



UN-HABITAT AND THE KENYA SLUM UPGRADING PROGRAMME STRATEGY DOCUMENT

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN  HABITAT

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Foreword

Kenya's slums are growing at an unprecedented rate as more and more people move to Kenya's cities and towns in search of employment and other opportunities urban areas offer. The government and local authorities are faced with the serious challenge of guiding the physical growth of urban areas and providing adequate services for the growing urban population. Kenya's urban population is at present 40 percent of the total population. More than 70 percent of these urbanites live in slums, with limited access to water and sanitation, housing, and secure tenure. They have poor environmental conditions and experience high crime rates. If the gap continues to grow between the supply and demand of urban services such as housing, the negative consequences of urbanisation can become irreversible.

The Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme (KENSUP) has been set up as a collaborative initiative that draws on the expertise of a wide variety of partners in order to address this issue. The Government of Kenya executes and manages the programme, the Ministry of Housing and the relevant local authorities implement it, and UN-HABITAT, civil society partners, participating local communities, and the private sector complement and support their efforts. KENSUP's aim is to improve the livelihoods of people living and working in slums and informal settlements in the urban areas of Kenya through the provision of security of tenure and physical and social infrastructure, as well as opportunities for housing improvement and income generation.

Implementation is underway in four Kenyan cities and the Government of Kenya aims to expand the programme to others. UN-HABITAT's involvement in Kisumu, Nairobi, Mavoko, and Mombasa focuses on different aspects of slum upgrading from implementing pilot projects aimed at finding suitable models for scaling up and replicating activities, to building the capacity of local authorities. UN-HABITAT is also engaged in analysing conditions in target communities through situation analyses and socio-economic mapping; providing technical advice to KENSUP partners; and making available basic infrastructure. Additionally, we collaborate with the Government of Kenya in the mobilisation and coordination of financial and other resources for the programme.


The formulation of a new KENSUP strategy by UN-HABITAT, as set out in this document, has become necessary for a wide variety of reasons, not least because there is a need to respond to the divisional shift of most KENSUP projects to the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch



of UN-HABITAT. This brings a new focus to our involvement with KENSUP as it introduces and tests the provision of basic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, as an entry point to slum upgrading. The new strategy also further elaborates UN-HABITAT's consolidated and integrated development approach to slum upgrading, focusing on the provision of affordable housing finance and infrastructure. This approach combines all the different elements required for successful slum upgrading such as income generation activities, capacity building, provision of housing finance, housing improvement, and provision of basic infrastructure.

UN-HABITAT's KENSUP Strategy Document outlines our main areas of focus, key concepts, methodology, planned activities, as well as a financing strategy. This document will function as a roadmap for all of UN-HABITAT's present and future KENSUP activities, and it will guide our staff and partners towards meaningful and effective interventions.

The task of making slums better living and working environments for the urban poor, along with the inseparable task of reducing poverty, can only be achieved through a common vision. And a common vision for sustainable slum upgrading can only be realised through genuine partnerships. We extend our sincerest gratitude to the Government of Kenya and our development partners, who have taken this task to heart. We also invite you to be part of this coalition, a coalition that can help strengthen the capacity of the Government of Kenya, local authorities, local communities, UN-HABITAT, and other partners in addressing the pressing issue of slum upgrading.


Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director

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