

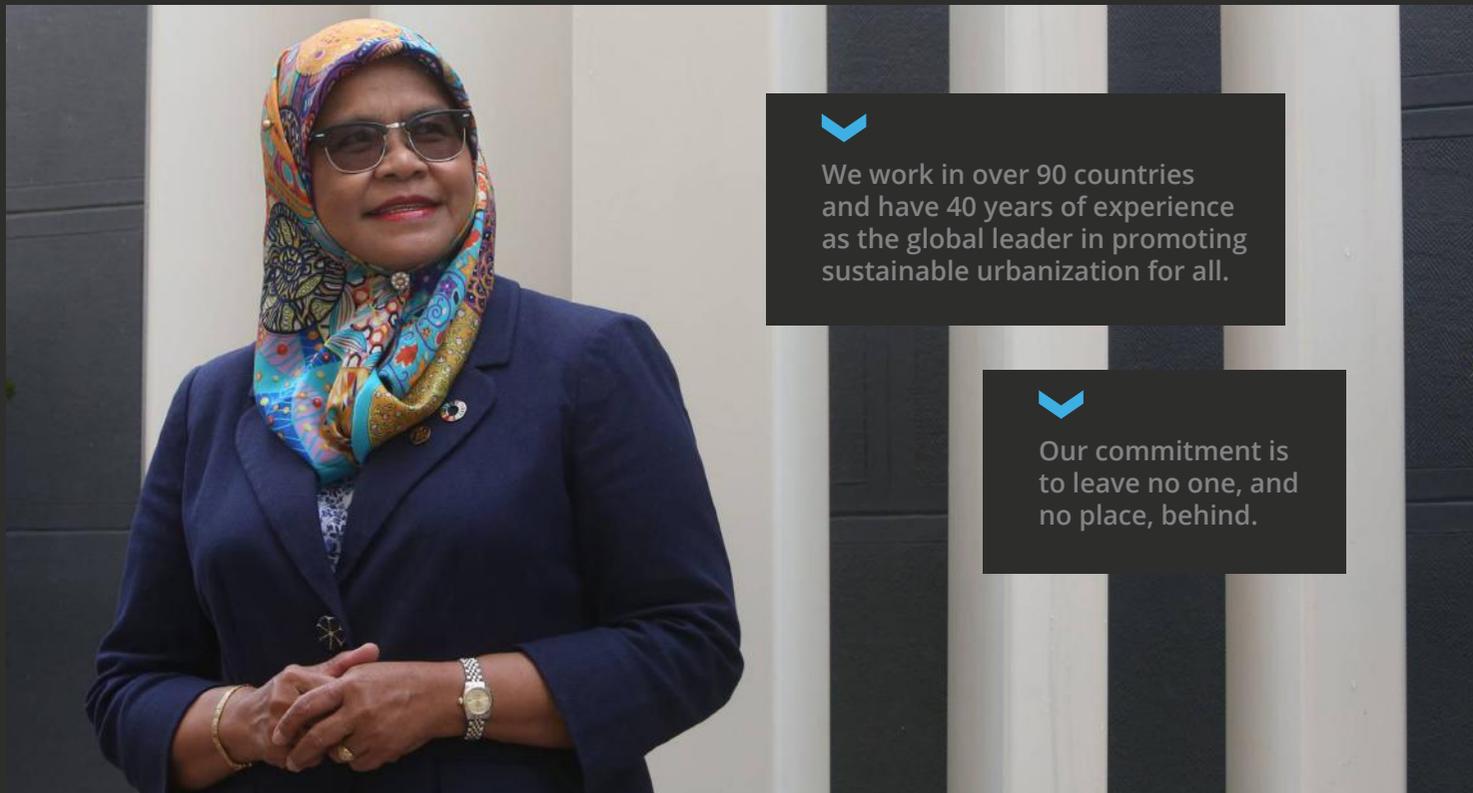
Urban Impact

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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FOREWORD



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We work in over 90 countries and have 40 years of experience as the global leader in promoting sustainable urbanization for all.

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Our commitment is to leave no one, and no place, behind.

➤ **Welcome to this new look edition of *Urban Impact* – UN-Habitat's quarterly newsletter presenting stories about our work and our impact. I hope this newsletter provides you with an in-depth view of the range of projects and places which UN-Habitat covers.**

UN-Habitat improves the lives of countless people living in towns, cities and other settlements through its support to authorities on urban policies and planning as well as its work on the ground, in partnerships with urban stakeholders and communities. Our commitment is to leave no one, and no place, behind.

