

**MIDWEST MODEL UNITED NATIONS**

**Gateway to Diplomacy**

# **BACKGROUND MATERIALS**

63rd CONFERENCE,  
FEBRUARY 2023

United Nations Human  
Settlements Programme

Prepared by:

*Jazmin Burch and Sarah Anne Fulmer*

With Contributions from:

*Lance Allen, Allison Koelzer Nelson, and Andria Marsh*

All Materials © 2022 Midwest Model United Nations.

For any inquiries regarding committee preparation, contact Under-Secretary-General of Operations Zachary Vetter at [usgo@mmun.org](mailto:usgo@mmun.org).



## ***United Nations Human Settlements Programme***

### **Mandate of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme**

#### **Introduction**

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme “UN-Habitat” was created in 1978 and is mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.<sup>1</sup> UN-Habitat works in over 90 Member States throughout the regions of Asia and Pacific, Africa, Latin America and Caribbean, The Arab States, The Commonwealth of Independent (CIS), Kosovo, and Spain.

#### **Structure and Foundations**

The UN-Habitat aims to reduce urban sprawl and create more comprehensive and efficient living spaces, making cities inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.<sup>2</sup> UN-Habitat also promotes sanitation and hygiene within infrastructure, advocating for the expansion of water harvesting, desalination, water efficiency, wastewater treatment, recycling, reuse technologies, and capacity building and education for proper sanitation to construct facilities and spread hygiene awareness.

#### **Reporting**

In order to hold best international reporting practices, the UN-Habitat adopted the International Public Sector Accounting Standards (IPSAS) in 2014. The implementation of IPSAS is designed to enhance transparency and accountability, improve decision making from detailed financial information, improve consistency of financial statements, and allow access to more comprehensive information on spending costs.<sup>3</sup> There are several administrative and financial management policies aimed to further enhance accountability and transparency within financial management through UN-Habitat including A Cost Allocation and Recovery Policy (June 2012), Project Based Management Policy (November 2012), Approved Spending Level mechanisms (2020), and a decentralization of delegations of management from regional to county offices.

The UN-Habitat’s governance structure is a three-tier structure made up of the UN-Habitat Assembly, the Executive Board and the Committee of Permanent Representatives. UN-Habitat Assembly is a universal body composed of the 193 member states of the United Nations and convenes every four years at the Headquarters of UN-Habitat in Nairobi. The Executive Board is composed of 36 member states elected by the UN-Habitat Assembly and meets three times a year to increase the oversight by Member States of UN-Habitat operations. The Committee of

---

<sup>1</sup> “UN-Habitat - a Better Urban Future | UN-Habitat.” N.d. unhabitat.org.

<sup>2</sup> “Committee Materials - MMUN.” Mmun.org, 27 Nov. 2011. mmun.org/delegate-resources/committee-materials/.

<sup>3</sup> “Accountability | UN-Habitat.” Unhabitat.org. N.d. unhabitat.org/about-us/accountability.

Permanent Representatives of UN-Habitat (CPR), currently represented by Pakistan, Columbia, and Tanzania for 2021-2023, meets twice every four years in an open-ended manner. These three governing bodies are intended to strengthen the accountability and transparency of UN-Habitat, to provide an effective oversight mechanism for UN-Habitat to enhance its normative and operational activities.<sup>4</sup>

### **Current Items of Importance**

UN-Habitat created the theme “The Strategic Plan 2020-2023,” set to reposition UN-Habitat as a major global entity for sustainable urban development.<sup>5</sup> The Strategic Plan 2020-2023 follows sustainable development goals to reduce spatial inequality and poverty across the urban-rural continuum, enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions, strengthen climate action and improve the urban environment, and create effective urban crises prevention and response.

---

<sup>4</sup> “Governance | UN-Habitat.” Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org/governance](https://unhabitat.org/governance).

<sup>5</sup> “Our Strategy | UN-Habitat.” Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org/our-strategy](https://unhabitat.org/our-strategy).

## Bibliography

MMUN. "Committee Materials - MMUN." Mmun.org. 27 Nov. 2011, [mmun.org/delegate-resources/committee-materials/](http://mmun.org/delegate-resources/committee-materials/).

OHCHR. "OHCHR | OHCHR and the Right to Adequate Housing." N.d. [www.ohchr.org/en/housing](http://www.ohchr.org/en/housing).

UN-Habitat. "Accountability | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org/about-us/accountability](http://unhabitat.org/about-us/accountability).

UN-Habitat. "Governance | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org/governance](http://unhabitat.org/governance).

UN-Habitat. "Metropolitan Management | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org/topic/metropolitan-management](http://unhabitat.org/topic/metropolitan-management).

UN-Habitat. "Our Strategy | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org/our-strategy](http://unhabitat.org/our-strategy).

UN-Habitat. "UN-Habitat - a Better Urban Future | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org. N.d. [unhabitat.org](http://unhabitat.org).

UNICEF. "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene." UNICEF. 2021. [www.unicef.org/wash](http://www.unicef.org/wash).

United Nations. "Goal 6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sdgs.un.org. 2021. [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6](http://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6).

United Nations. "Goal 11 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sdgs.un.org, 2021. [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11](http://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11).

