



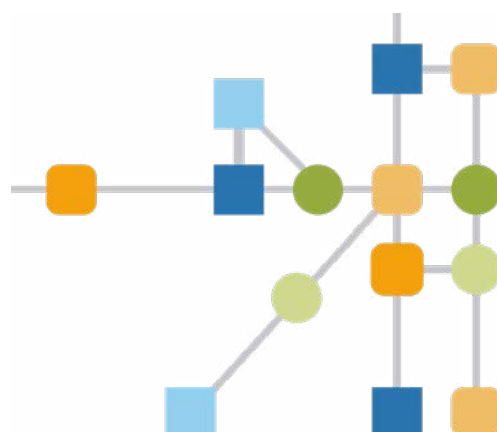
Federal Ministry
for Economic Cooperation
and Development

POSITION PAPER

Sustainable Urban Development

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Liveable cities for a sustainable, just and climate-neutral future

In its development policy, Germany promotes integrated urban development in its partner countries with a view to cities becoming sustainable, climate-neutral, resilient and liveable places that contribute to climate change mitigation and adaptation, environmental protection, biodiversity conservation, implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, inclusion of persons with disabilities, and the reduction of inequality.¹



¹ See also the area of intervention 'Sustainable urban development' in the BMZ Core Area Strategy [Responsibility for Our Planet – Climate and Energy](#).

1. Global challenges and current situation

55 per cent of the world's population now lives in cities – more than ever before in human history, with this figure expected to rise to 70 per cent by the middle of the century. Cities are growing most rapidly in Asia and Africa, driven by high

population growth and rural to urban migration. The urban population of sub-Saharan Africa is set to almost triple in size in the space of a few decades. It took several centuries for the same scale of urban expansion in industrialised nations.

Urban population change worldwide

Percentage growth from 2020 to 2050

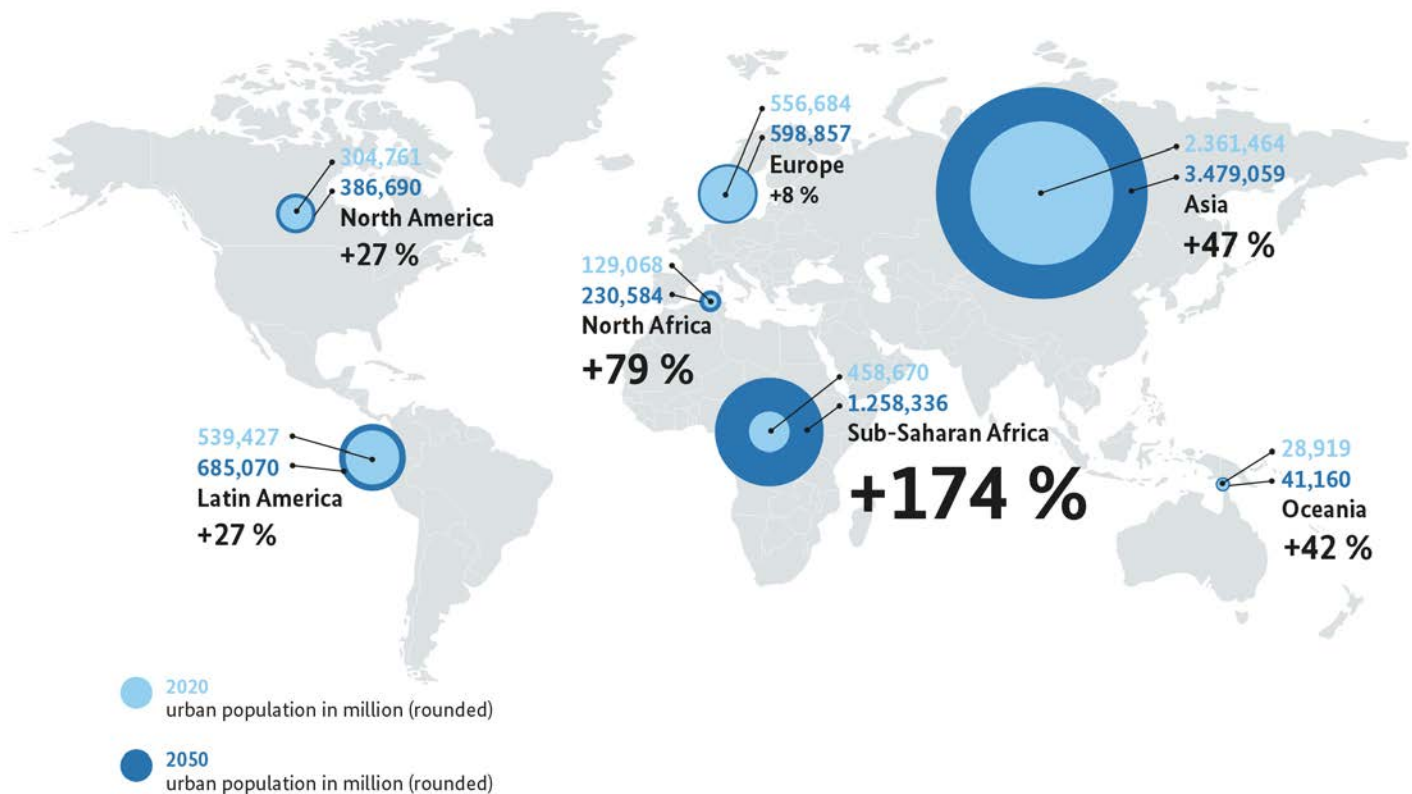


Figure 1: Urban population change by region – growth forecast for 2020 to 2050. Source: UN DESA – United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (2018): [Online](#).

