



UN-HABITAT

REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION STRATEGY 2026 - 2029

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC - ROAP



UN-Habitat ROAP Regional Implementation Strategy 2026-2029

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
ACROS Fukuoka Building,
8th Floor 1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku
Fukuoka, Japan
habitat.fukuoka@un.org
Tel: +81-92-724-7121/23

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Coordination: Kazuko Ishigaki
Principal author: ROAP
Contributing authors: ROAP Country Offices
Layout and graphic design: Matheus Cordeiro, Oddy Angelo
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UN-Habitat's Presence in the Asia-Pacific Region



FOREWORD

Kazuko Ishigaki

Regional Director
UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)

Asia and the Pacific stand at the forefront of the world's urban future. The region's cities are vital engines of innovation and prosperity, yet they also concentrate inequality, climate risk and governance pressures. Rapid urban growth, persistent informality, demographic transitions and intensifying climate impacts demand solutions that are integrated, inclusive and focused on implementation.

It is in this context that I am pleased to present the UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) Regional Implementation Strategy 2026–2029. This Strategy translates the ambition of UN-Habitat's Strategic Plan 2026–2029 into a coherent regional approach that will guide our support to Member States, cities and partners, and be operationalized through aligned country-level planning and the United Nations Sustainable Development Cooperation Framework (UNSDCF). It reaffirms a central principle: global norms must be translated into tangible results—so that policies, investments and partnerships deliver measurable improvements in people's lives, especially for those in vulnerable situations.

ROAP's approach is grounded in UN-Habitat's unique mandate and added value within the United Nations system—linking normative guidance with operational delivery, strengthening local governance, and advancing evidence-based decision-making through urban data and innovation. At the heart of our regional strategy is the People's Process: a community-centered approach that builds local capacity, supports self-reliance, and enables lasting impact beyond the life of individual projects. This is both our method and our commitment to participation, dignity and accountability.

To respond to the region's evolving realities, ROAP will focus implementation through five thematic entry points aligned with the Strategic Plan: (1) resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and communities, including slum and informal settlement transformation with strengthened land tenure security; (2) universal access to resilient basic services and infrastructure; (3) urban management transformation through integrated planning and finance, strengthened legal and policy frameworks, participatory governance and digital innovation; (4) adaptive responses to demographic shifts, including migration, youth-driven growth, aging and urban shrinkage; and (5) harmonized co-existence of cities and nature, alongside the preservation of cultural diversity and identity. These priorities will be advanced across three impact areas: equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication; prevention, response, recovery and reconstruction in humanitarian and crisis contexts; and environment and climate action.

Delivering on this Strategy will require strong means of implementation—capacity development, inclusive multi-level governance, improved data and foresight, strengthened partnerships, and predictable resource mobilization—supported by robust communication, transparency, and results-based monitoring. ROAP will also strengthen its institutional role as a regional strategic hub, supporting country offices and deepening collaboration across the UN system and with regional institutions.

This Strategy is a revolving document to be reviewed and refined annually, and as circumstances evolve, ensuring responsiveness to Member State priorities and emerging opportunities for collective action. I extend my appreciation to Member States, local and regional governments, UN partners, civil society, academia, the private sector and communities across Asia and the Pacific for your collaboration. Together, we will advance the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda, and support cities and communities that are inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, leaving no one and no place behind.

01

Our Assets, Strengths and Added Values

About this document

The Regional Implementation Strategy aims to realize the value that the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 indicates. In this regard, this document is in full accordance with the Strategic Plan and will be trickled down to the country plans.

It is a revolving document. At the end of each year and when important events occur, the plan will be reviewed and revised if necessary.

Development Process

Analytical work within the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP), integrating the insights from bilateral meetings with the country offices, regional conference as well as a broad range of related publications.

Consultation with Country Offices in Asia and the Pacific,

Consultation with UN-Habitat Headquarters.

Briefing session with Member States.

Briefing session with stakeholders including UN agencies.



UN-Habitat brings unique added value to the UN system, its partners, and member states through its ability to catalyze global action toward more **sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities and communities**



The agency plays a key enabling role in both policy and implementation. It provides **technical expertise and hands-on assistance**, working directly with **local and national** authorities and communities.



The guiding principle behind projects and initiatives implemented in Asia and the Pacific is the **“People’s Process”**, which is a people and community centered approach. The People’s Process starts with and facilitates **capacity development for local people** and promote **endogenous development**. After we leave, our outputs and sustainable impact remain in the community.



We **support people and communities** by enhancing their access to **adequate housing, land and basic services**, by creating an **enabling environment for self-reliance**.



Specialized Mandate on Urbanization

UN-Habitat is the **only United Nations agency** with a **dedicated mandate** to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities.



Normative and Operational Integration

UN-Habitat uniquely combines **normative work**—such as developing global frameworks, policy guidelines, and technical standards—with **operational fieldwork** that translates these into **practical solutions on the ground**.



Local Government Engagement

UN-Habitat places **strong emphasis on engaging local governments** and urban stakeholders, recognizing that many urban challenges are best addressed at the city level.



Urban Data and Innovation Integration

UN-Habitat supports evidence-based decision-making through **robust urban data systems** and **innovative tools**, including urban observatories, SDG localization platforms, and monitoring frameworks.



Humanitarian-Development Nexus

UN-Habitat adds value by linking humanitarian shelter and basic services to **long-term, inclusive urban recovery** through its mandate on sustainable urbanization and housing.



Convening Power in Urban Forums

UN-Habitat plays a **central role in convening global dialogue on urbanization** through platforms like the World Urban Forum, Urban October, and the Global Urban Lectures.

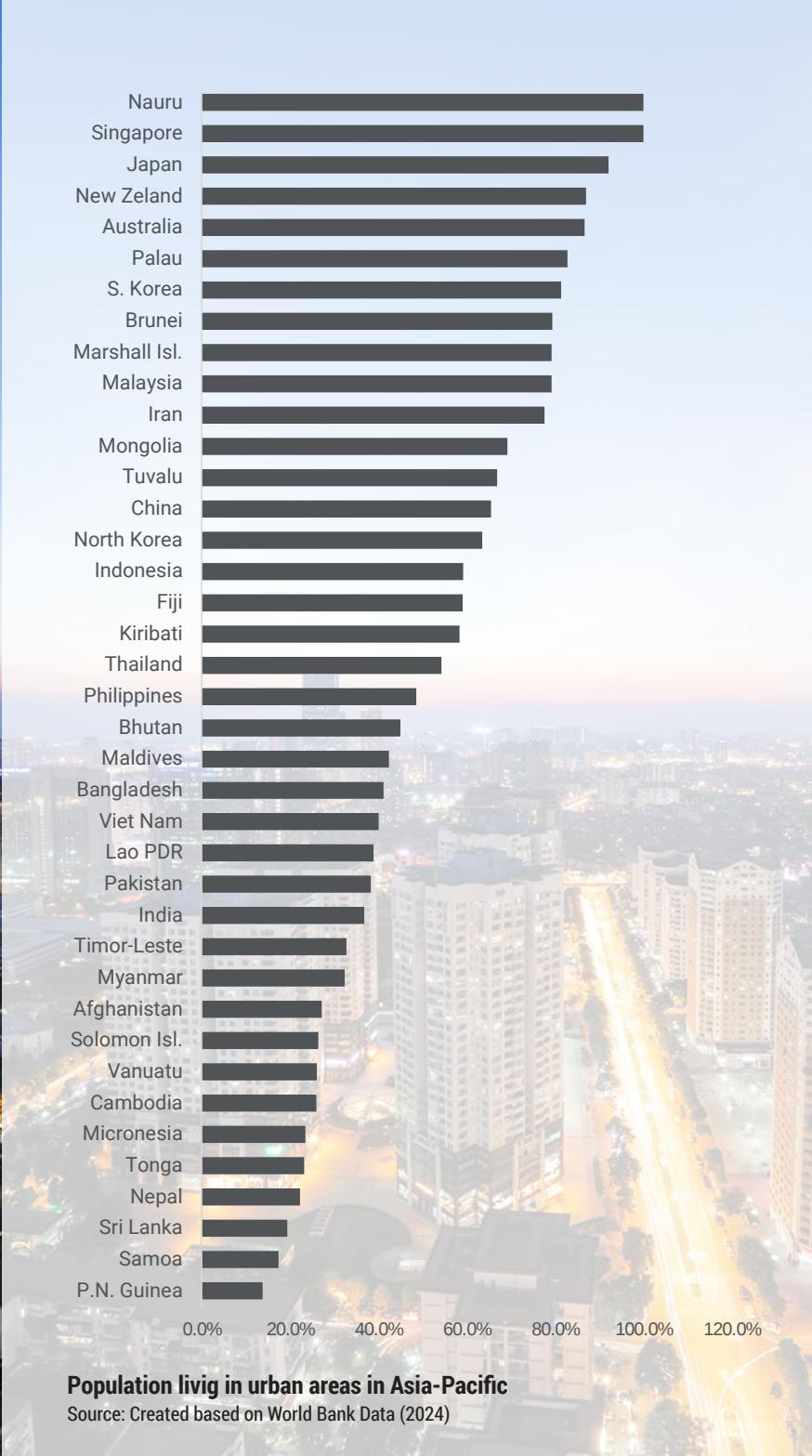
02

Regional Trends in Asia and the Pacific

Rapid Urbanization

The urban population is expected to increase from 2.5 billion in 2025 to 3.4 billion by 2050.

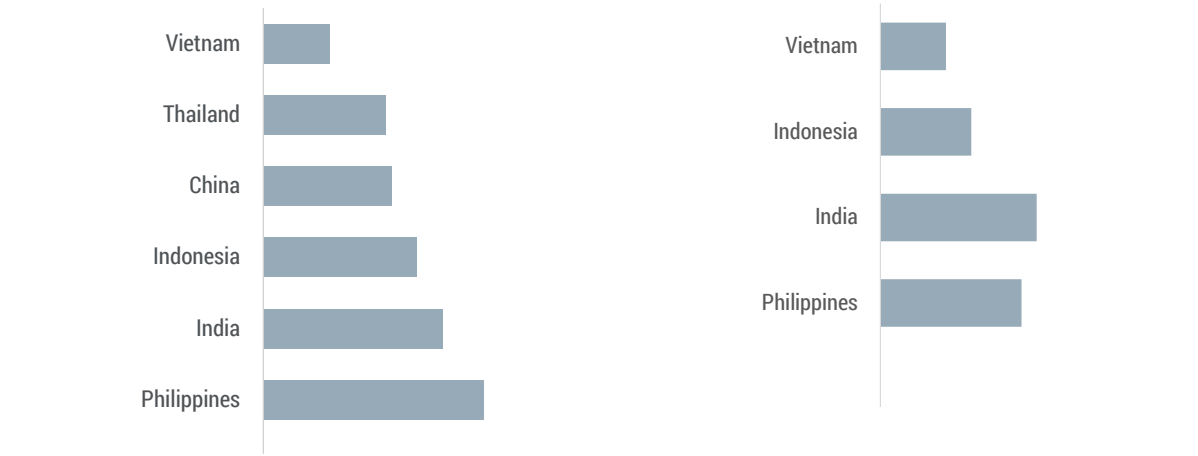
Rapid urbanization has led to inadequate infrastructure and services, contributing to housing shortages and an increase in slum dwellers.



Poverty and Inequality

Despite progress in poverty reduction, **5% of the population in the Asia-Pacific** (excluding high-income countries) still live below the extreme poverty line of \$2.15 per day.

Women face greater **barriers to affordable housing, secure land tenure, access to basic services and livelihood opportunities, and representation** in urban development decision-making.



