

# UMDF Annual Report 2025



AFRICAN DEVELOPMENT BANK GROUP



Urban and  
Municipal  
Development  
Fund

# Director's Statement



2025 will remain a landmark year for the Urban and Municipal Development Fund. Faced with the growing scale of urban challenges across our continent (where nearly 45%\* of Africa's population lives in cities) the UMDF has firmly established itself as an indispensable catalytic instrument in support of inclusive, resilient, and financially sustainable urbanization.

I have had the privilege of closely witnessing the growth of this Fund since its early years of operation. This Annual Report bears testimony to an undeniable institutional maturity: a strengthened team, a portfolio expanded to 24 active projects across 17 countries, and an

overall disbursement rate raised from 26% to 41.36% within a single year. It is precisely in this spirit of building (on Africa's own terms, and from Africa's own foundations) that the Four Cardinal Points of the Bank's President find their most concrete expression.

The year 2025 was marked by several significant milestones I wish to highlight. The African Cities Program welcomed six new cities (including Bamako, Niamey, Bobo-Dioulasso and Harare) bringing to 25 the number of municipalities receiving strategic support in developing their urban action plans. The Project Preparation Window approved eight innovative new projects, including the first urban cable car projects in sub-Saharan Africa in Kigali and Mombasa, as well as Kenya's first affordable housing securitization program. These projects reflect the UMDF's capacity to pioneer tomorrow's urban solutions, well beyond conventional approaches.

I also wish to acknowledge the strategic partnerships forged or deepened this year — notably with the Danida Fellowship Centre to strengthen the capacities of African municipal professionals, and with the City Climate Finance Gap Fund to accelerate the preparation of bankable climate projects. These alliances significantly extend the UMDF's reach and impact well beyond its own resources.

On the governance front, the Fund has strengthened its operational framework: the adoption of a new regional team deployment model, improvements to procurement processes, and the launch of a mid-term review in November 2025 whose findings will guide our priorities through 2027. These adjustments reflect our commitment to results-based management and accountability to our donors and partners.

The UMDF enters 2026 with positive momentum, a robust pipeline, and deepened partnerships. In a global context where secondary African cities are too often overlooked by major international financing mechanisms, the UMDF embodies a concrete, adaptive, and evolving response. It is this vision that I will continue to champion alongside the Fund's team, in service of Africa's cities and their people.

**Mike Salawou,**  
 Director, Infrastructure and Urban Development Department,  
 African Development Bank Group (AfDB)

\* United Nations, Africapolis/OECD



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# Executive Summary

## From Reform to Results: A Breakthrough Year

2025 was the Urban and Municipal Development Fund's strongest year since inception a decisive shift from institutional reform to full-scale delivery. Building on the operational improvements of 2024, the Fund converted sustained demand into signed contracts, active implementation, and measurable financial results across all of its windows.

### Disbursement surged to record levels.

Annual disbursement rose from USD 2.720 million in 2024 to USD 6.668 million in 2025, an increase of more than double. The portfolio-wide disbursement rate climbed from 26.02 percent to 41.36 percent, an improvement of 15.34 percentage points driven by faster contracting, stronger supervision, and deeper coordination with clients and Bank teams.

### The portfolio expanded to 38 operations since inception worth USD 16.12 million.

With an average project age of just 1.49 years, the portfolio reflects a healthy balance of newly approved operations and maturing projects already delivering strong results. Eight new projects were approved in the Project Preparation Window alone, across transport, water, housing, energy, and smart cities.

### UMDF demonstrated its catalytic investment model at scale.

UMDF preparation investments continued to unlock transformational downstream financing. The Kigali Urban Transport Improvement (KUTI) project — prepared with USD 1.42 million in UMDf support — entered construction in March 2025, backed by a total investment package exceeding USD 120 million, including a USD 100 million AfDB loan, USD 12.5 million from JICA, and a USD 5 million ADF Climate Action Window grant. In South Africa, the AfDB approved a USD 136 million corporate loan to the City of Johannesburg — the first of its kind to a subnational entity — supported by a UMDf technical assistance program to strengthen municipal systems.

### The portfolio diversified into new strategic sectors.

The Fund expanded beyond its traditional focus areas of urban planning, transport, and water and sanitation to embrace housing finance, smart cities, and sustainable mobility systems — sectors that reflect the evolving investment priorities of African cities and the AfDB's urban development agenda.

### Partnerships amplified impact and reach.

New and deepened partnerships with the Danida Fellowship Centre, the City Climate Finance Gap Fund, C40 Cities, and the Global Covenant of Mayors strengthened the Fund's capacity-building reach, facilitated investment matchmaking, and broadened knowledge exchange across the continent. The Fund's first Danida training course reached 31 professionals from nine countries, with 55 percent women participants.

The 2025 results confirm that UMDf has transitioned from pipeline building to sustained delivery. The Fund enters 2026 with expanded capacity, a stronger portfolio, and clear momentum.



An aerial view of Kigali - Photo Shutterstock

# List of Abbreviations

ACP	African Cities Program
ACN	African Cities Network
AfDB	African Development Bank Group
ESIA	Environmental and Social Impact Assessment
MAFW	Municipal Access to Finance Window
OC	Oversight Committee
PPW	Project Preparation Window
RAP	Resettlement Action Plan
Sgi	Small Grant Initiative
TRC	Technical Review Committee
UMDF	Urban and Municipal Development Fund

# Table of Contents

<b>1. ABOUT THE UMDF</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>2. PROGRESS IN 2025</b>	<b>12</b>
2.1 UMDF WINDOWS: OVERVIEW & 2025 RESULTS	13
2.2 AFRICAN CITIES PROGRAM - IN 2025	19
2.3 PROJECT PREPARATION WINDOW IN 2025	27
2.4 MUNICIPAL ACCESS TO FINANCE WINDOW IN 2025	49
2.5 SMALL GRANT INITIATIVE IN 2025	51
2.6 AFRICAN CITIES NETWORK (ACN) IN 2025	54
2.7 PARTNERSHIPS	58
<b>3. PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW</b>	<b>62</b>
3.1 UMDF ACTIVE PORTFOLIO OVERVIEW	63
3.2 DISBURSEMENT PERFORMANCE	71
<b>4. OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS</b>	<b>73</b>
4.1 OPERATIONAL IMPROVEMENTS	74
4.2 PROJECT PIPELINE AND OUTLOOK 2026	79

A smiling woman with a headscarf is the central focus of the image. She is wearing a patterned headscarf and a dark top. The background is a warm, orange-toned bokeh of light spots. The text '1. About the UMDF' is overlaid on the right side of the image in white, bold font.

**1.**

**About  
the UMDF**

# 1.1 About the UMDF

The UMDF's operational framework comprises three core programmatic windows that drive urban development across Africa: the African Cities Program (ACP), the Project Preparation Window (PPW), and the Municipal Access to Finance Window (MAFW).

The UMDF's strategic priorities guide its interventions across the continent:

- ✓ Improved governance
- ✓ Improved urban planning
- ✓ Improved urban infrastructure and essential services
- ✓ Inclusive growth
- ✓ Climate resilience and low carbon urban development

The Fund operates within the framework of the African Development Bank's 2024-2033 Ten-Year Strategy, the Bank's Urban Policy, and the Sustainable Urban Development Action Plan 2022-2026 (SUDAP). Further, the development of climate-resilient infrastructure is a priority of the AfDB, featuring prominently in President Sidi Ould Tah's [Four Cardinal Points](#).

In 2025, the UMDF's programs collectively managed a portfolio valued at over USD 16.12 million (active and completed projects). The African Cities Program (ACP) grew to cover 25 cities, the Project Preparation Window (PPW) advanced 19 active projects, and the Municipal Access to Finance Window (MAFW) planned and proposed strategic municipal finance initiatives.

The achievements across these three flagship programs demonstrate the Fund's commitment to evidence-based urban planning, project preparation excellence, and enhanced municipal financial capacity throughout the continent.

## Strategic Priorities

### Improved governance

By 2027 we will train over 750 municipal staff on innovative, green and resilient urban development, and help cities to improve their financial management and creditworthiness to access finance and investment by themselves.

### Improved urban planning

We support investment-oriented action planning, fostering medium, to long-term approaches for more inclusive, climate resilient, livable and productive African cities. By 2027, we will support 40 cities through our African Cities Program.

### Improved urban infrastructure and essential services

We support Governments (local and national) requested infrastructure and service delivery investments that directly and measurably lead to inclusive, sustainable urban development, providing financial and technical assistance for urban project identification, preparation, financial structuring and implementation. By 2027, 70 investment projects are expected to be supported, mobilising over USD 2bn of investments and reaching more than 55 million people.

### Inclusive growth

We assure integration of measures for equal access by men and women to resilient infrastructure, basic services, and training opportunities.

### Climate resilience & low carbon urban development

We integrate climate vulnerability and risk assessment in all operations to systematically identify and help realise opportunities for adaptation and resilience building. By 2027, we will help people all over Africa to adapt to climate change and mitigate 500,000 tons of CO2.

## Donors

The UMDF is grateful for the financial support from:





2.

Progress  
in 2025

# 2.1 UMDF Windows: Overview & 2025 Results

The UMDF facilitates early upstream engagement with national and local governments to enable investments in sustainable urban development.

## African Cities Program (ACP) – from ideas to projects

The AfDB's flagship urban program, providing long-term mentorship for improved planning, governance, and investment identification. UMDF finances City Diagnostics and Action Plans to assess development status, analyze climate risks, and identify 3–5 priority investment projects per city.

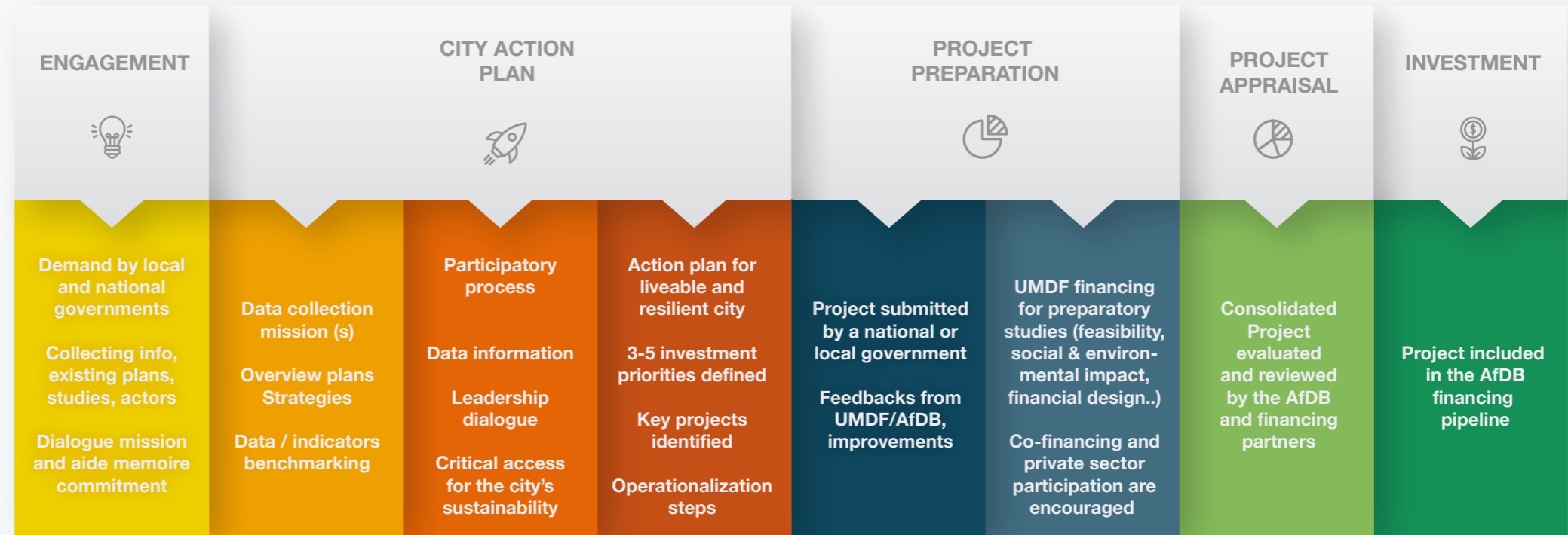
## Project Preparation Window (PPW) – from projects to investments

Provides financial and technical assistance for preparation and appraisal of high-impact, climate-resilient urban infrastructure projects across Africa — whether originating independently or through the ACP. 2025 was a particularly productive year for the PPW. In one key project in Kigali, a PPW grant funded feasibility studies that attracted large-scale project downstream investment for USD 120 million. In addition, five projects were completed under the PPW, the highest number in a single year since the inception of the PPW.

## Municipal Access to Finance Window (MAFW)

Supports municipalities in strengthening governance, financial management, and creditworthiness to access investment finance. Bridges the gap between cities' financing needs and the investment-readiness required to attract capital.

A USD 1.5 million technical assistance program (of which USD 500,000 for 2025) played a catalytic role in the successful conclusion of the USD 136 million subnational lending operation with the City of Johannesburg in 2026.



## African Cities Network (ACN)

Invites UMDF-supported cities to join a peer-learning platform for knowledge transfer, data sharing, benchmarking, and best-practice exchange — enabling rapid evaluation and follow-up on progress.

## Small Grant Initiative (SGI)

A flexible, cross-cutting instrument providing grants of up to USD 30,000 for city-originating projects. Its direct approval pathway enables rapid deployment for capacity-building, feasibility scoping, and stakeholder engagement. This initiative recorded the strongest growth of any UMDF window in 2025. The disbursement rate under the SGI soared from 40.75 percent to 75 percent — nearly double — while annual disbursement grew from USD 289,253 to USD 589,429.



