



Welcome to the second edition of the UN-Habitat Urban October Newsletter.

The Urban October Newsletter contains all the latest information about what is happening during this year's Urban October and how to be part of the action.



World Habitat Day 2019 Kenya © UN-Habitat

Urban October is almost upon us and the momentum is building fast across the globe. The COVID-19 pandemic has created unprecedented challenges but organizers are finding creative solutions and using virtual platforms to organize events.

In this edition we provide an update on what is going on where, who won the 2020 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour awards, what the Global Observances for World Habitat Day and World Cities Day will look like and how to join our two Campaigns during Urban October. And looking ahead – we describe how to apply to host the Global Observances of World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in 2021 and 2022.

Urban October 2020

Urban October celebrations are gearing up with UN-Habitat and partners planning various events and activities in different cities worldwide. So far, over 100 events worldwide are being organized in almost 40 countries and the number is increasing daily. These are being posted on the *Urban October website*, most of them being held virtually.

We would like to give publicity to all the activities by featuring them on UN-Habitat's map of Urban October 2020 events. In order to appear on the map and in our promotion on upcoming events **post your events or activities**, and after the event please share the photos, videos and a short report [here](#).

National, regional, and local government, NGOs, universities, schools, local media, communities and individuals are organizing webinars, art competitions, film festivals, book launches and much more. There are plenty of great ideas in our *Event Toolkit*.

We encourage you to brand your event or activity using the Urban October, World Habitat Day and World Cities Day logos, banners and merchandise found [here](#). A PowerPoint presentation on Urban October with more information is available.

Urban October Campaigns

During Urban October, UN-Habitat will be running two campaigns on important areas – housing for all, reflecting the World Habitat Day theme and safety in cities.

- The **Housing for All Campaign** (#Housing4All) will raise awareness on the importance of adequate housing, engage partners and collect solutions to address housing gaps. The central message is that housing is not just a roof. Housing contributes to health, dignity, safety, inclusion and well-being. Those five aspects will be discussed during the five weeks of the campaign starting on the World Habitat Day. The campaign will end with a learning event to reflect on the best solutions to promote Housing for All.
- The **40 Days Safer Cities Challenge** (#40Days4Innovation4SaferCities) will raise awareness worldwide on safety in cities and urban crime prevention, promote concrete actions by citizens and amplify innovation towards action to achieve the safety dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals. The challenge starts on 21 September, the International Day of Peace and will end on World Cities Day on 31 October with a learning event to review the innovations shared during the 40 days. Interested organizations can join the Challenge to commit to action and share innovations for safer cities [here](#).



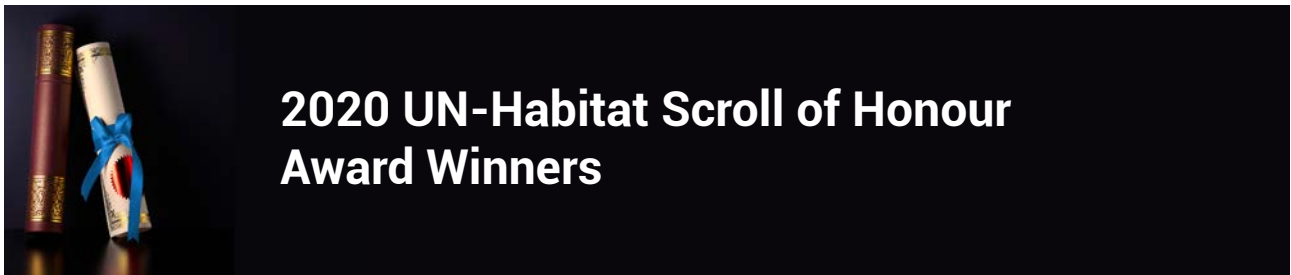
World Habitat Day celebrations 2020 – we are going virtual this year –

The host city for the Global Observance of World Habitat Day, Surabaya, Indonesia has joined with UN-Habitat to create an exciting two day programme of events. Look out for the links on the *Urban October website* to follow the Global Observance live which will be widely promoted on UN-Habitat's social media.

