

Delivering Urban Basic Services in Asia-Pacific: A Regional Roadmap (2026-2029)

Enabling Adequate Housing and Sustainable Communities



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)

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**Delivering Urban Basic Services in Asia-Pacific: A Regional Roadmap 2026–2029**

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This roadmap draws on the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029; the Pacific Regional Report & Strategy 2030; the Basic Services Projects portfolio analysis (19 concept notes across 15 countries); the HPMCTA portfolio overview; and the 2026 retreat summary on basic services.

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Foreword

Across Asia and the Pacific, the provision of basic services is becoming one of the defining tests of sustainable urban development. As cities and human settlements continue to grow and change, the question is no longer only whether infrastructure exists, but whether service systems are reliable, inclusive, climate-resilient and capable of reaching those who are most at risk of being left behind.

This Asia-Pacific Urban Basic Services Regional Roadmap (2026–2029) comes at an important moment for UN-Habitat. The Strategic Plan 2026–2029 places housing, land and basic services for all at the centre of our mandate, while calling for stronger integration between normative and operational work. In our region, this requires an approach that recognizes the diversity of contexts across least developed countries, small island developing States, developing economies, upper-middle-income settings and fragile situations, while also identifying the shared structural challenges that affect service delivery across them.

The regional roadmap responds to that need with a clear and practical proposition. It frames basic services not as isolated sectors, but as interconnected urban systems shaped by governance, planning, finance, resilience, inclusion and local capacity. It recognizes that water, sanitation, drainage, solid waste management, public-health-linked infrastructure, energy continuity, digital systems and nature-based functions are deeply interdependent in the daily life of cities and communities. These services are also fundamental to adequate housing, influencing health, safety, dignity, affordability and resilience, and helping transform housing from a physical structure into a place where people can live and thrive. It also rightly emphasizes that service performance must be understood not only in terms of access, but also continuity, quality, affordability and resilience under stress.

I am particularly encouraged by the regional roadmap's effort to position UN-Habitat where it can add the greatest value: linking planning with implementation, connecting field experience to regional public goods, and helping countries and cities move from fragmented interventions toward more integrated and investable pathways. The proposed three-pillar structure — knowledge and diagnostics, investing in safe people-centred urban basic services and investing in green and nature-based service approaches — offers a coherent framework for translating regional learning into practical support.

This is especially relevant in a region where climate change, disasters, displacement, rapid urbanization and institutional fragmentation are placing increasing pressure on service systems. A stronger regional roadmap can help lower transaction costs, enable peer learning, support

typology-based responses, and create more effective bridges between local needs, national priorities and financing opportunities.

As this roadmap is taken forward, it should be seen as both a strategic framing document and a call to operational clarity. Its value will ultimately depend on how well it guides implementation, partnership-building and resource mobilization in the years ahead. I hope it will help shape a regional roadmap that is ambitious in vision, disciplined in focus, and practical in its delivery.

I would like to thank colleagues who contributed to the portfolio analysis, retreat discussions and strategic reflections that informed this roadmap. I look forward to the next phase of work to further strengthen this regional roadmap and translate it into a credible and impactful programme.

Kazuko Ishigaki

Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific
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Executive Summary

Asia and the Pacific is home to some of the world's fastest-changing urban and peri-urban landscapes, yet access to basic services remains unequal in both coverage and quality. The challenge is no longer confined to infrastructure deficits alone. In many contexts, service systems are weakened by fragmented mandates, weak operations and maintenance, inadequate planning tools, climate and disaster exposure, insufficient finance, and limited pathways to scale local innovations into public policy or investment. A regional roadmap is therefore needed not merely to support projects, but to create coherence across countries, enable typology-based responses, and connect normative work with implementation.

This regional roadmap responds directly to the sharpened corporate direction of UN-Habitat. The Strategic Plan 2026–2029 places housing, land and basic services for all at the centre of the organization's agenda, recognizing that adequate housing depends not only on shelter, but also on reliable, affordable and resilient access to basic services. The Plan frames delivery through five means of implementation: integrated urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance; participatory multilevel governance and localization of the Sustainable Development Goals; knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development; partnerships, coalitions, advocacy and communication; and effective resource mobilization. For the Asia-Pacific region, these elements point toward a regional roadmap that is at once normative, operational, investable and adaptable.

Portfolio analysis and retreat discussions undertaken in the region reveal three mutually reinforcing pathways for action. The first is knowledge, standards, diagnostics and peer learning, which responds to strong demand for practical guidance, transferable methods, digital tools and regional public goods. The second is investing in safe, people-centred urban basic services, which focuses on practical and investable approaches to water, sanitation, drainage, waste, health-linked resilience, circularity, operations and maintenance and energy-linked service continuity. The third is investing in green and nature-based service approaches, which position nature-based solutions not as peripheral environmental measures but as practical components of settlement resilience, flood management, cooling, public space, livelihoods and biodiversity-sensitive development.

The proposed regional roadmap defines basic services in an integrated urban systems sense. It includes water supply; sanitation and wastewater; drainage and stormwater management; solid waste management and circular service systems; public health-linked service infrastructure; mobility and public-space interfaces where relevant; energy for essential urban services and public facilities; digital, data and monitoring systems that support service delivery; and

ecosystem-based and nature-based functions where relevant. This definition recognizes that cities do not experience infrastructure in sectoral silos. Service performance depends on how these systems connect, especially in stressed and low-capacity environments.

The regional roadmap's overall vision is that all people in cities and human settlements across Asia and the Pacific benefit from resilient, inclusive and investable basic-services systems that support healthy communities, adequate housing and sustainable urban development. Its goal is to help countries, cities, settlements, communities and partners improve access, continuity, quality and resilience of urban basic services while creating the enabling conditions for scale. To achieve this, the regional roadmap advances five strategic objectives: improving equitable access; strengthening service continuity and system performance; promoting integrated and climate-responsive planning; building knowledge, capacity and replicable models; and mobilizing partnerships and finance for scale.

UN-Habitat's distinctive value lies in its ability to connect housing, urban planning, governance, basic services and resilience within a single urban systems framework. This enables the organization to support governments and partners in addressing service challenges not as isolated infrastructure gaps, but as part of broader efforts to improve living conditions, strengthen resilience and advance sustainable urbanization. Unlike organizations that focus on a single sector or financing window, UN-Habitat can support governments and partners to move from fragmented infrastructure approaches toward place-based, people-centred and system-oriented solutions. The Regional Office is also well placed to turn country experience into normative guidance, to package pilot learnings into regional public goods, and to convene cross-country exchange around issues such as service continuity and (local) systems thinking, informal settlement upgrading, fostering participative processes, resilient public facilities, disability-inclusive service delivery, circular waste systems, and nature-based urban infrastructure.

The regional roadmap proposes differentiated offers for least developed countries, developing economies, small island developing States, upper-middle-income contexts and fragile or crisis-affected settings. In LDCs and fragile settings, emphasis will often fall on access, continuity, institutional capacity and integrated service resilience. In SIDS and coastal contexts, the regional roadmap will prioritize climate-linked service reliability, water security and nature-based protection. In upper-middle-income and advanced contexts, the comparative advantage will often lie in standards, innovation, city-to-city exchange, investable diagnostics and replication of tested models. In developing economies, hybrid pathways that connect policy, pilots and financing are likely to be most effective.

The document also proposes a practical implementation architecture. Delivery will combine regional public goods, country advisory support, demonstrations and pilots, multi-country

initiatives, peer learning platforms, digital tools, and investment preparation. The regional roadmap further recommends a set of implementation documents to bridge the regional roadmap and annual work planning, echoing the global strategic plan's own expectation that implementation should be guided by more detailed documents that align normative and operational work. The first-year agenda should therefore focus on finalizing the regional roadmap, developing pillar notes, identifying pilots, building a regional pipeline, and launching a small set of visible and useful public goods.

Strategic proposition

The regional roadmap should not be framed as a generic infrastructure initiative. It should be positioned as a systems regional roadmap that links access, continuity, resilience, inclusion, planning, finance and replication.

