

PACIFIC 2026-2029



SUB-REGIONAL PROGRAMME OVERVIEW

"A better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world."





UN-Habitat ROAP Sub-regional Programme Overview

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CONTENT

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	4
REGIONAL ANALYSIS	5
FACTSHEET	7
URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES	8
HOUSING, LAND AND BASIC SERVICES	10
CLIMATE CHANGE	12
RECENT AND ONGOING INTERVENTIONS	14
REGIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT	16
IMPACT STORY	18
REGIONAL FOCUS	19
PLANNED INTERVENTIONS	20
REPORTS AND PUBLICATIONS	24

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

OVERVIEW

UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) developed this Sub-regional Pacific Programme Overview to engage partners and stakeholders in advancing sustainable urban development across the Pacific.

As the UN agency for cities and the built environment, UN-Habitat leads on Sustainable Development Goal 11 (SDG 11) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), promoting inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable urbanization to improve quality of life.

Through knowledge sharing, policy advice, technical support, and partnerships, UN-Habitat works with Pacific countries, governments, and regional organizations to build resilient cities and communities, leaving no one behind.

This overview provides a high-level framework while recognizing the critical role of local initiatives. UN-Habitat collaborates with communities and partners to ensure policies reflect local knowledge and diverse needs.

It also builds on outcomes from the Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) and aligns with the Pacific New Urban Agenda (PNUA) and the 2050 Strategy for the Blue Pacific Continent.

APPROACH

We seek to promote people's wellbeing, social equity, housing and informal settlement upgrading, by improving living conditions, reducing inequalities, and ensuring access to housing, basic services, and infrastructure for vulnerable communities, and emphasizes social inclusion, safety, and the right to adequate housing for all.

We seek to foster inclusive prosperity, urban economy, urban governance, localizing SDGs and supporting National Urban Policy by promoting inclusive economic growth, job creation, and sustainable urban development and encouraging effective governance, participatory decision-making, and policies, ensuring that no one and no place is left behind.

We aim to enhance urban climate resilience by adopting a climate resilient urban development framework, bringing together climate change adaptation and mitigation, natural asset protection, enhancement and actions supporting disaster risk reduction.

KEY PARTNERSHIPS

Working with the Pacific Urban Partnership (PUP), this Programme is embedded in a common institutional framework that emphasizes multi-level governance, the localization of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and multi-level climate action. UN-Habitat chairs both the Steering Committee of the Pacific Urban Partnership (PUP), currently composed of 10 organizations, and Organizing Committee of the Pacific Urban Forum (PUF).



Photo Credit: Taiperia Settlement, Lautoka, Fiji (Samantha Poncabare, 2026).

01 REGIONAL ANALYSIS

Across the Blue Pacific, urbanization is accelerating and uneven, reshaping the region's human geography as people, services, and investment concentrate in towns and cities that sit at the frontline of converging shocks and stresses. The current moment is defined by post-pandemic recovery, inflationary pressures, and shifting migration patterns, layered onto a long-running climate emergency that is already altering livelihoods, and settlement choices.

In this context, urban development is no longer a peripheral issue: it is central to the region's prospects for inclusive growth, resilience, and the realization of shared aspirations for the "Ocean Continent."

The Pacific urban transition is distinctive. Small, dispersed island systems, the prevalence of customary land tenure, and the geography of growth, often extending into low-lying coastal strips and steep hillslopes, create constraints that standard urban templates do not easily solve. These structural features complicate serviced-land supply, elevate the cost of infrastructure, and contribute to the expansion of informal and peri-urban settlements where tenure is insecure and basic services are inadequate. The result is a pattern of urbanization that is deeply place-based, with high exposure to cyclones, storm surge, flooding, and landslides, and with service and governance systems stretched by the pace and form of change.

At the same time, cities and towns anchor much of the region's economic life and will matter even more over the coming decades. The formal urban population is projected to double by 2050, with nearly one in two Pacific Islanders living in urban areas, while urban economies already account for a large share of national output-potential that remains under-realized where jobs, infrastructure, and institutions have not kept up. Critically, people and building assets exposed to major hazards are expected to more than double by mid-century, underscoring the imperative to couple urban growth with risk-informed planning, resilient infrastructure, and climate-sensitive housing and service.

Meeting this challenge requires moving beyond fragmented, project-by-project responses toward integrated platforms that connect evidence, planning, and finance. A practical approach in the Pacific context pairs city-specific diagnostics - trajectory and growth profiling, multi-hazard risk assessment, and mapping of settlement conditions and service gaps - with a portfolio of actions that strengthen risk-informed urban management, invest in resilient infrastructure and housing, enhance preparedness and response capacities, and prioritize social inclusion and community leadership.