This rapid urbanisation trend poses a major challenge, but offers tremendous opportunities at the same time. The compact size of cities and the close social contact between their residents mean that changes can reach a large number of people simultaneously and have a significant impact. From resource consumption, climate change, poverty reduction and participation to social cohesion, digitalisation and economic progress, virtually all

the issues affecting humanity's future are decided upon in cities. The kind of investments currently being made in urban infrastructure will shape urban areas for decades to come. Consequently, cities need to act now if they are to make urbanisation a sustainable – that is, a climate- and environmentally-friendly, inclusive and socially equitable – process.

1.1. Urbanisation, poverty and inequality

Poverty is increasingly shifting from being a rural to an urban problem. Globally, the number of poor people is growing 30 per cent faster on average in cities than in rural areas. Over two billion individuals in urban areas already live below the poverty line.

One in seven people around the world currently live in informal urban settlements with precarious tenure. Poverty, inefficient town planning and a shortage of accommodation for low-income households are the main factors driving the growth of slums in developing countries. Energy and water supplies and waste and wastewater disposal systems cannot usually keep pace with the growing demand in these settlements. Issues such as pollution, precarious employment and living conditions, and a lack of social and economic participation are getting worse. This particularly affects women and girls, who account for 58 per cent of informal workers, for instance, yet own just 20 per cent of the land. Minorities are also affected, including persons with disabilities, who have to contend with a lack of accessibility in informal settlements.

If these challenges can be overcome and urbanisation processes placed on a socially equitable and sustainable footing, then the opportunities are considerable. By providing low-income groups with reliable basic services, decent work and liveable accommodation, cities can help to reduce inequalities. For example, introducing sustainable business practices into the construction industry, the mobility sector, waste management systems, circular economy, the urban agricultural industry, and the renewable energy sector creates decent new, future-proof jobs.

1.2. Cities in the age of climate change

Two thirds of cities are coastal or situated on river banks, leaving them vulnerable to rising sea levels, flooding and heavy rainfall. The combination of rising global temperatures and conventional planning and construction methods is giving rise to urban heat islands that pose a risk to the health and well-being of the poor urban population in particular.

Typical characteristics of urban areas, such as high population and building density, ground sealing and a lack of green spaces, makes cities more susceptible to flooding, landslides and disease outbreaks. The consequences of climate change are also hampering efforts to establish a sufficient supply of clean drinking water and sustainable sanitation systems. Residents of informal settlements are being hit especially hard by climate change; they have less of a social safety net, fewer savings to fall back on and they live in more vulnerable neighbourhoods with poor infrastructure.

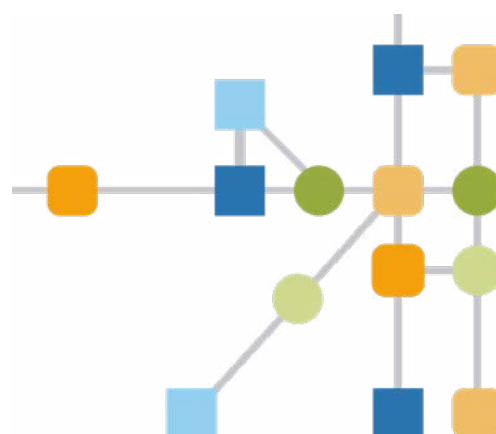
Cities account for 80 per cent of global carbon emissions and consume three quarters of the world's natural resources. Consequently, they offer tremendous potential for mitigating the effects of climate change and conserving the environment in the areas of energy supply, construction, mobility, water supply and waste management.

- **Energy supply:** Over 30 per cent of the global urban population has no access to renewable, needs-based energy. At the same time, demand for building cooling systems is rising in the face of climate change.
- **Mobility:** Road traffic is one of the fastest growing emitters of greenhouse gases and air pollution, currently generating one quarter of global energy-related greenhouse gas emissions and rising.

- **Construction:** If all the urban infrastructure expected to be required by 2050 were to be built using conventional materials, such as cement, steel and aluminium, then this would use up three quarters of the world's remaining carbon budget for achieving the 1.5°C target. The construction and management of buildings presently accounts for 40 per cent of energy-related carbon emissions. The rapid growth of informal settlements in particular is associated with the significant consumption of land and resources.²
- **Water supply:** There are some 600 million people that have no access to clean drinking water. Rapidly growing cities are associated not only with high population densities, but also with intensified industrial and agricultural production. This results in increased water use and wastewater production within a small space. It is typically the residents of informal settlements and slums that are affected by water scarcity and flooding. Cities must work with their catchment areas to find solutions to these growing problems, as urban resilience is heavily reliant on surrounding areas.
- **Waste management:** Population growth on the one hand, and rising economic power and consumption on the other will double the volume of household waste over the next twenty years. Systems for waste collection, disposal and recycling are often inadequate.