## ***United Nations Human Settlement Programme***

### **Topic 1: Sustainable Housing Development and Inclusivity of Migrant Communities**

*“We cannot go back to business as usual. Cities and communities are demanding that those in authority take the opportunity to build back better. To emerge stronger, we need a sustainable, inclusive and green recovery for people and the planet.”<sup>1</sup>*

- António Guterres, Secretary-General of the United Nations

#### **Introduction:**

With little time remaining in the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)’s 2020-2023 Strategic Plan, UN-Habitat continues to organize and facilitate sustainable urbanization. In 2020, UN-Habitat focused “. . .on more strategic partnerships relating to data, integrated policy support, and financing.”<sup>2</sup> For 2022 and 2023, UN-Habitat has shifted its focus to providing “. . .adequate and affordable housing for all. . .” as well as other areas of Human Settlement.<sup>3</sup> Migrant communities are particularly vulnerable, with millions having become homeless due to natural disasters, privatization, or other kinds of removal.<sup>4</sup> UN-Habitat works closely with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) with particular focus on Goal 11, which is to “make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.”<sup>5</sup> UN-Habitat operates under its United Nations General Assembly Mandate, set out in the *Vancouver Declaration of Human Settlements*.<sup>6</sup> Through this mandate, UN-Habitat works to find ways to increase and continue the development of “socially and environmentally” sustainable housing for all.<sup>7</sup> This committee has the task of not just finding ways to provide housing, but sustainable housing for the world. In addition to being a necessary part of the SDG 11 requirement, the Secretary-General has made it clear during his tenure that sustainability in all areas of life is vital to the future of the planet and the global community.

#### **Background:**

##### *Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements (Habitat I)*

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). “World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization.” 2020.

<sup>2</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). “Annual Report.” 2020.

<sup>3</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). “Priorities 2022-2023: Adequate Housing, Cities and Climate Change, and Localising the Sustainable Development Goals.” 2022.

<sup>4</sup> United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. “Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing.” 2021.

<sup>5</sup> United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. “Sustainable Development: Goal 11.” n.d.

<sup>6</sup> United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. “Vancouver Declaration of Human Settlements.” A/CON.70/15. 1976

<sup>7</sup> Ibid.

The *Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements*, or *Habitat I*, was the catalyst for the UN-Habitat and gave a clear direction for future work in the realm of human dwellings and the right to adequate housing. Published in 1976, *Habitat I* was the result of the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. *Habitat I* acknowledged the need for a specific focus on housing for all, citing factors such as the role adequate housing plays in economic and social progress, the effect of income inequality on adequate housing, social and environmental breakdown, population growth, urbanization and rural population changes, and forced migration.<sup>7</sup> *Habitat I* also emphasized the projects and goals outlined in the document be planned, accomplished, and maintained by all people.<sup>8</sup> The United Nations Conference on Human Settlements committee made it clear that ideologies like “colonialism, foreign aggression and occupation, domination, apartheid, and all forms of racism and racial discrimination...” have no place within member states and the global community.<sup>9</sup> Additionally, *Habitat I*, in its sections on how to achieve the goals laid out in the preamble, identified time as a resource and urged Member States to take it into consideration when planning and building settlements.<sup>10</sup> *Habitat I* encouraged Member States to build settlements near or with societal pillars such as schools, hospitals, jobs, and markets.<sup>11</sup> It was also this foundational document that paved the way for the creation of this committee, the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat).<sup>12</sup>

### *Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements*

The *Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements (Habitat II)* states “adequate shelter means more than a roof over one’s head. It also means adequate privacy; adequate space; physical accessibility...” *Habitat II* was a focused look at not just housing, as already covered in *Habitat I*, but at sustainable housing.<sup>13</sup> *Habitat II* refers to the state of human settlements (in the year 1996) as having “reached crisis proportions.”<sup>14</sup> The Conference expressed concern regarding urban overpopulation, homelessness, poor urban planning, and a lack of resources in Member States.<sup>15</sup> *Habitat II* also acknowledged the interconnectedness of rural and urban development and called for extra emphasis to be placed on communities beyond large urban centers.<sup>16</sup> Finally, the *Istanbul Declaration* provided the United Nations with *The Habitat Agenda*, which laid

---

<sup>8</sup> Ibid.

<sup>9</sup> Ibid.

<sup>10</sup> Ibid.

<sup>11</sup> Ibid.

<sup>12</sup> United Nations. Conferences. Habitat. “United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - Habitat I Vancouver, Canada, 31 May-11 June 1976.” N.d.

<sup>13</sup> United Nations General Assembly. “The Habitat Agenda: Chapter IV: B. Adequate shelter for all.” A/CONF.165/14. June 14, June 14 1996.

<sup>14</sup> United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). “Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements.” A/CONF.165/14. June 14 1996.

<sup>15</sup> Ibid.

