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STATUS OF MANAGEMENT FOR INTEGRATED RURAL – URBAN DEVELOPMENT AND ITS OUTPUTS IN SOME ARAB COUNTRIES

Salah EISA

Department of Geography, Faculty of Arts, Menoufia University, Egypt, d_salah_eisa@hotmail.com

Abstract: The purpose of this study is to investigate and evaluate the status of management for integrated rural – urban development and its outputs in some Arab countries. The concept of 'integrated rural development' has been elaborated with more than one meaning. Some scholars regard it as a combination of both central bureaucratic and local heuristic development systems. Others conceive it dealing with all integrated elements of the rural environment. A prominent meaning is that integrated rural development concerns systems of rural-urban interrelationships. There is no doubt the sustainability of rural systems would be well achieved through better interaction between rural and urban systems. This paper adopts an 'action research' approach, seeking a more effective form of management for the integrated rural – urban development through experiences of some chosen Arab states. The study is based on data compiled from international and national resources, and field data related to Egypt gathered by the author. Comparisons are made and explained between the status of the chosen Arab states, relating the existence of and behavioral attributes for integrated rural-urban development. Hoping to reach a touching conclusion, the study discusses the existence of integrated rural-urban development, the types of governance involved, the performance of rural-urban development activities, and it evaluates the outputs of development management, and the perspectives for the future.

Keywords: Integrated rural development, Arab countries, rural-urban interrelationships

1. INTRODUCTION

Integrated rural development concerns systems of rural-urban interrelationships. Lipton (1977) stated that the interest in the rural-urban dynamic was partly a reaction to characterizing urbanization in the developing countries as a "problem", and it was motivated by frustration with single-focused, rural strategies treated as a sole solution to national development.

Ravera et al., (2014) applied the "new rurality" approach as a multidimensional analytical framework for six cases. The study observed rural changes encompassing especially: an agrarian focus, increasing diversification of rural activities, increasing rural-urban interactions (Ravera et al., 2014).

Interested in the phenomenon of rural decline in many parts of the developed world, McManus et al. (2012) carried out a study based on face-to-face interviews with 115 farmers in two rural regions of New South Wales, Australia. The study highlighted the importance of the local economy and environment in contributing to a sense of local community, employing the concepts of "interactional rural community of place" and "rural resilience" to identify how farmers perceive their interactions with their local town (McManus et al., 2012).

Thereafter, urbanization has been defined as integral to the national development process and as intimately bound to rural development. However many policies for integrated development were not entirely successful (Mason, 1989 – The Role of Urbanization in National Development: Bridging the Rural-Urban Divide).

An integrated approach to economic development provides an analysis of rural urban partnerships and it demonstrates that regional economic performance increases when urban and rural areas are closer together and consequently more integrated (CEMR, 2013 – Urban-rural partnership. CEMR survey on integrated territorial development).

There is no doubt that the sustainability of rural systems would be achieved effectively through

interaction between rural and urban systems. Berg (2007) concluded that good and efficient geographically linked urban-rural relations are basic for sustainable development in the Baltic Sea Region. He mentioned best examples in small communities of urban and rural integration in Latvian Livani, and Swedish Enkoping and Hallefors (Berg, 2007).

As for the principles of sustainability such as: proximity, the increase in individual and collective capabilities, and participative democracy, Buclet & Lazarevic (2015) argue that it is possible to adopt these principles in order to favour the emergence of a new conventional regime for sustainable development (Buclet & Lazarevic, 2015).

This study is designed as a form of 'action research', by seeking a more effective form of management for integrated rural – urban development through the experiences of six chosen Arab states classified according to their Human Development rankings in 2012 (UNDP, 2013 – Human Development Report) as affected by their ecological status.

Bahrain (very high HD), an island in the Gulf, is a non-agricultural, service based economy state, with 88.7% urban population. Saudi Arabia (high HD) is a petroleum multi sector economy state, with 82.3% urban population. Jordan (medium HD) is a multi-sector economy and an arid state with 78.6% urban population. Egypt (medium HD) is a multi sector economy state, characterized by a densely populated agriculture in the Nile Valley and Delta where 43.1% of the population is rural. Algeria (medium HD) is a multi sector economy state, distinguished by a Mediterranean orientation and 67.1% urban population. Mauritania (low HD) is a primary sectors-based economy, with 86.5% rural population living in a coastal and arid environment in North West Africa (Table 1, Fig. 1).

The United Nation Development Program (UNDP) constructed the mentioned HDI as the geometric mean of three indices [HDI = $\sqrt[3]{LEI \cdot EI \cdot II}$]: 1. Life Expectancy at birth Index (LEI); 2. Education Index (EI), Mean years of schooling, and Expected years of schooling; and 3. Per capita Income Index (II). The obtained value for HDI varies from one in the top to zero in the bottom. Countries are ranked in serial numbers according to their HDI value and they are arranged within four groups of HD: very high, high, medium, and low (UNDP, 2013 – Human Development Report).

