

# HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES



## ANNUAL OVERVIEW OF HUMAN RIGHTS MAINSTREAMING ACTIVITIES 2017

**UN**  **HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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# INTRODUCTION

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## Christophe Lalande, Housing Unit Leader

The realization of the human right to adequate housing of all urban residents is a prerequisite for inclusive and sustainable urban centres for all. Yet, almost 1 billion people of the world's urban population live in inadequate housing conditions in slums and at least 2 million people in the world are forcibly evicted every year, while millions are threatened with forced evictions. Violation of the right to adequate housing leads to spatial fragmentation and increases the risk of a deficit of also other human rights, by groups who are discriminated, marginalized and excluded.

UN-Habitat is committed to the realization of the right to adequate housing by considering human rights in all parts of its work. One of its objectives is to promote and systematize in its work the integration of the human rights components of the *New Urban Agenda* (NUA), the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development* and the SG's *Human Rights Up Front Initiative*. Additional objectives of human rights mainstreaming within the agency are to:

- Improve the capacity of UN-Habitat staff and partners to apply human rights considerations in project design and formulation, implementation, monitoring and evaluation,
- Strengthen the effective integration of the Human Rights-Based Approach into the UN-Habitat programme development and project cycle, and
- Spur the development of tools that guide a human rights-based approach in all of UN-Habitat's activities.

To effectively measure the above stated objectives, the following indicator has been established:

- Number (and percentage) of UN-Habitat project documents submitted to the Project Advisory Group (PAG) reflecting the Human Rights-Based Approach with the goal that by the end of the 2014-2019 Strategic Plan, 70% of new project documents submitted to the Project Advisory Group (PAG) will reflect the Human Rights-Based Approach.

Human rights mainstreaming builds on existing knowledge, improves the impact and sustainability of our work, and ensures that it is targeting those furthest behind. We use three means toward ensuring this:



This report highlights some of the work that has been performed by UN-Habitat in the past year to promote and protect human rights in cities across the world, by the Programme's Housing Unit but also by other Units and Branches as well as country and regional offices. It details the work done through events, publications, advocacy, capacity building, and other key activities in the various portfolios that UN-Habitat has been covering in order to ensure the right to an adequate standard of living for all.

The portfolio on human rights mainstreaming is located in the Housing Unit of the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch. The following key colleagues have contributed to the main outputs described in this report: Christophe Lalande, Tessa Aura, David Thomas, Jesus Salcedo, Yasmina Guerda, Meremiya Hussein, Monika Scegauskaite, Meremiya Hussein, Louis Drounau and with a special thanks to our cross-cutting colleagues in the units of Gender Equality, Youth, and Climate Change Planning.



# 1. HUMAN RIGHTS HELP DESK

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The human rights help desk function consists of human rights experts who assist in the design, formulation, monitoring, implementation, evaluation, replication and scaling-up of all un-habitat projects. They also produce normative guidance materials, deliver advisory services and contribute as appropriate to global policy developments including the post-2015 agenda, the human rights up front initiative, the universal periodic review, and the united nations new urban agenda.

## 1.1 ADVISORY SERVICES

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### 1.1.1 THE PROJECT ADVISORY GROUP

The Project Advisory Group (PAG) approves all UN-Habitat's projects. As members of it we quality assure projects at the point of approval and increasingly engage colleagues at the project formulation phase to ensure that the agency's project cycle, partnerships, policies and strategies include a strong focus on human rights.

Essentially, we review project documents to ensure that:

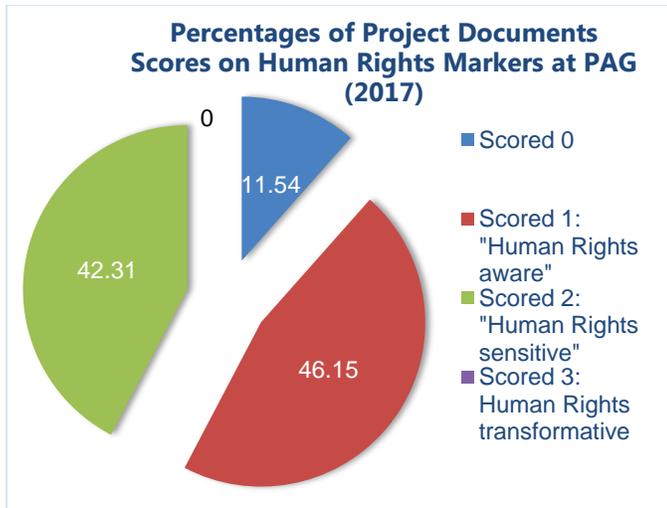
- People in vulnerable situations (such as poor, slum-dwellers, people under threat of forced evictions, children, youth, elderly, people with disabilities, displaced persons and migrants, indigenous peoples, homeless persons, minorities, persons of diverse sexual orientations and gender expressions, people living with HIV/AIDS, and in particular women

in these categories) are empowered to claim their rights and allowed to participate at all levels of action and at all stages of activity;

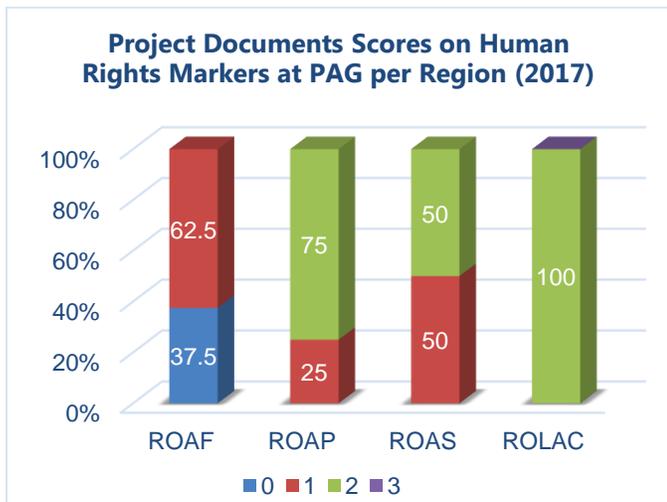
- Disaggregated data is used and collected; and
- Gender dimensions are addressed and monitoring, and evaluation is included within the project's budget.

