



Contestations over informal settlements:

Which way forward?

Blended Online Event, September 24, 2020, 3 pm ET

Currently, Ethiopia is still one of the least urbanized countries in Africa while experiencing unprecedented annual growth rates in urban populations. Despite large government housing programs, there are rising numbers of informal settlements in the country - some reports talk about a doubling in the last few years and cases of forceful displacement and eviction are on the rise.

While the situation in Ethiopia might be unique given the country's size, history and current political situation, the challenges arising from informal urbanization are very similar for a host of countries in the region and in Africa more generally. Public debate sometimes features informal settlements as illegal and speculative. Rising contestations ensue about what to do with informal settlements. There is an evident need for debate of these important societal issues in higher education and university curricula, especially when it comes to spatial and urban planning.

This blended online event constitutes the final conference of a project entitled “**Social Inclusion and Energy Management for Informal Urban Settlements**” (SES). It aimed at bringing informality in housing prominently to the table and especially at introducing related subjects such as affordable and sustainable energy management at the (informal) household level to curricula of Higher Education in the planning disciplines. Findings and products of the project will contribute to a broader discussion on how to find sustainable solutions for informal settlements in Africa.



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Pre-recorded sessions of SES project & partners

A wealth of topical short presentations will be available online, starting September 17. They provide an overview of the scope of the SES project as well as highlighting several of the project's in-depth case studies in the controversial field of informal and/ or substandard housing in Ethiopia. Participants of the online event on September 24 are invited to browse this array of informative videos in advance to explore publications and further material elaborated within the project's framework.



Ethiopian institute for architecture, building construction and city development (EiABC), Addis Ababa, Ethiopia:

Abnet Gezahegn, MSc,

Household energy management in informal settlements of Addis Ababa

Tsion Lemma, MSc

Towards narrowing the gap between the persistence of informality and emergence of prosperity

Alemea Girmay, MSc, Lecturer in Faculty of Architecture and Planning, Chair Head of Housing, Urban and Landscape Design, Arba Minch University, Ethiopia

Exploring the use of domestic spaces for homebased income generation

University of Mekelle, Ethiopia:

Daniel Semunugus, MSc & PhD Candidate

Experiences with the SES project in University of Gondar – take aways

Overall assessment and mapping of informal settlement in Mekelle city

Sara Amare Gebremeskel, MSc

Energy management in Mekelle condominium housing

Ephrem Nigusie, MSc



Peripheral and inner city informal housing situation in Mekelle

Biniam Tekle Biru, MSc

Social inclusion and participatory planning in marginal settlements of Mekelle city

Haile Gebre-egziabher, MSc & PhD Candidate

Urban upgrading in a periurban informal settlement the case of Dingur neighborhood, Mekelle

University of Gondar, Gondar, Ethiopia

Dr. Atsede Desta,

Experiences with the SES project in University of Gondar – the overall picture

Informal urban settlement: typology, driving forces and socio-economic features in Gondar, Ethiopia

Bekele Molla, MSW and Hone Mandefro, MSW & PhD Candidate

Social capital across three different neighbourhood settlements in Gondar, Ethiopia

Dr. Meseret Kassie and Tadesse Negash, MSC

Energy management in informal settlement areas of Gondar city, northwestern Ethiopia

Dr. Mikyas Abera Negewo

Quality of life in informal urban settlement in Ethiopia: the case of three sub-cities in Gondar city

Prof. Dr. Peter Gotsch, University Kassel, Kassel, Germany & Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU), Trondheim, Norway

Lessons from Urban Regeneration

Luc Boerboom, University of Twente. Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, The Netherlands

Industrialization & housing needs

Emile Dopheide, University of Twente. Faculty of Geo-Information Science and Earth Observation, The Netherlands

Online learning and capacity development

Smruti Jukur, MSc, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC), Mumbai, India

Energy justice (tbc)



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<https://mdl.donau-uni.ac.at/ses/mod/page/view.php?id=247>