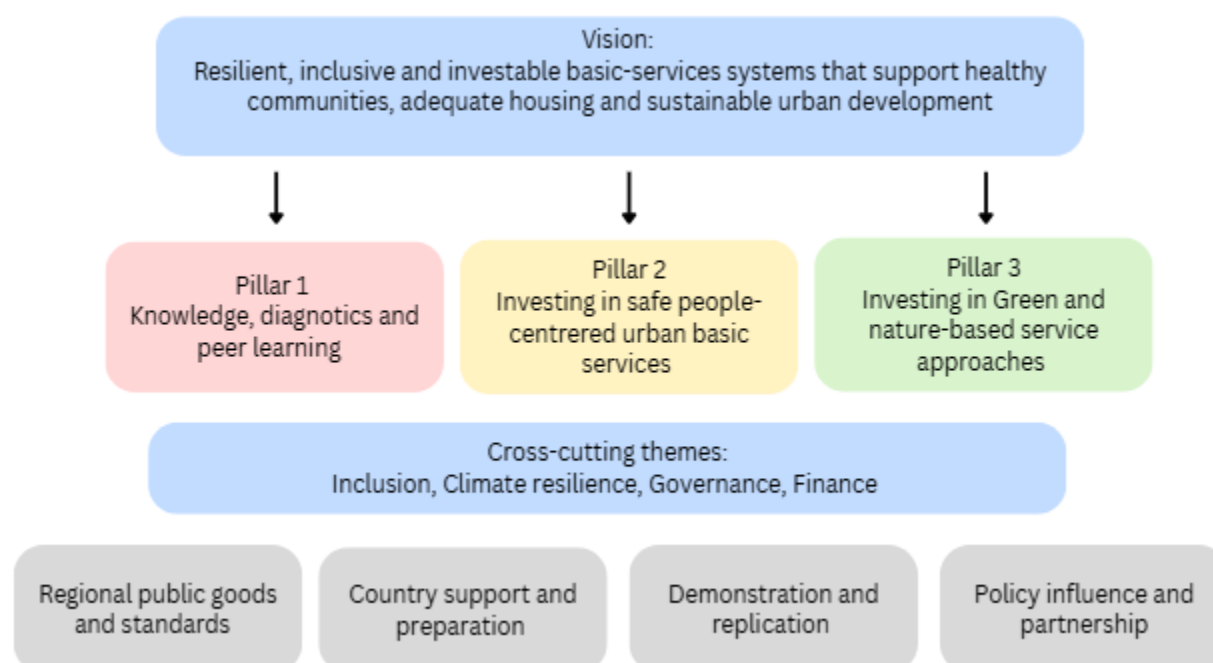


Figure 1: High-level architecture of the regional basic services roadmap

Acronyms and Abbreviations

AF	Adaptation Fund
ADB	Asian Development Bank
CRW	Climate Resilient WASH
DRR	Disaster Risk Reduction
EbA	Ecosystem-based Adaptation
EU	European Union
GCF	Green Climate Fund
GEF	Global Environment Facility
HPMCTA	Housing, Planning, Mobility, Capacity, Training and Advocacy
HSI+	Health Service Infrastructure Plus
JICA	Japan International Cooperation Agency
KOICA	Korea International Cooperation Agency
LDC	Least Developed Country
NAP	National Adaptation Plan
NbS	Nature-based Solutions
NDC	Nationally Determined Contribution
NUA	New Urban Agenda
O&M	Operations and Maintenance
OPD	Organization of Persons with Disabilities
ROAP	Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific
SDG	Sustainable Development Goal
SIDS	Small Island Developing States
SSP	Sanitation Safety Planning
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
WaCT	Waste Wise Cities Tool

WASH	Water, Sanitation and Hygiene
WASHFIT	Water and Sanitation for Health Facility Improvement Tool
WB	World Bank

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01 Introduction

1.1 Background

Basic services sit at the core of urban well-being and the legitimacy of public institutions. When people experience water interruptions, unsafe sanitation, clogged drainage, unmanaged waste, unreliable public facilities, or service systems that fail during floods, heatwaves or shocks, the result is not only a decline in physical living conditions. It is also a decline in public trust, local productivity, health outcomes, neighbourhood safety, housing adequacy, and the ability of cities to absorb growth. In Asia and the Pacific, these pressures are amplified by rapid urbanization, demographic change, climate vulnerability and uneven local government capacity. The region therefore needs a basic-services agenda that goes beyond sectoral projects and supports integrated, people-centred and place-based urban development, recognizing that adequate housing depends not only on the quality of the dwelling itself, but also on access to reliable and resilient basic services and livelihood opportunities.

The regional context is highly diverse. It spans least developed countries, fragile settings, small island developing States, lower- and middle-income economies, and large upper-middle-income countries with rapidly evolving urban systems. This diversity requires a regional roadmap that is differentiated rather than uniform. Yet it also creates opportunities for peer learning because many countries face comparable structural questions: how to strengthen service continuity, how to ensure that housing development is accompanied by adequate service provision, how to finance maintenance and upgrade/upscale infrastructures, how to integrate nature-based approaches into infrastructure systems, how to improve diagnostics and monitoring, and how to move from pilots to scale.

1.2 Purpose of the Regional Roadmap

The purpose of this regional roadmap is to provide a coherent regional framework for shaping UN-Habitat's work on basic services in Asia and the Pacific during 2026–2029. The roadmap serves primarily as an internal strategic and programmatic framework to guide regional positioning, programme development, country support, partnership engagement, resource mobilization, and organizational decision-making. It also provides a common narrative and strategic direction that can inform engagement with governments, development partners, financial institutions, and other stakeholders. The document is intended to guide the preparation of future implementation instruments, including pillar notes, workplans, concept notes, investment prospectuses, and partner-facing communication and advocacy materials.

The regional roadmap is also intended to serve as an internal alignment and management tool. It clarifies the scope of 'basic services' for the purposes of the roadmap, articulates UN-Habitat's comparative advantage, translates the corporate Strategic Plan into a regional implementation logic, and identifies the thematic pillars, service typologies, implementation instruments, and governance arrangements required for coherent action across the region. In this sense, the roadmap provides both a strategic narrative for external engagement and a management framework for internal coordination and delivery.

1.3 Scope, Timeframe and Intended Use

The regional roadmap covers the Asia-Pacific region, with a particular focus on countries and cities where UN-Habitat has active or emerging engagement and where regional public goods can help shape practical implementation. The timeframe corresponds to the 2026–2029 strategic period, but many of the concepts, tools and pipelines developed through the regional roadmap build upon existing tools and are intended to have longer-term value.

This document is not designed to replace country strategies or annual work programmes. Rather, it serves as the bridge between corporate direction and those more operational instruments. It should therefore be used to inform portfolio development, country dialogue, donor engagement, staffing discussions, technical prioritization and the design of implementation documents.

02 Policy and Strategic Alignment

2.1 Alignment with the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029

The strongest institutional anchor for this regional roadmap is the UN-Habitat Strategic Plan 2026–2029. The strategic plan returns housing to the centre of UN-Habitat’s mandate while explicitly coupling it with land and basic services as essential enablers for sustainable cities and communities. It also makes clear that the global impact sought by UN-Habitat is that more people in cities and human settlements, particularly those in vulnerable situations, will prosper and have their lives transformed through increased access to adequate housing, land and basic services for all.

This regional roadmap translates that focus into the operational realities of Asia and the Pacific. In doing so, it positions basic services as a foundational component of adequate housing, as per its initial definition, and sustainable human settlements, recognizing that housing outcomes depend not only on shelter provision but also on access to safe, affordable and resilient services. It does so by applying the strategic plan’s five means of implementation as the backbone of programme design. Integrated urban and territorial planning, management, investment and finance are reflected in the regional roadmap’s emphasis on service bundles, investment readiness and systemic planning. Participatory multilevel governance and SDG localization are reflected in the focus on local government capacity, service governance and differentiated country pathways. Knowledge, data, digitalization and capacity development are captured in Pillar 1 and in the roadmap’s theory of change. Partnerships and resource mobilization are treated not as standalone support functions but as core delivery enablers.

2.2 Alignment with the New Urban Agenda and SDG localization

The New Urban Agenda provides an important policy frame because it links sustainable urban development, social inclusion, resilience, land, housing and basic services within a single urban development compact. The agenda recognizes that access to adequate housing and basic services is central to both social justice and economic development. This regional roadmap adopts that same integrated perspective. It also reinforces the role of local and regional governments, which is critical in service delivery, local planning and coordination with utilities, ministries and communities.

The regional roadmap also supports localization of the Sustainable Development Goals, especially SDG 11, while contributing to SDGs 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, 9, 10, 12, 13 and 17. Rather than treating SDG localization as a reporting exercise, the regional roadmap treats it as a practical process of

improving service systems, disaggregating who benefits, and strengthening the institutional capacity to plan, finance and monitor urban development in a more inclusive way.

2.3 Alignment with climate, disaster risk and regional frameworks

Across Asia and the Pacific, climate and disaster agendas are increasingly inseparable from basic service delivery and challenges for adequate service provision. Floods, heat, drought, coastal erosion, earthquakes, salinity intrusion, subsidence and conflict-related shocks all have implications for water reliability, sanitation, drainage, public health infrastructure, waste management and settlement safety. The regional roadmap therefore aligns strongly with the Paris Agreement, the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction and national planning instruments such as Nationally Determined Contributions and National Adaptation Plans, where urban infrastructure and resilience are increasingly prominent.

