Intern with the Millennium Cities Initiative

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Background

• Earth Institute project
• **Mission:** “to help selected, under-resourced cities across sub-Saharan Africa eradicate searing poverty and complete an urban transformation essential to attaining the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) by 2015.”
• 2 sides to the program:
  • Investment
    • Attract domestic and foreign investment
    • Generate jobs and stimulate economic growth
  • Social Sector
    • Education
    • Gender
    • Health
    • Water/Sanitation
    • Other
• Cities are intended to serve as regional hubs
  • Especially for nearby
• Overall objective: develop a replicable approach that other medium-sized, under-resourced Sub-Saharan African cities can adopt with minimal outside help

Pilot Cities

- Mekelle, Ethiopia
- Accra, Ghana
- **Kumasi, Ghana**
- Kisumu, Kenya
- Blantyre, Malawi
- Bamako, Mali
- Segou, Mali

Research on Aid to Kumasi, Ghana

The major players involved in providing aid to Kumasi, Ghana include USAID and the World Bank. To a lesser extent, the NGO CARE International and the UKDFID are involved in development initiatives involving Kumasi and Ghana as a whole. Initiatives fit into several categories and sectors, but seem to focus on education and general economic improvements. Additional categories of importance include water/sanitation, transportation, and infrastructure improvements. Health and gender related programs seem to be less common.

One interesting opportunity that MCI should explore is involvement in the World Bank-supported and CARE International-led Kumasi-Atlanta Partnership. There is little information available about the Partnership’s accomplishments. The program’s objective is to leverage a partnership between Atlanta-based development agencies and the city of Kumasi to promote foreign investment and trade in Kumasi. This similarity with MCI’s mission along with the fact that the Partnership expects to generate ~$10 million towards development initiatives suggests that it should be an interesting opportunity.

Responsibilities

• Process travel reimbursements for traveling consultants affiliated with MCI
• Researched a range of subjects, including sources of existing aid to Kumasi, Ghana
• Helped organize meetings and events
• Researched existing women’s community centers worldwide in support of MCI project to establish similar centers in the pilot cities
  • Research identified centers in a range of locations including the USA, Sub-Saharan Africa, and India