

urbanimpact



Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments. 16 October 2016, Quito

Foreword

Habemus New Urban Agenda. The New Urban Agenda was unanimously adopted by member states at the Habitat III Conference in Quito, Ecuador in October. The New Urban Agenda is a plan of action to effectively address the complex challenges of urbanization that will help countries seize – and showcase – the opportunities of good urbanization, which make cities and human settlements more inclusive, resilient and safe.

This year at UN-Habitat, we are also celebrating forty years of working together toward a better urban future. We have done so much together and with the New Urban Agenda, and we stand ready to do even more. We will continue to support member states, local governments and other partners as a focal point for sustainable urban development and human settlements within the UN System. We are already well advanced in discussing with our sister agencies how we can coordinate a more effective response to the challenges of urbanization. We have already developed specialized products designed to meet the needs of national and local governments.

Although the New Urban Agenda is newly adopted, it brings with it many years of our combined cumulative experience in implementing the most important aspects of what we agreed in Quito.

Our journey towards a sustainable urban future has just begun. I look forward to working with you all over the coming months to develop a more responsive, effective and accountable UN-Habitat.

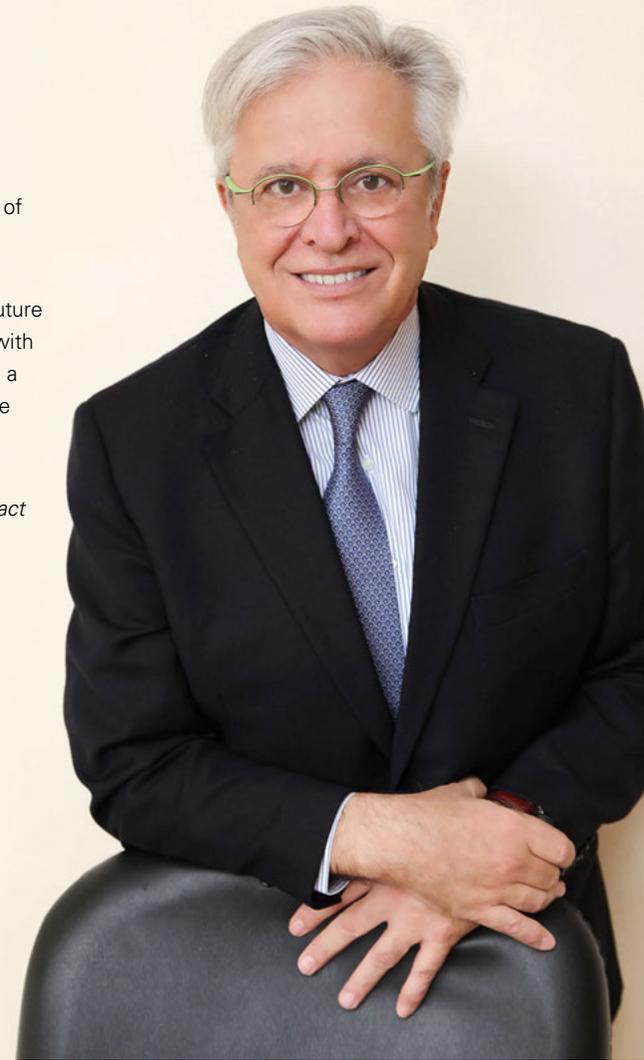
I hope you enjoy this Edition of *Urban Impact* and I look forward to our joint endeavours.

Thank you

Sincerely,



Joan Clos, UN-Habitat Executive Director



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Sustain Momentum and Seize Opportunities Presented by HABITAT III

I am delighted to meet with you for the first time following Habitat III. I would like to take this opportunity to thank you all for your extraordinary efforts and contributions toward a process that led us to a very successful conference. Thank you all; both those who worked hard in Quito, and those who supported us from your respective offices.

Habitat III is a historic landmark for the United Nations. The Conference gathered more than 30,000 accredited participants, and involved more than 150,000 people in the entire preparatory process including regional and thematic meetings, negotiations, meetings with stakeholders, and the preparation of policy papers amongst others. Habitat III also attracted more than 2,000 representatives of local government, the highest ever attendance for a UN conference.

