

Public goods and services for **Women's Economic Empowerment in Cities**

A Policy Dialogue of the Joint Work Programme on Fostering Equitable Economic Growth in Cities at the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development in Praia, Cabo Verde, 17-20 October 2017

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About the Global Policy Dialogue on Equitable Economic Growth in Cities

This report documents the global policy dialogue organized by the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme (JWP) for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities at the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development in Praia, Cabo Verde, 19 October 2017. The event was part of the JWP Global Policy Dialogue series and aimed at stimulating discussion and sharing knowledge on the role of local public goods and services in supporting inclusive growth and reducing inequalities in cities.

The UK Department for International Development (DFID) chairs the JWP, and its members are the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF), UN-Habitat, Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO), the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), Ford Foundation, the Institute for Housing and Development Studies (IHS) at Erasmus University Rotterdam and the World Bank.

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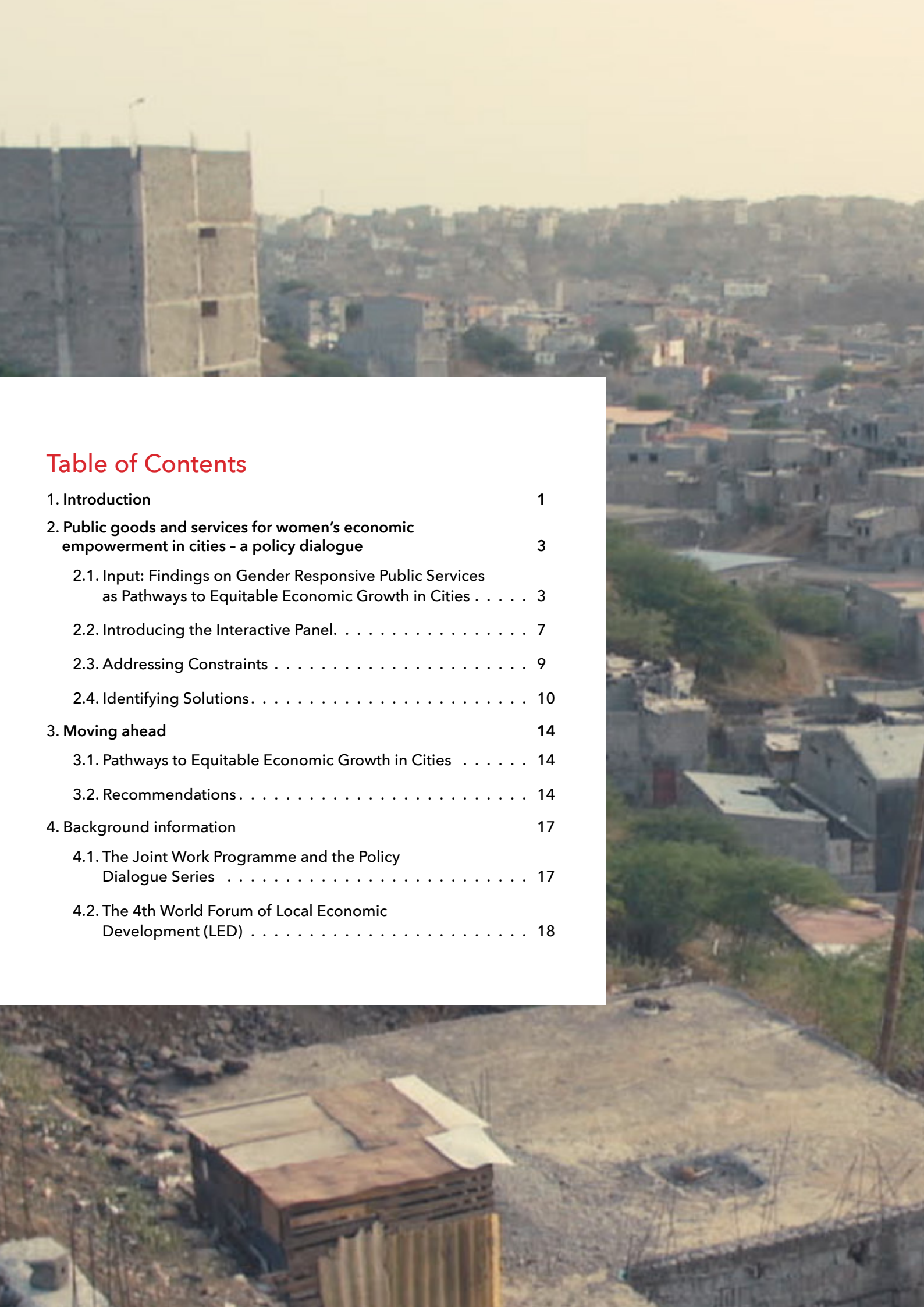


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1. Introduction

Prosperous cities are often associated with positive rates of economic growth and material wealth. Such cities generally offer better facilities and services, such as water, transport, education and health care, while providing more opportunities for social, economic, cultural and political participation.

However, urbanization and prosperity do not automatically go together, particularly as economic growth in itself does not guarantee equity in terms of well-being or access to basic services, economic opportunities and employment. Urban poverty and inequality can negate the potential advantages of cities for citizens and businesses, reinforcing the disadvantage of vulnerable and marginalized groups.

In an increasingly urban world, cities face the challenge of promoting more equitable forms of economic growth. Secondary cities in low-income countries are often characterized by a sectoral composition of job growth dominated by low productivity and large informal economies. Slow structural transformation in combination with institutional barriers, such as imperfect decentralization and limited human and financial resources, have led to severe service and infrastructure backlogs, which in turn reduces public and

private investments. The result is a situation where demand for basic goods and services continuously outstrips supply, undermining the development of vibrant local economies that benefits all.

Within this context, local authorities have an important role to play as they often control the provision and maintenance of key public goods and services. Improving these goods and services is necessary to reduce inequalities, support productivity and enable sustainable local economies. *“The prosperity and welfare of cities around the world depend on the capacity of cities to take advantage of opportunities for sustained employment growth and minimize the challenges of global economic integration and urban population growth.”*¹

However, a range of factors, including gender norms, roles and inequalities, shape access to basic goods and services. Indeed, gendered barriers to access public goods and services continue to constitute a major obstacle to the productivity and inclusion of women, men, boys and girls and considerably weaken their participation and the role they could play in the economic and sustainable growth of many cities.



