

Cities Alliance Wire No. 2 (December 2000)

Working together for prosperous cities without slums

Highlights

7000 Slum Dwellers Help Launch Secure Tenure Campaign in Durban, South Africa

Inaugurated during a public mass meeting at King's Park Sports Complex on 1 October 2000, the Durban Launch of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure was attended by over 7000 slum dwellers, of whom 70% are women. Other participants included the South African Government (at all levels); representatives of the Slum Dweller Federations from Asia and Africa; Filipino Government officials, representatives of the UNCHS (Habitat), of the World Bank, and other international development agencies.

In her keynote address, the South African Housing Minister, Sankie Mthembu-Mahanyele highlighted the importance of the event stating that South Africa's move towards equity in housing had been made possible by "the partnership formed between the government and her people." She went on to say, "The people's housing process initiatives were led by women groups within the South African Homeless People's Federation."

The South African Homeless People's Federation is a nationwide movement of the urban poor established in 1990 to find solutions to problems of inadequate housing and landlessness. The 7000 slum dwellers who attended the Durban Launch were representatives of the Federation's over 150,000 members.

Building on the theme of partnership of the Durban Launch of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure, the organizers held a one-day workshop on the 2nd of October in Greville, Durban. The workshop facilitated dialogue within and among the "four corners of development," -- mass movements of the organized poor, government (at all levels), non-governmental organizations (NGOs), and multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies.

Representatives of federations of the urban poor, NGOs, and the Government of the Philippines also participated in the launch ceremonies. Mrs. Vasquex-De Jesus, Hon. Secretary of Housing announced that the Government of the Philippines was committed to a people's-based approach to slum upgrading and was keen to host a launch of the Global Campaign for Secure Tenure in Manila.

The global campaign is structured around security of tenure, a fundamental requirement for the progressive realization of the urban poor as full citizens of the cities in which they reside. The granting of secure tenure is an important catalyst in stabilizing communities, reducing social exclusion, improving access to urban services, leveraging corporate and individual investment, and in improving the urban environment.

The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure promotes a rights-based approach to shelter policy and slum upgrading. It marks a new strategic role for UNCHS (Habitat), advocating for the rights of the urban poor and promoting partnerships between the organized poor and government at all levels. By drawing attention to work of women's and people's-based organizations and their partnerships with government, the Global Campaign seeks to mobilize and orient the support of diverse multilateral and bilateral development cooperation agencies.

The Campaign provides an opportunity for meaningful action towards attaining "adequate shelter for all," one of the two main objectives of Habitat Agenda. Central to the realization of this mandate is the promotion of women's role through their active empowerment and involvement in the decision-making processes – a core element of the Global Campaign.

The Global Campaign for Secure Tenure is inaugurated in specific countries through official launches in committed cities. Significantly the Durban Launch was the first to be held on the African continent. This came after the launch in Mumbai, India on 16 July 2000, followed by similar launches in Pristina, Province of Kosovo, and Paris, France. An estimated 10 other national launches are planned for the next two years.

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Slum Urban Upgrading Roundtable, Johannesburg, 3-5 October 2000

The Cities Alliance Roundtable on Urban Upgrading in Africa took place in Johannesburg from 3 to 5 October. It was organized by the Council of Johannesburg, the World Bank Thematic Group for Services to the Poor, and the World Bank Africa Region, with funding from the Cities Alliance. The Roundtable included several excellent presentations (Brazil, Pakistan, Mauritania, Swaziland, among others), field trips to Alexandra, the site of a major upgrading effort by the City of Johannesburg, and to inner city Johannesburg, also the target of a major urban renewal effort.

Mohini Malhotra, from the Secretariat of the Cities Alliance, was there. *"I went on the latter, which was very informative – we saw low-income housing units built with government subsidies, plans for providing market venues for street vendors, and plans for general inner-city upgrading, primarily of low-income housing units. Much of the inner city revitalization effort is being financed by the private sector, led by ABSA Bank – one of South Africa's biggest banks. The third day of the workshop was less presentation-focused, and participants broke up into small groups; one of which I facilitated on the linkages between urban upgrading and other sectors, such as microfinance.*

Several notable points – first, the World Bank kept a low profile on 'front-stage,' – virtually all the chairpersons, presenters and facilitators were from client countries and programs, or other donor agencies (UNCHS), or donor funded programs (Melissa). Second, participants were extremely enthusiastic, and had to be literally forced to end the day. There seemed to be genuine commitment to the issues and importance of community participation and on discussing ways to make that more prevalent in urban upgrading programs; on building linkages across unlikely partners, and on improving coordination across different agencies for improved urban upgrading programs. The debates and discussions centered on how to best institutionalize and integrate these principles.

