

Socio-Economic Dynamics of Slum Growth in Core Areas of Cities In Developing Nations – The Ado-Ekiti Example

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Abstract: Globalization and urbanization have been identified as having inherent capacity for the disarticulation and dislocation of a nation's socio-economic structure. This paper identified the socio-economic forces responsible for slum development in the core of Ado-Ekiti. The core area was delineated using the acquired google image which was processed using ArcView GIS software; Twelve Data Delineation Areas (DDAs) were identified, having: 2,930 buildings and 14,650 households. A 2.5% of households (368) was adopted as sample size. The landlord or the most senior household head was interviewed using a structured socio-economic questionnaire. The photograph of scenes of interest were taken to supplement information from the questionnaire. The DDAs formed the basis for questionnaire administration. Empirical analysis shows that there is poverty in the study area due to underemployment and low income. Government intervention through a holistic urban renewal and creation of enabling environment for job opportunities were proffered for a sustainable city core development in Nigeria and cities of developing nations of the world with similar characteristics.

Keywords: Ado-Ekiti, City-Core, Developing Nations, Economy, Social, and Slum.
Received: October 27, 2021. Revised: October 29, 2022. Accepted: November 25, 2022. Published: December 31, 2022.

1. Introduction and Review of Relevant Literature:

Slums are a constituent of urban deterioration. It has been described as a place of permanent abode which has become degenerated through ageing and neglect, [15]. Also, [3], enumerated 'poverty as a factor of slum formation' and revealed that 'congestion of buildings and people are potent factors creating opportunities for the emergence of low environmental quality and unsanitary conditions, which breeds contagious diseases and infections in such deplorable parts of urban areas'.

Urban slums are also settlements, neighborhoods, or city regions that cannot provide the basic living conditions necessary for its inhabitants to live in a safe and healthy environment, [9]. A household that is deficient in durable housing, sufficient living space, easy access to safe water, access to adequate sanitation and security tenure is experiencing slum conditions, [18].

Furthermore, George, [7], defines slum as 'a group of buildings, or an area characterized by overcrowding, deterioration, unsanitary conditions, or absence of facilities or amenities such as portable water, drainage system, schools, health facilities, recreational grounds, post office, etc; which because of these conditions or any of them endanger the health, safety, or morals of its inhabitants or the community'. In the opinion of [5], a slum is 'a highly populated urban residential area consisting mostly of closely packed, decrepit housing units in a situation of deteriorated or incomplete infrastructure, inhabited primarily by impoverished persons'.

However, [17], opines that 'a slum area lacks any form of government presence as core facilities such as water, sanitation, and solid waste gathering, and lodging structures are majorly sub-standard, which does not conform to neighborhood building regulations'.

From the ongoing and for the purpose of this study, a slum can be defined as a derelict, dilapidated, filthy

and overcrowded urban housing district with broken-down infrastructure which is unhealthy for human occupation.

However, a slum is a slum to whom it is a slum. A slum to some people/nation is a place of comfort and home to others. At this juncture, it is imperative to identify factors that inform people's judgement of what a slum actually is. For instance, factors such as unemployment, poverty, social status, income level, availability of job opportunities at the city center and professionalism of individuals among others, influence people's verdict on slum identification. For illustration, informal job opportunities abound in the slum areas of cities especially at the city centers. This phenomenon makes people relocate to city centers even when there are opportunities to live in other better parts of the city. A good example of this can be found in India, where the [19], posits that 'the share of urban Indians living in slums is 24% - about 100 million people; and the government, in an attempt to rectify this situation, made it a policy to give land to slum dwellers on the urban outskirts'. Since they were unable to secure jobs outside the city; they ended up selling the land or giving it to relatives, and returning to more centrally located slums. It is therefore evident that to these class of 'slum dwellers', who find solace in relocating to voluntarily to slum areas would never see anything decadent in living in slum areas neither would they call it slum, but home.

Again, slum dwellers are said to 'provide economic good as they subsidize the middle classes and the business world by providing a comparatively cheap source of labor' [4], [10]. It has also been argued that 'their low economic standing and general lack of education forces them to accept low-paying jobs that may not be readily accepted by middle- and upper-class people', [16]. Considering all these arguments, a low income earner, gainfully employed in the informal subsector at the city's blighted areas would never consider his work place or residence as a slum. In other words, the skill and level of education of individuals would judge his identification of a slum. So, a slum arena in the views and perceptions of a skilled worker such as a Medical Doctor or a Lawyer would not be a slum to a garbage collector or a cleaner at the city center.

