

A scenic view of a rocky riverbank. The river flows through a landscape of large, flat rocks. In the foreground, a sandy area is covered with colorful laundry, and two people are visible near the water's edge. The background shows a dense forest of green trees.

NIGER STATE URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES VIRTUAL DATA COLLECTION (KOBOCOLLECT) TRAINING

WORKSHOP REPORT

**NIGER STATE GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (NIGIS)
LABORATORY**

NIGER STATE MINISTRY OF LAND AND HOUSING

MINNA, NIGER STATE | 11 JUNE 2020

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0. BACKGROUND OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

Urban and rural areas are inextricably linked economically, socially and environmentally. The interactions between urban and rural areas cover diverse aspects, such as population and human capital; investments and economic transactions; governance interactions; environment and amenities; products and services; information and data. These interactions are important for fostering development in both urban and rural spaces. However, in Niger State, interactions between urban and rural systems had not delivered optimal development gains importantly in the rural areas where there is an evident prevalence of rural poverty, higher inequality, declining returns on agriculture for rural farmers, lack of basic facilities and infrastructure, rural-urban migration, declining quality of life, among others.

To achieve equitable development and reduce inequalities between urban and rural systems in the State, the Niger State Government has commenced with the preparation of urban-rural linkages (URL) policy strategies. Bridging the development gaps between urban and rural systems requires reliable data for making evidence-based policies and strategies. The training workshop was part of the United Nations Development Account (UNDA) project implemented by UN-Habitat with the aim to build and strengthen the capacities of policymakers to collect reliable data and formulate strategies, policies and plans that promote urban-rural linkages in four countries in Africa which include Cameroon, Conakry (Republic of Guinea), Zanzibar (Tanzania) and Niger State (Nigeria).



Ogbono seeds, Madala Market Suleja.
Niger State, 2014 © Juju Films

0.1 OBJECTIVES OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

The main objective of the training was to strengthen the technical capacity of the development actors on a collection of reliable data for better-informed policymaking using digital tools. The workshop further aimed the following:

- Increasing awareness of the participants about the normative work of UN-Habitat on urban-rural linkages (URL).
- Sharing the outcomes of preliminary assessments (URL challenges and opportunities, capacity gaps assessment, participation assessment) as part of the Niger State URL project.
- Increasing awareness of the participants about URL (virtual) data collection tools.
- Increase partnerships between relevant ministries working on URL related work.

0.2 EXPECTED RESULTS OF THE TRAINING WORKSHOP

The expected results of the training workshop programme include:

- Participants aware of the Urban-Rural Linkages normative work, specifically the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action.
- Participants equipped with the objectives and outcomes so far for the Niger State URL Project.
- Increased understanding of the use of the digital tool (KoBocollect) to collect data for policy actions.
- Participants forming an inter-ministerial partnership for strengthening urban-rural linkages in Niger State.

0.3 PARTICIPANTS

The workshop was attended by 23 government officials (senior and intermediate) most of whom were male working with different Niger State ministries and agencies whose work focuses on urban and rural development. Only a few worked in specifically either urban or rural contexts. However, there were few others from the civil society and private sector. Below are the sectors from which the participants were drawn:

- Niger State Rural Access Mobility Project
- Niger State Rural Water and Sanitation Agency
- Niger State Bureau of Statistics
- Community and Social Development Project (CSDP)
- Niger State Planning Commission
- Niger State Ministry of Power and Energy
- Niger State Electricity Board
- Niger State Ministry for Local Government and Chieftaincy Affairs
- Niger State Urban Development Board
- Niger State Geographic Information Systems
- Niger State Ministry of Land and Housing
- Regional Centre for Expertise, Minna
- German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ)

1. SESSION ONE: OPENING REMARKS

The training workshop was formally inaugurated by the Honourable Commissioner, Niger State Ministry of Lands and Housing, Barrister Mouktar Nasale. In his opening speech, Barr. Nasale congratulated the participants for being among the few government officials to benefit from the capacity building component of UN-Habitat's support to Niger State. He urged them to use the knowledge acquired for the benefit of the State and towards the achievement of the global goal of leaving no one and no space behind. In his welcome remarks, the Coordinator of Niger State Urban Support Programme (NSUSP), Professor Mustapha Zubairu informed the participants on the necessity of integrating urban and rural areas in the State through balanced development policies and interventions. He further emphasised the importance of the Niger State Government attached to the need to ensure the State Urban Policy and the Integrated Development Plan for Minna and Suleja that take into consideration the development challenges of the rural areas of the State, and to ensure the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).



