



UN-HABITAT

Niger State Urban Policy

A ROADMAP TO TRANSFORMATION



Niger State Urban Policy: A Roadmap to Transformation

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NIGER STATE URBAN POLICY

A Roadmap to Transformation

OVERVIEW

As part of the commitment of the Niger State Government (Nigeria) in creating compact, connected, socially inclusive and self-sustaining towns and cities in the State, the State Government has developed her Urban Development Policy with technical assistance from UN-Habitat. The overall goal of the Niger State Urban Policy is to achieve more transparent, equitable, productive, and resilient cities in Niger State, thereby positioning the cities to attain their potentials as engines of economic prosperity and development.

The State Urban Policy (SUP) was adopted in 2021 by the Niger State Executive Council, as a framework to guide sustainable urban development in Niger State. This important milestone ushered in the next phase of the SUP: Implementation. The State then carefully selected four demonstration projects to be implemented as part of longer-term efforts to achieve the objectives of the SUP.

Progress made and Results Achieved - 2020

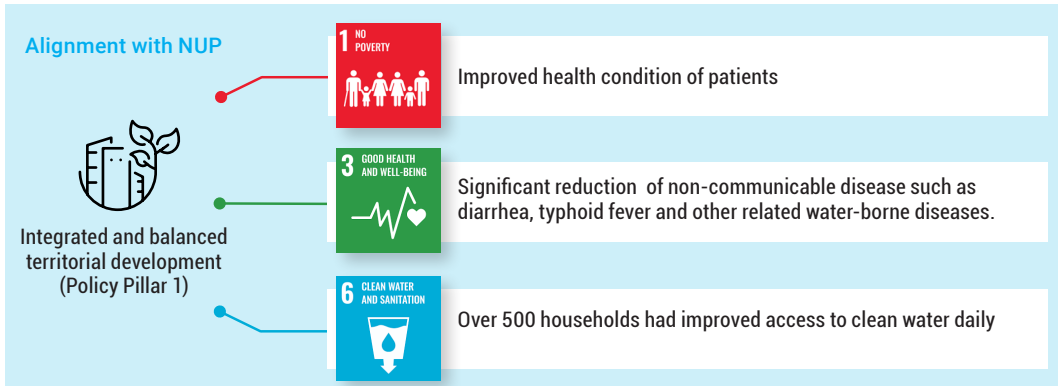
Implementation of the projects was made possible with the continued financial support of the Ministry of Land, Infrastructure and Transport (MOLIT) of the Republic of Korea and technical support of UN-Habitat. Piloting of the SUP kicked off in 2020 through demonstration projects. During the tail-end of the formulation phase to demonstrate the potential of the State Urban Policy. Since then, significant progress has been made, with results evident from the demonstration projects implemented so far.

i. Development of Smart Meter Solar Borehole – (2020)

In 2020, similar to other regions in Nigeria and internationally, Niger State grappled with the adverse impacts of the coronavirus pandemic. The UN-Habitat technical team, together with the leadership of Niger State and MOLIT identified solutions to improve the health situation. A smart meter solar borehole was developed and installed at the Isolation Ward located at Minna General Hospital to ensure steady supply of clean water in the health facility to improve sanitation and in turn curb the spread of COVID-19 in the region. A key feature of the project is mainstreaming of technology-based solutions, renewable energy, and smart technologies to improve the efficiency of basic services.



Smart-Metered Solar Borehole developed in Niger State (Nigeria) © UN-Habitat 2020



