

Oxfam Urban Programming Country Brief BURUNDI



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OXFAM

INTRODUCTION

In July 2018, the Oxfam Regional Platform in the Horn, East and Central Africa (HECA) region commissioned a political and economic analysis on the overall development situation in the region, titled “Oxfam in HECA Region Political Review: Issues and Implications”. The review found that urbanisation and its implications on poverty and inequality in the region is a trend that needs Oxfam’s attention for potential project and influencing work in the future. To document lessons learnt from urban programming initiatives in the region, and to develop an urban framework for the ten country programmes in the region, Oxfam International contracted Urban-A in August 2019 to conduct this assessment and framework drafting. The aim is to increase Oxfam’s impact in urban areas across its humanitarian, development and campaigning work. The lessons learnt will inform Oxfam’s regional and global strategies.

The “Oxfam Urban Programming Framework in the HECA Region” report provides an evidence-based, operational, easy-to-use roadmap for Oxfam’s future urban programming in the HECA region. The development of the framework and report has been done through a collaborative and participatory process, including a thorough assessment of the current programmes and urban trends to identify key challenges, opportunities, and lessons learnt. The information has been further refined and analysed in a regional workshop, forming the basis for the urban programming framework, where the region’s and Oxfam’s future trajectories are sought streamlined. The framework will serve as a guide on how Oxfam can achieve the greatest impact in the HECA region’s urban areas by meeting humanitarian needs, and addressing hindrances to, and strengthen positive drivers of, sustainable and inclusive development.

For the ten countries in the HECA region, a country brief has been developed to contextualise the analysis and proposed interventions put forward in the “Oxfam Urban Programming Framework in the HECA Region” report. The country briefs are intended as a first step for thinking at country level around Oxfam’s urban programming. It is not a comprehensive analysis of urban trends or potential initiatives in each of the respective HECA countries. Burundi was not visited as part of the field-data collection.

Credits & Acknowledgements

Urban-A would like to thank all who provided their input and support to this assessment, including the Oxfam HECA regional platform and national office team members who contributed to the study and attended the regional event held in Nairobi 23 - 25 September. The views and recommendations expressed in this document are those of Urban-A, and do not necessarily reflect those of Oxfam. Responsibility for any omissions, errors of fact, or interpretation rests with Urban-A.

The bibliography for the Burundi country brief is included in the bibliography for the Oxfam Urban Programming Framework in the HECA Region report.

SUMMARY

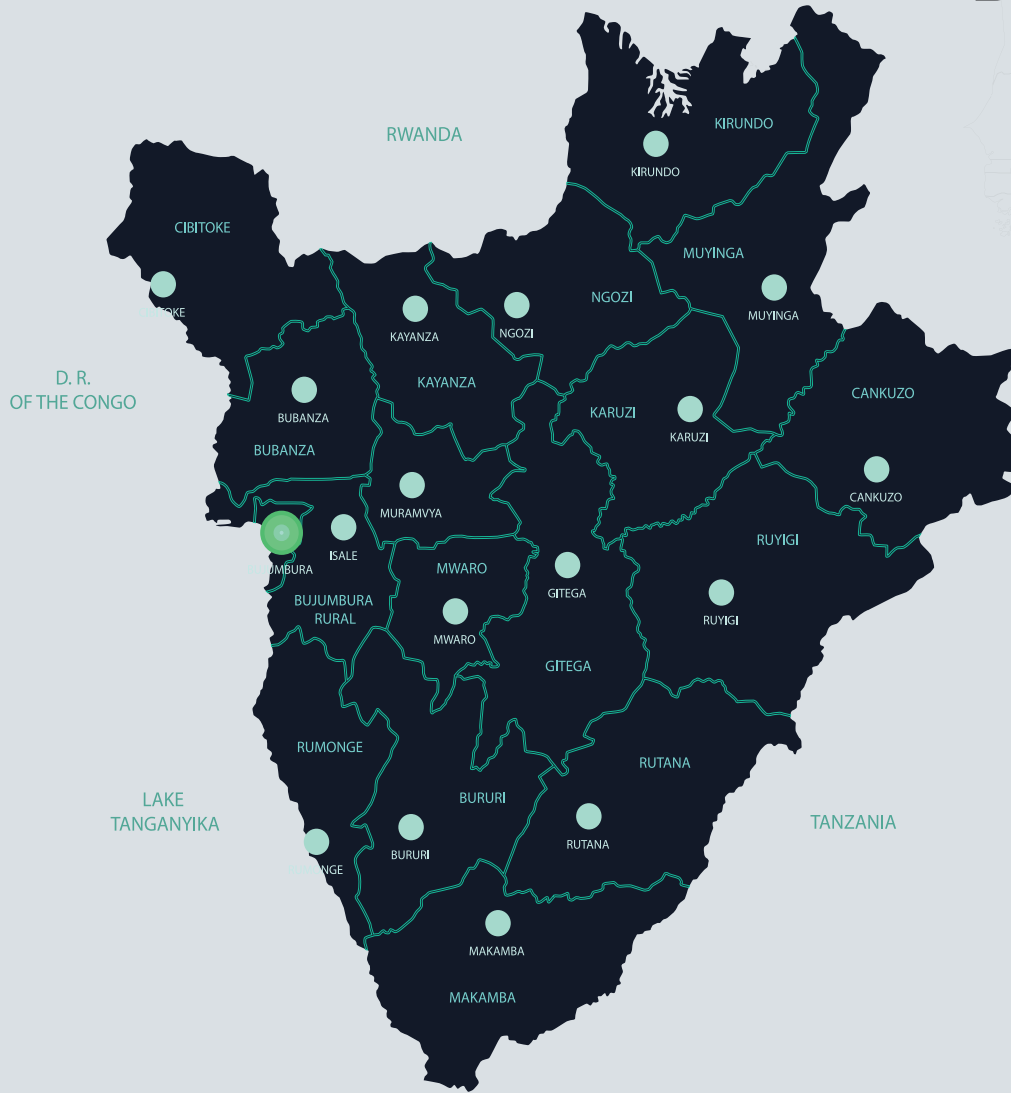
A range of economic, political, social, and geographical conditions contribute to the situation within and between the ten countries making up the Horn, Eastern and Central Africa (HECA) region. As such, the region is defined by a number of trends, risks, opportunities, and challenges as shared conditions for future development. The Burundi urban trends presented in this document reflects many of the regional trends impacting the HECA region, including:

