

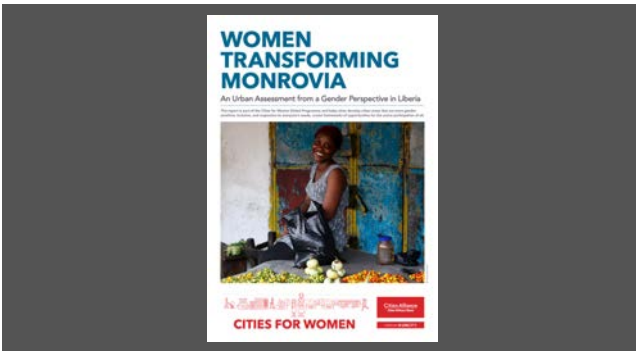
Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

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WHAT'S ON AT THE SECRETARIAT
FROM THE DIRECTOR'S DESK

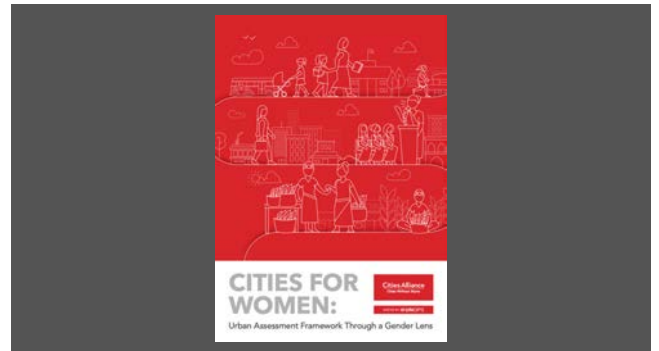
GLOBAL PROGRAMMES

CITIES FOR WOMEN



REPORT - WOMEN TRANSFORMING MONROVIA

This publication highlights the key outcomes of a city-wide process led by Cities Alliance and its local partners in Liberia, to include women's needs and ideas in the formulation of a City Development Strategy for the Greater Monrovia Area. [Learn more](#)



PUBLICATION - CITIES FOR WOMEN URBAN ASSESSMENT FRAMEWORK

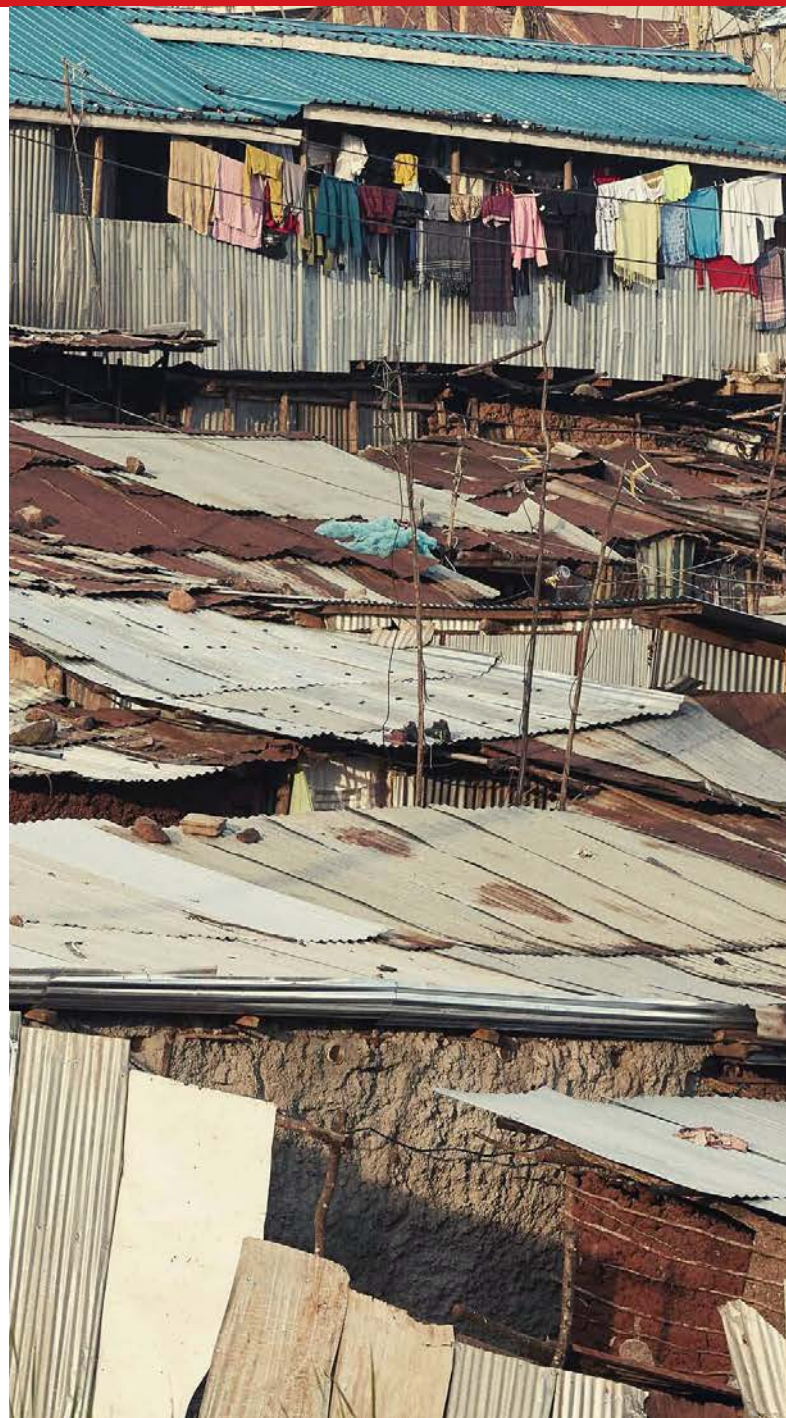
We have developed a tool to help local stakeholders understand women's engagement in urban environments. It is with this understanding that efforts can be made to formulate gender sensitive policies and allow participatory processes, whereby, women can be active participants of the analysis and improvement of their cities. [Learn more](#)