In doing so, urban policy and investment can reflect the realities of tenure, geography, and scale in the Blue Pacific, translating regional priorities into locally led pathways that protect people and assets while unlocking the economic and social benefits of urbanization.



Photo Credit: Tuvalu (Bernhard Barth, 2015)
6

02 FACTSHEET

Urbanization trends across Pacific Island Countries and Territories (PICTs)
Source: State of Urbanization in the Blue Pacific Report, UN-Habitat (2025)

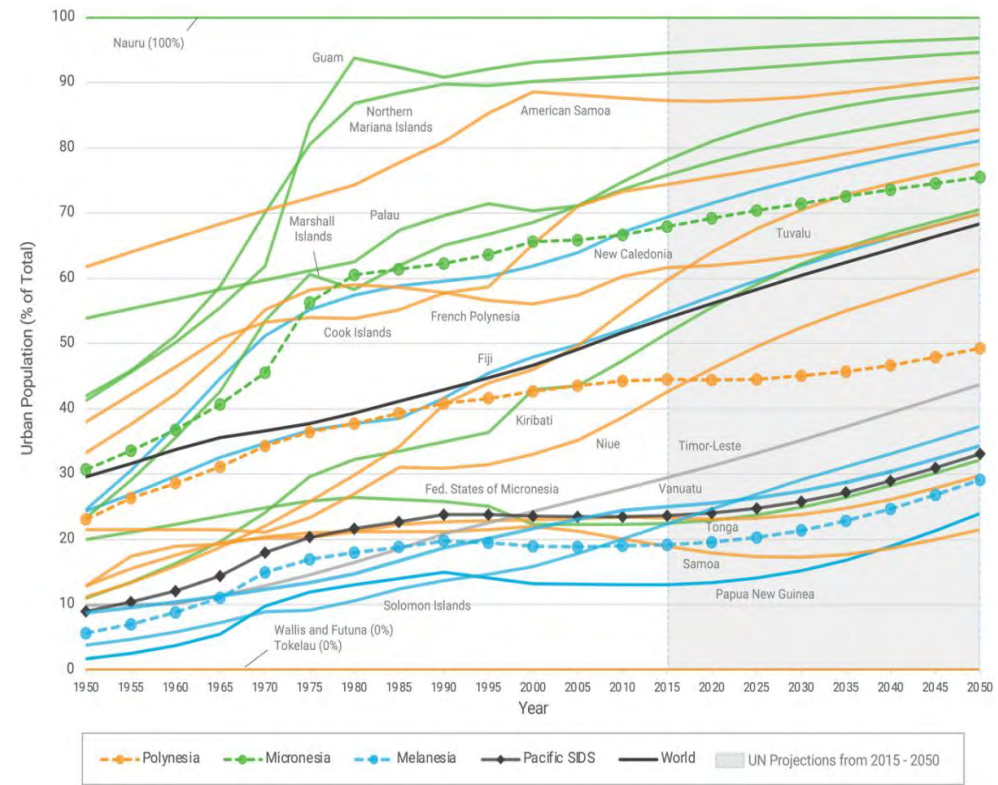
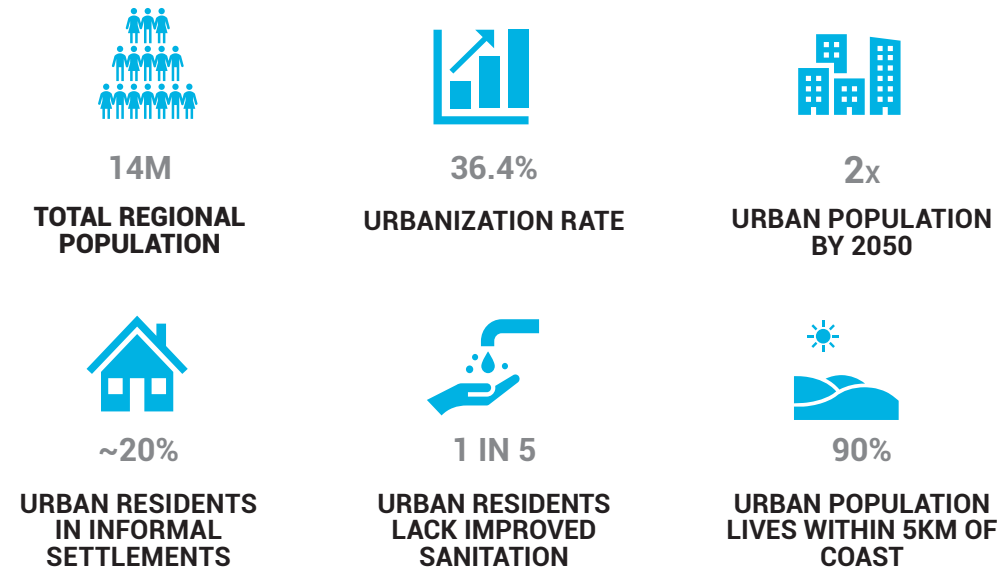


