



UN-HABITAT

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Habitat Debate

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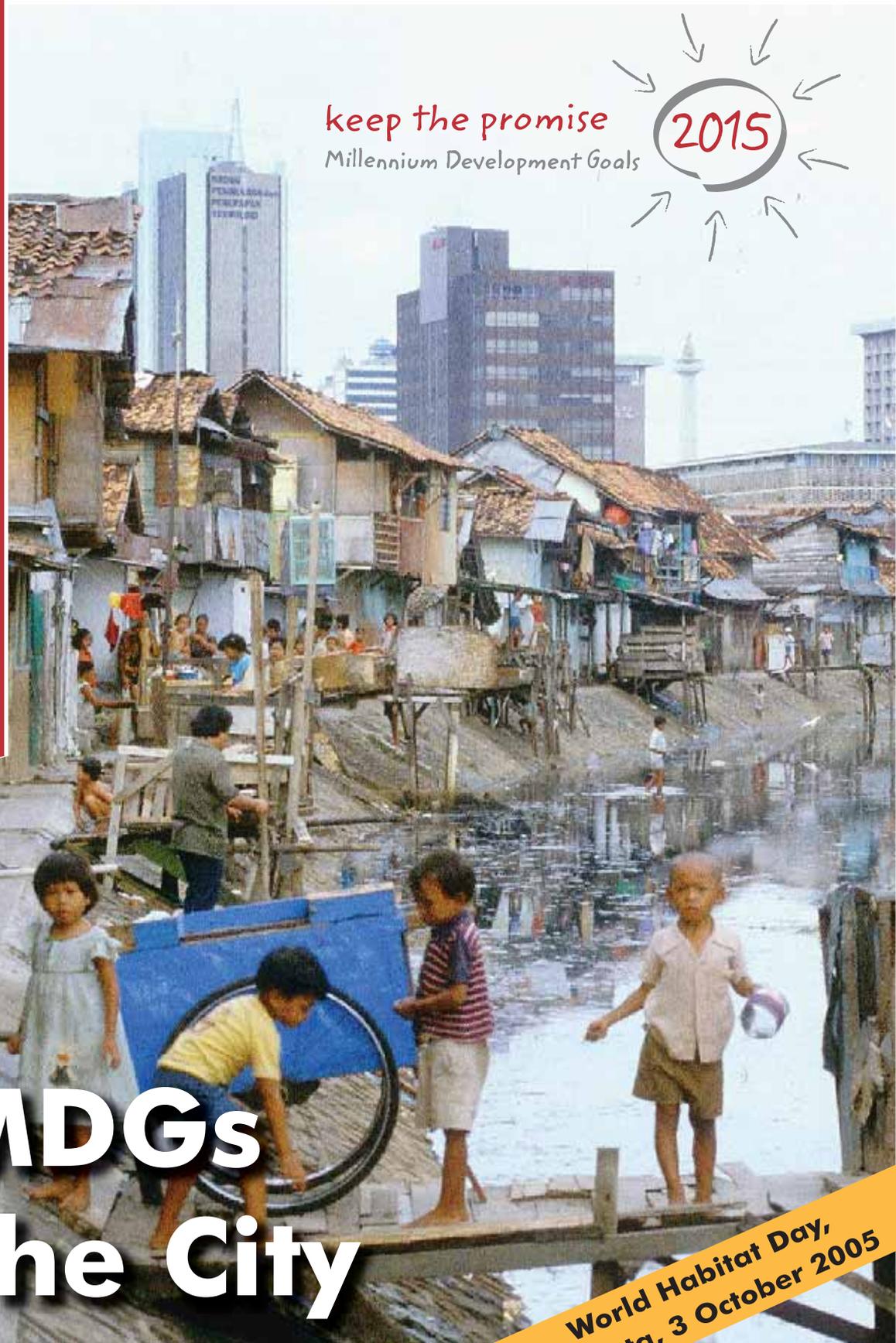
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keep the promise
Millennium Development Goals



The MDGs and the City

World Habitat Day,
Jakarta, 3 October 2005

A message from the Executive Director



Each year we celebrate World Habitat Day on the first Monday in October. The theme of the event being spearheaded from Jakarta, Indonesia this year and marked in cities around the world is *The Millennium Development Goals and the City*. It is my intention to use this theme and World Habitat Day as an occasion to launch a new integrated slum upgrading and disaster mitigation programme in Indonesia.

We chose this theme because the year 2005 marks the fifth anniversary of the Millennium Declaration in which world leaders agreed on a set of eight ambitious goals. These goals are aimed at eradicating poverty, achieving universal primary education, empowering women, reducing child mortality, improving maternal health, fighting AIDS, malaria and other diseases, ensuring environmental sustainability, and forging a new partnership for development.

These goals are people-centred, time-bound and measurable. They are simple but powerful objectives that every woman, man, and young person in the street from Washington to Monrovia, Jakarta to Nairobi and Oslo to Cape Town can understand. They have the political support because they mark the first time our leaders have held themselves accountable to such a covenant.

We also selected this theme for another very simple reason: we realise, five years into the implementation process that not everyone, especially the urban

poor, knows enough about the goals. This is because the change advocated is still not reaching people in the slums and inner cities. And the goals have to be implemented at street and neighbourhood level with municipal, provincial and national government working in partnership with the communities.

Our research shows that by the year 2050, six billion people – two-thirds of humanity – will be living in towns and cities. And as urban centres grow, the locus of global poverty is moving into towns and cities, especially into the burgeoning informal settlements and slums, of the developing world.

For this reason, we need surveys, facts and figures, and indicators to map out clearly how we can accomplish the goals in the poorest communities. We have found this to be a complex aspect of how we at UN-HABITAT, and our partners, apply ourselves to Target 11 – *to achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020*.

And for this, we need innovative governance, and *local* thinking and reporting if we are to bring hope to the urban poor. Equally importantly, we need to support our towns and cities, indeed our countries, to adopt pro-poor policies and strategies that will obviate the need for further slum creation.

In backing these goals, rich countries have accepted for the first time their share of responsibility to support the efforts of poor countries, through more focussed and better aid, debt cancellation and fairer trade. And developing countries have accepted their share, through improved governance, better use of resources, and initiatives on democracy, accountability and governance, such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development.

Indeed the goals are achievable. The number of people living in extreme poverty in Asia has been reduced by more than a quarter of a billion since 1990. But Asia still accounts for 60 percent of the world's slum population with a total of 554 million slum dwellers in 2001.

In sub-Saharan Africa, the poorest are getting poorer. The continent is falling seriously short on most of the goals, with continuing food insecurity, disturbingly high child and maternal mortality, growing numbers of people living in slums and an overall rise of extreme poverty.

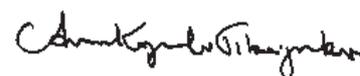
In 2001, Africa had 187 million slum dwellers constituting 20 percent of the world's total. Latin America had 128 million making up 14 percent of the total. It is projected that during the next 30 years, the global number of slum dwellers may increase to about 2 billion people if no serious action is taken.

An estimated 1 billion people – one in five people in the developing world – still live below the extreme poverty line, and the results of national efforts so far are uneven. Indeed, many governments and local authorities have still to establish their national and local action plans and targets for improving the lives of slum dwellers.

There has been headway in reducing hunger, improving access to drinking water and sending more children to primary school. Yet mothers continue to die unnecessarily in childbirth in urban slums throughout the developing world, while HIV and AIDS, malaria and tuberculosis are rife in the poorest urban settlements. Gender equality remains no more than a dream for women in many countries. Damage to the urban environment and its surrounds is a growing threat to city food and water supplies, homes and livelihoods.

There is no magic solution, and if current trends persist, some of the poorest countries may not meet any of the goals. Such a failure would spell tragedy, and this is why world leaders are holding a five-year review summit.

This is why too, in 2005, the concept of a global partnership between rich and poor countries – the eighth goal – must be turned into a reality in our towns and cities.



**Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka,
Executive Director**


Cover Photo

This year Jakarta will spearhead the annual celebration of World Habitat Day at a location not far from these slums in the city's downtown district. Photo ©: Topfoto/Image Works.

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How far is the world from the slum target?

By Eduardo López Moreno

Governments everywhere recognize that the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are essentially about people and human development. At stake are prospects for hundreds of millions of people to escape poverty, disease and illiteracy and live better lives.

Also at stake is the word of world leaders and the commitment of governments and international agencies to take direct action to improve the living conditions of slum dwellers and to offer adequate solutions for the slums of tomorrow.

As the UN General Assembly conducts its five-year review of the goals only 15 years remain to achieve Target 11—*improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020*.

What is new since governments signed up to the Millennium Declaration five years ago is that progress is tracked in every part of the world. Two clear outcomes of this process are now emerging: Firstly, the need to build a broad architecture for global monitoring and reporting, and secondly, the need to use the information gathered more strategically to support new policy formulation.

The MDGs have the potential to transform the technical aspects, such as water delivery, slum upgrading, or health improvements, into ethical and political imperatives.

Another novel development is that international agencies now have the opportunity to produce more and better statistics for monitoring on the goals with which they are dealing.

And after years of silence and inattention, urban poverty – UN-HABITAT's core business – is now being brought to the centre stage of the global development agenda.

But the goals are only goals – they do not set out the process by which they should be attained.

At the international level, UN-HABITAT is charged with responsibility for monitoring progress on Target 11, as well as the broader set of *Habitat Agenda* indicators. The agency has played a leading role in ensuring that monitoring efforts are harmonized, indicators rationalized and common methodologies

and approaches agreed upon.

However, unlike other MDGs indicators and targets such as poverty, disease, illiteracy and unemployment that have tested monitoring systems and methods over the last three decades, the measurement and monitoring of the slum target has proven difficult, particularly the secure tenure indicator, and its legal implications. This remains an important challenge of the global monitoring system.

Through an extensive consultative process, UN-HABITAT has developed an operational definition of slums, and estimated the global numbers of slum dwellers in the world. These estimates were done on a country-by-country basis, using household data. The information produced was published in two reports entitled, *Slums of the World*, and *The Challenge of Slums*, and widely disseminated in the media over the past two years. As a result, UN-HABITAT was able to establish baseline data that is extremely useful for comparisons, tracking changes and highlighting progress between and within countries. This data should help governments to look more closely, see more clearly and act more conscientiously in the formulation of their national policies.

Unfortunately, many governments are not using this information. They are not setting up national targets. They are thus not defining priorities or drawing up action plans. With only few meritorious exceptions, very few Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSPs), for low-income countries, and National Development Strategy Frameworks, for middle-income countries, address urban poverty in general and slum upgrading in particular. In the absence of a country framework, donors cannot align their financial assistance, which, regrettably, so far has been insufficient even in those nations that have set up coherent national strategies.

The fight against poverty is a national responsibility. To help governments, the Millennium Project Task Force 8 has offered a comprehensive analysis and a set of recommendations—at the country, regional and global levels – on how to meet the development challenge of slum improvement. Yet, these actions need to be implemented and localized at the city level if they are to have an impact on the

lives of slum dwellers, and provide adequate alternatives to new slum formation.