NEW PROJECT IN TUNIS - FEMMEDINA

On 3 December Cities Alliance, together with USAID and the city of Tunis will launch Femmedina, a gender-focused program addressing the rehabilitation and activation of public spaces in the historical city of Tunis, through a broader process of women and citizen's participation.

[Learn more](#)



EQUITABLE ECONOMIC GROWTH

BOOK: CONNECTING SYSTEMS OF SECONDARY CITIES IN SPANISH.

On 7 December we will be releasing the Spanish version of our award-winning book, by Brian Roberts, in partnership with the Interamerican Development Bank. This edition, adapted to the Latin American context, includes case studies of systems of secondary cities in Colombia, Chile and Argentina, their development constraints and opportunities, and how these cities can collaborate and network more effectively. The book will be launched during a webinar with the author, and experts from the LAC region.

[Learn more](#)

CLOSURE OF THE KENYA CAMPAIGN CITIES INITIATIVE.

The Cities Alliance's trademark Campaign Cities programme has successfully concluded in Kenya. The 24-month initiative, in partnership with UN-Habitat, created local partnerships in the counties of Kajiado and Nyandarua. The project provided technical support to the County governments to develop strategic and sustainable interventions to promote economic growth. We have now published a series of evidence-based policy briefs, recommendations and assessment reports.

[Learn more](#)

CITIES AND MIGRATION



HORN OF AFRICA - REGIONAL DIALOGUE ON MIGRATION AND URBAN EXPANSION

This week, the Secretariat, convened a high-level dialogue with ministerial and city stakeholders from Ethiopia, Kenya, Somalia, and Uganda. Supported by the Swiss Agency for Development and Cooperation (SDC), the event focused on rural-urban migration, urban expansion planning, and its potential to make room for a growing urban population in secondary cities in the Horn of Africa. Organised in cooperation with [Jigjiga University](#), and the participation of experts from NYU and the Colombian government. [Learn more](#)

NEW PARTNERSHIP EUROPEAN UNION - CITIES ALLIANCE

Funded by the European Emergency Trust Fund for Africa (EUTF), the new collaboration with the EU will support the implementation of the Comprehensive Refugee Response Framework (CRRF) in 7 secondary cities and 4 countries in the Horn of Africa (Uganda, Somalia, Kenya and Ethiopia). The project will facilitate the interaction of regional networks and the dialogue among city stakeholders with the purpose of exchanging knowledge and best practices on how to improve living conditions and opportunities, both for refugees and host populations.



