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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE



Foreword

Together towards Habitat III

Urbanization is a human process that has led to profound changes in the daily life of more than half of the world population. The way our cities are planned affects our lives more than we can imagine. The design of a city affects the time we spend commuting from one place to another; the way we live – our housing modalities (public, private, or informal); our streets, parks and public spaces; and our education and job opportunities. It influences issues such as urban poverty; space for different cultures and ethnicities; integration; cultural activities; pollution and environmental sustainability among others.

To date, there has been insufficient analysis of both the positive and negative effects of urbanization worldwide. We must pay attention, and be conscious of, the effects of the decrease in urban planning, and increase in urban expansion. What does it mean that the densities of cities are decreasing, and how does it impact the quality of life in a city? What happens with increased urban expansion, less public space, more energy consumption? Although it is a very complex human process, urbanization, when done right, contributes greatly to the solution to many of the challenges that the world is facing today.

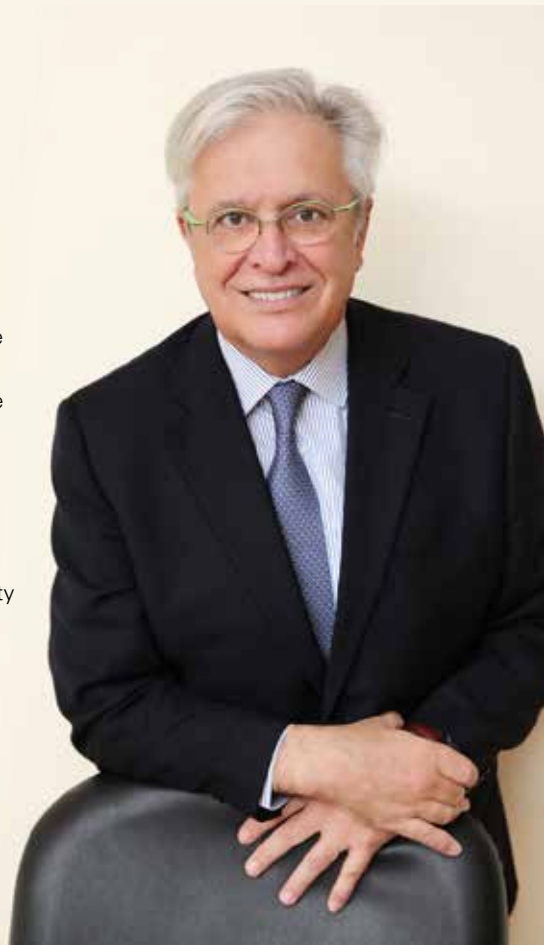
It is now time now for a paradigm shift. Habitat III, the Third United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development, offers us the opportunity to adopt an ambitious New Urban Agenda that can drive the wealth, prosperity and human progress for present and future urban dwellers, expected to represent 70 per cent of the world's population by 2050.

We cannot miss this opportunity. Recognizing that well-planned urbanization is an engine for sustainable development is a historical paradigm shift embraced by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. At UN-Habitat, the leading agency on human settlements and urban development, we continue to assess the problems associated with unplanned urbanization, and test the tremendous opportunities of good urbanization all around the world. Sustainable urbanization is a powerful tool for growth, social cohesion and environmental protection. The New Urban Agenda is an opportunity for all.

Joan Clos,



UN Under-Secretary General,
Executive Director of UN-Habitat
Secretary-General of Habitat III



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The fundamentals of Urbanization

A Study by UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory – in partnership with New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy

This study is a major contribution to the fundamentals of urbanization. After three years of research, it has produced authoritative data, and qualitative and quantitative information on urban trends and conditions in the world's cities.

Urban areas in general, from this a long-term perspective, confront a host of similar fundamental issues. The way in which legislative and regulatory policies are enacted and enforced and the form that urban planning and design take are part of these fundamentals. Equally important is how housing is financed, how the economy and municipal finance work and who it benefits.

The critical mass of data produced by the UN-Habitat Global Urban Observatory – in partnership with New York University and the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy – spanning over 25 years analysis (1990-2015), can help to determine not only the city's health, conditions and growth prospects, but also the critical areas of intervention where it is possible to have a transformative effect by adopting a clear local action framework.

This Report reveals with compelling evidence that urban planning and design is declining all over the world. Cities are expanding in endless peripheries. Residential densities are reducing dramatically and public spaces and streets are diminishing. This is a direct consequence of the poor implementation and enforcement of plans. It is also due to laws and regulations that are weakly linked to sustainable development and achievable objectives. A city's weaknesses in these areas are also seen in the production of housing solutions that are largely unaffordable, located in peripheral areas that increase urbanization costs and exacerbate socio-economic inequalities. These affect the perennial problems that cities face in generating revenues and mobilizing financial resources.

Strong fundamentals indicate the well-being of a city. They suggest that there is a viable framework in place, a clear business plan, strong planning institutions, and a sound regulatory regime. Accurate data and information are essential to identifying these fundamentals. The UN-Habitat City Prosperity Initiative has learned this lesson over the past three years, and has adapted its monitoring framework to the

measurement of the city's fundamentals which provide a better connection to policy responses and consensus building. The UN Global Sample of Cities, which is the basis for the monitoring and analysis of this study, also responds to three city fundamentals: legislative and regulatory regimes, urban planning and design and urban economy. The analysis of the housing sector is timely and reflects the central theme of the Habitat III Conference.

This study provides substantive knowledge and the empirical foundation to help rethink the sustainability of the urbanization model; one that can result in equity, shared prosperity and environmental sustainability.

Joan Clos



United Nations Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat



Provision of Permanent Housing

Transforms Lives of Internally Displaced Families in Sri Lanka

The Challenge

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.

The Intervention

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.



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.



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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.

The Impact

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.

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 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.

As a way of motivating beneficiaries to actively contribute to the construction of their houses

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



The Challenge

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.

The Intervention

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.

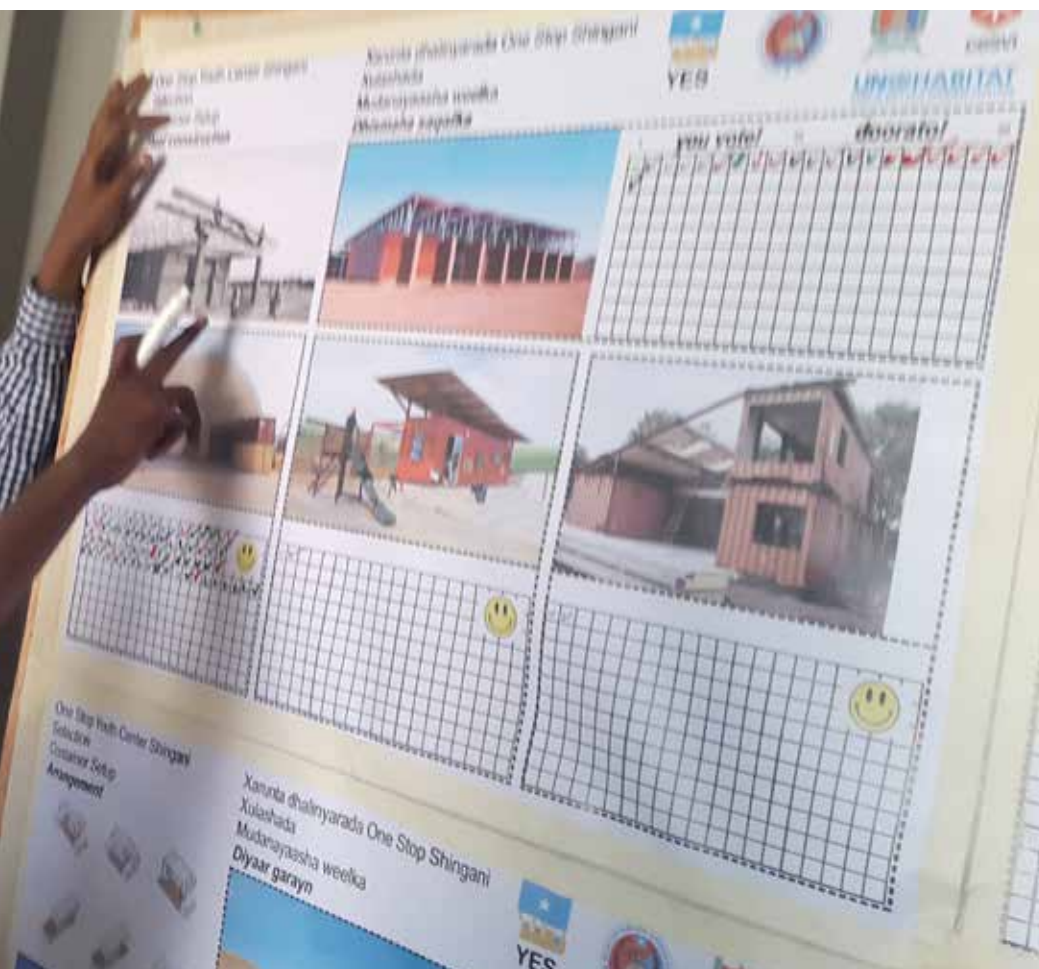
Led by Youth Leaders, trained by UN-Habitat in conducting participatory planning workshops,



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.

