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Editorial

WELCOME to the latest issue of the newsletter **Urbanisation** from the Department for International Development (DFID) of the British government, dedicated to major issues in the urban sector.

The purpose of the newsletter is to inform readers about current developments in the sector, and to focus on the work supported by DFID country programmes and research activities.

Alongside this, the NEW Urbanisation listserver now provides the opportunity for all our subscribers to comment on issues raised in any of the articles in this newsletter and to provide feedback in a user survey (planned for June 2002).

It can also be used as a resource for project managers who may wish to host email discussions on their research topics. This is being piloted by an O&M electronic conference during May, which you are invited to join. If you are interested in doing something similar for your own research, please contact me.

Details of how to join the list and to participate in the conference are given on page 6.

Julie Woodfield
The Editor,
URBANISATION

Short contributions are invited on wholly or partly DFID funded KaR projects, as are letters and other items of relevant news.

For more information about this newsletter; to be added to the mailing list; or to send contributions for future issues contact:

Julie Woodfield
URBANISATION Editor,
Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)
Institute of Development Engineering
Loughborough University
Leicestershire LE11 3TU UK
Tel: +44 (0) 1509 222885
Fax: +44 (0) 1509 211079
Email: urbanisation@lboro.ac.uk

The opinions expressed in **Urbanisation** are the responsibility of the authors and do not necessarily represent the views of the publishers or DFID.

Latest DFID urban sector projects

The following new Urban KaR Projects have recently been approved for funding from April 2002. Funding categories are as follows:

- A: funding has been agreed subject to necessary amendments;
B: an inception phase is funded with subsequent funding dependent on a successful outcome; and
C: details of these are not currently available as these projects have still to be developed.

Projects are grouped according to the following themes:

- U1: Increase access to shelter;
- U2: Increase access to services;
- U3: Urban planning;
- U4: Urban governance;
- U5: Knowledge communication; and
- U6: Urban strategic planning and policy impacts.

THEME U1

- R8124 *Progress in the Provision of Secure Tenure for the Urban Poor*
Geoff Payne, Geoff Payne Associates,
Tel: 0208 992 2683, Email: gkpayne@gpa.org.uk
(Category A)

THEME U3

- R 8125 *Sustainable Approaches for Urban Governance in Small and Medium Towns of India*
Amitava Basu, Pricewaterhouse Coopers Ltd,
Tel: +91 11 696 9377,
Email: amitava.basu@in.pwcglobal.com
(Category A).

THEME U4

- R8126 *Long Term Sustainability of Urban Poverty Reduction*
Michael Safier, University College London,
Tel: 0207 388 7581, Email: m.safier@ucl.ac.uk
(Category A)

- R8127 *Making Partnerships Work-Developing a Practical Methodology for Improved Partnerships Working*
Ian Roberts, Greengage Consulting Ltd,
Tel: 01572 822820,
Email: esustainability@aol.com (Category A)
- R8137 *Service Provision Governance in the Peri-Urban Interface*
Julio Davila, University College London,
Tel: 0207 388 7581, Email: j.davila@ucl.ac.uk
(Category A)
- R8128 *Measuring Effectiveness of Urban Governance in Indian Cities*
Ankush Malhorta, Tate Energy Research Institute,
Tel: 46821000, Email: ankushm@teri.res.in
(Category B)

THEME U5

- R8129 *Researching the City: New Method and Tool*
Development Studies Institute (Category B)

THEME U6

- R8130 *Mapping Urbanisation for Urban and Regional Governance*
Bill Erickson, Max Lock Centre,
Tel: 0207 911 500 x 3341,
Email: ericks@wmin.ac.uk (Category A)
- R8131 *Seeking More Accurate and Inclusive Measures of Urban Poverty*
Dr David Satterwaite, IIED,
Tel: 0207 388 2177, Email: david@iied.org
(Category B)

On the web . . .