## 2025 Results at a Glance



### African Cities Program

- ✓ 1 city action plan completed.
- ✓ City profiling workshops and stakeholder engagement meetings held in 7 cities.



### Project Preparation Window

- ✓ Approved 8 new projects, worth USD 3.6 million.
- ✓ Completed 5 major projects.
- ✓ Expanded into 3 new sectors - housing, smart cities, and cable cars.
- ✓ Funded climate adaptation and urban planning projects in 3 cities - Comoros, Côte d'Ivoire, & Cameroon



### Municipal Access to Finance Window

- ✓ Proposed 1 major C40 Cities initiative worth USD 500,000 for climate finance mobilization
- ✓ Approved a transformative USD 500,000 grant for Johannesburg's Municipal Systems Strengthening initiative

### Small Grants Initiative (SGI)

- ✓ Supported Cameroonian municipalities in growing their capacity to increase revenue and prepare bankable climate-related projects.
- ✓ Funded consultative workshops in Cote d'Ivoire and Comoros to seek the approval of local stakeholders for projects identified during city diagnostics.
- ✓ Supported the completion of the Maseru 2050 urban planning project that was interrupted by the Covid-19 pandemic.
- ✓ Funded the early preparatory phase of the development of the Lagos Metro Purple rail line.



### African Cities Network (ACN)

In its first year of operation, the ACN directed over USD 120,000 towards facilitating knowledge sharing on various aspects of urban development through 8 pan-African conferences and webinars. These included:

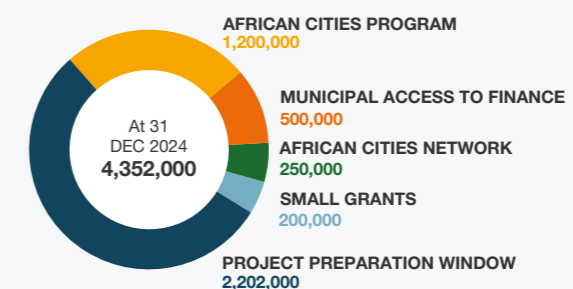
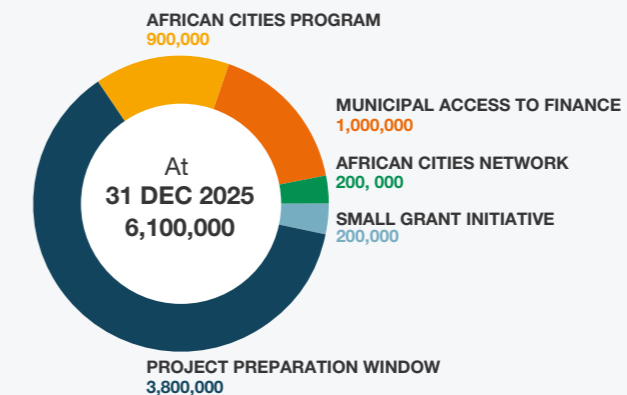
- ✓ African Forum on Urban Forests (AFUF)
- ✓ 6th International Forum on Participatory Democracy in Africa (FIDEPA 06)
- ✓ Conference on the Economic Impact of Housing in Francophone Africa
- ✓ Matchmaking Forum for Sub-Saharan African Cities with Funders and Businesses.

## UMDF PERFORMANCE (ACTIVE AND COMPLETED PROJECTS)

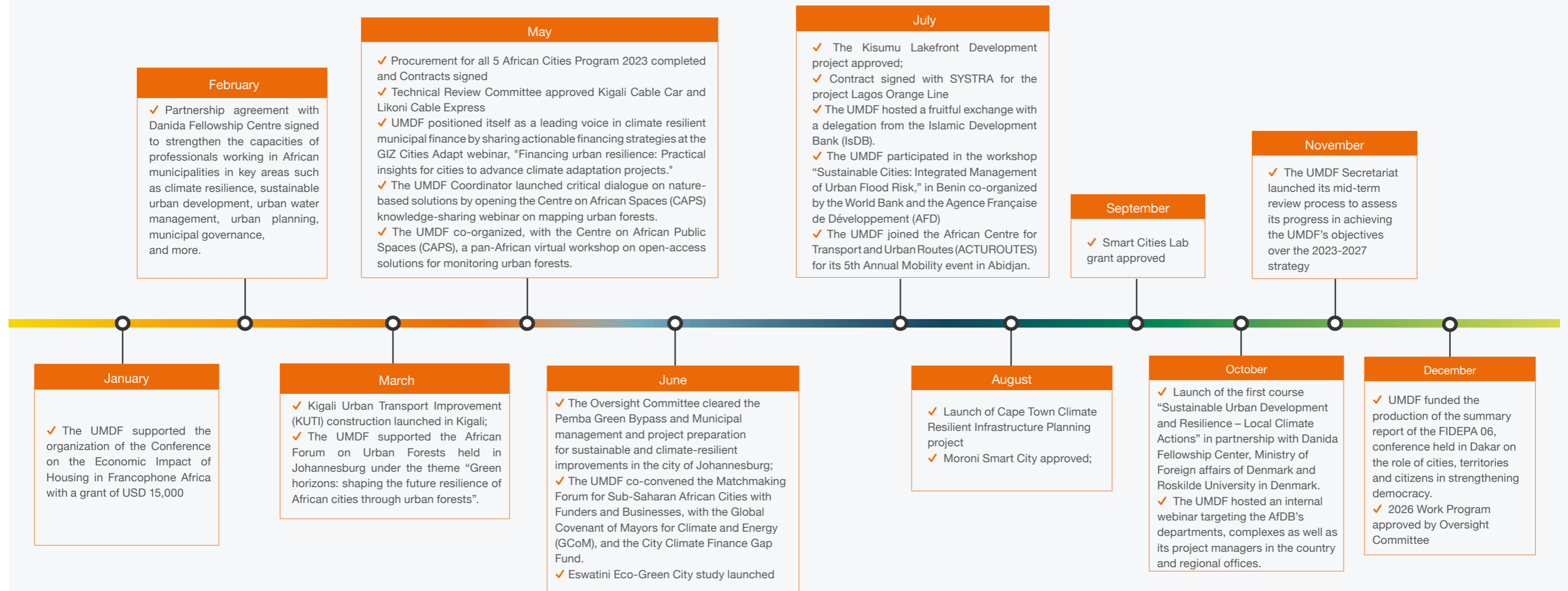
Program	Amount approved (USD)	Disbursement rate as of 31 Dec 2024	Disbursement rate as of 31 Dec 2025	Average age (Year)
Project Preparation Windows (PPW)	10,820,738	18.09%	39.36%	1.36
African Cities Program (ACP)	3,863,954.86	40.17%	40.40%	2.46
Municipal Access to Finance Window (MAFW)	450,000	44.40%	44.40%	-
Small Grant Initiative (SGI)	783,569.37	40.75%	75%	1.2
African Cities Network (ACN)	203,550	1.34%	28.70%	0.94
<b>Total UMDP Financing Instrument</b>	<b>16,121,812.18</b>	<b>26.02%</b>	<b>41.36%</b>	<b>1.49</b>

The AfDB's Urban and Municipal Development Fund (UMDF), allocated a total of USD 6.1 million to support new projects in 14 African municipalities and local authorities.

## EVOLUTION OF THE WORK PROGRAMME BUDGET BY WINDOW BETWEEN 2024 AND 2025 (in USD)

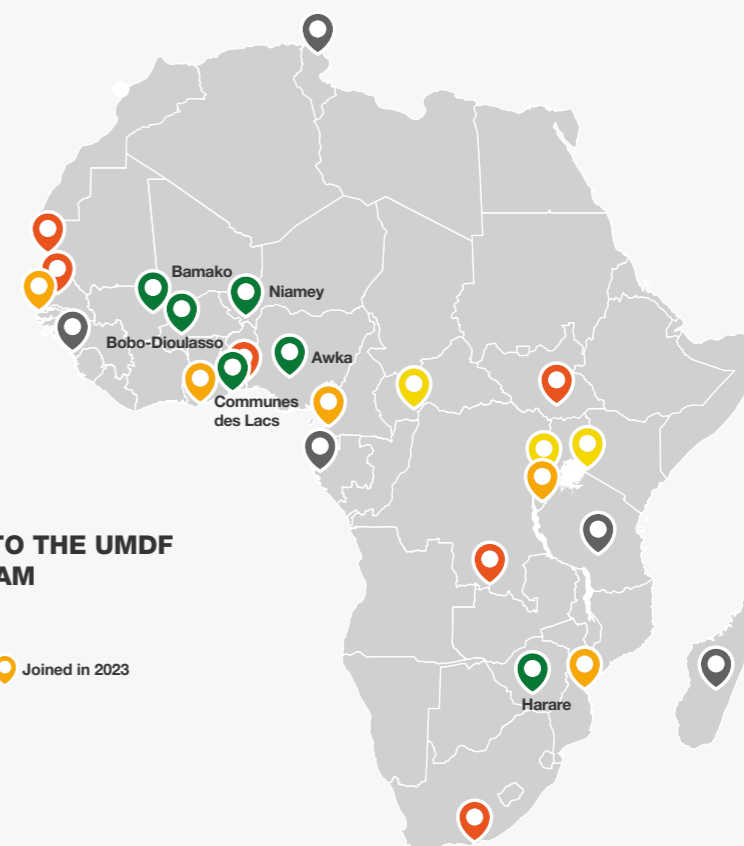


## The UMDF journey in 2025



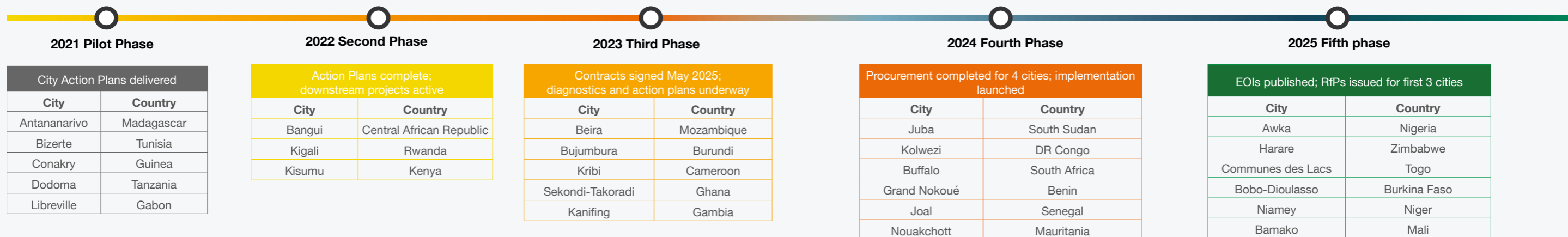
# 2.2 African Cities Program (ACP) - From Expansion to Delivery

The African Cities Program reached 25 cities by end 2025 up from 19 in 2024, marking another year of geographic expansion while simultaneously accelerating implementation across earlier cohorts. With the ACP on track to reach its 40-city target by 2027, momentum has decisively shifted from enrollment to execution.



**CITIES PARTICIPATING TO THE UMDf AFRICAN CITIES PROGRAM**  
AT 31/12/2025

- Joined in 2025
- Joined in 2024
- Joined in 2023
- Joined in 2022
- Joined in 2021



**ACP 2023: Contracts Signed, Studies Advancing**

A landmark achievement in 2025 was the signing of consulting contracts in May for all five ACP 2023 cities, formally launching their City Action Plan processes. Inception reports and initial disbursements have been made for all five. Diagnostics for Beira and Kribi are nearing completion.

**ACP 2024: Procurement Completed for Four Cities**

Contracts were signed in October and November 2025 for Buffalo City, Juba, and Nouakchott, with inception work already underway in Juba and Nouakchott. A final negotiation for Kolwezi concluded with firm ARTELIA. Procurement for Joal and Grand Nokoué is expected to close before year-end.

**ACP 2025: Six New Cities Joined**

The sixth cohort — Harare (Zimbabwe), Awka (Nigeria), Communes des Lacs (Togo), Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina Faso), Niamey (Niger), and Bamako (Mali) — expands UMDf’s footprint into new markets. RfPs have been issued for the first three cities; assignments for the second round begin in early 2026.

## Joined the ACP in 2025:



### **Bobo-Dioulasso (Burkina faso)**

Burkina Faso's second largest city with a population of 1.2 million, Bobo-Dioulasso, is a vibrant urban center and an economic and cultural hub. The ACP seeks to address its climate challenges, specifically reduce the city's GHG emissions by 10% and address water stress, declining agricultural and livestock productivity, an increase in water-borne diseases, infrastructure destruction (e.g. roads and buildings), loss of biodiversity, and soil erosion.



### **Niamey (Niger)**

With a population of 1.5 million inhabitants, Niamey, the capital of Niger, lies on the Niger River in the western Tilaberi Region. The city and environs are vulnerable to cyclic flooding, strained food security, water scarcity, and humanitarian crises caused by conflict. With the support of the African Cities Program, the Niamey municipal leaders aim to transform the city by harnessing the hugely untapped potential of its riverbanks, to improve integrated urban management and service delivery, and to boost the resilience of existing infrastructure.



### **Bamako (Mali)**

Mali's largest city with a population over 3 million, Bamako is a vibrant economic and cultural hub. The city leadership aims to work with the African Cities Program to reduce the city's projected GHG emissions by 10% by 2030 and tackle climate challenges such as water stress, decreasing agricultural and livestock productivity, an increase in water-borne diseases, infrastructure destruction (e.g. roads and buildings), loss of biodiversity, and soil erosion.



### **Awka (Nigeria)**

The capital city of Nigeria's southeastern Anambra State has a population of 430,220 people. The Awka Capital Territory Development Authority (ACTDA) is working with the ACP to develop the city's infrastructure and promote its economic growth.



