

KEY SLUM UPGRADING MESSAGES

UN-HABITAT's SLUM UPGRADING UNIT

SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements safe, resilient and sustainable

SDG Target 11.1: By 2030, ensure access for all, to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

Proposed New Urban Agenda Key Statements for slum and other informal settlement upgrading:

12: We aim to achieve cities and human settlements where all persons are able to enjoy equal rights and opportunities, as well as their fundamental freedoms, guided by the purposes and principles of the Charter of the United Nations, including full respect for international law. In this regard, the New Urban Agenda is grounded in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, international human rights treaties, the Millennium Declaration, and the 2005 World Summit Outcome. It is informed by other instruments such as the Declaration on the Right to Development.

20: We recognize the need to give particular attention to addressing multiple forms of discrimination faced by, inter alia, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples and local communities, slum and informal settlement dwellers, homeless people, workers, smallholder farmers and fishers, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, and migrants, regardless of migration status.

25: We recognize that eradicating poverty in all its forms and dimensions, including extreme poverty, is the greatest global challenge and an indispensable requirement for sustainable development. We also recognize that the growing inequality and the persistence of multiple forms and dimensions of poverty, including the rising number of slum and informal settlement dwellers, is affecting both developed and developing countries, and that the spatial organization, accessibility, and design of urban space, as well as infrastructure and basic service provision, together with development policies, can promote or hinder social cohesion, equality, and inclusion.

27: We reaffirm our pledge that no one will be left behind, and commit to promote equally shared opportunities and benefits that urbanization can offer, and enable all inhabitants, whether living in formal or informal settlements, to lead decent, dignified, and rewarding lives and to achieve their full human potential.

97: We will promote planned urban extensions, infill, prioritizing renewal, regeneration, and retrofitting of urban areas, as appropriate, including upgrading of slums and informal settlements, providing high-quality buildings and public spaces, promoting integrated and participatory approaches involving all relevant stakeholders and inhabitants, avoiding spatial and socio-economic segregation and gentrification, while preserving cultural heritage and preventing and containing urban sprawl.

109. We will consider increased allocation of financial and human resources, as appropriate, for the upgrading and, to the extent possible, the prevention of slums and informal settlements in the allocation of financial and human resources with strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements, to ensure that slums and informal settlements are integrated into the social, economic, cultural, and political dimensions of cities. These strategies should include, as applicable, access to sustainable, adequate, safe, and affordable housing; basic and social services; and safe, inclusive, accessible, green, and quality public spaces; and they should promote security of tenure and its regularization, as well as measures for conflict prevention and mediation.

110. We will support efforts to define and reinforce inclusive and transparent monitoring systems for reducing the proportion of people living in slums and informal settlements, taking into account the experiences gained from previous efforts to improve the living conditions of slum and informal settlement dwellers.

BACKGROUND

The new Sustainable Development urban Goal 11 - “making cities and human settlements safe, inclusive resilient and sustainable” and the Target 11.1 “ensuring access to all for adequate , safe and affordable housing, basic services and upgrading slums”, underscore the importance of ongoing efforts to realize the rights of the urban poor and improve the lives of slum and informal settlement dwellers in particular.

UN-Habitat’s proposed New Urban Agenda also highlights the challenge of slums and other informal settlements. It calls for action proposing that urbanization be used as a tool for the inclusion and integration of slum and informal settlement dwellers. As the Executive Director stated:

“The integration of slum upgrading programs with countrywide planned urban development is the sustainable way to make a difference in slum areas of cities”. Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary General, United Nations, Executive Director, UN-Habitat.

The estimated 1 billion slum dwellers in the world today must be a rallying call to galvanize efforts to improve their lives and standard of living and focus attention on which approaches will achieve long-term prevention. The central focus of the SDGs on the eradication of poverty through attention to slums and slum dwellers will also feature strongly in UN-Habitat’s forthcoming New Urban Agenda

The aim of this document is to bring together key messages around slum upgrading and prevention, emphasizing important statistics on slums and important global messages on challenges as well what actions are being taken to prevent slums and improve slum dwellers lives.

