



CDD in Urban Contexts

Urban development is a critical and urgent agenda for a large part of the world, and particularly for developing countries. Today's urban population of about **3.5 billion people** is projected to reach **5 billion by 2030**, or an estimated two-thirds of the world's population by then. And **ninety percent of this growth** is taking place in developing countries. While cities are engines of economic growth, urban development has not been equitable, and poverty and inequality are increasing in urban environments. The population density of cities also render them particularly vulnerable to natural disasters, such as earthquakes, hurricanes, and flooding.

Why use CDD in urban environments?

Community-driven development (CDD) is defined as an approach to local development in which control of decision-making and resources is wholly or partly transferred to community groups.

While the CDD approach has principally been used in rural areas, a growing proportion of active World Bank CDD programs are now in urban settings. Participatory and CDD approaches can play a powerful role in helping address acute poverty and inequality growing in cities while also contributing to the process of democratization and empowerment.

Applying CDD to urban spaces has its own set of challenges, however. These projects often are larger and involve more complex infrastructure, which requires technical expertise not found in the community. Urban communities also tend to be more heterogeneous, with larger populations, requiring more time and effort to mobilize members due to constraints in people's availability, physical space, and trust. Compared to rural contexts, local government authorities (LGAs) also play a stronger role. Community-level projects in urban areas must connect to larger systems—such as potable water systems, solid waste disposal, sewage, and transport—provided and maintained by LGAs, requiring more capacity and coordination with these authorities.



*Train station. Mumbai, India.
Photo: © Simone D. McCourtie / World Bank*

Yet there are also opportunities. CDD helps ensure that these larger scale investments are socially inclusive and meet community needs. By directly engaging communities in development decisions, and control over how funds are used, CDD programs can tap a community's resources, solidarity, and skills, as well as local understanding of risk to assist in project success. The flexibility of CDD means that it can be quickly be adapted to a variety of needs and settings (including in response to natural disasters); no two urban areas are the same and community needs change over time as an urban area develops. And there is a strong evidence base that CDD can help target specific vulnerable groups – an especially acute problem in urban settings.

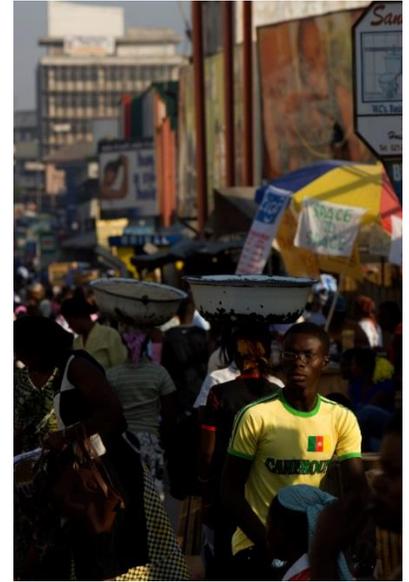
CDD Results in Urban Contexts

The World Bank has worked to empower urban communities across a range of countries:

In **Haiti**, the *Urban Community-Driven Development Project (PRODEPUR)* works to build political stability and restore basic services in neighborhoods with high levels of violence and crime across five municipalities, working through community-based organizations. In response to the January 2010 earthquake, the project also prioritized cash-for-work activities that addressed the disaster recovery needs of communities—for example, subprojects on debris removal and drainage ditch cleaning provided temporary jobs to **over 5,000 people**, and housing repair and reconstruction that benefitted **approximately 24,800 urban households**.

In **Indonesia**, the *National Program for Community Empowerment in Urban Areas Project (PNPM-Urban)* provides grants and technical support to improve basic infrastructure and social services for **30 million urban residents** across **11,000 urban wards**. The program also has a focus on disaster response, which serves as a central part of the national government's post-disaster recovery strategy.

In **Tanzania**, the *Local Government Support Project* aimed to strengthen decentralization and improve access to infrastructure and services in unplanned areas of Dar es Salaam. The community infrastructure upgrading component financed improvements to basic infrastructure in **31 settlement areas of the city**, benefitting approximately **300,000** people by providing roads, drainage systems, solid waste containers, and streetlights. These resulted in reduced health hazards and increased school enrollment, and the provision of streetlights and footpaths made it safer for children to get to school.



Marketplace in Ghana.

Photo: © Arne Hoel/The World Bank

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Participatory and Community-Driven Development in Urban Areas, World Bank

What resources are available?

The CDD Global Solution Group under the World Bank's Social, Urban, Rural, and Resilience Global Practice supports the application of the CDD framework to in urban contexts. Recent research includes:

- *Participatory and Community-Driven Development in Urban Areas*, Margaret Arnold, World Bank Group, 2015

For further assistance and resources, contact the CDD cluster at cddgsg@worldbank.org.