- Rapid urbanisation across HECA; countries are transitioning from primarily rural to increasingly urban demographics. While still the least urbanised country in the region, Burundi is experiencing a significant urbanisation rate.
- Conflicts, climate changes and precarious environmental conditions; man-made and natural disasters have led to large-scale displacement and population movements within the region. Around 440,000 Burundi refugees are found in bordering countries; while more than 70,000 refugees have entered Burundi from other countries. In the region. In addition 49,000 were internally displaced by conflict and natural disaster in Burundi.
- Large rural-to-urban migration, with an influx of, primarily young, people in search for employment opportunities to urban areas. The current youth bulge is a major challenge, where the youth population can only be turned into a demographic dividend if the livelihood opportunities are significantly increased. 64% of the population in Burundi is under the age of 25. 89 percent of non-agricultural activities are in the informal sector.
- Positive economic growth; however, this has not translated into a significant reduction in poverty. On the contrary, there is a trend towards increased urbanisation of poverty and rising economic and resource inequality, with unequal access to services, infrastructure and land in urban areas.
- A large share of urban populations in the region live in unplanned areas, which are often under-resourced and under-serviced as a result of governance challenges. As such, the situation in unplanned urban areas is often characterised by a lack of provision of affordable and adequate health care, education, water, sanitation and waste management, transportation and mobility options, and affordable housing including tenure security. 58 percent of the urban population in Burundi live in unplanned areas;
- Influx of migrants and displaced to urban areas motivated by economic and security considerations, and inter-city displacement due to (re)development of urban, peri-urban and agricultural land in proximity to cities, is increasing competition for scarce resources and employment opportunities amongst vulnerable population groups.

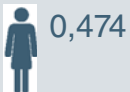
This country brief outlines some programmatic options and strategies for engagement to address key urban challenges across three tiered lenses. These three lenses have been instrumental to the study and include; a) Sound governance and preparedness systems (at national level); b) Resilient and inclusive cities; c) Dignity and futures enjoyed by all. The goal is to leverage Oxfam Burundi's comparative advantages and ensure that it delivers on its core mandate.

In Burundi, there are several opportunities for Oxfam to increase the organisations urban engagement by building on existing work tracks. This will especially target linkages of rural and urban programmes dealing with governance, disaster risk reduction, and inequalities. Furthermore, the study shows potential data gaps in mapping and analysis of urban disparities and needs, and how access to basic and social services impact various gender and cohorts. Oxfam could play a key role in identifying and highlighting urban needs, and put urban inequalities on the agenda now - in a country that likely will see the largest urbanisation shifts in the years to come.

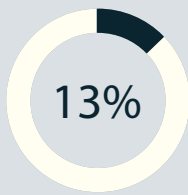
BURUNDI



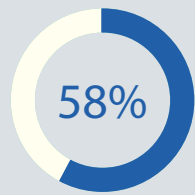
Aid per capita in



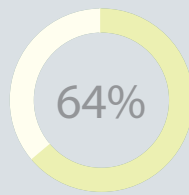
Gender inequality



Urban population

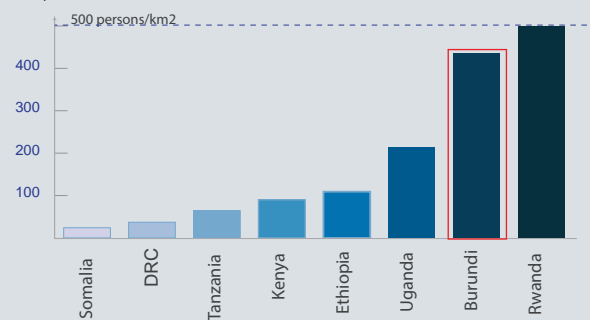


% urban living in slum

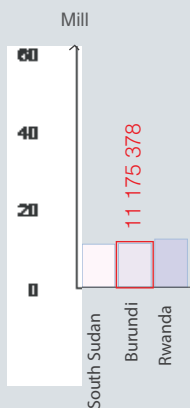


% youth (under 25)

