



## Call for Participants

### Connective Cities Dialogue Event for the Sub Saharan Africa Region

#### Improving efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of water, sanitation and urban mobility services

**Date: 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 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-Saharan Africa and Germany to take part in the Connective Cities dialogue event “Improving efficiency and effectiveness in the provision of water, sanitation and urban mobility services” in Nairobi, Kenya from 12<sup>th</sup> to 14<sup>th</sup> May, 2020.

#### Background information on public 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<sup>1</sup>. 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<sup>2</sup> 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.

<sup>1</sup> World Cities Report, 2016 (Urbanization & Development: Emerging Futures); UN-Habitat

<sup>2</sup> 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)<sup>3</sup> 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.

### Urban mobility in Sub Saharan Africa

Increasing economic growth has also led to accelerated motorization due to the current low motorization rate. Congestion is already hampering the movement of people and goods in many cities and economic zones and causes both environmental, 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. There are countries that have made strides in this sector from which others can learn.

### Thematic focus of the dialogue event

In order to achieve the objective of the event in Nairobi, the subject of improving efficiency and effectiveness in service delivery will be addressed through three specific topics:

1. Water service provision; approaches and technologies being applied to increase access to safe drinking water without leaving anyone behind.
2. Sanitation; approaches and technologies applied to increase access to sanitation and management of sewer and faecal sludge in cities.
3. Urban mobility; management systems and modes used to ensure accessibility whilst reducing congestion, pollution and greenhouse emissions.

### 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 workshop aims to promote the **exchange of innovative and practical approaches and technologies for improved public service (water, sanitation and urban mobility) delivery.**

Specifically, the objectives of the dialogue event are to:

- Facilitate exchange of experiences based on good practices of public service delivery among urban practitioners from municipalities in Sub-Saharan Africa and from Germany;

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<sup>3</sup> UN-Water (2019) -The United Nations World Water Development Report. 2019

- Facilitate peer-to-peer advisory services in a creative workshop environment, addressing the current challenges of public service delivery in the cities of the participants;
- 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.
- Define future support measures to strengthen project development and implementation skills as well as ongoing exchange through the community of practice, Connective Cities.

Based on the exchange of existing good practices, ideas for urban projects will be developed in a systematic manner. During the workshop, peer-to-peer advisory sessions will help to address challenges and to jointly create new knowledge. Participants from Sub-Saharan Africa will also be supported in developing their local action plans for the improvement of public service delivery.

The work process involves the following steps:

1. Thematically focused input and good practice examples of approaches and technologies that facilitate efficient and effective public service delivery.
2. During peer-to-peer consultations, colleagues will diagnose, discuss and advise to help define potential strategies and lessons learnt. The peer-to-peer consultation is based on short inputs by participants on current concrete challenges of urban public service delivery in their municipalities.
3. Action planning, focusing on specific conditions, challenges and future project ideas of public service delivery in Sub-Saharan African cities.
4. Selected project ideas developed as part of this event 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.
5. 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 resulting from this learning experience.

## Participation and contact

If you wish to participate and actively contribute to the dialogue event with a project you are planning or implementing that fits in the thematic focus of event, we warmly invite you to apply for a participant spot at the event. To do so, please send us an email with your function and organisation as well as with a short description of the project you would like to showcase. We welcome the participation of municipal delegations of a maximum of two experts working in the relevant departments to present their project cooperation. The deadline for application is **23<sup>rd</sup> March 2020**.

### If you have any questions concerning the event 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)

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## 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](http://www.connective-cities.net)

## Factsheet: All information at a glance

Date and place	12 <sup>th</sup> to 14 <sup>th</sup> May, 2020 in Nairobi, Kenya
Duration	2.5 days including site visit(s)
Criteria for participation	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Practical perspective and first-hand experience in municipal strategies and projects in water, sanitation and urban mobility</li> <li>- Presentation of a local good practice example</li> <li>- Willingness to engage in an exchange about current needs and challenges in this thematic area</li> </ul>
Thematic focus	<p>The event will focus on the following aspects:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Technologies and approaches to increase access to water and sanitation &amp;</li> <li>- Climate smart urban mobility</li> </ul>
Expertise	The event will bring together urban practitioners from Sub Saharan Africa and Germany to share their knowledge, experiences, challenges and practical solutions to effective and efficient service delivery in the areas of water, sanitation and transport.
Objectives	Initiate a practice-oriented exchange between German and international practitioners active in provision of urban basic services – water, sanitation, and transport; Launch collective knowledge process; Foster the development of joint project ideas.
Cost sharing	All event related costs including meeting package as well as accommodation costs (for the duration of the event, max. 4 nights) will be covered by Connective Cities for urban practitioners from Sub-Saharan African cities. By way of cost sharing, travel costs shall be borne by the cities sending practitioners to the dialogue event. Additional funding from other development cooperation projects can also be considered for travel related costs.
Language	English and translation in French if necessary.

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