



Participatory upgrading of slums and informal settlements

Urban sustainability management has a key role

Networking Event - Hall 3, Room 12, Abu Dhabi Exhibition Center

Wednesday, 12 February 2020, 16:30 - 18:30



UN-Habitat with Slum/Shack Dwellers International, Mansueto Institute, Global Infrastructure Basel, and the International Federation of Consulting Engineers.



There are many reasons why much of the world's population lives in vast slums and informal settlements. Most have their roots in formal procedures to secure legal titles, build homes and comply with regulations on land use, buildings and services.



Improvement in housing and basic services infrastructure is one of the most effective ways to upgrade unacceptable living conditions and to integrate cities more effectively and sustainably.



It is therefore vital to understand how regulatory frameworks impact slum upgrading. UN Habitat's *Slum Upgrading Legal Assessment Tool* provides a framework to understand how and to what extent regulatory and institutional frameworks support the participatory, city-wide upgrading of informal communities.



This unique tool uses indicators not only for issues related to the “five deprivations” (land; urban planning; basic services; building codes; finance) but also for the functional effectiveness of the law (regulatory objectives; transparency processes; institutional responsibilities; implementation capacity).

Preliminary testing highlighted strengths and major gaps in Kenya's legal framework, and demonstrated how laws can both promote and undermine the integration of slums into a sustainable and inclusive city fabric. The Government of Iran subsequently requested UN-Habitat to help implement the tool in Tabriz, Kermanshah and Sanandaj in the context of a new slum upgrading policy.

More generally, mainstreaming slum upgrading and empowering informal communities to act within formal frameworks calls for physical intervention at a scale that is difficult to comprehend. Ubiquitous throughout the urban environment are the necessary processes that deal with legal frameworks, data collection and analysis, planning, and procurement.

They must be comprehensive, governed appropriately, integrated to avoid silo effects, and involve full participation. They must be mainstreamed into overarching urban management approaches based on international standards and frameworks that are being implemented worldwide at all scales across all types of communities.

Programme

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