Furthermore, [18], notes that 'the global housing crisis is responsible for slum conditions worldwide; with over 1.6 billion people living without adequate shelter'. Characteristically, life in the slums is not desirable as families are cut off from the most basic services and often have to deal with violence. City centers in developing nations, especially in Nigeria, are usually unplanned and are typically not connected to basic services such as clean water, sanitation and hygiene facilities. Slum residents are at great risk of contracting water-borne and respiratory diseases (e.g. due to overcrowding). Besides, high population density, lack of proper toilets and close propinquity of homes allow diseases to spread quickly. This phenomenon creates a real risk for large populations who are often unable to access adequate health facilities to get treatment in time.

Additionally, in most slum areas, especially in developing nations, city centers do not enjoy modern planning. The streets do not conform to any form of street pattern; the roads are in deplorable conditions and without drainage facilities; abrupt dead-end roads and buildings without any form of access abound. With all these, it is usually difficult for emergency and law enforcement vehicles to navigate as a result of unplanned and tightly woven pathways, without road signs resulting in difficulties monitoring and controlling crime and providing health services. This study, therefore, examines the socio-economic dynamics of residents in the core area of Ado Ekiti; investigates the environmental, housing and transportation characteristics in the study area in order to analyze the state of slums in the city.

2. Materials and Methods:

2.1 Research Locale: The study area is the core of Ado Ekiti. Ado-Ekiti is the cultural headquarters of the homogenous people of Ekiti which became the capital city following the creation of Ekiti State on 1st October, 1996. Prior to this development, the city was the headquarters of Ado Local Government Area in the old Ondo State, a state that was in itself carved out of the former Western region of Nigeria on February 3, 1976. Presently, Ado Ekiti plays the dual role of a Local Government headquarter, of Ado Local Government Area and the State Capital of Ekiti State.

This dual role has necessitated the convergence of government ministries and parastatals in Ado Ekiti; and has attracted people from other neighboring towns and villages culminating in population rise and consequent competition for housing and other facilities in the city especially at the city core. The city has therefore witnessed a phenomenal growth in population since its creation. From a total population of 127,579 in 1991, the city's population was estimated at 199,753 in 2004, [12]. By 2006, the population had risen to 2,384,212, [12]. The projected population of Ekiti State is 3,728,803 applying the 2.5% growth rate and the 2006 Census figure as the base population. Ekiti State is made up of three (3) Senatorial Districts – Ekiti Central, Ekiti North and Ekiti South. The State is located in the tropical climate region with distinct wet and dry seasons, [2]. It is located between Latitude $7^{\circ} 31'$ and $7^{\circ} 49'$ North of the equator and Longitudes $5^{\circ} 7'$ and $5^{\circ} 27'$ East of the Greenwich Meridian. It is bounded on the North by Kwara and Kogi States; Osun State to the West; Edo State to the East; and Ondo State to the South. Ekiti State is a landlocked State and hence has no coastal boundary. Agriculture is the main occupation of the people, which provides income and employment to over 75% of the population. Some of the cash crops grown include cocoa, oil palm, kola nut, cashew, citrus etc; while food crops grown are rice, yam, cassava, maize and cowpea among others.

[1], notes that the core area of Ado Ekiti is populated by the low income earners and sparingly by indigenous wealthy people who are inclined to living in the area as a result of attachment to traditional ties, culture and rites. The core of Ado Ekiti, cover places such as: Idolofin, Okeila, Okeyinmi, Ogbon Ado, Odo Ado, Irona, Ereguru, Mugbagba, Oke Agidi, Inisanya, Ilado, Ugbalitere, Imayo, OkeAge, Ojido, Imayo, Idemo, Ogbon Oba, Aremu, Orereowu, Okeoriomi and Atikankan, [1]. The maps of Nigeria, Ekiti State and Ado Ekiti showing the study area in its national regional and local settings are as shown in Fig. 1.