2. MATERIALS AND METHODS

The author's aim is to address three questions. The first comes from an empirical point of view, asking about the types of governance for integrated rural-urban development in the six chosen Arab countries. The second question comes from a methodological standpoint, asking how the management of integrated rural-urban development can give relevant outputs. The third question is of an interpretive nature, concerned with the evaluation of outputs and expectations for the future.

The study is based on data compiled from international and national sources, and field data related to Egypt gathered by the author.

The available research literature relating to governance for integrated rural-urban development was studied. In addition, examples of managing integrated rural-urban development were selected and described.

Comparisons are conducted and explained between the statuses of the chosen Arab states, relating to the existence of and behavioral attributes associated with integrated rural-urban development.

Hoping to reach a significant conclusion, the study discusses the following points:

- existence of integrated rural-urban development;
- types of governance;
- performance of rural-urban development activities;
- evaluation of the outputs.

Table 1. Basic figures of the chosen Arab countries

COUNTRY	Total area Km^2	Population 2014 est.	HDI 2012	Political Regime	Independence date	Governorates Number
Bahrain	760	1 314 089	0.796	Kingdom	1971	5
Saudi Arabia	2 149 690	27 345 986	0.782	Kingdom	1932	13
Jordan	89 342	7 930 491	0.700	Kingdom	1946	12
Egypt	1 001 450	86 895 099	0.662	Republic	3200 B.C. 1922	27
Algeria	2 381 741	38 813 722	0.713	Republic	1962	48
Mauritania	1 030 700	3 516 806	0.476	Republic	1960	13

