



Promote and facilitate broad-based partnerships utilising consensus building and consultation among all the stakeholders

1.1 Justification for the Strategy Document

The formulation of a new KENSUP strategy document for UN-HABITAT has become relevant and necessary for a wide variety of reasons. In the past UN-HABITAT has been involved in the facilitation and implementation of KENSUP, together with the GoK, local authorities and other partners in several projects that can be grouped under the broad umbrella of slum upgrading. These projects have been scattered amongst many different units and branches within UN-HABITAT, each with their own objectives, strategies and *modus operandi*. This has resulted in fragmentation, as well as confusion amongst the programme partners due to the various different focal points dealing with the programme, who at times have conveyed conflicting messages. As a consequence, communication between UN-HABITAT and its KENSUP partners, particularly the Ministry of Housing, has been marred with difficulties. Additionally, the lack of common and recognised reporting structure within UN-HABITAT has resulted in lack of continuous monitoring of progress. The fragmentation within UN-HABITAT has also caused a lack of an effective implementation structure, which has contributed to UN-HABITAT's failure to deliver enough tangible results in the programme. This has been further compounded by UN-HABITAT's KENSUP staff 'remote controlling' developments in the field from the headquarters in Nairobi.

Most of the KENSUP projects within UN-HABITAT have now moved to the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch, which is part of the Human Settlements Financing Division. The aim of this repositioning is to centralise the existing projects under common streamlined supervision in order to offset some of the above-mentioned difficulties. The move to the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch will also bring new and more concrete focuses for UN-HABITAT's activities within KENSUP. It will introduce and test the provision of basic infrastructure, such as water and sanitation, as an entry point to slum upgrading; and it will introduce and test UN-HABITAT's new, consolidated and integrated development approach to slum upgrading, which focuses on the provision of affordable housing finance and infrastructure.

This approach combines all the different elements required for successful slum upgrading; such as income generation activities, capacity building, provision of housing finance, housing improvement, and provision of basic infrastructure. Furthermore, it is expected that this move will bring new life into KENSUP and rejuvenate the existing slum upgrading activities, as well as generate new ones with a new focus. The GoK already has developed KENSUP Financial and Implementation Strategies. The aim is to realign UN-HABITAT's strategy with those of the GoK, which would facilitate further exploration and development of the partnership.

1.2 Aims of the Strategy document

The aim of this strategy document is to consolidate UN-HABITAT's involvement in the different projects of the KENSUP, and to develop a common strategy and implementation agenda in order to be able to move forward with the programme. The strategy document will function as a roadmap for all of UN-HABITAT's present and future KENSUP activities and it will guide the staff to contribute to meaningful and effective interventions. Furthermore, the objective is to incorporate new principles from the Water, Sanitation and Infrastructure Branch and UN-HABITAT's Slum Upgrading Facility into the programme and develop these into a new and innovative implementation strategy.

The aim is also to create a general KENSUP strategy that is able to provide key information expected by any current or future partners of KENSUP. For instance, the strategy document can function as an information package to be utilised when introducing the programme to possible new partners, such as donors. All of these aims are made topical by unsustainable urbanisation in Kenya, which call for new, innovative ways of invigorating UN-HABITAT's participation in KENSUP.

1.3 Rationale for KENSUP

Due to a combination of demographic, economic and political realities, many Kenyan cities are facing critical challenges. Perhaps the most important one is rapid urbanisation, outstripping the capacity of the government and local authorities to guide the physical growth of urban areas and to provide essential urban services to their citizens. This has resulted in the rapid growth of slums in Kenyan cities and towns, which is due to a combination of rural-urban migration, increasing urban poverty and inequality, high cost of living, non-transparent land allocation systems, land grabbing, and insufficient investment in new low-income housing. Urbanisation continues in Kenya and it is estimated that by 2015 urban dwellers will constitute over 50 percent of the total population.

Existing figures are compelling evidence demonstrating the dire situation in many of Kenya's cities and towns. Depending on the city, 60-80 percent of Kenya's urban population live in slums that are characterised by lack of access to water and sanitation, insecure tenure, lack of adequate housing, poor environmental conditions, and high crime rates. For instance, in Nairobi, 60 percent of the population lives in slums that occupy only 5 percent of the total land





area and the growth of Nairobi's slums is unprecedented; the population living in slums is expected to double within the next 15 years. Further, only 22 percent of slum households in Nairobi have water connections and 75 percent access water through water vendors who overcharge making slum dwellers pay more for their water than people living in middle- or high-income areas (UN-HABITAT, Nairobi Urban Sector Profile, 2006). The provision of sanitary services is also inadequate and the use of open spaces and flying toilets are common phenomena. For instance, in Kibera, poor environmental sanitation leads to water borne and vector borne diseases such as diarrhoea and malaria and epidemics such as cholera and typhoid are occurring with greater frequency (*Maji Na Ufanisi*, Kibera Integrated Water, Sanitation and Waste Management Project, 2007).

The situation is similar in many other Kenya's towns and cities. In Kisumu, the percentage of people living in slums is 60 percent. Refuse collection efficiency is mere 20 percent and only 10 percent have sewerage connections. Over 60 percent of the slum dwellers obtain their water from unsafe sources resulting in high rates of water and sanitation related diseases and morbidity. (UN-HABITAT, Kisumu Urban Sector Profile, 2006). These figures present the grim realities facing cities and towns across Kenya and they provide a justification for slum upgrading initiatives in the country that are aimed at improving the living conditions in Kenya's slums.

The GoK recognises that the main challenge is not to slow down urbanisation but to cope with it and the challenges it brings. There is no question that the main challenges that rapid urbanisation brings are centred on how to provide adequate shelter, employment, and basic urban services such as water and sanitation, and how to effectively respond to the rising crime, urban poverty and environmental degradation.

Over the years, the GoK has experimented with different settlement development policies and strategies, ranging from forced eviction, resettlement, site and services schemes, and upgrading. The GoK now acknowledges the existence of slums and is committed to addressing the conditions through upgrading. Therefore, the government has developed KENSUP Implementation and Financing Strategies in order to address the poor conditions in slums (GoK, KENSUP Implementation Strategy 2005, Financing Strategy, 2005). This is the context where UN-HABITAT agreed to support the GoK in developing and implementing sustainable solutions to the challenges facing its urban areas at present.

***Build institutional and human resource capacities
at local and national levels for the sustainability
of slum upgrading interventions***