Towards this we use the Human Rights Marker, a tool to ensure human rights mainstreaming according to the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in UN-Habitat's Project Briefs and Project Documents. It seeks to ensure that disaggregated data are available to ensure a focus on the most discriminated and marginalized; projects are appropriately located within the international and national legal frameworks, collaboration at country level particularly project implementation plans, and related indicators ensure broad-based participation, etc.

In 2016, 72.4% of projects scored were human rights aware and only 13.8 were human rights sensitive and human rights transformative. In **2017**, advisory services were given to a total of 110 documents (41 ProDocs and 69 Concept Notes) and we noted that the number of projects scoring at least a 2 had substantially increased, as depicted in the figure below.



The performance among regional offices varies, based on their particular contexts and expertise. In the Latin American region, human rights is a high priority for many of the national governments and partners, and the office has maintained a strong focus on human rights. This is reflected in high scores on the Human Rights Marker. By contrast, human rights are often a lower priority for partners in the African region, with the focus going to infrastructure development, for example. This is reflected in comparably lower scores on the Human Rights Marker.



These results will guide capacity building efforts in 2018. For example, projects in the African region will require strengthening and increased support from the Human Rights team in Headquarters, whereas in ROAP there is

good capacity to utilize the Human Rights Based Approach.

### 1.1.2 CROSS-CUTTING COLLABORATION

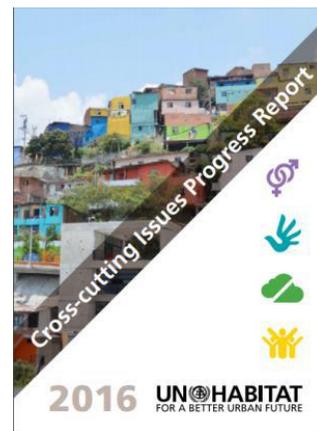
The overall goal of mainstreaming UN-Habitat's cross-cutting issues (climate change, gender, human rights, and youth) is to strengthen programmatic synergies while ensuring that project outcomes reach all intended beneficiaries, particularly persons in vulnerable situations.

We engage and collaborate with the work of colleagues across branches and the other cross-cutting issues of gender, youth and climate change, of which the UN-Habitat Cross-Cutting Markers has been an important outcome. As a result of each marker, an effective integration of cross-cutting issues increasingly enabled the replication and up-scaling of projects.



Cross-cutting meetings take place once a month to ensure and promote collaboration. This has led to improved financial efficiency, streamlined reporting, joint advocacy and joint activities. Examples include a joint side-event at the Governing Council, planning of activities at the World Urban Forum, project reviews for the Project Advisory Group (PAG) and clearly developed linkages to the New Urban Agenda, as highlighted on the UN-Habitat website.

We also have annual Cross-cutting Progress Report that covers UN-Habitat's activities and achievements, during the year, in the way of its four cross-cutting issues: climate change, gender, human rights, and youth. The Report presents an overview of the mandate and structure of each of the cross-cutting issues, as well as presenting case studies of the Agency's work on the ground relating to these issues.



- **Cross-Cutting Side Event at the 26th Governing Council**



This side event was held on **May 12<sup>th</sup>** and brought together the four cross-cutting issues of UN-Habitat on the basis that the issues are inter-linked. It aimed to highlight the need to address social inequality and climate change in urban development programmes, and to work towards partnerships and synergies to achieve the vision of the NUA at the local level.

It maintained that urbanization can further marginalize those who are usually left behind, but also creates significant opportunity for their participation. It concluded that if the power of urban development can be harnessed and guided, it can be a powerful force in reducing inequality, tackling poverty and mitigating climate change.

▪ **Management of SDG 11.3.2**

**11.3.2** Proportion of cities with a direct participation structure of civil society in urban planning and management that operate regularly and democratically

Together with the Youth and Gender Units, the team has managed the SDG Indicator 11.3.2. The indicator is aiming to measure the structures available for civil society to engage in urban governance and planning. This work has involved multiple online expert group meetings, with academics, experts from civil society and statisticians. This work has resulted in a significantly refined metadata documents, with a full methodology. The indicator is currently being considered for upgrading from Tier III to Tier II. This work will ultimately hold national and local governments accountable for engaging and including diverse groups of residents in urban planning and governance.

▪ **ECOSOC Youth Forum on the Indigenous young people and the New Urban Agenda**

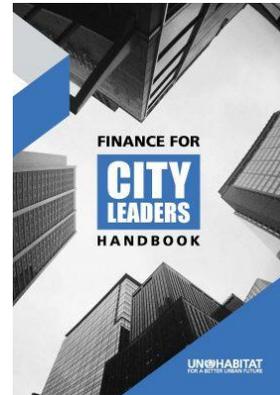
We shared knowledge on urban indigenous issues to UN-Habitat’s Youth Unit to assist in their execution of a forum on indigenous young people and the NUA on **January 31<sup>st</sup>** in New York.

The event brought together representatives of local authorities, urban youth organizations, UN-Habitat Youth Unit, UN-Habitat Youth Advisory Board, UNMGCY and Urban Youth Councils and universities to discuss the:

- Position of youth in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda; and
- Establishment of a World Urban Youth Councils Network as a permanent international youth mechanism to follow up on and monitor the implementation of the NUA in local, regional, national and global level.

A short summary of the discussions was then presented to the President of the General Assembly, the President of the Economic and Social Council and UN-Habitat Governing Council.