<sup>16</sup> Ibid.

out four goals: adequate shelter for all, sustainable human settlements, capacity-building and institutional development, and international cooperation and coordination.<sup>17</sup>

### *The Importance and Challenges of Sustainable Housing in Urban Areas*

A common theme in UN Habitat documents and other work continues to be creating and providing people not simply with a place to live, but a sustainable place to live. This work calls back to *The Habitat Agenda*, in which the United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II) encouraged “the development of environmentally sound and affordable construction methods and the production and distribution of building materials, including strengthening the indigenous building materials industry, based as far as possible on locally available resources.”<sup>18</sup> UN-Habitat aids Member States in finding ways to reduce pollution, increase their efficiency and better steward natural resources, and restructuring regions and communities to combat climate change in their own neighborhoods.<sup>19</sup> While organizations like the United Nations Environmental Assembly and UN-Habitat have successfully raised awareness about the effects of climate change and the need for sustainable solutions and changes, many Member States find themselves unable to shoulder the challenge of sustainability on their own.<sup>20</sup> Challenges include financial strain, effects of instability within a region, and the continuing COVID-19 pandemic. UN-Habitat’s 2022-2023 Priorities include addressing this challenge by investing \$5 million USD/year in 10 cities for five years to help build “climate smart urban basic services.”<sup>21</sup>

### *Migrant Communities*

The International Office for Migration provides the following helpful definition and distinctions of migrants:

“Migrant: An umbrella term, not defined under international law, reflecting the common lay understanding of a person who moves away from his or place of usual residence, whether within a country or across an international border, temporarily or permanently, and for a variety of reasons. The term includes a number of well-defined legal categories of people, such as migrant workers, persons whose particular types of movements are legally defined, such as smuggled migrants; as well as those whose status or means of movement are not specifically defined under international law, such as international students.”<sup>22</sup>

---

<sup>17</sup> United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). “The Habitat Agenda.” A/CONF.165.14. June 14 1996.

<sup>18</sup> Ibid.

<sup>19</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Annual Report. “Domain of Change 3: Strengthened Climate Action and Improved Urban Environment.” 2020.

<sup>20</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). “Priorities 2022-2023: Adequate Housing, Cities and Climate Change, and Localising the Sustainable Development Goals.” 2022.

<sup>21</sup> Ibid.

<sup>22</sup> United Nations Migration. International Office of Migration. “International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration.” 2019.

According to the *International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration*, migrant communities often face discrimination and ostracization by citizens and political leaders within the host country.<sup>23</sup> Combatting fear or hatred calls for on-the-ground change in officials, laws, and societies at all levels of government and society.<sup>24</sup> Cities which embrace human mobility and migration as a more common and accepted way of life and restructure their communities and services accordingly will pave the way for other cities and Member States to follow.<sup>25</sup> UN-Habitat continues to encourage the joining of forces between citizens and political leaders from all statuses and Member States to increase communication in order to build a more unified urban governance. This unified urban governance can help ensure migrant communities are able to access the full spectrum of their rights as humans. UN-Habitat also encourages local government leaders be given the resources and tools they need from national leaders to aid the migrants in their own communities and to reduce the delay between requesting and receiving aid, data, documents, and more.<sup>26</sup>

In its work, the *Local Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees: A Gateway to Existing Ideas, Resources, and Capacities for Cities Across the World*, UN-Habitat reminds us the task of not only overcoming discrimination but also outdated urban planning is a vast undertaking. UN-Habitat encourages Member States and their city leaders to start with data collection.<sup>27</sup> UN-Habitat urges this to be done through a participatory process which will enable local officials and citizens to see this as a chance to better their communities and know their input will be heard by national leadership.<sup>28</sup>

Data collection, especially in an urban setting, can pose a challenge to Member States who may not be able to provide the infrastructure they want to carry out this project. To that end, UN-Habitat has provided a clear guide on how to implement urban redevelopment to consider migrant communities to be utilized by national, regional, or local governing bodies in its publication, *Integrating Migration into Urban Development Interventions: A Toolkit for International Cooperation and Development Actors*.<sup>29</sup>

## **Current Situation:**

### *Balancing Urbanization and Rural Development*

With the promise that “no one will be left behind,” A/RES/70/1 (“Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development”) put forward the Sustainable

---

<sup>23</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). “Local Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees: A gateway to existing ideas, resources, and capacities for cities across the world.” 2020.

<sup>24</sup> Ibid.

<sup>25</sup> Ibid.

<sup>26</sup> Ibid.

<sup>27</sup> Ibid.

<sup>28</sup> Ibid.

<sup>29</sup> International Organization for Migration. “Integrating Migration into Urban Development Interventions: A Toolkit for International Cooperation and Development Actors.” 2021

Development Goals.<sup>30</sup> UN Habitat works closely with the Department of Economic and Social Affairs to reach the SDGs, and one key area in which UN Habitat currently works is the relationship between urbanization and rural development. UN Habitat has recently turned its focus to Urban Rural Linkages.<sup>31</sup> This plan includes identifying and implementing ways to create food security systems, encourage sustainability in each area's unique situation, planning for not just urban areas but also rural regions, streamlining movement from area to area, data collection, and crisis management and preparation.<sup>32</sup> Communication between rural and urban governments, along with national, regional, and global leaders is a critical first step.<sup>33</sup> Additionally, Member States now have access to the resource *The International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning (IG-UTP)* which provides "a global framework for improving policies, plans, design, and implementation processes..." Germany and Denmark worked together to address outlying areas of some of their largest metropolises to ensure that no part of the cities were left behind.<sup>34</sup> Ecuador created the Human Mobility Unit to aid refugees coming into its borders with legal aid, job training, and social integration.<sup>35</sup>

