

Our Habitat

SHARING NEWS ABOUT OUR PEOPLE AND THE CHANGE PROCESS



1. Update on the restructuring process

The organizational restructuring is on the minds of many of you, which is why we caught up with Amy Wood (pictured), who runs the Secretariat to the Restructure Task Force, and asked her to share the latest details on the process.



"Firstly, the Restructure Task Force would like to thank colleagues who have so generously dedicated their time to the mini-workshops, and most recently to the one-to-one interviews conducted throughout July. Your feedback has been immensely helpful.

"The mini-workshops served as the basis for the interviews, the results of which we are currently evaluating. Based on these inputs, the Task Force will be developing proposals and suggestions and present them at a senior leaders retreat on 14 - 16 August in Nairobi. The retreat will also be used to develop a transition plan and provide training to prepare leaders for managing the transition period.

"We will then share the outcome of the retreat, as well as an updated timeline for the restructuring, with all UN-Habitat colleagues soon after.

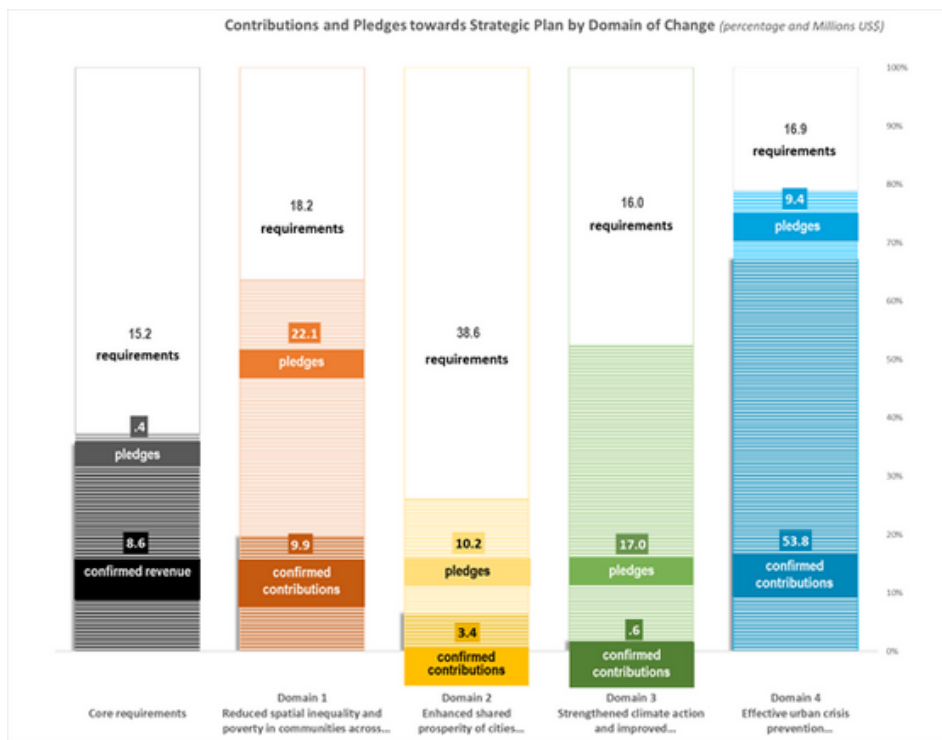
"The team is aware that any organizational restructuring process is bound to cause anxiety. Please know we are working to mitigate this - in particular by increasing communication about the process as we move forward. Your continued patience and understanding are appreciated."

2. Update from the UN-Habitat Assembly Pledging event

Here we are sharing with you a quick update from Jane Nyakairu, Head of Donor Relations and Income Management.

"The very first Partnership and Pledging Conference that took place during the UN-Habitat Assembly at the end of May this year was extremely successful thanks to the collective effort of colleagues from all offices. [A total of USD 152 million in contributions and pledges for 2019, representing 60% of our 2019 needs](#), was announced.

This includes amounts negotiated earlier in the year as well as new funding pledged during the Conference. Importantly, there was a [30% increase \(USD 1.1 million\) in non-earmarked contributions to USD 4.7 million](#) compared to USD 3.6 million last year; new donors in this area include Benin, Ghana, Iraq, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal and South Sudan.



