



**Cities Alliance**  
Cities Without Slums

 **UNOPS**

Hosted by:  **UNOPS**

# INCLUSIVE GREATER BANJUL

**BANJUL , GAMBIA**

Photo: UNOPS

*“Women empowerment is the way forward for any sustainable development. Women are listening”*  
Rohey Malick Lowe, Mayor of Banjul

## BACKGROUND

The Gambia has one of the fastest urbanisation rates in sub-Saharan Africa, with the GBA already accounting for 68% of the total population. This has resulted in several environmental and socioeconomic problems including deforestation, soil erosion, pollution and waste generation, as well as stress on health, education and employment services. Despite these challenges, the investment climate in The Gambia is growing in attractiveness to investors and is expected to improve with accelerated investments via the next prospective flagship project of the Port Expansion and the current opening of the new trans-Gambian bridge.

With the assistance of the African Development Bank, UNOPS is supporting the Government of The Gambia to create a Digital Urban Plan for its capital city and surroundings, the Greater Banjul Area. The Urban Plan will drive the city's development for the next 20 years in terms of land use and infrastructure. The Digital Urban Plan aims at improving urban services to the population to support its development, including climate resilience, economic development and social inclusion.

## THE CITY FOR WOMEN LABORATORY IN BANJUL

Cities Alliance is supporting UNOPS Gambia in this project by providing guidance, tools and technical assistance to make the Urban Plan a tool of women's social and economic empowerment. The City for Women Laboratory will help local policy makers to gain an understanding of women's experiences in Banjul, including accessibility, services and use of public spaces. It is with this understanding that efforts can be made to formulate policy and engagement techniques to improve women's input in shaping their environments.

In August, UNOPS and Cities Alliance will organise a survey of women in the Greater Banjul area to assess how the city's infrastructure and services are supporting women in their daily lives. In September, partners will organise workshops with women's groups to discuss the survey results and propose recommendations of measures to include in the Urban Plan. In January, UNOPS and Cities Alliance will assist women's groups to perform spatial assessments of public spaces and neighbourhood amenities and provide recommendations. The results of this engagement will be included in the Digital Urban Plan due in July 2021.