WHAT IS THE UGANDA COUNTRY PROGRAMME?

The Cities Alliance Uganda Country Programme is a partnership initiative with the objectives of empowering poor urban communities as partners in urban planning and growth, pro-actively guiding urbanisation through policies and strategies, and improving accessibility to basic urban infrastructure in slums and informal settlements. The Country Programme implementation focuses on 14 selected secondary cities, but some of the activities have a nation-wide scope. The themes of the programme are urban policy, participatory urban governance, urban knowledge generation, capacity development and urban upgrading infrastructure. Interventions have taken place at the national, city and community levels, and with the goal of strengthening interactions between all tiers of governance structure and communities.

The urban population of Uganda doubled between 2002 and 2014 from 3 million (12 per cent of total population) to 6 million (16 per cent of total population) with about 60 per cent of urban dwellers living in slums and informal settlements. The Country Programme has been a very important intervention in the effective management of urban growth and provision of services to the urban poor, especially in secondary cities where a lot of this rapid urbanisation is taking place.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE COUNTRY PROGRAMME

- The Uganda National Urban Policy has been drafted through participatory research and a consultative process, and submitted to the National Assembly for adoption.
- The Uganda National Urban Forum has been established and institutionalised as an all-inclusive platform for urban policy dialogue.
- Municipal Development Forums and settlement level forums have been established and widely adopted as participatory governance mechanisms in the target 14 secondary cities and Kampala, and have been included as urban governance instruments in the draft National Urban Policy. At least 318 community savings groups and 13,458 savers have also been mobilised for local revenue generation.
- 123 community upgrading infrastructure projects have been implemented using the Community Upgrading Fund participatory approach in five municipalities – Arua, Jinja, Kabale, Mbale and Mbarara. Projects included WASH facilities, roadworks, electricity and schools.
- Enumeration/mapping and profiling of settlements of the urban poor has been carried out in all 14 target municipalities of the programme through a participatory learning-by-doing approach, and the information generated has been used by communities to reach out to municipal authorities on planning and development.
- The institutional capacities of national government agencies, local governments, community leaders and related institutions active in urban development has been strengthened. Beneficiaries of the extensive capacity building efforts include the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development, the Ministry of Local Government, Urban Authorities Association of Uganda, the University of Makerere, and local governments and communities of the 14 target municipalities.
- Municipal Development Strategies are in the process of being developed for the 14 target municipalities.
- Gender balance has been an important aspect of the Country Programme. The composition of savings groups tipped towards a female majority. Municipal Development Forums, training workshops and other project activities have all targeted balanced gender representation.
- The investments and activities of the Country Programme have leveraged the World Bank’s further investment of USD 150 million for the Uganda Support to Municipal Infrastructure Development Program.
SYNERGIES WITH FUTURE CITIES AFRICA (FCA) PROJECT

The FCA project is a partnership initiative launched by Cities Alliance and the Department for International Development (DFID) in November 2014 to support selected African cities as they transform themselves into resilient, inclusive centres of economic growth. The FCA project consists of rapid city resilience assessments (RCRAs) of target cities, an in-depth feasibility study to assess the challenges in African cities, research studies on urban resilience themes as incorporated in the five dimensions of the FCA normative framework (governance, economy, services, citizenship and the environment) and prioritised through the RCRAs, and the development of a set of innovative tools and knowledge platforms.

FCA activities in Uganda align with the activities of the Country Programme and capitalise on the partnerships established through the Country Programme such as with the Ministry of Land, Housing and Urban Development and with the 14 target municipalities of the Country Programme.

RCRAs have been conducted for and by the 14 municipalities, adopting a process that utilised the Municipal Development Forums established by the Country Programmes. The municipalities carried out a self-assessment of their performance in the five dimensions of the FCA normative framework and identified priority areas for action. The RCRAs serve the dual purpose of informing the FCA Feasibility Study and laying the groundwork for the development of evidence-based Municipal Development Strategies with focus on resilience for the 14 municipalities.

Some Community Upgrading Projects of the Country Programme

Water-borne toilet at Walukuba East market

Fencing of Mvara Junior Primary School in Zambia

Construction of toilet in Masese landing site

Construction of Drainage Channel in Lower Bugongi Ward

Community water stand pipe and storage tanks in Awindiri ward

Installation of 50KVA Transformer in Rushaki ward

2. Target cities of the FCA project are 14 secondary cities in Uganda, 3 regional capitals in Ethiopia, the Nampula-Nacala-Tete urban corridor in Mozambique, and the Greater Accra Metropolitan Area in Ghana.