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Leaving No Place Behind:
Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa
Regional Awareness Workshop
Integrating Urban-Rural Linkages
in Policies and Strategies
in Nairobi, Kenya, 18-19 September 2018
Summary Report

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United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
P. O. Box 30030, 00100 Nairobi GPO KENYA
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)
www.unhabitat.org

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Coordinators: Remy Sietchiping, Stephanie Loose
Authors: Ramsés Alejandro Grande Fraile, Thomas Forster, Stephanie Loose, Remy Sietchiping
Contributors: Lucie Charles, Florence Egal, Arthur Getz Escobar, Frédéric Happi Mangoua, David Suttie, Jack Jones Zulu
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The Regional Awareness Workshop was hosted by UN-Habitat within the United Nations Development Account project "Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa".

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Food and Agriculture Organization
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REGIONAL AWARENESS WORKSHOP INTEGRATING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES IN POLICIES AND STRATEGIES

OVERVIEW AND INTRODUCTION

The Regional Awareness Workshop was conceived as first joint activity for the four project countries in the implementation of the UN Development Account (UNDA) funded project "Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa". It took place on 18 and 19 September 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya. The workshop brought together 23 representatives from the four project countries (Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Niger State (Nigeria) and Zanzibar (Tanzania), as well as national or subnational government officials from other countries in the region (including Senegal, Zambia, and Nigeria). Other United Nations partner agencies present were the Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA), the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Centre for Regional Development (UNCDR). The general aim of the workshop was to share experiences and undertake evidence-based discussions on how to integrate Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) into policies and strategies. In presentations, group

work, and plenary sessions, participants shared challenges, strategies and lessons learned on how to foster integrated territorial development for sustainable development.

The workshop supported the first objective (E.A.1) of the project "Leaving No Place Behind – Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa", which aimed to support countries to:

"Develop a strategy for improved access to data needed for policy development fostering Urban-Rural Linkages and enhancing capacities of policy makers, as well as raising awareness of the importance of evidence-based national and regional urban development frameworks that promote strong Urban-Rural Linkages and an integrated territorial development."

Representatives from participating countries provided input based on their experiences in their National Urban Policy (NUP) development processes and mapping of stakeholders

for an inclusive process and participatory data collection. The workshop was intended to build capacities and develop strategies for each of the four project countries as well as to learn from countries in the region involved in NUP processes in an effort to promote territorial development across administrative boundaries.

The Regional Awareness Workshop was designed with the following specific objectives:

1. Develop a list of priorities for improving Urban-Rural Linkages based on priorities and main challenges in each country;
2. Provide country-specific recommendations on indicators for an integrated territorial development and strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages;
3. Develop a stakeholder list for each country including relevant partners for the National Urban Policy processes;

4. Offer recommendations on data to be collected; and assess capacity gaps for data collection and use of collected data;
5. Raise awareness of the importance of strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages in the region and introduce tools derived from the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages as well as from other projects and tools generated by partners related to the topic.

This report summarizes the Regional Awareness Workshop hosted by UN-Habitat's Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit (RMPU) in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and in collaboration with the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD).



The Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages, Logo © UN-Habitat



Participants from UNDA project countries, neighbouring countries and UN-Habitat during the workshop © UN-Habitat

DAY ONE: DEVELOPING NATIONAL/SUBNATIONAL URBAN POLICIES INCLUDING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

SETTING THE STAGE

The Regional Awareness Workshop began with welcoming remarks from UN-Habitat as host, the UN Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) as implementing partner and associate partner agencies, International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD), the Food and Agricultural Organization (FAO) and the Centre for Regional Development (UNCDR). All partners stressed the importance of integrating Urban-Rural Linkages into National Urban Policies by fostering collaboration across different sectors, integrating multiple stakeholders (including civil society, academia and private sector) and enhancing cooperation across the different levels of government. The exchange experiences and good practices among participating countries and partner organizations was highlighted as an aim for this workshop and as one of the overall outcomes of the UNDA project.

Dr. Remy Sietchiping, leader of UN-Habitat's Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit, illustrated the necessity of developing rural and urban territories as a hand-in-hand effort, by emphasizing that urban development will not be possible without rural development and vice-versa, due to their deep socioeconomic and spatial interrelation. Partners also spoke about opportunities for strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages for advancing Africa's structural transformation, for the reduction of rural and urban poverty and to the establishment of sustainable food systems. It was further highlighted that strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages and integrated territorial development can be one major contribution to the implementation of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and to achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in African countries.