WEBINAR SERIES - FORCED MIGRATION IN CITIES

Cities Alliance and UN-Habitat launched in October a joint series of webinars under the Urban Thinkers Campus model, exploring the topic of forced urban migration from different angles and regions. The series have involved the participation of members including UCLG, AVSI, IIED and IHS. The 1st session focused on [Latin America](#), while the 2nd covered the topic of [Refugees and Settlements](#). The final event on 10 December will engage experts around the topic of IDPs in cities. [Register](#)

ETHIOPIA - UNSG HIGH LEVEL PANEL ON INTERNAL DISPLACEMENT

On 15 October the Secretariat co-organized a webinar with the UN Secretary-General's High-Level Panel on Internal Displacement, with focus on the work that is being done in [Adama, Ethiopia](#) to integrate Internally Displaced People (IDPs). The discussion, that gathered local stakeholders and researchers from Oxford University Ethiopian, focused on the challenges faced by cities in accommodating IDPs and will inform the Panel's work to increase global attention on internal displacement to cities. [Learn more](#)

INNOVATION



SECURE TENURE IN AFRICA PROJECT CLOSURE

The five projects supported through the innovation call 2019 for [land tenure](#) in Africa have now concluded. We have recently published summary reports with their key achievements and results from [South Africa](#), [DRC](#), [Zanzibar](#), [Ivory Coast](#) and [Kenya](#). A final publication including all the countries is in preparation and should be released during an online event early 2021.

[Other Resources](#)



INNOVATION/ CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS LEARNING MECHANISM

To foster peer-to-peer learning among our current grantees (2020 Innovation Call on climate change adaptation) we have put in place a knowledge sharing community of practice. Through the organisation of regular virtual workshops, project teams from Somalia, Kenya, Bangladesh, Myanmar and Uganda, come together to exchange experiences, challenges and best practices.

[Learn more](#)



KENYA: CHANNELLING CREATIVITY TO COMBAT CLIMATE CHANGE

Hope Raisers, one of our grantees under the innovation and resilience programmes, is working in the slum of Kogorocho, one of the largest in the Kenyan capital Nairobi, to build climate resilience through digital storytelling. The initiative called Future Yetu (our Future), allows the community, particularly young people to document and amplify their voices and raise their concerns about climate change.

[Learn more](#)

CLIMATE CHANGE, RESILIENCE

LIBERIA: SUPPORTING CLIMATE ADAPTATION IN COASTAL COMMUNITIES

Liberia: Supporting Climate Adaptation in Coastal Communities. In September this year we extended Liberia's Community Upgrading Fund to finance climate adaptation projects in two communities in Monrovia, West Point and King Gray Town. The Country Programme team issued a Call for Proposals for community projects related to climate adaptation with the purpose to help informal coastal communities build their resilience and better adapt to climate shocks. [Learn more](#)

HOUSING LAB - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT IN LIBERIA: A PERSPECTIVE ON ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY & INFORMALITY.

Solid waste management is an overwhelming task for municipal authorities in Greater Monrovia. Waste is tied to health concerns, especially in the context of COVID-19, coupled with the increasingly adverse effects of climate change in the area. The event will focus on the importance of strengthening local governments and supporting partnerships. It will highlight best practices from WIEGO and from local governments in Guatemala and South Africa.

[Learn more](#)

FEATURE - TACKLING CLIMATE CHANGE IN KAMPALA'S INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS

Bwaise is one of the poorest slum areas in Uganda's capital Kampala, where 82% of people live on less than \$2 per day. Every year, many are displaced by floods, largely due to poor solid waste disposal. As part of our 2020 call to fund local climate adaption projects, we are supporting Tree Adoption Uganda (TAU), a youth based organisation working in Bwaise, to improve waste management through community engagement, recycling organic waste, and the production of briquettes for home consumption and income generation. [Learn more](#)

COVID 19 RESPONSE - INFORMALITY



LATIN AMERICA AND THE CARIBBEAN SLUM UPGRADING CAMPAIGN

Cities Alliance have joined forces with a number of members (UN Habitat, UCLG and Habitat for Humanity) and partners, including CSOs, research centers, international and regional networks, to launch the Decalogue for Participatory Slum Upgrading in the LAC region. The initiative highlights ten concrete steps to advocate towards integral slum upgrading processes in the region in the current Covid-19 context.

