NEW URBAN AGENDA: FROM AGENDA TO ACTION, LOCALISING A GLOBAL ISSUE INNOVATION, INCLUSION AND PARTNERSHIP AS MAJOR DRIVERS OF NEW URBAN AGENDA IN NIGERIA

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ABSTRACT

The Problem Of Urbanization In Nigeria Relates More To Effectiveness Of Implementation Than Plausibility Of Urban Development Plan. This Reality Prompted Authors To Intensify Debate On Various Implementation Paradigms That Could Help In Realizing The Goal Of Urban Developmental Plan And In Solving Myriads Of Problems Associated With Rising Urbanization In The Country. This Study Contributes To That Debate By Making A Case For Innovation, Inclusion And Partnership As Plausible Drivers Of The HABITAT III New Urban Agenda. Using A Stakeholder Analysis Of Qualitative Data Obtained Through Focus-Group Interview And Content-Analyzed, The Study Examined The Responses Of Key Stakeholders In The Industry On Plausible HABITAT III Implementation Paradigms Within The Bounds Of Innovation, Inclusion And Partnership. Findings Revealed That Shared Perspectives On Innovation, Inclusion And Partnership Have Potentials To Drive Successful Implementation Of The HABITAT III Urban Agenda. The Author, Based On The Study Findings, Postulates That The Trio Of Innovation, Inclusion And Partnership Are Plausible Drivers Of Successful Implementation Of The New Urban Agenda. Further Studies (Particularly Time Series Studies) Are, However, Needed To Empirically Test The Postulate And Establish

Relationships Between The Variables (Innovation, Inclusion And Partnership) And Milestone In Implementation Of The HABITAT III Urban Agenda In The Country.

Keywords: Innovation, Inclusion, Partnership, HABITAT III Implementation, Nigeria

1. INTRODUCTION

The 20th century witnessed rapid and unprecedented urbanization of the world's population. The global urban population increased from 13% in 1900 to 29% in 1950, 49% in 2005 and it is estimated that by 2030, 60% of the population will live in the cities. This trend is a reflection of the growth of urban population that increased from 220 million in 1900 to 732 million in 1950 and is expected that there will be 4.9 billion urban dwellers by 2030. Almost all of this growth will be in lower income regions of Africa and Asia where urban population is likely to triple. Of all the regions of the world, Asia and Africa are urbanizing faster and are projected to become 56% and 64% urban, respectively by 2050. The U.S. Census Bureau projects the global population at 9.3 billion by 2050, more than two-thirds of whom will live in urban areas. Over the next 40 or so years, the urban population will increase by 2.7 billion virtually all of which will be in the emerging world. Rural populations will actually shrink by 283 million (Chart). This urban explosion placed importance on the New Urban Agenda adopted at the United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development. The 'New Urban Agenda' is a new framework that lays guidelines on how cities should be planned and managed to best promote sustainable urbanization for the next 20 years.
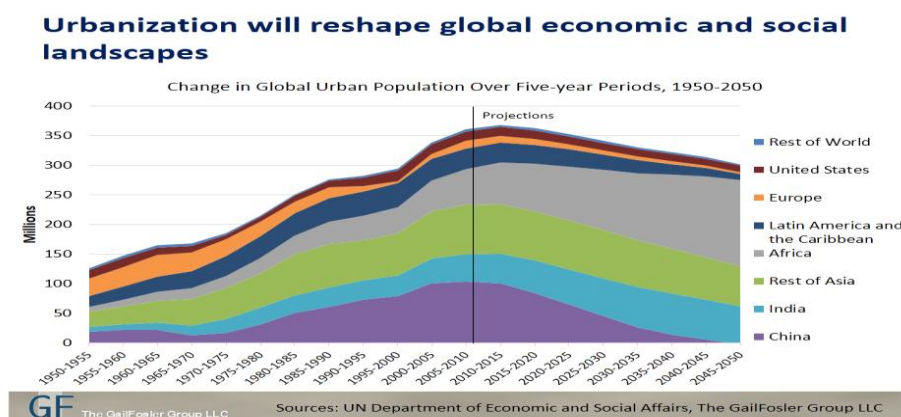

