



# Urbanisation

## What Enabel does

The world is facing huge challenges in realising the Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Enabel wants to contribute with its experience and expertise in five specific domains: Peace and Security, Climate Change and the Environment, Social and Economic Inequality, Urbanisation, and Human Mobility. In our search for adapted solutions we take into account the inevitable ongoing population explosion and we strongly believe in empowering women and youths.

This brochure describes how we address urbanisation in our projects.

# The world is increasingly urban

The world is becoming more and more urban. By 2050, 70% of the world population will live in cities.

This global trend concerns both the rise of megacities and the spread of small and medium-sized cities. 75% of the world population is living in urban settlements of fewer than 500.000 people. Cities are also growing younger, with an estimated 60% of urban populations under the age of 18 by 2030.

Africa faces the huge challenge to improve the management of its cities, and specifically secondary cities. Most of them are struggling with deficient infrastructure and planning, precarious housing conditions, limited capacities of the public and private sector, insecurity... They face disrupted labour markets, with high youth unemployment in fragile and mostly informal economies.

The 2030 Agenda reaffirms the essential role of cities in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. The world needs to make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable (SDG 11). Cities and their hinterland are thus places where the main global trends come together, and these can only be addressed in

a multidimensional and integrated way. The Covid-19 pandemic (re)emphasises the need for a coherent management of the emergency in urban settings as well as for sustainable and resilient strategies of urban development worldwide.



## Enabel's expertise

- Our expertise covers different fields of urban development and management, including: urban planning, urban governance, territorial development, waste management and sanitation, digitisation and smart cities, urban safety, public-private partnerships, entrepreneurship, urban food systems, domestic resources mobilisation, human mobility, gender equality and inclusion.
- Enabel can easily mobilise Belgian expertise thanks to framework agreements and partnerships with national and regional institutions, including the Ministries of Finance and of Justice, the federal police, inter-municipal services in water and waste management (Société Wallonne des Eaux, Intradel), the associations of cities and municipalities (VVSG, Brulocalis, UVCW), as well as universities, the Flemish Institute for Technological Research (VITO), regional services to entrepreneurship development (Hub Brussels, "Women in tech" platform), the Institute of Tropical Medicine in Antwerp, etc.
- Our experts network include international organisations, such as the Cities Alliance, UN Habitat, UNCDF, UCLG, Food for Cities (FAO), GGGI, i City.
- Private consultants can be mobilised rapidly through a set of framework contracts and agreements.
- Enabel is an active member of different knowledge and research networks such as the Practitioners' Network, the DeloG group on Decentralisation and Local Governance, Learn4Dev, the European Experts Group, Be-cause Health, ARGO/CCGD.

# Towards inclusive and sustainable cities

Enabel's efforts are geared towards developing inclusive and sustainable cities. These are cities that are capable of offering a safe and affordable living environment for all and where citizens participate in the development of their city. Enabel focuses its support on secondary cities, promoting an integrated and territorial approach. Every city interacts closely with the hinterland, as a hub for innovation, as a place where jobs and new markets can be found. But cities are also a potential source of competition for assets, and they may be the cause of dwindling biodiversity and growing inequalities.

Taking into account that interaction is paramount to develop a consistent and balanced approach.

In a so-called 'whole-of-city-approach', we promote partnerships between local governments, businesses, civil society, academic networks and citizens. Particularly for secondary cities, which are often part of a network of cities, it is also important to reach out beyond the local context and to facilitate access to national and international knowledge networks and financial opportunities.

Enabel helps cities to leave no one behind, enhancing equitable access to public services and economic opportunities, especially of vulnerable and disadvantaged groups.

## Access to quality public services for all

Enabel supports cities to upgrade and maintain urban infrastructure for quality services (access to water and sanitation, roads, energy), including in informal settlements. Local communities, and specifically the youth, are encouraged to participate in particular through the promotion of local construction jobs and work-based learning opportunities.

Waste management and sanitation are major concerns as they have direct consequences on public health, on economic and social activities. An integrated and circular economy approach is encouraged linking waste treatment and reprocessing, resilient and sustainable food systems and green jobs promotion.

Cities are also supported for planning and delivering public health for all and addressing urban diseases and challenges, such as mental diseases and drug abuse.