Since the Millennium Declaration, signs in the last five years have not been encouraging to conclude that there has been enough progress on the slum target. At the global level, according to current trends, the target may not be achieved. This is mainly due to the fact that sub-Saharan Africa and south-central Asia are lagging far behind. UN-HABITAT's global audit on slums shows that, in 2001 three out of ten inhabitants living in urban areas were slum dwellers. In sub-Saharan Africa and south-central Asia this proportion was 71.9 and 58 percent respectively.

Without well-defined country targets, it is difficult to determine in which proportion governments can contribute to the global target. Unlike other MDG targets, the slum target is not defined as a percentage, but in absolute terms (100 million slum dwellers).

In Thailand, the countrywide *Baan Mankong* slum upgrading initiative was launched in 2003. Based on community mobilization with the support of the government's Community Organizations Development Institute, it works on the principle of providing security of tenure to slum dwellers through a land sharing process. The programme aims to upgrade 2,000 slum communities (approximately 2.5 million slum dwellers) during the period 2003-2007 out of the 5,500 low-income communities and squatter settlements in Thai cities – home to 6.75 million people. In Morocco, the government recently launched its *2004-2010 Cities without Slums Programme* to improve the lives of all slums dwellers (over 1 million) by 2010. The programme is based on "City Contracts" which combine the resources of communities, local governments, the private sector and the state.

But the problem persists in countries where slum prevalence is very high and no tangible action seems to be taken to speed up progress and reverse current trends. In these countries the improvement of slum conditions seems dauntingly distant. It is more and more clear that the failure of the slum target will jeopardize the achievement of other MDGs goals and indicators.

The former Soviet president, Mr. Mikhail Gorbachev, told the Second World Urban Forum in Barcelona that rapid

urbanization is a cause of concern for everyone: “When world leaders adopted the *Millennium Declaration* in 2000, it seemed they recognized the urgency of the problems. But all of us today are concerned that many leaders having taken that step, have not shown the political will to implement them and take on the obligations they assumed. We have to be frank – we cannot leave the millennium commitments to the same fate as the Rio document of 1992.”

The methodology proposed by UN-HABITAT to estimate slums should be reviewed and expanded on a country-by-country basis, so that it can be adapted to local needs.

In the last five years the international community created a good framework of what needs to be done and how. Now it is time to move to implementation. Only political will, good approaches and the right technical choices would translate slum interventions into successful histories that concern everybody, especially the urban poor. Poverty reduction requires not only that goals be met, but also that the principles of sustainable development are integrated into the nations’ and cities’ policies and

programmes. Otherwise, even those countries meeting the target at national level will continue to have large pockets of poverty within their cities.

The role of governments is to enact appropriate policies, implement plans and secure the necessary resources to improve the living conditions of the slum dwellers. They also have an obligation to prevent the development of new slums to ensure that poor families realize their right to a decent house. There is a need therefore to accelerate actions in countries that show high levels of slum prevalence and flagrant backlogs in the slum related indicators. There is an urgent need to address underlying inequities between and within countries and cities. Developed nations must live up to their commitments at the 2003 Monterrey conference on funding for development at which they pledged to allocate at least 0.7 percent of their GDP for ODA.

The global monitoring framework that UN-HABITAT and its partners have set up must be fully implemented to assess how the various parties — developing and developed countries as well as international agencies— are performing on Target 11. This framework provides

the necessary guidance to governments and serves to track changes on the slum indicators, working as a real framework of accountability. It also serves as an advocacy and policy instrument that brings together policy formulation, action and monitoring activities.

To meet Target 11 at national and local levels, countries need now to define serious action plans and a set of national and city-based indicators to monitor slum upgrading and urban poverty reduction policies in ways specific to their own situation.

The results of all these actions can create a completely different social and economic urban landscape. It will ensure that this generation and the next will live a better life, a life with equality and rights. It will mean that countries have acknowledged that urban poverty is an urgent priority. It will also mean that donor countries have honoured their pledges to support development. Finally, it will also mean that the Millennium *promise is being kept*.

Eduardo López Moreno is Chief of UN-HABITAT's Global Urban Observatory

UN Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

By the year 2015, all 191 United Nations Member States have pledged to meet these goals

1	Eradicate extreme poverty and hunger	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by half the proportion of people living on less than a dollar a day • Reduce by half the proportion of people who suffer from hunger
2	Achieve universal primary education	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that all boys and girls complete a full course of primary schooling
3	Promote gender equality and empower women	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Eliminate gender disparity in primary and secondary education preferably by 2005, and at all levels by 2015
4	Reduce child mortality	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by two thirds the mortality rate among children under five
5	Improve maternal health	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce by three quarters the maternal mortality ratio
6	Combat HIV/AIDS, malaria and other diseases	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Halt and begin to reverse the spread of HIV/AIDS • Halt and begin to reverse the incidence of malaria and other major diseases
7	Ensure environmental sustainability	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Integrate the principles of sustainable development into country policies and programmes; reverse loss of environmental resources • Reduce by half the proportion of people without sustainable access to safe drinking water • Achieve significant improvement in lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers, by 2020
8	Develop a global partnership for development	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop further an open trading and financial system that is rule-based, predictable and non-discriminatory. Includes a commitment to good governance, development and poverty reduction-nationally and internationally • Address the least developed countries' special needs. This includes tariff- and quota-free access for their exports; enhanced debt relief for heavily indebted poor countries; cancellation of official bilateral debt; and more generous official development assistance for countries committed to poverty reduction • Address the special needs of landlocked and small island developing States Deal comprehensively with developing countries' debt problems through national and international measures to make debt sustainable in the long term In cooperation with the developing countries, develop decent and productive work for youth - In cooperation with pharmaceutical companies, provide access to affordable essential drugs in developing countries • In cooperation with the private sector, make available the benefits of new technologies- especially information and communications technologies

Are countries working effectively on the Millennium targets?

By Farouk Tebbal

To answer the simple but central question of the title, the Millennium Development Strategy (MDS) prepared by the UN Millennium Project, recommended that, “during 2003-2004, each country prepares its own Millennium Development Strategy Paper that builds explicitly on the targets of the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)”. The strategy suggests that this could be a revised version of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Papers (PRSP) which explicitly and suitably incorporate the MDGs.

“Countries need to construct their own coherent strategy for achieving the MDGs, building on the various dimensions of policy,” it says. While many countries have undertaken such analyses in recent years, it would be interesting to find out, *five years after* the adoption of the Millennium Declaration, whether this work is systematically done. For UN-HABITAT the question is: Are countries prepared to meet the target of improving significantly the lives of slum dwellers? To find out, a quick survey was conducted recently through the regional offices and UN-HABITAT Programme Managers (HPMs).

The survey sought answers to the following questions: **Is there a declared political will** towards improvement of the lives of slum dwellers, and is it translated in the PRSPs as a component of the country’s urban policy? **Has the country set up policy, legal and regulatory frameworks** (covering financing, land provision, recognition of housing rights, norms and standards, etc.) conducive to the achievement of the target? **Has the country engaged in large scale programmes** targeting the urban poor and informal dwellers and set up appropriate and dedicated institutions to that effect?

Responses came in from 23 countries around the world. In Latin America and the Caribbean (Brazil, Colombia, Costa Rica, Haiti, Mexico), Africa (Burkina Faso, Cameroon, Democratic Republic of Congo, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Ghana, Liberia, Morocco, Mozambique, Namibia, South Africa, Tanzania) and Asia (Afghanistan, Bangladesh, Cambodia, Fiji, Indonesia, the Philippines).



Slum dwellers in Manila rummaging through a garbage heap to salvage anything they can find. Photo: ©: F. Tebbal/UN-HABITAT

Most of the responses came from countries where HPMs are posted. Not only did this have an impact on the number of responses, but the presence in the country of a UN-HABITAT officer obviously contributed to raising the urban profiles in the programmes of the countries surveyed..

The quality of the responses was uneven. While some countries provided detailed feedback supported by insightful examples, others were less informative, reflecting either an inability to provide detailed responses from authorities or, simply, the unavailability of data.

For example, Brazil, the Philippines, Namibia, Morocco, Indonesia, South Africa, Mexico, Tanzania (and recently Cambodia and Haiti) have officially expressed their commitment towards slum improvement. This commitment is often enshrined in the highest legal instruments such as the South African constitution and the Brazilian City Status. In other cases statements of head of states, such as the Royal Letter in Morocco or the public commitment of the Cambodian Prime Minister announcing the upgrading of all slums in 5 years, have become political benchmarks.

However, efforts to include urban issues in country PRSPs are facing some resistance, especially when today’s low urbanization rate is hiding future urban growth related problems (Namibia, DRC, Cameroon).

Only 10 countries out of the 23 surveyed (around 40%) have a long-term action plan based on policy and legal reforms, setting up clear targets, establishing dedicated institutions and engaging large scale

programmes. These are Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Colombia, Costa Rica, Indonesia, Morocco, Namibia, Philippines and South Africa. At the other end of the spectrum several post-conflict countries are in a worrying state of quasi inaction (DRC, Eritrea, Afghanistan, Liberia and Haiti) and still trying to devise urban poverty reduction strategies.

About half the countries have a dedicated monitoring tool (urban observatory). Again these are practically the same the countries as above that have set up clear targets and policies. One reason so few countries have set a 2020 target may be because the MDG slum target lacks clarity for translation at national level as explained in the response from Mexico to the questionnaire: “Target 11 was not measured like the other specific targets since its goal is world-wide and does not have specific data per country.” This response reflects the ambiguous and unclear definition of target 11. It also justifies the requests for a proper definition, as was hotly debated at UN-HABITAT’s Governing Council in April 2005.

The survey showed that political will is important but not sufficient. The MDG concept seems to be still reserved to a minority of decision makers.

UN-HABITAT will expand this survey for the World Urban Forum of June 2006.

Farouk Tebbal is the Chief of UN-HABITAT’s Shelter Branch and focal point for MDG Target 11

Local authorities backing the MDGs

By Elisabeth Gateau

The five-year Millennium review summit in September 2005 to speed up efforts aimed at achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) in the fight against world poverty has the support of cities and their associations around the world, including United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG).

While the MDGs and targets have been formulated at the global level, there is a need to bring them back home to our cities and demonstrate clearly how they can be applied at street level. With this objective in mind, the UCLG World Council met in Beijing during June 2005 to approve the UCLG Millennium Cities and Towns Campaign and the Local Governments Millennium Declaration. This campaign aims to reach thousands of cities around the globe and the declaration is testimony to our members' collective commitment to the MDGs. Hand-in-hand with the United Nations, we are spearheading a worldwide movement towards localising the goals and targets in our cities and towns. UN-HABITAT and UCLG have signed an agreement of cooperation, of which the localizing MDGs is a core component.

The eight measurable goals targeting such areas as poverty reduction, infant mortality, gender equality, HIV/AIDS and sustainable development reflect the most fundamental development issues facing our cities today. Most relate to living conditions in our cities and towns and to services that local authorities work everyday to improve. The millennium agenda can succeed with real involvement of local authorities and their townfolk.

