



Governance and Democracy

Urban and municipal development

The challenge

Urbanisation is proceeding at a rapid pace. For the first time ever, more than half of the world's population now live in towns and cities. Two of every three children born in developing countries today will grow up in an urban environment. Towns and villages are merging to form new metropolitan regions. Of the 26 megacities that are expected to exist by 2015, 22 will be in developing countries. The potentials for economic development and the cost-effective provision of basic infrastructure services on the one hand are more than offset by the problems of social inequality, urban poverty and environmental problems on the other. Urban development is a complex and dynamic process – and a challenge for local authorities, which must manage the process effectively and play their key role together with a wide spectrum of different stakeholders from the realms of politics, private sector and civil society.

Our approach

The GIZ approach tackles the various dimensions of urban development: from urban development policy and economic promotion to urban ecology, environmental and climate protection, and from social issues to technological and planning solutions. We foster the abilities of urban governments and authorities and of stakeholders in the private sector and civil society to identify appropriate solutions for the development of their towns and cities, and to give as many people as possible access to the opportunities offered by this urban environment. In line with the institutional linkages and responsibilities in the partner country, we deliver our advisory services at local, regional or national level.

We support policy-makers, for instance, helping them devise urban development strategies, identify concrete goals on the basis of these strategies, and put these into practice in a results-oriented way.

Urban institutions and local businesses are advised on how to operate economically and ensure citizen-friendliness. We also help reconcile the divergent interests of various stakeholders, with a view to realising development goals that have the support of all actors involved.

Our services

Our service package reflects the multi-sectoral nature of the tasks involved, and embraces all main fields of municipal and urban development in the context of urban governance, whereby the individual modules can be adapted and brought into line with specific needs on the ground:

- **Efficient urban development management:** Drawing up guidelines and strategies for urban development and putting these into practice for an entire town or city, or a metropolitan region, in conjunction with sound financial management
- **Environmentally and climate friendly cities:** Making a viable urban environment fit to live in, that makes good use of scarce resources, is energy efficient and ecologically sustainable
- **Citizen-oriented services, infrastructure and housing:** Ensuring access to public infrastructure, services and housing for citizen
- **Local economic and employment promotion:** Improving employment opportunities in competitive small and medium-sized enterprises, increasing local income in the process
- **A socially inclusive and safe city:** Reducing urban poverty with the help of integration measures, such as slum upgrading and measures to tackle urban violence



- **Cultural heritage and modern urban development:** Developing historical old towns for citizens with the help of careful renovation work and integrating this into modern urban development

The benefit

For decades GIZ has been advising partner countries on the design and implementation of sustainable urban development. We can draw on experience gained in projects to date and on the wide spectrum of multi-sectoral specialist expertise within the company. We bring together different viewpoints to generate integrated development for the city as a whole, and facilitate negotiation processes which lead to a shared solution. In this we also involve meso and macro levels of government. Our partners and clients much appreciate the expertise we have in the fields of devising, applying and disseminating participatory methods, particularly at municipal decision-making level. Our practical knowledge is then complemented by the outcomes of international specialist discussions on the topic in question, in which we are actively involved.

An example from the field

Nepal is having to ensure socially and economically acceptable living conditions in its rapidly expanding towns and cities. With the help of GIZ, operating on behalf of the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), the Nepalese Ministry of Physical Planning and Works has adopted a national urban development policy. This now represents a binding framework for the further development of Nepalese towns and cities.

Within the scope of participatory processes, new medium-term integrated development and investment plans are being elaborated in various towns and cities. Physical development planning (land use planning) is being extended to draw up an integrated action plan, which also takes into account local economic development and ecological sustainability.

Measures in specific districts have radically improved living conditions for tens of thousands of urban dwellers, for instance by improving the infrastructure (water supplies, drainage and community centres). This also includes the realisation of income-generating measures, the establishment of savings and loans associations and the strengthening of district organisations.

In 21 towns and cities throughout the country, these measures are forming the basis on which strategies are being devised for overall urban poverty reduction and for programmes to foster the social inclusion of previously marginalised sections of the population. To date more than 2,000 households or 12,000 individuals have benefited, all of whom belong to marginalised groups within Nepalese society (Dalit, Janajati). Steering and coordination of the activities in the individual districts are the responsibility of residents' committees, thus promoting ownership.

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