The Regional Implementation Strategy 2026-2029 developed by ROAP provides a useful structural precedent. It shows how a regional roadmap can align with corporate priorities while translating them into action areas, partnerships and implementation logic relevant to a subregion. In a similar way, this Urban Basic Services Regional Roadmap links global mandates to regional delivery needs. It also acknowledges that in some settings, subregional frameworks and networks will be important for implementation, including those dealing with climate resilience, urbanization, public space, local governance and city-to-city cooperation.

2.4 Implications for regional roadmap design

Taken together, these strategic anchors imply that the regional roadmap should be designed as an implementation bridge rather than as an abstract policy statement. It should connect global positioning with country demand, normative products with operational support, and regional convening with practical investment pathways. This is particularly important because the corporate strategic plan itself anticipates the need for implementation documents that direct collaboration across means of implementation and across normative and operational work. The regional roadmap should therefore be read as the first layer in a wider implementation stack.

03 Regional Context and Rationale

3.1 Urbanization, settlement change and service pressure

Asia and the Pacific contains some of the world's fastest-growing cities, some of its most climate-vulnerable settlements, and some of its most difficult service delivery environments. Urban growth is occurring not only in large metropolitan areas but also in secondary cities, peri-urban fringes, coastal settlements and small towns. In many places, growth outpaces the ability of institutions to plan for it, and with that, to extend and maintain services. This mismatch produces uneven coverage, exposure to health risks, and a widening gap between formal plans, formal and served areas and “lived urbanization” - with many people residing in unplanned, informal and underserved neighborhoods.

The problem is magnified where urban expansion interacts with informality, displacement, ecological stress or topographic constraints, conflicts or other environmental pressures, including land subsidence and sand and dust storms. Unplanned settlement growth can increase exposure to flooding, overload drainage systems, complicate solid waste logistics, reduce the reliability of water supply, and create public health risks. Even where investment is available, weak planning and coordination and insufficient capacity can leave systems fragmented and difficult to sustain.

3.2 Beyond infrastructure gaps: system performance and continuity

A recurring finding across the portfolio is that the regional challenge should not be framed as one of infrastructure provision alone. Many country concepts emphasize service continuity, operations and maintenance, downtime reduction, data systems, institutional coordination and local governance. In other words, the central concern is often whether services keep functioning, for whom, under what conditions, and with what degree of inclusiveness and resilience. This shift from infrastructure delivery to service performance and continuity is a major strategic insight for the regional ro.

At the same time, the regional roadmap should not be understood as focusing on service performance and continuity as an end in itself. In line with UN-Habitat's place-based mandate, basic services in this roadmap are understood broadly to include not only water, sanitation, drainage and waste management, but also community-driven approaches, people-centred mobility, street lighting, public space, public facilities and other priority service needs identified at settlement and neighbourhood level. Across the current portfolio, the strongest pipeline

remains concentrated in water, sanitation, waste management and resilience-linked services. However, the wider strategic framing should continue to reflect the broader basic-services mandate and the practical realities of how service deficits are experienced in cities and communities.

For example, the portfolio analysis highlights health-linked resilience, hospital safety, digital dashboards, circular economy approaches, and operational frameworks that enable replication. These features point to a stronger regional proposition: UN-Habitat can support not only the expansion of services, but also the design of service approaches and place-based interventions that continue to function under stress, that foster social inclusion and that become more investable over time.

3.3 Climate and crisis as multipliers of service fragility

Climate change and disasters are not parallel agendas to basic services; they are multipliers of service fragility. Flooding can disable pumping stations, overwhelm drains, contaminate water sources, interrupt access roads and damage health facilities. Heat increases demand for cooling and places stress on public facilities and vulnerable groups. Drought affects water security (including ground water depletion, as reality already in near future in some cities) and can intensify urban-rural competition over resources. In parts of North and Central Asia, climate-related service fragility is also driven by extreme winter conditions, freeze-thaw cycles, permafrost degradation and seasonal temperature extremes. These factors can affect water supply systems, sanitation infrastructure, drainage performance, housing safety, energy reliability and public health outcomes. Basic service strategies therefore need to consider both heat-related and cold-related climate risks, recognizing the diversity of climate vulnerabilities across the region. Coastal exposure and salinity affect water systems and settlement viability. In crisis-affected settings, displacement can place immediate pressure on settlements and utilities that were already under strain, while armed conflicts can lead to a destruction of service infrastructures.

Several concept notes in the regional portfolio are built explicitly around this challenge. They combine WASH, drainage, resilience planning, hospital safety, ecosystem restoration, blue-green infrastructure or climate-resilient housing in order to reduce service failure. This confirms that a future-oriented basic services regional roadmap must integrate climate resilience and crisis response rather than treat them as add-ons.

3.4 Why a regional roadmap adds value

A regional roadmap is needed because many of the opportunities and challenges facing countries are shared, interconnected, and transboundary in nature. Across Asia and the Pacific, issues such as climate change, disaster risk, water security, environmental degradation, migration, and rapid urbanization increasingly transcend national boundaries and require coordinated responses. In the Greater Mekong Subregion, for example, expanding economic corridors are reshaping patterns of urbanization, investment, mobility, trade, and service demand across borders. While these corridors create important opportunities for economic growth and regional integration, they also generate shared challenges related to infrastructure, housing, basic services, environmental sustainability, resilience, and inclusive urban

development. At the same time, many of the innovations emerging in one country can be adapted and scaled across others. Regional public goods can lower transaction costs for countries and partners through shared diagnostics, toolkits, training materials, typologies, peer-learning platforms, and regional monitoring systems. Such mechanisms help countries recognize common challenges, understand interactions between different systems, and collectively develop solutions. A regional framework can also help position the portfolio to donors by communicating how diverse country concepts connect to a small number of recognizable pathways.

The portfolio analysis¹ already demonstrates the value of this approach. It shows that concept notes cluster around integrated basic services, nature-based systems, and knowledge or normative platforms, while also highlighting variations across LDCs, developing economies, and upper-middle-income contexts. The analysis confirms that countries face many common challenges but require context-specific responses. The regional roadmap therefore uses a regional lens not to flatten diversity but to structure it in a way that supports learning, regional monitoring, policy dialogue, coordinated action, and resource mobilization. By facilitating the exchange of knowledge and experience across countries, strengthening evidence generation and tracking of regional trends, and promoting solutions that can be adapted across different contexts, the regional roadmap enables countries to benefit from collective expertise while strengthening the overall impact, coherence, and scalability of interventions across the region.

¹ For the purpose of this roadmap, “portfolio analysis” refers to an internal review of 19 concept notes across 15 countries in Asia and the Pacific undertaken to inform the roadmap. See Annex 1: Portfolio Evidence Snapshot.

