

Review

Emerging cities and sustainable global environmental management: Livelihood implications in the OIC countries

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It is a fact that the majority of the world's settlements are burgeoning into cities; especially at the turn of the 21st century, an era witnessing the emergence of new economies. Undoubtedly, cities play a pivotal role in the socio-economic, cultural and scientific development of all nations as chunk of global human development activities is planned and executed in the cities. In the same vein, deteriorated living conditions in the history of human habitat are conventionally noted to be largely associated with cities where grave environmental 'atrocities' are committed. Examples include urban sprawl, air and noise pollution, contaminated water sources, solid and liquid waste generation, environmentally related ill-health, etc. Many cities exist with their attendant environmental woes. Many more are emerging. What considerations (global partnership in forward planning, forecasting, concerted global social responsibility, etc) should be taken into account in order to sustain livelihoods in a somewhat healthy global environment? The paper explores this area with particular reference to the Organization of Islamic Conference member countries (OIC).

Key words: Emerging cities, sustainable global environment, livelihood, OIC countries.

INTRODUCTION

As living conditions deteriorate continually, particularly in cities of the developing countries, the grave environmental ill-health underlying such deplorable living conditions raises cause for alarm. Examples include shanty and slum settlements, urban sprawl, air and noise pollution, contaminated water sources, solid and liquid waste generation, environmentally related ill-health, which in turn impact negatively the efforts to scale up sustainable livelihoods in the majority of these countries. Although high scale poverty and other forms of deprivations confront the rural populace more than their urban counterparts, nevertheless pertaining to healthy living conditions in a healthy environmental, the rural living environment appears relatively healthier. This scenario explicitly calls for concerted efforts in urban environmental governance, especially to provide adequate shelter. The rural areas require largely infrastructure and social amenities to lift up the rural economy and industry.

Environmental ill-health in the urban settings and urban poverty reinforce each other. The impact of urban

housing on livelihoods has been brought to the fore in the Global Report on Human Settlements (2001) "In some cities - both in developed and developing countries real estate costs have skyrocketed, pushing middle and lower income groups to the fringes of the city. This has led to the creation of "enclaves of poverty" on the urban periphery and in the inner city" (Global Report on Human Settlements 2001).

The authors argue here that urban poverty, sustained by deprived livelihood chances and opportunities, adds more weight to the development problems associated with high poverty incidence in the OIC countries. This requires that serious attention be paid on the likely factors that fuel the rapid deterioration of living conditions in the major cities of the OIC countries, and also how to collectively tackle the attendant menace, particularly pertaining to livelihoods sustainability.

AGENDA 21 AND THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

The pledges and obligations

Chapter 7 of the Agenda 21 document entitled "Promoting Sustainable Human Settlement Development"

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stipulates, as its main objective, the need to improve “the social, economic and environmental quality of human settlements and the living and working environments of all people, in particular the urban and rural poor” (UN Agenda 21). This document has identified eight major areas as being important in our efforts to sustain human settlements. The first two areas appear more pertinent to this article. These areas include: (1) Providing adequate shelter for all and (2) Improving human settlement management. The latter, of course, would require that government and agencies responsible for human settlement management should engage in forward planning in anticipation of settlements burgeoning into cities and urban centres. In order to make any headway in sustainable human settlement management, the Agenda 21: chapter 7 calls for “technical cooperation activities, partnerships among the public, private and community sectors and participation in the decision-making process by community groups and special interest groups such as women, indigenous people, the elderly and the disabled” (UN Agenda 21). The emphasis on technical cooperation and collaboration in human settlement management here makes bodies like the OIC apt for study.

The Agenda 21 document has been unanimously endorsed by all member countries of the UN. This document appears more appealing to all and sundry because of its human orientation. As such, pledges have been made and obligations are waiting to be fulfilled, particularly in improving the environmental conditions of human settlements. Poor living conditions impact livelihoods of the poor and marginalized people. The environmental gains made in some individual countries following the Agenda 21 could be offset if little attention is given to the number of settlements fast becoming cities and urbanised. In other words, the gains associated with improving livelihoods in a healthy and clean environment may be enhanced and augmented by collective solidarity in environmental governance in regional and sub-regional groupings like the OIC. One may not necessarily be out of context to assume that the factors that constitute hurdles in the way to achieving the local or national Agenda 21 environmental and sustainable development objectives in the majority of the OIC member countries could be overcome by the dint of their concerted efforts. This may be possible because the OIC member countries could exploit their regional capabilities, peculiarities and similarities to their fullest advantage. This salient component has also been acknowledged in the Agenda 21 document.

