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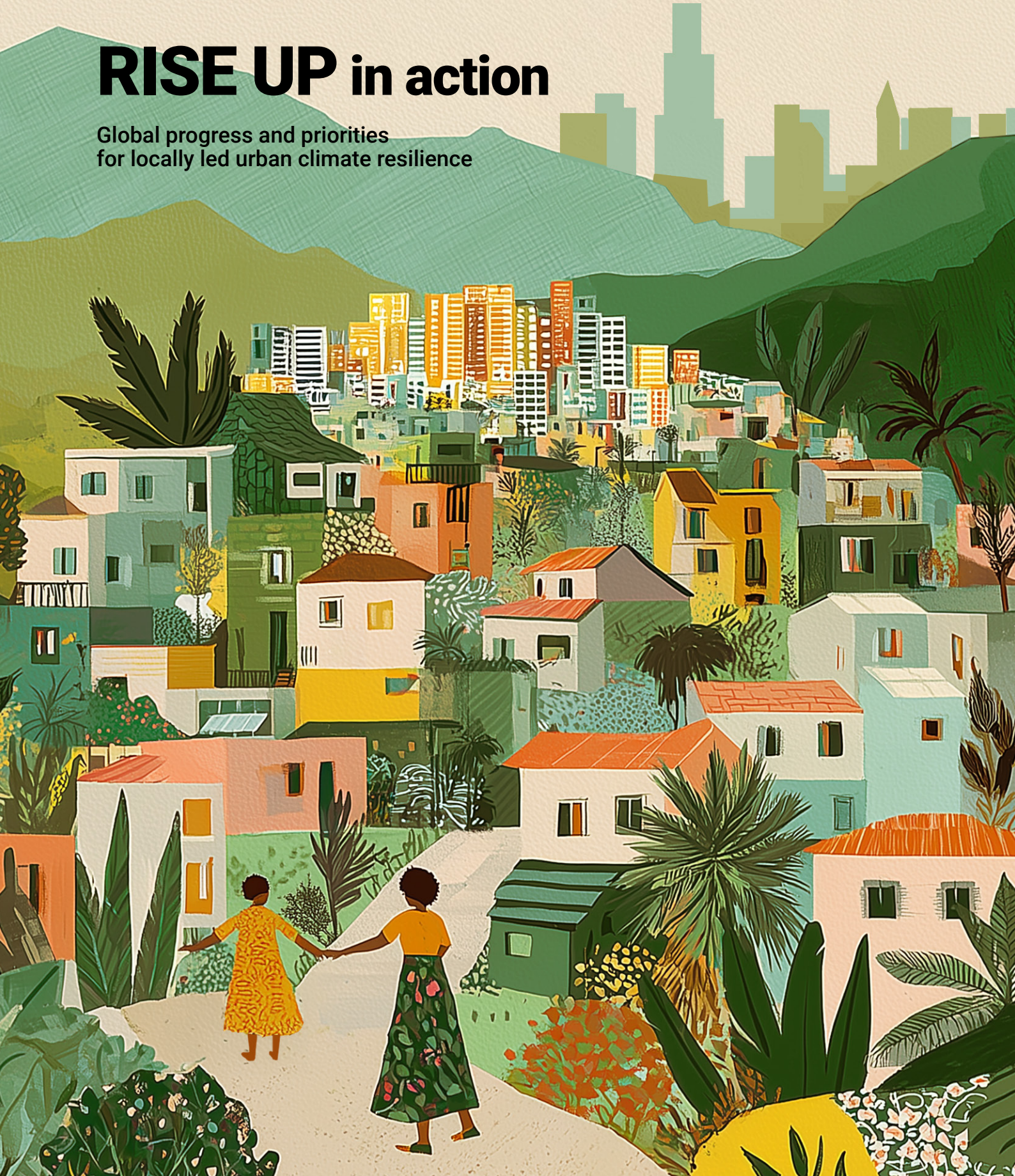
RISE UP in action

Global progress and priorities for locally led urban climate resilience



RISE UP in action: Global progress and priorities for locally led urban climate resilience

United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat)
P.O. Box 30030 00100
Nairobi GPO KENYA
Tel: 254-020-7623120 (Central Office)
www.unhabitat.org

Principal acknowledgements

Contributors: Bernhard Barth, Lucia Gasser Hidalgo, Jessica Jones-Langley, Gonzalo Lacurcia Abraira, Lee Michael Lambert, Juan Lozano Gonzalez Del Tanago, Martine de Zoeten

Design and layout: Habin Park

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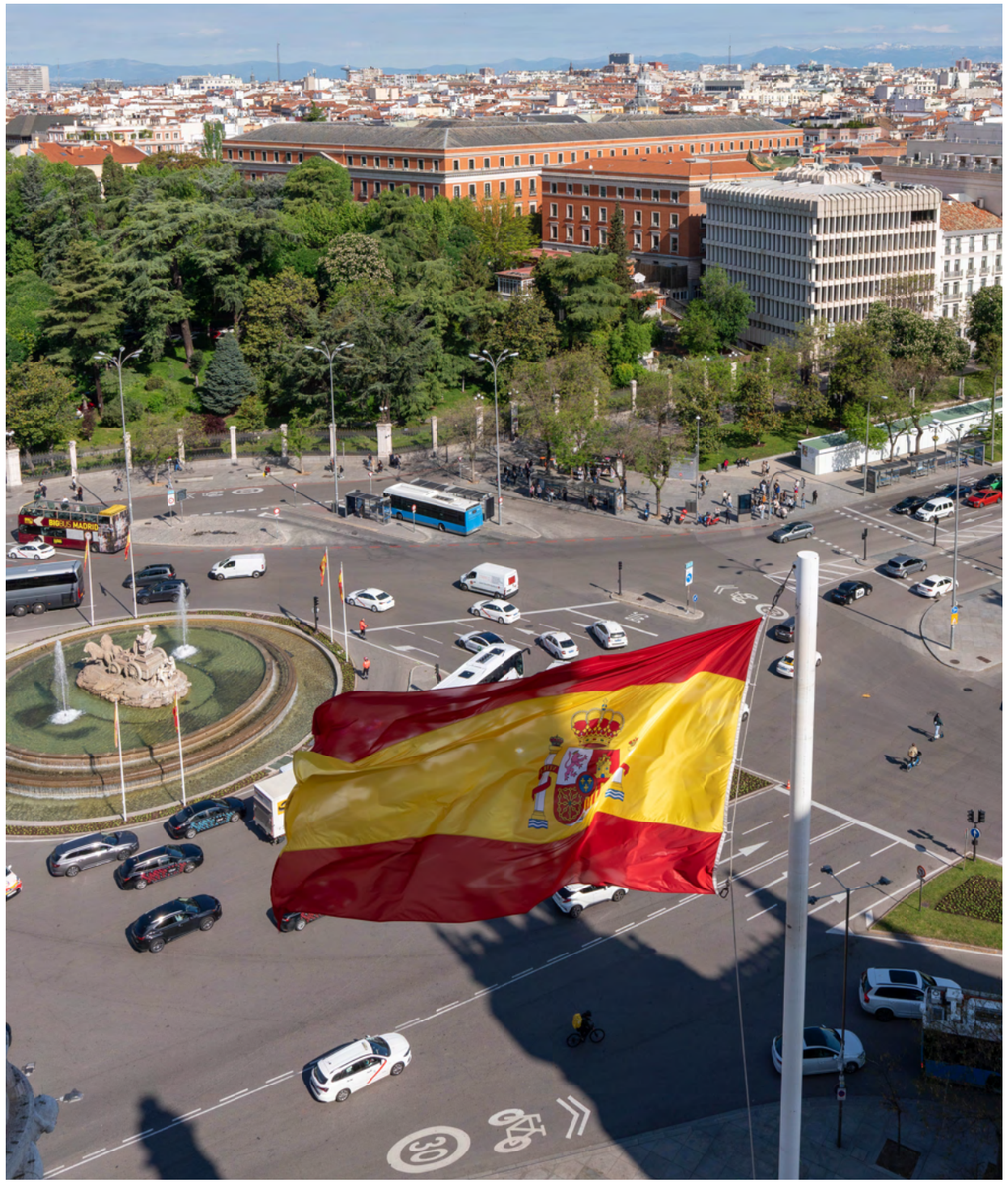
Abbreviations and acronyms

A list of abbreviations and acronyms used throughout this report for ease of reference.

ABM	Adaptation Benefit Mechanism
AECID	Spanish Agency for International Development Cooperation
EBRD	European Bank for Reconstruction and Development
FMDV	Global Fund for Cities Development
GCAPs	Green City Action Plans
GFDRR	Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery
Lao PDR	Lao People's Democratic Republic
MVA	Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment
NAPs	National Adaptation Plans
NDCs	Nationally Determined Contributions
PIDG	Private Infrastructure Development Group
RISE UP	Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (programme name)
SDBs	Subnational Development Banks
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SMEs	Small and Medium-sized Enterprises
UN-Habitat	United Nations Human Settlements Programme
UNPDF	United Nations Peace and Development Trust Fund
URAPs	Urban Resilience Action Plans
WUF12	12th Session of the World Urban Forum



Hosted by the Spanish Agency of International Cooperation for Development (AECID), the RISE UP Global Workshop brought together 60 participants, including mayors, deputy mayors, and technical teams from 12 cities worldwide, to accelerate urban climate resilience under the RISE UP programme. © UN-Habitat / Martine de Zoeten

01

Executive Summary

General overview

The **RISE UP programme** continues to advance urban climate resilience across diverse regions, focusing on interconnected climate, urban, and biodiversity challenges while scaling impactful, locally-led solutions and fostering strategic partnerships. This report captures the essence of a global collaboration, offering a forward-looking framework for donor and partner engagement and scaling.

The programme facilitates knowledge exchange among practitioners and policymakers spanning cities, communities, and Spanish institutions, enriching territorial planning practices and aligning resilience projects with concrete financing pathways. It also supports strategic planning for future phases of implementation, tailored to local contexts.

A key milestone in this was the **Global Workshop for Urban Climate Resilience**, which brought together project cities, technical partners, international stakeholders and donors to share project progress and achievements, exchange experiences and lessons learned, and build strategic partnerships and an actionable roadmap for financing and strengthening locally led urban resilience. The event gathered over 60 people, including representatives of 12 cities across nine countries, including 8 mayors and deputy mayors, representing a combined population of over 6.2 million.

The workshop marked an important milestone in the shared mission to strengthen urban climate resilience and improve living conditions for the most vulnerable and marginalized communities in cities around the world, especially for the more than one billion people living in informal settlements and slums.

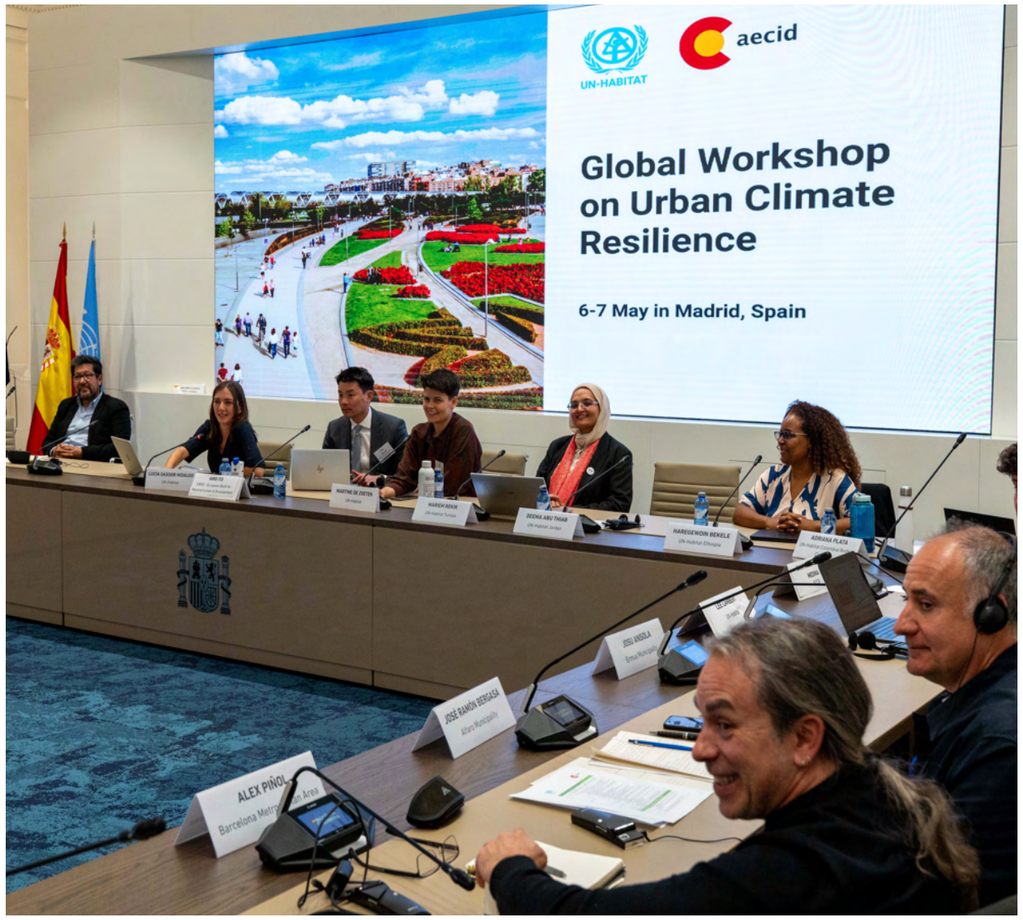
The challenge remains clear: only 10 per cent of international adaptation funding reaches the local level. Local governments face complex application processes, lack of local-level financing opportunities, institutional fragmentation, and limited technical capacity to prepare bankable proposals. Therefore, demand-driven capacity building, strategic implementation partnerships, and the development of more localized, accessible financing mechanisms are essential to accelerate action.