Figure 1; Change in Urbanization Over Five Year Periods, 1950-2050(Josh, 2014)

However as 'The New Urban Agenda' agreed at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016 has failed in its implementation, the panacea to urbanization problems thus lies in discovering challenges of urbanization in the nation while researching policies of innovation and partnership that can ensure better urban emergence over the years to come.

2. AIM AND OBLECTIVE OF THE STUDY

The 'New Urban Agenda' presented at the UN-HABITAT III Conference held in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016, was preceded by the establishment of the first urban sustainable development goal (SDG), known as SDG11. SDG11's definition is to 'make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable, therefore covering most big urban buzzwords of the past two decades. The formation of a New Urban Agenda, and the more specific emergence of SDG11, has been the result of concerted lobbying and policy-making by cities, city networks, governments, policy-makers, NGOs and other actors. The approval of the Urban SDG is a product of what one might call a fluid alliance of interests and organizations that generated a coherent pro-urban discourse through which to assert the importance of cities in future development policy agendas. However the implementation of this premise has been sluggish as several drivers of urbanization were not properly addressed with understanding of the difference in each urbanizing zone. The aim of this paper thus is to bring the premise of urbanization from the Nigerian perspective into view while attempting to create enlightenment on the achievements possible where innovation and partnerships are tailored to suit the nation under review.

3. RESEARCH HYPOTHESES

The New Urban Agenda' agreed at the UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development in October 2016 has failed in its implementation, the panacea to urbanization problems thus lies in discovering challenges of urbanization in the nation while researching policies of innovation and partnership that can ensure better urban emergence over the years to come

The following hypotheses will guide this study, with aim of proving which ideology is realistic.

Null Hypothesis: Innovation, Inclusion and Partnership are significant drivers of New Urban Agenda implementation In Nigeria

Alternative Hypothesis: Innovation, Inclusion and Partnership insignificant drivers of New Urban Agenda implementation, In Nigeria

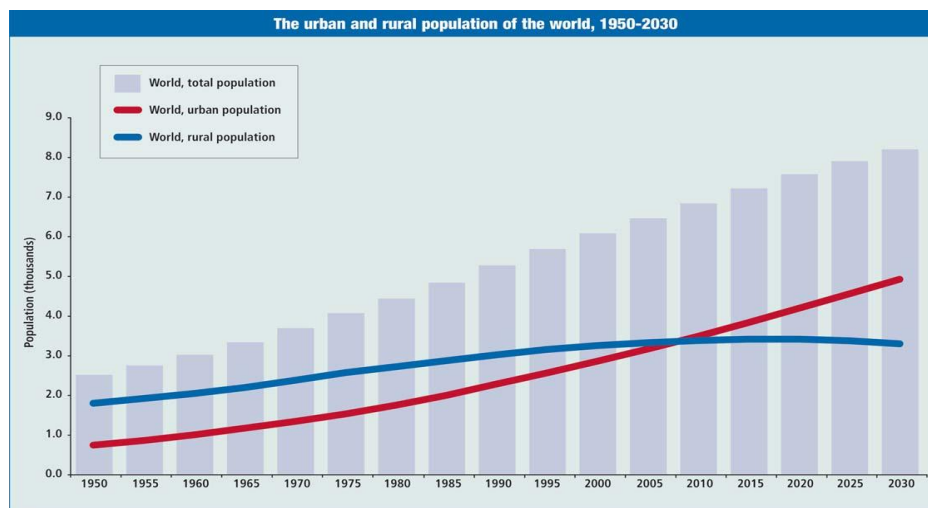## 4. A NEW FORM OF URBANIZATION

Figure 2; Rural and Urban Population of the world, 1950-2030(world urbanization)

