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on health and the environment: the case of Lagos, Nigeria**

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**ANALYSIS OF THE INTERPLAY OF MIGRATION AND URBAN EXPANSION, ON  
HEALTH AND THE ENVIRONMENT: THE CASE OF LAGOS, NIGERIA**

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**SUMMARY**

The study examined the associated impact of migration and urban expansion in Lagos, Nigeria and attempted to draw the implications of these on the environment and the well-being of the people in Lagos. Extensive review of literature was done, Stakeholders' meeting was held to harvest some basic data and these were complemented with survey data. Lagos is the commercial nerve centre of Nigeria with an estimated population of about 12 million. About 15 of the 20 Local Government Areas (LGAs) in the State make up Lagos metropolis. These 15 LGAs were purposively categorized based on population density and income profile of the residents and six (6) of these were randomly selected within their categories. The six LGAs represented relatively high-income and low population density (i.e. Eti-Osa and Ikoyi LGAs), relatively middle-income and of medium population density (i.e. Kosofe and Surulere LGAs) and relatively low-income and high population density (i.e. Ajeromi/Ifelodun and Agege LGAs) sectors of the city. Three hundred and sixty (360) respondents were randomly covered. Furthermore, the Chairmen of the 6 selected LGAs and Permanent Secretaries/Directors of relevant State Ministries and Departments were interviewed on the plans and activities of their organisations regarding the urban expansion and the needs of the increasing population. Samples of water and street foods were collected for biochemical analysis to determine the impact of environmental pollution on them. The study established that about two-thirds of the migrants to Lagos stopped over in several locations before finally moving to Lagos. The employment opportunities and some social amenities not present in their places of origin were the critical factors attracting people to Lagos. However, migrants found it easier to get employment than to get accommodation. Most migrants reside in relatively environmentally poor areas and lived under poorer conditions than the residents

in other areas. The Geographical Information System (GIS) carried out revealed that there had been a drastic expansion of developed areas in Lagos leading to a rapid loss of biodiversity and other forms of environmental degradation.

This uncoordinated growth has consequently resulted into: a mosaic of shanties/ blighted areas in many older areas of the city; a mosaic of disjointed, badly serviced areas in terms of urban infrastructures such as roads, health centers, electricity, water, drainage systems, waste management. Lagos parades one of the highest numbers of uncompleted buildings among major cities in the world today. It has a high rate of urban sprawl, cases of property encroachment and unplanned changes to other land use types. Infrastructural development was at a rate lower than the influx of population and hence heaps of wastes were found in many localities far more than in the 1990s. In terms of urban expansion, whereas for low income areas of Agege LGA, the % of developed parts increased from 12.5% in 1962 to 100% in 2000 as against 3.4% increasing to 32.2% for high income Eti-Osa LGA in the same periods with concomitant population density. It was also found that the street foods and water consumed in low income LGAs were more contaminated than those of high income LGAs. The average income of the migrants was higher than those of their contemporaries in their places of origin.

Even though the State and the Local Governments had good plans for the development of these areas, implementation methodologies and finance were deficient. Land use changes and infrastructural development need to be planned and taken much more seriously for environmental sustainability and improvement in well-being to be achieved in Lagos and other Nigerian cities. Given the fact that migrants to Lagos transited in some towns, if the attractions that make people move to Lagos are available in the transiting towns, the problems arising from unplanned urban expansion would be greatly reduced. This observation enabled a migration map which can be used to stem migration to Lagos if employment opportunities and other socio-economic attractions can be provided in transit towns/cities and in deed in places of origin.