



Welcome to CLGF E-news!

Issue 4, 2026

This edition brings you the latest updates from CLGF, our strategic partners and the wider Commonwealth network on the following topics:

- **CLGF news & activities:** Launching the Urban Finance resource hub, new projects on promoting local government for sustainable economies in Zimbabwe and tackling the Caribbean sargassum issues.
- **Local democracy & inclusive governance:** Championing local democracy and good governance topics at the MH House dialogue and UCLG World Congress 2026, and promoting the POSH Act in Indian local institutions.
- **Network updates:** New reports on localising the EU's Global Gateway approach and building the financial case for urban adaptation.

Read the full updates in the articles below.

We hope that you find this edition interesting, and if you have any news that you think will be of interest to CLGF members, please contact us at: info@clgf.org.uk

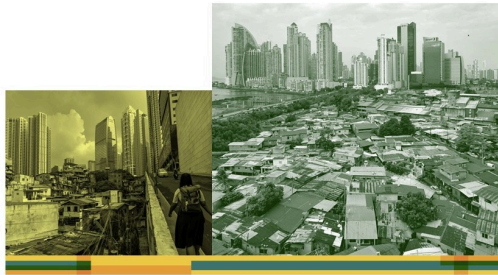
We wish you happy reading!

CLGF news and activities

The Urban Finance Gap:

Systems, Constraints, and Reform
Pathways across the Commonwealth

Author: Astrid R.N. Haas



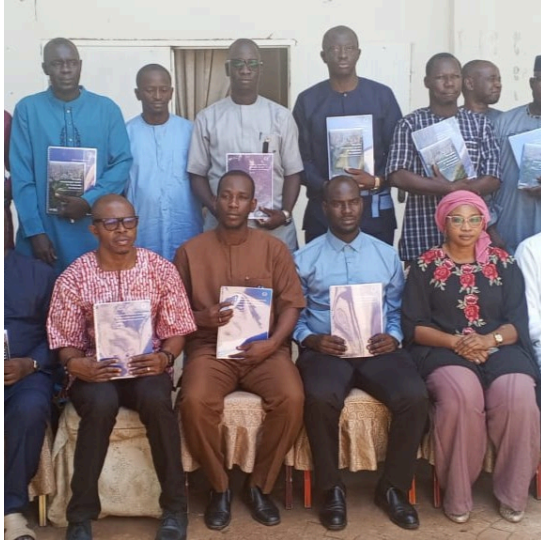
The Urban Finance Gap: Taking the UFAG's work to the wider CLGF membership

CLGF is now taking forward the outputs of the Urban Finance Action Group (UFAG) to the wider CLGF membership, following several months of research, discussion and refinement.

View the full research paper and related materials [here](#)..

New resource mobilisation strategies launched in The Gambia

The Gambia Association of Local Government Authorities (GALGA), partnering with CLGF, officially launched two Resource Mobilisation Strategies. Co-funded by the EU-UNDP funded GREAT Project, they aim to enable GALGA and eight local councils to expand own-source revenue mobilisation, enhance accountability and enhance grassroots development. [Read more](#)..



Digitalising Municipal Revenue and Public Financial Management: Lessons from Mutare's LADS Experience

CSCN Pilot Project for Municipal Revenue and Public Finance Management
25 June 2026

CSCN peer learning clinic highlights Mutare's digitalisation journey

At the recent CSCN Peer Learning Clinic, Mr Chafesuka, Town Clerk, Mutare City Council, Zimbabwe shared the city's seven-year journey in developing the Local Authorities Digital System (LADS), enhancing revenue efficiency, citizen engagement and funding essential community infrastructure to support sustainable urbanisation. [Read here](#)..



Tackling sargassum in the Caribbean: The role for local government

A new CSCN project kicked off on 25 June, focusing on empowering Caribbean local governments to manage the environmental and economic impacts of unpredictable sargassum seaweed blooms. The initiative emphasises peer learning to help local authorities develop action plans, protect coastal livelihoods and explore sustainable economic uses for sargassum. [Read here](#)..