Figure 1: Estimates of Urbanization in the Pacific, derived from UN DESA's 2018 World Urbanization Prospects ([Trundle 2020](#))

03

URBAN CONTEXT AND CHALLENGES

Cities and towns across the Pacific are undergoing rapid transformation, driven by population growth, migration, and changing economic dynamics. While urbanization presents opportunities for development and improved livelihoods, it is also intensifying a set of interconnected challenges. These include the expansion of informal settlements, constraints in land and housing systems, persistent infrastructure and service gaps, and growing exposure to climate risks. Together, these pressures are shaping urban environments that are increasingly unequal and vulnerable, underscoring the urgent need for integrated, inclusive, and resilient approaches to urban development in the Pacific.

CHALLENGE 1: RAPID URBANIZATION AND INFORMALITY

Pacific cities are urbanising at an accelerated pace, with urban populations already exceeding long-term projections. In countries such as Solomon Islands and Papua New Guinea, cities like Honiara and Port Moresby have doubled in size within the past decade, with Greater Port Moresby projected to reach around one million residents. This rapid growth is largely informal: at least one in five urban residents—approximately 600,000 people—live in informal settlements, with even higher proportions in major cities. A significant share of households lack formal land tenure, reflecting the inability of planning systems to keep pace with expansion. As a result, urban growth is increasingly unregulated, contributing to widespread informality and spatial inequality.

CHALLENGE 2: LAND, HOUSING, AND AFFORDABILITY CONSTRAINTS

Land and housing systems present a major structural constraint to sustainable urban development. Overlapping customary, state, and freehold land tenure systems create widespread insecurity and complicate land administration and planning. Much of peri-urban expansion occurs on customary land, often outside formal regulatory frameworks. At the same time, housing supply remains far below demand, contributing to rising urban poverty, overcrowding, and the proliferation of substandard housing. Limited availability of safe and serviced land—combined with outdated cadastral systems and weak planning capacity—continues to constrain inclusive and affordable urban development.



Photo Credit: Apia, Samoa (Bernhard Barth, 2014)

CHALLENGE 3: INFRASTRUCTURE DEFICITS AND SERVICE INEQUALITY

Despite being central to national economies, generating over half of GDP, urban infrastructure and service provision have not kept pace with population growth. Many peri-urban communities lack access to basic services, including adequate sanitation, clean energy for cooking, and reliable water supply. Informal settlements are often excluded from formal water, sewerage, and drainage networks, leading to heavy reliance on shared or informal systems. These infrastructure deficits reinforce social and spatial inequalities, while also undermining public health, productivity, and overall urban resilience.

CHALLENGE 4: CLIMATE VULNERABILITY AND RISK EXPOSURE

Pacific cities and towns are also on the frontline of the climate crisis, facing increasing exposure to cyclones, flooding, and sea-level rise. Urban expansion is frequently concentrated in high-risk areas such as floodplains, coastal zones, and steep slopes, exacerbating vulnerability. Natural ecosystems, including mangroves, reefs, and wetlands, play a critical protective role but are under growing pressure from urbanization. At the same time, climate-induced displacement is accelerating rural-to-urban migration, further intensifying pressure on land, housing, and infrastructure systems. These intersecting risks pose significant challenges to long-term urban resilience and sustainable development.

04 HOUSING, LAND AND BASIC SERVICES

Housing, land, and basic services are among the most pressing urban challenges in Pacific Island Countries, shaped by rapid urbanization, limited land availability, and complex tenure systems. Urban growth has largely outpaced planning and infrastructure provision, resulting in the expansion of informal settlements, often in hazard-prone coastal or peri-urban areas. In cities such as Port Moresby and Honiara, more than half of buildings are estimated to be informal and lack secure land tenure, reflecting systemic constraints in land administration and housing supply. These dynamics are compounded by customary land ownership systems, which, while socially important, can limit formal land markets and complicate urban development and service delivery.

HOUSING

In terms of housing, affordability and adequacy remain critical concerns. Rising costs of construction materials, population pressures, and limited access to finance constrain the supply of formal housing, pushing low-income households into informal or substandard housing. These settlements are frequently located in areas exposed to flooding, landslides, or coastal hazards, increasing vulnerability to climate impacts. At the same time, insecure tenure discourages investment in durable, climate-resilient housing, reinforcing cycles of vulnerability and poverty. Addressing housing challenges requires integrated approaches that combine land reform, incremental upgrading, and support for community-led development, alongside investment in resilient and affordable housing solutions.

