



However, a range of factors, including gender norms, roles and inequalities, shape access to basic goods and services. Indeed, gendered barriers to access public goods and services continue to constitute a major obstacle to the productivity and inclusion of women, men, boys and girls and considerably weaken their ability to participate in and benefit from economic growth in many cities.

Cities Alliance offers several useful recommendations to national and local governments, community organizations and the private sector on how to strengthen gender responsive access to public goods and thus create pathways to equitable economic growth in cities.

The Joint Work Programme and the Policy Dialogue Series

This global dialogue edition on Public Goods and Services for Women's Economic Empowerment in Cities was brought together and organized by the Cities Alliance Joint Work Programme (JWP) for Equitable Economic Growth in Cities, under its global policy dialogue series. It took place at the 4th World Forum for Local Economic Development in Praia, Cabo Verde.

The JWP for Equitable Economic Growth is a four-year programme (2016–2020) created to support equitable access to public goods and services by all citizens and formal and informal businesses in cities as a pathway to more equitable, inclusive and sustainable growth trajectories.

It works with local governments, city stakeholders and development partners to produce global knowledge, facilitate policy dialogues and support city-level diagnostics and policy recommendations

Facilitated by the Cities Alliance Secretariat and chaired by UK Department for International Development (DFID), the programme is constituted by various Cities Alliance members:



In an increasingly urban world, cities face the challenge of promoting more equitable forms of economic growth. Secondary cities in low-income countries are often characterized by a sectoral composition of job growth dominated by low productivity and large informal economies.

The result is a situation where demand for basic goods and services continuously outstrips supply, undermining the development of vibrant local economies that benefits all. Within this context, local authorities have an important role to play as they often control the provision and maintenance of key public goods and services.

Improving these goods and services is necessary to reduce inequalities, support productivity and enable sustainable local economies.

The Recommendations

National/ Regional Level



Put in place robust systems for sex and age disaggregated data for a deeper analysis and understanding of gendered needs to inform gender-sensitive policy-making and programming.



Use participatory planning methods to include the voices of women, girls, boys and men to ensure that urban public goods and services reflect the needs and concerns of both women and men.



Put in place realistic budgets for gender mainstreaming with training on how to analyse budgets from a gender perspective to ensure gender aspects are considered in budgetary decisions.



Ensure that policy makers in different departments work together to guarantee the development and success of programmes, and to be able to share best practices.

City/ Municipal Level



Support awareness and understanding on gender responsive public goods and services for a city's equitable economic growth so that city and municipal officers at all levels are aware and understand the linkages.



Strengthen the capacities of city-level policy makers and practitioners at municipal levels, as well as collaborating agencies and organizations in terms of knowledge, skills, guidelines and tools to support, implement and sustain gender responsive public goods and services.



Enhance the gender mainstreaming capacity of municipal councils, and support the development of gender responsive action plans, budgets and strategies in municipal departments.



Strengthen city commitment and mechanisms in review processes of city plans to ensure that gender and inclusion considerations are properly and fully monitored and reported on.



Set clear targets around practical and strategic needs at outcome and output levels, with quantifiable performance indicators in the log frame, and sex disaggregated information and data as a matter of course.



Foster collaborations with civil society organizations and municipalities to support an enabling environment for advancing gender equality.

Community Level



Build the capacity of city residents, particularly marginal and vulnerable groups, to be aware of their rights and articulate their concerns and needs.



Ensure city residents can participate in all decision making – in the planning, budgeting, implementation, monitoring and evaluation to determine whether the service is gender responsive.



Strengthen existing associations or groups at municipal levels to enhance their participation and integration into municipal decision-making and action plans for gender responsive public goods and services.

Private Sector Level



Support alliance-building and collective action for communities to lobby for change, monitor service delivery, and bargain with developers and service providers so that their longer-term interests are met and help shift the ways public and private sector institutions respond to the needs and rights of all their citizens.



Incentivize the private sector to support employment of marginalized and discriminated groups by including gender equality provisions and non-discrimination principles in hiring policies and practices. Projects developed through public-private partnerships provide opportunities to support positive action in this area.



Increase private sector awareness of the benefits of providing support services to employees.



Build awareness in the private sector of the potential consumer market represented by excluded groups of people, including the informal sector.



Empower the informal sector to actively seek recognition of its needs and contributions by local authorities.



Provide technical assistance support to municipalities to be able to respond to gender responsive requirements.

Access the full publication at:
www.citiesalliance.org/node/6498