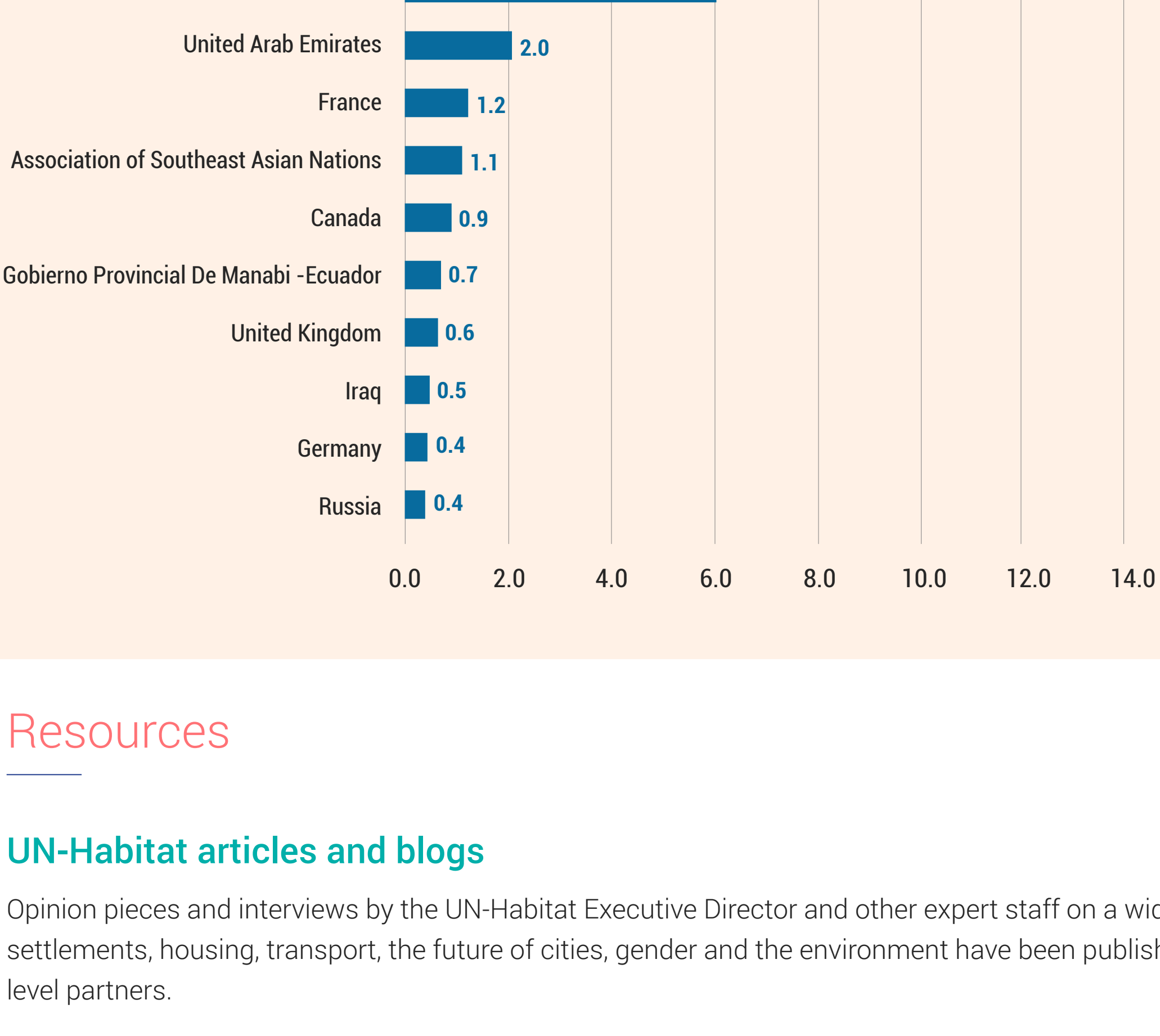
**Maria Benedita Cortes Martins, a 91 year-old resident of a Rio de Janeiro informal settlement**

Some 2,500 vulnerable, elderly and sick people living in the slums of Brazil's largest city Rio de Janeiro, received hygiene kits to support them during the COVID-19 pandemic. UN-Habitat supported the community gathering of date to help select those eligible to receive assistance, ensuring the poorest and most vulnerable are catered for, under the Social Territories Programme.