- **Cities Alliance: Cities without slums** - A global alliance of cities and their development partners committed to improve the living conditions of the urban poor: <http://www.citiesalliance.org>
- **CITYNET: The regional network of Local Authorities for the Management of Human Settlements** - A network promoting local urban improvement initiatives in the Asian-Pacific region, focusing on infrastructural issues, environment and health, poverty alleviation and municipal finance: <http://www.citynet-ap.org>
- **FORUM: Habitat in Developing countries** - Aimed at providing information to researchers and professionals working for the improvement of the built environment in developing countries, and at facilitating communications among them: <http://www.forumhabitat.polito.it/welcome.htm>
- **ICLEI: International Council for Local Environmental Initiatives** - To build and serve a worldwide movement of local governments to achieve tangible improvements in global environmental and sustainable development conditions through cumulative local actions: <http://www.iclei.org>
- **INTA: The International Network for Urban Development** - An international network that encourages the exchange of information, experience and best practices on urban development and renewal across the world: <http://www.inta-aivn.org/>



Picture Story

© ITDG

In the Bondei settlement in Nakuru, Kenya, a large satellite dish helps residents to generate income from film shows.

'Strengthening the Knowledge and Information Systems of the Urban Poor' project funded under ITDG's Resource Centre Scheme with DFID has examined the information needs of the urban poor and the potential impact of sustainable ICTs.

Report now available on the itdg website www.itdg.org/home.html or in hard copy from: ITDG, The Schumacher Centre for Technology and Development, Bourton-on-Dunsmore, Rugby, CV23 9QZ, UK.

Publications

Urban Management Series Series Editor: Nick Hall

By 2015 more than half the world's population will be living in towns and cities. *The Urban Management Series* focuses on the impacts of demographic change in developing countries. The series offers a platform for practical, in-depth analysis of the complex institutional, economic and social issues that have to be addressed in an increasingly urban and globalized world. The books are designed for all practitioners, academics and students concerned with urban management.

ISSN: 1476-7325, 2002.

Communicating for Development: Experience in the Urban Environment Edited by Catalina Gandelonas

Communicating for Development reflects current thinking on communicating knowledge to achieve development in the urban environment. The contributors examine communication from a variety of perspectives, offering critical analysis and new ideas in relation to communication methods, and suggesting ways of overcoming gaps and barriers in the communication process. They highlight the role of social networks as social capital, intermediaries and different types of media suitable for a community's culture. They also show how specific communication tools can best be used to transfer knowledge to communities located in different geographic contexts and with different cultures, values, beliefs and reference systems.

The first part of the book considers revised concepts relating to communication theories, models, development theories and their applications, communities, social

networks as social capital, intermediaries and media, together with the problem of overcoming barriers and communication gaps. The second part includes a number of case studies that illustrate the application of some of the theoretical concepts discussed.

ISBN: 1853395420, 2002, 256pp,
Price: £12.95

Operation, maintenance and sustainability of services for the urban poor

Findings, lessons learned and case studies summary and analysis

M. Sohail, S. Cavill and A.P. Cotton

This book presents the preliminary findings of the case studies completed to date (in Pakistan, Sri Lanka and India). The report provides an assessment of the operation and maintenance status within the communities illustrated in the studies and has sought to highlight the success and failure of the different approaches. The report goes on to review both consumer (urban poor) perceptions and municipal performance of community based processes. Finally, general conclusions or lessons have been drawn out that will be useful when thinking about operation and maintenance in the planning and implementation of future projects.

ISBN: 0 906055 95 4
199pp (176/250) 2001
Price: £24.95



In the November 2002 issue of urbanisation...

- Bridging the Finance Gap in Housing and Infrastructure research to establish the Community Led Infrastructure Financing Facility.
- Urban Poverty Reduction Programmes: Lessons of Experience.
- Communication for Sustainable Urban Livelihoods.
- Building Capacity for Community Driven Asset Management.
- Hands On - IT Works - update.

id21 Urban Poverty

The updated DFID funded research reporting service now features over a hundred of the latest UK-based Urban Poverty research projects in id21 Urban Poverty <http://www.id21.org/urban/index.html>

The database highlights the following thematic areas:

- Governance
- Housing and land
- Services and infrastructure
- Livelihoods and local economy
- Environmental resources
- Food and agriculture
- Human security.

