

SUMMARY OF THE URBAN OCTOBER REPORT 2020

OVERALL SUMMARY

During Urban October 753 events in 74 countries and 230 cities were registered on the UN-Habitat website. Of those 606 events were Urban October events which were not part of World Habitat Day (WHD) or World Cities Day (WCD).

Event type	Number of events	Countries involved	Cities involved
Urban October	606	47	146
World Cities Day	78	39	70
World Habitat Day	69	42	58
Grand Total	753	74	230

Broken down by region there were 544 events in the Americas, 81 in Europe, 65 in Africa, 57 in Asia and 6 in Oceania.

Region	Urban October Events
Africa	65
Asia	57
Europe	81
Latin America and the Caribbean	385
North America	159
Oceania	6
Total	753

URBAN OCTOBER 2020



Urban October events not connected to World Habitat Day or World Cities Day were held in the Philippines, Nepal, Thailand, and Cambodia as well as at the Malaysia Urban Forum 2020. There was an exhibition on solid waste management in Addis and Liberia held physical meetings in Monrovia and Paynesville.

On World Metropolitan Day the Madrid office partnered to organize a virtual discussion with partners. It also organized the Expert Group Meeting on Global Urban Safety Indicators and Monitoring Tool.

The New York Office participated and promoted events from partners including; Consortium for Sustainable Urbanization, AIA/Archtober/ Center for Architecture New York City, Mansuetto

Institute for Urban Innovation, Columbia University, Global Housing Foundation, Institute of Global Homelessness and the Pritzker Forum on Global Cities.

The 2020 Urban Circuit from the Brazil office was held in partnership with UN-Habitat offices in Lusophone African countries. The Urban Circuit involved 186 events and more than 1,000 speakers from six countries and speakers from 18 others. There were 212 registered events from Mexico and Latin America and the Mexico office designed 28 different cards for social media reaching 350,000 people.

#UrbanOctober appeared on 160 social media posts and there were 3,400 editorial mentions of Urban October.

WORLD HABITAT DAY 2020



This took place on Monday 5 October 2020 with the theme Housing for All: A Better Urban Future. There were 69 events celebrated globally in 42 countries and 58 cities.

The Global Observance

The **Global Observance** was hosted from Surabaya, Indonesia in a hybrid format featuring video messages from the UN Secretary General, the President of Indonesia and the UN Special Rapporteur on housing. There were speeches by Ministers from Colombia, Indonesia, Cameroon and Mexico, the Executive Secretary of UNESCAP, Princess Lamia Bint Majed Al Saud, and the Mayors of Surabaya and Subang Jaya, Malaysia. There were live links to Cameroon, Malaysia and UN-Habitat's Egypt office. The Scroll of Honour was awarded in person to the winners from Mexico (ECOCASA SHF) and Malaysia (Subang Jaya Municipal Council) with other winners joining by video. Over 4,800 people participated either in person, as a speaker or participant, or followed the live feed.

Worldwide

World Habitat Day was celebrated across the world including webinars in Pakistan, Nepal, India, Iran, Tajikistan, and Japan in partnerships with the Ministries. In Lao PDR, there was a physical

meeting. UN-Habitat Myanmar and Philippines produced videos and in Sri Lanka an article on housing was published.

Egypt launched a "National Housing Strategy" in a joint virtual event with the Ministry, a workshop was held in Yemen with a video from the Prime Minister, and in Palestine, the Ministry of Local Government and UN-Habitat Palestine signed an MoU. Morocco held a seminar and the regional Goodwill Ambassador, Princess Lamia Al Saud, issued a statement. UN-Habitat Lebanon launched a video competition.

Cameroon celebrated with a week of events, Somalia and Nigeria hosted virtual meetings while Ghana's hybrid meeting included various Ministers and the UN Resident Coordinator.

Norway held a well attended high level virtual meeting while Geneva ran a Sustainable Cities Week. UN-Habitat's Spain office and the Andalusian Agency of International Cooperation for Development jointly organized an open virtual discussion on Housing for all.

In Latin American there were over 200 registered events and social media reach was 350,000 visits. UN-Habitat's New York Office co-hosted an event on "Post Pandemic Cities Planning for the next 2.5 billion Residents" and the second Urban Economic Forum was held in Toronto inaugurated by Prime Minister Trudeau.

UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif presents the Scroll of Honour to Mayor Noraini Roslan of Subang Jaya Municipal Council during the Global Observance of World Habitat Day 2020 © Subang Jaya Municipal Council



World Habitat Day media

A joint Press Release was issued with Indonesia and Surabaya, the Executive Director did a Press conference with the Surabaya Mayor and UN-Habitat's Director of External Relations, Strategy,

Knowledge and Innovation Division, Christine Knudsen took part in a **Press Briefing** in Geneva. There were 764 mentions in the media of World Habitat Day and the top tweet earned 151,000 impressions.

WORLD CITIES DAY 2020

This took place on 31 October under the theme Valuing our communities and cities. There were 78 events in 39 countries and 70 cities.

Global Observance

Around five hundred people participated online at the opening ceremony of the first **Global Observance of World Cities Day** in Africa hosted in Nakuru, Kenya with live links to China and Malaysia and a further 1,800 watched the youtube livefeed.

The hybrid event included a **video speech** by Kenya's President Uhuru Kenyatta and other video messages from the UN Secretary General, the African Union's Commissioner for Political Affairs. The meeting heard from Kenya's Cabinet Secretary for Transport, Infrastructure, Housing, Urban Development and Public Works who attended the small event at the United Nations Office at Nairobi (UNON) along with UN-Habitat's Deputy Executive

Director. Those joining virtually included Nakuru's Governor, the Mayor of Russia's Ekaterinburg City, last year's host of World Cities Day, and the Chair of the Association of Women with disabilities.

The World Cities Report 2020 on the Value of Sustainable Urbanization was launched at UNON, with a press conference the day before in Geneva, and featured in one of the four roundtables.

Worldwide

The national China Observance of the World Cities Day event was held in Fuzhou and watched online by over 2 million people. The event in Shanghai linked up live to the Global Observance opening ceremony, Nepal organized its first ever World Cities Day as did Fiji which featured inclusive sports, art and dance with persons living with disabilities. Myanmar and the Philippines held virtual meetings.



Valuing our communities and cities



World Cities Day 31 October
31, 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya
© UN-Habitat

The Arab States' Regional Observance featured a virtual dialogue held jointly with United Cities and Local Government (UCLG) Middle East and West Asia (MEWA) under the theme "Empowering communities for Inclusive post COVID-19 recovery". UN-Habitat Palestine and partners launched a Solid Waste project and a voluntary street cleaning campaign was held. A webinar on designing the city of tomorrow was organized by Morocco and attended by the Prime Minister. UN-Habitat Ethiopia and partner Ministry launched the National Urban Lab and the focus of the hybrid event in Ghana was on the slums.

The New York Liaison Office of UN-Habitat hosted a virtual meeting opened by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat, and the Permanent Missions of Slovakia and Germany organized an event.

World Cities Day Media

A **Press Briefing** in Geneva was carried out by the Executive Director of UN-Habitat and Chief of Knowledge and Innovation on the World Cities Report and there were two press releases along with Opinion pieces on valuing communities and the World Cities Report were published. Some of the articles with the press statements can be found here <https://unhabitat.org/media-centre>

There were 1,500 editorial mentions of World Cities Day and a social media user engagement of over 88,000 from 210 posts. The hashtag **#WorldCitiesDay** was trending globally for 2 days (a first for one of our hashtags). The Pope was the most significant influencer and tweeted his World Cities Day message in multiple languages.

URBAN OCTOBER CAMPAIGNS

The **#Housing4All Campaign** was launched on World Habitat Day and featured 20 events including one on World Homelessness Day. The Campaign trailer on the Human Shelter film by an award winning Danish Director, had over 1,500 views on the UN-Habitat website and 2.3 million views on IKEA's youtube while the whole film had 11,500 views on the UN-Habitat's Youtube. Stories from Cambodia and videos from Myanmar and the Philippines supported the campaign.

The **40 Days Safer Cities Challenge which ended on World Cities Day** featured dozens of events organised by more than 30 organizations. The campaign circulated widely on social media

promoting urban safety innovations with the last day featuring a learning event on safety and crime prevention actions.

Partners from the World Urban Campaign were active during Urban October with a 20 per cent increase in followers on social media. Partners organised a series of nine Urban Thinkers Campuses to address various urban issues mostly focusing on the COVID-19 recovery.

The full Urban October 2020 Report is available **here**.

For more information on Urban October go to <https://urbanoctober.unhabitat.org/>