Innovation Call for Proposals 2020

Stronger Partnerships: Local Innovations for New Climate Realities in Cities

The Call for Proposals at a glance:

The Cities Alliance has launched an Innovation Call for Proposals to award small grants to advance affordable, accessible and innovative climate adaptation concepts, products and processes at the community level, and foster dialogue and engagement between local communities and local governments.

Eligibility: Community-based organisations, national and local NGOs and other not-for-profit organizations working at the city or community level in the Greater Horn of Africa or Bay of Bengal.

Project duration: up to 08 months.

Grant size: From USD 25,000 to USD 30,000 per project.

Deadline: 30 March 2020, 14:00 Central European Time (CET).

To apply: online application form

More information:
https://tinyurl.com/NewClimateRealities

(Climate) Adaptation is defined as the "adjustment in natural or human systems in response to actual or expected climatic stimuli or their effects, which moderates harm or exploits beneficial opportunities."
United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC).

The Cities Alliance

The mission of the Cities Alliance is to improve the lives of urban populations by delivering integrated, citywide and innovative solutions to urban poverty in cities where it matters the most. Cities Alliance's vision is to provide technical support and grants to local and national actors to deliver policies and programmes that directly address urban poverty and gender inequality in cities. Cities Alliance is an agent for urban change with a clear focus on secondary cities, which are increasingly instrumental to economic and social progress in rapidly urbanising economies.

Cities Alliance is the global partnership supporting cities to deliver sustainable development. For nearly 20 years, the Secretariat has convened partners from civil society, local and national authorities, and development actors with an urban focus to combine complementary strengths and expertise. With its programmatic approach and diverse membership, Cities Alliance has the capacity to coordinate the efforts and core competencies among partners to leverage this collective expertise to advance urban thinking and solutions. The Cities Alliance is managed through a Secretariat based in Brussels and is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

Background

Climate change is increasingly affecting cities in a variety of ways: among the impacts are an increase in the frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, such as heatwaves or heavy rains, causing landslides and flooding. These impacts are a reality acknowledged by major global agreements. Still, a breakthrough in efforts to effectively mitigate the predicted increase in temperature is lacking.

Meanwhile, people in rapidly urbanising countries are beginning to bear the burden of global warming, especially the poorest, who are the least responsible for these effects. This comes in addition to existing social

Sida
SWEDISH INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT COOPERATION AGENCY

Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

inequalities that are increasing the exposure to and vulnerability of the poorest communities to the effects of climate change, while also being aggravated by them.

The Greater Horn of Africa (GHA) and the Bay of Bengal (BoB) are considered two of the world's most vulnerable regions to these impacts. In the GHA, droughts and torrential rainfall with heavy runoff and flooding have already become more frequent and scientific predictions suggest that the region will be hotter and drier with increased extreme events. Similarly, the littoral countries of Bangladesh and Myanmar will be highly affected by anticipated climate-induced events, such as more frequent and severe tropical storms and cyclones, heavy rains, coastal erosion, and sea-level rise.

Such disruptive events have deep impacts on societies and economies, exacerbating the vulnerability of low-income households and, in particular, of those living in informal settlements and/or working in the informal economy. Being characterized by inadequate housing conditions and access to basic public services, and most often located in hazardous urban environments, informal settlements are highly susceptible to climate change risks. At the same time the informal economy, which plays a substantial role within socio-economic systems by providing employment, goods and services for communities, is most often unable to absorb climate-related shocks.

Facing high levels of socio-economic vulnerability due to fast-growing populations and high levels of informality, both GHA and BoB have limited capacity to prevent or reduce climate change effects. **There is an urgent need to respond to these threats by reducing the vulnerability and risk exposure of residents – which makes the case for improved resilience and climate adaptation at the local level.**

Adapting to climate change will require innovation, creativity, experimentation and, above all, partnerships. Responding to climate change at the local level will require both local authorities and communities to work together. **Harnessing knowledge and diversity from within local communities** and matching with the legal mandates of local governments enables the creation of interventions more aligned with experienced realities and the identification of new approaches.

