

FUTURE CITIES AFRICA

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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Document Control

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1. FUTURE CITIES AFRICA DESIGN

Future Cities Africa (FCA) was a 24month programme undertaken by the Cities Alliance, on behalf of the UK's Department for International Development (DFID) with a budget of £4.81 million. Working in at least 2 cities in 4 countries (Ghana, Uganda, Mozambique and Ethiopia) the weighted objectives and outputs were;

Objective	Output	Weighting
The Case for Future Programming	Feasibility Study	30%
Invest in filling knowledge gaps	Critical Research	30%
Improve decision – making and information sharing	Digital Tools	25%
Develop new thinking and ways of working	Innovation	15%

A successful project **outcome** was defined as: At least 8 cities in 4 countries in Africa have the tools and the information they need to develop and implement future-proofing and growth action plans. The **impact** was defined as: Cities in Africa take new actions to become future proofed to climate, environment and natural resource challenges, such that they are inclusive and resilient, and have growing economies with better service, opportunities and quality of life.

The FCA Normative Framework was developed to assess cities across five key dimensions: Governance, Citizenship, Services, Economy and the Natural Environment (see link with outcome and impact statements above). The underlying premise of the Normative Framework is that if African cities are to be inclusive and resilient, five systems need to work in harmony:

1. A governance system that is effective, efficient and accountable
2. A citizenship system that builds strong human and social capital
3. An economic system that provides jobs and income
4. A services system that ensures mobility, energy and environmental health
5. An ecological system that provides sustenance and protects against hazards.

2. CITY SELECTION

Four different types of cities were analysed.

- **A metropolitan / city region (Accra/Ghana)** Cities where jurisdictional boundaries do not correspond to planning and service delivery needs. The Greater Accra Metropolitan Area (GAMA) area was selected as a study case. GAMA is formed by thirteen (13) metropolitan, municipal and district assemblies.
- **Secondary cities (Uganda)** Cities that form part of a system of cities within a country or within a global system of cities. Fourteen secondary cities selected.
- **Regional capitals (Ethiopia)** Secondary Cities with a high degree of autonomy and importance within their sub-national context. Two cities selected: Mekelle and Dire Dawa.
- **Economic corridor (Mozambique)** Secondary cities that find advantage in developing small nodes and hubs to add value to industry supply chains and regional distribution centre. Three cities selected: Tete, Nampula and Nacala.

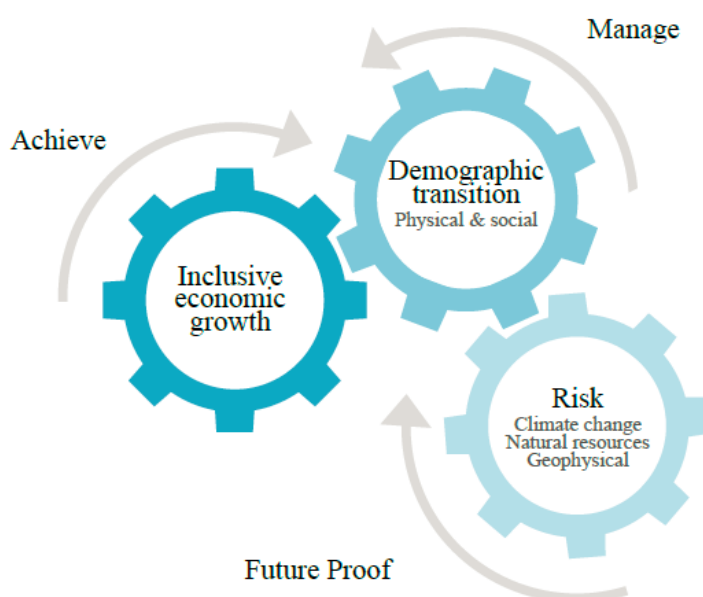
Currently, nearly half of Africa's urban dwellers live in relatively small and medium size settlements of less than 300,000 people, and approximately 12% live in mega-cities of more than 5,000,000 people. By 2030 more than 40% will still live in small and medium sized towns but there will be a noticeable increase in the percentage (25%) living in mega cities.

3. AFRICAN URBAN TRANSITION

The future of cities in Africa will depend on how well they manage economic growth (globalisation), demographic shifts and climate change. The figures point to socio-economic stresses, low productivity traps and high risk.

- Across the continent cities will grow by 315 million people in the next 15 years.
- The urban population will triple to 1.23 billion by 2050
- African youth will constitute the largest labour force in the world at 1.1 billion by 2040.
- Currently more than 60% of the urban population live in informal settlements
- Currently 61% of total urban employment is found within the informal sector
- With limited growth in the public and formal sectors, some 93% of new job creation is within the informal sector
- Some 92% of employment for women is within the informal sector.
- Africa is warming faster than the global average, with a projected rise of 3–4°C this century
- The continent will face a 20-30% decrease in water availability in vulnerable areas.
- Some 90% of energy use is biomass.

Figure 1: Drivers Shaping Urbanisation and City Growth



FCA Team (2016)

How these 3 drivers are understood and managed at the local level will determine the future of cities. In turn effective action will depend on how the political economy and present distorted incentives are placed at the core of programming. African cities will not be able to benefit from the urbanisation dividend/productivity miracle and respond to economic and climate change shocks and stresses without transformation.