"If our current work is presented under the four Domains of Change of the Strategic Plan 2020 – 2023:

- Domain 1 on Reduced spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban – rural continuum received USD 32 millions (64% of 2019 needs);
- Domain 2 on Enhanced shared prosperity of cities and regions was funded with USD 13.6 million (26% of 2019 needs);
- Domain 3 on Strengthened climate action and improved urban environment attracted USD 17.6 million (52% of 2019 needs) and
- Domain 4 USD 63.3 million (79% of 2019 needs).

"The plan is to improve and institutionalize the Partnership and Pledging Conference as a regular event when UN-Habitat's work programme is approved. I hope that a similar session will be held at the forthcoming World Urban Forum to increase and diversify our donor base.

"Our fundraising efforts continue of course, but for now, I would like to thank all of our UN-Habitat colleagues, both in Nairobi and in the Regional and Country Offices, who helped to make the Pledging Conference a success!"

3. Update on the Human Settlements Database

Robert Ndugwa, the chief of the Global Urban Observatory Unit in the Research and Capacity Building Branch gives us an update on the progress of the development of the Human Settlements Database.



During the UN-Habitat Assembly, Robert and his team held an expert session to review the latest data from the slum estimations in the database.

practitioners, and establishing UN-Habitat as the authority on urban data.

"This is a database that UN-Habitat previously administrated, but unfortunately was last updated in 2013 due to a lack of funding. The SIDA funding in the context of the change support has given us a much-needed kick-start to update and modernize the database to once again lift UN-Habitat's profile and leadership in the field of urban data.

"We anticipate that the database will be ready for online release by the end of August. Keep a look out for our announcement on this!

"For UN-Habitat to establish itself as a centre of excellence, high quality urban data is key. That's where the Human Settlements Database comes in. By collecting a wealth of urban indicators in one database, we intend to provide a one-stop shop for all urban related data for cities with 50,000+ inhabitants.

"This platform will also support global monitoring and progress review for the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the urban dimensions of the SDGs. The online version of the database will allow open access and visualization of new urban data, thus should become an invaluable tool for urban

“So far, we have covered about 500 cities, but we plan to incrementally produce more data at the city level and hope to reach 1,000 cities if we can secure additional funding.

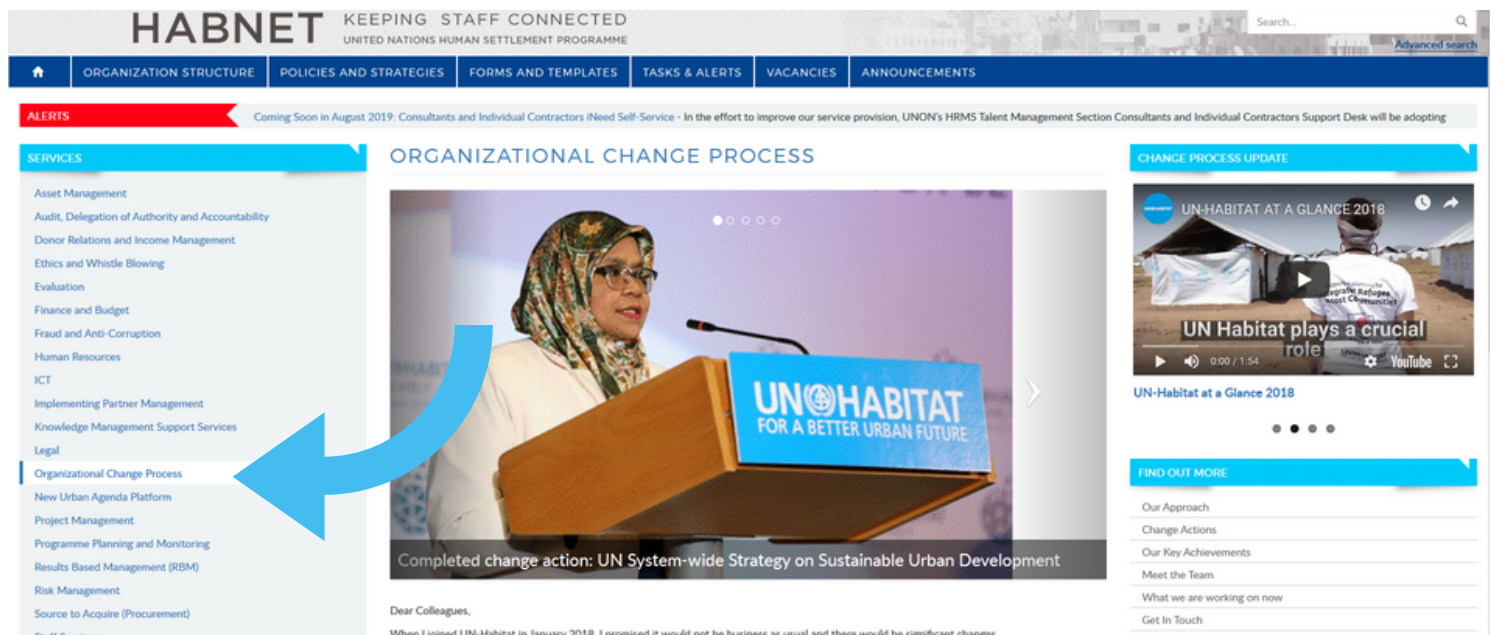
“Since the beginning of this year, we have also been producing data digests in the form of newsletters. You can check out the two we have already issued on slums monitoring [<https://spark.adobe.com/page/aMOWECfhGnLMx/>] and affordable housing monitoring [<https://spark.adobe.com/page/jYeKA2tsBLE01/>]. By the end of 2019, we hope to have also covered transport, waste management and national urban policies.

