

Global Programmes Working in the Asia-Pacific Region



Our challenge

Poverty These newly gained economic and social achievements of the region however hide major unevenness across the regional landscape. For instance poverty continues to remain a major development challenge particularly in South Asia. In fact, in 2015 this sub-region will have the largest number of people living in poverty in the entire world

Unmanaged Growth A large portion of the increase in urban population of the region is absorbed in newly emerged towns and cities. However, many of these cities will have little urban management experience to deal with the problems created by swelling urban population or basic infrastructure on which they can build a more sophisticated systems or networks. The resulting consequence is not only haphazard growth but also scarcity of essential urban services the population require in order to maintain an acceptable standard of personal hygiene and public health and to engage in productive activities.

Natural Disaster Earthquakes, landslides, floods and droughts are some of the most recurring disasters that strike the region. Urban vulnerability in Asian cities is on the rise. Some of the problems are basic: unplanned development, unregulated construction, lack of maintenance of public buildings, absence of guidelines for traditional buildings and poor design. Escalation in the construction cost combined with general inflation is eating away people's affordability and leading to unsound construction practices. Flawed building permit practices are diluting public responsibility on safety.

Environment Urban environmental problems are many but the one that is less talked about is the safe disposal of domestic and industrial solid waste. The environmental consequences of open dumping and trench-method are well documented. And yet there has not been concerted effort to address the problem. Cities cite lack of capital and technical know-how as the two major hindrances, and yet they tend to favor capital-intensive solutions and high-tech incinerator over more natural treatment like the semi-aerobic landfill known as Fukuoka Method.

Slums Physically underserved and with tenure frequently challenged the slum dwellers are the product of a planning system that is dysfunctional. Forty-six percent of the region's urban population live in slums, which accounts for almost half of the world's slum dwellers.

Home is not just a "roof over one's head". It is a symbol of warmth, security and identity. No matter where we live, home is part of what we are

Safer Cities Programme

The Safer Cities Programme tackles one of the most fundamental aspects of city life and a critical component for sustainable social and economic development: the need to reduce crime, prevent violence and provide a safe environment. The programme supports the efforts of municipalities by building capacity at the city level to improve urban safety through crime prevention strategies that address the causes of crime, whilst involving all urban partners and stakeholders.



Water for Asian Cities Programme

The programme focuses on all aspects of demand management, economic, social, technical, legal, administrative and institutional. Priority being given to reduction of unaccounted for water; pricing and public-private relationships; equity in distribution of services; regulation and reallocation of resources. Priorities include the development of appropriate technological options; promoting public, private, NGO partnerships for scaling up sanitation process.



Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP)

The Sustainable Cities Programme (SCP) is a joint UN-HABITAT/UNEP capacity-building and institutional strengthening facility, with the goal of ensuring environmentally sustainable local development fully realises the vital contributions that urban areas make to overall social and economic development. SCP promotes good environmental governance at all levels to support local and national partners adopt environmental planning management processes and integrate good practice into national policy.



Risk and Disaster Management Unit (RDMU)

The Disaster Management Programme operates under the Disaster, Post-Conflict and Safety Section, Urban Development Branch of UN-HABITAT. DMP was created to marshal the resources of UN-HABITAT and other international agencies to provide local government, civil society and the private sector with practical strategies for mitigating and recovering from conflicts and natural disasters in the context of human settlements.



Urban Management Programme (UMP)

In the fourth phase and almost two decades of its existence, the Urban Management Programme (UMP) is one of the largest global technical assistance programmes in the urban sector. The programme was designed to strengthen the capacity of urban local and national governments to enhance the contribution that cities and towns make toward poverty reduction, the improvement of environmental conditions and local governance, and the management of economic growth.



City Alliance - Cities Without Slums

The Cities Alliance was launched in 1999 with initial support from the World Bank and UN-HABITAT. Alliance partners have joined forces to expand the level of resources reaching the urban poor, by improving the coherence of effort among on-going urban programmes, and by more directly linking grant-funded urban development cooperation with investment follow-up. Alliance committed to improve the living conditions of the urban poor through promoting City Development Strategies (CDS) and city-wide and nation-wide slum upgrading.



Gender Mainstreaming Unit

The objective is to ensure UN-HABITAT's effective implementation of its Gender Policy and to address the Habitat Agenda commitment to gender equality by promoting women's equal rights and women's empowerment internationally within the area of human settlements development; supporting governments, NGOs and other partners in capacity building and development in order to mainstream gender equality in human settlements development; mainstreaming a gender perspective throughout the Programme's activities.



