



**PLANNING SUSTAINABLE CITIES**  
**UN-HABITAT PRACTICES**  
**AND PERSPECTIVES**

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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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HS/1218/09

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## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Mohamed Halfani, Thomas Melin, Naison Mutizwa-Mangiza, Paul Taylor, Raf Tuts provided comments.

The projects and activities presented are supported by a variety of donors and partners organizations, which are thanked collectively for their support to planning sustainable urbanization.

Design and Layout: Jinita Shah/UNON  
Printing: UNON, Publishing Services Section, Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-certified.

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# Introduction

## Reinventing Urban Planning for Sustainable Cities

The future of urban planning has been the object of lively debate in recent years. For a long time, urban planning was considered an inefficient tool, unable to address development effectively. However, renewed attention to urban planning has recently emerged. Shifting dramatically from its initial ambition to command and control the city, planning has started reassessing itself in the new context of urbanization.

In many cities around the world:

- urbanisation has become synonymous with slum formation.
- a global environmental crisis under the guise of climate change is questioning the development model planning has been promoting across the world.
- the global financial crisis questions the market suitability to drive development and take care of public interest.

Urban planning must recognise these changes and develop new approaches to tackle the challenges facing cities.

UN-HABITAT has played a central and very active role in the recent debate on the future of urban planning. It initiated its own re-consideration of the role of urban planning in 2004, as the debate on the future of urban planning took place at the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona. It became clear that citizen participation and stakeholder consultation, as practised by some of the UN-HABITAT programmes, were positioning urban planning at the cutting edge of the modern notion of good governance. However, the implications of this for the planning practice and for the spatial and physical shape of cities were yet to be fully understood.

In 2006 at the Third World Urban Forum in Vancouver, the planning profession took a leading role in reinventing the way in which it functions. Examples of good planning practices from all over the world, including approaches based on innovative land ownership, public space up keeping, soft mobility and slum integration were brought to the forefront. Discussions also highlighted the fact that legislative and policy reform must be accompanied by capacity building and project-based support. The paper 'Reinventing Planning' was widely accepted by planners from all continents. Its 10 Principles define the 'added value' of the New Urban Planning.

### Principles of New Urban Planning:

1. Promote sustainable development
2. Achieve integrated planning
3. Integrate plans with budgets
4. Plan with partners and stakeholders
5. Meet the subsidiary principles
6. Promote market responsiveness
7. Ensure access to land
8. Develop appropriate planning tools
9. Be pro-poor and inclusive
10. Recognise cultural diversity.

<http://www.globalplannersnetwork.org/pdf/reinventingfrench07.pdf>

In 2009, the issuing of the 'Global Report on Human Settlements: Planning Sustainable Cities', and the high profile of the World Habitat Day on the same topic and hosted by the USA further reinforced the planning agenda, providing both political and substantive support and backing up the efforts to place urban planning in its rightful position in the development arena.

Internally, UN-HABITAT has increased its focus on urban planning. In-house coordination through an Urban Planning Flex Team which gathers together staff working in urban planning, has

supported the initial steps since 2006. More recently urban planning has been included as a core thematic component in the Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan approved by UN-HABITAT at the Governing Council in 2009.



Under its Focus Area 2 – Participatory Urban Planning, Governance and Management - Urban Planning will become the object of coordinated programming at both normative and operational level.

As the UN Agency responsible for human settlements development, UN-HABITAT's focus is on ensuring sustainable urbanization, reduction of urban poverty and increased inclusion through:

1. improved urban governance, planning and management,
2. delivery of affordable housing and land and
3. provision of sustainable urban services and infrastructure.

UN-HABITAT promotes urban planning and design as means to reconcile and integrate spatial, social, economic, cultural and environmental concerns in cities. Within the World Urban Campaign, planning serves as a key instrument to promote participatory engagement, strategic thinking, vision building and territorial coordination.

This booklet presents UN-HABITAT's work in the perspective of international debate on urban planning. It provides a brief introduction to contemporary urban planning challenges and to international trends in urban planning. It also presents UN-HABITAT's work on urban planning at country and global level in a succinct and structured way – mainly in line with the different areas identified in the 2009 Global Report on Human Settlements, highlighting both the diversity of entry points and experiences, as well as a convergence of lessons and global policy recommendations. It concludes with the future perspectives brought about by the UN-HABITAT Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan.

The booklet is meant to provide partners and members states with an overview of the work undertaken in the field of urban planning in the past few years, and to assist UN-HABITAT to reflect on its own experience.

The UN-HABITAT experience demonstrates the vitality of urban planning as a development tool, able to adapt and contribute in a variety of contexts and to address a variety of key urban development issues.



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**URBAN PLANNING:  
A KEY ROLE IN  
SUSTAINABLE URBAN  
DEVELOPMENT**

# Urban Planning: A Key Role in Sustainable Urban Development

Cities in developing countries face acute problems of poverty, exclusion, insecurity and environmental degradation. The ever-widening gap between rich and poor is symbolised by the stark disparity in the quality of the living environment. This is reflected in the contrasting urban forms - exclusive gated communities are developing side by side with rundown neighbourhoods and slums.

Proper urban planning is the key to bridging the urban divide and is an essential tool to make cities inclusive, environmentally friendly, economically vibrant, culturally meaningful and safe for all. To be successful in helping to achieve urban development, planning needs continuous updating. Great strides have already been made, but more is needed.

Urban planning does not achieve better cities automatically. Neither urban planning nor spatial design are ethically neutral activities. They translate - through resource allocation and budgeting exercises - political visions and values into the physical reality of cities. In many countries, planning systems and decisions often protect the interests of the rich, or are limited to beautification and decoration of urban spaces.

In many developing countries, planning systems and processes are still largely based on colonial laws, designed to support spatial segregation and population control. They fail to reflect the need and priorities of urban residents. The urban model they have promoted has proved both unaffordable and inadequate for catering to the diversity of ways of life and needs of developing world cities.

In the developed world, urban planning was originally conceived as a tool for the development of newly industrialising cities. Today cities in many developed countries have to contend with processes of de-industrialisation and shrinking population. Moreover, city forms which were proposed as progressive and more efficient are under increased criticism for the patterns of consumption they command, in the face of growing awareness of global climate change.

The failures of planning to come to terms with informality and poverty and to go beyond the modernist dream, has partly to be blamed for the failure of cities as engines of economic growth and absorbers of surplus labour from rural areas. This results in exacerbation of the ecological crisis, hinders agricultural development and installs a vicious cycle of poverty, with more poverty-driven growth of the cities.

For urban planning to play a positive role in urban development, it needs to vigorously assess and reinvent itself – through a serious analysis on the new context of urban planning and the responses it can offer, by learning lessons from stories of innovation and success, and on this basis advocate vigorously for better and more appropriate planning for sustainable development.

Indeed today, like rarely before, there is global consensus on the need to reflect on modernist development patterns. Urban planning can be at the forefront of this and provide important responses.

## Unprecedented Challenges of Urbanization

The 2009 Global Report on Human Settlement ' Planning Sustainable Cities' identifies the factors shaping 21st century cities as:

1. The environmental challenge of climate change and cities' dependence on fossil fuels.
2. The demographic challenge of rapid urbanisation (particularly the growth of small and medium size cities), the shrinking, ageing population in some countries, and the youth bulge, as well as the increasing multicultural composition of cities.
3. The economic challenges linked to the uncertainty of future economic growth, the new doubts on market-led approaches and the expanding informality of urban activities.



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4. The challenges linked to social and spatial inequality, urban sprawl and unplanned urbanization.
5. The challenges and opportunities of increasing democratisation, awareness of social and economic rights and consequent political renegotiation of power.

Although these challenges are global, their impacts are mainly urban, and the local environment context, culture and economic basis in each city and community shape to a large extent their impact on the local living conditions.

## Opportunities for New Urban Planning Responses

In the face of such challenges, effective urban planning is less and less about defining land use and zoning.

Urban planning has to address ways to create cities that work for all citizens, offer opportunities to rich and poor alike, where communities and their concerns are at the heart of decision making on development, and where risk and vulnerability is effectively addressed for all citizens, particularly the urban poor.

Given the new imperatives and demands on policy and practice, the urban planning profession is in the midst of a fundamental reinvention, by different actors and authorities. They are working to develop more highly contextualised information, new communication tools, inclusive methods to modelling the outcomes and different ways of generating and selecting solutions that support the poorest city residents, and work with ecological systems.

A new urban planning practice in the context of 21st century urbanization can transform the key challenges faced by cities into opportunities:

**Learning to work with informality, instead of contrasting it.** This entails finding ways to pro-actively guide and build on the contribution of the informal processes, actors and

resources to city development, instead of refusing such contribution and attempting to control it through regulation at all costs. Planning based on formal processes is in general not good at dealing with informality. However, poverty and environmental damage are perpetuated through cities' failure to come to terms with it, since illegal modes of acquisition, sub-division and development are the norm in the slum areas of many cities in developing countries. Supportive and negotiated regulations can provide a much better outcome than the negative attitudes planning has been adopting.

Urban planning can become a tool for inclusion and slum prevention if it is designed to tap informality as a development force and guide it towards the making of better cities.

The upgrading of informal settlements and the strategic use of planning tools such as the construction of trunk infrastructure, guided land development or land readjustment are all possible avenues for this. The collaboration with the informal sector can also strengthen the legitimacy of planning and regulatory systems and progressively achieve more adequate standards and regulations.

**Addressing climate change and bridging the green and brown agenda through environmental management and planning.** The demand to reduce or manage the ecological footprint of cities and consider alternative development paths to the 'carbon economy' offers another opportunity for innovation. The awareness created by climate change also reinforces opportunities for environmentally conscious land use planning and risk reduction strategies.

Planning can take on board climate mitigation and adaptation at city level by adopting stronger ecological tools, with a view to making environmental gains beneficial for all. Working in synergy with local ecosystems, innovating the use and demand for energy for transport and other urban activities, and improving overall consumption patterns, are all ways in which urban planning can become the lead tool in promoting a robust and integrated response to climate change.



**Addressing safety and security, and disasters through prevention and adequate inclusive planning models.** Urban planning is a key tool for prevention of urban violence and insecurity, and to promote inclusion, through a focus on the quality of the public realm in cities, and by supporting civic interactions. Urban planning should be 'conflict sensitive' and not exacerbate inequalities, being particularly concerned with its social impact. Even affluent cities - as clearly shown by the recent State of the World's Cities Report issued by UN-HABITAT - can be less successful if they are less equal. In many cities forced evictions are often the practice in lieu of sustainable urban planning and gated communities are springing up to cater for the security needs of the affluent residents. In relation to disasters, innovative approaches to reconstruction can adopt planning tools to reinforce community recovery and to achieve more sustainable urban landscapes. Building back better requires a better understanding of urban planning dimensions of reconstruction.

## An Ongoing Process of Innovation

To seize these opportunities, a reform of the planning practices is underway in relation to the content and forms of urban plans, their institutional context and role, and the process of decision making they are built on.

First and foremost, planning approaches are switching from the command and control model and becoming more strategic, selective and oriented to guide rational investment planning, which is environmentally conscious and accrues benefits for the whole community.

Addressing priority issues and more strategically engaging with stakeholders, including the private sector, planning is already providing better outcomes and maximising resource effectiveness. Projects of UN-HABITAT in Kenya, Indonesia and Viet Nam exemplify these new strategic planning approaches.

Secondly, the legislative and policy frameworks that establish legitimate institutional processes and procedures for spatial planning are being revised in many countries. Legal and institutional reforms to facilitate intersectoral coordination and position urban planning at the intersection of public sectors policies and resource allocation are being discussed and implemented. Similarly, new forms of planning are being institutionalised. Projects implemented by UN-HABITAT in Sri Lanka, Malawi or Kenya offer examples of support for the reform of institutional and legislative frameworks related to planning.

Thirdly, participatory processes are becoming more and more embedded into planning processes in order to provide for meaningful engagement and involvement of the public in all phases of decision making, implementation and monitoring. This way, urban planning becomes a tool for local democracy and inclusive governance and is enabled to respond creatively to the expressed needs of a city's inhabitants rather than regulating them. Projects in Kosovo, Afghanistan, and other countries illustrate these public participation approaches.

