

Cities Alliance Gender Prize – Call for Submissions

2017 Theme: Partnerships for Women's Empowerment

1. OVERVIEW

The issue of Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment (GEWE) has risen to the mainstream of international development concerns in recent years. Three major global agreements signed over the last two years – the Sustainable Development Goals (2015, especially SDG 5), the Paris Climate Change Agreement (2016), and the New Urban Agenda (2016) – have all included a call for Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment and called attention to the importance of gender-responsive implementation. The Cities Alliance is committed to this engagement and to mobilising its membership to be a voice for GEWE. We have made gender equality a corporate priority, both by incorporating it as a cross-cutting issue in all our work and through the Joint Work Programme on Gender Equality.

Cities Alliance envisages inclusive cities increasingly characterized by effective and transparent local government, engaged citizens from all social groups and improved and responsive service-delivery to urban men, women, girls and boys of all backgrounds. To implement this vision, Cities Alliance is announcing the first Gender Equality Prize, a competition under its innovation window with the aim of recognizing partnerships, processes, stakeholders and actors in the urban development space that produce effective, meaningful women's empowerment in urban development.

The prize seeks to recognise partnerships between local government and local communities that have implemented innovative solutions for promoting women's empowerment in the areas such as (a) governance & citizenship, (b) migration, (c) economy, (d) resilience and (e) services. Other objectives include:

- To launch a global cohort of champions of partnership-building between local government and local communities for women's empowerment;
- To build an evidence-base on projects that can impact women's empowerment through partnerships between local government and local communities.
- To produce a knowledge product that will showcase partnerships between cities and local communities for women's empowerment.
- To showcase best practices to international partners at the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur in 2018.

2. SCOPE

- Geographic Scope: Projects from every continent may submit an application. Projects should be implemented at the local level in partnership with local communities and local government.
- Prize Theme: Partnerships Between Local Communities and Local Government for Women's Empowerment. Cities Alliance is seeking projects that have been implemented at the local level in one or more municipalities, and that look at empowering women through partnerships between local government and local communities.

3. PRIZE

There will be FIVE winners, FIVE runners-up and FIVE honourable mentions.

- **WINNERS** will receive a round-trip ticket and 3-day expenses covered to the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur (February 2018) to receive the prize and to take part in a discussion on partnerships for women's empowerment at the local level. The winning projects will be featured in an award-related publication that will be distributed during the World Urban Forum; on videos for dissemination and award promotion; and in a blog dedicated to the project.
- **RUNNERS UP** will be featured in the award-related publication, the dissemination video, and as a blog.
- **HONOURABLE MENTIONS** will be featured in the award-related publication and blog.

PRIZE	WINNERS	RUNNERS-UP	HONOURABLE MENTIONS
Round-trip ticket to Kuala Lumpur for award presentation	X		
Feature in award-related publication	X	X	X
Feature in the award promotional video	X	X	X
Blog spot publication	X	X	X
Feature in social web video	X	X	

4. ELIGIBILITY CRITERIA

Projects applying for the prize must fulfil the following eligibility criteria:

- **Organisations:** Local governments, local and international NGOs, registered civil society organisations, private institutions, philanthropic institutions, and academic/research institutions.
- **Partnership:** There must be a minimum of two partners in the project. One must be a local government. The other can be any of the above mentioned eligible organisations.
- **Results/Impact:** Projects must be able to show impact/results achieved. The project must be nearing completion (ideally within 3 months of closure) or completed within the last 3 years.
- **Geographic Scope:** Projects from any city/country. The project should be implemented at the local level in partnership with local communities and local government.

5. EXCLUSION CRITERIA:

Submissions will be excluded from the competition if they:

- Have misrepresented information required for participating in the prize or fail to submit such information; or
- Are implemented by a member of Cities Alliance. (Members of the Cities Alliance cannot be an implementing partner, however they may be a partner in the project).

