

# THE CITIES ALLIANCE IN BRAZIL

## A PARTNERSHIP FOR SUCCESS

The Cities Alliance has had a presence in Brazil since 2001, working very closely with city, state and national policy makers on social housing and slum upgrading as well as the design and implementation of urban planning and knowledge tools. Brazil formally joined the Cities Alliance in 2003.

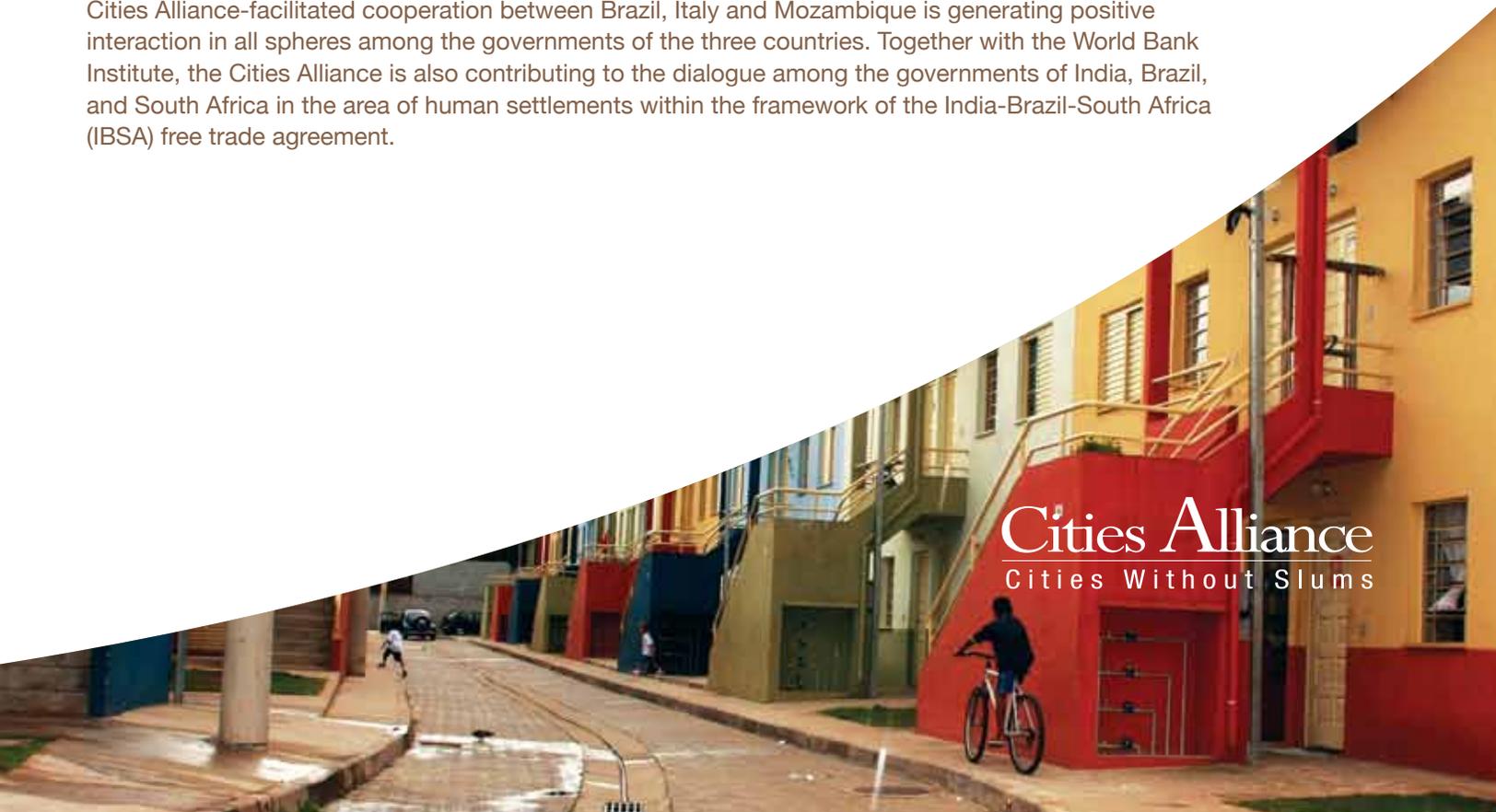
Since then, the partnership has become a fundamental element in the strengthening of national slum upgrading approaches and pro-poor housing policies all over the country. This has been done primarily through the Ministry of Cities and CAIXA, the country's housing and urban development bank. The Alliance has a regional office based in São Paulo.

At the city and state level, Cities Alliance partnership activities—such as those in the municipality of São Paulo and the state of Bahia—have showcased good practice models of scaling up planning and urban development through national policies and programmes. Partnerships have also been initiated with the municipalities of Diadema and Salvador on urban development and finance, and with the state of Minas Gerais for metropolitan management and poverty reduction in the Belo Horizonte metropolitan region.

## FACILITATING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE EXCHANGE

On an international level, the Cities Alliance has provided innovative support for tripartite cooperation on slum upgrading that has created important opportunities for learning and improving policies.

