One Metropolis, two scenarios.
Sustainable Urban Development Contradictions in the Metropolitan Area of Lima.

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Key Findings

- Urban planning unawareness, and fragmented governance have led to distrust at the metropolitan level diminishing its urban development towards sustainable development.

- Integrated planning and collaborative governance with stakeholders at the local level, enabled the strengthening of resilience with risk mitigation in informal urban settlements.

- A collective approach could become a collective power for sustainable urban development growth because new transformations call for new behaviors.
Introduction: Research Context

- **Unprecedented growth** in urbanization and population in cities.
- Rise of the effects of natural disasters due to **climate change**.
- **Sustainable development** can prevent environmental and social disasters.
- The aim of making sustainable cities is very **contradictory in the global picture**.

**LATIN-AMERICAN REGION**

- Still facing **bigger challenges for urban-territorial policies** across levels of governance.
- **Social inequalities and the weak urban policy elaboration**.

**PERU**

- One of the five countries that report **less than 20%** of the official **SDG indicators** in 2019.
- Accelerated urbanization has been taking place through the **informal and illegal occupation of the territory**.
- It has generated poverty belts in urban peripheries equivalent to **36.1% of the urban population** (World Bank, 2015).
MAIN PROBLEM

- Unplanned, unsafe, and inequitable city (García Q. et al., 2015).
- Absence of policies and legal framework for development and planning at the national level.
- Outdated metropolitan urban planning instruments for the last twenty years.
- 70% of informal housing construction in Peru (Ministerio de Vivienda, 2016b).
- Three main challenges: territorial fragmentation, institutional vulnerability, and multiple hazard exposition.

RESEARCH AIMS

- Capture the nature and trajectory of sustainable development contradictions.
- Constitute one of the first approaches due to limited existing research in urban planning in Lima city.
Research Approach

The need for sustainable urban development.
Role of governments.
Analysis of the 'State of the City in Lima' in 2015.
The Independence District case study analysis.
Study Area

METROPOLITAN AREA OF LIMA

50% of the urban population of the country.

NATIONAL METROPOLIS

TERRITORIAL ORGANIZATION

Lima Centre
North Lima
South Lima
East Lima

Urban Core
Informal urban settlements with a lack of social infrastructures.

POLITICAL-ADMINISTRATIVE STRUCTURE

43 District Municipalities

Figure 2. Metropolitan Area of Lima’s Location, and Territorial Administration. Source: Author archive.
Research Results from the two scenarios

**METROPOLITAN LEVEL**

The 'State of the City in Lima' developed by the UN in 2015.

Provision of urban governance and planning recommendations oriented to sustainable urban development.

**LOCAL LEVEL**

Independence Municipality case study.

‘Disaster Risk Reduction Program on Vulnerable Areas’ funded by USAID/OFDA from 2014-2018.
Lack of drivers and articulated urban policy for more integrated governance.

Weak coordination mechanisms with the 43 local municipalities.

Overlapping of powers and functions due to uncleared roles.

Stagnation of institutional capabilities in urban development.

Unawareness of urban planning, and the absence of suitable and specialized professionals on the subject.

Bureaucratic barriers and self-interests for excluding interdisciplinary professionals.

Decreasing opportunity to generate richness knowledge with stakeholders.

The enhancement of institutional capabilities recommendation.

Figure 3. Urban Governance in the Metropolitan Area of Lima in Urban Development. Source: Author’s perception.
• The latest attempt for the Lima Metropolitan Area and El Callao has been disapproved and paralyzed in 2015.
• Unclear explanation to paralyze this process to focus on other projects.
• Distrust of political processes.
• Vulnerability on political periods.
• Political decision continuity depends on the following elected official’s will.

URBAN PLANNING

Elaboration of the Lima and Callao Metropolitan Plan for the next 20 years recommendation.

• The new plan is focused on land regulation and management.
• It aims to consider the social, economic, and environmental dimensions through five strategic guidelines.
• Contradictions to achieve sustainable development:
  1. It continues to manage its territory without coordination with El Callao.
  2. The participation and collaboration of other stakeholders (academia, interdisciplinary professionals, and NGOs) are not yet included.
  3. There is not a clear approach to how to articulate the new plan with international guidelines.
  4. Discussions on forums have been limited.
Independence District is at the North Lima sector. Characterized by informal urban settlements. The risk areas represent 34% of the occupied area. 44% of the total population with a High-risk level.
• Local democracy, transparency, and accountability.
• Capacity building under the approach of empowering citizens.
• Horizontal relationships for the knowledge interchange.
• Improved coordination between local government and community on the elaboration, implementation, and management of the urban plan.
• Generation of empathy and trust.
• The existence of alliances with diverse stakeholders.

Figure 5. Urban Governance in the Independence Municipality in Urban Development. Source: Author’s perception.
The PDU 2014-2024 promotes the three components for sustainable development. However, is still under evaluation since 2018.

Development of Land-Use Planning proposal based on vulnerability and risk studies.

The methodology of participative sustainable planning has allowed an integrative and participatory decision-making process.

Public participation workshops as a mechanism for the validation of the results on the diagnosis and the proposals.

Implementation and monitoring of each component of the Disaster Risk Reduction strategy.

Urban Afforestation on the slopes to impede urban expansion and as a protection of landslides.

Community considered as active actors.
Conclusions

- The nature of this contradiction is related to urban planning unawareness and fragmented governance without continuity that leads to an uncertain trajectory.
- Sustainable urban development needs planning, developing, and managing metropolitan regions through significant changes.
- The Metropolitan Municipality of Lima will only get closer to this goal if all stakeholders leave aside individualism to achieve collaborative governance.
- We are all builders for sustainable development.
- Only a collective approach could become a collective power for sustainable urban development growth because new transformations call for new behaviors.

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<thead>
<tr>
<th>METROPOLITAN LEVEL</th>
<th>URBAN GOVERNANCE</th>
<th>URBAN PLANNING</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Partial participatory planning.</td>
<td>Lack of valid Metropolitan Development Plan for 20 years.</td>
<td>Recent elaboration of the new Metropolitan Development Plan.</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>LOCAL LEVEL</th>
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</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Citizens as actors.</td>
<td>Stakeholders participation.</td>
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