

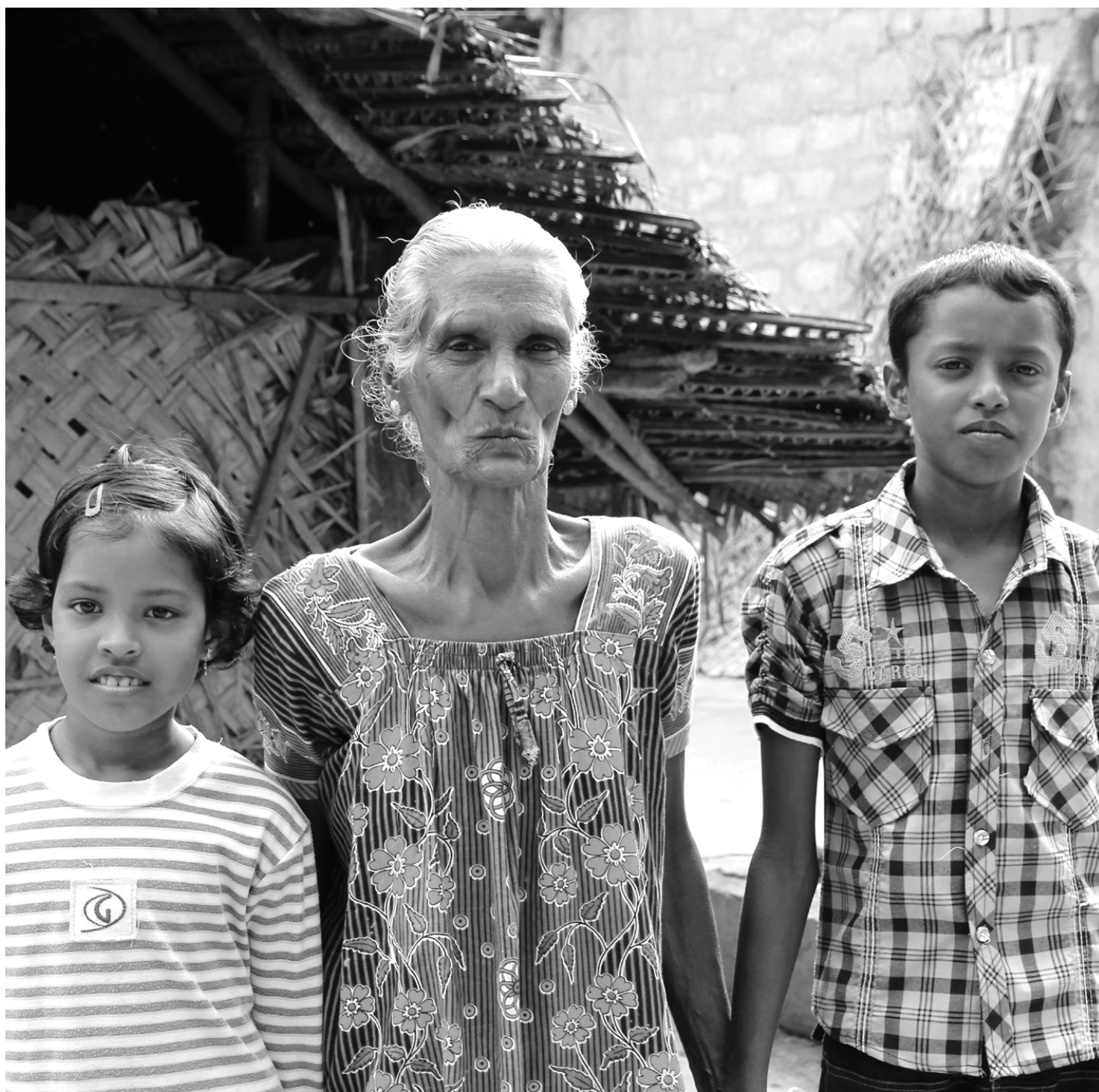
APRIL, 2016

www.unhabitat.org

ISSUE 01

urbanimpact

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Foreword

I am very pleased to launch the first edition of Urban Impact, a UN-Habitat bi-monthly newsletter. Urban Impact will cover the transformative work that UN-Habitat is carrying out with many partners throughout the world in promoting sustainable urbanization and improving lives.

It is no coincidence that this publication comes at a time when urbanization is central to the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development. For the first time, urbanization is considered a tool for prosperity and development. Indeed, no country has ever achieved development without urbanizing.

Well-planned and designed urbanization is an invaluable driver for economic prosperity, social cohesion and environmental sustainability. The transformative power of urbanization is a reality that could change the lives of the additional three billion people who will live in cities over the coming thirty years.

In this first edition of Urban Impact, you will read about the impact of UN-Habitat's work on the lives of displaced families in Sri Lanka, youth in Somalia, communities in Occupied Palestinian Territories, Planned City Extensions in Philippines and adequate housing in Ghana, among others.

Thanks to the collective efforts of our donors, our teams, and our national and local partners, UN-Habitat is abreast of the major challenges and the available solutions for one of the great human phases in history: Human beings as largely urban beings.

I hope you enjoy the content and that we continue working together to promote a better urban future for all.

