



# WFWO-SHH Project Facility

## General Overview

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The Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, aiming at ending poverty, protecting the planet, and ensuring prosperity for all, for the first time is truly universal and stresses the point that everyone needs to do their part: governments, the private sector and the civil society; putting the people at the centre.

As highlighted in the Quito Declaration of the New Urban Agenda, the world's urban population is expected to nearly double by 2050, with cities to be home to nearly 70 per cent of the world's population by the sunset of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2030.

Member States also recognized urbanization as one of the twenty-first most transformative trends emphasizing that "populations, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities".

Around a billion people still live in slum conditions today and poverty and exclusion are no longer limited to least developed countries.

With over 90 per cent of all urban centres located in coastal areas, it is estimated that 650 million urban dwellers will face serious risks from floods, water, scarcity and ecological and economic change as a result of climate change.

As a result of conflicts, as well as other shocks and drivers, around 60 per cent of the total 14.4 million refugees and 80 per cent of the 38 million Internally Displaced People (IDPs) are estimated to live in urban areas.

By readdressing the way cities and human settlements are planned, designed, financed, developed, governed and managed, the New Urban Agenda will help to end poverty and hunger in all its forms and dimensions; reduce inequalities; promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth; achieve gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls in order to fully harness their vital contribution to sustainable development; improve human health and well-being; foster resilience; and protect the environment.

The New Urban Agenda enshrines a new vision of urbanization as an indispensable engine for development and a prerequisite for prosperity and growth.

To ensure that this vision is properly understood by all,

and effectively implemented, we need to urgently address the crucial aspect of housing affordability.

An analysis of housing affordability over the last 20 years reveals that despite increasing demand, housing –and rental housing– has been largely unaffordable for the majority of the world population.

Handing over housing to the market has proved a failure in providing affordable and adequate housing for all.

Today, 1.6 billion people live in inadequate housing, of which 1 billion live in slums and informal settlements. And while millions of people lack suitable homes, the stock of vacant houses is gradually increasing.

Ensuring housing affordability is therefore a complex issue of strategic importance for development, social peace and equality.

Addressing the housing needs of the poorest and most vulnerable, especially women, youth and those who live in slums must be a priority in the development agendas.

Promoting sound housing policies is also crucial for climate change, resilience, mobility and energy consumption.

This is why we call for attention of the importance of locating housing at the physical - and holistic - centre of our cities.

For housing to contribute to national socio-economic development and achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals, the New Urban Agenda calls for placing housing policies at the centre of national urban policies along with strategies to fight poverty, improve health and employment.

As we strive to create cities for all, an urgent action for achieving affordable homes requires a global commitment to effective and inclusive housing policies.

Housing is an opportune and strategic setting through which achievement of mutually beneficial goals of climate change mitigation and adaptation, as well as of sustainable urban development in general is feasible. The planning of residential areas, slum upgrading and urban renewal will help reduce the ecological and carbon footprint of cities and the greenhouse gasses of the national building sector.



## Provide access to inclusive, sustainable and adequate housing for all

Housing is one of those basic social conditions that determine the quality of life and welfare of people and places. Where homes are located, how well designed and built, and how well they are weaved into the environmental, social, cultural and economic fabric of communities are factors that, in a very real way, influence the daily lives of people, their health, security and wellbeing, and which, given the long life of dwellings as physical structures, affect both the present and future generations. Housing is therefore central to sustainable development.

Housing is also part of the relationships between society and the environment. On the one hand, housing construction and operation consume large amounts of natural resources (land, energy, water, building materials), while producing waste, air and water pollution. On the other hand, housing itself is exposed to a variety of environmental impacts and hazards, including those associated with natural disasters and climate change. These aspects are also significant considerations for sustainable development. This complex web of inter-relationships between sustainability and housing is addressed by the policies for sustainable housing.

These policies consider a spectrum of underlying conditions to achieve sustainability in housing development (along the four dimensions of sustainability – environmental, social, cultural and economic), such as: impacts on the environment and climate change; durability and resilience of homes; economic activities in housing and their links with the wider economy; cultural and social fabric of communities and impacts of housing on poverty alleviation, social development, and the quality of life. Although sustainable housing is often associated with wealth and affluence, it does not need to be so – genuinely sustainable houses are those that are inclusive and affordable for all.

