



URBAN INSTITUTE CENTER ON INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT AND GOVERNANCE

Decentralization

Institutional Development

Citizen Engagement

Land Tenure, Property Rights

Performance Management

Urban Management

Economic Development

Housing Policy

Slum Upgrading

Local Government Capacity Building

Inter-Governmental Finance

Anti-Corruption

Infrastructure Planning and Finance

Municipal Service Delivery

Land and Asset Management

Public-Private Partnerships

Mortgage Finance

Microfinance for Housing



OUR MISSION:

To promote economic and democratic development in developing and transition countries. We do this through research and evidence-based technical assistance in areas such as local governance and service delivery, public finance, and other areas of government interaction with citizens.

OUR STRENGTHS:

With over 40 years of experience, the Urban Institute brings a distinctive contribution to international development. Among our strengths are:

- An integrated approach to local governance and economic development, building on the skills and knowledge of economists, city managers, lawyers, and other experts;
- An ability to draw on the wide range of expertise of the Urban Institute in health care, education, urban development, justice policy, and other government policy domains;
- The skill to assess the impacts of policy options and to design performance measures for both donor projects and government services and finances;
- Experience working with local partners to build capacity for research and sustained reform.



OUR EXPERTISE:

Decentralization	Local Government Capacity Building
Institutional Development	Inter-Governmental Finance
Citizen Engagement	Anti-Corruption
Land Tenure, Property Rights	Infrastructure Planning and Finance
Performance Management	Municipal Service Delivery
Urban Management	Land and Asset Management
Economic Development	Public-Private Partnerships
Housing Policy	Mortgage Finance
	Microfinance for Housing

OUR COUNTERPARTS:

In over 70 countries on five continents, government officials, private sector actors, civil society leaders, academics, and donor agencies all work with the Urban Institute.



OUR SPONSORS:

The Urban Institute's international work is funded by a wide range of public and private sector entities including the U.S. Agency for International Development, the Millennium Challenge Corporation, the World Bank, national governments, foundations, and other development and financial institutions.

OUR TEAM:

At the Urban Institute's Washington headquarters, we have a core team of experts and projects managers, supported by the Urban Institute's administrative and financial management systems. In overseas offices and projects, an additional 200 staff make up our field teams.

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OUR ACCOMPLISHMENTS:

- The Urban Institute has introduced citizen-focused public management, applied performance management to improve delivery of essential services, and brought more democratic decision making to newly empowered local officials and citizens in dozens of countries around the globe. Results are measured in improvements in the daily lives of citizens and strengthened democratic institutions.
- The Urban Institute has worked to strengthen policy research and build think tanks in Russia, Indonesia, Hungary, Bosnia, Albania, Azerbaijan, and other countries. In Russia, the Urban Institute guided one of the first independent social policy research organizations — the Institute for Urban Economics — from inception to independence. Today, we continue this work through technical assistance and mentoring and tools such as the Urban Institute’s Policy Fellows course, which trains researchers in policy analysis and methods.
- The Urban Institute has provided policy advice and reform support in more than 70 countries. Issues range from housing and slum upgrading to decentralization, from earthquake recovery to infrastructure financing. Urban Institute field teams of U.S. and local experts have introduced evidence-based policy making to a range of developing country issues, from national policies to delivery of local services. For example, in Pakistan, district governments are, for the first time, consulting citizens in advance of adopting budgets and making adjustments that are improving public services such as health care and girls’ education.
- The Urban Institute has improved the ability of local governments to generate revenue by increasing autonomy of local governments, introducing more efficient methods of billing and collection, unlocking revenue potential of municipal property through active asset management, introducing property registration systems, and demonstrating the relationship between user fees and service improvements.

Working with the Urban Institute Center on International Development and Governance:

Urban Institute has a number of contracting vehicles that make it easy for government agencies and other donor organizations to utilize our expertise including contracts and Indefinite Quantity Contracts.