

CITIES

In Latin America and the Caribbean, 80% of the population lives in cities. The urbanization process has helped drive the region's economic and social development. At the same time, however, cities reflect persisting poverty and inequality and they are the battleground for efforts to stop environmental degradation. ECLAC contends that each city's development model must ensure that development is economically, socially and environmentally sustainable.

CONFIGURATION OF METROPOLIS

One of the main types of urbanization is the concentration of population and economic activities in metropolises covering **large areas** with **low population density**.

This leads to **specialization of spaces that in turn contributes to socioeconomic segregation:**

» **Economic and administrative centres** full of life during the day and empty at night.

» **Shopping malls** that replace public spaces.

» **Residential neighbourhoods in the suburbs** differentiated by social strata.

» **Private clubs** where people play sports.

Consequences:

- Loss of thriving neighbourhood life and loss of social cohesion.
- Rising management costs due to the city's expanding boundaries.
- Land use changes that put pressure on ecosystems.

ENERGY

Between 1980 and 2005, South America tripled its energy consumption, mostly in metropolises.

The two highest-earning quintiles in Latin America account for the majority of energy spending.

HOUSING

Housing demand increases disproportionately to population growth due to rising income and the tendency to form smaller households.

AIR POLLUTION

Air pollution is generated mainly by processes involving combustion, both in industry and in automobiles and residential heating systems.

Each year, pollution in the region may cause:



up to **13.000** deaths due to lung cancer.



up to **93.000** deaths due to cardiopulmonary diseases.

WATER AND SANITATION

Between 1990 and 2015, in the region:



The use of improved sources of drinking water rose from **84.9% to 94.6%**.



The use of improved sanitation facilities rose from **67.3% to 83.1%**.



The majority of people without access to drinking water are in peri-urban areas.



On average only between **20% and 30%** of collected wastewater is treated.

FOOD SECURITY



Poor families spend up to **40%** of their income on food.

Urban agriculture offers a means of reducing poverty and containing the expansion of urban areas.

TRANSPORTATION

In Latin America there are 30 motor vehicles for every 100 people. Their growing use is already causing severe **congestion** and **pollution** problems.

SOLID WASTE

Approximately **45%** of the solid waste generated in the region is not disposed of properly.

The proportion of waste recycled in plants continues to be negligible and the informal sector currently leads this activity.