



# Cities CHALLENGE 2.0

## Building Vibrant and Resilient Neighbourhoods

### Innovative solutions at neighbourhood level

Cities are home to more than half of the world's population – and the trend is rising. In the future, this growth must be managed in a resource-conserving and climate-friendly manner. Sustainable urban development contributes to achieving both the UN Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda (SDGs) and the global climate protection goals of the Paris Agreement. Cities CHALLENGE 2.0 tests innovative solutions for sustainable planning and building and contributes to the creation of climate-adapted, connected and liveable neighbourhoods.

### The Urban Living Labs

In the Cities CHALLENGE 2.0 ideas competition, four so-called “Urban Living Labs” qualified for funding in 2022/23. Here, diverse measures for inclusive, sustainable and equitable urban development are planned and implemented together with the local population. The needs of women and children are at the centre of the interventions. The experiences from the Urban Living Labs are incorporated into needs-based and effective policy-making.

### Small budget, big impact

Each Urban Living Lab receives funding of 100,000 euros. The funding is used to realise sustainable construction and upgrading measures as well as greening at neighbourhood level. They improve the quality of public spaces, the social infrastructure, the living conditions and the resilience of the residents. The integrated measures are accompanied by workshops with actors from different levels of government as well as the community, trainings on digital applications, local construction methods or nature-based solutions, and awareness-raising. The Urban Living Labs are primarily implemented by local cooperation partners and NGOs in coordination with the urban GIZ programmes.

### Strong international partnerships

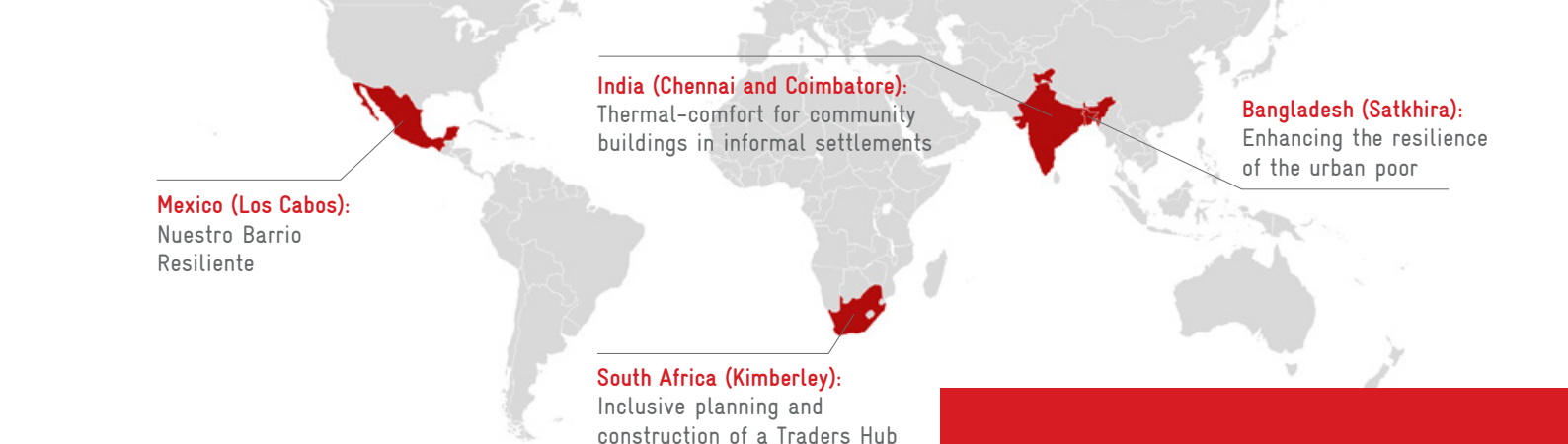
Two international institutions act as patrons and ambassadors of Cities CHALLENGE 2.0: UN-Habitat and the Cities Alliance. The results and implementation experiences of Cities CHALLENGE 2.0 thus also have an impact on international networks, partnerships and processes and are shared with a broad professional public through their communication channels. The aim is to increase the impact of the urban living labs with their place-based approach, to mobilise further donors and to encourage cities to implement participatory low-cost and demand-oriented measures at neighbourhood level.