What was unfortunately missing were representatives of civil society as presenters and/or participants. I felt that the link with the event in Durban could have been made more concrete by bringing in the players and issues from that event, which would probably have stimulated more discussion and debate on the specifics of building in community participation and other themes.

In sum, this was a high value 'investment' for learning and dissemination purposes from the Cities Alliance's perspective. More importantly, participants at the Roundtable generated ideas on ways to extend the value of the Roundtable, with one concrete suggestion being to build, what may initially be a virtual network of African upgrading practitioners. Cities Alliance is planning to produce short notes on a few presentations – Mauritania and Swaziland, for example, to extend several of the knowledge nuggets to others unable to participate. Our Colleagues who organized the event did a terrific job!"

Excerpts from Back-to-Office Report
Mohini Malhotra,
Principal Private Sector Development Specialist, Cities Alliance

Roundtable on the **Cities Without Slums** Action Plan Held at the United Nations on 12 October 2000

A panel discussion, organized by the United Nations ECOCOC Secretariat and held on 12 October at the United Nations in New York, provided an important opportunity to follow up on the Millennium Summit commitment to the targets of the *Cities Without Slums* Action Plan. Panelists included: Mrs. Anna Kajumulo Tibaijuka, Executive Director of UNCHS (Habitat), who stressed the importance of the partnerships that are coalescing around the Cities Alliance and called for increased resources to implement the *Cities Without Slums* Action Plan; Ms. Frannie Léautier, Director, Infrastructure Group, World Bank, who emphasized the strategic linkages between the goals of the Cities Alliance and the World Bank's Urban and Local Government Strategy; Counselor Giovanni

Brauzzi representing H.E. Ambassador Sergio Vento, Permanent Representative of Italy to the U.N., who spoke of the role of his country as a contributing partners of the Alliance; and Dr. Héctor Silva, Mayor of San Salvador, El Salvador, who presented his challenges, achievements, and aspirations as the elected leader of a city where 60% of the inhabitants are poor. The roundtable was chaired by Mr. Mauricio Escanero of Mexico, Vice-Chairman of the Second Committee of the U.N. General Assembly, and moderated by Mr. Sarbuland Khan, Director, Division for ECOSOC Support and Coordination, U.N..

Gaetano Leone, Urban Specialist, Cities Alliance

City-Community Challenge Fund Pilot Project (DFID)

The responsibility for dealing with problems of rapid urban growth (overcrowding, unsanitary conditions, deteriorating infrastructure base, inadequate service provision, lack of income-earning opportunities, etc.) and for implementing poverty eradication programmes inherently rests with municipal authorities. Such bodies, however, lack the experience, capacity and necessary resources to deal with the scale of urban problems.

Municipal authorities need to develop new competence to address these tasks. More to the point, the immediate interface with poor people, and the steps that can be taken to eradicate their poverty through local sustainable urban development programmes, currently tends to be through civil society organisations, rather than with their own local authorities which often gives rise to non-sustainable short term solutions.

This scenario is further compounded by the inadequacy of conventional channels of development assistance which give a low priority to urban infrastructure and services and have difficulties in reaching lower income groups with their projects.

The urban poor in association with their local authorities and the private sector need help to find their own solutions to their immediate conditions of poverty. Facilitating active partnerships responsive to the needs of the poor will require measures to facilitate and strengthen their respective organisational capacity and competence, and the necessary financial stimulus in support of community identified physical and livelihoods improvements.

The City-Community Challenge Fund (C3F) initiative is funded by the UK Department for International Development and aims to address urban poverty by providing a localised funding stream targeting poverty-focused projects that are community initiated, city-based and capacity-focused.

The project purpose is to develop an effective and transferable mechanism for channelling multiple small-scale investments to community initiated poverty alleviation projects.

