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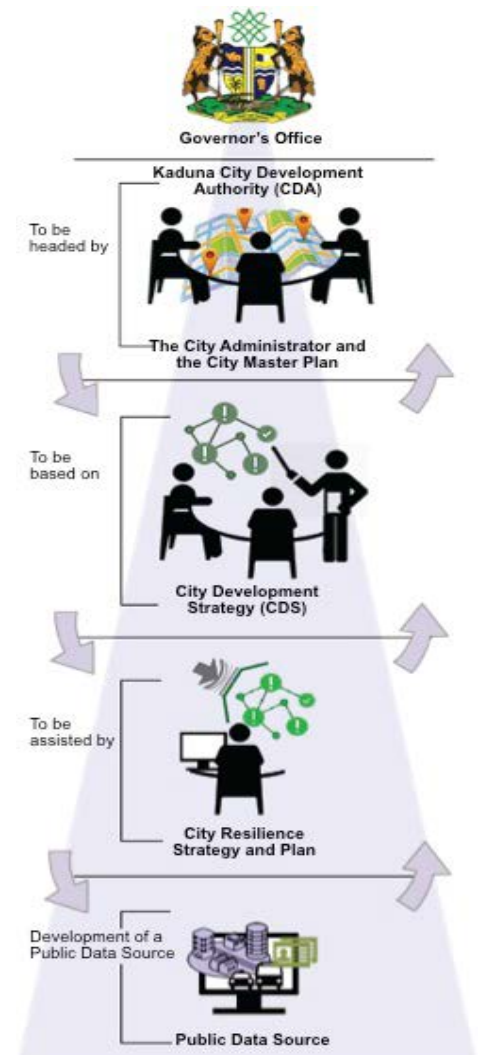
Establishing the Nigeria Resilient Cities Network (NRCN)

Executive Summary

- NIAF has assisted in the establishment of the national **Nigeria Resilient Cities Network (NRCN)** based at the Centre for Spatial Information Sciences (CSIS) at Ahmadu Bello University (ABU), Zaria, Kaduna State.
- Cities in Nigeria have no specific, dedicated administration – there are no ‘Mayors’ for any city; there was thus a need for innovation in this space.
- The Network aims to assist state and local governments in developing improved urban governance, management and service delivery, and resilience strategies to underpin economic development in their cities.
- NIAF supported the Vice Chancellor, Ahmadu Bello University in the creation of the Network, with the ABU Director for University Advancement taking a lead role.
- The objective measurement of the success of this project has been in the form of two national Stakeholder Workshops, the first culminating in the “Zaria Declaration on Resilient Cities in Nigeria”, the second garnering the support of the Rockefeller Foundation’s global 100 Resilient Cities programme for its future.¹

The Challenges

- Cities are the responsibility of State Governments who have no dedicated city-specific management – the role falls instead under the



Proposed makeup of the City Development administration for NRCN Member Cities

¹ See: <https://authenticnewsdaily.com/2016/11/27/stakeholders-vow-to-sustain-nrcn-as-dfid-sponsorship-ends-in-2017/>

state-wide Urban Development Authorities and thus “between the cracks”;

- Local Government Area administrations seldom correspond with the urban areas they cover and are too weakly equipped for managing cities;
- Traditional donor support has never been able to address this issue and establish champions for city development;
- NIAF had to take on-board the short timescales of state and local government administrations between election cycles and associated uncertainties (for example, constraints on long term investment in municipal services provision contracting) and push forward the agenda;
- At the national level the Federal Government has no jurisdiction over cities, so there is a need for innovation and concerted effort at coordination between the States so that cities can relate better to each other and realise synergies along the emerging economic corridors of the country.