With the New Urban Agenda now adopted, the challenge is to keep up this momentum and seize the opportunities presented to us through Habitat III. In Quito we showed that we are a strong organization, with unmatched expertise and experience. The New Urban Agenda brings with it many years of our combined cumulative experience in implementing the most important aspects of what we have in Quito.

I would like to highlight two fundamental elements which were crystallized by statements made at Habitat III.

The first is that urbanization is becoming a strategic issue, both for local and national governments. Quito consolidated the vision of urbanization as an endogenous source of development. Urbanization can be an engine for prosperity and human progress, as reflected in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

The second is the action-oriented character of the New Urban Agenda. The NUA is a plan of action to effectively address the complex challenges of urbanization. The novelty of the NUA is that it puts in place actions that can change the path of urbanization and it also identifies the key actors to carry out the changes. This explains much of the huge interest in the sessions and events in Quito. It is a new style of action based on facts and figures as well as pragmatic support far away



from rhetoric. You are by now all familiar with the five principles of the NUA: i) National Urban Policy; ii) Rules and Regulations; iii) Urban Planning and Design; iv) Financing Urbanization; and v) the Local Implementation of the NUA.

How does this translate to the future of UN-Habitat? This is also addressed in the New Urban Agenda, which recognizes UN-Habitat as a focal point in the UN System on sustainable urbanization and human settlements. The specific issue of strengthening the organization will be determined following an evidence-based and independent assessment requested by member states to the UN Secretary-General. The findings and recommendations of that assessment will be presented at a two-day High-Level meeting of the General Assembly, convened by the President of the General Assembly during this current session, to discuss “the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the positioning of UN-Habitat in this regard”. Time is tight. This process must start early next year; we await the decision of the incoming Secretary-General on how he wishes to proceed. In a year’s time, the Second Committee will also present its annual resolution on UN-Habitat.

UN-Habitat should continue with current efforts to be as productive as always giving member states the certainty that we are using resources in the

most efficient and productive manner. This is a prerequisite in our efforts to ask for an increase of the resources allocated to UN-Habitat.

Our objective is that UN-Habitat comes out of the assessment having displayed its value for money, and its potential to deliver more, if given additional resources. This will require all of us to speak with one voice, presenting UN-Habitat as a strong and purpose-oriented organization, to carry out a common vision of the future of urbanization. UN-Habitat can be a model of the United Nations effort to improve its efficiency, coherence and image under the leadership of the new Secretary-General. We must be committed fully to deliver in this very demanding process.

Habitat III has served us to show the world, and our bigger sister agencies, funds and programmes, that despite being a small programme, we are a strong and a specialized agency that is able to address the complex challenges of global urbanization and to help member states to seize the opportunities offered by good urban development.

Town Hall Message by Dr. Joan Clos, Secretary-General of Habitat III and Executive Director of UN-Habitat, following the Adoption of the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador - 18 November 2016

Post-disaster Reconstruction of a Better, Sustainable and Resilient City

The Case of Tacloban City

The Challenge

Until Typhoon Haiyan, one of the strongest typhoons ever recorded struck the Philippines on 8 November 2013, Tacloban City, the regional hub of Eastern Visayas, was a rapidly urbanizing city with a vibrant economy whose population of 221,000 was growing at the rate of 2.16 per cent. Wind speeds of over 300km/h and storm surges of over four metres caused massive and unprecedented loss of life and destruction of property in Tacloban City.

Among post-Haiyan recovery initiatives undertaken by the government was the phased relocation of some 90,000 people to safer grounds 10 to 20 kilometres north of the city. This resettlement effort became the catalyst for a comprehensive new town redevelopment plan for north Tacloban, as well as a redevelopment plan for areas in central and south Tacloban.

The authorities encountered a number of challenges in planning and redesigning a better city under the “build back better” principle. In the immediate aftermath of the disaster, distressed families and communities quickly began rebuilding their homes in hazardous areas. With resettlement areas in the north being far removed from built up areas in the south of the city, and without a clear mobility plan to connect the two areas, there was a high risk of the north becoming a dormant city, thereby exacerbating socio-economic exclusion, segregation, lack of access to livelihood opportunities and traffic congestion. A more integrated urban development approach for Tacloban City was required.

