Managing Urbanization in Kenya: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Cities?

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Urban population growth in Kenya: an overview

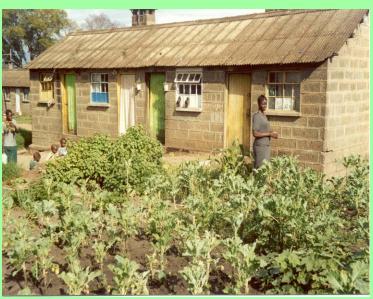
| Year | Kenya Popn ('000) | No of Urban Centres | Urban Popn ('000) | % Urban | Urban Growth Rate | Nairobi Popn ('000) | Nairobi Growth Rate | Nairobi % of total Urban Popn |
|------|-------------------------|---------------------------|-------------------------|------------|-------------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|--|
| 1948 | 5,406 | 17 | 285 | 5.2 | 1 | 119 | 1 | 41.7 |
| 1962 | 8,636 | 34 | 671 | 7.8 | 6.3 | 227 | 4.6 | 33.8 |
| 1969 | 10,943 | 47 | 1,076 | 9.9 | 7.1 | 506 | 12.2 | 47.0 |
| 1979 | 15,334 | 91 | 2,314 | 15.1 | 7.7 | 828 | 4.9 | 35.7 |
| 1989 | 21,444 | 139 | 3,864 | 18.0 | 5.2 | 1,325 | 4.7 | 34.1 |
| 1999 | 28,159 | 179 | 5,429 | 19.3 | 3.4 | 2,083 | 4.5 | 38.4 |

However, the fundamental problem is that:

- (1) Economic growth and development transformation necessary to support this trend is not occurring at the same rate
- (2) Are we prepared to admit and seriously plan for and manage these trends?

Challenges of urban growth





- Lack of services
- Poor provision of services
- Strain in existing infrastructure
- Unemployment/underemployment
- Urban poverty
- Food insecurity
- Housing/slum incidence
- Segregation, fragmentation
- Exclusion
- Transportation/circulation
- Informalization/informality
- Over exploitation of natural resources
- Environmental degradation, etc

The truth is...

- The urbanization trends and challenges are a reality and that...
- There is need for clear, carefully coordinated, focused, inclusive and sustainable urban planning, development, management and governance programmes, policies and strategies

Leading us to the concept of inclusive and sustainable cities – the theme of this seminar

What is an inclusive city?

A city where all citizens:

- Are enabled and empowered to fully participate in the social, economic, political and spatial development of the city
- Have equal access to opportunities and share equitably the benefits that a city has to offer
- Are integrated into the city community and are fully aware of their rights and responsibilities

A city that takes into account:

- Citizen's diversity, different needs and abilities
- Participatory planning, development and decision making
- Equitable and sustainable growth

Q.1: Who is being excluded?

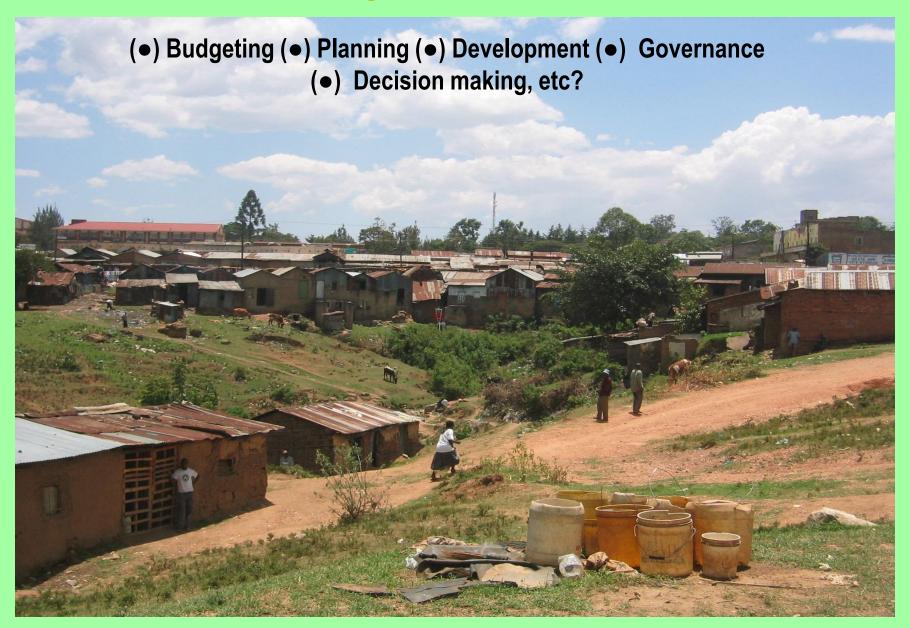


(●) Formal vs Informal (●) Rich vs Poor (●) Have vs Have-nots (●) Old vs Young
 (●) Established vs Marginalized (●) Men vs Women, etc?

Q.2: Inclusive in what way(s)?



Q.3: Being included in what?



On the other hand, a sustainable city...





- Is organized on ecological principles
- Is inclusive and responsive to citizens needs
- Ensures a stable, diverse and equitable economy
- Believes in functioning infrastructure
- Practices good governance principles
- Promotes active and participatory citizenship
- Supports livelihood strategies
- Embraces crisis, chaos and change

Some action towards inclusive and sustainable cities





- Public-private partnerships
- Encouraging local initiatives
- Multi-stakeholder forums
- Participatory planning and development
- Sharing of information and experiences
- Empowerment
- Pro-poor initiatives
- Local, national and international support
- Devolution of power, governance and decision making to the lowest possible and effective level

However, and in conclusion



A vision without action is a daydream but action without vision is a nightmare.

and...

To make cities inclusive and sustainable we need a radical change of mindset, new strategies, and – finally, but crucially – new governance structures to support development and foster a new generation of urban leadership.

Thank you for your attention



"We were born in Nairobi and will live in Nairobi...what we need is inclusive and sustainable cities and together we can"