

2ND ISSUE URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES Newsletter | May 2020



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I. Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter Second Issue

Welcome to the second Issue of the Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletter. This Issue is primarily dedicated to updating you on the **First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL 1)** and the **10th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10)**. In this issue, we also inaugurate our new discussion section **Short Articles on Urban-Rural Linkages**. It is our hope that with this section, the URL Newsletter will serve as a platform for on-going discussions and events relating to issues of policy and governance and the implications for urban-rural linkages. Multiple stakeholders come together to create the Newsletter and it provides a space for fruitful debates and discussions on the implementation of '[Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action](#)'. We look forward to receiving your proposals and contributions for our upcoming issues. This Issue also covers our regular updates on **urban-rural linkages events, publications** and recent activities of **partners**.

We inaugurate our discussion section on **Short Articles on Urban-Rural Linkages** with three topics. Given the recent events that have been turning life upside down, the first topic, **Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19**, offers a panorama of the impact of COVID-19 on local food systems, signalling some of the challenges but also the promising practices that this unprecedented situation is generating. The piece draws attention to the recovery and post-crisis scenario as an opportunity to reorient and rebalance policies, bringing together the health and food sectors. Thus, the authors show how urban-rural linkages underlie the impact of, and response to, the new coronavirus pandemic, signalling these as essential when planning for both relief and recovery of these events.

The second topic, entitled **URL, Biodiversity and Food Systems**, argues that a biodiversity, food systems and urban-rural linkages nexus would contribute to operationalizing Agenda 2030 at territorial level. While indigenous knowledge and civil society initiatives are essential to the sustainable management of biodiversity in rural areas, demand from urban consumers can reorient food systems, generating economic opportunities and restoring degraded landscapes.



The third topic, **Transboundary Resources Collaboration for Enhanced North-South, South-South and Triangular Regional and International Cooperation**, looks at the role of indigenous and ancestral practices in building bio-economy models with the potential of promoting cooperation on transboundary resources and contributing to the achievement of SDG17, particularly Target 17.6.

We are glad to see that urban-rural linkages, thematic applications of, and the publication on [Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action \(URL-GP\)](#) are increasingly central themes of discussion in different contexts.

To open this edition, we would like to thank you, our partners, for your continued support and for your participation in IFURL1 and in the urban-rural linkages-related events during WUF10. We also extend this gratitude to our contributors for the section on **Short Articles on Urban-Rural Linkages**. Furthermore, we want to thank all those who attended these events and who made contributions, taking the discussion on urban-rural linkages one step further. We hope that this edition helps you keep abreast. Enjoy!

II. First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL1)



The **First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL 1)** was held from 10-14 November 2019, in Songyang County, Lishui city and Zhejiang Province, China. The theme of the forum was "Rural Revitalisation through Innovations and Valorization". The three-day international forum was facilitated by UN-Habitat in partnership with Songyang County People's Government. Over 200 participants, from 17 countries and 18 international organizations, attended the forum.

The forum showcased Songyang's successful history of rural revitalization by "**architectural acupuncture**" and focused on sharing experiences of innovative approaches to rural revitalization from other parts of the world. The Songyang "architectural acupuncture" strategy is part of a larger effort undertaken by China to promote rural development in the context of ecological conservation. Forum participants referred to urban-rural linkages by

discussing how to foster an innovative rural economy, rural architecture and symbiosis between city, town and village. Innovations in tourism, revitalization of rural culture, heritage and agriculture were also among the topics discussed. Participants also participated in several field trips, where Songyang's innovative practices of rural revitalization and rural economy revitalization were showed. These field visits included the following.

Brown Sugar Factory in Xing village: This is a striking example of economic revitalization by creating a new factory that puts the traditional cooking process and production of sugar cane at center stage. This intervention has impacted sugar prices and the revenues of the village. During off-season production, the factory serves as a meeting point for the village inhabitants. Films are shown, and square dances and village puppet shows are performed. The factory has also attracted the attention of tourists.



Brown Sugar Factory in Xing village, Songyang County, China



The **Hakka Indenture Museum** is located in Shicang village, south of Songyang county. The Hakka people, meaning the 'guests' settled down in Schicang, meaning stone storage, escaping from war in the northern regions of China over two hundred years ago. To commemorate this history, the Hakka Indenture Museum was built.



Hakka Indenture Museum in Shicang Village, Songyang County, China

The Forum provided an opportunity for global challenges and national or local strategies for integrated urban and rural development to be informed by discussions and experiences of rural revitalization from many perspectives. Forum participants also shared reflections on sustainable urban and rural development, and within a broader scope, then called for the strengthening of sustainable innovation and development in rural areas of all countries. The forum recognized a common aspiration and pursuit of "shared opportunities in cities and regions for all" and "equal rights and opportunities for all residents in cities and all other settlements in the continuum of human settlements. **Please find the complete report of the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages report** on <http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/ifurl/> and more photos of the event [here](#).

