



11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Sustainable Development Goal 11:

Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable

In 2015, 193 national governments assembled at the United Nations to adopt the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, also known as the Global or Sustainable Development Goals and often called the SDGs. These goals aim to address the global challenges of eliminating poverty and achieving sustainable development in a balanced and integrated manner. This collection of 17 goals with their 169 targets and more than 230 indicators form a framework to guide global development for countries around the world.

SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Sustainable Development Goal 11 – recognized as the “urban goal” with its focus on cities and urban spaces – acknowledges the need to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. It also recognizes the growing global urbanization trend in which cities will need to continue to house and support increasing numbers of people over the coming decades, especially in the least-developed countries. Urban areas account for less than 2% of Earth’s surface, but more than half of the world’s population lives in them. By 2050, more than 2 of every 3 people are expected to live in a city.

HABITAT FOR HUMANITY AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOAL 11

Habitat for Humanity recognizes the importance of the 2030 Agenda and its role in helping to build a better and more sustainable future for all. As a global nongovernmental organization working in more than 70 countries and driven by a vision of a world where everyone has a decent place to live, Habitat for Humanity is uniquely positioned to promote Sustainable Development Goal 11 as a critical global priority. Habitat for Humanity is committed to working with civil society organizations, governments at all levels, and other key stakeholders toward the achievement of SDG 11.



Throughout the process of developing and framing the SDGs, Habitat for Humanity, working with civil society organizations, local governments and other stakeholders through alliances, networks and platforms, contributed to the creation of SDG 11, specifically Target 11.1. Habitat for Humanity advocated for the inclusion of adequate and affordable housing, including upgrading slums, as critical objectives in the SDGs. Upon adoption of SDG 11, Habitat for Humanity has focused its attention on supporting and advocating for the goal and its 10 targets, with a particular focus on Target 11.1.

Access to land for shelter is an integral component of achieving SDG 11. In 2016, Habitat for Humanity launched the Solid Ground global advocacy campaign, now nearing its completion in March 2020. Under the campaign, Habitat for Humanity's network and partners in 41 countries have helped to influence and ensure the implementation of policy and system changes that increase access to land for shelter for more than 3 million people. These advocacy efforts for inclusive and resilient land policies and systems will continue well beyond the end of the campaign.

HOUSING CATALYZES SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

Habitat for Humanity recognizes the importance of the 2030 Agenda and the role the 17 goals play in realizing a better and more sustainable future for all. Research shows that safe, adequate and affordable housing leads to benefits in

health, education and economic opportunity. The process of housing improvement itself is often a ladder out of poverty for families. These changes benefit the larger community, reducing inequality and building resilience against economic and natural disasters. SDG 11 is of critical importance to improving housing conditions around the world.

WE NEED YOUR HELP TO ACHIEVE SDG 11

We can't do this alone. Join us in our advocacy to ensure cities and human settlements are inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. Help us to reach our goal of increasing the number of national governments working toward and reporting progress on SDG 11, particularly Target 11.1: Increasing access to adequate, safe and affordable housing and basic services and upgrading slums. We can do this through:

- Elevating all SDG 11 indicators to Tier 1 to make it a priority for national governments.
- Integrating civil society, local and regional governments, and community-level databases as valid inputs into national statistical databases for SDG 11 to enable more accurate data in reporting.
- Defining 11.1 to include all of the U.N. definitions for adequate and affordable housing so that necessary and relevant data is collected.



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