The RISE UP programme approach emphasizes **adaptive, innovative and scalable community-driven solutions that are ready for investment and replication**. The workshop emphasized that climate adaptation can no longer rely on pilot initiatives, standalone projects, or the isolated commitment of local actors. There is an urgent need to establish mechanisms that allow scalable solutions and the direct mobilization of resources to the local level.

The workshop highlighted the need to **bridge the gap between planning and effective action**. While technical plans are essential, their success depends on local and national leadership, institutional capacity, financing, and long-term political commitment. To meet these needs, RISE UP positions itself as a flexible, city-led programme that translates plans into bankable projects. RISE UP does so by strengthening institutional and technical capacity, supporting multilevel partnerships, and converting action plans into concrete projects that contribute to global and national climate goals and commitments. By doing so, it ensures that climate resilience efforts are not only designed but also implemented in ways that generate tangible, lasting impact for cities and communities.

The workshop also provided a valuable opportunity to review progress across 15 RISE UP cities, exchange experiences and lessons learned, allowing for a joint evaluation — and demonstration — of the methodology's effectiveness, scalability, and adaptability to diverse and evolving contexts. Inter-city collaboration, particularly through exchanges between Spanish municipalities and RISE-UP partners in Latin America, Africa, and Asia, have enriched the collective experience, supporting ongoing assessments and strengthening the programme's local and global impact.

RISE UP was established to respond to these challenges with a practical, adaptable, and city-led approach. Looking ahead, and with continued support from AECID and the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund under the UNPDF, the programme will focus on turning action plans into fundable projects, strengthening institutional capacity, and advancing multilevel partnerships to deliver transformative climate resilience.



The Global Workshop on Urban Climate Resilience brought together over 60 participants, including mayors, deputy mayors, and technical teams from 12 cities worldwide, to advance financing pathways, share lessons, and strengthen partnerships under the RISE UP programme.
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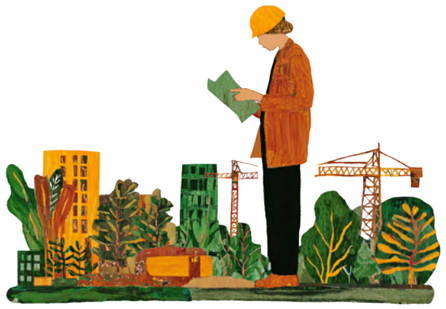
Key messages

The following 12 takeaways reflect what was shared by participants across the two days:



1. **Cities are on the frontline of the climate crisis**, facing a mix of heatwaves, floods, droughts, and environmental degradation - often with limited resources to respond. This urgency makes it essential to equip cities with tools, capacity, and financing to act swiftly and effectively.

2. **The burden is not shared equally.** For many cities, the climate crisis does not arrive in isolation. It hits where services are already overstretched, where infrastructure is fragile, and where inequality runs deep. The result is a growing burden on the communities least equipped to recover. Addressing these inequities is central to ensuring climate resilience benefits all citizens.

3. **Local governments are stepping up.** Across regions, cities are innovating and taking action to protect their communities. But they are often doing it alone, without sufficient technical support, financing, or political backing to deliver solutions at the scale required. Supporting cities with coordinated resources can amplify their impact and avoid duplication of efforts.

4. **National and local alignment remains a work-in-progress.** Many cities are advancing climate plans, but national climate strategies do not provide local governments with the policy and financial support needed, making it harder to scale and sustain local climate action. Strengthening partnerships across government levels and with financial and technical partners is essential to bridge this gap. Improved alignment ensures that local initiatives complement and reinforce national climate priorities such as NDCs and NAPs.

5. **Cities need clearer implementation pathways.** Many cities are committed to climate resilient urban development and articulate such visions in their development plans. Yet, they face challenges in bridging the gap between strategies and implementation. Clearer project development processes and support in translating plans into credible, responsive proposals are needed to unlock investment and achieve real impact.

6. **Finance is still a bottleneck.** Local governments continue to face complex application processes and lack guidance on how to prepare viable, bankable proposals. Many struggle to meet stringent requirements or demonstrate creditworthiness, limiting their access to critical climate finance. Capacity support and more localized finance mechanisms are key to accelerating action.

7. **Data is a foundation for action.** Cities need better data, tools and modelling to understand risks, prioritize investments, and make informed planning decisions – especially in informal or data-poor settings. Reliable data, obtained through the RISE UP data-driven tools, enables evidence-based interventions.

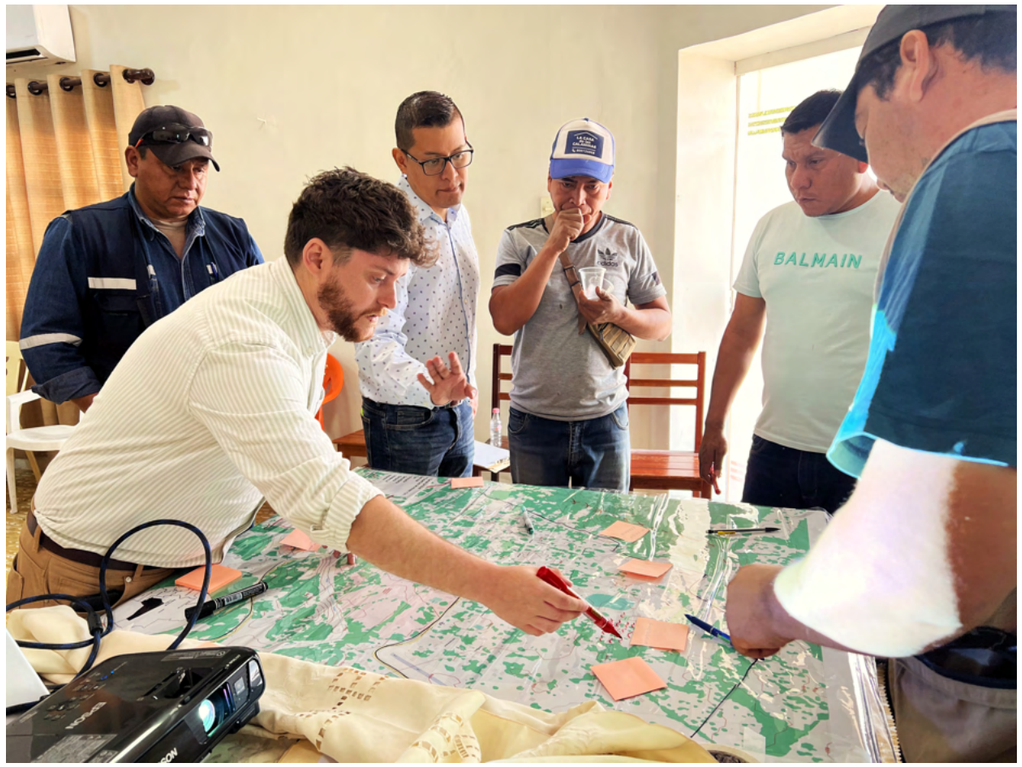
8. **Community engagement is critical.** Climate resilience is stronger when shaped by local priorities and lived experience. Inclusive, equitable and participatory planning that considers intersectional vulnerabilities — such as gender, age, income, and disability — ensures that solutions are targeted and responsive to the most at-risk populations. Co-design and co-delivery of actions help to ensure that solutions respond to real needs on the ground.

9. **Peer exchange is valuable.** Cities value learning from one another and called for more structured platforms to share experiences, tools, and lessons learned, especially among cities facing similar climate crises. North-South and South-South exchanges are impactful. Hands-on technical interchanges between Spanish municipal staff and partner cities with differing needs has demonstrated that mutual learning is essential to unlocking practical solutions.

10. **Building climate resilience sustained commitment.** It requires political leadership, reliable funding, and trusted partnerships. Without these foundations, even well-planned efforts risk stalling before reaching the communities who need them the most.

11. **Long-term capacity support strengthens local delivery.** Short-term or project-based assistance often leaves gaps once funding ends. Ongoing support helps cities build institutional knowledge, retain skills, and integrate resilience into everyday planning and governance. Continuous capacity-building helps cities evolve from reactive responses to proactive climate leadership

12. **Cities bring global ambition to life.** Across regions, local leaders are shaping and delivering climate solutions that respond to the realities of their communities. With the right support, city-led action can drive more just and lasting , systemic resilience that benefits people and ecosystems alike.



RISE UP brings climate finance closer to vulnerable communities through locally-led activities such as this workshop in Charagua, Bolivia, where stakeholders mapped hazards and agreed on priority climate actions. © UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo

02

Introduction

The **Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor (RISE UP) programme** is a flagship initiative led by UN-Habitat to strengthen urban climate resilience for vulnerable communities, particularly the one billion people living in informal settlements. With more than USD 150 million mobilized to date, RISE UP has become a central platform for identifying, designing, and financing local resilience projects that respond to the growing climate vulnerabilities of informal and underserved urban communities.

A key milestone was the **Global Workshop for Urban Climate Resilience**, which brought together project cities, local leaders, technical experts, national governments and development partners to exchange experiences and build connections for financing and strengthening urban resilience. The event gathered over 60 people, including 8 mayors and deputy mayors, from across Latin America, Africa, Asia, and Europe.

The global workshop brought together actors from fifteen cities across 9 countries:

(1) AECID-funded project supporting Bolivia, Colombia, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Tunisia

(2) 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund under the UNPDF-funded project supporting Lao PDR, Madagascar, South Africa, and Sri Lanka

Through the global workshop, RISE UP offered a space for peer-to-peer learning, interregional knowledge exchange, technical advisory support, and strategic planning for scaling up and securing investments for local solutions. By turning action plans into bankable climate solutions, reinforcing links between local resilience actions and global financing mechanisms, and laying the foundation for continued institutional collaboration and technical support, RISE UP helps cities overcome systemic barriers to access climate finance.

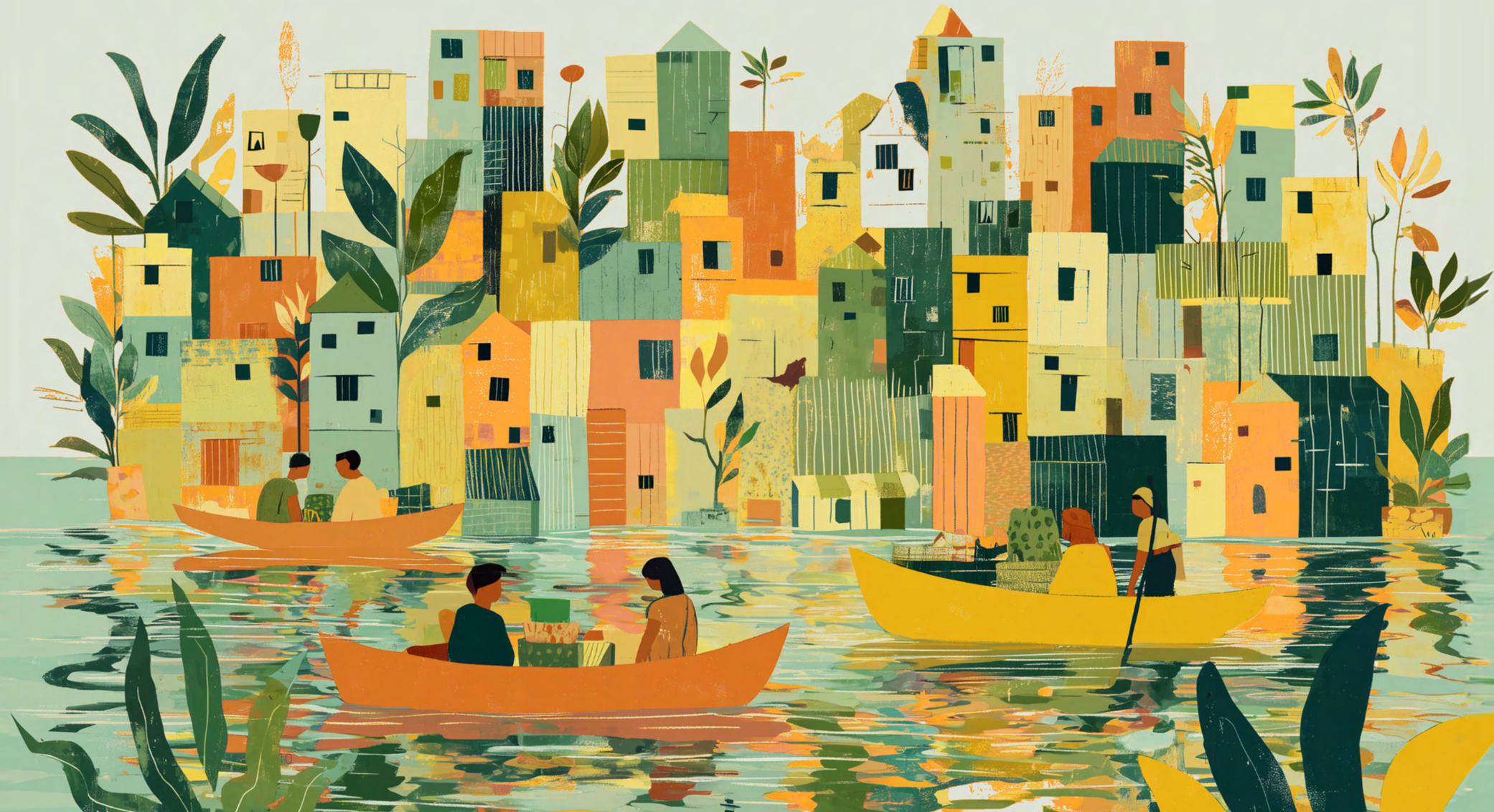
This report lays a strategic roadmap for the next phase of action, highlighting what cities need to scale climate resilience, how RISE UP enables these pathways, and where donors and partners can engage to deliver transformative, investment-ready solutions. It captures the energy, ambition, and shared vision of cities around the world working to ensure that no one is left behind in the face of climate change, and that urban resilience is both people-centered and locally-driven.