A. GLOBAL STATISTICS ON SLUMS¹

- Today, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate shelter around the world; nearly a billion people live in extreme poverty² and most of those are from slum and other informal settlement contexts. More than 100 million people worldwide are homeless³.
- By 2030, UN-Habitat estimates an additional 3 billion people, about 40 percent of the world's population, will need access to adequate housing to fulfill their human rights.
- Slums and other informal settlements are thus not a just a feature of the developing world's urban context but are increasingly found in the developed world too⁴.
- In spite of great progress, slum and informal settlement dweller numbers continue to grow. Since 2000, the global slums and informal settlements population grew on average by six million a year. The slum challenge remains a critical factor for the persistence of poverty and exclusion in the world.
- The capacity of slum dwellers and informal settlements to move out of slums often remains limited. For example, of the approximately 10 million people added to the urban population of Sub-Saharan Africa each year since 2000, half end up living in slums and only two million can expect to have the opportunity to move to an improved area.
- Slums and informal settlements are hot points for informal economy and livelihood generation activities in many urban centres.
- In low-income countries, informal employment makes up 70-95% of total employment (including agriculture) and is found mainly in the informal sector. It is characterized by a high prevalence of own-account workers.⁵
- Slum and informal settlement contexts affect particular groups differently. In many developing countries at least 20% of the slum households are headed by women⁶ and given the increasing feminization of poverty⁷, women are significantly affected by these dilapidated conditions.
- Evidence from developing countries shows that children in the poorest 20 per cent of the populations are still up to three times more likely to die before their fifth birthday than children in the richest quintiles⁸. Many of those children are living in slums and other informal settlements.

¹ All statistics except where identified specifically, are taken from the United Nations (2015). The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 and UN-Habitat (2015). Slum Almanac. Tracking improvement to the lives of slum dwellers

² United Nations Sustainable Development Goals website <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/poverty/>

³ Ibid

⁴ UN-Habitat (2016). State of the World Cities Report.

⁵ HABITAT III Issue Paper 14 – Informal sector, New York, 31 May 2015

⁶ Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme – PSUP (2012), Country data.

⁷ Tackle, C. (2012) Urbanization, Gender and Urban Poverty: paid work and unpaid care work in the city IIED & UNFPA, 2012

⁸ United Nations Sustainable Development Goal website: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/inequality/>

Key Thematic facts and figures:⁹

Security of tenure and land governance:

- One of the most controversial challenges in slums and informal settlements, due to land speculation and the limited data is the challenge of land and security of tenure. Despite this, it is estimated that there are almost one billion (924 million people) in the urban areas of the world that do not have security of tenure¹⁰.
- There is a relationship between the growth of informal settlements and slums and the lack of adequate housing and service land. Legal access to land is a strategic prerequisite for the provision of adequate shelter for all¹¹. The failure to adopt, at all levels, appropriate rural and urban land policies remains a primary cause of inequity and poverty.
- Lack of access to land and precarious security of tenure prevents people living in slums from accessing credit and reduces their motivation to improve their homes and neighborhoods.
- Security of tenure has a negative impact on particular groups living in slums and other informal settlements. In many societies, women and youth have limited rights to land and secure tenure¹². While women produce as much as 60 to 80% of food in the developing world for example, they often do not have sufficient secure rights to the land they farm.¹³

Labor and livelihoods:

- One the most vulnerable aspects of life in slums and informal settlements, is job and livelihood opportunities. Urban areas with a high incidence of slums pay a real economic, environmental and social cost which imbalances their prosperity capacity¹⁴ as they don't make the most of their human and economic capital.
- Around 85 % of all new employment opportunities around the world occur in the informal economy¹⁵ which is the predominant employment sector in slums and other informal settlements.
- Particular groups are significantly connected with the fortunes of the informal economy in slum and other informal settlement environments.
- Young people living in slums are particularly affected by the lack of job opportunities, more than a quarter of the young urban poor earn little more that 1.25 USD a day.¹⁶

⁹ All statistics except where identified specifically, are taken from the United Nations (2015). The Millennium Development Goals Report 2015 and UN-Habitat (2015). Slum Almanac. Tracking improvement to the lives of slum dwellers

¹⁰ UN-Habitat (2003) estimates in Security of Land Tenure.

