

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

THE CITIES ALLIANCE LIBERIA COUNTRY PROGRAMME

Emerging from the combined ravages of a brutal civil war and the Ebola virus, the people of Liberia embody the concept of resilience. Despite the burdens of many developmental and other challenges, the Liberia of today is a country with ambition, aiming to achieve middle income status by 2030.

The Cities Alliance Country Programme is designed to provide longterm, programmatic support to help Liberia realise these developmental objectives, in a way that benefits the urban poor. Programme activities aim to improve the lives and opportunities of up to 400,000 slum dwellers in Greater Monrovia, with interventions at the community, municipal and national levels.

LIBERIA BY THE NUMBERS

- **5.6% annual GDP growth** (World Bank, 2017)
- **40% of Liberians live in Monrovia** (National Report for HIII, 2016)
- **68% of all employment is informal** (LISGIS, 2011)
- **70% of Monrovia's population lives in slums** (World Bank, 2014)





Making Progress

Since its launch in 2016, the Country Programme has already achieved concrete results:

- At the national level, there is a growing recognition that efficient, effective cities are critical to developing the national economy, along with mechanisms for mobilising capacity and engaging citizens.
- Slum dwellers are increasingly recognised as citizens who need to be fully engaged in city planning and development.
- Cities and townships are building capacity and engaging with citizens on urban planning. They are also increasingly viewing petty traders as economic contributors instead of nuisances.
- Community profiling, verification and settlement forum activities that identify community priority needs have helped informal settlements become acknowledged as an integral part of the city and are informing small infrastructure projects.



Initial Results

Community level

- **Launching organisations to support the urban poor.** The Country Programme has helped launch the Federation of Liberia Urban Poor Savers (FOLUPS) and Federation of Petty Traders and Informal Workers Union of Liberia (FEPTIWUL).

- **Empowering and mobilising slum dwellers.** As of the end of 2018, the programme has mobilised:



179 saving groups



with over **4,970** registered members in 35 slum communities



Over **1,212** slum dwellers have been trained in the profiling and mapping of communities

- **Improving neighbourhoods with the Community Upgrading Fund (CUF).** It provides financing for small infrastructure projects selected by the communities using the data collected during profiling activities. By the end of 2018:



the first **10** projects had been identified to build schools, water



points, and community meeting halls, with more projects to come

City level

- **Municipalities engaged in participatory planning.** Mechanisms such as the Monrovia City Urban Forum are giving all residents a voice in the planning process and shaping the City Development Strategy for Greater Monrovia.
- **A formal agreement between the city and informal workers.** The Monrovia City Corporation signed a formal agreement with FEPTIWUL that stipulates a mapped area for traders to tend their stalls and trade without harassment. So far, 529 secure trading sites have been allocated for informal workers.
- **Using solid waste to generate work and energy in Monrovia's economy.** Based on the Country Programme's initial successes, the European Union provided:



€5.9 m (US \$7 million) in funding for two projects on:



Primary Waste Collection, Solid Waste Management,



and Waste-to-Energy options for Greater Monrovia.

- **Support for the Association of Mayors.** The Country Programme helped launch and establish the Association of Mayors and Local Government Authorities of Liberia (AMLOGAL) in 2017.

Initial Results

Country level

- A **National Urban Policy** is under development in cooperation with UN-Habitat that aims to integrate the urban economy into national development policies.
- The National Housing Authority (NHA) established a **Slum Upgrading Unit** that recognises the need to work in slums, provide housing solutions to low-income families, and consider the needs of the urban poor in national planning, a direct result of work spearheaded by HFHI.
- The NHA has adopted a **Slum Upgrading and Affordable Housing framework** that identifies some of the key steps needed to upgrade slum communities.
- A **hazard, vulnerability and risk assessment** to detect the housing challenges for people living in slum communities has been finalised.



Country Programme Projects

The Cities Alliance Liberia Country Programme is working to improve living and working conditions for the poor in Greater Monrovia through coordinated activities at the country, city and community levels. Founded in 1822, Liberia's capital, Monrovia, is the center of political, economic, and cultural activities in the country and home to 40 per cent of the national population. Originally built to service 500,000 people, Greater Monrovia now has an estimated population of 1.2 million, comprising two cities (Monrovia and Paynesville), nine townships, and one borough.



Implementing Partners

The Cities Alliance Country Programme works with a diverse range of Liberian partners to support local authorities in Greater Monrovia with implementation, including the Ministry of Internal Affairs, Department of Urban Affairs, organised civil society groups in cities, and the private sector.

