

UN-Habitat's response to COVID-19

HIGHLIGHTS

COVID-19 impact on cities

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic is being felt across the world. Urgent action is required in cities where over 4 billion people live - with 1 billion of them in informal settlements. UN-Habitat's focus is on supporting informal settlements and slums where communities are most at risk of high infection rates due to overcrowding and lack of basic services and medical facilities. Key areas include community mobilization, water and sanitation upgrading, safe mobility and transport systems, and public health messages. We are working closely with local governments who are at the forefront of the fight to slow the pandemic, and with the wider UN system and civil society organizations to save valuable time and money. UN-Habitat is part of the UN [Global Humanitarian Response Plan for COVID-19](#) and we continue to update our response strategy for the next stage of the appeal. To support our efforts or learn more about our COVID response email us at unhabitat-donorrelations@un.org.

UN-Habitat's Executive Board meeting postponed due to COVID-19

UN-Habitat's Executive Board meeting planned for 31 March – 2 April 2020 has been postponed due to COVID-19. Ms. Maimunah Mohd Sharif, the Executive Director held a virtual meeting on 31 March to brief Member States on major developments and the organization's financial situation.

World Urban Forum 10 in Abu Dhabi ends with call for action

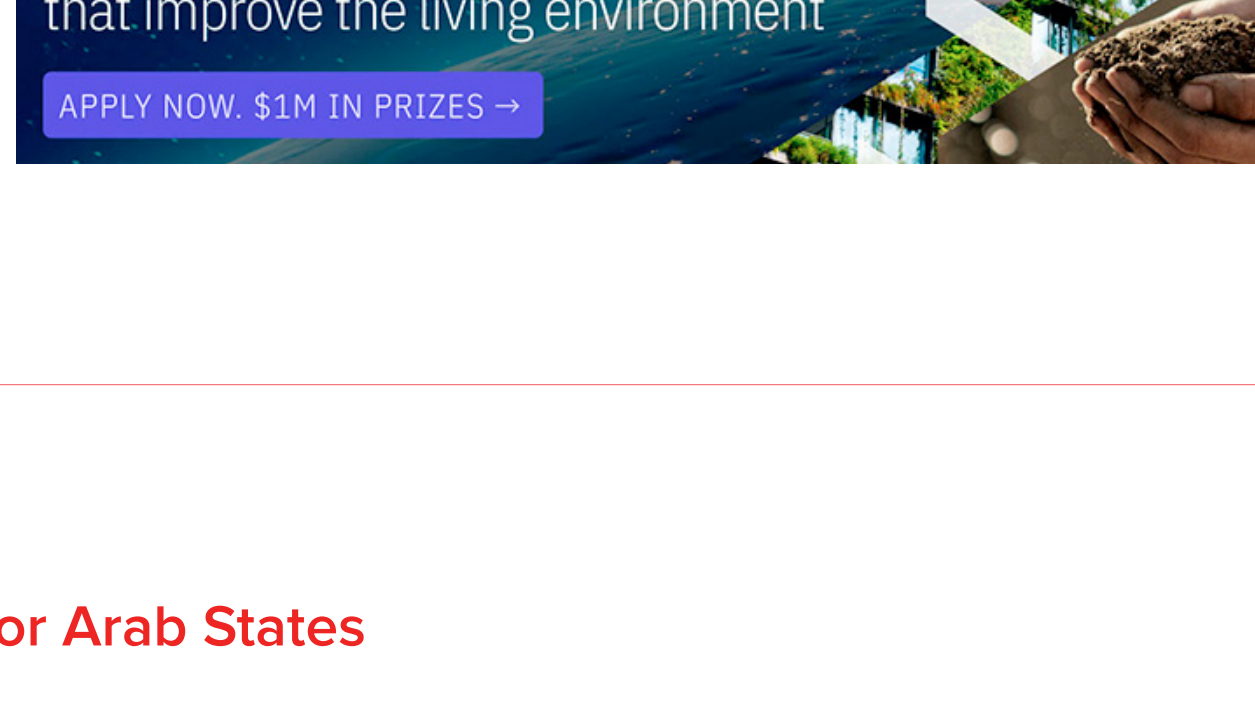
Over 13,000 people from 169 countries attended the 10th session of the [World Urban Forum](#), the premier conference on cities, from 8 to 13 February in Abu Dhabi. They represented governments, civil society, businesses, foundations, academia and other stakeholders. Some 500 events were held including assemblies, dialogues, roundtables, urban talks, exhibitions, and urban library. A city investment platform, linked investors with cities to secure funding for initiatives that accelerate achievement of SDGs in this Decade of Action. There was a rich knowledge exchange on solutions and opportunities in cities under the theme of *Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation* which concluded with the [Abu Dhabi Declared Actions](#), a set of voluntary actions and commitments by different partners and stakeholder groups in support of the New Urban Agenda and SDGs. The next [Forum](#), WUF 11, will be in Katowice, Poland in 2022. A call for [expression of interest to host WUF12](#) opened on 13 February.



