

# DEVELOPMENT AND PLANNING IN AFRICAN CITIES: EXPLORING THEORIES, POLICIES AND PRACTICES FROM SIERRA LEONE

## WEEK 1 Introduction to development and planning

### STEP 1.1 Welcome to the course (VIDEO)

#### Video

This video is available via UCL Media Central. The video can be downloaded using an icon below the video.

<https://mediacentral.ucl.ac.uk/Play/13992>

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**Welcome to our course, Development and Planning in African Cities.**

**Your Lead Educators are Dr Andrea Rigon, Director of Studies, Bartlett Development Planning Unit at University College London, and Dr Joseph Macarthy, Executive Director, Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre, Njala University. You will also be assisted by Alexander Stone, Higher Education Officer at the Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre.**

Let's begin!

What will we learn?

At the end of these four weeks, you should be able to:

- understand how different processes interact and shape the urban development of a city
- demonstrate an understanding of some key development and planning issues in African cities through a justice and spatial lens
- gain an increased understanding of the tensions between wider theories and regional processes on one hand, and the exceptionality and complexity of specific urban contexts on the other
- understand the specific and different roles and challenges of each actor in urban planning and development processes
- demonstrate an understanding of Freetown urban challenges and potential solutions.

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Our approach will involve reflections from experts in diverse academic and professional fields with a wealth of experience in development and planning in African cities. These will be complemented with inputs from urban residents and case studies. We suggest that you turn on the subtitles for the videos because the contributors come from different parts of the world and have different accents. Moreover, some of the videos were shot outside in the vibrant and noisy city of Freetown.

A crucial part of the course is your participation in the collective reflections. Remember that each step features a comments area that you can use to share your thoughts and experiences. When you feel happy with the material and ideas covered in a step, please mark it as complete before using the arrow to move on. You can check your progress using the Progress tab at the top of each page.

We hope that you will find the course material thought-provoking and engaging. We very much look forward to learning with you, and hope you enjoy our course.

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