

GLOBAL ACTION PLAN

Accelerating for Transforming
Informal Settlements and Slums
2030



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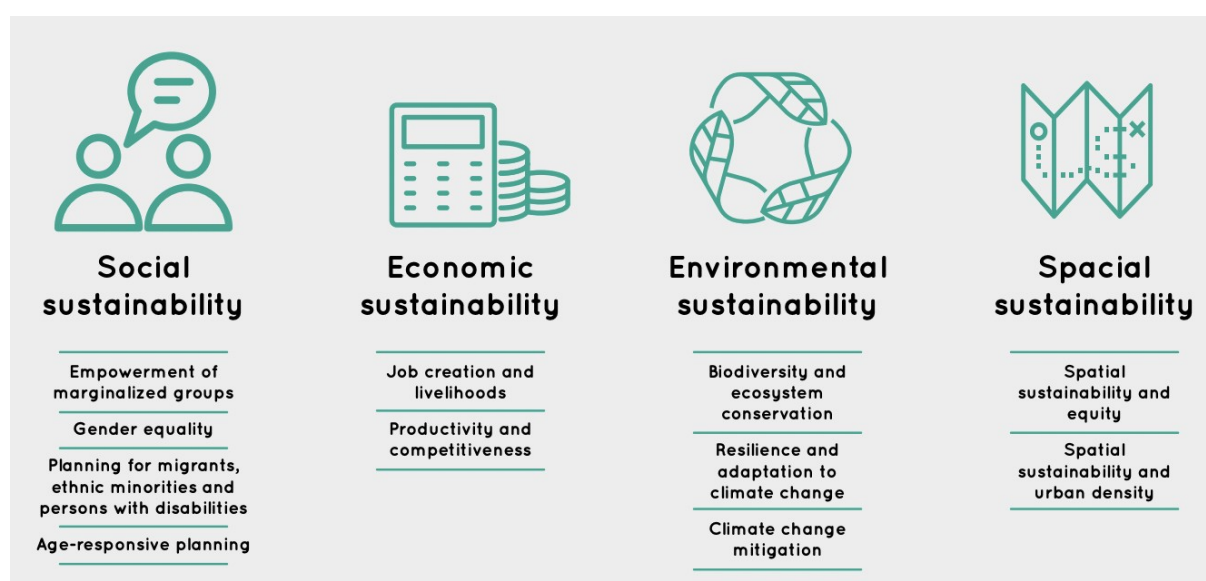
Introduction

The Global Action Plan (GAP) consolidates a common partnership vision for **accelerating the implementation** of the **Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs)** and the **New Urban Agenda (NUA)** in informal settlements and slums around the world. The GAP guides a joint understanding of transformation, principles, accelerators and strategic actions to be taken on global, national and local levels to sustainably transform slums and informal settlements.

The GAP derives from the joint assessment that while much effort has been made to tackle informal settlements and slums globally, the real slum challenge still lies ahead. Globally, the **number of slum dwellers is projected to triple from 1 billion to 3 billion by 2050, if no action is taken**. Urgent action needs to be taken now. National and local governments as well as international, national and local organisations are to scale interventions and ensure impactful and transformative actions.

Yet there are a number of bottlenecks that need to be overcome to unlock sustainable and inclusive slum and informal settlements transformation. The complexity of informality requires strategic engagement and aligned actions: effective and inclusive governance frameworks, comprehensive and integrated responses with complementary strategic planning frameworks, innovative and diverse financing instruments, and expanded partnerships connecting to people living in slums and informal settlements. Transformation is not a quick fix, it needs continuous and long-term engagement.

The GAP responds to the call for action of the decade of action and jointly provides guidance to key stakeholders at the forefront of urban transformation on what is needed first to create a new **momentum for slum transformation at scale**.



The GAP will accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by coordinating actions for the integrated transformation of slums and informal settlements, targeting not only SDG11, but also **leveraging synergies across** SDGs.

Goal	Relationship with integrated slum transformation and adequate housing
<i>SDG 1: No Poverty</i>	Poverty cannot be eliminated while individuals are living in substandard housing that violates their basic human rights and hinders their ability to thrive and survive. Adequate housing builds resilience and reduces vulnerability to economic, social and climate-related shocks and disasters. ¹ Additionally, lack of affordable housing options and secure tenure reduces a family’s ability to build generational wealth and perpetuates cycles of poverty.
<i>SDG 2: Zero Hunger</i>	Affordable housing and secure tenure of land or property have been linked to improved food security. Lower housing costs increase the percentage of household income available to spend on food. The urban poor are often more vulnerable to price-induced food insecurity than their rural peers because of their limited ability to grow or access crops or natural food sources. ²
<i>SDG 3: Good Health and Well-Being</i>	Adequate housing and slum upgrading can improve child health outcomes by reducing exposure to toxic chemicals and indoor air pollution, reducing the spread of infectious diseases, providing access to safe water, sanitation and hygiene (WASH) infrastructure, preventing injuries related to substandard construction materials and building practices, and reducing risks for non-communicable diseases such as cardiovascular diseases or respiratory diseases due to extreme temperatures and other risk factors. Secure tenure is also linked to reduced stress and improved mental health outcomes. ³⁴ In many cases, formal housing and a permanent address are prerequisites for accessing health services.
<i>SDG 4: Quality Education</i>	Children perform better in school when they have the foundation of a safe home. Housing quality and access to basic services benefit children’s health, which leads to better school attendance rates and academic achievement. Adequate housing with sufficient space, light, electricity and internet connection improves a child’s ability to thrive in school.
<i>SDG 5: Gender Equality</i>	Ensuring equal access to housing and tenure security protects women from discriminatory policies and practices related to land distribution, titling and inheritance. ⁵ Women and girls face disproportionate risk for housing-linked health conditions because of the increased amount of

¹ Shulla, K., and Köszeghy, L. (2021), SDG Booklet: Housing Ensures Sustainable Development.

² IIED (2011), Technical Briefing: Urbanization and Food Prices.

³ World Health Organization (2018), WHO Housing and Health Guidelines.

⁴ World Health Organization (2017), *Inheriting a Sustainable World? Atlas on Children’s Health and the Environment.*

	time they spend at home. They are also often disproportionately responsible for collecting water for the household, so lack of nearby access to improved water reduces time for leisure and livelihood-generating activities. Lack of improved sanitation solutions in or around the house creates additional health constraints related to menstrual health and gender-based violence.
<i>SDG 6: Clean Water and Sanitation</i>	Access to clean water and sanitation infrastructure is an important and fundamental element of adequate housing. Improved water, sanitation and hygiene infrastructure has been linked to reduced incidence of diarrhoeal disease, one of the leading causes of child mortality.
<i>SDG 7: Affordable and Clean Energy</i>	Individuals in inadequate housing will often pay higher costs to heat or cool their homes because of poor insulation and substandard building materials. Many individuals rely on open fires and simple stoves that use dirty fuels to cook their meals and heat their homes. ⁶ Investments in affordable and clean energy in slums and informal settlements can save energy costs, reduce air pollution and mitigate the effects of climate change. ^{7 8}
<i>SDG 8: Decent Work and Economic Growth</i>	Secure tenure, improved housing conditions and access to basic services can lower the financial burden of households linked to increased fees, home repairs and unpredictable rental costs. It can also increase access to credit for income-generating activities. Improved living conditions and reduced crowding in homes create opportunities for individuals, especially women and children, to practice livelihood activities from within the homes. Convenient access to safe water and sanitation services, electricity, clean fuel sources, and transportation services also reduces the amount of time spent in transit to meet the household's basic needs. Expanding or upgrading housing stock can also create dignified jobs for community members seeking employment.
<i>SDG 10: Reduced Inequalities</i>	The urban poor are often excluded from the social and economic benefits associated with living in a city. To reduce inequalities at the city and country levels, resources must be dedicated to support the development of affordable housing options and healthy, sustainable neighbourhoods for all urban residents.
<i>SDG 11: Sustainable Cities and Communities</i>	Addressing access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services for slums and informal settlements is an essential part of building sustainable cities and communities. Participatory planning can ensure the creation of interventions that respond to the needs of the urban poor to reach sustainability in all four dimensions of the NUA.
<i>SDG 13: Climate Action</i>	Individuals living in slums and informal settlements are more vulnerable to the effects of climate change, not only because these settlements are often located in environmentally sensitive or hazard-prone areas, but also because of lack of protection from extreme weather due to substandard building materials. Additionally, residents have to additionally cope with health constraints directly linked to the physical slum condition or indirect social constraints, e.g. related to access to health and decent work opportunities. Children in slums and informal

⁵ Shulla, K., and Köszeghy, L. (2021), SDG Booklet: Housing Ensures Sustainable Development.