We work in over 90 countries and have 40 years of experience as the global leader in promoting sustainable urbanization for all. Since 2016, this includes the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the urbanization action blueprint supporting the 2030 Agenda on Sustainable Development.

Our new Strategic Plan 2020-2025 focuses on our commitment and contribution to the implementation of global development agendas. Through its normative and operational work as well as its coordination and focal point role within the UN system, UN-Habitat's objective is: *"to advance sustainable urbanization as a driver of development and peace to improve living conditions for all."*

As the former mayor of Penang, Malaysia, I have directly experienced both the challenges and the opportunities that urbanization can bring to cities and communities. When it is carried out in a sustainable and inclusive way, urbanization creates equitable and resilient societies, reduces poverty and creates prosperity, protects the urban environment and contributes to crisis prevention and response.

Urban Impact, which many of you may remember from previous issues, helps to share our best practice stories. Whether we are working with citizens in Brazil to hold city leaders accountable, or training youth on the installation of solar lighting in their neighbourhoods or supporting the construction of housing for plantation workers in Sri Lanka, our focus must remain the same: maximizing the impact of these initiatives, including by sharing successes and upscaling them.

While these are impressive projects, eradicating poverty and achieving sustainable development by 2030 requires us to go

further. We must think, do, partner and share. UN-Habitat will continue to grow as a global centre of excellence and innovation in sustainable urbanization that supports and brings together governments at all levels, urban experts, communities, the private sector and other stakeholders with normative and technical best practices.

I am deeply grateful to all my colleagues at UN-Habitat, whose dedication, persistence, creativity, commitment and hard work inspires me every single day. Together with our partners, including governments and communities, we can create a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director, United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

Citizens in Brazil hold leaders accountable using a mobile phone-based consultation platform

A consultation platform for holding urban leaders accountable placed in the hands of citizens.



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colab

Over 9,000 respondents in 810 cities in Brazil have submitted their views on transparency, accountability and progress being made by city leaders towards implementation of SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. Citizens are holding urban leaders to account using a mobile and web application developed jointly by UN-Habitat and Colab, a Brazilian start-up. The data gathered guides local authorities and decision-makers in enacting public policies that respond to the challenges of urbanization in an inclusive and integrated manner.

“Collaborating to make my city sustainable is awesome and there is no better source for a city diagnosis than the citizens who live in that city. I believe that if authorities know the real needs of the population, they will be able to make more relevant decisions,” says Igor Hemmings, a 25-year-old manager in the city of Caçapava who participated in the innovative consultative process.



Citizen collaboration improves public management.

Colab CEO and co-founder Gustavo Maia emphasizes the value of citizen participation in improving public services. “Citizen collaboration and transparency are the best tools to improve public management. The technology ensures that dialogue with the population happens quickly and efficiently. It also allows the results of this conversation to be measured, which facilitates evaluation of public managers’ performance.”

Results of the consultation released in October 2018 have drawn nation-wide attention. Rede Globo, Brazil’s largest television broadcaster showcased the initiative in a news segment on national television while two Brazilian cities, Belo Horizonte and Niterói have adopted

the application as an official means of consultations with citizens. The National Federation of Municipalities in Brazil has endorsed it as a tool for increasing citizen engagement in local governance. Beyond Brazil, the initiative was featured in the quarterly edition of the United Nations Innovation Network’s 2018 Report.

Local champions trained to lead the process.

Through social media, Colab recruits local champions and provides them with strategic support, media information kits, and an online platform to communicate with each other, ask questions and share strategies. The ambassadors visit neighbourhoods, schools, churches, municipal offices and public gatherings to raise awareness about the Sustainable Development Goals and encourage people to participate in the consultations. The Ambassador Programme has extended the process to smaller cities and towns, effectively including an audience that is often difficult to reach. Successful ambassadors are rewarded with mugs, t-shirts and free participation in workshops. By February 2019, the programme had engaged with 1500 respondents.

This initiative is part of the wider *Accountability Systems for Measuring, Monitoring and Reporting on Sustainable City Policies in Latin America* project being implemented by UN-Habitat and the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC), with funding from the UN Development Account.

Project strengthens accountability.

