



## ➤ Structure

- Characteristics of the Region
- Population Trends
- Decentralization
- Poverty and Inequality
- Urbanization
- Local Planning Issues
- Municipal Cooperation



## ➤ Latin America and the Caribbean



- 46 countries and territories
- Thousands of municipalities
- 28 National Associations of Municipalities
- Micro-regional networks of cities



### ➤ Geographical Features

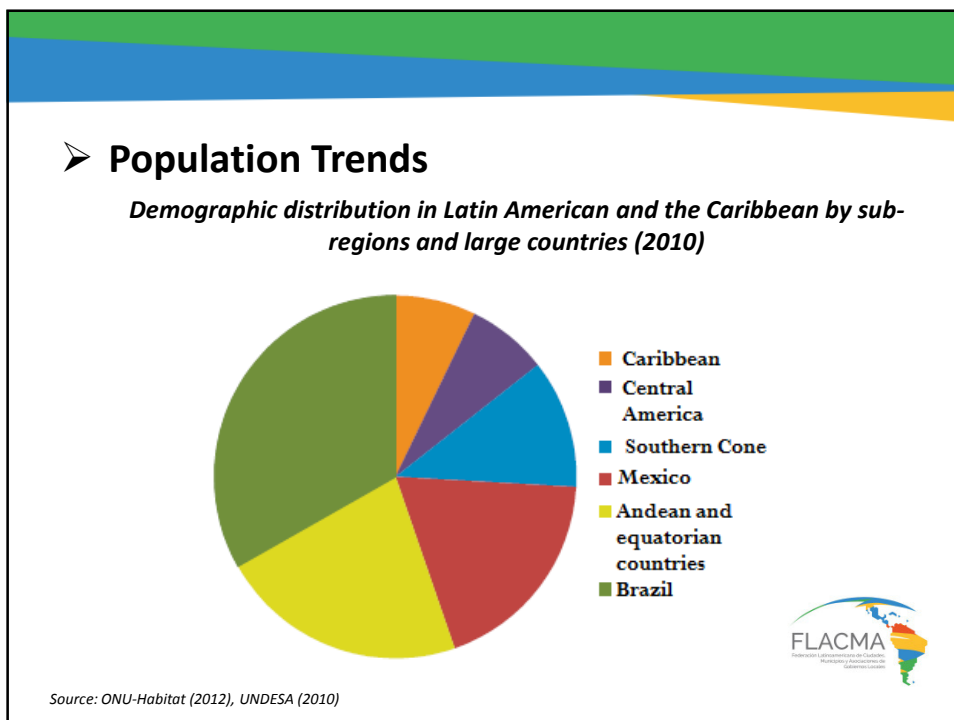
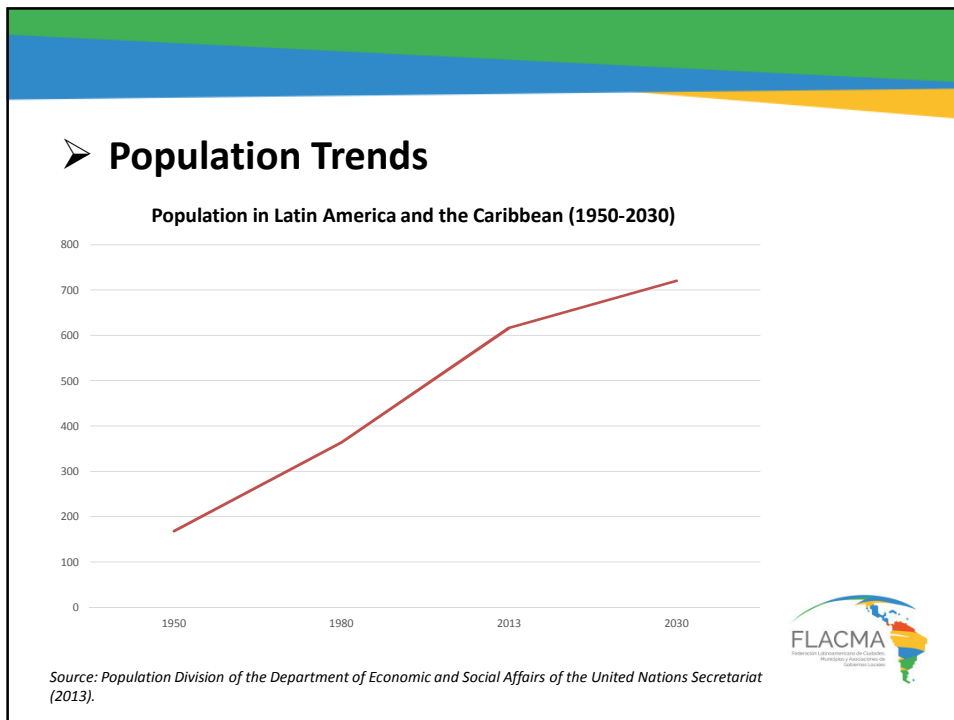
- From above the Tropic of Cancer down to the Antarctic
- Continental areas and islands
- Coastal areas on the Atlantic and the Pacific Oceans
- Different topographic and climate realities