### *Aiding Local Governments in Serving Migrant Communities*

Migrant communities are each unique in their culture, societal structure, and status in respect to the native community. *The New Urban Agenda* firmly holds that all migrant communities deserve a equal quality of life, to be involved in progress and change, and be allowed to aid local governments in melding their society with the city.<sup>36</sup> This can come in the form of "workplace protections, cultural competency, civil participation, advisory committees, and disaggregated indicators."<sup>37</sup> *The Urban Profiling in Humanitarian and Development Contexts: A Guide for Turkish Municipalities Impacted by Migration and the Syrian Refugee Crisis* details the challenges, struggles, and success of Turkey and Syrian refugees to handle the influx of Syrians as the Syrian Civil War broke out and continues to this day.<sup>38</sup> This document is a vital resource to give Member States a general framework to modify as their unique situation requires in order to serve all persons living within their borders. Gaining knowledge from other Member States provides the global community with an open forum from which to gain information and aid.

### **Future Outlook:**

---

<sup>30</sup> United Nations General Assembly. "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A/RES/70/1. October 21, 2015.

<sup>31</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Urban-Rural Linkages." N.d.

<sup>32</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Implementing the New Urban Agenda by Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages: Leave No One and No Space Behind." 2017.

<sup>33</sup> Ibid.

<sup>34</sup> Ibid.

<sup>35</sup> Ibid.

<sup>36</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "The New Urban Agenda." 2020.

<sup>37</sup> Ibid.

<sup>38</sup> United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Urban Profiling in Humanitarian and Development Contexts: A Guide for Turkish Municipalities Impacted by Migration and the Syrian Refugee Crisis." 2020.

The international community's progress in better identifying needs and challenges has come slowly over the last several decades, but as UN Habitat has gained a better grasp of global needs and the United Nations continues to give the issues of sustainable housing and the inclusion of migrant communities the attention they need, UN-Habitat has provided foundational plans and concrete goals. However, the international community must find ways to implement and utilize the resources provided by UN-Habitat. The SDG deadline is coming up as well as multiple population, environmental, and resource benchmarks. UN-Habitat continues to attempt to not only provide sustainable housing, but now also could seek to increase beyond what is needed in this day and age to provide for future generations.

Migrant communities are a vulnerable population who must be protected and provided for along with Member States' citizens. UN-Habitat and Member States continue to fight for desegregation of urban communities and discrimination against migrants within those communities. Migrants must be included in the organization and execution of urban planning projects to ensure they have a voice in return for all the cultural, societal, and economic contributions they make to any host State.

**Focus Questions:**

1. What programs does your State have to balance urbanization with rural development?
2. How is your State's Ministry of Housing addressing sustainability in housing development?
3. In what ways can your Member State enhance the lives of migrants living within your borders?
4. Does your Member State have a data collection program to enhance sustainable urban planning?
5. How does your Member State ensure inclusion for small towns or villages that may not be easily defined as either "urban" or "rural?"

## Bibliography

International Organization for Migration. "Integrating Migration into Urban Development Interventions: A toolkit for international cooperation and developmental actors." 2021. <https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/02/urban-development-migration-toolkit.pdf>

United Nations. Conferences. Habitat. "United Nations Conference on Human Settlements - Habitat I Vancouver, Canada, 31 May-11 June 1976." N.d. <https://www.un.org/en/conferences/habitat/vancouver1976>

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II). "Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements." A/CONF.165/14. June 14, 1996. <http://www.un-documents.net/ist-dec.htm>

United Nations Conference on Human Settlements. "Vancouver Declaration of Human Settlements." A/CON.70/15. 1976. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N76/967/11/PDF/N7696711.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs. "Sustainable Development: Goal 11." n.d. <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>

United Nations General Assembly. "Follow-up to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and strengthening of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)." A/RES/75/224. 2020. <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/N20/380/05/PDF/N2038005.pdf?OpenElement>

United Nations General Assembly. "The Habitat Agenda: Chapter IV: B. Adequate shelter for all." A/CONF.165/14. June 14, 1996. <http://www.un-documents.net/ha-4b.htm>

United Nations General Assembly. "Transforming Our World: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." A/RES/70/1. October 21, 2015. [https://www.un.org/ga/search/view\\_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E](https://www.un.org/ga/search/view_doc.asp?symbol=A/RES/70/1&Lang=E)

