

COUNTRY ACTIVITIES REPORT 2019

SUPPORTING THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

UN-HABITAT

COUNTRY ACTIVITIES REPORT 2019

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Maimunah Mohd Sharif
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

FOREWORD

The main objective of the present “Country Activities Report (CAR) 2019” is to ensure that member States are adequately informed about UN-Habitat’s projects portfolio and the progress made in implementing our activities at country level in pursuit of the Sustainable Development Goals.

This is pursuant to resolution 5/5 of the Commission on Human Settlements¹, which called for an information document highlighting the Agency’s ongoing interventions and providing evidence of achievements so far. Previously known as UN-Habitat’s “Operational Activities Report”, this document has been an integral part of the mandatory documentation prepared by the Secretariat for consideration by the Governing Council since its establishment in 2001.

In recent years, the report was expanded, redesigned, and renamed as “Global Activities Report”, including analytical information on the portfolio at global, regional and country levels. The present edition of CAR keeps its focus on documenting UN-Habitat’s normative and operational support to governments at all levels in the formulation and implementation of policies and strategies to strengthen human settlements planning and management capacities at the national, sub-national and local levels.

The report re-affirms strongly the complementary and integrated nature of our normative work related to the sphere of norms, policies, standards and frameworks, and our operational activities referring to field projects on the ground. UN-Habitat’s projects and programmes also provide technical and managerial expertise for monitoring the progress in addressing human

settlements development challenges and opportunities in line with global development agendas, including the New Urban Agenda (NUA) the urban-related Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including SDG 11 and its targets, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, to name but a few.

We invest the best of our skills and experience to design our work in a way to facilitate the identification and analysis of policy options, implementation of housing and urban development programmes, as well as the mobilization of endogenous resources and external support for improving human settlements conditions.

Lessons from our operational activities provide feedback to our normative work, facilitating scaling-up and transformation of lessons learnt from pilot projects into further normative outputs. The key to the success of our knowledge generation and dissemination depends on balancing these mutually re-enforcing areas of our mandate as we move towards the implementation of our new strategic plan 2020–2025. It is my hope that CAR 2019 will continue serving its purpose of keeping member States and all our partners informed of the work of UN-Habitat at the country level.

¹ UNCHS Resolution 5/5 of 6 May 1982

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Country Activities Report 2019 provides an evolving picture of UN-Habitat's projects and programmes portfolio from 2018 onwards. It opens a window on the most recent activities taking place on the ground. In that connection, its scope is restricted to featuring digestible information on selected ongoing activities supporting an effective and timely delivery on UN-Habitat's mandate.

One of roles of the Agency and its teams deployed at the country level is to ensure that innovative human settlements strategies and approaches are placed on the national and local agenda, and integrated into the UN Development Assistance Frameworks (UNDAF). Therefore, a considerable number of technical programmes and projects under execution take place in UN-Habitat's priority countries, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs). In direct response to increasing demands from governments, the Agency's technical cooperation activities have grown significantly over the last decade.

Office for Arab States (ROAS) based in Cairo, Egypt; the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) in Fukuoka, Japan, and the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) based in Rio de Janeiro, Brazil with the substantive support and engagement of thematic branches under the overall coordination of the Programme Division.

Given the cope of the CAR 2019 featuring only a limited number of selected activities, in the timeframe as determined above, a global list of projects and programmes integrating activities that were still operational in 2018 and beyond as currently recorded in the Project Accrual and Accountability System (PAAS) has been annexed for any further reference to projects not developed in detail in this document.

With the growing recognition of the potential of partnership at all levels, including the United Nations inter-Agency collaboration, a considerable number of projects funded by the UN Development Account, or implemented jointly with sister Agencies of the UN family such as UNEP, UN-Women, and many others have been lined up in this report. This should provide evidence of the validity of the "One UN" approach putting all efforts in delivering as "ONE" to the service of human, socio-economic and environmental development.

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