For these changes to take root and expand, the role of governments, both central and local, needs to be reassessed and reaffirmed as guarantor of the public interest and to ensure basic needs, as well as for the development of clear policy direction on the role of urban areas in each national context. This should include effective yet realistic capacity of enforcing planning decisions.

The role of planners is also under scrutiny. In order to support this reform agenda, planners need to change their role, adopt new skills and revisit their ethical commitment. The education of planners needs to incorporate these new demands and approaches.



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## Presenting UN-HABITAT Work

UN-HABITAT, in its position at the forefront of the urban development debate, has been assisting governments and cities in implementing urban planning innovations.

This booklet presents an overview of the experience across the agency's different divisions and regions, as a first step towards the implementation of UN-HABITAT's Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan – and in particular its Focus Area 2 (FA2) – Participatory Urban Planning, Management and Governance.

It is a collection of interventions at city, country and global level which demonstrate the relevance of urban planning for sustainable urban development.

The booklet offers an overview of past experiences, highlights advances within the organization's work on the urban planning agenda and approach, and identifies, in its conclusions, some elements for the way forward.

Experiences at city and national level are presented to show the characteristics of the urban planning process or for the specific issues they address.

In terms of planning processes, focus is on: promoting strategic spatial planning, developing institutional and regulatory frameworks, and promoting public participation.

In terms of issues addressed, the focus is on: planning for slum prevention and upgrading, addressing climate change and building environmental sustainability, urban safety and security, local economic development and infrastructure, and disaster and post-conflict reconstruction.

Initiatives at global level are also presented, focussing on planning education and on monitoring, documentation and analysis.



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The background of the entire page is a solid orange color. Overlaid on this is a light-colored, semi-transparent map of a city. The map shows a dense grid of streets in the central urban area, with several major roads and highways radiating outwards. There are also some irregular shapes that might represent parks or undeveloped land. The overall style is minimalist and graphic.

# UN-HABITAT WORK AT COUNTRY LEVEL



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## Strategic Spatial Planning

Strategic spatial planning has emerged as a response to the limitations of Master Plans as a more suitable tool to orient urban spatial development by focusing on city-wide planning and selected priorities.

Traditional planning approaches have proven inadequate to guide urban development in a context of rapid urbanization and in the face of new urban challenges.

In most developing countries, traditional plans have proven to be not only rigid and outdated, but also unable to reflect and address the interests of most stakeholders. Their implementation and enforcement often requires resources and capacities far beyond what is available within local institutions and among urban residents, particularly the poor.

Strategic Spatial Planning has provided the needed alternative since it :

- Is more process oriented and contains broader spatial ideas.
- Prioritizes plans according to participation and consensus building among stakeholders.
- Aims to provide a spatial dimension to sectoral interventions as a means of integrating them.
- Is implemented through the empowerment of different actors, as opposed to regulation and enforcement.

UN-HABITAT's support to strategic planning has included the development of approaches and tools to support local consultative processes, to identify priorities, and to push forth implementation mechanisms. Direct technical assistance provided to cities and national authorities in charge of urban development is a key activity to disseminate these tools and to continue adapting them to new issues and local contexts.

This experience shows how strategic planning enhances local level decision making and participatory governance and can successfully ensure spatial articulation of policies at the local level. It also highlights that as strategic plans are the product of diverse actors, the urban planners' professional role is to shift to that of the facilitator of the deliberative process, while providing technical support for its translation into planning instruments, maps and other documents.



## Egypt: Strategic Vision for 50 Cities

Recognising that many cities in Egypt lack a vision for urban management, UN-HABITAT is supporting the General Organization for Physical Planning (GOPP) in preparing strategic urban plans for 50 small cities, each with a population of less than 60,000. The Strategic Urban Plans for Small Cities Programme (SUPSCP) adopts a decentralised and integrated approach to address urban development and land management issues, as well as identify urgent socio-economic and environmental concerns.

The project has two main components:

1. Developing a strategic vision through a participatory process with local and national stakeholders identifying priority issues and actions. These identified actions aim to improve housing conditions, urban services and the local economy. The vision provides a road map for developing the city over the next two decades.
2. Enhancing urban and land management through training of local authorities in information management, strategic urban planning, land regularisation and urban administration.

The programme focusses on urban-rural linkages in order to develop small and medium rural enterprises; addresses sanitation issues including wastewater and solid waste management and aims to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers. The project acknowledges the importance of governance, the needs of vulnerable groups and environmental issues as requiring special attention.

Since its inception in 2007, the programme has prepared the strategic urban plans for 30 of the 50 cities using participatory methods. It is also assisting the local urban observatories in Egypt to collect and report indicators in order to support policy decisions and action. Capacity building for local authorities and project partners has been taking place in collaboration with local universities and will continue to ensure the transfer of knowledge and facilitate the implementation of the plans.



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## Viet Nam: City Development Strategy for Thanh Hoa City in the regional context

Thanh Hoa is one of the largest provinces in Viet Nam, both in population (3.7 million) and geographical area. It is also the second poorest province in the country. Thanh Hoa City, the political capital and economic hub of the province is situated on the main road and railway linking Hanoi with Ho Chi Minh City. The city is growing fast and its population of 250,000 (2006) is expected to double by 2015.

Thanh Hoa Province is attempting to accelerate the pace of economic growth and development with a focus on the industrial sector, in line with the Government of Viet Nam's national economic policy. To assist the formulation of the City Development Strategy, UN-HABITAT has provided support for:

1. The preparation of an overview of the urban and regional development issues in Thanh Hoa City and Province.
2. Consultations with various government agencies and national and international stakeholders on the vital issues to be addressed.

3. The development of a project proposal for the formulation of the City Development Strategy.

These activities have led to an enhanced appreciation of urban and regional planning and development issues, highlighting the different development issues of the three geographical regions of Thanh Hoa – the coast, delta and mountainous highlands.

Moreover, the provincial and local governments have started to appreciate that the different human settlements in the province (comprising 30 towns and 636 communes) need an integrated development strategy aimed at a balanced development across the province. It has also been agreed that the City Development Strategy will take into account climate change issues, as the city is located in a flood plain.



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## Tanzania: Strategic Urban Development Planning in Dar es Salaam

Dar es Salaam, Tanzania's main industrial and commercial centre, has been experiencing rapid growth which has led to an equally rapid deterioration of living conditions. In the early 1990s, an overall framework for the future growth and development of the city was needed.

The Sustainable Dar es Salaam Project (SDP) was launched with the establishment of different groups to develop action plans that cover issues of city expansion, settlement upgrading, air quality management, transport development, and public space enhancement. These issues were prioritised through stakeholder consultation and a number of demonstration projects started. These projects created the basis for further scaling-up to city-level the underlying strategies. These outputs formed the basis for the Strategic Urban Development Planning Framework (SUDPF), which was developed through a three day stakeholders' consultation, where different actors presented their present and future plans and projects and how they related to the existing Master Plan (1979). Working groups then mapped out areas of agreement and areas of conflict. Cases which had competing urban development and city expansion issues were resolved through consultations.

Since strategies and action plans require spatial analysis, this meant the use of Geographic Information Systems to create maps that define areas with varying degrees of suitability for different activities, generating a composite land use pattern developed on the basis of coherent rules and principles.

Several of the actions implemented - on transport, waste management and urban maintenance - resulted in marked improvements in service delivery and overall quality of urban space.

Subsequently, the approach was institutionalised both in Dar es Salaam, and nationally with other cities. As a result of Dar es Salaam's engagement in this process and of the capacity developed, the city identified other areas of priority in the following years, such as urban safety and

slum upgrading. An urban safety programme was established, which led to several innovative initiatives, including the establishment of a municipal police force and revitalisation of ward tribunals, as well as activities to empower youth.

UN-HABITAT is providing technical assistance through the design of a Citywide Action Plan for upgrading unplanned and unserved settlements by 2020. Funded by Cities Alliance, this programme enables Dar es Salaam's local authorities to implement reforms necessary to conduct a city-wide intervention.

After the preparation of a Citywide Upgrading Strategy in 2007, UN-HABITAT worked on supporting socio-economic surveys and the preparation of a city base map which identified 73 unplanned settlements. Consultative action planning involving all key city stakeholders and partners took place. Currently, a long-term financing strategy for settlement upgrading is being developed.



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## Haiti: Strategic Citywide Spatial Planning - A Situation Analysis of Port-au-Prince

The Haitian Ministry of Planning and External Cooperation (MPCE), in cooperation with UN-HABITAT, in 2007-2008 initiated the development of a strategic spatial citywide plan for the Port-au-Prince metropolitan region.

The first step was the establishment of a situation analysis as a stepping stone towards technical assistance for the stakeholders in metropolitan Port-au-Prince, followed by assistance in coordinating a development partners group on land and, ultimately, the development and implementation of the plan.

The situational analysis focussed on citywide planning with an urban land

perspective and gave in-depth background to the city's condition in terms of urban development and planning. It also covered the wider aspects of housing, urban infrastructure, institutions, environment and the socio-economic situation. The challenges and opportunities for a decent urban livelihood in Port-au-Prince were also analysed, and recommendations on the most effective type of spatial planning and land related intervention produced.

The situational analysis is now being used as key information to support reconstruction efforts in the aftermath of the disastrous earthquake which hit Haiti, and in particular to inform its urban planning component.



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## Lake Victoria Region: City Development Strategies and Strategic Spatial Planning

Lake Victoria is the second largest freshwater body in the world. Its surface area is shared by three countries - Kenya, Tanzania and Uganda – and an estimated one-third of the combined population of these countries derive their livelihood from the lake.

UN-HABITAT has been focusing its efforts on putting in place effective urban planning to guide infrastructure investment and poverty reduction strategies. The urban planning interventions have been through two programmes, City Development Strategies and Strategic Spatial Planning.

The Lake Victoria City Development Strategies (CDS) for Improved Urban Environment and Poverty Reduction is aimed at mobilizing city authorities along Lake Victoria and other stakeholders to formulate appropriate urban development strategies. The project has covered eight cities (Kisumu, Homa Bay, Mwanza, Musoma, Bukoba, Kampala, Entebbe, Jinja) in three phases.

The results have been the production of Strategic Action Plans for short-term interventions and Strategic Investment Plans to help the cities achieve their long-term visions. UN-HABITAT has played a central role in supporting the local governments by enabling them to conduct successful stakeholder participatory approaches for rapid assessments and local development profiling, allowing the identification of key action areas. The resulting plans have provided a concrete document which the cities can use for resource mobilization.

The objective of the third phase of the project (2007-2010) is to mobilise city authorities and other stakeholders to develop a regional framework to improve environments and reduce poverty.

The Strategic Spatial Planning Programme in the Lake Victoria region aims to provide frameworks for physical interventions on infrastructure investments in the areas of water and sanitation, slum upgrading, urban mobility, and general environmental management. The first phase included the development of these frameworks in seven secondary towns, including Homa Bay and Kisii in Kenya; Masaka, Kyotera and Mutukula in Uganda; and Bukoba and Muleba in Tanzania. The second phase targets six other secondary towns: Bugembe and Ggaba in Uganda; Bondo and Migori in Kenya; and Geita and Sengerema in Tanzania.

All key stakeholders are involved in the development of future visions for their towns, and in the formulation of Action Plans. Capacity building through skills development in the respective local authorities takes place to enhance implementation capacity. The plans have proved to be useful tools for guiding physical interventions not only by UN-HABITAT but also by national governments, regional bodies and other agencies.



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## Changing Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks

Planning institutions vary notably from country to country. This variation is a result of the different legal systems, land property laws, and decentralization models, which all play a significant role in determining the role of planning in formal government processes and its regulatory powers.

In some countries, urban planning polices and institutions have undergone reform, usually in relation to major shifts in land management principles or increased role of local governments. Similarly, cities and communities have been actively experimenting with new ways of discussing and planning their urban future. However, policy dialogue at national level and its ability to reflect the frameworks that support urban planning remains fundamental in enabling planning innovations to be institutionalised and replicated on a broader scale.