The Impact

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

The Challenge

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.



The Intervention

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.

The Impact

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.



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

The Challenge

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.

The Intervention

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 Impact

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.





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

The Challenge

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.

The Intervention

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.

The Impact

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).



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

The Challenge

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.

The Intervention

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.

The Impact

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

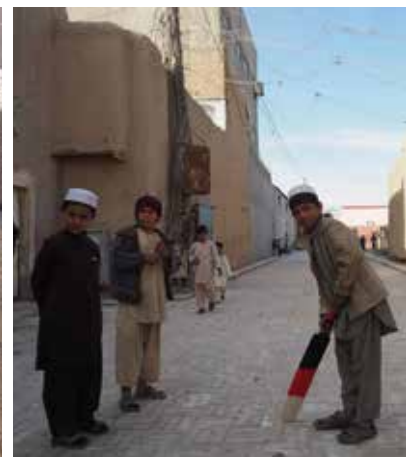
mechanisms and methodologies, the financial limitations and sustainability challenges to upgrading projects in developing countries can be overcome.

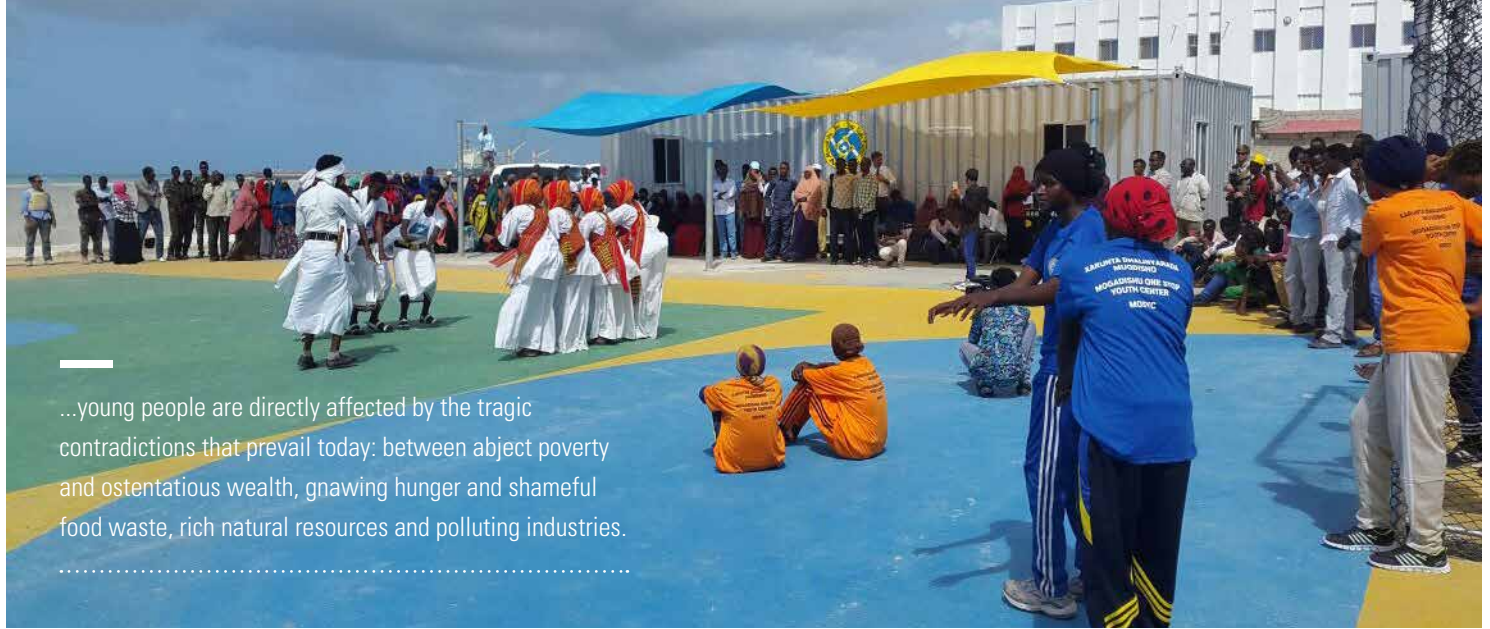
Beneficiary Views

"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.





...young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth, gnawing hunger and shameful food waste, rich natural resources and polluting industries.

The Mogadishu One Stop Youth Centre

Enhancing Youth Participation in Peace, Local Governance and Development

The challenge

Announcing the formation of an Advisory Group of Experts for the Progress Study on Youth, Peace and Security, UN Secretary General Ban Ki Moon noted that “young people are directly affected by the tragic contradictions that prevail today: between abject poverty and ostentatious wealth, gnawing hunger and shameful food waste, rich natural resources and polluting industries.”

UN Security Council resolution 2250 (2015), the first such measure to recognize the important and positive role young women and men play in the maintenance and promotion of international peace and security, mandated the Secretary General to “to carry out a progress study on the youth’s positive contribution to peace processes and conflict resolution, in order to recommend effective responses at local, national, regional and international levels.” In Somalia, a country where 7 out of 10 people are youth under the age of 30 who have known nothing but war and conflict all their lives, recognizing their crucial role in sustaining peace and fostering development is a matter of national importance.

The intervention

The Mogadishu One Stop Youth Centre (MOSYC) is an inclusive, youth driven initiative accessible to youth all across Mogadishu. Operated in close partnership with the local Banadir Regional Youth Association (BARYA), the UN-Habitat project aims at integrating youth across Mogadishu into governance, development, peace building, and human rights initiatives by various stakeholders.

The MOSYC partners with the BARYA in equipping youth to participate actively in local governance and development initiatives by providing them with vocational and life skills training and by assisting them in identifying suitable employment and other income generating activities.

A Youth Advisory Committee (YAC) was established to manage the Centre. Comprised of active youth across the city, the YAC is responsible for day-to-day administration of the Centre and plays a significant role in identifying development programmes to be undertaken by the centre. A Charter drafted and endorsed by the youth is an essential guiding tool in managing the Centre successfully.

The beneficiary view

“The MOSYC Centre is a symbol of hope that offers us a physical space we can tailor to meet our needs. Youth in Mogadishu want a Centre that connects all youth in Somalia; a centre that promotes youth advocacy programs, trains youth on how to be economically, socially and politically empowered, and most importantly, a youth friendly centre that is safe, peaceful and offers equal opportunities for both young men and women.”

Cabdi Kaafi Mahamuud Makaraan, one of the youth at the centre.

The impact

“Vocational and life skills training offered at the Centre enhance our capacity to find meaningful employment, thereby empowering us economically. UN-Habitat has provided us with training on leadership and good governance, which helps youth across Mogadishu to strengthen their understanding of the essential components of good governance. This is useful in strengthening our capacity to effectively manage the centre, enables us to participate meaningfully in local governance and development activities, and also gives us the confidence to hold our political leaders accountable in how they manage our nation.”

Oadro Aadan, another youth beneficiary of the project.

Youth in Mogadishu are well on their way to establishing a thriving centre that challenges them to succeed by exploiting the opportunities available, moves them from the fringes of society, and positions them as beacons of hope in their communities.



Resilient Water, Sanitation and Hygiene (WASH) Systems in Northern Ghana Benefit More than 265 Flood-prone Communities

The challenge

Flooding disasters and the lack of resilient water and sanitation systems have a severe impact on the living conditions for vulnerable communities of northern Ghana. The 3 northern regions of Ghana, which make up about 40 percent of the total area of Ghana, experience perennial flooding resulting in the contamination of water supply systems, deterioration in sanitation and hygiene practices, and the spread of waterborne diseases. The resilience of communities and their capacity to recover from disasters have remained weak as they often have to rebuild from scratch following each flooding episode.

As most of these communities do not have proper water and sanitation facilities, open defecation exacerbates the situation, with little attention paid to proper hygiene practises.

The Initiative

A consortium of four UN Agencies have received USD 17.3 million from the Government of Canada for provision of flood resilient water and sanitation facilities to the flood prone communities in Northern Ghana, with UN-Habitat as the convening agency, through its Urban Basic Services Branch. The program targets 24 districts in the 3 regions and will cover 265 communities, with a total of 200,000 people, including 50,000 children benefiting. The provision of resilient water facilities and the eradication of open defecation through community led total sanitation (CLTS) are on-going both at the community level and in schools where institutional sanitation facilities are being constructed. To strengthen planning and disaster preparedness systems, the delivery of resilient water and sanitation facilities is complemented by capacity building programmes at the regional, district and community levels.

