

Connective Cities' Conference on Sustainable and low-cost housing for Sub-Saharan Africa

Dialogue Event | 04 - 06 June 2024 | Windhoek, Namibia

Introduction:

The Connective Cities platform, along with its collaborators - Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the German Association of Cities (Deutscher Städtetag), and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), warmly invite city experts, practitioners, municipalities interested in development of sustainable and low cost housing projects from Sub-Saharan Africa and around the globe to participate in our forthcoming Connective Cities working group with its kick-off event from 04 to 06 June 2024 in Windhoek, Namibia.

This working group is focused on fostering the development of sustainable and low-cost housing projects, with a particular emphasis on the unique context and opportunities in Sub-Saharan Africa. As an integral part of the Connective Cities peer learning process, the working group will organize a series of online and live events and workshops which aim to nurture shared knowledge, catalyse innovation, and inspire progress towards sustainable building and housing.

The workshop will be a collaborative effort between the Namibian Ministry of Urban and Rural Development, the Senate Department for Urban Development, Building and Housing of Berlin (Germany) and Connective Cities.

In preparation for this dialogue, numerous consultative exchanges have been held, providing rich insights and diverse perspectives on the subject. Our working group will provide an immersive platform including consultation with:

- Private sector representatives which will present innovations in construction, such as the climate friendly 3D concrete printing process, prefabricated building modules and other.
- Cities from Germany and the EU as well as housing associations presenting their experiences in mixed models of social housing and private property investments.
- The GIZ construction department providing its expertise in the planning and implementation of construction measures in complex contexts worldwide.
- International and regional financing institutions such as the AfDB (African Development Bank) and EIB (European Investment Bank) supporting ideas with investment opportunities.
- and many other GIZ projects who support the forthcoming of the working group.

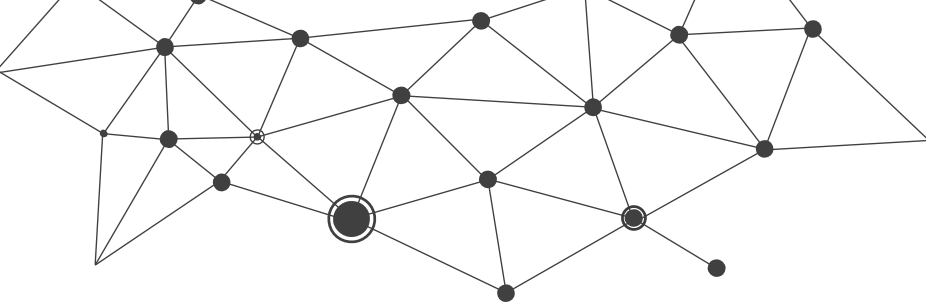
We are inviting you to participate in these enriching exchanges, aiming at identifying concrete potentials, forming clear strategies, and designing compelling funding proposals for low-cost housing projects in your city. Furthermore, participants will have the opportunity to engage in enriching conversations, gain new perspectives, and build networks that can empower their municipalities and communities towards a sustainable future.

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This working group represents an unparalleled opportunity for municipalities to position themselves at in innovative building of sustainable and low-cost housing projects, access resources and knowledge and to contribute actively to shaping a sustainable future for their communities. We look forward to your participation in this important working group and events and work together towards a sustainable, environmentally friendly, liveable cities leaving no one behind while also making an important contribution to the economic performance of the entire region.

Background:

In Africa, as well as globally, there is a high and increasing demand for affordable housing. Due to the rapidly growing population, millions of people live in unsafe, overcrowded, or unconnected housing conditions.

The African Development Bank estimates that Africa needs 3.3 million affordable homes each year to keep pace with population growth.

However, only a fraction of this number of new homes are built each year, resulting in a significant housing deficit. According to the World Bank, over 60% of urban dwellers in Africa live in informal settlements or slums that lack basic services such as clean water and sanitation. A better supply of affordable and sustainable housing has the potential to fundamentally improve living conditions for a broad section of the population, contribute to the decarbonization of cities and make an important contribution to the economic performance of the entire region.

However, the solution to the housing shortage is not just about creating more housing. It is also about building sustainable communities that offer residents a safe, healthy, and comfortable existence in the long term without jeopardizing the living conditions of future generations. The new settlements should be energy-efficient and environmentally friendly and include basic services such as healthcare, kindergartens, schools, and social infrastructure.

In the agile working group "Planning and Provision of Sustainable and Affordable Housing in the Sub-Saharan Africa Region", good experiences and the latest findings on the creation of sustainable and affordable housing between African, German, and international cities will be discussed. Furthermore, innovative solutions for the challenges of the participating cities are to be developed in an intensive peer learning and peer exchange.

Connective cities approach:

Cities around the world face similar urban challenges, and local solutions often have a global impact. Many innovative local solutions for sustainability are still relatively unknown. The International Urban Platform for Sustainable Development Connective Cities therefore facilitates the exchange of municipal expertise and brings together practitioners from Germany and around the world. It promotes peer learning, offers services such as workshops and training and encourages collaboration on joint projects.