Boiled corn at Ibrahim Babangida Market, Suleja. Niger State, 2014 © Juju Films



Participants during the virtual training. Niger State, 2020 © UN-Habitat

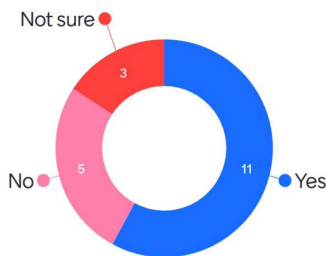
He also implores the participants to take advantage of the UN-Habitat support to improve their productivity through internalization of the knowledge acquired and value addition. He assured them of more opportunities while implementing the State Urban Policy and the Integrated Development Plans for Minna and Suleja. Similarly, in his goodwill message, the Project Advisor of the German Agency for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Niger State, Mr Bello Dantoro, lauded UN-Habitat in building the capacity of the institutions, more importantly in the aspect of collecting reliable data for planning and decision making. He informed the participants of GIZ's upcoming GIS training for officials of the Ministry of Lands and Housing which he believed would complement the effort of UN-Habitat in repositioning planning activities in the State.

2. SESSION TWO: PRE-EVALUATION

The workshop started with a pre-evaluation exercise to determine the level of understanding of the participants on UN-Habitat work on URL and especially in the context of Niger State. Most of the participants reported having heard about URL: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP) in different contexts. This could have been as a result of previous engagements with the Niger State team on the URL since 2018; while others heard during the workshop, at opening remarks.

However, there was a need to further breakdown for the participants to understand what the principles are and how this could be localized in the Niger State context. The participants also highlighted various aspects that come to mind whenever urban-rural linkages are mentioned such as food, security, infrastructure, rural accessibility, water, agriculture among others. The priorities, being food, security and water, somehow hint at the understanding of URL by most stakeholders in the workshop

FIGURE 1. Have you ever heard of Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.



Participants during the virtual training. Niger State, 2020 © UN-Habitat

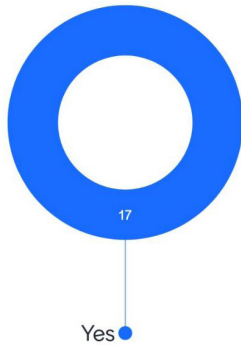
FIGURE 2. What's the first thing that comes to your mind when you hear urban-rural relationships in the Niger State context?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

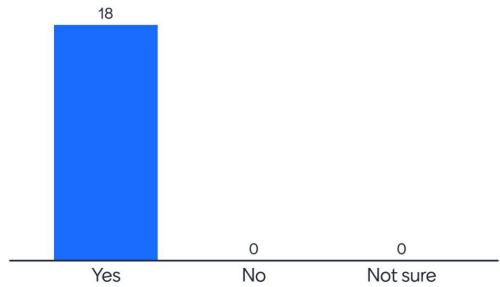
All the participants indicated that they thought it is significant to strengthen URL while also including this as a priority for Niger State Urban Policy.

FIGURE 3. Do you think strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages is key in Niger State?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

FIGURE 4. Do you think strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages is relevant for Niger State Urban Policy?

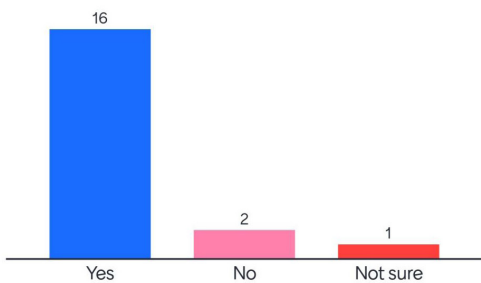


Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

On data collection, apart from two, the rest reported to have participated in data collection in other contexts; however, only eight of them had participated using digital platforms.