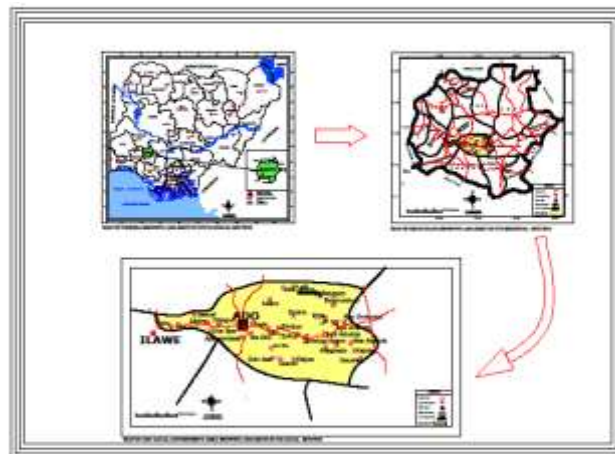


Fig. 1: Map of the Study Area in Its National, Regional and Local Settings
Source: Ministry of Surveys, Abuja (Digitized in AutoCAD) by the Author.

2.2 The Database: This paper delineates the core area of Ado-Ekiti from the acquired Google image of the city and examines the socio-economic characteristics of residents in the study area. The google image of the study area was analyzed using ArcView GIS software. Accurate distances and areas were calculated to supplement data on questionnaire administration. Characteristics such as the occupation, level of income, employment, education, length of stay in the area, number of persons per household, number of persons per room and marital status among others were investigated. Table 1 shows the definition of research variables adopted for this study.

Table 1: Definition of research variables.

S/n	Var. Name	Scalar Prop.	Variable Specific.	Measurement Scale
1.	SEX	Nom.	Sex	1=male, 2=Female
2.	AGE	Inter.	Age of respondents	1=16-30yrs, 2=31-45yrs, 3=46-60yrs, 4=above 60 yrs.
3.	MARRY	Nom.	Marital status	1=Single, 2=Married, 3=Divorced; 4=Widowed
4.	FAITH	Nom.	Religion	1=Traditional; 2=Christianity; 3=Islamic; 4=Others specify.

5.	OCCUP	Nom.	Occupation	1=farmer; 2=Civil/Public Servant; 3=Trading/Busine ss; 4=Artisan 5=Driver; 6=Others Specify
6.	INCOM E	Inter.	Monthly income	1=Below N30,000; 2=N30,000- N100,000; 3=N101,000- N150,000; 4=151,000- N200,000; 5=Above N200,000
7.	EDUC	Nom.	Level of education	1=No formal education; 2=Primary; 3=Secondary; 4=Post-Secondary.
8.	HHSIZ E	Inter.	Household size.	1=below 5; 2=6- 10; 3=11-15; 4=above 16
9.	LESTA Y	Inter.	Length of stay	1=below 10yrs; 2=11-15yrs; 3=16- 20yrs; 4=Above 20 yrs.
10.	NUMW IF	Nom.	Number of wives	1=1 wife; 2=2 wives; 3=More than 2 wives
11.	NUMC	Inter.	Number of Children	1=1 Child; 2=2-4 Children; 3=More than 4 Children

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2019

The Core area was delineated into Data Delineation areas using the Google image of the study area as shown in Fig. 2. The projected population figure for Ado-Ekiti in 2004 was put at 199,753, [12]. About 50% of the city population lives in the Core Area, [13], while the average family size in Nigeria is estimated at 7, [6]. Based on the above data, it implies that there were about 14,650 households in the core area of Ado Ekiti. For this research, a total sum of 368 households amounting to 2.5% was adopted for questionnaire administration based on suitability, land area, and homogenous characteristics permeating the study area (Table 2).

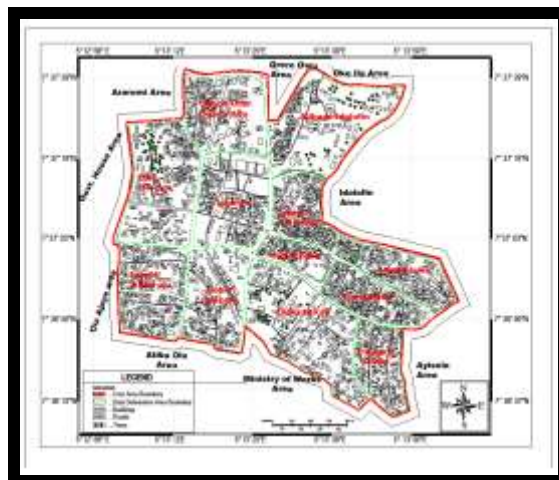


Fig. 2: Data Delineation Areas in the Core Area of Ado-Ekiti.