UN-HABITAT has worked in support of national reforms in several countries, both through national policy reviews and urban planning framework assessments, as well as by providing documented good practices. The case for reforms has also been made through the development of successful innovative practices at the local level, both in governance mechanisms and in tools and approaches. The anchoring of such innovations and of new principles of sustainable urbanization in national urban planning policies and legislation remains a key step to ensure effective planning practices.





## Kenya: Technical Support for Land Reform

UN-HABITAT has been supporting the Government of Kenya, as well as the Development Partners Group on Land, in relation to the National Land Policy Formulation Process, started in 2003. The process gained additional momentum after the post-election violence of 2007, which largely originated from unresolved land issues.

The National Land Policy, adopted by the Kenya Parliament in December 2009, is expected to offer a platform for fundamental land reforms. It seeks to address critical issues of land administration, access to land, land use planning, restitution of historical injustices, conflicts, unplanned proliferation of informal urban settlements, outdated legal and institutional frameworks, as well as information management. It also addresses constitutional issues, such as compulsory acquisition, tenure and development control.

UN-HABITAT and Sida (Swedish International Development Agency) have also worked closely in supporting a mechanism of Land Sector Non State Actors, which have been active in lobbying the government with regard to the land policy and the land section in the draft constitution and is now focused on engaging in overall land reforms, including enhancing participation of communities in the implementation of the Truth Justice and Reconciliation process.

The implementation process of the National Land Policy is now underway closely linked to the Kenya National Dialogue and Reconciliation Agenda which identifies land as one of the long standing issues which should be the focus of urgent reforms.



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## Sri Lanka: Implementation Support to the Urbanisation Framework

Sri Lanka is rapidly urbanising, with the majority of the country's population projected to be living in cities by 2015. The country therefore faces enormous challenges to meet rapidly increasing demands on basic urban services. This is aggravated by a lack of competencies in local authorities.

In order to be more responsive to the needs of their citizens, more effective in decision making and more efficient in service delivery, local governments need a paradigm shift. This demands a strong framework which promotes an integrated approach with wider stakeholder participation at local, provincial and national level in urban planning and resource allocation.

The Support to Implement the Sri Lankan Urbanisation Framework (SISLUF) Programme was initiated, with co-financing from UNDP, to institutionalise the best governance practices learnt from successive programme interventions, such as the Sustainable Sri Lankan Cities, Urban Governance Support, and Localizing MDG Programmes.

At a national level, the programme strengthened inter-ministerial and cross-sectoral ownership and coordination of local good governance practices through an Urban Task Force charged with consolidating policy and legal reform, and building the capacity-development potential of national local government training institutions.

At a provincial level, it brought together the various urban development

agencies, shared their development plans and budgets, promoted partnerships and resource coordination and built the capacity of provincial training institutions with toolkits, training and workshop modules.

At the local level, the programme built a partnership among five local authorities, two provincial councils, national institutions and private sector stakeholders to develop an innovative "inter-local" planning model. Multi-sectoral resource sharing strategies were devised in support of a new Growth Centre as prioritised in the Government's Ten Year Development Framework 2006 – 2016. The approach was based on preparing a city profile to prioritise key issues and audit available resources base; identifying stakeholders to participate in a workshop to agree on strategic responses to issues; and establishing a "growth centre co-ordinating committee" to manage the implementation.

A National Compendium of Good Governance Practices, a National Strategy for Local Government Capacity Building, a Guidance Manual on Provincial Strategic Frameworks to strengthen links between the local authorities and provincial councils, and a National Urban Sector Policy Framework are all under preparation.

The tools developed are now being applied in the Eastern Province's Growth Centre of Batticaloa, the Tsunami-affected local authorities and in the northern part of the country where post-conflict rehabilitation is underway.



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## Lake Victoria Region: Introducing GIS into the local planning processes

UN-HABITAT has been providing technical assistance in the development of Strategic Spatial Plans in the Lake Victoria region of Kenya, Uganda and Tanzania. The technical assistance provided also guides infrastructure investments and poverty reduction strategies in a number of secondary towns in the same countries.

A Geographical Information System (GIS) was used to digitize details of the cities to emphasize the need to integrate the social, economic and environmental dimensions of urban planning. The use of GIS also highlighted the need to involve all key stakeholders in the planning process especially in determining its future vision through creating a geo-database.

The GIS maps are to be used and updated by the local authorities in the selected secondary towns for their future planning, as well as incorporating other GIS map layers for advanced analysis and research. This initiative allows UN-HABITAT not only to support the spatial planning process of the Lake Victoria region, but also to provide accurate geo-spatial datasets to plan future interventions in the region.



## Malawi: Housing Sector Profiling for Improved Planning for Shelter Delivery

UN-HABITAT's Housing Sector Profiling is an analytical tool which provides Governments and HABITAT Agenda Partners with a comprehensive assessment of their housing delivery systems.

It covers planning mechanisms for access to urban land, housing finance, basic infrastructure/services, building materials, technology and labour. It identifies factors hindering the housing market. Based on constraints and opportunities in the policy, institutional and regulatory frameworks, the profile makes recommendations for appropriate policy and planning responses.

Profiles are underway in Ghana, Nepal, Senegal, Tunisia, Uganda and Viet Nam, with the first Profile carried out in Malawi (2008-09). The findings have informed the National Housing Policy reform process and establishment of the Ministry for Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

The profile found that 21,000 new dwellings will be needed by 2020 to meet the demand of new urban households. At the end of the profiling process, stakeholders agreed on the following priorities:

- fast-track land delivery system for housing, including a 'sites without services model' based on guided grid development.
- provision of infrastructure to existing residential areas, with water a top priority.
- revision of spatial planning standards to prevent urban sprawl.

Through this exercise, urban planning is being embedded into the national housing sector policy and seen as a tool for affordable housing delivery.



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## Promoting Public Participation in Urban Planning

Participatory planning empowers communities and results in better design outcomes that are more responsive to the diverse needs of the different urban groups. Participation also ensures the relevance of plans when faced with limited resources and can also increase effectiveness.

UN-HABITAT works at neighbourhood level, with participatory urban appraisals and community action planning in a variety of contexts, such as slum upgrading, community development, and post-disaster reconstruction. At city-wide scale, consultations are the most widely applied tool. This has proven effective in stimulating and structuring public participation in local government and in urban planning processes.

UN-HABITAT regards it as crucial to embed participation formally into planning systems and find ways of supporting it through financial and human resources.

## Kenya: Participatory Enumerations for Tenure Security and Urban Land Management

With a population of 500,000, Kisumu is Kenya's third largest city. UN-HABITAT worked on an in-depth analysis of slums in Kisumu, using participatory enumerations. This is a surveying and data-gathering process that provides planners with up-to-date information that reflects the needs of residents.

The study was conducted over several months in consultation with key stakeholders, including community-based groups, the public and private sector, NGOs and international development partners.

A complete physical mapping exercise was undertaken by the municipality using affordable methods. A city-wide Geographic Information System (GIS) was established and municipal staff was trained in managing the system. Enumerations of more than 60,000 slum households were carried out by the local communities in collaboration with Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and the municipality. The enumeration database was then linked to the GIS database at the city's planning department to enable efficient planning of the slums.

In response to the increased use of enumerations and in partnership with urban professionals who have worked with enumerations in the field,

UN-HABITAT's Global Land Tool Network published the book 'Count me in; Surveying for tenure security and urban land management'. The book explores participatory enumerations, why they are undertaken and the role they can play in urban upgrading, planning and development.



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## Somalia: A Participatory Approach in Local Governance

UN-HABITAT laid the foundation for participation in urban planning through specific capacity-building activities that primarily targeted local authorities in Somalia. Under the Urban Development Programme for the Somali Region (SUDP) 2005-2008, the activity focused on major cities and towns with tangible projects, aiming at improving the local capacity for sustainable urban development. Using UN-HABITAT training manuals, local governance structures have been redefined. Local leaders were given a chance to apply new concepts and skills gained during intense on-the-job training sessions, elaborating on and implementing

priority action plans together with private sector and civil society actors. First steps were made towards more inclusive decision-making processes through:

- organisation of broad-based consultative forums.
- defining a common vision and agreeing on priorities.
- redefining the relationship between the authorities and other stakeholders.



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## Kosovo: Citizen Participation in the Spatial Planning Process

For a long time planning was viewed as a purely technical process in Kosovo, with no room for ‘amateurs’ to get involved. Although the Law on Spatial Planning passed in Kosovo in 2003 speaks about participatory processes and the requirement of a public review, the public at large has found it difficult to understand planning documents and react to them.

UN-HABITAT in Kosovo, under various programmes, has gradually built the capacities of civil society organisations to participate in the planning process. Workshops were organized for NGOs and interested citizens to understand strategic planning, be able to lobby for their organizational priorities and learn about effective ways of implementing citizens’ projects through participatory budgeting.

The Municipal Spatial Planning Support Programme, with support from Sida, was designed to support municipal planners in drafting plans and involving civil society in the process. “Envisioning workshops” allowed citizens to express their ideas about local development. Groups of technical staff, stakeholders and representatives of civil society gave different perspectives and stimulated discussion in a focused yet friendly environment.

In addition, area audits have become a tool for planning improvement of public spaces. Through the audits, citizens have an increasing role in lobbying for a safe, accessible and well designed environment, and the situation of depletion of most public spaces is being redressed.



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## Asia: People-Centred Approach to Reconstruction (Afghanistan, Indonesia, Pakistan, Sri Lanka)

UN-HABITAT advocates that people should be at the core of the development process. In a post-disaster and post-conflict context, this entails putting the affected people in control of the recovery process, from basic reconstruction to wider planning of settlements and collective services and utilities.

This has resulted in an effective process of ‘seamless recovery’, which starts with the affected people engaged in relief management in the camps, and with each family involved in erecting a room on the allocated

land. Similarly, every family and group is involved in decisions over the reconstruction of communal facilities, settlement layout and other planning aspects, as well as participating in public works.

Adopted by UN-HABITAT in its major reconstruction project in Asia, the results demonstrate that harnessing the potential of the people and directing their creativity and ingenuity to the rebuilding of their lives, physical assets and communities can allow people to overcome trauma and recover more rapidly.



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## Planning with Informality – Slum Prevention and Upgrading

In the cities of developing countries, urbanisation has become synonymous with slum formation. Deprivation is the key feature of life in slums - lack of adequate housing, water, sanitation and basic social services. Often slum-dwellers are not recognised as residents of the city and are at permanent risk of eviction.

The size and share of the 'informal' city is strongly linked to the effectiveness of urban planning, development regulations and availability of resources. Slums are the physical testimony to the failure of urban planning - when plans are impossible to implement, unplanned areas are the only option available for large numbers of the population.

Today upgrading and prevention of slums are seen as key measures for poverty reduction and the improving of living conditions of the slum-dwellers.

Preventive actions focus on capacity building, provision of affordable serviced land for housing, and housing options for the poor, in addition to access to financial resources. These actions also consider working with the informal sector to increase its contribution to service provision and management of public spaces.

Slum upgrading is conducted through different strategies, either focussing on an integrated approach, based on multi-sectoral improvements, or more incremental approaches, often underpinned by regularisation of land tenure and the extension of planning to informal areas as services and infrastructure are developed.



## Global: 89 Cities Planning for Poverty Reduction

Launched by UN- HABITAT in 2008, the Participatory Slum Upgrading and Prevention (PSUP) Programme spans 89 cities in 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific (APC) countries, tackling growing urban poverty. It is financed by the European Commission through its Intra-ACP fund.

The programme builds on a strategic approach developed by the European Commission, the ACP Group of States, and UN-HABITAT, based on the "Consultative Guidelines for Sustainable Urban Development". The PSUP is mainly a capacity building programme, where urban stakeholders are trained on good governance principles, and how to apply them in a strategic planning process.

The programme is rapid, participatory, action-oriented, demand and stakeholder-driven. Cities first profile their situation through researching their current status and uncover their urban development potential for positive change towards prosperous and healthy cities. The study forms the basis of formulating slum upgrading activities, and also aims to prevent the reproduction of the negative development trends that led to the growth of slums in the first place. Urban management processes, governance systems, resource mobilisation, conflicting interests, and unequal access to urban services are also addressed.

