



## Expertise France and sustainable, inclusive cities



**10**

countries covered, including expanding cities presenting considerable issues in terms of sustainable urbanisation

**€59 M**  
business volume

55% of the world's population currently lives in urban areas, with this figure expected to reach 80% by 2050, while in 2030, a further 29 cities will have reached 5 million inhabitants, including 15 in Asia and 10 in Africa. Furthermore, almost 70% of infrastructure will be built in the coming years in southern countries.

This rapid urbanisation requires existing infrastructure and networks to be redesigned to meet the increasing needs of the population, improve the provision of urban services (drinking water, sanitation, waste management, etc.), and increase the available affordable housing.

Through its activity, Expertise France is accompanying southern cities in meeting the challenges arising from this urbanisation.

# Sustainable and inclusive cities

Against a backdrop of climate change, demographic growth and increasing social disparity, cities are finding themselves at the heart of 21st century challenges. More than half of the world's population is concentrated in cities, generating a large proportion of greenhouse gas emissions<sup>1</sup>. Faced with these issues, the concept of a sustainable and inclusive city emerges as a solution to build environmentally-friendly urban environments, equitable for all citizens.

## CITIES: A PROBLEM?

**I**n recent years, cities have increasingly become a source of challenges and opportunities. When millions of people converge towards urban centres, this rapid growth can soon put existing infrastructure under pressure. The cost of housing, saturation of transport systems and the adaptation of public services are all problems encountered when a city expands. If left unchecked, urbanisation can lead to overpopulated, often marginalised suburbs, where poverty and social inequality are a breeding ground for tension.

As economic drivers, cities also accumulate much of the wealth, often to the detriment of a large part of the population, excluded from this prosperity. The social divide is accentuated by the inequality of access to urban services.

At the same time, cities are at the forefront of global environmental challenges. Climate change is a direct threat to their durability: rising sea levels affect coastal cities, heatwaves have consequences for public health, and flooding damages infrastructure.

Urban mobility, meanwhile, is becoming a daily challenge. The dependence on cars in urban environments contributes to air pollution, with direct impacts on public health. Public transport must meet the increasing demands of a growing population.

## WHAT ARE THE CHALLENGES, AND WHAT ARE THE SOLUTIONS?

Cities must therefore not only adapt to the new climate situation, they must also become models of resilience, investing in green infrastructure and improving management of their resources, in particular water, energy and waste.

Likewise, faced with these challenges, urban governance must also evolve. Cities lie at the intersection between local, national and international authorities, making the coordination of public policies complex.

Through its action, Expertise France, in line with the strategy of the AFD Group on the subject, aims to respond to these challenges by encouraging investment for resilient urban infrastructure and supporting urban governance sensitive to the challenges facing the cities of today.

<sup>1</sup> "Cities currently consume almost two-thirds of global energy, and produce more than 70% of global greenhouse gas emissions" - Urban development (worldbank.org), March 2023

# A service offer meeting 4 objectives



## ***Build capacity***

Strengthen the capacity of local authorities in their structuring to allow them to meet the challenges of a sustainable city. This support takes the form of training activities, the creation of knowledge management platforms, or peer exchanges. It also involves promoting economic models of urban services by supporting the responsible authorities in the mobilisation of financial resources. Our action also encourages the collection and analysis of urban data, through the creation of a data observatory, allowing national or local authorities to produce urban policies and strategies.



## ***Promote more sustainable and inclusive cities***

Promote more sustainable and inclusive cities by supporting strategic planning taking into account issues of inclusivity, climate and preservation of biodiversity. In particular, this involves encouraging citizen participation in city design, through public consultation, community initiatives or the use of digital platforms, but also developing gender-sensitive and environmentally-friendly infrastructure, with materials compatible with the environment in which they are used.



## ***Encourage responsible urban planning***

Sustainable cities are focused on intelligent urban planning, with multi-functional districts containing homes, shops, work and leisure. This helps to reduce travel requirements, limit urban sprawl and preserve green spaces. To do this, this planning must be conceived and set out in reference urbanisation documents over which the city's authorities can exercise urbanisation control.



## ***Develop access and the quality of urban services***

Develop access and quality of urban services as an essential condition for a city to be sustainable and inclusive. To achieve this, Expertise France supports local managers in producing efficient economic models of urban services, and supports them in producing planning tools used to prioritise the investments required to benefit the citizens of the cities concerned.



# Support sensible growth of cities to ensure their sustainability in the coming years

## HAITI

### URBAYITI

EU – €15.43 M - 2017-2026

The Urbayiti programme - Urban governance and resilient cities, is a Haitian state programme, funded by the European Union, aimed at strengthening the governance of the urban sector, at national and local level, as well as the resilience of cities and urban populations by improving access to basic services, reducing economic and social vulnerability, and mitigating natural risks.

## DRC

### REGUL

French Embassy FSPI (Solidarity Fund for Innovative Projects) – €1 M - 2022-2024

The REGUL project contributes to the inclusive and harmonious urban development of the Province of Lualaba by supporting the competent provincial and communal local administrations in Kolwezi in issues of urbanisation and territorial planning.