LAND

Land remains a central structural issue underpinning urban development in the Pacific. The predominance of customary land tenure systems creates both opportunities and constraints: while they provide social protection and identity, they often lack formal documentation and clarity needed for urban planning, infrastructure investment, and housing finance. Fragmented governance and limited institutional capacity further complicate land administration, resulting in inefficient land use, urban sprawl, and difficulties in implementing planned relocation or climate adaptation strategies. Strengthening land governance, through improved land information systems, participatory planning, and clearer frameworks for customary-formal land integration, is critical to enabling sustainable urban growth.



Photo Credit: Bairiki Village, Kiribati (Bernhard Barth, 2014)

BASIC SERVICES

Access to basic services, including water, sanitation, waste management, and transport, remains uneven and often inadequate, particularly in informal settlements. Infrastructure deficits are widespread, with many urban residents lacking reliable access to safe water and sanitation, contributing to public health risks and environmental degradation. As noted in the Livable Pacific Cities and Towns report, disparities in service provision persist across and within cities, disproportionately affecting low-income and peri-urban communities. Rapid urban expansion continues to strain already limited systems, while climate impacts, such as flooding and saltwater intrusion, further disrupt service delivery.

Overall, improving housing, land, and basic services in the Pacific requires a shift toward integrated, inclusive, and risk-informed urban development. This includes upgrading informal settlements, investing in resilient infrastructure, strengthening land governance systems, and ensuring that urban planning keeps pace with demographic and climate pressures. Without such interventions, existing inequalities and vulnerabilities are likely to deepen as urban populations continue to grow.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change is already a defining challenge for Pacific Island Countries, where exposure to both slow-onset processes and extreme events is intensifying. Rising sea levels, coastal erosion, saltwater intrusion, and increasing temperatures are intersecting with rapid urbanization, placing growing pressure on settlements, infrastructure, and livelihoods. Urban areas, often located in low-lying coastal zones, are becoming hotspots of climate risk, as population growth and informal settlement expansion increase exposure to flooding, cyclones, and environmental degradation. These dynamics are further compounded by limited land availability and constrained institutional capacity, making climate resilience a central development priority.

ADAPTATION

In terms of adaptation, Pacific countries are prioritizing risk-informed urban planning, resilient infrastructure, and community-based approaches. Strategies include strengthening building codes, improving drainage and coastal protection, using nature-based solutions, and investing in early warning systems. Urban areas are increasingly seen as critical adaptation spaces, offering access to services and economic opportunities, but only if managed effectively.

However, adaptation efforts remain uneven and under-resourced, with gaps in data, planning tools, and long-term integration of climate mobility and relocation strategies, where sea-level rise and repeated disasters are already driving displacement and migration.

MITIGATION

On mitigation, Pacific Island Countries contribute minimally to global greenhouse gas emissions, yet many are pursuing ambitious low-carbon pathways, including renewable energy transitions and nature-based solutions. Urban systems, especially transport, energy, and waste, offer key opportunities for mitigation co-benefits. However, the primary challenge remains access to finance, technology, and capacity to implement these transitions at scale.

Enhancing the urban content of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and integrating mitigation into urban planning can deliver co-benefits such as improved air quality, reduced costs, and more sustainable livelihoods.

Photo Credit: Honiara, Solomon Islands (Bernhard Barth, 2013)



LOSS AND DAMAGE

Loss and damage is an increasingly critical issue, as climate impacts exceed the limits of adaptation. Pacific countries face recurrent economic losses from cyclones, floods, and other hazards, which strain national budgets and trap economies in cycles of damage and recovery. Non-economic losses, including displacement, loss of cultural heritage, and impacts on wellbeing, are also significant but harder to quantify. Repeated disasters are already driving internal displacement and forcing communities to relocate, often without adequate long-term planning frameworks or support systems.

CLIMATE-INDUCED MOBILITY

Climate-induced mobility is increasingly shaping urbanization patterns across the Pacific, as people relocate in response to sea-level rise, extreme weather events, and environmental degradation. Cities and towns are becoming key destinations for displaced populations, placing additional pressure on land, housing, infrastructure, and basic services. At the same time, mobility can serve as an important adaptation strategy if it is well-planned, inclusive, and supported by appropriate policies and investments.

DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Finally, disaster risk reduction (DRR) is central to the region's climate response. Given the high exposure to multiple hazards, including cyclones, earthquakes, tsunamis, and volcanic activity, Pacific countries are strengthening early warning systems, preparedness, and resilient infrastructure. Integrating DRR with urban planning is particularly important, as unplanned urban growth increases exposure and vulnerability. Efforts are increasingly focused on risk-informed development, community preparedness, and building institutional capacity, although challenges remain in coordination, financing, and implementation.

RECENT AND ONGOING INTERVENTIONS

UN-Habitat has a strong track record supporting urban policy, housing, and climate resilience across the Pacific. In Fiji, it has worked with national ministries and local governments to advance National Urban Policy, housing, NDCs, and NAP implementation, while supporting cities like Nadi and Lautoka and scaling resilience through Adaptation Fund projects and SDG localization tools. In Solomon Islands, it contributed to the development of national and local housing policy frameworks to promote affordable housing. In Vanuatu, it is supporting National Urban Policy development and the country's second VNR, building on earlier resilience and urban upgrading initiatives. UN-Habitat has also supported National Urban Policy processes in Samoa and Papua New Guinea.

1

Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements

2018 - 2027

4.2 M USD

Adaptation Fund

Fiji Ministries of Housing, Local Government and Environment & Climate Change, Lami, Sigatoka, Nadi and Lautoka Councils, and University of the South Pacific.

Launched in 2018, Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements (FRIS) is an Adaptation Fund project focused on informal settlements across four urban areas and towns in Fiji. The overall objective of the project is to increase the resilience of 16 informal urban settlements in Fiji that are highly vulnerable to climate change and disaster risks.



Photo Credit: Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements (UN-Habitat, 2018 & 2020)



2

Climate Resilient Honiara

2018 - 2027

4.4 M USD

Adaptation Fund

Solomon Islands Ministries of Lands, Housing & Survey and Environment Honiara City Council, World Bank, World Vision, RMIT, University of Melbourne, and SINU.

The Climate Resilient Honiara project supports the implementation of the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan and engages across all scales with resilience actions and capacity building at city, ward, and local community levels. A combination of actions and capacity building across spatial scales ensures that actions are not stand-alone but are integrated into a resilience action plan for the city and hence more likely to be sustainable in the longer term. Important outcomes of this multilevel approach are improved institutional arrangements and working relationships between all stakeholders involved.

Solomon Islands participated in the integration of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in country level operations of the Resilient Settlements of the Urban Poor (RISE-UP) programme. Honiara was selected as a site to pilot NbS and urban biodiversity actions in the context of upgrading and building climate resilience in informal settlements.

3

Accelerating Multi-level Action for SDG Localization in Fiji

2024 - 2025

250,000 USD

UN Joint-SDG Fund

UNRCO, Fiji Ministry of Local Government, Suva City, Lautoka City and Labasa Town Councils, Australian Volunteer Programme, University of Melbourne, CLGF

The project objective is to empower cities and towns in Fiji to create more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable communities by effectively integrating SDGs into local development planning, financing and action supported by enhanced capacity of local stakeholders for no one to be left behind.

4

Strengthened Capacities of African, Caribbean and Pacific SIDS for Green, Resilient and Pro-poor Pandemic Recovery

2022 - 2025

570,000 USD

UN Development Account

UN-Habitat Regional Offices (Asia-Pacific, Africa, and Latin America & the Caribbean), ESCAP, ECA, ECLAC and UNRCOs.

In order to confront the triple global challenges of rising inequality, the climate crisis and the COVID-19 health crisis, and its multifaceted repercussions, this project aims to strengthen the capacity of African, Caribbean and Pacific SIDS for a green, low-carbon, resilient and pro-poor recovery by providing opportunities for interregional and intraregional learning and exchange, including through the adaptation of existing tools and knowledge products of UN-Habitat, as well as the adaptation and testing of tools on local climate finance to advance innovative financing mechanisms for pro-poor climate action in urban upgrading.

08 REGIONAL AND INSTITUTIONAL SUPPORT

1

Pacific Urban Forum (PUF) and Pacific Urban Partnership (PUP)

2019 - ONGOING

UN-Habitat, ESCAP, Commonwealth Local Governments, ICLEI, University of Melbourne, Monash University, EAROPH, Fiji Planners Association, Atlast Urban.

UN-Habitat chairs the Steering Committee of the Pacific Urban Partnership and the Organizing Committee of the Pacific Urban Forum (PUF). Held regularly since 2003, most recently in 2019 (PUF5), 2021 (Virtual PUF), 2023 (PUF6), and 2026 (PUF7), the event brings together a wide range of urban stakeholders with diverse backgrounds such as national and local governments, urban development practitioners and urban planners, civil society organizations, traditional leaders, local and international academia, the private sector, and development partners, among others. PUF7 took place in Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea, in March 2026. UN-Habitat and the PUP have been working to elevate urban issues at the global and regional fora, such as the World Urban Forum (WUF) and Asia-Pacific Urban Forum (APUF), and support participation of Pacific delegates.



Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Forum 7, Port Moresby, March 24-26, 2026 (Caza Electroteck PNG / Pacific Urban Partnership / Pidgin Productions 2026)



Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Forum 6, Suva, Fiji 5-7 September, 2023 (Festival Company / Pacific Urban Partnership)



2

NDC Support & Ministerial Participation at COP

2021 - ONGOING

UN-Habitat, ICLEI, GCoM, Bloomberg Philanthropy

Aligned with the UN-wide NDC push and in support of the COP28 Pledge for multilevel partnerships (CHAMP), UN-Habitat is supporting the development of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), their implementation plans and greater integration of urban-focused climate actions in NDCs. Additionally, UN-Habitat is facilitating the participation of Pacific Housing and Urban Development Ministers to the UNFCCC Conference of the Parties (COP). In recent COPs (COP27, COP28, COP29 AND COP30), several Pacific Ministers joined the Ministerial Meeting on Urbanization and Climate Change, co-hosted by UN-Habitat. These activities are supported by the Sustainable Urban Resilience for the next Generation initiative (SURGe) aimed at advancing multi-level climate action and equipping cities to accelerate local climate action and help deliver the targets of the Paris Agreements and the SDGs.



Photo Credit: Pacific Urban Forum 7, Port Moresby, March 24-26, 2026 (Caza Electroteck PNG / Pacific Urban Partnership / Pidgin Productions 2026)

09 IMPACT STORY

SHIFTING FROM CAPACITY-BUILDING TO INSTITUTIONAL UPTAKE



Photo Credit: Official Launch of the Lautoka City Council's and Labasa Town Council's VLRs at the 9th Pacific Forum on Sustainable Development in Suva, Fiji (October 30, 2025) (ESCAP).

"We recognize that some actions may be beyond the Council's scope, which is why collaboration with government agencies, NGOs, and the community is crucial to realizing the dream of a sustainable city"

- Mr Shalend Singh, Lautoka City Council Head of Operations, Fiji

A strong example of capacity development translating into institutional change comes from Fiji. Stakeholders across Suva, Lautoka, Nadi, Sigatoka, and Lami were trained in climate resilience planning, urban risk analysis, and locally driven planning tools. This not only strengthened knowledge but enabled local actors to lead follow-up processes, with 30 of 33 participants reporting improved capacity for recovery and resilience planning - exceeding targets.

Building on this, local adaptation frameworks informed concrete institutional outcomes, including an SDG localization initiative (launched in 2024 with ESCAP), Voluntary Local Reviews for Lautoka and Labasa, a 10-year development plan for Suva, and a national SDG localization training programme engaging all 13 municipal councils. This demonstrates a clear shift from capacity building to institutional uptake, equipping local and national actors to translate resilience into planning, coordination, and implementation.



Photo Credit: SDG Localization Project Inception Meeting in Suva, Fiji (Samantha Poncabare, 2024)



10 REGIONAL FOCUS

PRIORITY AREAS



RESILIENT HOUSING & INCLUSIVE COMMUNITIES

Upgrade informal settlements through resilient housing, secure land tenure, and community-led planning.

Strengthen local institutions and improve access to safe, affordable housing.



CLIMATE-RESILIENT URBAN SERVICES & INFRASTRUCTURE

Expand access to resilient and climate-responsive infrastructure, including water, sanitation, waste management, energy, and transport systems.

Prioritize reliable urban services for growing populations and vulnerable communities.



URBAN MANAGEMENT TRANSFORMATION

Strengthen urban governance through integrated planning, improved land management, and coordinated investment.

Support local governments with stronger institutions, finance, and decision-making capacity.

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

01
NHP/NUP SUPPORT & INTER-AGENCY INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS UPGRADING TASKFORCES

02
INCLUSIVE SETTLEMENT UPGRADING & AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR PORT MORESBY, PAPUA NEW GUINEA

03
CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING & HOUSING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, VANUATU

04
SCALING CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING & URBAN EBA, SOLOMON ISLANDS

PROGRAMME DEVELOPMENT TARGETS

12M
2026-2029 PORTFOLIO TARGET

+7
NATIONAL HOUSING & URBAN POLICIES SUPPORTED

+3
COUNTRIES WITH ACTIVE PROJECTS

1/YR
NATIONAL OR REGIONAL URBAN FORA ORGANIZED ANNUALLY

PLANNED INTERVENTIONS

1

NATIONAL HOUSING AND URBAN POLICY SUPPORT & INTER-AGENCY INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING TASKFORCES

Fiji, Solomon Islands, and Papua New Guinea are priority countries receiving support for National Housing Policy (NHP) implementation. In Fiji and Solomon Islands, this is through inter-agency Informal Settlement Upgrading Taskforces and existing Adaptation Fund (AF) projects, while in Papua New Guinea it involves multi-level engagement with national and city authorities, linked to Pacific Urban Forum 7 (PUF7).

