



URBANISATION RESEARCH NIGERIA (URN) FRAMEWORK AND PLAN

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INTRODUCTION

This Framework and Plan provides both an overview and a detailed description of the Urbanisation Research Nigeria (URN) programme. It follows the approach articulated in the UK Department for International Development (DFID) Terms of Reference (TOR) for the research programme, and the findings and discussions on *Urbanisation in Nigeria: A Scoping Review* that occurred in and subsequent to two research forums in Abuja, Nigeria, in December 2013 and February 2014, with a range of Nigerian stakeholders.

URN falls within the four-year DFID-supported Urbanisation and Infrastructure Research and Evaluation Manager UIREM)–Nigeria programme.¹ A consortium led by ICF International was commissioned in August 2013. Over the four years to 2017, URN is producing research accompanied by data collection on key topics concerning urbanisation, urban development and the provision of infrastructure. URN will disseminate this work through relevant, interesting and readable research reports which will contribute towards the evidence base for better urbanisation strategy, urban policy, and urban programming and governance in Nigeria.

URN approaches the research through four themes:

- Theme A: Urban change processes – developing a better understanding of the urbanisation and spatial expansion processes
- Theme B: Urban economic growth, infrastructure and livelihoods – examining Nigeria’s diverse urban economies and the opportunities they provide
- Theme C: Well-being of urban citizens – exploring the material, relational and subjective dimensions of well-being in Nigeria’s urban settlements
- Theme D: Urban land, planning, and governance – uncovering the process of urban development based on land resources and its planning and management.

Nigeria’s estimated current population of close to 170 million is Sub-Saharan Africa’s highest. The urban population surpassed the number of people living in rural areas in 2010. By 2050, this proportion will be above 70 percent. Understanding and planning for the urbanisation process in Nigeria is crucial for Sub-saharan Africa’s urban trajectory and future.

¹ UIREM-Nigeria also includes the evaluation of the DFID programme, the Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Fund (NIAF).

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

RESEARCH DESIGN PROCESS

The design of the programme's urbanisation research framework and plan derives from a number of activities carried out during the inception phase of the URN programme from September 2013 to April 2014.

The preparation of a scoping review of urbanisation trends in Nigeria was the first output. URN researchers drew on the knowledge and experience of stakeholders – from the academy, government, the community sector, and the private sector – involved in urban development in Nigeria to provide input into the research design. The two research forums which occurred during the inception period discussed, on the basis of the scoping review, research questions, methodologies and the overall research framework and plan, and the comments received were important inputs into the design of the research programme.

RESEARCH FRAMEWORK

There is real scope, opportunity and need for URN's research. As befits the country's prominence in Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA), Nigeria has a long-run and world-renowned tradition of urban studies. Current urban opportunities and challenges call for the revisiting and reinvigoration of this tradition. Research to provide a better understanding of the urban situation and the evidence base upon which to build urban policy, plan making and programming is an urgent necessity.

The policy environment is relevant here and has informed the research framework and plan. Nigeria adopted a robust urban development policy and enacted a comprehensive Urban and Regional Planning Act, both in 1992. Implementation of the policy and legislation has faced constraints. The revised National Urban Development Policy in 2012 states the goals, objectives and strategies for achieving sustainable urban development. The policy covers many critical and relevant issues and challenges facing urban development in Nigeria.

The inception phase activities confirmed that the four identified research themes – urban change processes, urban economic growth, infrastructure and livelihoods, well-being of urban citizens, and urban land, planning, and governance – can usefully serve to orient the research programme. Discussions on these themes tended not to emphasise research gaps as such: the scoping review in fact established that existing academic research does cover many questions identified under the themes, albeit unevenly.