⁶ World Health Organization (2018), WHO Housing and Health Guidelines.

⁷ Shulla, K., and Köszeghy, L. (2021), SDG Booklet: Housing Ensures Sustainable Development.

⁸ World Health Organization (n.d.), Children and Air Pollution.

	settlements are particularly vulnerable, as they are more susceptible to extreme temperatures and face a greater risk of being displaced multiple times over their life spans.
<i>SDG 16: Peace, Justice and Strong Institutions</i>	Recognition of informal settlements and security of tenure promote the inclusion of marginalised groups (including women, children and urban youth, and migrants) in decision-making processes. ⁹ Strong, participatory governance systems linked to integrated slum transformation model collaboration and tolerance for vulnerable groups, which supports their social development.
<i>SDG 17: Partnerships for the Goals</i>	The scale, complexity, and challenges related to integrated slum transformation requires multisectoral and multistakeholder partnerships to raise awareness for the special needs of marginalised groups and to pool resources and expertise to support the co-creation, implementation and upscaling of viable solutions.

Investing in **slum transformation supports** the **implementation of multiple SDGs**. The GAP creates the framework to address goals and targets in clusters in a **context-sensitive, cross-sectoral approach**, thereby achieving more with limited resources. This framework presents a new set of principles and key actions to facilitate an expansion of the scale for transforming informal settlements and slums and improving people’s lives.. It promotes equitable, green, sustainable and adaptable solutions to the many diverse contexts around the world. With this it integrates informal settlements and slums in sustainable urban development approaches and tackles inequalities and vulnerabilities of residents to climate change and external shocks, in line with the goals of the NUA.

The Global Action Plan Framework

UN-Habitat foresees the co-production of three strategic global guiding documents focusing on slum and informal settlements transformation delivering the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

The GAP is presented during Urban October 2022 with the motto – Mind the GAP – leaving no one and no place behind! It builds on the momentum of the **Decade of Action** and the High-level Meeting on the New Urban Agenda putting housing and informal settlements at the core of the global agenda until 2030. It responds to the **priorities** of the Executive Director **of UN-Habitat for 2022** – highlighting **climate change, adequate housing** and the **Localisation of the Sustainable Development Goals** for core actions.

The GAP is informed by the co-creation of a **Global Publication** “Solutions to Slums”. Since the endorsement of a goal addressing slums in the Millennium Development Goals in 2000, 20 years of learning have not been captured or integrated globally. UN-Habitat with its core partners - the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States; the European Commission; the World Bank; UNICEF; Habitat for Humanity; Slum Dwellers International; and HUAIROU Commission - have started a global scoping paper to cover progress, learning,

⁹ Shulla, K., and Köszegehy, L. (2021), SDG Booklet: Housing Ensures Sustainable Development.

sustainable approaches, finance and delivery mechanisms for scaled actions towards a comprehensive publication in 2023 – 20 years after the introduction of the slum definition. The publication will **provide a snapshot of the current global status quo** of slums and informal settlements, reflect on **lessons learnt in the past 20 years** and **identify sustainable and inclusive solutions for transforming informal settlements and slums**. It will create a **knowledge and innovation platform that** informs how to transform informal settlements and slums and can be linked strategically to an overarching, coordinated and integrated response. Together, we are committed to ensuring future approaches are sustainable, affordable and inclusive. Our future efforts must proactively facilitate sustainable urbanisation and development and are respond to the demands and needs of people living in informal settlements and slums.

The GAP and the publication will inform a **Global Implementation Framework**, a structured approach for diverse partners to contribute. It is designed to engage multiple stakeholders at all governance levels, to foster international cooperation, regional and sub-regional strategies, and to complement implementation efforts at the country level. The process of co-designing the implementation framework will facilitate a political process for broader stakeholder engagement and stronger political commitments. The objective is to drive for more commitments, more learning, accountability and monitoring as well as greater impact in transformative programmes. In a coordinated partnership effort designed to match the scale of intervention and mobilisation needed, stakeholders will unify around a common purpose and get ready to respond in a partnership effort where joint contributions complement one vision and where local stakeholders and communities are supported in a spirit of co-production.

The Global Action Plan Taskforce

The Global Action Plan Framework is designed as an initiative of the Slums and Informal Settlements Network (SiSnet) launched during Habitat III in Quito in 2016 and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP), initiated by the Organisation of the African, Caribbean and Pacific States, and financed by the European Commission. The Government of South Africa championed the issue of informal settlements during the Habitat III process and conducted with UN-Habitat's support the Thematic Meeting on Informal Settlements. Since then, the Government of South Africa, UN-Habitat and the SiSnet have jointly conducted global policy, thematic, and expert meetings and events together.

The Slums and Informal Settlements Network has heard the calls and is joining forces to act now. As a **multiple partnership framework composed of powerful key actors**, it will collectively establish the GAP which is to be politically endorsed and which will inform a **broader stakeholder implementation setting** towards scaling efforts in transforming informal settlements and slums. Governments **from all regions** are joining efforts and are invited to drive the same political mobilisation processes in sub-regions. In a consolidated global effort of transforming informal settlements and slums, the taskforce demonstrates a partnership approach for joint programme

implementation, to change the “way of doing” to integration of actions at multiple levels informed by policy decisions, prioritisation and contextualization.

The GAP aims at taking **coordination, collaboration, commitments, and partnerships to the next level**. It is looking at consolidating efforts to accelerate the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda during the Decade of Action and providing a joint partnership vision. It will outline actions and activities and serve as an umbrella action plan against which annual targets, implementation arrangements and activities of the taskforce can be defined, national and local governments can be mobilised towards multi-governance delivery mechanisms, and finance partners can be invited to contribute to the demonstration of impact in the implementation of a coordinated partnership approach towards integrated, inclusive, and sustainable transformation.

The Slum Challenge Post 2020

The state of slums and informal settlements today

In 2007, the world population arrived at a critical milestone; for the first time in history more people were living in urban than in rural areas. Rapid urbanisation in many countries with fragmented and weak institutional frameworks to tackle multiple, complex, and interrelated urban challenges has led to currently about 1.1 billion people, or over 13% of the global population, living in inadequate, crowded and unsafe housing and being severely affected by multiple shocks and risks.¹⁰ In 2020, about one in four urban dwellers worldwide lived in slums or informal settlements, marked by the most severe deprivation. This translates to more than 1 billion people, 85% of whom live in three regions – Central and Southern Asia (359 million), Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (306 million), and Sub Saharan Africa (230 million). The region with the highest percentage of the population living in slums is in Sub Saharan Africa, where more than half the urban population lives in slums, followed by Central Asia and Southern Asia, with 48,2% of the urban population living in slums.¹¹ UN-Habitat (2020) and World Bank (2018) put the following countries among the top countries with highest percentage of the urban population living in slums and informal settlements varying from above 90 percent to above 60 percent: Afghanistan, Angola, Benin, Central African Republic, Chad, Democratic Republic of Congo, Ethiopia, Guinea-Bissau, Liberia, Madagascar, Mauritania, Mozambique, Sao Tome and Principe, Somalia, South Sudan, and Sudan.