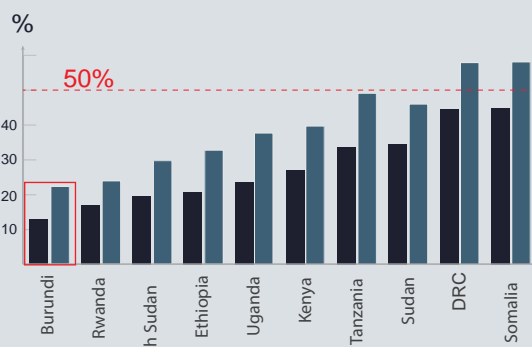
Pop/km²



Population density

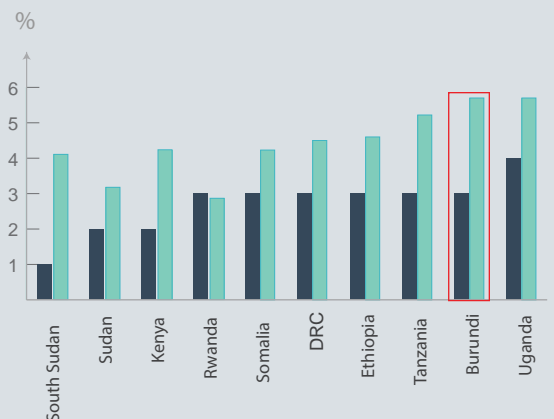


TOTAL POPULATION



Urban population as share of total population 2018 & 2040

2018
2040



Population growth & urban growth

Urban growth
Population growth

KEY DATA

441,239

Burundian refugees 31. December 2018

71,454

Refugees in Burundi 31. December 2018

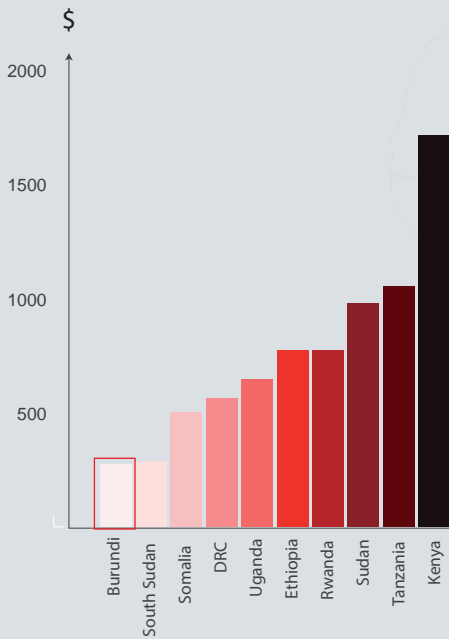
49,000

Total IDPs 31. December 2018

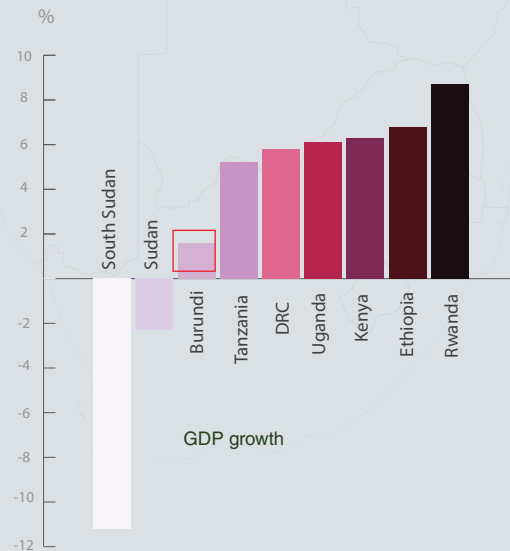


- Displacement disaster
- Displacement conflict & violence

New displacements 2018

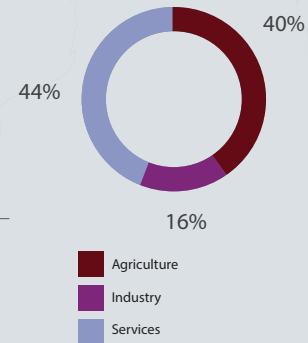
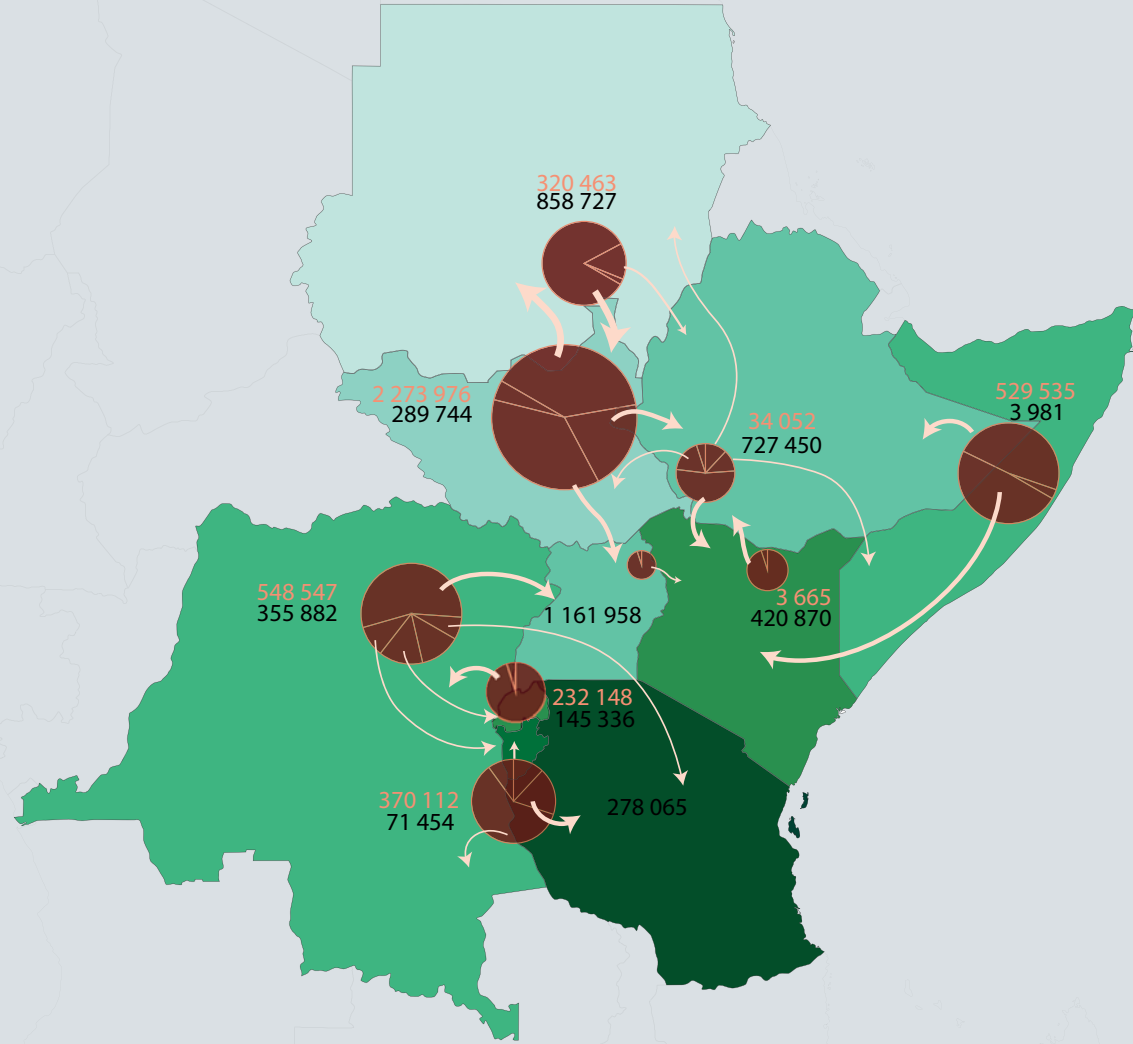


