

A woman with a goatee is blowing a large conch shell. She is wearing a dark long-sleeved shirt and a blue lanyard. The background is a blurred teal and black.

# **COP29 Resilience Hub Synthesis Report**

**Key messages and future directions**

**RESILIENCE  
HUB**

# ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

The Resilience Hub is led by a diverse set of Partners from different regions and sectors who guide decisions and programming to ensure they reflect the priorities and knowledge of communities most susceptible to climate change and address barriers to scaling up action on resilience:

## Managing Partners

The Managing Partners coordinate with a wide network of external partners who provide strategic oversight of the Hub to ensure it is meeting its overall purpose and objectives in coordination with other processes around COP.

The Steering Committee also helps ensure that the Resilience Hub complements and adds to the ambition of the COP share their action on climate adaptation and resilience.



## The Race to Resilience

The Resilience Hub acts as the home to the Race to Resilience campaign, led by the UN Climate Change High Level Champions to mobilise greater ambition and action from non-party stakeholders to build the resilience of 4 billion people from climate-vulnerable communities by 2030.

The Resilience Hub Partners and Steering Committee collaborate with the Race to Resilience campaign on the implementation of the Resilience Hub at COP29, and create an active connection to the incoming and present COP Presidencies.

## Hub Sponsors

A big thank you to all of our sponsors, without whom the Resilience Hub would not have been possible: Marsh McLennan, PwC, Walton Family Foundation, FCDO (UK Government), General Motors & Climate Emergency Collaboration Group. Family Foundation

## Hub Supporters

We would like to thank USAID for their support and engagement at the Hub. We would also like to thank the Government of Peru for their ongoing support on helping the Hub's partners share their action on climate adaptation and resilience.

## Challenge co-leads

**Challenge 1:** Anticipating and managing economic disruption and closing finance gaps  
Atlantic Council, South South North (SSN)

**Challenge 2:** Addressing and overcoming food and water insecurity  
Stockholm Resilience Centre (SRC), Alliance for Global Water Adaptation (AGWA), Green Africa Youth Organization (GAYO)

**Challenge 3:** Promoting nature-positive action to help recover from and prevent further biodiversity loss and environmental degradation

South South North (SSN), The Nature Conservancy, SwedBio, International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI), Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)

**Challenge 4:** Building stronger, safer urban communities where everyone can thrive

Global Resilience Partnership (GRP), International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI), Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)

**Challenge 5:** Preparing for extreme weather events and improving disaster recovery efforts

UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), Risk-Informed Early Action Partnership (REAP), Américas

**Challenge 6:** Ensuring the incorporation of culture and Indigenous and local knowledge at every level of decision making

Fundación Avina, Global Network of Civil Society Organisations for Disaster Reduction (GNDR)

## Regional Hub Leads

Africa: South South North (SSN) with collaboration from Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

South Asia: International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD)

Latin America and Caribbean: Fundación Avina

**ABOUT THIS REPORT:** This report was authored by: June Kimaiyo, Vilina Engheepi, Mumbi Sarah Kasumba, Namrata Ginoya, Maria Aguilar, Sarah Clarke, Dr. Corina Anghelhoui, Phatsimo Rahman, Anastasia Brainich and designed by Mumbi Sarah Kasumba, Juvenal Vitalis, Ida Gabriellsson and Nuhaa Soeker. Cover image: Anastasiia Gornostaii

## Managing Partners



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# EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

The Resilience Hub is an inclusively built virtual and physical space that aims to mobilise greater levels of ambition and action on building resilience to climate change. It serves as the home to the Race to Resilience campaign at COP, representing 40 partners and over 600 members, nonparty- stakeholders driving resilience action around the world.

This report synthesises the main messages from the COP29 Resilience Hub and aims to help set the direction for future action towards COP30 and beyond. The report first provides an overview of the key adaptation and resilience decisions and announcements that took place during COP29; it then presents the key messages resulting from the events of the Resilience Hub and offers concluding remarks on next steps towards COP30 and beyond.

## Adaptation and Resilience at COP29

### A modest climate finance commitment falls short

COP29 began with high expectations for securing a [new climate finance goal](#) to support vulnerable countries in climate action. This new goal aimed to build on the 2009 commitment of \$100 billion annually, addressing the persistent gaps in climate finance. However, the final pledge of \$300 billion annually by 2035 was widely criticized as inadequate. While disappointing, countries renewed their commitment to collaborate, raising hopes for further developments at COP30 in Belém, Brazil.

*“Once again, the countries’ most responsible for the climate crisis have failed us. We leave Baku without an ambitious climate finance goal, without concrete plans to limit global temperature rise to 1.5°C, and without the comprehensive support desperately needed for adaptation and loss and damage.... This is not just a failure; it is a betrayal.”*

– quote from Least Developed Countries (LDCs) [statement](#)

### Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and the Baku Adaptation Road Map

The Global Goal on Adaptation, established in the Paris Agreement, took center stage, with discussions advancing indicators to track "means of implementation." These indicators are set to be finalized at COP30. Despite a lack of full consensus, the [Baku Adaptation RoadMap](#) was launched alongside the Baku High-Level Dialogue on Adaptation. Although the modalities for implementing the road map remain undecided, it is expected to play a significant role in advancing adaptation action.

## Global stocktake and national adaptation plans (NAPs)

The Global Stocktake, which outlines the road to climate action, emphasized the need for revised Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) by COP30. However, COP29 negotiations failed to reach consensus on critical issues, delaying decisions to next year. Discussions on National Adaptation Plans made progress but did not result in new text being included in the final COP29 decision.

## Loss and damage: Progress amid stalled negotiations

Loss and Damage discussions carried over from COP28 in Dubai, focusing on the inclusion of Loss and Damage (L&D) in NDCs and NAPs. While consensus was not achieved, several countries, including Australia, Austria, and Sweden, [pledged](#) contributions to the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage (FRLD). A comprehensive decision was deferred to the SB Bonn session.

## Gaps Between commitments and action persist

Despite incremental progress, many adaptation discussions remain fragmented, highlighting the growing gap between commitments and tangible action. COP30 will need to address these disconnects to deliver meaningful outcomes for vulnerable nations.

## Key expectations for COP30 and strengthening adaptation action

At COP30 in Belém, countries must prioritise delivering on existing international finance commitments, including doubling adaptation finance and meeting the \$100 billion annual climate finance goal by 2025. Efforts should focus on operationalising the new \$300 billion annual climate finance target by 2035 and exploring innovative mechanisms, such as reforms to international financial institutions and leveraging private sector flows, to achieve the additional \$1.3 trillion in climate finance needed. Addressing adaptation action requires agreeing on globally and nationally applicable indicators for the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and implementing the Baku Adaptation Roadmap while ensuring the equitable distribution of funds to vulnerable regions. With new nationally determined contributions (NDCs) due, countries must set ambitious emissions-reduction targets, integrate adaptation into economic strategies, and transition away from fossil fuels. Finally, countries must bolster the Loss and Damage Fund, strengthen carbon markets, and build on cooperative initiatives to ensure collective progress toward a more resilient and sustainable future.



# KEY ANNOUNCEMENTS MADE AT COP29 ON ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

1. Launch of 2024 [Global Covenant of Mayors Impact Report](#) highlighting the gap on urban adaptation finance between USD184- 347 billion
2. [International Partners Publish Joint Statement Endorsing Baku Initiative on Human Development for Climate Resilience](#). It seeks to enhance cooperation between these organisations and bridge global efforts to address climate change impacts on human development.
3. [Local and subnational governments released a call to action on loss and damage](#): Led by United Cities and Local Governments, on behalf of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency and the Global Taskforce for Local and Regional Governments, the call urges all levels of governance to step up in addressing the severe impacts of climate change.
4. [Launch of RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2024](#). It highlights subnational governments' progress in adapting to climate change. The report, based on CDP data from 40 regions across 16 countries, share trends and features 12 "Regions in Action" stories on biodiversity conservation, climate resilience, and community empowerment.
5. [Launch of the COP29 Business, Investment and Philanthropy Climate Platform](#). Launched by the COP 29 Presidency and the COP 29 High-Level Champion, the platform aims to unite leaders from the business, finance and philanthropic communities to drive joint action.
6. Adoption of the [Baku Declaration on Amplifying SIDS' Voice at COP29 for a Resilient and Sustainable Future](#). The declaration acknowledges the scale and magnitude of climate change, its disproportionate effects on vulnerable groups and the need for urgent action. It also reaffirms that SIDS' special circumstances make them particularly vulnerable to the adverse impacts of climate change and how Azerbaijan has elevated the role of SIDS at COP29.



