

Innovative Responses to Climate Change in Urban Service Delivery

Background:

As the major sources for energy demand and carbon emission, the potential of cities and urban areas to mitigate climate change has often been underlined. At the same time urban areas are vulnerable to impacts of a changing climate due to their high economic activity, exposed infrastructure and a high population density including a large proportion of poor and vulnerable citizens. Complementing mitigation efforts with adaptation activities and using synergies is essential to increase resilience in urban areas.

In many cases, the cities, utilities and local government authorities are already today struggling to fulfill their main task of delivering basic services (energy, water, sewerage, transport etc.) to their citizens. Challenges impeding delivery are rural-urban migration, population growth, unplanned settlements, out-dated and/or inadequate infrastructure as well as missing or insufficient management concepts.

Changing precipitation patterns (too much or too little) will aggravate this situation. Most cities are located in coastal areas or close to rivers endangered by flood events. Extreme precipitation, storms and heat waves (heat island effect) may impact on the physical and social infrastructure and render service delivery futile, leading to an increased possibility of environmental contamination and health risks.

For example, in the water sector a changing climate will aggravate the situation of missing or inadequate infrastructure, missing human and financial capacity further reducing quantity and quality of water supply. Drinking water sources need to be safeguarded, while new storage mechanisms are employed. Reduced velocity will diminish water quality, while infrastructure is operating below its designated capacity. Extreme events will damage infrastructure while saline intrusion entails higher cost for drinking water production. Most affected by this lack of supply are the poor and vulnerable, who do not have the means to turn to alternative service channels.

At the same time the climate projections are unclear on degree and direction of change in the different regions. Besides new technology approaches, urban planners and local government authorities need to incorporate this level of uncertainty in their planning processes and adapt feasible governance and management approaches to ensure sustainable urban service delivery.

Objective:

This event wants to bring together practical experiences of adaptation measures in urban areas in service delivery from diverse contexts and to identify good practices. Participants will be invited to identify innovative management concepts and approaches to enhance service delivery for all while also enhancing resilience to a changing climate.

Key questions:

Which innovative governance approaches are needed to deliver sustainable urban services for all in uncertain times?

- What changes are needed in urban governance to deliver urban services in times of a changing climate?
- What measures can cities undertake in urban service delivery to reduce vulnerability of the urban poor to climate change, while enhancing service delivery?
- What kind of support does the local level need from the national level (in terms of financing instruments, inclusion into global negotiation processes, etc) to keep up the momentum in urban climate adaptation?

With city and regional governments increasingly initiating action on climate change they play a key role in designing and delivering cost-effective adaptation policies. This event wants to bring together practical experiences of adaptation measures in urban areas in service delivery from diverse contexts and identify best practices. Participants will look beyond the “business as usual approach” and identify innovative ways to supply services for all and develop management concepts enhancing resilience in a changing environment.

Agenda

- 18:00 – 18:10 **“Welcome by BMZ”** by Mr. Fass-Metz (BMZ)
- 18:10 – 18:20 **Opening Statement** by Mr. von Ritter
- 18:20 – 19:10 **Input statements by panellists** (5-10 minutes each; Moderation: Mr. von Ritter)

Panel List:

- Bo Asmus Kjeldgaard, Mayor Technical and Environmental Administration of the **City of Copenhagen (ICLEI)**
- Khalifa Sall, Vice President of **UCLG, Mayor of Dakar**
- Ronan Dantec, leader of UCLG Climate Negotiation group, **Deputy Mayor of Nantes**
- Alex Simalabwi, Senior Network Officer & Climate Change Focal Point, **Global Water Partnership**
- Daniel Bongardt, **GTZ Transport**

- 19:10 – 19:50 **Panel Discussion with audience** (Moderation by Mr. von Ritter)
- 19:50 – 20:00 **Wrap-up** by Mr. von Ritter

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