

UK Aid Direct 4

Objectives

The aim of UK Aid Direct is to support civil society to deliver sustained poverty reduction and achieve the [Global Goals](#).

All projects funded through UK Aid Direct focus on reaching the most vulnerable and marginalised populations, and to 'leave no one behind'.

The priorities of UK Aid Direct reflect the UK Department for International Development (DFID)'s strategic objectives:

1. Strengthening global peace, security and governance
2. Strengthening resilience and response to crisis
3. Promoting global prosperity
4. Tackling extreme poverty and helping the world's most vulnerable

Approaches

The fourth round of UK Aid Direct will provide funding to civil society organisations who are addressing **any** of the Global Goals and delivering sustained poverty reduction. For this round a portion of available funding will be reserved for projects addressing urban poverty.

These proposals will be scored alongside all the UK Aid Direct applications and we will award grants on a merit basis.

Urban Approach

Urbanisation rates are rising across the world with at least 68% of the world population projected to be living in urban areas by 2050. This urban transition will mainly be focused in Sub-Saharan Africa and Asia where by 2050, over 90% of urban growth is expected to occur. Accompanying this growth is a rising share of urban poor who have inadequate access to basic services and are often marginalised in cities, lacking rights or recognition as citizens. In response to this transition DFID has increased its focus on urban development supporting inclusive economic growth, urban infrastructure provision, delivery of basic services and building urban climate resilience.

The urban poverty component of the fourth round of UK Aid Direct builds on this increased support to urban development and DFID's emerging programming with a specific focus on increasing resilience in urban settlements. This is in recognition of the fact that citizens and civil society contribute to producing cities and there is a need to support community voice and cohesion, enabling vulnerable and marginalised groups to access services and rights in cities.

The specific urban approach and theory of change is outlined below.

The theory of change for urban poverty focussed projects includes four key outcomes for the urban poor:

- i. Build an enabling environment allowing citizens to have an increased say and hold service providers to account to deliver better quality and relevant services
- ii. Citizens can influence urban policy makers through increased capacity for engagement, sustainable relationships and community cohesion;
- iii. Evidence from the practice is used to engage all urban stakeholders and increase the recognition of needs and capacity to reduce poverty in urban areas.
- iv. Strengthening the resilience of the poor and marginalised in rapidly changing urban environments

It will seek to do so through funding civil society to implement the following pathways for change:

- i. **Policy Advocacy:** Amplifying the voice of the urban poor through advocacy and support for national and municipal legal, policy and legislative change – including monitoring and supporting implementation of policy/laws and budgets to increase urban resilience.
- ii. **Service Delivery:** Support civil society to deliver better quality services that address the needs of poor and marginalised urban residents through holding formal and informal service providers to account and monitoring of services to ensure they are more responsive to needs of excluded and marginalised.
- iii. **Empowerment of communities:** to increase their understanding of rights, sharing learning and knowledge management, shift social norms and increase their resilience.

Applications for urban projects will be for organisations that can:

- Illustrate how the project will increase urban community resilience in a sustainable way
- Improve accountability and work from a rights-based perspective in an urban environment
- Effectively target and engage with the poorest and marginalised in communities
- Use inclusive and empowering approaches for people with disabilities and for women and girls
- Propose mechanisms to allow projects to be adapted based on feedback from communities to achieve better outcomes
- Use evidence and learning from project approaches to contribute better changes for urban poor
- Strengthen the capacity of local organisations to achieve urban outcomes
- Have considered a range of urban environments over and above capital cities and can justify the need for their proposed location.

A select list of emerging DFID urban development programmes is listed below. These have been highlighted and there may be scope to link proposed projects with existing programmes to maximise impact or share learning. However, this is not a prerequisite for applications. Applications are welcome from all [DFID priority countries](#).

Please see Devtracker or programme website links for further information. Please note that these programmes are still in the inception phase of delivery.

- Cities and Infrastructure for Growth (CIG) – operating in Uganda, Zambia and Burma
<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-205222>
- Sustainable Urban Economic Development (SUED) – operating in Kenya
<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-204338> and <https://www.suedkenya.org/>
- National Urban Poverty Reduction Programme (NUPRP) – operating in Bangladesh
<https://devtracker.dfid.gov.uk/projects/GB-1-203491>

