



Urban Innovation made in Africa – Sustainable Planning and Building

Project funded by the Policy Coherence for Sustainable Development Fund II

The challenge

Urban planning and building are one of the most important fields of action for sustainability and climate protection. Currently, **40%** of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions are caused by the construction and operation of buildings. At the same time, about **800 million people live in slums**, especially in Asia and Africa, and the number will rise to over 1 billion by 2050. Cities must therefore be planned, built and financed more sustainably. **Integrated urban planning** is indispensable to promote polycentric structures, mixed use, and high densities. A paradigm shift in the global building sector towards the use of low-carbon, renewable, recyclable and regionally produced building materials and construction methods is urgently needed. However, many cities have **little access to illustrative examples** of innovative building solutions. Often, they have neither sufficient mandates nor the necessary financial resources, personnel capacities and instruments fulfilling their tasks. Furthermore, there is a **lack of systematic** consolidation, dissemination and implementation of **sustainable planning and building approaches**, especially in countries with high rates of urbanisation.

The approach

The 'Urban Innovation made in Africa' project will establish a participatory, project-oriented **Urban Lab in Rwanda** that aims at developing practical solutions for demand- and gender-responsive, climate-friendly and affordable planning and building. In Germany, a **cross-**

FACTS & FIGURES

Project Name	Urban Innovation made in Africa
Commissioned by	German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ)
Implemented by	Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH
Project duration	10/2022 – 09/2024
Project volume	1.9 million EUR (total)

sectoral policy dialogue with climate and urban development/building ministries is encouraged to discuss approaches, strategies and good practices of sustainable planning and building that feed into multi-level discussions and enrich international agendas. Knowledge and experience on innovative approaches to climate-friendly planning and building will be exchanged in a **global peer learning** with national and municipal practitioners, political decision-makers as well as multilateral organisations and (inter) national funding bodies.

The objectives

- **Innovation:** Address the issue of implementing context-specific, climate-friendly and pro-poor planning and building solutions through the Urban Lab in Rwanda
- **Reality Check:** Enrich the departmental dialogue in Germany and the global transfer of knowledge with learnings from the Urban Lab
- **Knowledge exchange:** Share learnings on approaches to sustainable urban planning

and building among experts and practitioners worldwide

- **Acceleration:** Include integrated approaches to sustainable planning and building into regulations and funding programs at national and international level that support a climate-friendly urban transformation
- **Impact:** Enhance the effectiveness of Germany's commitment in the implementation of the global sustainability and climate agendas in cities through increased inter-ministerial coherence

Expected results

In the Urban Lab in Rwanda, **exemplary solutions** can be identified that take into account the needs of vulnerable population groups, demonstrate options for the use of sustainable building materials and construction methods, and ensure connectivity with existing financing programmes. The **inter-ministerial discourse** on Germany's international commitment to sustainable planning and building shall be strengthened through the project by pooling the experience, approaches and institutional networks of the participating federal ministries. Together, the Development Ministry (**BMZ**), Ministry of Economy (**BMWK**) and Ministry of Housing (**BMWSB**) can use their political influence and expertise to **jointly** develop German and international strategies and processes and to introduce them into national and multilateral processes. Findings from the Urban Lab in Rwanda and impulses

from the German departmental dialogue are integrated into a **supra-regional exchange of knowledge** and experience on innovative approaches to climate-friendly planning and building and are used to address an international audience of experts and decision-makers from regions with high urbanisation pressure, especially Africa and Asia.

Implementation and cooperation partners

The project's Urban Lab will work closely with KfW's large-scale **Green City Kigali** project, an Africa-wide pilot project for integrated green urban development and low-emission construction. Existing cooperation with the Rwanda Environment and Climate Fund (**FONERWA**), the **Rwanda Housing Authority** and the Global Green Growth Institute (**GGGI**) will be built upon, and existing regulations, funding programmes and capacity developments in the field of inclusive, green and resource-efficient planning and construction will be linked up.

Published by:
Deutsche Gesellschaft für
Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH

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Bonn, 01/2023

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Design Indaba / Weiland Gleich, Architecture for Humanity