



City Resilience Program

Progress and Achievements

Since June 2017

The World Bank Group's (WBG) City Resilience Program (CRP) is an effort to assist city governments to build greater resilience to climate and disaster risks. For many major cities in the world, strengthening urban resilience is a multibillion dollar agenda that requires strong partnerships and new sources of capital.

Cities are sometimes held back from pursuing the necessary investments because they lack the technical expertise and/or the access to capital to finance them. CRP tries to fill that gap by first, leveraging the WBG's broad set of sectoral expertise in designing urban resilience projects, and second, better connecting cities to the necessary financing. The aim of CRP is to catalyze a transparent pipeline of well-prepared and bankable investment opportunities and to improve access for private and institutional investors to crowd into new markets. It is in this sense that CRP seeks to act as the bankers of the city, and to facilitate strategic investments that address the vulnerabilities and risks that cities face in a holistic way.

Unprecedented urbanization is transforming the planet and the way we live: for the first time in history, more people live in cities than in rural areas. 90 percent of this urban expansion takes place in developing countries, and much of it occurs near natural hazards, rivers and coastlines, and through informal and unplanned settlements. Lack of adequate infrastructure, land use planning and building codes exacerbate the risks to which urban dwellers are exposed. The greater concentration of people and

assets means that the impact of natural disasters and a changing climate can be devastating, both in terms of human lives lost and economic livelihoods destroyed. The poorer segments of the population are particularly vulnerable, since they tend to live in more hazardous settlements and lack the necessary safety nets to recover from economic or environmental shocks. Preparing cities for disaster and climate risks and strengthening urban resilience are thus critical to all development and poverty reduction efforts.

PROGRAM APPROACH

The CRP approach engages cities in a long-term partnership to identify areas of need and opportunity and to define a robust response towards building resilience. CRP promotes ambition both in the technical design and the financial scope to generate *investments that are bigger and*

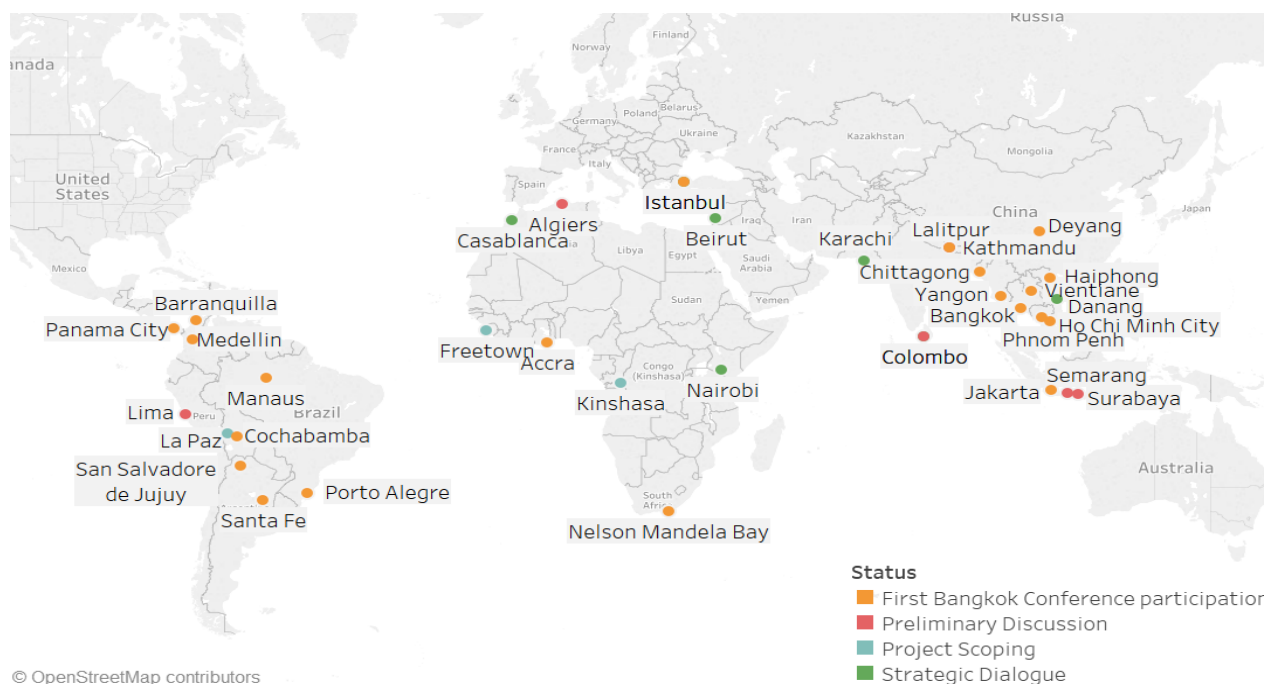
better. A broad coalition of experts, convened under Thematic Working Groups, will accompany the design and implementation of each city-level engagement, while private capital experts will support cities to expand the financing options available to them. CRP's technical and financial contribution allows the cities to unde-

-take the required preparatory work and diagnostic assessments that make a robust

and comprehensive response to the challenge of resilience possible.

CRP MILESTONES

- The City Resilience Program launched in June 2017.
- The first Comprehensive Financial Solutions for City Resilience Conference took place in Bangkok, Thailand, from November 6-10th. The conference brought together 24 city delegations with private capital experts and financial advisors to prepare and structure concrete capital investment projects for city resilience.
- Formal announcement of the City Resilience Program by WBG President Jim Kim at the One Planet Summit in Paris in December 2017
- 30 active city engagements under way, including technical and financial support to the Greater Accra Resilience and Integrated Development Project; the Panama City Waterfront Development and Resilient Project, the Urban Resilience Investment Project in Dhaka, Bangladesh, and the preparation of resilience projects in Manaus and Porto Alegre. For a full list of ongoing engagement see below:
- Collaboration with global financial advisory commenced: 11 cities selected for targeted market testing and capital planning exercise to identify and structure priority investments with private sector participation
- Successful donor mobilization and partnership strategy secured funding from the Government of Switzerland and Austria; GFDRR, as well as in-kind and technical support from the Global Covenant of Mayors, and a number of global consulting and advisory firms and private capital experts
- Expansion of product offering for cities to strengthen Emergency Response & Preparedness; Geospatial Solutions; Resilient Transport; Building Regulations for Resilience
- Next Comprehensive Financial Solutions for City Resilience Conference to take place in Bangkok in July 2018; this conference will introduce the second cohort of 25-30 CRP cities



For further information <https://www.gfdr.org/en/city-resilience-program>

