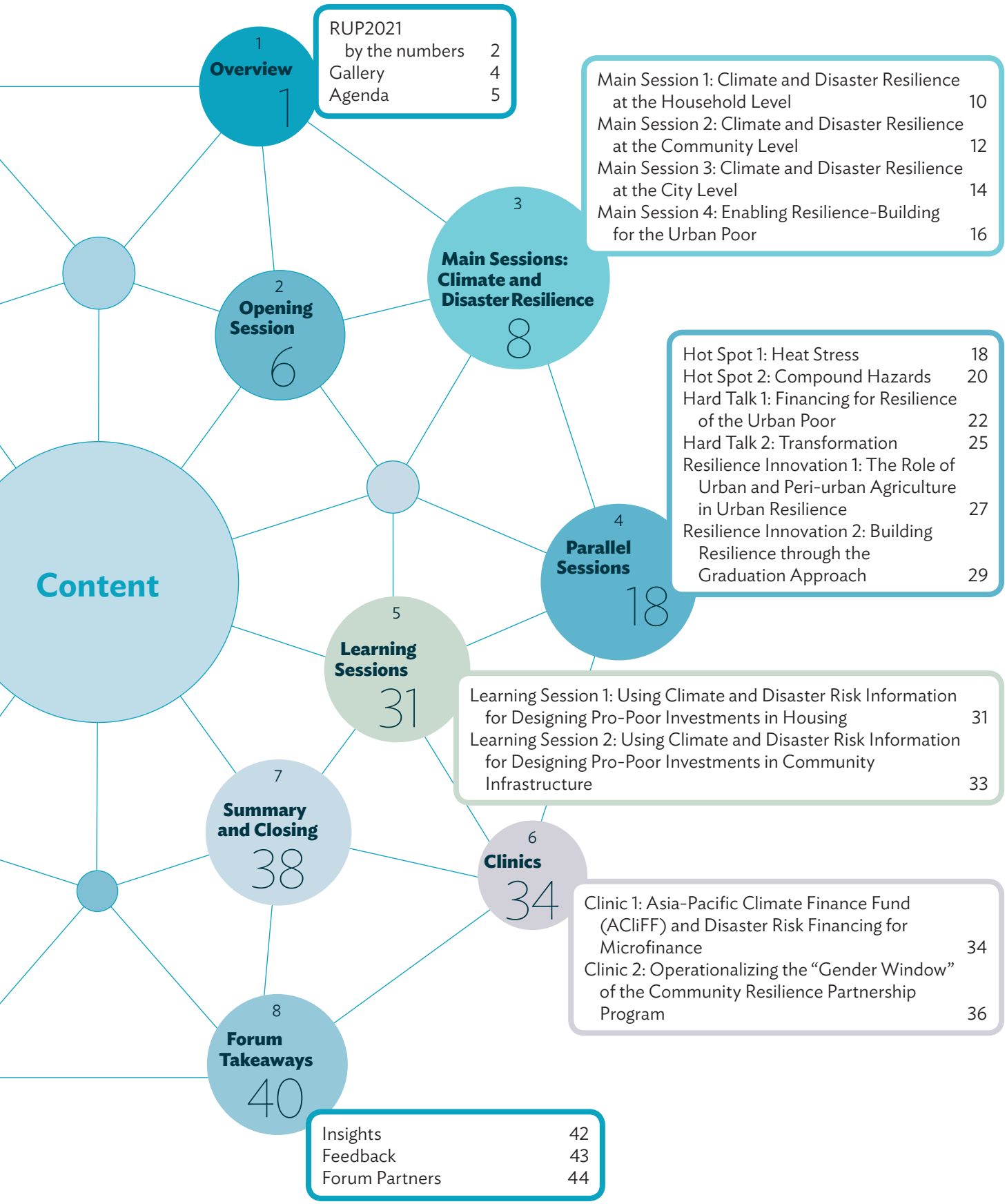
RESILIENCE FOR THE URBAN POOR 2021 ONLINE FORUM

Summary Report
16–18 November 2021

ASIAN DEVELOPMENT BANK

Content



1 Overview

The Resilience for the Urban Poor 2021 Forum (RUP2021) was an online regional technical assistance event designed to increase awareness of the climate and disaster risk-related issues and challenges the urban poor face, and to identify opportunities for scaling up pro-poor policies and investments to strengthen resilience at different scales: household, community, and city and/or local governments.

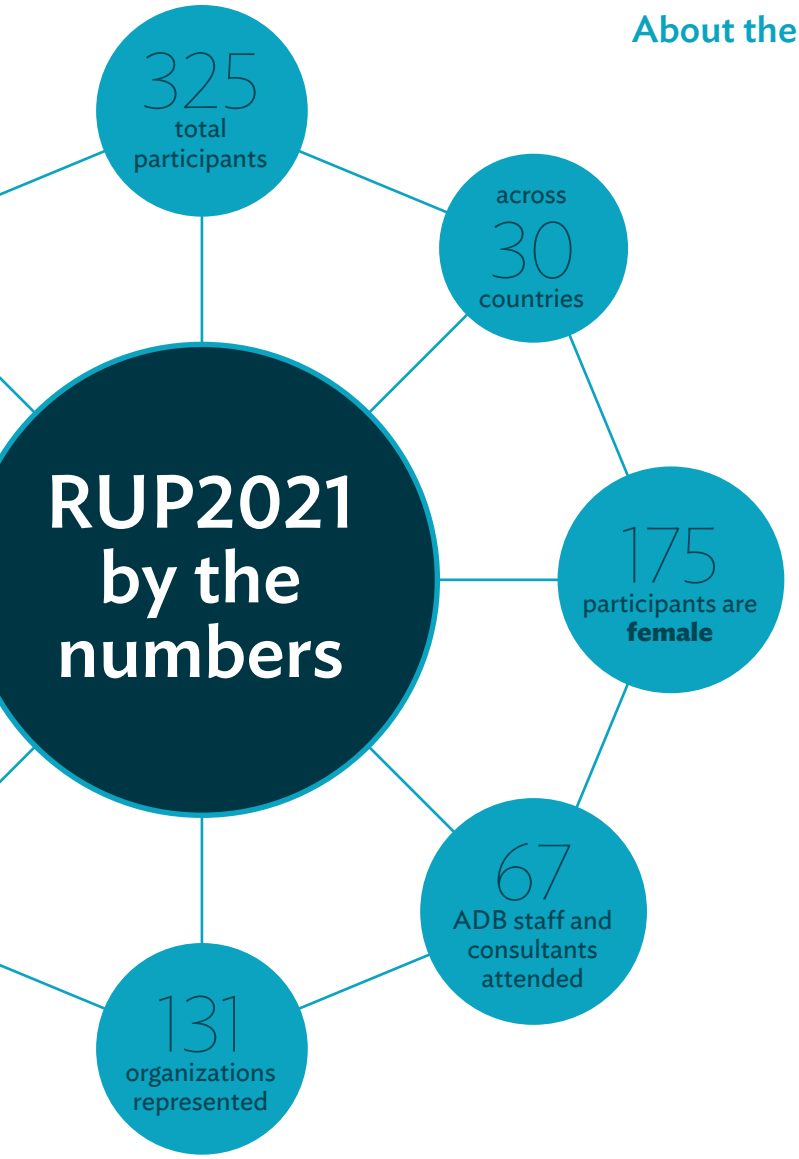
The RUP2021 convened with support from the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund (UCCRTF), administered by the Asian Development Bank (ADB), and financial support from the Rockefeller Foundation and the governments of Switzerland and the United Kingdom (UK). It was organized by the Climate Change and Risk Management Division, Social Development Thematic Group, in cooperation with the Urban Sector Group of the Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department at ADB.

The program comprised 16 online sessions across 3 days. The main sessions focused on climate and disaster resilience at the household, community, and city levels, looking at the enabling factors for resilience building for the urban poor. Parallel sessions discussed emerging issues such as heat stress and compound hazards, resilience solutions such as urban and peri-urban agriculture, and the Graduation Approach toward sustainable livelihoods and resilience. The program also included discussions on financing and transformative change for building resilience of the urban poor. Learning sessions focused on the use of climate and disaster risk information for designing pro-poor investments in housing and community infrastructure. Finally, two clinic sessions introduced and enabled participants to speak to ADB's programs around disaster risk financing and the Community Resilience Partnership Program.