### **Harare (Zimbabwe)**

Zimbabwe's capital city seeks the support of the African Cities Program to achieve improved distribution of potable water to its 4 million residents, to upgrade the city's wastewater system and to introduce an advanced traffic management system to ease congestion and reduce emissions. The city also seeks support to strengthen the operational efficiency of the city's municipality



### **Communes des Lacs (Togo)**

Part of the local government of the Lac Prefecture of Togo, east of the capital, Lome, Commune des Lacs is working with the African Cities Program to strengthen access to water and sanitation.

## City spotlights

### **Kisumu, Kenya — Action Plan Launched, Investment Pipeline Unlocked**

The Kisumu City Action Plan was officially launched on 16–17 July 2025, attended by county leadership, technical agencies, and development partners. The launch confirmed a USD 750,000 AfDB-UMDF grant for the Kisumu Lakefront Development Feasibility Study.

The Action Plan identifies 11 priority projects aligned with Kisumu's vision as a Vibrant Lake Metropolis on Lake Victoria, emphasizing polycentric spatial development, lakeshore revitalization, and local entrepreneurship.



Babati Mokogethi, East Africa Focal Point of the AfDB's Urban Development division and Micheline Savadogo, UMD Urban Development Specialist, meet with Governor of Kisumu County, Peter Anyang' Nyong'o.

### **Sekondi-Takoradi**

Sekondi-Takoradi stands as the fourth largest city in Ghana. It is a crucial economic gateway with key infrastructure such as ports and airports that serve western Ghana. It is a major landmark on the Abidjan-Lagos coastal corridor. When the city joined the ACP in March 2023, the leadership of the Sekondi-Takoradi municipality sought to revamp the city's transport infrastructure and its industry, with a view to enhancing its attractiveness for business investments. With the support of the ACP, city diagnostics and a city action plan were completed in August 2025 and December 2025 respectively. Hon Frederick Faustino Faidoo, the Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi commented on the future impact of the city action plan: "[The city action plan] will support our mission to become a world-class city

with modern infrastructure, strong social services, the best governance, attractive business opportunities and a vibrant living environment."



Hon Frederick Faustino Faidoo, the Mayor of Sekondi-Takoradi and his team during the city profiling workshop, part of the process of designing the City Action Plan for Sekondi-Takoradi

## Kigali, Rwanda — KUTI Moves to Construction; Cable Car Study Advances

KUTI — prepared with UMDF support — moved to construction on 24 March 2025, following approval of a USD 100 million AfDB loan in December 2024. The total financing package exceeds USD 120 million (including USD 5M ADF Climate Action Window grant, USD 12.5M JICA parallel financing, and USD 2.5M government in-kind commitment).

A separate USD 500,000 study was approved for a Kigali Urban Cable Car to further address mobility in the city's hilly terrain.



An aerial view of Kigali - Photo Shutterstock

## Bangui, Central African Republic — Action Plan Completed

Despite complex operating conditions, the Bangui City Action Plan was completed in 2025, capping a multi-year engagement that identified priority investments across five strategic city profiles: inclusive, resilient, green, autonomous, and competitive.

## Kribi

The leadership of Kribi, a beach resort town and port in the South Province of Cameroon, sought the support of the African Cities Program to address the city's infrastructure challenges and municipal governance. In July 2025, the UMDF supported a city diagnostics stakeholder engagement workshop in Kribi as part of the process of creating a city action plan.

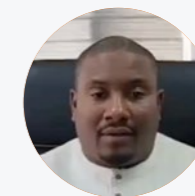
The workshop featured consultations with local authorities, field visits, and technical workshops. The workshop also aimed to strengthen awareness and local ownership of the recommendations of the city action plan and to consolidate institutional commitments to ensure the successful completion of the Kribi City Action Plan.



A visit to the Kribi Power Development Corporation (KPDC) natural gas power plant as part of the Kribi city diagnostic

## Kanifing

Kanifing, a town west of the Gambian capital Banjul, is the most populous and densely populated district in Gambia. It is the economic heart of the country and the home of many of the country's tourist attractions. When Kanifing municipality joined the ACP in 2022, its leadership had a big vision for the city: improved public transport, drainage systems, street naming and numbering, waste collection services, and a strengthened local financial system. The city was also looking to carry out capacity-building programs for Kanifing municipal staff. The UMDF funded a city diagnostic exercise, which was concluded in August 2025. The resulting City Action Plan, which includes an urban mobility plan, was completed in November 2025, paving the way for large-scale investment for its implementation.



Talib Ahmed Bensouda, the Lord Mayor of Kanifing Municipal Council



"[The]... city [action plan] provides us with a clear action plan built around priority interventions that reflect our residents' needs and align closely with my priorities., our ongoing reforms and the transformation we aim to achieve."

## Juba

Juba is undergoing rapid, largely unplanned urbanization driven by significant population growth due to conflict-induced displacement and the return of South Sudanese nationals from the diaspora. The city faces major infrastructure deficits, high exposure to flooding and erosion, weak solid waste management systems, and limited

institutional capacity for urban planning and service delivery. The AfDB and the UMDF supported early diagnostics in the city and crafted a City Action Plan (CAP). In December 2025, the UMDF supported a visit to various sites in the city and a profiling workshop to launch and advance the Juba City Action Plan.



Juba: A small stream carrying wastewater and solid waste crosses the road. Vehicles are forced to navigate through unsafe water, which also poses health risks to people and animals.



H.W. Mayor of Juba, Lual Joseph Deng, gave introductory remarks during the city profiling workshop.



AfDB South Sudan Country Program Officer, Fauzia Mwita Haji, delivered AfDB introductory speech to kick off the city profiling workshop.

The consultative workshop brought together the AfDB Country Office, Juba City Council, the University of Juba, and key development partners to validate rapid diagnostic findings and to agree on which initiatives to prioritize for investment. The stakeholders at the workshop agreed to prioritize urban roads with drainage, improved water supply, and strengthened solid waste management. The profiling workshop was necessary to ensure that the City Action Plan is grounded in local needs and positioned to translate into concrete, climate-resilient urban investments for Juba.

## Bujumbura

Burundi's capital city, Bujumbura, suffers from uncontrolled construction in flood-prone areas, erosion, chronic water shortages, waste mismanagement, and weak capacity to implement the national Master Plan 2045. Bujumbura joined the

ACP in 2023. The UMDf supported the development of a Rapid City Diagnostic and the long-term "Bujumbura 2040" vision. In November 2025, the UMDf supported the organization of a participatory workshop in Bujumbura to garner public approval of those two documents. Present at the workshop were representatives of the provincial and communal authorities, officials from the city's utility services, and representatives of civil society and youth organizations. The event helped to strengthen ownership of the documents and to translate local priorities into a shortlist of five high-impact, climate-resilient investable projects focused on flood protection, river stabilization, solid waste management, water supply expansion, and improved drainage.



A stakeholder engagement as part of the design of the Bujumbura City Action Plan

## Beira

Beira is Mozambique's second-largest port, a burgeoning urban center and a trade and transport hub. It is the terminal point for railways stretching into South Africa, Zimbabwe, Zambia, Democratic Republic of Congo, and Malawi. Beira also serves as a critical maritime entry point for these landlocked neighbors. Along with the capital city Maputo and Nacala, Beira forms part of the vital Beira Corridor, which extends to Tete province and onwards to international markets in Harare, Lusaka, and the broader region.

However, Beira is grappling with the effects of rapid population growth of 30

per cent over the last decade. In addition, the city is acutely vulnerable to climate change-related floods and extreme weather. Its existing seawall is too low to protect against the compounded threats of rising sea levels and increasingly severe cyclonic events. Such vulnerabilities pose significant risks to the continuity of trade and transport services, and they put a large part of the population and urban workforce at risk. In light of these challenges, enhancing the resiliency of Beira's transport infrastructure is essential not only for municipal protection but also for maintaining the economic heartbeat of the entire region



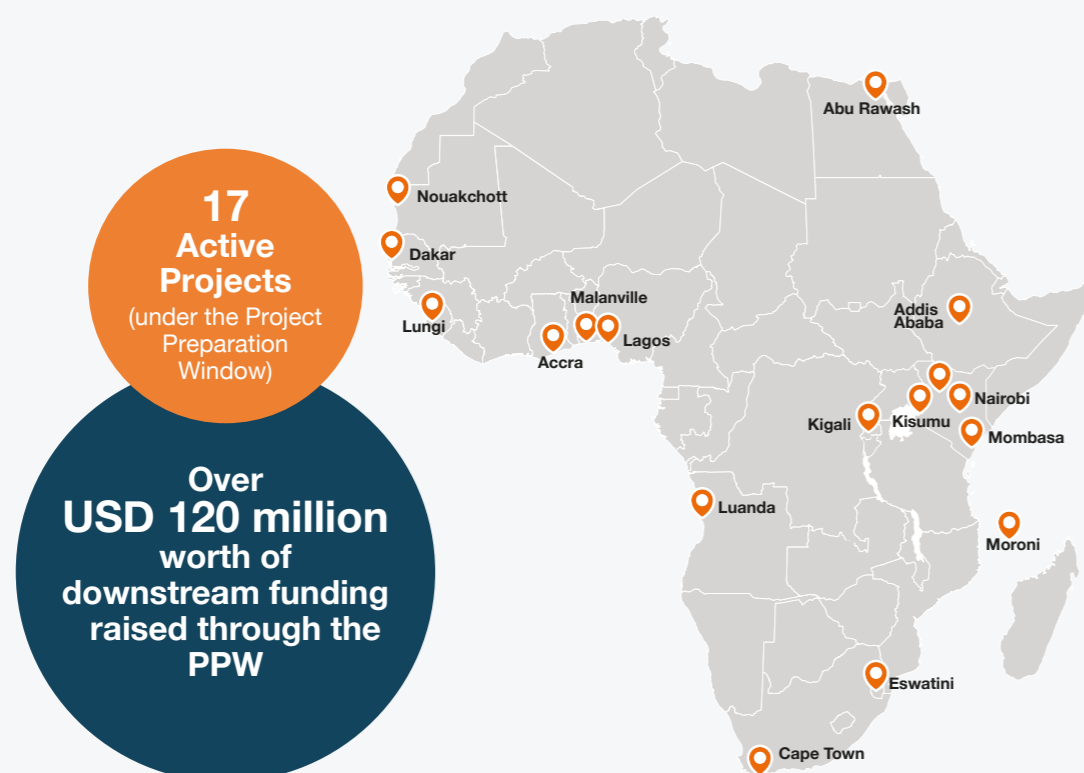
The co-design of the Beira City Action Plan in consultation with professionals from Beira Municipal Council



Badjanani district in Moroni - Photo Shutterstock

# 2.3 Project Preparation Window (PPW) - The Engine of Acceleration

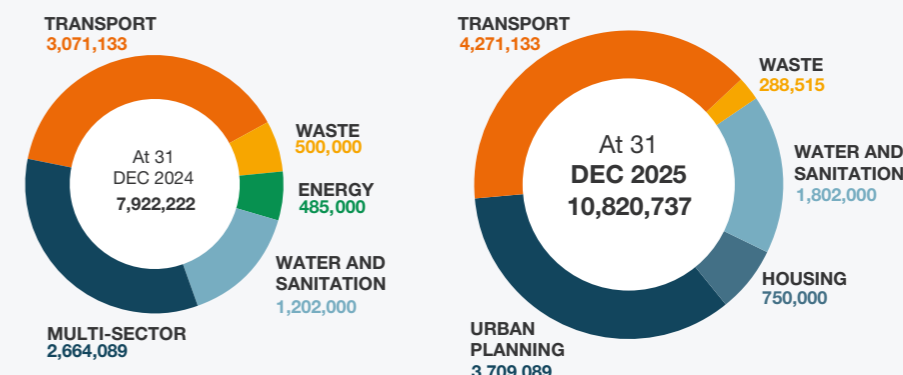
The Project Preparation Window delivered its strongest year since the Fund's establishment. Eight projects totalling USD 3.6 million were approved, the highest annual approval count for the window. Ten projects signed contracts and launched implementation (compared to just three in 2024). Five projects reached completion. And PPW disbursement surged from USD 1,091,606 in 2024 to USD 4,259,347 in 2025, with the disbursement rate rising from 18 percent to 39.36 percent. This is no longer a pipeline in development, it is a portfolio in full execution.



