



MAURITIUS: PORT LOUIS URBAN PROFILE



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UNITED NATIONS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS PROGRAMME

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FOREWORDS



According to research published in UN-Habitat's¹ flagship report, *The State of the World's Cities 2010-2011*, all developing regions, including the African, Caribbean and Pacific states, will have more people living in urban than rural areas by the year 2030. With half the world's

population already living in urban areas, the challenges we face in the battle against urban poverty, our quest for cities without slums, for cities where women feel safer, for inclusive cities with power, water and sanitation, and affordable transport, for better planned cities, and for cleaner, greener cities is daunting.

But as this series shows, there are many interesting solutions and best practices to which we can turn. After all, the figures tell us that during the decade 2000 to 2010, a total of 227 million people in the developing countries moved out of slum conditions. In other words, governments, cities and partner institutions have collectively exceeded the slum target of the Millennium Development Goals twice over and ten years ahead of the agreed 2020 deadline.

Asia and the Pacific stood at the forefront of successful efforts to reach the slum target, with all governments in the region improving the lives of an estimated 172 million slum dwellers between 2000 and 2010.

In sub-Saharan Africa though, the total proportion of the urban population living in slums has decreased by only 5 per cent (or 17 million people). Ghana, Senegal, Uganda, and Rwanda were the most successful countries in the sub-region, reducing the proportions of slum dwellers by over one-fifth in the last decade.

Some 13 per cent of the progress made towards the global slum target occurred in Latin America and the Caribbean, where an estimated 30 million people have moved out of slum conditions since the year 2000.

Yet, UN-Habitat estimates confirm that the progress made on the slum target has not been sufficient to counter the demographic expansion in informal settlements in the developing world. In this sense, efforts to reduce the numbers of slum dwellers are neither satisfactory nor adequate.

As part of our drive to address this crisis, UN-Habitat is working with the European Commission and the Brussels-based Secretariat of the African, Caribbean and Pacific (ACP) Group to support sustainable urban development. Given the urgent and diverse needs, we found it necessary to develop a tool for rapid assessment and strategic planning to guide immediate, mid and long-term interventions. And here we have it in the form of this series of publications.

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is based on the policy dialogue between UN-Habitat, the ACP Secretariat and the European Commission which dates back to the year 2002. When the three parties met at UN-Habitat headquarters in June 2009, more than 200 delegates from over 50 countries approved a resounding call on the international community to pay greater attention to these urbanization matters, and to extend the slum upgrading programme to all countries in the ACP Group.

It is worth recalling here how grateful we are that the European Commission's 9th European Development Fund for ACP countries provided EUR 4 million (USD 5.7 million at June 2011 rates) to enable UN-Habitat to conduct the programme which now serves 59 cities in 23 African countries, and more than 20 cities in six Pacific, and four Caribbean countries.

Indeed, since its inception in 2008, the slum upgrading programme has achieved the confidence of partners at city and country level in Africa, the Caribbean and in the Pacific. It is making a major contribution aimed at helping in urban poverty reduction efforts, as each report in this series shows."

I wish to express my gratitude to the European Commission and the ACP Secretariat for their commitment to this slum upgrading programme. I have every confidence that the results outlined in this profile, and others, will serve to guide the development of responses for capacity building and investments in the urban sector.

Further, I would like to thank each Country Team for their continued support to this process which is essential for the successful implementation of the Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Joan Clos'. The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Dr. Joan Clos
Executive Director, UN-HABITAT

¹ UN-HABITAT - United Nations Human Settlements Programme



The aim of the first phase of UN - Habitat's Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme is to review the urban situation and analyse the development needs to enhance the urban sector.

It is a matter of great interest for the City of Port Louis to have been chosen, along with the town of

Beau Bassin-Rose Hill and the Black River District, for this ambitious project. Such a project will definitely help to identify - through research and consultations with various authorities, institutions, pressure groups, non-governmental organisations, and the local population - the right policies, strategies and means to implement these policies for better living conditions and a healthier environment.

We all know that slums dwellers do not have access to basic services such as water, sewerage and electricity. Their living environment is very precarious and a threat to human life. Sanitary conditions in the slums are also a health risk not only for the slum inhabitants but also for those living outside the slums.

The policies and strategies of action will have to account for the specific conditions of each region while adapting to the population's requirements as well as sustainability. Another vital element to be considered is the issue of climate change. Efforts of competent authorities should focus on replacing slums with decent living spaces. Better living conditions, in present times, means secure conditions to face extreme consequences of climate change such as scarcity of water and food.

The feedback obtained from these three localities will ultimately serve the same purpose of slum upgrading for other regions and will give way to a new development concept for the whole island.

Dr Mahmud Aniff KODABACCUS

The Lord – Mayor of Port Louis

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

INTRODUCTION

The Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme (PSUP) is an accelerated and action-oriented urban assessment of needs and capacity-building gaps at the city level. The programme is supported by funds from the European Commission's European Development Fund and it is currently being implemented in more than 30 African, Caribbean and Pacific countries. PSUP uses a structured approach where priority interventions are agreed upon through consultative processes. The PSUP methodology consists of three phases: (1) a rapid participatory urban profiling at national and local levels, focusing on Governance, Local Economic Development, Land, Gender, Environment, Slums and Shelter, Basic Urban Services, and Waste Management, and proposed interventions; (2) detailed priority proposals; and (3) project implementation. PSUP in Mauritius encompasses a national profile, as well as profiles for Port Louis, Beau Bassin-Rose Hill and Black River, each published as a separate report. This is the Port Louis City report and it constitutes a general background, a synthesis of the nine themes; land tenure and management; governance and urban planning; infrastructure and basic urban services; municipal revenue collection; local economic development; housing and deprived and vulnerable areas; gender; security; and environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction, and priority project proposals.

LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

Land is at the heart of urban planning. Unfortunately, municipalities have no say in land management. The Ministry of Housing and Lands makes all the decisions regarding State land management. However, due to population increase, Port Louis is now suffering from land shortage. Squatters can be seen in the town's suburbs such as Cité la Cure, Karo Kaliptis, Bangladesh, Roche Bois, and Vallee Pitot.

The Municipal council needs to ensure that the poor have access to serviced land in order to reduce squatting.

GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING

Mauritius has a participatory and democratic system of governance. Councillors are elected by city residents while the mayor is elected from among the councillors.

Mandated by the provisions of the Local Government Act of 2011, the local authorities depends mostly on the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands which has political and financial powers.

BASIC URBAN SERVICES

The city suffers from uncontrolled urbanization and the demands placed on the existing service infrastructure such as water, electricity and refuse collection. The current basic urban services supply is inadequate to meet the demands of the increasing urban population.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION

The main municipal revenues collected are land rates, business licenses and fees, building permits, and user fees. Tourism also generates a lot of revenue for the municipal council.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Port Louis is the commercial and communication hub for Mauritius and it offers various economic opportunities. The presence of the port, the head offices of all major businesses, the central market of the city, and various manufacturing activities contribute to making Port Louis the economic hub of the country.

HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS

Port Louis has experienced high population growth resulting in the proliferation of uncontrolled squatter settlements. Certain areas of the city are characterized by poor infrastructure and a shortage of basic urban services such as water, refuse collection and electricity. Residents of squatter settlements are vulnerable to natural disasters due to their poor state of housing. However, the municipality has not devoted a special budget for the rehabilitation of these illegal settlements. The Ministry of Housing and Lands in collaboration with the National Empowerment Foundation is responsible for constructing low cost housing which is affordable to the poor.

GENDER

Despite governments' efforts to address gender equality, gender disparities continue to exist in Mauritius. The government supports gender equality and affirmative action for women. However, women still face a lot of challenges and are not represented in the decision making process.

SECURITY

Urban Security is the responsibility of the Mauritius Police Force. Port Louis has 11 police stations situated in various parts of the town. The rate of crime in the town has been on the decline since 2005. However, the concentration in Port Louis of public and private sector structures, particularly small enterprises, calls for more substantial resources to effectively maintain safety and security in the city.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Environment and climate change are developmental issues which have a huge impact on any community. Remedial measures to reverse the harmful effects of climate change cannot be confined only to the national level but must also be translated into rules and regulations at municipal level. In this context, the Environment Protection Act of 2007 (as Amended) is the reference framework for environment protection and management.

BACKGROUND

INTRODUCTION

The Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps and existing institutional responses at the local and national level. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, and development partners. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. Urban Profiling is being implemented in several African, Caribbean and Pacific countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. In Mauritius, Port Louis, Beau Bassin/Rose Hill and Black River have been selected for the urban profiling. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for national and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

METHODOLOGY

Urban Profiling consists of three phases:

Phase one consists of rapid profiling of urban conditions at national and local levels. The capital city, a medium size city and a small town are selected and studied to provide a representative sample in each country. The analysis focuses on nine important themes: land tenure and management; governance and urban planning; infrastructure and basic urban services; municipal revenue collection; local economic development; housing and deprived and vulnerable areas; gender; security; and environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction. Information is collected through standard interviews and discussions with institutions and key informants, in order to assess the strengths, weaknesses, opportunities, and threats (SWOT) of the national and local urban set-ups. The findings are presented and refined during city and national consultation workshops and consensus is reached regarding priority interventions. National and city reports synthesis the information collected and outline ways forward to reduce urban poverty through holistic approaches.

Phase two builds on the priorities identified through pre-feasibility studies and develops detailed capacity building and capital investment projects.

Phase three implements the projects developed during the two earlier phases, with an emphasis on

skills development, institutional strengthening and replication. This report presents the outcomes of Phase One of the Urban Profiling in Port Louis.

URBAN PROFILING IN PORT LOUIS

Urban Profiling in Port Louis is one of three similar exercises conducted in Beau Bassin-Rose Hill, Black River and nationally. Each urban profile is published as a separate report.

Port Louis representatives participated in the national and city consultation processes, a partnership platform co-developed with the Ministry of Housing and Lands and national and international non-governmental organizations (NGOs). The aim was to develop options for formal inter-agency collaboration in order to create a coordination body integrating a wide range of urban stakeholders in a single response mechanism.

REPORT STRUCTURE

This report consists of:

1. a general background of the urban sector in Port Louis, based on the findings of the Port Louis assessment report, a desk study and interviews. The background includes data on administration, urban planning, economy, the informal and private sectors, poverty, infrastructure, water, sanitation, public transport, energy, health, and education;
2. a synthetic assessment of nine main areas - land tenure and management; governance and urban planning; infrastructure and basic urban services; municipal revenue collection; local economic development; housing and deprived and vulnerable areas; gender; security; and environment, climate change and disaster risk reduction, in terms of the institutional set-up, regulatory framework, resource mobilization and performance; and
3. a SWOT analysis and an outline of priority project proposals.

