

Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2025

25 - 26 February 2025
Anantara Siam Bangkok Hotel, Bangkok, Thailand

Draft Agenda

I. Background

Climate shocks and stresses are severely impacting the livelihoods, food and water security, and health of millions in Asia and the Pacific. Climate change is expected to intensify these negative effects, with the poorest and most vulnerable populations suffering the most. Women and marginalized groups are also affected differently due to existing vulnerabilities, differential access to resources, and socioeconomic norms. The impacts of climate change are experienced locally, influenced by various socioeconomic, geographical, ecological, institutional, and governance factors. Interventions aimed at building resilience should be localized, specifically target the poor, focus on community-led solutions, and promote the empowerment of women. Poverty reduction strategies and programs—such as those in education, health, social protection, urban settlements, financial inclusion, and livelihoods—can help build climate resilience if they are designed and implemented with a strong understanding of climate risks and the factors driving vulnerability. Solutions should be developed within the context of broader local development planning, implementing climate adaptation strategies, prioritizing resource use for resilience, and monitoring outcomes.

The [Community Resilience Partnership Program](#) (CRPP) has been developed in this context and aims to scale up investments in climate adaptation that directly benefit poor and vulnerable people while developing plans to better finance community-led projects and increasing the participation of poor and vulnerable communities in decision-making.

II. Objective

The annual CRPP Partnership Forum brings together community leaders, government officials, development partners, think tanks, financial institutions, and global climate funds to discuss **what role can poverty reduction policies and programs play in building climate resilience?**

The **CRPP Partnership Forum 2025** will focus on the role of **urban poverty reduction** and **financial inclusion in building resilience**. Each theme will have dedicated sessions, exploring evidence for and practical ways to design and deliver policies and programs related to reducing urban poverty and promoting financial inclusion, in ways that address the underlying causes of vulnerability to climate risks, increase meaningful participation of communities, especially women and marginalized groups in adaptation related decision-making, and address the everchanging nature of climate risks, allowing climate adaptation finance to reach the local level. These discussions will link to and build on CRPP's previous partnership forums in [2023 \(exploring themes of adaptive social protection and climate-resilient agriculture\)](#) and [2024 \(resilience through decentralization systems and climate-resilient skills development\)](#).

Enhancing climate resilience of the urban poor. City and local government authorities are increasingly involved in addressing climate impacts. Approximately 2.5 billion people live in urban areas in the Asia and Pacific region, contributing more than 80% of gross domestic product.¹ Urban population in the region are expected to grow to 3.4 billion by 2030.² Unfortunately, urban areas are hot spots of climate risk, with often high exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards. A significant amount of urban population is poor or live just above the poverty line. Often living in informal settlements with poor quality of basic services, the poor and near poor have to deal with climate shocks and stresses that impact their assets, livelihoods, and limited savings, forcing them to adopt negative coping strategies. Moreover, in some countries, increasing climate risk in rural areas is forcing population to migrate and

¹ ADB. [Building Resilience of the Urban Poor](#). 2022. Manila.

² UNESCAP. [Crisis-Resilient Cities for a Sustainable Asia-Pacific Region](#). 2024. Bangkok.

settle in urban areas mainly in informal settlements. Increasingly, local governments and their urban residents are simultaneously facing multiple interlinked crises like limited availability of and access to basic services, increasingly frequent and severe climate-related risks, rising food insecurity, inadequate infrastructure, and informality of settlements, housing, and livelihoods. In many cases, urban poor communities are disenfranchised and have little to no input in decision-making processes, further adding to their vulnerabilities. Climate impacts, including flooding, heat stress, droughts, sea level rise (particularly for coastal cities), are further exacerbated by and heighten existing socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Working with local and national governments, grassroots and informal settlement groups provide significant opportunities to scale up local level adaptation targeted at the urban poor through adaptive social protection, livelihood support and diversification, resilient housing and community infrastructure to improve the resilience of urban poor and vulnerable communities.