Instead, and taking into account that the stakeholders involved during the inception phase represented a range of institutions with diverse interests and agendas, what can be seen as key points of strategic emphasis and need did emerge which necessarily informed the design of the URN programme:

- *Urban change processes* are much debated but an authoritative (and shared) perspective on the process of urbanisation (rate, level, components of change, dynamics, impacts on the urban system) simply does not exist – whether at national, geo-political zone, state or local levels. Many went further: even a common view on the right questions to pose is not as yet present. Equally, while the physical effects (or consequences) of recent urban population growth, whether caused by natural increase, migration, or jurisdictional/administrative changes, are widely witnessed and commented upon, but not well conceived or understood as processes of spatial expansion which feature diverse settlement patterns (suburbs, informal settlements, rural or peri-urban) and dynamics. At the same time, the dimensions, elements and linkages making up the continuum that exists between rural and urban settlements (as so defined) in the present-day are not clear to stakeholders.
- The relationships between *urban economic growth, infrastructure and livelihoods* are also a topic of much discussion, but the key issue of why high rates of economic growth in recent years have not translated into (or been accompanied by) real improvements in employment creation, livelihood provision and poverty reduction in urban settings is as yet unaddressed, as is the contribution of infrastructural investments and improvements. Hampering this is the relatively limited understanding, at overall or sectoral level, of the country's current economic industrial geography, and of sector-level economic performance (formal or informal/popular, whether manufacturing, or service) in Nigeria's urban/metropolitan regions, cities or towns.
- As a guiding theme, the term (and discourse around) the *well-being of urban citizens* is not widely deployed in Nigerian research. This creates the scope for addressing issues of urban health, transportation/mobility, crime and violence, and the impacts of infrastructure provision, in a fashion that deals more inclusively with the differentiated rights and obligations of citizen groupings (e.g., by gender, class, ethnicity), and with the urban poverty which is still prevalent in Nigerian cities and towns.
- Research into *urban land, planning, and governance* has been dominated by widely-held critiques of urban planning and management procedures, with these particularly focused on inadequate land market and planning systems, and limited provision of urban infrastructure and services. However, the actual process of urban and suburban development and the physical construction of the built environment (i.e., city-building), which is currently ongoing, massively scaled and far-reaching, is not well-researched or understood. Neither are the urban political and governance conventions and mechanisms which shape urban development – or, more specifically, the functioning of land markets which underpins it.

A number of other considerations were taken into account to refine the research agenda. These are as follows:

- Stakeholders advised that it was preferable to develop a cohesive framework that researched particular topics in depth, rather than produce an agenda that was potentially too wide and shallow. Following the themes, a limited number of interconnected topics have been selected for intensive research in specific places. These connect to one another vertically in each theme and also horizontally across themes. Such connections are also facilitated by proposing the co-location of projects. We expect that this framework then makes more possible the publishing of outputs in collective formats, like edited books or special editions of journals.
- Wherever possible, the opportunity to work with other development programmes and projects should be taken. We have therefore proposed working closely with the DFID-supported Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF) and the World Bank and DFID-funded Growth and Employment in States (GEMS) in the first instance, and intend to pursue other such linkages as the programme proceeds. We also intend that the programme draw and build on the findings of the World Bank's *Urbanisation Review of Nigeria*, which is presently ongoing.
- The motivation and contribution of researchers is essential. The research proposed here takes into account the interests and enthusiasms of researchers on the team from the ICF International consortium. At the same time, owing to good participation in the research forum and roundtable from Nigerian researchers, and other outreach efforts in the inception phase, we intend to draw more widely than originally envisaged on the research community in Nigeria, and on other academic research initiatives and networks in the country. The building of research capacity in the country has emerged as an important ancillary benefit of the programme.
- The safety of researchers is vital, which has influenced our choice of research topics and the places where research will be conducted. We will apply stringent security oversight and advisory measures in states or cities where the Foreign Commonwealth Office (FCO) advises against all travel. We will also be prudent with regard to working in those locations where the FCO advises only essential travel, and take the necessary security measures.

LOCALES: CITIES, STATES AND GEO-POLITICAL ZONES

Geographic spread has been at the forefront in selecting locales. We have included at least one city from each of the six geo-political zones/regions (aside from the North East, which is excluded for security reasons by DFID). As the external (i.e., non-participant) view of the Nigerian urbanisation narrative tends to be Lagos-centric, a key issue is to include cities and states that, while perhaps less known, can nonetheless provide valuable research resources and potential lessons in relation to the research themes (without excluding Lagos).