EMERGING CITIES IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

Cities are emerging from the rapid growth pattern of settlements in the individual countries of the OIC fraternity. Taking stock of towns above 100,000 presupposes that many more towns are nearing the one-million city status,

while many others are heading towards five-million ten-million mega-city statuses. As the majority of such settlements are swelling in numbers, there is the need to constantly review the structures governing the administration of these settlements. This will enhance the understanding, in the management of such settlements, of which administrative structures require adjustment in order to improve living conditions in these settlements. The rapid rate of urbanization comes with its constraining effects, particularly on the poor and vulnerable in the society.

For example, many cities in the OIC member countries have almost attained 10-million status mostly referred to as the mega-cities. This is particularly true in the national capital cities and commercial cities, especially Dhaka, Lagos, Jakarta, etc.

By 2020, according to UN-Habitat (2007), Mumbai, Delhi, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, New York, Dhaka, Jakarta and Lagos will reach 20 million mark-meta-city status. The last three are OIC member countries. In fact, Lagos in Nigeria has been categorised as the fastest growing megacity in the world (UN-Habitat. 2006/2007). Moving into specifics, the Far Eastern Economy Review has projected that by 2025 there will be about 10 meta-cities in Asia, which will include Jakarta, Indonesia (24.9 million people), Dhaka, Bangladesh (26 million), Karachi, Pakistan (26.5 million), Shanghai (27 million) and Bombay (with a whopping 33 million). Lagos, Nigeria will have expanded to 25 million residents by 2015 (<http://www.wikipedia.com>).

One would have realized here the urgent need for effective planning to keep pace with the emerging trends of cities. In order to manage such emerging cities sustainably will require forward planning by local authorities within individual countries and most importantly synergic partnership among the member countries. The importance of planning has been collaborated by UN-Habitat (2007), there has been little planning or development of infrastructure to keep apace of this trend. It notes that demonstrates that the growing cities and settlements would be overwhelmed by the proliferation of slums and the Millennium Development Goals would hardly met unless there has been a considerable investment, particularly for the poor as well as the rich.

The African region

The environmental quality of most settlements, particularly the cities is being influenced largely by the proliferation of unauthorised and unplanned settlements. Such settlements like slums, shanty towns are devoid of the essential social amenities and infrastructure that other authorised and planned settlements are enjoying. The absence of such social amenities and infrastructure in the slums, shanty and squatter settlements deny the dwellers of the aesthetic beauty of their living environment. The personal healthy implications of such poor settlements

Table 1. Trend of growing cities in African OIC member countries.

Country	Total*	Year (>100, 000)	Year (> 100, 000)	Percentage change (in growth)
Oil-producing countries				
Algeria	200	1987(16)	2008 (43)	168.8 (1dp)
Cameroon	87	1987(6)	2008 (21)	71.4
Cote d'Ivoire	66	1988(5)	2008 (11)	120
Egypt	200	1996(29)	2008 (41)	41.4
Nigeria	200	1991 (44)	2008 (63)	43.1
Sudan	124	1983 (9)	2008 (24)	166.7
Non-oil-producing countries				
Guinea	40	1983(1)	2008(8)	700
Mali	34	1987(1)	2008(5)	400
Niger	44	1988(3)	2008 (5)	66.7
Senegal	59	1988(5)	2008 (7)	40

*Total settlements surveyed with at least population above 1, 000 inhabitants
Source: Authors' calculation based on data from World Gazetteer 2008.

are far-reaching.

There has been no readily available and reliable data to quantify the number of slums and other unauthorised settlements existing in the cities of a country. However, the rapid rate at which most human settlements grow today is a pointer to the likely growth of slums, shanty and squatter settlements, especially in the major cities of the developing countries. For instance, in 1987 a census on 200 settlements in Algeria revealed only 16 settlements of having population of between 100, 000 and 1,000, 000+. In 2008 the figure rose from 16 to 43. A percentage change of 168.8. Sudan has recorded 166.7 percentage change in the growth of towns above 100, 000 from 1983 to 2008. Cote d'Ivoire came third with 120 percentage change from 1988 to 2008. The massive growth of settlements above 100, 000 in Guinea could be attributed to the influx of people displaced by the wars and civil conflicts in the neighbouring countries. From 1983 to 2008, Guinea has recorded 700% in the growth of settlements above 100,000. Mali came second among the non-oil producing OIC countries with 400 percentage change.