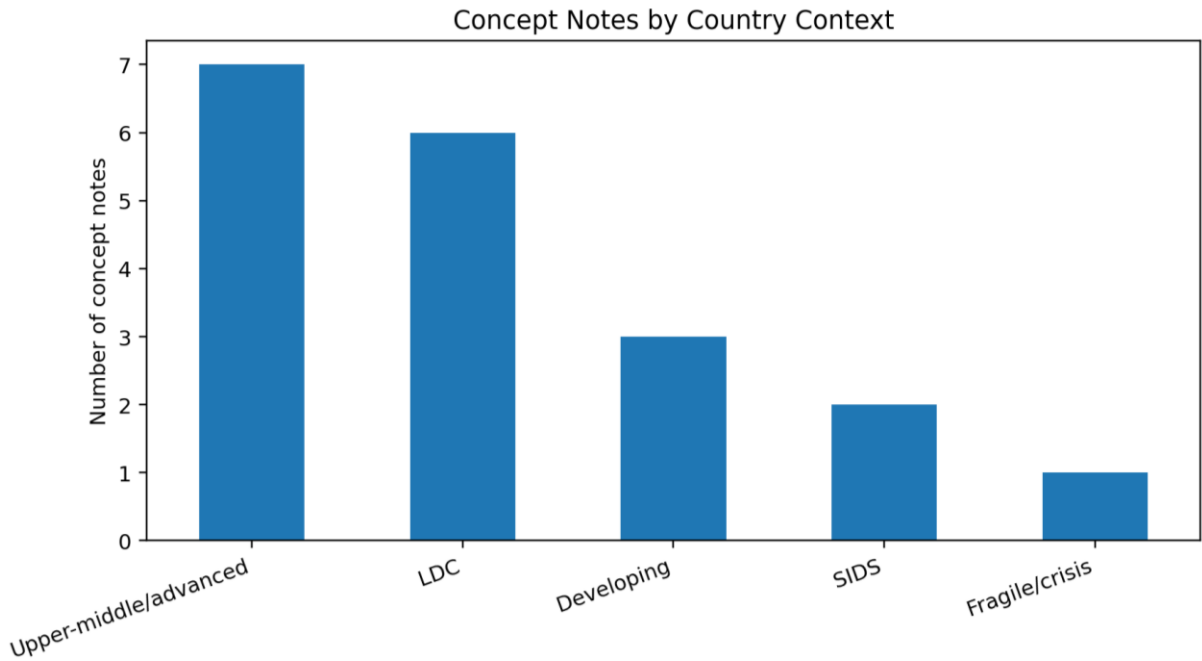


Figure 2: Indicative distribution of concept notes by country context

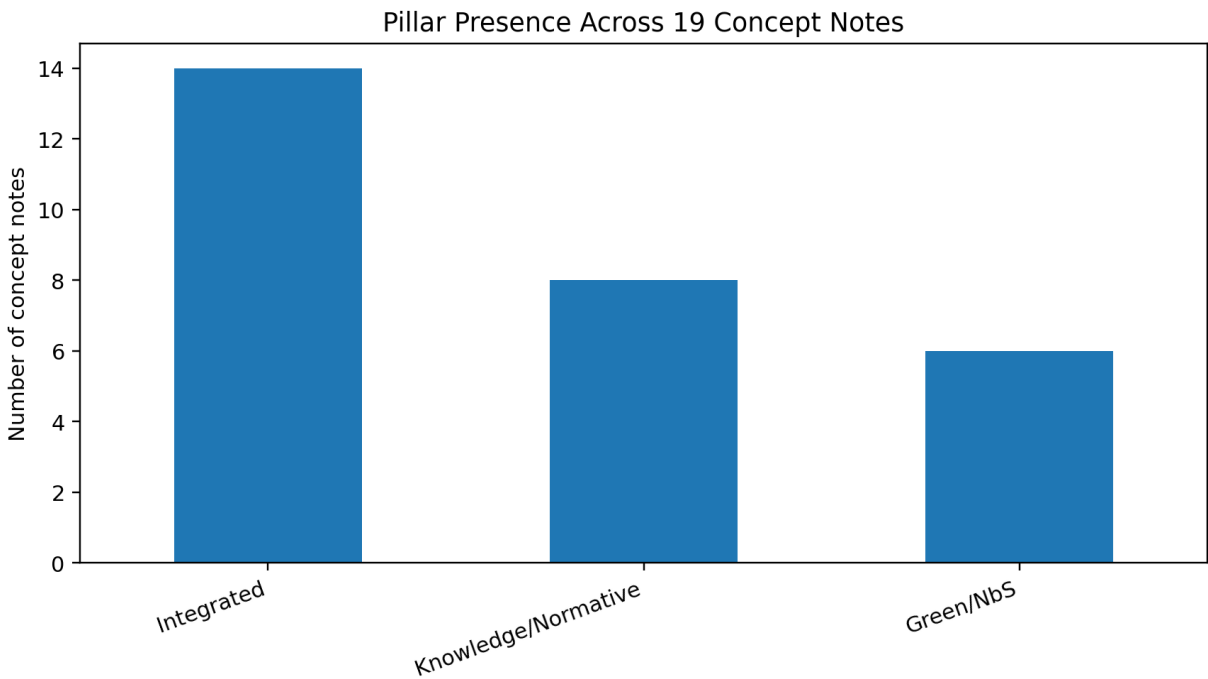


Figure 3: Presence of the three pillars across the 19-note portfolio.

04 Defining “Basic Services” for the Roadmap

4.1 Why a definition matters

The term ‘basic services’ is often used broadly, but regional roadmap design requires a clearer definition. Without one, the roadmap risks becoming too diffuse, making it difficult to prioritize work, explain comparative advantages, or communicate effectively with donors and partners. For this roadmap, basic services are defined in an integrated urban systems sense. The focus is on the service systems that most directly shape urban well-being, resilience, public health, inclusion and the functioning of settlements and public facilities.

This definition is deliberately broader than a single infrastructure sector, but narrower than a generic urban development agenda. It is broad enough to reflect how cities actually function, yet sufficiently bounded to guide programming, staffing and pipeline development.

4.2 Core service areas

For the purpose of this regional roadmap, basic services include water supply; sanitation and wastewater; drainage and stormwater management; solid waste management and circular service systems; public health-linked service infrastructure; mobility and public-space interfaces where relevant; energy for essential urban services and public facilities; digital, data and monitoring systems that support service delivery; and ecosystem-based and nature-based functions where relevant. Water and sanitation, in particular, are foundational to human survival, dignity and public health. Housing is not listed as a separate basic service, but it is treated as a critical interface because inadequate housing outcomes are often closely linked to lack of access to safe water and sanitation, as also reflected in the portfolio and retreat discussions. In many urban contexts, particularly informal, climate-vulnerable and/or peri-urban settlements, the effectiveness of basic services is closely linked to housing quality and household-level infrastructure. Housing conditions influence exposure to flooding, indoor environmental quality, thermal comfort, energy consumption, sanitation performance and public health outcomes. Integrated approaches that address both housing conditions and service provision can generate more sustainable and resilient outcomes than sector-specific interventions alone.

The regional roadmap therefore takes a practical view. It recognizes that many urban service failures occur at the interface between sectors: housing areas that are not connected to services, drains that are not maintained because land-use decisions are not enforced, schools or clinics that remain vulnerable because energy and water continuity are weak, or solid waste systems

that fail because governance and data systems are underdeveloped. The regional roadmap definition is designed to capture these realities.

4.3 Enabling systems for service delivery

4.3.1 Energy as an enabler of service continuity and resilience

Energy is included carefully and purposefully. The regional roadmap is not intended to become a stand-alone energy-sector initiative. Rather, energy is recognized where it is essential for the continuity, safety and resilience of basic services and public facilities. This includes water pumping and treatment, sanitation and wastewater operations, resilient health facilities, street lighting and safety, cooling and emergency functions, and reliable operation of facilities that serve vulnerable groups. The portfolio analysis supports this approach, especially where resilient hospitals, green energy integration or service continuity in health-linked systems are concerned.

This framing helps avoid mission drift while acknowledging a practical reality: in many service systems, resilience depends not only on the physical asset in question but on whether it has the energy reliability required to function under routine and emergency conditions. The regional roadmap will therefore consider energy-linked continuity measures where they directly strengthen service outcomes.

4.3.2 Nature-based and digital enabling systems

Two enabling domains are also built into the definition. The first is digital, data and monitoring systems that strengthen planning, diagnostics, real-time or periodic monitoring, accountability and investment readiness. The second is ecosystem-based and nature-based service functions such as wetlands, riparian buffers, blue-green corridors, permeable surfaces, urban greenery or coastal buffers that contribute to flood management, cooling, environmental health and settlement resilience. These enabling systems are not auxiliary; they are increasingly central to how resilient and inclusive service systems are designed and operated.

05 Vision, Goal and Strategic Objectives

5.1 Vision and goal

The vision of the regional roadmap is resilient, inclusive and investable basic-services systems that support healthy communities, adequate housing and sustainable urban development across Asia and the Pacific. The regional roadmap's goal is to help countries, cities and partners improve access, continuity, quality and resilience of basic services while building the institutional, technical and financial conditions required for scale. This is intentionally broader than project delivery. It recognizes that a successful regional roadmap should change how services are planned, governed and financed, not only what assets are built.

5.2 Strategic objectives

The regional roadmap advances five objectives.

- First, improve equitable access to resilient basic services, especially for vulnerable and underserved groups.
- Second, strengthen service continuity, operations and maintenance, and overall system performance.
- Third, advance integrated and climate-responsive service planning that links infrastructure, governance, nature and spatial development.
- Fourth, build knowledge, local capacity and replicable models that enable scale and reduce transaction costs.
- Fifth, mobilize partnerships and finance that can move from diagnostics and pilots to implementation and longer-term transformation.

Each objective is intended to work across the three roadmap pillars: Pillar 1 Knowledge, diagnostics and peer learning, Pillar 2 Investigating in safe people-centred urban basic services, Pillar 3 Investigating in green and nature-based service approaches. Access without continuity is fragile; continuity without planning can be inefficient; planning without data is weak; and innovation without financing rarely scales. The objectives therefore reinforce one another and create a coherent logic for implementation.

5.3 Design implications

The objectives imply a roadmap portfolio that combines quick wins with longer-term system change. Quick wins can include the development of tools, diagnostics, baseline assessments, peer learning and targeted advisory support. Longer-term contributions include investable project pipelines, stronger multilevel governance arrangements, improved monitoring systems, and the mainstreaming of integrated service approaches into national and local planning frameworks. These design considerations imply an adaptive and modular approach to country engagement. Rather than prescribing a fixed set of activities, the regional roadmap will apply a replicable engagement model comprising core components such as diagnostics, planning, demonstration and investment support, that can be deployed flexibly depending on context and entry points.

