

Integrated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cities and Metropolitan Regions

Eschborn, 18th October 2018

Around 90 participants gathered for the "Forum: Integrated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in cities and metropolitan regions" at GIZ HQ in Eschborn on 18th October 2018.

Wrapping up the current phase and kicking off its new phase, the Sector Project "Integrated Implementation of the 2030 Agenda in Cities and City-regions (CityRegions2030)" brought together experts from German and International development institutions as well as from cities, science, and the civil society. Together with various external guests, GIZ staff from sector programmes and global programmes (GloBe), sectoral (FMB) and regional departments discussed how the German Development Cooperation can meet the increasing demand for local development in partner countries worldwide.

Key Take-aways

- **City-regions emerge** as cities are crossing their political and administrative borders: migration and commuter movements, flows of capital.
- **New integrated approaches are needed** in order to localize the 2030 Agenda of Sustainable Development in these city-regions. 65% of SDG will only be achieved in and with cities!
- The **key principles of the 2030 Agenda** such as Universality, Interconnectedness and Indivisibility, Inclusiveness, Multi-Stakeholder Partnerships and Leaving no one behind are fundamental.
- There are **needs and potentials in all regions of German Development Cooperation** for implementing integrated approaches. Building upon existing portfolios in cities and city-regions is crucial!
- Climate change, mobility, water, energy and waste management offer multiple **entry points for implementing integrated approaches**. New **BMZ initiatives** (Marshall Plan with Africa, Compact with Africa, Special Initiative Employment) are important.
- **Cooperation is key!** For successful and sustainable implementation, partnerships are necessary both with actors in science, civil society, private sector and municipalities as well as between GIZ divisions such as GloBe, FMB and regional divisions.

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By 2050, 75% of the world population will live in cities, producing 70% of the global GDP as well as 75% of the global CO2 emissions, 60% of energy consumption and 70% of waste.

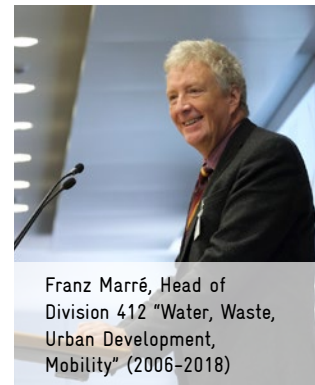
Cities and city-regions need integrated approaches

Cities and city-regions are growing at a fast pace. In 2050, three-quarters of the world's population will live in urban areas, as Prof. Jörg Knieling of HafenCity University Hamburg brought to mind in his keynote. Due to the impact of urbanisation, cities are increasingly crossing their political and administrative borders: migratory and commuter movements, flows of capital, resources and commodities, soil, air, and water pollution are increasingly affecting growing urban areas and their rural surroundings – city-regions emerge. Looking at the numbers (see text in the picture above), it is clear that these city-regions will shape the urban century and they will mostly grow in partner countries of German Development Cooperation. However, in order to take advantage

of the full potential of cities and city-regions, we need integrated approaches, as synergies can only be consolidated through cross-sectoral and integrated implementation.

Achieving sustainable development will only be possible in and with cities

Integrated approaches are not just a mind exercise, but essential to implement the global sustainability goals in city-regions and one of the core principles of the 2030 Agenda. "The 2030 Agenda cannot be achieved without cities, and we must see cities as effective partners and, if necessary,



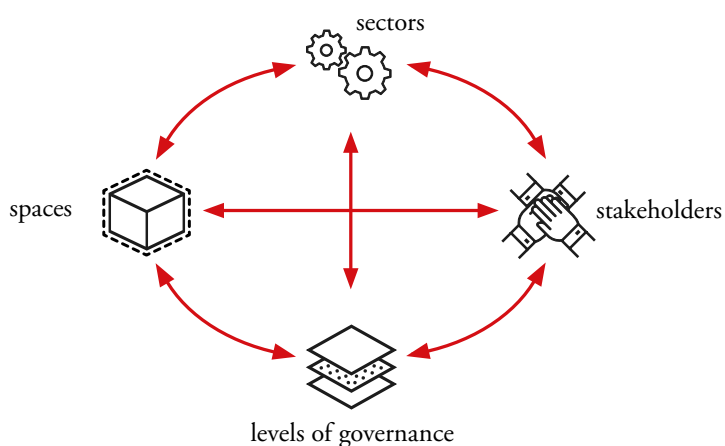
Franz Marré, Head of Division 412 "Water, Waste, Urban Development, Mobility" (2006-2018)

