



URBAN EXPANSION PLANNING FOR INCLUSIVE, GREEN GROWTH IN ETHIOPIA AND UGANDA

Natural urban population growth and rural-urban migration is leading to rapid increases in the populations of secondary cities in developing countries, causing massive urban expansion. Between 2000 and 2015, rapid population growth translated into an almost four-fold increase in the built-up area of cities in less-developed countries.

Much of this urban expansion was disorderly, lacking adequate infrastructure, and with serious environmental consequences. In Sub-Saharan Africa, 80 per cent of the residential areas developed over the past 25 years are informal and unplanned.

When cities grow in population, they both densify their existing urban extents and expand outwards. Research shows that over the past 30 years, about one quarter of the population settled in existing areas and three quarters in expansion areas. This pattern is expected to continue in rapidly urbanising cities over the next 30 years.

"URBAN EXPANSION IS AN INEVITABLE REALITY. URBAN EXPANSION PLANNING PREVENTS THE DISORDERLY DEVELOPMENT OF CONGESTED INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS WITH MEASURABLE BENEFITS FOR CLIMATE CHANGE MITIGATION AND ADAPTATION."

- Patrick Lamson-Hall, Urban Economist and Policy Analyst at the Sahel and West Africa Club, Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development

Implementing Partners:

Uganda: The Ministry of Lands, Housing, and Urban Development; the cities of Arua, Gulu, Jinja, and Mbale; Makerere University; and the Urban Authorities Association Uganda (UAAU). Ethiopia: The Ministry of Urban Development and Infrastructure; the cities of Dire Dawa, Jigjiga, and Wajale;

the Ethiopian Civil Service University; and the Ethiopian Cities Association. Somalia: Selected partner cities.

Location:

Ethiopia, Somalia, and Uganda.

Duration:

2023 – 2026



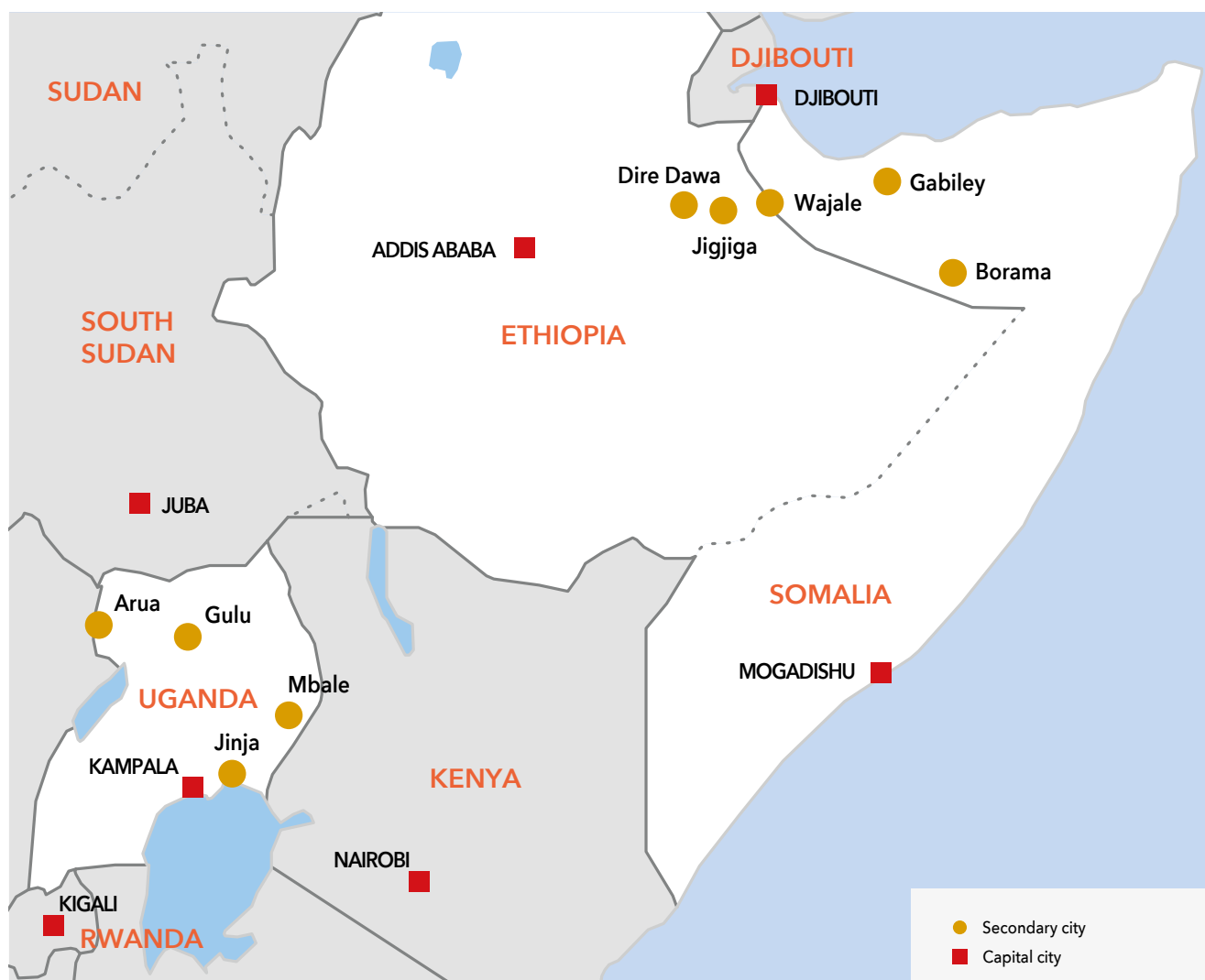
Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by
UNOPS