The PSUP process usually focuses on six to eight urban sectors in development interaction. By providing an information source, the programme supports the mobilisation of stakeholders, inclusiveness, and a strong ownership for the approach of limiting urban poverty.

The key tool for the PSUP planning - and partnership-building process beyond established institutional borders - is the SWOT-analysis.

The Strength, Weaknesses, Opportunities and Threats analysis functions as a qualitative data assessment. It guides data-driven prevention planning. It reveals ongoing pressures of urban situations and draws attention to possible positive changes. It does not attempt to be comprehensive, but enables stakeholders to select key issues for rapid

response. Further, it ranks internal and external bottlenecks and development potentials at neighbourhood, city and national levels.

By listing challenges and opportunities, decision-makers as well as key stakeholders can identify activities that only need little input to be implemented, and, as a result, can often be executed immediately.

Priority actions enable communities to have concrete objectives. It enables participants to focus on major needs, within capacities and budget, in a transparent manner. The ensuing plans involve preventative measures including advocacy for sustainable urbanisation; strengthened institutions and partnerships; capacity building, and country-tailored strategies.

Two years after its launch, participating urban and national stakeholders identified the following major lessons:

1. The programme can be used efficiently for formulating national policies.
2. It enables countries to replicate participatory local assessments at the national level to address the needs of the urban poor.
3. It helps in overcoming the often strong sector-divisions of national and local decision-making bodies.
4. It strengthens decentralisation efforts by applying bottom-up planning and decision-making processes.
5. It establishes a culture for participatory decision-making, prioritisation and budgeting for agreed and tailored slum upgrading and prevention practices.

Through the PSUP process, teams of local and national decision-makers, NGOs and CBOs, academia and private sector representatives are enabled to apply, familiarise and institutionalise the participatory planning and decision-making process for preventing more slum formations, and a better future for all.

For more information, visit the PSUP website: [www.unhabitat.org/psup](http://www.unhabitat.org/psup)



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## Timor Leste: Dili City Upgrading Strategy

The Dili City Upgrading Strategy provided the first citywide assessment of housing conditions in the capital of Timor-Leste. The project, which was operational between October 2004 and October 2005, drew on the wide experience of UN-HABITAT and Cities Alliance to develop an appropriate community-based upgrading model. Areas in highest need of assistance have been mapped and analysed based on levels of infrastructure, socio-economic status and vulnerability (e.g. insecurity of land tenure and incidence of poverty).

Maps and a data base of the settlements have been prepared as part of a strategy to address the upgrading of underserved settlements in Dili and includes a financial plan for investment in infrastructure. The City Upgrading Strategy provides options for a systematic upgrading strategy and includes a financial plan for investment in infrastructure in underserved settlements.

Four pilot project areas have been identified and communities have formulated action plans. Key government departments provided support through technical assistance and adopted these community action plans within their infrastructure planning. Through learning-by-doing, staff of the community development unit were trained in planning and guiding

community-based projects. The unit was eventually integrated into the Ministry of Infrastructure.



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## Mongolia: Citywide Pro-poor Ger-area Upgrading Strategy and Investment Plan

Ulaanbaatar city has undergone rapid expansion in recent years due to the high-levels of rural-to-urban migration, which has meant a doubling of its population to 1.07 million between 1995 and 2008. Of the total population, 664,391 (62.24 per cent) reside in Ger areas, which are located outside the conventional built-up area of the city with predominantly traditional Ger (felt tent) housing and low-levels of infrastructure and service provision. It is estimated that over 45 per cent population of Ger areas is poor.

The high rate of migration has led to the haphazard expansion of the Ger areas, without appropriate provisions of infrastructure and basic services, such as drinking water, access infrastructure, and schools. Ger areas also have negative impacts on natural environment due to unplanned and haphazard expansion.

UN-HABITAT and Cities Alliance assisted the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar in preparing the first Citywide Pro-poor Ger-area Upgrading Strategy of Ulaanbaatar city (GUS). A structured consultative process, involving

public sector agencies, Duureg (District) and Khoroo (Sub-District) councils, local communities, private sector agencies, civil society organisations,

NGOs, academic and training institutions and various donor/aid agencies participated in the preparation of the plan. The plan analysed the present situation, development challenges and constraints, and provided strategic spatial recommendations for upgrading and development.

It was approved by the Ulaanbaatar City Citizens and Representatives Council in July, 2007, for implementation by the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar. As a result, the Government of Mongolia and the Municipality of Ulaanbaatar have now formally recognized Ger areas as part of the urban morphology of cities and towns in Mongolia, and they are reflected in their policy documents. The Municipality now proactively supports Ger area upgrading through its plans, programmes and projects.



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## Nigeria: Promoting Alternatives to Forced Evictions in Port Harcourt

Following a request by the Local Government and with support from the Advisory Group on Forced Evictions (AGFE) to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, UN-HABITAT undertook a fact-finding mission to Port Harcourt in March 2009. The objective was to verify reports about large-scale forced evictions of residents in unplanned waterfront settlements. The findings confirmed that the Rivers States Government's urban renewal programme is likely to destroy the homes of up to 300,000 mostly low-income residents. The Government justifies its clearance actions with its attempts to execute the outdated 1975 Master Plan and to re-establish development control.

The main problem is the inadequate implementation of legal provisions in the Rivers State Physical Planning and Development Law of 2003, which makes most of the evictions illegal, since the institutions and mechanisms prescribed for urban renewal are not in place. Practices such as discretionary use of development control and compensation only for landlords and not for tenants are in contradiction to the rights-based approach promoted by UN-HABITAT and international human rights covenants signed by Nigeria.

UN-HABITAT in its report to the Rivers States Government recommended actions for more sustainable, rights-based urban development. These include:

- A moratorium on evictions.
- a consultation mechanism for all stakeholders to participate in the city's development, including settlement upgrading, not based on forced eviction.
- design of public-private partnerships for real estate development that benefits the urban poor and does not destroy entire neighbourhoods or the livelihoods of residents.

So far the Rivers States Government has yet to implement any of UN-HABITAT's recommendations.

For more information visit the Documentation Centre of the UN Housing Rights Programme at [www.unhabitat/unhrp](http://www.unhabitat/unhrp).



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## Addressing Climate Change and the Urban Environment Agenda

Since the early 1990s, environmental sustainability has become one of the most critical areas of concern for sustainable development. The Rio Summit, with its Agenda 21 Principles for Action has inspired urban planners and the Local Agenda 21 movement. More recently, the widely shared recognition of climate change as the new challenge faced by the global and local environment has provided new impetus for consideration of the linkages between the 'brown and green agendas'.

Cities consume and deplete enormous amounts of resources and energy. Environmental crises are created by waste and refuse processing and conflict is generated over the limited natural resources available to urban residents. Risk and vulnerability, especially of the poorest, is increasing, particularly in the face of extreme weather phenomena brought about by climate change.

Although it is widely recognised that traditional urban planning models and approaches have contributed to the present environmental crisis, it is also clear that addressing environmental issues at city level will not be possible without appropriate urban planning systems that integrate respect for the natural environment with the improvement of the human environment and reduction of greenhouse gas emissions of cities.

The pursuit of carbon-neutral cities, through the increase in green areas within cities and the use of ecological services, often combined with efforts to close the energy/materials loops of cities, decentralise renewal energy production and reuse waste, has recently emerged as a way to increase synergies between build and natural environment in cities. Patterns of urban growth can be influenced to reduce carbon emission, by promoting more compact cities, and ensuring better access to collective or non-motorised transport. Resilience to potential environmental disasters can be increased through proper urban and land use planning.

UN-HABITAT has adopted an integrated urban planning approach to environmental sustainability in the city, putting emphasis on the governance of the environment and the needs of the poor. This approach has been successful in mobilising civic engagement and in promoting planning innovations. It has also resulted in a vast set of experiences in sustainable service delivery, land use management and urban investment in general.



## Cuba: Improving Urban Planning Through Localising Agenda 21

The case of Bayamo, a provincial capital situated in the less developed eastern part of Cuba, proves that municipal urban planning practices can be improved. Through a Local Agenda 21 approach, participation and communication have been enhanced, planning has become more strategic and result-oriented and a better understanding has been achieved in mediating urban conflicts and enabling harmonious development.

When the Localising Agenda 21 Project started in 2002 with technical assistance from UN-HABITAT, the local river and its banks were in poor condition, compounded by water pollution, exacerbated by the use of the banks as an informal dumpsite and uncontrolled erosion.

At the urban consultation conducted in 2003, municipal and provincial authorities as well as the population demonstrated a growing interest in restoring the river banks with the intention of transforming them into recreational areas. However, the plan faced immediate trouble, as the beach that was established could not be used as the water was too polluted.

After five years of work, the need for a river-specific spatial coordination mechanism was clear. This led to the creation of a "Bayamo River Planning and Management" unit within the local government structure.

The approach has been adapted by the Urban Planning Department and applied to the process of revising the old plan. The Ministry of Economy and Planning also regards this approach as a way to improve the planning at the country level.



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## Philippines: Climate Change and Urban Planning in Sorsogon

Sorsogon City lies at the southernmost tip of Luzon Island and is extremely vulnerable to tropical cyclones and storm surges, which are likely to worsen due to rising sea levels. As a result, its inhabitants, especially the poor, are highly vulnerable to climate-related impacts.

As a partner in the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI), the city government conducted a multi-stakeholder vulnerability and adaptation assessment to define critical areas and identify adaptation options. Communities profiled and visualised climate change impact exposure while the city technical team identified and quantified the current and future socio-economic costs assuming adaptation actions were not devised. The city technical team also coordinated a local climate change action plan.

In order to achieve its functions effectively the team was supported by a GIS office that introduced climate-sensitised spatial data.

Four multi-stakeholder Issue Working Groups on Shelter, Environment, Climate/Disaster Risk Reduction and Livelihood have formulated their work plans and are in the process of developing demonstration projects to test the innovative approaches on the ground. The city's Comprehensive Land Use Plan and the Local Development Plan are up for enhancement with the integration of environmental sustainability and climate change parameters.

In parallel with the city-level efforts, UN-HABITAT developed a national scoping study to better understand and raise awareness on key urban development issues in relation to climate change. The Urban Development Stakeholder Action Agenda on Climate Change is now used as an effective tool for advocating the urban agenda in climate change policy discussions at the national level.



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## Kenya: Planning for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation in Embu

Dallas is an informal settlement in Embu, eastern Kenya, with a population of over 18,000 residents. Over the past decade, Dallas has increasingly faced problems associated with the perennial flooding of two dams within the settlement. This has often led to the destruction of property and the displacement of people.

The Dallas Integrated Basic Urban Services (DI-BUS) Project aims to address the challenge of providing urban services and climate change responses through an ecosystem-based adaptation approach. Also, through developing a flood mitigation strategy, it aims to enhance the overall resilience and responsiveness of the community to the impacts of urbanisation and climate change.

This initiative has developed sustainable strategies through stakeholder participation and strengthening the capacity of youth and women groups. As a result, the project has built community capacity and promoted livelihoods. A number of activities have been put in place to support the conservation and preservation of wetlands, such as upstream storm water retention, rainwater harvesting, effective control of run-off and erosion, treatment of the water in dams by introducing the effective use of micro-organisms, and the introduction of suitable flora and fauna, such as the giant bamboo.

In addition, the project has initiated housing improvement activities including training artisans on eco-friendly soil block technology. A settlement profile has been completed and community members have been selected to manage and steer planning and housing issues.



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## China: Supporting Sustainable Urbanisation

The UN-HABITAT Sustainable Urbanisation Project in China has developed viable models for Chinese cities to integrate local Environmental Planning and Management (EPM) processes into urban strategic planning, with sustainable urban development as a long-term goal.

The project was introduced in Shenyang and Wuhan cities, where rapid economic growth has caused significant environmental degradation. The project supported the environmental bureaus in the cities to formulate and implement environmental response strategies and detailed action plans which addressed priorities such as air pollution, liquid and solid waste management, and the depletion of water resources through innovative participatory environmental governance mechanisms.

