ISSUE BRIEF:
SLUM UPGRADING & LAND

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Executive summary

Today, 1.6 billion people live without adequate shelter, with 1 billion of these people living in slums.[1] Due to rapid urbanization, this number is expected to reach 2 billion by 2030.[2] In 39 countries all around the world, over 50% of the urban population lives in informal settlements, also known as slums.[3] Land and housing markets in many parts of the developing world are characterized by bureaucratic, costly, and burdensome systems and processes. Paired with the high cost of land and housing supplies, the result is systemic exclusion from formal housing, serviced land, and amenities. In most places, the formal housing market is not designed to serve low-income families, and the shrinking number of publicly supported housing projects are unable to provide affordable units to low-income people. This leaves no other alternative than for people to settle in slums. Weak institutions and fragmented approaches to planning further entrench the challenge to meeting the global housing need.[4]

Habitat for Humanity works to ensure everyone has a decent place to live and to achieve this vision is of the view that it is essential to advocate for stronger participatory and inclusive policy frameworks, in addition to comprehensive policy implementation strategies that support slum upgrading. Therefore, slum upgrading is one of the four pillars of Habitat for Humanity's global advocacy campaign, **Solid Ground**. Central to addressing housing needs in informal settlements stands the issue of land tenure. The enhanced stability achieved through improved security of tenure, or living without the fear of evictions, enables a cycle of investment that can improve slum settlements over time. Slum upgrading can also increase the perceived tenure of families when supported by the local or national government, providing *de facto* authorization for the settlement which results in stability and security for a family.[5]

Solid Ground's Principles for Slum Upgrading

Habitat for Humanity's global advocacy campaign, **Solid Ground**, has identified core principles that are central to our recommendations for slum upgrading policy and advocacy efforts globally:
- Secure tenure should be at the center of slum upgrading.
- Community-led approaches are essential for slum upgrading.
- Security of tenure is the right to feel safe in your own home and to not be arbitrarily or forcibly evicted because of a lack of documentation.

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[1] The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Slum Upgrading Facility: Land and Slum Upgrading* (Nairobi, Kenya, 2009), 1. http://www.unhabitat.org/pmss/listItemDetails.aspx?publicationID=2679

[2] The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *The Challenge of Slums, Global Report on Human Settlements* (Nairobi, Kenya, 2003), xxvi. https://www.un.org/ruleoflaw/files/Challenge%20of%20Slums.pdf

[3] World Bank Open Data, *Population living in slums (% of urban population), 1990-2014*. https://data.worldbank.org/indicator/EN.POP.SLUM.UR.ZS?locations=IN&year_high_desc=false

[4] Narae Choi, "Federal Republic of Nigeria Slum Upgrading, Involuntary Resettlement, Land and Housing: Lessons Learned from the Experience in Lagos and Other Mega-cities," *The World Bank Group* (Washington DC, USA, 2015), vi. http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/347391472444343246/pdf/ACS13975-REVISED-P154166-PUBLIC-LMDGP-Study-20150623-Final.pdf

[5] Paul Syagga, "Land Tenure in Slum Upgrading Projects. Les cahiers d'Afrique de l'Est," *Hyper Articles en Ligne* (Nairobi, Kenya, 2011), 106-107. https://halshs.archives-ouvertes.fr/halshs-00751866/file/Paul_Syagga_-_LAND_TENURE_IN_SLUM_UPGRADING.pdf

- The broad efforts to ameliorate development outcomes for marginalized and slum dwelling populations should recognize the need for improved housing, basic services, and security of tenure.
- Regulations should encourage *in situ* incremental building and recognize the long-term nature of the process.
- Inclusive and innovative microfinance products should be available for incremental home and land improvement.
- Urban and city plans must be inclusive of and reflect the existence of slum areas.
- Infrastructure development, including re-blocking processes, should be pursued with as little displacement as possible.
- Housing policies and systems that broaden housing choices, including self-built options and opportunities at the appropriate scale and at an affordable price in diverse, suitable locations vis-à-vis access to employment and income generation to address slum settlement formation.
- People, public, and private partnerships are required to support the implementation of sustainable slum upgrading solutions.

