



SESSION DESCRIPTION

J1 Resilient infrastructure for urban informality

Panel discussion

Date: Friday, 28 June, 2019

Time: 13:30-15:00

Rooms: S29-32

Language: English

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Organized by: ICLEI Africa Secretariat

OBJECTIVE

Nearly two-thirds of the global workforce is considered part of the 'informal' economy. Around 93 percent of employment in the informal sector is in emerging and developing countries; with 85.6% of employment in Africa being informal, 68.2 percent in Asia and the Pacific, 68.6 percent in the Arab States, 40 per cent in the Americas, and just over 25 percent in Europe and Central Asia. The prevalence of informality, in forms broader than just employment, has multiple adverse effects on people, especially women and children, in cities around the world. Informality is therefore an important consideration when it comes to sustainability and urban planning. Innovative, resource efficient, accessible and low cost solutions are required for people to meet their basic needs. Informality presents a number of challenges, but also a number of opportunities.

This session showcased a number of innovative solutions to meeting basic needs in some of the worlds developing and emerging cities using resilient and adaptive infrastructure. The session explored solutions from the data collection stage through to the post-implementation stage of projects, through the knowledge and experience of local government officials. Energy is unpacked into energy services to highlight the innovative solutions that have been developed through a number of models, including public-private partnerships, to meet cooking, heating, cooling, lighting and appliance requirements of households in informal areas of cities.

The session used interactive activities to allow the space for participants to learn from, network and have detailed discussions with city officials that have on-the-ground experience in these projects.

OUTCOMES

- Participants were exposed to innovative solutions for data collection;
- Participants shared knowledge and experiences, and networked with others during the session;
- Participants gained an understanding of the context of informality in different regions;
- Participants gained knowledge on different models that can be used for planning in the context of informality.



METHODOLOGY

- The facilitators opened the session with a short introduction of himself and each speaker. **(10 minutes)**
- Each speaker was given time to describe their work, showing maps or other illustrations as needed. **(5 x 10 minutes)**
- The remainder of the session was organized around the guiding questions, with each panelist given time to respond to individual questions, and to respond to comments made by other panelists. **(20 minutes)**
- The facilitators concluded with closing remarks. **(10 minutes)**

CONTRIBUTORS

- Facilitator *Meggan Spires, Senior Manager, ICLEI Africa Secretariat, Cape Town, Africa*
- Panelist *Catherine Kalisa, Country Director, UN-Habitat, Kigali, Rwanda*
Citywide informal settlement upgrading strategy for the City of Kigali
- Panelist *Matheus Schuch, Sustainability and Climate Change Assistant, Municipality of Fortaleza, Fortaleza, Brazil*
Recycling attitudes in Fortaleza, Brazil
- Panelist *Thandeka Tshabalala, Professional Officer, ICLEI Africa Secretariat, Cape Town, Africa*
Urban infrastructure and the challenges around planning
- Panelist *Jacques Ndikubwimana, District Forestry and Natural Resources Officer, Rubavu District Municipality, Rubavu, Rwanda*
Energy demand, deforestation and clean cooking initiatives in Rubavu
- Panelist *Jaffer Machano, Manager, Municipal Investment Finance Program, UNCDF, New York, United States*
Unlocking finance opportunities at a local level for better resilient infrastructure for urban informality