

Unlocking Transformative Finance for Cities and Communities

Cities Investment Facility Project Showcase

WUF11

Tuesday 28 June 2022, 16h30 - 18h00 GMT+2
Spodek, WUF11 Venue

BACKGROUND

Recent estimates put the global annual municipal infrastructure funding gap over US\$3.2 trillion. While there are a number of factors contributing to the gap, one of the primary obstacles relates to the lack of investment-ready projects. Local governments in low and middle-income countries often lack the funding and institutional/technical capacity required to ensure that project preparation is performed according to international standards and the requirements of international financial institutions or potential investors. There is significant global private capital available not only for bridging this gap provided that projects are developed properly and are considered bankable by investors/lenders, but also for supporting implementation financing to boost sustainable development and address the rapid urbanization.

Cities have unprecedented importance as the need for an economic recovery from COVID-19 coincides with the urgency to accelerate the achievement of the SDGs in this Decade of Action.

- Cities currently host 4.2 billion people (55% of the world's population) and materially impact their surrounding territories. By 2050, 68% of the global population will be urbanised as the global urban footprint nearly doubles.
- By 2050, cities will see their populations swell by 2.5 billion people, almost entirely in developing and emerging economies – 90% of this growth will occur in developing countries.
- Through interconnectivity with surrounding cities and human settlements the movement of goods, services and skills across a rural-urban continuum is enhanced, thereby encouraging greater national economic development.
- Through international trade connections cities can specialise in certain productive sectors and generate economies of scale that both contribute to and benefit from the global economy.
- Cities currently generate around 80% of the world's economy and there are close links between levels of urbanisation and per capita GDP. Likewise, by bringing together diverse groups of people, ideas, cultures and backgrounds, cities have become hotbeds of innovation, and through networks of universities, companies, research centres, religious and

cultural institutions, cities have been able to promote ideas and advance knowledge and technological development.

- Rapid urbanisation is fuelling cities' infrastructure needs. Yet a US\$3.2 trillion annual global investment gap, to realize this infrastructure, currently exists.

Cities are a major force for positive transformation if well planned and supported through investment. As the world seeks to recover from the economic losses wrought by COVID-19, become resilient to pandemics and impacts of climate change, accelerate SDGs achievement and improve quality of life, an unprecedented level of investment in cities is required for infrastructure development.

To bridge the municipal infrastructure funding gap and catalyze progress on the achievement of the 2030 Action Agenda, UN-Habitat and UNCDF have designed the multi-stakeholder Cities Investment Facility Programme (CIF). It is centered around unlocking investment in urban infrastructure projects in low- and middle-income markets that have traditionally struggled with project preparation and bankability. This is achieved by supporting project promoters with (i) the marketing of their projects to a global audience of construction finance providers, (ii) advice regarding the ideation, feasibility, development, and financial closure processes, and (iii) funding (both grant and private capital) for these processes, with the ultimate goal of securing construction financing from other external lenders and investors.

OBJECTIVES OF THE EVENT

- To contribute to addressing the infrastructure financing gap by exposing the expertise of the Cities Investment Facility and its partners in the preparation of sustainable urban infrastructure projects.
- To showcase sustainable urban development projects to promote investors, donors, project preparation facilities and cities/governments awareness of the value proposal of the Cities Investment Facility.
- To create a platform where the most prominent SDG-aligned projects of the Cities Investment Facility's portfolio are showcased.
- To offer the Cities Investment Facility Secretariat and its partners access to a face-to-face platform where bilateral meetings with relevant stakeholders can be set up.

FORMAT OF THE SESSION

The Cities Investment Facility Project Showcase seeks to promote awareness of the value proposition of the Cities Investment Facility to investors, donors, project preparation facilities and local governments by presenting case studies of SDG-aligned projects in emerging and frontier markets.

The Project Showcase facilitates knowledge sharing among countries and enables participating local governments to demonstrate how the Cities Investment Facility have helped them to incorporate sustainable strategies, to increase the alignment of projects with the Sustainable Development Goals, and to improve the feasibility and bankability of their projects for investment.

The format will be a brief live showcase of projects, highlighting how the Cities Investment Facility has supported their project development over the last time. It will be followed by an Interactive Panel Discussion around “Sustainable Urban Development through Private Financing with Blended Finance Strategies”, featuring our implementing partners of the Cities Investment Facility to highlight their role and expertise in each of its rungs, as well as answering questions from the audience.

As that the main stakeholders of the Cities Investment Facility will be part of this event, the Project Showcase offers the CIF Secretariat and its partners access to a face-to-face platform where bilateral meetings can be set up. This event is therefore expected to offer access to many general audiences as

possible to increase engagement and establish greater exposure, scaling up investor interest in the Facility and thereby enriching policy debates to enable greater investment in cities.

AGENDA OF THE SESSION

16h30 – 16h35: **KEYNOTE ADDRESS**

Speaker: Marcin Krupa, Mayor of Katowice, Poland.