The pilot project is an experimental exercise aimed at adding detail and value to current development assistance approaches in urban areas. In effect it provides a methodology in which the pro-poor impacts of the projects that it finances can achieve positive and sustainable results, both in terms of efficiency and cost effectiveness. It also aims to influence the behaviour of fund flow managers by providing an efficient funding route through which a multitude of small scale projects can be supported.

What makes C3F different is the extent to which the Fund's methodology make support for community initiatives more continuous, more flexible, more responsive to changing circumstances, on a larger scale, better linked to on-going city activities and with a stronger emphasis on the productive energy of poor citizens, drawing on local resources and keeping down costs.

The pilot project will have fundamental implications for future development co-operation assistance by contributing towards a new coherence of effort by the international community in improving more directly the livelihoods of the urban poor.

It is envisaged that the methodology and lessons drawn from the C3F pilot project will be seen as a basis for future city-community challenge type initiatives and in due course have the potential to be considered as a Global C3 Fund within the International Community

Uganda and Zambia have been chosen as locations for the initial pilot project.

Ilias Dirie, Assistant Urban Development Adviser, DFID

More details of the C3 Challenge can be obtained from Ilias Dirie, Infrastructure & Urban Development

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USAID Implements *Making Cities Work* Strategy

The United States Agency for International Development (USAID) has initiated the *Making Cities Work* strategy to address the phenomenal rates of urbanization in developing countries. The burgeoning growth of cities concentrates poverty in slums in both old central areas and rapidly growing fringe areas. Making Cities Work looks at cities, as the place where USAID's health, economic growth, and democracy programs unfold, and makes urban service delivery the vehicle to accomplish multi-sector results. Making Cities Work is based on the opportunities and synergies urban areas provide for development programs.

Making Cities Work is an Agency-wide strategy that emphasizes urban considerations in new and on-going development activities. Barbara Turner, Acting Assistant Administrator, USAID Global Bureau, states, "Urban issues can only be successfully tackled through a collaborative, entrepreneurial approach that engages all sectors of development."

The implementation of the Making Cities Work strategy includes building alliances within USAID and forging partnerships with multi-laterals, bi-laterals and civil society organizations, raising awareness of urbanization issues and programs, and increasing capacity to improve urban management through training courses and partnership programs. The Office of Urban Programs in USAID's Center for the Environment is the principal promoter of the Making Cities Work strategy and the contact office within the Agency on urban issues. The Office of Urban Programs is also the lead office for USAID in the Cities Alliance network.

– Alison Pajit
Urban Development Officer , USAID

For additional information on USAID's Making Cities Work strategy, as well as, urban tools and resources, please see www.makingcitieswork.org and/or contact David Painter, Director, Office of Urban Programs at dpainter@usaid.gov.

Meetings

Upcoming Public Policy Forum and Consultative Group Meeting to be held in Rome 29 November - 1 December 2000

The second Cities Alliance Public Policy Forum, scheduled to take place on 29 November, in Rome, will focus on the theme: "Local Partnerships: Moving to Scale". Forum participants will analyze partnerships between community-based organizations and local authorities and the ways in which these entities may be structured to view the poor as key actors, rather than recipients. The Forum will also illustrate lessons on how these local partnerships can be supported and replicated. Following the Public Policy Forum, the Consultative Group members will meet for one and a half days on 30 November to 1 December 2000, at the same venue, to approve the 2001 Work Program of the Cities Alliance.

Other News

Cities Alliance introduced in "Villes en développement" Newsletter

In the June 2000 issue of the "Villes en développement" newsletter, François Amiot, (Groupe Agence Française de Développement), gives a detailed introduction of the Cities Alliance to the newsletter readership. "Villes en développement" is produced by ISTED (Institut des Sciences et des Techniques de l'Équipement et de l'Environnement pour le Développement), an organization within the Ministry for Capital Works, Transport and Housing that assists in the areas of transportation and urban infrastructures and promotes public/private partnerships for international projects.

To view the article in its entirety in English, please go to:

<http://www.isted.com/VILLES%20EN%20DEVELOPPEMENT/bulla.pdf>.

For French, please go to: <http://www.isted.com/VILLES%20EN%20DEVELOPPEMENT/bullf.pdf>

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