Plenary session during the opening ceremony © UN-Habitat

COUNTRY PRESENTATIONS

The first session opened with presentations by the four countries participating in the UNDA project: Cameroon, Guinea Conakry, Niger State (Nigeria) and Zanzibar (Tanzania) as well as by representatives from the neighboring countries: Nigeria, Zambia and Senegal, underlining the session's design as a regional awareness raising concept of the workshop. The objectives for this session were to identify each country's main challenges and priorities as well as opportunities for strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in their National (or subnational) Urban Policies (NUP).

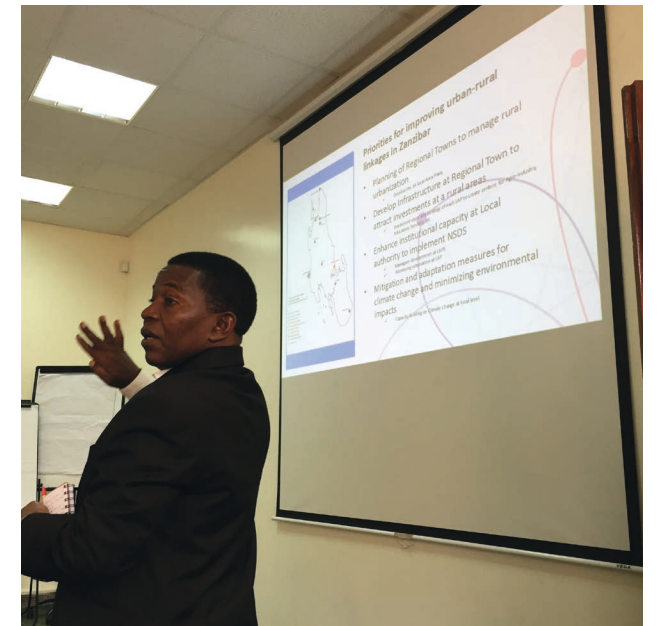
Each country or subnational entity introduced the country teams they had established in the preparatory process. These teams are composed of members with expertise in data and statistics, urban and rural planning, and other stakeholders relevant for URLs. Their reports gave insights into their current process of developing a NUP. Even though some countries are already more advanced in their policy work than others, many of the countries face similar challenges and hindrances, and therefore present multiple opportunities for knowledge-sharing among participants.

Mrs. Anne Fouda, Chef de la Division des Etudes de la Planification et de la Coopération at the Cameroon Ministry of Housing and Urban Development mentioned that balanced territorial development has been deeply rooted in the country's strategies and plans since its independence in 1960. This vision is now to be incorporated into the currently developed NUP by mainstreaming URL as one component into the considerations.

Dr. Abdul Husain, Permanent Secretary at the Ministry of Lands and Housing of Niger State showcased the project "Unslumming Minna", a key example of participatory planning at local level. This 4P (Public-Private-People-Partnership) urban governance project recognized people as core stakeholders for successful implementation.

Mr. Abdoulaye Diouf, Chef de la Division de la Planification Urbaine et de la Réglementation of Senegal illustrated their key project, the Dakar metropolitan masterplan, created with stakeholders from all ministries, municipal authorities, NGOs and citizen consultations at district levels. He requested support from UN-Habitat to initiate a NUP process in Senegal, as a principal tool for mainstreaming URLs in policies and strategies.

Ms. Edna Deimi Tobi, Deputy Director of Urban and Regional Development at the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing of Nigeria, presented her country's NUP as a tool



Mr. Mohammed Habib presenting Zanzibar's work on National Urban Policy © UN-Habitat

for sustainable, integrated territorial development: the aim of the NUP is to "promote a dynamic system of urban settlements, which fosters sustainable economic growth [and] promotes efficient urban and regional planning and development (...)" This vision strongly relates to the main concepts of URLs and was translated into their National Urban Development Policy of 2012.

Based on Nigeria's experience in the NUP processes, Ms. Edna Deimi Tobi highlighted the importance of strengthening partnerships between stakeholders at all levels to achieve inclusive, integrated territorial development.

The representative of Zambia, Ms. Meembo Changula, Principal Planner in the Forward Planning Ministry of Local Government stated that the goal of her government in the NUP process was to apply an integrated territorial approach to overcome the existing urban-rural dichotomy and poor urban-rural linkages, fostering unequal socioeconomic developments and threatening synergies and interdependencies between urban and rural areas.

The presentations showcased the main challenges faced by the involved countries during their NUP development processes in fostering URLs which can be summarized as:

- A lack of coherence between national and local policies can lead to URL gaps.



