<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Page</th>
<th>Section</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>3</td>
<td>Who is Slum Dwellers International</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>4</td>
<td>Letter from the Chair of the SDI Board of Directors</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>5</td>
<td>SDI’s Strategic Plan 2023-2027</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>7</td>
<td>International Accolades</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>8</td>
<td>Settlement Change Pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>11</td>
<td>City/National Change Pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>14</td>
<td>Global Change Pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>17</td>
<td>Organisational Pathway</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>19</td>
<td>Communications</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20</td>
<td>Financials</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Who is Slum Dwellers International

Slum Dwellers International (SDI) is a global network of slum dwellers in roughly 20 countries across Africa, Asia and Latin America. SDI-affiliated federations comprise thousands of the most vulnerable women, men, and youth mobilised around dynamic savings schemes, networked at the settlement, city, and national levels to drive a collective, bottom-up change agenda for inclusive and resilient cities and to influence global development agendas. These savings collectives form the building blocks of SDI, providing a supportive space for poor women and youth to become active local organisers and drivers of urban transformation rooted in gendered, local, and communal priorities.

Federations, which form the core of SDI’s efforts - use tools such as daily savings, peer-to-peer exchanges, community data collection and mapping to organise a critical mass of urban poor communities in cities of the Global South – enabling them to engage with local and national government as partners in development rather than beneficiaries, and to shift development agendas to be more inclusive and pro-poor and ultimately more resilient and sustainable. Organised communities co-produce citywide strategies for securing tenure and increasing access to basic services, housing, and livelihoods with local and national governments. They also play a central role in implementing, monitoring and evaluating these strategies.

SDI’s governance structure consists of a professional Secretariat, a Board of Directors comprising professionals and community leaders, and a Council of Federations, which collectively constitutes the membership of SDI. SDI is a unique actor in the urban ecosystem and prides itself on investing in poor people’s efforts to drive their development.

Our vision
SDI’s vision is to facilitate resilient and inclusive cities that improve the lives of the urban poor.

Our mission
SDI seeks to transform slums into resilient neighbourhoods and inclusive cities by collectively driving a women-led, bottom-up change agenda for securing tenure and increasing access to basic services, housing, and livelihoods.
It is my pleasure to write this introduction to our 2022 Annual Report, which highlights significant achievements throughout the SDI network. This period saw the continued revitalisation of SDI’s programmatic work following the negative impact on our work from the Covid-19 pandemic. We expanded our focus on institutional strengthening of both the Secretariat and affiliates. We continue to work diligently to enhance the dignity of families within our network by continuing the fight for tenure security, providing access to improved housing, services, and resilience in our ability to respond to disasters brought about by the negative impact of climate change. A key accomplishment during this period was the co-development of the SDI Strategic Plan 2023-2027, which resulted in a shared vision for greater impact around the network. The SDI Strategic Plan and updated Theory of Change provides a clear vision of the network’s priorities, confirming the three original change pathways: 1) Settlement, 2) A City/National and 3) Global Pathway, and adds a fourth ‘enabling’ pathway that acknowledges the importance of strong governance and efficient and effective internal structures and processes.

Innovations across the network that increased urban resilience and improved our ability to be first responders to natural and man-made disasters deepened throughout the network. We have witnessed these disasters increasing and disproportionately negatively impacting the urban poor living in slums. Our affiliates in South Africa, Malawi and Uganda were especially affected by flooding, which resulted in the loss of lives and assets. Amid these crises, the value of collective agency built through years of organising communities was demonstrated by the agility with which people in the settlements could mobilise support for those affected. These challenges remind us of the particular and multi-faceted vulnerability that the urban poor living in slums continue to face and the gap in local state and international response and assistance.

A growing number of affiliates are becoming more skilled at developing and executing locally led adaptation in response to the increasing negative impacts of climate change. The development of low-cost, green and resilient housing significantly reduced the vulnerability of the urban poor to climate impacts in Zambia. In South Africa, increased fires and unprecedented flooding were met with an unparalleled response from federations who provided basic needs such as food, safety and shelter. In Sierra Leone, the Freetown Federation is working with the city on a nature-based solution to the rising sea level and flooding through facilitating increased growth of mangroves and setting up of ‘climate champions’ in the slums in the city. The Malawi Federation in Lilongwe has set up settlement disaster funds to support families affected by flooding in the last two cyclones, Idai and Freddy, to hit Malawi.

The work conducted at the settlement level has continued to be leveraged through active engagement with local, city and national governments. The Kenya affiliate Muungano wa Wanavijiji continues to receive accolades for expanding their work under the Mukuru Special Planning Area (SPA) to other settlements, with work starting in Mathare - another one of Nairobi’s largest slums. The Namibia Federation has demonstrated a successful private-public partnership model to build low-cost homes, constructing over one thousand homes. Invited as a key stakeholder to a national workshop that seeks to transform the country from a middle-income country to a high-income country by 2026, the Botswana affiliate has been a key partner of the government in implementing the country’s slum upgrading programme with support from The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT).

Amplifying the voices of slum dwellers at regional and global events continued to be a priority, thus ensuring that high-level discussion incorporated the lived experiences of those living in slums and informal settlements. SDI delegates were involved in the global discourse on climate change through participation in Africa Climate Week, the Gobeshona Global Conference, the Community-based Adaptation Conference (CBA16) and the Conference of Parties (COP27). The voices of slum dwellers consistently demanded a just approach to climate action and an increase of resources and decision-making authority to flow to the communities most impacted.

Young people across the network continue to build their capacity in making a positive change in their settlements, telling authentic stories of the lives of slum dwellers through our Know Your City TV (KYC.TV) platforms. In Nairobi and Zambia, under the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) programme, the youth are making practical contributions to greening their settlements, and engaging duty bearers for inclusion in city plans and programmes. This year has demonstrated the resolute commitment to continued institutional strengthening and deepening SDI’s impact’s breadth and depth. I would also like to thank all our donors, partners and external advisors who continue to support our work. The positive achievements we registered this year are largely due to your continued support.