## Integrated and participatory city planning and management

Enabel supports cities in co-creating policies and tools for appropriate city planning and management. Urban authorities and civil organisations are encouraged to collaborate closely and to promote women's leadership and participation in joint efforts to improve city life.

The potential for using new technologies is harnessed through the effective use and integration of (big) data, civic technology and citizen-centred e-services (including civil registration). Digitisation is leveraged to improve

planning and access to services, and to boost innovative entrepreneurship. The idea is to make cities and citizens 'smart' by making the best possible use of technology, data and tools.



## Business opportunities and jobs for youths and women

Enabling young people and women to develop their talents and skills and promoting entrepreneurship will boost the urban economy. Taking into account ever-changing market needs, harnessing the potential of the urban economy (circular economy, business, handicraft, construction, digital economy) and tapping into the opportunities offered by the digital economy are key to foster innovative urban eco-systems. Technological professions and digitisation must be at the service of women's empowerment.

## Safe and cohesive cities

Enabel contributes in shaping cities' ability to offer inclusive and safe environments to their citizens. Specific attention is devoted to young people, women and vulnerable groups. Urban violence and gender-based violence in particular is addressed in a comprehensive manner through enhancing access to sexual and reproductive health and rights, to gender-responsive infrastructure, and working closely with schools, the police and the judicial authorities.

Finally, Enabel promotes culture as a crucial element to recreate social and economic interaction in public spaces through an urban regeneration approach, as well as to address urban violence and increase meaningful participation in city life.

# Global experience



## Waste management in Conakry and Kindia (Guinea)

Funding: European Union

Every single day, an average of 1,200 tons of waste is produced in Guinea's capital Conakry (3 million inhabitants) and 80 tons in the regional city of Kindia (200,000 inhabitants). Door to door waste collection is poor, most of the waste being dropped illegally in uncontrolled landfills, drainage networks and out in the open. This action (2018-2022) supports the public authorities in designing urban waste master plans in both cities. It focuses on improving the collection of household waste, bring it to arranged collection points where it can partly be recycled, support cities in engaging with the private sector, sell recyclables and dispose of the rest in allocated places. Other key activities aim at raising citizens' awareness and changing their behaviour.



## Urban regeneration and territorial development in Palestine

Funding: Belgium

Numerous Palestinian urban and rural areas featuring historic and cultural value are deteriorating and abandoned. Also social and territorial linkages are threatened by a multifaceted fragmentation of the Palestinian territory. Enabel supported the Ministry of Local Government and the local authorities in the regeneration of historic centres in twelve Palestinian municipalities (2014-2019). Using an integrated approach it aimed at revitalising historic sites by linking cultural heritage to local social and economic dynamics. Local governments were supported to join efforts in regeneration projects, to enhance urban planning and facilitate place-making for transforming public spaces. Reviving community life and reconnecting people also contributed to revalorise the cultural heritage in the Palestinian identity.



## Urban entrepreneurship on the Conakry-Kindia-Mamou axis (Guinea)

Funding: Belgium

In Guinea more than half of the employed population contributes less than a fifth to the creation of national wealth. The economy is dominated by the informal sector which deprives many workers from decent job opportunities. As part of a wider entrepreneurship programme, this project (2019-2024) aims at supporting existing SMEs in three urban poles according to both their potential for business and to generate inclusive, stable and sustainable jobs. The identified sectors are: hospitality and tourism industry, sustainable cities and digital economy. The programme also aims at improving the urban entrepreneurship ecosystem and promotes an enabling environment for urban SME development.



## Adolescent health in urban setting in DR Congo

Funding: Belgium

With support from Enabel (2015-2020), the Alwaleed Health Centre in Kisangani is developing a One-Stop-Centre model for integrated support to sexual violence survivors. Action-research allowed the programme to identify categories of sexual violence that each have their specific needs of medico-legal aid, psychosocial support, and socio-economic reintegration. As a result of a multi-sectoral approach combined with a strongly embedded community-based approach, the number of cases taken up by the centre increased from 28 per month (2016) to 56 per month (2019). The large majority of the centre attendants are adolescent girls from 10 to 18 years old. In a second phase sexual and reproductive health services will be expanded to respond to the particular challenges that each adolescent age group is facing in an urban setting.



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