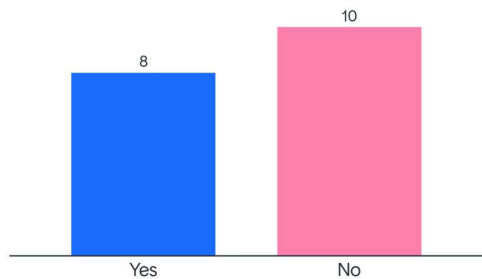
This necessitated the essence of taking the participants through the training in a comprehensive manner.

FIGURE 5. Have you ever been engaged in data collection before?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

FIGURE 6. Have you ever used any mobile app in data collection?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

3. SESSION THREE

3.1 NIGER STATE URL PROJECT - OBJECTIVES AND EXPECTED OUTCOMES

Mr. Emmanuel Adeleke commenced his presentation by explaining the linkages between urban and rural areas. He stressed that despite the strong relationship and abundant resources extracted from rural space in Niger State, various institutional, environmental, social challenges and more importantly lack of coordinated development policies and interventions between urban and rural space are impeding developmental gains in the rural areas. He further opined that to change the narratives and achieve development gains in both urban and rural systems, UN-Habitat is collaborating with the Niger State Government on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly SDG 11) and the New Urban Agenda. He stated that this effort establishes the Niger State Urban Support Programme (NSUSP) to facilitate the implementation of the Niger State URL project which is running simultaneously with the ongoing formulation of Niger State Urban Policy; formulation of Integrated Development Plan for Minna and Suleja; Capacity development for various Ministries, Departments and Agencies (MDAs) in the State; and Development of the Suleja Smart City.

In his presentation referring to the UN-Habitat's Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles, an initiative of over 130 stakeholders from over 40 international organisations, Mr. Emmanuel Adeleke introduced the participants to the eleven entry points to achieve strong linkages between urban and rural spaces. They include:

1. Governance, legislation and capacity development;
2. Integrated planning across the urban-rural continuum;
3. Investment and finance for inclusive urban-rural development;
4. Empower people and communities;
5. Knowledge/data management for dynamic spatial flows of people, products, services and information;
6. Territorial economic development and employment;
7. Coherent approaches to social service provision;
8. Infrastructure, technology and communications systems;
9. Integrated approaches for food security, nutrition, and public health;
10. Environmental impact and natural resource and land management;
11. The urban-rural continuum in the face of conflict and disaster.



Participants during the virtual training.
Niger State, 2020 © UN-Habitat



Fulani Herdsmen in Suleja. Niger State, 2014 © Juju Films

M. Emmanuel thereafter stated that strengthening urban-rural linkages in Niger State will not only promote equitable and environmentally friendly urban and territorial development in the state but also present an opportunity to:

1. Improve the livelihoods of urban and rural populations;
2. Enhance economic and social development;
3. Bridge the development gaps in urban and rural systems;
4. Accelerate rural urbanization and improved competitiveness between urban and rural systems;
5. Enhance access to basic and social services;
6. Strengthen the relationship between urban, peri-urban and rural areas, as well as the development of access to information and knowledge;
7. Reduce natural and environmental disasters,
8. Enhance and protect natural resources and natural heritage.

Similarly, Mr. Emmanuel Adeleke mentioned that the objectives of the Niger State urban-rural linkages include:

1. Bridge the development gaps in urban and rural areas thus leave no one behind.
2. Guide the future development and intervention in urban and rural areas and their spatial configuration thus reducing inequality.
3. Enhance coordination and guidance of actions by sub-national actors, as well as all levels of government in all sectors.
4. Incorporate urban-rural linkages into multi-sectoral, multi-level and multi-stakeholder governance systems.