Sincerely,



Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director





Provision of Permanent Housing

Transforms Lives of Internally Displaced Families in Sri Lanka

Thirty years of armed conflict in the Northern and Eastern Provinces of Sri Lanka left many homeless families in its wake. Severely damaged physical infrastructure, limited livelihood opportunities, and virtually no productive assets further worsened the desperation of these families. Some 160,000 houses were destroyed in the Northern Province alone, leaving communities with neither the skills nor resources for self-recovery.

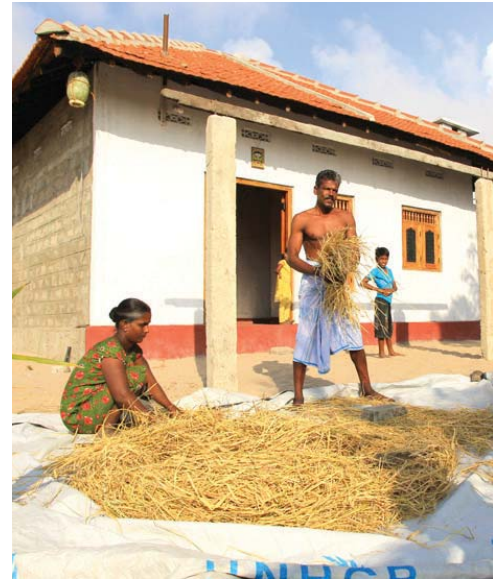
Existing social support structures were severely weakened as a result of the conflict. Displaced families returning to destroyed homes were housed in temporary shelters with minimal or no access to critical basic services and amenities such as clean water, sanitation facilities, functional kitchens or proper ventilation. Insecurity, limited facilities for their children to get an education, and scant protection from the elements reduced most families to misery, leaving them struggling to survive from one day to the next.

As part of its post-conflict rehabilitation support for Sri Lanka, the Government of India announced in June 2010 that it would provide funding for the construction of 50,000 housing units for displaced families. At the cost of USD 270 million, this was one of the largest

international grant assistance projects ever undertaken by the Government of India. The first phase of the project piloted a “contractor driven” approach for the construction of 1,000 houses for extremely vulnerable households in the North. Phase II, which consisted of 45,000 houses, was implemented using the “homeowner driven” approach, with the potential homeowners themselves being involved in construction of their houses.

In 2012, UN-Habitat was selected alongside three other agencies to implement the project. Each beneficiary family was provided with either a grant of LKR 550,000 (USD 3,694)¹ to construct a house or where repair of the existing house was possible, a grant of LKR 250,000 (USD 1,679). Technical assistance provided by UN-Habitat to homeowners included designing the houses, developing bills of quantities, assistance with securing land tenure, obtaining local authority approvals, and training on disaster risk reduction measures and environmentally friendly construction methods.

Village Reconstruction Committees (VRCs) were formed to implement the project, with office bearers elected from among the beneficiaries. The committees facilitated bulk purchase of building materials and sourcing of skilled



17,500 NEWLY CONSTRUCTED HOUSES
444 REPAIRED HOUSES

Under the Indian-funded programme, UN-Habitat has facilitated construction and repair of 17,944 housing units across the conflict affected districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Jaffna.

labour. They also organized support for the most vulnerable beneficiaries, helping them to overcome difficulties in completing construction. Community Monitoring Committees ensured that issues that might delay or inhibit progress of construction work were brought to the attention of project partners for expeditious resolution.



¹ USD = 148.9 LKR (March 2016)

As a way of motivating beneficiaries to actively contribute to the construction of their houses and to share information and best practices, community meetings were convened regularly. These meetings were used to promote various aspects of the construction process including the use of cost effective, environmentally friendly practices such as Compressed Stabilised Earth Blocks, fair faced block work and treated plantation timber.

Under the Indian-funded programme, UN-Habitat has facilitated construction and repair of 17,944 housing units across the conflict affected districts of Kilinochchi, Mullaitivu and Jaffna, comprising 17,500 fully constructed houses and 444 house repairs.

Mr. Sivarasa, his wife and their five children received funding to construct a permanent house in Jaffna district in 2014. "Many families in our village, who had no money to build permanent houses, have been supported by this project. On behalf our family, we want to thank everyone who helped us to build this beautiful house" states Mr.Sivarasa. Their completed 550 square foot house consists of a living room, two bedrooms, a kitchen and a toilet and is constructed with cement blocks for walls and clay tiles for the roofing. With their monthly savings, the family is gradually adding a front veranda to the house.

Ms.Vasuki, from Killinochchi District, is a female head of household with five children. Having shown a keen interest in building a house with environmentally friendly features, she was selected to build a "demonstration" house. Working with the UN-Habitat technical team, Ms. Vasuki was responsible for the planning and supervision of the construction work. A unique feature of her home is the construction of the walls using Compressed Stabilised Earth Blockwork (CSEB). This is a cost effective and environmentally friendly method of house construction as plaster is not required and the use of cement-based mortar is reduced.

She also initiated several methods of minimizing wastage and reducing construction costs, including use of salvaged building materials for the foundation and flooring. "I am grateful to the Indian Government for giving me money to build this beautiful house. It is very different to the other houses in the village. Although I had no money of my own, I took the responsibility to construct the house. I carefully followed the instructions given by the UN-Habitat engineers on new construction methods" says Ms. Vasuki.

