

2020 International Mayors Forum

Local Governments and the Sustainable Development Goals in times of COVID-19.

Building climate resilience in intermediary cities of Latin America

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December 2, 2020

Important to understand how intermediary cities are building climate resilience, challenges they face and what lessons we can draw from successful examples.

The importance of cities for meeting the SDGs and the Paris agreement

The IPCC's Fifth Assessment recognized the importance of building resilience to climate change in cities and smaller urban centres and the constraints they face in doing so.

Address very large deficits: 'risk – reducing infrastructure'

But, Intermediary cities get far less attention than their demographic, economic and governance importance deserves – and far too little attention to developing their climate change policies.



The percent of urban population in different city size classes in 2020

Percent of urban population in 2020 in:	Africa	Asia	Latin America and the Caribbean	World
10 million plus cities	8	15	17	13
5-10 million	6	9	3	8
1-5 million	22	22	25	22
500,000- 1 million	9	10	8	10
300,000-500,000	6	6	6	6
Under 300,000	48	38	40	41



Relatively few case studies of climate change resilience in intermediary cities (depth – detail)

Much of what is needed is not considered part of climate change policies

Very large overlaps between informal settlement upgrading, disaster risk reduction and action on climate change. All three are seeking to understand and address local risks but viewed through different lenses.



Enabling environments

- Well governed cities and good governance
- A local champion
- Trigger factors
- Local capacities and resources
- Decentralization
- National level support to intermediary cities
- The engagement of international agencies and networks



Strong commonalities – useful to design support

- Having a local government department with responsibility for Climate Change policy
- Develop local information and knowledge to support better government decisions
- Collaborative work
- Climate considerations when investing in settlement upgrading, housing, and city infrastructure (overall local development planning)
- Revalorize nature based solutions, green and blue infrastructure, and the links between urban, peri – urban and rural areas
- A more flexible local funding architecture
- Opportunities to participate in regional and international networks and alliances