▪ **Translating Finance for City Leaders Publication to Online Toolkit**



Last year the team had successful collaboration with the Municipal Finance Unit, where the human rights team, with the Gender and Youth Units, contributed a chapter to the Finance for City Leaders publication. This is now being developed into an online toolkit and a workshop. The team is working with colleagues in the Municipal

Finance Unit to develop a section on participation and financing for inclusive urbanisation.

**1.1.3 ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL SAFEGUARDS SYSTEM**

Environmental and social safeguard standards provide guidance on how to identify risks and impacts, and are designed to help avoid, mitigate, and manage risks and impacts throughout the life of a project.

The UN-Habitat Environmental and Social Safeguard System (ESSS) came into effect in 2018. The safeguard standards guide management of the environmental and social risks and impacts so that the full sustainable development benefits from the project are realized. It supplements the existing marker system and is designed to ensure that projects are evaluating risks and taking appropriate measures to ensure that their work is doing no social or environmental harm. Focusing on 6 target areas:

- Community Health, Safety, and Working Conditions;
- Pollution Prevention and Resource Efficiency;
- Biodiversity Conservation and Sustainable Natural Resource Management;
- Displacement and Resettlement;
- Indigenous Peoples; and
- Cultural Heritage

The Human Rights team assists the Secretariat of the Project Advisory Group (PAG) to ensure that project managers are using the ESSS correctly and taking appropriate measures to mitigate against risks.

## **1.2 NORMATIVE GUIDANCE**

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### **1.2.1 MARKER EVALUATION**

An in-house evaluation of the UN-Habitat Marker system was undertaken. This involved a review of current processes and comparison with other UN agencies. The review found that progress has been shown by improvement of human rights PAG scores over the past 2 years. Discussions with colleagues reflect an increased awareness and engagement with Human Rights and the Human Rights-Based Approach. It was also found that, in comparison to other UN agencies, the Marker system is among the best. Most agencies only have a Gender Marker, whilst 2 agencies have multiple, but different markers. The evaluation also led to the development of the inclusion of social and environmental safeguards into the Agreement of Cooperation with implementing partners.

### **1.2.2 ANNEX TO AGREEMENTS OF COOPERATION**

The team is working with the Legal Department to add an Annex to the legal Agreement of Cooperation that is made with implementing partners. This Annex is to ensure that social and environmental standards are met. The Annex focuses on the avoidance of illegal forced evictions and ensuring consultative process, as well as ensuring fair and open recruitment and use of local materials.

### **1.2.3 RESPONSE TO FORCED EVICTIONS**

The Human Rights team have prepared an institutional response to illegal Forced Evictions. When a complaint is received, following verification, the UN-Habitat Executive Director will write to the appropriate authority. The response outlines a clear process for fair relocation, aligned with the Factsheet 21 on the Right to Adequate Housing, published by UN-Habitat with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR). UN-Habitat will also refer those complainants to the office of the Special Rapporteur for the Right to Adequate Housing. This institutional response provides appropriate support to both rights-holders and duty-bearers involved in the situation.



## 2. TRAINING AND CAPACITY BUILDING

The Training and Capacity Building Component for staff and external stakeholders is in place to develop and deliver unified guidance for staff and stakeholders on how to most appropriately integrate issues of human rights into their work, drawing on work already produced within the UN system

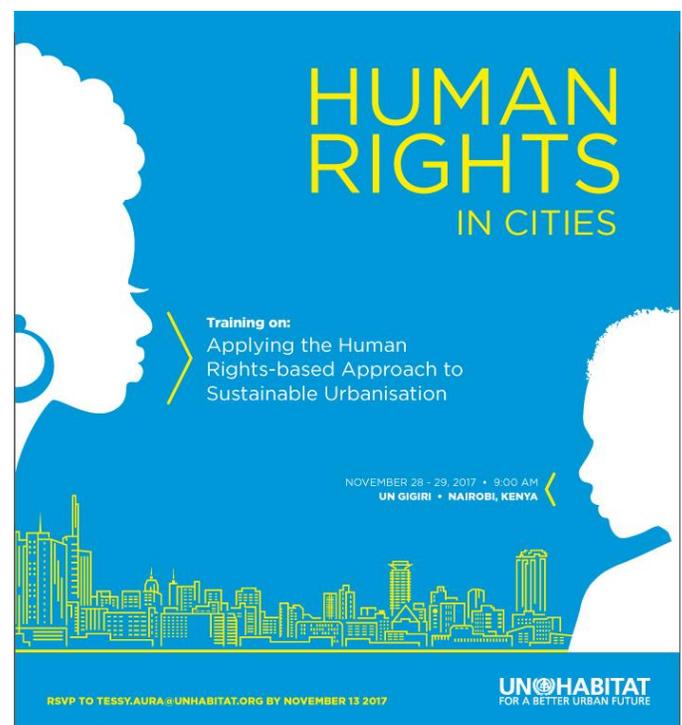
### 2.1 HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES

#### 2.1.1 HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES TRAINING

On **November 28 – 29**, we held a Human Rights in Cities training. The overall objective of the training was to enhance staff capacity to implement the Human Rights-Based Approach (HRBA) in all phases of their work, from inception, implementation to monitoring and evaluation to respect, promote and fulfil human rights in cities. The training brought together **31 staff**, including the Human Rights focal points from each of UN-Habitat's seven branches and four Regional Offices, as well as other interested staff. Short webinars were then developed from the training for those who could not attend the training to be able to receive the same information.

The training was carried out by three experts:

- **Malavika Vartak**, a researcher and adviser on economic, social and cultural rights for Amnesty International in London. With 18+ years of experience in Human Rights, including the Right to Adequate Housing;
- **Marcella Favretto**, the Senior Human Rights Adviser to the Resident Coordinator and UNCT in Kenya; and
- **Esther Mwaura-Muiru**, the founder and national coordinator of the "Grassroots Organizations Operating Together in Sisterhood" (GROOTS), a global network of women-led grassroots organizations.



