

Support to the Brazilian National Agenda for Sustainable Urban Development

The Challenge

Over the last years, Brazil has undergone rapid urbanization. In 2010 (the latest census), the degree of urbanization reached 85%, therefore most of the economic activity is concentrated in cities. The 83 metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations in Brazil are home to over 50% of the country's population, whereas around 85% of the 5,570 municipalities have less than 100,000 inhabitants. Currently, the highest urban growth rates are concentrated in medium and small cities.

The growth of cities, in number and size, has challenged the administrative and planning structures of municipalities and metropolitan areas. This results in poorly distributed and inadequate technical infrastructure (transport, sanitation, including solid waste) as well as a lack of public and community facilities, and contributes to social disparity and environmental issues. Makeshift settlements (slums) are frequently located in hazardous areas, such as flood-prone areas and hillsides. Estimates indicate that there are about 45 million inhabitants living in these locations within cities. Due to an increase in the occurrence of extreme events resulting from climate change and steep degradation of natural resources, impacts such as floods, landslides, and lack of water as a consequence of dry periods, have escalated in practically every urban area in the country.

Urban planning and development are, in principle, municipal responsibilities. However, apart from a few exceptions, these local governments have limited funds available and face a lack of capacities for planning and implementation of actions.

The Ministry of Cities was formed in 2003 with the responsibility to elaborate and coordinate urban development policies, and sectoral policies for housing, sustainable sanitation, and urban mobility. Furthermore, it defines the allocation of federal resources to these sectors. After the new government came into power in 2019, the Ministry of Cities was merged with the Ministry of Integration into the new Ministry of Regional Development. The

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Comissioned by	Federal Ministry for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMU); Federal Ministry of the Interior, Building and Community
Project region	Brazil
Lead executing agency	Brazilian Ministry of Regional Development (MDR) (political partner), Brazilian Ministry of the Environment(MMA), Select states and municipalities
Budget	6.000.000,00 €
Duration	07/2017 to 03/2022

National Secretariat for Regional and Urban Development (SDRU) is responsible for supporting municipalities in spatial development processes, in elaborating urban development plans, in land-use management, as well as the management of settlements in hazardous areas.

The Ministry of the Environment is responsible for urban environmental management on a national level. However, it has seldom been able to act on this theme in recent years. Cooperation between the two ministries must be strengthened in order to promote the implementation of regulatory policies and national environmental tools.

Brazil's City Statute (Law No. 10,257/2001) was enacted in 2001, presenting general guidelines and regulations for urban development, focused on democratic and sustainable development, to guarantee the right to the city. One of the most important provisions was the requirement of elaborating a Master Plan for all municipalities with over 20,000 inhabitants. Approximately 90% the municipalities elaborated such plans, but they need to be improved upon to be effectively implemented, since their regulation overburdens the capacity of the municipalities. The plans



Rio de Janeiro, RJ

must be realistically adapted to the diverse capacities of small and large municipalities. The recent Metropolis Statute (Law no. 13,089/2015) established that municipalities in metropolitan areas and urban agglomerations should elaborate master plans which are compatible with an Integrated Urban Development Plan (PDUJ).

The tools for urban development must be attuned to provisions for environmental and territorial planning, as well as civil protection and defense. The National Adaptation Plan (PNA) specifies that cities have a leading role in climate change processes and dedicates a specific chapter to this issue. However, the role of cities as leading players in reducing greenhouse gases emissions and the impacts of climate change is not systematically contemplated

contemplated by the PNA. There is a lack of practical experiences that could be implemented in urban planning and development.

Despite having very advanced concepts, laws, and planning tools, when compared internationally (participatory budgeting, for example), they do not meet the sustainability requirements of urban planning and development in Brazil. This is partly due to the municipalities' insufficient capacity for planning and implementing the tools, and to the lack of coordination mechanisms between sectors and between administrative levels.

The core challenge at the national level is, specifically, to advance urban planning and management tools, including urban regulation and interests. This challenge should encompass the sustainable use of natural resources and available spaces, adapted to climate change processes, since the existing regulations are incomplete, partially inconsistent, and operationally lacking. Furthermore, these attributions and responsibilities are currently dispersed in several national secretariats and departments on a federal level. Intra- and interinstitutional cooperation mechanisms in all three spheres of government need to be perfected.

Our approach

The project aims at implementing coordinated, structured strategies for sustainable urban development, on federal, state, and municipal levels, including strategies for mitigation and adaptation to climate change.

Intended impact

The project aims to support governments, institutions and authorities in the federal, state, and municipal levels in the implementation of strategies for sustainable urban planning and management, with focus on mitigation and adaptation to climate change. The urban-rural nexus will also be considered, as well as the creation of urban ecosystem services. Existing regulations, tools and guidelines will be improved, tested and, if necessary, established by means of pilot projects. The approach for sustainable urban development will be integrated into public policies, sectoral programs, and funding lines oriented at cities and metropolitan areas. Training and dissemination activities will be designed to enable their application by municipalities and metropolitan areas, as well as other institutional actors. Therefore, in a medium-term perspective, Brazilian cities will be able to comply with sustainability and climate change requirements, strengthening their role as actors for mitigation and adaptation, and improving the national policy for urban development. The German-Brazilian Urbanization Partnership will allow support for international learning and exchange processes, promoting the implementation of the New Urban Agenda and the 2030 Agenda.

The incorporation of the improved and perfected tools for sustainable urban development in public policies, sectoral programs, and funding lines ensures impacts beyond the duration of the project. The knowledge management, the exchanges, and the dissemination of knowledge will allow the experiences from the project to be adopted by a wide audience. The institutionalization of the training and learning modules will be particularly important for the multiplier effects and the continued application of the approaches. The implementation of the German-Brazilian Urbanization Partnership will support the incorporation of the Brazilian experiences with integration of sustainability and confronting climate change in urban planning and management in international processes. Therefore, the cities' role will be strengthened, improving urban living conditions, achieving climate goals and maintaining biodiversity and ecosystems at national and international levels.

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