AN INSIGHT INTO RURAL VALORIZATION IN NIGER STATE.

By Abdul Husaini

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Theme: Rural Revitalization through Innovation and Valorization.
Songyang County, China
“Today’s interconnected global challenges demand responses that are rooted in the spirit of our collective humanity. I believe that the risks and opportunities we face call for a paradigm shift that can only be embedded in our societies through education and learning. The role of education as a catalyst for building a better and more sustainable future for all has gained increasing recognition, leading to the declaration of the United Nations Decade of Education for Sustainable Development in 2005”.

-Irina Bokova
Director-General of UNESCO
The launch of the UNDA 2030 and New Urban Agenda ‘leaving no one behind’ is a clarion call for action.

- relevant to Africa than any other region of the world.
- The new direction and perspective is that of looking at villages not only for agriculture or at worst area of deprivation but rather as center for eco-conservation, leisure, sight-seeing and cultural exchange and experience.
- Villages should also serve as our reference point of the intricate relationship between nature and man thereby serving as novel space for wellness, preservation, eldercare, innovation and traditional/indigenous knowledge.
- The drive now, more than ever before, is to look at how our rural areas should serve as catalyst for economic growth, wellness and preservation of our heritage.

Global focus and purpose

- UNDA launched in 2015
- URL was initiated as a new approach to achieve the global objectives
Some important policies/programmes with capacity to improve the rural areas

- New commitment of the federal government to lift 100 million people out of poverty
- Livestock transformation initiative
- Rice anchor borrowers programme
- Closure of the boarder to instill self dependency and reliance
- NESP(REA): renewable off grid power to rural communities

**Nigeria at a glance:**
- **Land area:** 356,669 sqkm
- **Population:** 190.9 (World Bank, 2017)
- **32nd largest country**
- **36 states**
- **774 Local Government Area**
### Nigeria: Urban Versus Rural Population Growth

Urban and Rural Population Growth (1950-20150)

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Total population (in millions)</th>
<th>Percent share (%)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Urban</td>
<td>Rural</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1950</td>
<td>3.34</td>
<td>29.59</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1960</td>
<td>6.05</td>
<td>36.22</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1970</td>
<td>11.31</td>
<td>45.23</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1980</td>
<td>21.24</td>
<td>57.18</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>1990</td>
<td>38.15</td>
<td>64.84</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2000</td>
<td>48.00</td>
<td>72.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>80.0</td>
<td>80.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2016</td>
<td>120.3</td>
<td>87.1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>2025</td>
<td>174.7</td>
<td>104.0</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Niger State in focus:

- Niger State was created on 3rd February, 1976 from the defunct North-Western State with Minna, the state capital.

- Total Area: 72,200.14 Sq km

- Administrative structure – 25 Local Government Areas

- Total Population – 5.7m (Niger State Bureau of Statistics 2017)

- Annual Population growth rate – 3.4%
is about 150km from Abuja, Nigeria's capital.

The relationship between Nigeria's federal capital and Niger state is long and interrelated.

Firstly, Abuja, the new capital, was carved out of four states of Niger, Nasarawa, Kaduna and Kogi.

Niger state contributed over 70% of the total land area of the new capital territory and gave up the name of one of its important town-Abuja.

Due to this transfer of name the old Abuja was renamed Suleja, which is now an important satellite town outside the geographical land area of the new capital.

Secondly, the old Abuja, now Suleja, was the most developed town around the site of the new capital at the time of the pronouncement of the relocation of the capital from Lagos to Abuja, in 1976.