By the end of the training participants were more knowledgeable about relevant good practices and were able to reproduce them in other mechanisms, regions and areas of human rights, including by identifying the challenges related to the replication of these practices.

- **Human Rights in Cities Training Feedback**

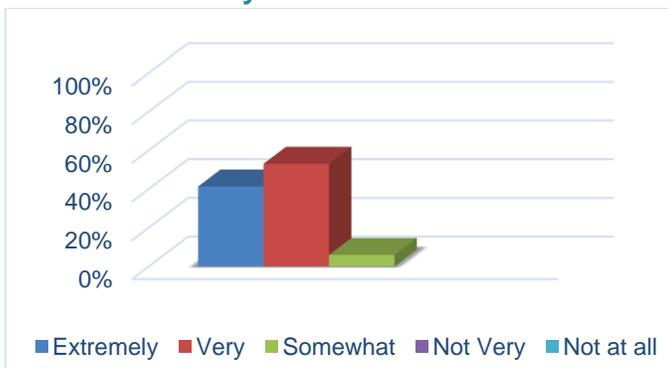
▪ **Q.1: Overall, how would you rate the Human Rights in Cities Training?**



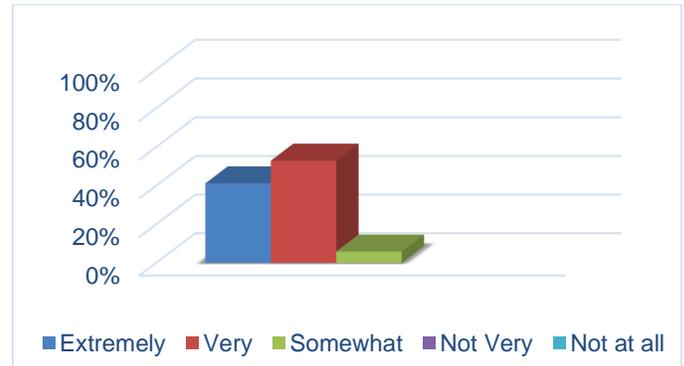
▪ **Q.2: What did you like about the Human Rights in Cities Training?**

- "I loved the diversity of the participants because we all shared our regional experiences on human rights issues including the cultural dimension."
- "The content was well presented, the topic is substantial - and the training reminded us that we are part of the UN (and have a very high responsibility for pushing for HR)"
- "I liked the group activities which were very practical as we worked on real life human rights projects."
- "I enjoyed the materials and lessons shared by the experts since they were pragmatic, challenging and motivating."
- "The conceptual and legal framework introduction about HRBA"
- "The opportunity to share different experiences and perceptions as well as considering the potential of developing a HRBA in project development in a way that goes beyond markers and procedural requirements for the PAG."

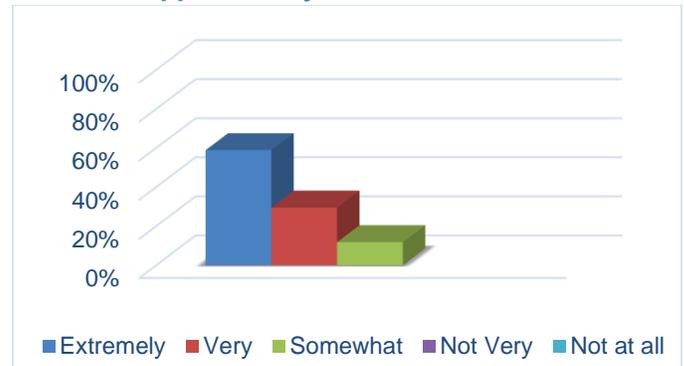
▪ **Q.5: How relevant was the material and information to your role?**



▪ **Q.7: How well did you understand the practical exercises in the group workshops?**



▪ **Q.9: How likely are you to apply the Human Rights-Based Approach to your future interventions?**



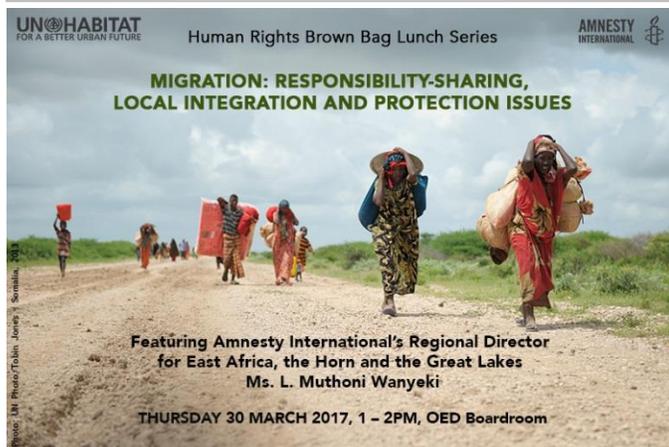
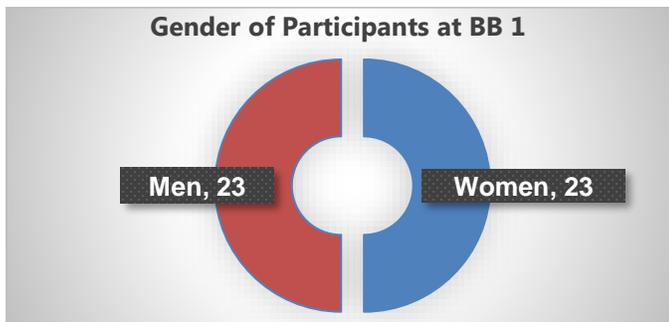
**2.1.2 HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES BROWN BAG LUNCH SERIES**

4 Human Rights in cities Brown Bags (BB) were held in 2017. They served as quick advocacy and capacity building modalities where experts from various sectors delivered presentation on their human rights area of work and its connection and relevance to the work of UN-Habitat.