Analysing the growth of towns and settlements along this parameter is to support visualize how rapid the growth of towns and settlements has been, particularly in this 21st century and the increasing number of one million, five million, ten million cities. And those projected to hit 20+ million mega, meta-city status by 2025. At such rapid growth rate, slums and other unauthorised, unplanned settlements are fast growing as well with their attendant impact on the surrounding environment, livelihood chances, personal health and poverty incidence among the dwellers. Table 1 further illustrates the growing number of towns between 100, 000 and 1,000, 000 plus in some selected OIC African member countries.

Middle East and Central Asia

The trends in the growth of settlements have shown no much difference from settlements in the African region. Many countries in this region have recorded 200 percentage change in the growth of towns above 100, 000. Albania and Bahrain have registered 200% in the growth of settlements above 100, 000. Kuwait, Jordan and Oman recorded 100% each in less than two decades. The mushrooming of settlements above 100, 000 is pushing many more towns across half-a-million mark, while many cities are crossing the one-million status, particularly the capital and commercial centres. However, a few settlements have not experienced any growth. For instance, Azerbaijan, from 1989 to 2008, has maintained 3 towns above above 100,000. The United Arab Emirates (UAE) has also experienced 75% change in towns above 100, 000 from 1980 to 2008. This is followed by Turkey and Saudi Arabia with 60.4 and 55.6% respectively within the duration of 18 years. The fact remains that settlements are growing at a pace that is faster now than before. Table 2 further demonstrates this rapid growth pattern.

East Asia, the Pacific and South American OIC Member Countries

In the East Asian, the Pacific and South American region the growth pattern is quite similar to the region discussed previously. Even though, none has recorded 200% in growth, however, the average growth rate has been quite high. Within the duration of 17 years, Malaysia has experienced 79.2 per cent in the growth of towns above 100, 000. Within 27 years Pakistan has witnessed 131 percentage change in towns above 100, 000.

Table 2. Trend of growing cities in Middle East and central Asian OIC member countries.

Country	Total*	Year (>100, 000)	Year (>100,000)	Percentage change (in growth)
Oil-producing countries				
Albania	67	1989 (1)	2008(3)	200
Azerbaijan	200	1989(3)	2008(3)	no change
Bahrain	11	1991(1)	2008(3)	200
Iran	200	1996 (60)	2008 (81)	35
Kazakhstan	200	1989 (19)	2008 (22)	15.8
Kuwait	70	1995 (2)	2008 (4)	100
Oman	43	1993 (4)	2008 (8)	100
Saudi Arabia	200	1992(18)	2008 (28)	55.6
Turkey	200	1990 (43)	2008 (69)	60.4
U. A. E	9	1980 (4)	2008 (7)	75
Uzbekistan	154	1989 (16)	2008 (20)	25
Non-oil-producing country				
Jordan	178	1994 (4)	2008(8)	100

*Total settlements surveyed with at least population above 1, 000 inhabitants
Source: Authors' calculation based on data from World Gazetteer, 2008.

Table 3. Trend of growing cities in East Asia, the pacific and South American OIC member countries.

Country	Total*	Year (< 100, 000)	Year (< 100, 000)	Percentage Change (in growth)
Oil-producing countries				
Bangladesh	200	1991 (25)	2008 (43)	72
Indonesia	200	2000 (142)	2008 (188)	32.3
Malaysia	169	1991 (24)	2008 (43)	79.2
Pakistan	200	1981(29)	2008 (67)	131
Suriname	14	2000 (1)	2008 (1)	no change
Non-oil-producing countries				
Guyana	17	1986 (1)	2008 (1)	no change
Maldives	200	2000 (0)	2008 (1)	---

*Total settlements surveyed with at least population above 1, 000 inhabitants
Source: Authors' calculation based on data from World Gazetteer, 2008.

Indonesia has recorded 32.3% in 8 years; an increase from 142 towns above 100, 000 to 188 towns above 100, 000. This is the largest among all the selected OIC member countries in this region. Guyana the only South American OIC member country has not experienced any change in growth of settlements above 100,000. Maldives has recorded her first settlement above 100,000. Table 3 further throws more light on the growth pattern in this region.