THE MUNICIPAL COUNCIL OF PORT LOUIS

Located on the northwest coast of the island, Port Louis, the capital city of Mauritius, is characterized by its administrative importance as well as the buoyancy of economic and commercial activities.

The resident population of the city is estimated at 148,780 Inhabitants and reflects the multi-ethnic composition of the national population.

Built during the French occupation, under the administration of Governor Mahé de Labourdonnais, Port Louis is now the 82nd most pleasant city

in the world, according to the Mercer Quality of Living Survey – Worldwide Rankings, 2011. The city is top five in the Middle East and Africa (<http://www.mercer.com/qualityofliving>).

Cultural heritage contributes to the wealth of a city. The Central Hall (18th century), the Champ de Mars, the Museum of Natural History, Anglican and Catholic Cathedrals, the Jumma Mosque, the Theatre, and the Museum of Photography are the commonly visited heritage sites in the town. The city is currently renovating the Caudan Waterfront which is a prominent cultural heritage site in the city.

LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT



Source: photo, Vahy

Land constitutes a major economic and political challenge. Land policies have a significant impact on the development of territories and the country's ability to meet the challenges of sustainable management of natural resources, and the fight against poverty and inequality.

In Mauritius, municipalities have no say in land management. All land decisions rest with the Ministry of Housing and Lands.

Squatting is a big challenge for the town's authorities. Squatters can be found in various areas such as Caroline and Cité La Cure where shelters were built on private property. These shelters are characterized by lack of basic urban services.

However, land is critical for urban development and for future expansion. The City of Port Louis is one of the few Local Authorities which do not have large tracts of land covered by sugar plantations. The town suffers from land shortages as a result of rapid urbanization.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The National Development Strategy provides a strategic framework for national land use planning under the aegis of the Ministry of Housing and Lands;
- The Outline Planning Schemes are regional plans for a Municipal Council. Outline Planning Schemes provide the framework for local authorities to plan, shape and control the use of land within

their jurisdictions. The municipality translates the national strategy to the local level;

- The Municipal Council is responsible for the implementation and application of the Building Act, the Town and Country Planning Act 1954, the Road Act, and the Local Government Act.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The State has put in place a regulatory framework at national level for the development and use of land in order to ensure that development priorities are taken into consideration. In 1994, the current operational National Development Strategy (NDS) came into force and is valid up to 2020. One of the main objectives of the National Physical Development Plan is 'To provide a national framework for the formulation of local council's outline schemes and a development and environmental control criteria for the effective monitoring of physical development and environmental management at local level', (National Development Strategy, Vol 1, Development Strategy and Policies).

Under the Town and Country Planning Act of 1954 and Local Government Act of 2011, any land owner requires a Building and Land Use Permit (BLP) for development of their land. The intention is to create better places for people to live and work. In fact, the Building and Land Use Permit contributes in ensuring that development will comply with the provisions of the Building Act, the Town and Country Planning Act of 1954 (Outline Schemes) and the Planning Development Act of 2004

(Planning Policy Guidance).

The municipal council should not be confined to a regulatory role in the municipality but should be consulted as an urban stakeholder in the case of allocation of land within the municipal boundary.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The absence of a consistent and planning data base and shortage of human resources has reduced the ability of the municipality to have appropriate control of land use.

Also, in the absence of an operational national land information system, it is difficult for the poor to seek assistance in accessing land for housing.

Most of the time, the poor are forced to squat on land. Up to now, government’s policy has been to undertake a social survey prior to any legalization of the situation of the landless. As a small island, land is limited and very often the landless are delocalized to other regions. Appropriate policy remained to be elaborated for the landless poor.

The municipality does not have any control on the changes of ownership of land within the town boundary. The current cadastre remains to be updated and the current Land Administration Valuation Information Management System (LAVIMS) project will address, once operational, the change of ownership of land at local level.

The municipal council should not be confined to a regulatory role in the municipality but should be consulted as an urban stakeholder in the case of allocation of land within the municipal boundary. Any land development will have an impact on the existing infrastructure of the town. Councillors, civil society organisations and other inhabitants should have the opportunity to express their opinion in land matters. This approach will assist the municipality in coping with new land developments and especially on how to service the new comers in the municipality.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

In the context of resource mobilization, the Building and Land Use Permit process remains the main source of revenue for the municipality. In 2010, this revenue amounted to MRS 105,947,573. The National Empowerment Foundation is working closely with Corporate Social Responsibility foundations to motivate private companies to provide land and assist in the funding of social housing projects.

With the implementation of new policies relating to land management and the setting up of the Land

Administration Valuation Information Management System, the municipality requires additional financial and human resources and capacity building programmes for its staff in order to effectively implement these policies.

AGREED PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Regulate large-scale investments. Prioritize the designation of land for building purposes as well as agriculture; Promote the accessibility of land to accessibility to the poor. Improve the capacity of the Municipality in land administration and management.

LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT	Project proposal	Page 35
	Set up a social monitoring service for squatters in order to facilitate the process of administrative procedures for land allocation	

GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING



Source: photo, Vahy

The local authorities in Mauritius fall under the responsibility of the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands. The provisions of the Local Government Act of 2011 govern the existing councils of the local authorities. Mauritius, as a Small Island Developing State has chosen, in its move to becoming a developed country, to adopt a centralized system of government to ensure efficiency and efficacy. In the process, the local authorities have been granted less autonomy in terms of political and financial powers. Instead, the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands have maintained control over certain key decisions such as the yearly approval of the budget of the Municipal Council, any borrowing for capital projects and an annual grant based on certain conditions in order to complement the revenue of the municipality. The municipality and local authorities are not allowed to receive grants from foreign sources without the approval of the responsible Minister. In addition, Mauritius has witnessed, during the past two decades, the creation of certain government departments and parastatals, with the financial resources to either provide services or address social problems within the municipal council area, which could have been entrusted to local authorities. The National Development Unit's role in the construction of urban infrastructure is an example.

Moreover, the Municipal Council has no power to hire, fire and promote staff. This power lies with the Local Government Service Commission which is an independent body responsible for the recruitment and appointment of staff and for the efficient discharge of the functions of local councils. In the same perspective,

the administrative head of the municipality, the Chief Executive, works for two institutions namely the Ministry of Local Government to whom the Chief Executive is accountable and the municipal council where he/she operates.

The duties and responsibilities of the Municipal Council are nevertheless wide ranging and include the following:

- Making regulations under the Local Government Act for the proper functioning of the township such as the Port Louis Markets Regulations 2002.
- Ensuring that laws are obeyed in the town area.
- Development and maintenance of basic infrastructure (cleaning of roads and drains, street lighting and children's park).
- Provision and maintenance of community-based infrastructure and amenities, (reduce flooding, ensure proper evacuation of running water through the construction and maintenance of drains, provision with traffic signs and proper road marking, and maintenance of rivers, squares and open spaces).
- Maintaining a clean environment that is free of pollution.
- Development and management of public, commercial and social infrastructure.
- Physical planning of the municipality.

- Allocation of Land Development Permit (LDP) and other permits.
- Determination of revenue raising scheme.

It is within this policy framework, that the Municipal Council operates and fulfils its duties. Under the Representation of the People Act and the Local Government Act of 2011, 24 councillors are elected under the system of First-Past-The Post for a term of six years. The towns are divided into six wards for the purpose of the election which is conducted by the Electoral Commission based on an Elector's list. In turn, the elected councillors appoint for two years, through election, two councillors to be the Lord Mayor and deputy Lord Mayor respectively. The execution of municipal duties (as indicated above) is carried out under the supervision of a Chief Executive who is responsible for the management and administration of the day to day affairs of the Council.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Municipal Council has the freedom to develop its own policies and activities so long as these are in line with the Local Government Act of 2011 and other relevant regulations. The Council holds meetings under the chairmanship of the Mayor on a quarterly basis. The Council meetings take place after a series of meetings of various Committees. There are 16 Committees, each consisting of twelve elected councillors and these Committees are constituted following the election of the Mayor. The Committees ensure that key issues are considered in sufficient depth before decisions are taken. The deliberations of the Committee meetings are governed by standing orders and are presided by a Chairperson who is duly appointed by the Council.

The Chief Executive Department is responsible for the management and administration of the day to day affairs of the Council. The administration is structured into eight departments with relevant staff. Currently, the Municipal Council has at its disposal, 243 staff as per breakdown (see tabel 1, the organisation charter):

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The municipality is governed by a series of laws pertaining to buildings, roads, licenses, public health, environment, trade and industries, advertisements, and entertainment.

Local Government Act of 2011

The Local Government Act of 2011 provides a wide spectrum for the Municipal Council to engage in local development and provision of services to its citizens.

TABLE 1: ORGANISATION CHARTER

DEPARTMENT	NUMBER OF STAFF
Lord Mayor's Office	2
Department 1: Office of the Chief Executive (Town Clerk)	48
Department 2: Treasury	40
Department 3: Works	31
Department 4: Planning	22
Department 5: Welfare	15
Department 6: Health	58
Department 7: Library	24
Department 8: Parks & Gardens	3

Source: Municipality of Port Louis, 2011

Under this Act, the Minister may intervene, in case the Municipal Council fails to carry out any of its duties, by entrusting the responsibility to another party. However, the Municipal Council has to bear the costs. As indicated above, under this Act, some of the key decisions of the Municipal Council are subjected to the approval of the Ministry of Local Government.

Town and Country Planning Act of 1954

Under this Act, the Municipality of Port-Louis is the Planning Authority for the Municipal Council area as covered by the Planning Outline Scheme of 1985 prepared under the Town and Country Planning Act of 1954. The execution of the responsibility is done by the Planning Department. Under these legislations, no person within the township can carry out development on land without prior approval of the Municipal Council.

Business Facilitation (Miscellaneous provisions) Act of 2006

Under this Act, the ways, methods and timing by which the planning systems operate have undergone several changes. These changes include:

- Renaming the Development Permit into Building and Land Use Permit;
- Introduction of clusters for development; residential, commercial, industrial, services, installation of motors, and excision/subdivision of land;
- Reduce delays in the approval of Building and Land Use Permits and abolition of Trade License;

- Implementation of provisions of the Planning Policy Guidance (PPG), 2006.

The Environment Protection Act of 2007

This Act is the main legislation for the protection and management of the environmental assets of Mauritius.