The project strengthens accountability systems in Latin American cities by establishing mechanisms for dialogue at the local level between local authorities and civil society to monitor and oversee implementation of Goal 11 on sustainable cities and communities.

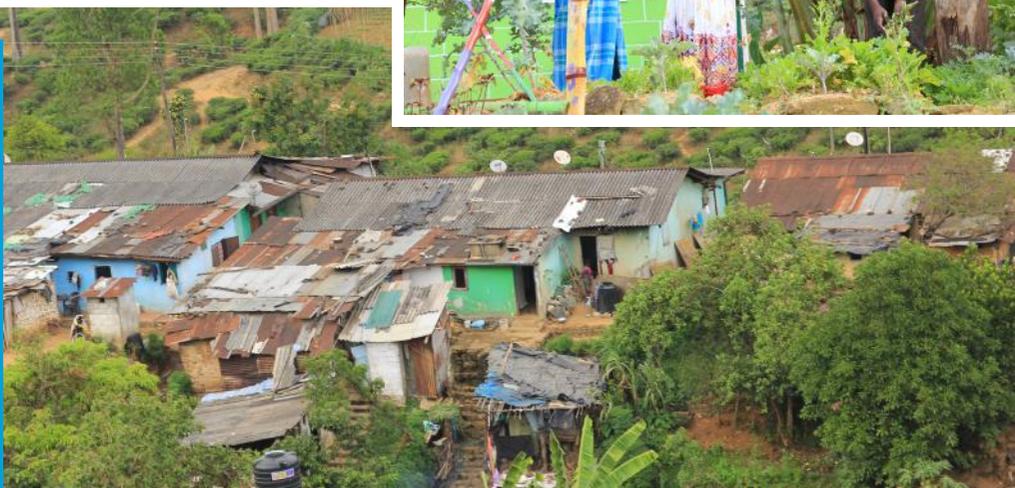
Brazil has witnessed rapid urbanization since the mid-twentieth century. In 1950, only about 36.5 per cent of the population lived in urban areas, compared to 87.7 per cent in 2015. The trend is projected to continue, and it is estimated that by 2030 90.5 per cent of the population will be urban residents.



With funding from the Government of India, UN-Habitat launched a project to improve living conditions of families in the plantation areas in 2016.

Government of India partners with UN-Habitat to provide sustainable housing for plantation workers in Sri Lanka

Plantation workers in Sri Lanka are among the most disadvantaged communities in the country with the majority living in overcrowded and dilapidated dwellings commonly referred to as *line rooms*. Their poor living conditions are further worsened by lack of basic services such as water and sanitation, and little or no access to healthcare services.



With funding from the Government of India, UN-Habitat launched a project to improve living conditions of families in the plantation areas in 2016. A people-centered community driven approach ensures that *Estate Workers Housing Cooperative Societies* are the main drivers of project implementation. Regional plantation companies, the National Building Research Organization (NBRO), the Plantation Human Development Trust and the Ministry of Hill Country New Villages Infrastructure and Community Development are key stakeholders.

Government of India to provide 50,000 housing units.

This Project will construct 4,000 housing units in the plantation areas of Sri Lanka as part of an overall commitment by the Government of India to provide 50,000 housing units towards sustainable resettlement of plantation worker families in newly created cluster villages or small townships.

Sri Lanka's plantation sector is a significant contributor to the national economy. Some 244,500 families make up a total population of 966,700 workers and their dependents. Adequate shelter, improved basic services,

and access to healthcare do not only influence worker families to remain on the plantations but are also key drivers of increased productivity.

The project has so far provided permanent homes for 420 estate workers in the Nuwara Eliya district. Each house measures approximately 550 square feet and consists of two bedrooms, a living room, verandah, kitchen and toilet. By the end of the project, UN-Habitat will have facilitated construction of 1,600 units.



Initiative improves quality of life for plantation families.

This initiative has brought about a major improvement in the quality of life of many families on the plantations who previously lived in cramped conditions, often sharing toilet facilities with several other families. "Now, our children have space to study and can do their school work in comfort. Earlier the house was cramped and there was not enough space for all the family members. We are so happy to have our very own permanent house," says Ms. K. Kohilambal, a tea plucker on the Diyagama estate where her husband is a driver.