The SDG targets have an explicit focus on reducing inequalities, but national, regional and global averages often mask significant inequalities in service levels between and within countries, between wealth quintiles, and between rural areas and urban areas. Accurate and consistent data collection, analysis and reporting are identified as critical issues. From 193 member states of the United Nations, only 81 countries provided data on their respective slum populations in 2020. The report is informed by the slum definition and deprivations. One of the five slum deprivations, tenure security, is not yet being reported on by member states.¹²

Since 2000, the global urban population living in slums has decreased relatively (from 31,2% to 24,2%), primarily in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia (where the urban slum population has changed by -15,8%), Latin America and The Caribbean (-14,2%), Sub Saharan Africa (-14,0%), Western Asia and Northern Africa (-12,9%), and Central Asia and Southern Asia (-7,8%). However, the total number of slum dwellers has increased (from 894.9 million to 1.06 billion, an increase of 18,4%). Sub Saharan Africa has witnessed the sharpest increase (from 130 million to 230 million, an increase of 77,0% in the total number of slum dwellers), followed by Central Asia and Southern Asia (from 250 million to 359 million, an increase of 43,6%) and Oceania (without New Zealand and Australia, rising from 331 million to 431 million, an increase of 30,1% in the total number of

¹⁰ UN-Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

¹¹ United Nations (2022): SDG Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022

¹² UN-Habitat (2020): Global Urban Indicators Database 2020

slum dwellers). While Albania, Belarus, Costa Rica, Eswatini, Guyana, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Mongolia, Tajikistan, and Vietnam have reported a decrease of more than 50 percent in both percentage of urban population living in slums and the total number of slum inhabitants, Angola, Cuba, Iraq, Ireland, Myanmar and Suriname have reported more than 35 percent increase in both indicators.¹³

Marginalised groups and multidimensional poverty

The urban poor living in slums are heterogeneous groups with different levels of vulnerability based on gender, age, ethnicity, race, household structure, migration status and other intersectional factors. The most marginalised populations are migrants, refugees, women, the elderly and others who live in overcrowded and risk-prone informal settlements.¹⁴ Children living in slums and informal settlements (estimated to be approximately 350 million to 500 million) are arguably one of the most vulnerable groups globally, given the inadequacy of their standard of living, the multidimensional poverty they experience, and their dependency on others and their environment to meet their basic needs and survive.¹⁵

Research conducted in 107 developing countries revealed that 1.3 billion people or 22% of the global population are multidimensionally poor. About 200 million of the 1.3 billion multidimensionally poor people reside in urban areas (Sub Saharan Africa: 92.3 million, South Asia 65.2 million). Urban poverty has social, economic, environmental and spatial dimensions, and its manifestation differs from place to place. Dimensions include poor quality and overcrowded housing, inadequate provision of infrastructure and basic services (such as improved water and sanitation), high prices paid for basic necessities, inadequate income, limited or no safety net, inadequate, unstable, or risky asset base, poor groups' voicelessness in governance and political systems, as well as inadequate protection of the poor's rights. These dimensions are interrelated. For instance, affordable public transportation provides access to jobs; jobs better access to housing and basic services; and access to improved housing and services increases participation in urban governance and decision-making processes. Dimensions interact with and reinforce each other as entailing a web of deprivation to create, recreate and entrench urban poverty, cumulative vulnerabilities and deprivations that are difficult to reverse without collective and integrative action. Inadequate access to water and sanitation is one of the key drivers of multidimensional poverty in slums, and which have a greater impact on women and children.¹⁶ Children's well-being, including their cognitive development, health and education, is significantly impacted by the quality of their housing. By 2030, 60% of urban residents will be children living in inadequate housing in the Global South, who are more susceptible to the impacts of disasters, climate change, public health emergencies and conflict given their multidimensional poverty and already compromised living and health conditions. Despite being one of the groups most affected by the climate crisis, children and youth are often not included in the decision-making processes, including around climate mitigation and adaptation.¹⁷

¹³ UN-Habitat (2020): Global Urban Indicators Database 2020

¹⁴ UN Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

¹⁵ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

¹⁶ UN Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

¹⁷ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

Trends

The world's population is projected to reach 8 billion on 15 November 2022, and could grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050 and 10.4 billion in 2100. More than half of the projected increase in global population up to 2050 will be concentrated in just eight countries, namely the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Egypt, Ethiopia, India, Nigeria, Pakistan, the Philippines and the United Republic of Tanzania.¹⁸ The fastest growing megacities through 2030 are located in Tanzania (Dar es Salaam), Angola (Luanda), Nigeria (Lagos), Democratic Republic of Congo (Kinshasa), Bangladesh (Dhaka), Pakistan (Karachi, Lahore), India (Bangalore, Agnadabad, Hyderabad).¹⁹

Sub Saharan Africa will account for most of the growth of the world's population over the coming decades, and is projected to become the most populous of the eight geographic regions in the late 2060s, surpassing both Eastern and South-Eastern Asia and Central and Southern Asia in size (figure III.2), with a possibility of its population reaching 3.44 billion by the end of the century. The population in many countries in Sub Saharan Africa is projected to double between 2022 and 2050, putting additional pressure on already strained resources and challenging policies aimed to reduce poverty and inequalities.²⁰

The number of slum dwellers by 2030 is projected at over 1.2 billion, based on trends between 1990 and 2012, with the largest slum dweller populations in East Asia, South Asia, Sub Saharan Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean. The largest proportional increase in the number of slum dwellers is expected to occur in Sub Saharan Africa, with a projected 360 million slum dwellers by 2030 (an increase of over 120 million from 2018).²¹ Empirical analysis shows that a one per cent increase in urban population growth will increase the incidence of slums in Africa and Asia by 2.3 per cent and 5.3 per cent respectively.²² From 2020 to 2050 the urban population in Sub Saharan Africa is projected to rise from 458.7 million to 1.26 billion (174,3% increase) and in Central Asia and Southern Asia from 745.1 million to 1.34 billion (79,7% increase).²³ This could lead to an increase of the slum population in Sub Saharan Africa from 230 million (2020) to 922.6 million (2050), in Central Asia and Southern Asia from 359 million (2020) to 1.52 billion (2050), and in Eastern and South-Eastern Asia from 306.6 million (2020) to 465.4 million (2050), resulting in 2.91 billion slum dwellers in 2050 in those regions. Another two billion people living in slums in the next 30 years represents roughly 183.000 people each day²⁴ in need of adequate housing.

¹⁸ DESA (2022) World Population Prospects 2022

¹⁹ Overseas Development Institute (2015): What works in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers. A review of the evidence across four programmes

²⁰ DESA (2022) World Population Prospects 2022

²¹ Nicolai, Susan, et. al. (20125): Projecting Progress — Reaching the SDGs by 2030

²² UN Habitat (2020): World Cities Report 2020

²³ <https://population.un.org/wup/DataQuery/>

²⁴ UN Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

Expected drivers of further slum growth: Impacts of pandemics and climate change

These estimations do not consider the inevitable impact of the COVID-19 pandemic as well as other external causes that are expected to further impact the situation.

While COVID-19 is a global health crisis, it has far-reaching implications for urban areas that should orient future interventions to increase resilience of urban areas to future pandemics. With over 90 per cent of confirmed cases coming from urban areas, cities have been the epicentres of COVID-19. By their nature, cities are built-up agglomerations with concentration of people and high densities, and as such, the impact of pandemics such as COVID-19 increases with crowding of people, making slums highly susceptible to disease spread in a pandemic. COVID-19-induced lockdowns and physical distancing measures have disproportionately affected low-income households, the poor and vulnerable, the informal sector, and daily wage workers who must leave their homes for subsistence wages. The overcrowded nature of slums and informal settlements, with their shared multi-family living areas, inadequate infrastructure, poor public services and precarious locations, means that self-isolation and physical distancing are not feasible.²⁵ In 2020, around 1 in 4 people lacked safely managed drinking water in their homes and nearly half of the world's population lacked safely managed sanitation. COVID-19 has highlighted the urgent need to ensure everyone can access good hygiene. At the onset of the pandemic, 3 in 10 people worldwide could not wash their hands with soap and water within their homes.²⁶

