

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

Issued on: 05 November 2014

ORGANIZATIONAL LOCATION:	UN-Habitat, Housing Unit, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch
DUTY STATION:	Nairobi, Kenya
FUNCTIONAL TITLE:	Consultant for developing a publication on the right to adequate housing of persons with disabilities
DURATION:	A total of 45 working days during the period of 3 months – 1 January – 31 March 2015
CLOSING DATE:	19 November 2014

BACKGROUND

The purpose of this consultancy is to draft a study examining and assessing the possible areas and level of influence UN-Habitat could have on the advancement of the right to adequate housing and basic services of persons with disabilities in cities (formal and informal settlements alike).

The consultancy will culminate in a UN Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP) Publication to study the restrictions of the right to adequate housing and basic services and other rights of persons with disabilities in the cities. The publication will serve a two-fold purpose. Firstly, it will identify the trends in relation to the policy and legal national and sub-national solutions in relation to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Secondly, it will identify the possible areas of engagement of UN-Habitat (including through its collaboration with the UN Office for the High Commissioner of Human rights (OHCHR) under the auspices of the UNHRP) in view of its mandate and programmatic priorities.

As recognized most recently in the post-2015 Agenda discussions at the global level, including the development of the New Urban Agenda, focus on the vulnerable and marginalized in the process of urbanization requires attention to the rights and needs of persons with disabilities.

General Comment 4 of the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights, on the Right to Adequate Housing, enumerates the aspects of what is meant by an adequate standard of living in the international legal framework. Physical accessibility is one of the core predicaments for the enjoyment of these rights. Where housing, housing-related facilities and neighborhoods are traditionally designed for people without disabilities – often because of the cost associated with designing accessible entries - physical accessibility becomes one of the barriers most vividly relevant to persons with disabilities in the cities.

Lack of access to transportation services and architectural adjustments in order for persons with disabilities to access facilities and services, including health, education, modern energy sources, water and adequate sanitation facilities (particularly in the informal settlements) prevent them from enjoying the gains of urban development and fulfilment of their rights. Moreover, physical restrictions in transportation can diminish the ability of persons with disabilities to work as well as to vote and participate in municipal governance processes, hence restricting their ability to take part in decisions which affect their well-being (such as new housing projects and slum-upgrading).

Security of tenure is another challenge for persons with both physical and intellectual disabilities. In cases where their legal capacity is questioned or unresolved, it may ultimately result in their exclusion from formal tenure agreements. Such potentially diminished security of tenure may also have a bearing on their increased vulnerability to forced evictions.

These are some of the overall challenges affecting persons with disabilities across the world, all of which require targeted action to be implemented through sustainable development policy. UN-Habitat's programmatic priorities include urban governance, planning and design, basic services, housing sector assessment and rehabilitation and slum upgrading. Sufficient attention to issues affecting persons with disabilities, particularly their right to adequate housing, must be adequately reflected in UN-Habitat's development policies and strategies.

There is an urgent need to support and strengthen the programmes, initiatives and public policies to contribute to the improvement of the living conditions of persons with disabilities living in cities, especially those occupying the informal settlements and living on the borders of intersectional discrimination of poverty and disability.

Moreover, UN-Habitat's recent direction of its urban development discourse and practice to one compliant with the human rights-based approach (HRBA) to development informs the need to explore in more detail the right of persons with disabilities to adequate housing.

Persons with disabilities are but one distinct group of vulnerable people in urban settings. While they, as well as many others, come to the city in search of a better life, their vulnerabilities often exacerbate their economic and social exclusion in the city, which includes an increased risk of exposure to inadequate housing conditions.

The publication is envisaged to be jointly published by UN-Habitat and OHCHR under the auspices of the UN Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP), in possible collaboration with leading housing rights partners. The publication is to be widely disseminated to UN-Habitat and OHCHR country- and regional offices, and to Habitat Agenda Partners.

RESPONSIBILITIES

The consultancy will deliver the following outputs:

Task 1. UN Housing Rights Programme (UNHRP) Publication to study the restrictions of the right to adequate housing and basic services and other rights of persons with disabilities in the cities.

The publication will serve a two-fold purpose. Firstly, it will identify the trends in relation to the policy and legal national and sub-national solutions in relation to the realization of the rights of persons with disabilities. Secondly, it will identify the possible areas of engagement of UN-Habitat (including through its collaboration with the OHCHR under the auspices of the UNHRP) in view of its mandate and programmatic priorities.

Output 1: Inception report (7 working days)

The inception report that will describe how the consultant intends to carry out the consultancy.

It should include: preparation of preliminary issues under investigation, approach to/methodology of the study, initial analytical framework, tentative table of contents, an outline for the publication with short descriptions (bullet points) of the content of each chapter; a list of intended reference materials; and a scheduled work plan.

The report should be made available to UN-Habitat two weeks into the consultancy. After receiving the report, UN-Habitat/OHCHR will send its consolidated comments within a week. The consultant will address the comments to the satisfaction of UN-Habitat before payment of the first instalment.

Output 2: First draft publication (28 working days)

The publication should not be more than 50 pages in Microsoft Word with font size 11 (including the front page, disclaimer, reference list, diagrams and tables) and it should address the issues raised in the terms of reference.

