

SUSTAINABLE RURAL URBANISATION IN SELECTED FRAGILE AND POST-CONFLICT COUNTRIES: *Strengthening the capacities of Governments to enhance urban-rural linkages for prosperity, peace and security*



GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

- Eastern and Southern African conflict areas covering Northern Cameroon, Central Africa Republic, Chad: Lake Chad region - Southern Chad, Eastern Democratic Republic of Congo, Mozambique, North Eastern Nigeria and, Northern Uganda,
 - Eastern Europe (Armenia/Georgia)
 - Asia (Bhutan)
- Subject to funding, the project will be piloted in four post-conflict countries/areas. In Africa, regions and countries will be selected from the above.



THEMATIC SCOPE

Fragile and post-conflict countries; rural-urban linkages, metropolitan planning to enhance rural urbanization.



TARGET BENEFICIARIES

The main beneficiaries are the entire population of the selected four countries as well as local, regional and national authorities. The project will also target humanitarian and development partner agencies working in post/conflict-prone areas.



PARTNERS

- United Nations Economic Commission for Africa (UNECA)
- United Nation Economic Commission for Europe
- United Nations Centre for Regional Development (UNCRD)

UN-Habitat and its partners will consult and collaborate throughout the implementation of the project with IFAD, FAO, WFP as well as national and regional / local governments of the project countries. Other implementing partners include line ministries and civil society organizations such as Communitas International.



PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Background: Globalization, technological change and rapid urbanization in developing countries are reshaping the world's urban and rural landscapes. Rapid urbanization in many developing countries, has led to emergence of new types of metropolitan areas that are expanding and changing internal organization of cities. These processes are bringing prosperity to many urban regions, but such prosperity is often not shared by their rural hinterlands, with some rural areas finding it difficult to find new roles in the contemporary economy and hence suffering from outmigration and poverty.

Conflicts exacerbate this dichotomy through mass displacement of people and disruption of livelihoods. Over time, conflicts affect the urban –rural balance by causing people to move out from rural affected regions to urban areas where security is better enhanced and access to humanitarian aid is assured. This, however, leads to systematic degeneration of rural areas.

In fragile and post-conflict countries, urbanization is represented by denser urban settlements and poorer rural areas; opening up new forms of inequality, polarization and divergence in growth and income between urban and rural areas. Ignoring urban-rural linkages leads to inefficiencies, promote inequality, create dependency to food aid and cause stagnation.

By directly incorporating the key dimensions of urban-rural linkages into humanitarian and development strategies (flows of people, resources, information, commodities, inputs into production, infrastructure, and decision-making power, protection of life and resources pool) the negative impacts of the conflicts and urbanization processes in post conflict countries can be better anticipated and potentially mitigated in both urban and rural areas. In addition,

better livelihoods for people living in these areas and sustainable mechanisms of integrating urban and rural communities can be a major factor in promoting sustainable peace and security, alleviating poverty and promoting sustainable development. Urban-rural linkages approach also enhances food security that is a critical part in creating resilience among these vulnerable populations.

Rural and urban economies are not separate entities, but linked with each other, and hence affected by interventions applied in and conflicts with each realm. Post conflict countries and regions require special attention to strategies that consider "rural" and "urban" as deeply integrated in development planning coupled with livelihoods support to overcome poverty in all its forms and build resilience.

Goal and objectives: The overall goal of the project is to strengthen the capacities of selected post conflict countries to develop strategies to enhance urban-urban linkages for achieving sustainable development, prosperity, peace and security.

The objective is to enhance the capacities of local and regional authorities to adopt the urban-rural linkages approach in their formulation of policies for peace, security, sustainable development and poverty reduction in the context of local and regional development, and through development of strategies on and tools to strengthening urban-rural linkages in post-conflict and fragile states.

This project will show that in post-conflict and post-disaster context, it is important and feasible to establish and sustain the interdependent linkages that exist between rural and urban areas to facilitate flows of resources to where they have the largest economic and social benefits to move quickly into recovery, resilience and reduce aid dependency.



