



UN-Habitat Compendium:
Migration
related **projects**

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN-Habitat
Migration
related projects



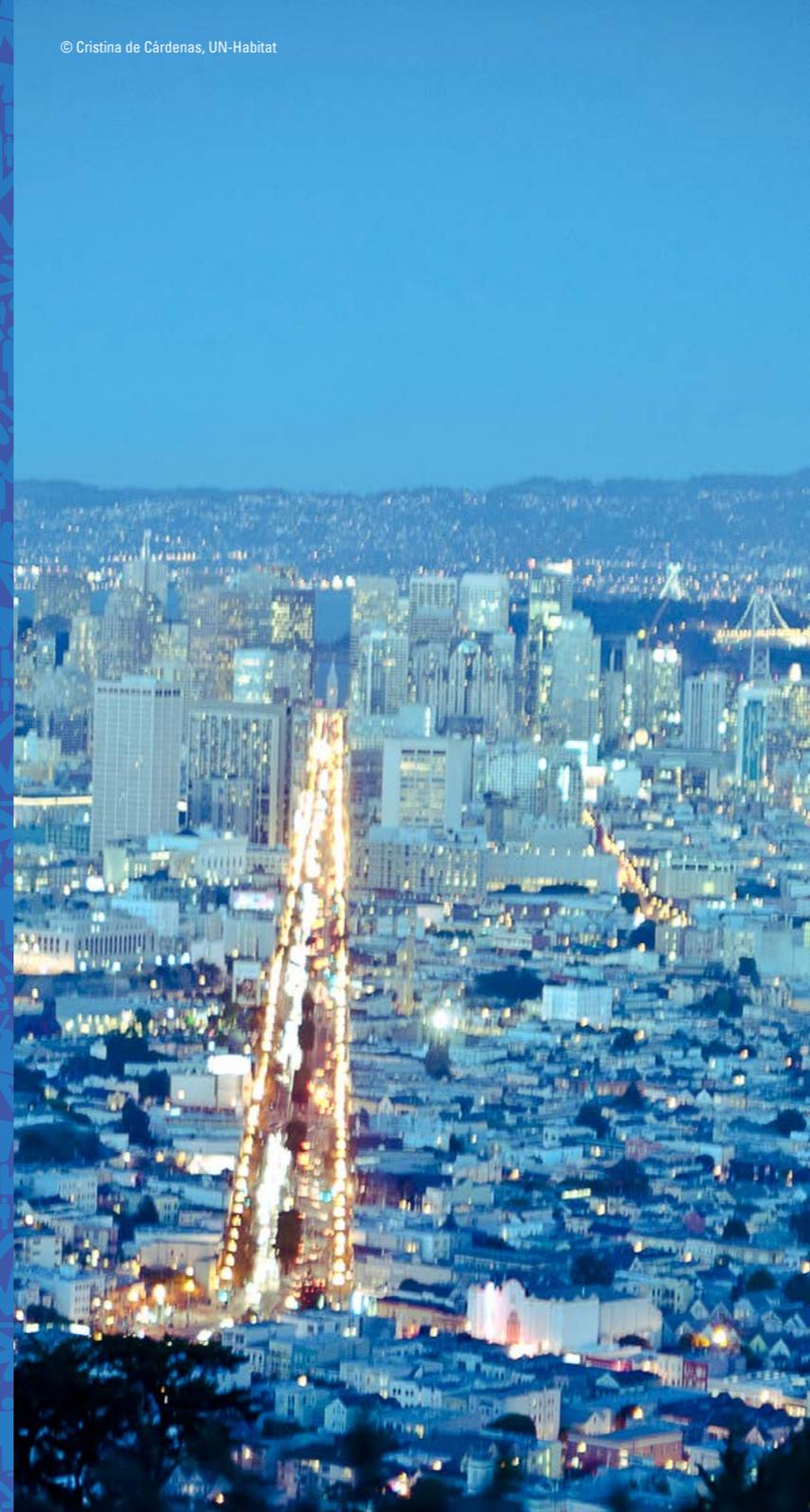
IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA

01 Background

Migration to cities, when effectively managed, has proven to contribute positively to the socio-economic dynamism and sustainable development of cities. Migration policies are often developed at national level but implemented locally. By adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the New Urban Agenda and recent Global Compacts for Migration and on Refugees¹, UN Member States have acknowledged the role of local authorities in ensuring inclusivity in line with the UN principle of leaving no-one behind.

