

STANDARD OPERATING PROCEDURES

Foundations

Overview

The important role of philanthropy and foundations as catalysts for sustainable urbanization is undeniable at the local, regional, and global level. Foundations have a unique flexibility and access to resources to invest in innovative technology, processes, and financing and are able to take the risks related with developing innovative solutions. Partnering with UN-Habitat provides opportunities to test these innovative solutions on the ground and to scale them to deliver transformational change and impact for urban beneficiaries globally. Foundations contribute over 5% of ODA, of which 97% is channeled through intermediary organizations.

UN-Habitat is committed to collaboration with foundations and philanthropy to further leverage knowledge, thought leadership, influence and strategic investments to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for SDG 11 and all other SDGs which will be realized in urban areas where most of the world's population lives.

In 2020, UN-Habitat established a **Foundations and Philanthropy Platform** to enable more structured and coordinated engagement on specific areas of common interest. A focal point on Foundations and Philanthropists was established in the Donor Relations and Strategic Resource Partnerships Unit in the External Relations, Strategy, Knowledge and Innovation Division (ERSKI).

The platform will meet in person at the World Urban Forum and four times virtually.

Guidelines on Foundations

1. A database on all donors including foundations and Philanthropists is available in the Donor Relations and Strategic Resource Partnerships Unit
2. All foundations that have had contribution agreements with UN-Habitat are automatically included in the [Donor Information System](#).
3. If you have any questions on engaging with foundations or wish your foundation to be included in the Foundations and Philanthropy Platform meetings, send an email to unhabitat-donorrelations@un.org.
4. Agreements entered into with foundations must be cleared by the Legal Unit in the Office of the Executive Director.