

RECOMMENDATIONS

Internal processes

- Put in place systems for improving internal documentation of actions, impacts and learnings on a project-by-project basis that is accessible remotely.
- Explore ways of including a greater diversity of experience and gender into the international advisory board - civil society, policymaker, business.
- Enhance gender mainstreaming into both SLURC internal processes and community-driven research. For advertised posts 50% of persons interviewed should be women. Explore working with the newly elected, female, Mayor of Freetown to encourage girls and young female students to engage with urban issues.
- Invest in building the management and overall capacity of research officers to help bridge the gap to the directors and in doing so, improve staff retention by offering clear personal development opportunities.

Policymaker engagement

- Produce two-page briefs outlining SLURCs work and thinking on its four key areas and use these as part of a strategy to expand the centre's network of policymakers and partners.
- Following on from the informal economy conference in 2017, explore the possibility of holding an annual national conference, bringing together key stakeholders on a pressing urban issue.
- Take the opportunity provided by being part of the Transform Freetown agenda and other policy development fora's such as the National Housing Policy to push forward SLURC's vision for the urban development of Freetown.
- Move from personal contacts among policymakers to institutional contacts.

Community interaction and learning

- Build on FEDURP networks within informal settlements in Freetown to facilitate exchange visits between informal communities and expand community driven learning.
- Conduct a scoping visit to map out possible expansion of centre to regional towns to discuss feasibility, interest and identify key issues. Give specific consideration to expansion into Western Area Rural.
- Build on the success of the CAAP mapping exercise by looking at ways in which more spatial work can be undertaken.
- Explore the possibility of receiving delegations on knowledge-exchange visits to share the experiences of SLURC and residents of Freetown's informal settlements.

Creating and sharing knowledge

- Develop and implement a communications strategy with an emphasis on both creating targeted research outputs for different target audiences - more visual, shorter and more interactive - and ensuring wider dissemination, using radio, social media and press conferences.
- Re-engage with Radio Democracy about hosting a radio show that will focus on discussing urban issues and challenges with a wide and interactive audience.
- Discuss with key stakeholders in Sierra Leone the ways in which the online resource unit and physical library can be made more accessible to them. A basic smartphone app could be one idea for consideration.
- Provide leadership and coordinate the City Learning Platform in a way that supports mutual learning between all stakeholders working on Freetown's urban development.

Building institutional sustainability

- Train staff in proposal development and appoint a specific person to the role of resource mobilisation officer as set out in the 2018-2020 Sustainability Plan to explore different ways of raising revenue or funds.
- Work closely with the KNOW project and Njala University to develop a curriculum and establish an urban planning masters programme in the next three years. An internship programme for students of Njala University to gain some work experience at SLURC should be created.
- Continue to explore the possibility of monetising training or research services to raise revenue domestically. Charging for online courses; being contracted by government actors; or through building a closer working relationship with Njala University that will eventually lead to them covering some of the centre's operational costs are all avenues to be explored.