



UN-Habitat Executive Director Maimunah Mohd Sharif

2022 World Habitat Day Statement

Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind

The COVID pandemic, recent conflicts and the climate emergency have reversed years of progress in our fight against poverty.

Today we are witnessing the emergence of newly poor people – those of us who have fallen into poverty due to the FOUR Cs: Covid, Conflict and Climate Crises.

The UN-Habitat’s World Cities Report estimates that up to 163 million newly poor people now live in cities and urban areas. They have lost their income, lack decent housing and cannot access basic services.

Tackling urban poverty and inequality has become a global priority.

Cities and local governments play a key role in responding to the crises.

Cities are accelerators of economic growth. By making them more equitable, urbanization can also help distribute this growth.

If city managers have the right tools, they can plan and take action to reduce the gap between the haves and the have-nots.

That way, we will be able to create inclusive and resilient human settlements. We can also better prepare for future crises.

The theme of this year’s World Habitat Day on Monday October THIRD is “Mind the Gap. Leave No One and No Place Behind.”

It is a great opportunity to raise awareness about innovations that inspire all of us to push for immediate action.

Transformative change starts with the individual, with us as a community and with cities to scale things up. Local action is the best way to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

There is not much time left until 2030. We need to act now and make our cities truly inclusive places so that no one and no place is left behind.