



Around 80 percent of UNOPS personnel are from developing countries and most in-country personnel are nationals. Photo: UNOPS

WHAT IS UNOPS?

In early 2013, the Cities Alliance governing board selected the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS) as the trustee and Secretariat of the Cities Alliance. Here is more information about our new Secretariat and Trustee.

Who is UNOPS?

UNOPS is the operational arm of the United Nations, helping a range of partners implement \$1 billion worth of aid and development projects every year. UNOPS helps them to supplement their own capacities, improve speed, reduce risks, boost cost-effectiveness and increase quality.

Working in over 80 countries, UNOPS delivers its services through global headquarters in Copenhagen, Denmark and a decentralised, flexible network of more than 20 country offices. It is a not-for-profit organisation and is fully self-financing, prompting its efficiency and financial discipline.

What does UNOPS do?

UNOPS provides implementation support services to a wide range of partners, including UN organisations, international financial institutions, governments, intergovernmental organisations and non-governmental organisations.

Its support generally falls within three main areas:

- Sustainable infrastructure
- Sustainable procurement
- Sustainable project management

UNOPS also offers a broad range of administrative, transactional and logistical services to organisations that require hosting, but who still wish to maintain their own institutional identity—making it an excellent fit for the Cities Alliance.

UNOPS and the Cities Alliance

Over the course of 2013, UNOPS worked with the World Bank to assume the trustee and Secretariat function for the Cities Alliance and successfully transition the partnership from the World Bank into the UNOPS

system. This included relocating the Cities Alliance Secretariat from Washington, DC to Brussels; opening a new account for Cities Alliance funding with an initial roll-over of funds from the World Bank-administered trust fund; and transferring the World Bank's database for Cities Alliance to UNOPS.

Separately, UNOPS successfully set up a multi-donor (Core) fund to support operations for the Country Programmes (which are funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation), and established legal templates for future contributions. This fund is managed in close collaboration with the Cities Alliance Secretariat.

Since September 2013, UNOPS has already secured and received approximately US \$19.2 million for Cities Alliance grants and operations (including roll-over funds from the World Bank-administered trust fund). It has also signed two grant agreements and issued initial disbursements for key projects to launch the Burkina Faso Country Programme.