The Nigeria Infrastructure Advisory Facility (NIAF) is a technical advisory facility funded by DFID. NIAF's goal is to increase access to improved, reliable and affordable infrastructure services.

Growth and Employment in States (GEMS) is a project supported by Nigeria's Federal Ministry of Trade and Investment (FMTI) and funded by the World Bank and DFID. The project is aimed at job creation and increased non-oil growth in specific high potential value chains and sectors.

We also looked at the location of universities with departments (and researchers) in the urban disciplines and at the synergies and added value that can be created by working with NIAF and GEMS 3 colleagues. In addition, we wanted to incorporate a range of city sizes and scales in the programme: while the trend is for cities to grow larger, it is little known that the preponderance of the urban population resides in settlements below 500,000 and one million in size.

Alongside the national-level analysis of urbanisation dynamics and consequences in the thematic reports in Year 1, as described below, the proposed cities for Year 2 to 4 research projects are as follows:

- Makurdi (Benue State), Lokoja (Kogi State), Abuja and the Federal Capital Territory (FCT) satellite towns, Minna (Niger State), Kaduna and Zaria in Kaduna State (North Central)
- Katsina, Katsina State (North West)
- Enugu, Enugu State (South East)
- Calabar, Cross River State (South South)
- Lagos State (as the so-called megacity region), including the corridor in Ogun and Oyo States to and Ibadan itself (South West geo-political zone).

This includes all of the NIAF Effective Cities workstream locations (i.e. Kaduna, Zaria, Katsina, FCT satellite towns, Enugu and Lagos), with the exception of Kano, which could be incorporated as the programme continues, 10 states and the FCT – as well as the opportunity to work in GEMS 3 locations, Kaduna, Calabar and Lokoja, on land and informal settlement and economy issues.

The selection will be reviewed on an annual basis, to allow for the potential research opportunities which may arise.

Figure 1 Targeted cities and locales



RESEARCH PHASING

The inception period activities confirmed the concept of putting forward a phased approach to the research programme.

The second part of the first year of the programme, to October 2014, has been devoted to developing further knowledge and perspective on the four themes. The scoping review already developed a good understanding of the published literature in each theme. In-depth overviews of the importance of specific research issue/s per theme follow this. These reports serve as a detailed ‘baseline’ report for each theme – and as a foundation for the later, targeted and more detailed research in Years 2 to 4.

These four thematic reports have been researched and produced in the April-October period, 2014, with the involvement of sub-teams of international and Nigerian researchers. They are researched and written up as ‘Working Paper’ style reports – and will be published in an accessible and relatively short (approximately 10,000-15,000 word) format. They will form the basis for a prospective workshop on Nigeria’s urban challenges in the final quarter of the year which will target policymakers and decision makers at federal, state and local levels.

These ‘baseline’ reports above will provide data for and the confirmation and/or refinement of the research projects that will occur in the second phase, in Years 2 to 4 (2014/15, 2015/16, and 2016/17). These will involve case study work, fieldwork, and participatory research. They will comprise larger one or two-year studies and a number of smaller comparative or pilot studies. The studies for this intensive research phase are reflexibly constituted, and open to change.

A limited number of what are small comparative studies are also proposed. However, given the scale and scope of the Nigerian research challenge that inception phase activities have identified, and the available resources at our disposal, we have not emphasised comparative work across SSA. Findings from the Nigerian urban research will nonetheless certainly generate comparisons with urban processes in SSA, and the Global South more widely. Research uptake and dissemination activities will be oriented towards eliciting these comparative insights.

One or two reports per theme will be produced per year of the programme, four of these the thematic reports in Year 1, to make a total of 24 reports. These reports will provide the basis for their authors to develop and submit publications for peer review to journals, to a total of at least 24 publications over the programme. The possibility of producing edited collections, whether books or special journal issues, will also be pursued.

We also foresee a number of meetings/workshops organised around the research themes, as well as larger-scale mid-term and end-of-programme conferences focused on research results and their urbanisation policy and strategy implications for Nigeria and SSA. We aim to make URN’s urbanisation research programme strongly connected to other Nigerian and African research programmes, and institutions and networks which

link together planners and researchers, and very importantly, African mayors and local and city governments.