The Partnership

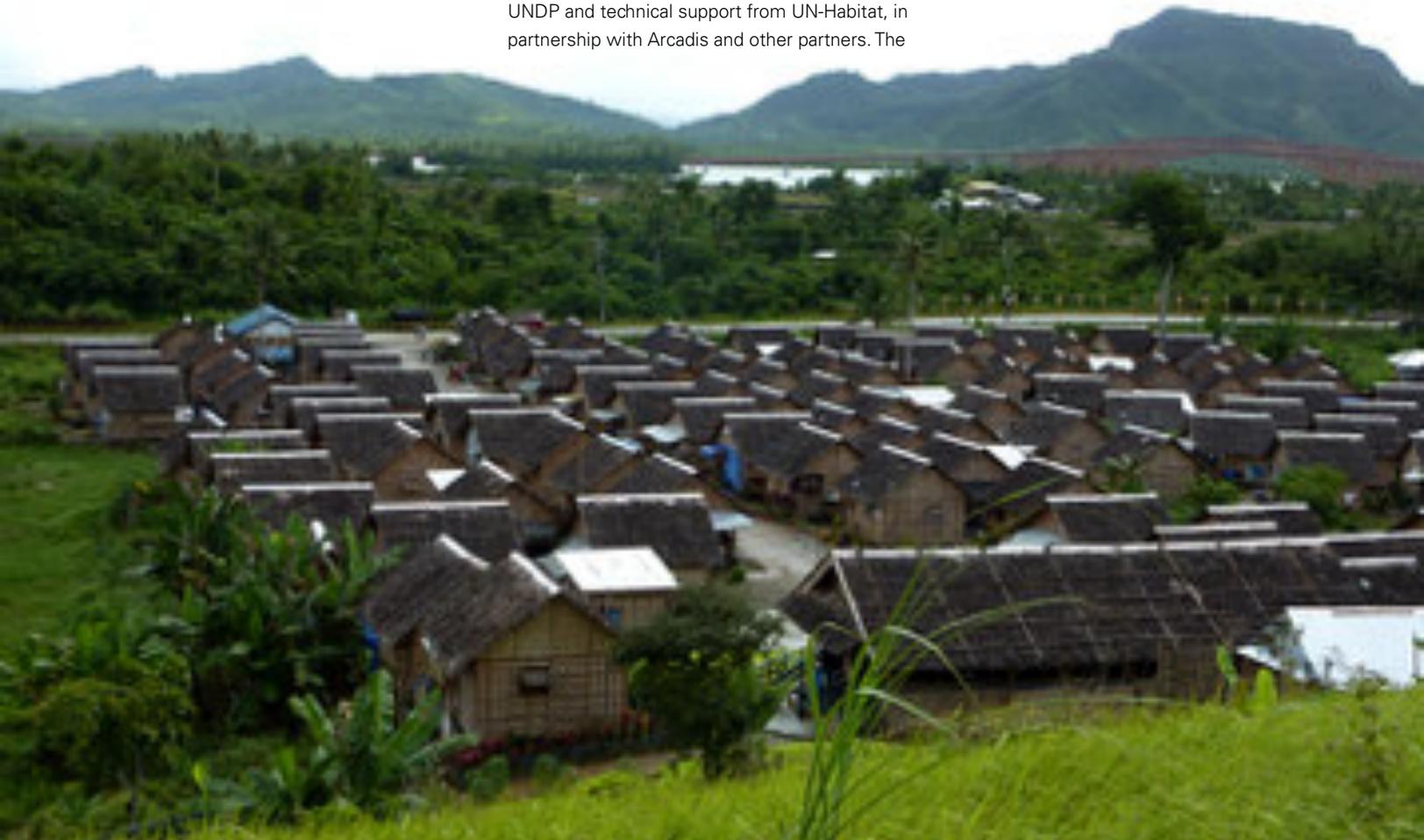
The Tacloban Recovery and Sustainable Development Working Group (TRSDG) which was set up immediately after the typhoon formulated the Tacloban Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan (TRRP) with funding from UNDP and technical support from UN-Habitat, in partnership with Arcadis and other partners. The

TRRP provided the foundation for subsequent formulation of the longer-term Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP).