New project on promoting local government for Zimbabwe's inclusive, sustainable economies

Commissioned by the EU, CLGF Zimbabwe has officially launched a 40-month initiative fostering inclusive, climate-smart local economies. Targeting 25 local authorities, the project addresses centralised constraints by driving fiscal reform, digital transformation and community planning. Specifically, it empowers councils as territorial coordinators of sustainable growth and community resilience. [Read more ...](#)

Strengthening local democracy



CLGF champions local democracy at Marlborough House Dialogue

The Commonwealth Secretariat recently hosted the Marlborough House Dialogue on “Pathways to democratic resilience” in partnership with CLGF and other organisations. The event underscored the pressing global necessity of reinforcing democratic resilience, while highlighting the vital role of local government in securing grassroots democracy and building institutional trust. [Read more ...](#)



Advancing local democracy and multilateralism at the UCLG World Congress 2026

CLGF was delighted to be invited to attend the UCLG World Congress in Tangier 21-25 June 2026. The meeting brought together local government actors from across the world to jointly push for a stronger and more strategic role for local government in global development. [Read more ...](#)

Building sustainable cities



CLGF members promoting local climate dialogues at the 2026 PFD Regional Meeting

On 2-3 June, the 2026 Asia-Pacific Policy Forum on Development (PFD) Regional Meeting convened in Jakarta, Indonesia, facilitating comprehensive exchanges on regional partnerships for shared prosperity - scaling green transformation and climate resilience. CLGF and our members actively addressed challenges for local and regional governments (LRGs) in the regional climate finance agenda. [Read more..](#)

Inclusive governance



Promoting safe environments for women's leadership in India

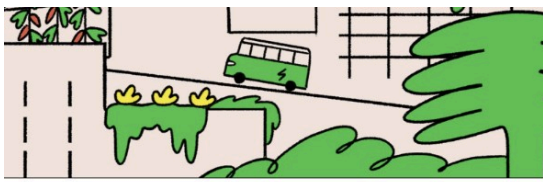
CLGF recently facilitated a session in Maharashtra, India, on implementing the POSH Act (Prevention of Sexual Harassment of Women at the Workplace) in rural local government. Aligning with CLGF's Gender Equality Charter, the initiative addresses barriers to women's political participation by fostering safe, dignified, and harassment-free institutional environments at the grassroots level. [Read more ...](#)



From Commonwealth youth advocate to Bromley's youngest Mayor

Discover the inspiring journey of Jonathan Andrews, who at just 31 became the youngest-ever Mayor of Bromley (the UK). Having served as the inaugural Youth Co-Chair of the Commonwealth Children and Youth Disability Network (CCYDN), his journey spans both international disability advocacy and UK local government, focusing on neurodiversity and inclusion. [Read more ...](#)

Upcoming events, resources and opportunities



Building the financial case for urban adaptation:

Guidance and case studies



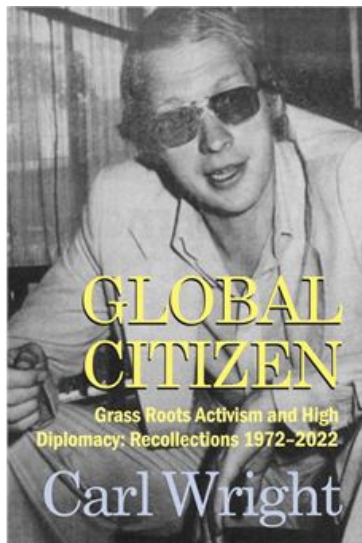
Report on 'Building the financial case for urban adaptation: Guidance and case studies'

While adaptation delivers high economic returns, current finance flows fall short of what cities need to become climate-resilient. This new report from C40 Cities and Rebel helps city project developers structure adaptation initiatives to attract private investment, identifying the conditions under which projects become bankable and demonstrating the available financing options for resilient urban infrastructure. [Read more ...](#)



Report on localising the EU's Global Gateway approach

The Cities and Regions for International Partnerships Forum 2025 (8-10 December 2025) focused on how to localise the EU's Global Gateway approach - which represents a major paradigm shift in its external action and development cooperation and mobilises private investment for sustainable infrastructure. Discussions also explored the specific roles and opportunities available for local and regional governments. [Read more ...](#)



CLGF's former SG Dr Carl Wright launches updated edition of 'Global Citizen' memoir

The second edition of the book '*Global Citizen: Grass Roots Activism and High Diplomacy*' by CLGF's founder and former Secretary-General is now available. His updated memoir offers unique insights into global cooperation, directly addressing recent geopolitical crises and rising populism.

[Read more ...](#)

For further information or enquiries, please get in touch with us at:

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