



UN-HABITAT and the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme



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UN-HABITAT and the Kenya Slum Upgrading Programme



UN-HABITAT



Foreword

Kenya's slums are growing at an unprecedented rate as more and more people move to cities 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 34 percent of the total population. More than 70 percent of these people 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.

UN-HABITAT's approach to slum upgrading is holistic and integrated, as the aims are multiple. We use the development of an integrated infrastructure system as an entry point to slum upgrading, in order to reduce the cost of housing. This is combined with the construction or upgrading of the existing housing stock, later to be linked to capacity-building and income-generation activities for the residents of the informal settlements, aimed at improving livelihoods. These activities go hand in hand with improving the capacity of local authorities to plan and cater for sprawling developments in their cities.

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.

A handwritten signature in black ink, which appears to read 'Anna Tibaijuka'.

Anna Tibaijuka
Executive Director

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