Planned urban regeneration plan for Minna

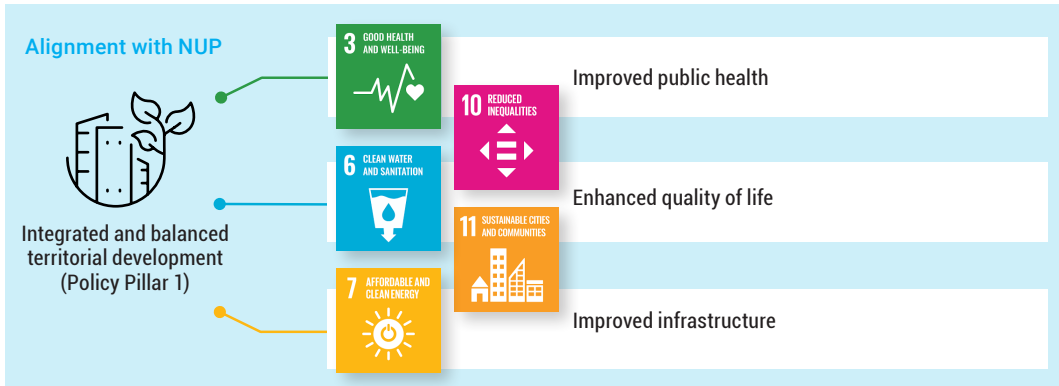
ii. Preparation of Minna Urban Regeneration Plan – (Minna Urban Regeneration Through Acupuncture)

The Minna Urban Regeneration through Acupuncture at Kpagungu (MURTA-K) is a project conceived to systematically have about 50 per cent improvement on the poor planning situation in Kpagungu in Niger State.

The project stems from the on-going initiative of the Niger State Government with the support of Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) reinforced by the technical support of UN-Habitat in transformation of urban areas and informal settlements into safe, resilient, and socially inclusive communities.

While the plan awaits implementation, it' since it has already been mentioned addresses precarious living conditions and challenges at Kpagungu community in Minna, the administrative Capital of Niger State with a special focus on the following:

- » Provision of a drainage system to collect domestic waste water from each household.
- » Improvement of storm water drainage within the neighborhood.
- » Provision of public space for recreation and social interaction
- » Provision of basic amenities such as water facilities, healthcare facility, place of convenience (public sanitation facility) and waste collection centre
- » Installation of solar street lighting



Planned urban regeneration plan for Minna



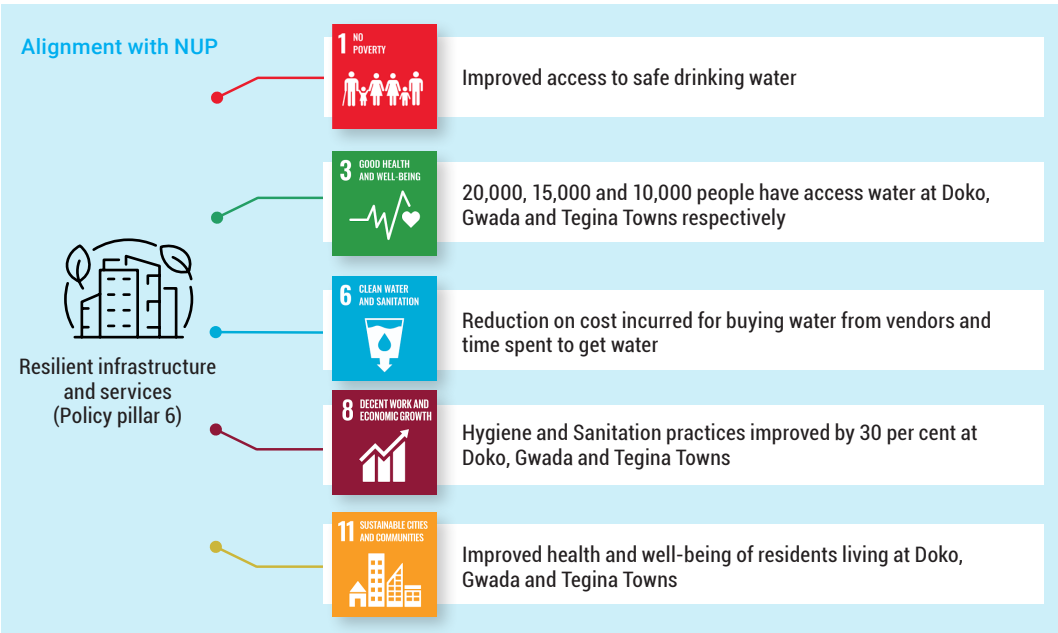
3-D Perspective of the action area within the framework of Kpakungu Regeneration Plan – © Minna Urban Regeneration through Acupuncture (MURTA) Project at Kpakungu - 2021

iii. Rehabilitation of Three (3) Biwater Schemes

Access to clean and steady supply of water in small towns in Niger State has been a perennial challenge due to infrastructure decay. Out of the total 53 bi-water schemes constructed to provide clean water in small towns across the State, only 4 (7.5 %) of the water schemes were functional while 49 (92.5%) were not functioning¹. This situation compelled majority of the “*Nigerlites*” living in small towns to resort to other alternatives such as water vendors and hand dug wells, a source which is classically untreated thus contributing to prevalence of water borne disease (such as cholera, Typhoid, Guinea worm etc).