Cities Alliance-facilitated cooperation between Brazil, Italy and Mozambique is generating positive interaction in all spheres among the governments of the three countries. Together with the World Bank Institute, the Cities Alliance is also contributing to the dialogue among the governments of India, Brazil, and South Africa in the area of human settlements within the framework of the India-Brazil-South Africa (IBSA) free trade agreement.

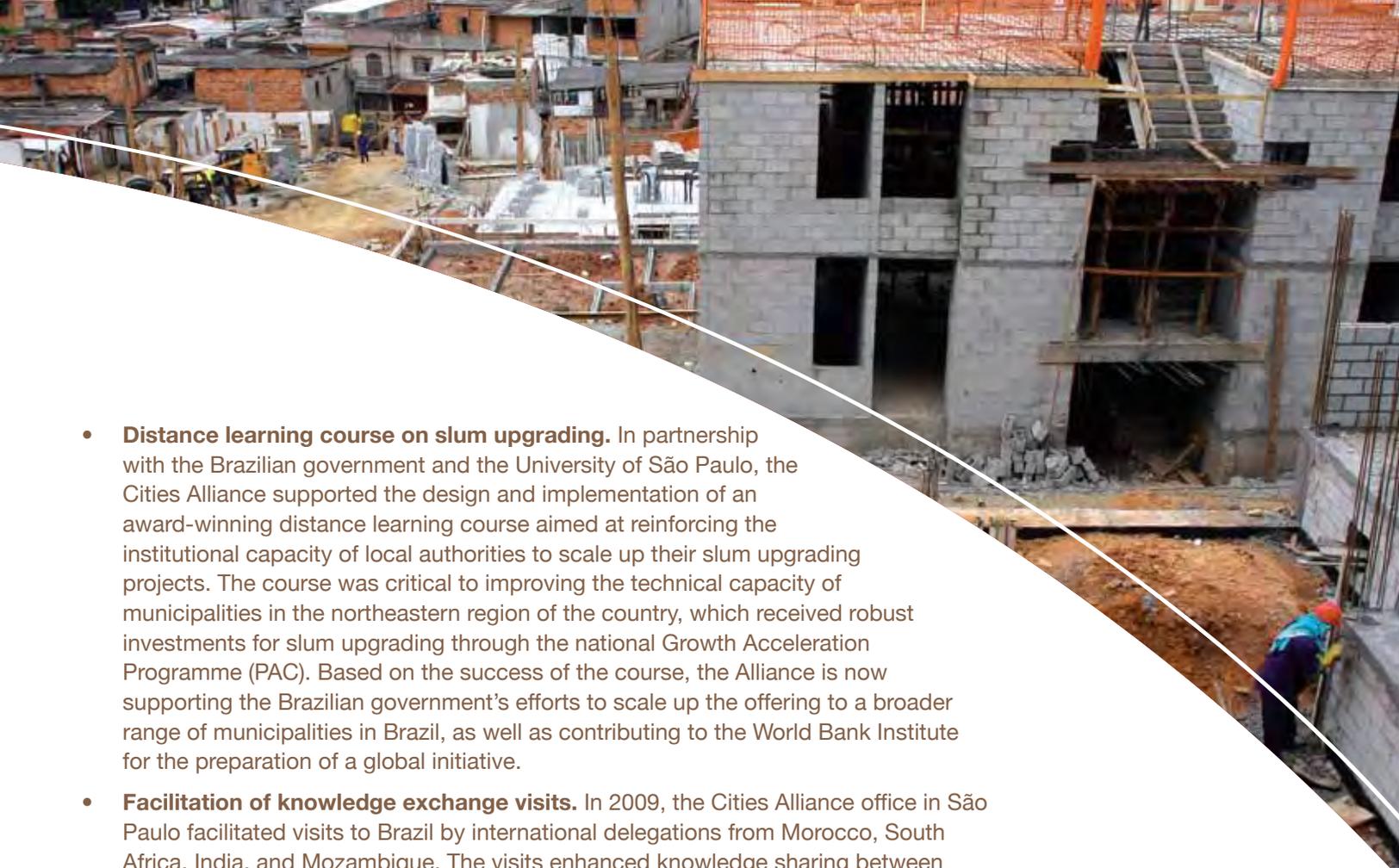


Cities Alliance  
Cities Without Slums

## CITIES ALLIANCE ACTIVITIES IN BRAZIL

The Cities Alliance has supported a range of activities in Brazil to strengthen pro-poor urban policies and create opportunities for international knowledge sharing and the dissemination of lessons learned. Highlights include:

- **Citywide slum upgrading in São Paulo.** The Cities Alliance has collaborated with the São Paulo Municipal Housing Secretariat (SEHAB) on a citywide slum upgrading programme since 2001. As a result of the partnership, the Municipality of São Paulo established the Bairro Legal (Legal Neighbourhood) Programme, an initiative providing security of tenure and improved living conditions for slum dwellers. The Municipality also created HABISP, a centralised database with information about the city's precarious settlements that has become a valuable tool for urban development. HABISP has generated considerable interest both nationally and internationally, and plans are underway to expand it to other cities in Brazil. Information about HABISP can be accessed at [www.habisp.inf.br](http://www.habisp.inf.br).
- **Slum upgrading in Bahia.** The Cities Alliance and the state government of Bahia supported an integrated upgrading programme in Alagados, one of Brazil's largest slums in the city of Salvador. The partnership comprised the State of Bahia, the World Bank, the Government of Italy, AVSI (an international development NGO) and more than 70 local community associations. The project used a participatory and integrated approach that made a real difference in the lives of slum dwellers and set the process of scaling up in motion. This approach has been incorporated into state policy and is being replicated statewide.
- **Development of a National Housing Plan.** The Cities Alliance supported the development of Brazil's first National Housing Plan, which provides goals and targets for meeting the housing needs of a select population in the lowest income brackets and the emerging middle class over a period of 16 years. The National Housing Plan was the first step towards a new subsidies model implemented through the My House, My Life (Minha Casa, Minha Vida) programme, which aims to build one million houses for lower income families. A benchmark for Brazil's housing policy, the programme significantly scales up the level of individual subsidies and availability of funding for subsidies and finance.
- **Brazil State of the Cities Report.** Currently underway, this report will provide an analysis of the living conditions of a sample of 600 Brazilian municipalities out of a total of more than 5,500. The preparation of the report is being closely coordinated by a Steering Committee comprising the Brazilian national associations of cities, CAIXA, the Brazilian Ministry of Cities, the World Bank, UN-HABITAT, and the Inter-American Development Bank (IADB). The São Paulo-based Polis Institute is coordinating the project execution, and other urban research and support institutions have been invited to join the initiative—thus establishing a network of organisations with expertise on urban issues.



- **Distance learning course on slum upgrading.** In partnership with the Brazilian government and the University of São Paulo, the Cities Alliance supported the design and implementation of an award-winning distance learning course aimed at reinforcing the institutional capacity of local authorities to scale up their slum upgrading projects. The course was critical to improving the technical capacity of municipalities in the northeastern region of the country, which received robust investments for slum upgrading through the national Growth Acceleration Programme (PAC). Based on the success of the course, the Alliance is now supporting the Brazilian government's efforts to scale up the offering to a broader range of municipalities in Brazil, as well as contributing to the World Bank Institute for the preparation of a global initiative.
- **Facilitation of knowledge exchange visits.** In 2009, the Cities Alliance office in São Paulo facilitated visits to Brazil by international delegations from Morocco, South Africa, India, and Mozambique. The visits enhanced knowledge sharing between Brazil and each of the four countries, particularly regarding national and local policies for slum upgrading programmes. They allowed practitioners to see firsthand what was happening on the ground and better understand the context of government policies and programmes. They also provided both parties with an opportunity to reflect on their respective situations and identify areas for improvement.





## PUBLICATIONS RESULTING FROM THE BRAZIL-CITIES ALLIANCE PARTNERSHIP

As a learning alliance, the Cities Alliance promotes learning between cities and among cities, governments, international development agencies and financial institutions. The Cities Alliance partnership with Brazil has created valuable opportunities for international knowledge sharing and dissemination of lessons learned. Publications related to the partnership include:



- *Distance Learning Course on Integrated Slum Upgrading Actions.* This book provides a comprehensive overview of the key ideas drawn from the award-winning distance learning course “Integrated Slum Upgrading Actions.” Published in 2010. Available in English and Portuguese.



- *The City Statute of Brazil: A Commentary.* A collection of papers analysing Brazil’s groundbreaking City Statute (Federal Law 10.257), enacted in 2001 to regulate the chapter on urban policy in Brazil’s constitution. Published in 2010. Available in English and Portuguese.



- *Social Housing in São Paulo: Challenges and New Management Tools.* The publication highlights the second phase of the partnership between the Cities Alliance and the São Paulo Municipal Housing Secretariat (SEHAB), including the development of HABISP. Published in 2009. Available in English and Portuguese.



- *Slum Upgrading Up Close.* The publication captures some of the knowledge and shared learning from a 2008 international policy dialogue on the “Challenges of Slum Upgrading: Sharing São Paulo’s Experience” co-hosted by the Cities Alliance and the city of São Paulo. It features the experiences of six major cities of the south: Cairo, Ekurhuleni, Lagos, Manila, Mumbai, and São Paulo. Published in 2008. Available in English and Portuguese.



- *Alagados – The Story of Integrated Slum Upgrading in Salvador (Bahia), Brazil.* The publication captures the lessons learned in the slum upgrading project supported by the Cities Alliance and the state government of Bahia from 2001 to 2006. Published in 2008. Available in English and Portuguese.



- *Integrating the Poor: Urban Upgrading and Land Tenure Regularisation in the city of São Paulo.* An overview of the process and outcome of the Alliance’s collaboration with the Municipality of São Paulo from 2001 to 2004, when the city initiated the Bairro Legal programme. Published 2004. Available in English and Portuguese.

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