The global economy’s middle class is expected to more than double between 2009 and 2030. Formerly poor populations will have significantly larger purchasing power leading to greater mobility and access to information and communication technologies.

By 2030, the world is projected to have 41 mega-cities each with 10 million habitants or more. Their growth will shift over time towards Africa and Asia.

Over two thirds of emerging and poor countries, encompassing 86% of the population of the developing world, will experience growing inequalities.

With the rise of new power brokers like the C40 – a network of MEGA cities who are taking on 405 of the Paris Agendas Climate goals – without National Governments and without legislation – are cities becoming such important players that we should start approaching them in the same way we approach national governments?

With a shift of growing middle classes burgeoning in Asia, what impacts does this have on our NSs in that region and on programs?

With the significant increase in urban populations globally, what impact does this have on disaster risk reduction within urban environments, including legislative frameworks?

How would we shift our focus on the ‘new poor’, moving from poverty in impoverished, rural contexts to poverty in more urban environments?