UN⊕HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Directory of Statistical Services of International Organisations

Brief description of the organisation	The **United Nations Human Settlements Programme** was originally established as the United Nations Center for Human Settlements (UN-HABITAT) by the General Assembly of the United Nations resolution 32/162 of 19 December 1977, and thereafter transformed into a subsidiary organ of the General Assembly of the United Nations by its resolution 56/206 of 21 December 2001, with Headquarters in Nairobi, Kenya ("UN-HABITAT"). UN-HABITAT is the coordinating agency within the United Nations system for human settlements activities and focal point for the monitoring, evaluation and implementation of the Habitat Agenda, as well as the task manager of the human settlements chapter of Agenda 21 and responsible for promoting and consolidating collaboration with all partners, including local authorities and private and non-Governmental organizations in the implementation of the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Goal of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by the year 2020, as contained in the Cities Without Slums Initiative and the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlement in the New Millennium.
Mission	UN-HABITAT's mission is anchored in a four-pillar strategy aimed at attaining the goal of *Cities without Slums*. This falls under the four core functions assigned to the agency by world governments - monitoring and research, policy development, capacity building and financing for housing and urban development. UN-HABITAT's programmes are designed to help policy-makers and local communities get to grips with the human settlements and urban issues and find workable lasting solutions. In April 2007, the Governing Council (GC) of UN-HABITAT approved the results-based Medium Term Strategic and Institutional Plan (MTSIP) for 2008-2013. Within the framework of MTSIP, the Monitoring and Research Division (MRD) shall support the Agency to develop an enhanced normative framework to package: a robust monitoring, advocacy and communications strategy to raise awareness and political commitment to address the challenges of rapid urbanization, urban poverty and slums. Furthermore, MRD shall support the MTSIP anticipated outcome for UN-HABITAT to become a premier reference centre for data collection, analysis, monitoring and reporting on sustainable urbanization by 2013.
Field of statistics	The Global Urban Observatory section (GUO) of the MRD is the pioneer in the collection of urban indicators. In 1991, the section initiated the Housing Indicators Programme, focusing on monitoring the performance of cities and countries in the delivery of shelter. In order to address urban issues on a greater scale, the Housing Indicators Programme evolved into the Urban Indicators Programme (UIP) in 1993. For the first phase of the programme (1993-2001), two main databases were produced: Global Urban Indicators Databases I and II, in 1996 and 2001, respectively. These were presented at the Habitat II and Istanbul +5 conferences. Since 2002, the Global Urban Observation section has undergone a transformation process in an effort to fulfill the requirements of new international mandates – primarily the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). As part of this transformation, the section revisited its existing Urban Indicators Programme and designed a new approach, the Monitoring Urban Inequities Programme (MUIP), to better meet the monitoring and reporting needs of the organization.

	In response to demands from data users, the section initiated the **UrbanInfo** software in 2004, a user-friendly tool that helps to store, present and analyze urban indicators through a variety of presentation tools, such as tables, graphs and maps prepared on the Windows platform. The first version of **UrbanInfo** was published in 2006, contains information on several topics, such as housing, demography, communication, energy, economy, education, health, nutrition and gender. The second version was published in 2008 and provides updated information on these topics and more so covers new topics, such as disaster, crime, migration, income inequalities and transport.
Mandate	Towns and cities are growing today at unprecedented rates setting the social, political, cultural and environmental trends of the world, both good and bad. In 1950, one-third of the world's people lived in cities. Just 50 years later, this rose to one-half and will continue to grow to two-thirds, or 6 billion people, by 2050. *Cities are now home to half of humankind.* The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, UN-HABITAT, is the United Nations agency for human settlements. It is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all. The organization's mandate is outlined in the Vancouver Declaration on Human Settlements (1976), Habitat Agenda, Istanbul Declaration on Human Settlements (1996), the Declaration on Cities and Other Human Settlements in the New Millennium, and Resolution 56/206 (2000).
Statistical work programme	Data collection and analysis is a collaborative effort between National Statistics Offices, Ministries responsible for urban issues, City and Metropolitan authorities and the Research community. The Global Urban Observatory statistical work programme for the period 2009-2010 1. Produce data to monitor the Habitat Agenda and the Millennium Development Goals Slum target 2. Produce data for the State of the World's Cities Report 3. Produce data for the Global Report on Human Settlements 4. Produce data for Global Report on The State of the World's Cities on Water and Sanitation 5. Produce data for Regional Cities Report 6. Conduct Urban Inequities Surveys 7. Produce data for cities and citizens report 8. Support Local Urban Observatories 9. Update the UrbanInfo database 10. Support the GIS 1000 Cities Programme 11. Produce Gini coefficients for 500 cities 12. Organise Census Analysis regional workshop in Asia, Africa, Latin America and The Caribbean in order to produce city indicators
Number of staff *Total(MRD) / GUO section*	
Flagship Publications	1. The State of the World's Cities Report (SWCR) 2. The Global Report on Human Settlements (GHRS) 3. The Global Report on The State of the World's Cities on Water and Sanitation
Website	www.unhabitat.org

Contacts:

Eduardo Moreno
Head
Research and Capacity Development Branch
United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
Nairobi, Kenya
Email: eduardo.moreno@unhabitat.org
Tel: (254-20) 762-5031
Fax: (254-20) 762-3080