Urban Population Living in Slums (Percent)

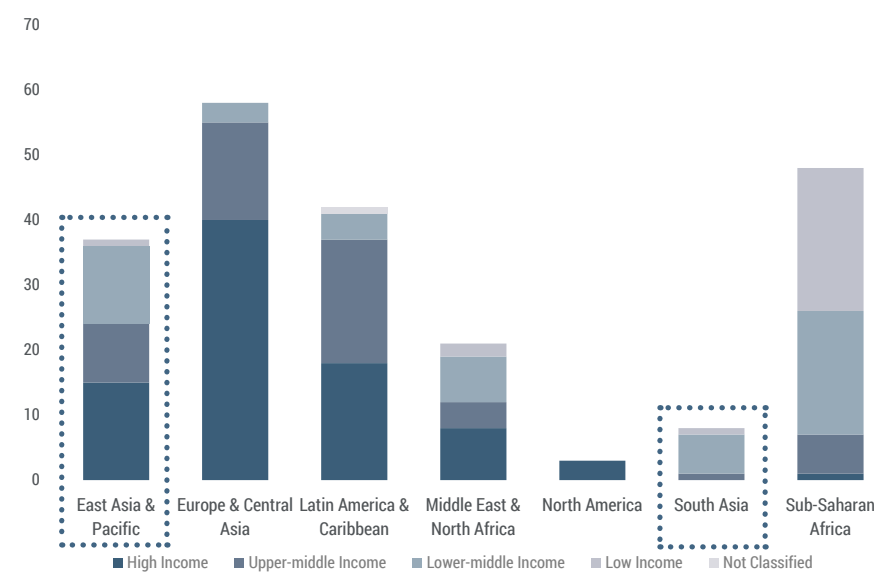
Housing Inadequacy Index (Index)

Housing quality challenge in Emerging Market and Developing Countries (EMDCs) in Asia-Pacific

Source: Behr and others (2021); United Nations Human Settlements Programme; and World Bank, World Development Indicators

Economic Diversity

The Asia-Pacific region includes countries at diverse income levels, **from low income countries to high income countries**. This leads to a **diversification of challenges** across countries in the region.



World Bank country classifications by income level for 2023
Source: World Bank. World Bank Group Country Classification by Income Level.



55%
of global greenhouse gas emissions come from Asia-Pacific

Climate Change and Disaster

The Asia-Pacific region accounts for over **55% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, with more than 70% of these emissions occurring in urban areas.

A **high share of global disasters** occurs in the Asia-Pacific region, highlighting the urgent need for resilience and adaptation policies.

40–45%

of the world’s natural disasters hit Asia-Pacific



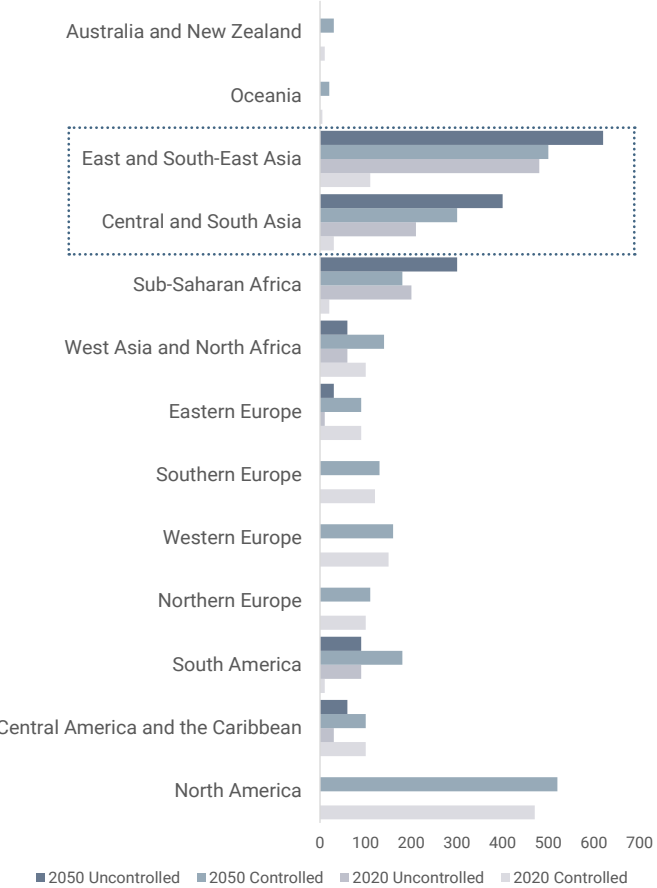
Distribution of Disaster Events Across the Globe (2000-2025)
Source: Asian Transport Observatory (2025) From Breakdowns to Breakthroughs: Climate Resilience of Asia-Pacific's Transport Infrastructure

Housing

In the Asia-Pacific region, high-income countries face challenges related to **housing affordability** while middle- and low-income countries struggle with the housing quality.

Slums and informal settlements are consistent challenges in the Asia-Pacific region, which has the highest number of people living in slums, with approximately 600 million people accounting for about 60% of the world's total slum population.

60%
of the world's
slum population
is in Asia-Pacific



Municipal solid waste generation and how much of this waste was uncontrolled in 2020, with projections for 2050 unless urgent action is taken.

Source: UNEP Global Waste Management Outlook 2024

Basic Services

Access to **safe drinking water** and sanitation remains a major challenge, due to limited capacity in water infrastructure management.

The **lack of effective waste management systems** results in low waste collection rates and open dumping, causing the region to generate 80% of the world's **ocean plastic pollution**.

Limited access to public transport and a growing number of vehicles cause traffic congestions and air pollutions.

Demographic Change

Aging populations, low birth rates, and slowing rate of urbanization are causing a new phenomenon: **shrinking cities**. Although this is currently centered in East Asia, it is anticipated to extend to South and Southeast Asia.

Access to decent work remains a challenge for **youth people** in low and lower-middle income countries, especially in South Asia.

Governance and Transformation

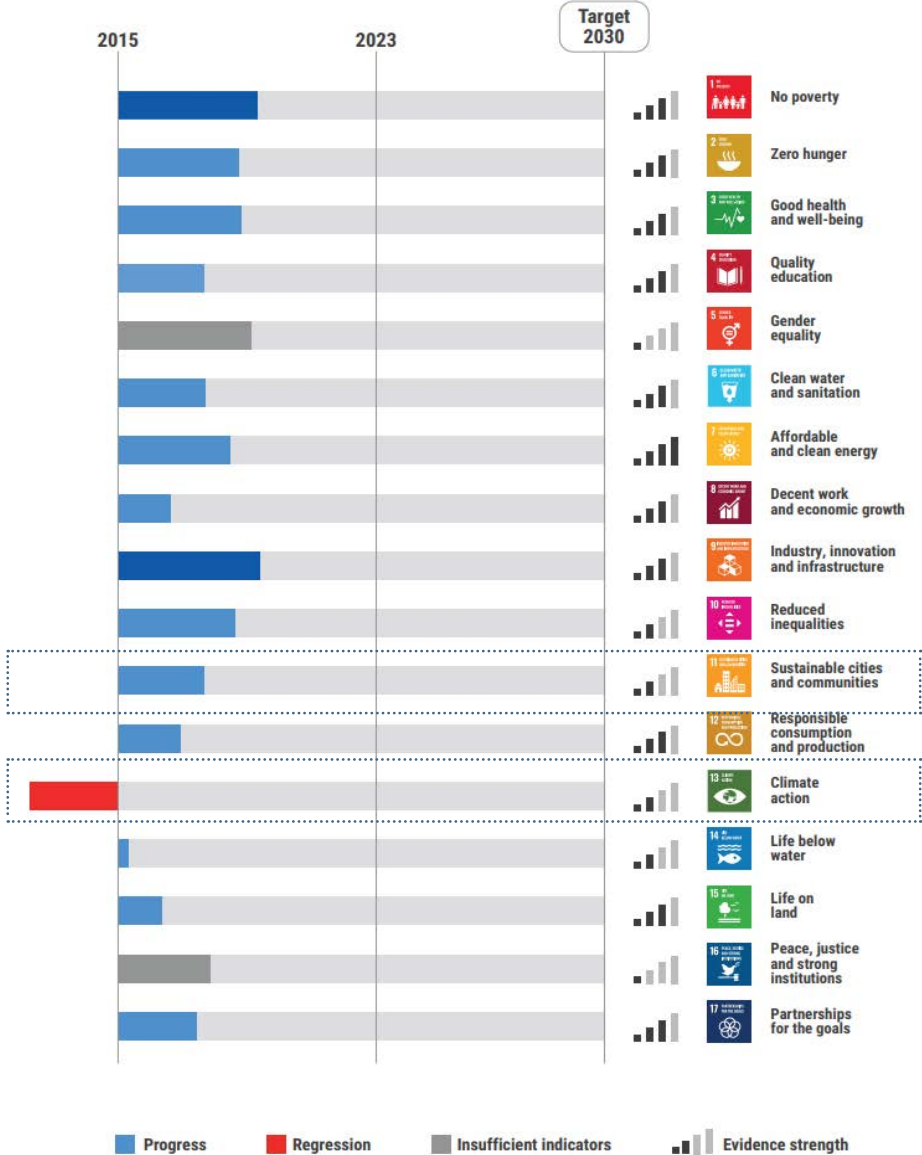
Local governments face challenges in financing, with their revenue remaining below 20% of GDP in the Asia-Pacific region, and under 10% in many developing countries.

Despite growing demand, smart city development is still limited, with **low citizen involvement** in the process in the Asia-Pacific region.

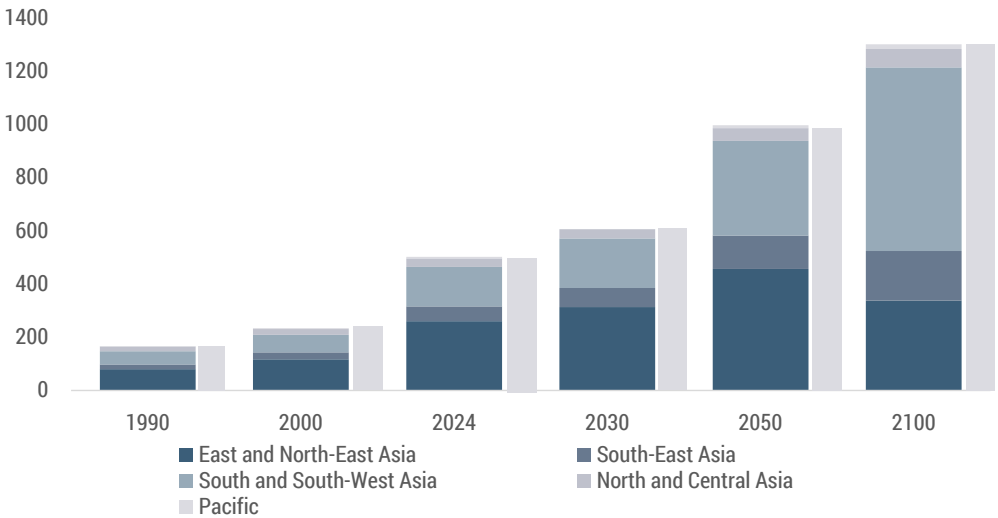
SDGs

Since 2015, **progress on SDG 11 has been slow**, and **SDG 13 has regressed** in the Asia-Pacific region.

Although about 65% of SDG targets relate directly to local governments, only 7 countries have submitted NUA reports, while VLRs are increasing, in the Asia-Pacific region.