[Learn more](#)



WEBINAR SERIES - SLUM UPGRADING IN SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA AND ASIA.

Cities Alliance and the University of St. Gallen Institute of Management in Latin America partnered to host two webinars under the Urban Thinkers Campus model. A wide array of members incl. the World Bank, Reall, HfH and GIZ, and partners have been engaged with the aim of learning from local practices on city-wide strategies to address informality, in the context of Covid-19. The first event on 5 November presented cases from Kenya, South Africa and Sierra Leone. The second, with focus on Asia, will take place on 11 December. [Learn more](#)



REPORT - MIGRATION & CITIES IN GUATEMALA: THE POTENTIAL OF REMITTANCES FOR HOUSING.

Dynamics of migration in Guatemala include internal displacement, transitory migration from other Central American countries and international out-migration, mainly to the US and Mexico. A high number of returning migrants have also added further pressure on overstretched cities' infrastructure and the housing market. In parallel, remittances from international migration, nearly 14 per cent of the country's GDP, have a crucial impact on the macro-economic situation and households' income. This report highlights the key outcomes of an event organized in August 2020, where a panel of experts discussed the economic potential of remittances for housing financing in the country. [Learn more](#)

COUNTRY PROGRAMMES

UGANDA



KAMPALA-JINJA EXPRESSWAY: SECURING LIVELIHOODS OF THOSE AFFECTED

90 community members, among the most vulnerable and affected by the relocation of their households and livelihoods, have been provided by AVSI with business training and support to access financial services. More than 100 informal traders have also been identified by the project and should receive training and support to develop business relocation plans. As part of our ongoing work with AVSI in Kampala to ensure that no environmental and social harm is done through the clearing of the right of way and the [construction of the KJE](#),

[Learn more](#)



COVID RESPONSE: IMPROVING ACCESS TO TOILETS AND SANITATION IN KAMPALA

As part of our ongoing efforts to respond to the pandemic, we are building bio-fill toilets in the Nakawa market in Kampala, in collaboration with ACTogether Uganda and the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda (NSDFU). The initiative, funded by Sida, seeks to improve access to sanitation for the vendors and the community, with a strong focus on women's needs. Through the pilot initiative, 15 men and women have been trained in the construction of bio-fill toilets. The project complements other activities implemented in the area under the [KJE](#) project. [Learn more](#)

TUNISIA



LAUNCH OF MADINATOUNA II

On 23 September, our Tunisia team successfully launched the second phase of the Country Programme, "Madinatouna II - From strategic city planning to investment planning". The event, chaired by the Mayor of Tunis Ms Souad Abderrahim, gathered high-level Tunisian officials from the local and national governments, international organisations and civil society. The three-year project supports four partner cities: Béja, Jendouba, Médenine and Tataouine, in adopting strategic planning tools for their territories and implementing the projects identified and prioritised through the CDS process. It also aims to create a framework for consultation at the national, regional and local levels to facilitate the implementation of the decentralisation process in Tunisia. [Learn more](#)

EVENT - MIGRATION: LOCAL POLICY DIALOGUE IN JENDOUBA AND KAIROUAN.

This virtual event, that took place on 13 November, gathered mayors, municipal councils' representatives, the National Federation of Tunisian Municipalities, regional state offices and civil society, from the two cities. It allowed to raise awareness on the Global Compact on Migration, exchange on the role of municipalities and local authorities in the integration of migrants and to better understand the migration-development nexus. [Learn more](#)

LIBERIA



NEW UK FUNDED PROJECT TO EXPAND COVID RESPONSE

New UK funded project to expand Covid response. The Liberia Country Programme has launched in October a new initiative to bolster the COVID-19 response in Greater Monrovia's most vulnerable communities. Funded by the UK Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office, the project will address COVID-19 through mass distribution of hand sanitisers and soap and by increasing access to clean water in informal settlements and public spaces. The project will be implemented in collaboration with the Liberia Water and Sewer Corporation (LWSC) and local CSOs.