Environmental issues were brought to the forefront of urban development planning and decision making processes through the application and testing of innovative participatory environmental governance mechanisms.

One of the outcomes of the project, the Shenyang City Air Quality Management Strategy helped the city to drop out of the list of the 20 most polluted cities in the world.

Lessons learned were developed into national guidelines by China's Administrative Centre for Agenda21 (ACCA21) based in Beijing and applied to three other cities: Guiyang, Hailin and Panzhihua, which went on to improve their city environmental planning and management capacities.



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## Inclusion and Urban Safety through Urban Planning

Urban safety and security are emerging concerns for urban planners and city governments. Badly managed urban growth, inequality and rapid social change, in addition to a weak understanding of the patterns and causes of crime, have provided a fertile ground for the proliferation of violence in urban areas.

Insecurity in a city has far-reaching consequences on its physical, social, and economic conditions, including a direct interference with the quality of urban spaces and their physical depletion through vandalism and neglect. Impact on economic activities and civic interaction are also considerable.

Crime and violence occurs within a physical setting, whether a public open space, a park, a street, a market, or a transportation hub. Urban physical planning, design and management can contribute to the prevention of crime and violence within cities through integrated approaches that incorporate strategic and systematic upgrading of public spaces, and apply security-conscious design and management principles, revision of city by laws and regulations, mixed zoning and planning for diversity, integrated management of public space, conflict resolution and rapid maintenance responses.

On the city-scale urban planning responds to urban insecurity by promoting inclusion and empowerment of the urban poor, and other excluded residents, and enhances the role of youth in urban space.

UN-HABITAT has been spearheading the development of tools for urban safety enhancement and crime and violence prevention. The approaches have ranged from incorporating prevention tools and partners within urban planning systems, to local level interventions that make spaces safer through appropriate redesign and management.



## Kenya: Participatory Safety Assessment in Mama Ngina Street, Nairobi

The Central Business District (CBD) of Nairobi was rated as the most unsafe area of the city in 2000. Through the Safer Nairobi Initiative, UN-HABITAT supported the City Council of Nairobi in developing a city-wide strategy for crime prevention. A safety walk conducted in the Central Business District of Nairobi in 2003 in the context of the City Crime Prevention and Urban Safety Strategy, recognised the significance of strategic and coordinated upgrading of public spaces in addressing the crime and violence challenges in the area. This assessment identified safety-related problems in the physical environment, and came up with recommendations for its improvement.

It was clear that to create a safer living and working environment would necessitate a collaborative effort by the City Council of Nairobi, the private sector, and other key actors. Through this partnership, the busy Mama Ngina Street in the city centre was re-organised into a one-way pedestrian corridor with low-vehicular use. The spatial changes made have resulted in more frequent pedestrian use of the street extended into the late evening.

This has contributed to an increased sense of security in the area, while there is also potential for additional outdoor social, cultural, artistic, and

commercial activities. The approach has since been applied to several other areas in the city, including major public parks, transport hubs and residential areas, including some of the city's slums.



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## Cameroon: Safer Cities and Urban Planning in Douala

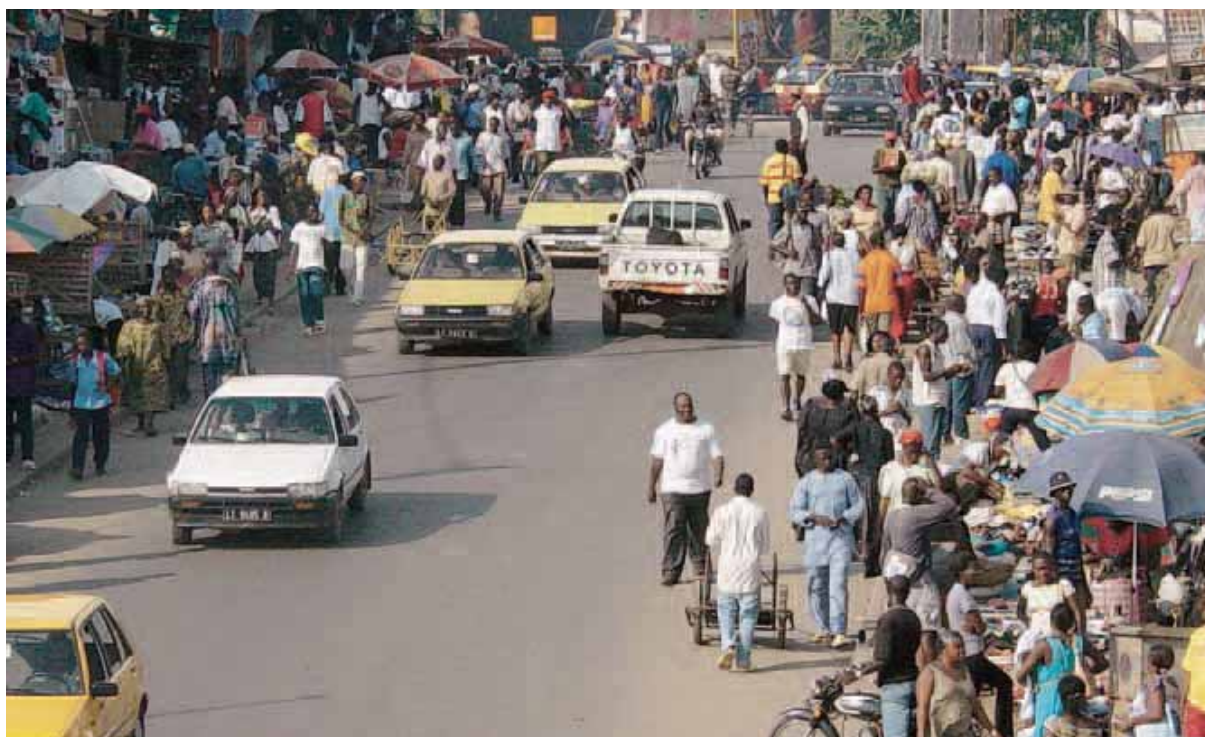
In 2003, insecurity was identified as the key concern for residents and authorities of Douala, Cameroon's economic capital and largest city. UN-HABITAT was asked to assist in setting up an urban crime prevention strategy.

As a first step, the City Council of Douala, with UN-HABITAT support, conducted a safety diagnosis which highlighted the condition of neglect in public spaces, residential areas and the dilapidated road network as catalysts for criminal activity. Then a more detailed analysis of 10 areas of the city was conducted to identify dimensions of insecurity and possible remedial actions.

A city-wide Environmental Design Study Group was created and trained

in urban safety tools and designing plans for safer urban spaces. Local reference groups were established for each site with various representatives, in particular youth, traders and women. A mapping exercise through exploratory walks was conducted and this led to the development of proposals in which a multi-actor action plan was supported by a series of location specific design recommendations.

As a result, a number of pilot initiatives were initiated, such as the improvement of public lighting and signage; the development of neighbourhood security councils; and the development of a manual for the inclusion of safety considerations into settlement upgrading initiatives that were ongoing with World Bank support.



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## India: Working with Youth to Improve Women's Safety in New Delhi

Over the past few years, the issue of women's safety has become a major cause of concern in Delhi, with a significant proportion of the population feeling that the streets were becoming increasingly unsafe for women.

In 2009, UN-HABITAT partnered with JAGORI, a Delhi-based women's resource centre that has been working for the past two decades on issues of women's rights with a particular focus on violence. Together they organised a meeting to discuss women's safety and youth in the city. The meeting was attended by a cross-section of actors in urban governance, including representatives of civil society organisations, women's groups, youth leaders, and government officials. They came up with several recommendations one of which was to conduct a series of 'safety audits' in the community.

These provided urban planning and design recommendations, as well as sensitising members of the local community, the municipality and users of services to the issue of women's safety. As a result, a recreational area was upgraded by the youth.

JAGORI is continuing this series of safety audits as part of its 'Safe City' campaign and is also embarking on developing a city-wide safety framework for Delhi with the support of UN-HABITAT and UNIFEM.



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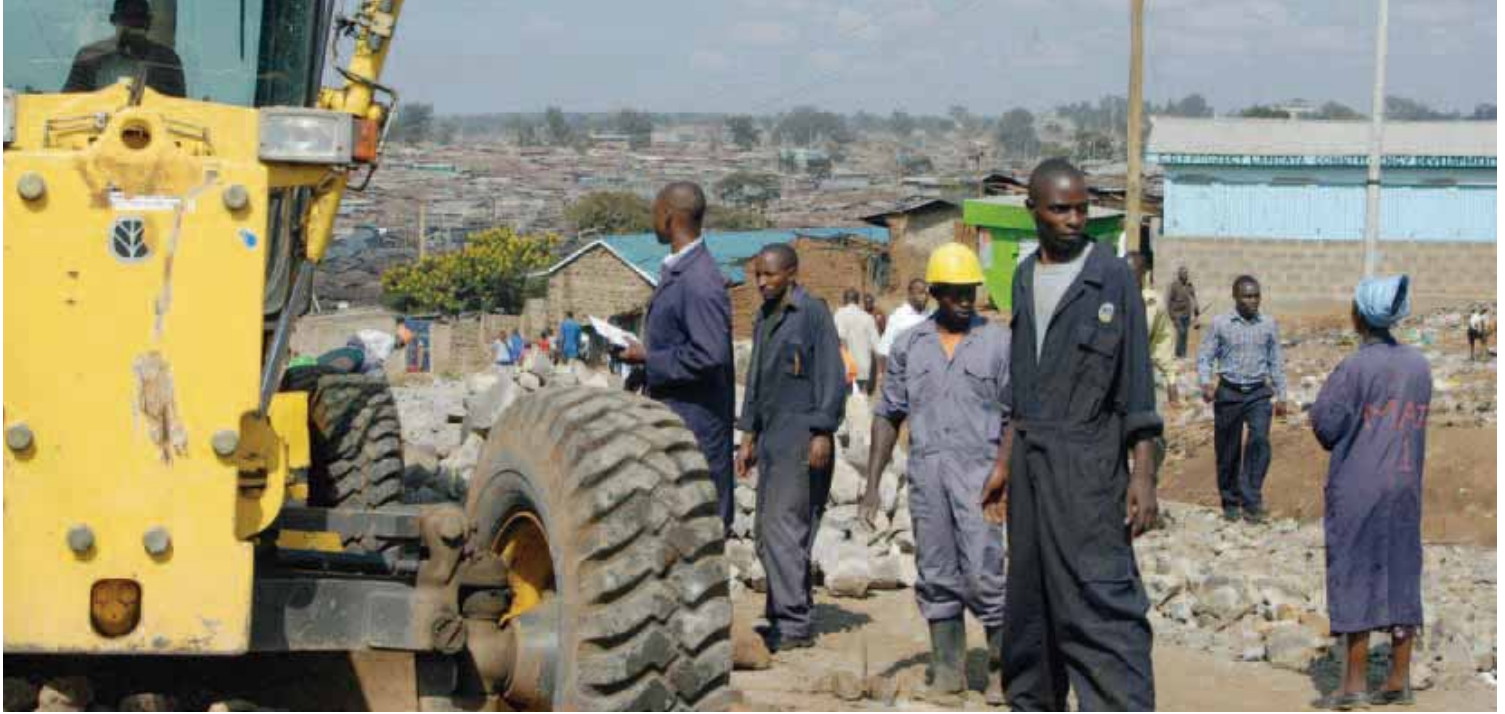
## Partnerships With the Police for Designing, Planning, and Management

The Police Platform for Urban Development is a joint initiative by UN-HABITAT, CIFAL Barcelona, Swedish National Police Board, UNITAR and UNODC. Its main goal is to encourage the police to contribute to the sustainable urban development and management of public spaces. The commitment of the Partners of the Platform is to enhance the role of the police and of security policies in preventing and reducing poverty with a special emphasis on safer habitable urban spaces. The Platform will inform and guide the development of tools and conceptual thinking on the role of the police in sustainable urban development. The Platform's members include police officers, architects, crime prevention experts and social workers from all over the world and it seeks to become a means of enhancing the involvement of the police in urban development in developing countries.



