

MALAWI: BLANTYRE URBAN PROFILE



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MALAWI: Blantyre urban profile

UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

REGIONAL AND TECHNICAL COOPERATION DIVISION

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FOREWORDS



According to research published in UN-HABITAT's1 flagship report, The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011, developing all regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With 2030. half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-HABITAT estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate. As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-HABITAT is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-HABITAT, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-HABITAT headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-HABITAT to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

Dr. Joan Clos Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

¹ UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

Poverty reduction is the Malawi Government's overriding development objective as espoused in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy. In line with this, the government recognizes the critical role played by the cities and other urban centres in the socio-economic development of this country. Thriving and well functioning cities will in turn lead to thriving national economic development.

Our cities and other urban areas which are growing rapidly face a number of challenges, key among them that of urban poverty that is characterized by, among others, poor housing, poor access to water and sanitation as well as unemployment. The cities also face environmental challenges that are in part heightened by poor urban planning and environmental degradation.

The government therefore welcomes the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) that is coordinated by the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development and is being implemented in all the four cities of Lilongwe, Blantyre, Mzuzu, and Zomba. The urban profile for Blantyre City is an important document that sets out the key challenges faced by the city in the areas of urban governance, land and housing, slums, basic urban services including water and sanitation, local economic development, gender and HIV/AIDS, energy, disaster risks, environment, and waste management.

Through a consultative process of city stakeholders, the city council has identified the priority actions to be carried out in support of efforts to achieve sustainable urban development and reduce urban poverty. The challenge is now to move forward to implement these priority actions that seek to improve the quality of life of the urban poor. In this regard, the Government of Malawi will continue to support the city council under the decentralized framework in achieving the poverty reduction goals. Blantyre City Council (BCC) will need to redouble its efforts and ensure that more resources are allocated towards pro-poor activities in the city. The goal of ensuring sustainable urban development and poverty reduction cannot be achieved by the efforts of the central government and the city councils alone. More importantly, it will need the concerted efforts of all stakeholders involved in the development of Blantyre including the private sector, civil society, political and community leaders, development partners, and city residents.

The Government of Malawi would like to thank UN-HABITAT¹, the European Union and the ACP² Group of States for the technical and financial support towards the formulation of this profile. The commendable role of Mzuzu University in facilitating the process of the urban profile formulation as well as that of the chief executive, the PSUP city focal point, and management of Blantyre City Council is appreciated. Special mention is made of the first National Coordinator of the PSUP in Malawi, the late Mr. Dalitso Mpoola who dedicated his time, skills and efforts to ensure the successful implementation of this phase. May his soul rest in peace.

Kester E. Kaphaizi Principal Secretary Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development

¹ UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

ACP - Africa, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States



In Malawi, the urban profiling exercise was undertaken under the leadership of national and local authorities. This initiative has been carried out locally in Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba cities as well as nationally.

The Blantyre Urban Profile focuses on the findings of a desk-study,

interviews with key actors and a town hall consultation with key urban actors and institutions. Consultation participants agreed to address the salient urban issues including Governance, Local Economic Development, Land, Gender, Environment, Slums and Shelter, Basic Urban Services and Waste Management, and all problems that negatively affect investments and economic development.

Blantyre City faces many problems such as rapid urbanization, low income levels, lack of housing finance, lack of land for city expansion, and human capacity deficiencies among others. These factors have led to the mushrooming and growth of informal settlements in the city. Typical characteristics of such settlements are insecure tenure, lack of basic urban services and infrastructure, informal land delivery systems, and inefficient housing markets. Prompt actions will therefore be taken to overcome the challenges and ensure lasting and positive change.

Blantyre City Council is committed to improving living conditions in the city through its participation in upgrading initiatives and other development programmes with various stakeholders. These initiatives will help the city grow from strength to strength. They are also in line with Malawi's development instruments enshrined in the constitution of Malawi, and conform to policy initiatives articulated in the Malawi Growth and Development Strategy (MGDS). I wish to acknowledge the technical and financial support received from UN-HABITAT in the formulation of this urban profile.

I would like to thank the Government of Malawi through the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development (MLGRD) who are providing national leadership to this programme, Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development (MLHUD), Mzuzu University who facilitated the process of coming up with the profile, and the staff of Blantye City Council and in particular Costly Chanza, the Programme's city focal point and all those who have participated in and supported this initiative.

In a special way I would like to express my deepest gratitude and acknowledge the tireless efforts of the late Dalitso Mpoola, then National Coordinator of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme in Malawi, who supported and committed himself to this initiative. May his soul rest in peace.

The City of Blantyre now has an important tool that will enable it to move forward in addressing the challenge of urban poverty. Addressing urban poverty requires a concerted effort by all stakeholders. I therefore wish to invite all stakeholders and all our development partners to support the city of Blantyre in its efforts to attain the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).



Emmanuel Ted Nandolo Chief Executive Officer Blantyre City Council

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) is an accelerated and action-oriented urban assessment of needs and capacity-building gaps at the city level. The programme is supported by funds from the European Commission's European Development Fund and it is currently being implemented in 23 African countries, 59 African cities, 4 Pacific countries, 3 Caribbean countries, and 21 Pacific and Caribbean cities. PSUP uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed upon through consultative processes. The PSUP methodology consists of three phases: (1) a rapid participatory urban profiling at national and local levels, focusing on Governance, Local Economic Development, Land, Gender, Environment, Slums and Shelter, Basic Urban Services, and Waste Management, and proposed interventions; (2) detailed priority proposals; and (3) project implementation. PSUP in Malawi encompasses a national profile, as well as profiles for Blantyre, Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba, each published as a separate report. This is the Blantyre City report and it constitutes a general background, a synthesis of the seven themes; Governance, Local Economic Development, Land, Gender, Environment and Urban Disaster Risks, Slums and Shelter, and Basic Urban Services, and priority project proposals.

BACKGROUND

Blantyre City is the oldest urban centre in Malawi, established by the Scottish Missionaries in the 1870s and declared a planning area in 1897. It is the hub for communication, commercial activities and cooperation in Malawi. The influence of Blantyre declined when Lilongwe became the capital city in 1975. However, it has maintained its grip as the commercial capital of Malawi. The city offers a number of economic opportunities but lacks resources to meaningfully implement its strategies and provide the required basic social infrastructure and urban services required for economic development to take place. Over 65 percent of the city's population lives in informal settlements which occupy about 23 percent of the land in Blanytre¹. Poverty stands at 24 percent while unemployment stands at 8 percent². Improved governance, revenue collection and management capacity are seen as major factors needed for reducing poverty in the city. The establishment of a development coordinating committee (DCC) is vital for encouraging participation and city management. Policies must be formulated and implemented to address the existing shortfalls and such policies should be pro-poor. Improvement and expansion of service delivery, planning capacity and financial management is a necessity.

All in all, the leadership of Blantyre should embrace good governance through principles of sustainability, subsidiarity, equity, transparency and accountability, civic engagement and citizenship, and security.

GOVERNANCE

Blantyre has a participatory and democratic system of governance. Councilors are elected by city residents while the mayor is elected from among the councilors. The secretariat comprises of appointed staff members, and together with civil society groups and the regulatory authority of the central government, make the governance system. Some of the major challenges facing governance in Blantyre are lack of security of tenure and land governance, corruption, inadequate human capacity and poor billing system, and lack of transparency leading to low revenue collection. Social infrastructure is poorly maintained and the poor do not have access to the basic urban services. Efficient city management systems must be put in place to address these challenges. Public participation should also be encouraged in city development and management.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Blantyre is the commercial and communication hub for Malawi and it offers various economic opportunities. About 45 percent of Blantyre's residents are employed in the private sector, 12 percent are employed in the public sector, and 36 percent are self-employed and mainly working in the informal sector. Poverty rates in Blantyre stand at about 24 percent. Poverty is accelerated by the steady increase in prices of basic commodities such as food and the high rates of unemployment. Local authorities need to provide land for investment and incentives to encourage foreign investment and the setting up of businesses which will lead to job creation, as proposed in the Blantyre Urban Structure Plan (2000).

Blantyre City Assembly, 2000, vol. I. Blantyre Urban Structure Plan Background Report

² National Statistical Office, 2008, Statistical Yearbook

LAND

Land in the city is owned by the central government, Malawi Housing Corporation (MHC), the private sector, and Blantyre City Council. The multiplicity of land owners makes land management difficult³. Some 43 percent of land in Blanytre is planned residential land, 22 percent is unplanned, and 21 percent is semi-rural. Only the medium and high income classes have access to serviced land for housing. Blantyre City Council is the sole provider of high density plots. Accessibility is open to everyone on a first-come first-served basis.

The city council needs to ensure that the poor have access to serviced land in order to reduce squatting and to meet the millennium development goals on improving access to land for housing for the poor.

GENDER

In Blantyre, literacy levels up to secondary education are almost equal for males and females, but disparities appear beyond this level. The government of Malawi supports gender equality and affirmative action for women. Some of the major challenges facing women in Blantyre include gender based violence and inequality in the workplace. There is need for a gender policy at the local level to adequately address these issues.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN DISASTER RISKS

Rapid population growth, poor enforcement of environmental regulations and poor waste management practices have led to environmental degradation, pollution, deforestation, and uncontrolled development on fragile land. Effluents from pit latrines, industries and households into rivers and streams have resulted in the contamination of water bodies. The planned areas have full access to the basic urban services while the informal areas do not have adequate access. There is indiscriminate dumping of waste on the roadsides and in open spaces. Adequate policies must be put in order to address these issues and prevent further degradation of the environment.

SLUMS AND SHELTER

The population of Blantyre stood at 661,256 people in 2008 with a growth rate of 2.8 percent⁴. Over 65 percent of the population live in informal settlements with poor living conditions. The informal settlements will continue to grow given the ever increasing population, if no policies are put in place to arrest this situation. There is need to involve stakeholders from all sectors in the formulation and implementation of slum upgrading policies and programmes.

BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Most informal settlements have poor infrastructure and little or no access to the basic urban services. The city coordinates provision of community water supply to the informal settlements and the communities apply for water connection through the Community Development Committee (CDC). The planned areas however, which are occupied by the middle and high income groups, have adequate access to basic urban services.

National Statistical Office, September 2009. Population and Housing Census
 2008, Main Report.

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

Urban Profiling

The Blantyre Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to the wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. The urban profiling is being implemented in 30 ACP¹ countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

The urban profiling national team met in Salima at Lakeside Hotel from 16th to 19th February 2009 to localize the questionnaires for each selected theme by assessing the relevance of questions to the local context, identifying and filling gaps where possible and identifying possible local data sources. During the data collection exercise, about 30 people and institutions (public and private) were interviewed, including four non-governmental and community based organizations (CBOs), three parastatals, two micro-finance institutions, the police, the Department of Environmental Affairs, and several other relevant government ministries. Twelve Blantyre City Council officials were also interviewed.