[Learn more](#)



DONATION OF 64 WATER KIOSKS

On 18 November 2020, the Liberia Country Programme officially handed over 64 multipurpose water kiosks in 34 communities in Monrovia, Paynesville, and surrounding communities. The project aims to improve access to water and sanitation for nearly 190,000 people and 40,000 households in the Greater Monrovia area. It is part of the Cities Alliance Community Upgrading Fund, a community-driven development initiative supported by Comic Relief.

[Learn more](#)



LAUNCH OF LOANS AND GRANTS FOR THE SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SECTOR

End of August, Cities Alliance launched a call for three innovative funding schemes, funded by the European Union, to support the waste management sector in Liberia. The products include:

- Loans at a minimal interest rate to enable community-based enterprises (CBEs) to expand their services;
- Grants to CBEs and other local actors in the waste sector incl. small and medium enterprises.
- Direct grants to government institutions and local organizations to pilot small-scale renewable energy projects, such as waste-to-energy through biodigesters, the installation of solar lights, and solar panels.

The call for applications closed on 10 November and is currently under review. [Learn more](#)

COMMUNICATIONS & ADVOCACY



A Call to Tackle Violence Against Women and Girls in Urban Spaces: To mark the International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women on 25 November, Metropolis, UCLG, and Cities Alliance are launching an awareness raising initiative on the importance of tackling violence against women and girls (VAWG) in urban spaces. Under the topic "Let's free our communities, cities and metropolises from gender violence", we urge local, regional and national governments to integrate a gender-responsive and gender-sensitive approach to all the efforts and services put in place to respond to the current crisis and towards a resilient and inclusive recovery. [Learn more](#)

ARTICLES AND MEDIA

[Reuters / Land Tenure Speedy deeds: Zanzibar goes digital to prove property ownership](#)

[Cities Alliance / Interview with Nobel laureate Paul Romer](#) Cities Need to Make Room

[BauNetz / City Talks with OECD](#) Verstärkerprozesse in Afrika und Europa

[Front Page Africa / National Urban Policy in Liberia](#) UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, MIA
Validates National Urban Policy Diagnosis Note For Liberia

[CLGF / Blog by Billy Cobbett](#) Eyes Wide Open

EVENTS

India - Private Sector Investment in Rental Housing
25 November

UNCDF Addressing Growing Income Inequalities in Cities Through Inclusive Local Financing
25 November

Book Launch - Connecting Systems of Secondary Cities in Spanish
7 December

Forced Migration in Cities - Session 3: Internally Displaced People
10 December

Slum Upgrading in Asia
11 December

VIDEOS



Our Voice on Cities and Migration

Managing Migration in Arua, Uganda

Women Transforming Greater Monrovia



NEW STAFF

BRUSSELS



SENTHIL KUMAR SUBRAMANI - SUPPORT SERVICES OFFICER

Senthil had worked with UNOPS in Afghanistan, UAE, Sri Lanka, South Sudan, Kenya, Somalia, Denmark in Procurement for more than 12 years. Senthil is from Tamil Nadu, India and can speak Tamil, Telugu, English, and Hindi. Senthil is married and has two children. Senthil holds Electrical and Electronics Engineering degree and a Diploma from CIPS UK. Senthil likes watching TV whenever he gets spare time.



BRUNELLA CANU - PROGRAMME ANALYST, CITIES FOR WOMEN PROGRAMME

Brunella has spent the last three years working for UN Women in New York where she supported the design, appraisal, and implementation of projects on gender equality and women empowerment. Prior to this she supported various projects at the World Intellectual Property Organization, the Council of the European Union and the European network of Cities - EUROCITIES. She holds a master's degree in Economics from the University of Brussels and is currently following a part-time Master in Environmental Management (ULB).



FITSUM BEKELE KEFYALEW - PROJECT ANALYST

Fitsum has a strong record of accomplishment in designing, facilitating, and managing grant related activities for grass root and civil society organizations. He has previous experience working with national and international organizations. Fitsum holds an MSc in Finance & Investment from London Metropolitan University and a chartered accountant with ACCA.