Slum upgrading and land

As land values within cities continue to rise, affordable land becomes increasingly scarce and tenure security for the urban poor deteriorates. Greater competition for land—due to growing urban populations—upsurges the potential for disputes and heightens the risk of conflict. Increasingly, communities living in poor conditions are forcibly evicted and pushed to unplanned and poorly serviced areas at the edges of cities.[6]

There are many barriers, specifically linked to land, when it comes to meeting the need for adequate and affordable housing in informal settlements. In order to achieve equitable and accessible housing for all, a successful housing sector requires land formalization measures, as well as a sufficient supply of affordable housing units. Additionally, urban policies and plans must be inclusive of the communities they will affect if these projects are to have sustainable impact for all inhabitants.

In most countries around the world, there are limited regulatory environments to allow for the formalization of land. Critical to any discussion of secure tenure—and hence, to slum upgrading—is the need for good governance, management and effective land administration. As noted in the New Urban Agenda, it remains imperative to develop "strong, inclusive management frameworks and accountable institutions that deal with land registration and governance."[7] Certain tools already exist for achieving sufficient governance and administration systems. The Global Land Tool Network of UN-Habitat has a suite of 18 land tools available for use and application by practitioners and governments. One of these is the fit-for-purpose approach to land administration, which offers a viable and practical solution that enables control of the use of all land. Additionally, the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations' Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries, and Forests in the

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[6] The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *State of the World's Cities 2006/7* (Nairobi, Kenya, 2006), 92. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/content/documents/11292101_alt.pdf

[7] The United Nations, *Habitat III, The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development*: *New Urban Agenda* (Quito, Ecuador, 2017), 104. http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUA-English.pdf

Context of National Food Security provides a framework through which to clarify and secure tenure rights, across diverse geopolitical contexts.[8]

Moreover, supportive regulatory environments are key to developing adequate housing finance products, including microfinance for housing, in the absence of traditional housing finance products for the urban poor. Insufficient access to housing finance products remains a significant barrier for families around the world looking to improve their housing conditions. Worldwide, half of the adult population does not have a bank account at a formal financial institution. For instance, 75 percent of people living in Sub-Saharan Africa earn less than $2 per day are "unbanked."[9] Traditional mortgage loans are not accessible to the lowest-income populations, and standard consumer microfinance loans are not structured to meet home construction needs. In cases where housing finance and secure tenure are made available to people, the quality of owner-built housing—even at the bottom-end of the economic ladder—can improve dramatically.[10]

The Costs of Unplanned Settlements

Life in an informal settlement is met with many challenges, including accessing public transportation, clean water and sanitation, medical services and educational facilities. These difficulties are often the result of being located at the outskirts of cities or arise from the lack of access to adequate shelter conditions.[11] As unplanned settlements continue to expand with rising urbanization in the Global South, it must be recognized that there are unique costs on the populations that reside in these informal settings, with specific impacts on their health, livelihoods, and their ability to escape the cycle of poverty.

Perpetuating Poverty
Slums perpetuate the poverty of their inhabitants as they often have limited access to health and education services, infrastructure, transportation, healthy food and water. Often, the lack of a registered address can be an obstacle to gaining formal employment. Without security of tenure, families are limited in the business opportunities they can pursue from their homes and may have to travel significant distances to work. In some countries in sub-Saharan Africa, poor families are forced to spend over half their income on transportation due to the distance the live from their place of work, poor infrastructure, and congestion.[12]

Slums can arise on vacant land in the absence of any services or infrastructure. Without proof of land title, families are often unable to connect to available municipal utility supplies, including

[8] Committee on Food World Security, *Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests in the Context of National Food Security* (Rome, Italy, 2012). http://www.fao.org/3/a-i2801e.pdf

[9] Asli Demirguc-Kunt, and Leora Klapper, "Measuring Financial Inclusion," *The World Bank Development Research Group* (April 2012), 13.
http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/453121468331738740/pdf/WPS6025.pdf

[10] The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, and The United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific, *Quick Guides for Policy Makers 5: Housing Finance; Ways to Help the Poor Pay for Housing* (Bangkok, Thailand, 2008), 3. https://www.scribd.com/document/233759582/Quick-Guides-for-Policy-Makers-5-HOUSING-FINANCE-Ways-to-Help-the-Poor-Pay-for-Housing#download