Vanuatu and Kiribati are receiving support for policy implementation—covering NHP/NUPP in Vanuatu and National Urban Policy (NUP) in Kiribati.

In **Tonga**, support focuses on developing the National Housing Policy and operationalizing the National Spatial Planning Framework. In **Samoa**, efforts center on implementing the National Urban Policy and integrating it into the National Development Plan.



Photo Credit: Fiji Resilient Informal Settlements Stakeholder Workshop (UN-Habitat, 2019).



Photo Credit: Wind Valley Communities and Food Gardens, Honiara, Solomon Islands (Samantha Poncabare, 2025).



Photo Credit: Port Vila, Vanuatu (Bernhard Barth, 2014).

2

INCLUSIVE SETTLEMENT UPGRADING & AFFORDABLE HOUSING FOR PORT MORESBY

Project's Aim: To support the localized implementation of the National Housing Policy in Port Moresby by aligning it with the city's development plans, strengthening community and stakeholder engagement, and establishing sustainable and scalable approaches that deliver long-term impact.



TOTAL BUDGET:
2M USD



TIME FRAME:
2026 - 2029

Relevance to regional implementation plan: Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all.



LOCATION:
PAPUA NEW GUINEA

Additional Priorities: Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures; Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

1. UN-Habitat will run a housing/urban-finance workshop for local government, co-design and deliver community-prioritized basic services and in-situ upgrades (peri-urban and Motu Koita areas), and pilot an affordable "urban village" housing model supported by a light city delivery platform.
2. Local and sub-national institutions demonstrate improved capacity to plan, budget for, and implement inclusive, risk-informed housing and settlement upgrading aligned with the National Housing Policy and Port Moresby Vision 2050.
3. Vulnerable households, including women, youth, and Motu Koita communities, gain clearer tenure pathways, safer public spaces, and access to affordable, climate-resilient housing, basic services, and culture-linked livelihood opportunities.
4. Urban ecosystems and critical neighborhood infrastructure in coastal and flood-prone areas are upgraded and made climate-resilient, reducing hazard exposure and strengthening social cohesion.



Photo Credit: Port Moresby Settlements, Papua New Guinea (Bernhard Barth, 2015).



3

CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING & HOUSING POLICY IMPLEMENTATION, VANUATU

Project's Aim: To support the effective implementation of the National Housing Policy in Vanuatu by improving living conditions in informal settlements, strengthening institutional capacity and coordination, and integrating climate-resilient, inclusive, and evidence-based approaches to housing and urban development.

Relevance to regional implementation plan: Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all.

Additional Priorities: Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures; Urban management transformation through integrated planning, participatory governance and advanced technology.



TOTAL BUDGET:
1M USD



TIME FRAME:
2026 - 2029



LOCATION:
VANUATU

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

1. UN Habitat will produce settlement, housing and land tenure maps and risk profiles, conduct urban displacement and migration analyses, co design gender responsive, community prioritised upgrading pilots, and deliver policy and urban finance capacity building for national and municipal counterparts in Port Vila.
2. National and local institutions demonstrate improved capacity to plan, budget for and coordinate implementation of the National Housing Policy and the National Urban Planning Policy using integrated data, participatory methods and risk informed decision making.
3. Vulnerable and displaced households, including women, youth, renters and customary land occupants, gain safer, more affordable and climate resilient housing and services, clearer tenure pathways, and support for voluntary and dignified relocations where appropriate.
4. High risk informal neighbourhoods and critical infrastructure are upgraded and made climate resilient, reducing disaster losses and displacement while generating evidence and tools for scalable durable urban solutions in Vanuatu.



Photo Credit: Port Moresby Settlements, Papua New Guinea (Bernhard Barth, 2015).



4

SCALING CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING & URBAN ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION (EbA), SOLOMON ISLANDS

Project's Aim: To improve living conditions and climate resilience in informal settlements across Solomon Islands by scaling inclusive settlement upgrading beyond Honiara, strengthening subnational delivery capacity, and embedding climate-resilient urban development within national adaptation and investment frameworks.

Relevance to regional implementation plan: Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all.

