



The Challenge of an Urban World

*An Opportunity for
U.S. Foreign Assistance*

International Housing Coalition

IHC

Housing for All



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Preface

This White Paper describes the challenges and opportunities that urbanization is posing for countries in the developing world and argues that greater attention and resources need to be focused on urban areas. It highlights successful urban interventions and makes the case that now is time for the U.S. to play a leadership role in redirecting some foreign aid investments to urban areas, particularly to address the issue of slums. The White Paper was prepared based on a comprehensive review of secondary sources, project documents, and interviews with international development experts, policy makers, and program implementers.

This Paper was funded by a grant to the International Housing Coalition (IHC) from the Rockefeller Foundation. The views expressed in this Paper are those of the IHC and the authors, however, and do not necessarily reflect those of the Rockefeller Foundation.

The IHC is a non-profit advocacy organization based in Washington D.C. that supports “Housing for All” and seeks to raise the priority of improving the living conditions of slum dwellers on the international development agenda. Basic housing (shelter) and increased access to water and sanitation, education and health services are critical to effective urban development and slum improvement. In order to improve basic housing everywhere, including in slums, the IHC supports the basic principles of private property rights, secure tenure, effective title systems, and efficient and equitable housing finance systems—all essential elements to economic growth, civic stability, and democratic values.

The principal authors of the White Paper are Dr. Raymond Struyk and Stephen Giddings. Dr. Struyk is a noted housing economist and researcher who has authored many studies of housing and urban development issues in the U.S. and other countries. He is a former deputy assistant secretary at

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I hope that you find this Paper informative. The IHC welcomes your comments on this Paper and your support for our future work.

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