

TRANSPARENT AND ACCOUNTABLE LOCAL GOVERNMENTS FOR SUSTAINABLE CITIES

GEOGRAPHICAL SCOPE

Initial focus in Africa, with possibilities to expand methodology in other regions.

THEMATIC SCOPE

Fighting corruption, transparency, advocacy, municipal finances, trust in the public sector, city management and local democracy.

TARGET BENEFICIARIES

Local governments and their associations in selected countries

PARTNERS

- UN-Habitat, Local government and decentralization Unit
- Transparency International
- UCLG, United Cities and Local Governments

PROGRAMME SUMMARY

Background: We are facing a predominantly urban world where growth rates of urban population increase at an accelerated pace. Urbanization is occurring at an unprecedented speed and pace in the developing world, exacerbating the pressure on local governments to manage locally the process of growth, while delivering efficient and effective public services to an increasing population, often within a context of weak institutional and governance local structures.

Within this rapidly changing context, and given the magnitude of the urban production processes, certain sectors and services such as the development of infrastructure, access to urban land and contracts over public services are in the risk to be exposed to corruption, misappropriation and, even worse on terms of impact in the citizen: inefficiency and mismanagement, producing a tangible effect on the quality of services, eroding public trust in the accountability and legitimacy of the local government.

One of the project main questions is how the issues linked to corruption are key to connecting municipal finances with service delivery. Transparency and accountability are essential for developing cities today as the essential means to create the necessary trust with the citizens. Without this essential element of trust, the governance of the city becomes impossible and population suffers from the absence of a functioning local public sector able to provide basic services and improved living conditions for all.

As the sphere of government closest to the people, local governments have a crucial role to play in the local implementation of the SDGs. Local governments are responsible for direct delivery of many of the SDGs the delivery of most services required to raise the living standards of the people and have direct responsibility over the link between corruption, governance and urban development.

Goals and objectives: The main goal of this project is to enhance local governments' capacities by empowering the Local Governments Association and by presenting some tools to on transparency for local urban development. The main objective of this project is to support local governments in implementing innovative measures to improve transparency and accountability in the field of urban planning and the provision of basic services while ensuring access, quality affordability and safety in the provision, on one side, and the control over the speculative physical development of the city.

Main activities:

- Capacity-building activities
- Dissemination events

 **UN-HABITAT
ROLE**

- Training activities

The United Nations Program for Human Settlements (UN-Habitat) and Transparency International (TI) will take advantage of its expertise, as well as, its long history of collaboration in the support to local governments in the development and implementation of mechanisms to deal with corruption and to foster transparency in municipal management.

Bearing in mind this work and in order to promote awareness rising and outreach strategies towards transparent urban development and its possible links with New Development Agenda 2030, the project will promote missions and participation in events organized by partners and networks to continuing partnerships and collaboration with local governments and their associations and other regional partners and stakeholders. In this way, the project will create scenarios to facilitate the dialogue between experts, representatives of national and local governments and other stakeholders for the production and management of knowledge and tools on transparency in urban development issues.

The project will foster the development of capacities in local governments to implement transparency initiatives for the delivery of robust and efficient urban development services. A long-term initiative (18-24 months) will take place by setting a specific focal point, called Anti-Corruption Urban Innovator, in close cooperation with national local government associations selected countries (up to 3, to be confirmed). The project will establish anti-corruption antennas within the selected national associations of local government to act as focal point for testing innovative anti-corruption policies in selected sectors (land management, urban planning, public procurement, municipal finances and urban services). Focus will be put in the national local government associations to be able to reach the maximum of local governments in the country, including big cities and small towns, creating a permanent point of reference, providing capacity and advice on transparency in urban development issues to their members.

Also, the project will seek the development of two (2) applications to support and strengthen transparency in urban planning demonstrating how innovative approaches and tools can substantially improve urban governance and promote good service delivery to citizens. The implementation of SMART strategies for municipal management can be particularly valuable in territorial governance and planning, in the construction of a new city, or a new part of the city, new infrastructures can already be devised integrating SMART management. For municipalities in the developing world, the access to smart technologies can have huge benefits as, in a way, everything is still to be done and, if planned ahead, can make cities more environmentally friendly, cheaper to maintain and more accessible and transparent to their citizens.

 **MAIN
OUTPUTS**

The main outputs include:

- Advocacy on the importance of addressing corruption in urban development, conducted to improve knowledge and awareness of governments and stakeholders on issues related to transparency in local urban development.
- Network of partners advocating for the transparency in local urban development
- Transparency in local urban development mainstreamed through in different scenarios with joint partners and networks.
- Anti-Corruption Urban Innovator - Advisory services and technical assistance
- Document for policy recommendations developed and shared

- Dissemination and progress activities events
- Two (2) applications to support and strengthen transparency in urban planning developed and shared.
- Capacity-building activities, based on the needs and request of the selected cities will be conducted.
- Training material will be developed and shared.



**MAIN RESULTS /
IMPACT**

The main results of this project include:

- Practical experiences related to local government integrity shared to identify needs and gaps that local government have to face corruption and increased and strengthen partnerships, networks and collaboration strategies to link urban development and transparency and to incentive further development of the topic.
- Increased capacity of local in three selected countries to face corruption in urban development policies while promoting transparency strategies.
- Innovative tools (applications) developed to asses and improve transparency and accountability in the field of urban planning at local level



**PROGRAMME
DURATION**

24 months



**TOTAL PROJECT
BUDGET**

US\$ 680,000