03

Pathways to urban climate resilience

As climate change accelerates and urban populations grow, cities face interconnected challenges that threaten lives, livelihoods, and ecosystems. These complex risks disproportionately impact marginalized and low-income communities, often living in the most exposed and underserved parts of cities. The RISE UP programme supports cities in addressing these challenges through integrated, locally driven solutions that combine data-informed action planning, nature-based strategies and inclusive governance.

This chapter explores **three critical resilience challenges**: urban flooding, coastal erosion, and urban heat, and the pathways cities are taking to tackle them.



PATHWAYS TO URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Urban flooding, urban growth, and community resilience

Urban flooding is more than a climate hazard alone, but also a governance and equity challenge. Rapid, often informal urbanization replaces natural drainage with impermeable surfaces, while inadequate infrastructure struggles to cope with the increasing unpredictability and intensity of extreme weather events. This makes exacerbates the adverse impacts of more frequent, prolonged and severe flooding events, especially for frontline communities in low-income or informal settlements situated in high-risk, precarious zones.

Building community resilience requires more than physical infrastructure; it depends on inclusive governance, local capacity-building, and meaningful engagement with residents to co-create solutions. Without targeted financing and institutional support, even well-designed flood mitigation strategies remain under-implemented, leaving vulnerable communities exposed, susceptible, and without capacity to respond.

Drivers of flood risk and exposure in RISE UP cities

Across RISE UP cities, three patterns emerge: informal settlement growth and unregulated urban expansion in hazard-prone zones, habitat and ecosystem degradation reducing natural buffers, and limited institutional capacity to implement adaptive measures.

In **Colombo** and **Wattala-Mabola (Sri Lanka)**, informal settlements along floodplains and canal systems face recurrent flooding, infrastructure damage, and public health risks such as dengue due to intensified rainfall and poor drainage.

Durban (South Africa) experiences inward migration and informal settlement growth on flood-prone, hilly terrain have amplified exposure to flash floods and erosion while accelerating biodiversity loss.

In **Cobija (Bolivia)** already severe flooding is worsened by deforestation and land-use changes that disrupt natural water flows, disrupting access, mobility, trade and service provision while threatening livelihoods.

How cities are responding: Resilience actions in planning and practice

Cities are proposing and implementing a diverse range of actions that reduce flood exposure but also deliver co-benefits for ecosystems and livelihoods.

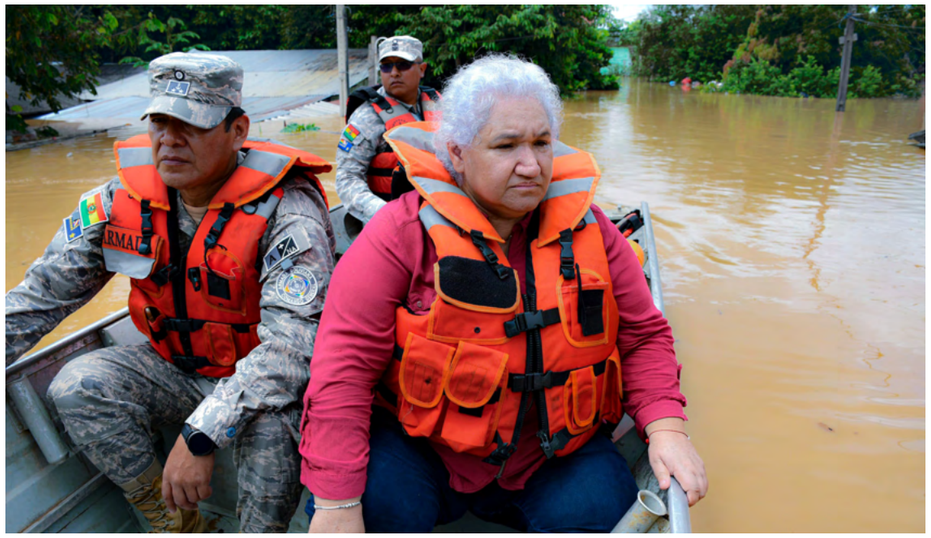
Colombo and **Wattala-Mabola (Sri Lanka)** are enhancing wetland protection and providing safer, more resilient housing to vulnerable populations in informal settlements.

Durban (South Africa) aims to restore ecosystems to reduce flood exposure and utilize innovative data-driven tools to identify, anticipate, anticipate, appraise and action

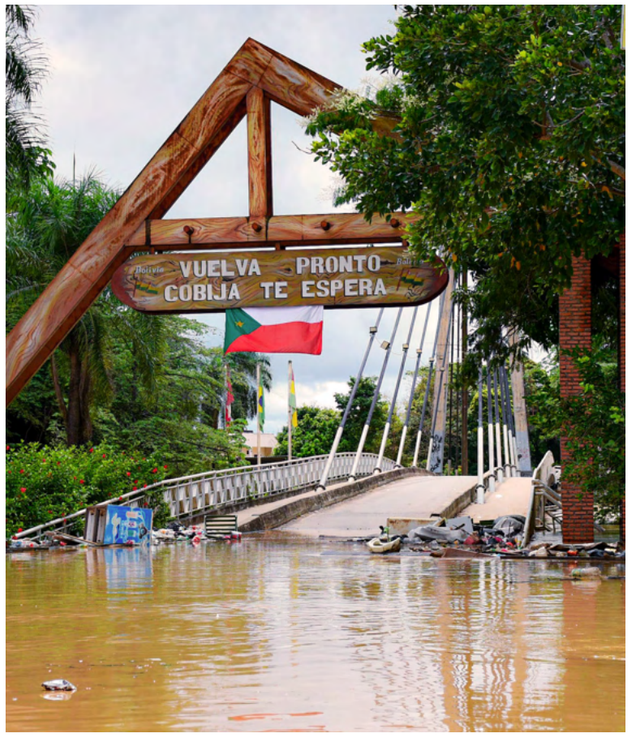
In Cobija (Bolivia) planned interventions include reforestation, riverbank protection, and improving natural buffer zones to reduce flooding risks in the Amazonian context, alongside improved waste management practices.

In **Pasto (Colombia)** the municipality is tackling urban flooding through community-driven and managed early warning systems and nature-based solutions near critical areas like El Potrerillo Market, while also supporting circular economy initiatives that strengthen local livelihoods.
resilience measures in high-risk areas.

These measures demonstrate the RISE UP cities' commitment to building long-term urban resilience through a combination of technical, institutional, and community-led strategies.



Over 70 per cent of cities are experiencing the impacts of climate change, including flooding as seen in Cobija, Bolivia in 2024, which increasing threatening mobility, services, livelihoods, health, and biodiversity. © Municipality of Cobija



Ana Lucia Reis Melena, Mayor of Cobija, assesses flood impacts in river-adjacent neighbourhoods after severe flooding in 2024. With support from the RISE UP programme, the city is planning reforestation, riverbank protection, and enhanced natural buffers to help reduce future flood risks. © Municipality of Cobija

PATHWAYS TO URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Protecting coasts and ecosystems from rising seas

Coastal erosion and sea level rise are pressing challenges for shoreline cities, threatening to inundate low-lying urban areas, displacing coastal populations, and damaging vital infrastructure. The loss of natural buffers, such as dunes, reefs, wetlands, saltmarshes, and mangroves accelerates erosion and flooding, while the same climate shocks further degrade these ecosystems, creating a cycle of vulnerability.

In response, cities are increasingly recognizing the value of ecosystem protection and restoration. Nature-based solutions not only reduce physical risks but also provide a range of social, economic and ecological co-benefits, enhancing biodiversity, supporting livelihoods, and contributing to urban cooling and water management.

Drivers of coastal erosion risk and exposure in RISE UP cities

Several RISE UP cities face acute vulnerabilities related to coastal erosion, sea level rise, and ecosystem degradation.

- **In Port St. Johns (South Africa)**, the municipality's mountainous coastal terrain and proximity to major rivers make it highly susceptible to heavy rainfall and coastal flooding, with limited infrastructure and land use planning exacerbating the risks.
- In coastal cities **Morondava** and **Toamasina (Madagascar)**, rapid urban growth coincides with the loss of mangrove forests and wetlands that once served as natural defenses against storm surges and erosion. These cities are also grappling with the dual pressures of biodiversity loss and economic dependence on these coastal ecosystems.
- In **Kerkennah (Tunisia)** sea level rise threatens both settlements, critical infrastructure, and climate-senstivie traditional livelihoods such as small-scale fishing, which are closely tied to marine ecosystems.

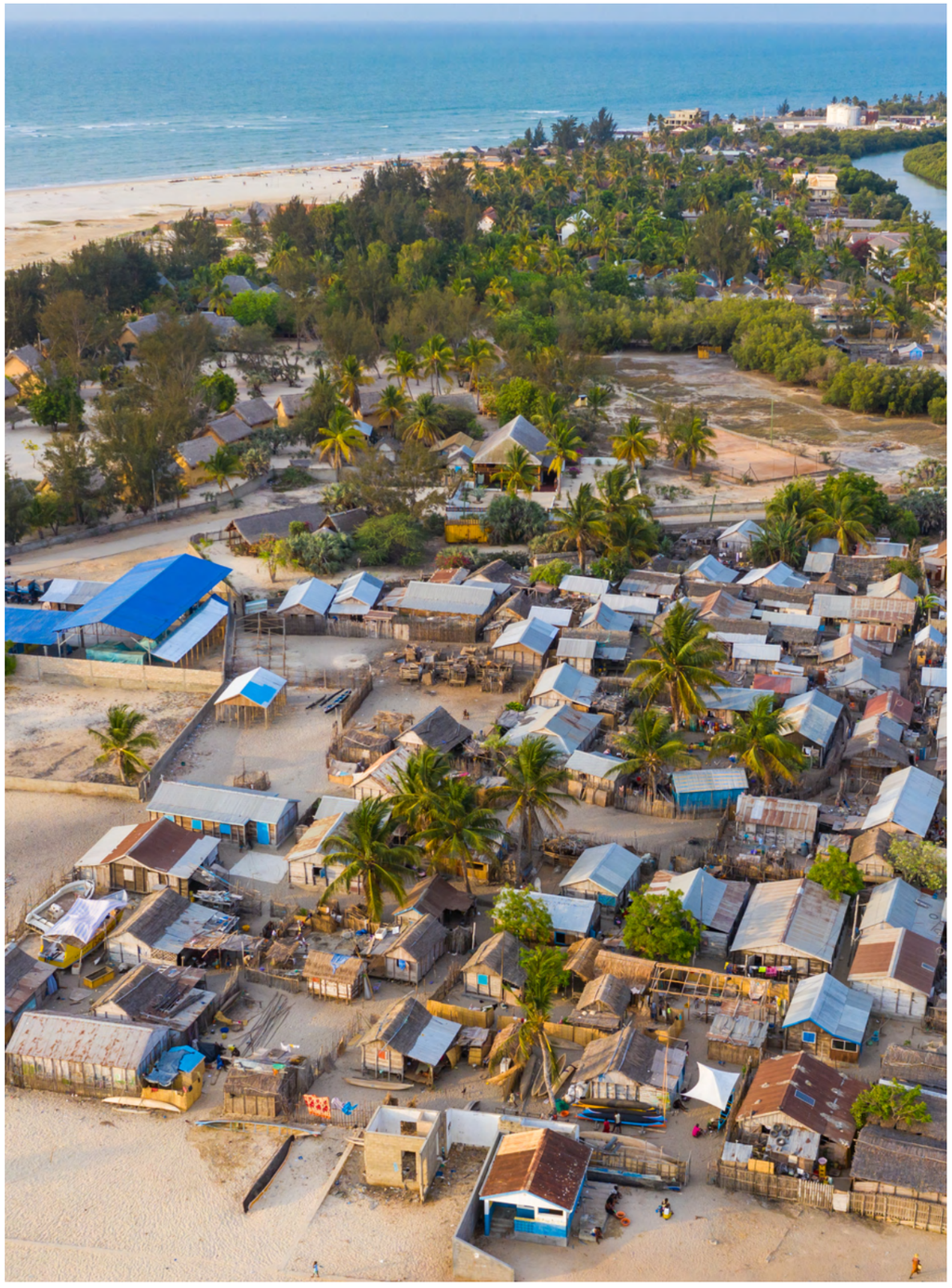
These examples highlight the urgent need for integrated, ecosystem-based resilience strategies that address both the environmental and socio-economic dimensions of climate risk in coastal urban contexts.

How cities are responding: Resilience actions in planning and practice

Cities are advancing a range of resilience actions to mitigate sea level rise, erosion, and ecosystem degradation.