Environmentally friendly building materials and techniques are used in the construction of all houses. These include the use of fair-faced blocks for walls, twin pit latrines, and smoke free chimneys. Families are engaged in kitchen gardening and tree planting activities to mitigate the environmental impact of the project, while providing households with valuable produce. "It is such a joy to have our own permanent house with this little garden. We grow organic vegetables and fruits for family consumption." says Ms. S. Indrakanyth, a young mother of four employed as a tea plucker at Diyagama estate.

The Indian High Commission disburses USD5,250 (LKR. 950,000) in four instalments for the construction of each house, while UN-Habitat provides technical support for preparation of house type plans and Bills of Quantities, as well as technical supervision of the project. The Ministry of Hill Country New Villages Infrastructure and Community Development is providing an additional USD660 (LKR. 120,000) to each beneficiary family for essential physical infrastructure facilities. The

USD5,250

The amount that the Indian High Commission disburses for the construction of each house

project has ensured that housing design and construction is sensitive to the sloping sites, by incorporating disaster risk reduction measures and climate change adaptation measures.

Priority given to female-headed households.

This project addresses the right to adequate housing and prioritizes female headed households for assistance. Beneficiaries are now able to obtain legal land titles for their properties, which was not previously possible for plantation communities. It also enhances capacities of men, women and youth in plantation communities to engage in key decision-making processes affecting housing construction and to ensure compliance with established construction standards.



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Mr. Mohamed Mamaa Camara,
K. Suthakaran.

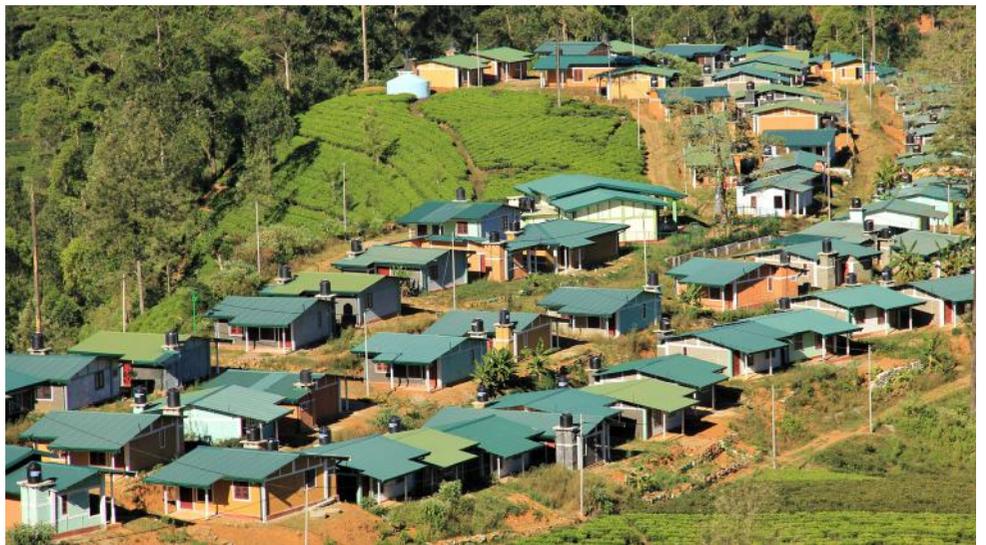
1,600

The number of units of which UN-Habitat will have facilitated construction by the end of the project



I am very happy to see that after the practical stitching classes many of the trainees have started stitching their own clothes. Some have purchased their own sewing machines and are now stitching commercially at home

Mrs. Niluka Shyamali De Silva,
An instructor in the project's tailoring training course.





One Hundred Youth Receive Training on Solar Street Lighting to Curb Urban Insecurity

The Ministry of City and Territorial Development in Guinea has partnered with UN-Habitat to train one hundred youth on *Prevention of urban insecurity through the manufacture, assembly, installation and maintenance of photovoltaic solar street lights*. The training will empower young people by equipping them with marketable and through photovoltaic skills while strengthening the culture of civic duty by inculcating values of good citizenship and a moral code that will lead to a change in behavior and attitudes for sustainable peace in Guinea.

Partnerships encouraged to ensure sustainable urbanization.

Secretary General of the Ministry of the City and Territorial Development Mr. Mohamed Mamaa Camara welcomed the initiative and encouraged the partners to continue working closely together for the benefit of Guinean youth and to ensure sustainable urbanization

in Guinea. "Reducing urban insecurity by creating job opportunities is a big challenge for our ministry. Together, we must ensure training of young people with the goal of improving their living conditions. This initiative will improve public lighting and help to avoid many crimes and many young people will have access to very important know-how which is a lifetime asset," he said.