¹¹ Article 75 of the Habitat Agenda

¹² UN-Habitat Global Land Tool Network.

¹³ Landesa: <http://www.landesa.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/01/landesa-factsheet-landesacenter.pdf>

¹⁴ J.Herrera and others(2012), Informal Sector and Informal Employment, Women in Informal Employment (WIEGO)

¹⁵ Un-Habitat(2011), State of the World's Cities

¹⁶ UNESCO(2012), Education for All Global Monitoring.

- The informal sector is the primary source of employment for women in most developing countries. In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa like Benin, Chad, the informal sector counts over 95 % of women workers outside agriculture.¹⁷
- The proportion of women workers in the informal sector exceeds that of men in most countries. The danger for those women is the lack of social protection, worker benefits and health insurance, and typically works under irregular and casual contracts.

Water and sanitation¹⁸:

- Whilst between 1990 and 2015, the proportion of the global population using an improved drinking water source has increased from 76% to 91%, there are remain at least 1.8 billion people globally who use a source of drinking water that is faecally contaminated and 2.4 billion people that lack access to basic sanitation services, such as toilets or latrines¹⁹.
- Water scarcity continues to affect more than 40% of the global population and is projected to rise. Over 1.7 billion people are currently living in river basins where water use exceeds recharge.
- Water and sanitation deprivations affect particular groups in slums and other informal settlements significantly. Limited access to sanitation in slums brings forward the specific problems that women face such as the non-availability of hygiene services which prevents them from maintaining their self-respect and social reputation, the worries about physical safety for themselves and their children and the social stigma attached to living in informal settlements.²⁰ Each day, nearly 1,000 children die due to preventable water and sanitation-related diarrheal diseases. Research shows that sanitation is the single most cost-effective major public Health intervention to reduce child mortality in poor areas.²¹
- The United Nations estimates that \$10 to \$30 billion a year is required to provide minimum water services to all.²¹
- The global economic return on sanitation spending is estimated to be at least US\$ 5.5 per US dollar invested.

Overcrowding:

- Overcrowding creates miserable conditions in slums and many other informal settlements which leads to disease and stress and is also hazardous in terms of the way hazards like fire can affect so many so quickly.
- Overcrowding is linked with high occupancy rates and low space per person, cohabitation by families and a high number of single-room units. Slum and other

¹⁷ Martha Alter Chen, Women in the informal economy, WIEGO.

¹⁸ United Nations Sustainable Development Goals website: <http://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/water-and-sanitation/>

¹⁹ Ibid

²⁰ Urbanization, gender and urban poverty: paid work and unpaid carework in the city- International Institute For Environment And Development United Nations Population Fund (March 2012).

²¹ World Bank

informal settlements dwelling units are usually overcrowded, with five or more persons sharing a one-room unit used for cooking, sleeping and living.

- Overcrowding also affects access to some key services such as emergency services. The overcrowded conditions usually mean public space and access roads for the fire department, police, ambulances and hospital personnel is very limited.

Structural durability:

- Due to the extreme poverty and lack of planning and official regulation, most structures in slums and other informal settlements are made from poor quality or non-durable materials. Most structures are also not built to promote structural durability. This makes slum and other informal settlements vulnerable to impacts from natural disasters and climate change shocks. Post disaster recovery is also a huge challenge due to the often complete annihilation of settlement areas due to the vulnerability of settlement and other infrastructure.

