

- Aug 2023** > PLGS engaged in a technical advisory session on metropolitan planning with the municipality of Soyapango, **El Salvador**, for the project “Contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the post-pandemic recovery in Central America and the Dominican Republic”.
- Sept 2023** > As part of capacity development efforts on metropolitan management, PLGS delivered a lecture entitled “The Global Metropolitan Phenomena and its Significance for Sustainable Development” for the Virtual Capacity Building on SDGs and other Global Agendas organised by UN-Habitat Mexico Office for the State of Yucatan, **Mexico**.
- > PLGS reviewed and provided technical contributions to the first draft national urban policy of **Honduras**



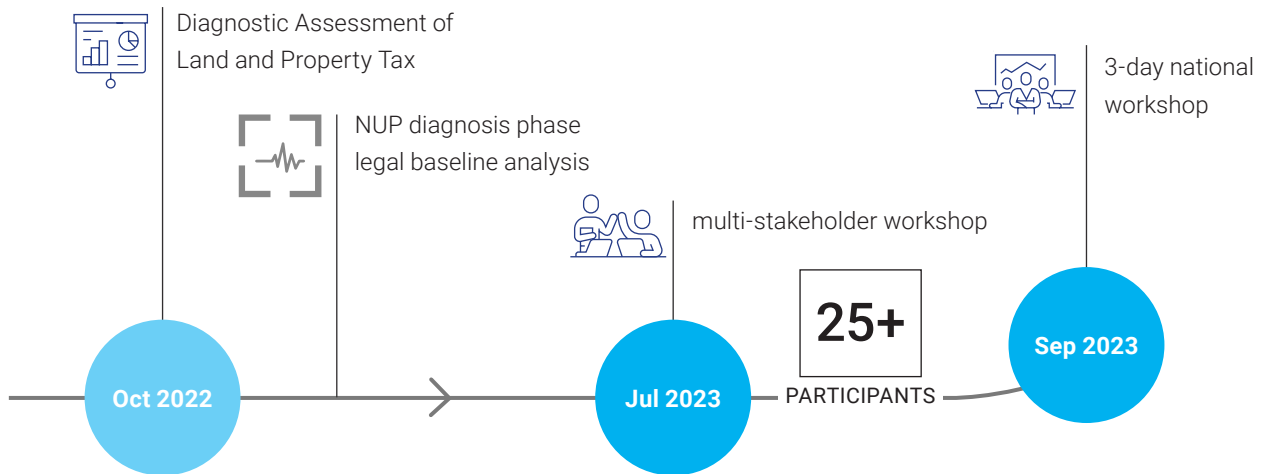
Comoros



A) Revision of the Urban Planning Code



B) Supporting development of a National Urban Planning and Housing Policy (PNUH)



UN-Habitat support to Comoros is inspired by the objective to enhance the resilience of the territory in the long-term through improved normative, legal and institutional frameworks.

Funded by the World Bank, the project has two main components:

- revision of the Urban Planning Code, and
- support for the development of a national urban planning and housing policy.

a. Revision of the urban planning code: As envisioned in 2022, in 2023, UN-Habitat revised the urban planning code then held multi-stakeholder validation sessions in May in Moroni, Mutsamudu and Fomboni. The participants appreciated the initiative to revise the urban planning code to better reflect realities in Comoros while considering climate change and good practices in urban planning.





Some of the issues identified were:

1. Institutional: inefficiency on the ground due to poor coordination between different actors;
2. The lack of respect for the legal requirement of a building permit (traditional rights to land prevail);
3. The land issue is central and needs to be resolved to reduce land conflicts (over 80 per cent of the court cases are related to land);
4. Awareness campaigns are needed once the new law has been ratified.

As a next step to address the four main issues of commonality that were identified, UN-Habitat's support for drafting a new land and property code was requested.

b. National Urban Planning and Housing Policy:

Following the launch at a workshop in October 2022, the diagnosis phase of the NUP of Comoros was carried out. Thereafter, in July 2023, UN-Habitat and the lead ministry (Ministry of Territorial Development) held a multi-stakeholder workshop to validate the diagnosis note of the Comoros NUP. With more than 25 participants, including from other islands of the country, the priorities for inclusion in the draft policy were identified and these revolved around land issues, capacity building and disaster and climate resilience. UN-Habitat then continued to support the formulation phase of NUP development.

In September 2023, UN-Habitat and the Government held a three-day national workshop to review the progress made and results achieved.

The workshop provided a platform to validate the proposed amendments to the urban planning code and the proposed national urban policy.

During this intense period of work, important suggestions and recommendations were collected from the technical departments of the lead ministry and other urban development sectors. The sessions also featured several capacity development sessions, one of the pillars of the national urban planning and housing policy.

Ultimately, the Comoros will be equipped with two key tools to fundamentally change the face of its urbanization: a new Urban Planning and Construction Code, and the National Urban Planning and Habitat Policy (PNUH) and its implementation plan.