support them in building their own capacity." Franz Marré (BMZ Head of Division 412: Water, Urban Development, Mobility) underlined. The 2030 Agenda, the Paris Climate Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the draft of the new BMZ Strategy Paper on Urbanisation already acknowledge the importance of city-regional approaches for the implementation of international development goals.

Although SDG 11 refers to urban development, it is not sufficient to address only this objective for local implementation. On the contrary, action-oriented studies show that the 17 SDGs can only be achieved if they are implemented at the urban level and together with urban actors.

Integrated approaches?

Sustainable urban development needs the integration of...



“Most of the SDGs (65 per cent) can only be achieved in and with cities”, as Programme Director Carmen Vogt also stated. She underlined that three years have passed since the 2030 Agenda was finalised; processes have been underway and progress has already been made since. However, there is a strong need for the conversion into concrete actions and results. **Localising SDGs** means implementing the 2030 Agenda in an exemplary and measurable way and achieving national goals with concrete contributions from the local level.

Inter-sectoral action on every level of decision-making plays a central role. The “silo thinking” in city administrations and the partners supporting them must be overcome. “Hence, this event contributes to discuss across sectors and concrete topics how GIZ can foster the implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the local level through future concepts and new approaches.”

During the last three years, the team of the Sector Project advised actors in German Development Cooperation on concepts of integrated approaches through intermunicipal cooperation/metropolitan governance, resource-efficiency and urban-rural-linkages/city-region food systems. “Moreover, digitalisation is a common thread in these three fields of action: better data, more effectiveness, transparency and citizen participation. There is room for improvement, especially for a smart implementation of the 2030 Agenda. Moreover, closer cooperation with the private sector is increasingly important”, Programme Director Carmen Vogt (see picture) stressed. In its new phase, innovative models for integrated development of city-regions will be tested together with GIZ programmes and partners worldwide and in Germany.



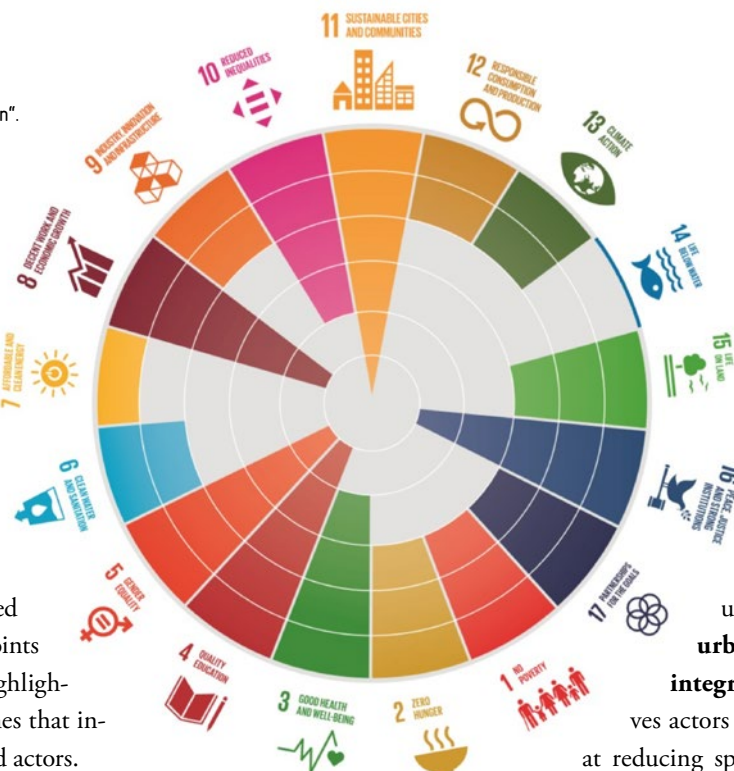
Carmen Vogt, Programme Director of “SV CityRegions2030”