Partner cities in the Horn of Africa



A pragmatic and results-driven response

Urban Expansion Planning is a simple, cost-effective way for cities to change the trajectory of their rapid growth in an inclusive and environmentally sustainable manner. The alternative is what secondary cities already witness and reject in their congested and polluted capital cities, with most residents caught in underserved informal settlements.

From 2020–2022, Cities Alliance partner cities received technical support to prepare their urban expansion plans. The cities estimated their future growth over the next 30 years, identified land for growth, created grids of arterial

roads, and marked out networks of environmentally sensitive areas that require protection. The plans consider the specific needs of youth and women to access safe transport, markets, public space, water and sanitation.

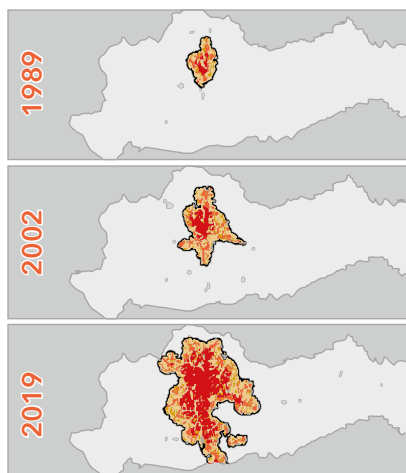
Local leaders are now consulting landowners to ensure rights-of-way for the new routes – a delicate issue that requires continued local engagement. In collaboration with their national ministries, cities will prepare budgets and incorporate the plans into their capital development plans. Partnering national city associations act as a platform for the pilot cities, and they have already generated demand by other cities for the approach.

During the plan development process, cities showcased the approach and its potential benefits, and the governments of Uganda and Ethiopia expressed interest in scaling it up to additional cities.

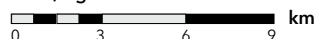
To consolidate this interest, the second phase of the project (2023–2026) focuses on regulatory changes to embed Urban Expansion Planning in national policies, as well as creating local service providers to respond to a steady demand from cities for the services of trained practitioners. It will also support a knowledge hub at leading urban planning institutions in both Uganda and Ethiopia to act as national centres of excellence.

