



## Urban Backup Initiative on “Pro-poor urban development”

### 1. Background

The Working Group as well as the EXCO and the Secretariat have recognized the necessity for the Cities Alliance to develop a stronger focus on poor countries and on secondary cities. However, poor cities are finding it difficult to access Cities Alliance funding, as they often lack the resources to apply for, plan and implement CDS or SU projects.

### 2. Objective

Strengthening the pro-poor focus of the Cities Alliance by increasingly enabling secondary cities in LDCs and other Low Income Countries to access Cities Alliance funding through pre-application capacity development.

### 3. Initiative

The German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) has assigned EUR 1.0 Mio for a BACKUP initiative on “Pro-poor urban development” in cooperation with the Cities Alliance. Anticipated Timeline: first pilot phase until March 2012, with an evaluation at the end of 2011.

### 4. Principles and Guidelines

- Participation: Key urban and public stakeholder groups including inhabitants of informal settlements and CBOs are to be engaged in the planning processes, urban renewal and budget planning
- City ownership and self-reliant project steering: relevant local stakeholders take responsibilities and are actively involved in the application and implementation process
- Integration into Cities Alliance processes: BACKUP refers to the regular CA application criteria, form, guidelines and approval processes
- Capacity development of municipalities and other relevant local stakeholders in pro-poor urban development
- City-to-city-cooperation and establishment of learning networks
- Donor Alignment: Facilitate collaboration and synergies among multilateral and bilateral partners; stimulate or indicate complementarity with programs/approaches implemented by other donors on-site

### 5. Next steps

Once the new business model has been conceptualized in Jan 2010, the Backup initiative will define its role in the new context. **Other Cities Alliance members are encouraged to participate in the conceptualizing and monitoring of the URBAN BACKUP as well as to co-finance this initiative.**