



JAMAICA NATIONAL URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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FOREWORD



According to research published in UN-Habitat's¹ flagship report, *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*, all developing regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-Habitat estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate.

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-Habitat is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-Habitat, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-Habitat headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-Habitat to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading 'Joan Clos'. The signature is fluid and stylized, with a long horizontal line extending from the end of the name.

Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

¹ UN-Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is an accelerated and action-oriented urban assessment of needs and capacity-building gaps at the city level. The European Commission's European Development Fund supports the programme, which is being implemented in 59 cities of 23 African countries, and 21 cities in 4 Pacific and 3 Caribbean countries. The programme uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed through consultative processes. The programme's methodology consists of: (1) a rapid participatory urban profiling at national and local levels, focusing on governance, local economic development, land, gender, environment, slums and shelter, basic urban services, waste management, and proposed interventions; (2) detailed priority proposals; and (3) project implementation.

In Jamaica the programme encompasses a national profile, as well as those for May Pen, Montego Bay and Old Harbour. Each is published as a separate report. This is the Montego Bay city report and it constitutes a general background and synthesis of the six themes: basic urban services, gender and HIV/AIDS, governance, municipal budgeting and finance, land, and environment and disaster.

BACKGROUND

The most recent population estimate, outside of the official decennial census of 2011, indicated that in 2007 there were 2.7 million people living in Jamaica, with 53 per cent living in urban areas (Planning Institute of Jamaica). Additionally, there are over 750 informal settlements in the country (Ministry of Water and Housing 2008). A steady increase in Jamaica's urban population is forecasted for the next 10 years. Similarly, there is likely to be a steady increase in informal settlements and the attendant problems associated with rapid unplanned urban settlement.

In 2007, the Government of Jamaica launched Vision 2030, to put the country on a path to become the place of choice to live, work, raise families, and do business. Among the tasks to be accomplished by 2030 is the creation of prosperity through the sustainable use and management of natural resources. Vision 2030 is viewed as a road map which, when used effectively, will allow society to achieve its economic goals.

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Urban Profiling

The Jamaica National Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to the wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and academics. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. The urban profiling is being implemented in 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific Countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

METHODOLOGY

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme consists of three phases:

Phase one consists of the rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium-sized city and a small town are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on six themes; basic urban services, gender and HIV/AIDS, governance, land, municipal budgeting and finance, and environment and disaster. Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants, in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats of the national and local urban set-ups. The findings are presented and refined during city and national consultation workshops and

consensus is reached regarding priority interventions. National and city reports synthesize the information collected and outline ways forward to reduce urban poverty through holistic approaches.

Phase two builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity-building and capital investment projects.

Phase three implements the projects developed during the two earlier phases, with an emphasis on skills development, institutional strengthening and replication.

This report presents the outcomes of **Phase One** at the local level in Jamaica.

URBAN PROFILING IN JAMAICA

The urban profiling in Jamaica is one of four similar efforts conducted in the country; the others are in the three Jamaica cities of May Pen, Old Harbour and Montego Bay.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

1. a general background of the urban sector in Jamaica, based on the findings of the Jamaica Assessment Report, a desk study and interviews.
2. A synthetic assessment of the following six main thematic areas; basic urban services, gender and HIV/AIDS, governance, land, municipal budgeting and finance, as well as environment and disaster; in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory framework, resource mobilization, and performance. This second section also highlights agreed priorities and includes a list of identified projects.
3. A strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and threats analysis, and an outline of priority project proposals for each theme. The proposals include beneficiaries, partners, estimated costs, objectives, activities, and outputs.

BASIC URBAN SERVICES



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Basic urban services may be identified as those that are vital to city living. Generally, the Government or the local authority for the specified urban area has the responsibility to ensure that residents within their jurisdiction have adequate access to these services. Generally, basic urban services include water, sanitization, waste collection, roads, storm drainage and street lighting. Schools and health care services as well as communal spaces are also classified as basic urban services.

The Government has set up local authorities in each parish to oversee the provision of basic urban services at the parish level. In previous years, parish councils were responsible for the provision of more services than they are today; reforms are being made by the Department of Local Government and Community Development situated in the Office of the Prime Minister. Reform is aimed at transforming 13 marginalized local authorities into institutions with the requisite resources to provide the range of functions and services for which they are legally responsible.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP FOR THE PROVISION

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