

# Mexico: Nuestro Barrio Resiliente - Our Resilient Neighborhood

## Background

Today, 80 per cent of all Mexicans live in cities. The concentration of large populations in very dense urban areas poses critical issues for Mexican cities and their citizens; traffic jams, air and noise pollution, lack of sufficient green infrastructure and inclusive public spaces are just some examples. The effects of climate change compounded by the overexploitation of natural resources have left many rapidly growing urban areas in Mexico threatened by water scarcity. Los Cabos, a coastal and highly touristic municipality in Baja California Sur has the highest urbanisation rate in Mexico. Due to the concentration of infrastructure on the coastal strip in this region, neighbourhoods further away from the coast are confronted with intensified social, economic, climatic, and environmental issues. These challenges need integrated solutions where especially the perspective of more vulnerable groups such as women, youth, and children are taken into account.

## Project Intervention

In order to improve the resilience of a neighbourhood in San José del Cabo and enhance the citizen's quality of life, this project developed and rehabilitated a multifunctional, safe, and inclusive public space, the "Parque Hundido Pedro Sánchez". The municipality, the local community, and allied organizations worked together in a co-creation process with a special focus on climate, biodiversity, and local participation. Neighbours and volunteer groups that include women and youth, developed a multifunctional green space and built a community pavilion using local low-emission materials. The newly created green infrastructure promotes biodiversity and climate adaptation by providing soakaways, infiltration, runoff areas and native vegetation. Besides, the development of the park strengthens the educational, cultural and sports activities in the neighbour-



- 108 million** people live in urban areas
- 25** per cent of Mexico's population is concentrated in three cities: Guadalajara, Mexico City, and Monterrey
- 70** per cent of Mexico's water bodies are affected by contamination, and many cities are experiencing overexploitation of renewable groundwater and overuse of environmental flows
- 15** per cent of Mexico's urban population live in informal settlements
- 32** per cent of the population in Los Cabos live in poverty, which shows a great inequality

hood. During the measure, the residents were encouraged to appropriate the public space through tactical urbanism, a fast, cheap, action-oriented approach to making meaningful civic changes to neighbourhoods, towns, and cities.

## Results

Through a series of participatory and practical workshops that were implemented together with the inhabitants of the neighbourhood, the Parque Hundido Pedro Sánchez was transformed into a multifunctional place that promotes recreational activities, learning, native biodiversity, and adaptation to climate change. The tangible results include the development of three resting places, six micro-basins for water infiltration, two street crossings, one community pavilion and reforesta-



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tion with more than 200 trees and plants. Additionally, the perception of security in the park has increased and the neighbours are better connected and organised in a neighbourhood committee, with direct communication channels with the municipality. The principle of leaving no one behind (LNOB) shapes the basis, promoting participatory decision-making and social inclusion of vulnerable groups, specifically women, youth, and children living in San Jose del Cabo. On an overarching level, the activities contribute to many Sustainable Development Goals (SDG), such as SDG 5 (Gender Equity), SDG 6 (Clean Water and Sanitation), SDG 11 (Sustainable Cities and Communities), and SDG 13 (Climate Action).

### Implementation Partners

The Municipality of Los Cabos provided the project with an adequate strategic public space. The Parque Hundido Pedro Sanchez is a natural water basin that is dry most of the year and captures a lot of precipitation during the hurricane season. The park therefore has a lot of potential for climate adaptation measures. In collaboration with a Local Neighbourhood Committee, the municipality contributed to the coordination and maintenance of the public space.

[Urbanería](#), together with [Niparajá](#) and [Ecology Project International \(EPI\)](#) provided methodological and technical solutions for interventions in public spaces, based on their broad experience in implementing successful green infrastructure projects in La Paz, Baja California Sur. [The Alliance for Food Security](#) and [Philantropiece](#) implemented measures to improve community risk management, with a focus on first aid measures and financial education training for children and youth.

### Financing

The project implementation took place from October 2021 to April 2023. BMZ provided around EUR 96.000 through the GIZ sector project "Cities"; the BMZ-funded GIZ programme "BIOCITIS" contributed approx. EUR 30.000 for the planning and preparation of the green infrastructure, whereas the municipality supported the project as by providing the site, issuing the permits for interventions, removing unused structures in the park, and donating native plants.

### Further Information:

- [Presentation of the project](#)
- [Virtual visit to the park](#)
- [Milestones of implementation](#)

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