



UN HABITAT



TRINIDAD: SCARBOROUGH URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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FOREWORD



According to research published in UN-Habitat's¹ flagship report, *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*, all developing regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-Habitat estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate.

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-Habitat is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-Habitat, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-Habitat headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-Habitat to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Joan Clos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director, UN-Habitat

¹ UN-Habitat - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Urban Profiling is a rapid and action-oriented urban assessment of needs and capacity-building gaps at national and local levels. It is currently being implemented in over 20 countries in Africa, the Arab states, and the Caribbean. Urban profiling uses a structured approach in which priority interventions are agreed upon through a consultative process. It consists of three phases: (1) a rapid participatory urban profiling at national and local levels, focusing on governance, informal settlements, urban services, urban safety, local economic development, disaster management, environment, and proposed interventions; (2) detailed priority proposals; and (3) project implementation.

Urban profiling in Trinidad and Tobago encompasses a national profile, as well as profiles for Port of Spain, Scarborough, and San Fernando, each published as a separate report. This is the Scarborough report and it constitutes a general background, a synthesis of specific themes – Governance; Slums, Shelter, Land, and Tenure; Basic Urban Services; Inclusive and Safer Cities; Local Economic Development; Disaster Management, Climate Change, and Environment – and priority project proposals.

BACKGROUND

Tobago is the smaller island of the twin island state of Trinidad and Tobago. Scarborough falls within the parish of St Andrews and is the main town in Tobago. Its terrain slopes down from the Main Ridge in the north to the Atlantic Ocean in the south. It houses a deep-water harbour and cruise ship complex and as such facilitates the economically important tourism sector. Scarborough also accommodates the majority of the island's commercial offices and governmental agencies. However, many of these services and functions exist within infrastructure and buildings that are in a poor state. With the exception of the historical buildings and a few modern ones, the building stock (both residential and commercial) largely has low-quality building materials. Daunting galvanized iron and steel structures, which are both unsightly and unsafe, border many streets and exist in the prime areas of downtown Scarborough. A complete rehabilitation and regeneration of Scarborough is imperative in order to raise the standard of this tourist island.

GOVERNANCE

Scarborough is the main centre of governance in Tobago, and the Tobago House of Assembly is the main governance entity. The assembly was established

by Act No. 37 (1980) and gives some powers to Tobago with regard to its finances, policy, planning, and administration. Many have complained, however, that the Tobago House of Assembly's autonomy is too limited.

SLUMS, SHELTER, LAND AND TENURE

“Slums”, as used in the UN context, do not exist in Scarborough, but many houses in the Bagatelle, Darryl Spring, and Sangsters Hill areas of Scarborough exhibit many of the critical characteristics. While the Tobago House of Assembly allocates funds for settlement improvement, given other pressing issues, settlement improvement does not always receive the appropriate attention.

The Land Management Department deals with issues related to state land, which accounts for 34 percent of all land in Tobago. Squatting is seen as a measure of “land hunger” in relation to the availability of unused state land. As a result, the Tobago House of Assembly instigated a distribution system in an attempt to accommodate people who are willing to invest a minimum sum of money for leased state land.

BASIC URBAN SERVICES

There are a number of agencies responsible for the provision and coordination of infrastructure and public utilities, including the Tobago House of Assembly, the Water and Sewage Authority, and the Trinidad and Tobago Electricity Commission. Ninety-one percent of Scarborough's communities receive a piped water supply. Access to houses on slopes can be an issue, and some informal settlements depend on rainwater. A number of residential structures in the informal settlements lack proper sanitation facilities, with pit latrines being used as opposed to proper sewerage connections.

INCLUSIVE AND SAFER CITIES

Whilst Tobago is generally felt to be safer than neighbouring Trinidad in terms of the levels of crime, there are times when the police force is very concerned about crime. Indeed, crime in Tobago has a particular impact on the all-important tourism industry. Within Scarborough, the design of communities and the buildings within them can encourage social exclusion and unsafe living quarters, while promoting illegal activities.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

While some 57 percent of the workforce is employed by the Tobago House of Assembly, there is considerable dependence on the tourism industry. The Cove Eco-Industrial and Business Park in south-west Tobago was approved in early 2010 to develop light industries. This project is expected to provide a range of new jobs as well as providing opportunities for diversification away from tourism.

DISASTER MANAGEMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND ENVIRONMENT

The environment is of primary importance and needs proper maintenance in order to ensure a sustainable tourism industry. The Division of Agriculture, Marine Affairs, and the Environment, which houses a sub-department of Natural Resources and the Environment, is responsible for environmental issues. They are governed by the Environmental Management Act 2000.

Tobago falls within the hurricane belt in the Caribbean. The Tobago Emergency Management Agency is the primary emergency management agency in Tobago. The agency undertook a vulnerability assessment for the island, and has attempted to relocate persons after disasters such as hurricanes and landslides.

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Urban Profiling

The Trinidad and Tobago urban profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects, all aimed at urban poverty reduction. Urban profiling is being implemented in many Arab, African, Caribbean, and Pacific countries.

In Trinidad and Tobago and the other Caribbean countries, the urban profiling is being done in partnership with the University of the West Indies. This offers an opportunity for comparative regional analysis, with particular customization to the Caribbean context and history, which holds particular relevance in the formulation of the themes.

METHODOLOGY

The **Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme** consists of three phases:

Phase one consists of rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium-sized city, and a small city are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on the following themes: governance; transport, shelter, land, and economic basic urban services;

Phase two builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity-building and capital investment projects.

Phase three implements the projects developed during the two earlier phases, with an emphasis on skills development, institutional strengthening, and replication.

This report presents the outcomes of **Phase One** of the urban profiling in Scarborough.

URBAN PROFILING IN SCARBOROUGH

Urban profiling in Scarborough is one of three such exercises conducted in Trinidad and Tobago. Similar exercises are being undertaken in Port of Spain, the capital city, and San Fernando, a medium-sized city in south Trinidad. Each urban profile is published as a separate report.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

1. a **general background** of the urban sector in Scarborough, based on the findings of the desk study undertaken, interviews, and a consultation that was held in Scarborough on 17 February 2011. The background includes data on administration, urban planning, the economy, the informal sector, the private sector, urban poverty, infrastructure, water, sanitation, public transport, street lighting, energy, health and education.
2. an assessment of the areas of governance; slums, shelter, land, and tenure; basic urban services; inclusive and safer cities; local economic development; and disaster management, climate change, and environment, in terms of the

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