United Nations Human Rights Office of the High Commissioner. "Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing." 2021. <https://www.ohchr.org/en/special-procedures/sr-housing>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). <https://unhabitat.org/>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Annual Report." 2021. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/05/annual\\_progress\\_report\\_2020\\_final.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/05/annual_progress_report_2020_final.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). Annual Report. "Domain of Change 3: Strengthened Climate Action and Improved Urban Environment." 2020. <https://unhabitat.org/annualreport/domain-of-change-3.html>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Guidance for Responding to Displacement in Urban Areas." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/03/unhcr\\_unhabitat\\_urban\\_guidance\\_report.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2022/03/unhcr_unhabitat_urban_guidance_report.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Implementing the New Urban Agenda by Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages: Leave No One and No Space Behind." 2017. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/download-manager-files/Urban%20Rural%20Linkages%20for%20implementing%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda\\_08112017.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/download-manager-files/Urban%20Rural%20Linkages%20for%20implementing%20the%20New%20Urban%20Agenda_08112017.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Local Inclusion of Migrants and Refugees: A gateway to existing ideas, resources, and capacities for cities across the world." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/local\\_inclusion\\_multipartner\\_guidance\\_.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/local_inclusion_multipartner_guidance_.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Priorities 2022-2023: Adequate Housing, Cities and Climate Change, and Localising the Sustainable Development Goals." 2022. [https://unhabitat.org/priorities-2022-2023-adequate-housing-cities-and-climate-change-and-localising-sdgshttps://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/local\\_inclusion\\_multipartner\\_guidance\\_.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/priorities-2022-2023-adequate-housing-cities-and-climate-change-and-localising-sdgshttps://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/01/local_inclusion_multipartner_guidance_.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "The New Urban Agenda." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/nua\\_handbook\\_14dec2020\\_2.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/nua_handbook_14dec2020_2.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "UN-Habitat: for a Better Urban Future Annual Report 2020." 2021 <https://unhabitat.org/annualreport/>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "UN-Habitat 2020 Catalogue of Services." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/08/unhabitat\\_2020\\_catalogue\\_of\\_services.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/08/unhabitat_2020_catalogue_of_services.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2020-2023." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/10/strategic\\_plan\\_2020-2023-overview.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2021/10/strategic_plan_2020-2023-overview.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Urban Profiling in Humanitarian and Development Contexts: A Guide for Turkish Municipalities Impacted by Migration and the Syrian Refugee Crisis." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/2-reslog\\_kit\\_profil\\_yontemleri\\_eng\\_online.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/12/2-reslog_kit_profil_yontemleri_eng_online.pdf)

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "Urban-Rural Linkages." N.d. <https://unhabitat.org/topic/urban-rural-linkages#:~:text=Urban%2DRural%20Linkages%20touch%20on,mobility%20and%20migration%2C%20reducing%20the>

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat). "World Cities Report 2020: The Value of Sustainable Urbanization." 2020. [https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/10/wcr\\_2020\\_report.pdf](https://unhabitat.org/sites/default/files/2020/10/wcr_2020_report.pdf)

International Office of Migration. "International Migration Law: Glossary on Migration." 2019. [https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml\\_34\\_glossary.pdf](https://publications.iom.int/system/files/pdf/iml_34_glossary.pdf)



## ***United Nations Human Settlements Programme***

### **Topic II: Development of Sustainable Water Infrastructure for SDG 6**

#### **Introduction**

Sustainable water infrastructure is an essential part of UN Habitat and Sustainable Development Goals. Sustainable Development Goal 6 (SDG 6) aims to bring available and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all and this development to achieve SDG 6 is crucial to improve communities. SDG 6 targets to achieve universal and safe access to drinking water, to provide adequate sanitation programs to end open defecation, reduce pollution and harmful chemicals within waterways, to increase water efficiency in water scarce environments, to implement water resource management at all governing and stakeholder levels, to protect and restore water reliant ecosystems, to expand international cooperation and capacity-building, and strengthen participation of local communities.<sup>1</sup> The importance of SDG 6 is at the heart of the UN Habitat mandate, to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for everyone.<sup>2</sup>

During 2020, 2 billion global citizens lacked safely managed drinking water, 3.6 billion lacked safely managed sanitation stations, and 2.3 billion lacked basic hygiene. A third of the world's population lack home hand washing facilities, allowing a higher risk to Covid-19 transmission and other illnesses where it's a fundamental impact for combating spread of. Unfortunately, in the efforts to reach SDG 6, 129 member states are not on track to have sustainable water resources by 2030. To achieve any of the other SDGs, these numbers impacting SDG 6 must be addressed.<sup>3</sup> UN Habitat identifies a need to strengthen planning, budgeting, and investment of water within communities for sanitation, equality, and health.

#### **Background**

UN-Habitat created "The Strategic Plan 2020-2023" which aims to reduce spatial inequality and poverty within urban-rural communities, enhance shared prosperity of cities and regions, strengthen climate action, improve urban environment, and increase effective urban crises prevention and response with resilience and safety measures.<sup>4</sup>

The United Nations International Children's Fund (UNICEF) began to address this topic in a variety of methods, including the creation of the Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) programme.<sup>5</sup> WASH aims to focus on capacity building, hygiene education,

---

<sup>1</sup> United Nations. "Goal 6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." Sdgs.un.org, 2021.

<sup>2</sup> "UN-Habitat - a Better Urban Future | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org, unhabitat.org.

<sup>3</sup> Sanitation and Water for All. "Why SDG 6 Matters." *Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)*, 30 Jan. 2020, www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/about-us/water-sanitation-hygiene/why-sdg-6-matters.

<sup>4</sup> "Our Strategy | UN-Habitat." Unhabitat.org, unhabitat.org/our-strategy.

<sup>5</sup> UNICEF. "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene." *UNICEF*, 2021, www.unicef.org/wash.

and work in tandem with other UN Bodies and NGOs to construct facilities and spread awareness on the importance of sanitation. WASH is a leader in highlighting that universal access to facilities and clean water are essential for sustainable development.<sup>6</sup> For the program to be efficient, WASH requires strong national policies, financial systems, and monitoring in order to be sustainable, resilient, and reliable. In many Member States institutional structures are fragile, and Member States that cannot fund WASH services are faced with a need to have better coordination between governments and development partners. WASH makes efforts to combat how budgets are often set to meet historical patterns vs needs of the population, and how the private sector investment is insufficient due to lack of legal frameworks, associated risks, and low returns within the water and sanitation business. It's believed that without strong governance, funding for sanitation and water is hard to account for.