Local Government Service Commission

A Local Government Service Commission is responsible for the appointment, promotion and for any other matter concerning discipline of the officers.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Local councillors enjoy considerable autonomy and the legitimacy to play fully their role as elected representatives of their constituents. During the Council's regular meetings, councillors can question the Lord Mayor on the Municipal Council's decisions and progress in implementing policies and in developing activities in the council area. Performance can only be measured against compliance and time frame. Up to now, the Municipal Council has not set performance targets and indicators.

The Local Government Act of 2011, makes provision for any member of the local council area to attend local council meetings and raise questions about any matter of public interest. The same law allows the residents of the municipal council to question the validity of the municipal accounts. A copy of the accounts can be consulted at the municipal library. Unfortunately, council residents do not exercise this right very often. This is because they are not aware of their rights and also due to lack of confidence.

The structured civil society does not have a strong partnership with the Municipal Council in terms of dialogue and collaboration on policy implementation. The collaboration is done on an ad-hoc basis for specific activities such as 'Environment Day' or sports activities in the council. Civil Society Organisations do not practice evidence-based advocacy to influence policies at the level of the city. There is need to define a new social contract between the municipality and civil society in order to promote structured dialogue and participation in the development process of the city. In this context, it has been suggested that an Urban Forum be set-up in order to have regular dialogue with all the stakeholders of the city of Port-Louis.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Council has at its disposal a series of financial and fiscal instruments to collect revenue within its geographical boundary. These instruments take the

form, among others, of general rates, trade fees, rents, and permits. The accounts of the Council are the subject of an internal audit as well as an external audit by the National Audit Bureau which is an independent body.

The central government provides an annual grant to the Municipal Council in order to complement its revenue and meet its financial obligations.

In terms of human resources, there is the problem of replacing retired staff. The current policy is not to replace systematically those who are leaving the service. On the other hand, the responsibilities and duties of existing staff are increasing due to the expansion of the towns.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Reduce the influence of national party politics in the affairs of the municipality.
- Modify legislation to force candidates in municipal elections to be residents of the ward they wish to represent.
- Promote good urban governance that results in strengthening local government. This includes the decentralization of resources and power to local authorities.
- Provide training to municipal staff in areas specific to local administration.
- Create the institutional set up where citizens may regularly meet and exchange views with councillors.
- Introduce more up to date urban planning legislation.
- Increase the financial resources of the municipality.

GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING

Project proposal

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Promote participatory approaches in order to involve residents in the development of the city

INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES



Source: photo, Vahy

The urban sprawl caused by the exponential growth of the urban population is one of the most significant socio-economic changes that took place in the capital of Mauritius in recent years. This rapid urbanization has brought both opportunities and challenges.

WATER SUPPLY

Water supply is managed at national level by the Central Water Authority under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. Most of the inhabitants of the town of Port Louis have access to piped water. However, there are a few residents that do not have household connection and access their water from public taps.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Ministry of Public Utilities is the parent body for the management of water resources. This power has been delegated to the Water Resources Unit, which is responsible for the assessment, management, development, and conservation of water resources.

The Central Water Authority is a subsidiary body responsible for potable water distribution.

The Central Water Authority is a corporate body whose main function is the control of water resources. The function of the authority, by virtue of section 20 of the Central Water Authority Act of 1971, makes the Central Water Authority the sole undertaker of the

supply of water for domestic, commercial and industrial purposes.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Central Water Authority Act of 1971 provides for the creation of the authority and its duties and powers regarding supply of potable water for different purposes and water resources development, management and conservation.
- Groundwater Act (1970) provides for management of the aquifers.
- Environment Protection Act (2002) provides for protection of water resources.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Mauritius has reached a stage where the population now has access to piped, potable water. According to the 2000 Housing and Population Census Survey, 99.6 percent of the population have access to piped potable water in their premises. However, Mauritius is at risk of future water shortages due to frequent drought conditions caused by climate change.

Mauritius is facing water management challenges whereby 50 percent of water distribution networks are old and obsolete. According to the recent figures revealed by the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities, about 50 percent of water in Mauritius is wasted due

to leakage in the distribution networks. Consequently, the Central Water Authority cannot ensure a 24 hour water service.

There is need to modernize the distribution networks and to educate people not to waste water. Also alternative sources of water must be promoted such as collecting rain water. At this level, the municipal council, in partnership with non-governmental organisations, can be called in to contribute to the education and awareness raising campaigns relating to water conservation activities and the efficient use of water.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Government provides resources to the Central Water Authority for the treatment and distribution of water. Water is sold to domestic consumers at a subsidized rate, in order to ensure that it is accessible to all. However, there is need to increase the price of water provision in order to improve the current water infrastructure and water delivery.

ELECTRICITY

The Central Electricity Board (CEB) is a parastatal wholly owned by the Government of Mauritius under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities. The Central Electricity Board is the sole organisation in charge of transmission, distribution and supply of electricity to the population. Poor families, through the National Empowerment Foundation, receive assistance to get connected to the electricity network. In the context of the strategy for 'Maurice Ile-Durable', the Government has also embarked on a new initiative to provide each family who is benefiting from a social housing programme, a solar panel and water heater so as to reduce the dependency on traditional electricity.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

As a parastatal body, the Central Electricity Board's responsibility is to 'prepare and carry out development schemes with the general objective of promoting, coordinating and improving the generation and transmission, distribution and sale of electricity in Mauritius.'

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Electricity Act of 1939 (amended 1991)
- The Electricity Regulations of 1939
- The Central Electricity Board Act of 1964

These comprise the legislative framework for the electricity sector and the Central Electricity Board's operations.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Electricity consumption has risen sharply in recent years. Between 1991 and 2000, electricity consumption increased by nine percent. The economic growth and improvement in the standard of living has necessitated massive investments in the energy infrastructure. Mauritius still depends heavily on oil and coal. However, there is need to shift more to renewable energy and the Central Electricity Board is currently trying to diversify towards renewable energy by encouraging small power producers to sell their surplus energy to the Central Electricity Board. Having mixed sources of energy is part of the vision 'Maurice Ile-Durable'. In this context, the Municipal Council is encouraged to use solar panels for street lighting.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

Consumers in Mauritius have been paying for the electricity service provided by the Central Electricity Board while the Government has shouldered the capital investment in order to respond to the growing needs of the society.

New investments are required in the green energy sector. Public-Private Partnership must be encouraged in order to mobilize additional investment. In this context, the 'Maurice Ile Durable Fund', set up to support new projects in renewable energy and energy efficiency can be useful.

Encouraging the Municipal Council to install solar panels for electricity production will enable the municipality to meet its electricity requirements and reduce the demand for electricity from the Central Electricity Board.

SANITATION AND REFUSE COLLECTION

Provision of cleaning services is a major statutory duty of the Municipal Council. These cleaning services include; refuse collection, cleaning of drains, mowing, spraying of herbicides / weeding, sweeping of roads, and cleaning of rivers, rivulets and canals.

Cleaning services in the Municipal Council of Port Louis have been fully contracted out. These services are offered free of charge in residential areas but commercial premises have to pay a fee.

Sanitation services are provided by the Waste Water Management Authority. Localities which are not connected to the sewerage network use individual septic tanks which are regularly emptied by waste-water trucks from the Waste Water Management Authority. These trucks afterwards empty their contents in sewerage treatment stations. The Government is planning to extend the sewerage network to the unconnected areas shortly.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Waste Water Management Authority operating under the aegis of the Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities is entrusted with developing and managing the whole national sewerage network.
- The Health Department of the Municipality of Port Louis monitors the cleaning service for the district area.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Wastewater Management Act of 2000.
- Municipality of Port Louis Collection and Disposal of Refuse Regulation.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- There are certain localities that are not connected to the Wastewater Management Authority's network and there is need for a greater investment by the Central Government in this fast developing district area.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The Ministry of Energy and Public Utilities.
- The National Development Unit.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

The Municipal Council is made up of eight departments covering the various services offered to the citizens and each department is headed by a Chief Officer.

The Council is made up of 16 committees each having 12 councillors as members. The committees ensure that key issues are considered in sufficient depth before decisions are taken. Deliberations during Committee meetings are governed by standing orders and are presided by a Chairperson duly appointed for that purpose.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The responsibilities and duties of the Municipal Council are conducted according to the provision of the Local Government Act of 2011.

The Council holds meetings on a regular basis. The Local Government Act of 2011 makes provisions for statutory quarterly meetings.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

A Municipal Council shall within the limits of the area under its jurisdiction be responsible for (Subject to the Roads Act) :

- the cleaning and lighting of all motorways and main roads;
- the construction, care, maintenance, cleaning, and lighting of all public roads;
- subject to any regulations under section 156A(5), the collection and removal of waste to disposal sites;
- the control, care, management, maintenance, improvement and cleaning of pavements, drains, bridges, beds, lakebanks, rivulets, and streams;
- the construction, care, management, maintenance, improvement, cleaning, and lighting of squares, open spaces, parks, gardens, bus shelters, public buildings including lavatories, baths and swimming pools, and dedicated to the use of, or used by the public, not being the property of the state;
- the construction, care, management, maintenance, and improvement of public libraries, exhibition halls and art galleries, theatres, places of public entertainment, playing fields, cemeteries and cremation grounds, nurseries for infants, and pre-primary schools;

These services are administered by the professional staff of each department concerned. Complaints from the residents are normally heard by the councillor or put in writing and sent to the Municipal Council. More formally, councillors and the general public can raise questions on the efficiency of these services at Council meetings.

However, the delivery of the Municipal Council in certain cases is not effective due to shortage of staff and also due to negative habits on the part of the municipality's residents. For example, littering in public places is a classic case.

In the case of social infrastructure and amenities, each suburb has a certain number of infrastructure for meetings, cultural and sport activities. Unfortunately, not all infrastructure is under the responsibility of the Municipal Council. Other institutions and ministries also have their own structures such as the Ministry of Youth and Sports, the Sugar Industry Labour Welfare Fund and the Municipality. There is no coordination and each operates on its own. This situation leads to duplication of activities and improper utilization of facilities. Consequently, there is need to investigate the possibility of introducing some sort of co-management of these facilities with the inhabitants of each suburb and to develop more synergies and complementarities in the programming of activities.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The financial affairs of the Municipal Council are conducted in accordance with the Local Government Act of 2011.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Strengthen basic urban services through capacity building and better financial management;
- Issue of capacity development at all levels including municipal council, councillors, staff of the Municipality, local non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, and other partners.
- Absence of a mechanism for multi-stakeholders dialogue.
- Residents do not know their rights in the context of the accountability of the Municipal Council towards them.

INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

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A pilot project for the co-management of socio-cultural infrastructure with the inhabitants of Cité la Cure, Roche Bois and Karo Kaliptis

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION



Source: UN-Habitat

According to the Local Government Act of 2011, the Council is required to prepare yearly accounts at the end of the financial year to be submitted to the Director of Audit each year.

The general rate to be levied shall be the percentage of the Net Annual Value as per the Local Government Act of the immovable property as the Council may from time to time determine by regulations. The Financial Controller's Department consists of a staff of 53 and is made up of the following sections:

TABLE 2: FINANCIAL CONTROLLER'S DEPARTMENT

REVENUE SOURCE (REFER TO MUNICIPAL BUDGET: REVENUE ITEMS SHOWN HERE ARE EXAMPLES)	2010	
	Actual Revenue Collected	Projected Revenue
Lord Mayor's Office		
Land rates	100,278,864	92,343,900
User charges	1,582,063	1,500,000
Building permits	5,668,709	5,000,000
Business licences and fees	73,060,480	64,000,000
Other:	142,354,724	136,287,620
	691,242,840	299,131,520

Source: Municipality of Port Louis, 2011

The main municipal revenues collected are land rates, business licenses and fees, building permits, and user charges. Land rates raked in MRS 100,278,864 in the municipality in 2010. User charge contributed MRS 5,668,709, business licenses and fees contributed MRS 73,060,480, and other revenues contributed MRS 142,354,754. From a general point of view, these amounts are significantly higher compared to the projected revenues. The revenues collected determine the dynamism of the community to develop its activities.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The finance department of the Council headed by the Principal Accountant is responsible for the financial administration of the Council, thus the collection and accounting of all receivables.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- The Local Government Act of 2011.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

- The direct revenue collection of the Municipality of Port Louis represents less than 25 percent of its budget. This situation does not allow the Council to engage in infrastructural projects in the area.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The main sources of income are: general rates, land rates, user charges, rates due and payable, returns, business licences and fees, and user permits.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Promote understanding of the budget process.
- Develop capacity stakeholders for more participation.
- Consolidate accountability of the municipal council.

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION

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Develop capacity of stakeholders for more transparency, civic engagement and accountability in municipal activities with special reference to budget and effective use of financial resources.

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT



Source, photo Koop

Many economic activities take place in Port Louis and contribute to the development of the city. There is only one seaport on the island which services the country's industries and commercial activities. The diversity of economic operators throughout the municipal area range from commercial firms, industries, restaurants, markets to trade fairs.

As a busy and overcrowded town, Port Louis is also characterized by a transit population. Indeed, many people living in other towns and villages work in Port Louis, the capital city, and commute on a daily basis. Moreover, the city possesses many tourist attractions. Economic activities in Port Louis include both businesses by large corporations and small-scale activities. Port Louis remains the primary administrative and commercial centre for Mauritius but it faces increasing competition from other towns. The local economy has its roots in the concentration of commercial and administrative centres in the city. Retail trade, construction, manufacturing, transport, marketing, finance, social services, and public administration are the most important local economic development activities.

Small and medium enterprises are being encouraged to provide local products to the inhabitants. Projects such as huge shopping malls and energy production are also underway. The municipality of Port Louis has regulations that promote income-generating activities by providing an enabling environment to applicants for their development projects.

Chinatown, located not far from the central market and known for its restaurants and small traditional shops,

highlights the ethnic diversity of the city. Not far away are the merchants of Indian origin who specialize in the sale of textiles and clothing.

The central market is a centre of attraction for both Mauritians and tourists. The market, rich in colours and fragrances, is popular with the residents and tourists visiting the town. With the informal trade fairs, locals and tourists are able to purchase local products (local crafts and food).

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority is responsible at national level for the promotion and development of small enterprises in Mauritius under the aegis of the Ministry of Industry.
- The National Empowerment Foundation is responsible at the national level for promoting and assisting the poor and vulnerable groups in the development of small and micro-businesses.

Both institutions are situated within the municipality.

- The Permit and Business Monitoring Committee of the Council set up under the Local Government Act of 2011, holds regular hearings to consider applications for development permits and building and land use in the district;
- The Municipal Council is responsible for the provision and regulation of public markets, fairs

and places of public auction; the control of hawkers; and the control of premises used for commercial, industrial, professional and other related activities;

- The municipal council is dependent on the central government policies and vision;
- The municipality of Port Louis collaborates with stakeholders by hosting events where the council has a concrete interest since the council is accountable to the parent ministry in terms of subsidies and finance;
- The municipality of Port Louis is the only authority that issues development licenses or permits within the municipality;
- The sanitary department is responsible for providing all cleaning services to residents of Port Louis;
- The planning department is responsible for advising applicants on development issues.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority Act (SMEDA) of 2005

In the context of local development of small and handicraft enterprises, the Municipality of Port-Louis is responsible under the Local Government Act of 2011, through the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority Act, for the allocation of permits through a special mechanism known as the Permits and Business Monitoring Committee.

Building and Land Use Permit

The Building and Land Use Permit helps to ensure that development in the municipal area complies with the provision of the Building Act, the Town and Country Planning Act of 1954 (Outline Schemes) and the Planning Development Act, 2004.

If a small enterprise or a handicraft enterprise is situated in a residential building, the enterprise is likely to be exempted from a Building and Land Use Permit if the following criteria are met:

- The building will continue to be used primarily as a private residence;
- The enterprise will not result in a marked rise in traffic or people calling;
- The enterprise will not be involved in unusual activities in a residential area;
- The enterprise will not disturb the neighbours at unreasonable hours or create other forms of nuisance such as noise, dust, fumes, or smell.

Planning Policy Guidance

The Permits and Business Monitoring Committee shall have regard to the Planning and Policy Guidance to determine an application from a small enterprise. As per provisions of the Business Facilitation Act, applications from a small and medium enterprise/handicraft business should be processed within three working days.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

In actual practice, the Municipal Council has difficulty in enforcing such rules and regulations due to lack of enforcement personnel and at times due to political interference. The issue of hawkers in towns is a case in point. These hawkers occupy the doorstep of licensed retail traders and their activities become a nuisance to passers-by and licensed traders. Unfortunately, the municipal council has not been able to come up with a policy to mainstream hawkers in the formal trade. There is also the unavailability of alternative vacant space in the municipal area for hawkers to sell their goods and services.

Access to land for economic development in the municipal council is critical. Most land is owned by the private sector. There is need for the municipality through the central government to negotiate for land on the outskirts of the city in order to develop small business estates with transport facilities.

It is to be noted that:

- Small scale businesses and light industries are being encouraged by the provision of the Business Facilitation Act;
- There are high rates of unemployment and poverty in some suburbs.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The sources of revenue from local economic activities contribute to the municipal budget. For example, in 2010, the Municipality collected the following amount:

- Building and Land Use Permits: USD 188,957
- Business licenses: USD 2,435,349

However, these resources are not enough. The mainstreaming of the informal sector into the local economy through the small business estate can be one strategy to boost the local economy.

It will also be necessary to investigate the feasibility of using micro-credit to reinvest in small and micro businesses. The informal sector can also be a major source of city council revenue if properly managed.

There is the necessity to have an effective coordinating mechanism between the Small and Medium Enterprises Development Authority, the National Empowerment Foundation, the local business community, and local non-governmental organisations to accompany the poor who want to engage themselves in micro-business. In this context, the setting of a business forum under the aegis of the municipality must be investigated as a mechanism for the promotion of the local economy.

AGREED PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Government and national stakeholders must invest in revenue opportunities in order to deal with high unemployment; • Formulate an Economic Development Plan.

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	Introduction of public spaces in the municipality	

HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS



Source: photo, Vahy

The Population of Port Louis was estimated at 148,780 inhabitants in the 2011 census. This shows the overcrowding in the capital. Furthermore, the territory of Port Louis covers many pockets of poverty. This is due to the economic attractions of the capital. This problem of overcrowding profoundly affects those in slum areas, leading to the increased vulnerability of these populations.

Most squatters are located on the mountain slopes. This increases their vulnerability to natural hazards when they occur.

Government policy has been to legalize the situation of the squatters after having done a social survey in order to determine the eligibility of the squatters for government assistance to acquire housing. The rehabilitation depends on the availability of land that is suitable for housing. Due to national infrastructure programmes such as roads and social amenities, it has not always been possible to settle the squatters in the same area. At times due to the resistance of squatters to be resettled in a different location, the government has to carry out forced eviction. It must be noted that the issue of squatters in the city of Port Louis is complex due to the shortage of land. In certain circumstances, people are encouraged to squat by certain politicians with the promise that when the politicians will be in power they will regularize the situation. However, these promises are never fulfilled.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Housing and Lands through the National Housing Development Company is responsible for construction of pro-poor low cost housing.
- The National Empowerment Foundation is responsible under its Empowerment Community Programme for certain social housing programmes targeting the poor.
- There are four departments (welfare department, works department, planning department, and health department) that deal with the slum issues in the municipal area.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The beneficiaries of squatter settlements upgrading have to make certain financial commitments in terms of monthly contributions towards the Empowerment Foundation who acts as the regulatory body in the social housing programmes. The beneficiaries also have to make legal commitments for monthly repayments.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Their main tasks include:

- Collection and disposal of waste and providing necessary infrastructure (drainage and roads).
- Facilitating the procedures for obtaining permits

for operating small scale businesses and providing facilities such as day-care centres, kindergartens, primary schools, and mobile library services among others. However, the municipality does not have a budget for the improvement of illegal settlements.

Repayment of loans remains a major problem for certain poor families. However, the Empowerment Foundation has been lenient in dealing with loan defaulters. No drastic measures such as penalty fees or eviction have been taken.

In the same perspective, the municipal council previously used the provision of the Local Government Act of 1989 and 2003 (as amended) to waive the tenant tax at the request of certain poor families living in the municipality.

As manager of the town’s infrastructure and amenities, the municipality should have additional resources in order to cope with needs of new-comers. Very often, as no advance provisions are made, the arrival of new inhabitants exerts a lot of pressure on the municipality’s infrastructure. If not enough attention is paid to these issues, it can create tensions between new inhabitants and the inhabitants who have settled in the area for a long time.

There is weak coordination between the Municipal Council and other public and private institutions involved in housing programmes.

There is lack of transparency in land allocation procedures and high perceptions of corruption among officials involved in land administration.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The city lacks the capacity (financial, human and

technical) needed to carry out significant slum upgrading.