The urban movement occurring now is radically different from previous urbanization eras. What is new is the rapid acceleration of urbanization, especially in developing countries or regions. Rapid change of these complex systems generates challenges for urban leaders and managers as well as for infrastructure that is quickly becoming obsolete. While, there is no universal definition of what constitutes urban settlement, the criteria for classifying an area as urban may be based on one or a combination of characteristics as human population threshold, population density, and proportion employed in nonagricultural sectors, presence of infrastructures such as paved roads, electricity, piped water or services, and presence of education and health services In addition, cities are increasingly competing with each other on a global basis for investment and business.

Urbanization; Localizing A Global Concept

The Nigerian society is undergoing both demographic transition (people are living longer) and epidemiological transition (change in population health due to changes in lifestyle) mainly as a result of urbanization. The pattern, trend, and characteristics of urbanization have been alarming. The towns and cities have grown phenomenally with pace of urbanization in Nigeria showing extraordinary high rates of 5%−10% per annum.
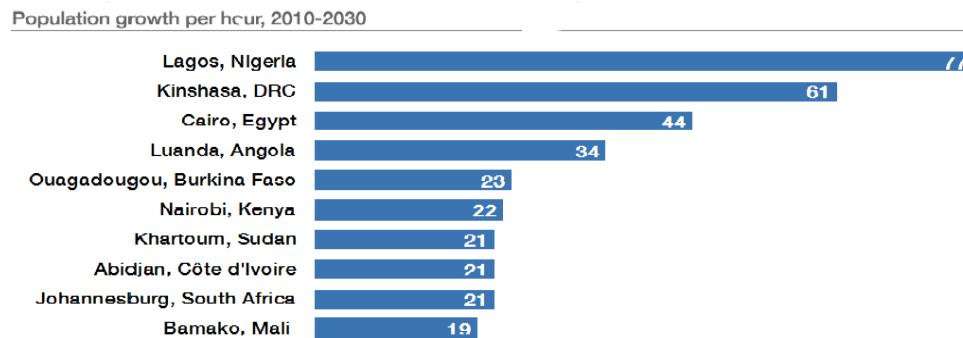

Figure 3; List of Most Fastest Growing Cities In Africa(Joe Myers, 2016)

At current growth rate of about 2.8%−3% a year, Nigeria's urban population will double in the next two decades. In 1995, there were 7 cities with a population of over 1 million, 18 cities with over 500,000 population, 36 with over 200,000, and 78 with over 100,000. By 2020, it is projected that the number of cities with a population of 500,000 and 200,000 respectively will be 36 and 680 assuming annual urban growth rate of 5%. Over the decades, the population of most major cities/towns has increased by many folds.

Consequently, there has been rapid unplanned and uncontrolled expansion of Nigerian cities' area up to 10-fold their initial point of. Lagos, Kano, Port Harcourt, Maiduguri, Kaduna, Ilorin, and Jos all had more than 1000% increase over the past 5 decades. For instance, Kano's population rose from 5,810,470 in 1991 to 9,383,682 in 2006. Enugu had 174,000 in 1965, 464,514 in 1991, and 712,291 in 2006 while over the same period; Lagos had a population of less than a million, 4 million, and over 10 million, respectively.

Today, most cities in Nigeria have undergone urban decay because of lack of or breakdown in basic services; potable water supply, electricity, efficient city transport services, affordable housing, and waste disposal systems also these phenomenal transitions are not without health challenges to the population in urban areas and cities. This is more so since urbanization is integrally connected to the three pillars of; sustainable development, economic development, social development, and environmental protection alongside factors like sustained industrialization and socioeconomic development.

