

Slums and prosperity: a complex, dynamic pathway of intervention

Aisha Abubakar, Ombretta Romice and Ashraf M. Salama
*Department of Architecture, Faculty of Engineering,
University of Strathclyde, Glasgow, UK*

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Abstract

Purpose – Slums have existed as long as cities have and are a growing context in the developing world. The challenge is in their efficient, effective and inclusive management. The purpose of this paper is to frame slums in the broad aim of urban development and the pursuit of prosperity, as active players and positive contributors in every right – a slum-prosperity framework. First, however, they need to be comprehensively defined in a non-exclusive, structured, dynamic and heuristic way; a previous publication was set to resolve this challenge.

Design/methodology/approach – Guided by a synthesized operative model for prosperity, such a definition for slums is used to precisely relate their characters to the pursuit of prosperity through a mapping process, whereby these characters are linked to potentials for prosperity, improvement goals, resources and intervention plans.

Findings – Both slums and prosperity are fuzzy, complex and variable terms; the only possibility to deal with them both is to break them down into simple and manageable yet operative units and establish the most influential and effective links between them to organize intervention according to patterns of change in both slums and city.

Research limitations/implications – An intervention agenda like the one proposed here, that gives room for contextual and temporal urban complexities, has the potential to augment urban practice and help curb the slum phenomenon. A final paper (forthcoming) will illustrate the application of both the comprehensive definition of slum and the implementation of a pathway toward prosperity.

Originality/value – The proposal in this paper is derived as part of research conducted for the award of a PhD at the University of Strathclyde Glasgow. This was in general set to contribute to the proactive and inclusive improvement of slums and cities. The proposal is further derived from the authors' involvement and personal interest in developing regions and is designed on local experience and on wider expertise in urban renewal.

Keywords Resilience, Intervention, Informal, Slums

Paper type Research paper

Introduction: slums in relation to urbanization, city growth and improvement in the quality of life

Slums have been a consistent part of urban development, in pre and post-industrial Europe and America in particular, long before it became a phenomenon predominantly associated with the developing regions. According to all past, current and forecast demographic data in these regions, slums are here to stay (UN-Habitat, 2003, 2016). Calls to find better and more effective ways of engaging them without aiding their further growth have persisted. Cities in developing regions are rightly concerned with maintaining productive enclaves, meeting global urban demands and maintaining sustainable and smart cities; slums are in general not regarded as advantages to their profiles (Alagbe, 2006; Satterthwaite, 2016). This perception has, since the 1950s, steered most approaches to slum management toward their elimination, benign neglect or containment. These approaches, in addition to prevailing pejorative perceptions, partial knowledge and non-integration of proactive strategies, have contributed to ineffective and sometimes even reverse outcomes that were the opposite of slum management aims (Arimah, 2010; UN-Habitat, 2014a, 2003).

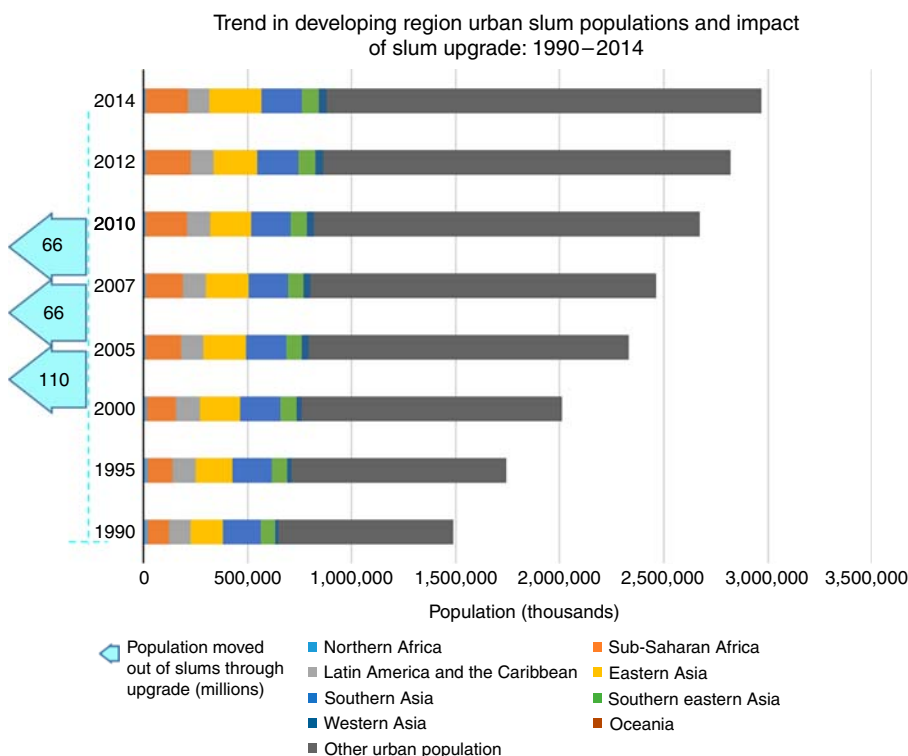
However, in the past three decades especially, there has been some progress in dealing with slums in more positive ways involving on-site strategies to improve their overall living conditions. This, on the acknowledgment that destroying slums without



resolving issues at their roots only fuels the growth of more slums. Some examples include the tenure model experimented in Voi, Kenya (Bassett, 2005), infrastructure and tenure strategies used in the Baan Mankong Program, Thailand (Boonyabanha, 2009) and the Participatory Slum Upgrading Program of the UN-Habitat. However, as the data between 2000 and 2014 show, these efforts remain dwarfed by the continued rise in absolute slum populations (Figure 1). The many layers of socially related, economic and environmental complexities intertwined in slums make understanding them and appropriately implementing interventions a challenge (Arimah, 2010; Jaitman and Brakarz, 2013). Slums are complex, yet properly understanding them seems key to their effective management. What is more, in history as of today, they share a complex existence with cities that are geographic and demographic as well as socio-cultural/economic/political in function. So, it is a two-way relationship between cities and slums.

