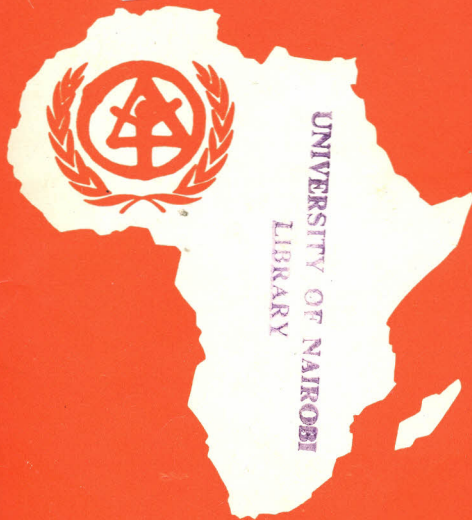


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WHAT UNCHS · HABITAT DOES IN AFRICA

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Nairobi, February 1981

CHS/INFO/81-2

Foreword

Since its establishment, the United Nations Centre for Human Settlements (Habitat) has actively sought to serve African Governments as they strive to improve the living conditions of their population in urban and rural settlements.

Even though UNCHS (Habitat) is barely two years old, I believe the reader will find that this modest publication documents the important contributions we have made within the limits of our resources to Government requests. We are concentrating our efforts in the following areas:

- Technical Assistance
- Information Services
- Research and Development
- Training and Other Assistance

I am personally most grateful for the support and encouragement I have received from African Member States during this formative period. Should any further information be required, please do not hesitate to contact me.



Arcot Ramachandran
Executive Director

Introduction

UNCHS (Habitat) is a relatively new United Nations organization which was established pursuant to General Assembly resolution 32/162, and formally announced by the Secretary-General's bulletin ST/SGB/168 of 12 October 1978. Gathered under one roof are activities in the field of human settlements which were formerly scattered in various departments and organizations within the United Nations system. Specifically, UNCHS (Habitat) was formed through a merger of the former United Nations Centre for Housing Building and Planning, the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation (HHSF), and the Audio-Visual Information Centre on Human Settlements (UNAVIC). Its headquarters are in Nairobi, Kenya.

In accordance with its mandate, as contained in G.A. resolution 32/162, UNCHS' task is to make technical co-operation available to developing countries requesting assistance in policy formulation, management, and institutional improvements relating to human settlements. Technical co-operation is also made available to countries requesting assistance in education, training, and applied human settlements research. In addition, UNCHS is the executing agency for human settlements projects in the United Nations system. It does not merely plan or appraise projects. Its authority includes the execution of human settlements projects funded by the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), funds-in-trust or other contributions. UNCHS is also concerned with involvement of the international scientific community in human settlements development efforts.

The UNCHS (Habitat) current work programme is organized according to the six subject areas which were identified at the Habitat: United Nations Conference on Human Settlements which was held in 1976 in Vancouver, Canada. These are:

- (a) Settlement Policies and Strategies;
- (b) Settlement Planning;
- (c) Shelter, Infrastructure and Services;
- (d) Land Use Policy;
- (e) Public Participation; and
- (f) Institutions and Management.

The UNCHS (Habitat) receives its overall policy guidance, priorities and direction from the United Nations Commission on Human Settlements which was also established by G.A. resolution 32/162. The Commission has a membership of 58 States elected by the Economic and Social Council for a three-year term. Its membership for 1981 includes the following 16 African states: Burundi, Egypt, Guinea, Kenya, Lesotho, Malawi, Nigeria, Senegal, Sierra Leone, Somalia, Swaziland, Togo, Uganda, United Republic of Cameroon, United Republic of Tanzania and Zambia.

To date, the Commission has held three sessions. The first session which was mostly organizational in nature was held in New York from 3 to 7 April 1978. The second session and at which the Commission, *inter alia*, discussed and adopted the Centre's 1980-1981 work programme was held in Nairobi, Kenya from 26 March to 6 April 1979, while

the third session was held in Mexico from 6 to 15 May 1980. At the third session, the Commission reviewed and gave policy directives to the Executive Director on the following selected themes in the field of human settlements:

- Human settlements finance and management;
- Energy requirements and conservation in human settlements;
- Development of rural settlements and growth centres; and
- Upgrading of slums and squatter settlements.