METHODOLOGY

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme consists of three phases:

Phase one consists of the rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium-sized city, and a small town are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on eight themes; governance, local economic development, land, gender, environment, slums and shelter, basic urban services, and waste management. Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants, in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats

ACP - African, Caribbean and Pacific Group of States

(SWOT) of the national and local urban set-ups. The findings are presented and refined during city and national consultation workshops and consensus is reached regarding priority interventions. National and city reports synthesise the information collected and outline ways forward to reduce urban poverty through holistic approaches.

Phase two builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity-building and capital investment projects.

Phase three implements the projects developed during the two earlier phases, with an emphasis on skills development, institutional strengthening, and replication.

This report presents the outcomes of **Phase One** at the local level in Blantyre.

URBAN PROFILING IN BLANTYRE

The urban profiling in Blantyre is one of four similar exercises conducted in Malawi; the other urban profiling centres are Lilongwe, Mzuzu and Zomba.

Blantyre City Council representatives participated in the national consultation process, a partnership platform co-developed together with Malawi's Ministry of Local Government, the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, parastatals, and national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The aim was to develop options for formal inter-agency collaboration in order to create a coordination body integrating a wide range of urban stakeholders in a single response mechanism.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

- 1. a general background of the urban sector in Blantyre, based on the findings of the Blantyre City Assessment Report, a desk study, interviews, and a city consultation that was held in Blantyre on 17th August 2010 (see back cover for a list of participants in the city consultation). The background includes data on administration, urban planning, the economy, the informal and private sector, urban poverty, infrastructure, water, sanitation, public transport, street lighting, energy, health, and education;
- 2. a synthetic assessment of the following seven main thematic areas: governance, local economic development, land, gender, environment, slums and shelter, and basic urban services in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory framework, resource mobilization, and performance; this second section also highlights agreed priorities and includes a list of identified projects;

3. a SWOT² analysis and an outline of priority project proposals for each theme. The proposals include beneficiaries, partners, estimated costs, objectives, activities, and outputs.

BLANTYRE IN DATA

Blantyre is the commercial capital of Malawi. The total population is estimated at 661,256 with 336,234 males and 325,022 females. The growth rate was estimated at 2.8 percent between 1998 and 2008³. The population of Blantyre represents a 5.1 percent share of the national population. The average population density is 3,006 per square kilometer (National Statistical Office, 2008). There are 14 unplanned settlements (aggregated) within the city and five planned low income housing areas.

BLANTYRE'S DEVELOPMENT

Blantyre was declared a planning area in 1897 by the Scottish missionaries and has experienced high population growth, with the population increasing from 109,461 in 1966 to 661,256 in 2008. National Statistical Office (2003) projects the population to be 813,457 in 2008 and 1,068,681 in 2015, with annual growth rates of 4.35 percent and 3.64 percent respectively.

Over 70 percent of the urban population live in unplanned areas, which occupy up to 23 percent of the land in the city. Ndirande unplanned area has the highest population of about 118,000 as shown in the table below⁴.

TABLE 1:

Year	Population
1966	109,461
1977	219,011
1987	333,120
1998	502,053
2008	661,256
2015	1,068,681
2020	1,274,564

POPULATION GROWTH IN NDIRANDE

Source: National Statistical Office, 2003, 1998 Malawi Population and Housing Census: Population Projections Report 1999-2023.

TABLE 2:

POPULATION IN THE UNPLANNED AREAS **OF BLANTYRE**

Unplanned Area	Population (2007)
Kachere	6,401
Makheta	4,986
Nkolokoti	10,278
Soche	6,264
Misesa	8,595
Ntopwa	3,789
Mzedi	15,482
Mbayani / CheMussa	25,405
Nancholi	9,148
Sigelege	7,311
Bangwe / Namiyango	39,966
Naotcha	14,483
Chilobwe Chatha	18,970
Chigumula Chiswe	22,317
Manase	6,600
Kameza	8,558
Chiwembe	13,341
Manyowe	8,493
Basiyele	22,491
Chilomoni	32,094
Machinjiri	38,966
Ndirande (Safarao, Makata, Zambia, Chrimba)	118,424
TOTAL	476,197

Source: National Statistical Office, 2003, 1998 Malawi Population and Housing Census: Population Projections Report 1999-2023.

In terms of population distribution according to housing or area type, table 3 presents some interesting trends from 1977 to 1999.

SWOT - Strengths, Weaknesses, Opportunities, and Threats National Statistical Office, September 2009. Population and Housing Census 2

^{2008.} Main Report

⁴ Vazquez V, 2009, Water and Sanitation Needs Assessment for Blantyre City, Malawi

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POPULATION DISTRIBUTION IN BLANTYRE (1977 - 1999)							
Year	Permane	ent Areas	Low Inco	me Areas	Informal Settlements		Total
	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage	Population	Percentage	
1977	58,100	39%	25,300	17%	65,660	44%	149,060
1980	50,600	22%	80,500	35%	98,900	43%	230,000
1982	65,000	21.7%	72,000	24%	163,000	54.3%	300,000
1999	151,135	29.1%	82,688	15.9%	285,210	55%	519,033

Source: Vazquez V, 2009, Water and Sanitation Needs Assessment for Blantyre City, Malawi.

ADMINISTRATION

Blantyre is managed according to the Local Government Act (1998) with elected councilors and a mayor elected from the councilors.

The city's infrastructure is in a poor state mainly due to lack of maintenance. Lack of adequate resources affects the provision of social infrastructure and basic urban services by the city council. It also affects the city council's ability to attract and retain skilled and experienced staff who can implement city plans. The city council needs to improve its revenue collection strategies, technical capacity and accountability and transparency in order to promote the development of Blantyre.

URBAN PLANNING

Mandated by The Local Government Act (1998), Blantyre City Council undertakes all planning and development control functions and responsibilities in the city through the Directorate of Town Planning and Estates Management. The city lacks a City Development Strategy, a recent urban master plan and progressive policies and strategies to ensure guided development. The city has some legal frameworks in place but enforcement of these frameworks is a problem. Economic activities are concentrated in Blantyre and Limbe central business district (CBD) and the corridor connecting them through industrial areas. There are industrial areas in Makata, Ginnery Corner, Chirimba, and Moane Park. However, neighbourhood commercial centres are not common. This concentration has led to skewed development in the city. There is need for decentralized growth points. The city has failed to accommodate the growing population in a planned manner and forward planning programmes are needed to rectify the situation. The poor implementation of integrated economic development and planning has resulted in disorderly economic development. Environmental planning must be taken on board to encourage sustainable development of the city and its surroundings. Unsustainable development on fragile land and hazard prone areas should be discouraged. The

implementation of planning programmes is stalled by lack of adequate resources such as equipment, vehicles, professionally trained staff, and funding.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

Blantyre City is the commercial and industrial capital of Malawi. Finance, retail trade, construction, transport, food, textile manufacturing, motor vehicles sales and maintenance, and the informal sector are the most important economic sectors in the city. Blantyre City Council collects its revenue mainly from property rates (over 90 percent), market fees, licensing fees, and parking fees. The city also gets loans and grants from the central government and donors. Poor financial management coupled with poor revenue collection methods have made the city fail to deliver services satisfactorily.

The informal sector employs about 18 percent of Blantyre's population and plays a major role in the economy of the city. However, the sector lacks adequate regulation and support. The private sector is also thriving. Major impediments to economic growth in Blantyre include poor infrastructure, lack of basic urban services, lack of access to credit especially for the poor entrepreneurs, and lack of entrepreneurial skills.

POVERTY

Unemployment, rapid population growth and lack of access to credit for economic development by the poor are some of the factors contributing to the high rates of poverty in Blantyre. Poverty in the city stands at about 24 percent. There is need to provide the necessary investment in land, infrastructure and basic urban infrastructure in order for small and medium enterprises (SMEs) to carry out their businesses. Adequate and inclusive pro-poor regulations should be put in place to regulate the informal sector.

SOCIAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Blantyre City Council is mandated by the Local Government Act (1998) to provide and manage social infrastructure and basic urban services, including roads provision and maintenance, waste management, sanitation, provision of health services, provision of market outlets, provision of education, maintaining security and safety in the city, and provision of adequate drainage. However the provision of basic urban services and social infrastructure is inadequate due to shortage of resources, poor planning and mismanagement of funds.

WATER

Blantyre Water Board (BWB) supplies about 79,410 $m \in$ of water per day from the Shire River to Blantyre⁵. Water supply to individuals is on application basis. The supply network is old with frequent pipe bursts that require constant maintenance which is expensive. Around 74 percent of public schools have piped water supply. Demand for water has surged with the growing population resulting in acute water shortages in the city. Alternative sources of water should be explored in order to avoid these acute shortages. A development coordinating committee should be put in place to assist in coordination of water supply in the city.

SANITATION AND REFUSE COLLECTION

Sanitation and refuse collection services are nonexistent in the slums and most residents rely on shared pit latrines. Refuse collection by the city authorities is irregular and waste heaped on the roads, in open spaces and on river banks are a common eyesore and a major source of environmental pollution⁶. Blantyre City Council, private individuals and Malawi Housing Corporation provide septic tank emptying services at a fee. In order to address the solid waste management challenge in Blantyre's informal settlements, the possibility of Public-Private Partnerships (PPP) between various stakeholders and the city council needs to be explored. Some of the suggestions made for managing solid waste include converting solid waste into organic farm manure which can be sold to farmers.

PUBLIC TRANSPORT

The most common means of public transport in Blantyre are minibuses and taxis. Buses operate on long and intercity routes. In an attempt to mainstream the transport sector in Blanytre, the Minibus Owners Association of Malawi (MOAM) has constructed a minibus terminal at Mibawa. Blantyre experiences high amounts of traffic congestion and there is need for more effective traffic regulations. Trains used to provided transportation between Blantyre and Limbe, helping to ease transport congestion on the roads, but this is no longer the case. Improvements required in the transport network include provision of pedestrian footpaths, provision of pedestrian crossing on the roads, construction of fly-overs and bypasses, and the provision of bus laybys. Plans are also underway for the construction of a new Blantyre Bus Terminal and a road rehabilitation exercise.

STREET LIGHTING

Street lights in the city are poorly maintained and many are not working. The low income areas have no street lights and this has resulted in increased insecurity and crime.

ENERGY

The Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi (ESCOM) is the main supplier of electricity in Blantyre⁷. Only 12 percent of informal settlement residents have access to electricity. The high use of wood fuel (charcoal and firewood) as an alternative source of energy has huge negative consequences on the environment and alternative sources of energy must be explored in order to prevent the continued used of wood fuel. A small number of people rely on solar power as their main source of energy.

