Local strategies and policies session at the Africities 9th Summit

How to promote sustainable urban food systems in intermediary cities in Africa

Co-organized by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), United Cities of Local Governments (UCLG), and several organizations including UN-HABITAT, UNEP, RIKOLTO, ICLEI AFRICA, ENDA-ECOPOP, RUAF and CGIAR, the session posed the real challenges related to the nutrition of people living in semi-urban areas which house the largest portion of Africa’s population.

According to the Governor of Kiambu, Dr. James Karanja Nyoro, who opened the session with the FAO Resident Representative in Kenya, some observers may be surprised by the organization of such a session when issues seem more urgent, such as infrastructure financing. But if you look closely, according to the Governor, nutrition is the basis for the well-being of any population. Africa will continue to have the fastest urban growth in the world. Considering that the level of urbanization in Africa and globally is increasing and that 70% of the food produced is consumed by urban dwellers, food systems transformation is increasingly becoming an issue closely linked to urban food processing systems.

Food Sustainability in Intermediary Cities

How can agriculture be profitable for farmers and cheaper for consumers? The challenge for African suburban communities is to implement sustainable food systems. This system will have to focus on proximity to reduce transport costs and the risk of damage that awaits production far from the cities. Similarly, the problems of industrial pollution and heavy traffic in suburban areas, which can contaminate soil and water and thus agricultural products, will have to be resolved. One of the solutions envisaged is therefore the promotion of urban and suburban agriculture. This diversification of production areas will reduce the cost of nutrition in the budget of vulnerable people who spend almost 70% of their income on food. But for suburban agriculture, it will be necessary to secure land, which is generally under heavy pressure in these areas, much more than in agricultural regions. Ms. Carla of FAO, calls for a greater role for cities in agriculture with the figures of urbanization in Africa. But this role is not limited to the introduction of suburban agriculture into the development plans at the grass-root level, but also extends to the quality of meals consumed in intermediary cities. According to her, meals consumed outside the family are often industrial, loaded with sugar and fat, and therefore a source of disease. Cities must therefore contribute to improving urban nutrition. Agriculture must also be seen as a source of employment. Food is important to health, the economy, and urban and suburban well-being. “Through nutrition, we can transform cities,” she concluded.

Urban food systems in Africa are plagued by a high prevalence of various forms of malnutrition, including overweight and obesity, and high rates of food waste. Unhealthy urban diets combined with poor health systems and unhealthy living conditions create a vicious circle of poor health and malnutrition. Satisfaction with urban diets is crippled by increasing pressure on our natural resources, while urban populations, especially the poor, are at high risk of malnutrition and food-related non-communicable diseases. In addition, urban food systems emit more than 20% of the world’s greenhouse gases (GHGs), with food loss and waste among the top five contributors. The role of cities and local governments in achieving a sustainable transformation of food systems was therefore prioritized at the United Nations Summit on Food Systems (UNFSS) convened by the UN Secretary-General in September 2021. Within the framework of the UNFSS, the Urban Food Systems Coalition was created as one of the emerging coalitions, to promote coherent action on urban food systems and foster linkages between national and local governments, as well as linkages between urban food systems and other systems such as health, social protection, etc. in urban planning. Therefore, it is essential that local and regional authorities, especially secondary cities, invest in urban food systems to generate commitment and action to transform them.
The African population is experiencing very strong growth. Great news? Maybe. Provided that this excess birth rate is under control. The question is a concern for experts looking at the situation of the continent and of its cities.

For a variety of reasons, it is not easy for local decision-makers to determine what is the best way to support Family Planning in their municipalities. What's more, many people in our cities have never heard of it, or of its importance. This is largely why, according to the Honorable Esther Passaris, the chair of the session on this crucial theme, “every year, more than 20 million women in the city want to use family planning, but do not have any access to it”. This statistic alone sums up the difficulties encountered by municipalities and local authorities in finding adequate formulas. This is a significant problem in large cities, and even more a blatant one when we look at intermediary cities, that are under-equipped. The link with the environment plays a big part in this, just as it has been proven that urban areas and neighborhoods with poor facilities are places where family planning is illusory, or less efficient, if applicable. Especially in the absence of cohesion between all kinds of actors (public health, associations, institutional donors, etc.), with the municipality and all the local elected officials as an interface. Especially also in the absence of methodology, data collection and of a communication strategy (information, awareness raising), all things likely to contribute to a successful family planning profile. In fact, it is nice to have the best of plans, if there is no money available, it will be difficult to carry out this birth rate policy.

The city of Kisumu, which we can take to illustrate our point, would see a growth in its population multiplied by 10 between 1970 and 2035. This figure would increase by 63% in the next thirteen years. By that time, the city would need ten times more hospitals, ten times more schools, and ten times more reinforcement of its basic services. And if the budget did not follow the curve of this galloping excess birth rate, this would permanently jeopardize the development of this city. This is an example that is valid everywhere where this lack of control over planning by the authorities in charge of overseeing it will delay any development. It is a program led by the “TCI or The Challenge Initiative” platform, as well as the International Union for the Scientific Study of Population in 70 intermediary cities, in support of these communities.

