FREETOWN CITY COUNCIL
TRANSFORM FREETOWN FRAMEWORK

URBAN PLANNING SECTOR
TARGETS AND INDICATORS

Inputs for informal settlement upgrading

LOCAL AUTHORITIES
NATIONAL AUTHORITIES

CITY LEARNING PLATFORM

PROFESSIONAL BODIES
NGOs

INFORMAL SETTLEMENT REPRESENTATIVES

UNIVERSITIES

COMMUNITY LEARNING PLATFORMS

COCKLE BAY CoLP
DWARZARCK CoLP
PORTEE-ROKUPA CoLP

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION
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FREETOWN CITY LEARNING PLATFORM

FOR INFORMAL SETTLEMENT UPGRADING

Existing Community Learning Platforms (CoLP)
Potential future CoLP
What is the City Learning Platform?

The City Learning Platform is a space for learning and sharing, in which different actors can gather to discuss experiences, coordinate and develop proposals for the upgrading of informal settlements in the city of Freetown. The City Learning Platform is a city-wide initiative that operates through periodic meetings representing a variety of voices and organisations, in constant collaboration with Community Learning Platforms set up at the settlement level.

The City Learning Platform will be drawing from inputs developed by SLURC as part of the research project KNOW, Knowledge in Action for Urban Equality.

What is this Platform for?

The Platform seeks to provide a safe space to learn and discuss informal settlement upgrading, with a strong focus on participatory and inclusive practices. It aims to feed into, and disseminate, the discussion taking place as part of the Transform Freetown framework.

How does it fit within the Transform Freetown framework?

This initiative aims to play a role in the ongoing framework led by the Freetown City Council (FCC). In particular, it aims to feed into the process led by the Sector Working Group focused on ‘Urban Planning’ with inputs related specifically to the challenges of informal settlement upgrading. This initiative seeks to contribute to Target 1 (on low-cost housing) and Target 2 (on the Freetown Zonal Plan).

What do we understand by ‘informal settlement upgrading’?

We understand upgrading as the variety of actions that take place in informal settlements to improve the social, physical and environmental conditions of residents’ lives.

Who is part of the Platform?

The Platform is a dynamic space that welcomes multiple actors working in the city of Freetown. This initiative builds upon existing networks of institutions involved in processes of improving the quality of life of people living in informal settlements. This includes actors from existing networks such as PSPP (‘Pull Slum Pan Pipul’), which was founded by organisations that were funded by COMIC Relief. The Platform will expand on this experience, involving government authorities, professional bodies, and community representatives.

The City Learning Platform will contribute to Target 1 by:

Discussing, sharing and developing practices of inclusive and participatory upgrading that can contribute to the production of low-cost housing for residents of informal settlements by the end of 2021, recognising wider city challenges.

This will be done by:
- Sharing and coordinating ongoing and future actions taking place in informal settlements, led by community based-organisations, NGOs, FCC and the national government;
- Proposing approaches to low-cost housing in ways that negotiate the trade-offs between in-situ upgrading and relocation;
- Proposing guidelines to inform the participation of local communities in processes of informal settlement upgrading.

The City Learning Platform will contribute to Target 2 by:

Developing guidelines and methodologies to promote the upgrading of informal settlements that aim to implement the Freetown Zonal Plan in a coordinated and inclusive manner by the end of 2021.

This will be done by:
- Sharing experience of community-led planning taking place in informal settlements in a multi-stakeholder platform;
- Reflecting the extent to which the Freetown Zonal Plan proposal addresses the current and future needs and conditions of informal settlements;
- Proposing concrete participatory planning instruments that contribute to the implementation of the Freetown Zonal Plan in the context of informal settlements.