Financial inclusion to enhance climate resilience. Access and ability to use affordable financial services – from credit to savings and insurance – is crucial in building the climate resilience of communities. This provides the necessary financial tools and resources to proactively adapt, manage, and recover from climate-related shocks and provides much-needed services to poor and vulnerable communities, particularly women, and capital for micro, small, and medium enterprises to adapt and grow. Increasingly, digitization of these services is enabling greater reach and accessibility, while reducing transaction costs. Many opportunities exist to work through government systems, financial intermediaries, cooperatives, microfinance institutions, community-led financial groups, amongst others, to build their understanding of climate risks, invest in financial transfer mechanisms to further reach marginalized communities, and to scale access and availability of quality financial resources to address the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities.

III. Draft Agenda at a Glance

Time	Day 1 25 February			Day 2 26 February	
08:45 – 10:15	Opening Session			09:15 – 10:30	Plenary 2: Building Community Resilience through Financial Inclusion
10:45 – 12:00	Plenary 1: Designing Urban Poverty Reduction Programs that Strengthen Community Resilience			11:00 – 12:00	Spotlight 3: Leveraging Pro-poor Digital Financial Services for Climate Resilience
					Spotlight 4: Developing Pro-poor Climate-Resilient Financial Services for Women
13:30 – 14:30	Spotlight 1: Advancing Resilience of the Urban Poor through Community- Based Green Infrastructure	Spotlight 2: Enhancing Social Systems for Urban Climate Resilience		13:30 – 14:30	Working Group Sessions 4, 5, and 6
14:35 – 15:30	Working Group Sessions 1, 2, and 3			14:35 – 15:30	Roundtable Dialogue 2
15:45 – 16:45	Roundtable Dialogue 1			15:45 – 16:15	Closing Session
16:45 – 17:45	Sessions Organized by Partners			16:45 – 18:00	CRPP Partnership Group Meeting (Closed Door)
18:00 – 19:00	Reception				

IV. Detailed Agenda

Day 1 – 25 February 2024	
08:45 – 10:15	Opening Session (Venue: Ballroom) Opening Remarks (20 min) – Madeline Suarez, <i>President of the Alliance of Peoples' Organizations Along Manggahan Floodway (APOAMF), Philippines and Member of Huairou Commission</i> – Anne Roos Weil, <i>Deputy Head, Health and Social Protection Division, Agence Française de Développement (AFD) Southeast Asia & Co-Chair of CRPP Partnership Group</i> – Pat Bourne, <i>Ambassador to Thailand, Government of Ireland</i> – Bruno Carrasco, <i>Director General, Climate Change and Sustainable Development Department, Asian Development Bank (ADB)</i> CRPP Scene Setting and Presentations (10 min) – Arghya Sinha Roy, <i>Director, Climate Change, ADB</i> Scene Setting Dialogue (30 + 15 min) Topic: How can we pursue investments that build resilience, address multidimensional poverty, and empower communities? Moderator: Noelle O'Brien, <i>Director, Climate Change, ADB</i> – Senator Daisy Alik-Momotaro, <i>Special Presidential Envoy on Gender, Youth, and Children, Office of the President, Republic of Marshall Islands</i> – Sai Krishna Kumaraswamy, <i>Financial Sector Specialist, Consultative Group to Assist the Poorest</i> – Eva Beuselinck, <i>Head Policy Analysis and Networks Division, Development Co-operation Directorate, Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development</i> – Paul Mitchell, <i>Principal Researcher and Team Leader, Locally-led Adaptation and Climate Finance, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)</i> Emcee: Nisha Krishnan, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i>
10:00 – 10:40	Forum Photo & Coffee Break
10:45 – 12:00	Plenary 1: Designing Urban Poverty Reduction Programs that Strengthen Community Resilience (Venue: Ballroom) Models for strengthening community resilience through urban poverty reduction programs - Scene setting presentations: (7 min) – Dr. Anthony Boanada-Fuchs, <i>Head of Projects and Partnerships, Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies</i> Panel Discussion: Community resilience through urban poverty reduction (35 min) – Sunil Kumar Yadav, <i>Director, National Urban Livelihood Mission, Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, India</i> – Jacob Ekinye, <i>General Manager, Adaptation and Projects Division, Climate Change Directorate, Ministry of Environment, Papua New Guinea</i> – Srinvasa Popuri, <i>Chief, UN-Habitat Programme Office</i> – Karin Schelzig, <i>Director, Human and Social Development, ADB</i> – Laxmi Sharma, <i>Unit Head, Project Administration, Water and Urban Development, ADB</i> Moderator: Naeeda Crishna Morgado, <i>Senior Infrastructure Specialist (Climate Change), ADB</i> Discussion (30 min)
12:00 – 13:20	Lunch