Links to key urban poverty initiatives are at Urban Poverty Links

<http://www.id21.org/urban/links.html>

Urban Livelihoods: A People-Centred Approach to Reducing Poverty, Edited by Carole Rakodi with Tony Lloyd-Jones t-lloyd-jones@dfid.gov.uk

A new publication by Earthscan commissioned by DFID. Based on extensive recent research, the book draws together contributions from UK-based development researchers and practitioners. It sets out the implications of a 'sustainable livelihoods approach' to poverty reduction in the urban context.

Within the framework of a livelihoods perspective, it provides an up-to-date analytical review of the urban-related issues facing development practitioners in the century in which the increasing majority of the world's population will come to live in towns and cities. The book aims to stimulate new research and livelihoods-based practice in urban poverty reduction.

It is available in hardback and paperback (priced £17.95). A limited number of free copies are available from DFID on a first-come, first-serve basis. Priority will be given to Southern-based organisations, particularly those representing or involved with poor people living in urban or urbanising areas.

Building Capacity for Community Asset Management

THE *Community Asset Management* research project started in January 2001 by the Max Lock Centre, University of Westminster, London in collaboration with the Human Settlements Management Institute (HSMI) in India, draws on the experience of local practitioners and extensive fieldwork in three cities of India namely Hyderabad, Bhubaneswar and Ranchi. The expected outcome of this research project, are ways and means to build capacity at the community level to take the lead on the planning, maintenance and management of community buildings.

An overview of Community led Asset Management in the Indian context is presented in a brochure. It also provides information on the preliminary observations made during the fieldwork by the research team of the Max Lock Centre.

For example, it highlights the experience of earlier DFID funded infrastructure projects in Andhra Pradesh, India.

The fieldwork observations confirm that most communities are already involved in some form of management and maintenance of their common assets. However, their efforts are not always informed by sound technical advice to match the building technology in use. Their main source of advice being unskilled or semi-skilled labour found within the local bazaars, local community or even provided by members of the family. (see picture)

In the coming months of the research, the Human Settlements Management Institute (HSMI) will consolidate the observations from fieldwork and the ongoing practical demonstration of repair work to develop training toolkits and a pilot training programme. The school building in Bhubaneswar for demonstrating good practice in repair work was identified as part of the fieldwork and the local community, local authorities and



a local building centre have been involved in this process. The entire learning experience is being documented for future dissemination. An update on the above mentioned activities will be available by November 2002.

Illustration with subtext:

The local authority is responsible for the maintenance, but it is a long drawn out procedure. With no regular building surveys it is left entirely to the community or the building user to identify any problem and have it fixed, particularly if urgent steps need to be taken such as to fix a broken door to prevent the furniture being stolen. As the headmaster in the village school of Narangarh, near Bhubaneswar, Orissa, pointed out 'I always keep my good relations with the village community because they are able to contribute small amounts of money or labour if urgent works need to be done and they know that it is in the interest of their children'.

For a copy of the brochure please contact Dr. Michael Theis/Ripin Kalra, Max Lock Centre, University of Westminster, 35, Marylebone Road, London SW17 8JT, United Kingdom. Ph: 020 79115000 (ext 3120) email: kalrar@wmin.ac.uk or visit the website www.wmin.ac.uk/builtenv/maxlock/

KaR project number: R7934



Illustration and picture by: Ripin Kalra

Mainstreaming urban poverty

IN many cities, natural hazards conspire with rapid and unplanned urbanisation to create dangerous situations of vulnerability. South Asia is experiencing some of the fastest growth rates in urbanisation anywhere in the world. It also suffers every kind of hazard: each year over 77 000 000 people are adversely affected by natural disasters (Red Cross World Disaster Report). In India alone an estimated 1% of India's total housing stock is destroyed by natural disaster each year (Ministry of Urban Affairs and Employment, Government of India).

