

CITIES FOR WOMEN

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Hosted by
UNOPS

Cities Alliance envisions a world where all women and girls can live in inclusive, equitable cities and communities. The Cities for Women Global Programme focuses on practical ways to make cities better planned for women, and, by extension, for everyone.

Why Create Cities for Women?

Almost everything in our cities has been designed and shaped by men, often reflecting the needs and aspirations of the wealthy and powerful. Gender inequalities are built into virtually every aspect of our cities, from public spaces to service provision, transportation, land management, and housing.

These inequalities are becoming greater as cities grow. **By 2030, 60% of the world's population will live in urban areas.** Investment in infrastructure that is truly inclusive - that takes the needs of all residents into account - can improve and protect the lives and livelihoods of women and girls and also help dismantle inequalities.

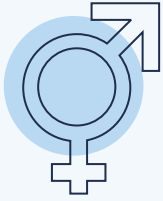
Objective

Cities Alliance supports national and local governments, communities, and women by driving urban initiatives that reduce gender inequalities and empower all women, specifically the most marginalised. Where cities are better planned for women, they are, by extension, better for everyone.



60%
OF THE WORLD'S
POPULATION WILL LIVE
IN URBAN AREAS
IN 2030





Gender-Inclusive Urban Governance

Cities have historically been planned and designed for men, by men. They often reflect traditional gender roles and gendered division of labour. There is a need for urban governance processes to adopt new forms of engagement that can better understand and implement women's needs, expectations, and capacities. A gender-sensitive approach to urban governance aims to increase women's participation in the development of human settlements and incorporate gender inclusion into urban planning and policies.

1. Developing a gender-sensitive framework for the formulation, implementation, and monitoring of National Urban Policies;
2. Participatory assessment of gender gaps at the municipal level using adapted tools;
3. Gender mainstreaming across urban policies (gender sensitive data analysis and monitoring toolkit); [and](#)
4. Developing a Municipal Gender Equality Action Plan.

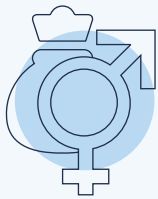


LIBERIA



THE GAMBIA

Cities Alliance supports local authorities' efforts to develop inclusive, gender-responsive urban plans. In 2020-21, activities included citywide approaches to engage women and provide them with space to share their priorities in Monrovia (for Monrovia's [City Development Strategy](#)) and Banjul (for the city's [Digital Plan](#)).



Gender-responsive Municipal Budgeting

Gender budgeting is a strategy to achieve equality between women and men by focusing on how public municipal resources are collected and spent. It increases gender-responsive participation in the budget process by, for instance, taking steps to involve women and men equally in budget preparation.

1. Gender-sensitive municipal budget analysis;
2. Gender analyses of sectorial programmes and budgets in municipalities, including providing support to collect gender statistics;
3. Training and mentoring municipal staff on gender-responsive planning and budgeting; [and](#)
4. Support for dissemination of relevant resources and tools to municipalities.



TUNISIA

In 2020-2021, Cities Alliance supported the integration of [gender mainstreaming into local public policies](#) in the cities of Béja and Médenine, Tunisia.



Inclusive Public Spaces and Urban Renewal

Public spaces are a long way from being thought of as gender-neutral areas. By investing in vibrant, well-lit, accessible public spaces, cities can increase women's social and political participation by providing an equal opportunity for everyone to feel safe, take part in community activities, and raise their voices on issues that matter to them.

1. Gender-sensitive assessment and evaluation of women's safety in public spaces;
2. Living Labs to co-design interventions on public spaces;
3. Rehabilitation of public spaces and buildings through spatial interventions and programming focused on the needs of women and girls; [and](#)
4. Co-design a women-led Urban Regeneration Strategy.

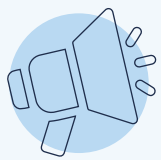


TUNISIA



GLOBAL

In Tunis, the [Femmedina Programme](#) is placing "women friendliness" at the centre of its urban regeneration of the city's Medina, with inclusive public spaces and greater involvement by women in the projects. The [Safetipin](#) app, supported in 2018, collects information about women's perceptions of urban safety in public spaces and works with urban stakeholders to bring about long-term change.