At the invitation of the Government of the Philippines, the Commission is scheduled to hold its fourth session in Manila from 27 April to 6 May 1981. Among the issues to be discussed at this session are the following main themes:

- Review of the role and contribution of the construction industry in human settlements programmes and national economic and social developments; and
- Review of the provision of infrastructure in slums and squatter areas and in rural settlements.

Technical Assistance in Africa

As an integral part of its overall policy in Africa, UNCHS has a set of operational objectives and practical considerations which provide guidance in the day-to-day implementation of its technical co-operation projects. The Habitat Conference identified six subject areas:

- (1) SETTLEMENT POLICIES AND STRATEGIES
- (2) SETTLEMENT PLANNING
- (3) SHELTER, INFRASTRUCTURE AND SERVICES
- (4) LAND
- (5) PUBLIC PARTICIPATION
- (6) INSTITUTIONS AND MANAGEMENT

Within these areas, the Conference defined a national action plan with 64 specific recommendations which were adopted by consensus by the delegates of 132 states attending the Conference. The recommendations form the overall frame of the UNCHS technical co-operation policy in Africa.

OPERATIONAL OBJECTIVES ■

BUILD INSTITUTIONS - INCREASE EXPERTISE ●

To maximize the building of national, regional and local governmental institutions and to increase their expertise in settlement planning and development;

ASSIST IN INTEGRATION FOR DECISION MAKING ●

To assist in integrating these institutions into other governmental development activities and make them more active participants in the governmental decision-making process;

STRENGTHEN REGULATORY POWERS ●

To urge these institutions to stimulate their Government's actions and financial commitments; to improve the human environment by identifying and proposing projects for national and international investments and by proposing strengthened regulatory powers.

In the following are listed technical assistance projects in Africa, which were or are under implementation, or are in the pipeline - 1978/1981.

Country	Project Number	Title of Project
Algeria	ALG/80/013	Technical assistance to INERBA (national building research institute)
Botswana	BOT/77/111	Strengthening the Department of Town and Regional Planning
" 1/	GF/TBOT/76/04	Consultancy for establishment of housing department
Burundi 4/	BDI/78/104	Integrated housing development
" 4/	-	Assistance to Regional planning (IFST)
" 4/	-	Rural housing development
" 4/	-	Slum upgrading



