



## Urban and municipal development

### Advisory Service

#### The challenge

More than half of the world's population now lives in cities, and in 2050 the figure is expected to be two thirds. Urbanisation is rapidly increasing throughout the world – at a pace and to an extent that have never been seen before. Two in three children born in developing countries will now grow up in an urban environment. Most of these children live in precarious conditions in slums where there is no functioning infrastructure and where development opportunities are few and far between. At the same time, urban dwellers are often exposed to high levels of pollution as cities are responsible for 70 per cent of the world's carbon dioxide emissions. As a result, cities play a vital role in ensuring that the world achieves its climate change and environmental targets.

Such problems do create opportunities, though. Cities and municipalities are merging into metropolitan regions, especially in emerging and developing countries. These conurbations are able to exploit their potential, become engines of economic development and centres of innovation, and provide cost-effective social and infrastructure services.

Cities are, nevertheless, facing increasing demands at both local and global level. Such demands are reflected in the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), which state that by 2030 cities and municipalities should be made inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable. The New Urban Agenda to be agreed at the Habitat III conference in October 2016 will make recommendations on how to achieve these ambitious goals. Urbanisation is becoming a more rapid and more complex process in light of the global refugee situation as the responsibility for integrating refugees lies with municipalities.

#### Our approach

The GIZ approach addresses the various dimensions of municipal development, including urban development policy, business development, urban ecology, environmental and climate change policy, social issues and solutions to technological and planning problems. We enhance the ability of governments and administrations at all levels and of private sector and civil society actors to devise customised solutions to developing their cities and municipalities, and to give as many people as possible access to opportunities in life. We advise at local, regional and national levels, depending on how institutional responsibilities and networks in the partner country are organised.

We advise decision-makers at national and regional level on designing urban development policies and introducing support mechanisms. We help policy-makers at local level to devise municipal development strategies, formulate specific strategic objectives and execute these objectives with a view to achieving results. We advise municipal institutions and businesses on carrying out their functions in a way that is efficient and in touch with people's needs. At the same time we help the various actors to reconcile different interests. The aim is to realise shared goals.

#### Our services

Our range of services reflects the multi-sectoral nature of the tasks to be completed. Our activities cover various areas of municipal development, and are tailored to specific needs.

- » **Well-governed and in touch with the people:** city governments manage their cities based on the principles of integrated urban development, in a transparent way, and with the involvement of residents.



- » Resilient, low-emission und resource-efficient: resilient cities reduce the risk of disasters and create a liveable and sustainable urban environment.
- » **Productive and creative:** strengthening the city as a business hub, supporting the local private sector and developing historic city centres in an integrated way.
- » **Inclusive, social and safe:** addressing the causes of social, economic and political marginalisation, adopting a pro-poor approach to urban development and municipal level violence prevention activities.
- » **Cooperative and inter-municipal:** rural-urban linkages in metropolitan regions and spatial planning systems; supporting city networks and platforms for actors from politics, administration, business, academia and civil society.

We are supporting the cities and municipalities affected by the global refugee situation, particularly in their provision of municipal services and their integration activities.

### The benefits

For decades, GIZ has been advising partner countries on shaping and executing sustainable local development. Here, we draw on our experience of previous projects and on our breadth of expertise across different sectors. We bring together actors with diverse perspectives on integrated local development and mediate negotiation processes to bring about joint solutions. To this end, we involve intermediate and national levels of government. Our partners and clients also value our expertise in developing, applying and disseminating participatory methods, particularly in municipal decision-making. Our practical knowledge is complemented by the findings that emerge from international discussions with relevant experts, in which we play an active role.

### Practical example

Due to strong population growth and migration from the countryside to urban areas, Egypt's cities are expanding rapidly, although for the most part without any planning on the part of the government or municipalities. Around 60 per cent of the 20 million residents of Egypt's capital Cairo now live in informal settlements, and the provision of public services and urban infrastructure is severely lacking. The high population density and the consequences of climate change are having an increasingly negative impact on the living conditions of the poor. On behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), GIZ is advising the Egyptian Ministry of Housing, Utilities and Urban Communities on devising new participatory approaches to neighbourhood renewal.

A stable foundation for participatory renewal of informal settlements is being created by conducting training courses for staff in public administration and civil society organisations and by making use of participatory urban development instruments. Local authorities, non-governmental organisations and neighbourhood groups are carrying out small-scale participatory projects to renew selected urban districts with the support of a fund financed by the European Union. Innovative dialogue formats and exemplary small-scale measures are being used to increase the local administration's and residents' awareness of environmental issues and potential strategies for adapting to climate change. These include, for example, installing roof gardens, greening facades and putting shading in place. Such approaches are improving the living conditions of around two million people and encouraging participation, particularly of young people and women.

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