

## **Progress in accelerating global actions for a world without poverty and implementation of the System-wide Plan of Action for the Third United Nations Decade for the Eradication of Poverty (2018-2027): UN-Habitat, June 2019**

### 1) SDGs indicator monitoring (progress and status of the data)

With the world urbanizing, poverty is becoming more visible and concentrated in urban areas. There is a clear need to ensure that all available SDG indicators tracking progress on poverty eradication are disaggregated as much as possible, to highlight the urban-rural dichotomy, and within-urban disaggregation wherever possible. Urban poverty is increasing for a variety of reasons. For example, a significant portion of urban and peri-urban households continue to experience worsening purchasing power as their incomes do not keep pace with the rising global prices for many products and services. Likewise, data from many global indicators examining poverty in urban areas such as SDG 11.1.1 on slums, informal settlements and adequate housing have shown widening gaps of poverty between the urban rich and urban poor mostly exacerbated by unaffordable housing options. Many of the urban poor tend to stay in slums where services are not available or inaccessible. At the center of urban poverty lies the fundamental challenge of security of tenure for many urban residents which is being monitored under SDG indicator 1.4.2. Available data shows that for most of the urban poor, over 80% of them have no security of tenure for the land on which they reside. Overcoming poverty in urban areas requires addressing the security of tenure as a starting point, along with many other proven interventions such as social protection, skills development through re-training, affirmative actions, lowering prices of loans for the poor, providing sustainable and accessible low cost-housing, etc. From SDG targets 11.5 and 11b, we notice that worsening global climatic conditions are affecting the urban poor more disproportionately than their richer counterparts whose coping mechanisms tend to be more resilient than for the poor urban residents. UN-Habitat has organized regular technical cooperation workshops in the field of human settlements statistics, which has included country advisory services, national and regional workshops and direct technical assistance. Over the past five years, technical assistance has been directed at building the institutional capacity of national statistical offices to harmonize systems for collecting human settlements statistics, refining definitions related to urban areas and designing data collection tools. Such assistance has also included conducting routine human settlements statistics surveys that cover the collection of disaggregated data on composite indicators, such as those that monitor poverty related components such as slums, access to basic services, land tenure security or urban governance and civic participation. Goal 11 has 15 indicators, for which six require special aggregation and disaggregation techniques to generate the desired data at the national level from city-based data and in a way, that ensures that no one and no space is left behind. In some instances, where countries have many cities, this requires working with a representative national sample of cities for each country selected, in such a manner that it reflects the country's territory, geography and history, as well as any other dimensions such as spatial poverty pockets. As such, Goal 11 monitoring provides a near 80% alignments with the needs for monitoring urban poverty at the right city scale.

### 2) Housing and Slum Upgrading

Globally, an estimated 1.6 billion people do not have access to adequate housing, 25% of the world's urban population live in informal settlements, and homelessness is on the rise in every world regions. The urban poor often live in inadequate housing conditions, such as informal settlements, where they lack access to basic services, work and education opportunities. Thus, exclusion from the formal housing market, and challenging access to homeownership and rentals lead to spatial segregation and inequality. Ending poverty and ensuring access to adequate and affordable housing for all is therefore a major and urgent global agenda in a rapidly urbanizing world. UN-Habitat, as the leading agency mandated to promote socially and environmentally sustainable urbanization and the right to adequate housing for all, is at the forefront of the fight against urban poverty by helping people access affordable and secured housing. In 2018, through the Global Housing Strategy, UN-Habitat has improved housing policies and strategies in line with the New Urban Agenda and the Housing at the Centre Approach. UN-Habitat directly contributed to both quantitative and qualitative improvements of the global housing situation, whereas the number of partner countries that implemented improved housing policies reached 40 by the end of 2018. For example, UN-Habitat provided technical support to the national governments of Bahrain, Afghanistan, Mongolia, Sri Lanka and others to draft and formulate National Housing Profile studies which document the main issues and challenges in the housing sector and proposes further actions.