Slums are a relative concept

We emphasize, as do Birch (2014), Halfani (2014) and Tannerfelt and Ljung (2006), that the challenge for developing region cities lies in the appropriate and inclusive management of slum urbanism if they are to progress sustainably. Not only that, but it is necessary to practically engage them with ongoing realities in cities' social, physical, economic, political



Note: In 2015, the UN-Habitat estimated a 28 percent rise in slum populations between 1990 and 2014 despite over 200 m slum population affected by slum upgrade

Source: (UN-Habitat, 2010, 2013a, 2016; United Nations, 2010)

Figure 1. Slum population pattern in developing regions

and environmental spheres. To contribute to such an endeavor, we focus on associating slum urbanism and its improvement to a relevant urban concept and goal in cities' pursuit of progress and prosperity (see UN-Habitat, 2013a). For us, this involves overcoming two limitations: developing a systematic approach for the comprehensive description and definition of slums as they exist in the city. This is a prevailing gap for effective slum improvement and has been fulfilled through a proposal for the Slum Property Map (SPM) (Abubakar *et al.*, 2017). The SPM is developed as a contextually sensitive framework to capture the physical, spatial and environmental image of slums, and dynamic to use in support of appropriate and strategic action. The second limitation to overcome consists in developing a definition of prosperity which is also comprehensive and operative and tied to slums and their characters. This approach can incite cities to engage their urban agendas with a "fresher notion of prosperity" (UN-Habitat, 2013a, p. XI) whilst effectively managing slums, so to improve their status within a global urban order.

The slum to its residents: looking from inside out: Cities serve as versatile and multidimensional engine rooms for human development (Halfani, 2014; UN-Habitat, 2013a). The most vibrant of cities in both historical and present-day contexts have always been "pulls" for populations seeking opportunities; the stories of cities' that are experiencing booms in social/cultural/economic/political/ecological vitality parallel that of slums development, growth and persistence (Agnihotri, 1994; Angel, 2014; Glaeser, 2011; Payne, 2008). The primary objective for moving to or staying in cities is to improve wellbeing and have a better life overall. Because the pool of cities is for everyone, what varies is the starting condition one seeks to improve. For the poorest or disadvantaged, the slum in all its forms will always be a source of relatively accessible urban residence and, as current data shows, most times a permanent one. The UN-Habitat (2013a) established that in developing regions, 33 percent of an annual migration population of 1.3m settles in slums. Since 2000, slums on average have grown by 16,500 persons a day or 6m a year (UN-Habitat, 2016). So, the relations between cities' and slums' population growth extend beyond mere demographics and include all cities' vital structural dynamics.

The slum to the world: looking from outside in: Prosperity, for UN-Habitat (2013a), is a common ideal that cities' primary social, cultural, economic, political, ecological and urban management (and policy) structures are focused on attaining. However, while cities are paving ways toward prosperity, they are also generating issues of inequality, economic and environmental challenges (Halfani, 2014; UN-Habitat, 2013a). Cities in developing regions, in particular, pose a growing concern with regard to prosperity. Global consensus faults the presence of slums, along with aspects such as inadequate and inefficient planning policies, low average incomes, low levels of human capital, inadequate infrastructure, high levels of crime, poverty coupled with corruption, weak institutions and poor governance to be inconsistencies to cities' prosperity (UN-Habitat, 2013a, b; Weiss, 2001). All these dimensions are interrelated; for slums especially, poor governance, weak institutions and corruption are characteristic forces that continue to drive their growth. When prosperity is confined to a population group or not generally enjoyed by all, there is the need to re-assess cities within new dynamic perspectives (UN-Habitat, 2013a). Herein lies the potential to engage toward this idea: for the slums, cities hold certain potential for improvement and wellbeing overall; for the city, a way to pursue this objective is through prosperity. Slums are a part of cities and hold a substantial percentage of human capital. Then, why not consider prosperity as a goal that fits the slum as well in extending efforts toward sustainable urbanization? There is potential to streamline slum improvement with that of cities' prosperity.

The idea of prosperity – a variable and non-standard concept

A concept used historically, prosperity has only relatively recently been studied as a significant measure in a country's, city's or population's life. The most recent

advancements in understanding prosperity have been three-fold: first, recognizing that from the perspective of wellbeing, prosperity is not solely linked to economic growth – an aspect highlighted by the long existing economic monopoly over a general conception of prosperity (see Cowling, 2006; Prescott, 2002). Rather, it also concerns social and environmental criteria that address growing rural/urban disparities. Second, acknowledging that prosperity is a relative concept rather than an absolute one; and third, that it is a dynamic endeavor.

For Jackson (2011), prosperity is a concept that is inextricably tied to human relations and to physical, social, and environmental continuity, responsibility and concern; it is also the flip side of poverty or adversity. For Ellin (2013), prosperity means to thrive in relation to coexisting personal, societal and environmental circumstances. Prosperity, for the UN-Habitat (2013a, pp. XI, 13), “means different things to different people; regardless of culture and civilization, it refers to a general individual and socioeconomic wellbeing and security for the immediate and foreseeable future. [...] [it] remains one of the human kind’s most enduring pursuits across time and space.” The Legatum Institute (2014) describes it as “more than just the accumulation of material wealth, [but] also the joy of everyday life and the prospect of an even better [...] future.” For Shah (2012), people consider the relevance of the varying aspects of prosperity differently – some might consider the more social aspects more relevant to their wellbeing than economic.