⁵ National Statistical Office 2008, Statistical Yearbook.

⁶ Blantyre City Assembly, 2006, Situation Analysis of Informal Settlements in Blantyre City.

⁷ National Statistical Office, September 2009, Population and Housing Census 2008 Main Report.

HEALTH

Blantyre has six hospitals and eighteen health clinics scattered across the city and managed by Blantyre City Council and the Ministry of Health and Population. There are several private hospitals and clinics and medical colleges that offer medical services to the public. However, health facilities are unevenly distributed in Blantyre, with residents in the informal areas being the most unable to access proper and affordable health services. In order to address this situation, plans are underway to construct a new district hospital that will be accessible to the poor⁸. Malaria remains one of the major causes of death in Malawi. Cholera and other disease outbreaks are common in the informal settlements due to the poor sanitation in the settlements. HIV/AIDS is also a major challenge.

EDUCATION

There is a shortage of primary and secondary schools as well as teaching staff in Blantyre. There is also a shortage of teachers in schools. In 2008, the total enrollment in primary schools stood at 130,601 with 63,976 males and 66,625 females⁹. There are several public and private colleges, universities and technical institutions in Blantyre.

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Mr Costly Chanza, November 2010, Director of Planning Urban Profiling Focal Point (BCC)

National Statistical Office 2008, Statistical Yearbook

GOVERNANCE

Blantyre City Council is mandated by the Local Government Act (1998) to govern and manage the city's affairs. Governance in Blantyre has been affected by the absence of councilors for the past six years. The Local Government Act was amended in 2009 to allow the president to set the date for local government elections. They are now expected to take place in April 2011. Chief Executive Officers will be appointed by the minister responsible for local government and rural development. The mayor is elected from among the councilors.

Governance in Blantyre is further affected by the slow pace of decentralization of functions and responsibilities from central government. Political interference in technical matters has also led to inappropriate decisions being made. The multiplicity of land owners makes security of tenure and land governance difficult, and also results in the slow processing of land acquisitions. Basic urban service provision is poor especially in the informal settlements where majority of the city's population reside.

The city's revenue collection rates are low due to high default rates, inadequate capacity, lack of transparency and corruption, an inadequate property database, and a billing system that depends on unreliable software. The low revenue results in low investment in basic infrastructure and services. A city charter for the Citizen's Rights to Basic Urban Services is said to be under formulation and will be ready by 2012. The formulation of the charter will result in a higher sense of accountability by the city council to provide infrastructure and services.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- All budgetary matters are approved by the Local Government Finance Committee.
- Blantyre City Council is headed by a mayor elected from among the councilors.
- The secretariat is headed by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO) and has six departments and directors.
- The city council works with institutions including the civil society and service providers.
- Community Development Committees are in place in some low income housing areas and informal settlements and assist with community organization and development.
- There is no framework for the establishment of Private-Public Partnerships in service delivery.



• There are no specific policies and regulatory frameworks to control service provision in the informal settlements.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Local Government Act of 1998 and the National Decentralization Policy of 1998.
- The Town and Country Planning Act (TCPA) of 1988 empowers the city to control development within its area of jurisdiction.
- The Blantyre Urban Structure Plan for 2000-2014.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- There is weak communication between Blantyre City Council and city residents.
- The absence of a Service Charter results in a lack of accountability by the city council in the delivery of basic urban services as citizens are not aware of their rights to basic urban services and cannot demand the same.
- Blantyre City Council undertakes participatory budgeting involving citizens, the civil society, the National Initiative for Civic Education (NICE), Blantyre Urban Networks (BUN), and private sector organizations. However, there is no monitoring and evaluation system in place for performance assessment and improvement.
- Blantyre City Council receives support from the central government, the Local Authority Development Fund and donors, for various development activities.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

City and property rates are the major source of revenue at over 70 percent.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Strengthen community development structures.
- Create a coordination body for an integrated approach to urban development, for example, Blantyre Urban Network.
- Improve financial management systems and revenue collection and monitoring systems.
- Review legal frameworks and improve enforcement.
- Review the city council structure and conditions of service to reduce staff turnover.
- Establish a monitoring and evaluation system (MES) as a learning tool.
- Introduce civic education for Members of Parliament and councilors on their roles and responsibilities.

GOVERNANCE N°1 **Project proposal** Page 36 Strengthen and improve the city council's financial management

SLUMS AND SHELTER



Blantyre's population is estimated at 661,256 people with an annual growth rate of 2.8 percent between 1998 and 2008 and with a population density per square kilometer of 3,006 in 2008 up from 2,280 in 1998. Over 70 percent of the population lives in informal settlements which do not have access to social infrastructure or basic urban services. The population in the informal settlements has been increasing since the 1970s. Housing in the informal settlements is inadequate and lacks the minimum requirements for low income housing¹.

Blantyre City Assembly (2000, Volume III) estimates that high density housing will cater for the needs of about 78 percent of the city's population. The current Blantyre City Housing Policy promotes equal access to land for the urban poor². UN-HABITAT³ (2010) indicates that urban housing needs in Blantyre continue to rise to nearly 5,000 new housing units per annum⁴.

Various development and humanitarian organizations and some private companies are involved in the provision of basic urban services in the informal settlements but their activities lack coordination. Some development organizations involved in the provision of low cost housing include Malawi Homeless People's Federation supported by the Centre of Community Organization and Development and Habitat for Humanity Malawi (HfHM).

- Blantyre City Assembly, 2000, vol. I. Blantyre Urban Structure Plan Background Report
- Blantyre City Assembly, 2000, vol. I. Blantyre Urban Structure Plan Background Report UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme
- UN-HABITAT, 2010, Malawi Urban Housing Sector Profile

The Malawi Homeless People's Federation and Habitat for Humanity Malawi have been allocated land for new low income housing projects in Angelo Goveya and South Lunzu respectively. There is need for a housing policy to respond to the housing needs of the population, particularly the urban poor.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Cities without Slums. The Cities without Slums Initiative was launched in Blantyre by UN-HABITAT to contribute to sustainable development and attainment of the Millennium Development Goal 7C (Halve, by 2015, the proportion of the population without sustainable access to safe drinking water and basic sanitation) and Goal 7D (By 2020, to have achieved a significant improvement in the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers).

INSTITUTIONAL SET UP

- The Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development; the Ministry of Local and Rural Development; Malawi Housing Corporation; and Blantyre City Council are responsible for the provision of adequate housing in Blantyre.
- Some development organizations are assisting in the provision of good quality and affordable low cost housing for the poor. Blantyre City Council is the leading authority in the implementation of slum upgrading initiatives.

MAP 1: FORMAL AND INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS IN BLANTYRE



© UN-HABITAT

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Blantyre City Urban Structure Plan (2000) runs up to 2015 and provides guidelines for improved infrastructure development in the city.
- The Town and Country Planning Act (1988), the Public Health Act, the Local Government Act (1998), the Environmental Management Act (EMA), and the Procedures, Management and Administration of Traditional Housing Areas (1994).

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The city council lacks the financial and technical capacity to implement slum upgrading initiatives.
- There is need to resuscitate and strengthen the urban forum at the local level where urban challenges can be discussed and adequate solutions presented.
- There is weak coordination between Blantyre City Council and other stakeholders in the land and housing sector leading to inefficiency and poor performance especially in policy enforcement.
- The involvement of chiefs in land matters complicates the implementation of urban development programmes as there are conflicts of interest.
- The absence of a Citizen Right Charter leads to poor basic urban services delivery.
- The absence of a slum upgrading policy at the local level makes it difficult to implement slum upgrading initiatives.

TENURE

- The formal land and housing market is not affordable to the poor urban majority, making the informal settlements their only option for housing.
- Residents of informal settlements do not have security of tenure and there is a lot of insecurity in the informal settlements which makes slum upgrading work difficult.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- The city lacks the financial, human and technical capacity to allocate funds for slum upgrading.
- There are several development actors who are involved in informal settlements upgrading initiatives and who work in collaboration with Blantyre City Council to improve the living conditions of the residents of informal settlements.
- The poor are unable to access housing finance because collateral is required.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Upgrade housing and infrastructure in the informal settlements.
- Train Blantyre City Council staff on integrated land use management and use of modern technology in infrastructure development and improvement, for example Geographic Informations System (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS).
- Secure funding from alternative sources, for example donors, for the extensive implementation of slum upgrading initiatives.
- Use of a participatory and holistic approach in slum upgrading initiatives.

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SHELTER Nº1	An integrated approac	h to urban
IN ⁻ I	planning	

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS



There are 325,022 females and 336,234 males in Blantyre. More males pursue their education beyond the Junior Certificate of Education level. Females marry earlier than their male counterparts, specifically between the ages of 12 and 24¹. In the informal settlements, 44 percent of residents have acquired primary education, 41 percent have acquired secondary education and 9 percent have acquired tertiary education².

Women representation in governance and leadership positions account for 40 percent in most government institutions.

HIV/AIDS prevalence in Blantyre is among the highest in the country, at 22 percent. There is no direct link between education levels and HIV prevalence in women, ranging from 14 percent among women with no education to 15 percent among educated women. Prevalence for men goes higher with increasing education, ranging from 9 percent for those with no education to 13 percent for those with secondary and tertiary education. HIV prevalence also increases with increasing economic status with the prevalence among the wealthy at 15 percent and 4 percent among the poor. The HIV infection rate is lowest among single men and women and highest among married men and women³. There are several non-governmental and community based organizations advocating for gender equality and affirmative action for women. However, these activities mostly favour women, leaving out men. Gender-based violence, which is mostly against women, is also a major challenge facing the community. The following strides have been made in efforts to reduce violence against women:

- Development of a workplace Gender Policy in Blantyre;
- Sensitizing staff, from top management to the lowest level employees, on the Gender Policy;
- Establishing community centers for community meetings and sensitization on gender-based violence and placement of suggestion boxes in strategic locations.

BEST PRACTICE

The Blantyre City Assembly (BCA) HIV/AIDS Initiative. The main goal of the project was to come up with a broad based multi-sectoral and well-coordinated intervention against the HIV/AIDS pandemic in Blantyre. The initiative has demonstrated that the local government, being closest to the grass root level, can play an important role in the fight against the HIV/ AIDS pandemic. Blantyre City Council works closely with development and humanitarian organizations, and has shown that the involvement of the community is crucial in bringing a sense of ownership of the project to the communities at the grass root level and continuity of the activities afterwards.

National Statistical Office, September 2009, Population and Housing Census 2008 Main Report.