CITIES AND ENVIRONMENTAL CONDITIONS IN THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

In their habitat flyer entitled, "Towards Sustainable Urban Development" the United Nations Environmental Programme (UNEP) and the Habitat (UN-HABITAT) have noted that the environmental conditions of cities have tremendous implications on "the health and well-being of

residents", and also strong influence on the environment itself at various levels: the national, regional and global levels. "The urban dimension of climate change, water, energy, biodiversity, chemicals, wastes, trans-boundary air and river pollution, and pollution of coastal areas, is becoming more and more evident" (UNEP, UN-Habitat 2006/2007).

Environmental conditions are noted to be worse in the cities where chunk of development activities are planned and executed. In looking at these issues in detail among the OIC member countries, the authors choose to segregate these countries into those endowed with oil resources and those without any oil resources, herein labelled as oil-producing and non-oil-producing OIC member countries. This would work forcefully to bring out the likely differences in environmental conditions (especially the living conditions gauged by slums, etc) between these two broad categories of OIC countries. The need for this analysis has been underscored by the Agenda 21 document

that poor conditions in human settlements today are perpetuated mainly by “the low levels of investment in the sector attributable to the overall resource constraints in these countries. In the low-income countries for which recent data are available, an average of only 5.6 per cent of central government expenditure went to housing, amenities, social security and welfare” (UN Agenda 21). In such compelling conditions, “there can be no social and economic development in cities without a healthy environment, especially where it concerns the urban poor” (UN Agenda 21). Would the story be different in the resource endowed countries?

All too often, the environmental serenity of most cities is marred by the mushrooming of slums and slum dwellers. Available Statistics shows that in 1990, 715 million were nearly slum dwellers in the world. By 2000, the number rose to 912 million. And presently, there are about 998 million (or 1 billion) slum dwellers. UN-HABITAT then projects that, all things being equal, the figure will reach 1.4 billion by 2020 (The State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7). This projection presupposes that most settlements are fast emerging as cities and becoming urbanised. And without sound urban governance to contain the proliferation of slums, the environment conditions of human settlements would continue to deteriorate at a faster rate than even expected. “And urban growth will become virtually synonymous with slum formation in some regions.” More than half of the global slum population (581 million) are in Asia; 199 million are in sub-Saharan Africa, and 134 million in Latin America and the Caribbean (Ibid).

UN-Habitat's operational definition of slums assumes the following dimensions: (1) the lack of water; (2) lack of sanitation; (3) overcrowding and (4) non-durable housing structures. “These indicators, also known as shelter deprivations, focus attention on the circumstances surrounding slum life, depicting deficiencies and casting poverty as an attribute of the environment in which slum dwellers live” (The State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7). The fifth dimension concerns the lack of security of tenure. And this is obvious as slum dwellers frequently are the victims of force evictions by local authorities. The following section examines environmental conditions with select indicators such as (1) access rate of the urban population to improved sanitation facilities; (2) improved drinking water sources and (3) housing measured by the percentage of slum population in urban centres. Once again, the analysis has been done along the regions.

The African region

Urban environmental indicators such as access to improved sanitation facilities, improved drinking water sources and slum population have been selected to assess urban environmental conditions in the OIC countries. These indicators are conventionally believed to have enormous impact on environmental health and human health as

well. The extent to which these indicators are accessible to the urban population determines largely the quality of the urban environment as well as quality of life of the people. The high numbers of homeless, squatter, shanty and slum dwellers in the urban centers portray the acute shortage of affordable houses. Poor or low access to sanitation facilities and good drinking water sources stand to cause catastrophic solid and liquid wastes problems, and water-borne diseases due to poor, contaminated water sources.

The selected environment indicators show a skewed pattern among the African OIC member countries. The majority of the oil-producing countries pose the highest access rates to both sanitation facilities and good drinking water. Again, the percentage of slum population of total urban population appears to be lower among the oil-producing countries. However, among the oil-producing countries the North African oil-producing countries pose the highest access rates. Those oil-producing countries in the Sub-Saharan region tend to have access rates quite similar to their non-oil-producing counterparts. The percentage of slum population appears much the same in both the oil-and non-oil-producing Sub-Saharan OIC member countries. A scenario that does not augur well for the urban environment and sustainable livelihoods in such countries. Such varying trends in access rates have underlying causes many of which can be tackled effectively only through concerted, collaborative efforts. This can be done by pulling resources together in order to avail those countries that lack the essential resources and expertise to sustain livelihoods in a clean urban environment. Table 4 further illustrates.