But *effective decentralization* is required so that local authorities can take ownership of the policies and services needed in order to achieve the MDGs. For example, regulatory and fiscal decentralization can play an essential role in helping local authorities deliver basic services such as primary education and primary health care. UCLG calls on governments to provide local authorities with the necessary resources and powers to play their full part on behalf of their citizens in meeting the goals and targets in each country.



Bringing the goals to all corners of the world. A view of Ismailia, Egypt. Photo ©: J.C. Adrian/UN-HABITAT

To support the localisation process, more *accurate, relevant and disaggregated data* is needed on the MDGs at the local level. Cities must have this information to assess their own situation. The results provide valuable inputs into the city planning process, and help national governments consult better with cities on the development agenda and the allocation of adequate resources.

Capacity building is needed within local authorities so that they can effectively lead the localizing MDG process. The exchanges among local practitioners have proven very valuable in the Agenda 21 process and should also be supported as a tool to achieve the MDGs.

There is a need to *strengthen local governance* in order to achieve the MDGs by giving citizens more say, and creating effective partnerships between local authorities, local communities and the private sector.

A crucial first step at the local level is *raising awareness*. Our aim is to spread the word about the MDGs among member cities and towns and show how the targets can be used to shape the direction and outcome of local government services and programmes.

The Millennium Cities and Towns Campaign is aimed at raising local government awareness of their role and to stress that the MDGs require commitment from society as a whole. It

will demonstrate practical examples of how local governments and their citizens are forging new alliances to achieve the goals and targets. Local governments across the world will be ratifying the UCLG Local Government Millennium Declaration. And from their buildings in September, they will be flying white banners with the slogan, "2015: no excuses".

As the level of government in daily contact with their citizens, mayors and local governments have unparalleled expertise and experience in developing, implementing and monitoring effective policies to combat the very problems targeted by the MDGs. UCLG, through our member cities and towns, is committed to making the MDGs a top priority and working in partnership with the United Nations towards their achievement.

Elisabeth Gateau is Secretary-General of United Cities and Local Governments.

The need for a more ambitious target

By Nefise Bazoglu

At the Millennium Summit world leaders pledged to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, as proposed in Nelson Mandela's Cities Without Slums initiative.

Since its inception 30 years ago, the human settlements programme has taken significant steps on the conceptualization of slums and security of tenure. Yet the goals of security of tenure and adequate shelter have always remained on the periphery of the international development agenda, despite the Istanbul Summit of 1996.

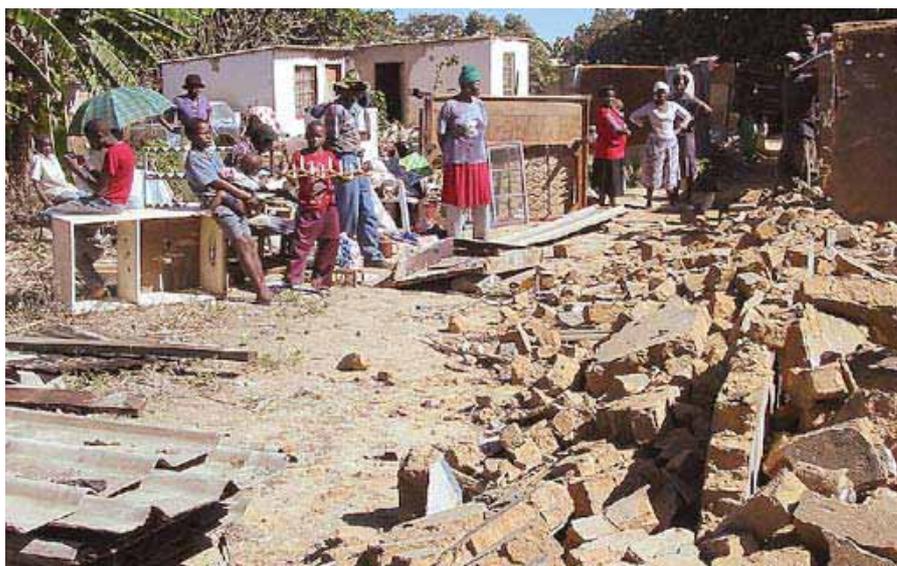
As the first major global instrument of the international human settlements community, the Habitat Agenda is primarily a declaration of good principles. But the broad range of themes it articulates in politically correct language allows any stakeholder to defend any argument. Indeed the Habitat Agenda falls short of providing a focused, results-oriented road map.

Other development instruments like the International Conference on Population and Development and the Convention on the Rights of the Child have been more successful than the Habitat Agenda. Both have clearly defined targets and goals providing the essential link to policy formation and technical delivery as the key ingredients of social change. By contrast, the Habitat Agenda has largely been ignored by world leaders.

Targets help the development community transform commitments into reality. Setting targets that can be monitored, and providing deadlines and indicators is what helps orient implementation. It is not an exaggeration of technical concerns, but an indication of how genuine the political commitment is. It is only when the political commitments are processed within a results-oriented framework, that they can go beyond 'wishful thinking'.

Without targets we do not have the reference points to judge success. This applies to every aspect that regulates international regulations, be it conflict resolution or peace-building.

The Millennium Declaration was thus a big breakthrough for the human settlements mandate. Not only did it make slums become part of the broader



Surveying the damage in Zimbabwe after a nation-wide demolition and eviction campaign left 700,000 city dwellers homeless. Photo ©: UN-HABITAT

development agenda, but by having a target, the global human settlements community could put its commitments into a time-bound, quantifiable perspective.

However, advances in the monitoring of the slum target unveiled the true magnitude of the problem – that the targeted population constituted only 12 percent of the 924 million global slum population in 2000. The limited 100 million target did not reflect a lack of commitment by the world leaders, but rather the absence of proper slum estimates at the time.

The global slum target is too low to stimulate much action. Even if countries do not implement any relevant policies, 100 million slum dwellers will improve their lives, owing to the dynamic nature of the urban slum population. The real challenge is to address the massive urban crisis that the world will have to face – half a billion new slum dwellers by 2020.

There are three likely outcomes of a weak global target. Firstly, that some developing countries will set their own targets without reference to the MDGs. Secondly, countries where the leaders are in denial that they have a huge slum problem will be free of international pressure. And thirdly, when both developing and developed countries decide that the target is met, there may be denial at the global level.

In view of this, the Commission on Sustainable Development on Water,

Sanitation and Human Settlements, included the following paragraph in its statement of April 2005:

“Noting that the water and sanitation targets are to halve the proportion of people who lack access to safe drinking water and sanitation by 2015, and that the target for slum dwellers is to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, support countries, including through UN-HABITAT, in their ability to provide data and information on existing slums with a projection on new slum formation by 2020, and thereafter to adopt and implement plans to achieve these targets, linked to poverty reduction strategies, national sustainable development strategies or other relevant policy plans.”

This paragraph still lacks a global benchmark, and thus the ability to exercise systematic global pressure on countries in denial on their slum problems. But it does give countries the political impetus to start counting and provide projections of their slum populations.

UN-HABITAT can help countries with their slum estimates, either individually or in groups through workshops, bringing together policy makers and national statisticians. It is to be hoped that more countries will then adopt national targets and related action plans.

Nefise Bazoglu is Head of UN-HABITAT's Monitoring Systems Branch.

The Millennium Declaration and the Habitat Agenda

By Christine Auclair

The Millennium Declaration, the current blueprint for international action on the most crucial development issues, comes four years after the more modest but fundamental set of commitments on human settlements in the Habitat Agenda. Although both documents present large differences in form and content, they reinforce each other in many respects.

With over 90 commitments and more than 600 recommendations, the Habitat Agenda was more than a road map for the 171 signatory Member States and their partners at the Istanbul Summit in 1996. The Habitat Agenda's goals and principles, its commitments and Global Plan of Action were seen as an integral part of the overall fight against poverty. The implementation of the Habitat Agenda was meant to focus on people's development, acknowledging the central role of women, and dealing with issues directly affecting the lives of the poor. The challenge was about empowering people, creating decent and healthy living conditions, achieving social equity and an environmentally sound future. Also, for the first time in the international arena, the Habitat Agenda showed that cities are engine of growth and need to be considered as central platforms of development, where the poor should be included rather than excluded.

The Millennium Declaration reaffirms values and shared responsibility. As an umbrella document, the Millennium Declaration carries broad global goals on poverty reduction, health, gender equality, education and environmental sustainability that address the essential dimensions of poverty and their impact on people's lives. By adopting these goals, the international community has made a commitment to the world's poor through quantitative targets with deadlines.

While the importance of cities is not a driving rationale of the Millennium Declaration, as in the Habitat Agenda, many development partners feel the Millennium Development Goals should have more focus on cities as future urban populations are projected to outnumber rural populations. Indeed, by the 2015 deadline for the goals, 53.6 percent of the world's population will be urban. And



Kisumu, Kenya is slowly winning the battle to become a city without slums. Photo ©: UN-HABITAT

during the 2000-2015 implementation period, the global population will grow daily by an estimated 200,000 people, of whom 180,000 will be urban.

By referring to the "Cities without Slums" initiative in its goals, the Millennium Declaration, also marks the first time the international community recognises urban slums as a key development problem among the other crucial issues of extreme poverty, hunger, primary education, child and maternal mortality, HIV-AIDS and malaria. The "Cities without Slums" initiative is a pledge to those most deprived in cities. It is also recognition that their plight is seen as most pressing, and not merely an unfortunate consequence of urban poverty.

The "Cities without Slums" goal is an international call for action on the *Habitat Agenda*, carrying a clear target and deadline – improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020. When the Habitat Agenda was adopted in 1996, there were some 825 million slum dwellers worldwide. By the time of the Millennium Declaration in 2000, the world's urban slum population had grown to 903 million. The "Cities without Slums" goal was thus long overdue. It revives the core aims of the Habitat Agenda summarized in the slogans, *adequate shelter for all* and *sustainable human settlements in an urbanizing world*. It makes them more critical and urgent, therefore more

attainable, and less prone to be overlooked by the international development community, Member States and their partners.

The Millennium Declaration also emphasizes that the success of meeting the goals will depend considerably on the capacity to put good governance into practice. As such, it also reiterates the Habitat Agenda's commitment to more inclusive and participatory governance, this time in the context of globalization as "a positive force for all the world's people".

By placing slum problems among the core goals, the Millennium Declaration deals with the main symptoms of globalization in urban areas. It recognizes that globalization has played a notable role in the escalating poverty and inequalities. It recognises too that cities end up with their prime resources mostly appropriated by the affluent, pushing the urban poor into slums, the poverty traps of cities.

The pledge to improve living conditions in slums is also the promise that globalization will be made fully inclusive and equitable through appropriate policies and practices, formulated and implemented with the participation of the urban poor.

Christine Auclair is a Human Settlements Officer with UN-HABITAT's Monitoring and Research Division.

Bringing the goals to city level

By Dinesh Mehta

The Millennium Declaration to which world leaders pledged themselves in 2000 has become the 'organizing framework' for many UN and bilateral programmes. This is because it contains a broad range of internationally agreed development goals ranging from poverty reduction, health, and gender equality to education and environmental sustainability. While the challenges and opportunities for achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) are varied, what is unique about them is the time-bound element and the outcome orientation embodied in the targets.