# THE RESILIENCE HUB: THE OFFICIAL HOME OF THE RACE TO RESILIENCE



*“ As the official home of the Race to Resilience campaign over the past four years, the hub has ensured that adaptation and resilience remain firmly at the top of the climate agenda. The Resilience Hub continues to demonstrate that resilience-building is not a “one size fits all” endeavor; it requires a whole-of-society approach and that effective adaptation requires strategies that are locally driven, culturally informed, and supported by strong, inclusive governance systems”.*

– Razan Al Mubarak & Nigar Arpadarai, UN Climate Change High Level Champions for COP28 and COP29

## Race to Resilience in action:

### 2024 Update

Led by the [UN Climate Change High-Level Champions](#) under the [UNFCCC Marrakesh Partnership for Global Climate Action](#), the Race to Resilience (RtR) campaign aims to mobilize non-Party stakeholders with the ambitious goal of increasing the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030. Central to the campaign is the commitment to keeping adaptation and people at the forefront of the Global Climate Action Agenda.

Now at the end of its third year, the RtR campaign is making steady progress, with 41 partners in 164 countries working to fulfil their commitments. Collectively, they have reached a significant milestone by designing and starting to implement action plans for protecting the lives and livelihoods of more than 2 billion people most vulnerable to the climate crisis. Driven by the shared vision of a more resilient future, these partners are committed to scaling up their efforts, with the ambitious pledge to increase the resilience of 3.26 billion people by 2030.

In 2024, the campaign expanded to include 7 new partner initiatives, marking a 20% increase from 2023. Among the new partners was The International Land and Forest Tenure Facility as the first Indigenous Peoples led partner initiative.

[RegionsAdapt](#), led by Regions4, also saw growth, welcoming four new regions. This brought the total to 82 members, including 76 regions and 6 associations. The new region members are : Assam in India, Louga in Senegal, Pernambuco in Brazil and Andalucia in Spain.

The RtR campaign underscores the power of collaboration, the strength of diversity and the leadership of non-Party stakeholders in keeping adaptation and resilience at the core of the Global Climate Action Agenda. By uniting a wide array of stakeholders, the campaign demonstrates that collective action is essential to drive meaningful progress in building a climate-resilient world.

- **PLEDGES:** In 2024, the total number of people covered by the collective pledges of RtR partners reached 3.26 billion, an increase of 3% relative to 2023.
- **PLANS:** In 2024, partners’ action plans covered 2.02 billion people, representing 62% of the current collective pledge and 50.6% of the campaign’s ultimate goal. The total finance planned to be mobilized to implement partners’ commitments is now at USD 40.88 billion.
- **PROCEED:** In 2024, the RtR campaign began developing the Proceed reporting tool, working with six partners to identify key indicators of progress in implementing their Resilience-Building Plans. Detailed updates under this phase will be shared as part of the RtR progress report in early 2025.

[Access the publication here](#)



ANCE

### Implementing NDC 3.0: Actionable collaboration for a sustainable future in competitive economies

 <b>Aga Gajewska</b> Pact Global Government & Public Sector Leader	 <b>Victoria Kireyeva</b> Deputy Minister of Environment, Protection and Natural Resources of Ukraine	 <b>Andrew McDowell</b> Director General European Investment Bank
 <b>Elnika Hamdi</b> Deputy Head of Department of the Joint Energy Transition Partnership of Indonesia	 <b>Rachel McEwan</b> Chief Sustainability Officer, IAG, Inc.	 <b>Peter Hill</b> Strategic Advisor to Pact Former UK G7 and G20 Special and Principal Private Secretary to the Prime Minister



# THE RESILIENCE HUB AT COP29: SIX MAJOR CLIMATE CHALLENGES THAT RESILIENCE CAN HELP SOLVE

COP29 marks the fourth year of the Resilience Hub operations, building on three successful Hubs since launching at COP26 in Glasgow. This marks a great moment to reflect on three years of knowledge gained and re-orient the Resilience Hub's programme to one that seeks to tackle or 'solve' key challenges or barriers that still exist to achieving the mission of the Resilience Hub: to increase levels of awareness, investment and action on climate resilience. This also marks an opportune moment to help advance the [Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda \(SAA\)](#) launched at COP27 and the non-state actor leadership as part of the [Race to Resilience Campaign](#).

## Guiding Principles for the Resilience Hub:

- **Inclusive and Representative:** The Hub lifts up diverse voices that have been traditionally under-represented.
- **Connecting Local to Global:** Through Regional Resilience Hubs, the Hub is ensuring regional priorities and stakeholders are adequately represented at COP29.
- **Radical Collaboration:** The Hub facilitates cross-partnership networking and encourages new collaboration, with a particular focus on amplifying community voices and local solutions that are frequently less heard in international climate dialogue spaces.
- **Focus on Action, Progress and Accountability:** The Hub is dedicated to advancing action on resilience and adaptation, showing what works and why; how to scale successful solutions; and raising further ambition.
- **Working Across the COP Landscape:** The Hub works in tandem with other COP29 pavilions to ensure convergence around adaptation and resilience across programming.

## Regional Hubs

In 2024, the Regional Resilience Hubs were actively integrated into the planning and delivery of the Resilience Hub in the lead up to and during COP29 to ensure that best practices on resilience and perspectives of those most susceptible to and affected by climate change were amplified and increasingly influenced the agenda of the Resilience Hub at COP. The Regional Hubs delivered in-person and virtual engagements to bring local voices to the global stage from May to December 2024. Regional Hubs were led by organisations with regional presence in:

- Africa, led by South South North (SSN) in collaboration with Slum Dwellers International (SDI).
- Latin America and the Caribbean, led by Fundación Avina.
- South Asia, led by the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD).

# THE SIX CHALLENGES

The Resilience Hub challenges for COP29 were designed and agreed upon by a Steering Committee of regionally and sectorally diverse non-state actors with input from Resilience Hub Managing Partners. Using a resilience lens, how can we better:

1. **Anticipate and manage economic disruption and close finance gaps?**
2. **Address and overcome food and water insecurity?**
3. **Promote nature-positive action to help recover from and prevent further biodiversity loss and environmental degradation?**
4. **Build stronger, safer urban communities where everyone can thrive?**
5. **Prepare for extreme weather events and improve disaster recovery efforts?**
6. **Ensure the incorporation of culture and indigenous and local knowledge at every level of decision making?**

Each challenge further address the following cross-cutting themes:: (1) Finance: fostering access to financing for local actors and reducing the financing gap between adaptation and mitigation; (2) Innovation; (3) Radical Collaboration: uplifting frontline voices and democratising decision-making spaces; (4) Gender and Equity.

*“Effective adaptation requires strategies that are locally-driven, that are culturally-informed and supported by strong inclusive governance systems. Thank you for also applying regional voices through Regional Hubs, ensuring that those who cannot attend COP in person are duly represented and duly heard. Thank you for championing the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda and the Race to Resilience. Thank you for ensuring a place where we can come together as a community of practice, as a community of solidarity, to ensure that work in the space of both resilience and adaptation meets the people where they are.”*

– Razan Al Mubarak, COP28 UN Climate Change High-Level Champion

*“The most important thing is that this place exists and that this community exists, of course it’s a vast connected community that is represented here by a small number. I want to thank all of you for making the Resilience Hub real. I hope this will continue to be the most lively, the most engaged conversation hub where all communities and sources of power come together to progress the solutions that we need to tackle the climate crisis and that we know are only getting more necessary. I’m really excited to see the Resilience Hub here as a permanent fixture at COP.”*