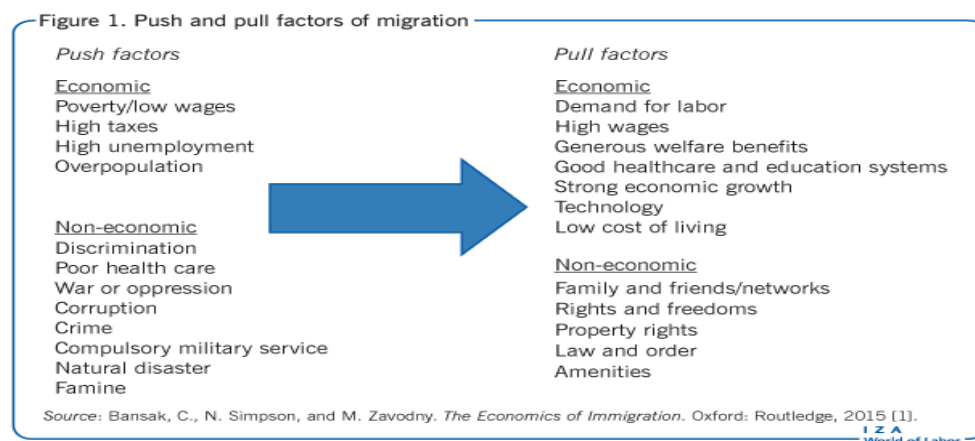## 5. ADDRESSING DRIVERS OF MIGRATION

Figure 4; Demographic and economic determinants of migration'(Simpson,2017)

The drivers of migration from perspectives of both countries / regions of origin and destination in a holistic way are to a large extent responsible for urban growth.

1. Economic opportunities are often highlighted as a major driver of Migration. However other well-acknowledged "drivers", includes

2. Social factors such as the search for educational opportunities or obligations to kin, such as marriage or inheritance practices,
3. Political factors which includes discrimination or persecution, conflict, levels of security and policy incentives,
4. Demographic factors which includes population density and structure and risk of disease and environmental factors, including exposure to hazards and land productivity.
5. Environmental factors, including exposure to hazards and land productivity.
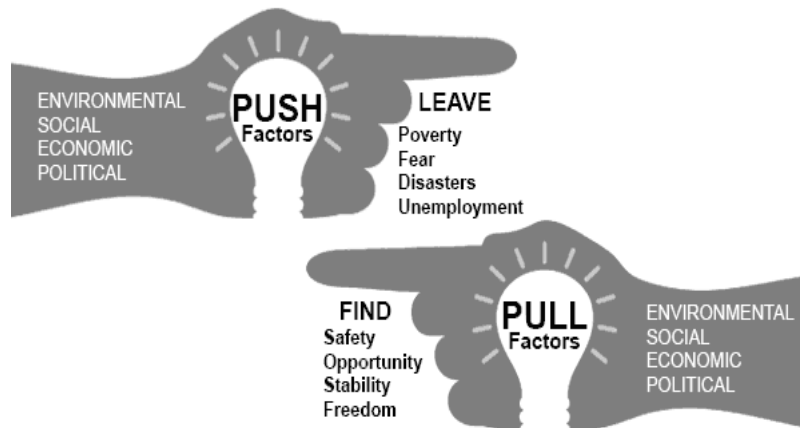

Figure 5; Economic push and pull factors of immigration(emigration link)

To address migration drivers from this inter linked perspective, the following questions are raised:

- How can we leverage and enhance the opportunities offered by the large flow of intra-regional labour migrants for Africa's development?
- What role can regional bodies such as ECOWAS and SADC and destination and origin countries play to facilitate intra-regional migration within Africa?
- How can we promote migrants as resources, beneficial to themselves as well as their communities, (not trapped in a camp) not as a burden on destination countries or lost brain drain on sending countries, but as a resource?
- How do we transform migrant's capabilities into a resource?
- What is needed for this transformation?
- How can we build on brain gain initiatives in countries of origin and destination?
- How can we enhance development opportunities in countries of origin through for example implementing programmes to reduce unemployment and poverty in migrant sending communities, skills development trainings and income generating activities?
- How can we improve systematic data collection (including collecting comparable sex- and age-disaggregated data) and analysis towards effective and informed policies that will address the drivers of migration in a holistic way tailored to different populations and contexts?
- How can we strengthen cooperation between and among States and other stakeholders on data collection to better predict, understand and address the drivers of migration?

