

2014 CATALYTIC FUND CALL FOR PROPOSALS

The Cities Alliance has issued a Call for Proposals for its Catalytic Fund, with the theme “Know Your City: Information for Transformation”.

Submissions will be accepted through **30 June 2014**.

Documents

[Concept Note \[EN\] \[ES\] \[FR\]](#)

[TOR for Sponsors \[EN\] \[ES\] \[FR\]](#)

[TOR for Recipients \[EN\] \[ES\] \[FR\]](#)

[Calendar \[EN\]](#)

Why Know Your City?

The world is undergoing an historic urbanisation process, with more than half of the global population now living in cities. It is a process that is being experienced differently around the globe. Some parts of the world are already heavily urbanised, such as Latin America, where some 79% of people already live in cities.

In contrast, the urban populations of Sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia are expected to double over the next 20 years, with Sub-Saharan Africa alone adding more than 300 million new city residents. Much of this urban growth is taking place in informal areas and sectors, where most people of the Global South live and work.

Despite major advances in information technology, accurate data on these fast-growing cities is scarce. This is especially true for low income areas, where the shortage of useful information often reflects and reinforces the social and economic marginalisation of the poor. Without the relevant information, it is very difficult for a city to make informed policy choices for the whole city, and all citizens.

This contributes to the exclusion of the urban poor from the formal governance and planning process – and effectively locks them out of the city’s economic growth. This has a particularly detrimental impact on the women residents in some of the world’s poorest neighbourhoods and cities.

The Cities Alliance believes strongly that a better knowledge of cities, and innovative and collaborative ways to generate such information, will help bridge the engagement, information and accountability gaps between city governments and their citizens. It will also help support future good governance and planning processes.

With its 2014 Call for Proposals, the Cities Alliance aims to increase spatial, social and economic inclusion – one of our core principles – by responding to two broad imperatives:

1. To produce smart, innovative and sustainable ways of collecting relevant and accurate data and information to bridge accountability, transparency and trust gaps as well as to support inclusive city planning and responsive service delivery; and
2. To initiate a dynamic engagement between city decision makers, service providers, communities, informal worker groups and other excluded groups that are currently not fully reflected within the city’s formal governance and planning process.

Focus Areas for Proposals

Proposals are requested along any one of five focus areas. All proposals will need to demonstrate how gender is mainstreamed through the planned activities. Applicants may also link their chosen focus area with one or more of the others.

1. Know your city finances and assets.

Proposals should aim to widen and deepen citizens' involvement into municipal finance systems, understanding the relationships between revenues and service delivery, economic data, transparency and trust.

Examples could include:

- The development of new information systems to help categorise municipal revenues, expenditures and assets in a way that is relevant and useful to citizens and increases transparency.
- Opening a dialogue and establishing innovative accountability mechanisms in areas such as participatory budgeting, public expenditure tracking, open data and source initiatives, and community audits that aim to improve the transparency and responsiveness of municipal revenues and expenditures to the urban poor and excluded.

2. Know your citizens – social accountability.

Proposals in this area should aim to develop public engagement mechanisms to enhance city governance accountability, and use data and technology to fill knowledge and accountability gaps between the city and its citizens.

These proposals might include innovative ideas around citizen and community scorecards, ICT technology for citizen engagement, petitioning systems, one-stop shops with feedback loops, for example.

3. Know ALL of your city and its constituencies.

Proposals should aim to produce innovative tools, methodologies and processes to define, map and quantify slums as well as specific slum constituencies with particular needs.

Such proposals could include:

- New ways and smart data technologies to explore location and characteristics of slums, the housing and services supplied as well as innovative mechanisms for dialogue between slum dwellers and municipal or even national authorities (in the path of enumerations, settlement profiling, crowd sourcing, voice campaigns etc.);
- Ways to use qualitative and quantitative data and targeted activities to highlight migrants, refugees, children, street vendors, waste pickers, home-based workers, youth and the disabled.

4. Know the future potential of your city – methodologies for planning.

Proposals should aim to identify information needs required to effectively manage cities, and develop and test innovative interdisciplinary methodologies to capture citywide information, integrate data and generate concrete, understandable and practical solutions that would enable effective land use, social and economic policy choices as well as climate-resilient planning.

Such proposals should be grounded in an inclusive stakeholder participatory process and adapted to the context, needs and capacities of local authorities.

5. Know the emerging issues.

Any other type of proposal that aims to develop innovations in data collection, tools and processes on any issue that can be justified as having future pivotal significance for cities. The data aspect needs to be driven by strong participatory processes, mechanisms and tools aimed at strengthening transparency, accountability and trust among different constituencies.

Eligibility

Proposed projects must:

- Meet the objectives of the **chosen theme** and the **Catalytic Fund** in general. It must also fall within the scope of the **Cities Alliance Charter**.
- Be implemented in countries that are on the **OECD DAC List of Aid Recipients**. Please note that if this call for proposals is over-subscribed, preference will be given to those countries where the Cities Alliance does not have a significant existing programme/set of activities. Countries where the Cities Alliance has a significant existing programme/set of activities are: Burkina Faso, Ghana, Mozambique, Uganda and Vietnam.
- Limit grant size requests to between US \$50,000 – US \$200,000.
- Be sponsored by at least one **Cities Alliance member**. However, multiple sponsors are strongly encouraged. Sponsorship(s) must be secured prior to submission of the proposed project. Proponent and sponsor(s) must discuss and endorse the Concept Note of the proposed project including the role of the sponsor(s) prior to submission. Support documentation will need to be provided.

Guidelines

All applications must adhere to the following guidelines:

- **Deadline.** All proposals must be submitted by midnight **30 June 2014** Central European Time.
- **Format.** All submissions must use the Cities Alliance **Concept Note template**.
- **Language.** Concept Notes can be in English, French or Spanish.
- **Completeness.** Concept Notes must provide all of the information and supported documentation requested.
- **Submission via e-mail.** Concept Notes should be submitted via e-mail only to the Cities Alliance Secretariat at CATF@citiesalliance.org by the 30 June 2014 deadline.

About the Catalytic Fund

The Catalytic Fund is a Cities Alliance funding instrument which provides grant support for innovative projects that strengthen and promote the role of cities in poverty reduction and in sustainable urban development.

For more about the application process and requirements, see the Cities Alliance website at <http://www.citiesalliance.org/catalytic-fund>