Formulation of CLUP has been spearheaded by the city with technical support from technical specialists from the UN-Habitat and Urban Labs, a global network of planning and design teams commissioned by UN-Habitat to collaborate with local planners and administrators to develop sustainable urbanization strategies. The project is funded by the Dutch Creative Industries Fund. UN-Habitat provided further assistance through the Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) for preparation of the Local Climate Change Action Plan.

The Outcomes

The Tacloban Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan (TRRP), the guiding framework for reformulating the city’s urban system design and strategies, outlines the vision of a **Resilient, Vibrant, and**



Livable Tacloban City and defines key action areas, namely: updating regulations for new buildings; revitalization and rebuilding existing assets; creating synergies with the private sector; promoting economic revitalization and development; mainstreaming disaster risk reduction and management, and building with nature through redevelopment of the city's coastal buffer zones. These actions are to be implemented through adjustments of the city's land use and multi-sector development plan.

UN-Habitat and Urban Labs formulated three targets for the Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP) that together offer an integrated approach for the long-term redevelopment of Tacloban City: SAFE, CONNECTED, CLEAR.

High detail elevation data (LIDAR) supplemented with community based damage reports allowed for precise determination of risk exposure in various districts of the city. This detailed analysis was the foundation of a design that redirects growth to safe areas. Results of the planning and design interventions by Urban Labs are contained in a publication that provides a spatial vision of the city in the wake of Typhoon Haiyan. The publication was handed over to the City Government of Tacloban by the UN-Habitat Urban Labs team for use in planning and designing a better Tacloban City.

UN-Habitat also worked closely with the city in producing its Local Shelter Plan and its first Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP) incorporating lessons gleaned from the Haiyan experience. The LCCAP was instrumental in helping the city to access the *People's Survival Fund* and other climate financing, thereby augmenting the city's funding for implementation of its resilience programs and projects.

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Partner's Voice

The Tacloban City Government took its first step in planning for a safer, more resilient future should something like Haiyan ever happen again. With the help of UN-Habitat, the City Government produced the Tacloban Recovery and Rehabilitation Plan (TRRP), a road map to ensure that all steps taken during recovery and rehabilitation will also be building blocks toward sustainable and resilient long-term development, and will not later need to be torn down to be replaced by solutions that were better conceived and better planned. Over the next two years, still with the assistance of UN-Habitat and also JICA and the USAID, Tacloban allocated significant time and resources to rethink and reformulate its Comprehensive Land Use Plan (CLUP), develop an Economic Development Framework for Tacloban North, produce its first Local Climate Change Action Plan (LCCAP), and fully update its Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Plan (DRRMP), incorporating lessons gleaned from the Yolanda experience. The TRRP served as a conceptual roadmap for all these subsequent planning exercises.

*Cristina Gonzales-Romualdez
Mayor, Tacloban City, Philippines*



High Level Policy Interventions Helping Myanmar Meet Challenges of Rapid Urbanisation

The Challenge

One of the most profound transformations in Myanmar's near future will be the shift from a predominantly rural to a predominantly urban society as millions of people move from the countryside to the city in search of work and a better life. However, while most of the country's institutions are more suited to the needs of rural agrarian society, its cities are ill equipped to cope with the impending huge pressure on housing, land, infrastructure and transport.

The Interventions

UN-Habitat is helping the fledgling democracy to prepare for the coming wave of urbanization with strategic, high-level policy interventions. Supported by the Government of Norway, the (Disaster Response and Preparedness - Resilient Coastal Communities and Urban Risk (DRP-CURB) programme is helping the government to establish a comprehensive urban planning system in Myanmar for the first time in thirty years. In a country with less than twenty urban planners, UN-Habitat is helping to plug the capacity gap through comprehensive urban skills development, establishment of a National Urban Policy, and development of country-specific National Guidelines for Urban Planning to be

distributed to local authorities throughout the country.

Support in reviewing the National Building Code will help ensure that the country's urban future is resilient and disaster-proof. In addition, UN-Habitat is piloting a planned city extension development project to provide hands-on learning opportunities to local officers from Yangon City municipality and the national Ministry of Construction and undertaking resilience planning in Mandalay under the **100 Resilient Cities Challenge**.