Plantain vendor. Niger State, 2008 © S Remeika

3.2 ACTIVITIES CARRIED OUT ON THE NIGER STATE URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES PROJECT

Dr. Abdul Husaini, the Permanent Secretary (Niger State Ministry of Lands and Housing) began his presentation by stressing the agrarian status of Niger State as a big economic advantage that should be well harnessed for sustainable growth and inclusive development of towns and cities in the State. He also stated the role the rural areas played in sustaining the urban system is far beyond the returns benefitted in rural space, thus leaving the rural areas at a disadvantage. He further informed the participants of the commitment of the Niger State Government in ensuring that rural areas grow at par with urban areas. To achieve this, he referred to the overall role of the UNDA project towards achieving evidence-based policies in ensuring integrated territorial development. Thereafter, Dr. Abdul Husain highlighted some of the activities carried out so far on the URL, some of which include:

- Participation in Unslumming Minna project
- Participation at the Regional Awareness workshop on Urban-Rural Linkages in 2018
- Participation at the Expert Group Meeting on Urban-Rural Linkages in 2019
- Carried-out market survey in selected towns in Niger State
- Technical Sessions with Stakeholders on the Niger State URL Project.
- Participation in the Rural Electrification Plan for Niger State

He noted that all these were part of the efforts in the provision of basic services for the rural dwellers which will, in turn, improve their livelihoods. He further opined the training would be another effort in building the capacity of participants and different institutions in collecting reliable data for evidence-based decision making in their respective sectors.



Participant during the virtual training.
Niger State, 2020 © UN-Habitat

3.3 INTRODUCING THE URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES: GUIDING PRINCIPLES AND THE APPLICATION IN THE NIGER STATE CONTEXT

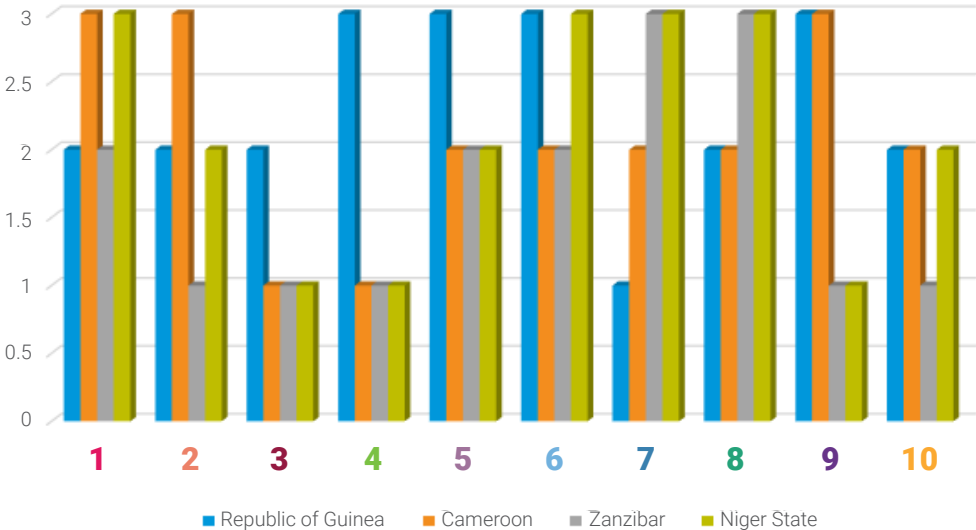


Participants during the virtual training. Niger State, 2020 © UN-Habitat

The initiative was concluded in 2019 where the URL-GP publication was launched during the first UN-Habitat Assembly. The stakeholders in this initiative agreed to ten principles and eleven fields of action towards integrated territorial development. UN-Habitat shared the outcomes from a previous regional workshop where the relevance to the principles and fields of action were analysed for Niger State along with other countries. The outcome as shown in figure 7 showed that the most relevant principles in the Niger State were: 1) Locally grounded interventions, 2) Human Rights-Based, 3) Do no Harm and provide social protection and 5) Environmental sensitive. This was based on the existing URL challenges and opportunities; where the participants identified the priority principles that would need to be taken into consideration in decision-making on plans, strategies, policies, projects among others.