Mr. Mohamed Sikhe Camara presenting Guinea's NUP process © UN-Habitat

- Weak institutional mechanisms and capacities to implement National Spatial Development Strategies (NSDS) to enhance URLs.
- Lack of reliable, disaggregated data due to inefficient data collecting mechanisms and inadequate capacities. Several countries faced issues regarding the decentralization of their data collection mechanisms: Due to lack of technical capacity, financing and standardization of measurements, consequently data compilation does not result in reliable data. Moreover, data is often not available at municipal/local levels.
- Financial constraints due to limited budget allocations.
- The need for institutional arrangements, allowing for inter-sectoral collaboration across different levels, necessary for the implementation and monitoring of URLs.
- Data-informed (evidence-based) decision-making and project development.
- The promotion of local needs in public investment planning.
- Development of infrastructure as a basis for rural-urban interactions.
- Bottom-up and stakeholder-driven policy formulation at local, state and national levels.

Based on their challenges, the countries established the following shared priorities:

- The need for human capacity building at different government levels, especially at local levels, including local planning. Mr. Mohamed Sikhe Camara, Deputy Director at the Ministry of Territorial Administration and Decentralization (MATD) of Guinea emphasized the importance of decentralization processes with the aim of giving municipalities more power to deliver local services.

For ensuring a participatory and inclusive NUP development process as promoted by UN-Habitat and the New Urban Agenda, countries also shared information on stakeholder participation. The representatives of respective country teams proposed to include a wide range of ministries and national agencies, subnational and local authorities, academic institutions, private sector organizations and civil organizations to be included in the process of integrating URLs in policies and strategies.

DEVELOPING NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES INCLUDING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

UN-HABITAT'S APPROACH TO SUSTAINABLE URBAN POLICIES

In his presentation on UN-Habitat's approach to transformative National Urban Policies (NUP), Dr. Remy Sietchiping introduced participants to the main phases of a transparent and sustainable NUP process – feasibility, diagnosis, formulation, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation. In the context of Africa's extreme urbanization trend, with associated risks such as informality, unemployment or urban sprawl, National Urban Policies play a major role for ensuring long-term sustainable urban development. By incorporating URLs into a NUP, the policies and strategies have the potential to bridge the rural-urban development gap by fostering an integrated territorial approach across the rural-urban continuum.

He highlighted UN-Habitat's broad experience in supporting countries in their policy work related to human settlements and also mentioned the current development of a framework for integrating URLs in policies, including the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages for advancing territorial development, a framework for action, as well as a quick guide for policy makers on how to mainstream URLs in NUP and other tools under development. Core documents related to the development of Guiding Principles and a Framework for Action can be found at www.urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com.

WORKING GROUPS ON RELEVANT POLICIES

Participants then broke into working groups to discuss relevant policies to be reviewed for strengthening URL. In order to promote peer-to-peer learning, the groups consisted of different countries with Zanzibar, Niger State (Nigeria) and Zambia forming an English-speaking group, while Guinea, Cameroon and Senegal formed a French-speaking group (see pages 12-13 for detailed group discussions).

Discussions among participants in both working groups lead to a list of relevant policies:

- Land use policies were the first policy or legislative framework that countries cited as relevant to the management of URLs. The social sensitivity of land matters was emphasized by all countries, especially in terms of fair distribution, compensation and ensuring

the rights of vulnerable groups are not infringed upon. The issue of lack of adequate and up-to-date data was also emphasized in terms of land use management.

- The role of National Urban Policies: A few issues were highlighted in the articulation and content of current policies with regards to Urban-Rural Linkages, and National Urban Policies, as a coordinating and integrated framework, were identified as potential solutions in:
 - o Coordinating different sectoral actors, plans and policies;
 - o Adopting a territorial approach in new urban policies;
 - o Defining a common vision for the categorization and spatial descriptors for "urban areas" in the specific country contexts in order to classify cities to better allocate resources and services according to demographic needs.



Participants during the group work discussions © UN-Habitat

- Transport policies, environmental policies, housing policies, decentralization policies and industrialization (or similar transformative) policies were also mentioned in the discussions, which helped to raise a broad understanding that URLs need an integrated approach across sectors and levels.

Thereafter, the discussion turned to the question of why the policies were not implemented:

- Inadequate and weak capacity:
 - o Implementation plans and strategies: Broad visions and objectives are not enough for a policy and need to go a step further with an implementation plan that details: short, medium and long-term objectives, sets responsibilities, as well as determines costs, capacity needs and identifies funding sources.
 - o Provision of serviced land prior to development: Local authorities are supposed to promote infrastructure and services prior to development, without which plans cannot develop accordingly. They often lack the capacity to carry out this responsibility. Addressing the capacity for local planning by provision of resources, training and policy support for professional development.
 - o Sustainable land value increase: The difficulty of dealing with the consequences of new infrastructure and the land value increase it generates was also mentioned. Little trust in the government and the low possibility of compensation inclines people to sell their land as soon as the value increases instead of investing in it.
- Politics and lack of accountability: Decisions are often based on political deliberations, and shaped by power imbalances. One example dealt with traditional chiefs giving away land to investors, going against the interest of local communities.

