



'Slum Upgrading and Prevention in the Decade of Action'

**WORKING SESSION 1:
Scaling Experiences from Around the World**

6th July 2021, 14:00-15:30 (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).

Description of the session

Slums are the consequence of rapid urbanization without proper policies and interventions to cater for the housing needs of the increasing number of urban poor. Regions are at different stages in terms of urbanization and slum prevalence. While Latina America is amongst the most urbanized regions it has 21% of urban population living in slums and a longer history responding to the challenges of housing the urban poor. Sub-Saharan Africa is rapidly urbanizing as it is still the least urban region and will be faced to big challenges in the decade of action with 56% of slum dwellers in its cities. Similarly, southern Asia and Pacific urban population is to grow significantly and 31% of its urban population lives now in slums.

For the past two decades governments, civil society, academia, financing partners, communities and a broad range of stakeholders have been looking for responses to provide adequate housing to prevent informal settlements and slums and to upgrade them to improve the living conditions. Approaches have evolved across the years, from the sites and services for slum prevention, to affordable housing provision programmes, to interventions for infrastructure delivery and the integration of slums in the city fabric to in situ and incremental slum upgrading approaches. However, some key principles such as inclusivity, participation, integrated approaches and an enabling policy environment are constant for all success stories and have enabled to reach scale.



This session will look at examples globally and bring together a selection of internationally recognized best practices across all regions to identify which are the key elements for success to scale slum upgrading and prevention in the decade of action. After 10 years of implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) the programme is also able to provide global lessons learnt for slum upgrading.

After 50 years of global learning on slum upgrading, 20 years of slums in the international development agenda there is now a new momentum globally as COVID-19 has laid bare that the vulnerabilities of slum dwellers are exacerbated in times of crisis and that has a negative impact in societies as a whole. This session will serve as a basis for taking stock of representative experiences for slum upgrading and prevention across the regions and from a decade implementing the PSUP. It will inform the design of actions at scale to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals in particular the target 11.1: “by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services, and upgrade slums”. The publication the “Solutions to Slums” – to be released 20 years after the 2003 UN-Habitat’s Publication “The Challenge of Slums” – will be instrumental in taking stock of the progress made in transforming living conditions in informal settlements and inform new interventions for the decade of action.

Guiding Questions

The following questions will guide the discussion:

- How have the approaches for slum upgrading and slum prevention evolved through the years? What have been the challenges that have spearheaded the evolution?
- What are the key lessons learnt and how have these been replicated? How did interventions on the ground influence policy and became institutionalised?
- How has a participatory and people centred approach enabled to reach scale?
- What is the role of the different stakeholders in bringing to scale actions for slum upgrading and prevention?

Expected Outcome

- The session will analyze the lessons learnt for slum upgrading and prevention and focus on the challenges and the solutions that have enabled to reach scale.