



uKESA Newsletter

URBAN KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE SOUTHERN AFRICA

Promoting innovation & good practice in cities, towns & villages

What's in this edition?

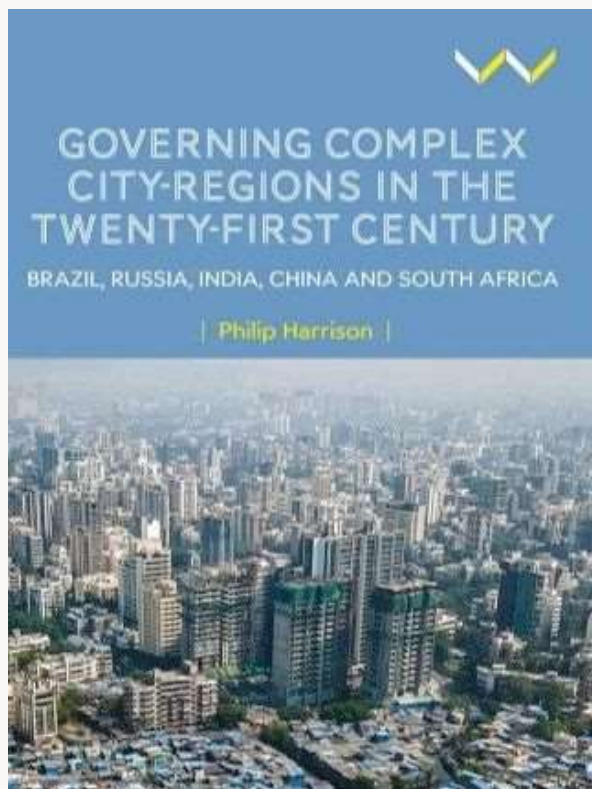
June 2024

In this edition we outline a range of new content from urban knowledge partners locally and around the world.

We include a book on governing complex city-regions in BRICS countries, a report on assessing urban spatial equality efforts in South Africa, and insights on releasing municipal land for affordable housing. Plus, learn how geology impacts landslide risk in Durban.

We also feature studies on the link between land and infrastructure in African cities, and a just approach to upgrading informal settlements. Finally, discover two recently released UN Habitat-commissioned tools for creating better public spaces and measuring urban performance.

Popular partner content



Governing Complex City-Regions in the Twenty-First Century

This book examines the intricate dynamics of urban governance in evolving city-regions globally, addressing challenges faced by scholars and practitioners in understanding contemporary urban processes. Through the lens of BRICS countries, it explores how diverse urban agents navigate complex collective actions within multi-layered institutions.

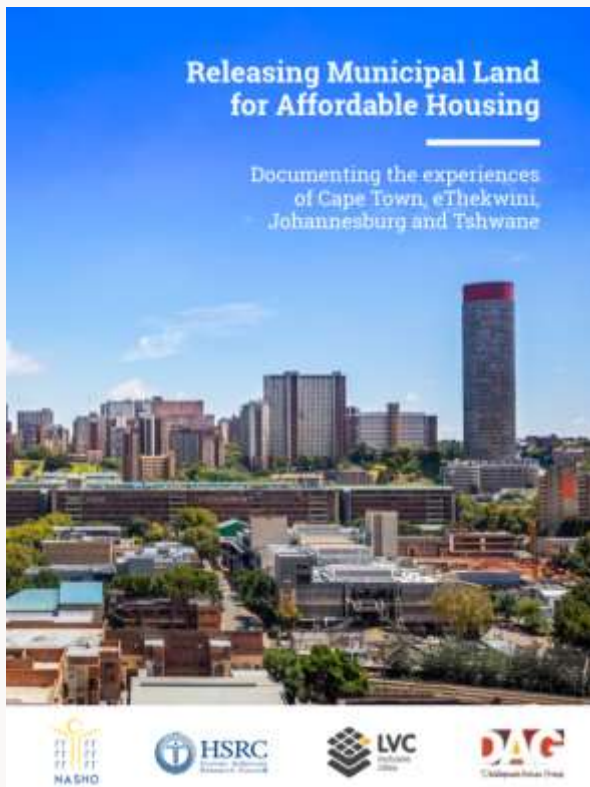
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Pathways to Transformation Spatial

Through systematic methods and indicators, the Housing Development Agency evaluates the progress of projects aimed at fostering equality and fairness in cities and neighbourhoods, with a particular focus on the post-apartheid era. The document discusses the HDA's approach to assessing urban changes in South Africa.