The first draft of the publication should undertake

- An in-depth literature review of the impact of the city on the right to adequate housing and basic services of persons with disabilities in the cities;
- Review of national/sub-national Laws and Policies on Housing for persons with disabilities;
- Through an examination of submissions to the Universal Periodic Review, an overview of select Law and Policy on Housing for persons with disabilities;
- Identify sources of discrimination – vulnerability analysis of persons with disabilities in the urban setting;

- Provide a summary of at least 4 case studies from different regions of the world (urban poor, formal and informal settlements);
- Provide any other items agreed following submission of the inception report.

UN-Habitat/OHCHR will send its comments on the first draft within three weeks.

Output 3: Final draft publication (10 working days)

Final draft publication should incorporate detailed comments received from UN-Habitat, OHCHR and other reviewers.

UN-Habitat/OHCHR will send its comments on the final draft within two weeks.

More specifically the publication will:

- Provide recommendations on possible areas of engagement of UN-Habitat/UNHRP in view of its mandate and programmatic priorities, for instance:
 - Right to adequate housing and rights of persons with disabilities in urban plans – Municipal space ought to be designed to accommodate the particular needs of persons with disabilities. Physical accessibility of service buildings and facilities (water, sanitation, energy) and public transportation must be considered from the outset;
 - Urban governance – housing with access to service provision, slum-upgrading and city development strategies must be designed in a manner which enables persons' with disabilities inclusive participation; clear regulation with regards to legal capacity of persons with intellectual disability for their access to governance space and civic services;
 - Housing design – architectural solutions, which enable physical access but also allow persons with disabilities to make full and meaningful use of their living space;
 - Equal access to opportunity in the city – policies incentivizing employers to enable persons with disabilities to access the labor market, education system, health services, etc.;
- Be easy to read for a non-technical audience and serve as a communication tool.
- Serve as an awareness building tool regarding the relevant subject matter – rights of persons with disabilities in the housing sector and in the cities;
- Explain the capacity gaps of the rights-holders and the duty-bearers in relation to the realization of the rights of persons with disability;
- Suggest policy solutions;
- Suggest areas of possible involvement of UN-Habitat in its normative/policy as well as operational/programmatic work;
- Extract and highlight key lessons and messages in boxes or in the margins of the text.
- Ensure clear and consistent messages to the reader so that anyone browsing through the publication and reading just the key messages should receive a clear idea of what can be done.
- Reference sources with footnotes within the text and provide an annotated list of key resources, including web-sites, at the end from where interested readers can obtain more information using the UN-Habitat style guidelines.

COMPETENCIES

Familiarity with international development agendas in particular with housing and urban policies. Experience and knowledge with the United Nations system, and particularly of UN-Habitat, will be considered as an asset.

Knowledge of issues affecting vulnerable and marginalized people

Experience in drafting UN-related meeting notes and reports

Excellent research, analytical, writing and editing skills; excellent oral and presentation skills in English

Prior experience in organizing global/regional events, meetings, or other collaborative events etc

Knowledge of universal design, accessibility and reasonable accommodation in the context of the Convention of the Right of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD).

Corporate competencies:

Demonstrates integrity by modelling the UN's values and ethical standards

Promotes the vision, mission, and strategic goals of UN and UN-Habitat
Displays cultural, gender, religion, race, nationality and age sensitivity and adaptability

EDUCATION

Master or PhD in urban studies, housing, urban development, geography or human settlements-related field.

WORK EXPERIENCE

Minimum of 10 years experience in research and policy development related to housing, urban development and human settlements issues; or other significant working experience. Experience related to housing rights and evictions a strong asset.

Solid experience in project/programme management

Prior UN/UN-Habitat experience would be an asset.

LANGUAGE SKILLS

Proficiency and excellent analytical and writing skills in English. Any other UN language will be considered an asset.

OTHER SKILLS

Excellent facilitation and communication skills are desirable.

REMUNERATION

Payments will be based on deliverables over the consultancy period. There are set remuneration rates for consultancies. The rate is determined by functions performed and experience of the consultant. The fees will be paid as per agreement.

Applications should include:

- Cover memo (maximum 1 page)
- Summary CV (maximum 2 pages), indicating the following information:
 1. Educational Background (incl. dates)
 2. Professional Experience (assignments, tasks, achievements, duration by years/ months)
 3. Other Experience and Expertise (e.g. Internships/ voluntary work, etc.)
 4. Expertise and preferences regarding location of potential assignments
 5. Expectations regarding remuneration

All applications should be marked “disability” in the subject line and should be submitted to:

Ms. Channe Oguzhan

UN-HABITAT, Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch

P.O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi, Kenya

Email: Channe.Oguzhan@unhabitat.org

Please also copy Christophe.Lalande@unhabitat.org and Helen.Musoke@unhabitat.org

Please be advised that applicants for consultancies must be part of the Inspira e-Roster in order for their application to be considered. You can reach the e-Roster through the following address: inspira.un.org

Deadline for applications: 19 November 2014

UN-HABITAT does not charge a fee at any stage of the recruitment process. If you have any questions concerning persons or companies claiming to be recruiting on behalf of these offices and requesting the payment of a fee, please contact: recruitment@unon.org