The Indian Housing Project has helped thousands of families to meet their housing needs and engendered a strong sense of ownership through a fully participatory process undertaken with the "homeowner driven" approach to construction. Following years of hardship and displacement, thousands of affected families have now started a new life in their permanent homes.

For more information on the Indian Housing Project and the UN-Habitat Sri Lanka Programme, contact: Tim McNair, Chief Technical Advisor, UN-Habitat Sri Lanka, 202-204, Bauddhaloka Mawatha, Colombo 7, Sri Lanka. Email: tim@unhabitat.lk

World Urban Campaign:

An Unprecedented Global Consultation of Non-State Actors towards Habitat III

Following a long process of engagement through 26 Urban Thinkers Campuses in 2015-16, the World Urban Campaign (WUC) Steering Committee gathered in Prague, Czech Republic, on 16 March to adopt The City We Need 2.0. This manifesto is a groundbreaking consensus document of non-State actors outlining a new urban paradigm along a set of ten principles and ten drivers of change. An annex to this document is in progress, meant to articulate a series of tangible urban solutions towards Habitat III. Already, more than 100 solutions have been received by the WUC Secretariat at UN-Habitat. Two working groups have been established to review them as well as to frame initiatives and commitments of non-State actors for Habitat III.

The City We Need has been made possible through the engagement of more than 7600 men and women from 113 countries and 2250 organizations. 26 Urban Thinkers Campuses (UTC) where held in Stockholm (Sweden), Kampala (Uganda), Hong Kong (China), New Delhi (India), Palermo (Italy), Nairobi (Kenya), New York (USA), Geneva (Switzerland), Dhaka (Bangladesh), Omaha (USA), Barcelona (Spain), Mexico (Mexico), Recife (Brazil), Dubai (UAE), Paris (France), Vancouver (Canada), Kuching (Malaysia), Chitungwiza (Zimbabwe), Melbourne (Australia), Mannheim (Germany), and Alghero (Italy) bringing together non-State actors to deliberate in multiple urban thinkers sessions, urban labs, plenary debates, exhibitions and media sessions organized under the leadership of the WUC.

Never before in the history of UN-Habitat has such decentralized process been able to engage participants on such a scale through a structured dialogue, giving a voice to non-State





actors. Admittedly, the World Urban Forum is a significant event engaging huge numbers in single locations every two years for five to seven days with the aim of generating a set of conclusions summarized in a single declaration. However, the UTC process offers a structured model of participation in multiple locations, allowing people to contribute in a longer time frame while bringing to the table the specificities of different contexts. To cite a few, Mannheim brought the issues of urban citizenship in the challenging German context of mass migration; and Kampala debated the issues of urban identity building in the context of African heritage. The UTC process builds on both global and local engagement, allows participation from diverse regions, at different times and in diverse types of sessions allowing dialogue, showcasing, experimentation and consensus building among structured groups and following an agreed format and reporting framework for all UTCs.

The City We Need 2.0 is ready well before the Zero Draft of the New Urban Agenda. The most compelling messages will be shared through several channels, including a WUC TV and various social medias, to show case solutions and generate commitments before Habitat III. The document is being translated into all UN languages, to be disseminated widely as a reference document for all stakeholders.

The WUC has also initiated an open platform of participation for Habitat III, entitled the General Assembly of Partners (GAP) in order to help engage more partners around The City We Need up to Habitat III. Such an achievement should be celebrated and should be utilized beyond - in order to make the implementation of the New Urban Agenda coherent and inclusive for non-State actors.

The World Urban Campaign is part of UN-Habitat's Work Programme 2014-19, approved by the Governing Council at its 21st Session in 2009. It is located in the External Relations Division.

Contact: Christine Auclair, Project Leader, World Urban Campaign

From Rhetoric to Action: The Case for the Mogadishu One Stop Youth Centre

Falastin Omar, UN-Habitat, Somalia Programme



The consequences of over two decades of a civil war that has culminated in complete institutional collapse of basic public services can be immensely felt by a generation of young Somali's who have grown up without access to education, health care and employment opportunities.

These adverse impacts are further exacerbated when we consider the challenges of rapid urbanisation, as significant numbers of youth migrate to urban centres throughout Somalia in search of more social and economic opportunities. In dire circumstances, many young people go on perilous journeys in search of better opportunities in the west.

With seven out of ten Somalis under 35 years of age, Somalia is one of the youngest countries in the world. Youth represent not only the future of the nation but also one of its primary resources. Recognising the key role that youth can play in contributing to the peace and stability of the nation, the launch of the flagship Mogadishu One Stop Youth Centre (MOSYC), as part of the Joint Programme 'Youth Employment Somalia' (YES), by UN-Habitat in January of 2016, contributes substantively to harnessing the full potential of youth.

Implemented for the first time in a post-conflict setting, the One-Stop Youth Centre Model, developed by UN-Habitat's Youth Unit, is underpinned by an inclusive approach which recognises youth as partners in the development process empowering youth by providing a safe and generative space for them to not only acquire market-driven vocational skills but to also participate in decision-making processes on issues that affect their lives daily.

