



URBAN COLLABORATION PLATFORM

2-4 JULY 2024 | SEOUL, SOUTH KOREA

Advancing Local Climate Actions in Cities





EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement has reaffirmed its commitment to scaling up concerted actions aimed at supporting vulnerable urban communities, particularly in the context of escalating climate change-related hazards. As urban areas increasingly confront the impacts of climate change—such as extreme weather events, flooding, and heatwaves—the need for strategic interventions that enhance urban resilience and sustainability has become paramount.

National Societies have made significant progress in urban climate resilience programming, utilizing successful strategies and lessons learned from past initiatives. These approaches are foundational for embedding resilience within urban communities, allowing them to respond proactively to climate-related risks.

Building urban resilience is a multifaceted endeavor and National Societies across various regions have tailored their strategies to meet unique local challenges and opportunities. These tailored approaches reflect the diverse contexts in which National Societies operate, showcasing their adaptability and responsiveness to local dynamics.

The RCRC Movement's emphasis on scaling up support for vulnerable urban communities highlights a critical response to the challenges posed by climate change. By leveraging successful urban climate resilience programming and adapting strategies to meet the evolving needs of urban populations, National Societies are making substantial strides toward building more resilient and sustainable urban environments. The commitment to collaboration, innovation, and community involvement will remain central to their efforts as they navigate the complexities of climate change and its impacts on urban living. Ultimately, the goal is to ensure that no community is left behind in the pursuit of a sustainable and equitable future.





The **Urban Collaboration Platform (UCP)** is an informal network that aims to support Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies to be better informed, better connected and better engaged in understanding and working in urban context. The platform has been led by the IFRC Secretariat and American Red Cross (ARC) since early 2016, with strong support from several National Societies (NSs), the RCRC Climate Centre and the Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC). The first output of the UCP process was the Urban Assessment Workshop hosted by the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen on 20-21 June, 2016. The participants of the workshop expressed a strong interest in expanding this kind of collaboration to other topics related to urban resilience and disaster risk reduction. Building on this momentum, and in cooperation with the Norwegian Red Cross, a second workshop was organized in Oslo in May 2017 to validate and strengthen the collaboration process and help advance RCRC knowledge and practical skills in urban resilience. Since then, the UCP has been hosted and held in Nairobi, Kenya in 2018, in Beirut, Lebanon in 2019, virtually in 2020 and 2021, and in Geneva, Switzerland in 2023.



CONFERENCE OBJECTIVES

For the conference this year, the Urban Collaboration Platform aims to contribute in reaching the targets set under the IFRC Strategic Plan 2021-2025:

- 250 million people are better protected from heat (the most ignored and rapidly rising climate risk) by 2025, in at least 150 cities and towns
- 50 coastal cities are supported to adapt to longer-term impacts of climate change, including sea level rise, by 2025
- 50 National Societies have shelter and urban strategies in place by 2025, which include city-level coordination, partnerships with development actors and actionable municipal contingency and response plans

To achieve the objectives, the conference will focus on providing National Societies with knowledge and skills to sustainably support vulnerable communities in carrying out innovative and localized urban resilience initiatives and activities through collaboration and partnership with city/municipal governments and stakeholders. Specific areas of discussion and sharing can include the following:

- Practical, easy-to-do local climate actions to address heatwaves, intense and frequent flooding, coastal city resilience
- Collaboration and partnership with city governments and stakeholders
- Engagement of National Societies in current initiatives with global partners such as MCR2030, ICLEI, and WWF
- Access to climate finance through IFRC's Global Climate Resilience Fund, the Green Climate Fund available to city governments, other climate resilience funds
- National Society readiness on different thematic areas to include urban volunteering, earthquake preparedness, epidemic preparedness, and working in FCV contexts



CONFERENCE DESIGN

URBAN TALKS



Four panel discussion sessions with resource speakers from National Societies, IFRC Reference Centres, UNDRR, ICLEI, Seoul Metropolitan Government, and other external partners.

Urban Talk 1

Words to Action: Shaping a Joint Multi-Stakeholder Urban and Climate Agenda

Urban Talk 2

Scaling Up and Scaling Deep: Effective Strategies from National Societies in Advancing Urban Climate Resilience Programming

Urban Talk 3

Informality and Urban Violence

Urban Talk 4

Strengthening Partnerships for Urban Resilience

URBAN HANGOUTS



This is a small group, breakout session where conference participants will have the space and opportunity to delve deeper into the Urban Talks topic and share their thoughts and ideas on a particular sub-topic assigned to them. This session will be facilitated by a designated UCP steering committee member and moderated by one of the resource speakers from the Urban Talks session.

AND PARTICIPATION



This is a marketplace-type session where National Societies are invited to do a poster presentation of an urban resilience program, project, or initiative and share lessons and good practices to the conference participants. 12 National Societies in three Urban Café sessions.



This is a similar marketplace-type session for IFRC Reference Centers to present urban resilience tools, games or innovations that they want to share with conference participants.

A half day field activity was done on the last day. Conference participants were brought to the Seoul Metropolitan Safety Center to observe the various trainings and awareness campaign of the city government.

SIDE EVENTS

Coastal City Resilience and Heat Action Project (COCHAP) Annual Team Meeting, 1 July 2024

Joint Regional Meeting, Community Resilience Community of Practice and Asia Pacific Urban Hub, 5 July 2024

Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance, Foundational Workshop for Fiji Red Cross and Philippine Red Cross, 8-10 July 2024

CONFERENCE OPENING



KIM Chul-soo

*President
Korean Red Cross*



Warm greetings everyone, I am Kim Chul-Soo, President of the Korean Red Cross.

First and foremost, I would like to express my sincere gratitude to all the distinguished guests for gracing this occasion with your presence. We truly appreciate you taking the time out of your busy schedules to be here.

In particular, I would like to acknowledge and thank Deputy Mayor Kim Byung-min, who is attending on behalf of Seoul Mayor Oh Se-hoon; Chairman Kim Hong-kyu of the Seoul Branch; artist Lee Seung-gi, who was appointed as the Climate Resilience Ambassador last year; Ambassador Na Seung-yeon, who is hosting the event; and Mr. Xavier, Under Secretary General of IFRC, who is participating via video, along with Joy Singhal, Regional Head of Health, Disasters, Climate and Crises at IFRC Asia-Pacific Regional Office. I also extend my gratitude to representatives from partner organizations such as UNDRR, ICLEI, Korea House, and Maersk, as well as the global Red Cross family. It is a great pleasure to meet you all.

Today, we have gathered to address the significant issues of climate change and urbanization through the Urban Cooperation Platform Conference. Climate change is now deeply affecting all aspects of our lives, economy, and society. Urban areas, in particular, are bearing the burden of these impacts, with rapid urbanization exacerbating issues such as poverty, inequality, poor infrastructure, pollution, and natural disasters.

We can no longer ignore the phenomenon of global overheating. Practical measures to adapt to the climate crisis within urban settings are essential. Countries must not only provide infrastructure and public goods to prevent climate disasters but also collaborate with the private sector to develop and implement technologies that can predict and respond to climate change early on. Both central and local governments should actively consider policy, institutional, and economic measures to ensure buildings within cities are climate-resilient.

A successful climate adaptation program requires establishing a framework for effective adaptation planning at the national level. Ultimately, the goal is to protect local residents from the adverse effects of climate change, safeguard the environment, and achieve sustainable development. South Korea has learned valuable lessons from the severe climate crises, such as the heavy rainfall in Gangnam in 2022 and the flooding of the Osong underground tunnel. As a nation that achieved the 'Miracle on the Han River', we have various experiences, including green growth, to draw upon. The Korean Red Cross will actively leverage these experiences to take a leading role in climate crisis response activities.

Today's gathering provides an opportunity for experts from various organizations to reaffirm the urgency of the climate crisis and the importance of global solidarity and cooperation in concretizing the vision of successful urban climate resilience programs.

I hope this will pave the way for collaborative approaches to implement small, practical programs. Let us strive to realize diverse practical solutions together with the Red Cross and urban communities.

Thank you.

CEREMONY MESSAGES

Esteemed colleagues,

On behalf of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), I warmly welcome you to the 2024 Urban Collaboration Platform.

I extend my gratitude to the National Red Cross Society of the Republic of Korea for hosting this conference in Seoul, marking its first occurrence in the Asia Pacific Region. Additionally, I commend the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre (APDRC) for its support. Our recent memorandum of understanding with APDRC, establishing the first IFRC Reference Centre in Asia Pacific, significantly enhances our capacity to build resilience in the region.

Urbanization and climate change are critical global trends. While the Americas and Europe are already urbanized to 75%, Asia and Africa are the most rapidly urbanizing regions.

Recent extreme weather events, such as record-breaking heat waves in South and Southeast Asia, and devastating floods in Eastern Africa, the Americas, and Asia, underscore the urgency of our mission. These events, largely driven by climate change, have prompted the IFRC and USAID to call for global action to prepare for and mitigate the impacts of extreme heat and other climate-related disasters.

Urban areas are also more vulnerable to pandemics, earthquakes, and violence. Our Movement is fully cognizant of these rapidly growing challenges and conscious about the role we can play in saving lives, alleviating suffering and building the resilience of urban communities at risk.

Therefore, the 2022 Council of Delegates adopted the Resolution on **Strengthening Urban Community Resilience**.

As called for in this Resolution, a set of globally applicable Principles of Action are currently being developed through 5 thematic Movement Urban Resilience Working Groups. I urge you to actively **engage in** and **contribute** to this process from your own experiences to shape the future of our urban action together.

The 2024 Urban Collaboration Platform emphasizes the need for rapid and collective action to address climate change impact on vulnerable urban populations. We need to

- Increase investment in sustainable, environmentally responsible approaches
- Engage policymakers to promote climate change mitigation and adaptation
- Scale up climate-smart initiatives to strengthen urban resilience

I encourage all National Society representatives to engage proactively with their governments, especially at municipal level, to accelerate local climate actions and support urban communities in reducing disaster risks.

You are uniquely positioned to advocate for the most marginalized and vulnerable urban communities, including migrants and displaced people to ensure their voices are heard and to lay the foundations of strategic partnerships that will enable true transformative action.

The experiences you bring to this Conference and your insights are vital for our collective progress. I invite you to make the most of these few days together to engage, network, collaborate, inspire, and learn from each other to enhance our capacities in strengthening urban community resilience.

Thank you.



XAVIER Castellanos

*Undersecretary General
National Society Development
and Operations Coordination
IFRC*



CONFERENCE OPENING



JOY Singhal

*Regional Head
Health, Disasters,
Climate and Crises
IFRC Asia Pacific Region*



Mr. Kim Chul-Soo, President of the Korean Red Cross, Ms. Jeong Chae-young, Vice President of the Korean Red Cross, Mr. Park Jong-Sul, Secretary General, of the Korean Red Cross, Mr. Kim Byung-min, Deputy Mayor of Political Affairs of Seoul, Mr. Lee Seung-gi, Climate Resilience Ambassador of Korean Red Cross, Colleagues from the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement, guests, ladies and gentlemen, good morning.

This week we gather here in Seoul, Korea for the sixth edition of the Urban Collaboration Platform Conference.

I want to extend our deepest gratitude to the Korean Red Cross, the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre and to the city of Seoul, for hosting this annual event that provides National Societies and partner organizations the opportunity to exchange good practices and valuable learnings from their respective urban resilience programs.

This year's conference theme, Advancing Local Climate Actions in Cities, cannot be timelier and more relevant for the whole Red Cross Red Crescent Network and the communities we serve. As we embark on various initiatives and forge partnerships, the calls for urgent climate action, especially at the local level, are getting stronger and more intense.

The Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies have an important role protecting and saving lives. But also supporting National and local governments the preparing and updating appropriate climate policies, strategies and plans to accelerate climate action and advocate for incremental climate finance.

As our Under Secretary General highlighted, the RCRC Movement is committed to scaling up our efforts to strengthen resilience of urban communities. All NS are invited to contribute to this effort by joining the Movement Urban Resilience Working Groups.

Strengthening resilience includes minimizing exposure to hazards, reducing risks and vulnerabilities as well as increasing preparedness, self-help and other social support systems.

The Ha Noi Call for Action that was developed by Asia Pacific National Societies during the recent Regional Conference in Vietnam and the council of Delegates Resolution reflect the need for urgent and ambitious climate action and the importance of scaling up early warning systems and anticipatory action and establishing partnerships and collaborations with other actors to strengthen disaster management and coordination mechanisms especially at local level. Building partnerships is an integral part of our work. National Societies are finding ways to make use of their auxiliary role at the local and municipal government levels to bring the voice of vulnerable groups into decision-making processes to support longer term community resilience.

As IFRC we are committed to increasing the capacities of National Societies and their city branches to scale up their work in urban contexts. We commend the APDRC for supporting these efforts with knowledge sharing events like this Conference and establishing a Urban Resilience Community of Practice.

Colleagues,

Now, more than ever, there is a sense of urgency to continue our efforts in addressing the impacts of climate change on urban populations. Let us carry forward the momentum generated here, commit to actionable steps, and drive transformative change in our cities. Together, we can build resilient urban environments that not only withstand the challenges of today but also thrive in the face of future risks. Your continued dedication and proactive engagement are crucial in making this vision a reality.

Thank you.

CEREMONY MESSAGES

Greetings. I am Byung-min Kim, Deputy Mayor for Political Affairs of the Seoul Metropolitan Government.

I sincerely congratulate you on the hosting of the "Urban Collaboration Platform Conference" and extend my deepest gratitude to Chairman Chul-soo Kim of the Korean Red Cross and all the related personnel who have worked hard to organize this conference.

Today, the global climate crisis, coupled with urbanization, is making issues faced by cities more complex and severe. Climate change is intensifying problems such as poverty, inequality, and inadequate infrastructure, thereby increasing the suffering of vulnerable populations.

In such times, it is highly important to discuss the discovery of effective policies to respond to the problems arising from the climate crisis and urbanization.

The Red Cross has been supporting climate-vulnerable groups by cooperating with cities worldwide and has played an important role in strengthening the resilience of local communities.

The Seoul Metropolitan Government is also implementing systematic and meticulous measures to protect vulnerable populations from climate crises such as heatwaves and heavy rainfall, and to safeguard the safety and health of its citizens. This aligns with the spirit of the Red Cross Movement, which respects human dignity and protects lives.

I hope that this conference will facilitate in-depth discussions on responding to the climate crisis and enhancing urban resilience, and that it will serve as a new leap forward in addressing the climate crisis.