That said, we are mindful that the principal policy audience for research outputs is within Nigeria's federal, state and local-level government institutions, its associated stakeholders in business and the community, and DFID and other development partners active in Nigeria.

PROPOSED PLAN

Based on the above we have developed the following research plan for the URN programme.

THEME A: URBAN CHANGE PROCESSES

There is debate about the level (estimates run at around 50 percent) and rate (3.5 percent) of urbanisation in Nigeria. Nigerian cities are amongst the largest and most rapidly growing in SSA. The urban system and hierarchy is well-developed, but the pattern of urban dominance is under-researched. Moreover, little conclusive is known about the drivers of urbanisation, and about the relative importance of in-migration, transitory migration, natural increase and the revision of municipal boundaries in contributing to population growth, as well as the extent to which these population dynamics differ between regions, states and cities in the country. Census enumerations have also been inconsistent, and are often politicised, to emphasise the relative importance of Lagos, or of Kano, for example. These uncertainties highlight the need for further research aimed at developing a better understanding of urban population growth dynamics and their policy implications.

Table 2

URBAN CHANGE PROCESSES			
Title	Aim	Lead researcher	Timeframe
Urban change processes and urbanisation in Nigeria	To provide a better understanding of the drivers and dynamics of the urbanisation process in Nigeria.	Dr Robin Bloch/ICF International	April-October 2014
Rural-urban linkages within the Benue Basin	To understand rural-urban linkages in the Benue Basin including rural-urban production systems, redirected population flows/mobility and reshaped	Professor Timothy Gyuse/Benue State University	October 2014-September 2015

	social inter-relationships between urban centres within the Benue basin.		
Urban change in Kaduna	A longitudinal analysis of urban growth and spatial expansion over the past 30 years.	Dr Tony Lloyd-Jones/University of Westminster	October 2015-September 2016
Spatial expansion and the periphery in Nigerian cities: the new Nigerian suburbs	To investigate the drivers and patterns of urban spatial expansion in Nigeria by examining the overlooked contribution of suburbanisation to urban growth.	Dr Robin Bloch/ICF International	October 2016-September 2017
The urbanisation process in Lagos and Nairobi in comparative perspective	To provide a comparative dimension to the theme by mapping the physical and social configurations and urban spatial expansion of two of the largest city regions in sub-Saharan Africa.	Lindsay Sawyer/ETH Zurich	October 2014-September 2015

THEME B: URBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS

The urbanisation-with-no-growth scenario has previously been well documented in SSA. There is increasing evidence, however, to suggest that the inverse scenario is increasingly prevalent in Nigeria. Evidence suggests that economic growth is increasingly driven by cities as they reap

agglomeration economies. Strong growth trends have also been accompanied by a burgeoning middle-class in cities. However, approximately 60 to 70 percent of Nigeria's economy remains dominated by informality. Further research is therefore required to determine the kinds of infrastructural investments (physical and social) that are needed to accommodate and facilitate rapid economic and population growth in both the formal and informal sectors, strengthen job and livelihoods creation and urban incomes, reduce urban poverty, bolster agglomeration economies, reduce diseconomies of agglomeration, notably congestion costs, and create connectivity within and between cities.

Table 3

URBAN ECONOMIC GROWTH, INFRASTRUCTURE AND LIVELIHOODS			
Title	Aim	Lead researcher	Timeframe
Economic growth, infrastructure, poverty and livelihoods in urban Nigeria	To provide an understating of urban economic growth in both the formal and informal sectors, highlighting the role of improved infrastructural provision, and assessing performance in creating economic opportunity and reducing poverty.	Dr Robin Bloch/ICF International	April-October 2014
Industrial development and business-civic leadership in Nigeria	To develop greater visibility of Nigeria's industrial structure (both by sector and in spatial terms), and to shed light on metropolitan-level institutional capacities to mobilise private and public resources for employment growth and sectoral diversification.	Dr Naji P. Makarem/ University College London	October 2014-September 2015
Design of a	To design an index	Nikolaos	October

