



Re-Imagining Inclusive Urbanisation - People Building Better Cities

Ajay Suri

Bhopal 2012

CITIES
WITHOUT
SLUMS



Inclusive city- focused approach to development assistance

Ajay Suri

**International Conference – Reimagining
Inclusive Urbanization: People Building Better
Cities, Bhopal**

January 9, 2012

www.citiesalliance.org

Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums

Urbanization - emerging global trends and issues

- World population expected to grow by 2.4b by 2050
 - Urban by 3b and absolute decline in rural population
- Evidence that significance of urbanization inadequately understood by many developing countries
 - Adopted policies to slow down urban growth rather than plan for growth

Urbanization and economic growth

- Global evidence of positive linkage between urbanization and economic growth – cities are drivers of national growth
- WDR 2009 argues in favor of three spatial transformations for economic growth – higher densities, shorter distances and fewer divisions
- National policy framework and cities' preparedness to manage urban growth would help achieve potential impact of urbanization on economic growth and fair distribution of benefits across people

Urbanization challenges

- Cities in the developing countries are ill-equipped to manage urban growth
- Significant and increasing proportion of city population works in informal sector and occupies informal habitat – *the exclusion*
- Less than optimal productivity levels with large informal sector work force and poor quality of life in cities
 - Reduced inflow of investments and lower capacity of city to adopt inclusive approach for distribution of benefits

Urbanization challenges

- Exclusionary policies and non-recognition of rights of urban poor lead to
 - Prolonged under-investments in urban services in poor neighborhoods
 - Settlements slide towards slums of despair
 - Conditions exacerbated by poor quality housing, largely due to low affordability and insecure tenure
- Programmatic and partnership approach missing in cities in developing countries

Urbanization challenges

- Lack of appropriate policy response to urbanization in the past leads to the conclusion that rapid urbanization would be accompanied by increasing slum concentration in cities
 - Slum-dwellers are projected to double to 2b by 2030
- Imposing challenges of urbanization and city development need not lead to the conclusion that cities are a problem but rather that cities have a problem which needs to be addressed

Promoting role of cities in sustainable development

- Negative attitudes towards urbanization and/or cities lead to misdirected policies and restrain potential of cities for development
- Same is true for negative attitudes towards the urban poor
 - Economic, social and political exclusion restrains the potential of urban poor to improve their situation and ignores their contribution to the city
 - Slums are generally blamed on fast urbanization and are considered to be result of rural poverty
 - Considered transient and ignored or problem and evicted

Promoting role of cities in sustainable development

- Contrary to the belief, slums are a failure of policies and programs to meet the habitat needs of the poor
- Slum-dwellers are important contributor to city economy
- Slum clearances, mass evictions or relocation of the poor to urban periphery destroys households' housing investments and livelihoods
 - Merely relocates the problem within the city

Slum redevelopment

- Formal housing to informal settlers may not be a feasible solution in near future
 - Huge investment requirements due to high unit cost and large scale of the problem
- The appropriate policy response to the challenge of slums may be legalizing the illegal and formalizing the informal
 - Tenure security
 - Inclusive city development – link informal settlements to services network and informal activities to formal markets
 - Households' access to institutional finance for housing investments

Inclusive city development for growth

- Need for change in mindset that urbanization is inevitable and brings not only challenges but also prospects for economic growth
- Key is to strategize to meet the challenges
 - Improve living conditions across the city
 - Plan to meet the habitat, economic needs of various population segments, particularly the poor
- Slums can be transformed to improve living conditions of the poor
- Requires determined, targeted, city-wide and systematic action by local authorities and citizens

Cities Alliance' approach to poverty: Looking at the whole city

- CA understands urban poverty as part of the city as a whole, with a cross- and trans-sectoral understanding of causes and effects of poverty
- CA aims at the integration of the urban poor in the social, environmental, economic and political fabric of a city
- CA fosters
 - an **integrated** (comprehensive, holistic) approach,
 - an **integrative** approach for the urban poor, aiming at
 - urban development towards **inclusive cities**.