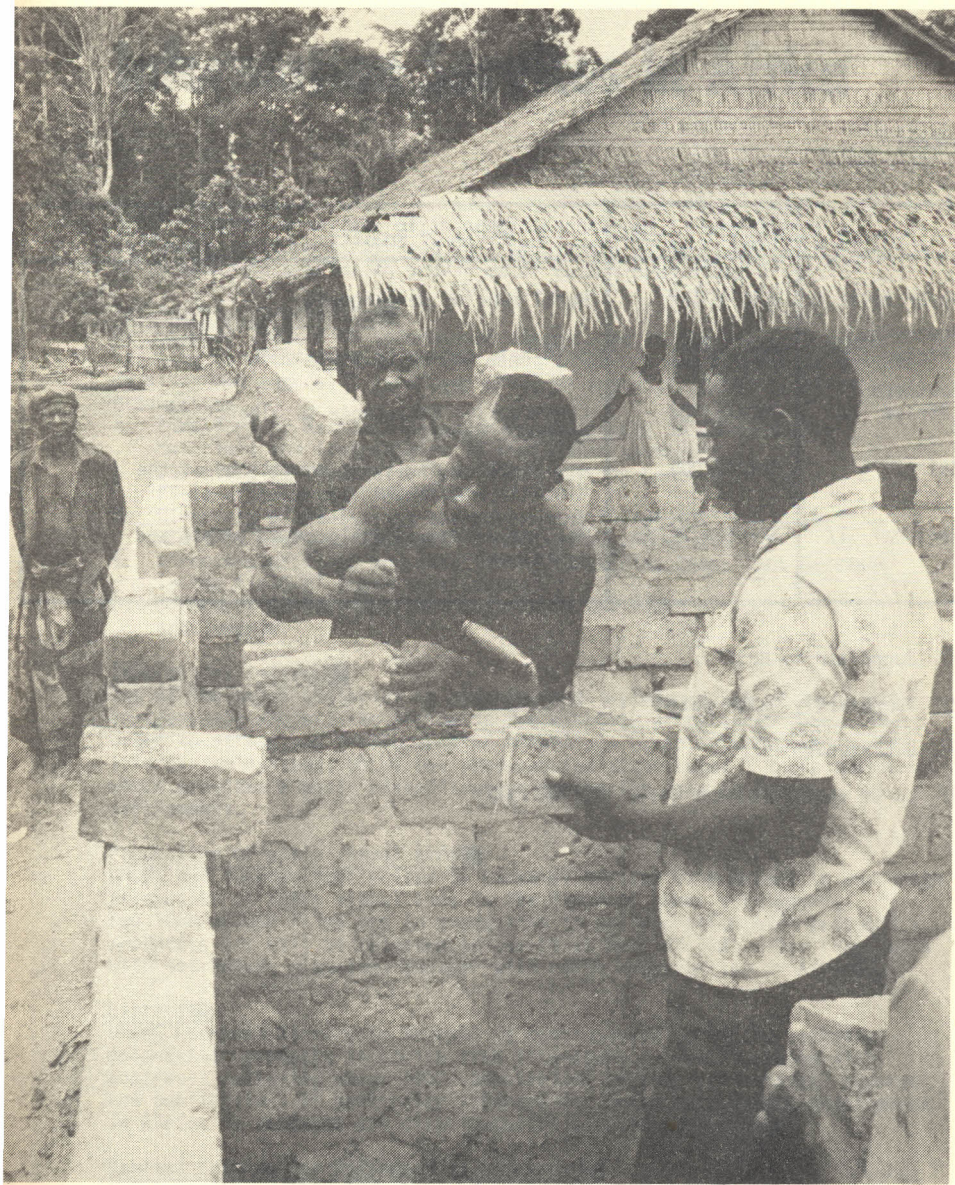
Provision of infrastructure like access roads, sanitation or water supply is an important feature of many technical co-operation projects executed by UNCHS in Africa

/Cont...

Country	Project Number	Title of Project
Cape Verde	-	Organization of sites-and-services programme
"	-	Housing development
Central African Republic	-	Urban and rural housing
4/	-	Research Housing centre
Comoros	COI/79/009	Housing and human settlement development in urban and rural areas
Chad	2/ 4/ CHD/78/101	Rural school construction
Congo	4/ -	Assistance to development of human settlements (IFST)
"	-	Regional planning (IPF)
Egypt	1/ EGP/80/004	Flood construction advisory services
Ghana	GHA/74/114	Assistance to the Engineering and Architectural Service Corporation
"	1/ GF/TGHA/77/02	Co-operative Housing Development
"	GHA/80/F01	Technical assistance for co-operative housing
Gabon	4/ -	Slum Upgrading and Sites and Services
Guinea	4/ GUI/79/006	Urban housing in Conakry
Ivory Coast	4/ IVC/78/004	Assistance to the Regional Fund for rural development
"	IVC/74/101	Assistance to the Bandama Valley Authority for self-help construction
Kenya	-	Appropriate building technology for rural development
"	4/ -	Housing finance scheme for Dandora
"	KEN/79/F02	Experimental sisal/cement construction
"	KEN/79/F03	Planning assistance to refugee settlements
"	KEN/79/F01	Experimental housing in Dandora
Lesotho	LES/71/136	Training fellowship
"	LES/75/T107	Senior Architect
"	LES/74/170	Fellowship in architecture
"	GF/SLES/77/01	Advice on establishment of building finance corporation
"	LES/77/T09	Institution and management
"	LES/78/002	Training for government services/fellowships
Libya	4/ LIB/76/X71	Assistance in the field of physical planning
Madagascar	MAG/78/005	Housing construction in Ambovombe
"	4/ MAG/79/009	Human settlements development
Malawi	MLW/79/014	Development of rural housing
"	4/ -	Strengthening town and country planning
Mauritania	4/ MAU/79/002	Preparatory assistance in urban housing development
Mauritius	MAR/75/105	Assistance to Physical Planning Service

/Cont...

