

An alliance between cities.
What is good for the air is good for the climate

The CALAC+ Programme: Climate and Clean Air in Latin American Cities Plus



Theme

Climate change mitigation

Country

Chile, Colombia, Peru and Mexico

Partners

The programme will be implemented by SWISSCONTACT in coordination with public transport management entities and with private transport sector entities.

General information

The transport sector in Latin America is a major source of GHG emissions and the prime cause of black carbon release, and has a negative effect on health and the climate. The authorities are redoubling their efforts in designing, adopting and applying strategies for public transport systems that are integrated and low in GHG and soot emissions, and use off-road machinery.

Project objective

To reduce harmful air pollutants, by providing soot-free urban public transport engines and off-road machinery to protect human health and mitigate climate change.

Beneficiaries

The populations of Santiago de Chile, Bogota, Lima and Mexico City, which have been chosen because they have the right conditions for implementing the project. The total population of these cities is around 28 million, one quarter of which are living under the national poverty line.

Budget

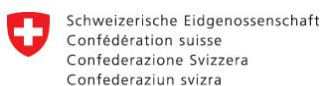
Total: SDC: CHF 5'600'000 Phase 1: SDC: CHF 2'850'000

Duration

Phase 1 March 2018 – February 2021
Phase 2 March 2021 – February 2024

Contact

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The transport sector in Latin America is a major source of greenhouse gas emissions and the prime cause of black carbon release, negatively affecting public health and the climate.

In the face of growing pressure from the public and civil society for a remedy for air pollution in the cities, the authorities of a growing number of Latin American cities are redoubling their efforts in designing, adopting and applying strategies for integrated public transport that is low in greenhouse gas and soot emissions, and provides off-road machinery.

Switzerland has provided its experience and its long tradition of finding innovative solutions for improving air quality, working with leading private sector companies and on research with universities internationally recognized in this field. In recent years Switzerland has become a world leader in these issues (the Climate and Clean Air Coalition) and through SDC, has been working on them in the context of various initiatives in Latin America to date, such as the collaboration with Santiago and Bogota from 2013 to 2015.

The **Climate and Clean Air in Latin American Cities Programme - PLUS** envisions black carbon-zero cities that are healthier and more sustainable, by fostering change in urban buses and off-road machinery that is soot-free and low in carbon emissions.

At the regional level, the programme will achieve this by providing national decision-takers with specialist information to inspire and ensure that governments are committed to investing for the future in the cities' transport sector in close coordination with private stakeholders.

Globally, by building on the Climate and Clean Air Coalitions (CCAC), CALAC+ will help strengthen the voluntary alliance that is developing in the Latin American cities that are committed to adopting rapid measures to have a positive impact on two fronts: public health and the climate.

The Paris Climate Agreement adopted in December of 2015 is a clear signal towards low carbon emission development and resilience. For this to happen, there must be a large-scale transformational change which includes the transport sector. Thanks to its experience, Switzerland is able to make a significant contribution towards this transformation in Latin American cities, by reducing short-lived climate pollutants (SLCPs) and greenhouse gas emissions, and by working with a cooperation approach that is both regional and international, North-South and South-South. At the same time, CALAC+ will help achieve Sustainable Development Goals 3 (health), 7 (clean energy), 11 (sustainable cities) and 13 (climate action).

Strategy

The conceptual framework and outcomes of Phase I of CALAC+ fully correspond to the Swiss Confederation's 2017-2020 International Cooperation Strategy and the new Strategic Framework for SDC's 2017-2020 Global Programme Climate Change and Environment (GPCC). The latter specifically fits into Component 2 on "Low emission development " and Outcome 2: "Air pollution will be reduced, particularly in urban areas, which will improve health".

CALAC+ will work jointly with public transport sector stakeholders and with the provision of off-road machinery in Chile, Colombia, Mexico and Peru.

The CALAC+ target group is the population of those countries' four capitals: Santiago de Chile, Bogota, Lima and Mexico City, chosen following an evaluation which found that they have the right conditions for the implementation of this project. The total population of these cities is around 28 million, one quarter of which are living below the national poverty line.

General objective

To reduce harmful air pollutants and protect human health – above all that of the more vulnerable and poorest communities – and to mitigate climate change through the use of public transport system engines which do not emit soot and off-road machinery in four Latin American cities.

Expected outcomes

- Buses that are soot-free and low in carbon emissions. To ensure that the urban public emissions of ultrafine particles, black carbon and greenhouse gas are significantly and sustainably reduced. The programme will achieve this through technical assistance and support for improving legal frameworks, environment and transport regulations (municipal and national), investment planning and institutional capacity-building, creating the best conditions for establishing soot-free and low carbon emission technologies.
- Urban policy incubators for off-road machinery. Helping to develop smart policies for significantly reducing the ultrafine particles, black carbon and greenhouse gases emitted by urban off-road machinery (construction and industry sectors). These emissions are still not regulated in Latin America, but they contribute largely to bad air quality, negative impacts on human health and climate change.
- Global information management network. Sharing – regionally (Latin America) and globally – a systematized experience on successful policies, actions and profitable technologies which help reduce fuel consumption, air pollution and carbon emissions in the urban context. Best practice and lessons learned will be made available through existing networks and platforms, such as CCAC and the OECD. The programme will also create a list of experts in Latin America for fostering South-South cooperation and trilateral cooperation.