

Quick Guides for Policymakers on Housing the Poor in African Cities Workshop Concept Note

Introduction

The UN Habitat in partnership with the Cities Alliance has published a Quick Guide Series: Housing the Poor in African Cities. The overall purpose of this series is to provide policy makers at national and local levels with information that will enhance their understanding and consequent responses to urbanization issues. In addition the quick guides series also aims to provide them with tools that will improve their skills in housing developments especially for the urban poor and to enable them to make informed policy and strategic decisions. The Quick Guides are presented in an easy-to-read format, including an overview of trends and conditions, concepts, policies, tools and recommendations.

As part of the dissemination of the Quick Guides for Policy Makers: Housing the Poor in African Cities a training pack was prepared on the Quick Guides. This training pack includes a Facilitator's Guide, PowerPoint presentations, and videos. The training pack equips national and regional training institutions and other relevant organisations with the necessary tools to provide training for policy makers on the Quick Guides series in their countries. A training the trainers workshop was held in Kenya, in September 2014 for African training institutions.

The Namibian Association of Local Authority Officials (NALAO) is the only organization that attended the training in Kenya. It has also been confirmed that at least one person at Namibia University of Science and Technology (NUST), Department of Architecture and Spatial Planning has been intricately involved in the development of the Quick Guides Series and Facilitators Manual

The material contains eight seminars which include the following:

- 1. Urban Africa:** Proposes a range of policies and strategies that can steer urban development in positive directions; it advocates for drawing on the experience and knowledge that exist within poor urban communities across the continent.
- 2. Low-Income Housing:** Describes several well-tried approaches for improving the housing and living environments of people living in slums and informal settlements – and for ensuring adequate housing for future generations of the urban poor.
- 3. Land:** Explores the kinds of land tenure systems operating in African cities and examines some of the benefits and problems associated with the different systems.
- 4. Eviction:** Presents guidelines to help governments develop better formal procedures to minimise evictions and to ensure that resettlement, if inevitable, follows international standards.
- 5. Housing Finance:** Introduces some of the key concepts of housing finance; provides an overview of how a housing finance system works; offers advice to policy makers for enhancing

access to affordable housing finance by the urban poor.

6. Community-Based Organizations: Considers how best governments and other implementing agencies can work with CBOs to address the problems that the poor experience in urban settlements – and find durable solutions to their housing needs.

7. Rental Housing: Identifies the characteristics of good quality rental housing and sound landlord-tenant rental Relationships; presents policy options for promoting the expansion of rental housing, especially for the poor.

8. Local Government: Provides a brief overview of local government in Africa; reviews the urban challenges (and opportunities) local authorities face; shows how physical, economic and social development need to be integrated in order to promote effective urban development schemes.

2. Workshop Objective

The overall objective of the planned workshop for March 25 -27, 2015 is to further disseminate the Quick Guides for Africa series and to build the capacity of at least sixteen (16) policy makers in Namibia to promote pro-poor housing policies.

Specific Workshop Objectives:

By the end of the workshop participants will have:

- Been introduced to key trends, concepts and tools to address housing for the poor in Namibia
- An opportunity to discuss policy and strategic options for improving housing delivery
- Identified key bottlenecks and supporting factors affecting housing delivery in Namibia
- Discussed current trends and developments in Namibia around security of tenure, informal settlement upgrading and land delivery.
- Participated in a site visit that demonstrates community responses to housing

3. Draft Workshop Program

Day 1: March 25, 2015		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
08h30- 9h30	Welcome and Introduction <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prayer • Welcoming Remarks by NALAO President • Remarks by UN Habitat • Introduction of Participants and Facilitators • Key Note Speech by Permanent Secretary MRLGHRD 	MC NALAO (VP – Walde)
9h30 – 10h30	African Housing Trends and Policies and Introduction to the Quick Guides Project	UN Habitat
10h30-11h00	Tea Break	ALL
11h00– 13h30	Urban Africa – Building with Untapped Potential	M. Marealle (NUST)
12h30– 13h30	Lunch Break	ALL
13h30 -15h00	Community Based Organisations	Nate & Ma Edith
15h00-15h15	Tea Break	
15h15– 17h00	Site Visit & Conclusion Day 1	NHAG/SDFN

Day 2: March 26, 2015		
Time	Activity	Responsibility
08h30 – 9h00	Recap of Key Issues from Day 1	Nate & NUST
09h-09h30	Habitat 3 Process & Reviving National Habitat Committee	Ms. N. Simion
09h30 -10h30	Land – A Key Factor in Housing Delivery	NUST & MLRR
10h30 -11h00	Tea Break	ALL
11h00– 11h30	Conclude Discussion on Land	
11h30– 13h00	Role of Local Government	
13h00-14h00	Lunch Break	
14h00– 15h30	Evictions	
15h30-15h45	Tea Break	
15h45 -16h15	Way Forward/Next Steps	
16h15-17h00	Evaluation & Closure	

Day 3: March 27, 2015		
10h00 -11h00	Debriefing with NUST	UN Habitat, NALAO, NUST
11h30 – 12h30	Debriefing with line Ministry	UNHABITAT, NALAO, Ministry

Proposed Stakeholders to be Invited:

National Housing Action Group and Shack Dwellers Federation	1. Anna Muller – National Coordinator
	2. Heinrich Amushila – National Program Coordinator
	3. Ms. Ideth Mbanga – Coordinator – SDFN
	4. Ms. Rosalinde (Southen Namibia - SDFN)
	5. Ms. Matha (Northern Nambia –SDFN)
Namibia University of Science and Tehnology	6. Ms. Maria Marealle
	7. PhillipLuhl
	8. Nina Maritz
University of Namibia	9. 1 Housing Research Fellow
Office of the Ombudsman	10. Advocate John Walters
Ministry of Lands	11. Dr. Shivute (also involved in slum upgrading program) & Dana Beukes
Ministry of Regional Local Government Housing & RD	12. Ms. Naomi Simion
	13. Mr. M.Thaniseb, Deputy Director Housing
	14. Ms. Viona Shikalongo (Habitat)
	15. Ms. Helao – Habitat Research and Dev.
Local Authorities	16. Windhoek – Faniel Naanda
	17. Otjiwarongo – Agatha MwetI (NALAO President)
	18. Grootfontein- Mr. Illeni Hainghunbi (CFO)
	19. Eenhana – Mr. Walde Ndevashiya (CEO)
	20. Mariental – Paul Nghiwilepo (CEO)
Parliamentary Standing Committee on Housing and Habitat	21. Chairperson
	22. Secretary