



KEY MESSAGES

Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience

— LUXOR, EGYPT —

Urban Climate Adaptation and Resilience

- The fight against climate change presents the single biggest threat to sustainable development. The fight will be won or lost in cities and towns. The future of the planet depends on the collective action of governments, cities and communities.
- Cities are on the front line of climate change impact and must be at the heart of climate action. We need to inspire local climate action based on scientific research and business engagement.
- The least well off in cities and communities will bear the brunt of climate change in the form of floods, landslides and extreme heat. There are more than 1 billion people living in informal settlements with 70 per cent highly vulnerable to climate change --a poverty multiplier that will trap the poor further without a pro-poor approach to planning, building and managing cities.
- More than half a billion urban residents already face rising sea levels and more frequent or severe storms. By mid-century more than 3.3 billion urban residents could be at risk from severe climate impacts.
- At least 136 megacities will be affected by flooding in the next two decades. If no mitigating steps are taken, coastal flooding alone will cause damage totaling USD 1 trillion annually by the year 2050.
- Extreme weather, flooding, heat and water stress is likely to increase sudden migration to cities where 60 percent of migrants are already hosted. The influx of new migrants in already stressed cities will add to the complexities of urban planning, management and governance.
- Local and national governments must focus on resilience building for the urban poor with including land rights, access to services, inclusion in National Determined Contributions and National Adaptation plans.
- The health and economic impacts of COVID-19, climate change, and inequality are linked. COVID-19 recovery is an opportunity to rethink urban living. UN-Habitat's Report on **Cities and Pandemics: Towards a more just, green and healthy future** recommends city leaders help build a new urban economy that reduces disaster risk and addresses climate change.
- Building resilience to the climate crisis can boost economies and make cities healthier and better places to live and work.