SYNTHESIS REPORT
URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES AT WUF10
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URBAN-RURAL LINKAGES AT WUF10
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Overview

The Tenth Session of the World Urban Forum (WUF 10) was held from 8-13 February 2020 in Abu Dhabi, United Arab Emirates. The theme of this session of the World Urban Forum was ‘Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation’. Culture brings together knowledge, art, belief, capabilities, habits, morals and behaviours, is widely recognized as playing a key role in the growth and development of cities.

During WUF 10, the Policy, Legislation and Governance Section (PLGS) of UN-Habitat and partners organized different official events: side events, networking events and book launches. It also organized a number of informal events at booths with partners on different thematic areas, such as Urban-Rural Linkages. UN-Habitat co-organized one networking event with Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Centre of Xi’an University, China, one side event with Songyang County Peoples’ Government, China, one book launch and several additional discussions that took place at the exhibitions. The three main events are summarized in the table below.

**TABLE 1. Overview of Urban-Rural Linkages Events organized by UN-Habitat at WUF 10**

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<th>EVENT TYPE</th>
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The events focused on the thematic applications of the *Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP)*, drawing lessons and experiences of various stakeholders in different geographical contexts. The stakeholders included: academia, national and local governments, private sectors and international organizations.
Summary

The summary presents the highlights from the three main events mentioned above.

EVENT 1: Rural revitalization to strengthen urban-rural linkages through innovations - the case of Songyang County, China

This event reflected on experiences from Songyang County, China, that focused on cultural transformation in the context of urban-rural revitalization which were observed during the first international forum on URL (IFURL). The IFURL was held in Songyang County and was attended by stakeholders from over 17 countries. The successful strategy of rural revitalization in Songyang was presented as a pathway to address the challenges in urban-rural continuum caused by the rural recession. The “architectural acupuncture” strategy, which involves renewing traditional buildings to boost rural industry and eco-agriculture, is part of a larger effort undertaken by Songyang County, China, to promote rural revitalization as well as ecological conservation.

During the event, the other speakers from Niger State-Nigeria, the Basque Country-Spain and Korea, gave inputs referring to the lessons from the IFURL and from these three contexts on urban and rural policies that enhance equitable development. They emphasized the importance of integrated governance for rural revitalization, and multi-level, multi-stakeholder and multi-sectoral approaches to policies, strategies and development. A key conclusion was that sustainable integrated territorial development cannot be achieved by accident, but can only be achieved through deliberate and specific integrated urban-rural strategies and advocacy.

EVENT 2: First Compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action

This event was organized by UN-Habitat as way to disseminate the ongoing work on compiling case studies on URL from different countries. This collection of case studies gathers evidence and seeks showcase existing actions by various stakeholders relevant to the URL-GP.
Mr. Rafael Forero from UN-Habitat opened the session and recalled the significance of Resolution HSP/HA.1/Res.5 on “Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization”, adopted by UN Member States during the first UN-Habitat Assembly in May 2019. This is the first resolution directly addressing urban-rural linkages since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

He introduced the First Compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action, sharing the nine case studies included in the publication. He also invited three of the case study authors to elaborate their case studies on:

- **Tlokweng Development Plan (2015-2039).** Relates to integrated planning across the urban-rural continuum.
- **China Rural Revitalization through Architectural Acupuncture strategy.** Relates to participatory engagement and territorial economic development and employment.
- **Cameroon improving and tarring roads, cooperation between ministries and councils in Bamenda.** Relates to infrastructure, technology and communication systems.

**EVENT 3:** Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations

This was the third event, a networking opportunity which brought together partners working in different thematic areas relevant to urban-rural linkages (URL). During the event, partners shared their work and demonstrated the relevance of the URL-GP in various sectoral areas of work using a cultural and innovation lens. The range of themes discussed included: nutrition; food systems; migration; and urban-rural partnerships. The panelists also highlighted the importance of economic approaches that examine local markets, the preservation of biodiversity and environmental resources, rural housing, and indigenous culture and knowledge as foundations for understanding and connecting the urban-rural continuum.
EVENT 1
Rural revitalization to strengthen urban-rural linkages through innovations: The case of Songyang County, China
Rural revitalization to strengthen urban-rural linkages through innovations: The case of Songyang County, China

OVERVIEW

Date & Time: 11:30-12:30 PM, 11.02.2020

Location: Voices from Cities, Room A, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Co-organizers: Songyang County People’s Government, China and UN-Habitat

Partners: Songyang County-China, Niger State government-Nigeria, the Basque County-Spain, Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH)

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

Songyang County has been putting rural development in the context of urban-rural integration by focusing on culture and architecture and implementing the “architectural acupuncture” strategy to promote economic and social restructuring in rural areas. This has generated positive results. In November 2019, the first International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages (IFURL), co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Songyang People’s Government, was held in Songyang County, Lishui City, Zhejiang Province, China on the theme of ‘Rural Revitalization through Innovations and Valorisation’. The Forum contributed to the overall theme of the WUF10, “Cities of Opportunities: Connecting Culture and Innovation.” The event brought together some of the participants from the IFURL to share lessons from the Forum, but also examples from their country contexts on culture and rural revitalization in the context of urban-rural linkages.