Middle East and Central Asia

This region has the highest access rates in the selected indicators among the three regions selected for this study. Also, the access rate of the indicators appears quite high among the oil- and non-oil-producing countries in this region. A few countries, including a non-oil-producing country, have recorded a hundred percent rate in some of the indicators. Similarly, percentage of slum population has been very minimal in countries for which data are available. In short, this region can best be described as the power-house of the OIC fraternity, as far as access to improved sanitation facilities, good drinking water sources and housing is concerned. Countries in this region can play vital, leading role in partnership and collaboration to ensure livelihoods sustainability in a clean urban environment. Details on the access rates have been presented in Table 5.

East Asia, the Pacific and South American OIC Member Countries

The selected indicators portray a good picture in all the selected countries except in Bangladesh where access to

Table 4. Select urban environmental indicators in select African OIC member countries.

Country	Improved Sanitation (Urban Access, %)		Drinking Water (Urban Access, %)		Slum Pop of Urban Areas (%)	
Oil-producing countries						
	1990 -2006		1990 -2006		1990	
Algeria	99	98	99	87	11.8	11.8 ('01)
Cameroon	47	58	76	88	62.1	47.4 ('05)
Chad	19	23	26	71	99.3	91.3 ('05)
Cote d'Ivoire	39	38	71	98	50.5	56.2 ('05)
Egypt	68	85	97	99	57.5	17.1 ('05)
Libya	97	97	72	68	35.2	35.2 ('01)
Morocco	80	85	94	100	37.4	13.1 ('01)
Nigeria	33	35	80	65	80	65.8 ('05)
Sudan	53	50	85	78	86.4	94.2 ('06)
Tunisia	95	96	95	99	9	3.7 ('05)
Non-oil producing countries						
Burkina Faso	23	41	62	97	80.9	59.5 ('05)
Gambia	48	50	96	91	67	45.4 ('05)
Mali	53	59	50	86	94.1	65.9 ('05)
Niger	16	27	59	91	96	82.6 ('05)
Senegal	52	54	91	93	57.6	38.1 ('05)
Uganda	27	29	78	90	93.8	66.7 ('05)

Source: UN, MDGs Export, 2007. Note: Figures taken are the most recent data. n/a= data not available. ('01) = years, e.g. 2001.

improved sanitation facilities has changed from above average (56%) to below average (48%). Again, slum population in Bangladesh has been the highest in the region. However, the non-oil-producing countries in this region are posing quite impressive access rates; higher in some cases than their oil-producing counter-parts. A general trend in all the three regions has been that of down-ward and up-ward or, better still, increases and decreases in access to the selected indicators. In other words, some countries experience increases in some indicators and decreases in others indicators, while other countries experience decreases in almost all the indicators. This trend depicts where the strengths and weaknesses of the individual countries inhere. A scenario that is most likely to ease the burden as to which areas much emphasis be placed for collaboration. Table 6 further illustrates.

Urban Environmental Conditions within and across the OIC Regions

Here, the intent has been to examine environmental conditions within and across the three regions to know which region lags behind. The MECAMC have the highest access rates both among the oil and non-oil-producing countries. The percentage of slum population in MECAMC appears the lowest relative to the other two regions.

EAPSAMC come second in terms of access rates and the percentage of slum population. However, the non-oil-producing EAPSAMC do have average access rates higher than the average access rates of the oil-producing countries. This finding could be due to the small number of the non-oil-producing countries.

Finally, the AFMC come third in terms of access rates and percentage of slum population. The non-oil-producing AFMC are lagging behind their non-oil-producing counter-parts in the other two regions. Similarly, the oil-producing AFMC lag behind their counter-parts in the other two regions. Once again, this pattern underscores the dire need for collaboration. What then should be the nature of this collaboration? The answer has been offered towards the end of this article. Table 7 contains the details.

LIVELIHOODS SUSTAINABILITY IN THE CITIES OF OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

From a global perspective, sustaining livelihoods has not been all that easy, especially livelihoods sustainability in the world's major cities. The magnitude of livelihood deprivations has been quantified by the UNEP and UN-Habitat when they remark that one billion of the three billion people living in the cities today are slum dwellers, who are "condemned to a life of poverty and ill health,

Table 5. Select urban environmental indicators in select Middle East and Central Asian OIC member countries.