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## Local Economic Development and Infrastructure Planning

The provision of infrastructure and urban services such as transport networks, water, sewage, electricity and telecommunication plays a key role in the development of efficient, healthy and sustainable cities. Geographic location, land use patterns and regional economic links also contribute significantly to their economic competitiveness.

However, planning has not been able to contribute a positive role in the spatial organisation of infrastructure and basic services due to the proliferation of informality and the fragmented private-sector interventions in the form of mega projects and concentrated investments. Strategic spatial planning of urban systems, such as transport, if strengthened, can play a role in guiding both public and private investments and the development of proper infrastructures.

Urban planning processes should also take into account economic development concerns linking the future economic prospects to the urban form being defined.

UN-HABITAT works to promote local economic development through urban planning by focusing on its development at city level, linking investment planning and city development strategies, and providing urban planning frameworks to guide infrastructure development, which in turn leads to poverty reduction.



## Indonesia: Making Urban Investment Planning Work: Building on the Indonesian City Development Strategy (CDS) Process

UN-HABITAT is collaborating with the Indonesian Government and three city authorities to develop a new generation of City Development Strategies for Indonesia. The 'Making Urban Planning Work' Programme will work with the city government of Solo, Pekalongan and Banjarmasin, three medium-sized towns whose mayors have shown the ability to organise pro-poor urban development programmes, upgrading and investment. The programme will learn from their experiences and work with local technical departments to strategically connect to successful local initiatives.

The CDS initiatives will comprise participatory engagements between local authorities and community groups, focussing specifically on identifying the viability, sources of funding and public-private participation options of prioritised investments in community amenities.

The aim is to provide a strategy toolset allowing city governments to connect spatial planning and mid-term funding and investment decisions strategically. The initiative also aims at harmonising the sectoral planning of technical departments with the vision of democratically elected mayors.

This joint learning is then scaled up through a city-to-city training

programme throughout the country. The experience is also captured in an updated Mid Term Infrastructure Investment Planning manual, a tool book for capacity building and institutional strengthening for local authorities put together in recent years by the National Directorate General for Human Settlements.



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## Somalia: Markets as Engines for Development - The Case of Hargeisa Market

Since the end of the civil war, hundreds of small-scale vendors had blocked most of the streets in the central market area of Hargeisa, while two big market structures in the same area remained unused. As a consequence, traffic and public transport were chaotic and meat and vegetables were sold in unhygienic conditions. Formal vendors had also moved into the street, leaving many buildings empty and drastically reducing rental income and tax revenues for the municipality. In other parts of the city, the municipality had forcefully removed informal vending structures. Out of desperation, the vendors reverted to using wheelbarrows for a quick escape during street clean-up operations.

During the Urban Development Programme for the Somali Region (SUDP) 2005-2008, UN-HABITAT guided the negotiation process among all stakeholders, demonstrating how the interests of the informal

vendors, bus drivers, formal shopkeepers and the municipality could be accommodated in the same contested space.

Visualising the different options was essential for facilitating the discussion between the vendors and the municipal technical staff. Design was used to negotiate a broadly supported solution. As a result vendors voluntarily broke down their structures and realigned them for better circulation. Councillors and community workers were on the ground daily to guide the process and deal with small conflicts.

The process has guaranteed vendors vital livelihood opportunities, offering alternative solutions to the typical 'clean-up operations' being carried out in many other African cities.



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## Kenya: Non-Motorised Transport as a Tool for Promoting Basic Service Provision and Economic Development

Mobility is fundamental for the functioning of a city and a precondition for enhancing economic opportunity and the wellbeing of its residents. People living in Nairobi informal settlements face a wide variety of everyday problems related to mobility, such as access to employment, health, education and recreation. Minibuses, police and garbage vehicles cannot enter most of the settlements and the provision of urban services becomes difficult and costly, as the few existing roads are narrow and unpaved, often becoming impassable with the rain. Non-motorised modes of transport – bicycling and walking – form the overwhelming majority of all urban transport ‘trips’ in Nairobi. However it is often neglected in the design and modernisation of either new or existing urban transport developments.

UN-HABITAT has been working in Kibera and Mirera-Karagita/Kamere informal settlements of Nairobi and Naivasha respectively, to demonstrate the viability of non-motorised transport (NMT) as an alternative, efficient, sustainable and cost-effective tool for water and sanitation service provision, and for generating new income-earning and business opportunities.

Under the framework of the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme and in collaboration with local authorities and community organisations,

a strategy to open up opportunities has been developed. Solid waste management and water vending businesses have been established in the informal settlements and a utility bicycle workshop has been set up in Kibera for the design, production, and sale of non motorised load-carrying vehicles.

The project has been guided by the following objectives:

1. Create awareness among decision-makers and stakeholders at the national and local level on the important role played by NMT for providing sustainable and cost-effective urban mobility and basic urban services;
2. Establish access roads which take into account the needs of NMT users.
3. Open up opportunities for new income generating activities based on NMT, focussing in particular on service delivery in the water and sanitation sector.
4. Provide training courses in order to build the capacities of community-based organisations and informal traders.

The project has demonstrated the need for NMT to be considered when planning settlement layout, road systems and services provision or looking into economic sustainability within slum upgrading programmes.



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## Disaster and Post Conflict Reconstruction

Most disasters of large magnitude such as the 2004 Tsunami, the 2005 earthquake in Pakistan, and the most recent one in Haiti provide the opportunity to rethink human settlements and to set the stage for renewed sustainable development. Urban planning can be an important tool for both managing displacement and to guide reconstruction.

In the context of post-disaster and post-conflict situations, the capacity to manage cities is weakened, resulting in massive land grabbing due to the legal vacuum and the absence of the rule of law. This manifests itself in the form of inefficient and chaotic development.

Issues to be addressed in such situations include the integration of displaced people into host communities, the improvement of job opportunities, and the development of services and infrastructure, all working in synergy to minimize risks of exclusion and conflict.

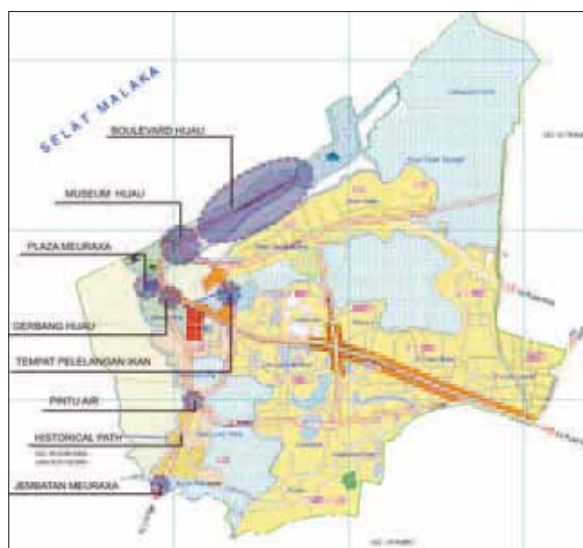
UN-HABITAT's experience in reconstruction shows that urban planning can ensure the coordination of land provision, infrastructure and economic development, which can play a strong role in slum-prevention and orderly urbanization. It can also be an important tool for visualizing the future, which can have a healing role in traumatized communities. Planning can therefore lead to the creation of more stable, peaceful and prosperous societies, and can leverage real improvements in people lives, particularly by integrating investment and service delivery, orienting them towards inclusion and more equitable patterns of urban development.



## Indonesia: Green Meuraxa – Rebuilding Participatory Governance through Post-Disaster City Planning

Meuraxa is an important sub-district within the capital city of Aceh Province, which was destroyed in the 2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami. The intensity of the disaster put into question whether survivors or new people would ever come back to Meuraxa. From the outset, UN-HABITAT organised a strong participatory approach through stakeholders meetings and through the use of local media. UN-HABITAT preferred not to rush to complete legal land use plans. Instead, it facilitated consensus building on issues such as the basic spatial structure, major infrastructure layouts addressing disaster risk reduction issues and general visions and scenarios at levels where the participation of the survivors proved to be possible.

UN-HABITAT also carefully coordinated its work with other planning programmes that were conducted by different governmental institutions, including the Government Reconstruction Agency and the Banda Aceh City Government. An environmental study on water resources management with regard to the future urbanisation of the shoreline and the preservation of mangroves was undertaken. The planning interventions have become an opportunity to strengthen local capacity and governance and to provide space for proactive conflict management based on the development of common visions and goals.



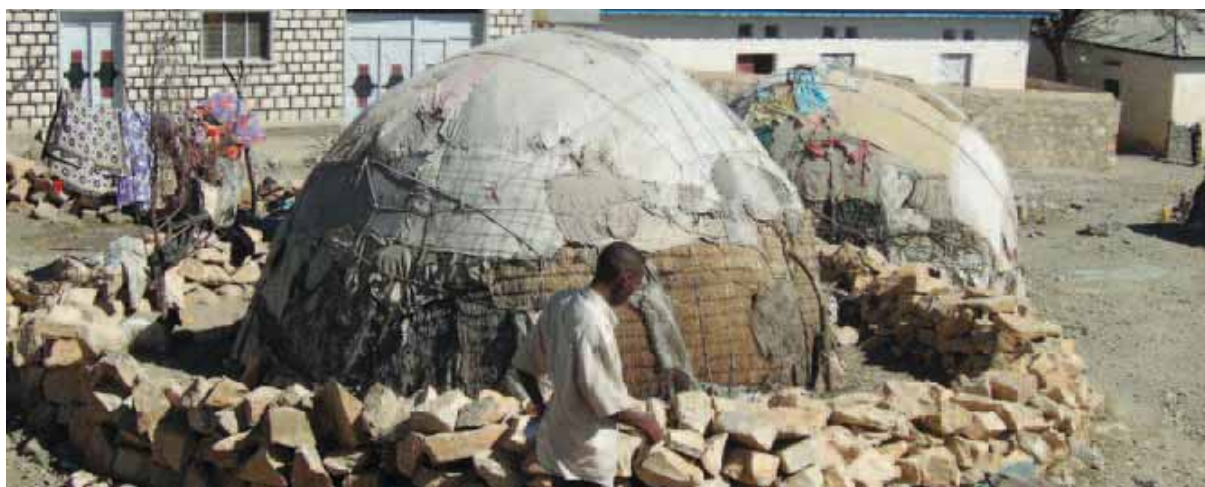
## Somalia: Finding Sustainable Space for the Displaced Community in Bossaso

Bosasso, a booming port town in north-east Puntland, has experienced rapid economic and population growth within the past 30 years. Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) constitute a quarter of the total population and the authorities originally wanted to resettle the displaced communities in a remote and isolated location 11 kilometres outside of town.

UN-HABITAT is implementing, with UNICEF, UNHCR, FAO, UNDP, and the Danish Refugee Council, the Joint Programme for the Protection, Reintegration, and Resettlement of IDPs in Bossaso.

The first UN-HABITAT permanent shelter intervention, completed in 2008, aimed at promoting the physical and social integration of the displaced

populations in Bossaso, finding land for permanent resettlement within the town limits. Through negotiations with the municipality and landowners, the land-sharing principle was introduced; landlords would hand over a certain percentage of land for the construction of roads, services, and public infrastructure, as well as for the settlement of urban poor and displaced communities. The international community would cover the costs of the resettlement of the displaced and the first investments in services and infrastructure including roads, water connections and street lights. The land-sharing principle allowed the host communities to also benefit from these investments, while 140 IDP and urban poor families – corresponding to approximately 840 people – were given permanent shelter and security of tenure.



### Handbook: Urban Planning Manual for Somaliland

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UN-HABITAT through active dialogue with national local authorities of Somaliland, is now preparing the 'Urban Planning Manual for Somaliland' as a part of institutional reform in the urban sectors of Somaliland. The manual aims to cover all the steps of an urban planning process, describing each step in a concise manner. To fit the specific Somaliland context, most of the figures and sample maps are taken from the towns of Somaliland in which spatial analysis had been conducted through the previous UN-HABITAT engagement under Urban Development Programme for the Somali Region (SUDP) 2005-2008.