– Nigel Topping, COP26 UNFCCC High-Level Champion





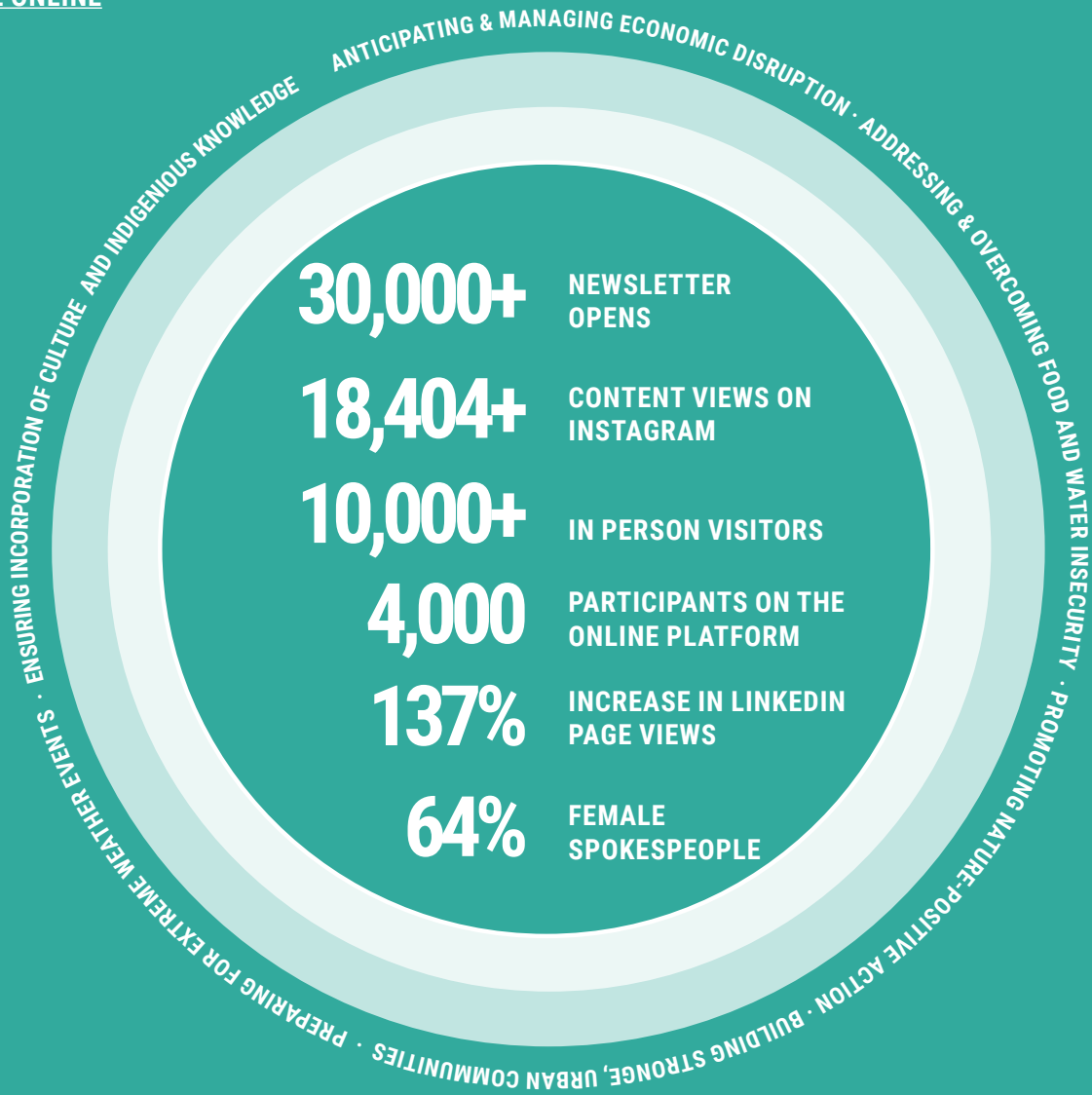


**38**

SESSIONS  
AVAILABLE ONLINE

**COP29 HUB AT A GLANCE**

**6.5**  
DAYS



**40+**

ORGANISATIONS INVOLVED

**39**

HOURS OF DISCUSSIONS

# THE ROAD TO COP29: REGIONAL HUB HIGHLIGHTS

The Regional Hubs play a crucial role in delivering the overarching vision for the Resilience Hub by ensuring the voices and perspectives of the most vulnerable and climate-affected are amplified and increasingly drive the global resilience agenda in the next ten years. The respective Regional Hubs play a central role in communicating regional priorities, actions, solutions and challenges to be amplified onto a global stage.

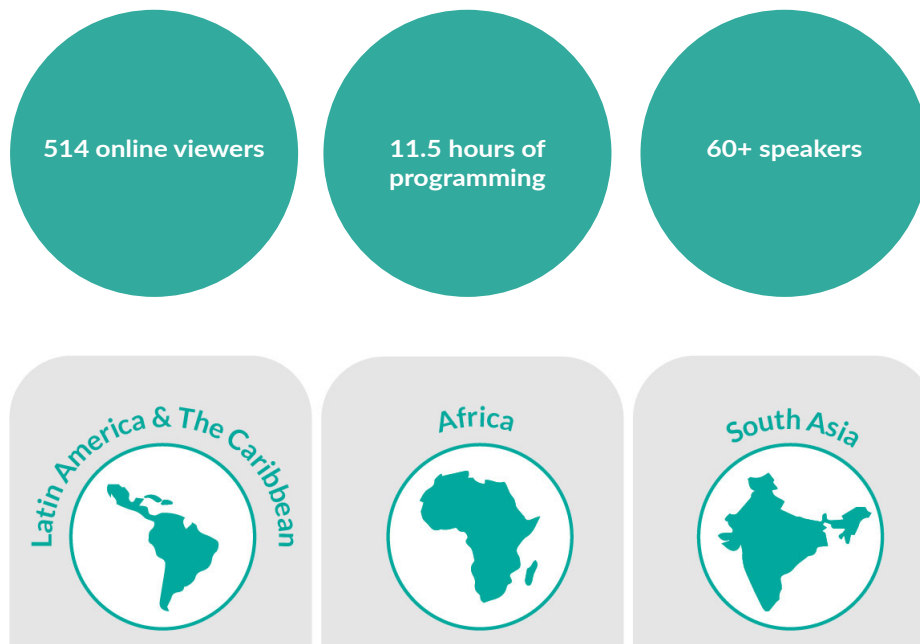
Throughout 2024, the Regional Hubs were actively integrated into the planning and delivery of the overall Resilience Hub programming. Each Regional Hub also developed an engagement strategy that took into account an existing calendar of events as opportunities to communicate and engage with regional networks, actors and leaders. The types of engagements varied, including the organisation of virtual and face-to-face events and webinars, participation in international meetings and conferences, the delivery of capacity

building conferences, the delivery of capacity building workshops, and the preparation of communications resources to maximise the audience that saw the work of regional actors involved.

This year was crucial in bringing the three regions together through a two-day virtual summit event to amplify regional policy priorities through a global platform in a year when no Regional Climate Week engagements were held by the UNFCCC. The event brought together policymakers, financial experts, environmental scientists, and community leaders to inspire movement-building towards local action and democratisation of governance from key actors through a spirit of celebration, and act as a knowledge exchange platform for cross-learning between the Regional Hubs.

## REGIONAL HUBS VIRTUAL SUMMIT AT A GLANCE:

### By the numbers



Full Regional Resilience Hubs virtual summit report can be accessed [here](#)

# COP29 SUMMARIES





# CHALLENGE 1: ANTICIPATE AND MANAGE ECONOMIC DISRUPTION AND CLOSE FINANCE GAPS

The underfinancing of climate adaptation poses systemic risks to global economic stability, especially for climate-vulnerable nations. With adaptation costs for developing countries projected to reach [\\$215-387 billion annually by 2030](#), current investment falls far short. Of the [\\$63 billion tracked in adaptation finance \(2021-2022\)](#), only 2% came from the private sector, exposing untapped potential for transformative change toward climate-resilient communities, businesses, and ecosystems. Despite challenges like policy gaps and inadequate metrics, investing in adaptation could boost the global economy by [\\$7 trillion by 2030](#). Scaling innovative finance solutions requires broader reforms in climate finance architecture. COP29, the "Finance COP", provided a critical opportunity to spotlight adaptation financing and the cost of inaction. The Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda Task Force on Finance is spearheading the Call for Collaboration on Adaptation Private Finance and fostering government and Non-State Actors, including Race to Resilience partners, to agree on collaborations that accelerate finance flows and accessibility. Results from this challenge can inform the opportunities advanced by this Call for Collaboration.

*"Co-creation approaches yield more robust, transdisciplinary, and locally-led adaptation initiatives than conventional top-down methods. However, too few adaptation projects adopt a Southern-led, co-creative approach, especially in the research space, which remains dominated by Northern institutions. It is the responsibility of funders and the research community to intentionally bring about this shift and build the corresponding capacities, including in funding and delivery mechanisms that are still largely led by Northern institutions."*

– Shehnaz Moosa, Director, South South North (SSN)

**Funding mechanisms must move beyond rigid structures and instead embrace flexibility to meet dynamic local demands.** Climate finance providers, including multilateral banks, national funds, and private sector investors, must ensure that resources reach local actors. Despite existing funds, many providers fail to allocate resources effectively or listen to the needs of Southern governments and communities. Many Southern countries including [Ethiopia](#), [The Gambia](#) and [Fiji](#) have developed national climate funding systems to promote local ownership and accountability, though these efforts

often require external financial support to achieve their full potential.

External funding remains critical to operationalise these mechanisms and maximise their impact. Enabling locally-led action begins with empowering countries to design and manage their funding mechanisms, embedding them within national and local arrangements. This shift ensures that adaptation responses are tailored to the unique environmental, social, and economic contexts of each region. For example, the [Philippines' People's Survival Fund](#) and [Grassroots Action-Research Micro-grants funding](#) serves as a model for scaling locally-led approaches by integrating diverse partners (including civil society, academia, and the private sector) within a national framework.

*"It is clear that insurance is just one part of the solution. The future of financial resilience for vulnerable communities lies in a holistic approach - one that integrates insurance with financial education, wraparound services, and community-driven solutions."*

– Mansi Shah, Senior Coordinator, Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

**Innovative financial tools, such as insurance, can provide a vital safety net, but for them to be effective, they must be accessible, inclusive, and tailored to the needs of the communities they serve.** Success is not found in a single solution but in a holistic approach that combines financial education, targeted outreach strategies, and multi-level partnerships. Key to this approach are multi-level partnerships involving governments, local organisations, and the private sector. These partnerships ensure that insurance products reach vulnerable groups, such as women, children, and people with disabilities, by integrating financial solutions into national systems and social protection programmes

Governments can play a crucial role by offering subsidies, creating enabling environments, and ensuring these solutions are embedded in national policies. Local organisations, with their established community ties, are vital in building trust and ensuring effective delivery. Working with aggregators, such as organisations with strong community relationships, streamlines the distribution process and increases uptake. Innovation in financial education, along with multi-level partnerships and inclusive solutions, provides a pathway to ensure communities are not

only supported but also educated and engaged. For example, the [Munich Climate Insurance Initiative](#) combines the development of strategic partnerships with knowledge-sharing and capacity-building efforts. By empowering stakeholders through innovative education techniques like street plays and storytelling in local languages, targeted videos, audio campaigns, and gamification, the programme enables them to adopt and implement financial solutions effectively. Additionally, financial initiatives should include women in designing and implementing climate resilience initiatives to ensure strategies are fostering financial independence and community resilience. Programmes that incorporate gender equity and engage marginalised groups are not only more inclusive but also more sustainable.