[Read more](#)



Releasing Municipal Land for Affordable Housing

This report from key agencies explores the challenges and processes of releasing municipal land for affordable housing in prime urban locations, focusing on four major South African metropolitan municipalities. Through case studies, it documents their experiences and aims to enhance strategies for effectively utilising municipal properties to address housing needs in well-located areas.

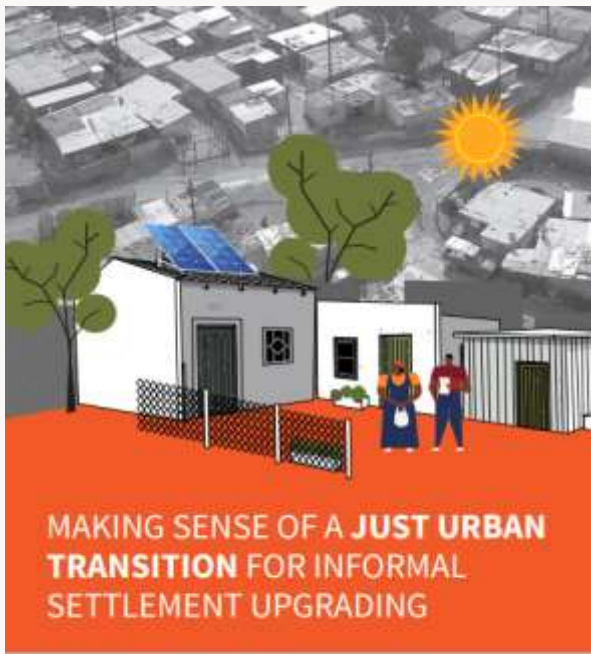
[Read more](#)



Land and connectivity

A comparative study by the African Cities Research Consortium across six cities examines the intricate relationship between urban land and infrastructure, acknowledging its multifaceted roles and politicised nature, often exacerbating urban inequalities. The report explores how this nexus influences land valuation, usage, conflicts, and taxation, concluding with key policy implications.

[Read more](#)



Making sense of a just urban transition for informal settlement upgrading

This report from the Isandla Institute explores a just urban transition approach to informal settlement upgrading, drawing insights from stakeholders including residents, and emphasises inclusivity in decision-making processes. It describes alternative service delivery models, land access issues, and the centrality of livelihoods in policy reorientation towards upgrading.

[Read more](#)



How geology puts Durban and other KZN cities at risk of landslides

The article discusses the 2022 floods in eThekweni, South Africa, attributing their severity to landslides triggered by the region's geological features, including sloping ground, water, and clay. Despite historical awareness dating back to the 1930s and some mitigation efforts, managing the risk posed by water-induced landslides remains challenging in this area.

[Read more](#)



Global Public Space Toolkit

From Global Principles to
Local Policies and Practice

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

Global Public Space Toolkit

This UN Habitat toolkit aims to rectify the oversight of public spaces in academic and policy discussions, offering practical guidance for local and central governments to enhance access and citizen involvement. Emphasising the critical role of public spaces for urban liveability, it seeks to elevate their importance in urban planning and governance.

[Read more](#)



Urban Performance Index

The urban performance report emphasises the critical role of cities in global growth and predicts a substantial increase in urban population by 2050. It urges leaders to prioritise sustainable development and utilise comprehensive tools for informed decision-making, aiming for a more sustainable future and identifying key areas for urban development.

[Read more](#)

In conclusion

The knowledge partners whose materials we highlight on the Urban Knowledge Exchange are what keeps the knowledge initiative alive. We are grateful for all contributions.

During the first five months of 2024, we have seen an uptick in traffic to uKESA that is more than double the same time last year. This indicates the high levels of interest in the content that we are covering and directs new users to the sites of our partners.

Remember that anyone working in the urban development and human settlements space can sign up as a uKESA contributor and upload their own content. If you are interested in how this works, you can find [a range of guidance in our FAQ area](#).

We are planning a number of webinars this year, so [keep a lookout for announcements of these and other happenings in our upcoming events area](#).

The uKESA Mission

- To develop, build and maintain a user-friendly, open access platform for exchanging quality information, value added content, and reliable advice amongst state, civil society, private sector, professional and academic partners in the built environment.
 - To provide opportunities for, and facilitate, shared learning and the best application of available knowledge across the different sectors (knowledge exchange).
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