Event Details

Title of Event
Data-driven innovation in city governance: exploring global lessons and quick wins

Organization Details
Organization: International Growth Centre: Cities that Work
Organization Country: United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

Summary
In a digitalising world, data is becoming increasingly critical for more efficient, effective and sustainable city governance. When harnessed correctly, data can drastically reduce the waste of precious public resources, improve policy design and evaluation, and enable accurate planning for future service delivery and infrastructure needs. However, as many policymakers and researchers know, institutionalising a data-driven approach within a city can be difficult, particularly in environments where the resources available and the level of digital literacy is low. This training session will utilise both cutting-edge research and case studies of individual city reforms to illustrate how harnessing data can improve city governance and urban sustainability. The aim is to outline a realistic and context-appropriate approach for the use of data in city governance, emphasising the importance of getting the basics right and establishing a clear need for the data before investing in expensive and expansive ‘smart-city’ systems. It will uncover both the quick-wins available to city governments within existing resource constraints, as well as the trade-off’s involved in longer term data infrastructure investments. Focus areas will include: 1. The different uses of data in city governance, such as improved resource targeting, impact evaluation of policy decisions, and forecasting future demands for public goods and services. 2. The core data sources that city governments need and should aspire to for effective decision making. This will also look at the opportunities and pitfalls of new and innovative ‘21st century’ data sources. 3. How to engender a data-driven approach in city governments, highlighting considerations on leadership, skills and human resource capacity, as well as investments in data infrastructure to promote data sharing and accessibility. The beneficiaries of this training are threefold. The first is city authorities, who are able to make more informed decisions, and whose workload is eased through the automation of routine and repetitive tasks. The second is researchers who are better able to access and use the city’s data to understand and analyse urban processes, and to help evaluate the impact of policies. And thirdly, the citizens of the city, who receive more efficient, effective and transparent services from their local government.

Other Organization name