

GENDER ISSUE GUIDE

GENDER RESPONSIVE URBAN ECONOMY



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GENDER ISSUE GUIDE

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Gender Issue Guide: Gender Responsive Urban Economy

First published in Nairobi in 2014 by UN-Habitat

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www.unhabitat.org

HS Number: HS/035/14E

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Acknowledgements

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Contributors: The Issue Guide builds on the collaboration of the Urban Economy Branch that set aside time for discussions and interviews and provided comments and inputs to the final report. Contributors from Urban Economy include: Gulelat Kebede, Ananda Weliwita and Mutinta Munyati.

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Design and layout: Peter Cheseret

Cover photos: Street trading, Nepal, Kathmandu; Flower business, Nairobi, Kenya © Shutterstock

Printing: UNON Publishing Services Section, Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-certified

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Traditional bread trader in a Market (souk)
in Fes city, Morocco © Shutterstock



SECTION 1

Background

Approximately 70 per cent of the world's poorest people are women. A major factor for this is the discrimination because they are female. This discrimination has significant economic consequences for women and girls, and often limits their opportunities in life.¹

Urbanisation has also created gender and class-differentiated impacts. UN-Habitat seeks to support city, regional and national authorities to implement improved urban planning policies and strategies that will promote inclusive and equitable economic development; enhance municipal finances; and support the creation of decent jobs and livelihoods, particularly for youth and women.

The programmatic focus of Urban Economy is on:

1. LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

UN-Habitat notes that “Urban areas [are] becoming not just the dominant form of habitat for humankind, but also the engine-rooms of human development;” and yet “as a result of lopsided development ...social exclusion, marginalization and poverty” exists². UN-Habitat is responding to these challenges by supporting cities and towns in their efforts to enhance their productivity and economic development to provide urban citizens with sustainable and equitable socio-economic security for meeting their basic needs and adequate standards of living.

1 D. Peebles and M. Crowley. 2008. Promoting Equitable and Sustainable Local Economic Development: Tools for Local Governments. www.fcm.ca/international

2 State of World Cities 2012/2013. Prosperity of cities. UN-Habitat. Page x-xi

2. MUNICIPAL FINANCING

Urban authorities must generate more financial resources to help raise the living standards of urban residents by providing more and better services and goods. As the worlds' cities expand they are faced with financial, environmental, social and political challenges. Addressing these issues requires optimising urban resources for a more inclusive, equitable, and sustainable development. UN Habitat is helping city authorities to find innovative ways to generate additional revenue as well as to improve efficiency of revenue generation from existing sources of revenue.



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