

- Councils including information on new fields of research, donor identification and professional exchange and training programmes;
- Recommending interventions aimed at addressing Urban Development issues in Uganda;

Institutional Framework (How the Urban Forums Operate)

The Forum is convened and supported by the Urban Local Governments, with a broad membership and participation of all the different stakeholders in the Municipality/City.

The Urban Forums are governed by a Charter which acts as the constitution. The organizational structure of the Urban Forums includes the Council, or general assembly the Executive Committee, the Thematic Working Groups and the Secretariat.

Urban Concerns to be addressed by Urban Forums includes the following:

- Building orderly towns
- Improving urban services
- Accessing urban land inclusively
- Keeping towns clean campaign
- Ensuring healthy urban environments
- Providing decent and affordable housing
- Ensuring a vibrant and competitive urban economy
- Reducing urban poverty and unemployment
- Social Equity and Inclusion - homelessness and street children
- Urban safety and security
- Urban disaster planning, preparedness and management.
- Preserving the Urban Heritage
- Enhancing good urban governance
- Strengthening the monitoring and supervision
- Beautifying the urban landscape
- Putting in place an efficient urban transport system.
- Climate change mitigation & adaptation (Resilience).
- Promote land consolidation & swapping
- Slum upgrading and re-development

Coverage and Scope

Urban Forums are currently established in 31 Urban Authorities i.e in 10 cities, 2 town councils and 19 municipalities will be rolled out to all Urban Authorities in Uganda.

Membership to the Urban Forums who should be a part of the Urban Forums

Membership of the Urban Forums is open and consists of the public sector, private sector, Voluntary organizations including NGOs, development partners, CBOs with a demonstrable interest in sustainable Urban Development. In the different urban centres the members shall be registered with the Urban Forums after pledging in writing to abide by the respective Urban Forums Charters and to act in good faith and to the best of their ability in the application of the policies and procedures established by the Forum Charter or by the Council. All the urbanites at all levels/sectors are the beneficiaries and target group of the municipal development forums.

Future prospects for Urban Forums

The government of Uganda intends to extend these platforms to the rest of the other Municipalities and Town Councils to enable increased community participation in devising strategies to address the urbanization challenges in order to ensure sustainable urban development at all levels.

Duration of the Urban Forums

Urban Forums are permanent fora for networking, sharing and disseminating information, promoting cooperation amongst various actors in the urban sector to ensure advancement and sustainability of orderly urban development and advocating for prioritization of urban sector issues in the overall national development agenda and promoting integrated planning and management of urban growth.

Urban Forums are established to stay because urbanization is a process that cannot be stopped or reversed but only needs to be planned for and managed in a sustainable way.

Policy & Legal Considerations

The Constitution of the Republic of Uganda SDGs, The Local Government Act, The Decentralization Policy Framework and National Urban Policy, the new Urban Agenda – all provide for citizen engagement and participation in planning, budgeting and decision, making for meaningful and sustainable service delivery. Urban Authorities should therefore embrace the Urban Forums Philosophy in order to advance the Urban Development Agenda.



THE REPUBLIC OF UGANDA

MINISTRY OF LANDS, HOUSING AND URBAN DEVELOPMENT

URBAN DEVELOPMENT FORUMS



Background Information

The Government of Uganda has recognized the need to capture the positive impacts of urbanization, and seeks to devise a strategy to enhance competitiveness of urban sector in order to harness its potential as a driver of economic growth. The Government of Uganda through Ministry of Lands, Housing and Urban Development in conjunction with its development partners Cities Alliance, the World Bank and the UN Habitat spearheaded the formation of the Municipal Development Forums in Kabale, Mbale, Mbarara, Jinja & Arua in 2010 under TSUPU program and later rolled out the same in other Urban Authorities.

Urban Forums are Central in actualization of SDG11 indicator 11.3.2 "Proportion of cities With a direct participation structure of Civil Society."

