

Event #1: Cities Alliance Networking Event

Title: Cities for All: Addressing Forced Evictions

- **Lead organisation:** Cities Alliance
- **List of partners:** SDI, ACHR, HFHI, YUVA, Global Platform for Right to City, and Ford Foundation
- **Time and Room:** Friday, 9 February from 3:00-5:00 PM, Room 304

Summary:

By adopting the New Urban Agenda (NUA), UN member states have committed to “support the progressive realization of the right to adequate housing for all [...] and prevent arbitrary forced evictions”, and to enhance “their [informal workers’] livelihoods, working conditions and income security, legal and social protection”. In addition, with the adoption of Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) 11 there is global consensus on the role of equitable and inclusive cities in leading towards a sustainable development path that leaves no one behind.

The ground reality, however, shows resurgence of forced evictions globally. Historically, the urban poor have always suffered major setbacks through massive forced evictions – loss of investments both at household and city level: families and workers lose investments in housing and livelihoods, leaving them even poorer, and at the city level, evictions undermine the sustained investments in community mobilisation, small community projects, land securitisation, among others.

The promotion of inclusive and equitable cities requires urgent global response to forced evictions. In the past, there was regular monitoring of forced evictions but this is now largely dysfunctional. There are, however, on-going initiatives which could be used for the purpose by leveraging the prospects offered by information and communications technology. Initiatives such as ‘Know Your City’ – supported by Cities Alliance – have enabled community-led slum mapping, which allows slum-dwellers to monitor forced evictions. The challenge is to scale up, strengthen and institutionalize such mechanisms. Moreover, it is essential to prevent forced evictions through a stronger narrative and advocacy on inclusive and equitable planning. Equally essential is to strengthen the work on mitigating the impacts of forced evictions on affected communities.

This networking event will showcase innovations and explore partnerships for slum enumeration, policies and practical approaches that increase spatial, social and economic inclusion. A strong focus will be devoted to the critical interface of forced evictions with gender inequality and migration flows.

Event #2: Cities Alliance Side Event, Joint Work Programme (JWP) Cities in the Global Agendas

Title: Enabling the Implementation, Follow-Up and Review of the Global Sustainability Agendas in Secondary Cities

- **Lead organisation:** Cities Alliance
- **JWP members:** Ministry of Cities of Brazil, Ministry of Foreign Affairs of France, BMZ, GIZ, SECO, DFID, ICLEI, UCLG, SDI, HFHI, Ford Foundation, IHS, SDSN, and UN-Habitat
- **Partners:** Adelphi, ACC, DIE, SWP, IIED, Local government of Burkina Faso, National government of Chile, and Local government of Indonesia
- **Time and Room:** Monday, 12 February from 2:00-3:00 PM, Room 408

Summary:

This event will discuss how the different global sustainability agendas – including the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the New Urban Agenda – relate and connect to each other in the context of secondary cities. The success of the global agendas will substantially rely on the capacity to leverage the actions already undertaken in cities by local leaders and actors. In many secondary cities, a combination of inadequate resources, ineffective policy choices and poorly-managed rapid urbanisation has long influenced their capacity to plan for and guide equitable and sustainable urban development.

The event will provide:

- a. Accessible narrative to convey the urban elements of the different global sustainability agendas to governments at all levels and other relevant stakeholders; and hence guide coherent of efforts.
- b. Clarity on how to interconnect and integrate the different global sustainability agendas and how they impact on enabling environments (institutional, legal, financial) for urban sustainability at the national and sub-national levels.
- c. Understanding of how to best integrate the follow-up and review of the 2030 Agenda, the NUA and the Paris Agreement at the global, national and sub-national levels; and engage sub-national governments and local actors in them.

The event will be framed around the findings of two papers commissioned by the Cities Alliance: “Assessing six global agreements in relation to urban development and governance” by the International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) and “Follow-up and review architecture of the NUA, the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement,” by Adelphi, in collaboration with the African Centre for Cities (ACC), the German Development Institute (DIE) and the German Institute for International and Security Affairs (SWP). National and sub-national governments from the different regions in which the Cities Alliance is engaged will share their experience on the implementation of these global sustainability agendas.

