

Theme / Approach

Reducing poverty, rehabilitation of slums, social integration and violence prevention.

1. The challenge

A growing number of city dwellers are exposed to the risk of absolute or extreme poverty. They live in informal settlements on urban peripheries where land title and user rights are generally not clarified. The inhabitants are excluded from access to even basic infrastructure. Crowding out processes, social inequality and lack of alternative sources of income often lead to higher crime rates from which inhabitants of marginalised district again suffer. Tensions and conflicts frequently erupt into violence in these social hotbeds.

2. Our approach

We support innovative ways of integrated urban development that improve just access of marginalised groups to public services, basic social services, political participation and income opportunities. Selective approaches contributing to poverty reduction are applied, thus addressing basic needs.

3. Service packages

- Advisory services on integrated – institutional, political, economic and social – urban development with particular consideration given to disadvantaged urban districts, slums etc.
- Advisory services to urban governments regarding appropriate poverty oriented infrastructure and construction standards when rehabilitating informal settlements and slums
- Design and implementation of social promotion programmes including satisfaction of basic needs in health and education
- Advisory services on the subject of security – Safe and Secure City
- Advisory services on the application and upgrading in methods of conflict moderation, mediation and peaceful conflict solution
- Consultancy on the legalisation and regularisation of land ownership and housing construction through simple land registers
- Developing planning-law facilitation for simple housing construction and businesses in the informal sector (e.g. recycling, urban agriculture); handing out of plots
- Promotion of local firms and employment of inhabitants as labour in rehabilitation works; partial award of public service contract to informal businesses or inhabitants organisations
- Development of infrastructural equipment for poor settlements including close cooperation of the inhabitants
- Consultancy for socially sensitive structure of public tariffs and promotion of user communities
- Promotion and strengthening of women and adolescents and their organisations and consultancy to municipal children, youth and women policy, gender-just design of measures and policies
- Capacity building for improved self-organisation and participation of the poor population
- Advisory services on the design and implementation of educational youth work and women's promotion projects.

4. Benefits

Supporting access of marginalised groups to public services, social basic services, political participation and income opportunities ensures that disadvantaged groups can better articulate and assert their rights, ownership conditions can be clarified and legal certainty is consolidated. The housing and living conditions of the population in informal settlements are improved with their active participation, and confidence in cooperation with urban authorities is improved. In this way extreme social differences in cities can be mitigated and integration of socially and ethnically often widely differing groups can be facilitated. This reduces the causes of conflicts, defuses tensions between population groups in the long term and maintains the government capacity for urban governance. Better integrated population groups can make better use of their chances for income and employment.

5. An example from practice

Cooperative project housing area rehabilitation in Dakar – Senegal

In order to improve conditions in spontaneous settlements the government of Senegal developed a programme for rehabilitating and legalising illegally constructed residential quarters. A foundation was set up to implement the programme in practice, supported by Technical Cooperation and Kreditanstalt für Wiederaufbau (KfW). One important task of the foundation is to improve the difficult relationship between the state and land occupiers and to mediate impartially.

In consultation with the population a new infrastructure is to be developed, including roads, drinking water supply and sanitation. Inhabitants whose houses fall victim to construction measures are to be provided with other land in compensation. By selling plots to the inhabitants, land occupiers can gradually be turned into land owners. The price of the plots is affordable and buyers can pay off the sum within five years. This money in turn flows into a fund for financing housing construction.

In addition, specifically for this module:

- High recognition as neutral mediator between state and civil society institutions and organisations
- Comprehensive experience in integrated urban housing construction and the application of innovative and low-cost technologies for low-cost housing.