A youth event, launching the Centre, provided the opportunity for close to 200 youth from all 17 districts of Mogadishu to participate in activities including sports, arts and culture, and more importantly, participatory planning discussions that formed the nucleus of the event significantly contributing, through the direct involvement of youth, to the further development of the youth centre.

Led by Youth Leaders, trained by UN-Habitat in conducting participatory planning workshops, highly participative sessions were used to gauge the interests of all the youth seeking their input on key aspects of the development of the youth centre including; the physical design of the space, the types of recreational activities to be

held, and the vocational and life skills training they would like to be provided at the Centre once its fully launched.

Working towards Goal 11 of the SDGs, which focuses on making cities inclusive, safe resilient and sustainable, and understanding the importance of including youth in this process, UN-Habitat has been working closely with both the local municipality, the Banadir Regional Administration as well as the Banadir Regional Youth Association (BARYA), a local government affiliated youth organization as key partners in the development and management of the Centre encouraging full ownership of the process.

The MOSYC emphasises youth owned and youth led processes which strengthen the capacity of youth to act as social, economic and political actors in their community ultimately laying the foundation for a transformative approach that shifts discussions on youth from rhetoric to action.



This is a sentiment shared by Hussein Mohamed Salah, one of the youth attending the launch of the MOSYC, who stated that “this programme held by UN-Habitat is a very unique programme from which we have been able to derive, fun, happiness and many other benefits. We look forward to the many activities to be held at the Centre including vocational skills training...This is the first time that we have a Centre that is dedicated to the youth and run by the youth and addresses their needs.”



The construction of the MOSYC not only provides a space for youth to dance, laugh and play football but it also provides the opportunity to foster social cohesion by bringing youth from across all districts in the city together. By creating a space tailored meticulously to their needs through a truly collaborative and engaging process that empowers them through meaningful participation, youth are placed in the driver's seat of developing a space owned by them in every sense.



UN-Habitat Spatial Planning Programme Empowers Communities in Occupied Palestinian Territories

Palestinian communities living in the Israeli controlled Area C of the West Bank are among the most vulnerable groups in the occupied Palestinian territories (oPt). With less than 1 percent of the area designated for planned spatial development in the future, it is unlikely that this will respond adequately to the growing housing needs of area C residents, particularly in the light of looming home demolitions and forced displacement in which more than 11,000 demolition orders are pending against more than 17,000 Palestinian owned homes.

A population of more than 300,000 Area C, which is considered the cornerstone for the sustainability of Palestinian Statehood, is faced with a planning crisis. A 2014 World Bank report showed that without the restrictions imposed by Israel, Area C would have had the potential to generate up to 35 percent of Palestinian GDP in 2011, a clear demonstration of the lost development opportunities, and the potential that could be unlocked for the benefit of Palestinian communities.



In collaboration with the Ministry of Local Government (MoLG) of the State of Palestine, UN-Habitat implemented a Spatial Planning Programme in Area C with generous support from the EU, and the Governments of the United Kingdom and France from 2013 – 2015. By engaging more than 10,000 Palestinian residents living in Area C in participatory spatial planning, the programme has delivered some 145 multi-layered plans, and helped to freeze the potential eviction and displacement of more than 55,000 Palestinians in the territory. The programme further advocates the transfer of planning powers in Area C to Palestinians as an essential component of the state-building process.

Under the programme, a local outline plan for the Palestinian village of Imneizil, south of Hebron city has been developed. The village is inhabited by less than 500 Palestinians, and is considered as a hot spot because of its proximity to the separation barrier, nearby Israeli settlements, and by-pass roads. In July 2011, a local outline plan prepared for Imneizil village based on a participatory planning approach was submitted to the Israeli Civil Administration (ICA) with the technical support of UN-Habitat's local partner, the International Peace and Cooperation Centre (IPCC) and with financial support from the Government of the United Kingdom.

In March 2014, following multiple rounds of negotiations with the ICA during which further detailing of the local outline plan was done with EU funding, the ICA finally endorsed the plan, making it one of the first three Palestinian-led plans to be approved by the ICA. To engage the local inhabitants in the placemaking and to establish a connection between the inhabitants and the built environment,

especially the public space, UN-Habitat initiated a Placemaking project to turn the public space in Imneizil into livable places in consultation with women, youth and the elderly, among others. "We are pleased that the village residents got the opportunity to participate in the work done in their village. Kids are now happy with improvements made in their school," said Ali Rasheed, the village's mayor.

Other donors are now investing in the village by building new roads and other public facilities, making Imneizil a model for other Palestinian villages in Area C. The results demonstrate that empowering local communities through participatory spatial planning enhances project sustainability and engenders the confidence of beneficiaries in their ability to contribute meaningfully to development. The Spatial Planning Programme, thus, contributes substantively to the localization SDG 11.



UN-Habitat initiated a Placemaking project to turn the public space in Imneizil into livable places in consultation with women, youth and the elderly, among others.





The Rio+Social Programme and Territorial Inclusion in Rio de Janeiro

With its sprawling informal settlements – the Favelas – making international headlines, the city of Rio de Janeiro struggles to cope with urban and social inequalities in its most vulnerable neighborhoods. For decades, a growing number of favelas have gradually fallen under the control of criminal gangs linked to drug trafficking and organized crime, driving crime and violence to peak levels. With Rio poised to host major events including Rio+20, FIFA World Cup, and the Olympic Games, the city authorities recognise the urgent need to address this problem.

