

Workshop

Urban Public Finance

BACKGROUND (for internal discussion and circulation only)

Urban public finance refers to several interlinked processes. It includes the public financing of urban infrastructure, such as water treatment plants and roads. It also includes the ways in which urban authorities manage public money, for example through raising revenue, budgeting, procurement of services, and accounting for their spending. As a point of departure, this session acknowledges the importance of both processes in the realization of just and sustainable cities. In some ways, urban public finance can be seen as ‘the infrastructure of infrastructure’, shaping both the physical development and operational management of cities.

Urban public finance features heavily in the New Urban Agenda. The Urban Agenda draws on the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), a post-MDG framework adopted at the Third International Conference on Financing for Development in 2015. While the AAAA and other guiding public finance documents offer valuable suggestions for development financing, there is substantial scope to ‘ground’ this thinking and understand its unique implications and applications across place and space. There is a need for a deeper engagement with the social and political issues which operate at various scales and which shape the way in which this agenda lands in places. Moreover, there is a need for ‘propositional’ urban public finance work, which extends the existing frameworks and responds in creative and practical ways to urban challenges such as access to services, climate change, and state-citizen accountability (among others).

This workshop aims to develop the Mistra Urban Futures workstream on urban public finance, bringing together both public finance experts and those from other areas interested in contributing to the various projects that make up this workstream. We hope to use this space to build a common language and find points of intersection both between the LIP cities and with other sectors. This workshop will begin with presentations on the current urban public finance research. It will be followed by facilitated discussion on the further development of this research.

AIMS AND OBJECTIVES

The purpose of the workshop in Kisumu is to:

1. **Share the current projects:** There are several projects which form part of this broader workstream on urban public finance. We will share these projects, including the research

findings to date from each of the projects. Notably, the work focusses on Kisumu, with some work on Cape Town.

2. **Discuss the main goals and objectives:** Using these projects as a starting point, we will discuss the overarching aims and objectives of the work area, including what sort of practical and conceptual interventions we hope to make with it. This will be focussed on the long term aims and objectives of the work area to ensure that the projects respond to these.
3. **Identify future work:** Based on these aims, and in relationship to the existing projects, we will brainstorm improvements to the projects, future projects, or collaborations which could strengthen the work area.
4. **Get commitment on the practicalities:** Together, we will develop working plan, roles, and responsibilities moving forward (2018-2019). It is important that all LIPs involved in the work are committed to the process.

SCHEDULE AND STRUCTURE

There are two sessions of 2 hours each:

Time	Subject
1:10-2:10	Current projects
2:10-3:10	Aims and objectives (long term approach)
3:10-3:40	Tea
3:40-4:40	Future areas of work
4:40-5:40	Commitments and way forward

WHO SHOULD PARTICIPATE?

You may want to join this session if:

- You are interested in urban public finance and are interested in the research findings or in helping to shape the future work agenda.
- You are directly involved with Mistra Urban Futures urban public finance projects
- You have projects which could form collaborative linkages with urban public finance projects

Connected to SDG: 6, 7, 9, 10, 11

Lead Contact: Liza Cirolia

Email: lizacirolia@gmail.com