



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)



Vision

UN-Habitat is the United Nations programme working towards a better urban future. Its mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all. Cities are facing unprecedented demographic, environmental, economic, social and spatial challenges. There has been a phenomenal shift towards urbanization, with 6 out of every 10 people in the world expected to reside in urban areas by 2030. Over 90 per cent of this growth will take place in Africa, Asia, Latin America, and the Caribbean. In the absence of effective urban planning, the consequences of this rapid urbanization will be dramatic.

In many places around the world, the effects can already be felt: lack of proper housing and growth of slums, inadequate and out-dated infrastructure – be it roads, public transport, water, sanitation, or electricity – escalating poverty and unemployment, safety and crime problems, pollution and health issues, as well as poorly managed natural or man-made disasters and other catastrophes due to the effects of climate change. Mindsets, policies, and approaches towards urbanization need to change in order for the growth of cities and urban areas to be turned into opportunities that will leave nobody behind. UN-Habitat, the United Nations programme for human settlements, is at the helm of that change, assuming a natural leadership and catalytic role in urban matters.

UN-Habitat envisions well-planned, well-governed, and efficient cities and other human settlements, with adequate housing, infrastructure, and universal access to employment and basic services such as water, energy, and sanitation. To achieve these goals, derived from the Habitat Agenda of 1996, UN-Habitat has set itself a medium-term strategy approach for each successive six-year period.

The current strategic plan spans from 2014 to 2019. While every new strategic plan is in continuity with the previous one, this approach allows for a better response to emerging urban trends such as new demographic, environmental, economic, spatial, and social developments. It permits necessary readjustments to address change and evolutions and creates opportunities to incorporate lessons learned.

The New Urban Agenda

In October 2016, at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development – Habitat III – member states adopted the New Urban Agenda. This is an action-oriented document which sets global standards of achievement in sustainable urban development, rethinking the way we build, manage, and live in cities. Through drawing together cooperation with committed partners, relevant stakeholders, and urban actors, including at all levels of government as well as the private sector, UN-Habitat is applying its technical expertise, normative work and capacity development to implement the New Urban Agenda and to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.



Work in Iran

Based on UN-Habitat's mandate, the Government of the Islamic Republic of Iran and the United Nations Human Settlements Programme signed an agreement on the establishment of "UN-Habitat Disaster Mitigation Office" in Tehran on 21 December 2006 and the office was officially opened in 2009.

According to the request from the government in 2014, UN-Habitat extended their activities to all UN-Habitat eight focus areas. Since then the office has contributed to the following fields of activities:

- Housing and Slum Upgrading
- Urban Planning and Design
- Social Inclusion
- Risk Reduction
- Urban Infrastructure
- Legislation and Governance
- Urban Economy
- Urban Research

Country Programme 2018-2021

UN-Habitat works closely with the National Habitat Committee (NHC), established under the auspices of the Ministry of Roads and Urban Development (MoRUD) and headed by the Deputy for Housing and Construction. Currently, UN-Habitat Tehran office and MoRUD are finalizing a programme to address the priorities of the Government in the field of human settlements and urban development.

The overall goal of UN-Habitat's Country Programme for 2018-2021 is to enable sustainable and inclusive development of human settlements in order to reduce risk and the negative impacts of climate change, environmentally sustainable and resilient cities and ensure that the benefits of Iran's economic development reach all citizens. The five recommended pillars for the country programme are:

- Human Settlement Development
- Resilient Cities
- Environment, Climate Change and Basic Urban Infrastructure and Services
- Participatory Urban Planning and Design, Governance and Finance
- Advocacy, Monitoring and Partnership

UN-Habitat Activities in Iran

UN-Habitat current activities in Iran focuses on the following areas:

1. Capacity building and training courses (in Urban Planning, Urban Resilience, Disaster Risk Management, Slum Upgrading and Urban Regeneration, and etc)
2. Facilitation
 - a. Facilitating the use of international practices
 - b. Transferring national experiences to international community
 - c. Creating Multilateral Collaborative Areas
 - d. Facilitating and developing the provision of specialized services
 - e. Collaborating in the holding of specialized joint committees

- g. Facilitating membership and the presence of governmental and non-governmental organizations in international events such as UN conferences, Habitat events, Metropolis, etc.

3. Promotion

- a. Production of thematic materials
- b. Translation and publishing of Habitat publications such as "International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning" or "The City Iranians Need"
- c. Participating in meetings and conferences to promote the organizational mission of UN-Habitat.
- d. Holding meetings (urban lectures, urban dialogue, etc.), conferences and specialized conferences
- e. Support for campaigns related to Habitat's work areas in partnership with government agencies (National Urban Campaign)

4. Implement joint projects with government and related institutions including 1) Pilot phase of the National Urban Policy Programme: Developing NUPs and Smart City Strategies in I.R. Iran and 2) Inventory, Earthquake and Multi-Hazard Performance Evaluation of existing health facilities in the Islamic Republic of Iran.

UN-Habitat Iran currently is working with different national and international partners such as:

- Academic and research institutions
- Department of Environment
- ECO Secretariat/Interregional cooperation
- Ministry of Foreign Affairs
- Ministry of Health
- Ministry of interior
- Ministry of Roads and Urban Development
 - Deputy for Housing and Construction
 - Deputy for Transportation
 - Deputy for Architecture and Urban Planning
 - National Land and Housing Organisation
 - New Towns Development Company
 - Road, Housing and Urban Development Research Center
 - Urban Development and Rehabilitation Company
- Municipalities
- Research and planning center of Tehran municipality
- Tehran Construction Engineering Organisation
- Tehran Municipality and City Council
- Tehran Water and Waste Water company
- UNESCO, Iran
- UNFPA, Iran
- FAO, Iran
- UNICEF, Iran

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