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2019

Table 2: Sampling in Data Delineation Areas (DDAs) of Ado-Ekiti

S/n	DDA	Total No. of bldgs.	Est. No of H-hold. (c*5)	2.5% of H-hold. (d* 0.025)
(a)	(b)	(c)	(d)	(e)
1.	Oke Ori	346	1730	43
2.	Igbihin	191	955	25
3.	Igbole/Atiba Olu	340	1700	43
4.	Ogbon Ado/Ogbon Oba	220	1100	28
5.	Irona/Okebola	208	1040	26
6.	Olokuta/Faji	321	1605	40
7.	Iro/Agric Olope	182	910	23
8.	Idofin/Ilaro	269	1345	29
9.	Ojido/Ijigbo	122	610	16
10.	Ajibade/Idolofin	192	960	24
11.	Imayo/Oke-Age	335	1675	42
12.	Idemo Inisa	204	1020	26
Total		2,930	14,650	368

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

The household survey research questionnaire was adopted for this study. It consists of structured questions traversing the socio-economic

characteristics of the respondents. Other instruments employed included the use of direct observation methods with the aid of cameras to capture sites of interest.

3 Data Analysis and Discussion of

Results: Data analysis and discussion of results are as shown in sections 3.1, 3.2, 3.3 and 3.4.

3.1 Delineating the Core Area of Ado-Ekiti:

The core of Ado-Ekiti was delimited using the google image of the study area. The Google image was loaded in AutoCAD environment, digitized, georeferenced and corrected for rotational error. The drafted map in AutoCAD was exported to ArcView GIS environment where distances and areas were calculated. From the ArcView analysis, the delimited core area covers a total land area of 173.647 hectares with a perimeter distance of 7.327km. The study area which happens to be the oldest residential portion of the city, conforms to the general morphology of the traditional core areas of *Yoruba* cities, with the major elements, which include the palace, the king's market (Oja-Oba), post office and the community/town hall among others.

The core area of Ado-Ekiti is an incidental center. The core was not planned but evolved due to the concentration of activities around notable infrastructure at the center. In *Yorubaland* the King is known as the *Oba*. He is the paramount ruler of his community. Traditionally, the Oba's palace is usually located at the center of most traditional cities in South West, Nigeria. Very close to the Oba's palace is the Oba's market which has traditional tie with the life of the Oba. During colonial rule, the colonialists built post offices very close to the Oba's palace for security reasons. The community hall is also located close to the Oba's palace to ensure a short commuting distance for the Oba whenever he meets with the people.

From the ongoing, it is very clear that all other facilities such as the primary school, banks, police post, fire stations etc., revolve around the Oba's palace. In delineating the core area of Ado-Ekiti, all these facilities were captured. About 1km around the Oba's palace was adopted to achieve the delineation. Some of the popular streets close to the Oba's palace

(and within the 1km radius) include the Ogbon Oba (Oba's street), Ogbon Ado, Ereguru, Igbehin, Irona, Ojido, Okebola, Irode, Oke Age, Oke-Oriomi and Ugbalitere among others. The Google image covering the study area is as shown in Figure 2.



Figure 2: Google Image of the Core of Ado Ekiti
Source: Authors' Fieldwork (2019)

3.2 Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents

Table 2 shows the socio-economic characteristics of respondents in the study area. From Table 2, cumulatively, the proportion of persons in the younger age groups is substantially larger (89.7%) than the proportion in the older age groups (10.3%). This finding reflects the young age structure of the Nigerian population and is an indication of a population with high fertility, [11]. A population that increases drastically unabated without a corresponding increase in infrastructure provision could lead to a slum situation.