A shared and accepted conceptualization of prosperity is still a work in progress; but again, since the early twentieth century, so are its relevant measurable targets (UN-Habitat, 2013a, 2015). This encompasses measures such as the gross domestic product (GDP) established in 1937, the 1972 gross national happiness measure in Bhutan, and the 2006 China’s green GDP index. More recently, varying indicators of individual and collective wellbeing have been used to assess the levels of prosperity by organizations. Examples include the New Economics Foundation, UK that uses personal, psychological and social wellbeing indicators (Harrison *et al.*, 2016) and Regional Research Institute, USA, that uses indicators of people, business and business location (UN-Habitat, 2013a). The UN-Habitat (2013a, 2015) sought to capture prosperity as a concomitant interplay of productivity, infrastructure, quality of life, equity, environmental sustainability and governance. For them, each of their proposed six dimensions is measurable and have helped compile the city prosperity index (CPI) with which to classify cities in both developed and developing countries. Six degrees of CPI were then put forward that provide an overview of required intervention to address shortfalls in each of the six dimensions (wheel of urban prosperity). For us, this approach provides a more inclusive way of looking at prosperity and has both a global outlook and local sensitivity.

An initial analysis of the UN-Habitat CPI measure for cities with weak prosperity revealed an interesting result: whilst the cities with lowest overall prosperity index are also those within regions of high slum percentages, the trend between slum development within the period of 1990–2009 and city prosperity does not show a recurrent inverse pattern (Figure 2). Inverse patterns happen consistently when slums develop within an ineffective policy and practice framework dealing with their management – considerably affecting aspects of equity and governance – in association with the characteristic forces that continue to drive their growth. A closer look at the case of Dhaka – where a more efficient approach to urban and slum management was implemented – shows that better prosperity is accompanied by a receding regional slum population trend. While Harare – where a less efficient urban/slum management approach was in place – showed instead that lower prosperity is accompanied by expanding regional slum population. This suggests that slums are not necessarily the prime cause of low prosperity in themselves and highlight the logic in considering prosperity pursuit in tandem with slum improvement in the overall greater pursuit of sustainable urbanization.

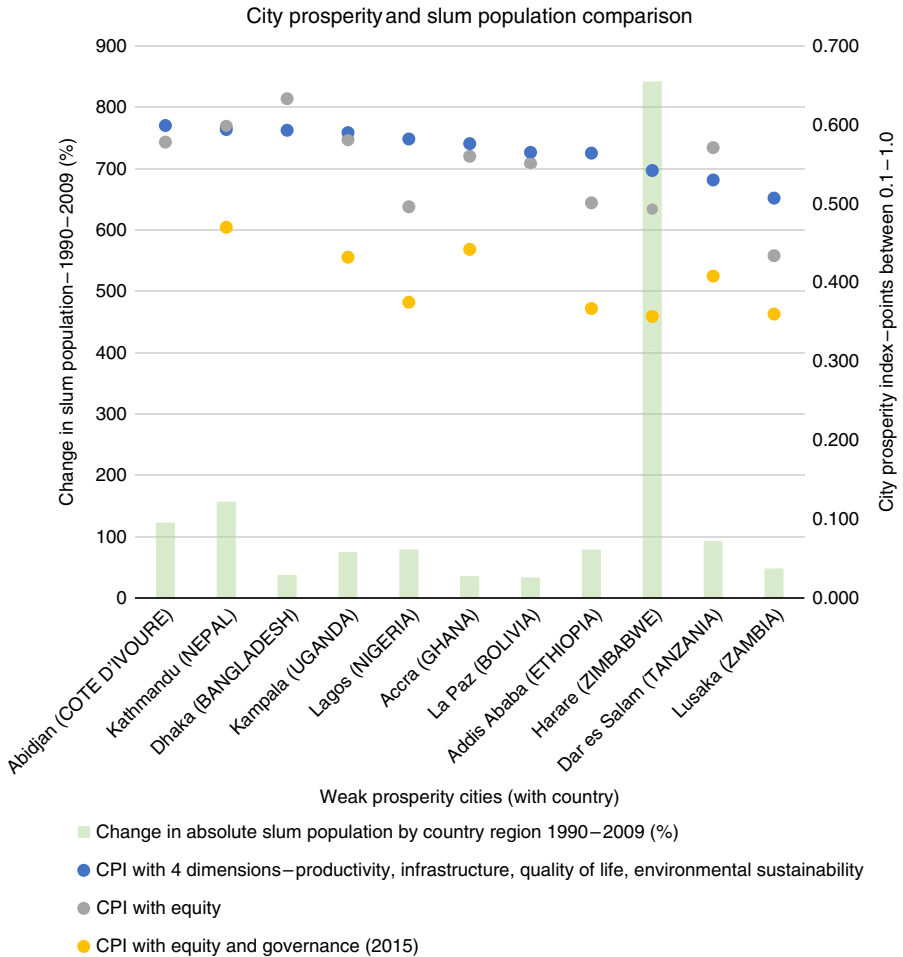


Figure 2. Analysis of city prosperity index for cities with weak prosperity factors, and the change in absolute slum populations for their country regions between 1990 and 2009

Source: UN-Habitat (2013a, 2015)

