Shelter in 2016

As a global company, Arcadis understands its role and responsibilities when it comes to society and contributing to the communities in which we operate. We have a partnership with UN Habitat, named the Shelter program. UN-Habitat contributes to one of the most urgent challenges in the world: sustainable urbanization. UN-Habitat's mission is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities by improving the quality of life of citizens around the world. Arcadis supports UN-Habitat in facing these urban challenges by providing pro bono expertise through the Shelter program, a global partnership that makes a real difference. The Shelter program is made possible thanks to the financial support of the Lovinklaan Foundation, Arcadis’ largest shareholder, which represents our staff.

In 2016, 12 support missions for UN-Habitat projects took place, for instance to Haiti and Nepal for post-earthquake recovery, to the Philippines and Fiji to combat climate change, and to Myanmar and Belize to promote sustainable urbanization. We are proud of the outcomes these missions have achieved and of the strengthened ties with the local communities. For all mission’s health and safety is first priority and thanks to the cooperation of all participants we could record another safe Shelter year. Moreover, in September 2016 the annual Shelter Academy was organized. In cooperation with UN-Habitat officials from Asia, Africa and South America were invited to receive a knowledge transfer program in The Netherlands. 2016 was the year of the large UN conference on sustainable urbanization Habitat III in Quito and the adoption of the New Urban Agenda. As co-chair in the General Assembly of Partners stakeholder group Business and Industry Arcadis advised the UN member states on the New Urban Agenda. To relate the UN policies in Habitat III to our daily practice in Arcadis offices worldwide a 24-hour challenge of urban workshops was organized, from Sydney to Sao Paulo Arcadis colleagues were challenged to come up with innovative ideas to put the New Urban Agenda in practice, and the results are handed to UN-Habitat. Herewith an overview in images of Shelter program activities in 2016.
Shelter 2016 in images

The year started with the preparation of a Shelter overview book documenting six successful years of partnership (available online through [https://www.arcadis.com/en/global/who-we-are/community-involvement/shelter](https://www.arcadis.com/en/global/who-we-are/community-involvement/shelter)). The book was handed to the executive director of UN-Habitat Joan Clos, on the photo with Christine Auclair of UN-Habitat and Shelter program manager Bert Smolders.

In March 2016, a mission was organized to Haiti Port au Prince Canaan, to provide technical support on mobility and water. In Haiti, the Shelter program is supporting rebuilding since the earthquake of 2010.

Silay Philippines was the destination for a mission in May as follow up from previous missions, to provide technical support on drainage and groundwater problems.

Ecuador was struck by an earthquake in spring 2016, on request of UN-Habitat Shelter provided support for earthquake recovery with a mission in June, focusing on the planning of settlements for house the victims.
Shelter joined a UN-Habitat mission in July to provide technical support for the Urban Labs in Yangon, Myanmar.

Additionally, support from home offices for UN-Habitat Urban Labs promoting sustainable city extensions was provided by Shelter experts for Ghana and the Philippines, including a presentation at the Venice Architecture Biennale.

A Shelter team worked in Ivory Coast on regional coastal planning, and mission was organized in July (originally planned in March but postponed for Health and Safety reasons).

In Haiti Port au Prince in September a second mission was organized to work on the infrastructure of city extension in Canaan, one of the new settlements to rehouse earthquake victims.

In Nepal Shelter supported UN-Habitat after the earthquake with two missions in 2015, in 2016 we provided follow up support for earthquake recovery in Bungamati with a large double mission in November.
One Shelter team in Nepal focused on mobility in a heritage settlement preparing ideas for infrastructure and urban public space, while the other team prepared a plan for disaster preparedness including earthquakes, fires and flashfloods.

To Kisumu Kenia a mission was organized in December, supporting the planning of the Victoria Lake Shore.

In the Pacific, in Fiji and Honoria, a Shelter team worked on flood prevention and climate change adaptation during a mission in December.

The final mission in 2016 was organized in the city of Belmopan in Belize, where Shelter supports blue green frameworks planning.
Shelter Urban Workshops 2016 were held in Arcadis offices worldwide in October in a 24-hour challenge. Arcadis colleagues were challenged to provide innovative ideas on cities of the future and the implementation of the New Urban Agenda. As with the previous workshops the outcomes are handed over to UN-Habitat. The scratch book with the ideas of the 2015 workshops can be found through the website of the World Urban Campaign www.worldurbancampaign.org.

Shelter presented during 2016 in workshops of Unesco-IHE in Delft and of IHS Erasmus University in Rotterdam. We also participated in an Urban Thinkers Campus in New Delhi India and, on invitation of the Netherlands Consulate, in a meeting on Inclusive Cities and the New Urban Agenda in Vancouver Canada.

The annual Shelter Academy took place in September. On recommendation of UN-Habitat officials from Asia, Africa and South America were invited to Amsterdam/Rotterdam in September 2016, for a knowledge transfer program with lectures by Arcadis experts, site visits and discussions on their own case studies. The theme of the Academy is Cities and Climate Change. Highlights for the participants were visits to the Rotterdam municipality for the climate adaptation program, a climate workshop at IHS Erasmus University and a presentation by Amsterdam WaterNet followed by a canal boat tour. At the end of the course Claudio Acioly of UN-Habitat and Joost Slooten, director sustainability of Arcadis, handed certificates to all participants.
In 2016 Shelter was active to provide support to the UN for the large Habitat III conference and the preparation of the New Urban Agenda. Invited by the UN Habitat III organizing bureau as co-chair of the General Assembly of Partners Business and Industry group preparation meetings were held in Prague, at the UN in New York and in Surabaya to advise UN member states on the New Urban Agenda. In the main Habitat III conference in Quito (with 35,000 participants) Shelter the advice of the GAP groups was presented in a meeting with UN secretary general Ban Ki Moon, and many recommendations were included in the New Urban Agenda which was adopted by the member states as guidelines for the urban development in the next 20 years.

During Habitat III Shelter organized side events in cooperation with UN-Habitat on The City We Need 2.0 and presented in events with the International New Town Institute, the World Economic Forum, the Dutch Delta Coalition and UN-Habitat Urban Labs. Parallel to the Habitat III conference meetings Shelter provided support to UN-Habitat as member of the Cities and Climate Change Advisory Committee.

Arcadis continued to support the World Urban Campaign as sponsor, and took part in the World Urban Campaign Steering Committees. Advising to UN-Habitat the WUC organizes urban stakeholders from governments, n.g.o.’s and the private sector and is initiating activities such as The City We Need 2.0 and the Urban Thinkers Campuses.
Shelter in 2017

In 2017 we are continuing our support for UN-Habitat in full force. On requests of UN-Habitat, we will continue to organize technical support missions. As we value long term engagements, several of these will be follow ups from previous Shelter missions. In addition to the missions we are planning a 2017 Shelter Academy for which UN-Habitat will propose participants to receive a knowledge transfer program in cooperation with Arcadis. Furthermore in 2017 we will continue the successful Shelter workshops, this year we intend to expand the workshops beyond the main Arcadis offices in BUC cities to regional offices worldwide. Focus will be on the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the principles of The City We Need 2.0. The Shelter team thanks all who have made 2016 into a success and count on the continued support and enthusiasm to make 2017 into another great Shelter year!

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