In 2008, Pacification Police Units – UPPs, were created by the State Government to ensure a permanent police presence in problematic urban territories (mostly the Favelas). The authorities also recognized that social programmes aimed at improving the quality of life for residents of these territories were necessary to ensure sustainability of the initiatives to improve security.

In 2011, UN - Habitat partnered with the Municipality of Rio de Janeiro and the Institute Pereira Passos (IPP) to launch the Rio+Social Programme which complements the pacification efforts with initiatives to improve the delivery of public services and promote urban, social and economic integration in the Favelas. The success of the programme has resulted in its inclusion as a high priority initiative at the City Strategic Plan 2012-2016. Some 711, 000 residents in 208 pacified slums have benefited directly from the programme. Special

Attention had been given to targeting these groups: women, who comprise 53 percent of the population, and the 34 percent of inhabitants aged between 15 and 29 years.

Developed through participatory policy design and programme implementation aimed at improving service delivery in the Favelas, the Rio+Social is structured around three main

strategies, namely strengthening dialogue with, and participation of local stakeholders; producing qualified data through participatory methodologies to analyze local dynamics; and articulating policies and designing projects in multiple partnerships with public, private and civil society organizations.

The comprehensive nature of the programme and the diversity of its activities have spawned more than 80 partners, 115 projects and 449 specific community - led activities ranging from education, sports, cultural, economic, health, public space and environmental activities. Key programme outcomes include updated geographical and interactive maps, official recognition of streets, improvements in access to public services, and improved leadership skills within the communities. In addition a range social indicators have been developed to monitor programme outcomes.

According to Luis Fernando Valverde, from IPP's Institutional Articulation Coordinating Office, "the Programme's legacy consolidates an experience that goes beyond the territories at stake, which is applicable to the promotion of more inclusive and resilient cities, demonstrating that it can be reached solely through the integration of sectorial policies that overcome fragmented visions of public sector's actions and understand the necessity to incorporate citizens' visions, empowering them to contribute to local development"

Consolidation and adoption of the Rio+Social Programme, the active participation of multiple partners, and the enthusiastic uptake of programme initiatives at the community level demonstrate the potential for driving innovative public policy through community engagement.

For more information on the Rio + Social programme please contact rolac@unuhabitat.org



Planned City Extensions the way to Sustainable Urban Development in the Philippines

Zamboanga City, in the south of the Philippines, will present their newly created planned city extension designs to the city leaders for approval in April 2016, making it the fourth city in the Philippines proactively responding to rapid urbanization through planned city extensions.

Known as a hotspot for armed conflict, the fast growing city faces many urban challenges. Many of the 100,000 people displaced by conflict during the Zamboanga city crisis of 2013 remain in temporary shelters, with the city authorities struggling to effectively plan for and provide adequate housing, while ensuring sustainable urban growth.

With support from the Government of Spain through the Spanish Agency for International Cooperation and Development – AECID, UN-Habitat has worked with the City of Zamboanga to formulate plans for the city's extension. It is the fourth city supported by UN-Habitat to complete detailed city extension designs and plans through the Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD) project. The cities of Cagayan De Oro, Silay and Iloilo have already begun integrating their planned city extensions into their land-use planning and zoning ordinances, as well as formulating enabling legislation for implementation, including legislation on land-based finance to fund needed infrastructure.



“Silay city is urbanizing fast. We did not expect the transformation in our own city to happen so fast. We need to be prepared and to equip our people to manage this process. This intervention by UN-Habitat's ASUD project is timely as it will guide us and demonstrate new tools for planning to make our city more sustainable and livable for all,” said Silay City Mayor Jose Montelibano.

Over the past three decades, the Philippines urban threshold has been increasing steadily. Nearly half the country's population now lives in urban areas, and it is projected this figure will reach 84 per cent by 2050. The highest rate of growth is expected in small and medium sized cities like Zamboanga, Iloilo, Silay and Cagayan de Oro, rather than in the large cities.

Urbanization in the Philippines has been quite spontaneous and planning for urban development has been weak. Existing policies and urban planning capacity, especially at the local level, have been overwhelmed by the rapid pace of urbanization. Thus, the opportunities that come with

urbanization have not been fully maximized. The result has been inadequate provision of basic urban services, growth of the informal sector, sprawling urban slums, congestion, social exclusion, low economic productivity, and increased vulnerability to both natural and human hazards. .

As a response to these urbanization issues and challenges, UN-Habitat, in partnership with key government agencies, initiated the ASUD project in 2013. ASUD addresses the gaps and deficiencies in current urban planning processes and policies at the national and local levels to enable government and urban stakeholders to effectively respond to the complex demands of urbanization. It supports cities in developing strategic urban development plans and designs, particularly on planned city extensions (PCE) or urban expansion planning. The PCE process is an innovative approach that aims to promote sustainable urbanization by integrating three major elements in city planning and governance, namely urban planning and design, rules and legislation, and urban economy and municipal finance. This three-pronged approach is further complemented by incorporating plans that ensure adequate and connected streets and public spaces, efficient density, mixed land-use, good social mix and urban resilience.