- **Port St. Johns (South Africa)** is exploring partnerships to improve coastal infrastructure and disaster preparedness, particularly in communities most exposed to storm surges and flooding.
- In **Morondava** and **Toamasina (Madagascar)**, early-stage interventions will focus on data collection, stakeholder engagement, and identifying vulnerable zones where ecosystem-based solutions, such as mangrove restoration, could enhance resilience.
- In **Kerkennah (Tunisia)** the municipality is working with local partners to restore degraded coastal ecosystems, including salt marshes and seagrass beds, which provide natural barriers against rising seas and help sustain biodiversity and traditional livelihoods. Kerkennah is also developing climate-sensitive land-use strategies and strengthening community awareness around the importance of ecosystem protection.

These actions reflect RISE UP's integrated approach, combining ecological restoration, spatial planning, and inclusive governance to reduce climate risks while promoting sustainable development in coastal urban settings.



Coastal settlements in Nosy Kely, Morondava, Madagascar, face mounting risks from erosion and sea level rise as mangrove forests and other natural buffers continue to degrade. © Adobe / Reto Ammann

PATHWAYS TO URBAN CLIMATE RESILIENCE

Tackling urban heat in industrial cities

Urban heat is one of the most prevalent and inequitable climate challenges, especially in industrial and densely built areas where concrete and asphalt intensify the heat island effect. Rising temperatures, limited green cover, and heavy industrial activity are driving extreme heat that strain health systems, energy demand, and the well-being of vulnerable populations. Informal settlements and low-income neighborhoods face disproportionate exposure due to poor housing and lack of cooling infrastructure.

Drivers of urban heat risk and exposure in RISE UP cities

In RISE UP cities, urban heat intersects with rapid urban growth, limited vegetation, and the expansion of industrial and informal areas.

In **Sahab (Jordan)**, high temperatures are compounded by low green cover and industrial density, placing increased heat, water and health stress on residents of informal settlements and outdoor workers.

Debre Birhan (Ethiopia), situated at high altitude, is experiencing shifting temperature patterns alongside drought, land degradation and erosion; conditions that undermine both ecological stability and community health.

In **Kaysone Phomvihane City** and **Pakse (Lao PDR)**, fast-paced urbanization and infrastructure expansion are reshaping local microclimates, increasing surface temperatures and straining basic services.

These vulnerabilities, often linked to socio-economic inequalities, make targeted climate adaptation essential.

How cities are responding: Resilience actions in planning and practice

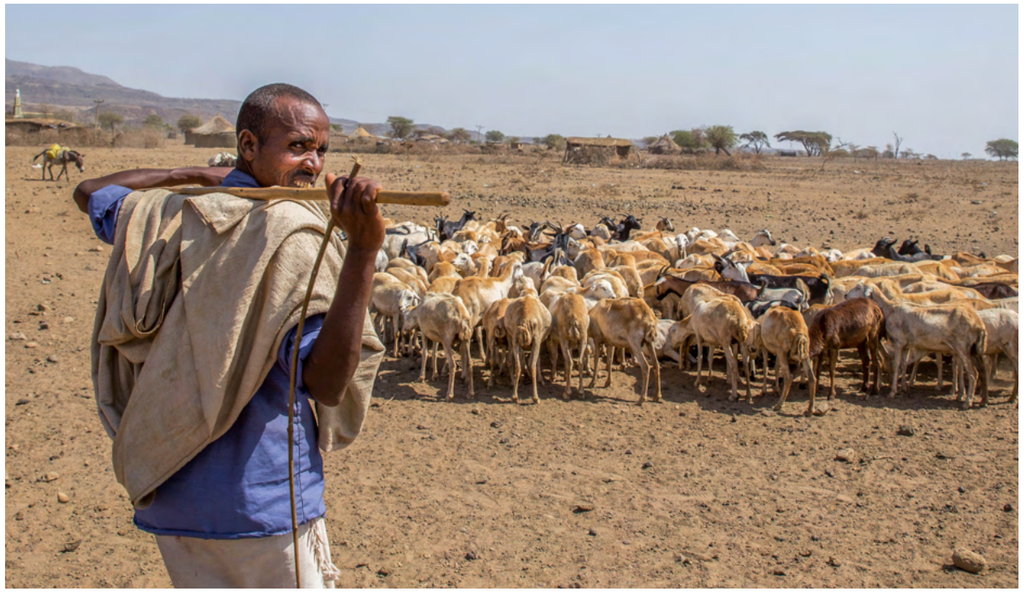
Cities are proposing and implementing resilience actions that blend spatial planning, data-driven analysis, and local engagement.

Sahab (Jordan) has prioritized the need for green infrastructure and heat-resilient urban design, with a pilot project underway to develop an action plan for integrating shading, cooling corridors, and community-managed green spaces into its planning frameworks and infrastructure investments.

In **Debre Birhan (Ethiopia)** a comprehensive vulnerability assessment has helped identify heat-prone zones and inform action planning that emphasizes ecosystem restoration and erosion control as dual solutions to temperature rise and land degradation.

In **Charagua (Bolivia)** where extreme heat intersects with water scarcity and rural-urban transitions, resilience efforts are focused on safeguarding natural ecosystem, particularly forests, as buffers against rising temperatures and strengthening community-based governance for climate adaptation.

These efforts reflect RISE UP's emphasis on inclusive, evidence-based planning that positions local governments and communities at the center of climate adaptation.



In urban areas such as Debre Birhan, Ethiopia, severe drought and rising temperature are drying up water sources and degrading land, increasing strain on urban services as affected households rely more heavily on the city for water, income, and basic needs. © UNICEF Ethiopia / Ayene

In Debre Birhan, Ethiopia, local actors stakeholder with the RISE UP team to interpret vulnerability assessment results and co-design actions that address urban heat, erosion, and degraded landscapes. © UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo

04

Unlocking finance for local climate action

Finance is the critical enabler of climate adaptation, yet less than 10% of international adaptation funding reaches the local level. Limited funding remains a major constraint for local governments and communities to invest in essential urban infrastructure, resilient public services, early warning systems, ecosystem-based solutions, and capacity-building initiatives.

This financial gap disproportionately impacts marginalized populations whose communities are routinely overlooked by investment flows. These communities that are on the frontlines of climate change, as their settlements are often located in high-risk areas in cities and urban peripheries, highly exposed and sensitive to hazards and extreme weather events. They face compounding vulnerabilities due to poverty, insecure livelihoods, inadequate housing, weak social protection systems, and limited access to basic services. Without targeted financial support and sustained investment, adaptation strategies remain fragmented or unimplemented, exacerbating existing inequalities and leaving the most at-risk communities increasingly exposed to climate-related shocks and stresses. Bridging this finance gap is not only a matter of environmental urgency but also of social justice and equity.

Disconnect between local plans and global finance

A recurring concern is the systemic gap between locally driven planning efforts and national or international financing frameworks, which are often not calibrated to address context-specific needs or city-level realities. Many cities have well-developed local plans and strategies but lack capacities and mechanisms to align their proposals with the criteria and requirements of international funds, such as the Green Climate Fund or the Adaptation Fund. Local governments have limited climate-specific funds and face complex application processes, lack of local-level financing opportunities, institutional fragmentation, and limited technical capacity to prepare bankable proposals. They also struggle with inadequate data and evidence for project justification, insufficient coordination with national ministries, restrictive eligibility and reporting requirements from donors, limited fiscal autonomy, and challenges in meeting co-financing obligations. These barriers collectively hinder their ability to access and effectively utilize climate and development finance. Therefore, enhanced capacity building, implementation partnerships, and the development of more accessible and localized financing mechanisms are essential to accelerate action.

Financial institutions can play a critical role in bridging this gap, by supporting responsive and robust project preparation and linking cities and city partners to the most appropriate financial instruments and donors or partners.

From plans to bankable projects

The RISE UP programme offers a space to local governments to discuss financing climate resilience projects, focusing on articulating their needs, requirements and opportunities for utilizing financing mechanisms that are tailored to the local scale. The Global Workshop for Urban Climate Resilience dedicated space to present and pitch actions plans developed by the cities, and provided a platform for direct consideration, feedback and recommendations from international financial institutions. This dynamic exchange helped cities understand what makes a project bankable and how to position proposals for investment readiness. It also built confidence among city representatives by clarifying funding expectations and demystifying the pathway from project origination to financing then implementation.

The Global Workshop for Urban Climate Resilience brought together a diverse range of development finance institutions and experts, including: Global Fund for Cities Development (FMDV), the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development (EBRD), the Private Infrastructure Development Group (PIDG), the World Bank's Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery (GFDRR), and the African Development Bank's Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM). Each institution shared insights into their strategies, approaches, access and engagement requirements, tools and experiences supporting cities, particularly those in vulnerable contexts, through technical assistance, project preparation, blended finance, co-financing, capacity-building, and strategic matchmaking with other public and private sector partners.

Innovative financing approaches highlighted

FMDV highlighted its role not as a funder but as a global alliance dedicated to providing customized financial engineering and technical support for subnational authorities and local governments. Through platforms such as “Finance Your Cities,” it helps cities, banks, and development partners connect to codesign structure resilient infrastructure projects via coaching, pitching, peer-to-peer learning, and matchmaking methodologies. This includes aligning stakeholders, strengthening subnational development banks (SDBs), facilitating matchmaking between cities and investors, preparing technical and financial elements of project design, and enabling access to long-term finance mechanisms.

- **EBRD’s Green Cities programme** detailed a €7 billion framework for integrating policy, investment, and capacity development. Cities are supported through the development of strategic Green City Action Plans (GCAPs) and green financing roadmaps and providing access to a suite of financial products, from concessional loans and equity to green and sustainability-linked bonds, to implement priority actions. EBRD also facilitates smaller-scale financing through local intermediaries, as exemplified by the Siauliu Bank case in Lithuania. Their evidence-based and investment-led model helps cities overcome persistent barriers, to unlock finance where it is needed most.

- **PIDG** emphasized its innovative blended finance model, combining early-stage equity, debt, guarantees, credit enhancement, project development and technical assistance to de-risk projects and mobilize private capital. The organization showcased diverse investments aligned with resilience outcomes, such as bus rapid transit in Dakar and nature-based flood mitigation in Kigali.

- **World Bank’s Global Fund for Disaster Risk Reduction (GFDRR)** highlighted the importance of linking physical and financial resilience, with upstream analytics, municipal financial reform, and subnational credit enhancement playing key roles. They emphasized that strengthening financial planning and creditworthiness at the municipal level is critical to ensure that cities can access resources for disaster risk reduction and implement resilient infrastructure projects and programmes effectively.

- **The Adaptation Benefit Mechanism (ABM)** was introduced as an innovative results-based financing tool designed to monetize verified adaptation outcomes. Unlike traditional models, ABM enables the generation of certified adaptation benefits, which can then be purchased by governments, donors, or the private sector to support projects that would otherwise be financially unviable. This approach – untested in the urban context – offers significant potential for climate resilience initiatives by creating new revenue streams tied directly to adaptation impact.

Collectively, these mechanisms reflect a growing ecosystem of institutions and instruments capable of supporting cities as they translate their resilience plans into bankable, fundable, and impactful projects.

Unlocking finance for local climate action will require:

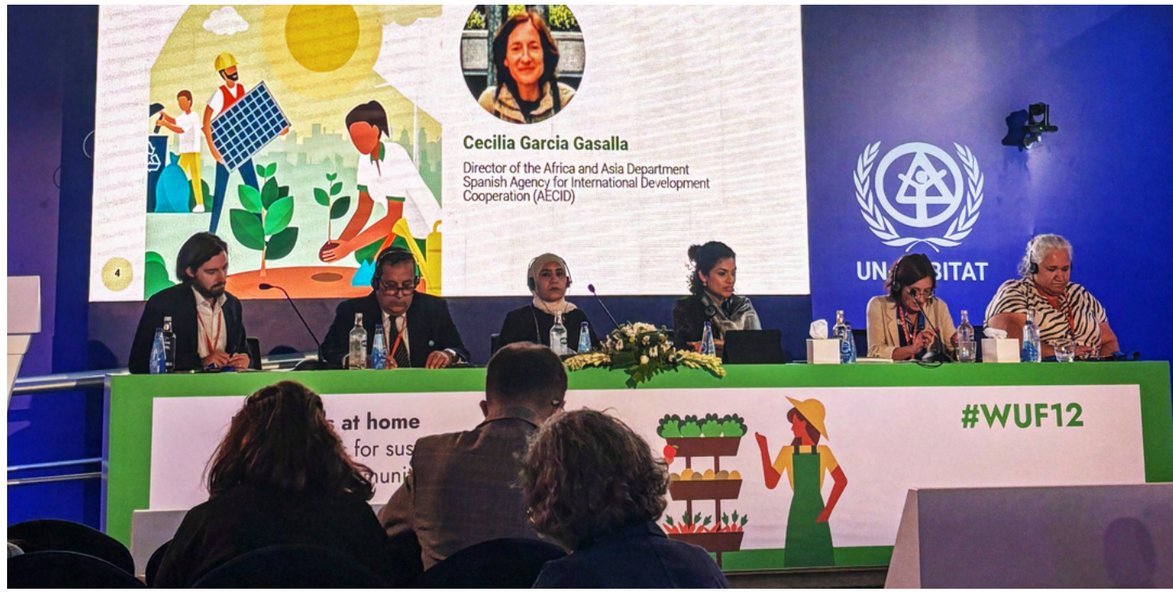
- Sustained capacity-building to prepare responsive, investment-ready proposals