Positively linking prosperity and slums: an approach

The review of the literature shows the many and varied physical, social, spatial and environmental contexts that make up both cities and slums are complex, as are the outlooks on urban prosperity and the wellbeing concepts used to measure it. There is a lack of standardized conception of what it means to prosper. Furthermore, the measures of prosperity are broad, involve empirical analysis, and may not all necessarily apply to slums. They, however, reveal an interplay of three essential interactive real-life aspects: people and their interactions in the immediate space, the wider environment, and the structures in place to manage the people and environments. These aspects provide a useful frame for establishing an association between slum and prosperity because slums also contain people, environments and their interaction. At the same time, the UN-Habitat’s wellbeing concepts provide a useful place to start to consider more contextually appropriate (to slums) and simpler to implement (for stakeholders concerned) indicators. For us, however, any effective slum-prosperity strategy will need to be based on a comprehensive understanding and

definition of the slum and a detailed operative clarification of prosperity – what it means to prosper. The SPM (Abubakar *et al.*, 2017) helps to define slums for intervention. The objective, therefore, was for a detailed clarification of prosperity and how this links to any slum's property map, and to enable stakeholders to slum improvement to efficiently take an active part in its pursuit. We approach such an agenda for slum and prosperity through integration of theory and framework development.

Romice *et al.* (2016) have suggested that quality of life in relation to cities is a dynamic process linked to people's personal and external conditions, and to the satisfaction of needs. On the assumption that overall prosperity is pursued through a combination of conditions, and is a consistent endeavor based on the fulfillment of goals then, we hypothesized that a comprehensive understanding of prosperity should be just as much about the pursuit of fulfillment, an inherent human quality that is tied to needs, as it is about the real-world dimensions of people, the wider environment, and the management structures in place. From this, we develop a theory and model that explains what it means to prosper and in slums, and the relevant stages involved. This theoretical construct is reached through the analytical synthesis of facts and concepts from theories of human motivation, needs and development, space and space production and resilience. It is proposed in the section "An operative overview of prosperity and its pursuit in slums." The next operational task, therefore, was to develop a comprehensive and actionable Slum-Prosperity Framework (SPF).

The SPF is a conceptual framework of actions to help stakeholders in slum improvement engage on a path to prosperity. We integrate the SPM (Abubakar *et al.*, 2017) to describe the slum through a list of comprehensive categories of properties that characterize its form, people, activities, meanings and perceptions. We further integrate a framework of indicators to help appraise slums and their potentials for prosperity that are context specific and structured about people, environment and the management structures. On this basis, we combine the map of properties and prosperity to human needs requiring fulfillment in time, using an expanded and defined Max-Neef's (1992) framework of human needs, and the hurdles and possibilities toward this. We further implement Social Network Analysis (SNA) theory and tools. SNA helps to visually track, analyze and strategize about the relationships of complex social phenomena (Hansen *et al.*, 2011; Newman, 2003). In the SPF, it is used as a tool to help establish and represent these complex links between characteristics, needs and potentialities, and to help visualize and identify the resulting pathways for improvement and prosperity. So far, the SPF has been tested through a desktop case study supported by the previous informal experience of an area in Abuja, Nigeria; and, finally tested in terms of the logic and applicability of its principles and structure, functions and expected outcomes in an expert opinion survey, validating it. The SPF is proposed in the section "The slum-prosperity framework."

An operative overview of prosperity and its pursuit in slums

Motivational behavior is a vital aspect of our inherent self-expression as humans just as our biological, organismic and personal, inherited, natural and social qualities; understanding the motives that guide pursuit of goals is tied to an understanding of needs, and how they award potency to goals (Deci and Ryan, 2000; Spirkin, 1983). Max-Neef's (1992) theory of human needs provides a functional view for the pursuit of needs-centered goals. It distinguishes between basic needs that have to do with our nature and are necessary for survival (Hartley, 2010; Maslow, 1943): subsistence, protection, affection, understanding, participation, creativity, identity, leisure and transcendence; and existential needs, which have to do with our essential domains of "being," "doing," "having" and "interacting." For Max-Neef, the strive toward fulfilling basic needs to improve our conditions, our social relations and environment, is addressed through existential needs and their satisfiers. Satisfiers are the perceived tangible and intangible conditions (physiological, mental and psychological) we need to meet, the actions we need

to undertake, the assets we need to have, and the interactions that need to happen. Importantly, satisfiers might at the same time help fulfill a need and trigger the satisfaction of others. So, depending on circumstances they can work as catalysts or latent assets, a trait that will be referred to later in the paper.

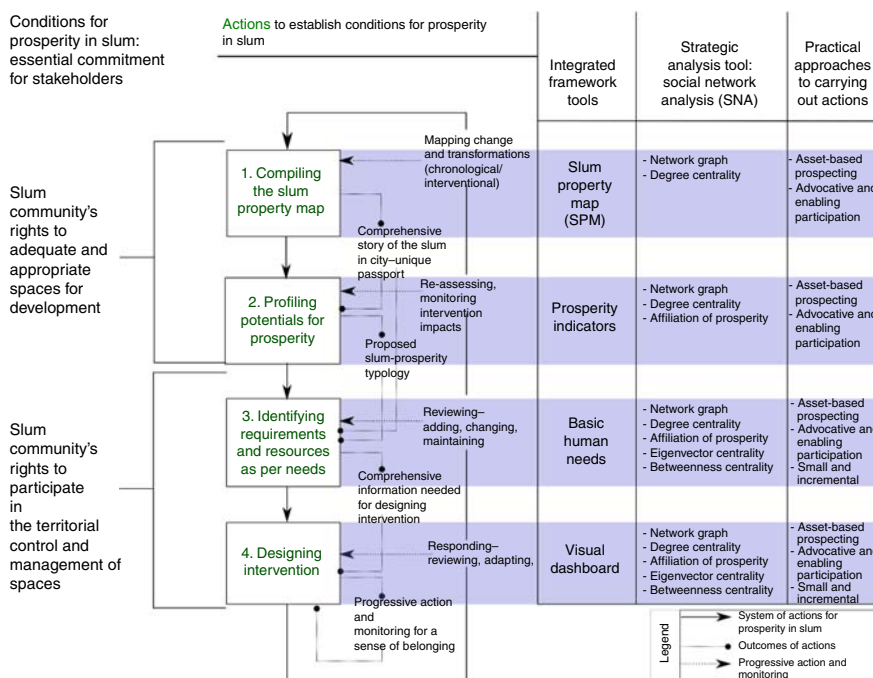
Essentially, the above process includes our contextualization (as satisfiers) and operationalization (as resources) of elements of our lived spaces to fulfill needs-centered goals. The lived spaces embody the physical, social, natural, our actions and thoughts (Lefebvre, 1991; see also Salama *et al.*, 2016). Also, they can be identified and represented through an ontological and cognitive framework. Abubakar *et al.* (2017) proposed such a framework – the SPM, to capture these same elements and spaces of slums via descriptive property categories. As such, it is possible to establish a correspondence between the slum itself and the existential process of needs satisfaction.

