

## **CALL FOR EXPRESSION OF INTEREST BY CITY GOVERNMENTS**

### **LOCALLY LED CLIMATE RISK AND VULNERABILITY RISK ASSESSMENTS IN TWO CITIES IN AFRICA**

#### **INTRODUCTION**

The GCA and UCLG Africa signed a partnership protocol in November 2021, to accelerate adaptation and resilience building measures in African cities. At COP27, the two parties signed an agreement to operationalize the partnership through a resilience financing grant to address the needs identified and expressed by mayors, local governments and citizens; and to strengthen and accelerate multi-level governance for adaptation and resilience building in African cities. The activities agreed upon under this grant are in line with UCLG Africa's strategic objectives and are fully aligned with the African Adaptation Acceleration Program jointly led by the AfDB and GCA.

United Cities and Local Governments of Africa (UCLG Africa) is seeking expressions of interest from its members to participate in this process of assessing climate risks and vulnerabilities to climate change. It should be noted that initially, two pilot cities will be selected according to a multi-criteria evaluation carried out by a committee set up for this purpose.

#### **OVERVIEW & BACKGROUND**

Urban areas hold more than half the world's population and most of its built assets and economic activities, and therefore a high proportion of the population and economic activities most at risk from climate change. Urban climate change-related risks are increasing – including rising sea levels and storm surges, heat stress, extreme precipitation, inland and coastal flooding, landslides, drought, increased aridity, water scarcity, and air pollution – with widespread negative impacts on people's health, livelihoods, and assets, and on local and national economies and ecosystems.

The risks are higher in low- and middle-income countries, where the rise in urban populations is accompanied by a rapid growth of highly vulnerable urban communities living in informal settlements, many of which are on land at high risk from extreme weather. On average, 60% of urban residents in Africa live in informal settlements. Their existing vulnerabilities due to the lack of adequate income and assets, infrastructure, basic services, and voice in governance are further exacerbated by climate change-related disasters and stresses. Informal settlements are particularly vulnerable to climate change due to three underlying factors: their physical location, which is often environmentally fragile; the socio-economic characteristics of the residents, including high levels of poverty; and political and institutional marginalization, resulting in the absence of risk-reducing infrastructure and support to cope with shocks. Efforts to address the climate vulnerability of cities in Africa must, therefore, prioritize resilience building of the residents of informal settlements.

Climate risks and vulnerabilities evolve constantly – either as climate predictions change or are fine-tuned; in aftermath of climate and other shocks; or as social, economic, environmental, demographic – and even political – dynamics shift. The capacity to downscale climate risks to the city-level, and to frequently assess the impact of these changes on climate risk and vulnerability must therefore eventually reside locally, along with the capacity to update local adaptation plans in response to these changes. Reliance on external experts could result assessments and plans that get outdated very soon, and do not reflect current realities.

UCLGA therefore seek to work with two city governments in Africa to, *inter alia*, support acceleration and scaling of climate adaptation with a specific attention to vulnerable groups in urban informal settlements, while building

the institutional capacity of the local governments and low-income groups residing in informal settlements to conduct such assessments in future.



**UCLG AFRICA**  
United Cities and Local Governments of Africa  
Cités et Gouvernements Locaux Unis d'Afrique  
**CGLU AFRIQUE**



**GLOBAL  
CENTER ON  
ADAPTATION**

UCLGA has received funding from the Global Center on Adaptation to support these two cities (to be selected through this EOI process) to:

- Identify and prioritize adaptation investments and action through the combination of:
  - Rapid Climate Risk Assessments (RCRAs) and
  - Community led vulnerability and risk profiling in informal settlements.
- Build capacity within the city to reiterate this process as needed in future.
- Explore avenues for mobilizing adaptation finance to implement activities in the two cities, by informing identification and preparation of urban investment projects of IFIs; developing bankable projects for submission to climate funds; and/or leveraging existing development investments.
- Create a support network for cross-learning and to sustain progress in future.

### **SELECTION OF CITIES**

The two cities will be selected based on the following criteria:

1. Interest and commitment indicated by Mayors and local governments to support a locally led approach, supported by a strong multi-level governance framework.
2. A commitment by the local government to use the climate vulnerability risk assessments to inform integrated local planning processes and investments, and to develop a supportive institutional and regulatory framework.
3. Potential for scaling up.
4. Potential to fund the activities identified through existing and new IFI pipelines.

#### **Process of selection**

Interested city governments are requested to respond to this call with a short letter, elaborating information related to the criteria listed above, and demonstrating a firm commitment for locally led, inclusive approaches to identifying and addressing climate risks of the most vulnerable populations.

Applications received before **June 09, 2023** will be evaluated by a jury composed of four members.

### **HOW TO EXPRESS INTEREST**

UCLGA looks forward to EOI submissions to the following email address only:

[sbenlebsir@uclga.org](mailto:sbenlebsir@uclga.org)

The closing date for submissions is **18.00 CET, June 09, 2023**.