PREPARATION & ONBOARDING

WORKING GROUPS & OUTREACH

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GERMANY
19 – 22 NOV
2019

MEXICO
18 – 21 FEB
2020

Global Solutions Summit

ITALY
29 JUN – 2 JUL
2020

# The Solutions Lab
## Scaling for Sustainable Infrastructure

### Insight Report 2
### Mexico City, Mexico

The second face-to-face meeting of The Solutions Lab on Sustainable Infrastructure took place in Mexico City on 18–21 February 2020. It focused on conducting a 'deep dive' into the challenges on Sustainable Infrastructure identified within the 1st module as well as to provide a space for the participants to further develop the interventions they had been working on since Module 1 in November 2019. Mexico City was selected as suitable venue for the event due to the country's commitment to Agenda 2030 and the Paris Climate Agreement and its efforts to address climate change.



The Inter-American Development Bank (IDB) was implementing partner and Co-Host for this event. IDB's commitment stemmed from its interest in pushing the agenda for sustainable infrastructure, its focus on enabling bankable projects of sustainable infrastructure, and its operational experience in the region, specifically in Brazil, Mexico, Peru and Colombia. IDB outlined aspects that were of importance to them: a common definition of sustainable infrastructure; a better understanding of the granularity and nuances within the system; and a user focused solution development approach. GIZ's program Emerging Markets Sustainability Dialogues (EMSD) focused on "How can we ensure that people – e.g. infrastructure projects within GIZ portfolio - can incorporate the found results into their day-to-day work?"



Participants presented short summaries of the work they had conducted since module 1 followed by feedback from the entire lab community and in-depth discussions in the workstreams. The objective was to advance the process outputs from idea stage into tangible products.

In addition to an external input from BlackRock there were discussions around integrating sustainability at project and pipeline level, about gender mainstreaming, upstreaming and about the outreach strategy for the lab.

The lab discussion on upstream planning focused on interventions that would enable scaling of sustainable infrastructure. Other parts were on the question of how to reflect the output in the upcoming sounding boards, link it to potential projects and ensure its insights are reflected in the T20 Policy brief on multilevel governance.

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EMSD EMERGING MARKET SUSTAINABILITY DIALOGUES

IDB

The discussion on the narrative, vision and joint product of the Solutions Lab focused on determining how to communicate the value of the lab to an external audience while ensuring that the shared values that brought lab participants together were documented. Participants challenges the status quo: "Do we need to work on a narrative and vision on two different levels; i.e. (1) narrative of The Solutions Lab (what is our USP), (2) what is our vision for SI?"

The discussion on innovation space enabled participants to deepen the topics of solution development, ownership and value delivery, about the business model for the SI app, which specific market failure it is trying to solve as well as to include further stakeholders such as the voices of indigenous systems, rural environments as well as from the younger generation of kids and students as part of the future.

A collection of popular questions included the rise of costs once you start considering biodiversity in infrastructure, how to achieve mobility for all, planning using agent-based modelling for people as opposed to vehicles and how to address data systems and standardization around projects and their ESG impacts by upstreaming, cross-linking transport to water/sanitation/education as well as defining a framework of assessing what makes an infra asset sustainable.

The participants also looked at the common threads for SI (collaborative approach to SI, the need to move past concepts and frameworks towards implementation and problem solving, disaggregated data), the synergies among the workstreams (the need to connect upstream planning and project scale, more sustainable project scale investments, upstream planning agent based modelling for assessment of service needs including gender

disaggregation, assessment of ecological regeneration needs and benefits, as well as a focus on infrastructure lifecycle and achieving sustainable solutions) and the uniqueness of this Lab (Showing the value of embracing the full infrastructure lifecycle and addressing growing risks, leaving no one behind for the first time, collaboratory, outline expenditure plan from Roadmap2030, prioritization of needs, analyzing country good case practices in case studies).

Towards the end of the module it was explored which key messages to take from the Lab to the upcoming sounding board of mayors in Oaxaca and decided for:

a) implementation of a collaborative regional approach to improve efficiency of service support infrastructure-water, energy, waste, communications and agriculture production improvement and soil enhancement

b) how to approach communities respecting indigenous knowledge

c) how to focus investment magnitudes per year for different sectors to deliver SDGs by 2030 and

d) disaster risk reduction. The Lab Community decided to share in Oaxaca about approaches in India (village Sunrise program) and Ghana (collaboratory and use of data at www.resiliencebrokers.org)



More impressions and information about the Lab:

www.we-do-change.org/the-action/the-solutions-lab-scaling-for-sustainable-infrastructure

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