
KEY MESSAGES FOR URBAN MANAGERS

PARTICIPATORY PLANNING



KEY STATEMENTS:

Participatory planning that engages all stakeholders including slum dwellers, is a pre-condition for city-wide slum upgrading and inclusive sustainable urbanization. It has been identified as a fundamental approach in the Sustainable Development Goals.

Local and municipal authorities provide a strong platform to coordinate and mobilize stakeholders for city-wide slum upgrading and for integrating slum dwellers into the broader urban context.

National Governments also have a key role to play. They can facilitate policy and legislation frameworks that promote participatory planning and use them to foster mind-set change, strengthen institutional integration and cohesion amongst physical plans and strategies. These national-level actions are necessary to prevent the proliferation of new slums.

KEY MESSAGES:

- Urbanization is occurring in all countries around the world and is one of the major trends of the 21st Century.
- No country has ever achieved sustained economic growth, rapid social development and gender equality without urbanizing.
- Urban areas are the engines of national economic growth. Urban areas presently account for 70% of the world's gross domestic product (GDP): 55% of GDP in low-income countries, 73% in middle-income countries, and 85% in high-income countries¹.
- No country has ever achieved sustained economic growth, rapid social development and gender equality without urbanizing.
- Participatory planning has been identified as a key tool to achieve sustainable urbanization in Agenda 2030's the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 4, 9, 11 and 16 for example).
- Participatory planning works best when:
 1. A pro-poor vision is adopted which translates into inclusive actions (recognizes both the rights and value of slum dwellers as assets to the urbanization process, brings together all the key government partners and external stakeholders, focusses on socio-economic development directed by harnessing the informal economy and livelihood activities).
 2. A comprehensive approach is utilized, integrating sectors and people (government departments, key actors and groups, joined up physical plans responding to key policy, legislative and regulatory elements).
 3. All scales are focused on and integrated (projects are directed at local impact but within a broader strategic focus of the city and region).
 4. Appropriate and innovative financing mechanisms (sufficient investment for both upgrading and maintenance, pro-poor financing (micro-financing, community managed funds) are used.
- Participatory planning results in:
 - The inclusion of all views and the development of a common understanding about the process and expected outcomes of planning. This is essential for understanding the incremental steps required for the prevention of new

slums.

- A platform through which new and often unexpected ideas emerge as opportunities are created for communities to take an active role in their local neighborhood while at the same time, help them understand their role in the broader urban context.
- The development of mechanism to integrate key national and city-level physical plans and strategies as well as institutions.
- Effective risk management as all key concerns and challenges are discussed and mapped.
- Participatory planning has been identified as a key tool to achieve sustainable urbanization in Agenda 2030's the Sustainable Development Goals (Goals 4, 9, 11 and 16 for example).

KEY RECOMMENDATION:

Participatory planning is key to integrate slum dwellers into the rest of the urban context to facilitate sustainable urbanization for all.

KEY ACTION:

Integrate participatory planning approaches into national and city-wide policies and strategies including national urban policies and slum upgrading strategies.

1 United Nations system meeting document CEB High-Level Committee on Programmes CEB/2014/HLCP-28/CRP.5 23 September 2014. UN-Habitat the New Urban Agenda.

Table 1: Additional Recommendations and Actions

ADDITIONAL RECOMMENDATIONS	ADDITIONAL SPECIFIC ACTION
LINK SLUM UPGRADING WITH SUSTAINABLE URBANIZATION FOR ALL	
Understand and promote slum upgrading as a mechanism to facilitate sustainable urbanization which benefits all urban dwellers.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Form a team to understand how slum upgrading would work in your town or city. -Undertake an inventory of current strategic plans and development projects to ensure your plans speak to each other and reflect an integrated vision for the city or town.
Recognize that urban issues cannot be addressed in isolation, but must be considered in terms of relationships - linkages between different departments, interventions and how the urban context is 'a system' with interlinked components.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Reflect 'city-wide approaches' to slum upgrading in the development of a 'national' and/or 'city-wide slum upgrading strategy' to maximize the benefits of connecting any planned inter- vention with other key and strategic urban developments (especially those related to economic hubs, road, utility, service and housing infrastructure) and departments/ actors..
EMPHASIZE THE VALUE OF PARTICIPATORY PLANNING IN SLUM UPGRADING	
Ensure slum upgrading is participatory in its design and implementation.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Secure the engagement of key decision makers as well as slum dwellers themselves in planning processes. The national and city-wide slum upgrading teams can help facilitate this.
Adopt a mind-set that participatory planning is an asset not a hindrance to strengthening sustainable urbanization. It supports efforts to realize slum dweller's potential and harness their energy, as well as leads to more sustainable planning outcomes.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use the development or review of a national or city-wide slum upgrading strategy as a mechanism to start conversations between your policy makers, key departmental heads and politicians, to foster mind-set change towards slum dwellers and promote participatory planning.
Counter any discussions on forced evictions with arguments around the benefits of inclusion, the successful global examples of participatory planning and importance of international agreements such as the Right to Adequate Housing.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Use key global frameworks like the Sustainable Development Goals to support participatory planning approaches. -Distribute case studies on positive impact of slum upgrading using participatory approaches. -Develop a set of planning principles which are pro-poor and promote the inclusion of all stakeholders. -Fund capacity development activities to promote participatory planning. Utilize the work of international planning groups and development agencies which have pre-existing materials on participatory planning.
CREATE A STRONG FRAMEWORK FOR PARTICIPATORY PLANNING	
Understand how key frameworks such as the national planning legislation (Planning or Land Act for example) as well as using city-level spatial plans, can develop planning principles and standards which support participatory planning and slum upgrading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review relevant national and / or municipal policies to establish where there are opportunities to promote participatory city-wide slum upgrading.
Start a process of incremental change to institutionalize the practice of participatory planning and ensure a 'no forced evictions' approach to slum upgrading.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -Review major urban development plans (infrastructure, economic, environmental, waste management and affordable housing plans) and ensure that any slum upgrading strategies are integrated into these plans. If necessary, use any slum upgrading strategy to promote their further integration and a no-forced evictions approach.
ALLOCATE FUNDS FOR PARTICIPATORY PLANNING	
Dedicate funds for participatory planning.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> -As part of a city-wide slum upgrading strategy, allocate funds for participatory planning. -Use funds to secure planning spaces within slums, such as community centres, to promote an inclusive approach.

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