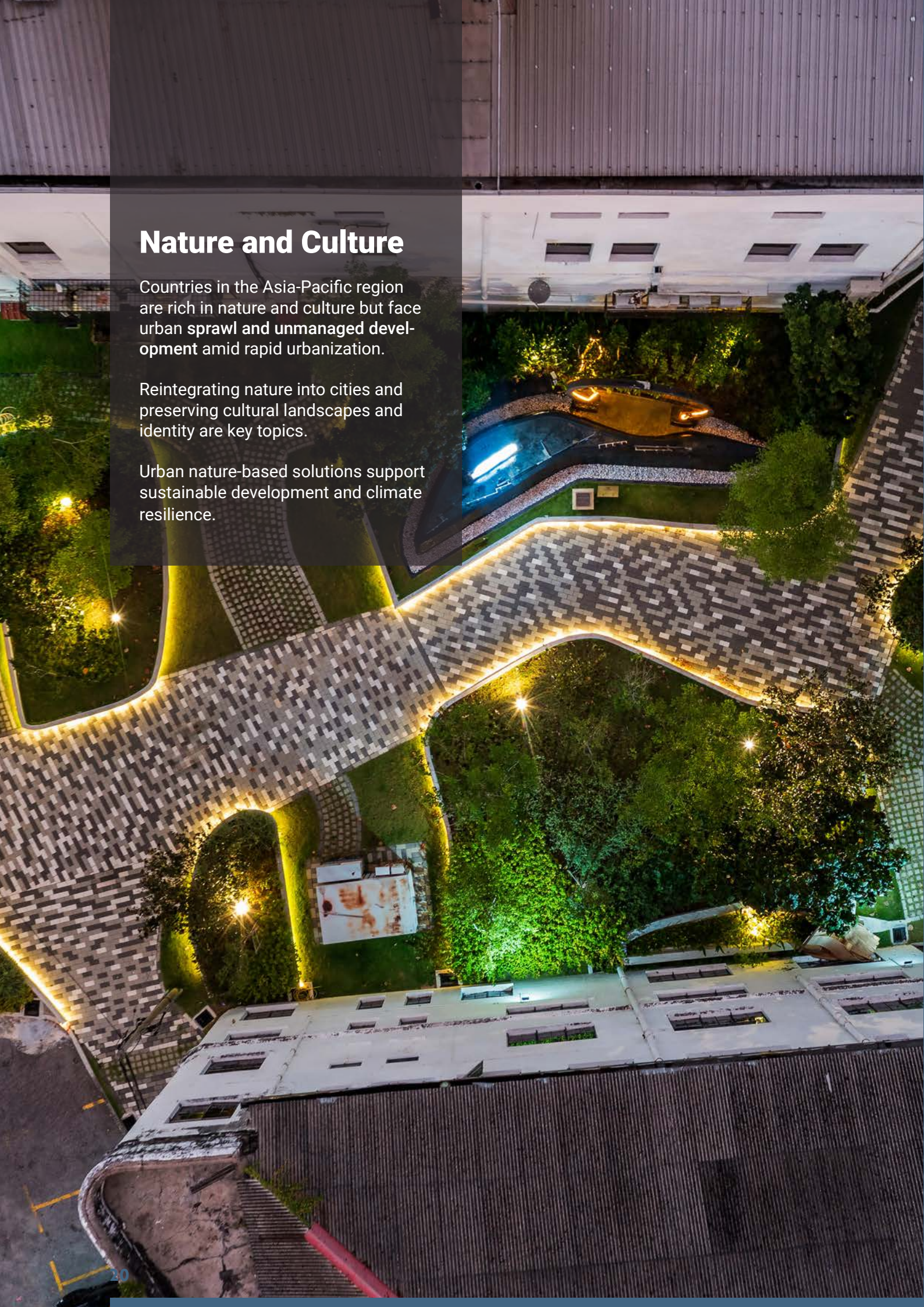
Source: ESCAP Asia and the Pacific SDG Progress Report 2024



Number of people aged 65 years or over in Asia and the Pacific, and by subregion, 1990-2100

Source: United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UN DESA), Population Division, "World Populayion Prospects, 2024" 2024a.





Nature and Culture

Countries in the Asia-Pacific region are rich in nature and culture but face urban sprawl and unmanaged development amid rapid urbanization.

Reintegrating nature into cities and preserving cultural landscapes and identity are key topics.

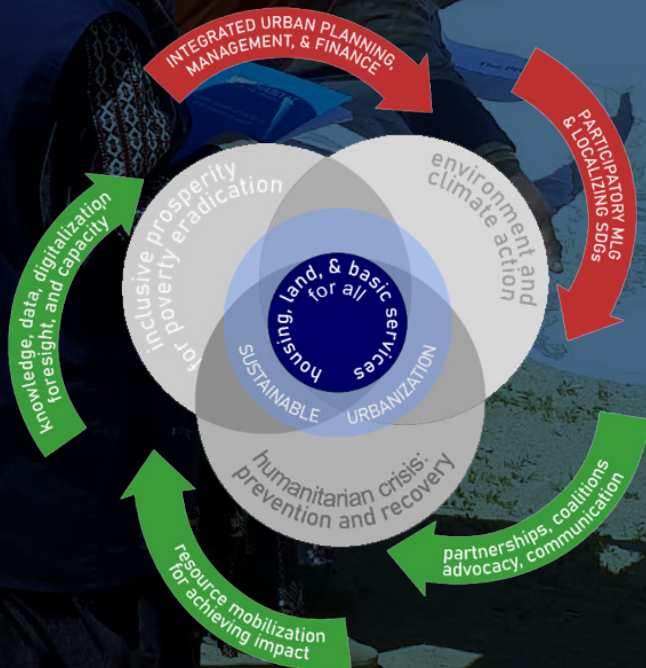
Urban nature-based solutions support sustainable development and climate resilience.

03

Key Thematic Entry Points for Regional Implementation of Strategic Plan 2026-2029

Strategic Focus

Adequate **housing, land and basic services** for all, including the urgent transformation of informal settlements and slums



Key Thematic Entry Points



Growing need for resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive **housing** and communities for all, including **transformation of slums and informal settlements** with a focus on **land tenure security** and housing



Consistent need for universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive **basic services and infrastructures**



Urgent need for **urban management transformation** through integrated planning and finance, strengthened legal and policy frameworks, enhanced governance mechanisms, and use of advanced technologies



Strong need for the tailored responses and adaptive planning for **demographic shifts**, including population increases due to migration and youth-driven growth, as well as population decline associated with aging, both of which are ongoing in the Asia-Pacific region.



Universal need for harmonized **co-existence of cities and nature** and preservation of **cultural diversity**

Three impact areas



Equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication



Prevention, response, recovery and reconstruction in the context of humanitarian crisis



Environment and climate action



Key Thematic Priority Needs

1 Resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and community for all

Growing need for **resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive housing and communities for all**, highlighting the demand for developing housing standards, policies and strategies to assure adequate housing and sustainable communities.

Transformation of slums and informal settlements with focus on **land tenure security and housing** for people in vulnerable situation is part of such need.

2 Universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures

Consistent need for **universal access to resilient, risk-informed and climate-sensitive basic services and infrastructures**, including **water and sanitation, waste management, energy and mobility** (road and public transport, public space).

The access to such basic services needs to be expanded and disruptions to public service delivery must be minimized, while ensuring equity, efficiency and cost-effectiveness in public services delivery.

3 Urban management transformation through integrated planning, participatory governance and advanced technology

Urgent need for urban management transformation through integrated planning and finance, strengthened legal and policy frameworks, enhanced participatory governance mechanisms, and the use of advanced technologies including digital transformation.

This will enhance efficiency and effectiveness, support urban prosperity and enable people-centred, inclusive and sustainable **smart cities**.

4 Response to demographic shifts: aging, migration, and youth-driven growth

Strong need for the tailored responses and adaptive planning for **demographic shifts**, including population increases due to migration and youth-driven growth, as well as population decline associated with aging, both of which are ongoing in the Asia-Pacific region.

Urban expansion needs to address issues such as housing and infrastructure gaps, traffic congestion and disordered land use while supporting access to decent work for youth and new residents.

Urban shrinkage and aging requires addressing issues such as loss of scale economy, re-use of vacant housing and public assets, adjustment of services with emphasis on care and accessibility.

5 Harmonized co-existence of cities and nature and preservation of cultural diversity

Universal need for **harmonized co-existence of cities and nature** and **preservation of cultural diversity**, expressing the demand for proper land management and regulations preventing urban sprawl, degraded natural environment including biodiversity loss, air/water pollution and zoonotic disease (often sources of pandemic).

This will enhance **public health, quality of life, and sound urban rural linkage** as well as harmonized community development with focus on local culture, lifestyle and construction method/material, leveraging many **cultural heritage** sites in the region.





04

Institutional Arrangements

Means of Implementation

- MOI1** Support **capacity building** for integrated planning and implementation including nature-based solution and SDG localization at both national and local level.
- MOI2** Promote **multi-level and multi-sectoral governance** through mechanisms such as national urban forum.
- MOI3** Build capacity for **data collection and analysis and foresight** to support evidence-based policy making.
- MOI4** **Strengthen** and expand ongoing partnership, **revive** the declined partnership when UN-Habitat was engaged before, and **explore** new partners through a targeted approach.
- MOI5** **Continue** and expand ongoing donor relationship, **revive** past donor relationship that declined after previous UN-Habitat engagement, and **explore** new donors through targeted approach.



Strategic Focus of ROAP institutional arrangements

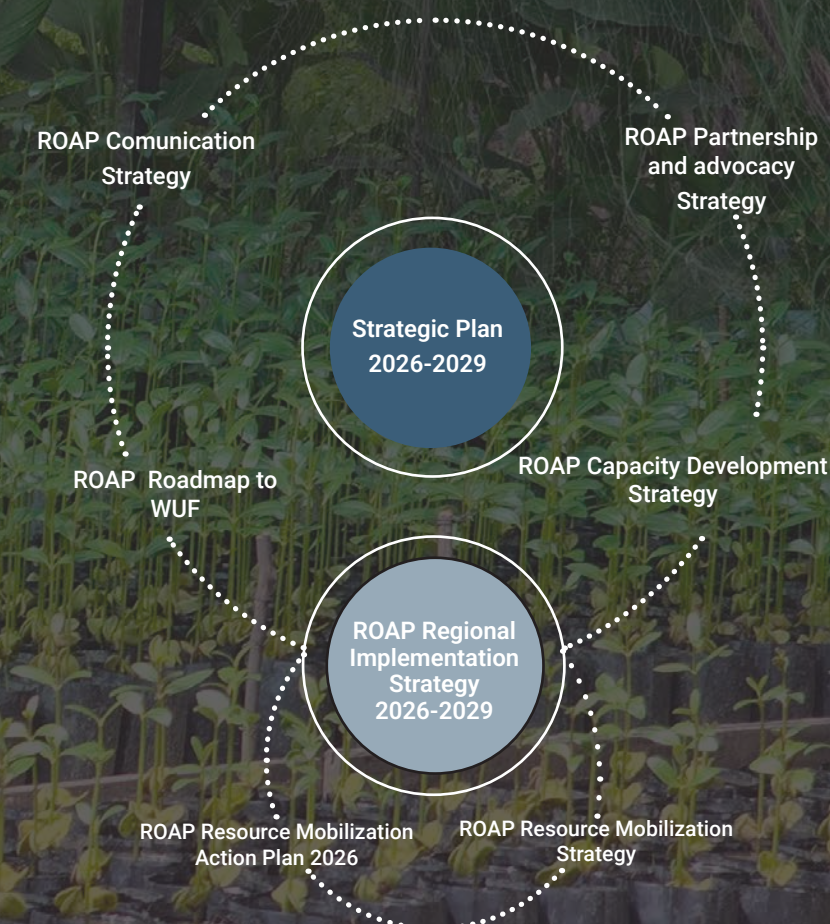
Transform ROAP into a **regional knowledge hub** especially in the fields of waste management, Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction/Reconstruction

Requiring **all operational projects to have elements of normative aspects** to develop normative work enriched with and learned from operational reality on the ground

Explore sub-regional coordination structure for **sharing knowledge & resources** (South Asia, South-east Asia, East Asia, and the Pacific/Oceania)

Strengthen existing country offices while upgrading its presence in the Pacific SIDS and exploring new opportunities in Indonesia, Malaysia (NUA Platform), Maldives, Bangladesh and Korea.

Facilitate a **strategic multi-country approach**, scale up best practices and pilots from global/regional programmes, and learn from other regions.



