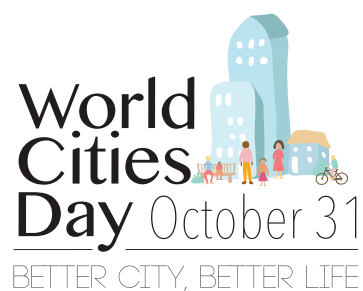




31 DAYS OF PROMOTING A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA



Unprecedented number of cities celebrate Urban October 2018

Every October UN-Habitat and partners organize a month of activities, events and discussions on urban sustainability. In 2018 Urban October began with World Habitat Day on 1 October on the theme of Municipal Solid Waste Management, with the global observance co-hosted by the Government of Kenya in Nairobi. It ended with the World Cities Day global observance being celebrated in Liverpool, United Kingdom on 31 October with the theme Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities. Local, regional and national authorities and partners were encouraged to organize activities during Urban October and register them on the UN-Habitat website.

This year was the most successful Urban October on record with over 320 events highlighting various aspects of urbanization taking place in 82 cities in 51 countries during the month.



World Habitat Day, 1 October 2018

World Habitat Day is celebrated on the first Monday of October. This year's theme – ***Municipal Solid Waste Management*** – was chosen as the amount of waste produced by individuals is growing daily leading to health problems and pollution and costing local authorities dearly.

A change in public attitudes to minimize waste and stop littering, the regularization of informal waste pickers, increased recycling, upcycling and reusing, sufficient funding and solid waste planning including adequate landfill sites, can help cities to improve the current state of solid waste management and save money to become ***'Waste-Wise Cities'***.

World Habitat Day was marked by events in nearly 80 cities around the world.

Global Observance of World Habitat Day

The global observance of World Habitat Day was held at the United Nations complex at Nairobi, where UN-Habitat's headquarters is located.

In his keynote address at the global observance, President Uhuru Kenyatta of Kenya stated: "Solid waste management poses one of the greatest challenges of our time in a rapidly urbanizing world," and he commended the Executive Director of UN-Habitat for her commitment and passion.

President Kenyatta presented five winners of the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour with plaques to recognize their work in improving urban communities. The winners were: Mr. Isaac Muasa of Kenya, chair of the Mathare Environmental Conservation Youth Group, for inspiring community-wide involvement; Xuzhou City, Jiangsu Province, China, for innovative waste management; the National Action Plan for the Implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Cuba 2017-2036 by the Institute of Physical Planning; the late Dr. Mona A. Serageldin of the Institute for International Urban Development, U.S.A., for her research (award presented to her son); and the Mayor of Surabaya city, Indonesia, Tri Rismaharini for implementing inclusive city regeneration.

The Executive Director announced the launch of the "Waste-Wise Cities" initiative. "This calls for cities, towns and communities around the world to rethink, reduce, recycle, refuse and reuse waste," she said.

Other speakers during the morning session included Mr. James Wainaina Macharia, Cabinet Secretary of Kenya's Ministry of Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works; Mr. Peter Anyang' Nyong'o, Kisumu County Governor and Mr. Mike Mbuvi Sonko, Nairobi County Governor.

During the afternoon the audience heard from Japan's Ministry of Environment and the World Bank. A technical discussion on the Waste-Wise Cities followed with representatives from civil society, Nairobi County Government, NGOs and UN agencies.



Scroll of honour kaka informal @JuliusMwelu - UN-Habitat

The event also included a story by performer Ngartia about the fate of a milk packet, exhibitions by Kenyan artists using trash in innovative ways including sculpture, collage and mixed-media and a fashion show of pieces all made from rubbish.

There was excellent media coverage with the Executive Director taking part in a live breakfast show on Kenya's NTV channel, two pull out spreads in Kenyan The Nation and The Standard newspapers, a press conference, a large group of Chinese media who interviewed the Executive Director, a spot on Kenya's Citizen television and a feature on solid waste in Congo by Al-Jazeera featuring UN-Habitat.



Child in trash fashion Omo @JuliusMwelu - UN-Habitat



President and ED admire trash for artwork @JuliusMwelu - UN-Habitat

Urban October events

During Urban October some 60 events took place both in Brazil and the USA (over 30 in New York), China hosted 40, India over 20 and 10 in Kenya. UN-Habitat appeared in 48.8 million article views with 168 editorial mentions. India dominated the media global coverage of Urban October flagship days at 41% followed by United States (13%) and the United Kingdom (8.7%).

In New York events included a conversation between restaurant chefs and policy makers on rethinking food and waste. On World Cities Day there was a “Rethink Food/Waste Lunch” created from food sourced to local farmers at the UNHQ Delegates Dining Room, and a photo exhibition “Here Comes the Sun – Resilient Liverpool” anticipated the city’s global observation of World Cities Day.

In Asia more than 40 events were held in 15 countries. In Afghanistan, the Third National Mayors’ Conference discussed the country’s rapid urbanization process while in India, UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and partners organized activities, including an Urban Café on ‘River and Habitat’, about urban rivers and water bodies in urban areas.