- Stronger alignment between local priorities and regional and global financing frameworks

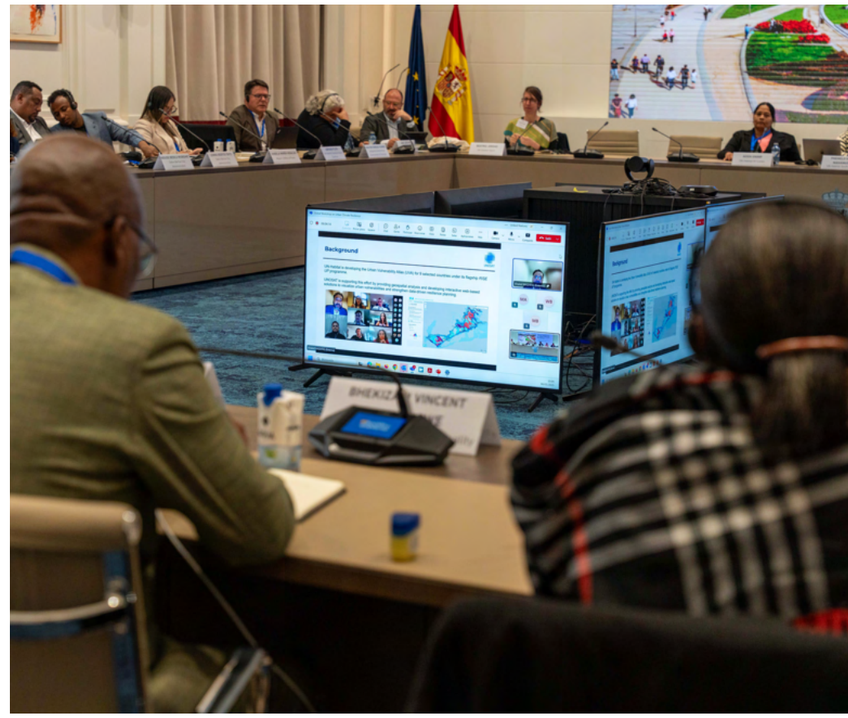
- Innovative instruments that de-risk projects and attract private capital

- Direct access mechanisms to ensure resources reach the most climate-vulnerable communities, infrastructure and ecosystems in cities

Bridging the urban climate finance gap is essential to move from planning to implementation, and to ensure that no city, and no community, is left behind in the global fight against climate change.



An event at WUF12 marked the launch of the Multilayered Vulnerability Assessment (MVA) Handbook, a tool designed to help cities analyse climate risks and develop bankable, finance-ready resilience projects. © UN-Habitat / Jessica Jones-Langley



The Global Workshop’s hybrid climate finance session connected cities with development finance institutions, offering guidance on project preparation, investment requirements, and financing pathways. © UN-Habitat / Martine de Zoeten

05

Project pitches: From plans to bankable solutions

- San Juan de Pasto, Colombia
- Kerkennah, Tunisia
- Debre Birhan, Ethiopia
- Sahab, Jordan
- Charagua and Cobija, Bolivia

Building urban and community resilience through strategic investments

San Juan de Pasto, Colombia

Project summary

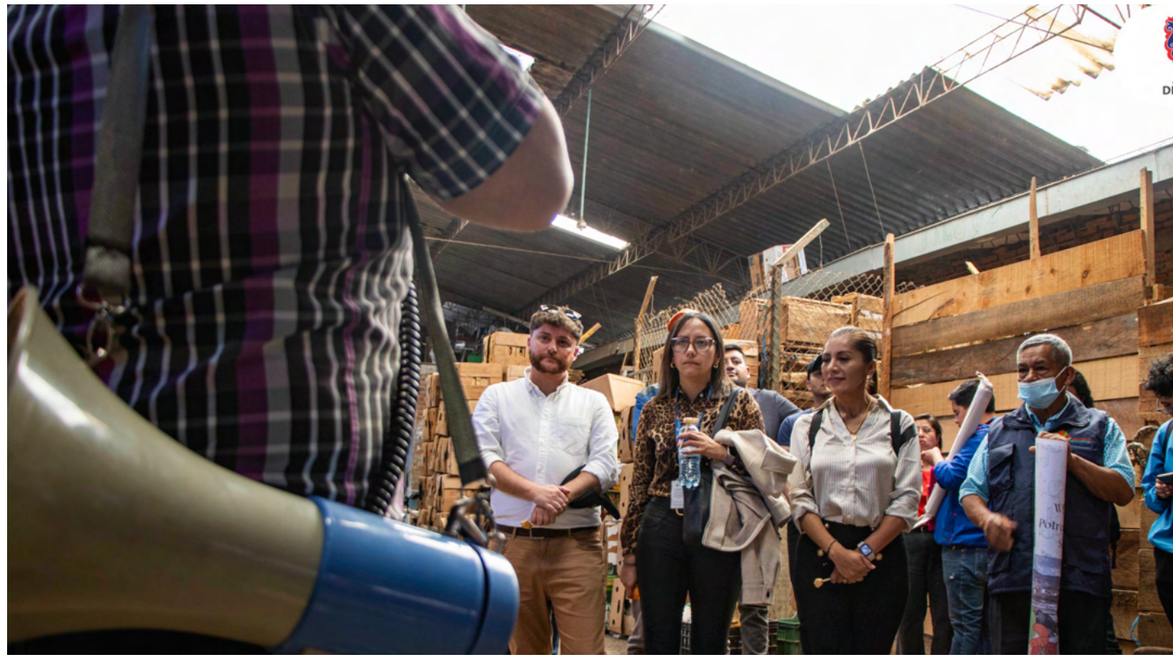
The proposal for urban and community resilience in the city of Pasto is focused on El Potrerillo Market and its surrounding area. The initiative results from joint efforts between the community and local government in a highly diverse and vulnerable region marked by migration, poverty, informality, and environmental challenges. El Potrerillo, the city's main food market, spans four hectares and employs thousands of workers, many of whom are women, migrants, and internally displaced people. The intervention also includes the nearby Membrillo Guaico and Guachucal river streams, aiming to improve environmental conditions, strengthen ecosystem services, and the livelihoods of surrounding neighborhoods.

The project is built on three main components. The first focuses on integrated waste management in the market, including community-led and focused awareness campaigns, waste classification processes, and the creation of a recycling and utilization center, support by an alliance of the local authority, public utilizes, the private sector, and civil society. The second centers on implementing place-based nature-based solutions for ecosystem restoration and urban-rural integration, with strong community participation. These include reforestation and flood and landslide risk mitigation measures. The third component involves building a wastewater collector to improve drainage infrastructure and reduce flood, sanitation and health risks — crucial for both the market and the broader city. The project supports national policies, such as the National Policy for Climate Change and the Colombia NDC, the city's development plan, and the Sustainable Development Goals, with an estimated cost of $5 million.

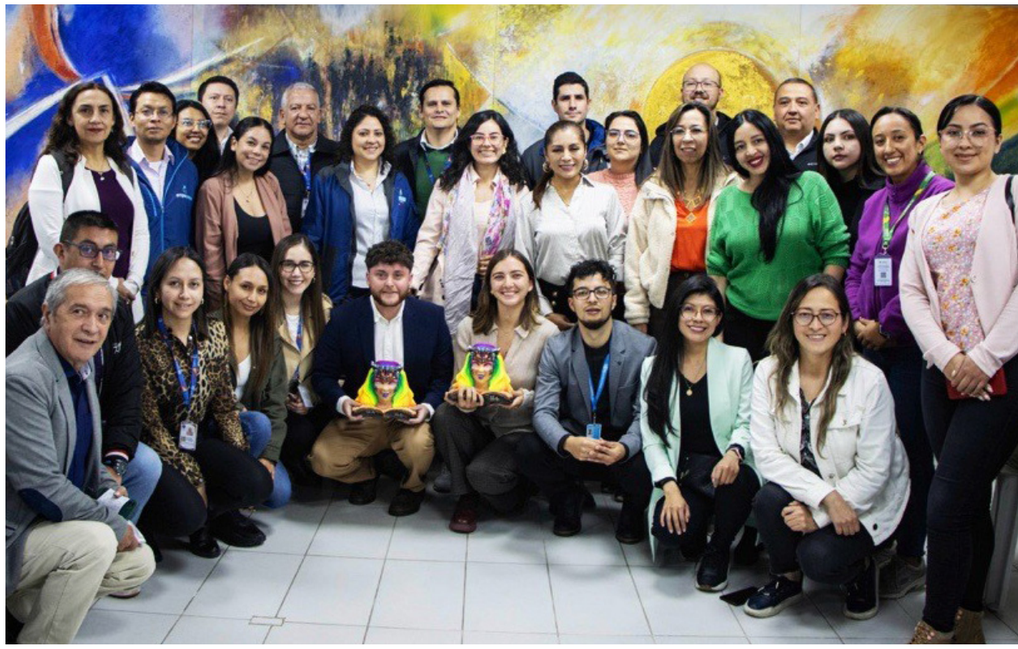
Key innovations include the introduction of locally-appropriate circular economy practices in waste management, hybrid flood mitigation infrastructure that combines traditional and nature-based engineering solutions, community education, and a strong gender- and equity-responsive approach that empowers women, elderly, and informal workers. The project also envisions attracting green investment, boosting eco-tourism, and promoting Pasto as a green city. Long-term sustainability will be supported through leveraging community ownership, public-private partnerships, and performance-based financing models linked to social and environmental outcomes. Overall, the initiative aims to implement over 20 identified actions to reduce risks and improve resilience in El Potrerillo and beyond.

Panel reactions

The proposal from Pasto is highly appreciated for its coherent and integrative approach, particularly in using waste management as a central element that ties together various aspects such as flood control, pollution reduction, and behavioral change. Its strong emphasis on community engagement is another notable strength. While the proposal is compelling and well-structured, there are a few considerations for further development. First, a deeper analysis of the current waste management system – including existing infrastructure, system capacities, projected future waste production, technology options, regulatory context, potential revenue generation, and its broader regional context – could enrich the strategy and ensure its relevance. Second, the integration of ecosystem conservation and nature-based solutions into existing spatial and master planning frameworks across different levels and time scales would help embed these actions more sustainably. Exploring financing mechanisms, especially those linked to the private sector, tourism sector and performance-based approaches, could also enhance fiscal resilience and long-term viability. Finally, the proposal would benefit from clearer prioritization and phasing of interventions, particularly in identifying where and how to implement nature-based and pollution control solutions, while also considering sustainable models for funding ongoing operation, maintenance and scaling. Overall, it is a promising and well-conceived initiative with great potential for impactful urban and environmental transformation.



Field visit to the flood-prone el Potrerillo market led by local vendors. © Municipality of Pasto



Collaborative multilevel governance and action planning efforts in San Juan de Pasto. © Municipality of Pasto

Sea, salt, and soul: Soumud Kerkennah

Kerkennah, Tunisia

Project summary

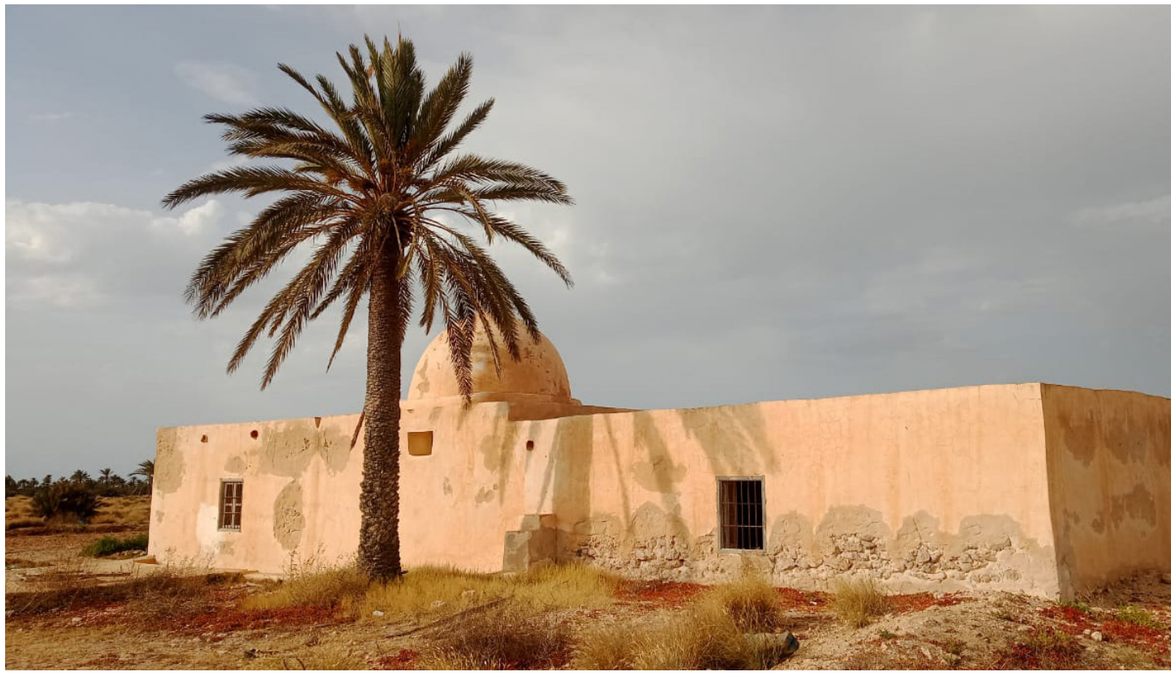
The project is presented as a transformative initiative aimed at positioning Tunisia's Kerkennah archipelago as a model for sustainable tourism, ecological restoration, and inclusive climate adaptation. Located off Tunisia's east coast, Kerkennah is home to around 50,500 residents in winter and up to 300,000 in summer. Despite its rich biodiversity, archaeological heritage, and UNESCO-recognized traditional fishing techniques, the archipelago faces increasing climate-related threats, including sea level rise, coastal erosion, and salinization. The project responds to Tunisia's National Strategy for Ecological Transition and seeks to reverse Kerkennah's vulnerability by transforming it into a resilient and sustainable coastal territory.