Source: CIA, The World Factbook, 2014. & UNDP, Human Development Report, 2013

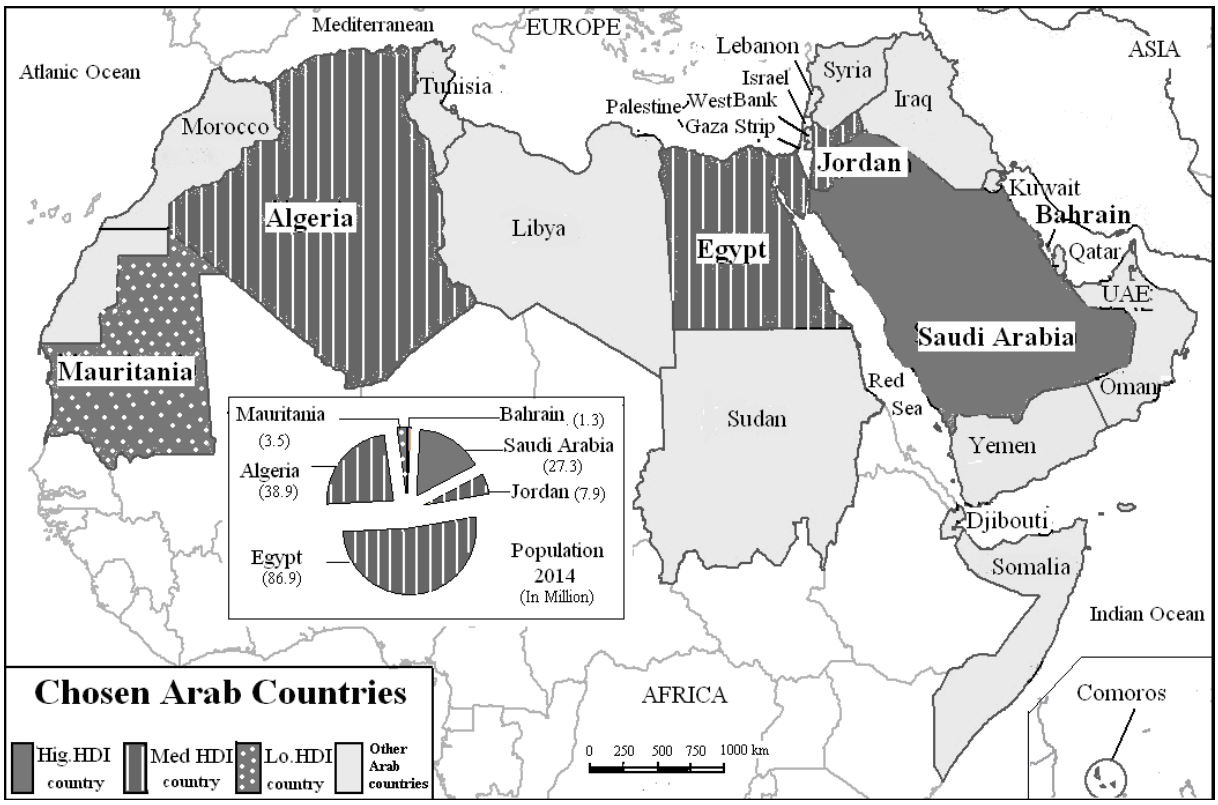

Figure 1. Population size and HDI ranks for the chosen Arab countries

3. RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

3.1. Existence of integrated rural-urban development in the chosen Arab countries

In the 1970s, Integrated Rural Development (IRD) was identified as a holistic way to improve well-being in a community unit along social, economic and environmental dimensions. While there were some outstanding IRD successes, too little was invested in managerial and institutional development, hence project evaluations reported unsustainable and unsatisfactory performance of IRD efforts. The main shortfalls drawn from IRD experiences in various parts of the world were (USAID, 2005 – Integrated Rural Development: Lessons Learned):

- IRD approaches tended to adopt the top down method of implementation;

- IRD projects by-passed official agencies, and did not build local institutions;

- the social and institutional capital received slight interaction, evaluation and training.

The sense and actual existence of integrated rural-urban development varies in the chosen Arab countries owing to historical and environmental circumstances.

Egypt, as one of the oldest unified kingdoms which arose circa 3200 B.C., located in the lower Nile Valley and Delta, has a long history in both rural and urban development. In recent times traced back to the nineteenth century, four phases have been outlined for the orientation of Egyptian rural development, as follows (Nawar, 2006):

- the first phase, 1882-1923, liberal initiatives of social reform under British occupation;

- the second phase, 1923-1952, institutionalization and legislative set up for coordination and integration;

- the third phase, 1952-1973, a central planning approach in rural development;

- the fourth phase, 1973-2005, adoption of an integrated approach to rural development and a national program.

Thus, Egyptian rural development has evolved from 1952 on, across two main strategies: 1. the community and 2. integrated development.

However, there is a trend since the mid nineties to shift into a sustainable strategy but on a limited and rather experimental scale. Yet, the integrated approach to development still has prevalence over other strategies, but not quite obvious in the sphere of integrated rural-urban development. In 2013, the rural population in Egypt represented 57% while the urban population was 43%.

In Saudi Arabia, the modern state was founded in 1932. Up to the 1950s the bulk of the Saudi population lived in small rural settlements and the only cities of importance were Mecca, Medina,

Riyadh and Jeddah, while nomadic groups constituted 60% of the total population. At present, however, nomadic groups form less than 10% of the population. On the other hand, between1963-1987, the urban population grew from 15% to 75% of the total leading thereby to considerable socio-economic and infrastructural changes (UNDP, 2014, Saudi Arabia – Human Development Report), and in 2013 it reached 81%. From 1980s on, a huge developmental transformation occurred in both urban and rural sectors approaching integration within every sector.

Jordan Kingdom appeared as a British demarcated semi-autonomous region of Trans-Jordan from Palestine in the early 1920s. The area gained its independence in 1946 and thereafter became the Hashemite Kingdom of Jordan. As a semi inland located country with a mere sea gate at the head of Aqaba Gulf, the country suffers droughts, limited natural freshwater resources, overgrazing, and desertification. The Jordan valley is one of the most agriculturally productive areas in the country, due to the availability of water and special climatic conditions allowing fruit and vegetable production in the winter season (Hammouri et al., 2014). However, the small economy with insufficient supplies causes a heavy reliance on foreign assistance to face chronic high rates of poverty, unemployment, inflation, and a large budget deficit (CIA, 2014 – Jordan Factbook). As for human development, the Jordanian Hashemite Fund for Human Development **(**JOHUD), established in 1977, has been striving to empower whole communities through an integrated grassroots approach which promotes equitable, rights-based, sustainable human development for urban and rural communities (the former 83%, the latter 17% of the total population in 2013).

Mauritania gained its independence from France in 1960. The country is located in the Saharan region of West Africa, bordering the Atlantic Ocean on the west. More than 90 percent of the country's land surface is desert or semi-desert. Mauritania is one of the most sparsely populated countries in the world with about 3.5 million people (59% rural, 41% urban in 2013). Mauritania's economy is dominated by natural resources and agriculture. Half the population still depends on agriculture and livestock for a livelihood, even though many of the nomads and subsistence farmers were forced into the cities by recurrent droughts in the 1970s and 1980s. In spite of the introduction of modern agricultural methods in certain areas, most Mauritanian farmers are subsistent and practice primitive cultivation methods on usually small landholdings. Recurring droughts, dependence on foreign aid and investment, significant shortages of infrastructure, institutional capacity, and human capita poverty are challenges that threaten activities of rural-urban development.

