

## Risks and Opportunities of Socio-spatial Differences in Santiago de Chile

As urban habitats, megacities offer enormous opportunities but also present equally great risks to the social fabric of the various living spaces. These phenomena are being addressed, among others, by the "Risk Habitat Megacity" Research Initiative of the Helmholtz Association, an international consortium with various cooperation partners. One of the ten themes under investigation is socio-spatial differentiation within urban habitats, which is a characteristic trait of megacities and has a major influence on sustainable land use.

New legislation policies for housing and land use now exist in Santiago de Chile and are leading to rising land prices. As a result, there is considerable pressure from real estate developers to build on "cheap" and "underprivileged" land. New intra-urban migration patterns are therefore arising, leading to a dynamic expansion of urban land use and residential areas. As a consequence, the social structure is also changing in the various parts of the cities, and higher- and lower-income groups now live in closer proximity again.

For the urban poor in Santiago de Chile, the risks associated with separate socio-cultural habitats include living in inadequate environmental conditions, social isolation with impacts on individual and collective social capital, limited access to information and to education and training opportunities, and fewer social contacts.

The opportunities for sustainable development are to be found in the proximity and social mixing of different social groups, the improvement of general socio-economic and political conditions (employment, education, participation, image), and a contribution to social integration processes.

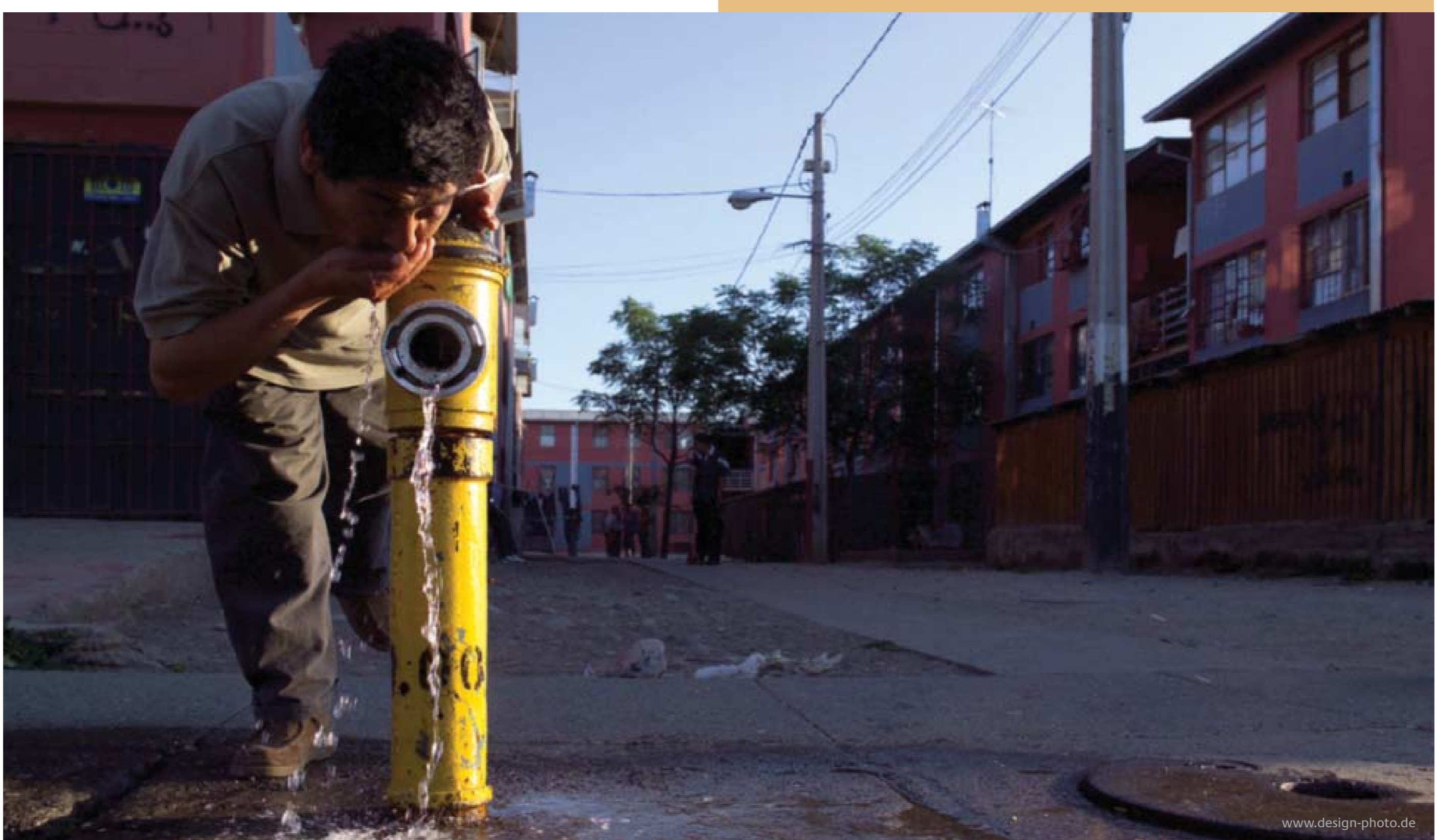


### Outcomes and results:

- Knowledge of interactions between the urban land market and residential segregation patterns;
- Assessment of the opportunities and risks of new patterns of segregation, in particular regarding the promotion of social integration through spatial proximity;
- Assessment of the role of housing policies in processes of socio-spatial differentiation and the mixing of various population groups.

Duration: 2007–2010

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