Event #3: Networking Event, Joint Work Programme Equitable Economic Growth (JWP EEG)

Title: Public Space as Driver of Equitable Economic Growth in Cities: Policy and Practise to Leverage a Key Asset for Vibrant City Economies

- **Lead organisations:** JWP EEG and DFID
- **JWP members:** DFID, UN-Habitat, CLGF, Word Bank, WIEGO, IHS, UNCDF, and Ford Foundation
- **Time and Room:** Monday, 12 February from 3:00-5:00 PM, Room 407

Summary:

Public space is a key enabler of economic development in cities. Streets, sidewalks, markets, squares and parks that are accessible, safe and inclusive are part of the basic infrastructure that supports the economic vibrancy and growth of cities. They are key to the productivity and wellbeing of workers and formal and informal businesses alike by being primary sites of economic, social and cultural exchange.

This networking event, hosted by the Department for International Development (DFID), elaborates on the potential of public space as a driver of equitable economic growth in cities. Building on the experience of the diverse membership of the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities the event highlights viable strategies and policy approaches available to

cities to leverage the asset of public space as an enabler of economic and livelihood opportunities for all. A panel discussion will draw on the perspectives of Cities Alliance Members how inclusive public spaces can serve as a driver of vibrant city economies. Recognising the function of public space as a key asset to attract public and private investment and facilitate a reliable business environment, the discussion will have particular reference to resources strained secondary cities in low income and least developed countries.

The event supports the operationalisation of the commitment in the NUA to promote *“safe, inclusive, accessible, green and quality public spaces as drivers of social and economic development, in order to sustainably leverage their potential to generate increased social and economic value”* (NUA, Paragraph 53). By gathering the Cities Alliance members around these issues, the event increases the momentum to find concrete local solutions in support of an increasing Global Agenda for Cities.

Event #4: Side Event, Joint Work Programme Equitable Economic Growth

Title: Public Goods and Services as Pathway to Equitable City Economies in Bangladesh: Lessons from secondary cities

- **Lead organisations:** JWP EEG and BIGD
- **JWP members:** DFID, UN-Habitat, CLGF, World Bank, WIEGO, IHS, UNCDF, and Ford Foundation
- **Time and Location:** Monday, 12 February from 5:00-6:00 PM, Room 304

Summary:

Bangladesh is in the midst of the urban transition, with the population living in cities expected to increase from the current two thirds to over half of the total population before 2050. Despite cities being important drivers of economic growth – with an urban population at 34 percent contributing roughly 45 percent to GDP – that wealth has neither kept up with, nor been equitably distributed across, the growing city population. Hence, one in five urban dwellers live below the poverty line – the highest level of urban poverty in the South Asia region. With the simultaneous growth in urban population and poverty, it is clear that the ability of cities to produce widespread economic opportunities and jobs that benefit all will be key to the achievements of the SDGs as well as the implementation of the NUA in Bangladesh. The challenge is particularly articulated in the country’s secondary cities, battling infrastructural challenges and service gaps with limited financial and human resources.

Against this background, the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme for Equitable Economic Growth, in partnership with BRAC University Institute for Governance and Development (BIGD), in 2017 launched its City Campaign in two secondary cities to support the realisation of more equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth trajectories. Recognising the instruments and resources available at the local level, the initiative is targeted specifically at improving locally provided public goods and services and their potential to support equitable city economies.

This side event will focus on sharing experiences, lessons and initial research findings from the two campaign cities, Sylhet and Narayanganj. The diagnostics and research undertaken by BIGD, as well as the multi-stakeholder partnerships established in the cities, reveal practical measures and approaches that can be taken to utilise local assets to trigger increased productivity and opportunities for workers and formal and informal businesses. The discussion will depart from the Bangladeshi experience, firmly situated in local realities, with a view to disseminating lessons relevant to secondary cities in low income countries elsewhere, using the convening and dissemination capacity of the Cities Alliance global partnership.

Event #5: Side Event, APEC Publication Launch

Title: Partnerships for Sustainable Development of Cities in the APEC Region

- **Lead organisation:** APEC Secretariat, in partnership with Cities Alliance
- **Time and Location:** Thursday, 8 February 2018, 2:00-3:00 PM, Urban Library

Summary:

Over the past three decades, cities in the Asia-Pacific region have experienced unprecedented economic growth and development. The global financial crisis in 2007 and the slowdown of the Chinese economy, however, has had a profound impact: the region's cities face a range of challenges related to slower investment growth and job creation, and an increasing shortage of housing and basic services. Factors such as climate change, security issues, and increasing disparities between personal and regional wealth, development, and quality of life are also having a big impact on shaping the agenda for the future development and management of cities in the region.

