

In this month's Donor Brief we provide updates on the upcoming UN-Habitat Assembly, our financial status and key donors, and feature impact stories in Argentina and Afghanistan.



HIGHLIGHTS



**First ever UN-Habitat Assembly to be held in May 2019** - Following Member States' adoption of a new governance structure for UN-Habitat at the General Assembly in December 2018 after 14 years of negotiations, UN-Habitat will hold the first ever session of the **UN-Habitat Assembly** from 27-31 May 2019, at its headquarters in Nairobi. The Assembly which has universal membership replaces the organization's Governing Council which has a membership of 58 Member States.

Key events include a high-level dialogue on the theme of the Assembly *Innovation for Better Quality of Life in Cities and Communities*, pledging conference to raise funding for UN-Habitat's work on sustainable urbanization, and a business leaders dialogue to discuss collaboration and innovative financing to accelerate implementation of the New Urban Agenda to achieve the SDGs. UN-Habitat will present its strategic plan 2020-2025 to the Assembly for approval and the Assembly will elect members of an Executive Board to help oversee and monitor implementation of the plan. An exhibition and side events will showcase innovative developments to advance sustainable urbanization. Over 2,000 delegates are expected to attend the Assembly from all over the world, from national and provincial governments, local authorities, civil society, and the private sector to academia and other United Nations agencies.

**Partnership and pledging conference** - UN-Habitat is using the opportunity of the UN-Habitat Assembly to hold a pledging conference to raise **USD250 million** in 2019, and a similar amount in 2020 needed by UN-Habitat for core and specific programmes to support implementation of the New Urban Agenda. This includes developing global norms and policies and helping countries with their urban programmes aligned to their national strategies and SDGs. The conference hopes to rally more partners around this important agenda which impacts the lives more than half of the world's population. A high-level panel will make the case for supporting the urban agenda and discuss mechanisms for mobilizing adequate funds to address urban challenges to help realize the vision of a better quality of life for all in an urbanizing world.

Argentina adopts its first-ever National Urban Policy

In October 2018, Argentina, which has an urban population of almost 92%, adopted a National Urban Policy to support balanced regional development and foster inclusive development of its cities. The Policy was the culmination of a broad consultative process, which started in 2017, led by the Ministry of Interior, Public Works and Housing in collaboration with UN-Habitat. The National Urban Policy, which took inputs from representatives of public and private sectors, academia, civil society, development banks, and international organizations, will help guide the country's urban development plans and is now a point of reference for sectoral ministries, service providers, and for the legislative institutional reform being undertaken in 2019.



FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES



Clean and Green Cities Programme

"I was jobless and now I have a job. I am proud to serve my country and support my family." A beneficiary from Kandahar city.

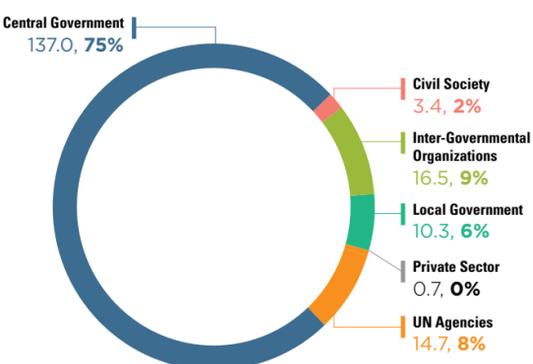
Until recently, some cities in Afghanistan did not receive street cleaning, garbage collection, or drainage clearing services. The Clean and Green Cities' Programme that began in 2017 with support from European Union and USAID, aims to respond to this problem and establish a cleaner, safer, healthier urban environment and public spaces. The labour intensive programme, which also hopes to provide more income for poor households and improve urban economies, identified **12 major Afghan cities** in need of stabilization and job creation to ensure

the poorest and most vulnerable benefit. Activities under the programme included solid waste collection from households to collection points, tree planting, street sweeping, curb painting, cleaning roadside ditches and public awareness raising through school campaigns and artistic murals. Some **79 Nahia Development Committees** and **135 Community Development Councils** were established to empower local communities to plan and deliver services in coordination with municipalities. The programme created employment for over **11,000 people** with over two million job days created and public spaces have improved with **36 parks rehabilitated** and **450,922 trees planted**.

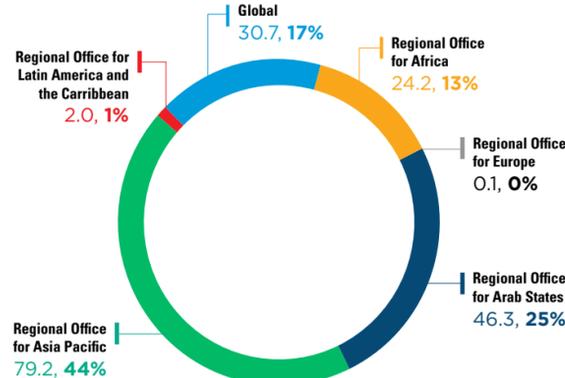
FINANCIAL UPDATE

In 2018, UN-Habitat acquired new funding totaling **USD182.6 million**. The charts below provide a summary of the types of donors and nature of programmes that received funding last year.

