



**MINISTRY OF LANDS, PUBLIC WORKS, HOUSING AND  
URBAN DEVELOPMENT**

State Department for Housing and Urban Development

**Scaling up Municipal  
Capacity for Data Driven  
Development in Kenya**

**Presented by**

Plan. Lilian Kieni

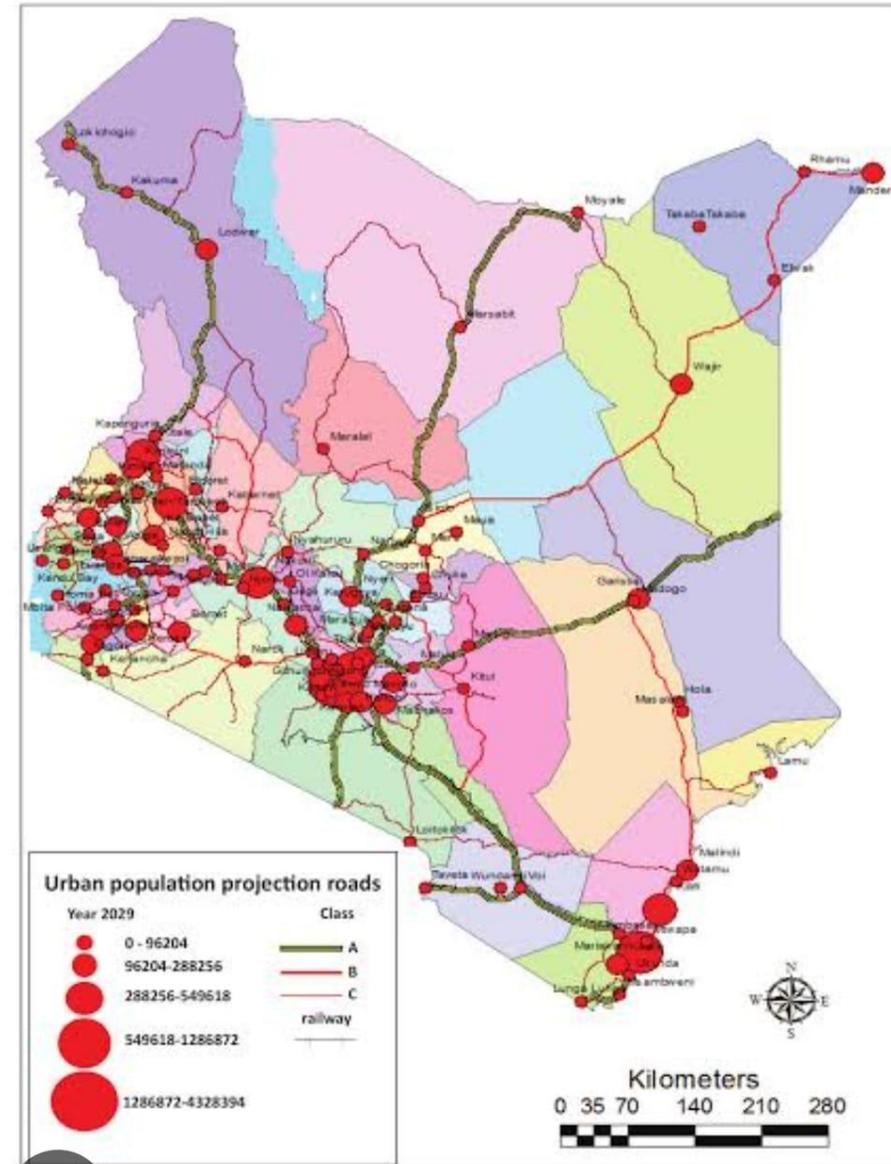
Director, Urban Development

During the Understanding Risk Forum 2024

Himeji, Hyogo, Japan

# Operational Context

- Devolution established a new system of urban governance in 2010:
- Over 300 Urban Areas of different categories
  - ✓ 5 Cities (250,000+)
  - ✓ Over 100 Municipalities (50,000+)
  - ✓ Over 200 Towns (10,000+)
- The Government's priority is to build the capacity of these rapidly urbanizing areas to create livable and resilient secondary cities.



# Data Challenges of Our Secondary Cities

---



- Lack of **data governance** Frameworks
- **Limited access** and **data sharing**, sometimes often **restricted** due to bureaucratic processes
- Urban spatial data is not **uniformly available**, it is **fragmented** across different sectors.
- **Limited** and **inconsistent** adoption of Geospatial data management technologies .
- **Lack of standardized data collection and maintenance protocols**, leading to varying data quality and usability.
- There is limited knowledge and **capacity among technical staff**
- No regular **maintenance and update** of data sets

# There are However Opportunities...

- The **Urban Areas and Cities Act** mandates cities and urban areas to prepare **GIS based spatial plans**.
- But **without data, institutions to enable effective use of data and capacity of municipal staff to analyze the data** – How is this even possible?
- World Bank financed Second Kenya Urban Support Program is supporting **79 secondary cities/municipalities** to go from **ad hoc modes of investments to data driven approaches**.
- KUSP II aims to **incentivize municipalities to enhance their spatial planning** instruments through the use of GIS-based data.
- As the first important step, KUSP2 is collaborating with City Planning Labs (CPL) to create data governance framework scalable to 79 municipalities to facilitate **data informed planning and decision making**

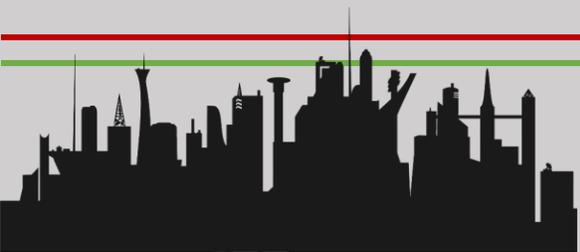


# Municipal Spatial Data Infrastructure (MSDI) Approach

- The first step is to do a **data ecosystem assessment** for the municipalities
- For this we have successfully completed the **initial MSDI assessments in pilot 3 municipalities**
- We are in the process of developing implementable roadmaps based on four-pillars - **Institutional Arrangements, People, Data, and Systems**).
- The lessons learnt from the 3 initial municipalities will inform the **conceptualization of the scale up to the remaining 76** under KUSP2 with focus on data governance foundations.
- Proper implementation will lead to the **institutionalization of evidence based decision-making for Urban Planning and Management**, improving delivery and access to municipal services.



# What is Next?



- **Enabling legislations and policies** at National and sub-national levels
- Focusing on **mutual gain for all actors** – e.g. National Urban Observatory
- **Training and Technical Assistance** – TOTs for ongoing support
- **Tailored approach** - to address specific needs and challenges faced by different institutions/municipalities at different levels
- **Upscaling** the MSDI approach to the remaining 76 KUSp2 Municipalities
- **Urban Institutional Grants for municipalities** for strengthening data governance

*While we are at the start of our data journey, our ambitions are big and we have a strong, systematic and scalable approach. We believe the focus on establishing data governance as the basis for data innovations will be key to success in the long term.*

# THANK YOU

State Department for Housing and Urban Development

Urban Development Department

P.O BOX 34477-00100

Nairobi-Kenya

[kusp2@housingandurban.go.ke](mailto:kusp2@housingandurban.go.ke)