In response to developing sustainable infrastructure for water systems, UNICEF has created a number of different monitoring programs to determine progress. These programs include the Joint Monitoring Programme, a leading source of estimates towards progress within SDG 6.<sup>7</sup> Sanitation and Water for All, a global partnership with WASH for global stakeholders to coordinate accountability and resource allocation through Member States.<sup>8</sup> As well as UN-Water, a body created to coordinate the United Nations work in areas of water and sanitation. Prior to the creation of UN-Water, there wasn't an existing UN body dedicated solely to water. UN-Water coordinates over 30 UN organizations that work with water to promote a uniform response to inform policies, monitor and report, and inspire action when addressing water concerns. UN-Water has played a lead role in passing agreements such as the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *2015-2030 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*, the *2015 Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development*, and the *2015 Paris Agreement within the UN Convention Framework on Climate Change*, while shaping SDG 6 and its target goals.<sup>9</sup> Other UNICEF programs designed to implement and estimate progress toward SDG 6. Include WASH 4 Work, a program founded by UNICEF to implement sanitation stations within the workplace.<sup>10</sup> The Merieux Foundation, in which UNICEF holds a leadership role, aimed to fight infectious diseases within developing states, especially for women and children.<sup>11</sup> This program also strives to increase access to diagnostics for vulnerable populations, exchange local research opportunities, encourage education and public health initiatives, and improve the lives of mothers and children through a global approach. *The Menstrual Health Hub*, supported by UNICEF to leverage the private sector for financing, information, social change, and system strengthening, to monitor and create menstrual empowerment through

---

<sup>6</sup> UNICEF. "Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Systems." *Www.unicef.org*, [www.unicef.org/wash/strengthening-systems](http://www.unicef.org/wash/strengthening-systems).

<sup>7</sup> WHO, UNICEF. "Data | JMP." *Washdata.org*, 2018, [washdata.org/data](http://washdata.org/data).

<sup>8</sup> Sanitation and Water for All. "A Global Partnership to Achieve Universal Access to Clean Water and Adequate Sanitation." *Sanitation and Water for All (SWA)*, 30 Jan. 2020, [www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/](http://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/).

<sup>9</sup> UN Water. "About UN-Water | UN-Water." *UN-Water*, 2015, [www.unwater.org/about-unwater/](http://www.unwater.org/about-unwater/).

<sup>10</sup> WASH 4 Work. "Mission." *WASH4Work*, [wash4work.org/mission/](http://wash4work.org/mission/).

<sup>11</sup> The Merieux Foundation. "What We Do." *Mérieux Foundation*, 17 Sept. 2013, [www.fondation-merieux.org/en/what-we-do/](http://www.fondation-merieux.org/en/what-we-do/).

education, hygiene, and health.<sup>12</sup> Finally, there is UNICEF Evaluation. A program dedicated for capacity building and creating evaluation reports within the water sector.<sup>13</sup>

## **Current Situation**

### *Prevention of Covid-19 and infectious diseases.*

Over 95% of documented Covid cases have occurred within urban areas.<sup>14</sup> In 2020 UN-Habitat created a Covid-19 Response Plan which addresses urban density problems faced by over 1 billion people due to informal settlements, slums, displacement, and migration. This infrastructure can create basic handwashing stations and soap access to be inaccessible, a necessity to stop spread of infection. Within this action plan UN-Habitat focused on three major areas to support local governments and community projects within informal settlements, provide data-based knowledge for informed decisions, and mitigate the economic impact to initiate recovery. Other programs include The Merieux Foundation, who work alongside UN-Habitat and ECOSOC, created to fight infectious diseases while supporting SDG 6.2 as women and children often feel the deepest impact from lack of water infrastructure. The Merieux Foundation works to build collaboration through partnerships, build networks, support a sustainable long term vision, and take on a global health approach.

### *Impact on Crops and Food Insecurity*

As of 2018, 2.3 billion people live in water stressed countries. While sanitation and hygiene are an utmost concern, there is also an impact on crops whereas from 1970-2015 natural wetlands shrank by 35% through 1970-2015, tripled the rate of forest loss.<sup>15</sup> A report in March 2022 was released by UN-Habitat and the United Nations World Food Programme that addresses the impact of the pandemic within Sub-Saharan Africa's urban poor. It highlighted that the lack of WASH systems and reliance on informal food markets, which faced closures during the pandemic, had placed 68.1 million in Sub-Saharan Africa at risk of food insecurity. Oumar Sylla, Director of the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Africa was quoted, "With the number of Africa's urban population projected to increase to 1.5 billion by 2050, collaborations in policy design, implementation and assessments across governments and agencies that work on health, WASH and social welfare is ultimately necessary to enhance programming an address multiple dimensions of urban deprivation".<sup>16</sup> SDG 6 Target Goals 6.6, 6.a, and 6.b address water efficiency, protection of the environment, and strengthening of local communities that our food resources deeply rely upon.