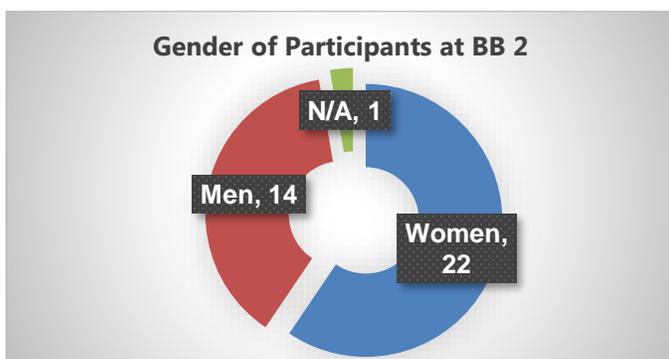


The first brown bag was held on **January 19<sup>th</sup>**. It focused on Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs). It featured a short documentary, nominated for the German Human Rights Film Award 2016, "Just How Long," on Internal Displaced Persons in Kenya. It depicts the situation clearly, from the

IDPs perspective. Which was followed by a discussion led by GIZ and Kituo cha Sheria respectively.



The second brown bag held on **March 30<sup>th</sup>** focused on **the issue of migration**. It was done in collaboration with Amnesty International. Their regional director presented on responsibility-sharing, local integration and protection issues that need special attention nationally, regionally and globally to ensure that migrants are not barter trading human rights violations when in search for safer and greener pastures.



The subsequent brown bag held on **September 26<sup>th</sup>** focused on public and private sector partnerships in humanitarian issues. It featured presentations from colleagues from UN OCHA and Equity Bank.

The last brown bag held on **November 29<sup>th</sup>** featured colleagues from Palestine presenting their best practices of applying the human rights-based approach in the region.

### 2.1.3 HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES HANDBOOK SERIES

- **Volume 1: The Human Rights-Based Approach to Housing and Slum Upgrading**

Violation of the right to adequate housing leads to spatial fragmentation and increases the risk of a deficit of also other human rights, by groups who are discriminated, marginalized and excluded. The purpose of this handbook is to improve upon this by increasing the capacities of external stakeholders on the Human Rights-based Approach (HRBA) in intervening in housing and slum upgrading through:

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Raising awareness on the different causes of housing and slum upgrading challenges

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Addressing them in an integrated and inclusive way to ensure urbanization is transformative and sustainable

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Illustrating the steps of the Human Rights-based approach that housing and slum upgrading actors should consider in policies, programmes and projects

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Drawing linkages to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals

**The publication will be published and distributed in 2018.**

## 2.2 FORCED EVICTIONS

We collaborate closely with the Office of the High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR) to prevent unlawful forced evictions through the introduction of legislation and judicial action against forced evictions. We measure our effort by the number of partner countries that are implementing frameworks or programmes preventing unlawful forced eviction.

Baseline 2013	Actual 2014	Actual 2015	Actual 2016	Actual 2017
6	10	12	14	20

To date, at least 20 partner countries have taken some form of action to prevent unlawful forced evictions. Some notable examples include **Brazil, Kenya, Saudi Arabia, Ethiopia and South Africa**, all of which have shown political and legislative commitment to strengthen land tenure and prevent forced evictions from occurring without proper justification and appropriate measures to mitigate the risks (i.e. resettlement, compensation, proper notice...).

There is on-going programmatic work in **Afghanistan** to improve land tenure for returnees, in particular women. Other countries such as the **People's Republic of China, India and the Republic of Indonesia** have adopted

encouraging measures and alternative approaches to forced evictions.

However, even when Governments adopt policy measures to prevent forced evictions, there continues to be a gap between legislation and practice and advocacy work must continue to translate discourse into action.

### 2.2.1 ALTERNATIVES TO FORCED EVICTIONS

A report on 'Alternatives to Forced Evictions in Informal Settlements' to ensure that Governments have the necessary tools and information to protect their cities' most vulnerable people.

The publication showcases examples of where forced eviction has been avoided such as the case of:

- Vila Autodromo in Brazil which offers insights into how community planning can lead to successful solutions when connected to multi-scale approaches which include metropolitan and national levels. In this case a multi-scale strategy enabled the neighborhood to successfully push their cause into the public domain;
- Haiti, where the government's policy has gradually shifted towards informal settlement regularization, with the aim of achieving durable solutions to internal displacement;
- Kenya, where the Constitution includes the right to 'accessible and adequate housing' for 'everyone'. Since its promulgation, local communities threatened with eviction have challenged the justiciability of the Right to Adequate Housing, seeking judicial protection against forced eviction and winning; and
- The Philippines where in the case of evictions, top-down approaches are complemented by consultative processes with local communities. Therefore, forced evictions and relocations are replaced by more rational approaches, such as slum upgrading and nearby relocation, with poor communities gradually gaining access to basic services such as health, water and sanitation, and observing the benefits of participatory planning

**The publication will be published and distributed in 2018.**

### 2.2.2 ADVOCACY ON FORCED EVICTIONS

An advocacy video regarding forced evictions which will define forced evictions, as well as articulate the several situations that can lead to evictions, i.e.: land grabbing, house demolitions, mega events, natural disasters inter alia. The video will also convey the manner in which

forced evictions also disproportionately affect vulnerable groups such as women, refugees, IDPs and children and serve to further marginalize and leave them behind.

The video will culminate in practical steps that can be taken to prevent forced evictions, before, during and after.

