

State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13

PART 1: GENDER, PROSPERITY AND URBAN TRENDS

Chapter 1.1 Conceptualising Gender and the Prosperity of Cities

This chapter outlines what prosperous cities refer to. In particular, it highlights how that to be truly prosperous, cities require equitable access to the necessities for building human capabilities and well-being such as services, infrastructure, livelihoods, housing and healthcare, alongside proper vehicles for civic engagement and multi-stakeholder governance. In the context of the importance of everyone having rights to the city, the chapter discusses the importance of using a gender lens to examine urban prosperity in order to capture their contributions as well as the inequalities that women experience in cities disproportionately to men. The chapter also examines the urban prosperity, gender and empowerment nexus through an exploration of meanings of empowerment for women as well as the critical elements that need to be considered in conceptualising gender and the prosperity of cities. It also examines the relationships between women empowerment, prosperity and urbanisation empirically in relation to the UN-Habitat survey.

Chapter 1.2 Regional Variations in Urbanisation, Gender Equality and the 'Prosperity of Cities'

This chapter examines the factors shaping the links between 'place' and 'prosperity', and specific urban places and prosperity. Although they are difficult to generalise, these factors include migratory flows, natural and social factor endowments, historical legacies (and anachronisms), and the logic of macro-economic shifts. The chapter addresses these variations in relation to the African, Asian and Latin American and Caribbean regions providing an overview of gender equality, wealth, poverty and urbanisation before concluding to highlight the importance of collecting comprehensive sex-disaggregated quantitative data.

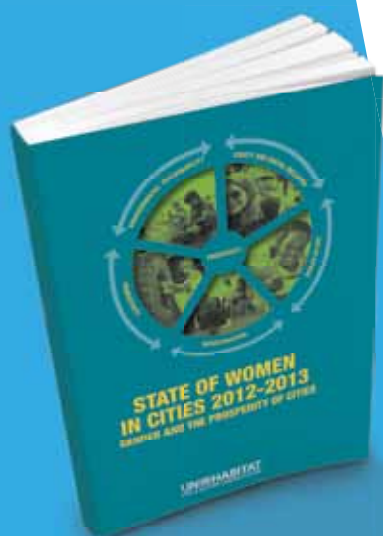
PART 2: GENDER AND THE PROSPERITY OF CITIES

Chapter 2.1 Gender, Quality of Life and Prosperity of Cities

This chapter considers a range of factors that underpin 'quality of life' in cities in relation to gender and urban prosperity with a specific focus on housing, health and gender-based violence. In relation to the gender empowerment and urban prosperity nexus, the chapter highlights gender disparities in physical and financial capital and assets as well as the gaps in power and rights. It also emphasises that there remains considerable scope for reducing these gender inequalities and providing women with opportunities to access resources and opportunities in relation to their quality of life that can lead not only to wider urban prosperity but also to women's empowerment.

Chapter 2.2 Gender, Infrastructure and Prosperity of Cities

This chapter outlines some of the key issues in relation to the importance of access to adequate infrastructure in cities in terms of enhancing women's prosperity and economic empowerment. This relates directly to the arena of gender disparities in physical and financial assets and capital as part of the gender and urban prosperity nexus of which infrastructure plays an important role. While infrastructure relates to various physical aspects of urban environments linked with territorial space, fixtures and connections, as in urban mass transport, pavements or sidewalks, street lighting, and parks, it also deals with community centres or meeting places, nurseries, elderly care homes, and sports and recreational facilities. In



turn, these link closely with aspects of productivity as well as spatial mobility and connectivity. This chapter focuses specifically on water and sanitation, public transport and the role of community centres and meeting places in cities.

Chapter 2.3 Gender, Productivity, and Prosperity of Cities

This chapter focuses primarily on the 'gender divisions of labour in the urban economy' as well as 'gender disparities in human capital' that both form key elements of the gender empowerment and urban prosperity nexus. It also highlights how employment is one of the key dimensions of women's economic empowerment in cities with great potential to contribute to urban prosperity. Yet it is also acknowledged that women's economic empowerment extends far beyond unpaid and paid employment, even if it remains a very important dimension in relation to their economic advancement. Employment in particular can be highly exploitative of women, and their participation in the urban economy can also exacerbate gender inequalities rather than ameliorate them as illustrated by the 'gender disparities in power and rights' aspect of the nexus. It is in the sphere of urban productivity, where women's multiple disadvantages across the spectrum of domestic, community and city-wide space, affect their ability to study, and to acquire vocational skills and training. By the same token, it is also the sphere where enhancing women's prosperity in cities has the most immediate potential.

Chapter 2.4 Gender, Equity, and Prosperity of Cities

This chapter examines how gender equity is central to ensuring the equal distribution of the benefits of prosperity in cities. In particular it is essential in protecting the rights of women and ensuring that they have full access not only to material resources in cities, but also to civic participation in social, political and cultural spheres. In terms of the gender and urban prosperity nexus, equity is especially relevant to the issue of gender disparities in power and rights. The focus of this chapter is therefore on addressing some of the underlying inequalities in cities as well as on how to ensure that women's rights are recognised in reality through opening up channels of formal and informal empowerment.

PART 3: GENDER POLICIES AND THE PROSPERITY OF CITIES

Chapter 3.1 Gender policies, Institutions and Prosperity of Cities

This final chapter outlines the importance of creating gender-sensitive and gender-equitable cities in order to generate prosperity for women and for urban areas themselves. It then assesses the nature of existing policies and institutional mechanisms that contribute to making women more prosperous in cities. In addition to a consideration of the perceptions of gender policies in the case study cities, the chapter outlines some appropriate ways to address 'quality of life and infrastructure', 'productivity' and 'equity in power and rights' for increasing women's prosperity in cities, consolidating the suggestions made in each individual chapter. As indicated in the gender and urban poverty nexus, these ultimately aim to make women not only economically empowered and prosperous, but also provide them with greater access to social and political resources and opportunities as well as the freedom to make choices. It is essential that policies address the various dimensions simultaneously and in a multi-stakeholder manner.



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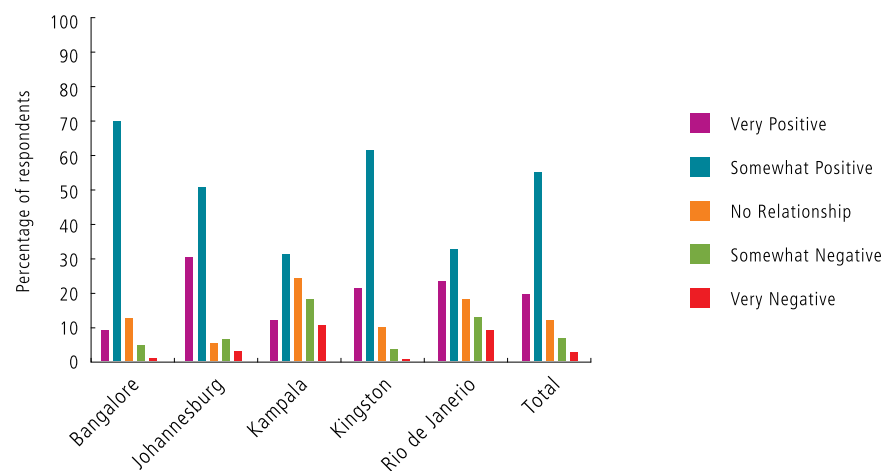
SECURITY AND SAFETY OF WOMEN IN CITIES

Violence against women affects an estimated one in three women across the world, which makes women twice as likely to suffer acts of violent aggression as their male counterparts. It is generally acknowledged that rates of crime and all types of violence are higher in cities than in the countryside. Within the broader context of rates of violent crime increasing globally from 6 to 8.8 incidents per 100,000 persons between 1990 and 2000, much of this increase has been in cities.

According to the UN-Habitat survey of 691 decision-makers, policy-makers and urban dwellers carried out in 2012, security and safety were major concerns in all cities with one-third of urban dwellers not feeling safe at all in their city. This was especially marked in Johannesburg (42 per cent), Kingston (41 per cent) and Rio de Janeiro (41 per cent) all of which are cities that have notable problems with urban violence (See Figure 1).

However, this situation was improving with just over half stating that women increasingly had access to safe and secure public transport. This was most marked in the case of Bangalore (60 per cent) with a low of 33 per cent in Rio de Janeiro.

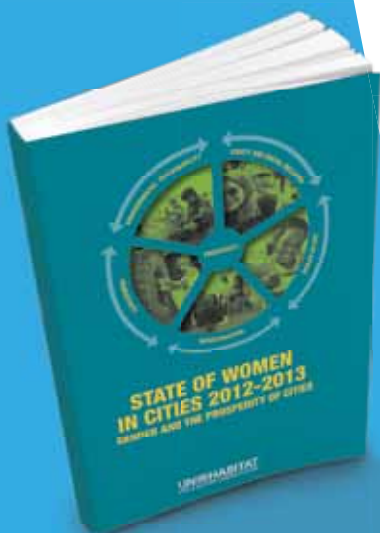
Figure 1: Perceptions of safety and security for women in cities



Source: UN-Habitat Survey, 2012

URBAN-LIVING CAN CREATE 'TRIGGERS' THAT EXACERBATE VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN

There are a range of issues that make violence against women and gender-based violence a critical issue in cities. Although young men are at high risk of experiencing violence, women are the most likely to experience gender-based violence especially in poor communities and by non-partners. There are a range of public sites and spaces in cities where violence is more likely to occur. These include toilets, at schools, in bars, and in secluded areas. This is compounded by flimsy housing, poor street lighting, inadequate public transport and lack of security patrols. Therefore, the lack of infrastructure in cities contributes to gender-based



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Box 1: Domestic violence in Cebu City, the Philippines: the 'Bantay Banay' programme

Located in the Western Visayas, Cebu City forms part of Metro Cebu, which is the second largest urban settlement in the Philippines after the capital, Metro Manila. Cebu is not only renowned as a hub of export industry in the country and for its major contributions to national prosperity, but also for its record on promoting gender equality and empowering women. Here, the locally-based NGO Lihok Pilipina launched a flagship programme against domestic violence in the early 1990s, known as 'Bantay Banay', which means 'Family Watch' in Cebuano (the local language). The programme aims to make everyone

responsive to, and responsible for, addressing violence against women, by sensitising key stakeholders such as women and men in communities, barangay (neighbourhood) officials, local doctors, health workers, and police officers to the need to identify and eliminate gender-based violence. This entails becoming familiar with the signs and symptoms of domestic violence, and raising levels of reporting. In some neighbourhoods of the city Bantay Banay has been so successful that battering by husbands has fallen from affecting 60 per cent to 20 per cent of the female population.

Source: Chant (2007a, p. 198)

violence and makes women more vulnerable to break-ins, theft and rape. In addition, the frequent anonymity and social isolation of female urban dwellers may make them more vulnerable to attack from strangers.

