



UN HABITAT



# SOLOMON ISLANDS: HONIARA URBAN PROFILE



Copyright © United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), 2012  
All rights reserved

United Nations Human Settlements Programme publications can be obtained from  
UN-Habitat Regional and Information Offices or directly from:

P.O. Box 30030, GPO 00100 Nairobi, Kenya.

Fax: + (254 20) 762 4266/7

E-mail: [unhabitat@unhabitat.org](mailto:unhabitat@unhabitat.org)

Website: <http://www.unhabitat.org>

The Honiara Urban Profile was prepared by Tony Hou and Donald Kudu with information collected through interviews with key urban stakeholders in Honiara. We wish to thank them for their time, effort, and contribution. This project and report was coordinated by Stanley Wale (the Undersecretary of the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey), with constructive inputs provided by Sarah Mecartney, UN-Habitat Pacific Programme Manager (based in Suva, Fiji), and Chris Radford, Senior Human Settlements Officer, UN-Habitat Regional Office for the Pacific.

This report was also managed by Kerstin Sommer, Alain Grimard, David Kithakye, Mathias Spaliviero, and Doudou Mbye in Nairobi.

HS Number: HS/038/12E

ISBN Number (Series): 978-92-1-132023-7

ISBN Number (Volume): 978-92-1-132453-2

## DISCLAIMER

The designation employed and the presentation of the material in this publication do not imply the expression of any opinion whatsoever on the part of the Secretariat of the United Nations concerning the legal status of any country, territory, city or area, or of its authorities, or concerning delimitation of its frontiers or boundaries, or regarding its economic system or degree of development. The analysis, conclusions and recommendations of the report do not necessarily reflect the views of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat), the Governing Council of UN-Habitat or its Member States. This document has been produced with the financial assistance of the European Union. The views expressed herein can in no way be taken to reflect the official opinion of the European Union.

Excerpts from this publication may be reproduced without authorisation, on condition that the source is indicated.

Photo credits: © UN-Habitat

## ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

Editing: Edward Miller

Design and Layout: Florence Kuria, Eugene Papa

Printing: UNON/Publishing Services Section/Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-Certified



UN HABITAT



# SOLOMON ISLANDS: HONIARA URBAN PROFILE

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

## TABLE OF CONTENTS

FOREWORDS	5
EXECUTIVE SUMMARY	7
BACKGROUND	10
GOVERNANCE	12
INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS AND HOUSING	15
GENDER AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT	18
THE URBAN-RURAL ECONOMY	20
SECURITY AND RESILIENCE	23
LAND AND URBAN PLANNING	25
BASIC URBAN SERVICES	28
CONCLUSION	31
BIBLIOGRAPHY	43



## FOREWORDS



According to research published in UN-Habitat's<sup>1</sup> 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.

**Dr. Joan Clos**

Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

<sup>1</sup> UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme





Urbanization in the Solomon Islands is a relatively recent phenomenon, but it is expanding steadily. In the 2009 census, almost 20 percent of the country's total population lived in urban and peri-urban areas. However, with an annual urban growth rate of 4.7 percent, it is projected that, by 2020, about 25

percent of the country's population will be living in urban areas.

In the Solomon Islands, urban growth is often not perceived as a potential path for economic growth and prosperity, but as the cause of increased poverty, unemployment, and crime, as well as environmental degradation, high socio-economic inequality, and growing informal settlements which lack access to basic urban services. These unfortunate trends, however, are the result of weak urban planning and management and poor governance. National policies and priorities tend to put more emphasis on rural development than upgrading provincial towns and other urban areas.

Honiara is the capital of Solomon Islands and serves as the main administrative, educational, and economic centre for the country. It has a population of just over 64,600 and an average density of 2,953 people per square kilometre. The last national census (2009) registered the city's growth at a rate of 2.7 percent per annum between the two most recent censuses.

This urban population growth rate is alarming when the peri-urban areas on the outskirts of Honiara are also considered, and is a serious concern for the Honiara City Council, which lacks the technical and administrative capacity and resources to effectively manage this population growth rate and related challenges. This Urban Profile, executed by UN-Habitat through the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey, is timely as the Honiara City Council is beginning to reassess current policies and introduce new ones on improving service delivery in the city.

The Honiara urban profile will no doubt assist the Honiara City Council to identify key urban issues to be included in the overall city council plans. The ultimate aim is to alleviate poverty at the city level and improve service delivery, particularly the provision of better waste management, sanitation, and public amenities, as well as better education and health services and informal settlement upgrading. The Honiara urban profile has identified a number of key institutional and capacity issues, which the Honiara City Council

can support with its own resources and through donor partners.

The Honiara City Council executive is preparing to formulate city development strategies and activities to promote and improve urban management and planning.

On behalf of the Honiara City Council and the residents of the city, I fully endorse the Honiara Urban Profile and look forward to further interventions from UN-Habitat to support the efforts and plans to improve the image and progress of our city.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Israel Maeoli'. The signature is stylized and somewhat cursive, with a large initial 'I' and 'M'.