1.3. National frameworks and local capacities

Many cities and municipalities lack the expertise and human resources and organisational administrative capacity to engage in climate-neutral, resilient and inclusive urban planning and development. If they are to prevent inequality in access to urban services and economic opportunities, then it is essential that they involve structurally under-represented groups and those living in poverty in town planning processes. This is often hindered in practice by a lack of transparency and participatory mechanisms in decision-making processes. Cities must fulfil specific requirements for women and families, who have different mobility patterns and security needs. However, with women and marginalised groups frequently excluded from processes for participating in urban planning, many cities are growing in an uncontrolled manner and failing to focus on the needs of their residents.



² Global land consumption is expected to double by 2060, most notably in Asia and Africa. A continuation of conventional construction methods using carbon-intensive materials, such as concrete, would lock in high-emission technologies and structures. Source: UNEP - United Nations Environment Programme (2021): 2021 Global Status Report for Buildings and Construction: Towards a Zero Emission, Efficient and Resilient Buildings and Construction Sector. Nairobi. [Online](#).

1.4. The urban funding gap

Rapid urbanisation demands tremendous financial resources, but investment levels are lagging far behind what is required. There is an annual shortfall of around USD 1 trillion, primarily in the developing countries of sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia, the two regions with the highest urban growth levels, yet the lowest volume of investment in the world.

Lacking capacity and resources, the municipal administrations often fail to prepare adequately for infrastructure investments. However, robust finances and access to reliable sources of funding are foundational to sustainable urban development.

Conclusion: Given the immense dynamism of the urbanisation process, there is a huge need for action. The planning, construction and investment decisions of the next ten years will lock in urban structures and inequitable living conditions for many decades to come.

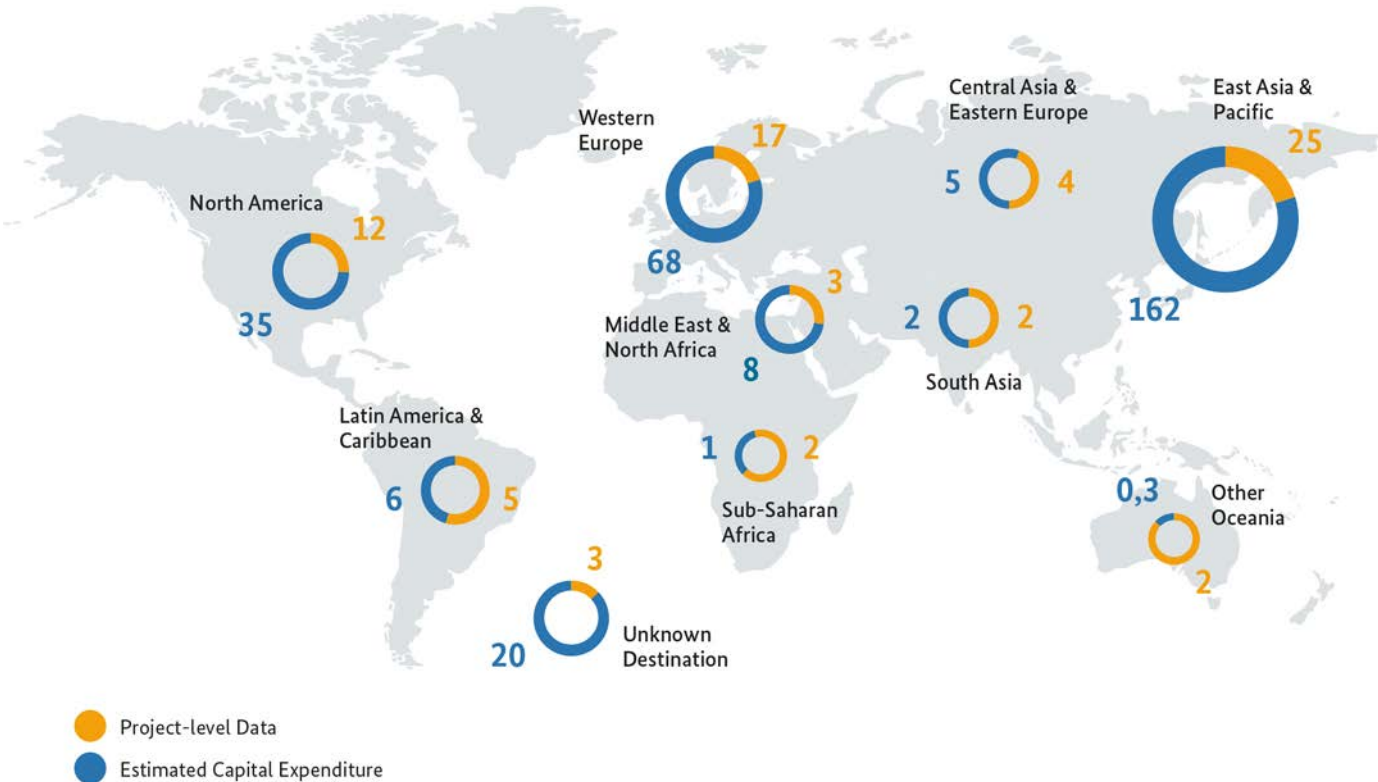


Figure 2: Urban climate finance from 2017 to 2018 (in USD billions) Source: CCFLA (2021): State of Cities Climate Finance. Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA). Washington D.C. [Online](#).

