



On 1 October 2012 we will celebrate [World Habitat Day](#) . This year's theme, "Changing Cities, Building Opportunities", was chosen to emphasise the increasing urgency to improve cities and provide better services and opportunities for the world's growing urban population.

With this theme, [UN-Habitat](#) wants to highlight the need for better city planning, since their unplanned growth leads to chaotic development and urban sprawl. Well planned cities, on the other hand, offer opportunities to both their current and future residents.

In his [message](#) for World Habitat Day, UN Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon states that "better planned and better functioning cities can help guide us to the future we want: cities where everyone has adequate shelter, water, sanitation, health and other basic services; cities with good education and job prospects; cities with energy-efficient buildings and public transport systems; cities where all feel they belong."

The theme of this year's World Habitat Day coincides with the new UN-Habitat's campaign "[I'm a City Changer](#)", which aims to involve citizens in making their cities a better place to live.



Watch the "I'm a City Changer" video

How to participate

Help us raise awareness in your city by organising a World Habitat Day event! Please click [here](#) for some ideas on the activities you can organise.

Don't forget to post details about your World Habitat Day event on the [I'm a City Changer website](#), the new global platform to share and spread individual, corporate and public initiatives that improve our cities.

Source: [World Habitat Day 2012 website](#)

In 1985, the United Nations designated the first Monday of October every year as World Habitat Day. The purpose of this day is to remind the world of its collective responsibility for the future of the human habitat and to encourage people to reflect on the state of their towns and cities and on everyone's basic right to adequate shelter.

Find World Habitat Day 2012 on [Twitter](#), [Facebook](#), [Flickr](#), [Scribd](#) and [YouTube](#).