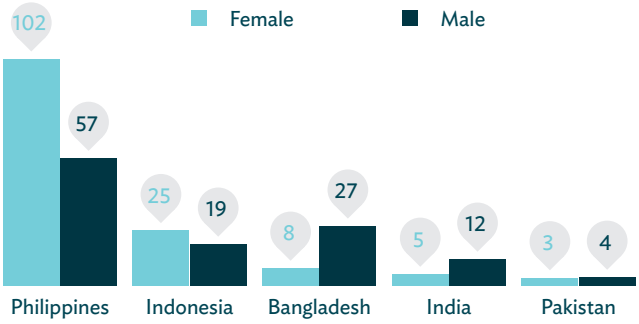
Sixty experts and representatives shared their experiences during the event. They were from national governments, cities, development partners, academia, and civil society organizations, including community-based organizations. ADB's own experts from regional departments and sector or thematic groups also played critical roles as facilitators and speakers. The online modality enabled a total of 325 speakers and participants (54% women) from multiple time zones and countries across the globe to attend. They took part in the RUP2021 by joining online networking opportunities, posting on activity feeds, participating in polls and question-and-answer sessions, and contributing to discussions during the clinics.

The event was conducted in partnership with the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, BRAC, Build Change, the International Institute for Environment and Development, Monash University, the RUAF Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Systems, the United Nations Capital Development Fund, and the Urban Climate Change Resilience Trust Fund.

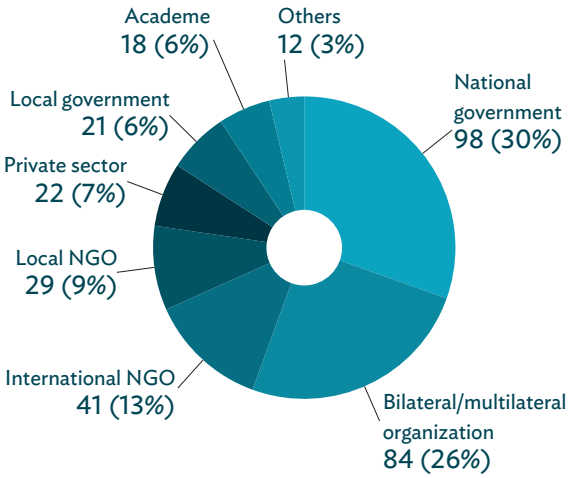
About the participants



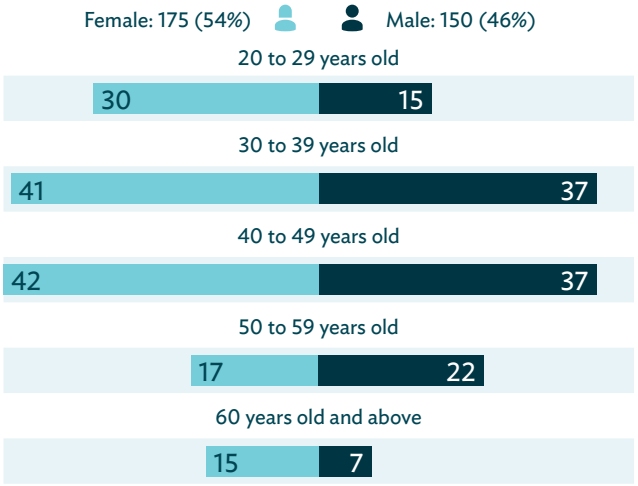
TOP 5 ASIAN COUNTRIES WITH HIGHEST NUMBER OF ATTENDEES



PARTICIPANTS BY ORGANIZATION TYPE



PARTICIPANTS BY AGE GROUP AND GENDER



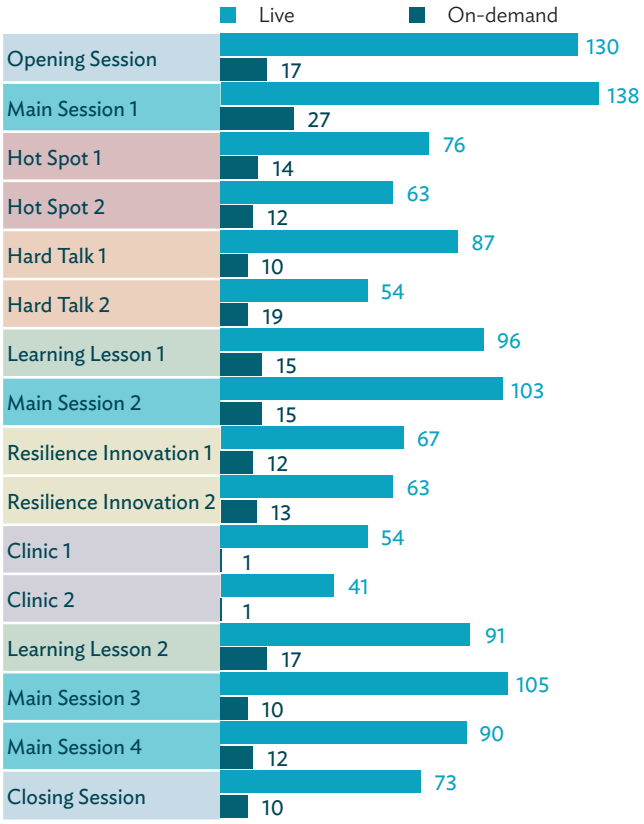
Note: 62 (19.07%) participants did not disclose their age

NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT PARTICIPATION

Country	Local government	National government	Total
Bangladesh	2	14	**16**
Germany		1	**1**
India		1	**1**
Indonesia	1	27	**28**
Pakistan	1	6	**7**
Philippines	16	48	**64**
United Kingdom		1	**1**
Viet Nam	1		**1**
Total	**21**	**98**	**119**

Session attendance

UNIQUE USER VIEWS PER SESSION (16 NOV - 31 DEC 2021)



Note: Based on site records, some participants who watched the RUP2021 sessions live also viewed the session recordings on demand.

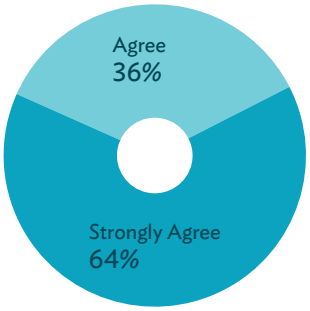
SESSION ATTENDANCE BY GENDER

	Female	Male	**Total**
Opening Session	81	56	**137**
Main Session 1	81	69	**150**
Hot Spot 1	42	41	**83**
Hot Spot 2	36	34	**70**
Hard Talk 1	49	44	**93**
Hard Talk 2	28	32	**60**
Learning Lesson 1	59	41	**100**
Main Session 2	59	48	**107**
Resilience Innovation 1	38	35	**73**
Resilience Innovation 2	37	34	**71**
Clinic 1	28	27	**55**
Clinic 2	29	13	**42**
Learning Lesson 2	55	45	**100**
Main Session 3	57	51	**108**
Main Session 4	52	45	**97**
Closing Session	41	36	**77**
Total	**175**	**150**	**325**

Note: Session attendance counted unique users who viewed the sessions, whether live or on-demand, from 16 November to 31 December 2021.

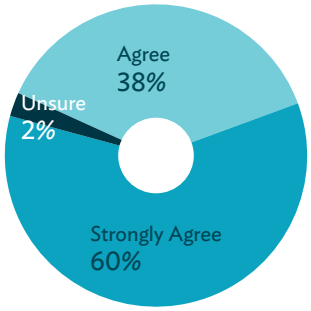
Feedback from participants

100% expressed increased awareness on climate and disaster risk related issues and challenges faced by the urban poor



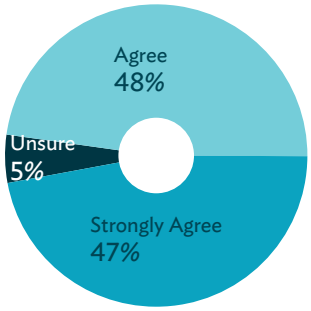
Responses from 120 participants to the statement 'RUP2021 sessions enhanced my awareness on climate and disaster risk-related issues and challenges faced by the urban poor'.