2. Our approach

We will only be able to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and climate targets in and with cities. This is exactly where the BMZ comes in with its work. We are guided in all we do by the *2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, the *Paris Climate Agreement*, the *New Urban Agenda*, and the *Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction*.

Our goal is to bring about a just urban transition that creates a future worth living for all people. By developing strategies, sharing technical expertise and improving financing options, we are helping national governments, municipal administrations and other urban stakeholders to make their cities liveable and socially equitable.

→ Our vision: cities with a high quality of life for everyone

- Cities offer basic services, employment and healthy living conditions.
 - They actively work to reduce poverty and inequality, and advance gender equality.
 - As places of production and consumption, they integrate circular biological and technical processes.
 - They enable everyone to participate in society and political life, and they foster diversity and inclusion.
 - They are climate-neutral, resource-efficient, and they contribute to the conservation of biodiversity.
 - They leverage the opportunities afforded by the digital transformation for administrative and innovative ends consistent with the Principles for Digital Development.
 - They help to bring about a just transition and thus promote sustainable economic productivity.
 - They possess green, polycentric, dense and socially mixed structures.
-

Our efforts are focused on **good governance, integrated planning approaches and access to finance** as the conditions required for sustainable urban development. Our approaches are based on the supply of **infrastructural and basic services, a circular economy model, and digitalisation and innovation processes**. To this end, we concentrate on the key sectors of **housing and construction, mobility, water, waste management** (SDGs 6, 9, 11 and 12) and **public spaces**.

We assist cities as they seek to **shape a just transition towards climate neutrality and nature positivity** (SDG 13). We consider climate change adaptation and sustainable energy supply two further key elements of basic service provision

(SDGs 1, 7 and 11). Cities can employ methods of town planning, spatial distribution, infrastructure development and basic service provision to reduce **social disparities and inequalities** (SDG 10) and mitigate their impact. **New jobs and initiatives to promote circular value chains** are creating prospects for city-dwellers in a carbon-neutral future (SDG 8 and SDG 12). We are guided in our work by the key principles of **gender equality** (SDG 5), **reduced inequalities** (SDG 10) and leaving no one behind.

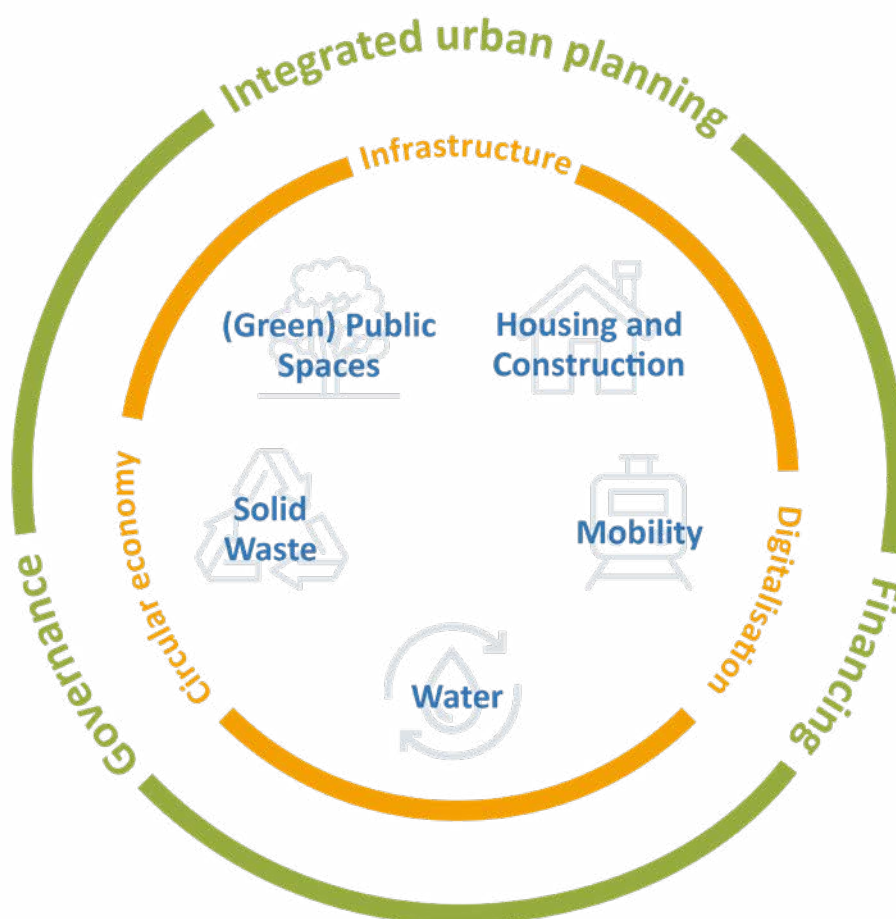


Figure 3: Sustainable urban development priorities of German development cooperation

2.1. We help to create conditions conducive to the development of liveable cities

Cities require an **integrated approach to sustainable urban development** if they are to be capable of taking action in key sectors. This refers to cooperation between the different urban sectors across administrative lines: between policy-makers at all levels of government, civil society, the private sector and the research community. We are guided in this context by the **principles of good governance** and we work to create an **enabling framework at national, regional and local level**.