Sincerely yours,
Joseph Muturi
Chair of the Board
SDI’s Strategic Plan 2023-2027

SDI recently completed a six-month process of reviewing and developing the SDI network’s Strategic Plan. Building on our network’s rich history and core values, the process sought to maximise dialogue and collective reflection by slum dwellers and the SDI network.

Our core strength is supporting the elevation of the voices and agency of slum dwellers, and this voice needed to be central to the entire strategic planning process. Professionals from our support NGOs and Secretariat played a key role in creating spaces for this dialogue and reflection and contributed critical insights as partners to the federations.

We began with a collective review of outcomes-level change and implementation lessons registered during the 2018-2022 Strategic Plan period to ground our strategic planning process. The internal review commenced through a set of structured national dialogues at the affiliate level, which fed into regional and global dialogues to consolidate findings and for use to inform forward planning.

As the affiliates convened national reflections, the Secretariat and the SDI Board of Directors, respectively, convened a workshop to reflect upon opportunities to leverage strategic advantages, including proposed ways whereby SDI can deepen and employ the network’s assets, particularly the social movement’s social, human and political capital, and harness new opportunities to execute change at scale.

SDI regional hub meetings were convened to consolidate findings from each national dialogue and generate key hub-level insights and recommendations to inform the global dialogue at the Council of Federations in December. Data gathered from the national and regional dialogues were presented and packaged to inform four days of structured reflection, thus concluding the internal review process and applying the findings in a revised SDI Theory of Change and fundamental elements of the Strategic Plan 2023-2027. A Theory of Change was sent to the Steering Committee for approval and then to the Council of Federations for a ‘no objection’.

The result has been a strategic plan for the upcoming five years that we believe is deeply representative of the priorities throughout the network. The revised Theory of Change’s cornerstone highlights four change pathways SDI seeks to impact. A new change pathway was added to acknowledge the vital importance of our continued institutional development. Our other three change pathways include settlement level, city and national level, and global level aspirations, and each incorporates a series of outcomes that will lead the SDI network to collectively achieve the desired change to facilitate resilient and inclusive cities that improve the lives of the urban poor.

This report is organised around SDI’s three Pathways to Change. At each level, Significant Change Stories will showcase examples of federation work over the last year that illustrate how activities translate into the outcomes set forth and eventually into the desired impact at each level. The hope is that this year’s Annual Report will provide a convincing testimony of the successful work urban poor federations are performing to transform their communities, and cities, influence changes at the global level, effect systemic change on global urban development policies, practice, and financing, and ultimately how the organisational pathway enables the work our network does.
## SDI Theory of Change

### Overview

The theory of change is a critical tool for organizations to understand how their interventions lead to desired outcomes. It conceptualizes the pathways through which an intervention or program leads to desired outcomes. The SDI Theory of Change framework is designed to guide our work in achieving sustainable development outcomes.

### Key Components

1. **Objectives**: Clearly defined outcomes that the program aims to achieve.
2. **Expected Outcomes**: Outcomes that we expect to achieve with the program.
3. **Outputs**: External outputs of the program, such as service delivery, products, or reports.
4. **Activities**: Actions taken to achieve the outputs.
5. **Assumptions**: Explicit assumptions that underpin the theory of change.

### Logic Model

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Objectives</th>
<th>Expected Outcomes</th>
<th>Outputs</th>
<th>Activities</th>
<th>Assumptions</th>
<th>Monitoring and Evaluation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Increased Livelihood</strong></td>
<td><strong>Improved Water Access</strong></td>
<td><strong>Improved Sanitation Services</strong></td>
<td><strong>Training Programs</strong></td>
<td><strong>Community Participation</strong></td>
<td><strong>Impact Assessment Reports</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Implementation

- **Human Resource Development**: Ensuring the availability of skilled personnel to implement the program.
- **Technical Assistance**: Providing technical expertise to support the program.
- **Partnerships**: Establishing partnerships to leverage additional resources and support.
- **Financial Management**: Effective management of funds to ensure the program's sustainability.

### Conclusion

The SDI Theory of Change framework provides a clear and comprehensive view of how our programs are expected to achieve sustainable development outcomes. By focusing on objectives, expected outcomes, and a well-thought-out logic model, we can ensure that our efforts are aligned with our ultimate goals.

---

This framework has been developed by our team of experts, drawing from extensive experience and research. It is a living document that will be updated regularly to reflect new insights and evolving contexts.
International Accolades

We would like to acknowledge the work from our network, which has received global accolades during this reporting period. We congratulate all stakeholders whose tireless efforts have created a meaningful impact and shone a beacon of hope that emphasises the importance of our work as a network.

The Homeless People’s Federation of the Philippines, Inc. (HPFPI), Philippine Action for Community-led Shelter Initiatives, Inc. (PACSII) and Iloilo City were awarded the runner-up trophy by the World Resources Institute (WRI) for the 2021-2022 WRI Ross Centre Prize for Cities. The Prize for Cities is WRI’s urban transformation award, recognising leaders who create sustainable and inclusive cities worldwide. The award recognised the city’s participatory housing and urban development project, highlighting how urban poor partnerships with local governments create safer, more secure, and more affordable housing. More than 400 families benefited from the construction of new homes.

UrbaSEN, alongside the Fédération Sénégalaise des Habitants (FSH), were awarded GOLD at the World Habitat Awards 2023. The Senegalese affiliate won the award for their incredible work on community-led precarious neighbourhood improvement and resilience in the face of climate change in Senegal.

SDI’s Namibian affiliate, Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia (SDFN) and Namibia Housing Action Group (NHAG) were awarded BRONZE at the World Habitat Awards 2023. Their award was made in response to Namibia’s community-driven informal settlement upgrading.

Congratulations to all those involved in acting on the ground and leading the globe in innovations to address urban challenges.
Settlement Change Pathway

Throughout the SDI network, the urban poor organise women-led savings groups to form networks of support for social cohesion, livelihood-building and a collective voice to promote change in their settlement. Collecting accurate data within informal settlements and slums, using profiling, enumeration, and mapping settlements are integral strategies to advocate for and effect the desired change. Our work towards change at the settlement level includes ensuring that youth are equipped with multimedia documentation skills through the Know Your City TV (KYC.TV) programme, thus facilitating opportunities to use critical thinking and creative arts to identify and articulate solutions to urban challenges. Our work aims to support livelihood-building through skills development, enterprise financing, peer support and advocacy for informal workers, as well as for capacitating local communities to understand climate change and grapple with urban crises to generate solutions for adaptation.