Best Practices & Local Leadership Programme

The Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme (BLP) was established in 1997 in response to the call of the Habitat Agenda to make use of information and networking in support of its implementation. It is a global network of government agencies, local authorities and their associations, professional and academic institutions and grassroots organisations dedicated to the identification and exchange of successful solutions for sustainable development.



Global Urban Observatory

The Global Urban Observatory (GUO) addresses the urgent need to improve the world-wide base of urban knowledge by helping Governments, local authorities and organizations of the civil society develop and apply policy-oriented urban indicators, statistics and other urban information. The GUO monitors global progress in implementing the Habitat Agenda, and monitors and evaluates global urban conditions and trends. Current activities are based on the development of an integrated network of National and Local Urban Observatories.



Mandate & Mission

The latter half of the 20th century saw unprecedented progress in all aspects of human welfare and security. The most visible sign of this progress has been rapid urbanisation accompanied by globalisation, bringing significant improvement to the lives of millions of people living in developing countries as well. However, the scale and nature of poverty has also undergone metamorphic change, so much that poverty continues to remain the single most challenge confronting the world. In Asia and the Pacific region alone, more than 650 million people live on one dollar a day or less. This accounts for 65% of the world's ultra poor, making the region one of the most poverty-stricken parts of the world. Rises in the number of internal conflicts continue to take a heavy toll on ordinary people, natural disasters - exacerbated by urban growth and excessive human interference with the natural environment - are also occurring with greater ferocity, in the process retarding the pace of development.

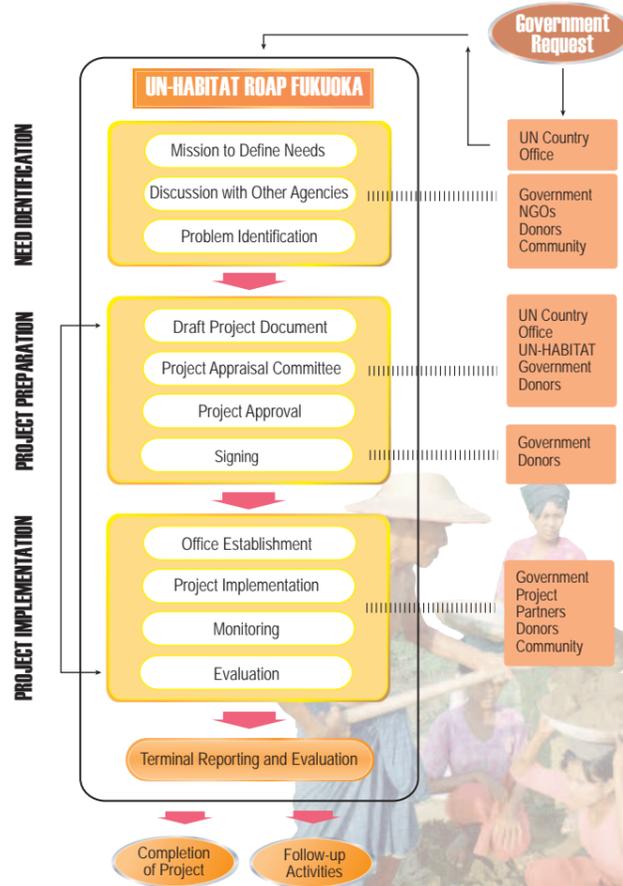
The mission of UN-HABITAT is to promote socially and environmentally sustainable human settlements and adequate shelter for all. UN-HABITAT focuses on the following priority areas: a) Shelter and social services, b) Urban management, c) Environment and infrastructure and d) Assessment, monitoring and information.

Habitat Agenda

The Habitat Agenda addresses a range of human settlement development issues. The Agenda also recognizes that these issues and the critical social and economic problems of our time such as growing numbers of urban poor, unemployment, status of women and suffering of children, are closely linked.

Since 1996, Habitat has been monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda using a variety of tools, including best practices, urban indicators and statistics. Comprehensive analysis of human settlements conditions and trends and data on a wide array of urban issues are presented in UN-HABITAT's flagship publications: The Global Report on Human Settlements and State of the World's Cities Report published every two years.

Project Cycle



Technical cooperation projects coordinated by the UN-HABITAT ROAP-Fukuoka are geographically spread from Iran in the west to the Pacific Islands in the east