Blantyre City Assembly, 2006, Situation Analysis of Informal Settlements in Blantyre City. National Statistical Office, Malawi and ORC Macro. 2005. 2004 Malawi

³ National Statistical Office, Malawi and ORC Macro. 2005. 2004 Malawi Demographic and Health Survey Key Findings

The initiative is well established and is one of the well managed projects that has been accredited as a best practice in Malawi and showcased in several international forums⁴.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Women and Child Development leads in the implementation of gender mainstreaming initiatives.
- The Ministry of Health and Population leads in the implementation of HIV/AIDS initiatives.
- The National AIDS Commission (NAC) funds most HIV/AIDS programmes in the city.
- Blantyre City Council coordinates some HIV/AIDS programmes at the local level.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The National Gender Policy provides guidance on gender issues.
- The National HIV/AIDS Policy (2003) provides guidelines on HIV/AIDS related issues.
- The National Response to Combat Gender Based Violence (2008).
- Blantyre City Council does not have a localized gender policy.
- Blantyre City Assembly HIV/AIDS Workplace Policy (2003).

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Although there is no localized gender policy, Blantyre City Council and other active institutions are making concerted efforts to mainstream gender and create awareness among the public on the importance of gender equality.
- The various institutions should do more to educate management at all levels to take gender mainstreaming on board and to equally facilitate the advancement of both men and women in the workplace.
- Improve information dissemination on genderbased violence and HIV/AIDS through effective means, such as the mass media, schools and churches. This will enable awareness creation.
- Blantyre City Council works with Community Development Committees at the community

level and other organization involved in gender initiatives, to address gender issues and act as local liaison channels with the institutions.

- A gender policy has been drafted with the assistance of non-governmental organizations but it is yet to be adopted.
- Blantyre City Council has a well-coordinated HIV/ AIDS programme in the city, and support from local and international partners.
- Blantyre City Council has a gender desk that coordinates HIV/AIDS and gender programmes in the city.
- There are several public and private institutions which offer voluntary counselling and testing (VCT) for HIV/AIDS.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The city does not have adequate financial resources.
- The Malawi Government funds gender and HIV/ AIDS activities through the National AIDS Commission.
- Several development and humanitarian organizations have been actively involved in gender and HIV/ AIDS and support gender and HIV/AIDS initiatives in the city of Blantyre, especially in the informal settlements.
- Micro-finance institutions are actively involved in empowering women through the provision of small scale business loans and business training. The Malawi Government is also taking part in the provision of micro-finance through the Community Savings and Investment Programme (COMSIP) programme managed by the Malawi Social Action Fund (MASAF).

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Formulation of a Blantyre City Gender Policy.
- Provide communities with civic education and sensitization on gender and HIV/AIDS issues.
- Build the capacity of local authorities on gender and HIV/AIDS.

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HIV/AIDS N°1	Formulation of a City C	Gender Policy

⁴ Bandawe L R (Dr), (2006) in Managing the HIV and AIDS Pandemic at the Local Level: Experience from the Blantyre City Assembly, Malawi.

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN DISASTER RISKS



Environmental degradation in Blantyre is mainly as a result of uncontrolled developments, deforestation, brick moulding along river banks, and mining of quarries. The limited coverage of the sewer system in the city has led to the overwhelming use of pit latrines in the informal settlements. The absence of specific regulations to address the provision of basic urban services in the unplanned settlements is worsening the situation. Indiscriminate liquid and solid waste disposal into water catchment areas, rivers, and along roads is causing further degradation of the environment. Industrial and domestic effluents are also a major cause of pollution of water bodies.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- Blantyre City Council manages the city's environment. The environmental unit conducts area consultations.
- The Department of Environmental Affairs and Forestry plays a role in the management of the environment through tree planting programmes and putting in place measures to reduce environmental pollution in the city.
- Some non-governmental and community based organizations have initiated environmental conservation programmes in the city and in the informal settlements.
- The Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust (MEET) works with various institutions in the implementation of the Environmental Management Act.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Blantyre has a range of policies and regulations governing environmental management.
- The Environmental Management Act, the Forestry Act, the Environmental Impact Assessment (EIA) Guidelines, and the Local Government Act are the major sources of guidance.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The environmental regulations and policies fail to address the environmental challenges faced in the informal settlements. Environmental protection programmes are hampered by resistance from stakeholders in the private sector to implement environmental protection guidelines and standards.
- The city council has failed in enforcing environmental regulations mainly due to inadequate capacity.
- Several public and private institutions assemble and disseminate urban environmental information through print and electronic media.
- Environmental protection and conservation as well as climate change education have now been mainstreamed in the school curriculum in Malawi, specifically at the university level.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Build the city council's environmental planning and management capacity.
- Formulation and implementation of environmental regulations.
- Establishment of biogas projects in some settlements.
- Drafting of plans for the management of open spaces.
- Training of local leaders on the importance of protecting the environment and on good environmental practices.
- Developing a project on production of organic fertilizer and the transformation of solid waste into biogas.
- Rain water harvesting to reduce water shortages.
- Tree planting to reduce soil erosion.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The resources allocated for environmental management in Blantyre are not enough to address the multitude of environmental challenges.
- The Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust provides funding for environment related projects and scholarships for capacity building.
- A few individuals provide waste collection and disposal services at a fee. However these services are only accessible in the middle and high income neighbourhoods, where residents can afford the cost of these services.
- Several Private-Public Partnership projects have been carried out in the past in an effort to control pollution along Mudi River, improve the management of Chipembere Highway Green Areas, and control soil erosion in Chimwankhunda Dam.
- There are several non-governmental and community based organizations involved in environmental conservation projects and who also supplement the city council's environmental management efforts.

URBAN DISASTER RISKS

The Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs and Blantyre City Council are the main stakeholders responsible for disaster prevention and management. Some of the disaster risks facing the city include floods, landslides and environmental degradation. Landslides are becoming common and are mainly as a result of environmental degradation. Mitigation measures have included shifting households from landslide prone areas to safer locations.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs and Blantyre City Council leads in the management of disaster issues.
- The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee (NDPRC) and sub-committees for disaster management work together with the Office of the Commissioner for Disaster Preparedness, Relief and Rehabilitation.
- Other key stakeholders include the police, the Ministry of Health and Population, the Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi, Blantyre Water Board, the Forestry Department, St. John Ambulance, the Civil Aviation, and the Department of Meteorological Services and Climate Change.

ONGOING PROJECTS

- Training of council staff in fire fighting techniques.
- Community fire safety education campaign.
- Training course for food handlers.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Disaster Preparedness and Relief Act (1991) provides guidelines on disaster preparedness and management.
- The city has by-laws that are applicable in the management of urban disasters.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Introduction of community policing.
- Increase in the number of fire fighting equipment and provision of water hydrants in slums.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Communities are involved in the implementation of disaster management activities but there is need for more capacity building and training on disaster preparedness and management among the local authorities and local communities.
- The absence of regulatory frameworks for disaster at the local level is an obstacle when it comes to planning and implementation of disaster risk management activities.
- The capacity of Blantyre City Council needs to be improved through training and policies that are adequate for disaster risk reduction.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- The Department of Poverty and Disaster Management Affairs has a budget line for its activities and receives funding from the central government and donors. However these resources are not enough to implement all the necessary disaster management activities in the city.
- There are some development and humanitarian organizations taking part in disaster management activities.
- The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee distributes funds to the various organizations involved in urban disaster risk reduction and management.

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ENVIRONMENT N°1	Rainwater harvesting in schools		
	Project proposal	Page 42	
ENVIRONMENT N°2	Tree planting to reduce soil erosion and to protect the ecosystem		
	Project proposal	Page 43	
ENVIRONMENT N°3	Storm water drainage system		

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Blantyre offers numerous economic opportunities. Retail trade, construction, manufacturing of food products, transport, textile manufacturing, motor vehicle sales and maintenance, and public administration are the most important economic activities in Blantyre. About 45 percent of Blantyre's population is employed in the private sector, 12 percent in the public sector, 36 percent are self employed, and 7 percent work in the agricultural sector¹.

Poverty in Blantyre stands at 24 percent. The poor lack access to loan facilities to enable them to start up income generating activities. The government has set up several programmes to support access to micro finance. The Malawi Government through the Malawi Social Action Fund introduced the Community Savings and Investment Programme to support the growth of small and medium enterprises at the community level.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Industry, Trade and Private Sector Development promotes local economic development at the national level and Blantyre City Council promotes local economic development at the local level.
- There are no training opportunities in entrepreneurial and business skills for the entrepreneurs in Blantyre.
- The One Village One Product (OVOP) initiative has created opportunities in Blantyre.
- Local non-governmental organizations such as the Centre for Community Organization and Development (CCODE) are coming in with new Local Economic Development initiatives like organic manure production.
- Some micro-finance institutions such as Malawi Rural Finance Company offer basic training in entrepreneurship for those wanting to get loans to support small businesses.
- The current regulatory framework for credit accessibility does not favour low income earners due to the high interest on loans and collateral requirements.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Local Government Act of 1998 and the Decentralization Policy of 1996.
- The Blantyre Urban Structure Plan for 2000-2014 (2000).
- The Town and Country Planning Act of 1988.
- The Taxation Act.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- There is weak communication and consultations between Blantyre City Council, the private sector and small and medium sized enterprises.
- The informal sector economy lacks adequate support from the government. There is need to integrate the informal sector into the local economy and optimize its potential for creating employment and providing revenue for the government.
- The activities of all players in local economic development need to be coordinated and the possibility of public-private partnerships explored.
- Poor infrastructure and lack of access to basic urban services affects local economic development. For example, Blantyre experiences frequent power outages which affects the performance of businesses.
- There is limited provision of serviced land for investment and development of businesses.
- There are no pro-poor or deliberate gender-oriented local economic development policies in place.
- The activities of stakeholders, non-governmental and community based organizations and civil society organizations involved in local economic development initiatives lack coordination.
- Promotion of local economic development by provision of incentives such as low interest loans for those who want to start up businesses.

¹ National Statistical Office 2008, Statistical Yearbook.



RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- Blantyre City Council lacks the resources to meaningfully invest in the promotion of local economic development.
- The informal sector is a major source of employment in Blantyre. The city council needs to harness the potential of the informal sector to accelerate local economic development by formation of policies to mainstream the informal sector and collection of revenue through taxes.
- Some private institutions have provided funds for the improvement of infrastructure in order to promote local economic development.
- There is need to provide low interest loans to the poor to enable them to start up income generating activities that will enable them to get out of poverty.

LOCAL ECONOMIC	Project proposal	Page 45
DEVELOPMENT N°1	Upgrading of Chilobwe Vocational Centre	
	Ducie et avene et	Dama 45
LOCAL ECONOMIC	Project proposal	Page 45

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Establish an institutional structure for supporting entrepreneurship and business skills development.
- Review existing legal frameworks and formulate new by-laws to promote economic activities in both the formal and informal sectors.
- Improve working conditions in the city council in order to retain the right professionals who can contribute towards the development of the economy.
- Encourage best practices and knowledge sharing through training and trade fairs.