The Republic of Algeria obtained its independence in 1962 after more than a century of rule by France. The country is located in North Africa on the southern coast of the Mediterranean Sea. Algeria has the 10th-largest reserves of natural gas in the world and it is the sixth-largest gas exporter. It ranks 16th in oil reserves. Strong revenues from hydrocarbon exports have brought Algeria relative macroeconomic stability. Algeria has benefited from an increasing flow of foreign investments, which enhanced development activities and projects in urban (73% of population 2013) and rural (27%) communities. The efforts have done little to reduce high youth unemployment rates or to address housing shortages (CIA, 2014).

Bahrain State attained its independence in 1971 after being a British protectorate during the 19th century. The state became a kingdom since 6 March 1999. As a small size Gulf island, it suffers from limited arable land, periods of drought and dust storms, lack of freshwater resources, as groundwater and seawater are the only sources for all water needs (CIA, 2014 – The World Factbook). Bahrain reacted to declining oil reserves by turning to petroleum processing and refining and becoming an international banking center. Bahrain people live entirely in urban areas.

3.2. Types of governance for rural-urban development in Arab countries

The Council of European Municipalities and Regions (CEMR) proposed principles of governance in partnership in its Declaration adopted in 2011. Those principles are well suited to urban-rural cooperation regardless of the form of cooperation applied (institutionalized or a voluntary flexible type). It must be underlined that urban-rural partnerships do not constitute an end in themselves but an effective means of achieving policy objectives and of addressing territorial challenges in a more comprehensive way. Therefore urban-rural partnerships should always be results-oriented (CEMR, 2013 – Urban-rural partnership. CEMR survey on integrated territorial development).

There are different types of governance for rural-urban development in the chosen Arab countries as follows next.

Bahrain Kingdom consists of five governorates. It has a higher rate of urbanization and a lower rate of agricultural land compared by the other chosen Arab countries. The mission of urban and rural development has been assigned to the

Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture. A royal decree issued in 2013 changed the name of the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Agriculture to the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning, still having the mission to carry out comprehensive urban development and to supply the best municipal and agricultural services suitable for the construction of a modern state. The Authority of Urban Planning was commissioned to reinforce cooperation with related ministries and agencies (Kingdom of Bahrain, 2011 – Quality Policy, Ministry of Municipalities Affairs and Urban Planning). The governance of rural-urban development in Bahrain resembles a type of mono responsibility of an authorized official, capable for achieving development.

Saudi Arabia consists of 13 provinces. The mission for rural and urban development is assigned to three ministries:

- Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs (MOMRA), established in 1975, is responsible for the administration of municipalities, through city and town planning, and the development and maintenance of basic infrastructure;

- Ministry of Public Works and Housing, concerned with supervision, construction and maintenance of Public Sector projects, public housing, evaluation of tenders;

- Ministry of Agriculture, responsible for the implementation of economic plans and programs for agriculture, water development, animal resources and locust control.

Saudi Arabia, hence, has a governance type of joint authorized responsible officials, capable of achieving rural and urban development.

Jordan Kingdom consists of 12 governorates. The interest in rural and urban development is tied up with the responsibility of two authorities:

- Ministry of Municipal Affairs, firstly founded in 1965, included in a Ministry of the Interior; thereafter it was detached in 1976 as the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs. In 2002, its present name appears as the Ministry of Municipal Affairs, having a central authority and a Bank for city and villages development;

- Ministry of Public Works and Housing, having the Housing and Urban Development Corporation (HUDC).

The governance of rural-urban development in Jordan represents a type of an authorized fundamental official, assisted by other formal and institutional partners.

Egypt has 27 governorates. Four ministries in Egypt are involved in rural and urban development, providing central supervision, a legislative umbrella and inputs for development at the local level:

- Ministry of Local Development, through a General Directorate for Regional Planning, and the Organization of Reconstruction and Development of the Egyptian Village (ORDEV);

- Ministry of Housing, through the General Organization for Physical Planning;

- Ministry of Agriculture, through directorates for agricultural land protection;

- Ministry of Planning, through academic studies and applied programs.

No efficient integration exists thereby. It is worth mentioning that during the period 1973/2005, assigned for the adoption of an integrated approach to rural development and a national program in Egypt, attempts were made to combine management of development in rural areas with central planning and supervision. In order to facilitate coordination of policies and programs related to rural development in the various central governmental agencies, a ministerial group for Developing Rural Areas was established on 9/7/1997, including 11 Ministers, but unfortunately, this group rarely met since its establishment (Nawar, 2006).

Egypt, therefore, has a governance type of multi-governmental responsibility and multi-interested agencies, lacking enough coordination to achieve proper integrated rural and urban development.

Algeria contains 48 provinces. Three ministries in Algeria are involved in rural and urban development:

- Ministry of Agriculture and Rural Development, considering countryside as an agricultural entity;

- Ministry of Housing and Urban Development, concerned with urban settlement;

- Ministry of Land-use Planning and Environment, concerned with resources management in all environments.

The Algerian governance type for rural-urban development seems to be separate units involved in different sectors, with little respect for rural-urban integration.

