
International Training on “Integrated Approach for Upgrading Poor Urban Areas”

March 12 to April 5, 2012

Organized by the Weitz Center for Development Studies in collaboration with UN-Habitat Training and Capacity Building branch (TCBB)

Today, as more than half of the world's population lives in cities and urban areas, slum upgrading is one of the main challenges of the developing world. According to UN-Habitat, it is estimated that one billion people live in slums in the cities of the world – one sixth of the human population – and that the numbers are rising. In this context, participants will be introduced to:

- + A comprehensive approach – to integrate aspects of infrastructure, living conditions, land ownership, environmental considerations, services systems and delivery, human capital and community development & economic activities into one comprehensive development process.
- + Partnerships – local government "ownership" of the process and partnerships between local and external stakeholders in strategy formulation, planning and implementation.
- + Financial and organizational tools - to mobilize the significant amount of resources required for such a development process and to promote and sustain implementation.

Upgrading poor urban areas in the international agenda

- + Slum dwellers are generally facing multidimensional poverty, - extreme poverty and hunger, lack of education, gender inequalities, low access to health services, environmental degradation... -, which aspects are to be tackled through the MDG framework.
- + UN-Habitat, a world leader in promoting sustainable urban development and adequate shelter for all, is focusing on slum upgrading as one of its key areas. UN-Habitat promotes different programs to support slum upgrading: Participatory Slum Upgrading, Cities Alliance, The Slum Upgrading Facility, and more.
- + Other UN agencies and international organizations, as UNDP or the European Commission, allocated funds and are involved with urban poor areas upgrading.
- + Finally, numerous civil society organizations are committed to improving conditions and offering alternative for urban poor.

The Israeli experience

Israel gained significant experience in upgrading and revitalizing poor urban areas. Though slums and poor urban neighborhoods in Israel are different from those of the developing countries, our experience from previous trainings showed that our accumulated knowledge, on the approaches, strategies and tools, is relevant and that it can benefit decision makers and professionals involved in slum upgrading and the delivery of services to the poor. More specifically, participants will benefit from the following aspects:

- + Organizational and financial frameworks developed and implemented in Israel
- + Israel's experience in PPP and integrated approaches to upgrading poor urban areas and its adaptation to the developing world
- + Understanding the critical role of an integrated approach, of partnerships and of implementation mechanisms in slums upgrading
- + Understanding the role of national and local governments, private sector and civil society's in upgrading urban neighborhoods

The methodology

Participants will attend lectures in class and on-site conferences, benefiting from the experience and knowledge of high-level Israeli experts and consultants. They will visit relevant experiences. UN-Habitat and Israeli cases and practice will be discussed and exercised throughout the program.

The following topics will be covered:

- + **Introductory Sessions:** Slums in the urban development context, Integrated assets based strategic approach to urban development
- + **Slum upgrading – UN-Habitat experience:** Key factors for successful slum upgrading, Obstacles and barriers to slum upgrading, Approach, experience, lessons learnt and tools from UN-Habitat's programs
- + **Urban Areas Revitalization – the Israeli Experience:** The Israeli context – features, processes and indicators of urban poverty; Policies and strategies: Urban Renewal, Clearance and Construction, Infill - and their relevancy to developing countries
- + **Implementation Mechanisms:** Local and national planning, management tools and legal frameworks; Organizational platforms for planning, implementation and management; Developing institutional capacities; The role of the different stakeholders – central and local government, civil society and private sector
- + **Slum upgrading and service delivery from different angels:** The public sector – improving living conditions, empowering communities, small-scale infrastructure development and social services through urban upgrading; the private sector – financial opportunities with benefits to the public, project management; civil society – building community resilience, participation and empowerment to ensure benefits for the community

Participants will be requested to conduct individual and group exercises. For this purpose, selected participants are required to submit prior to the training:

- + A short presentation on slum upgrading policies and strategies in their respective countries/local areas
- + A case of slum upgrading they wish to further develop throughout the training in small groups (5-6 most relevant cases will be selected with the participants for further development throughout the training)

Detailed instruction will be sent to the selected participants

Who may apply?