The 17 SDGs and the need for their “urban implementation”.
© GIZ/SV Urbanisation

The entry points

In a “fishbowl” format (see picture below), Stephanie Loose (UN-Habitat), Dr. Diana Reckien (University of Twente) and Thomas Kiwitt (Metropolitan region of Stuttgart) shared some concrete entry points from their perspectives highlighting the need of approaches that integrate spaces, sectors, and actors.

“We have chosen **food security** as the entry point, because it illustrates the urgency of integrated planning approaches”, explains Stephanie Loose of the Regional and Metropolitan Planning Unit at UN-HABITAT. In order to ensure food security, sectoral integration is needed as it is not just about



production, but also about transport and distribution. Rural areas are less and less self-sufficient and thus resources must flow in both directions, rural and urban areas. “The UN sees **urban-rural-linkages as an integrated approach** that involves actors on several levels and aims at reducing spatial inequalities.” Therefore, UN HABITAT advises countries in their national urban policies (NUP) to follow **integrated territorial approaches**. A concrete model programme is underway in Uganda (Arua) and will be complemented by networking across national borders in the country triangle of Southern Sudan, Congo, and Uganda.



Speakers at the fishbowl format from left to right:
Anka Derichs, Dr. Diana Reckien, Thomas Kiwitt, Stephanie Loose,
Dr. Luise Steinwachs, Carmen Vogt

“Urban borders are random borders”, Thomas Kiwitt said, sharing his perspective as a practitioner in the role of Technical Director of the German metropolitan region of Stuttgart (*Verband Region Stuttgart*). “We suffer from wanting to align everything that has to do with regional development with these random borders, but citizens just want to see it working”. Therefore, around 180 municipalities have formed a metropolitan region that aims to achieve sustainability goals across divisions and administrative borders. Smaller municipalities group around the

«The challenges of the integrated implementation of global agendas lie in overcoming egoism and divisional thinking.»

Thomas Kiwitt, *Verband Region Stuttgart*

strong centre of Stuttgart to make use of **regional scale efficiencies**. However, what makes this metropolitan region **unique in Germany** is its **directly elected regional assembly**. “The involvement of civil society and participation formats in strong municipalities are important. But clear transparent structures coupled with **political discourse about the big picture** of development should also take place on a regional scale,” Kiwitt stated. This can well serve as a model for other places in Germany as well as in partner countries.

Dr. Diana Reckien, researcher at the University of Twente, sees climate change adaptation as a good entry point for integrated urban action. From her research on different approaches to climate change from 885 European cities she found that only a few cities have integrated mitigation of and adaptation to climate change so far. Those that do (in Germany: Chemnitz, Duisburg, Essen, Bonn) choose

the following sectors through which **integrated approaches of mitigation and adaptation can be realised, notably: green infrastructure, education and communication, buildings, energy**. As one participant, Dr. Alexander Jachnow from the Institute of Housing Studies at the Erasmus University of Rotterdam concluded: “Integrated approaches can be implemented when we start our thinking from what impact we want to achieve.”

«The greatest challenge is that despite the global agendas and their increased public awareness, there is a lack of scope for action and integrated approaches are not yet seen and strengthened at the political level.»

Dr. Diana Reckien, *University of Twente*

Dr. Luise Steinwachs from the German NGO *Brot für die Welt* (Bread for the world) sees the 2030 Agenda as a chance to increase alignment between different sector ministries, especially with regards to food security and safety in cities. At the same time, people migrate to cities because small-scale agriculture is imperilled. “Big investors and large agricultural and food companies engage in land-grabbing and water-grabbing and deprive farmers of the base of their livelihood.” This is where the **civil society plays an important role and has to be involved in integrated urban development projects**.

