

BUILDING RESILIENCE THROUGH COLLECTIVE ACTION

Since the onset of the COVID-19 pandemic, Cities Alliance has partnered with Slum Dwellers International (SDI) to support sustainable and inclusive recovery efforts in and for the communities impacted, with funding from the Swedish International Development Cooperation Agency (Sida).



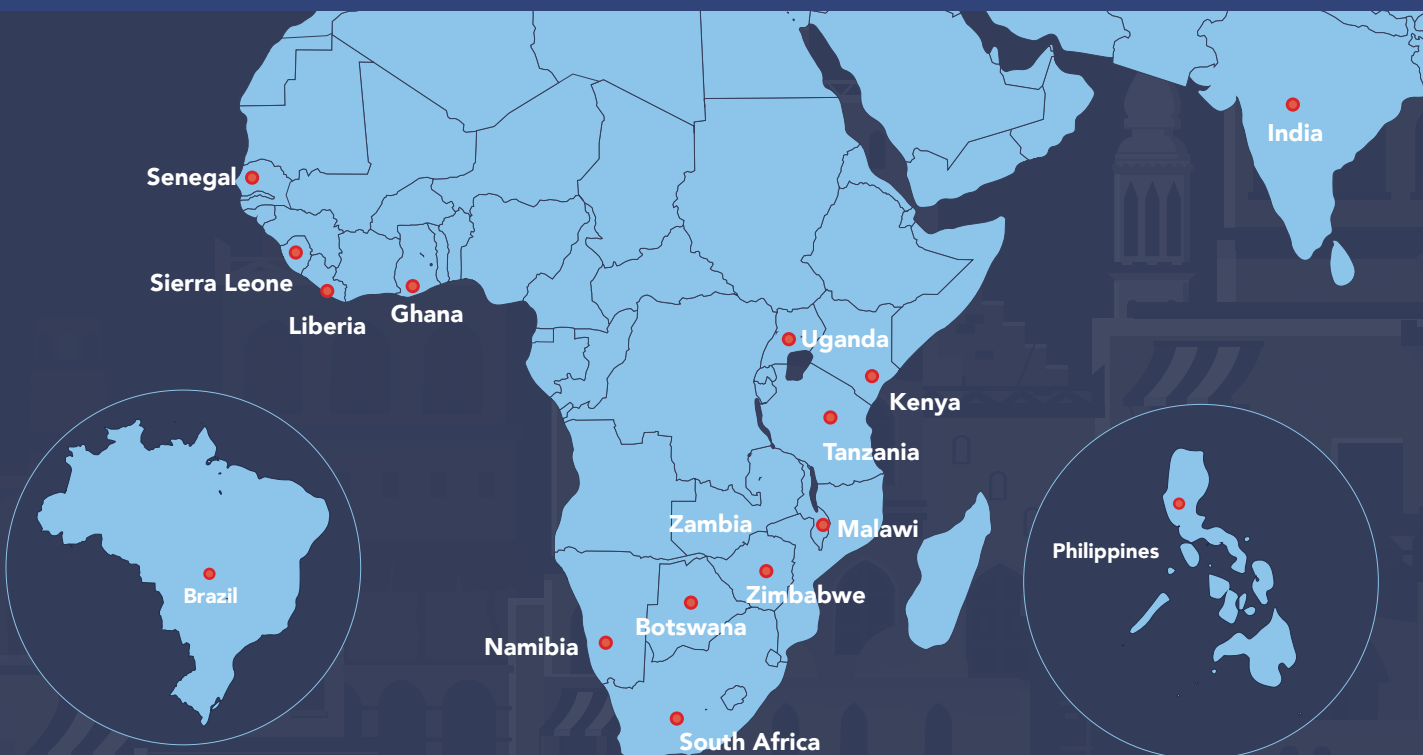
16
countries



181
cities



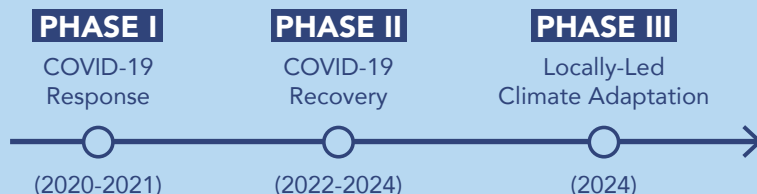
473
informal settlements





RESPONSE, RECOVERY, RESILIENCE

Throughout the pandemic, the challenges facing urban poor communities became increasingly urgent with multiplying and life-threatening spillover effects including food-security, inability to generate income, increased gender-based violence, and discontinuation of the most basic pre-pandemic basic services (such as health, school, water and sanitation).



The programme has transitioned from addressing the immediate social, economic, and health **responses** of the pandemic to undertaking **recovery and rebuilding** initiatives to locally-led climate action initiatives identified and prioritised by slum dweller federations aimed at increasing their **resilience** to withstand future shocks and stresses of urban informal living.

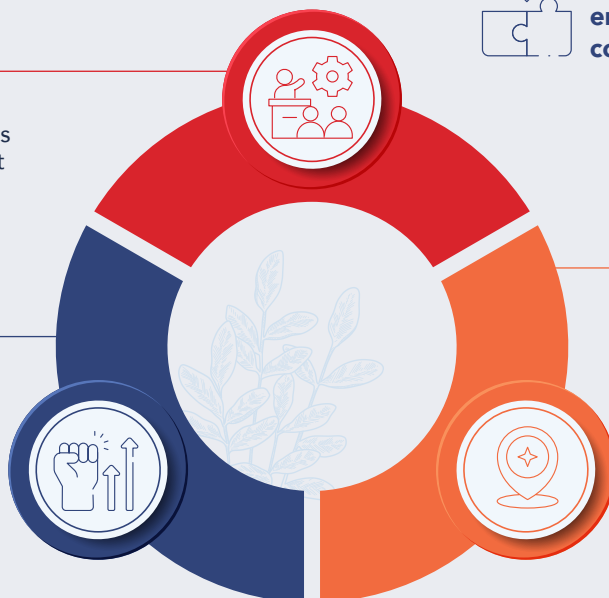
THE PROGRAMME SUPPORTS SDI AFFILIATES IN:

Federation building

to mobilise and strengthen savings groups and livelihood initiatives at the settlement level, build federation capacity and leadership, and improve access to basic services.

Institutional strengthening

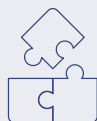
to support the strategic, operational, and financial capacity of SDI affiliates to respond to local needs through staff training, peer-to-peer exchanges, strategic planning, and overhead support.



Aligned to the delivery of **SDI's Strategic Plan**



Flexibility and adaptability of grants to **address local needs and priorities**