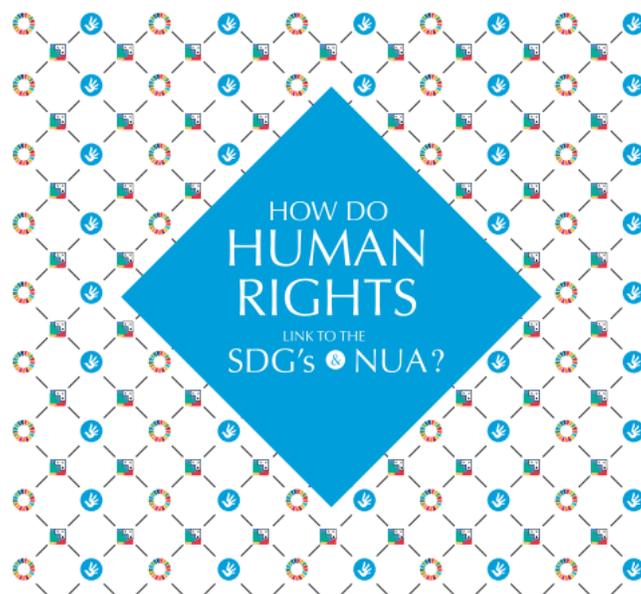
**The video will be finalized and launched in 2018.**

## 2.3 LINK BETWEEN HUMAN RIGHTS, SDGS AND THE NEW URBAN AGENDA

### 2.3.1 FIRST TECHNICAL MEETING ON HUMAN SETTLEMENTS INDICATORS OF THE SDGS

UN-Habitat hosted a week-long technical meeting to discuss all human settlements indicators. Attendees included academics, members of local government, members of national statistical offices, UN agencies and NGOs. The key outcome was the refinement of metadata documents for the human settlements indicators. The Human Rights team presented on the importance of engaging civil society in local governance and planning, as well as the importance of considering different vulnerable groups when measuring SDG indicators. The team also stressed the importance of sex and age disaggregated data and influenced metadata refinement.

### 2.3.2 TOOLKIT LINKING HUMAN RIGHTS TO THE SDGS & NUA



ENSURING HUMAN RIGHTS IN CITIES

UN HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

This toolkit outlines the key themes of the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals with regards to UN-Habitat's mandate to promote socially and

environmentally sustainable towns and cities with the goal of providing adequate shelter for all.

It is used in the planning and design, implementation, and the monitoring and evaluation phases of all interventions within the context of urban development. We envisage that all working in this field whether through devising policies or procedures, planning and developing projects and programmes or delivering services will benefit from this toolkit.

- **58 downloads**

## 2.4 INTER-AGENCY SUPPORT GROUPS (IASG)

### 2.4.1 IASG ON INDIGENOUS ISSUES

The team is a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Indigenous Issues. This ensures coordination and alignment with the broader UN system on work relating to Indigenous peoples.

### 2.4.2 IASG ON DISABILITIES

The team is a member of the Inter-Agency Support Group on Disabilities. This ensures coordination and alignment with the broader UN system on work relating to persons with disabilities.

- **2018 Flagship Report on Disabilities and Development**

The UN General Assembly Resolution 69/142 requested the Secretary-General, in coordination with all relevant United Nations entities, "to compile and analyse national policies, programmes, best practices and available statistics regarding persons with disabilities, reflecting progress made in addressing the relevant internationally agreed development goals and the provisions of the Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, to be submitted to the General Assembly in a flagship report during 2018 " (para 21b).

**We contributed to the chapter focused on SDG 11: Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable for persons with disabilities.**

We covered related provisions of CRPD and other international legislation relevant for the implementation of the respective SDG and a historical overview of the UN's work on disability and development, introducing the international normative framework in this area.

- **5th Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development**

The 5<sup>th</sup> Expert Group Meeting on Monitoring and Evaluation for Disability-inclusive Development took place in New York, on 13-14 December 2017. We attended the meeting made a presentation on our respective inputs and contributions to the content of the 2018 UN flagship report on disability.

## 2.5 ADVOCACY AT THE GLOBAL LEVEL

### 2.5.1 HIGH LEVEL POLITICAL FORUM SIDE EVENT

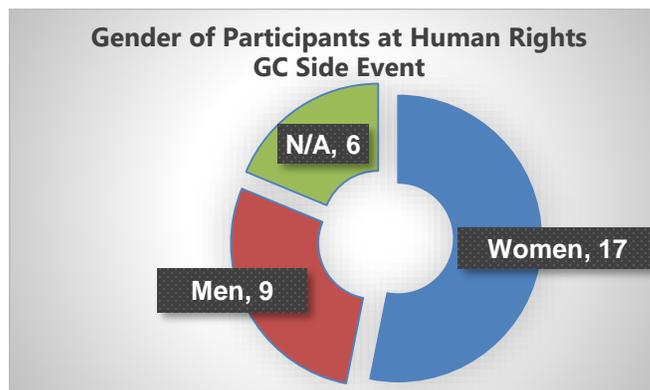
UN-Habitat cosponsored a side event at the High-Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development held at the UN-Headquarters in New York. The event focused on making sustainable development work at all ages, with a focus on eradicating poverty and promoting prosperity for older persons. UN-Habitat highlighted the issues of mobility and access to public spaces in urban areas.

### 2.5.2 HUMAN RIGHTS SIDE-EVENT AT THE 26TH GOVERNING COUNCIL

The side event was titled: "Making Human Rights in Cities a Reality: Tools and Practical Examples" and took place during the 26<sup>th</sup> Governing Council on **May 11<sup>th</sup>**.

This event illustrated the benefits reaped by both beneficiaries and stakeholders partnered in the field projects in realizing human rights in cities but also offering practical examples to be replicated and scaled up in efforts toward implementing the New Urban Agenda. The main objectives were to:

- Discuss the engagement of stakeholders and beneficiaries in the promotion, protection and realization of human rights; improve the participation of all, especially those in vulnerable situations and raise human rights awareness;
- Feature presentations of tools and best practices through our human rights transformative pilot field projects being implemented with internal and external partners.