What are Urban Forums (Municipal Development Forums?)

Urban Forums are voluntary Urban platforms established at the Municipal level for all stakeholders in the urban sector like the urban poor, local government, service providers, private sector and other stakeholders to meet regularly to exchange views, debate priorities and agree on common actions on matters pertaining to the urban sector for improved services delivery.

Urban Forums are provided for in the National Urban Policy 2017 and are intended to bring together individuals and representatives of governmental and non-governmental institutions, organizations of the urban poor, Professional institutions, Cultural Institutions, Religious institutions as well as voluntary organizations to discuss matters pertaining to urban development either a City, Municipal or Town levels.

The Urban Forums have a major role in enhancing broad-based consultations on matters pertaining to the urban sector that will offer all the stakeholders an opportunity to contribute to the planning process in the urban areas, enhance sharing of experiences, and facilitating access to information with an aim of improving the performance of the urban sector in order to ensure sustainable urban development.

The Theme of Municipal Development Forums

"Sustainable urbanization: A collective responsibility"

The Vision of Municipal Development Forums

Sustainable Urban Development through dialogue and participation.

The Mission of Municipal Development Forums

To empower urban stakeholders to participate in influencing policy, legal and regulatory frameworks in order to ensure effective management of urban growth and sustainable urban development.

What do the Urban Forums seek to provide to the urban communities?

Urban Forums seek to provide a platform for dialogue with all the stakeholders with an aim of promoting collective participation in devising strategies to tackle challenges facing the urban areas in order to lead to sustainable urban development. The Urban Forums provide an opportunity to the urban poor to have a voice and make their input into policies that guide urban development and management in order to enhance service delivery. The urban poor are a reality in the urban areas; the Urban Forums therefore recognize the existence of the urban poor and provide a forum for them to know their rights, responsibilities and obligations.

Principles of the Urban Forums

Collective Responsibility of all stakeholders in ensuring sustainable Urban Development through;

1. Integrated planning framework for sustainable urban development;
2. Effective coordination amongst all urban stakeholders enhances complementarities of roles;
3. Local cooperation arrangements and networking enhances local capacities and capabilities;
4. Bottom-up broad-based stakeholder participatory consultations ensure stakeholder empowerment and ownership;
5. Resource mobilization for sustainable and viable urban development.

Objectives of Municipal Development Forums

- To provide space for dialogue amongst all stakeholders of the urban domain to influence policy and legal framework pertaining to planning and management of urban growth.

- To increase awareness of stakeholders about collective action to influence the urban development agenda at the Municipality level.
- To promote collaborative applied urban research to find sustainable practical solutions to critical urban challenges.
- To improve coordination and networking arrangements among stakeholders in the urban domain for purposes of exchanging information, knowledge and experiences as well as mobilizing resources for implementation of urban development programmes.
- To promote pro-active integrated participatory planning, development and management of the urban environments amongst urban actors in urban areas.
- To organize regular conferences, Seminars, fora and training events for purposes of influencing legal and policy reforms for effective urban development and management.

Functions of Urban Forums

- Monitoring the implementation of recommendation pertaining to policy and legal reforms;
- Undertaking lobby and advocacy campaigns to facilitate prioritizing of urban development issues on the regional, national and local development agendas;
- Compiling information on sustainable urban development initiatives and disseminate it to the stakeholders;
- Playing a coordinating role in prioritizing identified local urban development initiatives and facilitating sourcing of funding and technical support at all levels;
- Enhancing broad-based consultations to generate consensus on challenges of urban growth;
- Planning and organizing future annual and quarterly events at the Municipal Council level;
- Facilitating networking and applied research initiatives on planning and management of urban development issues;
- Maintaining a website for purposes of disseminating information and best practices and transferring of knowledge;
- Preparing publicity materials to update members about developments related to the urban sector in the Municipal councils;
- Disseminating and giving value added information related to urban development issues pertinent to the Municipal