Integration of **cross-cutting topics of gender equality, youth inclusion, environmental integration, and conflict sensitivity**

Know Your City (KYC)

to support mainstreaming local knowledge through community-led data collection and mapping capabilities in informal settlements, as well as youth-led advocacy through Know Your City TV.

KEY ACHIEVEMENTS



862 SAVINGS GROUPS
15,233 SAVERS SUPPORTED



814 HOUSEHOLDS
with improved energy

79 SETTLEMENT-LEVEL INFORMATION FORUMS OR CAMPAIGNS ORGANISED



2,869 YOUTH MEMBERS mobilised and supported



852 PEOPLE SUPPORTED
through networking and training
for climate change or biodiversity conservation



72 CITY NATIONAL-LEVEL advocacy campaigns conducted

2,269 HOUSEHOLDS with improved water and sanitation



48 HOUSEHOLDS with improved tenure

709 PEOPLE SUPPORTED to better adapt to climate change effects



799 PEER-TO-PEER learning exchanges facilitated



602 HOUSEHOLDS with improved housing



35 CITIES AND **670** informal settlements profiled



157 REGIONAL OR NATIONAL-LEVEL federation leadership meetings held

INITIAL RESULTS



Community Mobilisation and Livelihood Support:

Savings groups are the bedrock of SDI federations, enabling urban poor dwellers to organise, improve livelihoods, and engage city authorities in inclusive development. Federations conducted training sessions covering various skills such as livelihood development, business management, and vocational training. For instance, in **Sierra Leone**, the SDI affiliate supported the establishment of oyster and fish farms through member training, leading to production initiation and attracting interest from multiple businesses. In **Malawi**, a savings group of 43 members received training in brick making, and support for the acquisition of an environmentally friendly brick making machine with a daily production capacity of 3,000 bricks.



