

Informal settlements in the US: Sharing lessons from country experiences in Africa

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Roadmap

- Background
- The problem
- Flipping our perspectives on slums
- Reflections on lessons



Background

- Africa fast urbanizing – 40% live in cities
- Growth associated with poverty
- New growth in peri-urban areas

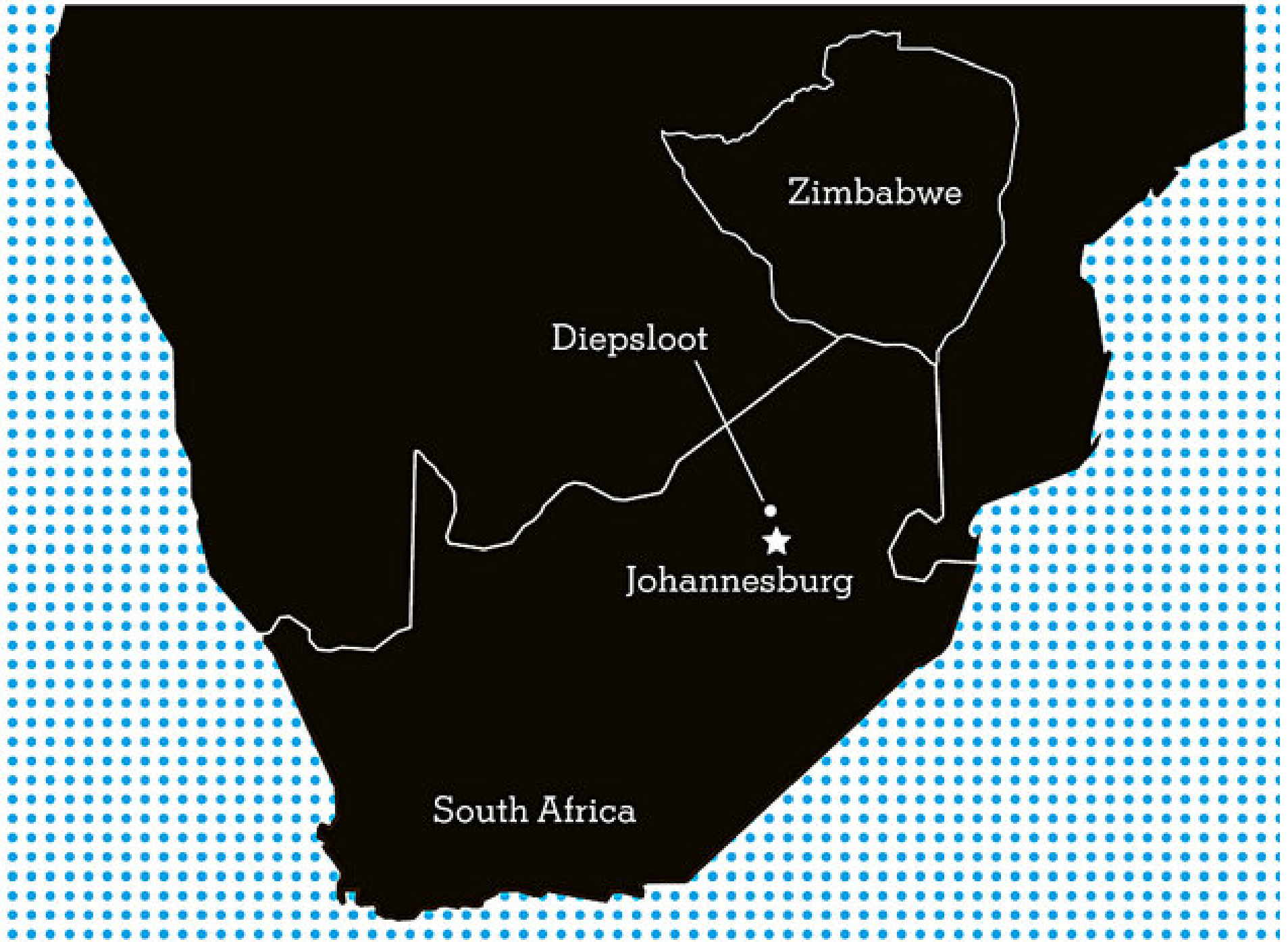


TABLE 1.1: URBAN SLUM POPULATIONS, SELECTED AFRICAN COUNTRIES, 1990 - 2010

	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2010*	1990	1995	2000	2005	2007	2010*
	Urban population (000s)						Proportion of slum dwellers (%)					
Nigeria	33,325	42,372	53,048	65,270	70,539	78,845	77.3	73.5	69.6	65.8	64.2	61.9
South Africa	19,034	22,614	25,827	28,419	29,266	30,405	46.2	39.7	33.2	28.7	28.7	28.7
Egypt	23,972	25,966	28,364	31,062	32,193	34,041	50.2	39.2	28.1	17.1	17.1	17.1
Morocco	12,005	13,931	15,375	16,763	17,377	18,374	37.4	35.2	24.2	13.1	13.1	13.1

* Projections

Source: UN-HABITAT, GUO (some of the data are interpolations)



Zimbabwe

Diepsloot



Johannesburg

South Africa

