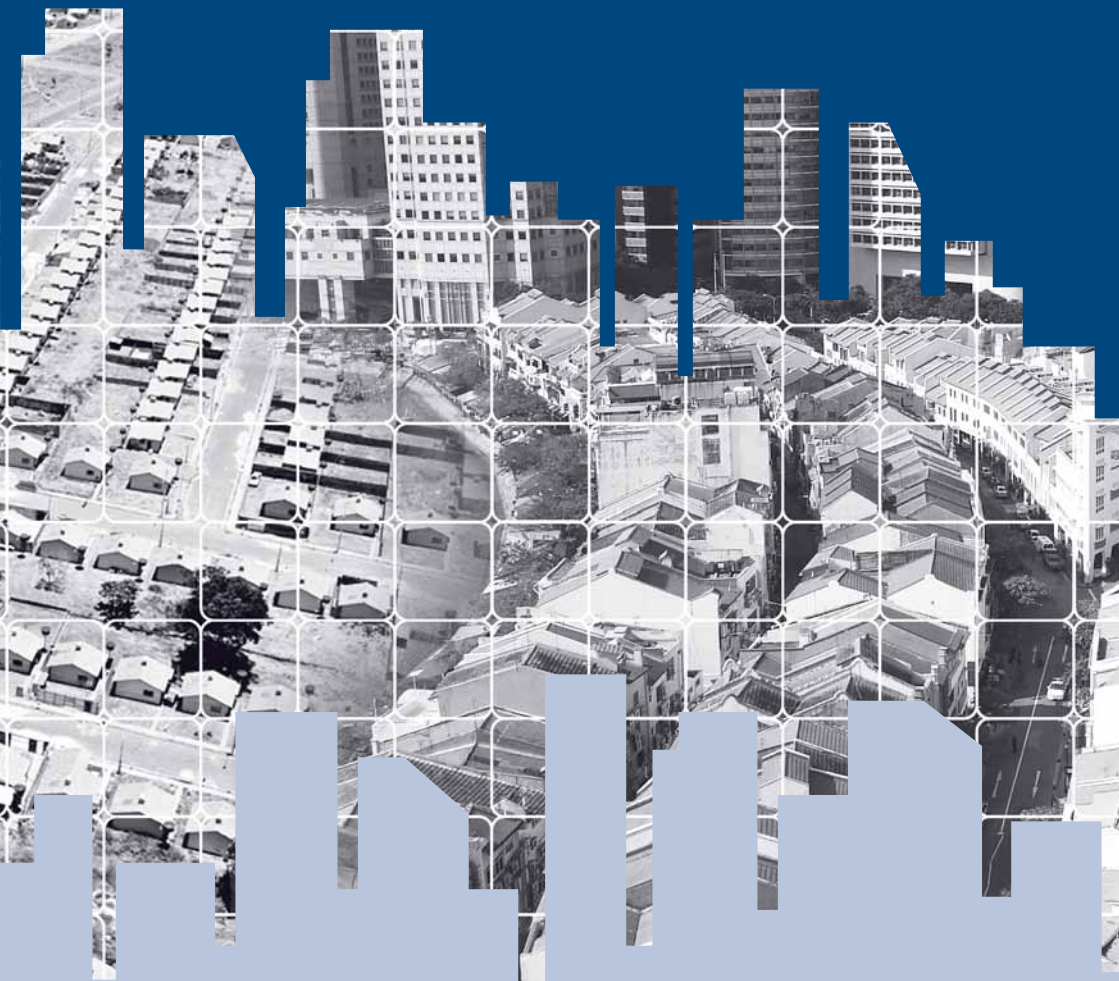


ENABLING SHELTER STRATEGIES:

DESIGN AND IMPLEMENTATION GUIDE FOR POLICYMAKERS

Quick Policy Guide Series - Volume 2



‘Quick Housing Policy Guides’ Series

As the scale of the housing challenge in the developing world increases at an alarming pace, the need for real action to address affordable housing supply is becoming increasingly critical. To deal with this challenge governments and local authorities need up-to-date knowledge on global housing policy approaches in order to formulate effective policy instruments. Therefore, the objective of the Quick Policy Guides series is to present, in an easy-to-read format, concepts, policy approaches, tools, and recommendations to facilitate policy development for addressing the growing housing challenge. The ongoing series is coordinated and produced by the Housing Policy Section of UN-HABITAT and to date the following volumes have been published:

Volume 1: *A Policy Guide to Rental Housing in Developing Countries*

Volume 2: *Enabling Shelter Strategies: Design and Implementation Guide for Policymakers*

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ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Printing:	UNON, Publishing Services Section, Nairobi, ISO 14001:2004-certified.

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HS Number:	HS/032/11E
ISBN number (Series):	978-92-1-132034-3
ISBN number (Volume):	978-92-1-132334-4

An electronic version of this publication is available for download from the UN-HABITAT web-site at <http://www.unhabitat.org>, from our regional offices, or directly from:

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PREFACE

Governments around the world have to be more proactive in ensuring that everyone, especially the poorest of the poor, can get decent, affordable housing. As we grapple with the living conditions in the world's growing cities, especially for those living and coping with life in slums or sub-standard housing in developing countries, we have to help people get the best shelter possible.

We have to plan and manage housing policy in a way that makes cities inclusive, welcoming places for all.

Urbanisation is one of the most powerful, irreversible forces in the world. It is estimated that over 90 percent of future urban growth will occur in the cities of Asia and Africa, and to a lesser extent, Latin America and the Caribbean.

Cities make countries rich. Highly urbanized countries have higher incomes, more stable economies, and stronger institutions. They are better able to withstand the volatility of the global economy. But they cannot maintain and in some cases even reach these heights if large percentages of their populations live in shelter so poor it is not worthy of the name.

This calls for a shift in government thinking, urban planning, and leadership.

In UN-HABITAT parlance, the concept of enabling shelter strategies, as described in this publication, means that governments have to nurture and create public policies, encourage more debate, and promote

solutions conducive to the development and delivery of affordable housing.

It thus calls for a fundamental shift in the role of government, from provider to enabler of affordable housing. While such strategies have been practiced for a generation already, there are few publications documenting the successes, the approaches and ways of implementing them.

The guide provides a clear description of how to design and implement an effective enabling shelter strategy covering key areas such as resource mobilisation, land, and construction. Importantly, it offers guidance on how to involve a wide array of government, local communities and their organizations, the business sector, and policy makers at all levels that so crucial to implementing a successful outcome.

It carries many examples from around the world, and a list of relevant publications and websites that deal with enabling shelter strategies.

It is my hope that this state-of-the-art guide addresses this great need for a succinct reference text on enabling shelter strategies, what they are and how they can be implemented.

Dr. Joan Clos



Executive Director
UN-HABITAT

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