During the discussions participants highlighted that an important strategy to address these implementation challenges is the inclusion of a wide range of stakeholders and change agents at all levels - in urban policy processes, but also planning issues and development plans. Particularly for local communities who have a direct interest in the development of their territory, local actors need to play a strong role and be considered as part of the solution by

empowering them to implement sustainable projects for reducing poverty and the urban-rural development gap.

Finally, the discussion on stakeholder engagement led to a debate about power, influence and vulnerability, and how to strike the balance between two very different groups: those with power, and those without. In the discussions, the following points were highlighted:



Participants during the plenary discussion © UN-Habitat



Participants and partners during the plenary discussion © UN-Habitat

- Traditional rulers: In terms of powerful stakeholders, their mobilization and inclusion is necessary so that they can be champions of strengthening URLs and urban policies at local level and take ownership for implementation. Mr. Mohammed Habib, Urban Planner at the Department of Urban and Rural Planning in Zanzibar acknowledged for instance that successful projects were still the ones carried out by people that have influence at local levels. In the context of Africa, this especially includes people that wield power outside of formal governmental institutions but have a strong influence on communities: traditional and customary authorities, such as chiefs and emirs.
- Vulnerable and marginalized populations: In addition to considering who has the most power to champion policies, it is crucial to also try and include those who have the least power, in other words, the most marginalized and vulnerable populations. Some of the most marginalized populations were identified as

the disabled and migrants, but also youth, the elderly and women, as mentioned by Ms. Edna Deimi Tobi, Deputy Director of Urban and Regional Development at the Federal Ministry of Power, Works and Housing of Nigeria. The practical difficulty of efficiently and truly representing them and encouraging their participation was acknowledged.



Plenary discussion after group work © UN-Habitat

SUMMARY OF GROUP DISCUSSIONS

FRENCH-SPEAKING GROUP: CAMEROON, GUINEA AND SENEGAL

Participants of the French-speaking group discussed the visions in their respective countries and related it to policies: Vision 2035 for Cameroon and Senegal and Vision 2040 for Guinea.

Concerning the policies which are relevant and need to be reviewed for strengthening URLs, there were similarities between Guinea and Senegal at the start of their processes, while Cameroon was comparatively more advanced. Due to this difference, a focus can be on support and capacity development in Guinea and Senegal. Master Plans are the documents being drafted at national levels and in Cameroon the formulation of the NUP is ongoing. At regional/

local levels spatial planning maps exist. The country participant recognized there is a need for coherence between the master plan and regional and/or local plans. Regulations should be reviewed to support the main stakeholders in mainstreaming URLs into NUP and other policies in Guinea, Senegal and Cameroon.

ENGLISH-SPEAKING GROUP: NIGERIA, NIGER STATE, ZAMBIA AND ZANZIBAR

Participants discussed relevant policies for strengthening URLs and provided examples of their own national contexts:

Land use policies were the first policy or legislative framework that countries cited as relevant to the management of URLs. The social sensitivity of land matters was emphasized by Niger State, Nigeria, Zambia and Zanzibar, especially in terms of fair distribution, compensation and ensuring that the rights of vulnerable groups are not infringed upon. The issue of lack of adequate and up-to-date data was also emphasized in terms of land use management.

In Nigeria, for instance, a presidential committee on land reform organized 7 years ago found out that less than 3% of the total land area was titled. Most land has therefore been exchanged and inherited without formal recordings, making it difficult to determine its current ownership.

National Urban Policies, as a coordinating and integrating framework, were identified as potential solutions in coordinating different sectoral actors, plans and policies. Zanzibar explained that different sectors had traditionally worked in silos, but that the new NSDS was raising their awareness of their shared responsibility within a national spatial strategy.



Participants of Cameroon, Guinea and Senegal discussing relevant policies for strengthening URLs © UN-Habitat



Participants from Niger State, Nigeria, Zambia and Zanzibar during their group discussion on stakeholder engagement © UN-Habitat