The outcomes

After two years of implementation, the Programme is on track to provide access to resilient water and sanitation systems for over 200,000 beneficiaries.

The positive programme impact was validated through an early impact assessment carried out in April 2016 to capture and evaluate the extent to which the programme is impacting the lives of beneficiaries. A participatory community approach was used for data collection.

The assessment indicates that 60 percent of the targeted communities have access to flood resilient water facilities and residents are walking less than 500 meters to access water, compared to only 13 percent before the intervention. The availability of water and the hygiene promotion activities have led to improved hygiene practices, such as handwashing with soap and bathing on a daily basis, which are being practiced in all the beneficiary communities.





The provision of resilient water facilities and the eradication of open defecation through community led total sanitation (CLTS) are on-going both at the community level and in schools where institutional sanitation facilities are being constructed.

The impact

Dorothy Musa, a resident of Kandanyiri community, Dafiamma Bussie district says, “We used to walk more than 5 kilometres to fetch water from a hand dug well. We could stay there the whole day and sometimes come back with no water. We had no toilets. Many people left the community to settle in other areas. People did not like to be associated with us because there was no water to for drinking and cooking leave alone bathing. We now walk very short distances and are able to fetch water in less than 10 minutes. We have already built 5 toilets and construction is on-going. People who had left the community are coming back and we are very happy.”

Waterborne diseases have been eradicated in 53 percent of the target communities compared to 7 percent before the intervention. Open defecation free status has been achieved in 40 percent of the communities compared to 0 percent prior to the intervention.

“Before this water came, we used to get sick frequently from diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid because we were using river water. We didn’t have toilets; how can you think of building a toilet when you are struggling to find water to drink? Majority of people in this community are Muslims but there was no mosque. Since we got water, we don’t experience any more diseases, all households have built toilets and we have even built a mosque” says Alhassan Noor, a resident of kandia community, Sisala west district.

Punctuality for school going children has also improved to highly satisfactory, according to teachers, from 13 percent before the intervention to 73 percent after intervention.

“Before this water came, we used to get sick frequently from diarrhoea, cholera and typhoid because we were using river water. We didn’t have toilets; how can you think of building a toilet when you are struggling to find water to drink?”



Participatory Planning Approach Enhances Reconstruction Efforts in Haiti

The Challenge

On the 12th of January 2010 Haiti was struck by a violent earthquake, resulting in massive and catastrophic loss of life and destruction of livelihoods, property and public infrastructure. The capital city of Port-au-Prince suffered the brunt of the earthquake, leaving hundreds of thousands of homeless and displaced people. In the aftermath of the earthquake, a large number of this affected population moved to Canaan, a northern suburb of Port-au-Prince which was declared public utility land.

With a rapidly growing population estimated at over 200,000 today, the Canaan settlement presents a serious challenge to the central government, municipal authorities, and community groups struggling to provide adequate housing, basic services, public infrastructure, and employment opportunities for its residents sustainably.

The Intervention

As part of these efforts, an Urban Development Initiative for the Canaan area has been developed as a collaborative effort between international and local stakeholders under the supervision and guidance of the Unité de Construction de Logements et de Bâtiments Publics (UCLBP). Financial and human resources provided by the American Red Cross, USAID and the Haitian Red Cross have been instrumental in development of the project as well as in mobilization of different community groups engaged in the planning exercise.

The UN-Habitat Office in Haiti and UN-Habitat's Urban Planning and Design LAB have developed a long term strategic plan for the northern area of metropolitan Port-au-Prince which includes the Canaan settlement.

The Urban Planning and Design LAB is designed to respond promptly to the urban planning needs of national and local governments by bringing together a wide range of expertise and coordinating economic, legal, social and environmental aspects of urban development in order to institute concrete, implementable and sustainable projects. In Haiti, the LAB's work is focused on preparing a long-term vision for the development of northern Port-au-Prince, an urban infrastructure plan for Canaan, and neighbourhood development plans for 15 different areas in Port-au-Prince.

The project has brought together participants from the national government, municipal government, international and local organizations, academia, community groups and planning experts to discuss these three key





The proposed urban infrastructure plan creates a network of urban centers, streets and public spaces that would allow residents to access basic services, public facilities, businesses and working areas within 500 meters of their homes

components of sustainable urbanization in the reconstruction of Haiti.

The proposed urban infrastructure plan creates a network of urban centers, streets and public spaces that would allow residents to access basic services, public facilities, businesses and working areas within 500 meters of their homes. The main boulevards and streets are designed in accordance with the existing topography. They take into account the existing grid in order to provide a comprehensive network of streets and public spaces that are essential not only in limiting urban sprawl, but also in contributing to a compact and connected city.

Implementation of the plan will benefit residents and the city as a whole as management strategies aimed at reducing erosion and flooding risks in streets and public spaces have been adopted.

The process also incorporates a strategy to identify priority interventions at the sub-metropolitan level and scalable projects at the neighborhood level, resulting in a list of specific actions that have been discussed with, and prioritized by the government and community groups. This approach will have a direct impact on the quality of life for residents by improving access to main streets, residential streets, public spaces and marketplaces. The project will also construct a one stop administrative center for the Canaan settlement.

The Impact

Engagement of different stakeholders and prioritization of projects that respond directly to the priorities of the government and local residents has attracted funding for the improvement of streets and public spaces.

UN-Habitat In the field



UN-Habitat Programme Division

Regional Office Africa (ROAf)

Africa's increased urban population is a powerful asset for the continent's overall transformation. However, it can only attain its full potential when cities are properly planned and adequately serviced. A major change is needed in the course of Africa's urban development – a shift whose main thrust can be propelled by, first, a re-examination of the planning process and the delivery of basic services.

UN-Habitat Regional Office in Africa, located in Nairobi, Kenya, is working with African governments to take early action to position themselves for predominately urban populations. The portfolio of ongoing projects in Africa is very diverse in terms of geographic coverage and development partners.

Rafael Tuts

Director, Programme
Division, UN-Habitat



Raf oversees the work of UN-Habitat's seven thematic branches and four regional offices and has had an illustrious career with UN-Habitat including assignments as Coordinator of the Urban Planning and Design Branch; Head of the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch; Manager of the Localising Agenda 21 Programme and the Global Campaign on Urban Governance; and Chief of the Training and Capacity Building Branch. Following the Rio+20 Conference, Raf coordinated UN-Habitat's engagement in the formulation of the Sustainable Development Goals.

Together with colleagues from the World Bank, UNEP and Cities Alliance, Raf received the World Bank Vice-President Team Award in 2011 for global partnership building on Cities and Climate Change. He also received ISOCARP's 50th Anniversary Award in 2015, in recognition

of UN-Habitat's urban planning work.

He has authored and co-edited several publications on a wide range of sustainable urban development topics, including Urban Dialogues a book reflecting on visioning, action planning and co-production of urban space as a resource for sustainable development, based on the experiences of the Localizing Agenda 21 Programme in intermediate cities in Morocco, Kenya, Vietnam and Cuba.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat in 1995, he worked for the Department of Architecture, Urbanism and Planning of the University of Leuven in Belgium and the Housing Research and Development Unit of the University of Nairobi.

Raf holds a Master's degree in Architectural Engineering from the University of Leuven.

Eduardo López Moreno

Director, Research and
Capacity Development



Eduardo has over 25 years' academic and professional experience in housing and urban development policies, institutional analysis, global monitoring, and equity and urban poverty issues.

Dr. López-Moreno has been Chief of the State of the World's Cities, Chief of the Global Urban Observatory, Senior Technical Adviser in the Bureau of Africa and the Arab States at UN-HABITAT, and Chief Technical Adviser in Angola for UN-HABITAT.

Eduardo has authored an extensive number of publications including five books on topics related to social housing, land policies, equity and urban development. He is the Task Manager and principal author of the the UN-HABITAT flagship State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7, 2008/9, 2010/11 and 2012/13. He authored the study "Slums of the World: the Face of Urban Poverty in the New Millennium" (2003) for UN-Habitat. Recently, he published the book Construcción

de ciudades más equitativas: políticas públicas para la inclusión en América Latina co-published with CAF – Development Bank for Latin America (2014).

He has received numerous distinctions; among them member of the Scientific Panel on Urbanization, University of Columbia and Board Member of the Programme 'Global Urban Development', Prague Institute and member of the Editorial Board of the International Magazine 'Urban Space' published by IAARA, in Teheran, Iran.

Prior to joining the United Nations, he was visiting professor at the University of Louvain-la-Neuve (Belgium) and the University of New Mexico (USA).

