



JAMAICA: OLD HARBOUR URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	6
BACKGROUND	9
GOVERNANCE	10
SAFETY	12
SLUMS AND SHELTER	14
DISASTER	20
ENVIRONMENT	21

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 Old Harbour city report. The report constitutes a general background, a synthesis of the five themes: governance, slums and shelter, environment, urban safety, gender and HIV/AIDS, and disaster.

Jamaica has made good progress in eight of the 14 Millennium Development Goals targets for 2015. The country has already achieved the targeted reduction in absolute poverty, malnutrition, hunger, and universal primary education. The country is on track in combating HIV/AIDS, halting and reversing the incidences of malaria and tuberculosis, improving access to reproductive health, and improving provision of safe drinking water and basic sanitation. However, Jamaica is lagging in gender equality and environmental sustainability, and is far behind in reaching the child and maternal mortality targets.

Of great concern is the significant increase in the proportion of the urban population living in unacceptable conditions or slums. (Source: National Report of Jamaica on Millennium Development Goals for the UN Economic and Social Council Annual Ministerial Review Geneva, July 2009 Planning Institute of Jamaica in collaboration with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Foreign Trade).

BACKGROUND

St. Catherine, which lies west of St. Andrews and south of St. Mary and St. Ann, is the largest parish on the island with an area of 1,260 km², and a population of 383,317 (2001 Population Census). A four-lane highway connects Spanish Town with Kingston, the nation's capital. On the southern road from Spanish Town is the town of Old Harbour which has a population of 17,883. On the coast, five kilometres from Old Harbour is Old Harbour Bay, the largest fishing village in Jamaica. It has a fine harbour with one of the best deep-water piers on the island. The main generating power plant of the Jamaica Public Service is in Old Harbour Bay.

The plains of St. Catherine, which provide numerous grazing pens, are largely used up for sugar and rice cultivation. The Rio Cobre Canal irrigates about 7,200 hectares of the St. Catherine Plains. The Bodles Agricultural Station lies between Old Harbour and May Pen. The Soya Bean Processing Plant is between Old Harbour and May Pen. (Source: Geography and History of Jamaica. Published by The Jamaica Gleaner).

With the agricultural collapse in the agricultural sector, there is evidence of a strong rural – urban migration. The planning and land management authorities in the urban centres will have to cope with this population influx by improving the provision of services such as housing, education and health services.

TABLE 1: JAMAICA HIV/AIDS EPIDEMIC UPDATE 2004 PARISH HIGHLIGHT.

TIME PERIOD	MAJOR DEVELOPMENTS	CHALLENGES
1950's	Primary school name changed from Ludford Trust to Old Harbour Primary. Opening of the public clinic. Introduction of public health inspection. Establishment of housing development at Church Pen and Smith Avenue. The Sylvania manufacturing company started operation at Rhoden's Pen. The British Insulated Callender's Cables manufacturing company also started operation in this period.	The area had a lot of derelict buildings. There was only a small market area and very few business enterprises.
1960's	Opening of the Old Harbour High School. Relocation of the public clinic and its expansion to a health centre. The Marlie Acres Housing Scheme. The Old Harbour Community Centre was also built in this period. The Barclay's Bank was opened and the St. Dorothy's Anglican Church was established at Church Pen. Construction of the Lincoln Plaza began.	
1970's	Commencement of private dwellings at Marlie Mount. Building of Marlie Mount Primary. Renaming of Barclay's Bank to National Commercial Bank. Opening of Davis Primary School. Closure of Bata shoe store. Opening of the soya and cotton polyester factories, and of the New Testament Church of God. Building of New Harbour subdivisions. Relocation of the library. Introduction of double shift at the Old Harbour High School.	
1980's	Relocation of residents from Kingston to Succaba Pen. Building of the Old Harbour Villa High School. Reopening of the Heart National Training Agency Vocational Centre. Closing of the Shell gasoline station in the town centre. Building of Glendon Court and Gillian Plazas. Relocation of Honey Crust Bakery.	Chinese close businesses.
1990's	Implementation of the National Works Agency. Relocation of Old Harbour Primary. Opening of the Heart National Training Agency Vocational Training Facility. Infant Department started at Marlie Mount. British Insulated Callender's Cables name changed to Caribbean Cable Company. Building of the Jehovah Witness complex at Marlie Mount, of the Claremont Housing Scheme, of the Old Harbour Glades, and of the Ministry of Education Region Six office. Closure of the theatre.	
2000 - 2003	Opening of the Old Harbour branch of the Portmore Community College. Demolition of the Marlie Great House. Introduction of route taxis.	



MIGRATION PATTERNS

Data gathered shows that approximately 66.9 per cent of the residents of Old Harbour were born in St. Catherine. Migration is quite uncommon in the community, as 88.6 per cent have lived in the community for 10 or more years.

OLD HARBOUR

Old Harbour has one of the highest and fastest growth rates in Jamaica and is projected to remain so in the

The increase in population and its density is an important consideration in planning due to the following factors:

- Systems designed to accommodate waste streams may be overtaxed by population and planning for these changes will place responsible agencies in a crisis mode if unprepared,
- Demand for services such as housing, water, electricity and education will increase,
- There is also a strong correlation between urban density and energy efficiency.

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