The speakers at the event were: Mr. Pan Yongshui (Songyang County People’s Government); Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta (Basque Country Government, Spain); Dr. Abdul Husaini, (Niger State Government, Nigeria); and Dr. Junyoung Choi (Korea Land and Housing Corporation). The session was moderated by Mr. Remy Sietchiping (UN-Habitat)
Due to the COVID-19 pandemic that had hit China and East Asia, the Songyang County team could only contribute virtually. Mr. Pan, during his video presentation, began by introducing the first International Forum on Urban Rural Linkages, held in Songyang County, from November 10th to 14th 2019.

He recalled the aim of the Forum, which was to focus on the systematic thinking and innovative practice of rural revitalization from the perspective of ecological civilization, to discuss the rediscovery of rural values, and consider the effective revitalization of rural value chains. He indicated that the Forum also sought to reflect on and deepen sustainable innovation and development in urban and rural areas around the world.

He also indicated that efforts by Songyang, such as the "rescuing old houses initiative" and art interventions have been integrated in the county's plans. Songyang County has also become a national demonstration village for the protection and revitalization of traditional villages and the "Saving Old Houses" initiative which is being promoted in pilot counties throughout the country.

Songyang County, based on a deep consideration of local culture, has been working on the development laws and plans needed to promote ecological civilization through the "architectural acupuncture" strategy.

Mr. Pan stressed that they had under the protection and revitalization of traditional villages. These actions demonstrate "culture-led rural revitalization" interventions had brought about a modern revival of historical and cultural villages and cities.

They had also established integrated urban and rural development to promote the diversification of the rural economy. Another innovative strategy for economic development, called the "resource-growth industry development system" has been promoted, proposing organic farming in the county.

This strategy aims to promote sustainable agriculture and value addition by introducing agricultural product processing industries that integrate primary, secondary and tertiary industries. The outcome has been the growth of tourism across the region which has led to agriculture being combined with traditional medicine and other synergies.

Other actions include innovations to protect culture through village museums throughout the county where folk festivals take place.
This Songyang “architectural acupuncture” strategy shows how to integrate the revitalization of small-scale rural housing into local value chains such as improved agricultural productivity, revitalized traditional industry, rural tourism and job creation. Mr. Pan emphasized that in Songyang, urban and rural, cities and villages, tradition and modernity, and economy and culture are intertwined, promoted and complement each other.

In conclusion, he acknowledged the several years of hard work by all sectors, stakeholders, government and residents in various areas, as follows. ++

- Infrastructure development in the drainage system, fire protection measures, environmental protection and transportation in the core area of the old villages - strictly in accordance with the principles of sustainable revitalization.
- Restoration of local traditional industries such as iron forging and cotton-weaving.
- Development of new forms of business, such as the Bed & Breakfast industry and the art and creativity industry.
- Restoration and renovation of historical landmark buildings, and proper resettlement of indigenous villagers.
Mr. Puerta shared the Territorial Planning Guidelines of Basque country, which provides a framework for all sectoral and space-based (local) policies. It is thus seen as an inclusive, well-balanced, inter-related and participatory tool. With its data-driven approach and proactive implementation, the Basque country now has a high degree of food self-sufficiency, it has expanded its green infrastructure and has encouraged closer contact between the population and the Basque country’s natural environment.

Mr. Puerta also highlighted the role of gender in territorial approaches. The Territorial Planning Guidelines of the Basque country state that: “People have different needs and aspirations in relation to the territory derived from the gender roles they assume in their daily life. The inclusion of the gender perspective in land use planning guarantees men and women access to all resources in an inclusive manner.” He also introduced the eleven gender dimensions in the Guidelines, including: gender roles; care tasks; displacement; daily life and task chain; infrastructure and equipment; lack of safety; violence; poor representation; lack of public spaces for interaction; location of home and employment; and wage gap.

Mr. Puerta concluded by presenting the Bioregion Concept for a Territorial Model, arguing for collaboration and complementarily as opposed to hierarchy.
Emerging Trends in Rural Development: The case of Niger State

Dr. Abdul Husaini, Niger State Government, Nigeria

Dr. Abdul Husaini, the representative of Niger State, Nigeria, began by expressing his appreciation of the IFURL held in Songyang County. He stated that the Forum had provided a good opportunity to gain a better understanding of how the region is getting the best from its rural areas.

Dr. Husaini then highlighted the importance of beginning to look at villages, not only with regard to their agricultural potential or to identify the most deprived areas, but rather seeing them as centres for eco-conservation, leisure, sightseeing, cultural exchange and building experience. He highlighted the importance of developing policies and programmes which could improve rural areas.

He introduced the UnSlumming MINNA Programme, in Niger State, which applied the 4P (Public-Private-People Partnerships) urban governance model to upgrade a peri-urban community in the south-west growth zone of Minna city, through an inclusive and participatory multi-stakeholder approach. To bridge the urban-rural divide, this programme has resulted in improved access to transport and increased access for rural people through construction, rehabilitation and maintenance of rural transport infrastructure. This has improved the connectivity between urban and rural economies, leading to rural economic growth and job creation, and the reduction of rural poverty.

