



World Bank
Institute

Addressing the Urbanization Challenge

Innovative Solutions for Cities



THE WORLD BANK



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The challenge

Urbanization is the defining phenomenon of the 21st century. For the first time in history, more than half the world's population lives in cities, with 90 percent of urban growth taking place in the developing world. Over the next 20 years, nearly 2 billion new urban residents are expected, while one billion already live in slums.

Urbanization's unprecedented pace and scale present daunting challenges, while also offering enormous opportunities. Economic prosperity happens mainly in cities, accounting for 70 percent of global GDP. However, only by good planning and management will rapidly growing cities be able to harness this potential, accommodate new urban dwellers, and adequately deliver basic services. Too often those cities bracing for the largest population influxes are the least prepared.

Our vision

The WBI Urban program equips city leaders, municipal staff, and other practitioners with innovative strategies and tools to maximize the potential benefits of urbanization. We build the leadership skills of mayors and strengthen the technical skills of staff who are on the frontlines of city management.

Cities serve as an integrating space where different sectors converge. This reality, combined with the complex challenges of climate change, globalization, and natural disasters, requires

a well-coordinated, multifaceted response. Cities also offer social diversity and attract talented people, providing unique opportunities and the creativity required to meet the challenges of growth and development.

Our approach

Supporting the *World Bank's Urban Strategy* which addresses the critical needs of cities and local governments, WBI offers four business lines in the Urban sector:

- **Urban planning and land management**, focusing on urban land dynamics, planning principles, and geographic tools for managing urban growth through efficient resource mobilization, land management, and service delivery.
- **Municipal finance and governance**, enhancing capacities of local officials by providing frameworks, methodologies, and advice on policy and governance for municipal financial management.
- **Urban service delivery**, including sustainable access to safe water, providing affordable housing, and creating acceptable living conditions for the urban poor, particularly in informal settlements.
- **Ensuring safe and resilient cities**. The program promotes proactive risk management practices and helps local governments assess vulnerabilities, evaluate the

effectiveness of current measures, and design sound policies to enhance resilience to natural disasters and adapt to climate change. Our program also focuses on initiatives for developing community-based approaches for urban crime and violence prevention.

WBI offers structured learning programs, knowledge exchanges, and advisory and capacity-building services to national urban authorities and city managers.

- **Structured learning.** WBI's structured learning programs in the Urban sector cover the various aspects of city management with an emphasis on the "how-to" of reform and good practice:
 - Sustainable Land Use Planning,
 - Street Addressing and the Management of Cities,
 - Municipal Finance Tools and Methods,
 - Upgrading Informal Settlements,
 - Designing and Implementing Successful Water Utility Reform,
 - Urban Crime and Violence Prevention, and
 - Safe and Resilient Cities.

Courses are based on global expertise and best practice but customized to regional and country requirements and circumstances. They are delivered in collaboration with partner institutions, such as Tec de Monterrey in Mexico, Administrative Staff College of India, and China's National School of Administration. Programs are delivered face-to-face, through facilitated e-learning and, increasingly, by self-paced e-learning. The above courses will be included in WBI's forthcoming e-Institute beginning mid-2011.

- **Knowledge exchange and connectivity.** WBI's knowledge sharing programs in the Urban sector help policymakers and practitioners exchange ideas and best practices, and foster increased South-to-South exchanges.
 - The "Innovative Cities Global Dialogues" program connects cities around the idea of sharing innovative

solutions. It features one major global event plus several smaller distance learning-based dialogues annually.

- "Cities as Engines of Economic Growth" provides practical advice on improving the economic productivity of cities in a sustainable manner.
- We provide technical assistance in the design and operation of practitioner networks, as well as regular exchanges among their members. Examples include, China Urban Planning Society, Peer Experience and Reflective Learning Network (India), and associations of cities in the Philippines and Vietnam.
- The Urban program has created the "Inclusive Cities" collaboration site, a peer learning and knowledge platform for slum upgrading and affordable housing.

- **Regional and country engagement.** The Urban program is currently engaged in programmatic work in Brazil, China, India, South Africa, Vietnam and, more recently, in selected Balkan states. This program will be expanded to other countries and regions as resources permit, and often in line with Bank operations.

Our audiences

WBI works with city mayors, municipal managers and staff, urban development practitioners, utility managers, disaster planning staff, and academics in urban studies programs in developing countries.





The World Bank Institute (WBI) is a global connector of knowledge, learning, and innovation for poverty reduction. We connect practitioners, networks, and institutions to help them find solutions to their development challenges. With a focus on the 'how' of reform, we link knowledge from around the world and scale up innovations. We work with and through global, regional, and country-based institutions and practitioner networks, to develop customized programs that respond to specific needs. WBI connects globally and delivers locally.

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