“We see these newsletters as an initial step to demonstrate the many products and advocacy opportunities that can be channeled out of the database once we have organized data on urban dimensions. Because of the spatial dimensions that we have added, these new digests demonstrate in a more visual way who is being left behind spatially – making them a powerful tool not just for UN-Habitat but also our partners. In fact, as a result of these newsletters, we have received a number of requests of support to set up urban observatories in several cities and countries.

“Personally, I’m particularly pleased that this is a joint result that involves various teams, as both the digests and the database have been produced and updated in a collaborative manner with our subject matter experts across UN-Habitat. This has allowed us to sharpen our messaging for maximum impact.”

For any questions on this, or to be added to the mailing list for the data sets, please contact Robert Ndugwa.

4. Change space on Habnet



The screenshot shows the Habnet website interface. At the top, the logo 'HABNET' is displayed with the tagline 'KEEPING STAFF CONNECTED' and 'UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENT PROGRAMME'. A navigation bar includes links for 'ORGANIZATION STRUCTURE', 'POLICIES AND STRATEGIES', 'FORMS AND TEMPLATES', 'TASKS & ALERTS', 'VACANCIES', and 'ANNOUNCEMENTS'. A red 'ALERTS' banner is visible. The main content area is titled 'ORGANIZATIONAL CHANGE PROCESS' and features a video player showing a woman speaking at a podium with the UN-Habitat logo. Below the video, there is a text block starting with 'Dear Colleagues, When I joined UN-Habitat in January 2018, I promised it would not be business as usual and there would be significant changes.' To the right, there is a 'CHANGE PROCESS UPDATE' section with a video thumbnail titled 'UN Habitat plays a crucial role' and a 'FIND OUT MORE' section with links for 'Our Approach', 'Change Actions', 'Our Key Achievements', 'Meet the Team', 'What we are working on now', and 'Get In Touch'. A blue arrow points from the 'Organizational Change Process' link in the left-hand 'SERVICES' menu to the main content area.

We have set up a Change Space on Habnet, our Intranet, so that you can stay up to date with our progress. You can find a link to it here here: <https://habnet.unhabitat.org/organizational-change-process> (you may have to log in). We plan to add additional content on the organizational change, as well as the restructure process in due course.

5. Don't forget! Flagship Programmes

Just a friendly reminder that the tentative peer review schedule for the five proposed Flagship Programmes has been issued. These Flagship Programmes are part of UN-Habitat's strategic priorities for the next four years, so we hope for broad participation in their review. Please contact Katja Schaefer (katja.schaefer@un.org) or Pacome Kossy (pacome.kossy@un.org) if you're interested and not yet signed up.

6. Before you go...

We say farewell to Steven Webb, Senior Change Expert, who has decided not to renew his contract with UN-Habitat and instead will be returning to the UK in August. He regrets not being able to speak in person to all colleagues he has worked with over the last six months but wishes you every future success. We thank him for his contribution to the change process thus far.

For additional information, to ask questions or submit information, please contact Claudia Scheufler on claudia.scheufler@un.org