13:30 – 14:30	Spotlight 1: Advancing Resilience of the Urban Poor through Community-Based Green Infrastructure <i>(runs in parallel to Spotlight 2) (Venue: Montathip 1)</i>
	Spotlight Presentations (15 min) – Mobilizing Networks for Climate-Resilient Urban Infrastructure in Nepal, Pramila Manandhar, <i>Communications Manager, CWIN-Nepal</i> – Experiences from the National Urban Poverty Reduction Project, Yugesh Pradhanang, <i>International Technical Advisor & Project Manager, National Urban Poverty Reduction Program, United Nations Development Programme – Bangladesh</i> – Experiences from Philippines, Madeline Suarez, <i>President, Alliance of Peoples' Organizations Along Manggahan Floodway</i> Discussants (15 min) – Rin Mulyadi, <i>Head of Strategic Partnerships Team, Ministry of Public Works, Indonesia</i> – Edkarl Galing, <i>Urban Development Specialist, Water and Urban Development, ADB</i> – Kotchakorn Vorrakhom, <i>Landscape Architect & CEO, Landprocess & Porous City Network, Thailand</i> Discussion (30 min) Session Moderator: Chris Cheong, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i> Session Rapporteur: Sheillette V. Untalan, <i>Knowledge Management Specialist, Urban Resilience Trust Fund (URTF), ADB</i> Spotlight 2: Enhancing Social Systems for Urban Climate Resilience <i>(runs in parallel to Spotlight 1) (Venue: Montathip 3)</i> Spotlight Presentations (15 min) – Amy Young, <i>Research Fellow, Griffiths University and Wiwiwandari Handayani</i>, <i>Head of Department of Urban and Regional Planning, Universitas Diponegoro</i> – Bharati Bhonsale and Rajeswari Gorana, <i>Mahila Housing Trust</i> Discussants (15 min) – Bouphavanh Keomixay, <i>Director, Regional Development and Environment Policy Research, Development Research Institute, Ministry of Planning and Investment, Lao PDR</i> – Sobina Lama, <i>Program Manager – Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Resilience, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter, Nepal</i> – Arianne Olegario, <i>Gender Specialist, URTF, ADB</i> Discussion (30 min) Session Moderator: Pia Treichel, <i>Senior Researcher, IIED</i> Session Rapporteur: Anand Kumar, <i>Social Development Specialist, ADB</i>
14:35 – 15:30	Working Group Sessions 1, 2, and 3 <i>(run in parallel; venues listed below)</i> Group 1: What reforms and processes are needed to support urban community-based and climate resilient infrastructure in support of poverty reduction? (Venue: Montathip 1) Facilitated by Alexander Nash, <i>Senior Urban Development Specialist, ADB</i>, Avani Dixit, <i>Senior Climate Change Officer, ADB</i>, Alice Rosero, <i>Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender), ADB</i>, Paul Mitchell, <i>Principal Researcher, IIED</i> and Heejin Lee, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB*</i> Group 2: How can poor and vulnerable people, especially women, be empowered to influence investments in pro-poor urban resilience? (Venue: Montathip 2) Facilitated by Zonibel Woods, <i>Senior Social Development Specialist, ADB</i>, Christina Cheong, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i>, Edkarl Galing, <i>Urban Development Specialist, ADB</i>, Rojy Joshi, <i>Senior Researcher, IIED</i>, and Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, <i>Gender Specialist, ADB*</i> Group 3: How can community-based or local level adaptation investments be better linked to government systems in the urban context? (Venue: Montathip 3) Facilitated by Sheillette V. Untalan, <i>Knowledge Management Specialist, URTF, ADB</i>, Putra Dwitama, <i>Senior Climate Change Officer, ADB</i>, Arianne B. Olegario, <i>Gender Specialist, URTF, ADB</i>, Xijie Lu, <i>Urban Development Specialist, ADB</i>, and Sejal Patel, <i>Senior Researcher, IIED*</i>