• Songyang Consensus 2019 and IFURL1 Report

[Songyang Consensus 2019](#) was one of the major outcomes of IFURL1. In the document, co-organizers acknowledged the importance of regaining the economic, environmental, social and cultural values of rural areas as well as urban-rural interactions for sustainable development.

The consensus affirms through **six declarations** the necessity of recognizing rural areas and rurality through their specificities and a multitude of tangible and intangible elements of natural and cultural heritage. Thus, rural culture is recognized as the "root" and "soul" of rural areas, through which sustainable and innovative development can take place. In this context, strengthening urban-rural linkages and the transformation of urban-rural relations from mutual isolation through integration to mutual promotion is indispensable for sustainable development.

The building was an opportunity to restore an almost lost building technique, for at the beginning of the project only three skilled workers were found in the whole region. After completion, a dozen young people had been trained in the local construction technique.

The Songyang Consensus 2019 affirms the significance of the First International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL1) as a basis for the discussion that took place during WUF10 by bringing attention to the role of **culture, heritage and innovation** at the **urban-rural continuum** to support of the implementation of the [New Urban Agenda](#) (NUA) and [2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development](#). The International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL) emerges as a **platform to foster cooperation and exchange** looking towards build sustainable urban and rural communities, protect the original and distinctive characteristics of rural areas, their culture and their ecology, and to achieve a balanced, inclusive, peaceful, and prosperous development. The Songyang Consensus 2019 can be found in English and [Chinese](#) at the following link <http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/ifurl/>



III. Urban-Rural Linkages Events in WUF10



The Tenth Session of the
World Urban Forum

The 10th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF10) ran from 8-13 February 2020 at Abu Dhabi's National Exhibition Centre (ADNEC), United Arab Emirates. This year's theme was 'Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation'. The Forum's outcome document, entitled [Abu Dhabi Declared Actions](#), presents WUF10 participants' voluntary actions and commitments for the next two years.

By bringing together a wide range of stakeholders and actors, WUF10 **urban-rural linkages events** shed light on critical themes, practices and approaches for the implementation of the URL-GP. These events -including training, side events, networking events, exhibition stands and book launches- included the following.

Day 1 (9 February 2020)

1. Launch of the Arabic version of the publication: Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP)
2. Urban-Rural Nexus: Challenges and Innovations to Govern Land, Municipal and Ecosystem Services, on The Fringes of Resource Constrained Cities and Small Towns
3. Rural revitalization for food security in Asia (Exhibition Stand)

Day 2 (10 February, 2020)

4. Nature based solutions for increased sustainability and resilience in urban development

Day 3 (11 February, 2020)

5. Rural revitalization to strengthen urban-rural linkages through innovations: the case of Songyang County, China
6. Urban-Rural Linkages for nutrition: territorial approaches for sustainable development
7. Launch of the first [UN-Habitat Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages](#)

Day 4 (12 February, 2020)

8. Integrating food systems into local planning
9. Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations
10. Launch of the second International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages 2021

In this edition we present the major highlights of two events and two book launches. The events ***Rural revitalization to strengthen the urban-rural linkages through innovations*** and ***Reducing the Urban-Rural Divide through Culture, Revitalization and Innovations*** addressed the main thematic areas of the forum - culture and innovation - through the lens of urban-rural linkages. Both the ***Launch of the Arabic version of URL-GP*** and the first ***UN-Habitat Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages*** are presented in the section on New Publications on Urban-Rural Linkages in this issue. Furthermore, we provide an analysis of ***Abu Dhabi Declared Actions and its implications for Urban-Rural Linkages*** at the end of this section.

• How does Rural Revitalization strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages?

On **11 February 2020**, the side event ***Rural Revitalization to Strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages Through Innovations a Case Study of Songyang County*** was held during the third day of WUF10. In this event, the successful strategy for Songyang's rural revitalization was presented as a pathway to address "rural diseases" and urban slums caused by the rural recession. The Songyang "architectural acupuncture" strategy is part of a larger effort undertaken by China to promote rural development as well as ecological conservation. Participants in the event included representatives of Songyang County People's Government, Basque Country Government of Spain), Niger State Government of Nigeria) and the Korea Land and Housing Corporation. The panelist's presentation was followed with an interesting discussion on the conceptualization of urban and rural areas as self-contained delimited spaces or spaces made by networks and interconnections.