06 UN-Habitat's Comparative Advantage

6.1 A whole-systems urban mandate

UN-Habitat's comparative advantage lies in its ability to work across the interfaces of urban planning, housing, land, governance, resilience and service delivery. This matters because the most persistent basic-services problems in the region arise precisely where sector mandates meet. Water, waste, housing, mobility, drainage and public health are often managed separately, yet they intersect physically and institutionally in neighbourhoods, settlements and cities. UN-Habitat can help partners move from fragmented, sector-specific solutions toward integrated and place-based service systems.

6.2 Normative-to-operational translation

The regional portfolio shows that countries need both practical solutions and a clearer path from pilot experience to wider uptake. UN-Habitat is well placed to fill this gap. It can turn country practice into guidance, package diagnostics and tools as public goods, and ensure that learning from the field informs normative work, while also supporting, e.g. in crisis countries, service delivery and accessibility for communities through direct implementation, which can then feed back into normative work. This two-way relationship is strongly aligned with the corporate strategic plan's emphasis on balancing and integrating normative and operational work. In a regional roadmap context, this means designing each intervention so that it leaves behind something transferable: a standard, a framework, a monitoring approach, a replicable governance model, or an investment concept.

6.3 Multilevel governance and localization

A further comparative advantage lies in the organization's ability to work with national and subnational actors simultaneously. Basic services are often constrained by vertical disconnects between ministries, local governments, utilities and communities. Because UN-Habitat works on planning, urban governance and SDG localization, it can convene across levels and help translate policy objectives into implementable local arrangements. Malaysia provides a relevant example of how national policy direction, spatial planning institutions, local government mandates and SDG localization platforms can be connected to support more coordinated basic-services delivery.

This is particularly valuable for countries seeking to strengthen city systems, align basic-services investments with national climate or urban policy, or improve local accountability.

6.4 Inclusion, resilience and partnership value

The 2026 ROAP retreat summary emphasized people-centred approaches, inclusion of vulnerable groups, data-driven decision-making, and governance relationships as areas of comparative strength. These should be treated as core elements of the regional roadmap proposition. They allow the Regional Office to offer something beyond technical engineering support: a framework that combines service resilience with inclusion, local ownership, disability and gender-sensitive design, and stronger institutional relationships. In donor discussions, this wider frame can help distinguish UN-Habitat’s offer from sector-specific agencies or finance-only actors.

07 Roadmap Architecture: Thematic Pillars

7.1 Rationale for the three-pillar structure

The regional roadmap is organized around three mutually reinforcing pillars. This structure reflects the evidence emerging from the concept-note portfolio and from the retreat process. It also provides a practical way to explain the regional offer to governments and donors without oversimplifying country diversity. The pillars are not silos; many interventions will cut across more than one pillar. They are intended as organizing devices that clarify the roadmap's principal modes of value creation.

7.2 Pillar 1 — Knowledge, standards, diagnostics and peer learning

Pillar 1 responds to strong demand for practical guidance and transferable public goods. Countries emphasized toolkits, standards, diagnostics, monitoring frameworks, AI-supported tools, and peer learning as high-value contributions that could strengthen national and local work. This pillar includes baseline assessments, urban service diagnostics, guidance notes, replicable standards, digital tools, training modules, communities of practice, and knowledge products that package country experience for wider use.

This pillar is especially important because it can create high reach with relatively modest budgets. It also supports the speed and quality of downstream implementation by reducing the cost of starting from scratch in each country. Typical outputs may include service diagnostic templates, resilience and continuity guidance, digital monitoring frameworks, disability-inclusive service design checklists, and city-to-city exchange products.

7.3 Pillar 2 —Investing in safe people-centred urban basic services

Pillar 2 is the operational core of the regional roadmap. It focuses on bundled and system-level approaches to water, sanitation, drainage, waste management, energy-linked service continuity, public health resilience, operations and maintenance, and inclusive service delivery, while allowing for people-centred, participatory approaches and place-based service interventions where relevant. The central proposition is that infrastructure assets should be designed, governed and financed as part of service systems, not as isolated sector investments. This pillar supports city and country work that links planning, institutions, users, maintenance and resilience.

Typical interventions may include integrated service diagnostics, service-continuity planning, resilient public facility packages, urban WASH and drainage planning, circular waste systems,

area-based approaches in fragile settings, and project preparation support for bundled service upgrades. The portfolio analysis suggests that this pillar is likely to attract the greatest operational demand, particularly in LDCs, developing economies and crisis-affected contexts.

7.4 Pillar 3 – Investing in green and nature-based service approaches

Pillar 3 embeds nature-based and ecosystem-based approaches within settlement and service systems. The regional evidence shows that nature-based solutions are increasingly relevant not only for climate adaptation but also for public-space improvement, flood management, cooling, livelihoods, biodiversity and settlement resilience. The regional roadmap therefore treats nature-based solutions (NbS) as part of core service system design rather than as a peripheral environmental topic. Nature-based approaches should be adapted to diverse ecological contexts across Asia and the Pacific, including coastal zones, river basins, mountain systems, drylands and cold-climate environments. Examples include watershed protection, river corridor restoration, retention basins, urban greening, permeable landscapes and ecosystem-based flood management measures that strengthen service resilience while generating environmental and social co-benefits. Experience from Malaysia illustrates how nature-based drainage, blue-green infrastructure and ecological corridors can be embedded within basic-services planning as practical and investable complements to conventional systems.

This pillar can support watershed and stormwater planning, blue-green corridors, urban cooling, public-space-linked service improvements, coastal and riparian buffers, and evidence-based NbS readiness support. It also responds directly to retreat findings that highlighted financing gaps, governance and maintenance challenges, and the need for replicable models and stronger readiness support for countries.

7.5 Cross-cutting themes

All three pillars are underpinned by cross-cutting commitments. These include inclusion and equity; gender, disability and youth considerations; climate resilience; local ownership and people-centred processes; digitalization and data; financing and investment readiness; and stronger institutional relationships. Treating these themes as cross-cutting rather than standalone workstreams ensures that they influence project design, outputs, partnerships and monitoring across the entire regional roadmap.

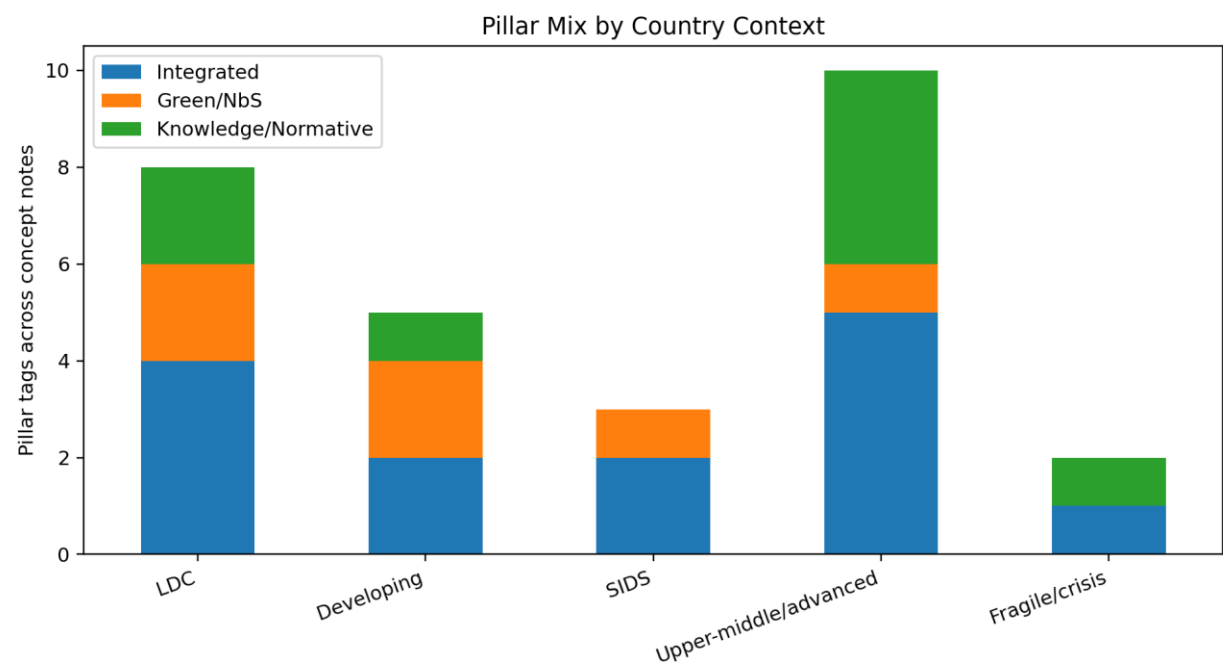


Figure 4: Indicative pillar mix across country contexts in the current portfolio

08 Country and Subregional Typologies

8.1 Why typologies matter

A regional roadmap cannot offer the same package to every country. Context matters. Capacity levels, fiscal space, urban form, governance structures and capacity, exposure to climate hazards, the maturity of institutions, readiness and donor landscapes vary widely across the region. Typologies help translate the regional roadmap into context-sensitive offers while preserving strategic coherence.