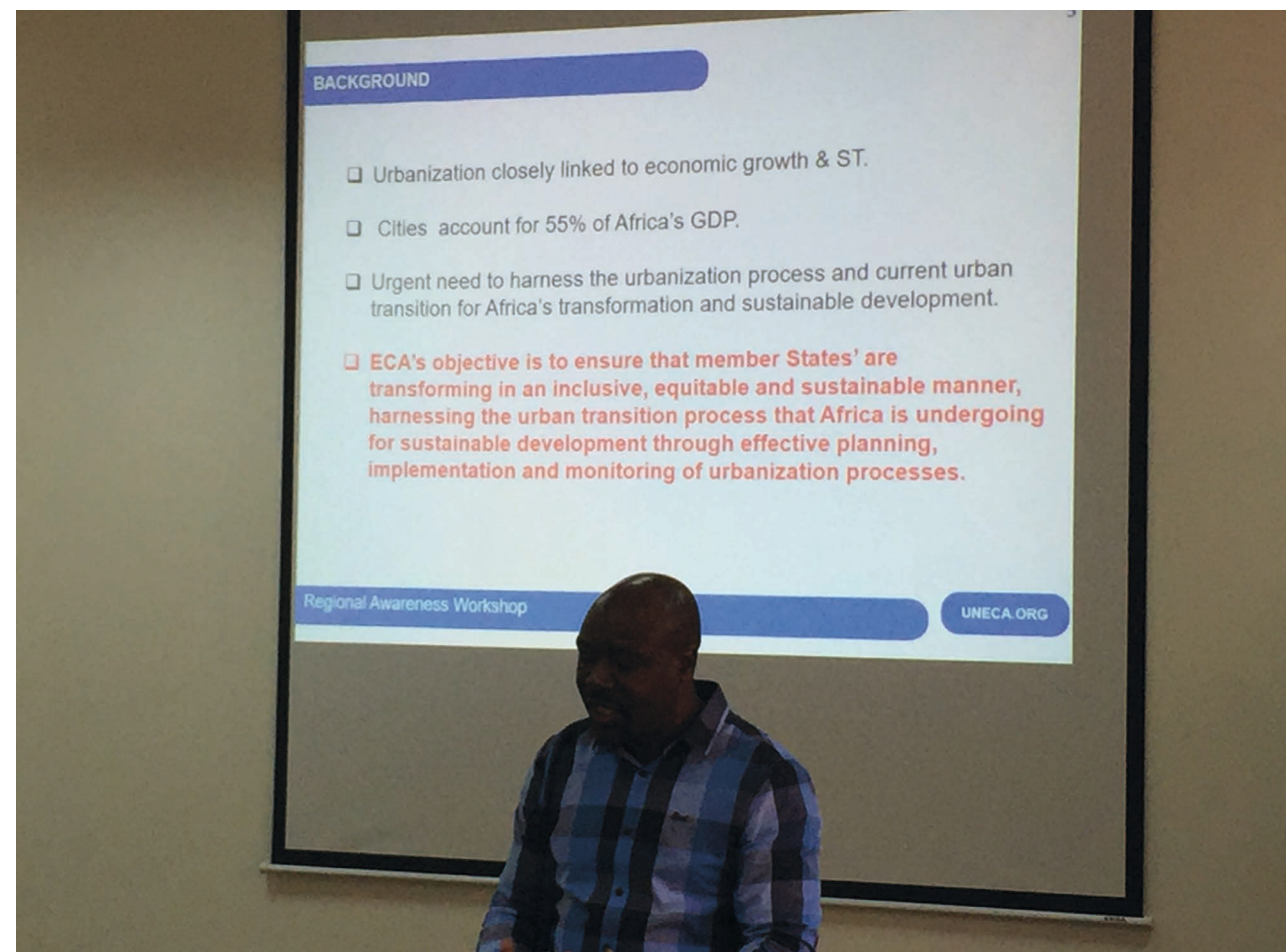
DAY TWO: STRATEGIES AND TOOLS FOR STRENGTHENING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES

The second day of the Regional Awareness Workshop was opened by the project partners, who highlighted a wide range of strategies, case studies and tools for strengthening URL for different entry points and based on their respective mandate:

Dr. Jack Jones Zulu stressed UNECA's objective of ensuring that member States are transforming in an inclusive, equitable and sustainable manner. In order to achieve this, he proposed to understand Africa's urbanization process as a productive way for development, rather than as "pathological urbanization". For this, he suggested the framework of "structural transformation" as an entry point for analysing URLs in Africa and mentioned National Development Policy (NDP) as a critical policy framework for mainstreaming URL. ECA dedicated its 2017 flagship publication, the Economic Report on Africa, to Urbanisation and Industrialisation for Africa's Transformation where urban-rural linkages, employment creation, poverty reduction, regional integration, among

others were extensively discussed. ECA has also supported member States to mainstream urbanisation in national development planning processes. He furthermore added the following points on how to improve policies at national and subnational levels to strengthen URL:

- Avoid urban primacy - tendency to focus on one major city only;
- Need for integrated territorial planning between urban and rural areas informed by economic rationale;
- Macroeconomic and sectorial policies overcoming the gap between urban and rural areas to develop synergies.