- The Government, through its various agencies, is facing serious challenges in responding to the housing needs of the poor. This is because the poor often have unstable jobs and consequently no regular revenue. This poor people often turn to squatting which sometimes results in overcrowding.
- There are new opportunities for the private sector to engage in national housing programmes that will benefit the poor and vulnerable groups, under the provisions of the Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) levy of 2% on profits of private companies. However, the private sector and their civil society partners should have more autonomy in developing their social housing programmes, based on the guiding principles of the CSR ley.

AGREED PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Define a housing policy; • Use an integrated approach to urban planning; • Grant land titles; • Slum upgrading.

HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS	Project proposal	Page 40
	Introduction of public spaces in the municipality	

GENDER



Source: photo, Koop

At national level, the Government of Mauritius through the Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare, has committed itself to the principles of gender equality. Consequently, a 'National Gender Policy Framework' has been developed and provides the broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality. Each sector, including the local authorities, has to be responsible for and take ownership of the development of their own policies. The domestication of the framework at all levels is a challenge in itself.

GENDER EQUALITY IN THE MUNICIPALITY

Municipalities have a major role to play in women's access to decision making. Municipal authorities must understand the importance of the issues and systemic barriers that repel women.

In general, women are poorly represented in the overall municipal workforce, a situation that drastically needs to change.

There are certain conditions that facilitate women's access to local power: political parties must front women candidates, women's leadership must be promoted, and governments and municipalities must fund these activities. The new Local Government Bill states that each political party participating in a municipal election should have at least one woman candidate in each municipal ward (each ward elects three councillors).

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare is the lead ministry in gender issues with various specialized departments such as the Child Development Unit and the National Women's Council. A new integrated strategy for gender, child development and family welfare is under preparation.
- The National Women's Council (NWC), set up by an Act of Parliament in November 1985 ensures that Government policy and action meets the needs of women at grass-root level;
- The National Women Entrepreneur Council, set up in 1999 to promote women entrepreneurship;
- The "Strengthening Values for Family Life", set up in October 2010.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The National Gender Policy Framework's targets are gender equality and women's empowerment. The framework has been designed as an overarching framework that provides the guiding principles, broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality at the national level.

Domestic Violence Act of 1987, Protection from Domestic Violence (Amendment) Act of 2004

The Protection from Domestic Violence Act was enacted in May 1997 for the protection of spouses

against domestic violence. It aims at reducing and preventing domestic violence and ensuring that where such violence occurs, there is effective legal protection.

A Sex Discrimination Act has been passed in the National Assembly in December 2002

This bill promotes equal opportunity between persons of different sex, race, marital status, religion, origin, and disability and prohibits discrimination on those grounds when seeking employment, education, provision of accommodation and goods, services and facilities, and admission to private clubs.

National Gender Policy Framework’s

The National Gender Policy Framework targets gender equality and women’s empowerment. It has been designed as an overarching framework that provides the guiding principles, broad operational strategies and institutional arrangements for achieving gender equality at the national level.

National Pensions Act amended in 1987

The National Pensions Act (amended in 1987) waives out the discrepancy between men and women concerning the payment of a lump sum to the surviving spouse should the insured person die before 60, the official age for retirement.

Jury Act amended in 1990

The Jury Act amended in 1990 enables women to sit as jurors.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The Municipal Council up to now has not developed a specific gender framework and consequently does not have a gender unit. Gender issues are integrated to a certain extent through its policy formulation.

To boost gender equality in planning and municipal management, women must also get involved in municipal services. Municipalities can support the involvement of women in the administration by using various measures such as equal opportunity programs in employment for the growing number of executives, professional and specialized workers.

The Municipality of Port Louis’ staff count is 243, comprising of 118 women and 125 men.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The Ministry of Gender, Child Development and Family Welfare is the ministry responsible for gender issues. The ministry has the relevant resources, both financial and human, to respond to the various challenges such as domestic violence and child abuse. But there is need for the ministry to decentralize its services and to work closely with the municipality and local non-governmental organisations operating in the municipality. The non-governmental organisations in partnership with the Municipal Council can be called to contribute in data collection at the local level and in developing new outreach programmes.

AGREED PRIORITIES	
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need to develop outreach activities in the context of the Gender Framework. • Establishment of a charter for equality of women and men in the local community; • Mainstreaming of gender in municipality programmes and outreach activities; • Strengthen leadership, partnership and networking between all stakeholders on gender; • Improve budgetary support for gender mainstreaming.

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GENDER	Integration of a charter in the functioning of the municipality	

SECURITY



Source: photo, Vahy

Security in general is under the responsibility of the Mauritius Police Force which has the sole responsibility of ensuring the security and safety of the inhabitants of the township. The police force went through a restructuring based on the National Policing Strategic Framework (NPSF). The National Policing Strategic Framework aims at providing the police with a modern methodology and policing philosophy to address the new emerging issues. In Port-Louis, there are 11 police stations.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

- The Mauritius Police Force has developed the Mauritius Intelligence Model. It is an intelligence framework based on a scientific and proactive approach to policing. It is a decision making model which describes the requirements for the successful management of crimes and other law enforcement problems.
- Community policing is one of the pillars of the National Policing Strategic Framework. A permanent platform for regular meetings and consultations has been set-up with members of the community. The concept is based on the collaboration between the police and the community with the purpose of identifying and solving community problems. In this context, the Municipal Council is one of the stakeholders for community policing.
- The Crime Prevention Unit of the Mauritius Police Force has a mission statement geared towards

sensitisation campaigns on crime prevention and promoting a sense of awareness among the population.

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

The Police Act of 1974 regulates the functions of the police force. It was subsequently amended to encompass new challenges in policing and security issues. It defines the duties and powers of the Police Force and those of the Commissioner of Police and the National Security Service.

The Prime Minister's Office oversees the functioning of the Mauritius Police Force. The recruitment of police falls under the responsibility of the Discipline Forces Commission.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

Community policing has become a core aspect of modern policing. The process is meant to transform the police force into a 'service-led organisation'. In this context, the police force encourages local residents to nominate community representatives, who will act as coordinators and as liaisons between the police and the community.

In recent years, police statistics show the following trends:

- In 2010, the number of identified crimes in Port

Louis was 3,096 against 4,421 in 2005. This may be indicative of an efficient crime prevention programme. The police station which registered the most crimes is Line Barracks. The fact that it covers a densely populated area and the Central Business District may be one of the reasons for the higher crime rate in this area.

- The Police Crime Prevention Unit has established Neighbourhood Watch Schemes with the support of community organisations in crime prone areas.

However, there is need to give more visibility to community policing through information and awareness raising programmes. In this context, partnership with the municipality must be improved. Currently, there are regular consultations at the initiative of the Mayor of the Municipal Council relating to security and safety issues.

There is also the negative perception that inhabitants have of the police force. The image of the police is that of a repressive force and not a service. In this context, the efforts should not be only in changing the image but also developing trust between the community and the police. This process, which should be multi-stakeholder, must have a focus on dialogue, image building, development of trust, and information dissemination.

The most common crimes reported in the town include; assault, drug use, breaking traffic regulations, sexual violence, and larceny.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

- The Mauritius Police Force has the human and technical resources for proper service delivery. An amount of USD 700,000,000 was allocated to the Mauritius Police Force in the 2011 National Budget for the three coming years to improve security services.
- A Community Policing Officer (CPO) is involved in the implementation of community policing at each Police Station. The Community Policing Officer promotes an understanding of the dedicated community policing roles and among others reassures the community and works closely with local partners.

AGREED PRIORITIES

- Regularize hawker's activities in the city centre.
- Increase police patrols and surveillance cameras.

SECURITY

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Raising awareness around community policing

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION



Source: photo, Vahy

Environment and climate change are developmental issues which have a huge impact on any community. Remedial measures to reverse the harmful effects of climate change cannot be confined only to the national level but must also be translated into rules and regulations at municipal level. In this context, the Environment Protection Act of 2007 (as amended) is the reference framework for environment protection and management. Climate change and natural disasters pose serious threats to the urban infrastructure especially as sea level rise exacerbates inundation, storm surges and increases the duration of dry spells which threatens the livelihood of communities.

The objective of the Environment Protection Act is 'to achieve built environment through smart growth characterized by, among others, quality architecture designs, aesthetically pleasant surroundings with green spaces, and recreational facilities for all inhabitants'.

The national targets of relevance to the local authorities are:

- Local Authorities will provide free advisory services on design and architecture in accordance with Planning Policy Guidance.
- Develop and implement a Community Beautification Programme in all districts of the republic in partnership with the private sector, community organisations, the Rodrigues Regional Assembly, and local authorities.

- Rationalise urban-related practices to enhance the environment, such as urban drainage systems, refuse collection, greening of the environment, and creation of parks and gardens, which will assist in the regulation of average temperatures.

THE INSTITUTIONAL SET-UP

National Environment Coordination Committee

An Environment Coordination Committee (ECC) has been established under Section 14 of the Environment Protection Act, 2007. The latter has a responsibility to -

- Ensure that information is shared among the enforcing agencies (including local authorities), the Department of Environment and other public departments so as to develop a better understanding of environmental issues and of problems relating to enforcement of environmental laws;
- Ensure compliance with, implementation and enforcement of any direction given by the Minister relating to the coordination in the administration and enforcement of environmental laws among the various enforcing agencies.

In the case of climate change, the Government of Mauritius has set up a Climate Change Division in the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development. The Climate Change Division has been operational since 1 March 2010. Some of the core duties of the division are:

- Develop a climate change mitigation and adaptation framework;
- Coordinate national, regional and international projects in relation to climate change and sea level rise;
- Conduct and report greenhouse gas (GHG) emission inventories;
- Devise and coordinate the implementation of an inter-sectoral climate change monitoring programme and its reporting;
- Identify and coordinate research and development priorities associated with climate change and sea level rise;
- Follow up on matters pertaining to climate change in national, regional and international fora;
- Contribute to Public Outreach Programmes.
- There is a Local Disaster Committee at the level of the municipality which is an emanation of the National Disaster Committee of the Prime Minister's Office. The local committee consists of the police force at city level, the fire services and the public utilities provider (electricity and water). The committee focuses on the monitoring and maintenance of infrastructure in towns and evaluates the risks for flood prone areas. The committee has a pre-established protocol to follow in case of natural disasters and takes emergency actions at the municipality level such as emergency facilities for those who are displaced by disasters. However, there is no area committee or working group at local level.
- The Municipal Council is responsible for the control of environment and noise pollution;
- The Department of Environment deals with environment complaints according to House procedures.