Country	Project Number	Title of Project
Mozambique	MOZ/79/002	Assistance to human settlement planning
"	MOZ/75/121	Self-help housing
"	MOZ/76/R01	Self-help construction manual
Morocco	MOR/78/13	Assistance to the Regional Planning Institute
Namibia	NAM/79/23	Training in formulation of policy options in land use and human settlements development
"	NAM/79/024	Assistance in formulating policy options for construction industry and building materials productions
"	SWP/78/01	Training course for building technicians
Nigeria 4/	NIR/72/143	Master plan for metropolitan Lagos
"	NIR/72/108	Training of operational physical planners, Ibadan Polytechnic
"	NIR/75/194	Physical development plan for Oyo State
"	NIR/76/107	Physical development planning in Kano
"	NIR/75/190	Training of town planning technicians at Kaduna
" 4/	NIR/76/014	Master Plan for Ibadan metropolitan area
"	-	Physical Planning across river
Senegal 4/	SEN/77/106	Regional planning assistance
Seychelles	SEY/78/102	Assistance in housing programme implementation
" 1/	GF/TSEY/79/01	Housing finance adviser
Somalia 1/	SOM/79/F01	Technical advisory services
"	-	Assistance to settlement development agency
"	-	Refugee settlement planning
Sudan 1/	GF/TSUD/09	Technical assistance installation of asfadobe blocks manufacturing plant
"	SUD/79/015	Promotion of local building materials and low-cost housing
Swaziland	SWA/71/113	Construction manager Quantity Surveyor
"	SWA/72/110	Development of housing
"	-	Development of housing
Tanzania 4/	URT/77/162	Assistance to Capital Development Authority
" 4/	URT/77/163	Assistance to the Ministry of Capital Development
" 1/	URT/80/F01	Housing finance adviser
"	URT/78/113	Assistance to Ardhi Institute/training for physical planners
" 3/	URT/78/E02	Technical assistance to Capital Development Authority
Tunisia	-	Rural housing development
Uganda 1/	UGA/80/F01	Preparatory assistance to planning and reconstruction of Masaka and Mbarara
" 4/	UGA/80/003	Assistance to the Development Authority
"	UGA/80/004	Preparatory assistance to development of human settlements programmes



Development of building materials utilizing local resources is one of UNCHS' major concerns in Africa

/Cont...

Country	Project Number	Title of Project
Upper Volta <u>4/</u>	UPV/78/102	Rural housing development
Southern Africa <u>4/</u>	ANC/78/101	Self-help community programme
Southern Africa	PAC/78/102	Construction assistance to liberation movement centre
Zaire <u>4/</u>	ZAI/79/009	Amelioration of living conditions of the Kinshasa population
Regional <u>1/</u>	GF/CAFR/78/02	Meeting on Human Settlements Finance and Management

1/ Supported by HHSF

2/ Temporarily interrupted

3/ UNEP-funded

4/ Large scale projects (over US\$ 400,000)

Information Services in Africa

UNCHS provides a variety of information services to Governments and human settlements professionals in Africa, ranging from development of information systems to provision of educational aids.

Information Directories

By December 1980, five information directories in the field of human settlements with emphasis on the needs in Africa and developing countries in other regions will have been produced and distributed as sales productions.

1. Directory of National Research Organizations in Construction Materials and Technologies in developing countries.
2. Directory of Information and Documentation Centres in the field of human settlements.
3. Directory of Ministries and Governmental Institutions in the field of human settlements in developing countries.
4. Directory of Firms and Institutions providing Consultant Services in the field of human settlements
5. Directory of Training Institutions in the field of human settlements.

Information Systems

One of the major obstacles to planning and implementation of technical co-operation projects in Africa is the scarcity of reliable data. In order to strengthen development of compatible human settlements information systems, UNCHS has produced and distributed a draft thesaurus which provides a basic classification system for data on human settlements.

Production of audio-visual aids

UNCHS has awarded four prizes to teams of African film makers to encourage production of audio visual aids in the field of human settlements. Two 16mm colour films are in production in collaboration with national producers and will be released in the first half of 1981. One film deals with settlement planning, another with earth construction in Africa.