The climate crisis severely affects urban economies through infrastructure damage and livelihood disruption, especially in coastal cities and in contexts where resilience to climate shocks is relatively weak. Current projections indicate that a 2°C increase in global temperature in 2050 will expose 2.7 billion people, or 29 per cent of the global population, to moderate or high climate-related risks, with 91 to 98 per cent of the exposed and vulnerable population living in Asia and Africa respectively.²⁷ Hotspots of high human vulnerability are concentrated in small island developing States, the Arctic, Southern Asia, Central and South America, and much of Sub Saharan Africa.²⁸ By 2030, 600 million of the urban poor will be directly exposed to climate change risks. By 2050, there will be 143 million internal climate-related migrants, if climate mitigating actions are not taken.²⁹ Populations living in slums and informal settlements disproportionately bear the burden of environmental risks³⁰ and are increasingly exposed to flooding, rising sea levels and extreme weather, making them more vulnerable to the loss of life, property and livelihoods. Many of these settlements exist on land that is deemed undesirable or unsuitable for formal development, including the outskirts of cities, low-lying land earmarked for storm drainage and steep slopes. These locations expose residents to disproportionate risks associated with flooding, landslides and extreme weather. Use of substandard building materials and practices and lack of infrastructure also influence households' vulnerability to climate change. Resilient housing materials are needed to protect against flooding, withstand heavy storms, and cope with extreme temperatures. Several factors can impact heat stress in slums and informal settlements, including lack of trees and vegetation, poor construction materials, poor ventilation, lack of efficient and affordable cooling technology, and lower elevation.³¹

²⁵ UN Habitat (2020): World Cities Report 2020

²⁶ WHO/UNICEF (2021): Progress on household drinking water, sanitation and hygiene 2000-2020: five years into the SDGs

²⁷ UN Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

²⁸ SDG Sustainable Development Goals Report 2022

²⁹ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

³⁰ UN Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

Urgent action needed

SDG Target 11.1: Safe and Affordable Housing is one of only five targets regressing out of the 169 total targets.³² Main causes of the lack of progress toward achieving SDG 11.1 are attributed to population growth, rapid urbanisation, natural population increase, climate change impact, migration, political and economic instability, systemic inequalities, weak and ineffective urban planning and land management practices, local governance, policy frameworks, and finance instruments for scaling.³³ As shown above, slum transformation is a critical element across many of the SDGs, and regression in SDG 11 will impact progress across other sectors that are essential for human development.³⁴ Those living in slums and informal settlements are disproportionately affected by the urban services divide; they bear the brunt of disease outbreaks, economic shocks and environmental risks. Studies have demonstrated that disparities in accessing essential infrastructure and urban services can have a greater impact on lives, livelihoods and long-term prospects compared with differences in earnings.³⁵ Immediate action is needed to address the regression of Target 11.1.

³¹ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

³² Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

³³ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

³⁴ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

³⁵ UN Habitat (2022): World Cities Report 2022

Global Action Plan

Definition of Slum Transformation

As a composed expression, “slum transformation” derives its definition from its components: A slum is defined as “a **contiguous settlement** where the inhabitants are characterised as having **inadequate housing**³⁶ and basic services. A slum is often **not recognised** and addressed **by the public authorities as an integral or equal part of the city**. It is an area which combines to various extents the following characteristics: insecure residential status, inadequate access to safe water, inadequate access to sanitation and other infrastructure, poor structural quality of housing, overcrowding.”³⁷ The definition of transformation is “the **process of changing completely** the character or appearance of something in order to improve it”.³⁸ Slum transformation can therefore be defined as “**process of complete change of territorial units that lack adequate housing**³⁹, to recognise and integrate them equally into the city”.

³⁶ As defined in General Comment No 4 of the UN Committee on Economic, Cultural and Social Rights

³⁷ UN-Habitat (2002): Expert Group Meeting on Urban Indicators. Secure Tenure, Slums and Global Sample of Cities; This definition was referred to and internationally endorsed through the groundsetting flagship publication UN-Habitat (2003): The challenge of slums. However, in an effort to create a universal and operational definition with a limited number of indicators to be reported against in national reports, the first two sentences were omitted.

³⁸ Cambridge Business English Dictionary (2022): Transformation, accessed online below <https://dictionary.cambridge.org/us/dictionary/english/transformation>

³⁹ The five deprivations are not listed separately here, as they are included in the definition of adequate housing

Key elements of the definition of slum transformation

Process of complete spatial change:

- **No quick fix:** To completely change the situation, institutionalised mandates at all levels under a dedicated leadership are provided for by streamlined policies and legal frameworks to maintain political momentum for long-term engagement and sufficient finances.
- **No half-hearted approach:** To ensure change in the whole contiguous settlement, spatial interventions integrate solutions across sectors to leverage synergies.
- **No one left behind:** To measure change, disaggregated data collection, management and monitoring systems regularly provide information about people-centred impacts, from an intersectional perspective that include the perspectives of marginalised groups.
- **No one solution fits all:** To ensure that interventions meet the various needs identified, flexible approaches are adopted that allow for a diversity of solutions.

Adequate housing:

- **No dimension left out:** The economic, social, and cultural human right to adequate housing is respected through interventions in all dimensions: secure tenure; affordable, accessible, habitable housing options; availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructures; enabling locations; culturally adequate solutions
- **No one left behind:** Interventions target spatial justice and socio-economic inclusion, creating the base for unlocking people's potentials and capabilities to overcome poverty.

Recognition of settlements by public authorities and integration of settlements as equal parts into the city:

- **No place left behind:** To enable effective and socially just distribution of available resources for equal integration, slum transformation strategies at national, regional and local levels align projects of different stakeholders to overall goals for efficient partnerships.
- **No one excluded:** To ensure recognition of the needs of all marginalised groups, inclusive multi-governance settings with balanced representation mechanisms enable participatory planning and decision making processes for community-led interventions.

Our Vision of Cities for All

Cities for All

Slum Transformation creates **Cities for All** with **thriving neighbourhoods** that **unlock human freedom** and **untap the full human potential of all groups** of residents through **spatial justice, social inclusion, economic prosperity and environmental stability**.

To recognise and integrate slums and informal settlements equally into the city means to go the **last mile and commit to transforming our cities - Leaving No One and No Place Behind**. It is to accept that slums and informal settlements are often the only affordable but inadequate solution and home for at least 1 out of every 4 persons⁴⁰ of our urban population today. In some countries, these rise to T to 90%, a home to almost all urban residents in the city. It is to recognize that slums and informal settlements are **productive, dynamic, and diverse neighbourhoods of our cities**. It is to harness that people will

⁴⁰ According to UN-Habitat (2020): Global Urban Indicators Database 2020, 24.2% of the global population is living in slums as defined by the 5 deprivation criteria. This does not include persons living in informal settlements, or inadequate housing,

need to continue building houses responding to urbanisation. These will shape our future cities. We are thus to proactively engage, influence and provide a joint integrated vision of an adequate standard of living to create cities for all.

Cities and human settlements can only be **inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable**⁴¹ if informal settlements and **slums are at the forefront of our cities' development**. They deserve formal recognition and inclusion into ongoing and future planning and investment, to enable secure tenure options, connection to basic services and technical infrastructures, adequate housing opportunities, provision of social infrastructure and services, and socioeconomic inclusion. The Global Action Plan builds on the **human right to an adequate standard of living**⁴² **including the right to adequate housing**⁴³ for all citizens, with special mention of mothers and children. Four dimensions are proposed to shape cities that cater for a diversity of lifestyles promoting flourishing human capabilities:

⁴¹ <https://sdgs.un.org/goals/goal11>

⁴² Universal Declaration of Human Rights, §25 (1948): 1. Everyone has the right to a standard of living adequate for the health and well-being of him/herself and of his/her family, including food, clothing, housing and medical care and necessary social services, and the right to security in the event of unemployment, sickness, disability, widowhood, old age or other lack of livelihood in circumstances beyond his/her control. 2. Motherhood and childhood are entitled to special care and assistance. All children, whether born in or out of wedlock, shall enjoy the same social protection.

⁴³ UN-Habitat (n.d.) The Right to Adequate Housing. Fact Sheet No. 21/Rev.1: Security of tenure: housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have a degree of tenure security which guarantees legal protection against forced evictions, harassment and other threats. Availability of services, materials, facilities and infrastructure: housing is not adequate if its occupants do not have safe drinking water, adequate sanitation, energy for cooking, heating, lighting, food storage or refuse disposal. Affordability: housing is not adequate if its cost threatens or compromises the occupants' enjoyment of other human rights. Habitability: housing is not adequate if it does not guarantee physical safety or provide adequate space, as well as protection against the cold, damp, heat, rain, wind, other threats to health and structural hazards. Accessibility: housing is not adequate if the specific needs of disadvantaged and marginalised groups are not taken into account. Location: housing is not adequate if it is cut off from employment opportunities, health-care services, schools, childcare centres and other social facilities, or if located in polluted or dangerous areas. Cultural adequacy: housing is not adequate if it does not respect and take into account the expression of cultural identity.