### ➤ Cultural Characteristics

- Mixed cultural roots
  - Old civilizations as Aztecs, Mayas and Incas
  - Large number of native tribes
  - European colonization and migration
    - Existence of German communities, especially in the Southern of the region
  - African descendants
  - Migrants from Asia





## ➤ Decentralization and Role of Municipalities

- Recent Process
  - Decentralization fostered by the democratization processes in the 1980s
  - Different levels of autonomy
  - Growing competences
  - Lack of adequate budget to deliver services



## ➤ Decentralization and Role of Municipalities

Types	Countries
Federal states	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Argentina</li> <li>• Brazil</li> <li>• México</li> </ul>
Decentralized unitary countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Bolivia</li> <li>• Colombia</li> <li>• Ecuador</li> <li>• Peru</li> <li>• Uruguay</li> </ul>
Unitary countries	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Belize</li> <li>• Chile</li> <li>• Costa Rica</li> <li>• Cuba</li> <li>• El Salvador</li> <li>• Guatemala</li> <li>• Honduras</li> <li>• Nicaragua</li> <li>• Panama</li> <li>• Paraguay</li> <li>• Dominican Republic</li> </ul>



## ➤ Decentralization and Role of Municipalities

- **Common Competences**
  - Water
  - Drainage
  - Street cleaning
  - Domestic waste management
  - Public lightening
  - Urban planning
  - Urban traffic and mobility
  - Sports
- **Commonly Shared Competences**
  - Basic Health
  - Primary Level Education
  - Citizen's safety



## ➤ Decentralization and Role of Municipalities

- **International development agendas and cooperation**

Strong link between municipal competences in the region and the international agendas on climate change and the sustainable development goals (SDGs).

Previous successful experiences in the localization of the MDGs



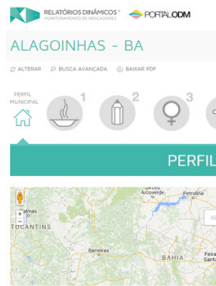
## ➤ Decentralization and Role of Municipalities

### *Examples of initiatives for the implementation of the MDGs*

Awards and systematization of initiatives



Dynamic Reports

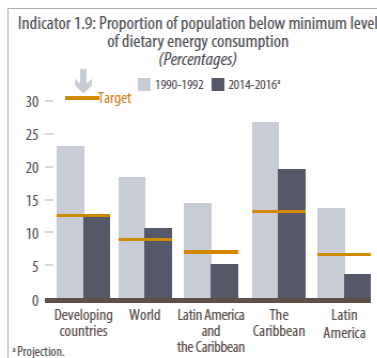
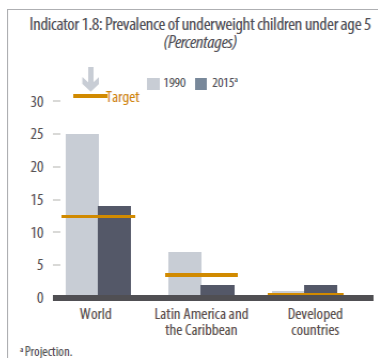


Creation of Municipal Hubs



## ➤ Poverty

- Reduction in hunger, malnutrition and child mortality.

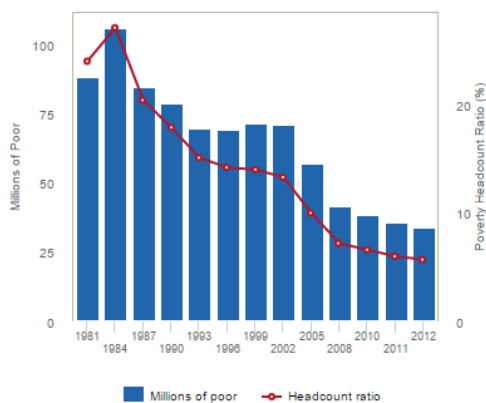


Source: ECLAC (2015)