**UN-HABITAT WORK  
AT GLOBAL LEVEL**





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## Strengthening Planning Education

Urban planning requires that the skills and capacities of planning professionals, as well as those of other urban stakeholders, are continuously revisited. Without developing these skills, the emerging innovations which could put cities on the path of sustainable development cannot progress.

Planning education in many universities only gradually absorbs new forms of planning emerging in cities around the world, such as participatory approaches and approaches that respond to varying needs and contexts. In particular contexts, characterised by poverty and informality, these approaches continue to be neglected in planning education.

University and other tertiary planning schools, in developing and industrialised countries need to make a concerted effort to review their curricula to prepare the planners of tomorrow for emerging – and future – needs of the cities. New planning approaches need to be taught and curricula need to be made relevant for the local context. Specific issues that need to be integrated into planning education include environmental sustainability, poverty and equity, and climate change.

Innovations in addressing urban problems also need to be better researched and subsequently find their way into planning curricula and application on the ground. Continuous professional education equally needs to be invigorated to keep practitioners abreast of new developments.

UN-HABITAT, through its Training and Capacity Building Branch and several of its programmes, has been developing training materials on various aspects of sustainable urbanisation and planning. UN-HABITAT has been working with training institutions for the past 20 years towards developing their capacity to identify training needs in the urban development field. Training programmes are being developed and delivered, targeting locally elected leaders and urban professionals. More recently partnerships for training and education are being formed with universities and professional associations, under the umbrella of the Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net).



## The UN-HABITAT Partner Universities Initiative (HPU)

To better organise its work with research and educational actors, UN-HABITAT has embarked on developing the Habitat Partner University (HPU) initiative, which focusses on Education, Training and Research. It aims at enlarging cooperation between UN-HABITAT and institutions of higher education, as well as facilitating exchange and cooperation between universities in developing and developed nations. Over 25 universities have expressed an interest in joining the HPU network. Ten partner universities are already engaged in concrete initiatives. To strengthen the research pillar of the initiative, the idea of an Urban Research Network is currently being investigated with the primary goal of linking research in the North and South, which can be better absorbed by local governments, urban practitioners and also mainstreamed in university education.



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## Partnership between Norwegian University of Science and Technology, Norway and Makerere University, Uganda

The Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) is a UN-HABITAT Partner University which runs a two-year international MSc course in Urban Ecological Planning (UEP) focussing on the urban challenges of the Global South. The programme approach takes resources in the slums as a point of departure. In order to recognise slums and identify the prevalent power structures for strategic action NTNU students collaborated with local geography students from Makerere University and ACTogether, the 'secretariat NGO' for the Federation of Slum Dwellers (SDI), Uganda. Together they worked in two slum settlements in Kampala, to learn, and ultimately to energise the forces for positive change.

- Collaborating with the local agents was crucial in establishing the trust necessary to make meaningful interventions.
- The most important long-term contribution will come from the insight the local students may have gained since they will be Uganda's future planners, and can affect the prevailing planning practice considerably.

What was recognised from the experience was that:

- Students gained substantive insights more effectively when learning from direct experience.
- Youth constitute a force for change within slums, interacting in ways others could not.
- UN-HABITAT funds for interventions allowed the students' work to carry real consequences, contributing substantially to their learning.



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## Integrating Climate Change into Planning Education: The Cities and Climate Change Academy

In collaboration with numerous planning schools and HABITAT Partner Universities, UN-HABITAT is developing support for curricula to integrate climate change-related issues into planning education. Partner universities have agreed that an on-line facility, known as the Cities and Climate Change Academy, will be launched.

This facility will enable universities to download syllabi for approximately 20 planning-related modules. The modules will add up to a semester course on climate change for urban planners. Individually, the modules will introduce climate change in specific planning courses. Each module will comprise lecture notes, reading lists, ideas for seminars, and studio work on specific case studies. Users will be encouraged to upload their adapted courses and related material.



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## The Sustainable Communities Course with Aalto University, Finland

Sustainable Communities is a continuing course coordinated by the Aalto University School of Science and Technology, in collaboration with UN-HABITAT, UNEP, the Asian Institute of Technology and the University of Nairobi.

The course theme has been chosen to offer mid-career urban professionals from selected countries a broad overview of current thinking and practices regarding cities and sustainable urban development. The course provides practical examples and methods on how to use city planning as a tool for sustainable development, in a context of rapid urbanization.

Key course topics include urban environmental management, shelter and settlements, transportation and energy, good governance for sustainable communities, risk and vulnerability reduction, and urban planning and sustainability. The course applies a highly interactive group work methodology which stimulates peer-to-peer learning and multi-disciplinary work.

The first course was held in Helsinki, Finland, in 2007, the second in Bangkok, Thailand, in 2008 and the third in Nairobi and Kisumu, Kenya, in 2009. The Government of Finland allocated funding.



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## Urban Planning Guidelines, Training Materials and Handbooks

**Participatory Planning Guidelines** are the result of extensive fieldwork experience of UN-HABITAT with communities and local authorities, in collaboration with the governments of Mozambique, Zimbabwe, South Africa and Botswana. The idea is to present in a simple and clear manner the sequence of key concepts of urban planning, as used during fieldwork, as a planning method that can be applied within the framework of other local development projects, involving the targeted population and the local authorities. The guidelines are generic, so that alterations may be made to fit into the diverse situations on the ground.

**Citywide Strategic Planning Guidelines** provide a programmatic road map that takes the reader through the process of how to analyse the present situation, and how to formulate a vision for the future supported

by realistic and tangible objectives. The Guidelines provide a detailed description of how to initiate a citywide planning process, involving politicians, technicians and stakeholders, and the public resulting in a strategic plan.

<http://www.gln.net>

**The Handbook on Policy and Public Spaces** promotes the collaboration between urban planners, civil society, government officials, and police services to help solve problems of insecurity in urban spaces. The objective is to identify innovative techniques and their application in addressing crime-related issues in urban space from a design, planning and management perspective, linking the police with other actors in planning and managing urban spaces.



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## Monitoring, Documentation and Analysis

Efficient, effective and equitable urban planning requires access to information and the assessment of options. Data collection, analysis and monitoring of urban plans therefore need to be embedded in planning practices at local level.

Monitoring and evaluation of urban plans is also a key tool for ensuring better outcomes and compliant results. In a number of developing countries, limited resources have often led to both plan enforcement and monitoring being severely hindered. This has been exacerbated by weak technical capacities and frail institutional commitment.

Participatory monitoring and evaluation, as well as urban appraisals, can provide effective, transparent assessments of progress and quality of the implementation. This can lead directly to improvements, since public pressure can be exercised on the bases of up-to-date information. However, the development of monitoring and evaluation functions within a city usually requires large resources, which means that if they are to be introduced into developing countries they would need to be kept simple, focussing only on the highest priorities.

UN-HABITAT activities concerning monitoring and evaluation on the global scale have focussed on developing guidance, sets of indicators and capacity-building support for the development of local monitoring mechanisms, and on the evaluation of urban planning interventions and their documentation.

In addition to these activities, UN-HABITAT publishes a yearly statistical and substantive overview of trends of urbanisation worldwide. In this way, a closer link between local information and global debate is also achieved, which can greatly enhance collective understanding of sustainable urbanisation issues.



## Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme

The Best Practices Local Leadership Programme (BLP) was established in 1997 as a response to the Habitat Agenda call to make use of information and networking in supporting its implementation.

BLP is a global network that includes government agencies, local authorities, professional and academic institutions, and grassroots organisations dedicated to the identification and exchange of successful solutions for sustainable development. It is a decentralised network of organisations committed to the identification, documentation, analysis and dissemination of best practices and lessons learned.

The programme is part of the City Monitoring Systems, UN-HABITAT's facility for monitoring global trends in sustainable urban development and evaluating progress in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals.

Urban planning initiatives are assessed against a simplified set of urban sustainability indicators and with a focus on their impact on living conditions.

Identified best practices are used to inform public policy for improved urban planning, management and governance through sharing and exchange. Dissemination is through the best practices database: [www.bestpractices.org](http://www.bestpractices.org), as well as through the main reports and publications of UN-HABITAT .

More recently, emphasis has also been put on 'living practices' as a tool for more current and dynamic learning and peer exchange. The 100 Cities Initiative, launched in 2010, is providing the mechanism for ongoing cities practices to be made available globally in a friendly format as part of the World Urban Campaign. [For more information visit www.100cities.org](http://www.100cities.org)

## The Global and Local Urban Observatory (GUO/LUO)

UN-HABITAT Global Urban Observatory supports, through its local observatories, city-based monitoring and evaluation activities.

An urban observatory is a local network of stakeholders responsible for producing, analysing and disseminating data on a meaningful set of indicators that reflect collectively prioritised issues on sustainable development. Data produced by the local network are used to support decision-making and the formulation of better-informed policies. An urban observatory is, therefore, a focal point for urban monitoring at the local or national level and enhances the urban planning process.

As evidence-based knowledge is key to localising policy at the city level, urban planning experts have promoted:

- the institutionalisation of local urban observatories.
- the setting up of cooperation frameworks at national or regional level to harmonise the work of the local observatories in order to improve access to information concerning services such as adequate water supply, hygienic sanitation, shelter, sufficient living space and security of tenure.

'Better information for better cities' is the goal and localizing the urban indicators programme of UN-HABITAT through the LUO (125 operational Local Urban Observatories)/NUO (9 operational National Urban Observatory)/RUO (1 operational Regional Urban Observatory) partners ensures the local monitoring mechanism in 53 developing countries and 10 developed ones.

## Global Report on Human Settlements and State of the World Cities Report

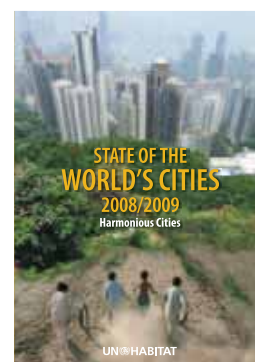
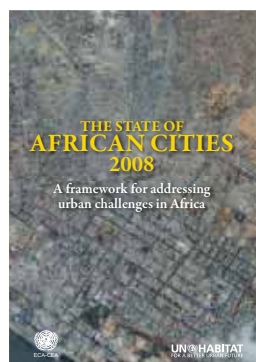
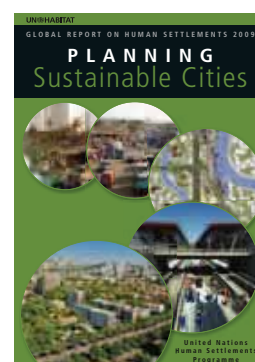
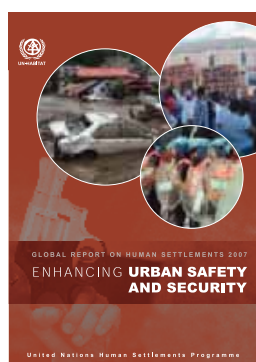
Two flagship reports of UN-HABITAT - State of the World Cities Report and Global Report on Human Settlements - are published in alternate years to provide an analysis of key issues of urban sustainability and to identify trends for a better urban world.

They provide up-to-date data and analysis, which build on the world's most accomplished expertise in different areas.

The 2009 Global Report on Human Settlements 'Planning Sustainable Cities' provides an overview of key trends in urban planning practice across the globe and reflects on constraints and opportunities for making urban planning a truly universal and accepted tool for ensuring urban sustainability. Its policy recommendation are offered to governments and practitioners interested in enhancing the role of urban planning towards sustainable urban development.

The Global Report on Human Settlements 2011, focussing on Cities and Climate Change, will be aimed at improving evidence-based knowledge, among Governments and Habitat Agenda Partners, on current conditions and trends with respect to the links between cities and climate change, and how cities can mitigate and adapt to climate change impacts using urban planning as a key tool.

In 2012, the report will focus on Sustainable Transport.





# CONCLUSION AND FUTURE DIRECTIONS

## Conclusion and Future Directions

The experiences presented in this booklet illustrate the substantive direction of UN-HABITAT work and can also assist in identifying some of the major gaps. They have been presented here to highlight the planning process on one side, and its outcomes on the other, in terms of impact on the quality of urban development and urban living conditions.