97% learned about opportunities for scaling up pro-poor resilience policies and investments



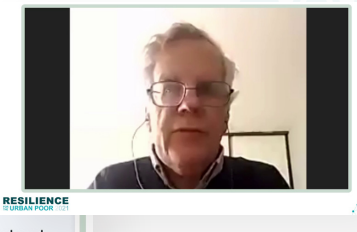
Responses from 117 participants to the statement 'I learned about opportunities for scaling up pro-poor policies and investments to strengthen resilience of the urban poor'

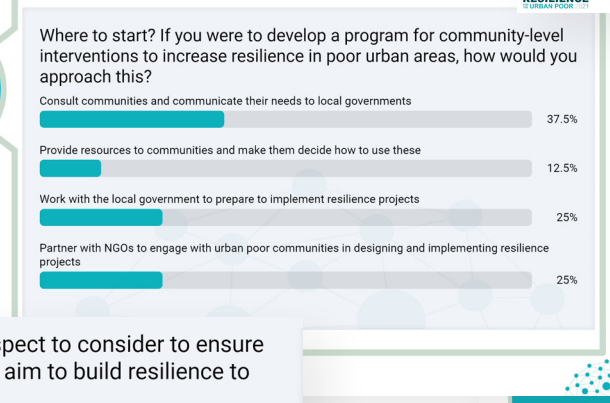
95% expressed improved skills on the use of climate and disaster risk information

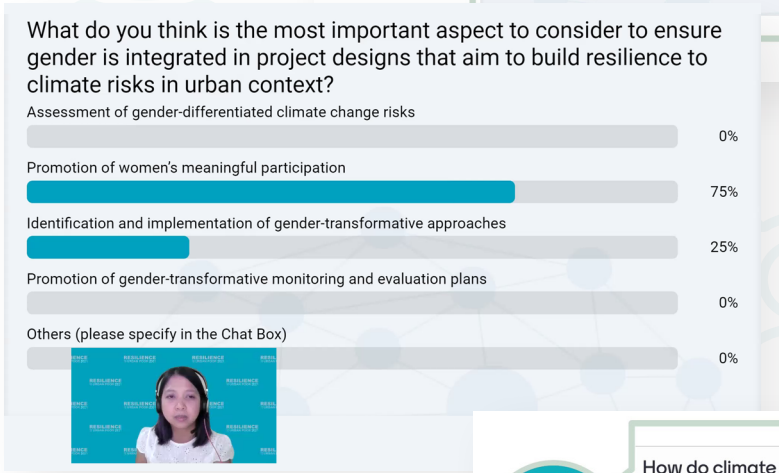


Responses from 117 participants to the statement 'By attending RUP2021, I felt that my skills on the use of climate and disaster risk information for designing pro-poor resilience building investments have improved'.

Gallery




Where to start? If you were to develop a program for community-level interventions to increase resilience in poor urban areas, how would you approach this?
Consult communities and communicate their needs to local governments
37.5%
Provide resources to communities and make them decide how to use these
12.5%
Work with the local government to prepare to implement resilience projects
25%
Partner with NGOs to engage with urban poor communities in designing and implementing resilience projects
25%


What do you think is the most important aspect to consider to ensure gender is integrated in project designs that aim to build resilience to climate risks in urban context?
Assessment of gender-differentiated climate change risks
0%
Promotion of women's meaningful participation
75%
Identification and implementation of gender-transformative approaches
25%
Promotion of gender-transformative monitoring and evaluation plans
0%
Others (please specify in the Chat Box)
0%


How do climate and disaster events, including future climate change, affect housing for the urban poor?
Mentimeter
infrastructure
livelihoods
health impacts
damage homes
endanger
loss of livelihood
devastating
flood
poor health
no shelter
loss of lives
polution
displacement
health issues
sickness
damages to property
destroy buildings
destroy homes
damage house
flooding
increase
heat
disproportionate

In your experience what have been the most important contributions of urban and peri-urban agriculture to cities?
Mentimeter
new area of work
green space or green area
backyard gardening
food supply
additional income
enabling policy
aka faith
livelihood
food security
availability of land
jobs for women
food
technology support
health benefits
community partnerships
food always in the home
livelihood opportunities

Agenda

Time (GMT+8 Manila time)	Day 1 16 November 2021		Day 2 17 November 2021		Day 3 18 November 2021
11:15 a.m.—11:45 a.m.			**Learning Session 1** *Samantha Kay Lisay, Build Change*		**Learning Session 2** *Lara Arjan, ADB*
11:45 a.m.—12:15 p.m.	**Opening Session** *Wendy Walker, ADB*		Using Climate and Disaster Risk Information for Designing Pro-Poor Investments in Housing		Using Climate and Disaster Risk Information for Designing Pro-Poor Investments in Community Infrastructure
12:15 p.m.—12:30 p.m.	*Break Time (15 mins.)*				
12:30 p.m.—1:30 p.m.	**Main Session 1** *Yukiko Ito, ADB* Climate and Disaster Resilience at the Household Level		**Main Session 2** *Joris van Etten, ADB* Climate and Disaster Resilience at the Community Level		**Main Session 3** *Virinder Sharma, ADB* Climate and Disaster Resilience at the City Level
1:30 p.m.—1:45 p.m.	*Break Time (15 mins.)*				
1:45 p.m.—2:45 p.m.	**Hot Spot 1** *Amit Prothi, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center of the Atlantic Council* Heat Stress	**Hot Spot 2** *Steven Goldfinch, ADB* Compound Hazards	**Resilience Innovation 1** *Rene van Heenhuizen, RUAF* The Role of Urban and Peri-Urban Agriculture in Urban Resilience	**Resilience Innovation 2** *Stephen Commins, UCLA* Building Resilience through the Graduation Approach	**Main Session 4** *Cristina Gregorio, ADB* Enabling Resilience-Building for the Urban Poor
2:45 p.m.—3:00 p.m.	*Break Time (15 mins.)*				
3:00 p.m.—4:00 p.m.	**Hard Talk 1** *Arghya Sinha Roy, ADB* Financing for Resilience of the Urban Poor	**Hard Talk 2** *David Dodman, IEED* Transformation	**Clinic 1** *Joshua Ling, ADB* Asia Pacific Climate Finance Fund (ACliFF) and Disaster Risk Financing for Microfinance	**Clinic 2** *Sugar Gonzales, ADB/Alexander Fowler, ADB* Operationalizing the 'Gender Window' of the Community Resilience Partnership Program	**Closing Session** *Yukiko Ito, ADB*

2

Opening Session

The opening session provided an overview of the forum, setting the tone of the 3-day discussion and providing speakers the opportunity to deliver key messages. Wendy Walker opened the event by highlighting how rapid urbanization in Asia and the Pacific, combined with increasing climate and disaster risks, places additional burdens on cities. Climate change and disaster risks threaten the cities' development gains and impact poor residents who are disproportionately exposed to these risks. Wendy framed the scope of the RUP2021 as having a multiscalar and multisector approach for building the resilience of the urban poor.

In his opening remarks, Manoj Sharma pointed out the importance of collaboration and partnership for building the resilience of the urban poor. He emphasized three points: (i) prioritizing resilience-building interventions will make cities more livable; (ii) ensuring equity to achieve resilience requires an explicit focus of urban planning, housing, and basic service initiatives on priorities of the poor and vulnerable population; and (iii) financing climate adaptation must support the needs of the poor and vulnerable population and be used to create innovative partnerships with civil society organizations to learn about successful models for resilience building.

Outlining current and new programs funded by the UK government to help build climate resilience in the Asia and Pacific region, Jaya Singh Verma highlighted the importance of empowering local communities to engage with a wider range of partnerships, especially those that enable women to be at the center, taking action on resilience.

As keynote speaker, Sheela Patel called strongly for direct engagement with urban poor networks in the pursuit of new ways for collaborating, designing, and responding to the needs of the urban poor. In spite of current rhetoric, the urban poor are still treated as consumers and beneficiaries of other people's strategies and ideas. The urban poor represent a large population who are capable but locked into intergenerational poverty: they are innovative and know what to do but cannot face the challenges of climate change without adequate instruments or knowledge. They need to be involved at every level and seen as key players in development.

Wendy Walker

Chief of Social Development Thematic Group, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), ADB

"Pro-poor climate resilience solutions in areas such as adaptive social protection, health systems, sustainable livelihoods, housing, and community infrastructure can be important resilience-building interventions. Appropriate complementary actions at the household, community, and city levels, supported by enabling factors such as climate and urban finance; capable, accountable and responsive governance; and urban and climate data are part of an important resilience-building framework."

Manoj Sharma

Chief of Urban Sector Group, SDCC, ADB

"Climate adaptation finance, through global climate funds and national sources, needs to play an active role in supporting cities and urban local government to undertake strategic investments, pilot innovative approaches, and strengthen implementation capacity, which can eventually unlock the potential of mobilizing further financial resources, including from the private sector."

Jaya Singh Verma

Policy Advisor and Senior Responsible Owner, Indo-Pacific Regional Team, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

"In partnership with ADB, the UCCRTF has achieved some impressive results in 40 cities in Asia, but equally important is the community resilient partnerships with the urban local bodies, state governments, and international NGOs [nongovernment organizations], for locally led adaptation and community resilience."

Sheela Patel

Founder and Director, Society for the Promotion of Area Resource Centers (SPARC)

"Make the urban poor the center of solutions by involving social movements and communities and providing them with instruments, new knowledge, and access to data."

