



International Housing Coalition  
*Supporting Housing for All in a Rapidly Urbanizing World*

# International Housing Coalition

## Newsletter

In place of the Weekly Update, below is the IHC Newsletter with an update on our activities this past quarter. The Weekly Update will return next week.

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### PETER KIMM BRIEFS USAID'S TASK TEAM ON URBAN SERVICE DELIVERY

On August 23<sup>rd</sup>, Peter Kimm, IHC Board Chairman Emeritus, was invited to brief USAID's Sustainable Urban Service Task Team, in charge of developing the new urban services delivery strategy for the Agency. He spoke to members of the agency wide task force on his experiences at USAID as Director of the Housing Guarantee Program. The task team is collecting information and ideas about how USAID can respond to rapid urbanization in the developing world and more effectively address the multi-sector challenges and opportunities of an increasingly urban world. The strategy will "provide guidance and programmatic options to strengthen how USAID approaches service delivery in urban areas".

Kimm summarized the programmatic and organization history of the Office of Urban Programs and discussed approaches to more effectively integrate an urban perspective into USAID's development programs. Kimm suggested that USAID Missions need encouragement and incentives to direct more resources and attention to the needs of rapidly urbanizing areas. A question and answer period followed.

USAID hopes to complete the strategy before the end of the year. Co-chairs of the task team at USAID are Michael Donovan from USAID's policy office and Scott Dobberstein, Deputy Director of the Center for Excellence on Democracy, Human Rights and Governance. Bob Dubinsky, IHC board chairman, also participated in the discussion.

In July the IHC and the Woodrow Wilson Center organized a meeting with the task force for NGOs to propose ideas about

how an urban perspective could be integrated into USAID programming. We remain actively involved in the development of this strategy, and look forward to seeing a draft in the coming months.

## IHC ENGAGES IN THE FUTURE OF THE MILLENNIUM DEVELOPMENT GOALS

The Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) were created in 2000 to improve global poverty by 2015. With the target date for the MDGs just a few years away, the international development community is beginning to think about what kind of global development goals might follow the MDGs. This spring, the UN announced that UK Prime Minister, David Cameron; Liberian President, Ellen Johnson Sirleaf; and Indonesian President, Susilo Bambang Yudhoyono will co-chair a UN High Level Panel to advise the United Nations on global development beyond 2015.

The IHC is working to elevate the case for urbanization and shelter in the next round of global development goals. In the MDGs, the only specific aim related to urbanization and shelter was a target of significantly improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers. This target was found under "Environmental Sustainability," one of the MDGs eight overarching goals.

The target of improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers has been met and the original target now looks overly modest and too narrowly defined in light of the size and continued growth of the world's slum dwelling population, estimated at over 800 million in 2012. The attainment of the target also masks the unevenness of progress across regions - much of the progress in upgrading slums has been made in north and east Asia, specifically China, while other regions, particularly sub-Saharan Africa and southern Asia, have lagged behind and even lost ground.

Continued urbanization of the developing world, and widespread evidence of the powerful and positive role that cities play in the global economy, call for a more ambitious and systematic approach to these issues in the next round of global development goals. The IHC will be working with partner groups over the next year to continue to elevate the issue of urbanization and shelter on the world development agenda.

## IHC BOARD CHAIRMAN SPEAKS AT HARVARD UNIVERSITY'S JOINT CENTER FOR HOUSING STUDIES

This month, IHC board chairman Bob Dubinsky has been invited to speak at the Joint Center for Housing Studies at Harvard University, as part of a brown bag lecture series *Housing & Cities: Building Sustainable and Inclusive Communities*. Bob will be presenting on the challenges and opportunities of improving housing in the developing world. The Joint Center is a longtime member of the IHC, and this will be the 2nd time that Bob has participated in events at the Center.

The Joint Center also co-sponsored an event in Washington with the IHC honoring World Habitat Day in 2011, focusing on informal settlements in the United States and lessons learned from the global community. The IHC welcomes this collaboration and we hope to engage other members similarly in the coming year.

## STUDENT RESEARCH AND SUCCESS STORIES PUBLISHED

### Success Stories

The IHC recently published a set of case studies, highlighting six successful development programs. These success stories - all examples of urban housing, water and sanitation, or slum neighborhood upgrading - show the impressive impact such programs can have on human lives and are a powerful tool in our advocacy efforts. We hope to produce a new set of case studies on an annual basis, to highlight new innovative programs and projects. The case studies can be found online on the [IHC website](#).

### Urban Poverty Essay Competition

The Woodrow Wilson Center recently published the winning essays from the third Urban Poverty Essay Competition. The competition, co-sponsored with the Woodrow Wilson Center by the IHC and USAID, strives to promote new research on the topic of urban poverty. Focused on the themes of Land Markets, Youth, and Climate Change, the book highlights the best entries received in this year's competition. The publication is available online [here](#).

## IHC CONTINUES NEW BLOG WITH WEEKLY POSTS

The IHC launched a blog in May. In the past few months the blog has published articles from IHC staff and partners on a wide variety of topics including events, reviews, policy analysis, congressional updates and more.

We hope you are reading and continue to read the blog, available on our website [here](#).

## JOIN THE IHC COALITION: BECOME AN IHC MEMBER

Join the IHC and help support its advocacy, education and research program. Membership dues are only \$200 for 2012. To join go to the IHC web site [www.intlhc.org](http://www.intlhc.org) and click on Support the IHC.