During the session, panelists highlighted that:

"Urban and rural are in the same territory. Both spaces need each other to function. We need to consider all spaces and provide better connectivity between the spaces and solutions in which no space and no one will be left behind"

To find out more on this event, please click [here](#) or visit our blog in urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/



• Abu Dhabi Declared Actions: Towards a fourth pillar of sustainable development? Implications for Urban-Rural Linkages

[Abu Dhabi Declared Actions](#) - fifteen declared actions - highlighted culture as an “integral part of the solution to the challenges of urbanization and achieving the New Urban Agenda”. The document noted that culture is considered by some constituencies as the fourth pillar of sustainable development and must be a stronger strand of global solidarity. “Urban heritage—both cultural and natural—is an asset and enables sustainable urban development.” In the declared actions, participants also stressed the role of cities as “centres of creativity and innovation as well as places with valuable cultural heritage and identity”, and “as

incubators of social, economic, environmental, political and cultural progress”. Although Abu Dhabi Declared Actions and the commitments of participants during WUF10 mainly focused on the urban, they reflect the cross-cutting nature of the [Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action \(URL-GP\)](#).

Find the complete analysis on the **crosscutting nature of URL-GP in the Abu Dhabi Declared Actions** here or visiting our blog on <https://urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/>

IV. Short Articles on Urban-Rural Linkages

• Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of COVID-19

By Florence Egal, Rome, Italy and Thomas Forster, New York, USA (March 27, 2020)

The epidemic of Corona Virus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) has moved from China and Eastern Asia to Europe, the Americas and Africa, and has now officially become a pandemic. While the response varies from country to country, it essentially affects cities and sooner or later includes prevention through social distancing. Schools, then bars and restaurants, then markets close down as countries move towards weeks-long lockdowns, but governments commit to maintaining essential economic activities and food supply. “Health refugees” escape from cities to reunite with their families or find more healthy environments to be confined in, with obvious implications on spreading the virus and adding pressure on local food systems.

As schools close down, so do school canteens, with consequences for both social protection programmes and on suppliers, including small-scale producers. Farmers’ markets are closed or their access is limited with impacts on both farmers and consumers at a time when people are increasingly demanding local and possibly organic foods, and in particular fresh fruits and vegetables.

In most cities urban food supply depends on road transportation which is increasingly threatened by administrative restriction of mobility, fear of contamination or logistical constraints, with petrol stations and related catering and hygiene services shutting down.

Farming activities are facing major constraints. In some countries, short food chains, including urban and peri-urban agriculture are not considered essential economic

activities. Seasonal labourers are no longer available, and distribution systems collapse at a time of year where European and North American countries shift from winter to the spring and summer season which depends on migrant farmworkers.

This unprecedented situation is generating an extraordinary amount of experience and innovation and promising practices are emerging everywhere. These of course vary widely according to the size and resources of cities but common threads can be found.

Restaurants reorient their activities towards home-delivery or catering for essential health services. Social protection programmes organize food distribution at neighbourhood collection centres. Local supermarkets are encouraged to purchase unsold food production with a view to limiting waste and supporting farmers. Consumers re-discover cooking at home and local shops, which are consequently often overwhelmed. Community-Supported Agriculture (CSA) has to reorganize and further develop their distribution systems with priority given to home delivery, including for vulnerable households. Food hubs and e-commerce using ICT platforms are providing options for both consumers and producers.

Urban-rural linkages thus underlie both the impact of, and the response to, the new coronavirus pandemic and are essential when planning for both relief and recovery. While Heads of State make the headlines in the media, local authorities are actually the ones dealing concretely with the consequences of the epidemic.



Responding to COVID-19 in the emergency phase and preparing for the post-crisis period should be discussed at territorial level, bringing together urban and rural municipalities, as well as civil society, private sector and philanthropic foundations. Concrete partnerships with civil society and private sector are proving essential to address social challenges. The integration of health and agriculture strategies is clearly essential but remains a major challenge given the prevailing institutional and funding context.

There is a broad consensus that the present pandemic and its impacts reflect, to a significant degree, dysfunctional policies and an excessive bias towards globalization and privatization in the last decades. Dealing with this crisis therefore offers an opportunity to reorient and rebalance policies and support local action which can bring together the health and food sector, promote sustainable food production, ensure social justice, and overall accelerate the transition to more resilient and sustainable territories.



COVID-19 public health mural in Mathare slum in Nairobi, Kenya. April 14, 2020 © UN-Habitat/Julius Mwelu

• URL, Biodiversity and Food Systems

By Florence Egal, Rome, Italy and Thomas Forster, New York, USA (March 19, 2020)

Biodiversity is classically addressed either in the context of rural development or, more recently, in that of urban planning. A new publication Biodiversity, Food and Nutrition - A New Agenda for Sustainable Food Systems dedicates a chapter to the interactions of biodiversity and food systems across the urban-rural continuum.