Myanmar's rapid urbanization will create an unprecedented demand for housing and UN-

Under the Cities Alliance Catalytic Fund, and working closely with Yangon municipality, UN-Habitat has undertaken the country's first systematic attempt to collect information on slums and urban settlements through the mapping of Yangon



Habitat is supporting development of a National Housing Policy, including the establishment of a functional housing market that meets the needs of the poor. With support from the Government of Japan, a new and innovative pro-poor housing pilot project has already provided accommodation for 240 slum dwellers in the city of Yangon. To promote inclusive approaches to housing, UN-Habitat has convened seminars on affordable housing with the participation of international experts and also organised a high-level visit to Surabaya for the Mayor of Yangon to experience how other cities have transformed slums into sustainable, thriving, and green communities that are a source of strength for the city.

The current housing shortage has resulted in the creation of slums in Yangon and many other cities in Myanmar, and these have recently become a priority issue for the new National League of Democracy (NLD) Government. Under the Cities Alliance Catalytic Fund, and working closely with Yangon municipality, UN-Habitat has undertaken the country's first systematic attempt to collect information on slums and urban settlements through the mapping of Yangon.

Fine-grained satellite imagery analysis of urban areas, followed by ground verification, has allowed the project to identify 423 different slum settlements housing approximately 400,000 people. With this information, the Municipality will be able to extend infrastructure and services to the informal population and initiate a conversation about tenure and upgrading. A second phase of the research will involve in-depth housing and livelihoods surveys, with a view to identify potential sites for piloting upgrading approaches.

The Outcomes

A community-driven construction of a water purification plant funded by USAID with UN-Habitat's technical support has improved access to water for poor urban settlements in Shwe Pyi Thar Township in Yangon.

“ I arrived here in 1992. We had faced a lot of problems with the water, especially because the high concentration of iron in the groundwater makes it unsuitable for drinking. We used to have to put it through a two-day filtering process before it was ready for consumption. When UN-Habitat came here, we presented our troubles. UN-Habitat organized a Community Development Committee, and we worked together to build the filtering systems. The Committee is now managing the water supply daily from our new filtering system to ensure that all beneficiaries have equal access to water, so that nobody exploits the water supply to make profit. Small local vendors are also able to save money thanks to the equal access to water. The Shwe Pyi Thar people have a sense of ownership over the water purification plant since they built it themselves, bringing long-term benefit to the community.”

Mr. U Kyaw Min, Chairman, Shwe Pyi Thar Community Development Committee (CDC)



Honiara, Solomon Islands Develops Climate Resilience Strategies

The Challenge

Small Island Developing States (SIDS) in the Pacific, such as the Solomon Islands, are among the most vulnerable to climate change. Many have suffered from the disastrous effects of natural hazards such as earthquakes, tsunamis and tropical cyclones. In the case of Honiara - the capital city of the Solomon Islands – exposure to natural hazards such as river flooding, storm surges and landslides is compounded by sensitivity to external shocks and stresses due to existing deficits in urban infrastructure, housing and service provision.

These deficits result from rapid and unplanned urbanization and the associated growth of informal settlements; inadequate infrastructure and poor access to basic services in many areas; issues related to land tenure particularly in peri-urban areas and weak governance and institutional structures for protection of the urban environment. Due to the immensity of climate-related challenges facing Pacific SIDS, extensive climate vulnerability and adaptation work has been done across the region, including in the Solomon Islands. To-date however, this work has been focused predominantly on rural or remote areas with emphasis being placed on island ecosystems and traditional, subsistence-based livelihood options.

The Partnership

As part of its Pacific Cities and Climate Change Initiative, UN-Habitat has supported the Government of the Solomon Islands since 2013,

working closely with UNDP, the United Nations Development Account and the Government of Norway on Climate Resilience as well as Disaster Risk Reduction programmes.

Besides Honiara, UN-Habitat has been active in Lami in Fiji, Port Moresby in Papua New Guinea, Apia in Samoa, and Port Vila in Vanuatu. Among key local partners are Honiara City Council, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey and the Ministry of Environment, Climate Change, Disaster Management and Meteorology, Solomon Water (the water utility), civil society organizations and numerous urban poor communities, while academic advisors from RMIT University have led development of the resilience planning process.

