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Cities Alliance **NewsWire**
<http://www.citiesalliance.org>

New Cities Alliance Facilities to help meet Millennium Development Goals

A *Cities Without Slums* Facility for Africa and a Community Water and Sanitation Facility were launched by Norway and the United States, respectively, during the Cities Alliance Consultative Group Meeting in Brussels in October. Both facilities aim to support the achievement of Millennium Development Goals, particularly Target 10 on safe drinking water and sanitation, and Target 11 to improve the lives of at least 100 million slum dwellers by 2020.

The *Cities Without Slums* Facility for Africa, initiated by the Norwegian Ministry of Foreign Affairs, aims to address the underlying conditions for scaling up the attack on urban poverty in Sub-Saharan Africa, by supporting the efforts of national and local authorities and civil society in the region to design and implement programmes of action, in accordance with the [Cities Without Slums action plan](#)

The Facility will support the efforts of organisations of urban poor and local authorities to build their capacities to be full partners in this development process.

For more on the [Cities Without Slums Facility for Africa](#)

The Community Water and Sanitation Facility (CWSF) initiated by the United States Agency for International Development (USAID), is designed to support community-initiated construction of improved water and sanitation services in slum communities, encourage risk sharing and innovative financing, and advance collective know-how in cities committed to citywide slum upgrading. Through outreach to private sector businesses, foundations, NGOs, CBOs, bilateral donors, and multi-lateral development banks, the CWSF expects to mobilise significant resources to support the efforts of slum dwellers and municipal governments to scale-up improvements in water access and sanitation. Launched with an initial US\$2 million contribution from USAID for its first year, CWSF has a funding target of US\$4-10 million over five years. USAID support for the facility is a result of the United States commitment towards safe and accessible water for all people that was announced at the World Summit on Sustainable Development.

CWSF will focus on communities and cities committed to citywide upgrading and that are prepared to set specific local impact targets in support of the Millennium Development Goal, *improving the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020*. CWSF will provide Cities Alliance members with a vehicle for channeling their assistance to water and sanitation within the framework of the Alliance's existing strategic approach to slum upgrading.

For more on [CWSF](#)

City-to-City Cooperation in South Africa

South Africa's nine largest cities have formed a network to share their information and find innovative solutions in the face of demographic changes, growing urban poverty and increasingly fierce global competition. Launched formally on October 7th 2002, on the occasion of the United Nations' World Habitat Day, the South African Cities Network (SACN) focuses on knowledge-sharing arrangements between cities and other spheres of government. The SACN aims to promote good governance and management of South African cities; analyse the strategic challenges facing South African cities; and

collect, analyse, disseminate and apply the experience of large city government in a South African context. While the SACN targets the full scope of the urban management process, it will concentrate on five areas in particular: city economic development, city responses to HIV/AIDS, poverty alleviation, urban indicators and urban transport. The Cities Alliance is supporting the following SACN activities: refinement of the economic development strategy elements of each of the participating cities' existing city development strategies; development of SACN cities' strategies within the framework of the National Urban Renewal Programme for nation-wide slum upgrading; development of strategies to more effectively deal with urban poverty and HIV/AIDS; and the design and implementation of a 'South African City Development Index' to benchmark city development performance.

The launch of the SACN is based on the premise that cities located in a middle-level developing country such as South Africa, within a region located on the periphery of the global economy, have an interest in co-operating rather than competing with each other for elusive foreign direct investment. Its programme of information sharing and co-operation between cities is seen as a mechanism to avoid a continuous reinventing of the wheel and to formulate strategies to deal with the impact of global economic integration on cities.

