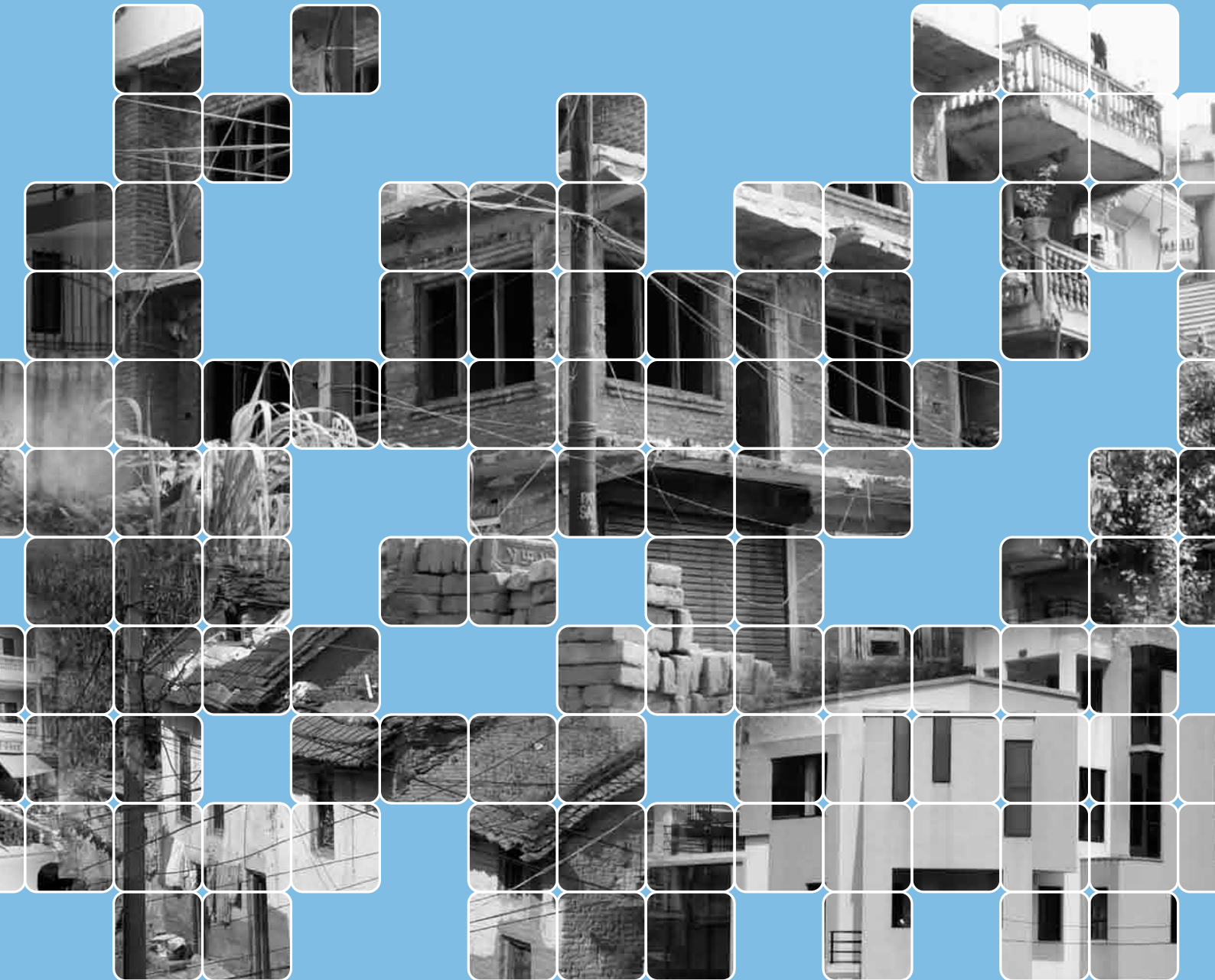


NEPAL

URBAN HOUSING SECTOR PROFILE



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FOREWORD

UN-HABITAT is mandated by the United Nations General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate housing for all. Today, the housing situation in Nepal, especially for the urban poor, remains far from adequate.

Indeed, urban dwellers in Nepal have been finding it increasingly difficult to afford housing due to rapid price rises in land.

Such is the challenge that the Government of Nepal approached UN-HABITAT to help it formulate its new national housing policy. This publication, the Nepal Housing Sector Profile, is a comprehensive, in-depth outcome of that request.

Published jointly with the Ministry of Physical Planning and Works in Nepal, it shows, for example, that urban land prices had increased 300 percent since 2003, putting housing increasingly out of reach for lower income residents.

At the same time, Nepal has been urbanising rapidly due to an expansion of urban areas and high rates of rural-urban migration. Though the number of squatters in Nepal is low in comparison to other South Asian countries, the situation is worsening quickly and turning into a serious social predicament.