Mauritania consists of 13 regions. Rural and Urban development is linked with the official responsibility of two ministries:

- Ministry of Rural Development, having a division for animal health, and a program for rural poverty recovery;

- Ministry of Housing, Urbanism and Physical Planning, concerned basically with urban settlement and communities.

The Mauritanian governance type for rural-urban development resembles an apparent poor rural-urban dichotomy, with few dispersed development achievements, regardless of rural-urban integration. A strategy paper about poverty reduction in Mauritania, issued in 2000 for the period 2001-2015, tackled integrated rural development and integrated urban development separately (Islamic Development Bank Group, 2011 – Partnership Strategy for Mauritania, 2011-2015).

3.3. Performance of rural – urban development activities

In Bahrain, the Ministry of Municipalities Affairs & Urban Planning, linked with Agriculture Affairs, carried out projects in the fields of Agricultural engineering and water resources, Animal resources, and Plant resources. The General Directorate of Urban Planning achieved projects for the Land Classifications & Requirements System (Kingdom of Bahrain, MMAA, 2014).

In Saudi Arabia, the enhancement of rural areas has become of crucial importance to the national quest for economic and social development. The major objective of the MOMRA is to formulate a National Rural Development Strategy, seeking to raise the level and efficiency of municipal services delivery to rural areas and settlements. The rural strategy that MOMRA intends to conceive with the help and support of UNDP seeks to design and test a model for municipality services in rural areas, and halt the present rates of rural-to-urban migration (UNDP, 2014, Saudi Arabia – Human Development Report). As for Housing Facilitation Systems and Housing Projects in Saudi urban areas, the government has initiated a massive low-income housing program. Two systems were the key to its success (Alkadi, 2005 – Affordable Housing Standards for Low-Income Communities in Saudi Arabia). The first is the free land plots system which provided land grants ranging from 400 to 900 square meters each. Since 1990, 1 200 000 plots were given away by municipalities to eligible people in different Saudi cities. The second system is the Real Estate Development Fund's (REDF) extension of Easy Term and Interest-Free Loans to Saudi citizens who owned land.

In Jordan, 17.4% of people live in rural areas where poverty is more prevalent than in urban areas. Approximately 19% of the rural population is classified as poor. Because of the arid nature of the land, many rural poor people cannot produce enough crops to feed themselves and their families. People who find other ways to supplement their incomes generally earn very little. Regular drought exacerbates the situation (OCHA, 2012 – Country Fact Sheet – Jordan). UNDP Jordan is working towards contributing to the achievement of national development such as in the Poverty Reduction Strategy 2012-2020 (UNDP, 2011, Jordan – Human Development Report). Since 1981, IFAD has supported agricultural development in Jordan. The most recent generation of IFAD projects in Jordan is designed to empower small farmers, herders and rural women. One of most famous projects is the Agricultural Resource Management Project in the Governorates of Karak and Tafila. The second is Yarmouk Agricultural Resources Development Project (IFAD, 2010 – Enabling the rural poor to overcome poverty in Jordan). JOHUD, as a leading national advocate in the field of integrated social and economic development, is working in partnership with local communities and NGOs, Jordanian governmental institutions, the United Nations and other international agencies (JOHUD, 2013).

In Egypt, the current major rural development projects running are: the priority plan devoting one million LE for each village until 2017; the MISR project for developing the least developed 58 districts; the Shorouk program providing rural areas with infrastructure-based local participation; and sector development plans by each ministry.

The Shorouk program has been an experience of local development through grassroots participation. The program had a vision of rural development as “a planned and progressive change process for an integrated and comprehensive promotion in all aspects of the life of local communities, implemented by the public through democratic means, with governmental support”.

The Egyptian Ministry of Local Administration launched in 1992 a program for “an integral rural development” to cover all development aspects, but institutionalizing the role of grassroots participation failed.

In October 1994, the National Program for Integrated Rural Development (Shorouk) was launched during the first conference on rural development, while an agenda of that program to 2017 was set up in May 1997 during the second conference. Program stages are implemented in every rural local unit. These include: the identification stage, promoting local society, planning for the development of local society, execution and evaluation stage (UNDP & INP, 2003). The program has faced obstacles and problems such as the deficiency of training for the administrative and organizational managers, and insufficient governmental finance to achieve the desired

development. Besides, the program has been regarded as a sectional program that competes with other ministries' programs in the field of rural development. Furthermore, initial implementation took place quickly and then its executive time schedule in all the villages was revised and expanded without a proportional increase in funds. As a result, the average share of the local rural unit from the funds has decreased (World Bank, 2007 – Building Infrastructure and Social Capital in Rural Egypt).

