

UK Government working with partners to deliver greener cities and infrastructure in low- and middle-income countries

Cities house more than half of the world's population and generate 80 per cent of global GDP. Around 60 per cent of global carbon emissions originate directly from infrastructure sectors. Managed well, cities can be drivers of national and global wealth, job creation and innovation. Managed poorly, unplanned expansion will increase the costs of city services, create deeper social inequalities and increase environmental costs.

Green Cities and Infrastructure Centre of Expertise

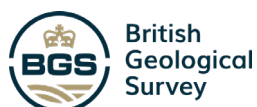
To help address this, the UK's Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office (FCDO) established the **Green Cities and Infrastructure Centre of Expertise** (GCI CoE) to coordinate UK leadership in cities and infrastructure from inside and outside of government. This is part of wider UK action under its Centres of Expertise to work with partner governments in low- and middle-income countries to pursue resilient and sustainable economic growth.

Since the first of the new initiatives and services were announced in April 2023, 68 projects have been initiated in 36 cities across 25 countries throughout Asia, Africa and the Caribbean. Examples include:

- Improving traffic management and reducing pollution across major cities in Bangladesh, informed by expertise from Transport for London.
- Strengthening Cambodia's capacity to deliver green infrastructure projects by helping to develop robust policies, building solid business cases and attracting quality investment.
- Enhancing waste management in Dar es Salaam, Tanzania and supporting the city to become more resilient to climate shocks.

Green Cities and Infrastructure Programme

The GCI CoE draws together a range of expertise to deliver this work. The main mechanism is the **Green Cities and Infrastructure Programme** (GCIP), which is managed by a PwC-led consortium including Mott MacDonald, Engineers Against Poverty, Adam Smith International and MDY Legal. A further range of expertise is brought in through collaboration with eight UK Agency Delivery Partners: British Geological Survey, BSI, Connected Places Catapult, Crossrail International, Infrastructure and Projects Authority, Ofgem, Ordnance Survey, Transport for London.



Several other programmes under the GCI CoE also contribute to greener cities and infrastructure:

The **Climate-Compatible Growth Programme** provides low- and middle-income countries with evidence-based strategies to promote inclusive and sustainable growth, with a focus on grid-scale energy and transport systems.

CoST, the infrastructure transparency initiative, works with governments, industry and civil society to promote the disclosure of data on infrastructure investments to help increase transparency, better value for money and better-quality infrastructure and services through accountability.

The **Urban Climate Action Programme** (UCAP) supports 24 cities in 16 countries across sub-Saharan Africa, Asia and Latin America to implement ambitious climate action plans to become carbon neutral by 2050, and prepare low-carbon infrastructure projects to reduce emissions and increase resilience.

Transforming Energy Access (TEA) is an FCDO research and innovation project enabling early testing and scale-up of innovative clean energy technologies and business models.

Modern Energy Cooking Services (MECS) works to accelerate the uptake of modern cooking solutions in developing countries.

Background

Centres of Expertise

- The UK Government Centres of Expertise help partner governments in low- and middle-income countries to pursue resilient and sustainable economic growth. Initiatives focus on economic development, including trade, green cities and infrastructure, financial services, public finance and green and inclusive growth (with an emphasis on growth sectors such as manufacturing and agriculture). They channel UK technical expertise, policy advice and evidence in these fields through UK Embassies and High Commissions around the world. GCI is part of the UK's economic and development offer to partner countries.

Green Cities and Infrastructure Programme

- GCIP is the main delivery mechanism of the GCI CoE. Delivery is largely channelled through 'targeted offers', which respond to the needs of partner governments to improve urban planning; 'deep offers' – strategic, multi-year projects and capital investment in Ghana, Indonesia, Mozambique, Philippines, Vietnam and Zambia; and the UK Expertise Offer, which improves the reach of critical expertise throughout the UK Government departments, agencies and partners.



Centre of Expertise activities

Drawing on UK expertise, the GCI CoE works in the following areas:



Infrastructure planning, design, finance, governance, regulation and standards



Urban planning and design, municipal finance and governance including the use of data and technology



The development of new infrastructure and urban policies



Institutional support to partner governments



Early-stage project development or prioritisation



Cross-border trade infrastructure



Digital connectivity



Cross-sectoral work on economic infrastructure (water, waste, energy, transport) with some emphasis on low-carbon transport and mobility

Get in touch

Visit the GCIP website: ukgreencitiesandinfrastructure.org for more details.

Email uk_gcip@pwc.com for GCIP queries, or gcip@fcdo.gov.uk for information regarding the broader GCI CoE.