Afghanistan's President Ashraf Ghani, Chairman of Abu Dhabi Crown Prince's Court, Sheikh Theyab bin Mohamed bin Zayed Al Nahyan, UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Fiji Prime Minister Frank Bainimarama, and Chairman of the Department of Municipalities and Transport: Falah Al Ahnabi at WUF10

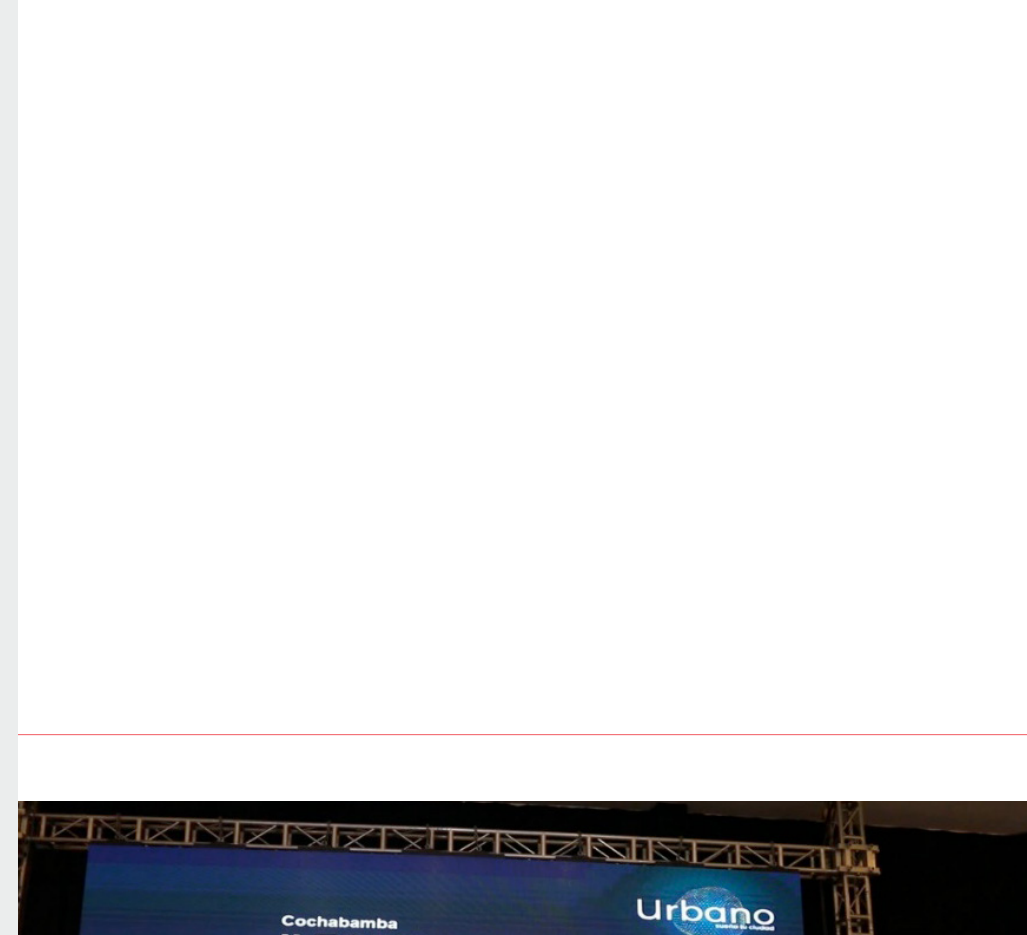
Dubai International Best Practices Award – call for sustainable urbanization projects