While young women appear to be particularly prone to sexual abuse, including gang rape, frail and elderly women may also be vulnerable along with women who 'transgress' heteronormative boundaries such as those who, in one form or another, live 'independently' such as lone women and lone mothers. Sexuality is another issue, with a reported 90 per cent of lesbian women in Quito, Ecuador, having suffered abuse in their neighbourhoods on account of 'lesbophobia'.

Successful initiatives to reduce violence against women in cities need to be extended

In 2009, the Global Programme on Safe Cities Free from Violence against Women was launched by UN-Habitat in conjunction with UNIFEM (now subsumed under UN Women). This followed from UN-Habitat's Safer Cities Programme, which has supported local authorities in developing countries to prevent crime and violence through city-wide advocacy and training. For example, Cebu in the Philippines has introduced a host of initiatives to reduce violence against women and is the first city in the country to introduce a 'Gender Code' and in 2004 earned the UN-Habitat award of 'Women Friendly City'.

Initiatives that have had some success include women-only police stations that especially encourage women to report crimes perpetrated against them. With the first women's police station (DDM - Delegacia da Mulher) created in São Paulo, Brazil in 1985, there were 475 units nationwide by 2010. Similar developments have been noted in Tanzania with the formation of the Tanzania Police Female Network (TPFNet) leading to the opening of gender desks in police stations, as well as in South Africa and the Philippines.

Effective urban planning, design and governance from a gender perspective can also enhance women's safety and security in cities (sometimes referred to as Crime Prevention through Environmental Design - CPTED) which entails using a primarily spatial and design perspective to reducing violence. These might include public-private partnerships, such as the 'Adopt a Light' initiative in Nairobi, which since 2002, has illuminated key thoroughfares in and around the capital's major slums, generating revenue for the scheme through selling advertising space on lampposts.

Women's organisations in partnership with neighbourhoods, international agencies, cities and local authorities, as well as central governments have also been active in promoting innovative approaches to elimination of violence against women. Women's safety audits, for example, have been used in several cities with reductions in the incidence of violence against women being reported. The Bantay Banay Campaign in the Philippines is another example which has contributed to a significant reduction in cases of domestic violence (See Box 1).



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FUTURE URBAN POPULATION GROWTH WILL BE FEMINISED

- Cities of the future will comprise a majority female component with pronounced 'older' populations (>60 years) especially among the 'older generations' (>80 years), and increasing numbers of households headed by women.

Cities of women

Many cities in the developing world have a predominantly or growing population of women. Feminised urban sex ratios reflect the gender-selectivity of rural-urban migration, with Latin America standing out as a region in which more women than men have moved to towns and cities over the past several decades, along with some countries in Southeast Asia such as Thailand and Viet Nam (See Table 1).

Traditionally lower levels of female rural-urban migration in sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia have been explained by factors such as socio-cultural restrictions on independent female movement, and the encouragement of young men to gain experience in the city as a form of masculine 'rite of passage'. Also important has been the comparative lack of employment opportunities for women in towns and cities.

Upward trends in female migration in these regions also stem from rural women's disadvantage in land acquisition and inheritance coupled with economic deterioration in the countryside. Also important have been women who are HIV-positive moving to access medical treatment in urban areas, as well as to avoid stigmatisation, escape domestic violence and a range of other 'harmful traditional practices' such as Female Genital Mutilation (FGM).

Cities of older women

In most countries of the developing world, urban sex ratios are most pronounced in 'older' populations (>60 years) and dramatically so among the 'older generations' (>80 years). In sub-Saharan African and Latin American countries, 'older old' women outnumber their male counterparts by nearly two to one, while for those in East Asia the ratio is nearly 150 to 100. Even in India, where the ratio is significantly lower, the older generations is still distinctly feminised. Given a common association between advanced age and poverty, especially among women, this phenomenon effectively undermines urban prosperity.

'Cities of female-headed households'

In countries with 'feminised' urban sex ratios, female-headed households are particularly common in towns and cities. In Latin America, there have been dramatic rises in urban female head of households over the past twenty years. Between the late 1980s and end of the first decade of the 21st century, female-headed households as a proportion of all urban households increased by a mean of 9.8 percentage points. The tendency for female headed households to be more prevalent in urban than rural areas is not just a function of demographics, but of a wide range of economic and social factors associated with urban environments. These include greater access to employment and independent earnings, lessened entanglement in and control by patriarchal kinship systems, and higher levels of urban female land and property ownership.

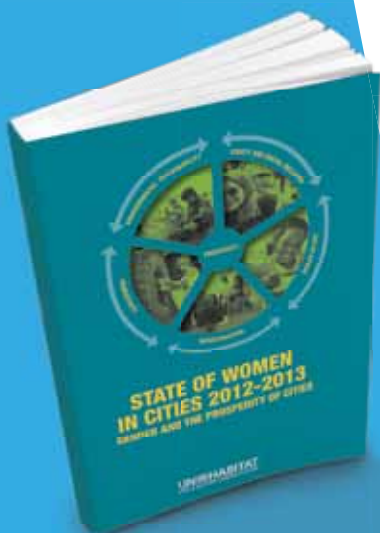


Table 1: Urban sex ratios, selected developing countries by region

| | Urban population (%) | Sex ratio (women per 100 men) |
|--|----------------------|----------------------------------|
| Africa | | |
| Botswana (2006) | 56.42 | 111 |
| Ethiopia (2008) | 16.69 | 101 |
| Ghana (2000) | 43.75 | 105 |
| Kenya (2005) | 17.62 | 68 |
| Malawi (2008) | 18.56 | 95 |
| Niger (2008) | 19.22 | 100 |
| Senegal (2002) | 45.38 | 106 |
| Zimbabwe (2002) | 34.64 | 103 |
| Latin America and the Caribbean | | |
| Argentina (2007) | 90.76 | 105 |
| Bolivia (2007) | 65.13 | 106 |
| Brazil (2000) | 81.25 | 106 |
| Costa Rica (2008) | 58.94 | 106 |
| Cuba (2008) | 75.37 | 103 |
| Jamaica (2008) | 52.10 | 110 |
| Mexico (2005) | 76.49 | 106 |
| Venezuela (2008) | 88.05 | 101 |
| Asia | | |
| Bangladesh (2001) | 23.53 | 86 |
| Cambodia (2008) | 19.51 | 108 |
| India (2001) | 27.82 | 90 |
| Indonesia (2005) | 43.12 | 100 |
| Iraq (2007) | 66.55 | 98 |
| Malaysia (2008) | 63.53 | 97 |
| Nepal (2006) | 16.70 | 94 |
| Thailand (2007) | 30.46 | 107 |
| Viet Nam (2008) | 28.11 | 105 |

Source: UNSD (2008: Table 7, 155-253)

1. Note: Rounded-up to the nearest whole number



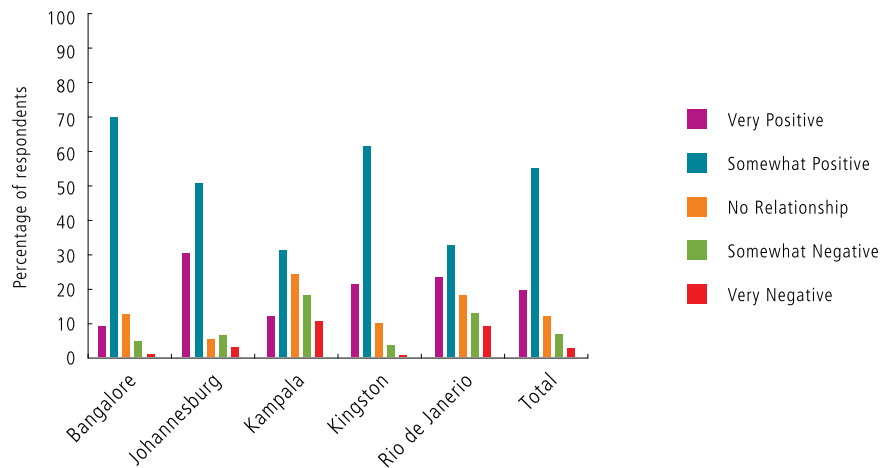
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URBANISATION AND PROSPERITY OF WOMEN INTERLINKED IN THEORY BUT NOT IN PRACTICE

According to the UN-Habitat survey of 691 decision-makers, policy-makers and urban dwellers carried out in 2012, 69 per cent of respondents thought that urbanisation and the prosperity of women were related (See Figure 1). However, only 7 per cent felt that women were actually ‘prosperous across all types of dimensions’ (in terms of quality of life, productivity, infrastructure, and equality), with only 4 per cent of people in Rio de Janeiro and Kingston stating this. As a respondent in Bangalore noted: “Several women and children live in deplorable conditions in slums. They earn their living begging or running small businesses (cigarette shops). Additionally health care and other facilities in the cities are unimaginably out of their reach.”

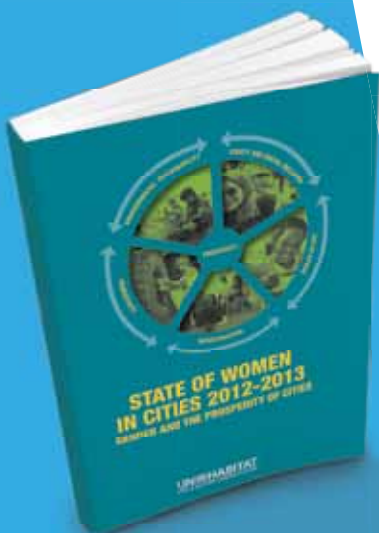
Figure 1: Perceptions of relationship between urbanisation and prosperity of women



Source: UN-Habitat Survey, 2012

Note: ‘Positive’ means that higher levels of urbanisation are associated with higher levels of prosperity – as opposed to lower levels of prosperity.

Such interpretations have much to do with the view that income inequalities between rich and poor women in cities were significant as well as lack of access to quality education, meaningful employment and to high quality of health care. Indeed, most respondents considered the lack of productive employment opportunity and/or income poverty were the main barriers preventing the city from becoming more prosperous for women followed by poor governance and weak institutions.



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WOMEN'S ECONOMIC CONTRIBUTIONS TO URBAN PROSPERITY NEED TO BE SUPPORTED THROUGH THEIR PARTICIPATION IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY

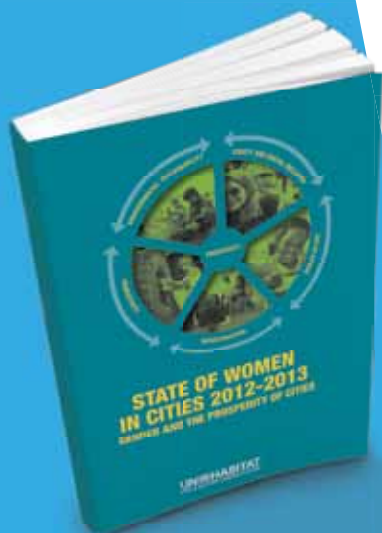
Women's participation in the informal economy of cities is central to their economic contributions to urban prosperity. However, women throughout the world continue to be over-represented in informal occupations which are unregistered, poorly paid, and lacking social protection. Although it is difficult to measure trends in informal employment, the ILO has noted that there have been increases in what it calls 'vulnerable employment', comprising own-account and unpaid family workers which broadly equates to informal employment with women being over-represented in this type of work.

