

Managing Urbanization in Kenya: Towards Inclusive and Sustainable Cities?

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Urban population growth in Kenya: an overview

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

However, the fundamental problem is that:

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

Challenges of urban growth






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

The truth is...




- 🏠 The urbanization trends and challenges are a reality and that...
- 🏠 There is need for clear, carefully coordinated, focused, inclusive and sustainable urban planning, development, management and governance programmes, policies and strategies
- 🏠 Leading us to the concept of **inclusive and sustainable cities** – the theme of this seminar

What is an inclusive city?

A city where all citizens:

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

A city that takes into account:

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

Q.1: Who is being excluded?



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

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



- (●) Social inclusion
- (●) Economic inclusion
- (●) Political inclusion
- (●) Spatial inclusion
- (●) Design of built-up environment
- (●) Provision and access to services
- (●) Affordability
- (●) Empowerment, etc?

Q.3: Being included in what?

(●) Budgeting (●) Planning (●) Development (●) Governance
(●) Decision making, etc?



On the other hand, a sustainable city...



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

Some action towards inclusive and sustainable cities



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

However, and in conclusion



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

and...

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

Thank you for your attention



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