6. AWARD CRITERIA

The following criteria will be used for the selection of awarded projects:

- Innovation: Projects should demonstrate innovation in their design and processes.
- Women's Empowerment: Projects should demonstrate a focus on Women's Empowerment at all stages of their lifecycle.
- Cooperation, dialogue, consultations: Projects should demonstrate a strong emphasis on partnership between local communities and local governments with the aim of bringing about women's empowerment.
- Sustainability, Scalability, and Replicability: The partnership should continue beyond the lifetime of the project. Projects should be able to be replicated and/or scaled up, either in the same context or in other geographic areas.
- Institutionalisation: Projects should include the institutionalisation of the partnership between local communities and local governments.
- Impact: Projects should demonstrate impact regarding women's empowerment.

7. DEADLINES AND ADMISSIBILITY

Opening of Call	25 August 2017 (online)
Closure of Call	25 September 2017 (online)
Notification of Selected Projects	End of October 2017
Communication with Selected Projects for Knowledge Product	November 2017 – January 2018
Award Ceremony	February 2018 – Kuala Lumpur

8. APPLICATIONS

- LANGUAGES: Applications may be submitted in either English, French, or Spanish.
- EMAIL: Applications should be submitted to genderprize@citiesalliance.org
- PACKAGE: Application packages should contain:
 - a) Partnership letter signed by project partners, including local governments and organisations that partnered for project implementation.
 - b) Application template filled out by the submitting organisation/local government.
- DEADLINE: Submit by midnight 25 September 2017 Central European Time;

9. SELECTION PROCESS

MILESTONE	DESCRIPTION
Eligibility Panel	Information submitted by each project will be checked against the eligibility criteria set out in the call for submissions. The submissions that have their eligibility confirmed will go to the second round.
Internal Evaluation Panel	Internal evaluation panel will use a predefined set of selection criteria to assess submissions. Internal panel will make their recommendations based on a joint assessment that will score projects on: (a) Innovation; (b) Women's empowerment; (c) Cooperation, Dialogue and Consultations; (d) Sustainability, scalability and replicability; (e) Institutionalisation, and (f) Impact.
External Evaluation Panel	External evaluation panel will use a predefined set of selection criteria to assess submissions. External panel will make their recommendations based on a joint assessment that will score projects on: (a) innovation; (b) women's empowerment; (c) Cooperation, Dialogue and Consultations; (d) Sustainability, scalability and replicability; (e) Institutionalization, and (f) Impact.
Final Decision Meeting	Cities Alliance takes final decision based on Internal and External Panel evaluations and recommendations.
Notification of Selected Projects	Winners, Runners-up, and Honourable Mentions will be notified by Cities Alliance.

10. CONFLICT OF INTERESTS

Project applicants as well as Cities Alliance must take all measures to prevent any situation where the impartial and objective award of the prize is compromised for reasons involving economic interest, political affinity, family or emotional ties, or any other shared interest.

11. AWARDEE RESPONSIBILITIES

The responsibilities of the awarded organisation include:

- Overall responsibility for the representation of the project in the knowledge product as well as in the award ceremony.
- Providing supporting documentation and information to the international consultant responsible for drafting the knowledge product in which prize winners will be featured.
- Treat early drafts of the knowledge product as confidential material until its publication.
- Collaboration with Cities Alliance Secretariat in supplying information about the winning project.
- Compliance with all provisions in the Gender Prize and applicable UNOPS travel policies and procedures.

- Information on the institutional arrangement, including relationship with funders and other implementing partners of the selected project.
- Communication with the Cities Alliance Secretariat on all significant matters relating to the prize, such as activities, budget and timeline. This includes also any emerging social and environmental risks and any adverse impacts resulting from implementation of project activities.
- Participation in knowledge sharing activities so that other cities/countries might benefit from the project experiences.

12. ABOUT CITIES ALLIANCE

Cities Alliance is a preeminent global partnership promoting the role of cities in poverty reduction and sustainable development. Headquartered in Brussels, the Cities Alliance's overall objectives are to support cities in providing effective local government, an active citizenship, and a growing economy characterised by both public and private investment. The Cities Alliance Secretariat is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS). Gender Equality is a core value and corporate strategy for both UNOPS and Cities Alliance.

13. CONTACT

For more information, please see our website <http://www.citiesalliance.org> or contact the Task Manager, Dr Laura Lima (llima@citiesalliance.org).