## ➤ Poverty

REGIONAL POVERTY TREND:  
PEOPLE LIVING ON LESS THAN \$1.90 A DAY



- Significant progress in reducing extreme poverty, largely due to relatively high economic growth rates, especially from 2003 to 2008.
- However, over 50% of the population is still vulnerable, without savings, access to social security or their own



## ➤ Inequality

- Significant differences within a country
- Inequality within the countries is greater than among countries
- Inequality within the same urban area, among urban and rural areas

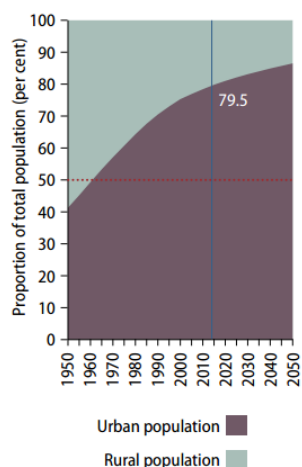
### ***Looking at the city level***

In Latin America and the Caribbean, it is important to understand the reality of the target area and seek to get disaggregated and local data, as it can differ substantially from national averages.





## ➤ Urbanization



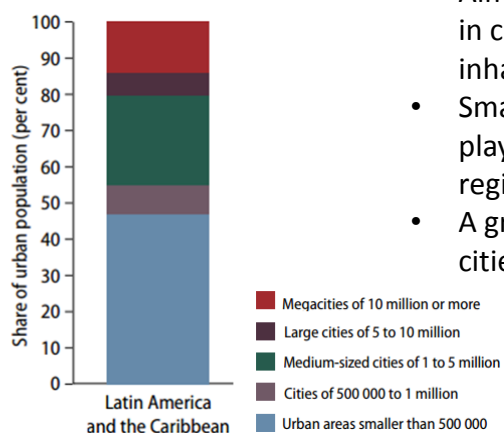
Source: World Urbanization Prospects - 2014 Revision



- Almost 80% of the population living in urban areas
- Less than 2% urban population growth rate since 2000
- 6-fold increase in the number of cities in 50 years

## ➤ Urbanization

Population distribution by city size in 2014



Source: World Urbanization Prospects - 2014 Revision



- 14% of the population living in mega-cities
- Almost ½ of the population living in cities with fewer than 500,000 inhabitants
- Small and medium-sized cities playing a significant role as regional centers
- A great number of very small cities

## ➤ Urban Planning

- Conurbation and metropolitan regions of complex management
- Emergence of new areas of economic growth - secondary cities
- Built-up spaces in continuing expansion generating difficulties to provide services
- Inadequate resources to develop and implement planning instruments in many municipalities
- More intense migration among cities
- Potential to attract investments



## ➤ Urban Planning: Some Relevant Initiatives

Empowerment of local governments

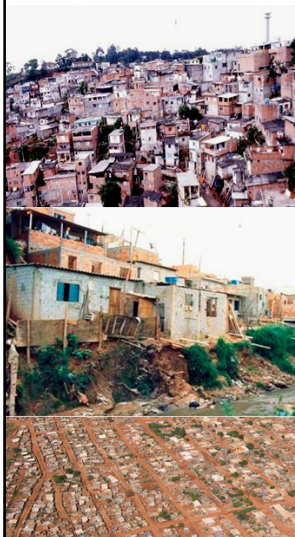
Inter-municipal Plans

Land use planning integrated with transportation and urban mobility

Linking planning with regulation activities

Making urban planning a priority on the political agenda with enough resources for its implementation

## ➤ Housing



- Deficit of housing units – 51 millions in 2011 (ONU-Habitat)
- Low standards of housing
- Large scale housing projects in isolated areas
- Direct relation between housing and provision of basic services



## ➤ Service Provision at the Local Level

- Great responsibilities of municipalities
- Quality and access to basic services in different areas
- Relation with private service providers
- Lack of adequate funding
- Management of public services which are responsibilities of the different levels of government at the same time
- Improvement of community capacity control and participation



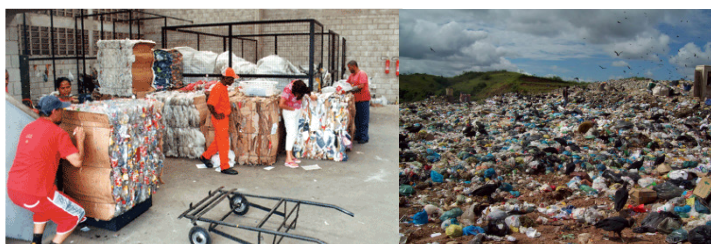
## ➤ Waste Management

- Residential waste collection is largely responsibility of local governments.
- In the region, 93,4% of the population have access to it.
- Population living in peripheral and rural areas are those with more limited access to waste collection.
- Technologies applied differ substantially. Only 54,4% of collected solid waste is adequately processed, while 45,3% is eliminated in dumpsites.
- The levels of recycling are low, although there are good experiences of it.