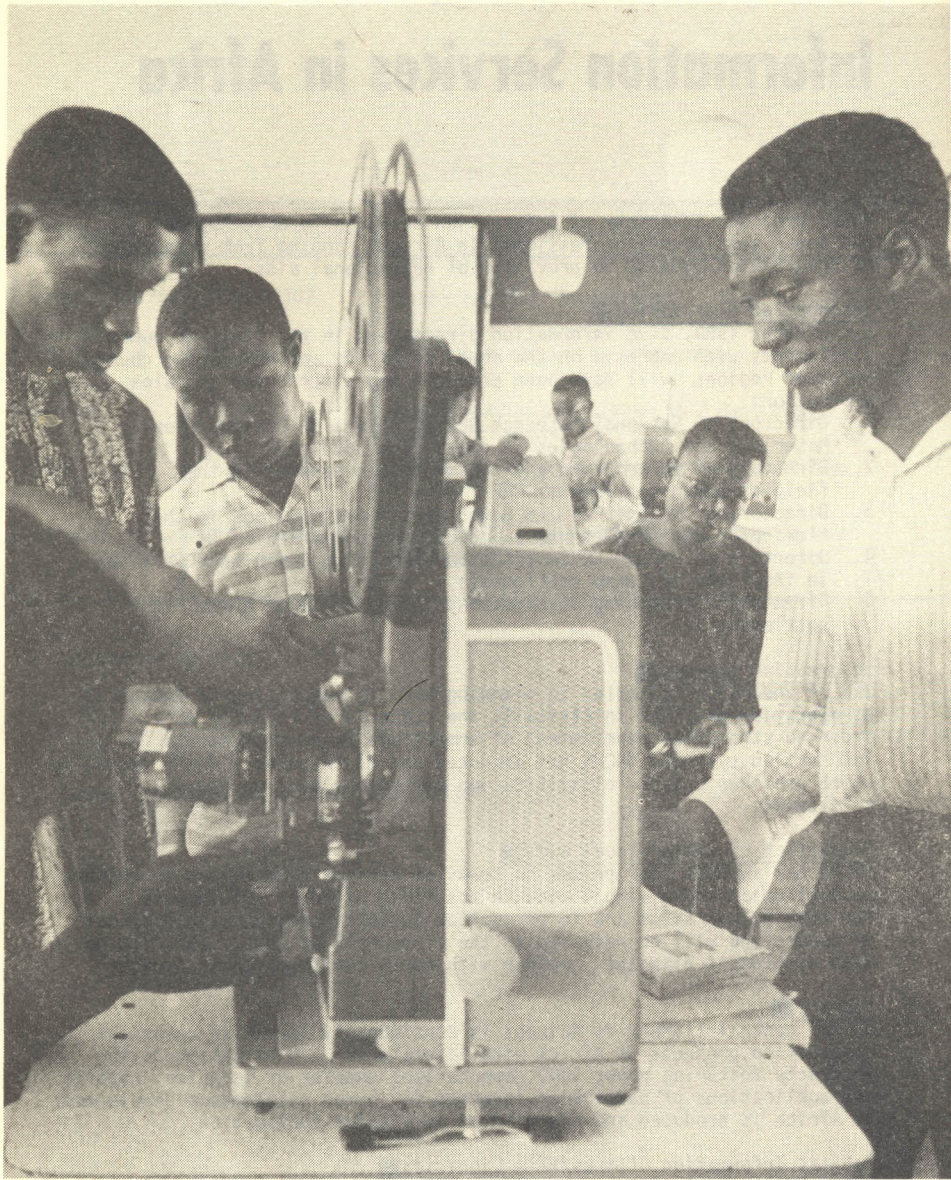
Library

UNCHS' central library in Nairobi is continuously servicing technical cooperation projects in Africa with literature. A bibliography with abstracts featuring about 1000 computerized entries of technical reports and publications of particular interest for human settlements development in Africa is produced and distributed as a sales publication.

Habitat Information Offices/Film Libraries

UNCHS has three film libraries servicing educational institutions, television stations and human settlements professionals in Africa. West and Central Africa are serviced from Dakar, Senegal; East Africa is serviced from Nairobi and Arab-speaking countries are serviced from Amman, Jordan. Films are available in English, French and Arabic as appropriate.