MAP 3: INDUSTRIAL SITES IN BLANTYRE



BASIC URBAN SERVICES

Blantyre City Council is responsible for the provision of basic urban services. However these services are inadequate and not evenly distributed throughout Blantyre, with the informal settlements being the most affected. There are five sewage treatment plants namely Blantyre, Soche, Limbe, Chirimba, and Maone. Chirimba and Maone are currently not operational¹. Solid waste is collected by the city council and dumped at Mzedi dumping site to the east of the city. Other institutions such as Malawi Housing Corporation and private entities provide waste management services even in the informal areas as long as one can afford to pay for the services.

WATER SUPPLY

Blantyre Water Board is the sole supplier of water in the city and water provision is mainly upon application. There are no special arrangements for water supply in the informal settlements as the key determinant is affordability. Blantyre's main water sources are Shire River and Mudi Dam². About 46 percent of slum dwellers access water through kiosks, 11 percent have piped water at home, 13 percent walk long distances to access piped water, and the rest acquire their water from other sources³. About 80 percent of formal settlements' residents have access to piped water⁴. However, Blantyre Water Board asserts that access to water has improved in the last five years as fewer consumers are forced to travel long distances in search of water.

Some 74 percent of public schools in Blantyre have access to piped water, 6 percent use boreholes while the remaining 20 percent rely on unprotected water sources. All public health facilities are supplied with piped water. Installation of additional water points and provision of water services at affordable tariffs will improve access to water, especially in the informal settlements.

ONGOING PROJECTS

Provision of Portable Water to Peri-Urban Areas by Blantyre Water Board. This project aims at improving water supply to Blantyre's informal settlements and the peri-urban areas. It is under the Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development's National Water Development Programme (NWDP II) and is expected to take 48 months and cost about USD 25 million. The expected output is increased water supply coverage and improved efficiency.

Blantyre Water Board will also expand the water pipeline to cover more areas that are not yet connected, provide booster pumps to supply water to higher areas, and replace less durable piping material with durable ones to avoid water loss through leakages.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Irrigation and Water Development supported by the Water Resources Board coordinates the supply of water and all water related projects.
- Blantyre Water Board is the sole supplier of piped water in Blantyre.
- Blantyre City Council provides fire, sewerage, health, sanitation, and solid waste management services.
- Public-private partnerships aimed at improving water supply and accessibility, especially in the informal settlements, are in place.
- Blantyre City Council coordinates and facilitates the supply of water to the informal settlements and other high density housing areas.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Blantyre Water Works Act, the Water Resources Act, the Local Government Act, and the National Sanitation Policy.
- The Public Health Act and the Environmental Management Act requires the supply of portable water to all residents in the city.
- Blantyre City Council has local by-laws and regulations regarding service provision.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Water supply costs in Blantyre are high due to the distant location of water sources and the poor state of the existing water supply infrastructure that needs rehabilitation.
- There is a shortage of qualified and competent staff in Blantyre Water Board and this affects service provision by the institution.
- Availability of water varies with locations. Certain areas have water throughout while others receive water intermittently, especially the informal areas.

Vazquez V, 2009, Water and Sanitation needs assessment for Blantyre City, 1

National Statistical Office, 2008, Statistical Yearbook.

National Statistical Office, September 2009, Population and Housing Census 2008 Main Report. 3 4 Vazquez V, 2009, Water and Sanitation needs assessment for Blantyre City, Malawi.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Conduct tree planting exercise in all water catchment areas in the city.
- Establish alternative water sources.
- Mobilize resources to promote community policing activities.
- Upgrade existing water supply infrastructure.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Blantyre Water Board and Blantyre City Council depend on locally collected revenue to enable them to provide services such as water and waste management throughout the city.

ELECTRICITY SUPPLY

The Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi is the only supplier of hydroelectric power in the city, generated and transmitted from the Shire River. Connection is by application and the major determinant is affordability. Some 45 percent of Blantyre's residents depend on electricity for lighting. For cooking purposes, 64 percent of residents rely on charcoal, 18 percent on firewood and 17 percent on electricity⁵. A small number of residents rely on solar power. The Government has installed solar power in some newly constructed public facilities in a bid to reduce reliance on hydroelectric power. Only 12 percent of households in the informal settlements have access to electricity. 88 percent of informal settlement residents rely on firewood and charcoal for energy. Electricity supply is further characterized by frequent blackouts. The energy policy of 2003 promotes the analysis of alternative energy sources such as solar power to increase electricity supply.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Natural Resources, Energy and Environment Affairs provides legal support.
- The Malawi Energy Regulatory Authority (MERA) controls electricity pricing.
- Electricity Supply Commission Of Malawi is the sole supplier of hydroelectric power in the city.
- There are no public-private partnerships to promote energy distribution in the city.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Electricity Act guides the supply of electricity.
- The Malawi Energy Regulatory Act controls electricity tariffs.
- Electricity by-laws developed by the Malawi Electricity Regulatory Authority are yet to be adopted.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Mobilize resources to upgrade and expand existing electricity supply infrastructure.
- Sensitize communities to opt for alternative sources of energy, for example solar energy.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi is a government institution that faces resource challenges which greatly hamper its delivery.
- Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi, which is the sole supplier of electricity in Malawi, is unable to meet the electricity demands of all of Blantyre's residents. Introduction of new players into the electricity supply field will help to improve service delivery.
- Electricity in Blantyre is expensive making it unaffordable for many of Blantyre's residents and greatly increases the cost of production in industries that consume a lot of electricity. This situation needs to be addressed in order to increase the number of people with electricity access and promote local economic development.
- Electricity supply in Blantyre is characterized by frequent blackouts and many incidences of illegal connections.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi generates revenue from the fees it charges to consumers for electricity supply.

National Statistical Office, September 2009, Population and Housing Census 5 2008 Main Report



URBAN SAFETY

Safety in Blantyre is provided by the Malawi Police, Blantyre City Council and private security firms. The city council is responsible for the provision of a safe environment through street lighting, orderly development and provision of social amenities, infrastructure and services (roads, bridges, footpaths). Blantyre City Council has seven police stations and several police posts located throughout the city. The main safety and security issues facing the city include robbery, theft, rape, assault, gender-based violence, and carjackings. They occur mostly in the Traditional Housing Areas and the informal settlements.

Urban safety and security in Blantyre can be improved through implementation of community policing, improving the working conditions of police officers, increasing the amount of resources allocated to the police to implement urban safety and security measures, capacity building for the police, and establishment of more police units across the country.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs oversees law and order and public safety in Malawi.
- Blantyre City Council is mandated to provide a safe environment.

- Private security firms provide security services at a fee.
- The implementation of community policing has helped to increase safety and security at the local level.
- Other institutions actively involved in increasing urban safety include the National Road Safety Council (NRSC) and the National Roads Authority (NRA). The National Road Safety Council concentrates on putting in place measures to increase road safety.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Police Act; the Local Government Act; the Occupational Health, Safety and Welfare Act; the Crime Prevention Policy; and the Malawi Constitution form the basis for the provision of safety and security services in the city.
- Community neighbourhood groups have been established with the help of the police based on the Police Act.
- Private firms need to be duly registered with the Registrar of Companies.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Improve community participation in community policing activities in the residential areas.
- Mobilize resources for community policing activities.
- Sensitize communities on the negative effects of gender-based violence.
- Improve the road network which will lead to increased safety and security in the city.

WASTE MANAGEMENT

Blantyre City Council is in charge of waste management and provision of sanitation. The formal areas have access to the basic urban services while the informal settlements and the Traditional Housing Areas have little or no access to basic urban services. Majority of informal settlement residents dispose of their waste in a haphazard manner that is harmful to their health and dangerous to the environment. About 78 percent of informal settlement residents dispose their human waste in pit latrines⁶. There is need to introduce rules and regulations in the informal settlements that will stop the indiscriminate disposal of waste and prevent further environmental degradation.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The Malawi Police depends on government funding to provide safety and security services. However, government resources are limited and this greatly affects their ability to fulfill their mandate.
- Blantyre City Council lacks sufficient resources to invest in safety infrastructure.
- Community policing and neighbourhood watch groups have increased recently. This has led to improved safety and reduced crime in the city.
- Recent reviews of the police law allowing the police to arrest without a court warrant are retrogressive and an abuse of human rights.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- The Malawi Government funds the police.
- The police collect fines which act as a source of revenue.
- Blantyre City Council relies on its own local revenue to provide urban safety and security infrastructure, for example putting up street lights.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Engineering Department, the Cleansing Department, and the Cultural and Environment Department in Blantyre City Council are responsible for waste management and pollution control in Blantyre.
- The Malawi Homeless People's Federation has introduced eco-friendly toilets at the Angelo Goveya low income housing projects.
- Some development and humanitarian organizations assist in waste management in the informal settlements.
- There are private companies that offer refuse collection and disposal services at a fee. However these services are only accessible to the middle and upper class residents who can afford them.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Local Government Act of 1998, the Environmental Management Act, the Public Health Act, and the Town and Country Planning Act give guidelines for the provision of waste management and sanitation services.
- The Blantyre City Urban Structure Plan (2000).

BLANTYRE URBAN PROFILE - BASIC URBAN SERVICES

National Statistical Office, September 2009, Population and Housing Census 2008 Main Report.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Blantyre City Council lacks the capacity (financial, technical and human resource) to meet the demand for waste management and sanitation services.
- There is need for increased provision of basic urban services in the informal settlements. Private companies can be encouraged to expand their services to the informal settlements at an affordable rate, by providing them with subsidies and incentives.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Upgrade the sewerage infrastructure in the city and the informal settlements.
- Review existing legal frameworks.
- Establish community-based waste collection services.

BASIC URBAN	Project proposal	Page 49		
SERVICES N°1	Provision of portable water to informa and peri-urban areas			
		-		
BASIC URBAN	Project proposal	Page 49		
SERVICES N°2	Afforestation of all water catchment areas			
BASIC URBAN SERVICES N°3	Project proposal	Page 50		
	Provision of adequate street lighting in the informal settlements			
BASIC URBAN	Project proposal I	Page 50		
SERVICES N°4	Promotion of community policing in the informal settlements			
BASIC URBAN	Project proposal I	Page 51		
SERVICES N°5	Organic fertilizer production from urban waste			

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- Blantyre City Council depends on revenue collected from taxes to provide waste management services.
- Encouraging the establishment of Private-Public Partnerships to assist in waste management in the city.
- There are a few development agencies that are willing to provide funds for the improvement of waste management services in the informal settlements. There is need to involve the communities and build their capacity to participate in proper waste management practices.

