

# COUNTRY ACTIVITIES REPORT

## 2009





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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 a self-reliant management capacity at both national and local levels. 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, 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; (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 of 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 2008, UN-HABITAT had cooperation programmes and projects under execution in 50 countries, of which the majority were in the least developed countries. More than 20 other countries were benefitting 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 totaling US\$ 18.7 million in 1988 to close to US\$ 100 million in 2008.

More than 80 per cent of the financing of technical co-operation projects in 2008 came from the Habitat Trust Funds, 10% from United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)'s various sources of funds and the balance from other sources. It should be noted that the total budgets have been maintained at a relatively high level due to several large programmes in Asia and the Arab States and several 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 2008 more than 90 per cent of UN-HABITAT's project personnel were national experts.

The report carries short summaries of each of the agency's country activities.<sup>1</sup> 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, Europe, Latin America and the Caribbean. In the past this document was focused on operational activities. In line with the MTSIP it now covers all country activities of UN-HABITAT.



Anna K. Tibaijuka  
Executive Director

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<sup>1</sup> Small projects with budgets of less than \$ 50,000 are not included.



GLOBAL AND INTER-REGIONAL

## INTER- REGIONAL

Project title	Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in ACP Countries
Project code	XB-MOR-07-X01 (C204)
Total cost	USD 6,048,000
Development partners	European Commission , Secretariat ACP
Partners	30 governments, more than 60 cities
Starting date	April 2008
Completion date	March 2011

## BACKGROUND AND OBJECTIVES

This programme aims at building capacities at local and national levels to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) countries through slum upgrading policy development and implementation of pilot projects. Phase One diagnoses needs through Urban Sector Profile Studies. The approach is based on EC guidelines, elaborated by UN-HABITAT and implemented in 12 African countries during 2004-05. A further 18 ACP countries will undertake the diagnostic phase and all participating countries will exchange experiences. Phase Two focusses on feasibility studies in slums identified in Phase One. Regional policy seminars and capacity-building workshops will cover issues of sustainable slum upgrading (governance, social and economic development, and the environment). Follow-up capacity building and policy development action plans will be developed. Phase Three will implement action plans in a total of 60 ACP countries.

The project has the following objectives:

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