



LIMA

Historical Center
Pedestrian Zone

LIMA HISTORICAL CENTER: INTRODUCING A PEDESTRIAN ZONE



Located at the heart of the city, Lima historical center is a local cultural and economic neighborhood, hosting nearly 20,000 businesses. Lima is working to improve the quality of its streets for residents, work commuters, shoppers and tourists, to conciliate both the cultural legacy, dynamism of the modern city, in a healthy environment. In March 2019, Lima introduced pilot pedestrian streets in a part of the historical center. The pedestrianization program is part of the Lima's Historic Center Master Plan 2019-2029 with a view to 2035 and approved by Ordinance 2194. This report explores the drivers for action and the potential health benefits promoted by the introduction of the pedestrian streets.

LIMA PEDESTRIAN ZONE

60% LESS CAR TRAFFIC

23% MORE PEDESTRIANS

IMPROVED CULTURAL ATTRACTIVENESS

DRIVERS FOR ACTION

57.5% ADULTS OVERWEIGHT OR OBESE

1,660 PREMATURE DEATHS EACH YEAR DUE TO PM_{2.5} LEVELS

40% GHG EMISSIONS FROM TRANSPORT

Only 15% of adolescents in Peru currently get the recommended amount of weekly physical activity.

57.5% adults are obese or overweight. 5.9% are diabetic, and 13.7% have high blood pressure, a leading indicator of future health issues.¹

In Lima, the annual average is 2.8 times higher than the WHO recommended value (10 µg/m³), indicating that people are exposed to harmful levels of air pollution. In Lima, about 1,660 premature deaths every year are attributable to the current PM_{2.5} levels.²

Lima's transport sector represents one of the greatest contribution to greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions, accounting for 40% of the total Scope 2.³

Transport also accounts for 58% of PM_{2.5} concentration in the city, representing the main source of air pollution.

¹ WHO PAHO (2019) *Health Information Platform for the Americas*. International Diabetes Foundation (2019) *Keyfacts Peru*.

² Comision Multisectorial para la gestion de la iniciativa del aire limpio para Lima y Callao (2018) *Diagnóstico de la Gestión de la Calidad Ambiental del Aire de Lima y Callao*.

³ *C40 Cities (2019) Global Protocol for Community-scale GHG Emission Inventories (GPC)*.

The benefits

C40 has undertaken cutting-edge research, to measure the air quality and health benefits of active mobility and climate action. With support from C40, the city analysed the social impacts of introducing pedestrian streets in the historic center.

The research shows that the benefits would be massive for the commuters and residents' health. Due to the improved street environment, an increase of 43% pedestrians was noted in the center. Physical activity reduces the risk of mental and physical illnesses and increases life expectancy.

Commuters for work, walking twice 20 minutes a day for example, could see their life expectancy increase by a year. The improved air quality, coming from the reduced car traffic, are part of the city's bigger plan towards a healthier and more liveable environment.



See the methodology on active mobility benefits [here](#), and the methodology on air quality impact [here](#). To learn more, see [C40 Benefits page](#).