In the field of urban development in Egypt, three outstanding achievements are worthy of mention. The first is establishing New Towns and urban communities that went from only one new town at 1982 to 26 new towns at 2010. The second is promoting service facilities, for example, renewing infrastructure and introducing advanced facilities. The third is transferring traditional and squatter land use areas inside to new well planned areas at the urban outskirts, such as Souq Alobor as an example of a destination of the transferred Souq Rod Elfarag in the vicinity of Greater Cairo. Urban planning in Egypt has, until recently, been preoccupied with designing for urban expansion in the state-owned desert. But urban plans have imposed very high planning and building standards (World Bank, 2012 – Arab Republic of Egypt, Reshaping Egypt's Economic Geography: Domestic Integration as a Development Platform).

Algeria faces significant regional imbalances. The coastline, which accounts for barely 4% of the territory, is home to the bulk of the population and economic activities. Vast territories to the south, representing nearly 87% of the country's surface area, remain under populated (9% of the population) and poorly endowed in terms of economic and social infrastructure. In addition to these territorial disparities, Algeria has experienced significant urbanization over the last three decades, with the urban population rising from 40% in 1977 to about 70% in 2010. The huge urban migration is one of the causes of the increasingly precarious living conditions of the urban and rural population (African Development Bank, 2011 – P.D.R. of Algeria, Dialogue Note 2011-2012). In the urban sector, efforts are underway to alleviate the housing problem. More than one million housing units were built between 2004 and 2010, which helped to raise the housing stock to 7 090 000. Even so, this is still short of needs, considering the rapid urbanization that the country has experienced over the past 30 years (African Development Bank, 2011 – P.D.R. of Algeria, Dialogue Note 2011-2012). The town of Algiers experienced significant urban and industrial development. Thus, it is seen to be confronted with a degraded environment and multiform pollution, and the risk of poverty for the population (Benouar, 2002 – The need for an integrated disaster management strategy in North Africa towards poverty reduction, a case study of Algiers, Algeria).

Little has been accomplished to implement the "integrated rural development proximity programs (PPDRI)" as a platform to establish ICT infrastructure in rural communities (Gomez, 2011). A program of pilot projects for rural development and agriculture in Algeria has been adopted by the European Neighborhood Program for Agriculture and Rural Development (ENPARD). The program will be in line with the government strategy for rural development and sustainable economic diversification.

Mauritania is characterized by an increasing urban growth rate although poverty prevails. The rate of urbanization went from 22.7% in 1977 to 66% in 2007. More than 25% of people live in the capital Nouakchott. Owing to the drought cycle, the percentage of nomads settled in urban areas declined from 73.3% in 1965 to 3.8% in 2008 (LWF, 2008 – Country strategy, Mauritania Program 2009-2014).

In recent years, the government has been trying to boost agricultural production through expansion of the irrigated area, especially in the Senegal River valley. However, insufficient water supply remains a major constraint for farmers.

Poverty reduction, either rural or urban, is a main development target. Its incidence has declined at national level from 47.6 percent in 2004 to about 42 percent in 2008, from 60 percent to 50.5 percent for rural areas, and from 30 percent to 20 percent at urban areas. Thus, poverty remains high and it is mainly a rural phenomenon (Islamic Development Bank Group, 2011 – Partnership Strategy for Mauritania, 2011-2015).

The successful implementation of a poverty alleviation strategy, however, requires a mobilization of all participants' effort and a clear definition of their roles. Some initiatives and strategies have been presented for that purpose by foreign agencies. The Lutheran World Federation (LWF) program is one of those initiatives. The program works through partners and strives for self determination for poor and marginalized communities in order to enable them to claim their fundamental rights and benefits. One of the LWF program priorities in Mauritania is empowering communities to reach a level of sustainable and holistic development that raises them beyond the poverty threshold by improving the agrosilvopastoral production systems. The LWF program intends to concentrate in rural or urban areas in Mauritania, where exclusion and inequality persist (LWF, 2008 – Country strategy, Mauritania Program 2009-2014).

3.4. Evaluating the outputs of management for rural – urban development

Evaluation of outputs of development activities is a key manifestation of the level of management performance. The current management types for rural-urban development in the chosen Arab countries, no doubt, are reflected in the impacts of development programs and projects. Estimated or weighted benefits of development projects indicate management fitness and adequacy. The direct assessment of management adequacy in the field of rural-urban development depends on criteria such as: leadership quality, provision of infrastructure, and rights of citizen belonging (Mkwela, 2014).

However, the present evaluation adopts assessment for five relevant aspects of the outputs of management for rural-urban development: urbanization rate; rate of change in arable land; HD index-poverty; improved sanitation; and rural-urban use. The exploration encompasses the changes in these aspects shown at tables 2 & 3.

Urbanization rate indicates the size of the rural – urban gap on the national and local level, besides diversity and disparity in community components.