Implementation of the PCE has generated widespread interest beyond the four pilot cities, receiving favourable feedback from cities not included in the pilot project, national government agencies and city planners. The ASUD-PCE experience has also enhanced public awareness about sustainable urbanization.

Lessons learnt while providing the pilot cities with support for their planned extensions have fed into national-level policies and frameworks. In partnership with national agencies such as the Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council and the Housing and Land Use Regulatory Board, UN-Habitat has supported the formulation of the Philippines New Urban Agenda (through the Habitat III national reporting process) and the enhancement of the National Urban Development and Housing Framework. These policy and urban development frameworks are expected to contribute to the implementation of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) particularly “Goal 11, to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable.”

“Current public discussion on national urban policy and the ASUD experiences are very timely as we conclude the Philippine Development Plan 2010-2016. It provides us with invaluable

guidance in the formulation of national urban policies, ensuring that we maximize on the opportunities provided by urbanization,” said Mr. Jose Alejandro Payumo III, Deputy Secretary General, Housing and Urban Development Coordinating Council (HUDCC).

For more information on the Planned City Extension Project and the UN-Habitat Philippines Programme, contact: Cris Rollo, Habitat Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Philippines, 31/F Yuchengco Tower, RCBC Plaza 6819 Ayala Avenue, Makati City 1229 Philippines. Email: Cris.Rollo@unhabitat.org



PLACING HOUSING AT THE CENTRE:

Improving access to adequate housing for all in Ghana

Housing Unit, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch

UN-Habitat has a long established collaboration with the Government of Ghana to promote sustainable urbanization and access to adequate housing for all. In 2011, the Ministry of Water Resources, Works and Housing, with support from UN-Habitat, completed the Ghana National Housing Profile, providing a thorough diagnostic of the main constraints and pointing to priority actions to boost the development of the country's Housing Sector. Some of the main recommendations of the Profile included strengthening policy frameworks, increasing finance for housing, support the microfinance sector, improve the land registration and service provision as well as the urban planning for major city expansions. The Profile also estimated that 5.7 million new rooms were needed by 2020 to accommodate the population growth and urbanization.

A number of important steps have been taken in Ghana to respond to the recommendations of the Profile, which is part of UN Habitat's series of 15 country profiles focusing on housing policy at the national and local level. The approval, in 2012, of the Second Land Administration Project (LAP-2) improved the effectiveness and reducing the time of the land registration process. An increase of over 70% in the number of registered properties has been observed since 2012, and thanks to the introduction of the Land Use Planning Management Information System the time to issue a title has reduced to three months. Improved conditions for PPPs on the housing market led to increase of housing supply. 10 000 units have been built in Saglemi and the Ningo Prampram District of the Greater Accra Region and the Minister of water resource, works and housing recently announced the construction of additional 15 000 affordable

units over the next five years in the districts of Nsakina, Odumase, Kpone and Borteyman: “The target is to make sure the houses are available to all Ghanaians”, the Minister, Alhaji Dauda says.

Continued efforts to promote access to adequate housing have undoubtedly contributed to positive impact on living conditions of Ghanaians. For example, thanks to the improvement in service provision, the country has been able to respond positively to the MDG targets with a 27% decrease in the percentage of the population living in slums, from 52.1% in 2000 to 37.9% in 2014. Climate change adaptation and energy efficiency in the housing sector have also been object of intervention from the Government. President Mahama recently announced the supply of 200 000 solar panels for households across the country as a response to the long electric power crisis that has sapped businesses and hindered economic growth.

With better access to information and understanding of its housing needs, the government has also been able to undertake informed and evidence based institutional and

policy reforms in order to place housing at the centre of city development. Of particular importance has been the formulation and approval, in 2015, of the National Housing Policy setting the goals and prerogatives for improving access to adequate housing for all people living in Ghana. “The government is pursuing an aggressive housing policy to provide more affordable houses in the towns and cities of the country,” (the President of Ghana, in 2014). Amongst its priorities, the policy endorses the establishment of a national housing fund in response to the recommendation made by UN-Habitat to improve the sustainability and the scope of resources directed to housing. An implementation strategy is currently been elaborated with support from UN-Habitat and will be instrumental to address the remaining challenges and opportunities of the Ghana's rapid urbanization.

Please follow this link to read more about the UN Habitat's Housing at the Centre approach and join the discussion on Facebook and Twitter about the role of housing in the Post-2015 Development Agenda.





UN-Habitat Partners with Communities for Urban Infrastructure Development in Afghanistan

In 2014 the number of Afghan families displaced as a result of insecurity and economic hardship reached a record of over 750,000 persons, with 33 000 displaced people in the month of September 2014 alone. The overwhelming majority of these displaced people are migrating into urban areas considered to be safer, and which offer better livelihood opportunities and more accessible basic urban services.

This influx of migrants into the capital city of Kabul and other regional hub cities has placed unprecedented pressure on their existing infrastructure and services, further exacerbating pre-existing vulnerability conditions. This has had a direct impact on urban settlement planning, development of infrastructure, provision of basic services, and access to labour markets.