This project is a response to the consistent calls for strengthening urban-rural linkages by member states and builds on the existing normative work on urban-rural linkages, and technical support to infrastructure and basic services by UN-HABITAT and partners, particularly in the context of post-conflict and fragile States.

The project responds to the strategic mandate of UN-Habitat through the 25th UN-Habitat Governing Council resolution HSP/GC/25/L.9 *to continue working closely with other intergovernmental organizations and stakeholders to strengthen urban-rural linkages focusing on knowledge exchange, policy dialogue and capacity development* which gave impetus to urban and rural linkages in the New Urban Agenda.

The project draws on UN-Habitat's added value and role in the implementation of the SDG, in particular Goal 11 to *Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable* and Goal 16 to *Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development*. In particular, it is relevant to target 11.a seeking to *support positive economic, social and environmental links between urban, peri-urban and rural areas by strengthening national and regional development planning*.

This project builds and expands on UN-Habitat's extensive expertise in post conflicts contexts, while bringing the new dimension or urban-rural linkages for recovery, resilience and self-sufficiency. For instance:

- Urban Syria: to some extent the most complex urban challenge in recent history. UN-Habitat Urban Emergency Advisory supported the Humanitarian Coordinator and broader humanitarian response to ensure an appropriate strategy is developed and an integrated urban response set in motion.
- UN-Habitat is involved in post conflict activities in Afghanistan (since 2008) helping the country to recover from two decades of war, through community empowerment and development, strengthening municipal and community governance and reconstruction of physical and social infrastructure.
- In Lebanon, UN-Habitat adapted training programmes on financial management and conflict management to stakeholders engaged in post conflict reconstruction.
- Strategic spatial planning is a powerful tool to 'build back better' in crisis affected

countries. UN-HABITAT has provided technical support in Kosovo, Somalia, and Sudan, where spatial planning exercises allowed land redistribution for the durable settlement of over 1,000 long-term displaced families, while providing guidance to urban growth.

- In Kosovo, UN-HABITAT led the first UN-based residential property restitution programme, resolving over 29,000 claims. In the Democratic Republic of Congo, the agency operated land conflict mediation centres in the east while supporting the development of new land policy in Kinshasa.
- Under EU-UN partnership UN-Habitat has developed a toolkit and guidance note for preventing and managing land and natural resources conflict, some of the critical challenges facing developing countries today.

 **MAIN OUTPUTS**

The project outputs are focused on capacity building for policy makers and aid agencies to design, formulate and implement integrated urban-rural development strategies to enhance integrative urban-rural linkages in post conflict countries. These include:

- Regional awareness workshops for selected post conflict countries on urban-rural linkages approach to peace, security, sustainable development and poverty reduction;
- Training workshop for policy makers and actors on the participatory process of developing urban-rural linkages policies and strategies;
- Plan and roadmap for assessing the existing capacities of selected post conflict countries to develop policies, strategies and targeted interventions for improving urban-rural linkages;
- Guides and tools for assisting selected post conflict countries to develop urban-rural linkages policies and strategies'
- Urban-rural linkages policies, strategies and interventions in selected post conflict countries;
- Institutional capacity building in selected post conflict countries for implementing urban-rural linkages policies and strategies.
- Documented innovations, best practices, knowledge, experiences and results of enhancing urban-rural linkages, as well as approaches for sustainable development, poverty reduction.

 **MAIN RESULTS / IMPACT**

- Reduction in the negative impacts of conflicts on the urban and rural population in target countries
- More efficient flow of goods, people and services between rural and urban areas
- Reduced inequalities and poverty arising from mass displacement, enhance food security, foster resilience and self-sufficient of population affected by conflicts
- Enhanced peace, stability and security and more balanced development at the regional and national level, mitigating stagnation of rural and small towns and regions in the target conflict affected countries

 **PROGRAMME DURATION**

3 Years

 **TOTAL PROJECT BUDGET**

US\$2.7 million