Afghanistan

Sustainable Urban Development

Fahima Omar
Architect and Urban Planner
Sustainable Urban Development

Challenges

Rapid urbanization; 24% urban population, 9 million people (2012) annual urban pop. growth 4.7%

Urban poverty is not just lack of income, but also a lack of access to basic services (water, sanitation, education, health care, etc.)

Opportunities

Promoting eco-efficient and sustainable infrastructure

The public sector and community can expand the provision of urban infrastructure, services delivery and solid waste collection (e.g. urban solidarity program)
Solid Waste Problems

- Incomplete collection
- Limited recycling
- Scavengers health risk
Challenges

Poor sanitation, and poor solid waste management cause water, air and soil pollution

Opportunities

Many countries are developing eco-cities to minimize resource consumption and use of waste (bio digestion, composting, recycling)

Challenges

Shortage of Water in urban areas

Water supply polluted from ground water sources

Opportunities

Integrated water resource management, (rainwater harvesting, water security, improve health)
Ineffective urban planning
- The Majority (Kabul 70%) of urban population live in informal settlements;
- Land grabbing;
- Insecure land tenure;
- Land use planning in urban area is a challenge, lack of adequate social infrastructure

Vision
“A peaceful settlement, with access to all basic and infrastructure, well connected to the rest of the country, respecting and management its cultural heritage and conserving the unique natural and manmade characteristic of its valley”

Improved Urban Planning
- Strategic and Action Planning, Participatory, Key stakeholders fully involved and committed
- Planning; realistic and related to investment
Incremental Regularization of Informal Settlements e.g. Kandahar

- Security of tenure, upgrading and tax collection
- Community based participation
- Incremental approach, practical, and result-based