As cities become increasingly dependent on imported foods, rural areas progressively lose vitality as their cultures and biodiversity continue to erode alongside traditional rural lifestyles and social networks. And limited attention has been given to date to the nexus of biodiversity, food and urban-rural linkages (URL).

Understanding these dynamics provides new insights when reviewing global policy agendas (e.g. on climate change, biodiversity, urban development or nutrition).

The good news is that there is a growing consensus to focus on sustainable territorial development and to build upon local knowledge, expertise and resources, but policy recommendations are yet to be translated into integrated operational strategies and tools at local level.

It is important to both manage landscapes that have provided the basis for traditional diets and need to be restored and recovered, and to understand how traditional values can influence urban demand and sustainable territorial development.

Solutions that link biodiversity conservation, food security and nutrition in urban areas and the rural areas linked to them have emerged all over the world, but they are usually the outcomes of nongovernmental and civil society initiatives, and policy and research support are generally lacking.





Bolivia potato diversity © Annie Lane.

Academic and research institutions have begun to analyse the complex interactions between urban and rural areas in the context of the multiple economic, social and environmental challenges facing local and national governments. But connection with concrete innovations, investments and initiatives that hold promise for both biodiversity conservation and the territorial development of sustainable food systems is lacking. Food systems, encompassing urban and rural spaces as well as actors from production to consumption and waste management/recovery, are at the heart of urban-rural linkages.

Consumer preferences reflected in public procurement and private purchasing can be powerful drivers of agrobiodiversity, incentivizing farmers to grow biodiverse foods and moving away from standardized food chains which undermine biodiversity. Ecological production systems are becoming an increasingly important part of city-region spatial and functional planning. And women and youth can play a key role in the design and planning of environments that protect biodiversity while providing healthy foods and related ecosystem services.

The horizontal exchange of practice, research and policy across similar territories can best provide the information and tools needed by municipalities, territorial authorities and national governments. Associations of Indigenous Peoples and supporting organisations, networks of municipalities and towns intent on conserving ecological functions of waterways and landscapes, as well as institutional champions for the integration of biodiversity, food systems and urban-rural linkages, are becoming important governance actors to meet needs and challenges across the urban-rural continuum.

The nexus of biodiversity, food systems and urban-rural linkages can be instrumental in bringing together relevant SDGs and the New Urban Agenda and therefore contribute to the operationalization of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at territorial level.

• **Transboundary Resources Collaboration for Enhanced North-South, South-South and Triangular Regional and International Cooperation¹**



*UAE Bio-Materials, Liwa Oasis 2010
© Sandra Piesik*

Dr Sandra Piesik, Amsterdam, Netherlands (March 6, 2020)

Many experts believe that the African continent will be the region hardest hit by climate change. Both geographic vulnerability to extreme climate outcomes, weaker economies and institutions will severely challenge the region's capacity to cope with climate change and its attendant risks for instability and conflict.² Economic diversification, new green industries with jobs, opportunities for all, decoupled from resource intensive consumption are at the forefront of solutions for regional stability as part of climate action. The impacts of climate change will be felt in all hot, arid desert regions, which includes The Arabian Peninsula, with predictions of a temperature rise above the global average (+3 to 6°C).³

Ecosystems, natural capital and agricultural productivity in hot, arid regions have much in common. Apart from climate, they share crop and fruit varieties, and amongst them date palm (*Phoenix dactylifera*), that stimulated the growth of oasis cities. Historically, agricultural waste from date palm oasis served as a building material for construction and product design for around 7,000 years until the 1970s, when the emergence of modernization, and later, globalization, resulted in a broken circular bio-economy model.

¹ <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>, Target 17.6 Technology

² Expert Group of the International Military Council on Climate and Security (2020). The World Climate and Security Report. February, p.14.

³ Expert Group of the International Military Council on Climate and Security (2020). The World Climate and Security Report. February, p.14.





The continued growth of date palm productivity, with global production levels reaching 8,166,014 tonnes in 2017⁴ and thus annual production of bio-waste in millions of tonnes that are predominantly being disposed of in land fill sites, offers an unprecedented opportunity for the creation of Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises (SMEs).

However, this opportunity needs to be matched with fundamental research on local biomaterials, innovation and creation of an entirely new supply and value chain. Stakeholder partnerships might be pivotal for future sustainable industrial development to deliver green jobs. According to the International Labour Organisation (ILO)⁵. From a job perspective, environmental sustainability is critical. In fact, the increasing frequency and intensity of natural disasters associated with human activity have already lowered productivity.

The transboundary resources collaboration, through upscaling of existing technologies and local natural resources might be the most cost-effective way to meet the Sustainable Development Goal 17 on Partnerships for the Goals.