UN-Habitat supports cities facing challenges due to different types of migration flows, including rural-urban migration; voluntary migration and forced displacement; migration due to conflict, natural hazards and climate change, or due to social and economic reasons. People move to cities, within their countries, within their region and across international boundaries.

UN-Habitat's new Strategic Plan 2020-2023, specifically Domaine of Change 4, focuses on inclusive and resilient cities, promoting social cohesion, underlining the positive impact of urban migration. UN-Habitat aims at for reducing inequalities and advancing sustainable urbanization for all inhabitants.

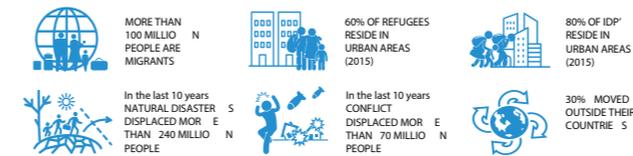


With its 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, UN-Habitat positions itself towards more effectively addressing issues of migration in urban policies, urban planning, governance and municipal finance mechanisms.

Inclusive planning and management of cities can facilitate positive contributions of migrant communities for the economic, social and cultural development of cities, and ensure that needs of all inhabitants, independent of their migration status, are met.

UN-Habitat aims to bring together national and local governments, UN agencies and regional commissions, academia, civil society organisations and private sector for the development of inclusive, integrated and multi-sectoral urban solutions. Based on its mandate, the agency advocates for whole-of-government and whole-of-society approaches, and emphasizes the need for strengthening the human rights of all inhabitants for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat, as a specialised agency and UN focal point on sustainable urban development, is well placed to work with and complement the work of partners towards this goal. Our work builds up on the four “drivers of change” of the New Urban Agenda: policy and legislation; urban and territorial planning; governance; and, financing mechanisms. By enhancing capacity at all government levels, data collection and knowledge sharing, UN-Habitat supports cities throughout the humanitarian-development-peace nexus for developing urban frameworks that make cities inclusive, resilient and safe.



This non-exhaustive compendium showcases selected UN-Habitat's projects and tools for different phases of the migration cycle. It introduces planning solutions, underlines the importance of land tenure, inclusive governance structures as well as the transformative power of integrated approaches for achieving "a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world".

Migration and Inclusive Cities

The world is rapidly urbanising and migration, triggered by many different causes, is among the main drivers of this continuing trend. More than a billion people are migrants, and almost 258 million live outside their own countries. Cities are the main destination for migrants, with 60 per cent of the 14.4 million refugees worldwide and 80 per cent of the 38 million internally displaced persons (IDPs) residing in urban areas.

Migration policies are often developed at national level, yet cities and human settlements carry much of the responsibility to ensure the inclusion of migrants, their access to housing and urban services (administrative, social and basic services) and for fostering social cohesion between communities.

While, in many cases, migrants contribute positively to the social and economic development and cultural diversity of their hosting communities, many cities struggle with social cohesion and integrating the newly arrivals in their urban systems, particularly when resources and human, institutional and financial capacity are limited.

Reduced inequality, safe, orderly and regular migration and sustainable urbanisation are important goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and achieving these interlinked goals require national and local authorities to coordinate their efforts to reduce the causes of migration and ensure migrants can live with dignity in their communities.

Recognising the significant proportion of migrants in cities, the New Urban Agenda calls on Member States to “support local authorities in establishing frameworks that enable the positive contribution of migrants to cities,” (para 28)². The Global Compacts for Migration (GCM) and on Refugees (GCR) further reinforce the role of local authorities as key players for their implementation.

Cities need support to harness the local economic, cultural, and social opportunities that urban population growth can bring to cities. Sustainable urban solutions need vertical and horizontal cooperation amongst all relevant stakeholders and inclusive decision-making processes.

02

UN-Habitat's work on migration

UN-Habitat is mandated to promote environmentally and socially sustainable human settlements and adequate housing for all and is mandated by the New Urban Agenda as a UN focal point for sustainable urban development. The agency, in cooperation with other partners, has taken the lead in developing a UN system-wide strategy for sustainable urban development, which was endorsed by the UN Chief Executive Board in May 2019.

