

WHAT WE DO

Well-run and inclusive cities offer an enormous opportunity for achieving sustainable development.

The Cities Alliance offers support to cities in providing effective local government, promoting an active citizenship and encouraging public and private investment.

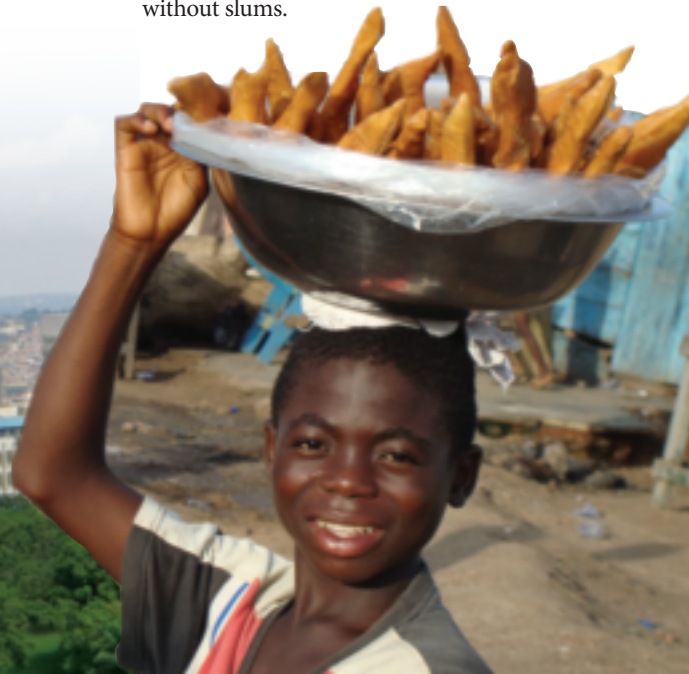
The Cities Alliance seeks to realise this goal by supporting cities and national governments to:

- * Develop and/or enhance national policy frameworks to address urban development needs
- * Develop and implement local inclusive strategies and plans
- * Strengthen the capacity of cities to provide improved services to the urban poor
- * Develop mechanisms to engage citizens in city or urban governance
- * Create conditions conducive to public and private investment

HOW WE WORK

The Cities Alliance partnership works through four business lines:

- * **Country/Regional Programmes** are longer-term, programmatic approaches to addressing the specific urban development needs of a selected country or region, normally in the context of rapid urbanisation and the growth of urban poverty.
- * **Catalytic Fund (CATF)** grants support policies that catalyse city transformation and activities that enhance innovation and learning.
- * **Knowledge and Learning** programmes are flexible, multi-year instruments that focus on sharing knowledge and experience on specific issues.
- * **Communications and Advocacy** activities promote Cities Alliance's key messages on urban development in order to encourage policies and behaviour that contribute to the vision of sustainable cities without slums.



KEY ACCOMPLISHMENTS

1. Leveraged financing. From 2009 to 2011, the Cities Alliance supported \$5.7 million in strategic planning and design activities that leveraged further investments of \$1.5 billion.

2. National CDS and slum upgrading programmes. The Cities Alliance supported policy development that contributed to the formulation of national slum upgrading programmes in South Africa, Vietnam, Chile, Sri Lanka, Brazil and India. Alliance support catalysed national City Development Strategy (CDS) programmes in the Philippines and South Africa.

3. A global policy focus on slum upgrading. Developed by the Cities Alliance in 1999, the Cities Without Slums Action Plan drew global attention to the importance of slum upgrading when its targets were incorporated into the UN Millennium Development Goals (Target 11).

4. International recognition of the role of cities. The Cities Alliance has supported platforms for policy dialogue that have helped international aid agencies recognise the importance of strengthening the role of cities and city associations.

5. Partnerships between slum dwellers and local governments. The Cities Alliance has helped international slum dweller federations operating in more than 30 countries in Africa and Asia to partner with local governments, often replacing antagonism with trust.

6. Support for proactive urbanisation management in Uganda. The Cities Alliance provided international knowledge that helped the Government of Uganda undertake an innovative national programme to proactively prepare its cities for rapid urbanisation.

OUR MEMBERS

“The Cities Alliance has succeeded in establishing a unique platform for international urban development cooperation, bringing together key actors including bilateral donors, multilateral organisations, associations of cities and NGOs.”

— Independent Evaluation of the Cities Alliance, April 2012

- * **Local authorities:** United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) and Metropolis
- * **Governments:** Australia, Brazil, Chile, Ethiopia, France, Germany, Italy, Nigeria, Norway, Philippines, South Africa, Sweden, and the United States
- * **Non-governmental organisations:** Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and Habitat for Humanity International
- * **Multi-lateral organisations:** European Union, UN-Habitat and the World Bank

www.citiesalliance.org:

knowledge resources | national urban policies
country programmes | impact stories | catalytic fund
city development strategy | joint work programmes
slum upgrading | features projects | events | incremental housing
multimedia | results



Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums



“It is about fighting slums and not slum dwellers, fighting poverty instead of fighting the poor.”

— Ugandan Minister of Land, Housing and Urban Development Daudi Migereko, June 2012



The Cities Alliance
A global partnership for urban poverty reduction promoting and strengthening the role of cities in sustainable development.