



OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT 2005



UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME



UN-HABITAT

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT

2005

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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**Activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme
(UN-Habitat): progress report of the Executive Director**

OPERATIONAL ACTIVITIES REPORT, 2005

In its resolution 5/5 of 6 May 1982, the Governing Council requested the Executive Director of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme to take measures to ensure that Governments were adequately informed about projects and progress made in implementing them. The attached report on operational activities is issued in response to the above-mentioned request.

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FOREWORD

The operational activities of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) are focused on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels. Technical and managerial expertise is provided for the assessment of human settlements development constraints and opportunities: the identification and analysis of policy options; the design and implementation of housing and urban development projects; and the mobilization of national resources, as well as external support for improving human settlement conditions. This national capacity-building process involves not only central government institutions but also stakeholders such as community-based and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutions, as well as local governments and municipalities. Emphasis is also being placed upon strengthening governments' monitoring capacities in human settlement management.

In accordance with its work-programme, UN-HABITAT's operational activities are focused on the following priorities: (i) Promoting shelter for all; (ii) Improving urban governance; (iii) Reducing urban poverty; (iv) Improving the living environment; and v) Managing disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation. Acting as a catalyst in the mobilization of technical co-operation, UN-HABITAT is supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels and of the goals of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers and improving access to water and sanitation. Lessons learned from operational activities are also being used to formulate global policy options and guidelines, particularly in the framework of the two Global Campaigns for Secure Tenure and Good Urban Governance.

As of the fourth quarter of 2004, UN-HABITAT had 95 technical programmes and projects under execution in 56 countries, of which the vast majority were in the least developed countries. As a direct response to increasing demands from developing country governments, the organization's technical cooperation activities have grown significantly over the last decade from budgets totalling US\$18.7 million in 1988, to US\$161 million in 2004 (annual 2004 budget: US\$77.3 million). Roughly 45 per cent of the financing for these technical co-operation projects in 2004 (excluding the Iraq programme) came from the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s various sources of funds and the balance from government and third-party cost-sharing. It should be noted that the total budgets have been maintained at a relatively high level due to several large programmes in Africa (Chad, Libya), Asia (Afghanistan), the Arab States (Iraq) and Europe (Kosovo and Serbia). These programmes are almost entirely funded by various bi- or multilateral resources, or as in the case of Chad and Libya, through national cost sharing.

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