

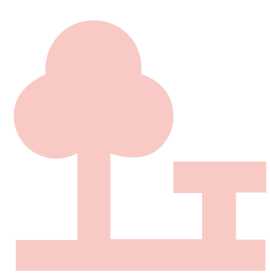
Dhaka, Bangladesh:

# Mobile Towers with Sustainable Public Infrastructure



## THE CHALLENGE

Telecommunications companies often need to install infrastructure in public space to grow mobile networks. In Dhaka, they need permission from the city government and pay a rental fee. At the same time, installing new sustainable infrastructure can be prohibitively expensive for cities. **This gap created an opportunity.**



## HOW IT WORKS

Through a city-led partnership, an MOU was signed for a private company to install and provide additional public infrastructure as part of the agreement to rent the space. This started with LED lighting, given that many towers were near footpaths, as well as free public WIFI.

Other companies joined the programme and a philanthropic organisation has agreed to help fund air quality sensors. This will give the city much needed data on air pollution.

It took 18 months to launch the programme, primarily to adapt city procedures and engage with all the relevant departments. The Mayor's Office believed that **a public benefit should be derived in exchange for businesses accessing public space.**

## Model:

### Public-Private Partnerships

Dhaka North is working with telecommunications companies to ensure they include **sustainable public infrastructure** in new telecom towers located on city-owned land.



## LESSONS

Cities can **leverage new contractual agreements to respond to gaps in public services**; particularly with new physical infrastructure as in the case of Dhaka.

**Partnerships can snowball and attract additional support.** What was initially an agreement with one company led to a complementary set of partnerships.

In a context where shifting mindsets and systems inside government is necessary, **Mayoral commitment**, and taking the necessary time to generate internal buy-in, is key.