Eduardo holds a PhD in Urban Geography and a Master's degree in Urban Sociology from the University of Paris III-Sorbonne in France. He also holds a BA in Architecture from the University of Guadalajara, Mexico.

Andre Dzikus

**Coordinator - Urban Basic Services
Branch & Acting Coordinator- Risk
Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch**



The two Branches manage the largest project portfolio of UN-Habitat. The UBSB is one of the seven core branches of the agency and covers its work on urban mobility, energy, water and sanitation, drainage, waste management and ICT.

Andre has been with UN-Habitat for 25 years. As Branch Coordinator he pioneered the Urban Electric Mobility Initiative (UEMI), and as Chief of Section for Water and Sanitation, he oversaw programmes which provided improved access to water and sanitation to two million people in Asia and forms a basis for translating Agenda 2030 and the New Urban Agenda into action. The vision is to increase this to more than three million people over the next few years.

In 2002, Andre was instrumental establishment of the UN-Habitat Water and Sanitation Trust Fund (WSTF), a major outcome of the World Summit for Sustainable

Development. In 2014 the Trust Fund was expanded into the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund, covering UN-Habitat's work in water and sanitation, urban mobility, energy, waste and drainage. It is a one-stop multi-donor multi-programme facility promoting pro-poor investments for increased access to affordable basic services.

Andre, who has also been instrumental in developing strategic partnerships with development banks, the private sector, and a wide range of philanthropic and development foundations, is a strong believer that it is our role to "help ever" and in whatever we do, to ensure we make a difference in the lives of others.

He holds a degree in Urban Geography, with specialization in urban and regional planning with additional specialisation in tropical epidemiology, from the University of Heidelberg, Germany.

Ben C. Arimah

The World Cities Report



Ben C. Arimah is Senior Human Settlements Officer in the Research and Capacity Development Branch of UN-Habitat based in Nairobi, Kenya. He has primary responsibility for UN-Habitat's flagship report: The World Cities Report.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Ben worked at the University of the West Indies, Mona Campus, the University of Botswana, National University of Lesotho and the University of Ibadan, Nigeria. His research interests include: urban housing markets and problems of urbanization in developing countries; human dimensions of global environmental change; and the development geography of Africa.

Ben's articles have been published in: Urban Studies; Land Economics; Environment and Planning A; Journal of Human Development; International Planning Studies; OPEC Review; Habitat International; Journal of Environmental Management; International Journal of Sustainable Development and World Ecology; and African Development Review among others. He has also contributed chapters in several books.

He was named Salzburg Fellow on the Entrepreneurial City, and has also won the Global Change Systems for Analysis, Research and Training (START) Young Scientist Award.

Ben holds a PhD in in Housing and Urban Development.

Claudio Acioly Jr.

Unit Leader - Capacity Development Unit



Claudio Acioly was Chief, Housing Policy at UN-Habitat and coordinator of the United Nations Housing Rights Programme from 2008-2012. He has worked as program manager, practitioner, technical advisor, development consultant and training and capacity building expert in the field of housing, slum upgrading and urban management working with governments, academic institutions, civil society organizations and community-based organizations. Claudio has published widely on these themes.

He is the author of UN-Habitat's Practical Guide for Conducting Housing Profile and UN-Habitat's strategy Street-led Citywide Slum Upgrading. He has been a consultant for the World Bank and several United Nations

agencies including UNDP, UNECE, UN-HABITAT and bilateral organizations in Moldova, Bulgaria, Armenia, Cuba, Bolivia, Brazil, Egypt, Philippines, Tanzania, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Korea and Mozambique to mention just a few.

From 1993 to 2008 he was senior housing and land policy expert with the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies-IHS. He became a Fellow of the Lincoln Institute of Land Policy, USA in 2004, coordinating programs on informal land markets and informal settlement regularisation in Latin America.

Claudio is an Architect, Urban Planner and development practitioner with for over 33 years' experience gained working in more than 30 countries.

Christophe Lalande

Unit Leader - Housing Unit



Christophe supports implementation of the UN Global Housing Strategy through producing policy guidelines, methodologies and tools to address specific challenges faced by the urban poor and the most vulnerable groups in cities in the realisation of their right to adequate housing.

He has professional working experience in housing policy and development, in particular in the design and implementation of inclusive and sustainable housing policies and programmes in developing countries.

Christophe holds a Bachelor's degree in Political Sciences and a Master's in Public Policy and Political Sociology from the Institut d'Etudes Politiques de Paris.

Dan Lewis

Unit Leader - Urban Risk Reduction Unit



Since 1997 Dan has worked for UN-Habitat in Somalia, Kosovo and Nairobi, and has managed the Agency's global portfolio of disaster and conflict related work since 2002.

As a civil engineer and private consultant, he has worked in urban reconstruction and housing programmes in South Africa and Chile, as well as with First Nations communities in his home region on Vancouver Island, Canada since 1987.

Dan currently leads the UN-Habitat Global Urban Resilience Programme, designing new standards for measuring and monitoring the resilience of cities. The City Resilience Profiling Programme, and its associated projects and team, are based in the Risk Reduction Unit's programme office in Barcelona, Spain.

Diana A. López Caramazana

Unit Leader - Local Government and Decentralisation Unit



Diana coordinates the organisation's work in the fields of urban governance, transparency, sustainability and innovation in public administration and has been dedicated to issues related to local governance and the role of local governments in international development since 1997 when she entered the UN System as information manager at the International Labour Organisation – ILO, providing expertise on local economic development for local government in Latin America.

In 2003 she was seconded by the ILO to the Italian Ministry for Foreign Affairs, contributing to building tools for economic internationalisation within the Italian regional governments. In 2006 she joined UN-HABITAT as Head of the Spanish Office for Best Practices and Local Leadership until 2010, working

mainly on the promotion of decentralisation and in city-to-city co-operation. She was Special Assistant of the Executive Director of UN-Habitat until 2013 when she moved back to work in the field of local governance.

Diana holds a BA in Political Sciences from the University of Granada and studied International Relations at the Robert Schuman University in Strasbourg (France), obtaining a Diploma from the Institute for Political Studies (IEP). As a graduate she attended the AMLOG (Advanced Management of Local Governance) programme at the University of Birmingham (UK) leading to an MSc in Public Service Management.

She is fluent in Spanish, English, Italian and French, with some knowledge of Arabic and Portuguese.

Douglas Ragan

Unit Leader - Youth and Livelihoods



Doug manages UN-Habitat's Global Youth Development portfolio with projects in over 70 developing countries. The programme focuses on urban youth development, including youth employment, governance and participation. He manages three flagship youth programmes for UN-Habitat: the Urban Youth Fund, the Innovate Africa Initiative and the One Stop Youth Resource Centres. Doug has authored, co-authored and edited 17 research and policy publications on urban youth issues, the most recent being the Global Youth-Led Development series, representing some of the first research done on youth-led agencies in the developing world. He has worked in youth development at the local, national and international level for the past 30 years.

Doug holds a Bachelor's Degree in Latin American Studies, a Masters Degree in Management and is currently working to complete his PhD with a focus on youth-led organizations in slums and informal settlements.

Graham Alabaster



Graham has over 35 years' experience in the water sanitation and solid waste management sector, working in over 50 countries. He is currently on loan from UN-Habitat to WHO's Department for Public Health and Environment where he is developing joint programmes on urban development, health and environment. He is the co-chair of the UN-Water taskforce on wastewater and water quality.

He represents UNHABITAT on many inter-agency bodies and was the Agency's representative on the WHO Panel of Experts for Environmental Control of Vector-borne Diseases (PEEM). In addition to designing and implementing projects in Africa and Latin America, he has global responsibility for policy issues relating to sanitation, solid and hazardous waste management, and monitoring water and sanitation SDGs. He has recently conceptualised and led the development of the Global Extended Monitoring Initiative (GEMI) for the monitoring of the Water Goal of the SDGs

Graham is a public health engineer who has a special interest in urban systems and is experienced in provision of services to low income urban populations. He joined UN-HABITAT in 1992 and played a key role in building the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch (now Urban Basic Services Branch) where he was Section Chief responsible for Africa and Latin America in the Human Settlements Financing Division.

Starting his professional life as a Research Fellow, he travelled extensively in Africa, Asia and Latin America, providing technical assistance on sustainable wastewater management and sanitation, and thereafter as an International consultant.

Graham is an Engineer by profession, with a first degree in Chemical Engineering and a PhD in Civil Engineering. He is a Chartered Engineer and Fellow of the Royal Society of Health.

