



**USAID**  
FROM THE AMERICAN PEOPLE

## OPEN CITY INITIATIVE



## WHAT is an “Open City”?

In order for citizens to feel the benefits of open data, cities today need to do much more than just open their data. Local authorities need to work with citizens and use open data to address local problems and challenges.

The **Open City** Initiative aims to transform cities (local governments) into more transparent, open and accessible organizations that are in constant contact with citizens and continuously work towards meeting their needs.

The **Open City** Initiative should facilitate opportunities for members of local communities to use open data in order to improve the quality of life.

**Open City** will help local governments across the country to be more transparent, responsible, innovative and participatory in their operations.

Open government at local level is an important part of achieving this vision. Local governments need to empower residents through access to information, technology, and participatory practice in order to demonstrate a culture of responsibility, honesty and cooperation.

Nowadays still many citizens cannot fully participate in development of local policies and adoption of important decisions. As a result, the allocation of public resources and the delivery of public services often do not reflect the needs of the most vulnerable communities in the cities.

The **Open City** Initiative strives to build fairer and more inclusive local communities.

The **Open City** Initiative will help city authorities and residents to:

- ◆ Facilitate and encourage the use of open data in the community
- ◆ Identify information and data gaps and encourage them to publish it in a format that is useful to community members
- ◆ Understand how local authorities can become an equal partner with residents in using open data to improve the quality of life in the community

# WHY “Open City”?

## AN OPEN CITY CONTRIBUTES TO:



# HOW to create an “Open City”?

Open City is a model for enhancing the performance of cities through the creation of a new, more democratic infrastructure of openness in partnership with everyone who has a stake in cities’ futures: individual residents, community organizations, government staff, federal policymakers, and international partners. This can be achieved through:

- ◆ Creating a culture of openness in the work of the municipal councils
- ◆ Mandating open government in cities
- ◆ Empowering community access to information. In this regard, it is important for citizens not only to have access to open data, but also to be able to understand how this data is related to their needs and problems
- ◆ Spreading understanding of open government so that city residents understand their rights to government information
- ◆ Promoting the use of technology for more transparent and participatory functioning of local governments
- ◆ Creating and promoting guidelines and standards for open government
- ◆ Implementing Anti-corruption and Accountability measures



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