But it is also necessary to integrate and mainstream climate change adaptation into the institutional framework and into core development policy frameworks at the municipal level.

Other national committees include:

- For the purpose of discharging its functions under the Environment Protection Act, the Environment Coordinating Committee has established the Environment Liaison Officers Committee as a sub-committee which meets regularly. The Environment Liaison Officers Committee is attended by designated "Environment Liaison Officers" of enforcing agencies including the municipal council.
- For natural disasters, there exists a Natural Disaster Committee, based at the Prime Minister's Office, which is responsible for hazard mapping and risk assessment, information management, forecasting, early warning, information dissemination, and preparedness to respond to disasters.
- More specifically, there is also a Central Cyclone and Other Natural Disasters Committee to supervise, monitor and coordinate the activities of other authorities and take critical decisions as appropriate.

AT MUNICIPAL LEVEL

- The Municipal Council collaborates with the Ministry Of Environment in their monthly environment meetings.
- The Municipal Council is responsible for the undertaking of works such as forestation, terracing and tree planting along public roads;

REGULATORY FRAMEWORK

- Town and Country Planning Act.
- Environmental Impact Assessment Act.
- The Environment Protection Act of 2007.
- The Municipality of Port Louis Regulations of 1908.
- Noise Prevention (Port Louis) Regulations of 1939.
- The Cyclone and Other Natural Disasters Scheme.
- The Municipality of Port Louis through its department of Health is responsible for the enforcement of all public health laws and the Environment Protection Act of 2007.
- Under the Local Government Act of 2011 and the Environment Protection Act of 2007, the Municipal Council through its Department of Health has to ensure a safe and hygienic environment. Also, the Municipal Council is responsible for the construction, care and maintenance of roadside drains and oversees construction of new drains or unblocking of obstructed drains in flood prone areas. Climate change and natural disasters are impacting seriously on the municipal infrastructure especially with the increased frequency of extreme events, heavy rains and storms. Strategies and new regulations relating to standards of new municipal infrastructures are being adopted.

PERFORMANCE AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The enforcement power of local authorities has been extended to the enforcement of environmental laws

by designating the Municipality as an enforcing agency, under the Fourth Schedule. The Municipality is empowered to make use of the more stringent enforcement mechanisms provided under the Environment Protection Act in addition to the provision made under the enactment itself.

Urban environmental issues are dealt with at the level of the municipal council. The municipal council is responsible for the implementation of planning policies contained in the planning instruments. Based on complaints received, cases experienced and studies carried out at the Ministry of Environment, urban environmental issues are taken up with the Ministry of Housing and Lands during modification of Outline Planning Schemes.

Leadership capacities and institutional frameworks to manage natural disasters, climate change risks and opportunities in an integrated manner at the local level need to be strengthened.

Challenges facing the city include:

- Environmental degradation in the city is linked to a number of factors such as poor land use planning and lack of basic urban services especially in the informal settlements. Rapid population growth has also resulted in people migrating to marginal areas which are prone to disasters such as landslides. The absence of specific regulations for the management of informal settlements is further worsening the situation.
- The planned and formal areas of the city are regularly serviced while the informal settlements do not have any access to the basic urban services. Most recreational parks, green belts and playgrounds are in poor condition due to lack of maintenance by the city council. Vandalism of sewer lines and manhole covers is also a major challenge.
- The main urban disaster risks facing the city include floods and landslides. Landslides have become increasingly common and are a result of environmental degradation and illegal developments on fragile land. The geographical location of Port Louis exposes its people to permanent natural risks. Surrounded by mountains, the risks of landslides and floods are high.

In current practice, the Health Inspectors of the municipality carry out routine inspection of the environment. Councillors who are in contact with the inhabitants raise the environmental problems with the department concerned for remedial action. There is also an Information Service Centre which has a Complaint Service where municipality residents can channel their complaints.

Inhabitants and economic operators, who are in contravention with environmental laws and regulations, receive notices of contravention. It has been observed by the Department of Health that there has been in recent years a marked improvement in the behaviour of people. This positive change in behaviour is as a result of sensitization, improvement in the economic and living conditions of the inhabitants and positive influence by educational programmes on environmental challenges on TV.

However, there is need to mainstream a certain number of environmental issues in municipal policies and domesticate these issues at local level. The priority issues at municipal level are: Ecology, Pollution, Solid Waste Management, and Global Climate Change.

Very often, inhabitants do not show good faith and are resistant to change. The wise approach is for the municipality to develop a local agenda 21 as a blue print for the Municipality of Port-Louis.

RESOURCE MOBILIZATION

The main financial resources are provided from the municipal budget while technical expertise is provided by the line ministries such as the Ministry of Health, the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development and the Ministry of Local Government and Outer Islands.

Currently, there is no dedicated budget at the municipal level for natural disasters. Each stakeholder provides their technical support based on their specialised expertise. In the case of climate change, financing options to meet national adaptation costs are being investigated in the context of the African Adaptation Programme, funded by the Government of Japan, in order to extend the facilities at the local level.

For education and awareness-raising programmes, the collaboration of local non-governmental organizations in the Council is sought for community mobilization. Moreover for climate change, it is vital to share knowledge on adjusting local development processes to fully incorporate climate change risks and opportunities generated and share this knowledge with staff of the Municipal Council and local urban stakeholders.

However, as environmental issues become more complex, there is need to impart knowledge on environmental concepts and a comprehensive understanding of the various international environmental agreements and conventions, especially how to integrate the provisions of these conventions at local level. In this context, capacity development programmes for various stakeholders should be implemented and such programmes should also target the local political class. The main training needs indicated during the data collection exercise and local consultation is: (i) Ecology (ii) Pollution (iii) Solid

Waste Management (iv) Global Climate Change.

The Government has also set up the Maurice Ile Durable (MID) Fund for which USD 45 million have been earmarked to step up efforts to protect the environment through recycling, to encourage more efficient use of energy and to increase reliance on renewable energy.

AGREED PRIORITIES
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Carry out a capacity gap analysis; • Rehabilitation and afforestation of the city; • Sensitize communities on the dangers of unplanned developments; • City wide adaptation climate change project.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	Project proposal	Page 43
	Awareness raising on climate change and its impact	

LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
The Municipal Council is responsible for the implementation of the Building Act and the Town and Country Planning Act.	<p>Increasing number of squatters in the city.</p> <p>Procedures to be expedited in finalizing lease agreement especially in the case of State land.</p> <p>Buildings put up prior to issue of lease agreement.</p> <p>Municipal policies depend on the provision of the Strategy of the central Government.</p>	Provide the responsibility of land management and monitoring land use to the municipal council.	<p>Proliferation of informal settlements.</p> <p>New infrastructure projects, such as the construction of highways, has resulted in shortage of land in Port Louis. This has pushed squatters in to vulnerable areas such as mountain sides.</p>

LAND TENURE AND MANAGEMENT	Project proposal
	Set up a social monitoring with squatters in order to facilitate the process of administrative procedures for land allocation

LOCATION: Cité la Cure, Bangladesh, Karo Kaliptis, and Roche Bois

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: The squatters

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: National Empowerment Foundation, Municipality of Port Louis, Ministry of Housing and Lands, and local non-governmental organizations

ESTIMATED COST: USD 20,000

BACKGROUND: Currently, the Municipality of Port Louis suffers from acute shortages of serviced land and housing leading to the proliferation of informal settlements. The town is host to over 148,780 people,

some of who live in sub-standard conditions with no access to proper housing, services or infrastructure and has great untapped customary land development potential. Squatter settlements in Port Louis are characterized by poor access to basic urban services and infrastructure.

OBJECTIVES: To develop the capacity of the landless poor to know about their human and socio-economic rights and to engage in dialogue with the authorities.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Training of residents and civil society stakeholders on the human and social rights of squatters. (2) Sensitize institutions about the squatter situation and need for resettlement. (3) Alliance building with other stakeholders. (4) Develop a self-help approach for housing construction.

OUTPUTS: (1) The inhabitants of these vulnerable areas know about their rights. (2) Information available on land in the selected areas.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) Research officer/coordinator (2) Community facilitators (3) Trainers (4) Architect

GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>The Local Government Act of 2011.</p> <p>The city administration is composed of eight departments that ensure the proper conduct of the affairs of the municipality.</p> <p>The Municipality of Port Louis is the largest employer among the local authorities, more than 1,800 employees.</p>	<p>Too much political interference in the management of the municipality.</p> <p>Mayors are chosen by national political leaders on criteria that are alien to management of local authorities.</p> <p>There is not enough delegation of power to the municipality by the central government.</p> <p>Lengthy bureaucratic procedures at central government level in the approval of municipal projects, hinders proper functioning of the municipality.</p>	<p>Decentralisation of local government and review of the municipal set up, such as the redefinition of the council powers, delegating powers to councillors at ward level.</p> <p>Promote participatory democracy between governments and citizens involved so that these players can meet, share their interests, discuss, and participate in the decision making process.</p> <p>Use of modern information technology to foster dialogue between citizens and administrators.</p> <p>The weakness and indifference of councillors and municipal staff may lead to the emergence of a citizens' movement that will initiate action for social welfare, if they are financially supported.</p>	<p>Lack of capacity in the municipality, both at the councillors and staff level.</p> <p>Instead of the welfare of citizens, political mileage tops the priority of councillors.</p>

GOVERNANCE AND URBAN PLANNING	Project proposal
	Promote participatory approaches in order to involve residents in the development of the city

LOCATION: Cité la Cure

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: Inhabitants of Cite La Cure, Port Louis

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port Louis, inhabitants, non-governmental organizations and local communities, and the National Empowerment Foundation

ESTIMATED COST: USD 17,000

BACKGROUND: In order to ensure successful and sustainable development, the municipal council must involve the participation of residents in decision making about their neighbourhood. It is necessary to associate the inhabitants of Cité La Cure in the development and implementation of projects in their neighbourhood. In this context, it would be essential to promote voluntary work for the local development of the area.

OBJECTIVES: To develop a multi-stakeholder approach for the identification and development of

micro-projects for the Cite la Cure area.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Organisation of an inception workshop. (2) Development of a capacity building programme on how to ensure the participation and engagement of inhabitants in finding solutions to their community problems with the support of the municipal council through a series of modules on the following: Identification of problems through community participation, understanding a project cycle, dialogue process and consensus building, how to engage in voluntary work, and how to build alliances with other stakeholders. (3) Use of participatory tools and pedagogical games during the capacity development process. (4) Develop strategies, implementation framework and action plans for the project. (5) Developing projects and recommendations to address the community problems.