City Infrastructure Quality Index (CIQI) for Nigeria	aimed at providing an indicator of improvements in urban infrastructure quality and extent, and the impacts on growth and employment.	Papachristodoulou/ICF International	2014-September 2015
Concrete and steel: urbanisation, growth and livelihoods	To assess, on the basis of detailed sectoral/location analysis, the contribution of the two sectors to the city building process and to economic performance.	Dr Robin Bloch/ICF International	October 2014-September 2015
Agriculture, markets and the urban system in Katsina State	To understand the role of smaller and mid-size urban settlements in the urbanisation process and urban system, focusing on support to agricultural marketing process, and on the diversification of the non-farm economy.	Dr Robin Bloch/ICF International	October 2015-September 2016
Economic knowledge and the urban informal economy	To determine how economic knowledge is manifested in the context of the informal economy, and to explore the relationship between such knowledge, competitiveness and livelihood outcomes, drawing conclusions on how to create a better enabling	Dr Colin Marx/University College London	October 2016-September 2017

	environment for informal businesses and clusters.		
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THEME C: WELL-BEING OF URBAN CITIZENS

A critical question is to understand how the economic growth and urban change processes experienced in Nigerian cities are affecting the well-being of different groups of urban women and men, and the role which different forms of infrastructure provision plays in these changes. According to UN-HABITAT, 70 percent of urban dwellers in Nigeria lived in informal settlements in 2008. Access to safe water and sanitation is a critical issue, and congestion and mobility are significant issues in Nigerian cities, which all have an impact on the quality of life as well as economic development.

Table 4

WELL-BEING OF URBAN CITIZENS			
Title	Aim	Lead researcher	Timeframe
Well-being and citizenship in urban Nigeria	To gain an increased understanding of the relational and subjective dimensions of well-being.	Dr Andrea Rigon/University College London	April-October 2014
Transport, poverty and well-being in urban Nigeria	To explore how mobility-related policies and practices address equity concerns by examining the links between mobility, poverty reduction, social inclusion and urban integration in a selection of Nigerian cities.	Professor Julio Dávila/University College London	October 2014-September 2015
Urbanisation, infrastructure and health	To investigate how the presence, condition and location of physical infrastructures can impact on the	Dr Benita O'Colmain/ICF International	October 2014-September 2015

	health and well-being of urban citizens.		
Participatory well-being assessment of a low-income neighbourhood in a large Nigerian city	Pilot exercise to understand how participatory methodologies can be applied in the Nigerian context.	Dr Alexandre Apsan Frediani/ University College London	October 2014- September 2015
Urban infrastructure projects and displacement: How do the poor mobilise around their interests?	To investigate how the need for urban infrastructure can be reconciled with social justice in protecting the interests and rights of low income/subaltern urban residents.	Julian Walker/ University College London	October 2015- September 2016
Pathways out of urban water poverty in Nigeria and Tanzania	To provide a better understanding of urban water poverty, particularly for those living in small towns and in the peripheries of large cities, and exploring sustainable pathways out of it.	Dr Adriana Allen/University College London	October 2015- September 2016
The configuration of urban and rural delinquency and pathways for building crime-resilient communities	This research will consolidate efforts to make communities more resilient to crime.	Dr Adegbola Ojo/Liverpool John Moores University	October 2016- September 2017

THEME D: URBAN LAND, PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE

Rapid economic growth, urbanisation, urban spatial expansion, and climate change are inter-related processes that the urban and land use planning, financing and management systems of regional (state) and local governments must come to terms with in Nigeria as elsewhere in SSA.

At the same time, the urban development process is becoming more complex as new actors (both formal and informal), institutions (both domestic and foreign), finances and networks become involved, posing new challenges for urban governance. The research seeks a deeper understanding of how the system of planning and governance of formal and informal urban development can provide a basis for the formulation of suitable urban planning, management and governance arrangements for the country.