SDI’s change at the settlement level envisions a future where slum settlements are recognised by the city and integrated into city planning and budgeting, an end to forced evictions and upgraded slum settlements with secure tenure, and universal access to essential services, including health and education, improved housing and public amenities. We envision safe and healthy communities where physical and mental health and protection from violence are prioritised. We envision a future where communities in slum settlements have widespread access to economic livelihood opportunities and pro-poor credit. SDI envisions communities exhibiting strong social cohesion and young people optimistic about the future and their role, filled with opportunity and hope, where persons with disabilities (PWDs), urban migrants, refugees and other marginalised groups are fully integrated within their communities. SDI sees resilient communities spearheading locally led citywide climate action and co-producing settlement upgrading plans that improve the lives of slum dwellers and all citizens.

Significant Change Stories

Co-production of Knowledge to Support Communities in Kenya

Access to decent health services in urban informal settlements remains a major challenge. The African Research Initiative for Scientific Excellence (ARISE) programme’s overarching objective is to support communities to engage with government officials and other stakeholders to access these services. From 2019 onwards, three affiliates participated in action research. In 2022, settlement profiling and community-led monitoring and evaluation processes were enhanced. In Mathare 4A village, multistakeholder settlement profiling was undertaken to provide a concise and thorough assessment of the socio-economic, physical, and administrative aspects that influence access to adequate health care. The settlement profiling process also served as a strategy for community data researchers and government actors to work together to co-production knowledge. This resulted in meaningful engagement between community members, city authorities, and other key stakeholders working in the settlement, which is rare, especially in health access matters. Community members were able to identify the challenges they faced while at the same time also proposing solutions to duty bearers.

The community researchers in this project gained data collection and analysis skills but also worked with a local Health Team (a local organisation focusing on primary healthcare systems in vulnerable urban communities) to monitor the project’s impact. The methods used by this local organisation benefitted the team as they were introduced to alternative methods to measure and monitor impact, especially around issues concerning accountability in health and well-being service delivery. This added capacity and information, which highlights the experiences of a specific community, will be shared and used by other communities to advocate for improved services.
Rooting for Resilience: Ensuring Climate Justice for the Urban Poor Through Housing Justice

While cities have often been seen as bastions of opportunity, rapid urbanisation in cities without the capacity and capabilities to address and manage the negative impact of this rapid urbanisation without positively using the resultant growth has resulted in increased urban poverty that often goes unacknowledged when compared with rural poverty. This is especially prevalent in many active SDIs, as is the case right across Zambia. Insecurity regarding employment, access to tenure and services, and the location of many informal settlements have created ‘hotspots’ of climate change vulnerability. UN-HABITAT puts Lusaka, the capital city of Zambia’s population living in informal settlements, at 50%, with other estimates as high as 70%. Informal settlements in the city are characterised by widening inequalities between the rich and the poor. It is a globally understood fact that the poor, including the urban poor, contribute the least to climate change; however, they increasingly bear a disproportionate burden of its negative impacts. This amplifies the call for climate justice, as socio-economic disadvantage and vulnerability in cities are already highly-stratified.

Informal settlements in the city are characterised by widening inequalities between the rich and the poor. It is a globally understood fact that the poor, including the urban poor, contribute the least to climate change; however, they increasingly bear a disproportionate burden of its negative impacts. This amplifies the call for climate justice, as socio-economic disadvantage and vulnerability in cities are already highly-stratified.

SDI is a partner in the consortium supported by the Dutch Ministry of Foreign Affairs, VCA, which is being implemented in three SDI countries: Zambia, Kenya and Indonesia. The Zambia Homeless and Poor People’s Federation (ZHPPF) and People’s Process on Housing and Poverty in Zambia (PPHPZ) are part of the Zambia local VCA alliance and have effectively been working to address grassroots adaptive capacities. In partnership with the federation, PPHPZ identified access to decent shelter as a human right heavily impacted by climate change, especially when houses are poorly constructed on land prone to flooding, thus hindering households from fully adapting to climate change due to housing poverty.

Lusaka experiences perennial flooding, and communities have noted increased rainfall intensity, which resulted in heightened flooding during the 2022 rainy season. The increased flooding led to around 20 damaged houses recorded by the federation, and many affected households could not afford to vacate and rebuild their homes. Consequently, there were injuries from collapsing houses and increased waterborne diseases, such as cholera, due to contaminated water sources.

Average temperatures have also been increasing, compounded by urban heat islands in densely populated areas, leading to higher average temperatures when compared to sparsely populated regions. A profile conducted by the federation in Lusaka revealed that 60% of the houses in informal settlements are unsuitable for habitation due to factors like inadequate ventilation for proper breathing, natural temperature regulation, and poor structural integrity against heavy winds and floods. Zambia’s housing policy indicates that around 40% of constructed houses are substandard. The statistic reveals the vulnerability of poor urban families who, due to poverty, construct structures that reduce their adaptive capacities.

Recognising the urgent need to advocate for and deliver low-cost housing for the urban poor to increase human security against climate change, PPHPZ and the federation piloted a locally led process of financing low-cost, green, and resilient housing. In 2022, 55 houses were completed and delivered to the intended beneficiaries. The federation spearheaded land acquisition and construction, used their ‘sweat equity’ and contributed their savings towards constructing the houses.

The community members executed the construction of the houses without any heavy machinery, and the houses were built with clay bricks, one of the most eco-friendly construction materials. The low-cost, green, resilient housing incorporates adequate insulation, waste management systems, and clean water supply. This method integrates green and resilient measures into housing, lowers emissions, conserves resources, and enables the mitigation of climate change impacts.