Disasters in cities destroy investments and infrastructure and drain national budgets and international development funds. Yet most rapidly urbanising cities are completely unprepared for rapid onset disasters. While there is plenty of well intentioned legislation to do this, the problem lies in its lack of enforcement. Many Building Codes are simply irrelevant to hundreds of millions of poor slum and squatter residents. For those who construct their own homes from cardboard and corrugated iron, or who live on marginalized land or on the edges of ravines, codes are one of a raft of rules and regulations that do have no bearing on so called 'illegal dwelling'

For wealthier people, weak laws can be manipulated with devastating consequences. Last January's earthquake in Gujarat killed over 20,000 people and injured a further 167,000, flattening villages and towns and destroying many buildings in the capital Ahmedabad. Not all of these were poor. One of the largest building collapses in Ahmedabad was caused by the additional weight of a swimming pool built on the roof terrace of a modern block of luxury flats. Building the pool was illegal, but the owner was able to side step this law by paying a tiny fine. The building collapse that resulted killed all its occupants.

From a livelihoods points of view however, the poorest are the most vulnerable. They have reduced access to the resources they require (land, or shelter, or knowledge,



mitigation to reduce

David Sanderson, CARE International UK sanderson@ciuk.org

of the protection of enforceable, realistic codes). They are limited from building up assets that protect them against the consequences of natural risks.

Can the effects of disasters be reduced? The ability to build up assets is the perennial problem for reducing vulnerability. Good development projects, as well as disaster preparedness activities, seek to reduce vulnerability by building up assets: physical assets such as property, land and belongings, or intangible human assets such as skills and abilities, and social assets such as local support networks.

How to translate this building of assets into realistic, enforceable city management policies is the challenge. Documents such as the UN Habitat Agenda (paragraphs 170-176) call for a range of measures to reduce risk. Yet there are few examples of such approaches, and hardly any which are geared towards poor urban residents.

The research project currently being implemented by CARE International UK is seeking to explore how meaningful risk reduction measures can be translated into city policy. Building on previous research, the three year KAR project 'Mainstreaming mitigation to reduce urban poverty' is piloting neighbourhood driven activities for reducing risk in three urban locations in Nepal and India, including Ahmedabad. The aim is to document and learn from actions; also to begin a negotiation between residents and city authorities for transforming those actions into a Code of Conduct for protecting poor urban settlers from natural disasters. The intention is that the code will be developed and 'owned' by residents, and will form the basis for municipal policies concerning realistic risk reduction.

The project is being implemented with partner Indian NGOs DMI, YUVA and SEEDS; the Government of India's National Centre for Disaster Management; the Nepali Red Cross; and CENDEP at Oxford Brookes University.



Urban waste management for small-scale energy production

Smail Khennas, Senior Energy Specialist, ITDG

SOLID waste management poses one of the greatest challenges to municipalities, and represents one of their greatest expenses. With urban expansion in most developing countries, many informal, or 'slum', settlements have no provision for waste disposal service.

'Modern' solutions to these problems in Third World cities, have been found to be largely inappropriate in technical terms. Sustainability of such systems has been a major issue, and these 'solutions' have also ignored the fact that thousands of livelihoods in these cities are intimately linked to the collection, recovery and recycling of waste materials.

The accumulation of waste in urban areas presents logistical problems for municipalities and health problems for residents, which require urgent and effective solutions. The health of the poorest is particularly affected since poor settlements are often close to waste dumps and many, with few other options, earn a living from waste picking.

Conventional waste to energy (WtE) technologies are neither well adapted to deal with informal waste management systems (WMS) nor well suited to a highly organic waste content common in low value waste. However, small scale incineration, briquetting and biogas production techniques have been tried and can be adapted for use in WtE applications.