8.2 Least developed countries and fragile settings

In LDCs and fragile settings, the strongest demand is likely to centre on access, continuity, resilience and institutional strengthening. Bundled service support, low-cost diagnostics, practical O&M frameworks, service governance, and demonstration projects that connect housing, WASH, drainage, waste and public facilities are likely to be high priorities. These contexts also benefit from regional tools that reduce preparation costs and from investment preparation support that can translate small pilots into larger financing pathways.

8.3 Developing economies, SIDS and upper-middle-income contexts

Developing economies often require hybrid support that combines policy, demonstration and investment preparation. SIDS and coastal contexts need a strong focus on water security, resilient housing-service interfaces, blue-green infrastructure and climate-linked continuity. Upper-middle-income and advanced contexts can benefit from standards, innovation, peer learning, digital systems, and replication-oriented knowledge products. The regional roadmap should therefore prioritize different entry points and funding narratives while keeping the same underlying pillars and objectives.

8.4 Illustrative typology pathways

The portfolio already provides clear examples of these differentiated pathways. LDC concepts often emphasize integrated service resilience and continuity. Developing-economy concepts tend to blend policy, pilots and investment. Upper-middle-income contexts frequently emphasize standards, toolkits, city-to-city learning and technologically stronger resilience solutions. A typology-based approach allows the roadmap to organize support around what is most catalytic in each setting rather than around a one-size-fits-all model.

09 Delivery Modalities and Roadmap Instruments

9.1 Normative and advisory products

One major delivery modality is the development of regional public goods. These include guidance, standards, diagnostics, toolkits, digital monitoring frameworks, and thematic notes that can be used across countries. Such products are particularly important where countries face common challenges but do not have the resources to develop methods independently. They also create visibility and support donor engagement by showing the roadmap's value beyond individual projects.

9.2 Country support, demonstrations and multi-country initiatives

A second set of instruments concerns direct country and city engagement. This includes targeted technical assistance, demonstration projects, service diagnostics, investment preparation, area-based programming in crisis settings, and the design of integrated service packages. Some work will be country-specific; other work will be organized as multi-country initiatives where shared tools, common themes or donor windows justify a regional approach. Multi-country programmes can be especially useful for themes such as resilient WASH, urban public facilities, circular waste systems, or nature-based urban resilience. For example, Malaysia offers a useful demonstration context for integrated basic-services approaches in upper-middle-income settings, drawing on ongoing national–local initiatives related to service resilience, nature-based drainage solutions and data-driven diagnostics.

9.3 Peer learning, digital tools and pipeline support

The regional roadmap should also treat peer learning, communities of practice and digital tools as delivery instruments rather than optional extras. Country teams and partners can benefit from curated exchanges, demonstration visits, short learning products and digital dashboards that improve implementation quality. In addition, the regional roadmap should include pipeline support as a formal instrument, helping translate concepts and diagnostics into investable proposals, donor notes and scalable packages.

10 Roadmap Results Framework

10.1 Theory of change

The regional roadmap's theory of change is straightforward. If UN-Habitat supports governments, communities and partners with better diagnostics, practical standards, integrated planning support, demonstration/pilot projects, investment preparation and regional peer learning, then basic-service systems will become more coherent, inclusive, resilient and investable. This in turn should improve access, service continuity, institutional performance and local confidence in service delivery. The theory of change assumes that knowledge products and pilots alone are not enough; they must be connected to governance and financing pathways if the regional roadmap is to achieve sustained impact.

10.2 Impact, outcomes and outputs

At impact level, the regional roadmap seeks to contribute to improved quality of life and resilience through better access to basic services and stronger service systems. At outcome level, four changes are especially important: stronger enabling environments for integrated service planning and finance; improved local and institutional capacity for service continuity and inclusive delivery; greater availability and use of public goods, diagnostics and peer-learning products; and stronger partnerships and resource flows that support implementation and scaling. Outputs should be organized by pillar and can include guidance products, diagnostics, demonstrations, training packages, investment concepts and evidence products.

10.3 Indicators and learning use

Indicators should be selected with care so that they support management rather than generate unnecessary reporting burden. A balanced framework should include measurable process indicators, institutional indicators, output indicators and a small number of service and resilience indicators where feasible. Indicators should also support learning across the regional roadmap; they should help identify which typologies respond well to which instruments and which public goods are generating the greatest practical uptake. In addition, indicators should track the adoption and application of tools, standards and approaches by national and local stakeholders, in order to assess the regional roadmap's catalytic impact beyond direct implementation.

Simplified Theory of Change

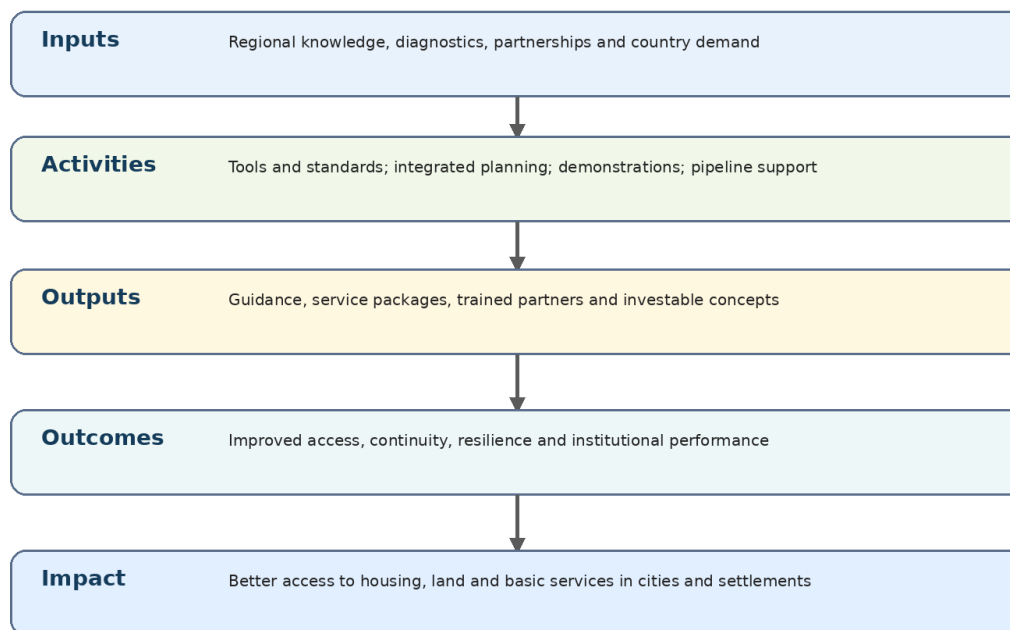


Figure 5: Simplified theory of change for the regional roadmap

11 Partnerships and Stakeholder Engagement

11.1 Partnership principles

The regional roadmap will only be credible if it is clearly collaborative. Basic services are delivered through institutions, utilities, municipal departments, communities, service providers, development banks, ministries, technical agencies and civil society actors. The regional roadmap should therefore adopt partnership principles that emphasize complementarity, localization, practical value-add, and transparency about roles. UN-Habitat should avoid trying to do everything itself and instead position the regional roadmap as a platform that organizes value across actors.

11.2 Core stakeholder groups

Key stakeholder groups include national governments, local and regional governments, utilities and service providers, UN agencies, development partners, international financial institutions, academia, technical institutions, civil society and community organizations, and private-sector partners where appropriate. Different pillars will require different partnership mixes. For example, standards and public goods may depend more on technical institutions and partner networks, while integrated service packages may require stronger local government, utility and financing relationships.

11.3 Participation and local ownership

Because many service failures are experienced at community level, engagement must extend beyond formal institutions. The retreat summary emphasized the importance of people-centred approaches, localized decision-making and community processes. These should be reflected in the regional roadmap's design and in terms of reference for future interventions. Participation should not be symbolic; it should shape diagnostics, prioritization, design assumptions and maintenance arrangements.

12 Resource Mobilization and Financing Approach

12.1 A layered financing logic

The regional roadmap should use a layered financing logic. Some elements, especially regional guidance, diagnostics, coordination and foundational public goods—may require core, catalytic or light donor support. Demonstrations and pilots will often require bilateral or thematic grants. Investment preparation may be supported through trust funds or project preparation windows. Larger capital-intensive interventions will depend on development finance institutions, climate funds or national financing pathways. UN-Habitat’s role in these cases is primarily catalytic, helping to strengthen planning quality, institutional capacity and implementation effectiveness. While in other countries, (re-)construction or upgrading of service infrastructures can be a way forward. Recognizing these layers helps avoid a common mistake: trying to finance every part of the regional roadmap through the same window.