**ROAP System of Strategic Documents:
Words need to be translated into action**

ROAP will strengthen the role and capacity to adapt to internal and external needs in Asia Pacific Region

1 ROAP The role of Regional Office

Fukuoka: Function as a regional strategic hub by leading regional representation, deciding and guiding strategic direction and ensuring the implementation in AP region through support for country offices, streamlining internal governance mechanism including smooth flow of information among Country Office-Regional Office-Headquarters, enhancing donor relations, and transforming to be a regional knowledge hub to support the global knowledge hub in certain areas such as waste management, climate action and Disaster Risk Reduction/Climate Change Adaptation.

Bangkok: Function as a regional coordination hub by further upgrading its role in regional UN system coordination and collaboration while expanding collaboration with regional institutions such as ASEAN.

Capacity Development of Regional Office and Country Office

Develop the ROAP Capacity Development Strategy in 2026 to concretize the action to be taken.

Strengthen Country offices by the mechanism of monthly Habitat Programme Manager/Chief Technical Advisor meetings and ROAP retreats to share common challenges and good practices and discuss how to improve our capacity.

Stocktake staff skill catalogue and nurture mutual advice system based on technical expertise of each staffs.(e.g. Myanmar Earthquake Taskforce, technical focal point system)

ROAP will coordinate more effectively with entire UN-Habitat

2 ROAP within entire UN-Habitat

Strengthen coordination with Headquarters (e.g. sharing focal point matrix, regular focal point meeting)

Strengthen inter-regional office cooperation (e.g. assigning focal point, joint development of projects like the case of waste management, joint planning for WUF sessions), learning from other regions (e.g. integration of cultural heritage in urban development)

Strengthen our contribution to Headquarters by participating in the Community of Practice and other mechanisms.



ROAP strengthens partnership with other organizations

3 ROAP relations with external organizations

Facilitate the country offices to be integrated and aligned with United Nations Country Team, play a proactive role to United Nations Sustainable Cooperation Framework/ National Determined Contributions delivery and join forces with other UN agencies in project development and implementations.

Facilitate the country offices to be aligned with national development plan priorities. Strengthen efforts to liaise with regional level organization/initiatives such as RCP, UNESCAP, RCP, ASEAN, APEC.

Develop strategic relationship with donor countries in the Asia-Pacific region to catalyze solidarity across Asia and the Pacific

Engage more country partners into global communities and initiatives such as UNHA, WUF, COP, World Social Summit, GWOPA, Waste Wise Cities, Local 2030 and so on.

05

Resource Mobilization



A Dozen Strategic Directions

Develop ROAP Thematic Issue Papers/Country Programme Overview to explain our vision and the kind of support we can offer. Project proposals must be aligned with the Strategic Plan 2026-2029 and ROAP Regional Implementation Plan.

Build capacity and institutional mechanism for developing high quality project proposals (e.g. briefing session, Programme Review Committee mechanism)

Strengthen capacity for implementation and reporting for quality product delivery, timely project implementation, accountable reporting

Institutionalize evidence-based and agile resource mobilization strategy: e.g. donor analysis, portfolio analysis, SWOT analysis, emerging trend analysis (e.g. south-south cooperation, city to city partnerships, private sector/local government/foundation engagement)

Create tailored strategy to each target donor based on donor analysis

Link with ROAP Communication Strategy to effectively showcase the projects to wider audience. As RM and communication are interlinked, and both strategies are mutually enforcing.

Contribute to UN-Habitat as a whole in strengthening relationships with Asian donors.

Strengthen relationship with a) Brussel Office and Geneva Office regarding European donors and Geneva based organizations, and with b) Regional Office for Arab States regarding donors in Arab region and c) Headquarters and New York Office regarding global donors.

Increase collaborative joint proposal with other UN agencies.

Increase regionally coordinated proposals to enhance attractiveness.

Explore expansion of domestic donors (ministries, local government, private sector etc.) in high income and upper middle-income countries.

Engage citizens not only for resource mobilization but also to enhance awareness.

Strategic Documents

ROAP Climate Change Strategy (existing) - Update if necessary
ROAP Thematic Issue Papers to be developed
Update Country Programme Overview



06

Communication

PDP Cycle: Plan, Do, and PUBLICIZE



Objectives

- Increase **awareness** of housing and urban challenges and the UN-Habitat’s role for addressing challenges.
- Promote stakeholder **engagement** and partnerships.
- Advocate for evidence-based, inclusive urban **policies**.
- Showcase the **impact** of UN-Habitat’s initiatives to attract **new funding and support**.

Tailored approach to each category of audience

Stakeholder	Interest	Communication Needs	Approach
Beneficiaries	Improved housing, infrastructure, and services	Information on project outcomes and participation opportunities	Workshops, local media, forums
Government Officials	Policy design, alignment, funding, project implementation	Policy briefs, data-driven reports, regular updates	High-level meetings, newsletters
Donors/Private Sector	Funding, accountability, and transparency	Project impact stories, financial updates	Reports, case studies, events
UN Agencies/ Global Organizations	Alignment on global/ regional urban development goals	Collaboration updates, shared goals, and knowledge exchange	Joint initiatives, regular dialogues
Civil Society and the Public	Advocacy and public awareness	Accessible content, success stories	Social media, infographics
Media	Advocacy and public awareness	Press releases, human-interest stories	Press kits, interviews

Communication needs resources

Team: Communication focal points in country office consider who does what and when, in consultation with country office manager and ROAP communication focal points

Budget: Allocate funds for communication such as content creation, events, media outreach, and digital campaigns

Partnership: Leverage relationships with governments, UN Agencies NGOs, and media outlets to amplify messaging.



Tools and channels

- Website: Homepage
- Social Media
- Newsletter
- Media Relationship
- Exposure in Event
- Publications
- Field visit / Site visit

07

Indicators, monitoring and reporting



Equitable and inclusive prosperity for poverty eradication

Proportion and number of urban **population living in slums, informal settlements and inadequate housing** in the ROAP region.

Preparedness, response, recovery and reconstruction

- 1) Population living in **crisis-affected** cities in the ROAP region.
- 2) Benefits from implementing **sustainable urban recovery** approaches that foster **social integration**, in particular of displaced communities.
- 3) **Housing** at the center.
- 4) Facilitate transition from the **humanitarian response to sustainable development**.

Environment and climate action

Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) with strong urban content and Urban NDC implementation strategies and plans in the ROAP region: 1) Number of NDCs with **Strong Urban Content**, 2) Proportion of **population covered** by NDCs with strong urban content, and 3) Number of urban **NDC implementation strategies and plans**.

Adequate Housing

Number of **countries** in the ROAP region that **reduced**: 1) the **proportion of urban population living in slums**, and 2) the **number of people living in slums**.

Land

Proportion of total adult population in the ROAP region with **secure tenure rights to land**: 1) with legally **recognized documentation**, and 2) who **perceive their rights to land as secure**, by sex and type of tenure.

Proportion of countries where the **legal framework** (including customary law) **guarantees women's equal rights to land ownership** and/ or control in the ROAP region

Proportion of **population** in the ROAP region who are **under the international poverty line** that are **covered by pro-poor and inclusive national housing, land and/ or urban policies** supported by UN Habitat.

Basic Services

Proportion of urban population with access to basic services: 1) basic **drinking water** services, 2) basic **sanitation** and basic **hand-washing** facilities, 3) basic **waste collection** services, 4) **clean, affordable, and sustainable energy**, and 5) sustainable **mobility**, in the ROAP region

Dimension-wide indicators

Number of people in the ROAP region **benefiting** from **national housing**, and/or **land**, and/or **basic services policies** that aligned with the New Urban Agenda.

Proportion of population in the ROAP region who are **under the international poverty line** that are **covered by pro-poor and inclusive national housing, land and/or urban policies** supported by UN Habitat.

Number of partner countries in the ROAP region that have **national urban policies or laws or regional/ spatial development plans** that: 1) respond to population dynamics, 2) ensure balanced territorial development, and 3) increase local fiscal space.

Number of partner cities in the ROAP region that are implementing **land, housing, basic services or slum transformation strategies or interventions** aimed at improving housing for all, in alignment with SDG 11.1 and the right to adequate housing.

Number of partner countries in the ROAP region, with institutionalized, functional and inclusive **multilevel governance mechanisms** ensuring participation of local and regional governments and community/civil society representatives, fostering SDG localization for adequate housing, land, basic services

Number of innovative, contextualized solutions supported, and volume of finance (USD) channelled towards SDG catalytic initiatives at the local level in the ROAP region, fostering adequate housing, land, basic services, through **SDG Localization** process including approaches and tools promoted by the Local2030 Coalition.

Number of partner cities in the ROAP region that have institutionalized inclusive and equal participation for **women** in local-level decision-making on adequate housing, land and basic services.

Number of partner countries in the ROAP region that **disaggregate their statistics** on access to adequate housing, basic services and land, by sex.

Number of local, regional and national governments and other stakeholders in the ROAP region that: 1) formally reference, and 2) use **UN-Habitat's knowledge products** for policy formulation and practice relating to adequate housing, land and basic services, as evidenced by official documentation.

Number of countries in the ROAP region with more than 50% data reporting coverage for **SDG indicators** under UN-Habitat custodianship.

Number of individuals and stakeholders in the ROAP region, benefitting from **UN-Habitat's capacity development initiatives, resources, and tools**, as reflected in:(a) number of individuals participating in capacity development activities led or supported by UN-Habitat; (b) number of stakeholders using UN-Habitat's capacity development tools in their institutions or trainings.

Number of national, regional and local governments in the ROAP region that used UN-Habitat's guidance on **people-centred smart cities approach** and innovation tools in relevant policies, strategies, initiatives and technology solutions aimed at enhancing access to adequate housing, land and basic services.

Number of cities, countries, stakeholders and individuals in the ROAP region engaging in **UN-Habitat-led events and campaigns** such as World Urban Forum and Urban October on housing, land, basic services and sustainable urban development.

Number of people in the ROAP region reached and exposed to messages on housing, land and basic services through **communication channels**.

Number of national, subnational, and local governments, multistakeholder platforms, and coalitions in the ROAP region, which are **actively collaborating through UN-Habitat-supported initiatives**, to scale up solutions on housing, land, and basic services.



Annex

Countries
Implementation
Strategies

Countries Implementation Strategies 2026-2029

The country implementation strategies presented in this annex operationalize shared regional priorities through context-specific interventions across diverse urban settings. While grounded in common thematic entry points and impact areas, each strategy reflects differing levels of urbanization, institutional capacity, climate exposure, and, in some contexts, fragility and displacement dynamics. Across countries, several consistent priorities emerge. Persistent housing deficits, tenure insecurity, and the expansion of informal settlements drive a strong focus on area-based and community-driven upgrading. Gaps in access to water, sanitation, waste management, mobility, and other essential services reinforce the need for inclusive, climate-resilient basic service delivery. At the same time, constraints in governance and financing underscore the importance of strengthened urban management systems, including integrated planning, SDG localization, digital innovation, and institutional capacity development. Country strategies also demonstrate differentiated responses. Crisis-affected contexts prioritize protection-sensitive approaches, shelter, and rapid service provision, while rapidly urbanizing and climate-vulnerable countries emphasize risk-informed planning, resilient infrastructure, and sustainable urban expansion. More advanced or transitioning contexts focus on governance transformation, smart city approaches, and circular economy solutions, while small island and coastal contexts prioritize ecosystem-based adaptation and geographically tailored service delivery. Across all contexts, implementation is guided by participatory, people-centred approaches, with a strong emphasis on inclusion. Collectively, these strategies illustrate how a common regional framework is operationalized through diverse pathways, advancing inclusive prosperity, strengthening resilience, and accelerating climate and environmental action.