[11] The World Bank Group, *From Oil to Cities: Nigeria's Next Transformation, Directions in Development--Countries and Regions World Bank* (Washington, DC, USA), 27.
http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/711661468010811972/pdf/106150-PUB-ADD-DOI-ISBN-SERIES-OUO-9.pdf

[12] The World Bank Group, *From Oil to Cities*, 27.

water. For example, in Metro Manila, almost 46 percent of families in informal settlements depend exclusively on water vendors for drinking water; thus, leading families to spend up to 13 times more for the delivery of water than families living in nearby fully serviced neighborhoods.[13]

Living in informal settlements is also associated with lower education outcomes and livelihood opportunities. For instance, in Nigeria, children living in slums are 35 percent less likely to attend school, and the school dropout rates are also significantly higher, with 27 percent of women ages 15-24 leaving school early due to pregnancy or marriage, compared to 16 percent for non-slum dwellers.[14]

Health and safety
The spontaneous nature by which slum developments evolve has an impact on the physical wellbeing and safety of its inhabitant. Evolving at the peripheries, slum developments a built in less desirable spaces often on river banks or along transportation corridors, exposed to weather events, tides, or pollution. Poor community planning and structurally unsound construction also create hazards for inhabitants, which are exacerbated by floods, fires and landslides.[15] It can be extremely difficult for emergency vehicles and law enforcement to navigate tightly woven pathways with few signs or distinguishing landmarks, making inhabitants particularly vulnerable to crime and violence. Lack of appropriate drainage or ventilation can intensify poor health conditions. Additionally, the absence of appropriate street lighting, access to transportation, or communal toilets and water points increases safety concerns specifically for women and vulnerable groups.

Women and vulnerable groups
Certain populations are more impacted by living in informal settlements, which further reinforces inequality and the marginalization of these groups.[16] The lack of basic services affects women disproportionately as they spend most of their unpaid work hours attending to their care-giving roles at home. Travelling long distances for employment puts women at greater risk of abuse and assault. Moreover, the absence of secure land rights, property, and housing has a range of overlapping impacts on the lives of women and their children. One of the primary challenges is the inability of women "to control, own, and access housing, land, and property in their own right and on their own terms."[17] This violation of women's human rights is intertwined with violence

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[13] Judy L. Baker, Makiko Watanabe, Bernice Anne Varona Soriano, Joseph Louie Limkin, Tuo Shi, Christopher Alex Hooton, Marcin Miroslaw Piatkowski, Dmitry Sivaev, Farida Lasida Adji, Jerzy Jakub Toborowicz, Lawrence Tang, Julia Catherine Nebrija, Floradema Eleazar, Marilyn Tolosa Martinez, Vickram Cuttaree, "Philippines - Urbanization Review: Fostering Competitive, Sustainable and Inclusive Cities," *The World Bank Group* (Washington D.C., 2017), 71. http://documents.worldbank.org/curated/en/963061495807736752/pdf/114088-REVISED-PUBLIC-Philippines-Urbanization-Review-Full-Report.pdf

[14] The World Bank Group, *From Oil to Cities*, 27

[15] Judy L. Baker, et al., *Philippines Urbanization Review,* 75-78.

[16] The United Nations, *Habitat III Issue Papers - 22: Informal Settlements* (New York City, NY, 2015), 6. https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-22_Informal-Settlements.pdf

[17] The United Nations Human Settlements Programme, *Gender Issue Guide Housing and Slum Upgrading* (Nairobi, Kenya, 2012). https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/Housing/InformalSettlements/UNHABITAT_Housing_and_SlumUpgrading.pdf

against women, the spread and impact of HIV/AIDS, poverty, and further economic impoverishment.[18]

Environmental effects

Urban dwellers living in poor conditions suffer disproportionately from environmental impacts, including disasters.[19] Informal settlements and slums are often located in the most environmentally and geographically hazardous urban areas, which are exacerbated by climate change.[20] Additionally, in many informal settlements, families' immediate need for shelter and a lack of resources can lead to significant ecological destruction. Trash collection and drainage are often nonexistent, and waste and human refuse accumulates in the limited empty spaces, often mixing with and being dispersed by flood waters or heavy rains. According to the World Bank, increasing the availability of appropriate, affordable housing to slum dwellers is the most important and potentially impactful form of adapting cities to climate change.[21]

Global commitments to action

The importance of slum upgrading is reflected in the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals, also known as Agenda 2030, or the SDGs. The sustainable development agenda aims to end poverty, promote prosperity and people's well-being while protecting the environment, by 2030. The target for SDG Goal 11: "Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable" references the need to ensure access for all to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services.[22] Indicator 11.1.1 captures the key deprivations associated with informal settlements that need to be addressed to determine progress. These include access to improved water and sanitation, sufficient living area, freedom from overcrowding, durable and structurally safe dwellings, and security of tenure.