He also highlighted that settlement planning solutions should not only be seen from the point of view of professional planners, but rather as envisaged by the URL Guiding Principles, also taking into consideration the opinion of the citizens and relevant stakeholders, from the formal and informal sectors. He concluded by emphasizing the new commitment of the Federal Government, to lift 100 million people out of poverty.
Envisioning Rural Utopia through Balanced Regional Development

Dr. Junyoung Choi, Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH)

Dr. Junyoung Choi shared the Korean experience of integrated urban-rural territorial development. In his presentation, he indicated that Korea is mainly urban, with an urbanization rate of 81%.

However, the country is currently pursuing a policy of promoting Balanced Territorial Development. As part of this, for example, Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH) intends to undertake several actions, such as:

- Supply rental housing (e.g. 7,000 rental housing units for 61 districts);
- Improve the residential environment; and
- Create quality jobs in rural areas.

He explained that a strategy that mixes the provision of adequate housing with job creation has worked effectively.

Other initiatives relate to data relevant for spatial planning in rural areas. To address this, LH has established an online platform and database to identify idle facilities, such as closed schools and factories that can be used by the community and to provide a means of communication between the local community, the private sector and local government. This initiative contributed to securing a range of historical and cultural resources in rural areas and created spaces to promote rural industry, while engaging more youth and migrants.

Lastly, the Local Food Valley Programme supports small-scale farmers, SMEs, and secondary and tertiary industries in rural areas. The aim of this programme is to establish a food market where farmers can sell their products directly to people from nearby cities and create an agglomerated industrial complex for SMEs in agricultural food processing. This initiative was developed in collaboration with local communities, farmers, local governments, public institutions and local universities. All these stakeholders participate in different roles in relation to market operations, quality inspection, logistics and fostering entrepreneurship.

In conclusion, Dr. Choi highlighted the role of local universities in operating the living-lab, supporting the education of farmers, conducting joint research, and, finally, in supporting start-ups in relevant areas.
DISCUSSION

During the discussion speakers raised the following points.

- All speakers highlighted the importance of the framework for enhancing integrated territorial development, through multisector, multi-level and multi-stakeholder approaches in sectoral and local policies, and as a tool for inclusive, balanced, integrated - participatory development processes.

- Speakers recommended the need to integrate urban and rural areas into an organic system which contributes to high degree of food self-sufficiency and improved agricultural productivity.

- Finally, the importance of preserving natural resources and expanding green infrastructure was emphasized.

QUESTIONS AND RESPONSES

The audience raised a number of useful questions.

1. Are we treating rural and urban areas as independent entities or as a network of rural areas?

Response: “Urban and rural co-exist in the same territory. Both spaces need each other to function. We need to consider all spaces and ensure better connectivity between the spaces and identify solutions in which no space and no one will be left behind.”

The significance of collaboration and complementarity versus hierarchy regarding the governance framework of all sectors, stakeholders and levels was emphasized. Policy and interventions should also be in line with capacity development and participatory process for all in the urban-rural continuum.

Finally, the second International Forum on Urban-Rural Linkages was announced to be held at Songyang County, 25 to 29 October, 2021. It will involve participants from national and local governments, international organizations, private sector operators, academia and civil society, sharing insights on urban-rural linkages.
Event 2

OVERVIEW

Date & Time: 14:00 – 15:00 PM, 11.02.2020

Location: Voices from Cities, Room A, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE

Organizer: UN-Habitat

Partners: Songyang County-China, The City of Bamenda-Cameroon, University of Botswana, Politecnico de Milano, DnA_Design and Architecture.

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

This event was meant to launch the first UN-Habitat Compendium of Inspiring Practices on Urban-Rural Linkages, a collection of nine case studies. The nine cases demonstrate the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles (URL-GP) and Framework for Action. This provides concrete examples of different approaches taken to address urban-rural linkages in different cultural and geographical contexts and realities, including policies, strategies, tools, interventions, or thematic projects. The book launch offered a set of lessons which could be replicated or adapted by relevant actors working in the urban-rural continuum in different contexts, enhancing urban-rural linkage and implementing the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

The cases were presented by Mr. Branco Cavric (University of Botswana) and Ms. Antonella Contin (Politecnico de Milano), Ms. Xu Tiantian (DnA_Design and Architecture) and Ms. Mokom Njang (Public Relations and International Cooperation Officer of the City of Bamenda). The session was moderated by Mr. Rafael Forero (UN-Habitat).
To open the session, Mr. Rafael Forero highlighted the importance of urban-rural linkages as it expands the scope of territorial development by considering both urban and rural areas. Mr. Forero recalled the importance of the Resolution HSP/HA.1/Res.5 on “Enhancing urban-rural linkages for sustainable urbanization”, adopted by the UN Member States during the first UN-Habitat assembly, held in May 2019. He also indicated that the resolution was the first to directly address urban-rural linkages since the adoption of the New Urban Agenda (NUA).

He stressed the participatory process in the development of the URL-GP. He highlighted that URL-GP was a product of over two years of global consultation involving more than 130 stakeholders from over 40 international organizations.

He further indicated that the first edition of the Compendium of case studies engaged nine authors, from national and local government, academia, international organizations among other stakeholders.