Inclusive Cities

...have an
empowered
citizenry engaged
in urban
development

...provide
security
of tenure and
access to
shelter

...are adapted to
the environment

...have an effective
and responsive city
management

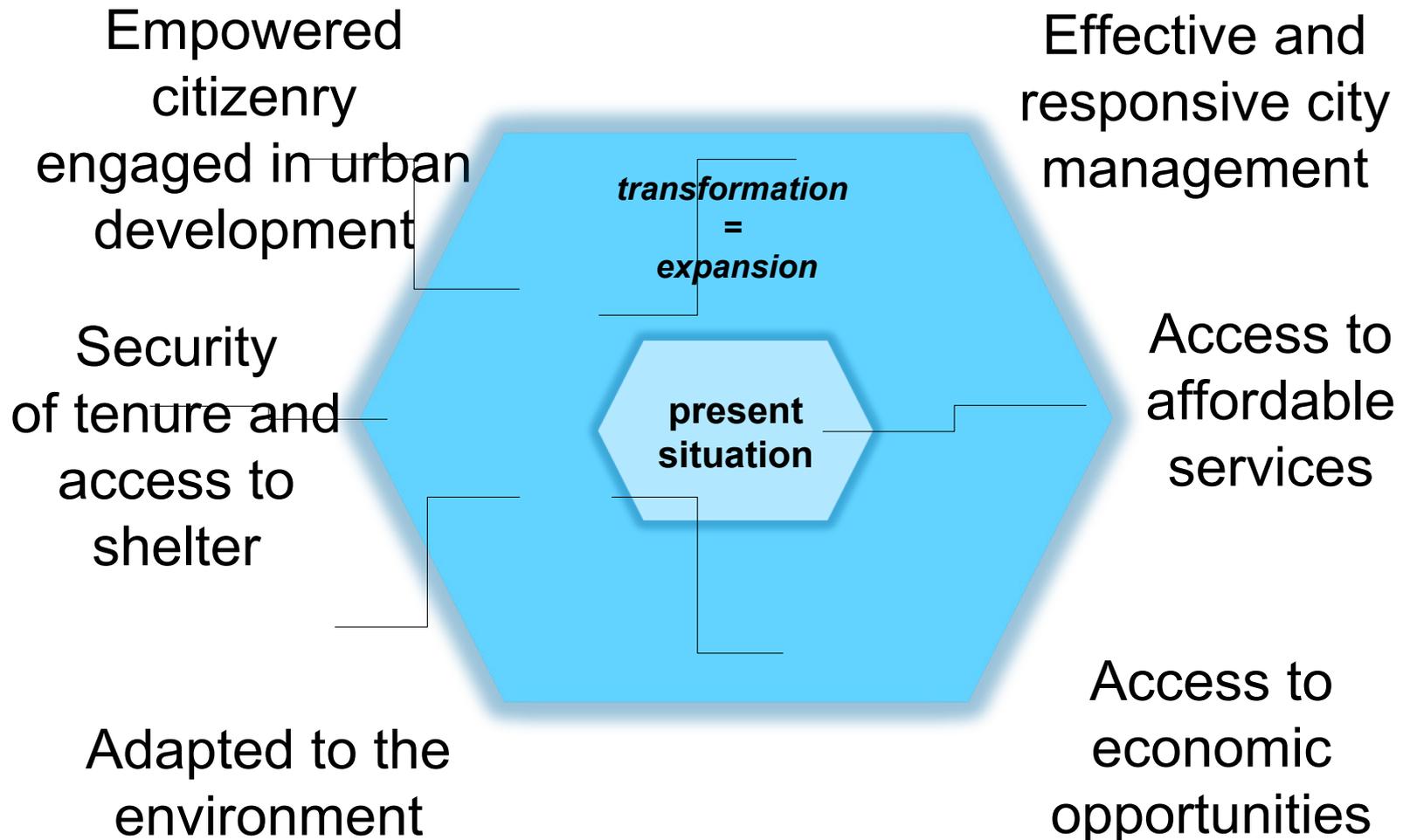
...provide
access to
affordable
services

...provide access
to economic
opportunities



***Inclusive
Cities...***

Urban Transformation towards Inclusive Cities



The Drivers of Urban Development...