The 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development in Praia, at Estádio Nacional de Cabo Verde

¹ Understanding your local economy, A resource guide for cities, Cities Alliance, http://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/citiesalliance.org/files/CA_Docs/resources/led/full-led-guide.pdf

Importantly, such barriers can be challenged effectively at the local level - by moving from gender-blind to gender-responsive modes of provision. Cities Alliance's Joint Work Programme (JWP) for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities recognizes the transformative potential of shifting to gender-responsive service provision and is examining a number of initiatives in cities around the world and their implications for women's economic empowerment. A discussion paper on *Gender Responsive Public Services: Pathways to Equitable Economic Growth in Cities* captures these findings.

At the same time, Local Economic Development (LED) is increasingly recognized as a viable strategy to build upon local resources and capitalize on advantages and knowledge endemic to specific territories. LED is a participatory development process that encourages partnership arrangements with stakeholders from all sectors and enables the joint design and implementation of a common development strategy.

Indeed, LED strategies offer alternatives to the traditional top-down and sectoral policies for economic development and they enable cities and their respective regions to take a wider control of their economic development processes. They aim at understanding the different sectors of the local economy and the ways the business-enabling environment can be improved to retain current economic activity and attract new investments. Efficient LED strategies need to be locally initiated, owned and managed, which implies participatory governance and strong policy coordination.

Improving the access to public goods and services can change the way cities and regions grow, foster economic growth and improve residents' well-being by increasing opportunities. Equitable Economic Growth (EEG) in cities can be reached only when

infrastructure and services are delivered in a way that ensures at least basic levels of access by all citizens, formal and informal businesses, and the working poor.

Although cities play an important role in economic development by generating jobs and opportunities, residents do not benefit equally, and important differences in access to public goods and services persist. Implementing gender-responsive approaches to basic goods and service delivery enables the fulfilment of the different needs of women, men, boys and girls. Meeting those needs are essential to stimulate equitable economic growth in cities.

The idea of LED strategies is the thrust of the continuous dialogue encompassing the World Forum for Local Economic Development, the 4th version of which was held in Praia, Cabo Verde in October 2017. The Forum was identified as an important venue for the Cities Alliance to engage with, through its Joint Work Programme (JWP) for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities. The Global Policy Dialogue series of the JWP is aimed at inspiring and disseminating ideas and practices in support of equitable economic growth in cities. With its wide stakeholder engagement, the Forum provided a unique opportunity to highlight the links between three closely interconnected themes: women's economic empowerment, LED, and equitable economic growth in cities.

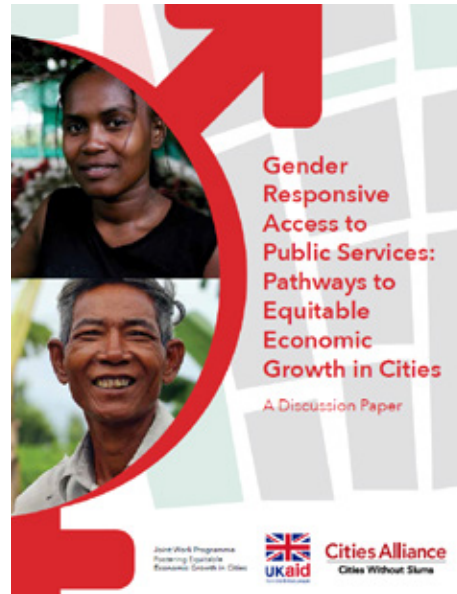
In this light, the JWP organized an interactive panel to disseminate findings, engage with practitioners, and gather new ideas on how to address the equitable economic growth challenge. This document captures the dialogue that transpired. Similar to the session itself, it brings together insights from the *Gender Responsive Public Services: Pathways to Equitable Economic Growth in Cities* discussion paper and the panellist interventions to document the exchange and distil lessons for the work that lies ahead.



Exhibition hall at the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development

2. Public goods and services for women's economic empowerment in cities – a policy dialogue

The 4th World Forum on Local Economic Development offered an opportunity for the Partnership to capitalize on two of its core activities – the generation of globally relevant knowledge and the creation of effective policy-oriented dialogues to spread the word, validate findings and advocate for change. Building on the findings from the *Gender Responsive Public Services: Pathways to Equitable Economic Growth in Cities* discussion paper, Cities Alliance organized an interactive panel to bring together voices key to the debate on how to support women's economic empowerment in cities through gender-responsive basic goods and services. The session gathered a range of public, private and civil society actors, both on the panel and in the audience. The keynote address presented the main approach and findings, followed by a panel discussion and interaction with the audience.



http://www.citiesalliance.org/sites/citiesalliance.org/files/Cities_Gender_Layout_FinalWeb.pdf

