



“Basic infrastructure and services at the community level include the delivery of safe water, sanitation, waste management, social welfare, transport and communication facilities, energy, health and emergency services, schools, public safety, and the management of open spaces”.

Habitat Agenda

Objective 5:

Localizing Millennium Development Goals (MDGs)

MDGs provide a useful tool for local authorities and civil society to address and consolidate development efforts. By establishing policies aligned to MDGs at the sub-national level officials from the public and private sector are able to appropriately address a wide range of issues, and find solutions that respond to citizen’s needs.

Promoting access to basic services for all

Through its dedicated capacity development activities for local actors, UNITAR ensures more effective management of urban services.

Key achievements

- n International guidelines on access to basic services endorsed by the UN-Habitat Governing Council and approved by the UN General Assembly (July 2009);
- n 148 participants enrolled in a comprehensive e-learning course on Governance of Urban Sanitation.

Activities

In 2007, the Governing Council of UN-Habitat requested UNITAR to co-develop guidelines that define the rights and responsibilities of stakeholders involved in the provision of basic services, with a focus on improving the delivery of these services to the poorest.

UNITAR played a major role in the consultation process which led to the elaboration of the International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services which serve as a basis for documenting the key principles in the provision of access to basic services and for understanding the roles and responsibilities of each stakeholder at both the national and the local levels.

By extending its formal links with local authorities, UNITAR conducts local development training activities in South America, Africa and Asia with the aim to make access to basic services a reality for all.

Addressing skills gap through local content and youth employment

UNITAR conducted an assessment of priority needs in the region and designed a capacity development programme that addressed the urgency to focus on employment creation and strengthen economic development as a means to overcome the social unrest experienced during the last few years.

The assessment recognized that the projected millions of man-hours needed in the Upgrade of Oil Mineral License 58 (OML 58) for Total Exploration and Production Nigeria Limited presented a unique opportunity to provide local communities with the training required to build their knowledge and upgrade their technical skills.

UNITAR therefore set up a vocational technical training programme which ensured the availability of required specialized skilled manpower among for the oil and gas industry in the Niger Delta Region and beyond in the West African sub-region.





“By providing a platform for dialogue and interaction, UNITAR has increased opportunities for economic development and public-private partnerships around the world. During my tenure as a CIFAL Trustee, I witnessed the tangible outcomes of such visionary work”.

Luis A. Aguilar, Commissioner, U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission, United States of America

The CIFAL Network: a hub for knowledge dissemination at the local level

By working through its network of affiliated training centres (CIFAL), UNITAR serves as a hub for knowledge sharing, training and exchange of best practices between local authorities, academic institutions, private companies and civil society.

Key achievements

- n 9 affiliated CIFAL centres strengthened by the introduction of a new model of cooperation (CIFAL Guidelines) and the establishment of an additional centre in Jeju, Republic of Korea;
- n The range of local development topics covered by UNITAR has been extended to climate change, migration, and integrated management of water basins in the Mediterranean region;
- n 10,000 participants have benefited from 137 CIFAL events.

Activities

CIFAL Guidelines approved during the 2008 CIFAL Steering Committee Meeting define standards for governance structure and resources in the centres.

The Guidelines, progressively implemented in 2009 by most CIFAL centres, provide the centres with greater autonomy and better capacity to organize and run the training activities for local authorities.

The new guidelines also serve as a basis for initiating implementation of new CIFALs in order to ensure better geographic coverage.

Knowledge transfer through public - private - partnership

UNITAR is partnering with Veolia Environnement, a private corporation, and working through the CIFAL network to develop and implement actions that can be adapted to other locations. For instance, the partners are currently collaborating with UN-Habitat on a pilot project in Mexico to test and analyze the application of the International Guidelines on Access to Basic Services. A specific training programme on this subject is currently being developed for dissemination through the CIFAL network.

Veolia Environnement is proud to be part of a network that works in a very transparent manner, and to be fully involved at all stages of the process, from defining strategic orientations to assessments. Strong commitment within the company has also allowed it to design models of good practices, to promote them and make them highly visible, in order to ensure transferability.

The partnership with Veolia Environnement has a tangible and positive impact and has worked to the benefit of both partners: UNITAR has been able to show concrete application of the UN public-private partnership strategy; and Veolia Environnement has been able to promote and enhance the value of its sustainable development policy which is aligned with the principles and objectives of the Global Compact. Local authorities have also benefitted as the knowledge and experience s helps optimize management of their urban services.