...and Their Actions for Inclusive Cities...

Drivers of urban transformation, with their supporting partners, **mobilize financing** and other resources for inclusive urban development

Local governments and other drivers of urban transformation **enhance their knowledge** about inclusive urban development

Local and national governments, in cooperation with other drivers engage in urban transformation, **implement inclusive urban policies, strategies and plans**

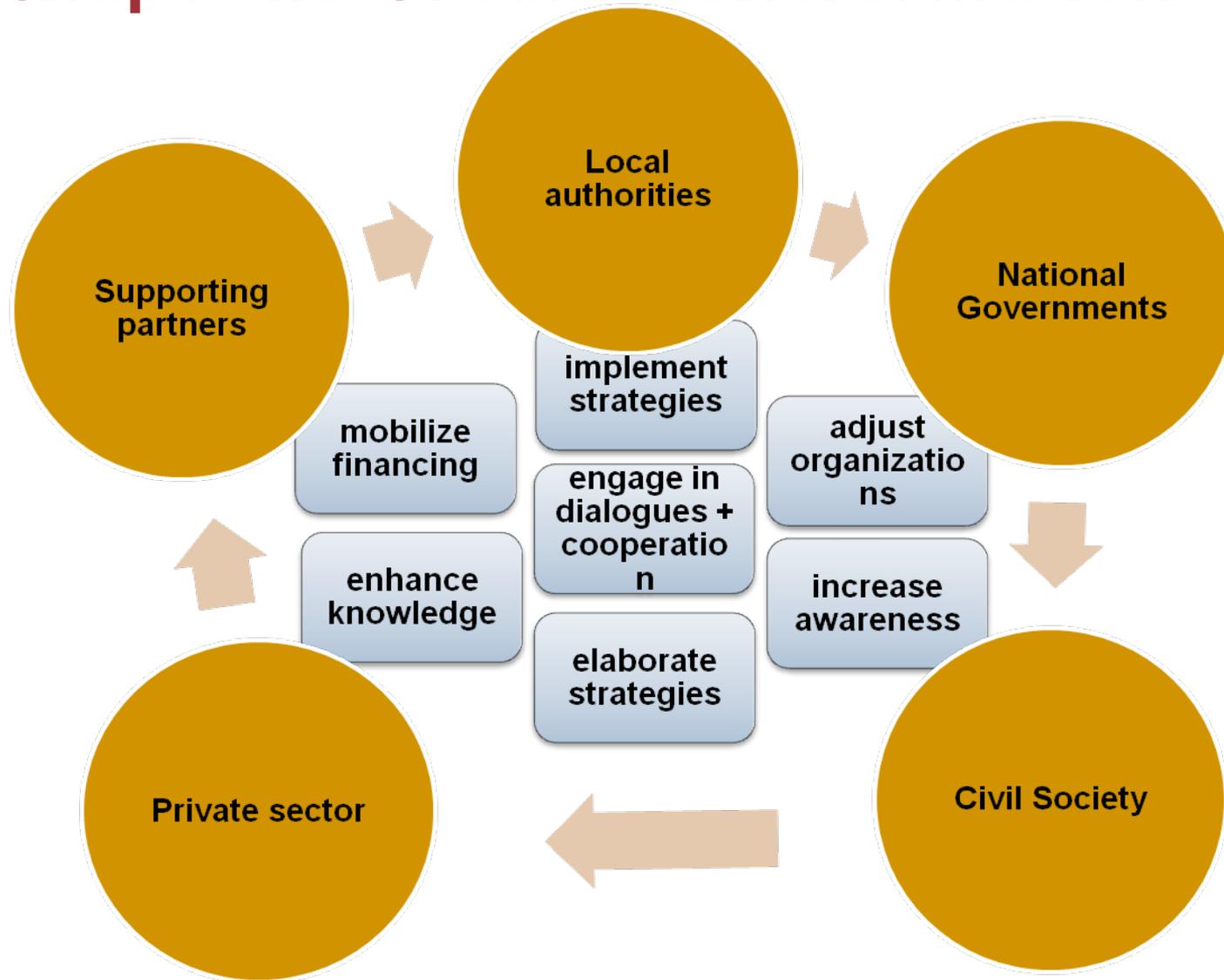
Drivers of urban transformation **engage in meaningful dialogues and cooperation** led by local and national governments

