



**03 October 2022**

# World Habitat Day 2022

*Theme: Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind*

World Habitat Day is held on the first Monday of October and launches Urban October. The day centres around the global observance, which is held in a different country each year with keynote speakers and round table discussions focused on a specific theme. World Habitat Day was first celebrated in 1986 in Nairobi, Kenya, with the theme 'Shelter is my right'.

In 2022, the World Habitat Day, under the theme Mind the Gap. Leave No One and Place Behind, will look at the problem of growing inequality and challenges in cities and human settlements.

We want to draw attention to growing inequalities and vulnerabilities that have been exacerbated by the triple 'C' crises – COVID-19, climate and conflict.

The pandemic and recent conflicts have reversed years of progress made in the fight against poverty, resulting in the emergence of newly poor people—those who would have exited poverty in the absence of the pandemic but remain poor, and those who have fallen into poverty on account of the pandemic. According to the UN-Habitat's World Cities Report, the number of people affected was between 119 and 124 million in 2020 and between 143 and 163 million in 2021. Tackling urban poverty and inequality have become an urgent global priority.

Cities and local governments play a front-line role in responding to crises and emergencies as well as in planning for an inclusive, resilient, and green future. To prepare urban areas for future catastrophes, we need to start with cities. Thus, local action and local implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals is more important than ever.