

# Strengthening Urban Leadership and Capacity (D3614)

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**Description:**

This Technical Cooperation (TC) aims to equip local and national urban counterparts to effectively address regional challenges related to resilience and urban productivity through capacity-building activities and knowledge-sharing in Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) cities. The specific objectives are: (i) to enhance resilience and productivity capacities by providing city leaders and officials with the tools to design and implement urban policies and projects that strengthen adaptive capacity and enhance city conditions for productivity; and (ii) to foster networking and peer learning among cities to identify common challenges and opportunities in building resilient and productive urban environments, share best practices, and develop innovative solutions to urban issues.

**Submitted by:**

Alejandro Lopez-Lamia

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**Status:**

Under Evaluation

**Category:**

Research and Dissemination (RD)

**Tags:**

biodiversity capacity building international best practices public innovation regional integration resilient infrastructure sustainable urban development

**Linked Ideas:****Whiteboard:****Team Leader Name**

María Camila Uribe

**Alternate Team Leader Name**

Washington Fajardo

**Has the proposal been discussed and authorized by the responsible sector or country department/division, as applicable?**

Yes

**Team Leader Responsible Department**

CSC

**Secondary Responsible Department (if more than one)****Are there specific countries that will directly benefit from your proposal?****Specify the beneficiary countries for this TC proposal**

Argentina

Bahamas

Barbados

Belize

Bolivia

Brazil

Chile

Colombia

Costa Rica

Dominican Republic

Ecuador

El Salvador

Guatemala

Guyana

Haiti

Honduras

Jamaica

Mexico

Nicaragua

Panama

Paraguay

Peru

Suriname

Trinidad y Tobago

Uruguay

Venezuela

**Does this proposal involve more than 19 beneficiary countries?**

Yes, it involves more than 19 beneficiary countries.

**Describe how the proposal aligns with the respective country strategy (for each country selected)**

The TC's regional approach will enable the identification of cross-cutting issues across countries, generating synergies and connections leading to increased integration. When working in specific countries, this TC will be aligned with the respective country's strategy and country-specific priorities and needs.

**Does the proposal align to one or more sector frameworks?**

Yes, the proposal aligns with at least one sector framework

**Identify and describe how the proposal aligns to the sector framework(s)**

This TC is aligned with the Climate Change Sector Framework (GN 2835 13), specifically in what refers to supporting "Line of Action 2, Promote a multisector approach to tackling climate change" by fostering dialogues and sharing experiences between countries to scale up successful projects and supporting coordination and dialogue between the national and subnational levels, and linkages between the public and private sectors, in coordination with IDB Invest, for sustainable infrastructure investments.

It is also aligned with the Housing and Urban Development Sector Framework (GN-2732-11) of "Promoting Good Urban Governance" by improving coordination among territorial units and providing Knowledge to Promote Good Urban Governance through capacity building and network activities for city leaders and managers. The TC is also aligned with "Boosting Urban Productivity" by promoting Innovation in the built environment by implementing innovative pilot projects that could be replicated in the region.

**Select the operational focus areas of the new Institutional Strategy to which the proposal aligns**

Biodiversity, Natural Capital, and Climate Action

Social Protection and Human Capital Development

Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Infrastructure

Productive Development and Innovation through the Private Sector

Regional Integration

**Justify the alignment to each selection above**

The TC aligns with the IDB Group's Institutional Strategy across five operational focus areas:

1. Biodiversity, Natural Capital, and Climate Action – The TC promotes sustainable urban planning and resilience by equipping city leaders with knowledge on climate adaptation, nature-based solutions, and low-carbon infrastructure, fostering regional cooperation with partners that also address key climate issues at the local level, like C40 and ICLEI.
2. Social Protection and Human Capital Development – By enhancing governance and leadership, the TC strengthens cities' ability to deliver better public services, improve social housing policies, and protect vulnerable communities from economic and

environmental shocks.

3. Sustainable, Resilient, and Inclusive Infrastructure – The TC reduces knowledge gaps and fosters multi-sectoral collaboration for climate-resilient urban infrastructure, supporting sustainable transport, housing, and integrated urban projects.

4. Productive Development and Innovation through the Private Sector – By engaging public and private stakeholders, encouraging public-private partnerships, smart cities, and innovative financing models, creating an enabling environment for sustainable urban development that transcends political cycles and promotes urban economic growth.

5. Regional Integration – The TC facilitates cross-border collaboration and knowledge exchange through the IDB Cities Network, strengthening regional partnerships and harmonizing sustainable urban strategies.

This multisectoral and regional approach enhances urban governance, resilience, and economic development, ensuring long-term impact in Latin America and the Caribbean.

**Indicate if the proposal aligns/contributes to one or more of the strategic priorities established by Management, please select from below**

COP 30

Regional Impact Programs – Disaster Risk Management

Institutional Capacity & Rule of Law Mainstreaming

Ascension to OECD

**Justify the alignment to each selection above**

The TC aligns with the following annual strategic initiatives:

1. COP 30 – The TC promotes climate resilience and sustainable urban development, supporting cities in adopting low-carbon solutions, nature-based infrastructure, and climate adaptation strategies. Engaging with global networks like C40 and ICLEI, fosters best practices for urban climate action, contributing to IDB's agenda for COP 30. The participation with a panel at COP30 is under review.