We assist our partner countries with designing and implementing legislation and reforms for sustainable urban development and a just transition.

→ **Dialogue** between municipalities, regional and national governments, interest groups, civil society and the private sector is pivotal in this endeavour. Key aspects of cooperation with our partners include the drafting of national **urban development policies** and the provision of support for **administrative reforms and decentralisation processes** based on the principle of subsidiarity. We operate climate and development partnerships to support municipalities with **adapting to climate change** and shaping a just **energy transition**. As part of this work, we promote **climate neutrality and nature positivity, thereby achieving a positive social impact on two fronts**: the creation of decent jobs in local circular value chains that also contribute through increased urban tax revenue to the financing of social services, funding programmes for those working in fossil-fuel sectors and resilient public infrastructure.

We promote integrated planning approaches with extensive involvement of the general public, and women in particular.

→ This empowers cities to better coordinate land use, infrastructure planning, water security, environmental conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and to harmonise them with national and global development agendas. We do so in accordance with the principles of **leaving no one behind** and **leaving no place behind**. By involving representatives of all interest groups (including civil society and the private sector) in relevant processes, we ensure greater effectiveness, transparency and accountability. In the interests of a **feminist development policy** and good governance, we consistently advocate for **women**, children, young people, the elderly, persons with disabilities, refugees and migrants especially to be **involved** in planning and decision-making processes and to play their part in municipal administrations, urban service delivery and municipal economic activities.

We work to transform informal settlements and slums into liveable urban neighbourhoods.

→ With a view to improving the residential and living conditions of disadvantaged, low-income households and thus reducing inequality in cities, we support participatory planning processes, needs-based infrastructure, social services, and the safeguarding of land and property rights. We also assist our partners with devising strategies for affordable, well-developed construction plots as a safe and dignified alternative to informal work. Cities are usually more effective than national governments at reaching people in neglected neighbourhoods due to their closer geographical proximity to these areas.

We promote political reform processes for fiscal decentralisation in accordance with the BMZ's approach to good financial governance (GFG).

→ Cities require financial autonomy. They should be allocated more funding by means of reliable fiscal transfers and afforded greater authority over how they raise and spend their own revenue and third-party finance. We develop capacity for local self-governance, municipal finance management, effective budgetary planning, transparent expenditure management, and end-to-end accountability. This enables cities to build confidence in their administrative work and improve their access to third-party financing on the capital market. We help **cities to gain better access to climate finance** and to choose financing instruments, such as direct transfers to low-income households or a carbon tax to generate municipal revenues.

We provide project preparation facilities.

→ If they are to cover the enormous investment costs, then cities must provide quality assurance for projects in order to mobilise public and private capital. Consequently, we work to strengthen the capacities of cities to prepare for and deliver sustainable infrastructure measures. We facilitate access to credit primarily through our work with development banks and development funds, which includes the provision of loans in local currencies.

2.2. We focus on key elements of integrated urban development

Cities have a crucial role to play in shaping the social and environmental transition; they are the places where the sectors vital to structural transformation are geographically intertwined. We focus in our work with partner countries on the key sectors of construction, mobility, water and solid waste, which are closely linked to the overarching infrastructure, basic service provision and circular economy approaches.

→ When it comes to the **construction, operation and use of buildings**, we assist our partners to leverage the tremendous potential within the construction sector for mitigating the effects of climate change and conserving the environment. In so doing, we opt to use local, organic, resource-efficient, low-emission building materials and to promote local resource and building cycles. New buildings and infrastructure are planned and constructed in such a way so as to take account of the needs of poor population groups, incorporate accessibility into their design and protect these groups from natural disasters and climate change. We promote liveable and affordable housing, sustainable urban neighbourhoods and the enhancement of underserved areas. Given the dramatic surge in demand for housing and public infrastructure in cities, sustainable building materials offer significant potential for mitigating the effects of climate change.

