

## AREA-BASED UPGRADING

This is a process of community-based planning where an existing (mostly unplanned) settlement is redesigned and/or upgraded through a range of interventions. These interventions are identified and implemented in partnership with the community, dealing with issues specific to one area.

### Value of this approach

Often this planning approach is started by the community in response to an issue or need they have identified, leading to greater ownership of the planning process and associated implementation. This bottom-up process allows for local knowledge and innovations to be incorporated.

*"Do you know that, in Sub-Saharan Africa, cities, towns and villages are growing at unprecedented rates, leading to large parts of most cities being unplanned, in some cases up to 80%."*

*"I guess this means that African cities require context specific planning approaches in order to best deliver services, support local economic development and improve quality of life?"*

*"Yes exactly. This is not an easy task and often requires city planners to adopt approaches that are different to those they might have learnt at university and been practicing for years. Some of these alternative approaches could be..."*

## URBAN TINKERING

Adjusting and moulding of existing landscapes through small scale "urban experiments" that can result in dramatic shifts in the way the landscape works as a system. This method provides innovative solutions to the problems of sustainable development, particularly in the context of rapidly changing conditions.

### Value of this approach

**Innovation:** Prioritises small-scale implementation and "experiments" that can lead to large-scale innovative solutions.  
**Learning:** Allows for the incorporation of new information as the project develops.  
**Scalable:** Urban tinkering can be applied to large (transport network) and small (a dwelling) systems.  
**Multi-functional and inter-disciplinary:** Seeks out solutions that bring the social, economic and ecological dimensions of urban life together.



# ALTERNATIVE PLANNING APPROACHES

*for cities in Sub-Saharan Africa*

## SCENARIO PLANNING

Scenario planning is a structured way for cities to think about and visualise how different plausible futures of the city might unfold and how the city will change over time in light of those futures.

### Value of this approach

Uncovers better information about future conditions (through the development of various possible scenarios) to help cities and regions make better decisions. Assists in identifying needs or issues and exploring options for refining plans.

## RE-BLOCKING

This approach is a community-led process of redesigning the current layout of very dense informal settlements by grouping shacks into clusters and re-organising the ground plan in such a manner as to optimally utilise space to promote the health, safety and well-being of households, with a particular focus on promoting accelerated service delivery to informal settlements.

### Value of this approach

Works with the affected community as an integral part of the process. Helps to designate and maximise space in unplanned settlements for services, infrastructure (green or grey) and communal/shared open areas. Increases social cohesion whereby the scarce spaces in informal settlements are consolidated and productivity is maximised for communal purposes (safety and security, daily domestic chores) and delivering better services.

## MASSIVE SMALL

This approach focuses on getting the enabling conditions for sustainable urban development correct (ie. integrating bottom-up and top-down processes). This is with the purpose of allowing communities and people to shape their environments according to their needs, with appropriate government support.

### Value of this approach

This approach sees the value of both top-down structures and bottom-up initiatives and brings them together to get the best of both.