Dimensions of the City for All

Social inclusion

- **Inclusive, decentralised governance** systems
- **Culturally adequate and inclusive design** of housing, infrastructures, services, and public spaces
- Full, effective and inclusive **participation of all key stakeholders** in **planning and decision making**, promoting social interactions, safety nets, and diverse cultural expressions
- Equal rights and social cohesion, protection from discrimination, violence and harassment

Environmental stability

- **Balanced, sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development**
- Protection of air, water and ground, ecosystems and biodiversity
- **Risk reduction and management** of external shocks, like disasters, pandemics, or climate change
- **Sustainable production and consumption patterns**, food security and nutrition

Economic prosperity

- **Equal access to economic opportunities, productive resources**
- **Equitable distribution** of benefits of economic growth
- **Equitable investments** in housing opportunities, infrastructures, human and social capital
- Access to innovative and diverse finance

Spatial justice

- **Secure tenure**, social function of land, prevention of land speculation
- **Affordable, habitable and accessible housing** and services
- **Availability** of services, materials, facilities and infrastructures
- Enabling **locations** near employment and social facilities and services

Principles for transforming informal settlements and slums

The application of guiding principles is key to inform the HOW - the implementation of the Global Action Plan. It strives to endorse principles for impactful transformation.

Inclusive and participatory

Transformative actions foster urban governance systems that enable efficient engagement and response to the needs of people living in informal settlements and slums. Transformative actions engage target populations and create ownership, belonging and wellbeing as well as healthy and safe urban societies. Transformative actions bring different stakeholders together and empower deprived communities to partner equally in public affairs. Transformative actions create systems for diverse stakeholders to engage throughout the different cycles of implementation, this includes inclusive access to finance.

Evidence and data-driven

Transformative actions are informed by multi-level data, local and global knowledge, continuous and documented learning, comprehensive monitoring, and a richness of diverse solutions that can be applied to context. Transformative actions expand data availability and analysis at multiple governance levels with a people-centred and gender-responsive lens. Transformative actions are informed by local realities, demand, supply and the scale of the need.

Strategic and pro-active

Transformative actions are to be designed as part of a comprehensive and forward-looking transformation scenario. Transformative actions are to be designed informed by integrated short-, medium, and long-term and local, city and national transformation frameworks such as in line with local and national strategies and policies facilitating a dynamic transformation process rather than linear implementation plans. Transformative actions build on each other and follow in awareness that transformation requires a long-term engagement and investment.

Equitable and adaptable

Transformative actions are to be responding to a particular context and stakeholder group, targeted and tailored to suit the individual's needs leaving no one behind. Transformative actions need to be driven by a deeper understanding of the diverse context and endorsing NO One solution does fit all. Transformative actions respond to all income brackets, including women and girls, people with disabilities, youth, racial minorities, displaced and all at heightened risk of severe disease or discrimination. Transformative actions prioritise the most vulnerable first.

Sustainable and climate-smart

Transformative actions consider people and planet, social and environmental protection. ACTIONS positively impact people, urban society and the environment. Transformative actions create resilience to crisis, conflict, climate change, socio-economic empowerment and social cohesion. Transformative actions are driven by nature-based solutions, circular economy, careful attention to building material, use of space and resources and building people's capacity to provide a better urban environment. Transformative actions create structures to maintain investment, ownership for maintenance and continued transformation.

Affordable and scalable

Transformative actions have diverse solutions that serve the demand from all income groups and ensure in-situ transformation remains targeted to the population living in the neighbourhood. Transformative actions are designed with the total population of people living in slums and informal settlements in mind. Transformative actions enable multiple financing instruments, partners and investments at different scales to overcome affordability gaps. Transformative actions increase affordability by applying community-led approaches cutting costs and providing income to communities at the same time.

Integrated and innovative

Transformative actions consider the whole neighbourhood, city, and the country and provide solutions for a diversity of sectors. Transformative actions are linked to different levels of governance and sectors. Transformative actions facilitate the integration of settlements into the urban city fabric. Transformative actions mainstream access to technology, smart solutions, connectivity and high service quality towards reducing spatial and socio-economic inequalities.

Accelerators

The Decade of Action has less than 10 years to go. Every second, our world is more and more urban. By 2050, 75 percent of the global population will live in cities and if no action taken will have no other choice than to densify in the current settlements or settle in the fridges of our cities to participate in the urban economy. We are to be prepared, and we call upon the ambition to provide better living conditions for all.

Advocacy and communication

The urgency and scale of implementing the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda are not yet known by all. Many stakeholders are not yet aware to a full extent what the urbanisation of poverty will mean for the future of our cities. More stakeholders need to be mobilised and engaged in priority actions to be taken towards the scaling of transformation in informal settlements and slums. Some governments have most of the urban population living in informality, however no public response at national or local levels. Some governments have designed national and local responses, however, lack access to finance and means to scale pilot projects. Some communities are ready to partner and have local planning at hand however lack systems to connect to private and public support.

Accelerators for advocacy and communication we need:

1. **Global, regional and national events, conferences, seminars, Expert Group Meetings** are key to take stock, connect and invite more stakeholders to join and become aware.
2. **Global Campaigns** are key to getting more and more stakeholders' attention and knowledge to the opportunities of transformation in informal settlements and slums. This includes the mobilisation of private sector business models that are providing job opportunities and enabling spatial and people-centred transformation.
3. **Political champions** are key to leading policy dialogues and for political mobilisation to move forward with the prioritisation of informal settlements and slums.

In 2023 is the UN-HABITAT ASSEMBLY where Member States have an opportunity to set priorities for the coming reporting cycle. Member States are invited to take this occasion to commit and mobilise support towards delivering more inclusive, resilient, safe and sustainable cities and communities.

Coordination and knowledge

The ambition of transformation can only be achieved with concerted efforts as a multiple partnership framework - when all stakeholders engage embraced by a joint vision. Transformative principles can only be implemented with a strong coordination framework. There are still too many actors working in isolation, often in competition for resources and opportunities.

Coordination is to top up everyone's effort and guide a long-term vision with diverse inputs. Limited resources are to be leveraged by diverse actors' contributions.

At global level, development partners are continuing to diversify solutions, knowledge, processes and tools to facilitate a smooth coordination and a reduction of transaction costs for local and national governments. - needed to adapt available resources instead of reinventing the wheel and going through the full learning cycle each time. Global programmes are essential to mobilise a global change process where countries can learn from each other, global knowledge becomes accessible and a global shift in reaching scale by more and more countries joining in can be induced. Joint actions at global level are to be catalyst, reduce transaction costs for governments - reaching more and more countries, cities and communities towards transforming a billion lives globally. Global Programmes are to engage at scale with multiple partners - all applying principles, drivers and key actions to transforming informal settlements and slums.

In the spirit of localizing the Sustainable Development Goals, national and local governments are to be in the driving seat and to be supported by the global community. They are to inform the shaping and evolution of global programmes. National and local governments according to their specific mandates are to take the lead of this process together with communities. They are to set targets and enforce implementation to achieve the global ambition of slums and informal settlements transformation.

Accelerators for coordination and knowledge we need:

4. Global, regional and national transformation commitments combined with knowledge hubs such as: global, regional and sub-regional inter-governmental transformative resolutions and strategies, implementation frameworks such as the Global Action Plan Framework, as well as national, city and neighbourhood level transformation strategies as foundation for long-term actions. Strategies are to be enforced by capacity building support at global, regional and sub-regional levels, for example in form of local, national, sub-regional and global knowledge hubs. They are to engage actors at all levels and provide the right adapted implementation guidance.
5. Global well-coordinated multiple-partnership-platforms with dedicated offering to support transformation at all levels including the new modus operandi of delivering as one, in a full partnership effort with an integrated and inclusive vision. Global programmes can be a vehicle to induce a global change process where countries can learn from each other, global knowledge becomes accessible and a global shift in reaching scale by more and more countries joining in can be induced
6. Global knowledge and case studies are to be made available in a Global Action Plan Platform where all stakeholders come together and share resources and learning continuously. They are to ensure that best

knowledge and know-how is at available and accessible for everyone at any time.