- We advocate for **urban and transport planning** approaches geared to the health of humans and the environment and to gender equality, and we support accessible **cities where everything is within easy reach** with green, affordable and inclusive **mobility** offerings. These cities provide mobility, and access to employment, services and social participation close to home for everyone, contribute to clean air, mitigate the effects of climate change, and conserve the environment. Our approach is to encourage active mobility (walking, cycling), expand safe and accessible transport services (geared in particular to women, children, the elderly and persons with disabilities), develop and enlarge public transport networks, and integrate a range of transport operators and climate-friendly, green transport technologies, such as e-mobility. We employ inclusive digital solutions and offer sustainable mobility services to promote innovation.
- We use **integrated approaches to support our partners with establishing and securing water supplies and sanitation systems**. With a view to boosting the ability of cities to adapt to climate change, we draw upon the City Water Resilience Approach to support the prevention and management of water-related risks, such as flooding and drought.³ Technical solutions for safeguarding urban water security using green, blue and grey infrastructure, rainwater collection systems, and urban waterscapes and water-retention areas are implemented with a view to minimising risk and leveraging additional benefits, such as cooling or recreation in urban areas. In an effort to safeguard water security in cities, we involve their water catchment areas and the agricultural and industrial sectors, and give consideration to interactions with other sectors, such as health, education and security.
- We support our partners with building a **climate-friendly, resource-efficient waste management system and circular economy**. We assist local, regional and national institutions with establishing the necessary planning processes, legal frameworks, environmental and safety standards, infrastructure, and charging/financing systems. We involve private companies and informal refuse collectors in these activities and raise awareness of this work among the general public. In addition to collecting, disposing of and processing solid waste, we work to avoid its production in manufacturing, consumption and retail processes and to move away from linear patterns of production and consumption. Efforts are also undertaken in this context to integrate companies into sustainable supply chains to ensure that they make greater use of secondary raw materials and establish circular business models. When combined with higher recycling standards, circular value chains offer significant employment potential and enhance quality in the workplace. We encourage cooperation between municipal operators in the water and waste sectors in order to strengthen the transfer of knowledge about adapted solutions in a triangular cooperation context.
- We assist with the **sustainable, participatory and accessible design of green and open public spaces, municipal forests and urban agricultural land** as a means of improving quality of life in public spaces and thus making cities more livable. At the same time, we boost urban resilience in the face of flooding, heat waves, drought and air pollution. We work at the interface between urban development on the one hand and the water/waste water, energy and commodities sectors on the other to develop **integrated, resource-efficient, green solutions**. We increasingly draw upon **nature based solutions**, combining urban infrastructure with the conservation, sustainable use and restoration of ecosystems while at the same time generating considerable socio-economic benefits.

³ The [City Water Resilience Approach](#) (CWRA) aims to help cities develop their capacity to supply water to all their residents, protect them from water-related risks, and connect them via a network of waterways. The CWRA was developed by the firm ARUP in conjunction with the Stockholm International Water Institute (SIWI), with input also provided by the Resilient Cities Network (RCN) (formerly 100 Resilient Cities) and the OECD. Source: ARUP (2019): City Water Resilience Approach. [Online](#)

Another of our overarching approaches sees us promote **digitalisation and innovation as drivers of sustainable urban development**. Cities serve as ideal digital innovation ecosystems, with high concentrations of large data volumes, strong connectivity and large numbers of scientific and private-sector players all in one place. We intend to leverage this potential to support inter-sectoral and inter-municipal planning and management, participation and communication with citizens in the interests of good **e-governance**. We have committed to following the Principles for Digital Development in order to **gear the process of digitalisation to the common good**. We intend to use digital solutions to create more transparent and efficient evidence-based decision-making processes that are equally accessible to everyone and actively counteract the emergence of a digital divide.

2.3. We deploy complementary instruments and leverage synergies between them

We operate **bilateral programmes** to assist our partners with specific needs. Our **regional programmes** enable us to facilitate cross-border knowledge transfer and promote thematic approaches with regional relevance. In **global programmes**, we test new approaches and options for scaling them up. We establish **triangular cooperation arrangements** to promote knowledge-sharing between municipalities in developing countries and emerging economies to enable them to tackle common development challenges together. Additionally, we support **German municipalities with their development cooperation activities** and in this way facilitate mutual learning and collaboration with municipalities in our partner countries.

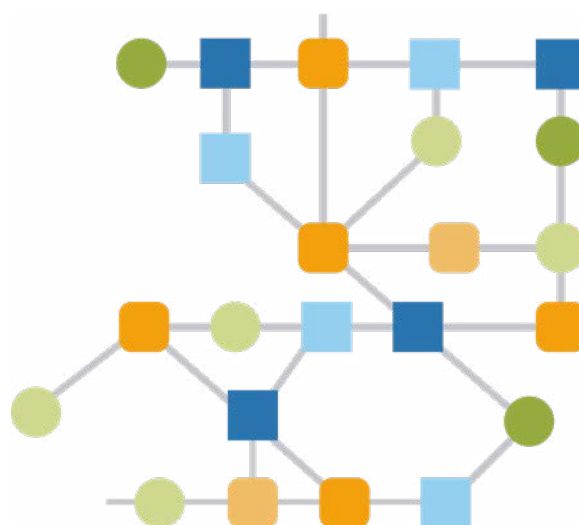
We work with our international partners to strengthen urban actors in their role as key development partners. These players need to be given more of a voice in international negotiations and processes such as global climate negotiations, and equipped to implement international agendas more effectively at local level. To this end, German development policy-makers work with cities and cities associations, such as ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability and C40. Through the Nationally Determined Contributions Partnership (NDCP), we are strengthening the role of cities in formulating and implementing nationally determined contributions. German development cooperation supplements existing networks between donors, governmental actors, civil society and the private sector with its own **partnership initiatives**. These include the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative, the PREVENT Waste Alliance and the C40 Cities Finance Facility.

We also support relevant actors, such as women's rights organisations, human rights activists and other grass-roots organisations, directly or via **private executing agencies and political and ecclesiastical foundations**.

