



UN HABITAT



ANTIGUA AND BARBUDA: ALL SAINTS URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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FOREWORDS



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

OVERVIEW

“Slums in many cities are no longer just marginalized neighbourhoods housing a relatively small proportion of the urban population; in many cities, they are the dominant type of human settlement, carving their way into the fabric of modern-day cities, and making their mark as a distinct category of human settlement that now characterizes so many cities in the developing world.” - UN-HABITAT

With over half the world population living in cities, it is estimated that one in every three urban dwellers now lives in a slum. The total slum population today exceeds one billion.

The daunting daily challenges poverty-stricken slum dwellers face range from a lack of basic services and infrastructure such as water and sanitation, to a lack of security of tenure and job opportunities.

A large number of them live in the African, Caribbean, and Pacific regions, which is why the European Community, through its agency EuropeAid and the Intra-ACP Fund, provided 4 million Euros for UN-HABITAT’s Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

One of the most important impacts of the programme is that it brings together a wide range of stakeholders and urban actors. Local and national government, private and informal sector, civil society, non-governmental organization, academia, and research institute representatives join bilateral and multilateral partners to discuss the major challenges and how best to address them.

Such collaboration is advantageous, especially the involvement of target groups, who often know best how to improve living conditions. Innovative planning, programme formulation, and resource mobilization will reinforce partners as they meet the future demands of our growing cities.

CRITICAL ISSUES IN ALL SAINTS VILLAGE

HISTORY AND IMPORTANCE OF ALL SAINTS VILLAGE

Before the village became known as All Saints, it was called Hymans village, located just south of Freemans village. Freemans village, named in 1834, was one of the free villages whose name commemorated the abolition of slavery. In 1839, five years after emancipation, a chapel was built on Osborne’s pasture. This chapel was named ‘All Saints’, as it was built near the border

of several parishes bearing the names of saints (parishes were by law already established on the island). Soon afterwards, as sugar workers began to leave the estates, houses began to appear near the chapel and All Saints village was born. The church was erected at a crossroads, which was the most central location in the village. To the north-west is St. John’s Parish; to the north-east is St. Peter’s; and to the south and south-east is St. Paul’s.

The crossroads became the social, economic, and cultural focus of village life. Many businesses, artisan trades, and essential services have been situated there for decades: the school, the police and fire stations, the community medical clinic, the post office, rum shops, retail and hardware shops, the day nursery, the Village Community Council building, several churches, a gas station, a bakery, food stands, etc. Electricity and piped water came to the village in the early 1960s. Live band concerts were regularly held in the Community Council building. All Saints’ central location on the island and the growing activities and services encouraged people to congregate in the village and caused it to grow in importance and size.

The full range of skilled people live in All Saints village: barbers, tailors, seamstresses, bakers, shoe repairers, postmen, teachers, bus drivers, taxi drivers, pottery makers, electricians, charcoal makers, nurses, musicians and composers, masons, carpenters, farmers, butchers, policemen, trade unionists, politicians, and administrators. It is no surprise, then, that this village has unofficially become Antigua and Barbuda’s second urban centre.

RECENT DEMOGRAPHIC CHANGES

Within the last two decades, All Saints has grown significantly in size, due in no small part to the great influx of immigrants into Antigua from other Caribbean territories. The 2001 Census of Population and Housing for Antigua and Barbuda does not give a definitive population figure for All Saints village, since it mostly breaks down the nation’s population by parish (the only settlements that have population figures are St. John’s and Codrington). However, various sources estimate All Saints’ population at between 2,500 and 3,900.

A SNAPSHOT OF THE PROBLEMS AND ISSUES IN ALL SAINTS VILLAGE

- Littering and improper storage and disposal of garbage.
- Malfunctioning septic tanks, which release improperly treated sewage, create foul odours, and pose a threat to public health.
- Abandoned or neglected land parcels overgrown with bushes.

- Derelict and unsightly houses and buildings.
- Parking or abandoning vehicles on roads, thus impeding traffic and obstructing emergency vehicles.
- Abandoned derelict vehicles that harbour vermin and are unsightly.
- Poorly functioning drains, which have been inadequately maintained, are choked by bushes and garbage, and contribute to flooding after heavy rain.
- Infrastructural design that does not cater to the needs of the disabled and those with limited mobility.
- Inadequate fire safety measures in some buildings.
- Houses and other buildings are not numbered and some streets and roads in the community are not named, presenting problems for mailmen, police, and fire services responding to an emergency call; the national electoral process; census enumerators; and individuals trying to locate a physical address
- Some electricity poles have too many wires or wires that are too large, making them unsightly and dangerous during storms; a solution would be to run all electricity and cable television wires underground.
- Nuisance activities within residential urban communities, such as vehicle repair shops, woodwork and metalwork shops, rum shops, bars, brothels, and discotheques.
- Increased use of galvanized sheets for property fencing, which can become dangerous missiles during a hurricane.
- Occurrence of violent crimes resulting from unemployment, drug use, drug trafficking, and youth gangs, especially in low income neighbourhoods.

PRINCIPAL SETTLEMENTS

	Name	Population
1	Saint John's	24,451
2	All Saints	3,900
3	Liberta	2,560
4	Potters Village	2,066

Source: <http://www.citypopulation.de/Antigua.html>
<http://www.antiguamuseums.org/cultural.htm> [http://travelingluck.com/North%20America/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/Antigua+and+Barbuda+\(general\)/_3576397_All+Saints.html#local_map](http://travelingluck.com/North%20America/Antigua%20and%20Barbuda/Antigua+and+Barbuda+(general)/_3576397_All+Saints.html#local_map) http://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/All_Saints,_Antigua_and_Barbuda

GOVERNANCE



As head of state, Queen Elizabeth II is represented in Antigua and Barbuda by a Governor General who acts on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Cabinet. Antigua and Barbuda have a bicameral legislature: a 17-member Senate appointed by the Governor General – mainly on the advice of the Prime Minister and the Leader of the Opposition – and a 17-member popularly elected House of Representatives. The Prime Minister is the leader of the majority party in the House and conducts affairs of state with the Cabinet. The Prime Minister and the Cabinet are responsible to the Parliament. Elections must be held at least every five years, but may be called by the Prime Minister at any time. National elections were last held on 12 March 2009.

Constitutional safeguards include freedoms of speech, press, worship, movement, and association. Antigua and Barbuda is a member of the Commonwealth of Nations.

COMMUNITY COUNCILS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Community councils were established by the government in most villages around Antigua in 1951, as a means to spearhead relief and reconstruction efforts following the two very devastating hurricanes that struck Antigua and Barbuda in 1950. It was an opportunity to get rid of many unsightly tenements forever, and in All Saints village many of these tenements had wattle-and-daub cottages: walls of woven sticks plastered with mud, earth floors, and roofs of cane trash. Living conditions for the occupants were quite poor and unhealthy, and it was not unusual for a family of six or eight to inhabit one of these cramped one-roomed dwellings.

Governor Blackburne at the time had commissioned a committee to promote village improvements, and out of this an annual festival known as the Homes Families

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