Local and national governments, in cooperation with other drivers of urban transformation **elaborate policies, strategies and plans** for inclusive urban development

drivers of urban transformation **adjust their organizations** to support inclusive urban development

The drivers of urban transformation **increase their awareness** of the situation of the urban poor and their potential for the urban development

...Shape the Urban Transformation



Guiding principles for CA support

- CA supports the seven action areas composing the urban transformation process according to the specific local situation
- CA support does not substitute local efforts
 - CA support is complementary and aims over time **to develop the capacities** of partners for initiating and sustaining the seven action areas
- CA support will be most effective when relying on its comparative strength.
 - CA support is not more (money) or the same (what CA members or partners are doing anyway)
 - CA support is an **added qualitative value**, which members and partners could not generate individually.

Guiding principles for CA support

- **Increased efficacy** of the transformation
- **Increased density** of the transformation
- **Increased efficiency** of the transformation

Inclusive approach to city development – the LSC Program

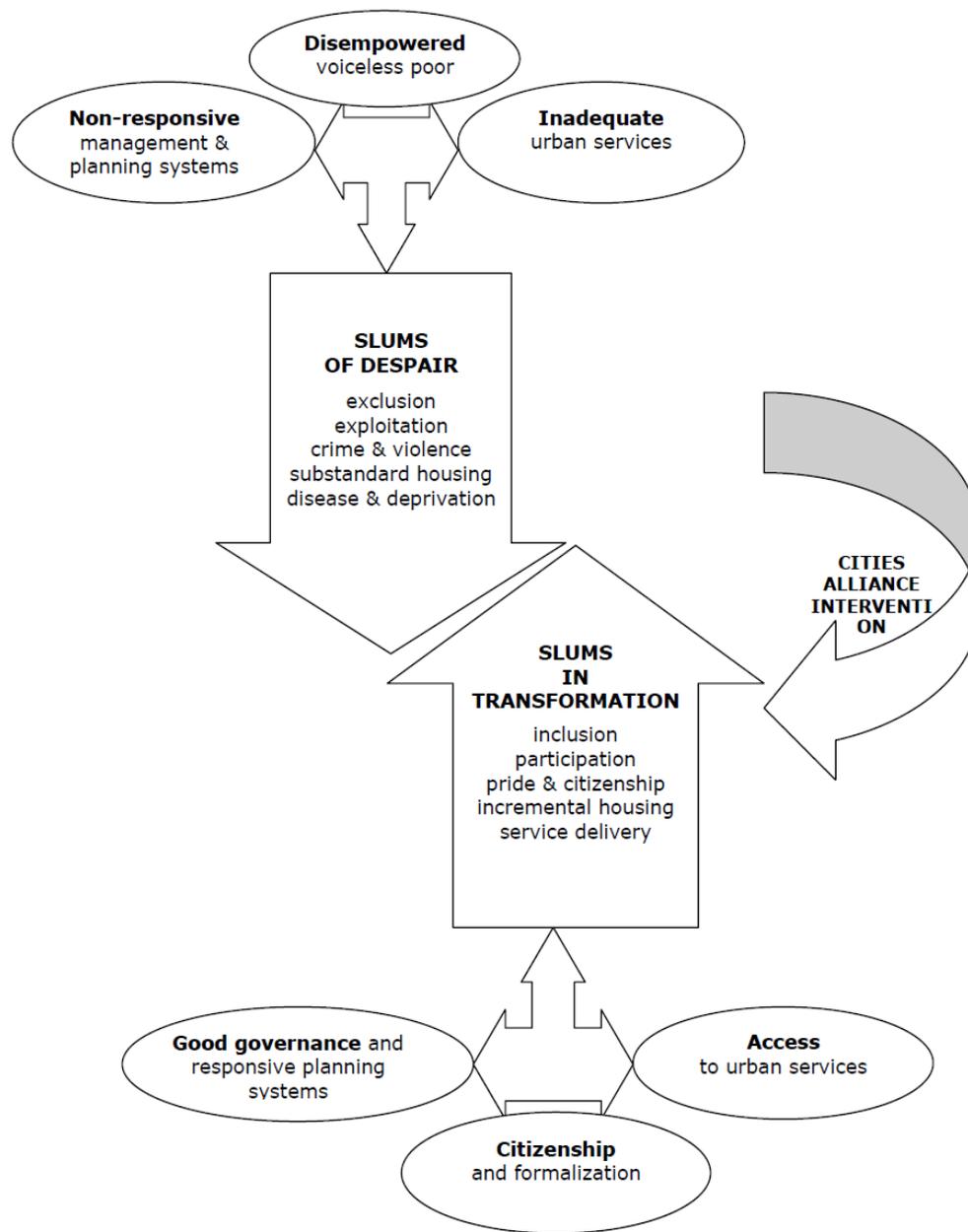
- Cities need to address exclusion of the poor
- Upscaling slum redevelopment inhibited by paucity of resources available with governments for urban investments and high resource requirement for slum rehabilitation
- Scaling up slum upgrading need to be under the government – urban poor partnership for city development and focus on
 - Reducing eviction risks
 - Linking slums to services network
 - Supporting households' house improvement effort

Inclusive approach to city development – the LSC Program

