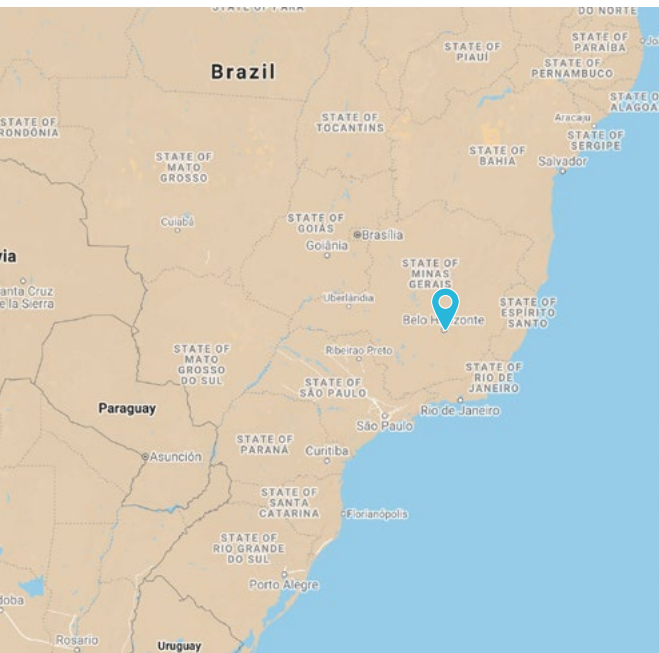


Belo Horizonte, Brazil

Partner country

Status of the project: ongoing technical assistance



Basic Information

Urban area: 14,420 km²

Population: 5,700,000 | Growth rate: 1.05%

GDP per capita: USD 17,239

Modal Share

Formal public transport: 28.1%

Walking: 34.8%

Cycling: 0.4%

Private cars: 36.6%

National GHG emissions per capita: 5.12 (tCO₂eq)

Region capital city

Context

Belo Horizonte is the capital of the state of Minas Gerais and located in the south-eastern region of Brazil. It is the third-largest metropolitan area in the country and has a population of over 2.4 million, with 5.7 million in the official Metropolitan Area (IBGE, 2014). Considering the rather moderate ambition level of Brazil's NDC, local action in cities play a crucial role for climate change mitigation. Belo Horizonte is one example of an active mid-sized city committed to sustainable development.

In its NDC, Brazil commits to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 37% below 2005 levels by 2025. The NDC also contains a subsequent indicative contribution to reduce greenhouse gas emissions by 43% below 2005 levels in 2030. Compared to the 1990 level this translates to 6% respectively 16% reduction. With this target Brazil is the first major developing country to commit to an absolute GHG reduction below 1990 levels.

Belo Horizonte has a series of plans (Master Plan, PlanMob-BH, Belo Horizonte – a Smart City, etc.) and policies in place that are reviewed and monitored on a regular basis to help guide the urban development of the city. Belo Horizonte has already made important progress towards sustainability and in the medium and long run Belo Horizonte envisions becoming an example of smart and sustainable urban development for Brazil and Latin America. However, road transport remains responsible for 53% of greenhouse gas emissions in Belo Horizonte and could reach 6 million tons of CO₂ emissions by 2030. With regard to mobility, Belo Horizonte already has an innovative Sustainable Urban Mobility Plan (2010, reviewed in 2016), called PlanMob-BH, with comprehensive measures related to eight strategic areas: (1) active mobility, (2) collective mobility, (3) motorized individual mobility, (4) traffic calming and circulation, (5) urban logistics, (6) sustainable city, (7) universal accessibility, and (8) management, supervision and operation. Each strategic intervention is complemented by actions and indicators for short (2020), medium (2025) and long-term (2030) planning horizons.

Since 2017 Urban Pathways has been supporting Belo Horizonte in the implementation of active mobility projects. For this, Urban Pathways has invited the city to participate in several international fora, training and peer-to-peer learning. Moreover, Urban Pathways has provided technical assistance in the development of project proposals to be submitted to

donors. As a result, in 2019 Belo Horizonte implemented four “Zones 30”, one of which counted with the support of Urban Pathways from conceptualization to financing, the Zone 30 Confisco. The successful implementation of Zones 30 in Belo Horizonte has led to a great acceptance from citizens and political support.

The Zone 30 pilot-project foresees a wide deployment of vertical and horizontal signalling, reallocation and repositioning of parking spaces to provide the reduction of the speed, and enlargement of sidewalks with the creation of small areas of coexistence for pedestrians with the insertion of urban furniture. Beyond the immediate mobility related issues, Belo Horizonte also recognises these measures as an opportunity to revitalise the downtown area and enhance the quality of life by creating pedestrian streets and giving the space used for cars back to the people.

In terms of capacity building, Urban Pathways involved Belo Horizonte in webinars on [e-scooters](#), [tactical urbanism](#), [public space interventions](#), [AQ sensors](#), etc. Urban Pathways also supported the participation of Belo Horizonte in the Transport and Climate Change Week 2018 and 2022 (Berlin), Sustainable Urban Infrastructure Forum (Quito), International Conference on Climate Action 2019 - ICCA (Heidelberg), a site visit to Santiago de Chile (2020), among others. Thus, Urban Pathways would like to continue supporting Belo Horizonte in the development of active mobility projects, awareness raising and cross-sectorial integration related to climate change mitigation.

Support from the Partnership

Technical Assistance: Pilot Project development

Funded by: BMUV through the International Climate Initiative (IKI), WRI Brasil, TUMI

Funding amount: EUR 100,000

Implemented by: Wuppertal Institute and UN-Habitat through the project Urban Pathways

Local counterpart: Belo Horizonte Transport and Traffic Company (BH-TRANS)

Supported Activities:

- Pilot project financing and implementation
- Capacity building, training and participation in international fora
- Assistance in the development of project proposals for donors

Status of implementation

Project start: 2017

Expected project completion: 2022

Completed outputs:

- Pilot project implementation of Zone 30 in Confisco neighbourhood
- Pilot project implementation of EcoZone in Santa Tereza neighborhood
- Capacity building and webinars on [e-scooters](#), [tactical urbanism](#), [public space interventions](#), [AQ sensors](#)

Highlights

Community involvement and stakeholder participation is key for implementation success

Understanding that the transition to a sustainable urban development is not only about infrastructure, but that a mindset change plays a huge role, and the involvement of the community in these projects is key. The pilot projects in Belo Horizonte worked with participatory methodologies to increase support for sustainable mobility modes, transform public spaces, promote clean streets and waste reduction and separation. Their approach seeks to empower neighbours to have an impact in the change in their community, raise awareness and increase the collective knowledge on sustainable urban development and environmental issues.

Introduction of EcoZones: new ideas, new approaches

The “EcoZona” intervention is an evolving concept put together by the Urban Pathways (UP) team, that supports small, low-cost projects that focus on neighbourhoods as the geographical scale. An intersectoral approach is applied, addressing simultaneously mobility and waste issues through a series of activities that include tactical urbanism, awareness-raising, community participation and impact assessment. The development of a pilot EcoZone that merges the concepts of Low-Emission Zone (LEZ) and Zero Waste could become a precedent for Belo Horizonte that could easily be replicated in other areas of the city and thus contribute significantly to GHG emissions reductions from the transport and waste sectors.