



STRENGTHENING URBAN RESILIENCE TO EMERGING DISASTER AND CLIMATE RISKS _____

**A Resilient Urban Futures initiative
under UNDP's Funding Windows**

UNDP's Funding Windows

UNDP's Funding Windows are a multi-donor, flexible funding mechanism that provide a strategic opportunity for partners to contribute to achieving the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. The four thematic Funding Windows are:

- Poverty and Inequality
- Governance, Peacebuilding, Crisis and Resilience (Sub-Windows: Democratic Governance, Conflict Prevention and Sustaining Peace, Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction, Crisis Response)
- Nature, Climate and Energy
- Gender Equality and Women's Empowerment

The **“Resilience and Disaster Risk Reduction Sub-Window”** (DRR Sub-Window) pursues two strategic objectives:

1. Strengthen capabilities for integrating disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA), anticipation, preparedness and early warning at country level.
2. Reinforce urban resilience in coastal, small- and medium-sized cities to disaster and climate risk.

“Resilient Urban Futures”

– A Funding Windows Flagship Initiative

Evidence underscores the necessity of investing in the resilience of small, medium-sized, and coastal cities in Small Island Developing States, Least Developed Countries, Low/Middle-Income Countries, and fragile/crisis contexts. In this regard, UNDP collaborates closely with national governments and city/municipal authorities and communities to empower them with systems, capacities, resources, and knowledge essential for comprehensive DRR actions, bolstering urban resilience and fostering socio-economic development.

To respond to these needs, UNDP has designed its flagship initiative **“Resilient Urban Futures”**.

It aims to strengthen country/city-level systems and capacities for risk-informed urban development and resilience-building for 30 million people in 50 small and medium-sized cities. With the objective to assess risks, diagnose contextual resilience needs, prioritize DRR-CCA interventions, and ensure inclusivity (including gender sensitive solutions), key areas of work include:

- **Data Analytics:** Utilizing advanced data analytics techniques to better understand urban vulnerabilities and inform evidence-based decision-making processes.
- **Resilience Diagnostics:** Conducting comprehensive assessments to identify existing vulnerabilities, gaps, and needs related to resilience-building, guiding the formulation of targeted interventions.
- **Preparedness Planning:** Developing and implementing robust preparedness plans tailored to the unique needs and challenges of each urban area, ensuring effective response mechanisms are in place.
- **Early Warning Systems:** Strengthening early warning systems to enhance the ability of communities and authorities to anticipate and respond to impending disasters and climate-related events.
- **Risk Governance Capacities:** Building the capacities of municipal authorities, sectoral agencies, and city stakeholders to effectively govern disaster risk, promote resilience, and ensure risk-informed urban development and coordinated responses across sectors and stakeholders.
- **Emerging risks:** While adopting a multi-risk approach, sharper focus will be imbued to address the increasing incidence, frequency, and magnitude of extreme heat/heatwaves and water-induced risks in cities.

This initiative aligns with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, the Paris Agreement, the Sustainable Development Goals (particularly Goal-11) and Pillar-3 of the New Urban Agenda. Actions will be guided by the overall urban resilience programmatic framework, the joint “Global Program on Integrated Urban Resilience” developed by UNDP, UN-Habitat, and UNDRR.

“Strengthening urban resilience to emerging disaster and climate risks”

The overall purpose and objective of the Funding Windows project “**Strengthening urban resilience to emerging disaster and climate risks**” is to foster heatwave and water resilience through application of digital tech and nature-based solutions. The initiative will enable target cities to scale-up climate and disaster resilience by

- i. having improved access and ability to apply disaster/climate risk analytics and resilience diagnostics.
- ii. augmenting urban governance systems.
- iii. strengthening capacity to implement DRR-CCA action for vulnerable socio-economic sectors e.g., water, including water-induced risks and heatwave/extreme heat effects.
- iv. disaster preparedness, emergency management, capacity building, peer learning, and knowledge networking.

Informed through systems thinking, the project will adopt a multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder approach by engaging national and local governments and a diverse set of city actors including private sector, academia, and community representative organizations.

By March 2026, 4 (four) cities (located in challenged risk and development contexts facing multiple and inter-connected risks including heatwaves, urban flooding, environmental degradation, and conflict) **will benefit from contextualized risk information, improved governance systems, strengthened capacities, and technical resources to take early action to build resilience to emerging disaster and climate risks** like heatwaves, water-induced risks, and related hazards. Use and application of innovation, digital technologies, and nature-based solutions will inform the interventions for improved resilience outcomes.

Communication and dissemination efforts aimed at information sharing and documentation of good practices and success stories will create avenues for city-to-city learning, replication, and scaling-up of successful practices and interventions.

Adopting a partnership-based approach, the project will engage global, regional, national, and city stakeholders, including regional intergovernmental organizations such as IGAD or AUC, technical and research institutions, INGOs, private sector, and others to complement the approach and to achieve scale and impact.

In this regard, global forums like the World Urban Forum, the COPs, the Global/Regional Platforms for DRR and other UN Summits will be used to disseminate information and good practices emerging under the project.

The four cities under the project



**Kisumu,
Kenya**

Kisumu, Kenya, with a climate vulnerability index of 0.4481, faces significant challenges due to its susceptibility to flooding, particularly during the months of April to June and October to November. Annually, more than 5,000 residents are affected by these floods, which cause extensive damage to properties and result in agricultural crop losses of 80-100%. This exacerbates food insecurity, growing urban poverty, and the high prevalence of HIV/AIDS in the region. Despite these challenges, Kisumu has an active local authority and community dedicated to sustainable urban development. The county government has specifically requested support in disaster risk management legislation to better prepare and protect its residents from future climate-related disasters.



**Busia,
Uganda**

Busia, Uganda, is a major border crossing urban center interlinked with Busia and Kisumu County in Kenya, serving as a strategic hub for trade and tourism. However, the city faces significant challenges, including environmental degradation due to a lack of waste management and sewerage systems. Its inadequate drainage system makes it prone to floods, while poor land-use and physical planning contribute to overcrowding and the proliferation of informal settlements, leading to gaps in essential urban services like water and sanitation. The transportation system is inefficient and congested, further complicating urban mobility. Governance issues, such as gaps in law enforcement, outdated laws, and inadequate data collection, hinder evidence-driven decision-making and urban growth modeling. Additionally, economic disparity is evident, with the per capita income lower than the national average, and the city struggles with a high prevalence of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases.



**Hawassa,
Ethiopia**

Hawassa, Ethiopia, is one of the fastest-growing cities in the region, with an urban growth rate of 4.8%. It serves as the capital city of the Sidama National Regional State and has a youthful population, with around 65% of residents under 25 years of age and only about 5.5% over 50 years. Despite its rapid growth, Hawassa faces significant environmental challenges, including soil erosion, flooding, and sedimentation, which have degraded land and water resources and harmed aquatic habitats. Sedimentation has already reduced the lake's water storage capacity, and pollution from industrial growth exacerbates these issues. In response, the city prioritizes waste management, power efficiency, nature-based solutions and buffer zones, water management, bamboo agriculture, and community capacity development to address these environmental concerns and support sustainable development.



**Damietta,
Egypt**

Damietta, Egypt, is home to over 10,500 refugees and asylum-seekers and faces significant environmental challenges, including high risks of coastal and internal flooding, sea and saltwater intrusion, and erosion. To address these issues, a UNDP project titled "Enhancing Climate Change Adaptation in the North Coast and Nile Delta" aims to bolster the city's resilience against climate change impacts. These initiatives are crucial for mitigating environmental degradation and supporting sustainable urban development in Damietta.

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