Country Areas	Improved Sanitation (Urban Access, %)		Drinking Water (Urban Access, %)		Slum Pop of Urban (%)	
	<u>1990 -2006</u>		<u>1990 -2006</u>		<u>1990</u>	
Oil-producing countries						
Albania	97	98	100	97	n/a	n/a
Azerbaijan	90	90	82	95	n/a	n/a
Bahrain	100	100	100	100	n/a	n/a
Iran	86	86	99	99	51.9	30.3 ('05)
Kazakhstan	97	97	99	99	n/a	n/a
Kyrgyzstan	93	94	97	99	n/a	n/a
Oman	97	97	85	85	60.5	60.5 ('01)
Qatar	100	100	100	100	n/a	n/a
Saudi Arabia	100	100	97	97	19.8	18 ('05)
Turkey	96	96	92	98	23.3	15.5 ('05)
U. A. E	98	98	100	100	n/a	n/a
Uzbekistan	97	97	97	98	n/a	n/a
Yemen	79	88	84	68	67.5	67.2 ('05)
Non-oil-producing countries						
Lebanon	100	100	100	100	50	53.1 ('05)
Jordan	98	88	99	99	16.5	15.8 ('05)

Source: UN, MDGs Export, 2007. Note: Figures taken are the most recent data. n/a= data not available. ('01) = years, e.g. 2001.

Table 6. Select urban environmental indicators in select East Asia, the Pacific and South American OIC member countries.

Country Sanitation	Improved Sanitation (Urban Access, %)		Drinking Water (Urban Access, %)		Slum Pop of Urban areas(%)	
	<u>1990 -2006</u>		<u>1990 -2006</u>		<u>1990</u>	
Oil-producing countries						
Bangladesh	56	48	88	85	87.3	70.8 ('05)
Indonesia	73	67	92	89	32.2	26.3 ('05)
Malaysia	95	95	100	100	n/a	n/a
Pakistan	76	90	96	95	78.7	47.5 ('05)
Suriname	90	89	99	97	6.9	3.9 ('05)
Non-oil-producing countries						
Guyana	86	85	97	98	4.9	33.9 ('05)
Maldives	100	100	100	98	n/a	n/a

Source: UN, MDGs Export, 2007. Note: Figures taken are the most recent data. n/a = data not available. ('01) = year, e.g. 2001.

because they are exposed to air pollution and are denied clean water, basic sanitation and adequate shelter" (UNEP, UN-Habitat, 2006). The State of the World's Cities Report 2006/7 highlights issues pertaining to cities, slums and the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). The success of the global fight against poverty, according to this report, largely depends on how well cities perform (Monero et al., 2006). The growing inequalities between the rich and the poor in the cities are clearly evident in the cities where there has been

incessant in the growth of slums and the number of slum dwellers. This works to increase the prevalence of poverty in the majority of the developing countries.

Another issue that requires much attention has to do with the deplorable health conditions in the slums and shanty settlements. High incidences of disease, crime and violence are known conventionally to be concentrated in such slum neighbourhoods in the cities of the world. Life expectancy is very low under such conditions. Poverty incidence is skyrocketing as

Table 7. Select urban environmental indicators within and across the OIC regions (Averages).

Regions/Indicators Sanitation	Improved (urban access, %)		Drinking water (urban access, %)		Slum pop of urban areas (%)	
	1990 -2006		1990 -2006		1990-2006	
AFMC						
Opc	63	66.7	99.5	85.3	52.92	43.58
Npc	36.5	43.3	72.7	91.3	84.9	59.7
MECAMC						
Opc	94.6	95.4	94.7	95	44.6	38.3
Npc	99	94	99.5	99.5	33.25	34.45
EAPSAMC						
Opc	78	77.8	95	93.2	51.28	37.13
Npc	93	92.5	98.5	98	--	--

Note: AFMC= African member countries; MECAMC= Middle East and Central Asian member countries; EAPSAMC= East Asia, the Pacific and South American member countries. Opc= Oil-producing countries; Npc= Non-oil-producing countries. Source: Authors' calculation based on data from UN, MDGs Export, 2007. Note: Figures taken are the most recent data. n/a = data not available. (--) data incomplete.

breadwinners are succumbing to the AIDS menace. As Tibaijuka (2000) collaborates, "slums are fast becoming the breeding grounds for AIDS" (Tibaijuka and Anna, 2000). The poverty situation becomes more serious as the slums are on the increase and more slum dwellers are increasingly becoming unemployed or jobless.

