INTERMEDIARY CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE

Rural-Urban Linkages Seminar in preparation of the 9th Africultures Summit

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WHY INTERMEDIARY CITIES IN DEVELOPING COUNTRIES MATTER FOR CLIMATE CHANGE?

- Pillar of urbanization process
- Dynamic and heterogenous agglomerations
- Their structural characteristics and functions makes them particularly vulnerable to climate shocks
- Increasingly important actors for mitigating GHG emissions
How does climate change affect ICs?

IC’s growth patterns, and their intermediation role, exposes them to the compounded effects of climate change...

Direct effects
- Heatwaves
- Water stress and droughts
- Flooding and storms
- Sea level rise

... further exacerbated by
- UHI
- Pollution

Indirect effects
- Disruption in food-systems
- Climate-induced migration
- Connectivity
Direct effects of climate are not the same within the urban system

Source: GHS Urban Centre Database, 2015

Source: GHS Urban Centre Database, years: 1990, 2000, and 2015
Indirect effects of climate change

Effects of climate shocks
- Food insecurity, increased immigration, displaced labour supply, demand for services, etc.
- Loss and damage in infrastructure, disruptions of food supply chains, food waste
- Loss in crop, assets, livelihoods and incomes; poverty trap; soil degradation

Activities in the R-U space
- Metro city
  - Intermediary City
    - Goods, services, labour
    - Processing, retailing, marketing, industries, high value-added goods, immigration
    - Storage, wholesaling and processing of agri-products; farming and off-farm activities; migration
  - Peri-urban
    - Goods, services, production inputs, labour migration
    - Agri-inputs, seasonal migration
    - Farm production, out-migration
  - Rural
    - Agri-goods, services and labour migration

Source: Made by the authors
How can ICs help to address climate change?

Source: GHS Urban Centre Database, years: 1990, 2000, and 2015
FINAL REMARKS

- High levels of heterogeneity among ICS
- Take a dynamic approach to ICs
- Mitigation policy a pending agenda
- Being small(er) could be an opportunity
THANK YOU

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