Dr. Jack Jones Zulu from UNECA presenting how Urban-Rural Linkages can foster structural transformation in Africa © UN-Habitat

The second presentation was by Mr. Jorge Fonseca, representing FAO, on how sustainable food systems and their value chains can act as powerful linkages between urban and rural areas, generating employment and development in the countryside, while assuring food security in cities, thus contributing to reducing both rural and urban poverty. In the context of food governance, Mr Fonseca illustrated FAO's increasing support for local governments in implementing projects related to sustainable food systems through:

- Food system assessment;
- Food policy and planning;
- Investment to deliver;
- Implementation and monitoring.

In order to achieve this, FAO has developed several tools for assessment:

- City Region Food System Toolkit;
- NaDhaLi Approach: Food Liaison Advisory Group (FLAG) in parallel with the application of a Rapid Urban Food System Analysis Tool (RUFSAT);
- A Social Network Analysis (SNA) adapted to food systems.

Mr. David Suttie presented IFAD's integrated strategies for inclusive rural-urban linkages, focussing on how reducing poverty and food insecurity in rural areas through improved food systems and rural development is shaped by interactions between rural and urban areas. Mr Suttie emphasized that approaches to bring together rural and urban stakeholders, ensuring traditionally marginalized groups have a voice, and taking advantage of synergies between urban and rural areas (for example in [planning of food systems](#)) will be crucial to ensure no-one and no place is left behind. In this context, IFAD provides funding and support for:

- Integrating actors across food value chains;
- Public-Private-Producer partnerships;
- Working with local institutions to recognize and secure local land rights.

- Creating opportunities and jobs for youth to work as intermediaries between rural businesses and urban markets.



Mr. Jorge Fonseca from FAO speaking on food and URLs © UN-Habitat



Mr. David Suttie from IFAD addressing the participants © UN-Habitat

Mr. Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty presented UNCDR's strategy for strengthening rural-urban connectivity through sustainable infrastructure development and investment. Through a series of key examples from the Asian context, such as the 11th Regional Environmentally Sustainable Transport (EST) Forum, 2-5 October 2018, Ulaanbaatar, he illustrated how rural accessibility plays a major role in poverty eradication and enhances the resilience of rural communities to climate hazards. He also highlighted the contribution of improving rural-urban transport to the achievement of several Sustainable Development Goals.

INDICATORS FOR STRENGTHENING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES IN POLICIES

The next session focussed on inclusive data collection and indicators for an integrated territorial development. Mr. Dennis Mwaniki from UN-Habitat's Global Urban Observatory provided a short introduction on the relevance of inclusive data collection for effective policies. He explained how High Resolution Satellite images and disaggregated data are used in different approaches to evaluate what can be considered as urban and/or peri-urban. He furthermore noted how understanding the heterogeneity within the human settlements' continuum helps to incorporate the needs of all, ensuring that no one is left behind. In order to achieve this, he suggested a bottom up approach for data collection and compilation reaching from local to national and global level and highlighted some of the main challenges:

- Detailed disaggregation requires detailed data that breaks out variables across the groups of interest;
- Acceptability of alternative data sources into core statistics;
- Disaggregation at urban/rural levels is complicated by varying approaches to city definition.

He also described UN-Habitat's current work in developing methodologies and systems for countries to collect data in cities.



Mr. Mohanty presenting UNCDR's strategies for URL © UN-Habitat



Mr. Dennis Mwaniki from UN-Habitat speaking about inclusive data collection and indicators © UN-Habitat

The group work following the input presentation helped countries to define their respective thematic priorities for actions with regard to integrated territorial development and strengthened Urban-Rural Linkages, among them:

- Urban planning;
- Financing for urban development;
- Infrastructure, Transportation and traffic management;
- Communication;
- Urban renewal and slum upgrading;
- Urban environment;
- Poverty reduction.

The countries also stressed the relevance of:

- Governance and coordination of institutions;
- Monitoring and evaluation; and
- Human capital required to execute projects, as priorities with regard to managing their processes.

Based on these priorities, the countries contributed to the discussion of potentially relevant data and indicators, which included:

- Demographic data: population statistics disaggregated by age and gender and employment levels;
- Flows of resources, such as goods and commodities exchanges between urban and rural areas (e.g. raw materials vs. processed foods); the flow of people (rural-urban migration, even temporary) was also named as



Participants during the afternoon group session discussing indicators for strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages © UN-Habitat

- a challenge, as this trend leads to fast growing urban areas, for which most cities have not planned for;
- Infrastructure and basic services, (e.g. coverage of electricity, access to water, energy consumption);
- Transportation including flows, direction and movements within regions at different times, modal shares and time taken to travel from urban to rural areas;
- Disaggregated budget allocation, budget expenditures and revenue sources of local authorities;
- Land use, regulations and compliance: percentage of land that is titled or informally claimed/held, ease, cost, requirements and time taken to obtaining a land title;
- Good Governance: measuring the participation and engagement of stakeholders, the number of ministries that are consulted on urban policies, how inclusive the process is and how responsive to feedback the government is;
- Skills and capacities, including statistical skills, the number and distribution of planners or the cost of access to data and of updating plans (e.g. open source, or unavailable).