Once again, I sincerely congratulate you on hosting this conference. Thank you.



KIM Byung Min

*Deputy Mayor for
Political Affairs
Seoul Metropolitan Government*



CONFERENCE OPENING



JANG Dae-Sik

*Chairman
Net Zero 2050
Climate Foundation*



Dear distinguished guests,

Greetings, I am Jang Dae-sik, Chairman of the Net Zero 2050 Climate Foundation. Seeing many of you gathered here today from around the world makes me realize that we all share the same concern and worry about the climate crisis. I would like to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Chairman Kim Chul-soo of the Korean Red Cross, Vice Mayor Kim Byung-min of Seoul, Vice Chairman Jeong Chae-young of the Korean Red Cross, Chairman Kwon Yeong-gyu of the Seoul Chapter, Climate Resilience Ambassador Lee Seung-gi, Director Joy Singhal of the Health Disaster and Climate Crisis Division of the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, and all the Red Cross staff from around the world.

As the climate crisis emerges as the most urgent and serious issue globally, I find it very meaningful that the Korean Red Cross is hosting the Urban Collaboration Platform Conference. In particular, this conference, which discusses urbanization and climate change, is a crucial event. Cities are responsible for emitting more than 70% of greenhouse gases, making them a core cause of the climate crisis. However, at the same time, they can become key players in addressing the climate crisis through technological innovation and policy implementation. The Korean government is actively promoting climate crisis response policies at the city level under the 2050 Carbon Neutrality Goal.

Cities have significant potential to reduce greenhouse gases across various sectors such as transportation and buildings. While cities are heavily impacted by disasters like floods and heatwaves and have dense populations of vulnerable groups, they also have the capacity to efficiently build adaptation infrastructure and systems. Therefore, your roles in this conference, which aims to enhance urban climate resilience based on expertise from various fields, are of utmost importance.

Although the world is striving to limit the global temperature rise to 1.5 degrees Celsius, it is worrisome to hear that last year's global average temperature rose to 1.45 degrees Celsius. United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres warned that "we are playing Russian roulette with the planet" and emphasized the need to find an exit from the highway to hell. I hope that all of you gathered here today will share insights and wisdom to find that exit. I wish for this conference to become a turning point in overcoming the climate crisis, and the Net Zero 2050 Climate Foundation will join forces with the Korean Red Cross in this endeavor.

Thank you.

CEREMONY MESSAGES

Hello everyone. I am Seung-gi Lee, the Climate and Green Resilience Ambassador for the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre (APDRC). Since being appointed as an ambassador last year, I have participated in the RE: Climate Resilience campaign. For the past year, I have tried to practice climate action in my daily life by turning off unnecessary lights and unplugging electronic devices when not in use. Such commitments like these can be very significant. What specific commitments have we come together to make today?"

According to a recent report by the World Meteorological Organization (WMO), approximately 12,000 disasters related to extreme weather, climate, and water occurred between 1970 and 2021. These disasters resulted in 2 million deaths, with 90% of those occurring in developing countries, and economic losses amounting to 4.2 trillion dollars (approximately 5,590 trillion KRW), with these numbers continuing to rise.

Climate change, along with rapid and unplanned urbanization, is increasing disaster risks. Within cities, problems such as poverty, inequality, inadequate infrastructure, pollution, and natural disasters are becoming more severe due to climate change. Low-income and vulnerable populations are particularly affected, and their suffering is increasing. Effective policies and sustainable solutions are needed to address these global issues.

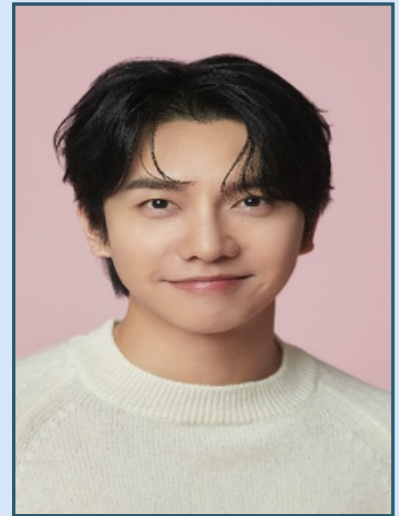
Since 2016, the Urban Collaboration Platform (UCP) Conference has been examining and discussing various problems that can arise in cities. Starting in Copenhagen in 2016, it has since been held in Oslo, Nairobi, and Beirut, and then conducted online for two consecutive years due to COVID-19. Following Geneva last year, this year it is being held here in Seoul.

The year 2024 is significant for the Red Cross, as important meetings such as the International Conference of the Red Cross and Red Crescent and the Council of Delegates will take place. During these meetings, the components of the Red Cross Movement (IFRC, ICRC, and the Red Cross Societies of 191 countries) will discuss global humanitarian issues and adopt resolutions. The resolution "Our Pathway: Strengthening Urban Resilience," adopted at the 2022 Council of Delegates, aims to help more than 50 Red Cross Societies develop urban strategies and prepare for disasters. It also includes commitments to help 50 cities adapt to climate change and protect 250 million people from heatwaves by 2025.

The severity of the climate crisis and the capacity to respond vary by country. However, by sharing and learning from each other's experiences, we can develop better global responses to the climate crisis. Over the next three days, I hope we will reflect on the efforts of the Red Cross to enhance urban resilience, discuss practical urban climate resilience programs with Red Cross Societies and partner organizations from various countries, and seek opportunities to work together.

I will always support and participate in the efforts to create resilient cities, communities, and neighborhoods.

Go Red Cross!



LEE Seung-gi

*Climate and Green
Resilience Ambassador
APDRC*



URBAN TALKS

Words to Action: Shaping a Joint Multi Stakeholder Urban and Climate Agenda



SPEAKERS



Park Jongsul
Secretary General
Korean National Red Cross



Dr. Aditya Bahadur
Director
Red Cross Red Crescent
Climate Centre



Alf Ivar Blikberg
Programme Manager
UNDRR MCR2030



Kim Do Eun
Head, External Relations
MAERSK



Park Yeonhee
Director
ICLEI, Korea Office

Moderator



Ela Serdaroglu
Lead, Urban and Settlements
IFRC

SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



With the adoption of the Council of Delegates resolution on “Strengthening the Resilience of Urban Communities: Our Way Forward” in June 2022 the RCRC Movement has reinforced its call for scaling up concerted action in support of vulnerable urban communities with an emphasis on mitigating and responding to climate change related hazards.

This emphasis has been re-confirmed at this year’s “Global Heat Summit” co-organized by IFRC and USAID where the urgency of addressing extreme heat events was highlighted.

This session brought together actors from the RCRC Movement, city networks, donors and other important stakeholders and discussed how all actors can work together to increase impact and showcase collaborative action addressing climate related challenges in cities, and building the resilience of vulnerable urban communities and cities that find themselves on the frontline of the battle against climate change.

COLLABORATION FOR URBAN RESILIENCE: A PATHWAY FORWARD

Urban resilience and sustainability have become critical in addressing climate change and global environmental challenges. Yeonhee Park from ICLEI (Local Governments for Sustainability) shared five key pathways that guide local governments toward sustainable urban development. These pathways—zero emissions, resilient development, nature-based development, circular development, and equitable development—serve as the foundation for local governments to align their policies and practices to build cities that are better equipped to face future challenges.

In pursuit of these goals, a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) has been established, highlighting joint initiatives such as Heat Action Plans and collaborations between coastal cities. These partnerships showcase a growing commitment among local governments to confront issues such as rising temperatures and sea levels, which pose significant threats to urban areas, especially those along coastlines. The critical question now is: how can we work together more effectively to address these pressing issues?

The role of citizen volunteers, exemplified by the Korean Red Cross, is essential in driving local engagement and strengthening disaster risk reduction (DRR) efforts. By involving citizens directly in these efforts, cities can develop more responsive and community-based strategies to mitigate the impacts of climate crises. Innovative programming, bolstered by municipal government partnerships, can further empower local governments to adopt new approaches. These initiatives, pushed forward by citizen demand, can stimulate fresh perspectives in urban resilience planning.

One of the key priorities is ensuring greater citizen involvement in DRR. Engaging the public in local action not only builds awareness but also strengthens a city's capacity to respond to emergencies. As part of the broader "Making Cities Resilient 2030" (MCR2030) initiative spearheaded by the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), cities are encouraged to connect resilience efforts to the local level. Alf Ivar Blikberg from UNDRR MCR2030 shared that through the initiative, city resilience roadmaps and tools were developed that local governments use to assess and improve their disaster resilience. This includes the Disaster Resilience Scorecard, which helps cities evaluate their preparedness.

The last Conference of the Parties (COP) was dubbed the "Cities COP," signaling the increasing recognition of urban centers in climate discourse. For cities to build resilience, tools such as the MCR Dashboard and short assessment frameworks allow governments to track their progress and identify gaps in their resilience strategies. By doing so, cities can better prioritize their budgets to address windows of opportunity for sustainable urban development.

Looking ahead, one of the fast actions local governments can take is signing up for the MCR2030 initiative, which offers valuable resources and a network of partners committed to building urban resilience. As we move toward a more sustainable and resilient future, partnerships between municipal governments, the private sector, and citizen volunteers will be key. By welcoming innovative approaches and fostering collaboration at every level, cities can navigate the complexities of climate change and emerge stronger.

URBAN HANGOUTS

Q1

Climate Centre: Addressing heat risk & discussion on way forward to engage NSs and youth segments on Heat Action: Which areas can we invest in?

INFLUENCE AND POLICY CHANGES

NSs are poised to shape and bolster heat-aware policies and Nature-based Solutions (NbS) in urban areas, leveraging data-driven insights. They advocate for micro-insurance to support populations most vulnerable to heat, offering financial aid and incentives. Leveraging the reach of influential individuals, such as social media influencers, and forming alliances with the private sector can further amplify these efforts. For instance, in Georgia, the Heat and Health project has successfully led to the development of comprehensive policies and heat action plans. Similarly, in Mexico, the formation of a heatwave's alliance and the engagement of multiple stakeholders have been instrumental in addressing the challenges posed by extreme heat conditions. These examples underscore the effectiveness of collaborative and strategic approaches in enhancing heat resilience at the community level.

COOL SOLUTIONS & AWARENESS

In response to the rising temperatures and the need for effective heat management, several Asian countries have implemented innovative cooling solutions and awareness programs. Vietnam has introduced cooling buses, providing much-needed relief to commuters during the hottest parts of the day. Similarly, Nepal has established cooling centres specifically designed to cater to vulnerable groups who are most affected by the heat. Myanmar is taking proactive measures by setting up anticipation actions, which include the establishment of cooling centres in anticipation of heatwaves.

The development of Heat Early Warning Systems and Bangladesh's Emergency Action Plans (EAPs), in collaboration with meteorological units, are pivotal in raising awareness and preparedness.

Additionally, the implementation of Heat Early Warning Systems has become a crucial tool in forecasting extreme temperature events, allowing for timely public advisories and preparedness measures. In Bangladesh, the Early Action Plans (EAPs) developed in conjunction with the Meteorological (MET) unit are pivotal in raising awareness and improving preparedness and response to heat-related emergencies.

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT AND EDUCATIONAL OUTREACH

Initiatives like the greening of school premises are underway, transforming them into cooling centers during the summer recess. Programs like the 'Crunch and sit' campaign, run by the Australian Red Cross, raise awareness among students about healthy habits and environmental stewardship. We aim to prioritize youth-driven solutions through incentives, such as small grants for local actions, to empower young minds to take charge of local actions effectively and addressing issues that matter to them. Additionally, door-to-door services and installing water purifiers in schools and shopping centers are part of this comprehensive approach.

IDENTIFYING VULNERABILITY AND RISK

Understanding vulnerability and identifying those most at risk who is key to take adequate action. Face-to-face and door-to-door services were emphasized as essential for reaching the 'invisible' segments of the population, such as migrants in transit or informal settlers.

Colombia's multi-risk scenario forecasts help pinpointing at-risk communities. Australia's Telcross system maintains a ready database that facilitates the referral of at-risk individuals to the appropriate authorities.

Italian Red Cross has been actively supporting migrants en route, addressing their specific needs. Bangladesh RC has focussed on outdoor workers whose livelihoods are severely impacted by environmental factors, making them particularly susceptible to risk.

All four areas are integral to initiating effective heat action plans. Some activities are designed to address multiple entry points, underscoring the interconnectedness of these strategies.

URBAN HANGOUTS

Q2

MCR2030 and other city-networks: Connecting capacity for local climate action from governance to community level

CONNECTING CAPACITY FOR LOCAL CLIMATE ACTION: MCR2030 AND OTHER CITY NETWORKS

The Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative and other city networks are vital platforms for fostering local climate action by bridging the gap between governance and community involvement. These networks emphasize resilience through disaster risk reduction (DRR) and provide tools and frameworks to help cities assess, plan, and measure their progress toward building sustainable and resilient urban environments.

THE MCR2030 INITIATIVE: CHALLENGES AND FRAMEWORKS

Countries like Lebanon face difficulties in implementing DRR strategies, particularly when it comes to measuring resilience at the end of a program. While contingency planning is a crucial part of the process, assessing impact remains a challenge. The Sendai Framework offers global indicators—such as mortality rates, economic loss, and the number of affected people—at the national level. However, these metrics often lack local-level specificity, which is where tools like scorecards come into play. These self-assessment tools allow cities to evaluate their progress subjectively, using a grading scale from 1 to 4, with annual checks to monitor resilience-building efforts.

COUNTRY APPROACHES TO URBAN RESILIENCE

Countries across the globe are adopting different tools and indicators to measure resilience and implement DRR strategies at the local level. In Indonesia, for example, the government uses 71 indicators across three levels to assess urban resilience, with each city tailoring these indicators to its own context. This diversity in tools raises the question: how can cities collaborate effectively while applying different assessment frameworks?

Nepal has developed a self-assessment tool for local governments, focusing on nine thematic areas, including service delivery to vulnerable populations and climate resilience. These assessments, scored from 0 to 9, determine government funding allocations, tying resilience efforts directly to financial support. This system allows for localized approaches while maintaining national oversight.

In Hong Kong, the Red Cross has created an internal roadmap to resilience, focusing on three pillars: learning and empowerment, capacity building, and community action in high-risk areas. This approach integrates stakeholders such as universities, local governments, and schools. One significant challenge, however, is translating internal efforts into collaborative initiatives with external partners, a difficulty shared by other city networks.

