



THE STATE OF THE WORLD'S CITIES 2001



UNCHS (Habitat)

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Front Cover design based on Shelter Adequacy Indicators on page 30.

Background: Photo of Kibera, Nairobi

Foreground: New York city skyline



Back Cover: Photo of Notting Hill, London (largest urban street carnival in Europe) - Lorraine Worpole

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UNITED NATIONS CENTRE FOR HUMAN SETTLEMENTS (HABITAT)

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat), established after the 1976 United Nations Conference on Human Settlements in Vancouver, is the lead agency within the UN system for coordinating activities in the field of human settlements development. It serves as focal point for monitoring progress towards the implementation of the Habitat Agenda – the global plan of action adopted at the second United Nations Conference on Human Settlements (Habitat II), held in Istanbul, Turkey in 1996.

UNCHS (Habitat) promotes fundamental policies and principles to guide urban governance, worldwide, on the basis of the Habitat Agenda, Habitat's own experience and the collective experience of its partners. Habitat's main goal is urban poverty reduction – the overriding development challenge of the new millennium.

Since 1996, Habitat has been monitoring and evaluating the implementation of the Habitat Agenda using a variety of tools including best practices and urban indicators. Comprehensive analyses of urban issues are presented in the Centre's two flagship series, *The Global Report on Human Settlements* and *The State of the World's Cities*.

In addition to its advocacy and monitoring functions, Habitat plays an important role by providing technical assistance to countries and cities in the areas of shelter, governance, environmental management, disaster mitigation and post-conflict rehabilitation, urban safety, basic services and community-based development.

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