This project is using case studies (Senegal, Kenya, Nepal, Sri Lanka and Cuba) to consider waste streams, the stakeholders involved in SWM, livelihood opportunities from WtE as well as different WtE technology options.

The key findings are as follows:

- 1) Most of the country studies report a high proportion (>50%) of bio-degradable organic material in the waste. Generally, this is the lowest value waste, and is not particularly attractive to the poor involved in the informal sector.
- 2) The country reports have also identified separate

streams of waste with a potential of waste to energy. For example, charcoal dust has been identified as a stream of waste in which poor people are interested.

- 3) Small-scale waste to energy options like biogas; briquetting, small incinerators and the use of improved use of charcoal dust have been identified as some possibilities.
- 4) There is a need for proper disposal options in most of the cities studied. Small-scale waste to energy options may not utilise large quantities of waste but could provide a useful learning experience for local authorities and the private sector.
- 5) The informal sector recycling activities differ from one context to another in the range of cities studied e.g. separation of waste for reuse and recycling, exporting as a raw material to countries where there is a demand. Where the demand for recyclable waste is low, where the waste quantities are small or it is expensive to recycle waste, the quantities of low value wastes are high.
- 6) In the present pursuit of economic liberalisation, solid waste management services in low-income countries are being privatised, with interest from International companies. According to the country study from Senegal, 'it is difficult to make any predictions now, in terms of linkages between these new structures or indeed pre-empt what the role of international companies would consist of in terms of waste management'. Any waste to energy option must be fully integrated with the present system and future changes.

Contact: Dr Smail Khennas, Senior Energy Specialist
Intermediate Technology Development Group
Schumacher Centre for Technology Development
Bourton Hall, Bourton on Dunsmore, Warwickshire,
CV23 9QZ Tel: +44 - 01926 634473
Fax: +44 - 01926 634401 Email: Smailk@ITDG.org.uk
website: <http://www.itdg.org>

KaR project number: R 7882



Door to door household waste collection in Kathmandu, Nepal

Tenure and property rights - The way ahead

THIS KaR project has confirmed that globalisation has intensified commercial pressures on land in or near urban areas and denied most poor - and many middle income households, access to legal shelter. There is a range of innovative tenure options that enable the poor to achieve a reasonable degree of security and even access to services and credit. This research reviewed such approaches in 16 countries, to demonstrate that tenure is central to the development of efficient and equitable urban land markets, and can enable the poor to benefit from, and contribute to, economic development. However, to achieve these broader policy objectives, secure tenure needs to be seen as part of an integrated package of policy measures.

Many different statutory, customary, or religious (and non-formal) tenure systems exist to serve different social groups. For example, Bangkok's land rental system illustrates how poor communities legitimately occupy land in locations which would otherwise be far too expensive for them, but which also puts unused land to socially and economically efficient use.

Longer term forms of tenure become increasingly important for households with some degree of disposable income, from which they can invest in improved housing. For example, the denial of rights to land under apartheid

means that only freehold tenure makes the black community feel secure. At the other end of the spectrum, residents without any form of title in Bogotá, Colombia already feel so secure that tenure is not even a subject of concern.

The vast majority of low-income households in urban areas fall somewhere between these two extremes. The research showed that tenure arrangements (informal or traditional) which protect them from forced evictions and legitimises them as citizens, will invariably be sufficient to encourage home improvements.

It is important to locate tenure policy within a wider policy context by increasing the supply of officially sanctioned urban land, by regulatory audits of legal and affordable land and shelter, mandating public water, sanitation and electricity agencies to service all urban areas and by encouraging the social and spatial integration of urban areas. This requires the strengthened capability of local governments to manage land markets more effectively taking into account the unique nature of each project.

