



KIRIBATI PARTICIPATORY COMMUNITY UPGRADING PROGRAMME

Kiribati is made up of 32 flat coral atolls and one island spread across an area of approximately **three and a half million square kilometres**.

It has an approximate **population of 110,000**. It is classified as a Least Developed Countries and has an **extreme poverty rate** larger than **10 per cent**. **Population growth** is around **2.2% per year**, which makes it one of the highest within the region.

South Tarawa is a centre for internal migration from rural outer islands, providing opportunities for cash employment, consumption, higher education and specialist services. South Tarawa is experiencing a 4% annual population growth rate, and is expected to grow to nearly 70% of the total national population by 2030. South Tarawa is the most densely populated urban area in the Pacific, with an average density of around 3500 persons per square kilometer. Some towns and communities in South Tarawa, like Betio, have densities around 17,000 persons per square kilometer.



CHALLENGES:

Rapid Urbanisation

Rapid urbanization is placing significant pressure on poor infrastructure and dense neighbourhoods are rising in number and size. The most dense neighbourhoods are located in South Tarawa. Economic challenges, climate change, environmental hazards, inadequate infrastructure and land tenure issues make these populations particularly vulnerable.

Sanitation & Water Access

Kiribati has the lowest access to clean water and sanitation among all Pacific States. Frequent water-borne disease outbreaks occur, and child and infant mortality has increased recently.

Climate Hazards

Over 90% of Kiribati's land area and population are located below five metres. Low-lying communities are particularly vulnerable to storms and coastal inundation. Sea level rise is also accelerating the process of salinization and impacting drinking water availability.

WHAT?

UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) addresses the challenges that deprived neighbourhoods face: **massive poverty, a lack of hygiene and basic services, the risk of eviction and climate vulnerability.**

WHERE?

About 40 countries and 190 cities are now investing in strategic, participatory slum upgrading activities and sustainable urbanization.

WHO?

PSUP is the outcome of a tripartite partnership initiated by the Secretariat of the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States, financed by the European Commission and implemented by UN-Habitat.

We operate through partnerships:

National and local governments, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), and other stakeholders including from the private sector or universities. And we work closely with the communities concerned.



KIRIBATI ACTIONS:

DEVELOPING PARTNERSHIPS



A new project management team for Kiribati dense neighbourhoods upgrading that coordinates the projects' development and acts as a point of contact for local communities.

Opportunities for Kiribati local and national governments and community stakeholders to participate in relevant training. This includes exchanging knowledge with other PSUP countries, participation in global and regional events and conferences, and use of the MyPSUP online platform with access to e-learning courses and resources.

RAISING AWARENESS



The development of a comprehensive communication and advocacy strategy to raise awareness of PSUP in Kiribati and to attract support. This includes the development of Kiribati specific communication and outreach resources. Examples of advocacy materials include brochures and pamphlets.

A strong emphasis on community involvement, characterised by comprehensive neighbourhood-level consultations throughout the assessment and strategy development phases.

UGRADING STRATEGY



Support will be provided in the form of a training on dense neighbourhood upgrading and climate change planning methodologies. This will range from practical planning guidance to stakeholder engagement.

Increased capacity to manage participatory dense community upgrading in Kiribati across institutional levels from government leaders to community stakeholders.

A spatial analysis and upgrading strategy for South Tarawa communities. This includes specific upgrading recommendations for the two pilot communities in Betio Town Council and Teinainano Urban Council.

PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING



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