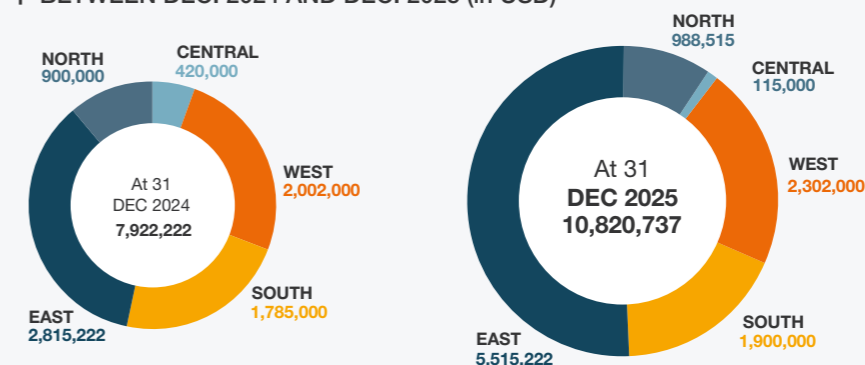
## PROJECTS APPROVED BY THE AfDB TECHNICAL REVIEW COMMITTEE IN 2025

Project	City / Country	Sector	UMDF Grant
1 Kigali Urban Cable Car	Kigali, Rwanda	Transport	USD 500,000
2 Likoni Cable Express, Mombasa	Mombasa, Kenya	Transport	USD 200,000
3 Project for a sustainable and climate-resilient water network expansion and improvements in Luanda	Luanda, Angola	Water	USD 600,000
4 Projet d'Appui à la Planification Urbaine Durable de Malanville (PAPUD-Villes Intermédiaires du Bénin)	Malanville, Benin	Urban Planning	USD 300,000
5 Addis Ababa Urban Mobility Diagnosis Project	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia	Transport	USD 500,000
6 Kisumu Lakefront development project	Kisumu, Kenya	Multi-sector	USD 750,000
7 Moroni Smart city project	Moroni, Comoros	Housing / Smart City	USD 500,000
8 Sustainable Affordable Housing Bond Issuance for Kenya project	Multi-city, Kenya	Housing	USD 250,000
<b>Total</b>			<b>USD 3,600,000</b>

### EVOLUTION OF THE PPW OVERALL PORTFOLIO BY SECTOR BETWEEN DEC. 2024 AND DEC. 2025 (in USD)



### EVOLUTION OF THE PPW OVERALL PORTFOLIO BY REGION BETWEEN DEC. 2024 AND DEC. 2025 (in USD)



Project Preparation Window (PPW)

# New Project Highlights

Panoramic view of Luanda Bay, Angola

# Kigali Urban Cable Car Project

Sector(s)	Transport
Location	Kigali, Rwanda
Partners	Government of Rwanda
UMDF grant for studies	USD 500,000
Final project estimated cost	USD 120 million
Climate Classification	Mitigation
Beneficiaries	50,000 daily passengers

The growing population of Rwanda’s capital Kigali is putting pressure on the city’s transport system. The result is traffic jams and overcrowding at peak times, long wait times at bus stops due to insufficient buses, and commuters’ over-reliance on private cars. The project aims to construct a 5.5-km cable car system connecting the Nyabugogo Taxi Park to the central business district and linking the Kigali Convention Center to Kigali Sports City, two critical corridors in the center of Kigali. The cable car system will transport 50,000 passengers daily on 15-minute end-to-end journeys. The cable car system promises to

significantly reduce traffic congestion while cutting greenhouse gas emissions. Equally important, it will connect underserved communities to employment opportunities and essential services, embodying the UMDf’s commitment to inclusive urban development.

The UMDf grant is funding the feasibility studies related to the project and preparing the project for large-scale investment. Those efforts will allow the project to attract USD 120 million in investment for its implementation.



## Outputs

- ✓ Studies on economic demand, architecture, transport, and engineering

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ Preparatory studies completed relating to increasing transport capacity of the city of Kigali, reduced congestion, and reduced greenhouse gas emissions.
- ✓ Project ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners

## Financing

Expected to be a mix of 70% blended finance/concessional debt and 30% equity. This will be confirmed when the UMDf feasibility studies are complete.

## Infrastructure

A 5.5-km cable car system connecting the Nyabugogo Taxi Park to the central business district and linking the Kigali Convention Center to Kigali Sports City, two critical corridors in the center of Kigali.

## Final Impact

- ✓ Reduced traffic congestion, reduced greenhouse gas emissions. Underserved communities connected to employment opportunities and essential services.

# Likoni Cable Car Project

Sector(s)	Transport
Location	Likoni, Mombasa County, Kenya
Partners	Government of Kenya, Mombasa County
UMDF grant for studies	USD 200,000
Final project estimated cost	Estimated USD 100 million
Climate Classification	Mitigation
Beneficiaries	180,000 daily passengers

The Likoni Cable Express is an urban mobility project aimed at addressing persistent transport challenges in the coastal city of Mombasa, Kenya. The project will connect Mombasa Island to the South Coast across the 1.4-km long Likoni Channel, and provide an alternative to the existing ferry service, which struggles with congestion and inefficiencies, affecting over 450,000 daily passengers. By introducing a modern cable car system, the project will provide a safe, fast, efficient, and environmentally-friendly alternative, enhance mobility, and reduce waiting times. It will have the capacity to transport 180,000 commuters daily, 1.2 million workers and residents of Likoni,

Mombasa and surrounding areas annually, as well as 1.7 million tourists every year. The cable car system will minimize carbon emissions. The project will also create approximately 500-1,000 jobs during its construction and operation, benefiting local businesses and the wider Mombasa community.

The UMDf grant will support the updating of the project's feasibility study and ensure its financial, technical, environmental, and social readiness for downstream public-private partnership (PPP) investment.



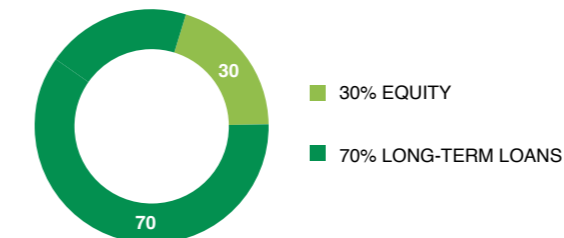
## Outputs

- ✓ An updated Market and Ridership Analysis, and an updated Environmental and Social Impact Assessment (ESIA).

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ Feasibility studies related to replacing the existing ferry service that is plagued by congestion and inefficiency
- ✓ Project ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners.

## Financing



## Infrastructure

- ✓ A modern cable car system connecting Mombasa Island to the South Coast across the 1.4-km long Likoni Channel, with a capacity of 180,000 passengers daily

## Final Impact

- ✓ Reduced traffic congestion. Enhanced passenger safety. Minimized carbon emissions. Some 500-1,000 jobs created during construction and operation.

studies phase

Project closing and financing

Implementation

# Moroni Smart city project

Sector(s)	Housing
Location	Moroni, Comoros
Partners	Government of Comoros
Requested Grant	USD 500,000
Final project estimated cost	USD 100 million (Euros 87.7m)
Climate Classification	Adaptation
Beneficiaries	3,000 government employees, residents of Moroni

The project includes the construction of an administrative district and the deployment of Smart City solutions, and the digitization of governance and public services. The project will strengthen budget management and governance by supporting efforts to improve the efficiency of public spending and enhance the transparency of fiscal management. It also contributes to the modernization of civil registration, facilitating administrative procedures and strengthening the credibility of official documents. Finally, it will help to strengthen resilience to climate shocks by developing sustainable and resilient infrastructure, a major challenge for the Comoros.

The Moroni Smart City project aims to modernize the capital of the Comoros by improving infrastructure and digitizing urban management. This project addresses the challenges of urban planning, inadequate infrastructure, and vulnerability to climate change. The project includes the rehabilitation of government buildings, the implementation of digitalized urban management tools (eg for land management), and the strengthening of the capacities of local authorities.



Studies phase

## Outputs

- ✓ Feasibility study report

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ Studies related to the rehabilitation of government buildings, the implementation of digitalized urban management tools (eg for land management), and the strengthening of the capacities of local authorities.
- ✓ The project is ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners.

Project closing and financing

## Financing

To be confirmed when the UMDF studies are completed.

Implementation

## Infrastructure

Construction of an administrative district, the deployment of Smart City solutions, and the digitization of governance and public services.

## Final Impact

Challenges concerning urban planning, inadequate infrastructure, and vulnerability to climate change addressed.

# Sustainable Affordable Housing Bond Issuance for **Kenya project**

Sector(s)	Housing
Location	Kenya
Partners	Government of Kenya
Requested Grant	USD 250,000
Final project estimated cost	USD 5.8 billion
Climate Classification	Adaptation
Beneficiaries	Low and middle-income families living in the country's urban centers, particularly women-headed households, persons living with disability, youth, and informal sector workers.

Kenya faces a housing deficit of over 2 million units, with an annual demand of 250,000 new homes, while only 50,000 units are built each year. This housing gap is driven by rapid urbanization, high mortgage costs, and limited access to affordable credit for low and middle-income households. The project aims to address the country's housing deficit by leveraging its Affordable Housing Levy to fund the construction of 200,000 housing units

annually and offer accessible mortgage options for low- and middle-income households.

The initiative also aims to strengthen Kenya's housing finance market by attracting private sector investment. The UMDF grant will facilitate advisory services necessary for transaction structuring and project bankability assessments.



## Outputs

✓ Advisory services necessary for transaction structuring and bankability assessments.

## Expected Outcomes

✓ A sustainable financing mechanism to address the country's housing deficit.

## Financing

✓ The country's Affordable Housing Levy, deducted from employees' income and matched by employers.

## Infrastructure

✓ An estimated 200,000 affordable housing units annually.

## Final Impact

✓ Housing affordability, social inclusion, and climate resilience, integrating sustainable construction practices.

# Project for a sustainable and climate-resilient water network expansion in Luanda

Sector(s)	Water & Sanitation
Location	Luanda, Angola
Partners	Empresa Publica de Aguas de Luanda (EPAL), Ministry of Energy and Water
Requested Grant	USD 600,000
Final project estimated cost	USD 143 million
Climate Classification	Adaptation
Beneficiaries	1 million residents of Luanda and surrounding municipalities.

Luanda's water supply and sewage systems were severely damaged during Angola's civil war. About 37% of residents are connected to the water network, while about 22% get water from public standpipes. The rest of the population relies on either unregulated and extremely costly private tanker truck service or water drawn from illegal connections or untreated river sources. The city's water and sewage systems are struggling to keep pace with the rapid population growth in the city. The lack of access to water affects the poorest and vulnerable, with women and children suffering the most as a result. This risk is compounded by the continued growth of unplanned settlements without accompanying infrastructure and service capabilities.

The UMDf grant will fund the feasibility studies for the sustainable and climate-resilient water supply infrastructure in Luanda Province, Cazenga Municipality, and the Talatona, Camama and Cidade Universitária Districts, the worst-hit by water-related challenges. The grant will also cover the preparation of the project for large-scale investment.

The impact of this project will be multi-pronged. The incidence of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea will be reduced. Women and girls will be able to focus on attending school, as well as participate in other social and economic activities, instead of fetching and delivering water. Women will be able to participate in water management through their integration in the water community committees.



A Community water point in Angola - AfDB

## Outputs

- ✓ The scope review and inception report
- ✓ Engineering surveys and investigations
- ✓ Topographical survey plans, the hydrological survey report, the hydraulic modelling report, the layout plans, and the preliminary (desktop) geotechnical investigations report.
- ✓ Appraisal report of Water Supply Infrastructure Improvement and Reduction of Non-Revenue Water Alternatives,
- ✓ Preliminary Design Report of the least cost preferred option,
- ✓ Financial Analysis report of the least cost alternative to estimate the profitability of a project,
- ✓ Social Economic Analysis report of Least Cost preferred Option report,
- ✓ Political Economy Analysis report.

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ A feasibility study related to rehabilitating the city's water and sanitation infrastructure.
- ✓ The project is ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners.

## Financing

- ✓ A sovereign loan from the AfDB.

## Infrastructure

- ✓ Expanded and rehabilitated water and sanitation infrastructure in the capital's worst affected areas

## Final Impact

- ✓ About 1 million residents of the country will gain access to sustainable and climate-resilient water supply. Reduced incidence of waterborne diseases such as cholera and diarrhea. Creation of economic opportunities for women and girls.

# Projet d'Appui à la Planification Urbaine Durable de Malanville (PAPUD-Villes Intermédiaires du Bénin)

<b>Sector(s)</b>	Urban/spatial development
<b>Location</b>	Malanville, Benin
<b>Partners</b>	Benin's Department of Environment and Transportation, responsible for Sustainable Development
<b>Requested Grant</b>	USD 300,000
<b>Final project estimated cost</b>	USD 2,380,000
<b>Climate Classification</b>	Adaptation, mitigation
<b>Beneficiaries</b>	320,000 residents of five cities, including urban and peri-urban areas.

Cities in Benin face challenges related to the lack of urban planning, difficulties in accessing basic urban services, and uncontrolled occupation of spaces that are unsuitable for construction. The PAPUD-Villes Intermédiaires du Bénin project aims to contribute to sustainable urban development planning in five intermediate municipalities in Benin: Banikoara, Malanville, Nikki, Savalou, and

Tori-Bossito. The planning documents will help authorities rationalize land use, protect flood-prone areas, build local capacity, and gradually integrate sustainable practices into urban management. In addition, the project will contribute to the planning of resilient infrastructure and the preservation of natural areas, which are essential carbon sinks, to mitigate the effects of climate change.



Passengers near canoes used to cross the Niger River, which separates Benin and Niger, in the town of Malanville - Photo AFP

## Outputs

- ✓ A detailed Urban Plan (PDU) and the Detailed Sanitation Plan (PDA) for the city.
- ✓ Capacity Building
- ✓ Implementation and Monitoring and Evaluation.

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ The preparation of the urban development plan for the city of Malanville to guide the spatial development of the city and protect residential areas from flood risks.
- ✓ The project is ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners.

## Financing

- ✓ An AfDB loan of an estimated USD 1.5m.

## Infrastructure

- ✓ N/A, as this is a technical assistance project.

## Final Impact

- ✓ Urban development and change management, including the creation and development of urban agriculture buffer zones to protect part of the flood-prone areas

# Addis Ababa Urban Mobility Diagnosis Study

Sector(s)	Transport/Mobility
Location	Addis Ababa, Ethiopia
Partners	Ethiopia's Ministry of Transport (MoT), Federal Transport Authority (FTA), Ministry of Urban Development and Housing (MUDH), Addis Ababa Road and Transport Bureau (AARTB), Traffic Management Agency (TMA), and Driving Vehicle and Licensing Authority (DVLA)
Requested Grant	USD 500,000
Final project estimated cost	To be determined once UMDF studies are completed
Climate Classification	Mitigation
Beneficiaries	Over 6.5 million residents and commuters in Addis Ababa

As one of Africa's fastest-growing urban centers and a significant economic hub contributing substantially to Ethiopia's GDP, Addis Ababa faces critical challenges, including severe traffic congestion, long wait times for public transport, air pollution, and high accident rates.

