ACFID: **Post-2015 Framework submission**
Habitat for Humanity Australia & the Shelter Reference Group

This submission has been developed by the Shelter Reference Group, coordinated by Habitat for Humanity Australia. The Shelter Reference Group comprises of representation from the Australian Red Cross; Caritas Australia; World Vision International; ChildFund and Emergency Architects. Technical support is provided by Architects without Frontiers; Partner Housing Australasia; and Arup.

1. Which of the four options do you support for a post-2015 framework and why?

c. An update with changes to the goals and indicators of the current framework

The above option is recommended by the Shelter Reference Group (SRG). A degree of continuity in the framework will reduce the risks of delays and confusion in developing and interpreting a radically new framework. However, there needs to be improvements in:

- Acknowledging contemporary trends (including urbanisation and rising incidence of slums).
- A focus on increasing resilience and reducing the social and environmental impacts due to the increased incidence and severity of natural disasters.
- Improving the targets and indicators within the agreed goals. Specifically in regards to developing indicators which acknowledge relative gains (i.e. focus on percentage improvements, as opposed to real numbers. See page 2, question 3 for an example). More sophisticated indicators also need to be developed to better reflect the distribution of gains across regions, countries, and minority groups.

Each point is further explained in the below responses.

2. What are the successes and failures of the current MDG Framework? What has and/or hasn't worked? What work still need to be done?

What has worked:
- *Common goals:*
The process of developing, finalising and committing to the current framework provided a strong opportunity for Governments and the wider International Community to work towards common goals and benchmarks.

- *Coordination & resourcing:*
The process of agreeing common goal encouraged improved coordination and subsequent resourcing activities to achieve MDG goals & targets.

What hasn't worked:

- *Limited acknowledge of cross-cutting impacts*:

Whilst it is important to identify clear, concrete goals, the current framework lacks the acknowledgement of the impact of certain activities upon many MDG goals and targets. For example, diarrhoea related to inadequate WASH is the second leading cause of child deaths, yet there are no effective links between targets and indicators related to WASH (Target 7C) and child mortality (MDG4).

Specifically in regards to the impacts of shelter, decent housing is a catalyst for poverty alleviation that cuts across almost every other indicator for human development (see page 4, question 5 for more information). The next framework needs to recognise and establish the means by which goals/targets for different development sectors can be better aligned and coordinated.

- *No reference to the importance of shelter:*

The UN Human rights declaration states that everyone has a right to a decent housing. However, whilst the provision of safe and secure shelter remains one of the biggest problems internationally, there is no mention of shelter in the current framework. Further opportunities are lost if the cross cutting impacts of shelter are not acknowledged.

- *Limited reference to addressing contemporary trends - urbanisation; the growing slum population; and the increased incidence and severity of natural disasters*:

Currently, one in three urban dwellers lives in slums or informal settlements. Nearly one billion people, almost one-sixth of the world's population, live in these conditions, and the pace is increasing. As slums swell, there is an increased need to:
  - Focus specifically on the urban (poor) population.
  - Support Government planning and urban development.
  - Further address the urban push & pull factors.

The current framework does not address this trend.

In regards to natural disasters, research shows that in recent years both the frequency and the severity of natural disaster such as storms, hurricanes, flooding, droughts, heatwaves and bushfires are mounting and are likely to become more regular visitors in the future, exacerbated by rising sea levels (see page 4, question 5 for more information). Whilst the global context was very different to what it is today, the post 2015 framework will need to acknowledge and proactively address these trends.

3. What should a post-2015 framework look like? Should there be goals and indicators or something entirely different?

Overall, the SRG supports the committed to the inclusion of:

- Improved goals and percentage-based targets and indicators to better capture relative gains in agreed goals. For example:
  - Although one could argue that MDG Goal 7, Target 11 — improving the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers — has been met, perhaps even several times, the absolute number of those living in slums (according to UN-HABITAT) has increased from 776.7 million in 2000 to 827.6 million in 2010. The number of slum dwellers, and subsequently those in need of adequate housing, is expected to rise to nearly two billion in the next two decades. This trend deserves serious attention.

- Improved reference to cross cutting themes and the relational impacts across various goals. This is specifically to further acknowledge impacts across gender and vulnerable and marginalised groups.

- Stronger reference to global trends (urbanisation; the impacts of climate change and increased incidence and severity of natural disasters).

- In accordance with The Future We Want – the outcome document of the Rio+20 Conference – states:

- *"We recognize that, if they (cities) are well planned and developed, including through integrated planning and management approaches, cities can promote economically, socially and environmentally sustainable societies. In this regard, we recognize the need for a holistic approach to urban development and human settlements that provides for affordable housing and infrastructure and prioritizes slum upgrading and urban regeneration" (paragraph 134).*

- *"We commit to systematically consider population trends and projections in our national, rural and urban development strategies and policies.*

- Ensuring housing and slums are represented in the next Millennium Development Goals is essential. The "environmental sustainability" goal included a target on slums. This target in the MDGs, referred to as Goal 7, Target 11, sought to improve "the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers." This target has proved insufficient. A more comprehensive goal acknowledging the urbanisation trend and the subsequent impact of slum prevalence is required.