The prevailing incidence of poverty and the level of livelihood sustainability have been not encouraging in the majority of the OIC member countries. While poverty is taking a heavy toll on the populations in the majority of the developing OIC member countries, those member countries in the middle income bracket are grappling with pockets of extreme poverty and deprivations. Such a scenario has often been reinforced by the rapid growth rates of our towns and cities. This has been made even worse when the administrative machinery of such growing towns and cities has not been subjected to any forward planning, reviewing and improvement. Livelihood chances and opportunities are virtually absent; thereby making the chance to attain the much needed livelihood outcomes and aspirations a fleeing illusion.

The major challenge has been the incidence of poverty and deprivation. With particular reference to poverty eradication, Ahmad Mohamed Ali (2006) noted that the incidence of poverty had decreased in many Islamic Development Bank (IDB) member countries, however, the trends of poverty and other social indicators in some member countries raised a cause for alarm. What has been more worrisome, according to Ahmad Mohamed Ali, is that "there are pockets of extreme poverty in the depressed areas of even those member countries who are posting robust economic growth." On the millennium development goals (MDGs), thirteen member countries are unlikely to achieve the target of halving the number of people living below \$1 a day by 2015.

Cities will always remain centres for social, economic, scientific, and cultural development. Efficiency in

managing cities and human settlements as a whole will go a long way to improve livelihood chances and opportunities for the majority of the world's population. However, what goes into managing human settlements efficiently varies from one country to another. This may include the administrative expertise, the resources including financial resources. Many settlements in many OIC member countries have been effectively managed including successful poverty alleviation. Many more have not been impressive. This lapse calls for intensification of collaboration and partnership in sustainable human settlement management.

SUSTAINABLE LIVELIHOODS AND ENVIRONMENTAL MANAGEMENT COLLABORATION MODEL FOR THE OIC MEMBER COUNTRIES

The agenda 21 document recognises the need for partnership among countries in tackling the global human settlements and the environment. However, such partnership must be built on the local needs and capabilities. Using the OIC member countries, the authors have proposed a general pattern of collaboration known as development collaboration octagon. Out of this generic pattern, divisional and sub-divisional patterns may emerge. In the case of this article, an environment collaboration octagon emerges as part of the generic development collaboration octagon.

In terms of efficiency in managing human settlement and livelihoods and the availability of resources that impact human settlements and livelihoods sustainability, the OIC countries may portray an outlook as represented in Figure 1 above.

In that perspective, effective collaboration that may yield productive resource utilization, administrative and technical expertise to support sustainable human settlement management and poverty alleviation should adopt

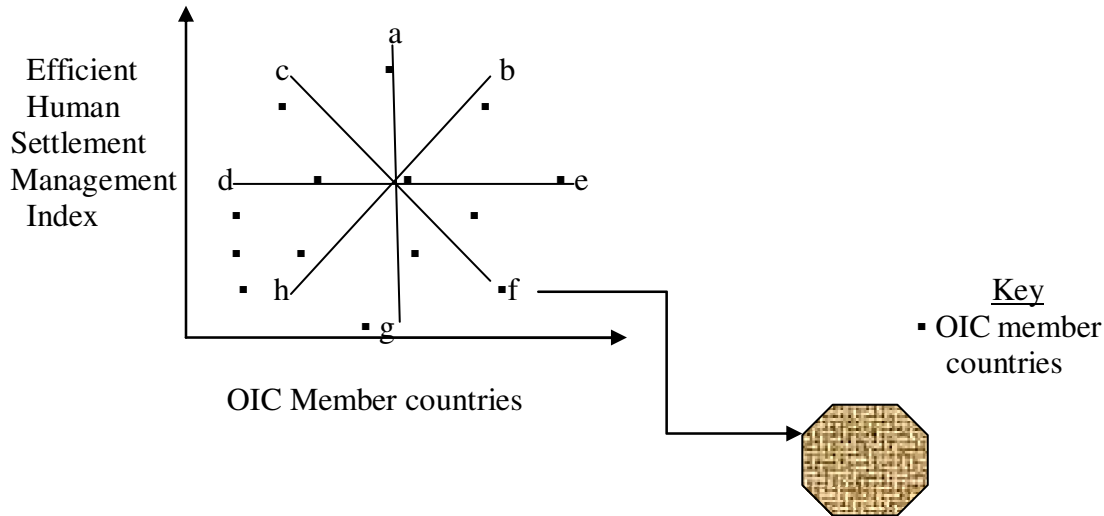


Figure 1. Human Settlement & Sustainable Livelihood Management octagon (Octagon Concept: Multi-Dimensional in nature).