The “fishbowl”-panel was joined by Anka Derichs of GIZ’ Sectoral Department (FMB), who outlined the “Action Plan Urbanisation (APU)” that aims at improving GIZ’ advisory products and mainstreaming urbanisation across GIZ in three focus areas: basic services/employment, sustainable urban infrastructure, and peaceful cities. She is confident that GIZ will get more commissions for the advice on complex processes in growing city-regions. At the same time, Ms. Derichs explained that GIZ headquarters is paying more effort to streamline the 2030 Agenda in the GIZ portfolio by consulting country offices (already started in Niger, Armenia).

Wibke Thies of FMB stressed the need to think about urban ecosystems and biodiversity from the start of each project. “Do not forget the interdependencies of ecosystems and urbanisation. Ecosystem performance augments the liveability of cities enormously, yet urban development threatens their ecosystems!” one participant complemented via an online app.

The way forward: Entry points and incentives for our partners in different world regions

According to the ADB, additional 1.1 billion people will live in **Asia's** cities in 20 years. In many places, cities will merge to create urban settlements on a scale never seen before. These new configurations will take the form of mega-regions, urban corridors, and city-regions. In fact, there is no historical precedent for urbanisation on this scale.

Necessary incentives: Especially in the light of the Chinese Belt and Road Initiative that will invest heavily in infrastructure, we will need to make more concrete offers to our partners. For instance, providing images (“*Leitbilder*”) of desirable urban development in the minds of urban stakeholders. That means showing inspiring examples (how it could be) that also integrate the interests of economic actors, while also showing “deterrent” examples (how it should not be). Based on such examples, we should develop scenarios for urbanisation together with our partners and act on them accordingly.

Entry points: We should a) start from concrete local needs (e.g. traffic jams, air quality), then b) develop projects with more abstract objectives (multiple SDGs, sustainable mobility, territorial planning) and c) remain involved in long-term consulting processes and commit our support over many years. Another entry point is the urgent need for action given the pace of urbanisation processes that are coupled with rapid changes in the environment and the climate. The German Development Cooperation already works, directly and indirectly, on urban development in many Asian countries. Big urban portfolios include India and Bangladesh. In terms of our support logic, participants of the “Asia table” suggested that the commitment of

BMZ resources should be bound to their integrated implementation. **Pilot projects should be evaluated against their ability to create necessary impulses for further good urban development projects in our partner countries.** Although model measures can be aligned with trending topics (climate change, air quality), they need partners that work on these issues long-term, e.g. civil society organisations.



Participants of the MENA group

The situation in countries of the **Middle East and North Africa (MENA)** looks slightly different. In already highly urbanised areas, increasing youth unemployment is one of the most pressing needs. The political order is fragile and migration from neighbouring countries and regions creates additional stress on administrative capacities as well as on social and physical infrastructure. *Entry points:* In terms of perception, many urban decisionmakers see cities rather as a product of engineering and less as a “built society”, thereby ignoring the interdependencies of sectors such as water, energy, and mobility and their social environments. Therefore, we should foster the systemic thinking of partners (integration of sectors) and offer support to metropolitan concentration processes (integration of spaces). For the latter, GIZ has already developed concrete advisory products such as the Metropolitan Capacity Assessment Methodology ([MetroCAM](#)).

Necessary incentives: Similar to suggestions of the Asia group, participants of the MENA table stressed the need for long-term commitment and engagement that should be preferred over a short-term “project logic”. Moreover, the visibility, political power and implementing capacities of local partner institutions should be strengthened.



Participants of the Forum discuss entry points for integrated urban approaches and incentives for Asian partner countries.

Sub-Saharan Africa will undergo a rapid urbanisation process during the next decades. Almost half a billion people live in cities today, however their infrastructure and service delivery are often in desolate conditions; city administrations lack capacity. In addition, population numbers will double in the next 25 years, which means that 130 cities of the size of Berlin must be built in the next 25 years.