Mr. Forero introduced the collection of nine case studies which are all from work done prior to the development of the URL-GP. However, all of them illustrated examples of how specific principles and actions of the URL-GP were identified through efforts to strengthen urban-rural linkages. During his presentation, he highlighted the context, approach and impact of each case study. Below is the summary of the case studies and related entry points for the URL-GP Framework for Action:

- **Integrated Territorial Planning – Botswana**: Tlokweng Development Plan
- **Integrated approaches to food security, nutrition and public health - Tanzania**: Towards mainstreaming urban agriculture into land use planning in Dar es Salaam City
- **Infrastructure, technology and communication systems - Ethiopia**: Rural - Urban Transformation with the Aid of Road Infrastructure in Hawassa
- **Infrastructure, technology and communication systems - Cameroon**: Improving and tarring roads, cooperation between ministries and councils in Bamenda
Following the first edition, he also indicated that the second edition was under development and would be launched later in 2020. He concluded by indicating that the Compendium is the result of periodic calls from UN-Habitat for case studies to be developed that were disseminated to partners and other relevant stakeholders.

- **Investment and finance for inclusive urban-rural development** - Nepal: Rural-Urban Partnership programme
- **Territorial economic development and employment** - Europe: RURBANCE (Rural Urban Governance) in Alpine space/European transnational cooperation
- **Conflict and disaster** - Palestine: Support to Palestinians at Risk of Displacement in the West Bank
- **Governance, legislation and capacity development** – “POT Modernos Programa” (Modern Land Use Plans Programme)
- **Participatory engagement/territorial economic development and employment** – China: Rural Revitalisation through Architectural Acupuncture in Songyang County
“The Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles (URL-GP): The Case of Tlokweng, Botswana”

Mr. Branko Cavric, University of Botswana

Mr. Branko Cavric shared his insights on the “The Urban-Rural Linkages Guiding Principles (URL-GP): The Case of Tlokweng, Botswana”. He argued that from his experience, urban and rural areas should not be treated as separate entities in development of plans, policies and strategies.

He gave further description on the case of Tlokweng, focusing on the urban-rural fringe of a rapidly urbanizing district outside the city of Gaborone.

He gave the comparison of different growth models that seek to balance the preservation of the cultural and environmental assets of peri-urban areas and villages in rural areas, while taking advantage of the economic and social opportunities generated by urbanization. Criteria for considering options included the following:

- Values of biodiversity and cultural heritage;
- Health and food access; and
- Economic opportunity.

He said that the final Tlokweng Development Plan was the product of participatory community engagement in mapping complex urban-rural systems and integrating social, economic and environmental dimensions in a planning approach. This was based on taking into account issues related to resilience and benefits to households, smallholder farmers and small settlements in the urban-rural fringe. He also highlighted that the Tlokweng plan managed to establish and improve the knowledge system base and fill data gaps.

This is to ensure that there is evidence to support planning methods and proposals applied in this project.

He concluded by stressing that taking the local context into account is critical to move towards integrated territorial development. This informs and guides the translation of global agendas such as the SDGs the New Urban Agenda (NUA) and others.
Where Academy meets the Metropolitan Scale Issues

Ms. Antonella Contin, Politecnico de Milano

Ms. Antonella Contin’s presentation was not part of this compendium. She shared the experience of the Arua region in Uganda as an example of “Where Academy meets the Metropolitan Scale Issues”.

She stated that, the challenge is normally defining new approaches that can contribute to inventing production processes for collaborative urban generation and regeneration between mother cities, and medium and small towns in the metropolitan region.

This is while exploiting heritage and culture to regenerate the socio-economic sphere through participation and innovations.

“\textit{At the beginning, the question was: Can the railway be an opportunity for a new development model that creates a network of cities and addresses climate change, the marginalization of target groups and slum sprawl?}”

Faced with the difficulty of describing this evolving structure through traditional statistics and indicators, she and her team started to conceive the metropolitan project starting from a definition of the dimension of physical space able to generate innovative social, historical and economic changes in society: governance of landscapes.

Ms. Contin concluded by saying that green and grey infrastructure can contribute to:

- Generating a new conception of urbanization;
- Organizing development along the urban-rural continuum; and
- Creating agglomerations, hierarchies and efficient connections between settlements.
Ms. Xu Tiantian introduced the Songyang story of rural revitalization, introducing the Architectural Acupuncture strategy. She explained that this strategy aimed at revitalizing rural areas was implemented by the Songyang County People’s Government with support from a team of collaborators. The aim of the strategy was to overcome the challenges faced by traditional villages that had been suffering from economic decline and to improve the social, economic, environmental and cultural quality of life of people living in villages.

She stressed that the public programme was adapted to the context and heritage of each village according to its context and heritage before implementation. To serve the village and community, to restore its rural identity and to support tourism and stimulate economic development, she and her team had developed and implemented several ‘architectural acupuncture’ projects, which are listed below.

**PINGTIAN VILLAGE**

The project renovated a cluster of abandoned houses located at the village entrance. To preserve the village fabric and its overall configuration, the construction was undertaken by local villagers who were experts in local traditional architecture. The outcomes were as follows:

- the renovated houses became a village centre for exhibitions, an art studio and businesses;
- a general growth in tourism; and
- more people who had lived in villages, especially young people, returned home to start businesses on-site, later expanding to develop online platforms. Such successful entrepreneurship with regard to e-commerce shows new possibilities for ancient villages.
HAKKA INDENTURE MUSEUM IN SHICANG VILLAGE

She explained that this museum contained the biggest Hakka Indenture collection in the country, and was the most important initiative for the preservation and exhibition of Chinese Hakka culture, an important archive for the country.