COLLABORATION AND PARTNERSHIP IN BUILDING LOCAL RESILIENCE

The collaboration between the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) and Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (RCRC) emphasizes the importance of multi-sectoral partnerships. Promoting MCR2030 within different cities requires more than just initial workshops. Maintaining momentum and ensuring local presence post-workshop are critical challenges, especially given political changes. National societies play a key role in driving these efforts forward, even in the face of shifting political landscapes.

In Kenya, advocacy efforts through DRR legislation have led to the creation of resilience bills. However, adapting national legislation to suit local municipalities and county governments remains a challenge. Resilience efforts at the local level often focus on specific hazards, but as climate change increases the complexity of these hazards, a multi-hazard approach becomes necessary. The shift from flood risk to multiple, complex hazards requires comprehensive early warning systems and adaptive resilience strategies.

Lebanon's experience with its Disaster Risk Management (DRM) committees shows how local ownership can sustain resilience efforts. By building the capacity of these committees, cities can continue resilience activities even after external interventions end. This approach highlights the importance of multi-hazard assessments to prioritize and address the most pressing risks.

In Nepal, Memoranda of Understanding (MoUs) between local governments and the Nepal Red Cross Society outlined the roles and responsibilities of both parties. These agreements ensure that local governments take ownership of DRR processes, while benefiting from the technical expertise provided by the National Society.

Indonesia offers a model for integration between city governments and resilience efforts, establishing city coalitions that hold regular meetings and conduct city-wide risk assessments. This collaborative approach identifies gaps in urban systems and allows for joint planning. The city's annual planning process integrates these findings, ensuring that resilience efforts are embedded into government operations and supported by both local ownership and the Palang Merah Indonesia.

INNOVATIVE PROGRAMMING AND STANDARDS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

The development of urban resilience standards is a crucial step toward streamlining approaches across cities. The urban readiness standards, grouped into categories such as principles of urban programming, context analysis, system-inclusive resilience approaches, stakeholder mapping, and partnership coalition building, offer a structured approach to resilience planning. By adhering to these principles, cities can ensure that their resilience strategies are comprehensive, inclusive, and tailored to their unique contexts.

In conclusion, the MCR2030 initiative and similar city networks provide valuable frameworks for connecting governance with community-level climate action. By sharing experiences and adopting innovative tools, countries can overcome challenges in resilience assessment, collaboration, and sustainability. Strong partnerships between local governments, international organizations, and community stakeholders will be essential in driving forward urban resilience efforts and ensuring that cities are prepared for the climate challenges of the future.

Q3

How can ICLEI & RCRC partners collaborate to convene multi stakeholder coalitions at city level?

ENHANCING COLLABORATION BETWEEN ICLEI AND RCRC: OPPORTUNITIES AND CHALLENGES

In a recent discussion, Park Yeonhee from ICLEI, outlined the organization's role as an international non-governmental body that promotes sustainable development. ICLEI provides technical consulting to local governments to help them identify and achieve their sustainability goals. With over 2,500 member cities, towns, and regions across 126 countries, ICLEI focuses on climate action, biodiversity, and urban sustainability. Its mission and scope align closely with the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) network's mandate, creating opportunities for synergies between the two organizations.

RCRC National Societies (NS) can leverage these synergies by collaborating with ICLEI to influence local government policies, particularly those benefiting vulnerable communities. However, despite these shared interests and the potential for partnership, several challenges must be addressed to foster effective collaboration:

1. Perception of RCRC's Role

A significant obstacle to collaboration is the limited perception of RCRC's role by many governments and other stakeholders. Often seen solely as first responders or providers of emergency health services, the broader scope of RCRC's work—especially its long-term efforts in areas like Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR)—is under-recognized. National Societies need to communicate their involvement in these areas more effectively to both government partners and potential collaborators like ICLEI.

2. Promotion of RCRC's Auxiliary Role

Another challenge lies in promoting the RCRC mandate as auxiliary to both state and local governments. This mandate allows RCRC to provide support while maintaining the principles of neutrality and impartiality. Highlighting this unique role more explicitly could strengthen collaboration efforts by showcasing RCRC's ability to contribute to long-term, sustainable initiatives beyond immediate disaster response.

3. Complexity of Tailored Approaches

While there are clear opportunities for collaboration between RCRC and ICLEI, there is no universal approach or program that can be applied across different cities. Each city has its own context, priorities, and challenges, making collaboration complex. Approaches must be tailored to fit the specific needs and capacities of individual cities, which requires flexibility and adaptability from both organizations.

To overcome these challenges and maximize the potential of their collaboration, it is crucial for ICLEI, RCRC NS, and local governments to develop a deeper understanding of each other's capacities, interests, and engagement methods. By aligning these elements and building tailored strategies based on the unique preferences and ambitions of city governments, both ICLEI and RCRC can effectively work together to enhance urban resilience and address climate-related vulnerabilities.

While shared goals provide a strong foundation for collaboration between ICLEI and RCRC, success will depend on overcoming communication barriers, promoting RCRC's full range of capabilities, and customizing approaches to fit the diverse needs of local governments. A thoughtful, coordinated effort between all parties will enable the development of sustainable policies and programs that strengthen community resilience and support vulnerable populations.

Q4

What could be entry points for engagement between RCRC and corporate sector?

ENHANCING COLLABORATION BETWEEN RED CROSS RED CRESCENT NATIONAL SOCIETIES AND THE CORPORATE SECTOR

A recent discussion, led by Do-Eun Kim of Maersk, with participation from representatives of Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies (NS) from Indonesia, Hong Kong, Myanmar, Bangladesh, Singapore, and Korea, focused on how RCRC can deepen engagement with the corporate sector to jointly address humanitarian challenges, particularly in the context of climate change. Several key points emerged as critical to fostering stronger partnerships:

1. Proactive Communication of RCRC's Humanitarian Mandate

To build successful collaborations, RCRC National Societies must take a proactive approach in communicating their humanitarian mission and the scope of their activities. Many companies are unaware of the full range of services and programs RCRC can offer, particularly beyond emergency response. By clarifying their objectives and capabilities, RCRC can help corporate entities better understand how they can collaborate to address pressing global challenges.

3. Leveraging ESG Priorities

Many companies today prioritize Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards as part of their corporate responsibility efforts. RCRC National Societies can motivate partnerships by showing how working together can help companies meet these ESG goals. This alignment could include areas like environmental sustainability, risk management, and preparedness efforts that safeguard both communities and businesses.

5. Building Relationships with Key Decision-Makers

To forge meaningful partnerships, RCRC must understand the internal structures, ownership models, and key decision-makers within companies. Building relationships with those in leadership positions who have the authority and willingness to engage is crucial. These individuals are often the ones who can advocate for and facilitate corporate partnerships with RCRC.

2. Understanding the Corporate "Business Case"

For collaboration to be successful, it must be mutually beneficial. Corporations often seek tangible outcomes and clear advantages from their partnerships. Therefore, RCRC must present a compelling "business case" that aligns with the goals and interests of potential corporate partners. By demonstrating the value of collaboration, RCRC can position itself as a valuable ally in corporate efforts to enhance their social impact while meeting business objectives.

4. Shared Interests and Sector-Specific Opportunities

Collaboration opportunities often center around shared interests such as risk management, employee safety, contingency planning, and ensuring business continuity in the face of crises. The specific interests of companies will vary depending on their industry. For instance, Maersk, a leader in logistics and transport, is particularly focused on reducing carbon emissions by introducing green fuels and developing innovative logistics solutions for urban areas. RCRC National Societies can tailor their engagement strategies to align with these industry-specific needs.

6. Facilitating Corporate-Government Collaboration

Another potential entry point for collaboration lies in RCRC's ability to act as a mediator between corporations and governments. Corporate representatives highlighted the regulatory barriers that often complicate green commitments and other sustainability efforts. RCRC, given its established relationships with governments and neutral stance, could help bridge these gaps, creating smoother pathways for corporations to meet regulatory requirements while advancing their sustainability initiatives.

There is a clear interest on both sides—RCRC and the corporate sector—to engage more deeply. However, further dialogue is necessary to align priorities, understand each other's drivers, and identify areas where collaboration can deliver win-win outcomes. With the right strategies and communication in place, these partnerships hold significant potential to address global humanitarian challenges, particularly those driven by climate change.

URBAN TALKS

Scaling Up and Scaling Deep: Effective Strategies from National Societies in Advancing Urban Climate Resilience Programming



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Moderator



Aynur Kadihasanoglu

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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



The session highlighted the experiences of Red Cross Red Crescent National Societies in implementing urban climate resilience initiatives and share the lessons learned with the audience.

The speakers touch upon the process of stakeholder engagement, working with local governments, positioning the NS as an urban actor, designing interventions that can be scaled, and ways forward following the coastal cities dialog in the ICLEI Congress in Brazil.

This panel session discussed how National Societies have leveraged the gains and its relevant approaches from their Urban Climate Resilience programming and build on it. It also tackled how NS are key players in urban DRR programming sighting examples from the resource speakers. Furthermore, the session delved into understanding what more can the IFRC and Partner National Societies do to facilitate and support National Societies in urban work. The session also provided the participants with an update on the proceedings of the Coastal Cities Dialogue at the ICLEI World Congress.

Building urban resilience has become a critical focus for National Societies (NS) as they adapt their strategies to meet the evolving needs of urban communities. National Societies across different regions have implemented various strategies to enhance urban resilience, each shaped by unique challenges, opportunities, and partnerships within their specific contexts.

In Indonesia, the COCHAP Project faced initial challenges in engaging government officials. To overcome this, the NS began building city coalitions, ensuring the buy-in of other stakeholders, which created a more collaborative environment. A key strategy was the establishment of Community-based Action Teams (CBAT) early in the engagement process. These teams played a crucial role in bridging the gap between communities and cities, fostering local ownership, and strengthening urban resilience efforts from the ground up.

In Hong Kong, urban resilience work took place in coastal cities, where engagement with local organizations, NGOs, village leaders, and elders was crucial. Raising awareness among community members about the work of the Hong Kong Red Cross (HKRC) and understanding their needs became fundamental in shaping successful interventions. In mainland China, where the concept of urban resilience is relatively new, the NS focused more on rural communities, illustrating how resilience strategies must be tailored to the local context.

Singapore's NS faced a different set of challenges, particularly a lack of manpower to implement urban resilience activities due to the limited human resources available. Despite this constraint, they continued to explore ways to maintain their programs and engage with urban communities, showing that even in the face of operational challenges, adaptability is key.

In the Philippines, the strategy involved increasing the NS's visibility in urban areas by promoting its programs and services directly to the communities. Establishing partnerships from the start was also a vital strategy, ensuring that urban stakeholders were involved early on in the process, which helped in sustaining long-term engagement.

The Maldives highlighted the complexity of urban resilience, noting that although cities within the same country, they differ significantly due to varying governance structures. Coordination mechanisms must therefore align with both national and local levels. The NS in the Maldives navigated different layers of stakeholder engagement, adapting their approach to fit the governance style and expectations of each city.

Nepal's NS placed a strong emphasis on youth empowerment. By investing in youth volunteers, the Nepal Red Cross Society (NRCS) was able to mobilize them to support programs and services across urban communities. This youth engagement not only enhanced program delivery but also helped foster a culture of resilience among younger generations.

Several important lessons emerge from these experiences. First, it is crucial for NS to define their position among other urban stakeholders clearly. Establishing themselves as a valuable partner in city-level initiatives helps build stronger relationships and enhances the impact of their programs. Developing an urban framework, modeled after established resilience frameworks such as the R2R Framework's 11 dimensions of resilience, can provide a structured approach to working in cities.

Furthermore, it is essential for NS to ask themselves, "What is our edge?" Understanding their unique value in urban resilience efforts helps them stand out and forge stronger partnerships. While many NS apply similar Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and resilience strategies in both rural and urban communities, they remain mindful of the unique dynamics present in cities. Challenges such as frequent elections, changes in political leadership, and the direct relationships between leaders and constituents require flexible and responsive strategies to maintain progress.

In conclusion, National Societies working on urban resilience face a variety of challenges, from political and governance complexities to operational constraints. However, by building strong partnerships, engaging communities early, and continuously adapting to local contexts, they are making significant strides in building resilient urban environments. These strategies and lessons learned offer valuable insights for future urban resilience programs.

URBAN HANGOUTS

The "Coastal Cities Dialogue" at the ICLEI World Congress 2024 highlighted the urgent need for innovative and collaborative urban resilience programs, particularly in the face of increasing climate risks. Through the collaboration of Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) National Societies, ICLEI, and local governments, three key initiatives were pitched, each focusing on enhancing climate resilience in rapidly growing cities, particularly in coastal areas where the impacts of climate change are most pronounced.

Pitch 1: Climate-resilient Urban Development

As cities expand at an unprecedented rate, the vulnerability of their infrastructure to extreme weather events becomes more apparent. The current urban infrastructure, often not designed with climate risks in mind, leaves cities unprepared for future climate challenges. This pitch focuses on developing a shared vision of climate-resilient urban development by prioritizing the needs of the most vulnerable populations, including migrants and informal sector workers.

By integrating local insights with ICLEI's expertise and leveraging existing platforms such as the City Learning Labs, this initiative aims to create affordable and scalable adaptation solutions that can be implemented across cities. The emphasis is on fostering long-term, sustainable urban growth that not only addresses current climate challenges but also anticipates future risks. This collaborative effort seeks to influence policy changes and urban planning standards, ensuring cities are resilient to both immediate and evolving climate threats.

Pitch 3: Translating Knowledge into Heat Action in Coastal Cities

With heatwaves becoming more frequent and severe due to climate change, many cities around the world lack the necessary plans to mitigate the deadly impacts of extreme heat. This pitch aims to address the low awareness among at-risk populations and decision-makers by closing the knowledge gap on heat risks and developing actionable Heat Action Plans.

Together with ICLEI, local governments, and the RCRC Movement, the initiative will conduct heat risk perception studies, develop heat-health thresholds, and lead heat communication campaigns to raise awareness. These efforts will be supported by collaborations with local academic institutions and community members, ensuring that the Heat Action Plans are tailored to local contexts. The goal is to enable cities to implement concrete actions that prevent heat-related deaths and enhance the overall resilience of urban populations to extreme heat events.

The outcomes of the Coastal Cities Dialogue at the ICLEI World Congress 2024 showcase the potential for developing new urban programs that address the growing climate risks in cities. By focusing on climate-resilient development, tech-enabled early warning systems, and heat action plans, these initiatives aim to equip cities with the tools and strategies necessary to protect their populations and infrastructure from the impacts of climate change. Through collaboration with local governments, ICLEI, and the RCRC Movement, these programs can scale and bring about meaningful change, ensuring that cities are resilient and better prepared for future climate challenges.