GDP per capita

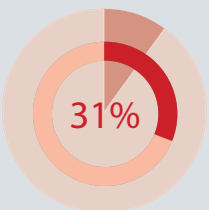


GDP growth

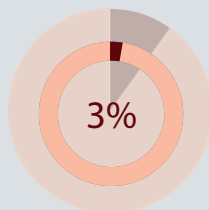
Refugees by country of origin to other HECA countries
Refugees in country from other HECA countries



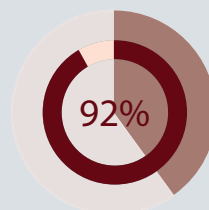
GDP composition by sector



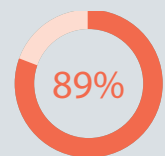
Income held by top 10%



Income held by bottom 10%



Employment agriculture & share of agriculture in GDP



Informal employment of total non-agricultural employment

URBAN TRENDS

Burundi has a population of 11 million. The population density is high, with an estimated 435 inhabitants per square kilometre, compared to an average density of 51 inhabitants per square kilometre in Sub-Saharan Africa (excluding high income countries), and 40 inhabitants per square kilometre in fragile and conflict affected areas (World Bank 2018i). With a 13 percent urban population, Burundi is the least urbanised country in the Horn, Eastern, and Central Africa (HECA) region. However, it is also one of two countries with the fastest growing urban population in the region, with an urbanisation rate of 5,7 percent (UN DESA 2018). As a result, the urban population is estimated to increase by 22 percent by 2040 to 4,5 million, and double by 2050.

Burundi is continuously exposed to shocks, including both environmental and man-made disasters, which has led to a chronic fragile situation in the country. The effects of these shock are further exacerbated by the political, institutional, and economic situation (World Bank 2018i). In 2018, almost 50,000 people were internally displaced in Burundi, the majority from disasters caused by natural hazards (IDMC 2018). In total, over 400,000 Burundians have fled violent conflict and political instability in the country; the large majority are hosted in neighbouring countries, such as Tanzania, Rwanda, and the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) (UNHCR 2018). Burundi hosts around 70,000 refugees, mainly from DRC. Climate change and land degradation is likely to substantially impact agriculture output, threatening livelihoods and food security, exacerbated by extremely low capacity to respond to severe climate shocks (World Bank 2018i), which will further contribute to displacement and rural to urban migration in the coming years.

The mix of persisting political instability, growing factional violence, and the deteriorating macroeconomic situation have severely impacted the living standards of the population. The lack of updated and reliable data on living conditions means quantitative empirical evidence of the impact of current instability on the welfare of households will not be available in the short run. However, evidence of the impact of previous crises on the Burundian population suggests the potential impact of the continuing unrest on both consumption levels of the population and access to services to be considerable and long-lasting (ibid).


As in the region, the population in Burundi is young, with almost half the population under the age of 15, and 64 percent under the age of 25 (World Bank 2018d). Burundi has the 7th highest fertility rate in the world (Bertelsmann Stiftung 2018b) and is faced with a growing youth bulge. The continuous high population growth places a demographic burden on the economy and dilutes the benefits of modest economic growth.

Poverty in rural areas is over three times higher than in the largest city, Bujumbura, and almost twice as high as in other urban areas (World Bank 2018c). Poverty in urban areas, already lower than in rural areas, has slowly declined, whereas poverty remains extremely high in rural areas. The richest 20 percent of the population accrues about six times the consumption shares of the poorest 20 percent, with inequality being somewhat higher in urban areas where most of the wealth is accumulated (World Bank 2018i).

