

WHD FEATURE



Do's and Don'ts of Slum Policy –

Do	Don't
Promote good urban governance systems	Assume that slums will disappear automatically with economic growth
Establish enabling institutional frameworks involving all partners	Underestimate the role of local authorities, landowners, community leaders and residents
Implement and monitor pro-poor city development strategies	Separate upgrading from investment planning and urban management
Encourage initiatives of slum-dwellers and recognize the role of women	Ignore the specific needs and contributions of women and vulnerable groups
Ensure secure tenure, consolidate occupancy rights and regularize informal settlements	Carry out unlawful forced evictions
Involve tenants and owners in finding solutions prioritizing collective interests	Discriminate against rental housing or promote a single tenure option
Adopt an incremental approach to upgrading	Impose unrealistic standards and regulations
Associate municipal finance, cross-subsidies and beneficiary contributions to ensure financial viability	Rely on governmental subsidies or on full-cost recovery from slum-dwellers
Design and negotiate relocation plans only when absolutely necessary	Invest public resources in massive social housing schemes
Combine slum upgrading with employment generation and local economic development	Consider slum upgrading solely as a social issue
Develop new urban areas by making land and trunk infrastructure available	Provide unaffordable infrastructure and services



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Journalists around the world are encouraged to write similar stories about meeting the MDGs in their own cities and about slum upgrading.

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