



Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

Creating sustainable cities



[bmz.de](https://www.bmz.de)



“Cities are key players for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We must act now to create the livable cities of tomorrow.”

DEAR READERS,

More than half of the global population is already living in cities. By 2050, that share is expected to be more than two thirds. Cities are the dynamic growth centers of our time. The opportunities and challenges of global sustainable development are concentrated there. They are the central living environments for people. Urban development is therefore one of our key concerns.

The list of current challenges is long: inadequate housing, increasing air pollution, high levels of resource consumption, overcrowded streets, and inadequate water and energy services as well as waste and wastewater disposal services. And in the world's cities, we can increasingly see the impact of migration and displacement, climate change and growing social inequality.

At the same time, cities are places of change with a lot of innovative capacity. Thus, I am convinced that well-planned and well-governed cities where people enjoy participation rights and share the benefits of development are part of the answer when it comes to sustainable development for all.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Gerd Müller', is positioned above the printed name.

Dr. Gerd Müller, Member of the German Parliament

Federal Minister for Economic Cooperation and Development

Facts at a glance

URBANIZATION WORLDWIDE

At present, more than half of the world's population is living in cities.

1980

38.6 per cent of 4.4 billion people are living in cities



2015

54.8 per cent of 7.3 billion people are living in cities

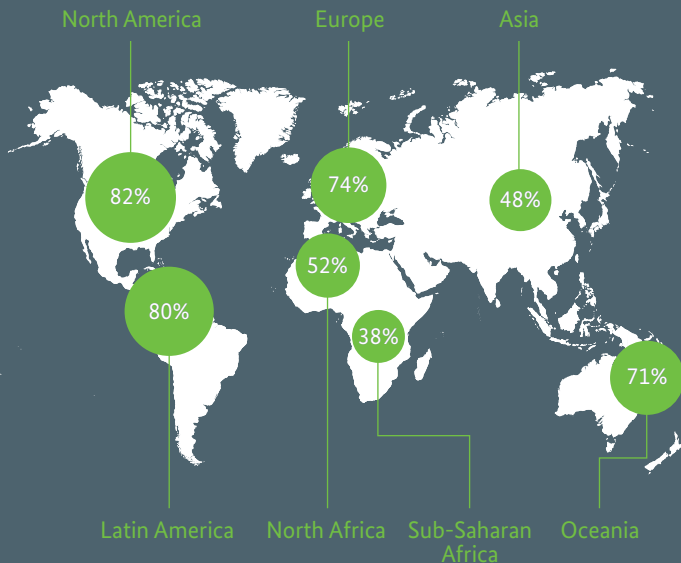


2050

66.3 per cent of 9.5 billion people are expected to be living in cities



SHARE OF URBAN POPULATION BY REGION



Some **90 per cent** of the global population growth expected for the period up to 2050 will take place in **Asia** and **Africa**.

URBAN REALITIES

- Cities occupy **2 per cent** of the world's land area, but are responsible for **60 to 80 per cent** of global energy consumption.
- Cities account for some **75 per cent** of global CO₂ emissions.
- Worldwide, **1.3 to 1.9 billion metric tons** of waste are generated by human settlements every year.
- Globally, the number of slum dwellers continues to grow. In 2014, more than **880 million** people were living in slums.
- Of the 14.4 million* refugees in the world, some **60 per cent** are living in urban areas.
- Cities generate more than **80 per cent** of global GDP.

* This figure does not include the 5.1 million Palestinian refugees registered with UNRWA.

“Our struggle for global sustainability will be won or lost in cities.” Ban Ki-moon






What cities have to provide

Basic services such as education, food, water, health

Sustainable energy supply and efficient use of natural resources

Space for people to meet, become involved and volunteer

Infrastructure development and social services, such as affordable public transport



Employment,
especially for
young people

Affordable and
safe housing;
secure tenure of
owned or leased
property

Safe public
spaces, for
example through
street lighting

Public and
green spaces
for recreation,
exercise and
clean air

The 2030 Agenda and Habitat III



At the end of September 2015, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development was adopted at a UN summit in New York. The 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) it contains are focused on eradicating poverty worldwide and safeguarding natural resources and the environment for future generations. SDG 11 focuses on sustainable urban development aimed at creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable cities.

Cities play a key role for sustainable development. Most of the goals of the 2030 Agenda can only be reached if we manage to mobilize local players and make urban areas sustainable.

To that end, a new global agenda for urban development is to be adopted at the Habitat III conference in Quito, Ecuador, in October 2016. In order to contribute to the conference's preparation, Germany – specifically, the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and the Federal State of Berlin – hosted the German Habitat Forum in June. Its key outcome is the Berlin Recommendations for the Cities of Tomorrow: www.german-habitat-forum.de

What is the German government seeking to achieve?



RECOGNIZING AND EMPOWERING CITIES AS DEVELOPMENT ACTORS

Cities must have the authority to take autonomous action and have a viable budget system to facilitate sustainable urban development. This requires clear municipal responsibilities, and municipalities must have the requisite capacity, to be regulated and fostered through national policies and legislation.



CREATING LIVABLE CITIES

Cities are livable if they give people job and income opportunities and provide decent working, housing and living conditions. Social inequality is to be reduced, social participation is to be realized, and people are to be given prospects for the future.



REALIZING INTEGRATED URBAN DEVELOPMENT

Interdisciplinary and well-planned solutions are essential for making cities resource-efficient and resilient, for instance to climate change. This will only be possible if the requisite infrastructure is in place, if local authorities are organized on a decentralized basis and can operate in a networked manner, and if local authorities include local people in planning processes.

