



Urban October 2020

Report of activities and coverage

UN-Habitat Country Office in Spain



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Today 55 per cent of the world's population live in cities and towns and the number is growing every day. The United Nations Agenda for Sustainable Development, and Sustainable Development Goal 11 "to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" puts sustainable urbanization at the centre of the global agendas for development. The adoption of the New Urban Agenda in 2016 has seen national and local governments embark on a transformative path towards making SDG11 a reality.

Urban October is an opportunity for everyone to be part of the conversation about the challenges and opportunities created by the fast rate of change in our cities and towns. Each October, everyone interested in sustainable urbanization from national and local governments to universities, NGOs and communities is encouraged to hold or participate in activities, events, and discussions.

This year, the month began with World Habitat Day on the first Monday of the month, 5 October in 2020, and ended with World Cities Day on 31 October. Activities took place on those specific days or at any time during the month.

By engaging all stakeholders, cities can harness transformational change and ensure a better life for all in an urbanizing world.

World Habitat Day 2020

This year, the theme of World Habitat Day 2020 has been *Housing For All: A better Urban Future*, and the Global Observance was hosted by the city of Surabaya, in Indonesia.



World Habitat Day 2020 presented the opportunity to engage in a global discussion on the transformative impact of COVID-19 on the housing sector and to explore how to build societies back better, by leveraging the role of housing as a catalyst for progressively delivering human rights and as a foundation of people's wellbeing. Issues around housing must be at the centre of sustainable and inclusive urban development. COVID-19 has brought the housing paradox into sharp relief – at a time when people are in urgent need of shelter, millions of apartments and houses sit empty.

World Cities Day 2020

The World Cities Day 2020 has been a moment to reflect on our cities and consider their future. In the last 12 months, city life has changed dramatically. The health impact of COVID-19 alongside the social, political and financial upheavals, is reshaping urban life around the world in an unprecedented manner.



Valorando nuestras comunidades y ciudades

This year, the World Cities Day has reflected on community value ranging from local volunteering and people organizing themselves in their own neighborhoods to social movements that challenge poverty and racism.

Activities in Spain

During this Urban October, **5 key partners and stakeholders** have been directly involved in organizing/supporting activities within the Urban October 2020 in Spain. Such partners are the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development, Ministry of Development, Infrastructure and Land Management of the Regional Government of Andalucía, the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI), the Regional Government of the Basque Country and the Network of European Metropolitan Regions and Areas (METREX), among others from National, Regional and Local Government, professionals, academia, NGOs and others.

The following activities and events **(9)** have been organized/supported by the UN-Habitat Country Office in Spain under the Urban October 2020 such as:

- **5 October: "Housing for All: A perspective from international cooperation"**. To celebrate World Habitat Day, the UN-Habitat Office in Spain and the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development jointly organized a virtual discussion open to the public, which included the participation of experts from UN-Habitat, the Ministry of Development, Infrastructure and Land Management of the Junta de Andalucía, the Andalusian Fund of Municipalities for International Solidarity (FAMSI) represented by EMVISESA and experts from civil society. The discussion addressed, from the perspective of international cooperation, the role of housing as a catalyst for the progressive delivery of human rights and as a basis for people's well-being. The webinar had the participation of 105 assistants. This event was part of the #Housing4All campaign.

Watch [whole dialogue](#). Watch 3-minute [video summary](#).



- **5 October: "Entreplanos 4: movies. city. architecture".** The Contemporary Architecture Foundation realized the fourth edition of the Entreplanos urban audiovisual contest, a participatory activity to celebrate World Habitat Day. Any person or group could participate in Entreplanos, since no specific training was required. Participants had to send a 2-minute video recorded with their mobile phone.
- **7 October. "Metropolitan Regions on the framework of recovery".** To celebrate World Metropolitan Day, the office of UN-Habitat in Spain, the Government of the Basque Country and METREX jointly organized a virtual event with the participation of experts from global institutions and governments. The webinar addressed the initiatives carried out at the metropolitan level to accelerate the positive transformation of urban and territorial realities, especially taking into account the current context of global pandemic, and had 85 participants.

Watch [whole dialogue](#). Watch 3-minute [video summary](#).



- **10 October: "World Homeless Day".** Organized by "Hogar Sí". This campaign, that began on October the 5th and ended on October the 31st, aimed at drawing attention to homeless people's needs locally and provide opportunities for the community to get involved in responding to homelessness, especially on October 10th (World Homeless Day).
- **15 October: "Webinar: Collaborative Housing".** Organized by the UNESCO Chair of Housing of the Rovira and Virgili University. The purpose of the webinar was to review the collaborative phenomenon applied to housing, its advantages and challenges for accessing to housing, especially after the Covid-19 pandemic.

- **20 October. "Urban Resilience in a context of Climate Change (URCC) conference".** Organized in the framework of RESCCUE, Europe's first large-scale innovation and urban resilience project. The event aimed to bring together different actors from academia, administrations, businesses and local communities to discuss multiple aspects of urban resilience and climate change.
- **23 October: "#n'ODS | Un-do, Re-do, Not to do, to achieve the SDGs".** Organized by #n'ODS. They presented "#n'ODS Cartography", announced an international call for projects that are aligned with the n'UNDO criteria and contribute to achieving the SDGs. A representative from the office of UN-Habitat in Spain participated at the event as a speaker.
- **26-28 October "Expert Group Meeting on Global Urban Safety Indicators and Monitoring Tool".** It was organized by the country office of UN-Habitat in Spain with the support of the Madrid City Council. More than forty urban safety experts from around the world gathered to lay the groundwork for the development of a global urban safety monitoring tool. The tool will make possible to take advantage of the data generated to strengthen policies and practices, based on evidence. The results of the meeting will set the course for the project in the coming years, as part of the 2020 Decade of Action Campaign. This Meeting was part of the 40 Days Safer Cities Challenge.



- **26 October: "Urban Agendas and the Localization of the SDGs: Reflections from the Academy".** Was organized by URBAN RED to promote an academic perspective on how to face urban transformations and successful experiences around the urban agenda processes.

SOCIAL MEDIA

Twitter

This year @UNHabitatSpain had **74.700 impressions** (98% more than during the Urban October 2019), **1.287 visits** to the profile account (400% more than in 2019), **78 new followers** (37% more than in 2019) and **125 mentions**.



Examples:

Mención principal tuvo 197 interacciones

Exteriores
@MAECgob · 31 oct.

Hoy celebramos el **#DíaMundialde las Ciudades**, con el que concluye el **#OctubreUrbano**.

Este año, @UNHabitatSpain pone el foco en el valor de las comunidades urbanas para abordar desafíos como el **#COVID19**, el **#CambioClimático** y las **#desigualdades**.

#WorldCitiesDay #UrbanOctober
pic.twitter.com/RRb8pcQuyF



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La vivienda, un derecho humano más que fundamental

Este Día Mundial del Hábitat 2020, celebrado en plena pandemia, insiste, ante la evidencia actual, en la necesidad de tener un hogar digno como base del bienestar, la salud y la seguridad de las personas y del mundo



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