

UN-HABITAT IN ASIA & THE PACIFIC



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LEADERSHIP MESSAGE *Anacláudia Rossbach, Under-Secretary General and Executive Director of UN-Habitat*



The devastating flash floods that struck Nepal and China on 26 August, claiming lives and causing extensive damage to homes, infrastructure, livelihoods and communities, are a stark reminder of the human cost of disasters and the vulnerability of communities exposed to climate hazards.

UN-Habitat stands in solidarity with the people and governments of Nepal and China. Across Asia and the Pacific, we continue to work with governments and partners to strengthen resilience, advance adequate housing and promote inclusive and sustainable urban development.

This work is increasingly urgent as up to 3.4 billion people worldwide lack adequate housing, including more than 1.1 billion people living in informal settlements and slums, many in hazard-prone or environmentally fragile locations. As we approach World Habitat Day on 5 October, under the theme “Adequate Housing for All”, we are renewing the call for action to ensure that everyone has access to safe, affordable and adequate housing.

I invite you to explore this edition and our work across the region to build more inclusive, resilient and sustainable human settlements.

REGIONAL OFFICE FOR ASIA AND THE PACIFIC



Message from Patrick Canagasingham Director, Regional Programme Division

The Asia-Pacific region will play a defining role in shaping the world's urban future. Building on the momentum of the 13th World Urban Forum and discussions at the High-level Political Forum in New York on progress towards implementing the New Urban Agenda, our support to countries across the region is more important than ever.

Since joining UN-Habitat in April 2026, I have had the opportunity to visit Thailand, Japan and China, and will soon travel to India. These first visits have given me a closer view of the region's diverse urban challenges and the opportunities for cities and countries to advance more inclusive, resilient and sustainable urban development. I have also seen how strong partnerships and our programmes can turn shared commitments into tangible results on the ground.

I thank governments, local authorities and partners across the region for their trust and collaboration. I look forward to building on this momentum and advancing our shared urban agenda together.

Presence in 17 countries



We appreciate support from the following countries/organizations

Adaptation Fund Board/ ASEAN/ ATOM Myanmar Ltd./ Beijing Chaoyang Environment Group Co. Ltd/ Beijing Future Science City Management Committee/ Botnar Foundation/ C Team/ CDHT/ CDRI/ China Centre for Urban Development, Government of China/ China/ Citizens Net for UN-Habitat Fukuoka (CNHF)/ Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ)/ Dinghai District/ District Collectorate, Jaipur, Government of Odisha/ FCDO/ GCF/ IDF/ IFENG.com/ India/ IRAF/ ISoftStone Smart Technology Company Ltd. (ISSTECH)/ Japan/ Japan Habitat Association (JHA)/ JICA/ KOICA/ Luxembourg/ Nanjing Planning and Natural Resources Bureau/ Norwegian Retailer's Environment Fund (NREF)/ Malaysia/ Netherlands/ Raikela Iron Ore Mines, M/S Geetarani Mohanty/ Republic of Korea/ Shenzhen Institute of Building Research Co., Ltd/ Shuangjing Sub-district of Chaoyang District, Beijing/ TMF/ UK-PACT/ UNDP/ UN Peace and Development Trust Fund/ UNOPS/ USAID/ Wanxiang/ Weihai Municipality/ WLSF/ WPD/ Xinchao Media/ Xuzhou Housing and Urban & Rural Construction Bureau/ Xuzhou Urban Planning Bureau

Projects in Asia and the Pacific



Nepal - From Earthquake Recovery to Community Resilience



**Donor: Government of Japan,
UNDP Nepal**

With the support of the People of Japan, UNDP Nepal, in collaboration with UN-Habitat Nepal, worked with earthquake-affected municipalities in Jajarkot and Rukum West through the **Livelihoods Improvement and Disaster Resilience Enhancement** project. The initiative strengthened basic service delivery, livelihood recovery, and community resilience. UN-Habitat led the construction of 10 prefabricated public service buildings, established 10 Common Facility Centres (CFCs)/Market Centres, and restored 25 community infrastructures. The project also promoted community-led reconstruction, skill-based training, market linkages, and strengthened local capacities for inclusive, resilient, and sustainable recovery.