Despite their concentration in the informal economy, the UN-Habitat survey highlighted that only a little over one-third (35 per cent) thought that their cities had programmes that addressed the needs of women working in this type of work. Therefore, mechanisms for supporting small businesses run by women and self-employed women are necessary. These include better provision for training with a view to enhancing the diversification of competitive informal activities, easier access to credit on favourable terms, assistance in promoting greater health and safety at work, and the reduction and/or phasing of costs of business formalisation.

ENHANCING WOMEN'S PRODUCTIVITY IN THE INFORMAL ECONOMY CAN BE FACILITATED THROUGH A RANGE OF INNOVATIVE STRATEGIES

ICT has the potential for improving women's lives by enhancing their access to information, but also in improving their productivity and economic empowerment. The latter is through expanding their skill sets and opening up opportunities for wage employment and 'techno-preneurship' in the fields of e-commerce and computerised small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), as well as allowing for 'remote working'. Even basic or entry-level technology, such as mobile telephony can improve social interaction and act as a time-saving communication device. Improved access to information facilitates prosperity by reducing uncertainty and transaction costs, enabling traders to secure better deals, lessening their reliance on intermediaries, and widening access to a broader range of buyers.

A number of policy initiatives have attempted to improve women's digital literacy and access to information technologies in recent years. Many of these draw on one of the most well-known examples of the 'phone ladies' of Bangladesh who borrow equipment from the Grameen Bank's Village Phone Programme and set-up phone booths. While these are based in the countryside, they have also extended to cities across the developing world, with important implications for women's economic empowerment and urban prosperity. Grassroots women's organisations have also been influential in challenging gender stereotyping of occupations through combining training initiatives with job creation and small business development (See Box 1).



Box 1: Challenging gender stereotypes in paid work: The Women's Construction Collective (WCC) of Kingston, Jamaica

The Women's Construction Collective (WCC) of Kingston, Jamaica is a national non-profit organisation that trains and supports low-income women in construction employment which is a non-traditional sector for women. It provides information, training, and services to the construction industry in general, and specifically to low-income women (mainly in repair and maintenance, carpentry and basic masonry). Its core activities are livelihood development and gender equity in the field of construction.

Source: Yonder and Tamaki for Huairou Commission (2010)

Together, the aim is to empower women economically in a sustainable way that challenges gender stereotypes. By 2010, WCC had trained over 500 women in construction trades, created a space where women could meet to discuss the issues they experienced on the job, provided technical support to the construction industry and promoted women in the industry through membership in the Incorporated Masterbuilders Association of Jamaica.

ENCOURAGING FEMALE INFORMAL ENTREPRENEURS IS ESSENTIAL TO PROMOTE ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT AND URBAN PROSPERITY

To ensure that economic policies are (re)oriented towards creating more and better employment, the working poor, especially women, need to be empowered to hold policy makers accountable. This requires three enabling conditions known as the '3V' framework, comprising the imperatives of 'voice' (need for a representative female voice in the processes and institutions that determine economic policies), 'visibility' (for women in labour force statistics) and 'validity' (women need legal identity and validity as workers and economic agents). This can partly be done through challenging gender stereotyping in occupations (see Box 1), as well as fully incorporating women into urban planning in cities from the grassroots to the national government.

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NGOS, CIVIL SOCIETY AND GOVERNMENTS NEED TO COLLABORATE IN IMPLEMENTING GENDER EQUALITY POLICIES IN CITIES

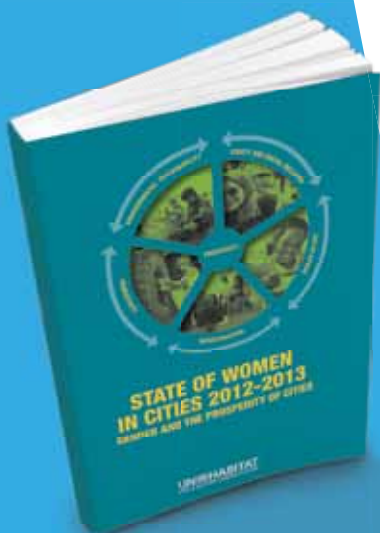
More than one-third of city dwellers in the UN-Habitat survey identified NGOs and civil society as the most important set of institutions involved in the implementation of gender equality policies. In turn, government was also identified as important by just under one-third. However, almost half (47 per cent) thought that resources came from governments, followed some way behind by NGOs (20 per cent). Although the NGO and civil society sector is very diverse, this also suggests the importance of strengthening partnerships between all levels of government, especially cities and local authorities, and NGOs, civil society and grassroots women's organisations who are working on the ground and building multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships.

There is much to learn from grassroots organisations in terms of scaling up the work they have been doing and incorporating examples of best practice that they have developed. For example, the recent shift towards decentralised governance has the potential to bring development decisions closer to communities and to reach those most marginalised such as particular groups of women. Work undertaken by grassroots women's organisations has shown that for decentralisation to be meaningful to women, their capacities to access entitlements and participate effectively in local governance must be enhanced. Unless women become active partners with cities and local governments, they will continue to remain on the margins of governance processes and to be excluded from development decisions that impact their communities.

In the case of Peru, decentralisation has led to increased women's engagement organised around a series of laws that include citizen protection and mandates for participation. Women have engaged more in public affair through Local Coordinating Councils (LCCs) and in vigilance and monitoring committees. Projects such as the Casa de la Mujer (Women's Home) have been central in addressing women's issues like domestic violence and the equitable allocation of resources to women. An integral aspect of these types of projects has been the training and organisation of grassroots women as leaders in their communities through 'local to local dialogues' which not only enhances women's decision-making power but also deepens democracy.

MORE DEDICATED GENDER POLICIES NEEDED IN CITIES

Partnerships are central to ensuring gender equitable cities although more dedicated gender policies are needed. While more than half of city dwellers in the UN-Habitat survey (54 per cent) felt that there was some form of commitment to the equal participation of all women in social, economic, political and cultural spheres, only 23.5 per cent thought that their city was 'committed' or 'fully committed'. Indeed, 61 per cent thought that gender disparities in access to different social, economic and political opportunities were being reduced. A history of class, ethnic and racial inequality was identified as the main factor limiting achieving greater levels of equity. Less than half of urban dwellers stated that their city had a dedicated gender policy (47 per cent). However, almost half (46 per cent) stated that their city had a policy that successfully contributed to gender equity. The actual policy or action thought to be most important in making the city more gender equitable was increased access to employment (19 per cent).

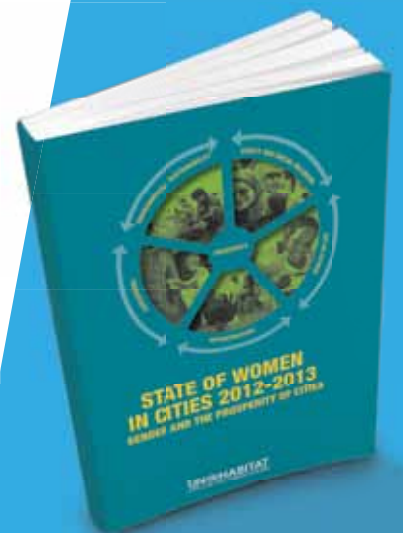


In order to achieve gender equity in cities, multi-stakeholder planning mechanisms should include women's grassroots organisations as well as local and national governments, private sector, NGO and other civil society actors. Specific initiatives such as 'Local to Local Dialogue' and 'peer exchanges' involving shared learning, capacity building, and empowerment of women should be extended and scaled up. Developing grassroots women as leaders and as active participants in local decision-making processes and structures is also fundamental.

FORMULATING GENDER POLICIES AND STRENGTHENING ACCOUNTABILITY FOR GENDER EQUALITY AND EQUITY AT CITY LEVEL IS NEEDED

This is one of the key recommendations of the State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13. Cities and local authorities are strategically placed to promote gender equality and equity by making the services they render and city bye-laws sensitive to the different realities of women and men in their localities. Cities and local authorities without dedicated gender policies are therefore encouraged to adopt gender policies, develop gender equality and women empowerment programmes with specific targets of achievement to facilitate monitoring progress. There is a need to strengthen partnerships between cities and local authorities on the one hand with gender experts, NGOs and civil society, grassroots organisations, academia and national machineries for women on the other, in order to facilitate capacity building in gender, local governance, gender budgeting and planning and economic development and to ensure accountability for gender equality and equity at city level.

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URBAN PROSPERITY IS FACILITATED BY WOMEN'S UNPAID REPRODUCTIVE WORK

Women provide the vast majority of unpaid domestic and caring labour, all of which is undervalued and unrecognised. However, this work allows the urban economy to function and without it prosperity would be difficult to achieve. This lack of acknowledgement has led to the increasing use of the term 'care economy' to underline the role of 'reproductive' activities in producing 'value' which include 'unpaid work', 'care work', and 'unpaid care work'.

An example of women's central care-giving roles has been through the Huairou Commission's AIDS Campaign which coordinated an action research initiative of Home-based caregivers in 13 countries across Africa from 2008-2010. This revealed that more than two-thirds of the volunteer caregivers were women, and more than two-thirds were aged between 30 and 49 years old - ages when women have significant responsibilities in terms of children and family. Overall, volunteers reported an average of 69 hours of volunteer work per month. This ranged from 36 hours per month in Malawi to 106 hours in Kenya. All volunteers work for no pay, and often incur costs in doing the work.

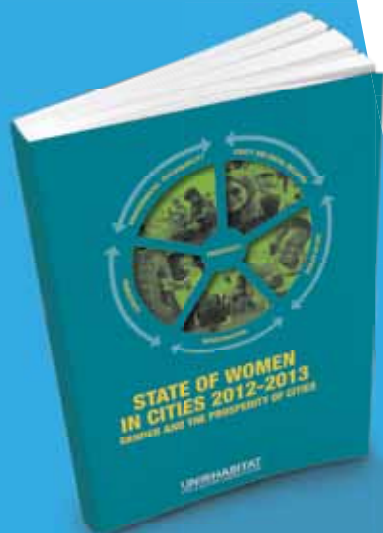
WOMEN EXPERIENCE TIME POVERTY DUE TO INADEQUATE URBAN SERVICES

Urban living exacerbates poverty with negative implications for women. The urban poor face specific circumstances which can exacerbate poverty such as spending more on food and services, especially water, sanitation, housing, energy and transport. This affects women disproportionately because they undertake unpaid caring and social reproductive activities such as childcare, domestic labour, community organising, as well as building and consolidating housing and providing basic services.