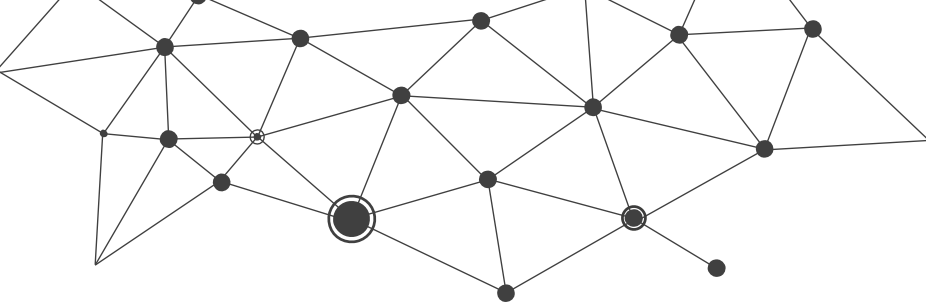
Connective Cities is a partnership between the Association of German Cities, the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) and Engagement Global, supported by the German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ).

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The digital Connective Cities platform

The digital platform for cities to share their experiences makes it possible to hold online workshops and training courses, evaluate them and make them available to the public. In addition, the solutions developed are published and relevant information material and links to other projects are provided. The platform hosts many working groups that work on various sustainability topics in urban development and exchange ideas after the workshops. These pre-defined topic clusters identify specific fields of action that are suitable for the exchange of learning and the planning of future projects. The platform is available globally to all participants from Africa, America, Europe, and Asia as well as their member cities. The stored and accumulated know-how in the field of urban development increasingly generates and mobilizes expertise from which new projects can benefit.

Challenges can be tackled together and inspiring ideas for new projects can be developed.

Involvement of international Financing institutions:

The international financial institutions, in cooperation with the governments of the most important donor countries, have found over time that the granting of loans and compliance with the thresholds and requirements by the borrowers does not always run smoothly. As a result, the funds cannot be drawn down, which in turn means that projects cannot be implemented, and the agreements of the Paris Agreement and the sustainability criteria cannot be met.

To counteract this problem, both donor countries and financial institutions have decided to provide additional funds for technical assistance to help project ideas prepare for financing. Well-known institutions such as the European Investment Bank (EIB), the World Bank with the Cities Finance Gap Fund, the African Development Bank (AfDB) with SEFA and the Urban Development Fund as well as many others are involved.

These institutions are specifically invited to this working group and workshops to support the preparation of project ideas at a very early stage and prepare them for support through Project Preparation Facilities (PPF). This is to ensure that the projects are offered the necessary funding and can therefore be successfully implemented. This in turn contributes to the agreements made as the Paris Agreement and the sustainability criteria.

Aim of the working group (WG)

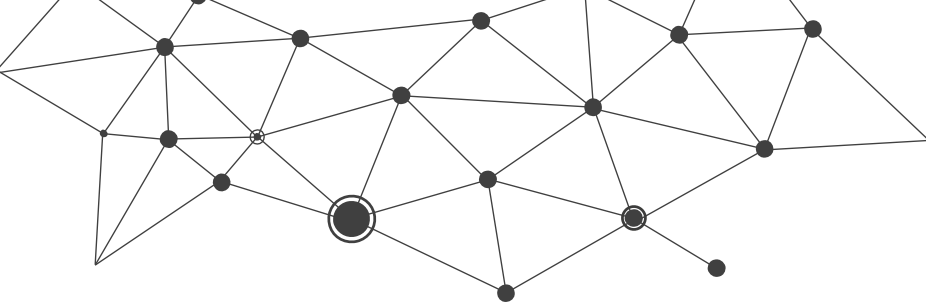
The aim of the working group is to support the participating cities from SSA, in developing solutions to challenges in the field of sustainable and affordable housing as part of a structured peer learning process and to build up their competencies in this area. At the same time, the participating cities are to be embedded synergistically in the CC regional network and benefit fully from all networking opportunities and approaches. Furthermore, the solutions developed will be passed on to other cities in the region via workshops, websites and social media, and knowledge and good solutions will be multiplied.

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The following topics will be discussed within the working group:

- innovative construction methods targeting rapid building technology and affordable housing
- mixed social housing models and property market strategy
- involving international and regional financial institutions to secure potential financing.
- In addition, we want to use construction methods that are more environmentally sustainable and thus contribute to meeting climate targets.

The working group and workshops will serve to prepare the projects for possible financing and implementation.

Method applied:

The planned approach includes the implementation of a working group of cities and their municipal employees aimed at the development of planning and construction projects. Participants are cities and municipalities in the SSA region who, in cooperation with German, European and other international cities, are planning their projects on the topic: "Planning sustainable and social construction projects and financing housing construction projects". The working group is carried out within the framework of the Connective Cities "Agile Formats" toolkit and is adapted according to needs and objectives.

It follows a structured process of peer learning and peer co-creation, which is combined with elements of design thinking and experimental and participatory methods.

Participation and Contact

Prospective participants would be invited to register and provide, if possible, a short outline on their challenges and/or good practices and eventually also plans or planned projects in the field of sustainable and low-cost housing, they would like to work on.

We encourage the participation of **up to two experts** from relevant municipal departments responsible for low-cost housing matters. The deadline for application is **15 April 2024**.

Please note, that costs will only be covered for accommodation and catering. Flights must be paid by the municipalities.

Please send your applications including the following expression of interest and queries to:

- Jelena Karamatijevic Jelena.karamatijevic@giz.de
- Moses Munuve moses.munuve@giz.de,
- Helen Kramer helen.kramer@giz.de