Moves to more formal tenure systems are undoubtedly advisable, but should be made at a rate consistent with institutional capacity and social and cultural norms. Legality is important, but legitimacy is all. Therefore,

progress can best be made by pragmatic approaches which enjoy a high degree of social legitimacy, are simple to administer and are already in widespread use i.e. options that offer adequate levels of security *as perceived and defined by the poor themselves*.

Such innovative approaches have not resolved all the problems of insecure tenure, but they have provided greater security and official recognition than existed before and a breathing space for the urban authorities to explore options based on local traditions and needs.

As the capability of urban administrations is strengthened and they become more responsive, and access to legal land and housing markets becomes easier for the urban poor, so the need for non-formal or unauthorised settlements may be reduced. Incorporating various non-formal systems of urban land tenure and property rights into formal systems will, however, take many years. That is why it is important to start immediately, but to proceed with caution.

Project title: 'Innovative approaches to secure tenure for the urban poor' (R7581: 1999-2001)

Geoffrey Payne,

Geoffrey Payne and Associates

website: www.gpa.org.uk

Update on the new Urbanisation email list

You are invited to subscribe to the dedicated electronic discussion list, intended to be an additional resource for subscribers to this newsletter. Joining instructions are given below.

What is it for?

We are open to suggestions as to the uses of this list. For example, anyone can initiate and contribute to general discussions and comment on issues raised in the newsletter or make suggestions about improvements to it. It could also be used for more specific activities connected with different research projects.

Latest! Operation and maintenance e-conference

For the next month, we are piloting the list's use as an electronic conference forum for the 'Operation Maintenance and Sustainability of Services to the Urban Poor' (6th to 31st May.) This is to be run in conjunction with a regional workshop held by WEDC in collaboration with SEVANTHA – Urban Resource Centre, Colombo, on the same theme, to be held in Colombo on the 16th and 17th May. The conference objective is to present research findings and associated draft guidelines and toolkits, for people involved in or interested in the issues round operation and maintenance (O & M) and sustainability of urban infrastructure. WEDC regards the workshop and conference as one event, and is keen to tap the synergies of running the two together.

Background information to the project and resource material can be found on the Internet at: <http://www.lboro.ac.uk/wedc/projects/omssup/index.htm>

How can I join?

To subscribe to this list, either go to <http://www.jiscmail.ac.uk/lists/urbanisation.html> – Click on 'Join or leave the jiscmail list'. Complete your email address and your name only, then choose 'join the list'.

To subscribe by email, send the following message to: jiscmail@jiscmail.ac.uk

Join URBANISATION FIRSTNAME LASTNAME (replacing FIRSTNAME LASTNAME with your own names). You will then be sent an automated welcome message with further details and instructions.

For further details, contact the Editor, URBANISATION.

Promoting compost as a business for the urban poor

Jonathan Rouse and Mansoor Ali

In low-income countries, much inorganic waste such as metals and glass is recycled by the informal sector. The organic portion however often constitutes as much as 50% of the total waste generated, remains a major problem. It usually remains unutilised and requires costly removal and disposal by under-resourced authorities. This project focuses on the recycling of organic waste by composting, a controlled process of decomposition, to produce a valuable soil conditioner. Using examples of successful composting *projects* run by NGOs, this KaR is looking at the feasibility of small urban composting *businesses*. This project focuses on field-testing new approaches and developing guidelines on composting as a business for urban poor, with an emphasis on key constraints such as marketing. Composting businesses are seen as a way of potentially enhancing the income of the poor as well as improving the city environment and people's health.

Where are we now?

