**SEIZING THE URBAN OPPORTUNITY: BRAZIL**

*Prioritising urban transport and housing investments for inclusion and resilience*

**National Priorities for Action for Brazil**

* **Brazil is highly urbanised**, with 87% of its population living in cities as of 2018. The 25 largest urban areas account for 50% of Brazil’s population and, as of 2016, produce 63% of its gross domestic product (GDP).
* **But Brazil’s cities have struggled** to keep up with this rapid growth, resulting in significant urban sprawl and congestion. Expansion of informal housing in the urban peripheries, as well as an unequal distribution of social benefits, has contributed to inequality in cities and greater vulnerabilities among Brazil’s urban poor. Additionally, urban expansion has largely consumed vital ecosystems that store carbon, provide flood protection, and host biodiversity.
* **Some important reforms are already underway** to create more sustainable, resilient, inclusive cities, including the new Casa Verde e Amarela programme which seeks to provide more efficient and adequate housing, especially for low-income urban families.
* **This is a pivotal time for Brazil** as COVID-19 has devastated the country, especially the urban poor. While Brazil’s government had approved $224 billion in fiscal stimulus as of February 2021, very little of this focused on decarbonisation or resilience-building. Future stimulus efforts can prioritise urban investments that reduce emissions and build resilience (especially since these investments are often long-term and thus the emissions are locked in for years to come).
* **The report highlights numerous opportunities for action in Brazil**, which include:
  + **Establish a national strategy for cities** that promotes sustainable economic growth, social inclusion and environmental sustainability, with tailored approaches to meet the needs in different regions and city types.
  + **Develop and support metropolitan governance** to foster integrated and sustainable urban development.
  + **Prioritise low-carbon transport investments**, including multi-modal integrated transport networks and electrification, to reduce air pollution and greenhouse gas emissions and enhance urban accessibility.
  + **Revamp national housing programmes and policies** to ensure they provide safe, affordable and sustainable urban housing with access to jobs and basic services.
  + **Support cities in expanding finance** for low-carbon and resilience-building projects to improve service delivery and help address infrastructure investment deficits.
  + **Promote fiscal reforms** that balance the distribution of tax revenues to cities and aligning fiscal incentives to promote low-carbon sectors and actions in urban areas.
* **Successful implementation of the report’s solutions** could result in:
  + **88% fewer GHG emissions** from urban buildings, transport, and waste by 2050
  + **Economic returns of $370 billion** by 2050 (with investment of $1.7 trillion)
  + **4.5 million new jobs** in 2030