



ACHIEVING SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT THROUGH DESIGN, FINANCE, REGULATIONS

Since 2011, UN-Habitat has been working on a global initiative “Achieving Sustainable Urban Development (ASUD)” aiming at helping national partners cope more effectively with the rapid pace of urbanization. Through ASUD, UN-Habitat and its partners are developing tools to assist cities to prepare for medium to long term projected urban growth in a sustainable manner. The principal focus is on city extension processes and the development of viable responses for fast growing cities in developing countries.

Planned Cities Extensions are being promoted by UN-Habitat with the aim of unlocking the local economic development potential of urbanisation. They are designed at scale and in close connection with the existing city, to promote inclusive outcomes at a variety levels, including optimising the balance of public good benefits and private profits from urbanisation and maximising the shelter and economic opportunity outcomes for the poor. The principal methodology is anchored in the 3-legged approach being promoted by UN-Habitat and includes a focus on good urban design for the phased implementation of foundational planning elements, such as public space and connectivity, supported by realistic financial strategies developed along with a legal analysis to ensure that individual projects are feasible in the short term and that they will be predictable over longer periods.

Planned City Extensions address the pressure for affordable housing and accessible basic services resulting from fast growing urban populations, particularly for intermediate cities or where people need to be relocated from non-viable areas, and in the event of disasters. A PCE prepares land for development in advance and at the scale of expected population growth by identifying and structuring expansion areas adjacent to existing urban centres. Key features of these plans is that they are structured with a street and public spaces grid, the expansion land is located in proximity and well connected with the existing urban fabric and at an adequate scale, and the plans’ development rules favour mixed land use, a lively street life and social mix. In addition, they steer development away from fragile and at-risk areas.

Planned city extensions set the scene for efficient economy, reduce impact on the environment and consumption of resources, support social integration, create opportunities and produce the economies of scale that enable service delivery and viable municipal finance.

The event will explore how ASUD has been working to develop Planned Cities Extensions with its partner cities and the details of the approach as applied in practical examples meant to guide adequately rapid urbanization dynamics towards sustainable and equitable patterns, with a view of discussing lessons for policy makers and planners at city and national level.





Examples from Rwanda, Egypt and other cities will be presented, and a discussion with the public will be facilitated to explore the dimensions of PCE, the planning approach and its impact on the future of cities.

Presenters:

Planned City Extension of Rubavu, Rwanda: Eddie Kyazze; Deputy Director of the Rwanda Housing Authority;

New Town concept for El-Alamein, Egypt: Dr. Sahar Attia, Head of the Department of Architecture; Cairo University

Planned City Extension in Kisumu, Kenya: Salvatore Fundaro, Urban Planning and Design Lab

