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Greetings from the PSUP Team!

We are approaching the final year of PSUP III, the implementation phase of our programme, and are in full engagement with most of our 40 partner countries. In 2021, we will continue to add value to COVID-19 responses by formulating national and city-wide strategies for long-term incremental, green, and affordable transformation in informal settlements.

Women in a Challenged Urban World

Celebration of International Women's Day, 8 March 2021, organised by the European Commission



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Together with our financing partner, the **European Commission**, we organised a virtual conference on "Women in a Challenged Urban World". High-level representatives such as **Carla Montesi**, Director at the European Commission's Directorate General for Development and Cooperation; **Yvonne Aki Sawyer**, Mayor of Freetown, Sierra Leone; and **Maimunah Mohd Sharif**, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, expressed the need to prioritize women. The COVID-19 pandemic has made women in informal settlements even more vulnerable and exposed to gender-based violence, poverty and eviction. The speakers pointed out that women are in the majority in slums and need to be put at the centre of planning processes, services, and infrastructure investment.

PSUP III Mid-Term Evaluation

Since we are approaching the final year of **PSUP III**, our programme is currently under evaluation. In the coming months, a team of independent consultants, appointed by the **European Commission**, will take a close look at all our activities, achievements, results, and practices. The aim is to identify where the strengths of the programme are and where we need to improve. The evaluators will provide recommendations for the remaining period of the implementation phase. This will serve to improve PSUP's accountability, decision making, learning, and management. We count on your contributions to support our learning and improvement process in the future.



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Guyana plans to eradicate squatting by 2030

The Government of Guyana addresses their country's housing crisis by the upgrading of informal settlements and participatory resettlement of slum dwellers. In cooperation with PSUP, solutions to improve living conditions and ensure adequate housing for all by 2030 are assessed. At the beginning of February, the Government laid the foundation for this goal with the launch of the **Guyana Strategy for Informal Settlements Upgrading and Prevention (GSISUP)**. This strategy will create an overarching policy to ensure accessible, adequate, and affordable housing, in addition to land regulation, and the upgrading of residential areas, so that no Guyanese citizen is "left behind" in the future.

[Read more](#)

UN-Habitat's PSUP Covid-19 Response



New impact story – PSUP's COVID-19 emergency response in Mtwapa, Kenya

"Being prepared in times of crisis"

At the onset of the Coronavirus outbreak in Kenya in March 2020, PSUP and its local partner SHOFCO, a Community-based Organisation, launched an emergency response package in several informal settlements along the Kenyan Coast. The aim, from the very beginning, was to prevent the spreading of the virus and create job opportunities while providing water for all for free.

[Read our story](#)

[Watch the video documentary](#)



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Turning Waste into Jobs

PSUP had launched a **Call for Proposals** to support community-based waste management and the establishment of an enabling framework for a Public Private People Partnership (PPPP) in low-income areas and informal settlements in Kisumu, Kenya. The deadline for the submission of proposals lapsed in mid-March. We were pleased to receive 14 proposals with great ideas. Our team is now looking forward to the evaluation of the proposals. The winning proposal will be awarded 90,000 USD to carry out the project support. The estimated start of the selected project will be June 2021.

[Read more](#)

More News and Updates

» **Our follow up story from Montego Bay, Jamaica**
In our **September 2020 edition**, we previously reported on how the St. James Municipal Corporation is working with PSUP to address the most urgent Covid-19 pandemic response in the informal settlements of Canterbury, William Street, Paradise Row, and Albion Lane of Montego Bay. In July 2020, care packages with food, face masks and hand sanitisers were distributed to residents. Since then, the emergency response has picked up speed. Residents from the informal settlements have been employed to produce 2,500 masks and have delivered a total of 1,800 care packages to date. Sanitation exercises and awareness campaigns were carried out, primarily through youth groups and Community-based Organisations. In addition, as part of the Citywide Environmental Sanitation Campaign, residents

were provided with support and equipment to remove bulky waste from gardens, gullies, and public spaces in the settlements.

[Read more](#)

» **New Upgrading Projects in Guinea Conakry**
In December 2020, we co-organised a hybrid workshop (both present and virtual) in Conakry with the SANITA Sustainable Cities Project Team and the Ministry of Cities and Land Management (MVAT) to consult national and local stakeholders on selection criteria for integrating poor neighbourhoods into the master planning process of greater Conakry: designing transformative projects and using participatory approaches. In the workshop, our team presented the PSUP principles and highlighted the benefits and need for full participation of women and youth at the forefront.