Call for Participants

Connective Cities Dialogue Event for the Sub Saharan Africa Region

Improving efficiency and effectiveness in the areas of water supply, wastewater management and urban mobility

"Redefining service provision in unprecedented times"

Date: Intermittent sessions between the 7th and 18th September, 2020

The international cities platform, Connective Cities and its initiators, the Deutsche Gesellschaft fuer Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ) GmbH, the German Association of Cities (DST) and Engagement Global gGmbH with its Service Agency Communities in One World (SKEW), invite urban practitioners from Sub-Sahara Africa and Germany to take part in the Connective Cities virtual series on "Improving efficiency and effectiveness in the areas of water supply, wastewater management and urban mobility".

Background information on municipal service delivery in Sub- Saharan Africa

Urban growth rates have been much faster in some regions than others. The highest growth rate between 1995 and 2015 was clearly in the least developed parts of the world with Africa being the most rapidly urbanizing continent[1]. In Sub-Saharan Africa, the share of population living in urban areas has continuously grown over the last decades and has reached almost 40% in 2017 (World Bank). The urban population of the region is expected to increase fourfold, to 1.3 billion, by 2050 (United Nations, 2014). The growth rates in African cities signal a major challenge in their resource base, to build and sustain adequate infrastructure and public services for their growing populations.

The challenge of providing adequate basic services and infrastructure in African cities is central to the economic performance of cities, and their ability to provide a minimum quality of life to their citizens. The major services which cities provide include transport networks, water and sanitation connections, electricity, health, education, and a whole host of other ancillary services such as street cleaning, and the maintenance of public spaces among others.

A global survey carried out by UCLG in 2014[2] on potable water supply, sanitation, solid waste management, urban transportation and energy indicated that as countries have improved their economic levels, they have tended to improve the proportion of their urban population able to access basic services. However, this trend has been uneven regionally, with Sub-Saharan Africa and Southern Asia falling behind in urban water provision. The situation however, varies from country to country and from cities within a country. The survey confirmed that first, the provision of services does not meet the demand especially in poor countries. Secondly, there is an increasing trend of number of attempts to find innovative ways of dealing with the infrastructure challenge. It highlights that public management remains the dominant approach to basic service delivery in most countries; and the role of local governments has been reinforced since the 1990s by decentralization initiatives but even though cities may have the legal authority to undertake, and manage large water schemes and large sewerage or electricity supply schemes, they do not have the human resources, let alone the large-scale capital and technical capabilities to keep up with rapid demand.

[1] World Cities Report, 2016 (Urbanization & Development: Emerging Futures); UN-Habitat
[2] UCLG (United Cities and local governments) (2014) Basic Services for all in an Urbanizing World: Third Global Report on Local Democracy and Decentralization, Routledge, New York

Concerning water and sanitation, UN-Water (2019)[3] reports that only 24% of Sub-Saharan Africa's population have access to safe drinking water, and 28% only have basic sanitation facilities that are not shared with other households. Significant discrepancies in access exist between and even within countries. A lack of safe, accessible water and sanitation poses serious repercussions on the living conditions of the affected population.

An article[4] highlights that the current practices of water and wastewater management in Africa are insufficient to ensure safe water and basic sanitation. It proposes that joint efforts are needed, including transforming to green economy, innovative technologies, improving operation and maintenance, harvesting energy, improving governance and management, promoting public participation, and establishing water quality standards.

Urban mobility in Sub Saharan Africa

Increasing economic growth has also led to accelerated motorization due to the current inadequate services. Congestion is already hampering the movement of people and goods in many cities and economic zones and causes both environmental, public health, and economic concerns which are challenges for transport. Crippling congestion in urban areas is aggravated by inadequate policy frameworks and a weak capacity to address the environmental, social, and safety risks of fast-growing motorization. Lack of coordinated planning of land-use and transport leads to inefficient cities, congestion, and unsatisfied transport demand, in particular for the poorer segment of the population.

Investments for the development of urban mobility are rather limited, while cities need such a financial support to deal with an uncontrolled growth and urban transport development challenges that are rarely prioritised in the development strategies. Most African countries report deaths as a result of road accidents that could be reduced by simply offering safe systems for all users especially the pedestrians. There are countries that have made strides in this sector from which others can learn. Examples of initiatives include the Bus Rapid Transit system in Addis Ababa (Ethiopia), the Smart Kigali initiative that is a combination of projects from Non-Motorized Transport (NMT) systems, observation of car-free days in Kigali and regulated city bus systems. Dar es Salaam (Tanzania) has also opened the first BRT in East Africa.

Thematic focus of the virtual series

The subject of improving efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery will be addressed through three specific topics:

1. **Water supply**; approaches and technologies being applied to increase access to safe drinking water without leaving anyone behind. Highlight of challenges that cities face in effort to improve access including but not limited to inadequate financial and technical resources, non-revenue water, increasing demand among others.
2. **Wastewater management**; systems and/ technologies being used to manage wastewater. How are cities dealing with municipal wastewater? Which systems would work in the different settings in the urban areas (sanitation chain)? What challenges do cities face in ensuring that wastewater is effectively treated?
3. **Urban mobility**; management systems and modes used to ensure accessibility whilst reducing congestion, pollution and greenhouse emissions.