Key Thematic Entry Point Selected by Country Offices

Country	Housing 	Basic Services 	Urban Management 	Demographic Shifts 	Cities, Nature and Culture 
Afghanistan					
Bangladesh					
Cambodia					
China					
India					
Iran					
Lao PDR					
Malaysia					
Maldives					
Mongolia					
Myanmar					
Nepal					
Pakistan					
Philippines					
Sri Lanka					
Thailand					
Vietnam					
Pacific					

Afghanistan

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Afghanistan will prioritize area-based and community-driven responses to return movements, internal displacement, the expansion of informal settlements, limited access to adequate shelter and essential basic services, and recurrent climate- and disaster-related shocks. Priority interventions will include housing and shelter, housing, land and property (HLP) rights, settlement upgrading, WASH, mobility, and community infrastructure. In view of the operational context, programming will be guided by context-specific, evidence-based and conflict-sensitive approaches, with strong attention to protection, gender responsiveness, and the rights, needs and vulnerabilities of women and girls, while maintaining the flexibility required to respond to rapidly evolving humanitarian and basic service needs.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN-Habitat will support housing, shelter, and housing, land and property (HLP) rights through inclusive, community-driven, and area-based settlement upgrading. Programming will focus on improving living conditions in displacement-affected and informal urban areas.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Afghanistan is among the top ten countries impacted by climate change, with frequent and recurring natural disasters. UN-Habitat, through its participatory, community-driven approaches and spatial analysis tailors its responses but also works towards adaptation to climate change impacts, such as floods or droughts and supporting communities to become resilient.



Basic Services

Programming will improve access to WASH, mobility, and community infrastructure in underserved settlements. Priority will be accorded to basic service delivery that is responsive to displacement, rapid settlement growth, and urgent humanitarian needs.



Demographic Shifts

In order to support the transition from humanitarian to durable solutions, UN-Habitat proposes an integrated and people-centered approach, that includes adequate living conditions but also access to livelihoods – allowing people to lead dignified lives



Main Urban Challenges

- Forced returns, displacement and rapid growth of informal settlements.
- Lack of adequate shelter, HLP rights, WASH, livelihoods/decent jobs and community infrastructure.
- Frequent climate and disaster shocks, combined with constrained operating conditions.



Strategic focus

- Area-based and community-driven settlement upgrading.
- Housing, shelter and HLP rights in displacement-affected urban areas.
- Improved WASH, mobility and community infrastructure.
- Climate and disaster resilience in response to earthquakes, floods, droughts and landslides.
- Protection-sensitive implementation, especially for women and girls.

Key Figures

- More than 6 million returnees since September 2023
- 12% population increase
- 73% of urban population living in unplanned or informal settlements
- Around 50% of the population in need of humanitarian support



Bangladesh

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Bangladesh, implementation will prioritize responses to rapid urbanization, housing affordability challenges, climate vulnerability, flooding, land subsidence, and inadequate sanitation. Priority interventions will promote affordable, low-carbon, circular and climate-resilient housing, informal settlement upgrading, tenure security, and access to housing finance. Programming will also support climate-resilient WASH, drainage, water governance, and strengthened municipal service delivery, while advancing multi-level governance, sustainable city planning, digital platforms for planning and service delivery, SDG Cities approaches, and investment-ready urban planning.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN-Habitat will support affordable, low-carbon, circular, and climate-resilient housing, with a focus on informal settlement upgrading, tenure security, social safeguards, and access to housing finance. Programming will build on People's Process approaches and community co-design to promote inclusive and community-driven housing solutions.



Basic Services

Programming will respond to land subsidence, flooding, water stress, and gaps in WASH services through climate-resilient drainage, strengthened water governance, and improved municipal service delivery systems.



Urban Management

Programming will strengthen urban management systems through the development and implementation of Sustainable City Plans, the application of the SDG Cities methodology, and the use of digital platforms to support evidence based urban planning and service delivery. Priority will be accorded to risk informed diagnostics, integrated spatial planning, and investment prioritization, enabling cities to become investment ready and to advance sustainable, inclusive and climate resilient urban development beyond 2030.



Main Urban Challenges

- Rapid urbanization, housing affordability gaps and informal settlement expansion.
- Flooding, land subsidence, water stress and inadequate sanitation.
- Weak national–local coordination and limited urban data systems.



Strategic Focus

- Affordable, low-carbon, circular and climate-resilient housing.
- Informal settlement upgrading, tenure security and housing finance.
- Climate-resilient WASH, drainage, water governance and municipal services.
- Sustainable City Plans, digital platforms and SDG Cities methodology.

Key Figures

- **Population: 177 million.**
- **Urbanization: 42.6%, projected to reach 56% by 2050.**
- **Housing deficit: 6 million units, projected to reach 10.5 million by 2030.**
- **71 million people lack decent sanitation.**

Cambodia

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Cambodia is expected to graduate from Least Developed Country (LDC) status in 2029, marking progress but requiring strategic action to sustain development and resilience. Despite improvements in solid waste collection, basic services and slum reduction, SDG 11 remains off track, with gaps in infrastructure, waste segregation, air quality, disaster preparedness and urban data. Highly exposed to heatwaves, floods and droughts, Cambodia prioritizes climate-resilient housing, basic services and urban management transformation through Adaptation Fund (AF) projects, ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) and National Urban Policy Programme (NUPP-II), supporting ROAP Priorities 1, 2 and 3.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN-Habitat will advance climate-resilient housing in Cambodia by building on its 2022–2025 project, which delivered 27 resilient houses, and its 2024–2028 project, which will construct 60 more by 2028. It will also support the development of a comprehensive Housing Law and promote inclusive, evidence-based housing governance.



Basic Services

The Country Office is advancing climate and locally led adaptation projects to improve community livelihoods and inclusive access to toilets, drainage, solid waste systems and small-scale infrastructure. It also builds local labour capacity for resilient housing, WASH and drainage, while strengthening heat resilience and NGO networks in vulnerable coastal informal settlements.



Urban Management

ASUS and NUPP-II are modernizing Cambodia's urban governance, planning systems and people-centred smart city approaches. Building on an informal settlements study in Preah Sihanouk Province, UN-Habitat will support proposals on affordable housing, strengthen institutional frameworks, scale integrated planning, implement the national smart city strategy and convene regular National Urban Forums.



Main Urban Challenges

- SDG 11 progress off track, with gaps in housing, infrastructure and urban services.
- Informal settlements exposed to climate and disaster risks.
- Insufficient urban data for planning, disaster preparedness and settlement monitoring.



Strategic Focus

- Support capacity building for integrated planning and implementation including housing finance, land-based finance, and land readjustment (60 climate-resilient demo houses constructed, and 2,000 unskilled labourers trained in vulnerable/informal settlement target areas)
- Number of climate-resilient infrastructure and natural assets improved, rehabilitated, or established (e.g. water reservoirs, water gates, canals, WASH facilities, eco-trails/firebreaks, forest restoration)
- Number of beneficiaries trained on climate-resilient alternative livelihood practices, emphasizing women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and marginalized groups
- Promote multi-level and multi-sectoral governance through mechanisms such as the National Urban Forum
- Support capacity building at both leadership and technical levels for strategic planning and finance mechanisms, such as the smart city and people-centred approaches
- National Smart City Strategy approved and implemented
- Strengthened regional collaboration and knowledge exchange through a Community of Practice on smart cities

Key Figures

- Expected graduation from LDC status by 2029.
- 27 resilient houses delivered under previous climate project.
- 60 climate-resilient houses planned by 2028.
- 2,000 unskilled labourers targeted for training in informal settlement areas.

China

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In China, implementation will prioritize digital urban governance, inclusive urban renewal, responses to demographic change, and resource-efficient basic service delivery. Priority interventions will support smart city standards, data platforms, public-private partnerships, urban-rural and regional integration, and South-South cooperation and knowledge exchange. Programming will also promote inclusive and accessible communities, age- and gender-responsive public spaces, and equitable access to quality services, while advancing circular economy approaches such as food waste management, recycling, urban agriculture, green roofs, walkability, and healthy city development.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Basic Services

Basic service delivery is strengthened through the integration of circular economy and resource efficient approaches, including food waste management, recycling, and the Waste Wise Cities framework. Complementary interventions promote urban agriculture, green infrastructure such as green roofs, walkable urban environments, and healthy city initiatives to enhance environmental sustainability and urban well being.



Urban Management

The strategy advances digital urban governance through the development of smart city standards, interoperable city data platforms, and strengthened cross sectoral collaboration. These efforts support data driven decision making and promote balanced urban-rural linkages and regional integration.



Demographic Shifts

Demographic change, including ageing populations, migrant workers and children, is placing evolving demands on urban systems and services. Programming will support inclusive and participatory urban regeneration approaches that promote socially mixed and integrated communities, the development of age responsive and gender responsive public spaces, and the use of digital tools to enhance equitable access to services and opportunities.



Main Urban Challenges

- Uneven urban-rural and regional development.
- Ageing, migration and differentiated service needs.
- Resource efficiency, waste management and environmental pressures.



Strategic Focus

- Strengthen digital city management and smart city standards.
- Promote inclusive urban renewal and mixed communities.
- Improve public spaces for vulnerable groups.
- Expand circular economy, food waste and recycling initiatives.
- Support South-South knowledge exchange and city-to-city learning.

Key Figures

- Urbanization increased from below 20% to over 65%.
- Portfolio target: around USD 7 million.
- KPIs include pilot cities, technical outputs, digital tools and institutions strengthened.

India

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In India, interventions focus on improving affordable, climate-resilient housing, upgrading informal settlements, and expanding inclusive urban services such as WASH and drainage. They also promote circular economy solutions, low-carbon mobility, stronger risk-informed urban planning, digital decision-making tools, and more inclusive governance, while building local institutional capacity and supporting youth and women's participation in urban development.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN Habitat will support climate resilient, affordable and inclusive housing through area based and community driven approaches in informal settlements, peri urban and consolidated urban areas. Programming will focus on strengthening security of tenure, reducing exposure to climate and disaster risks, and promoting universal design principles to improve accessibility, safety and living conditions, while advancing sustainable and context responsive housing solutions.



Basic Services

Programming will strengthen equitable and climate resilient access to basic services, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), drainage, solid waste management, sustainable mobility and community infrastructure in underserved and hazard exposed settlements. Priority will be accorded to resource efficient, circular economy approaches and nature based solutions to enhance service resilience, environmental sustainability and the capacity of communities to withstand climate and disaster risks.



Urban Management

Urban management systems are strengthened through integrated, risk informed spatial planning and the promotion of participatory and inclusive governance processes. Expanded use of digital tools supports data driven and evidence based decision making, while targeted capacity development enhances the effectiveness of municipal institutions. The approach advances women's civic engagement and youth leadership, ensuring their meaningful participation in urban planning and management, in line with inclusive and people centred urban development.



Main Urban Challenges

- Poor-quality and informal housing in slums and peri-urban areas.
- WASH, drainage and service disruptions in underserved communities.
- Heat, flooding, air pollution, waste growth and weak integrated planning.



Strategic Focus

- Support climate-resilient and affordable housing.
- Improve WASH, drainage, waste management and mobility systems.
- Transform schools and public spaces into inclusive sustainable hubs for community resilience and learning.
- Strengthen risk-informed planning, digital tools and municipal capacity.
- Promote youth leadership and women's civic engagement.
- Advancing green retrofits, circular economy, and nature-based solutions (NbS).
- Aligning interventions with city planning frameworks to enable coordinated services, climate resilience, and scalable urban impact

Key Figures

- Around 35 million urban households in poor-quality or informal housing.
- Past and present portfolio: USD 2.55 million.
- Work across 7 states, 16 cities and 9 projects.
- Proposed portfolio target: around USD 8 million.

Iran

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Iran, programming will prioritize tackling housing insecurity, upgrading informal and peri-urban settlements, and improving basic services and infrastructure so they are more resilient to climate and disaster risks. It will also address geo-hazards such as earthquakes, floods, sandstorms, and air pollution through recovery and resilience planning, stronger urban governance, and better regulatory and technical frameworks. In addition, efforts will support capacity development, improve coordination across urban systems, strengthen the resilience of health facilities, promote sustainable solid waste management, and integrate disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation into urban policies, planning, and service delivery.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Housing interventions, advance inclusive and resilient outcomes through area-based upgrading of informal and peripheral settlements, risk-informed and climate-responsive approaches, finance policies, rental/owned social housing and participatory planning and community engagement. Efforts address housing insecurity and disparities in housing quality, while supporting recovery and resilience planning for vulnerable communities, including poorer households and residents of informal or peripheral urban areas.