2.1. Input: Findings on Gender Responsive Public Services as Pathways to Equitable Economic Growth in Cities

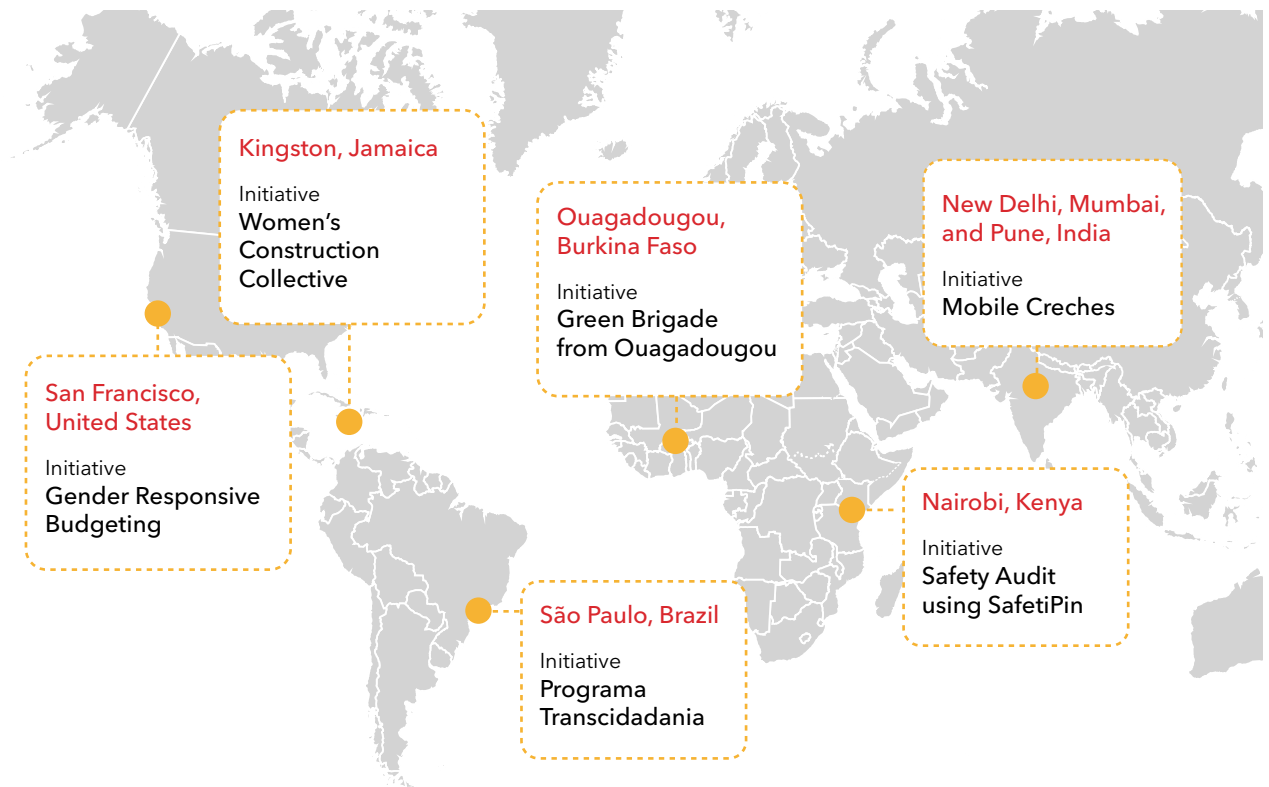
Gendered barriers to access public goods and services constitute a major obstacle to the productivity and inclusion of women and girls in cities around the world. The barriers weaken the economic and social functions of cities, challenging their potential as drivers of sustainable development in all its social, economic and ecological dimensions.

Local interventions to support gender-responsive delivery of key public services can contribute to the economic empowerment and social inclusion of groups and individuals who are often marginalized and in highly vulnerable socio-economic positions.

The discussion paper addresses the **connection between Women's Economic Empowerment and Economic Growth**. It links those issues to service delivery at the local level and expands on the importance of gender responsive initiatives to do the following:

- Tackle gendered barriers to basic goods and services
- Address gender inequality
- Foster equitable economic growth in cities.

These issues are interrogated through case studies from **six cities around the world** – São Paulo, San Francisco, Kingston, New Delhi, Nairobi and Ouagadougou – all highlighting pathways to respond to the challenge of making public service provision more gender-responsive. The case studies reveal various enabling factors that are essential to establish



these public services and examines how local interventions to support gender responsive delivery of key public services can contribute to economic empowerment and social inclusion.

To understand how gender-responsive service provision can be used as a tool to support and economically empower women, men, girls and boys, the paper suggests an **analytical framework**, presented below, that highlights the main characteristics and outcomes for assessing the different levels of gender responsiveness.

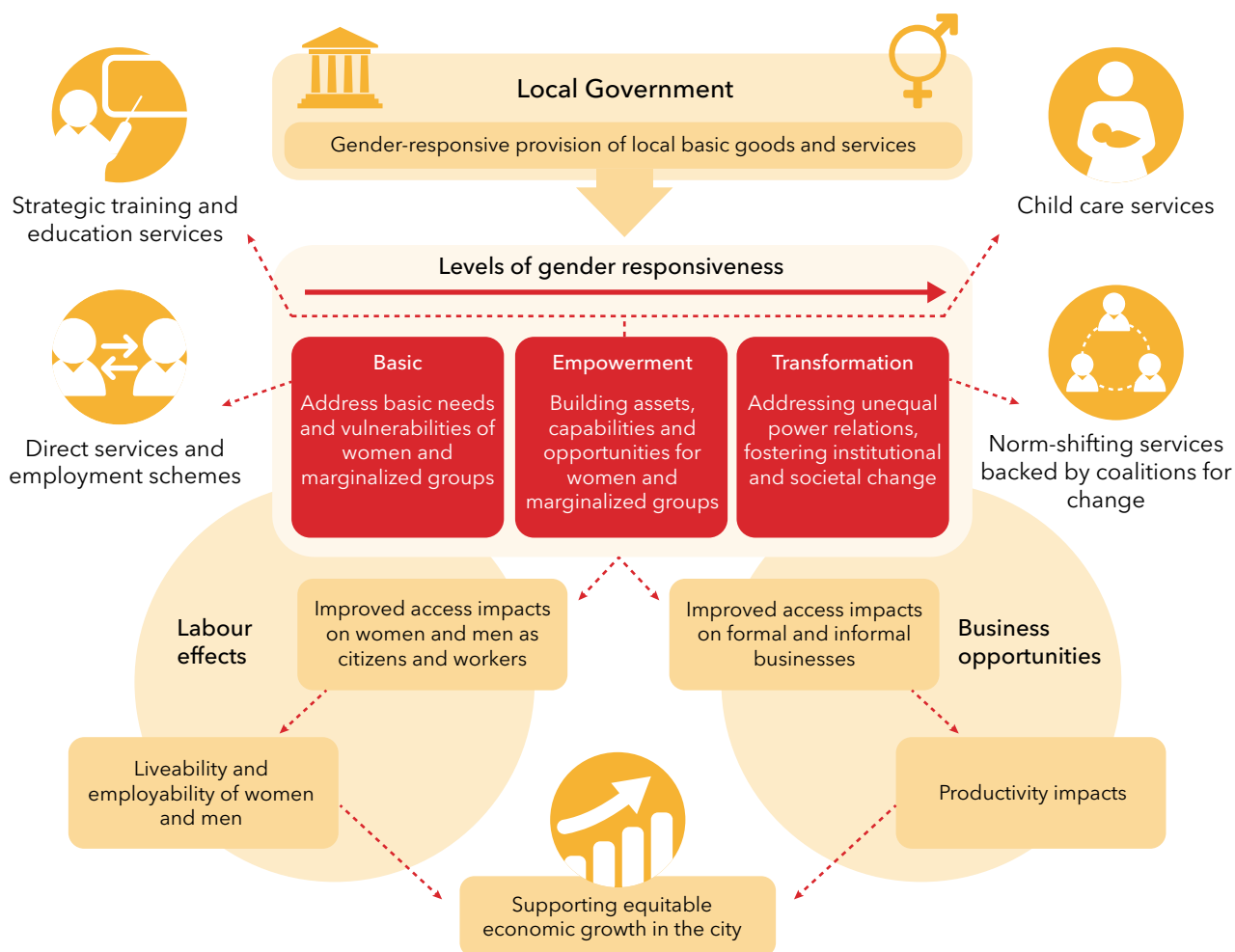
Applying the analytical framework to the case studies reveals not only various enabling