*"The conversation around Innovative Finance needs to shift from just focusing on where the funding comes from to who can access it, who is benefiting, and who is leading the management and accountability of the fund."*

– Julie Greenwalt, Urban Environment Specialist, Cities Alliance

**There is a critical need to support startups in creating innovative adaptation solutions, as these ventures often remain unpalatable for traditional investment models.** Especially in their early stages, startups are the engines of innovation and economic growth, but they face unique opportunities and challenges, particularly when it comes to securing funding. Founders of these startups often operate with limited resources, working to validate their concepts and test their ideas in the market. While these ventures may lack large budgets and teams, they are agile and quickly adapt to feedback, enabling them to respond to market needs and seize emerging opportunities. To bridge this innovation gap, new approaches such as the one by [CIFAR Alliance](#) are fostering a thriving ecosystem for climate resilience entrepreneurship with equity and inclusivity at the forefront. Moreover, addressing gender disparities is essential for equitable financial solutions. Supporting women-led startups is especially important, as women are disproportionately vulnerable to climate risks. One of the critical gaps in addressing climate resilience is the lack of reliable, gender-disaggregated data that reflects the lived realities of women, especially those in the informal workforce. Most existing policies are crafted using generalised or lab-generated data, making them disconnected from the day-to-day challenges faced by marginalised women.

*"Communities are making extraordinary contributions, addressing local challenges with global significance. They save, invest, and innovate to improve their housing and living conditions, yet systemic barriers remain—houses built but unable to connect to essential services like water, sewer, and energy. Recognising these efforts and building solidarities is imperative. Global agencies and city authorities must step in to complement and support these community-driven innovations, enabling them to scale and expand their impact."*

– Joseph Kimani, Executive Director, Slum Dwellers International

**To advance resilience measurement and financing, we must establish clear metrics that account for the complexities of evolving global ecosystems.**

Resilience measures need to be adaptive and responsive, acknowledging that risk varies across spatial and social dimensions. Developing a common language for resilience, distinct from risk, is critical to managing complexity effectively. Visualisation tools can aid in understanding and communicating resilience strategies, while focusing on infrastructure and ecosystem services strengthens urban systems against future challenges. For example, the [Universal Taxonomy for Natural Hazard and Climate Risk and Resilience Assessments](#), is a unified framework for evaluating risks comprehensively. This taxonomy provides a common language for assessing not only the physical integrity of buildings but also the resilience of the people, communities, and organisations they support.

#### Learn more

- Self Employed Women's Association (SEWA) in India piloted a [parametric insurance](#) product covering heat waves while offering food support, healthcare, and livelihood assistance. Designed for informal workers, it effectively supported women's resilience during climate shocks.

#### Launches and announcements

- GRP launched the [Resilience Innovation through Scaling Entrepreneurship \(RISE\) Challenge](#) that aims to scale innovative solutions addressing urban resilience in informal contexts, targeting climate risks, migration, and resource challenges. It seeks partners, funders, and solution submissions to bridge gaps in governance, financing, and capacity. Applications to the call for proposal will open in early 2025.
- To address climate impacts in the region, GRP and the [International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development \(ICIMOD\)](#) launched the [Hindu Kush Himalaya Innovation Challenge for Entrepreneurs \(HKH-ICE\)](#).



needs and development goals. A just transition is essential to avoid pushback, migration, and conflict, however resilience must complement justice to ensure actionable progress. Building resilience in food and water systems necessitates engaging stakeholders, particularly those most affected, to co-develop solutions that are not only equitable but also sustainable, adaptive, and widely accepted.

*"It's a very sad story, that's the reality we're facing—the survival mode in which we are working. We have water solutions, food solutions, and climate actions, but do they talk to one another? Do we share data, knowledge, and good practices? Are we addressing similar types of finance—humanitarian, development, and climate? This nexus of challenges and solutions is very, very important."*

— Sylvie Wabbes Candotti, Emergency and Rehabilitation Officer, FAO

**Effective climate resilience solutions require a synergistic approach that combines community-led, data-driven interventions with robust, stable policy frameworks to address grassroots challenges, build public trust, attract investment, and drive transformative action through innovative funding mechanisms like climate and green funds.** Innovative agricultural technologies, such as [Solinftec's](#) AI-powered robot [Solix](#), which reduces pesticide runoff and conserves water, and the [African Agricultural Technology Foundation's](#) (AATF) drought-resistant GMO crops – [rice](#) and [TELA-Maize](#), exemplify how targeted advancements can address food and water security while promoting sustainability in vulnerable regions. Adopting climate-resilient technologies faces challenges such as addressing local contexts, cost constraints, and cultural barriers. Collaborative approaches that incorporate community input, transparent data-sharing, and inclusive consultations are essential for building resilient, equitable, and sustainable food and water systems. Policies such as public-private partnerships, green bonds, and concessional loans align stakeholders and address resource gaps, while platforms and accelerators connect grassroots innovators with investors. Initiatives such as the [African Climate Innovation Challenge](#) and the [Resilient Agriculture Innovations for Nature \(RAIN\) Innovation Challenge](#) provide seed grants, mentorship, and business modelling support to foster trust and attract investments. Effective policymaking for food and water security requires integrating biophysical and socio-economic data alongside climate finance tools such as tax incentives and national climate funds to promote sustainable development.

### **Empowering local voices and fostering cross-sector collaboration are central to building resilient food and water systems in the face of climate challenges.**

Indigenous and marginalised communities hold invaluable adaptive knowledge, yet systemic barriers such as land rights insecurity and resource inequities hinder their contributions. By integrating traditional ecological knowledge with modern science and securing legal protections, interventions can become effective and equitable. Youth leadership and non-state actors further redefine resilience, introducing innovative financing models and scalable, technology-driven solutions that amplify marginalised voices. Efforts such as the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda aim to integrate system transformation opportunities, emphasising resilience-building across interconnected areas like water, human settlements, food systems, infrastructure, and health.

It underscores the necessity of addressing adaptation and mitigation holistically rather than in isolation. The complexity of aligning decision-making, finance flows, and opportunities to benefit the most vulnerable actors is a key challenge, particularly in making resources tangible at the local level. Innovative and blended mechanisms already showcase benefits for communities, nature, and climate, but scaling these requires collaboration and acceleration.



*"If we are to work together within the complexities of this nexus and move beyond silos, inclusivity must be our foundation. We need to consider those less familiar with navigating these complexities—be it vulnerable communities, youth, or others who lack the privilege to occupy these spaces. It becomes too late to address their inclusion when negotiations are already underway; we must bring them into the process from the start."*

— David Giles, Youth Policy Specialist, World Food Forum

### Learn more

- The [Climate Justice Map](#), an initiative by [GAYO](#) connects investors with innovators in sectors like renewable energy and climate justice, streamlining project identification.
- Ecopeace Middle East's report on "[A Green Blue Deal for the Middle East](#)" is a valuable model emphasizing the role of cross-border cooperation in addressing water scarcity challenges while promoting climate-smart investments and regional stability.



## CHALLENGE 3: RECOVERING FROM AND PREVENTING FURTHER BIODIVERSITY LOSS AND ENVIRONMENTAL DEGRADATION

The [IPCC-IPBES joint report, Living Planet](#), highlights the extensive impact of human activity on the planet, with 77% of land and 87% of the ocean altered by human actions. The report shows a 69% average decline in species populations since 1970, with freshwater systems declining by 83%. Ecosystems are essential for climate regulation, acting as carbon sinks and supporting life. However, as ecosystems degrade, their ability to perform these functions diminishes, exacerbating climate change. Indigenous and local communities, who rely on nature for their livelihoods, are its most effective stewards, making biodiversity conservation a matter of social justice.

*“Mainstreaming Nature based Solutions in decision-making will involve including them in urban and environmental policies, capacity-building and training of youth, and finally investing in education and research to identify appropriate solutions.”*

– Dr. Nadeeka Jayaweera, Senior Lecturer, University of Moratuwa

**Governments and stakeholders globally are increasingly recognising the potential of Nature-based Solutions (NbS) to tackle climate impacts.** This is evident in their inclusion in the [Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework](#), the [Global Stocktake](#) text at COP28, and the adoption of a globally accepted definition in the [United Nations Environment Assembly \(UNEA\)](#). However, significant challenges remain and efforts must now focus on addressing implementation and financial barriers. Nature-based Solutions play a vital role in addressing climate and biodiversity challenges. However, they should not be viewed as a singular or standalone solution to these challenges. Nature itself has inherent limits, and therefore, it is crucial that NbS are integrated alongside other innovative and established approaches that can deliver a wide array of ecosystem services. To fully unlock the potential of NbS, it is imperative that countries prioritise strategic investments in education and capacity-building, ensuring that necessary knowledge and skills are cultivated at all levels. Conducting thorough and detailed risk assessments is essential to understand the full scope of potential benefits and challenges, enabling informed decision-making. Embedding NbS into national policies and frameworks will provide the structural foundation required for their long-term success, ensuring that they are actively promoted as part of integrated strategies for climate resilience and biodiversity conservation.