Pitch 2: Tech-enabled Early Warning & Early Action

Despite the availability of advanced technology and forecasting tools, many coastal cities lack inclusive and effective early warning systems (EWS). This pitch aims to implement tech-enabled EWS and Early Action Plans in at least 100 cities over the next five years, supporting the UN Secretary General's "Early Warnings for All" initiative.

The focus is on strengthening the capacity of local governments to issue timely and actionable early warnings. The Red Cross National Societies can leverage their community trust and engagement expertise to ensure that warning messages reach all sections of society. The role of local governments is crucial, as they are responsible for hazard warnings and disaster risk planning processes. By integrating technology and community-based communication strategies, this initiative aims to reduce the impacts of predictable disasters such as cyclones by ensuring that early warnings are disseminated effectively and prompt the necessary actions.

URBAN HANGOUTS

The financing of urban resilience initiatives has become a critical challenge as cities face increasingly complex climate risks. National Societies (NS) and the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) play a vital role in accelerating urban resilience efforts, particularly by exploring alternative scopes for financing and leveraging new partnerships.

GEORGIA RED CROSS: EXPANDING CAPACITIES AND SECURING FUNDING

The Georgia Red Cross provides a compelling example of how NS can build capacity and strengthen partnerships to secure funding for urban resilience projects. Over the years, Georgia RC expanded its home care program for the elderly to include climate-specific activities, such as awareness-raising and services during heat waves. Additionally, they integrated climate community-based Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), adaptation, and youth-led climate awareness and behavior change initiatives into their programming.

A key factor in Georgia RC's success has been its strong relationship with the government. By serving as a coordinating body for NGOs and participating in the National Adaptation Planning process, the Georgia RC gained credibility and became actively involved in several climate-related working groups and forums. The commitment to institutional development across all departments has positioned Georgia RC as a trusted partner, allowing it to apply for larger-scale funding opportunities. One significant achievement was securing European Union Horizon Europe research and innovation funds for the Pathways2Resilience programme, demonstrating that NS can directly access institutional donor funding with the right accreditation and partnerships in place.

LEVERAGING PARTNERSHIPS FOR URBAN RESILIENCE INITIATIVES

The Georgia RC example encouraged other NS to think more boldly about their capacity to secure direct donor funding, moving beyond traditional reliance on partnerships with Participating National Societies (PNS), international NGOs, or UN agencies. Establishing credibility through strong relationships with governments and donors is crucial for NS looking to position themselves as key actors in urban resilience financing.

Moreover, the discussion highlighted the importance of regional exploration for available funding opportunities, particularly for climate-related projects. By building their institutional capacities and working toward accreditation with larger donors, NS can become eligible for grants and funds that they would traditionally only access indirectly.

EXPLORING ALTERNATIVE SCOPES FOR FINANCING

In addition to direct donor funding, NS should explore alternative financing mechanisms that can support urban and climate resilience projects. Public-private partnerships, for example, provide opportunities to engage corporate actors in funding initiatives that align with their corporate social responsibility (CSR) goals or Environmental, Social, and Governance (ESG) standards. Moreover, innovative financing models such as green bonds, climate funds, or resilience bonds could be explored, enabling NS to raise capital specifically for climate adaptation and resilience-building projects.

Regional and global networks, such as ICLEI and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, can also play a critical role in connecting NS with donors, research institutions, and governments to co-create financing solutions. Collaboration with these entities allows NS to scale urban resilience initiatives while sharing knowledge and best practices for securing funding.

The financing of urban resilience initiatives requires a multifaceted approach, combining direct engagement with institutional donors, public-private partnerships, and innovative financing mechanisms. The Georgia RC's success in securing European Union funds for climate resilience serves as an encouraging example for other NS to build capacity, strengthen government relations, and seek accreditation with larger donors. By leveraging new partnerships and exploring alternative funding scopes, NS can accelerate urban resilience efforts and help cities better prepare for the challenges posed by climate change.



URBAN TALKS

Informality and Urban Violence



SPEAKERS



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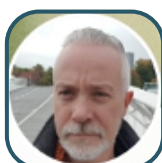
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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



In 2024, the world is witnessing an unprecedented number of elections, prompting concerns about the potential rise in electoral violence, particularly in urban informal settlements. These areas, often characterized by poverty, inadequate infrastructure, and limited governance, are hotspots for political manipulation and conflict. During election periods, political actors exploit the vulnerabilities of residents to instigate violence, making informal settlements flashpoints for unrest.

On July 3, 2024, a distinguished panel of experts convened to discuss these pressing issues during a session titled "Informality and Urban Election Violence." The panel, moderated by representatives from the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies, explored how these organizations can anticipate, prepare for, and respond to election violence, especially in vulnerable urban areas.

The Root Causes of Electoral Violence in Informal Settlements

Electoral violence in informal settlements stems from a complex web of socio-economic factors and political dynamics. Politicians may exploit the precarious living conditions in these areas to incite unrest or coerce votes. The absence of formal governance and policing structures further exacerbates this issue, allowing criminal gangs to act as enforcers for political interests. As a result, elections often become volatile, leading to violence, displacement, and further marginalization of already vulnerable communities.

Expert Insights and Preventative Measures

The panelists shared insights from their work on the ground, providing a wealth of knowledge on how to mitigate and address electoral violence.

Dr. Kristine Höglund, a professor at Uppsala University and expert in electoral violence, emphasized the importance of early warning systems in urban settings. Through her research, she identified several key indicators that signal the risk of electoral violence, such as heightened political tensions, the presence of armed groups, and patterns of social unrest. By closely monitoring these signs, communities and authorities can take preventative action to de-escalate potential conflicts.

Theo Hollander, Senior Regional Representative for East and Central Africa at Interpeace, highlighted the role of community policing in reducing election-related violence. In Ethiopia, Interpeace has successfully built trust between local police and communities, ensuring a more transparent and cooperative relationship. This model could be adapted to other regions facing similar challenges.

Diana Mabel Muñoz of the Honduran Red Cross spoke about the challenges of maintaining neutrality during politically charged times. Her organization activates contingency plans before and after elections to provide assistance while adhering to humanitarian principles. Diana emphasized the importance of preparing well-structured response protocols to support vulnerable populations without compromising impartiality.

Eduard Ruiz from the Colombian Red Cross shared his organization's experiences in dealing with electoral violence over the past 20 years. In Colombia, election-related violence is often driven by armed groups and civilian unrest. The Colombian Red Cross monitors these situations closely, providing real-time reports from its 31 regional branches. Eduard stressed the importance of maintaining neutrality in such volatile environments to avoid being perceived as aligned with any political faction.

Martin King'ori, a Disaster Management Officer with the Kenya Red Cross, discussed the high levels of violence during past Kenyan elections, notably in 2007 and 2017. The Kenya Red Cross implements a comprehensive contingency plan that includes mapping high-risk areas, educating communities, and prepositioning critical resources. King'ori stressed the value of monitoring these areas both before and after elections to mitigate violence and support community resilience.

Building Resilience and Responding to Violence

In addition to discussing preventative measures, the panelists also explored ways to strengthen community resilience in the face of electoral violence. Gabriel Reyes Gil from the Mexican Red Cross emphasized the importance of transparent communication and trust-building with communities. By consistently conveying their mission and objectives, Red Cross organizations can foster acceptance and ensure the safety of their personnel during sensitive operations.

The session concluded with a call to action: how can Red Cross and Red Crescent National Societies better support communities in anticipating and responding to electoral violence? The panelists agreed that ongoing context analysis, community engagement, and capacity building are critical components of a successful response. Furthermore, it was suggested that National Societies should continuously update security protocols and collaborate with local actors to stay ahead of emerging risks.

Electoral violence in urban informal settlements poses a serious threat to the stability of communities worldwide. However, through early warning systems, trust-building initiatives, and neutral, well-prepared responses, humanitarian organizations like the Red Cross can play a crucial role in mitigating the impact of such violence. As elections continue to unfold globally, the insights and strategies shared by this panel of experts offer a blueprint for addressing and preventing election-related violence in even the most challenging environments.



URBAN TALKS

Strengthening Partnerships for Urban Resilience



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SESSION HIGHLIGHTS



This session delved into what have been learned from past and current collaborations, sharing diverse cases from different stakeholder perspectives. This session also explored how National Societies and stakeholders can both benefit from partnerships and collaborations to effectively scale up urban resilience programs going forward.

This last Urban Talks session identified opportunities for urban collaboration and partnerships between and among RCRC National Societies, city governments, private sectors, and other actors in the urban setting. The panel discussion identified key collaboration points for National Societies and city stakeholders and partners with the intent to develop urban strategies that align with National Adaptation Plans and the Global Agenda.

On the third day of the KRC/APDRC-led Urban Talks, a diverse panel of stakeholders from different sectors gathered to discuss innovative approaches to urban disaster preparedness and climate resilience. With representatives from technology, policy, local governance, and international cooperation, the event highlighted the need for integrated strategies and collaborative efforts to tackle the increasing challenges posed by climate change and urban vulnerabilities.

1st Panelist: Disaster Prevention Technologies and Platforms

The first panelist brought a technical perspective, focusing on disaster prevention technologies and the critical role of databases and web-based tools in predicting and managing natural disasters. They shared an example of Korea's technical support to Indonesia, specifically the Yogyakarta Early Warning System for Landslides. This initiative represented a significant step toward building transnational systems for disaster preparedness.

However, the panelist emphasized a crucial lesson: the lack of continuous communication between the countries resulted in the incomplete installation of the system. This missed opportunity underscores the need for sustained dialogue and collaboration between nations. The panelist pointed out that the Red Cross (RC) could have played a vital role in facilitating this communication and exchange, ensuring better disaster readiness in the future. By acting as a bridge, the RC can enhance the continuity of such life-saving projects and improve global disaster management frameworks.

2nd Panelist: The Role of Korea Adaptation Centre for Climate Change (KACCC)

The second panelist, representing the Korea Adaptation Centre for Climate Change (KACCC), addressed the growing importance of adapting and strengthening risk assessment frameworks in the face of escalating climate risks. While Korea has made strides in risk assessments, the panelist noted that the assessments often rely on data from neighboring countries, making it imperative for Korea to develop more localized, accurate risk assessments.

A significant challenge mentioned was the misalignment between local and national policies. Korea is aiming for carbon neutrality and pursuing aggressive greenhouse gas reduction policies. However, without cohesive strategies that align local and national efforts, these ambitious goals remain difficult to achieve. The panelist called for better coordination between different government levels to ensure effective climate adaptation and resilience.

3rd Panelist: Seoul Metropolitan City's Urban Challenges

The third panelist represented Seoul Metropolitan City, providing a sobering look at the challenges of managing climate impacts in an urban environment. Seoul, once known for its moderate climate, now experiences around 110 days of heat annually, transforming the city into what could be described as a semi-tropical region. The city faces alternating cold and heat waves, increasing the demand for energy and creating additional challenges for urban planning and communication.

Furthermore, flooding and stormwater management have become critical issues, as the city has seen a rise in the intensity of floods. Vulnerable populations, particularly those living in basement apartments, are at greater risk of being impacted by these extreme weather events.

To tackle these issues, the panelist highlighted the need for enhanced green finance systems to develop green and blue corridors within the city, improving ecological sustainability through the management of soil and trees. Additionally, there was a call for improved financial measures and **knowledge-sharing networks** with other cities, which would help Seoul stay ahead of growing climate risks while supporting resilient urban infrastructure.

4th Panelist: GGGI and the Circular Economy

The final panelist, representing the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), shifted the conversation toward the financial and policy frameworks necessary to support sustainable urban growth. GGGI's work focuses on policy development and financing through a trust fund for the circular economy, a system that reuses resources and reduces waste.

They stressed that sectors like food security, water and sanitation, and resilient infrastructure are key areas where their work intersects with the goals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC). The panelist emphasized the importance of a holistic approach, where private sectors like LG have shown interest in contributing to smart cities, particularly in terms of materials and water management/reuse. The involvement of the private sector can help fund innovative solutions and ensure the long-term sustainability of urban resilience projects.

URBAN HANGOUTS

On the third day of a panel discussion organized by the Korea Red Cross (KRC) and the Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre (APDRC), multiple stakeholders came together to tackle pressing urban issues. These topics ranged from climate change adaptation and disaster readiness to sustainable development, particularly in the context of urban environments. The discussion brought to light the various challenges and solutions offered by different sectors, each playing a pivotal role in shaping resilient cities for the future.

DISASTER PREVENTION TECHNOLOGIES: THE CASE OF INDONESIA

The first panelist delved into the use of disaster prevention technologies and platforms, underscoring the importance of technological solutions in disaster-prone areas. Korea's support to Indonesia in developing the Yogyakarta Early Warning System for Landslides was cited as a prime example of cross-country collaboration. This system, built on modern web-based tools and databases, represented a significant effort to enhance Indonesia's disaster preparedness.

However, a lack of continuous communication between stakeholders led to the system's failure to be fully implemented, highlighting a missed opportunity for disaster resilience. The panelist emphasized that organizations like the Red Cross could play a crucial role in facilitating communication and coordination between countries to ensure successful implementation of such vital systems in the future.

MANAGING URBAN HEAT AND FLOOD RISKS IN SEOUL

A representative from Seoul Metropolitan City provided insights into the city's evolving climate challenges. Seoul is now experiencing up to 110 days of heat annually, transforming it into a near tropical climate zone. The city faces alternating extreme weather events, including heatwaves and cold snaps, which require additional energy consumption and preventive measures.

Recent flooding incidents underscored the growing intensity of stormwater management challenges, particularly affecting vulnerable populations, such as those living in basement apartments. The panelist called for the creation of more green finance systems to support the development of ecological corridors—green and blue corridors that manage soil, trees, and water flow in urban settings. Seoul is also looking to strengthen its knowledge-sharing and networking efforts with other cities to better manage these risks.

The Urban Talks panel discussion illustrated the importance of cross-sector collaboration in tackling the multifaceted challenges posed by climate change, disaster risk, and urban sustainability. From the integration of disaster prevention technologies to the creation of resilient infrastructure, stakeholders from the public, private, and nonprofit sectors must work together to build cities that can withstand and adapt to future challenges. The session concluded with a call to action for stronger communication channels, policy alignment, and financial support to ensure that the lessons shared during the panel can be implemented in practice. Through these collaborative efforts, urban areas can evolve into safer, more sustainable spaces capable of facing the climate challenges ahead.