3

Main Sessions: Climate and Disaster Resilience

The Applied Framework for Building Resilience of the Urban Poor (see figure), conceptually shows the six key policy areas, three enabling factors, and three levels of interventions. The main sessions targeted the three levels of interventions—household, community, and city levels—and explored the enabling factors. The discussions emphasized the urban poor as equal participants (not beneficiaries) in any process, acknowledging that the entry point for work is existing community groups who have much to contribute and need supportive policies (governance), resources, and capacity building.

The Applied Framework for Building Resilience of the Urban Poor

At the Household Level

Representatives from the governments of the Philippines and Indonesia shared their approaches to supporting urban poor households in dealing with the challenges of urbanization, climate change, and COVID-19 from a systems level. Participants also shared an initiative supporting household resilience through collective action and advocacy and a regional financing initiative in support of household-level resilience building.

At the Community Level

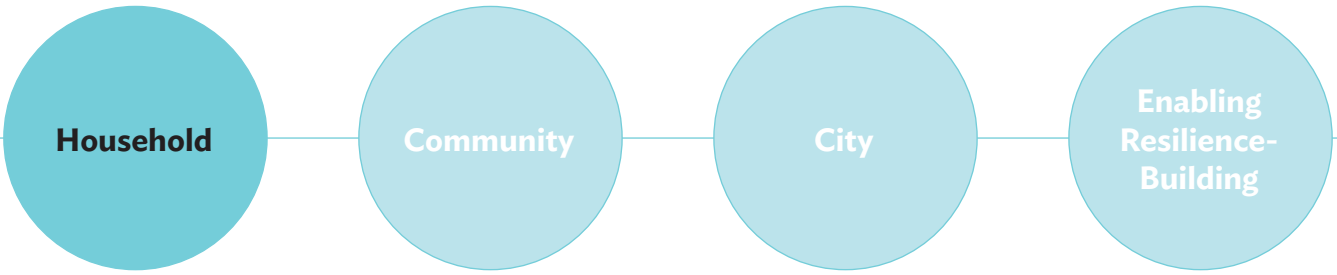
Practical examples of community-level resilience-building initiatives were shared, including lessons from the community-led resilience projects implemented by Oxfam as part of an ADB-funded project, and other initiatives from Indonesia and the Philippines. Panelists highlighted that policies need to integrate information and data at the national, city and community levels.

At the City Level

With a focus on land use and infrastructure planning for resilience, the session heard three examples of approaches toward city-level actions for building the resilience of the urban poor. Two came from Bangladesh and one from the Philippines, which focused on opportunities for involving the private sector in resilience-building initiatives.

Enabling Resilience-Building

Policy examples from Indonesia's Climate Resilience Development Strategy and the Philippines New Urban Agenda were shared. They highlighted that data are important to ensure appropriate interventions reach the right people, that project selection is evidence based, and that implementation achievements can be celebrated and publicized. UN-Habitat's experiences showed the importance of community participation and ownership throughout a project's life cycle.



Main Session 1: Climate and Disaster Resilience at the Household Level

Resilient households form the basis for ensuring resilient communities and cities. This session discussed how urban poor households can be made more resilient to climate change and disaster-related risks. In particular, the session focused on approaches that can be put in place before a disaster event and how they can reduce risk and strengthen the adaptive capacity of poor households and vulnerable groups.

Responding to both climate and socioeconomic risks is necessary to address the multidimensional vulnerabilities that urban poor households face. Examples shared by the Indonesian and Philippine governments demonstrated that adaptive social protection (ASP) through a whole-of-government approach can build household capacity to adapt, anticipate, and absorb the current and future shocks and stresses, while managing the residual risks.

Community-based organizations can strengthen household resilience on the ground through different adaptive measures, including awareness raising. The Huairou Commission shared its approach to supporting household resilience through collective action and advocacy. Existing examples of successful household resilience support at the grassroots levels need to be flexibly resourced and the approaches institutionalized.

Experiences from ADB's housing investment projects that enable private sector participation and home improvement microloans through microfinance institutions were shared. Housing investment microloans help improve quality of housing construction and climate resilience, upgrade semi-permanent structures, and provide access to water and sanitation, thereby contributing to resilience-building for urban poor households.

The discussion emphasized the importance of improving access to comprehensive data, including community-level mapping and cross-sectoral data, for improving evidence-based decision-making.

Girlie Grace Casimiro-Igtiben
Director IV, Social Development Staff, National Economic and Development Authority (NEDA), Philippines

"Our recommendation is to institutionalize a comprehensive social protection and livelihood program that is risk informed and shock responsive."

Maliki
Director of Poverty Alleviation and Community Development, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia

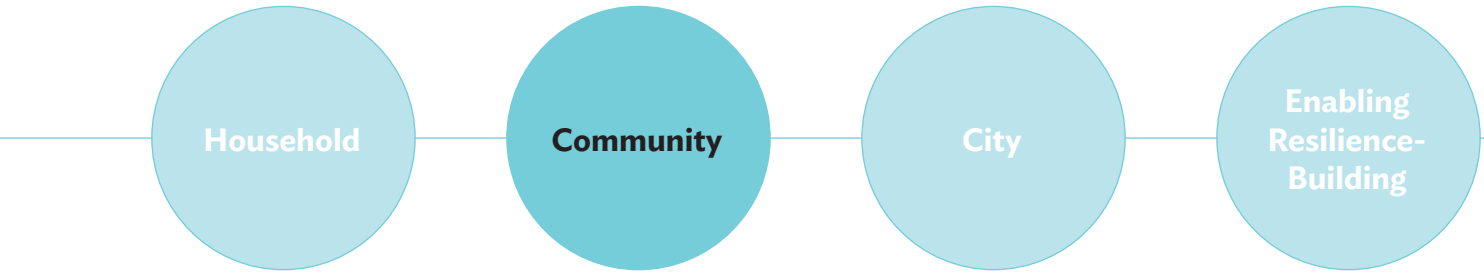
"One of the things we are going to do is organizational development. Since this involves a few major line ministries, we have to have a good coordination mechanism. We have to strengthen the ASP policymaking bodies."

Suranjana Gupta
Special Advisor for Community Resilience, Huairou Commission

"There needs to be much more investment and acknowledgement that grassroots organizations and groups need to have an organized basis, and this collective leadership is very critical to the ability to enhance access and control over resources, and have a greater voice for marginalized groups in public decision-making."

Anshukant Taneja
Principal Investment Specialist, Private Sector Operations Department, ADB

"Home improvement financing... is producing tangible results. After capacity building and financial supports [for the urban poor household], the dwelling is of a much superior quality."



Main Session 2: Climate and Disaster Resilience at the Community Level

Vital to addressing the increasing climate and disaster risks that urban poor communities face is implementing community-level resilience-building responses. This session focused on practical examples that could be taken to scale.

Community-led approaches have been shown to be efficacious. This was underscored by lessons learned from the community-led resilience projects that are implemented by Oxfam as part of an ADB-funded project across Bangladesh, Pakistan, and the Philippines. A principal highlight was that the benefits of the community-led approach far outweigh the challenges of the approach, such as the cost involved in the large investment of time initially required to ensure community ownership. Examples of benefits included projects where the local counterpart contributions have nearly exceeded the ADB investment, and the value added of high-quality data leading to high-quality urban planning and procedures.

In the panel discussion, more practical examples of community-level resilience-building initiatives were shared. The overall message included that policies need to integrate detailed information and data from national, city, and community levels to understand the real situation. The value added of pro-poor, community-led action was further emphasized. This needs to be shared broadly and these approaches institutionalized in community-upgrading initiatives across all levels. Scaling up of such actions requires not only policies but political will and action to see the implementation through.

Marino Deocariza
Urban Planner, Oxfam

"Most decision-makers and planners come from a different segment of society, and their experiences are totally different from urban poor communities, and they see the world differently. Representation is very crucial. We need to give voice and access to decision-making to underrepresented groups."

