

Course on Slum Upgrading and the Delivery of Services to the Urban Poor

May 10 – June 3, 2010

Introduction

Slum upgrading is one of the main challenges of the developing world. According to UN-Habitat, it is estimated that one billion people live in slums in the cities of the world – one sixth of the human population – and that the numbers are rising. The magnitude of the problem means that, even where government and development aid is available for slum upgrading, there are simply not enough resources to make a real difference for most of the world's slum dwellers. Since slum dwellers are poor, slums upgrading and the delivery of services to the poor is an important poverty reduction strategy.

UN-Habitat, as a world leader in promoting sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all, is focusing on slum upgrading as one of its key areas. UN-Habitat promotes different programs to support slum upgrading: Participatory Slum Upgrading, Cities Alliance, The Slum Upgrading Facility, and more.

Slum upgrading requires a comprehensive approach, partnerships, financial and organizational tools for implementation.

⇒ Comprehensive approach – to integrate aspects of infrastructure, living conditions, land ownership, environmental considerations, services systems and delivery, human capital and community development, economic activities into one comprehensive development process.

⇒ Partnerships – local government "ownership" of the process and partnerships between local and external stakeholders in strategy formulation, planning and implementation.

⇒ Financial and organizational tools to mobilize the significant amount of resources required for such a development process and to promote and sustain implementation.

Israel gained significant experience in upgrading and revitalizing poor urban areas. Though slums and poor urban neighborhoods in Israel are different from those of the developing countries, the accumulated knowledge on approach, strategies and tools may be relevant and benefit decision makers and professionals involved in slum upgrading and the delivery of services to the poor.

The course is designed to focus on integrated strategies to slum upgrading including service delivery systems for the poor, and financial and organizational implementation mechanisms. The provision of services to the poor is also vital for poverty reduction and for upgrading the neighborhoods. Good services provision helps people's transition out of poverty, but without an integrated approach to slums upgrading, this will push people out of the neighborhood but will not upgrade the neighborhood.

The Israeli experience in integrated approaches to slums upgrading and the delivery of services to the poor - through public sector involvement and

through PPPs – will be integrated with the experience gained by UN-Habitat in the developing world. The Ministry of Construction and Housing, as a leading actor in these strategies in Israel, is also a partner to this course.

Objectives

- ⇒ To expose participants to Israel's experience in upgrading poor urban areas and the delivery of services to the poor
- ⇒ To highlight the critical role of integrated approach, partnerships and implementation mechanisms in slums upgrading
- ⇒ To emphasize the role of local government, private sector and civil society in upgrading urban neighborhoods
- ⇒ To present and discuss approaches and action plans, and their relevancy to the participants' local arena
- ⇒ To enable participants to exercise the formulation of small scale upgrading projects

Program Scope and Themes

Introductory Sessions

- ⇒ Slums in the urban development context
- ⇒ Integrated assets based strategic approach to urban development

Slum upgrading – UN-Habitat experience

- ⇒ Key factors for successful slum upgrading
- ⇒ Obstacles and barriers to slum upgrading
- ⇒ Approach, experience, lessons learnt and tools from UN-Habitat's programs

Urban Areas Revitalization – the Israeli Experience

- ⇒ The Israeli context – features, processes and indicators of urban poverty
- ⇒ Policies and strategies: Urban Renewal, Clearance and Construction, Fill-In. What is of relevance to developing countries?

UN-Habitat and Israeli cases and practice will be discussed and exercised throughout the program

Implementation Mechanisms

- ⇒ Local and national planning, management tools and legal frameworks
- ⇒ Organizational platforms for planning, implementation and management
- ⇒ Developing institutional capacities
- ⇒ The role of the different stakeholders – central and local government, civil society and private sector

The Physical Dimension

- ⇒ Improving living conditions
- ⇒ Small scale infrastructure development Waste management systems

The Economic Dimension

- ⇒ Financial leverages for upgrading living conditions, infrastructure and public facilities within the frameworks of Clearance and Construction and Fill-In Strategies

⇒ Community economics – local entrepreneurship and support systems, vocational training and community employment

The Social Dimension

- ⇒ Building community resilience
- ⇒ Public participation in urban renewal and revitalization processes
- ⇒ The education system as a key partner in the renewal process
- ⇒ Community health services
- ⇒ Youth and gender

The course is comprised of presentation sessions, discussions, field trips and meetings with professionals and decision makers, as well as personal assignments and formulation of small scale planning projects in small groups.

Admission requirements

The course is designed for officials and decision makers from local authorities, government agencies and ministries involved in slum upgrading and service delivery, NGOs and CBOs active in the field, as well as business organizations and academic institutions engaged with slum upgrading programs.

Application Process

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronitshp@netvision.net.il) not later than April 12, 2010

Arrival and transportation

A Taxi Company called “MONI SITON TOURS” will transport the participants to “Reisfeld Residence” of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the seminar. Transportation will **be free of charge only by this company**.

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after the customs, at the gallery of floor 1 of Arriving Passengers’ hall, near gate 2.

Responsibilities during the stay

MASHAV will assume responsibility of the participants (medical insurance) for the duration of the seminar.

Insurance of personal belongings

MASHAV, Weitz Center and the “Reisfeld Residence” are not responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

Medical Insurance

The participants will have a medical insurance for the duration of their stay in Israel, except for dental treatments, pregnancy, eyeglasses, and chronic

illnesses.

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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