However, 58 percent of the urban population lives in unplanned areas. This is a possible indication that there are significant poverty pockets in urban areas masked by the average higher income in cities due to the considerable higher income of a smaller percentage of urban dwellers. Access to basic service provision is improving but not enough to meet demand. Access to electricity and water from protected sources has increased but is limited to urban areas, and particularly Bujumbura; 65 percent and 11 percent respectively in urban areas, compared with 2 percent and 4 percent in rural areas (World Bank 2018i).

Conflict over land ownership is one of the most pressing and politicised issues





today due to land scarcity, refugee return and the historic importance of land (BIT 2018b). This also represents a major challenge in urban areas, as more people seek to cities in search of livelihood opportunities, tenure, and access to services. In Bujumbura, the residential property market has traditionally been occupied by close to 50 percent non-Burundians, who are mostly nationals from neighbouring countries including Tanzania, DRC, Uganda, and Europe. Only 0.73 percent of urban households can afford the cheapest built new and planned houses with finance (CAHF 2018).

The decentralisation process, which started in 2015, has yielded some results; however, trust in institutions is especially low in urban centres, and eroded even more after massive repression of protests in recent years (Bertelsmann Stiftung 2018b).

For most of the population, agriculture provides a means to subsistence and employment. 92 percent of total employment is in the agricultural sector; however, agriculture contributes only 40 percent of GDP (World Bank 2018g). This is the lowest employment to GDP ratio for agriculture in the HECA region. 89 percent of employment is informal (World Bank 2018h). Discrimination against women in the labour force is high, and apart from quota-affected positions in state institutions, women are almost absent from white-collar jobs (Bertelsmann Stiftung 2018b). The state remains the largest employer in the formal sector, and Burundi has one of the lowest 'Doing Business' ranks in the world (168 place out of 190) (World Bank 2019a).

OXFAM BURUNDI

Oxfam has worked in Burundi since the 1990s. Oxfam's work was initially focused on humanitarian interventions but has progressively shifted towards reconstruction and development. The current work is structured around two main objectives: sustainable food security and good governance through active citizen participation. The work is complemented by lobby and advocacy activities to stimulate positive change.

Sustainable food security programme: Focuses on increasing agricultural productivity and income through resilience and empowerment. Applies an integrated approach, including access to drinking water, nutrition, and fair division of natural resources. Through sustainable agricultural techniques, farmers are equipped with the knowledge to increase their produce and income and ultimately become more self-sufficient. The farmer-to-farmer approach creates an opportunity for skills-sharing beyond those targeted by the project.

Resilience: Oxfam's resilience work aims to increase the capacities of local organisations, authorities, and communities, enabling them to effectively mitigate and respond to disaster-related risks.

Oxfam's conflict transformation work aims to help local communities address the root causes of conflict, promote peaceful coexistence, and reintegration of marginalised groups such as ex-combatants back into society.

Governance and Active Citizenship Programme (GACP): This programme is drafted by Oxfam and eight potential local partners have been identified. Rights-based approach to mobilise the entire citizenry, especially women and young people, to fully exercise their right to be heard.

Oxfam is planning to set up an Early Warning System to strengthen the capability to directly launch assessments on the needs of the Burundi population and obtain reliable data.

Oxfam's partner approach is different in the sense that local partners have a lot of autonomy in project implementation. In the project there is always a capacity building component built in, with the aim to further enhance partners' capacities in view of further autonomy and direct access to donor funds without compromising compliance and accountability issues. Oxfam Burundi also intends to link projects to Oxfam's international campaigns, ensuring a strong influencing component, e.g. to the Rights in Crisis (RiC) campaign and GROW campaigns.



STRATEGIC PRIORITIES

Reflecting the findings from the primary and secondary data, as well as the developed scenarios and identified comparative advantage of Oxfam, the below elaborates on the suggested strategic priorities for Oxfam's urban programming in the HECA region.