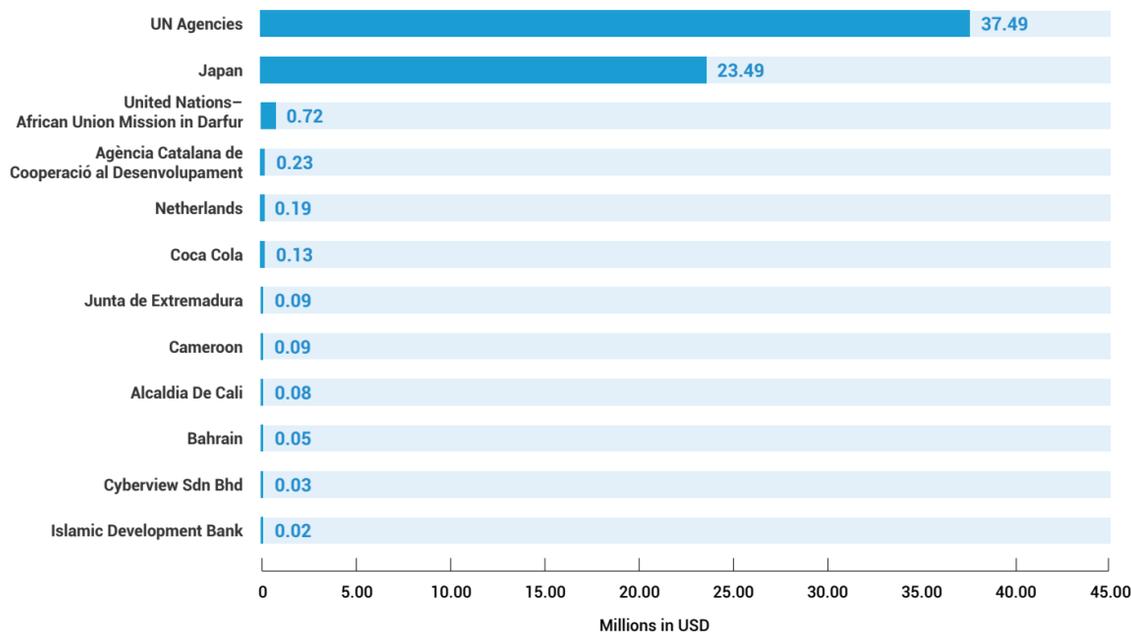
Donors to UN-Habitat's work in 2018



Types of work for which donations received in 2018



Highest value grants from January - March 2019



We are pleased to announce new income from governments including **Cameroon** to support the work of the MAETUR, the Urban and Rural Land Development and Equipment Agency for the Yaounde-Nsimalen urban corridor and develop tools for management and occupation of spaces along the corridor, **Japan** for reconstruction and peacebuilding of liberated cities in **Iraq**, the **Netherlands** for urban planning, climate change and resilience, and **Bahrain** for technical capacity building workshops on urban development in the country.

Funding from other donors includes **Alcaldía De Cali** to support housing and a Habitat Master Plan 2018-2030 in Santiago de Cali, **Colombia**, **Agència Catalana de Cooperació al Desenvolupament** for implementation of the New Urban Agenda in **Mozambique**, **Coca Cola** for enhancing water and sanitation facilities in 20 Schools in Sindhupal Chowk and Lalitpur Districts of **Nepal**, and **Cyberview Sdn Bhd's** for the City Prosperity Initiative. The **Islamic Development Bank** gave support for climate action at the city level in the Arab Region while **Junta de Extremadura** provided funding for strengthening capacities of New Urban Agenda partners for implementation of the 2030 Agenda.

Within the United Nations system, **IOM** gave funding, part of an EU grant, for community led planning and infrastructure in **Somalia**, and **UNDP** to strengthen long-term resilience of subnational authorities in **Iraq** and **Lebanon**, also funded by the EU. The **United Nations and African Union Mission in Darfur** gave support capacity building of institutions and communities including on land rights in Darfur, **Sudan**.

UN-Habitat appreciates the voluntary non-earmarked contributions received from **Japan** and pledges made from **France, Malawi, Norway, Philippines** and **Singapore** towards our core normative work amounting to **USD2.6 million**. This still leaves a shortfall of **USD10.4 million** to reach the 2019 target of **USD13 million** for the approved work programme. We hope you will respond to the appeals sent out by UN-Habitat's Executive Director, Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif to Member States early this year for core contributions and look forward to your participation in the pledging conference at the **UN-Habitat Assembly**.

