

Cities Alliance in Action

Learning and Knowledge Sharing

While learning and knowledge sharing take place within the framework of all Alliance activities, the Cities Alliance also supports a number of global and regional learning activities. During FY02 these included:

- **Sustainable Partnerships for City Development – Kolkata Public Policy Forum**

Kolkata, December 2001

The 2001 Public Policy Forum focused on strategies and partnerships for pro-poor city development. The forum was hosted by the Government of West Bengal, and organised by the Asian Coalition for Housing Rights (ACHR) and Slum/Shack Dwellers International, with the support of DFID and in collaboration with slum communities and NGOs of Kolkata and the Government of West Bengal. The forum brought together national and international experts, business leaders, governmental authorities, development agencies, NGOs, community organisations, slum dwellers, and members of civil society from 11 cities around India as well as 30 other countries. Among the key messages emerging from the forum were the need to forge partnerships between government and civil society, to tackle urban poverty on a citywide basis, and to include the poor in planning processes for sustainable city development. The National Slum Dwellers Federation and



Public Policy Forum participants hear from Kolkata slum dwellers.



Public Policy Forum, Kolkata, India.

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ACHR led a session on constructive responses to eviction, which underscored the message running throughout the forum, namely, the significance of secure tenure. The four-day event also featured site visits throughout Kolkata and a model housing exhibition.

- **Cities Without Slums session at the World Urban Forum**

Nairobi, April-May 2002

The Cities Alliance and UN-HABITAT jointly organised a session on Cities Without Slums at the inaugural World Urban Forum held this spring in Nairobi. Chaired by Somsook Boonyabanha and Jean Pierre Elong Mbassi, members of the Cities Alliance's Policy Advisory Board, the event included a presentation by the World Bank, based upon the results of a study financed by the Government of Norway, on the lessons learned in urban upgrading activities in ten African countries. The session also included a presentation by São Paulo's Housing Secretary describing his administration's strategies for citywide slum upgrading and by the Homeless People's Federation of Namibia on actions taken by poor communities themselves. The Alliance also supported the most lively event of the World Urban Forum, a discussion on strategies to replace evictions with negotiated resolutions and voluntary resettlement.

I am here on behalf of the slum dwellers of SDI and also on behalf of all the slum dwellers of the world to stand and say - we are here to begin with a new partnership...Today we are standing here after completing of more than 50,000 houses right from South Africa, Zimbabwe, Namibia, India, Cambodia, Thailand, etc. Beyond our own strength we are building. We have already saved; our women have saved more than US\$50 million worth savings in our own slum settlements....So we have come here as a group to say - we have strategies developed. We know how to deal with the cities. We have dealt with the city authorities. We have developed our own infrastructure for liasoning. We know what kind of improvement we need in the slums. Is there anybody in the world who can think about City Without Slums without the participation of the slum dweller? No, No, it is NOT possible. That is what you have seen in past years. We want all slum dwellers to participate in this process. Every time people think if the slum dweller comes we are coming here to beg. Certainly not. We are not come here to beg. Let's sit together. Slum dweller, the city authority and the bilateral...You need to have a partnership. We will have a strategy we develop, we are the resource, we are the assets.

Jockin Arputham, President, Slum Dwellers International (SDI), World Urban Forum, Nairobi, 29 April 2002.

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Fishermen attracted back to Ribeira Azul's bay as upgrading moves forward. Salvador de Bahia, Brazil.

- **Shelter Finance for the Urban Poor: Experiences and Innovations**
Washington, D.C., April-May 2002

In collaboration with the World Bank's research programme on "Low Income Housing and Land Strategies", the Cities Alliance hosted two seminars on the respective experiences of Mibanco in Peru and Funhavi in Mexico in providing housing finance for the poor. Both case studies have been documented as part of the Cities Alliance's Shelter Finance for the Poor Initiative and are two in a series of studies on this topic that will be disseminated in the third quarter of 2002. Other studies examine the experience of SEWA Bank in India, a wholesale finance facility in Ecuador, and the policy and regulatory constraints to shelter finance in Kenya. A synthesis of all the case studies, which

will offer policy recommendations for governments and donors, is also being prepared. These outputs are being finalised for dissemination through publication of the CIVIS series, chapters of a book financed by Fannie Mae and USAID, incorporation in training programmes for finance practitioners, web access, and workshops.

- **Secure Tenure for the Urban Poor – Round Table Discussion**
Washington, D.C., May 2002

As part of ongoing international efforts to meet the Cities Without Slums Millennium Development Target, the Cities Alliance hosted a round table on secure tenure – one of the two indicators adopted by the United Nations to measure implementation of this target. Convened by World Bank Managing Director Mamphele Ramphele and

Executive Director of UN-HABITAT, Anna Tibajuka, the round table heard presentations by four prominent members of the International Research Group on Law and Urban Space (IRGLUS): Alain Durand-Lasserve, Edesio Fernandes, Geoffrey Payne, and Martim Smolka. In addressing secure tenure, the panelists highlighted the importance of a range of options that exist as alternatives to formal property rights and the granting of title – options that provide the protection of due legal process as well as the opportunity to build economic assets, both essential elements of urban poverty reduction strategies. The presentations were based on case studies from different parts of the world, highlighting innovative tenure options for the urban poor that have already been implemented.

