

Fact sheet

PARTICIPATORY SLUM UPGRADING PROGRAMME (PSUP)

A slum is a deprived urban area, often not recognized and addressed as an integral or equal part of a city, town or human settlement, and whose inhabitants have inadequate housing and inadequate access to basic urban services. A slum household is a group of individuals living under the same roof who lack one or more of the following basic amenities: access to clean water; improved sanitation; durable housing; adequate living space; and security of tenure.

UN-Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP)

- aims to address the inequitable and uneven urban development patterns represented by slums. It engages affected communities and key urban stakeholders, placing them at the centre of efforts to improve the lives of slum dwellers. By harnessing the knowledge, skills and capacity of slum dwellers in particular and encouraging them to participate actively in slum upgrading initiatives, PSUP promotes beneficiary ownership and control, thereby enhancing project sustainability. It also uses this participatory approach to leverage partnerships, strengthen governance mechanisms and institutional structures, and diversify financing options to ensure inclusive planning and implementation, and consequently, sustainable outcomes.

The Programme adopts an inclusive, city-wide approach to improving the living conditions of slums dwellers. It achieves impact because it fosters a change of mind-set among all stakeholders, delivers tangible improvements to the living conditions of beneficiaries and engenders stronger institutional and planning linkages that promote sustainable urbanization by integrating slums.

THE CHALLENGE

- In developing countries, rapid urbanization, high levels of poverty and unemployment, and vested interests in land and housing markets pose serious obstacles to efforts by governments to provide adequate housing and improve the living conditions for all urban dwellers.
- Although the proportion of urban populations living in slums decreased from 39% to 30%

between 2000 and 2014, the number of slum dwellers continues to grow in absolute terms. Nearly one billion people, or one in every eight people on the planet, live in slums.

- Slums have a significant negative impact on urban development. Economic and social progress slows down, health risks increase, and security in urban settlements is threatened by high levels of unemployment and the attendant social tensions, which undermine the potential of all urban dwellers to achieve sustainable development.

UN-HABITAT'S APPROACH

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) launched in 2008, is a joint initiative between UN-Habitat, the Africa, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Secretariat, and the European Commission. The Programme equips countries with tools to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers while preventing the proliferation of new slums.

The PSUP Programme is implemented through five strategic and integrated interventions aimed at:

- Generating evidence based knowledge on slums and enhancing the capacity of stakeholders to strengthen policies and develop inclusive city-wide plans.
- Improving governance and slum upgrading institutions by strengthening collaborative linkages across sectors and stakeholder groups including slum dwellers, and horizontally incorporating all levels of government.
- Promoting participatory urban planning and design strategies that guide safe, resilient and sustainable urban growth and renewal within a city-wide framework.

- Facilitating strategic partnerships between national authorities, local authorities and slum dwellers on the one hand, and institutions that are able to tailor appropriate pro-poor financial mechanisms for sustainable slum upgrading.
- Guiding implementation of community driven and incremental slum upgrading interventions.

Reflecting the call of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development to end poverty and the specific Goal 11 to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by upgrading slums (Target 11.1), PSUP is an approach that delivers many Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) objectives as well as fulfills the 'housing at the centre' idea contained in the New Urban Agenda.

PSUP

TRANSFORMING THE LIVES OF ONE BILLION SLUM DWELLERS

PSUP - An approach that aims to **strengthen the sustainability of urban centres** through inclusive city-wide slum upgrading.

2030

The year by which PSUP aims to **reduce by 50% the number of slum dwellers** in 2,000 cities and towns worldwide.

881 million

The **number of slum dwellers** in developing countries.

IMPACT

- Since its inception in 2008, PSUP has partnered with 190 cities in 39 ACP countries, providing an enabling framework for **improving the lives of at least 2 million slum dwellers**.
- PSUP delivers three fundamental impacts 1) it changes mind-sets towards a more positive and inclusive view of slum dwellers and slums 2) strengthens governance and institutional arrangements towards a more integrated and engaging model and 3) delivers tangible improvements to the environment and the livelihood opportunities for slum dwellers.
- 8 National Urban Development and Slum Prevention Policies have been developed and approved.
- 35 National Urban Development and Prevention Policies have been reviewed.
- **10% of PSUP funds** were dedicated to community economic empowerment, resulting in improved living conditions for **268,000 people**.

CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS



PSUP is helping to transform the lives of 1 billion slum dwellers by delivering the **SDG Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums.**

PSUP also contributes to achievement of **Goal 11** to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by upgrading slums.

BENEFICIARY VIEWS

“For the first time, we saw the people in the slums and not just the environment’.

Mrs. Anne Marguerite Fouda Owoundi
Chief, Survey and Planning Unit,
Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, Cameroon.

“With PSUP, we want to make informal settlements become formal settlements”

Mr. Max Kep
Director, Office of Urbanization, Papua New Guinea.

DONORS AND PARTNERS



BETTER LIVING CONDITIONS

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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