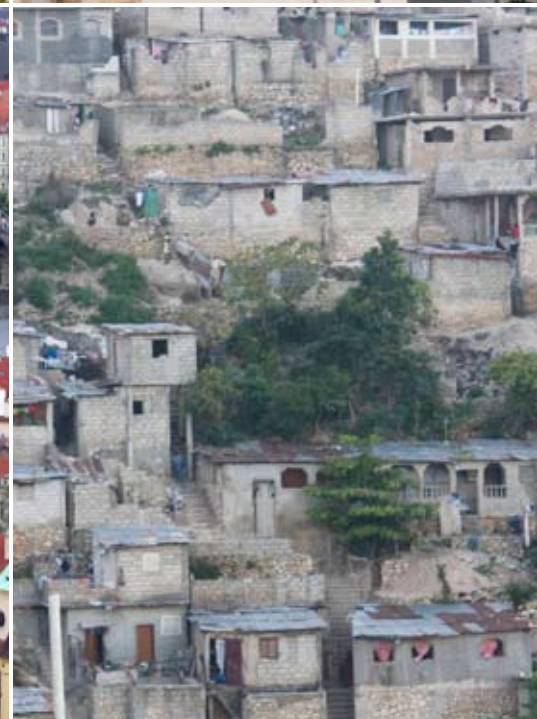


COUNTRY ACTIVITIES REPORT 2011



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Country Activities Report 2011
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FOREWORD



UN-HABITAT's country activities are focused on supporting governments in the formulation of policies and strategies to create and strengthen self-reliant urban planning and management capacity at both national and local levels and to promote sustainable urbanization. Technical and managerial expertise is provided for the assessment of human settlements development problems and opportunities.

Country-level activities also seek to identify and analyse policy options, design and implement housing and urban development programmes, and help mobilize national resources and external support for improving human settlements conditions.

This national capacity-building process involves central government institutions, local authorities and their partners in community based and non-governmental organizations, universities and research institutes. Emphasis is also placed upon strengthening monitoring capacities of governments in human settlements management.

In accordance with its Medium-Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP), UN-HABITAT's country-level activities are focused on the following areas: (i) advocacy, monitoring and partnerships; (ii) participatory urban planning, management and governance; (iii) pro-poor land and housing; (iv) environmentally sound basic urban infrastructure and services; (v) strengthened human settlements finance systems; and (vi) disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation. Acting as a catalyst in the mobilization of technical cooperation, UN-HABITAT is supporting the implementation of the Habitat Agenda at the local, national and regional levels and the goals of the Millennium Declaration on improving the lives of slum dwellers and improving access to water and sanitation. Lessons learnt from country-level activities are also being used to formulate global policy options and guidelines.

As of the fourth quarter of 2009, UN-HABITAT had cooperation programmes and projects under execution in 72 countries, of which the majority were in the least developed countries. More than 30 other countries were benefiting from the support of UN-HABITAT's global programmes. Country activities could be normative or operational, but in many cases they combine these two dimensions of UN-HABITAT's mandate.

As a direct response to increasing demands from developing countries, the organization's in-country activities have grown significantly over the last decades from expenditures totalling US\$ 18.7 million in 1988 to US\$ 459 million in 2009.

More than 80 per cent of the financing of country projects in 2009 came from various multilateral and bilateral agencies, less than 10 percent of the financing came from UN sources and the balance from governments' cost-sharing and non-governmental sources. It should be noted that the total budgets have been maintained at a high level due to several large programmes in Asia and the Arab States and various global trust funds. Through these activities, UN-HABITAT is fully committed to the goals of maximizing the use of national expertise and

bolstering national execution and procurement from developing countries. In 2009, more than 90 per cent of UN-HABITAT's project personnel were national experts.

The present report carries short summaries of each of the agency's country activities¹. These reference sheets include: the total project or programme cost, partner institutions, background objectives, activities and results. The report is divided into six sections with the first section devoted to global and inter-regional programmes, followed by five sections describing UN-HABITAT's activities in each region: Africa, the Arab States, Asia and the Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean; and Europe. In the past this document was focused on operational activities. In line with the MTSIP it now covers all country activities of UN-HABITAT.

In addition to these country activities, UN-HABITAT has embarked on the biennial publication of a regional State of the Cities report series. These reports are intended as both a platform for debate on urban issues in the respective regions and a tool in support of national policy formulation in the broad area of sustainable urban development. 2010 saw the publication of the first of the State of the Asian Cities and the second of the State of the African Cities.



Joan Clos
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT
Under-Secretary-General, United Nations

¹ Projects with budgets of less than \$ 50,000 are not included.



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