LAND-BASED FINANCE READER



LEVERAGING LAND: LAND-BASED FINANCE FOR LOCAL GOVERNMENTS A READER





SECURING LAND AND PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR ALL

LAND-BASED FINANCE READER

Leveraging Land: Land-based Finance for Local Governments A Reader

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ABBREVIATIONS

- = Afghan afghani (currency) AFN AUDA = Ahmedabad Urban Development Authority (India) = Moody's Baseline Credit Assessment BCA BID = Business improvement district = Community amenity contribution (Vancouver, Canada) CAC CAD = Canadian dollar = City District Government (Punjab, India) CDG = Contribución Especial de Mejoras (Special Assessment Ecuador) CEM CEPAC = Certificate of additional construction potential (Brazil) = Community land trust CLT COOTAD = Organic Code for Territorial Organization, Autonomy and Decentralization (Ecuador) = Colombian peso COP DACD = Administrative Department for the District Cadastre (Bogotá) = National Administrative Department of Statistics (Colombia) DANE = Development plan (Ahmedabad, India) DP = Public utility company (Medellin, Colombia) EPM FAR = Floor area ratio = Floor space index, or the ratio to total building floor area to land area FSI = Government-announced present value (Taiwan) GAPV = Gross domestic product GDP GITN = Global Land Tool Network = Gross land value (Hong Kong) GLV HKD = Hong Kong dollar = National Geographic Institute Agustin (Colombia) IGAC = Immovable Properties Registration Office (Albania) **IPRO**
- LBF = Land-based finance / Land-based financing

- LGO = Local Government Ordinance (Punjab, India)
- LPR = Land pooling and readjustment
- LPT = Land and property tax
- LVIT = Land value increment tax (Taiwan)
- MOI = Ministry of the Interior (Taiwan)
- NAV = Net assessable value (Hong Kong)
- NLVI = Natural land value increment (Taiwan)
- NUCA = New Urban Communities Authority (Egypt)
- OECD = Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development
- OIC = Cadastral Real Estate Observatory (Colombia)
- PILaR = Participatory and Inclusive Land Readjustment
- POT = Land-use plan (Colombia)
- PP = Microsoft PowerPoint
- PRC = People's Republic of China
- PKR = Pakistan rupee
- SGD = Singapore dollar
- SAR = Special administrative region (PRC)
- TDR = Transferable (or tradable) development rights
- TMA = Tehsil Municipal Administration (Punjab, India)
- TZS = Tanzanian shilling
- UIPT = Urban Immovable Property Tax (Punjab, India)
- UO = Urban operation, or city sector (Brazil)
- USD = United States dollar
- USAID = United States Agency for International Development
- VAT = Value added tax
- ZHF = Physically homogenous zone (Colombia)
- ZHG = Geo-economically homogenous zone (Colombia)

PREFACE

THE LBF TRAINING PACKAGE

This Reader is an integral component of the GLTN/ UN-Habitat *Leveraging Land*: Land-Based Finance for Local Government training package. The package is a two-part tool consisting of

- Leveraging Land: Land-based Finance for Local Governments. A Reader (this volume); and
- Leveraging Land: Land-based Finance for Local Governments. A Trainer's Guide

The LBF training package has been developed over a number of years and the process has involved numerous UN-Habitat and GLTN partners and other experts, as recognized in the Acknowledgments. This has included research, an expert consultation meeting held in Barcelona in May 2015, and testing in two pilot training events. It is a flexible document made available electronically. The intention is to further improve and fine-tune it, by incorporating ideas and suggestions received during the consultations, and while the tool is being used.

The tool is intended for both participants and trainers/ facilitators in the GLTN/UN-Habitat Land-Based Finance (LBF) training course, as well as others with an interest in land as a basis for generating revenue to provide urban services. LBF is a collective name given to a range of instruments by which local governments expand their revenue base and generate funds that will help them realize their service delivery, infrastructure development and maintenance goals. The broader contexts within which the LBF tool is being developed are local governance and sustainable urbanization. The LBF tool is premised on the fact that urban land is a key factor of production and an important source of financing for urban development, including infrastructure, social housing and basic services.

The first part of the LBF tool is this Reader in which a range of instruments are presented, described and demonstrated through cases and examples. The instruments included are the annual tax on immovable property, betterment charges, developer exactions, land value increment taxes, the sale of development rights, land sales and leases, and transfer taxes.

The second part of the LBF tool is a *Trainer's Guide* which provides methods whereby knowledge of both policy and practice regarding these instruments can be communicated. In the *Trainer's Guide*, the emphasis is on the practical dimensions of deploying

and making the most out of land-based financing instruments. The training is designed to both broaden the understanding of participants regarding potential land-based revenue instruments and to help them think critically about what is required to implement or domesticate each instrument in their home environment.