2. Regional Impact Programs – Disaster Risk Management – The TC strengthens urban leadership and governance, enhancing subnational governments' capacity to address climate-related risks, natural disasters, and urban resilience. It facilitates knowledge exchange on disaster preparedness and infrastructure adaptation, supporting cities in mitigating vulnerabilities.

3. Institutional Capacity & Rule of Law Mainstreaming – By enhancing municipal leadership, governance frameworks, and interdepartmental coordination, the TC fosters stronger institutions at the subnational level. It promotes capacity-building for urban leaders, improving transparency, accountability, and decision-making in urban planning and development.

4. Ascension to OECD – The TC contributes by promoting best practices in urban governance, public service delivery, and sustainable development, aligning cities with international standards and OECD urban policy frameworks. We have maintained several meetings with OECD specialists to look for the best ways to collaborate and create synergies, we will probably participate in some activities organized by them and we will invite them to participate in some of the IDB Cities Network initiatives.

This multisectoral approach ensures the TC strengthens institutional capacity, climate resilience, and governance, reinforcing IDB's strategic priorities.

**What is the estimated funding that you need in order to implement this proposal?**

500.000

**Select the expected outputs of this proposal**

Project Preparation Deliverables (Implementation and Management Plans, Procurement Plans, M&E Plans, Project Designs/Studies, Assessments, etc.)

Institutional Strengthening Deliverables (Training Products, Management Information Systems, Operational Manuals, Participatory Mechanisms, etc.)

Policy Dialogues

Events (other than policy dialogues)

Knowledge Products (Books, Briefs, Monographs, Notes, Papers, Reports, etc.)

Pilot Interventions

**Are outputs strictly Knowledge Products?**

**Describe the motivation and main question(s) this TC intends to answer.**

**Describe the methodological approach to be used and the type of data (when applicable) which will be used**

**If outputs include Knowledge Product(s), please specify which one:**

Books (Commercial and Non-Commercial)

Briefs

Magazines and Learning Materials

Methodologies

Technical and Policy Notes

Working Papers

Others

**Outputs: Please provide a brief description of the output(s) selected above (i.e. number of units planned, estimated cost, etc.) If you selected others, please specify.**

Component 1. Capacity Building for the Design of Sustainable Urban Projects. This component aims to enhance the capabilities of local governments in addressing the multifaceted challenges of cities. It also seeks to strengthen the IDB's role as the main partner in promoting sustainable urban development in the region and foster synergies among IDB divisions, city officials, partner institutions, public counterparts, the private sector, and the academic sector. It also intends to shorten the knowledge gap on sustainable urban project development at the subnational level. Additionally, building on the successes of previous years, it is expected to continue to work in a multisectoral manner with different IDB sectors, IDB LAB, and IDB Invest, as well as with various partner organizations such as C40, ICLEI, Mercociudades, the Lincoln Institute, and other academic, private, and public partner organizations. It will finance: (i) a diagnostic study to identify and prioritize the knowledge and capacity gaps among the members of the network, which will serve as input for the conceptualization of the capacity-building program and webinars; (ii) development of webinars to build capacities at the subnational level in topics related to urban planning for resilience and productivity; and (iii) a capacity building program to leverage city officials' technical knowledge and capacities to shorten the knowledge gap on sustainable urban project development at the subnational level.

Component 2. Local Leadership Strengthening and City-to-City Learning. This component seeks to consolidate clear visions, objectives, and urban action plans to detach a pipeline of projects that could transcend political periods; the importance of straightening public service capabilities and interdepartmental coordination for the design, implementation, and follow-up of projects; a more fluid dialogue between IDB specialist, local leaders, and other key city actors; and the strengthening of networks and synergies for cities to share challenges, opportunities and lessons learned. It will finance: (i) the development of the Annual Mayors' Forum; and (ii) a technical document for the Annual Mayor's Forum, focusing on the promotion of sustainable urban development (iii) city-to-city exchange programs where Mayors and officials visit peer cities to observe and learn best practices in action based on their needs and priorities on urban planning for resilience and productivity.

Component 3. Mobilization, and Dissemination. This component objective is to measure and manage the impact of the IDB Cities Network in promoting more sustainable urban development in the region. It also aims to promote the dissemination of lessons learned and the continuity of the network's connections with its member cities. It will finance: (i) the design and implementation of a communication strategy to effectively disseminate the lessons learned and key messages from the capacity-building initiatives, and to ensure the ongoing engagement with the member cities of the IDB Cities Network.

**Outcomes: If the outputs are delivered successfully, what is the change expected (in capacity, knowledge, behavior, etc.)?**

The expected outcome is enhanced urban leadership and institutional capacity through knowledge and best practices sharing and capacity building. The TC aims to promote city leaders' informed decision-making and long-term planning and enhance the development of sustainable and resilient infrastructure. Municipal officials will gain technical knowledge in sustainable and resilient urban development, and interdepartmental coordination, leading to more effective public service delivery, reducing knowledge gaps, and improving policy implementation and investment strategies.

Additionally, the TC aims to enhance partnerships and collaborations both internally with different IDB sectors and also externally with international organizations, and public and private sectors. It will also foster regional collaboration, allowing cities to share best practices and innovative solutions through the IDB Cities Network. Ultimately, these outcomes will contribute to stronger institutional governance, climate resilience, and economic sustainability, aligning urban policies with IDB's strategic priorities.

**Additional Information for consideration**

**Please confirm the year of the Regional Technical Cooperation Call you are applying for**  
2025

**(1) Attachments**

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