EMERGING ISSUES & PARTNERSHIPS

UN-Habitat’s global strategy for 2014-2019 derives from the Habitat Agenda and the New Urban Agenda, mandated for achieving the goals of adequate shelter for all and sustainable human settlements development in an urbanizing world. UN-Habitat’s substantive work programme is delivered through 7 thematic sub-programmes:
- Land, Legislation and Governance
- Urban Planning and Design
- Urban Economy
- Urban Basic Services
- Housing and Slum Upgrading
- Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
- Research and Capacity Development

The agency strategy in Asia and the Pacific focuses on two complementary objectives:
- To support sustainable development focusing on the poorest and most vulnerable cities and communities in the region.
- To develop innovative partnerships in support of sustainable urbanization and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda in Asia and the Pacific.

The below core and emerging issues are being addressed in the region through partnerships, building on existing collaborations and through new engagements with member states and institutions in the region.

A renewed emphasis on land as a precursor for governance and planning

Core & Emerging Issues:
- Tenure security, plot mapping in informal settlements; land use planning and strategies for urban extensions; land use and territorial planning

Partners:
- For example, Global Land Tool Network (GLTN), FAO, surveyor associations, regional organizations advocating land and slum dweller issues; planning and design institutes

Urban Resilience: Climate Change, Disaster Risk Management, COP21 and the Sendai Framework

Core & Emerging Issues:
- Compact, green, low-carbon and resilient city planning and development, adaptation strategies

Partners:
- For example, multi-lateral and bi-lateral climate facilities; UNISDR, UNDP

Anchoring urban and territorial planning as a central component in projects on sustainable urbanization

Core & Emerging Issues:
- National urban policies, planning guidelines; planned city extensions; strategic planning for infrastructure investments and their financing; public space strategies

Partners:
- For example, national associations of professionals planners, city development initiatives; Asian Development Bank; Shelter Program (Arekada), UNDP, UNESCO

Responding to cities and communities in crisis

Core & Emerging Issues:
- Cluster coordination, shelter, land, DRR, technical guidelines, land, house and property issues for EPS and host communities, resettlement

Partners:
- For example, national governments, UN humanitarian coordination, RSC cluster mechanism, IRC, UNHCR

Transforming people-driven settlement development into genuine urbanization programmes contributing to ending poverty

Core & Emerging Issues:
- Slum upgrading, community development, skills development, urban housing, improved access infrastructure, improved municipal and local governance

Partners:
- For example, slum communities; national and local governments; multilateral banks, donor-government trust funds, slum dweller associations, UNDP, UNICEF

Knowledge, Research and Capacity Development

Core & Emerging Issues:
- National and regional State of Cities reports, youth exchange initiatives, urban observatories and indicators, localizing the SDGs, sharing of lessons-learned and south-south collaboration

Partners:
- For example, national governments, leading academic institutions, youth initiatives of multilateral banks, IUTC Training Academy Korea, UN-ESCAP

PROSPERITY
Engines for sustainable growth

A vast system of cities has emerged in Asia and the Pacific as a result of phenomena economic growth over the past 20 years. Due to its scale, cities in Asia and the Pacific have become engines for global economic growth and are increasingly at the forefront of global sustainable development agendas.

Over the next two decades, Asia-Pacific’s sub-regions will face extraordinary but diverse opportunities and challenges for sustainable urbanization and shared prosperity. Investments and decisions taken now will shape the future of cities for decades to come. In turn, how Asia and the Pacific urbanizes will have a great impact on the sustainability of the planet as a whole. The development of the region’s cities needs to be guided by the New Urban Agenda, with inclusiveness, resilience and sustainability at its core.

INCLUSIVITY
Ensuring human security for all

By 2050, the Asia-Pacific urban population will exceed 3.2 billion and account for two out of every three city-dwellers on the planet. The growing population will place enormous demands on city governments for the provision of housing and associated services; moreover complex factors for finite and national, regional and global agendas.

Ensuring balanced development requires that the urban poor, the most vulnerable and dis-empowered are not forgotten, are given voice through appropriate multi-level governance frameworks, have regular access to a share of the resources and to economic opportunities. Many urban informal businesses in Asia-Pacific are yet to become thriving economies of people and communities. Cities must continue to ensure their access to land, space, credit, markets, information and professional education, envision a prominent role for cities.

RESILIENCE
Shifting from risk to resilience

Asia-Pacific, occupying 30% of the world’s landmass, is the region most affected by natural disasters. Between 1970 and 2011, the region accounted for 1.9 million fatalities from disasters. South & South-West Asia alone lost 980,760 lives, South-East and North-East Asia suffered massive economic losses amounting to $367 billion. Economic costs tend to be larger in wealthy cities than in poorer ones but losses last are inversely related to incomes. As the region’s cities develop, greater concentrations of population, infrastructure and assets become exposed.

With Asia-Pacific set to become 50% urban by 2019, the growing focus of the international community on resilience building, climate change adaptation and mitigation and green growth in urban contexts is crucial – as articulated in the Sendai Framework for Action and Paris Agreement on Climate Change, which envision a prominent role for cities.