The need for applied research to (re)evaluate the role of conventional urban planning practice in responding to these new challenges is pressing. Furthermore, the rapid spatial expansion of Nigerian cities, and the creation of new suburban areas, presents particular challenges for the governance of a periheral interface which may fall between urban and rural systems of governance, as cities in Nigeria often expand over several Local Government Areas and even States.

Table 5

URBAN LAND, PLANNING AND GOVERNANCE			
Title	Aim	Lead researcher	Timeframe
Urban land, planning, and governance in Nigerian cities	To investigate and assess how the land development process operates, and the contribution of urban planning and governance mechanisms to outcome.	Dr Jessica Lamond/University of the West of England	April-October 2014
Planning, management and governance of informal urban developments in Nigeria	To examine the system of planning, management and governance for informal urban development	Dr Kwasi Baffour Awuah/University of the West of England	October 2014-September 2016

	with the view to gain a deeper understanding of the system to aid formulation of suitable urban planning, management and governance arrangements in Nigeria.		
State governments as laboratories of democracy	This research will assess a number of state level reform initiatives and their contribution to more accountable and democratic political and economic outcomes.	Professor Johnson B. Falade/ Foundation for Development and Environmental Initiatives	October 2014- September 2015
Abuja as fastest growing Nigerian city: special circumstances of the federal capital in comparative perspective	To investigate the way in which large-scale city- and suburb-building is occurring in Abuja, and how this is planned, managed and governed.	Professor Alan Mabin/University of Pretoria	October 2015- September 2016
Adaptation of urban infrastructure to enhance climate resilience	To explore the potential to adopt integrated flood and water management concepts in Nigerian urban systems to	Dr Jessica Lamond/University of the West of England	October 2015- September 2017

	reduce future flood risk and drought through understanding the vulnerability and resilience of communities at risk.		
Delivering municipal services through effective procurement of local infrastructure	To investigate the capacity building needs of local and state authorities to achieve value for money, transparency and sustainability in local infrastructure procurement for delivery of essential municipal services.	Professor David Proverbs/University of the West of England	March 2016-September 2017

Figure 2 Schematic view of the URN research plan

THEME	Theme A: Urban change processes	Theme B: Urban economic growth, infrastructure and livelihoods	Theme C: Well-being of urban citizens	Theme D: Urban land, planning, and governance
RESEARCH STUDIES	Urban change processes and urbanisation in Nigeria	Economic growth, infrastructure and opportunity in urban Nigeria	Well-being and citizenship in urban Nigeria	Urban land, planning and governance in Nigeria
	Rural-urban linkages within the Benue Basin	Industrial development & business-civic leadership in Nigeria	Transport, poverty and well-being in urban Nigeria	Planning, management and governance of informal urban developments in Nigeria
	Urban change in Kaduna	Concrete and steel: urbanisation, growth and livelihoods	Urbanisation, infrastructure and health	State governments as laboratories of democracy
	The urbanisation process in Lagos and Nairobi in comparative perspective	Design of a City Infrastructure Quality Index (CIQI) for Nigeria	Participatory well-being assessment of a low-income urban neighbourhood	Adaptation of urban infrastructure to enhance climate resilience
	Spatial expansion and the periphery in Nigerian cities: Abuja, Makurdi, Lagos and Kano	Agriculture, markets and the urban system in Katsina State	Urban infrastructure projects and displacement: How do the poor mobilize around their interests?	Abuja: special circumstances of the federal capital in comparative perspective
		Economic knowledge and the urban informal economy in Lokoja and Calabar	Urban and rural delinquency and pathways for building crime-resilient communities	Delivering municipal services through effective procurement of local infrastructure
			Pathways out of urban water poverty	

EXPECTED OUTCOMES AND IMPACT

CONCEPTUAL AND METHODOLOGICAL ADVANCES

The URN programme is multi-disciplinary. Conceptually it draws from disciplines including economic and physical geography, urban planning, sociology, development studies, history, environmental and disaster studies, as well as engineering. Different methods and data will be deployed depending on the purpose and scope of the studies including statistical data collection and processing, case studies, extensive interviews with stakeholders, and action research.