It must be understood that the MDG targets are global targets based on aggregate trends of all countries. Therefore, even if the global targets are achieved, the inequalities between countries and among people may still persist. At the national and local levels, achieving these global targets requires political commitment and ownership, which can be mobilised only if these targets are set in local context. It must therefore be recognised that while the MDGs are global, they can most effectively be achieved through action at local level. Poverty is not only a global issue, but is deeply rooted in local processes that matter most to the poor. For poverty reduction programmes to become effective, it is necessary to achieve the MDGs at local level, set within the context of local reality, aspirations and priorities.

The Millennium Declaration commitment to *achieve a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020* is part of the primary goal of urban poverty reduction. Although, this is the only target

of the MDGs that specifically addresses urban poverty, it is important to recognise that the urban context is critical to meeting all the MDGs. By improving the lives of slum dwellers, one is also combating HIV, improving environmental sustainability, addressing gender inequality, and all the MDGs in the most efficient manner. In many countries, local governments provide basic services like water, sanitation, primary education, and primary health care – a spectrum that covers many of the MDGs. Yet most local authorities are not actively engaged in the MDG process.

For the goals to be achieved at street level, local authorities need to be convinced about how the MDG framework fits within the overall framework of local development. At the local level, the MDGs provide a development framework for debate among local authorities, civil society, national government, and others involved in the fight against urban poverty. The MDGs are also a planning tool to prepare comprehensive development plans and budgets. They are also a monitoring tool to measure the performance of local authorities. What the local authorities need to do is to adapt the goals to local conditions and priorities, set intermediate targets for political accountability to coincide with tenure of local governments, and develop action programmes and policies to meet these targets within the framework of local budgets and development plans.

As the focal point for local authorities in the UN system, UN-HABITAT has done substantial work on decentralisation and strengthening of local authorities. In partnership with the international local authority body, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), UN-HABITAT has

developed a programme on localising the MDGs. It seeks to engage local authorities and other stakeholders in developing local action plans to meet the MDGs. As a part of this programme, UN-HABITAT, in collaboration with its partners, is developing tools and guidelines for localising the goals.

In the pilot phase, a sample of cities has been selected. A local monitoring facility is being established in each selected city, or strengthened where they already exist. The UN-HABITAT tools and guidelines are used to prepare a blueprint of all relevant MDG targets and a city profile that would identify opportunities and constraints to meet the time-bound targets. In each city consultations among all local stakeholders are held to discuss their MDG profile and develop action plans to achieve all or most targets.

These action plans will become an integral part of local development plans and budgets to ensure sustainability and mainstream pro-poor participatory processes in the routine work of the local authorities. National level capacity building programmes to promote replication of city experiences and scale-up localisation of the MDGs are planned.

At the national and global levels, UCLG through its local authority networks and associations is involved in the Millennium Cities and Towns Campaign to create awareness and build commitments of local authorities on the MDGs.

Dinesh Mehta is Coordinator of UN-HABITAT's Urban Management Programme. He is currently coordinating UN-HABITAT's programme on localising the MDGs.

Some experiences in localising the MDGs:

- **The Philippines:** UNDP/UN-HABITAT programme on localising the MDGs through league of cities. Fourteen cities have adopted Localization of MDGs, through consultative process have contextualised the MDG targets, setting intermediate targets and allocating budgets to meet the targets.
- **Brazil:** Preparation of MDG baseline in Curitiba, City level Human Development Report for Rio, UN-HABITAT.
- **Paraguay:** Carapeguá Municipality adopted legislation to establish the MDGs as the principal basis for the strategy of the municipal government. The municipal plan reflects the MDGs as they are prioritized through a participatory method.
- **Sri Lanka:** UNDP/UN-HABITAT Urban Governance Support Project (UGSP) third phase covering 18 Municipalities and Urban Centers has a component on localising the MDGs.
- **Albania:** UNDP Albania programme to help the government to set and implement its own priorities within the MDG framework. Localisation facilitated through workshops and seminars where the MDG targets are adapted to local circumstances.
- **Nigeria:** Ibadan localising MDG city consultations.
- **Zimbabwe:** Marondera city consultation on localizing the MDGs

Global goals for local change

By Julia Bunting

Millennium Development Goal (MDG) Target 11 (*By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slums dwellers*) provides an unprecedented opportunity to get the issue of urban poverty onto the international development agenda.

Global reporting allows direct comparisons of progress to be made between countries and over time. But there has been criticism that these high level goals and targets lack national and local relevance.

The slum estimates produced by UN-HABITAT are a global public good. They allow the international community to monitor patterns and trends in the number and condition of slum dwellers. UN-HABITAT's projection that the slum population could double from 924 million in 2001 to 2 billion in 2030 shows how far we are from actually achieving cities without slums.

The national slum estimates for monitoring global progress towards MDG Target 11 need to be comparable. For this reason the definition of a slum household for global monitoring was agreed by an International Expert Group. UN-HABITAT continues to refine the methodology and strengthen the tools that are used to generate these numbers. For example, working with WHO and UNICEF to revise the definition of basic sanitation in urban areas. UN-HABITAT is also refining the tools and methods used for monitoring of secure tenure around the world.

This year, trends in globally comparable national estimates on the number and condition of slum dwellers will be available for the first time. These will be published on the UN and World Bank MDG monitoring databases and feed into the review of the Millennium Declaration in September. The UK Department for International Development (DFID) and other donor agencies are supporting UN-HABITAT's global monitoring work. We believe that continuing to strengthen the global evidence base will advance the cause of urban poverty in international development.

The MDGs will only be achieved if they are relevant, realistic and resourced for each particular country and, within that, each sub-national level from

provinces and states down to local communities. This means that the goals and targets need to be 'localized'. The United Nations Millennium Project Report defines localized as "translated into operational objectives for the level of government that will bear primary responsibility for their achievement". For real delivery on MDG Target 11, local stakeholders need to be involved in all stages of the design, implementation and monitoring of policies and programmes.

The data needed to achieve local action are not always the same as those needed for global reporting although the purposes are often the same – to inform policy choices, to monitor impact, and as an accountability tool. The level of 'local' determines the types of data and analysis needed and the timing, definitions, methodology and tools to be used.

Monitoring at the local level needs to be based on appropriate indicators that address the goals and targets of local policies and meet the needs of local people. Local stakeholders need to both analyse and interpret official data based on their own experiences and collect their own supplementary data to support their policy needs.

If common definitions and methodologies are used then local level data may draw upon and contribute to national and global reporting. But they cannot easily be aggregated to serve these higher-level monitoring purposes unless they are statistically representative. While it is useful to triangulate between the various sources it should not be assumed that one could simply substitute for another.

Key policy issues can be masked by poor data comparisons – like comparing the health experiences of the urban poor with the rural average. This is not helpful to policymakers in deciding where resources should be prioritised. There is often a danger with statistics that competing data distract policymakers from taking action as 'technocrats' debate the 'right' estimate. Stakeholders at all levels need to work together to ensure that the data that will really have an impact on urban poverty are available to those who have the power to affect change. UN-HABITAT's Monitoring Systems Branch and a number of donor agencies are working to increase the profile of MDG Target 11 and support monitoring

efforts. We aim to ensure that the collection and analysis of data to support global and local monitoring of Target 11 are better harmonised and coordinated to minimise duplication of effort and maximise data utility.

While the MDGs and other international goals and targets may have been set at the global level, they will only be realised if action is taken to improve the lives of people at the local level. And, whilst we need to continue to monitor at the global, regional and national level if we want to see real progress, we need to ensure that local people are involved in setting and monitoring local targets that deliver on their priorities and needs. Only then can these global goals truly address local needs.

Julia Bunting is a member of the DFID Policy Division.

The cost of improving the life of a slum dweller.

The total cost of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers has been estimated by Task Force 8 at USD 67 billion, i.e. an average of \$670 per person. Notwithstanding differences between regions, and based on the assumption that the cost per person for adequate alternatives to slum formation is in the same range, the cost of decent settlements for the estimated 400 million new poor who will be added to the urban population during 2005-2020 will be in the order of USD 300 billion. According to a joint UN-HABITAT/World Bank publication in 2005 entitled, *Reviewing the Millennium Declaration from the Urban Perspective*, this may look like a lot, but over a 15-year period the required investment would come to less than USD 25 billion a year. Task Force 8, UN-HABITAT, and many member States propose that the definition of the target be interpreted in a broader sense. Task Force 8 suggests that in addition to the 100 million, efforts be made to offer adequate alternatives to the formation of new slums. UN-HABITAT proposed that the slum target be re-interpreted and put in percentage terms so as to be consistent with the other MDG targets. The reformulated global target would be to reduce by half, between 1990 and 2020, the proportion of slum dwellers in the urban population.

Local statistics are crucial to localizing the MDGs

By Gora Mboup

Not enough is being done to gather street and household-level statistics in slums and other urban pockets of poverty to implement the slum target of the Millennium Declaration. This is because country reports average out the figures they gather from all urban households, both rich and poor, to provide single estimates on poverty, education, health, employment, and the state of human settlements. Thus the plight of the urban poor is underestimated. It is further masked by the practice of simply providing averages between urban and rural areas.

For instance, Demographic and Health Surveys (DHS) conducted in 20 African countries between 2000-2003 showed that children living in poor urban areas are as exposed to high morbidity and malnutrition as those in rural areas. The Nigeria data showed that malnutrition was higher in slums than in rural areas (38% versus 32%).

In Nairobi, 1998 figures on the prevalence of diarrhea showed a 12 percent average among children under-five. But that average masked the fact only 1.2 percent suffered diarrhea in non-slum areas of the city, while the prevalence rate in the city slums was 27 percent. That compares with 19 percent in rural areas.

But whether the poorest people are crowded in urban slums, or isolated in

remote rural villages, local policy needs to be guided by statistics that reflect the reality of their situation. It is thus crucial to know *how many they are, where they are located, and what their basic needs* are in terms of shelter, water, sanitation, health, education, employment, etc. There is a real danger that more attention is given to improving monitoring of service provision to serve the requirements of national governments and international agencies than to developing the local data collection which is needed to support the achievement of the MDGs at the local level.

In 2003, UN-HABITAT sought to redress this through its Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme (MUIP). The programme seeks to monitor the plight of urban slum dwellers around the world. But the quest for household-level intra-city data requires considerable resources. To comprehensively measure inequalities, census and survey data must be combined with Small Area Estimates. The first covers the whole population with limited socio-economic and health information, while the second provides a wealth of information on shelter, social development, and other household and individual characteristics in a limited sample size.