THE ROLE OF CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN KOREA

The second panelist, representing the Korea Adaptation Centre for Climate Change (KACCC), focused on the growing need to adapt and strengthen frameworks for climate risk assessments. One of the key issues raised was the reliance on climate risk assessments from neighboring countries, which may not fully reflect Korea's specific vulnerabilities.

With Korea aiming for carbon neutrality and a reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, misalignment between local and national policies poses significant challenges. Harmonizing these policies is essential for ensuring effective climate action, particularly in urban areas where the impacts of climate change, such as rising temperatures and more frequent extreme weather events, are becoming increasingly evident.

GREEN GROWTH AND THE CIRCULAR ECONOMY

The final panelist, representing the Global Green Growth Institute (GGGI), shifted the conversation to the role of green growth and the circular economy in urban development. GGGI is focused on policies and financing mechanisms to support trust funds aimed at fostering sustainable cities.

Several sectors resonate with the goals of the Red Cross and Red Crescent (RCRC) movements, including food security, water and sanitation, and resilient infrastructure. Private sector interest in smart cities, sustainable materials, and water management was also highlighted as a crucial area for future collaboration. By promoting green growth, cities can not only reduce their environmental footprint but also create healthier, more resilient communities.

URBAN CAFE



Foundations for Heatwave Resilience in Cities



The Urban Climate Resilience Program (UCRP) of the Australian Red Cross is an ambitious initiative designed to address the growing threat of heatwaves in urban environments. The program, implemented in Sydney in collaboration with the IFRC and the Z Zurich Foundation, highlights the importance of preparedness and resilience in vulnerable communities facing extreme heat. Drawing from the initial stages of the UCRP, key insights and expected interventions provide a roadmap for similar urban resilience efforts.

The Urban Climate Resilience Program (UCRP) Phases

The UCRP operates in four phases:

1. **Selection of appropriate communities**
2. **Baseline study**
3. **Interventions**
4. **Assessment of the impact of interventions**

The project is currently transitioning between Phases 2 and 3. The baseline study revealed several critical challenges, such as the harmful health impacts of heatwaves, a lack of knowledge among community members about heatwaves, and insufficient dissemination of heatwave warnings to the public. These findings underscore the importance of developing targeted interventions to enhance the heatwave resilience of vulnerable communities.

Proposed Interventions

Based on the baseline study, the UCRP has outlined several interventions aimed at addressing the identified gaps:

- **RediCommunities:** This initiative aims to bring communities together to identify local strengths and weaknesses, helping them develop solutions for resilience-building.
- **EmergencyRedi Workshops:** These workshops focus on educating individuals and households on how to prepare for emergencies, fostering personal and collective resilience.
- **First Aid Training:** This intervention will equip vulnerable individuals with the knowledge to recognize and address both physical and psychological symptoms of heat-related illnesses.
- **TeleCross Redi Service:** The service will provide daily calls during declared heatwaves, offering support to vulnerable individuals (pending external funding).
- **NGO Capacity Building:** A resource and workshop suite will be developed to empower service providers working with at-risk communities.

- **Cooling Centres:** Cooling centres in Blacktown and mobile cooling hubs in Sydney will offer spaces where people can find respite from the heat. The impact of Red Cross involvement will be monitored and evaluated.
- **Advocacy:** The UCRP will engage in advocacy efforts, pushing for policy and program changes that better prepare vulnerable people for future heatwaves.
- **Communications:** A focused effort will be made to disseminate key messages that build awareness and resilience within affected communities.

Key Learnings from the UCRP's Initial Phases

The early stages of the UCRP have yielded important lessons for urban climate resilience programs:

- **Focus on Existing Relationships:** Establishing interventions in areas where relationships with the community are already strong is critical for successful implementation.
- **Volunteers are Essential:** Volunteers play an irreplaceable role in supporting the community, and their involvement is vital for the project's success.
- **Understand Local Context:** It is crucial to grasp the unique needs and dynamics of each community before implementing any interventions.
- **Tailor the CRMC Tool:** The Climate Measurement for Communities (CRMC) tool must be adapted to reflect the local context, ensuring its relevance and effectiveness.

The UCRP provides a comprehensive, structured approach to building heatwave resilience in Sydney. Its focus on community engagement, targeted interventions, and strong advocacy efforts offers valuable lessons for other urban resilience projects. By addressing the specific needs of vulnerable populations and tailoring interventions to local conditions, the Australian Red Cross is setting an example for urban resilience initiatives worldwide.



URBAN CAFE



**Cruz Roja
Hondureña**

Building Coalitions to Address Extreme Heat in Cities



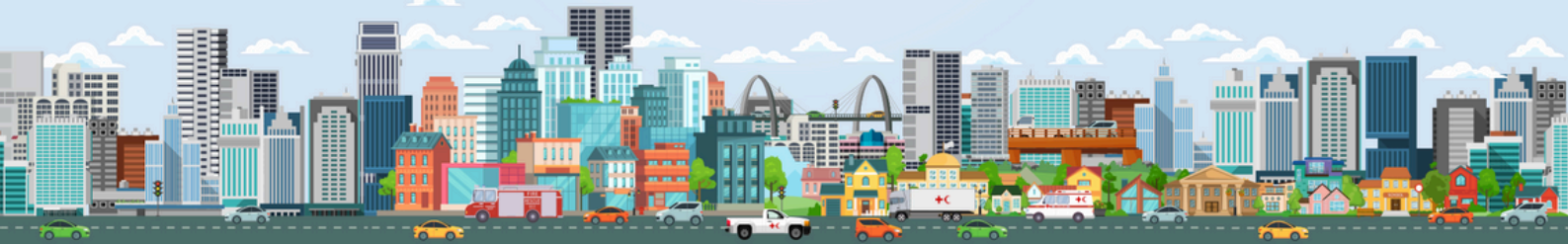
The Cruz Roja Hondureña's COCHAP Project is pioneering efforts to address extreme heat in urban areas of Honduras. Focusing on three cities where extreme heat is a daily challenge, the project has built vital coalitions with civil society, academic institutions, and government entities to tackle the issue. One significant challenge highlighted is the scarcity of meteorological data, which hinders effective climate analysis and adaptation efforts.

To overcome this, the project has collaborated with the National Autonomous University of Honduras to conduct studies that provide deeper insights into climate patterns. Additionally, they are working on developing low-cost meteorological stations to collect more comprehensive data. These initiatives aim to improve the understanding of extreme heat in Honduras and create more informed strategies for climate resilience.

URBAN CAFE



Heat Island Mapping in Beirut



The Lebanese Red Cross presented their Heat Island Mapping initiative, which focuses on proactive measures to address heatwave hazards in Beirut. This project emphasizes the importance of anticipation over reaction, aiming to integrate heat resilience into urban planning and community preparedness. Key aspects of the presentation included:

- 1. Components of the AoR Project:** An overview of the project's various elements, including awareness sessions, tools, and flyers used to educate the community about heatwaves.
- 2. Increasing Community Awareness:** Discussion on how the materials and outreach efforts enhance public understanding of heatwave risks and preparedness.
- 3. Integration into CBDRM:** The importance of incorporating the anticipation concept into Community-Based Disaster Risk Management (CBDRM) approaches to build comprehensive heatwave response strategies.



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Introduction of Rainwater Drain Nets Installation and Plugging Relay Campaigns for Summer Torrential Rain Response due to Climate Change



The Korean Red Cross showcased their response strategies for summer torrential rains, a growing challenge due to climate change. Their efforts include:

- 1. Installation of Rainwater Drain Nets:** These nets are designed to prevent debris from clogging drainage systems, improving water flow and reducing flood risks. The installation focuses on key drainage points, with regular maintenance to ensure effectiveness and public awareness to complement the system.
- 2. Plugging Relay Campaigns:** These community engagement activities encourage the collection of litter while jogging, helping to keep urban areas clean and supporting effective drainage.

These initiatives aim to enhance urban resilience to heavy rains and promote community involvement in flood prevention efforts.

Rainwater Drain Nets Installation

One of the primary methods employed to combat flooding in urban areas is the installation of rainwater drain nets. These nets are strategically placed at key drainage points to prevent debris from clogging the drainage systems. By capturing litter and other waste materials before they enter storm drains, these nets ensure that water can flow freely, which significantly reduces the risk of flooding.

The benefits of rainwater drain nets are manifold. They improve drainage efficiency by keeping drains clear of blockages, allowing water to be channeled away more effectively during heavy rains. This enhanced drainage capability directly lowers the likelihood of urban flooding. Additionally, rainwater drain nets contribute to environmental protection by preventing debris from entering waterways, thus helping to maintain cleaner rivers and oceans.

Implementation involves placing the nets at critical points, particularly in areas prone to flooding. Regular maintenance is essential to ensure the nets function effectively; this includes frequent inspections and cleanings. Public awareness campaigns are also crucial, as educating the community about proper waste disposal complements the effectiveness of the nets and further reduces the risk of drainage blockages.

Plogging Relay Campaigns

In addition to physical infrastructure improvements, community engagement plays a vital role in urban resilience. The Korean Red Cross has introduced plogging relay campaigns as a means to involve residents actively in flood prevention efforts. Plogging, a combination of jogging and picking up litter, not only promotes physical activity but also fosters environmental cleanliness.

The plogging relay campaigns provide several benefits. They enhance community engagement by encouraging residents to participate in a collective effort to keep their neighborhoods clean. This sense of responsibility and teamwork is crucial for long-term environmental stewardship. Furthermore, regular litter collection through plogging prevents trash from clogging drains and polluting natural water bodies, thereby reducing the risk of flooding caused by local heavy rainfall. Participants also benefit from physical exercise and the satisfaction of contributing to their community's well-being.

To implement plogging relay campaigns, the Korean Red Cross organizes and promotes events regularly, encouraging community members to take part. Collaborations with local organizations, schools, and businesses help to expand the campaigns' reach and impact. Incentives such as volunteer certificates, small rewards, or public recognition are offered to motivate and retain participants, ensuring ongoing community involvement.

Results and Impact

The combination of rainwater drain nets and plogging relay campaigns represents a proactive and multifaceted approach to urban flood prevention. In 2023, the Seoul Chapter of the Korean Red Cross conducted 36 plogging events across seven districts, involving 446 participants. These efforts, alongside the installation of rainwater drain nets, have effectively addressed the challenges posed by climate change-induced summer torrential rains.

The initiatives not only enhance drainage systems and reduce the risk of flooding but also promote environmental awareness and community health. By integrating infrastructure improvements with active community participation, these programs offer a robust model for enhancing urban resilience in the face of climate change.

The Seoul Chapter's approach exemplifies how combining technical solutions with community engagement can create sustainable and effective strategies for urban resilience. As cities around the world grapple with the impacts of climate change, such comprehensive efforts provide valuable lessons in building resilience and fostering a more sustainable urban environment.



URBAN CAFE



British
RedCross

Community-Centric Urban Resilience: Strengthening Local Governance Partnerships



The British Red Cross (BRC) has demonstrated a comprehensive approach to enhancing urban resilience through community engagement and local governance partnerships. This strategy is particularly pertinent in diverse and dynamic urban contexts, such as those characterized by rapidly changing populations and urban slums. BRC's approach aims to empower communities by strengthening their ability to network and engage with various stakeholders, including local governments, to address multi-hazard and complex urban challenges.

A central aspect of BRC's strategy is its broader community engagement framework, which has been contextualized and refined to address key urban challenges effectively. This framework includes good practices in advocacy with different levels of governance structures, which are critical for co-designing and co-financing risk reduction interventions. By fostering these partnerships, BRC supports National Societies across Asia, Africa, and the UK in navigating the complexities of urban environments and implementing effective resilience measures.

BRC's experience highlights the importance of a collaborative approach in urban resilience. Engaging local governance structures and community stakeholders in the planning and implementation of resilience strategies not only ensures that interventions are well-suited to local needs but also enhances the sustainability and effectiveness of these initiatives. Through this method, BRC has established a model that demonstrates the value of integrating community input and governance collaboration in addressing urban resilience challenges.

URBAN CAFE



Palang
Merah
Indonesia

Heat Perception Study



Palang Merah Indonesia (PMI) has undertaken a critical study to assess heat risk perception in urban areas, focusing on two cities: Surabaya and Medan. This Heat Perception Study explores the knowledge, attitudes, practices, and perceptions of various at-risk population groups regarding extreme heat. The findings are crucial for designing effective awareness campaigns and developing Heat Action Plans as part of the Coastal City Resilience and Extreme Heat Action Project (COCHAP).

The study targeted several groups, including households in heat spots, outdoor workers, vulnerable populations such as the elderly and those with chronic diseases, and youth. Data collection methods included household surveys and focus group discussions (FGDs), providing a comprehensive overview of community experiences and concerns during hot seasons. The research employed mobile data collection tools and qualitative data applications to gather and analyze information, revealing valuable insights into how heat affects daily life and the effectiveness of information dissemination channels.

However, the study faced several challenges. Forecasting heat periods proved unreliable, with unexpected rain affecting data collection. Coordination with local researchers and managing data collection across various city areas also presented difficulties, extending the project timeline beyond the initial plan. Despite these challenges, the study's results offer a vital understanding of heat risks and inform the development of targeted interventions.

Both the British Red Cross's community-centric framework and Palang Merah Indonesia's heat perception study exemplify effective strategies for enhancing urban resilience. BRC's approach underscores the importance of community engagement and local governance partnerships in developing sustainable resilience measures. Meanwhile, PMI's study provides critical insights into heat risk perception and highlights the need for tailored awareness campaigns and action plans. Together, these examples demonstrate that addressing urban resilience requires a multifaceted approach, combining community involvement, data-driven insights, and collaborative partnerships to create effective and enduring solutions.

URBAN CAFE



Intervention Strategy with a Resilience Approach in Urban Contexts - The case of San Luis Potosi, Mexico



Cruz Roja Mexicana (CRM) has implemented a comprehensive flood resilience strategy in San Luis Potosí, Mexico, focusing on urban contexts that are increasingly susceptible to flooding. The intervention strategy is multi-faceted, involving several key components:

- 1. Flood Resilience Measurement:** CRM's approach begins with assessing flood resilience within urban contexts. This involves evaluating how well urban areas can withstand and recover from flooding events. The measurements help in understanding vulnerabilities and identifying areas that require intervention.
- 2. Cross-Sector Linkage:** CRM emphasizes the importance of linking with various sectors, including public institutions and academia. This collaboration is facilitated through the development of knowledge products such as studies on flood resilience and early warning systems. These products contribute to a deeper understanding of local flood dynamics and the effectiveness of existing early warning systems in Latin America.

