



REPORTING FORMAT FOR PARTNERS

***Networking* – Side – Training events**

City Changer Room – Urban Library – Agora – One UN events

Deadline: 30 April 2014

Please send via email: wuf@unhabitat.org

Reporting Format for Partners
(Networking Events, Side Events, Training Events, City Changer Room, One UN Room, Urban Library, and Agora Room)

Name of Reporter:	Paula Lucci
Event title/number:	Leaving no one behind: how can we better monitor progress in 'slum' areas?
Date:	8 th April 2014
Venue:	NE23 – Red Pavilion Room 23
Time:	14-16
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	Overseas Development Institute
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	London
Approximate number of participants:	30

Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):

- *Brief background of the event, including overall objectives and purposes*

It is well-known that data to track progress in slum areas is limited. What constitutes a 'slum' is contested, the indicators used are often inaccurate or incomplete, and in many developing countries basic data for slum areas is out of date or simply does not exist. Added to this, information of what the poor themselves see as their priorities is rarely collected or included in policy-making processes. The need for better information is only going to become more urgent as urban populations and the number of people living in slums is set to rise in many developing countries.

In this session, panellists discussed the potential of existing sources (such as enumerations, census, detailed surveys, community based monitoring systems) and new data collection methodologies (including ICT) to fill some of these data gaps, particularly when it comes to taking into account poor people's own priorities.

- *Relevant Focus Areas (Refer to below: UN-Habitat's thematic areas) and cross-cutting issues*

Discussions about how to improve the availability and quality of urban data, particularly for informal settlements, are clearly relevant for the RESEARCH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT thematic area.

That said, it is an area that cuts across a number of themes and fulfils many

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functions: good data is a pre-requisite for planning and the implementation of evidence-based policies in a number of sectors. It is also important for strengthening community voice and keeping government actions in check.



Summary of the Discussion (max: total 500 words):

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

Paula Lucci from [ODI](#) set the scene and highlighted urban data information gaps. In particular, she drew attention to three limitations of existing data:

1. In some cases, data for informal settlements simply does not exist (surveys are not granular enough as they are meant to be nationally representative rather than provide detailed information at neighbourhood level) or is out of date.
2. The indicators used are often not fit for urban settings. For instance, extreme poverty lines do not consider the higher costs of living in urban areas. Indicators of access to water and sanitation often ignore quality and cost considerations which are critically important in dense informal settlements.
3. Aspects that poor people value are often not emphasised enough in commonly used measures of poverty.

She also set a number of questions for discussion:

- Can we make better use of existing sources of data? For instance, using the census more? Combining census with other existing sources?
- Can we use new technologies to capture data more frequently?
- How can we better incorporate aspects that people value?
- Who is the intended user of the data and for what purpose?

Joseph Muturi, National Community Leader at [Muungano wa Wanavijiji](#) (Kenyan Urban Poor Federation) discussed the use of community-led enumerations. He highlighted how these can help to fight against evictions as the data allows settlements to negotiate security of tenure and service provision. He also set out some limitations of official data: it is not updated frequently enough (e.g. every 10 years) and it is often manipulated for political reasons.

Community-based data collection includes profiling settlements – in other words, gathering basic information on tenure, housing, services, water and sanitation, etc. These are conducted frequently and are grounded in local realities, as the community is more aware of the issues they are facing. Thus, data is used to prioritise the needs of communities rather than the needs of different government agencies.

In many cases, city officers do not have statistical information on informal settlements and the information generated by communities will be the first time they have access to data for such settlements.

Erica Hagen, Director of Ground Truth Initiative and Founder/Trustee of [Map Kibera](#), presented on new technologies being applied to community information projects. The Map Kibera project teaches people in informal settlements to use technology tools, particularly groups of young people (aged 18-25). Their main aim was to put informal settlements on the map, using publicly available technology like open street map (humanitarian response initiatives commonly use this type of platform). They asked community members to think about what services they consider important and feel should be included on the online map.





In addition, they have created a reporting site/blog for local news and are looking at how social media could be useful in the context of slums. They have also created print versions and a painting of the map.