With support from the Government of Japan, UN-Habitat has successfully completed a USD 20 million programme in which more than 324,000 Afghan men, women, and youth in five major cities in Afghanistan participated in projects to develop their neighbourhoods in informal urban settlements through the Community-Led Urban Infrastructure Development Programme (CLUIP). With a

focus on the urgent need to integrate recently displaced people, demobilized combatants and returnees, the CLUIP aims at securing and stabilizing urban areas across five Afghan cities by responding to the urgent needs of urban Afghans through community empowerment, enhancing access to basic services, and improving livelihoods.

A key characteristic of the CLUIP approach requires targeted beneficiary communities to cover at least 35 per cent of the total cost of neighbourhood development projects. The communities thus become key partners of the programme from inception to implementation, and are also involved in monitoring and evaluation. Each of the 145 targeted communities established democratically-elected Community Development Councils (CDCs) to improve basic services, as well as to conceptualize and implement various community empowerment projects. This is a feature of UN-Habitat's "People's Process".

To enhance the sense of community ownership, UN-Habitat introduced a performance based financing mechanism. Once project designs had been formulated, communities identified

asked to identify which components they could cover. Upon implementation of the components contributed by the communities, (such as side walk), the programme block grant was then disbursed in three instalments based on specified achievements and progress.

Specific impacts of the CLUIP include better living conditions for vulnerable people in the five cities through improved access to clean water and sanitation, higher school attendance rates for girls, construction of a women's park, enhancement of neighbourhood safety, and improvement of infrastructure such as roads, pavements, drainage, and street lighting.



Long-term transformational benefits include enhanced local capacities, skills transfers for long-term transformation, and a strong sense of ownership resulting in project sustainability. The programme has also contributed substantially to strengthening trust among communities and improving social cohesion, which is particularly important for the long term stability of post and mid-conflict countries such as Afghanistan.

Mobilization of communities through a transparent and democratic process empowered members to be proactive, motivated them to participate actively, and made them proud of their projects. This approach enables beneficiaries to secure control over resource mobilization decisions within the community. The success of this programme demonstrates that with well- designed and inclusive mechanisms and methodologies, the financial limitations and sustainability challenges to

upgrading projects in developing countries can be overcome.

“We were facing a lot of problems and diseases due to lack of drainage canals and muddy roads. Our children were obliged to play in the mud and garbage, and the area was constantly flooded with contaminated water. But now, the streets are paved, cleaned, the environment has improved and we will not face the same problems next winter. We suggest recognizing the council as an institution and a formal organ within the government” (Female resident of District 11, Kabul city)

The impact of the CLUIP approach has been recognized in the highest echelons of Government in Afghanistan with President Ashraf Ghani expressing appreciation for the solidarity engendered among members of the CDCs and resultant peace dividends for the

country. He has urged women to take a leading role in the development of their cities and in building the country. “The environment should be paved to women so that they can take leading roles in the development of their cities and in building the nation.” says the President. UN-Habitat will continue working closely with the Government of Afghanistan to apply lessons learnt from the CLUIP to the design of the National Urban Solidarity Programme (Urban Citizen Charter) which is being developed as a flagship action plan for a National Urban Priority Programme, 2016-2025.

For more information on CLUIP and the UN-Habitat Afghanistan Programme, contact: Matthew French, Country Representative (a.i.), UN-Habitat Afghanistan, Email: Matthew.French@unhabitat-afg.org, or Hiroshi Takabayashi, Knowledge Management Officer, UN-Habitat Afghanistan, Email: Takabayashi.Hiroshi@unhabitat-afg.org



UN-Habitat Plays Catalytic Role in Improving Access to Urban Basic Services in Pakistan

Expanding equitable access to Urban Basic Services, especially for the poor, through policy and technical support to the Government of Pakistan at federal, provincial, and local levels and by strengthening policies and institutional frameworks, is a priority area of UN-Habitat's Programme in Pakistan. This focus has led to country-wide recognition of UN-Habitat as the focal agency for Sustainable Urban Development. The programme is implementing interventions in water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), urban waste management, and urban mobility through various city-level demonstration projects that prioritize strengthening of service providers and engagement in national policy and reform processes. UN-Habitat aims to promote clean, energy efficient, affordable, and human-centred cities capable of delivering better services to residents while simultaneously reducing the rate at which scarce resources are being consumed.

When heavy flooding devastated the Jacobabad District in 2012, causing widespread displacement, disrupting the education system, increasing expenditures in healthcare, and damaging drainage systems, the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) provided a USD35 million grant to UNICEF to support the Government of Sindh through their Municipal Services Development Program (MSDP) for the development and up-grading of municipal infrastructure in Jacobabad town. UNICEF selected UN-Habitat as the leading implementing partner for the project. In addition to providing badly needed WASH facilities, UN-Habitat and its implementing partners undertook rehabilitation of existing facilities and related capacity building to create momentum for continuous and sustainable improvement of access to basic urban services for the residents of Jacobabad. "Before this project was implemented, we never had a platform for community mobilization to improve our Muhalla, but with the guidance and support of UN-Habitat and its partners, today the Muhalla is neat and clean," says Abdulla Abdullah Magasi, leader of the Darkhan Muhalla, who warmly welcomed the Urban WASH Project and was nominated General Secretary of the Muhalla Wash and WARD committee. He diligently and meticulously ensures that members of his community are aware of the challenges facing them, such as environmental pollution

and poor disposal of liquid and solid waste, and that they are motivated to participate actively in finding solutions. A field social mobilizer commented that, "At last the awareness level of the community is increasing. They now clean their streets and drains regularly, thanks to the social mobilization efforts by the field teams." UN-Habitat recently received acclaim from the donor, provincial authorities, and programme beneficiaries for the successful implementation of its "Community Mobilization for Improved WASH Services and Hygiene Behaviour in Jacobabad City".