Literature reviews have been undertaken and the first of the case-studies from Dhaka, Bangladesh is completed. This case-study was based on the composting projects of the NGO Waste Concern. It considered the projects from a poverty, market and economic-viability angle. Key findings included:

- In Bangladesh there appears to be a strong market for compost amongst rural gardeners and peri-urban and rural farmers. Soil degradation and trends towards organic farming are stimulating the market. Cow dung is a competitor for compost, but its availability is said to be decreasing due to mechanisation and increased demand for use as a fuel.
- Compost produced by Waste Concern projects is mainly sold to private agricultural-product distribution and marketing companies. Thus, Waste Concern is working with, rather than against potential competitors, and do not need to invest in transport or marketing.
- Traditionally, compost and many other agricultural products are provided on credit to farmers. By using established businesses to distribute the product Waste Concern (or any entrepreneur producing compost) do not need the capacity or experience to offer credit.
- There are many barriers to the poor initiating composting projects themselves, namely land, knowledge and capital. Employment (i.e. labour as an asset) is the main benefit the poor are getting from composting businesses at present.
- Land is a major constraint for urban composting, as it is expensive in many urban centres. Locating composting plants further out of city centres has



Medium-scale windrow composting plant.

implications on transport costs. However, Local authorities are said to be becoming convinced that, ultimately, composting saves them money in lower landfill and transport costs, making them more inclined to offering land for composting activities.

- Composting activities at household level have been shown to bring financial benefits to poor as well as improving relations within slums and with neighbours due to an improvement in the environment. However, these are still running at a very small scale.
- Composting of organic urban waste is potentially a viable activity. There are, however, no examples in Dhaka of composting plants run strictly along business lines from inception. This is an area for further future work in this research.

Further details:

Dr Mansoor Ali and Jonathan Rouse,
Water, Engineering and Development Centre (WEDC)
Loughborough University
Loughborough
Leicestershire
LE11 3TU UK

Tel: (01509) 222398
Fax: (01509) 211079
Email: J.R.Rouse@lboro.ac.uk
Email: S.M.Ali@lboro.ac.uk



Barrel-type compost bin used by six households in a slum in Dhaka.

Urbanisation
can be found online at:
www.lboro.ac.uk/garnet/UrbanKaR/DFID-KAR-URBAN.html

Recent KaR related outputs

THE following is a listing of current DFID funded KaR research outputs arising from past or present KaR projects. Further information can be obtained from the contact points listed.

■ Urban Poverty Reduction Programmes: the forgotten role of local institutions (R6859)

The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) is now completing a research programme on “Urban poverty reduction; lessons of experience” funded by DFID and the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation. Focusing on ten case studies, it examined the roles local institutions have (or can have) in contributing to poverty reduction in urban areas. This shows that:

- many aspects of poverty need to be addressed, including poor quality and often insecure housing, inadequate infrastructure and services, inadequate legal protection of poorer groups’ rights and “voicelessness and powerlessness” within political systems and bureaucratic structures;
- there are often positive multiplier linkages as actions to reduce one aspect of poverty can help reduce other aspects;
- many possible entry points exist for reducing poverty and many kinds of local organizations or institutions can contribute to this;
- the form of the local institution that can reduce poverty varies with context; they can be community organizations, federations of community organizations, local NGOs, local foundations, municipal authorities or, national government agencies or local offices of international agencies;
- one critical determinant of the success of poverty reduction initiatives is the quality of the relationship between “the poor” and the organizations that have resources or powers that can help address one or more of the deprivations that poorer groups suffer; and
- sustained urban poverty reduction requires city and municipal government agencies and political structures that are more effective, more accountable and more able to work with low-income groups and their community organizations.

International agencies need to develop funding channels to support local institutions that can deliver for low-income or otherwise disadvantaged groups while also remaining accountable to them. This should also support the capacity of these institutions to widen the scale and scope of poverty reduction programmes and recognize the fact that more successful poverty reduction depends on new attitudes and actions by local government institutions.

For details of the case studies, email humans@iied.org. Five of the ten case studies are available at no charge from www.iied.org/rural_urban/downloads.html; the other five and a synthesis paper will also shortly be available from here.