12.2 Donor positioning by pillar

Different pillars lend themselves to different fundraising narratives. Pillar 1 is attractive where donors seek high reach, replication and knowledge value. Pillar 2 aligns with resilience, urban systems, public health, WASH, circular economy and local service delivery agendas, with a stronger emphasis on safe, people-centred and place-based urban basic service investments. Pillar 3 aligns strongly with adaptation, climate resilience, biodiversity, one health and livability agendas, while positioning nature-based and eco-system approaches. The portfolio matrix also suggests donor windows linked to specific themes such as adaptation, circular economy, climate-resilient housing, disability inclusion, and city-to-city public goods. These links should be carried forward in the regional roadmap’s resource mobilization notes and investment prospectuses.

12.3 From policy to investment

A key strategic principle is that normative work should help unlock investment rather than remain disconnected from it. Where possible, the regional roadmap should package diagnostics, frameworks and demonstration results so that they lead naturally to project pipelines, co-financing discussions and larger financing opportunities. This is particularly important for cities and countries that need support not only to identify service needs but also to translate them into

finance-ready proposals. This pipeline approach will help ensure that normative work, planning support and demonstration projects are systematically translated into investable opportunities, thereby increasing the regional roadmap’s catalytic impact and ability to mobilize resources for implementation.

13 Governance and Implementation Arrangements

13.1 Roles of headquarters, ROAP and country offices

Implementation should reflect the corporate expectation that regional and field offices respond to country needs while remaining connected to global priorities and public goods. ROAP should lead regional positioning, pillar development, quality assurance, partnership outreach and the packaging of lessons. Country offices or focal points should identify demand, support local dialogue, and shape implementation in context and contribute to resource mobilization and donor engagement at country level. Headquarters should support coherence, technical backstopping and linkages with global normative initiatives and partnerships.

13.2 Management, coordination and quality assurance

The regional roadmap would benefit from a light but clear management structure. This may include a regional steering function, pillar leads, a small technical review mechanism for major outputs and concept notes and agreed processes for prioritizing countries or pipeline opportunities. Governance should not become bureaucratic; its purpose is to ensure coherence, accountability and the practical use of scarce technical resources.

13.3 Implementation documents

In line with the global strategic plan, this regional roadmap should be followed by implementation documents that detail workstreams, accountabilities and sequencing. These may include pillar notes, country roadmaps, annual workplans, resource mobilization notes, and an indicative project pipeline. Together, these instruments form the implementation stack through which the regional roadmap becomes operational.

Implementation Stack

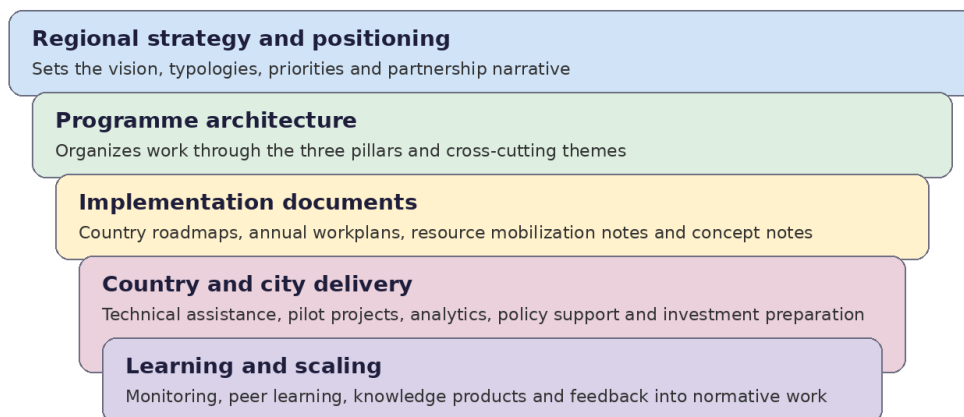


Figure 6: Implementation stack: the regional roadmap should be followed by a small set of implementation documents that bridge strategy and annual delivery.

14 Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning

14.1 Monitoring principles

A robust monitoring, evaluation and learning approach is essential for a regional roadmap that aims to generate public goods, strengthen systems and build investable pathways. Monitoring should therefore capture both delivery and influence. It should track not only what was produced or funded, but also whether guidance was used, whether institutions adopted new practices, whether diagnostics informed investment discussions, and whether pilots generated replicable models.

14.2 Learning loops

Learning should flow in multiple directions: from country implementation into regional guidance; from peer exchange into local adaptation; and from the regional roadmap into global normative work. This reinforces the strategic plan's emphasis on using operational learning to inform normative products and vice versa. Practical mechanisms may include periodic learning reviews, thematic notes, communities of practice, case studies and synthesis products.

14.3 Evaluation use

Periodic evaluation should examine relevance, coherence, efficiency, catalytic value, partnership performance and prospects for scale. Because much of the regional roadmap's value lies in bridging normative and operational work, evaluation criteria should include whether that bridge is in fact being built and used.

15 Replicability and Pathways to Scale

15.1 Replicability of approaches

A central objective of the regional roadmap is to generate approaches that can be replicated and scaled across countries and contexts. Replicability should therefore be understood as the ability to translate country-level experience into transferable models, tools and standards that can be adapted by other cities and partners. This includes practical diagnostics, integrated service planning approaches, demonstration interventions and operational frameworks that respond to common service challenges across typologies.

15.2 Adaptive engagement pathway

Scaling should be supported through an adaptive engagement pathway that links diagnostics, planning, demonstration and investment support into a coherent progression. Engagements may begin at different entry points depending on country context but should aim to move from identifying service gaps and system constraints, to developing and testing integrated solutions, and ultimately to preparing investment-ready concepts.

15.3 Pathways to scale

The regional roadmap should pursue multiple pathways to scale. These include the adoption of tools and standards by national and local governments, the integration of approaches into policies and planning processes, and the mobilization of financing for wider implementation. Regional learning and peer exchange can further support replication by enabling countries to adapt tested models to their own contexts.

16 Risk Analysis and Mitigation Measures

16.1 Strategic and operational risks

The regional roadmap faces several risks. Strategically, it could become too broad and lose clarity. Operationally, country demand may exceed available technical capacity, or pilots may proceed without sufficient attention to replication and finance. Institutional fragmentation in partner countries can also constrain results even when project design is strong. In some contexts, shocks or political changes may delay implementation. Finally, resource mobilization may prove uneven across pillars, leaving some priorities underfunded.

16.2 Mitigation measures

Mitigation begins with disciplined scope management and a clear definition of basic services. The pillar structure, typology approach and implementation stack are all intended to reduce fragmentation and sharpen prioritization. Technical quality assurance, deliberate partnership mapping, selective piloting, and strong follow-up from diagnostics to pipeline development can also reduce risk. Finally, the regional roadmap should maintain a realistic view of sequencing: not every country or theme needs to be pursued at once.

17 Implementation Roadmap and Immediate Next Steps

17.1 First 6–12 months

The first year should focus on turning regional roadmap into implementation architecture. Priority actions include validating the regional roadmap; finalizing pillar notes; identifying a limited number of pilot countries or themes; preparing a donor-facing narrative and resource mobilization note; and launching a first batch of practical public goods such as diagnostic templates, briefing notes or short training materials. This phase should also establish management arrangements and a simple monitoring baseline.

17.2 Medium-term trajectory

Over the medium term, the regional roadmap should move from strategic framing to visible delivery and pipeline growth. By the end of the first 12–18 months, the regional roadmap should be able to demonstrate at least three things: a coherent set of regional public goods in use; a small but credible set of country or city interventions under development or implementation; and a clearer funding proposition for scale. Success should be defined not only by the volume of delivery but also by whether the regional roadmap is shaping a more coherent regional conversation on resilient and inclusive basic-services systems.

Annexes

Supplementary evidence, country matrix, results framework and references

Annex 1: Portfolio Evidence Snapshot

The current portfolio of concept notes provides a useful evidence base for shaping the regional roadmap. It covers 19 concept notes across 15 countries and spans least developed countries, developing economies, SIDS, upper-middle-income settings and fragile contexts. The notes cluster around three recognizable patterns: integrated basic services, green and nature-based systems, and knowledge or normative platforms. Several concepts are intentionally hybrid, combining service investments, resilience, policy support, digital tools or public goods. This diversity is an asset because it enables a layered regional offer while still supporting a coherent overall narrative.

- Service continuity has emerged as a common resilience metric, especially where health facilities, water systems, drainage and public services are concerned.
- Nature-based solutions are increasingly framed as part of settlement resilience, public-space improvement, cooling, watershed or coastal protection, and livelihood support.
- Normative platforms such as toolkits, awards, standards, digital frameworks and learning products can create high visibility and replication with modest capital intensity.
- Several concepts provide natural multi-country pathways, including resilient WASH, service continuity, climate-resilient housing-service interfaces, circular economy waste systems and urban NbS.
- Integrated upgrading approaches demonstrate that combining flood resilience infrastructure, sanitation improvements, housing-related interventions and local planning processes can generate stronger service continuity and climate adaptation outcomes than stand-alone sector investments.
- Climate-resilient housing-service interfaces are emerging as an important area of practice, particularly in informal, climate-vulnerable and/or peri-urban settlements where housing quality, energy access, public health and service resilience are closely interconnected.

