

Adequate Housing for All

An innovative high-impact approach by the Housing Policy Section

With so many millions living in slums, and countless thousands joining them every day, we are indeed sitting on a social time bomb that is ticking away quietly in many overcrowded, poverty-stricken corners of a geopolitical chessboard already fraught with problems.

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director UN-HABITAT



The implementation of improved housing policies at national level is accomplished through analytic **Housing Profiles**. Such profiling assesses the status quo, thus providing knowledge and indicators to sustain evidence-based housing policy decision-making processes, in all related sectors and with all relevant actors engaged at the most effective levels.

The multiplication of housing profiles to different countries and regions is expected to generate sufficient information and empirical data for UN-HABITAT to promote a paradigm shift in housing policy thinking and practice as enshrined in the **Global Housing Strategy to the Year 2025**: *Adequate housing for all and cities free of slums can only be achieved if a wide range of affordable housing opportunities and serviced land are realized at scale, providing competitive alternatives to slum formation.*



The **UN Housing Rights Programme** is a joint venture between UN-HABITAT's Housing Policy Section and the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights.

In addition, the Housing Policy Section participates actively in the **UN Permanent Forum for Indigenous Issues** and the Inter-Agency Support Group for Indigenous Issues. This collaboration has enabled the development, appropriation and launch of Quick Guides for policy makers. A study conducted in 5 Andean countries (Venezuela, Colombia, Peru, Ecuador and Bolivia) has triggered policy reviews and adoption of measures to include indigenous peoples' issues in national land and housing policies.



The Housing Policy Section provides technical assistance to the **Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme** (PSUP) in twelve African countries. Such assistance includes developing guides to local teams, a road map for the formulation of a citywide slum upgrading programme and in-country support to the preparation of the programme document.

HPS is developing a series of Quick Guides to Citywide Slum Upgrading comprised of modules focusing on programme design, programme implementation, financing and post-upgrading maintenance and management.

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- ✓ Three stakeholder consultations resulted in carrying out household surveys in 4 cities.
- ✓ The final consultation in May 2011 was attended by the Minister of Housing and 130 stakeholders, and included an extensive local media coverage, both in newspapers, radio & TV stations.
- ✓ A draft national housing policy has been formulated, in full alignment with the Housing Profile.
- ✓ Government-sponsored consultations will be rolled out in other urban centres

GHANA

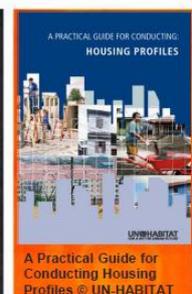
Malawi

- Three public consultations resulted in a government-initiated retreat to create a housing policy task force comprised of different stakeholders to revise the national policy document and incorporate the outcomes of the profile.
- A national radio live debate about the findings of the profile generated nearly 100 questions sent via sms.
- The housing profile was launched by the government during World Habitat Day as well as the fifth World Urban Forum in Rio de Janeiro.
- The president demanded urgent and specific actions on the priorities identified in the document.
- The national housing policy has now been drafted and UN-HABITAT has provided technical advice on the last draft of the national housing policy.

introducing

Housing Profiles

Institutional, regulatory and policy reforms to enable housing opportunities at scale as well as alternatives to slum formation



completed: **Malawi** **Uganda** **Tunisia** **Senegal**
Nepal **Ghana** **Vietnam** **Ecuador**
 pipeline: **Zambia** **El-Salvador** **Tanzania** **Laos** **Solomon Islands**

Sustainable Construction

Pro-poor sustainable and affordable housing in developing countries



SICMA focuses specifically on improving the environmental, economic, and social and cultural sustainability of slum upgrading at country level. This is timely to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with the building sector, improve the health of housing in developing countries, and harness the emerging opportunities for developing countries to secure housing finance under the Clean Development Mechanism.

- ❖ Creation of a **Global Network on Sustainable Housing** to connect various stakeholders (governments, municipalities, academia, private building sector, NGOs and CBOs) to improve global knowledge exchange.
- ❖ The development and hosting of a **web-based open-source knowledge exchange platform** that will disseminate technical knowledge on green building solutions to formal and informal designers and builders in developing countries.
- ❖ The development of a **'Quick Policy Guide to Sustainability in Slum Upgrading and Prevention Programmes'** to contribute to effective policy dialogue at national levels for policy reform that can promote the use of green building materials and technologies.
- ❖ The development of a **knowledge toolkit** to support UN-HABITAT regional and project offices in policy dialogue and slum upgrading programme improvement.
- ❖ **Four knowledge and increase capacity at the local level** to integrate sustainability into shelter programmes. The pilot projects are in four thematic areas: slum upgrading (Kenya); post-conflict (Democratic Republic of Congo); green jobs and traditional construction knowledge (Nepal); and sustainable social housing design (Ecuador).



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List of Publications (2008-2011)



- **Adequate Housing for All** Programme.
- A Policy Guide to **Rental Housing in Developing Countries**. Quick Policy Guide Series – Volume 1
- **Enabling Shelter Strategies**: Design and Implementation Guide for Policy Makers. Quick Policy Guide Series – Volume 2
- **Condominium Housing in Ethiopia**: The Integrated Housing Development Programme
- Practical **Guide for Conducting Housing Profiles**
- **Affordable Land and Housing in Latin America and the Caribbean**. Successful Policies and Practices. Adequate Housing Series 1.
- Policy Guide to **Housing for Indigenous Peoples in Cities**
- **Urban Indigenous Peoples and Migration**: a review of policies, programmes and practice
- Securing **Land Rights for Indigenous Peoples in Cities**
- Fact Sheet 21: **The Right to Adequate Housing**
- **Malawi** Urban Housing Sector Profile
- **Nepal** Urban Housing Sector Profile
- **Uganda** Urban Housing Sector Profile