4. What specific over-arching or cross-cutting principles should a post-2015 framework take into account?

The SRG recommend a Post-2015 framework should:

- Continue to include important overarching elements such as gender, health, education, water and sanitation, environment, child protection and disability.
- Recognise the UN Human rights declaration and create rights-based framework that addresses economic and social inequality and environmental degradation.
- As per the UN Human rights declaration, which states that everyone has a right to a decent housing, the post-2015 framework should acknowledge the cross cutting impacts of shelter, as well as a human right. Having a safe and secure house to live provide more than just protection from the elements. Decent housing is a catalyst for poverty alleviation that cuts across almost every other indicator for human development. Safe and healthy living conditions prevent injury, disease and death, improve health, provide socio-political stability, and increase household and national income (Habitat for Humanity).

5. What are the most important thematic-based issues that should be included in a post-2015 framework?

The world is becoming increasingly urban: Addressing the growing urbanisation trend and its impacts
- Over 50% of the human population is now living in urban areas, roughly totalling 3.5 billion people (Global Communities 2012). Currently 33% of the urban population in developing countries, live in slums. In the coming 30 years, the vast majority of urban population growth will occur in cities in developing countries. By 2020, it is expected that the percentage of urban residents living in developing countries will rise to 80%.

- This significant increase will continue to place compounding pressure on governments of developing countries to accommodate urban growth. Annual growth rates of cities within developing countries ranges for 4%, such as Phnom Penh, Marrakesh and Lagos, to over 10% in some cities within China, effectively doubling their population every seven years (World Health Organisation 2010). Demand for housing remains extraordinarily high in the developing world. Asia, for example, is urbanizing most rapidly and will need to absorb 120,000 new residents every day into its cities.

- Many governments and local authorities remain wary of planning for systematic expansion of their cities for fear of attracting more people, despite little evidence that a lack of adequate housing, infrastructure and basic services has slowed the migration from rural to urban areas. People are primarily moving for jobs and economic opportunity. Therefore, focus should be directed towards

careful planning and management of growth to make cities as liveable productive as possible. As more cities struggle with the influx of people, the importance of this planning is becoming widely recognized.

- The United Nations Task Team on the post-2015 development agenda agreed that the trend of urbanization and growth of slums should not be overlooked. In its recent report, "Realizing the Future We Want for All," the task team acknowledged certain targets "undervalued demographic change and consequently also the magnitude of certain social problems, such as the size of urban slum populations." The report goes on to note that "rapid urban growth is mainly occurring in countries least able to cope with the demand for decent jobs, adequate housing, and urban basic services.

- However, the report produced an "integrated framework" for "realizing the future we want for all" and failed to include any mention of housing, slums or urbanization. If this incomplete framework becomes the basis of the next MDGs, it is unclear how these key trends will be represented.

- **Recommendation**: A standalone, comprehensive goal acknowledging the urbanisation trend and the subsequent impact of slum prevalence is essential in the post-2015 framework.

Security of tenure: The importance of equitable housing, land and property rights

- A recent UN Special Rapporteur report focused on the concept of security of tenure as a component of the right to adequate housing. The backdrop is one of a global tenure insecurity crisis, manifesting itself in many forms and contexts—forced evictions, displacement resulting from development, natural disasters and conflicts and land grabbing—and evident in the millions of urban dwellers living under insecure tenure arrangements. Recognition and protection of security of tenure is one of the most compelling challenges of today's world and is fundamental to preventing the most egregious forms of eviction, displacement and homelessness.

- **Recommendation**: The Post-2015 framework needs to maintain a focus on supporting developing countries' Governance systems, particularly in relation to housing, land and property rights.

Enhancing resilience and reducing the social and environmental impacts due to increased incidence and severity of natural disasters

- Coupled with increased incidence and severity of natural disasters, globally, 'cities will feel the effects of climate change through increasing frequency of heat waves, air pollution, severe storms and infectious diseases' (World Health Organisation 2012). Cities that focus on improved housing, living conditions and infrastructure will reduce poverty and, at the same time, be better positioned to adapt to climate change.

- **Recommendation:** The importance of housing and shelter to protect vulnerable people to cope and protect against the impacts of climate change and natural disasters needs to be reflected Post-2015 framework.

References:

- Global Communities, (2012) Shelter and settlements: Post-disaster response in urban environments. http://www.chfinternational.org/node/37242. Accessed 28 February 2013
- Habitat for Humanity, (2012) The Post-2015 Development Agenda – Elevating housing in the Next Millennium Development Goals
- Rio +20 Outcome, (2012) http://www.un.org/en/sustainablefuture/about.shtml
- UN-HABITAT, (2010) Housing as a Strategy for Poverty Reduction in Ghana , United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UN Human Rights Council, (2009) Report of the Special Rapporteur on Adequate Housing as a Component of the Right to an Adequate Standard of Living, and on the Right to Non-Discrimination in This Context, Raquel Rolnik, A/HRC/10/7, available at: http://www.unhcr.org/refworld/docid/49a54f4a2.html (accessed 1 March 2013)
- World Health Organisation, UN-Habitat (2010), 'Hidden Cities: Unmasking and overcoming health inequities in urban settings. http://www.hiddencities.org/downloads/WHO_UN-HABITAT_Hidden_Cities_w.pdf. (Accessed 28 February 2013)