Thereafter, the two groups discussed the type of support required in order to strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages in their national policies:

- Support for capacity building and better awareness for Urban policies by governmental actors;
- Better coordination with other sectors;
- Technical support for urban planning:
 - o Increased capacity for urban planning from national to local levels;
 - o Support for the development of a standardized and uniform national data infrastructure;
 - o Support to follow, track, and update land use changes and conversions and statistics with accurate and timely data (such as satellite or drone analysis);

- o Facilitate the provision of up to date satellite imaging and capacity to analyze it.

MAINSTREAMING URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES IN NATIONAL URBAN POLICIES IN THE INTERNATIONAL CONTEXT

Mr. Arthur Getz Escudero, an expert in Urban-Rural Linkages work and supporting UN-Habitat in the participatory process of developing Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages, gave an insight on implementing the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals through strengthening URLs and introduced the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages, which are currently being developed with involvement of over a hundred stakeholders. The Guiding Principles are conceived as a universal set of principles to guide multi-level implementation of urban-rural linkages to advance integrated territorial development. The eleven thematic entry points and the accompanying framework for action are spatially and functionally context specific and define roles for different actors at all levels in a participatory approach. The Guiding Principles together with the Framework for Action will be basis for policy work and tool development and have been piloted in countries such as in Bolivia where an international expert meeting was held in June, 2018. The process of refining the Guiding Principles will also support policy work in the UNDA project.



Dr. Abdul Husain presenting the results of the discussion © UN-Habitat

The following group work provided the participating countries with an opportunity to develop work plans for their countries for planning their policy processes, incorporating Urban-Rural Linkages and taking future activities of the UNDA project into account.

Each of the countries presented an overview of their position in their current National Urban Policy or State Urban Policy process based on the National Urban Policy Development Process Framework provided by UN-Habitat. They stressed their intentions in creating a participatory process involving stakeholders from various sectors, for instance through the organization of a National Urban Forum or through the engagement of public media, and in mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages into their policies, for instance through awareness workshops. The plenary debate of the countries' work plans allowed for mutual exchange of experiences among the UNDA countries and the invited countries.

CONCLUSION

At the final plenary session, the two days of this intensive workshop were concluded by a joint intervention of Dr. Remy Sietchiping and Mr. Alioune Badiane, a senior urban expert and former Director of UN-Habitat's Programme Division, who emphasized this historic opportunity for African countries to collaborate and develop sustainably by promoting an integrated territorial approach.

Mrs. Edna Deimi Tobi, speaking on behalf of all workshop participants, thanked UN-Habitat, UNCDR, IFAD, UNECA and FAO for the organization of this event.



Group picture of all participants and partners after the award of certificates during the closing ceremony © UN-Habitat

POST WORKSHOP SURVEY AND OUTCOME DOCUMENTS

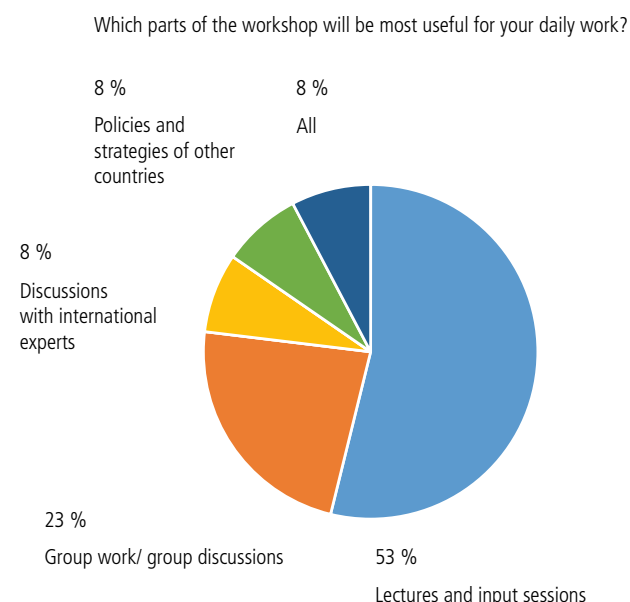
All workshop participants were asked to deliver feedback on the different aspects of the workshop in coming days in order to measure the participants' perceived learning outcomes and overall satisfaction with the content and the organization of the event.