This UMDF-funded feasibility study will conduct a comprehensive evaluation of the existing mobility systems, a diagnosis of inefficiencies, and develop a strategic roadmap for optimization strategies to cover the next 20 years. The feasibility study will also identify at least five bankable projects.



## Outputs

- ✓ An analysis of existing problems,
- ✓ Diagnosing inefficiencies
- ✓ Developing optimization strategies, and
- ✓ Identifying at least five bankable projects.

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ Feasibility studies relating to an overhaul of the city's mobility system focusing on efficiency.
- ✓ The project is ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners.

## Financing

- ✓ To be confirmed when the UMDF study is complete.

## Infrastructure

- ✓ Green urban road infrastructure.

## Final Impact

- ✓ A comprehensive evaluation of the existing mobility systems, a diagnosis of inefficiencies, and a strategic roadmap for optimization strategies to cover the next 20 years.

# Kisumu Lakefront Development Project

Sector(s)	Urban/spatial development
Location	Kisumu, Kenya
Partners	County Government of Kisumu
Requested Grant	USD 750,000
Final project estimated cost	USD 165,000,000
Climate Classification	Adaptation
Beneficiaries	Over 500,000 city residents and around 10,000 daily visitors.

The Kisumu Lakefront Development Project aims to revitalize Kisumu's waterfront along Lake Victoria, transforming it into an eco-friendly urban area. Key actions of the project include the construction of a 2-kilometer pedestrian promenade, the creation of integrated public transport hubs with links to the city center, Dunga waterfront, and a fish processing plant, and the establishment of a multi-purpose cultural and arts center to boost local tourism and provide spaces for community activities.

The impact of the project will be felt across the city. There will be a focus on waste management

innovations, introducing a waste-to-energy facility and recycling programs. Environmentally, the project will include the restoration of wetlands to enhance biodiversity and reduce the risk of flooding, as well as the installation of renewable energy sources like solar panels for public lighting. The development also integrates local communities by supporting small-scale businesses and creating over 2,000 jobs in sectors like construction, tourism, hospitality, and retail.

The UMDf grant will support the project's feasibility studies and the preliminary design of the promenade.



Lake Victoria as seen from the city of Kisumu

## Outputs

- ✓ Technical, financial, economic, environmental, legal, and social viability of the project.
- ✓ Spatial and infrastructure readiness analysis incorporating climate resilience and blue economy principles.
- ✓ Detailed cost estimates, phasing strategies, and financing recommendations.
- ✓ Stakeholders through participatory processes ensuring inclusivity and social acceptability
- ✓ Technical Capacity Support for Kisumu Lakefront Cooperation project.

## Expected Outcomes

- ✓ Feasibility studies related to the creation of key infrastructure to boost economic, environmental, and social activities in the Kisumu Lakefront.
- ✓ The project is ready for financing by the AfDB and its partners.

## Financing

- ✓ PPP financing is envisaged. The UMDf study will confirm additional sources of financing.

## Infrastructure

- ✓ A 40-km promenade and marina at Dunga waterfront along Lake Victoria and a fish processing plant, implementation of the Kisumu Local Physical and Land Use Development Plan.

## Final Impact

- ✓ Increased tourism and job creation, restoration of wetlands, enhanced biodiversity, and reduced risk of flooding. Support for small-scale businesses. Creation of over 2,000 jobs. Improved roads and utilities. Waste management innovations. Waste-to-energy facility. Solar panels to power public lighting.

## Ongoing Projects: Progress Update

### Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) – Orange Line Feasibility Study

Contract signed May 2025 with SYSTRA for a nine-month study of a rail commuter line connecting Ikeja CBD to Agbowa, serving a corridor of nearly 15 million Nigerians. Inception report and preliminary demand forecast delivered; completion expected March 2026.



### Cape Town Climate Resilient Infrastructure Planning

Contract signed with ARUP in July 2025. Study launched August 2025, covering a climate hazard and vulnerability assessment, a Water Sensitive City Plan, and a real-time heat monitoring network. Completion expected 2026.

### Nairobi Urban Mobility Improvement (NUMI)

Contract signed February 2025 with the LOGIT Consulting consortium. By October, the consultant had delivered the Inception Report, Final Corridor Demand Analysis, and Service and ITS Concept Plan, with 40% of the contract disbursed.

### Eswatini New Eco-Green City Masterplan

UN-Habitat recruited through direct procurement. Assignment commenced July 2025. A joint field mission with the consultant, Task Manager, and senior government officials took place in late September; the project is progressing well.

## Project Preparation Window (PPW): Projects Completed in 2025

Program	Country	Key Outputs/Outcomes
Kigali Urban Transport Improvement (KUTI)	Rwanda	Construction launched March 2025; USD 120M financing mobilized
PAPVICI – Urban Planning in 5 Ivorian Cities	Côte d'Ivoire	Detailed urban plans delivered for Adzopé, Gagnoa, Guiglo, Katiola, Soubré
Climate Smart Urban Development Initiative (CSUDI)	Uganda	Replicable low-carbon urban development model for Kampala corridor
Integrated Waste Management, Tunis	Tunisia	Strategic framework and waste recovery site identified; ready for private finance
City of Tshwane Turnaround of Municipal Water Services – Reduction of Water Losses	South Africa	Updated feasibility study for viable form of funding and procurement mechanisms for the programme

## Case Study: From UMDf Preparation Studies to AfDB Flagship Investment

### The KUTI Catalytic Model

KUTI exemplifies UMDf's core proposition: modest preparation grants unlocking transformational infrastructure investment. USD 1.42 million in UMDf-financed feasibility work catalyzed a total financing package of over USD 120 million – a leverage ratio exceeding 84:1. Construction launched on 24 March 2025, with the project expected to create approximately 400 temporary jobs, 60 percent for youth and 30 percent for women.



# 2.4 Municipal Access to Finance Window - Strengthening Municipal Financial Capacity

The Oversight Committee cleared a total budget of USD 1 million for the MAFW in 2025, funding three strategic initiatives designed to deepen municipal financial capacity and expand cities' ability to access climate and urban finance. The window maintained a disbursement rate of 44.40 percent, consistent with 2024 levels.

## CFO Network for African Cities

The UMDf allocated USD 500,000 to support the CFO Network for African Cities, a program implemented by C40 Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors (GCoM) as a result of the needs assessments performed on the CFO Network's 14-member cities.

Once it passes internal approval within the African Development Bank Group, the program will allow C40 Cities to enhance the CFO Network's engagement on fiscal health, low levels of creditworthiness, and operational inefficiencies within African cities. The Network will introduce cities to good practices in public finance management, including C40's climate budgeting program, and enhance cities' understanding and implementation of climate budget tagging.

The activities will be tailored to the institutional context, fiscal autonomy, and climate finance readiness of each member city and will broadly fall under the following themes:

✓ **Capacity development on municipal finance and creditworthiness:** Cities will receive training in public financial

management, including improving revenue and expenditure systems, procurement, and budgeting. More fiscally autonomous cities will participate in global peer exchanges, while cities lacking a credit rating will receive support to prepare for and undergo credit assessments.

✓ **Climate finance preparedness and integration:** This component focuses on strengthening the climate finance competency of CFOs and finance departments. It will support their involvement in climate action planning, promote integration of climate considerations within financial operations, and assist cities in developing finance roadmaps and preparing climate projects for funding opportunities.

✓ **Improving the enabling environment for climate finance mobilization:** The Network will advocate for policy and regulatory reforms to enhance cities' access to climate finance, engaging stakeholders at multiple government levels. Light technical assistance will be offered competitively to less-prepared cities to explore innovative finance mechanisms and implementation strategies.

## City of Johannesburg Municipal Systems Strengthening Technical Assistance

The African Development Bank Group provided the City of Johannesburg a landmark corporate loan of ZAR 2.5 billion (USD 136 million) with a 15-year tenor to support the city's capital expenditure for 2024/25 on water, wastewater, solid waste management, and electricity sectors. This transaction represents the Bank's first corporate loan directly to a subnational entity in Africa, demonstrating innovative approaches to municipal finance.

To complement this financing, the UMDf is providing a USD 500,000 grant to introduce reforms to address leakages in revenue collection from electricity and water and the overall reduction of unmanaged, irregular, and wasteful expenditure. The reforms include the introduction and improvement of digital payments, capacity building in the areas of financial management,

and the strengthening of the City of Johannesburg's CAPEX monitoring and evaluation systems.

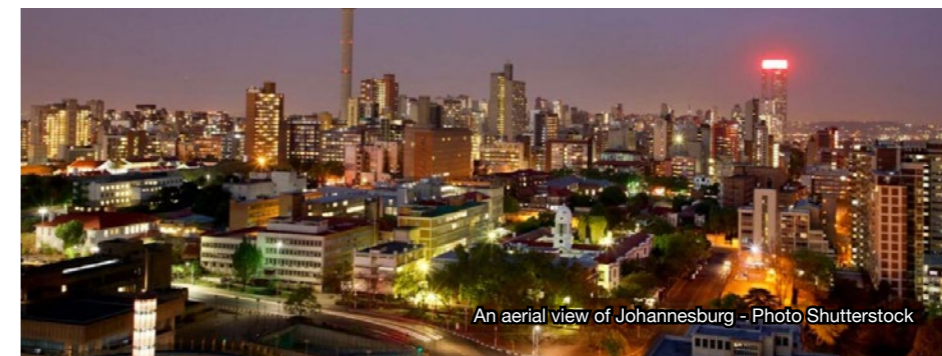
The direct outputs will be:

- ✓ Overall optimized service delivery, specifically water distribution, electricity networks, wastewater treatment, waste collection, and disposal.
- ✓ Effective and efficient revenue collection.
- ✓ Increased share and quality of urban infrastructure.
- ✓ An improved quality of life index for the residents of the City of Johannesburg, making the city attractive for investments and economic growth.

## Case Study: From UMDf Preparation Studies to AfDB Flagship Investment

### City of Johannesburg — Landmark Corporate Loan

In 2025, the AfDB provided the City of Johannesburg a ZAR 2.5 billion (approximately USD 136 million) 15-year corporate loan — the Bank's first direct corporate loan to a subnational entity. UMDf's USD 1.5 million technical assistance program (2025–2027) supports service delivery reform, billing system upgrades, digital payment platforms, and CAPEX monitoring to ensure the city can deliver on this historic investment.



An aerial view of Johannesburg - Photo Shutterstock

# 2.5 Small Grant Initiative (SGI) - High-Efficiency Delivery

The Small Grant Initiative recorded the strongest proportional execution improvement of any UMDf window in 2025. The disbursement rate climbed from 40.75 percent to 75 percent — nearly doubling — while annual disbursement grew from USD 289,253 to USD 589,429. The UMDf Oversight Committee allocated USD 200,000 for 2025, supporting five projects across Comoros, Côte d’Ivoire, Cameroon, and Nigeria.

## Côte d’Ivoire PAPVICI Surveys and Public Hearings

An SGI grant of USD 25,000 funded ongoing consultative sessions to approve the Detailed Urban Plans (PUDs) developed under this project in respect of five cities, Adzopé, Gagnoa, Guiglo, Katiola, and Soubré in Côte d’Ivoire. The PUDs provided for improved spatial planning, urban governance, and municipal investment programming in the five cities.

These participatory processes promoted ownership of the urban plans and helped to ground the plans within the country’s legal and statutory frameworks. The workshops also contributed directly to the UMDf’s Results Management Framework (RMF) indicator on “partner cities implementing evidence-based, participatory City Action Plans.”

The grant supported public information sessions, technical validation workshops, and public hearings led by the urban planning authorities of the five cities. The objective was to ensure that stakeholders are properly informed about the projects and that community feedback is integrated into the plans before their formal adoption. Key outputs of the consultative sessions included session reports, documented feedback for the finalization of the PUDs, and the dissemination of the approved plans.



## Investment-ready Municipal Projects for Adaptation and Climate Transformation in Cameroon (IMPACT-CAM)

Under this ongoing project, the SGI is supporting Cameroonian municipalities’ climate adaptation initiatives.

Cameroonian municipalities and FEICOM, the Cameroonian administrative body in charge of funding local governments, are participants in ICLEI Africa’s Brokering Innovation for Decentralized Climate Finance and Gender Equality (BRIDGE), a coaching program aimed at strengthening the ability of local governments to access and manage climate adaptation finance. The SGI is complementing this coaching with USD 30,000 worth of technical assistance in:

- ✓ Boosting the capacity of FEICOM and Cameroonian municipalities to prepare and structure climate-related projects that

are ready for investment by the African Development Bank and other international financial institutions.

- ✓ Enhancing the capacity of selected Cameroonian municipalities to mobilize own-source revenues and enter into co-financing deals.
- ✓ Embedding the use of investment-readiness tools and selection criteria in FEICOM’s Climate Window operations.

These complementary efforts form a replicable model that can support climate adaptation initiatives across the Central African region.

The following ongoing SGI initiatives from 2024-2025 are in the transport, urban planning and affordable housing sectors.

## Lagos State Purple Metro Line – ESIA and RAP

The SGI program partnered with the Lagos State Government (LSG) to expand the city’s rail network. When complete, the Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT) Purple Line will be added to the existing Blue and Red lines. The Purple Line will help to promote the use of public transport, decongest the city’s roads, contribute to job creation, and contribute to the revitalization of communities near the line.

Two SGI grants totaling USD 55,000 supported key planning activities for the project, specifically:

- ✓ the development of the Environmental and social baseline analysis, including key legal and regulatory frameworks,

- ✓ Identification of sensitive environmental zones and potentially impacted communities,

- ✓ Mapping of physical and economic displacement risks,

- ✓ Preliminary stakeholder engagement and establishment of a grievance redress mechanism,

- ✓ A work plan for a full ESIA and RAP deliverables aligned with AfDB’s Integrated Safeguards System (ISS), particularly Operational Safeguard 2 (Involuntary Resettlement).