---

<sup>12</sup> The Menstrual Health Hub. "MH Hub - Strengthening the Global Female Health Ecosystem." *Mhhub.org*, [mhhub.org/about](https://mhhub.org/about).

<sup>13</sup> UNICEF Evaluation. "Evaluation." *www.unicef.org*, [www.unicef.org/evaluation/](https://www.unicef.org/evaluation/).

<sup>14</sup> UN-Habitat. "UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan." 2020.

<sup>15</sup> United Nations. "Goal 6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *Sdgs.un.org*, 2021, [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6).

<sup>16</sup> Dakar, et al. "Food Insecurity a Real Concern among the Urban Poor in Sub-Saharan Africa Following Pandemic – New Report Shows | UN-Habitat." *Unhabitat.org*, 11 Mar. 2022, [unhabitat.org/food-insecurity-a-real-concern-among-the-urban-poor-in-sub-saharan-africa-following-pandemic-new#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20World%20Food%20Programme%20is%20the%20world](https://unhabitat.org/food-insecurity-a-real-concern-among-the-urban-poor-in-sub-saharan-africa-following-pandemic-new#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20World%20Food%20Programme%20is%20the%20world).

## *Improved Urban Environment*

SDG 6 is an important contributor for Sustainable Development Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.<sup>17</sup> SDG 11 aims to reduce slums within Asia and Africa, and is alarmed that only half of 156 countries' urban development plans are in the implementation stage, and that only half of the world has access to convenient public transit. Target goals 11.5 and 11.C hone in on water related issues, where target 11.5 aims to significantly reduce the impact of disasters, including water-related. With the implementation of WASH programmes, it would contribute to fighting infectious diseases and improving food scarcity within urban environments to benefit informal settlements.

## **Future Outlook**

As UN Habitat works towards the future, goals to significantly improve access to water and sanitation are underway. UNICEF aims to invest in handwashing for all, to enable systems for 3 billion people who don't have hand washing access at home.<sup>18</sup> Efforts to implement Sustainability Checks are underway, coordinated efforts for WASH stations to investigate the functionality of water systems as well as the cultural climate around them.<sup>19</sup> Since 2008, there have been 35 sustainability checks conducted within various Member States but the methods utilized have made these checks inconsistent to compare with each other. UN Habitat believes that there's benefits to the community, children, and sustainability through these checks to create a cycle for water systems that would Monitor, Adapt, Plan, and Act for long lasting functionality of WASH Stations. This accountability measure is also highlighted within *UNICEFs Strategic Plan 2018-2021* with a goal to implement Sustainability Checks within national monitoring systems, and checks have been carried out by UNICEF, WaterAid, the Water Supply and Sanitation Council, and international water companies. These checks hold different data sources for Water Systems, Community Sanitation and Hygiene, and Schools and Health Centers in which the findings are reported to stakeholders and government officials to act upon. Of the programs that provide Sustainability Checks, The UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking Water (GLASS) monitors SDG 6 target goals 6a and 6b, and the WASH Bottleneck Analysis Tool (WASH Bat) creates an evidence based approach for strategies multi sector investors may utilize to remove bottlenecks, systems that may cause delay, within a system.<sup>20,21</sup> Finally, The World Bank published a study, *The Cost of Meeting the 2030 Sustainable development*

---

<sup>17</sup> "Goal 11 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." *Sdgs.un.org*, 2021, [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11](https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11).

<sup>18</sup> UNICEF. "Investing in Hand Hygiene for All as We Build a next and Better Normal." *Www.unicef.org*, [www.unicef.org/documents/investing-hand-hygiene-all-we-build-next-and-better-normal](https://www.unicef.org/documents/investing-hand-hygiene-all-we-build-next-and-better-normal).

<sup>19</sup> UNICEF. "Sustainability Checks: Guidance to Design and Implement Sustainability Monitoring in WASH." *Www.unicef.org*.

<sup>20</sup> ---. "UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) Archives." *UN-Water*.

<sup>21</sup> WASH Bat. "WashBat".

Goal Targets on Drinking Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene<sup>22</sup>, which believes capital investments are necessary to achieve sustainable foundations for drinking water.

### **Focus Questions**

- In what ways are Member States impacted through Urban Sprawl, the uncontrolled expansion of Urban Areas, in their effort to achieve SDG Goal 6? Focus question 2?
- How can Member States coordinate to combat Covid 19 and infectious diseases through SDG 6?
- What is the desired impact of Sustainability Checks for WASH systems in developing Member States, and how may it be coordinated between Member States?
- In what ways would Urban Environments improve through SDG 6?
- What international actions are your Member State taking to support SDG 6?

---

<sup>22</sup> Hutton, Guy, and Claire Chase. "The Knowledge Base for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 13, no. 6, 27 May 2016, p. 536.

## Bibliography

UN-Habitat. "Accountability | UN-Habitat." UN-Habitat. N.d. [unhabitat.org/about-us/accountability](https://unhabitat.org/about-us/accountability).

MMUN. "Committee Materials – MMUN." MMUN. 27 Nov. 2011, [mmun.org/delegate-resources/committee-materials/](https://mmun.org/delegate-resources/committee-materials/).

