Origin of the People’s Process

During the early 1980s, UN-Habitat worked with the Government of Sri Lanka to pioneer a community engagement philosophy that placed the communities at the heart of their own development – this philosophy would later become the cornerstone of UN-Habitat’s community development programmes in urban and rural environments.

Fundamental principles

The People’s Process brings about a paradigm shift moving from a model of central control by authorities to one of support to people – this is done through a participatory community development methodology built around 5 steps.

Multiple spillover effects

The People’s Process achieves sustainability by combining technology with local knowledge. Moreover intervention are expensive (approximately 30% more value for money), enhances the local economy, leverage local entrepreneurs, opportunities, and national constructions standards are familiarized to local artisans through training. The approach also ensures human rights through inclusivity and sustainability through a low environmental footprint.

Timeline: UN-Habitat in response to major events & critical issues

1992 Conflict ends. Post-conflict recovery in Afghanistan begins with the launch of the National Solidarity Programme (NSP).

1994 Settlements Upgrading started in Myanmar (HDI programme).

2004 Indian Ocean Tsunami – UN-Habitat responds in Indonesia, Sri Lanka and the Maldives.

2005 Earthquake in Pakistan

2008 Cyclone Nargis in Myanmar

2009 Conflict ends in Sri Lanka

2010 Floods in Pakistan

2011 Tohoku Earthquake & Tsunami – UN-Habitat’s Process workshops in 17 municipalities

2013 Typhoon Haiyan “Yolanda” in the Philippines

2015 Cyclone Pam in the Pacific – Fiji, Samoa and Vanuatu

Twin Earthquakes in Nepal

Post Conflict Projects Afghanistan
- Housing 20,000 families
- Community Infrastructure 2.8 million people

Indian Ocean Tsunami
- Housing 12,000 families
- Infrastructure: 5,000 families
- 13,000 people
- 30,000 families
- 80,000 people
- Community infrastructure: 250,000

Sri Lanka
- Housing and Community Infrastructure 12,000 families

Pakistan Earthquake
- Housing 20,000 families

Myanmar Cyclone
- Housing 74,000 people
- Housing 22,000 families

Philippines: Typhoon Yolanda
- Housing 8,000 homes
- 3-day Community Infrastructure projects

Indian Ocean Tsunami
- 800,000 people
- 11,000 families
- 1.5 million people
- Public services for 5 countries

Representative’s of a Community Development Committee (CDO) that worked to develop and construct the first women’s park in a province of Afghanistan.
People’s Process
A structural framework that places people’s needs and their rights at the heart of urban development

Generating revenue through land and property tax

Upgrading informal settlements – A platform for the New Urban Agenda –

Fast-tracking earthquake recovery – pre-monitoring early recovery shelters

Technical and coordination support for long term recovery

Urban poverty reduction – rapid urbanization & informal settlements

Harmonizing urban infrastructure development with communities

Enhancing human security – communities in extreme poverty, minorities and women

Working with low-income migrants and disaster affected communities – Community mortgage programme

Influencing policy, practices & governance at community, city and national levels

The UN-Habitat strategy is increasingly supporting the institutionalization & mainstreaming of the People’s Process and expand the use of the approach to impact on municipal, provincial and national urban policies.

Institutionalization

Mainstreaming

7 Focus Areas

Land, Legislation & Governance
Urban Planning and Design
Urban Economy
Urban Basic Services
Housing and Slum Upgrading
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
Research and Capacity Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Human Rights
Climate Change
Gender

Community Ownership

Community ownership and engagement via participatory decision making has demonstrated unparalleled success in raising human dignity, building social cohesion and trust amongst stakeholders, along with the ability to deliver massive capillaries within a relatively short timeframe. Ensuring accountability and transparency between communities and authorities, and the empowerment of communities contributes to the sustainability of the projects in the long run.

The UN-Habitat strategy is increasingly supporting the institutionalization & mainstreaming of the People’s Process and expand the use of the approach to impact on municipal, provincial and national urban policies.

Institutionalization

Mainstreaming

7 Focus Areas

Land, Legislation & Governance
Urban Planning and Design
Urban Economy
Urban Basic Services
Housing and Slum Upgrading
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
Research and Capacity Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Human Rights
Climate Change
Gender

Community Ownership

Community ownership and engagement via participatory decision making has demonstrated unparalleled success in raising human dignity, building social cohesion and trust amongst stakeholders, along with the ability to deliver massive capillaries within a relatively short timeframe. Ensuring accountability and transparency between communities and authorities, and the empowerment of communities contributes to the sustainability of the projects in the long run.

The UN-Habitat strategy is increasingly supporting the institutionalization & mainstreaming of the People’s Process and expand the use of the approach to impact on municipal, provincial and national urban policies.

Institutionalization

Mainstreaming

7 Focus Areas

Land, Legislation & Governance
Urban Planning and Design
Urban Economy
Urban Basic Services
Housing and Slum Upgrading
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
Research and Capacity Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Human Rights
Climate Change
Gender

Community Ownership

Community ownership and engagement via participatory decision making has demonstrated unparalleled success in raising human dignity, building social cohesion and trust amongst stakeholders, along with the ability to deliver massive capillaries within a relatively short timeframe. Ensuring accountability and transparency between communities and authorities, and the empowerment of communities contributes to the sustainability of the projects in the long run.

The UN-Habitat strategy is increasingly supporting the institutionalization & mainstreaming of the People’s Process and expand the use of the approach to impact on municipal, provincial and national urban policies.

Institutionalization

Mainstreaming

7 Focus Areas

Land, Legislation & Governance
Urban Planning and Design
Urban Economy
Urban Basic Services
Housing and Slum Upgrading
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
Research and Capacity Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Human Rights
Climate Change
Gender

Community Ownership

Community ownership and engagement via participatory decision making has demonstrated unparalleled success in raising human dignity, building social cohesion and trust amongst stakeholders, along with the ability to deliver massive capillaries within a relatively short timeframe. Ensuring accountability and transparency between communities and authorities, and the empowerment of communities contributes to the sustainability of the projects in the long run.

The UN-Habitat strategy is increasingly supporting the institutionalization & mainstreaming of the People’s Process and expand the use of the approach to impact on municipal, provincial and national urban policies.

Institutionalization

Mainstreaming

7 Focus Areas

Land, Legislation & Governance
Urban Planning and Design
Urban Economy
Urban Basic Services
Housing and Slum Upgrading
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
Research and Capacity Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Human Rights
Climate Change
Gender

Community Ownership

Community ownership and engagement via participatory decision making has demonstrated unparalleled success in raising human dignity, building social cohesion and trust amongst stakeholders, along with the ability to deliver massive capillaries within a relatively short timeframe. Ensuring accountability and transparency between communities and authorities, and the empowerment of communities contributes to the sustainability of the projects in the long run.

The UN-Habitat strategy is increasingly supporting the institutionalization & mainstreaming of the People’s Process and expand the use of the approach to impact on municipal, provincial and national urban policies.

Institutionalization

Mainstreaming

7 Focus Areas

Land, Legislation & Governance
Urban Planning and Design
Urban Economy
Urban Basic Services
Housing and Slum Upgrading
Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation
Research and Capacity Development

Cross Cutting Issues

Human Rights
Climate Change
Gender

Community Ownership

Community ownership and engagement via participatory decision making has demonstrated unparalleled success in raising human dignity, building social cohesion and trust amongst stakeholders, along with the ability to deliver massive capillaries within a relatively short timeframe. Ensuring accountability and transparency between communities and authorities, and the empowerment of communities contributes to the sustainability of the projects in the long run.