2.4. We are involved in international processes and partnerships

Multilateral institutions (particularly development banks and UN organisations) are key partners to German development cooperation. We work with international partners to strengthen sustainable urban development, be it through the political **steering committees** of UN-Habitat and the Cities Alliance, via initiatives such as the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance, or in partnership with cities networks such as ICLEI. We coordinate with **multilateral development banks** to leverage finance for sustainable urban development by enlarging the scope of the banks to take action and creating investment incentives. The BMZ also supports multilateral **development funds**, such as the Green Climate Fund and the Climate Investment Funds, with a view to affording cities easier access to finance.

Additionally, we work to promote the integrated implementation of global development agendas at local level. To this end, we pursue close cooperation between bilateral and multilateral development cooperation, for instance, through the Global Biodiversity Framework and the World Urban Fora within the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change. Impetus from the European Union, for example in the form of the Circular Economy Action Plan, enables us to integrate aspects such as climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, environmental protection and biodiversity conservation into our development policy work. Through joint commitments, including the G20 Rome High-Level Principles on City-to-City Partnerships, we generate synergies between global initiatives and cooperation in municipal partnerships.



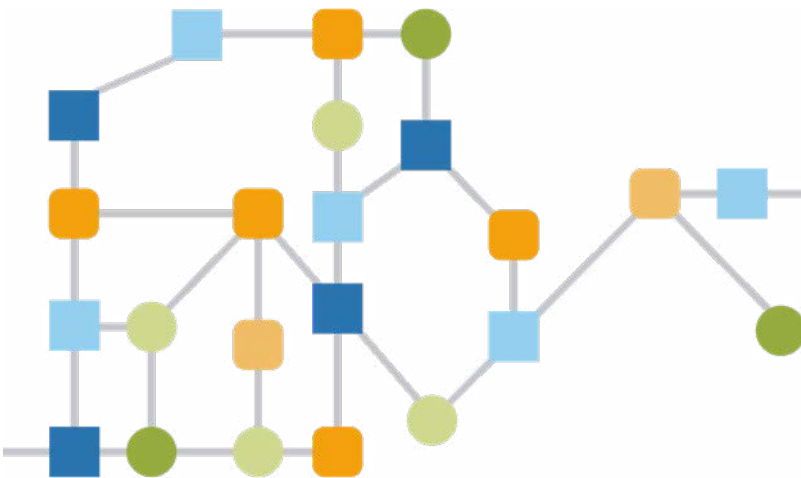
3. We expand successful approaches further

We have been promoting sustainable urban development in our partner countries for many years, and the scope of our work in this area has been constantly expanding in recent times. It includes the following flagship projects:

- **Urban infrastructure projects:** Since 2019, we have been collaborating with the German Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Climate Action (BMWK) and the Government of Luxembourg through the City Climate Finance Gap Fund to support preparations for climate-friendly, resilient infrastructure projects. 110 cities in 41 countries have already received funding, with the number of cities set to rise to 180. The Gap Fund is the world's largest urban climate financing instrument. Working with the US, the UK, France and the Children's Investment Fund Foundation within the C40 Cities Finance Facility (C40 CFF), we have assisted 15 cities to date in getting climate-friendly infrastructure projects worth a total of USD 650 million investment-ready. In the current phase, the C40 CFF is supporting another 17 cities with drawing up investment-ready, socially-responsible, climate-friendly project proposals.
- **Transformation of urban mobility:** We are working under the Transformative Urban Mobility Initiative (TUMI) to promote environmentally-friendly, climate-neutral, inclusive, safe and affordable mobility. Over 28.6 million people can now benefit from improved transportation systems on a daily basis, resulting in some 1.88 million tonnes of carbon emissions savings per year. A particular focus is being placed on the gender-responsive transition to a more sustainable transport system, which the TUMI is working to bring about in cooperation with the Women Mobilize Women initiative.
- **Global transition towards a more sustainable building sector:** Through the UNEP's Transforming the Built Environment through Sustainable Materials project, we are supporting the circular economy in the construction sector in Bangladesh, India, Ghana and Senegal. In so doing, we are creating a framework for the responsible procurement of construction materials and developing a sustainable materials market for the buildings and construction sector.
- **Water supply and sanitation:** The BMZ promotes cooperation between German municipal enterprises and partners in the global South via the Global Water Operators' Partnerships Alliance (GWOPA). This sees us address the three strategic areas of action of efficient utility companies, inclusive supply concepts and socio-political engagement in the surrounding area, not least with regard to strengthening technical and vocational education and training.
- **Municipal waste management and the circular economy:** The PREVENT Waste Alliance has been working since 2019 to promote the development and expansion of a sustainable circular economy in developing countries and emerging economies. The multi-stakeholder platform, which has almost 400 members, facilitates dialogue and innovation, and provides scalable solutions. Over 13 million people, in particular women in informal employment, have benefited from improvements in waste management resulting from bilateral and regional cooperation.

→ **Fiscal decentralisation:** We support good financial governance in cities to enable municipalities to increase their revenues, manage expenditure more effectively, and become more accountable and transparent in their work. Digitalisation improves municipal financial management. An IT-based financial information system in Mauritania, the only one of its kind in West Africa, compiles in digital form all the financial data of the 219 municipalities, from budget planning and implementation to invoicing, setting new standards for efficiency and transparency.