■ Communication for Sustainable urban Livelihoods (R7978)

This project explores the communication channels through which low-income communities gain access to essential resources. The research is taking place in Colombo (SEVANATHA), Rio de Janeiro (IBAM and IBASE) and Nairobi (Wendy Taylor and Sarah Gitau), and is being led and managed by the Development Planning Unit, UCL. The aim of the project is to increase the effectiveness of information exchange and communication between municipal level authorities and poor communities, devising strategies to improve communication in support of sustainable urban livelihoods for poor men and women. Currently, the research teams are completing their fieldwork, data analysis and report preparation. In September, workshops will mark the beginning of a final phase of communication strategy preparation. Contact: Liz Riley, email: ucfueri@ucl.ac.uk

■ Improving the environmental quality of Khayelitsha Township in South Africa (R7396)

Aims to address a sustainable method for improving the environmental health in the township of Khayelitsha in South Africa. The important aspect of the project is to increase the community capacity to accept responsibility for doing something practical and work in partnership with the local council for improving the quality of their lives. The first phase of the project surveyed and assessed the existing situation of environmental health in five neighbourhoods covering a population of 50,000. The second phase introduced three types of social, physical and educational interventions.

This phase has been progressing over the past two years resulting in construction of ablution centres, training and educating women on the implications of environment on health, methods of improvement and networking their experience.

The local municipality and community leaders are being networked at several levels. Within the community itself, educators are reporting progress to local leaders and town councillors, informing them on the objectives of the project as well as giving information on how the neighbourhood can be improved for the benefit of all.

The findings of the project have been reported to the National Sanitation programme coordinated by DFID South Africa office. Contact: Mohsen Aboutarabi, email: Mohsen.aboutarabi@uce.ac.uk

■ Toolkit for solid waste vehicles and equipment for poor (R7880)

Rouse, JR and Ali, SM (2002) Vehicles for people or people for vehicles? Issues.

This report presents the issues raised during fieldwork in Bangladesh, India, Pakistan, Turkey and Zambia. With an emphasis on the interconnection of issues, vehicles and equipment are considered from technical, social (including gender) and institutional perspectives. Participatory design processes are also discussed, and the authors make extensive use of case studies and photographs.

Feedback

URBANISATION is one of a series of parallel newsletters on the DFID's research related activities, organised by sector. If you would like to receive these newsletters, apply to the editors listed below:

ENERGY

Gill Wilkins, ETSU, 156 Harwell, Didcot, Oxon, OX11 0QJ, UK.
Tel: +44 01235 433591
Fax: +44 01235 433548
Email: gill.wilkins@aeat.co.uk

EARTHWORKS

Dr J D Greenbaum, British Geological Survey, Kingsley Dunham Centre, Keyworth, Nottingham, NG12 5GG, UK.
Fax: +44 115 936 3474
Email: dgree@bgs.ac.uk

TRANSPORT

Linda Parsley, International Division, TRL Limited, Old Wokingham Road, Crowthorne, Berks, RG45 6AU, UK.
Tel: +44 1344 770551
Fax: +44 1344 770356
Email: International_enquiries@trl.co.uk

WATER

Geoff Pearce, HR Wallingford, Howbery Park, Wallingford, Oxon, OX10 8BA, UK.
Tel: +44 (0)1491 822439
Fax: +44 (0)1491 826352
Email: g.pearce@hrwallingford.co.uk

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■ Water, Engineering and Development Centre

Andrew Cotton, Loughborough University, Leicestershire, LE11 3TU, UK.
Tel: +44 1509 222885; Fax: +44 1509 211079;
Email: WEDC@lboro.ac.uk

■ International Development Department

Philip Amis, International Development Department, School of Public Policy, University of Birmingham, Edgbaston, Birmingham, B15 2TT, UK.
Tel: +44 121 414 4987; Fax: +44 121 414 4989
Email: amisph@css.bham.ac.uk

■ Development Planning Unit

Patrick Wakely, University College London, 9 Endsleigh Gardens, London, WC1H 0ED, UK.
Tel: +44 171 388 7581; Fax: +44 171 387 4541;
Email: p.wakely@ucl.ac.uk

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