factors, but it also distinguishes three different levels of gender responsiveness: the *basic level* that addresses women's and vulnerable populations' basic needs; the *empowerment level* that offers them more opportunities and capabilities; and finally the *transformation level* that foster long-term structural societal change.

The paper recommends to relevant stakeholders – including national and local governments, community organizations and the private sector – how to create pathways to equitable economic growth in cities.

CASE STUDY	DESCRIPTION	ADDED VALUE
SAN FRANCISCO		
Gender Responsive Analysis and Budgeting	In 1998, San Francisco became the first city in the United States to adopt a local ordinance reflecting the principles of the United Nation's Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW).	Providing proactive, concrete tools, frameworks and processes to assess effectiveness of initiatives and promote gender equality, San Francisco created efficient tools, policies, and best practices for implementation of CEDAW at a local level.
KINGSTON		
Women's Construction Collective in Kingston	The national non-profit organization, Women Construction Collective (WCC) was formed in partnership with the Construction Resource and Development Centre (CDRC) to train and help low-income women to access to the booming Jamaican construction industry.	The initiative created jobs and provided an income for women and the construction industry gained skilled workers. It also has been reported that it had a positive impact on the building sites in terms of decreased violence and pilferage on-site and raised productivity.
SÃO PAULO		
Programa Transcidadania	Transcidadania is a two-year program, launched in 2014, created to support 100 trans persons that lack fixed work by offering them scholarships and professional trainings. It is also aimed at addressing the lack of specific public policies responding to the needs and demands of trans persons living in the city.	The programme first enabled assessing the basic needs and vulnerabilities of trans persons. It then provided them livelihood and employment opportunities and created a safe space for solidarity, visibility and awareness raising about their rights.
OUAGADOUGOU		
Femmes de la Brigade Verte de Ouaga	The city of Ouagadougou has employed a green brigade formed of around 2,800 women to improve the city's environment and public spaces.	An awareness-raising campaign contributed to a changing public perception on the socio-economic situation, role and potential of women in the city and society. The programme has inspired other cities in the country as well as neighbouring countries to replicate the initiative.
NAIROBI		
Building Safer Communities	The Nairobi City County conducted a safety audit from 2015 to 2016, in partnership with a spearheading map based mobile phone and online application called SafetiPin to identify the women's sense of safety at night across the city. The analysis was based in nine parameters: lighting, openness, visibility, crowd, security, walk-path, availability of public transport, gender diversity, and feeling	The mobile app not only produced data, it also proposed an alert button to connect to a police hotline and friends in close proximity in situations of need.
NEW DELHI		
Mobile Creches	Established in 1969 in Delhi, Mobile Creches was set up to provide day care support to children of migrant workers in construction sites, and, over time, in urban slums.	Providing good quality childcare empowers women as it frees up their time to engage in paid work. Mobile Creches further empowers women by improving their access to decent employment and livelihood opportunities.

The analytical framework helps to understand how gender-responsive public goods and services can support equitable economic growth in cities



The panel

2.2. Introducing the Interactive Panel

As part of the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development, the JWP for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities hosted a side event aimed at inspiring a discussion on how the provision of local basic goods and services can support women's economic empowerment and foster equitable economic growth in cities.

Rene Peter Hohmann, Cities Alliance Coordinator, introduced the session with the presentation of the JWP For Equitable Economic Growth in Cities and highlighted how to better understand and address the relationship between the delivery of public goods and services and the equitable economic growth in cities.

Laura Lima, one of the paper's co-authors, presented the main conclusions and highlighted how cities could create gender-responsive public services and foster women's economic empowerment.

Dmitri Pozhidaev, the moderator, then organized the discussion around three main questions:

- What kind of basic goods and services are necessary to support women's economic empowerment in cities?
- Solutions and constraints: How can the provision of basic goods and services be made gender responsive?
- What basic services are required, and how can they be configured, to effect different levels of change – ranging from empowerment to structural transformation?

The session started by highlighting that many cities in low-income countries, and in particular secondary cities, struggle to become engines of growth. Large infrastructure and service shortfalls, low productivity, high unemployment rates, and increasing urban inequality hamper sustainable and inclusive development, structural transformation and growth. However, intermediary or secondary cities can also guarantee and provide for the basic needs of their citizenship more efficiently than metropolitan areas. Hence, they play a crucial role in the achievement of an “inclusive, safe and resilient” urbanism, (Goal 11 of the Sustainable Development Goals).

Equitable and gender responsive access to public goods and services, is pivotal to guarantee adequate standard of living as well as equal opportunities for women and men, girls and boys, to study, work, be healthy and prosper.

THE PANEL

Dmitri Pozhidaev

Dmitri is Regional Technical Advisor at the United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF) in Kampala, Uganda.

Rene Peter Hohmann

Rene is Senior Urban Specialist at the Cities Alliance Secretariat and is managing the Joint Work Programme (JWP) for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities.

Laura Lima

Laura is Urban and Gender Specialist at the Cities Alliance Secretariat.

Nyasha Simbanegavi

Nyasha is a Regional Programme Manager of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF) based in South Africa. The CLGF supports local governments to promote and strengthen democratic local government across the Commonwealth and to encourage the exchange of best practices.

Firdaous Oussidhoum

Firdaous is a Moroccan architect who currently works as Intermediary Cities Coordinator at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), an organization that represents and defends the interests of local governments on the world stage, regardless of the size of the communities they serve.