Basic Services

Basic service delivery is strengthened through measures that improve service quality and reliability and enhance the resilience of urban infrastructure exposed to climate and geophysical hazards, such as frequent sand/dust storms and urban air pollution, including healthcare facilities and solid waste management systems. Efforts prioritize inclusive access to essential services for vulnerable communities and support adaptive and climate resilient urban systems.



Urban Management

Programming will strengthen urban management systems through enhanced cross sectoral coordination, the development and implementation of national and subnational policy frameworks and technical guidelines, and the integration of disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation into urban planning processes. Capacity development efforts will support national and local institutions to improve risk informed, evidence based development, implementation, and learning in hazard exposed and rapidly evolving urban contexts.



Main Urban Challenges

- Housing insecurity and disparities in informal and peripheral settlements.
- Exposure to earthquakes, floods, sandstorms and air pollution.
- Fragmented urban planning and weak coordination in urban management.



Strategic Focus

- Enhance informal settlement upgrading and recovery planning.
- Improve urban resilience against climate and geo-hazards.
- Promote implementation of National Urban Policy
- Enhance capacities on inclusive, resilient and affordable housing

Key Figures

- Population: around 87 million.
- Urbanization: 77.4%, projected to reach 86.9% by 2050.
- Housing price-to-income ratio: around 20.
- Targets within current Strategy: 5 Projects across 5 provinces 10 settlements.
- Portfolio target: 8 million USD

Lao PDR

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Lao PDR, interventions focus on making urban areas more resilient and inclusive by improving housing, upgrading settlements, and expanding access to basic services. Priorities include stronger WASH, drainage, and waste systems, safer land use, and more resilient housing, alongside better urban planning through digital tools, localized SDG implementation, improved urban finance, and stronger local institutional capacity.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN Habitat will support climate resilient and inclusive housing through area based and community driven upgrading of informal and vulnerable settlements in priority urban areas. Programming will focus on promoting safer land use, strengthening housing resilience and planning standards, and improving living conditions, while advancing sustainable, climate responsive and context appropriate housing solutions.



Basic Services

Programming will strengthen equitable and climate resilient access to basic service delivery, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), drainage and solid waste management, in vulnerable and underserved settlements. Priority will be accorded to enhancing service reliability and climate sensitive delivery systems, supporting risk informed planning and sustainable service provision to address the needs of rapidly growing urban areas and at risk communities.



Urban Management

Urban management systems are strengthened through risk informed and integrated spatial planning, the deployment of digital platforms such as climate risk dashboards and urban observatories, and the advancement of SDG localization. Strengthened urban finance mechanisms and targeted institutional and human capacity development at provincial and city levels enable more effective, data driven and inclusive urban planning and service delivery.



Main Urban Challenges

- Rapid urbanization and housing vulnerability.
- Uneven access to WASH, drainage, solid waste and other basic services.
- Limited planning capacity and need for risk-informed urban management.



Strategic Focus

- Strengthen climate-resilient housing and settlement upgrading.
- Improve equitable access to resilient basic services for vulnerable communities.
- Support risk-informed urban plans and local government capacity.
- Develop digital tools such as climate-risk dashboards or urban observatories.
- Strengthen SDG localization, urban finance and planning capacity.

Key Figures

- Support to 5–7 vulnerable settlements.
- At least 50,000 people targeted through improved services.
- 5 or more provincial or city governments applying updated risk-informed urban plans.
- At least 300 officials trained in SDG localization, digital tools or urban finance.

Malaysia

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Malaysia's 2026–2029 strategy will build on strong governance, SDG localisation, and regional leadership in climate-resilient urbanisation. UN-Habitat will focus on climate-responsive services, smart urban management, and nature-positive development, while supporting Malaysia's role in NUA reporting, South-South cooperation, and ASEAN urban resilience. Programming will scale proven initiatives such as Penang's nature-based adaptation programme, ASUS pilots, Sabah sanitation solutions, MY Public Space, and Malaysia Urban Observatory (MUO), while advancing NUA-AP, SDG Cities, and climate finance opportunities. Implementation will prioritise multi-level governance, digital innovation, urban data, and inclusive community participation, ensuring meaningful participation of women, youth, and vulnerable groups across all interventions.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Basic Services

Malaysia will strengthen universal access to resilient, risk-informed basic services through climate-adaptive and inclusive approaches. Priorities include flood-resilient drainage, nature-based solutions for heat, flooding and coastal risks, improved wastewater and sanitation, inclusive public spaces, and better first- and last-mile connectivity. These interventions will enhance service resilience, improve urban livability, and expand equitable access for underserved communities.



Urban Management

Urban management will be strengthened through integrated spatial planning, compact transit-oriented development, digital governance tools, climate-responsive policies, and sustainable urban finance. Capacity development for local authorities will support inclusive and climate-responsive urban solutions, while Malaysia will act as a regional hub for NUA reporting, knowledge exchange, city-to-city learning, and ASEAN cooperation on sustainable urbanisation.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Malaysia will advance nature positive urban development through green blue networks and ecological corridors; urban greening and cooling strategies; NbS for stormwater, heat stress, and coastal protection; protection of cultural landscapes and community identity; and public space enhancement and placemaking initiatives. These efforts will support climate adaptation, improve wellbeing, and strengthen harmonious coexistence between cities and nature.



Main Urban Challenges

- Need for integrated, inclusive, and climate responsive mobility systems
- Increasing urban climate risks requiring locally aligned resilience solutions
- Gaps in wastewater, sanitation, and circular economy systems
- Need for safer, more inclusive public spaces and green blue networks
- Fragmented urban governance and uneven local capacity
- Rising expectations for digital governance and evidence based planning



Strategic Focus

- Strengthen integrated transport and active mobility systems
- Scale nature based solutions and climate resilient urban infrastructure
- Enhance wastewater, sanitation, and circular economy systems
- Improve public spaces for safety, inclusion, and vibrancy
- Advance digital governance, urban data systems, and SDG/NUA reporting
- Strengthen multi level governance and local government capacity
- Empower communities, youth, and women through participatory approaches
- Position Malaysia as a regional hub for NUA AP and ASEAN cooperation

Key Figures

- Population: ~35 million
- Greater Kuala Lumpur: ~8.5 million
- Urbanisation: 77.4% (projected 91% by 2050)
- ASUS focus cities: Miri (urban resilience), Iskandar Puteri (active mobility)
- Adaptation Fund beneficiaries: >340,000 people in Penang
- Sabah sanitation impact: 65% increase in school attendance among girls

Maldives

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Amid rising exposure to sea level rise, coastal erosion, flooding, salinity intrusion, and water insecurity across a dispersed island geography, the Maldives strategy prioritizes climate resilient housing, settlement upgrading, and measures to address tenure insecurity and housing gaps. Efforts focus on strengthening resilient infrastructure systems, including roads, drainage, sewerage, water supply, waste management, and sustainable mobility, supported by resilient building codes and retrofitting approaches.

The strategy further advances blue green ecosystem conservation and nature based solutions, while promoting green job creation and integrated housing and urban policy frameworks. Community based climate resilience training underpins these efforts, enhancing adaptive capacity and improving liveability and well being in vulnerable island communities.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Housing interventions advance climate resilient outcomes through the upgrading of informal settlements, strengthened security of tenure, and the application of context specific housing design guidelines, including atoll specific standards and resilient building codes. Efforts also support retrofitting and the provision of safer, sustainable and climate responsive housing solutions.



Basic Services

The programme will improve access to equitable, climate-resilient basic services in dispersed island communities by upgrading key infrastructure such as roads, drainage, sewerage, water supply, solid waste systems, and transport. It will focus on making these systems more reliable and resilient, strengthening water security, and using nature-based solutions to reduce risks from sea level rise, flooding, erosion, and salinity, especially for vulnerable populations.



Cities, Nature and Culture

The interventions promote integrated blue-green approaches that combine coastal protection, ecosystem conservation, and nature-based solutions to strengthen climate resilience in island communities. They also support green job creation, improve housing and urban policy frameworks, and enhance livability and well-being through inclusive and environmentally sustainable development.



Main Urban Challenges

- Sea-level rise, erosion, flooding, salinity intrusion and heat stress.
- Housing shortage, tenure insecurity and pressure on Greater Malé.
- Water insecurity, waste challenges and infrastructure vulnerability across dispersed islands.



Strategic Focus

- Develop climate-resilient housing and retrofitting approaches.
- Strengthen atoll-specific design guidelines and building codes.
- Improve water security, drainage, sewerage, waste and mobility.
- Protect blue-green ecosystems and coastal areas.
- Support community-based climate resilience training.

Key Figures

- Population: around 500,000 people.
- Around 2,000 islands, with 187 inhabited islands.
- Housing gap of around 16,000–20,000 units.
- 8,000 people targeted for secure water access.
- 500 officials and 50 community trainings targeted.

Mongolia

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Mongolia, implementation will prioritize the upgrading of ger areas, the provision of affordable incremental housing, the promotion of energy efficient and disaster resilient construction, and the strengthening of climate sensitive basic service delivery. Priority interventions will support integrated ger area upgrading through improved water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), access to clean energy, resilient infrastructure, solid waste management, and climate-resilient housing, complemented by strengthened land-use regulation and urban planning. Programming will further promote compact and sustainable urban development, green infrastructure, cultural heritage conservation, and nature based solutions, while strengthening urban-rural linkages and improving living conditions in vulnerable settlements.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Housing interventions advance inclusive and climate-resilient development through community-led, area-based upgrading of ger areas and the provision of affordable incremental housing. Programming promotes energy-efficient, disaster-resilient and low-carbon housing while improving safety, affordability and climate resilience for vulnerable households.



Basic Services

Basic service delivery is strengthened through climate-sensitive and inclusive approaches covering WASH, clean energy, solid waste management and resilient urban infrastructure, reducing exposure to climate risks while improving environmental sustainability and quality of life.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Programming will promote compact and sustainable urban development through the application of GIS based planning, the development of green infrastructure, and the conservation of cultural heritage, alongside the integration of nature based solutions. Priority will be accorded to initiatives that enhance environmental sustainability, strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, and improve urban liveability and well being, while supporting inclusive and context responsive urban development.