These further poses high threat to the health and wellbeing of the “*Nigerlites*”.

As part of the efforts of UN-Habitat, and MOLIT in assisting national and sub-national governments in responding to challenges of urbanization and services deficits, three (3) of the bi-water schemes (Doko Bi-water scheme, Gwada Bi-water scheme, and Tegna Bi-water scheme) in Niger State have been rehabilitated to enhance access to adequate and clean water in small and medium towns thus increasing the functionality of bi-water schemes from 7.5% to 13.2 % ².



1. Niger State Small Town Water and Sanitation Agency Statistical Records
2. Niger State Small Town Water and Sanitation Agency Statistical Records



Flushing of borehole at Doko Water Scheme © UN-Habitat



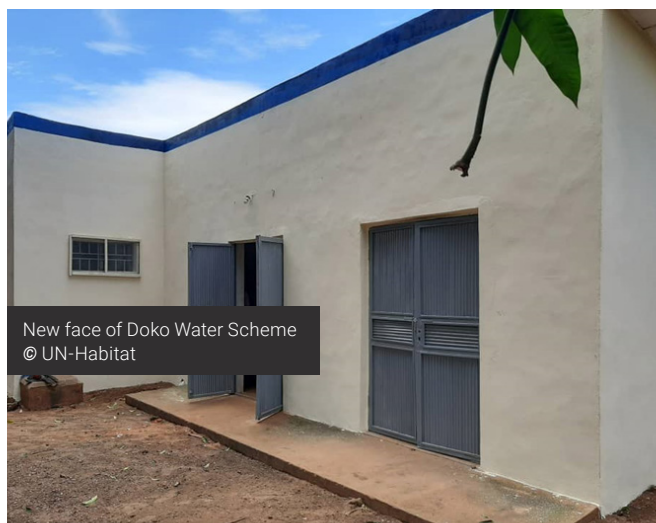
Flushing of borehole at Tegina Water scheme © UN-Habitat