Emerging urban and peri-urban estuaries



“Estuarial ecosystems have distinct characteristics that represent something more than the shift from land to ocean. They bring together elements of fresh water with the cycles and tides of the open ocean.”

- Rapid Mixing of population ‘types’:
 - Long term residents
 - Newly if poorly ‘urbanised’
 - The ‘suburbanised’
- Mix of translocal economic strategies
- Mix of regulatory systems and authority structures

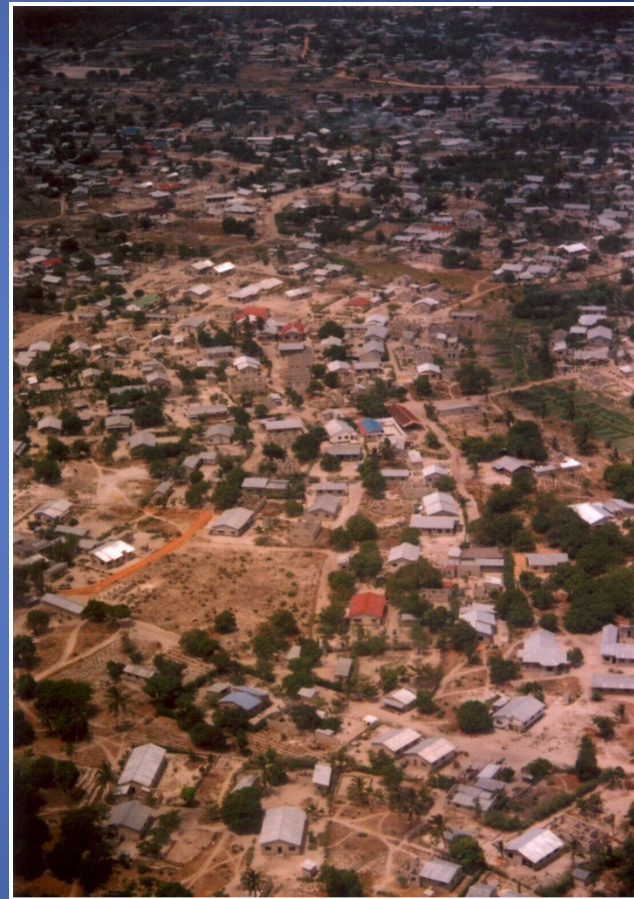
How has policy addressed these areas?

- Conventional policy responses tend to homogenize
- Retrofit informal areas within formal rules
- Increasing the burden of the poor and marginalized



Gateways of opportunity?

- Important 'toehold' in the city
- Important supply channel for housing and land
- Sophisticated systems of land management – technically illegal, but socially legitimate



Suburbs, Dar es Salaam

Reflecting on our lessons

- Learning from slums
- Rethinking planning responses and approaches
- Understanding people's aspirations, choices, and modes of organization

