ICLEI projects in Kigali: combining mitigation and resilience

In 2020, Rwanda was the first among the Least Developed Countries (LDC) group to renew its Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC). As part of its mandate to implement national policies on its territory, especially the commitment of a 38% reduction in GHG emissions compared to BAU in 2030, the City of Kigali developed an Integrated Climate Action and Low Emission Development Plan (2021) thanks to the support of the Urban-LEDS II project.

The Integrated Climate Action and Low Emission Development Plan is based on the Greenhouse Gas Inventory (GHGI) and the Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) conducted also through Urban-LEDS II.

The GHGI showed that total GHG emissions for the City of Kigali in 2017 from stationary sources, generation of electricity supplied to the grid, transportation and waste are estimated at 917 ktCO2e, with a further 583 ktCO2e estimated to be generated from livestock and land.

The CRVA was carried out in line with the requirements included in the ICLEI's GreenClimateCities (GCC) Programme, which offers cities a proven process methodology for walking step-by-step toward climate neutrality, as well as the GCoM Reporting Framework. This was the first initiative of its kind at the local level that used desktop research, interviews with officials, and workshops with stakeholders from each of the communities, using a Participatory Vulnerability Assessment approach to identify the hazards that they face, the impacts they encounter, and the sectors that they deem to be most affected by the hazards.

Besides, the Urban-LEDS II project enabled concrete actions in Kigali to reduce its climate impact and increase its resilience. Here are descriptions of two of them.

Upgrading healthcare centres as part of green recovery

During early 2021, the Urban-LEDS II project designed two of its pilot projects on improving the water and electricity access at two healthcare centres in the City of Kigali and the District of Muhanga.

The pilot projects provided the following at each health centre:

- **Water**: Rainwater harvesting tanks with solar-powered pumps created an integrated rainwater harvesting system connected to the existing pipes.
- **Energy**: A range of efficient lighting solutions, including indoor and outdoor energy-efficient bulbs with motion sensors, and solar streetlights decrease the operational costs usually associated with energy supply. High-pressure 300 litre solar hot water geysers ensure the new water supply can also be heated for day-to-day use in the healthcare centre.
- **Evidence-based monitoring**: The project installed water and energy metres to monitor the resource needs and usage and to enable the health centres and technicians to track the impact of the project. The data can also be used to bolster future applications for climate finance to scale these projects.

- **Training**: Technicians from the centres received training on maintenance of all of the installations, as well as how to read the metre for effective monitoring and communication of electricity and water usage.

To upscale and replicate this work other health centres and District hospitals across Rwanda, the project in Muhanga has been submitted to the Transformative Actions Programme (TAP).

Peer to peer exchange

Key training and peer to peer exchanges were organized for Kigali as part of Urban-LEDS II:

- One training per month for all Rwanda cities and the National Planning Advisory Group (NPAG) members was conducted from July to November 2020. These virtual training sessions covered the topics of GHG emissions inventory, data collection and climate risk and vulnerability data collection.
- In addition, three training sessions: one on risk and vulnerability assessments and two on climate finance were hosted for Kigali officials in October and November 2020.
- During ICLEI’s Daring Cities 2020, leaders of Kigali participated as high level speakers at various sessions, as well as other representatives of government of Rwanda.