

GLOBAL REPORT ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

E-Newsletter

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UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

The Global Report on Human Settlements



Prepared under a mandate of the United Nations General Assembly, the Global Report on Human Settlements provides the most up to date assessment of urban conditions and trends globally. It is an essential reference tool for researchers, academics, planners, public authorities and civil society organizations around the world.

Cities and Climate Change: Global Report on Human Settlements 2011

Climate change is one of the most dangerous threats ever faced by humankind. Fuelled by two powerful human-induced forces that have been unleashed by development and manipulation of the environment in the industrial age, the effects of urbanization and climate change are converging in ways which threaten to have unprecedented negative impacts on urban quality of life, and economic and social stability.

Alongside these threats, however, is an equally compelling set of opportunities. The concentration of people, industries and infrastructure, as well as social and cultural activities will make urban areas crucibles of innovation, where strategies can be catalyzed to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to improve coping mechanisms and reduce vulnerability to climate change impacts.

However, successful responses to the challenges of climate change require changes in how urban areas operate. Such responses also demand closer coordination between local governments, civil society, community and private sector stakeholders, while at the same time building new connections between central power structures and marginalized segments of urban populations.

Cities and Climate Change reviews the linkages between urbanization and climate change, and illustrates the significant contribution of urban areas to climate change, while at the same time highlighting the potentially devastating effects of climate change on urban populations. It reviews policy responses, strategies and practices that are emerging in urban areas to mitigate and adapt to climate change, as well as their potential achievements and constraints. In conclusion, the report argues that urban areas have a pivotal role in both climate change mitigation and adaptation and identifies strategies and approaches for strengthening this role.

Cities and Climate Change will be released in April 2011 and will be organized as follows:

Chapter 1: Urbanization and the Challenge of Climate Change
Chapter 2: Cities and the International Climate Change Framework
Chapter 3: The Contribution of Urban Areas to Climate Change
Chapter 4: The Impacts of Climate Change on Urban Areas
Chapter 5: Climate Change Mitigation Responses in Urban Areas
Chapter 6: Climate Change Adaptation Responses in Urban Areas
Chapter 7: Conclusion and Policy Directions
Statistical Annex

The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003

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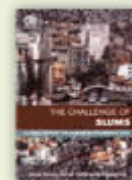
Planning Sustainable Cities - Global Report on Human Settlements 2009



Enhancing Urban Safety and Security - Global Report on Human Settlements 2007



Financing Urban Shelter - Global Report on Human Settlements 2005



The Challenge of Slums - Global Report on Human Settlements 2003

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(Revised and Updated version, 2010)

The 20th century was a time of great change, and the greatest of those changes was in the number of people on the globe and where they lived. Between 1950 and 2010, humankind has endured its most rapid expansion, from 2.5 billion to 6.9 billion people. Sixty three per cent of this gain has been in urban areas, particularly in the urban areas of the developing regions, where the urban population has increased nearly seven times in only 60 years. Humanity is only about half way through this great transformation to urban living.

The huge increase in urban populations however amounts to a crisis of unprecedented magnitude in urban shelter provision. The stretched capacity of most urban economies in developing countries is unable to meet more than a fraction of these needs, so that the informal sector is providing most of the new employment and housing in environments that have come to be known as informal settlements or slums, where more than half of the population in many cities and towns of developing countries are currently living and working in.

Nevertheless, available data from developing regions show that global efforts to reduce urban inequality and the international community's efforts towards meeting MDG and associated targets has yielded positive results. Despite an increase in the absolute slum population from 767 million in 2000 to 828 million in 2010, the proportion of the urban population living in slums in the developing regions declined from 39.3 per cent to 32.7 per cent during the same period.

The revised and updated introductory chapter of *The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements 2003* is available online at http://www.unhabitat.org/downloads/docs/GRHS_2003_Chapter_01_Revised_2010.pdf

Also, case studies of slums in the following cities prepared as inputs towards "The Challenge of Slums: Global Report on Human Settlements: 2003" are available online at: http://www.ucl.ac.uk/dpu-projects/Global_Report/world_map.htm

- Abidjan, Cote d'Ivoire; Ahmedabad, India; Bangkok, Thailand; Barcelona, Spain; Beirut, Lebanon; Bogota, Colombia; Cairo, Egypt; Chengdu, China; Colombo, Sri Lanka; Durban, South Africa; Havana, Cuba; Ibadan, Nigeria; Jakarta, Indonesia; Karachi, Pakistan; Kolkata, India; Los Angeles, US; Lusaka, Zambia; Manila, Philippines; Mexico City, Mexico; Moscow, Russian Federation; Nairobi, Kenya; Naples, Italy; Newark, US; Phnom Penh, Cambodia; Quito, Ecuador; Rabat-Sale, Morocco; Rio de Janeiro, Brazil; Sao Paulo, Brazil; Sydney, Australia.

Send us examples of innovative practices and policies on sustainable urban transport for inclusion in the 2013 Global Report on Human Settlements at hs-net@unhabitat.org

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Next Issues:

Sustainable Urban Transport: Global Report on Human Settlements 2013

The report will review key trends, practices and policies on sustainable mobility and transportation patterns from cities around the world. It will also provide insights on how to improve the working and living conditions of urban populations by meeting their transport needs in an economically, environmentally and socially sustainable manner. The report will be organized as follows:

- Chapter 1: The Crisis of Sustainability in Urban Transport
- Chapter 2: Non-Motorized Transport
- Chapter 3: Public Transport
- Chapter 4: Informal Motorized Transport
- Chapter 5: Private Motorized Transport
- Chapter 6: Commercial Goods Transport
- Chapter 7: Integrated Land-Use and Transport Planning
- Chapter 8: Social Sustainability of Urban Transport
- Chapter 9: Urban Transport and the Environment
- Chapter 10: Economically Sustainable Urban Transport

Chapter 11: Urban Transport Institutions and Governance
Chapter 12: Towards Sustainable Urban Transport