The Outcomes

In April 2014 extreme rainfall caused both localized flash flooding and severe riverine flooding, resulting in 22 deaths in Honiara. Over 50,000 people were affected, with numerous houses being washed away from hotspots that had previously been identified through Climate Change Vulnerability Assessment by UN-Habitat.

Partners' Voices

“ For the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey, climate change is a key concern. We thus very much appreciate UN-Habitat's Support for resilience building through the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and the Climate Change Initiative. The Ministry has integrated climate resilience in the Honiara Planning Scheme, in the revision of the Town and Country Planning Act and Climate Change is a key pillar of the forthcoming Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy. Our budget provisions now take Climate Change action into consideration.”

Stanley Waleanisia, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands, Housing & Survey

“ Climate change and disasters affect this coastal community in the centre of Honiara very much. Cyclones bring huge waves that wash over our houses and heavy rains flood the Mataniko River bringing household rubbish and debris. We need flood protection, better disaster preparedness and toilets that won't flood so easily and therefore protect us from diseases.”

Chief Robert Satu, Community Leader, Fishing Village

“ Honiara City Council's partnership with UN-Habitat in the development of the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan has been very rewarding in terms of fully understanding the vulnerabilities of the city and in particular the communities in the informal settlements which are prone to flooding, landslides as well as diseases that are made worse by climate change. We have already taken some action and are committed to fully implement the Resilience Action Plan with the support of UN-Habitat and other partners.”

Eddie Ngava, Deputy Mayor of Honiara and City Climate Change and Resilience focal point



The vulnerability assessment had already resulted in the development of a disaster operational plan and informed the establishment of the Disaster Management Centre by Honiara City Council.

While the vulnerability assessment provided a good baseline for disaster recovery planning, Honiara City Council requested UN-Habitat to support development and implementation of a comprehensive resilience plan.

Development of the *Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan* commenced in late 2014 and incorporated additional vulnerability assessment studies, based on lessons learnt from the floods. Consultations with poor urban communities, the private sector, utilities, youth and women's organizations as well as local and national government took place over a six month period culminating in a two day city consultation, with the mayor, city clerk and high level representatives of national government in attendance. All stakeholders, including some 30 community representatives from informal settlements participated in developing priority actions. The plan is being finalized for full endorsement before the end of 2016. The



process has also influenced development of The Honiara Local Planning Scheme which has mainstreamed climate change; the Honiara Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy has identified climate change adaptation and resilience as one key action area.

Various initiatives in support of the Action Plan have already commenced including capacity development for the National Disaster

Management Office, awareness campaigns targeting youth and women, and a community resilience programme implemented by national umbrella organizations of NGOs with the support of RMIT University. As the Cities and Climate Change Initiative and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme converge, a pilot initiative has commenced aimed at providing resilient water and sanitation facilities as prioritized by the communities.

Communities Manage Project Funds in Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in Cameroon

The Challenge

Kolbikok is an old low income informal settlement of 25,000 residents, most of them living under traditional forms of occupancy close to the centre of Yaounde, the capital city of Cameroon. This settlement poses unique social, economic, and environmental challenges which call for an integrated and Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) approach.

The Interventions

Launched by UN-Habitat in 2008, the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) is a joint initiative of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the European Commission (EC) and UN-Habitat. To date, the programme has reached out to 38 ACP countries and 160 cities, providing an enabling framework for improving the lives of at least 2 million slum dwellers. Through its emphasis on participatory planning methods that emphasize integrated strategies and systemic change, PSUP has become a global platform to address the challenge of slums and facilitate exchange of knowledge, experiences and best practice between participating cities.

The PSUP approach fosters an inclusive environment in which all stakeholders are



empowered to participate in defining the future of their cities and meeting the needs of their citizens, with special emphasis on empowerment slum communities.