Tiffany M. Tran
Human Settlements Expert (Consultant), SDCC, ADB

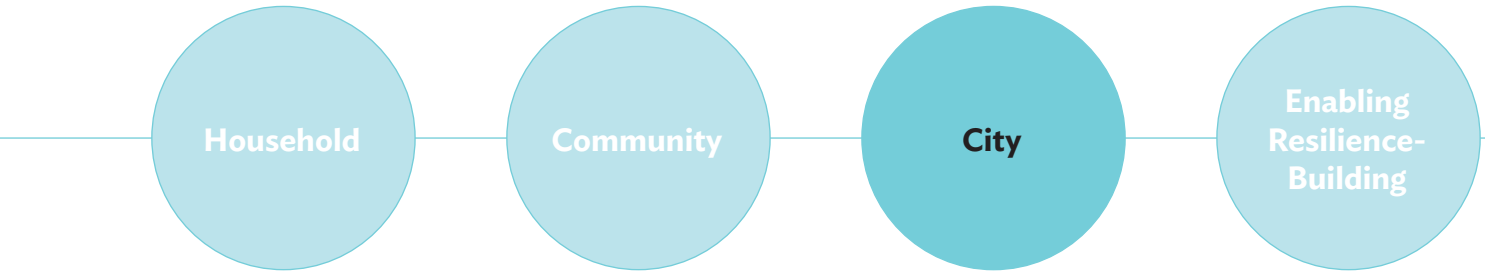
"Building urban resilience really does require this multidimensional approach, whether it is multistakeholder, multilevel, multisectoral... and looking at both the city very widely and then its communities very specifically would be a way to enable integrated policies and bring the city level and community level together."

Nurul W. Mujahid
Deputy Director of Housing and Settlement, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia

"People in poverty not only have to be resilient against disaster, they [also] have to be resilient every day. Urbanization boosts our economy, but in reality, the congestion is a barrier for us from optimum growth."

Anna Marie Karaos
Associate Director, John J. Carroll Institute on Church and Social Issues, Philippines

"Policies have to recognize that the urban poor, on a daily basis, are already engaged in resilience building. Their livelihood strategies are already resilient... So the role of policy is really to protect the strategies that the poor are doing and not to hinder or impair them."



Main Session 3: Climate and Disaster Resilience at the City Level

City-level actions for building the resilience of the urban poor require a suite of interventions embedded within wider processes of sustainable urban development. This session discussed city-level actions for building resilience, with a special focus on risk-sensitive land use, infrastructure planning, and opportunities for involving the private sector.

For city-level actions to be successful, experience from the Bangladesh Coastal Towns Environmental Infrastructure Project shows that there is a need to conduct climate vulnerability assessments, to include designated "no development" areas along water bodies in updated urban master plans, to institutionalize broad stakeholder participation in governance systems (including the urban poor), as well as to incorporate nature-based solutions in new projects. In addition, sustained awareness raising and capacity building of communities to ensure the sustainability of the infrastructures built are necessary.

Analyzing climate risk and its effect on agriculture, water resources, coastal development, human health, and labor productivity led to further solutions for coastal towns in Bangladesh. These included infrastructure in urban areas to better respond to the needs of vulnerable populations including women, stormwater drainage to reduce losses from floods, safe mobility and access to municipal services, livelihood resilience, skills training, promotion of networks and social capital, the Graduation Approach, and strengthening of institutional capacity.

In the Philippines, the role of the private sector is shifting from disaster response and relief to long-term investments. To maximize the potential of this focus, there is an urgent need for evidence that integrates climate and disaster risk as well as critical vulnerabilities at the city level to inform decision-making. Generating this evidence requires capacity building and collaboration across multiple stakeholders, including local governments, the private sector, civil society organizations, and academia. Both government and the private sector need to understand that there is no "one size fits all" solution, and that traditional knowledge must be included in any process of building the resilience of the urban poor.

S. M. Nazrul Islam
Executive Engineer, Local Government Engineering Department, Bangladesh

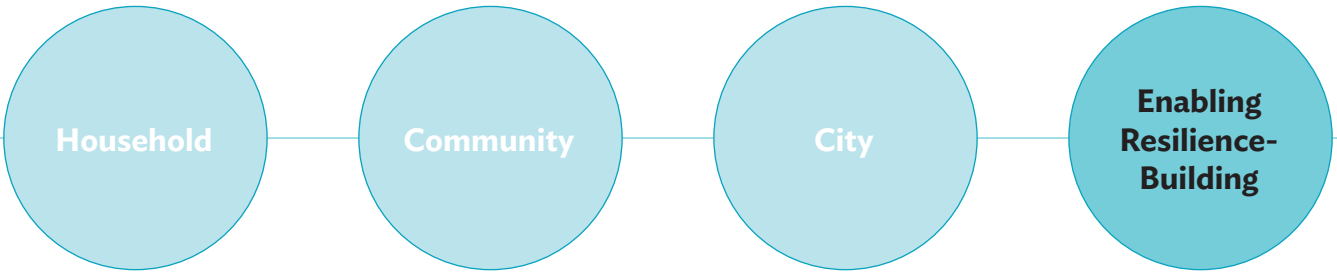
"Integrated technological and sustainable community-based approaches are important for inclusive development."

Laxmi Sharma
Urban Development Specialist, ADB

"A holistic approach to adaptation is urgently needed, including infrastructure investments and enhancements to social, ecological, and economic resilience and adaptive capacity."

Antonia Yulo-Loyzaga
President, National Resilience Council, Philippines

"Social scientists need to be part of the solution in terms of differentiating the various kinds of exposure. There is 'no one size fits all.' The private sector has to understand that, and so do government decision-makers. We also need to learn from local knowledge... we need to understand traditional knowledge and that must feed back into the process."



Main Session 4: Enabling Resilience-Building for the Urban Poor

Success in building the resilience of the urban poor will be determined by a set of enabling factors: accountable, capable, and responsive governance; climate and urban data; and climate and urban finance. This session discussed these factors based on experiences and perspectives of panelists.

Enabling resilience-building requires moving away from traditional top–down urban planning approaches toward approaches that are risk informed, participatory, and multidisciplinary. Interventions need to be integrated and coordinated across scales and sectors. Overlapping mandates between the different government departments and levels should be streamlined. Actions at the local government level can bring together multiple actors to enable cross-sectoral collaboration and coordination. These actions are particularly effective when they are participatory and community driven, and involve existing community groups that are committed to work and act together.

Climate and urban data and information at different levels are important for targeting resilience-building efforts. The unavailability of data on informal settler families can be addressed by collaborating with existing networks of the urban poor to generate vulnerability and climate data at the household and community scale. These data needs to be integrated with broader geospatial, hazard, and social data and inform decision-making processes across all levels, ensuring that project site selection is evidenced based and that implementation achievements can be celebrated and publicized. Ultimately, the quality of data and information needs to be high enough (covering multiple hazards, accounting for the full range of drivers of vulnerability, available at the right scale) so that the necessary climate finance and interventions reach those most in need.

The enabling factors were highlighted by the examples shared from UN-Habitat Philippines' experiences in implementing the People's Process in post-disaster rehabilitation and urban areas at high risk to climate change. The People's Process engaged the affected people and families in the whole project cycle, which involved central allocations to support project implementation and skills training and enable investments for resilient housing. The project resulted in the use of good-quality housing materials and construction, a high level of acceptability by participants, and transparent and accountable finance.

Julia Angela Mae Collado

OIC Division Chief, Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), Philippines

"[The DHSUD] is now looking at climate-resilient urban plans and designs that are risk-based, participatory, use the urban system approach, design and build with nature, and anticipate potential risks and opportunities."

David Dodman

Director of the Human Settlements Group, International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED)

"One example of how the urban poor can help identify what needs to be done would be to work with existing organizations between many of the communities that face the greatest climate challenges. There are already youth groups, women's savings groups, or faith-based groups, which provide a basis where people have already begun to organize around issues that matter to them... where people have a commitment and are linked together, not just to identify issues but to act together in responding to these challenges."

Medrilzam

Director of Environment, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia

"When building the resilience of the urban poor ... first we have to establish very good data and information so that we can provide the correct interventions to the right people... And of course this has to be a top–down and bottom–up approach."

Christopher Rollo

Country Program Manager, UN-Habitat Philippines

"For people to exercise meaningful participation, their capacity to perform their roles and responsibilities must be improved, and policies and systems must be in place to enable them to do so."

4

Parallel Sessions

Hot Spots | Hard Talks | Resilience Innovations

Hot Spot 1: Heat Stress

Heatwaves are projected to become more likely, severe, and persistent with global warming. The high temperatures and high humidity in South Asia and Southeast Asia can cause dangerous conditions that are made worse by the urban heat island effect. This session focused on the importance of increasing the attention to heat stress, and examples of pro-poor solutions that can be adopted at the household, community, and city levels.

Heat stress can significantly reduce labor productivity and threaten the lives of the vulnerable urban poor. At household and community levels, the danger and impact of heat stress must be communicated. Targeted training, localized communication strategies for behavior change, and incentives for communities to seek technical knowledge and adopt futuristic thinking are all necessary. To reduce indoor temperatures, the following innovative roofing solutions have emerged from urban poor initiatives in Ahmedabad, India: a modular roof with louvers (such as fins and shutters) for ventilation; bamboo roof ceilings; eco-friendly rooftops; and solar-reflective white paint. Equally important is creating strong institutional partnerships for joint action between all stakeholders: community members, government officials, service providers, technical experts, and other local institutions.