This initiative significantly reduced the vulnerability of the urban poor to climate impacts, and the financing mechanism involved various stakeholders who complemented the federation’s local actions and savings. The grassroots residents mobilised their limited resources for land acquisition, and both the Stanbic Bank and the government are now providing technical and financial support for housing construction. Although the initiative was purely a housing initiative, the VCA programme amplified the connection between access to secure land, services, and wide stakeholder engagement in developing housing solutions for the urban poor that will reduce emissions and increase human safety in the face of climate change.

As a result, PPHPZ and the Zambian Federation signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Zambia Institute of Architects (ZIA) to support green building practices. The importance of housing in the climate space is gradually gaining recognition, and the Zambian Affiliate is leading the discourse by leveraging local knowledge and experiences from affected communities.
Community Responses to Disaster Relief in South Africa

In the last few years, localised fire disasters have increased in disadvantaged communities in South Africa. In April 2022, a fire broke out in Joe Slovo settlement, a section of the settlement of Langa in Cape Town, destroying 341 homes. The fire left hundreds of people, most of whom were already on the margins of society, without basic necessities such as food, safety and shelter. The Skoll Foundation, which has continued to support SDI communities during times of crises, generously made resources available to the South Africa SDI (SASDI) Alliance, comprising the Federation of the Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP), the Informal Settlement Network (ISN) and the Community Organisation Resource Centre (CORC).

Thanks to this support, homes were constructed for more than six families, including improved structural integrity. Local contractors were used to construct the homes in order to support livelihoods within the community.

Between April and May 2022, unprecedented and catastrophic flooding was experienced by communities in Durban, South Africa, resulting in the loss of life of at least 435 individuals. The Skoll Foundation again provided the SASDI Alliance with emergency financial support, thus assisting FEDURP members to organise and purchase relief items for those affected.

FEDURP distributed 92 food parcels to the community’s most vulnerable members, providing a critical lifeline for many. The foundation’s support also extended to the Durban flood victims by constructing houses for eight families in KwaNyuswa (2 families) and Dikwe (6 families) informal settlements. Moreover, funds from the foundation were also used to construct a new ablution block with two toilets and two bathrooms.

The federation’s close connection to the community was critical and central to the Community-Led Disaster Risk Response. This mechanism has been proven to be the most effective and efficient approach for communities to find ways of reducing vulnerability and responding to ongoing shocks and disasters.

Photovoice Research and Youth Power in Kenya

In partnership with PlanBørnefonden, a photovoice research tool was rolled out in six informal settlements across Nairobi. The tool empowered youth co-researchers to capture the essence of their lived experiences through photographs, enabling them to express their perspectives on critical issues affecting their communities. The photovoice research tool was successfully implemented, allowing the youth to actively participate in the research process and depict the lived realities in their communities. The resulting images were used to inform key actors about the existing needs in these settlements.

A photo exhibition was organised by the youth from Mathare and Kibera, showcasing the impactful pieces created during the research process. The exhibition aimed to spark meaningful community discussions at the grassroots level on critical topics such as access to decent housing, public spaces, proper infrastructure, and climate action. This led to a collective youth exchange that brought together young people from Mukuru and Huruma to collaborate and share their experiences. The exhibition identified key thematic areas, representing core issues requiring attention and intervention, including health services, housing, public spaces, infrastructure, and a climate action agenda. Addressing such themes as health services, proper housing, and climate action is crucial for sustainable and inclusive development. Coupled with the investment in youth groups, this represents a significant step in addressing the challenge of limited economic opportunities.

One of the major challenges faced by the youth was the lack of economic opportunities. The programme provided grants to 14 youth groups from the six informal settlements in Nairobi and Kisumu to address this issue. These grants aimed to support young people to tap into their potential and promote socio-economic growth.

Implementing the photovoice research tool and the subsequent exhibition have proven to be impactful initiatives in engaging the youth and fostering meaningful community discussions. Giving youth a platform to express their perspectives through photography has empowered them to actively participate in shaping their communities and advocating for their needs.

By providing financial support, the programme aims to enable young people to unlock their potential and contribute to the socio-economic growth of their communities. Continuous monitoring and evaluation will be essential to ensure the long-term success of these initiatives.

By assessing the impact and effectiveness of the photovoice research tool and the grants, the programme can make informed decisions and improvements in future. A key takeaway from the process highlighted that promoting collaboration and knowledge exchange between youth from different communities leads to more holistic and comprehensive solutions. This encourages cross-community engagement and fosters a sense of solidarity and collective action among the youth, thus driving positive change on a broader scale.

Overall, the progress made through the photovoice research and youth empowerment initiatives shows promise in creating a brighter future for the youth in Nairobi and Kisumu with lessons that can be scaled across the network. There is an opportunity to make lasting improvements and uplift the lives of young people in informal settlements by building on these successes and addressing the identified thematic areas. Empowering the youth benefits their individual growth and contributes to the overall development and resilience of the communities they belong to.
City/National Change Pathway

Cities are an important entry point and pathway for transformative change and remain central to SDI’s work. Slums are an important and valuable part of urban society, containing enormous human capital and innovative potential. As urbanisation is expected to continue to increase - according to the United Nations (UN), by 2050, an estimated seven out of 10 people will probably live in an urban area - SDI believes that it is important to recognise and value organised urban poor communities for their skills and knowledge, and engage all stakeholders in partnerships to implement city and country-wide solutions for achieving social, economic, and physical integration of slum settlements into the environs of cities.

This period saw several advancements in this change pathway, including a continued focus on the community-driven collection, co-production, and use of slum data as a collective intelligence tool to engage deeply with government, inform policy change and enrich city-level understanding of spatial inequities. This methodology is key to facilitating agency in city-level decision-making processes. Through these efforts and persistent and compelling engagement, SDI has improved the commitment of local governments and urban decision-makers, which then influences policy and practice, improving services and infrastructure and increasing urban resilience. In addition, innovative and community-led pro-poor financing mechanisms and instruments are expanded to promote access to new resources and solutions for urban pro-poor development.