UN-Habitat's work contributes to reducing the push-factors for migration by strengthening models for urban development, and making cities liveable places and hubs of local economic development and innovation. For increased economic, social and environmental development, cities need to be well-planned and managed, better connected, socially inclusive and resilient to climate change and disasters. Through integrated territorial approaches that strengthens urban-rural linkages both rural and urban economies can be enhanced. UN-Habitat's approach is to support countries and cities with urban policies, planning, governance, financing mechanisms and local implementation – in line with the New Urban Agenda's key drivers of change for sustainable urban development.



The term “migrant” is used in this Compendium in the same way that the International Organization of Migration (IOM) has defined it, i.e. “as any person who is moving or has moved across an international border or within a state away from his/ her habitual place of residence, regardless of (1) the person's legal status; (2) whether the movement is voluntary or involuntary; (3) what the causes for the movement are; or (4) what the length of the stay is.”³

LABOUR MIGRANTS: People who moved from their country of origin to another one or within their own country – typically from rural to urban areas – for the purpose of work.

REFUGEES: People who fled from their own country to another owing to internal conflict, foreign aggression, occupation, violence, fear and/or other disturbing events that have threatened their lives and/ or interrupted the public order.

ASYLUM SEEKERS: People who fled or arrived to a country other than theirs and applied for a refugee status under relevant international and national instruments and are still waiting for the decision on the application.

INTERNALLY DISPLACED: People who have been forced to flee or leave

their place of residence, but who have not crossed an internationally recognized state border, due to reasons of generalized violence, conflicts, human rights violations, natural or human-made disasters as well as those displaced due to climate change and/or development projects.

CRISIS-DISPLACED PEOPLE: People who are international migrants who were affected by conflict, and human-made disasters in a country in which they work and reside.

CLIMATE MIGRANTS⁴: People who are moving to urban areas, internally or internationally, as a way to cope with the intensification of the effects of climate change and environmental degradation and the decline in agriculture production. They seek to diversify their income and find employment opportunities that are not reliant on the environment.

THE GENTRIFIED OR EXPELLED: People displaced from their land, home or habitual place of residence by land grabbing deals, large infrastructure projects, urban renewal programmes and or market forces and powerful a and who do not fit under the traditional categories of migrants, refugees or IDPs⁵.

OTHER MIGRANTS: Students and families of labour migrants.

As the New Urban Agenda recognises the full potential of well-managed urbanisation to prevent, prepare for, and better respond to urban crises, UN-Habitat offers integrated approaches in the humanitarian-development-peace nexus, supporting urban recovery, increasing housing, land and property rights and reducing spatial inequalities in cities.

UN-Habitat contributes to relevant UN networks and is well placed to convene different levels of governments, built-

environment professionals and the research community, civil society, private sector, humanitarian and development actors for advancing multi-stakeholder cooperation in urban areas.

With its strong understanding of urban systems and building up on the agency's global experiences in normative and operational urban programmes, UN-Habitat supports cities to develop innovative and tailored solutions for making cities liveable places for all.

UN-Habitat supports countries and cities through:

- » Research on urbanisation and migration, fostering collaboration between local and international research institutes and academia;
- » Enhancing capacity of national and local authorities on inclusive cities, including peer-to-peer (city-to-city) learning activities;
- » Supporting inclusive policy development that mainstreams the issue of urban migration at national, cities, community levels;
- » Providing advisory services to review and adapt national, subnational and local urban policies, strategies and action plans related to service provision, social cohesion and integration, housing, land and property rights for all population groups;
- » Facilitating dialogue between relevant stakeholders e.g. national, regional and local authorities, and from different sectors - local communities, private sector and civil society for advancing migrant inclusive urban systems;
- » Supporting cities and regions with an integrated territorial approach to harness opportunities and foster urban-rural linkages;
- » Engaging with diaspora communities for the integration of new arrivals as well as on strategies for investments (e.g. remittances);
- » Developing sustainable strategies for returnee re-integration in cities.