Finance and demonstration

The ambition of scaling requires constant commitment of financial resource flow. The resources are to be tailored and be flexible to match the demand with equity. The lack of financial resources that are tailored for integrated and inclusive urban development challenge progress of implementation in many contexts. Often sector finance and large-scale infrastructure development are still prioritized and do not cater for the full spectrum of transformative actions. Transformative actions are consisting of a comprehensive package of actions and stakeholders. Financing needs to be made available for each puzzle piece to complement the bigger ambition of transformation.

Financing needs to match actions and actions need to match available finance at different milestones of scaling. Investment needs to be carefully assessed and strategically prioritized; Financing needs to deliver affordable solutions leaving no one behind and at the same time look at the broad spectrum of transformation to reach the desired outcome. Integrated action requires financing at all governance levels, and for all stakeholders: for public, community and private actors and all relevant sectors. Finance needs to assist in overcoming risks and enable a start-off phase where actions can evolve. Capacity building for financial design looking at the demand and supply sides are key for affordable transformation at scale.

Joint programming and implementation at global, regional, sub-regional and national levels with diverse financing entry-points are important to match the transformation entry-point of diverse national contexts.

Accelerators for finance and demonstration we need

7. More flexible and integrated financing to be made available; financing partners are to engage in the Global Action Plan Taskforce and contribute to the learning as well as continue shaping financing instruments in line with the principles, drivers and actions of the Global Action Plan.
8. Availability of domestic public finance matching policy commitments is an important first step for transformation at country and city levels. They leverage investment by multiple partners towards blended financing models in different forms and structures including blend of supply-side and demand-side subsidies. National and city governments are to be equipped with regular annual budget allocations. Implementing agencies are to be equipped with knowledge and capacity to inform multiple affordable and sustainable financing scenarios unlocking long-term transformation.
9. Smaller flexible finance is key to continue piloting, innovating and enriching the slum and informal settlement environment towards mobilizing larger scale finance after demonstrating impact and feasibility. Smaller investments enable 'reality check', further stakeholder mobilization, adjustments and learning, as well as replication and scaling in similar contexts.

10. Challenge funds and micro-finance solutions for small businesses can induce more innovations for co-creating affordable and green service solutions and diversifying business cases and job creation for people living in slums and informal settlements.

10 Actions

Achieving these tengoals require collective action across governments, civil society, private sector, international development partners, as well as dedicated individuals and communities.

<i>Key actions for the City for All</i>	
<p><i>1. Social inclusion</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● institutionalised and (gender-)balanced multi-stakeholder systems for inclusive, decentralised governance ● Culturally adequate and inclusive design of technical and social infrastructures and services, inclusive mobility options, and of safe, inclusive, accessible, and quality public spaces ● Promotion of full and effective participation of all in planning and decision making, social interactions, diverse cultural expressions 	<p><i>2. Spatial justice</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotion of collective land titles for secure tenure, and prevention of land speculation, legal instruments to safeguard social function of land ● Provision of affordable, habitable and accessible housing and available basic (water, sanitation, energy, waste) services through greenfield development, technical assistance for housing stock improvement, social housing for the most vulnerable ● Availability of education facilities, basic health care services, and community centres in locations within cycling distance from all residents
<p><i>3. Economic prosperity</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Promotion of inclusive and decent economic opportunities, support of local pro-poor livelihood options and access to productive resources and finance ● Equitable investments in housing, infrastructure, human and social capital 	<p><i>4. Environmental stability</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Strategic planning of slum transformation at local, national and regional level for balanced, sustainable and integrated urban and territorial development, monitoring progress of implementation and of socio-spatial impacts ● Building of responsiveness to disasters, pandemics, or climate change for risk reduction and management of external shocks

2.Spatial justice

Global ACTION 1: Promotion of land value capture, collective land titles for **secure tenure**, and instruments to safeguard the social function of land

- International development partners:
 - Develop knowledge products, promote, and support local implementation partners in the application of value capture methods to finance slum transformation, e.g. financing tools as impact fees, betterment levies and special assessment, or regulatory tools as density bonus, upzoning, inclusionary zoning or transfer of development rights.⁴⁴
 - Assess discrimination embedded in inheritance laws across nations and advocate to develop programmes to provide women access to land titles⁴⁵
- National governments:
 - Develop policies for land readjustment for urban regeneration, or land sharing schemes.⁴⁶
 - Assess affordability for low- and middle-income households, and improve the policy and regulatory environment to lower the entry cost and barriers to access finance for formal land, infrastructure and housing to enable inclusive and incremental approaches as a means for large-scale slum transformation and prevention programmes.
 - Make land available for proactive response to rural-urban migration and urban growth
- Local governments:
 - Strengthen land administration through the development of a land cadastre or information schemes and make use of citywide land value capture methods for slum transformation.⁴⁷
 - Regularise tenure with use of community/collective ownership of the land titles to ensure the community stays in place.⁴⁸
- Communities and Civil society:
 - Organise to impede unlawful forced evictions in slums, including through advocacy on the promotion of the continuum of land and property rights and safeguards in cases of voluntary relocation.⁴⁹
- Private Sector and other actors:
 - Engage with the local authority to negotiate terms of land sharing schemes (landowners)

⁴⁴ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁴⁵ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁴⁶ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁴⁷ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁴⁸ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁴⁹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

1. 3. Provision of affordable, habitable and accessible housing and available basic (water, sanitation, energy, waste) services and through in-situ redevelopment and **greenfield development, technical assistance** for housing stock improvement, and social housing for the most vulnerable

● International development partners:

- Review past experiences of in-situ and greenfield development and technical assistance to extract lessons learnt for establishing a guideline on provision of incremental housing approaches beyond mass housing
- Raise awareness and visibility of the challenges children in cities are facing because of inadequate housing and advocate for better policies, programming and resourcing to support the upgrading of informal settlements and slums.⁵⁰

● National governments:

- Review urban policies to minimise displacement and proactively prepare land and infrastructure. Prioritise in-situ transformation over relocation and greenfield development towards compact, affordable and environmentally sound development.
- Develop urban planning policies and programmes geared towards the progressive realisation of the right to adequate housing for all⁵¹, addressing the housing needs and priorities of children, who live in informal settlements and slums or on the streets without secure tenure and access to basic services.⁵²
- Implement context-sensitive urban planning systems, providing mandates for subnational governments for action, improving tenure security, and establishing effective housing allowance systems.⁵³ Develop a blend of supply-side and demand-side subsidies,⁵⁴ and a national urban fund to coordinate and promote investment in the improvement of informal housing.

● Local governments:

- Develop incremental housing approaches to provide access to serviced land and a minimum core unit, requiring the residents to build and expand on their own according to the set standards.⁵⁵
- Extend infrastructure and services to deprived neighbourhoods.⁵⁶
- Provide basic services that are responsive to the needs and rights of children, youth and older persons⁵⁷ Consider specific housing needs of street-connected children, child migrants, orphans and other vulnerable children during the planning and implementation of housing interventions.⁵⁸

● Communities and Civil society:

⁵⁰ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁵¹ UN-Habitat (2015): Housing at the centre of the New Urban Agenda. Position paper.

⁵² UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁵³ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁵⁴ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁵⁵ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁵⁶ World Cities Report 2022

⁵⁷ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁵⁸ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

- Invest in improving people’s skills for their organisation and coordination for co-creation in solutions and investments to improve their houses and communities. (Civil society)
- Private Sector and other actors:
 - Engage with the local authority to agree on safeguards / possible building rights for infrastructure investments (investors)

2. Availability of **education facilities**, basic **health care services**, and **community centres** in **locations** within cycling distance from all residents

- International development partners:
 - Advocate to highlight strong linkages between public health and urban interventions, especially in disadvantaged locales such as slums and informal settlements⁵⁹
- National governments:
 - Set health indicators in urban planning and measure impacts.⁶⁰
 - Allocate resources for education more equitable across under-resourced areas.⁶¹
- Local governments:
 - Provide access to social infrastructure, including affordable childcare facilities.⁶² Provide drinking water, handwashing facilities, internet, and computers in schools.⁶³
 - When planning for mobility and connectivity, consider the locations that women need to access, in addition to traditional notions of access and design; extend access to education and healthcare to peri-urban areas, in addition to urban cores.⁶⁴
- Communities and Civil society:
 - Identify vacant buildings in neighbourhoods and engage with local administration for engaging with wonder to enable social function, e.g. for a self-managed community centre.
- Private Sector and other actors:
 - Sublet own vacant buildings for social uses with reduced rental fee, e.g. based on service charge recovery

⁵⁹ World Cities Report 2022

⁶⁰ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁶¹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁶² UN Women (2018): Harsh realities. Marginalized women in cities of the developing world.