LAND

Blantyre City Council is responsible for urban planning and development control in the city. Major land owners include the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Malawi Housing Corporation, private institutions, and Blantyre City Council. Chiefs also claim to own customary land. The multiplicity of land ownership gives rise to land management challenges. Land in Blantyre is categorized as public (48 percent), private (40 percent), freehold and leasehold, and customary land (12 percent). Planned residential areas account for 43 percent of land, unplanned residential areas account for 22 percent, while semi-rural residential accounts for 21 percent. Commercial, industrial, and institutional premises share about 16 percent of the total land area.

INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- Major land owners include the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development, Malawi Housing Corporation, private owners, and Blantyre City Council. Local chiefs and leaders also claim ownership to customary land.
- Blantyre City Council is responsible for provision of high density plots.
- Habitat for Humanity Malawi and Centre for Community Organization and Development (CCODE) assists low income earners to build their own houses.
- Chiefs allocate land without following any layout plans leading to unplanned and haphazard developments.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

Blantyre relies on the Town and Country Planning Act; the Procedures, Management and Administration of Traditional Housing Areas; the Local Government Act; the Decentralization Policy; and the Blantyre Urban Structure Plan (2000).

	Project proposal	Page 53
LAND N°1	Development of a land system	information
	Project proposal	Page 53
LAND N°2	Servicing of land for allocation to income earners	

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Land adjudication project in the informal settlements.
- Establishment of a Land Allocation Committee.
- Public awareness on land matters.
- Computerization of land projects.
- Lobbying for passing of the Land Bill.
- Capacity building on proper land management.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- Most citizens are not aware of the procedures to follow when buying land.
- Lack of a land register makes it difficult to monitor the buying and selling of land.
- Land administration and governance is weak and lacks transparency. Improved land governance could be achieved by incorporating more civil society representatives in the Plot Allocation Committee and Town Planning Committee.
- The city has a well thought out urban structure plan that was prepared in 1999, but its implementation is very slow.
- Recent low income plots have been absorbed by medium and high income people who are able to afford them, whereas the poor still find the cost of plots to be too high.
- Blantyre City Council lacks the physical and technical capacity to implement its plans.
- A coordination platform is lacking among the stakeholders.

RESOURCE MOBILISATION

- Blantyre collects most of its revenue from property rates.
- Blantyre City Council heavily relies on donor funds to carry out slum upgrading initiatives.

MAP 4: BLANTYRE CITY ASSEMBLY: URBAN STRUCTURE PLAN - CURRENT LAND USE (1999)



GOVERNANCE

	EAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
mayors are elected through a democratic process by the public.and ger inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte inte 	EAKNESSES uncilors, mayors d politicians in heral put personal erest before the erest of the people. ppropriate legal meworks and poor forcement of laws d regulations. e City Vision d Strategic velopment Plan hot known by jority of the public. ck of a Citizen's hts Charter. sence of elected uncilors to form c between the sembly and mmunities. or coordination d communication thin the assembly d with external keholders. ck of adequate ancial resources, all revenue base d poor financial nagement. clear structure Private-Public tnership in enue generation d financial nagement. operty tax is not uitably distributed. ph staff nover in middle nagement levels	OPPORTUNITIES Civic education for councilors. Review of existing legislation and formulation of new ones to address prevailing challenges. The city has some good visions and plans that need publicizing and the involvement of communities. A growing property revenue base provides hope for increased revenue. Existence of training of existing lower level staff in order to build capacity and reduce staff turnover. Local government elections are expected to take place in April 2011. Support and collaboration from donors and the public and private sectors. Participatory budgeting and governance to improve accountability and transparency. Empowering communities through the mass media and other means.	 THREATS Absence of elected councilors to aid in local governance. Communities are not aware of their rights, duties and responsibilities towards the city. Corruption is rampant in government. Property owners are not willing to pay property taxes. There is too much political interference in the city council's decision making process. The slow pace of decentralization is a threat to local development and participatory governance. 	 PRIORITIES Strengthen community development structures. Create of a coordination body for an integrated approach to urban development, for example, Blantyre Urban Network. Improve financial management systems and revenue collection and monitoring systems. Review legal frameworks and improve enforcement. Review the city council structure and conditions of service to reduce staff turnover. Establish a monitoring and evaluation system (MES) as a learning tool. Introduce civic education for Members of Parliament and councilors on their roles and responsibilities.

	Project proposal
GOVERNANCE N°1	Strengthen and improve the city council's financial management

LOCATION: Blantyre City Council.

DURATION: 12 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Local communities.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: German Technical Cooperation, private companies, The Local Government Finance Committee, UN-HABITAT¹, and Blantyre City Council.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 30,000.

BACKGROUND: Blantyre City Council provides social infrastructure and basic urban services to the residents of Blantyre. However the provision of these services is hampered by poor revenue collection, lack of transparency in revenue collection, and mismanagement of local revenue. There is urgent need to strengthen and improve the management of local revenue if the city is to succeed in efforts to improve and expand on its service delivery.

OBJECTIVES: (1) To improve city council staff effectiveness and efficiency. (2) To improve the property database and revenue collection. (3) To improve service delivery in the city.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Identify different revenue sources that can be tapped in order to increase the amount of revenue available for improving service delivery. (2) Establish a revenue collection, monitoring and follow up system. (3) Train staff members on proper financial management and punish those found to be engaged in corrupt practices.

OUTPUTS: An improved financial management system in the city council.

STAFF REQUIRED: Consultants who can carry out training on proper financial management.

UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme
SLUMS AND SHELTER

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
Availability of standard housing regulations. Availability of locally manufactured building materials.	Conflict of interest and weak coordination of slum upgrading initiatives among various ministries. Absence of specific policies to address informal settlements upgrading and provision of pro-poor housing. Multiplicity of land ownership within the city makes land management difficult. Housing finance loans are available however they are not accessible to the poor due to the high interest repayment rates. Lack of political will to address the challenges of informal settlements.	New land bill and housing bill that will improve the situation of informal settlements' residents is awaiting parliament passing. There are several development organizations involved in slum upgrading, for example the Centre for Community Organization and Development and Habitat for Humanity Malawi. Availability of locally manufactured building materials. Establishment of a Development Coordination Committee which will assist in monitoring and coordinating slum upgrading efforts. There is high demand for good quality low income housing which the government needs to exploit.	Rapidly growing population in the city. Lack of capacity and resources to implement substantial slum upgrading exercises throughout the informal settlements of Blantyre. Mismanagement and embezzlement of funds meant for slum upgrading. Lack of tenure among residents of informal settlements is a major obstacle to slum upgrading.	Upgrade housing and infrastructure in the informal settlements. Train Blantyre City Council staff on integrated land use management and use of modern technology in infrastructure development and improvement, for example Geographic Informations System (GIS) and Global Positioning Systems (GPS). Secure funding from alternative sources, for example donors, for the extensive implementation of slum upgrading initiatives. Use a participatory and holistic approach in slum upgrading initiatives.

Project proposal

SLUMS N°1

An integrated approach to urban planning

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 5 years.

BENEFICIARIES: Low income areas.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Residents of informal settlements, Blantyre City Council, Habitat for Humanity (Malawi), Centre for Community Organization and Development, Blantyre Water Board, Water Aid, UN-HABITAT¹, and the Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 2,600,000.

OBJECTIVES: To improve the livelihood of marginalized and vulnerable communities in Blantyre.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Establish an Informal Settlements Upgrading Unit. (2) Community mobilization to support the slum upgrading process. (3) Profiling and enumeration of informal settlements. (4) Construction of new housing.

OUTPUTS: Improved living conditions for the residents of informal settlements.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) Architects. (2) Surveyors.
(3) Engineers. (4) Community Mobilization Officers.
(5) Environmental Officers. (6) Enumerators. (7) Data Analysts.

GENDER AND HIV/AIDS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
There is a National Gender Policy in place. Existence of an HIV/ AIDS Workplace Policy. Existence of a gender desk in the city council. Active participation of development and humanitarian organizations and civil society in gender and HIV/AIDS. Promotion of women empowerment by various stakeholders. Free primary education has minimized disparities between boys and girls in primary and secondary schools. There is a well established HIV/AIDS programme in place.	Lack of a gender policy at the local authority level. High illiteracy rates among women. Low information dissemination on gender issues including gender- based violence. Inadequate resources to support gender programmes. Inadequate capacity by Blantyre City Council to tackle gender and other development issues adequately.	A local authority level gender policy is in the process of being formulated. There are deliberate efforts to empower women through affirmative action in government institutions. Promotion of free primary education for all. Existence of many development and humanitarian actors pushing for reforms in the gender sector. Existence of micro- finance institutions that support women entrepreneurs by providing them with business loans. Funding for HIV/AIDS through the National AIDS Council is available. Availability of international support on gender and HIV/ AIDS programmes. Availability of voluntary counselling and testing centers and free anti- retroviral drugs for HIV/AIDS victims.	Absence of elected councilors to promote gender and HIV/AIDS issues. Inadequate resources to implement gender and HIV/AIDS programmes. Early marriage for girls and sexual exploitation of vulnerable women.	Formulate a Blantyre City Gender Policy. Provide communities with civic education and sensitization on gender and HIV/AIDS issues. Build the capacity of local authorities on gender and HIV/AIDS.

	Project proposal
GENDER	
HIV/AIDS	Formulation of a city gender policy
N°1	Formulation of a city gender policy

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 12 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Women of Blantyre.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Ministry of Gender and Child Development, UN-HABITAT¹, UNICEF², Blantyre City Council, and various humanitarian and development organizations.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 10,000.

BACKGROUND: Blantyre City Council has no gender policy in place to guide it in the implementation of gender mainstreaming activities.

OBJECTIVES: To mainstream gender in the city council operations.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Conducting a needs assessment exercise. (2) Conducting consultative workshops. (3) Policy formulation.

OUTPUTS: Gender policy in place.

STAFF REQUIRED: Gender experts.

UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

² UNICEF - United Nations Childrens Fund

ENVIRONMENT AND URBAN DISASTER RISKS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
	ENVIRO	NMENT	1	1
Comprehensive national and city legislation in place. Established departments within government to manage environmental issues. Participation of other stakeholders including the Department of Forestry and Environmental Affairs. Existence of a budget line for environmental management by Blantyre City Council.	Outdated and poorly implemented legislation. Poor coordination of environmental management activities. Inadequate resources to implement environmental policies. An increase in the number of uncontrolled developments in the city. Fragmented building regulations and by-laws that fail to fully address proper building codes to guide the design and construction of buildings. Lack of an environmental conservation plan. High dependence on charcoal and firewood has accelerated the deforestation of forests and destruction of water catchment areas.	Existing environmental regulations are currently being reviewed with a view to improving them. Improved coordination and collaboration among government departments and other organizations involved in environmental conservation activities. Renewed interest in environmental issues by the government and international organizations. Tree planting and re-afforestation programmes currently in place. Establishment of Private- Public Partnership in environmental conservation programmes.	Absence of regulations to address environmental challenges in the informal settlements. Pollution and contamination of ground water by industry effluents and a dilapidated sewer system. Climate change leading to an increase in natural disasters such as floods, landslides and drought. Rapid population growth leading to increased population pressure on the environment.	Build the city council's environmental planning and management capacity. Formulate and implement environmental regulations. Establish biogas projects in some settlements. Draft plans for the management of open spaces. Train local leaders on the importance of protecting the environment and on good environmental practices. Develop a project on production of organic fertilizer and the transformation of solid waste into biogas. Implement rain water harvesting. Carry out tree planting exercise.
	URBAN DIS	ASTER RISKS		
National urban disaster legislation in existence. Availability of donor funding for dealing with urban disaster related issues.	URBAN DIS/ Lack of local level legislation to support urban disaster risks. The current legislations are not adequate to address the current urban disaster risks. Lack of technical capacity in times of disaster and emergency. Lack of adequate financial resources allocated by the government to implement adequate disaster preparedness and management measures.	ASTER RISKS The National Disaster Preparedness and Relief Committee receives funds from the government to manage disasters. Growing awareness on the importance of disaster management and preparedness. Political will exists to address urban disaster risks.	Insufficient funding which makes it difficult to implement urban disaster risk management programmes. Uncontrolled development in fragile areas leading to increased urban disaster risk. Increase in the occurrence of natural and man-made disasters. Corrupt practices and lack of transparency undermines building codes and planning regulations resulting in the construction of substandard buildings and poor planning which increases the risk of urban disaster.	Community policing. Increase the number of fire fighting equipment and provide water hydrants in slums.

Project proposal

Rainwater harvesting in schools

LOCATION: Primary schools in Blantyre.

DURATION: 24 months.

BENEFICIARIES: The local community.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: The Ministry of Education, University of Malawi, the Rainwater Harvesting Association, and the Malawi Industrial Research and Technology Development Centre.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 1,200,000.

BACKGROUND: Water supply in primary schools is unreliable and inconsistent. Sanitation is poor and use of pit latrines is common. Rainwater harvesting will supplement the water provided by Blantyre Water Board and improve sanitation in schools. Rain water will also be used to carry out vegetable farming in schools for commercial purposes.

OBJECTIVES: To harvest rainwater for use in schools.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Conduct planning meetings. (2) Conduct training and orientation on water harvesting. (3) Procurement of tools and materials. (4) Construction of water storage tanks. **ENVIRONMENT** N°2 Project proposal

Tree planting to reduce soil erosion and to protect the ecosystem

LOCATION: Blantyre (Nyambadwe Hill, Soche Hill, Mpingwe Hill, Bangwe Hill, Sanjika Hill and Ndirande Hill).

DURATION: 36 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Local communities.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: The Forestry Department in collaboration with development organizations.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 5,000,000.

BACKGROUND: Rapid population growth has accelerated the deforestation of forests in the city leading to environmental degradation and upsetting the environment's ecosystem. Measures to halt the deforestation of forests need to be put in place in order to avoid further degradation of the environment and destruction of water catchment areas.

OBJECTIVES: To reduce environmental degradation and preserve the environment for future generations.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Community mobilization for the tree planting exercise. (2) Mapping of sites for carrying out tree planting site mapping. (3) Procurement of necessary equipment for the tree planting exercise.

OUTPUTS: (1) Forests reclaimed. (2) Reduction in soil erosion. (3) Protection of water catchment areas.

	Project proposal
ENVIRONMENT N°3	Storm water drainage system

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 5 years.

BENEFICIARIES: City residents.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, local contractor and Blantyre Water Board.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 13,300,000.

BACKGROUND: Most roads have no storm water drainage systems and the few drains that exist have been filled up by garbage and silt. This has resulted in blockage of the storm water drains and flooding during the rainy season. This drainage system urgently needs to be rehabilitated in order to prevent future incidences of flooding.

OBJECTIVES: To improve drainage in the city.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Carrying out a needs assessment. (2) Project design. (3) Project implementation.

OUTPUTS: An improved storm water management system.

STAFF REQUIRED: Water engineer.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
Availability of legal frameworks, by- laws and regulations for local economic development. Availability of various economic and job opportunities. Local economic development supporting infrastructure and services in place in the city. Implementation of development programmes in the city, for example, Cities without Slums and Millennium Cities initiative. The strategic location of the city in relation to regional development programmes. A vibrant and thriving informal economic sector. Low cost of production in some cases.	Outdated and inappropriate legislation that is hindering economic growth. Insufficient entrepreneurial and business skills to harness available economic opportunities. Lack of regulations for the informal economy leading to the rise of a disorderly informal sector. Shortage of skilled labour. Most skilled people have left Blantyre in search of better livelihood opportunities. Lack of advanced technology to assist in accelerating local economic development.	Growing support and political will for small and medium enterprises, for example through the establishment of micro-finance institutions. Collaboration between the city council and other stakeholders in local economic development and exploring possibilities for public-private partnerships. Availability of agricultural raw materials which can be used in agro- processing. Creation of employment opportunities due to the introduction of the Shire-Zambezi World Inland Port Project. Growing and stabilizing the national economy. A growing local market for finished goods and services. Existence of micro- finance institutions to support local entrepreneurs to start up and expand their businesses. Existence of technical and entrepreneurial training institutions such as Soche Technical College, The Malawi Polytechnic and the Vocational and Trade Testing Centre.	It takes long to review and adopt new legislation. There is limited access to investment capital by small and medium enterprises have limited access to credit facilities due to high interest rates and collateral requirements. There is unreliable power supply. Poor maintenance of existing local economic development infrastructure and services. The movement of government ministries to Lilongwe has shifted some economic development opportunities to the city.	Establish an institutional structure for supporting entrepreneurship and business skills development. Review existing legal frameworks and formulate new by-laws to promote economic activities in both the formal and informal sectors. Create employment. Encourage best practices and knowledge sharing through training and trade fairs.

LOCAL	Project proposal
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT N°1	Upgrading of Chilobwe Vocational Centre

TITLE: Upgrading of Chilobwe Vocational Centre.

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 24 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Small and medium enterprises and the youth.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Technical, Council; Entrepreneurial, Vocational Education, and Training Authority; development partners; and the Ministry of Trade, Commerce and Industry.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 200,000.

BACKGROUND: The current vocational centre is not adequate to support the increasing demand for entrepreneurial and business skills by the youth and small and medium sized entrepreneurs. The centre also lacks basic training equipment and tools and the operation space is too small.

OBJECTIVES: To promote entrepreneurial and business skills.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Purchase of training equipment and tools. (2) Construction of an additional class block.

OUTPUTS: An upgraded and fully equipped vocational centre.

STAFF REQUIRED: An architect and an engineer.

LOCAL	Project proposal
ECONOMIC	
DEVELOPMENT	Review of legal frameworks
N°2	5

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 12 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Small scale traders (vendors).

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, the Ministry of Justice and Constitutional Affairs, the Ministry of Local Government and Rural Development, and the Law Society of Malawi.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 20,000.

BACKGROUND: Most of the local economic development by-laws are outdated and ineffective.

OBJECTIVES: To introduce and update by-laws and regulations that will promote local economic development.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Carry out an audit of existing by-laws and regulations. (2) Conduct consultative workshops. (3) Review and update existing by laws.

OUTPUTS: Updated by-laws.

STAFF REQUIRED: A lawyer and an SME (small and medium enterprise) expert.

BASIC URBAN SERVICES

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
	I	WATER	I	I
 Water supply framework in place. Water supply infrastructure available in most parts of the city. Existence of the Water Users Associations which manages water supply at the community level. Existence of communal water supply through kiosks for those who do not have access to piped water in their homes. Existence of public- private partnership to improve water provision especially in the informal settlements. Water supply coverage is high within the formal areas of the city. Most public health facilities have access to piped water. 	There are no guidelines in place to guide provision of piped water in the informal settlements which have the least access to safe water. Water is only supplied on application basis. Only those who can afford the monthly cost of having piped water have access to it. Lack of coordination among water service providers. Lack of regulations or guidelines to regulate water resale prices in private kiosks operating in the informal settlements. High incidences of illegal water connections have resulted in water shortages. Water supply is also unreliable in some areas. Blantyre Water Board lacks the capacity to meet the high demand for water in the city. Inefficiency and lack of qualified staff in the Blantyre Water Board.	Provision of water can be used as a development control tool to reduce squatting. Blantyre Water Board is willing to supply water through communal kiosks. Build the capacity of Blantyre Water Board to properly manage the even and consistent distribution of water throughout the city. Installation of additional water points. Existence of public- private partnerships that assists in providing affordable and safe water in the informal settlements. Plans are underway by Blantyre Water Board to identify alternative water sources in order to increase water supply in the city.	The high cost of water is forcing some residents to resort to unsafe water sources. The water supply infrastructure is old and experiences frequent breakdowns which are expensive to repair. Destruction of water catchment areas through deforestation and pollution is a major cause of water shortages in Blantyre. Lack of resources to expand and upgrade existing water infrastructure to meet the ever growing demand is a major challenge. There are high incidences of vandalism of the existing water supply infrastructure. Mismanagement of funds meant for upgrading the water supply network is a major challenge.	Conduct tree planting exercises in all water catchment areas in the city. Establish alternative water sources. Mobilize resources to promote community policing activities. Upgrade existing water supply infrastructure.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
		ELECTRICITY		
There is an electricity supply legal framework in place. Electricity supply infrastructure is in place.	There are no guidelines for the supply of electricity to the informal settlements. Electricity supply in the informal settlements is in terms of individual application basis by those who can afford it. Illegal electricity connections have resulted in constant power cuts and unreliable water supply in some areas. The Electricity Supply Commission of Malawi does not have adequate capacity to meet electricity demands.	Provision of electricity can be used as a development control tool to reduce squatting. There is huge potential for alternative sources of electricity such as solar and geothermal power. Interconnection into the Regional Power Pool with other countries. Establish a development coordinating committee to monitor electricity supply improvement activities.	The high cost of electricity connection makes it inaccessible to the majority of poor residents of Blantyre. The electricity supply infrastructure is old with high maintenance costs. The destruction of water catchment areas through deforestation and environmental degradation has led to the reduction of water levels at the power generation stations. Lack of resources to upgrade the existing electricity supply infrastructure and expand electricity supply to more parts of Blantyre. Vandalism of electricity infrastructure and the supply grid system interferes with electricity supply and results in frequent power outages.	Mobilize resources to upgrade and expand existing electricity supply infrastructure. Sensitize communities to opt for alternative sources of energy, for example solar energy.