The initiative proposes a set of integrated, nature-based interventions: restoring more than 5 kilometers of coastline in key vulnerable zones (El Ataya, Kraten, Kellabine), creating walking and biking paths to connect cultural and natural sites, leveraging blue economy opportunities for livelihoods improvement and economic growth, and promoting sustainable tourism activities such as bird-watching and traditional eco-fishing. In addition, the project will implement a community-based early warning system to better prepare the island for climate risks such as floods and storms. These actions will not only preserve ecosystems but also facilitate a just green transition, by generating green income opportunities and strengthening the archipelago's identity and resilience.

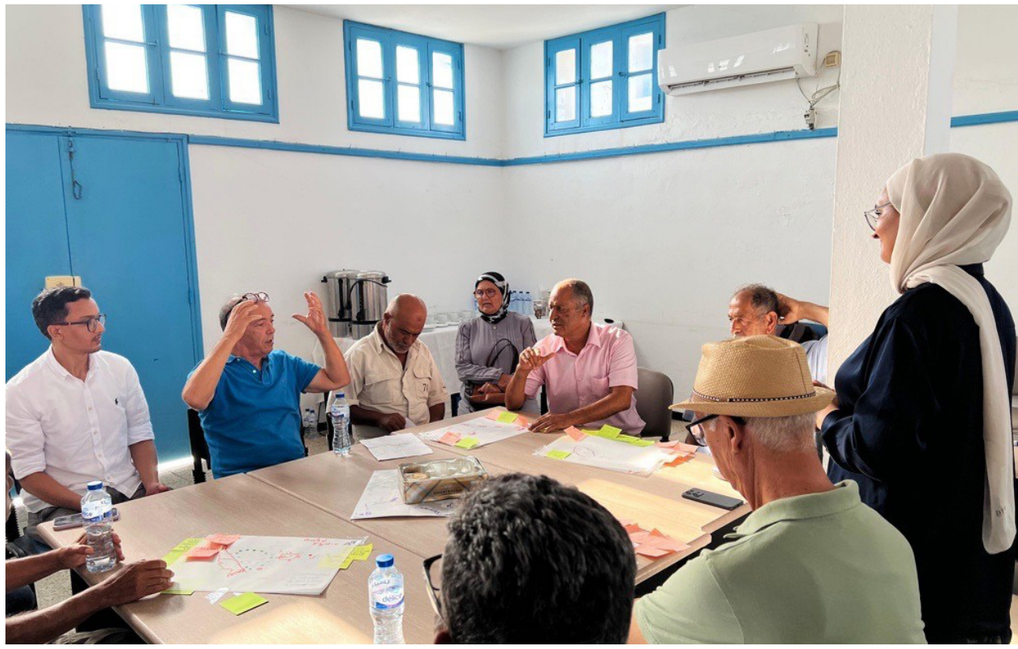
Kerkennah is envisioned to evolve from a climate-exposed and under-resourced island into a connected, eco-friendly destination that demonstrates the power of low-tech, community-driven climate solutions. With a projected budget of $2.7 to $4 million, the project is scalable, replicable, cost-efficient, and aligned with national and global climate goals, including Tunisia's NDCs and the SDGs. It represents a high-impact investment opportunity that integrates climate resilience, socio-economic justice, and cultural preservation—making it a compelling model for small island and coastal adaptation worldwide.

Panel reactions

The project presented is highly relevant and well-suited for the Adaptation Benefit Mechanism, a new approach aimed at engaging private sector actors in local climate adaptation efforts by generating a new resource stream called Certified Adaptation Benefits.



Multiscale appraisals of critical urban infrastructure guide the development of targeted, responsive adaptation interventions. © UN-Habitat Tunisia



Community-led participatory vulnerability mapping of the low-lying coastal zones of the Kerkennah Archipelago..
© UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo.

Enhancing livelihoods and climate resilience in vulnerability hotspots through integrated income generation and ecosystem restoration

Debre Birhan, Ethiopia

Project summary

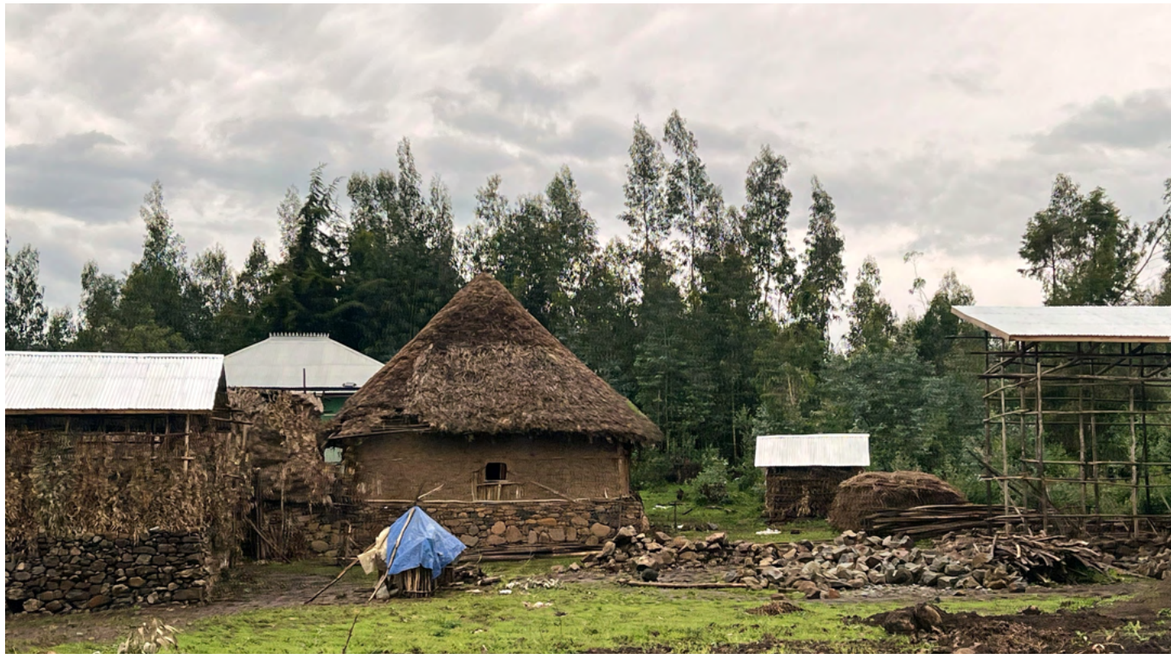
The city of Debre Birhan, a fast-growing secondary city near Addis Ababa, is proposing an integrated initiative titled "Enhancing Livelihoods and Climate Resilience in Vulnerability Hotspots through Integrated Income Generation and Ecosystem Restoration." With a population of around half a million and a socioeconomically mixed profile—part industrializing, part agrarian—the city faces growing climate-related challenges, including flooding, water scarcity, and socioeconomic shocks. Through the RISE UP process, three of the city's most vulnerable areas were identified as intervention hotspots. The proposal aims to turn these vulnerabilities into opportunities by combining ecological restoration with sustainable income generation.

The project is anchored in four clear outcomes: **(1) Economic stability and livelihoods**, especially targeting unemployed youth and women by promoting income-generating activities; **(2) Climate resilience**, through the implementation of an early warning system and community awareness; **(3) Ecosystem restoration**, measured in hectares of rehabilitated land; and **(4) Community empowerment**, with a strong focus on participation and the establishment and strengthening of community-based organizations. These components are designed to ensure long-term adaptation, inclusion, and sustainability in both environmental and socioeconomic terms.

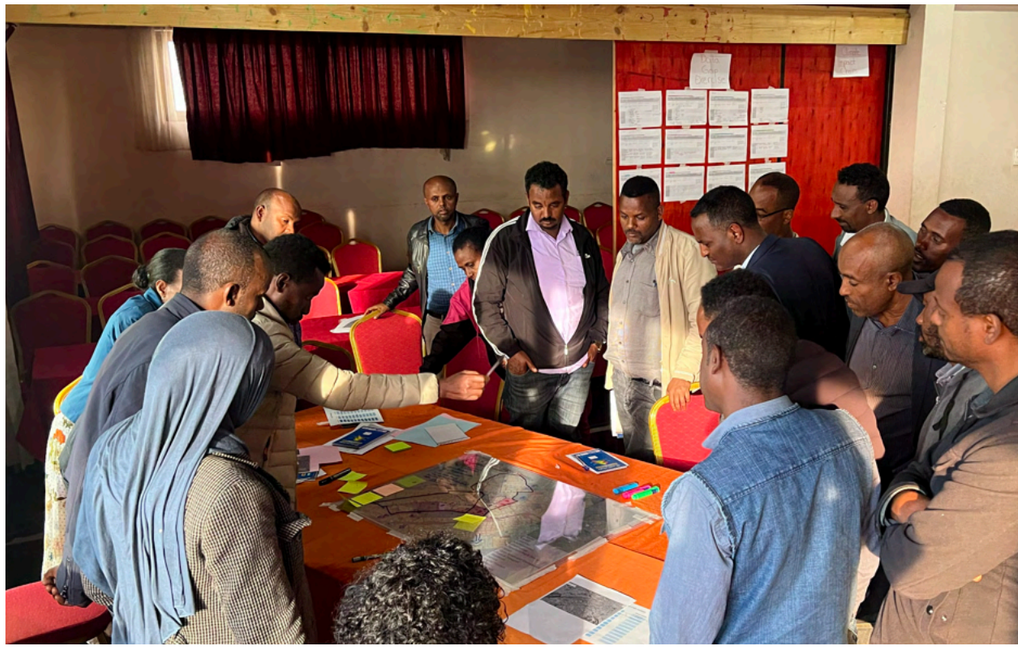
Aligned with Ethiopia's Climate-Resilient Green Economy strategy and several key Sustainable Development Goals, the project presents a strong case for immediate implementation. It highlights innovations such as vocational training for green jobs, inclusive planning that focuses on vulnerable groups, and the introduction of land restoration as a potential driver for eco-tourism—currently absent in the area. With the local government already incorporating RISE UP findings into Debre Birhan's structural plan and demonstrating high political commitment, the project is considered "a low-hanging fruit"—ready to move from planning to impactful action.

Panel reactions

The proposal presents strong social and environmental objectives, but one key area for further development is the integration and mobilization of the private sector to support these goals. This could involve exploring microfinancing or SME-focused tools, such as loan guarantees through local banks, to support home improvements that enhance resilience—ideally aligned with a broader city master plan. At a larger scale, sectors like water and waste offer opportunities for structured public-private partnerships that attract private capital while delivering public benefits. For example, integrating anaerobic digestion facilities into the city's waste streams could support circular economy outcomes and energy generation. Additionally, the tourism sector holds potential for fee-based models that create steady revenue streams, attract investment, and stimulate broader economic development.



In the Chacha informal settlement of Debre Birhan, flood-affected homes reflect the compounded vulnerabilities of informal construction, limited drainage, and increasing climate-related rainfall extremes. © UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo.



Local stakeholders in Debre Birhan collaborate on a mapping exercise during a workshop, contributing to the co-development of the city's resilience proposal. © UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo.

NAFAS: New Approaches For Advancing Air Quality in Sahab

Sahab, Jordan

Project summary

The city of Sahab, located southeast of Amman, Jordan, is a dense and highly industrialized urban area with over 130,000 residents, including large populations of refugees and labor migrants. It faces severe air pollution due to emissions from over 350 stone-cutting facilities and heavy transport linked to its major industrial zone, the Kingdom Abdullah II Industrial Estate. Air quality measurements show that levels of pollutants like NO^2 and PM2.5 exceed WHO guidelines by more than three times, contributing to the highest rates of lung cancer and respiratory illness in the country. Compounding vulnerabilities include urban heat islands, flooding, and insufficient institutional capacity for managing air quality.

To address these issues, Sahab is launching the **NAFAS project** – *New Approaches for Advancing Air Quality in Sahab*. The project aims to shift the city's air quality governance to an integrated and participatory model that enhances the resilience of communities, infrastructure, ecosystems, and economic sectors.

