

CITIES AS GROWTH POLES: *IMPLICATIONS FOR RURAL DEVELOPMENT*

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Definition of Growth Pole

- ❖ A Growth Pole is:
 - A point of economic growth
 - A central location of economic activity
 - A point where economic growth starts and spreads to surrounding areas
 - An urban location where economic activity ignites growth and better quality of life in the urban periphery
- ❖ This definition presupposes a linkage between growth poles, economic growth and urbanization, as well as potential interaction effects

Trends in Urbanization

- ❖ The level and rate of urbanization varies significantly across regions and countries. Africa is the least urbanized, has the fastest rate of urbanization and yet the lowest economic growth rate:

	Urbanization Level	Urbanization Rate	Economic Growth*
Africa	39%	3.9%	1.0%
Asia	48%	2.5%	3.4%
Europe	72%	0.17%	2.1%
Latin America/Caribbean	78%	2.0%	1.5%
North America	81%	1.4%	1.6%
Australia/new Zealand	89%	1.4%	1.6%

*GDP/ Capita

Other Challenges of Urbanization in Africa

- High and rising urban poverty and income inequality
- Lack of efficient and effective city governance
- Unprecedented environmental crisis
- Absence of modern urban and regional planning legislative and institutional framework
- Inadequate infrastructure facilities and infrastructure services to meet increasing demand

Implications for Rural Development

Uncontrolled urban sprawl

- Potential adverse impacts of urban sprawl include:
 - Degradation of environmentally sensitive land
 - Deforestation
 - Loss of prime agricultural land
 - Creation of ecological imbalance
 - Poisoning of aquatic life
 - Destroying the livelihoods of fishing communities in riverine areas
 - Loss of Farm labour
 - Reverse (“urban-rural”) migration likely to “import” socially unacceptable behaviors

Conditions for African Cities to serve as engines of Economic Growth and Development

- Infrastructure
 - Basic, Economic and Institutional
- Enabling environment for innovation and entrepreneurship
- Efficient urban planning and management
- Suitably skilled labour
- Good governance, safety and security

Emerging Growth Poles in Africa

On going Case Studies

- ❖ Alexandria City Development Strategy and Growth Pole Project
- ❖ Madagascar Integrated Growth Poles Project
 - ❖ Antananarivo-Antsirable
 - ❖ Nosy Be
 - ❖ Taolagnaro (Ft. Dauphin)
- ❖ The African Millennium Cities Initiative (MCI)
 - ❖ Kisumu, KENYA
 - ❖ Blantyre, MALAWI
 - ❖ Kumasi, GHANA
 - ❖ Akure, NIGERIA
 - ❖ Bamako-Segou, MALI
 - ❖ Louga, SENEGAL

The Role of the African Development Bank

- A revised Urban Development Policy
 - Boost viability and competitiveness
 - Foster sustainable development
 - Achievement of MDGs
- Underlying principles of the Urban Development Policy
 - Integrated development
 - Private sector initiatives
 - Planning and local governance
- Strategic Pillars of the Urban Development Policy
 - Infrastructure
 - Governance
 - Private sector participation

Strategy and the Way Forward

John Parr (1999) outlines the salient ingredients for a successful growth pole strategy as:

- ❖ Appropriate
- ❖ Feasible
- ❖ Realistic
- ❖ Affordable
- ❖ Visionary
- ❖ Sustainable
- ❖ Participatory

The End

*THANK YOU FOR
YOUR KIND
ATTENTION*