

People's Process

People at the center of the process

During the implementation of projects, the underlying principle is to place the affected people at the center of the process. This means mobilizing the affected to take decisions on their recovery and supporting them along the way. UN-Habitat strongly believes that unleashing the potential of the people is the only way in which all the affected people can recover in a short time.

The **People's Process** requires trust in people and recognition of the way people organize themselves. Communities are expected to lead in assigning priorities, in decision making and in taking action. They are encouraged to execute recovery and development programmes which build on their own skills and know-how. Groups of families and whole communities that share common interests and goals, work out action plans. In order to implement these plans UN-Habitat signs contracts, provides funding and sets up joint accountability formats, in such a way that the community groups are in full control of their own expenditures with the technical assistance of UN-Habitat.



Strategic support to Myanmar

Build capacity of institutional partners and government counterparts to strengthen technical capacity and build local ownership (policy support to the government, technical training and development of guidelines and demonstrating good practice).

Generate awareness on urban development issues and the role of the urban sector in national development in order to ensure political support for policy, planning and investment in the sector and sub-sectors.

Add value in our engagement by creating opportunities for collaboration between various government departments and other stakeholders.

Maintain technical excellence by mobilizing expertise at regional and global level to establish an effective link between global thinking and local wisdom and experience.

Diversified project portfolio to address the priorities of the government within the mandate of UN-Habitat and priorities of the donors.

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Home is not just a roof over one's head. It is a symbol of warmth, security and identity. No matter where we leave, home is part of what we are.

MYANMAR
United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UN HABITAT





Who we are

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), established in 1978, is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of housing and urban development. It also serves as the focal point for monitoring progress on implementation of the Habitat Agenda - the global plan of action adopted at the Second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996.

As an agency with global responsibilities, UN-Habitat needs to find ways of maximizing its impact; its resources must be focused, and policy principles and approaches must be strategic. These principles are derived from UN-Habitat's own experience and also from experience of its partners. National governments, local authorities, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), community organizations and the private sector are UN-Habitat's partners. In addition to its advocacy and monitoring function, UN-Habitat also plays an important role in providing technical assistance to countries and cities in the areas of urban governance, housing, environmental management, disaster mitigation, post-conflict rehabilitation, urban safety, water management and poverty reduction.

UN-Habitat Myanmar

UN-Habitat established a presence in Myanmar in the early 1990's through 2004 during which time the agency pioneered the "People's Process" by establishing the first community led projects in the Dry Zone, Shan State and the Delta. Over 2.1 million people were supported through developing community social infrastructure networks and facilitating access to safe water. The Community Water Supply and Sanitation (CWSS) and Community Initiative Support Facilities (CISF) programmes were implemented by UN-Habitat during that period. The agency also extended substantive assistance for the design of the Human Development Initiative (HDI) for UNDP and has partnered in implementation of HDI1, HDI 2 and HDI 3.

Today UN-Habitat continues to implement several normative and operational activities focusing on basic access of services to settlements, while addressing cross-cutting issues of gender, disaster risk reduction, environment and climate change. As part of its normative activities, the agency is providing technical assistance on issues related to the Habitat Agenda to its partners in Myanmar including the Ministry of Social Welfare Relief and Resettlement, Ministry of Construction, Ministry of Environmental Conservation and Forestry, Department of Rural Development (Ministry of Livestock, Fisheries and Rural Development), and Settlement and Land Records Department (Ministry of Agriculture and Irrigation).

Myanmar, with the installation of the new government in 2011, is undergoing rapid transformation, providing tremendous hope for economic development among its citizens. The central government is making serious attempts to reduce poverty, initiate inclusive rural development and to address the impending urbanization of the country.

UN-Habitat is currently supporting the Government of the Union of Myanmar through operational and normative projects. Currently it has activities in several townships across the country under its settlement support interventions. In 2012 UN-Habitat Myanmar intensified its support in normative areas through technical assistance to several line ministries and stakeholders in policy and strategy development and training in the areas of Urban Planning & Land Governance, Land Administration and Management, City Development Strategy, Urban-Rural Linkages for Poverty Reduction, National Building Codes Development, Urban Research, Training & Capacity Building, and Community Driven Development.

Thematic Focus Areas

1 participatory urban planning management governance

Urbanization must be managed in order to bring the socioeconomic, political and progressive benefits associated with this process. It is essential to put governance structures in place and build institutional capacity in order to manage the transition and lay solid foundations for future development. This will require the development of strategic vision, a review and adoption of new urban planning frameworks, strengthening local capacities, localizing tools for urban planning that target policy makers, practitioners, and communities and providing targeted technical assistance where required.

3 improving human settlements enabling seamless recovery

It is estimated that large cities will need 146 billion over the next 15 years to upgrade infrastructure in order to meet existing demand and accommodate urban growth. This figure does not include investment in rural settlements, and Myanmar's towns. Given the need and obvious constraints on resources, approaches that maximize existing infrastructure and build on people's own efforts and involving them in the financing, management and maintenance of systems is a worthwhile if not necessary endeavor - one that is often overlooked. In addition, adopting efficiency measures that reduce demand for energy and water should also be pursued.

2 pro-poor housing land tenure

Adopting a "pro-poor" approach to land and housing is a key in working towards the goal of poverty alleviation and sustainable urbanization. The Habitat Agenda Goals provide security of tenure, promote the right to adequate housing, provide equal access to land and promote gender equality in human settlements development. In Myanmar there is a need to expand land availability for all income groups by opening up new areas but at a rate the city can service. Without policies and urban planning, this trend will continue, as land will go to highest bidder - forcing people into slums as they search for places to live near to their work.

4 environmnet DRR climate change

Myanmar is highly vulnerable to climate change, but when compared to many other countries in the region capacity is much less prepared to respond to the challenges posed by climate change. The potential severe impacts of climate change and the current low state of preparedness necessitates an over arching response. Disasters are a serious disruption of the functioning of a community causing widespread human, material, economic or environmental losses, which exceed the ability of the affected community or society to cope, using its own resources. UN-Habitat is well placed to make DRR impacts at the community, state and national level.

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we have been supporting