For more on SACN please see the [press releases](#) on the launch of the Network and its website (<http://www.sacities.net>)

Italy to increase support for slum upgrading in Brazil's State of Bahia

The Government of Italy has announced its intention to make a Euro 5 million contribution to the Cities Alliance in support of a new large-scale slum upgrading programme in the State of Bahia, Brazil. The state-wide upgrading programme, *Viver Melhor II*, will build on the Novos Alagados Project and the Ribeira Azul Programme of Bahia, which Italian cooperation has supported since 1995 and which is implemented by the Italian NGO, Associazione Volontari per il Servizio Internazionale (AVSI) and its local partners. Italy's new contribution will provide technical and social assistance that will be coordinated with the preparation of a proposed new \$96 million World Bank loan to Brazil for infrastructure investments for Viver Melhor II, a project with a total financing plan of \$165 million. The programme is intended to make a direct impact towards achievement of Millennium Development Goals for the State of Bahia, in particular Target 11 (improving the lives of slum dwellers), Target 10 (access to safe drinking water) and Target 3 (primary schooling).

Identifying Alternatives to Forced Evictions

The Cities Alliance sponsored a two-day workshop in London in October to examine innovative alternatives to forced evictions. This issue had arisen from the Public Policy Forum that took place in Kolkata, India in December 2001, and members of the Alliance's Policy Advisory Board had worked closely with the Secretariat to identify an appropriate way forward. The meeting agreed that this issue should be taken forward by UN-HABITAT under the auspices of its Global Campaign for Secure Tenure. A five-person steering committee was nominated to finalise the terms of reference for this working group, which will then be forwarded to the Executive Director of UN-HABITAT for consideration.

What's New:

Cities Alliance Applications - French and Spanish versions available

The Cities Alliance's funding Application Forms and Guidelines are now available in [Spanish](#) and [French](#).

New Shelter Finance for the Poor Series

Three new issues of the Cities Alliance's CIVIS publication are now available. They form part of a Shelter Finance for the Poor Series, a product of the Shelter Finance for the Poor Initiative launched by the Cities Alliance to focus on the experience of financial institutions providing housing finance to poor clients on commercially viable terms. These loans are distinct from mortgages in that they are typically not for the purchase or construction of new units, but rather for home improvement and progressive building. They are being offered as a new product line largely by a generation of financial

institutions that built their success on providing working capital loans to the urban poor, and are now looking to expand and diversify their products to meet the needs and demands of their poor clientele. To date, few of these experiences had been viewed through the prism of scale and sustainability. This is the framework applied to five case studies examined under this Series: Mibanco in Peru, SEWA in India, FUNHAVI in Mexico; a wholesale fund facility in Ecuador, and the enabling environment for shelter finance in Kenya. The latter two are forthcoming, as is a synthesis paper identifying emerging policy recommendations on taking housing finance for the poor to scale. The objective of the Series is to look at shelter financing in practice through the prism of scale, sustainability, and outreach to the poor, and learn about best ways to encourage and promote this emerging practice.

For the first three issues of the [CIVIS Shelter Finance for the Poor Series](#)

For more on this topic and Cities Alliance activities in this area see the Alliance website's [Shelter Finance for the Poor](#) and the [2002 Cities Alliance Annual Report](#)

Monitoring the MDGs

The Cities Alliance Secretariat participated in the two Expert Group Meetings on urban indicators which were held at UN-HABITAT's headquarters in Nairobi at the end of October. The first group examined options for monitoring the implementation of the Millennium Development Target calling for an improvement in the lives of 100 million slum dwellers by 2020, whereas the second group explored indicators that could be used to measure issues of urban governance. Detailed reports of these two expert group meetings have been posted on UN-HABITAT's website at www.unhabitat.org.

Upcoming Events:

Fourth Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum

The Cities Alliance's fourth Public Policy Forum will be held in São Paulo, Brazil, in conjunction with the Alliance's Consultative Group Meeting from 14-17 October 2003. The Municipality of São Paulo will be hosting the Public Policy Forum, which will focus on the range of issues related to financing urban services and providing financial services for the urban poor. The last Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum was held in Kolkata (Calcutta), India in December 2001, and focused on sustainable partnerships for city development. For more on [this and past Forums](#)

Would you like to be included?

Contact Andrea Merrick for subscription information, other questions or suggestions about the newsletter: amerrick@worldbank.org

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