SDG17, which aims to **“Strengthen the means of implementation and revitalize the global partnership for sustainable development”**⁶ of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and sets out in Target 17.6 to:

Enhance North-South, South-South and triangular regional and international cooperation on and access to science, technology and innovation and enhance knowledge sharing on mutually agreed terms, including through improved coordination among existing mechanisms, in particular at the United Nations level, and through a global technology facilitation mechanism.

With further focus on promoting: *the development, transfer, dissemination and diffusion of environmentally sound technologies to developing countries on favourable terms, including on concessional and preferential terms, as mutually agreed.*

SDG17 indicates that regardless of poverty distribution, whether in rural or urban areas, we have a mandate to deliver on adaption and technology transfer holistically across all land use areas through local and international collaboration. The UN-HABITAT **10th World Urban Forum in Abu Dhabi**, saw the emergence of new approaches for that, including regional culture as an entry point for action-oriented pilot projects. Sustainable management of natural resources is deeply embedded in the tangible and intangible cultural heritage of the planet.

4 <http://www.fao.org/home/en/>

5 ILO (2018). World Employment and Social Outlook 2018: Greening with jobs. International Labour Organization. https://www.ilo.org/weso-greening/documents/WESO_Greening_EN_web2.pdf

6. <https://sustainabledevelopment.un.org/sdg17>

V. URL Spotlight

• Brown Bag on 'Urban-rural interactions in China'

Urban-rural
interactions
in CHINA

On 3 December 2019, a Brown Bag session on Urban -Rural Integration was organized by the Global Land Tool Network as the UN Complex in Nairobi, Kenya. This session was organized as part of the Exposure Visit of a Chinese delegation to Kenya and Uganda to enhance the cooperative relationship in the field of land administration and Management. The delegation was composed of officials and representatives from the China Land Surveying and Planning Institute, the Real Estate Registration Centre, and the College of Land Science and Technology from China Agricultural University.

The Chinese delegation opened the session by presenting the urbanization process of China in the past 70 years and the different land use pattern generated as part of the different stages of this process. Industrialization, migration, combination of governmental and market forces and eco-reform (land reform) were identified as factors that contributed to the rapid expansion and development of cities in China.



The land reform of 2008 was highlighted as a key factor with a positive correlation and impact on China's economic growth. This land reform and institutional change strengthened farmers' collective property rights while maintaining the responsibility of local governments over changing land-uses. Similarly, the representative of the Chinese delegation highlighted the role of local authorities in bridging the gap created between urban and rural areas by rapid urban expansion in China.

Representatives of the UN-Habitat Urban-Rural Linkages project closed the session presenting the importance of the implementation of the **Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP)** to strengthen the linkages across the urban-rural continuum. Furthermore, successful case studies of the application of the URL-GP were presented to enrich the conversation and guide policies and interventions that seek to bridge the gap created between urban and rural areas by rapid urban expansion.



Participants of the Brown Bag on Urban-Rural interactions in China, 3 December 2019, Nairobi, Kenya

VI. Upcoming Urban-Rural Linkages Events

- **Workshops for the implementation of Urban-Rural Linkages Projects in Cameroon, Republic of Guinea, Zanzibar and Niger state - September 2020 (TBC)**



UN-Habitat and partners; UNECA, UNCRD, IFAD and FAO have collaborated towards implementation of the project titled; **"Leaving No One and No Place Behind: Strengthening URL In Africa."** The project objective is to build and strengthen capacities of policy makers and change agents at all levels to collect and use evidence for fostering cross-sectoral, multi-level policies, frameworks and action plans for integrated and inclusive territorial development that promotes urban-rural linkages and reduces the development gap.

This project is also part of the pilot implementation of the recently developed Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles and Framework of Action tools and methodologies. After successful implementation of two regional workshops towards prioritization of URL issues in the four project countries and capacity development of URL, the local workshops will be conducted in each of the countries. The workshops aim is to share the outcomes of URL data collection, validate the outcomes of data collection and tentative URL policy recommendations.



• Urban-Rural Linkages Webinar Series



Recognizing the urban-rural continuum entails several challenges but also creates opportunities, this webinar series will cover the following issues: governing complementary functions and flows in the urban-rural continuum, strengthening small and intermediate towns, rural urbanization, the establishment of rural service centers, and the implications of COVID-19 for urban-rural linkages. The urban-rural continuum has great untapped potential to significantly benefit the people who live in these places, and inclusive, planned and responsible actions are needed to deliver these benefits.