Interventions presented are predominantly focussed on the city level. However, a number of them demonstrate great capacity to influence policy and national frameworks. And many of them achieve impact on the ground, as well as policy level impact, and demonstrate capability of being replicated through national efforts.

Throughout the cases presented, urban planning confirms itself as a powerful tool, when adequately used, to engage communities, shape visions and guide towards them. The cases also demonstrate a variety of impacts and results, particularly at city and neighbourhood level, and a rich contribution to sustainable urbanization and more livable cities. They also illustrate how specific entry points and local concerns can provide the launching pad for integrated and innovative practices.

Overall, there is a considerable consistency across various projects in the process being promoted and supported – which is strongly oriented to consultation and participation and towards achieving multisectoral integration.

The content and implementation mechanism of the plans and other planning decisions varies more widely and would warrant a more detailed analysis across different thematic areas.

Finally, the physical, social and economic outcomes of this work should be measured on the longer term. As monitoring and assessing results in this perspective goes beyond the scope of most projects, this function should be further considered to enhance learning from these practices.

## Future Focus of Urban Planning Work

UN-HABITAT will continue to promote urban planning as means to reconcile and integrate spatial, social, economic, cultural and environmental concerns in cities. It will also continue to explore how different dimensions of sustainability can be integrated through urban planning towards an increasingly holistic approach to urban development.

Strategic planning conducted through multi-stakeholder involvement will be promoted as a key tool for sectoral integration and to address inequality, and as the most effective framework to increase the efficiency of city management.

Attention will be paid to both the quality of the process and of the outcome of planning, with a specific focus on achieving results, including:

- Enhancing the local economic development through planning, with a focus on linking economic development with poverty reduction and enhancing the economic potential of cities using urban planning as the integrative tool across sectors.
- Addressing climate change through an integrated and multidimensional approach, where mitigation and adaptations measures are equally important and are developed within an urban environmental sustainability frame. Urban planning can play an important role to enhance resilience of cities, especially as it is the urban poor who are most vulnerable to disasters. Urban planning will also assist in achieving less carbon-intense patterns of urban growth.
- Enhancing the contribution of urban planning to land and housing delivery, and to the provision of basic services, transport and infrastructure, with a view at ensuring efficiency and equity, as well as environmental sustainability. Slum prevention and the upgrading of slums and other marginalized communities is a key concern planning shall address.





- Addressing urban safety and insecurity with a focus on reducing vulnerabilities and enhancing inclusive urban planning, and on enhancing public urban spaces and civic interaction as key element of urban vitality.
- Promoting and developing urban planning tools and approaches adapted to enhance sustainable reconstruction practices in post-conflict and post-disaster contexts. Disaster prevention will also be embedded in reconstruction efforts through the enhancement of the contribution of urban planning contribution in this phase.

UN-HABITAT will look at urban planning in conjunction with urban governance and management, as these three dimensions, combined, support the complete cycle of urban transformation – from decision making to implementation and maintenance/feedback – in a more strategic way than when they are considered in isolation.

UN-HABITAT has identified the following specific activities:

1. Supporting the adoption of national enabling legislation, strategies and policies, through policy analysis, advocacy, documentation of good practices and development of international guidance. This will include, at national level, conducting reviews of urban planning strategies and legislation in order to provide recommendations and methodological guidance for countries to undertake their own assessment.
2. Strengthening institutional capacity for inclusive urban planning, through institutional assessment and review, capacity building and tools development. Among planned products there is a 'Quick Guide on Urban Planning' for the sensitisation of policy-makers and local elected leaders on issues of urban planning.
3. Improved implementation of inclusive urban planning, through improved planning activities, strategic partnerships, and support to stakeholders for scaling-up and better link with investment. This will include conducting assessments of planning practice and outcomes.

Under the newly adopted UN-HABITAT Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan 2010-2016, Urban Planning features as a core topic



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under Focus Area 2 – Participatory Urban Planning, Governance and Management, and as a cross cutting issue of all of its various areas of work. This shall provide internal institutional anchoring and drive.

## Working with Partners

In the years ahead, the work with partners will be of strategic importance to shape and promote the urban planning agenda.

The Sustainable Urban Development Network (SUD-Net), a global network of partners, is designed to further the understanding and application of the principles of sustainable urbanisation, at global, regional, national and city levels. Urban Planning is one of its priority areas of focus and SUD-Net will provide mechanisms for normative debate and exchange of experiences.

Within SUD-Net, the work with the Habitat Partners Universities will be crucial to identify critical linkages between research and practice, to stimulate relevant urban research, and to scale up appropriate planning education and tool development or adaptation.

The urban planning profession has a lot to contribute to these reflection and efforts and is called to take up this challenge and devise mechanisms to continue interrogating itself on its role and impact. UN-HABITAT works with planners around the world through the Habitat Professionals Forum (HPF), a voluntary affiliation of international and regional associations of Human Settlements Professionals involved in sustainable urban development, with the aim to foster cooperation between human settlements professionals and other partners, through dialogue and partnerships.

Among the planning associations, members include the Global Planners Network (GPN), the International Federation for Housing and Planning (IFHP), the International Society of City and Regional Planners (ISOCARP) and the Commonwealth Association of Planners (CAP). The associations of planners at country level are also a key partner in capacity building and policy reform.

The World Urban Campaign will be - in 2010 and 2011 - the key tool of the advocacy and partnership strategy of UN-HABITAT. Through the World Urban Campaign, UN-HABITAT will engage partners from public, private and social sectors worldwide to achieve resilient, sustainable urban communities. Initiated and coordinated by UN-HABITAT, the World Urban Campaign is a new systemic approach towards partnership, advocacy and networking, through unique and periodic events (such as World Habitat Day and the World Urban Forum), the publication of magazines and reports, and the development of television content and educational tools.

Sustainable urbanisation is understood by the campaign partners as a process which promotes an integrated, gender-sensitive and pro-poor approach to the social, economic and environmental pillars of sustainability. The campaign advances, among other principles, participatory planning and decision making processes as well as empowering cities and communities to plan for and effectively manage adversity and change.

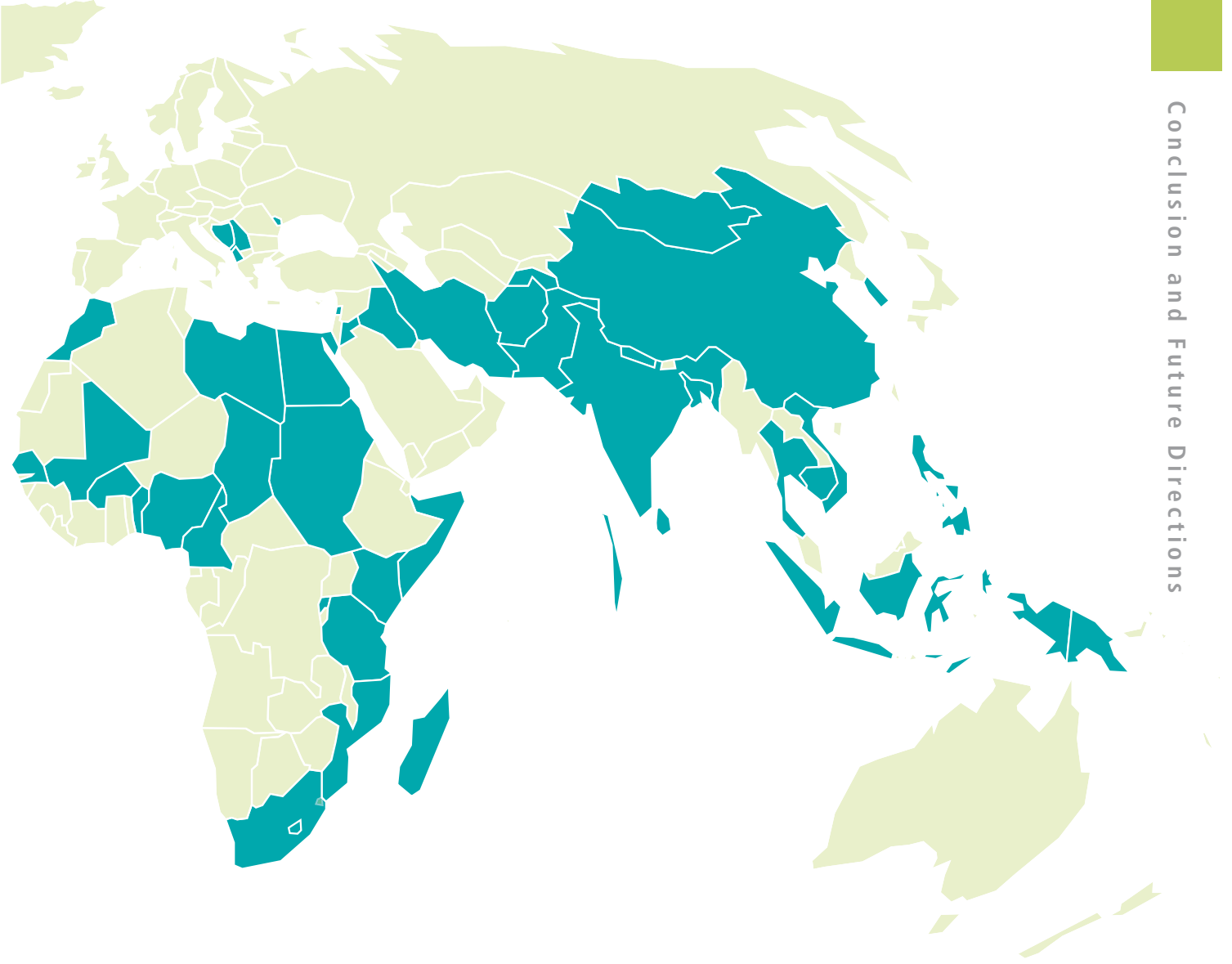
Urban Planning is a key topic for the campaign and a key instrument for the promotion of participatory engagement, strategic thinking, vision building and territorial coordination.

# UN-HABITAT Urban Planning Projects

The list provides an overview of urban planning projects. It does not include many of the country level activities of global initiatives.



	Global (APC countries)	Africa	Regional	Regional	Benin	Burkina Faso	Cameroon	Chad	Kenya	Lesotho	Madagascar	Mali	Mozambique	Nigeria	Senegal	South Africa	Tanzania	Arab States	Egypt	Iraq	Lebanon	Libya	Morocco	OPT	Somalia	Sudan
Disaster and Post Conflict Reconstruction																										
Local Economic Development and Infrastructure																										
Urban Safety through Urban Planning																										
Environmental Sustainability																										
Slum Prevention and Upgrading																										
Public Participation																										
Institutional and Regulatory Frameworks																										
Strategic Spatial Planning																										



Asia and Pacific										
Afghanistan										•
Bangladesh										•
Cambodia										
China										
Indonesia										•
Maldives										
Mongolia										
Nepal										•
Pakistan										•
Papua New Guinea										
Philippines										
Republic of Korea										
Sri Lanka										•
Timor Leste										
Vietnam										•
Europe										
Albania										
Bosnia Herzegovina										
Serbia										
Kosovo										•
Moldova										
Tajikistan										
Latin America and the Caribbean										
Brazil										•
Colombia										•
Cuba										•
Haiti										
Mexico										•
Peru										•



This publication presents a strong argument for innovating urban planning to address the contemporary challenges of rapid urbanization and poverty. It illustrates how UN-HABITAT has worked in a variety of contexts to apply urban planning and design to contribute to sustainable human settlements development, slum prevention, post-disaster and post-conflict reconstruction, and new environmental and social challenges, such as climate change and urban violence.

The work undertaken at country and project level, and the initiatives at global level are presented in a structured way, to highlight specific thematic areas and approaches, and to illustrate how work to shape the urban environment and the policy and processes that determine it, have contributed to more sustainable and equitable urban development.

The overview points to a rich experience, which warrants both further analysis and reflection, as well as concrete steps for its dissemination and development within the international debate on sustainable urbanisation.

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