WHY IMPROVING THE LIVES OF SLUM DWELLERS MATTERS

- Reducing inequalities in the urban context by integrating the people living in slums and other informal settlements into the broader urban fabric, promotes prosperous and sustainable cities.
- Research shows that those towns and cities with high numbers of slum dwellers and proportions of slum environments, are not only undermining the prosperity prospects of those living in slums - but also the prosperity prospects of all urban dwellers²².
- Urbanization is the driver for social, economic and cultural development but slum and informal settlement dwellers are left behind if their issues and concerns are not acknowledged and integrated into urban legislation, planning and financing and investment frameworks
- Improving the lives of the people living in slums has been consistently recognized as one of the essential measures to end poverty in the world as a target in successive global development agendas (MDGs and SDGs). It is indispensable to take concrete action which enables the full recognition of slum dwellers as rightful citizens in cities with genuine rights, aspirations, needs and capacity.
- Upgrading slums and other informal settlements brings fundamental socio-cultural changes towards a rights-based society in which prosperity is available to everybody, making urban centres more inclusive, safe, resilient, prosperous and sustainable. Slum upgrading triggers many associated positive outcomes: it can provide additional work and jobs for local construction companies, therefore encouraging local and small-scale industry.
- Compared to relocation and the development of new land, slum and informal settlement upgrading is cheaper and thus an affordable and practical option for Government. Slums and other informal settlements cannot be addressed in isolation or in the framework of forced evictions but integrated into the broader urban environment.
- Slums and other informal settlements must be viewed as part of a broader city-wide urban development challenge. The economic innovation and livelihood activities in slums are significant. Slum dwellers create and partake in the local economy and contribute to local economies through their efforts and spending²³.
- Slums have proven to be a catalyst for cultural development. Music, dances, sports, arts and even language developments are all reflected in the harsh environment of slums and should be understood and preserved in any upgrading process.
- Improvements to the five slum deprivations dramatically changes the lives of particular vulnerable groups living in slum and other informal settlements - especially women, young girls and children.

²² UN-Habitat (2015), El Estado de las Ciudades Colombianas. UN-Habitat (2015) Construction of More Equitable Cities – public policies for inclusion in Latin America.

²³ World Bank Africa Region (2010). Sumila Gulyani, Debabrata Talukdar, and Darby Jack. Poverty, Living Conditions, and Infrastructure Access: A Comparison of Slums in Dakar, Johannesburg, and Nairobi.

HOW TO IMPROVE THE LIVES OF SLUM DWELLERS (EFFECTIVE APPROACHES)

- Sustainable, inclusive and well planned urbanization enables all citizens to benefit from economic growth and prosper. The solution to improving the lives of slum dwellers is not eviction but inclusion.
- Inclusive, in-situ, city-wide slum upgrading will improve the living conditions for many urban dwellers living in slums and help prevent their proliferation.
- The Keys for Successful Slum Upgrading and Prevention within the Framework of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda includes: (1) Recognition of the slum challenge, (2) Government leadership, (3) Strengthening of a policy response, (4) Systemic and city-wide/'at scale' approaches, (5) Integration of people and systems, (6) Appropriate long term financial investment and inclusive financing options, (7) Address land issues and provide slum dwellers with security of tenure, (8) Participatory approach and community participation, (9) Combine slum upgrading with employment generation and local economic development, (10) Development of participatory, robust, standardized and computerized data collection processes, and (11) Creating peer learning platforms.
- National and local authorities should see slums and other informal settlements as a priority and dedicate efforts at not only enforcing poor citizens' rights but also to facilitate their economic and social progress which will also boost the overall prosperity of all urban dwellers.
- A multi-stakeholder effort creates a synergistic environment that encourages the good-will of the authorities, the engagement of the concerned communities and the better understanding of the urban poverty problem by the general public.
- Adopting participatory planning processes like area based government-community partnered enumerations are an effective way to gather a range of qualitative and quantitative data to compliment census data. Partnerships with Universities and Government to collect data are also effective.

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