

Learning Cities, Governance and Partnerships for the Attainment of SDGs in Sub-Saharan Africa: The Potential and the Challenge

By

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1. Learning Cities: The Opportunity

- ▶ *African cities are growing at the fastest pace worldwide*
- ▶ *The youth bulge*
- ▶ *Unplanned cities*
- ▶ *Disproportionate share of learning institutions concentrated in cities*
- ▶ *Global connections*
- ▶ *Reaching the educationally disadvantaged*
- ▶ *The cosmopolitan outlook of cities*
- ▶ *Institutional and expertise diversity*
- ▶ *A second higher education chance to many/Potential of ODeLs*
- ▶ *Agents of creativity and innovation*
- ▶ *Technology and media hubs*

2. *Learning Cities & Integrated Governance Structure -1*

- ▶ Support decentralization/devolution of social services to cities
- ▶ *Identification of champions*
- ▶ *Associations/Networks of city education providers*
- ▶ *Government departmental collaboration*
- ▶ *Involvement of all in planning/sensitivity to all players*
- ▶ *Putting in place a governance structure*
- ▶ *NQF/RPL/RVA systems*

2. Learning Cities & Integrated Governance Structure-2

- ▶ *Relevant legislation*
- ▶ *Pay greater attention to city planning*
- ▶ *Political commitment*
- ▶ *Volunteer networks*
- ▶ *Regional and national networks*
- ▶ *Regular Communication with players*

3 Partnering in Promoting Learning Cities

- ▶ *Agree on an Implementation plan*
- ▶ *Map out available learning resources*
- ▶ *Mobilize resources Collectively*
- ▶ *Exploit unused potential*
- ▶ *Assess learning needs*
- ▶ *Generate appropriate learning materials*
- ▶ *Mount awareness creation campaigns*
- ▶ *Learn from the rest of the World*
- ▶ *Join relevant global networks*
- ▶ *Partner with technology firms/media houses*

4. Challenges and Way Forward-1

- ▶ *Absence of champions/political will: Support national champions and some permanence for the national coordinating teams*
- ▶ *Lack of prioritization and inadequate policy framework: Governments to prioritize learning cities in word and deed*
- ▶ *Limited and poorly managed learning resources: Partners to make resources available while ensuring cost efficiency in utilization and enhanced use of alternative education delivery options such as distance learning, TV and radio*

4. Challenges and Way Forward-2

- ▶ *Poor planning and appropriation of land meant for educational facilities:* Increased attention to spatial planning especially for learning infrastructure
- ▶ *Diverse ownership of learning institutions:* Consensus building by first bringing on board the main players without degrading the smaller ones
- ▶ *Inflexible traditional curricula:* Align what is learned to what is useful for the variety of players
- ▶ *Limited reading and questioning culture:* Reward beneficiaries of further learning financially and career wise, availing reading materials that arouse interest of learners and having national events to celebrate lifelong learning in cities

HAVE YOUR SAY

God be with You Till we
Meet Again in Kenya