The film libraries have each an inventory of up to 50 titles with focus on regional human settlements issues and another 80 titles concentrating on human settlements problems and solutions from an international angle.



UNCHS is producing a series of films in Africa for training purposes. National film-makers are participating in the production

Three human settlements officers are regularly travelling in the region to establish contact with government officials and educational institutions and to consolidate the smooth functioning of the services of the film libraries. The three information offices are also servicing the countries with all other human settlements information and documentation from UNCHS and can be contacted at any time. Lists of sales publications and documentation are available on request. See list of contacts on back page.

Research and Development in Africa

The 1980-1981 work programme which was prepared in consultation with the regional commissions and approved by the Commission on Human Settlements at its second session includes a number of research and development activities which have a regional component dealing with Africa. These are briefly described below.

Rationalization of the local building materials industry, choice of appropriate building technologies, and improvement of the construction industry in Africa. ■

The building materials and construction industries constitute one of the most important sectors of the economy in Africa. To help this sector sustain its growth and achieve self-sufficiency, a joint study will be undertaken by UNCHS and ECA on the scope, criteria and prospects for increased productivity through the rationalization of industrial techniques for building materials production and the structure of the building industry. Particular emphasis will be placed on the promotion of small enterprises for housing construction. A UNCHS staff member has been redeployed to work at ECA Headquarters on this subject.

UNCHS has also provided inputs to several national and international meetings in or related to Africa. Nine government officials from seven African countries were selected by UNCHS to participate in the Seminar of Experts on Building Codes and Regulations in Developing Countries. This Seminar, organized by UNCHS in co-operation with the Swedish Council for Building Research, was held in Sweden in March, 1980. As a follow-up, a seminar for French-speaking countries in Africa is being planned, subject to the availability of financial support from potential donor countries.

UNCHS presented technical papers to the second meeting of African Experts on Building Materials and Construction Industries held in Addis Ababa in July 1979, and to the meeting of Directors of African Building Materials Research Institutes, which was held in Bujumbura in May 1980. As a follow-up UNCHS is providing substantive support to ECA in the implementation of its Building Materials and Construction Industries Development Programme.

UNCHS participated in Nigeria's Third International Conference on Housing which was held in Kaduna in August 1980. A statement was made to the Conference, films on human settlements in Africa were shown, and samples of UNCHS publications were made available to participants. UNCHS was also represented at the IVth IRF African Highway Conference held in Nairobi in January 1980, and the Workshop on Energy and Environment in East Africa held in Nairobi in May 1979.

Several of the technical assistance projects listed in the first chapter, deserve specific mention here. At the request of the Government of Sudan, a project was sponsored to develop the technology for the use of asfadobe. This project involved the purchase of equipment which is currently in operation in Khartoum. Eight houses are being built using asfadobe blocks, and the technology has been tested successfully in demonstration projects in Juba.

A demonstration project on the use of sisal-cement technology for walls and roofs in a community centre is being completed in Ngong, Kenya. This project has been undertaken in co-operation with UNICEF and FAO. Another demonstration project, involving the construction of 22 houses, will be carried out in Dandora Estate, Nairobi. Different building materials and construction techniques will be tried out with a view to reducing building costs and improving materials performance and construction productivity.

Innovative approaches to assist slum, squatter and rural households to improve their dwellings. ■

The objective of this project is to analyse and evaluate innovative, technical, social and economic services being provided to low-income urban and rural residents in slums and squatter settlements in Africa. Emphasis is given to services related to job placement, assistance to small enterprises, education, health care, sanitation, recreation, security, day-care and vocational training. A staff member of UNCHS is being redeployed to ECA to carry out this project.

Whereas infrastructure and services in slums and squatter and rural settlements normally are expected to be provided by local authorities and other government offices, housing improvements are usually left to the initiative of the residents themselves. Through innovative programmes it is possible to help residents to make the necessary improvements in a shorter time and more systematically than if left to their own devices. A regional seminar will be organized to review this work and discuss new approaches.

Appropriate technologies in the building sector ■

To enable the construction industry in Africa to become more responsive to the needs of low-income people, preliminary surveys and studies will be undertaken to identify appropriate target groups, levels of training and training techniques. These surveys will provide the basis for the formulation of a training programme.