The museum was built using local stone, using the existing drainage on site, and it provides an opportunity to learn from and preserve traditional construction methods.

In the beginning, there were only three experts who knew the traditional architectural techniques, this number has grown to over 12 young experts.

“In restoring the rural identity, the Architectural Acupuncture aims to activate the circulation and interaction between the urban and rural as well as the well-being of the overall system. We hope that our Songyang story will provide a sustainable strategy for other rural regions.”

The function of the building place is flexible: it is open for tourism and also used by the local community as needed. She highlighted that this place has now also become a local meeting place for people living in the village.
The session was concluded by Ms. Mokom Njang, who presented the case of Bamenda in Cameroon.

She outlined the challenge that the roads constructed in the 1980s had outlived their life span and were in an advanced state of degradation; the road system was characterized by dirt roads (very dusty in the dry season and muddy with giant potholes in the rainy season). The local authorities in Bamenda led the project, starting with a rapid appraisal assessment to determine, with public consultation and input, which roads required paving most urgently.

The project started with the identification of roads within the boundaries of the area managed by the City Council that required rehabilitation or paving. Rapid Rural Appraisal methodology was used: this is a multidisciplinary approach using short, structured interview techniques aimed at gathering knowledge from key informants such as individuals or households. Phase one of the initiative was undertaken in 2015, covering a total of 12 km in the three sub divisional councils. The second phase of the initiative started in November 2016, aiming to build 36 km of roads at an estimated cost of $3.5 million.

The tri-annual programme has been of great importance to both people living in urban and rural areas in at least three. 

- Traffic congestion, especially on the stretch of road between some major entry and exit junctions in the City, has greatly reduced.
- Neighbourhoods, which were relatively inaccessible in the past, are now accessible.
- Movement of goods, services and people has improved for city transporters and suppliers of areas on the periphery, leading to time and cost savings, and more efficiency overall.

The success of this initiative was largely dependent on proper follow-up and allocation of finance by the City Council and state parties, such as the ministries of Housing and Urban Development and Public Works.

She concluded by stressing that sound transportation planning is key to improved urban-rural linkages and that this benefits both urban and rural communities.
CONCLUSION

The URL-GP provides one of the pathways to localize and implement SDGs and NUA. During the event, speakers shared practical, field-based and action-oriented recommendations based on their own experience, background and context. Recommendations stressed the need for a systematic approach to address the dynamics of the urban-rural continuum and to promote equitable development.

Each case highlights the importance of an inclusive, participatory approach that engages all levels of governance and stakeholders. The experience shared will further support national and local governments and relevant stakeholders to implement the URL-GP and to achieve the SDGs and the NUA.
Event 3
Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations
Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations

OVERVIEW

**Date & Time:** 14:00-16:00 PM, 12.02.2020

**Location:** Hall2, Room10, Abu Dhabi National Exhibition Centre, Abu Dhabi, UAE

**Co-organizer:** UN-Habitat and Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Centre of Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology, China

**Partners:** Songyang County-China, Basque country-Spain, Korea Land & Housing Corporation (LH), Dalarna University, StadtLand GmbH, United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN), Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), World Bank-KNOMAD.

BACKGROUND AND DESCRIPTION

In both the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (SDGs) and the New Urban Agenda (NUA), United Nations Member States agreed to policies that support integrated urban and territorial development. They called for new, inclusive approaches and enhanced synergies between urban and rural communities and spaces - an essential component of the vision of Agenda 2030 to “leave no one behind”.

Over 17 paragraphs in the NUA specifically address the need for either urban and rural or integrated territorial development. Sustainable development goal 11.a.1 specifically recognizes the need for urban and rural planning. The importance of integrated urban and territorial development, and specifically of the Urban Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action (URL-GP), can also be used as an accelerator for the implementation of numerous SDGs. Linking the key contemporary social (culture), technical (innovation) and environmental issues would help deliver multiple benefits, in the following areas, among others: climate action; food security; nutrition; biodiversity; and migration.

Facilitated by UN-Habitat and Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Centre of Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology, the event sought to present how stakeholders across different sectors work in the urban-rural continuum and how the ‘Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework for Action (URL-GP)’ is relevant to their work.
The session included the participation of experts and representatives of national governments, UN agencies, international organizations, universities, and the private sector from different geographical regions specifically: Asia, Europe, Latin America, the Arab region and Africa.

The diverse list of speakers included:

- Ms. Oenema Stineke (UNSCN);
- Ms. Cecilia Marocchino (FAO);
- Prof. Robert E.B. Lucas (KNOMAD, World Bank);
- Dr.-Ing. Uwe Ferber (StadtLand GmbH);
- Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta (Basque Country Government, Spain);
- Dr. Junyoung Choi (Korea Land & Housing Corporation);
- Dr. Sandra Piesik (3 Ideas B.V);
- Dr. Huang Pei (Dalarna University, on behalf of Prof. Duan Degang from Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology);
- and Mr. Lovati Marco (Dalarna University);
- and Mr. Pan Younshui from Songyang County, China (who joined virtually).