The pressures since the global financial crisis have given rise to a period of reflection and debate by governments and communities about the sustainability of urbanization and economic development of cities in the region. Fresh approaches are needed to the way cities are managed and developed to ensure their future prosperity, quality of life and the sustainable use of resources. This calls for governments and cities to work more cooperatively and collaboratively in fostering the development of partnerships for urban governance, trade, investment, services delivery, and human capital development, and for resolving environmental problems. This is central to APEC's agenda for sustainable urbanization and the development of cities in the region.

Partnerships involving collaboration is a new business model for development as the world moves towards a more sharing global economy. Such partnerships are not just local - these involve governments, business and communities working together to overcome common problems and issues, and to improve service delivery. The new model of partnership involves various levels of government collaborating nationally and internationally through networks, alliances and associations to address the complex sets of problems that are common to many cities, and to foster the expansion of knowledge, trade, investment and other exchanges that benefit the development of communities, and especially wealth creation and jobs.

The side event will share the key findings and launch APEC Report – "Partnerships for the Sustainable Development of Cities in the APEC Region." The Report explores the ways cities in the region are supporting partnerships for sustainable development. It builds on previous APEC work on sustainable urbanization, using 14 case studies to assess economies, infrastructure, social and environmental systems and urban governance. The case studies evaluate cities at secondary city, metropolitan region, and regional economic trade-corridor levels.

The side event will contribute to existing knowledge on ideas and practices that can help build more sustainable cities and economies in the region. It will be of interest to community leaders, administrators, business, and academics. The shared lessons will have relevance for governments, other public policy organizations and business, for infrastructure investment, and for managing structural and technological change, the development of human capital and fostering improvements in the quality of life. These lessons provide the basis for an action agenda under APEC's Asia-Pacific Partnership on urbanization and sustainable cities development.

Event #6: Side Event, CEE Publication Launch

Title: City and Local Government Enabling Environment (CEE) for the Implementation of New Urban Agenda

- **Lead Organisation:** UCLG-ASPAC, in partnership with Cities Alliance
- **Time and Location:** Sunday, 11 February, 2:00-3:00 PM, Urban Library

Summary:

Enabling legal, policy and institutional framework for cities and local governments is a pre-condition to implement the NUA. The outcome document of NUA has clearly highlighted the commitment to strengthen urban governance through sound institution and mechanism. Empowering cities and urban local bodies becomes even more essential given that 65% of all targets of the SDGs is in urban domain. Strong urban local bodies embedded in supportive legal and institutional framework would enable cities and urban local bodies to effectively perform the assigned functions, implement the NUA and contribute to achieving SDG targets. The effectiveness of urban local bodies depends largely on the national policy, legal and institutional framework for local bodies and the level of autonomy assigned to them by higher tier(s) of government. Consequently, enabling conditions such as constitutional and legislative framework, national urban policies, clear assignment of functions and finances, clear geographic jurisdictions, capacity development, and effective municipal finance systems, among others, need to be put in place in order to empower urban local bodies to perform their role as key implementing entities.

The objective of the proposed side event aims is to share the main findings of the CEE assessment in 30 countries in Asia-Pacific. This will help to identify priority urban reforms for enabling the urban local bodies to implementing the NUA and contributing to achieving the SDGs. The CEE rating seeks to catalyse a public debate on how to create environments that are conducive to the productive, sustainable and inclusive development of cities and determine what concrete actions should be taken at the national and local level to increase effectiveness in urban management. The assessment covers five areas – local governance, local capacity, financial autonomy, local efficiency and the national institutional framework. Speakers will present the methodology of CEE and the key findings from the multi-country assessment in the region.

By looking to the key elements of enabling environments, priority areas to be strengthened can be defined leading to creating favourable conditions for sustainable urban development. It will contribute to achieve the commitments of NUA which eventually correspond to other global agendas such as the climate agreement and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This refers specifically to Goal 11 of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, as well as to other targets of the SDGs with an urban dimension.