

Fact sheet

HOUSING

Deeply rooted in UN-Habitat's mandate to promote sustainable urban development is the need to ensure that everyone enjoys the right to adequate housing.

THE CHALLENGE

Housing has transformed and impacted the way that cities and societies develop and will continue to do so in the next decades. **90 per cent of urban population growth** during this period will take place in cities of the developing world, particularly those of Africa and Asia.

For decades, burgeoning urban populations have faced challenges such as insecurity, inequality, unemployment, pollution, health and sanitation hazards, as well as homelessness. Much of what has gone wrong with urban development is related to housing. With rapid urbanization, many towns, cities, and human settlements are faced with the challenge of providing adequate housing for their residents. Housing accounts for more than 70 per cent of the land used in most cities. The seven criteria that must be met for housing to be considered adequate are: security of tenure; availability of services, facilities, materials and infrastructure; affordability; habitability; accessibility; location; and cultural adequacy. **Over the next fifteen years, 3 billion people – or about 40 per cent of the world's population – will require adequate housing** and access to basic infrastructure and services. In other words, to realize the right to adequate housing for all, some 96,150 housing units must be completed each day from now until the end of 2030, on serviced and documented land.

UN-HABITAT'S APPROACH: HOUSING AT THE CENTRE

Deeply rooted in UN-Habitat's mandate to promote sustainable urban development is the need to ensure that everyone enjoys the right to adequate housing. UN-Habitat's Housing Unit assists governments in developing policies that promote the provision of adequate housing for all, taking into account environmental sustainability, respect for human rights, and affordability.

Through the Housing at the Centre approach, UN-Habitat encourages governments to strengthen their policy frameworks, establish a long-term vision for the sector, and position housing issues at the centre of their national and city development strategies. Policies and programmes take into account human rights principles and standards, and the strategic need to increase the supply of affordable housing for all, with a particular focus on the poorest and most vulnerable groups. Only with strong national political will, sound policy guidelines and adequate regulations will towns, cities and other types of human settlements be able to provide adequate housing solutions for their citizens on the scale needed to reduce slum growth and ensure a sustainable, inclusive and pro-poor urban development.

UN-Habitat's Housing Unit also works with the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights to mainstream the human-rights-based approach to urban development. This enables decision-makers and implementing partners to take appropriate action in promoting, protecting and

ensuring the full and progressive realization of the Right to Adequate Housing as recognized in the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and in the legally binding 1966 International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights.

UN-Habitat's Housing Unit supports partners by offering normative guidance and a variety of services including:

- Assistance to governments in implementing housing best practices in order to make adequate housing for all a reality.
- Support in improving living conditions in existing slums and in curbing the growth of new slums.
- Advocacy and training on housing solutions that promote human rights, are sensitive to cultural diversity and respect environmental standards.
- Normative support to strengthen and diversify housing finance options for increased affordability.
- Building multi-stakeholder networks and partnerships to ensure a systematic exchange of good practices and lessons learnt.

Land use in most cities:



IMPACT

- National housing assessments, profiles, policies and strategies implemented through UN-Habitat's Global Housing Strategy have benefited more than 30 countries, **11 of which are among the list of Least Developed Countries.**
- **Housing Profiles have been finalized and published** in 16 countries including Ghana, Zambia, Lesotho, Liberia, El Salvador, and Tunisia. New profiles are being finalized for Egypt, Guyana and Afghanistan.
- **A Housing Policy** has been approved in Ghana, and upcoming policies and implementation strategies are being finalized for Lesotho, Mozambique, Zambia and Myanmar.
- To date, the Global Network for Sustainable Housing has brought together over 12 members including **CRAterre, Habitat for Humanity, EcoSur, Oxford Brookes University, and IFRC** to promote environmental, economic and cultural sustainability.
- The Housing Unit promotes **innovative and inclusive housing finance mechanisms**, supporting decision-makers to make adequate housing accessible to low-income and vulnerable families.
- Through UN-Habitat's Human Rights Marker, over **100 urban development projects** are being reviewed and graded every year from a human-rights based perspective.

CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

4 QUALITY EDUCATION 	5 GENDER EQUALITY 	6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 	7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 	8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 	9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE 	10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 						
2 ZERO HUNGER 						
1 NO POVERTY 						

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 	13 CLIMATE ACTION 	14 LIFE BELOW WATER
15 LIFE ON LAND 		
16 PEACE, JUSTICE AND STRONG INSTITUTIONS 		
17 PARTNERSHIPS FOR THE GOALS 		

SDG11.1 By 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums

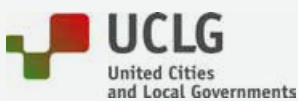
BENEFICIARY VIEWS

“ Having realized how successful UN-Habitat has been in supporting other African countries such as Malawi, Ghana, Zambia and Liberia in developing housing profiles, we approached [them] to develop the Lesotho Housing Profile. We further approached UNDP... and I am delighted that today we form a tripartite which radiates how significant housing is to all of us. I wish to impress to all key stakeholders involved to continue our concerted efforts to make the review of the National Housing Policy and the development of a strategy an equal success.”

Hon. Dr. Pontšo 'Matumelo Sekatle Minister of Local Government and Chieftainship, Government of Lesotho

DONORS AND PARTNERS

 Government of the Republic of Zambia	 Government of Islamic Republic of Afghanistan	 Government of the Kingdom of Jordan	 Government of the Republic of the Union of Myanmar	 Government of the Democratic Socialist Republic of Sri Lanka	 Co-operative Republic of Guyana
 Government of the Republic of Angola	 Government of the Arab Republic of Egypt	 Government of the Republic of El Salvador	 Government of the Republic of Namibia	 Government of the Republic of Uganda	 Kingdom of Spain
 Government of the Federal Republic of Somalia	 Government of the Republic of Liberia	 Government of the Republic of Mozambique	 SWEDEN	 GNSH GLOBAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING	 Habitat for Humanity®



ADEQUATE HOUSING FOR ALL

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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