Out of the 23 workshop participants, 13 surveys were filled out, accounting for 56% of the workshop participants. Even though these results are partial, the overall feedback collected stressed the following issues:

- The large majority of participants were satisfied with the general outcome of the workshop, having met their expectations and resulting relevant for their current work;
- Participants mentioned an increase in their capabilities and awareness for strengthening URL and an integrated territorial approach in their work;
- The workshop also raised awareness for increased inter-departmental and inter-sectoral collaboration;
- Participants highlighted that they would use the following tools and approaches in their future work: Data collecting tools and indicators by UN-Habitat, International Guidelines on Urban and Territorial Planning, the URL-Approach and Guiding Principles and UN-Habitat's Approach to sustainable NUP;
- Finally, workshop participants also highlighted the possibilities of learning and exchanging policies and strategies with other countries' participants.

The feedback collected by the survey participants showed that the workshop successfully managed to raise the awareness and capacity of the large majority of participants regarding the importance of strengthening URLs in their national urban strategies and policies. It also provided the different country participants with valuable tools and strategies from UN-Habitat and other UN Agencies. Above all, it initiated an on-going learning platform for the UNDA project countries and countries in the region to exchange and learn from each other's experiences in developing their National Urban Policies including Urban-Rural Linkages.

As a follow-up steps to the workshop, UNDA project countries will submit a list of country-specific priorities based on the defined entry points for URLs as well as updated lists of stakeholders to engage in their NUP process and of policies that foster URLs. Furthermore, they will provide a detailed work plan with country specific activities and outcomes that foster strong URLs.



Certificates being awarded to participants after the workshop © UN-Habitat



Participants receiving their certificates after the workshop © UN-Habitat

ANNEX: PARTICIPANTS LIST

| Name and Institution | Country/State/ Organization | Type of Participant |
|---|-----------------------------|------------------------------|
| Ms. Nene Mariama Balde, Deputy National Director of Urban and Territorial Planning | Guinea | UNDA country |
| Mr. Mohamed Sikhe Camara, Deputy National Director of Decentralisation and Local Government | Guinea | UNDA country |
| Mr. Lamine Sidibe, Director of Demography and Life Conditions in the National Institute of Statistics | Guinea | UNDA country |
| Mrs. Fouda Owoundi Anne Marguerite, Chef de la Division des Etudes de la Planification et de la Coopération at the Cameroon Ministry of Housing and Urban Development | Cameroon | UNDA country |
| Mr. Voundi Jacquinot, Inspector N°1 in IGDR, Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development | Cameroon | UNDA country |
| Mr. Tiobo'o Sédric, representative of the General Manager of the National Statistics Institute | Cameroon | UNDA country |
| Mr. Mohammed Habib, Urban Planner, Department of Urban and Rural Planning | Zanzibar | UNDA state |
| Mr. Mohammed Said Gharib, Statistician, The Office of Chief Government Statistician | Zanzibar | UNDA state |
| Mr. Ali Haji Khamis, Regional Planning Section, Department of Urban and Rural Planning, Commission for Lands | Zanzibar | UNDA state |
| Dr. Abdul Husain, Permanent Secretary, Ministry of Lands and Housing | Niger State | UNDA state |
| Mr. Usman Alhaji Liman, Statistician General, Niger state | Niger State | UNDA state |
| Mr. Jonn S. Dawaba, Geospatial Analyst, Niger State Geographic Information System, Minna | Niger State | UNDA state |
| Ms. Edna Deimi Tobi, Deputy Director, Urban and Regional Development | Nigeria | National level of UNDA state |
| Mr. Abdoulaye Diouf, Chef de la Division de la Planification Urbaine et de la Réglementation | Senegal | Neighboring country |
| Ms. Meembo Changula, Principal Planner - Forward Planning, Ministry of Local Government | Zambia | Neighboring country |
| Dr. Jack Jones Zulu | UNECA | UN Partner |
| Mr. David Suttie | IFAD | UN Partner |
| Mr. Jorge Fonseca Tito Arunga | FAO | UN Partner |
| Mr.Choudhury Rudra Charan Mohanty | UNCRD | UN Partner |
| Mr. Arthur Getz Escudero | | Facilitator |

The Regional Awareness Workshop “Integrating Urban-Rural Linkages in Policies and Strategies” took place on September 18-19, 2018 in Nairobi, Kenya within the United Nations Development Account project “Leaving No Place Behind: Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa”. It was hosted by UN-Habitat in partnership with the United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA) and in collaboration the United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD), the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), and the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD). The workshop brought together representatives from the four UNDA project countries, as well as national or subnational government officials from other countries in the region.



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For further information, please contact:

UN-Habitat

Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit

Urban Planning and Design Branch

rmpu@unhabitat.org

www.unhabitat.org

More information on the Guiding Principles can be found on
www.urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com

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