This session started with a general introduction of the UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP). UN-Habitat led the initiative of the development of the URL-GP with over 130 stakeholders from over 40 international institutions.

FIGURE 7. Relevance of the URL-GP



Source: Localizing Urban-Rural Linkages tools and methodologies EGM

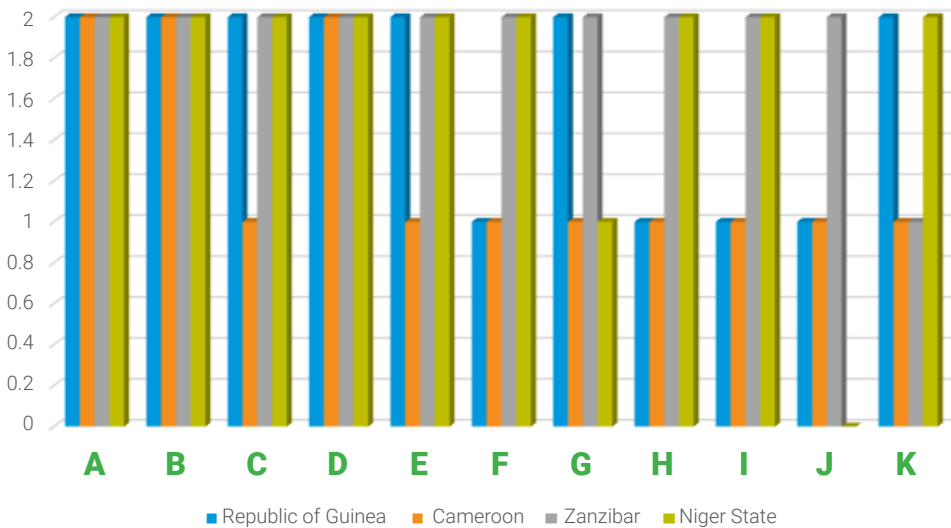


Women of Takalafiya-Lapai village, Niger State, 2010 © Arne Hoel | World Bank

Secondly, UN-Habitat showed the outcome of the ongoing country strategies among others that are related to particular fields of action of the URL-GP. The graph, as illustrated in figure 8, showed that there were representative actions in Niger State for most of the entry points apart

from one on coherent approaches to social service provision thus emerging as the main gap/challenge in the State. This includes the provision of social amenities as education, health, market, security among others.

FIGURE 8. Available actions linked to the Framework for Action



Source: Localizing Urban-Rural Linkages tools and methodologies EGM

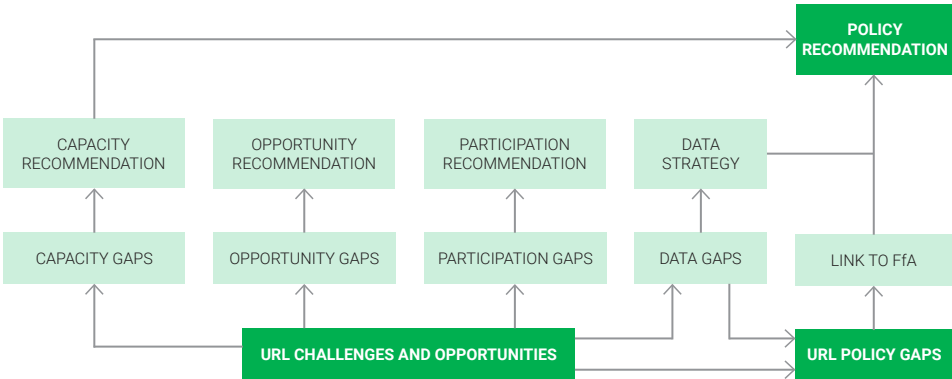
4. SESSION FOUR

During this session, UN-Habitat introduced the overall data collection strategy and how this fits in the ongoing project. The participants were thus introduced to the overall framework that includes assessment tools and data collection tools as shown in figure 3. The assessment tools address capacity, challenges and opportunities, and participation which are all linked to the recommendation tools. The data gaps also come in in the assessment of challenges and opportunities, which are addressed using the data strategy. The data strategy entails the tools, methodologies of data collection, analysis and presentation. The outcome of this tool framework is towards feeding the first policy gaps and later policy recommendations. The participants were then to be trained on how to conduct data collection using digital platforms in the context of COVID-19.