Half of Cameroonians now live in towns and cities (53 per cent or around 13 million of Cameroon's estimated 23 million) and an estimated 60 per cent of those are living in informal settlements and slums. With an urban growth rate of around 5 per cent, the challenge of managing and preventing slums is critical. An urban growth rate of around 3.6 per cent the demand for housing, basic urban infrastructure and services are increasing in all urban areas. In

Yaoundé, slums represented about 35 per cent of the urbanized area in 2010, an average of 7,000 ha for an estimated population of 936,740 inhabitants out of a total population of 1.8 million inhabitants.

Following the conclusion of **Phase 1 Participatory Urban Profiling** in 2004, during which, country teams work with cities to conduct rapid, participatory, cross-cutting, multi-sectoral, and action-oriented assessments of needs, with the aim of identifying challenges and response mechanisms, Cameroon launched **Phase 2 – Participatory Action Planning and Programme Formulation**. At the beginning of the second phase, the country teams and cities have an in-depth understanding of local and national slum upgrading issues along with clear goals, now the focus of the process shifts to the city and the neighbourhood level, In Yaoundé where over 1.2 million people – out of over 2 million - live in informal settlements and slums. In 2010 the process was replicated and financed by the government in Bamenda, a town of 400,000 inhabitants and Kribi with 80,000 inhabitants.



The Outcomes

Phase 3 – Participatory Pilot Projects Implementation is being implemented in Nkolbikok, with the Ministry of Housing and Urban Development as the main country partner



The Community Managed Funds (CMF) provided the public equipment for the service and specially designed vehicles to access the dense slum neighborhood in Yaounde

Led by a youth association called TAM TAM Mobile, this project aims to contribute to the operationalization of the solid waste management strategy developed by the City Council of Yaoundé in 2012. The community is paying around USD 2 per week for the collection of household waste, which is further separated into recyclable and non-recyclable by the youth. Local authorities provided the equipment needed for waste management as well as specially designed vehicles to facilitate access to all alleyways in Nkol-Bikok. This mechanism made the project sustainable and self-financed. Through this project, the community is able to offer a low-cost waste management service while contributing to local economic development and job creation for youth in the slum.

and *Environnement, Recherche et Action* (ERA) a local NGO as the implementing partner. The community has created *Association des Residents de la Zone de Nkol-Bikok* (ARZON) to coordinate and enhance community participation in order to ensure sustainability of PSUP activities in the neighborhood. In line with PSUP principles, 10 per cent of the total budget for Phase 3 is being managed by community members through *Community Managed Projects* in their neighborhoods. Projects led by the community have received grants ranging from USD 1,000 to USD 25,000.

The implementing partner (ERA) conducted an awareness workshop in mid-2015 to train stakeholders on application procedures for selection of community-based projects to be funded in Phase 3, with a view to ensuring clear links to outcomes identified in Phase 2. Selected projects range from waste management, to sanitation, flood risk resilience, access to clean water, job creation and primary health. A total of seven projects - three led by youth and three by women groups - received grants totaling about USD100, 000.



Representatives of a community organization receiving a dummy cheque for the implementation of CMF in Nkolbikok. photo@PSUP



Some of the equipment bought through the CMF. photo@PSUP



Nkolbikok has set up an interactive web page to further raise awareness of the programme.

Click [here](#) to visit the page



An example of the CMF Projects is the implementation of the fee-based trash collection and recycling service in Nkolbikok (led by the youth managed association TAM TAM Mobile), Youth organization receiving their equipment for solid waste management project bought through the CMF.photo@PSUP

Improving Urban Water Sanitation Practices in Belize through Peer-learning

Progress in human resources, safety and data acquisition through WOP for Belize Water Services



Water Operators' Partnerships (WOPs) are not-for-profit peer-support relationships between water and sanitation utilities. WOPs harness the skills, knowledge and goodwill of 'mentor' utilities to build the capacity of 'mentee' utilities that need technical assistance or guidance. Through mentorship, WOPs progressively strengthen the management, financial and technical skills of mentee operators, and empower them to implement operational and organizational changes leading to the delivery of better, more efficient and more sustainable services.

The Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA) is a UN-Habitat led initiative that promotes and supports WOPs practice worldwide. GWOPA is scaling-up effective WOPs through regional WOPs platforms that work with local actors and stakeholders to facilitate partnerships.