Additionally, slum upgrading is central to meeting several SDG targets. SDG 1 aims to "end poverty in all its forms."[23] Slums contain high concentrations of poverty and must be a key focus of the global commitment to deliver on the promises of urbanization. Moreover, indicator 1.4.2 aims to measure the "proportion of total adult population with secure tenure rights to land, with legally recognized documentation and who perceive their rights to land as secure" highlighting the link between poverty reduction and land rights, which, as has been stated above, is integral to slum upgrading efforts.[24] However, slum upgrading can support the targets set in additional goals. Goal 5, for example, seeks to "achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls," and specifically to "eliminate all forms of violence against all women and girls in the public and private spheres."[25] Access to property is one of the most important factors in protecting women

[18] Gender and HIV/AIDS – The Human Rights and Security Perspectives
https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/op-guide.pdf
[19] The United Nations, *Habitat III Issue* Papers,
https://unhabitat.org/wp-content/uploads/2015/04/Habitat-III-Issue-Paper-22_Informal-Settlements.pdf
[20] Ibid.
[21] The World Bank, *Cities and Climate Change: An Urgent Agenda* (Washington D.C., USA, 2010), 5-12.
https://siteresources.worldbank.org/INTUWM/Resources/340232-1205330656272/CitiesandClimateChange.pdf
[22] The United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*: Goal 11. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/goal-11/
[23] Ibid., Goal 1. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/goal-01/
[24] The United Nations, "Transforming our world: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development," *Sustainable Development Knowledge Platform*. https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/post2015/transformingourworld.
[25] The United Nations, *Sustainable Development Goals*: Goal 5. https://unstats.un.org/sdgs/report/2016/goal-05/

from violence.[26] Improved property rights, in combination with improving their assets, give women the strongest advantage against domestic violence.[27]

The New Urban Agenda, signed by more than 170 countries at the Habitat III meeting in Quito, Ecuador in 2016, includes extensive language on ensuring slum upgrading is prioritized for the comprehensive improvement of cities. Specifically, by signing the New Urban Agenda, states committed to "consider increased allocations of financial and human resources, as appropriate, for the upgrading and, to the extent possible, prevention of slums and informal settlements in the allocation of financial and human resources with strategies that go beyond physical and environmental improvements to ensure that slums and informal settlements are integrated into the social, economic, cultural and political dimensions of cities."[28] Additionally, states committed to encouraging "the development of policies, tools, mechanisms and financing models that promote access to a wide range of affordable, sustainable housing options, … that address the needs of persons and communities, in order to improve the supply of housing (especially for low-income groups), prevent segregation and arbitrary forced evictions and displacements … [which] will include support to incremental housing and self-build schemes, with special attention to programs for upgrading slums and informal settlements."[29]

Solid Ground: A Global Advocacy Campaign – Country Examples

Habitat for Humanity has been working to affect systems and policy change globally that encourage governments to prioritize slum upgrading and address the needs of their urban residents residing in informal settlements. Habitat for Humanity has worked to help governments gather information and data on informal settlements in order to identify the unique needs of these diverse communities. In Brazil, Bangladesh, and Liberia, Habitat for Humanity has successfully affected the lives of slum dwellers in their cities and the future of urban development in their countries, respectively.

South Africa: Informal Settlement Upgrading Policy promoting in situ upgrading over relocation and re-settlement

South Africa has policies and legislative frameworks that seek to enable greater access to adequate housing for all citizens. The expansion of informal settlements, or slums, has become a key feature of urban and peri-urban settings in South Africa. Habitat for Humanity South Africa recognized this as a critical housing and land-related challenge requiring innovative and participatory responses.

The first phase of Habitat South Africa's program was to develop four advocacy research reports. The set of in-depth research papers investigated the ways informal settlement upgrading processes and systems can be formulated to allow for extensive community involvement, and how community capacity can be built to provide avenues for final settlement consolidation.

