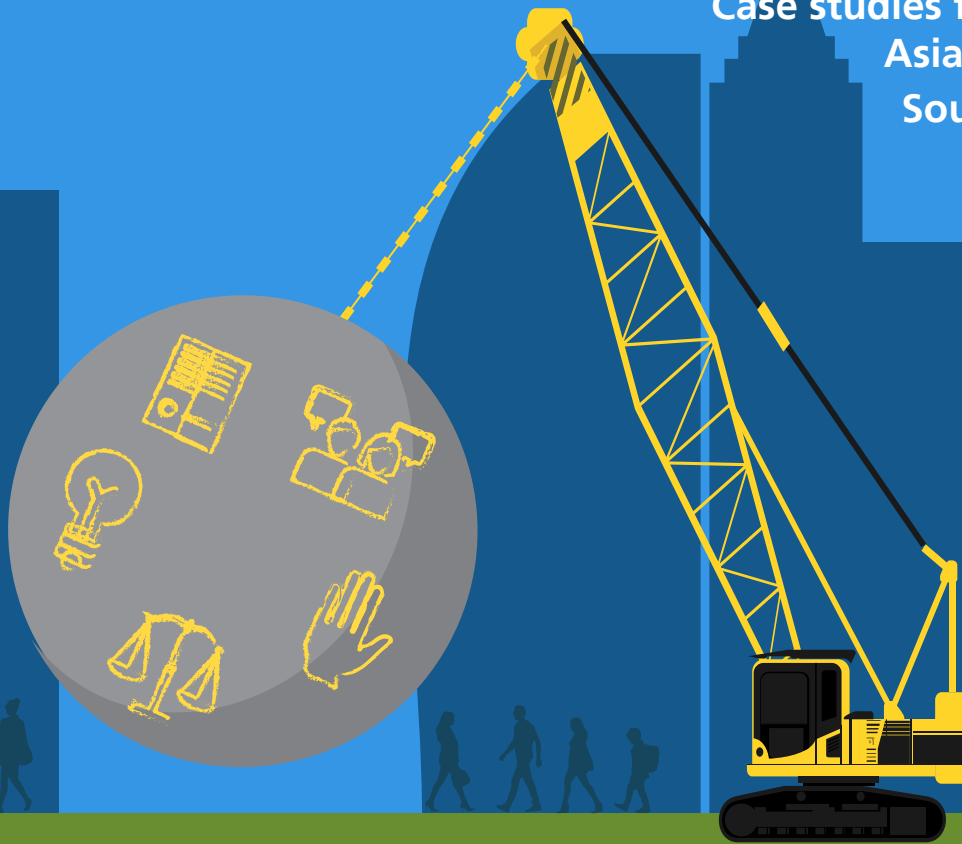


HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES SERIES

ALTERNATIVE SOLUTIONS TO FORCED EVICTIONS AND SLUM DEMOLITIONS

Case studies from Africa,
Asia, North and
South America



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FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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First published in Nairobi in 2018 by UN-Habitat.

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LIST OF ABBREVIATIONS

CEDAW	Convention on the Elimination of all forms of Discrimination Against Women
CESCR	Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights
HRBA	Human Rights-Based Approach
HRC	Human Rights Commission
ICCPR	International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights
ICESCR	International Covenant on Economic, Social, Cultural Rights
IDP	Internally Displaced Person
IOM	International Organization for Migration
NGO	Non-governmental Organization
SR	UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Adequate Housing and Non-discrimination in this context
RTAH	The Right to Adequate Housing
UDHR	Universal Declaration of Human Rights

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Slum demolitions and forced evictions are a gross violation of human rights, specifically the right to adequate housing. Adopting an inhumane displacement approach not only violates human rights international standards, but also reduces the city's prosperity prospects in the medium and long term run by undermining them. Forced evictions also intensify inequality, social conflict, segregation and invariably affect the poorest, most socially and economically vulnerable and marginalized people of society, especially women and children. Without tackling the underlying reasons for slum formations, they are bound to prevail. Thus, it is imperative to implement strategies that are in line with international

human rights standards to face the challenges posed by informal settlements and slums.

While strategies may vary greatly depending on the country's socio-economic environment, the alternatives mentioned and analyzed in the case studies presented herein have improved urban prosperity and thus require great consideration and scaling up of the methodologies in other regions. UN-Habitat's mandate in this context assumes paramount importance, regarding the promotion and protection of the Right to Adequate Housing for all which entails the prevention of forced evictions.

This publication showcases examples where forced eviction have been avoided in cases such as:

Vila Autodromo in Brazil, where a community planned multi-scale strategy enabled the neighborhood to successfully push their cause into the public domain



Haiti, where the government's policy has gradually formalized informal settlement as a durable solution to internal displacement



Kenya, where improved access to justice has led to local communities threatened with eviction seeking judicial protection against forced eviction and succeeding

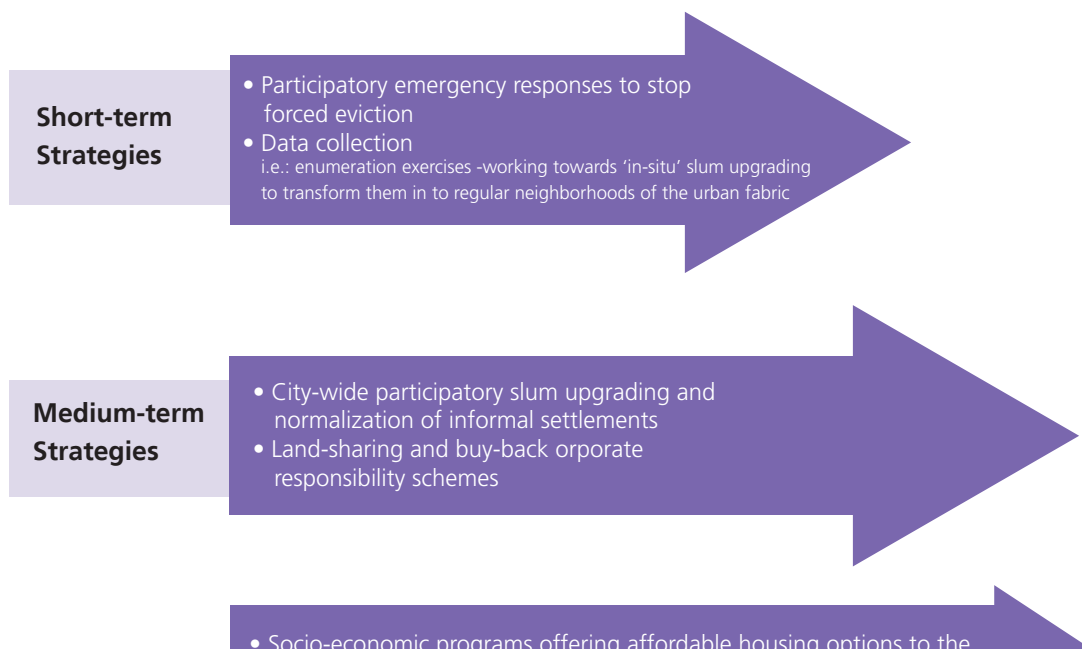


The Philippines where alternatives to forced evictions include slum upgrading and nearby relocation, with poor communities gradually gaining access to basic services such as health, water and sanitation



Ultimately, through these four cases, this publication prescribes short-term, medium term and long-term strategies and interventions that

have prevented forced evictions and mitigated the risks of evictions that have taken place.



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