OUTPUTS: (1) Inhabitants are able to identify their problems and proposed solutions. (2) A new form of partnership will be developed with the municipal council and other stakeholders. (3) A community mechanism will be operational in Cite La Cure for projects implementation.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) A specialist in community development and multi-stakeholders dialogue (2) Community field workers (3) A research assistant

INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Availability of good quality water in the city.</p> <p>Almost all residents benefit from basic urban services provided by the municipality.</p> <p>Urban property maintenance ensured by municipal employees.</p> <p>A legal framework for water and electricity supply is in place in the city.</p>	<p>Reluctance of the municipality to provide the squatter settlements with basic urban services.</p> <p>Lack of adequate financial resources.</p>	<p>Implementation of the "Ring Road" to reduce congestion in Port Louis.</p> <p>The problem of overcrowding in the city requires better urban services management so that each inhabitant can benefit.</p>	<p>Deterioration of urban infrastructure in some parts of the city.</p> <p>Increase in the phenomenon of urban sprawl, accentuating structural problems.</p>

INFRASTRUCTURE AND BASIC URBAN SERVICES	Project proposal
	A pilot project for the co-management of socio-cultural collaboration with the inhabitants of Cité la Cure, Roche Bois and Karo Kaliptis

LOCATION: Port Louis

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: Municipality of Port Louis and Residents

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port Louis, Ministry of Arts and Culture, Ministry of Youth and Sports, residents of Port Louis, local non-governmental organizations, and local communities of the three selected areas

ESTIMATED COST: USD 27,000

BACKGROUND: There are certain socio-cultural facilities in the three selected areas which are under-utilized. There is a need to develop a new sense of

ownership of these infrastructure and to propose a new form of partnership and management of these centres.

OBJECTIVES: To put in place a participatory management system of these centres with a new generation of socio-cultural and socio-pedagogical activities in a multi-stakeholders approach.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Undertake a needs assessment in terms of cultural activities. (2) Plan and design a new generation of activities. (3) Mobilise a group of young volunteers that will assume the responsibility of organising these activities. (4) Develop the capacity of volunteers. (5) Set-up a co-management multi-stakeholders committee of the socio-cultural infrastructure.

OUTPUTS: (1) Optimise use of existing infrastructure. (2) Develop a new generation of activities that respond to the aspirations and needs of the inhabitants. (3) Availability of a group of volunteers to organise activities at these socio-cultural centres.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) A researcher in socio-cultural issues (2) Trainers (3) A specialist in multi-stakeholder processes

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>The main municipal revenues collected are land rates, business licenses and fees, building permits, and user charges.</p> <p>Mauritius is growing from a developing to a developed country.</p> <p>The presence of many businesses in the city contributes to the growth of revenue for the municipality.</p>	<p>No opportunity for participatory budgeting.</p>	<p>Stakeholders, if provided with the relevant capacity, can contribute to more effectiveness and accountability.</p>	<p>Residents of the municipality are indifferent to the roles and responsibilities of the municipal council.</p>

MUNICIPAL REVENUE COLLECTION	Project proposal
	Develop capacity of stakeholders for more transparency, civic engagement and accountability in municipal activities with special reference to budget and effective use of financial resources

LOCATION: Port-Louis

DURATION: 1 year

BENEFICIARIES: Municipal Council Staff, Municipal Councillors, local non-governmental organizations, community-based organisations, civil society federations, other civil society groups from the municipality, municipality workers’ trade union, and representatives of traders and the business community

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port-Louis, Ministry of Local Government, Ministry of Finance and Economic Development, Local Non-governmental Organizations, and other associations based in the municipal area

ESTIMATED COST: USD 27,000

BACKGROUND: The use of municipal revenue and the mobilization of financial resources are currently considered to be the sole domain of the municipal council and its staff. Very few citizens and stakeholders appear to be concerned about how the taxes which they pay annually are spent by the municipal council. They also do not know their rights and ability to influence

municipal policy. Financial issues and the preparation of budget are considered as too technical and complex for the lay man. Consequently, this project intends to empower and encourage citizens and their organisations and associations to know about their rights and to enact them and to oversee policies, projects and services of the municipal council. The budget is an important instrument for the inhabitants and their organisations to engage with the municipal council in consolidating multi-stakeholders debate and accountability.

OBJECTIVE: To promote accountability at municipal level by engaging in budget work.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Organisation of an inception workshop on the project (2) Organisation of a series of capacity development sessions on the following issues: Initiation to budget work; Budget cycle; Actors of the budget process; budget calculations; budget advocacy; practical exercises on municipal budget; promote two-way communication between the municipal council and stakeholders; build multi-stakeholder coalitions for dialogue; and implementation of budget tracking activities.

OUTPUTS: (1) A formal accountability mechanism. (2) Stakeholders have a comprehensive understanding of budget work. (3) Stakeholders are prepared to engage in a dialogue process. (4) Development of a budget for advocacy.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) Researcher (2) Research assistant (3) Trainers

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Plenty of economic prospects in Port Louis.</p> <p>Availability of legal frameworks, by-laws and regulations for local economic development.</p> <p>The city of Port Louis has two markets with 810 stalls and four fairs with 1,161 stalls.</p> <p>Availability of local economic development infrastructure, for example, Port Louis market.</p>	<p>Shortage of municipal revenue to implement projects in the capital.</p> <p>High rates of unemployment in some parts of the capital.</p>	<p>Promote the urban and overall growth of Gross Domestic Product through economies of scale.</p> <p>Establishment of public-private partnerships that promote local economic development.</p>	<p>The economic opportunities will lead to the agglomeration of poor people in the capital.</p> <p>Illegal hawking is a common practice.</p> <p>Lack of an economic development plan.</p>

LOCAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT	Project proposal
	Introduction of public spaces in the municipality

LOCATION: Streets in the city of Port Louis such as Rue Desforges and Port-Louis Waterfront

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: Traders, Small and Medium Enterprises, Artisans, and Hawkers

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port Louis; Ministry of Finance and Economic Development; Ministry of Industry, Commerce and Consumer Protection; Mauritius Police Force; and local communities

ESTIMATED COST: USD 15,000

BACKGROUND: Port-Louis has the highest density of hawkers in the country. Successive Lord Mayors have tried to address the issue of hawkers occupying major roads in the city of Port-Louis. Hawkers have increased in number over the years. In so doing, the informal trade results in unfair competition with the formal sector such as shop owners and vegetable and fruit sellers in the market. They also create a lot of nuisance and cause a lot of littering on the main roads. In order to mainstream the hawkers in the formal economy and give them the opportunity to earn a decent living, it has

been proposed that certain main streets of Port-Louis are open every-day during mid-day to hawkers, which coincides with lunch time. In return, they have to pay a fee to the municipal council who then take up the responsibility of cleaning the streets when the hawkers leave and the street returns to normal traffic. This proposal needs to be discussed with the municipality, the Ministry of Local Government, the association of market traders of the capital, and hawkers. The street trade fair can be organized on a pilot basis for a period of six months.

OBJECTIVES: Provide an alternative for hawkers in a formal set-up which is accessible to their customers.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Initiate negotiations with all stakeholders and reach a consensus on the streets to be closed for the activities; (2) Raise the awareness of hawkers to respect all rules and regulations as agreed at the consultations with all stakeholders; (3) the municipal council ensure the cleaning of the roads and the police ensure security; (4) Initiation of hawkers to sanitary norms and standards including the respect of the Food Act; (5) Create a Project Implementation Committee.

OUTPUTS: (1) Promote local economic development; (2) Contribute to mainstreaming the informal sector in the economy; (3) Generate additional resources for the municipal council; (4) Ensure that fruits and foodstuff are sold in hygienic conditions.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) Urban planner (2) Project coordinator and (3) Mediator

HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Establishment of low cost housing;</p> <p>Local non-governmental organisations and church associations provide support to people living in unfavourable habitats.</p>	<p>The poor are more vulnerable to risks such as fluctuations in food prices.</p> <p>Squatters in urban areas are more exposed to pollution and environmental contamination.</p> <p>There are no slum upgrading policies in place.</p>	<p>Enhance the necessary resources for appropriate investment in pro-poor housing.</p> <p>Establish a post in the municipality that will have the responsibility to monitor the improvement of living conditions of squatters.</p>	<p>Spread of informal settlements.</p> <p>Government approach to slums and slum dwellers' rights should be reviewed.</p> <p>The municipality dedicates its expenditures to tangible investments and projects and politically visible infrastructure.</p>

HOUSING AND DEPRIVED AND VULNERABLE AREAS	Project proposal
	Establish a social monitoring of the squatters of Cité la Cure, Karo Kaliptis and Roche Bois

LOCATION: Cité la Cure, Karo Kaliptis and Roche Bois (Port Louis)

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: Squatters based in Cité la Cure, Karo Kaliptis and Roche Bois

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: The National Empowerment Foundation, Ministry of Housing and Lands, the Municipality of Port Louis, non-governmental organizations, and local communities

ESTIMATED COST: USD 27,000

BACKGROUND: With the aim to improve the living conditions of squatters and also address the proliferation of unhealthy habitats at the margins of the city, there is the necessity to establish a program to monitor and accompany these squatter families.

OBJECTIVES: (1) The project will be community-driven where squatters will be engaged in improving their existing housing conditions and improving their physical and natural environment in a participatory process. (2) Understanding the situation of these families.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Develop a participatory process to identify and assess problems faced by squatters through small workshops; (2) Propose solutions through dialogue between squatters and the authorities concerned including the municipality; (3) Training of those who will do the social monitoring and accompaniment among the inhabitants of these areas; (4) Mobilize partnerships through mini-urban forums with the public, private and community sectors and allocate their roles and responsibilities; (5) Formulate action plans for upgrading and providing institutional support.

OUTPUTS: (1) A mapping of families in difficult situations. (2) Upgrading living conditions of squatters. (3) A Plan of Action.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) A specialist in participatory processes. (2) Research assistant. (3) Social workers.