In addition to its initiatives at the grassroots, the UN-Habitat programme in Pakistan has been a catalyst in the integration of policies and practices aimed at improving access to basic urban services into federal policy and practice. This is a success story in itself. In the context of climate change, UN-Habitat has developed Pakistan's first Integrated Resource Recovery Centre (IRRC) at Sector G-15 in Islamabad with funding from UN-ESCAP and in close collaboration with the Ministry of Climate Change (MoCC). The IRRC converts 3 tons of municipal solid waste from surrounding local communities and vegetable markets into compost and biogas each day, through composting, recycling, and bio-digestion while simultaneously creating employment opportunities.

For further information please contact Bella Evidente, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Pakistan at bella.evidente@unhabitat.org



Pakistan Benefits From UN-Habitat Expertise in Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation



UN-Habitat has extensive experience, technical expertise, and human resource capacity in the field of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), Disaster Risk Management (DRM) and the management of Geographical Information Systems (GIS). Immediately following the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, UN-Habitat undertook post-disaster reconstruction work to support the over 3.5 million people who had to be moved from the affected areas to safer, improved homes. Through UN-Habitat's efforts, some 14,000 families were relocated, with 5,500 new homes being built for women headed households. Programme design and implementation were driven by a "people's process" whereby potential beneficiaries were directly involved in the recovery, rehabilitation, and development process from planning to implementation, with particular attention to empowering women by giving them a strong voice in decision making and actively involving them in programme implementation.

When military operations against militants in North Waziristan Agency (NWA) compelled local populations to leave their homes and seek refuge in neighbouring settled districts, the unprecedented influx of Temporary Dislocated

People (TDPs) from NWA posed a serious challenge for the Government of Pakistan and host communities of the Province. In response, the Government of Japan generously donated \$US 1.75 million to UN-Habitat for provision of integrated Shelter and Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) services to the TDPs in Bannu, Laki Marwat, and Dera Ismail Khan districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province.

With local UN-Habitat partners including National, Provincial, and Frontier Disaster Management Authorities (NDMA, PDMA and FDMA) as well as local authorities in the affected areas providing support on the ground, UN-Habitat successfully provided shelter for 1,800 TDP families and better access to safe water and improved sanitation facilities for 3,846 families, including capacity building of beneficiaries and stakeholders.

"I have worked in other countries where often, the needs of host communities are overlooked while displaced communities are provided with relief and support. This however, was a forward-looking project and the Government of Japan was quite visionary in addressing the

needs of both host communities and TDPs," said Mr. Neil Buhne, UN Resident Coordinator and Humanitarian Coordinator for Pakistan. Similarly, Mr. Junya Matsuura, Chargé d'affaires ad interim, Embassy of Japan in Pakistan said, "The work delivered by UN-Habitat and their partners is highly commendable, particularly because we lack direct access to the project areas due security reasons. We are extremely happy to see the fruit of everybody's hard work and contribution. We hope the partnership between Japan, Pakistan, and the UN agencies will be strengthened through Japan's contribution to peace and prosperity in Pakistan."



Developing effective Disaster Risk Reduction policy is critical in ensuring disaster-preparedness. A UN-Habitat initiative to support the Government in developing more synergized, cohesive and inclusive disaster risk management policies brought together the government, academia, and scientific research institutions to carry out Multi-Hazard Vulnerability and Risk Assessments in Chitral and D.I. Khan districts of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province. Community engagement at the planning stage and their participation in implementation were significant components, allowing for available grassroots expertise to be utilised fully and facilitating transfer of skills to community members participating in implementation.

Dissemination of information and knowledge transfer to key government officials were undertaken while clearly defining roles and responsibilities of various partners to facilitate effective coordination among all stakeholders. This approach provided a strong foundation for strengthening long term resilience in these districts and successfully managing repeated disasters. Mr. Amer Afaq, Director General for the KP Provincial Disaster Management Authority said, "This is a very important exercise for us; we need proper and updated information regarding our area's vulnerability to both natural and man-made disasters. I appreciate UN-Habitat and partners' efforts in supporting the Government of Khyber Pakhtunkhwa." The strategic alliances developed by UN-Habitat with the Government of Pakistan and other humanitarian partners at different levels since 2005 have made it the focal agency in implementation of initiatives to help the country meet Sustainable Development Goal 11, targeted at making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable.

The UN-Habitat office in Pakistan continues to provide technical advisory and operational support to the Government of Pakistan at federal, provincial, and local levels, through policy interventions and operational programmes focused on Sustainable Urban Development.

For further information on the Pakistan Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Programme please contact Ms. Bella Evidente, Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Pakistan





UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 7623120
infohabitat@unhabitat.org

www.unhabitat.org