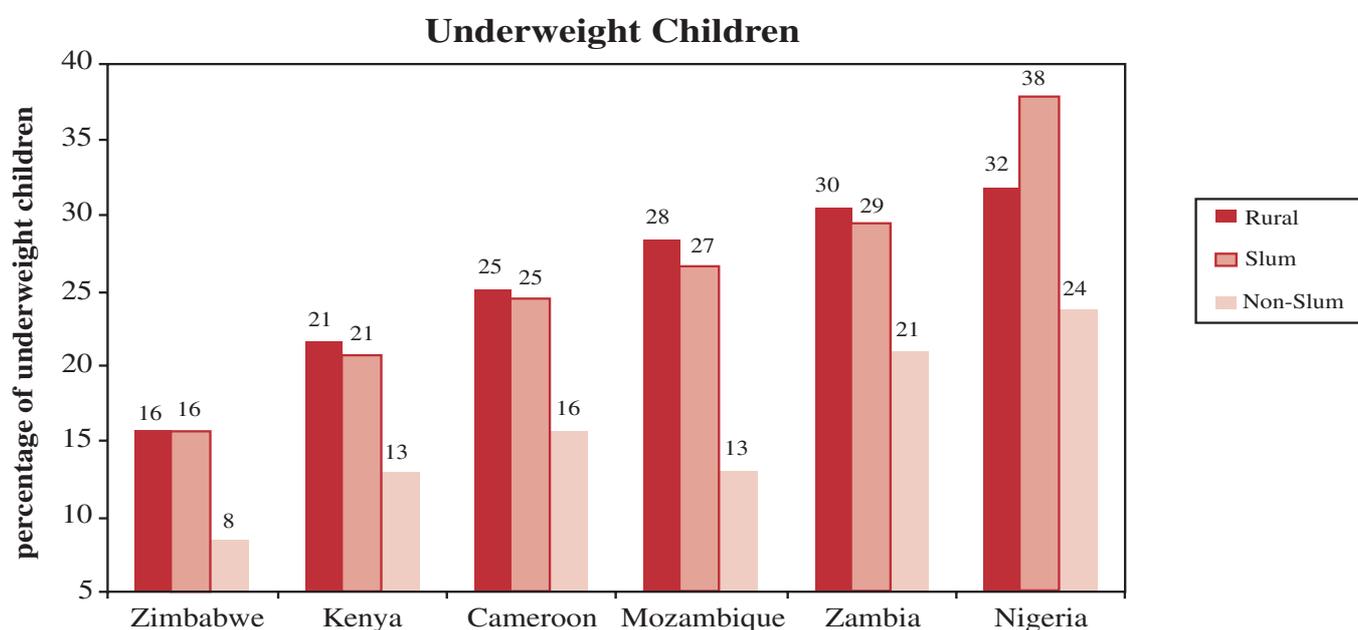
However, national statistical systems in most developing countries are inadequate and thus unable to provide the integrated data required, and need to be strengthened. For these long-term,

time-consuming and costly surveys, adequate financial resources are necessary. This has been recognized at the international level by the Partnership in Statistics for Development in the 21st Century (PARIS21, 1999), the Trust Fund for Statistical Capacity Building (TFSCB, 2000), the Marrakech Action for Plan for Statistics (MAPS, 2002), and the Investment in Statistical Capacity Building (STATCAP, 2003).

It is high time that United Nations Statistical Commission (UNSC), in collaboration with other UN agencies, PARIS21, and STATCAP, support governments and national statistics in gathering the production of sub-national data in a consistent, permanent manner. The United Cities and Local Authorities (UNACLA) need also to prioritize and support the implementation of data desegregation at municipal levels

While advocating the importance of statistics, the international community must provide financial support necessary as part of the *Global Partnership for Development*—the last of the eight MDGs. If the goals are to be localized successfully in the world's urban slums, this process must be driven by developing countries themselves.

Gora Mboup, Senior Demographic and Health Expert, is a Human Settlements Officer with UN-HABITAT's Monitoring and Research Division.



Source: DHS 2000-2003

Monitoring the slum target: two viewpoints

Finding the right indicators and the best approach to monitoring the myriad problems of urban poverty around the world can be complex or simple. In this debate, **David Satterthwaite**, Senior Fellow at the London-based International Institute for Environment and Development, and **Eduardo López Moreno**, Chief of UN-HABITAT's Global Urban Observatory, discuss some the alternatives.

Satterthwaite: The priority of the Millennium Development Goals and their time-bound targets should be to get action to meet the targets and the data needed to support this. In the past 20 years, some international agencies have invested heavily in household surveys drawing on representative samples of national populations. These may be valuable for international agencies and national governments. But they are of little use to the local organizations on whose improved performance meeting most MDGs depends. These surveys, to cite one example, are of little use to local water and sanitation providers because they do not provide data on which household in which neighbourhood has inadequate provision. The data on housing conditions and tenure from these surveys are very limited – but even if this is improved, it does not serve local organizations who want to act. For action, information is needed on current provision of water, sanitation and drainage for each building, street and neighbourhood with detailed maps showing plot boundaries and paths/roads. Censuses should provide some of this, even if held once every 10 years, but they rarely do. Censuses provide little accurate data about conditions in informal settlements where the problems are worst.

Moreno: The MDGs are global, but they can only be achieved through action at national and local levels. There is agreement on this. At UN-HABITAT we believe that local actions cannot be divorced from national and international monitoring. Global monitoring provides a reference point and guidance to governments. It serves to track changes. It is an essential advocacy and policy instrument. Monitoring at the UN and international level is not necessarily a top-down exercise. It begins at the very bottom, in households, and in slums. Reporting is done at the national and global levels, and the data is available for local consumption to identify districts, streets and houses. Furthermore, local monitoring can be done through rapid assessment and other techniques.

Satterthwaite: There is now a considerable experience of local and city-wide slum censuses implemented by the organizations of slum dwellers and squatters working with NGOs and local authorities – for instance in Cambodia, India, Kenya, the Philippines, South Africa and Thailand. The Orangi Pilot Project-Research and Training Institute in Pakistan has also shown how to develop detailed maps that cover all of Karachi to guide district and city-wide investment. Of course, this only works if governments and international agencies work in partnership with the urban poor. But this is also needed if the MDGs are to be met. We need locally generated information involving those whose needs the MDGs are meant to address. It must support programmes in which these people and their organizations have a central role in design and implementation.

Moreno: I agree that the involvement of civil society is crucial. More must be done to engage with elected representatives and social organizations for them to participate in the whole project cycle, including monitoring. The idea of data produced by squatters and slum dwellers is not very realistic. Experience shows that they would try to use it for their own benefit, as the private sector or anyone else would. They could fudge the numbers. Slum surveys require technical expertise. What we need is local cooperation at every level of government among all sectors to achieve the MDGs. UN-HABITAT is trying to reinforce local structures of governance that bring together local authorities and other partners, advocating capable institutions and participatory mechanisms. Crucial stakeholders include youth, women and the 'social' and private sectors. However, there is a need to build capacities to create sustainable partnerships and programmes, otherwise their involvement would be meaningless. I further agree that there is a need to create systems that would provide more accurate data on key topics such as urban poverty and security of tenure. These systems should be

developed with the involvement of civil society organizations to ensure that they are directed towards action. However, this gap should be addressed primarily by national governments. UN-HABITAT is developing an innovative monitoring approach. It incorporates the global, national and local levels by supporting the establishment of local systems of information (Local Urban Observatories) that integrate civil society as far as possible. The important thing is not to propose an exclusively 'bottom-up approach' but a complementary approach that uses global monitoring as a part of a framework of accountability.

Satterthwaite: I am sorry, but squatters and slum dwellers do produce relevant data, as shown by 20 years of successful experiences with community-driven surveys. Many of these have supported large-scale, successful partnerships between representatives of slum dwellers and governments for upgrading and secure tenure or new house development. To suggest that slum and squatter dwellers would try to use this for their own benefit like the private sector is to miss the point that it is their needs that the MDGs are meant to address. I wish squatters and slum dwellers could get governments and international agencies to do more for their benefit. Then we might even get the MDG targets met in urban areas.

Editor's note: This debate is far from over. It must continue and it must be broadened so that global monitoring activities become integrated as a key part of the development agenda. Nothing is more powerful and more useful than the right indicators and the true figures when it comes to providing an accurate picture – to guide policy makers through the complex problems of urban poverty.

Habitat Debate welcomes readers' comments.

Women need priority on the Millennium Goals

Households headed by women are generally poorer than those headed by men, according to information available in developing countries.

The 2005 report on the Millennium Development Goals published by the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean (ECLAC) says that female headed-households account for a higher percentage of those in the region living in extreme poverty than male-headed households. It cites Costa Rica, the Dominican Republic, Ecuador, Guatemala and Panama.

Across the Atlantic, figures for urban poverty in Africa show that more than any other group, women and children bear the brunt of deprivation.

Women and men experience the urban environment and use urban services differently. Women are more disadvantaged than men in many respects as a result of socio-cultural factors and gender discrimination, therefore, more needs to be done for them in the provision of basic services. The vulnerability of women is compounded by inadequate access to economic resources as well as their poor representation in decision-making – key factors, which negatively influence their participation in urban service provision.

Demographic and health surveys conducted in Africa show that 75 percent of households headed by women lack adequate



Women and children, like this family recently evicted from their home in Zimbabwe, are always the most vulnerable to exploitation, crime and disease.

Photo ©: UN-HABITAT

shelter, in contrast to 60 percent for those headed by men. A UN-HABITAT survey in the Ethiopian capital Addis Ababa, shows for example, that ownership documentation is vested in the households headed by men. Women thus do not enjoy secure tenure and are exposed to homelessness. Indeed, the study illustrates that the majority of homeless women in the city of Addis Ababa are either widowed or divorced.

Lack of adequate shelter may also infringe on people's privacy, including sexual privacy, especially for women. In this context, young girls are often exposed to earlier sexual

intercourse, higher frequencies of unwanted pregnancy, and greater risk for contracting HIV. In sub-Saharan Africa, more than 30 percent of teenage women (15-19) have begun childbearing, they are mothers or pregnant with their first child. A youth employment survey by UN-HABITAT's Global Urban Observatory in 13 African countries shows that out of 100 young women aged 15 to 24, twenty dropped out of school either because they got married or fell pregnant.

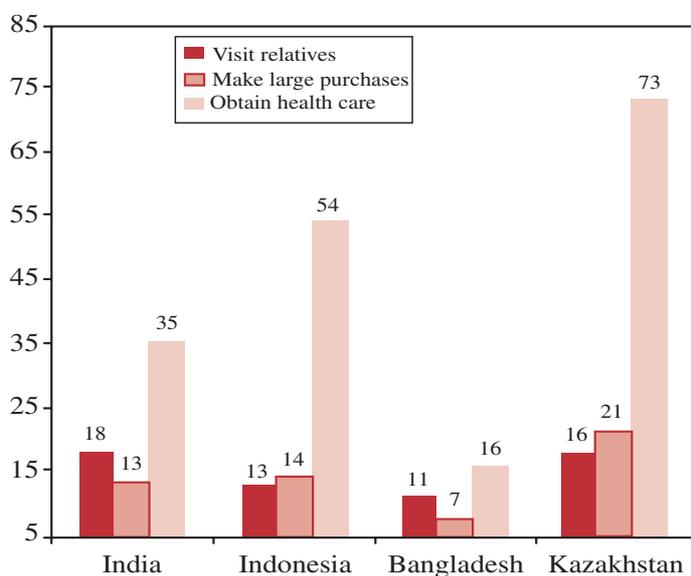
According to the World Health Organization, the proportion of young women living with HIV/AIDS is double that of their young male counterparts (8 percent versus 4 percent).