Rosana Perdomo

Rosana represents the National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training, which implements vocational training policies in Uruguay to consolidate the employment of workers.

Ben Kumumanya

As the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government in Uganda, Ben helps to ensure the coordination of good governance and high-quality territorial administration programmes throughout the country.

“Gender responsiveness in public services enables a better programming of the city and represents the best answer to provide services to a greater amount of people.”

- Laura Lima, Cities Alliance Secretariat



Laura Lima presenting the publication on gender responsive services

"In South Asia, the percentage of people joining the work force through informal market represents 82 per cent in total. This average increased to 95 per cent for women. Regarding, sub-Saharan Africa, the average is 66 per cent in total but concerns 90 per cent of women."

- Laura Lima, Cities Alliance Secretariat



Dmitri Pozhidaev

Additionally, in the absence of more equitable, gender responsive, public goods and services, cities are unlikely to support the economic empowerment of women necessary to foster equitable local economic development. Therefore, there is a growing need to provide evidence that the provision of public goods and services is essential in fostering local economic development. Having greater access to local public services will enable increased human capital and support a healthy, skilled and productive workforce that will positively impact employment for citizens and productivity of formal and informal businesses.

After presenting the main constraints faced by women, the panel discussed how locally provided basic goods and services can particularly support women's economic empowerment and trigger the transformative change required to foster equitable and inclusive economic growth in cities.

Factors that enable or constrain women's economic empowerment

Source: Adapted from the Overseas Development Institute (ODI).

Read more at: developmentprogress.org/empowerment



2.3. Addressing Constraints

Evidence suggests that women and men live in, and use, cities in different ways. Although more women are engaged in paid employment than ever before, they tend to be more concentrated in lower-quality, lower-paid, irregular and informal employment.

In the Global South, much economic growth and job creation is taking place in the informal economy out of the purview of labour laws, leaving many exposed to low pay and unsafe working conditions. Labour discrimination, sexism, racism and xenophobia all exacerbate the poor working conditions in the informal economy. Yet, most women enter the workforce through informal labour.

Gender inequalities have concentrated women at the bottom of the global value chain with little or no access to decent work and social protection. Women face numerous disadvantages in the urban economy that can also be attributed to their restricted mobility and use of space:

- Limited skills, work experience and access to education and training;
- Minimal access to capital;
- Discrimination in the home and labour market;
- Limited representation in formal governance structures;
- Additional responsibilities involving unpaid domestic and care work.

Additionally, most women around the world are engaged in a vast range of other social roles and tasks and work in ways that often render them invisible as formal workers. Yet, in many cases, urban planning and policies do not take these gender differences into consideration, leading to exclusion and lost opportunities for both women and society in general. Indeed, the lack of progress in promoting the more equal sharing of domestic responsibilities between women and men means that the lack of care services (such as children care, health services, and so on) in urban areas primarily affects women, hindering their education, training and employment opportunities, which negatively impact their potential to earn an income and ensure sustainable livelihoods.

Gendered barriers to accessing public services restricts not only the opportunities available to women, but also undermine cities as drivers of equitable economic growth. In other words, in the absence of more equitable, gender-responsive delivery of basic goods and services, cities are unlikely to support women's inclusion, empowerment and productivity.

Crucial research data have demonstrated that gender equality is associated with faster and equitable economic growth and that there is a clear correlation between higher gender equality and higher gross domestic product (GDP). In the same vein, UN-Women has shown that the GDP of many countries would rise by as much as one-third, if female employment rates were to be the same as those of men². In other words, including more women in the workforce by making societies more egalitarian would lead to more economic growth for the city.

Policies, plans and resource allocations need to target more effectively women's specific needs



Rene Peter Hohmann



Nyasha Simbanegavi

"There are a whole series of elements that create constraints for women's empowerment: the existing gender stereotypes, the cultural and social barriers, the relative lack of financial capital, or the lack of balance between public life and private life."

- Nyasha Simbanegavi, Regional Programme Manager at the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

² UN Women (2016), 'Progress of the World's Women 2015-2016: Transforming economies, realizing rights'.

“Making societies more equal requires making opportunities and resources equally available for men and women. Women cannot enjoy an equal footing on the job market, if they are facing multiple constraints everywhere else in their lives.”

- Laura Lima, Cities Alliance Secretariat

and priorities to guarantee effective public services and urban facilities.

2.4. Identifying Solutions

As previously mentioned, urbanization and prosperity do not automatically go hand-in-hand. There is extensive evidence that urbanization has also created widespread poverty, inequality, poor living conditions, insecurity and violence for many people in cities and for women, in particular. Gender imbalances are present in the ways cities have been designed.

Improved access to public goods and services can change the way cities and regions grow, foster economic growth and improve residents' well-being by increasing the opportunities available to them, especially those who face multiple vulnerabilities in their daily lives.

Therefore, once the main challenges and inequalities faced by women in the urban context are identified, the question becomes: what can be done at the local level to decrease the adversity that women face?

Many programmes and initiatives are being implemented, aimed at contributing to gender equality and, as a result, to more equitable economic growth. These best practices are useful when it comes to identifying the most appropriate basic goods and services cities

need to generate gender-responsive urban environments, even though equitable service delivery can take different forms and be targeted to specific contextual issues faced by the city.

With respect to the major challenges that jeopardize women's economic empowerment, some initiatives have been significantly successful. The panel discussion at the Forum presented and proposed inspiring solutions undertaken at the local level that contribute to gender equality and equitable economic growth in cities.

2.4.1. Collection of disaggregated data

More and more cities are aware that improved access to public goods can foster economic growth. They have started to collect and process disaggregated data that are an important basis for informing political decisions and adequate programming. Identifying correctly local needs enables city authorities to implement adequate measures, policies and processes to ensure the provision of effective services and goods.

Disaggregated data are essential numerical sources that offer an objective representation of the situations. They can raise awareness and promote change and should be the basis for political decisions and programming.



Haifa AlMogrin

“In Saudi Arabia, the collection of proper and comparable disaggregated data, on women and men, urban and rural environments, has been essential to identify the capacities needed at local level.”

- Haifa Al Mogrin, Sector Head, Sustainable Development Goals, Ministry of Economy and Planning of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Ben Kumumanya

“Uganda is currently working on a national programme aimed at creating a more adequate and comfortable environment for women to enable them to excel and progress in their activities.”