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[26] For more see: Greta Friedemann-Sánchez, "Assets in Intrahousehold Bargaining among Women Workers in Colombia's Cut-Flower Industry." *Feminist Economics* 12, no. 1-2 (November, 2008), 247-269.
Pradeep Panda, and Bina Agarwal, "| Marital Violence, Human Development and Women's Property Status in India," 33, no. 5 (May 2005), 823-850.
[27] Ibid.
[28] The United Nations, *Habitat III, The United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development*: *New Urban Agenda* (Quito, Ecuador, 2017), 109. http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUAEnglish-With-Index-1.pdf
[29] The United Nations, *Habitat III,* 107. http://habitat3.org/wp-content/uploads/NUAEnglish-With-Index-1.pdf

The second phase involved partnering with the Community Organization Resource Center, or CORC, a member of the South African Slum Dwellers International Alliance, in a sub-grant contract for the National Upgrading Support Program, or NUSP. Through this partnership, Habitat South Africa developed a Capacity Building Program and Sustainable Livelihoods Program for Stellenbosch Local Municipality. Habitat South Africa also developed a resource guide to build the capacity of intermediary organizations in the provision of participatory services in informal settlement upgrading contexts.

Habitat South Africa convened the Practitioners Platform, bringing together urban sector specialists to share experiences and design collective responses and policy recommendations. Habitat South Africa developed several submissions, which it shared with the Platform for input and review. They used this research, documentation and lessons learned to influence informal settlement upgrading and social development policies through engagement with policymakers, government officials and the private sector.

Habitat South Africa joined a consortium with the Palmer Development Group and Isandla Institute tendered to develop an informal settlement strategy. The consortium was successful, and as a result, each organization contributed to a set of technical documents setting the strategic direction for the Informal Settlement Support Plan, or ISSP, in the Western Cape Province. Habitat South Africa produced the ISSP chapter, "Tenure and Design Option." The ISSP guides municipal approaches, processes and actions aimed at in situ settlement upgrading. The ISSP was framed to:

- Encourage in situ incremental development: In as much as possible, improve living conditions and tenure security where people reside and use a participatory neighborhood development planning process to guide phased development.
- Focus on scaling up: Current programs must benefit more informal settlements and improve living conditions faster.
- Minimize relocations: Avoid disruptions to existing community networks and relocate only those households located in high risk and hazardous areas.

Through the ISSP's practical approach, there are new opportunities to engage with upgrading interventions that have more practical implications. However, to achieve the mandate to upgrade all informal settlements it was integral that there would be a shift of focus towards the upgrading being incremental. Therefore, the NUSP was put in place to support the National Department of Human Settlement in its implementation of the Upgrading Informal Settlements Programme (UISP) with the objective of eventually upgrading all informal settlements in the country. The goal of the NUSP was to provide technical assistance to provinces and municipalities for the development and implementation of upgrading programs and projects, supply capacity building and training to practitioners and community members in the field of informal settlement upgrading, and to offer knowledge services and information dissemination to the upgrading community of practice.

As a result of the drafting process of the ISSP, Habitat South Africa, along with the consortium, has projected that sixty informal settlements have been prioritized for upgrading by 2019, highlighting that a minimum of 88,440 people will be impacted.

Brazil: Data- driven response to land conflict and informal settlement upgrading
In major Brazilian cities, favelas, or informal settlements stand as testaments to issues like overcrowding and housing deterioration. Favelas a comprised of the many components that define an informal settlement: the lack of basic services, the unplanned construction, the lack of land rights, and the lack of safety or stability of its inhabitants. Due to the complexity of the legal framework around property law in Brazil, land and housing is one of the most highly contested issues for both government and civil society. As funders, facilitators and regulators of secure tenure, governments have critical roles to play in the slum upgrading processes. Formalization of land tenure is essential in addressing root causes of informal settlement. However, it must be coupled with an effort to increase the collection and reporting of information in a functional registration system. A large database of demographic and housing-related information can assist policymakers in designing appropriate responses to housing issues.