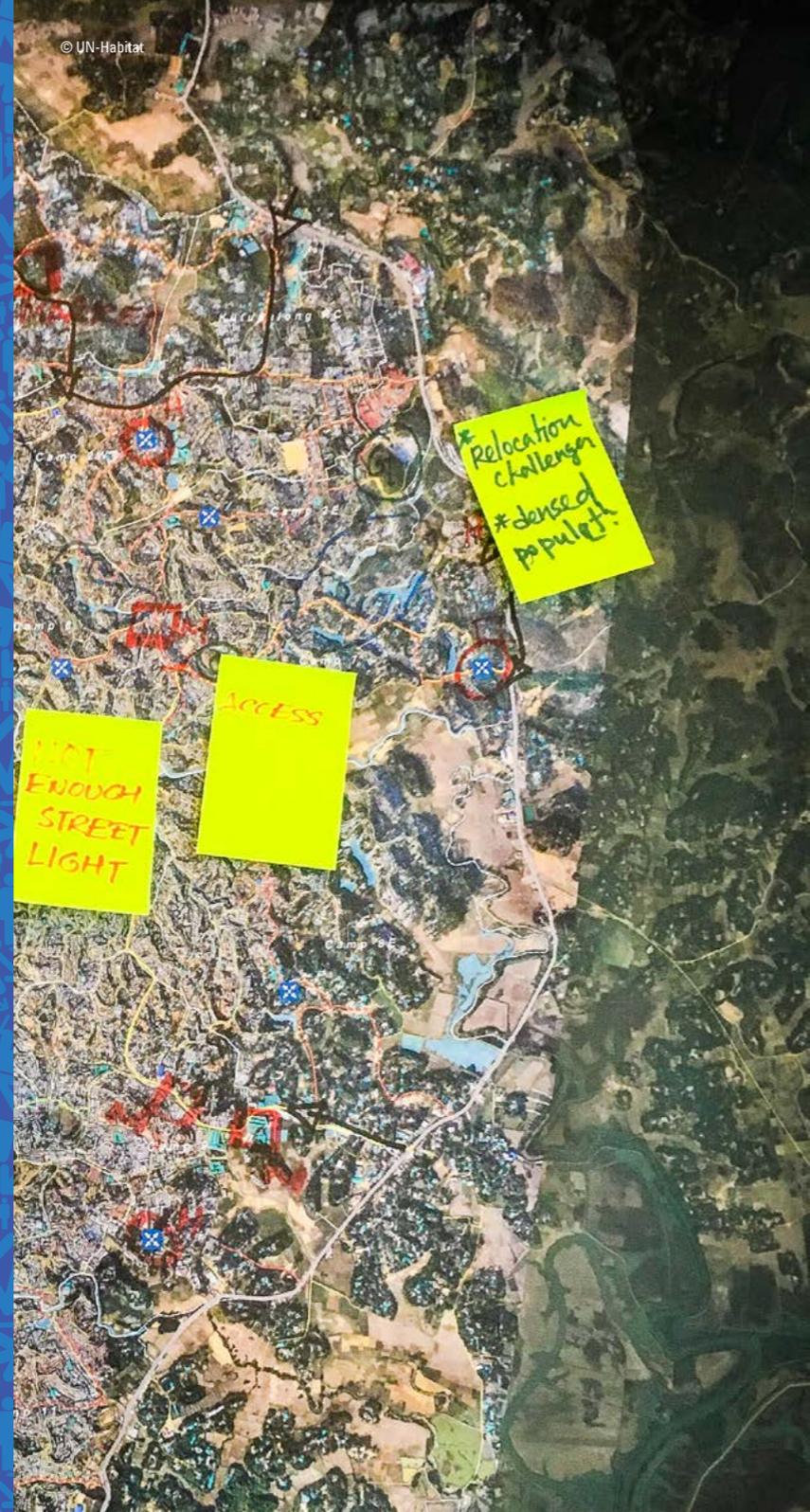
03 Selected projects on migration and displacement

Over the years, the agency has been supporting national, regional and local governments on cross-cutting topics including migration to cities as well as reducing spatial inequality.

UN-Habitat provides urban actors at all levels managing migration to cities with tailored technical advisory services, tools and capacity building activities to ensure that migrants can positively contribute to the economic, social and cultural development of cities.

UN-Habitat supports all levels of governments for making cities socially inclusive and economically vibrant, to finding durable solutions for people on the move, and harnessing the opportunities urbanisation can bring when well managed and planned - for a better urban future for all.