The causes of extreme heat operate over multiple scales. Thus, the responses to extreme heat need to take place at different scales. Heat also varies within cities due to green space, water bodies, local breezes, altitude, street orientation, building type, and density. To prepare for a multiscalar response, cities can undertake measures such as preparing heat action plans, establishing a role within the city government to coordinate actions on heat stress (for example, Chief Heat/Resilience Officer), and developing forecasting systems. Cities also need to address the inequities in the distribution of green spaces across a city, with the understanding that green spaces and tree cover can reduce the urban heat island effect. It is also recommended that naming and categorizing heat waves (as is done with cyclones) will help national and local governments and communities to be better prepared.

Amit Prothi

Senior Advisor, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center

"Why should we focus on urban heat? Extreme heat is resulting in economic losses from loss of worker productivity and the impact of extreme heat is felt disproportionately by the poor, the older people and those with compromised health conditions. Increases in heat and humidity can lead to fatigue, loss of concentration, organ failure, and even to death. Extreme heat is a silent killer."

Robert Wilby

Professor of Hydroclimatic Modelling, Loughborough University

"The drivers of extreme heat operate in multiple scales and the responses should be undertaken at different scales; they should be integrated. We need to think of responses that involve engineering solutions as well as soft measures such as a forecasting system."

Eleni (Lenio) Myrivili

Senior Advisor, Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center of the Atlantic Council; Chief Heat Officer of Athens and Europe

"The [Athens] Climate Change Adaptation Action Plan included an energy poverty mitigation road map where 25% of the population had problems with energy poverty and therefore limited access to cooling methods."

Bijal Brahmbatt

Director, Mahila Housing Trust, India

"The poor cannot use air-conditioners. The poor are ready to invest in solutions. They incubate solutions and rely on strong city partnerships through the creation of groups at the city level who constantly meet to find collaborative solutions."

Hot Spot 2: Compound Hazards

Compound hazards—when multiple hazards occur simultaneously, or one after another—have come to prominence as countries manage climate and disaster risks while continuing to respond to the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic. Acknowledging the complexity that this presents, this session focused on urban displacement and strengthening resilience.

The "riskscape" for the Asia and Pacific region shows how multiple disaster-risk hot-spots are emerging with the very likely scenario of urban expansion and increasing city densities. Disaster widens inequalities in cities, and the capacity of cities and countries to manage the cascading risk scenarios that arise from the intersection of climate extremes, COVID-19, and vector-borne and waterborne disasters is very low. The solutions from success stories include investing in trust building and social cohesion and the value of community action, as well as adopting a systems approach to building resilience and transforming the governance of risk.

The question of compound hazards can be viewed from policy, practice, and data-generation perspectives. While the concentration and magnitude of disaster risk in cities is known, there is a need to understand that risk more comprehensively so that tailored investments (policies and actions) can reach the most vulnerable. Also necessary is to address the lack of visibility of many of the urban poor who are displaced, as this affects decision-making that is critical to strengthening urban resilience. COVID-19 has demonstrated the power of leveraging locally based solutions. Empowering urban poor communities can result in context-specific and locally owned solutions that build resilience.

Sanjay Srivastava
Chief, Disaster Risk Reduction, ICT and Disaster Risk Reduction Division, United Nations Economic and Social Commission for Asia and the Pacific (UNESCAP)

"The risk is always global but resilience is local... The focus on community and territorial government holds the key."

Vicente Anzellini
Manager, Global Monitoring and Reporting, Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre

"Unsurprisingly, there is an extremely high correlation between urban exposure and disaster displacement. And this underscores once again that one of the compounding impacts of disasters in Asia and the Pacific is indeed urban displacement, because sometimes these movements put strains on local and host communities. Therefore, it is necessary that we fill in these gaps."

Maria Moita
Senior Emergency and Post-Conflict Specialist, International Organization for Migration (IOM)

"Multiple hazards, compound hazards challenge the successful implementation of the policy. Anything happens, it will disrupt the process."

Enamul Mazid Khan Siddique
Interim Country Director, Oxfam, Bangladesh

"When they [the displaced] are invisible in the eyes of law, in the eyes of governance process, that means they are delinked from the planning process, they are delinked from any decision that is taken around that urban space and it is linked with resilience."

Hard Talk 1: Financing for Resilience of the Urban Poor

Increased investments are needed to build the resilience of poor and vulnerable populations living in urban areas. This session discussed how climate adaptation finance can be delivered at scale to help the needs of the urban poor. The volume of financing needs to match the scale of the urgency, and the quality of financing needs to make sure that financing is benefiting the poorest and most vulnerable people. Building resilience requires funding for infrastructure and nature-based solutions, as well as funding for planning, risk information, and community empowerment.

Access to a wide range of financing sources is available for strengthening the resilience of the urban poor. Examples include transfers from national governments to local governments, dedicated local government budgets, international climate finance, and the private sector. Different financing sources can support different constituencies. For example, project modality financing can be used to strengthen market systems to move toward public–private partnerships for city resilience. However, such sources need to work in complementarity with each other, and work toward sequencing the solutions so that optimal impact can be achieved. Partnerships between cities for knowledge exchange about financing for resilience will be critical to take emerging solutions to scale. City networks, living labs, and knowledge and exchange events can all be used to share solutions that cities need to know about.

A shared challenge in going to scale is how to get funding into the hands of urban poor communities themselves. To date, most climate adaptation finance initiatives are only accessible to national or city-level initiatives. Financing local-level initiatives requires flexible, long-term approaches to enable testing of new ideas and support for the development of effective local planning and financial management capabilities. Representation of urban poor communities also has to be embedded in the planning processes.

For financing for resilience to be sustainable and impactful, the wider enabling environment needs to be strengthened. This can occur through improved local policies, increased technical capacity of local governments, incentive mechanisms such as performance-based allocations, and provision of localized risk information to local authorities. Climate adaptation financing must then align with local planning processes for maximum sustainability and impact.

Aage Jørgensen
Program Manager, Nordic Development Fund

"I believe in partnerships and knowledge. Many of the solutions are out there, so actually making solutions available and known by cities can be a very strong way forward... Cities need to do it themselves eventually. They cannot keep waiting from outside... They need to work together."

Sophie De Coninck
Global Climate Facility Manager, Local Climate Adaptive Living Facility (LoCAL), United Nations Capital Development Fund (UNCDF)

"Institutions are very important at the central and local level. They can generate partnerships. Strong local institutions can also facilitate the participation of CBOs [community-based organizations] and private sector—the convening power of the local actors to work together and mobilizing finance with the private sector."

Md. Golam Rabbani
Head, Climate Bridge Fund (CBF), BRAC, Bangladesh

"Without having a local policy instrument that really recognizes the climate problems in the city corporation area, it is very difficult to support them [the local authorities]. So this is one of the enabling environment factors that the local authority has to ensure so that the proposals can be aligned with local policy and can be supported by adaptation finance."

Shoubhik Ganguly
Senior Infrastructure Advisor, Foreign, Commonwealth & Development Office (FCDO)

"Local government capacity building [technical assistance] is important—they are in the front lines of embedding climate adaptation... Lots of attention on national government is given but local governments are on the ground."

Debora Utami
Program Manager, YAKKUM Emergency Unit, Indonesia

"Providing flexible funding to demonstrate resilient practices can be one of the ways to increase the contributions to community resilience."

Hard Talk 2: Transformation

Solutions for building the resilience of the urban poor need to go beyond "business as usual." Current practices, such as focusing on coping mechanisms and incremental adaptation, while enabling households to survive extreme events and respond to immediate shocks and stressors, are not going to be sufficient to address future risk scenarios and do not address the root causes of poverty. Transformational approaches consider the underlying drivers that create risk for the urban poor. In this session, a three-person panel discussed how to make transformation practical from the perspectives of city government, research and practice, and regional trust funds.

A focus on transformation will lead to a change in programming. Transformational approaches require looking at policy at the national level, while also working with cities, and at community levels. They also require addressing cascading, cross-sectoral, and cross-border risks. The challenge of climate uncertainty in specific circumstances on the ground has to be acknowledged along with the reality that there is no single solution that will work. Ultimately, transformational approaches will introduce new ways of working with existing solutions and require both near- and long-term thinking.