Haphazard management for development in a country with an urban majority suggests that bias is not in favor of the countryside. Otherwise a keen interest has been devoted to rural communities as in the case of Saudi Arabia where rural animation is done. By contrast, the case of Mauritania shows depression in the countryside owing to migration of the rural poor towards urban centers of humble quality (Islamic Republic of Mauritania, 2000 – Poverty Reduction, a strategy paper). But when transformation to urbanization is fast and huge, as the case of Algeria, disparity in management of rural-urban development is also expected. Urbanization rate in Egypt seems semi-stable and balanced, but that rate in Bahrain reached a percentage of 100%.

The percentage change in arable land is an indicator of rural sustainability with respect to urban encroachment on agricultural land. The decrease of arable land owing to urban or rural building expansion indicates weak or inadequate management of integrated rural-urban development. That decrease is caused also by the extension of transportation projects creating highly fragmented surfaces (Corpade et al., 2014).

It should be noted that the percentage of arable land for the total area decreased during the decade 2001-2011 in all countries except Egypt. Urban expansion was responsible for that decrease. As for Egypt, land reclamation balanced urban expansion till 2011. The situation altered dramatically after the Egyptian Revolution in January 2011, when urban encroachment impacted on the arable area at an unabated rate due to the lack of police control following the January Revolution, accelerating challenges that handicap integrated rural-urban development.

Table 2. Urbanization and Arable land changes in chosen Arab countries

COUNTRY	Urbanization rate % (*)			Arable land % of total area (+)		
	2003	2013	Change	2001	2011	Change
Bahrain	87	100	+13	2.82	1.79	-1.03
Saudi Arabia	83	81	-2	1.67	1.45	-0.22
Jordan	78	83	+5	2.67	1.97	-0.70
Egypt	43	43	=	2.87	2.87	=
Algeria	49	73	+24	3.22	3.15	-0.07
Mauritania	55	41	-14	0.48	0.44	-0.04

Source: (*) Population Reference Bureau, 2003 & 2013; (+) CIA Fact Book, 2004 & 2014

Table 3. Values of: HD Index, MP Index, ISU, in chosen Arab countries

COUNTRY	Human Development Index (+)			Multidimensional Poverty Index (+)			Improved Sanitation Users % 2011 (*)	
	2000	2012	Annual trend	2000	2012	Change	Rural	Urban
Bahrain	0.781	0.796	0.0012	0.0	0.0	=	99	99
Saudi Arabia	0.717	0.782	0.0054	16.9	0.0	-	100	100
Jordan	0.650	0.700	0.0042	8.2	2.4	-	98	98
Egypt	0.593	0.662	0.0057	31.2	6.0	-	93	94
Algeria	0.625	0.713	0.0073	23.4	0.0	-	88	98
Mauritania	0.418	0.476	0.0048	47.9	61.7	+	9	51

(+) HDRO, Human Development Reports, 2002 & 2014; (*) Population Reference Bureau sheet, 2013

The Human Development Index crystallizes well-being conditions, socio-economic features, built environment, as well as the organizing institutional framework. There is a clear growth in HDI values, to differing degrees, for all of the chosen Arab countries. This indicates efforts carried out in human development fields, and it indicates, in part, some progress in rural and urban development. But, this does not definitely mean an adequate management of integrated rural-urban development.

Poverty is a multidimensional phenomenon, so its index is composed of three equally-weighted dimensions (health, education and standard of living) measured by ten indicators, which are equally weighted within each dimension. A person is identified as MPI poor if he or she is deprived in at least one-third of the weighted indicators (Alkire et al., 2014 – Multidimensional Poverty Index 2014: Brief Methodological Note and Results).

Using (MPI), it is possible to compare poverty in rural and urban areas. The poverty multi-dimension index for a community indicates its inadequacy of development management. Bahrain achieved zero value of MPI, while in Saudi Arabia and Algeria, a somewhat low value of MPI in 2000 improved to nil in 2012. The MPI values are decreasing in both Jordan and Egypt, but it is increasing in Mauritania. It is obvious that management for poverty reduction in the chosen countries, except Mauritania, achieved remarkable progress.

The improved sanitation rate indicates success in achieving basic requirements for human development. Values shown in table 3 in this respect, manifest noticeable high improved sanitation rates in the chosen Arab countries except Mauritania, with nearly equal values in both urban and rural communities. This means, again, that management for improving basic human requirements in those countries is making remarkable progress. The exceptional case of Mauritania reflects the multi-environmental obstacles facing integrated rural-urban development.

Compiling positive and passive evaluations of the five output aspects for the management of integrated rural-urban development, and devoting a value of 20 percent for every aspect, the positive percentage compiled for every country grades as the following: 80 percent for Saudi Arabia; 60 percent for Bahrain and Algeria; 50 percent for Jordan and Egypt; 40 percent for Mauritania (Fig. 2).