Adaptation to climate change in coastal cities

Vietnam



CONTEXT

Coastal cities are particularly threatened by extreme weather events and rising sea levels. According to the Aqueduct Global Flood Analyzer, annual expected urban damage in Vietnam is about 2.6 billion US dollars, or about 1.4 per cent of GDP (2014). People along the country's 3,440-kilometer coastline are particularly vulnerable to floods and storms. Floods regularly claim human lives and increasing urbanization will further exacerbate flood risks in cities.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Reduce flood risks
- Ensure timely warning and evacuation
- Sensitize the urban population and authorities and build their capacity to adapt to climate change



RESULTS TO DATE

Germany has helped the Vietnamese government develop a strategy for improved urban flood protection. Three cities are working to reduce floods on a sustained basis through structural flood control measures and improved urban planning. Indirectly, these activities have reached more than a million people. In particularly vulnerable cities, people received special training to teach them about risks and risk response.

Urban violence prevention *South Africa*



CONTEXT

The high rate of violence in South Africa is one of the major impediments to development in that country. In large cities in particular, the consequences of the apartheid-based urban policies of the past can still be felt: extreme inequality, densely populated settlements with inadequate services, and high unemployment. In the townships in particular, assaults, burglaries, rapes and violence are almost routine. But local authorities lack the resources and the expertise to create a basis for development and safer neighborhoods.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Empower local authorities and build their capacity
- Offer activities for children and young people
- Create municipal infrastructure, such as sports fields, playgrounds, pedestrian areas, parks, and safe spaces for people to gather and receive counseling
- Make security and safety a community task

RESULTS TO DATE

The prevention of violence has become an established part of national urban development policies. Targeted measures in pilot provinces have reached more than 20,000 children, youths and women. People are actively involved in determining what their living environment looks like. Some 4,000 teenagers are helping to make their schools and neighborhoods safer. As a result, people are more satisfied with public services and programs. In some neighborhoods, the homicide rate declined by about 30 per cent over a period of seven years.



Slum rehabilitation program *El Salvador*



CONTEXT

The country's population continues to grow, and cities are coming under increasing pressure as their populations increase. These developments are posing major challenges for El Salvador. About 44 per cent of the people are under the age of 20. According to estimates, the housing shortage stands at about 550,000 units. Urban slums are emerging, often on the outskirts of the cities. They are characterized by a lack of legal certainty, poor hygienic conditions, and high crime rates.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Improve the living conditions of people in greater San Salvador
- Develop the material infrastructure in slum areas
- Get land titles for slum dwellers
- Connect slum dwellers to supply and sanitation networks and transport systems



RESULTS TO DATE

Ms. Vásquez and her son, Douglas Alexander, are one of the more than 3,000 families whose living conditions have been improved by upgrading streets/footpaths and rainwater drainage systems and by constructing of sports facilities, playgrounds and community centers. In the target neighborhoods, almost all households have successfully been connected to a regular drinking water supply system and to the sewage system. Land titles have been provided for more than 85 per cent of all parcels of land, and the parcels have been integrated into the urban space.

National urbanization strategy *Ghana*



CONTEXT

Ghana is undergoing a process of rapid urbanization. As municipalities are unable to provide sufficient housing, informal settlements are expanding. Administrative bodies are underfunded and the division of responsibilities is unclear, which is making it more difficult for government and municipal services to be responsive to people's needs. In some large cities, the share of households connected to the public water system has declined by as much as 22 percentage points and only 18 per cent of domestic waste is properly collected. Due to a lack of alternatives, 86 per cent of the urban economy is organized on an informal basis.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- At the national level: create a conducive legal, administrative, financially sound environment for sustainable urban development
- At the local level: improve urban services through increased municipal revenues and sustainable planning with greater citizen involvement

RESULTS TO DATE

Germany has worked with the Ghanaian government to draft urban development guidelines and an implementation strategy, and a National Urban Forum has been set up to facilitate participatory debate on sustainable solutions for cities. Municipal revenue has risen by 25 per cent over 2010 levels thanks to improved local government capacity in the areas of administration and budget management. In the future, German development cooperation with Ghana will focus on municipal financial management.



Addressing migration and displacement

Morocco



CONTEXT

In the past twenty years, Morocco has increasingly become a country of transit and destination for migrants and refugees. In addition, more and more Moroccans are returning home after a period of living abroad. Communities and government authorities are facing big challenges when it comes to providing local opportunities for economic, cultural and social integration.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Prevent social conflict through integration projects in the economic, social and cultural spheres
- Develop a local culture of welcoming people
- Improve information services for new arrivals about existing integration programs
- Foster networking between municipal players to facilitate the exchange of experience and strengthen social cohesion



RESULTS TO DATE

A supra-regional exchange of experience has been established between Moroccan, Turkish and German political and civil society representatives. The new *Kulturemozaik* radio program in Rabat provides information about migrants' countries of origin and about the success stories of individual migrants. NGOs record migrants' skills and qualifications in order to facilitate their integration in Morocco's labor market.

Urban infrastructure development *India*



CONTEXT

India's urban population currently stands at about 430 million. It is estimated that, by 2030, urbanization in India will have increased from one third to 40 per cent, which means that about 580 million people will then be living in cities. The biggest impediment to decent living conditions for urban people and to economic growth is the lack of quality infrastructure.



WHAT DO WE WANT TO ACHIEVE?

- Improved availability of urban infrastructure for the people through financial services for investments
- Capacity-building and support for local authorities with regard to the planning and implementation of construction projects



RESULTS TO DATE

There are currently about 20 projects concerned with water, waste-water and energy efficiency being financed via the Tamil Nadu Urban Development Fund. About 200,000 households are benefiting from the current activities. It is envisaged for the project to reach about 500,000 households directly by the time of its completion.

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