Youth receive training for behavior change.

UN-Habitat representative Mr. Claude Mentchehé Ngomsi said the training will equip youth with skills to identify the physical factors and the individual attitudes that lead to youth delinquency. They will be trained as peer educators in crime prevention and equipped to contribute actively to reducing incidences of physical assault and theft by participating in installation and stewardship of the photovoltaic street lighting panels.



"This project was initiated by UNDP, UNIDO and UN-Habitat and submitted to the Peacebuilding Fund which supported the initiative. This is the culmination of numerous consultations and two studies on delinquency and the prevention of insecurity. We also undertook field visits to identify black spots in the living environment to determine where exactly we need to place the solar street lights. We have also consulted community leaders and youth groups to draw up the list of 70 young people from Conakry and 30 from NZérékoré who will be trained," said Mr. Ngomsi.



Reducing urban insecurity by creating job opportunities is a big challenge for our ministry. Together, we must ensure training of young people with the goal of improving their living conditions. This initiative will improve public lighting and help to avoid many crimes and many young people will have access to very important know-how which is a lifetime asset.



Mr. Mohamed Mamaa Camara,
Secretary General of the Ministry of the City
and Territorial Development.

Iraq Strengthens Local Governance through Improved Planning and Implementation

The Local Area Development Programme (LADP) identifies key obstacles to local-level planning and service delivery in Iraq. It is funded by the European Union (EU) and implemented by UNDP in partnership with UN-Habitat, the Ministries of Planning (MOP) of the Federal and Kurdistan Region governments respectively, and the Governorates. LADP-EU supports development of local planning frameworks linking investment expenditures to larger strategic investments at both the local and national level as articulated in the National Development Plan 2018-2022 and reflected in the commitment of the Government of Iraq to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the SDGs.



Through its *bottom-up* participatory approach the LADP-EU program has improved understanding among key stakeholders of how effective sectoral spatial and land policies, frameworks and implementation tools impact local development and urbanisation. The Governorate Urban Strategies (GUS) reflect the need to create opportunities for sustainable income generation, empower and build human capital, and establish an effective social safety net in line with the three pillars of Iraq's 2030 Vision.

Local authorities engaged in sustainable urban expansion.

UN-Habitat engaged local authorities in selected governorates in a spatial analysis of governorate and district-level indicators and indices and in drafting a National Urban Strategic Framework as well as nine Governorate Urban Strategies. A strategic urban recovery and development plan for Ramadi and a plan for the conservation and development of the historic quarters of Basra have also been developed. The application of a more sustainable urban expansion planning model has been piloted in Maysan and a new post-graduate programme in *Planning Sustainable Cities* designed for Kufa University. In addition, governorate transportation plans and industrial spatial development plans have been developed for different clusters, while state land inventories have been set up in Maysan and Najaf and municipal finance and budget execution piloted in four municipalities.

Diversified economic growth strategies proposed for different clusters of governorates are based on analysis of

specific economic trends that catalyse development, based on the most urgent needs of each cluster and the potential impact of new spatial strategies in cities with development potential. Composite maps based on available statistical data highlighting quality of life, levels of deprivation, and socio-economic development potential indices offer a new set of spatial guidelines for policy makers to apply in allocating capital investments.