**Israel Maeoli**  
Honiara City Mayor

# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY



## INTRODUCTION

Honiara is a small city, but the rapid pace of change and the resultant problems are no less acute than those found in other Pacific island countries. There are problems relating to increasing poverty, inadequate and poor provision of basic urban services, environmental degradation, and a rise in the number and size of informal settlements. To better respond to these problems, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Survey has requested UN-Habitat for support to undertake the urban profiling in the Solomon Islands.

The urban profiling constitutes of a set of actions to assess urban needs and capacity issues at the city level. It employs a participatory approach where priorities are agreed on through consultative processes and has been implemented in more than 20 countries in Africa and the Caribbean and 3 Pacific island countries under the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme. The model consists of three parts:

- (1) the use of questionnaires to collect information and seek opinions from senior representatives of public, private, and popular institutions at national and city levels in selected thematic areas in order to suggest priority interventions and devise brief proposals through a city consultation;
- (2) undertaking pre-feasibility studies on selected priority projects; and
- (3) carrying out the project implementation.

The Honiara Urban Profile includes a general

background and a synthesis of seven thematic areas: governance, informal settlements and housing, gender and social environment, urban–rural economy, security and resilience, land and urban planning, and basic urban services.

## BACKGROUND

Honiara is the capital of Solomon Islands and is situated on Guadalcanal Island. It serves as the main administrative, educational, and economic centre for the country. It has a population of just over 64,600 with an average density of 2,953 people per square kilometre. Honiara city was developed from the rubble of an American war base established during the Second World War, and has grown at a rate of 2.7 percent per annum over the years to become the primary city in the country. The city is made up of diverse ethnic groups and indigenous people.

The main economic activities in Honiara are in the services sector. Rising unemployment, poverty and high costs of living are common features in Honiara. Some residents, particularly those of informal settlements, are engaged in a range of informal economic activities (Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, 2009).

Basic urban services (water and power provision and garbage collection) vary between the formal and informal settlements. While formal residential areas are often serviced, the informal settlements are not, with a number of households resorting to illegal tapping of water pipes. Public transport needs to be improved,

and the existing roads need to be upgraded, especially in informal settlements. Education and health care facilities are available, but they are often poorly resourced and run-down.

Honiara city is faced with poor service delivery, lack of public sanitation, poor planning, a shortage of housing, high costs of living, environmental degradation, and a rise in informal settlements. There are two key challenges for the Honiara City Council and the Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Survey Planners and Policymakers:

- (1) achieving good governance and effective urban planning and management, particularly with regard to informal housing and the provision of land to meet the demands of the growing town population, and
- (2) achieving and maintaining a clean and healthy city.

## GOVERNANCE

The Honiara City Council is the governing body for Honiara city and has 23 members<sup>2</sup>. It is mandated to deliver a range of basic urban services, including education, health, garbage collection, recreational areas (parks, playing fields), public sanitation, maintenance of feeder roads to all suburbs, and town planning. It is linked to the central government through the Ministry of Home Affairs.

The Honiara City Council has a long history of bad governance, weak administrative and technical capacity, and limited finances, which has resulted in the poor delivery of services to city residents. The council has benefited from a five-year project (2006–2011) under the Commonwealth Local Government Forum Project (supported by the New Zealand Aid Programme) that aims to strengthen and improve the institutional and basic service delivery capacity of Honiara City Council. There is still a need for the Honiara City Council to

settlements in Honiara, the lack of affordable housing and developable land for low and middle income earners also drives the trend. The informal settlements are unplanned and therefore lack adequate services (roads, power, sanitation, policing, water, and garbage collection). Poverty and unemployment are often higher in the informal settlements, as most residents depend on gardening and informal economic activities such as street vending for their livelihoods (Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, 2009, Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Survey, 2006).

A housing shortage exists, despite about 15 percent<sup>3</sup> of the city's land (22.73 square kilometres) being underdeveloped. Of that 15 percent, informal settlements occupy about 13.5 percent. Informal settlement residents have continued to improve their homes over the years, resulting in a mixture of housing quality. About 65 percent of houses in informal settlements lack durability (Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Survey, 2006) and therefore cannot withstand strong winds and cyclones. As a result of the housing shortage and high rental costs<sup>4</sup>, increasing numbers of middle- and high-income earners are moving to informal settlements.

## GENDER AND SOCIAL ENVIRONMENT

Although the National Council of Women and the Ministry of Youth, Children and Women Affairs have made consistent efforts to address gender inequality, social and cultural forces continue to constrain women's participation in nation building. Unemployment rates among the youth (45 percent) and women (44 percent) are higher in Honiara due to poor access to education, inadequate economic opportunities, and more home duties (Union Aid Abroad-APHEDA, 2009:16).

## THE URBAN–RURAL ECONOMY

Honiara's economic base is dominated by the service

预览已结束，完整报告链接和二维码如下：

[https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5\\_18806](https://www.yunbaogao.cn/report/index/report?reportId=5_18806)

