

VOLUME

1

URBAN YOUTH CENTRE SETUP GUIDE



VOLUME 1

**URBAN YOUTH
CENTRE SETUP GUIDE**

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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FOREWORD



Over the past decade, agencies and governments across the world have begun to realize the value – and necessity – of engaging youth as partners and leaders in the development of cities and towns. As more and more of the issues of human development become urban issues, and ever-greater proportions of city populations are youth, the crucial intersection between empowering youth and actualizing our goals for sustainable urban development becomes clear. Just as in the 20th century, the vast majority of the world's nations recognized that the inclusion and full empowerment of women was key to success, in the 21st century we have begun to make similar strides towards the recognition of youth as full stakeholders in our shared future.

This series of training manuals was developed by UN-HABITAT in partnership with several international NGOs. The titles in this set of guidebooks are intended for use in Urban Youth Centres, offering resources for development partners and practitioners grappling with the issues of youth in urban spaces today. Each of the manuals builds on and interfaces with the other volumes in the series, and together the series offers a flexible and locally-adaptable roadmap to ensure that youth can be effectively engaged and empowered to make positive changes in their own lives and in their communities.

These manuals have been ground-tested with youth, partner organization representatives and municipal staff from One Stop Youth Resource Centres in Kenya, Tanzania, Uganda and Rwanda. To date, we have seen an overwhelming response and desire by municipalities in countries across Africa and beyond for access to these training resources, reflecting the great need for safe urban spaces in which youth and local authorities can cooperatively interact and address shared concerns. It is our hope that with this series' wide distribution to municipal partners, we will see the expansion and evolution of the One Stop and We Are the Future Urban Youth Centre models across the developing world. This series can also be adapted at the national level by Ministries concerned with Youth issues.

As with any publication designed for use in multiple locations in the field of youth-led development, this series is expected to expand and be revised and updated regularly. To those beneficiaries of this first edition, we invite your contributions to the ongoing learning and feedback process that is the hallmark of successful participatory development.

I would like to extend thanks on behalf of UN-HABITAT to our development partners who have made resources available. To our municipal and civil society partners, and especially to the youth of today's cities, we entreat you to implement the learning contained in this series, to work together to create new opportunities for youth as leaders of today, and to continue your shared efforts to bring about lasting and meaningful change in your communities.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read "Joan Clos". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

OVERVIEW

UN-HABITAT Publications for Urban Youth Centres

This manual exists as one of a growing library of materials produced by UN-HABITAT for use by and in Urban Youth Centres, both One Stop and We Are the Future models.

Current titles in this series, at time of publication, include:

→ **Volume 1: Urban Youth Centre Setup Guide**

- Volume 2: Information Work and Youth
- Volume 3: Community Mapping Guide
- Volume 4: Entrepreneurship Program Guide
- Volume 5: Program Evaluation

To receive copies of these manuals, and to find out about additional manuals available from UN-HABITAT, please contact

(INSERT CONTACT INFO HERE).

CONTENTS

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS	2
UN-HABITAT PUBLICATIONS FOR URBAN YOUTH CENTRES	4
Target Audiences for UN-HABITAT Urban Youth Centre Manuals	6
Mandate	7
Youth Engagement	7
We Are the Future Youth and Child Centres	8
One Stop Youth Centres	9
Satellite Youth Resource Centres	9
The Global Partnership Initiative for Youth-Led Development	9
Youth-Led Development	10
Minimum Standards Checklist	10
Preparatory Checklist	11
CHAPTER 1: Administration and Governance	12
Getting Started	12
1.1 Core Values and Principles	12
1.2 Resolution to Operate the Centre	17
1.3 Administration	18
1.4 Legal Framework	20
1.5 Stakeholder Process	23
1.6 Partnerships	30
1.7 Centre Staffing	33
CHAPTER 2: Monitoring and Evaluation	38
2.1 Input Indicators	39
2.2 Information Indexing	39
2.3 Staff Training Tracking Sheets	40
2.4 Programme Tracking Sheets	40
2.5 Revenue and Funding Tracking Sheets	42
CHAPTER 3: Sponsorship, Funding and Revenue	43
3.1 Sustainability	43
3.2 Resource Mobilization Staff	44
3.3 Self-Check List for Approaching Sponsors	45
3.4 Making Proposals	45
3.5 Private Sector and Other Sponsorship Guidelines	46
3.6 Government and INGO/ NGO Funding Guidelines	47

Target Audiences for UN-HABITAT Urban Youth Centre Manuals

Manuals such as this one, published by UN-HABITAT for Urban Youth Centres, have a number of possible target audiences. This manual is intended primarily for the audiences noted below:

Target Audience Description	This Manual Primarily For (✓)
Municipal Employees:	
Leadership and staff members of the city department or division implementing the Urban Youth Centre.	✓
Local Authorities:	
Leadership and staff of offices responsible for specific communities or areas within the city, who are implementing a smaller (satellite) Urban Youth Centre for their community.	✓
Urban Youth Centre Staff :	
Typically city council staff seconded to the Urban Youth Centre, or staff assigned to a satellite community centre by the Local Authority. These staff work at the Centres full time, with youth, running programs and coordinating activities.	✓
Urban Youth Centre Volunteers:	
Youth volunteers engaged with activities at the Youth Centres with a formal agreement governing their activities and relationship to the Centre.	
Youth Beneficiaries of Urban Youth Centres:	
Youth, whether individual or members of youth groups, who use the Centre regularly, take part in programming and other activities.	
Partner Organizations and Stakeholders of Urban Youth Centre:	
Partner organizations under formal M.O.U.'s with the Centre, especially youth development related organizations. May also include stakeholders from civil society, private sector, and other levels of government.	

INTRODUCTION



Mandate

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements – the built environment. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The main documents outlining the mandate of the organization are the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements, Habitat Agenda, Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements, the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and Resolution 56/206.

UN-HABITAT urban poverty reduction strategies include sustainable urban development, adequate shelter for all, improvement of the lives of slum dwellers, access to safe water and sanitation, social inclusion, environmental protection and various human rights. This expanded strategic vision gives attention to knowledge management, the financing of housing and human settlements and to strategic partnerships.

Youth Engagement

Youth account for nearly 70% of the population in many developing countries, and make up a large proportion of slum-dwellers in the urban centres of the developing world. As populations grow and become proportionally younger in developing areas, and the world becomes increasingly urban, youth face increasing challenges such as access to decent livelihoods, health, housing and sanitation.

UN-HABITAT recognizes young people as active participants in the future of

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