The way forward is not a blank slate. Some agencies are already leading the way, leveraging existing networks at grassroots levels; developing new kinds of partnerships; forming coalitions that address entire value chains; rethinking the types of data that are sought-after and analyzed; forming communities of practice; considering decentralized services that are low cost, innovative, and integrated; and moving into nature-based solutions.

Going to scale with good transformational practice will require the ability and space to reflect on the experiences of implementation, to learn from them, and then to document, disseminate, and replicate the lessons before going to scale.

Virinder Sharma

Principal Urban Development Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

"Multiple risks have to be dealt with beyond our current sectoral approach."

Smita Rawoot

Urban Resilience Lead, World Resources Institute (WRI)

"We need to have a shift on what we think are the right solutions and how those solutions could be potentially rethought in the context of being able to serve the communities who are most in need and at the highest risk and in a manner that is low cost, innovative, strategic and still integrated. There are many examples emerging."

Kirsten McDonald

Associate Principal, International Development, Arup

"One of the key elements in replicating good practice and in scaling is the ability to reflect and learn. To reflect on the experiences of implementation—capture the learning, document the learning, disseminate the learning, and then replication, and then scale. The very process of reflective learning contributes to building resilience."

Resilience Innovation 1: The Role of Urban and Peri-urban Agriculture in Urban Resilience

Urban and peri-urban agriculture (UPA) is increasingly recognized as an important solution for building resilience and food security in urban areas. It provides opportunities for increasing local food production, generating income, addressing malnutrition, reducing carbon emission and waste, and reducing the heat island effect. This session discussed the importance of UPA for city resilience and the key challenges and opportunities for scaling up investments.

Cities need to become "food-smart," but UPA is often invisible to city officials. Governance is therefore a key element in the contribution of UPA to food system transformation and increased urban resilience. Investment support should target the horizontal learning among Asian cities about what it takes to be food-smart. Multistakeholder involvement and collaboration is required across city regions through establishment of policy platforms and joint projects. Vertical linkages between city and national policies will also be needed.

The types of UPA in higher-density inner-city neighborhoods will vary compared to peri-urban areas, with production systems ranging from subsistence production and processing at the household level to fully commercialized agriculture. For each city or city region, a proper understanding of UPA as a part of the urban food system is required in order to facilitate participatory action planning and decision-making on investments.

Land access is a critical issue for UPA. Enabling access, including the temporary use of land, is required, as is the provision of specific support (financial, technical, etc.) to the urban poor in order to achieve the full potential of UPA. Gender is also a critical issue in UPA, as food systems are complex encapsulating not only economic utility but also societal issues such as the interplay of power, politics and privilege. Monitoring frameworks for food systems will need to ensure that gender issues are addressed.

The role of productive green spaces was also emphasized as the multifunctional contribution of UPA, providing low-emission food sources while contributing clean air, a reduced heat island effect, and other ecosystem services, including well-being and social inclusion.

Gordon Prain

Independent Consultant, Global Partnership on Sustainable Urban Agriculture and Food Security

"Urban agriculture shortens value chains, reduces emissions of transporting food over long distances, and reduces waste over the long-distance travel."

Michiko Katagami

Principal Natural Resources and Agriculture Specialist, Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department, ADB

"Our perception of resilience has changed because of COVID-19... The pandemic has made it more important to look at locally available food."

John Taylor

Chief Technical Adviser, Dhaka Food System Project, Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO)

"There's the opportunity for homestead gardening. There's improved nutrition for those families. That has also become a sort of lifeline for many families during the pandemic. It has helped to build community solidarity and action, and it is also supported by increasing exposure to working with the city and district government."

Deepa Joshi

Gender, Youth and Inclusion Lead, Water, Land and Ecosystems (WLE) and International Water Management Institute (IWMI)

"Human and society food relations are very complex... it becomes much more than economic utility or even food security. In many contexts, food and space have implications on belonging, social cohesion, emotions, and identity, and gender is a really critical variable in all of these issues."

Resilience Innovation 2: Building Resilience through the Graduation Approach

The Graduation Approach is a comprehensive, time-bound, integrated, and sequenced set of services that enable ultra-poor households to achieve sustainable livelihoods and socioeconomic resilience. It has four intervention pillars: livelihood promotion, financial inclusion, social protection, and social empowerment. One possible way of reducing the impact of climate change and disasters for the urban poor is through sustained and targeted "graduation" programs that are designed in terms of their viability and relevance after climate shocks and stresses. This session highlighted some of the lessons from applying the Graduation Approach, with specific insights into the design of pro-poor resilience-building programs.

The Graduation Approach can be shock responsive to socioeconomic risks, climate vulnerabilities, and pandemic situations. Panelists discussed the best case studies of the application of the approach for climate change resilience and how to integrate it into government programs. One example found that climate-induced migrants reduced risks to their livelihoods from disasters through adaptive enterprises, while improving nutritional intake and additional income through climate-tolerant homestead farming and tree plantation. In another, the approach was found to be most impactful when integrated into a social protection system with a "revolving door" so that households who fall back into poverty are able to access social assistance when needed.

Other lessons included the importance of piloting components in different situations to build the evidence for what works, ensuring a sense of ownership among the project participants, inclusion and flexibility for marginalized populations, and the need for more rigorous study of the approach in urban areas. The Graduation Approach will be a major contributor in resilience building when it identifies the right enterprises for participants, operates in a timely way, and provides ways to cope with the impacts of extreme climate events.

Rozina Haque
Programme Head, Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme, BRAC

"A big push helps people in extreme poverty to escape the poverty trap. A relatively small asset transfer helps them to sustainably lift themselves out of poverty. When people realize that they can change their own life it is as if a light is switched on."

Nahin Ferdous
Senior Manager, Special Projects, BRAC

"The hands-on coaching is one of the main components of the Ultra-Poor Graduation Programme. What we ensure is that the participants have enhanced capacity and improved skills on enterprise development through business planning. We also ensure that the participants can boost their confidence through life-skills training and fortnightly coaching sessions at an individual and group level to help them come out of the poverty trap. We instigate savings behavior so they can absorb shocks and can manage disaster induced risks."

Rhea B. Peñaflor
Assistant Secretary for Specialized Programs, Department of Social Welfare and Development, Philippines

"The Sustainable Livelihood Program is a capability-building program for the poor, vulnerable, and marginalized households and communities to help improve their socioeconomic conditions through accessing and acquiring necessary assets to engage in and maintain thriving livelihoods."

Karin Schelzig
Principal Social Sector Specialist, ADB

"It really should not be about exiting all poor households from all social welfare programs. Some families may need sustained social assistance. We also know that chronically poor families are vulnerable to shocks and may fall back into poverty."

5

Learning Sessions

Housing

Community Infrastructure

Learning Session 1: Using Climate and Disaster Risk Information for Designing Pro-Poor Investments in Housing

Pro-poor housing that is informed by climate and disaster risk is a key intervention for building the resilience of the urban poor. While both urban and rural housing is critical, what sets urban housing apart is the concentration of risk in urban areas. More households and housing units are exposed in a smaller and denser area. Even small-scale events can therefore have a high impact because they can affect a large population and set of infrastructure. Informed pro-poor urban housing investments can therefore help prevent disasters, protect the most vulnerable, and build the resilience of the urban poor to low- and high-frequency hazards. This session focused on how climate and disaster risk information can guide the design of pro-poor housing, particularly in urban areas.

Climate and disaster risk information can be used in both direct and indirect housing investments. Direct investments include creating new housing; and improving or maintaining existing housing, resettlement, and relocation programs, or programs for establishing land tenure and access to basic services. Indirect investments aim to address the financial, social, and technical systemic barriers to resilient housing such as policy initiatives, access to education and training, or building awareness across different stakeholder groups.

Understanding disaster risk requires information on hazards, exposure, and vulnerability. Hazard information is often available digitally through maps based on historical records, and through science and modeling such as hazard maps and flood inundation maps. Exposure information can be found in sources such as census and population data, as well as specific area inventories. Housing vulnerability information can be best organized by grouping housing by building typology. Vulnerability assessments are augmented with the help of housing subsector studies, field surveys with technical assessments and historical data, and investigations on past building performance during disasters. These three types of information can be overlaid to understand the spatial distribution of risk.

Challenges in using this climate and disaster risk information can include accessing the information or dealing with trade-offs in decision-making on investments. Planners should determine how to iterate the design process to solve issues and find ways to improve access to information, or to be able to make decisions with the available information. The costs of the design must also be taken into account, and future occupants consulted throughout regarding livability and affordability.

Mary Lisbeth Blaisdell Collins
Vice President of Engineering, Build Change

"Housing is an asset, and it provides the opportunity for growth and livelihoods. These assets must be preserved through risk-informed design so that the individual's and/or the government's investment in these is not lost in the next extreme event."