PIETRO CEPPI - INTERN, ECONOMIC GROWTH / CLIMATE & RESILIENCE PROGRAMMES

Pietro has a Bachelor's degree in International Relations and Diplomatic Affairs from Bologna University and a Master's degree in Global Development from Copenhagen University. He has worked as a researcher and consultant in Sri Lanka, Mozambique, and Brazil on projects related to women's empowerment, food security, slum-upgrading and climate adaptation. He worked before for UNOPS, carrying out research on sustainable, resilient and inclusive infrastructure.

NEW STAFF

BRUSSELS



PAULINE RAABE - INTERN, INFORMALITY PROGRAMME

Pauline holds a master's degree in Middle East Politics from SOAS, University of London. In her research, she explored reconstruction processes in Syria through the lens of the Right to the City. As part of her studies, she lived and worked in Benin, Morocco, Jordan, and Lebanon. Fields of interests are social movements, political dimensions of infrastructure, and housing. Pauline speaks German, English, French, and Arabic.



MURIS HODZIC - INTERN, CITIES AND MIGRATION PROGRAMME

Muris worked as project manager in the European Projects framework, designing projects related to migrants and refugee's inclusion through education and labour. He has prior experience in the public and private sectors. Muris holds a Master in European Projects, a double masters' degree in Human Rights and Multi-level Governance/International Relations and a BA in International Diplomacy.



ALESSANDRA DI GIACOMO - INTERN, STRATEGY AND RESULTS TEAM

Alessandra is from Brazil, where she had 3 years of experience serving business institutions, developing data analysis and project management skills. To change her path and start performing in not-for-profit domains, she pursued the Master of Public Administration at SDA Bocconi. In January 2020 she went to Kalongo, Uganda, to work as a consultant to implement a project to empower women through education. She also supported fundraising activities and partnerships.



VIVIEN TÓTH INTERN - INTERN, CITIES FOR WOMEN PROGRAMME

Vivien holds a master's degree from the University of Paris - Sorbonne, specialized in development studies and sustainable development. She spent the last six months of her studies doing field research in Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia for her master thesis. Her research focused on water management in informal settlements, as well as the topic of corruption and its impacts of the city-wide infrastructure project.

NEW STAFF

KAMPALA



DIDAS KISEMBO - SENIOR COMMUNICATIONS OFFICER

Didas is a communications and knowledge management specialist. He has a strong background working with international organisations including the British Council, FCDO, PWC and USAID. In Uganda, Didas supports the visibility of the Kampala-Jinja Expressway “No One Worse Off” project that seeks to secure tenure for the displaced persons in the right of way. He also provides communications advisory to all the activities of the Secretariat in the country.

CAPE TOWN



CAPE TOWN SKYE DOBSON - URBAN SPECIALIST

Skye is an urban development professional with ten years' experience supporting community-led development. Before joining Cities Alliance, Skye served as the Director of Learning, Monitoring and Evaluation for the Slum Dwellers International (SDI) Secretariat in Cape Town, South Africa. Prior to this she held the role of Executive Director of ACTogether Uganda, the support NGO for the National Slum Dwellers Federation of Uganda. Skye holds a MA in International Affairs from the New School in New York.

MONROVIA



GARMONDYU BOYBLUE ZOGAR - SOLID WASTE MANAGEMENT SPECIALIST

Garmondyu is an infrastructure project manager, architect, and construction engineer. He has over 15 years experience in senior technical roles with the UN, World Bank, EU, Millennium Challenge Corporation, Government of Liberia and institutions in the healthcare, education, housing and WASH sectors. He holds a M.Sc. in Safety, Health and Environmental Management from the University of South Wales, UK, and a Master of Engineering from the Chongqing University, People's Republic of China.



PRINCE GIBLI WILLIAMS - GRANTS OFFICER

Prince has more than eight years experience managing grants. He has supported grant related programmes in Liberia funded by USAID and Samaritan's Purse International Relief. Prince holds a bachelor's in business management (BBA) in Accounting with emphasis in Management from the University of Liberia and an Associate of Arts Degree (AA) from the A.ME Zion University College in Monrovia, Liberia.



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