Local Partners

- The Ministry of Internal Affairs
- Department of Urban Affairs:
Approximately 8 ministries/departments interlinked including the National Housing Authority
- Organised civil society groups in cities, and the private sector.
- Monrovia City Corporation
- Paynesville City Corporation
- Association of Mayors and Local Governments Authorities of Liberia
- YMCA
- FOLUPS
- FEPTIWUL
- NACOB

International

- Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI)
- Habitat for Humanity International
- Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO)
- StreetNet International
- UNOPS
- UN-Habitat
- United Cities and Local Governments Africa (UCLGA)
- Wateraid

Funders

- Comic Relief
- European Union

Projects

1. Slum data collection in the Greater Monrovia & slum dwellers dialogue

The Greater Monrovia profiling project is part of SDI's global Know Your City campaign (Knowyourcity.info), where slum dwellers collect and analyse city-wide data on informal settlements. The information allows the communities to better define development priorities, exchange knowledge and lessons learned, and influence policy making directly related to the urban poor. The project includes the organisation of forums at local, city and country level to provide a platform for regular dialogue between communities and local authorities around urban data and to monitor and evaluate progress of the country programme.

Implementing partners: Slum Dweller International (SDI) and YMCA Liberia

2. Affordable Housing Framework in the Greater Monrovia

This project brings together communities and stakeholders from the public and private sectors to guide the overall planning and development of affordable housing for low income informal workers in the Greater Monrovia area. The affordable housing policy framework will provide a comprehensive overview of key market opportunities and challenges around the delivery of affordable and adequate housing in the area. Sustainable and scalable housing prototypes will be built and tested through pilot projects.

Implementing partner: Habitat for Humanity International (HfHI)

3. National Urban Policy (NUP) & National Urban Forums (NUF)

The overall objective of this project is to support the development of a National Urban Policy (NUP) through a consultative and participative process. The NUP is an overarching framework for government and cities to address urban challenges, maximize the benefits of urbanization, create incentives for more sustainable practices and allocate resources. The NUP will be facilitated through the organization of National Urban Forums (NUF) to provide a platform for dialogue about urban matters.

Implementing partner: UN Habitat





4. City Development Strategy & City Forum for Greater Monrovia

This project supports the development of a City Development Strategy (CDS) for the Greater Monrovia area. Cities Alliance will bring stakeholders together during a series of forums around the most pressing urban issues. The CDS is a tool to help local governments and development partners lay the basis for economic growth, more inclusive communities and more resilient cities. **Implementing partners: Cities Alliance Secretariat and Liberia Country Office**

5. Empowering urban informal workers in Greater Monrovia

The aim of the project is to support street and market vendors of Greater Monrovia to participate in decision making processes related to the cities and communities where they work. Capacity building will be provided to the members of the The Federation of Petty Traders and Informal Workers Union of Liberia (FEPTIWUL) to strengthen their role in the design and implementation of inclusive urban policies, development of infrastructures and community upgrading plans. **Implementing partners: Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO) and StreetNet International (SI)**

6. Community Upgrading Fund (CUF)

The Community Upgrading Fund is a community-driven development initiative that provides financing for small infrastructure projects selected by the communities themselves. The projects enable the urban poor to make a measurable impact on their communities by improving their basic social and physical infrastructure, enhancing their quality of life, and creating a better work environment. **Implementing partners: Cities Alliance Secretariat and Liberia country office**

7. Capacity building in urban management for city actors

Thanks to this initiative, local officials and city leaders from Greater Monrovia will be trained in urban planning and city management. In the longer term, the aim is to work with public administration and education institutions in Liberia to build their capacities in key areas such as sustainable urban development and long-term investment in cities. **Implementing partners: Cities Alliance Secretariat and IHS – Rotterdam**

8. Creation of the Liberian Local Government Association

The Liberian Ministry of Internal Affairs and UCLG Africa are supporting the creation of a National Association of Local Governments. The institution will gather city mayors across the country and promote a stronger role of local governments at national level. This plan is being supported by the Cities Alliance Africa strategy. **Implementing partner: United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa)**

9. Solid waste management for Community Based Enterprises (CBEs)

Through this program, funded by the European Union, Community Based Enterprises in Monrovia and Paynsville are able to improve and scale up their waste management initiatives. The main activities include training, construction of waste infrastructure and microfinance loans and grants for CBEs. The project also works on advocacy and awareness raising on waste management and climate resilience in schools, community forums and local media. **Implementing partners: Cities Alliance Secretariat and Liberia country office**

10. Converting waste into energy

This is an EU funded project, which focuses on identifying sustainable ways to generate renewable energy using solid waste, primarily for domestic use. In the long run, this will reduce the amount of waste going into landfills and improve access to affordable energy for vulnerable and isolated communities. The project plans the installation of two waste to energy plants in Greater Monrovia and the leveraging of additional investment for scaling waste management models. **Implementing partners: Cities Alliance Secretariat and Liberia country office**



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