



Private Sector Partnership Forum

Innovative Solutions to Challenges in Slums & Informal Settlements in Africa

24 to 26 June 2020, eConference

Background

Today, one billion people live in slums and informal settlements. This population is set to increase by another 2 billion by 2050, with the largest proportion of slumdweller residents in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia. For having been excluded from the urban fabric for decades, residents of slums and informal settlements, particularly women and children, bear a disproportionate burden of poverty. Marginalized from formal development processes, these communities lack access to housing, water, sanitation, waste management and other basic services. Without security of tenure and the capacity, skills, financing and productive assets required to eke out a living, slumdweller residents earn low incomes and lack employment opportunities. These factors have conspired to perpetuate the cycle of poverty as these poor urban households are compelled to resort to negative coping mechanisms and risky survival strategies, particularly during crises like the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) was initiated by the Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group of States, European Commission and UN-Habitat in 2008 in recognition of the widespread and chronic urban poverty in slums and informal settlements. The Programme's strategic objectives are to strengthen global partnerships and policy dialogue, and improve knowledge and capacities for participatory slum upgrading and prevention in ACP countries, with a view to improving living conditions in slums and informal settlements. Its primary focus is to integrate slum communities into the urban fabric by addressing tenure security, increasing access to land and basic services, improving infrastructure and mobility and strengthening economic links.

Private Sector Partnership Forum

The three-day Private Sector Partnership Forum has been organized in recognition of the critical roles played by the private sector in innovating and piloting novel solutions to development challenges, and the public sector in scaling up successful innovations. It brings to the fore, the important contributions made by micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (mSME) in economic growth, job creation and provision of essential goods and services. To this end, the Forum seeks to facilitate partnership between national governments and municipalities with private sector companies, specifically investors and innovators with low-cost innovative solutions to development challenges. It will bring together governments and communities from informal settlements in Kenya, Cameroon, Ghana, Nigeria, Rwanda and Senegal with private sector entities that can support the realization of the sustainable development goals (SDG) by deploying affordable housing, water, sanitation, waste management, health, education, energy, financing and infrastructure solutions.

Objectives

The Forum is among a series of events organized by UN-Habitat to strengthen partnership with the business community to support sustainable and inclusive urban development and the New Urban Agenda. It provides a platform for matching the needs of slum residents and demands of cities with innovative solutions from start-ups, existing businesses, financial institutions and investors. It seeks to:

1. Demonstrate business potential and explore opportunities to develop and deploy low-cost innovative solutions in slums and informal settlements

2. Explore opportunities for partnership and matchmaking governments and investors with investable innovative solutions and models
3. Develop a robust pipeline of bankable and investment-ready projects for implementation in slums and informal settlements

The main outcome of the Forum will be the establishment of a community of practice upon which win-win partnerships can be built, leveraging partners' innovations, models, strengths, knowledge, experience and networks to address the most critical socioeconomic and environmental challenges facing the urban poor. Strategic partnerships with investors and development partners will be initiated to support and finance the implementation of the project pipeline developed during the Forum.

Thematic Focus

The Forum will focus on:

1. Access challenges experienced by the urban poor with respect to basic infrastructure and social services including affordable housing, water, sanitation, waste management, healthcare, food security, education, financing, energy, mobility and transportation
2. Disruptive technologies, novel business models and innovative solutions that can be deployed in informal settlements to build resilience to shocks and stressors including COVID-19
3. Market potential in slums and informal settlements including the presentation of market studies conducted by PSUP in Cameroon, Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal
4. Partnership opportunities for innovators, investors, donors, governments and communities, leveraging public and private financing for sustainable development
5. Innovative financing and business-support (technical, business development and investment readiness support) opportunities for innovators
6. Creating an enabling environment for private sector investment in sustainable urbanization

Structure

Perspectives from governments and communities on needs, successful case studies, innovator pitches and ideas from the business community, investment opportunities from governments, donors and investors will be discussed in the Plenary Sessions and Roundtables to identify partnership prospects. The Forum will provide a platform for participants to pose questions and obtain responses to burning questions from key resource persons identified for their expertise in the Consulting Booths, and for mSME to showcasing innovative solutions to diverse development challenges in the Virtual Exhibition.

Participants

The Forum will bring together approx. 200 participants including decisionmakers, planners, technical experts, and representatives of national and local governments, communities, international and local businesses, financial institutions, investors and development cooperation agencies.

Agenda

Day #01	Day #02	Day #03
<p>Opening Session: Remarks by UN-Habitat, partner governments and community representatives</p> <p>Plenary Session: Country Perspectives: Presentations on country needs and priorities by communities, civil society, national and local Government representatives</p>	<p>Plenary Session: Investor Perspectives from selected industry experts and resource persons (development cooperation agencies, DFI, investors)</p> <p>Roundtables: Thematic discussions moderated by experts and resource persons</p>	<p>Plenary Session: Innovator Perspectives from selected local and international mSME with innovative solutions</p> <p>Roundtables: Sectoral presentation of innovative solutions and case studies by mSME and panel discussions</p>
<p>Consulting Booths: Q&A sessions moderated by experts and resource persons</p>		
<p>Virtual Exhibition: Private sector companies showcasing innovative solutions to diverse development challenges</p>		

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