*“In order to scale finances towards NbS, we need to understand climate and biodiversity risks at a granular level, develop a suitable taxonomy for climate and sustainable finance, and estimate the economic value of all the benefits provided by NbS.”*

– Ms. Shuva Raha, Fellow and Lead, International Negotiation, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)

**To scale NbS effectively, innovative financial mechanisms must prioritise reducing the debt burden on developing nations while strengthening local community capacity.** These mechanisms should showcase the multiple benefits of NbS to attract investments, with biodiversity positioned as a core component of sustainable investment strategies. Education, research, and empowering young people are pivotal. Capacity-building initiatives for young people can nurture their potential to advocate for nature-positive policies and sustainable land management. They must be given a seat at decision-making tables, where their innovative ideas can influence formal processes. Youth-led activism can drive waves of action and exert pressure on policymakers to ensure the implementation of supportive policies. Building a robust support system for young leaders is crucial to translating their passion into scalable, impactful solutions.

*“We are still struggling to understand whether these projects are sustainable or not, because we do not have long-term data to measure the real impact of NbS projects.”*

– Dr Senaka Basnayake, Director, Climate Resilience Department, Asian Disaster Preparedness Center (ADPC)

*“Young people are passionate, but they lack the support and mentoring to bring their innovative ideas to life...We need political space to scale up youth-led solutions.”*

– Abdul Hamid Taher, CEO, GECCI

**A human rights-based approach is essential to address the root causes of biodiversity loss and climate change, such as extractivism and inequitable economic systems.** This approach ensures intergenerational equity and prioritises the rights of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. True respect, recognition, and consent for these communities extend beyond territorial rights to include meaningful participation in decision-making processes. Incorporating a diverse range of voices in decision-making helps to create a stronger sense of shared responsibility and mutual respect. This inclusive, transparent approach is crucial

for achieving meaningful and lasting change, as it strengthens the foundations of trust, accountability, and collaboration—key elements for ensuring the long-term sustainability of efforts to address climate change and biodiversity loss.

*“Our experience with mainstreaming human rights-based approaches has taught us that this is a process—it’s not just about working with cities to learn concepts and frameworks but also about unlearning decades and centuries of social and cultural biases and stereotypes.”*

— Bongiwe Simka, Regional Director , ICLEI Africa

**Fostering multi-stakeholder dialogues and collaborations is a must for building trust, reciprocity, and a shared vision when implementing human rights-based approaches to biodiversity and climate action.**

It is not enough to simply involve diverse stakeholders; true collaboration requires that every voice is heard and valued, particularly those of Indigenous Peoples and local communities. Participation must go beyond tokenism, where communities are merely consulted without real influence. Instead, their involvement should be full and meaningful, ensuring they are actively engaged at every stage of the decision-making process—from the initial design of policies and strategies to their implementation and ongoing evaluation. By ensuring their rights, knowledge, and perspectives are central to decision-making, we can develop more sustainable and culturally appropriate solutions. Moreover, such inclusive processes foster a sense of ownership and empowerment, building long-term commitment to the success of biodiversity and climate action initiatives.

#### Launches and announcements

- RtR partner, [RegionsAdapt](#), launched its 2024 progress report [“From Cali to Belem, Subnational Governments Leading Nature Actions to Adapt to Climate Change”](#), focused on the intersection of nature and climate, bringing insights from 38 region members implementing adaptation action to address biodiversity and climate challenges while improving the lives of people.



# CHALLENGE 4: BUILD STRONGER, SAFER AND HEALTHIER URBAN COMMUNITIES WHERE EVERYONE CAN THRIVE

Urbanisation is rapidly increasing, with the vast majority of the global population projected to live in cities by 2050, mainly in low- and middle-income countries. This growth brings opportunities and challenges for building resilient communities. Solutions include investing in climate-resilient infrastructure, integrating nature-based solutions, retrofitting for extreme weather, and adopting inclusive zoning for affordable housing. Early warning systems, resilience metrics, and public campaigns are vital for preparedness. Addressing urban informality by regularising settlements and securing land rights can enhance stability and attract investment.

*“Driving change requires three key components: raising awareness of risks and providing tools to quantify them, fostering trust in existing standards and guidance, and building capacity to enhance resilience in the countries that need it most.”*

– Rodrigo Fernandes, Director of ES(D)G, Bentley Systems

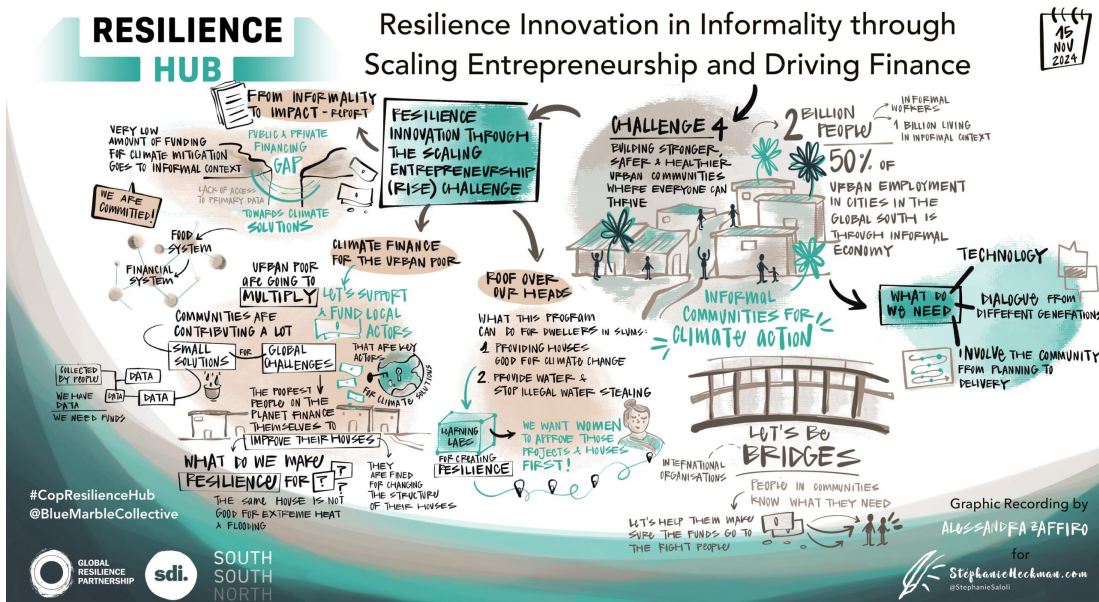
Governments should collaborate with other departments, such as statistics offices, to gather ground-level data, adapt their understanding, and shape inclusive, effective policies that address the needs of all. This collaboration ensures that policies are grounded in the realities of the most impacted populations, fostering equity and social justice. By prioritising inclusive data and narratives, governments create strategies that not only address immediate needs but also build long-term resilience for communities. Tools such as digital twins can be used to make context-specific decisions and improve efficiency—for instance, identifying and repairing bridge damage more effectively.

These powerful visualisation tools enhance communication around risk and resilience, helping stakeholders understand and address complex challenges. Community members don't need to be asset owners to contribute as stakeholders to community-driven resilient design for resilience to physical climate risks such as sea level rise, heat stress, and flooding.

Building resilient infrastructure in urban settings requires moving beyond evaluating the grey built environment—such as roads, bridges, and buildings—in isolation. Instead, it's essential to consider the interconnected relationships between grey infrastructure and natural systems, often referred to as grey-green and grey-blue synergies. These relationships highlight how built infrastructure interacts with green spaces, such as parks and urban forests, and blue systems, including freshwater and coastal ecosystems. Moreover, the insurance sector has a crucial role to play in enabling the success of resilient infrastructure. By providing mechanisms to de-risk investments, it helps to reduce financial barriers and extend the timeline for realising the benefits of such infrastructure. This approach empowers urban asset owners, operators, and community members to collaborate and build lasting, sustainable solutions that strengthen resilience for the long term.

