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October 31st is World Cities Day. Enjoy your October 2020 UrbanLinks Newsletter.

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Seven Ways USAID is Working with Cities

The future of development is urban. United Nations data shows that the world is rapidly urbanizing. And since 2009, more people live in urbanized areas than rural communities across the globe. Cities are the driving force for economies, by some estimates accounting

opportunities for progress, they also face a range of complex challenges, from pandemics to pollution. In this new blog Kevin Nelson, USAID Urban Team Leader, highlights seven ways USAID is working with cities to help countries on their Journey to Self-Reliance.

In honor of World Cities Day on October 31, UrbanLinks is featuring a range of USAID urban projects and activities from across the globe.

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Taking on Urban Air Pollution, Toxic, Chemical Pollution & Lead Poisoning

Did you know that air pollution kills more people than tuberculosis, HIV/AIDS, and malaria combined?

Together with a global consortium led by World Resources Institute and Environmental Defense Fund, USAID is launching a new flagship program, **Clean Air Catalyst**, to identify and advance solutions to urban air pollution in three pilot cities.
Learn More>>>

Reducing Childhood Lead Poisoning: USAID's work with Pure Earth aims to consolidate knowledge on lead, particularly from informal used lead-acid battery recycling activities, and from contaminated spices, and work towards coordinated national strategies that focus on preventing childhood lead poisoning in order to protect children's health and potential.
Learn More>>>

levels of government and within the international development community with information on the location, sources and potential impacts of sites contaminated by chemical pollution. The publicly available TSIP database of nearly 5,000 initial site assessments fills a critical information gap in many countries and facilitates the prioritization of pollution control and remediation efforts.
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Improving Urban Service Delivery

In places like Iraq, the delivery of municipal services, like water, electricity, and solid waste management are not only important for everyday life, they are essential for strengthening the relationship between government and citizens. USAID-funded **Iraq Governance and Performance Accountability (IGPA/Takamul)** project, supports federal and provincial government in Iraq to improve service delivery through four components including improving service delivery capacity, providing economic reform and public financial management, ensuring public expenditure monitoring and oversight and supporting Iraqi Change Agent empowerment.

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Building Healthier Cities

Building Healthy Cities: Healthy Urban Planning in Asia
This video shows how the Building Healthy Cities (BHC) project is supporting healthy urban planning in three Smart Cities in Asia. Through a mix of animation and video, this product highlights BHC's systems approach to help cities prioritize and fund people-focused activities.

Urban transportation, sanitation, education, recreation, environment, and technology all influence the health of a population. USAID's Building Healthy Cities program is refocusing city policies, planning, and services with a multi-sectoral health equity lens while improving data-driven decision-making for Smart Cities in India, Indonesia, and Vietnam.
Watch the video and learn more>>>

Helping Cities Deal with COVID19

Cities are often at the frontlines of the COVID-19 pandemic. While creating challenges, this crisis also offers a unique opportunity for local chief executives, mayors, and urban planners to rethink how cities can function better.

In the **Philippines**, USAID's Cities Development Initiative is supporting a "Rising to the COVID-19 Leadership Challenge" virtual learning exchange. This platform serves as a venue for mayors and local and international experts to share and learn from peers' experiences in responding to similar challenges in contact tracing, mitigation strategies, industry revitalization, and expanded testing.
Learn more>>>

With its territory divided between two governments and its national institutions in disarray, cities play a crucial role in **Libya**. USAID is working with cities like Zliten - a city of 300,000 on the Mediterranean coast - to improve essential services. This summer, USAID helped local officials establish an Emergency Operations Center and build an array of community emergency response teams to better manage the COVID-19 pandemic - a model now being shared with 29 other Libyan cities.
Learn more>>>

As the coronavirus spread to all corners of the world, **Iraq** implemented stringent nationwide precautionary measures. In cities and districts, local CSOs provide critical services to keep the situation from overwhelming Iraq's fragile health facilities.
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Partnering with Cities to Combat Ocean Plastic Pollution

Most of the estimated 8 million tons of plastic pollution entering the ocean each year comes from rapidly urbanizing cities in the developing world where waste management systems, infrastructure, and governments struggle to keep pace with growing populations and increasing amounts of waste. USAID's Clean Cities, Blue Ocean and Municipal Waste Recycling programs are partnering with municipal and national governments, businesses, and civil society to improve solid waste management and promote the 3Rs (reduce, reuse, recycle) in key cities in Asia and Latin America.

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Improving Urban Water, Sanitation & Hygiene

The majority of Indonesia's urban poor, like most urban poor in middle-to-low income developing countries, lack safe and effective sanitation. Most human waste is released untreated into the environment with devastating consequences — approximately 100,000 children across Indonesia die every year from diarrheal diseases. USAID's Indonesia Urban Water, Sanitation and Hygiene Penyehatan Lingkungan untuk Semua (IUWASH PLUS) program is working with 35 local governments to build capacity to reduce barriers to safely managed water and sanitation services and improve hygiene practices transportation, sanitation, education, recreation, environment, and technology all influence the health of a population.

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New on UrbanLinks: 2020 Urban Learning Briefs

This series of four Learning Briefs were developed by the Urban Team and researchers based on emerging trends in urban spaces and informed by the bi-annual World Urban Forum (WUF) in 2020. The Learning Briefs are meant for **USAID staff working in and with USAID Missions**. Each three-page learning brief includes background information, key questions to consider, resources from USAID and the broader development community, and suggestions for steps to take to move the needle forward in your work.

Urban Resilience: 2020 Urban Learning Brief for Mission Staff
As cities around the world face more acute climate events, global pandemics, humanitarian

Rural to Urban Migration: 2020 Urban Learning Brief for Mission Staff
By 2050, more than two-thirds of the world's population will live in urban areas and most of the urban growth will occur in Asia and sub-Saharan Africa.
Learn More>>>

Municipal Finance and Planning: 2020 Urban Learning Brief for Mission Staff
The world is increasingly turning to cities for solutions to pressing development challenges, like poverty, unemployment, access to basic services, and even climate change.
Learn More>>>

Strategies for Increasing Safety in Urban Areas: 2020 Urban Learning Brief for USAID Staff
Globally, cities are grappling with public security challenges such as street violence, gang violence, and political violence that undermine citizens' well-being.
Learn More>>>

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