■ **Towards Productive and Inclusive Cities: the Role of City Development Strategies - International Seminar**

Santo André, Brazil, June 2002

More than 300 participants from local governments, universities, research institutes, civil society, and international organisations gathered for two days of intense discussions on the changing perspectives on local and regional development. The CDS experiences of seven cities were systematically compared and evaluated. Two years in the making, these CDS exercises were carried out by UN-HABITAT and UMP, with World Bank funding through the City Alliance. The experiences of Santo André, Brazil, Cuenca, Ecuador, and

Elements of a tenure regularisation policy

While local conditions need to determine final policy choices, the following steps should be considered:

- ▲ Prioritise occupancy rights, and security of tenure;
- ▲ Promote records of land rights (including use rights) at local level, involving concerned communities;
- ▲ Develop appropriate regulatory frameworks for the regularisation of existing settlements and the development of new settlements for the urban poor;
- ▲ Promote a wide range of tenure options to respond to the diversity of needs within the broader community;
- ▲ Implement upgrading incrementally in order to limit the effects of formal market pressure, and market evictions on informal settlements.

Johannesburg, South Africa were presented by city officials and then discussed among local, national, and international organisations. Discussions were enriched by bringing in the experiences of Milan, Italy, Barcelona, Spain, and Los Angeles, USA in participatory strategic planning. A lively debate on the role of municipal governments in a local economic development strategy to reduce poverty was complemented by a discussion on how to scale up local development strategies through capacity-building, research, and evaluation. In the closing session, participants elaborated on the role of local and global partnerships in creating more inclusive and productive cities. The results of this

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Guarapiranga, Brazil

event and the role of CDS will be published in a special edition of the Brazilian business magazine *Livre Mercado*. In addition, a publication of the seminar proceedings and all of the papers presented is under preparation. The event was organised jointly by the Agency for the Economic Development of the Greater ABC Area, Brazil; UN-HABITAT; UMP; and the Cities Alliance.

- **Slum Upgrading Course
Cambridge, Massachusetts,
U.S.A., June 2002**

The Cities Alliance joined forces with the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) in presenting a week-long course on slum upgrading, covering key issues such as land acquisition, tenure policies, and sustainable financing. Participants included local partners from Alliance supported slum upgrading activities in Brazil, Mexico, India, South Africa, Cambodia, Vietnam, Philippines, and Madagascar. In addition to formal coursework, participants made informal presentations on slum upgrading issues from their respective

cities. The course is part of a wider initiative currently being explored which seeks to marshal the intellectual and institutional resources of universities and practitioners in different parts of the world to strengthen the local knowledge base and build the cadre of experts needed to implement citywide and nationwide slum upgrading.

- **Addressing Urban Poverty:
East Asian Responses
Singapore, June, 2002**

Mayors and senior local and national government officials from six East Asian countries (Cambodia, China, Indonesia, Mongolia, the Philippines, and Vietnam) joined World Bank urban staff for an Urban Poverty Learning Workshop in Singapore in June. The workshop was organised jointly by the World Bank and Singapore's Ministry of Foreign Affairs to exchange experiences and ideas on tackling urban poverty and discuss the public interventions that have worked. Four particular areas emerged as central to the reduction of urban poverty: local economic development for economic growth and job generation; land management for providing security of tenure and improving infrastructure services; social security for supporting access to social services; and municipal capacity-building for good governance and the elimination of corruption. These issues were examined from varying perspectives, including those of national governments, cities, and international donor agencies and development partners.

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- **Addressing CDS Knowledge Gaps**

The Cities Alliance is supporting the development of a CDS interactive website to provide a platform for knowledge sharing and to facilitate further CDS tool development. This CDS website is being developed with local authority organisations to generate and disseminate this information through their networks. A working group of the local authority members of the Alliance has been established to facilitate this process and to guide the International City Managers Association (ICMA) which is developing the pilot phase of this effort.

- **Building National and Regional Capacities**

To help institutionalise the monitoring and evaluation of CDS and upgrading initiatives, the Cities Alliance is encouraging the engagement of universities and urban institutes in the countries and regions where it is active. The University of São Paulo, for example, has proposed to organise a partnership of local and national Brazilian institu-

tions and other actors to document and disseminate knowledge on projects, experiences, standards, and research findings on low-income housing and slum upgrading. This information will be maintained in Portuguese on a Cities Alliance website for Brazil. This will benefit the university's courses on slum upgrading, which are currently being expanded, as well as the scaling up efforts which are underway in Brazil. Alliance-supported CDS activities in China and Indonesia have similar strategies to take advantage of the in-depth knowledge of local universities while helping them to build their curriculum and train the cadre of experts who will be needed to sustain these initiatives. The Alliance is also establishing a partnership with the Arab Urban Development Institute (AUDI) to help strengthen city-to-city learning from the regional knowledge and analyses of successful slum upgrading and CDS experiences in the Middle East and North Africa region.