

Project number	39915007
Title	Capacity for localized urban development
Countries	Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia
Summary	<p>This review on capacity for localized urban development stems from PMU's strategic interest in addressing escalating and urgent needs of poor people in urban settings and from the commitment to stimulate local partners to see new and emerging trends and opportunities. The purpose of the review was to identify and analyse ways to spur dedication to working for urban development and advise on strategic prioritization and cooperation in addressing urban poverty.</p> <p>From desk research and sample field visits conducted in Tanzania, Kenya and Ethiopia, the mapping confirms that Africa is confronted to the challenge of rapid urbanization and extreme poverty is a reality in cities, especially in urban informal settlements that house millions of people and continue to expand due to migration from deprived rural areas and small towns.</p> <p>Findings underline that, in the contexts analysed, there are many drivers of urban poverty such as migration from rural areas, unemployment, overpopulation, insufficient infrastructures for provision of basic services, and unstable and low income from informal activities. Current urban interventions by PMU partners focus on provision of health and education services, women and youth entrepreneurship projects and social and economic empowerment of vulnerable people, including people living with HIV-AIDS. There are everywhere gaps in terms of priorities, capacities, access to resources and intervention approaches that need to be addressed by strengthening engagement and improving cooperation and strategic prioritization.</p>
Recommendations	<p>The review formulates a number of recommendations that PMU and partners can use to jointly build a comprehensive strategy for urban intervention. The recommendations include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prioritize, based on specific contextual analyses, livelihoods, health problems, sanitation, access to adequate education for children, and disabilities, because these are among the major areas of gaps identified in addressing poverty in African urban context. • Develop projects that solve issues in slums and have potential to encourage or help some residents to settle back to rural areas. • Support and implement more programmes that span over many years and include complementary components (for example combining water facilities, sanitation, waste disposal and environmental improvement) instead of short-term separated projects. • Take into account urban-rural links in planning projects and interventions in order to fight poverty from different perspectives and to address some of the root causes in rural areas instead of focussing only on consequences in cities. • Develop competitive project structures within churches that can have professional management, administrative and legal capacity to assure and inspire trust to international and national donors as well as to government institutions. • As infrastructural projects are more demanding in funding and technical capacity while most of PMU partners are organisations with expertise in social, economic and psychosocial transformations, it can be strategically

sound to allocate more project resources on work that build capacity and life skills of the poor to make them able to be agents of positive changes in their urban context.

- Reinforce sustainability of urban poverty reduction actions through cooperation between civil society (including Churches and FBOs), the public sector, the private sector and the academia from research stage, at projects planning phase and in projects implementation and evaluation.
- Integrate in urban interventions, as cross-cutting aspects, activities and strategies that aim to improve gender balance, democratic participation, peace and trust building as well as social inclusiveness.
- Churches and FBOs can engage more in the formulation of urban development policies if they build strong relationships with city governments to be seen not only as project implementers but also as valuable policy thinkers. One way of doing this can be to join civil society networks that take the mandate of monitoring public policy formulation and implementation.