



NUSP RESOURCE KIT

Part 5

The Planning Process



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As soon as the needs and priorities have been clarified, the planning process can begin. In a conventional housing project, the planning and design functions are undertaken by town planners, land surveyors and engineers – usually without even consulting the people who are going to live there.

In a UISP project, the process is quite different because the planning and designing of the upgrade is done by the partnership, with the help of the technical experts and professionals. This means that the experts must first listen to the partnership members as they explain their needs and priorities. They must then work with the partnership members to establish some design principles for the upgrade, which will depend upon a mixture of local factors and technical possibilities.

The experts must then help the partnership members to understand the various ways in which those needs can be addressed so that the partnership can reach agreement on how to work together to achieve the best possible upgrade.

You can learn about the theory and practice of participatory planning in a two-part manual produced by UN-Habitat.

[Part 1](#)

[Part 2](#)

Another learning resource that includes a detailed example from South Africa can be found [here](#).

Furthermore, all the case studies that are contained in Part 1 of this NUSP Resource Kit contain interesting examples of participatory planning processes.

The Department of Human Settlements has produced a Housing Project Process Guide as an aid to those managing UISP and IRDP projects. It provides more detail than the UISP policy itself, [presented in a format that may appeal particularly to project managers](#).

Here can be found South African examples of detailed scopes of work and their costing.