*“When you hear urban infrastructure, you might think of things we build with - concrete, glass, brick and wood - which are all important structural elements, but the most important thing is how we, as humans, live and work and benefit from what urban infrastructure delivers to us.”*

– Stephanie Speck, Head of Special Initiatives, Green Climate Fund





**Innovative, equitable financing, inclusive governance, and community-driven solutions are pivotal to addressing housing challenges, transforming informal settlements, and empowering vulnerable communities.** While accessible financing is essential for scaling housing solutions, the real challenge is ensuring they reach those who need them most. Communities, with their deep understanding of local needs, are best positioned to identify their priorities. As such financial mechanisms must therefore be designed to amplify and support their initiatives. Rapid urbanisation and a predominantly youthful population, especially in Africa, require innovative, adaptable solutions. Tackling these challenges necessitates integrating technology, fostering intergenerational dialogue, and creating community-driven, demand-responsive adaptation plans. Women, as central contributors to household resilience, play an integral role in shaping and validating these initiatives. In many cities, residents' self-funded resilience efforts, such as upgrading homes to withstand climate risks, have led to unintended consequences, including higher property taxes. In countries like [Namibia](#) for example, local governments are taking proactive steps by allocating land to urban poor communities at discounted prices, ensuring access to housing. This model highlights the need of shifting the narrative around large-scale urban projects, compelling local authorities to implement equitable policies that put into account the needs of vulnerable populations and creating tangible benefits for the poorest households. Additionally, governments and organisations must reconsider how they present and share data, ensuring it is accessible and actionable for both communities and local authorities. Initiatives like mapping and enumeration of informal settlements provide critical data to inform policies, giving slum dwellers visibility and a voice in urban planning. Inclusive urban planning must acknowledge the diverse realities of informal settlements, balancing immediate needs with long-term development goals. This approach ensures that resilience-building efforts contribute to uplifting vulnerable populations rather than pushing them further into poverty.

*"Communities are fulfilling urgent needs that formal institutions often overlook. Their efforts, supported by dedicated partners, are pivotal in driving the transitions we aspire to see globally."*

– Sheela Patel, Director, The Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centres (SPARC) and Lead, Roof Over Our Heads Initiative

## Roof Over Our Heads

The launch of [Volume II of Roof Over Our Heads: Unveiling Resilience in the Face of Climate Challenges](#) builds upon the impactful journey initiated with [Volume I at COP28 in Dubai](#). This new edition chronicles progress made in the second phase of the ROOH Campaign work, highlighting transformative collaborations with informal communities, women, and young professionals.

[Volume I](#) provided a foundation by documenting the challenges and resilience strategies of vulnerable communities, articulating the activities required to address local and global climate challenges, and championing partnerships with women's collectives, neighborhood groups, and learning labs. These efforts have deepened understanding and catalysed community-led actions toward climate resilience.

Volume II expands this focus, integrating practical considerations and innovative materials for creating accessible, affordable, and robust resilience solutions. It explores the complex dynamics of extending the ROOH campaign approach to new regions, navigating the interplay of formal and informal partnerships while addressing evolving community needs.

This series of books serves as a testament to collective achievements and a guide for future initiatives, showcasing the methods and materials developed through learning labs and partnerships. Efforts to adapt and explore prioritise alignment with the values and resourcefulness of local communities, aiming to develop practical, scalable solutions that foster resilient neighborhoods worldwide.

## Why EQUITY matters in responses to EXTREME HEAT.



Drawn by @jessharwoodart for The Resilience Hub @ #COP29

## Launches and announcements

- The [City Resilience Framework 2024](#) helps cities adapt to major events and stresses, with a stronger focus on social justice and nature-based solutions. Reorganised for clearer governance, it enables mapping city actions to identify suitable finance for different solutions, marking a decade of impactful urban resilience guidance.
- Waterfront Alliance has expanded its partnership with the UNDRR ARISE US network to develop a Coastal Resilience Scorecard. This free, digital-first resource will support public and private climate resilience professionals globally in assessing coastal risk readiness at property, nature, and city scales. See the press release [here](#).
- Howden launched [The Great Enabler](#), a paper showcasing how insurance solutions can unlock \$10 trillion in climate finance. The paper highlights the pivotal role of insurance in accelerating investment and supporting resilience in the face of climate challenges.
- RtR Partner, [The International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure \(ICSI\)](#), launched its latest [Climate Resilient Infrastructure Report: A Focus on Technology](#), highlighting over 50 case studies, tools and initiatives that harness technology to build the resilience of over 113m people globally through infrastructure.
- The [Resilience4Ports initiative](#) launched at COP29 a [Call to Action](#) to bring port actors together to accelerate port resilience. The first sectorial approach to the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA) following three main objectives to support the achievement of the Maritime Resilience Breakthrough outcome targets
- Cities Alliance launches its flagship report [Climate Finance for the Urban Poor: A Review of Global Climate Funds](#) highlighting the critical gap in climate finance for informal settlements.



## CHALLENGE 5: PREPARING FOR EXTREME WEATHER EVENTS AND IMPROVING DISASTER RECOVERY EFFORTS

The increasing severity of climate disasters like floods, cyclones, and heatwaves is exacerbating global challenges, particularly for the world's poorest communities. These events strain disaster recovery systems, deepen inequalities, and lead to long-term impacts such as learning loss and chronic illness. Data reveals that [70% of climate-related deaths](#) occur in the 46 poorest nations, underscoring disproportionate vulnerability. While early investments in resilience and adaptation can deliver significant benefits, addressing the complex nature of this crisis requires a comprehensive approach.

*"Anticipatory action empowers us to safeguard everyone's safety and well-being before disasters strike. It ensures that vulnerable populations are not only shielded from harm but also protected from gender-based violence and disruptions to essential services like health and education."*

– Winny Ouma, Executive Director, Innovators 4 Climate Action

**Anticipatory action has the potential to save lives, protect livelihoods, and reduce recovery costs significantly—every dollar spent saves seven dollars in recovery expenses.** But for its full potential to be realised, communities must be at the forefront of these responses. Across the globe, from [El Salvador](#) to [Bangladesh](#), [Chad](#) and [Nigeria](#), communities are already taking significant steps to predict, prepare for, and manage disasters. Their efforts—rooted in local knowledge, resources, and strategies—are a vital foundation that anticipatory action must connect with and support. However, the reality is that anticipatory support often falls short. It sometimes fails to anticipate the right needs, provides insufficient resources for resilient recovery, and struggles to succeed without long-term investments in disaster risk reduction. The complexity of today's crises—climate shocks, displacement, and overlapping emergencies—demands a collaborative, inclusive, and multi-sectoral approach. Governments, humanitarian actors, the private sector, the media, and development and adaptation stakeholders must come together to create holistic solutions. Pre-arranged financing is essential for enabling timely and co-ordinated disaster responses. To maximise impact, affected communities must be at the heart of anticipatory action, with efforts focused on enhancing existing strategies and committing to inclusive, adequately funded approaches. This ensures that disaster preparedness not only mitigates harm but also strengthens resilience and recovery for all. Children, who are among the most affected by climate shocks yet receive only [2.4% of targeted funding](#), must be prioritised to guarantee continued access to quality education during crises.

*"We urgently need to bridge the financing gap to scale up climate action. The era of isolated, small-scale projects is over—we must act across time scales and ensure every community at risk is equipped to face the climate crisis. There is no other option."*

– Catalina Jaime, Head of Climate and Conflict, Red Cross and Red Crescent Climate Centre

**There is a need to establish financial preparedness plans with predefined amounts and timelines to help reduce the tough decisions governments and households face during emergencies.** Initiatives such as pre-arranged financing represent a game-changing approach to disaster response, shifting from a reactive to a proactive model. Unlike traditional post-crisis funding, which often arrives too late and in inadequate amounts, pre-arranged financing ensures that resources are readily available when they are most needed. Despite its potential, pre-arranged financing remains underutilised, accounting for only [1.1% of aid flows in 2022](#). Although global financial coverage has grown, reaching \$9.8 billion in 2023, distribution remains uneven, with low-income countries receiving a mere 3.1% of the funds. Closing this gap requires aligning global financial systems with the needs of the most vulnerable communities. Innovations such as catastrophe bonds, parametric insurance, and climate-resilient debt clauses are reshaping the landscape of pre-arranged financing. Regional risk pools, such as the [African Risk Capacity](#), have made significant progress in providing coverage to low-income nations, thanks to donor-supported insurance premiums. Additionally, humanitarian organisations, financial institutions, and the private sector have collaborated to create solutions tailored to challenging environments, including anticipatory action mechanisms and novel insurance products. However, scaling up pre-arranged financing requires sustained commitment from donors, multilateral banks, and governments to make affordable, tailored financial products the norm—ensuring that communities, particularly those in high-risk areas, are better equipped to cope with climate-related shocks.