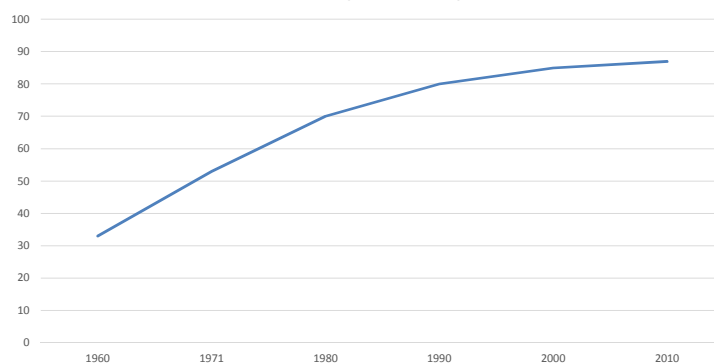
## ➤ Waste Management

- **Points to be considered**
  - Only legislation is not enough. There is a need for technical and financial support to municipalities.
  - Practices of consortiums and experiences with recycling scavengers and producing energy from compost have led to positive results.



## ➤ Water Services

Percentage of the Population with Access to Drinking Water (1960-2010)



Source: GOLD (2013)

## ➤ Water Services

- In general, water services are managed by a public enterprise in large cities and by a municipal department in small and medium-sized cities.
- Problems for providing water to rural areas, informal settlements and regions affected by droughts.
- Need for improving the quality and the regularity of services
- Need for improving water management



## ➤ Water Services

### • Points to be considered

#### ***Changes in climate is affecting access to water.***

- The shrinking of Andean glaciers will affect provision of water in the cities of the region.
- Severe droughts in the Northeastern area of Brazil has worsened the barriers to water provision.



## ➤ Transportation



- Great demand from citizens to local governments
- Expansion of public transportation in large centers
- Incentives to individual transport modes, deterioration in public transportation and lack of biking lanes and sidewalks
- Need for improving integration of transportation modes
- Need for articulating innovations with traditional systems



## ➤ Environmental Issues



- Urban expansion into environmentally vulnerable areas
- Urban floods
- Air pollution



## ➤ Modernization and Innovation

- Local governments in the region have been considered innovative.
  - Participatory Budgeting
  - Bus Rapid Transit (BRT)
- Recent initiatives:
  - Citizenship Labs
  - Open data and transparency
  - Use of technology to improve citizen participation



### ➤ **Modernization and Innovation**

- At the same time, many municipalities do not have knowledge and/or access to tools and processes which will strengthen public management.
- There is a need for building the capacity of local governments for it.
- In Brazil, the provision of online data on public accounts is mandatory.



### ➤ **Contributions of Municipal Cooperation**

- Strengthening local development and local policies
- Fostering a territorial approach
- Implementing a cooperation closer to people's daily lives.
- Generating new relations between cities and central governments
- Strengthening municipalities as global stakeholders and enabling them to contribute to international agendas





## ➤ Context of Municipal Cooperation in the Region

- Cities and city networks and associations as actors of decentralized cooperation
- Established twinning agreements between Latin American and German cities
- Projects between Latin American and German Cities
  - 50 Municipal Partnerships on Climate Change
  - Connective Cities
- Projects with African Cities
  - South-South Cooperation between Mozambique and Brazil – Tools for Urban Management (UCLG/ANAMM/FNP/ASF-C)



## ➤ Geographical City Networks



- **Regional**
  - FLACMA
- **Micro-regional**
  - Mercociudades
  - CAMCAYCA
  - RedCisur
- **National Associations**
  - 28 in the region



## ➤ From National to International Projects

- Importance of engaging different types of stakeholders
- Greater impact by working with a small group of municipalities in the same area
- Understanding and disseminating the steps of the projects in order to facilitate replication and adaptation
- Communication and sharing results as key for fostering innovation



## ➤ Final Thoughts

- Zygmunt Bauman
  - “The old ways of doing things do not work any longer, but the ways of solving the problems in an effective way do not exist or we do not know it yet”.
  - Are the mayors governing the world an alternative? – Benjamin Barber’s idea
- As the level of government closest to the citizen, the municipalities are considered better positioned to understand people’s needs and demands.
- International municipal cooperation can be a great tool for creating new solutions



**Let's promote municipal cooperation and  
make it impact on the way of doing things  
in this world.**



**Thank you!**

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