Tegina Water Scheme before rehabilitation © UN-Habitat



Old face of Doko Water Station © UN-Habitat



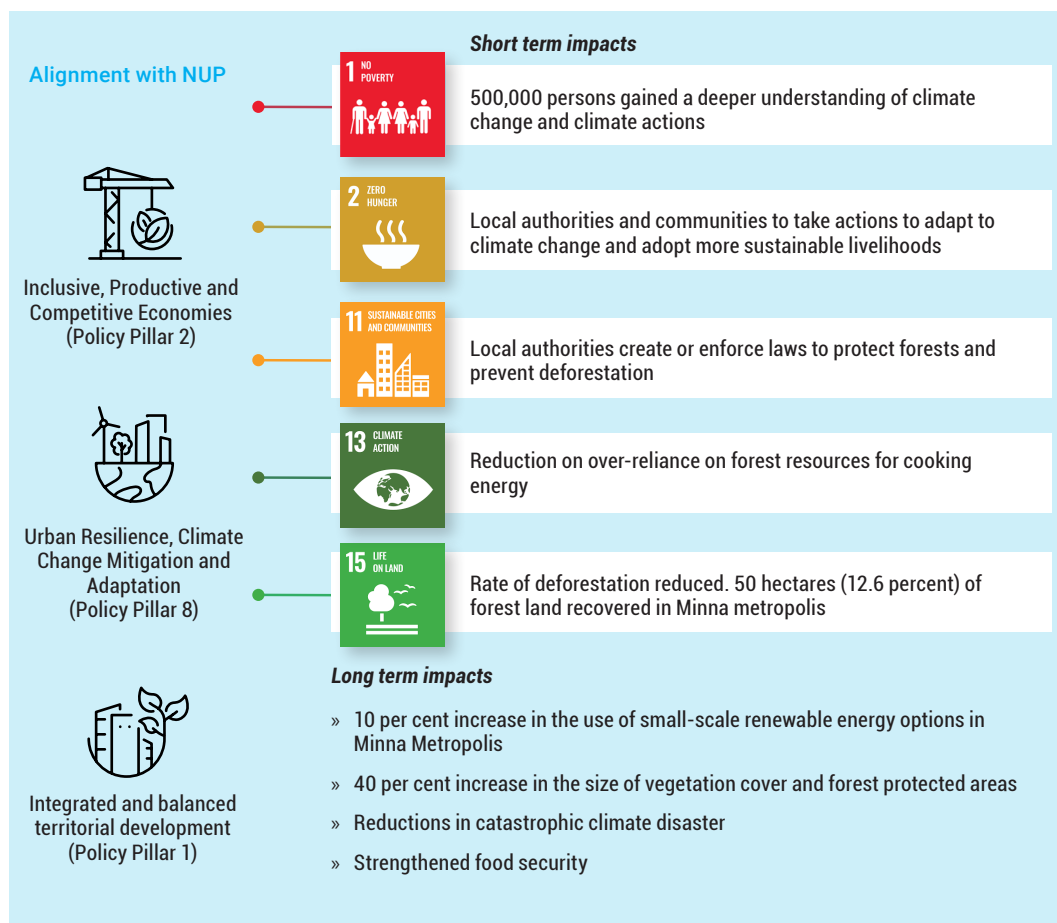
New face of Doko Water Scheme © UN-Habitat

iv. Climate Change Mitigation through Urban Reforestation

Despite increasing awareness regarding the value and importance of ecological resources, the destruction of forest resources continues to take place in many parts of Niger State, motivated by various socio- economic drivers. Presently, the rate of deforestation rates in Minna – the administrative capital of Niger State is increasing. During 2006, forest reserves in Minna covered 872.7 hectare and as at 2010 the forest reserves had been depleted to 396.1 hectares due to persistent reliance on wood for energy, over-exploitation of forest resources for construction (UN-Habitat, 2021) The excessive deforestation in the state has exposed the state

to several climate risks and shocks; hence the need for reforestation of the ecosystem in the state is more than ever.

However, with the support of UN-Habitat and the Government of South Korea, there is renewed hope for a greener Niger State. A total of 50 hectares (12.6 per cent) of land previously depleted has been recovered by mangrove trees to address the threat of desertification and improve resilience to climate-related shocks in the State. In practical terms, 6000 economic trees were planted over 45 hectares of land and 2000 fruit trees were planted over 5 hectares of land in 10 schools. The afforestation project also contributes to the ongoing international efforts on climate action, protecting forest resources, and fighting against climate change.





Bosso Forest Reserve before the intervention © UN-Habitat



Bosso Forest Reserve after the intervention © UN-Habitat



Alhaji Ahmed Matane

*Secretary to the Niger State
Government*



The smart-meter water borehole (installed in 2020) would supply constant water at the COVID-19 isolation centre, ease access to water supply as all patients and frontline health workers would have access to 24-hour water supply.



Engineer Lucky Barau

*Permanent Secretary, Niger
State Ministry of Environment
and Forestry*



Urban reforestation is an investment in the well-being and future of our community. This initiative, we not only create a healthier, more resilient, but also a vibrant livable environment for generations to come.

[Remarking on the reforestation demonstration project implemented by UN-Habitat and Niger State Government in 2022]

CONCLUSION

The main challenge of sustainable urban and territorial development in Niger State, like many other states in Nigeria, is rapid urban growth. The increasing growth rate has not only progressively complicated and aggravated interrelated problems of human settlements and the environment, but have been responsible for the challenge of increased human and environmental poverty.