Laura Petrella

Unit Leader - City Planning, Extension and Design Unit and Officer-in-Charge - Urban Planning and Design Branch



Laura, who oversees UN-Habitat's Urban Planning LAB, the Public Space Programme, and capacity development activities in Urban Planning is an architect and urban planner trained at the Istituto Universitario di Architettura di Venezia IUAV, in Italy. She has wide ranging experience in urban development work, capacity development for local authorities, and management of local planning processes. The urban Planning and Design Branch promotes sustainable planning practice through global, regional and local initiatives.

Laura has previously worked on slum upgrading, environmental planning and management, and urban safety in UN-Habitat and was in charge of UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme from 2002 to 2010.

Marco Kamiya

Branch Coordinator - Urban Economy and Finance Branch



In addition to working on field projects with UN-Habitat, Marco conducts research on municipal finance, the economics of urban expansion, and local infrastructure-investment policy.

He is a member of the Habitat III advisory group on local finance and the UN Inter-Agency Task Force on Finance for Development. He is co-editor of the forthcoming UN-HABITAT handbooks *Finance for City Leaders* and *Three Pillars of Urbanization* with Morphology Institute Paris; and contributor to UN-HABITAT's flagship publication *World Cities Report 2016*.

He has held senior positions at CAF Development Bank of Latin America in Caracas, Venezuela, the Inter-American Development Bank in Washington, and with PADECO Co., Limited in Tokyo, working on international development projects.

Marco studied Economics in Lima and Tokyo, and International Development at Harvard University.

Oumar Sylla

**Unit Leader - Land and Global
Land Tools Network (GLTN) Unit**



Oumar has been Senior Advisor in UN-Habitat's Regional Office for Africa where he coordinated a regional program to strengthen the capacity of member states in the Great Lakes Region to deal with land and property issues related to displaced persons in support of the ICGLR Secretariat and the Peace and Stability Framework for the Great Lakes Region.

Prior to that, Oumar managed UN-Habitat's land program in the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). As Chief Technical Advisor, he helped build mechanisms and tools to deal with land disputes and improve land governance, supported the DRC Government to develop a participatory road map for a comprehensive land reform, and supported the land administration and National Land Reform Commission. He also coordinated capacity

development and advocacy, and supported coordination of development partners, partnership building and fundraising.

He has worked with the European Union as a Land Policy Advisor in South Sudan and Burkina Faso and was a Research Fellow in the Laboratory of Legal Anthropology in Paris 1 Sorbonne, working mainly on land and decentralization policies in West Africa.

Oumar holds a Master's degree in Local Government Law from Saint Louis University in Senegal, and two Master's degrees in African Legal studies and Legal Anthropology focused on land and natural resources from Paris 1 Sorbonne; and in Territorial Project Management from Paris 13 Creteil.

Remy Sietchiping

**Unit Leader - Regional and
Metropolitan Planning
Unit**



Remy oversees the development of strategic programmes of UN-Habitat including National Urban Policy, urban-rural linkages, metropolitan development, and the International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning. Previously, he was Project Leader of the Global Land Tool Network where he coordinated work on tool development processes, particularly on access to land and tenure security, land management and planning, land information, land policy and legislation and land-based financing.

With over 20 years working experience gained in the UN systems, academia, private sector, public sector and NGOs in Australia, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Jamaica and worldwide, Dr. Sietchiping has over 40 publications to his name, including books, peer-reviewed articles, papers in proceedings and reports.

Remy holds a PhD in Geography from the University of Melbourne, Australia and is fluent in French and English.

Robert Lewis-Lettington

**Unit Leader - Urban Legislation
and Acting Branch Coordinator -
Legislation, Land and Governance
Unit**



Robert has twenty years professional experience, primarily working in multilateral processes and in providing technical assistance in policy formulation and legislative processes to a variety of partners.

With field experience in more than forty countries, Robert's specialist areas include legislative drafting, physical planning and development control, intellectual property rights and information management, environment and natural resources, international trade and human rights.

Robert holds a Juris Doctor degree in law from the College of William and Mary (USA), an MA (Hons) degree specialising in Architectural History from the University of St. Andrews (Scotland) and a MLitt (Dist) degree in History from the University of the Highlands and Islands (Scotland).

Robert P. Ndugwa

Unit Leader - Global Urban Observatory



Robert is responsible for UN-Habitat's global urban monitoring and reporting on SDGs, and is also the Chief Statistician for UN-Habitat. He has previously worked with UNICEF as head of research, evaluation and statistics in the Kenya Country Office; at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, UK; the University of Heidelberg-Germany; African Population and Health Research Center in Kenya; and at Makerere University Kampala.

He has contributed to several book chapters and peer-review articles in Journals including Journal of Urban Health; Lancet; International Journal of Epidemiology; Journal of Child Health; Malaria Journal; Studies in Family Planning; and Bulletin of World Health Organization among others.

Robert holds a PhD in Epidemiology and Biostatistics.

Vincent Kitio

Unit Leader - Energy Unit



The Energy Unit focuses on universal energy access for the urban poor, energy efficiency in the built environment, and renewable energy technologies in urban areas.

Vincent oversees implementation of two regional programs in Africa: 'Promoting Energy Efficiency in Buildings in East Africa' which aims to mainstream energy efficient measures into housing policies, building codes, building practices and building finance; and the 'Mainstreaming Energy and Resource Efficiency Measures and Renewable Energy Technologies into Building Codes in West Africa' covering Senegal, Nigeria and Cameroon.

He represents UN-Habitat in UN-Energy, which was established to ensure coherence among all UN agencies in addressing energy issues for sustainable development, as well as supporting the SE4ALL decade. He also represents UN-Habitat on the Advisory Board of the Covenant of Mayors in Sub Saharan Africa.

Vincent holds a PhD in Architecture from the Institute of Architecture in Venice and a PhD in Appropriate Energy Technologies (energy efficiency and renewable energy) for Developing Countries, from the University of Rome la Sapienza, Italy.

Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific

(ROAP)

The dynamic and populous Asia-Pacific region is home to 4.5 billion people and represents 61 percent of the world's population.

Comprising 58 countries that stretch from Iran in the West to the Pacific Islands in the East, the region is perhaps also the most diverse in terms of economy, society, culture, environment, and human settlements.

The UN-Habitat Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP) was established in Fukuoka, Japan in August 1997, based on Resolution 16/25 (7 May 1997) of the then Commission on Human Settlements and a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Fukuoka Partners and UN-Habitat. The contractual relationship between the Fukuoka Partners (including the Fukuoka Prefecture, the Fukuoka City, the Fukuoka International Exchange Foundation, and the Cooperating Committee of the UN-Habitat Fukuoka Office) is defined in an MOU, which is reviewed and renewed every five years. The fourth MOU was signed on 12 May 2012 and is valid until mid-2017.

Since its establishment, the UN-Habitat ROAP has played an important role in bringing technical expertise and financial assistance to developing countries to cope with enormous and complex challenges posed by rapid urbanization, disasters, and conflict.

Yoshinobu Fukasawa

**Director - Regional Office
for Asia and the Pacific
(ROAP)**



Yoshi joined UN-Habitat ROAP in January 2012 and assumed the position of Regional Director for Asia and the Pacific in June 2013. He is responsible for 28 countries in Asia and the Pacific, overseeing 79 projects in housing, disaster and post-conflict reconstruction, urban development, and community infrastructure among others, totalling approximately USD 308 million in 2014.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, he worked for the Government of Japan in national and regional territorial development planning and policy formulation, implementation of regional development projects, as well as disaster risk reduction and emergency management. He started his career in the

Japanese Government in the National Land Agency of the Prime Minister's Office, which was later transformed into the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport. He was seconded to UN-Habitat, Nairobi, and later to UN Department of Humanitarian Affairs, Geneva. Yoshi was engaged in reconstruction resulting from the destruction caused by the 1995 Kobe Earthquake and several international bilateral cooperation projects.

Yoshi holds a B.E. in Civil Engineering and M.E. in Social Engineering from the University of Tokyo, and an M.E., in Interdisciplinary Science and Engineering, Tokyo Institute of Technology.

Avi Sarkar

**Regional Advisor - South
East Asia, Urban Basic
Services Branch**



Avi Sarkar oversees two flagship projects, Mekong Region Water and Sanitation Initiative (MEK-WATSAN) and Water for Asian Cities (WAC). Previously, he has represented UN – Habitat's Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in UNCT in Lao PDR, and was Regional Coordinator of Norwegian People's Aid, based in Phnom Penh; Management Advisor for UXO Lao Programme, a UNDP Trust Fund initiative; and an Analyst for a fund management group.

Avi holds a BSc in Physics (Hons); a Master's degree and a PhD in Economics; and an MBA.

Bella Evidente

**Country Programme
Manager and Head -
UN-Habitat Pakistan**



Ms. Bella Evidente has more than 24 years' extensive professional experience that combines intellectual, strategic and managerial leadership in international, multi-cultural environments and uniquely challenging situations.