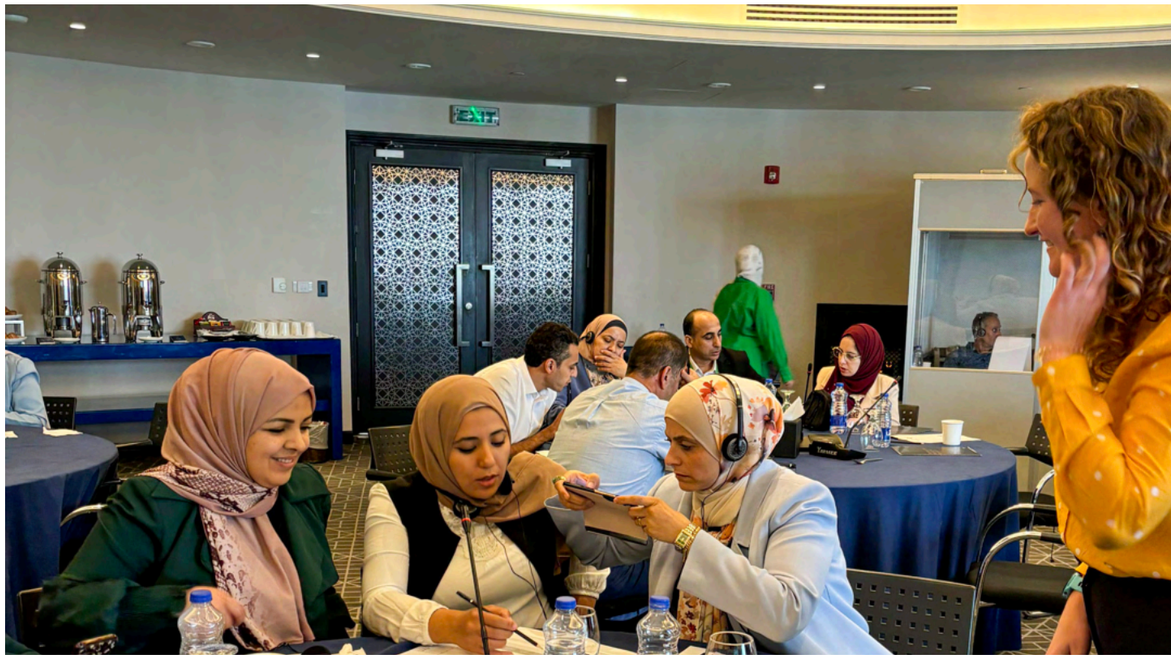
NAFAS has three main outcomes: (1) conducting comprehensive air quality assessments to pinpoint pollution sources, (2) strengthening governance through regulatory review and the development of an action-oriented air quality improvement plan, and (3) implementing high-impact pilot interventions, particularly in stone-cutting zones, alongside community engagement and capacity building.

NAFAS aligns with Jordan's National Adaptation Plan, Climate Change Policy, National Urban Policy, and Economic Modernization Vision, and it supports global goals like SDG 3 (health), SDG 9 (infrastructure), and SDG 13 (climate action). With a proposed budget of $3.7–4 million over 12–20 months, the project emphasizes both immediate improvements and long-term replicability. By turning evidence into action and prioritizing community involvement, NAFAS seeks to make Sahab a model for industrial cities grappling with environmental and public health risks.

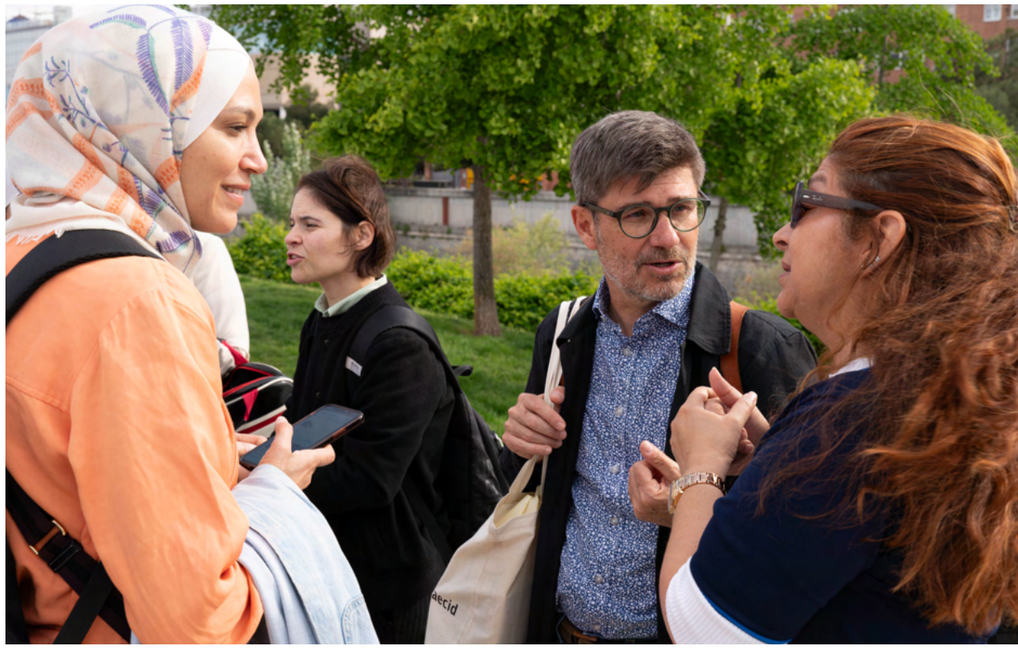
Panel reactions

The note is clear and comprehensive, and it could be further strengthened by including specific data points to better illustrate the scale and relevance of the initiative, such as the estimated number of beneficiaries, the population impacted, or the number of industries involved. It would also be helpful to highlight whether a dialogue platform between the city and industrial stakeholders has already been established, as this would demonstrate feasibility and institutional ownership. Additionally, the integration of nature-based solutions at the city level could enhance the project's sustainability and alignment with broader environmental goals. If carbon offsetting is legally feasible in Jordan, incorporating a dedicated activity focused on it could provide a potential revenue stream for the local government. This would, however, require the adoption of a rigorous and approved methodology, the involvement of an independent auditor, and assurance that emissions reductions can be sustained for at least seven years.

The commitment to addressing air pollution and health impacts is commendable, but would be recommendable for the project to include tangible infrastructure measures beyond studies and regulatory tools. Clarifying the roles of responsible entities is also important. Given the health focus, a potential financing avenue could be sustainability-linked bonds or loans, which require formal performance targets, strong monitoring systems, and possibly national-level partnerships if the city cannot issue such instruments independently.



Stakeholders in Sahab work together during a dedicated workshop to prioritize strategic nature-based solutions to address rising urban heat, water scarcity, drought, and flash-flood risks. © Lee Michael Lambert



As part of RISE UP's focus on interregional knowledge exchange, participants from Jordan visited projects in Madrid, gaining insights to apply within resilience planning processes in Jordan. © UN-Habitat / Martine de Zoeten.

Improving climate-resilient infrastructure, balanced regional development and connectivity in vulnerable areas in Bolivia

Charagua and Cobija, Bolivia

Project summary

The RISE UP initiative in Bolivia focuses on enhancing climate resilience and community connectivity in two highly vulnerable areas: Cobija and Charagua Pueblo. These cities face recurrent challenges such as massive flooding, inadequate housing, and seasonal isolation, particularly for marginalized communities living near rivers. The project was shaped through strong community engagement and political support, highlighting local priorities and ensuring relevance to the real needs on the ground. The proposal centers around infrastructure solutions that are both climate-resilient and socially inclusive, aiming to protect lives, restore accessibility, and promote balanced regional development.

In Cobija, the neighborhoods of Puerto Alto, Mapajo, and Junín are severely impacted by flooding due to their proximity to the river. To address this, the project proposes the construction of a 5.7-kilometer climate-resilient retaining wall along vulnerable riverbanks. This intervention will stabilize soil, prevent erosion, and reduce the risk of landslides, thereby safeguarding residents and infrastructure. Beyond physical protection, the wall also represents a step toward integrated water-sensitive urban development and reduced disaster recovery costs. It's not just an engineering solution but a tool to increase community resilience to increasingly frequent climate shocks.

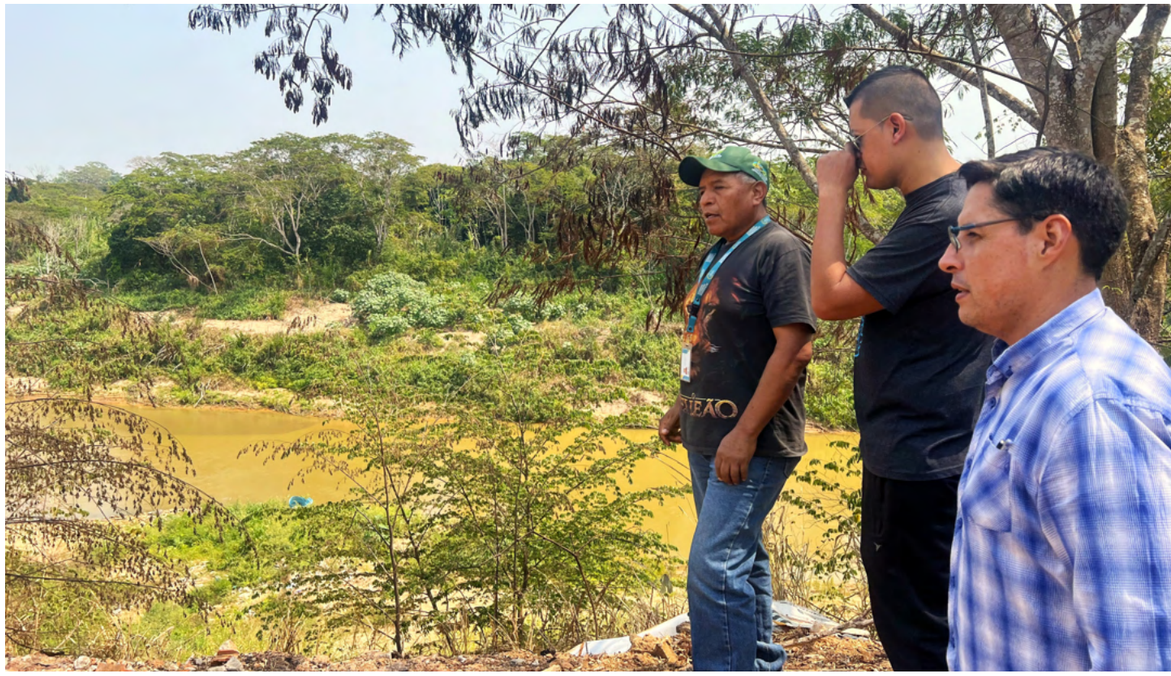
Meanwhile, in Charagua Pueblo, the community of Barrio Primero de Mayo experiences seasonal disconnection from the rest of the town due to flooding. The proposal includes building a seven-meter universal-access pedestrian bridge to connect this neighborhood with central Charagua. This intervention will enable uninterrupted movement during the rainy season, promote access to services and markets, and enhance the overall quality of life for the isolated community. The bridge is designed not only for functionality but also as a symbol of inclusion and equity in local urban development.

Both infrastructure interventions are embedded in a broader strategic framework that includes strengthening local governance, building community capacity, and aligning with Bolivia's national adaptation strategies. The process includes technical and environmental studies, community planning workshops, and the involvement of local contractors to boost the regional economy. Importantly, the project is co-created with the people it serves, emphasizing participation at every stage — from initial design to implementation and future maintenance. This inclusive approach helps ensure the sustainability and social ownership of the interventions.

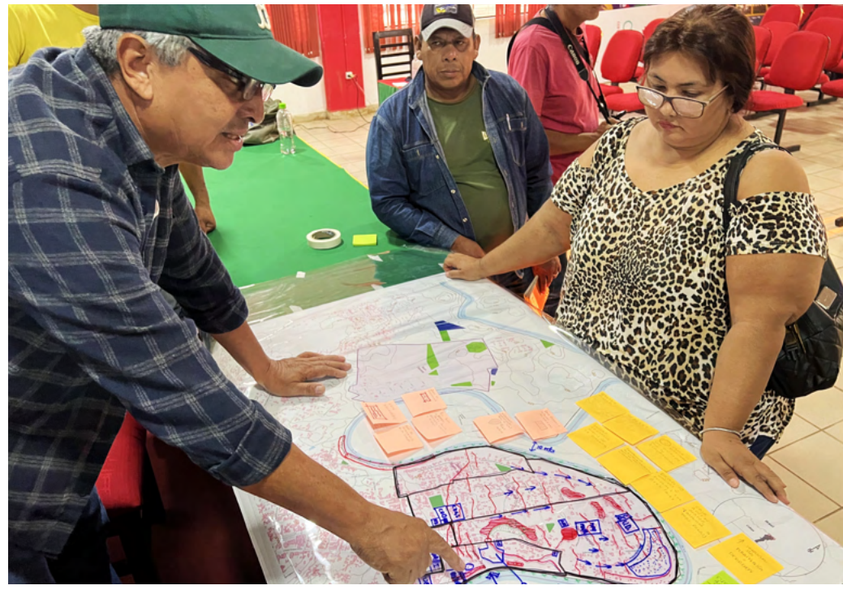
Finally, the proposal introduces innovative elements by combining hard infrastructure with nature-based and community-led solutions. It integrates goals such as flood control, improved mobility, local economic stimulation, and social cohesion. The potential long-term impacts are significant: reduced disaster risk, stronger local economies, better connectivity, and enhanced community resilience. These actions are aligned with the SDGs (especially SDG 11), Bolivia's NDCs and NAP, and municipal development plans. As a catalytic intervention, it lays the groundwork for future investments in green infrastructure, biodiversity enhancement, and climate adaptation in peri-urban areas across Bolivia.

Panel reactions

The feedback highlights the importance of enhancing revenue generation and broader economic development through the investment. It suggests exploring ways to maintain access for vulnerable populations while commercializing services for those who can pay, including businesses. The investment should also be positioned as a catalyst for further private sector involvement by improving connectivity and creating an enabling environment. Emphasizing the role of flood-resilient infrastructure in reducing risks can help attract businesses, support income generation, and create long-term employment opportunities in these communities.