Azali Assoumani
President of Comoros



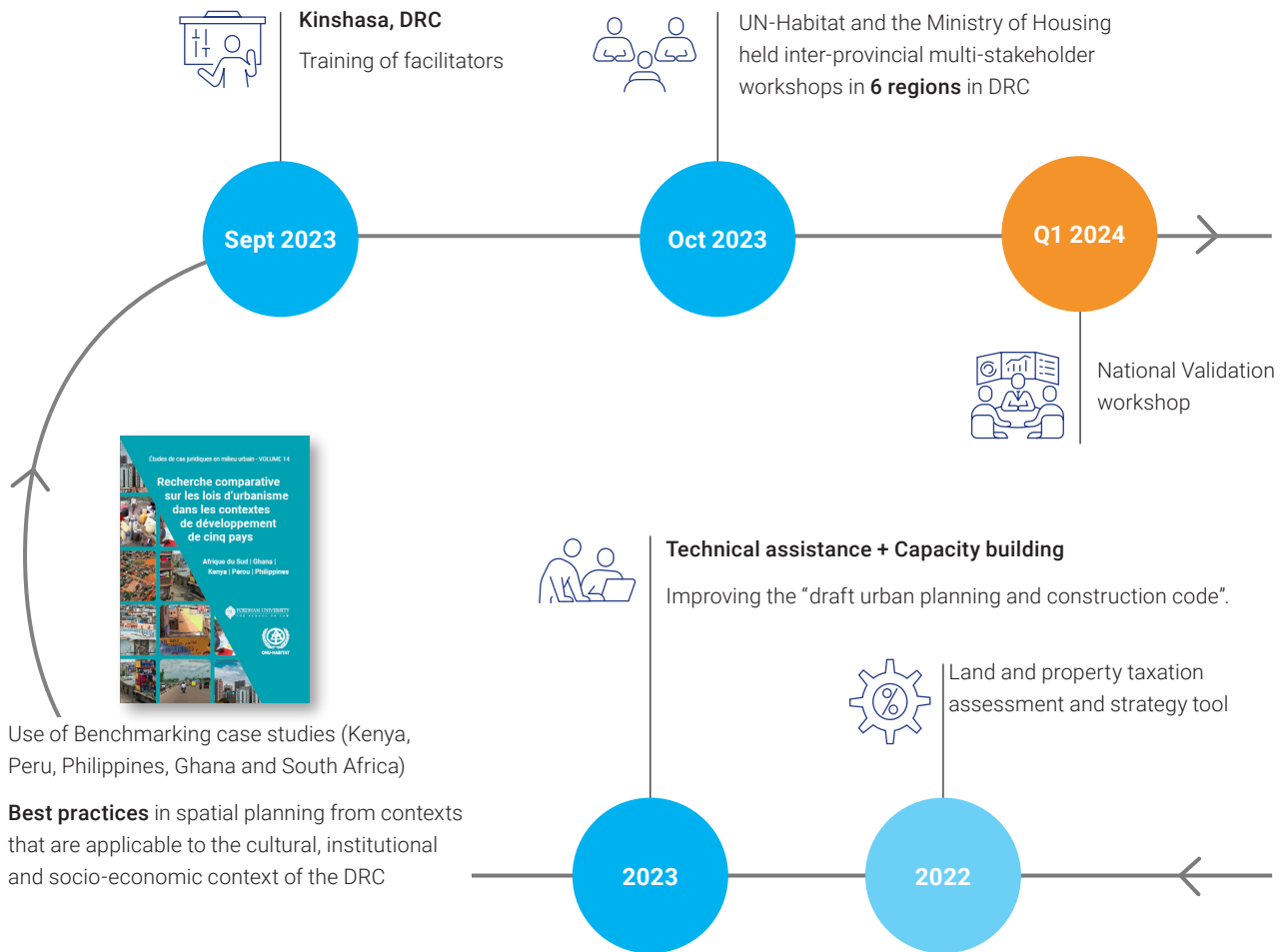
Finally, I would like to appeal for the strengthening of the capacities of UN-Habitat, through more substantial support, in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda, so that this agency can better support our African cities, which are full of enormous potential, but which have become very vulnerable to climate change.

[Translated extract from a speech during the 78th United Nations General Assembly.]





Democratic Republic of the Congo



In 2023, UN-Habitat continued its support to the country through strengthening the capacities of the Ministry of Urban Planning and Housing to develop an effective legal framework for urban development and construction – Phase II.

Essentially, UN-Habitat provided technical assistance in improving the "draft urban planning and construction code". Benchmarking case studies (Kenya, Peru, Philippines, Ghana and South Africa) were also developed to provide best practices in spatial planning from contexts that are applicable to the cultural, institutional and socioeconomic context of the DRC. To produce this study, UN-Habitat collaborated with a leading legal research institution, the Urban Law Center of Fordham University in the United States.

To ensure a participatory approach in the process of validating the draft law, regional workshops were planned across the country. Prior to the regional workshops, a training of facilitators' session was held in September in Kinshasa, DRC. Thereafter, UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Housing held interprovincial, multi-stakeholder workshops in **six regions** of the DRC. These workshops were held in October, with each lasting two days. During the workshops, the provincial stakeholders provided substantive comments and inputs to the draft urban planning and construction code. Following the interprovincial workshops, the stakeholder inputs will be considered in the final draft law which will then be debated in the national validation workshop planned to take place in the first quarter of 2024.

