



## **Slum Upgrading: Public Space and Streets**

# 1. The need for streets and public space in slum upgrading

1. Squares, markets, streets, green-space, and public institutions are anchors to thriving urban centres;
2. Safe and inclusive public spaces are even more needed in informal settlements, where space for socialisation, schools, places of worship and commerce, can drive development;
3. Beyond mobility, streets should be understood in terms of the quality of life, economic value, sense of pride and identity, and safety they can provide.
4. Streets and public space are key for creating space for the provision of infrastructure and greater accessibility
5. Streets are part of a settlement urban layout plan, and form the basis of an upgrading plan.
6. For Residents, streets provide address and location in the city map.

## 2. The value and importance of public space and streets in slum upgrading

### **Principles for delivery:**

1. Provision of public space and streets as part of slum upgrading commonly lead to demolition, relocation and new housing provision;
2. Streets, squares, pathways are needed to lay down all pipes, water supply, drainage, sewerage, electricity networks;
3. Slum upgrading that focus on the provision of good quality public space, streets, squares and pathways requires both technical and social development processes;
4. Creation and protection of public space as well as maintenance and management requires community ownership and public sector commitment.

# 3. Indicators of importance of streets and public space

1. **Mobility** – streets, pedestrian pathways;
2. **Quality of Life** – green-space, service corridors, socialisation centers;
3. **Economic opportunities** – commercial and small industry drive prosperity;
4. **Ownership and pride** – integrating slums with formal city and vice versa;
5. **Safety and security** – street lighting, emergency access.
6. **Social Inclusion and Integration** – provide street address, inclusion in city map, postal code.

## 4. Challenges and approach

1. Creation of public space through rights of use and occupancy policy and regulation and community ownership;
2. Design and planning challenges through inclusive and participatory means;
3. Bringing slum upgrading to citywide scale through linkages with multiple interventions, communities, local and national institutions;
4. Address protection, management and maintenance of public space through community engagement and public sector responsibility-urban management.

## 5. Opportunities for UN-HABITAT

1. Slum upgrading programmes can provide a laboratory for new urbanisation strategies including integration with the formal city;
2. Addressing housing and infrastructure challenges in slums creates opportunities for innovations in planning, materials development including green technology, tenure systems and land use;
3. Creation and protection of public space provides a tangible common good that can bind slum communities to common purpose.