

MAJOR NEW INITIATIVES PLANNED BY ORGANIZATIONS

Information note by UN-HABITAT

There are three major initiatives, which are interconnected.

1. Intra-city data for the monitoring of UN-HABITAT's MDG target on slums.

UN-HABITAT has over 10 years of experience with quantitative work at the city level. Based on this experience, it became apparent that in order to link data to policy formulation, statistics and indicators need to be disaggregated below city level. Intra-city level information is a crucial input for local policy formulation as well as the design and monitoring of city development strategies. Intra-city data is also required for the monitoring of UN-HABITAT's MDG target on slums.

In view of the above, UN-HABITAT started an initiative on intra-city data with the objective of promoting local capacity for monitoring of intra-city differentials. Several projects have been started in support of this initiative. Firstly, Nairobi has been selected for a pilot study in which necessary tools will be developed and tested. The Central Bureau of Statistics of Kenya and UN-HABITAT developed an operational definition of slums and field-tested in Nairobi. All slum areas were enumerated and the relevant 1999 census data linked to the respective enumeration areas. The next analytical step in this project is to compare demographic and socio-economic characteristic of slums with middle and higher income enumeration areas in Nairobi. In addition to that, 35 cities from all regions have selected to replicate the tools developed in Nairobi. Funding has been secured for intra city differential projects in three cities in Asia and Africa. This initiative tries to the extent possible to piggy-back on existing census or Demograph Health Survey data.

2. Global Sample of Cities.

This idea for the established of a global sample of cities arose out of the inability to make statistically sound inference at the global level. Typically, the sets of cities were determined by the cities, which responded to data requests. This resulted in several biases such as by region, size-class or functionality not allowing global scientific inferences.

UN-HABITAT has started to compile a comprehensive list of all cities globally of the size of 100,000 or more. The sources for determining the cities to be included in the sample frame were from UNSD, the Population Division and the World Gazetteer. UN-HABITAT's list of cities, based on the above sources, amounts to 4,574 cities globally. A sample drawn from this cities results in approximately 400 cities considering an overall non-response of 20%.

UN-HABITAT carries out city-level surveys in the 400 sample cities, with a particular focus on monitoring slum dwellers.

3. Local Indicator Facility (LIF)

The LIF initiative of UN-HABITAT is strongly linked to the monitoring and implementation of the MDG goals on slums. It allows a common set of indicators for global comparison as well as specific locally tailored indicators. The main objective of LIF is to monitor local performance and to bring together local data with local policy formulation. LIF will develop capacity of local stakeholders to use performance indicators for the planning and management of local development strategies, operational activities and investment programmes. This includes support for participatory enumeration exercises aimed at strengthening the capacity of urban poor groups to communicate and negotiate with policy makers at various levels of government. The main target cities for LIF activities will be those that are engaged in urban programmes such as city development strategies and slum-upgrading activities.