Delegates at the Third National Mayors Conference in Afghanistan

The first Integrated Resource Recovery Centre for innovative solid waste management was launched in Islamabad and in the Philippines, UN-Habitat organized urban peace and dialogue events in Minadano and Manila on post-conflict and development-themed urban issues.

In Thailand, Four Regions Slum Network’ (FRSN) led a gathering of several hundred inhabitants of slums and informal settlements to call for action on homelessness

World Cities Day originated as a legacy of the Shanghai World Expo 2010 and China’s 2018 World Cities Day was jointly hosted by the Ministry of Housing and Urban-Rural Development, the People’s Government of Jiangsu Province and UN-Habitat in Xuzhou City to discuss “Ecological City and Green Development”. Guests included Mr. Ni Hong, Deputy Minister, Mr. Fei Gaoyun, Vice Governor of Jiangsu Province, and Ms. Christine Musisi, representing the UN-Habitat Executive Director.

The Palestine UN-Habitat Country Programme Document was launched on World Habitat Day and the Saudi Urban Forum also took place which included sessions with children planning public spaces in their community, using Minecraft, which has been adapted as a participatory planning and design tool.

In Libya a clean up of the market and surroundings in Souk El Albisah, Tripoli was carried out by UN-Habitat, the Municipality of Tripoli, NGOs and civil society partners who were involved distributing bins and reusable shopping bags, raising community awareness and installing boxes to collect plastic bags. UN-Habitat Lebanon organized a urban breakfast on Solid Waste Management.

UN-Habitat organized a football tournament in Nairobi involving youth from Nairobi slums and UN agencies including UN-Habitat as well as a children’s tournament with the Executive Director awarding the trophies.

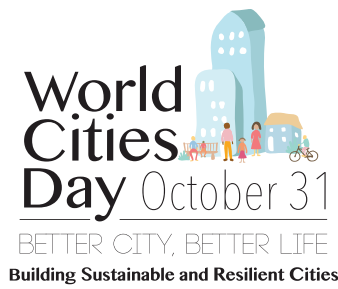
In Brazil, the UN-Habitat office launched a national initiative called the “Urban Circuit” (Circuito Urbano in Portuguese) to call for urban events. Over half of the proposals submitted were selected by UN-Habitat to receive support and events took place in 29 cities.



Residents of informal settlements in Thailand call for action



UN-Habitat’s Christine Musisi at World Cities Day in Xuzhou city, China



World Cities Day, 31 October 2018

World Cities Day aims to promote the international community's interest in global urbanization, enhance cooperation among countries and cities and contribute to sustainable urban development. The overall World Cities Day theme is **Better City, Better Life** and the 2018 theme was **Building Sustainable and Resilient Cities**.

Over the last decade, natural disasters have affected more than 220 million people and caused economic damage of USD \$100billion per year. By 2030, without significant investment to make cities more resilient, natural disasters may cost cities worldwide three times that amount a year and climate change may push up millions of urban residents into poverty.

Global Observance of World Cities Day

The global observance of World Cities Day in Liverpool, UK was attended by more than two hundred people including ministers, mayors, national and local government representatives, academics, civil society, journalists and business people.

At the opening, the Mayor of Liverpool, Joe Anderson joined the Executive Director and the leader of the China delegation, Ms. Tian Sainan, Deputy Secretary General, Party Committee of Urban-Rural Construction and Communication Work of Shanghai Municipality, to launch the latest edition of the Shanghai Manual represented by a large plastic model which lit up. The Executive Director read a message from the UN Secretary-General who called for everyone to work

together to build sustainable and resilient cities that provide safety and opportunities for all.

The Executive Director told the meeting in the impressive St George's Hall that investing in resilience was not only a human right and necessity, but also a wise investment. The day included live video link ups with celebrations in Glasgow and at the UNESCO headquarters in Paris.

Distinguished speakers included H.E. Shaik Hussam bin Khalifa Al Khalifa, President of the Court of H.R.H. the Prime Minister of Bahrain and the Minister of Housing, Urban Planning and Cities from Algeria, Mr. Abdelwahid Temmar.

There were four breakout sessions on aspects of resilience – Economic (panelists from Liverpool, Accra, and Birmingham, Alabama, UK Department for International Development and University of Cardiff) Social (Brazil, Maputo, Cities Alliance, Huairou Commission), Environmental Resilience (Manchester, Bahrain, Shanghai, ActionAid) and Disaster Mitigation (Sendai, Byblos, Nepal).

Liverpool also saw the celebration of China Week, Xuzhou Day and Shanghai Day. Several Chinese journalists attended World Cities Day event in Liverpool, local media including Radio Merseyside attended and a group of nine Russian journalists were brought in by Thomson Reuters Foundation.

World Cities Day was also celebrated in Xuzhou in China and a total of 66 cities around the world.



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