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A selection of UN-Habitat's projects on Migration



This compendium showcases a selection of UN-Habitat's projects on migration and displacement, demonstrating UN-Habitat's expertise in different substantive urban areas including planning, land, governance structures and inclusive, urban solutions. Projects have been selected to present the thematic and regional diversity of the agency's work. Even though those solutions were tailored for specific local contexts, the methodologies can be applied in other countries and regions. The projects introduce spatial data collection, capacity building activities for national and local authorities, urban and territorial

planning for inclusive cities, neighborhood upgrading as well as urban planning for sustainable solutions in refugee camps, and enhanced governance solutions in Asia, the Middle East, Africa and Latin America. Projects are being presented in the order of their location, from East to West. The projects showcase how the needs of all people, irrespective of their migration status, can benefit from inclusive (urban) solutions, that are designed to increase the social cohesion of host and migrant communities and foster sustainable social, economic and environmental development.

01. Settlement planning support Towards Addressing the Rohingya Crisis, Bangladesh

The ongoing Rohingya refugee crisis stemming from Myanmar has created important socio-economic consequences and a myriad of challenges for hosting countries. Many of the refugees who have travelled and settled into informal settlements and rural areas also live in close proximities to nearby host communities. Responding to the needs arising from the rapid migrant influx and the current limitations of institutional and financial capacity in long-term settlement planning for Cox's Bazaar District, UN-Habitat has been supporting the local authorities in the preparation of spatial plans to guide urban management, restore damaged infrastructure, supporting local government institutions to plan for stabilization of livelihoods for host and refugees, restore damaged infrastructures and ecosystems, and updating the District Plan.



Rohingya refugees in Cox's Bazaar are Muslim communities mainly arriving from the Rakhine state of Myanmar. Although Rakhine and Muslims have historically lived peacefully together, communal tension has been rising since the 1970s. Many inter-communal incidents of violence in the Rakhine State of Myanmar have forced Rohingya people to flee and seek asylum in neighbouring countries, such as in Bangladesh, India, Indonesia, Malaysia, Thailand, other South-East Asian countries, as well as to Saudi Arabia. The latest wave of violence started in August 2017, resulting in the mass exodus of the Rohingya.

Currently, Rohingyas constitute the single biggest stateless community in the world. Around 1.2 million Rohingya refugees have reached Bangladesh since August 2017. Such a rapid influx of people has put immense strain on infrastructure, services, environment and host population, and has overwhelmed the national capacity to respond. The speed and scale of the influx have resulted in a critical level humanitarian crisis that demands international attention and action. Over-crowded conditions in the rapidly established camps in Bangladesh, coupled with insufficient resources to provide adequate shelter and basic services have resulted in dire living conditions and increased risk of disease outbreaks.

Host communities, also stretched with the provision of adequate resources, share the fear disease outbreaks. Humanitarian shelter and settlement actions have focussed on immediate needs of refugees and hosts communities, making optimal use of limited land. In protracted crisis, sustainable planning principles are key to avoiding disease outbreaks and creating slum conditions, as households gradually replace temporary dwellings with more robust materials.

UN-Habitat has, in light of such context, implemented a 'systems approach', which involves a Spatial Impact Assessment (SIA) followed by settlement planning strategies that addresses congestion and increases access to basic services, livelihood and employment opportunities.

The Spatial Impact Assessment values economic, infrastructure, social safety nets and service delivery capacity, defining and designing programmes that respond to the needs of host communities when rapid influx of migrants happen. During

Location	Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh
Dates of implementation	July 2018 – Ongoing
Displacement reason	The continuous influx of Rohingya refugees from Myanmar into Cox's Bazaar, Bangladesh stemmed from August 2017, when security forces in Myanmar forced populations to flee, resulting in Rohingya's statelessness
Area of intervention	District Plan Revision, Infrastructure development, Livelihoods enabling, Integrating Host Community and Refugee populations, Policy recommendations, Housing and informal settlement upgrading, Settlement Planning, Camp Management
Tools	Incremental upgrading strategies for informally developed areas, Spatial Impact Assessment, Systems approach, Cox's Bazaar Masterplan Revision, Medium-to-long-term perspective integration for future development strategies Community-based planning and infrastructure provision process, Strengthening delivery of basic services and key livelihoods strategies
Partner(s) involved	IOM, UNHCR, UNDP, UNWOMEN, Host Community Working Group, ISCG & Local authorities (RRRC, DC, CoxDA, LGED, UDD, UPZ)

the implementation of the project, settlement planning has been undertaken through the engagement of host and refugee communities. UN-Habitat has found that engaging the capabilities and creativity of refugees and host communities is an important resource for innovation and over time expects this process to contribute to enhancing social cohesion.