Even though education is a basic human right, when financial constraints force a family to pull children out of school, it is usually the girls who have to go. In Uganda and Zambia, for instance, 74 percent and 51 percent of young girls 15-24 who stopped school acknowledged that lack of financial resources was the main reason for doing so. This phenomenon is observed in many other African countries.

Demographic and Health Surveys also indicate that in most African and Asian countries, women do not often have control over their earnings, their personal health, household purchases, or even visits to family and friends. For instance, in India, the majority of married women do not have the final say to visit their relatives (82%), to make large purchases (87%) and to obtain health care (65%). - Gora Mboup and Eduardo López Moreno.

Household decision-making

Percentage of urban women who have final say to visit relatives, make large purchases or obtain health care



Source: DHS 2000-2003

The first large-scale upgrading programme: an Indonesian success story

By Pak Darrundono

The innovative Kampung Improvement Programme (KIP) launched in Jakarta, Indonesia in 1969 is probably the world's first recognized urban slum upgrading programme, with lessons learned institutionalized through the progressive revision of national shelter development policy and programmes during the 1980s and 1990s.

To this day, KIP stands as the Jakarta Administration's "best practice" response to so-called *kampungs* – the densely populated, largely illegal, threatened, unserved, low-income settlements that have dominated the city landscape over the last 30 years, providing shelter to 60 percent of its 4.8 million inhabitants.

Over four successive phases, the KIP evolved into an integrated and internationally respected community-based slum upgrading and poverty reduction programme, providing security of tenure and basic urban services to millions of Indonesia's urban poor. Replicated from Jakarta to most cities throughout Indonesia, it quickly became a model programme that transformed slums from illegal settlements into an integrated part of Indonesia's urban fabric.

During the initial tentative trailing and testing stage, 1969-1974, the Jakarta Administration (DKI) engaged with selected disadvantaged communities to identify their priority problems, coordinating access and drainage investments to some 1.2 million people at an average cost of only 13 US dollars per head. The KIP quickly gained the reputation of a model system as word spread of its successes through the country. It was an approach that seemed to make every rupiah go a long way, embodying not only slum upgrading, but social upliftment through its innovative participatory approaches.

From 1974, the World Bank supported the KIP second phase with soft loans to accelerate the pace of community infrastructure improvements, and extended investment opportunities into the housing sector to address increasingly evident health and social problems stemming from the high population densities. With the



Mrs. Tibajuka, who celebrates World Habitat Day in Jakarta this year, recently visited Indonesian tsunami survivors in Banda Aceh. Photo ©: S.Shankardass/ UN-HABITAT

majority of *kampung* residents living 5 to a single room, poor roofing, poor natural ventilation, and poor lighting all combined to produce unhealthy living conditions. Respiratory problems were rife. This Phase therefore introduced household loans through revolving funds for families to improve the ventilation and lighting of these rooms, supported by common roofing between a block of houses to strengthen community drainage efforts.

Whole neighbourhoods were engaged by the KIP Unit, which helped their communities prepare Action Plans that brought fragmented planning and implementation agencies and proposals under a single umbrella. By 1979 the Indonesian government, through its Ministry of Public Works, had endorsed the KIP approach as national policy. This improved living conditions for close to 15 million urban poor by the time World Bank assistance came to an end in 1982.

Building on the lessons learned, the KIP Phase 3 broadened into a much more community-based Action Planning approach. All involved now appreciated that blanket solutions for slum upgrading lacked sustainability, and that a more intense involvement of the beneficiary communities themselves had to be realised through programme planning and implementation. At the same time investment funds to communities broadened into other service and infrastructure areas, including water and sanitation – reflecting the changing priorities of the communities themselves.

At the same time the KIP III approach was replicated in other Indonesian cities nationally as the original KIP Unit was institutionalised in the Housing Department in 1993.

Today, the KIP has further evolved into the Sub-district Society Empowering Programme (PPMK), further strengthening and deepening established participatory approaches to help build Community Councils at the District-level. These are allocated between 1 and 2 billion rupiah a year (USD 200,000) to invest in their community-based *kampung* improvement Action Plans, enabling a broader set of basic urban service and shelter support investments for poverty alleviation.

Whilst the improvement of the conditions for the urban poor living in Indonesia's *kampungs* continues to remain a challenge, the political support is clearly there, with established approaches and procedures embedded in reformed policy and enabling legislation.

Having gone through various evolutionary phases over the past 30 years, the KIP has adapted and changed from a largely physical response to an increasingly sophisticated broad-based poverty-reduction targeted community-empowering approach generating support from the affected communities, public sector institutions and politicians alike.

Pak Darrundono is the former Director of the Jakarta Kampung Improvement Programme.

Monitoring the MDGs in Bogotá, Colombia

By Fabio Giraldo

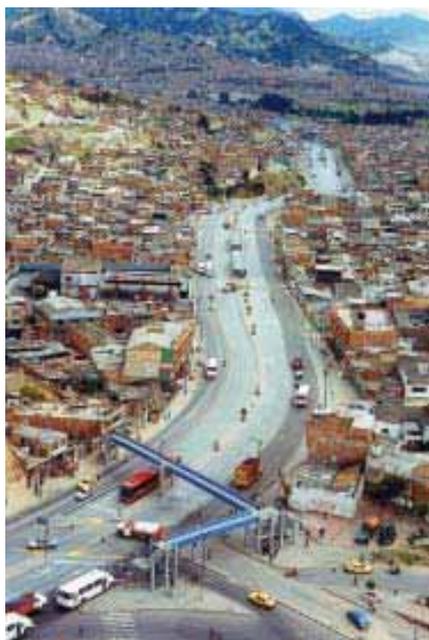
Monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) at city level in Latin America entails defining various measurements for poverty. Such monitoring also calls for better ways of identifying the poor, and through best practices, identifying model ways of reducing urban poverty.

Since 1997, the Ibero-American and Caribbean Forum on Best Practices, with funding from the Government of Spain, has been working to analyze, document and disseminate regional best practices that have contributed to improving the quality of life in the region's cities. The regional initiative is part of UN-HABITAT's global Best Practices and Local Leadership Programme.

Since 2004, it has concentrated efforts to promote the sharing of experience and knowledge, and to stimulate horizontal cooperation among cities and their partners. It has already collected over 500 examples as part of a programme that is still ongoing.

Already, the programme with a budget of USD 100,000, has conducted a survey to better understand the problems facing cities in the region, and produced various publications in Spanish, Portuguese and English, and strengthened partnerships in the region.

In Colombia, the Municipality of Cali, the local chamber of commerce, UN-HABITAT and the World Bank's Cities Alliance have teamed up in September 2004 on a one-year slum upgrading and



Low income housing in Bogotá, Colombia. Photo ©: UN-HABITAT

land tenure regularization project. Scheduled for completion in October 2005, it aims to regularize land tenure for 6,000 slum dwellers and to support the Municipality of Cali in promoting and coordinating regularization of land tenure and slum upgrading programmes.

On monitoring the MDGs, the main instruments to address problems such as employment and uneven income distribution come under the remit of federal or national government, which, most of the time, acts with very little coordination with local authorities. However, this does not stand in the way of MDG monitoring in a city like Bogotá.

In a city with a total of population of seven million, over 50 percent of people are living in poverty, many of them in slums.

Recent data collected by UN-HABITAT in the Colombian capital shows that wealth is very unevenly distributed. This highlights how economic development, both local and national, is taking place in a very unequal and discriminatory pattern. Surveys show that there are pockets of poverty in Bogotá itself that are poorer than the poorest regions of the country as a whole.

Indeed, the city's high levels of poverty, unequal wealth and income distribution high unemployment, low wages for those who do have jobs, as well as a growing informal economy and urbanization have increased demand for low-income housing.

On the MDG water target, the Colombian authorities have already greatly improved water and sanitation infrastructures in urban areas. Urban Colombia had probably met the standards set under the Target 10 as early as 1993. Therefore, the new goal for the city is for current water and sanitation services to keep up with the accelerated pace of urbanization, as well as to extend coverage to the poorest sectors.

Despite the uphill struggle against urban poverty, monitoring progress on the goals in Bogotá has opened up a fresh dialogue in the sphere of human development.

Fabio Giraldo is the UN-HABITAT Programme Manager in Colombia.

A new Local Urban Observatory network in Mexico

The Government of Mexico through the Ministry of Social Development (SEDESOL) is seeking to reach out to the poorest urban communities. In collaboration with the National Council for Science and Technology it is sponsoring 17 Local Urban Observatories. By the end of 2006, it is expected that 55 fully equipped LUOs will be operational and in place in Mexico. With this step, Mexico is taking the lead in Latin America and the Caribbean in the establishment of Local Urban Observatories (LUOs). The National Programme of Local Urban Observatories will benefit not only local authorities, but also universities, research centres, and civil society in general. UN-HABITAT hopes that this experience will be a positive example and serve as a best practice with lessons learned that can be transferred to other countries in the region. Local Urban Observatories have arisen around the world, as an instrument to boost the process of sustainable urban development. In these facilities, local stakeholders collect data and information and encourage a full and objective analysis to feed an informed public debate on the development of city strategies to combat urban poverty. They are of critical importance to achieve the Millennium Development Goals and the continuous implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Agenda 21. – Cecilia Martinez, Habitat Programme Manager, Mexico, and Erik Vittrup Christensen, Senior Human Settlements Officer, UN-HABITAT Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean.

Jordan's commitment to country-wide slum upgrading

By Yousef Hiasat

The government of Jordan has long given slums and poorly serviced areas its full attention. In the early 1980s, the Urban Development Department (UDD) was established as an independent body to upgrade these neighbourhoods in the capital, Amman.

It started by carrying out a comprehensive survey to identify such areas, and then launched a comprehensive upgrading programme. UDD succeeded in upgrading the services in 29 locations with some 15,021 housing units, hence improving the living conditions of 114,000 citizens. The Jordanian experience in this respect was acknowledged and recognized worldwide. One of the upgraded projects, East Wihdat in Amman, was awarded the Agha Khan Architecture Prize and the Habitat Scroll of Honor Award in 1992.

A National Housing Strategy was adopted in 1989 whereby the government announced its commitment to an environment in which the private sector could play the major role in the housing market with focus on lower income groups. UDD and the Housing Corporation (established in 1965) were merged in 1992 to form the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC). It was mandated to implement the new Housing Strategy throughout the Kingdom including slums and poorly serviced areas. The HUDC has managed to introduce substantial reforms to the housing sector.

In the course of implementing the Housing Strategy important steps were taken to eliminate the emergence of any new slum, to control the urban growth and to increase the housing supply to cater for the growing housing needs with focus on lower income groups. These steps included improving the legislative environment, reforming land policies, introducing a secondary mortgage market, revising the rental law, streamlining administrative procedures, and updating planning and building regulations.