SDI envisions networks of cities where development is inclusive and resilient, with slum communities led by women and youth driving citywide change. We see urban decision-makers recognising and valuing the skills, knowledge, and data of organised slum dweller communities. We envision effective and sustained collaboration and partnership between slum dwellers and government, shaping equitable urban policy, practice, and public investment. SDI hopes to see an end to forced evictions and citywide equitable land management systems and, instead, anchoring citywide programmes to improve housing, infrastructure, services, and livelihoods for slum dwellers. SDI sees locally led climate action, including slum upgrading, supported by innovative pro-poor finance instruments and cities that recognise the resilience of the formal and informal parts of the city as interdependent.

Significant Change Stories

Collaboration with Government in Zambia
PPHPZ and ZHPPF have been undertaking intense engagements with the National Assembly of Zambia and various government bodies to support pro-poor, women-centred climate policy.

PPHPZ and the federation, as a VCA alliance partner, have documented women’s stories and lived experiences to guide climate advocacy and influence policy actions to ensure more gender-transformative approaches within climate policy. Stories of the lived experiences of community members and their presentation by the federation have been a key component of the advocacy strategy to ensure the inclusion of women and youth in driving city and national change through collaboration with government to shape equitable urban policy, practice and public investment.

Engagement with the National Assembly of Zambia included advocating for the inclusion of climate change in the Zambia Parliamentary Conservation Caucus (ZPCC). The Zambia Parliamentary Caucus on Environment and Climate Change (ZPCECC) was subsequently established in 2022, a caucus comprising policymakers interested in climate change. It is a platform which aims to be utilised by different actors to influence environmental policies in Zambia.

Through engagement with this caucus, our Zambia affiliate contributed to developing their strategic plan to strengthen their role and influence in the national and global climate discourse and ensure that the marginalised voices are valued and considered. The federation was particularly influential in expanding the strategy to include urban environmental challenges that were previously omitted. Furthermore, the federation has continued engagement with the caucus to support an urbanisation policy that will help to manage urbanisation effectively.

Through this work, the Zambia affiliate has contributed to shifting the climate advocacy discourse from one of climate action to a more transformative discussion on climate justice. This has reframed the focus on climate change’s social, economic and political impacts and created an enabling environment to amplify community voices as key stakeholders in creating a just and sustainable climate transition.
Relaunch of the Buy-A-Brick Initiative in Namibia

In 2022, Standard Bank Namibia and the SDFN relaunched the Buy-A-Brick initiative to raise funds for affordable housing in Namibia. This initiative built over 600 low-cost homes nationwide, providing shelter and security to hundreds of families.

The SDFN operates a savings scheme to help impoverished people improve their living conditions. Members of the savings scheme contribute monthly to the SDFN fund, and when land is available, SDFN provides them with funding to build a home.

This initiative has been incredibly successful, and the SDFN's goal is to construct 1,000 brick homes a year, which they are well on track for. Currently, there are 751 saving groups with 23,423 members nationwide, growing yearly.

The Buy-A-Brick initiative’s success is partly due to its inclusiveness and local partnerships with councils like Okongo, who have proactively provided land and housing. The initiative has sought to engage around policy and explore alternative building materials. Thanks to a partnership with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT), there is now the potential to use mushrooms and encroacher bush (indigenous woody species of plants) to create a new building material. This project is underway and, if successful, could revolutionise construction and technology in Namibia.

The Buy-A-Brick initiative has also sought to create a bond between donor and beneficiary. For every $40,000 contribution, a house is given to a family. This allows the donor to follow the family’s progress and witness the difference that their contribution has made. Companies like Standard Bank, MTC (Mobile Telecommunications Limited) and Huawei have made major contributions to the cause, making it possible for even more homes to be built.

Buy-A-Brick is about more than just providing a structure - it provides warmth, conversations, dreams and promise. Investors are active agents in making a shack-free Namibia a reality by supporting the Buy-A-Brick initiative. Having a safe place to call home positively impacts the physical health of those living in the homes and their mental and emotional well-being, encouraging a sense of security, stability, and belonging.

The Buy-A-Brick initiative is a great example of how a small contribution can make a big difference. It showcases that everyone can be part of the solution and that collective action can impact the lives of those in need.

Collaboration and Policy Influence in Botswana

The Botswana Federation, the Botswana Homeless & Poor Federation, supported by the Trust for Community Initiatives (TFCI) NGO, participated in key policy dialogues. The first was the “Dialogue on Developing the Productivity and Competitiveness Policy and Strategy,” a workshop organised by the state to enhance government efforts towards achieving “VISION 2036: Achieving Prosperity for All.” VISION 2023 is a transformational agenda that defines the aspirations and goals of Botswana’s people and aims to transform the country from an upper-middle-income country to a high-income country by 2026. It sets out a future vision and builds on Botswana’s first national vision, VISION 2016. VISION 2036 is balanced on four pillars: sustainable economic development, human and social development, sustainable environment, governance, peace and security.

In Francistown, the federation remains a key partner alongside local government authorities in citywide spatial planning. The Botswana affiliate played a key role in the initial stages of preparing the development plan and is expected to impact the spatial development of the City of Francistown for the next 24 years.

The affiliate has also engaged with the Botswana Council for the Disabled, a partnership that involved household data collection on people living with disabilities in Francistown. The data collected has been used to advocate for improving livelihoods and access to services for those living with disabilities in Francistown. This has resulted in more inclusive access to services and considerations within citywide spatial planning.

The Botswana affiliate also participated as a key stakeholder in the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) - a UN-Habitat initiative. Enumerations were conducted working closely with the Department of Town and Country Planning and some local authorities (Lobatse Town Council, Gaborone City Council and Francistown City Council), resulting in the erection of two tower lights. The tower lights have contributed to safer neighbourhoods, the assignment of plot numbers, the painting of 243 houses, cleaning campaigns in the whole of Bokowe settlement, and the building of six flushing toilets for the most vulnerable.
Knowledge co-creation – Informal Settlement Domain Freetown, Sierra Leone

SDI is part of the African Cities Research Consortium, a 13-city research project led by the University of Manchester. SDI affiliates from eight African cities are participating in this Foreign Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) funded research to “generate insights and evidence that will help improve the living conditions, services and life chances of all city residents, particularly for disadvantaged communities”. The SDI affiliate in Sierra Leone made up of the Centre of Dialogue for Human Settlement and Poverty (CDDOHSAAPA) and the Federation of Urban and Rural Poor (FEDURP), have collaborated with the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC) in research in three informal settlements in Freetown, looking to understand the deeper more complex problems, within these settlements, and gain insight into how federations contributing to addressing these and how initiatives that work can be scaled up.

