EVENT SNAPSHOT

URBAN CLIMATE
CHANGE RESILIENCE
TRUST FUND
Asian Development Bank

Role of Resilience: What have we learned?

Clean Yangon volunteers distribute food to poor families | Source: Clean Yangon Facebook page

Pakistan| Source: unsplash.com

People evacuating to cyclone shelters amid Cyclone Amphan in Bagerhat | Source: United News of Bangladesh

EVENT DETAILS

Role of Resilience: What have we learned?
Part of the "Cities on the Frontline Speaker Series" organized by the Resilient Cities Network and The World Bank Group's City Resilience Program

10 December 2020 | 9:00 – 10:00 PM Manila time | Microsoft Teams

Moderators/ Speakers
- **Lauren Sorkin**, Executive Director, Resilient Cities Nework
- **Francis Ghesquire,** Practice Manager, Urban Development and Disaster Risk Management, The World Bank

Panelists (Lessons Learned)
- **Samantha Stratton-Short,** Associate Director, Arup International Development
- **Karina Castillo,** Resilience Coordinator, Office of Resilience, Miami-Dade

Panelists (Racial Equity):
R-Cities' Racial Equity Community of Practice (CoP)
- **Laurian Farrell,** Regional Director, North America
- **Ron Harris,** Minneapolis Chief Resilience Offcer
- **Michelle Farrell,** Lawyer & Equity Specialist
- **Megan Sparks**, Senior Director, Programs and Strategic Partnerships, Atlanta, Georgia

"Prevention ties in with resilience. It's not just response, but also how we build on this to be more ready for the next one. This pandemic really exposed how connected we all are."
– Samantha Stratton-Short

THERE IS NO RESILIENCE WITHOUT EQUITY

Since March 2020, the Resilient Cities Network and The World Bank Group's City Resilience Program has been running a bi-weekly speaker series called 'Cities on the Frontline Speaker Series'. The series aims to share knowledge to help cities respond to the pandemic crisis and plan towards recovery resilience.

As 2020 ends, COVID-19 is still a dominant factor in urban life while resilience challenges related to the rapid rate of urbanization, natural disasters, and climate change remain. Even as COVID exacerbates existing chronic stresses such as socioeconomic inequalities, it also creates new opportunities. Cities are approaching and prioritizing these severe stresses in new ways, seizing this moment to plan creative, resilient recovery solutions. They are seeing how pandemic response can also make cities more climate resilient, greener, and more just.

For the end of year session of the speaker series, Samantha Stratton-Short from Arup International Development, who leads a consortium supporting TA 9217 - Promoting Urban Climate Change Resilience in Selected Asian Cities: Knowledge Management and Resilience Measurement for Urban Climate Change Resilience (UCCRTF Subproject 2), joined other speakers from the Resilient Cities Network, the World Bank, and Miami-Dade County to share reflections on the role of resilience and key learnings from the last 31 sessions held.

This was the last event in 2020 of the Cities on the Frontline Speaker series which has completed 32 sessions and 90 presentations attended by 5500 global participants over 9 months, from March 2020.

Samantha shared some key themes that emerged from UCCRTF's documentation of challenges that selected cities in South and Southeast Asia have experienced due to COVID-19, and the innovative ways these cities and communities have navigated them. Common themes are around food provision, joblessness, and weak healthcare systems which all affect the vulnerable, particularly wage earners – highlighting that there is no resilience without equity. There is a need for inclusive and equitable development to attain resilience.

URBAN CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCE LESSONS

- **Resilience efforts are needed at all different scales – national, city, community, individual.** Public and private efforts are also essential. In addition to government top down interventions, communities, households and individuals create resilience from the bottom up. *Examples: incorporating climate resilience into health center planning, and providing handwashing stations in local communities.*

- **Technology is critical but it does not only need to be the data and energy-hungry type.** There is a focus on digitalisation and "smart" technologies, but relevant technology can be 'green', 'blue', or 'grey', big or small, centralized or crowd-sourced. *Example: SPADE, a geographic information system tool developed by UCCRTF, was used in designing government interventions in Manila City, Philippines by assessing accessibility of vulnerable communities to public markets, health facilities and public transportation using publicly available data from ADB Economic Research and Regional Cooperation Department, European Space Agency, and Fraym.*

- **Strong communication systems are critical.** Not only for maintaining everyday services like education and healthcare, but to support moving goods and services to where they are most needed for the emergency. *Example: creation of dashboards for food protection in Khyber Pakhtunkhwa province in Pakistan.*

- **Focus on prevention, not just management.** Being able to learn from this global shock in order to anticipate and avoid future events should be the priority. This includes interventions from better basic services, better incorporation and protection of natural ecosystems, and access to healthcare for all.

UCCRTF FINANCING PARTNERS

UKaid from the British people

THE ROCKEFELLER FOUNDATION