"After the earthquake and flash floods, I struggled to irrigate my fields and often depended on others for water. With the canal restored, I can now irrigate my land independently and secure a better future for my family."

- Ms. Rabi Babal (Magar), Irrigation User Committee Member

Philippines - Co-Creating Resilient Futures

UN-Habitat continues to support local communities in addressing climate risks across the Philippines through the **Transformative Actions for Climate and Ecological Protection and Development (TRANSCEND)** Project, which runs until 2029 and promotes a climate-resilient, low-carbon, and biodiversity-friendly future. In Oriental Mindoro, Iloilo, and Misamis Oriental, stakeholders from local governments, civil society, academia, and community groups validated climate risk findings through workshops, mapping activities, and dialogues. Building on these insights, communities co-designed urban ecosystem-based adaptation (urban EbA) pilot projects using participatory planning tools. The process identified nature-based solutions that reduce climate risks while delivering social, environmental, and economic benefits, fostering inclusive, locally driven, and resilient urban development.



Donor: International Climate Initiative (IKI)

"My family's health and well-being is now secured through our gravity-fed spring water which is filtered and chlorinated. Every drop we drink is safe and life-sustaining."

- Ms. R. A. Inoka Priyadarshani, Nuwara Eliya

Iran: Emergency Support to Post Earthquake Reconstruction



Donor: Government of Japan

The Emergency Support to Post Earthquake Reconstruction in Hormozgan Province (PERHOPE) Project supported villages affected by the 2022 Hormozgan earthquake, where water systems collapsed and communities were severely impacted. Funded by the Government of Japan and implemented with national partners, UN-Habitat applied a building back better approach, delivering:

- 500m³ disaster-resilient water reservoir
- Critical water networks to serve over 1,500 residents
- Comprehensive studies for sustainable village planning
- Public awareness and vocational workshops and expert training courses on disaster risk reduction and climate-friendly livelihoods

"When we participated the training workshops for green jobs and were together and listened to each other, we gradually became hopeful. Then the planting in the tree nursery started, which was difficult. But when the group work started, we succeeded. Now, when we think back, we can't say how strong we became. The challenges improved us when we worked together."

- One of the Project beneficiaries

Voices from Country Offices

Bangladesh

In Bangladesh UN-Habitat works with the Ministry of Housing and Public Works to build cities that withstand a changing climate. Through the Transforming the Built Environment programme with UNEP and UNOPS, we lead development of a national Green Building Certification System and support low-carbon, resilient construction under the country's Climate Action Roadmap.

Alongside this, our Sinking Cities Initiative with ESCAP tackles land subsidence in delta and coastal areas. Cox's Bazar is the pilot, where we combine risk assessment, data and policy dialogue to address subsidence, flooding and coastal exposure together.



UN-Habitat Bangladesh Team Photo

Myanmar

UN-Habitat has supported the people of Myanmar since the early 1990s, pioneering its People's Process approach to community-led development. Its work spans sustainable urban development, community infrastructure and WASH, disaster risk reduction and recovery, and climate resilience. In 2026, UN-Habitat continues this commitment through the ASEAN Sustainable Urbanisation Strategy (ASUS) Phase II, the Water for Life initiative supporting earthquake-affected communities, and the Construction of a Disaster-Resilient Community Evacuation Center in Mandalay to strengthen community preparedness, resilient infrastructure, and inclusive recovery. Amid Myanmar's complex vulnerabilities, including rapid urbanization, disasters, climate change, and socio-economic challenges, UN-Habitat remains committed to supporting vulnerable communities and advancing inclusive, resilient, and sustainable human settlements.