The simple fulfillment of needs-centered goals that improve a condition entails self-actualization; and this fulfills development (Max-Neef, 1992). Development implies a beneficial change that occurs from one condition to another more advanced one (see Hamdi, 2004; Soubotina, 2004) in the systematic pursuit of goals. So, as an operative concept, we propose that pursuing prosperity implies the first stage of development through the efficient use of both contextual and operative spaces. Here, a sustained state of development, ensuring it does not fall back to deprivation, presents a valid potential for prosperity.

The missing link between simple development and the pursuit of prosperity has to do with time. Time is the dimension within which our relation with, occupation and appropriation of spaces to pursue living occurs (Habraken, 1998; Lefebvre, 1991), instilling dynamism to these processes. Our position on sustaining development ties well with the idea of prosperity pursuit as a dynamic endeavor, and finds corroboration in the ideas of dynamic sustainability, thriving (Ellin, 2013) and resilience (Holling, 1973). Time entails a change in the domain of lived spaces, people and their relationships, where contextual changes in one domain also affect the other; if the existential system responds to these variations, if it learns from experience and improves its behavior and performance without losing its essence, then the system is resilient. Thriving in any setting, for us, implies sustained development pathways efficiently adapted to people's evolving needs in response to contextual variations of lived spaces and of people. It is the second and relevant stage for prosperity. This systematic conceptualization – of development and thriving – presents a model and basic agenda to engage slums in prosperity.

The Slum-Prosperity Framework

So far, we have shown that engaging with city and slums toward prosperity requires a structured and hands-on approach across the dimensions of people, their environments and management structures, and their complex and dynamic interrelations. Furthermore, that human needs, when satisfied, improve immediate states or conditions – development, and the progressive attainment of development in time, thriving, achieves prosperity; also, the process is contextually based on the quality of lived spaces and their functional capacity toward development, as per needs, and thriving. The SPF is proposed to engage a pool of stakeholders – locals, urban and design professionals, NGOs, government officials, etc., to carry out four actions in view of relevant and essential outcomes (Figure 3). The idea here is that to pursue prosperity in any slum, local stakeholders need to be able to take part in development and to participate in the territorial control and management of their spaces. It is only when slum communities are given rights to develop and thrive that they can participate in the production of the spaces that award vitality to cities, which is a collective right (see Sadri and Sadri, 2012; Ypi, 2014). The SPF integrates slum traits as established in the SPM (Abubakar *et al.*, 2017) to prosperity indicators and basic human needs; then, it guides toward the identification of effective pathways for improving prosperity prospects in slums in a responsive way, supported by SNA theory and tools.



Source: Authors

Figure 3. The slum-prosperity framework schematic

The first and second actions in the SPF – compiling the SPM, and profiling potentials for prosperity – are set to provide a comprehensive background about the slum and its prospects for prosperity, enough to guide a context-specific improvement approach. Here, applying an SPM manual (Abubakar *et al.*, 2017) helps to compile the slum’s property map through eight categories of slum properties with information and data that contextualize them; then, establish how and the degrees to which they affect/influence/trigger each other to define the slum’s character. The narrative formed from it will capture the comprehensive image of the slum, its people, who they are, their attitudes, experiences, relevant activities, priorities, conditions and situations they live with and within, risks, interest in improving the slum, etc., a unique definition and story of its existence in the city. This exercise reveals a framework within which to consider how the slum character might enhance or inhibit the pursuit of development toward prosperity. For us, this pursuit is not a mechanical endeavor, rather, contextually based on the quality of slum’s lived spaces, which can be assessed through its SPM. The instructions on how to undertake this action are based on simple logic with the support of the framework of 54 prosperity indicators that can be simply matched to the framework of slum properties (Figure 4). These are model contexts that will ideally support development, thematically grouped around dimensions of people, environments and management structures. They are proposed from a detailed qualitative content analysis based on the individual and collective urban wellbeing concepts of productivity, quality of life, infrastructure, equity, environmental sustainability and governance (see UN-Habitat, 2013a, 2015) using 33 published sources. Taking a positive outlook, the overall degree to which the slum space enhances prosperity, on a scale of overall slum-prosperity map, provides an index of the slum’s propensity for and relative distance from prosperity. This can serve as a typology for the slum in the city, a point of reference and objective pace-setter.