The urban poor, being in the frontline of impacts and disproportionally affected by climate change, need to be enabled to implement actions to cope with these impacts, while taking advantage of the benefits and opportunities brought by such interventions. Climate adaptation actions take many forms, such as the creation of climate-resilient livelihoods, climate disaster risk reduction, enhancement of adaptive capacity, and addressing poverty, vulnerability, and their structural causes. For example, the establishment of early warning systems could enhance the adaptive capacity of urban populations, while flood-proofing and protection could save life and property.

Objectives

To support the urban poor prepare for climate change impacts while creating opportunities to improve their current living conditions, and in line with the **Year of Action** launched by the Global Commission on Adaptation to accelerate climate adaptation, the "Stronger Partnerships: Local innovations for new climate realities in cities" Innovation Call for Proposals **aims to advance affordable, accessible and innovative climate adaptation concepts, products and processes at the community level, and foster dialogue and means of engagement between local communities and local governments.**

We see **innovation as the development of concepts, products and processes that are either new in absolute terms or a novelty in their application and adaptation to a different context**.

Due to their high level of vulnerability to climate exacerbations, this call targets urban communities in two sub-regions, the Greater Horn of Africa - comprised of **Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, and Uganda** - and the Bay of Bengal, with a focus on **Bangladesh and Myanmar**.

Applications are sought from **community-based organisations, national and local NGOs and not-for-profit organizations working in the above-mentioned countries.** This call is funded by SIDA (Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency) and supported by BMZ (German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development), both Cities Alliance members.

Outcomes and Deliverables

The proposed projects should improve the climate adaptation capacity of the urban poor and address the potential impacts of climate change on women, young people, and vulnerable and underrepresented groups. Projects must demonstrate that they can be (partially or totally) replicated or adapted to different contexts, be inclusive and create opportunities for **engagement with local governments** and other relevant stakeholders. **If successful, they will demonstrate new climate adaptation approaches built upon Public Community Partnerships and with the potential to catalyse transformational change in cities.**

To increase effectiveness and efficiency of the actions proposed, we highly encourage applicants to start engaging with local governments already in the design and planning phase of their proposal.

Each project is expected to identify and propose its own specific outputs. The deliverables[1] proposed by the project must be aligned with its overall objective and activities and contribute to advancing climate adaptation in local communities and promoting dialogue and engagements with local governments. For instance, deliverables could involve capacity building, community-local government engagement processes, and the creation and use of adaptation techniques, among others.

Additionally, all projects are required to deliver[2]:

- Two (2) visibility products* (one product within 2 months and one within 6 months of project implementation)
- One (1) short impact story** within 7 months of project implementation

* Visibility products to be chosen from the following options: online photo album, short video, podcast episode, infographic or blog post. Please **click here** for more information.

** Cities Alliance will provide technical support for the creation of the impact story.

Eligibility

- **Scope.** Proposed projects must meet the objectives of the chosen theme of promoting Public Community Partnerships for climate adaptation in informal settlements. Projects must work with community input and involvement and clearly demonstrate how they will directly benefit

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[1] Deliverables (or outputs) are the products, goods and services that result directly from the project activities.
[2] Please note that the dates of delivery may differ according to the duration of the project.

the community involved. In this Call for Proposals we do not fund projects of a purely academic or research nature.

- **Target organisations.** Community-based organisations, national and local NGOs and other not-for-profit organizations working at the city or community level. This Call does not fund for-profit organizations, individuals nor the local offices or affiliates of international organisations. It prioritises organisations that are rooted in their community/city and operate with community input, involvement, and investment, embracing the community as an integral part of their success. This Call seeks to create new capacities and preference will be given to small organisations that do not have access to large government, corporate or private funding sources, and for whom a small grant from Cities Alliance could make a significant impact.