3. **Strategy Development:** Based on identified institutional capacities, CRM develops strategies targeting key sectors. These strategies are tailored to the specific needs and capabilities of local institutions, ensuring that the interventions are both practical and impactful.

4. **Implementation and Collaboration:** The strategy involves active collaboration in the development and execution of flood resilience activities. This collaborative approach ensures that interventions are well-integrated into existing systems and that stakeholders are engaged throughout the process.

5. **Impact and Outreach:** The ultimate goal is to enhance resilience in urban areas, with CRM's efforts leading to tangible improvements in flood management and community preparedness. The outreach includes educating communities on flood risks and resilience measures, thereby fostering a culture of preparedness and adaptation.

CRM's approach underscores the significance of a holistic and collaborative strategy in building urban resilience. By measuring resilience, engaging with various sectors, and developing targeted strategies, CRM has made significant strides in enhancing flood resilience in San Luis Potosí.

URBAN CAFE



Building Climate-resilient Water Systems in Sittwe, Rakhine, Myanmar



In Sittwe, Rakhine, Myanmar, the Myanmar Red Cross Society (MRCS) has addressed water scarcity and quality issues exacerbated by climate change. The project focuses on improving water systems and community-based resilience in the face of increasing environmental challenges:

- 1. Current Water Sources:** Sittwe relies on two main water sources: a piped system managed by the Town Development Committee (TDC) and hand-dug ponds managed at the ward level. While the TDC system supplies water to the main areas of town, it does not cover all regions, leaving vulnerable populations dependent on hand-dug ponds.
- 2. Challenges and Risks:** The hand-dug ponds face significant challenges, including increased evaporation, reduced rainfall, and potential damage from intense rains

and cyclones. These issues lead to inadequate water supply and heightened protection risks for vulnerable groups, particularly women and children.

3. Project Aims and Interventions: The project aimed to engage communities in understanding the water challenges and designing improvements. This included engineering solutions such as evaporation control, increased pond volumes, erosion control, and climate-resilient overflow designs. Community-based resilience efforts, such as hygiene awareness and accessibility improvements, were also integral to the project.

4. Lessons Learned: Key lessons from the project include the need for community awareness regarding water balance and evaporation, and the importance of co-designing engineering solutions with community input. Effective communication and awareness-raising are crucial for successful implementation.

5. Knowledge and Good Practices: The project improved community understanding of climate change impacts and water management. Good practices included early dissemination sessions, feedback booths during construction, and hygiene awareness programs, all contributing to enhanced community resilience.

MRCS's approach highlights the importance of integrating engineering solutions with community engagement and education. By addressing both technical and social dimensions, the project has made strides in building climate-resilient water systems in Sittwe.

URBAN CAFE



Cruz Roja
Colombiana

Three Colombian Urban Areas Embrace Flood Resilience



The project was designed to both develop and measure the effectiveness of interventions intended to bolster community resilience to flooding. To achieve this, Cruz Roja Colombiana employed two main methodologies:

1. **Community Climate Resilience Measurement (CRMC):** Developed by the Zurich Alliance for Flood Resilience, the CRMC is an innovative tool used to collect evidence necessary for estimating community resilience. This tool assesses various factors contributing to a community's ability to withstand and recover from flood events.
2. **Enhanced Vulnerability and Capacity Analysis (EVCA):** Developed by the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC), EVCA is a participatory research methodology designed to analyze community vulnerabilities and capacities. It helps in identifying strengths and weaknesses, prioritizing interventions, and planning actions to enhance community resilience.

Implementation and Findings

The project's diagnostic phase involved a comprehensive assessment using both CRMC and EVCA. Preliminary results indicate that these methodologies are effective in:

1. **Understanding Community Capacities:** The combined use of CRMC and EVCA provided a detailed understanding of the strengths and weaknesses within the communities. This dual approach allowed for a nuanced analysis of local capacities to respond to and recover from flooding.
2. **Identifying and Prioritizing Interventions:** The insights gained from the assessments enabled the identification of key areas requiring intervention. This participatory process ensured that interventions were tailored to the specific needs of the communities.
3. **Fostering Community Participation:** By involving community members in the analysis process, the project promoted active participation and empowerment. This engagement helped in aligning interventions with the actual needs of the affected populations.

Good Practices

Several good practices emerged from the project:

- **Local Knowledge Utilization:** Volunteers with deep knowledge of local conditions played a crucial role in understanding community dynamics and needs. Their insights were invaluable in tailoring the interventions.
- **Early and Tangible Results:** Demonstrating early and tangible results fostered greater community participation and buy-in. Seeing the immediate benefits of the project encouraged continued engagement and support.
- **Implementation Capacity:** The National Society's ability to effectively implement actions and support communities was critical to the project's success. Strong local capacity ensured that interventions were executed efficiently and effectively.

Lessons Learned

The project yielded several important lessons:

- 1. Involvement of Key Stakeholders:** Engaging key stakeholders from the planning stage is essential for promoting governance and ensuring that projects align with broader objectives. Involving local authorities, community leaders, and other relevant stakeholders can enhance project effectiveness and sustainability.
- 2. Integration of Planning Instruments:** Integrating territorial planning instruments and previous risk studies into the project planning process is vital. This integration helps in aligning new interventions with existing risk management frameworks and enhances the overall coherence of the project.



URBAN CAFE



Urban Resilience Building through Advanced Networking, Partnership and Coordination



Urban resilience is a pressing concern in cities around the world, particularly in regions prone to extreme weather events and rapid urbanization. The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) exemplifies a strategic approach to enhancing urban resilience through advanced networking, partnerships, and coordination. This case study explores BDRCS's initiatives, focusing on their collaboration with local government entities, their role in disaster management, and their proactive measures in heatwave response.

Collaborative Approach: The Town Level Coordination Committees (TLCC)

BDRCS believes that sustainable societal change is best achieved through collective efforts. To this end, the organization works closely with the Town Level Coordination

Committees (TLCC) of various municipalities in Bangladesh. Established under the Local Government (Municipalities) Act 2009, the TLCC is a unique and inclusive body. Unlike other local government entities, the TLCC comprises a diverse membership, including government officials, representatives from citizen groups, and other disaster management actors. The 50-member TLCC reflects a broad cross-section of the community, from municipal elites to slum dwellers.

The primary objective of BDRCS is to enhance the TLCC's role in city development initiatives. This involves:

1. **Capacity Building:** Strengthening the capabilities of TLCC members through training and resources.
2. **Advocacy:** Promoting the importance of disaster resilience and sustainable development within the TLCC.
3. **Linkages and Networking:** Expanding connections with government departments, other coordination committees, universities, and the private sector to foster comprehensive urban development and disaster resilience.

BDRCS also assists City Corporations in forming and reconstituting Disaster Management Committees at both city and ward levels, adhering to the Standing Orders on Disaster - 2019. This support helps the city align its disaster management efforts with national standards and enhances coordination across different levels of government and society.

Heatwave Anticipatory Action and Response

In addition to its collaborative efforts, BDRCS has developed proactive measures to address specific urban challenges, such as heatwaves. On April 21, 2024, BDRCS activated its Heatwave Early Action Protocol in Dhaka City. This decision was triggered by an analysis of forecasts from the Bangladesh Meteorological Department (BMD) and other

international sources, which indicated that the maximum temperature had exceeded 38 degrees Celsius and the heat index had surpassed 38.

The activation of this protocol involves several key actions:

1. **Monitoring and Analysis:** Continuous tracking of weather forecasts and heat indices to assess the need for intervention.
2. **Early Action Protocol:** Implementing pre-planned measures to mitigate the effects of heatwaves, including public awareness campaigns, distribution of relief supplies, and support for vulnerable populations.
3. **Coordination with Local Authorities:** Working closely with city officials and disaster management committees to ensure a coordinated response.

Impact and Outreach

The combined efforts of BDRCS in enhancing urban resilience through networking, partnership, and proactive measures have yielded significant outcomes:

1. **Strengthened Local Governance:** The involvement of TLCC and the formation of Disaster Management Committees have enhanced local governance and disaster management capabilities.
2. **Improved City Resilience:** Capacity building and advocacy initiatives have contributed to more resilient urban systems, capable of better managing and recovering from disasters.
3. **Effective Heatwave Response:** The activation of the Heatwave Early Action Protocol demonstrates BDRCS's capability to respond swiftly and effectively to extreme weather events, protecting vulnerable populations and minimizing health risks.

ACTIVITY	PEOPLE REACHED
Early Warning Message and Awareness Raising	All 129 wards of Dhaka City (> 10,00,000 reached)
Distribution of Leaflets and awareness generation	150,000
Safe drinking water distribution at major public gathering points	30,000
Distribution of Umbrella for street hawkers and traffic police	3,500
Multi-purpose Cash Grants (MPCG) support for slum dwellers	4,000 households (18,000 people) (243 HHs got top up for PWD presence)
Distribution of Cap rickshaw/van pullers	3,500
Temporary Cooling Stations set up at 03 places (Mogbazar circle, Farmgate, Gulistan beside the Baitul Mukarram Mosque) with sitting arrangement for 30 people, separate bed for Man and Woman, Safe drinking water, oral saline support for the needy and health support through paramedics and first aid services	15,000++

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS) has undertaken a series of significant initiatives to address the effects of climate change and improve public health, particularly in the context of rising temperatures. These efforts, centered around awareness, relief distribution, and long-term adaptation strategies, have reached a wide audience and provided essential support to vulnerable communities.

Early Warning Messages and Awareness Campaigns

One of the primary interventions has been the dissemination of early warning messages across all 129 wards of Dhaka City. This initiative reached over one million residents, alerting them to the potential dangers of extreme weather conditions and educating them on preventative measures. Complementing this, 150,000 leaflets were distributed to raise awareness of the health risks associated with heatwaves, further emphasizing the importance of public preparedness.

Providing Safe Drinking Water and Essential Supplies

BDRCS also addressed the immediate need for hydration and protection against extreme heat by distributing safe drinking water to 30,000 individuals at major public gathering points in Dhaka. Additionally, to support those most exposed to harsh weather conditions, 3,500 umbrellas were distributed to street vendors and traffic police, ensuring they had basic protection from the sun. Similarly, 3,500 caps were given to rickshaw and van pullers, who spend prolonged hours outdoors, providing them with relief during intense heatwaves.

Support for Vulnerable Communities

Special attention was given to the marginalized communities in Dhaka, particularly slum dwellers. Through Multi-Purpose Cash Grants (MPCG), BDRCS supported 4,000 households—representing 18,000 individuals—helping them meet essential needs during heatwaves. Among these households, 243 received additional financial assistance to account for the presence of persons with disabilities (PWD), further ensuring equitable distribution of resources.

Establishing Temporary Cooling Stations

In an effort to provide immediate relief to those affected by heat, BDRCS set up temporary cooling stations at three key locations: Mogbazar Circle, Farmgate, and Gulistan, near Baitul Mukarram Mosque. These stations offered seating arrangements for 30 people, separate resting areas for men and women, safe drinking water, oral saline, and first-aid services provided by paramedics. Over 15,000 people benefitted from these temporary shelters, offering respite from extreme heat and reducing the risk of heat-related illnesses.

Heatwave Interventions in Other Districts

While Dhaka City saw the bulk of these activities, 16 other district units of BDRCS took similar initiatives to mitigate the effects of heatwaves. These districts distributed safe drinking water and conducted awareness campaigns using public announcements and leaflets, expanding the reach of the organization's efforts.

Heat Action Day 2024

To continue raising awareness and encourage proactive action against climate change, BDRCS will observe Heat Action Day on June 2, 2024. This nationwide event will feature activities such as public announcements, the distribution of leaflets, and even flash mobs, all aimed at educating the public on the risks of heatwaves. Further actions, including the distribution of caps and umbrellas, will help ensure that people are better equipped to handle extreme temperatures.

Long-term Mitigation and Adaptation Efforts

Looking beyond immediate relief, BDRCS is also focused on long-term solutions to combat climate change. The organization is spearheading nationwide tree planting initiatives and advocating for green infrastructure, including rooftop gardens, to reduce urban heat. Educational programs are also being conducted to raise awareness about the importance of sustainable practices, laying the foundation for a more climate-resilient future.

In conclusion, BDRCS's multi-faceted approach to addressing the impacts of climate change has made a significant difference in protecting the health and well-being of vulnerable populations. From immediate relief measures to long-term adaptation strategies, these efforts are contributing to a safer and more sustainable environment for all.

BDRCS Volunteer Mobilization

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), through its Red Crescent Youth (RCY) program, actively engages young volunteers in a variety of humanitarian efforts. These initiatives include disaster response, health promotion, and raising community awareness. Each volunteer receives thorough training in essential skills such as first aid,

disaster management, and leadership, equipping them to respond efficiently in emergency situations and lead community-based projects. The RCY program not only enhances social responsibility among the youth but also promotes personal development and leadership, fostering a generation of compassionate, skilled future leaders dedicated to making positive changes in their communities.

BDRCS currently boasts 14,000 active, trained volunteers proficient in basic first aid services and search-and-rescue operations. Furthermore, 400,000 trained institutional members contribute to disaster risk management efforts across the country. At the district level, BDRCS has 25 active Unit Disaster Response Teams (UDRT), who are ready to respond to emergencies in their respective areas. In addition to these district-level teams, BDRCS also relies on highly skilled National Disaster Response Teams (NDRT) and National Disaster WASH Response Teams (NDWRT) to provide national-level support during crises. Complementing these efforts, 84,000 trained Cyclone Preparedness Program (CPP) volunteers are on hand to assist in emergencies caused by natural or human-made hazards, ensuring a well-coordinated and effective response network.

BDRCS' Academic Collaboration

The Bangladesh Red Crescent Society (BDRCS), in partnership with the German Red Cross (GRC), launched the Urban Fellowship program to explore innovative approaches to Disaster Preparedness (DP) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR). This collaboration has allowed for the exploration and documentation of emerging urban challenges related to these themes, with the goal of sharing insights with stakeholders and designing larger urban-focused programs. BDRCS has proactively sought partnerships with academic institutions to advance research in these critical areas, focusing on building urban resilience in the face of emerging hazards.