Beyond the Rohingya Crisis, and its subsequent impact on Cox's Bazaar, there remains a pressing need to explore new methodologies and solutions in which well-planned human settlements can provide for and uphold basic human rights, dignity and standards of living. By addressing global refugee crises through bridging the gap between humanitarian to development responses, and promoting integrated strategies, UN-Habitat, in collaboration with UN agencies and other partners can ensure that there can be sustainable solutions to address the needs of host and refugees for the long-term.

02. Sustainable Human Settlements in Urban Areas to Support Reintegration in Afghanistan

The “Sustainable Human Settlements in Urban areas to support Reintegration in Afghanistan” (SHURA) Programme is supporting returnees, protracted IDPs and landless Afghans to sustainably re/integrate into inclusive urban areas and become productive, self-reliant and resilient citizens of Afghanistan.

A land allocation process based on interim tenure arrangements is allowing beneficiaries to occupy land and is forming the basis for the subsequent allocation of land titles. The programme facilitates the identification and provision of well-located, serviceable state land with proximity to appropriate livelihood opportunities and enables access to land and housing while enhancing the service and infrastructure carrying capacities of urban host neighbourhoods. Permanent development interventions to improve access to basic services and housing are being delivered in parallel with humanitarian assistance, augmenting self-reliance, avoiding the creation of dependent ‘camps’ and bridging the humanitarian-development gap.



With 4.1 million Afghan refugees in Iran and Pakistan and over 2.2 million internally displaced people due to conflict and natural disasters, Afghanistan's is now experiencing a surge in the return of displaced people, involving 3.5 million refugees and a majority of IDPs. This rapid influx has led to an emergency-like situation as durable solutions are striven to achieve. Historical approaches to refugee reintegration have focused on resettlement to purpose-built, detached ‘townships’ created under the Land Allocation Scheme (LAS) or return place of origin. The Land Allocation Scheme is now widely acknowledged to have failed, as the majority of townships are found in remote locations, lacking access to opportunities, livelihoods and basic services.

Building on lessons learned from the past decade of approaches to displacement in Afghanistan, UN-Habitat and partners*, have proposed an approach that aims to harness the opportunities of sustainable livelihood as the foundation for self-reliance and integration.

A large portion of recent returnees is currently receiving humanitarian assistance. However, this assistance tends to be limited to one-month packages. In the current Afghan context - without a long-term approach and suitable livelihoods opportunities - meeting the demand for creating self-reliance of displaced at an adequate scale, seems impossible. A critical gap remains between humanitarian assistance and longer-term efforts to create such self-reliance, essential to reduce barriers for the displaced in accessing existing markets, and augmenting the capacity of those markets to absorb the influx of migrants.

The SHURA programme seeks to provide a platform from which returnees and IDPs can be the driving force behind their integration and development by becoming productive members of hosting areas. The experience of the past decade demonstrates that displaced Afghans possess significant resilience, evidenced by their ability to establish new lives in locations of displacement or by their remaining in urban areas for extended periods despite being marginalized.

UN-Habitat’s proposal facilitates the identification of serviceable areas of land that are within proximity to decent livelihood opportunities. Through SHURA, by ensuring that returnees/ protracted IDPs have tenure security in appropriate locations, all

Location	Asia Pacific, Afghanistan (Kabul, Herat)
Dates of implementation	March 2017- September 2019
Displacement reason	Four-decade of violence, conflict and instability, natural hazards (particularly drought), extreme poverty, employment opportunities, and lack of access for basic services delivery
Area of intervention	Urban Basic Services; Housing and Slum Upgrading; Urban legislature, land and governance; inclusive settlements
Tools	Standard data analysis software, specialized GIS and database software
Partner(s) involved*	United Nations: UNHCR, IOM; Government Agencies: Afghanistan Independent Land Authority (ARAZI), Ministry for Urban Development & Land (MUDL), Ministry of Refugees & Repatriation (MoRR), Capital Region Independent Development Authority (CRIDA); municipalities in target areas