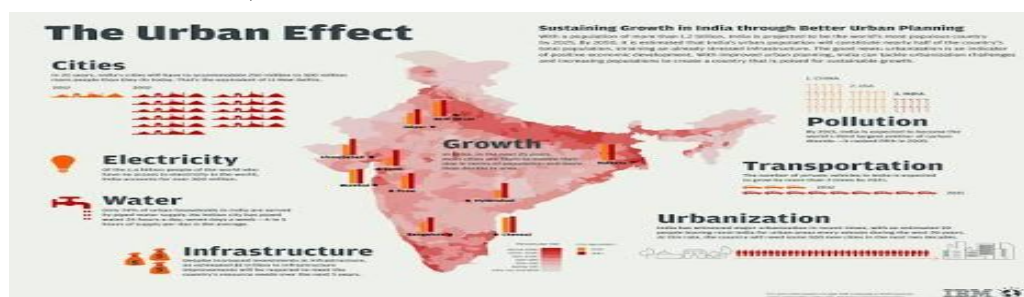## 6. URBAN EXPANSION; EXISTENCE BY NECESSITY

Figure 3; The Urban Effect (IBM)

The expansion of urban regions and the full urbanization of a nation if welled governed and planned can indeed yield great local and global benefits as can be deduced from the following,

- Better possibilities to boost the economy: being closer to businesses and industries, people who come from the countryside can explore more possibilities to increase their current income, either by being in contact with closest customers, or by obtaining jobs in new Business.

- Better sanitary services: potable water, sanitation, transport of waste , recycling of garbage, etc.

- Another benefit of urbanization is that the tight grouping of people allows social and cultural integration at a level not available to the extended populations in rural areas.

- As the economy increases, the whole society benefits from internal improvements, either through a richer tax base or through competition between private organizations.

- Urbanization offers real economic opportunities to people who would otherwise be destined to subsist without hope of economic improvement.

- Another advantage of urbanization is that it improve technology at a faster rate . The reason being because of the increase of the population , investment by international companies there is a need to speed up communication , marketing and dissemination of goods and services.

- Reduction of the cost of transporting goods for companies, lowering the transportation of their products is a key factor, something that was already one of the main reasons for the spatial concentration of companies during industrialization and that is accompanied by urbanization. Companies also would have a shorter distance to transport their products since everyone is in the urban area .Most urban area have good infrastructure unlike rural area which is another factor that reduces transportation cost.

- Lower cost of losing a job the concentration of workers is another pro, because if a person loses the job, it will be easier to find another if there is a greater number of companies in the city.

7. THE NEW URBAN CHALLENGES

Figure 4;Elements For A New Urban Agenda(mizamphd, 2006)

The many benefits of urbanization come with steep challenges which if not tackled will render obsolete the premise of the United Nations HABITAT-III agreement referred to 'The New Urban Agenda'. The following are some of such challenges which must be resolved to ensure a better urban future.

Managing Increasing Negative Vices Due To Urban Growth

The rapid rate of urbanization needs to be effectively managed to ensure that the potential economic and social development arising from urbanization are optimized to reduce poverty, improve the quality of life and protect the environment.

Bridging Supply And Demand Gap on Infrastructure Services

There exists an enormous gap between demand for infrastructure services and capacity to finance urban development. This is a gap with urgent attention

Strengthening Urban Management Capacity

Capacity of cities to manage urban growth and development, including preparedness to respond to disasters, needs to be strengthened. Project-based approaches with short time horizon adopted in some cities are unsustainable and did not effectively address long-term goals.

