



UN HABITAT

Regional and Technical Cooperation Division



THE GAMBIA: KANIFING URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME
REGIONAL OFFICE FOR AFRICA AND THE ARAB STATES

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FOREWORDS



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

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos', with a long horizontal stroke extending to the left.

Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT



The Kanifing Municipality is and increasingly continues to be the nerve center of The Gambia's urban sector. In addition to being the most densely populated township in the country, the municipality remains a highly multicultural society. It is the centre of attraction

for both internal and external migrants, mainly due to its strategic realms and geographical location within The Gambia's territorial landscape.

Kanifing Municipal Council largely depends on property rates and taxes, and as such arrangements are at an advance stage to commission a valuation exercise of properties within the municipality as well as to generate a street naming and Geographical Information System for the Council. These are being carried out with an overall view of enhancing and maximizing the revenue base of the council to create a healthy balance between income and expenditure.

A low cost housing scheme at Bakoteh is currently one of the most capital intensive projects on the Council's agenda. The ambition to own a house is universal, yet the problem of housing is acute and pressing for the poor and middle class of society more so in the greater Banjul Area where costs related to land, construction and rent have sky rocketed over the years.

This document therefore has taken into account the needs and aspirations of Kanifing Municipal Council as an authority charged with the responsibility of administering and coordinating the development of Kanifing Municipality within the broader framework of the Poverty Reduction Strategy Paper (PRSP), Vision 2020, the Silicon Valley agenda, and the MDGs.

Finally, the report has undoubtedly highlighted the urban challenges we are currently confronted by as a municipality. If the proposed projects are implemented, current performances, especially on aspects of environmental sanitation and job creation, will be greatly enhanced. We thank UN-HABITAT for this laudable initiative of supporting the Participatory Urban Profiling exercise in Kanifing Municipality.

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Yankuba Colley', written over a horizontal line.

Yankuba Colley
Lord Mayor

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The urban profiling in Kanifing Municipal Council (KMC) 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 (MDGs). 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. Urban Profiling is being implemented in over 20 African and Arab 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.

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. Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants, in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (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 synthesize 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 Urban Profiling Phase One at the city level in KMC.

URBAN PROFILING IN KANIFING

In The Gambia, the urban profiling focuses on Banjul (the capital city), KMC and Brikama town in the western region. Through desk reviews, Focus Group Discussions (FGD) and institutional questionnaires, the profiling exercise targets municipalities, government departments, private institutions, non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and the academia within the selected cities.

A Focus Group Discussion was held in each of the 29 wards within the three municipalities/regions covered in the profiling exercise. In each ward, the session brought 20 participants discussing urban poverty issues. Discussions were guided by a team of moderators that comprised of a facilitator, secretary and observer.

The purpose of the various data collection mechanisms was to obtain information on people's perception regarding the causes, effects and possible solutions to urban poverty. This brought together a cross section of youth, adults, men, and women for interactive discussions at each stage of the assessment. The discussions allowed interaction among all participants which encouraged them to give out detailed opinions on the gains and issues hindering urban poverty eradication.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

1. a general background of the urban sector in KMC, based on the findings of the national assessment report, a desk study, interviews, and a consultation held in The Gambia in 2005 (see back cover for a list of participants in the city consultation and a bibliography). The background includes data on administration, urban planning, the economy, the informal sector, the private sector, urban poverty, infrastructure, water, sanitation, public transport, street lighting, energy, health, and education;
2. a synthesis of seven main thematic areas – governance, slums, gender and HIV/AIDS, environment, local economic development, basic urban services, and urban safety and urban disaster management – 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); and
3. a SWOT analysis and an outline of priority project proposals for each theme. The proposals include beneficiaries, partners, estimated costs, objectives, activities, and outputs.

DEMOGRAPHY OF KANIFING MUNICIPAL COUNCIL

KMC is one of the eight Local Government Areas (LGA) of The Gambia. It has a population of 322,735 inhabitants (2003 census) representing about 24 percent of the total population of the country. With a land surface of 75.5 square kilometers and population density of 4,478 persons per square kilometer, the municipality is considered to be the most densely populated in The Gambia. Between 1993 and 2003, the population increased by 15 percent.

Projections from the Gambia Bureau of Statistics (GBoS) indicates that from 1973 to 1983 there was a 9.9 percent increase in the population, while from 1983 to 1993 there was a population increase of 8.4 percent indicating a reduction of 1.5 percent within the period. Between 1993 and 2003, there was a 3.5 percent increase in the municipal population. The trend witnessed in the last three decades is likely to continue considering the current levels of socio-economic development activities in the municipality which are attracting migrants. In 2003, the number of migrants into the municipality was 47,022 representing 14.6 percent of the population while the number of refugees represented 5.9 percent of the population.

The municipality has a large youth population. The under five population is estimated at 45,160. Women within child bearing age (15 - 49) are estimated at 97,700 therefore constituting a little over 31 percent of the population.

MUNICIPAL MANAGEMENT AND ADMINISTRATION

In KMC, the Lord Mayor and chairperson of the area council coordinates development activities including financial management. The offices of the chairperson and the Chief Executive Officer (CEO)

This committee comprises heads of departments represented in the region with local development programmes, representatives of civil society organizations and NGOs and other regional officials determined by the governor in consultation with the CEO of the council.

At the level of the municipality, the CEO is the chairperson of the TAC. As part of the prescribed coordination mechanism specified in the Local government Act 2002, the TAC should meet every two months with periodic sub-committee consultations and exchanges as may be required within thematic groups in health, education, agriculture, natural resources, human resources, and finances.

ECONOMIC SITUATION

One of the major challenges of the municipal authority is how to create jobs for the rising population. As mentioned earlier, KMC is one of the fastest growing municipalities in the country resulting in increased demand on basic social services and economic opportunities. Despite efforts to create several economic opportunities, there are several limiting factors including land, market outlets and capital. Although financial institutions such as banks and micro-finance schemes are potential sources of credit facilities, most respondents reported not having benefited from such facilities because of the lack of collateral or exorbitant interest rates levied on loans.

The need to embark on rigorous skills and entrepreneurship development programmes was highly recommended by some respondents as means of promoting small scale enterprises for self-employment creation. Difficulties in accessing timely relevant information and improper means of communication were highlighted as salient problems hindering the advancement of economic activities in the municipality. Inadequate land, lack of access to fertilizers, lack of storage facilities and price inflation were also cited by

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