Developing reliable data on informal settlements and forced evictions is a key part of Habitat for Humanity Brazil's effort. In Brazil, lack of secure tenure is a primary cause of conflict, yet the government has not prioritized the issue. To address the issues affecting slum dwellers in Brazil, Habitat Brazil partnered with
the Open Society Foundation to begin mapping and collecting data on urban land conflicts in the state of Pernambuco, which has one of the highest incidence rates of land conflicts in Brazil.

Habitat Brazil mapped 86 urban land conflicts and conducted interviews with residents fighting eviction. The data collected through the partnership was published in a study, and uploaded to a mobile app, allowing organizations and residents of favelas throughout Brazil to contribute information from other areas of the country. [30] With this concrete data, Habitat for Humanity, **Solid Ground** partners and community members entrenched in land conflicts will be able to take an evidence-based advocacy approach to work jointly with local governments and the judiciary to find solutions to forced evictions and help prevent human rights violations.

In addition to building public support in various forums and outlets about the "social role of property," Habitat Brazil has worked closely at the city level to shape legislation and provided input to strategic planning documents, including approving and monitoring the implementation of laws that guarantee fair housing and land solutions.

Notably, Habitat Brazil has taken a gender-informed approach to slum upgrading. When land conflict occurs, women often experience the brunt of the impact. Women who live in informal settlements in Brazil are being trained to build their communities' support and capacity to defend their housing, land and property rights. In 2016, over 80 women and men were trained in Recife, coming from eight cities within the state of Pernambuco. Their work focuses on empowering communities, improving policies, and making judicial responses more effective to protect the land rights of informal urban dwellers threatened by eviction, especially women.

Bangladesh: Slum upgrading through a comprehensive and participatory approach
In the year of 2012, Habitat for Humanity Bangladesh begun its urban program in Dhaka focusing on increasing the resilience of slum communities. These efforts were comprised of vulnerability assessments, community action planning, urban informal settlement mapping, disaster risk management, water and sanitation infrastructure improvement, housing repairs and renovation, research on different urban issues and polices gaps and capacity building.

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[30] Habitat para a Humanidade Brasil, Terra e Moradia: Conflitos fundiários urbanos em Pernambuco.
http://habitatbrasil.org.br/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/terra_e_moradia_web.pdf

Habitat Bangladesh found that informal settler communities faced a number of challenges, including lack of access to government services, security of tenure and threat of eviction. Communities also did not have a structured way of engaging the various NGOs and stakeholders who were working in the informal settlements. To facilitate collaboration and structured engagement on a national level, Habitat Bangladesh established a common platform, the Urban INGO Forum, in 2013.

The Urban INGO forum is a common platform for better collaboration and cooperation which now brings together 24 international organizations to discuss and contribute to urban development in Bangladesh. Every year, this forum organizes a national dialogue to discuss urban development issues, challenges, opportunities, government planning, role of corporate & social responsibility as well as the roles of each of the stakeholders. At end of each forum, INGO members jointly take policy positions in the form of declarations on various urban related issues that need to be addressed.

In addition to the Urban INGO forum, Habitat Bangladesh initiated a mapping of selected informal settlement areas in Dhaka with a view to improve urban planning and development initiatives. Through the establishment of an information system utilizing stakeholder engagement, Habitat Bangladesh completed "urban informal settlement mapping" and developed a needs-based Geographic Information System (GIS) map and database. The database and maps are accessible to all urban stakeholders as a basis for their respective programming, advocacy and policy initiatives and promotes optimum resource allocation

The project of comprehensive GIS based data/information undertook a series of activities to achieve the goal of the project. Its aim was to make the slum data and information available to the stakeholders for their effective planning and implementation in consultation with the informal settler communities. The project covered two Wards with a total of 25 slums under the Dhaka North City Corporation. The geo-database contains various physical and socio-economic information from the slums, which can be used to analyze and gain insight into the residents and conditions of the slums. This is required in order for the government to make policy decisions and undertake holistic development plans for slums and the urban poor. A participatory approach had been ensured while designing and implementing the project that involved the Urban INGO Forum Bangladesh, Water, and Sewerage Authority (WASA), the DNCC Authority and the community representatives from the respective slums. The web-based database is being maintained and updated by DNCC and has been made accessible to all the relevant stakeholders. By the end of fiscal year 2019, Bangladesh reported that 68,500 people had been impacted by their advocacy efforts.

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For more information, visit our website, http://solidgroundcampaign.org/

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