Guidelines for establishing and strengthening institutions for upgrading low-income settlements in urban and rural settings ■

Assistance will be provided to ECA and other regional commissions to undertake the preparation of studies on (a) the principal strengths and weaknesses of current institutional frameworks for upgrading low-income settlements; and (b) guidelines for the establishment and/or strengthening of the institutional framework for upgrading low-income settlements, including management procedures and legislative bases. The studies will be reviewed and recommendations and action plans formulated in an African regional workshop.

Global projects ■

In addition to the regional projects described above, the research and development work programme of UNCHS contains a number of global projects intended to find ways to improve the living conditions of low income

groups in urban and rural settlements in all of the developing regions. Several of these projects are of particular relevance to a number of countries in Africa, including:

- a) Settlement planning in relation to population and environment policies;
- b) Systems approach to rural settlements planning;
- c) Demonstration projects on the upgrading of slums and squatter settlements;
- d) Development of indigenous construction industries in urban and rural areas;
- e) Appropriate services, standards and technologies for the upgrading of squatter and rural settlements;
- f) Energy requirements of rural settlements and the urban poor;
- g) Financing shelter, infrastructure and services for the informal sector in urban and rural areas;
- h) Protection of savings and finance institutions for housing and urban development against inflationary risks;
- i) Demonstration or pilot projects on co-operative housing delivery systems; and
- j) Organization and management training for self-help and co-operative ventures.

Additional studies of particular relevance to Africa include the Global Report on Human Settlements and the theme papers requested by the Commission on Human Settlements as a basis for its discussions on policy formulation and implementation for human settlements by the United Nations and its specialized agencies.

Training in Settlements Planning and Development in Africa

This activity has two major components:

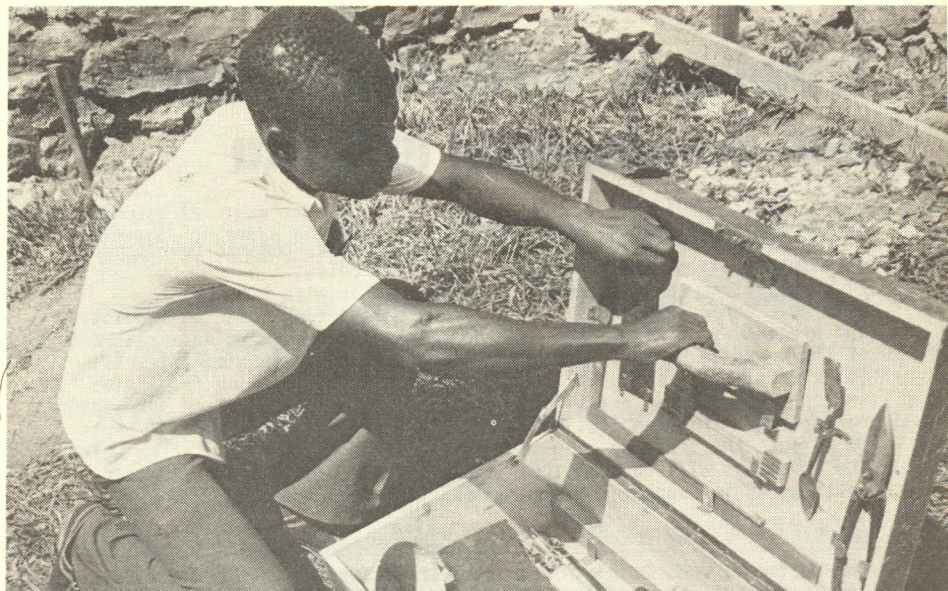
- 1) two courses organized jointly by UNCHS and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank, described below, and
- 2) a project to be implemented in collaboration with ECA, which will have three components: (a) a survey of existing training facilities and programmes in Africa and, on the basis of the survey, an assessment of the training needs at the professional and subprofessional levels; (b) a feasibility study on strengthening existing training facilities and on developing an existing institution into a regional or sub-regional research and training institute; and (c) a regional meeting of experts to discuss the training proposals arising from (a) and (b), after which the proposals will be submitted to ECA and the Commission on Human Settlements for approval and recommendation for financing.