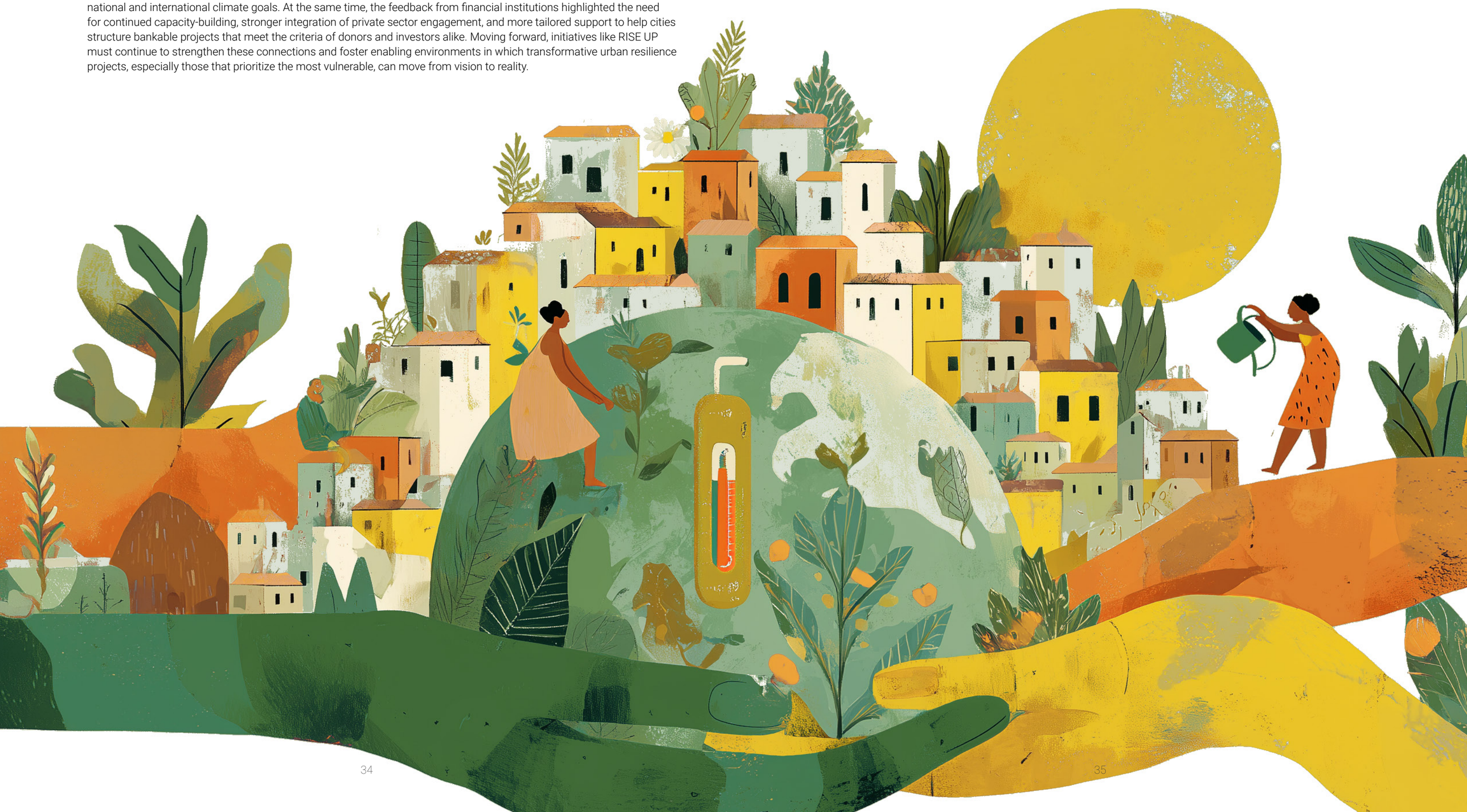
Stakeholders during a site visit focusing on biodiversity and climate resilience planning. © UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo.



Group work session with local stakeholders engaging in a participatory mapping exercise.
© UN-Habitat / Lucia Gasser Hidalgo.

Conclusions

The financing session underscored the critical role that well-prepared, community-driven, and technically sound projects play in unlocking climate finance for local resilience. By providing a rare opportunity for direct dialogue between cities and a diverse array of financing institutions, the Workshop helped to demystify funding mechanisms and illuminate concrete pathways toward implementation. The Project pitches demonstrated that when local governments are equipped with clear priorities, inclusive governance frameworks, and strong political will, they can generate compelling proposals aligned with national and international climate goals. At the same time, the feedback from financial institutions highlighted the need for continued capacity-building, stronger integration of private sector engagement, and more tailored support to help cities structure bankable projects that meet the criteria of donors and investors alike. Moving forward, initiatives like RISE UP must continue to strengthen these connections and foster enabling environments in which transformative urban resilience projects, especially those that prioritize the most vulnerable, can move from vision to reality.



06

Partnerships and knowledge exchange for scaled impact

RISE UP's knowledge exchange model

The exchange of experiences between cities represents a key tool for addressing the challenges arising from climate change and strengthening urban resilience. Through mutual learning, cities can identify good practices, avoid common mistakes, and accelerate the implementation of effective adaptive solutions. This type of cooperation fosters the development of technical and management capacities, enables the transfer of sustainable technologies, and enriches the formulation of contextualized public policies, adapted to diverse realities but with common problems.

Furthermore, spaces for exchange between cities promote a collaborative approach to a global problem that transcends administrative borders. By sharing knowledge on risk management, resilient infrastructure design, climate governance, and community engagement, collective action is strengthened and technical and political support networks are built. This interconnectedness not only fosters innovation but also helps make the experiences of cities with fewer resources visible, democratizing access to solutions and fostering greater equity in climate change adaptation.

One of the pillars on which the RISE-UP initiative is based is the exchange of experiences between the various cities where the program is being implemented. The global workshop represented a unique opportunity for the exchange of experiences between participating cities and technical teams. This exchange was a constant feature throughout the workshop, which included, in particular, two sessions specifically designed to enhance the transfer of knowledge among peers:

Peer learning among RISE UP cities

Buddy sessions are conceived as meetings between two or more teams from different cities and countries, specifically designed to leverage the knowledge gained by some of those technical teams after implementing the different phases of the RISE-UP project in their context, and provide advice and recommendations according to their particular experience to other cities and technical teams currently implementing earlier phases of the project.

In the case of the global workshop, the buddy sessions were designed, on the one hand, to discuss project implementation challenges and share experiences among the cities participating in the AECID-funded project (in Colombia, Bolivia, Ethiopia, Jordan, and Tunisia), which are more advanced - as started one year before - than their counterparts in the project funded by the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development Sub-Fund (Madagascar, South Africa, Lao PDR, and Sri Lanka), And on the other hand, to provide constructive feedback on the financial pitches prepared for the upcoming roundtable on financing of selected actions.

Coordinated by the RISE-UP core team, buddy sessions have become an ongoing practice among cities, forging strong exchange ties and continuing to be supported through scheduled meetings throughout project implementation.

Exchange with Spanish municipalities

As part of the component of strengthening the capacities of local actors, the RISE-UP project funded by AECID contemplates carrying out exchanges on the ground with Spanish experts who are working in areas related to climate change and increasing urban resilience, in order to transfer these local teams, experiences and lessons learned on specific topics, based on the needs and priorities identified in the development of diagnosis and actions plans.

The Global Workshop was an ideal scenario for telling the stories behind those interchanges among different realities, to review the progress of the projects and the proposals and to explore together new ways of collaboration. Representatives of Spanish municipalities of Madrid, Alfaro, Ermua and Las Palmas de Gran Canaria, as well as the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, had the opportunity to explain what their cities are doing to progress on climate change adaptation and resilience increase in topics such as environment, air quality, foresting, socio-economic development, risk management, energy and transport, as well as waste management, and to explain, together with their counterparts of Sahab (Jordan), Charagua and Cobija (Bolivia), Debre Birhan (Ethiopia), Kerkennah (Tunis) and Pasto (Colombia) lessons learned during the interchanges.

Learning from practice: insights and site visits

Additional activities were organized during the Global Workshop to foster knowledge exchange among participants. One of these included a presentation on UN-Habitat's Global Urban Resilience Program, highlighting its experience in implementing projects worldwide, including in Spain. Similarly, the Polytechnic University of Madrid presented its Guide to Planning Healthy Cities, offering valuable insights into the interconnections between health, climate adaptation, and urban resilience. The guide also provided practical diagnostic tools applicable to urban contexts.

Another key activity was a site visit to the renowned Madrid Río project—an urban park located on the southwestern edge of central Madrid. In recent years, this area has been the focus of a unique initiative aimed at enhancing river biodiversity within the heart of the city. An expert from the Madrid City Council presented the challenges faced and the solutions adopted in the park, which have enabled the revival of river ecosystems along its course.

Exchanges between Spanish cities and RISE-UP cities: a way to promote decentralized cooperation.

The exchanges between Spanish cities and cities participating in the RISE-UP program, within the framework of the AECID-funded project, have served to promote decentralized cooperation in diverse contexts. They have also been instrumental in advancing specific project proposals included in the Climate Action Plans of each of the cities involved in the projects.

During the visit of the Barcelona Metropolitan Area expert to Pasto, to evaluate and share experiences in solid waste management in major urban market areas, it was possible to convene co-creation workshops to address the challenges with various market stakeholders who had not met together for many years. Most importantly, these meetings have yielded a shared vision that is being reflected in projects included in the Action Plan.

Likewise, the meetings held with the representative of the Madrid City Council, an expert in planning and climate change, the technical team, and the municipality of Sahab, Jordan, were key in guiding the actions related to air quality and urban transformation proposed for the city's industrial area. Similarly, the experience gained by the Alfaro City Council in La Rioja (Spain) in implementing the Ebro Resilience project has been fundamental in the recommendations that the city has been able to develop within the framework of the project related to the improvement of river banks in the city of Cobija, Bolivia

Expanding the network: Future partnerships and global collaboration

Building on the success of the Global Workshop, the programme is broadening its collaboration network to connect cities, donors, academia, and financial institutions in support of scalable, locally led climate action. The partnerships forged in Madrid demonstrated that **multi-level and cross-regional cooperation** can accelerate the translation of city action plans into investment-ready projects and position municipalities as key actors in delivering global climate goals.

The next steps focus on **moving from planning to financed implementation**, strengthening institutional capacity, and creating an enabling environment for sustained local investment. Across participating countries, cities are identifying priority projects, ranging from flood-resilient infrastructure to ecosystem restoration. that are ready to advance from concept to feasibility. Each represents a concrete entry point for engagement.

Partnerships will remain central to this vision by:

- Bridging the finance gap through alignment with international funds and multilateral develo`pment banks.
- Strengthening local delivery systems via technical cooperation, capacity building, and peer learning.
- Catalysing co-investment by blending public, private, and philanthropic resources for projects with tangible social and environmental returns.
- Scaling proven approaches through decentralized cooperation and South–South exchange.

The call to partners is clear: collaboration and co-financing are essential to bring these city-led priorities to life. Donors and development partners can contribute to project preparation and co-investment; academic and private partners can help drive innovation, data, and technology for resilience.

Together, we can turn the momentum created in Madrid into a global partnership for inclusive, climate-resilient urban futures.

As part of the Global Workshop, participants visited the renowned Madrid Río urban park project to hear from local experts about the park's ecological restoration and resilience measures, gaining practical insights into urban nature-based solutions. © UN-Habitat/ Martine de Zoeten

Informal exchanges at the Global Workshop helped foster relationships across regions, laying the groundwork for new and strengthened partnerships that will support future climate-resilient urban development. © UN-Habitat/ Martine de Zoeten

07

Conclusions and how to engage

The Global Workshop highlighted both the urgency and the potential of locally led climate action. Across the participating countries, it brought together mayors, technical teams, national authorities, and international partners to take stock of progress and chart a collective path forward. The discussions and exchanges captured in this report reveal a consistent message: **cities are not waiting, they are innovating, organizing, and leading the charge toward more resilient urban futures.**

Throughout the sessions, three main insights emerged.

First, that the climate crisis in cities is multilayered, combining environmental, social, and economic pressures that require integrated and inclusive responses. **Second**, that solutions already exist at the local level: from flood management and ecosystem restoration to air-quality improvement and circular economy models, city teams are developing practical, replicable approaches grounded in community needs. And **third**, that moving from plans to implementation depends on partnerships; between levels of government, across regions, and with the institutions that can unlock finance and technical expertise.

The workshop also reaffirmed that resilience is not only about infrastructure, it is about people. Cities that engage communities, elevate local knowledge, and link adaptation to livelihoods are building resilience that lasts. This collective learning, shared across regions and with Spanish municipalities and global partners, represents a powerful model for how local leadership can deliver global impact.

Looking ahead, the task is clear: to translate these lessons and local plans into financed action. UN-Habitat will continue to strengthen institutional capacities, develop investment-ready projects, and expand the network of partners that make implementation possible.

How to engage:

- Donors and financial institutions can support the preparation and financing of local adaptation pipelines.
- Governments and city networks can help align urban action with national climate commitments and policies.
- Academic and technical partners can contribute data, innovation, and training that build lasting capacity.

Together, these collaborations can ensure that the momentum generated in Madrid becomes sustained, scaled action: **turning local leadership into global resilience.**

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P.O. Box 30030, Nairobi 00100, Kenya
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