1. The HECA region is part of the fastest urbanising region in the world¹, where the urban population is projected to double and significantly shift the balance of rural-urban populations over the next decades. Interlinked issues related to population growth, forced and voluntary migration caused by conflict and environmental changes, pressure on natural resources, and socio-economic vulnerability are increasingly impacting urban areas. The urbanisation is manifested through the rapid – and often unplanned – expansion and densification of urban areas, including the surge of unplanned and informal settlements. Limited access to sustainable and equitable basic and social services and economic opportunities for vulnerable host populations, displaced and migrants, reduces poor city dwellers quality of life and constrains their opportunity to influence their futures. Deprived urban areas also represent a concentration of various protection risks, including housing and tenure insecurity, gender issues, and risks associated with natural hazards and disasters. While cities represent alternative economic opportunities, positive economic developments do not transpire equally across or within cities. In HECA, an already grave inequality in urban centres is growing. For an organisation that works to address inequality, working in cities needs to be at the fore, both challenging the systemic issues contributing to inequality, and supporting initiatives enabling poor city dwellers to be change agents.
2. The present challenges to HECA region's peace and stability consist of inter-related political, security, institutional and socioeconomic factors. This adds to urbanisation through increased displacement and migration, with potentially spill over of tension and conflict to urban areas. Rising tension over inadequate access to services and livelihoods opportunities has also sparked large scale protests in cities in the HECA region. The youth bulge represents a potential demographic dividend, yet a restricted labour market with increased under- and underemployment as more young people enter the market, may also add risks of youth feeling alienated from the society. Working along the humanitarian-development peace nexus – or a One Programme Approach – is fundamental also in urban programming, supporting both government and local duty bearers in addressing these complex challenges and realising their accountability to their constituencies.
3. Climate change and the natural disasters and hazards impacting rural and urban areas in the HECA region are irrevocably linked to governance issues and poverty alleviation. Both governance and environmental changes have and will continue to have increasing and profound impacts on urban areas in the region. An organisation that wishes to engage effectively with cities and poverty in the region will have to address both governance issues and climate change.
4. Issues pertaining to climate change and governance are at times, though not always, contradictory forces. Good governance, in the sense that it leads to improved standards of living, higher incomes, and increased consumption among large urban poor populations can prove destructive to the climate through e.g. increased emissions, land encroachment, and unsustainable pressure on resources. Similarly, global initiatives to mitigate climate change through reducing consumption and de-growth might prove detrimental to bringing people out of poverty. A holistic approach to urban response is necessary in order for both poverty alleviation and mitigative climate initiatives to take place. Some of Oxfam's initiatives in the HECA region⁷ that are market based, contribute towards sustainable solutions to urban needs, and provide employment to most vulnerable urban residents, demonstrate how such approaches could take form.
5. Weak central and decentralised governance systems, inadequate planning and management of service provision, risk preparedness and reduction, are hindrances to building resilient and inclusive communities and cities. For poor city dwellers across the region, there are very few platforms for being heard, which critically limits constituencies' chances of holding authorities accountable. Advocacy for policies and systems-strengthening that promotes equitable urban development in parallel with active citizens programmes will be central for HECA's urban futures. Oxfam's comparative advantage stands out in this regard. Building on and scaling up current initiatives seeking to bolster citizens engagement, strengthening governance capacities and policies – i.e. through just taxation, bold actions for gender equality, and climate budgets – would complement the work of other urban players. Oxfam could thus move from an organisation with fragmented urban initiatives towards a central role in urban response.

URBAN FRAMEWORK

The objective for the urban framework is to inform Oxfam HECA regional and national offices on current urban challenges and strengthen Oxfam's urban engagements. The urban framework for Oxfam Burundi, presented in this country brief, is a contextualisation of the overarching framework, based on the specific challenges in Burundi. It is not intended as a comprehensive or exhaustive urban framework for Oxfam Burundi, particularly given that field-data collection was not carried out in the country. Rather, the aim is to create awareness of, and to provide guidance for, potential ways of engaging with urban issues in Burundi.

Regional and National Preparedness and Planning

The regional and national level seeks to understand capacities, systems and mechanisms at country and intra-country level that respond to, mitigate, and plan for shocks that may lead to significant population movements towards cities and/or unfold in urban areas. It also looks at inter-linked developments between rural districts and urban centres, underpinning that urban trends and challenges cannot be understood nor addressed in isolation to shocks and changes outside the city boundaries. Regional level here refers to the HECA region or the surrounding countries to the respective HECA countries.

Resilient & Inclusive Cities

The second lens looks at Fragile Cities versus Resilient and Inclusive cities. It considers various factors leveraging a responsive and accountable governance at city level, and city level systems enabling decentralised governments at city level to forecast and respond to needs. It also looks at the robustness of basic and social services systems, as well as social and economic factors and access to livelihood opportunities. Furthermore, it investigates mechanisms for participation in decision making, and systemic gender issues.

Dignity & Futures

The third lens looks at the individual and community level through the concepts of dignity and futures. The concept of dignity is a key principle in humanitarian response, a longitudinal understanding of dignity is however rarely applied. In the development sector the concept of futures is embedded, though through more systems-oriented approaches. Dr. Romola Sanyal at the London School of Economics, researching urban crises, migration and protracted displacement overlapping urban poverty and informality, has in her research proposed to combine the two concepts of dignity and futures. This to better understand what enables vulnerable populations capacities to act as active citizens, and how people are affected and respond to deprivation, inaccessibility of services and opportunities. In this analysis we have borrowed this concept to help flesh out a more nuanced understanding of how urban programmes may contribute to placing target populations and communities at the forefront.

Strategic Objective 1: Sound national governance and preparedness systems

Summary: In support of the management of continued urbanization, slow and rapid onset shocks, and the impacts of regional movements of people, both forced migration and economic migrants, Oxfam will contribute to the strengthening of preparedness and planning for sound urban governance and systems. Strategy of engagement

Outcome 1.1: National governance systems are supported to put in place risk reduction and mitigation systems in urban areas and across rural-urban linkages.

1. Capacity building to national and local level authorities to develop and implement sound disaster risk and reduction plans considering climate change, peoples' movements and the risk of slow and rapid onset shocks on cities. Support will be cognisant of existing capacities and redirect or leverage these where possible. This will build on the Disaster Risk Reduction and Governance work Oxfam has already undertaken, and where the planned Early Warning System could be developed to also look at urban risks.
2. Promote inclusive and sustainable urban planning considering protection of natural resources, the adaptation and mitigation needs from climate change, and the impact on poor urban communities, displaced and migrants.
3. Promote projects that inter-link rural-urban activities in support of robust governance systems, service provision, and markets, in order to strengthen the response to environmental, economic, and conflict crises with effect on both rural and urban areas.
4. Contribute to the collection, analysis and dissemination of urban data on demographics, socio-economy, service access, risks, climate change impact etc. on urban levels across Burundi. While Burundi is the least urbanised country in the HECA region and the perception is that income levels are higher in the cities, the high percentage of urban dwellers concentrated in unplanned areas, indicate a need for better data and analysis on urban inequality. Oxfam could take a leading role advocating for a multi-stakeholder effort to fill this data gap.
5. Deliver strong advocacy focused on addressing the causes and effects on climate change on both rural and urban areas in Burundi, and how these can be addressed through new approaches to spatial

planning, a shift towards renewable energy, and protection of natural resources and land management. In Burundi, where access to land already is a source of tension, this will be particularly important.