As the Country Programme Manager for Pakistan, she leads and oversees the UN-Habitat country office and its portfolio, steers UN-Habitat's delivery of its urban mandate in Pakistan by working closely with the Government at all levels, and building strategic coalitions with other UN agencies, and with relevant stakeholders and partners.

Together with the national team and working within the governance framework of Delivering as One, Ms. Evidente advocates for the mainstreaming of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), particularly Goal 11 that is focused on making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable into Pakistan's national development

plans in the context of rapid urbanization. Ms. Evidente is passionate about working at the field/country level, particularly in the management of humanitarian and development programmes and projects.

With the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III), Ms. Evidente's goal is to raise the profile and value of UN-Habitat in Pakistan as facilitator for urban policy dialogues, as broker for linking SDGs and NUA, as convener of urban actors at all levels, and as catalyst for urban knowledge and technical advice to Governments in the implementation, monitoring and reporting of SDGs particularly Goal 11 and the NUA.

In addition to her successful professional career with the United Nations, Bella graduated Magna Cum Laude and was a recipient of two international awards for Academic Excellence in All Fields of Higher Education and in Social Sciences.

Bijay Karmacharya

**Country Programme
Manager - Myanmar**



Bijay has 24 years' experience in the field of development and has been involved with large national programs targeting employment generation, food security, poverty alleviation, community infrastructure development, community empowerment, local governance building, promoting gender equality, and improving livelihoods of rural and urban poor.

He joined UN-Habitat Myanmar in 2012 as Country Programme Manager and leads all aspects of programme development, implementation, personnel management and financial resources management. He was UN-Habitat Chief Technical

Advisor (CTA) in Pakistan as well as CTA and Head of Agency in UN-Habitat Mongolia. From 2005 to 2008, Bijay worked for UN-Habitat in Afghanistan as National Solidarity Programme (NSP) advisor, then as NSP Management Officer, Rural Programme Manager, and as Chief Technical Advisor of the National Solidarity Programme, one of the largest UN-Habitat programmes in Afghanistan. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Bijay worked for GTZ in his native Nepal where he started his career as an engineer in the Second Aquaculture Development Project in the Fisheries Development Division of the Government of Nepal.

Bhushan Tuladhar

Regional Technical Advisor - South Asia, Urban Basic Services Branch



Bushan has over 24 years' experience working on various urban and environmental issues in government, municipalities and NGOs. Based in Kathmandu, Nepal he is currently leading projects on Water and Sanitation, particularly the Global Sanitation Fund Project in Nepal, and providing advisory support on other basic services such as mobility, energy and waste management.

Bushan holds a Master's in Environmental Engineering from Cornell University, USA.

Chanaka Talpahewa

UN-Habitat Programme Manager - Sri Lanka



Chanaka Talpahewa has extensive experience in resource mobilisation, policy formulation, relief and rehabilitation, diplomacy and advocacy. Prior to joining UN-Habitat, he worked in the Sri Lankan Foreign Service and the Ministry of Foreign Affairs for 16 years.

Chanaka was a key player in the Presidential Task Force established to coordinate the planning and implementation of recovery programmes following the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami.

Christopher E. Rollo

Country Programme Manager - Philippines



Cris was responsible for the 5-year MDG localization programme as knowledge manager, before taking over as Country Programme Manager, Philippines. He led UN-Habitat's post-Haiyan Shelter Recovery and Reconstruction programme in which the People's Process was used. The process has been acknowledged by the National Housing Authority as an innovative approach which has been adopted for the Government's Community-based Shelter and Livelihood (CBSL) programme.

UN-Habitat supports national government in various reviews, as well as in enhancing the National Urban Development and Housing Framework (NUDHF), and in formulation of local shelter planning guidelines which have been rolled out to more than 1,100 local governments. With UN-Habitat's technical assistance,

selected secondary cities have planned city extensions to manage rapid urban growth and based on this experience, a guide on undertaking city extension planning has been published for use by local governments.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Cris was the Deputy Director for Programmes of the Metropolitan Museum of Manila, and also worked as a systems analyst at the Manila Electric Company. He is a visual artist, writer and cultural worker with a passion for promoting the development of Mindanao arts and culture

Cris holds a B.A in Economics from the Ateneo de Manila University and pursued Master's in Business Management from the Asian Institute of Management and McGill University (Montreal, Canada). He also studied law at the University of Santo Tomas Faculty of Civil Law.

Enkhtsetseg Shagdarsuren

**National Programme
Manager - Mongolia**



Enkhtsetseg joined the UN-Habitat Mongolia office in 2006 as a project manager of the Pro-poor Ger Area Upgrading Strategy and Investment Programme of Ulaanbaatar City project. She has been the National Team Leader of UN-Habitat Mongolia, guiding the team in social mobilization and organization, and in inclusive urban planning and development.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, she worked in the Land Administration and Urban Development Department of the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar and the Ministry of Construction and Urban Development of Mongolia as a GIS Expert, Head of Land Information Center, and Head of Division.

Enkhtsetseg holds a Master's degree in Computer Science with specialization in GIS.

Mariko Sato

**Head - UN-Habitat Office
in Bangkok**



Mariko serves as Bangkok Office liaison for the Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific (ROAP).

Since joining UN-Habitat in 1998, she has worked at the Regional Office based in Fukuoka, providing technical advice to field projects in urban governance, slum upgrading, as well as post-disaster and post-conflict settlements recovery and rehabilitation. She subsequently moved the UN-Habitat Geneva Office where she coordinated the Agency's response to Human Settlements in Crisis and contributed to the IASC cluster system.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Mariko managed programmes for CITYNET, the Regional Network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements based in Yokohama. She also worked for the Mayor of Akita City in Japan and for a Japanese bank in New York City. She advocates the Peoples' Process in urban development and post crisis settlements recovery.

Mariko holds an M.A. in International Affairs from Columbia University, focusing on development studies.

Nguyen Quang

**UN-Habitat Programme
Manager - Viet Nam**



Quang is an architect, urban planner and manager with over 30 years' experience in practical project research and implementation in different areas of urban and rural planning and management, infrastructure development, low income housing, environmental and heritage conservation, multi-sector investment planning, poverty reduction and local economic development.

During the 2014 World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia he was awarded the IHS Alumni International Urban Professional Award for his exemplary leadership in Urban Management and Development.

Sok Vanna

**UN-Habitat Programme
Manager - Cambodia**



Sok Vanna is the UN-Habitat Programme Manager (HPM) for Cambodia. He is responsible for planning and managing projects ranging from policy advocacy to basic service delivery, assisting government ministries, local authorities, communities and other stakeholders involved in human settlements development issues. He has worked on projects in decentralization; de-concentration; urban governance; housing; community development and mobilization among the urban poor; environmental management; disaster mitigation; water and sanitation; cities and climate change; and poverty reduction. Sok is a member of the United Nations Country Team in

Cambodia and sits on a number of Technical Working Groups on land and urbanization in the country.

He has been population and development programme manager for the UNFPA in Cambodia, project officer in the Community Action for Child Rights Programme of UNICEF Cambodia, decentralization training advisor for a UNDP project on Partnership for Local Governance, and national project coordinator for Aqua Outreach Program in Cambodia.

Sok holds a Master's degree in Regional and Rural Development Planning from the Asian Institute of Technology, Bangkok, Thailand.

Srinivasa Popuri

**Senior Human
Settlements Officer
(ROAP)**



Srinivasa has over 23 years' experience as a development professional in the field of human settlements, advancing Habitat agenda. He has worked with UN offices in Asia and the Pacific for 19 years and since 2002, has been associated with Afghanistan, where UN-Habitat has a 24-year partnership working with the Government and people to improve livelihoods sustainably and benefiting over 13 million marginalized and vulnerable people.

Timothy McNair

**Chief Technical Advisor -
UN-Habitat Sri Lanka**



Timothy is responsible for overseeing UN-Habitat's programs in Sri Lanka assisting Government of Sri Lanka on technical advisory services, including the post-conflict housing reconstruction and also the recent human development initiative in the plantation sector. He has over 30 years' experience working on projects related to human settlements in Asia, including 6 years with UN-Habitat.

Vincent Pyati

**Country Program Manager
- Papua New Guinean**



Vincent manages the Papua New Guinea Settlement Upgrading Programme and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) funded by the Cities' Alliance.

His previous experience includes working in the Physical Planning Division of the Department of Lands and Physical Planning of the Papua New Guinea Government and as a research fellow in land and urban development issues with the National Research Institute.

Vincent holds a Bachelor of Arts degree in Public Policy Management from the University of Papua New Guinea and a Master's degree in Urban Management and Development from the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies, Erasmus University, Rotterdam, Netherlands.