WOP-LAC is the platform for operators in Latin America and the Caribbean. Through the regional WOP-LAC secretariat, GWOPA/ UN-Habitat provided instrumental and financial support for the creation and implementation of

a Water Operators' Partnership between Belize Water Services (BWS), the national water and sanitation provider, and Contra Costa Water District (CCWD), a California-based water utility. Financial support was provided by the Inter-American Development Bank and the Public-Private Infrastructure Advisory Facility. Staff time and other expenses were covered by the mentor and recipient partner.

The first phase of the WOP (2010 - 2015 years) aimed at strengthening the human, organizational and institutional capacity of the recipient utility by adopting good practices, implementing new technology, reducing Non Revenue Water (NRW) and improving maintenance techniques.

Activities started with a joint diagnosis to select training areas based on pre-identified key priorities of the mentee and expertise areas of the mentor. Partners decided to work on different strategic areas, such as safety, operations, engineering, finance, customer services, information and technology, and public outreach.

Throughout the partnership (still ongoing), visits were exchanged between managers and technical staff from the two utilities, with participants undertaking classroom training, job-shadowing, documentation and information sharing, on-the-job operational guidance or review of existing practices, and developing appropriate plans for improvements.

Belize Water Services is now in the process of becoming a WOP mentor to support other Caribbean water utilities, and pass on the knowledge and knowhow gained thanks to the partnership with Contra Costa Water District.

WOP Impact

With a total budget of USD 100,000, the programme was implemented over a five-year period (2010-2015). Results include certification of 119 employees (over 50 per cent of BWS staff), creation of a Safety Committee, mobilization and investment of USD 350,000 in safety equipment, introduction of SCADA system, and modernization of the BWS tariff system.

The Last Word

Putting our best foot forward... Towards the New Urban Agenda

For the past forty years, UN-Habitat has proven time and again through collaborative implementation of projects in over 70 countries, our ability to improve lives and livelihoods through the provision of sustainable development solutions.

At Quito, the External Relations Division led the media, outreach, advocacy and communication effort to ensure that the success attained by the organization over the years, its capacity to develop and implement practical solutions, and the convening power that enables it to build partnerships at all levels are communicated clearly in order to reinforce UN-Habitat's position within the UN system as focal point on sustainable urbanization and human settlements development.

UN-Habitat's main exhibition at Habitat III illustrated the impact of 21 projects depicting the contribution by UN-Habitat ongoing programmes towards achievement of the New Urban Agenda, the partnerships that made the outcomes possible, and the linkages with the sustainable urbanization goals.

The exhibition highlighted UN-Habitat's capacity to lead the implementation, monitoring and reporting of the NUA and related SDGs by incorporating practical tools such as the City Prosperity Initiative. It also illustrated the global dispersion of UN-Habitat projects, elaborated the New Urban Agenda, and displayed a visual timeline depicting key turning points in urbanization since the creation of UN-Habitat 40 years ago.



To enhance communication with staff, partners, stakeholders and many others who were unable to attend Habitat III, the New Urban Agenda portal (nua.unhabitat.org) was launched, providing a platform for electronic versions of the exhibition to be downloaded. The portal is designed to evolve, highlighting progress on key UN-Habitat programmes, their impact and linkages to the SDGs. Selected conference proceedings were also highlighted using social media, while UN-Habitat meetings and events were documented electronically.

The creativity, diligence and dedication of the ERD team and its ability to form strategic alliances internally and externally were key to the success of this effort. A collaborative relationship with the CPI team resulted in a partnership with International City Leaders who facilitated the construction of independent exhibition space for UN-Habitat which doubled up as meeting and working space for colleagues.



UN-Habitat has a team of highly skilled, professional and dedicated media, outreach, advocacy and communication experts with the proven ability and capacity to support different programmes elucidate, package and disseminate the results and impact of their work. We look forward to working with colleagues at headquarters, in the field, and in the regional offices in the years ahead to develop and execute tailor-made communications solutions to support implementation, monitoring and reporting of the New Urban Agenda.



Caroline Gacero
Advocacy, Outreach and Communications

UN HABITAT

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
Tel: +254 20 7623120
infohabitat@unhabitat.org

www.unhabitat.org