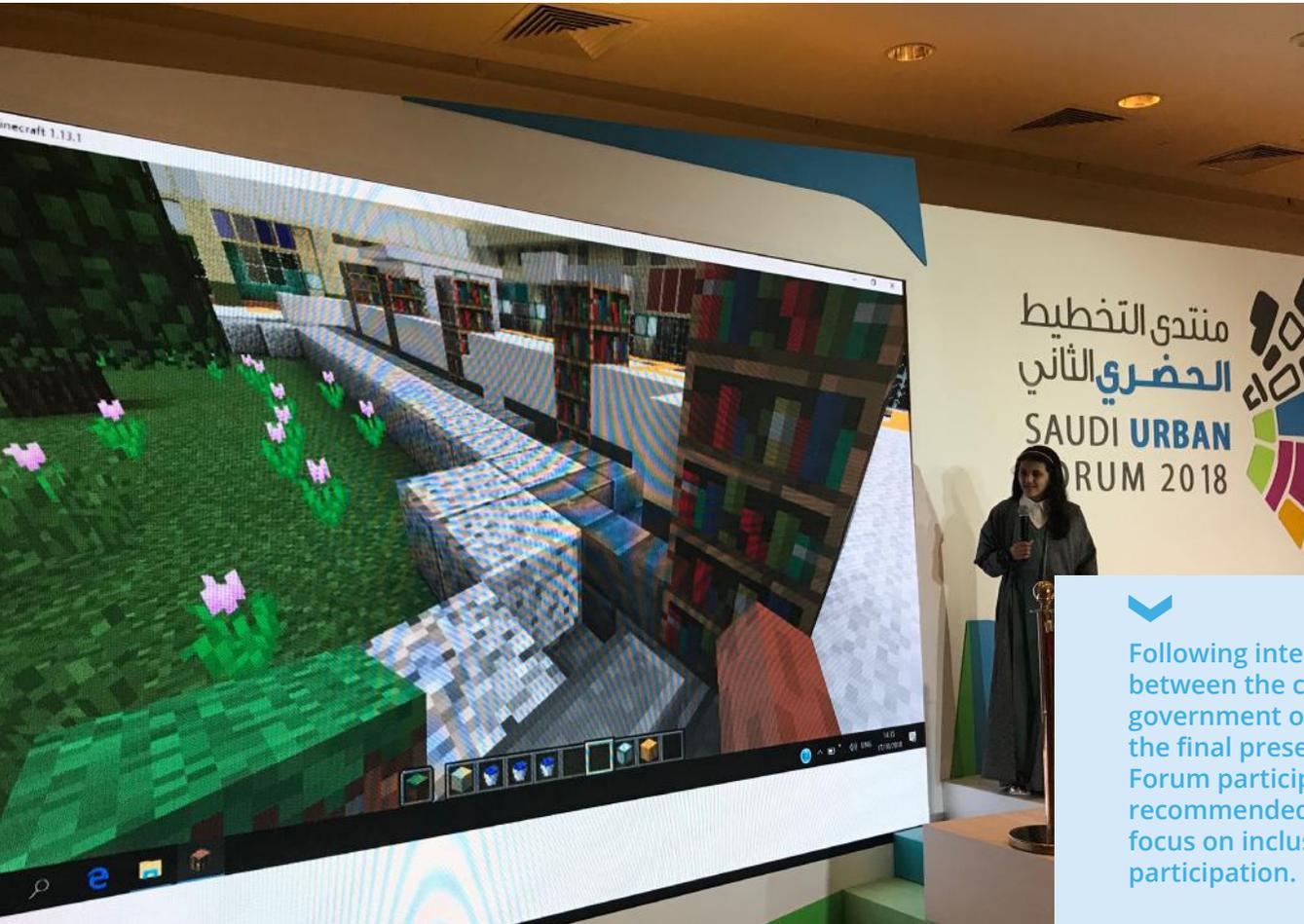
This complex spatial and analytical work was led by Dr Mona Serageldin, vice-president of the Institute for International Urban Development from 2005-2018. It was among the last of many projects in sustainable urbanization she accomplished before her demise on 26 May 2018. During global celebrations to mark World Habitat Day held on 1 October 2018 in Nairobi Dr. Mona A. Serageldin (1938 – 2018) was awarded the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour posthumously in recognition of her outstanding contributions to promoting practical research-based approaches to a broad spectrum of development challenges in a wide range of settings.

The strategies developed at the cluster level demonstrate the need for close coordination between governorate and national plans and are related economic and environmental overlays with common characteristics, challenges and inter-connectedness. The report, finalised this year, was included as an Annex to the *Iraqi National Development Plan 2018-2022* launched in May 2018.



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Saudi children develop innovative ideas to improve public spaces Using Minecraft



Following interactions between the children and government officials during the final presentations, Forum participants recommended a strong focus on inclusivity and participation.

Minecraft is an online block by block building game in which players create their own unique worlds using 1x1m blocks.

Creativity of children harnessed to redesign public space.

The children were given a model of Taibah Market Car Park in Riyadh and asked to redesign

the final presentations, Forum participants recommended a strong focus on inclusivity and participation. The children's priorities will be presented to the Ministry of Municipal

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