On the other hand, the government continued to upgrade remaining poorly serviced areas. HUDC carried out a comprehensive survey of the country to

identify such areas and the needs of its inhabitants. Accordingly, a new upgrading programme was launched for those slums still remaining. Plans and designs of these projects were directed to improving the living and environmental conditions, as well as promoting employment opportunities and vocational training with focus on women. This was in line with the National Strategy for Eliminating Poverty and Unemployment that was adopted in 1998. As a result, 29 more sites were upgraded helping more than 327,000 inhabitants lead a better life in better conditions.

The government is currently monitoring the housing market; land, finance and housing production to ensure the housing needs of all citizens are met, including lower income groups. Several programmes were introduced to enable interventions to correct any disorders of the market. Various indicators revealed good progress in Jordan in achieving Millennium Development Goals. Indicators show that practically all Jordanians have security of tenure, 76.2 percent as owners of their homes, the rest as renters. More than 97 percent of households have access to piped water, more than 65 percent are connected to sewerage systems, and more than 99 percent of households have access to electricity.

Today, those areas requiring intervention are very few, and mostly in remote areas away from urban centres. New housing projects are being executed through the Social Security Package aimed at securing safe and healthy living conditions in these sites. The programme involves construction and maintaining houses for poor urban households and those households in scattered remote locations. The programme, intensely followed up by His Majesty King Abdullah II, is expected to serve 1,200 households.

Jordan declared its commitment together with the 189 nations which adopted the Millennium Development Goals. His Majesty King Abdullah II attended the Millennium Summit at the UN headquarters in New York, September 2000. In addressing the summit, he urged the nations gathered to look forward to the future, towards realizing a vision of



Mr. Hiasat, Jordan's Minister of Public Works and Housing. Photo ©: Government of Jordan

tolerant and peaceful humanity that protects life, whereby the Millennium Declaration form the means to monitor progress towards a comprehensive vision of development, peace and human rights that would form basis for the international relations in the 21st century.

I am honored to be a member of the Policy Advisory Board of the Cities Alliance working on achieving its official slogan, *Cities without Slums* around the world.

I reaffirm Jordan's full commitment to achieving the United Nations *Cities without Slums* initiative. It is very clear that Jordan is very close to meeting that target well before 2020. I also confirm Jordan's readiness to continue providing every assistance to both the initiative and UN-HABITAT's activities.

Yousef Hiasat is Minister of Public Works and Housing in Jordan

Make women in slums the Millennium goalkeepers

By Jockin Arputham

It is a very welcome commitment that world leaders have made in signing up to the Millennium Development Goals as the new blueprint in the fight against poverty. But like all good ideas, translate this commitment into reality in a practical and workable way is the real development challenge.

Talking about poverty without creating space and scope for poor people to participate in the process of change is the biggest mistake all governments make. They assume that if the political leaders of that area agree, people agree. But that is never the case.

How many development planners and managers actually know how to involve poor women in creating a way forward? How many experts acknowledge that it is poor women who are the real safety net today when the government abandons the poor? Yet the only role we locate for women is as victims. As though that is not enough, whenever any development investment comes in that locality, women who managed the survival process to survival become invisible.

My co-convenor of Slum Dwellers International, Ms. Rose Molokwane from the South African Homeless Federation put a very pertinent question to Mr. Mark Malloch Brown, the former Executive Director of UNDP and Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka when they met in 2003 at the World Summit on Sustainable Development in Johannesburg to launch their partnership

to work together on the MDGs: “Why are you asking professionals and consultants and NGOs to be your goal keepers for the MDGs? Why don’t you ask poor women in cities and rural areas to be your official goal keepers”.

The global commitment to governance is still to trickle down. What is the use of large amounts of money allocated to poverty reduction if it does not reach the poor or have an impact on their poverty. Many aspects of how the world manages business hurt the poor.

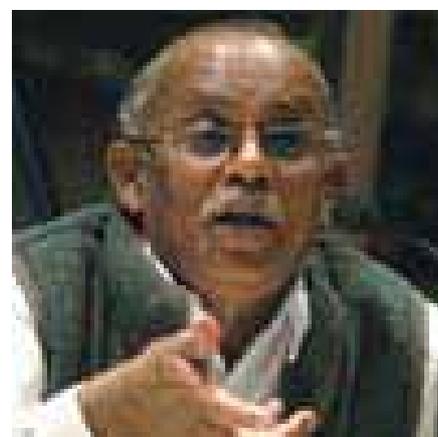
How are those of you who champion MDGs going to deal with demolitions? Poor people are coming to cities to survive, to get two meals a day, to seek health care and education for their children. For that they work informally, never getting minimum wages, and when cities don’t recognize their need for housing, they build their own homes.

The same State that talks about MDGs then demolishes their homes. In cases like Mumbai, India, where so many lost their homes in December, at least there was some pressure on the city to stop and examine alternatives. But what about the urban poor in Harare and other cities of Zimbabwe? What will the world committed to addressing poverty do for these poor people who have lost work and livelihood through demolitions? The development community has abandoned the state, but what about the poor?

Those of us who live in slums in the cities of world want to see this change happening in a way that involves us. It

helps us change the mindset of our brothers and sisters who have begun to despair.

We want to work in collaboration and partnerships with city and national governments and international aid organizations – not as beneficiaries and consumers – but as partners working shoulder to shoulder. Having the right to challenge the conventional development wisdom, of being able to explore innovative ways to bring change, and most importantly to show the change on the ground because that change felt by the poor is the real litmus test of the MDGs.



Jockin Arputham is founder of the National Slum Dwellers Federation in India. He holds the prestigious Magsaysay Award for selfless service to the people of Asia, and was recently awarded the French Order of Merit for his work among those most destitute.

Photo ©: UN-HABITAT

Estimated urban slum population (without radical action by governments)

	1990	2005	2015	2020
North Africa	21,719	21,224	20,901	20,741
Sub-Saharan Africa	100,973	199,231	313,419	393,105
Latin America and the Caribbean	110,837	134,257	152,559	162,626
East Asia	150,761	212,368	266,863	299,150
East Asia excluding China	12,831	16,702	19,911	21,739
South Asia	198,663	276,432	344,537	384,644
Southeast Asia	48,986	59,913	68,521	73,279
West Asia	28,641	46,288	63,747	74,808
Oceania	350	568	786	924
DEVELOPING regions:	660,929	946,529	1,202,597	1,355,543
WORLD	721,608	1,010,898	1,265,644	1,416,164

Source: UN-HABITAT, Global Urban Observatory, 2005. Figures are expressed in thousands.

Tolstoy, community cybernetics, and the MDGs

By Jay Moor

Leo Tolstoy famously wrote that all happy families are alike, but each unhappy family is unhappy in its own way. If the same can be said about dysfunctional cities, we must be prepared to deal with the unique micro-realities of *each* ailing community. This can only be done practically by encouraging residents to engage in a form of therapy that begins with local self-discovery. This must be a central aim in monitoring the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

In an economically pressurized world where more than 95 percent of all development decisions are made by members of civil society, each acting more or less in their own self-interest, central coordinative systems of governance are failing. Squatters and slumlords everywhere make their choices outside the world of plans and regulations, as do an increasing number of small-scale entrepreneurs. This self-interest promotes unsustainable urban development, inhibiting a cooperative vision for the future that the complex urban ecology demands. The collective future is no-one's baby and in effect has become an orphan.

To recover the future, city by city, citizen feedback techniques must be employed as adaptable and dynamic navigational tools to help chart the course toward clearly defined community goals. As recommended in Agenda 21 and the Habitat Agenda, participatory processes can be applied to all points of the decision-making compass giving the public an increased voice in setting local goals, priorities, policies, programmes and budgets.

As never before, governance processes must embrace the concept of community cybernetics, the science of feedback and adjustment. Community cybernetics is monitoring and adjustment within and by communities, where many problems are first recognized and most strongly felt.

The oxygen of good governance is good information. Grass roots feedback is a critical element of an enabling strategy that is now a well-accepted feature of good governance. In its various forms – including indicators, report cards, surveys, media analyses and action research – community cybernetics can



New low income housing in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania. Photo ©: UN-HABITAT

provide reliable information for policy dialogue and debate, helping to define a collective vision for the future and the way forward. This may be information that cannot be obtained through more traditional channels or from higher levels.

People centered information systems – subjective as well as objective – contribute to an accessible pool of knowledge. Here, the implicit social goal is to help everyone understand the points of view, needs, aspirations and fears of others. Only when we create self-aware cities – cities whose citizens understand one another – will there be a chance that they become sustainable.

In a rapidly urbanizing world, problems spring unheralded from the landscape and reach a flash point in shorter and shorter cycles. Information on the status of the city's environment and the status of its residents' lives must be generated, digested and disseminated in equally short cycles. Most importantly, citizens must have access to an almost continuous flow of information so that they can understand and act responsibly within their own environments.

There is no denying that making good use of information is hard work, taking time that most people can ill afford. On the other hand, deferring to vested interests, lobbyists and professional politicians will only ensure the continuation of forms of governance that are largely unresponsive to community needs, especially those of poor communities.

Community cybernetics serves an infinite variety of situations and expectations: from raising red flags to discovering and tracking trends; from calculating revenue shares to benchmarking; from modeling the future to triggering political action; from detecting citizen discontent to measuring impacts; and from holding policy makers accountable to placing a human face on political issues.

Good urban governance calls for objective sets of numbers to support communities' preferences and priorities, but it also pleads for a more holistic system that involves the residents themselves. With the Millennium Declaration, world leaders have identified the basic components of poverty and have made a commitment to alter the policies that sustain them. That is their role as leaders. The next step is *not* to march forward from their capitals armed with silver spears. Rather, it is to look inward, granting power and authority to civil society – supporting and enabling community self-discovery – reserving to themselves, the central powers and local authorities, a responsibility for recognizing and removing barriers to the healing process.

Through people-centered information systems, governance processes can be revitalized and made more responsive to specific community needs, giving locally realistic weight and relevance to each of the MDGs.

Jay Moor is UN-HABITAT's former Chief of Strategic Planning in the Office of the Executive Director.

Best Practices identified by the Cities Alliance Secretariat

By Mark Hildebrand and William Cobbett

The 60th session of the General Assembly will hear from member states what actions they have taken to address the world's most pressing development problems. In the wake of the summit of the Group of Eight industrialized nations, poverty, especially in Africa, will likely be brought into sharp focus.

Of particular interest to members of the World Bank's Cities Alliance, will be the reports of national governments responding to Target 11, which called upon governments *by 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers*. Where city and national governments have increased their attention on the plight of slum dwellers, they have found that they have also had a significant impact across a range of Millennium goals – including those dealing with poverty, health, and the environment – because the world's slums are the locus of every deprivation and ailment associated with extreme poverty.

As the Cities Alliance reported in its' 2003 Annual report, a number of member states have responded decisively to the Millennium Declaration, and implemented nationwide programmes to improve the conditions of slum dwellers and, in so doing, simultaneously increase the economic efficiency of their towns and cities.

The federal government of **Brazil**, as well as cities such as Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, and Salvador de Bahia, have moved from sectoral projects to comprehensive upgrading frameworks designed to integrate slums into the city fabric. Since then, we have seen the Salvador programme adopted as a model for statewide upgrading by the State of Bahia and also reflected upon the innovation and success of São Paulo's *Barrio Legal* programme.