### Inclusive planning and construction of a Traders Hub in Galeshewe, Kimberley, South Africa

Until now, traders have been selling their goods, mainly fruit and vegetables, under unsafe conditions at makeshift market stalls on the roadside. A small trading centre is now being built adjacent to Hulana Park in the Galeshewe district. Climate-friendly stalls made of local sustainable building materials are being erected for this purpose. To supply the market with fresh products, a vegetable garden is being set up on the grounds of the neighbouring Community Hall. Close cooperation with locally based partners and the community will ensure sustainable continuity and strengthen the local economy.

### Thermal-comfort for community buildings in informal settlements, Chennai and Coimbatore, India

Sustained indoor temperatures of well over 40 degrees make life difficult in the informal settlements in Chennai and Coimbatore. But there are simple solutions to reduce the heat by about seven to eight degrees. Inexpensive and easy-to-implement passive design solutions on the roofs, to be used as movable daytime radiation barrier and night-sky radiation enabler or water-filled discarded



**Mexico (Los Cabos):**  
Nuestro Barrio  
Resiliente

**India (Chennai and Coimbatore):**  
Thermal-comfort for community  
buildings in informal settlements

**Bangladesh (Satkhira):**  
Enhancing the resilience  
of the urban poor

**South Africa (Kimberley):**  
Inclusive planning and  
construction of a Traders Hub

plastic-bottles, are to be erected for this purpose in individual community buildings as examples. Workshops with residents of the surrounding buildings should serve to replicate the simple and locally developed solutions as often as possible. Women's cooperatives should be given the necessary access to low-interest loans and technical support material to implement these solutions in other houses as well.

### **Enhancing the resilience of the urban poor in Satkhira, Bangladesh**

Due to natural disasters and salinisation of farmland, more and more people are moving into informal settlements around the city of Satkhira. The aim of this Urban Living Lab is to improve the living conditions of migrants who have moved from the countryside to the city of Satkhira. For this purpose, different types of vegetable gardens are being created: On walls, on roofs and in back or inner courtyards. The vegetables will be grown for self-sufficiency, but also distributed through a local sales and exhibition centre. The Urban Living Lab will raise awareness of climate change by creating a "Green Public Space" in the central Razzak Park, for example, where possibilities for urban greening in private homes and public spaces will be demonstrated.

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### **"Our Resilient Neighbourhood", San José del Cabo, Los Cabos, Mexico**

The fast-growing city of Los Cabos suffers from water scarcity and the effects of strong recurring natural events like hurricanes. At Parque Hundido in San José del Cabo, mainly young people from the neighbourhood learn how to retain rainwater so that it can seep away better. They bring their knowledge to the families and schools. Reforestation measures with native plant species prevent erosion. The whole neighbourhood is planning and helping to redesign the park. On their initiative, a shaded pavilion is being built in the park as a new meeting place for community exchange. In cooperation with the local community and the municipality, a maintenance plan and a management structure for the park are being developed for sustainable preservation.

### **Transferability and scientific monitoring**

Sustainable urban development requires integrated approaches with synergies between sectors, actors and levels of government. Such multi-stakeholder partnerships help to transfer the concrete implementation in the Urban Living Labs to the city level or to other municipalities. To this end, cooperation with the Cities Climate Gap Fund and other partners is being sought. The second round of Cities CHALLENGE also gives practical impetus to the BMZ focus topic "Sustainable Construction in Urban Portfolios". The approach of the Urban Living Labs is also being scientifically accompanied by the Wuppertal Institute in order to further optimise the method of the ideas competition and the labs and to tap additional scaling potential.