- CA advocates sustained and systematic extension of land, services and citizenship to urban poor as the most urgent and essential pre-condition for sustainable urbanization
- LSC program supports new approaches to urban development that allow countries and cities to respond to needs of existing slum-dwellers and anticipate needs of future urban dwellers
- Program being implemented in Ghana, Uganda, Burkina Faso (Africa) and Vietnam

LSC Program

- Supports
 - Slums to gain active citizenship through improved urban governance and formalization
 - Investment in slums that improve access to services
 - Inclusive urban policies and strategies to provide for future urban growth
- Extends to countries with
 - Demonstrated political commitment to slum upgrading
 - Commitment to setting targets
 - Budget for slum upgrading
 - Partnership and process approach to slum upgrading



From Slums of Despair to Slums in Transformation

LSC Program - Activities

- Active citizenship for slum-dwellers through improved urban governance and formalization
 - Rights and responsibilities of citizens framework
 - Citywide forum
 - Registration and enumeration of structures
 - Identification of housing ownership patterns and establishing guidelines to regulate landlord/tenant relations
 - Establishment of savings mechanisms

LSC Program - Activities

- Improved qualitative and quantitative access to services
 - Formation and capacity building of local slum planning and development committees
 - Identification and prioritization of infrastructure projects
 - Identification of unavoidable household relocations
 - Capitalization of local municipal fund
 - Establishment of transparent procurement procedures

LSC Program - Activities

- Promotion of city development strategies
- Development of clear town planning guidelines
- Development of appropriate urban management partnership guidelines
- Crafting of multi-faceted pro-urban poor strategy