Introduction

Ethiopia is among the least urbanized countries in Africa, but it is quickly making up for lost time: the share of its population residing in cities is expected to double to 30% by 2020. While urbanization offers tremendous promise for economic, social, and sustainable development, the cities of Ethiopia had limited capacity to cope with the explosive growth in urban populations. This resulted in high urban unemployment, low governance capacities, weak infrastructure and constrained municipal financing. Ethiopia has been transforming its cities into engines of economic growth by improving the performance of priority municipal services and infrastructure in 19 cities that together comprise 42% of its urban population. This has been enabled by a $150 million loan from the World Bank.

1.1 Key Interventions

The project uses an innovative system of performance-based grants targeted at improving the effectiveness of urban local governments. This facility provided Ethiopias cities, for the first time, with the means and incentives to focus on improving critical areas of city management, in particular by linking financial transfers to clearly, independently assessed performance indicators. The project motivates cities to work with their citizens so that the focus on improving critical areas of city management, in particular by linking financial transfers to clearly, independently assessed performance indicators, leads to improved performance. The project's market-oriented focus on labor-intensive cobblestone paving using local materials created opportunities for local entrepreneurs and laborers in quarrying, transport, and construction, thereby improving the creation of numerous micro and small-scale enterprises (MSEs). These new labor-intensive MSEs created employment among the majority of the funds were used to upgrade Ethiopia's infrastructure through the construction of roads in particular, the focus on cobblestone roads helped improve mobility. Coupled with capacity building activities, this project provided cities with the means and incentives to focus on improving critical areas of city management, in particular by linking financial transfers to clearly, independently assessed performance indicators. The project motivates cities to work with their citizens so that the focus on improving critical areas of city management, in particular by linking financial transfers to clearly, independently assessed performance indicators, leads to improved performance.

1.2 Measurable Outcomes

The project has been very successful, with the participating cities surpassing their performance targets and the beneficial outcomes have been realized.

1.3 Governance

Institutionalizing citizen participation through capacity building, cities in Ethiopia previously did not engage in robust consultation with their citizens to determine their investment priorities or even inform their citizens of such decisions. To improve local governance, the capacity building of cities and the design of performance targets and indicators included incentives coupled with capacity building to help cities adopt participatory planning and budgeting methodologies.

Conclusion

The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Sources


The program has transformed city centers into lively and welcoming places in which to live, work and do business by improving urban governance, infrastructure and public services for over 2.8 million residents. With high citizen satisfaction and government buy-in, the government with the support of the World Bank plans to expand the program to another 18 cities. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.
The infrastructural improvements that Addis Ababa and 18 other cities in Ethiopia have undertaken provide a powerful model for how governments can transform and beautify city centers in ways that generate extensive local employment opportunities. Enabled by a loan from the World Bank, the majority of the funds were used to upgrade infrastructure through the construction of roads. In particular, the focus on cobblestone roads helped improve mobility, beautify neighbourhoods, and increase property values and tax revenues. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

Coordinating with MIT

Investment plans are aligned with priorities of the citizens

Property values have increased significantly

Public consultations are more widespread

SOURCES

Flickr Creative Commons - Tristam Sparks
Flickr Creative Commons - Jannemei
Flickr Creative Commons - Sarah Sosiak
Flickr Creative Commons - Jannemei
Flickr Creative Commons - Sam Effron

ADDIS ABABA

The infrastructural improvements that Addis Ababa and 18 other cities in Ethiopia have undertaken provide a powerful model for how governments can transform and beautify city centers in ways that generate extensive local employment opportunities. Enabled by a loan from the World Bank, the majority of the funds were used to upgrade infrastructure through the construction of roads. In particular, the focus on cobblestone roads helped improve mobility, beautify neighbourhoods, and increase property values and tax revenues. The project’s success offers important lessons for other cities across Africa as well as other countries that are tackling the challenges of managing rapid urban growth.

In collaboration with MIT

Sensable City Lab...