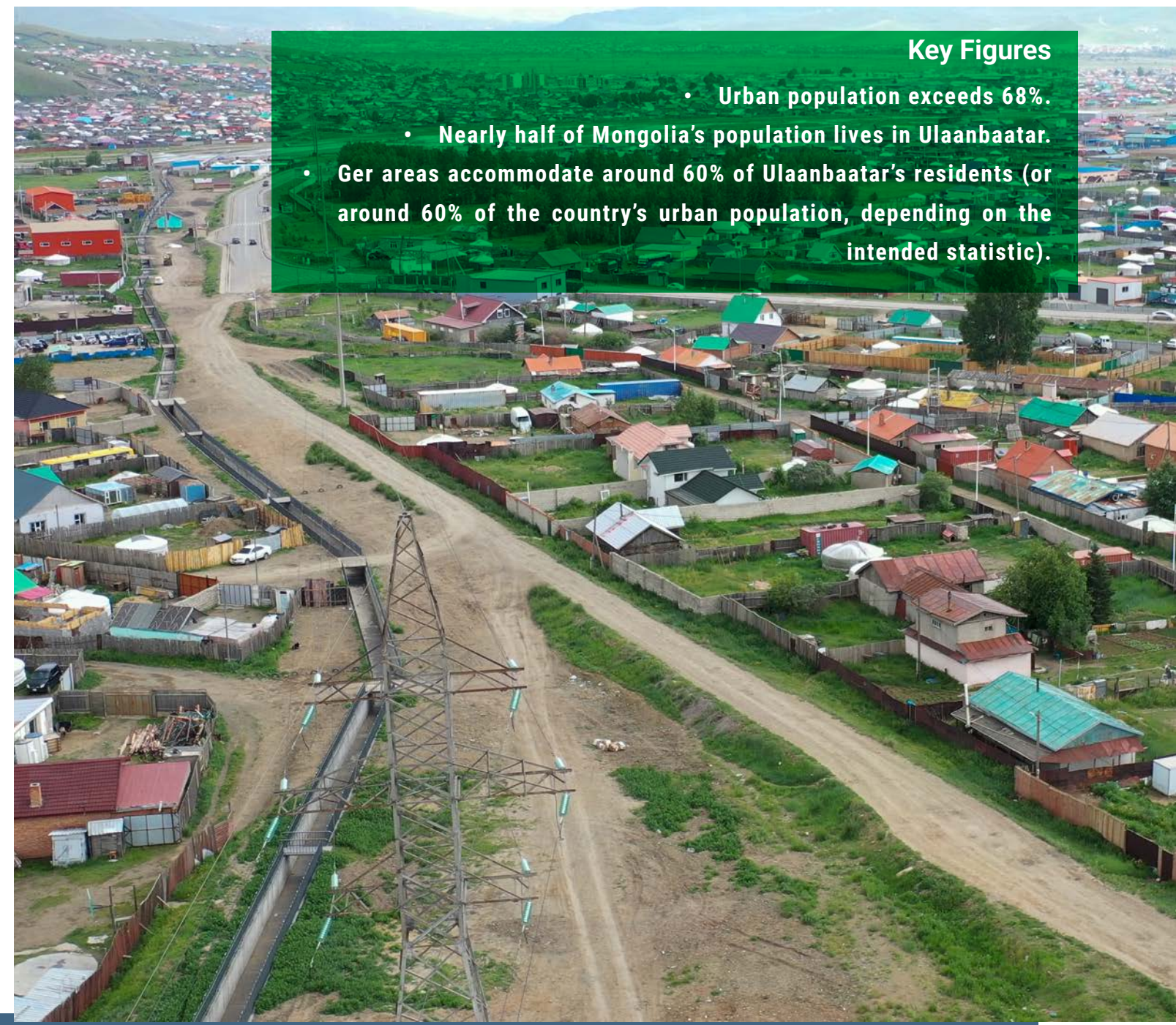
Main Urban Challenges

- Ger-area housing vulnerability, energy inefficiency and inadequate access to basic services.
- Climate change, extreme temperatures, flooding and severe winter air pollution.
- Weak urban planning, municipal financing and institutional coordination.
- Need for compact urban growth and stronger urban-rural linkages.



Strategic Focus

- Upgrade ger areas and support affordable incremental housing.
- Promote energy-efficient and disaster-safe construction.
- Improve WASH, clean energy, solid waste and resilient infrastructure.
- Strengthen compact growth and land-use regulation.
- Use GIS planning, green infrastructure and cultural heritage approaches.
- Strengthen municipal capacity, integrated urban planning and climate-responsive governance.



Key Figures

- Urban population exceeds 68%.
- Nearly half of Mongolia's population lives in Ulaanbaatar.
- Ger areas accommodate around 60% of Ulaanbaatar's residents (or around 60% of the country's urban population, depending on the intended statistic).

Myanmar

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Myanmar, current interventions focus on earthquake response and recovery, support for displaced communities, and building long-term climate resilience. Key activities include housing safety assessments, resilient construction training, shelter assistance, climate-resilient WASH and basic services in affected urban areas, and community-led recovery through area-based approaches. Efforts also promote climate action through local vulnerability assessments, climate action planning, and nature-based adaptation, while strengthening the capacity of civil society, youth, professional groups, and the private sector to drive inclusive and sustainable urban recovery.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN Habitat will support inclusive and resilient housing through housing safety assessments, resilient construction training, and shelter assistance for displacement affected and earthquake affected communities using area based and community driven approaches. Programming will focus on improving living conditions, enhancing structural safety, and advancing safer, more disaster resilient and context responsive housing solutions in affected urban areas.



Basic Services

Programming will strengthen equitable and climate and disaster resilient basic service delivery, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and essential urban services, in earthquake affected urban areas and settlements hosting displaced and migrant populations. Priority will be accorded to ensuring reliable and inclusive access to services, supporting area based and community driven approaches, and responding to displacement dynamics, rapid settlement pressures and urgent humanitarian needs.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Cities, nature and culture interventions advance locally driven climate action through the development of local climate action plans, community led vulnerability assessments, and the implementation of nature based solutions. These efforts strengthen climate resilience, enhance environmental sustainability, and promote inclusive, community led approaches that improve urban livability and well being in displacement affected and hazard prone areas.



Main Urban Challenges

- Earthquake recovery and displacement-related shelter needs.
- Basic service gaps in affected and migration-hosting urban areas.
- Need for community-led climate resilience and local recovery systems.



Strategic Focus

- Conduct housing safety assessments and resilient construction training.
- Provide shelter support to displacement-affected communities.
- Improve WASH and area-based basic service delivery.
- Support community-led recovery and vulnerability assessments.
- Strengthen civil society and professional capacity for local climate action.

Key Figures

- Focus on earthquake recovery and displacement-affected communities.
- Target areas include earthquake-affected and migration-hosting urban settlements.
- Emphasis on community-level recovery, WASH and resilient construction.



Nepal

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Nepal, implementation will prioritize housing, land tenure security, basic services, urban management, responses to demographic change, and nature-positive development. Priority interventions will support land governance, national housing programming, municipal planning guidelines, SDG localization, urban data and analytics, youth participation, and integrated local planning. Programming will also promote ecosystem-based adaptation, nature-based solutions, low-carbon development pathways, and access to climate finance, while strengthening the resilience of mountain and human settlements in the context of climate and demographic pressures.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Housing intervention that ensures inclusion, affordability and climate-resilience will strengthen land tenure, improving access to basic services and livelihood. National housing programs—especially targeting vulnerable and underserved communities will support in economic transformation.



Demographic Shifts

Urban programming addresses demographic and settlement changes by supporting adaptive planning and engaging youth in decision-making to foster inclusive, responsive, and future-oriented urban development.



Urban Management

Urban management is strengthened through planning guidelines, data-driven decision-making, and integrated local planning, while building municipal capacity for more coordinated, inclusive, and climate-responsive urban development.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Programming strengthens the resilience of mountain and human settlements by promoting nature-based, low-carbon, and climate-responsive approaches, while improving access to climate finance, environmental sustainability, and urban livability. Also, promote the reconstruction and heritage settlement recovery.



Main Urban Challenges

- Housing, land tenure security and access to adequate basic services
- Need for localization of urban planning, backed with data for evidence based investments.
- Climate risks affecting mountain and human settlements, alongside demographic change.



Strategic Focus

- Strengthen land governance and access to housing and basic services
- Support national housing programming and municipal planning guidelines.
- Advance urban analytics, SDG localization and integrated local planning.
- Promote youth participation and adaptive planning.
- Expand ecosystem-based adaptation and climate finance.

Key Figures

- Focus on tenure and climate responsive land governance integrated with urban management for sustainable human settlement development.
- Emphasis on SDG localization, evidence based urban investments and mobilizing climate financing
- Strategy links housing, land, basic services through localization of inclusive urban planning process that integrates demographic shifts and climate resilience

Pakistan

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Responding to persistent housing deficits, the prevalence of informal settlements, climate related disasters, and gaps in basic urban services, interventions in Pakistan prioritize resilient housing, settlement upgrading, and improved access to water and sanitation for vulnerable communities. Efforts focus on strengthening solid waste management systems, expanding urban green cover, and promoting green and climate resilient building practices, alongside the application of nature based solutions. These interventions reinforce city level resilience, advance community based approaches, and support climate sensitive infrastructure and settlement planning to enable more sustainable, inclusive and resilient urban development.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN Habitat will support inclusive, resilient and climate responsive housing through area based and community driven upgrading of informal settlements and the promotion of safe and adequate housing solutions. Programming will focus on addressing housing deficits, strengthening climate sensitive settlement planning, and improving living conditions for vulnerable communities, while advancing safer, more sustainable and context appropriate housing solutions.



Basic Services

Programming will strengthen equitable and climate resilient basic service delivery, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) and solid waste management, in underserved and vulnerable urban communities. Priority will be accorded to improving service coverage and reliability, while promoting sustainable and climate responsive systems to enhance resilience to climate related risks and support inclusive urban development.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Cities, nature and culture interventions advance the integration of nature based solutions, the expansion of urban green cover, and the adoption of climate resilient building practices to support sustainable urban environments. These efforts strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, enhance environmental sustainability, and improve urban livability and well being, while advancing inclusive and nature positive urban development pathways.



Main Urban Challenges

- Housing deficits, informal settlements and rapid urban sprawl.
- Water, sanitation and solid waste gaps in vulnerable urban communities.
- Air pollution, low urban green cover and encroachment on natural/agricultural land.



Strategic Focus

- Support resilient housing and informal settlement upgrading.
- Improve climate-resilient water, sanitation and solid waste services.
- Promote green and climate-resilient construction.
- Pilot nature-based solutions and improve urban green cover.
- Strengthen city-level resilience and climate-sensitive spatial planning.



Key Figures

- Urban population: around 38%.
- Urban growth: around 3.5% annually.
- Karachi green cover: around 4%.
- 386,000 people targeted for climate-resilient water services.
- 154,000 people targeted for sanitation services.
- 500,000 people targeted through improved municipal solid waste systems in five cities.

Philippines

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In the Philippines, implementation will prioritize resilient and climate-adaptive housing, strengthened local government unit (LGU) housing programmes, expanded housing finance modalities, housing data systems, and post-disaster recovery through the People's Process. Urban management priorities will include risk-informed land-use planning, SDG localization, ecosystem-based adaptation in urban policy and planning, and strengthened urban climate data systems. Programming will also support nature-based solutions, ancestral domain planning, culturally responsive approaches, and community preparedness in highly exposed urban and coastal areas.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Housing interventions strengthen inclusive, resilient, and climate-adaptive outcomes by improving local housing programmes, expanding housing finance, and building better data systems, while using community-driven approaches to improve living conditions, support post-disaster recovery, and promote safer, culturally responsive housing in high-risk urban and coastal areas.



Urban Management

Urban management systems are strengthened through risk informed land use planning, the advancement of SDG 11 localization, and the deployment of urban climate driven decision making. Strengthened institutional and human capacities of local government units (LGUs) support integrated, climate responsive and inclusive urban planning and implementation, particularly in highly exposed urban and coastal areas.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Cities, nature and culture interventions advance nature based solutions and urban ecosystem based adaptation, alongside support for ancestral domain planning and culturally responsive urban development. These efforts strengthen climate resilience, enhance environmental sustainability, and promote inclusive, community centred approaches in highly exposed urban and coastal areas.



Main Urban Challenges

- Housing backlog and growing demand for climate-adaptive housing.
- Limited risk-informed land-use planning among local governments.
- High exposure to climate and disaster risks.



Strategic Focus

- Strengthen resilient and climate-adaptive housing.
- Support LGU housing programmes, financing and housing databases.
- Expand risk-informed land-use planning and SDG 11 localization.
- Promote urban ecosystem-based adaptation and nature-based solutions.
- Support ancestral domain planning and community preparedness.

Key Figures

- More than 50% urban population.
- Housing backlog of around 3.5 million houses.
- Projected housing need of 6.8 million houses by 2028.
- 43% of LGUs had risk-informed land-use plans in 2021; target is 100% by 2028.



