

ANNUAL PROGRESS REPORT

2019

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



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Message from the Executive Director



I am pleased to present UN-Habitat's 2019 Annual Progress Report which marks the sixth and final year of monitoring and reporting on the progress made in implementing the 2014–2019 Strategic Plan.

The report provides highlights of the results achieved by the end of 2019 at the institutional level with an analysis of progress in the seven programmatic areas. While 70 per cent of the indicator targets were achieved, this was largely due to the generosity of donors providing earmarked funding at the programme level. This funding was, however, inconsistent across all subprogrammes. In particular, the lack of core funding for normative work significantly constrained overall results for programme delivery. It also undermined our potential to implement areas of work with proven track record at scale, such as municipal finance, urban and territorial planning, global monitoring, public space, urban legislation, safety and governance.

The 2019 report highlights achievements in one of UN-Habitat's key areas of strength, transformative normative tools and knowledge products. These are providing important norms and standards that are strengthening member states' capacity to deliver sustainable urbanization. *The Secretary-General's Guidance Note on Land and Conflict, the Safer Cities Guidelines and the Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework*, for example, are setting principles for the global community on: sustainable urbanization planning, how to leverage the urban-rural divide for strengthened sustainable urbanization and guidelines for making cities safer. Harmonized methodologies to guide the Sustainable Development Goals global monitoring of sustainable urbanization were developed, such as the definition of cities and refining the slum area-based definition to improve its clarity and relevance. With increased funding, UN-Habitat normative tools and knowledge products, could be scaled up for greater impact.

Reflecting on 2019 and the context of constrained resources, robust results and impacts were realized from our programmatic work across some subprogrammes. The Planning Lab, for example, continues to provide technical support to member states on planning and design for inclusive, compact and integrated cities. UN-Habitat is also making a unique contribution to the humanitarian and post-conflict settlement planning through the integrated and inclusive urban tools we provide that deliver sustainable change to beneficiaries.

UN-Habitat's resilience profiling and planning tools successfully supported cities to become more climate resilient in the Africa, Asia and Pacific regions. The reconstruction and resilience work in Mozambique, undertaken through the school's programme to strengthen their structures, for example, demonstrated the benefits of cyclone resilient designs. The Global Land Tool Network, which uses an inclusive approach to tenure security through the continuum of land rights, has

expanded tenure security for over 300,000 households (approximately 1.2 million people) in 13 countries over the past six years. In addition, the Public Space programme has made cities more inclusive for some 445,000 people—many of whom are girls and women, in 2019 alone.

UN-Habitat was active in supporting the United Nations Development system reform process across all levels in 2019. Effective engagement with the new Resident Coordinator system made substantive contributions to the development of the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework in several countries, including Malaysia and Ethiopia with processes under way in eight countries of the Commonwealth of Independent States.

UN-Habitat's extensive country-level work, such as in Afghanistan and Iraq, has responded to member states' challenges and aspirations in regard to strengthening sustainable urbanization in post-conflict recovery and reconstruction. The integrated, build-back better approach has resulted in the durable resettlement of internally displaced persons and refugees. It has also resulted in safer, cleaner, more inclusive cities, showing the transformative impact possible from long-term partnerships with all levels of government and key stakeholders.

Finally, important institutional milestones were achieved in 2019. The first UN-Habitat Assembly was successfully held 27th - 31st May, 2019. The Assembly approved the new Strategic Plan 2020—2023. In addition, the first stakeholder advisory group and private sector roundtable events were convened, providing diverse perspectives and creating

new areas of collaboration. The newly elected Executive Board met in May and reconvened in November and the 2020 work programme and budget was approved. In 2019, progress was made to expand engagement with a broader range of donors. The resource mobilization strategy is now aligned with the United Nations Funding Compact that was agreed with member states in 2019.

I would like to thank our development and operational delivery partners, supporters and other key stakeholders who have worked with us across this reporting period.

I hope you find the 2019 Annual Progress Report informative and inspiring. UN-Habitat is delivering sustainable urbanization results for the realization of the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda. There are high hopes for ongoing support to leverage on these outcomes for greater impact during the implementation of the new strategic plan 2020—2023.



Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif

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Cable cars providing alternative public transport in La Paz, Bolivia
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Executive Summary

This is UN-Habitat's sixth annual progress report on the implementation of the strategic plan 2014—2019. The Strategic Plan has been implemented through the work programme and budget.

The 2019 Annual Progress Report has been prepared in accordance with Governing Council resolution 26/3 of May 2017 and presents progress made towards planned results (expected accomplishments), measured against their indicator targets for 2019. In addition, the report describes results or changes realized by the end of 2019 at local, national, regional and global levels with the contribution of UN-Habitat and partners. Given this is also the end of the strategic plan period, the report also reflects, where relevant, on the overall achievement UN-Habitat has made across this six-year period (2014—2019).

The report presents analysis of progress on indicators against set targets for each expected accomplishment over the Strategic Plan period (2014—2019). Key achievements and detailed results across all scales are presented. Impact stories demonstrate the concrete and practical ways that UN-Habitat has transformed the lives of beneficiaries.

The report further integrates results from the five regional offices, the countries they cover, and from the seven thematic branches. There are four sections:

Section 1 presents the Executive Summary which includes, institutional highlights of 2019 and from the 2014—2019 period; financial performance and programmatic highlights and summary of cross-cutting, advocacy and partnerships, evaluation and audit achievements.

Section 2 presents detailed analytical briefs on the performance of each of the seven subprogrammes:

Subprogramme 1 Urban Legislation, Land and Governance

Subprogramme 2 Urban Planning and Design

Subprogramme 3 Urban Economy and Municipal Finance

Subprogramme 4 Urban Basic Services

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