- **Fiduciary requirements.** Organisations must have been legally registered for at least 6 months[3] and must have or should be able to open a bank account in the name of the organisation.

- **Geographic scope.** Projects can take place in any of the following countries: Burundi, Djibouti, Eritrea, Ethiopia, Kenya, Rwanda, Somalia, South Sudan, Sudan, Uganda, Bangladesh or Myanmar.

- **Funding.** Funding can be requested for grants between USD 25,000 and USD 30,000.

- **Project duration.** Funding is available for projects with a duration of up to 08 months.

- **Language.** Applications must be submitted in English.

- **Applications:** Applications must provide all the information and support documentation requested.[4]
- Entities on the UN Sanction Lists are ineligible to apply.

Reporting Requirements

1. A mid-term project update (2 pages) and a financial report (Statement of Expenditures) on the formats provided by Cities Alliance
2. Regular check-in calls with Cities Alliance to discuss the status of implementation
3. A final narrative report (2 pages) and a financial report (Statement of Expenditures) on the formats provided by Cities Alliance

Available Funding

Please note that Cities Alliance typically receives far more applications than available resources can fund; thus, unfortunately, not every proposal submitted will be funded. Once the Call for Proposals is closed, there will be a competitive selection process to select the proposals for funding (see more details below).

The instalment schedule and further payment details will be identified for each grant individually and specified in a Grant Agreement for each project. Typically, funding will be provided in two equal instalments: one up-front payment of 50 percent at the beginning of the project, and the other 50

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[3] The registration date should be **on or before 01 October 2019.**
[4] For further details about the application process and requirements, please see the "How to Apply" section of this document.

percent at mid-term, upon the delivery of project outputs. However, Cities Alliance reserves the right to adjust the payment schedule.

Grant funding can be spent as outlined in the table below.

Cost Categories	Description
Staff/Consultant Costs	Costs of time spent by personnel or consultants directly related to implementation of specific project activities, i.e., providing technical inputs/expertise. This excludes any general supervision of the project.
Training/Workshop/Seminar Costs	Costs associated with events and meetings. This also includes training/seminars or workshops for project beneficiaries, partners and/or stakeholders necessary for achieving the project goals/objectives and sustaining the results.
Dissemination Costs	Costs for the preparation, production, acquisition, communication and dissemination of project outputs, e.g., reports/study materials, including multimedia, web hosting, newspaper, radio and television.
Purchase of Equipment and/or Other Small Fixed-Asset Costs	Specific costs of acquiring small non-expendable equipment/items that are considered critical for the successful implementation of a project. *Costs in this category are limited to 5% of the total grant amount.*
Other Operating Costs	Direct costs which do not lie under any of the above categories but are necessary for the successful implementation of project activities and delivery of project outputs. *Costs in this category are limited to 5% of the total grant amount.*
Grant Administration and Supervision Costs	Indirect/overhead personnel costs of administering or supervising the grant. *Such costs are limited to 10% of the total grant amount.*

How to Apply

To apply for the grant, follow these guidelines:

Deadline. All proposals must be submitted before **30 March 2020, 14:00 Central European Time**. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Format. All proposals must be submitted in English via the online application form.

Completeness. Applications must provide all the requested information and support documentation. Applications must be submitted with two attachments: (1) project budget sheet; and (2) legal registration certificate of the organisation applying for the grant.

Questions/Clarifications.

- Please read our **FAQ**.

- If you cannot find the answer to your question, please submit a request for clarification about this grant opportunity to Innovation@citiesalliance.org. We will accept question/clarification requests until **20 March 2020**.
- We will post our answers to the requests for clarification about this grant opportunity on our website on **13 March** and **23 March 2020**.

Selection Process

There are four fundamental steps in the approval process of a proposal submitted to this Call for Proposals under the Cities Alliance Innovation Programme:

1. **Submission of applications following the Call for Proposals**. Proposals are submitted online using the application form.

