

Upgrading informal settlements

With half of the world's population living in cities today, poverty is increasingly becoming an urban phenomenon. According to the UN-HABITAT, the world population living in slums, currently estimated to be one billion, will probably double by 2025 and triple in the following two decades. These challenges will require not only unprecedented political will and financial resources, but also sustained and broader capacity development efforts, supporting those institutions and individuals charged with planning and managing urban upgrading and slum prevention.

Responding to these challenges, the World Bank Institute (WBI) Urban practice has initiated a Global Learning Program which combines structured learning, knowledge exchange, and in-country capacity support.

Structured learning

As part of the Global Learning Program, WBI has developed a new course "Upgrading Informal Urban Settlements," which supports policy makers and urban practitioners in responding to the slum challenge. The course focuses on how to design and manage a slum upgrading intervention effectively, while reviewing the main issues related to the policy and programmatic approaches for scaling up and anticipating future urban growth.

Specifically, at the end of the course, participants will be able to:



- Better understand the challenges and opportunities of existing and future informal settlements, and the key policy approaches to address the different contexts;
- Analyze the key operational design aspects of an upgrading intervention, including infrastructure, land, housing, social inclusion, financing, and operational management, while learning from real cases and practitioners' viewpoints; and
- Apply knowledge and skills acquired in the design of an upgrading project.

Target audience and delivery

The course will primarily target policy makers and urban practitioners, including national and sub-national govern-

ment officials, city managers, CSOs, private sector and academia. WBI will deliver a global course annually through WBI's e-learning platform, and partner with regional and country level training centers to contextualize content and deliver locally.

Course features

The course has the following eight modules:

- The Case for Upgrading
- City-Wide Upgrading Strategy
- Incremental Infrastructure Upgrading
- Financing Slum Improvement Projects
- Land Regularization in Informal Areas
- Incremental Housing Approaches
- Social Inclusion in Upgrading
- Sustaining Improvements in Informal Areas

The modular structure will allow adaptability to different training needs. Each module is a stand-alone component of 5–7 hours, which could be delivered in a comprehensive or incremental form. Each session will contain multimedia presentations, key readings, case studies, practical exercises, interviews, videos and links to relevant knowledge resources.

Contacts

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WBI is a global facilitator of capacity development for poverty reduction. We connect practitioners, networks and institutions and help them to find their own solutions to address development challenges. With a focus on the 'how' of reform, we link knowledge from around the world and scale up innovations. We work with and through global, regional and country-based institutions and practitioner networks and help them develop customized programs that respond to specific needs. WBI connects globally and delivers locally.

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