Omolanke Delivery Service in Suleja, Niger State, 2014 © Juju Films

FIGURE 9. Operationalization of the URL Toolkit



Source: UN-Habitat

4.1 TRAINING ON URL DATA COLLECTION USING KOBO COLLECT TOOL

The participants were trained on how to conduct data collection using the KoBo collect mobile app. This is in preparation for actual data collection for the URL project. The various aspects of the training were comprised of:

- Installation of the mobile app
- Synchronization of the mobile app
- Developing questions on the desktop KoBo collect
- Generating data outcome/results in KoBo collect using a pilot questionnaire



Data entry on browser © KoBo toolbox

The participants understood that the KoBo toolbox provides flexible data collection where data could be collected on paper, tablet or mobile phone. If collected on paper they may have to be input into the application manually; whereas on phone and tablet one would only need to be validated and is automatically uploaded in the cloud system. The advantages were highlighted as:



KoBo Toolbox

Collect data on mobile phone or tablet © KoBo toolbox

FIGURE 10. KoBo Toolbox Advantages



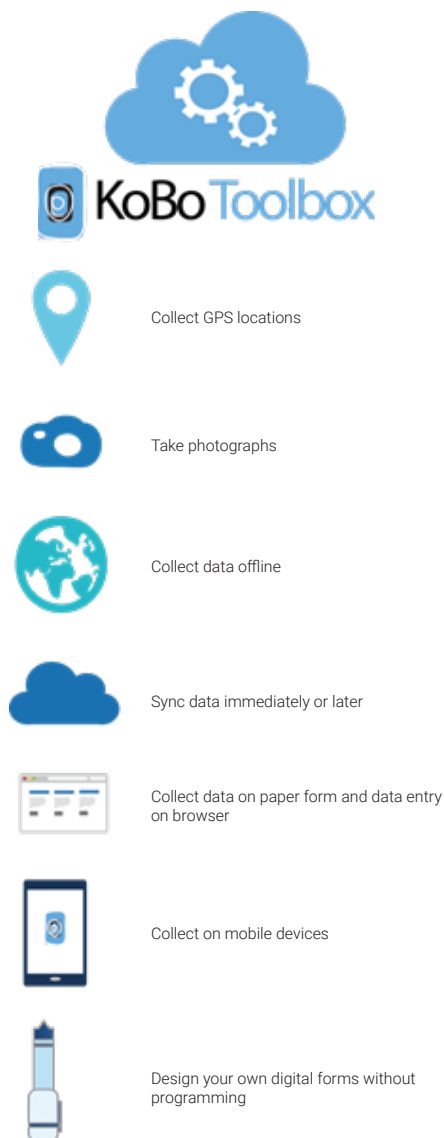
Source: KoBo Toolbox

Several advantages that are linked also to the features in the KoBo toolbox included that the application enables one to collect the GPS location. This thus makes it possible to link spatial data to functional data which is very relevant in illustrating the urban-rural continuum. It is also possible to take photographs using the app and collect data offline. The photographs could then be linked to the spatial data making the data collection interactive. The ability to collect data offline on the other hand makes it possible to collect data even in remote locations which include some rural areas. When data is collected, it is possible to sync it either immediately or even later if the questions are complete and well collected. As indicated above it is possible to collect on paper, mobile phone or data entry into the browser which offers flexible collection options. Another key advantage is the option of designing own digital forms without programming which makes it possible for anyone with basic computer skills to use the tool.