- Ben Kumumanya,
Permanent Secretary of the Ministry
of Local Government in Uganda

For instance, the City of San Francisco applied disaggregated data, basing their work on the United Nation's Convention to Eliminate All Forms of Discrimination Against Women (CEDAW), which then raised awareness of the gendered impact of departmental policies and programmes, opened the eyes of both local government and community members to the existence of discrimination against women, and focused on addressing gender equality issues.

2.4.2. Provision of basic services

Crucial basic services are required to ensure women's empowerment and equitable economic growth in cities.

- **The provision of child care services** enables women to engage in paid work and therefore, to improve their access to decent employment and livelihood. Such examples as Mobile Creches in India (which has provided since 1969 day care support to children of migrant workers on construction sites and slums) demonstrate that providing good quality childcare empowers women as it frees up their time to engage in paid work.
- As cities recognize inequalities between men and women, they must also build assets and capabilities to foster gender responsive **access to work**. Direct services and employment schemes are required, accompanied by strategic **training and education services** that help to improve women's qualifications. Additionally,

those services increase their opportunities to access employment under the same conditions as men.

- Fostering **equal power distribution in domestic and work spaces** is also a priority. Public communication campaigns may contribute to increasing awareness on continued discrimination against women and thereby promoting respect of their basic rights.
- Moreover, local authorities should also support the work of social organizations that contribute to address these issues. Additionally, it is essential to set up **mechanisms safeguarding women's rights** and guaranteeing the functioning of institutional channels to report aggressions and violence.

More and more cities are currently designing programmes to support women in their access to additional opportunities. Ben Kumumanya, Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Local Government in Uganda, mentioned that local authorities are willing to invest in more appropriate facilities and infrastructure, such as day care centres, pharmacies or banks, to support women in their work and daily tasks.

Finally, for many countries around the world, providing basic services and goods to all people will remain insufficient, if these services and goods are not accompanied with the evolution of mentalities and with the correction of social misperceptions.

“Many barriers can be removed but without an in-depth change of mentalities in the society, women's empowerment will still be considered as a threat when on the contrary it has a positive impact for all.”

- Haifa Al Mogrin, Sector Head, Sustainable Development Goals,
Ministry of Economy and Planning of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia



Firdaous Oussidhoum



Rosana Perdomo

"The INEFOP supports those who want to innovate and especially women to access to micro-credits and funds. These small, often non-reimbursable funds have a very positive impact on the sustainability of a small enterprise."

- Rosana Perdomo, representative of the Institute for Professional Education in the Ministry of Work in Uruguay

2.4.3. Economic empowerment

Some national authorities are providing workers in general, and women and vulnerable populations in particular, with solutions and tools adapted to their local reality, aimed at encouraging professional and social inclusion. Programmes at the national level are also promoted to strengthen women's economic empowerment through the distribution of funding for small businesses creation and other ways.

Rosana Perdomo, representative of the Institute for Professional Education in the Ministry of Work in Uruguay, presented some programmes developed by the National Institute of Employment and Vocational Training (INEFOP), a public non-state actor created in 2008. INEFOP implements vocational training policies and seeks to consolidate the employment of Uruguayan workers (active as well as those outside the labour market).

INEFOP's activities include assessing the government regarding employment policies and designing and managing vocational training programmes. Furthermore, the institute actively works in reducing inequities caused by gender and in promoting women's employability and equal opportunities by providing capacity building and trainings to active professionals, entrepreneurs and unemployed persons. Firdaous Oussidhoum, Intermediary Cities Coordinator for UCLG, highlighted the importance in supporting women in their daily economic activities by structuring their groups into small

organizations where they can consolidate the value chain, from the production to the sale of their products, and fix the conditions for local economic development.

2.4.4. Participation and representation

Mayors should play a key role in representing all citizenship and enhancing the human capital by ensuring women's representation in cities and participation in local economic development. It is fundamental to develop participatory mechanisms aimed at involving women in the planning, design, management, operation and maintenance of urban infrastructure and services.

In Firdaous Oussidhoum's opinion, women in their daily lives are the core of the cities' organization. Women's awareness and empowerment are essential to make them understand the fundamental position they have within their society and their community. For this reason, women need to be more aware of their rights and the possible mechanisms they can use when these rights are being abused.

Women's voices also need to be heard within the cities to highlight their priorities and ensure the establishment of adapted goods and services.

Nyasha Simbanegavi, Regional Programme Manager at the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF), pointed out the necessity to collaborate with local authorities to create participatory mechanisms that offer women adequate spaces to speak

"The representation of women in cities does not reflect at all the fundamental role they are playing in their living space."

- Firdaous Oussidhoum, Intermediary Cities Coordinator at the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

“On the global scale, only 20 per cent of counsellors and 5 per cent mayors are women.”

- Nyasha Simbanegavi, Regional Programme Manager
of the Commonwealth Local Government Forum (CLGF)

for themselves, participate in the decision-making process, disclosing and including in the discussion the barriers that hinder their inclusion and success in society. In her opinion, these preconditions will enable the elaboration of a strategy that responds to specific local needs. In the same vein, CLGF is also actively working on ensuring equal representation at the leadership level within local authorities. Identifying women leaders might help to create models for other women to follow and play a crucial role in the evolution of women's empowerment and a mentality that supports this empowerment. Finally, CLGF promotes initiatives to build capacities and raise awareness for communities and local authorities to understand their role in enabling economic activities and growth to take place within their cities.

The WIEGO network has carried out several inspiring initiatives. This membership-based organization aims at empowering informal workers and securing informal livelihoods, by increasing the voice, visibility and validity of vulnerable groups and women, in particular.

WIEGO, for instance, has partnered in May 2015 with the International Coaching Federation (ICF) in Brazil to develop a programme focused on building and strengthening the communication skills of 70 women waste picker leaders in the state of Minas Gerais. The resulting three-hour workshop also aimed at featuring discussions on gender, women's empowerment and leadership roles within the cooperatives.

Among many other initiatives, the WIEGO network also has created a seven-part package of training materials for community facilitators and organizers aimed at developing the leadership and business skills of women's producers.

2.4.5. Local governance

Improving local governance is a vital tool to guarantee peace, boost economic development, maximize administrative efficiency, and ensure social inclusion and environmental sustainability. Working on improving local governance should include research and advocacy on decentralization and local democracy, local finances, gender equality and access to basic services, all of which are essential elements of good local governance.