Outcome 1.2: Bolster economic systems that enforce equitable and sustainable growth

6. Assess options for creating inter-linked value chains across rural-urban linkages. With the high urbanisation rate experienced in Burundi, coupled with a relatively low economic contribution of the agricultural sector, it will be important to better understand rural-urban dynamics and to understand how agricultural products can achieve a higher market value in Burundi and the region.
7. Advocate for the establishment of taxation reforms that address elite capture and the privatisation and increased value of land in urban centres, in order to mitigate urban disparities. Furthermore, advocacy will stress the realisation of foreign investments that contribute to reduced inequalities. In Burundi this will be closely linked to efforts made to understand urban inequalities. Building on regional experiences with taxation reforms, this could be a key contribution to address rising urban inequalities.
8. Support implementation of taxation reforms and linking of centralised and decentralised levels to enforce tax collection and sound distribution mechanisms.
9. Promote capture of remittance in programmes that support a shift towards sustainable urban systems and new technology addressing needs, as well as circular economies. Understanding pathways of engaging diaspora in programmes or promoting engagement in systems-strengthening that could contribute to build a more sustainable and structured model for diaspora engagement.

Strategic Objective 2: Resilient and Inclusive cities

Summary: With the aim at building resilient and inclusive cities, Oxfam will provide support for capacity strengthening of decentralised governance systems and service provision to forecast and respond to needs in cities. This will be done by promoting a Systems-Based Approach, promoting comprehensive analysis and planning of urban systems across scales and stakeholders. Emphasis will be put on mitigating urban sprawl and promoting urban development that stresses access to livelihood opportunities, social services, sustainable infrastructure options and affordable housing. Support will further be provided to strengthen local public administration, economic and financial management, statistic and planning capacities, with emphasis on the advancement of gender equality and women empowerment in political, social and economic spheres.

Strategy of engagement.

Outcome 2.1: Decentralised governance systems are strengthened to build inclusive and sustainable cities.

10. Support will be provided to strengthen decentralised governance systems and local planning capacities to tackle rapid urbanisation and mitigate rising inequalities through planning and implementation of inclusive service provision. Through existing governance support efforts, and conscious of the rapid urbanisation in Burundi, support to local planning to mitigate rising inequalities will be crucial to mitigate an urban development that follows in the same pathways as other HECA countries.
11. Support and promote efforts to collect and analyse urban data at city and neighbourhood level to enhance holistic, multi-sector and multi-stakeholder planning in response to needs. This will amongst others focus on improving data on the access and adequacy of social (education, health etc.) and basic urban services (water, wastewater, solid waste, energy etc.), its management, planning and coordination, sensitive to various access levels between different cohorts, age brackets and gender. Data will help the identification of adequate and context appropriate DRR models for cities, and further the development, implementation and monitoring of such systems. Data is specifically needed to unpack needs in poverty pockets in Burundi cities, and how access to basic and social services are experienced across different cohorts.
12. Contribute to thorough assessments and design of basic services delivery that promote due consideration to best options for sustainable systems, centralised or decentralised, prompting strong community engagement.
13. Advocate for Housing, Land and Tenure rights, including just land management towards national and decentralised authorities. Housing, Land and Tenure rights is a key issue in Burundi, with land conflicts contributing to displacement. Evidence-based advocacy on HLP issues will be especially mindful of how HLP issues affect genders and cohorts differently.
14. Promote participatory and integrated planning of large-scale investments and urban development plans to authorities and private sector, to mitigate unintended negative consequences, including increasing vulnerabilities, for affected communities. Being one of the countries with the most critical urbanisation to come, Burundi are in a position to enforce a spatial planning that both invites to larger investments and urban growth, but at the same time ensures urban growth benefits both the higher and lower income groups.
15. Advocate for sound approaches that promote water conservation, recycling and sound management of solid waste and wastewater across cities, including in high-income areas. Efforts will be made to link these systems to income opportunities in partnership with local authorities and private sector.
16. Lead the establishment of urban coordination systems, including sharing of lessons learned and identifying opportunities for convergence with partners' programming and joint support to communities in order to avoid duplication of efforts.

Outcome 2.2. Local economic opportunities are strengthened to promote inclusive growth and local development in the most disadvantaged urban neighbourhoods.