	<i>*Denotes Overall Moderator for the Room</i>		
15:45 – 16:45	Roundtable Dialogue 1 <i>(Venue: Ballroom)</i>		
	Topic: Building Climate Resilient Pro-Poor Urban Systems Chair: Kimsan Ny , <i>Under Secretary of State and Deputy Head, National Committee for Sub-National Democratic Development, Cambodia</i> Presentations from Working Group Discussion (15 mins) Interventions: - Senator Daisy Alik-Momotaro, <i>Special Presidential Envoy on Gender, Youth, and Children, Office of the President, Republic of Marshall Islands</i> - Brigitte Hoermann, <i>Lead, Green Cities and Migration, UNOPS</i> - Rajeswari Gorana, <i>Mahila Housing Trust</i> - Joy Amor Bailey, <i>Urban Resilience Specialist, URTF, ADB</i> Moderator: Okju Jeong , <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i> and Bob Babajanian , <i>Social Development Specialist, ADB</i>		
16:45 – 17:45	Sessions Organized by Partners		
	Locally Led Adaptation: How can national and multilateral systems strengthen local voices? Hosted by Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and International Institute for Environment and Development <i>Venue: Montathip 1</i>	Consultation on Urban Poverty Reduction and Resilience Hosted by ADB <i>Venue: Montathip 2</i>	Digitization of Financial Services for Climate Resilience Hosted by <i>Better than Cash Alliance</i> <i>Venue: Montathip 3</i>
18:00 – 19:00	Reception <i>(Venue: Poolside)</i>		

Day 2 - 26 February 2024	
09:15 – 10:30	Plenary 2: Building Community Resilience through Financial Inclusion <i>(Venue: Ballroom)</i>
	Recap Day 1 (5 min) - Pear Wongtitirote , <i>Graphic Rapporteur</i> Scene setting presentations by: (20 min) - Helen Walbey , <i>Lead, Global Partnerships, Alliance for Financial Inclusion</i> - Sai Krishna Kumaraswamy , <i>Senior Social Financial Specialist, CGAP</i> Panel Discussion (30 min) - Pia Roman Tayag , <i>Assistant Governor, Strategy, Innovation, and Sustainability, Bangko Sentral ng Pilipinas, Philippines</i> - Prerna Saxena , <i>Asia Lead, Better than Cash Alliance, UNDP</i> - Zonibel Woods , <i>Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), ADB</i> - Suranjana Gupta , <i>Senior Resilience Advisor, Huairou Commission</i> - Shamit Chakravarti , <i>Advisor, ADB</i> Moderator: Kate Milliken , <i>Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i> Discussion (20 min)
10:30 – 10:55	Coffee Break
11:00	Spotlight 3: Leveraging Pro-poor Digital Financial Services for Climate Resilience