Unpaid reproductive work needs much greater valorisation given its contributions to urban prosperity

Unpaid care work needs to be recognised on grounds of equity and also because it constrains women's engagement in the labour market and most other urban 'opportunities'. It also inhibits the development of capabilities among younger generations of women who may have to pay for the expanded burdens of ageing mothers and other female kin. Direct attention to the burdens of childcare along with other types of unpaid care work typically performed by women can include community-based care options, work-based nurseries and care homes, state parental or carer support transfers, and dedicated private and/or public facilities.

Where such services exist they should be subsidised and affordable, and within easy reach of people's homes. One successful example that has been instituted throughout Latin American countries such as Costa Rica and Colombia are 'Hogares Comunitarios' (Community Households) programmes which provide subsidised childcare in poor neighbourhoods via the training of local women as 'community mothers'. However, since it is women who are the paid carers of children, and mothers who deliver and collect their offspring, this type of programme still reinforces women's primary female identification with care.



WOMEN'S UNPAID AND VOLUNTARY LABOUR IN SLUM COMMUNITIES AND BEYOND SHOULD BE PAID OR INDIRECTLY RESOURCED

A key recommendation to address these problems is the need to create mechanisms to deal with women's unpaid care work and community voluntary work as part of any affirmative action to ensure non-discrimination against women. This might entail direct remuneration or payment in kind through preferential access to loans or use of other resources for free.

The Huairou Commission's network of home-based caregivers through Home-Based Care Alliances that have been established throughout Africa after being pioneered in Kenya (via GROOTS KENYA and GROOTS International) and in Uganda, have been central in dealing with HIV at the community level and in valorising women's unpaid work. Acting as community development agents, they provide primary health care, sanitation and counselling for people living with HIV and other chronic illnesses, and provide services in the sick person's home, supplementing the work of the formal health system. They have changed their activities as the pandemic has changed from caring for the bedridden to ensuring treatment adherence through linking to clinical services, regular check-ins and providing nutritional support in light of increasing access to anti-retroviral treatment.

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State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13

WOMEN NEED MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO INFRASTRUCTURE, ESPECIALLY SANITATION

Although over half (53 per cent) of respondents in the UN-Habitat survey thought that their cities were 'committed' in some form to promoting infrastructural development to fully engage women in urban development and productive work, only 22 per cent stated that they were 'fully committed' or 'committed', with a high of 39 per cent in Johannesburg. In turn, only 29.5 per cent of respondents felt that infrastructure was adequate, with lows of 15 per cent in Rio de Janeiro and 18.5 per cent in Kingston. The most problematic area was access to sanitation, especially in Bangalore and Rio de Janeiro. 50 per cent stated that sanitation and the burden of disease acted as barriers to the prosperity of women in cities. Lack of services also affects women's well-being and increases their time poverty. In slum areas of cities in particular, pressure on basic services such as sanitation and water not only impacts women's and girls' workloads, but can also seriously compromise their dignity and self-respect.

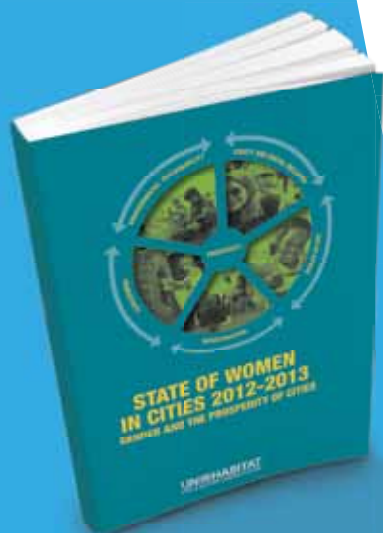
More generally, where electricity is not available, time has to be spent collecting or buying fuel and making fires to cook and heat water and to shop on a daily basis due to lack of refrigeration. Where there is no municipal rubbish collection, or people cannot afford to pay for private waste contractors, women have to dispose of solid waste and in cases where there is no domestic sanitation, faecal matter and waste water. This adds massively to women's 'time poverty'. The heavy 'reproduction tax' exacted by these burdens reduces women's potential for rest and recreation, not to mention well-remunerated 'decent work', as well as having knock-on effects on human capital formation among younger generations of women.

WOMEN NEED MORE EQUITABLE ACCESS TO SECURE HOUSING

In the context of the fact that 40 per cent of those in the UN-Habitat survey felt that their city was 'not fully committed' to promoting quality of life for women, 64 per cent of people across all cities, except Kampala, felt that 50 per cent or more women had no access to secure housing. Only 28 per cent in all cities thought that existing efforts to attain gender equity in access to housing tenure were 'advanced' or 'very advanced'. In turn, only 23 per cent noted that their city had policies to address the barriers facing women in securing land and property tenure. Gender discrimination in women's access to the rental sector must also be taken into account, especially as it has been more neglected policy-wise.

Housing is widely regarded as an essential human need and right, as reflected in its incorporation into the Millennium Development Goals, with MDG 7, Target D being to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020. Although this target has been reached a decade ahead of schedule, women continue to suffer from lack of access to secure housing. Not only do women constitute a larger than average share of people in slums, but because of strong linkages between women and the 'domestic domain', their well-being is affected when they cannot access housing. Housing is a key physical, economic and social asset for women. Not only do women rear children in their houses, it is also their main site of social network creation and income generation. Housing is also critical to the identity, dignity and sense of belonging of individuals.

Improving women's access to housing and land requires not only adhering to a number of international treaties and conventions, including Article 16 of CEDAW (Convention of the Elimination of all Forms of Discrimination against Women), but also learning from grass-roots initiatives (See Box 1).



Box 1: Grassroots women organising to access land and housing in Brazil

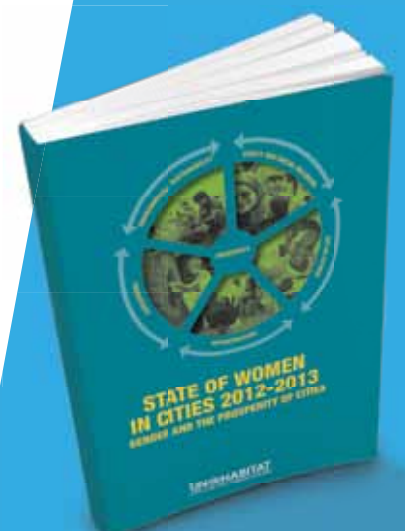
Ponte Do Maduro is a settlement in Recife of roughly 10,000 low income families living on 50 hectares. Although occupied for more than 100 years, its residents do not have legal tenure. The state has been providing basic services, but communities remain vulnerable since they lack security of tenure and therefore, basic rights and entitlements. Mobilisation of the community became an important way to put pressure on the government to make a commitment to regularise the area.

Espaco Feminista, a civil society organisation with the mission to reduce gender inequality, especially women's access to resources, started networking to build alliances with government agencies. Along with leaders, they conducted meetings with the communities and invited their partners to witness first hand the abject living conditions experienced by the residents of Ponte do Maduro. This raised the community's confidence to fight for security of tenure. Espaco Feminista also worked with government officials to ensure that adequate resources were allocated to address community needs. A link was established with the State of Pernambuco Housing Company, and the Governor of Pernambuco whose office approved the regularisation and the involvement of Espaco Feminista in the process to ensure gender equality in its implementation.

Source: Huairou Commission (2010a)

The participation of women leaders protected women against the traditional practice of distributing land and housing titles primarily to men. Although the 1988 Constitution of Brazil ensures equal rights to women and men, many private contractors in Brazil discriminate against women in the titling process. Given the contradictions between legislation and customary behaviour, it was necessary to educate women about their rights and monitor the behaviour of contractors to overcome this institutional bias.

To accomplish this, Espaco Feminista's women leaders stressed the importance of a participatory, gender sensitive approach, to state agencies and the community. Espaco Feminista has been able to foster partnerships at various levels locally, nationally and internationally which is its biggest strength. They have used these alliances to share the experiences of grassroots women and to transform their current reality. Grassroots women understand that their struggle has to reverse years of oppression and discrimination based on gender and race. However, in order to ensure success in this struggle, it is critical that more women attain positions of power in the government, who are then able to favourably influence policies and programmes towards women and play an active role in the implementation of these policies.



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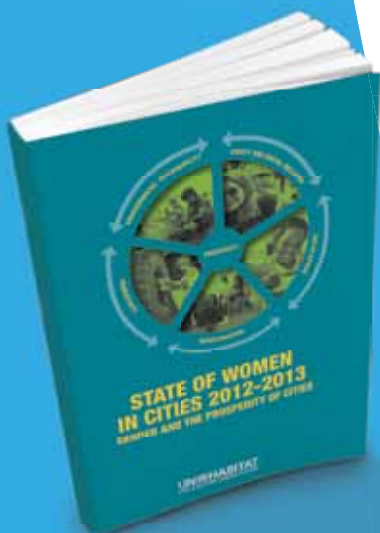
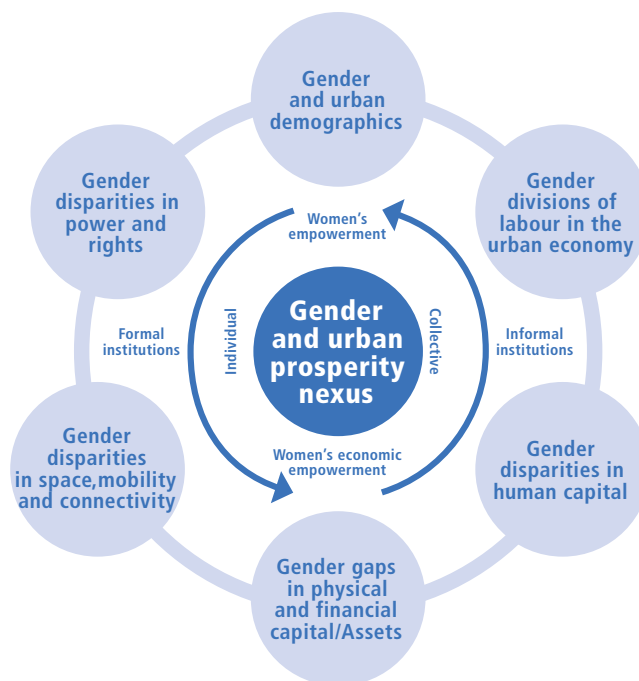
WOMEN'S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT UNDERPINS URBAN PROSPERITY

A holistic conceptual approach to urban prosperity is needed in order to capture its gendered nature

A 'holistic' concept of urban prosperity is especially appropriate in respect of gender. This is because of the importance of recognising the multidimensional inputs women invest in generating urban prosperity which is juxtaposed with the multidimensional privations they face. Thinking about gender in relation to prosperity arguably provides a sharper focus on the gap between women's inputs to and outcomes from the wealth-generating possibilities of cities.