4. CONCLUSION

The approach of "integrated rural-urban development" has shown limited impacts in the chosen Arab countries, which mostly apply separate development strategies in each of the rural-urban areas.

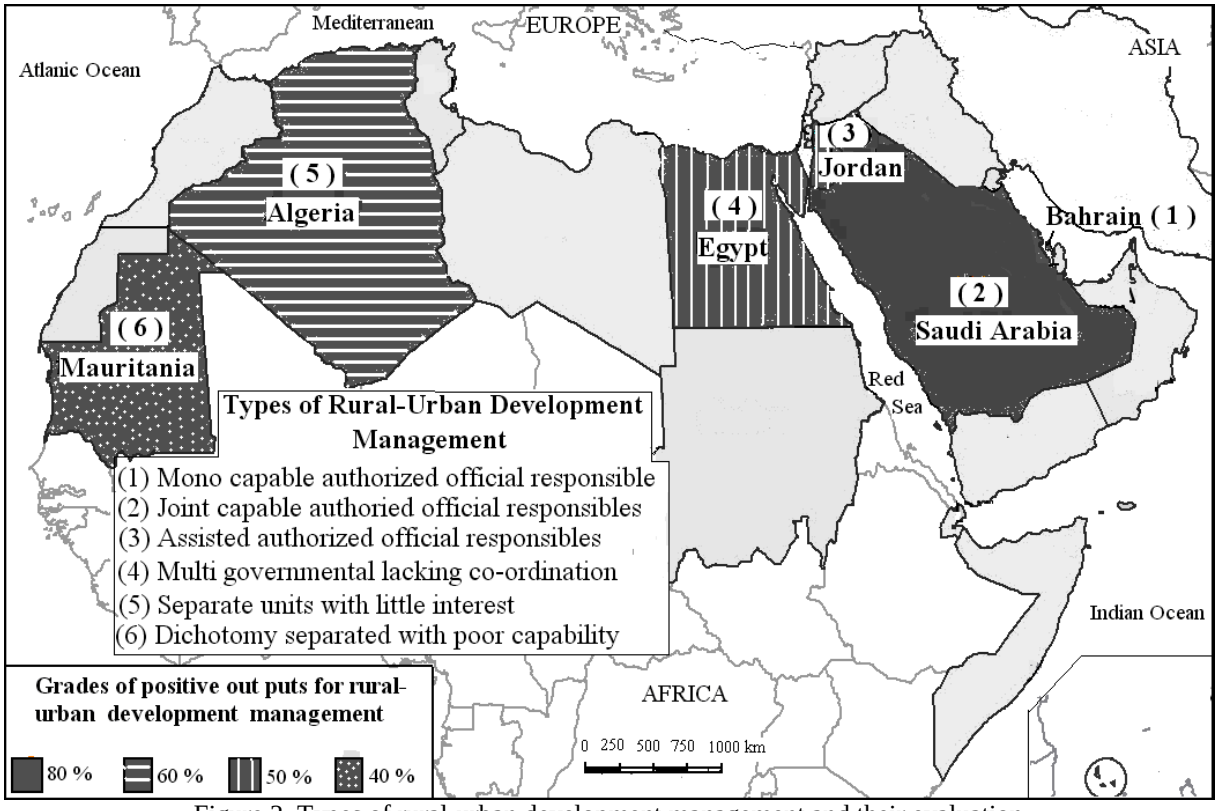

Figure 2. Types of rural-urban development management and their evaluation

Management for rural – urban development in the chosen Arab countries mostly suffers from old traditions, fragmentation, isolation, and lack of capacity for joint team work to progress towards targets. Although development management in most countries achieves progress in some human aspects according to HDI, MPI, and an improved sanitation use rate, that management fails to stop encroachment consuming arable land or to achieve equilibrium in urbanization dynamics. Prosperity of environmental resources has been the effective actor in funding programs and projects of urban and rural development in petroleum countries (Bahrain, Saudi Arabia, Algeria), in contrast with Mauritanian environmental poverty.

Finally, the study recommends that effective integrated and sustainable rural-urban development must be carried out through a participatory mechanism within civil societies, and through integration in the overall national development strategy, and natural resource management. As the relationship between rural and urban areas seems to have been left to the market or to destiny, therefore, a rural development policy framework should be broadened to include negative and passive aspects of urbanization.

There is a necessity to retrain the staff involving in rural – urban development management fields, supplying them with high standards of theoretical and applied experiences, such as the land-use conflicts approach within environmental policies developed by Ianos et al. (2012).

Geography has to enhance scholar training within a linked integrated phenomena approach for application purposes, and to encourage thinking in a complementary manner towards a rural-urban continuum rather than a divide.

Urban agriculture should be integrated in development policies, as it plays an important role in food supply for cities, particularly in countries with a high urbanization rate such as in the Kingdom of Bahrain.

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