The collaborative aspect of URN will ensure that Nigerian and international participants will be involved in all research activities. The intention is that stakeholders in the Nigerian urban sector are integrated into the research process, helping to shape questions, to provide and collect data, to offer interpretations of findings and to act as champions for impact going forward.

LONG-TERM SUSTAINABILITY

The approach to URN is fundamentally shaped by the intention to create long-term and sustainable change in improving the urbanisation process in Nigeria. A cross-cutting component, which will link across the different research phases will be the use of the research activities to build a 'community of practice' working on urban development issues and urban research within Nigeria. This will be fostered through collaborative work, mutual learning and capacity building between the research partners, as well as through the use of the project to forge linkages with wider urban research and management institutions in SSA and more generally through workshops and dissemination activities. The project could also provide a good entry point to support the formation of institutional spaces, such as urban laboratories, or urban institutes, to enable on-going collaboration on urban innovation in Nigeria.

To facilitate exchange beyond the URN programme, research outputs will be made 'open access.' This covers the whole range of final outputs produced by the URN programme. Thematic research reports, working papers, policy briefings, peer-reviewed journal articles, potentially in journal special issues and/or edited books, will all be made freely available. In addition, collected raw or derived datasets will be deposited in a suitable open access discipline or institutional repository; and we will also retain and provide free on request raw datasets after the completion of the research. Open access to research and data will benefit the full range of stakeholders and actors in the Nigerian urban sector, and may lead to an increase of impact, through increased access for the target audience; and increased visibility and usage of the research results.

URN researchers sit in advisory positions on international scientific bodies providing further scope for academic and policy influence. The nature of the research process is an impact itself aiming at opening opportunities for stakeholders to question assumptions and practices for urbanisation and urban development research. Arguably, longer-term impact benefits particularly from changed approaches and practices.

CAPACITY BUILDING WITHIN PARTNER INSTITUTIONS, STUDENT ENGAGEMENT AND WIDER ACADEMIC LEADERSHIP

The URN scoping review identified a nascent resurgence of urban research on Nigeria both within Nigeria research institutions and in the international academic community which URN will aim to foster and encourage. Direct research uptake and dissemination of the project outputs is a target of the research uptake strategy and the expectation is that that this will make a large and significant contribution to ongoing urban research debates. A sustainable urban research community can contribute, long term, to the formulation of evidence- informed policy and therefore the economic success and well-being of Nigerian society.

The URN researchers are committed to capitalise on the further opportunity to broaden and deepen the research programme through internal research and scholarship activities and building networks among their researchers in adjacent activities and collaborating institutions. This will build research capacity in participating institutions and gain co-benefits for urban research in Nigeria from research-led teaching and student engagement within the themes of the research.

This can be achieved through:

- Direction and supervision of Masters and Undergraduate theses on relevant URN themes thereby enhancing the breadth of the research programme, for example through the UWE/University of Ibadan joint Masters programme.
- Encouragement of research assistants attached to and funded by the programme to register for Doctoral studies status thereby deepening the conceptual reach of the programme and ensuring sustainable growth in urban research capacity.
- Engagement of existing thematically aligned PhD researchers, some already identified within DPU and UWE, in detailed research design and data collection for specific URN projects.
- Encouragement of future PhD registrations to align with URN themes and targeted cities thereby maximising the uptake of existing and generating and developing new data resources.
- Embedding the themes of the research programme within core research and scholarship activities in the partnership institutions through seminar series, open lecture programmes, research clusters and workshop and training activities.

- Provision of educational materials, and research-led teaching activities, based on research outputs targeted towards the appropriate student bodies on affiliated courses.
- Seizing opportunities to seek and direct additional funding to enable researchers and students to engage in networking and exchange visits linked to the URN programme.

REACHING OUT TO URBAN DECISION MAKERS

URN has been designed as a policy-relevant and evidence-based programme of research. An important aspect of capacity development will also be to improve capacity for evidence-based decision making to help generate more robust and sustainable solutions to the urbanisation challenge in Nigeria. A key aspect of the URN programme will be to reach out to Nigeria policymakers, community and private decision makers shaping urban Nigeria and assist them to access and use relevant, valid and timely information and research results to better inform policy and programming choices.

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