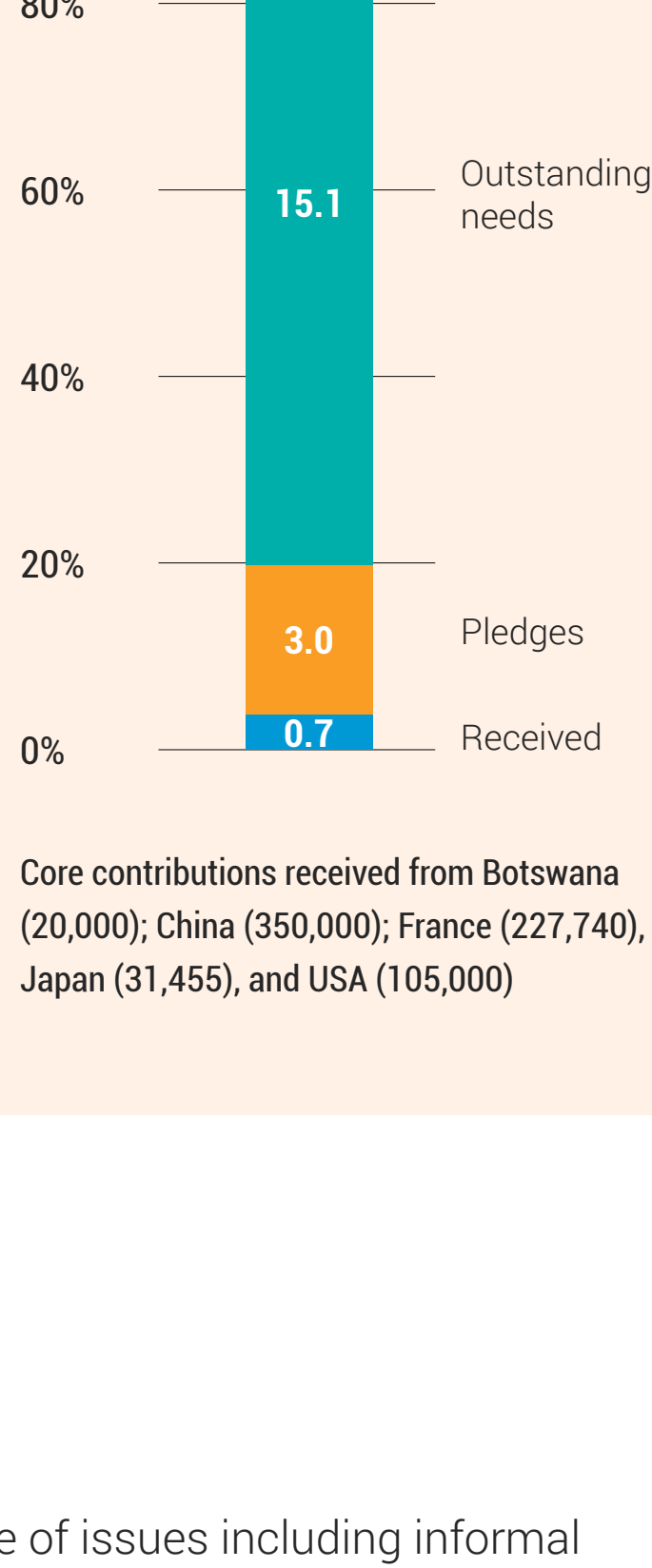


## Financial Update

#### Highest earmarked grants to UN-Habitat Jan - May 2020 in USD Millions



#### Income for core activities in UN-Habitat's strategic plan in 2020

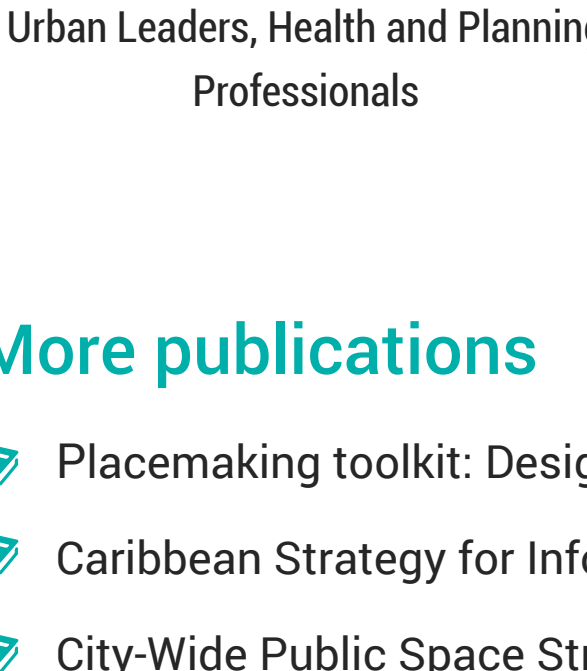


## Resources

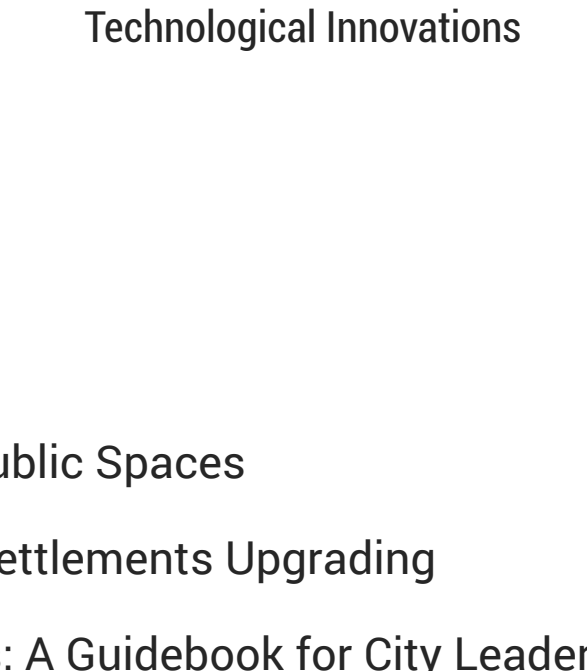
#### UN-Habitat articles and blogs

Opinion pieces and interviews by the UN-Habitat Executive Director and other expert staff on a wide range of issues including informal settlements, housing, transport, the future of cities, gender and the environment have been published by the international media and high level partners.

#### Recent publications



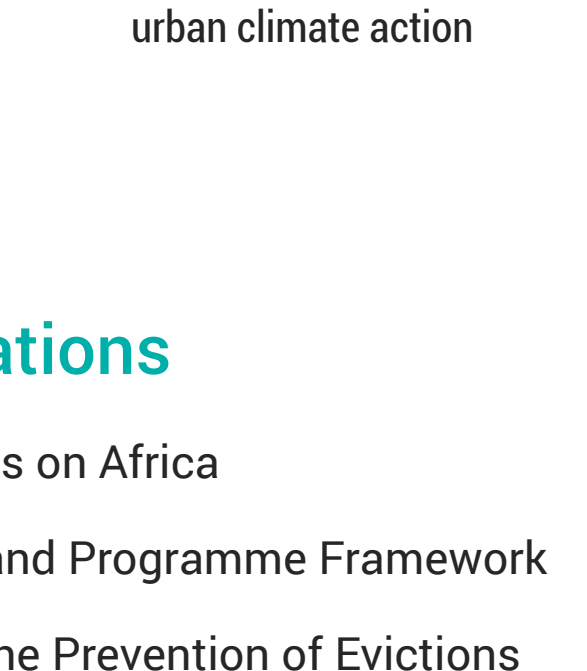
Integrating Health in Urban and Territorial Planning: A Sourcebook for Urban Leaders, Health and Planning Professionals



Future Cities, New Economy, and Shared City Prosperity: Technological Innovations



COVID-19 in African Cities: Impacts, Responses and Policies



Enhancing Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) through urban climate action

#### More publications

- Placemaking toolkit: Designing Public Spaces
- Caribbean Strategy for Informal Settlements Upgrading
- City-Wide Public Space Strategies: A Guidebook for City Leaders
- Urban Crises and the Informal Economy
- Rent Regulations in Kenya, Lagos-Nigeria, Botswana and South Africa
- Policy framework to foster tenure security and resilience for Bedouin communities in Area C of the West Bank, Palestine
- Strengthening urban-rural linkages in the West Bank, Palestine
- Statement by UN-Habitat on racism and discrimination

#### COVID-19 related publications

- COVID-19: Socioeconomic Impacts on Africa
- The UN-Habitat COVID-19 Policy and Programme Framework
- UN-Habitat Policy Statement on the Prevention of Evictions and Relocations during COVID-19
- World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization

## Events

#### Recent

9 Urban Thinkers Campuses - May 2020

#BeyondTheOutbreak virtual learning series in collaboration with United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), Metropolis and UN-Habitat - 25 March 2020

Reports from other webinars

#### Upcoming

18 JUN World Urban Campaign Assembly

05 OCT World Habitat Day

JUN JUL Urban Thinkers Campuses

31 OCT World Cities Day

Messages and social media material are on the Trello <https://trello.com/b/1TD9250l/un-habitat-covid19>

Stories and key messages are all on UN-Habitat's corporate website [www.unhabitat.org](http://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

AFRICA ASIA PACIFIC EUROPE AND OTHERS LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN

COVID-19 RESPONSE