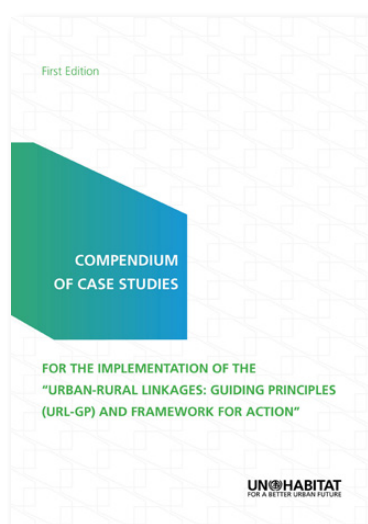
The Urban-Rural Linkages (URL) Webinar Series aims to provide insights on the **Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action** as a policy and governance framework for

the formulation of strategies, policies and plans aiming to deliver benefits in the urban-rural continuum, including crisis-response and post-crisis recovery measures. The URL Webinar Series will also cover issues related to the thematic applications and toolkits for URL. The webinar series began on May 4 with the session **Urban-Rural Linkages in the time of Covid-19**. During this session, the speaker panel provided an overview of the current range of COVID-19 response, bringing perspectives from different geographical regions, including New York, Bogotá and Songyang, through the lens of urban-rural linkages.

To find out more the first session of the webinar and upcoming sessions, please click [here](#) or visit our blog in urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/

VII. New Publications on Urban-Rural Linkages

• Launch of the First Compendium of Inspiring Practices on URL in WUF10



Front Cover of the First Compendium of Case Studies on URL

On 11 February, 2020 the [first UN-Habitat Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages](#) was launched during WUF10. The Compendium demonstrates through a collection of nine case studies the application of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP) and Framework for Action. Speakers during this session included representatives from UN-Habitat, the University of Botswana, and Politecnico de Milano. Representatives of DnA_Design and Architecture and the City of Bamenda in Cameroon participated in the session, making video presentations of their case studies.

This first collection of case studies covers different geographical and cultural contexts, including countries such as Ethiopia, Cameroon, Nepal, China and Colombia and an example of transnational cooperation in Europe. Each case study is presented in terms of the approaches taken to address urban-rural linkages and the impact of specific policies and practices.

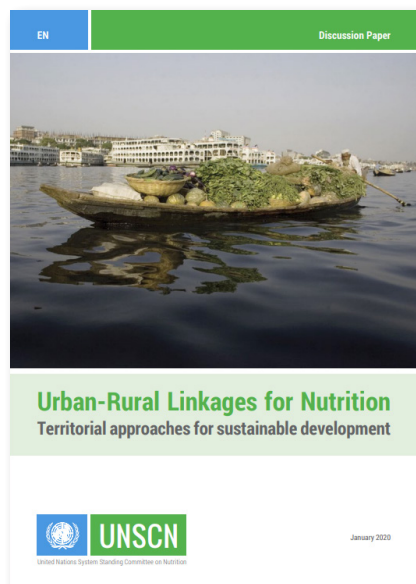
1. **Integrated Territorial Planning** – Botswana: Tlokweng Development Plan.
2. **Integrated approaches to food security, nutrition and public health** - Tanzania: Towards mainstreaming urban agriculture into land use planning in Dar es Salaam City.
3. **Infrastructure, technology and communication systems** - Ethiopia: Rural - Urban Transformation with the Aid of Road Infrastructure in Hawassa.



4. **Infrastructure, technology and communication systems** - Cameroon: Improving and tarring roads, and cooperation between ministries and councils in Bamenda.
5. **Investment and finance for inclusive urban-rural development** - Nepal: Rural-Urban Partnership programme.
6. **Territorial economic development and employment** - Europe: RURBANCE (Rural Urban Governance) in Alpine space/European transnational cooperation.
7. **Conflict and disaster** - Palestine: Support to Palestinians at Risk of Displacement in the West Bank.
8. **Governance, legislation and capacity development** – Colombia: “POT Modernos Programa” (Modern land use plans programme).
9. **Participatory Engagement/ Territorial economic development and employment** – China: Rural Revitalisation through Architectural Acupuncture in Songyang county.

To find out more on the launching of the first compendium and the complete collections of case studies, please click [here](#) or visit our blog in urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/

• Urban-Rural Linkages for Nutrition: UNSCN Discussion Paper launched in WUF10



Front cover of the discussion paper
URL for Nutrition

The discussion paper “Urban-Rural Linkages for Nutrition. Territorial approaches for sustainable development” was launched at the **UNSCN Workshop: Nutrition in Urban-Rural Linkages and Strengthening the Urban-Rural Linkages Through Culture and Innovations** (see in this issue How does Rural Revitalization strengthen Urban-Rural Linkages?) during WUF10.

The paper provides insights on **how urban-rural linkages shape the factors that affect nutrition** (factors that are often embedded in complex, non-health-related systems) and how broader policies and programs addressing nutrition are designed and governed.