The Sustainable Development Agenda for people, planet & prosperity, strengthening universal peace and eradicating extreme poverty will require an inclusive, people-centered approach to human settlements development and an innovative management of the huge environmental footprint of urbanization on the planet.

Progress on achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda will thus hinge especially strongly on the contribution of cities in Asia and the Pacific.
SUPPORTING CITIES AND COUNTRIES IN ASIA PACIFIC FOR A PROSPEROUS URBAN FUTURE

UN-Habitat’s Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), was established in 1997 and has been providing technical expertise through an expanding programme portfolio designed in response to the challenges of urbanization and slums, housing, basic services, land and multi-level governance. A wide range of development projects inspired by the community-driven “People’s Process”, are applied to diverse development contexts: in response to disasters, post-conflict & for peace-building. The agency covers 28 countries in Asia and the Pacific either via in-country presence or via substantial technical cooperation engagements supported by the Regional Office based in Fukuoka, Japan and a liaison and partnerships office based in Bangkok, Thailand.

OUR ASSISTANCE SINCE 2005

- Operational in 28 countries, and regionally.
- Implemented 351 projects of value $831 million.
- Operational Projects on resilient human settlements: $612 million on housing & security of tenure, slum-upgrading, basic services and risk reduction.
- Normative projects around sustainable urbanization: 100 on urban planning, urban economy, climate change, research and capacity development.
- ROAP’s top 3 donors are Japan, the European Union and USAID.
- Supported by over 115 donors comprising member states, municipalities, ministries, multi-donor trust funds (MDTF), UN agencies, international financing institutions (IFIs), private sector, INGOs, research institutions, international foundations & local voluntary funds.*

SNAPShOTS OF OUR ACTIVITIES

**PARTNERSHIPS FOR ENVIRONMENTAL TECHNOLOGY & SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION**

UN-Habitat organizes annual Expert Group Meetings between member states and other Asia Pacific participants to discuss, analyze, critique and challenge current urban policies, urban challenges, social impacts, and trends of urbanization in Asia Pacific. The meetings are followed by a regional workshop that brings together experts and stakeholders to provide recommendations and policy principles for sustainable urban development. These workshops have been instrumental in promoting environmentally sustainable urban development strategies across the region.

**THE NEW URBAN AGENDA**

The Indonesian Government hosted a number of important regional events in the run up to Habitat III, the 4th Asia Pacific Urban Forum (APUF), with UN-Habitat and the First Asia Pacific Urban Council Assembly (APIU), with UN-Habitat and APIU. Both were held in Jakarta in 2017. Indonesia also supported the Habitat III processes in a number of the regions, by hosting the Regional Meeting for Asia and the Pacific in October 2017 and also the 3rd Preparatory Committee for the New Urban Agenda in September 2018. On the occasion of the events, UN-Habitat published several regional guidelines and toolkits in the Indonesian language.

**PLANNING FOR IMPROVED URBAN PUBLIC SPACES**

UN-Habitat organized a significant programme with Kuwait’s Ministry of Education to develop a planning model for primary education, which has been implemented in 10 Kuwaiti schools. This programme has contributed to improving the quality of education in Kuwait, leading to increased student performance and better learning outcomes.

**BUILDING HOMES & COMMUNITIES - POST-CONFLICT HUMAN DEVELOPMENT**

Three locations in the North and East of Sri Lanka had lost 90% of their housing and 50% of their population due to the civil war ended in 2009. UN-Habitat supported the reconstruction of 43,000 homes through a Skills-Based Support Programme, which was focused on empowering families to rebuild their homes and their lives.

**HIGH LEVEL ADVOCACY ON INCLUSIVE DEVELOPMENT**

Under the auspices of the President of Malaysia, the Ministry of Housing and Community Development, and the Malaysian Society of Urban and Regional Planners, a high-level advocacy programme was organized in 2017 to promote inclusive development in Malaysia. The programme aimed to raise awareness among policymakers and planners about the importance of inclusive urban planning and development.

**DEVELOPING NATIONAL BUILDING CODES & BY-LAWS**

UN-Habitat’s regional programmes support national urban policies in Asia Pacific through technical assistance and capacity building. This includes the development of national building codes and by-laws which are crucial for ensuring safety and sustainability in urban development. The agency supports the development of national building codes and by-laws in various countries, promoting the integration of environmental considerations and sustainable urban planning.

**CLIMATE CHANGE PLANNING & RESILIENCE BUILDING**

UN-Habitat’s regional programmes support national and sub-national government agencies in Asia Pacific through the development of climate change adaptation plans and strategies. This includes supporting the implementation of climate-resilient planning and building practices, which are crucial for ensuring the sustainability and resilience of urban areas in the face of climate change.

OUR PORTFOLIO OF SERVICES

- Policy Advice to National Governments, supported by UN-Habitat’s thematic branches and international and national institutions.
- Capacity Building for national, sub-national, local governments.
- Field Projects in response to national development agendas, programmed through UN partnership and assistance frameworks, implemented with communities, local authorities, local partners and national agencies.
- Responding to Crisis, assisting communities and cities with seamless recovery, rehabilitation and development.
- Regional Normative and Partnership Engagements, consolidating and mainstreaming global tools and guidelines through UN mechanisms, or through UN collaborations with sub-regional inter-governmental associations.