The Ministry of Local Governments in Uganda, represented by Ben Kumumanya, aims to ensure the coordination of good governance and high-quality territorial administration programmes that promote economic, social and political development throughout the country. It is responsible for implementing democratic and decentralized administrative structures that can mobilize the population to implement government programmes and identify solutions to solve local issues.



Fredrik Bruhn

“WIEGO provides unparalleled expertise and knowledge on the informal sector. It promotes self-organization and supports solutions that increase women's voice and representation and enable them to negotiate better their rights, livelihoods and incomes.”

- Fredrik Bruhn, Urban Programme
Analyst, Cities Alliance Secretariat

3. Moving ahead

There is no one-size-fits-all model on how to mainstream gender in cities, and too many cities pay little or no attention to the issue. Nor are there any given generic solutions to the challenges associated with providing gender responsive goods and services that ensure that no one is left behind. The delivery of gender-responsive public services need to be targeted at local realities and will take very different shapes according to the context and the priorities of the local authorities, who have a major role to play.

3.1. Pathways to Equitable Economic Growth in Cities

As highlighted in the case studies presented, equal access to public goods and services is essential to achieve sustainable development in cities. Local authorities can take a wide range of gender responsive measures that facilitate women's participation in the labour market and directly contribute to equitable economic growth.

Going further, three levels of gender-responsiveness can be distinguished. At level one, a minimum, basic level of gender-responsiveness implies addressing the practical needs and vulnerabilities of women and marginalized groups. A few fundamental factors are essential to successful gender responsive programmes at this level:

- The first is the gender analysis to understand the role and condition of men and women in a given context and the economic, social and legal constraints that may disadvantage them.
- The second fundamental factor is the way in which city leadership engages with different actors and interventions.
- The third factor concerns the efforts to provide gender responsive public goods and services in cities that address basic needs for the citizens with multiple forms of vulnerability.

At the second level, empowering women involves addressing strategic gender needs through building assets and capabilities. Indeed, cities can support women and marginalized groups by improving access to employment and livelihood opportunities and overcoming exclusion through the provision of education and training. The different initiatives discussed in this report highlight that investing in gender responsive access to public goods not only enable vulnerable groups to participate more fully and equally in cities, but they also contribute to local economic development.

Finally, the third level is about enabling transformative change, which requires addressing unequal power relations and structures. Transformative changes are difficult to achieve and take a long-term and skilled approach - requiring a change in attitude and perception within the community. By recognizing the way gender shapes realities in cities, policy makers and others can implement adapted gender-responsive services based on participatory mechanisms that not only can address practical and strategic gender needs to empower people, but also can profoundly transform the society. Gender responsive service provisions that aspire to transformative change need to adopt long-term strategic and skilled approaches.

3.2. Recommendations

Cities Alliance offers a number of useful recommendations to national and local governments, community organizations and the private sector on how to strengthen gender responsive access to basic goods and thus create pathways to equitable economic growth in cities.

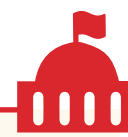
"There is clearly not one answer that will fit all issues, but cities could clearly learn more from each other."

- Laura Lima, Cities Alliance Secretariat



National / regional level

- Put in place robust systems for sex and age disaggregated data for a deeper analysis and understanding of gendered needs to inform gender-sensitive policy-making and programming.
- Use participatory planning methods to include the voices of women, girls, boys and men to ensure that urban public goods and services reflect the needs and concerns of both women and men.
- Put in place realistic budgets for gender mainstreaming with training on how to analyse budgets from a gender perspective to ensure gender aspects are considered in budgetary decisions.
- Ensure that policy makers in different departments work together to guarantee the development and success of programmes, and to be able to share best practices.



City / municipal level

- Support awareness and understanding on gender responsive public goods and services for a city's equitable economic growth so that city and municipal officers at all levels are aware and understand the linkages.
- Strengthen the capacities of city-level policy makers and practitioners at municipal levels, as well as collaborating agencies and organizations in terms of knowledge, skills, guidelines and tools to support, implement and sustain gender responsive public goods and services.
- Enhance the gender mainstreaming capacity of municipal councils, and support the development of gender responsive action plans, budgets and strategies in municipal departments.
- Strengthen city commitment and mechanisms in review processes of city plans to ensure that gender and inclusion considerations are properly and fully monitored and reported on.
- Set clear targets around practical and strategic needs at outcome and output levels, with quantifiable performance indicators in the log frame, and sex disaggregated information and data as a matter of course.
- Foster collaborations with civil society organizations and municipalities to support an enabling environment for advancing gender equality.



Community level

- Build the capacity of city residents, particularly marginal and vulnerable groups, to be aware of their rights and articulate their concerns and needs.
- Ensure city residents can participate in all decision making – in the planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation to determine whether the service is gender responsive.
- Strengthen existing associations, or groups at municipal levels to enhance their participation and integration into municipal decision-making and action plans for gender responsive public goods and services.



Private sector

- **Support alliance building and collective action** for communities to lobby for change, monitor service delivery, and bargain with developers and service providers so that their longer-term interests are met and help shift the ways public and private sector institutions respond to the needs and rights of all their citizens.
- **Incentivize the private sector to support employment of marginalized and discriminated groups** by including gender equality provisions and non-discrimination principles in hiring policies and practices. Projects developed through public-private partnerships provide opportunities to support positive action in this area.
- **Increase private sector awareness of the benefits of providing support services to employees.**
- **Build awareness in the private sector** of the potential consumer market represented by excluded groups of people, including the informal sector.
- **Empower the informal sector** to actively seek recognition of its needs and contributions by local authorities.
- **Provide technical assistance** support to municipalities to be able to respond to gender responsive requirements.



The interactive panel session

4. Background information

4.1. The Joint Work Programme and the Policy Dialogue Series

The session on *Public Goods and Services for Women's Economic Empowerment in Cities* was brought together and organized by the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme (JWP) for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities, under its global policy dialogue series. The JWP for Equitable Economic Growth is a four-year programme (2016–2020) created to support equitable access to public goods and services by all citizens and formal and informal businesses in cities as a pathway to more equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth trajectories. It works with local governments,

city stakeholders and development partners to produce global knowledge, facilitate policy dialogues and support city-level diagnostics and policy recommendations. Its goal is to better understand and provide tools, approaches and practices to demonstrate the link between the provision of public goods and services and economic growth.