Additional Priorities: Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures; Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity



TOTAL BUDGET:
4-7M USD



TIME FRAME:
2026 - 2029



LOCATION:
SOLOMON ISLANDS

OUTPUT, OUTCOME AND IMPACT

1. UN-Habitat will co-design community-led upgrading and EbA pilots in secondary towns (e.g., Noro, Auki, Munda), deliver settlement profiling and climate-risk assessments, build municipal/ward/provincial capacities for integrated land-services-livelihoods-risk reduction, and develop tools to operationalize urban adaptation within the National Adaptation Plan, supported by a regional learning platform.
2. Subnational institutions demonstrate improved capacity to plan, budget for, and deliver inclusive, risk-informed settlement upgrading and EbA, aligned with national adaptation and investment frameworks.
3. Vulnerable households gain safer services, greener livelihoods, and reduced climate risk through nature-based measures and locally appropriate upgrades, while maintaining cultural identity and social cohesion. Urban ecosystems and critical neighborhood infrastructure are restored or upgraded using EbA, lowering flood and heat risks and enabling replication across Solomon Islands and other Pacific SIDS.



Photo Credit: Honiara Settlements, Solomon Islands (2025 and 2020).



12

REPORTS & PUBLICATIONS



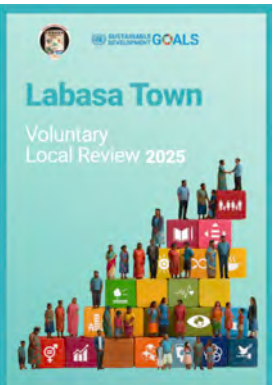
The State of Urbanization in the Blue Pacific Report

The 6th Pacific Urban Forum, held in Suva in 2023, endorsed the Suva Statement for a Sustainable Urban Pacific, setting a regional pathway for inclusive, safe, and climate-resilient urban development aligned with the 2050 Blue Pacific Strategy, with ongoing collaboration among national focal points and partners shaping a shared Oceanic vision and implementation pathways toward the 7th Pacific Urban Forum in Port Moresby in 2026.



Regional Pacific Report and Strategy 2030

UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific developed this Regional Pacific Report and Strategy 2030 to engage development partners and all levels of government in advancing sustainable urban development, through knowledge sharing, policy support, technical assistance, and coordinated action to build inclusive, resilient cities and leave no one and no place behind.



Lautoka City Council and Labasa Town Council Voluntary Local Reviews 2025

Fiji continues to lead in the Pacific, with Lautoka City and Labasa Town Councils launching their Voluntary Local Reviews following Suva's pioneering effort in 2025, further advancing the localization of the SDGs through a UN-supported initiative that empowers local councils to align global goals with community priorities.



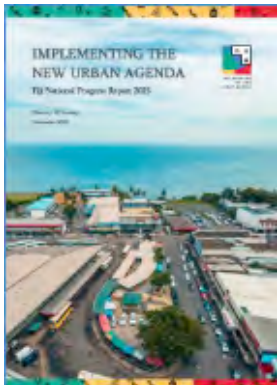
Climate resilient urban development: an agenda for Small Island Developing States

Small Island Developing States face acute climate risks yet demonstrate resilience, and despite their cities experiencing unique and compounding vulnerabilities, urbanization remains underrepresented in climate strategies - highlighting the need for stronger support for sustainable urban development informed by regional case studies.



IOM & UN-Habitat Joint Country Profiles on Climate Mobility

The Migration, Environment and Climate Change Country Factsheets for Tonga and for Papua New Guinea provide a comprehensive overview of national policy frameworks relevant to human mobility in the context of disasters, climate change and environmental degradation, including an assessment of how migration, displacement, and planned relocation are reflected and integrated within these instruments. The factsheet also presents a baseline mapping of national and international data sources capturing human mobility linked to climate change and disaster risks.



Fiji New Urban Agenda Report

This report presents Fiji's first national assessment of progress on the New Urban Agenda since 2016, drawing on National Housing Policy 2025 consultations and UN-Habitat guidelines to evaluate achievements, challenges, and priorities for advancing sustainable urban development and the SDGs.



Climate Change Vulnerability and Risk – A Guide for Community Assessments, Action Planning and Implementation

Effective climate action requires Vulnerability and Risk Assessments to identify who and where is most at risk, with this report building on Fiji's National Housing Policy 2025 consultations and UN-Habitat reporting guidelines, supported by national data and analysis.



Nature-based solutions (NbS) for enhanced climate resilience of informal settlements: Honiara, Solomon Islands

This report summarizes the design, implementation, and outcomes of a SIDA-funded project in Honiara that strengthened climate action and resilience in Koa Hill through a partnership between UN-Habitat, RMIT University, local consultants, and community organizations.



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