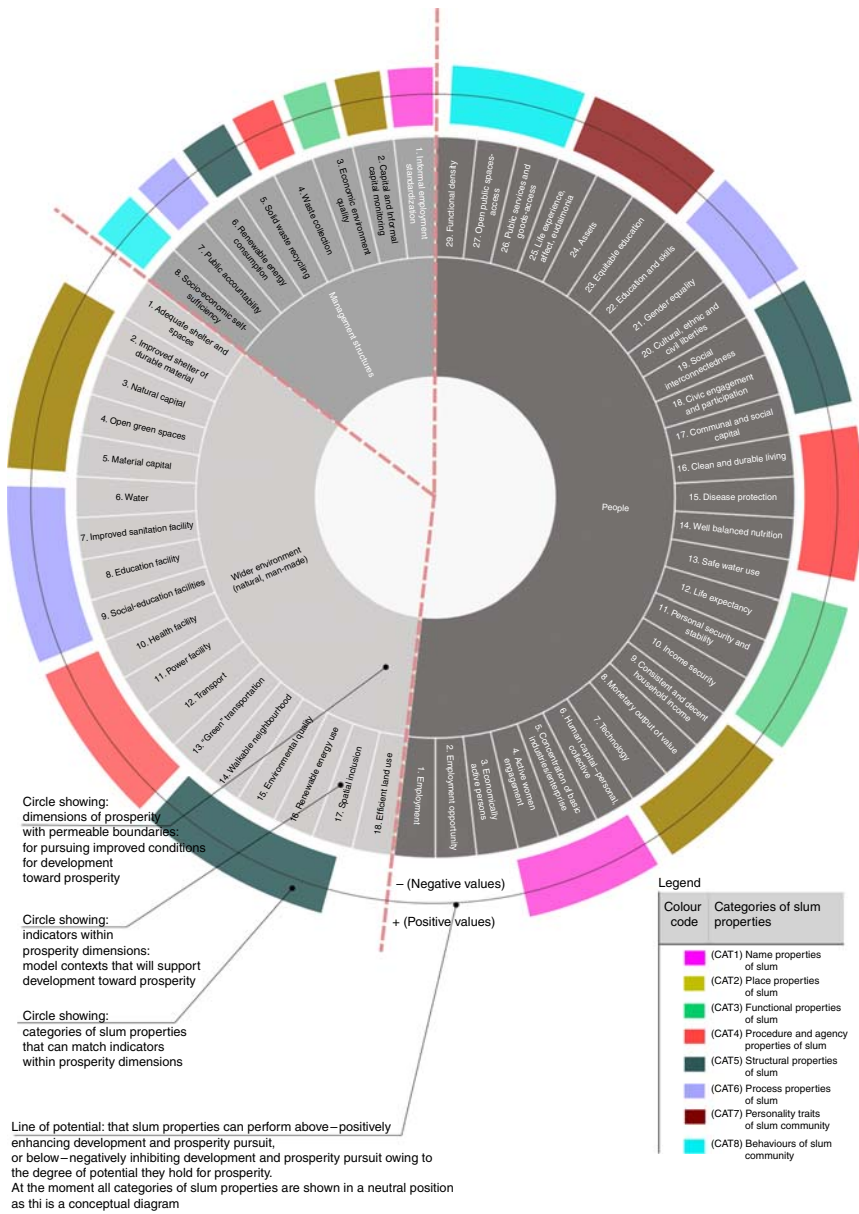


Figure 4. A framework of indicators for prosperity, which can match any slum property map that defines a slum (see the Appendix for an enlarged version of the diagram)

Notes: see Figures A1-A3 for an enlarged version of the diagram
Source: Authors

Once developed, the interactive slum-prosperity map will reveal relevant facts about the nature of the slum, through its properties, which stakeholders can qualify to highlight their role in possible development and thriving (action 3): by understanding the links between properties and their relationships, and thus establish their network-like character where

some will have higher and others lower impact, by establishing how such properties might enhance or inhibit the pursuit of development toward prosperity, by establishing their capacity to widely impact positive change in the slum, acting as eigenvectors (see Hansen *et al.*, 2011), and to act as triggers, brokers or partners toward positive change – essentially “starting-blocks” or “bridge-builders.” These steps are strategically used to first identify key initial manageable, yet structured targets of engagement to upscale and/or correct with potential to support basic needs pursuit and incremental planning. This action is supported by the definition framework of basic human needs, developed through qualitative content analysis using 60 published sources. The SPF then helps to identify appropriate resources to capitalize on such initial change, and slowly, but systematically, pursue incremental improvement in association with slum community’s assets. The above are the first steps to establishing relevant responsive pathways that can then be followed in a program to improve slum conditions and enable the communities to thrive and prosper (action 4). Any slum-prosperity program will need to target all milieus of development activities – people, their relations and environment, be flexible and allowed to adapt when needed and keep delivering small improvements along the way with proper tracking and monitoring. It will need to engage, guide and adequately enable the slum community, through human capacity building and rigorous guidance for one, toward primary implementation and its maintenance even after intervention has drawn to a close.

The objective of the SPF is to support and guide an informed and flexible decision-making process through triggering, engaging and empowering. Conceptually, the SPF is a map that links together a comprehensive and tailored description of the slum to a series of progressive actions, on the basis of resources with potential identified within, or *Outwith* the slum itself. It accounts for time and transformations along the way. It helps explore potential, capitalize on opportunities and intervene on obstacles. It is not an answer to slum prosperity, but a supported and calibrated journey toward its achievement. Hence, the actions and tools that we propose are not prescriptive, they allow for and encourage re-mappings, revisions and re-contextualization to appropriately respond to changes and evolutions in the slum. Because as things change, so also will improvement strategies. Thus, the SPF also serves as a knowledge base, learning, advocacy and partnership framework, especially with the implementation of a versatile, accessible and interactive visual dashboard (see Batty and Hudson-smith, 2014).