The session was moderated by Mr. Remy Sietchiping (UN-Habitat).
Nutrition and Urban-Rural linkages

Stineke Oenema, United Nations Standing Committee on Nutrition (UNSCN)

Stineke Oenema, the Coordinator of the United Nations Standing Committee Network (UNSCN), opened this session introducing a discussion paper on the nutrition dimensions of the URL-GP prepared by UNSCN. She stated that the paper addressed the importance of policy makers, planners and nutritionists making an effort to improve their understanding of urban-rural issues and to work together for a more positive impact of policies and programmes. She called for action to encourage the use of a territorial lens in nutrition policies and programmes.

This would help to raise and shape inclusive urban-rural finance to address poverty, hunger and malnutrition in the context of urban-rural nexus. Further she stressed the importance of addressing human rights, environmental sensitivity and participation in policies and programmes to improve nutrition. Furthermore, she emphasized the need to include nutrition in work on urban-rural issues and territorial governance and development in the research agenda. Finally, she concluded by stating the need to develop tools to guide the implementation of the URL-GP, incorporating actions to address nutrition.

FAO work on the Urban-Rural Continuum

Ms. Cecilia Marocchino, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO)

Ms. Cecilia Marocchino from FAO introduced a systemic approach to the urban food agenda covering various activities in the food chain, including the production, processing, distribution, consumption and disposal of food. All these activities take place in the context of the urban-rural nexus. Sharing the case of Lima in Peru, she stated that the cities in the network they had created had included the urban food agenda in their policies. She said that this had become a platform for cities to work together towards establishing shorter supply chains, better connecting demand to supply, and better connecting farmers to markets. Henceforth, the cities see their new opportunities and are interested in building the infrastructure to strengthen URL.

She concluded with the statement, “Cities together, they can do better. Local governments should go beyond the city level”.
Migration in Urban-Rural Linkages

*Prof. Robert E.B. Lucas, KNOMAD, World Bank*

To address migration in a urban-rural continuum, Prof. Robert E.B. Lucas, pointed out, that many countries in the recent past have adopted policies that have attempted to discourage, or even reverse, such movement from rural to urban areas. However, the evidence indicates that rural-urban migration is a minor contributor to the expansion of urban centres in most contexts. Indeed, the reclassification of rural areas as urban areas is more important. He also highlighted the importance of recognizing that reductions in agricultural incomes resulting from climate change and the associated acceleration in the onset of climate disasters would increasingly call into question efforts to discourage people from moving to urban areas.

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Germany: Urban – Rural Initiative

*Dr. Uwe Ferber, StadtLand GmbH*

Dr. Uwe Ferber shared his unique approach to URL, using Market and Technology to improve urban-rural continuity. He introduced five fields of action for sectoral partnerships in urban-rural contexts: sustainable land use; regional food systems; regional generation of added value; the circular economy; and finally, integrated infrastructure and services.
In the Basque Country, Spain, Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta illustrated the territorial development agenda, guidelines and implementation process, showing examples of approaches that take account of existing local markets, and the preservation of biodiversity and environmental resources, which can also work as new cultural spaces and agro-tourism. He suggested that this topography is generating new networks for connections between urban and rural areas.

Envisioning Rural Utopia through Balanced Regional Development

Dr. Junyoung Choi, Korea Land & Housing Corporation

Another innovative way to implement the 2030 Development Agenda and the NUA was introduced by Dr. Junyoung Choi, Korea Land & Housing Corporation, which is Korea’s most recent initiative to strengthen urban-rural linkages. He introduced the national framework for balanced territorial development and shared practices promoted such as housing development in for urban-rural regeneration, which integrates strategies for address housing supply, interventions to improve welfare and, finally, job creation. He emphasized that the impact of this new integrated approach is greater as it is founded on the consideration of both agriculture and culture.
Adapting a 7,000-year-old Circular Economy Model of Rural and Urban Dynamics

**Dr Sandra Piesik, 3 ideas B.V.**

Dr. Sandra Piesik from 3 Ideas B.V. introduced her research on the Arab Region by questioning how indigenous people there have survived in a rapidly changing world. According to her research, the date palm tree was introduced as the “connector” of urban and rural areas. Traditional buildings made from the leaves of date palms have provided shelter from the extreme climate of the Arabian-peninsula for centuries. One of the few forms of vegetation in these hot and sandy conditions, palm leaves have been used in ingenious ways to create habitable structures that have endured for generations. She stressed that these unique indigenous techniques from rural areas provide the foundation for a genuine understanding of the region, critical in the context of the fast-developing global economies they have become today.

Leading the Rural from History to the Future through Innovative Design

**Dr. Huang Pei, Dalarna University**

On behalf of Prof. Degang Duan, Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Centre of Xi’an University of Architecture and Technology

Dr. Huang Pei introduced local practices in the context of the rural vitalization strategy in China. This referred to the low-carbon rural construction method as a way of achieving co-existence between nature and sustainable economic development in rural areas. This type of building also constitutes an important contribution to mitigating climate change.

Building on Sandra Piesik's discussion, Mr. Remy Sietchiping, UN-Habitat, added that the “Discussion should connect these heritages to new cutting-edge technologies, which could demonstrate the fulfilment of SDGs and NUA.”
It builds on the traditional concept of “frugality”, by reutilising waste building materials through innovative design. Such measures reduce CO₂ emissions in rural construction and help to build modern rural public spaces, while drawing on and developing traditional culture. He pointed out that during process, the research team sticks to the principle of respecting the diversity between urban and rural areas, but not the gaps.

