Editorial

The UN Habitat estimates that globally, cities today occupy approximately only 2% of the total land; however, they account for 70% of the GDP, over 60% of global energy consumption, 70% of greenhouse gas emissions and 70% of global waste (www. habitat3.org/the-new-urban-agenda).

Recognising the challenges associated with rapidly increasing urbanisation, stakeholders came together to adopt the New Urban Agenda in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. According to the Quito Declaration on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements for All, "By 2050 the world urban population is expected to nearly double, making urbanization one of the 21st century's most transformative trends. As the population, economic activities, social and cultural interactions, as well as environmental and humanitarian impacts, are increasingly concentrated in cities, this poses massive sustainability challenges in terms of housing, infrastructure, basic services, food security, health, education, decent jobs, safety, and natural resources, among others" (www2.habitat3.org/bitcache/97ced11dcec ef85d41f74043195e5472836f6291?vid=588897&disposition=inline&op=view).

In one of the points under the Call for Action, the Quito Declaration states: "We recognize the need to give particular attention to addressing multiple forms of discrimination faced by, inter alia, women and girls, children and youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV/AIDS, older persons, indigenous peoples and local communities, slum and informal settlement dwellers, homeless people, workers, smallholder farmers and fishers, refugees, returnees and internally displaced persons, and migrants, regardless of migration status."

Much of the earlier available information on CBR and inclusive development is based on work in rural communities. Over the last 2 decades however, there have been reports from Asia and Africa of programmes working with people with disabilities in urban poor communities. Urban poor communities in low and middle income countries differ from their rural counterparts in many ways that have implications for planning and managing CBR and inclusive development activities.

Urban slums are largely comprised of migrants from rural areas, coming in search of employment. Such communities tend to be heterogeneous in nature, in terms of language, ethnicity and culture. Many groups are like a floating

population due to seasonal migration or they may move from place to place within a city depending on where they find employment. While rural areas have a largely agrarian economy, urban slums have a preponderance of unskilled labour working in the informal or unorganised sector. Population density is high in urban slums, compared to the rural areas where it is sparse and people are scattered over large areas, sometimes at a great distance from each other. Unlike rural communities, urban slums have mainly nuclear families.

It has been reported that community organisation and mobilisation for CBR and inclusive development is more difficult in urban poor communities, because of their heterogeneous and transitory nature, existence of social problems, absence of extended family support and lack of formal or traditional structures and leadership. Often the priority need expressed by families in an urban CBR context is financial support.

Urban areas have better infrastructure, information and communication facilities compared to rural areas in low and middle income countries. There is also greater availability of services related to CBR such as education, healthcare, skills training and employment opportunities, but access to these services can be limited because of poverty and lack of awareness.

The New Urban Agenda recognises the need to address discrimination faced by persons with disabilities, along with other marginalised groups. Future CBR planning will require to be aware of and use frameworks like the Urban Agenda and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) in planning, implementing and advocating for inclusive development.

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