*"We've built an economic system that fosters competition, greed, and waste, draining resources from where they are most needed. To create convergence, cohesion, and harmony, we must ask ourselves: What would nature do? Embracing humility and learning from the intelligence of the natural world could guide us toward a more balanced and sustainable future."*

— Aya Khourshid, A Wisdom Keepers Delegation

**Decentralising climate finance is critical to ensure that resources reach the communities most affected by climate crises.** Governments can offer support by allocating funds through budget processes that prioritise distributive and redistributive justice. To truly meet the needs of vulnerable communities, we must shift power to those most affected. This includes prioritising the voices of women, youth, and marginalised groups in decision-making and ensuring accountability and transparency in how funds are distributed, with robust mechanisms led by the communities that will benefit. By engaging national experts with deep knowledge of local ecosystems, vulnerabilities, and existing resources, we can identify gaps and deploy effective risk transfer instruments, such as risk retention and insurance, customised to each country's context. This collaborative process, involving global partners such as multilateral development banks, UN agencies, and risk pools, has been successfully piloted by [Global Shield](#) and is now expanding to 17 countries. For example, [Ghana's](#) recent purchase of drought coverage has already resulted in quick payouts, enabling rapid disaster response. In addition to sovereign-level solutions, it is crucial to include micro-level interventions for vulnerable populations, such as smallholder farmers and medium-sized entrepreneurs. In, for instance, the lack of inclusive insurance markets highlighted the need for tailored financial products. Ultimately, the goal is to create a comprehensive and sustainable climate risk finance system, focusing on country-specific solutions and expanding donor funding to ensure lasting impact, with an ambition framework that scales this integrated approach across more countries.

*"People aren't born vulnerable; the system makes them vulnerable. From crisis to risk management, we must connect people and shift power to communities."*

— Tanjir Hussen, Global Resilience Advisor, ActionAid

**To effectively combat growing challenges of heat stress, cities must focus on localised, science-based action plans targeting specific wards and zones, addressing the unique needs of vulnerable populations such as labourers and low-income communities.**

The impact of heat on workers, particularly in vulnerable sectors such as construction, agriculture, and gig work, is enormous. The International Labour Organisation (ILO) has [highlighted the economic toll of heat stress on productivity, estimating a potential loss of 2.2% of working hours by 2030](#), translating to the equivalent of 80 million jobs. While national policies provide a framework, real impact happens at the city level. Innovations such as [cool roofs](#) in India by Mahila Housing Trust highlight how cities worldwide are adopting creative solutions to mitigate heat and enhance urban resilience. However, these efforts must be institutionalised within urban planning systems to ensure heat resilience becomes a long-term priority rather than a temporary measure. Additionally, cities need to conduct post-heatwave evaluations to assess damages and refine future strategies, moving beyond immediate response to adaptive planning.

*"Extreme heat deserves high political attention and needs more investment. We need to better understand how this affects construction, health systems, school schedules, and transportation. We also need a layered approach to better understand the risk and look into the larger funding arrangements"*

— Sebastian Lesch, Head of Climate Policy, German Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ) and Member of the Fund for Responding to Loss and Damage



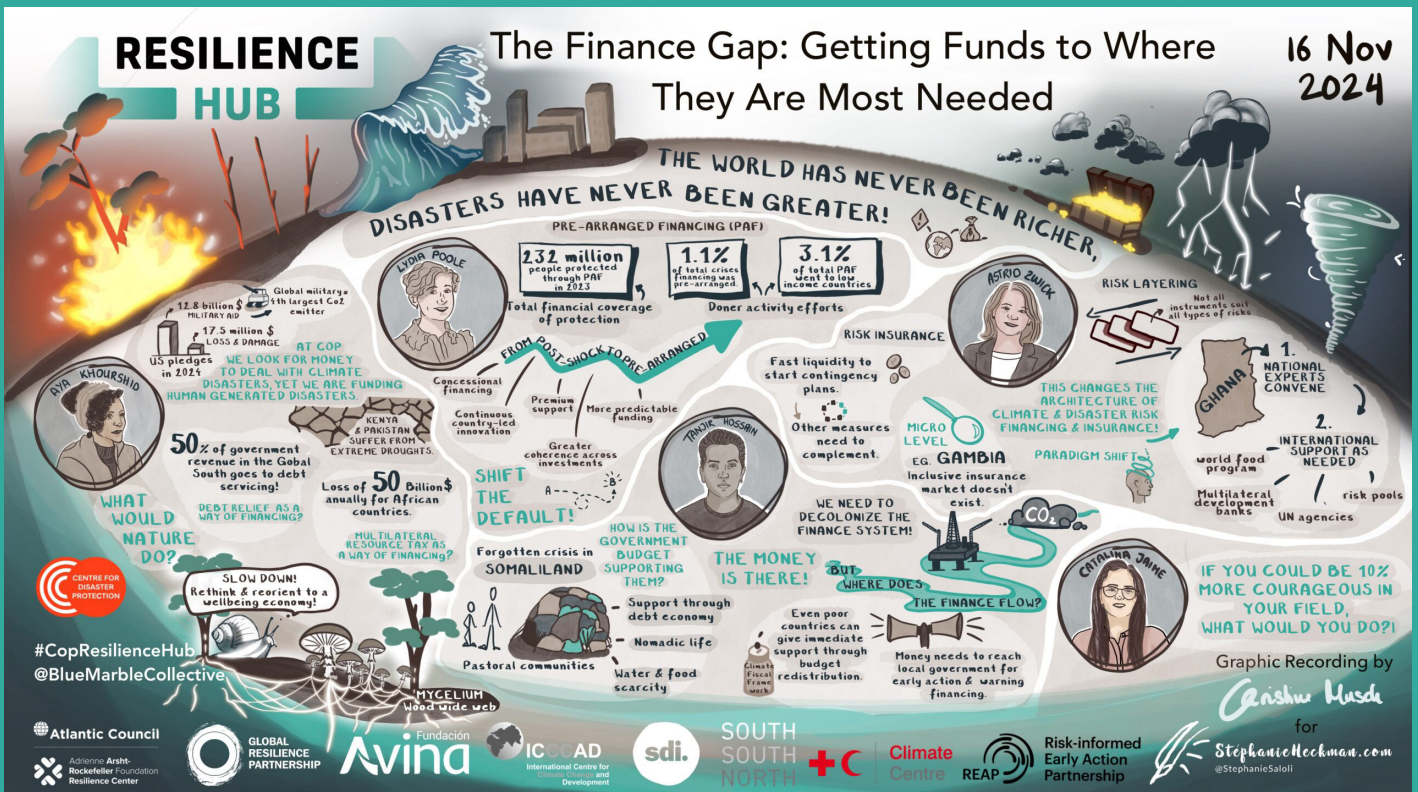
## Learn more

- The Centre for Disaster Protection's report, [The State of Pre-Arranged Financing for Disasters 2024](#), offers a detailed analysis of to what extent pre-arranged financing is shaping disaster response across the globe.
- ActionAid's new research examines the use of public funds in the Global South, revealing that the same industries driving the climate crisis are also draining public finances from governments in these regions. [How the Finance flows](#) highlights the urgent need to address the imbalance in financial flows, which are locking economies into climate-destructive cycles that deepen inequality.
- ActionAid, Christian Aid, Oxfam, Power Shift Africa, Re-Course, Urgewald, and 350.org have collaborated to produce a series of short, one-page [explainer briefings](#) that outline the urgent need to #FixTheFinance.
- The International Red Cross and Red Crescent [heat wave guide for cities](#), offers city government professionals tools to better understand, mitigate, and respond to heatwave risks in urban areas.

- The Resilient Planet Finance Lab 2024 [Annual Report](#), The Lab is an accelerator programme that aims to develop evidence, analytics and solutions to radically scale the mobilisation of finance and action for resilience, nature and SDGs globally. The Lab is part of the Resilient Planet Initiative, launched at COP28 as a Flagship Initiative of the Sharm el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, spearheaded by key Race to Resilience Partners.

## Launches and announcements

- RtR partner, the Global Shield against Climate Risks launched the "[Global Shield Ambition: Enhancing Financial Protection for Climate-Vulnerable Developing Countries to Avert, Minimize, and Address Loss and Damage](#)", a strategic direction aiming to increase access to pre-arranged finance to help countries better respond to climate risks and protect vulnerable



## CHALLENGE 6: INCORPORATE CULTURE AND INDIGENOUS AND LOCAL KNOWLEDGE AT EVERY LEVEL OF DECISION MAKING

Indigenous Peoples represent 5% of the global population but protect 80% of the world's biodiversity. Their traditional lands are rich in biodiversity, serving as vital carbon sinks and ecosystems essential for climate regulation. Inclusion of Indigenous and local knowledge fosters more holistic approaches to climate adaptation, recognising the interdependence of natural and human systems. Ensuring their participation at every level of decision-making not only honours their [cultural heritage](#) but also enriches the overall strategies for resilience. This approach empowers communities, ensuring voices are heard and respected in shaping policies that directly impact lives. By integrating this knowledge with scientific data, decision-makers craft more effective, inclusive, and culturally relevant strategies to combat climate change, leading to stronger and more resilient communities.