There has been a positive departure from how SDI has approached collaboration with academic researchers in the past, and more towards pushing the boundaries of co-creation and collaboration away from federations merely being participants/subjects or data collectors – and more towards a practice of knowledge co-creation with community research, analysing and adding insights to findings in the research, and giving a push for community knowledge to be given equal relevance in that process. SDI sees this as a practical but critical part of the ‘decolonising’ agenda that has been in common discourse in recent years.

The research report produced by the team concluded that informal settlements in Freetown are home to a large portion of the population who contribute significantly to the city’s economy. While these settlements provide an important source of labour and revenue, they are also subject to various challenges, including insecure tenure, lack of access to basic services, and vulnerability to external shocks.

These issues have been exacerbated by the absence of an urban policy and the lack of coordination and coherence among actors. While these are well-known facts, what was interesting was the political analysis that was carried out, which showed the complexities of local settlement-level politics and how this is often linked to city and national politics. Even more important is how the FEDURP and other local-level community organisations navigate these intricacies to create space to influence state actors in a way that achieves positive gains for their communities.

The Freetown Informal Settlement Domain researchers (CODESAP, FEDURP and SLURC) identified two priority problems they are proposing as projects to move forward with over the remaining three-year research project. These have an opportunity to be supported in implementation. They are:

1. “Improving the security of tenure and basic services in informal settlements in Freetown” seeks to ensure incremental slum upgrading, community land titling, effective collaboration and coordination between actors and policy and legal reforms for the regularisation of informal settlements.
2. “Mitigating climate risk and building resilience in informal settlements in Freetown” aims to reduce climate risk by targeting informal settlements by encouraging investments in resilience-building efforts, adopting locally led adaptation practices and innovation, and supporting citywide planning and climate action.
Global Change Pathway

The work of our Global Change Pathway seeks to address crises related to urban population growth, conflict and natural- and human-made disasters to create a world where organised communities of the urban poor are valued partners in urban development decision-making and where investment in inclusive and resilient urban development is prioritised and centred. On the global stage, SDI advocates integrating community-driven knowledge into global policy and practice to transform the status quo. By frontlining the participation of slum dweller leaders in global debates and supporting the growth and consolidation of a global slum dweller movement, SDI uses our knowledge, information, and data to inform, monitor and evaluate global development agendas and commitments.

SDI’s work on the global stage has increasingly focused on the climate crisis and its impacts on the urban poor. SDI federations across the network worked to build their resilience and capacity to adapt and respond to the impacts of the climate crisis in their communities. However, at the global stage, much work remains to clarify the capacity of organised communities of the urban poor to take the lead on climate adaptation and manage climate finance at the local level.

SDI envisions a highly recognisable and respected transnational movement of slum dwellers that is well organised and influential in centring slum dweller priorities in global debates. We see a world where organised slum dweller communities are considered valued partners in global urban development decision-making and where investment in locally led, inclusive, and resilient urban development is essential to the health of our species and the planet. We envision a world where slum dweller data, stories, and voices shape a greater understanding of the urban majority in the Global South and greater commitment to their well-being and where global decision-makers exhibit an increased capacity to integrate community-driven knowledge and development meth-

Significant Change Stories

Community-Based Climate Adaptation Summit in Uganda

Climate change is a pressing issue and is especially concerning for those living in informal settlements, who are the most vulnerable and at risk of its impacts. SDI participated in a three-day workshop hosted by the Cities Alliance in Kampala, Uganda, to address and tackle this issue.

The gathering saw community activists, practitioners, government officials, and experts come together to discuss strategies that can aid communities in effectively preparing for climate change impacts while improving livelihoods and strengthening local resilience.

The workshop focused on promoting a multistakeholder and intergenerational discussion around six key lessons centred around inclusion, partnership-building, and local solutions.

Participants discussed how local and national governments must recognise the rights of residents to participate in developing local climate action plans and how interventions must be framed within existing community priorities to tackle the knowledge gap in policy planning and implementation.

In addition, the workshop emphasised the need to invest in funding mechanisms that support long-term collaborative and context-driven climate action while promoting women’s empowerment and including disadvantaged minority groups. It also shared practical examples of how cities in East Africa apply participatory tools and practices to become agents of change in climate action. It also created a networking opportunity for pro-poor organisations working at the local and regional levels.

Overall, the workshop successfully drove home the message that local and national governments must take urgent action to respond to climate change impacts by aligning climate adaptation solutions with local development needs and recognising the rights of residents to participate in local climate action plans. Investing in funding mechanisms that target local communities and supporting long-term collaborative and context-driven climate action makes it possible to build resilience in informal settlements while improving livelihoods and strengthening local resilience.

ABOVE: Community members in Kampala, Uganda have made great strides towards climate resilience through an array of projects. Notably, the collection of plastic for recycling has improved livelihoods and created a self-sustaining means for income generation. (PHOTO: Slum Dwellers International)
Global Advocacy at the World Urban Forum in Katowice, Poland

The World Urban Forum (WUF11) held in Katowice, Poland, in June 2022 saw delegates from SDI attend important discussions on urban development, bringing a strong focus on addressing inequalities, housing rights, resilience building, and involving different stakeholders, including children, the youth, women, and grassroots organisations, in shaping the future of cities.

SDI, Dream Town, PlanBørnefonden and World Vision co-hosted a lively and interactive event at WUF11, and this was followed by a joint event on urban fragility and resilience hosted by the World Urban Campaign, PlanBørnefonden, World Vision and the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF) during ‘Urban October’, with a focus on urban health and young people. This event provided an opportunity for SDI to amplify the voices of young people and ensure that their views were considered when addressing urban challenges. It also highlighted the importance of empowering young people to take an active role in shaping the future of cities.

