

EXCHANGE



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MPED LEAVES LED LEGACY

The Municipal Partners for Economic Development (MPED) program draws to a close at the end of 2015. Since 2010, MPED has enabled municipal partners from seven countries on three continents to develop leadership and know-how in local economic development (LED). This issue highlights selected resources of a program that successfully drew on the values and expertise of Canadian municipalities to design and demonstrate new approaches to LED in Tanzania, Burkina Faso, Mali, Bolivia, Nicaragua, Cambodia, and Vietnam.

MPED provides a compelling example of the relevance and effectiveness of municipal partnerships. Its achievements demonstrate how sharing knowledge and skills among peers can foster economic growth and help communities move out of poverty. MPED built a new, far-reaching network of collaboration: municipalities working together, sister local government associations working together, municipal experts and citizens working together.



MPED was possible due to support from Canada's Department of Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development and the active engagement of FCM member municipalities and associations. FCM is now preparing for the next partnership with the Government of Canada, expanding the scope to include both LED and democratic governance, while continuing to look to valued municipal experts to provide insight.



**MPED'S
PROJECTS
CHANGE
HOW LOCAL
GOVERNMENTS
APPROACH LED**

The National League of Communes/Sangkats of Cambodia (NLC) has produced a video showing how MPED has changed the way local governments approach LED and its impact on the livelihood of Cambodian families. [Watch the video](#) (in original language with English subtitles).



**MPED
PROVIDES
COUNTLESS
SUCCESS
STORIES
IN LED**

El Arenal eco-tourism center in Nicaragua is another MPED success story. The municipality of Matagalpa worked closely with the local community to transform its natural park into an asset of great potential for local development. Among other things, partners organized an inaugural mountain bike rally—a tourist draw for mountain bike aficionados from all over Nicaragua. Organizers are now planning the rally as a regular event.

FCM International programs are undertaken with the financial support of the Government of Canada through Foreign Affairs, Trade and Development Canada.



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COMPENDIUM ANALYSES MPED ACHIEVEMENTS

The [MPED Compendium](#) gathers 25 local government initiatives to support LED leadership. Each case study examines how overseas partners from Africa, Asia and Latin America worked together with Canadian peers to develop their skills through demonstration projects. The compendium completes a comprehensive set of good practices and success stories that were developed earlier this year to help local governments learn from and replicate LED models and practices.



MPED MODELS REGIONAL ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT

Economic corridors provide a regional approach to LED grounded in the involvement of populations and economic operators—an essential factor in mobilizing local strengths, generating resources and fostering inclusive socio-economic development. Rather than basing investments for development on large infrastructure projects seeking economies of scale, [the corridor approach in West Africa](#) is based on inter-municipal collaboration, area-based approaches, citizen participation and economic development.



MPED: CONNECTING PARTNERS TO THE GLOBAL DEVELOPMENT AGENDA

One of MPED's goals was to ensure that the role of local government in LED was better recognized in international discussions. To this end, MPED partners connected through global municipal networks such as United Cities and Local Governments, the Commonwealth Local Government Forum, and the Association Internationale des Maires Francophones. MPED supported policy development internationally—check out the [policy paper on decentralized development cooperation](#), the work of UCLG global municipal champions, and the [position paper on LED policy](#).



MOROGORO AND KITCHENER: GOING THE EXTRA MILE

[The construction of the Choma Bridge](#) in the Uluguru Mountains above Morogoro is an impressive and heartfelt contribution from the Canadian community of Kitchener. Rod Regier and Chris Farrell of the Waterloo Region Small Business Centre took advantage of their time in Morogoro running an LED training program to contribute in other ways, helping with community initiatives, raising funds for an orphanage and buying school supplies.

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FCMI PROGRAM NEWS

PLEDDG PROJECT OFFICIALLY LAUNCHED IN UKRAINE



In September, the **Partnership for Local Economic Development and Democratic Governance (PLEDDG)** Project Steering Committee held its inaugural meeting in Kiev. Over 30 participants attended, including representatives of the Ministry of Economic Development and Trade; the Ministry of Regional Development, Construction and Housing; four pilot oblasts; 16 partner cities; FCM; and the Association of Ukrainian Cities. The Committee confirmed project priorities and approved the terms of reference of its overall governance. Members approved the PLEDDG Inception Stage Report and adopted a first-year work plan.

The Canadian Ambassador to Ukraine Roman Waschuk encouraged partners to think strategically about program sustainability, to ensure funding makes a real difference for citizens and SMEs, contributing to growth while supporting the decentralization process currently unfolding in Ukraine.

CISAL: EXPERTS DISCUSS THE ROLE OF LOCAL GOVERNMENTS IN CONFLICT PREVENTION



During the XI World Conference of Mediation, held in September in Peru, the Sustainable and Inclusive Communities in Latin America (CISAL) workshop: *Abilities of local governments in the prevention and resolution of environmental and social conflicts* brought representatives from Canada, Colombia and Peru together to share experiences on the proactive role that local governments play in times of conflict, with an emphasis on mining communities.

"This is a great opportunity to start sharing best practices between countries throughout the Americas. No one has the best way of doing things, but together we can develop a better way," said the mayor of Red Lake, Ontario, Phil Vinet. [Read the workshop report.](#)

CARILED BUILDS MOMENTUM



The **Caribbean Local Economic Development Project (CARILED)** entered its fourth year of operation in 2015 and began preparing for the launch of Phase II, which will see more municipalities across seven pilot countries benefit from increased LED support for participatory and inclusive approaches to business development and strengthened local economies.

In September, the San Pedro Town Council of Belize became CARILED's first Phase II community. Belize was also the first country to submit and receive approval for CARILED's first development project in 2013, and continues to be a leader in the adoption and promotion of local government leadership to create enabling environments for *micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises*. Information is available [online](#) or via [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#).

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