Lastly, this historical relationship between Suleja and Abuja, the initial take off of the Federal Capital Development Authority (FCDA) from Suleja, and its close proximity to Abuja made Suleja the ideal location for middle to low income earners who cannot afford accommodation in the city center but chose to commute to Abuja every day.
This relationship has turned Niger state as the ideal place of abode to most people, thereby changing the dynamics of the spatial interaction and development not only in Suleja but across the state, with resultant consequences on both the physical and socio-economic environment of Niger state.
Challenges of Urbanization in Niger State

Negative outcomes of unplanned and uncontrolled Urbanization in Niger State includes:

- Ineffective governance
- Uncoordinated Urban Development
- Infrastructure and Service deficits
- Lack of Adequate and Affordable Housing
- Vulnerability to Climate change
- Unemployment & Poverty
- Inadequate Institutional Capacity
- Poor Land Management
- Poor Linkages between Urban and Rural Spaces
URL Guiding Principles

- Locally grounded interventions
- Integrated governance
- Spatial and functional systems-based approaches
- Financially inclusive
- Balanced partnership
- Human rights-based
- Do no harm and provide social protection
- Environmentally sensitive
- Participatory engagement
- Data driven and evidence based
Recent initiatives to address the challenges
UnSlumming MINNA is a project funded by the GIZ-SEDIN Programme, Nigeria, to apply the 4P (Public-Private-People Partnerships) urban governance model to upgrading a peri-urban community in the south-west growth zone of Minna city.

- It is an inclusive and participatory multi-stakeholder approach.
- Partners: Niger State Government; GIZ-SEDIN; NRCN (Nigeria Resilient Cities Network)
Problem Context

➢ Gidan Kwano ‘Resettlement Plan’ 1988
   Community displaced by FUT* Minna site.
   102 Plots, 15x30m, 8Ha layout, not built up

➢ ‘University Village’: Local Econ. Anchor
   GK serves and services the Uni Campus;
   Stud./Staff Housing, MSMEs, Transport Hub

➢ Winners & Losers: Good Market Potential
   Indigenes still largely poor farmers, but
   Investors doing well with student hostels.

➢ Close the Gap: Inclusive Urbanisation rqd.
   Local community lack basic services (slum)
   Investment properties well served with;
   power, water and sanitation services.

➢ Gidan Kwano Vision: SDG No. 11 by 2030
   ‘Inclusive, Safe, Resilient, Sustainable’

* Federal University of Technology
Bridging formal and informal land markets and governance systems in slums.

Tools used: FGD (Focus Group Discussion); Community Mapping; Household Survey; Land Use Planning.

How it was implemented:
- Community Engagement & Assessment,
- Community Mapping & Household Survey
- Analysis & Planning
On-going. Very positive response from the community so far. Interest from the Niger State Government and proposal to extend the scope to other communities, in order to stimulate more orderly development and attract investment capital.

By taking hold of peri-urban growth zones, Niger State Government is hopeful that the eventual evolution of locked-in urban slums can be forestalled, as rural and peri-urban fringes are incorporated into the growing city of Minna.

Learning point from the project

- Creating an effective partnership platform between the planning authorities (Public), investment finance (Private) and local land owners (People) will enable a more inclusive and participative land and property market to emerge.
- This will in turn support the hitherto local, land owning farmers to also transit to urban property owners, rather than being pushed out of their properties by urban market forces.
Some bright spots on URL

The URL idea has been adopted in some of our actions and activities:

➢ Meeting with traditional rulers: we drew the attention of the emirs that the slogan of no one should be left behind cannot succeed without them because they are closer to the people.
Bright spots continued:

➢ **Rural infrastructural development** is now justified within the URL guiding principles. E.g. the selection of settlements for rural electrification was influenced by Ministry of lands and housing based on our insight of the URL. We have seen the communities taking the driver’s seat in the implementation.
Summary: Bridging Urban- Rural Divide in Niger State

Actions taken:
• Improve transport condition and bring sustained access to the rural population through construction/rehabilitation and maintenance of rural transport infrastructure.

Implementation Strategy
• It was implemented through Rural Access and Mobility Project (RAMP) – a World Bank and French Development Agency (FDA) assisted project.