In response to wide range of issues associated with urbanization (such as inadequate urban basic services, inadequate and poor infrastructure, local environmental concerns), UN-Habitat and MOLIT supported the Niger State Government to formulate and also kick-start the implementation of the State Urban Policy with a number of demonstration projects. The three projects implemented are small-scale yet high impact projects with a strong potential to accelerate sustainable

urbanization and economic advancement, improved access to amenities and quality of life of people in the State. For instance, the afforestation project addressed the threat of desertification and improved resilience to natural shocks in Minna thus contributing to the ongoing international efforts on climate action. Similarly, the rehabilitated bi-water schemes improved water supply, sanitation and hygiene practices in small and intermediate towns in the State. Finally, the Smart-metered solar borehole developed contributed to the rapid containment of COVID-19 in Minna, Niger State, Nigeria. These projects implemented have not only demonstrated the benefits of National Urban Policy but it has also provided practical guidance to government, policymakers and local community on how to apply innovative interventions to accelerate NUP implementation.

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ANNEX


POLICY OBJECTIVES

The nine objectives of the Niger State Urban Policy are:

- 1 To manage unplanned growth and reverse the deterioration of urban centres in the state as a result of informal development that is not matched with the provision of decent housing and municipal services;
- 2 Facilitate the provision of adequate and functional infrastructure and essential urban services in all categories of urban settlements in the state;
- 3 Adequately plan all urban centres in the state for increased productivity, job creation and better living conditions.
- 4 Provide an enabling environment, in all urban centres, for growth and competitiveness.
- 5 Implement statewide metropolitan and territorial planning, strengthening rural-urban interactions and effective coordination across administrative boundaries.
- 6 Promote inclusive and participatory planning and governance processes, through collaboration and effective coordination in plan preparation and implementation to ensure a shift by the Government from sectoral-silo based planning to integrated, multisector, multi-actor integrated plans;
- 7 Strengthen institutional and technical capacity of state and local government agencies to better plan and manage urban growth;
- 8 Mobilise adequate funding for urban development and ensure that plans are aligned to budgets and only priorities that are consistent with provisions of the policy are funded; and,
- 9 Develop the capacities of urban centres to be more resilient to disaster risks/hazards as well as economic and climate shocks and stresses.

NIGER STATE URBAN POLICY THEMATIC AREAS

Policy Pillar	Policy Thematic Area	Sectoral Goal
	Integrated and Balanced Territorial Development:	To promote planned spatial development across all the local government areas of the state leaving no place behind
	Inclusive, Productive and Competitive Economy	To develop dynamic and efficient urban centres that are the foci for industrialization, local economic development, entrepreneurialism and innovation.
	Effective Land Governance	To ensure that the land resources of the state, especially land for urban development, is used efficiently and effectively for the present and future generations to sustainable access and use of land for urban development.
	Urban Security and Safety	To enhance security and safety in Niger State for conducive social and business environment.
	Strengthening Urban-Rural Linkages	To ensure planned, balanced, and equitable development between the urban and rural areas of Niger State.
	Resilient Infrastructure and Services	To facilitate the development of better and more robust urban infrastructure, resilient to the likely impacts from disasters and climate change, to support economic growth and improve the well-being of the population of the State.
	Sustainable Transportation and Mobility	To develop a smart, functional and sustainable intermodal transportation system to encourage more transformative, productive, inclusive and resilient mobility of persons, goods, and services for the long term in Niger state, Nigeria.

	<p>Urban Resilience, Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation</p>	<p>Towns and cities in the state to systematically anticipate, prepare for and reduce disaster risk, shocks and stresses, thereby enhancing their ability to recover rapidly in the event of hazards and to protect livelihoods, cultural heritage, socioeconomic assets and ecosystems as they deliver appropriate climate change mitigation and adaptation measures.</p>
	<p>Smart City Solutions</p>	<p>To deploy the Smart City concept to take advantage of rapid urbanisation and use of emerging technological solutions to make the towns and cities in the state more environmentally friendly and locations of choice for economic development and prosperity of its citizenry.</p>
	<p>Effective Urban Governance and Coordinated management</p>	<p>To mainstream the practice of inclusive, equitable and accountable governance in towns and cities of Niger State, facilitated by local governments and institutions that are implementing fully integrated urban management processes.</p>

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