Sri Lanka

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Responding to housing deficits, tenure insecurity, climate induced disasters, and gaps in access to safe water, interventions in Sri Lanka prioritize climate resilient housing, settlement planning on safe and habitable land, and the upgrading of underserved settlements. Efforts also focus on strengthening WASH, waste management, sustainable mobility, and the integration of renewable energy solutions to support resilient and service inclusive communities. A people centred approach, including the application of the People’s Process, underpins these interventions, alongside the promotion of blue green ecosystem conservation, nature based solutions, and the protection of cultural heritage. Together, these efforts advance inclusive, resilient and sustainable human settlements development.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Copilot said: UN-Habitat will advance inclusive, resilient, and climate-responsive housing through policy, settlement planning, community-led informal settlement upgrading, and safe housing solutions, especially for disaster-affected communities. Efforts will strengthen tenure security, improve living conditions, and promote safer, context-specific, disaster-resilient housing, including People’s Process approaches, while also providing policy support to embed resilience and climate adaptation into urban frameworks and planning



Basic Services

Programming will strengthen equitable and climate and disaster resilient basic service delivery, including water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), solid waste management, sustainable mobility, and access to renewable energy, in vulnerable and underserved settlements. Priority will be accorded to improving service coverage and reliability, supporting post disaster recovery, and promoting inclusive and environmentally sustainable service systems that respond to climate risks and evolving urban needs.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Cities, nature and culture interventions advance integrated blue green ecosystem approaches, including ecosystem conservation, the application of nature based solutions, and the protection of cultural heritage. These efforts strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, enhance environmental sustainability, and improve urban livability and well being, while promoting inclusive, community driven and nature positive urban development pathways.

Main Urban Challenges

- Housing gaps, tenure insecurity and post-disaster recovery needs.
- Safe water and basic service challenges.
- Climate-induced disasters and need for ecosystem-sensitive settlement planning.

Strategic Focus

- Support settlement planning on habitable land.
- Promote climate-resilient housing and informal settlement upgrading.
- Improve WASH, waste, mobility and renewable energy.
- Use People’s Process for inclusive settlement development.
- Protect blue-green ecosystems and cultural heritage.

Key Figures

- Population: around 21.8 million.
- Elderly population projected to reach 25% by 2040.
- Housing gap: around 320,000 units.
- Safe water access: 58%.
- Resource mobilization target: USD 25–29 million.



Thailand

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Thailand, implementation will prioritize resilient housing and community, urban services delivery, including solid waste, water, wastewater, safe and sustainable mobility, climate risk management, and flood management, alongside SDG localization, urban diagnostics, and data-driven planning. Priority interventions will promote integrated planning and finance, national and city-level capacity development, and the strengthened use of data for urban management. Programming will also support nature-based solutions, coastal and river-basin resilience, and integrated urban environmental approaches that link public health, public space, and climate adaptation.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Basic Services

Climate shocks and rapid urbanization are increasing pressure on cities, stretching infrastructure, housing, mobility, and basic services beyond capacity. More frequent floods, extreme heat, storms, and water-related risks can disrupt transport, energy, sanitation, health services, and livelihoods, with vulnerable communities often hit hardest. Cities therefore need resilient, inclusive, climate-responsive infrastructure and services that withstand future shocks while supporting sustainable growth and quality of life for all.



Urban Management

Cities increasingly have data on urban growth, climate risks, service gaps, and community needs, but often lack systems to turn evidence into investment, coordinated action, and sustainable growth. Urban management is strengthened through SDG localization, diagnostics, and data-driven planning, while integrated planning and financing, alongside stronger national and local capacities, enable coordinated, resilient, and sustainable urban development.



Cities, Nature and Culture

As extreme weather events become more frequent and severe, vulnerable communities face growing risks from heat, flooding, and storms. Building resilient housing and communities is essential to protecting lives and livelihoods, improving quality of life, and enabling cities to adapt to climate change. Through integrated approaches that combine resilient housing, climate-responsive infrastructure, and inclusive community planning, cities can reduce vulnerability while creating safer, healthier, and more sustainable urban environments.

Main Urban Challenges

- Climate change and rapid urbanization are increasing pressure on housing, infrastructure, mobility, and basic services.
- Cities face persistent challenges in delivering affordable housing, safe mobility, and climate-resilient urban development.
- - Limited governance, financing, and institutional capacity constrain integrated planning and sustainable urban investment.

Strategic Focus

- Strengthen climate-resilient infrastructure, housing, and basic services.
- Advance integrated urban planning and climate adaptation.
- Promote data-driven urban management and SDG localization.
- Mobilize sustainable urban finance and investment.
- Strengthen multi-level governance and institutional capacity.

Key Figures

- Focus on resilient housing and community, urban services, SDG localization and nature-based solutions.
- Implementation tools include local finance accrelator, city dianostics, capacity building and integrated planning.
- Priority themes include housing, waste, water, wastewater, safe and sustainable mobility, and climate risk management.

Viet Nam

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

In Viet Nam, interventions respond to rapid urbanization and climate risks by promoting climate-resilient, low-carbon housing, urban regeneration, affordable housing finance, and land value capture. They also strengthen smart urban governance and urban data systems to improve integrated planning and service delivery. Additional efforts support nature-based solutions, coastal restoration, flood risk management, green technologies, youth innovation, and community preparedness, contributing to more inclusive, resilient, and sustainable urban development.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

UN Habitat will support inclusive, climate resilient and low carbon housing through urban regeneration approaches and strengthened access to affordable housing finance, including innovative mechanisms such as land value capture. Programming will focus on improving living conditions, enhancing housing affordability, and advancing sustainable, context responsive and climate adaptive housing solutions integrated with urban planning and environmental objectives.



Urban Management

Programming will strengthen urban management systems through the advancement of smart urban governance, the development and application of urban data systems, and the promotion of integrated urban finance mechanisms, including land value capture. Priority will be accorded to enhancing evidence based planning and decision making, strengthening institutional and human capacity, and enabling coordinated, inclusive and resilient urban development and implementation.



Cities, Nature and Culture

Cities, nature and culture interventions advance ecosystem based and integrated approaches, including coastal ecosystem restoration, flood risk management planning, the application of green technologies, and the integration of nature based solutions. These efforts strengthen climate adaptation and resilience, enhance environmental sustainability, and improve urban livability and well being, while promoting inclusive, nature positive and community centred urban development pathways.

Main Urban Challenges

- Need for climate-resilient and low-carbon housing.
- Urban regeneration and affordable housing finance needs.
- Coastal climate risk and need for stronger urban data and planning systems.

Strategic Focus

- Promote climate-resilient and low-carbon housing.
- Support urban regeneration and affordable housing finance.
- Strengthen land-value capture and urban finance mechanisms.
- Expand smart governance and urban data systems.
- Support coastal ecosystem restoration, flood planning and green technologies.

Key Figures

- **Urbanization:** 39% urban; urban growth 2.1%; projected 70% by 2050.
- **Strategic emphasis on urban regeneration, finance and climate adaptation.**
- **Key tools include smart governance, urban data and land-based finance.**



Pacific

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

The Pacific sub-regional strategy will prioritize informal settlement upgrading, climate-resilient housing, tenure security, resilient basic service delivery, and urban management across Pacific Island countries and territories. Priority interventions will include support for National Housing and Urban Policies, settlement upgrading processes, strengthened multi-country programming, expanded country-level presence, and engagement through the Pacific Urban Forum. The strategy will place particular emphasis on climate adaptation, equitable access to services, local capacity development, and regional cooperation.

Key Thematic Entry Points



Housing

Housing interventions advance inclusive and climate resilient outcomes through area based and community driven upgrading of informal settlements, strengthened security of tenure, and support for the development and implementation of national housing and urban policies. Efforts improve living conditions in vulnerable and climate exposed settlements, while promoting safer, more resilient and context responsive housing solutions across Pacific Island countries and territories.



Basic Services

Basic service delivery is strengthened through equitable and climate resilient approaches, encompassing water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH), solid waste management, sustainable energy, and mobility systems in climate vulnerable urban settlements. Emphasis is placed on improving service reliability and environmental sustainability, enhancing resilience to climate impacts, and ensuring inclusive access to services in dispersed island contexts.



Urban Management

Programming will strengthen urban management systems through the development and implementation of National Urban Policies, integrated spatial planning, strengthened land administration systems, and sustainable urban financing mechanisms. Priority will be accorded to enhancing multi level governance, strengthening institutional and human capacity, and supporting coordinated, regionally aligned interventions through an expanded and strengthened Pacific programme.



Main Urban Challenges

- Informal settlement growth and climate-vulnerable housing.
- Land tenure insecurity and basic service gaps.
- Need for stronger national urban policy, housing policy and multi-country programming.



Strategic Focus

- Support informal settlement upgrading and climate-resilient housing.
- Strengthen land tenure security and institutional capacity.
- Improve water, sanitation, waste, energy and mobility systems.
- Support National Housing and National Urban Policy processes.
- Expand Pacific country presence and regional programming.

Key Figures

- Updated analysis of the Pacific's urbanization suggests the region is now more than 36.4% urban.; higher than the UN projections for 2050 (33.1%).
- Nine of fourteen Pacific Island Countries and Territories have more than half of their citizens living in urban areas, seven of which are two-thirds urbanized.
 - At least 20% of urban residents in Melanesia live in informal settlements.
 - Urban population projected to double to around 7 million by 2050.
 - Portfolio target: around USD 12 million.
 - Active countries targeted to increase from 2 to 5.



Japan

Implementation Strategy 2026 - 2029

Reflecting its role as host of the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) and a major development partner, Japan's engagement centres on a strategic partnership and regional support function rather than a conventional country programme. Efforts focus on diversifying funding sources and strengthening collaboration with national ministries, JICA, parliamentarians, local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector. Emphasis is also placed on enhancing public outreach, visibility, youth engagement and advocacy to advance sustainable urbanization across the region.

Key Thematic Entry Points

Strategic Partnership

Japan's strategic contribution supports regional implementation through its role as host country partner, donor, and knowledge hub, complementing thematic programming across the region. The partnership is strengthened through collaboration on knowledge exchange, policy dialogue, and coordinated regional initiatives. Particular emphasis is placed on renewing the Fukuoka Partnership Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) and deepening engagement with national and subnational stakeholders to enable innovation and scaling of sustainable urban solutions.

Resource Mobilization

Resource mobilization efforts are strengthened through expanded engagement with government ministries, development partners, the private sector, civil society and academia, alongside the promotion of innovative financing mechanisms. Emphasis is placed on broadening the funding base, enhancing strategic partnerships, and securing sustainable and flexible financing for regional and multi country programming.

Knowledge and Advocacy

Knowledge generation, exchange, and advocacy are strengthened through established platforms in Tokyo and Fukuoka, while promoting regional dialogue on sustainable urbanization. Activities include seminars and conferences, joint research engagement with academia and research institutions, and enhanced youth participation, public outreach and visibility, contributing to evidence based policy development and increased awareness across the region.

Main Challenges

- Japan is ROAP's host country and a key donor and knowledge partner.
- The strategy focuses on partnership diversification and regional support.
- Japan contributes expertise in climate adaptation, DRR/reconstruction, solid waste management and urban technology.

Strategic Focus

- Renew and strengthen the Fukuoka partnership MOU.
- Diversify funding and strengthen donor engagement.
- Expand partnerships with ministries, JICA, parliamentarians, local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector.
- Strengthen public visibility, advocacy and youth engagement.
- Support ROAP as a regional knowledge and implementation hub.

Key Figures

- Top 2nd donor in 2023.
- Contribution of around USD 28.17 million, representing around 20%.
- Funding partners targeted to increase from 3 in 2025 to 6 in 2029.
 - Fukuoka platform partners targeted to increase from 91 to 120.
 - Tokyo platform partners targeted to increase from 84 to 110.
- "Water for Life" donations targeted to increase from USD 70,000 to USD 100,000.

A better quality of life for all
in an urbanizing world



United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP)
ACROS Fukuoka Building,
8th Floor 1-1-1 Tenjin, Chuo-ku
Fukuoka, Japan
habitat.fukuoka@un.org
Tel: +81-92-724-7121/23