The Dubai International Best Practices Award, now running for 25 years, recognizes outstanding high impact initiatives on sustainable urban development which demonstrate effective partnerships between public, private and civil society sectors. Held every two years, the award is open to national and regional governments, local authorities, non-governmental and community organizations, multilateral agencies, research institutions, foundations, media entities and individuals. [Apply for the award until 30 April 2020](#) for a chance to win a cash prize of USD 200,000. Five prizes will be presented under the categories of urban regeneration, smart buildings, food systems, climate change, and infrastructure with a total award prize of USD 1 million to be presented at the [EXPO 2020 Dubai](#) in November.



REGIONAL HIGHLIGHTS

Regional Office for Arab States



Sunta Girls' School in South Darfur State, Sudan

During WUF10, UN-Habitat, in cooperation with the [Islamic Development Bank](#), launched the report [Towards Arab Cities without Informal Settlements: Analysis and Prospects](#), which provides an overview of the status of informal settlements in Arab cities. Meanwhile in [Sudan](#), UN-Habitat, in partnership with [USAID](#), [Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation](#), [UNAMID](#), and the governments of Japan, Qatar, constructed 81 public facilities including six schools, 44 health facilities and six rural courts in 59 villages in five war-affected Darfur States. In [Egypt](#), more than half a million inhabitants will benefit from the replication of Riverbank filtration projects for clean water; by the end of 2019, agreements were signed with three affiliated water companies to implement 17 Riverbank Filtration units in upper Egypt. The government of [Japan](#) has new contributions of USD 3,636,363 to UN-Habitat [Iraq](#) to support to reconstruction and peace building of liberated cities in Iraq, USD 978,709 to [Jordan](#) to strengthen social stability and resilience of vulnerable Jordanian communities and Syrian Refugees in Amman against flash floods, and USD 1.8 million towards prevention of water borne disease outbreak through emergency repair and upgrade of damaged wastewater facilities in Aden City, Yemen. In [Tunisia](#), UN-Habitat with support of [Cities Alliance](#) and the Tunisian Ministry of Equipment, Housing and Territorial Planning launched the National Urban Policy to build a common vision for development in the country. In [Palestine](#), UN-Habitat and the [European Union](#) launched a new programme under the rubric: Achieving Planning and Land Rights in Area C, West Bank, with a total budget of USD 4.4 million. In addition, UN-Habitat jointly with UN Women, UNODC and UNFPA has launched a joint program on "Eliminating violence against women and girls in the West Bank and Gaza Strip" funded by the Government of Canada with a total budget of CAD 17 million, of which UN-Habitat's share is CAD 3,456,718 and its component focuses on creating safe and inclusive public spaces..

Regional Office Latin America and Caribbean



Representatives from youth groups from all the country's departments take part in II National Urban Forum

In [Bolivia](#), thanks to support from [Sweden](#) and the United Nations System including UN-Habitat, the National Urban Policy developed by the Vice-Ministry of Housing and Urbanism is being finalized. The draft has greatly benefited from the one and a half year long participatory consultations, with young people making key contributions. The document will be presented to the Government in June 2020 for approval. Meanwhile tools and mechanisms to support implementation of the policy are being developed.