Women's leadership and participation in decision-making in cities

Women have facilitated access to services and improved the lives of many in their communities through active citizenship at the grassroots level. Online tools and platforms have enabled women to organize, reach more people, and disseminate critical information when face-to-face communication and movement are restricted. At a formal level, however, women are under-represented in political office due to a lack of income, education, and freedom, as well as gender divisions of labour. Only 13% of mayors in the world are women.



UGANDA



DRC

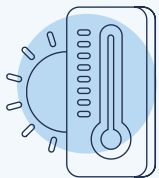
Cities Alliance supported an activity on [training and citywide women's engagement](#) in Kampala, Uganda to raise awareness of gender-related issues and promote women's active participation in urban governance and planning. In the Democratic Republic of the Congo, a project that used [drones](#) to collect data on settlements to support land title applications. Women in particular will benefit because they can use their land titles to obtain micro-credit loans to start income-generating activities.

1. Participatory diagnostics and tools to assess political, spatial, civic and digital enablers or barriers to women's and girls' leadership;
2. Digital literacy and leadership mentoring programmes for women and girls; [and](#)
3. Technical support to local authorities on participatory process, e-governance, and dialogue facilitation to include women and girls.



Women-Led Climate Adaptation in Cities

Climate change affects women and men differently. Women and girls bear the brunt of environmental, economic, and social shocks, as they are often the first responders when disaster strikes and make important decisions about energy and waste at home. Many national climate action and disaster preparedness plans, however, do not account for the gendered components of climate risk.



BANGLADESH



SOMALIA

In Bangladesh, the [Digital Mapping for Climate Adaptation](#) project helps improve community resilience through learning and awareness sessions, data analysis and city mapping. The [Supporting Vulnerable Communities to Adapt to Climate Shocks](#) project in Somalia supports development of an early warning system to increase resilience to climate-induced shocks for 55,000 vulnerable people in the Marka district of the Lower Shabelle region.

1. Data collection on gender-related impacts of climate on selected communities or neighbourhoods;
2. Support for defining gender-sensitive climate adaptation plans and/or city resilience strategies at the city level; [and](#)
3. Construction of small-scale green infrastructures, such as off-grid solar-voltaic, water kiosks, and green spaces.

The Cities for Women Approach

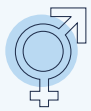
ENGAGEMENT AND ASSESSMENT. A set of tools is used to collect sex-disaggregated data on access to services and opportunities in cities. It is a participatory process that engages women and girls in identifying priorities for action by sharing their experiences and mapping their neighborhoods. The diversity of the women is an important element of the design of a participatory process; it should target those who are normally excluded from decision-making processes.

CO-CREATION AND PILOTING. Cities Alliance supports local authorities and communities to develop policy responses and interventions that respond to identified challenges. Then, the ideas and solutions are tested through pilot projects, particularly the implementation of women-led infrastructures or services that take into consideration specific women's issues.

EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION. This part of the approach involves assessing the impact of pilot projects and using the impact data to advocate for a gender-sensitive approach to urban development.



Key Outcomes



Gender-inclusive urban governance

- Number of cities applying the gender toolkit.
- Number of local plans/projects developed to address gender issues.
- Number of National Urban Policies applying gender-sensitive frameworks.



Gender-responsive municipal budgeting

- Municipal Staff are trained on gender-sensitive municipal budgeting (analysis, planning, monitoring).
- Cities are adopting gender-responsive municipal budgets.



Inclusive public spaces and urban renewal

- Number of co-designed, gender-sensitive infrastructure and public space projects completed.
- Number of people (male/female) directly benefitting from gender-sensitive infrastructure and public space projects.
- Perception of people benefitting from gender-sensitive infrastructure and public space projects and their impact on access to services, safety, etc.



Women's leadership and participation in decision-making in cities

- Number of women and girls with improved digital competencies, including awareness on digital safety and protective tools.
- Number of women in leadership, managerial, decision-making positions within local political parties, civil society organizations, and local authorities.



Women-led climate adaptation in cities

- Cities adopting gender-sensitive frameworks for climate adaptation strategies.
- Local communities, women and women-led grassroots organizations have a greater awareness of the potential for gender-inclusive climate adaptation strategies.
- Municipal officials and local politicians, particularly women, use their tools developed to improve city policies and planning by ensuring gender mainstreaming in all climate-related policies and actions.