– 12:00	<i>(runs in parallel with Spotlight Session 4) (Venue: Montathip 1)</i>
	Spotlight Presentations (15 min) - Isvary Sivalingam, <i>Southeast Asia Lead, Better than Cash Alliance</i> - Benjielyn Mendoza, <i>Program Manager, Catholic Relief Services</i> Discussants (15 min) - Amit Tendulkar, <i>Senior Digital Financial Specialist, ADB</i> - Andrew John, <i>Financial Inclusion Analyst, Reserve Bank of Vanuatu</i> - Rizza Jane Francisco-Azucena, <i>Senior Technical Staff, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines</i> Discussion (30 min) Session Moderator: Bimbika Sijapati Basnett, <i>Gender Specialist, ADB</i> Session Rapporteur: Joy A. Bailey, <i>Consultant, Urban Resilience Trust Fund, ADB</i> Spotlight 4: Developing Pro-poor Climate-Resilient Financial Services for Women <i>(runs in parallel with Spotlight Session 3) (Venue: Montathip 3)</i> Spotlight Presentations (15 min) - Abdul Rasyid Sahar, <i>Social Field Mobilizer, Macakka Baleta</i> - Aarjan Dixit, <i>Senior Manager, Climate Change MicroSave</i> - Sarala KC, <i>Cooperative Women's Forum, Nepal</i> Discussants (15 min) - Neeti Malhotra, <i>Senior Programme Officer, FCDO</i> - Lina Marliani, <i>Executive Director, Abdul Lateef Jamil, Poverty Action Lab</i> - Mary Alice Rosero, <i>Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender), ADB</i> Discussion (30 min) Session Moderator: Rojy Joshi, <i>Senior Researcher, IIED</i> Session Rapporteur: Okju Jeong, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i>
12:00 – 13:20	Lunch
13:30 – 14:30	Working Group Sessions 4, 5, and 6 <i>(run in parallel; venues listed below)</i> Group 4: What is the policy environment needed to scale up financial inclusion for climate resilience? <i>(Venue: Montathip 1)</i> <i>Facilitated by</i> Naeeda Crishna Morgado, <i>Senior Infrastructure Specialist (Climate Change), ADB</i>, Laxmi Sharma, <i>Senior Urban Development Specialist, ADB</i>, Bob Babajanian, <i>Social Development Specialist, ADB</i>, Pia Treichel, <i>Senior Researcher, IIED</i>, and Anand Kumar, <i>Social Sector Specialist, ADB*</i> Group 5: How can financial inclusion investments be better targeted to address or used for climate resilience needs of poor and vulnerable communities, particularly women? <i>(Venue: Montathip 2)</i> <i>Facilitated by</i> Kate Milliken, <i>Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i>, Joy A. Bailey, <i>Consultant, Urban Resilience Trust Fund, ADB</i>, Paul Mitchell, <i>Principal Researcher, IIED</i>, Jaiganesh Murugesan, <i>Climate Adaptation Specialist Consultant, ADB</i> and Alex Fowler, <i>Climate Resilience Specialist, CRPP, ADB*</i> Group 6: What role can civil society organizations, private sector, and development partners play in scaling up and institutionalizing financial inclusion for building climate resilience? <i>(Venue: Montathip 3)</i> <i>Facilitated by</i> Okju Jeong, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i>, Putra Dwitama, <i>Senior Climate Officer, ADB</i>, Heejin Lee, <i>Climate Change Specialist, ADB</i>, and Michelle Apostol, <i>Health Specialist, ADB</i>, and Rojy Joshi, <i>Senior Researcher, IIED*</i> <i>*Denotes Overall Moderator for the Room</i>

14:35 – 15:35	Roundtable Dialogue 2 <i>(Venue: Ballroom)</i>
	Topic: Pro-poor Financial Inclusion for Climate Resilience Presentations from Working Group Discussion Interventions: - Rattha Chhan, Deputy General Director, Social Development Directorate, Ministry of Women's Affairs, Cambodia - Sumera Rafiq, Deputy Secretary, Ministry of Economic Affairs, Pakistan - Duangmanee Phongchup, Plan and Policy Analyst Senior Professional Level, Office of the National Economic and Social Development Council, Thailand - Jacob Lorentzen, Program Manager, Nordic Development Fund - Jessie Kirk, Senior Social Development Advisor, FCDO Moderator: Nanki Kaur, Senior Climate Change Specialist, ADB and Sejal Patel, Senior Researcher, IIED
15:45 – 16:15	Closing Session <i>(Venue: Ballroom)</i>
	Presentation on Next Steps: ADB (5 min) Closing Panel: (25 min) – Thomas Gonnet, Task Team Leader – South and South-East Asia, Sustainable Development Solutions Department, Health and Social Protection Division, AFD – John Warburton, Head - Climate Change and Environment, Indo-Pacific Regional Department, UK FCDO – Pia Triechel, Senior Researcher, IIED – Glenn Dolcemasclo, Executive Director, Huairou Commission – Noelle O'brien, Director, Climate Change, ADB Moderator: Nisha Krishnan, Climate Change Specialist, ADB
16:45 – 18:00	CRPP Partnership Group Meeting (Closed Door) <i>(Venue: Montathip 3)</i>