Conceptualising the gendered nature of urban prosperity involves interactions across a range of spheres and processes in cities. Especially important in the notion of gender disparities are the pervasive inequalities that exist between women and men in relation to their access to resources, power, opportunities, and freedom of movement. These revolve around the following: gender and urban demographics, gender divisions of labour in the urban economy, gender disparities in human capital; gender gaps in physical and financial capital/assets, gender disparities in space, mobility and connectivity, and gender disparities in power and rights. This can be captured conceptually through the gender and urban prosperity nexus (See Figure 1).

Figure 1: Gender and urban prosperity nexus



Box 1: 'Girl Friendly' schools initiative in The Gambia

In The Gambia, a 'Girl Friendly' schools initiative was formally launched in 2001 with the support of UNICEF. This led to establishment of a dedicated Girls' Education Unit (since 2004 the Gender Education Unit) within the Department of State for Education and the waiving of junior secondary school fees for girls. Related strategies have included the training of more female teachers, the establishment of school-linked mothers' clubs, subsidies for the purchase of uniforms and educational materials, scholarship schemes, and workshops to encourage girls to go into traditionally 'male' subjects such as science, mathematics and technology. The construction of female-only toilet blocks has also been instrumental in encouraging more

parents to let their daughters attend school. Nonetheless, only younger generations of Gambians have benefited from recent advances in educational provision, with less than half (46 per cent) of the population being literate at a national level, and the average female literacy rate (37 per cent) being far lower than men's (60 per cent). Moreover, girls are disproportionately represented among the 15 per cent of Gambian youth educated in 'madrassa' (traditional Islamic) schools, which have been slow in incorporating non-traditional, secular, and vocational, subjects into their curricula.

Sources: Chant (2013b), Chant and Touray (2012a,b)

Women's growing economic contributions and economic empowerment underpin urban prosperity

Women make crucially important economic contributions to the 'prosperity of cities' through their paid (and unpaid) work. The 'feminisation' of the global labour force is associated with urbanisation, especially with the concentration of women in export-manufacturing, services, and niches in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector. This is often associated with declining fertility, increasing education levels and rising aspirations for women.

Women's economic empowerment at individual and collective levels and mediated through formal and informal institutions and contribute to both economic growth and prosperity in cities (See Figure 1). In the UN-Habitat survey, almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of city dwellers in the survey felt that gender equity and economic growth was broadly related. However, lack of education and appropriate knowledge and skills were identified as the main obstacles for women's empowerment (in 24 per cent of cases) followed by lack of access to productive resources. In relation to productivity, entrepreneurship emerged as the most important factor in making the city more productive for women, followed by skills development.

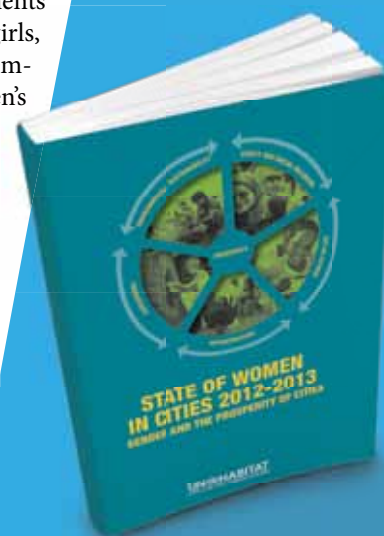
Education for girls is essential to generate economic empowerment and urban prosperity

Education, human capital and a skilled workforce are central to generating urban prosperity. Most importantly is that there are positive effects in educating women in that those with schooling are more likely to marry and have children later, have lower fertility levels, and also be healthier which can have important effects on their wider empowerment (See Box 1).

Strengthening livelihoods and women's economic empowerment strategies within the planning of cities is a key pre-requisite for equitable city prosperity

This is one of the key recommendations of the State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13. In doing so, it is important for policy and decision-makers, urban planners, and other practitioners within government, urban and local authorities and utility companies to ensure that elements of urban planning are more responsive to specific needs and priorities of women and girls, men and boys. This coupled with increased access to education, skills development, employment opportunities, physical and financial assets can contribute effectively to women's prosperity in cities.

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State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13



FOREWORD

by Dr Joan Clos, Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Executive Director of UN-HABITAT on the *State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13*

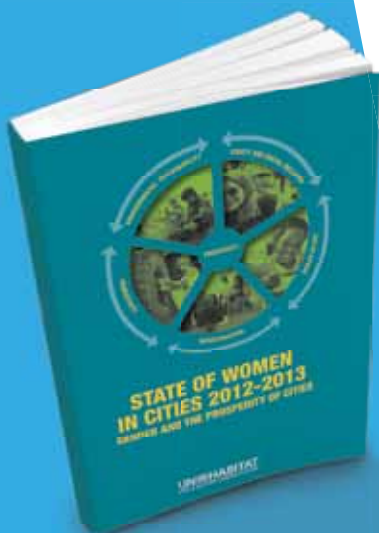
Equitable, inclusive and prosperous cities need to harness the full potential of all citizens – men, women, and the youth. This is important as the world grapples with the effects of the global economic and financial crisis that has resulted in food insecurity and widespread unemployment among women and youth. This report presents the findings of a survey on perceptions of policy-makers, decision-makers, academics, and city dwellers on gender and the prosperity of cities. The report is UN-Habitat's contribution towards understanding the plight of women in cities. Following from the study, it suggests policy recommendations to enhance gender equality, equity and prosperity of women in cities.

Cities are recognised as engines of economic growth and centres of social, political, cultural and technological advancement. However, 21st Century cities and towns are divided cities and towns characterised by urban poverty amidst richness. This is exacerbated by poor practices in urban planning and design, inadequate land management and administration, poor physical and social infrastructure, and the lack of equitable distribution of resources and redistributive policies.

Women form the majority of the poor, and in some countries they form up to 70 per cent of the poor in both rural and urban areas. This is indeed a challenge, and the more reason why gender and the prosperity of cities need to be addressed by all concerned. For women, as well as men, the city's primary attraction is the possibility of economic opportunities which are unavailable to them in rural areas. Women migrate from rural to urban areas mainly in search of employment, and, in order to escape from poverty, gender-based violence, gender discrimination and disinheritance.

Moreover, there is evidence to show that future cities will be predominantly occupied by women, especially elderly women of 80 years and above, and female headed households. Yet cultures, value systems and beliefs, and to a large extent development policies and programmes are not changing at the same pace as the demographic shifts. Gender discrimination is still rife in social, economic, and political spheres.

The UN-Habitat gender study of 2012 shows that, first, urbanisation is largely associated with the prosperity of women in theory, but in practice few women actually benefit from economic growth and prosperity of cities. This is largely as a result of discriminatory practices, the lack of formal recognition of women's reproductive work, and to some extent, undervaluation of productive work, especially in the informal sector, where women are the majority. The world-over, women constitute the majority of care workers.



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Second, women's economic empowerment is linked with economic productivity. However, lack of education and appropriate knowledge as well as skills are the main obstacles to women's prosperity, followed by lack of access to productive resources. Other factors include lack of access to land, property and security of tenure, lack of access to basic services, especially sanitation, as well as security and safety concerns in public spaces.

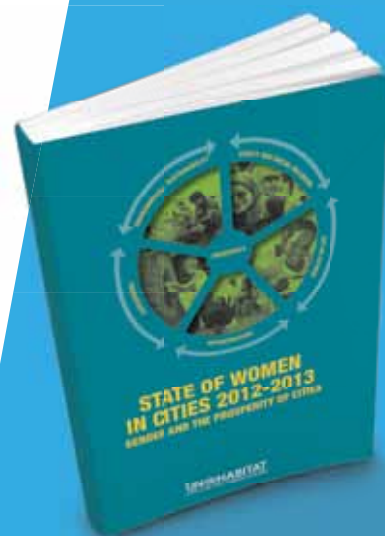
Third, the study highlights the promotion of entrepreneurship and the need to create productive employment opportunities as key policy actions required in order to enhance prosperity for women in cities. Fourth, the study affirms the need for increased investment in infrastructure development in order to lessen the reproductive work and time burdens on women, and to make urban planning and design more gender responsive, not only for the good of women, but to enhance prosperity for all.

The time is now ripe for cities and local governments to put in place gender equality policies, strategies and programmes which promote livelihoods and economic empowerment of women. In this regard, partnerships are fundamental to bringing about equitable and inclusive cities and ensure women's prosperity. NGOs, civil society, grassroots groups, academics, and all levels of government need to work together in promoting gender equality and equity in cities, while encouraging the effective participation of men and boys in both productive and reproductive work.

UN-Habitat's work on urban economy and employment creation aims to promote strategies and policies which are supportive of equitable economic development, creation of decent jobs, especially for youth and women, and improvement in municipal finance. We shall continue to provide evidence-based information on women in cities, and to ensure that our other programmes and flagship reports are gender responsive. I would like to encourage partnership and collaboration with other UN agencies, governments and other actors in our efforts to address women in cities, particularly urban poor women in slums and the informal economy by drawing on the evidence presented in this report.



Dr Joan Clos
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations
Executive Director, UN-Habitat



State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13

KEY MESSAGES

1. Cities of women, of older women and of female-headed households

With just over half of the world's current population living in cities, nearly all future demographic growth will be urban, will occur in developing regions, and will comprise a majority female component. Cities of the future will be marked by feminised urban sex ratios and pronounced in older populations (>60 years) especially among the 'older old' (>80 years). There will also be growing numbers of households headed by women based on patterns since the late 1980s to the end of the first decade of the 21st century where the proportion of all urban households increased by 9.8 percentage points.

2. Urbanisation and prosperity of women interlinked in theory but not in practice

According to UN-Habitat's five city survey of 691 decision-makers, policy-makers and urban dwellers carried out in 2012, 69 per cent of respondents thought that urbanisation and the prosperity of women were related. However, only 7 per cent felt that women were actually 'prosperous across all types of dimensions' (in terms of quality of life, productivity, infrastructure, and equality), with only 4 per cent of people in Rio de Janeiro and Kingston stating this.

3. Spatial inequality: two-thirds think that 50 per cent of women have no access to secure housing

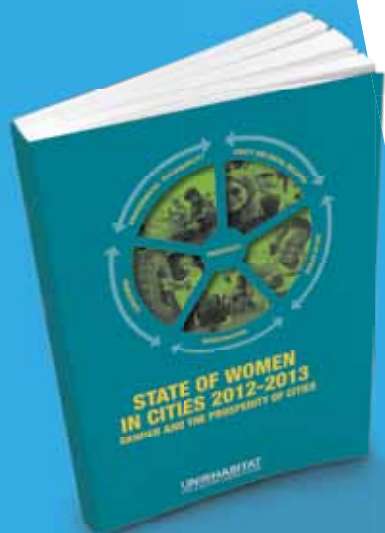
In the context of the fact that 40 per cent felt that their city was 'not fully committed' to promoting quality of life for women, 64 per cent of people across all cities, except Kampala, felt that 50 per cent or more women had no access to secure housing. Only 28 per cent in all cities thought that existing efforts to attain gender equity in access to housing tenure were 'advanced' or 'very advanced'. In turn, only 23 per cent noted that their city had policies to address the barriers facing women in securing land and property tenure. Gender discrimination in women's access to the rental sector must also be taken into account, especially as it has been more neglected policy-wise.

