**SEIZING THE URBAN OPPORTUNITY: MEXICO**  
*How urban transformation can reduce poverty and inequality and build resilience*

**National Priorities for Action for Mexico**

* **Mexico is highly urbanised**, with 80% of its population in cities, and nearly 90% of gross value added (GVA) produced in urban areas.
* **Yet poverty and inequality remain serious problems**. Even before the pandemic, more than a quarter of Mexican workers worked in the informal sector and a majority could not access key social programmes. Mexico also contends with severe urban sprawl, which drives costly and unsustainable mobility patterns, and faces growing climate-related risks.
* **Some important reforms are already underway**, including a proposed National Strategy of Territorial Planning 2020–2040 (which prioritises resilience, access to key services and mobility) and the 2019–2024 National Housing Programme (which seeks to provide homes that are affordable and truly meet residents’ needs).
* **This is a pivotal time for Mexico**. The COVID-19 pandemic has seriously impact Mexico’s economy and exposed deep vulnerabilities in its social fabric. However, by putting compact, connected, clean, and inclusive cities at the heart of a recovery strategy—and by aligning this strategy with a longer-term vision—Mexico can emerge stronger from the crisis, with particular benefits for poor and marginalised people.
* **The report highlights numerous opportunities for action in Mexico**, which include:
  + **Supporting the creation of metropolitan authorities** to enable integrated land use and transport planning.
  + **Expanding the supply of well-located social urban housing** that is adequate, secure, and affordable, complemented by inclusive and resilient mass transit options.
  + **Prioritising a just transition to net-zero-carbon cities**, with special attention to the needs of poor and marginalised people.
  + **Scaling up support for programmes to foster the social production of housing** **and habitat**, leveraging low-carbon strategies to reduce poverty.
* **Successful implementation of the report’s solutions** could result in:
  + **87% fewer GHG emissions** from urban buildings, transport, and waste by 2050
  + **Economic returns of $210 billion** by 2050
  + **526,000 million new jobs** in 2030