V. Sessions Organized by Partners

Session 1: Locally Led Adaptation: How can national and multilateral systems strengthen local voices?

Hosted by Adaptation Fund, Green Climate Fund, and International Institute for Environment and Development

About the session

This session will offer an opportunity for diverse stakeholders attending the Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) Partnership Forum to come together and engage in a dynamic conversation on [locally led adaptation](#) (LLA) and how different stakeholders can strengthen local voices for scaling up locally led climate actions. Through this session, participants will explore how national governments, multilateral mechanisms, and local actors can collaboratively advance LLA in action. By leveraging insights from existing practices and policies, we will focus on amplifying local voices in decision-making and implementation of locally-led adaptation solutions.

Session objectives:

- Enhance understanding and nuances of LLA Principles and how it translates into different contexts.
- Discuss how national government systems can support scaling up of locally led adaptation
- Understand the role of different multilateral mechanisms and how these can better facilitate the scaling up of LLA
- Foster synergies between local, national, regional and multilateral stakeholders for collaborative action

Session 2: Building Resilient Communities Together: Pro-Poor Urban Development in Action

Hosted by ADB Water and Urban Development Sector Group

About the session and objectives

This knowledge exchange will showcase innovative solutions, practical tools, and lessons learned on how urban development project outcomes can be specifically targeted for the urban poor. This interactive session will share examples on how this is being done through ongoing investments in Asia and the Pacific region. It will seek to further discuss how community resilience can be strengthened by leveraging government programs and policies, and discuss how ADB's water and urban development sector support this through their work.

Session 3: Digitization of Financial Services for Climate Resilience

Hosted by Better Than Cash Alliance

About the session

The role of digital financial inclusion and broader digital public infrastructure is often overlooked in the broader climate finance discourse. This was the impetus behind [this "Call to Action on Responsible Digital Payments to Accelerate Climate Action"](#) launched at COP 29, by the Governments of the Philippines, Ethiopia, Ghana, The Vulnerable Twenty (V20) Group, the World Food Programme (WFP), Mercy Corps, in partnership with the Better Than Cash Alliance - emphasizing the role of inclusive digital payments in enhancing climate resilience, particularly for vulnerable populations like women and marginalized groups.

As of today, [more than 60 countries](#) have launched or developed National Financial Inclusion Strategies, uniting diverse whole-of-Government stakeholders to coordinate efforts. Existing climate strategies, e.g. NDCs and NAPs identify social protection and safety nets, agriculture and land use, disaster risk reduction, and early warning systems as priority areas with a focus on enhancing government crisis response capabilities, disaster risk financing, and building resilient infrastructure. 2025 is a year of opportunity to achieve greater integration and cohesion between the two; with expected updates to the NAP and NDCs 3.0, specific challenges can be outlined and solutions to fully capitalize on the potential of digital financial services to achieve climate adaptation can be prioritized.

Session objectives:

Through this session, we seek to:

- Build consensus on the importance of **linking climate with the financial sector objectives** through institutionalization in key national strategy documents/plans such as the NAPs
- Leverage the expertise of national climate finance experts to **identify tangible areas where greater financial inclusion (through access and use of a broad range of financial services and products) can support national climate adaptation and resilience goals**
- Discuss the role of **fiscal policy tools to incentivize/motivate the financial services supply side to develop demand-driven products and services to address key risks and needs of climate vulnerable households**