Facilitated by the Cities Alliance Secretariat and chaired by DFID, the programme is constituted by various Cities Alliance members, including CLGF, Ford Foundation, the Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies (IHS) of Erasmus University Rotterdam, UNCDF, UN-Habitat, WIEGO, and the World Bank.

The JWP implements its partnership approach globally and locally through three components:

COMPONENT 1: GLOBAL DIALOGUES

Generating structured global policy dialogues to support global cooperation to empower cities and to address the role of local public goods and services in stimulating growth and reducing inequalities in cities.

COMPONENT 2: GENERATING GLOBAL KNOWLEDGE

Addressing key knowledge gaps by producing peer-reviewed global knowledge products to inform practitioners and policy makers at the global, national and local levels.

COMPONENT 3: THE CAMPAIGN CITIES INITIATIVE

Facilitating local partnerships in selected secondary cities in Bangladesh, Ghana, Kenya and Uganda, supporting the promotion of equitable access to public goods and services based on local needs, capacities and priorities. The campaign complements the JWP's globally oriented components by producing evidence-based policy recommendations through a locally driven process, building on city-level partnerships to engage local authorities and stakeholders in setting priorities and recommending actions necessary to foster equitable economic growth in the city.

The Cities Alliance through its JWP for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities is a supporting institution to the Champion Mayors for Inclusive Growth initiated by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation

and Development (OECD) and the Ford Foundation and is partnering with the World Economic Forum in support of an enhanced Public Private Cooperation in JWP Campaign Cities in Ghana and Uganda.

“What kind of recommendations can we give to a mayor of a secondary city if he or she asks how to foster equitable economic growth in cities?”

The JWP on Equitable Economic Growth was created to develop a learning programme aimed at demonstrating how access to basic public services can foster productivity and increase human capital.”

- Rene Peter Hohmann Cities Alliance Secretariat, introducing the JWP at the 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development

4.2. The 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development (LED)

The 4th World Forum of Local Economic Development (LED), held in Praia, Cabo Verde, from 17 – 20 October 2017⁴, aimed at sharing discussions and generating global dialogues emanating from the different territories and at deepening the analysis, discussion and experiences on the relevance of LED as a vehicle for the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) localization.

It gathered national, regional and local governments, practitioners and other stakeholders from the private sector, academia, civil society and others from all over the world. They worked together to stimulate policies for

sustainable local development towards the implementation of the SDGs locally.

The Forum constituted a platform for dialogue on such key issues as poverty eradication, employment and decent work, sustainable entrepreneurship, and multi-stakeholder partnerships, including the involvement of civil society, workers' and employers' organizations.

When addressing ways to implement the SDGs, LED stands out for the prospect it represents as a strategic and operational approach. With a large corpus of practical experiences and tools, widely applied in diverse countries, it can play an important role in making the global goals a reality in the local situations – by tackling poverty, generating employment and decent work, supporting sustainable entrepreneurship and creating multi-stakeholder partnerships.

Local Economic Development (LED)³

The United Nations Secretary General recently claimed that *“many of the investments to achieve the sustainable development goals (SDGs) will take place at the sub national level and be led by local authorities.”*

LED refers to the process in which the local government, or some agency, authority or organization on behalf of the local government, engages to enhance a community's capacity to effect economic progress in both a quantitative and qualitative manner.

The purpose of LED is to build up the economic capacity of a local area to improve its economic future and the quality of life for all. It is a process by which public, business and non-governmental sector partners work collectively to create better conditions for economic growth and employment generation.

³ <http://localizingthesdgs.org/library/254/Local-Economic-Development-Training-Module.pdf>, ULCG, 2016

⁴ The forum is an ongoing process, which culminates every two years with a world event. It began in 2011 in Seville, Spain, with the first edition of the World Forum of Local Economic Development. The second edition followed in 2013 in Foz do Iguaçu, Brazil, and the third edition was held in 2015 in Turin, Italy.

The major themes addressed by the forum were structured under three thematic areas:

THEMATIC LINE N.1: LED AS A FOUNDATION FOR INTEGRATED AND COHESIVE TERRITORIES

The Forum casted a spotlight on enabling policies and frameworks for socio-economic and territorial cohesion. It pursued inclusive growth, by promoting decent work opportunities for all and the economic empowerment of youth and women. Furthermore, there was a focus on integrated rural development as a means for regional competitiveness and territorial equality.

THEMATIC LINE N.2: LED AS A FOUNDATION FOR RESILIENT AND PEACEFUL SOCIETIES IN FRAGILE CONTEXT

The forum examined enabling frameworks for Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE). It aimed to break the barriers of sectorial approaches by examining the value, 'efficiency of proximity' and the specific potential of possible alternative and complementary paradigms.

THEMATIC LINE N.3: LED AS A FOUNDATION FOR SUSTAINABLE AND INCLUSIVE ECONOMIES

Within fragile contexts and post-conflict scenarios, the forum focused on peacebuilding. It intended to renew a 'social contract' through dialogue and participation and empower disrupted communities through the LED dynamics of employment and income generation.

Furthermore, the Forum also incorporated a special session on Small Island Developing States (SIDS).

SPECIAL FOCUS: SMALL ISLAND DEVELOPING STATES (SIDS)

The Forum afforded the SIDS an opportunity to renew the perspective on integrated development issues that define the economic, social and environmental vulnerability of the small states, emphasizing the challenges and potentials, territorial articulation and integration, tourism and local development, environmental management and risk mitigation and specially partnerships for financing development both at the local and national level



The audience at the interactive panel session

Cities Alliance

Cities Without Slums

About Cities Alliance

Cities Alliance is the global partnership for poverty reduction and promoting the role of cities in sustainable development.

Partnerships are critical to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. We bring together organisations with different perspectives and expertise on city issues around common goals: well run, productive cities that provide opportunities for all residents. Our members include multilateral organisations, national governments, local government associations, international non-governmental organizations (NGOs), private sector and foundations, and academia.

The Cities Alliance secretariat is based in Brussels, and is hosted by the United Nations Office for Project Services (UNOPS).

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