[3] UN-Water (2019) -The United Nations World Water Development Report. 2019

[4] Water and Wastewater Treatment in Africa- Current Practices and Challenges. Hongtao Wang.,Isaiah Bosire Omosa., Thomas Chiramba et al. 2013.

Integration of climate change and gender aspects in the design and implementation of projects is becoming a fundamental component that Connective Cities is also advocating for. The Covid-19 pandemic also calls for redefining how cities design their projects to safeguard against the negative impacts and also to remain resilient in the face of a pandemic in future.

Objectives and methodological steps

The approach of promoting peer-to-peer learning and inter-municipal exchange of knowledge contributes to strengthening the capacity of municipalities to provide sustainable public services and reflects the conclusions of the New Urban Agenda resulting from the United Nations Habitat III Conference. Furthermore, exchange and learning support the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), in particular Goal 11 on Sustainable Cities and Communities by addressing critical challenges in the provision of access to safe, affordable, accessible and sustainable urban basic services.

The virtual series will promote the **exchange of innovative and practical approaches and technologies for improved public service delivery.**

Specifically, the objectives of the virtual sessions are to:

1. Facilitate exchange of experiences based on **good practices** of public service delivery among urban practitioners from municipalities in Sub-Saharan Africa and Germany,
2. Facilitate **peer-to-peer advisory services** to address the current challenges of public service delivery in the cities of the participants and create new knowledge,
3. Develop the capacity of the participants to analyse existing strategies and to **formulate project ideas** and envisaged solutions for efficient and effective public service delivery, and
4. Define future support measures to **strengthen project development** and implementation skills as well as ongoing exchange through the community of practice, Connective Cities.

Connective Cities' learning process

In the wake of the corona pandemic, Connective Cities has resolved to use the virtual platform to implement part of the earlier proposed workshop as aforementioned in the objectives above. Subsequent steps will be informed by the pandemic situation globally and in the region. That said however, note that following the virtual series:

1. Selected project ideas developed through the virtual series will have the chance to be further supported by Connective Cities through a follow-up activity such as an expert mission or a local project workshop, webinar or study tour and through advice on options for project financing.
2. The final goal of a Connective Cities learning process is to support a municipality with peer-advice towards external or third-party financing allowing the implementation of a fully-fledged project proposal resulting from this learning experience.

The methodological process for the virtual series will be communicated to the participants.

Participation and contact

Prospective participants are expected to share a good practice example from a project they have implemented or are implementing and that fits in the thematic focus of the event. If you wish to participate and actively contribute to the series, we invite you to apply. To do so, please send us an email with your function and organisation as well as with a short description (including the mainstreaming of gender and climate change aspects) of the project you would like to showcase. We encourage participation by at least **two experts** from the relevant departments with a possibility of being accompanied by a partner from the civil society, private sector or academia. The deadline for application is **17th August, 2020.**

To facilitate an almost seamless participation, the participants will require:

- A reliable internet connection
- A computer with the latest version of Chrome or Firefox
- A head-set (recommended)

If you have any questions concerning the virtual series and the participation process, please contact:
For international applicants: **Sophia Kamau**, Connective Cities Regional Network Coordinator- Sub Saharan Africa; Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ) (**sophia.kamau@giz.de**)

For German interested experts: **Alice Balbo**, Connective Cities Project Manager, responsible for the cooperation with the German Association of Cities (**Alice.Balbo@staedtetag.de**)

Connective Cities at a glance

The international exchange platform Connective Cities has been bringing together international urban practitioners from city administrations, civil society, academia and the private sector since 2013. Connective Cities is a cooperation project of the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit (GIZ), the German Association of Cities and Engagement Global with its Service Agency Communities in One World.

For more information on past and upcoming activities please visit: www.connective-cities.net

Factsheet: All information at a glance

Date and place	Online series of synchronous and asynchronous sessions of approximately 2 hrs. Activities spread as per the themes: - Opening webinar for all: **7th** Sep, 2020. - Key note speeches webinar for all: **8th** Sep, 2020. - Water supply & wastewater management: webinar sessions on the **9th**, **14th** & **16th** Sep, 2020. - Urban mobility: webinar sessions on the **10th**, **15th** & **17th** Sep, 2020. - Closing webinar session for all: **18th** Sep, 2020.
Criteria for participation	- Practical perspective and first-hand experience in municipal strategies and projects in water supply, wastewater management and urban mobility - Presentation of a local good practice example - Willingness to engage in an exchange about current needs and challenges in this thematic area
Thematic focus	The event will focus on the following aspects: - Technologies and approaches to increase access to water - Wastewater management technologies and/ systems - Climate smart urban mobility
Expertise	The event will bring together (virtually) urban practitioners from Sub Saharan Africa and Germany to share their knowledge, experiences, challenges and practical solutions for effective and efficient service delivery in the areas of water, wastewater management and transport.

Objectives	Initiate a practice-oriented exchange between German and international practitioners active in provision of urban basic services – water, wastewater management, and transport; Launch collective knowledge process; Foster the development of joint project ideas.
Language	English.
Contact	Ms. Sophia Kamau (Sophia.kamau@giz.de) for international participants. Ms. Alice Balbo (Alice.Balbo@staedtetag.de) for German participants.