Member of the Katowice City Council (2006-2010) – the vice-president of the Local Government Forum and Piotr Uszok and the president of the Treasure Committee. He was also a member of the Revisory Committee as well as the Committee for Health Protection and Environment. Deputy Mayor (2010-2014), in charge of e.g. strategic planning, transport system development, environmental protection, municipal economy, planning and spatial management as well as housing.

16h35 - 16h45: **INTRODUCTION TO THE CITIES INVESTMENT FACILITY**

Speaker: David Jackson, LDFP Director, UNCDF

David Jackson, a British national, has over 30 years of experience in Local Development. In May 2013, he was appointed Director of UNCDF’s Local Development Finance Practice in New York.

16h45 – 17h00: **PROJECT SHOWCASE I - “Advancing SDG Localisation in Urban Projects through the SDG Project Assessment Tool”.**

Speaker: Shaakira Chohan, Urban Planning Expert, Global Futures Cities Programme.

Shaakira is an Urban Planning Expert within the Urban Lab at UN-Habitat’s Headquarters in Nairobi and working within the UK-funded Global Future Cities Programme.

17h00 – 17h20: **PROJECT SHOWCASE II - “Reall and CIF Collaborating to Unlock Investment in Sustainable Affordable Housing”.**

Speaker: Ian Shapiro, Chief Executive Officer, Reall.

Ian has been working at the interface between private sector effectiveness and public good for 25 years. Reall’s model has provided an ideal platform for his leadership. Ian spent 16 years at DFID (now the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office), where he progressed to Head of Private Sector Development. Ian was Chief Strategy Officer for Crown Agents before joining Reall as CEO in 2018. Ian was named in a list of ‘Top 20 Dynamic CEOs of 2020’ by The CEO Publication and was named Cause4’s Social Entrepreneur of the Month, August 2021.

17h20 – 17h40: **PANEL DISCUSSION - “Unlocking Resources: A Roundtable about Sustainable Urban Development through Private Financing with Blended Finance Strategies”.**

Moderator: Tomás Sánchez, Engagement Manager, Oliver Wyman.

Tomas is a Master of Public Policy graduate from The London School of Economics and Political Science. He is part of Oliver Wyman consulting firm, focusing on Public Policy topics. He is the author of Public Inc., a book exploring companies’ evolution and role in society today, and is a regular columnist at different newspapers. He is also an Associate Researcher at Horizontal, a Chilean think tank focusing on liberal thought to promote more equitable opportunities in Chile. He was formerly a Board Member at the Chilean Association of Entrepreneurs and at the +1,000 Foundation.

Panel of Experts:

Neil Khor, Acting Chief of Staff, Office of the Executive Director, UN-Habitat.

Chief of Staff a.i. and Officer-in-Charge, Office of the Executive Director at UN-Habitat (United Nations Human Settlements Programme)

Matt Benson, Programme Director, Think City.

Matt has worked for local government and in private practice as a social and local economic development planner on an array of greenfield and urban revitalisation projects. He has overseen a range of initiatives in Australia and Asia including corporate strategic plans, community engagement, open space master plans, impact assessments, conservation management plans, employment programs and large scale population and land use surveys.

Alice Gugelev, Chief Executive Officer, GDI Africa.

Alice Gugelev is a Managing Director of GDI US and the CEO of GDI Africa, where she works with large corporations, commercial investors and INGOs.

Jeb Brugmann, Founding Principal, Resilient Cities Catalyst.

Jeb has a 35-year career working with cities on climate and community related topics and currently serves as the founding principal of Resilient Cities Catalyst. In 1989 Jeb founded ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability and later, in 2004 went on to co-found, The Next Practice LTD., a business innovation consultancy. In 2017 Jeb joined the 100 Resilient Cities team as Vice President, Solutions Development. He is also the author of Welcome to the Urban Revolution: How Cities Are Changing the World

John Safrance, Founding Partner & Chief Executive Officer, EMIF.

John is the CEO and a founding partner at EMIF Group, a private equity manager focussed on accelerating infrastructure investment in low and middle-income countries. With EMIF Group he currently leads the current fundraising activities for its inaugural \$100 million upstream project preparation fund. The Fund employs a blended finance approach and has partnered with UN-Habitat's Cities Investment Facility Programme to invest development equity as a means to catalyze subnational infrastructure construction financing.

Christine Musisi, Resident Representative, UNDP Tanzania.

Over 26 years of development experience in Africa, Central Asia, Eastern Europe and the U.K. Policy Advisor and Senior Manager in various positions focusing on poverty reduction, civil society empowerment, gender equality and women's empowerment, local economic development, local self-governance, democratic governance, transformational leadership.

17h40 – 17h55: **Q&A Session**

Moderator: Tomás Sánchez, Engagement Manager, Oliver Wyman.

17h55 – 18h00: **Closing Remarks & Upcoming Events**

Speaker: Erastus Njuki, Programme Coordinator Cities Investment Facility.

Erastus is a political economist who has vast experience working with SMEs and innovative start-ups. He has special interest in the creation and deployment of sustainable urban investments through engagement with private sector entities. In UN-Habitat, Erastus has been part of the team that conceptualized and established the Capital Advisory Platform in 2018 that has now evolved into the Cities Investment Facility.