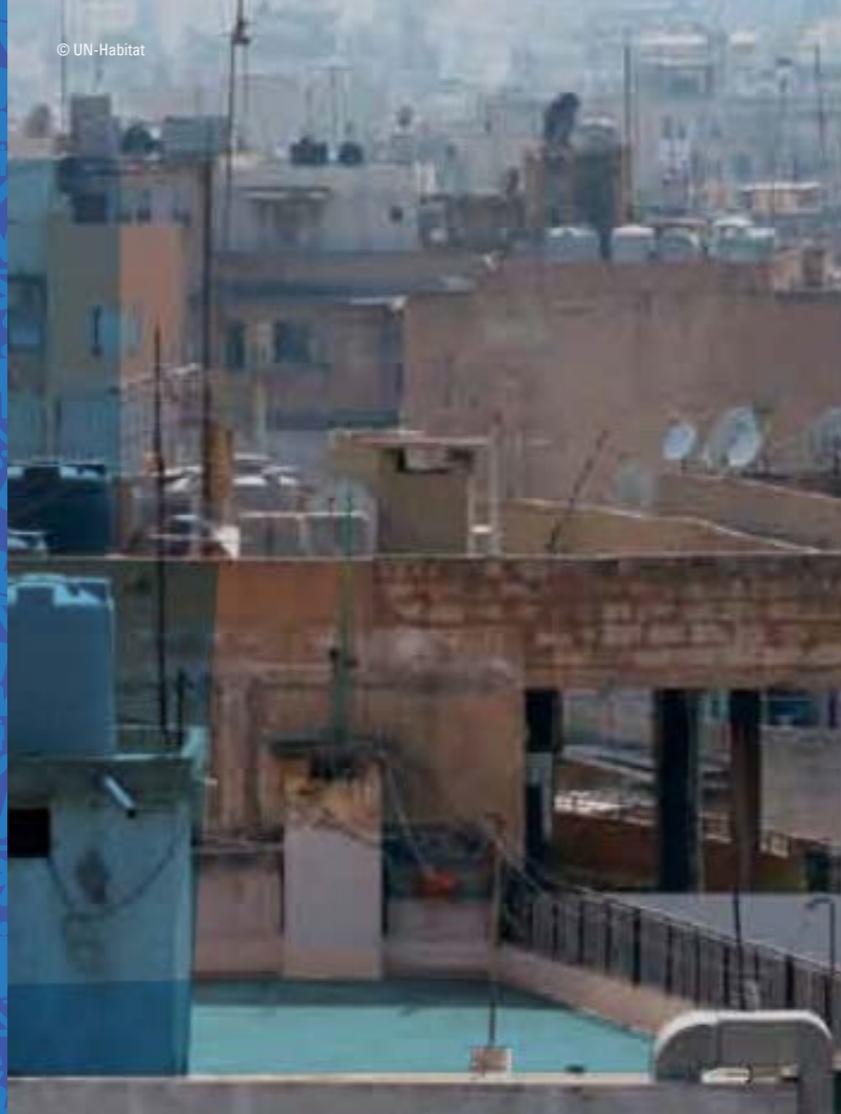
investment in sites directly contributes to augmenting livelihood opportunities and self-reliance. Additionally, by enabling access to land and housing, SHURA creates livelihood opportunities for returnees, unlocking their potential – and furthermore, in areas of return - it enhances local services and infrastructure, thus reinforcing carrying capacity.

An important aspect of SHURA is that the programme employs innovative approaches to tenure security through the provision of construction permits and interim tenure documents in joint names of female and male heads of households - that subsequently convert into formal land titles - securing women's rights in land tenure and a sustainable development of the displaced communities integration.