Dakar, et al. "Food Insecurity a Real Concern among the Urban Poor in Sub-Saharan Africa Following Pandemic – New Report Shows | UN-Habitat." UN-Habitat. 11 Mar. 2022. [unhabitat.org/food-insecurity-a-real-concern-among-the-urban-poor-in-sub-saharan-africa-following-pandemic-new#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20World%20Food%20Programme%20is%20the%20world](https://unhabitat.org/food-insecurity-a-real-concern-among-the-urban-poor-in-sub-saharan-africa-following-pandemic-new#:~:text=The%20United%20Nations%20World%20Food%20Programme%20is%20the%20world).

UN-Habitat. "Governance | UN-Habitat." UN-Habitat. N.d. [unhabitat.org/governance](https://unhabitat.org/governance).

Hutton, Guy, and Claire Chase. "The Knowledge Base for Achieving the Sustainable Development Goal Targets on Water Supply, Sanitation and Hygiene." *International Journal of Environmental Research and Public Health*, vol. 13, no. 6, p536. 27 May 2016. [www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4923993/](https://www.ncbi.nlm.nih.gov/pmc/articles/PMC4923993/), 10.3390/ijerph13060536.

UN-Habitat. "Metropolitan Management | UN-Habitat." UN-Habitat. N.d. [unhabitat.org/topic/metropolitan-management](https://unhabitat.org/topic/metropolitan-management).

OHCHR. "OHCHR | OHCHR and the Right to Adequate Housing." OHCHR. N.d. [www.ohchr.org/en/housing](https://www.ohchr.org/en/housing).

UN-Habitat. "Our Strategy | UN-Habitat." UN-Habitat. N.d. [unhabitat.org/our-strategy](https://unhabitat.org/our-strategy).

Pories, L., et al. "Mobilizing Finance for WASH : Getting the Foundations Right." [www.ircwash.org](https://www.ircwash.org). 2019. [www.ircwash.org/resources/mobilising-finance-wash-getting-foundations-right](https://www.ircwash.org/resources/mobilising-finance-wash-getting-foundations-right).

Sanitation and Water for All. "A Global Partnership to Achieve Universal Access to Clean Water and Adequate Sanitation." Sanitation and Water for All (SWA). 30 Jan. 2020. [www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/](https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/).

Sanitation and Water for All. "Why SDG 6 Matters." Sanitation and Water for All (SWA). 30 Jan. 2020. [www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/about-us/water-sanitation-hygiene/why-sdg-6-matters](https://www.sanitationandwaterforall.org/about/about-us/water-sanitation-hygiene/why-sdg-6-matters).

Mhhub. The Menstrual Health Hub. "MH Hub - Strengthening the Global Female Health Ecosystem." Mhhub.org. [mhhub.org/about](https://mhhub.org/about).

The Merieux Foundation. "What We Do." Mériex Foundation. 17 Sept. 2013. [www.fondation-merieux.org/en/what-we-do/](https://www.fondation-merieux.org/en/what-we-do/).

UN-Water. "About UN-Water | UN-Water." UN-Water. 2015. [www.unwater.org/about-unwater/](http://www.unwater.org/about-unwater/).

UN-Water. "UN-Water Global Analysis and Assessment of Sanitation and Drinking-Water (GLAAS) Archives." UN-Water. N.d. [www.unwater.org/publication\\_categories/glaas/](http://www.unwater.org/publication_categories/glaas/).

UN-Habitat. "UN-Habitat COVID-19 Response Plan." 2020.

UN-Habitat. "UN-Habitat - a Better Urban Future | UN-Habitat." [Unhabitat.org](http://Unhabitat.org).

UNICEF. "Investing in Hand Hygiene for All as We Build a next and Better Normal." [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). N.d. [www.unicef.org/documents/investing-hand-hygiene-all-we-build-next-and-better-normal](http://www.unicef.org/documents/investing-hand-hygiene-all-we-build-next-and-better-normal).

UNICEF. "Strengthening Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Systems." [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). N.d. [www.unicef.org/wash/strengthening-systems](http://www.unicef.org/wash/strengthening-systems).

UNICEF. "Sustainability Checks: Guidance to Design and Implement Sustainability Monitoring in WASH." [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). N.d. [www.unicef.org/documents/sustainability-checks-guidance-design-and-implement-sustainability-monitoring-wash](http://www.unicef.org/documents/sustainability-checks-guidance-design-and-implement-sustainability-monitoring-wash).

UNICEF. "Water, Sanitation and Hygiene." UNICEF. 2021. [www.unicef.org/wash](http://www.unicef.org/wash).

UNICEF Evaluation. "Evaluation." [www.unicef.org](http://www.unicef.org). N.d. [www.unicef.org/evaluation/](http://www.unicef.org/evaluation/).

United Nations. "Goal 6 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." [Sdgs.un.org](http://Sdgs.un.org). 2021. [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6](http://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal6).

United Nations. "Goal 11 | Department of Economic and Social Affairs." [Sdgs.un.org](http://Sdgs.un.org). 2021. [sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11](http://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11).

WASH 4 Work. "Mission." WASH4Work. N.d. [wash4work.org/mission/](http://wash4work.org/mission/).

WASH Bat. "WashBat." WASH Bat. N.d. [www.washbat.org/](http://www.washbat.org/).

WHO, UNICEF. "Data | JMP." [Washdata.org](http://Washdata.org). 2018. [washdata.org/data](http://washdata.org/data).