Sustainable Development Goal 17, which reads "Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the Global Partnership for Sustainable Development", recognizes multi-stakeholder partnerships as important vehicles for mobilizing and sharing knowledge, expertise, technologies and financial resources to support the achievement of the sustainable development goals in all countries, particularly developing countries. Goal 17 further seeks to encourage and promote effective public, public-private and civil society partnerships, building on the experience and resourcing strategies of partnerships.

## Promoting access to adequate and sustainable housing

### Facts and figures

Urbanization and rapid population growth have presented cities around the world with persistent challenges in meeting the housing needs of their populations:

- With urbanization, housing needs are increasing. By 2030, UN-Habitat estimates that an additional 3 billion people, about 40 per cent of the world's population, will need access to adequate housing. This figure translates into a demand for 96,000 new affordable and accessible housing units every day, or some 4,000 units every hour. An estimated 1.6 billion people globally will potentially be affected in the coming decade by the struggle to obtain adequate and affordable housing. About 85 per cent of that demand is expected to arise in emerging economies, of which about 50 per cent will be in China;
- Housing affordability has become a global challenge. Housing affordability affects lower-income and higher-income countries, homeowners and renters. In low-income countries, households need to save the equivalent of nearly eight times their annual household income in order to be able to afford the price of a standard house in their town or city. Where they rent, households have to commit more than 25 per cent of their monthly income to rent payments. In many European countries, families, especially among the youth, are severely cost-burdened and have much less to spend on other necessities such as food, health, transport and clothing. In extreme circumstances, households are forced to leave their accommodation because of their inability to pay. An estimated 100 million people worldwide are homeless;
- Inadequate housing, informal settlements and slums remain the only housing option for many living in cities. Today, 1.6 billion people globally live in inadequate housing, of which 1 billion live in slums and informal settlements. Lack of access to basic services is a common constraint in informal settlements and slums. Worldwide, 2.4 billion people live without adequate sanitation facilities and 2 billion are affected by water stress. Households headed by young women and children are often the most vulnerable to inadequate housing conditions. One in four people live in situations that harm their health, safety and prosperity;
- Lack of effective urban planning coinciding with dysfunctional property markets hinder the supply of affordable housing. Land delivery systems, sustained by the absence of urban planning, have contributed to the reproduction of mass residential schemes which are built far away from the urban

core where land is supposed to be cheaper, creating fragmented urban growth that is very costly over the long term. Mass housing schemes of this nature tend to increase sprawl and unnecessary consumption of land. In lower income countries, about 70 per cent of people live outside any system of land registration. Constraints in the regulatory environment such as restrictions to multi-family housing, internal subdivision or addition of new units or new floors increase transaction costs and housing costs.

### Key commitments related to the New Urban Agenda and other global agreements

- The full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing as outlined in the Habitat Agenda (1996) and provided for in international instruments is at the centre of the Sustainable Development Goals and the New Urban Agenda. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, in particular its Goal 11 (make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable) and specifically target 1 (by 2030, ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrade slums) recognizes the right to adequate housing and slum upgrading as critical elements for inclusive and sustainable urbanization.
- The New Urban Agenda places housing at the centre of sustainable urbanization and is therefore essential to the achievement of target 1 of Goal 11. The New Urban Agenda embodies a new vision of urbanization as the engine for sustainable development. In this vision, the full and progressive realization of the right to adequate housing is one of the transformative forces that can potentially lead the world to overcome challenges related to climate change, poverty, exclusion and inequality, and positively influence cities to embark on a path to inclusive, planned and sustainable urbanization. The realization of the commitments contained in the New Urban Agenda towards HSP/GC/26/5 inclusion, prosperity and sustainability largely depends on how housing strategies align and interact with the five action-oriented categories outlined in the action framework for the implementation of the Agenda. In particular, the Agenda sets out how, at the national level, housing policies integrate into the framework of national urban policies in consonance with all relevant sectors – education, health, employment – and at the local level, how housing is integrated into urban planning practice and coordinated with the different inputs required for its development – land, infrastructure and finance.

**For more information:  
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Read more

**1. Human Rights for Housing**



Read more

**2. The UN Sustainable Development Goals Report 2017**



Read more

**3. Why It Goal 11 Cities**



Read more

**4. SDG Goal 11 Monitoring Framework A Guide UN Report 2017**



Read more

**5. UN Habitat GC Declaration**



Read more

**6. World Urban Forum 2018 (Cities 2030)**