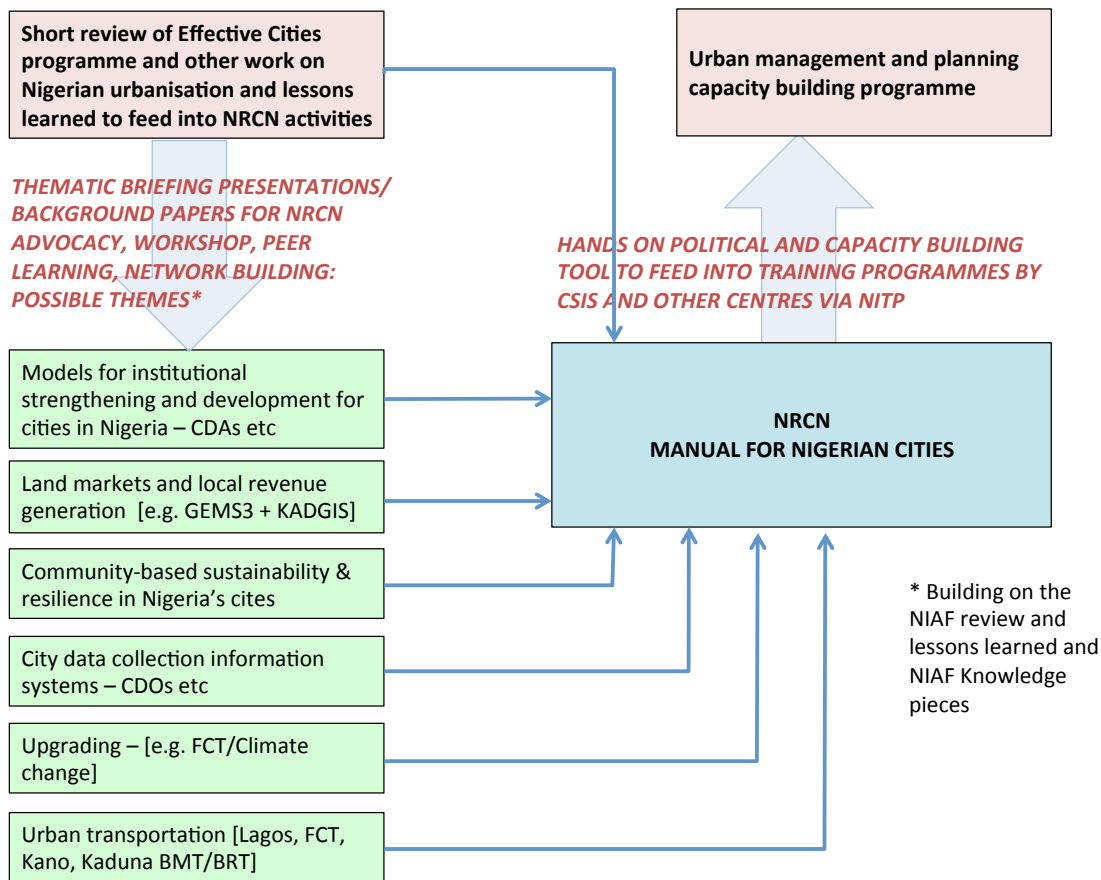
The NIAF Approach

- NIAF supported the creation of a new cities-led forum for discussion and potential action, bringing together the like-minded Governors that saw the benefits of a resilience approach for their cities – based on the international recognition of the global 100 Resilient Cities programme (100-RC) conducted by the Rockefeller Foundation
- NIAF adapted its response through its support for City Development Offices that brought data and mapping together in one location for each capital city – such as in Enugu, Kano and Kaduna. The Governor of Enugu was then able to make a successful application to the 100-RC programme, being accredited in December 2014, the first City in Nigeria to gain this recognition
- This action prompted the Governors of Kaduna, Kano and Katsina to promote their capital cities with 100-RC applications, although only Lagos could gain the accolade for 2015. This in turn prompted the idea of a Nigeria Resilient Cities Network to capitalise on the opportunity for cities to work together at last
- The facility model of NIAF allowed the team to directly address the problem by supporting a resident consultant at ABU for the development of the Network, its registration and its enduring Board of Trustees going forward
- A Resilient Cities Manual, based on the outcomes of the NIAF Effective Cities experience has been developed and is housed at the NRCN Resilient Cities Archive at the Centre for Spatial Information Science, as a long-term resource at Ahmadu Bello University.



Photo: 2nd Stakeholder Workshop, held 14 November 2016, hosted by the Honourable Minister for the Federal Capital Territory, and thus Abuja as the Capital City of the Federation; also representing 9 cities across the 6 geo-political zones of Nigeria; and internationally attended by the Associate Director for Africa for the Rockefeller Foundation,

Schematic to show the development of the NRCN methodology for a Resilient Cities Manual to guide member cities.



The Outcomes

- Nigeria Resilient Cities Network established at the Centre for Spatial Information Science, Ahmadu Bello University with Vice Chancellor as host.
- Nigeria Resilient Cities Network fully registered as a formal NGO, with Board of Trustees appointed.
- Points of Contact appointed for each of the 9 founding cities of the Network, representing all 6 geo-political zones, to take the process forward
- NRCN as a 'network of networks' of stakeholders in each city – decentralised approach
- Nigeria Resilient Cities Network Resource Centre and Archive set up at ABU, with CSIS offering short courses for the continuing professional development of the cities in each State and knowledge resources to promote the wider aims of the Network.

Broad Strategic Approach for NRCN:

- a) Domesticate NRCN in each city by engaging stakeholders and seeking government buy-in;
- b) Offer training & capacity-building;
- c) Seek Governor's approval & sign MoU with the Network on behalf of city;
- d) and Share knowledge, tools and successes across network.
- e) Programme of NRCN Stakeholder Workshops held across the country