## Moroni Smart City Project

A consultative workshop was held in Moroni on 14 May 2025 to seek public buy-in for the comprehensive diagnostic report, the strategic vision for Moroni's Smart City development, and the accompanying implementation roadmap developed under this project. A workshop was jointly organized by the consultant Arup and the AfDB, and funded through

an SGI grant of USD 30,000. Thirty participants, five of them women, came from the Comoros Ministry of Urban Planning, Comores Cables, the National Agency for Waste Management, Comores Telecom, and the National Agency for Digital Development, as well as from the private sector.

## Affordable Housing Toolkit for African Local Governments

USD 30,000 from the SGI approved in 2024 supported the development of a comprehensive Affordable Housing Toolkit targeted at medium- to large-sized municipalities across Africa. The toolkit is designed to provide local governments with structured, evidence-based, and practical guidance for planning and implementing climate-resilient and inclusive affordable housing solutions. It serves both as a decision-making guide and a project management resource, with relevance for municipal leaders, policymakers, and their

technical teams. This toolkit is expected to significantly enhance the institutional capacity of municipalities in Africa to develop affordable, climate-resilient housing projects. It directly contributes to UMDf's Results Management Framework (RMF) by supporting evidence-based urban policy development, improving access to finance, and integrating climate and gender considerations into municipal programming. The study has been completed, the final report has been submitted, and the disbursement has been done.



# 2.6 African Cities Network (ACN) - Knowledge as a Multiplier

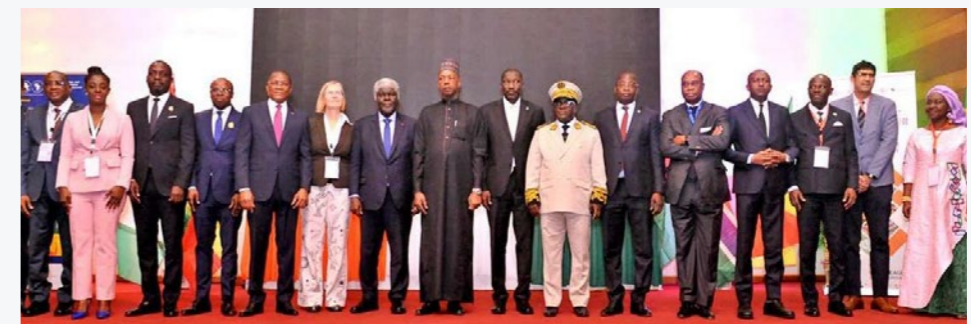
The African Cities Network accelerated from a standing start in 2024 to active programming in 2025, with disbursement rising from USD 3,550 to USD 54,866 and the disbursement rate increasing from 1.34 percent to 28.70 percent. The network strengthened peer learning through knowledge sharing events and policy dialogue while co-organizing major continental events.

## Key Knowledge Events in 2025

### Conference on the Economic Impact of Housing in Francophone Africa, Abidjan (January–February 2025)

#### Shaped dialogue on housing as an economic driver in West Africa

UMDF co-financed this inaugural regional conference, attended by 200+ participants from 80+ institutions across Africa, Europe, and the Americas. This was the first major gathering in Francophone Africa to address housing as economic driver. Resulted in the Abidjan Declaration and the launch of the Centre of Excellence for Habitat.



### 2nd African Forum on Urban Forests (AFUF), Johannesburg (March 2025)

#### Advanced African cities' commitment to nature-based solutions

The UMDF supported the **2nd African Forum on Urban Forests (AFUF)**, held in Johannesburg in March 2025 under the theme “Green horizons: shaping the future resilience of African cities through urban forests”. The conference saw the launch of the Afrika Mazingira Collective, an African community of practice that aims to connect urban actors across Africa and beyond, to promote the implementation and scaling up of nature-based solutions for urban resilience, biodiversity and liveability in African cities.

In addition, the event saw the adoption of The Johannesburg Declaration 2025 which focuses on strengthening African cities against climate change through sustainable urban forestry and green spaces. The declaration promotes building resilient, equitable, and healthy cities.

The UMDF grant of USD 30,000 was used to produce a set of knowledge products, such as illustrated summaries of roundtable discussions, a conference highlight video, and a magazine-style report covering the four-day event.



### Webinar on mapping and monitoring urban forests (May 2025)

#### Facilitated continent-wide learning on AI tools to monitor urban green spaces

Following on from the AFUF, the UMDF was central in the organization of a pan-African virtual workshop entitled "Mapping and Monitoring Urban Forests: Open-Access Solutions for Climate Resilience and Green Equity in African Cities" in May 2025. The 75-minute workshop aimed to equip participants with:

- Practical skills to map and monitor urban forests using open-source geospatial tools.
- Accessible, cost-effective solutions for evidence-based decision-making and urban greening project management.

Some 250 participants from 33 African countries attended the session that included a hands-on exploration of tools to monitor urban tree cover and assess changes over time. A case study from Kampala illustrated how integrating field data, GeoAI, and community-driven mapping enhances decision-making in the management of urban green spaces. The UMDF Coordinator opened the learning session, emphasizing the essential role of continent-wide knowledge-sharing in her remarks.

### Matchmaking Forum for Sub-Saharan African Cities, Cape Town (June 2025)

#### Promoted African cities' access to green finance

An ACN grant of USD 27,000 helped to fund the Green & Climate Finance Project, part of the Afrika Mazingira Initiative, launched during the 2nd African Forum on Urban Forests (AFUF). The Green & Climate Finance Project works to enhance African cities' access to green finance, particularly for urban forestry and green space initiatives. The ACN grant facilitated important discourse on:

- successful climate finance case studies in urban forestry.
- practical climate finance guides to upskill city officials on the climate project preparation and capital mobilization.
- practical climate finance guide/roadmaps/frameworks and other tools.
- integrating nature-based solutions into urban planning for climate resilience

### Annual Mobility Event (July 2025)

#### Sensitized the urban development community about the UMDF's impact in the urban mobility space

The UMDF participated in the 5th edition of the Annual Mobility event in Abidjan, organized by ACTUROUTES. The event was themed “Mobility during construction: strategies, actions, and innovations.” During the event, the UMDF and the AfDB's Infrastructure and Urban Development department, jointly

manned a stand where they fielded inquiries on their respective missions and collaborations. UMDF products were on display. The Director of the AfDB's Urban Development division was honored with an award, the Distinction of Mobility Victories 2025.

### Smart Cities Lab (October 2025)

#### Championed smart cities on the continent

The UMDF promoted the wider adoption of smart cities through its support for the Smart Cities Lab hosted by the African Centre for the Study of the United States (ACSUS) at Witwatersrand University in October 2025. The lab, themed “Re-imagining African Smart Cities: Concepts, Practices and Implementation”, sought to demystify the concept of smart cities and explore its applicability within the African

context, with a focus on enhancing service delivery, urban planning and management, and urban sustainability.

An ACN grant of USD 25,000 funded the preparation of a knowledge product that broadened the reach of the Lab and deepened the impact of the insights generated during the Lab.

**World Town Planning Day Symposium in Gaborone (November 2025)**

**Drove awareness of Africa’s frameworks on urban planning**

A USD 10,000 grant supported the sensitization of local partners on the Global Urban Agenda, the African Union’s Agenda 2063, and the African Urban Agenda through a symposium organized by the Pula Institute of Town Planners. The symposium brought together policymakers, urban planners, academics and youth representatives.

**Workshop on urban flood risk**

The UMDf and the AfDB’s Infrastructure and Urban Development department participated in the workshop “**Sustainable Cities: Integrated Management of Urban Flood Risk,**” co-organized by the World Bank and the Agence Française de Développement (AFD). The UMDf and the AfDB contributed to the discussions by sharing their respective responses to the challenges of urban flooding on the continent. Sixteen cities from across the continent were represented at the event. Participants learned about financing mechanisms and opportunities available for urban flood management and climate change adaptation.



DFC Representative and Participant

# 2.7 Partnerships - Amplifying Impact

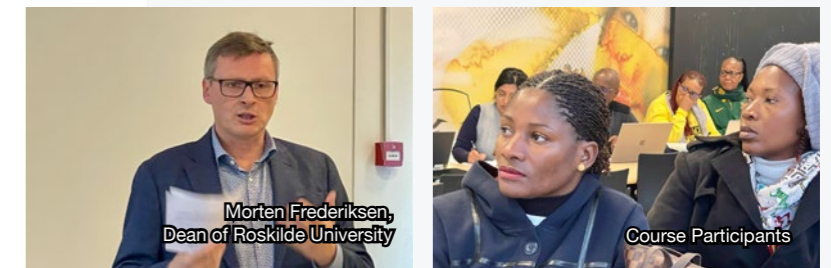
Strategic partnerships in 2025 expanded the Fund’s reach, strengthened city-level capacity, and facilitated investment matchmaking at continental scale.



**DANIDA FELLOWSHIP CENTRE**

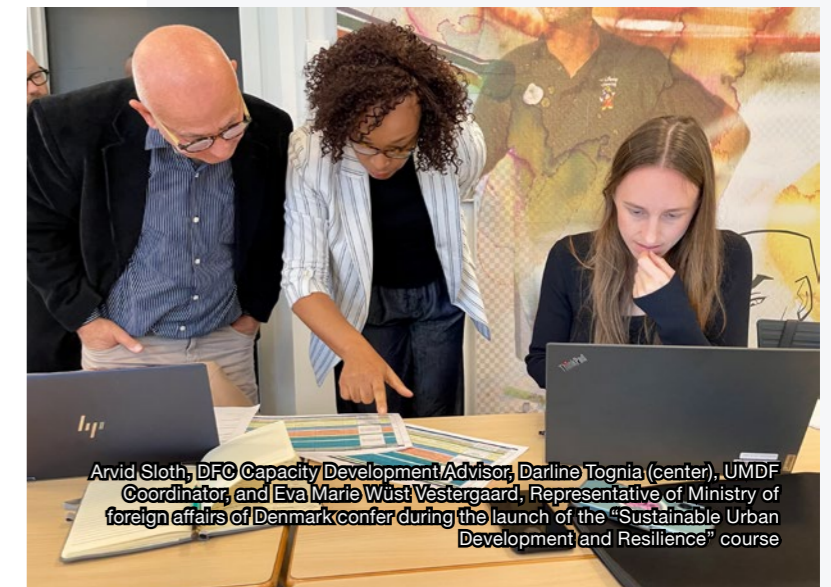
**Danida Fellowship Centre**

A partnership signed in February 2025 commits to five training courses in sustainable urban development, climate resilience, water management, and urban planning through 2027. The first course – “Sustainable Urban Development and Resilience” – attracted 37 nominations from nine African countries and 13 local governments. Thirty-one professionals were selected (55% women), drawn from cities including Kribi, Bangui, Dodoma, Buffalo City, and Nouakchott. Training was conducted by Roskilde University in collaboration with the UNESCO Chair on Urban Resilience and rated highly relevant by participants. The second module on Solid Waste Management will begin in for April 2026.



Morten Frederiksen, Dean of Roskilde University

Course Participants



Arvid Sloth, DFC Capacity Development Advisor, Darline Tognia (center), UMDf Coordinator, and Eva Marie Wüst Vestergaard, Representative of Ministry of foreign affairs of Denmark confer during the launch of the “Sustainable Urban Development and Resilience” course



### City Climate Finance Gap Fund

A deepened collaboration with this multi-donor initiative introduced a complementary financing model: the Gap Fund covers pre-feasibility and feasibility stages, while UMDf follows with detailed studies to bring projects to financial close. A flagship outcome was the co-organized Matchmaking Forum in Cape Town (June 2025), connecting 20+ African cities with private sector investors and DFIs.

## Other Key Partnerships



### Global Centre on Adaptation

The UMDf team engaged with the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA) delegation in Abidjan on ways to work together to strengthen the capacity of African municipalities in climate adaptation and adaptation planning. During the meeting, the parties discussed opportunities for collaboration in extending the support of the ACP to the Sahel and other unreached regions of the continent. The GCA and the UMDf also discussed strengthening the climate adaptation aspect of the Africa Cities Program (ACP) by updating its tools and through the joint publication of a knowledge product highlighting the climate risk in Africa. Finally, the parties discussed creating a body of knowledge products covering priority topics, such as urban waste management, urban agriculture and greening, informal settlements, and the effects of climate change in Africa.

This exchange with the GCA reinforces the importance of partnership in scaling solutions that empower local governments, integrate adaptation into city planning, and deliver impact on the ground. Together, we can accelerate the transformation of African cities into hubs of resilience and opportunity.



UMDF and GCA teams

### Engagement with the Islamic Development Fund (IsDB)



The UMDf hosted a fruitful exchange with a delegation from the Islamic Development Bank (IsDB), focused on opportunities to co-finance urban projects across various sectors:

- Mobility and transport
- Infrastructure
- Affordable and resilient housing
- Water and sanitation
- Strengthening municipal governance and local capacity to fundraise

Beyond project-level collaboration, the two institutions also explored a joint common urban development initiative.



