

GUIDE TO FINANCE **INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC SERVICES**

United Nations Human Settlements Programme
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The Global Urban Economic Dialogue Series

Guide to Finance Infrastructure and Basic Services

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FOREWORD



Urbanization is one of the most powerful, irreversible forces in the world. It is estimated that 93 percent of the future urban population growth will occur in the cities of Asia and

Africa, and to a lesser extent, Latin America and the Caribbean.

We live in a new urban era with most of humanity now living in towns and cities. Global poverty is moving into cities, mostly in developing countries, in a process we call the *urbanisation of poverty*.

The world's slums are growing and growing as are the global urban populations. Indeed, this is one of the greatest challenges we face in the new millennium.

The persistent problems of poverty and slums are in large part due to weak urban economies. Urban economic development is fundamental to UN-Habitat's mandate. Cities act as engines of national economic development. Strong urban economies are essential for poverty reduction and the provision of adequate housing, infrastructure, education, health, safety, and basic services.

The *Global Urban Economic Dialogue* series presented here is a platform for all sectors of the society to address urban economic development and particularly its contribution to addressing housing issues. This work carries many new ideas, solutions and innovative best practices from some of the world's leading urban thinkers and practitioners from international organisations, national governments, local authorities, the private sector, and civil society.

This series also gives us an interesting insight and deeper understanding of the wide range of urban economic development and human settlements development issues. It will serve UN member States well in their quest for better policies and strategies to address increasing global challenges in these areas

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Joan Clos

Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations, Executive Director, UN-Habitat

TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORD	III
ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS	VII
CHAPTER 1 INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	1
CHAPTER 2 DOES INVESTMENT IN INFRASTRUCTURE PAY FOR ITSELF?	4
CHAPTER 3 FUNDING AND FINANCING INFRASTRUCTURE	7
CHAPTER 4 FILLING THE INFRASTRUCTURE FUNDING GAP	8
CHAPTER 5 INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING MODELS	20
CHAPTER 6 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF PFIS AND PPPS	29
CHAPTER 7 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF TAXES TO FINANCE INFRASTRUCTURE	33
CHAPTER 8 FURTHER ANALYSIS OF INFRASTRUCTURE CHARGES	39
CHAPTER 9 OVERVIEW OF FUNDING AND FINANCING MODELS	44
CHAPTER 10 THE BROADER CONTEXT OF INFRASTRUCTURE INNOVATIONS	47
CHAPTER 11 OVERVIEW AND CONCLUSIONS	53
CHAPTER 12 RECOMMENDATIONS FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES	56
REFERENCES	59

ABBREVIATIONS AND ACRONYMS

AD	Anaerobic Digestion	MOs	Mutual Organisations
AIDS	Acquired Immune Deficiency Syndrome	NCDs	Non-Communicable Diseases
AMS	Asset Management System	NPD	Non-Profit Distributing
BIDs	Business Improvement Districts	OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
BRS	Business Rate Supplement	PBF	Prudential Borrowing Framework
CBOs	Community Buy-Outs	PFI	Private Finance Initiatives
CIL	Community Infrastructure Levy	PGS	Planning Gain Supplement
CFOs	Chief Finance Officers	Piigs	Portugal, Italy, Ireland, Greece and Spain
EU	European Union	PPPs	Public-Private Partnerships
FTT	Financial Transactions Tax	RAB	Regulatory Asset Base
GIB	Green Investment Bank	SCT	Social Cost Tariff
GDP	Gross Domestic Product	SIBs	Social Investment Bonds
GPS	Global Positioning Systems	SMEs	Small And Medium-Sized Enterprises
G20	The Group of 20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors	SPC	Statutory Planning Charge
HIV	Human Immunodeficiency Virus	SPV	Special Purpose Vehicle
ICTs	Information and Communications Technologies	TB	Tuberculosis
IFRS	International Financial Reporting Standards	TIF	Tax Increment Financing
ISAs	Individual Savings Accounts	UK	United Kingdom
IT	Information Technology	USA	United States of America
LVT	Land Value Tax	VAT	Value Added Tax
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals	WHO	World Health Organisation
		WTO	World Trade Organisation

CHAPTER 1 INFRASTRUCTURE REQUIREMENTS IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Global infrastructural investment needs are enormous, amounting to tens of trillions of American dollars. The OECD (2006 & 2007) estimates that some USD4 trillion are required for investment in electricity supply, USD5 trillion for roads, USD8 trillion for telecoms and USD18 trillion for water supply and sewerage systems. Because of their rapid population growth most of this investment is required in developing countries, population in most developed countries being largely static or even forecast to decline over the next few decades due to falling rates of female fertility.

Not only are the populations of developing countries fast growing, they are also becoming increasingly urbanised. In 2010 50.8% of the world's population lived in urban areas, higher (75.2%) in the more developed regions of Europe, North America, Australia, New Zealand and Japan and lower (45.5%) in the less developed regions of Africa, Asia (excluding Japan), Latin America and the Caribbean and Oceania (excluding Australia and New Zealand). However, the proportionate rate of urbanisation is expected to be more than twice as fast in less developed regions than in more developed regions between 2010 and 2020.

That fleeting opportunity for economic and social development is in danger of being missed because of the vicious cycle of poverty, food insecurity and inequality leading to high death rates that, in turn, encourages and sustains high birth rates amongst a largely illiterate and repressed female population, especially in African countries.

As the populations of developing countries increase so too does the incidence of disease and health inequalities which severely hinder economic growth in those countries. Solutions to health problems require environmental sustainability (especially to improve access to safe drinking water), improved access to affordable medicines and health workers and promotion of women's rights and education to reduce illiteracy and increase their employability. Moreover, millions of people still succumb to communicable diseases such as Aids, malaria (the geographic spread of which is expected to increase as a result of global warming) and tuberculosis (TB). The most cost effective way of dealing with these issues involves relatively small-scale community-level infrastructure including ill-health prevention services.

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