At WUF11, SDI continued to advocate for its cause, which focuses on the struggle for housing rights of the urban poor. The discussions centred around innovative solutions, technology, data-driven approaches, and capacity building for urban planning to create equitable and inclusive urban environments. Climate-smart initiatives and the importance of global action plans to tackle slum challenges were also highlighted. SDI’s contribution was to ensure that the voices of slum dwellers were heard and considered in the global dialogue on urban development and to demonstrate its commitment to the active participation of different stakeholders in creating equitable and inclusive cities.
COP27 in Sharm El Sheik
SDI delegates from Kenya, India, the Philippines, Malawi, Zambia, and the SDI Secretariat attended the 27th UN Climate Change Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm El Sheikh, Egypt from 6 – 18 November 2022.

Over the past few years, SDI has been steadily building a stronger presence in the climate adaptation and justice space – firmly rooted in community-driven climate adaptation and advocacy work, as carried out by our affiliates on the ground. SDI at COP27 and our participation in the event marked a milestone in our climate work. It established SDI at COP27 as a key player in the climate space – particularly as it relates to the experiences, needs, and solutions required to address and reduce the impacts of the climate crisis in urban poor communities.

COP27 served as an important platform to raise the voices of the urban poor around climate change – particularly women and youth – to showcase their work, action and achievements and amplify the needs, priorities, and key messages emerging on the ground.

SDI served as a managing partner of this year’s COP27 Resilience Hub, co-hosting an event with Green Africa Youth Organisation (GAYO) titled Amplifying Voice from urban informal settlements, and moderating and providing inputs at the closing session, which featured reflections from the Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD) and Loss and Damage specialist Saleemul Huq, UN High-Level Champions Nigel Topping and Gonzalo Muñoz, and SDI’s former Chair, Sheela Patel. The SDI and GAYO session provided space for rich discussions between on-the-ground practitioners and strategic global partners, including inputs from Zilire Luka, Director of the Centre for Community Organisations and Development (CCODE) Malawi, and Theresa Carampatana, Member of the SDI Board and President of the Homeless People’s Federation of the Philippines (HPFP), Arne Janssen, Urban Environment Specialist of Cities Alliance, Hellen Wanjohi, Resilience Africa Cities Lead, the World Resources Institute (WRI) Africa, and Christie Keith, Development Coordinator at the Global Alliance for Incinerator Alternatives (GAIA).

Our delegates spoke at over 25 events during the two weeks, sharing experiences and reflections on topics ranging from locally led adaptation to loss and damage to affordable, resilient housing and developing resilience indicators. Throughout the conference, SDI delegates brought forth their unique experience of urban poverty, giving voice to vastly underrepresented issues in climate spaces – describing how the consequences of the climate crisis have uniquely devastating impacts on urban poor communities, that governments and the international development community must recognise the unique role of cities in addressing the climate crisis, and that the increasing majority of urban residents are and will continue to be informal.

The agreement by member states at COP27 to create a fund for loss and damage points towards the power of civil society – who have been pushing to get loss and damage on the climate agenda for decades – to effect change in these spaces. It highlighted to what degree it is becoming impossible to ignore either the interconnectedness of the climate crisis or the need for solutions that are not only global but also address the fundamental inequities of our world. While SDI is hopeful about these developments, we as a network continue to focus our efforts on demonstrating that urban poor communities across the Global South are already implementing locally led adaptation work, are capable of managing climate finance, and have many of the solutions required to advance climate justice in our cities.

We hope that by COP28, we will see an increase in commitments from global decision-makers as well as local and national governments to support the work of local communities through increased and institutionalised participation of urban poor communities in climate adaptation planning in cities and the increased financial assistance that is needed to support locally led climate adaptation work.
Organisational Pathway

The enabling pathway of SDI speaks to the organisational outcomes required to drive impactful and accountable community-led change at the settlement, city, national, and global levels. A strong ecosystem of organisations supporting community-led change in the Global South must deliver and generate evidence of scalable, lasting outcomes and systemic change. As such, this pathway speaks to our strategy for maintaining and growing mission-critical slum dweller and support-professional capacities through targeted institutional strengthening support to SDI’s national federations, local support NGOs, and the Secretariat – and the community-led governance bodies that oversee our operations. This support will ensure that impact is community-led, accountable, and transparent, upholding our commitment to a culture of exemplary organisational integrity.

Significant Change Stories

**SDI Board and Council of Federations Meeting 2022**

SDI held its first in-person Council of Federations Meeting in three years following the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent travel restrictions. The Council of Federations Meeting in 2022 was hosted by Muungano wa Wanavijiji in Nairobi, Kenya, with the main objective being to conduct the Annual General Meeting, discuss SDI membership priorities and chart the way forward for the next five years, with the development of a Strategic Plan for 2023-2027.

The Council of Federations Meeting saw SDI network affiliates from the East African, Southern African, West African, and Asian hubs attend to take part in the five-day sitting from 28 November to 2 December 2022. The first day of the Council of Federations Meeting ensured a space for the network to share regional Hub Reports, emphasising learning and sharing knowledge among peers. The presentations encapsulated the brilliance and pure love for the federations, shared experiences showcasing key milestones, and lessons learnt while creating a space to map out future plans for the network.

The second day saw participants focus on developing the Strategic Plan for the 2023-2027 period. Council members split into breakout groups to discuss and deliberate on key insights from the global network and perform an all-inclusive situational analysis of the network. These breakout groups discussed and tackled pertinent issues, such as city transformation, climate action, migration and refugees, social cohesion erosion, forced evictions, digital inequality, informality, and the Universal Peace Federation (UPF). These discussions focused on one core value that seeks the transformation of the urban poor.

The third day of discussions focused on the UPF, Know Your City (KYC) and its revitalisation, youth, gender and inclusion, and global advocacy. These are critical discussions within the SDI network driven by global politics and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The delegates signed off on key resolutions that confirmed the induction of Liberia and Botswana into the SDI Council of Federations.