GENDER

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Enabling existing laws on gender.</p> <p>New Local Government Law 2011 provides for a minimum women representation of one third in local authorities.</p> <p>Many laws have been adopted with the aim to protect women against domestic violence.</p>	<p>No budget on gender mainstreaming in the Municipality of Port Louis.</p>	<p>Encourage gender equity in local politics.</p> <p>Sensitize the municipality to raise the integration of this concept in the social context.</p> <p>Promote women's leadership.</p>	<p>Gender discrimination is still rampant in the municipality.</p> <p>Violence against women still exists despite the measures taken.</p>

GENDER	Project proposal
	Integration of a charter in the functioning of the municipality

LOCATION: Suburbs of Port-Louis

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: Elected Councillors and inhabitants

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port Louis; Ministry of Gender Equality, Child Development and Family Welfare; Gender Links; non-governmental organizations; local communities; and the private sector

ESTIMATED COST: USD 32,000

BACKGROUND: Gender equality and human rights need to be at the heart of the public agenda in the development of the city of Port Louis. There is also that necessity to strengthen the capacity of women's organisations to influence local development programs. This will require to develop and implement plans and policies sensitive to gender equality.

OBJECTIVES: (1) To develop the effective management and coordination of all civil society organizations

involved in gender programs. (2) Inclusion of the voices and rights of women in local development agendas.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Organise a local consultation involving the municipality of Port Louis and stakeholders, to develop a mainstreaming and implementation action plan to address gender issues. (2) Develop guidelines for follow-up action and recommendations. (3) Institutionalize gender mainstreaming activities.

OUTPUTS: Specific gender training for council staff and members of civil society organisations.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) Gender specialist (2) Researcher (3) Research assistant (4) Trainers.

The basic principles in a charter that foster gender equality are:

- To acknowledge that equality between women and men is a fundamental right
- To take into account all other types of discrimination (ethnic, religious and socio-economic)
- to eliminate all stereotypes, attitudes and prejudices in order to achieve gender equality
- All municipal operations must take into account the perspective of both men and women
- Action plans and adequate resources to implement them must be put in place.

SECURITY

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>Some 11 police stations set up to ensure law and order in urban areas.</p> <p>The police headquarters are located in the city of Port Louis.</p> <p>Decreased crime rates in Port Louis since 2005.</p> <p>Availability of police surveillance cameras in the city.</p> <p>A good working relationship with the City Council and Civil Society associations.</p>	<p>The concentration of administrative and business offices in Port-Louis calls for substantial resources to ensure and maintain law and order.</p> <p>A floating population equivalent to the number of residents in Port Louis comes to the city daily for business, work, and leisure.</p> <p>There are numerous crowd pulling areas such as the Central Market, the Waterfront and the race track which experiences higher incidences of crime.</p>	<p>The possibility of turning the city into a safe tourist destination.</p>	<p>Some areas are neglected by the security forces and may become no go zones.</p> <p>Proliferation of hawkers in the city centre.</p> <p>Increase in the activities of prostitutes in public gardens.</p> <p>Increase in drug peddling, pick-pocketing and motor bike attacks.</p>

SECURITY	Project proposal
	Raising awareness around community policing

LOCATION: Cité la Cure

DURATION: 12 months

BENEFICIARIES: Inhabitants of Cité la Cure, community based organisations, support structures, victims of crime and violence, the municipal council, and the police force

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port Louis; Mauritius Police Force; Ministry of Defence and Home Affairs; and local communities

ESTIMATED COST: USD 27,000

BACKGROUND: The Collaboration Project for Urban Safety aims to fight against insecurity in the city and against the feeling of insecurity among people living and working in the City of Port-Louis. This will require the development of a pilot project on community policing to prevent violence and insecurity in all areas of Port Louis.

OBJECTIVES: The objectives of the project are: (1) Strengthening local expertise in the prevention of insecurity (2) Developing prevention practices based on action and community mobilization (3) Reduce

insecurity and feelings of insecurity in a sustainable and affordable way (4) Improved reporting of security matters.

ACTIVITIES: (1) Awareness raising programmes for schools and community centres. (2) Workshop with all stakeholders on community policing and its implications for the community and local stakeholders. (3) Operationalization of a Local Community Policing Committee. (4) Implementation of pilot activities in each suburb of Port-Louis.

OUTPUTS: The actions cover five areas:

- (1) Actions targeting risk or socially prejudiced groups.
- (2) Improving safety planning (lighting, security).
- (3) Awareness, dialogue and local governance (capacity building of local actors, support to management committees of city council and local leaders, campaigns fostering social cohesion, and promoting awareness against violence in schools).
- (4) Institutional development, definition and enforcement of regulations.
- (5) Improved cooperation between the Police and the public as a result of increased interaction and a greater awareness by the public of the issues raised.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) A project coordinator (2) A research assistant (3) A team of five social facilitators.

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

STRENGTHS	WEAKNESSES	OPPORTUNITIES	THREATS
<p>The municipality takes measures to maintain the environment.</p> <p>The landscape's embellishment is part of the jurisdiction of the city.</p> <p>Despite widespread pollution, there are trees, gardens and green spaces in the city of Port Louis.</p>	<p>Lack of a city environmental management plan.</p> <p>Port Louis is characterized as an urban built-up area.</p> <p>Risk of landslides during heavy rain.</p> <p>Loss of green spaces in the city.</p>	<p>Develop a local agenda 21.</p> <p>Tree planting and afforestation programmes in place.</p> <p>Adapt urban development to climate change.</p>	<p>Rapid population Growth.</p> <p>Lack of waste collection in informal settlements.</p> <p>Population exposure to natural hazards.</p> <p>Increasing hazards and risks such as landslides and floods due to environmental degradation.</p>

ENVIRONMENT, CLIMATE CHANGE AND DISASTER RISK REDUCTION	Project proposal
	Awareness raising on climate change and its impact

Port-Louis is a very old town but has experienced rapid expansion during the past decades. The impacts of climate change are already being felt by the residents of the city. Consequently, there is need to develop a comprehensive understanding of climate change and its impact. This is why a capacity development project is being proposed for the stakeholders of the municipality.

LOCATION: Municipality of Port Louis

DURATION: 24 months

BENEFICIARIES: Municipality of Port Louis

IMPLEMENTING PARTNERS: Municipality of Port Louis and the Ministry of Environment and Sustainable Development

ESTIMATED COST: USD 30,000

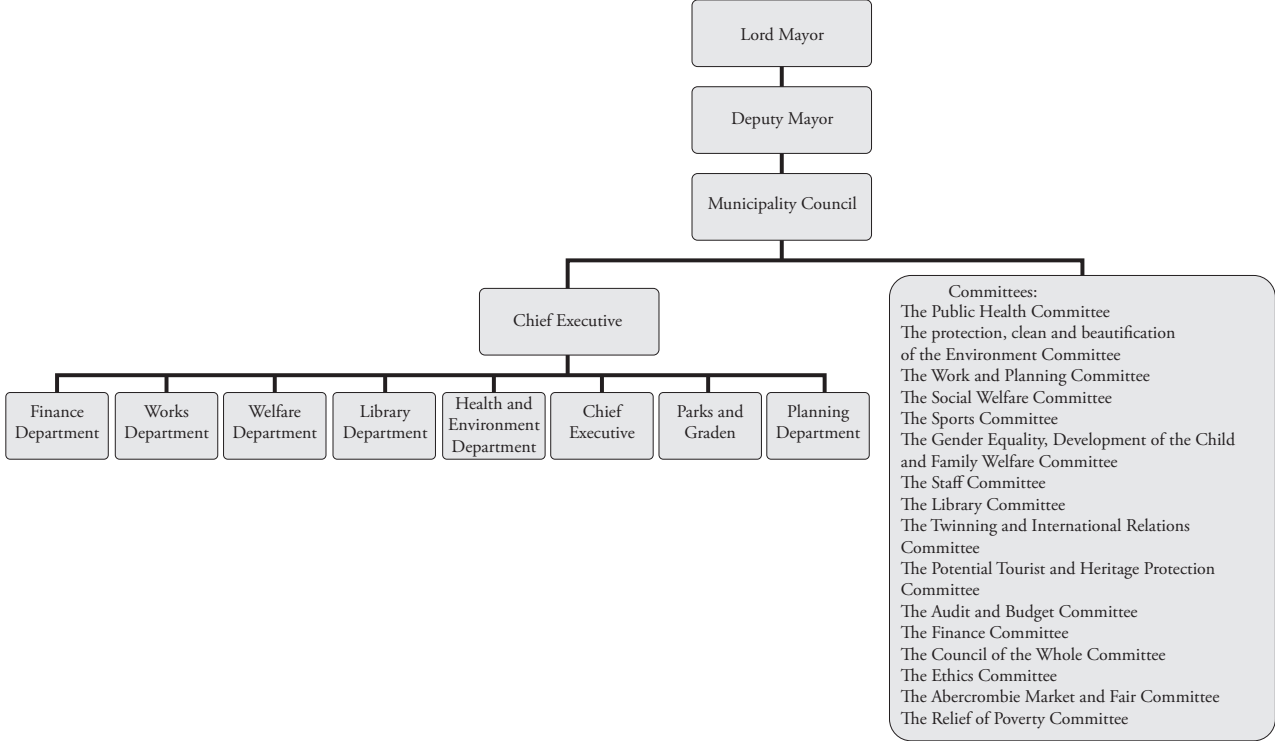
BACKGROUND: Climate Change and risks associated with natural disasters present serious challenges to the sustainable development of the City of Port-Louis.

OBJECTIVE: To empower the municipal stakeholders about climate change and its impact and to make policy recommendations for adaptation.

ACTIVITIES: (1) To develop an inception workshop on the project; (2) To organise an intensive workshop for stakeholders on all aspects of climate change; (3) To evaluate the risks for the city of Port-Louis; (4) To make policy recommendations and actions to the municipal council.

STAFF REQUIRED: (1) A project coordinator (2) Research assistant (3) Trainers

ANNEXE



Organisation Chart of the Municipal Council of Port Louis

PORT LOUIS CONSULTATION

ATTENDANCE LIST

NAME AND ORGANIZATION

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PORT LOUIS URBAN PROFILE

The Port Louis Urban Profiling consists of an accelerated, action-oriented assessment of urban conditions, focusing on priority needs, capacity gaps, and existing institutional responses at local and national levels. The purpose of the study is to develop urban poverty reduction policies at local, national, and regional levels, through an assessment of needs and response mechanisms, and as a contribution to the wider-ranging implementation of the Millennium Development Goals. The study is based on analysis of existing data and a series of interviews with all relevant urban stakeholders, including local communities and institutions, civil society, the private sector, development partners, academics, and others. The consultation typically results in a collective agreement on priorities and their development into proposed capacity-building and other projects that are all aimed at urban poverty reduction. The urban profiling is being implemented in 30 ACP (Africa, Caribbean and Pacific) countries, offering an opportunity for comparative regional analysis. Once completed, this series of studies will provide a framework for central and local authorities and urban actors, as well as donors and external support agencies.

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