Dinamiche di auto-organizzazione dello spazio urbano negli slum di Freetown, Sierra Leone
Self building and self-development of urban framework in Freetown slums

Federico Monica

UNIVERSITÀ DEGLI STUDI DI PARMA
Dipartimento di Ingegneria Civile, dell’Ambiente, del Territorio e Architettura
**SIERRA LEONE**

- **Area**: 71,740 km²
- **Population**: 6,200,000 (ext. 2013)
- **HDI**: 0,374 (183/186)

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**FREETOWN**

- **Administrative Area**: 557 km²
- **Population**: 1,550,000 (ext. 2012)
- **Population Density**: 2,782 ab/km²

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Urban Africa
1787  CITY ESTABLISHMENT

Creation of «Province of Freedom»
Arrivals of liberated slaves
First urban plot with tithings

1807  SLAVE TRADE ACT

Population growth
Development of polycentric model
Spread of Krio culture

1818  BRITISH PROTECTORATE

Development of Administrative district
Development of colonial residential areas
Capital of British West Africa
1830-1930  DEVELOPMENT AND INFRASTRUCTURATION OF THE COLONY

- Establishment of «Fourah bay College»
- Creation of roads, rails and services infrastructures
- Definition of first urban plot

1962  THE INDEPENDENCE

- Post-independence demographic growth
- Definition of new urban development plans

1993-2002  CIVIL WAR

- Invasion and looting of town
- Urban growth and refugees
- Destruction of public offices and archives
DEMOGRAPHIC GROWTH OF FREETOWN

1831

1955

1977

2006

2014

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Urban Africa
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THE MAIN CHALLENGES

LAND CONSUMPTION

WASTE MANAGEMENT

LACK OF BASIC INFRASTRUCTURES

HEALTH EMERGENCIES

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Population rate below poverty level

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>2004</th>
<th>2013</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SIERRAL EONE</td>
<td>88.4%</td>
<td>52.9%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>URBAN FREETOWN</td>
<td>13.6%</td>
<td>20.7%</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**POLITICAL APPROACH TO SLUM ISSUE**

- **WILL OF RELOCATION**
- **ELECTORAL CONCERNS**
- **LACK OF TRUSTING**
- **INDIFFERENCE**

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Self building and self-development of urban framework in Freetown slums
73 SLUM AREAS 14 WITH MORE THAN 5,000 RESIDENTS
INTERSTITIAL SETTLEMENTS

river areas

Coastline areas

Urban voids

Creek areas

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EXPANDING SETTLEMENTS

Coastline areas

Central hillsides

Outskirts hillsides

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STREETS AND PATHS

- Urban streets
- Pedestrian streets
- Drains
- Riverfront paths
- Shortcuts paths
- Stone stairways
- Seasonal creeks
- Paths on hill terracings

SQUARES AND VOID AREAS

- Urban streets enlargements
- Unbuilt areas
- Riverfront unbuilt areas
- Marketplaces
- Churchyards and Mosques yards
BLOCKS AND BUILT AGGLOMERATIONS

Linear row blocks

Semiregular agglomerations

Core-housing blocks

Standalone houses

Linear standalone houses agglomeration

Contiguous houses on slopes

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Urban Africa
survey october 2008

modifications august 2013

New buildings august 2013

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RELEVANT FINDINGS ABOUT FREETOWN SLUMS

RARELY SLUM SETTLERS WOULD AGREE TO RELOCATE IN OTHER TOWN AREAS

BUILT ENVIRONMENT AIMS TO A CONSOLIDATION

IN MANY SLUMS THERE ARE SHARED UNWRITTEN REGULATION ABOUT THE USE OF “PUBLIC” SPACES

SOME SLUM DWELLERS DEVELOPED “BEST PRACTICES” OF RISK MITIGATION
Implementing unwritten laws of urban framework development

STRATEGIES AND PRACTICES OF SELF-IMPROVEMENT FOR FREETOWN SLUMS

Strengthening and spreading of existing best practices of risk mitigation
IMPLEMENTING UNWRITTEN LAWS OF URBAN FRAMEWORK DEVELOPMENT

«No build Areas»

Definition of risk mitigation best practices

Expansions program

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STRENGTHENING AND SPREADING OF EXISTING BEST PRACTICES THE ROLE OF COMMUNICATION AND DIVULGATION

**Misure di lunghezza**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>8-10 cm</td>
<td>3,15-4&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>20-25 cm</td>
<td>7,9-9,8&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>45-50 cm</td>
<td>17,7-19,7&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-110 cm</td>
<td>3,3-3,6'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>170-190 cm</td>
<td>5,6-6,25'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>340-380 cm</td>
<td>11,15-12,45'</td>
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</table>

**Misure di altezza**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>70-80 cm</td>
<td>2,3-2,95'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>145-160 cm</td>
<td>4,75-5,25'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>220-240 cm</td>
<td>7,2-7,85'</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

**Misure di profondità**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Range</th>
<th>Measurement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>10-12 cm</td>
<td>4-4,75&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-55 cm</td>
<td>1,65-1,8'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>105-115 cm</td>
<td>3,45-3,75'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>10-12 cm</td>
<td>4-4,75&quot;</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>50-60 cm</td>
<td>1,65-2'</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>100-120 cm</td>
<td>3,3-3,95&quot;</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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**Family Planning:**

- **Time for Each Child:**
  - Planned Parenthood: Sierra Leone
  - Unplanned Family: No Time at All

**Say no to peh-peh dokta go na Ospitu**
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