→ **Knowledge transfer through city partnerships:** Over 1,000 German municipalities in total have already undertaken development cooperation activities. There are currently some 500 partnerships in place between municipalities in Germany and our partner countries. 80 climate partnerships are actively involved in reducing carbon emissions and adapting to the effects of climate change. Operating via the international Connective Cities platform and the Experts Fund for Municipal Partnerships Worldwide, we have so far brought together some 3,000 municipal experts from over 500 municipalities globally to work on joint sustainable urban development projects.

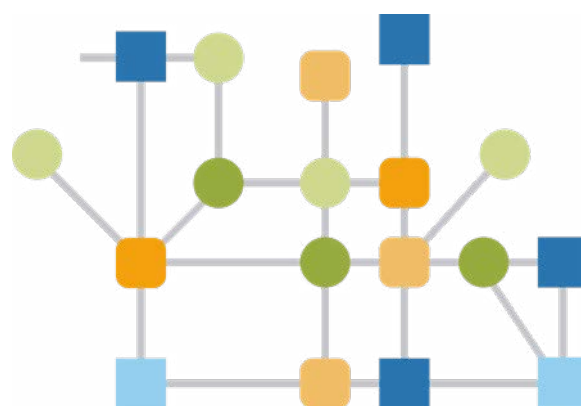


4. Goals and outlook

We are working with our partners to create a future worth living for all people, in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In so doing, we are focused on the social and environmental transition and the principles of a feminist development policy, which guide us in our activities. We intend to expand the following approaches in the future:

- **50 climate-neutral cities by 2050:** In an effort to shape a just urban transition, we have set ourselves the goal of initially empowering 25 cities to set a new course towards climate neutrality by 2025. By 2050, we plan to have helped a total of 50 cities achieve a just transition. With this focus on 50 selected cities, we will pool resources, integrate bilateral programmes more closely with global and multilateral initiatives, and thereby make our development cooperation work as a whole more effective.
- **Decarbonising key sectors:** Transport, construction, waste management and energy are the largest contributors to urban emissions. By making urban mobility more climate-friendly and accessible for all, we intend to help achieve a carbon emissions reduction of at least seven million tonnes by 2025. We are working to bring about a global transition towards a more sustainable building sector that promotes innovative production processes and climate-friendly, recyclable construction materials, and supports the energy-efficient design and operation of buildings. By adopting the green-cooling approach, we will help to make the burgeoning cooling sector climate-neutral. In the interests of encouraging urban mining and the transition from a waste-management to a circular economy, we intend to strengthen the role of cities as mass repositories of secondary raw materials. We are also looking beyond the construction sector and supporting the establishment of local circular city economies in our partner countries, not least with up to five Circular City Labs in which we pilot and scale up waste-prevention methods.
- **Boosting water resilience:** Cities need crisis-proof supply structures that extend to all people. This is why we have launched the Urban Water Catalyst Initiative (UWCI), a global scheme for mobilising public and private investment in climate-resilient water utilities. The UWCI seeks to boost the performance and resilience of water and sanitation utilities in countries highly vulnerable to climate change and at the same time establish ambitious climate targets in the sector. We conduct vulnerability and risk analyses to identify challenges for urban water security and promote the development of action plans to boost resilience.
- **Creating accessible and inclusive cities:** Cities must enable everyone to participate in society and afford them access to employment opportunities and public services. We intend to step up our efforts to support cities with placing a particular focus on those individuals that have often been neglected to date in order to achieve this. It is necessary to create accessible and inclusive cities that are geared to the needs of families and in which persons with disabilities, the elderly, and women and children can move around independently and safely as and when they wish.

- **Stepping up urban development activities in small and medium-sized African and Asian cities in particular:** We intend to expand our work in the regions with the highest rates of urbanisation by 2030. To this end, we plan to focus in particular on countries in sub-Saharan Africa and South East Asia, supporting them in achieving sustainable and integrated urban development and expanding their financial, technical and management capacities. We are looking to assist with environmental conservation and climate change mitigation efforts in Asian and Latin American cities and to boost their resilience, with an emphasis on vulnerable groups.
- **Promoting more multilateralism:** At international level, we plan to work with multilateral organisations to drive the topics of urban development and the financing of sustainable urban infrastructure. In this way, we hope to scale up our approaches to integrated urban development in cooperation with our partners.
 - We intend to collaborate with multilateral and regional development banks to support the financing of climate-friendly, gender-responsive infrastructure in cities.
- By participating in global cities networks, we want to give cities more of a voice in international negotiations and leverage these networks to facilitate global knowledge transfer.
- We are working within the German government to ensure that the positive impact of the G7 Urban Development Track created under Germany's 2022 G7 Presidency extends beyond the group of seven countries to the global South.
- We are looking to work with the EU to bolster strategic partnerships and exploit the full potential for joint initiatives in partner countries, for instance within the Global Gateway.
- We are consulting with partner organisations from the UN system (UN-Habitat, Cities Alliance, UNEP, UNDP) to develop new solutions for sustainable and integrated urban development. We plan to road test new approaches and scale up effective ones.



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