Currently some 10 percent of the country's urban dwellers are squatters, according to the report, but this is expected to rise.

Based on research by a team of Nepalese and international experts, it carries an analysis of the five key elements in the sector - land, basic services, housing finance, building materials and construction technologies, and labour. It gives an assessment of how these components are governed by policy, institutional and legal frameworks, and how they are linked with one another and other urban policies.

Keeping in mind the importance of the housing sector in the wider economy, I am confident that the Nepal Urban Housing Sector Profile will serve as an important tool for all those dealing with housing in Nepal.

**UN-HABITAT welcomes
the commitment of the
Government of Nepal to
facilitating the improvement
of the housing conditions of
its citizens.**

Joan Clos



JOAN CLOS

Under-Secretary General of the United Nations

Executive Director,

UN-HABITAT

A MESSAGE FROM

The success of the popular movement of 2007 has brought Nepal in the cross-road of development and prosperity. While we are going through painful political and social transformation process, there are overwhelming but obvious expectations of the marginalised population.

At present, Nepal is observing substantial population pressure in urban centres and has observed high urbanising rate in this region. The fast increasing

urban population has over-burdened to already lagging urban infrastructures including housing. In urban areas, the failure of the delivery of shelters is dominantly contributing to enlarging slums and squatters. Janata Awas (People's Housing) is a current strategy of the government to address the shelter need of marginalised rural poor. The programme has been launched successfully in three districts (Saptari, Siraha, and Kapilbastu) in the fiscal year 2010/2011. It is now being extended to other districts of Nepal.

Taking into account of current demand and need for housing, the government is committed to provide shelter to all at an affordable cost. In this context, The National Shelter Policy 1996 is being reviewed to accommodate the aspirations and expectations of the people. The publication of Nepal Urban Housing Sector Profile: its analysis and findings in the context of urban housing is going to be invaluable input in the endeavour. The study has revealed the underpinning issues of delivering shelter, shared valuable knowledge and suggested crucial recommendations in consistent with the global policy of "Shelter for All".

I believe that this document is going to be good reference material for the urban planners and the urban stakeholders. In this context I would like to sincerely appreciate the work and support of UN-HABITAT, the study team, officials of my ministry and the contributors to the study.

Taking into account of current demand and need for housing, the government is committed to provide shelter to all at an affordable cost. In this context, The National Shelter Policy 1996 is being reviewed to accommodate the aspirations and expectations of the people.

Hon. Top Bahadur Raymajhi



TOP BAHADUR RAYMAJHI

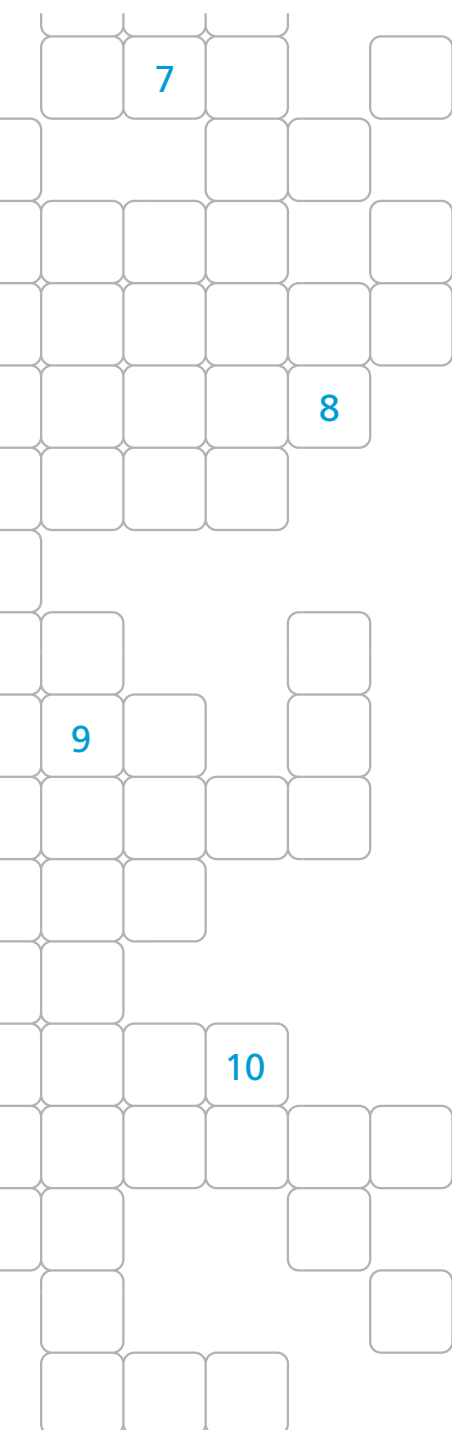
Minister

Physical Planning & Works

GOVERNMENT OF NEPAL

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