4. Cities are not safe for women, but improving – more than half of women have access to safe transport

Security and safety were major concerns in all cities with one-third of urban dwellers not feeling safe at all in their city. This was especially marked in Johannesburg (42 per cent), Kingston (41 per cent) and Rio de Janeiro (41 per cent) all of which are cities that have notable problems with urban violence. Just over half of women stated that women increasingly had access to safe and secure public transport. This was most marked in the case of Bangalore (60 per cent) with a low of 33 per cent in Rio de Janeiro.

5. Women need more equitable access to infrastructure, especially sanitation

Although over half (53 per cent) of the survey respondents thought that their cities were 'committed' in some form to promoting infrastructural development to fully engage



women in urban development and productive work, only 22 per cent stated that they were 'fully committed' or 'committed', with a high of 39 per cent in Johannesburg. In turn, only 29.5 per cent of respondents felt that infrastructure was adequate, with lows of 15 per cent in Rio de Janeiro and 18.5 per cent in Kingston. The most problematic area was access to sanitation, especially in Bangalore and Rio de Janeiro. 50 per cent stated that sanitation and the burden of disease acted as barriers to the prosperity of women in cities.

6. Seventy per cent believe policies enhance women's productivity, especially by promoting entrepreneurship

More than two-thirds of survey respondents (68 per cent) thought that policies to promote productivity among women in cities were thought to be 'good', 'very good' or excellent'. Those in Rio de Janeiro were the least positive (51 per cent) while those in Johannesburg were the most (84 per cent). Related with this, 61 per cent thought that their city was committed to the promotion of women's productivity in some form. Entrepreneurship emerged as the most important factor in making the city more productive for women, followed by skills development.

7. Fifty per cent identify lack of gender equity in access to education and skills as barriers to women's economic empowerment

Women's empowerment is thought to be linked with economic productivity and lack of education and appropriate knowledge and skills were the main obstacles for women in attaining this (in 24 per cent of cases) followed by lack of access to productive resources. However, almost half of all respondents (49 per cent) felt that existing efforts to address gender equity in access to education were advanced or very advanced, especially in Kingston (82 per cent) and Johannesburg (62 per cent).

8. More attention to women in the informal economy needed

Only a little over one-third (35 per cent) of city dwellers thought that their cities had programmes that addressed the needs of women working in the informal economy. In cases where programmes existed, almost half (48 per cent) thought that these sought to legalise informal activities, while 44 per cent aimed to move informal workers into the formal economy, with a further 42 per cent feeling that these programmes aimed to improve the quality of informal employment.

9. Sixty-five per cent of women related economic growth with gender equity, but still needs urgent attention

Almost two-thirds (65 per cent) of city dwellers in the survey felt that economic growth was broadly related with gender equity. Almost half (47 per cent) thought that the relationship was 'somewhat positive' with a further 18 per cent suggesting it was 'highly positive'. Perceptions in Kingston and Johannesburg were the most affirmative.

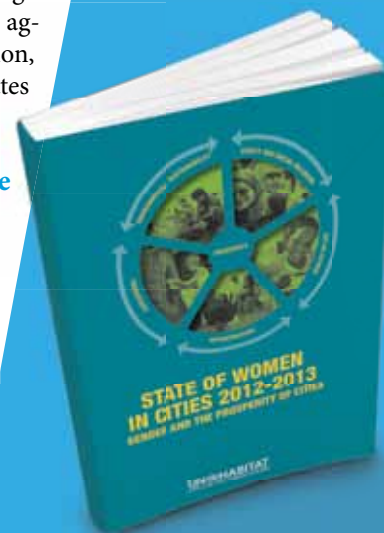
10. Women residing in slums require special attention

Although women in slum and non-slum areas of cities experience a similar range of challenges in relation to gender inequalities, the greater concentration of poverty in slum settlements aggravated by overcrowding, insecurity, lack of access to security of tenure, water and sanitation, as well as lack of access to transport, and sexual and reproductive health services, often creates more difficult conditions for women in trying to achieve prosperity.

11. Gender equitable cities reward women and generate prosperity; but more dedicated gender policies needed in cities

While more than half of respondents (54 per cent) felt that there was some form of commitment to the equal participation of all women in social, economic, political and cultural spheres, only 23.5 per cent thought that their city was 'committed' or 'fully com-

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mitted'. Indeed, 61 per cent thought that gender disparities in access to different social, economic and political opportunities were being reduced. More specifically, only 25 per cent felt that women had 'advanced' or 'very advanced' equal access to political representation. A history of class, ethnic and racial inequality was identified as the main factor limiting achieving greater levels of equity. Less than half of urban dwellers stated that their city had a dedicated gender policy (47 per cent). However, almost half (46 per cent) stated that their city had a policy that successfully contributed to gender equity. The actual policy or action thought to be most important in making the city more gender equitable was increased access to employment (19 per cent).

12. NGOs, civil society and governments need to collaborate in implementing gender equality policies

More than one-third of city dwellers identified NGOs and civil society as the most important set of institutions involved in the implementation of gender equality policies. In turn, government was also identified as important by just under one-third. However, almost half (47 per cent) thought that resources came from governments, followed some way behind by NGOs (20 per cent). Although the NGO and civil society sector is very diverse, this also suggests the importance of strengthening partnerships between all levels of government, especially cities and local authorities, and NGOs, civil society and grassroots women's organisations who are working on the ground and building multi-stakeholder alliances and partnerships.

13 Women experience time poverty due to inadequate urban services

Urban living exacerbates poverty with negative implications for women. The urban poor face specific circumstances which can exacerbate poverty such as spending more on food and services, especially water, sanitation, housing, energy and transport. This affects women disproportionately because they undertake unpaid caring and social reproductive activities such as childcare, domestic labour, community organising, as well as building and consolidating housing and providing basic services.

14. Urban prosperity is facilitated by women's unpaid reproductive work

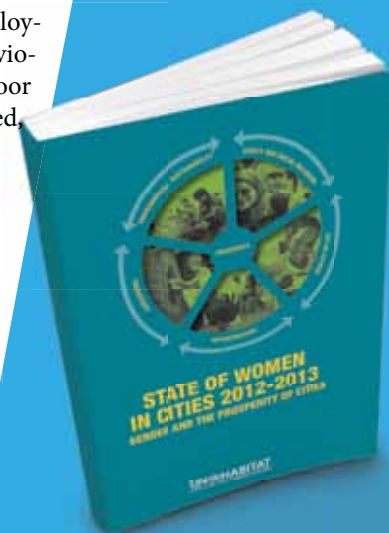
Women provide the vast majority of unpaid domestic and caring labour, all of which is undervalued and unrecognised. However, this work allows the urban economy to function and without it prosperity would be difficult to achieve.

15. Women's growing economic contributions underpin urban prosperity

Women make crucially important economic contributions to the 'prosperity of cities' through their paid work. The 'feminisation' of the global labour force is associated with urbanisation, especially with the concentration of women in export-manufacturing, services, and niches in the Information, Communication and Technology (ICT) sector. This is often associated with declining fertility, increasing education levels and rising aspirations for women.

16. Women face more disadvantages in cities than men

Women are disadvantaged compared with men in cities in terms of equal access to employment and shelter, health and education, transport, asset ownership, experiences of urban violence, and ability to exercise their rights. These disadvantages are especially marked for poor urban women residing in informal settlements. Women's contributions are often ignored, especially by city officials, urban planners and development practitioners.



17. A holistic approach to understanding the gendered nature of urban prosperity is required to capture women's contributions

Conceptualising the gendered nature of urban prosperity involves interactions across a range of spheres and processes in the city. A holistic approach is needed in order to recognise the multidimensional inputs that women invest in generating urban prosperity and their juxtaposition with multidimensional privations. The gender and urban poverty nexus outlined in this report identifies the range of gender disparities that need to be reduced in order to generate prosperity and to facilitate the economic empowerment of women.

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State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13

POLICY RECOMMENDATIONS AND ACTIONS

There are two key recommendations of this report followed by specific policy actions revolving around quality of life and infrastructure, productivity and equity in power and rights.

Recommendation 1:

Strengthen livelihoods and women's economic empowerment strategies within the planning of cities and the delivery of basic services as key pre-requisites for equitable city prosperity

In doing so, it is important for policy and decision-makers, urban planners, and other practitioners within government, urban and local authorities and utility companies to ensure that elements of urban planning such as mixed land use, accessibility, mobility, safety and security, distribution of services, community buildings and recreation facilities, and social mix are more responsive to specific needs and priorities of women and girls, men and boys. This coupled with increased access to education, skills development, employment opportunities, physical and financial assets can contribute effectively to women's prosperity in cities.

Recommendation 2:

Formulate gender policies and strengthen accountability for gender equality and equity at city level

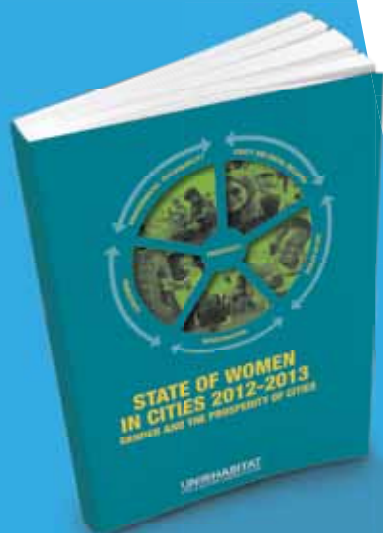
Cities and local authorities are strategically placed to promote gender equality and equity by making the services they render and city bye-laws sensitive to the different realities of women and men in their localities. Cities and local authorities without dedicated gender policies are therefore encouraged to adopt gender policies, develop gender equality and women empowerment programmes with specific targets of achievement to facilitate monitoring progress. There is a need to strengthen partnerships between cities and local authorities on the one hand with gender experts, NGOs and civil society, grassroots organisations, academia and national machineries for women on the other, in order to facilitate capacity building in gender, local governance, gender budgeting and planning and economic development and to ensure accountability for gender equality and equity at city level.