It is also obvious from Table 2 that male respondents constitute about 48.9% of the total number of respondents while the female respondents constitute the remaining 51.1%. This finding agrees with the United Nations World's Women, [20], that 'working-age women in developed and developing countries are more likely to be poorer than men when they have dependant children and no partners to contribute to the household income or when their own income is non-existent or too low to support the entire family'. With a higher proportion of women occupying the

city core, it is obvious that they could be at the receiving end of the aftermath of the slum crisis. For instance, they are the one who travel long distances in search of potable water during the dry seasons, [13].

The marital status of respondents shows that 53.5% were married, while 20.7%, 17.4% and 8.4% were widowed, single and divorced respectively. With the majority of respondents being married and young, the rate of procreation could be high and the population could increase without commensurable increase in infrastructure development. This development could trickle down to a full-blown slum situation.

On income level of respondents, Table 2 also shows that about 57.3% of respondents earn between ₦5,000-₦10,000 per month; while those who earn slightly above the new National Minimum wage of ₦30,000 per month constitute 10.3% of the total number of respondents. Cumulatively, over 89.7% of respondents earn below the controversial New National Minimum Wage (NNMW) of thirty-thousand naira (USD66.0). This finding agrees with, [14], in a similar study on Akure, Ondo State, South-Western Nigeria, where over 80% of residents were documented to ‘live below the United Nations recommended \$1.0 per day’. It is obvious that the income of the people has an impact on their way of life, quality of housing and infrastructure they can afford at any point in time. If the tide of poverty is not checked in the study area, the situation could grow worse and aggravate to a full-blown slum situation.

Analysis on occupation shows 52.4% of respondents are involved in trading/business in the study area. Other occupations of respondents included farming (10.6%), public service (17.9%), artisanship (12.0%), and driving (7.1%). The high percentage of respondents involved in trading could be as a result of the core area being the commercial hub of the city. Trading activities in textiles, agricultural products and foodstuffs among others are common in the study area. These activities generate a lot of solid waste which if not properly managed could decimate the aesthetic of the study area, and enhance flooding hazard.

Table 2: Socio-Economic Characteristics of Respondents (N=368)

Var.	Freq.	Percent
Age of Respondents		
16-30yrs	83	22.6
31-45yrs	138	37.5
46-60yrs	109	29.6
above 60yrs	38	10.3
Sex of Respondents		
Male	180	48.9
Female	188	51.1
Marital Status of Respondents		
Single	64	17.4
Married	197	53.5
Divorced	31	8.4
Widowed	76	20.7
Monthly Income Level of Respondents		
₦5,000-₦10,000	211	57.3
₦11,000-₦15,000	107	29.1
₦16,000-₦20,000	8	2.2
₦21,000-₦30,000	4	1.1
above ₦30,000	38	10.3
Occupation of Respondents		
Farming	39	10.6
Civil service	66	17.9
Trading	193	52.4
Artisans	44	12.0
Driving	26	7.1
Level of Education of Respondents		
No formal education	91	24.7
Primary	69	18.8
Secondary	129	35.1
Post-Secondary	79	21.5

Source: Authors’ Fieldwork, 2019

On the level of education of respondents, Table 2 also reveals that 24.7% of respondents have no

formal education; while 18.8%, 35.1% and 21.5% have primary, secondary and tertiary educational qualifications respectively. This trend shows that the majority of respondents are literate and could understand the basis of the research and could give appropriate responses making the data capturing processes valid and reliable. This development in the level of education also shows that the residents are aware of the evil of living in a slum condition but, certain social ties are attracting them to the core area. Observation shows that one of these social ties could be inheritance of landed property at the core which is a source of wealth as they attract high prizes. Generally, people do not naturally move away from their source of wealth, hence, perpetual addition to the core population which exacerbates the slum situation.

3.3 Length of Stay of Respondents:

Table 3 shows the length of stay of respondents in the core of Ado-Ekiti. About 36.4% of respondents established to have stayed in the study area for at least 10 years. Cumulatively, Table 3 shows that the majority of respondents (63.6%) have stayed in the study area for between 11 and 20 years. This trend shows that the current situation of poverty, poor housing facilities and poor environmental quality have tolerated overtime (see Fig. 3) in the study area. If this condition persists unchecked, a full blown slum condition is imminent.