Mauritania, one of the poorest countries in the world, is demonstrating how a combination of political will, long-term policy and budgetary planning underwritten by good technical assistance can regularise and improve living conditions in slums, as well as provide options to avoid the growth of new slums in a rapidly urbanizing country.

Morocco has established one of the most comprehensive approaches to slum upgrading anywhere in the world through its comprehensive and ambitious *villes sans bidonvilles* programme. Led by the King, the Government has set long-term national targets, provided significant budgetary allocations, engaged with the local governments, and obtained the support of a number of multilateral and bilateral development agencies.

There are a number of other countries that have taken decisive steps to make progress in upgrading all slums. In **South Africa** the national government and major cities such as eThekweni (Durban), Ekurhuleni and Tshwane (Pretoria) have developed citywide plans for upgrading and city development, whereas Johannesburg has twice approached the local capital markets to fund its revitalization.

Thailand has introduced the Bann Mankong programme to achieve cities without slums, based on highly innovative approaches to upgrading developed by communities themselves, working in close cooperation with the national agency CODI, which was established by the government in 1992.

Of all countries in the developing world, **Tunisia** has arguably come closest to achieving the vision of cities without slums, through a national upgrading programme that predates the Millennium Declaration and has spanned the last two decades.

Since the publication of the Cities Alliance 2003 review, a number of cities have moved to the forefront with the introduction of comprehensive upgrading and city development strategies. **Mbabane**, capital of landlocked Swaziland, has recently introduced a programme to upgrade all slums within the city, aiming to become a city without slums by 2015. This challenge has also been taken up by **Dar es Salaam**, which was amongst the first African cities to set itself the goal of upgrading all of its slums, also by 2015. **Dakar** has designed a comprehensive city development strategy, while the Government of **Senegal** is also moving towards finalizing its own plans for a national *villes sans bidonvilles* (cities without slums) programme.

Elsewhere, the City of **Mumbai** bowed to political pressure to arrest its brutal forced evictions and has settled into a more developmental approach to revitalise and reposition the city, one of the world's biggest.

These are but a few examples of city and national governments in different parts of the world that have responded to the vision and promise of achieving cities without slums. They have chosen different developmental paths, but all display a number of common features. They include:

- Strong and consistent political determination and leadership.
- A willingness to underwrite political determination by setting targets, and allocating budgetary resources – in short, making slum upgrading core business, to be undertaken day after day, and year after year.
- The importance of implementing a number of reforms, particularly to remove constraints and distortions from urban land markets, as well as financial and institutional reforms.

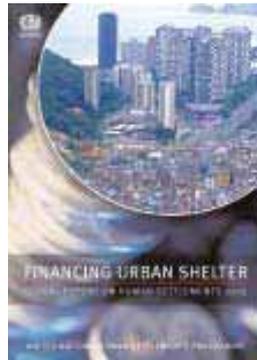
Increasingly, city governments are demonstrating an increased emphasis on financial sustainability, and focusing their attention on the possibilities of raising domestic sources of investment and credit.

City and national governments are thinking ahead, recognizing the positive contribution of cities and of urbanization, and taking steps to prevent the next generation of slums.

Mark Hildebrand is Manager of the Cities Alliance Secretariat. William Cobbett manages the slum upgrading portfolio of the Cities Alliance.

Financing Urban Shelter – Global Report on Human Settlements 2005

ISBN: 1-84407-211-8
HS number: HS/752/05E
Language: English
Publisher: UN-HABITAT/Earthscan



Achieving the goals set by world leaders in the Millennium Declaration will be difficult without a significant improvement in the lives of slum dwellers. As *Financing Urban Shelter: Global Report on Human Settlements 2005* emphasizes, one of the key challenges in meeting the slums target is the mobilisation of the financial resources necessary for both slum upgrading and slum prevention by supplying new housing affordable to lower income groups on a large scale. By highlighting the impacts of current shelter financing systems on low-income households, and by identifying the types of financing mechanisms that appear to have worked for them, this report will contribute to the efforts of the wide range of actors involved in improving the lives of slum dwellers, including governments at the central and local levels, as well as non-governmental and international organizations. This report is the most authoritative and up to date assessment of conditions and trends in the world's cities. It is an essential tool and reference for researchers, academics, public authorities and civil society organizations around the world.

dwellers and managed a projected near doubling of the urban population over the next thirty years. This report provides a blueprint for progress using successful examples from around the world. It shows how to provide adequate shelter, improved public services and core urban infrastructure. It shows that the knowledge, tools and financial resources exist to meet the goal of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers to provide alternatives to slum formation.

Herramientas para Promover la Transparencia En la Gobernanza Local

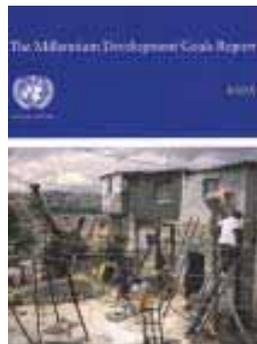
ISBN No.: 92-1-331053-7
HS Number: HS/702/04S
Production Year: 2004
Language(s): Spanish
Price: US\$ 12
Publisher: Transparency International and UN-HABITAT



The publication is a guide for all urban stakeholders - policy makers, professionals, private sector, civil society organizations and concerned citizens working to improve the quality of life in their cities.

The Millennium Development Goals Report 2005

ISBN No.: 92-1-100972-3
Language: English
Publisher: United Nations



A progress report on how far advances have been made and how far they still have to be made in each of the world's regions on achieving the goals. This work running into 43 pages is a collaborative effort among a large number of agencies and organizations within and outside the United Nations system.

Local Elected Leadership Training Series

ISBN No.: 92-1-131729-0
HS Number: HS/744/05E
Production Year: 2005
Language(s): English



The roles and responsibilities of local elected leaders have changed in many areas (economic, political, social, environmental, cultural and technological). The new series of four handbooks is aimed at enhancing the local governments' capacity in a number of areas including policy making, negotiating, managing finances, and leadership.

A home in the city

ISBN No.: 1-84407-230-4
Language: English
Publisher: Earthscan/Millennium Project



In this report, the Task Force on Improving the Lives of Slum Dwellers identifies the strategies needed to meet one of the most important challengers of our times. Cities in the developing countries need to improve the lives of slum

Operational Activities Report 2005

ISBN No.: 92-1-131679-0
HS Number: HS/740/05E
Production Year: 2005
Language(s): English

Disasters in India: Studies of Grim Reality

Author: Anu Kapur
ISBN: 81-7033-932-4
Language: English
Publisher: Rawat Publications, Jaipur-302 004 (India)

Zimbabwe evictions

Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka, in her role as UN Special Envoy on Human Settlements Issues in Zimbabwe visited the country in June on a fact-finding mission to assess nationwide evictions in urban centres. She presented a report on the situation to UN Secretary-General Kofi Annan. According to UN-HABITAT, some 700,000 people in cities across the country either lost their homes, their source of livelihood or both. Indirectly, a further 2.4 million people were affected to varying degrees. Hundreds of thousands of women, men and children are now homeless, without access to food, water and sanitation, or health care. Education for thousands of school age children has been disrupted. Many of the sick, including those with HIV and AIDS no longer have access to care. Mrs. Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, held talks with President Robert Mugabe and members of his government, as well as a wide cross-section of society, including the evictees, during her tour of the country. Her report was issued on 22 July 2005.

Global campaigns launch in Cuba

In June, UN-HABITAT formally launched its two global campaigns on secure tenure and urban governance in Cuba in a new drive to consolidate the fight against urban poverty. At a glittering ceremony addressed by the Mayor of Havana, Mr. Juan Contino Aslam, and representatives of UN-HABITAT and UNEP, Cuban officials cited the permanent need to keep fighting urban poverty and ensuring equal opportunities for all.

Tsunami assistance

Six months after the tsunami struck off the coast of Indonesia, UN-HABITAT has been working towards sustainable reconstruction of the tsunami-affected countries in two ways – help in long-term reconstruction strategies at the national level, and implementation of community-based integrated shelter reconstruction projects at the community level. It has also helped governments coordinate agencies and NGO's assisting Indonesia and Sri Lanka, to ensure that reconstruction efforts of different organizations are directed towards the common goals and within the framework set by the long-term development strategies of the countries. Additionally, UN-HABITAT has developed partnerships with the private sector, in an effort to maximize the effectiveness of project implementation. To date, UN-HABITAT has jointly mobilised about US\$ 21 million with UNDP to launch a series of shelter and community infrastructure reconstruction in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and Maldives.

European Parliament

In a discussion of urbanisation in the developing world, Mr. Daniel Biau, Deputy Executive Director of UN-HABITAT addressed the Committee on Development of the European Parliament in June. He explained the urbanisation process of recent decades. He described how the locus of poverty is moving from rural areas to the cities, and the opportunities offered by city dynamics. Pointing out that 1 billion people, or 32 per cent of the world's urban population, live in slums mainly in Asia and Africa, he urged MEPs to place urban problems on top of the international development agenda. He also called for an increased cooperation between UN-HABITAT and the European Commission.

Japanese aid

A Japanese funded programme to help resettle displaced people and refugees returning home in northern Somalia made major progress in May when the authorities agreed to set aside land for thousands of destitute people. The Government of Japan pledged US\$ 1,895,200 for Internally Displaced People (IDPs) and Returnees in Somalia under a UN-HABITAT programme.

Upcoming Events

World Habitat Day

3 October, Jakarta, Indonesia.

Theme: The Millennium Development Goals and the City
Spearheaded from Jakarta, the occasion will be celebrated in cities around the world.

United Nations General Assembly 60th Session

September – December, New York.

Innovative Cities across the World

International platform on sustainable urban development, Geneva, Switzerland, 11-13 October.

Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum

7-9 November, Rabat, Morocco.

World Summit on the Information Society (WSIS)

Phase II

16-18 November, Tunis.

International Policies and Strategies of Cities

Conference of the European Science Foundation and the European Urban Research Association, Lyon, France, 10 December.

In Memoriam

Jacqueline Omondi, 1971 – 2005

One of UN-HABITAT's most dedicated and beloved staff members, Ms. Jacqueline Omondi, passed away on 18 July 2005. Jackie joined UN-HABITAT in October 1994 as a Representation and Protocol Assistant responsible for organising, and preparing documentation and meetings for the Commission on Human Settlements, which later became the Governing Council for Human Settlements. She rapidly proved herself to be a pivotal member of the Secretariat to the Governing Council, External Relations and Inter-Agency Affairs Section. Prior to joining UN-HABITAT, she earned a BSc. in Management Systems and Business Administration at the United States International University. Loved by her colleagues in the agency, she was also well known to the diplomatic community with whom she worked on a daily basis. "Jackie will be deeply missed by many colleagues and friends inside and outside UN-HABITAT," said Executive Director, Mrs. Anna Tibaijuka. "She will be remembered for her sense of humour, her professionalism, her unflinching dedication to her work, and her generous spirit. Our deepest condolences go out to her family and friends. May the Good Lord grant her soul eternal peace."

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