2. **Assessment of Applications.** The Cities Alliance Secretariat screens the proposals to ensure that they meet the minimum criteria for eligibility. Proposals that pass the eligibility threshold are assessed by a Technical Evaluation Panel based on a predefined set of selection criteria. The panel's ranked list of scored proposals is reviewed by the Cities Alliance Secretariat and a final selection of qualified applications is made. In addition to the selection criteria, the Secretariat may also take into consideration additional factors such as theme, geography or constituencies and knowledge needs to maintain the strategic balance of the overall Cities Alliance grant portfolio.

3. **Financial assessment and additional information.** Qualified applicants are contacted to provide further financial and technical information about their organization and the proposal submitted.

4. **Formal approval and grant processing:** Selected projects are formally approved by the Cities Alliance Director. From there, the Secretariat begins processing the grant according to its procedures.

From the technical evaluation and the grant processing, different recommendations may arise which are to be taken into consideration for the implementation phase of the project. The entire selection process is expected to take **approximately two months** from the submission deadline date.

Criteria for Evaluation

Project proposals will be assessed according to a predefined set of selection criteria that are in line with the core principles of the Cities Alliance Charter and the objectives of the Innovation Programme:

- **Approach.** The proposal presents a sound strategy or approach to achieving the stated objectives.

- **Innovation.** The areas, and to what extent, the project promotes/uses innovative approaches, processes or products to achieve its objectives.

- **Scope.** The proposal addresses the issues and objectives stated in the Call for Proposals and is aligned with the Cities Alliance Charter and its focus on urban poverty.

- **Gender mainstreaming.** The proposal demonstrates that gender considerations are incorporated and/or mainstreamed in the problem, approach, outputs and results of the project.

- **Partnership, dialogue and consultations**. The proposal demonstrates how the project will facilitate participation of stakeholders and build partnerships among urban actors, especially with local government. Also, it includes appropriate strategies and actions to ensure the adequate participation of target groups, paying attention to gender, age and other relevant characteristics.

- **Scalability/Replicability.** The project offers the potential to be expanded beyond its initial geographic area to benefit more people within a city or country or has a design that is flexible enough to be potentially replicated or adapted to a new and different context.

- **Implementation capacity.** The organisation has demonstrated adequate capacity and experience to successfully implement the grant activities.

- **Financing/Budget**. The proposed budget is realistic, comprehensive and well structured.

- **Risks and mitigations.** The potential impacts and risks (i.e., social, environmental, political, implementation, etc.) connected to the activities proposed are identified and mitigation measures are incorporated into the proposal.

Grantee Responsibilities

If selected for funding, successful grantees must:

- Be responsible for the proper use of the Cities Alliance funds.
- Enter into a Grant Agreement with the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS), on behalf of the Cities Alliance, which will stipulate the terms and conditions for receiving and utilising the funds.
- Comply with all provisions in the Grant Agreement and applicable UNOPS policies and procedures.
- Be fully responsible for implementing the project in accordance with the Grant Agreement.
- Be responsible for using the funds only for the outputs specified in the Grant Agreement.
- Provide timely reporting to the Cities Alliance Secretariat on progress in implementing the project, and financial reporting on the uses of the funds as specified by the Grant Agreement.
- Provide communication material on project implementation (including pictures, quotes, videos, stories and other materials, where applicable).
- Communicate with the Cities Alliance Secretariat on all significant matters relating to the project, such as changes in activities, budget revision and timeline. This includes any emerging social and environmental risks and any adverse impacts resulting from the implementation of project activities.
- Participate in knowledge-sharing activities so that other cities/countries might benefit from the project experiences.

Contact Information

➡ Apply for this grant online at **https://tinyurl.com/InnovationCfP20**

✉ For any questions, contact Cities Alliance at **Innovation@citiesalliance.org**

🔗 For more information about the Global Programme on Climate Change, Resilience and Informality in Cities, visit Cities Alliance's website at: https://www.citiesalliance.org/