⁶³ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁶⁴ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

4.Environmental stability

3. Integrated planning of slum transformation at local, national and regional level for **balanced**, sustainable and **integrated urban** and territorial **development**

- International development partners:
 - Create capacity building products and online training on monitoring SDG 11.1 progress locally and on participatory, citywide planning.
 - Establish a platform for sharing case studies, policies, guidelines, tools and research to be freely used and adapted by all relevant stakeholders.
- National governments:
 - Develop an evidence base of the existing housing and basic infrastructure needs of the urban poor and estimates of future needs, based on reliable population estimates and assessments of density changes.⁶⁵ Use innovation and technology along with people-centred and community-led approaches to facilitate better data collection and management systems, evidence-based programming and planning, and the coordination of local, regional and national data and information.⁶⁶
 - Develop inclusive national and city-wide slum upgrading strategies and partnerships, with long-term financing strategies for upscaling, to integrate slums into urban planning, and increase attention to slum prevention strategies at the city level.
 - Project future growth at national and local levels. Evaluate scale and affordability levels to integrate supply of affordable housing options into urban plans. Plan for secondary cities to absorb demographic growth within planned urbanisation.
 - Establish large-scale programmes with targeted subsidies for scaling slum upgrading projects in cities and provide a policy framework for cities to implement participatory neighbourhood plans as vehicles or investments.
- Local governments:
 - Strengthen capacity and technical expertise⁶⁷ for responsive and sustainable urban and territorial planning,⁶⁸ with support from the national government and International Development Partners.
 - Profile and enumerate all slums and informal settlements to create up-to-date and accurate data for informed decision-making and people-centred approaches. Catalogue ecosystems services and identify issues of environmental degradation.⁶⁹ Develop citywide slum transformation strategies with city infrastructure networking, planning for urban expansion, the provision of affordable housing, and access to utilities for the urban poor.⁷⁰ Introduce natural elements of landscape ecology.⁷¹

⁶⁵ Overseas Development Institute (2015): What works in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

⁶⁶ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁶⁷ Overseas Development Institute (2015): What works in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

⁶⁸ World Cities Report 2022

⁶⁹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁷⁰ Overseas Development Institute (2015): What works in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

⁷¹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

- Engage people, communities, and the private and development sectors in creating a common agenda/vision for cities and develop people-public-private partnerships to implement necessary actions.⁷²
- Communities and Civil society, private Sector and other actors:
 - Engage in technical task forces for planning and implementing citywide strategies for slum transformation.

⁷² Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

4. Building of responsiveness to disasters, pandemics, or climate change for **risk reduction** and **management** of external shocks

● International development partners:

- Develop guidelines for climate change adaptation that enhance resilience and are multisectoral and inclusive of all stakeholders, especially the poor and most vulnerable.⁷³ Promote knowledge on climate-resilient upgrading, including tailored adaptation and mitigation measures and building climate-resilient public infrastructure.
- Coordinate with partners for concerted multilateral interventions through tailored support to poor countries to build resilience of cities prone to multiple crises.⁷⁴ National governments:
- Develop social protection systems to improve children's access to adequate housing and improve their resilience to economic, social and environmental shocks and stressors in urban settings.⁷⁵

● Local governments:

- Identify existing social vulnerabilities and understand how they are clustered spatially within the municipality. Plan disaster preparation efforts to prepare vulnerable populations for future risk.⁷⁶ Include climate change adaptation and mitigation into slum transformation strategies, and plan greenfield developments to accommodate relocation needs.

● Communities and Civil society:

- Engage with the local government to identify informal networks to be activated for disaster response and recovery.⁷⁷

● Private Sector and other actors:

- Develop green jobs around disaster-resilient infrastructure (e.g., paved roads, storm and surface drainage, piped water), and disaster-resilient and resource-efficient housing, with local materials, including improved insulation, well-designed fabric, smart design (e.g., appropriate orientation for solar access), low-energy appliances and cooling and heating systems, water-saving devices, water recycling and harvesting, and environmentally sound management of household waste.⁷⁸

⁷³ World Cities Report 2022

⁷⁴ World Cities Report 2022

⁷⁵ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁷⁶ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁷⁷ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁷⁸ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

5. **Monitoring of progress of implementation** and of **impacts** on all groups of residents in all settlements

- **International development partners:**
 - Ensure regularly updated data on the components of Indicator 11.1 and provide disaggregated data according to the measured components of adequate housing, whether through SDGs or additional data sources. Create the composite index envisaged for reporting on Indicator 11.1.1 that combines the two components in one estimate to better track progress on Target 11.1. Devise strategies to overcome the limitations identified with respect to the computation of Indicator 11.1.1, in particular regarding homelessness.⁷⁹ Develop sex-disaggregated indicators.⁸⁰
 - Develop methods for the spatial identification and area-based monitoring of slum areas.⁸¹
 - Develop templates for consistent monitoring and evaluation on the effectiveness of different interventions and financial investments at different times and locations.
- **National governments:**
 - Carry out regular and reliable data collection and reporting for Indicator 11.1.1,⁸² with disaggregation into slum/non slum households, urban/rural, larger/smaller cities, profiles of vulnerable groups (gender/age/IDP).
 - Create a technical support unit to assist local governments in analysing data for planning.
- **Local governments:**
 - Localise SDGs, including SDG 11, by developing voluntary local reviews. Report critical issues and problems, not only achievements, as they can orient financing opportunities or development bodies to facilitate addressing these gaps. Recognize civil society, local and regional government and community-level data as valid inputs into national data provision and reporting.⁸³
 - Overlay urban poverty and slums on local maps, to inform needs for interventions and create the informational base for estimation on scale and affordability for robust investment.
- **Communities and Civil society:**
 - Provide advice for national and local governments on the value of expanding data sources and the prioritisation needed in collecting, monitoring and reporting on SDG-related indicators and other supplemental data.⁸⁴
 - Mapping of delivery of social services at local level (including digital connectivity as a lot of services are online)
- **Private Sector and other actors:**
 - Engage in enhanced cooperation and knowledge exchange on science and technology. Establish clear, transparent and accountable contractual relationships, including for data

⁷⁹ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁸⁰ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁸¹ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁸² Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁸³ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁸⁴ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

management, with local government to provide high-quality transport and mobility services.⁸⁵

⁸⁵ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

1.Social inclusion

6. institutionalised and (gender-)balanced **multi-stakeholder systems** for **inclusive, decentralised governance**

- International development partners:
 - Provide a stakeholder platform pulling from local, regional and global levels and partnerships, such as the SDG/NUA platform developed by UN-HABITAT to identify intersections of housing with other SDG targets and foster collaboration of partners to contribute to SDG 11.1.⁸⁶
 - Endorse establishing sub-regional strategies, knowledge centres and slums and informal settlements partners' network of North-South, South-South and triangular cooperation for enhanced advocacy, coordination, knowledge sharing, peer learning, capacity development, research, and innovation and monitoring to promote slum and informal settlement upgrading.
- National governments:
 - Development of comprehensive urban policies and programmes for the implementation of Target 11.1 through people-centred approaches⁸⁷, to coordinate between different sectoral portfolios and levels of government⁸⁸ and to integrate people-public-private partnerships.⁸⁹
- Local governments:
 - Build multisectoral and multistakeholder partnerships to address the housing and development needs through a common vision and shared objectives, and pool together resources, knowledge, innovation and capacity to achieve greater outcomes and impact.⁹⁰
 - Create representative mechanisms to include children, women and other marginalised groups in urban and climate planning for better, more accessible and more inclusive cities for all.⁹¹
- Communities and Civil society, private Sector and other actors:
 - Engage with public and private actors in planning, implementing and monitoring programmes targeting progress on Target 11.1.⁹²

⁸⁶ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁸⁷ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁸⁸ Overseas Development Institute (2015): What works in improving the living conditions of slum dwellers.