Driving URL Principles:
• Locally grounded interventions
• Integrated governance
• Spatial and functional systems-based approaches
• Do no harm and provide social protection
• Environmentally sensitive

Outcomes derived
• Improvement in connectivity between urban – rural systems,
• Improvement in rural economic growth and job creation,
• Reduction in Rural Poverty
## Roads in Niger State

There are 3 categories of roads,

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Category</th>
<th>Length</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Trunk A - Federal roads</td>
<td>2,375km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk B - State roads</td>
<td>2,014km</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Trunk C - Local roads</td>
<td>5,153km</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
Summary: Bridging Urban- Rural Divide in Niger State: Energy

Action taken
• Provision of renewable and clean energy for rural dwellers such as Magaman Daji, Sabo Gari, Tunga Jika, Adogo, Goto Sarki, and Gulu

Implementation Strategy
• It was implemented through Nigerian Energy Support Programme (NESP) with the support of GIZ and Niger State Government

URL Guiding Principles
• Locally grounded interventions
• Spatial and functional systems-based approaches
• Financially inclusive
• Balanced partnership
• Do no harm and provide social protection
• Environmentally sensitive
• Participatory engagement

Outcomes derived
• Improved access to clean energy
• Improvement in rural economic growth and Job creation,
  • Reduction in Rural Poverty
  • Sustainable use of land and natural resources
  • Community engagement
Section of stakeholders at Adogo, Mashegu LGA for renewal energy

Community Engagement at Sabon Gari, Magama LGA
Completed project at Tungan Jika, Magama LGA 10Kwx
Inclusion of URL in the draft *Niger State policy on Lands, Housing and Urban Development*.

To be able to have idea of the flow of goods and people from the rural areas to the cities through markets, we conducted a survey of some selected markets with very interesting patterns.
Bright spots continued: Mariga market
Bright spots continued: Beji Market
Bright spots continued: Gwadabe market (Minna)
Bright spots continued: Gwada market
Bright spots continued:

- In the absence of a functional master plan, development would always be haphazard. To arrest this, we adopted the principles of engagement with the people to control one of the fringes of Minna through:
  - Acquiring 266.05 hectares of land.
  - Designed and prepared all the basic reports and surveys to make the project sustainable.
  - Secured/attracted interest of many actors:, traditional institution, government and international partners.
  - Govt gave $20,000 for engineering designs
Bright spots continued: Suleja New City Project
Bright spots continued: 30,000 hectares Bobi Grazing reserve
Lessons learnt: factors militating against wise planning

➢ Planners, within public sectors don’t address the concern of, or attract the interest of politicians through their designs or policy advocacy.

➢ The training pattern in Nigeria is, to our mind, not comprehensive enough and not in tune with major global proclamations e.g territorial planning as against urban and regional planning. The is affecting the quality of planners and solution to sustainability challenges across Nigeria.
Lessons learnt

- Emphasis on fiscal planning (economic) rather than physical planning: economic growth and development is more likely to thrive better in an organized environment than in an unorganized setting.
Way forward

➢ Settlement planning solutions should not only be seen from professional planners point of view, opinion of the ordinary people, just like the URL guiding principles envisage should be encouraged.

➢ Just like in environmental sphere where everyone, formal and informal, are involved in solution finding, territorial planning must adopt such measures. This is well captured in the guiding principle.
Way forward

➢ UN-Habitat, like UNEP in collaboration with other UN agencies like UNESCO should take interest on how to scale up the idea of territorial planning as against urban and regional planning.

➢ High level advocacy on the link between efficient spatial or territorial planning and economic development should be intensified. Just like education, investment in territorial planning brings more return on investment with multiplier effect than having unplanned environment.
Some thoughts for action

Adopting the GAP Sustainable Development approach:
• Launched in 2002 after WSSD.
• ESD was identified as necessary to achieve SD.
• DESD 2004-2014 was launched with many stakeholders:
  • UNU
  • UNESCO
  • AAU etc
• GAP action Programme was launched after the end of DESD in 2014

• We must launch a strategy with key stakeholders on territorial and planning URL.
Conclusion

To achieve SD we must have sustainable territorial planning and development. This cannot happen but must be planned with strategy and advocacy.

That is why we are here.
Thank you

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