Zhang Zhenshan

**UN-Habitat Programme
Manager - China**



Zhenshan is responsible for liaison between UN-Habitat and the Government of China and for implementation of programmes in China. He was Logistics Officer for the UN-Habitat Settlement Rehabilitation Programme in Erbil, Iraq from 2002 to 2004, before taking up assignments as an independent consultant for UN-Habitat and the Asian Development Bank respectively, and then as Chief Technical Advisor for the UN-Habitat Water for Asian Cities Programme.

He oversaw implementation of the *Comprehensive Improvement in Qinhuai River Environment*

Programme in Nanjing City, and the *Mekong Water and Sanitation Initiative*.

Zhenshan worked in the China Ministry of Construction and in the Ministry of foreign affairs where he was Deputy Representative of the Chinese Permanent Mission to UN-Habitat from 1996 to 2001, responsible for facilitating cooperation between UN-Habitat and the Government of China.

He has a wealth of experience in Green and Sustainable Urban Development, Cities for Climate Change, Water and Sanitation, and Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation.

Regional Office for Arab States

(ROAS)

The Arab region is one of the most urbanized regions in the world. 56% of its 357 million people live in cities and the number is increasing. Demographic processes made the population quadruple in the past 40 years, and rural-urban migration as well as refugee flows caused by conflicts and natural disasters brought even more people to the cities, seeking a better quality of life, stability and safety. This trend is ongoing and thus urbanization will continue to be one of the most significant sources of economic and social transformation in the upcoming decades.

Cities have long been hubs of growth, productivity and invention, and the prosperity of nations is closely linked to them. The world is becoming more and more aware of this connection and the Arab region is no exception. Thus, in December 2015, with the support of UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States (ROAS) and under the auspices of the Government of Egypt and the League of Arab States, Arab leaders came together at the First Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development to review how the role of urbanization as a source of development and contributor of peace and stability can be realized through a trans-regional effort. UN-Habitat will support Arab states in efforts to achieve sustainable urbanization and the right of adequate housing to all, within the framework of the New Urban Agenda which will be finalized at the 3rd United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III) taking place in 2016.

Dyfed Aubrey

**Director - UN-Habitat
Regional Office for Arab
States**



Dyfed oversees a growing portfolio of technical cooperation across 18 Arab States to achieve sustainable urbanization and adequate housing for all, and to alleviate suffering resulting from inadequate access to shelter and basic services in urban areas affected by crisis. Previously, he worked with UN-Habitat in Iraq in housing, land reform, urban planning and slum upgrading.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Dyfed worked with NGOs to improve slums in Kenya, and to rebuild houses, schools and infrastructure through community-led processes in Sri Lanka and Kosovo; and in commercial architecture and urban design in the UK.

Iman Zaki Abdel Hamid

**Head - UN-Habitat
Jordan Office**



Prior to Joining UN-Habitat in 2013, Iman was a Ministerial Advisor for Urban and Master Planning, and Technical Secretary of the Higher Steering Committee for the supervision of Master Plans' Programme headed by the Prime Minister.

She has over 29 years' broad experience in regional, spatial and policy planning, having led different sections and departments of Urban and Master Planning at the Ministry of Municipal Affairs. In 2013, upon request from the Office of the Prime Minister, she took up the position of Commissioner at the Development and Free Zones' Commission on temporary assignment.

Iman holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Architecture and specializes in urban, regional, and city planning.

Joe Hooper

**Head - UN-Habitat
Programme for the
Palestinian People**



Joe was engaged as training Officer at UN-Habitat Headquarters in Nairobi before being appointed Head of Unit, Local Government and Decentralization, and Coordinator for the Urban Legislation, Land, and Governance Branch. He led the process of consolidating the new sub-programme and its global expansion. He has been Head of Office for Palestine since 2015.

Joe has worked with the United Nations for over 15 years across 4 regions and at the global, regional, and national levels for the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in the United Nations Administrative Territory of Kosovo, overseeing the local governance and shelter reconstruction portfolio.

He also served as Head of UNDP's field office in Jaffna, Sri Lanka; at the UNDP Country Office in Albania; as an out-posted Advisor for Institutional Reform and Capacity Development for the Bureau of Development Policy Capacity Development Group in Kenya; and as a Specialist for Capacity Development covering Central Asia, Western Balkans and the Caucasus based in Slovakia.

Joe holds a Diploma in Organizational Leadership from Oxford University and a Master's degree from the University of Victoria focusing on the articulation of genocide in literature. He is currently studying for his MBA at the Said Business School in Oxford. He also holds technical qualifications in relation to disaster management, trauma, emergency medicine, and multi-stakeholder negotiations.

Katja Schäfer

**Human Settlements
Officer – Regional Office
for Arab States (ROAS)**



Since June 2010, Katja has worked towards implementation of UN-Habitat's vision, work programme, and advocacy role particularly in the field of urban governance and secure tenure. She has been HSO in charge of Egypt, Morocco, Lebanon, Sudan and Yemen, in addition to performing technical backstopping functions in other countries in the Arab Region, particularly GCC countries, Jordan, Iraq, Libya, Palestine, Saudi Arabia and Syria.

Katja has assisted the UN-Habitat country teams and counterparts in the identification of priority interventions in human settlements and provided input to human settlements analysis and needs assessment in housing and urban development policy, strategy and programme development.

She has been championing the development of regional programmes in National Urban Policies and the impact of migration on urbanization in the Arab region. She coordinated with the League of Arab

States the preparation of the Arab Strategy for Housing and Sustainable Urban Development 2030, the 1st Arab Ministerial Forum for Housing and Urban Development and the Economic and Social Commission for Western Asia (ESCWA) the regional implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals – particularly the urban targets – and the New Urban Agenda.

Prior to joining UN-Habitat Katja was a member of the GIZ Project for the Development of Historic Cities in Yemen team responsible for Urban (Heritage) Management. She provided support to national authorities and local administrations as well as residents in sustainably managing urban development of the vast range of historic cities and settlements in Yemen. The emphasis of the project was on local economic development.

Katja graduated in the field of Architecture, and has completed an advanced university degree in urban development.

Monceyf Fadili

**UN-Habitat Project
Manager – Morocco**



Monceyf has extensive experience in supporting urban management and developing policies for sustainable local development; urban planning and local governance; formulation and implementation of projects within the framework of participatory, integrated and sustainable spatial development policies; and promotion of pilot programmes in national development strategies. He has also worked in the United Nations intervention system and has experience in strengthening the capacity of local development actors, and in social support.

His most recent publications include *Municipal Development Plan of the City of Rabat*

(collective); *Environmental profile of Tarfaya*; *Environmental Profile of Ksar Aït Ben Haddou* (co-author); *Implementation and Support of the Local Agenda 21 Process in the Southern Provinces of Morocco*; and *Sustainable Cities Programme/ Local Agenda 21*.

His experience in the UN System spans over 30 years, working for UNESCO, UNDP and UN-Habitat.

Monceyf holds a PhD in the Geography of Spatial Planning from the University of Paris I Panthéon-Sorbonne, and Architect DPLG from the École Nationale Supérieure des Beaux Arts in Paris.

Rania Hedeya

UN-Habitat Programme Manager - Egypt



Prior to joining UN-Habitat, Rania worked for UNDP in the area of Decentralization and Local Development, with special focus on Local Economic Development and as RBM officer working in strategic planning, monitoring, and evaluation.

Rania is a Political Science graduate of the Arab University of Cairo and a member in the Egypt Network for Integrated Development as an expert in Administrative and Fiscal Decentralization. She is also a member of the Peer Review Group, composed of practitioners from the field and based in regional centers and country offices, and sits on a task force of selected members of the Peer Review Group and external experts.

Siamak Moghaddam

Acting Head - UN - Habitat Office in Tehran



Siamak Moghaddam is Chief of the UN-Habitat Office in Tehran. He joined UN-Habitat as a Programme Management Officer and was appointed Fund Manager at the Habitat II Conference Secretariat in 1995. He subsequently moved to UNOPS Headquarters in New York and then to UNOPS Regional Office in Bangkok as a Portfolio Manager.

In 2008 Siamak returned to UN-Habitat as the Country Programme Manager in Pakistan before being posted to Headquarters in Nairobi where he worked in the Office of the Executive Director and the Office of Management. During his tenure, the UN-Habitat Pakistan portfolio became the second largest country programme after Afghanistan.

Siamak has also worked as an economist in the Ministry of Planning and Budget in Iran, and with the Iranian Chamber of Commerce, Industries and Mines to set up an economic studies unit.

Szilard Fricska

UN-Habitat Representative - Syria



Szilard has been UN-Habitat's representative in Syria for two years.

Prior to working in Damascus, She was Regional Coordinator for UN-Habitat's Syria response programme, based in Amman. Szilard spent three years in Geneva coordinating the Housing, Land and Property portfolio within the Humanitarian Coordination System. He has worked on land, housing and planning issues for UN -Habitat in a variety of countries including Afghanistan, Pakistan, Iraq, Liberia, Kenya, South Sudan, Sudan, and Haiti.