Teams from the AfDB/Urban Development Division, UMDf and Islamic Development Bank

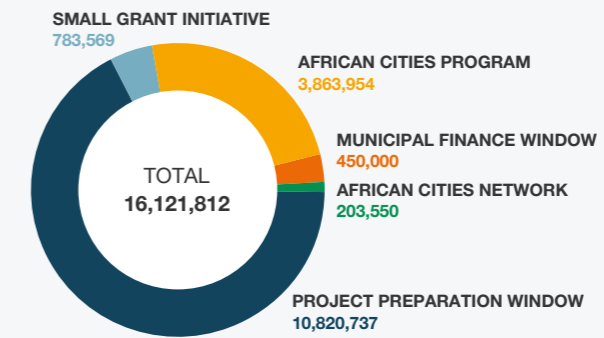


# 3. Portfolio Overview

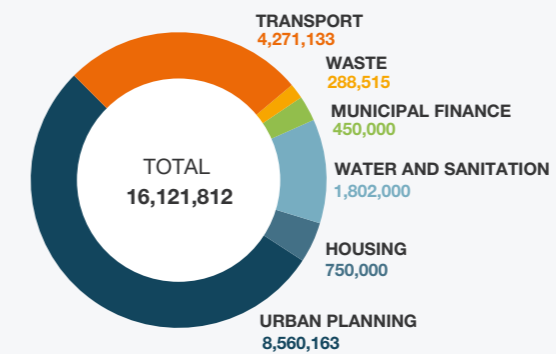
# 3.1 UMDF Portfolio Overview - A Growing and Diversifying Portfolio

As of December 2025, the UMDF manages 38 operations worth approximately USD 16.12 million — up from 24 operations at USD 11.6 million at year-end 2024. This includes active and completed operations. The average project age of 1.49 years reflects a healthy blend of newly approved operations and maturing projects already in strong execution. For the active portfolio, multi-sectoral urban planning accounts for 53 percent of the portfolio, transport and mobility for 26.02 percent, water and sanitation for 11 percent, housing for 5%.

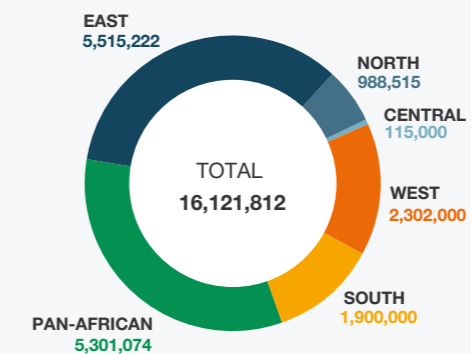
**UMDF OVERALL PORTFOLIO BY INSTRUMENT**  
DEC 2025 (in USD)



**UMDF OVERALL PORTFOLIO BY SECTOR**  
DEC 2025 (in USD)



**UMDF OVERALL PORTFOLIO BY REGION**  
DEC 2025 (in USD)



## New Sectors in 2025

Significant portfolio diversification was achieved in 2025, with the Fund entering three new strategic areas:

- Housing finance
- Smart cities and digital urban management
- Cable car and innovative mobility systems

This expansion strengthens UMDF’s ability to respond to emerging urban investment priorities and broadens the range of downstream financing opportunities.

## Portfolio Performance in 2025

In 2025, the UMDF consolidated the strong recovery achieved in 2024 and moved decisively into a phase of accelerated execution. While approvals remained stable, implementation and disbursement increased sharply, and the portfolio expanded into new sectors. 2025 demonstrates that UMDF is not only generating demand but translating project preparation into measurable financial progress and downstream investment.

## Portfolio Growth and Progression

Under the **Project Preparation Window (PPW)**, 8 projects were approved in 2025, maintaining the same level as 2024. This confirms sustained demand for UMDF support following the significant step-up in approvals recorded in 2024 compared to earlier years. The key shift in 2025 was implementation. Ten (10) PPW projects signed contracts and were launched during the year, compared to three in 2024. In addition, five projects reached completion in 2025. This reflects improved processing efficiency and a maturing pipeline moving from approval to delivery.

Under the **African Cities Program (ACP)**, six new cities joined in 2025, the same intake as in 2024, bringing total membership to 25 cities across pilot and subsequent cohorts. In 2025, UMDF also signed contracts and launched studies for the 2023 and 2024 ACP cohorts, reinforcing continuity and execution across city groups.

The **Small Grants Initiative (SGI)**: Three new grants approved (USD 85,000) under a USD 200,000 allocation. SGI supported targeted capacity building, participatory urban planning, and climate adaptation project preparation, while completing key 2024 activities such as the Affordable Housing Toolkit and Maseru 2050 support.

The **African Cities Network (ACN)** reinforced its role as a knowledge and peer-learning platform, with eight initiatives approved in 2025. Activities included major knowledge products, regional policy forums, and climate finance dialogue, enhancing evidence-based urban policymaking and strengthening collaboration across African cities.

Overall, the portfolio expanded to 38 operations with a combined envelope of USD 16.12 million. The average age of active projects is 1.49 years, indicating a relatively young portfolio that is already demonstrating strong disbursement performance.



A busy street in the city of Kampala, Uganda

## | UMDF ACTIVE PORTFOLIO - 2025

N°	Project title	Country	Source of Investment	Sector	Year of Approval	Amount (USD)
1	Lungi spatial development	Sierra Leone	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2023	400,000
2	City of Tshwane Turnaround of Municipal Water Services – Reduction of Water Losses	South Africa	Project preparation Window	Water and Sanitation	2024	600,000
3	Eswatini New Eco-Green City Masterplan	Eswatini	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2024	400,000
4	Public Transport Network Restructuring Project of Dakar (RTC-Dk)	Senegal	Project preparation Window	Transport	2024	650,000
5	Nairobi Urban Mobility Improvement (NUMI) Project	Kenya	Project preparation Window	Transport	2024	500,000
6	Preparation of 5th Extension of Sustainable Abu Rawash Wastewater Treatment Plant on West Bank of Nile	Egypt	Project preparation Window	Water and Sanitation	2024	400,000
7	Projet d'appui à la planification urbaine durable des villes intermédiaires du Bénin	Benin	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2025	300,000
8	Addis Ababa City Mobility System Diagnosis Study	Ethiopia	Project preparation Window	Transport	2025	500,000
9	Projet d'Aménagement du littoral de Nouakchott (PALN)	Mauritania	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2024	300,000
10	Project Preparation Study - Accra East Sanitation and Sewerage Improvement Project AESIP	Ghana	Project preparation Window	Water and Sanitation	2024	202,000
11	Climate-resilient infrastructure planning Cape Town	South Africa	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2024	300,000
12	Lagos Rail Mass Transit (LRMT), Orange Line Feasibility Study	Nigeria	Project preparation Window	Transport	2024	500,000
13	African City Program phase 2023	Pan-African	African Cities Program	Urban Planning	2023	850,000
14	African City Program Phase 2022	Pan-African	African Cities Program	Urban Planning	2022	700,000
15	Small Grant Initiative 2024	Pan-African	Small Grant Initiative	Urban Planning	2024	200,000
16	African City Program 2024	Pan-African	African Cities Program	Urban Planning	2024	900,000
17	Project for a sustainable and climate-resilient water network expansion and improvements in Luanda	Angola	Project preparation Window	Water and Sanitation	2025	600,000
18	Likoni Cable car Express in Mombasa City	Kenya	Project preparation Window	Transport	2025	200,000
19	Kigali Urban Cable Car Project	Rwanda	Project preparation Window	Transport	2025	500,000
20	African Cities Network 2025	Pan-African	African Cities Network	Urban Planning	2025	200,000
21	Small Grant Initiative 2025	Pan-African	Small Grant Initiative	Urban Planning	2025	200,000
22	African Cities Program 2025	Pan-African	African cities program	Urban Planning	2025	900,000
23	Moroni smart city project	Comoros	Project Preparation window	Housing	2025	500,000
24	Securitization program for affordable housing	Kenya	Project Preparation window	Housing	2025	250,000

## | UMDf COMPLETED OPERATIONS PORTFOLIO - 2025

N°	Project title	Country	Source of Investment	Sector	Year of Approval	Amount (USD)
1	Sheger Riverside Development Project	Ethiopia	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2020	294,089
2	Urban Development National Program prioritisation (UNDP)	-	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2021	115,000
3	Projet pilote d'Amélioration de la Planification des Villes en Côte d'Ivoire (PAPVICI)	Côte d'Ivoire	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2022	250,000
4	Climate Smart Urban Development Initiative (CSUDI) in Mpigi District	Uganda	Project preparation Window	Urban Planning	2023	600,000
5	Kigali Urban Transport Project (KUTI)	Rwanda	Project preparation Window	Transport	2023	1,421,133
6	Tunis Waste Management Project	Tunisia	Project preparation Window	Waste	2021	288,515.95
7	City of Tshwane Turnaround of Municipal Water Services – Reduction of Water Losses	SouthAfrica	Project preparation Window	Water & Sanitation	2024	600,000
8	African Cities Program _ Pilot phase	Pan-African	African Cities Program	Urban Planning	2021	513,955
9	Small Grant Initiative 2020	Pan-African	Small Grant Initiative	Multi-sector	2020	126,273
10	Small Grant Initiative 2023	Pan-African	Small Grant Initiative	Multi-sector	2023	133,323
11	Small Grant Initiative 2022	Pan-African	Small Grant Initiative	Multi-sector	2022	177,676
12	Municipal Access to Finance Program 2021	Pan-African	Municipal Access to Finance Window	Finance	2021	195,691
13	Municipal Access to Finance Program 2023	Pan-African	Municipal Access to Finance Window	Finance	2023	250,000
14	African Cities Network 2024	Pan-African	African Cities Network	Multi-sector	2024	3,550

# 3.2 Disbursement Performance - A Step Change in Execution

Annual disbursement grew from USD 2,720,742 in 2024 to USD 6,668,077 in 2025 — the highest in the Fund's history. The overall portfolio disbursement rate rose from 26.02 percent to 41.36 percent, representing an improvement of 15.34 percentage points. This step change reflects the compound effect of streamlined procurement, intensified supervision, and a maturing portfolio ready for full implementation. This shift also reflects the transition from pipeline build-up to active execution.

- Project Preparation Window (PPW) disbursement rose from USD 1,091,606 in 2024 to USD 4,259,347 in 2025, an almost Four-fold increase.
- African Cities Program (ACP) disbursement increased moderately from USD 1,136,534 in 2024 to USD 1,561,089 in 2025.
- Small Grant Initiative (SGI) disbursement rose from USD 289,253 to USD 589,429.
- African Cities Network (ACN) disbursement increased from USD 3,550 to USD 58,416 reflecting ramp-up from a low base.

This improvement reflects stronger contract signing, improved supervision, and more consistent implementation across windows. Program-level disbursement rates also show clear progress (See table below).

## Sector Expansion and Diversification

Between 2023 and 2024, the active portfolio focused primarily on urban planning, transport, water and sanitation, municipal finance, and waste management. In 2025, the active portfolio expanded into housing, smart cities, and cable cars.

This diversification strengthens UMDF's strategic relevance, positioning the Fund to respond to emerging urban priorities while maintaining core infrastructure preparation activities. It also broadens the range of potential downstream financing opportunities.

## Downstream Investment Mobilization

The UMDF's preparation work continues to unlock substantial follow-on financing.

In Rwanda, the Kigali Urban Transport Improvement (KUTI) project moved into construction in March 2025. UMDF financed feasibility and related studies totaling USD 1.42 million, which contributed to mobilizing a financing package that includes a USD 100 million African Development Bank loan (approved December 2024), a USD 5 million ADF Climate Action Window grant, USD 2.5 million in-kind from the Government of Rwanda, and a USD 12.5 million grant from JICA. The project is expected to generate approximately 400 temporary jobs during construction, with targets of at least 60 percent youth and 30 percent women.

In South Africa, the Bank approved a ZAR 2.5 billion (USD 136 million) corporate loan to the City of Johannesburg, its first corporate loan of this kind to a subnational entity. UMDF will support a USD 1.5 million grant initiative between 2025 and 2027, with USD 500,000 already cleared for the first component, focused on municipal systems strengthening, revenue enhancement, and improved infrastructure planning and delivery.

These examples illustrate UMDF's catalytic role. Relatively modest preparation grants help unlock large-scale investment programs with tangible employment and service delivery outcomes.

## Overall Assessment

Compared to 2024, UMDF in 2025 demonstrated:

- Stable and sustained demand for support.
- A marked acceleration in contract signing and project launch.
- A great increase in annual disbursement.
- A 15.34-percentage point improvement in overall portfolio disbursement rate.
- Expansion into new urban sectors.
- Continued success in mobilizing downstream financing.

# 4.

# Operational Improvements

## 4.1 Operational Improvements — From Reform to Results

The gains recorded in 2025 are not accidental — they are the direct results of operational reforms implemented in 2024 and reinforced throughout 2025. Streamlined procurement procedures cut contracting timelines. A regional focal point system improved coordination with client countries and reduced implementation delays. Expanded staffing increased the Secretariat's technical depth and project follow-up capacity. Strengthened supervision — including regular technical exchanges, intensified field missions, and improved monitoring frameworks — accelerated problem-solving and ensured consistent execution across windows.

These improvements, taken together, enabled UMDf to move from a portfolio focused on pipeline development to one delivering at scale. The 2026 Work Program, approved by the UMDf's Oversight Committee in December 2025, builds on this foundation.

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### UMDF operational Staff

The UMDf Secretariat strengthened its staffing structure in 2025 with the recruitment of additional technical specialists, increasing project supervision capacity and enabling the regional focal point system. Improved monitoring and portfolio management tools supported more consistent performance tracking across all windows.

In 2025, the UMDf welcomed new urban specialists and a municipal finance specialist to its Secretariat, strengthening its capacity to manage the expanded portfolio and extend the Fund's geographic reach.

**Darline Laurence Tognia** – UMDF Coordinator

Darline Tognia leads the UMDF Team, directing the Fund's strategic operations and leading the team in delivering technical assistance and capacity building in different windows and initiatives.

**Abel Walendom** – Urban Development Expert

Abel joined the team in 2025, bringing expertise in urban planning and development, specifically regarding sustainable cities and infrastructure, as the UMDF's focal point for West and Northern Africa regions.