UNCHS/EDI training courses in 1980 for human settlements development in Africa

The United Nations Centre for Human Settlements and the Economic Development Institute (EDI) of the World Bank agreed in 1979 jointly to finance and organize two training courses in Africa in 1980, one in French and the other in English. Each course, of six weeks duration, was designed to focus on the shelter aspects of urban development, especially sites and services and squatter settlement upgrading. The courses were based on the experiences acquired by the World Bank, UNCHS and other international and national agencies in the execution of such projects in Africa. Among the topics covered were: project design and standards, popular participation, management of the implementation phase, institutional aspects, techniques of shelter projects analysis, financing, programming, monitoring and evaluation of projects.

The first course, for French-speaking participants, was held in Abidjan, the Ivory Coast, from 9 June to 18 July 1980; 80 nominations of participants were received and 30 were selected, from 20 French-speaking countries. The calibre of the participants was particularly high; the areas of their professional responsibilities included many of the subjects covered by the course. The evaluation of the course was very positive; the participants concluded that UNCHS has a key training role to play with regard to the technical and socio-economic aspects of sites and services and squatter settlement upgrading, as well as the managerial and institutional aspects of such projects and programmes in Africa.

The second course, for English-speaking participants, was held at the Headquarters of UNCHS in Nairobi from 20 October to 28 November 1980. In addition to the English-speaking African countries, several Caribbean countries were invited to nominate participants. About 100 nominations were received for the course, and 33 participants were selected from 20 countries. This course was based primarily on Kenyan experiences, particularly in sites and services and local government project execution, with inputs from several UNCHS and World Bank/EDI staff members and 18 Kenyan panel participants and 8 panel participants from other countries.



UNCHS is steadily improving and expanding its training activities in Africa

Other Assistance to Africa

Shelter Afrique ■

UNCHS is collaborating with the African Development Bank in the establishment of a continent-wide housing finance institution to be called Shelter Afrique. The creation of Shelter Afrique was recommended at the African Regional Meeting on Human Settlements Finance and Management held in Nairobi in October 1978, by the Habitat and Human Settlements Foundation of UNCHS. UNCHS is a member of the Steering Committee for the formation of Shelter Afrique, with the African Development Bank now having the leading role. It is proposed that Shelter Afrique initially will have a share capital of \$40 million of which 50 per cent will be held by African regional institutions and the other 50 per cent by non-African institutions.

While it is proposed that Shelter Afrique should focus mostly on low income housing, its operations are likely to benefit middle income families, because it will give no subsidies and will aim at earning a moderate return for its shareholders. It is now expected that it will lend at 8 per cent interest, mainly through national housing finance institutions.

SHELTER - AFRIQUE has two main objectives. Firstly, to mobilize a capital fund from which loans can be made to existing national housing institutions for approved schemes of housing development in member countries. And secondly, the building up within SHELTER-AFRIQUE, with management assistance from experienced external institutions, of a technical capacity which will ensure the soundness of its own operations and give priority to the training of African staff for its administration. It will also provide technical services to member Governments, in particular to assist with the establishment of competent housing institutions where these do not yet exist.

Support for participation in seminars, training sessions and international workshops ■

1. UNCHS provided funds for several professionals from African countries to participate in the ECE seminar on Housing, Building and Planning Problems and Policies in the Countries of Southern Europe, held in Madrid in November, 1980.
2. UNCHS provided assistance to several African participants to attend the seminar on "Citizens participation in the Planning, Implementation and Management of Human Settlements", held in Split, Yugoslavia in October 1980.
3. UNCHS participated in a workshop on "Land Reform for Independent Namibia", which was organized by the United Nations Namibia Institute and took place in Lusaka, Zambia, in January 1979. UNCHS suggested strategies to develop a regional planning programme for Namibia, with a view to developing an efficient future distribution of urban centres and population.

4. UNCHS participated in the "Regional Course on Housing Finance" conducted by the Ardhi Institute in Dar es Salaam in 1980.
5. UNCHS participated in an international meeting to advise on housing policy in Tanzania, held in Arusha in March 1980.
6. UNCHS participated in the seminar on the Role of the Private Sector in Housing Development in Kenya, held in Nairobi in September 1980; the Executive Director of UNCHS delivered a keynote address to the Seminar.



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