Resilient infrastructure for urban informality

Informal settlements upgrading in the City of Kigali – Rwanda
Towards a citywide approach

Bonn - 28 June 2019

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How we are organized

The United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) is mandated by the UN General Assembly to promote socially and environmentally sustainable towns and cities.

Focal point for all urbanization and human settlement matters within the UN system.
UN-HABITAT IN THE WORLD

UN-Habitat is present in at least **50 countries** through a network of Habitat Program Managers (HPMs), Chief Technical Advisors (CTAs) and project staff.
UNHABTAT in Rwanda

• UN-Habitat has been working in Rwanda since 1994 in post-genocide reconstruction activities.
• The UN-Habitat Rwanda Office was opened in July 2004
• UN-Habitat is contributing to promotion of sustainable urbanization
• All UN-Habitat activities in Rwanda are in line with existing policy, institutional, legal and strategic frameworks (NST1, Vision 2050)
• Framework of Collaboration: MoU with the Government of Rwanda
• Habitat Country Programme Documents 2019-2023 in line with NST1
Informal settlement in the City of Kigali-Rwanda

Citywide Informal Settlements Upgrading Strategy for the City of Kigali

Underserviced - Unplanned settlements: Areas lacking access roads, water/sanitation, social services, overcrowding and poor housing building materials
Why a Citywide strategy for Kigali?

1. The city is growing rapidly

2. Increasing densities (as per the Kigali master plan) requires land currently occupied by congested informal areas

3. Relocation and/or urban renewal involves high economic costs (e.g. compensation) and incurs the risk of triggering greater social tension

4. Peace-meal interventions have demonstrated to be ineffective at the city scale and neglect rental market dynamics.
### Description of the different categories of Informal settlements

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Informal Settlement Category</th>
<th>Social Profile</th>
<th>Urban Standards</th>
<th>Challenges</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>i. Central overcrowded areas</td>
<td>Mainly Tenants</td>
<td>High density (100-250 inh/has)</td>
<td>Overcrowding, Lack of sanitation</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ii. Uphill sloped settlements</td>
<td>Balance between Owners &amp; Tenants</td>
<td>Medium density (80-100 inh/has)</td>
<td>On going erosion, Landslide risks</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iii. Downhill settlements</td>
<td>Balance between Owners &amp; Tenants</td>
<td>Low-medium density, mixed uses (80-100 inh/has)</td>
<td>Groundwater contamination, Destroyed wetlands</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>iv. Inaccessible areas</td>
<td>Mainly Tenants</td>
<td>Low-medium density/residential (60-80 inh/has)</td>
<td>Difficulties to access to services</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>v. Small pocket settlements</td>
<td>Mainly Tenants</td>
<td>Low-density, mixed landuse (60-80 inh/has)</td>
<td>Overcrowding</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vi. Peri-urban areas</td>
<td>Balance between Owners &amp; Tenants</td>
<td>Very low density, agricultural (less than 20 inh/has)</td>
<td>Loss of Fertile land</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>vii. Settlements located in high risk areas</td>
<td>Displaced and Migrants</td>
<td>Low density mixed uses</td>
<td>High disaster risks</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Inaccessible areas
Inaccessible areas – Proposed approach

Expropriation of empty plots to open access roads behind formal properties

Opening of access roads parallel to drainage lines (subdivision in clusters) as well as public spaces

Proposed upgrading strategy

Water and sanitation supply

Border road front-back of the informal area
Participatory land readjustment

Compulsory acquisition

Land readjustment
International Best Practice: Favela Bairro Programme, Rio de Janeiro, Brazil

- **Phase 1**: small grants for infrastructure improvement provided by the state to communities contributing with labour
- **Phase 2**: security of tenure through progressive land regularisation
- **Phase 3**: targeted improvements of housing conditions for those living in regularised plots, including basic/social services rehabilitation
Preventing informal settlements formation in Kigali

Need to establish a national system of cities and develop alternative poles of attraction (e.g. secondary cities)
PROJECT PAPER NO 8:
SMART & SUSTAINABLE NEIGHBORHOOD PILOT PROJECTS

PILLAR 2
BUILDING BLOCK F
CITY PROFILE KIGALI, SECONDARY CITIES, TOWNS

Energy and Buildings
Water and Sanitation
Transportation and mobility
Thank you!

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