FROM OUR BENEFICIARIES

COVID-19 will hit the world's most vulnerable people hardest, many in informal settlements

"Overcrowding and lack of hand washing facilities means COVID-19 outbreak could spread fast"

In Mlango Kubwa, in Nairobi, [Kenya's](#) Mathare informal settlement, over 50,000 residents rely on community places to access clean water. UN-Habitat and Mathare Environmental One Stop Youth Centre are partnering to protect the community against the coronavirus. Currently, the Youth Centre offers the only hand washing station in the vicinity. The programme is soon expected to serve more Mathare residents.

50,000 + residents

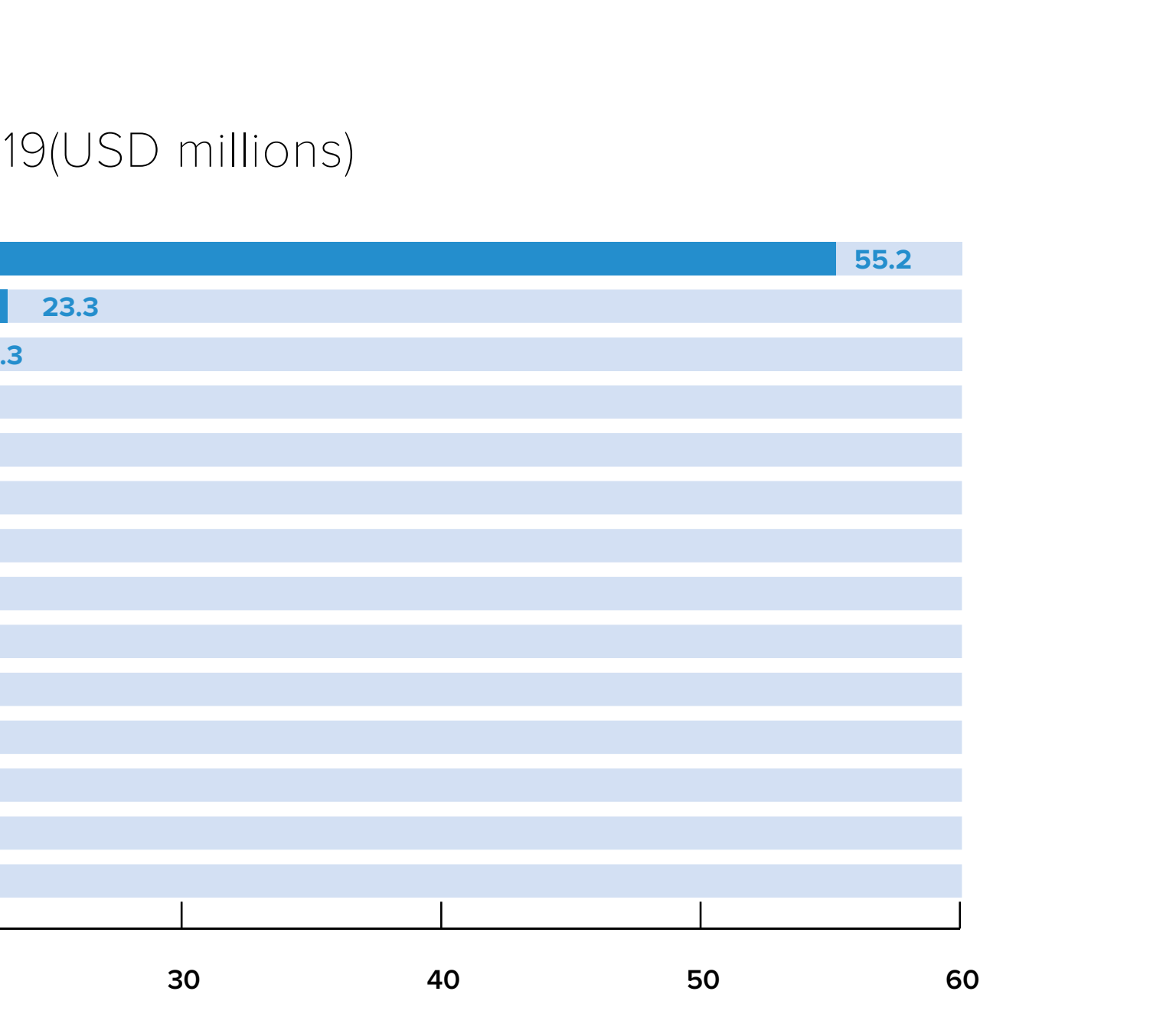
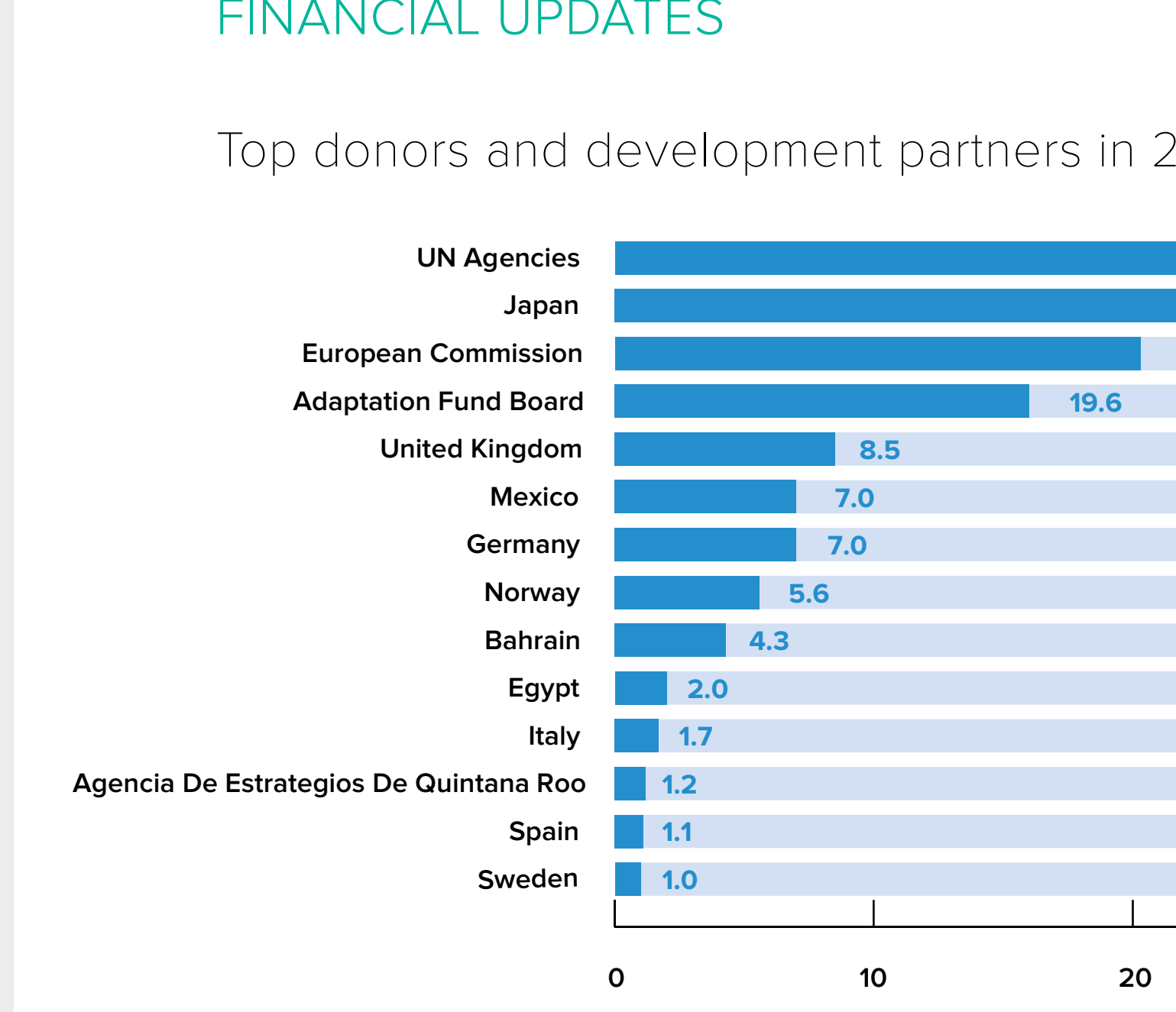
rely on community places to access clean water.