UN-Habitat Myanmar team and local stakeholders at ASUS Co-designing Workshop

Regional and Country Events

Date	Location	Event
5-7 October 2026	Kuantan, Pahang Malaysia	Malaysia Urban Forum
6 October 2026	Vientien Lao PDR	5th Lao National Urban Forum
10-14 October 2026	Kota Kinabalu Malaysia	Kota Kinabalu International Mayors' Dialogue 2026
19-21 October 2026	Fukuoka Japan	The 15th Asian Pacific City Summit
24-27 October 2026	Sarawak Malaysia	Sarawak Urban Forum (SUF) 2.0
26 October 2026	Bangkok Thailand	International Froum and Collective Housing Awards Best Practices
24-25 October 2026	Bengaluru India	Prajatantra 2026 – National Youth Festival
27-28 October 2026	Delhi India	ARISE - Alliance for Disaster Resilient Societies
29-30 October 2026	Shanghai China	SDG Cities Global Conference
6 November 2026	Hanoi Viet Nam	Vietnam Urban Summit 2026
10 November 2026	Beijing China	The 8th High-Level International Forum on Sustainable Urban Development

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World Habitat Day

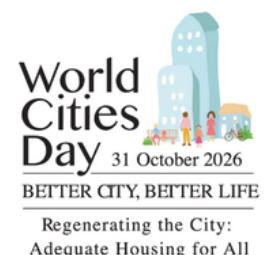
Theme: Adequate Housing for All
Global Observance:
5 October 2026
Muscat, Oman

Celebrations in the Region

5 October: Bangladesh	5 October: India
5 October: Philippines	5 October: Sri Lanka
6 October: Nepal	6 October: Pakistan
12 October: Iran	26 October: Thailand

World Cities Day

Theme: Regenerating the City: Adequate Housing for All.
Global Observance:
31 October 2026
Fuzhou, China



Celebrations in the Region

31 October: Shanghai, China	31 October: Pakistan
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Voices from Japan Team - Actions with Japan

Zero Waste



The Asia-Pacific Circular City Forum (APCC), organized by the City of Yokohama, was held at Pacifico Yokohama from 2-4 September 2026. Oddy Angelo, Human Settlements Officer, was among keynote presenters at a seminar co-hosted by the City of Yokohama and CITYNET, titled "Practical Approaches Toward Zero-Waste Cities: Actionable Circularity and Zero Waste: Scaling through Resilience."

Youth



UN-Habitat ROAP endorsed the "Asia Next Forum," organized by Catalyst Kyushu. On 7 August 2026, ROAP joined the session "The Urban Frontier: How Asian Cities Lead the Climate Response" as a panelist and shared UN-Habitat's vision and its work across the Asia-Pacific region. The event brought together young leaders from the public, private, and academic sectors across Asia in Fukuoka, a gateway between Japan and Asia. It was a great opportunity for participants to exchange ideas, have discussions, and connect with each other.

Partnership



The emergency project for the Kiteezi landfill in Kampala, Uganda—implemented by UN-Habitat with support from the Government of Japan—has been successfully completed. The site was officially handed over to Kampala City on 5 August with the attendance of the Prime Minister of Uganda and Ambassador Takuya Sasayama, of Japan. The project achieved rapid improvement and stabilization following a massive collapse that claimed 35 lives and engulfed nearby settlements; local residents, who had closely watched the steady progress of the improvements made using the "Fukuoka Method," expressed great delight at the outcome.

Partnership



The annual onsite training by ACCP (African Clean Cities Platform) was held in Tunisia, inviting government/local government officials from five countries across Africa. The landfill operations and management techniques were demonstrated by experts from SWAN Fukuoka, with practical tips to sustain and manage the landfill at low cost and with locally available materials. Fukuoka City Environment Bureau also participated in this training as observers and offered lectures on waste management policies, measures and day-to-day operations and management.

Gender



On 8 August 2026, Ms. Hoshino participated as a speaker in the "High School Students x Gender Equality Workshop"—a summer program organized by the Fukuoka Prefectural Center for Gender Equality ("Asubaru")—where she engaged in an interview-style discussion with groups of high school students on the topic of "Disaster Prevention, Response, and Gender Issues."

Youth



ROAP also participated in the career event "Aim for a Career at the UN!", organized by the Citizens Net for UN-Habitat Fukuoka and gave a keynote speech on careers with UN-Habitat. We hope that our activities at UN-Habitat ROAP will inspire young people to pursue opportunities to work on the international stage.