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HOW TO USE THIS READER

The Reader provides an overview of the principal land-based financing instruments in use around the world. The Reader is intended to serve as a handbook to lead the reader to a deeper understanding of land-based financing instruments. Not all instruments are equally relevant for all contexts or at all times. In some cases, an instrument described in the Reader will offer an obvious and immediate path for improving local revenues. In other cases, the historical and

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cultural context may make implementation of a given instrument nearly impossible at the present.

Given these realities, readers and participants in the LBF training will inevitably choose to study only some materials contained in the Reader. Those who are potentially interested in participating in LBF training should begin by reviewing the Executive Summary. The Executive Summary provides an overview of all the instruments and other materials included in the Reader. Reviewing the Executive Summary and the decision aids in Chapter 1 (Tables 1-3) will allow readers and participants to select those chapters and instruments that seem most relevant.

The chapters in the Reader are independent of each other, though the discussion presented may draw on general principles discussed in the "Introduction to Land-Based Finance" chapter. Each chapter

- Describes the instrument,
- Provides references to academic and practitioner literature discussing the tool in greater depth,
- Provides examples demonstrating the tool
- Summarizes the minimum requirements and key issues that will influence the selection and implementation of the instrument, and

 Discusses the financial, social, economic, and spatial impacts that could arise from the instrument's use.

Reading the discussion for a given instrument and perhaps consulting some of the references listed is only the beginning. Each local context has a unique history and culture. It is extremely unlikely that the implementation of an LBF instrument can simply be imported from some other context, no matter how successful the instrument may be in that other context. Instruments will need to be adapted to local conditions. It is possible that this adaptation can be done without the face-to-face training contemplated in this training package. However, many readers will find the discussion and collaboration provided in the training to be very helpful in both understanding what is required and charting an effective course for the future. Consequently, users of this Reader are encouraged to participate in a GLTN/UN-Habitatsponsored training course that follows the Trainer's Guide.

WHY LAND-BASED FINANCE TRAINING?

One of the significant challenges facing urban authorities in developing countries is the availability of the financial resources necessary to support and sustain urban development. Many urban authorities are very under-resourced and hence are unable to meet the ever-growing demand for basic services and new infrastructure as well as the maintenance of existing infrastructure and services. The extent to which urban local government can deliver effective services to citizens, including land services that improve access to serviced urban land and ensure tenure security, is dependent on the resources available to them.

LBF is a flexible set of instruments that can be adapted to a variety of institutional and cultural contexts. LBF aims to enhance the availability of resources for local development. Improved local finances and the ability to improve local infrastructure and service provision can have far-reaching social and economic benefits. Additionally, LBF tends to have fewer negative impacts on private investment than do other types of revenue tools and can even have positive spatial and social impacts. This combination of potential financial, economic, spatial and social benefits is the reason LBF has become a hot topic internationally in recent years.

This training package seeks to provide urban decision makers, managers and other community leaders

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at both the local and national levels with a broader understanding of the range of land-based financing instruments that are available and in use around the world.

The training is delivered in a series of sessions covering (in most cases)

a subset of the instruments included in the *Reader* as selected by training participants. It is possible to adjust the length¹ of the training by choosing those tools considered to be suitable to meet local needs. Each session seeks to provide an understanding of the instrument covered along with an awareness of where it has been applied and what the key implementation requirements are. The training package is intended to

Why land-based finance (LBF)?

- Flexible and adaptable set of instruments
- Revenue generating potential
- Often better economic, spatial and social impactsthan other revenue tools

be rotated each session over the course of the training so that each participant has the opportunity to fill each role. Consequently, it matters little how the roles are initially assigned. The roles and responsibilities for each role are as follows:

- Facilitator: Animates and motivates the group; keeps the group on task; makes sure everyone is heard; asks for consensus; provides helpful and supportive feedback
- **Recorder:** Keeps notes of the group's work, either on easel paper or notebook paper
- **Reporter:** Shares the group's work and ideas with the larger group
- **Timekeeper:** Makes sure the group completes the task within the time provided
- **Observer:** Pays special attention to how the group is working together (i.e. Is everyone participating? Is anyone dominating the group?);

well as other leaders in developing urban areas, by enabling them to explore tried and proved options for generating additional financial resources. It is often difficult for local governments to enforce land laws and policies without financial resources. They also find it challenging to increase the availability of serviced urban land and to prevent the proliferation of slums. Land-based financing is therefore one of the tools needed to achieve secure access to land and realize the goals of sustainable urban development.

It must also be acknowledged that implementing or improving land-based finance instruments can be politically challenging. It is essential therefore that early in the process high-level political officials engage in the discussion and become committed to effective change. Without the strong support and commitment from senior officials, it is unlikely that meaningful change can occur. Even with such support, change will not

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