Participants of the Forum discuss entry points for integrated urban approaches in Sub-Saharan Africa.



Entry points: Fortunately, BMZ pays a lot of attention to this region and has launched initiatives such as the Compact with Africa and the Marshall Plan with Africa. These initiatives, coupled with the overarching 2030 Agenda, serve as facilitating frameworks for future urban projects in the region. Especially employment, which is often an urban issue, is an important entry point. Urban topics should be better aligned with the “Special Initiative Employment (*SI Beschäftigung*)” of BMZ. Thinking of integrated urban development, the water sector can serve as an entry point (though decreasingly so), but also climate change (adaptation, mitigation), food security, mobility and housing. *Necessary incentives:* Integrated approaches have to be demonstrated through tangible outcomes. Participants underlined that we do not necessarily need more projects, but better approaches that begin with thinking about their desired impact. Eventually, quality trumps quantity. Therefore, the various departments: Regional Department, FMB, and GloBe should cooperate more closely and across sectors, starting from the programme design phase (e.g. Compact with Africa).

In **Eastern and Southern Europe**, urbanisation takes place in a less rapid pace. Although we observe out-migration from rural areas, many people move to other countries in Northern and Western Europe. As a result, cities grow rather moderately. At the same time, post-Socialist governance is often locked into hierarchies and sectoral silos; corruption is widespread. *Incentives:* For partners on the national level, EU integration (the Balkans) or association (Ukraine, Southern Caucasus) is a key political priority. This in turn can provide a strong leverage for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda as many SDGs overlap with content of the EU Agenda as the example of Montenegro shows. Although the EU invests heavily in the region, there are other bilateral donors such as Russia, China or Turkey that pose potential competition to European/German approaches.

Entry points: From the partner side, there is a desire to upgrade existing urban infrastructure in sectors such as water and waste management, urban and regional mobility. Future projects could be built around integrated urban approaches that minimize out-migration. However, at the moment, BMZ investments in specific “urban projects” are limited, as its support to the region is focused on employment, migration, and supporting returnees. In addition, the already existing “Open Regional Fund for South-East Europe – Modernisation of municipal services (ORFMKD)” could serve as another interesting entry point.



Participants of working group discuss entry points for integrated urban approaches and incentives for partner countries.

Overall urbanisation is higher than in most other regions and currently at around 80% in **Latin America and the Caribbean**, although urbanisation levels vary significantly within each country. A special framework condition is that city administrations enjoy rather big autonomy from the national level. *Entry points* include the already existing approaches and projects of GIZ on urban development, especially in the sectors of energy, mobility, waste management, water, and the “green sector”. Extensive urban portfolios include Mexico and Peru. These should be further strengthened and built upon. *Necessary incentives* for partners are the close alignment of the project planning with partners at different levels from the start and the utilization of innovative methods and instruments by the German Development Cooperation (e.g. Lab of Tomorrow).



Participants discuss on entry points for integrated approaches in city-regions of Latin America and the Caribbean.

An integrated approach and cooperation as the key to success – model projects in 2019

In the evaluation, it became clear that there is a demand for implementation models in and with cities. The fruitful interaction between the external and internal participants has brought initial ideas for integrated and cross-sectoral implementation approaches in the portfolio of German Development Cooperation all over the world. Subsequently, there will now be a number of meetings with representatives of the regional divisions and other sector programmes to discuss on cooperation in model projects.