The main beneficiaries of this project are over 6000 IDP's and refugee returnee households in Herat and Kabul - regions of highest returns. Building capacity of local authorities in Herat and Kabul, while working on replicability of the approach with the National Government, SHURA is increasing the scale of sustainable return and setting the foundation for creating an environment for returnees and protracted IDPs to become self-reliant, resilient and productive citizens of Afghanistan. Returnees and IDPs are benefitting by obtaining tenure security in viable locations, where they can immediately commence investment in themselves and their communities. An ‘Area Based Approach’ to development interventions ensures that both the displaced and hosting areas benefit from an increased level of basic services.

03. City and Neighborhood Profiling in the Arab Region

UN-Habitat's urban and neighbourhood profiles are developed for protracted crisis settings as well as setting the basis for data collection for prioritising future urban development. They collect and present robust map-based data at regional, city and neighbourhood levels, on: the movement of people and new concentrations due to displacement; the condition and functionality urban infrastructure, services and housing and housing markets to respond to changing population demands; the local economy; and, the capacity of institutions, civil society, the private sector and communities to meet basic needs. The profiles are used as evidence base to conduct inclusive, multi-stakeholder, area-based planning and prioritisation to ensure well-targeted and coordinated humanitarian



Developing countries host most of the world's refugees and IDP's. Many of these countries are simultaneously places origin, transit and destination. In the last two decades, many Arab cities have witnessed protracted conflicts, massive displacement, destruction of infrastructure, and unprecedented pressure on the delivery of basic services. The complexity and rapidity of migration flows impact significantly on the region's urbanisation processes.

These cities often lack up-to-date data on the state of the cities affected by conflict and displacement. Existing policy frameworks, rules and regulations are often outdated and fail to provide for the realities and needs faced on the ground. Interventions by humanitarian actors tend to be focused on direct needs, without integrated and development-oriented interventions that rebuild systems for long-term impact. Furthermore, local capacity to plan and manage crisis situations is limited. A new, flexible methodology that provides evidence-base for planning prioritised investments for soonest recovery and stabilisation, that sets a course towards sustainable urban development was needed.

Using desktop research, focus group discussions, high-resolution satellite imagery, roundtables with relevant stakeholders, interviews with key informants, and based on its expertise on data collection for urban areas, UN-Habitat, together with various partners - municipalities, UN and humanitarian agencies, NGOs and CSOs tailored a methodology for urban and neighbourhood profiling in the Arab Region. The profiling followed an area-based approach through a collaborative and consultative process that engaged from the outset local authorities, civil society and private sector. These common efforts have resulted in the development of a shared knowledge and understanding of urban systems in crisis environments and have subsequently provided critical evidence base for recovery planning.

The profiling has provided spatial analysis of cities and neighbourhoods through: mapping demographic changes as a result of forced displacement; the functionality of urban infrastructure and services - including water, sanitation, health

Location	Arab Region, Iraq, Libya, Yemen, Lebanon, Syria, Palestine, multiple cities and neighborhoods
Dates of implementation	2004 - ongoing
Displacement reason	In-country conflict and from neighboring countries
Area of intervention	Urban data and analysis, research and capacity development
Tools	Desktop research, focus group discussions, high-resolution satellite imagery, roundtables with relevant stakeholders, interviews with key informants
Partner(s) involved	Municipalities, relevant UN and humanitarian agencies, NGOs, CSOs, Multi-stakeholder working groups on stabilisation and recovery

and education; local economic impacts of crisis, including their push and pull factors; the housing sector, including its capacity and market dynamics in response to crisis; the capacity of local governance, and the changing roles and capacities of civil society and community groups.

In the Arab Region, urban and neighbourhood profiles have been undertaken throughout Syria, as well as many cities in Lebanon, Iraq, Libya, Palestine and Yemen. They have helped city leaders, humanitarian and development actors and other stakeholders effectively target humanitarian support and prioritise actions; achieve stability, initiate recovery from conflict, and plan reconstruction in affected areas. They have also provided baselines and systems to monitor impacts of support programmes. Moreover, the inclusion of different stakeholders in urban profiling processes makes the methodology a dynamic, inclusive process, benefiting both host and migrant communities.

As additional layers can be added to urban profiling, including policy reviews and policy recommendations, and since all key stakeholders have been involved in data collection and decision making, the process is increasingly seen as a tool that can mitigate and reduce conflict. The participatory process informs future planning processes that can mitigate future crisis as well as build resilience, and can be tailored to different country and regional contexts.

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