Tarek Osseiran

Head - UN-Habitat Lebanon Country Programme



Tarek joined UN-Habitat in 2007 as a Project Manager and was appointed Programme Manager in 2013. He has 25 years' experience in social and community development gained from different international and UN agencies. His career began at Save the Children - USA in the mid-eighties while Lebanon was suffering from the consequences of civil war. He moved on to UNDP during the country's recovery phase before leading a World Bank community development project implemented over a 5- year period in partnership with the Lebanese Government.

Since 2005, Tarek has been delivering two courses, Partnership Strategies and Project Development to graduate students at the University of Saint Joseph in Beirut. Both courses are based on best practices from personal experience.

Tarek Azmy El-Sheikh

**UN Habitat
Representative
& Director of UN Habitat
Program for Kingdom of
Saudi Arabia (KSA)**



Tarek has more than 21 years' experience in Housing and Urban Development policy formulation, training, advisory services and projects implementation. He has led several knowledge development and information building programs in Housing and Urban Development including preparation of background report on Arab Cities 2010; Tunisia Housing Profile 2010; Arab Platform for Urban Observatories; Kuwait Urban Profile; Bahrain Urban Profiles; and State of Arab Cities Report for 2011.

He contributed to the preparation of the State of Iraq Cities Report; Iraq Housing Market Assessment; Iraq Housing Policy; and Egypt Urban Development Strategy. He has also led on several urban development initiatives in the Arab region and trained professionals from various Arab States on land development and informal settlement upgrading. Additionally, he has authored a number of publications and articles in international journals.

Tarek has been Housing Sector Lead in the UN Country Team of Iraq; Assistant Professor at the Urban Training and Studies Institute in Cairo; and Deputy Director of the Institute. He was coordinator of the Egyptian Cabinet Committee for Real Estate prior to joining the United Nations in 2004.

He is a member of the British University Graduates Association; the European Network for Housing Research; the International Society for City and Regional Planners; and The Eisenhower Fellowships Network.

Tarek gained his PhD from Cairo University after studies at the University of Karlsruhe, Germany and holds a Master's degree in Development Administration and Planning from the University of Bristol, and a Master's degree in Community Development from Cairo University.

Wael Al-Ashhab

**Head - UN-HABITAT
Sudan Country
Programme**



Wael manages a healthy portfolio with a focus on Urban and Regional Planning, Land Management and Legislation Reform; Pro-poor housing reconstruction and provision of basic community infrastructure. He chairs the Programme Management Team of the United Nations Country Team, providing leadership and guidance to the Team in developing the new United Nations Development Framework (UNDAF), and guiding the process of implementation of the Darfur Development Strategy (DDS).

Wael joined UN-HABITAT Iraq Programme in March 2007 as the Head of Infrastructure and Basic Services Pillar, managing a number of projects under the early recovery and development of Iraq such as Local Area Urban Development Plan; Public Sector Reform; Private Sector

Development; and upgrading housing and basic and social services projects.

He has more than 25 years' project management experience in different capacities, including project manager for planning, design and implementation of a wide range of infrastructure projects at national and international levels with distinguished engineering consulting firms in Jordan, Kuwait and Lesotho.

Wael has worked for the United Nations as an International Professional for the last 15 years. He worked for UNICEF between the years 1999 and 2007 in the planning, design and implementation of social services and community infrastructure.

Wael holds a first degree in Civil Engineering

Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean

(ROLAC)

In 1996, the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) began operations in the region from Rio de Janeiro, Brazil. In 2002, ROLAC opened representations in Mexico, Colombia, Ecuador, Cuba, Haiti and Costa Rica. Recently, the work of the Agency has come to El Salvador. ROLAC supported the organization of the Fifth World Urban Forum, in 2010, and the global celebration of World Habitat Day in 2003, both activities held in Rio de Janeiro.

In our efforts to promote and enhance sustainable urban development in the region, ROLAC convenes the Latin American and Caribbean Ministerial Conference on Housing and Urban Development (MINURVI). Keep the partnership with local governments, private institutions, universities and civil society organizations to work towards urban sustainable development and the promotion of the New Urban Agenda

Elkin Velasquez

Director - Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC)



Elkin has led major global UN-Habitat programs including the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, the Urban Governance Section, and the Global Safer Cities programme. He also collaborated as head of the Gender Unit and recently established the emblematic initiative on national urban policies.

He has extensive experience in Latin America and the Caribbean advising governments to design and implement programs on national and local public policies in the areas of urban management, spatial planning and urban security among others. He has researched in these areas and taught at several universities. He has been adviser to the mayor of Bogota in Decentralization and Urban Security; coordinated the Colombia Governance

Program for the Vice-President; advised the National Secretariat for Planning and Development (SENPLADES) in Ecuador on territorial management of public investment and was coordinator of the participatory formulation of the Organic Law of Land Management at the Ministry of Interior in Colombia. He has also been a consultant for the European Union, the Ministry of Foreign Affairs in Canada and several UN agencies.

Elkin studied Public Administration at ENA (National School of Public Administration of France) and holds a PhD in Geography with a specialty in Planning and Territorial Policy from the University of Grenoble (France). He also graduated in Engineering at the School of Mines in the National University of Colombia branch Medellin.

Alain Grimard

Senior Human Settlements Officer - Rio de Janeiro Hub, Brasil



Alain worked as a Human Settlements Officer at the Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya, where he coordinated a portfolio of US \$ 30 million for countries in the Middle East and Sub-Saharan Africa before leading UN-Habitat Office in India. He was also interim Regional Director.

Before joining UN-Habitat, Alain spent 20 years working for UNDP, UNCDF and UNOPS in Africa and the Caribbean. He holds a Master's degree in Economics from the University of Laval in Quebec.

Pablo Vaggione

**Coordinator - Mexico
City Hub, Mexico**



Pablo was the author of UN-HABITAT's Urban Planning Guide for City Leaders, which supports emerging cities to reduce the gap between technical and political aspects of urban development.

He has worked as a consultant on projects for the Asian Development Bank (ADB), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the World Bank and the Development Bank of Latin America (CAF).

Pablo has been Secretary General and Chair of the Scientific Committee of the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and founder of Design Convergence Urbanism,

a collaborative platform of independent experts that provided technical assistance to cities in Brazil, China, Kenya, Laos, Mexico, Mozambique and Vietnam.

He was the lead consultant of the Madrid candidature when the city received the World Leadership Award in 2007; and collaborator of the Smart Economy Unit in preparing the Green Cities Index, comparing 54 cities in Africa, Asia and Latin America.

Pablo holds a Master's degree from Harvard University and has completed graduate studies at the United Nations University.

Roberto Lippi

**Coordinator - Bogota
Hub, Colombia**



Roberto has worked for UNDP and UN-Habitat in the development of dialogue processes, reconciliation, negotiation, construction confidence and strengthening local capacity. He has more than 20 years' experience in promoting and implementing technical cooperation programs on democratic governance, political and social dialogue, state reform, decentralization, territorial development and human rights, especially in fragile and post-conflict states and states in transition (Nicaragua, Colombia, Argentina, Albania, Somalia, and Libya among others).

Roberto has also worked in the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and the Presidency of the Council of Ministers of Italy where he was responsible for relations with the Multilateral Development Banks in the Special Unit for State Reform.

Roberto holds a PhD in Political Science, specializing in International Politics and International Cooperation Policy.

Sergio Blanco

OiC Coordinator - Port
au Prince Hub, Haiti



Sergio Blanco started working for the United Nations in Haiti as an urban planner and consultant, responsible for supporting the Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation in the development of regional and urban plans for the areas most affected by the earthquake of 2010, and the new poles of development.

He subsequently became manager of the Support for the Reconstruction of Housing and Neighborhoods programme which works directly with the national government, municipalities, and other UN agencies (IOM, UNFPA and UNDP)

With over eighteen years' experience in international development cooperation in the area of technical and management, Sergio has worked

in human settlements projects, such as provision of water and sanitation, slum upgrading, development of new human settlements for victims in natural disasters, and rehabilitation of urban heritage sites in different countries of Latin America, the Caribbean and Africa.

He has also has participated in different urban planning processes in Spain and other countries and contributed to the development of city management plans for the old center of Oran in Algeria; Cidade Velha in Cape Verde; the new settlements of the hurricane Mitch victims in Tegucigalpa (Honduras) and the Slums in San Cristobal, Dominican Republic.

Sergio Blanco is an architect and urban planner.



People going by bike in the city. A lot of commuters, students and tourists prefer using bike instead of car or bus to move around the city. © A. Aleksandravicius / Shutterstock