UN-Habitat is also directly contributing to poverty eradication through its Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP). PSUP is a joint effort of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, the European Commission (EC) and UN-Habitat that has reached out to 40 ACP countries and 160 cities. The PSUP's approach is grounded on its emphasis on integrating slum dwellers into the broader urban fabric, improving slum dwellers livelihood and adopting a positive stance towards slum dwellers, prosperity and in-situ slum upgrading. Lessons learnt from slum and informal settlements upgrading highlight the importance of building partnership at all levels, undertaking city-wide approaches that integrate improvements to the lives of slum dwellers with other key policies, plans, key services, mobility infrastructure and large-scale urban development projects.

To achieve the goal of supporting internally displaced persons (IDPs) and refugees in crisis situations, UN-Habitat also worked with the community of donors and local governments in Somalia to support the sustainable, safe and durable integration of internally displaced persons in Mogadishu and Kismayo. Through its Somalia Programme, UN-Habitat also supported IDPs to afford stable and secure housing via innovative rental housing subsidy schemes that aimed at aligning the incentives of IDPs and landlords and allowing the loan to be recovered. Furthermore, UN-Habitat promotes housing solutions for migrants and city migration governance strategies to integrate vulnerable migrants groups in Mediterranean cities. In 2018, UN-Habitat continued to implement the Mediterranean City-to-City Migration Programme (MC2CM). There were 9 cities involved in MC2CM in 2018 and 20 more are expected to join the network in 2019.

### 3) Provision of land tenure security for poverty eradication

Lack of access to land tenure security is hindering both social and economic progress; and factor in increased poverty in developing countries. The SDGs clearly made the linkage between poverty reduction and access and protection of land rights (Goal 1, 5). UN-Habitat is supporting various national and local governments to improve tenure security in informal settlements (Zambia, Uganda, in Kenya, in Philippines, DR Congo, Cameroun, Laos, Namibia, Nepal, Iraq) by using low cost technology and GIS system to map informal settlements and to establish land information systems. Through those interventions, more than 200 000 households gained security of land tenure and prevented from forced eviction. Access to tenure security will also boost livelihood activities and access to affordable housing. UN-Habitat also supports the development of land policies in DR Congo, Nepal and Sudan to promote gender responsive and reduce social inequality for access to land and other factors for subsistence. UN-Habitat has led the development of the United Secretary Guidance note on land and conflict to strengthen the United Nations contribution to sustaining peace and to foster a peaceful and equal society as the prerequisite for economic development. The Guidance Note on land and conflict is aiming to ensure coherency, coordination and efficiency in dealing with land and conflict in the context of peacebuilding. In the same pattern, UN-habitat is supporting reconciliation and recovery processes through the prevention and resolution of land conflicts at the community level in DR Congo, Uganda, Somalia, Iraq, Afghanistan and Syria. In Afghanistan in just two years, 522,000 properties have been surveyed in 8 municipalities and 1,000 occupancy certificates issued to households in informal settlements. A complete and accurate register of property records improves land management and significantly expands the municipal revenue base. Based on the updated property register, target municipalities have produced and issued 142,000 *safayi* (municipal service charge) invoices and collected US\$ 3 million in additional revenues.

To achieve the goal of provision of land tenure security and good land governance for poverty eradication, UN-Habitat is hosting a global partnership (Global Land Tool Network) composed of 80 global partners supporting land tool developments and land reform process.

### 4) Provision of basic services

Providing access to basic services such as safe drinking water, sanitation facilities, sustainable energy and mobility helps to improve the quality of life of the poor. Through the Urban Basic Services Trust Fund, UN-Habitat supports city, regional and national authorities to develop and implement policies for increasing equitable access to urban basic services and improving the standard of living of the urban poor within the context of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda.

By the end of 2018, about 2.7 million people benefitted from improved access to water and sanitation from UN-Habitat-supported projects, up from 1.5 million in 2017. In Ghana for example, a joint UN Programme of UN-Habitat, UNICEF, UNDP and WHO on Water and Sanitation in Flood Prone Communities resulted in increased access to

water and sanitation to 270,000 people in the target communities, including 55,027 school children. More than 82,000 people are also living in 150 Open Defecation Free communities because of the Programme. An End-of-Programme Evaluation undertaken in 2018 concluded that *“The achievements of the Programme in terms of improved health and privacy, reduced burdens (for especially women and girls) and resilience to disasters among targeted communities (the programme objective), within such a short period, are impressive and hugely important as is the DRR (Disaster Risk Reduction) and WASH learning and increased capacities at all governmental levels.”*