Business models for a shared PV system in rural areas

Mr. Lovati Marco, Dalarna University

In his presentation, Mr. Lovati Marco explained how to make effective, profitable and fair micro-grids using agent-based modelling in rural areas. An agent-based model (ABM) is a class of computational models for simulating the actions and interactions of autonomous agents with a view to assessing their effects on the energy system.

“Using agent-based modelling will benefit people and households in rural areas by establishing a local grid, a local energy community and a local energy market.”

DISCUSSION

Participants addressed the URL-GP as an accelerator for the implementation of SDGs. Linking the key social (culture), technical (innovation) and environmental questions of our time would help to deliver multiple benefits, including for climate actions, food security, nutrition, biodiversity, culture and migration among other areas and sectors. All policies and interventions should be inclusive in order to address issues and constraints related to the most vulnerable and marginalized regions, communities and people.
The following questions and responses were discussed.

1. *With the upcoming development of cutting-edge agricultural technologies, how would this affect the future of food security.*

   » Ms. Marocchino from FAO, who is also an urban planner, answered that she was positive about integrating agriculture with densely populated areas, especially with regard to urban farming. However more importantly, she stated we need to be inclusive to address these issues and consider the most vulnerable and marginalised regions, communities and people.

2. *How can informality in the Global South be addressed, given that informality is rising and is mostly not mapped and at the same time there is limited capacity.*

   » Panellists answering this stated that recognizing informality is a challenge, but should also be considered as an opportunity. This opportunity should be translated into practical interventions, such as inclusion of informal areas into formal areas through participatory processes. According to Ms. Marocchino, the informal sector and people working in the informal sector are contributing to this process, but they could contribute more. Ms. Oenema added that urban-rural linkages relate to many layers of interdependent issues and called for people working in this area to draw on the best practices and tools that already exist.

3. *Insight from Dr. Piesik’s experience of observing the urbanization process of indigenous areas in the Arab region over decades.*

   » She pointed out that it is necessary to adapt not only to urbanization but also to globalization. To do this, it is important to enhance coordination related to urban-rural linkages, using UN tools and best practices, and identifying relevant success stories.

CONCLUSION

Mr. Remy Sietchiping closed the session by highlighting that:

“All stakeholders and experts from the different disciplines and sectors should be aware of each other and the contribution they can all make, since there are many different entry points to enhance urban-rural linkages and there are more ways than one to handle this question. Hence, governance will be very critical in future discussions.”
Ways forward

POST-WUF10 ACTIVITIES ARE LIKELY TO INCLUDE THE FOLLOWING:

1. Follow up activities with participants and organizations after the event will include email communications with all the participants in the URL stakeholders list, requesting updates and elements for knowledge sharing.

2. Frequent surveys to be sent out to participants and other URL stakeholders on relevant activities for documentation and dissemination.

3. Invitations to contribute to case studies on URL, published by UN-Habitat and partners, and to contribute to events and publications organized by partners.

4. Defining a pathway to develop a URL Thematic Guide about food systems and nutrition, migration, biodiversity and other priority development themes etc.

UN-Habitat engages over 200 stakeholders from various thematic areas and institutions through periodic updates and consultations via email, among others. The recommendations and lessons from this event, will be disseminated through the URL stakeholders’ network and will be posted on the Urban Policy Platform (http://urbanpolicyplatform.org/) and Urban-Rural Linkages Website (https://urbanrurallinkages.wordpress.com/the-url-network/).

Another platform to share knowledge and experiences are the Urban-Rural Linkages Newsletters.

The First and Second issues of this Newsletter have shared the outcomes of the tenth session of the World Urban Forum with relevant stakeholders worldwide.

Finally, this is the second international forum on URL, which is planned for 2021 to be held in Songyang County. This will also bring together experiences of various stakeholders, contributing to the collection of case studies, but will also be an opportunity to showcase the examples of experience that have already been published.
### OTHER URBAN RURAL LINKAGES EVENTS AT WUF10

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>TYPE OF THE EVENT</th>
<th>TIME</th>
<th>TITLE</th>
<th>ORGANIZER</th>
<th>LOCATION</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Urban Food Agenda Exhibition Stand</td>
<td>12:30-1:00pm, 9th FEB, SUN</td>
<td>The Urban Food Agenda in action: Launching URL-GP Arabic version</td>
<td>UN-Habitat and FAO</td>
<td>Exhibition stand H7-69 CEMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Networking Events</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 PM, 9th FEB, SUN</td>
<td>Launching a market cities network: linking government, market leaders and NGOs to preserve food cultures, traditions, and economies</td>
<td>Healthbridge Foundation of Canada</td>
<td>Hall 2, 4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Voices from Cities</td>
<td>2:15-3:15pm, 9th FEB, SUN</td>
<td>French cities in transition, xxie century challenges: Paris 2024 olympic games village as frontrunner</td>
<td>Ministry for an Ecological and Solidary Transition, France</td>
<td>Voices from Cities, A</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Food Agenda Exhibition Stand</td>
<td>5:00-6:00 PM, 9th FEB, SUN</td>
<td>Rural Revitalization for Food Security in Asia</td>
<td>UN-Habitat and Songyang</td>
<td>Exhibition stand H7-69 CEMAS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Urban Library</td>
<td>11:00-11:45 AM, 10th FEB, MON</td>
<td>Territorial Planning: Diamonds, Diagonals and Supercities</td>
<td>Fundacion Metropoli, Spain</td>
<td>Urban Library</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SDGs in Action</td>
<td>11:30-12:30 PM, 10th FEB, MON</td>
<td>A territorial approach to the SDGs. Connecting culture and innovation through the SDGs in cities</td>
<td>OECD</td>
<td>SDGs in Action</td>
</tr>
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## Side Events