## CAMEROON

### URBAN PLATFORM IN CAMEROON

EU – €4.9 M - 2023-2026

The Urban platform project in Cameroon aims to support public policies for territorial planning of sustainable and inclusive cities, through the creation and coordination of a national platform for urban players, used to strengthen territorial management mechanisms and improve knowledge of and accessibility to urban data.

## Area 1

### SUPPORT CITY GOVERNANCE AND PLANNING

City planning is essential in order to ensure harmonious, sustainable and inclusive urban development. Expertise France provides advice and support to contracting authorities through tools and technical expertise helping national and local decision-makers to define their strategic orientations, structure the growth of the city and prioritise the necessary investments, taking into account economic, social and environmental issues. This includes a diagnosis of current and future requirements, the definition of space planning, prioritisation of investment in infrastructure, the preservation of green spaces, and the improvement of the quality of life of citizens. By involving local players and adopting a participatory approach, urban planning aims to anticipate long-term challenges, whether they be demographic, social or environmental.



# Area 2

## ADAPT CITIES TO CLIMATE CHANGE

The adaptation of cities to climate change is key in order to increase their resilience to natural disasters such as floods, storms, heatwaves or drought. This means implementing innovative urban strategies, through the definition and creation of sustainable infrastructure, the promotion of eco-urbanisation, or the use of natural solutions. Cities must also develop early warning systems to improve risk management and ensure awareness among the population. By anticipating climate effects, cities can better protect their inhabitants, reduce material damage, and adapt to a constantly-changing environment.



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### ALBANIA

#### RESILIENCE AND GREEN DEVELOPMENT

AFD - €800 K, 2023-2025

Mobilisation of a team of national and international consultants to develop the climate plan (mitigation and adaptation) for the council of Shkoder.

### SUB-SAHARAN AFRICA

#### COMSSA

EU - €4.7 M, 2019-2024

Support for the Covenant of Mayors for Sub-Saharan Africa aims to accompany signatory cities in planning and implementing their climate/energy actions.

### COSTA RICA

AFD - €1 M, 2022-2024

The project aims to support the implementation of Costa Rica's national decarbonisation plan in sectors such as sustainable construction, waste management and fair transition.

### UGANDA

#### POST-2020 BIODIVERSITY FRAMEWORK - EU SUPPORT

EU - €4 M, 2022-2024

Support for the city of Kampala, in synergy with the CoMSSA project: funding of a consultant to integrate questions of biodiversity into the revision of the climate action plan for Kampala.

### WEST AFRICA

#### CIVIL PROTECTION IN WEST AFRICA

Ministry for Europe and Foreign Affairs (MEAE) - €2.7 M, 2017-2024

Regional project for harmonisation of civil protection in West Africa, combining everyday rescue and emergency response interventions (in particular to deal with flooding).



## Area 3

### IMPROVE ACCESS TO ESSENTIAL SERVICES

Essential services (drinking water, sanitation, solid waste management, public spaces and green spaces, homes, commercial facilities) play a major role in the quality of life of those living in cities. To develop inclusive urban services accessible to all, the aim is to support local authorities and operators in order to develop sustainable infrastructure and ensure a quality of service for citizens. The development of services also plays a major role in the attractiveness and the economic development of the region, particularly for intermediate cities.

#### GHANA

##### SUSTAINABLE CITIES PHASE 1

**EU – €15.4 M - 2024-2028**

The Sustainable cities project aims to improve urban sustainability by improving access to urban services for more dynamic regions, and creating an urban data observatory.

#### TOGO

##### GEDEC TOGO

**EU – €4.2 M - 2023-2025**

The GEDEC project aims to support the development of solid and liquid waste management policies in the regional capital cities of Togo, in order to make the services more professional and the region more attractive.

#### BENIN

**AFD – €3.2 M - 2022-2026**

This project aims to create the museum of the epic of the Amazons and Kings of Dahomey in Abomey, and to develop the palatial site to highlight the national heritage of Benin and its attractiveness to tourists.



**DOMINICAN  
REPUBLIC****SUSTAINABLE MOBILITY  
(PROJECT UNDER  
DEVELOPMENT)****AFD – €4M - 2025-2028**

The aim of the project is the institutional strengthening of the National Institute of Land Transit and Transportation (INTRANT) in its role as public transport regulator, through the professionalisation of small-scale transport, the management of urban public space planning, and the promotion of active mobility.

## Area 4

**PROMOTE SUSTAINABLE  
URBAN MOBILITY TO TACKLE  
ENVIRONMENTAL CHALLENGES**

The promotion of sustainable urban mobility is essential in order to tackle the environmental challenges facing cities. It is based on the development of ecological transport solutions, such as public transport, cycling or walking. These active means of transport reduce greenhouse gas emissions, air pollution and traffic congestion. By planning appropriate infrastructure, such as cycle paths, pedestrian zones and efficient public transport networks, cities can encourage more environmentally-friendly travel. This approach not only helps to fight against climate change, it also helps to improve the quality of urban life and the health of the population.



Expertise France is the inter-ministerial public agency for international technical cooperation and a subsidiary of the Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Group. The second largest agency in Europe, it designs and implements projects that sustainably strengthen public policies in developing and emerging countries. Governance, security, climate, health, education... It works in key areas of development and contributes alongside its partners to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Shared expertise.



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July 2025



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