



### **‘Land, livelihoods and housing’ Themes for Research Agenda 2019-2022**

This document is based on the activities undertaken through the ‘Land, livelihoods and housing’ Programme 2015-18, at the Integrated Land Management Institute (ILMI). The list is not exhaustive and has a particular focus on urban development as it is one of the most underdeveloped areas of inquiry currently in Namibia.

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The relative impact of state-supported initiatives in urban development; e.g. Build Together Programme, National Housing Enterprise, Shack Dwellers Federation of Namibia.

*Can the impact of public funds in urban development be measured and assessed?*

Unpacking the question of ‘compact cities’ and efficiency in land use in urban areas

*What are the possibilities within the current framework to develop ‘compact cities’? What are existing examples (e.g. inner-city Government flats) and how can we learn from these? What can be the criteria to define ‘unused’ and ‘under-utilised’ land?*

Namibia’s ‘system of cities’:

*Can Namibia’s urban areas be understood as a ‘system’? If so, what are their current functions, and which are the potentials that exist?*

Territorial development strategy

*What are the actual development potentials across the national territory? What are the regional potentials?*

Contemporary trends in growth and shrinkage of urban areas in Namibia.

*Are Namibia’s urban areas growing through migration and/or the growth of the population already inhabiting them? Are all urban areas growing or are there some that don’t? What are the different rates at which urban areas grow/shrink?*

Measuring public expenditure in urban development.

*How can public expenditure in urban development be measured? How has this investment changed throughout the years? What is ‘common practice’ internationally and where does Namibia stand in relation to it?*

Defining socio-economic categories to assess intervention ‘target groups’ in urban development.

*What is the actually existing socioeconomic profile of Namibia? Which categories are best suitable for the Namibian case? What are the actually existing affordability levels nationally?*

Community finance mechanisms in Namibia, possibilities and potentials for scaling up.

*What are the mechanisms that have worked in Namibia (e.g. SDFN, Build Together Programme) and what are potentials to develop them?*

Climate adaptation strategies for Namibia’s urban future

*How can the climate change policies and national plans be understood with respect to urban development? What implications would these strategies have in terms of current national and local interventions?*

**Livelihoods for Namibia's urban future**

*What are the implications of current and future labour situations for Namibia's urban development? What are the actually existing economies providing sustenance to urban households? How can existing plans and activities support these?*

**The relevance of 'titling' as a strategy to secure land rights for the urban poor**

*What is the impact that titling has on low-income households? What are the ways that have proven to secure land rights in Namibia apart from freehold titles?*

**Monitoring 'flexible land tenure' (FLT)**

*What is the relative impact of FLT among beneficiaries and their surrounds?*

**Local government funding and fiscal aspects**

*What has been the support that local government has received historically in Namibia? What is the international practice with regards to local government funding? What are the potentials for fiscal reform?*

**Land allocation mechanisms in urban areas**

*How have the current land allocation mechanisms in urban areas performed? What is the international practice with regards to land allocation mechanisms?*

**Gender and urban development**

*What are the rights of women in urban development? What could a gender-sensitive urban development strategy entail?*

**The youth agenda in urban development**

*What are the rights of the youth in urban development? What could an urban development strategy putting the youth at the centre entail?*

**The meaning of the 'New Urban Agenda' for Namibia**

*What are the implications of Namibia's commitment to the NUA? What are the aspects that need further research to support a NUA Action Plan for Namibia?*

**Spatial information systems contributing to urban development**

*What are the current information systems on urban development available today? Are they harmonized/coordinated? How can they support central/local government, academia, private sector, and practitioners?*

**Namibia's national spatial dynamics**

*What are the socio-spatial synergies and inefficiencies taking place within Namibia's territory (urban-rural areas)? What are the flows (economic people) across the country?*

**National overview of the state of bulk infrastructure and its financing**

*What is the current state of bulk infrastructure supporting urban development in Namibia (e.g. roads, storm water management, sewerage reticulation and treatment, water storage and reticulation, electricity, waste management and ICT)? What are the international practices with regards to funding infrastructure?*

**Progress in redressing unequal urban development legacies**

*What progress has been made in redressing urban development processes inherited from Apartheid?*

**Land value trends and projections**

*What have been the historical changes with regards to land values? What can be the foreseeable changes?*

**Supply chains in urban development**

*What are the existing supply chains in urban development in Namibia? What are the untapped local resources?*

**Adequate housing and displacement**

*What is the local meaning of 'the right to adequate housing' that Namibia has committed to observe? What is the extent of displacement and evictions nationally?*

**An environmental agenda for urban development in Namibia**

*What would be the meaning of a 'sustainable' open/public/'green' space be in the context of Namibia? What would an environmental agenda entail for urban areas in Namibia?*

**Rental markets and private sector interventions**

*What are the possibilities of an affordable rental sector? What would be the scope for private investment in the rental market?*

**Informal land transactions**

*What are the ways in which land is currently transacted? How can these activities inform policy?*

**Sanitation strategies**

*What are the sanitation systems that have been implemented in Namibia? What have been the experiences? What are the scalable sanitation systems that would be most adequate to the local context?*

**Transport and mobility agenda**

*How can transportation strategies contribute to re-shaping urban areas in Namibia?*

**OUTREACH ASPECTS  
(Accompanying measures to the research agenda)**

**Urban Campaign**

*A permanent platform to acquaint general public about basic aspect of urban development in Namibia aiming to embed the knowledge produced by the university within a broader public.*

**Local councillor training programme**

*In partnership with Namibia Institute for Public Administration and Management (NIPAM), develop a training programme on urban development targeting local councillors nationwide.*

**Youth outreach**

*School visits to acquaint learners about urban development and the disciplines that are involved.*

**Urban forum**

*A multi-stakeholder platform for engagement on urbanization topics nationally, regionally and beyond.*