

UN-Habitat's Role in Joint Programming for the Delivery of MDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean

Management Response

This is the management response to the evaluation of UN-Habitat's Role in Joint Programming for the Delivery of MDGs in Latin America and the Caribbean. The evaluation was conducted as a forward-looking assessment of the value added, achievements, lessons, challenges and opportunities resulting from UN-Habitat's participation in joint programming for attaining development results and supporting the achievement of MDG targets.

UN-Habitat management appreciates the report. The evaluation will be an important tool to guide the regional strategy under development. Mentioned issues such as weaknesses in programme planning and implementation have also been identified by the Regional Office for Latin America and the Caribbean (ROLAC) and are being addressed, to the extent possible. It is expected that the report promotes a dialogue around programming issues and motivates an improved planning, monitoring, evaluating and reporting culture. Even with scarce resources ROLAC has strengthened programming support with training and individual follow up. However, cultural changes need time, resources and internal and expert support. Newly approved policies in Headquarters support such changes. Recently available technological resources will provide improved technical support such as PAAS.

Efforts are ongoing to address some of the issues raised in the report. Such issues include: a) the absence of resources and lack of interest of donors to fund a pre-implementation inception phase of approved initiatives, b) cost-effective specialized support from the technical Branches in programme implementation, and c) sustainability strategies for sustaining achieved results after project have ended.

What worked well in joint programming (Joint Programmes, United Nations Country Teams and United Nations Development Assistance Frameworks) shall further be pursued. Focus countries have been selected (accommodating available resources) in the region and innovative ways of engagement with various stakeholders will be included in the new ROLAC Strategy. Furthermore, the evaluation has proposed joint sub-regional activities as a possibility for cost effective portfolio. This will be further discussed with development counterparts.

The evaluation findings will also support ROLAC in documenting and promoting strengths and comparative advantages among development and implementing partners, and facilitating the replication of achievements, better positioning among other UN partners and increasing the number of Habitat partners in the region, particularly towards joint programming and arrangements for achieving the Post 2015 Sustainable Development Goals.