the pattern of multi-dimensional and effective partnership; this in our case has been labelled development collaboration octagon. The octagonal pattern reflects horizontal, vertical and lateral collaborations in the generation and utilization of development resources within and among the OIC countries. In the case of managing human settlements and livelihoods, the ability to do so utterly varies among the OIC countries. This underscores the need for effective collaboration. In real life scenario, most bilateral and multilateral collaborations often assume heavily skewed dimensions that may have very little general impact as far as the huge number of poor countries is concerned.

For instance, if a three-nation collaboration ensues among countries A,B, and C in the above diagram, such pattern of collaboration appears to be highly skewed, thereby excluding the average and least developed member countries. In the model above, these countries will include D, E, F, G and H. Again if collaboration develops horizontally among countries D, O and E, it is most likely that such pattern of collaboration cannot have any wider impact in the OIC fraternity, as these countries appear to have barely an above-average capability and the needed resources to ensure meaningful environmental management and sustainable livelihoods.

Nevertheless, a pattern of collaboration that appears to mirror in the least, the medium and the highest countries in terms of the ability to manage human settlements and livelihoods can assume either vertical or lateral dimensions in our case, that is, A,O, G; C,O,F and B, O, H. Such patterns of collaboration can yield great impact as the least- developed countries are paired with the medium and the relatively developed countries. However, this kind of collaboration may still need other essential features to unleash greater and wider impact. To help minimise the pitfalls characterising most conventional bilateral

and multi-lateral collaborations, the Octagonal Collaboration Model seeks to capture the horizontal, vertical and the lateral patterns of conventional collaboration. The octagonal collaboration should lump countries A, B, C, D, E, F, G and H together in a group. Qualitatively ranked, each group of eight OIC member countries will then include the following:

A = Excellent capability to manage the environment and livelihoods (relative standards);
 B = Very Good capability;
 C = Good capability;
 D = Average capability;
 E = Fair capability;
 F = Poor capability;
 G = Very poor capability; and
 H = Failed or zero capability.

OIC member countries such as Somalia, Sierra Leone (often described as the dead economies) will fall within the 'failed or zero capability' zone. Such countries cannot be ignored in the efforts to scale up countries' ability to manage the environment and livelihoods within and across the OIC fraternity. They should be incorporated into the mainstream of development collaboration. The development needs of the so-called "dead economies" would be far from being met, if left to similar, like-manner or medium-level member countries. The Octagonal pattern of collaboration can be extended to other areas of development endeavours.

This pattern should be pursued within individual OIC member countries and among them, collaboration among the OIC countries could assume the trend of capacity building in human settlement management and livelihood sustainability. And the resources needed to facility successful human settlements management.

In reality and as golden rule of this concept, countries should have at least 8 other member countries in a comparative advantage kind of engagement that reliably and mutually reflects the resource requirements, utilization needs and of course sustainable livelihoods aspirations of member countries.

Conclusion

Policy considerations

Policy is nothing but actions undertaken to achieve set and desired goals. In that vein, actions could be more effective in yielding the set objectives in a wider domain, if undertaken in a concerted manner. And as the link between cities and the environment, particularly the immediate environment needs to be harmonised to improve livelihoods, collective actions, which must gear towards ensuring that settlements attaining city status do not jeopardise living conditions and living standards, are most important. Government agencies responsible for urban management should take cognisance of the fact that most settlements have reached city status, while little changes have occurred in the way such settlements have been managed or governed. In other words, there is the need to constantly review in order to improve the urban governance machinery so as to keep track with the rapid changes occurring in the majority of these settlements. Many member countries are lacking human expertise; some lack financial resources while others lack both categories of resources to be able to manage such growing cities sustainably. In effect, the concept of sister cities may be pursued within the framework of the development collaboration octagon.

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- Using IDB member countries or OIC countries can serve same purpose, as IDB is being built on the same ideology underlying the OIC.