GLOBAL REPORT ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS

E-Newsletter
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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.

NEW - **The Challenge of Slums (2003) - Revised and updated introductory chapter now available**

The Challenge of Slums, published in 2003, presented the first global assessment of slums, emphasizing their problems and prospects. It provided global estimates of urban slum dwellers and examined the factors that underlie the formation of slums, as well as their social, spatial and economic characteristics and dynamics. In 2008, five years after the completion of this report, UN-HABITAT revised the operational definition of slums. Furthermore, a revised Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) monitoring framework became effective on 15 January 2008. In light of these developments, the introductory chapter of the Challenge of Slums has just been updated by UN-HABITAT containing revised slum estimates for the period 1990–2010.

Download the revised and updated introductory chapter of this report at www.unhabitat.org/grhs/2003
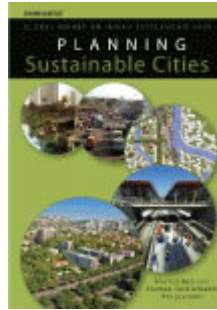
Latest Issue: Planning Sustainable Cities (2009)

(a) Towards a new role for urban planning: Highlights of key messages

Broad policy directions

- Governments should take on a more central role in cities and towns in order to lead development initiatives and ensure that basic needs are met.
- Reformed urban planning systems must fully and unequivocally address a number of major current and emerging urban challenges, especially climate change, rapid urbanization, poverty, informality and safety.
- Countries should develop a national perspective on the role of urban areas and challenges of urbanization, articulated in some form of national urban policy.
- Capacity to enforce urban planning regulations should be given very high priority and should be developed on the basis of realistic standards.

Specific policy directions

Planning, participation and politics

- Governments need to implement a number of minimum measures including establishing a political system that enables participation, creating a legal basis for participatory planning and providing adequate resources and autonomy to local governments, in order to ensure that participation is meaningful, socially inclusive and contributes to improving urban planning.
- Governments, both national and local, together with non-governmental organizations, must facilitate the development of a vibrant civil society and ensure that effective participatory mechanisms are put in place.

Bridging the green and brown agendas

- In order to integrate the green and brown agendas in cities, urban local authorities should implement a comprehensive set of green policies and strategies covering urban design, energy, infrastructure, transport, waste and slums.
- Many green innovations can, and should, be comprehensively integrated into statutory urban planning and development control systems, including planning standards and building regulations.

Urban planning and informality

- Governments and local authorities must, unequivocally, recognize the important role of the informal sector and ensure that urban planning systems respond positively to this phenomenon, including through legislation.
- More specific innovative and tried approaches to land development and use of space should be adopted and implemented if urban policy and planning are to effectively respond to informality.

Planning education

- There is a significant need for updating and reform of curricula in many urban planning schools, particularly in developing and transition countries where urban planning education has not kept up with current challenges and emerging issues.
- Urban planning schools should educate students to work in different world contexts so as not to limit their mobility and the applicability of training and skills.
- Urban planning education should include tuition in ethics and key social values including recognition and respect for social differences, as planning is not 'value-neutral'.

Download the full and abridged versions of the report at
www.unhabitat.org/grhs/2009

(b) Background studies on urban planning

The following background studies were commissioned specifically for the Global
Report on Human Settlements 2009 to illustrate empirical conditions and trends,
as well as effective policy responses.

Case studies

- An extended metropolitan region in Asia: Jakarta, Indonesia
- Cardiff, UK: The politics of urban regeneration
- Challenges in evaluating liveability in Vancouver, Canada
- Community-based and non-governmental organizations in urban
  development in Mexico City: The case of San Miguel Teotongo
- Developing neighbourhood management capacity in Kobe, Japan:
  Interactions between civil society and formal planning institutions
- Developing participatory planning practices in Kitale, Kenya
- From conceptual frameworks to quantitative models: Spatial planning in
  the Durban metropolitan area, South Africa : the link to housing and
  infrastructure planning
- Linking the green and brown agendas: A case study on Cairo, Egypt
- Monitoring and evaluation in China: urban planning system: A case
  study of Xuzhou
- New urbanism, an alternative to traditional urban design: The case of
  Celebration, Florida, USA
- Planning education in Ghana
- Planning education in Poland
- Planning within a context of informality: Issues and trends in land
  delivery in Enugu, Nigeria
- Self-help, a viable non-conventional urban public service delivery
  strategy: Lessons from Cameroon
- The characteristics and outcomes of participatory budgeting: Buenos
  Aires, Argentina
- The state as enabler in urban policymaking in Colombo, Sri Lanka
- The urban regeneration of Plaine Saint-Denis, Paris region, 1985 -
  2020: Integrated planning in a large Urban Project
- Vauban: A European model bridging the green and brown agendas

Regional

- Revisiting urban planning in developed countries
- Revisiting urban planning in East Asia, Southeast Asia and the Pacific
- Revisiting urban planning in Latin America and the Caribbean
- Revisiting urban planning in North Africa and the Middle East
- Revisiting urban planning in Southern Asia
- Revisiting urban planning in Sub-Saharan Africa Anglophone countries
- Revisiting urban planning in Sub-Saharan Africa Francophone countries
- Revisiting urban planning in the transitional countries

Download the above studies from
http://www.unhabitat.org/content.asp?typeid=19&catid=555&cid=5608
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Next Issues:

(1) Cities and Climate Change (2011)

This report will review current conditions and trends with respect to the links between cities and climate change, and how cities can mitigate and adapt to the related impacts. The report will be organized as follows:

1. Urbanization and the Challenge of Climate Change
2. Urban Areas and Multifaceted Governance of Climate Change
3. The Contribution of Urban Areas to Climate Change
4. The Impacts of Climate Change on Urban Areas
5. Climate Change Mitigation Responses in Urban Areas
6. Climate Change Adaptation Responses in Urban Areas
7. Conclusion: Linkages between Climate Change Responses and Policy Directions
8. Statistical Annex

(2) Sustainable Urban Transport (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.