Data Collection and Research:

Activities focused on conducting surveys, assessments, and research studies to gather data on various aspects affecting informal settlements. For instance, baseline studies on air pollution were undertaken in **Ghana** and assessments of the impact of COVID-19 in **Tanzania's** Mwanza City. Data collected from savings groups in **Botswana** contributed to COVID-19 research. In the **Philippines**, a comprehensive risk profile highlighted COVID-19 vulnerability. Climate change impact assessments and risk mapping were conducted in 12 settlements in **Sierra Leone**. In **Kenya**, a vulnerability mapping exercise identified groups along the Mathare and Gitathuru rivers, facilitating collaboration among 46 groups working to reclaim the Mathare River.





Federation Leadership and Capacity Building:

Training events such as workshops, peer-learning exchanges, and educational visits enhanced federation members' capacity and leadership. Topics covered gender mainstreaming, resource management, digital skills, and leadership development, while technical training included waste management and water innovations. For instance, in **Uganda**, audits of 25 savings groups identified capacity-building needs. In **Kenya and Namibia**, second-tier leadership was mentored, and in **Tanzania**, three exchange visits were organised for youth federation members.



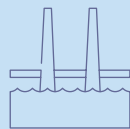
Knowledge Sharing and Advocacy:

This category involved workshops, advocacy campaigns, and the production of educational materials to raise awareness and advocate for the rights of urban poor communities. Workshops in the **Philippines** focused on advocacy for urban poor housing rights, while booklets in **Brazil** highlighted the impact of climate change on urban poor communities. In **Uganda**, settlement-level and municipal forums were conducted nationwide. In **Liberia**, the affiliate produced, printed, and displayed educational materials and awareness campaigns for waste disposal to complement and improve community-level waste disposal activities. Youth KYC TV media teams across the SDI network participated in media training and developed advocacy campaigns shared on local TV, radio, and social media.



Climate Change Adaptation and Environmental Sustainability:

Efforts in this area aimed to address climate vulnerabilities and promote environmental sustainability. Climate-related community action plans were developed in **India** to mitigate climate risks. In **Zambia**, climate stewardship clubs were established in schools to educate students on environmental conservation practices. In **Sierra Leone**, a committee was formed to oversee mangrove protection, and 20 climate change action ambassadors were identified and trained. **Brazil** organised training and exchanges for federation leadership and youth in two cities on citizenship, climate, and environmental education.



Basic Services and Infrastructure Improvement:

Activities focused on assessing and improving infrastructure in informal settlements. For example, an assessment of sanitation conditions in **India's** cities led to plans for infrastructure improvement. In **Namibia**, meetings facilitated the production of technical drawings for water/sewage plans. Toilet facilities were rehabilitated in **Ghana**, water tanks for public spaces purchased in **Zambia**, and solar lights distributed across 12 regions in **Zimbabwe**. Engagement with local leaders in **Liberia** supported the maintenance of public toilets and water facilities.



Partnership and Collaboration with City Authorities:

This entailed establishing and strengthening partnerships with local and national authorities, NGOs, and other stakeholders to support inclusive development initiatives. Partnerships across cities in **India** enhanced community development efforts, while in **Senegal**, collaborations were strengthened to support income-generating activities. In **Kenya**, collaboration with the government for the Mathare and Mukuru Special Planning Areas was expanded. In **Uganda**, MoUs were pursued with urban authorities in all 11 regions, while in **Malawi**, 61 households in Lilongwe were granted ownership titles as part of ongoing efforts to regularise informal settlements.



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