High-level attendance is expected including ministers and mayors, experts, diplomats, academics and community leaders along with a video message from the UN Secretary-General. There will be live link ups to some of the other World Habitat Day events are planned around the world.

The theme for World Habitat Day 2020 is Housing for All: A Better Urban Future. The Global Observance will feature roundtables on key aspects of this issue which has been highlighted by the spread of COVID-19 and the call for people to stay at home. In addition, the Urban Agenda Platform will be launched and the UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour winners will receive their awards (see more below).

The *Concept Notes and Key Messages* for *World Habitat Day* have been translated into the official UN languages along with the logos for everyone to use. For more information contact us on unhabitat-whd@un.org. Join us on social media - #WorldHabitatDay #Housing4All.



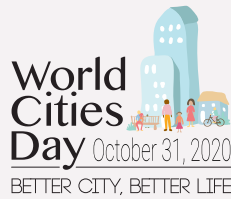
2020 UN-Habitat Scroll of Honour Award Winners

The awarding of the Scrolls of Honour is one of the highlights of World Habitat Day. This year, the competition was fierce with almost 120 applications submitted out of which there were 61 eligible nominations of individuals, cities, organizations and projects. The award recognizes outstanding contributions in the field of development including improving urban lives, provision of housing and highlighting the plight of the poor or displaced.

The winners were recommended by the selection committee based on their clear demonstration of initiatives and achievements related to the targets

of Sustainable Development Goal 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable as well as the theme of World Habitat Day 2020 - Housing For All: A Better Urban Future.

The winners of the 2020 Scroll of Honour Award are Upcycle Africa (Uganda), Subang Jaya Municipal Council (Malaysia), Community Impact Nepal (Nepal), the Ministry of Housing and Cities (Colombia), and ECOCASA SHF (Mexico). Read more in the Press Release on the winners [here](#). The winners will be celebrating the Global Observance with us.



Valuing our communities and cities

World Cities Day celebrations 2020 – we are going virtual this year –

This year the Global Observance of World Cities Day will be hosted for the first time ever in Africa, by the Government of Kenya, featuring high level attendance from across the world.

The theme for *World Cities Day* is Valuing our Communities and Cities, a key topic given the critical role communities have played during COVID-19. The concept note and key messages translated into the UN official languages are [here](#).

The Global Observance will include workshops looking at how communities and authorities can build on the extraordinary response to the pandemic to co-create the city, communities and open spaces and a look at achieving SDGs through resilient intermediate cities.

One key event during the Day will be the in-depth discussion of UN-Habitat's flagship World Cities Report on The Value of Sustainable Urbanization. This will be an opportunity to hear from some of the authors as they analyze the findings of the Report which will be hot off the press.

World Cities Day celebrations in China and the Russian Federation will link live to the Global Observance.

For more information contact unhabitat-wcd@un.org. Join us on social media - #WorldCitiesDay and #Valuingcommunities

Call for Application for cities to host World Habitat Day and World Cities Day in 2021 and 2022

Cities can now apply to host the Global Observance of World Habitat Day or World Cities Day in 2021 or 2022. These dates are key opportunities to raise awareness on sustainable urbanization, share best practices and solutions, facilitate networking and partnerships, and advance the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the Sustainable Development Goals.

→ *Expression of Interest to host World Habitat Day*

→ *Expression of Interest to host World Cities Day*

WUF12

Expression of Interest
deadline extended to
30 November 2020


Connect to UN-Habitat social media

 <https://www.linkedin.com/company/un-habitat-united-nation-human-settlements-programme->

 <https://www.flickr.com/photos/unhabitat/>

 <https://www.instagram.com/unhabitat/>

 <https://youtube.com/user/unhabitatglobal>

 <https://twitter.com/UNHABITAT> | <https://twitter.com/urbancampaign>

 <https://web.facebook.com/UNHABITAT> | <https://web.facebook.com/unhabitatworldurbancampaign>

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
E: unhabitat-events@un.org



www.unhabitat.org