

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

## WEEK 2 Urban land and informalities

### STEP 2.16 Taking learning further (DISCUSSION)

This week, we started off dealing with the fundamental issue of urban land. We discussed the diversity of meanings, functions and values of urban land, and the challenges in gaining access to it.

We have learned about the spatial injustice of having to create land from the sea in order to have a place to live in the city, and the limitations of constant eviction threats which undermine the capacity of residents to plan and invest in their future.

We then introduced the discussion on urban informalities, demonstrating how this distinction is problematic and used politically to label some activities as undesirable. We demonstrated the importance of the activities of informal settlement residents to a city such as Freetown.

#### Going deeper

You could download the full SLURC research report on Urban livelihoods in Freetown informal settlements.

#### Next week

Building on the learning of this week, we will explore two crucial issues: urban governance and participatory planning.

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