Table 3: Length of Stay of Respondents in Core of Ado-Ekiti

Period (years)	Freq.	Percent
Below 10 yrs	134	36.4
11-15		22.3
16-20yrs	58	15.8
Above 20yrs	94	25.5
Total	368	100.0

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2019



Fig. 3: Typical buildings with eroded foundation and rustic roofs

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2019

Fig. 3 shows two photographs: the one on the left hand side depicts a typical foundation of most buildings in the core of Ado-Ekiti which had been eroded due to incessant flooding. The photograph at the right hand side shows the rustic condition of roofing materials in the core of Ado-Ekiti. The roofing materials are corroded and falling off, confirming the obsolescence of the buildings. The inserted arrow in the photograph is pointing to a used car tyre put in place to hold the roofing sheet from being blown off by the wind.

3.4 Household Size of Respondents:

According to Haviland (2003), 'a household consists of two or more persons who live in the same dwelling. It may be of a single family or another type of person group'. Table 4 shows the household size configuration in the core of Ado-Ekiti.

Table 4: Household Size of Respondents in CoreArea of Ado-Ekiti

Household Size	Frequency	Percent
below 5 people	140	38.0
5-10 people	202	54.9
11-15 people	22	6.0
above 16 people	4	1.1
Total	368	100.0

Source: Author's Fieldwork, 2019

From Table 4, it is evident that about 54.9% of respondents have family members between 6-10 people; those with household size below 5 people constitute about 38.0%. Cumulatively, households

having family members more than 10 people constitute about 7.1% of the total number of respondents. On the average, a typical household in the study area is (five) 5. This finding corroborates the NDHS (2003) report that the average household size in Nigeria is 5 (five). With an average of 7 households in a building (Fasakin, 2001), there would be an average of 35 persons per building. This population per building is too high, especially where most of the buildings do not have toilets and kitchen facilities and are flooded during the rains (Figs. 4 and 5).



Fig. 4: A Typical flooded building at Irona Street, Ado-Ekiti

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019



Fig. 5: A typical kitchen facility at Oke-Age Area of Ado-Ekiti

Source: Authors' Fieldwork, 2019

Fig. 4 shows a flooded area at Irona street, Ado Ekiti, where flooding has led to erosion hazards and rendered buildings vulnerable to deterioration and consequent collapse. Figure 5 shows typical kitchens built with corrugated iron sheets, littering and

polluting the cityscape. Eye witness shows that the major source of energy for cooking is the firewood, which generates a lot of smoke that could inhibit the health of users. The kitchens are usually hot and stuffy during cooking sessions, thus causing air pollution. The living housing conditions depicted above are inimical to health of residents and are the foundation of slum development.

4. Summary, Conclusion and Recommendations:

From Google image map analysis, the delineated Core of Ado-Ekiti covers a total land area of about 9.684 hectares with a building population of 14,650, housing about 102,550 populations. Empirical analysis shows that the majority of respondents in the study area are youths within the age bracket of 31-60 years. The proportion of female respondents (59.1%) is higher than that of their male counterparts (48.9%). Over 53.0% of respondents are married; while 57.3% live on a monthly income of between 20-30 dollars which in most cases is less than 1 dollar per day. The major occupation is trading which is mostly done by women. The literacy level is high with 74.4% in that category. Also, the majority of respondents (63.6%) have lived in the study area for an average of 11 and 20 years. Generally, the housing condition is poor and in nauseating environments. The average household size in the study area is between 5-10 people who stay in houses without kitchens and toilets.

From the on-going, it is evident that the majority of residents in the study area are the active population requiring better employment opportunities to boost their economic base. There is a tendency for the population to increase rapidly due to the high number of married people and youths; which could further worsen their condition of living as existing infrastructural facilities are stressed and without repair or replacement. Poverty is very potent in the study area as the majority of respondents do not earn up to one dollar per day. The high literacy level could be an advantage in future campaigns for better housing and living environments.

Based on empirical findings and their planning implications, it is clear that the link between effective economic development and city growth is missing in

the study area. This study therefore recommends that the state government should as a matter of urgency declare a state of emergency on infrastructure provision to curb the development of a full-blown slum condition. The infrastructure emergency policy should consider provision of employment opportunities for the teeming youth population; the local and state governments need to empower traders financially to boost their daily income and alleviate the level of poverty among the people and; the State Government also need to undergo a systematic urban renewal projects in the study area to alleviate the living and environmental conditions of the people.

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