



REPORTING FORMAT FOR PARTNERS

Networking – Side – Training events

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

Deadline: 6 June 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:	
Event title/number:	Public Policies for Habitat
Date:	Thursday 10 April 2014
Venue:	One UN Room
Time:	10:45 to 12:00.
Name of Organizing Institution(s):	UNDP – MDG Project at the local level
Country/City where Organizing Institution(s) is/are based:	Colombia
Approximate number of participants:	200 approximate.

Summary of the Event (max: 300 words):

Public Policies for Habitat

Progress on MDG 7, on the issue of settlements construction and commissioning of three public policies in three cities that receive IDPs from all over the country due to the internal armed conflict:

- (i) Human Settlements Soacha (Andean Region)
- (ii) Settlement and Housing in Monteria (Caribbean Region)
- (iii) Housing for Life (Santander Region).

In the first case, it strengthened the Municipal Government and civil society in order to legalize three informal settlements in Altos de Cazucá, a neighbourhood located in marginal areas where the incidence of urban poverty is highly evident. This process has lasted for eight years and three local administrations.

Regarding the second case, it was built with the Municipal Housing Directorate a resettlement path of people dwelling in high-risk areas, to social housing. This intervention included technical and social support to these families.

In terms of the experience in Santander, habitat policy was focused on providing housing for women heads of households, strengthening their income generation, their entrepreneurship as well as strengthening the social tissue.

With the implementation of these policies, a total of 37,000 people will benefit



as well as approximately 9250 families living in poverty and extreme poverty



- *Brief background of the event, including overall objectives and purposes*
- *Relevant Focus Areas (Refer to below: UN-Habitat's thematic areas) and cross-cutting issues*

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

1. Outline of the discussion/debates

Human informal settlements have become, in the Colombian case in the product of an accelerated process of unplanned urbanization, energized and caused by the phenomenon of violence that loaded the country for decades.

These settlements became the destination of the displaced victims of the armed conflict, who find in these territories the only solution to the need for a "dwelling" and a place to live. This becomes the only way out and a place of refuge for people in poverty and extreme poverty. Conditions are even more acute with the growth of these settlements and the increasing population; the physical conditions of the territories are worsened by the spontaneous and informal urbanization process and by the lack of recognition from the territories, the population that used to live there and by local authorities.

In these areas humanitarian aid increases, performing an important role and greatly improving the living conditions of the population, yet these great efforts made by countless organizations that support the population do not reach the expected impact on the lives of those who live there. This is explained if we consider that although some attributes and human dimensions are improved, if the physical condition of the settlement and housing of those who live there is not improved, it will be difficult to obtain a structural and sustainable change. It is only with the comprehensive intervention in these settlements, in which both physical attributes of the land and housing has improved, and security of tenure is achieved, where the sense of belonging is strengthened and processes roots are generated within the territory.

That is why every process of intervention in areas with vulnerable populations must begin with the promotion of the legality by which the territory is inhabited (by processes of urban legalization). The former enables an immediate intervention and state investment in basic public services (water supply, sewerage and sanitation, electricity), road infrastructure, public space, public goods, supports urban health, education, recreation and others. Then, it is necessary to enable investment by the state and the owners in the improvement, expansion or adequacy of housing. If these two processes are started and involve the intervention of the other attributes (health, education, recreation, employment generation etc.), it is possible to work towards full reparation of the victims of the internal armed conflict, the population in poverty and extreme poverty.





The territories of informal origin are generally located in the periphery, isolated and segregated from the economic, social and spatial dynamics of cities which are located in surrounding areas.

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

- *POST2015*

The most important issue in the country in terms of habitat is the relationship between the eradication of extreme poverty and a possible post peace agreement. To this end, the MDG project at the local level (UNDP) in Colombia, is trying to put displacement on the national agenda and bring improvements to the general community.

3. Recommendations made during the discussion

During the conference: Public Policies for Habitat. The public express their need to have more documentation in order to scale up this initiative in other places and countries of the region.

We shared the video: Monteria the dream of the habitat with dignity (Spanish version) <http://www.youtube.com/watch?v=h3Jd0HZSCoU&feature=youtu.be>, and now we are working in the building of the toolkit for habitat in areas affected by the conflict and communities living in extreme poverty.

One major conclusion was the need to have more strategies to improve knowledge management to share information in other scenarios.

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

At present we want to form an agreement to scale up the strategy, based on the local level, focusing on small cities or municipalities in the context of extreme poverty or those affected by conflict.

Detail Information of Speakers/Presenters/Moderators:

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Juan Pablo Toro
Nationality:	Colombian
Organization/Institution:	UNDP Colombia – MDG project at the local level
Time:	10:45 to 12:00 m.
Position:	National coordinator / MDG project at the local level – UNDP Colombia
Contact address (Email):	Juan.toro@pnud.org.co

Full name (Mr/Ms):	Jairo Barcenas
Nationality:	Colombian
Organization/Institution:	UNDP Colombia
Time:	10:45 to 12:00 m.
Position:	UNDP Colombia
Contact address (Email):	





Full name (Mr/Ms):	Francisco Bohorques
Nationality:	Colombian
Organization/Institution:	Local government – Montería
Time:	10:45 to 12:00 m.
Position:	Habitat director, Local government
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UN-Habitat Thematic areas

URBAN PLANNING & DESIGN

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

URBAN BASIC SERVICES

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

RISK REDUCTION & REHABILITATION

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

Cross-cutting issues:

HUMAN RIGHTS

