As an agency with global responsibilities, UN-HABITAT needs to find ways of maximizing its impact; its resources must be focused, and policy principles and approaches must be strategic. These principles are derived from UN-HABITAT’s own experience and also from experience of its partners, national governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community organizations and the private sector are UN-HABITAT’s partners. In addition to its advocacy and monitoring function, UN-HABITAT also plays an important role in providing technical assistance to countries and cities in the areas of urban governance, housing, environmental management, disaster mitigation, post-conflict rehabilitation, urban safety, water management and poverty reduction.

UN-HABITAT is committed to ensuring that every home has the basic infrastructure and security of tenure which will enable its residents to live in peace, without fear of eviction and free of environmental and health hazards.

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP-Fukuoka) was established in August 1997. The office serves the Asia and Pacific region in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda. Through its strengthened presence in the region, UN-HABITAT benefits from the close links to governments and other partners in the region. The location of the Office in the region has improved the effectiveness of UN-HABITAT and reduced operational costs.

What does the ROAP-Fukuoka Office do?

The primary responsibility for the implementation and follow up of the Habitat Agenda rests with individual governments and their national and local partners. The UN-HABITAT Regional Office provides support to their efforts and monitors progress being made in the region. The tasks of the Office cover many aspects of human settlement development and reflect the mandate of UN-HABITAT. The responsibilities combine operational activities (development projects and programmes) and normative activities (advocacy and policy guidance).

Where does the ROAP-Fukuoka Office work?

Technical cooperation projects coordinated by the UN-HABITAT Regional Office are geographically spread from Iran in the west to the Pacific Islands in the east, and span the entire spectrum of urbanization and shelter development issues. Tasks currently being addressed range from rehabilitation of urban settlements in Afghanistan, strengthening housing finance institutions in Indonesia and reducing urban violence in Papua New Guinea, poverty alleviation in Bangladesh, urban management in Cambodia and Vietnam, community water supply and sanitation in Myanmar; city development strategies in Sri Lanka and the Philippines, promoting urban-rural linkages in Nepal and Indonesia, and environmental improvement of cities in India and China.