Safe and inclusive mobility for African cities

UN-Habitat in collaboration with the Institute of Transportation and Development Policy (ITDP) is working in Addis Ababa, Cairo, Kampala and Nairobi to introduce Bus Rapid Transit systems. In Cairo, consultations with women led to improved design of bus interiors, safe, well-lit, comfortable stations, and footpaths. In Kenya, work with the National Gender and Equality Commission has resulted in the principle of **universal design** for bus interiors, footpaths, tactile pavements for the blind, and other features – now slated for adoption by government authorities. Meanwhile, collaboration with the **Fione Initiative**, a Nairobi based NGO, has led to the informal public transport industry adopting a charter to improve services for women and the vulnerable, including those with disabilities, and that with the German **Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative**, has assisted Nairobi University to establish a **Mobility Accelerator**, to help young tech entrepreneurs establish innovative mobility businesses.

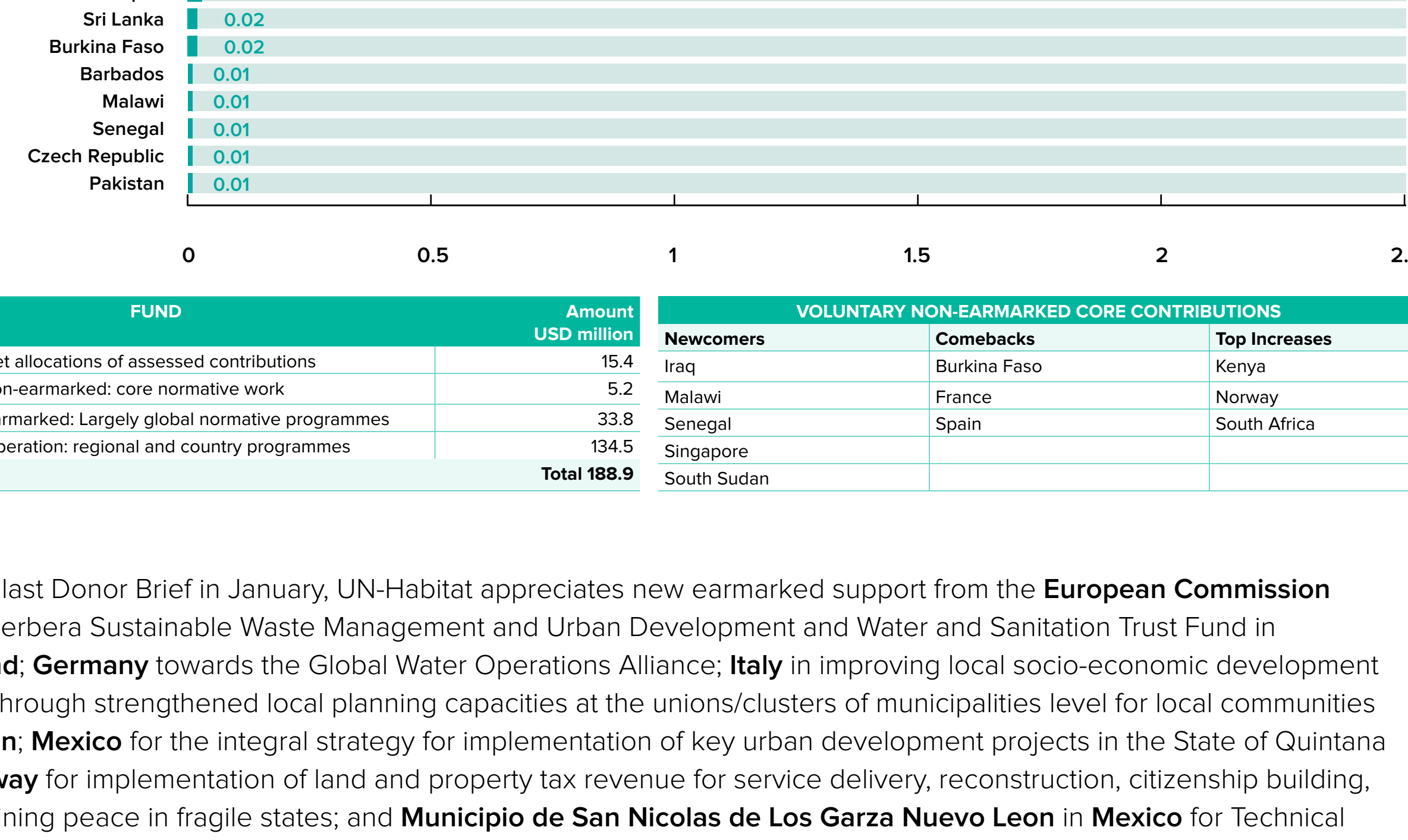
The COVID-19 pandemic presents a huge challenge as the proximity of people using public transport presents a major risk factor in the spread of the disease. In Kenya, UN-Habitat is engaging with the government and transport operators to promote social distancing and good hygiene practices, and with a **Mobility Accelerator** startup on an app to help authorities and passengers with contact tracing of positive cases to reduce the risk of transmission.