The Urban Challenge can be brought down to: **Unemployed youth, living in slums in degraded natural environments**

4. SUMMARY FINDING

Across the 5 dimensions of the Normative Framework some 23 clear problems and opportunities were identified that if taken on board through effective programming could fundamentally help transform the trajectory of African urbanization. In summary form these are,

Governance:

- 1: National policies and urban law undermining the capacity of cities to deliver services.
- 2: Badly paid and insufficient qualified staff.
- 3: Inadequate financial resources and systems to deliver services and ensure accountability.
- 4: Land use planning unable to deal with city growth resulting in increased informality and sprawl.
- 5: Poor planning and management of cross jurisdiction services including transport and drains.
- 6: Lack of reliable basic data for strategic and operational planning.
- 7: Little sharing of relevant experience and learning of others both within and between countries.
- 8: Cities without any or limited long -term strategic vision and strategy.
- 9: Land Administration Systems unable to effectively incorporate customary land.

Economy:

- 10: High youth unemployment and underemployment in informal economy.
- 11: Informal traders and producers have little well located space to trade or produce from.
- 12: Few informal activities transform into small, medium enterprises undermining employment.

Citizenship

- 13: Slum dweller organisations are successfully partnering with cities with results.
- 14: Economy stakeholders poorly organised undermining the potential of productive partnerships.
- 15: Poor prioritization of needs causing tension between urban local governments and the populace.

Services

- 16: Most urban services delivered at high cost and low quality by informal service providers.
- 17: Community built and managed infrastructure delivering improved infrastructure and service
- 18: Some municipal services could be better provided through well-structured PPPs.
- 19: Most housing is self- built of low quality and on land with no or weak title.
- 20: Low levels of electrification undermine economic growth and human potential.

Environment

- 21: High impact of climate change on cities including sea level rise, drought and food insecurity.
- 22: Settlements on environmentally vulnerable land most affected by changing climate and risk.
- 23: Opportunities to reduce carbon emissions and adopt low carbon development pathways

4.1 Results: Output 1

There is high-level support to engage in future proofing initiatives from the Ethiopian, Ghanaian, Ugandan and Mozambican Ministries, city governments and development partners including civil society.

Based on FCA discussions with national counterparts, it is likely that the scope of future programme coverage will be:

- Ethiopia: Expand to include more regional growth centres (likely 5 or 6 cities)
- Ghana: GAMA plus expanded coverage to include the lagging northern region cities.
- Mozambique: Tete – Nampula – Nacala growth corridor. Possible additional corridor based on national priorities.
- Uganda: 14 secondary cities included as part of FCA.

4.2 Output 2. Critical Research

After rapid-city resilient assessments (RCRA) were undertaken across all of the cities in 4 countries the combined stakeholders identified through consensus 4 priority areas that were most cross cutting. The following critical research questions were identified and commissioned

1. How best to plan for urban growth (land expansion)?
2. How to improve energy supply in the context of climate change?
3. How to better understand and support the informal economy?
4. What modalities are best in providing affordable services?

This research has provided some key direction in how best to manage city growth and has also helped shape the future research agenda for African researchers. A key recommendation is the need to strengthen African research capacities to respond to this emerging agenda.

4.3 Output 3. Digital Tools

Two digital tools were either to be developed (Resilience.io) or tested (Gaiasoft) during the course of the FCA.

Resilience.io

The objective was to test the viability of developing a decision making tool useful for city planning that could usefully integrate social, environmental and economic models. The tool was successfully developed and Prototype / Proof of Concept successfully established. Allocated funds enabled the development of the model for the WASH sector only. For it to become a fully integrated platform further investment is required.

The Knowledge Platform (KP)

The objective was to test the relevance of and appetite for knowledge management as a part of the process of managing cities. Usefulness and demand for further platform development and take-up was established across 3 levels.

- By National Ministries and/or Planning Authorities in Ethiopia, Ghana and Uganda.
- Nationally within and between cities.
- Continentally through United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLGA)

4.4 Output 4: Innovative Studies / Tools

The need for 4 toolkits was identified at the global workshop that brought all stakeholders together and were subsequently developed. These are;

- City Development Strategy 2.0 Toolkit
- Data Management Toolkit
- Human resource benchmark assessment Toolkit
- Urban risk /Environment Risk framework.

These toolkits still require applied testing and refinement – there were no resource to pilot / test these toolkits during this phase of FCA. However outside the scope of the FCA these tools are already being considered for use.

5. FLEXIBLE PROGRAMME DESIGN

To effectively respond to the issues identified a comprehensive, flexible and demand driven approach I required that combines:

- **Reform** of national and local policy, regulatory and legal frameworks to reshape the incentives driving city government performance
- Broad based **capacity building** to ensure the required resources and staff are in place to make city government institutions functional and effective in ensuring services are efficiently and fairly delivered to all citizens, especially reaching the poor.
- **Investment** support to make inroads into service backlogs and critically to plan for urban land expansion in advance to avoid very costly retro-fitting costs: