



Fourth OACPS/EC/UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference

‘Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action’

Session on Partnerships for Transforming People’s Lives in the Decade of Action

8th July 2021, 17:30-19:00 (EAT)

Venue: Online

About the Fourth OACPS/EC/UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference

The three-day Fourth OACPS/EC/UN-Habitat International Tripartite Conference on Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action has been organized within the framework of the global policy dialogue of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP). PSUP was initiated by the Organisation of African, Caribbean and Pacific States (OACPS) and has been implemented by UN-Habitat in 190 cities in 40 ACP countries since its inception in 2008, with funding from the European Commission (EC). The Tripartite Conference seeks to take stock of progress made in transforming living conditions in informal settlements and slums, and examine the lessons learnt, recommendations, commitments and next steps needed to meet the scale and implement the SDG and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

Purpose

This Session has been organized by UN-Habitat to strengthen partnerships with financing and strategic partners to support sustainable and inclusive urban development and the realization of the SDG and the NUA. The Session builds on the demand expressed by governments for slum upgrading programming and the readiness of participating ACP governments to expand the scale of the PSUP methodology in their metropolis and secondary cities. It provides an opportunity to present the needs and priorities, the demand from governments, the existing innovative solutions and the investment required to transform slums and informal settlements. The session is expected to:

1. Review slum upgrading efforts globally including the impacts of the PSUP and other slum upgrading programmes globally including the World-Bank funded KENSUP and KISIP that are ripe for scaling, and efforts by the EU-EIB to support governments efforts in slum upgrading
2. Make the case for increased investment in slums and informal settlements based on the increasing vulnerabilities and needs in the COVID-19 context and lessons learnt from the PSUP and similar programmes



3. Identify opportunities for partnership with financing partners to bring successful models to scale
4. Secure commitments from governments and financing partners for increased investment in slums and informal settlements.

Background

Today, one billion people live in slums worldwide, and this population is expected to increase by another 2 billion by 2050, rapidly fuelled by high urbanization rates. It is estimated that approx. 80% of this population lives in slums and informal settlements in Eastern and South- Eastern Asia, Sub-Saharan Africa and Central and Southern Asia, with approx. 25% in Sub-Saharan Africa. Approx. 60% of Sub-Saharan Africa's urban population lives in slums, representing a significantly larger share than the average 34% in other developing countries.

For decades, residents of slums and informal settlements have been marginalized from the urban fabric, resulting in widespread poverty and vulnerabilities engendered by numerous deprivations including poor housing, insecure tenure, lack of potable water and basic infrastructure, and limited access to employment opportunities, affordable financing and clean energy solutions. With the chronic lack of access to basic infrastructure and services, numerous opportunities for partnership and financing exist globally. However, many governments have struggled to attract sufficient development finance and investment to meet the access challenges in key sectors due to legal, political, institutional and economic barriers that have remained unresolved for decades. While COVID-19 pandemic has caused significant negative impacts across all economic sectors globally, reversing the advances made against poverty and inequality, it also presents numerous development financing opportunities not only for governments but also for all other development partners. Even as the pandemic changes the global profile of poverty, it is stimulating innovation, accelerating the adoption of digital and novel technologies for remote service delivery in key sectors including health, finance and education in order to adapt to the new normal.

Description of the Session

A brief review of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme and other ongoing slum upgrading programmes will be given, and a case made for increasing investment in slums and informal settlements given the increase in inequalities and vulnerabilities.

The session discussants will speak to their strategic directions, the financing and partnership opportunities available to various actors delivering development solutions in slums and informal settlements, the trends in development financing including the impacts of COVID-19, and take stock of what has worked and what hasn't in terms of solutions, models and partnership in delivering on the SDG, and the areas that need to be addressed in order to facilitate this.



Guiding Questions

- What are some of the development financing and partnership opportunities available to development actors interested in supporting the realization of SDG #1 and #11 in slums and informal settlements?
- What are the prevailing barriers to development finance and investment in slums and informal settlements? What are some of the actions that governments have taken and need to take to eliminate these barriers?
- What are some of the innovative financing and partnerships models that have been successful in delivering impact in slums and informal settlements and need replicating?
- How can development financing partners incentivize or reduce the risks to investors and mSME willing to venture into the low-income markets to provide low-cost development solutions to the BOP?
- What are some of the key sector reforms that would accelerate development finance and private sector investment in SDG #1 and #11? What has been the impact of recent policy reforms, and government plans and strategies on development finance and private sector investment in Africa?
- What are some of the key considerations that development financing partners make before funding development interventions in slums and informal settlements?
- What does a conducive economic climate look like for the financing partners considering supporting the delivery of housing, basic and social services and solutions in slums and informal settlements?
- What critical role can communities living in informal settlements play in the realization of the SDG?