What the portfolio suggests

The regional roadmap should package country diversity into a small number of recognizable pathways without forcing country ideas into a rigid template. The three-pillar structure does this while leaving room for hybrids.

Annex 2: Basic Services Matrix

The matrix below summarizes the 19 concept notes across 15 countries in the Asia-Pacific portfolio. It maps country type, portfolio cluster, thematic focus, innovation and merge/synergy potential, along with indicative donor windows. It is presented in landscape orientation to preserve readability.

Country	Country type	Portfolio cluster	Theme	Innovation / value-add	Merge / synergy potential	Indicative donors / windows
Afghanistan	LDC/crisis setting	Integrated basic services (climate-linked)	Durable solutions for returnees/displaced: settlement upgrading, basic services, housing & livelihoods	Integrated services bundle at the settlement level linking planning, services, and livelihoods	Urban crisis/HQ window; potential multi-country displacement solutions	EU; STFA; SDC; AHF; Japan; ...
Iran	Upper-middle/advanced	Integrated basic services + Knowledge/Normative	Climate-resilient urban basic services incl. water & learning spaces; green jobs; circular economy	Large-scale DRR/basic-services concepts; circularity; green jobs/energy	AF Caspian Sea concept; synergies with Afghanistan & Pakistan	Japan; Republic of Korea; ECHO; Germany; Sweden
Iran (BEHTAB)	Upper-middle/advanced	Integrated basic services + Knowledge/Normative	Resilient hospitals via incremental retrofitting, green energy and neighborhood resilience planning	Hospitals as hubs for neighborhood-level resilience: energy transition in health	Knowledge exchange/training tours; replication across health networks	Japan; Republic of Korea; ECHO; Germany; Sweden

Country	Country type	Portfolio cluster	Theme	Innovation / value-add	Merge / synergy potential	Indicative donors / windows
Nepal	LDC	Integrated basic services (climate) + Knowledge/Normative	Climate-resilient WASH in health facilities & schools; data-driven municipal planning	Tool-driven climate proofing using WASHFIT and CRW/SSP; risk-based management	Multi-country WASH initiatives (e.g., DA17 with Lao PDR) City wide inclusive sanitation (CWIS)	WASH donors
Cambodia (Kampong Speu)	LDC	Green spaces/NbS/Public space-led	NbS in protected/heritage landscapes; ecosystem restoration + livelihoods + green tourism	Positioning NbS as an economic resilience pathway	—	Adaptation Fund
Cambodia (Siem Reap)	LDC	Green spaces/NbS/Local-led	Community-led NbS and sustainable green tourism in heritage-protected areas	Locally-led adaptation models linked to value chains and tourism	Submitted to AF LLA window	Adaptation Fund
Maldives (Blue carbon & settlements)	SIDS	Green/NbS + Integrated services	Ecosystem-based coastal protection; mangrove & seagrass restoration; reduce migration pressures	Treating mobility/migration and NbS within a settlement lens	Regional NbS/blue carbon programmes	UN MPTF on Migration; AF; bilateral

Country	Country type	Portfolio cluster	Theme	Innovation / value-add	Merge / synergy potential	Indicative donors / windows
Maldives (Housing & water)	SIDS	Integrated basic services (housing/water)	Climate-smart housing; water security; flood-proofing; NbS + engineered solutions	Demonstration of climate-resilient affordable housing integrated with water systems	Regional/multi-country on climate-resilient housing	Adaptation Fund; Loss & Damage Fund; World Bank
Sri Lanka (SRNA)	Developing	Green/NbS + climate-smart engineered services	Sub-national flood, drought, and heat resilience via EbA/NbS and capacity building	Integration of NbS with engineered urban services at the sub-national scale	Regional NbS/urban resilience initiatives	AF; Japan/JICA/KOICA; EU/ECHO; CDRI
Lao PDR	LDC	Integrated basic services (resilience)	Climate-resilient WASH, drainage, and solid waste; HSI+ for health facilities	HSI-plus model; digital dashboards; O&M frameworks; EbS integration	Replication with Nepal: regional service-resilience programmes	ADB; GCF; EU; JICA; KOICA
Malaysia	Upper-middle/advanced	Knowledge/Normative (public space)	National Public Space Toolkit; virtual training; enhanced national guidelines and toolkits	Normative-first delivery with modest budgets; national guideline/toolkit enhancement	Global Public Space Programme; enhanced national guidelines and toolkits	Government (KPKT)/internal
Pakistan	Developing	Integrated basic services (Solid Waste / Circular Economy)	Solid Waste / Circular Economy	Digital monitoring, informal worker integration, scalable MSWM systems	—	GEF, GCF, WB, ADB, EU, UNEP-linked window

Country	Country type	Portfolio cluster	Theme	Innovation / value-add	Merge / synergy potential	Indicative donors / windows
China	Upper-middle/advanced	Integrated basic services + Knowledge/Normative	Integrated solid and food waste management; global observance of World Cleanup Day 2026	Transform Shaoxing best practices into global public goods; launch Clean Cities Shaoxing Initiative	Global replication & city-to-city exchanges	Shaoxing CALEB; international donors
Myanmar	Fragile/crisis	Integrated Basic Services + Knowledge	Urban WASH & services in crisis contexts	Area-based approach, people's process, service-gap mapping	—	World Bank; bilateral partners; climate/urban resilience trust funds
Mongolia	Upper-middle/advanced Climate-vulnerable landlocked country	Green & Nature-based Service Systems	NbS flood resilience, compact urban growth, ger settlements	NbS adaptation integrated with land-use planning, compact growth and flood resilience in dryland settlements	NbS, urban resilience, watershed management, climate adaptation	AF, GCF, GEF, EU, ADB
Mongolia	Upper-middle/advanced Climate-vulnerable landlocked country	Integrated Basic Services + Climate Resilience	Climate-resilient housing and basic services in ger areas	Housing retrofits, sanitation, clean heating, ventilation and household adaptation	Healthy homes, LLA, WASH, urban adaptation, public health	AF-LLA, FRLD, GCF
India	Upper-middle/advanced	Integrated Basic Services	Disability-inclusive, climate-resilient	OPD-led governance,	Toolkits, digital systems	Global Disability Fund

Country	Country type	Portfolio cluster	Theme	Innovation / value-add	Merge / synergy potential	Indicative donors / windows
			public infrastructure and services	universal design, inclusive DRR, disaggregated data		
India	Upper-middle/advanced	Integrated Basic Services / Circular Economy	Municipal solid waste & plastic waste management	WaCT diagnostics, decentralized systems, inclusive waste-worker models	Replicable across Indian and regional cities	State Government of Odisha (H&UD/BMC/CMC)
Bangladesh	LDC	Integrated basic services + Knowledge/Normative + Housing	Affordable, low-carbon, circular and climate-resilient housing linked with slum upgrading, tenure, WASH, drainage and municipal service delivery	Strong linkage between housing, basic services, climate action roadmap, green building certification, investment readiness	Synergies with housing, upgrading, WASH, city-level climate finance programmes	GlobalABC-linked climate action windows; climate funds; bilateral urban/climate finance
Philippines	Developing	Housing + Urban management + Green/NbS + Knowledge/Normative	Risk-informed climate-sensitive housing, SDG localization, urban EbA, resilient green spaces, ancestral domain planning	Combines resilient housing delivery with LGU policy uptake, SDG 11 localization, urban EbA, living labs	Strong fit with policy replication, local planning support, city-to-city learning	Housing and climate resilience windows; adaptation and biodiversity-linked funds; bilateral support

Annex 3: Illustrative Results Framework

The results framework below is illustrative and should be refined during implementation planning. It captures the regional roadmap's intended impact and four outcome-level changes, together with examples of how progress can be measured. Indicators should be selected to serve both accountability and learning needs, without generating excessive reporting burden.

Level	Illustrative statement	Examples of measurement
Impact	People in cities and human settlements experience improved access, continuity and resilience in basic services	Selected service, resilience and institutional indicators in supported geographies
Outcome 1	Partners adopt stronger integrated planning, diagnostics and governance arrangements for basic services	Use of guidance, diagnostics, service plans, local policy uptake
Outcome 2	Countries and cities implement or prepare integrated service packages and pilots	Number of pilots, investment concepts, supported local governments or facilities
Outcome 3	Regional public goods, peer learning and digital tools are used across countries	Downloads, training participation, repeat use, peer-learning events, user feedback
Outcome 4	Partnerships and resources for scale are strengthened	Co-financing mobilized, proposals submitted, partner agreements, pipeline value

Annex 4: References

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