Urban expansion in cities in the Horn of Africa over 30 years

ARUA, WEST NILE, UGANDA

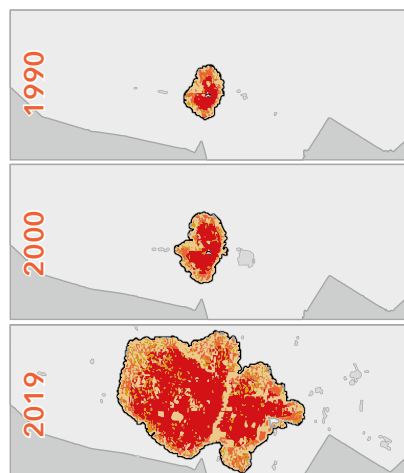


Arua, Uganda 1990-2019



□ Study area ■ Urban built-up area
□ Urban extent ■ Suburban built-up area

JIGJIGA, SOMALI STATE, ETHIOPIA

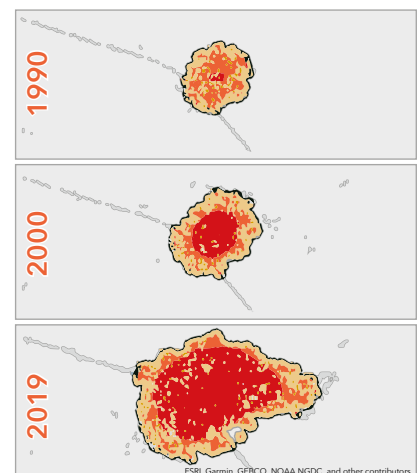


Jigjiga, Ethiopia 1990-2019



■ Rural built-up area ■ Rural open space
■ Urbanized open space ■ Exurban built-up area

GABILEY, SOMALIA



Gabiley, Somalia 1990-2019



■ Exurban open space ■ No data
■ Water ☆ CBD

RESULTS ON THE GROUND: ETHIOPIA

In Ethiopia from 2013 to 2016, Urban Expansion Planning led to the construction of over **570 km** of arterial roads, creating space for at least **140,000 new residents** and **26,000 jobs**. It also reportedly reduced informality

and squatting. Technical support in Ethiopia cost **US \$700,000** to support **18 cities** for three years, with participating cities investing **US \$35 million** from capital budgets over five years.

Green, accessible and climate-resilient cities – Mitigation and adaptation through better planning



Reducing Greenhouse Gas (GHG) Emissions

Proactive expansion planning can reduce greenhouse gas emissions through more efficient and sustainable mobility. A citywide, gridded arterial road network developed through Urban Expansion Planning can lead to reduced GHG emissions when compared to unplanned networks. This is due primarily

to three complementary effects – shorter travel distances, reduced vehicle congestion, and fewer private vehicles, with more street space available for public transportation, walking, and cycling.



Planning for Rapid Urbanisation and Water

Urban expansion and growing populations in urban areas increase the demand for water. While higher per capita incomes and more residents and businesses are factors, the primary reason is greater demand for agricultural goods from the urban hinterland, as agricultural users consume dramatically more of the available water than urban areas.

Water management systems must consider the total consumption within a hydrological area, rural and urban.

Urban expansion plans point out existing **water supply** areas and consider future water storage and extraction needs. For example, Hawassa, Ethiopia, used the approach to protect surface water supplies as one component of protecting environmentally sensitive areas.

Green space can be aligned with the contour of drainage on the land to encourage infiltration during **floods**. Equally, arterial roads can be aligned to gravity-fed drainage lines and serve as

levees, embankments, and other water management infrastructure for future developments.

Landslide risk areas, where poor communities are likely to settle due to their proximity to economic activity, can be better managed.

Example: Hawassa, Ethiopia

Hawassa draws its water from an endorheic lake that closely abuts urban development. Recognising that the city government is unable to afford sewerage and drainage water treatment, the urban expansion team included a 100m passive protective buffer along the lakeshore in the plan. This buffer is designed to remain heavily vegetated, capture contaminants from the urban area, and slow their infiltration into the lake.



THE RESILIENT SYSTEMS OF SECONDARY CITIES AND MIGRATION DYNAMICS PROGRAMME

This project is part of the Resilient Systems of Secondary Cities and Migration Dynamics programme, which supports initiatives designed by secondary city stakeholders. The programme is supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC).

The programme facilitates regional collaboration on urban planning and advocacy and fosters local partnerships among diverse city stakeholders and national and international actors to implement approaches that are locally relevant and work for all residents.

Further Reading

[Cities and Migration Programme](#)

[Managing Migration and Urban Expansion in Secondary Cities](#)

[Climate-Resilient Urban Expansion Planning](#)

[Urban Expansion Planning for Cities Hosting IDPs and Migrants](#)

All publications are available at www.citiesalliance.org