All the actors of this double communication in two parts, yesterday, practically reached the same conclusions that family planning is the greatest investment of a city, or of a space of life.

Manu Djemba
URBAN ECONOMIC PLANNING AND ITS LONG-TERM IMPACT ON PROGRESS: A CASE STUDY OF UGANDA [FOLLOWED BY]
ITERATIVE, INCLUSIVELY INTEGRATED AND INTEGRATED RESILIENCE PLANNING
SPO-22 | ROOM 7

AFRICAN INTERMEDIARY CITIES: AN OPPORTUNITY FOR PHILANTHROPY AND PRIVATE INVESTMENT [FOLLOWED BY]
LAUNCH OF A NETWORK OF AFRICAN CITIES COMMITTED TO THE RECOGNITION OF URBAN RESPONSIBILITIES AND THE RECOGNITION OF THE NOTORIOUS SANITATION PROBLEMS
SPO-24 | ROOM 8

AFRICAN INTERMEDIARY CITIES: APPEALING OPPORTUNITY FOR URBAN REGENERATION AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT [FOLLOWED BY]
CARRYING OUT CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT PROJECTS IN PROJECTS WITH LOCAL AUTHORITIES AND THE INTEGRATED CROSS-BORDER DEVELOPMENT SCHEME
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PARTNERSHIPS FOR LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND SUSTAINABLE URBAN DEVELOPMENT IN SWEDEN AND SOUTH AFRICA: STORIES AND OPPORTUNITIES [FOLLOWED BY]
PREVENTION OF CRIME AMONG YOUTH THROUGH PARTNERSHIPS IN COMMUNITIES [SPO-27, ROOM 9]

PUBLIC PRIVATE PARTNERSHIPS (PPP) AND GOLD WASTE MANAGEMENT AS VEHICLES FOR PRAGMATIC INVESTMENT IN INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS: PRESENTING AN INNOVATIVE PPP FROM KISUMU, KENYA [FOLLOWED BY]
QUALITY URBANIZATION AND HEALTH FOR ALL IN INTERMEDIATE CITIES IN AFRICA [FOLLOWED BY]
ACCESS TO SUSTAINABLE ENERGY IN AFRICAN CITIES [SPO-32 | ROOM 10]

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Addresses help us find people and places, and they help people and things find us. An address is necessary to secure official documents, do things like open a bank account. You can order products online, and they show up at your doorstep. In an emergency, you give your address to an ambulance or fire truck, and they quickly get to you.

There are many places in Africa without traditional addressing systems and some areas with no addresses or road names at all. Plus Codes are a free and open source addressing system to provide addresses for everyone. Plus Codes are like street addresses for people or places that don’t have one.

Attend this session to hear from Google & their partners in Kenya (Kisumu and Vihiga Counties), The Gambia and South Africa about how Plus Codes are being used as an official addressing solution. You will also learn more about how Plus Codes can help ensure that everyone, everywhere can exist on a digital map, with digital addresses, no matter where they live.

maps.google.com/pluscodes
UNDP champions the pivotal role that local and regional governments play in the rising urban future of Africa, and subsequently, in achievement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and African Union Agenda 2063.

Building on its longstanding partnership with local and regional governments across Africa, UNDP now presents its Renewed Governance and Peacebuilding Framework for Africa 2022-25. It outlines actions proposed to support local governments towards people-centered governance innovation, with a focus on participatory governance systems and local economic development for transformative change at the local level.

COME VISIT US AT THE AFRICITIES EXHIBITION AND JOIN US FOR AN INTERACTIVE SESSION ON UNDP’S OFFER TO LOCAL GOVERNMENTS ON 17 MAY 14.30-18.00.
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GEORJA CALVIN-SMITH
All the latest news from Africa
MONDAY TO FRIDAY 7:45 & 8:45 PM GMT
THE INTERNATIONAL NEWS CHANNEL 24/7

EMMANUELLE BASTIDE
7 MILLIARDS DE VOISINS
DU LUNDI AU VENDREDI À 10H10 TU
1re radio en Afrique francophone*

*Source : Kantar TNS - Africascope 2021

Media Brief. Prof. Hon Anyang Nyong’o
Presentation of The Cheque from Kenya Commercial Bank/ Présentation du chèque de la Kenya Commercial Bank

Secretary General UCLG Africa with delegates of Morocco/ Secrétaire Général de CGLU Afrique avec les délégués du Maroc

Studio Tv Session with / Session Studio Tv avec

Studio Radio Session/ Session radio en studio

Room 1 Session on sustainable nutrition/ Salle 1 Session sur la nutrition durable

Room 2 Evening Session on building safer and inclusive cities for women/ Salle 2 Session du soir sur la construction de villes plus sûres et inclusives pour les femmes

Room 15 Session/ Salle 15 Session
International Exhibition of African Cities and Local Governments
Salon International des Villes et des Collectivités Territoriales d'Afrique
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