Joachim Göske,
Head of the GIZ Division "Global Policy, Governance"

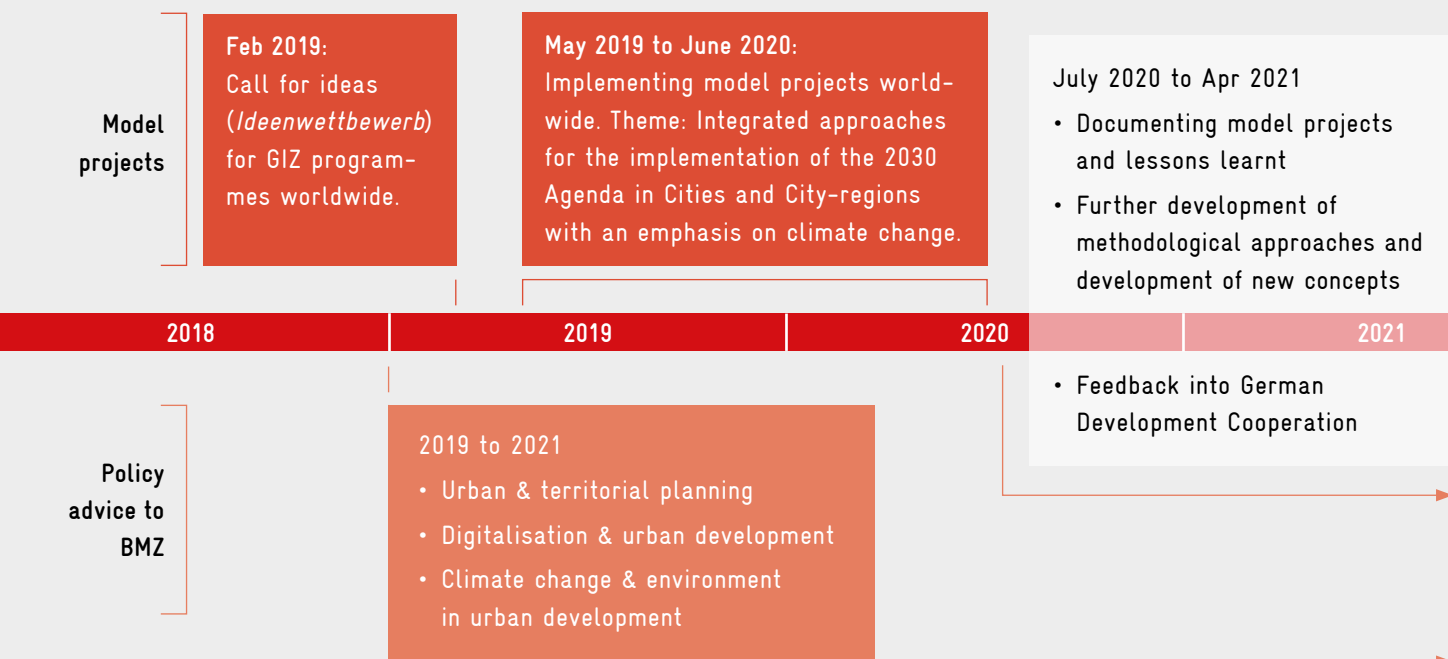
“In the beginning of 2019, the Sector Project will call GIZ programmes worldwide for ideas for model projects that showcase how the implementation of the 2030 Agenda can become concrete in partner countries,” Carmen Vogt, Programme Director of Sector Project City-Regions 2030, announced. “These model projects should be embedded in local processes and show integrated approaches for the development of city-regions.” The participants of the selected model projects will benefit from a broad access to technical and methodo-

logical knowledge, the exchange with other projects on innovative approaches for the integrated implementation of the 2030 Agenda, and the reintegration feedback of these approaches into the implementing agencies of the German Development Cooperation and the BMZ. Thus, experiences from such model measures will improve future project concepts and design of implementing agencies of the German Development Cooperation.

In his concluding remarks, Joachim Göske, head of the division “Global Policy, Governance”, in the GIZ’s GloBe department referred to the five implementation principles of the 2030 Agenda as the key challenge for achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. In this context, he emphasised the importance of cooperation for the successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda – with external partners from science, the civil society, the private sector, and communities, as well as internally, GloBe, FMB, and Regional Departments. **“Let us be inspired by external actors, engage in dialogue and work together across professional sectors. However, it is important to do the planning together right from the start. Don’t just try to link up at the end.”**

The way forward for the Sector Project “CityRegions2030”

Project term: November 2018 to April 2021



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