⁸⁹ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

⁹⁰ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁹¹ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁹² Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

7. Culturally **adequate** and **inclusive design** of technical / social infrastructures and services, inclusive mobility options, and of safe, inclusive, accessible, and quality public spaces
- International development partners:
 - Promote well-designed networks of safe, accessible, green and quality streets and other public spaces that are accessible to all and free from crime and violence, including sexual harassment and gender-based violence.⁹³
 - National governments:
 - Enforce standards that create accessibility for persons with disabilities.⁹⁴
 - Launch institutional and governance reforms to implement redistributive policies to address escalating urban poverty and inequalities⁹⁵
 - Local governments:
 - Allocate resources and technical expertise to child-appropriate urban planning, with a focus on improving the adequacy of housing and settlements, energy efficiency, green recreational spaces, neighbourhood and street safety, and finding local solutions to mitigate the impacts of climate change and other shocks and stressors.⁹⁶
 - Plan for transit equity for marginalised groups and especially persons with disabilities.⁹⁷ Provide access to physical infrastructure, including affordable, safe and reliable public transport and sidewalks and other walkways.⁹⁸
 - Communities and Civil society:
 - Engage in mapping exercises for identifying history, intangible culture, all types of cultural resources in the community and for age-based or gendered experiences of deprivations to develop neighbourhood master plans with culturally adequate solutions that respect the local area's character, promote a mix of uses and foster inclusive development.⁹⁹
 - Private Sector and other actors:
 - Engage with local administration to co-develop building codes to ensure quality construction, address seismic and flood risks and standards for resource and energy efficiency.¹⁰⁰

⁹³ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁹⁴ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁹⁵ World Cities Report 2022

⁹⁶ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

⁹⁷ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

⁹⁸ UN Women (2018): Harsh realities. Marginalized women in cities of the developing world.

⁹⁹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹⁰⁰ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

8. Promotion of full and effective **participation of all in planning and decision making**, social interactions, diverse cultural expressions

● International development partners:

- Offer capacity building to implementation partners around effective methods through which communities can influence decisions made about housing and related provisions.¹⁰¹ Address violence against women in all its forms¹⁰² and promote gender transformative approaches.¹⁰³

● National governments:

- Invest in gender-aware, inclusive and evidence-based policymaking.¹⁰⁴ Ensure the participation of individuals from vulnerable and marginalised populations in governance, decision-making, planning and implementation.¹⁰⁵
- Promote capacity development initiatives to empower women and girls and make information and communication technologies accessible to the public with special attention to children and youth, older persons and persons with disabilities, indigenous peoples and local communities.¹⁰⁶

● Local governments:

- Introduce participatory planning with flexible standards, shared facilities, and negotiated tenure modalities allowing for incremental and affordable transformation in line with people's payment and governments' public finance. Extend universal, tax-financed social protections for ethnic minorities and indigenous peoples.¹⁰⁷
- Build a city identity based on values of inclusion and celebrating diversity.¹⁰⁸ Develop cultural competency within city staff to support the sensitive and respectful provision of services to marginalised groups.¹⁰⁹ Engage women in local government.¹¹⁰ Develop advisory committees to create accountability towards marginalised groups.¹¹¹
- Utilise well-known, public resources and community hubs to provide information and services.¹¹² Support vulnerable communities to identify pressing needs and negotiate for their prioritisation and ensure policy, finance, political support and continuity of interventions. Support cooperatives and mutual aid groups that allow new migrants to form relationships and networks.¹¹³ Recognize the rights of slum dwellers to development, and support the formation and participation of their representative organisations in the decision-making process.

¹⁰¹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹⁰² UN Women (2018): Harsh realities. Marginalized women in cities of the developing world.

¹⁰³ World Cities Report 2022

¹⁰⁴ UN Women (2018): Harsh realities. Marginalized women in cities of the developing world.

¹⁰⁵ UNICEF, Habitat for Humanity, UN-Habitat (2022): Children, cities and Housing: Rights and Priorities

¹⁰⁶ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹⁰⁷ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹⁰⁸ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹⁰⁹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹⁰ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹¹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹² UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹³ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

- Communities and Civil society:
 - Engage in participatory planning, implementation and monitoring, and push for political contracts and social pacts to ensure demands and needs are brought to policies and political decisions and generate opportunities
 - Provide youth with access to knowledge, education, skills and opportunities to ensure their meaningful participation.¹¹⁴
- Private Sector and other actors:
 - Develop digital apps that can create conversation spaces.

¹¹⁴ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

3.Economic prosperity

9. Promotion of **inclusive** and **decent economic opportunities**, support of local pro-poor livelihood options and **access to productive resources** and finance
- International development partners:
 - Steer investment towards resilient urban economies and productive urban futures in developing regions ¹¹⁵
 - Advocate for putting slums into the centre of political target setting and action, to reach transformation of cities that is socially and environmentally sustainably
 - National governments:
 - Include stakeholders in the design of an economic development policy.¹¹⁶ Promote access to income-earning opportunities, knowledge, skills and educational facilities that contribute to an innovative and competitive urban economy¹¹⁷
 - Develop financing opportunities.¹¹⁸
 - Local governments:
 - Adopt a multidimensional approach to addressing poverty and inequality.¹¹⁹ Build digital infrastructure to enable service and commerce.¹²⁰ Support informal employment.¹²¹
 - Develop programs to provide women access to credit, land title and financing resources.¹²² Support cooperatives and support groups that allow women to form relationships and networks.¹²³
 - Develop human capital, e.g. by providing training and supporting networks for entrepreneurs and small- and medium-sized business owners.¹²⁴ Strengthen vocational education for new migrants and internally displaced persons.¹²⁵
 - Communities and Civil society:
 - Technological, social and economic empowerment of women and youth in slums
 -
 - Private Sector and other actors:
 - Provide vocational learning that is relevant¹²⁶ to own enterprise.

¹¹⁵ World Cities Report 2022

¹¹⁶ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹⁷ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹⁸ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹¹⁹ World Cities Report 2022

¹²⁰ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹²¹ World Cities Report 2022

¹²² UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹²³ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹²⁴ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹²⁵ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹²⁶ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

10. **Equitable investments** in housing opportunities, infrastructures, human and social capital

- International development partners:
 - Promote potential financing solutions for implementing SDG 11, i.e. related to disaster risk insurance, crowdfunding, impact investment (social or environmental impact oriented), remittances (diaspora financing), voluntary standards (finance), lotteries, social and development impact bonds (results-based financing), environmental trust funds, public guarantees, and taxes on fuel.¹²⁷
 - Advocate for the mindset shift that investment in slum upgrading is not investing in slums, it's investing in cities' development as a whole.
- National governments:
 - Develop financing strategies for slum transformation and prevention at the national level: Mobilise resources at national and international level, such as other public programmes, land value capture, access to credit, increasing levels of progressive taxation on wealth and income, creation of special vehicles for blended finance and eco-systems of funds to bring development finance loans
 - Regulate the mortgage markets by catering to the lowest income and develop primary and secondary housing finance markets.¹²⁸
 - Set national expenditure targets for upscaling quality investments in essential public services, including health, education, social protection, energy, water and sanitation. Assign national budgets for slum transformation, with conditional intergovernmental fiscal transfers for budget allocations for infrastructure provision, planning and housing to exclusively target slum areas.
- Local governments:
 - Develop financing strategies for slum transformation and prevention at the city level: Mobilise resources at local and national levels, including government allocations, land value capture, community savings, access to credit. Collect own revenues and manage local revenues efficiently.¹²⁹ Leverage private investment for large infrastructure investments¹³⁰ and of the informal sector, e.g. through creating incentives and mechanisms for new partnerships, or Challenge Funds for engaging micro-and small enterprises to foster innovative solutions to the slum challenge.
- Communities and Civil society:
 - Implement Community Managed Funds to enable improvements and to provide sustainable livelihoods to communities, women and youth.
 - Advocate for participatory budgeting to assign priorities to part of the available municipal finances.
- Private Sector and other actors:
 - Shape and diversify micro-and small enterprises delivering slum upgrading and prevention cost-effective and connect to governance systems and policies.

¹²⁷ Habitat for Humanity (2021): Progress report SDG 11.1

¹²⁸ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹²⁹ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

¹³⁰ UN-Habitat 2019: New Urban Agenda Illustrated handbook

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