

**URBAN LEGAL CASE STUDIES** 

**VOLUME 1** 









# VOLUME 1: HUAMBO LAND READJUSTMENT

**URBAN LEGAL CASE STUDIES** 

2013

#### **HUAMBO LAND READJUSTMENT**

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P. O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi Kenya Tel: +254-020-7623120 (Central Office)

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#### **ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS:**

Principal author: The Development Workshop

Team leader: Solomon Haile

Design and layout: Emma-Liisa Hannula, Paul Opondo Editor: Melissa Permezel, Vicky Quinlan

Contributors: Solomon Haile, Robert Lewis Lettington,

Melissa Permezel and Gianluca Crispi

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## **PREFACE**

A core objective of UN-Habitat's Urban Legislation Unit is to develop and disseminate knowledge and information about urban law, particularly through the mechanism of the Urban Legal Network. This publication is the first in a series of informative papers supported by UN-Habitat's Urban Legislation Unit and the Urban Legal Network, a chapter of the Global Land Tool Network. The aim of the series is to capture and share the experiences and findings from research and projects that can make important contributions to urban law and development knowledge.

This publication focuses on an area of significant interest to UN-Habitat: the potential of land readjustment as a tool to deliver serviced land at scale in developing countries. The potential benefits for urban development of a good land readjustment process and outcome are significant. These benefits include land value sharing as an effective means to distribute costs, enhanced community engagement, and an enhanced capacity for authorities to reshape urban areas to meet current and future demands. These characteristics mean that land readjustment can improve working relationships between landowners, developers and public authorities, including through public-private partnerships. Importantly for UN-Habitat, land readjustment could do this while limiting the growth of informal settlements and addressing key needs of the poor, such as adequate shelter and affordable access to the economic life of urban areas.

The case studies featured here, on land readjustment in Huambo, Angola, provide an opportunity to learn about the potential, and the challenges, of land readjustment in an African city. The cases yield information about managing land readjustment in the absence of formal legislation on land readjustment and in the context of what was, at the time of writing the report, a change in local governance structures following a decree on decentralization. The case studies also give some interesting insights into the possible mechanisms for engaging communities and the conditions necessary to do so effectively.

Thanks to Development Workshop for their efforts on this publication.



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