The training targets planners, architects, engineers, economists, community workers, administrators and policy makers working in government ministries (such as local government, housing, development, welfare, health and others), in local authorities, NGOs and CBOs active in the field, as well as business organizations and academic institutions engaged with slum upgrading programs.

Application Process

Candidates must complete the appropriate application forms (including health certificate, declaration etc.) available at the Israeli diplomatic mission in their country, or through the Internet <http://mashav.mfa.gov.il>, www.weitz-center.org. The completed forms should be submitted at the Israeli mission in your area and sent to our office (ronitshp@netvision.net.il) not later than January 13, 2012.

Candidates must also hand in a passport photo by electronic file.

Scholarships

The scholarship includes: 30 days with full board, tuition, accommodation and meals, medical insurance (not included dental services, eye glasses, chronic illnesses and pregnancy) and transportation from/to the airport in Israel. The scholarship does not include flight tickets.

It should be taken into account when booking the flight tickets that the scholarship covers exclusively from March 11 (arrival day) to April 5 (day of departure). Any liability or expense out of this term shall be entirely at the expense of the participant.

Arrival and transportation

A Taxi Company called "MONI SITON TOURS" will transport the participants to "Reisfeld Residence" of the Faculty of Agriculture, Rehovot, Israel, where the students will stay during the training. Transportation will be free of charge only if transported by this company .

The MONI SITON TOURS counter is located after passing through Customs, in the gallery of level 1 (Arriving Passengers' hall, left staircase near gate 2, towards "Traklin Arbel".)

Medical Insurance

MASHAV will assume the responsibility of the participants' medical insurance for the duration of the course, excluding dental care, pregnancy, eyeglasses and chronic illnesses.

MASHAV, Weitz Center and the "Reisfeld Residence" are **not** responsible in case of lost or stolen personal belongings.

About MASHAV

MASHAV – Israel's Agency for International Development Cooperation - at Israel's Ministry of Foreign Affairs was founded in late 1957, and is responsible for the design, coordination and implementation of the State of Israel's development cooperation programs. MASHAV concentrates on human and institutional capacity building by sharing Israel's own development experience and expertise, imparting know-how and transferring innovative technologies and tested methodologies adaptable to developing country needs. MASHAV's approach is to ensure social, economic and environmental sustainable development, joining the international community's efforts to implement the Millennium Development Goals by 2015. In events of natural disasters, MASHAV also provides humanitarian assistance and participates in reconstruction and rehabilitation efforts.

About Weitz Center

The Weitz Center for Development Studies is a leader in capacity building for sustainable development. Our work is dedicated to enhancing the efforts of international agencies, governments, communities, civil society and private sector organizations to achieve positive social and economic change worldwide. Towards this end, we offer high quality training and consulting services, highlighting our practical, assets-based and integrated approach to development. <http://www.weitz-center.org/>

About UN-Habitat Training and Capacity Building Branch (TCBB)

UN-HABITAT's Training and Capacity Building Branch (TCBB) assists local authorities and civil society organizations to build core skills in competencies in diverse areas including leadership, financial management, local economic development, participatory planning and conflict management. Through cutting edge training tools and methodologies, it assists UN-HABITAT's partners and clients in developing managerial, technical and policy-making capacity — all within the framework of good local governance and sustainable urban development — to carry out their mandate.

At the global and regional levels, the TCBB complements the work of various UN-HABITAT programs and its campaigns for secure tenure and good urban governance through methodological support in tool development, training design and delivery. These tools and training services constitute an integral part of many technical cooperation projects executed through UN-HABITAT regional offices. The Branch also promotes partnerships and networking at the global and regional levels, between learning institutions and local governments associations. It organizes regional Training-of-Trainers (ToT) workshops for municipal councils and local development NGOs and CBOs.

Additional Information

Any additional information is available at:

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