Conclusions: a fresh perspective for slums’ and cities’ prosperity

Continuing from Abubakar *et al.* (2017) that proposed a comprehensive slum definition framework – the Slum Property map (SPM), this paper has outlined an actionable framework – the Slum-Prosperity Framework (SPF), to assist in identifying and establishing effective pathways for slum improvement and urban prosperity overall. The SPM is, therefore, a key tool in the SPF. The SPF guides stakeholders to develop an intimate understanding of the state of affairs in a slum, establish synergies and requirements for improvement that are responsive to these and prosperity pursuit. Here, we consider that: an asset-based prospecting approach that recognizes the slum’s social and mental, physical, environmental robustness without disregarding its challenges, an approach that advocates for and enables the slum community to play a vital and primary role in the process, and one that is not dismissive of small details and takes on small and incremental tasks are all key in view of creative and efficient processes and effective outcomes. Also, we implement the use of Social Network Analysis (SNA) theory and tools to support actions in the SPF. In the SPF, it helps stakeholders in the representation and documentation of facts, their analysis, assessments, evaluations and resolutions involved in the actions for prosperity. Just like the SPM, the SPF is also accompanied by an application manual, currently under development, which uses SNA software, NodeXL. For us, the SPF provides a novel approach to overcoming the perceptive and contextual challenges that are limitations to effective slum

intervention, and to advance sustainable, inclusive, and proactive slum and urban management. What is more, as a detailed map of properties, assets and needs, the SPF can also act as a useful tool to engage different stakeholders.

As noted previously, there is potential for a joint slum-prosperity endeavor in cities. However, our position is further supported by slums' vast partnership potential in terms of contributing social, spatial, natural, material, innovative and productive capital. Many provide accounts on the positive assets that slums hold, creative entrepreneurship, flexibility and perseverance (Neuwirth, 2005), a natural reliance on green and low impact energy solutions (Brand, 2010), inclusive and incremental development (Kellett and Napier, 1995), strong social, material, and human capital, and cultural identities (Abegaz, 2014; Alcantara, 2012; Turner, 1976) and local practical knowledge (Hamdi, 2010, 2004, 1995). There is, furthermore, general recognition of latent and active strengths that can work as assets toward the improvement of overall integrated living conditions making their communities effective, positive stakeholders in the process and with the wider city, rather than beneficiaries only (Hernandez and Kellett, 2010). Already, the informal city, in fact, plays supportive roles in cities (UN-Habitat, 2003, 2016), contributing a great percentage to their economy – Dharavi's estimated \$500m per day/\$30bn per year industry for one (Bhide, 2013; India, 2017), building innovation and housing workforce, etc. – Rocinha's mountainside of terrace houses for one (Leitão, 2008). So, it only makes sense that the informal city should be considered an asset in consolidating populations and strengthening cities' economies (Bertinelli and Black, 2004; Tannerfelt and Ljung, 2006). Some insist on the deeply intertwined set of relationships in cities to the point of proposing economic strategies that engage poverty populations in creating their own prosperity (Weiss, 2001).

And yet, there is little consideration for approaching slums with the programmatic intention of making them consistently and reliably instrumental in achieving prosperity overall. As such, the SPF fulfills a gap in the urban discourse, especially as it gives room for addressing both contextual and temporal complexities in slum management. Frameworks like these, as highlighted by the UN-Habitat in its highlights and a project report (UN-Habitat, 2014b) are important and still needed to augment ongoing urban initiatives. The application and testing of the SPF through a desktop case study (as will be shown in a forthcoming paper) and expert opinions survey support a proof of concept for it. The logic behind this approach is that a slum-prosperity urban improvement framework ought to be conceptually sound and practical in addition to being applicable and transferrable to deal with ongoing realities in the development of both slum and city. It does, however, remain theoretical and conceptual, though robust in its approach. More work still needs to be done to turn the SPF application manual, with integrated SPM, into a fully operative tool. The ambition is to make them versatile and applicable to different contexts and circumstances by offering a method to gain, analyze, organize and operationalize information that is inclusive, realistic and meaningful to both slum communities and those tasked with city improvement. Overall, to transform them into a simpler planning manual for efficient implementation, to get intervention going and keep it going.