On the fourth day, council members reflected on the emerging issues from the General Meeting in 2022, and delegates concluded the Council of Federation Meeting 2022, which saw council members finalise the scheduled inputs to develop an all-inclusive Strategic Plan 2023-2027. Delegates tackled tough outcomes from the previous strategic period and charted an agreeable way forward, prioritising governance, women’s leadership, youth and KYC, all to platform the voices of the urban poor.

The Council Meeting 2022 was concluded with field visits to Muungano wa Wanavijiji’s VCA initiative at KOMB Green Solutions in Korogocho and the Kambi Moto housing project in Huruma, Nairobi. The Council of Federations Meeting 2022 was an interesting engagement and saw the convergence of greater purpose.
Youth Inclusion Framework

SDI recognises the importance of youth inclusion for the network’s sustainability and has made great strides in the past year to ensure that youth voices are heard in developing policies and strategies that will shape the future of our work.

As an output of online virtual exchanges, focus group discussions and ideas generated at the 2021 Youth Summit, a framework document for youth inclusion across the SDI network, was co-created. The Youth Inclusion Framework represents a bold vision for transforming informal settlements worldwide. Its core focus is including young voices to drive urban development. The framework envisions a future where the energy and potential of youth become the catalysts for positive change. This vision is underpinned by outcomes that include sustainable settlement upgrades, improved livelihoods for youth, better health and security, and increased participation in decision-making processes.

The framework suggests several key strategies to realise this vision. It encourages the establishment of youth councils as platforms for young voices, thereby aiming to increase civic engagement. Moreover, it seeks to integrate the perspectives of youth into the decision-making processes of the SDI governance structures. Financial and non-financial support for youth-led initiatives, mentorship, and intergenerational collaborations are also cornerstones of the proposed strategies. The framework also highlights five critical areas of growth: social, political, economic, human, and physical capital. These domains outline how the youth movement can leverage unity, data-driven advocacy, economic empowerment, skill development, and active participation in urban planning to enact transformative change. Additionally, the framework emphasises core priorities such as capacity building, mobilisation, advocacy, inclusive governance, economic empowerment, knowledge sharing, arts for social impact, safety and climate action, and data-driven knowledge sharing.

Despite exclusion and societal issues, the framework is deeply rooted in trust, unity, innovation, and inclusivity values. These values underscore the journey towards inclusive cities and form the bedrock of SDI’s efforts. In essence, the Youth Inclusion Framework is a testament to the power of collaborative strategies, encompassing mentorship, data-driven advocacy, and inclusive engagement.

In support of the youth change agenda for SDI, activated youth under the banner of Know Your City TV (KYC.TV) produced the publication #HiddenTreasure. This glossy magazine format and web-versioned knowledge product illustrated the ideas expressed in the Youth Inclusion Framework through photography and creative writing.

Institutional Strengthening

The year 2022 was characterised by the continued strengthening of SDI’s governance structures and capacity at the Cape Town-based Secretariat and the subsequent facilitation of key SDI network activities following the COVID-19 pandemic. Affiliates continued their work on responses to the impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic through support from the Cities Alliance. In addition, a capacity-building workshop was conducted on project, grant and financial management in Nairobi, Kenya, in October 2022, strengthening internal management capacity throughout the network. A follow-up workshop is scheduled to be conducted in August 2023.

This exciting period of expansion saw the operations within the Secretariat strengthened through the establishment of Standard Operating Procedures, which the Board approved of Directors and a significant increase in the human resources capacity at the Secretariat.

Three welcome additions to the Secretariat staff are:
• Tamara Merrill took up the lead as SDI Programmes Manager.
• Cher Petersen joined SDI as Communications Officer, and
• Thandeka Xapa was appointed as Senior Finance Officer.
During January-December 2022, SDI undertook important steps towards improving its internal and external communications capacity. This was achieved through the development of a Communications Framework, the appointment of a Communications Officer, the development of a brand-new website and the development of our 2023-2027 Strategic Plan.

Communication is an essential element in any organisation, and this is especially true for SDI. The ability to communicate effectively internally and externally is a key component of success in showcasing SDI’s work at the settlement, city/national and global levels.

Our Communications Framework was developed in consultation with Emma O’Shaughnessy, a Digital Communications Specialist, and was developed as a component of SDI’s youth inclusion and institutional strengthening activities. Through a consultative process, a guideline for communications was developed based on a user profile and mapping exercise. The framework was presented to and approved by SDI management and our Board of Directors.

The development of the Communications Framework highlighted the need for a Communications Officer, at which point Cher Petersen was appointed in April of 2022 to support internal and external communications throughout the network. Since her appointment, the Communications Officer has assessed the communications capacity of SDI affiliates through a consultative process, which revealed several gaps that need to be addressed at the country level, such as the need for country-specific communications strategies, website management capacity building, content creation tools and skills development, digital reporting and newsletter development. Following the assessment, she developed a Communications Report, available on request (cher@sdinet.org).

Alongside the appointment of the Communications Officer, the new website and its design were commissioned by The Modern Web Company. The brand-new website was developed to serve the network’s needs and as a hub for our communities’ work and achievements. The web design was completed, and the Secretariat hosted an in-person and online website launch on 28 March 2022, which showcased the newly designed website and its functionalities.

SDI’s communications collective conceptualised our website’s new look and feel with designer Hannah Williams and developer Dane Matthews, intending that the new website would fully represent the work of the SDI network. The website’s new aesthetic combines Afro-futuristic elements that speak to the work done throughout the network and globally.

The website launch event also showcased the vocal stylings of our South African KYC.TV choir was a great success with attendees, including individuals from SDI affiliates, partners, donors, funders and community members.
Financials

INCOME RECEIVED IN 2022

- SIDA: 22%
- Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine: 9%
- Stockholm University: 1%
- Plan International: 6%
- University of Manchester: 34%
- WWF: 6%
- Shell Foundation: 3%
- World Cinema Fund: 3%
- Bernard Van Leer: 4%
- World Resource Institute: 5%
- Ford Foundation: 2%

EXPENSES PER PROGRAMME IN 2022

- Global Level: 12%
- Institutional strengthening: 21%
- City and National Level: 19%
- Settlement and City Level: 48%