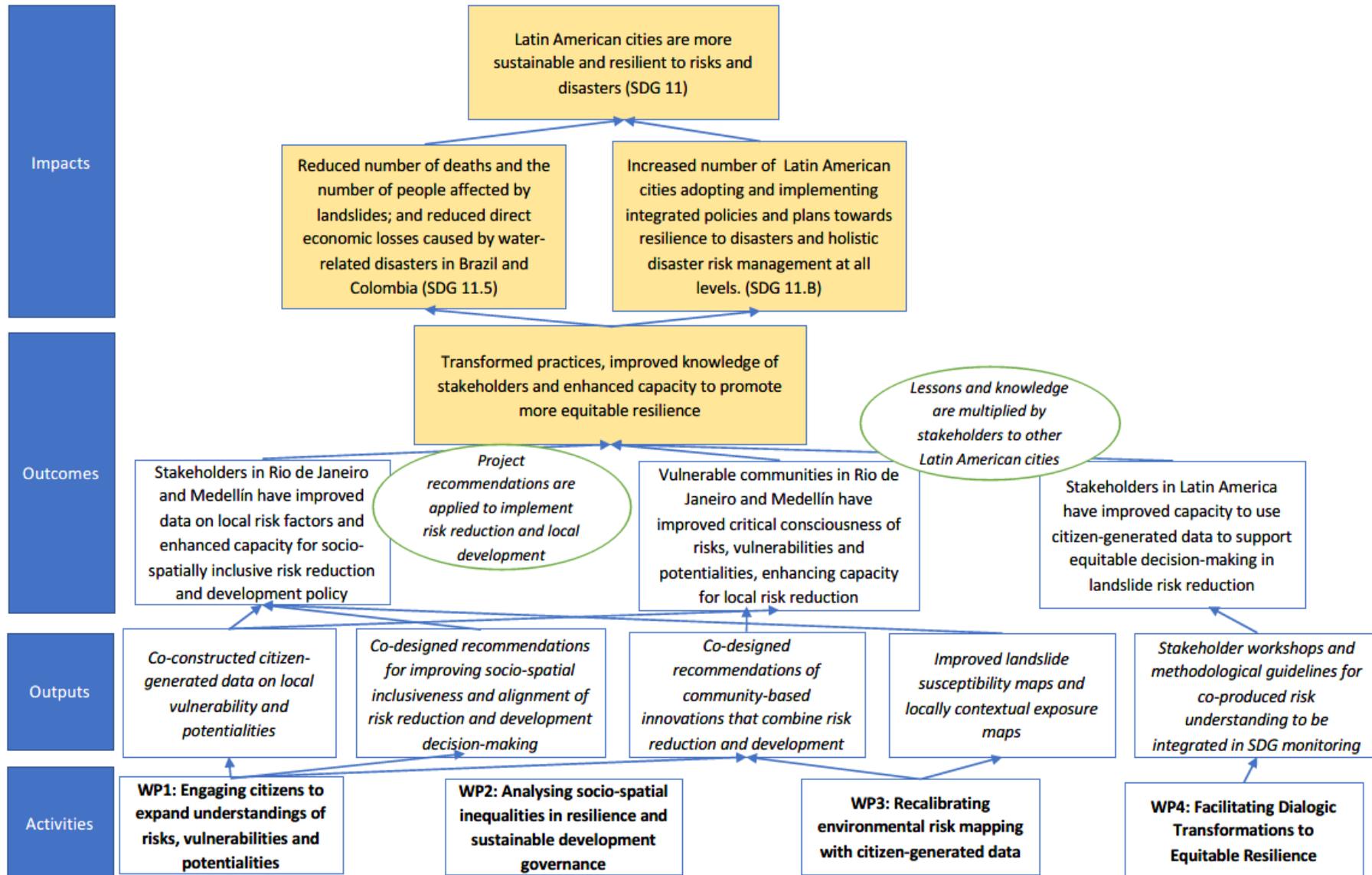


# URBE Latam Theory of Change at Project Proposal Stage (UKRI GCRF)



### **URBE Latam – brief outline of project**

URBE Latam seeks to expand and refine the understanding of risks, vulnerabilities and potentialities associated with rain-related geohazards in Latin America. The project aims to rethink how environmental risk data is produced, how it is used, and how it might enable transformations that close the implementation gap in delivering equitable resilience for marginalised communities. The project will be based on two case studies focusing on specific areas of Rio Janeiro, Brazil and Medellín, Colombia; however, the findings and methods developed during the research will be widely transferable to other places and environmental contexts.

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This overarching goal will be achieved through the pursuit of five main objectives:

1. Dialogically engage citizens in marginalised communities to promote awareness and generate data about local vulnerabilities and potentialities.
2. Develop a digital platform and mobile app that will underpin the processing and analysis of the data produced by the citizen engagement programme.
3. Understand the ways in which local government authorities, and other agencies involved in the management of environmental risk, currently collect and monitor data to enhance resilience.
4. Integrate the new forms citizen-generated data with conventional data sources to recalibrate risk management practices, in ways that enable pathways for transition to sustainable development whilst also supporting more equitable decision-making and policy-making on development and resilience.
5. Develop and promote communication and knowledge exchange between stakeholders of various agencies - both governmental and non-governmental - that are currently working to improve local development of marginalised neighbourhoods in these major Latin American cities and their resilience to rain-related geohazards.

### **Pathways to Impact – Theory of Change**

The intended outcomes and impacts of URBE Latam are summarised in the diagrammatic Theory of Change in the figure above. The central premise of this project is that equitable resilience can only be achieved with the empowerment of residents of disaster-prone urban poor neighbourhoods through the co-production of enhanced, context-specific understandings of the risks that they face, and moreover, the integration of the resulting data into decision-making procedures in disaster risk reduction and sustainable development monitoring. This will be enabled by the main project outputs:

- A deeper and far more nuanced understanding of the local risk factors and potentialities of vulnerable neighbourhoods gained from citizen-generated data (WP1)
- Co-designed recommendations to improve the socio-spatial inclusiveness of resilience and sustainable development governance at the institutional level through transformed data practices (WP1 and WP2)
- Co-designed recommendations of community-based strategies that combine risk reduction and development (WP1 and WP3)

- Improved landslide susceptibility maps and locally contextualised exposure maps (WP3)
- Methodological guidelines for co-produced risk understandings to be integrated into SDG monitoring (WP4).

The process of advancing these outputs will further enable capacity development in local communities and the governments of Rio de Janeiro and Medellín; a process which will be augmented by improving the awareness of stakeholders in other Latin American cities and countries through broader dissemination.

As an overarching outcome, the project will enable the transformation of practices, improve knowledge among a diverse range of stakeholders and enhance capacity to promote equitable resilience. The expected long-term impact of this outcome is a contribution towards the targets of: reducing the number of deaths and people affected by water-related disasters and reducing direct economic losses caused (SDG 11.5); and increasing the number of cities and human settlements adopting integrated policies and plans towards resilience to disasters and holistic disaster risk management (SDG 11.B).

This project was conceived so that the intended transformative impact is embedded by design in its structure and activities. To this end, key stakeholders and end-users are directly involved in the co-production of methods and outputs of work packages WP1, WP2 and WP3. Furthermore, the project contains one work package (WP4) which is expressly intended to promote dialogue and accelerate knowledge exchange to transform practices and perceptions of key stakeholders based on the results achieved.