Habib pottery in Minna.
Niger State, 2008 © S Remeika

FIGURE 11. KoBo Toolbox Features



Source: KoBo Toolbox

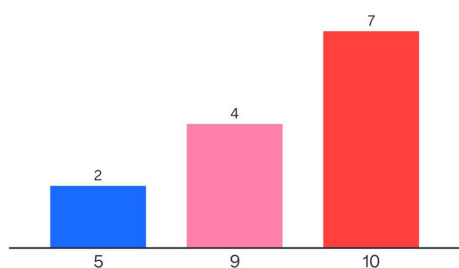
5. CONCLUSION

5.1 POST-EVALUATION

The participants of the training workshop were taken through questions to assess the understanding of various aspects of the training. The questions included assessing the understanding of the URL-GP, Framework for Action and the appreciation of the training to the participants.

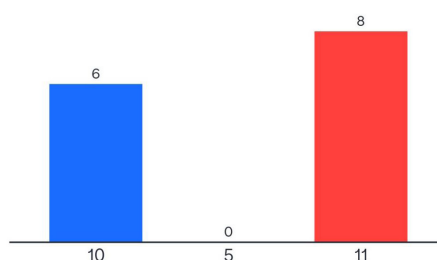
Slightly more than half could remember the number of principles of URL-GP being ten principles and they could comfortably name five out of the ten principles. On the framework of action also slightly more than half of the participants would remember the number of the fields of action of the URL-GP which are eleven.

FIGURE 12. How many Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages Principles do UN-Habitat and partners recommend?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

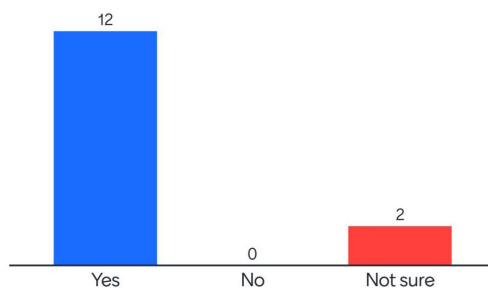
FIGURE 13. How many fields of actions do UN-Habitat and partners recommend?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

The participants were also asked if they found the training helpful; the majority indicated that the training was helpful and that they had learnt something new. There were however various proposals on how to improve this in the future. The limitation was that UN-Habitat could not attend the training in person and had to conduct the training virtually. They thus proposed in-person training, more than once training, step-by-step manual development for future reference among others.

FIGURE 14. Do you think this training was helpful to you?



Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

ANNEXES

TABLE 1. Workshop's Agenda

TIME	ACTIVITIES	PARTY RESPONSIBLE
10:00am - 11:00am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Arrival and registration of participants • Networking and exchange 	All
11:00am - 11:05am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Opening remarks 	Abdul Husaini
11:05am - 11:25am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Urban-Rural Linkages Project and Guiding Principles 	Grace Githiri
11:25am - 11:40am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Overview, objectives and expected outcomes of the Niger's State URL Project 	Emmanuel Adeleke
11:40am - 11:50am	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Presentation on activities carried out on the Niger State Urban-Rural Linkages Project 	Abdul Husaini
11:50am - 12:00pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Address by the Honourable Commissioner 	
12:00pm - 12:20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Installation and configuration of KoBoCollect on smart phones 	Dawaba/Adeleke
12:20pm - 01:50pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Training on KoBoCollect 	Grace Githiri
01:50pm - 02:05pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Questions and answers 	All
02:05pm - 02:20pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Comments and suggestions 	All
02:20pm - 02:25pm	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Closing prayer 	

Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.

TABLE 2. Participants' List

S/NO	NAME	INSTITUTION	EMAIL
1	Abdul Hussaini	Permanent Secretary Niger State Ministry of Land and Housing	abdulhusaini2010@gmail.com
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23	Rossana Poblet	UN-Habitat	rossana.poblet@un.org
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Source: Niger State urban-rural linkages virtual data collection training.



Cattle graze in Ta Kuti village,
Niger State, 2010 © Arne Hoel | World Bank

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