

GIZ's Urban Climate Resilience Agenda

Together for the Cities We Want

A Case for Action

Cities are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Already, 70% of urban areas are affected by or at risk of climate change effects such as ever-rising temperatures and varying rainfall patterns. By 2050, several billion urban dwellers will be affected.

Typical urban features such as a high population and building density, surface sealing, and a lack of green space make cities vulnerable to external shocks, such as floods, landslides, and disease outbreaks, as well as stresses, such as urban heat island effects and water shortages. By 2050, one-third of all major cities worldwide could exhaust their current water resources (IPCC AR6 WGII). Inhabitants of informal settlements are particularly vulnerable – they often live in hazard-prone areas, such as steep slopes, coastal and river floodplains. At the same time, resilience efforts are often focused on metro cities,

while small- and medium-sized cities receive less attention. While dealing with the environmental effects of climate change, cities are also heavily challenged by socio-economic and technical deficiencies. Lack of financial resources as well as limited technical and institutional capacities to strengthen resilience and implement adaptation actions, hinder climate action, especially in developing countries.

Therefore, municipal governments need to take medium- & long-term action – including investments – to build climate resilience and develop capacities to react to already existing as well as unpredictable climate events. To achieve this, most countries mention human habitats and settlements, including urban areas, as priority areas in their NDCs. Despite the challenges, climate-sensitive urban development also presents cities with enormous opportunities.

GIZ's urban resilience projects across the globe



German Climate and Development Efforts

On behalf of the German Government, GIZ works with strategically important partners for urban resilience, such as Resilient Cities Network, ICLEI, Cities Alliance, and C40 to support projects on urban climate resilience in partner countries in Asia, Africa, and Latin

America. GIZ's approaches range from identification of concrete urban climate risks, applying vulnerability and risk assessment tools, to the support of cities & communities in planning, developing & implementing the climate adaptation actions. This includes the

integration of climate change considerations in strategic urban and infrastructure planning and the implementation of concrete adaptation actions, such as nature-based solutions and emergency management. To further implement and scale-up

such measures, GIZ in cooperation with partners such as World Bank and EIB supports cities in accessing finance. Key-pillars of our work are policy advice, participatory planning, capacity development, and a focus on the vulnerable and urban-poor.

A Glance at Our Portfolio: Project Examples

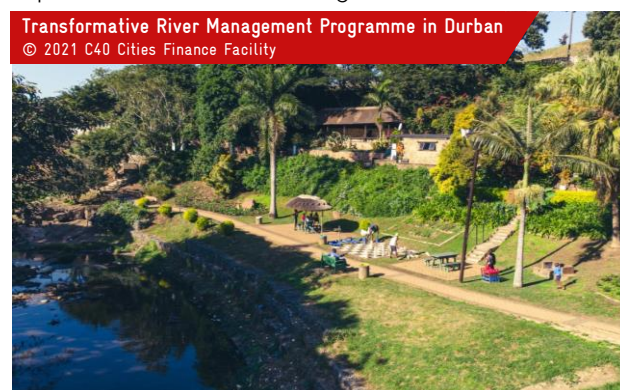
Urban-Act supports a transformation towards low-carbon and resilient urban development in Asia-Pacific. The project addresses enabling conditions at the country level and strengthens the capacities of cities for mainstreaming climate change into urban development. Cities are supported in setting up climate-sensitive urban development plans with underlying budgets. The project also fosters intergovernmental and city-to-city dialogue at a regional level.

The **Sustainable Medium Cities project in Ecuador** works on risk reduction, developing a digital early warning system for landslides in the city of Portoviejo. In the course of the COVID-19 pandemic, this system was expanded via a community-based app for coordination with local emergency services in informal, hard-to-reach settlements.

The **Resilient Cities Action Package (ReCAP21)** aimed to simultaneously increase urban pandemic response capacity and promote long-term climate resilience. In Rwanda, Mauritania and Bangladesh, action packages were identified in cooperation with the Resilient Cities Network (R-Cities), ICLEI and Cities Alliance and small-scale measures were promoted to make municipalities crisis-resistant in the short and long term.

CitiesAdapt is supporting secondary cities in Mexico and South Africa in climate-resilient urban planning and the implementation and scaling-up of concrete adaptation measures in selected disadvantaged neighbourhoods. The project aims to build long-term resilience through capacity development and mentoring, including training and collaboration with a mentor city.

The **C40 Cities Finance Facility (CFF)**, a multi-donor initiative funded by Germany, the United Kingdom, and France, strengthens cities' resilience to climate change by helping cities to prepare and link their climate infrastructure projects to finance. The CFF has supported urban adaptation projects in Dakar, Dar es Salaam and currently in Cape Town, Drakenstein, Medellín, and Salvador. In Durban, the CFF has supported the development of a city-wide business case for a Transformative River Management Programme. It aims to adapt the city's 7400 km of streams and rivers to the flooding, drought, and higher temperatures that can be expected from climate change.



Starting in December 2022, the regional project **Resilience Initiative Africa (RIA)** endeavours to support risk-informed development and integrated disaster risk management in urban areas throughout Africa. It will work closely together with the African Union Commission and UNDRR, and address partners at different levels, ranging from national ministries to informal settlements in selected partner cities. Particular attention is dedicated to the needs of women and people living with disabilities.

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