POLICY ACTIONS

1) Quality of life and infrastructure

(i) Women's disproportionate contributions to unpaid reproductive work to be valorised and supported

Unpaid reproductive work needs much greater valorisation and support to reflect its critical role in ensuring the daily regeneration of the labour force and the functioning of urban life. This labour needs to be recognised in itself and on grounds that it constrains women's engagement in the labour market and most other urban 'opportunities'. It also inhibits the development of capabilities among younger generations of women who may have to pay for the expanded burdens of ageing mothers and other female kin. Direct attention to the burdens of childcare along with other types of unpaid care work typically performed by



women can include community-based care options, work-based nurseries and care homes, state parental or carer support transfers, and dedicated private and/or public facilities.

(ii) Women's access to, and security in, housing

Pro-female housing rights initiatives should entail statutory joint or individual land and property titling, ideally accompanied by mechanisms to ensure that women are fully represented on committees which decide on land rights in communities which observe customary law. Support for paralegal services which assist women in their ability to realise their land and shelter entitlements is also crucial. These should extend to all women, including particularly marginalised constituencies of elderly women, widows, sick and disabled women, HIV-positive women, and individuals falling under the rubric of LBGT (Lesbian, Bisexual, Gay and Transgender).

(iii) Greater public investment in basic services, especially in sanitation

The provision of better sanitation facilities together with better access to water will improve health and reduce women's reproductive labour and time burdens. At every stage in the planning, design, use and management of these services concerted efforts should be made to ensure the equal participation of women and men. The provision of more gender-sensitive or single sex public sanitary facilities will also assist in reducing violence against women and the school drop-out rate of girls in slums and informal settlements.

2) Productivity

(i) Improved access to gender-sensitive skills development

Long-term improvements in women's access to skills development to train them for a changing labour market are needed, especially in terms of skills that promote leadership and entrepreneurship and challenge gender-stereotypes as well as those that will allow women to capture the benefits of the new digital economy.

(ii) Promotion of 'decent work' and the rights of informal sector workers

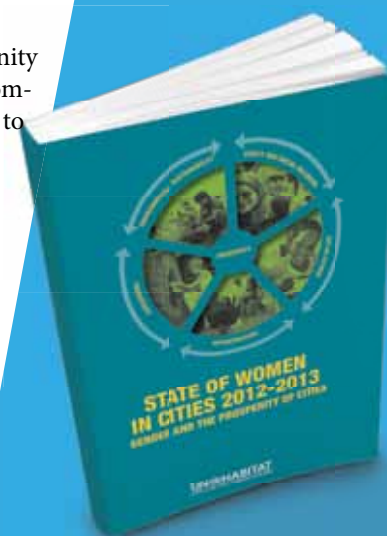
Mechanisms for supporting small businesses and the self-employed are necessary. These include better provision for training with a view to enhancing the diversification of competitive informal activities, easier access to credit on favourable terms, assistance in promoting greater health and safety at work, and the reduction and/or phasing of costs of business formalisation.

(iii) Promotion of gender sensitive urban planning and design

Urban land use regulations restricting home-based enterprise establishment should be lifted, and regulations on upgrading rather than clearing slums, permitting greater access by informal entrepreneurs to public spaces as well as to middle-income and elite residential neighbourhoods, need to be encouraged in order to allow poor women have greater prospects of achieving 'prosperity'.

(iv) Women's unpaid and voluntary labour in slum communities and beyond should be paid or indirectly resourced

It is essential to create mechanisms to deal with women's unpaid care work and community voluntary work as part of any affirmative action to ensure non-discrimination against women. This might entail direct remuneration or payment in kind through preferential access to loans or use of other resources for free.



3) Equity in power and rights

(i) Multi-stakeholder planning mechanisms should include women's grassroots organisations as well as local and national governments, private sector, NGO and other civil society actors

Initiatives such as 'Local to Local Dialogue' and 'peer exchanges' involving shared learning, capacity building, and empowerment of women should be extended and scaled up. Developing grassroots women as leaders and as active participants in local decision-making processes and structures is also fundamental.

(ii) Affirmative action, gender quotas and leadership training in order to increase women's formal and informal political participation

Governments and political parties are encouraged to implement existing mandates of achieving 30 per cent or 50 per cent participation of women in politics and decision-making. Quotas are required to ensure women's access to formal political decision-making. Decentralisation efforts with its shift towards community participation can facilitate an increased role of women in local governance.

(iii) Gender-responsive pro-prosperity measures should not focus on anti-poverty programmes

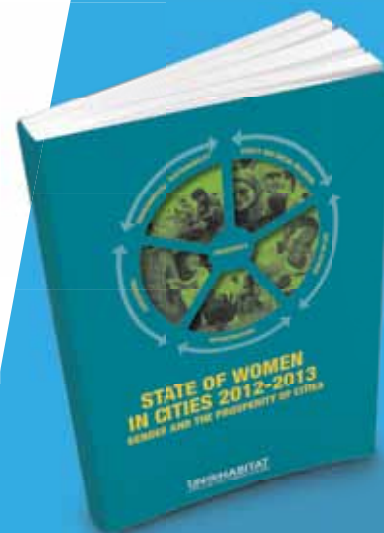
It is important that gender-sensitive projects should not become poverty projects as these usually end up giving women more unpaid work. In order to counter the 'feminisation of responsibility' or adverse effects of the 'feminisation of policy', it is vital for poverty reduction programmes to promote the greater engagement of men.

(iv) Principles of gender rights and justice should be central to urban prosperity discourse and planning

This must involve attempts to ensure equality of opportunity and outcome through effective monitoring and enforcement, and to enjoin (and ensure) male participation at all scales, ranging from the household and community, to cities and nations as a whole. Mainstreaming gender effectively at all levels of policy dialogue and engagement is required.

(v) More sex- and space-disaggregated baseline information

Data should be collected at national and city level clearly capturing the differences between rural and urban areas, and between slum and non-slum parts of the city within urban areas. This is essential for gender mainstreaming and for developing strategies to ensure that urban prosperity becomes more gender equitable.



State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13

GENDER IS ESSENTIAL IN UNDERSTANDING URBAN PROSPERITY

Nairobi 15 April 2013

In an effort to address the many issues surrounding women in cities globally UN-Habitat has published 'The State of Women In Cities Report' 2012/2013 capturing data and information from all parts of the globe.

Key Findings:

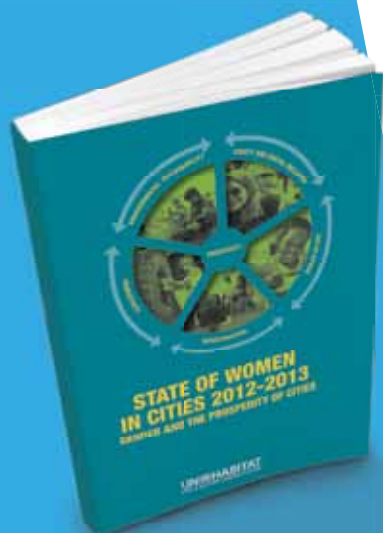
- *Women's economic empowerment underpins urban prosperity,*
- *Future urban population growth will be feminised,*
- Urbanisation and prosperity of women interlinked in theory but not in practice,
- Women's economic contributions to urban prosperity need to be supported through their participation in the informal economy,
- Women need more equitable access to infrastructure, especially sanitation,
- Urban prosperity is facilitated by women's unpaid reproductive work, and
- NGOs, civil society and governments need to collaborate in implementing gender equality policies in cities

Recommendations:

- Strengthen livelihoods and women's economic empowerment strategies within the planning of cities and the delivery of basic services as key pre-requisites for equitable city prosperity
- Formulate gender policies and strengthen accountability for gender equality and equity at city level

Reasons why it is important to consider gender in relation to the prosperity of cities -

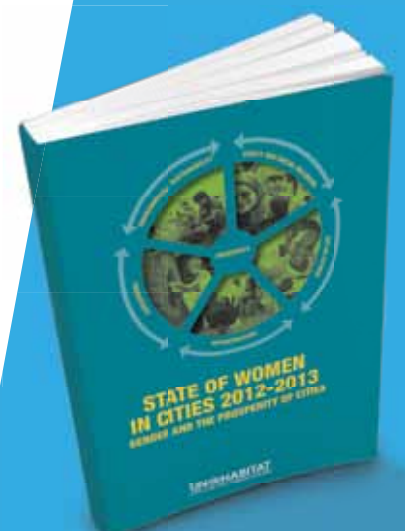
- **First**, cities of the future will comprise a majority female component with pronounced 'older' populations (>60 years) especially among the older generations (>80 years), and increasing numbers of households headed by women.
- **Second**, urban dwellers face specific circumstances which can exacerbate and perpetuate poverty and which have gendered implications. For instance, the poor spend a disproportionate amount on water, accommodation, transport and food. They also face many practical and health problems due to lack of adequate sanitation and services. Many of these conditions affect women most because they undertake unpaid caring and social reproductive activities such as childcare, caring for the sick, disabled and elderly, washing, cleaning and other community services, as well as building and consolidating housing and providing basic services and infrastructure. All these activities allow the urban economy to function and prosper, even though this labour is seldom recognised or valued.



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- **Third**, women make crucially important economic contributions to the prosperity of cities through their paid work. The ‘feminisation’ of the global labour force tends to be associated with urbanisation, with the related concentration of women in export-manufacturing, the service sector and Information, Communication and Technology (ICT). This can have other important implications for women such as declining fertility, increasing education levels and rising aspirations. Women are key drivers of economic growth and that wealth in the hands of women leads to much more equitable outcomes in terms of the quality of life of families and communities.
- **Fourth**, women are disadvantaged compared with men in cities in terms of equal access to employment, housing, health and education, asset ownership, experiences of urban violence, and ability to exercise their rights. These disadvantages are especially marked for poor urban women residing in slums and informal settlements. Also, women’s contributions are often ignored, especially by city officials, urban planners and development practitioners.

Addressing the barriers to women’s participation in cities creates a situation where women’s potential is more fully realised and households, communities and governments also reap rewards. It is imperative that women and men should enjoy equal rights and opportunities in cities on moral/ethical, economic and political grounds. This will not only engender women’s well-being but it will increase their individual and collective prosperity as well as the prosperity of the cities in which they reside.