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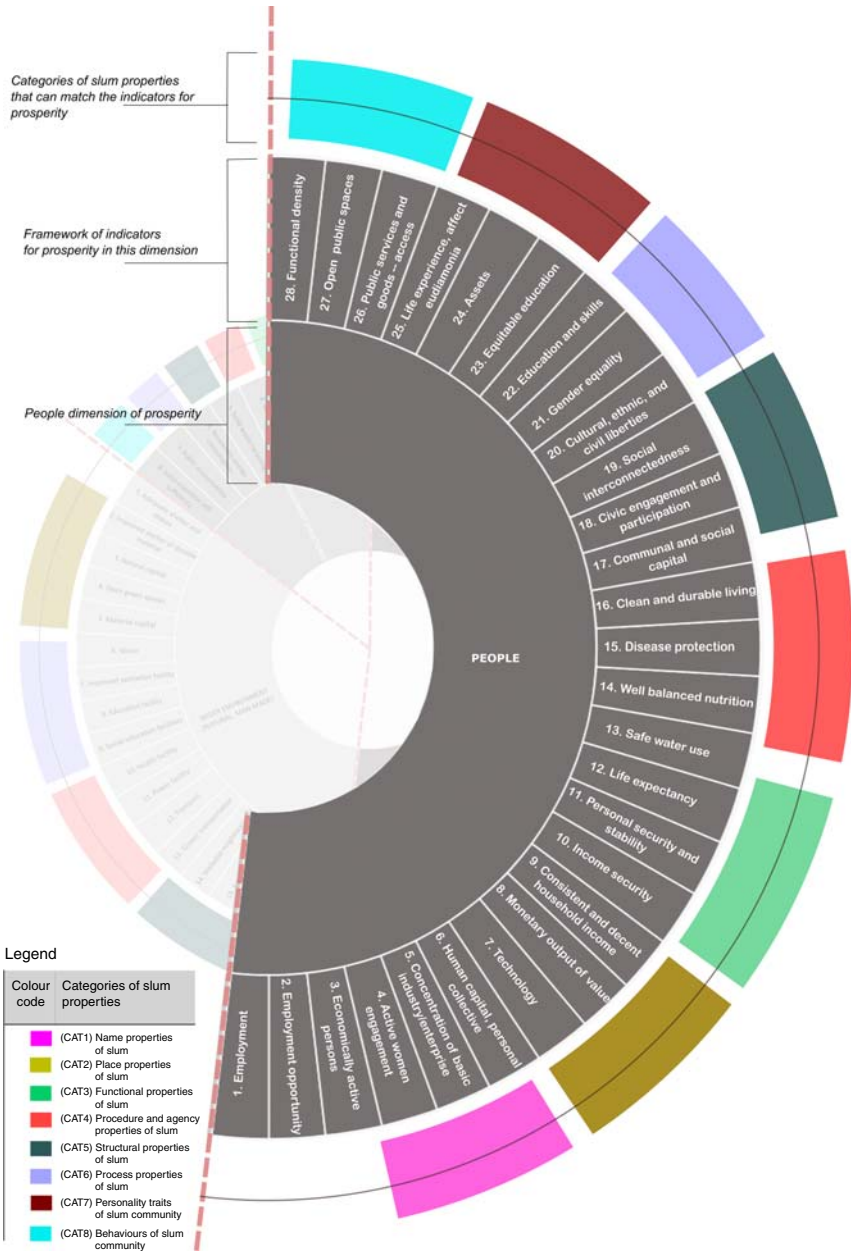
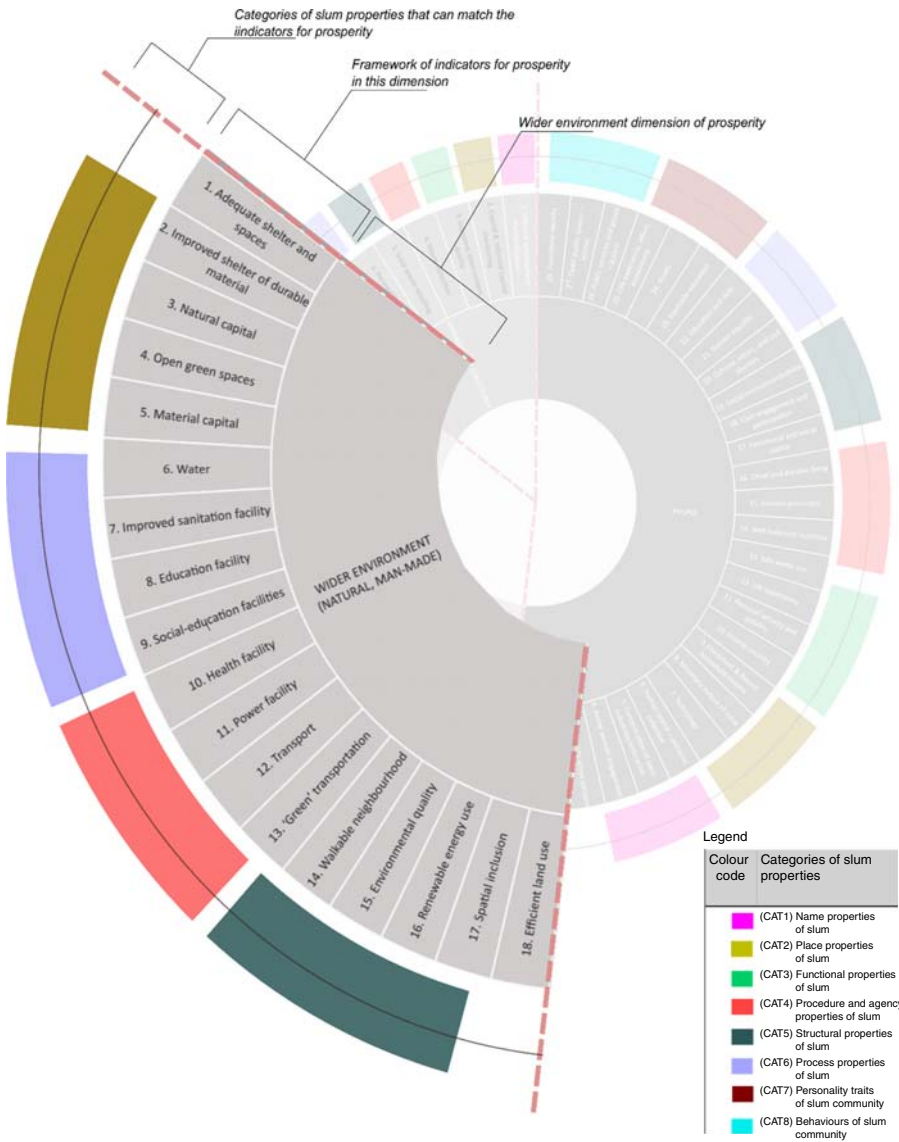


Figure A1.
A framework of indicators for prosperity relating to “people,” which can match any slum property map that defines a slum

Source: Authors



Source: Authors

Figure A2.
A framework of indicators for prosperity relating to “wider environment,” which can match any slum property map that defines a slum



Figure A3.
A framework of indicators for prosperity relating to “management structures,” which can match any slum property map that defines a slum

Source: Authors

Corresponding author
Aisha Abubakar can be contacted at: aisha.abubakar@strath.ac.uk

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