

Inclusive and Participatory Planning

The value placed on participation is prevalent throughout the case studies, showing the benefit gained by involving people and communities for better social, cultural and urban outcomes. Significant improvements in implementation were noted when citizens were consulted, or in some instances granted power to actively contribute to urban and territorial policies and strategies. This was particularly powerful for ensuring basic human rights deserved by all, as well as responding to the complex issues of gender equality and youth inclusion in urban environments

Incorporating people in the urban planning and implementation process delivered improved urban outcomes in many instances, including in **Surabaya, Indonesia** and **Ghent, Belgium**. Equally, the City Development Strategy (CDS) employed by **Ouagadougou, Burkina Faso** and **Douala, Cameroon** constitutes an impressive example of how city development initiatives can be strengthened through an inclusive and participatory approach.

Encouraging citizens and stakeholders to invest in a city strategy through ongoing advocacy and open dialogues was a key driver in uniting the city to achieve balanced urban development and human rights. Consensus and cooperation in establishing and acting on the CDS contributed to increased institutional confidence and new financing opportunities.

An excellent example of well managed and meaningful public participation was evident in the participatory budgeting strategy of **Porto Alegre, Brazil**. By providing an outlet for citizens to contribute to policy making, improved and targeted responses to urban challenges has been achieved in the areas of access to health, education, water and sanitation services. The process has strengthened communities overall, with a particular emphasis on marginalized segments of the society who have been able to voice their concerns on urban and social issues.



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