State of Women in Cities Report 2012/13

BOXES ON 'GENDER SENSITIVE PROSPEROUS CITIES'

Box 1: A gender-sensitive prosperous city

- Contributes to poverty reduction by harnessing the wealth produced by female and male citizens in investments that ensure better living standards and quality of life for all
- Provides equal opportunities for women and men to access decent work and earn a decent income, including through labour market legislation, flexible approaches to the use of public spaces and amenities, adequate and safe transport, and access to digital technology
- Contains adequate infrastructure and physical services (including childcare facilities and other forms of care support) that reduce women's unpaid and reproductive labour and carework, 'time poverty', and exposure to health risks
- Provides opportunities for adequate and affordable shelter for all and strengthens women's formal and informal rights over property
- Promotes women's and men's safety from violence at household, neighbourhood and city-wide levels
- Invests in social services such as education, healthcare, childcare, recreational and sports facilities that enhance women's and men's capacities to lead productive and fulfilling lives in economic, social and cultural spheres
- Promotes the full engagement and representation of women in civic participation and urban governance

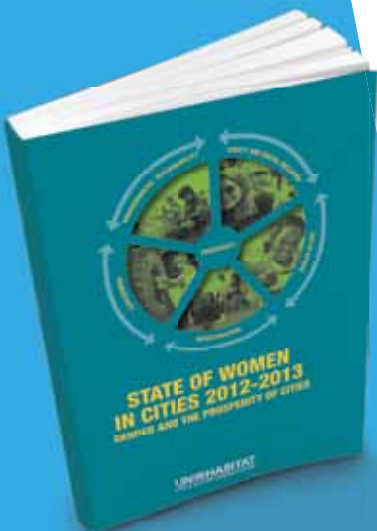
Source: UN-Habitat (2012)

Box 2: Women's concerns about urban security and safety in Cape Town, South Africa

In April 2011, at the Western Cape Anti-Eviction Campaign's monthly residential meeting in the Symphony Way Temporary Relocation Area, informally referred to as Blikkiesdorp, or 'Tin Can Town' in Afrikaans, residents voluntarily gathered to discuss their personal security concerns within the community. Among the routine discussions of endemic crime and the regular break-ins, which afford residents little to no personal security over their possessions, a comment surfaced from Nadia, a resident who had years ago been evicted from her home closer to Cape Town's city centre. Raising her voice above the sounds drifting over from the adjacent shacks, Nadia expressed in front of her fellow residents, both male and female, her deep concern over the lack of municipal repair of the streetlights lining the dirt road that leads to the main highway. The non-functioning of the streetlights has posed particular problems for women, rendering them vulnerable to harassment, theft, physical abuse, and sexual violence.

Source: Fleming (2011)

In the darkness of morning's early hours, when many of the Area's women begin their hours-long commute towards Cape Town's City Centre, often involving a protracted walk followed by multiple minibus trips, the functioning presence of streetlights deters crime and allows for residents' safe passage through an otherwise-unsecured area. Nadia's complaint illustrates one of the many ways in which women's safety can be compromised by the simple lack of municipal service delivery in informal settlements. Yet, women's safety can also be greatly improved with the effective installation and maintenance of streetlights. The installation and maintenance of streetlights in slums and other low-income housing areas throughout the Global South represent one opportunity to improve the safety and well-being of the poor, particularly women, in a way that the residents themselves have personally shown to be both productive and in demand.



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Box 3: Women and the 'green economy': organising waste pickers in Pune, India

India's National Action Plan for Climate Change (2000) and National Environmental Policy (2006) recognise the major contribution of waste pickers to carbon reduction and environmental protection and also their rights to collect and recycle waste. This is massively important to the lives and livelihoods of informal urban workers throughout India, including several women.

In the city of Pune, for example, women constitute 90 per cent of the approximately 9500 waste collectors in the city, who fall into three main groups: 1) those who collect waste from public bins and the street; 2) those who work in landfill sites, and 3) those who work on a door-to-door basis with trolleys buying waste that people do not dispose in bins because it is of some value, such as paper and empty beer bottles.

Two-thirds of waste workers belong to the Waste Collectors Union KKP KP which, in partnership with local authorities, has promoted a socially and ecologically innovative model of waste recovery. The new model emerged out of a study conducted in 2007 on the composition of waste collected from public bins by about 90 trucks in Pune and taken to the city's dumpsites. On finding that 90 per cent of this waste was biodegradable, the KKP KP proposed dropping all but ten of the 90 trucks, and

encouraged households to separate their waste at source. This allowed biodegradable waste to be composted in situ, leaving the waste workers to collect from their homes only non-degradable rubbish for the dumps. In addition, a sorting shed has been provided by the municipality that allows pickers to sort their waste in each other's company, rather than at home.

This initiative not only saves money, but has considerable environmental, social and gender benefits, such as raising women's incomes and situating them at the centre of 'green' economic activities.

One woman, Suman, who started her waste collection activities at the age of 13, and who began by picking up recyclable material from the roadside and public bins, has found union membership and the transition to door-to-door collection extremely positive for her life and livelihood. She not only works fewer hours and collects better quality waste, but also enjoys social interaction with her clients. An additional spin-off of KKP KP membership has been that two of her four children have received scholarships from the union, with one currently studying for a Masters degree in journalism, and another now working as manager of the union's scrap shops.

Sources: Chen (2011), Shekar (2009), Stevens (2009, p. 16)

Box 4: Grassroots women organising to access land and housing in Brazil

Ponte Do Maduro is a settlement in Recife of roughly 10,000 low income families living on 50 hectares. Although occupied for more than 100 years, its residents do not have legal tenure. The state has been providing basic services, but communities remain vulnerable since they lack security of tenure and therefore, basic rights and entitlements. Mobilisation of the community became an important way to put pressure on the government to make a commitment to regularise the area.

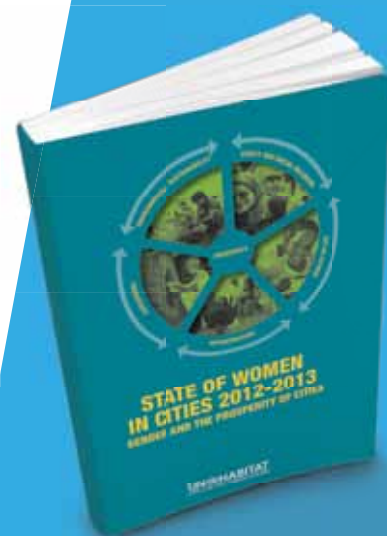
Espaco Feminista, a civil society organisation with the mission to reduce gender inequality, especially women's access to resources, started networking to build alliances with government agencies. Along with leaders, they conducted meetings with the communities and invited their partners to witness first hand the abject living conditions experienced by the residents of Ponte do Maduro. This raised the community's confidence to fight for tenure security. Espaco Feminista also worked with government officials to ensure that adequate resources were allocated to address community needs. A link was established with the State of Pernambuco Housing Company, and the Governor of Pernambuco whose office approved the regularisation and the involvement of Espaco Feminista in the process to ensure gender equality in its implementation.

Source: Huairou Commission (2010a)

The participation of women leaders protected women against the traditional practice of distributing land and housing titles primarily to men. Although the 1988 Constitution of Brazil ensures equal rights to women and men, many private contractors in Brazil discriminate against women in the titling process. Given the contradictions between legislation and customary behaviour, it was necessary to educate women about their rights and monitor the behaviour of contractors to overcome this institutional bias.

To accomplish this, Espaco Feminista's women leaders stressed the importance of a participatory, gender sensitive approach, to state agencies and the community. Espaco Feminista has been able to foster partnerships at various levels locally, nationally and internationally which is its biggest strength. They have used these alliances to share the experiences of grassroots women and to transform their current reality. Grassroots women understand that their struggle has to reverse years of oppression and discrimination based on gender and race. However, in order to ensure success in this struggle, it is critical that more women attain positions of power in the government, who are then able to favourably influence policies and programmes towards women and play an active role in the implementation of these policies.

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Box 5: The evolution of women's land rights in Nepal

In 2002 Nepal eventually passed the Country Code (11th Amendment Act), nearly ten years after demands by gender equality advocates in the country, which provided for equal inheritance rights for unmarried daughters and sons. However, this measure only went part-way since married women still stood to lose their natal property rights.

In 2006, as Nepal emerged from a decade of conflict, children were able to claim citizenship through their mothers for the first time through the Gender Equality Act which also extended divorce rights as well as further protecting women against domestic and sexual violence. With specific regard to property, married women were granted the right to keep

inherited property, as well as being entitled to use property without the consent of male family members.

In 2007, the Ministry of Finance introduced gender-responsive budgeting which resulted in an increase of government spending directly responsive to women's needs from 11 to 17 per cent between 2007 to 2010, as well as a 10 per cent tax exemption for land registered in women's names, which aimed to incentivise families to share their property with daughters, sisters and wives. As a result, households reporting some degree of ownership among women more than doubled, from 11 per cent to 35 per cent, between 2001 and 2009.

Source: UN Women (2011, pp. 22-3)

Box 6: Gender dimensions of improved connectivity in cities: the Bogotá experience under Mayor Enrique Peñalosa

One of most important priorities advanced during Bogotá Mayor, Enrique Peñalosa's, time in office (1998-2001) was the 'de-marginalisation' and/or 'inclusion of low-income and informal workers and residents' in the country's capital. Policies were pursued to dismantle the barriers preventing poorer citizens from accessing the benefits of urban life by 'equalising' city residents before the state. Providing services to traditionally marginalised groups created stronger social cohesion by ending preferential public treatment for the more affluent. During his relatively brief administration Peñalosa extended access to water to all Bogotá homes, and implemented radical reforms in transport, infrastructure and the use of urban space. Peñalosa sought to maximise popular mobility through prioritising walkway and bicycle lane projects over cars, which provided healthy, low-cost, non-polluting travel options. He also actively promoted Bogotá's 'Sunday Ciclovía' tradition, a weekly car-free event which since the 1970s has closed 120 kilometres of road in the city to all but pedestrians and those using non-motorised vehicles such as bicycles and roller skates.

When cities are 'designed for people, not cars', and spaces are opened-up for recreation and socialising through pedestrian- and people-friendly projects this can lessen the social inequality that comes with a stratified transport system which favours richer motorists over poorer mass transit users. The high quality *TransMilenio* bus rapid transit system introduced by Peñalosa is now 84 kilometres in length, and offers safe, affordable and reliable public transport which

is accessible to the residents of Bogotá's slums. Serving an average of 1.7 million passengers a day, the system provides universal access to all stations and buses in trunk lines which cater to the needs of women, the disabled and the elderly. Indeed, through *TransMilenio*, Peñalosa addressed a major obstacle to income-earning by poor women who previously had to source work within walking distance of their homes to avoid paying hefty transport fares. Women who can access numerous quality and flexible transportation options benefit from such investments because their trips are often for multiple purposes, even though an integrated ticketing system enabling multiple trips taken by women would improve matters further. Gender-sensitive investments which reduce the risks and constraints attached to 'dangerous and unreliable mass transit' can also benefit men.

Building on the legacy of Antanas Mockus who was very keen to recruit women in all processes, and to incorporate more female police officers, Peñalosa sought process-related reforms as well. Project teams engaged a number of young professional women and men, increasing efficiency and avoiding the corruption-related pitfalls that plague many infrastructure initiatives run by seasoned bureaucrats. Cities that enable women to fulfil their potential of playing important roles at all stages of local governance, from strategic planning to urban crisis response are clearly able to access a greater pool of talent. Bogotá's transformation demonstrates how improved access to urban infrastructure can contribute to increasing gender-inclusive prosperity in its widest sense.

Source: Castro and Echeverri (2011); Kunieda and Gauthier (2007); Montezuma (2005)

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