Through the mapping of public services, they can provide more granular information to supplement and check official information. They are also working on a project tracking government community funds. What triggers change is often complex and nuanced but data can be useful in different ways, including for advocacy, local level planning and strengthening community voice, among others.

2. Major emerging issues and position documents/declarations towards:

- *Habitat III*
- *POST2015*

There were no position documents/declarations produced as a result of this networking event. However, a point that clearly emerged is that there is momentum building around the need for a data revolution. In order to track progress on a new set of development goals for the urban poor and put in place informed policies, we need better quality information at a granular level.

Panellists also emphasised the opportunities brought about by community-led initiatives to collect data, negotiate improvements for their areas, strengthen the community and keep governments in check.

- *A New Urban Agenda*

3. Recommendations made during the discussion

(e.g. policy direction, good/best practices, resource mobilization, innovative funding mechanism, etc.)

There were no formal recommendations but a number of relevant points were made during the presentations and discussion:

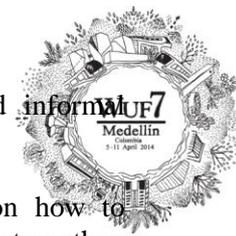
- There is a need to improve the availability, frequency and reliability of granular data for informal settlements;
- We must make better use of existing data sources and consider the cost-effectiveness of different data collection methods;
- We should explore ways to strengthen community-led data collection efforts in informal settlements;
- There is a need to link up community level initiatives with local government;
- Addressing government silos and promoting shared sources of information was also mentioned.

4. Building partnerships, network and synergies with UN-Habitat

(e.g. agreements or Memorandum of Understanding committed/signed, amounts and number of pledged contributions and partnerships/networks, etc.)

The event did not lead to a formal agreement. That said, we would be keen to keep a dialogue with UN-Habitat with regard to the goals, targets and indicators to be





included in a post-2015 agenda that are relevant for urban areas and informal settlements.

More generally, we would be interested in continuing conversations on how to improve the quality of urban data to inform better local planning and strengthen community voice and government accountability in urban areas, particularly for informal settlements. This is an area of work we are currently developing.

Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name (Ms):	Paula Lucci
Nationality:	Argentine
Organization/Institution:	Overseas Development Institute
Time:	
Position:	Research Fellow
Contact address (Email):	p.lucci@odi.org

Full name (Mr):	Joseph Muturi
Nationality:	Kenyan
Organization/Institution:	Muungano wa Wanavijiji (Kenyan Urban Poor Federation)
Time:	
Position:	National Community Leader
Contact address (Email):	josephmtr@yahoo.com .

Full name (Ms):	Erica Hagen
Nationality:	American
Organization/Institution:	Ground Truth Initiative and Map Kibera
Time:	
Position:	Director of Ground Truth Initiative and Founder/Trustee of Map Kibera
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Full name (Ms):	Diana Mitlin – Moderator
Nationality:	British
Organization/Institution:	Global Urban Research Centre , Brooks World Poverty Institute and Human Settlements Group, IIED
Time:	
Position:	Professor of Global Urbanism, Director of Global Urban Research Centre , Associate Director Brooks World Poverty Institute and Principal Researcher, Human Settlements Group, IIED – Moderator
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UN-Habitat Thematic areas

All events are identified by UN-Habitat priority substantive areas as below.





URBAN LAND, LEGISLATION & GOVERNANCE

Land & GLTN, Urban Legislation, Urban and Community Management & Governance, Safety

URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

Regional & Metropolitan Planning, City Extensions & Enlargements, Market Town & Intermediate City Planning

URBAN ECONOMY

Urban & Municipal Finance, Urban Productivity, Youth and Job Creation

URBAN BASIC SERVICES

Water & Sanitation, Urban Energy, Urban Mobility, Urban Waste Management

HOUSING & SLUM UPGRADING

Housing, Slum Upgrading, Shelter Rehabilitation

RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION

Urban Risk Reduction, Infrastructure Rehabilitation, Climate Change Mitigation & Adaptation, Resilience

RESEARCH & CAPACITY DEVELOPMENT

Global Urban Observatory, Flagship Reports, Capacity Development

Cross-cutting issues:

GENDER

YOUTH

HUMAN RIGHTS