FINANCIAL UPDATES

Top donors and development partners in 2019(USD millions)

Non-earmarked contributions in 2019 (USD Millions)



FUND	Amount USD million	NEWCOMERS	Comebacks	Top Increases
Regular budget allocations of assessed contributions	15.4	Iraq	Burkina Faso	Kenya
Foundation non-earmarked: core normative work	5.2	Malawi	France	Norway
Foundation earmarked: Largely global normative programmes	33.8	Senegal	Spain	South Africa
Technical cooperation: regional and country programmes	134.5	Singapore		
	Total 188.9			

Since our last Donor Brief in January, UN-Habitat appreciates new earmarked support from the [European Commission](#) towards Berbera Sustainable Waste Management and Urban Development and Water and Sanitation Trust Fund in [Somaliland](#); [Germany](#) towards the Global Water Operations Alliance; [Italy](#) in improving local socio-economic development planning through strengthened local planning capacities at the unions/clusters of municipalities level for local communities in [Lebanon](#); [Mexico](#) for the integral strategy for implementation of key urban development projects in the State of Quintana Roo; [Norway](#) for implementation of land and property tax revenue for service delivery, reconstruction, citizenship building, and sustaining peace in fragile states; and [Municipio de San Nicolas de los Garza Nuevo Leon](#) in [Mexico](#) for Technical assistance to its municipality in the consolidation of a city vision for urban and territorial development aligned with the 2030 Agenda and the New Urban Agenda.

UN-Habitat also appreciates the support of Kuwait Society for Relief for Housing Rehabilitation in Mosul Iraq; and of other UN agencies for the Joint Programme on Local Governance and Decentralized Service Delivery phase III and Water and Sanitation Trust Fund.

UN-Habitat is most grateful for core contributions received since the last brief from Botswana, France, Kenya and Japan. **We appeal for early payment of 2020 non earmarked contributions.**