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<tr>
<th>Time</th>
<th>Event Description</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>12:30-1:30 PM, 10th FEB, MON</td>
<td>Urban-Rural Nexus: Challenges and Innovations to Govern Land, Municipal and Ecosystem Services, On the Fringes of Resource Constrained Cities and Small Towns</td>
<td>Division of Landscape Architecture; and the Swedish University of Agricultural Sciences, Sweden; and SLU, Sweden</td>
<td>Hall 3, 18</td>
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## Networking Events

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<tr>
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<th>Location</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00-4:00 PM, 10th FEB, MON</td>
<td>Nature-Based-Solutions for increased sustainability and resilience of the urban development</td>
<td>Partnerships division, UN Food and Agriculture Organization, and Cities4forests, Mexico</td>
<td>Hall 3, 18</td>
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## Urban Library

<table>
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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>4:00-4:45 PM, 10th FEB, MON</td>
<td>Regional Planning: A planning approach for managing the rural-urban continuum</td>
<td>Observer Research Foundation, India (GIZ)</td>
<td>Urban Library</td>
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## Voices from Cities

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>11:30-12:30 PM, 11th FEB, TUE</td>
<td>Rural revitalization to strengthen the urban rural linkages through innovations a case of Songyang County, China</td>
<td>UN-Habitat and Songyang County People’s Government, China</td>
<td>Voices from Cities, A</td>
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## Urban Food Agenda Exhibition Stand

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1:00-2:00 PM, 11th FEB, TUE</td>
<td>Urban-Rural Linkages for Nutrition: Territorial approaches for sustainable development</td>
<td>FAO, UN-Habitat, UNSCN, ICLEI EU</td>
<td>Exhibition stand H7-69 CEMAS</td>
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## Book Launch

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<th>Time</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>2:00-3:00 PM, 11th FEB, TUE</td>
<td>First Compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action</td>
<td>UN-Habitat and partners</td>
<td>Voice from cities, A</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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## Training events

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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>9:00-12:00pm, 12th, FEB, WED</td>
<td>Urban Food Agenda – Integrating food Systems into Local Planning</td>
<td>FAO</td>
<td>Capital Suites - First Floor, CS-7</td>
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<tr>
<td>Event Type</td>
<td>Time</td>
<td>Session details</td>
<td>Organization</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voices from Cities</td>
<td>11:30-12:30 PM,</td>
<td>The implementation of a subnational urban agenda through an integrated urban</td>
<td>Department of Environment, Territorial Planning and Housing/ Basque Government, Spain</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12th, FEB, WED</td>
<td>regeneration plan in vulnerable neighbourhoods.</td>
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<td>Voices from Cities, A</td>
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<tr>
<td>Networking Events</td>
<td>2:00-4:00 PM,</td>
<td>Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations</td>
<td>UN-Habitat and Shaanxi Village and Town Construction Research Center of Xi’an University, China</td>
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<td>12th, FEB, WED</td>
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<td>Hall 2, 10</td>
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<tr>
<td>Voices form Cities</td>
<td>4:30-5:30 PM,</td>
<td>A Peer Learning Network as a mechanism for implementing the national urban policy:</td>
<td>Department of Cooperative Governance, South Africa</td>
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<td></td>
<td>12th, FEB, WED</td>
<td>Experiences from South African Intermediate Cities</td>
<td>Voices form Cities, B</td>
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Annexes 02

PROGRAMMES OF THE EVENTS

Rural revitalization to strengthen the urban-rural linkages through innovations a case of Songyang County, China

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>OPENING REMARKS</th>
<th>Mr. Remy Sietchiping</th>
<th>Chief, Policy, Legislation and Governance Section, UN-Habitat</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>PRESENTATIONS</td>
<td>Mr. Pan Yongshui</td>
<td>Songyang County People's Government</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Mr. Ignacio de la Puerta</td>
<td>Basque Country Government, Spain</td>
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<td>Dr. Abdul Husaini</td>
<td>Niger State Government, Nigeria</td>
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<td></td>
<td>Dr. Junyoung Choi</td>
<td>Korea Land and Housing Corporation (LH)</td>
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<td>DISCUSSION</td>
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<td>Ms. Jeong, sumi</td>
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First Compendium of case studies for the implementation of the Urban-Rural Linkages: Guiding Principles and Framework of Action

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<tr>
<td>Mr. Rafael Forero</td>
<td>UN-Habitat</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Antonella Contin</td>
<td>Politecnico de Milano</td>
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<tr>
<td>Ms. Xu Tiantian</td>
<td>DnA_Design and Architecture</td>
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Reducing the urban-rural divide through culture and innovations

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