**Micheline Savadogo** - Urban Development Expert

Micheline's expertise is in urban planning design and project management. She brings this expertise to driving the development of city action plans. She is the UMDF's focal point for East Africa.

**Fabrice Banon** - Urban Development Expert

Fabrice joined the team in 2025. He brings expertise in urban development and planning. He is the UMDF's focal point in Central and Southern Africa, driving technical assistance projects and the Fund's capacity building initiatives.

**Halidou Toure** – Municipal Finance Expert

Joined the team in 2025. He brings expertise in municipal finance to UMDF initiatives across the continent.

**Imelda Aniambossou** – Monitoring and Evaluation Expert

To her role as the UMDF's Monitoring and Evaluation expert, Imelda, brings her expertise in analysis, reporting and data management, as well as in outcome and impact assessment.

**Kennedy Makunda** – Procurement Assistant

Kennedy is a finance professional specializing in financial management, corporate procurement, and project administration, among others. He supports the UMDF's administrative and procurement processes, as well as the Fund's contract and budget management.

**Janet Onyango** – Communications Specialist

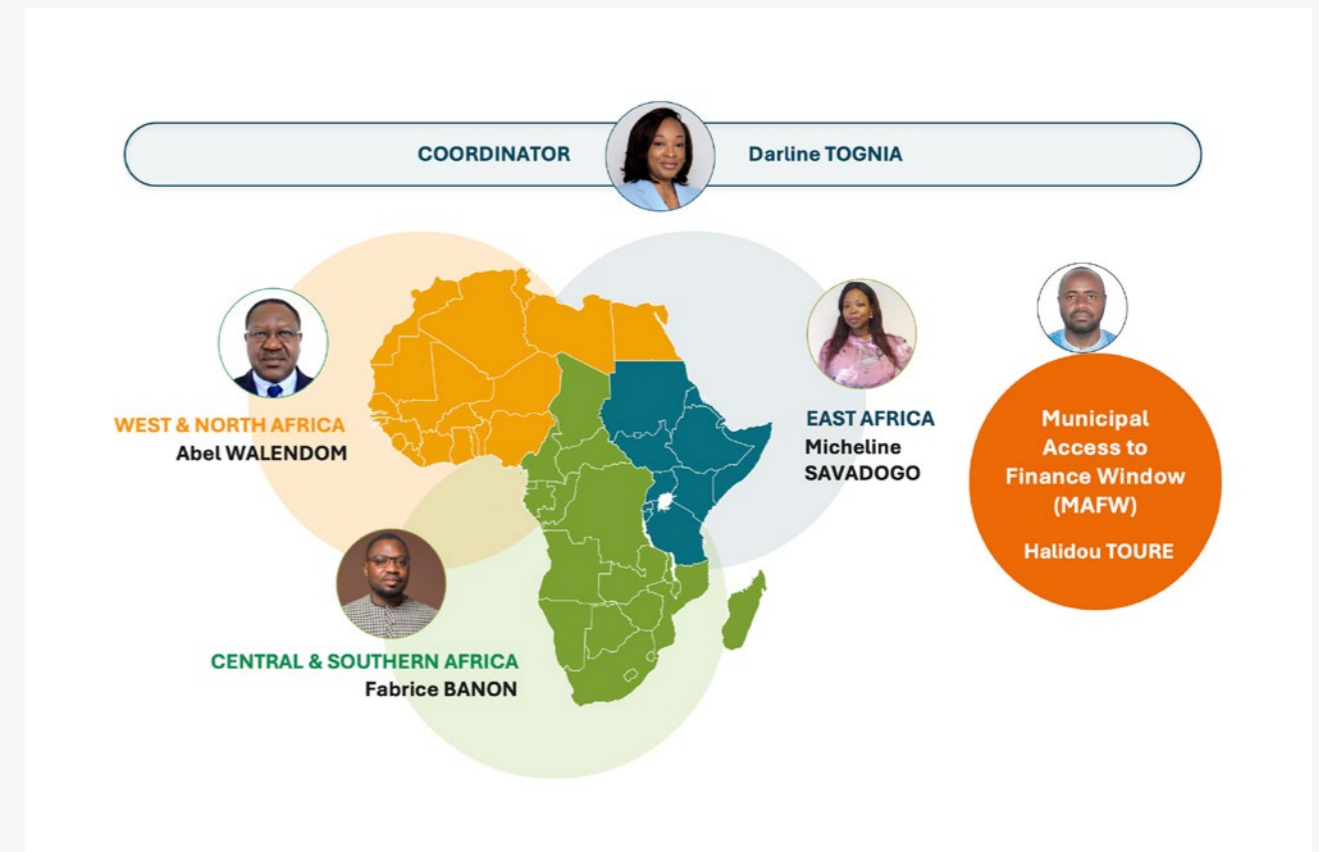
She leads the UMDF's communications efforts. She also supported the team with report writing, project storytelling and website management.

**Yene Ouattara Coulibaly** – Administrative Support

Yene serves as Administrative Assistant supporting invoice management.

**UMDF Staff Deployment model**

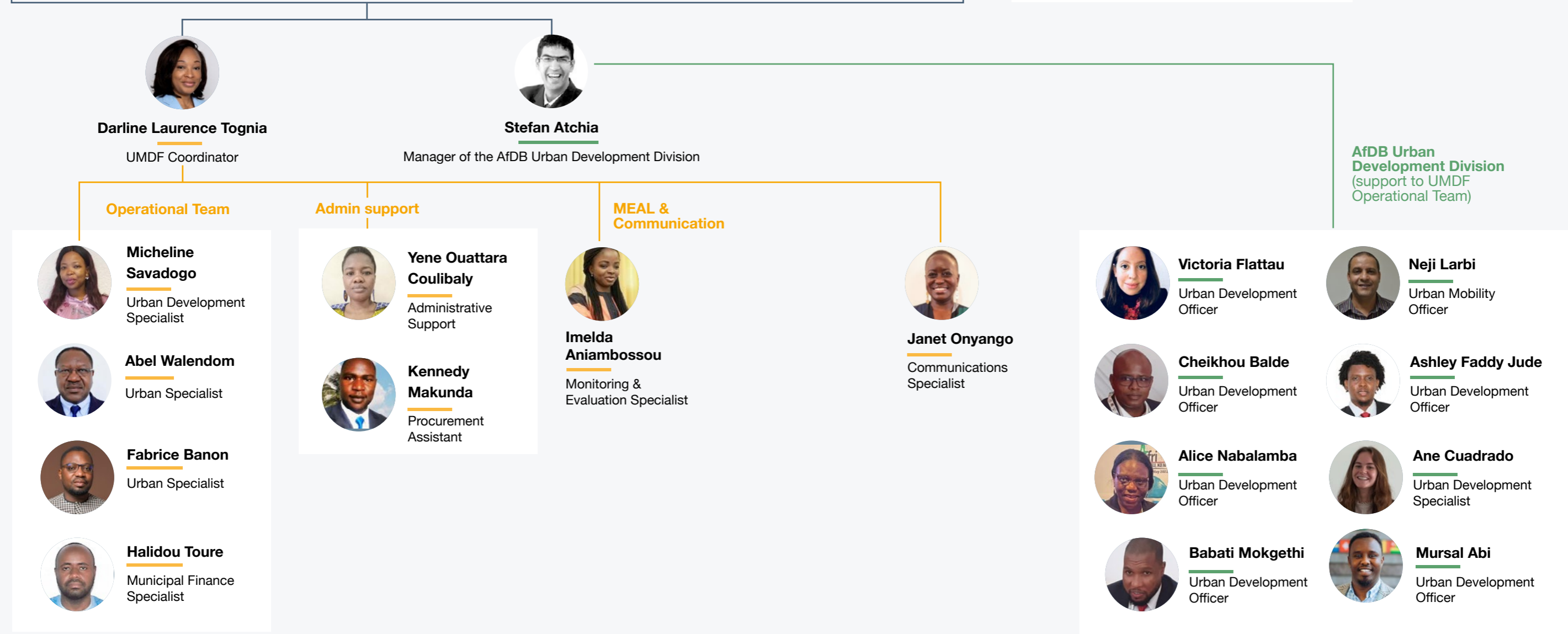
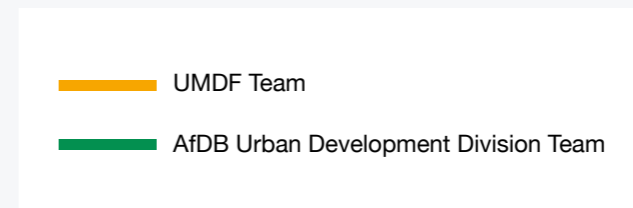
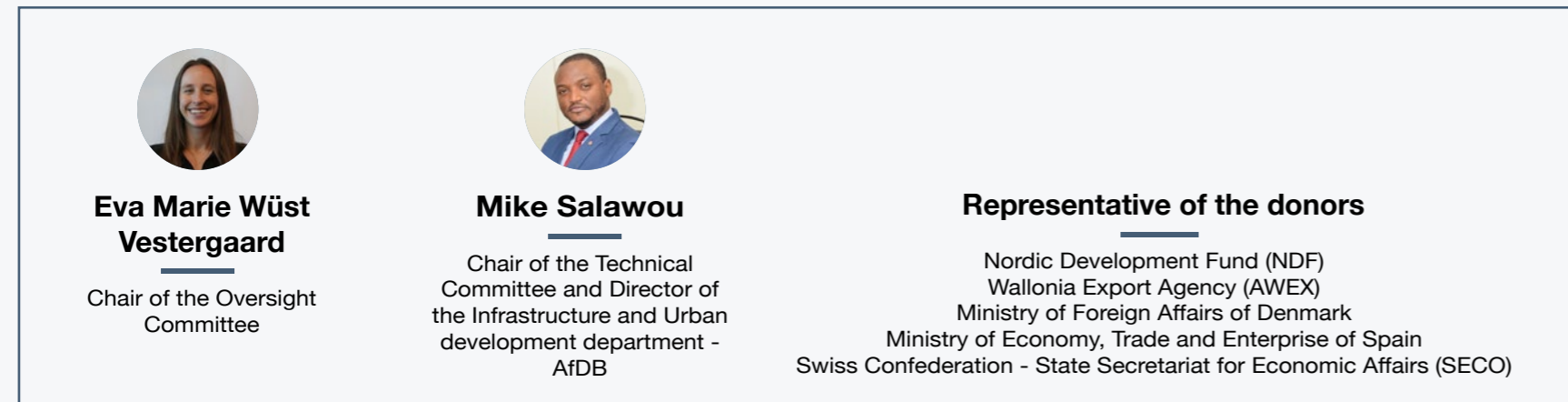
The UMDF team adopted a regional staffing model, with focal points assigned to East Africa, Central and Southern Africa, West and North Africa, and the Municipal Access to Finance Window, fostering more targeted project follow-up and stronger collaboration with AfDB sectoral and regional task managers.



# UMDF Organigram

The UMDF team works in close collaboration with the African Development Bank's Urban Development Division team.

## Oversight Committee



# 4.2 Project Pipeline and Outlook 2026 — Scaling Momentum

UMDF enters 2026 with its strongest pipeline and clearest execution record to date. The Fund maintains a healthy flow of prospective operations across transport, water, housing, municipal finance, and urban planning — spanning all African regions and aligned with the AfDB's climate and development priorities.

Several projects in the pipeline are direct successors to completed UMDf studies, illustrating the Fund's capacity to generate sequenced, investment-ready pipelines rather than isolated interventions. The Secretariat will continue to prioritize projects with strong downstream financing potential and alignment with climate resilience objectives.

Future priorities include expanding support to underserved regions, deepening the Municipal Access to Finance window's programming, and scaling the African Cities Network's role as a peer-learning and investment preparation platform.

Building on the momentum of 2025, the UMDf is positioned for continued growth and impact in 2026.

The Fund will seek to expand its project portfolio and continue to catalyze urban development on the continent. The UMDf plans to seek the approval of its Oversight Committee for:

- Six new cities joining the African Cities Program.
- Eleven new projects under the Project Preparation Window valued at USD 4.9 million.
- Five initiatives under the Municipal Access to Finance Window valued at USD 1.6 million.

This expansion responds to strong demand from African municipalities, with 15 additional cities expressing interest in UMDf support during 2025.

## Strategic Initiatives

The UMDf's ongoing Mid-Term Review launched in November 2025 will provide recommendations to optimize the Fund's operations through to 2027, ensuring continued alignment with partner cities evolving needs and the African Development Bank's strategic priorities.

## Capacity Building Partnerships

The second Danida Fellowship Centre training on "Solid Waste Management and Technologies" will take place in Copenhagen from May 19 to June 4, 2026, following the successful inaugural course in 2025. The UMDf and DFC are also developing continent-based short courses to extend the reach of its training initiatives.

## Global Engagement

The Fund plans to participate in key global fora including:

- World Bank's 10th Urbanization & Development Conference (Washington DC, 30-31 March 2026)
- World Urban Forum 13 (Baku, Azerbaijan, 18-22 May 2026)
- African Urban Forum (Nairobi, Kenya, 8-10 April 2026)

These platforms will showcase African urban innovations and strengthen partnerships for sustainable urban development.

## Resource Mobilization

The Fund plans to engage with potential new development partners to expand its resource base and scale impact. With a solid foundation of USD 38.3 million in managed resources and USD 15.9 million available for future commitments, the UMDf is well-positioned to welcome additional donors who share the vision of climate-resilient, livable, and productive African cities.

## Enhanced Field Presence

Planned 2026 missions include supervision visits for ACP cities, project preparation initiatives and targeted outreach conferences to increase awareness among African municipal leaders across underserved regions.

The UMDf enters 2026 with strong momentum, a robust project pipeline, and deepening partnerships—all aligned toward the shared goal of supporting sustainable urban transformation across Africa.

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