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
		URBAN SAFETY		
The Blantyre police is currently undergoing reforms in order to improve their performance and increase security and safety in Blantyre. Private security firms exist and they provide security services at a fee. Existence of community policing and neighbourhood watch programmes help in the maintenance of safety and security in Blantyre. Public-private partnerships exist in some instances and are involved in the implementation of basic urban safety programmes.	There are no specific urban safety regulations at the local level. Inadequate personnel and lack of necessary equipment to respond to crises when they occur. Poor street lighting in the commercial and residential areas has led to increased crime. Poor working conditions for members of the police force have resulted in lack of motivation and poor performance among the police.	Existence of the National Road Safety Council to coordinate road safety improvement activities. Community policing and neighbourhood watch programmes are contributing greatly to improving safety and security in the Blantyre. Introduction of Victim Support Units in police stations to directly assist crime victims. Political will exists to improve urban safety in the city.	Lack of trust in the Malawi Police by members of the public. Lack of adequate resources for the implementation of urban safety programmes. Corruption and fraud are threatening the successful implementation of urban safety reforms. Vandalism of safety equipment and infrastructure such as road signs and street lights.	Improve community participation in maintaining safety through community policing activities in the residential areas. Mobilize resources for community policing activities. Sensitize communities on the negative effects of gender- based violence. Improve the road network which will lead to increased safety and security in the city.
	١	NASTE MANAGEMENT	·	
A national and local level legal framework is in place. Growing interest by development and humanitarian organizations and private actors to take part in waste management activities. A fully fledged department in the city council that is responsible for waste management.	Inappropriate legal frameworks in place regarding waste management. Weak implementation and enforcements of the existing waste management regulations. Weak coordination among departments and other stakeholders. Indiscriminate disposal of solid waste in the informal settlements. High use of pit latrines in the informal settlements which pollute the water table. Poor and irregular solid waste collection, especially in the informal settlements.	Encourage community participation in waste management. Huge potential for production of agricultural products from waste, for example organic manure. Willingness of local authorities to invest in and improve waste management. High potential for Private-Public Partnerships for waste management in the informal settlements. Emergence of innovative waste management concepts such as ecological sanitation (eco-san) toilets.	Lack of adequate resources to support waste management and the rising cost of service delivery. Lack of designated dump sites. Environmental pollution from domestic and industrial effluents. Rapid urban population growth with consequent growth of informal settlements.	Improve community participation in community policing activities in the residential areas. Mobilize resources for community policing activities. Sensitize communities on the negative effects of gender- based violence. Improve the road network which will lead to increased safety and security in the city.

	Project proposal
BASIC URBAN SERVICES N°1	Provision of portable water to informal and peri-urban areas

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 48 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Residents in the informal settlements and the peri-urban areas of Blantyre.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre Water Board and a local contractor.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 25,000,000.

BACKGROUND: The current water supply system is old and inefficient. Most of the slums and peri-urban areas do not have access to piped water.

OBJECTIVES: Increasing water supply in the informal settlements by installing additional pipelines and pumps in the informal settlements and peri-urban areas.

OUTPUTS: Increased water supply in the informal settlements and peri-urban areas.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) Engineers. (2) Urban planners. (3) Surveyors.

Project proposal

BASIC URBAN Afforestation of all water catchment areas

LOCATION: Blantyre's water catchment areas.

DURATION: 6 months.

SERVICES

N°2

BENEFICIARIES: Local communities.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, the civil society, local communities, the Forestry Department, Malawi Environmental Endowment Trust, and schools situated in Blantyre.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 50,000.

BACKGROUND: Most of the hills, water catchment areas and river banks in Blantyre have been deforested due to over dependence of wood fuel, use of timber for housing construction and clearing of land for human settlement. The high amount of deforestation has had huge negative impacts on the environment such as drought, drying up of rivers and soil erosion.

OBJECTIVES: To restore the water catchment areas in the city.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Community sensitization on the importance of conserving the forests. (2) Community mobilization for tree planting. (3) Land preparation. (4) Tree planting. (5) Monitoring and evaluation.

OUTPUTS: The restoration of water catchment areas that had been previously damaged.

	Project proposal
BASIC URBAN	Provision of adequate
SERVICES	street lighting in the
N°3	informal settlements

LOCATION: Informal settlements of Blantyre.

DURATION: 24 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Residents of informal settlements.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, UN-HABITAT¹ and development partners.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 500,000.

BACKGROUND: Security is poor in the informal settlements. The installation of street lights in these settlements will help to reduce incidences of crime by lighting up dark alleys and paths and making it difficult for criminals to hide in these areas.

OBJECTIVES: To improve safety and security in the informal settlements.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Carry out a needs assessment. (2) Increase community awareness on the importance of lighting in the informal settlements in order to improve security and reduce incidence of vandalism of street lights. (3) Hire a local contractor to put up street lights in the informal settlements.

OUTPUTS: Improved safety and security in the informal settlements.

STAFF REQUIRED: Electrical engineer.

	Project proposal
BASIC URBAN	
SERVICES	Promotion of community policing
N°4	in the informal settlements

LOCATION: Informal settlements of Blantyre.

DURATION: 12 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Residents of informal settlements.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, the Blantyre Police Force, UN-HABITAT, and development partners.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 25,000.

BACKGROUND: Security is poor in almost all the informal settlements due to insufficient street lighting and other safety and security infrastructure. Community policing will help to improve the security situation by improving vigilance among community residents and improving collaboration between the community and the police.

OBJECTIVES: To reduce incidences of crime and make Blantyre a safe and secure place to live in.

ACTIVITIES: (1)Community sensitization. (2) Carrying out a needs assessment. (3) Project implementation.

OUTPUTS: Improved safety and security.

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	Project proposal
BASIC URBAN SERVICES	Organic fertilizer producti
N°5	from urban waste

on

LOCATION: Blantyre.

DURATION: 12 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Blantyre residents.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Japanese International Cooperation Agency, Equipment Suppliers, UN-HABITAT¹.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 6,800,000.

BACKGROUND: Only 30 percent of waste generated in the city is collected. Capacity is grossly inadequate and the health of urban residents is greatly compromised by the high amounts of waste that are disposed of indiscriminately in both commercial and residential areas. In order for the quality of life of Blantyre's residents to improve, better waste management practices need to be put in place.

OBJECTIVES: (1) To improve waste collection and management. (2) To reduce pollution. (3) To turn waste into usable products through recycling.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Identify and train entrepreneurs and small scale contractors. (2) purchase waste collection equipment. (3) Purchase of compost making equipment. (4) Mobilize and train communities on proper waste management.

OUTPUTS: (1) About 200 tonnes of organic fertilizer produced weekly. (2) Solid waste management improved. (3) Reduction in the levels of water pollution and waterborne diseases.

¹ UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

LAND

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS	PRIORITIES
There is a comprehensive national and city legislation in place. There is a fully established department to manage land matters in place within the assembly. Presence of political willingness to provide serviced, low cost housing plots. Existence of the Plot Allocation Committee (PAC) and the Town Planning Committee (TPC) with the participation of civil society, local leaders and other service providers. Entry of development actors and the private sector into the development of quality and affordable pro-poor housing. Existence of Malawi Housing Corporation and Lands Department.	Most legislation is outdated and not applicable to the current land situation facing the city. Inadequate capacity to implement and enforce land regulations and land use plans. Multiplicity of land owners within the city which has resulted in land management challenges. Scarcity of serviced land coupled with poor land governance. Lack of understanding of land rules and regulations by most participants in the Plot Allocation Committee. Long and cumbersome land acquisition processes, made worse by lack of transparency and corrupt land officials.	There is a new land bill awaiting parliament deliberation and passing. Most land related legislations are being reviewed to enable them to address current challenges. Establishment of training courses in land management at the University of Malawi, Mzuzu University and the Natural Resources College. High chances of coordination and collaboration in land development among various land owners. Transfer of all land within the city to Blantyre City Council. Improve land governance by increasing the number of civil representation. Establish modern land information systems at the local authority level using modern information technology. Existence of the Local Government Development Fund to assist in the funding of local land servicing programmes. Existence of equitable land allocation systems that do not marginalize women.	It takes long to review and adopt new legislation. The more well of medium and high income classes are being allocated subsidized housing plots that are meant for low income housing for the poor. Continued participation of chiefs in the management of land, more especially customary land. Misrepresentation of facts by the technical officers to the Plot Allocation Committee. The rapid and uncontrolled growth of the informal settlements. Increasing land prices as demand for land continues to grow. Weak legislation leading to allocation and leasing of land to foreign nationals.	Land adjudication project in the informal settlements. Establish a Land Allocation Committee. Conduct public awareness on land matters. Computerize land projects. Lobby for passing of the Land Bill. Conduct capacity building on proper land management.

	Project proposal
LAND N°1	Development of a land information system

LOCATION: Blantyre City Council.

DURATION: 24 months.

BENEFICIARIES: Blantyre City Council and city residents.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, UN-HABITA'T and development partners.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 300,000.

BACKGROUND: Blantyre City Council is currently using manual land information systems that are inefficientleading to poor land information management. Development and establishment of a computerized land information system is imperative for improving land information management and utilization.

OBJECTIVES: To improve land information management.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Carry out a needs assessment. (2) Implement the land information system.

OUTPUTS: A computerized and improved land information system.

STAFF REQUIRED: Global Information Systems Expert.

Project proposal Servicing of land f

Servicing of land for allocation to low income earners

LOCATION: Blantyre City Council.

DURATION: 36 months.

LAND

N°2

BENEFICIARIES: The poor residents of informal settlements.

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Blantyre City Council, UN-HABITAT and development partners.

ESTIMATED COST: USD 1,000,000.

BACKGROUND: Blantrye City Council is facing a shortage of serviced land for low income housing leading to the development and expansion of informal settlements on marginal and fragile areas. Provision of serviced land and affordable and quality low cost housing to the poor will help to reduce the growth of informal settlements.

OBJECTIVES: To improve land information management.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Carry out a needs assessment. (2) Conduct community sensitization. (3) Provide serviced land for low income housing.

OUTPUTS: Availability of affordable land and housing for the poor.

¹ UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme

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BLANTYRE CITY CONSULTATION

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Blantyre City Council
National Initiative for Civic Education
Mzuzu University
Local Development Fund – Ministry of Finance
Blantyre City Council
Malawi Housing Corporation
Blantyre City Council
Blantyre City Council
Blantyre City Council
Kabula Development Association
Southern Region Police Headquarters
Surveys Department
Malawi AIDS Counselling and Resource Organization
DED Malawi
Malawi Homeless People's Federation / Center for Community Organization and Development
Blantyre City Council
Mzuzu University
Blantyre City Council
Blantyre City Council
Blantyre City Council
Blantyre Water Board
Blantyre City Council
Mzuzu City Council
Forestry Department
Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development
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