As part of this effort, BDRCS has established Memorandums of Understanding (MoUs) with the University of Dhaka and the University of Rajshahi. These collaborations have allowed master's level thesis students, known as Fellows, to engage in research projects that address key questions related to urban resilience. Some of the selected thesis topics under the BDRCS Fellowship include:

- Heat Wave and High Temperature-Induced Illness and Adaptation Strategies among Informal Workers in Urban Settings: A Study in Dhaka, Bangladesh.
- The Impacts of Environmental Migration on Household Resilience of Migrant Families: A Comparative Study on Urban Labor Migrants and Rural Non-Migrants.
- GIS Modeling of Blue-Green Infrastructure (BGI) Design for a Water-Sensitive Urban Planning Approach: A Case Study of Bashundhara Residential Area.
- Spatial Risk Assessment of Urban Heat Islands on Public Health in Dhaka City.
- Patterns of Climate Actions and Sustainability Practices among Residents of Dhaka City: An Exploratory Study.
- Prioritization of Urban Adaptation Measures for Climate Change in Dhaka South under the National Adaptation Plan (2023–2050).

Recognizing the value of strong academic alliances, BDRCS, along with the International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) and other Partner National Societies (PNSs), is expanding this collaborative venture. Currently, the IFRC has partnerships with BRAC University, and it is anticipated that a new MoU with Khulna University will be formalized in July, further strengthening the scope of academic collaboration in disaster preparedness and climate resilience research.

URBAN CAFE



Innovative Approaches to Urban and Climate Resilience through Technology and Youth



This presentation, from the Singapore Red Cross, addresses the growing challenges posed by climate emergencies—specifically heatwaves—on Singapore’s vulnerable populations, particularly seniors living alone. It explores innovative strategies that harness technology and engage youth in building urban resilience, ensuring the safety and well-being of at-risk groups.

As global temperatures continue to rise, urban areas like Singapore are experiencing the intensifying effects of the urban heat island phenomenon. This leads to significant health risks, particularly for the aging population, who are more susceptible to heat-related illnesses due to factors such as reduced mobility, underlying health issues, and isolation. Seniors living alone are especially at risk, making it essential to establish robust emergency response systems and community support networks to safeguard their health during extreme heat events.

One of the key solutions introduced in the presentation is HoME+, a pioneering emergency response system tailored to address the needs of vulnerable seniors. HoME+ utilizes advanced technology to provide real-time monitoring and rapid emergency alerts, ensuring that help is dispatched immediately when needed. This system includes sensors designed to detect unusual activity patterns, automatically alerting emergency services and caregivers to potential risks. The emphasis is on swift, targeted support to mitigate the dangers faced by seniors, particularly those living alone, during heatwaves.

In addition to technological innovations like HoME+, the presentation highlights the critical role of community-based support systems. Volunteer networks and befriender programs are crucial in offering companionship and regular check-ins for seniors, reducing isolation and ensuring their well-being. These community services complement the technological solutions, creating a multi-layered approach to protecting seniors in times of crisis.

To further strengthen community resilience, the Singapore Red Cross has revamped its Red Cross Youth (RCY) curriculum. This updated curriculum is designed to more directly support core Singapore Red Cross services while preparing young people to meet future humanitarian challenges. In Singapore, youth are being empowered as leaders to take on active roles in addressing climate change, promoting sustainable practices, and supporting emergency response efforts. The revamped RCY curriculum emphasizes innovation, resilience, and leadership development, equipping youth with the necessary skills to lead initiatives that mitigate the impacts of climate change and support the community.

The presentation explores how this curriculum trains young people to become community responders, ready to assist in emergencies and support humanitarian services. Through hands-on training, simulations, and leadership activities, youth are not only prepared to handle disaster response scenarios but are also empowered to support professionals in community-based assistance efforts.

Beyond immediate emergency preparedness, the presentation discusses the broader implications of empowering youth in environmental and humanitarian contexts. It underscores the long-term benefits of investing in youth leadership and innovation, including fostering a culture of resilience and developing sustainable solutions for future challenges. By encouraging youth to adopt environmentally conscious behaviors and take an active role in climate action, they can influence their peers and drive widespread adoption of sustainable practices.

The presentation concludes with a call to action for educators, policymakers, and community leaders to support and amplify the role of youth in driving positive change. It emphasizes the need for comprehensive training and educational programs that equip youth with the knowledge and skills to face the challenges posed by climate change and urban resilience.

Key Lessons from the Presentation

- 1. Vulnerability of Seniors:** Singapore's rapidly aging population is particularly vulnerable to the effects of heatwaves. Seniors, especially those living alone, are at greater risk of heat injuries due to reduced mobility, pre-existing health conditions, and social isolation.
- 2. Innovative Technology with HoME+:** HoME+ is a groundbreaking emergency response system designed to safeguard seniors. It uses technology to monitor real-time conditions, detect unusual patterns in behavior, and provide automatic emergency alerts, ensuring swift responses to potential health risks.
- 3. Targeted Support for Seniors:** The focus is on protecting the most vulnerable, particularly seniors living alone, through a combination of technological innovations and community support systems.
- 4. Community-Based Networks:** The importance of volunteer networks, befriender programs, and other community-based services is highlighted as essential in providing companionship, regular check-ins, and ensuring the overall safety and well-being of seniors.
- 5. Youth as Agents of Change:** Youth play a crucial role in promoting sustainable practices and leading climate action. By adopting environmentally responsible behaviors, youth can influence wider community behavior and drive collective efforts toward sustainability.
- 6. Curriculum Review and Update:** A review of the existing cadet curriculum identified gaps in service-oriented training and climate-related content. The updated curriculum focuses on preparing youth for future humanitarian challenges, including disaster response and community services.
- 7. Emergency Preparedness Training:** Youth are trained in emergency response through hands-on experiences and leadership development activities, ensuring they are equipped to actively participate in disaster response and humanitarian efforts.
- 8. Encouraging Active Youth Participation:** The presentation advocates for increased youth involvement in humanitarian projects and initiatives, providing platforms for young people to voice their ideas and lead community-driven efforts.

Overall, the presentation underscores the importance of innovative, community-driven efforts to protect Singapore's seniors from the dangers of heatwaves and other climate-related emergencies. It also emphasizes the critical role that youth can play in building a resilient and sustainable future through leadership, innovation, and active community engagement.



URBAN CAFE



Croce Rossa Italiana

Strengthening Urban Youth Climate and Resilience Programming in South Asia



Strengthening Urban Youth Climate and Resilience Programming in South Asia: Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal

In 2024, the Italian Red Cross launched an initiative aimed at promoting urban multi-hazard preparedness and fostering youth-driven climate action across South Asia, with a focus on Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal. This sub-regional project seeks to address the growing climate-compounded hazards that threaten vulnerable urban systems and populations in these countries. By engaging youth, the project aims to enhance community resilience and reduce disaster risk in the face of escalating climate challenges.

Overall Goals of the Project

The primary objective of the project is to empower youth as key agents of change in mitigating climate-related risks in urban environments. To achieve this, the initiative has outlined several key goals:

- **Increase the Uptake of Resources for Youth-Driven Preparedness:** By leveraging existing resources and tools, the project encourages the youth to take active roles in preparing their communities for multi-hazard risks. These include floods, landslides, extreme heat, and other urban climate vulnerabilities.
- **Enhance Youth Capacities for Community Engagement:** The project focuses on building the skills and knowledge of young people to effectively engage their communities in resilience-building efforts. This includes training them to reduce disaster risk through localized climate actions.
- **Develop Context-Specific Action Plans:** The project recognizes the importance of tailored solutions to address the unique challenges faced by urban centers in Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal. To support practical climate action, Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials and Urban Action Plans are developed with country-specific contexts in mind. This ensures that actions taken are relevant and effective in addressing local vulnerabilities.
- **Foster Regional Learning for Scaling Up:** A key component of the project is knowledge sharing. By documenting and disseminating lessons learned from Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal, the initiative aims to create models that can be replicated across other urban areas in South Asia and beyond. This regional scale-up will amplify the impact of youth-led climate resilience actions.

Project Outcomes

The outcomes of the project provide a clear framework for measuring success and scaling up the intervention. These outcomes focus on institutionalizing youth-led urban climate initiatives, increasing youth and community capacities, and ensuring inclusive action at a regional level.

- 1. Institutionalization and Capacity Enhancement:** The project seeks to embed youth-led urban climate interventions into the national and sub-regional frameworks of Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal. By doing so, it ensures that these efforts are sustainable and can continue to grow beyond the initial implementation phase. Youth participants will be equipped with the tools and skills necessary to lead these initiatives for the long term.
- 2. Capacitating Youth and Urban Communities:** The project places a strong emphasis on educating and preparing both youth and their urban communities. By disseminating relevant IEC materials and executing multi-hazard climate resilience actions, the program aims to create risk-informed populations that can better respond to and mitigate climate threats.
- 3. Designing Inclusive, Practical Action for Regional Scale-Up:** Recognizing the diverse needs of urban populations across South Asia, the project has developed inclusive and practical action plans. These plans are designed to be scaled up and applied in other regions facing similar climate challenges, ensuring that the successes of the project can have a broader regional impact.

The Italian Red Cross' initiative to strengthen urban youth climate and resilience programming in South Asia is a vital step towards building safer, more resilient cities in Bhutan, Maldives, and Nepal. By empowering youth, fostering practical climate action, and sharing knowledge for regional scale-up, this project represents a forward-thinking approach to addressing the escalating impacts of climate change in urban environments. As the program continues to expand, it holds the potential to serve as a model for other countries facing similar challenges, creating a more resilient and prepared future for urban communities across South Asia.

Country Summary

BHUTAN	MALDIVES	NEPAL
Bhutan Red Cross	Maldivian Red Crescent	Nepal Red Cross
Flooding, landslide, glacial lake outburst flood (GLOF)	Sea level rise, coastal storm, erosion, flooding, extreme heat	Flooding, landslide, draughts, GLOF, extreme heat
Y-Adapt Program for university students and initiate youth led climate actions in communities	Y-Adapt Program for Y&V, distribution of bucket hats for heat action, coastal vegetation restoration to mitigate flooding and erosion, public outreach campaign and dissemination of IEC materials	Y-Adapt Program complementary to (Paribartak): The Changemaker, youth-led nationwide campaign modelled against Limitless
Gross National Happiness (GNH) Youth Guiding Policy entitled "Development with Values" Youth Policy on 8th May 2022	Youth Policy endorsed in 2021	Endorsed Youth Engagement Strategy (YES) in 2018
390 youths & students	250 students, youth & volunteers	162 youths
9 colleges	> 3 schools	-
1 city (Thimphu)	3 cities (Addu, Kulhudhuffushi, Male)	National

Bhutan Red Cross' Youth-Led Climate Actions in Urban Communities

The Bhutan Red Cross has undertaken significant initiatives to combat climate-induced challenges such as flooding, landslides, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF). These natural hazards pose a severe threat to the urban and rural landscapes of Bhutan, where climate change has exacerbated the intensity of these disasters. To address these challenges, the Bhutan Red Cross has rolled out the ****Y-Adapt Program****, designed specifically for university students.

This program encourages youth to spearhead climate action within their communities, fostering leadership in local disaster preparedness. By integrating students into the framework of national climate action, the Y-Adapt initiative helps young people to become agents of change, supporting urban and community resilience. These actions align with Bhutan's national philosophy of Gross National Happiness (GNH), emphasizing a sustainable balance between economic development and environmental conservation. Bhutan's youth policy, "Development with Values," reflects this approach, and the Y-Adapt Program is a testament to this guiding principle.

The impact of this initiative is substantial, with 390 youth and students from 9 colleges across Thimphu actively participating in urban climate resilience efforts. This structured program aims to build Bhutan's capacity to mitigate and adapt to climate risks while embedding a sense of responsibility and leadership in the country's future generation.

Maldivian Red Crescent's Fight Against Coastal Hazards and Extreme Heat

The Maldivian Red Crescent is confronting some of the most pressing climate challenges faced by the island nation: sea level rise, coastal storms, erosion, flooding, and extreme heat. As a low-lying country, the Maldives is especially vulnerable to climate-induced hazards that threaten both its urban infrastructure and natural ecosystems. In response, the Maldivian Red Crescent has introduced a Y-Adapt Program aimed at youth and volunteers, focusing on building climate resilience across multiple fronts.

One of the key initiatives includes the distribution of bucket hats, an innovative solution to protect against heat-related risks, particularly during periods of extreme temperatures. Additionally, efforts to restore coastal vegetation play a critical role in mitigating the effects of erosion and flooding, with further emphasis placed on public outreach campaigns. Through the dissemination of Information, Education, and Communication (IEC) materials, the Maldivian Red Crescent is educating the population about how to address and adapt to the impacts of climate change.

The program engages 250 students, youth, and volunteers across three cities: Addu, Kulhudhuffushi, and Male, creating a well-informed and prepared network to tackle climate hazards. By addressing both immediate threats and long-term climate resilience, this initiative is making a marked difference in enhancing the Maldives' ability to withstand environmental changes.

Nepal Red Cross' Nationwide Youth Climate Action

Nepal faces a range of climate-related challenges, including flooding, landslides, droughts, and glacial lake outburst floods (GLOF), which significantly impact the lives of millions. To address these issues, the Nepal Red Cross has partnered with youth to promote climate action through the Y-Adapt Program, which complements the existing Paribartak: The Changemaker initiative. This youth-led, nationwide campaign focuses on building urban resilience to climate-compounded hazards.

The Paribartak campaign, modeled after the successful Limitless program, is an empowering platform that allows Nepalese youth to take on leadership roles in disaster risk reduction and climate adaptation. In tandem with the Y-Adapt program, young people in Nepal are at the forefront of climate action, leading initiatives to protect their communities from natural hazards.

These efforts are further supported by the country's Youth Engagement Strategy (YES), which was endorsed in 2018 to promote the active participation of youth in national development and disaster preparedness. This strategy has given 162 youth the platform to engage in vital climate resilience actions on a national level.

Nepal Red Cross's approach has been instrumental in fostering youth leadership and preparing communities to respond to climate risks. By aligning these efforts with broader national policies, the program ensures that Nepal is well-positioned to tackle both current and future environmental challenges.

This South Asian collaboration led by the Italian Red Cross highlights the pivotal role of youth in addressing urban climate challenges. By building their capacity and fostering community resilience, the project is shaping a future where youth-driven action leads to tangible improvements in the region's ability to withstand climate-compounded hazards.

BRCS empowers youth leaders to combat climate change

Shank Ghose

The Human Red-Cross Society's (HRCS) Y-Adapt climate change training programme provided over 100 young volunteers from the colleges of the Bicol University of Science with the necessary knowledge and skills to tackle climate-related issues within their communities.

Y-Adapt or Youth Adapt is an interactive, gamified learning, through board games, role-playing, and group activities, that empowers youth to act in their communities to adapt to climate change.