17. Create, support and leverage value chains built on a thorough understanding of existing systems. Market assessments will be sought integrated into project design to ensure linkages between needs and market opportunities, with focus on sustainable infrastructure provision. Support and leverage of local value chains, business management, innovation, entrepreneurship, and job creation for vulnerable people, with a focus on small and medium sized enterprises (SMEs) and start-ups capacitating youth and women to enter the job market. The value chains will be put in systems across cities, as well as developed into phased programmes whereby community groups are trained in the management of the projects and supported to identify and invest in new initiatives. With the reliance on the agriculture sector Burundi is particularly vulnerable to environmental shocks. While supporting sustainable food production programmes, initiating value-chain projects in urban areas will contribute to find option for diversifying the economy. Entrepreneurships that focus on women, will be important to strengthen women's participation and role in the economy and decision making.
18. Pilot and scale-up of projects that use new technology to meet needs and employ flexible livelihood options, including entrepreneurship and start-ups. Building on regional best-practises, i.e. waste management (Uganda) or water management (South Sudan), Oxfam Burundi could develop similar pilots for scale up in a systematic manner.
19. Pilot urban food production as value chain projects, exploring food production in urban and semi-urban areas at a community scale and adapted to an urban context, providing produce for household consumption as well as products that can be sold in markets. Advocacy directed towards local authorities to make land available for urban farming either temporary on vacant land that will be redeveloped, or permanently through allocation of land as a strategy to contribute to the preservation of green spaces. With a population already relying on farming, urban food production could be an avenue to leverage existing capacities at HH level while contributing to better food availability in the cities.

Strategic Objective 3: Dignity and Futures are enjoyed by all

Summary: In support of poverty alleviation and to bolster resilience of urban communities, Oxfam will take a lead on comprehensive community empowerment and Active Citizens programmes targeting urban poor communities, paying special attention to youth and gender dynamics. This will be done promoting an Area-Based Approach, including multi-sectoral, and multi-stakeholder engagement.

The precarious and harsh living conditions for a high number of people, including many IDPs, refugees, returning refugees, and poor and vulnerable populations in urban areas in Burundi and the region, is depriving people of envisioning a future, having a sense of dignity, and the ability to change their own situation for the better. To defuse political and inter-communal tensions, Oxfam will promote accountability and participation through support for civil society engagement in local decision-making processes. To mitigate unemployment and prevent radicalization and recruitment to violent groups amongst a growing youth population, focus will be placed on creating income-generating opportunities, as well as community engagement programmes, in a systemised manner at scale.

Strategy of engagement

Outcome 3.1: Communities are supported and capacitated to manage and respond to shocks, and to invest in community projects and resilience building.

20. Support establishment of self-sustaining systems for revenue-generation linked to the delivery of basic services, food or other necessary items, managed by local communities. Training of youth and women in entrepreneurship linked to sustainable value chains. There is several ongoing Oxfam projects in the region that could offer learning for Oxfam Burundi in developing and piloting such initiatives.
21. Provide comprehensive capacity building and skills training to community groups on management and monitoring of safe and sustainable WASH practices. This will entail hygiene promotion, sound waste management (waste minimization, recycling and reuse), minimizing use of firewood, water management, rainwater collection, and renewable energy sources. Monitoring mechanisms will be established for communities to monitor quality of potable water, its proper treatment and storage, as well adequate management of liquid and solid waste. The monitoring will also entail tracking of potential risks in the neighbourhoods or surrounding environment, such as health hazards caused by polluted river streams, open air sewerage, and garbage dumping and burning. Community groups will be trained in collecting data and in providing direct advocacy to service providers and duty bearers on gaps in service delivery.

Outcome 3.2: Prevention, mitigation, and management of conflict through promotion of participation and accountability between duty bearers and rights holders.

22. Champion active citizens programmes to leverage the voices of marginalised groups and enable citizens to act as change agents. Promote participatory decision-making linking voices of community groups to

decentralised government levels, enforcing the voices and representation of women. Oxfam Burundi is already doing extensive work in this regard in rural areas, which could be extended to most vulnerable urban neighbourhoods.

23. Support the creation and enhancement of community organisations and active citizens platforms put in systems across cities to engage vulnerable populations, in particular youth and women, in questions and policy decisions concerning them.
24. Support the identification and awareness on root causes to conflict, and sound mitigative actions. Conflict mitigation measures will be combined with interventions that address the socio-economic conditions contributing to rising tensions across the region. Through Oxfam's youth programmes the organisation is well placed to link Active Citizens programmes, local peacebuilding and social stability initiatives with campaigning at national level. Oxfam Burundi's conflict transformation work will be an entry point in this regard. Mapping of vulnerable urban neighbourhoods will help identify areas and neighbourhoods prone to tension due to economic and/or social factors, that could be targeted for piloting of the conflict transformation programme at urban level.

Outcome 3.3: The safety, dignity, and wellbeing of individuals and communities is supported through protective programmes and advocacy measures and activities, including reducing risks of GBV.

25. Promote women's empowerment and economic opportunities in urban settings by identifying opportunities and enabling women's participation in income-generating activities through integrated or specific/targeted measures and activities. Oxfam's partnership engagement with local women's organisations will drive these initiatives, contributing to their appropriateness and sustainability. Promoting/supporting women's economic opportunities and empowerment may contribute to reduce risks to their safety and wellbeing (i.e. protection risks, negative coping strategies etc.) in the more immediate term, as well as support them to influence their own situation and envisioning a future with dignity.
26. Ensure meaningful (i.e. safe and inclusive) access to equitable services and assistance for vulnerable and marginalised groups (e.g. women and girls; minorities; people with disabilities). This will be achieved through the conscious planning and design of service delivery, e.g. physical location, opening hours, universal design etc.
27. Reduce risks to women, men, boys, and girls' safety, dignity, and well-being through an integrated analysis of programmatic and contextual protection risks and gender inequalities, followed by design and implementation of appropriate mitigating measures. This includes measures reduce risks of women and girls resorting to negative coping strategies (e.g. survival sex); and, risks of gender-based violence due to inadequate and unsafe services and infrastructure (for example), as well as relevant referral mechanisms.