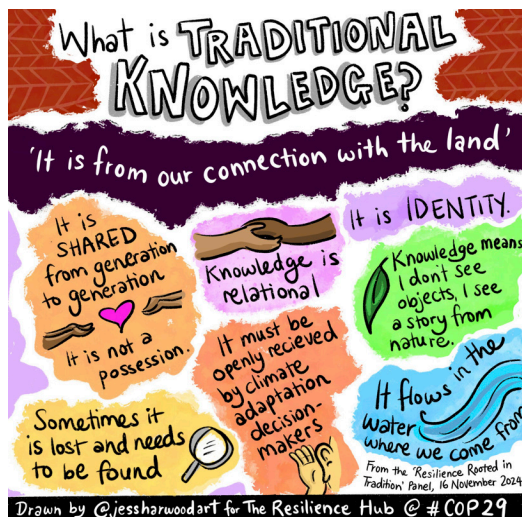
*"We should not come here to COP just to be listening and talking. We are here to find real solutions. We shouldn't come all the way here just for chit-chat. We need to act—and we need to act now."*

— Ronaldo Amanayé, Youth Leader, FEPIPA

Cultural and Indigenous knowledge play an indispensable role in advancing climate resilience by bridging historical wisdom, ecological stewardship, and contemporary climate action. The role of Indigenous People remains unparalleled in shaping climate resilience, as custodians of their territories, they have practiced sustainable land and resource management for centuries and contributed to environmental preservation, temperature regulation,

and water cycling. However, these communities are increasingly under threat from criminal deforestation, forest fires, and insufficient support for the land defenders who risk their lives to protect these vital ecosystems. Addressing these challenges requires more than recognition of their contributions—it calls for robust protections, adequate resources, and platforms that amplify indigenous voices in climate governance. The struggle to demand climate action, stressing the importance of supporting training for youth and community members in the preservation of indigenous lands has been an ongoing process. Initiatives such as the ["Preserving Legacies"](#), funded by the National Geographic society emphasise the integration of local, indigenous, and scientific knowledge systems to assess climate risks and implement culturally sensitive solutions.

Cultural heritage provides a powerful framework for addressing intergenerational equity, offering an inclusive and accessible medium for youth leadership in climate adaptation. Efforts such as the establishment of youth climate councils in countries such as Denmark, Poland, Ghana, and Brazil exemplify how young people can influence climate governance and foster innovative solutions. These councils provide platforms for youth to engage with governments, raise awareness, and influence policy decisions, underscoring the need for inclusive governance structures that recognise youth as vital participants in present-day climate action.



Despite its potential, the socio-cultural dimension—encompassing women, Indigenous Peoples, and youth—remains underrepresented, overlooked and underfunded in climate policy and actions. By fostering intergenerational dialogue, these approaches blend traditional practices with modern technologies to create innovative, community-led strategies for climate resilience. This broader spatial and values-based approach highlights the need to protect heritage values and ensure sustainable adaptation for future generations. Indigenous areas such as the [Xingu Indigenous Territory \(XIT\)](#) serve as barriers to deforestation, temperature regulation, and water cycling, further emphasising the protective role indigenous territories play.

*“The financial mechanisms (from policy) that are put in place are outsourcing responsibility with mechanisms that are not understood by the communities they are meant to serve. From the design stage, Indigenous Peoples should be part of the negotiation of these funds, of the monitoring, and of the decisions of where they go.”*

— Lourdes Inga, Executive Director, International Funders for Indigenous Peoples

**Indigenous Peoples face significant challenges in accessing climate finance, primarily due to systemic barriers, a lack of direct funding, and a disconnect between international frameworks and local realities.** Less than 1% of philanthropic funding goes to Indigenous Peoples, with only 33% of that amount directed to Indigenous-led organisations. This funding gap is a reflection of widespread misunderstandings about how to partner with, build relationships, and invest in Indigenous Peoples and their movements. The "[Principles & Guidelines for Direct Access Funding for Indigenous Peoples' Climate Action, Biodiversity Conservation and Fighting Desertification for a Sustainable Planet](#)," by the International Indigenous Peoples' Forum on Climate Change (IIPFCC) guides and advocates for a model of climate finance rooted in respect, responsibility, relationships, reciprocity, and redistribution—values central to Indigenous philanthropy. The growing emphasis on direct funding is a key principle within this framework. Indigenous-led organisations are calling for a shift away from intermediary involvement in funding processes. This demand for direct financing aligns with the broader movement to establish Indigenous-led funds, which are emerging as vital mechanisms for supporting climate adaptation and resilience. One success story highlighting the impact of direct finance on Indigenous and local communities involved is the "[Voices for Climate Action](#)" alliance. Through this initiative, they manage an emergency fund that has provided rapid responses to climate-related disasters and supported more than 30 projects. The alliance also focuses on

strengthening the capacity of local communities to influence decision-making, build evidence, and receive legal support to protect their rights and territories.

*“Let’s address the root cause of the problem – a transition needs to be made; why not start with people first? If you want to solve a problem, go to the people first and then co-design a decision and ask for free, prior, informed consent. Instead of being on the menu, you put them on the table. With them at the table, you come to a decision and then can tap into knowledge that can be provided.”*

— Ghazali Ohorella, Indigenous Rights and International Relations Advisor, the Alifuru Council

**Philanthropy plays a pivotal role in improving access to climate finance at the local level, especially by supporting communities that are at the forefront of addressing climate challenges.** As part of a diverse philanthropic ecosystem, it is crucial that philanthropic organisations work collaboratively with local actors, regional foundations, and public-private partnerships. This approach not only ensures the effective allocation of funds but also helps in overcoming institutional and systemic barriers that often prevent local communities from accessing financing. A key aspect of this is recognising the complexity of climate challenges, including the political, legal, and capacity-related obstacles that communities face. By fostering partnerships and adapting to the evolving needs of local actors, philanthropy can bridge the gaps in climate finance access. This includes addressing challenges such as language barriers, technical complexities, and the need for flexible, context-specific solutions. The efforts highlighted in the [policy brief](#) led by [Aviná Foundation](#) and [GNDR](#) underscore the importance of incorporating Indigenous and local knowledge into climate action. Despite the recognition of its value, policies and climate action often fail to adequately integrate this knowledge.

#### Launches and announcements

- RtR partner, the [Climate Heritage Network](#) together with ICLEI secures Mellon Foundation grant to expand Race to Resilience Culture campaign work in North America and Africa. The Campaign aims to enhance the resilience of at least 200 million people from vulnerable groups and communities through culture-based strategies by 2030.
- RtR welcomed the [International Land and Forest Tenure Facility](#), the first Indigenous Peoples led partner initiative. A leading financial mechanism specialised in supporting Indigenous Peoples and local communities to secure and sustain their land and forest rights, aiming to support the resilience of 15 million people across 60 million hectares of forests and land stewarded.





# REFLECTIONS AND NEXT STEPS ON THE ROAD TO COP30

As we look ahead to COP30, the path forward must build on the significant strides made in advancing climate resilience and adaptation, while also addressing the gaps in adaptation efforts. COP28 and COP29 laid a strong foundation, but much remains to be done to ensure that financial commitments turn into action and the bitterly disappointing financial goal gavelled at COP29 does not impede further efforts and ambitions. The urgency of the climate crisis demands that we continue to ramp up efforts across all fronts, with a laser focus on justice, equity, and inclusivity.

The collaborative spirit witnessed remains the key to driving transformative change. Partnerships across governments, civil society, businesses, and local communities have shown that collective action can lead to tangible outcomes, particularly in adaptation. The landmark decisions on Loss and Damage, the Race to Resilience Campaign, and the continued success of the Resilience Hub highlight the power of inclusive, bottom-up approaches that put the most vulnerable at the center of climate action.

COP30 must continue this momentum by setting the highest ambitions for both resilience and mitigation, ensuring that climate policies and financial mechanisms work hand-in-hand to address the needs of the most at-risk populations. The lessons learned from past COPs, including the need for innovative finance and local ownership, must be incorporated into national climate plans, NDC 3.0 and the Global Stocktake. By aligning adaptation strategies with robust, regulatory frameworks, we can move from voluntary commitments to concrete, implementable actions.

The Resilience Hub will remain a cornerstone of this effort, serving as a dynamic platform for the sharing of resources, case studies, and innovative solutions that can accelerate adaptation at all levels. As we head into COP30, the Hub will continue its strategic engagement at key moments on the climate agenda, amplifying the voices of those on the frontlines of climate change. Events like the Community Based Adaptation Conference, Climate Weeks, and Adaptation Futures will provide spaces for dialogue, knowledge exchange, and coalition-building, ensuring that resilience is woven into the fabric of global climate action.

As the climate crisis intensifies, building resilience must be an ongoing and evolving process. The Resilience Hub will keep its focus on mobilizing the highest level of ambition for non-State action and securing the finance needed to drive adaptation at scale. This effort will be supported by our continued collaboration with the COP Presidencies, the High-Level Champions Team, and a growing network of partners across the globe. Together, we will continue to ensure that resilience is embedded in every aspect of climate planning, with a special focus on empowering communities and amplifying their agency.

We are grateful to the hundreds of partners who have contributed their expertise and passion to advancing resilience. As we look to COP30, we remain committed to deepening our engagement, driving innovation, and mobilizing resources to ensure that the most vulnerable communities are supported and protected in the face of climate change. Through collective action, we will build a future where resilience is not a luxury, but a fundamental right for all.





Making city-scale changes for climate resilience helps women the most!



Drawn by @jessharwoodart for The Resilience Hub @ #COP29



## RESILIENCE HUB

Financial innovations in national systems: Scaling ambition and capacities for locally-led adaptation research and action **13 NOV 2024**



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