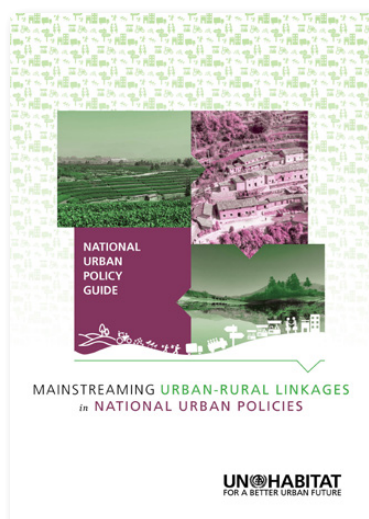
In this way, the nature of urban-rural linkages are addressed, noting that these are not direct but mediated by other systems and factors.

It is also noted that the experiences with applying a territorial approach to nutrition policies and programs are still limited. The authors also explore the **relation of nutrition actions with the Guiding Principles for Urban-Rural Linkages (URL-GP) and Framework for Action**. The authors conclude outlining initial steps towards promoting more integrated territorial planning for nutrition, while also encouraging further thinking, initiatives and research in this direction.

This paper is a joint effort by the Alliance of Bioversity International and the International Center for Tropical Agriculture (CIAT) and the United Nations System Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN). It has been translated in all 6 UN official languages. Please find the English version [here](#). For more information please visit <https://www.unscn.org/en/unscn-publications>



• Mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages in National Urban Policies: National Urban Policy Guide



Front cover of the National Urban Policy Guide: Mainstreaming Urban-Rural Linkages in National Urban Policies

Attention to the dynamic interactions of urban and rural, territories, people and places is expected to be an integral part of the formulation and application of National Urban Policies (NUP) as is made clear by both the SDGs and by the NUA. Parallel to the development of a platform and tools for implementing NUP, the articulation of **"Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and a Framework for Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development"** focuses on multi-level, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder inclusion of both urban and rural spaces, people and institutions in territorial governance. This Guide on mainstreaming urban-rural linkages in national urban policies brings these parallel efforts together.

The Guide presents eleven recommendations which may be incorporated in developing or reviewing national or subnational urban policies. The recommendations include examples of NUP in countries that have included URL in their urban policies and other frameworks guiding urban development.

The recommendations are not prescriptive but provide options on how and what URL dimensions may be included in urban policies depending on context, analysis and stakeholder engagement.

• Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action: Arabic version

The dissemination of the URL-GP in different national and local contexts is an important step towards its implementation. In response to this challenge and to the growing demand for the application of the principles, the URL-GP is available in 6 languages, including [English](#), [Spanish](#), [French](#), [Portuguese](#), [Chinese](#) and [Arabic](#) (<http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/>).

The Arabic translation of the URL-GP was launched during the first day of WUF10.

It is expected that this translation will enable clear and concise communication on the importance of urban-rural linkages for sustainable development as an issue of global importance. The Arabic version of the URL-GP will facilitate the implementation and orientation of processes and policies aiming to strengthen urban-rural linkages in Arab speaking countries. UN-Habitat reaffirms its commitment, ensuring the diffusion of urban-rural linkages approaches across all the levels from the global to the local level.



Front cover of the Arabic version of URL-GP



URL-GP Arabic

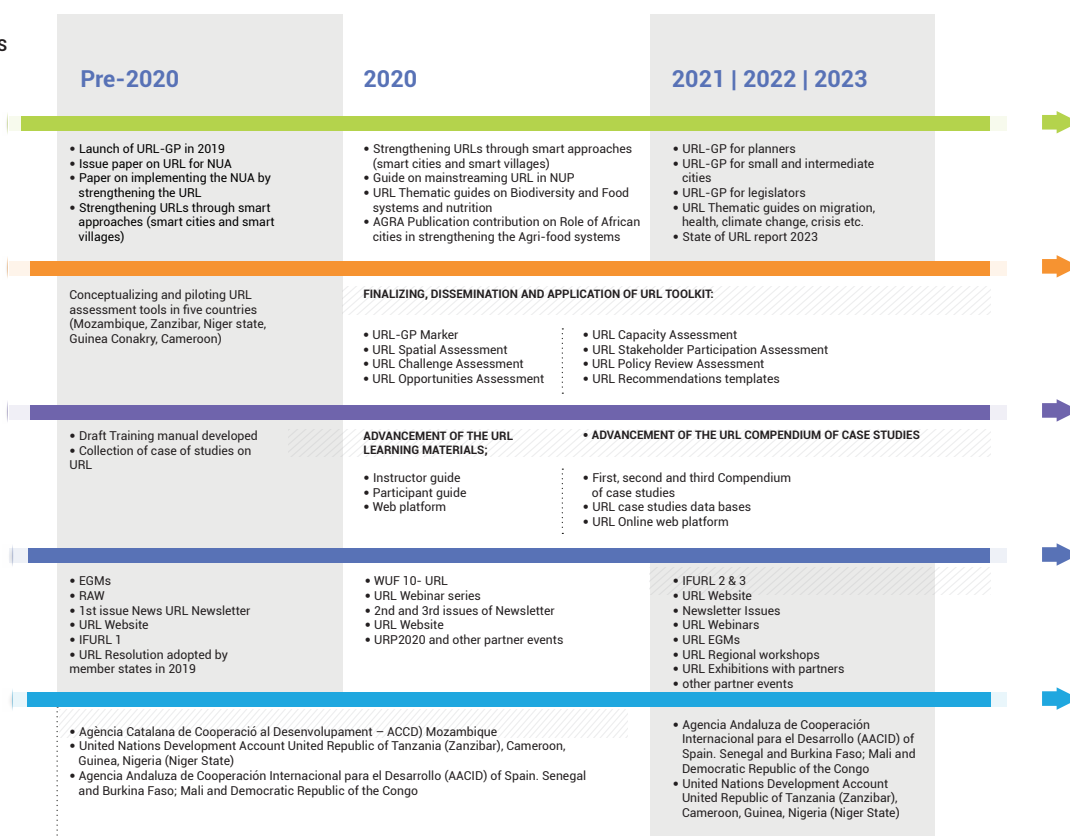
VIII. Opportunities for partnering with UN-Habitat to apply the URL Guiding Principles and Framework of Action to Advance Integrated Territorial Development

Urban-Rural Linkages touch on a broad variety of thematic areas ranging from regional and territorial planning to strengthening small and intermediate towns, from enabling spatial flows of people, products, services and information to fostering food security systems as well as touching mobility and migration, reducing environmental impact in urban-rural convergences, developing legislation and governance structures and promoting inclusive financial investments among many others.

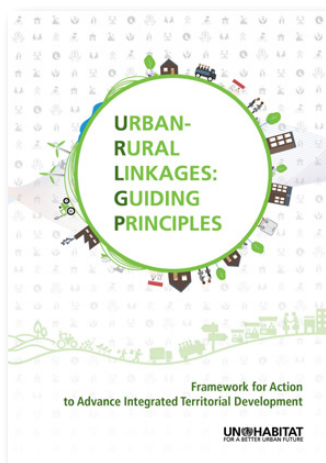
There are several ways you can take action to address challenges related to urban-rural linkages and advance integrated territorial development. UN-Habitat offers the opportunity for collaboration and engagement in five areas, as follows.

1. **Advocacy:** we welcome ideas and projects on communication for increased awareness of the importance of urban-rural linkages for sustainable territorial development.
2. **Knowledge creation and sharing:** we welcome projects and opportunities to improve and develop new materials and products, looking towards addressing the needs of different social actors seeking to reduce spatial inequality and poverty in communities across the urban-rural continuum.
3. **Dissemination of good practices and policies:** we look forward to undertaking joint projects to identify, collect and disseminate innovative and adaptable practices touching on the broad variety of thematic areas to strength urban-rural linkages.
4. **Tools and learning materials:** we welcome the opportunities to collaboratively develop new tools and learning methodologies for training and use by decision makers and planners when formulating policies and interventions across the urban-rural continuum.
5. **Technical assistance and advisory services:** supporting member states is key for the implementation of the URL-GP in national and subnational policies, plans and strategies. We welcome the opportunity to establish collaboration with government agencies at all levels.

UN-HABITAT'S URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES PROGRAMME



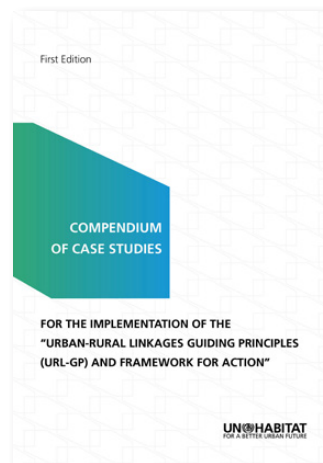
IX. List of UN-Habitat Publications on Urban-Rural Linkages



URL-GP (English version)



Implementing the new Urban Agenda by Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages



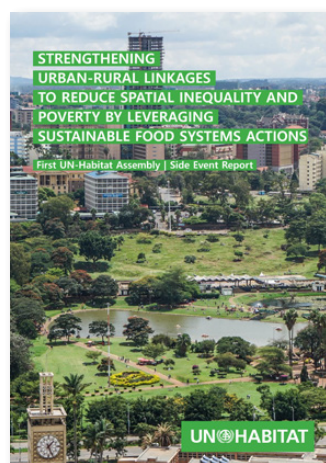
URL Compendium of case studies



Regional Development Dialogue



URL Training Manual



Strengthening urban-rural linkages to reduce inequality and poverty through sustainable food systems



Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages in Africa Regional Awareness Workshop



Songyang Consensus 2019, the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages



Read More

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