Decentralizing Urban Administration

Many governments have decentralized responsibilities to local governments. This gives local governments more strategic role in planning and decision-making in urban development

Financing Modern Water Infrastructure

The challenge in Water supply in urban areas is something many do not consider.

Fiscal Problems

Cities typically have serious difficulties in paying for basic services such as transportation, policing, public education, trash removal, street maintenance, and snow removal (at least in cold climates), and in providing certain services for their residents who are poor or disabled or who have other conditions. The fiscal difficulties that cities routinely face became even more serious with the onset of the nation's deep recession in late 2007. (Alan J., 2009).

Homelessness

In cities throughout the Nigeria men, women, and children live in the streets, due to the price of homes people seek shelter in abandoned vehicles or houses, cheap motels, or trailers, or living in someone else's home temporarily. Some research finds that one-third of the homeless are victims of violence or theft during the year; this rate of victimization is four times higher than that in the general population (Wenzel, Leake, & Gelberg, 2001).

Crime

When many people think about the disadvantages of city life, they probably think about crime, a problem mentioned several times already in this chapter. Their fears are well grounded. Simply put, cities have much higher rates of violent and property crime than do small towns or rural.

8. CONCLUSION

AGENDA TO ACTION; (INNOVATION, INCLUSION AND PARTNERSHIP)

Africa is witnessing rapid urban growth, with migration, particularly rural-urban migration continuing to play an important role in the urbanization process. it is argued that in an increasingly urbanized world, the development challenges of the 21st century will be met in Africa's cities and towns and no longer in rural areas. Sustainable Development Goal 11, commits to "make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable by 2030" (UNDP, 2015), and thus provides the opportunity for African governments to change the negative perception of "cities as vessels of problems" to cities as "accelerators and facilitators of sustainable urbanization and development" as UN-Habitat (2014) urges. The new interest in cities by many national governments and international agencies are from three perspectives. The first is the recognition of the economic importance of an urbanized nation. The second is in the healthy living conditions and high quality of life possible with a well-planned nation, if they are well governed. The third is the potential of well-planned urban areas to delink a high quality of life from high greenhouse gas emissions and thus contribute to avoiding dangerous climate change and maintaining a sustained world for the next generation.

The formal outcome of the UN Habitat 3 Africa Regional Meeting was the Abuja Declaration which had among its key objectives:

1. Critical Partnership between the local governments and organized urban poor communities,
2. Inclusive policy making and development plans tailored to cover the informal sectors of the city (e.g. informal settlements)
3. Implementation and monitoring of the Sustainable Development Goals at the local level, and in partnership with organized communities of the urban poor.

The scope of the meeting was for achievement of a large new wide-ranging urban and migration policies and strategies which will turn African cities and towns into engines of sustainable structural transformation. The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2016 common African position on urban development provides the critical framework for understanding and addressing the drivers of both irregular and regular migration and to allow individuals to live and work in a healthy, safe and secure environment at home or to choose to migrate safely. However its implementation has been deficient to a large extent as seen in the poor preparation the Sub-Saharan counties have made towards their fast urbanizing nation .The solution hence is in the formation of partnerships as a way of bringing to fore new policies and innovations which can suitably match the ever increasing population trend.

9. RECOMMENDATION

In the New Urban Agenda, leaders have committed to:

- Provide basic services for all citizens.
- Ensure that all citizens have access to equal opportunities and face no discrimination.
- Promote measures that support cleaner cities.
- Strengthen resilience in cities to reduce the risk and the impact of disasters
- Take action to address climate change by reducing their greenhouse gas emissions
- Fully respect the rights of refugees, migrants and internally displaced persons regardless of their migration status

- Improve connectivity and support innovative and green initiatives
- Promote safe, accessible and green public spaces

How will this be achieved?

The New Urban Agenda will require new urban rules and regulations, improved urban planning and design, and municipal finance, among other things.

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