The programme cultivates practical learning, where participants progress through levels, receive feedback and awards, and collaborate on challenges. The programme also includes a gamified learning, where participants progress through levels, receive feedback and awards, and collaborate on challenges.



• The programme utilized gamified learning, where participants progress through levels, receive feedback and awards, and collaborate on challenges.

Climate-smart agricultural techniques such as terrace and crop diversification with the focus on local solutions.

The training participants from Pura College of Education, College of Science and Technology, College of Language and Culture Studies, Marikina College, and Diponegoro Engineering College were also taught about

community-based disaster risk reduction, early warning systems, emergency shelters and evacuation plans, among others, to ensure the impact of disaster-resilient communities.

South, Indonesia, and global like nations (HRCS).

HRCS launched the Y-Adapt programme on February 6, 2023 to train youth leaders in climate change adaptation. Twenty-eight youth coordinators from 10 colleges across the country participated in the first phase.

Two trainers, Susan Gray and Sandra Wangari, who completed their Y-Adapt training of trainers on May 18, 2023 in Nepal, facilitated the training.

Participants said the programme provided valuable skills related to climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction. The programme suggested expanding the training to colleges due to its practical relevance.

From Indonesia, Y-Adapt will train volunteers from Cebu College of Business Studies, Surabon College of Education, College of Education, and Marikina College.

What Could Be Next: Expanding Youth-Led Urban Climate Resilience

The successful implementation of the Y-Adapt Program has highlighted the potential for youth engagement in urban climate resilience efforts. As we look forward, several areas of expansion and development could further optimize the outcomes of youth-driven initiatives and prepare communities to respond to the evolving challenges of climate change in urban environments.

One promising direction is expanding beyond Y-Adapt to integrate additional components such as Youth in School Safety and the Urban Action Kit, along with further preparedness and training measures. These tools would empower young

people to take active roles in safeguarding their schools and communities from climate-related hazards, complementing existing programs. Customized Preparedness Packages could also be developed to reflect country-specific priorities and urban activities led by National Societies. Tailoring these packages would ensure that the youth and community actions are more relevant and aligned with local needs and conditions.

Intersectionality is another key consideration in expanding urban climate resilience efforts. Vulnerable groups, including migrants, often face unique challenges during climate emergencies. Integrating mental health support, such as psychosocial first aid (PFA) and broader psychosocial support systems, could significantly enhance the effectiveness of these initiatives. By addressing both physical and mental health concerns, we can advance more holistic urban resilience strategies.

Contextualization and localization of solutions will play an increasingly important role in optimizing the impact of youth-driven climate actions. By further adapting materials and strategies to local contexts, we can increase their relevance and better address the specific challenges faced by different communities. This approach will not only improve outcomes but also encourage greater participation from local stakeholders who see the immediate value in such initiatives.

To achieve meaningful progress, it is essential to increase stakeholder engagement. Mapping key stakeholders and identifying entry points for collaboration, especially with expert NGOs, will be vital for securing low-level commitments that can eventually evolve into more substantial partnerships. Expanding partnerships with a wider network of collaborators will help amplify the reach and sustainability of urban resilience actions.

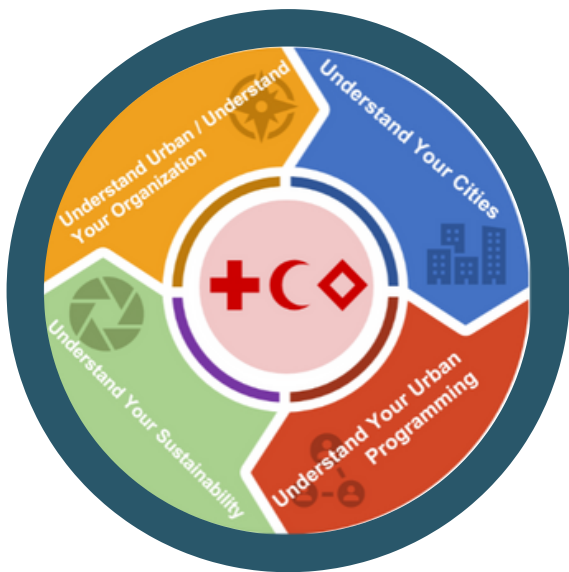
In the era of data-driven decision-making, the phrase "Data is boss" could not be more relevant. Comprehensive climate risk assessments and the use of tools like the electronic Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (eVCA) will provide invaluable insights for shaping strategies, strengthening Monitoring & Evaluation (M&E) systems, and ensuring that actions are both effective and measurable. By leveraging accurate data, we can create smarter, more informed approaches to building urban resilience.

Lastly, the next phase of this initiative would benefit greatly from securing additional funding. Identifying co-funding sources will be crucial to expanding the scope of the project into more countries across the Asia Pacific region. By increasing financial backing and expanding partnerships, we can take the lessons learned from the current phase and scale them up to reach more vulnerable urban communities.

As we look beyond the successes of Y-Adapt, there is a clear opportunity to build on this momentum. By integrating additional training components, fostering intersectional approaches, enhancing localization, and increasing stakeholder engagement, we can continue to advance youth-led climate resilience efforts in urban settings. With the right strategies, data, and resources, the next phase promises to be even more impactful, empowering youth and communities to stand resilient in the face of climate challenges.

URBAN PLAYGROUND

URBAN COMPASS



Day 1 of the Urban Collaboration Platform brought together two sessions on measurement and improvement. The first session by Francisco Ianni concerned climate resilience measurement. The second session was on the Urban Compass National Society development framework and associated Urban Ready Standards.

The Urban Compass is a framework designed to help National Society urban branches assess and improve their capacity deliver services and support urban community resilience.

Its foundation is a set of “Urban Ready Standards” which allow urban RCRC branches to quickly assess current capacities, and identify improvements needed for the branch and National Society to meet their urban goals.

The standards are developed from Urban Considerations for PER, EVCA, and Volunteering, along with the Roadmap to Resilience version 2.0. Further, they are aligned with existing, more comprehensive branch capacity assessment processes such as BOCA.

2 CODE OF CONDUCT

The National Society ensures that all volunteers can comply with the Fundamental Principles of the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement.

The Movement expects National Societies to provide their volunteers with a contextualized Code of Conduct. It is a guiding principle that helps the relationship balanced between the National Society and the volunteers by ensuring mutual respect. It also helps to ensure a consistent approach to developing and supporting volunteer involvement that benefits both the organization and the volunteers.

The Movement is committed to creating safe environments free of harm or threat to the dignity of the volunteers, staff, and the people served. The National Society Code of Conduct for Volunteers reflects this commitment allowing cooperative who volunteers and work with volunteers to be aware of their responsibilities. It is an essential part of safeguarding and allowing for volunteer-friendly organizations. Given the specific country contexts, the Code of Conduct must explain how to carry out the Fundamental Principles and use the Emblem correctly in the volunteering activities.

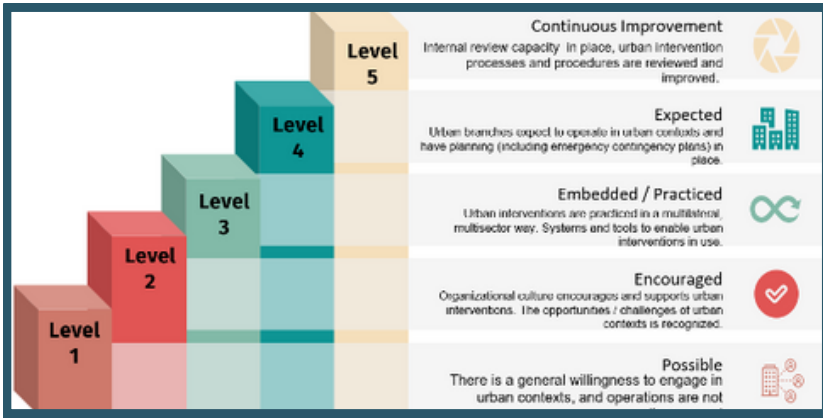
A useful Code of Conduct explains in simple language, what the National Society commits to doing for its volunteers, and what the volunteers, in turn, commit to doing for their organization. National Societies must be sensitive to different levels of literacy among the volunteers. Volunteers need to understand what the Code of Conduct means in practice and illustrated examples can help understand what it means. Volunteers formally sign and accept the Code of Conduct as a gesture that they have recognized and promise to act per the code.

The National Society is taking responsibility for volunteers seriously when revising and adopting the Code of Conduct. In return, the National Society expects volunteers to take their responsibilities seriously. The IIRC Volunteering Policy, Volunteer Charter and Code of Conduct are valuable references for developing and writing volunteer codes. However, a contemporary Volunteer Code of Conduct also incorporates relevant and emerging in-country developments and volunteer feedback.

Some countries have National Volunteering Standards and Code of Conduct set collectively by volunteer organizations. These standards and codes can be helpful benchmarks for a National Society.

WHAT IS YOUR PRESENT SITUATION?

TIER A
TIER B
TIER C
TIER D
TIER E



The lightweight implementation requirements of the Urban Ready standards allows Branches to conduct assessments quickly with few resources while gathering enough quality information to make data based decisions on branch development.

Paired with a maturity model to help guide future capacity development, the Urban Compass and Urban Ready Standards will provide guidance and pathways for sustainable urban branch development and continued urban programming improvement.

The Urban Ready Standards are currently under development and will be ready for trial by the end of 2024.



URBAN PLAYGROUND

URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE



The Climate Resilience Measurement for Communities (CRMC) program highlights the importance of evaluating urban resilience. This initiative seeks to provide data-driven insights, facilitate benchmarking, support adaptive management, and promote informed decision-making. By measuring climate resilience in urban settings, stakeholders can ensure accountable and transparent governance, efficiently mobilize resources, and develop strategic responses to climate-related challenges.

The program is a part of the Zurich Climate Resilience Alliance (ZCRA) and covers a diverse range of countries, including Mexico, Indonesia, Nigeria, Senegal, the Philippines, Fiji, Malawi, Jordan, Pakistan, Nepal, Bangladesh, Vietnam, Bolivia, Kenya, and Peru. The CRMC employs a multi-layered measurement ecosystem that incorporates digital infrastructure and tools to assess resilience across communities.

The CRMC adopts a "Capitals View" and "Themes View" approach, which allows for comprehensive assessments of various dimensions of resilience. Key takeaways from the CRMC initiative emphasize the value of the measurement process, the importance of selecting the right tools, and the development of a robust digital infrastructure to support resilience evaluations.

Ultimately, the CRMC project represents a holistic approach to understanding and enhancing community resilience in the face of increasing climate risks. It provides a systematic methodology that not only measures outcomes but also emphasizes the process, fostering sustainable development and adaptive capacity across vulnerable regions.



URBAN PLAYGROUND

VIRTUAL REALITY



VR Contents

The APDRC use Virtual Reality tools to train people and raise general public awareness on disaster risks and training through disaster simulations.

What is VR

Virtual Reality (VR) is a technology which allows to experience and interact with an environment that doesn't exist in an astounding realistic way. Unlike other traditional interfaces, the 3D experience, sound effects and even tough simulation place the user inside an immersive and believable experience and let use be an integrated part and major actor of this experience.

How does Virtual Reality support local populations in case of disaster?

The International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) Asia Pacific Disaster Resilience Centre (APDRC), the regional reference centre established by the Republic of Korea National Red Cross in 2016, introduced Virtual Reality tools to train people and raise general public awareness in disaster risk reduction and community resilience.

The Asia Pacific region is a supermarket of disaster. Approximately 60% of the world population is living in this region, the most disaster-prone area which faces over 70% of the world disasters. In 2018 alone, 4 out of 5 of the most disaster affected countries in the world are located in Asia – India, Philippines, Afghanistan, and China. APDRC realized that disaster safety training is not an option but a necessity. APDRC noticed that when people are exposed to the disaster situation, the way they react to the situation might be very different from a normal situation. In order to support the learning of correct procedures in relations to real disaster situations without bringing any harm to the population, APDRC used modern technology called Virtual Reality.

Disaster Resilience Training is based on Virtual Reality that uses a gaming computer with a headset and controller. It has three contents for the training. 'Fire in a theatre', 'Escaping from ship' were developed by a private company and 'earthquake' contents has been developed by APDRC and ICRC together. APDRC provided 2 sets of VR gear with gaming computers to the National Societies that have expressed an interest in the training. TOT trainings were also delivered to the operators in each National Societies in South Korea. Those NSs have to report their activities to APDRC every year. An operator is needed to support the participants to have a realistic experience. Each National Society operates the training in 2 ways. One is 1 - 2 hour training with DRR lectures and VR experiences, the other is 5 ~ 10 minutes with DRR introduction and VR experiences as an additional event of large gathering.

The pilot training was done in 5 countries – South Korea, Philippines, Mongolia, Nepal, and Indonesia – in 2018. In those countries, a total of 4,277 people across 98 events participated. In 2019, the training was done in 7 countries – South Korea, Philippines, Mongolia, Nepal, Thailand, Singapore, and Vietnam. In total 16,010 people participated in the training.

APDRC carried out the evaluation with a satisfaction check. In Korea, around 1,500 participants shared their satisfaction level in 2018. 95.4% of the participants were satisfied with the VR training. The majority of feedback was very positive and people said that “It was like a real disaster”, “It was vivid and realistic” “It was helpful to understand the victims.”

This innovative training is very much attractive to students and the community. Especially, students in urban areas in Asia responded enthusiastically to this VR based education. All the NS which carried out the VR training said that VR can allow participants to learn without exposure in dangerous situations. One of NS in South East Asia could lead a discussion regarding innovative training within the country.

However, there are still many challenges. Firstly, the initial investment expense is quite high. Due to this, the number of gears APDRC can provide is limited. The second challenge is that VR training is carried out as an additional event and not as a main event. The limited number of available languages and content also makes it difficult to utilize the equipment over a broad cross-section of people. Infectious diseases like the outbreak of COVID-19 also make it difficult to have large gatherings or training programs. Despite these challenges, APDRC constantly aims to develop and distribute this innovative and creative training content to strengthen the capacity of DRR and Community Resilience.



FIELD VISIT TO SEOUL SAFETY CENTER

On the last day of the conference, participants were taken for a field visit at the Seoul Safety Center where they experienced hands-on simulation exercises on various safety procedures ranging from household safety, transportation safety in trains, buses and roads, to earthquake simulations and basic first aid and CPR. The newly opened center is an example of how innovative city government programs can promote disaster preparedness among its citizens. Currently, the center caters to students around the Seoul Metropolitan area as part of their regular curriculum.



SNAPSHOTS



SNAPSHOTS



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