### 2.5.3 INTERNATIONAL PEACE DAY

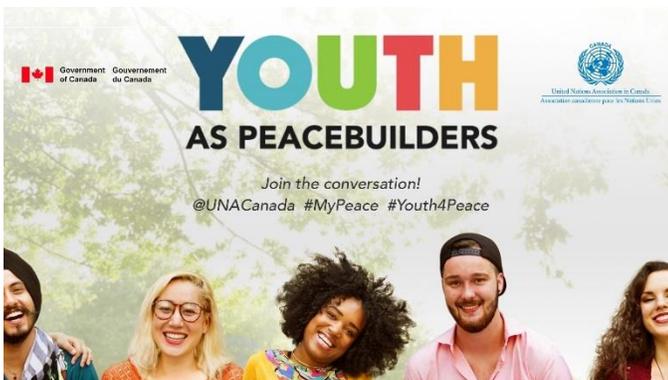
Together with the Urban Economy Branch, Youth and Livelihood Unit we contributed to an event held at the UN Compound in Nairobi that celebrated the International Day of Peace with an event. The focus of the events was centered around the theme “Together for Peace: Respect, Safety and Dignity for All” with a special focus on the engagement of young men and women in peacebuilding.

### 2.5.4 YOUTH AS PEACEBUILDERS FORUM

The United Nations Association in Canada (UNA-Canada), with the support of the Department of National Defence, hosted the *Youth as Peacebuilders Forum* as part of the 2017 UN Peacekeeping Defence Ministerial.

UNA-Canada engaged 130 youth, between the ages of 18 and 29, in both in-person and virtual consultations. One of our young human rights coordination team members was invited to participate. The youth-led consultations addressed the five pillars for action outlined in [UN Security Council Resolutin 2250](#) (2015): Participation, Protection, Prevention, Partnership and Disengagement and Reintegration with a focus on action and sustainable partnerships with major stakeholders, the Canadian Prime Minister, the Canadian Minister of National Defence, and UN officials.

The outcomes included youth pledges to peacebuilding and a final report to be presented to the Prime Minister, the Minister of National Defence and UN Secretariat.





### 3. MAINSTREAMING HUMAN RIGHTS AT THE REGIONAL AND COUNTRY LEVEL

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**Mainstreaming Human Rights at country level entails reinforcing the Human Rights component as an operational activity across UN-Habitat’s different focal areas of work.**

#### 3.1 AFRICA

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##### 3.1.1 SOMALIA

- **Mainstreaming Human Rights for Youth Leaders at the One Stop Youth Centre, Mogadishu**

Together with the human rights mainstreaming coordination team, UN-Habitat’s Somalia Country Programme implemented a project to mainstream human rights for youth leaders at the Mogadishu One-stop Youth Centre (MOSYC). The One Stop Youth Centre in Mogadishu provides youth with a safe and inclusive space where they can meet and take the lead in their own development and that of their urban environment. By cultivating institutional capacity on human rights, at the

MOSYC youth were also provided with a platform that enables them to participate so that their rights.

This project aimed to:

- Strategically select well placed youth leaders and equip them with the knowledge of human rights concepts;
- Apply international and national human rights frameworks, learn different advocacy methods;
- Build their capacities to mainstream human rights within the youth centre.

The project trained 5 youth leaders in the Banadir Regional Youth Association (BARYA). Upon the completion of the training, the 5 went on to train 180

other vulnerable youth from 6 districts through Shaqeyso Programme on human rights (30 youth from each of the 6 districts).

A voluntary youth human rights committee (YHRC) was also created. It includes Youth Leaders, BARYA and MOSYC Youth Advisory Board in Mogadishu. The members of the committee are strategically selected and well placed youth leaders equipped with the knowledge and tools to continue further capacity development as trained trainers. The committee is also tasked with organizing and facilitating dialogues, forums and debate around the key issues that affect young people by enhancing their understanding of how to influence decision-making processes that affect them.



The YHRC's first two forums to be organized in February 2018 will be youth employment rights dialogue sessions. The first forum will compile packaged talking points to be pitched at the next forum where government representatives will be present to hear the recommendations and strategize a way forward.

### 3.1.2 KENYA

#### ▪ Access and Mobility: The Implication of Universal Access on Groups in Vulnerable Situations in Nairobi

With support from the Human Rights Team in the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch in 2017, a mobility project has been kick started in partnership with the National Gender and Equality Commission (NGEC) to mainstream accessibility and mobility for vulnerable groups using the Kenyan public transport system.

The project will begin with capacity building and sensitization of various stakeholders in the public transport sector including, government agencies, industry manufacturers, public service vehicle owners and operators on the increased return on investments.

The integrated transport policy will ensure improved access and mobility for the elderly, persons with disability,

children and expectant mothers who rely on public transport. Ultimately an inclusive public transport policy framework and guidelines that will progressively realize public transportation that is more accessible to all persons, especially those who are normally barred from utilizing it.



### 3.1.3 TANZANIA

#### ▪ Dodoma Vision 2025

To help in preparation of the "Workshop on Sustainable Urban and Metropolitan Planning for Dodoma 2025" 10-14 July 2017, the human rights coordination team, during the 26<sup>th</sup> governing council met with Dr Hante, the Director of the Urban and Rural Development of the Ministry of Regional Administration and Local Government in Tanzania, and lent our expertise towards the relevancy of human rights and the projects they were planning for vision 2025.

