



**GRET**

Professionals for  
Fair Development



# Cities for all and decentralisation

Promoting the right to the city for all via inclusion of poor neighbourhoods and sustainable urban and territorial development methods.

## Factsheet

Agriculture: value chains and agricultural policies

Cities for all and decentralisation

Civic issues and democracy

Drinking water, sanitation and waste management

Health: nutrition and social protection

Microfinance and professional integration

Natural resource management and energy



## BENCHMARKS

Work on this subject area since 1980.

### Countries of operation:

Brazil, Burkina Faso, Cambodia, Congo-Brazzaville, Cuba, France (Overseas Territories), Haiti, Madagascar, Mauritania, Morocco, Myanmar, Panama, Senegal.

**5 projects,**  
**4 expert studies** and  
**2 capitalisations** in 2015.

**B**etween now and 2030, 80 % of urban growth will occur in developing countries. Cities are factors and areas of economic & social development, as well as the first cause of environmental degradation. They are increasingly vulnerable to systemic risks, especially those relating to climate change. The population living in poor neighbourhoods is set to increase from 880 million in 2015 to 2 billion in 2030.

**Since its creation, GRET has been working in cooperation on urban development to combat poverty, inequalities and urban relegation, and to ensure a right to the city for all via sustainable development methods.** GRET is working in over 150 projects, 100 expert studies and 50 publications in this area.

GRET works to enable inhabitants to gain sustainable access to land and economic resources, services (water, sanitation, energy, markets, education, culture, health), housing, income and employment, the right of expression, and decisions on public policies & security. Its work focuses on three main areas: **integrated development of poor neighbourhoods, social support for urban policies and operations, and urban planning and forward planning.** It works in partnership with local and national stakeholders, at neighbourhood and secondary town level. It has projects in countries that are emerging, intermediary, fragile or in crisis, as well as in the French Overseas Territories.

## Working methods

GRET leads or supports urban development projects with a view to testing innovative solutions, changing the scale of projects and ensuring they are included in public policies. It provides technical assistance to project owners (local authorities, public administrations, public operators, NGOs), and conducts expert studies, expert evaluations and action-research in order to inform public debate and steer policies.







## GRET's expert

» *“We always start by recognising and understanding what exists in order to build solutions that are suited to contexts. We prioritise in situ rehabilitation, access to services and to the public arena. The principles that guide our action are based on participation and strengthening inhabitants’ and civil society organisations’ power to act. It is through multi-stakeholder consultation that it is possible to build for the public interest, its governance and its management, especially with local governments and those in charge of territorial development. Multi-stakeholder consultation makes it possible to co-construct sustainable social, institutional, financial, technical and environmental solutions”, explains Reiyé Gandzounou, urban development expert with GRET.*



## Key players' views

*“The project led by GRET and the Municipality of Dolisie (with the support of the population) can be considered a success: a diagnosis was made, an action plan was drawn up and implemented with participation from consultative bodies; actions were carried out in the field and are visible for all to see.”* **Pascal Zahonero, cooperation officer with the European Union Delegation in Congo-Brazzaville**

*“GRET and Oxfam set out to ascertain what we needed in the area as part of the Parad project. Previously, stagnant water led to mosquitoes, causing numerous diseases. Corridors were unsafe, pregnant women were falling... The project enabled us to improve safety. In addition, it generates income, as it is people from the community who do the work themselves.”* **Michaele Louis, member of Casec (Conseil d'administration de la section communale – Administrative committee of the communal section) in Turgeau, Haiti**

### SOME REFERENCES

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- Bâtir des villes pour tous en Afrique, GRET, GLTN-ONU-Habitat, 2012, Etudes et travaux en ligne, [www.gret.org/publication/batir-des-villes-pour-tous-en-afrique/](http://www.gret.org/publication/batir-des-villes-pour-tous-en-afrique/)
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- ID4D Conference (2014), AFD, GRET, “Quelles politiques pour répondre au défi de la précarité urbaine?”, <http://ideas4development.org/conference/rehabilitation-quartiers-precaires-solution-durable>

2016. Photos: © GRET

## Focus on three actions

### Development and reconstruction in Baillergeau, Port-au-Prince, Haiti (Areba)

2011-2017 | **Budget:** 5 M€ | **Funding:** AFD, FdF, EU | **Public project owner:** Public Housing and Buildings Construction Unit.



Following the earthquake in January 2010, GRET provided social support to design the Baillergeau redevelopment plan. It subsequently led an integrated project for development and reconstruction with a public project owner, including the development of secondary roads and public spaces, the development of urban services and reconstruction of houses, thanks to technical and financial support for self-build.

### Evaluation and social impact of the Support programme for the clearance of slums, Morocco (Parhib)

2009-2012 | **Budget:** 300 k€ | **Funding:** Al Omrane Holding | **Partner:** Area.



Covering nine operations in five towns (300,000 people), the impact study points to a paradox: improving housing conditions and the feeling of social promotion is accompanied by degradation of living conditions and accommodation. The report features a series of recommendations for public action in terms of slum clearance.

### Urban forward planning in Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni, Guyana

2013-2014 | **Budget:** 45 k€ | **Funding:** AFD.



Under pressure from an exceptionally high rate of demographic growth, Saint-Laurent-du-Maroni is experiencing a huge increase of informal, substandard urbanised areas. The study enabled demographic projections up to the year 2030; projections in terms of corresponding requirements for housing, land, employment and schools; and highlighted the impacts and costs of inaction. It also led to the definition of strategic joint scenarios to take action.



GRET is an international development NGO that has been actively fighting poverty and inequalities for 40 years on all levels and in a broad range of subjects. More information on GRET's activities in the area of Cities for all: [www.gret.org/themes/cities](http://www.gret.org/themes/cities)