

URBAN SERVICES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES

Also edited by Dennis A. Rondinelli and G. Shabbir Cheema

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Developing Countries

Also by Dennis A. Rondinelli

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Urban Services in Developing Countries

Public and Private Roles in Urban Development

Edited by
Dennis A. Rondinelli
and
G. Shabbir Cheema

Foreword by Hidehiko Sazanami

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Foreword

The rapid pace of urbanisation in developing countries has increased the demand for urban services. But in most countries, the supply of shelter and basic urban services has not kept pace with demand. In particular, the urban poor do not have an adequate access to shelter and services such as water supply, sewage systems, low-cost housing, education and public health. Therefore, the effective management of shelter and urban services for the poor is being increasingly emphasised by planners and practitioners in developing countries, international organisations and donor countries. It is widely recognised that in order to increase our understanding of the needs of the urban poor and assist policy-makers in identifying appropriate programmes and projects, we must know more about physical and social characteristics of low-income settlements, the impact of past government projects, the appropriateness of management systems, and the mechanisms for participation of beneficiaries in the process of providing services to the urban poor.

The United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD) has initiated a cross-national research project on *Managing Urban Development: Focus on Services for the Poor*. The Centre has organised Expert Group Meetings to discuss concept papers commissioned by the Centre; and to prepare a research format for undertaking comparable case studies of urban projects. This book includes the revised version of those concept papers.

The book deals with an issue of growing importance: alternative means of providing basic services to the growing numbers of the poor in cities of the developing world. The chapters examine both policy issues and actual experiences with pioneering programmes in developing countries. They focus on the roles of government, community organisations and international agencies such as USAID, the World Bank and UNICEF. Problems of organisation and management, finance, social services, housing, slum upgrading and credit provision for small-scale businesses are highlighted.

A large number of experts from developing countries, international organisations and developed countries have collaborated with UNCRD on this project. I am particularly grateful to the contributors to this book for revising their papers for publication, Dennis A. Rondinelli and G. Shabbir Cheema for editing the papers, and

UNICEF East Asia and Pakistan Regional Offices for providing part of the financial support.

I am confident that the volume will be of great interest to planners, scholars, and development practitioners concerned with providing shelter and basic urban services in low-income settlements and will lead to a better understanding of the process of managing poverty-oriented urban projects in developing countries.

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