### 3.1.4 POLICY EXCHANGE ON MAINSTREAMING DISABILITY PRACTICES

On May 10th -12th, 2017, We Habitat facilitated a session with leaders of the disability movement from 10 countries in East and West Africa who were in Nairobi for the second module of a training programme run jointly by the International Disability Alliance (IDA) and the International Disability and Development Consortium (IDDC), supported by UNDP, DFAT, and other actors.

It was an opportunity for open and supportive discussion to look at challenges from both a UN and civil society perspective to find practical, creative solutions, including potential mechanisms to support more inclusive policy making or programming. The discussion also highlighted the distinct challenges that people with disabilities face in cities, particularly pertaining to mobility and access to basic services. This session also led to an increased focus on PWD within the agency, and improved collaboration with Handicap International.

### 3.1.5 AFRICA FORUM ON URBAN SAFETY

The Human Rights Team participated in the Africa Forum on Urban Safety (AFUS) from 1-3 November 2017, hosted by the city of Durban. The eThekweni Municipality invited the team to collaborate on various events, particularly focusing on the safety of women in African cities. These events focused on the sharing of innovative, practical tools and experiences in improving safety in cities. The Gender and Human Rights teams worked to ensure that women's safety was high on the agenda, and helped organize a panel discussion on community engagement in improving urban safety at the local level.

### 3.1.6 THE STATE OF AFRICAN CITIES REPORT 2018

The State of African Cities Report will be the UN-Habitat flagship report for 2018. The Human Rights team sat on the board of reviewers and gave strong input into the report. Input included an improved focus on women's empowerment, illegal forced evictions and the demographic dividend.

## 3.2 ARAB STATES

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### 3.2.1 PALESTINE

- **Human Rights for Hebron, Palestine which entailed developing projects in line with the Hebron Strategy**

With support from the Human Rights Team in the Housing and Slum Upgrading Branch in 2017, UN-Habitat Palestine and UN-Habitat Regional Office for Arab States were able to follow up on the initial investment in the joint UN Strategy for Hebron by developing and mainstreaming rights into new project proposals in Hebron, starting the development of a human rights 'barometer' for monitoring and tracking of results under the strategy and promoting human rights advocacy for Hebron in collaboration with the Office of the United Nations Special Coordinator for the Middle East Peace Process (UNSCO) and Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights (OHCHR).

This human rights project supported the development of concept notes and projects under the strategy and programmatic framework for Hebron, results monitoring and advocacy of the Joint UN Strategy for Hebron and contributed to UN-Habitat's experience with the practical application of the human rights based approach

- **Safe and Inclusive Public Spaces in Hebron Governorate**
- **Hebron Youth Fund**
- **Fostering Tenure Security for Rural Palestinian Communities of Massafer Yatta, Hebron**

- **Social Housing and Integrated Livelihood Support for Women Headed Households in Hebron**
- **Urban Heritage Planning, Conservation and Management in Hebron:**
  - **Human rights advocacy for Hebron in collaboration with UNSCO and OHCHR.**

Human rights advocacy for Hebron is an on-going process of raising awareness of the human rights issues in Hebron among local, national and international stakeholders. Following a human rights-based approach it is important to address the capacity of rights holders to claim their rights and for the duty bearers to fulfil their rights. The strategy highlighted that attention is needed to ensure that the rights of children, youth and women in Hebron are fulfilled, as individuals from these groups are at high risk of not having their rights fulfilled. Advocacy to raise awareness of the rights and how to claim the rights are important factors, as well as the capacity to claim the rights. Some UN entities addresses human rights protection and advocacy publicly through different channels, but not necessarily focused on the situation in Hebron. UNSCO issues political and advocacy statements on behalf of the UN system in the State of Palestine. OHCHR publishes news on the Palestine on their website and has an active Facebook page on Palestine posting in both English and Arabic about global human rights issues as well as Palestine specific issues. OCHA has an active Facebook page on Palestine posting in English about the humanitarian situation often related to demolitions in the West Bank. UNSCO has an important role to lead the coordination of advocacy on the Joint UN Strategy for Hebron and projects in Hebron encouraging the linkage between projects, donors and human rights advocacy. For the right to adequate housing in Area C, the approval of outline plans is key to address the situation. [The online dashboard](#) launched by UN-Habitat and the Ministry of Local Government on community-driven outline plans for Palestinian communities in Area C of the West Bank is one such initiative to raise awareness on the situation related to current projects.

## 3.3 ASIA AND THE PACIFIC

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### 3.3.1 CAMBODIA

- **Integration of the Human Rights-Based Approach in WASH governance to enhance capacity for Sub-national level in Cambodia**

Together with the human rights mainstreaming coordination team, UN-Habitat's Cambodia Country Programme implemented a project that aimed to

harmonize WASH governance with the human rights-based approach to enhance the capacity of sub-national level stakeholders in the region. There were 4 target municipalities (Pursat, Kampong, Svay Rieng and Phnom Penh) and 20 communes with around 200 participants who were consulted to develop the WASH guide. A national Guide for the WASH sector integrating human rights mainstreaming was successfully developed in fully participation and consultation with different stakeholders. (it covered drinking water supply, hygiene promotion and basic sanitation, cross-sectoral issues of human rights, gender, adaptation to climate change, equal participation, integrity and private sector involvement have been addressed in the guide. Subsequently, a pilot on community based water supply in partnership with local authorities was conducted in Koy Trabek commune in Svay Rieng province. There were 420 households successfully connected to pipe water supply. After piloting successfully, the WASH guide was modified and finalized in consultation with all stakeholders and handover to

General Department of Water Supply of Ministry of Industry and Handicraft.

The guide will enable policymakers to take informed decision to ensure a significant increase in quality water and sanitation investments at the sub-national levels. Through application of the guide there should also be an improvement in communication between government bodies, development partners and Non-Government Organizations (NGOs). Ultimately, the guide will assist different stakeholders in effective and efficient delivery of WASH projects in Cambodia.