Supportive Housing Policies in the scaling up of sustainable affordable housing practices in developing countries: The UN-Habitat Approach

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Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch

UN-HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
1. UN-Habitat’s Programmatic Approach
2. Housing Profile Series
3. Green and Sustainable Housing Portfolio
   (Normative and Operative Work)
4. Concluding Remarks
Urban challenges

**Rapid urbanisation:** With an annual urbanisation rate of 3.5% over the past two decades, Africa’s cities are the fastest growing in the developing world.

**Slum formation and growth …**

…in spite of **decreasing levels of poverty**

**Unpreparedness:** most governments at national and local level have not yet been able to formulate and implement **effective urbanization / housing policies**
UN-Habitat Mandate

UN-Habitat is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate housing for all.

It is committed to supporting governments in implementing improved urbanization and housing policies.

**Global Housing Strategy**

This includes addressing the needs for sustainable human settlements and affordable housing finance - accessible for all segments of society.
Urbanization drives sustainable development, yet it relies on a model that is not viable in the long-run.

There is a need for an integrated approach on sustainable urban development.

The housing sector is vital for delivering sustainable development.

4 dimensions of sustainability in housing
UN-Habitat’s Programmatic Approach

Housing Environmental Challenges

• The housing sector plays a noteworthy role in the current global environmental crisis:
  • 40% of all energy consumption and greenhouse gas emissions
  • 12% of global fresh water
  • 40% of all waste and a major amount of pollution
  • Approx. 60% of world’s electricity use

The construction building and housing sectors account for:

• Sustainable housing practices are still weak in developing countries and need support to bring sustainable housing solutions to scale.

• But the housing sector also offers one of the largest possibilities of any sector to mitigate global climate change.
Affordability Challenges

In Africa: affordable shelter is inadequate and adequate shelter that is unaffordable

UN-Habitat’s integrated approach to housing

Unite Nations’ Global Housing Strategy

A collaborative global movement towards adequate housing for all
Aims to develop National Housing Strategies
Construct a new vision of housing through a global policy document emerging from a broad-based national and regional urban agendas
UN-Habitat’s Programmatic Approach

UN-Habitat’s integrated approach to housing

Integrated Housing Policy Development Programme

Preventive

- Housing Profile Programme
  15 countries

Curative

- Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme
  34 countries

Housing Rights

Green Housing

Housing Finance

Housing Diversity and Culture
UN-Habitat’s Programmatic Approach

Programmatic Scoping

- Piloting innovative housing mechanisms
- Normative
- Operative
- Knowledge creation and sharing
- Advocacy
  - Technical support and policy advice
UN-Habitat's Programmatic Approach

Promoting sustainable housing for all

Normative

Knowledge creation and sharing
Housing Profile Programme

Policy advice and technical support

Housing Profiles are key outputs of the Global Housing Strategy (GHS)
The Housing Profile is a systemic and action-oriented auditing of the housing sector

Aims to:
- gain a comprehensive understanding of all aspects of housing
- generate information and analysis that are required for policy decision
- **build capacity** and promote engagement of governments

It is a vital step to:
- identify needs and gaps in the sector
- trigger the start of housing reforms / policy formulation
- **improve access to affordable housing finance**
Analytical and participatory research process

The Process

Secondary sources; literature; Government documents international comparison

Chapters produced by national experts are delivered to team leader in charge of putting together the final report

Review & public Debate with all stakeholders

UN-HABITAT team

Housing Sector Profile Report produced

Sample household surveys

Local Team of Experts

Land

Finance

Construction industry/Materials

Infrastructure

Regulatory framework

Local capacity building
Housing Profile Programme

Housing Profile Process

PREPARATION PHASE

- Review and diagnostic
- Identify local counterparts
- Select & Prepare Local Team

IMPLEMENTATION PHASE

- Policy Dialogue & Capacity building
- 1st Draft of Profile Report
- Public consultation

CONSOLIDATION PHASE

- Finalizing Profile Report
- Elaborate a road map / action plan
- Policy strategy document
Countries Undergoing Profile

**Implemented**

Uganda, Malawi, Senegal, Zambia, Tunisia, Ghana, Ecuador, Mexico, Nepal

**Implementing**

Vietnam, Cuba, El Salvador, Lesotho, Liberia, Guyana
Green and Sustainable Housing Portfolio

Knowledge creation and sharing
Publications

Sustainable Housing for Sustainable Cities

Going Green Handbook
- 10 case study projects
- Emphasis on developing countries
- Local/traditional materials and design

Casebook for Energy Efficient Housing (with UNECE)
- 21 case study projects
- Emphasis on Europe and energy efficiency in multi-unit housing

Upcoming publication in collaboration with UNEP
- Green Building Interventions for Social Housing
Green Materials Guides

Sustainable advantages of natural and recycled materials
Green and Sustainable Housing Portfolio

GNSH GLOBAL NETWORK FOR SUSTAINABLE HOUSING

Partners

Members
GNSH Accomplishments

Joint International Conference Panel Event at the World Urban Forum in Medellin, April 2014
Development of Green Housing Rating Tool in collaboration with partners CRAterre and UN Habitat
Signed MoUs with key partners from academia (University of Cambridge), NGOs (Habitat for Humanity), and International Organisations (INBAR, CRAterre)
Development of online platform for knowledge exchange and networking
GNSH – Outreach and Advocacy

GNSH Website

- Newsletter and Blog
- Discussion forum
- Publication library
- Upcoming Project Database
Promoting sustainable housing for all

Piloting innovative sustainable housing practices

Operative

Operative
Promote Economic Development & Job Creation

Selecting building materials and technologies that have the potential
– to be scaled up locally,
– to create local jobs, and
– to support local economic development
Create hands-on information and advice on how to scale up

UN Habitat has led workshop on sustainable building practices in many countries

Scale up with industry collaboration (for instance, through collaboration with Lafarge)

Workshop for Soil Bricks in Malawi
Global Projects

**DRC**
Scaling up reconstruction sustainably (CRAterre)

**Liberia**
Settlement infrastructure and shelter rehabilitation

**Uganda**
Development of educational facilities

**Pakistan**
Settlements flood recovery project

**Sudan**
Economic development through stabilized soil blocks
Field Project 1:
Social Housing Project in Mauritius

**Location:** Mauritius

**Project Period:** January 2014 - present

**Type:** Social Housing

**Why this project is significant:** Sustainable use of cement through collaboration with Lafarge (alternative stabilizers etc.), enabling *incremental construction* and a *participatory* approach; Linked to settlement planning; *disaster resilience* to cyclones; Hot and humid climate: passive ventilation

**Implementing GNSH Partners:** Lafarge, UN-Habitat
Field Project 2:
Sustainable Reconstruction in the Eastern DRC

Location: Goma, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo
Project Period: December 2013 – March 2014
Type: Demonstration House
Why this project is significant: Use of local materials (earth) while training local labour in sustainable building technologies and contributing to post-conflict empowerment
Implementing GNSH Partners: CRAterre (France), UN-Habitat
Other contributors: Amicor (Democratic Republic of Congo)
Concluding Remarks

• The focus must be on the low-income majority

• Green and sustainable housing practices as core vehicle for achieving economically, environmentally, socially and culturally sustainable housing outcomes locally

• Post MDGs reinforce access for all to adequate and affordable housing as a core target to achieve sustainable cities

• Habitat III (2016) – will be an opportunity to engage with stakeholders at global level, mobilize partners to define a “New Urban Agenda” for the 21st Century.
If you would like more information about the content of this presentation please contact:

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