Housing

Community Infrastructure

Learning Session 2: Using Climate and Disaster Risk Information for Designing Pro-Poor Investments in Community Infrastructure

Community infrastructure is vital to the life of any community and a key area of intervention for building the resilience of the urban poor. This session discussed the different kinds of climate and disaster risk information available. It also looked at how they can be used to guide the design of community infrastructure so that the structures themselves can withstand changing climatic conditions over time and provide the needed levels of service regardless of any hazards the community may face.

Global climate and disaster risk information, including overall trends, is available. The reliability of this information, however, when translated to the community level, is a key issue. Predicting the impact of climate change becomes more uncertain when translated to the local scale. The key to future-proofing community infrastructure, therefore, is testing it against a range of potential hazards, taking into account the variability of the estimates for future climate conditions.

The scenario-based resilience planning and assessment of community infrastructure is recommended as a framework to gather information from scenario building about how resilient the infrastructure could be when an event occurs and what the impact could be on the community. Determining the desired level of service from the infrastructure is an important early step as it balances the issue of cost with the level of service that the infrastructure can provide. Climate and disaster risk information can then be used to create design standards that account for different scenarios.

Local knowledge is also critical in scenario planning. It validates and helps inform the calibration of adopted design standards and methodologies. For example, translating changes in rainfall patterns and intensities into flood probabilities and flood impacts requires technical assistance. Combining the results of the technical assistance with local knowledge of past flood conditions (flood levels, video recording of floods, dominant flood flow paths, etc.) is necessary to ensure a robust understanding of the context for the design.

Tony Wong
Professor of Sustainable Development, Monash University, Australia

"I think governments need to adapt a policy that every infrastructure investment that they do must be tested against a range of potential future hazards to get a better understanding of their resilience and their adaptability. It is really important for us to be sure that as we build infrastructure today, these are future-proofed by being adaptable."

Clinics

Climate and Disaster Risk Financing

Gender

Clinic 1: Asia-Pacific Climate Finance Fund (ACliFF) and Disaster Risk Financing for Microfinance

The Asia-Pacific Climate Finance Fund (ACliFF) is dedicated to supporting the implementation of financial risk management products to unlock investment into climate change mitigation, adaptation, and disaster risk management. This includes financial risk management solutions for the microfinance sector. This session shared ideas on how disaster microfinance products and solutions can build the resilience of the urban poor. For more information on ACliFF, please click on this link.

It is important that microfinance institutions and services are resilient to climate and disaster risks so that they can effectively serve their clients even if shocks happen. Without a financial recovery program, disasters often leave both borrowers and the financial institution that serves them in a significantly weakened position. Disaster risk financing solutions such as event-based disaster risk financing and recovery lending can build client resilience, strengthen client loyalty, and improve the financial institution's bottom line. *Ex ante* financing is necessary because of the increasing frequency of extreme weather events. It can help not only the insurance companies and cities but also overall economic and social recovery.

Gender-smart disaster microfinance solutions acknowledge the different vulnerabilities to climate change between men and women. Designing such solutions presents an opportunity to scale up resilience among women. They can be a key entry point and distribution channel for disaster risk financing to scale up coverage to large groups of women through leveraging existing women's financial inclusion initiatives.

Joshua Ling
Climate Change Specialist (Climate Finance), ADB

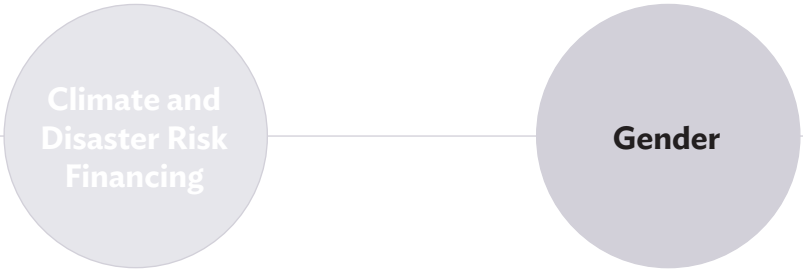
"Products such as insurance can help improve the resilience of vulnerable and low-income populations by enhancing their financial preparedness for extreme weather events and supporting more rapid recovery."

Jerry Skees
Executive Director, Global Parametrics

"Working with the microfinance institutions (MFIs) will help us to better understand their exposures and develop efficient financial tools that provide relative certainty of cash when it's needed most after a disaster. This critical financing allows the MFI to actively rebuild impacted communities post-disaster instead of running away."

Katherine Miles
Gender consultant, InsuResilience Gender Working Group

"Distribution channels that aggregate large groups of women can be powerful entry points to scale up risk protection for women who are vulnerable to these impacts."



Clinic 2: Operationalizing the "Gender Window" of the Community Resilience Partnership Program

ADB has recently approved its Community Resilience Partnership Program (CRPP) to support countries and communities to scale up investments in climate adaptation at the community level, especially investments that address the nexus between climate change, poverty, and gender. The CRPP encompasses a dedicated "gender window" to go beyond gender mainstreaming and provide specific, dedicated resources that shift the role of women from passive beneficiaries to recognized and resourced agents of change. This session introduced participants to the CRPP and invited suggestions on the operationalization of the gender window, including ideas on how it can closely collaborate with, build on, and replicate other good practices from the region where women are being agents of change in resilience building. For information on the CRPP and its gender window, please see this video.

Ideas shared for promoting the meaningful participation of women within informal settlements included: (i) work with existing women's groups who have a track record of problem solving; (ii) invest in local grassroots leadership roles and remunerate them for their roles; (iii) acknowledge the traditional knowledge that already exists around resilience and build on that for scale; and (iv) document the good practices that already exist and share the evidence.

Putting knowledge in the hands of women is powerful, and the examples of how women are strengthening resilience in their communities can be taken to scale. For instance, surveys conducted by women and slum dweller networks result in effective local action and in data and knowledge of the informal sector that the government is lacking. These processes empower the groups themselves and show ways in which they can contribute to government plans and programs.

To encourage processes that challenge the power imbalance for women necessitates making sure user-friendly climate information gets into the hands of the urban poor women and incentivizing collective leadership processes. To do this, there should be incentives in the government institutions involved, and opportunities to build trust for collaboration across different political arenas. Ensuring cultural, social and gender norms are understood and addressed will also be important.

Zonibel Woods
Senior Social Development Specialist (Gender and Development), ADB

"We have enough data about why it makes sense to invest in women, why we need to invest at the community level, how women have a very close connection to natural resource management and how we should value and strengthen that and recognize that."

Suranjana Gupta
Special Advisor for Community Resilience, Huairou Commission

"The gender window] has to incentivize... the collective leadership processes. ...We know that this is a very vital, important, foundational process for women because as individuals they are not able to negotiate and challenge existing norms and structures, so we really have to support in whatever way, and invest in strengthening grassroots women's organizations and collective leadership."

7

Summary and Closing

The RUP2021 discussions made clear the complex context of urban poverty, highlighted the need for "business unusual" approaches, shared concrete ideas and opportunities to pilot and take to scale, and emphasized the need for complementary solutions across scales, integrated solutions that promote transformation, and the layering of solutions to maximize impact.

This calls for action to embark on new ways to collaborate and codesign integrated, transdisciplinary, and transboundary resilience programs with the urban poor. There must be a shared understanding of outcomes for building resilience developed with the urban poor, and appropriate monitoring and evaluation systems developed to reflect this. Risk models need to be revisited and based on trust. This should result in the deployment of new financial models to meet the resilience needs of the urban poor. Horizontal learning needs to be facilitated among cities and communities about what it takes to be resilient. Finally, the evidence on the benefits of bottom–up approaches for building resilience at scale needs to be strengthened.

Collaboration among all stakeholders has a role in making the vision of resilient and livable cities for all a reality. The urban poor should be at the center of resilience-building efforts. They are part of urban governance; and the power of community-led action to lead to lasting, sustainable change has been proven. With the urban poor at the center of resilience-building efforts, cities will become more livable and resilient to climate change.

Arghya Sinha Roy
Principal Climate Change Specialist (Climate Change Adaptation), Sustainable Development and Climate Change Department (SDCC), ADB

"If we want to meaningfully build the resilience of the urban poor, we need to move away from 'business as usual' approaches. We need to follow 'business unusual' approaches and engage the urban poor. We need the urban poor population at the center of the decision-making process when talking about building their resilience."

Xiaohong Yang
Chief Thematic Officer, SDCC, ADB

"We have seen how the power of collaboration is helping in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. I hope that we can all stand together and be firm in our commitment to make communities and cities resilient against the threats brought by climate change."

Yukiko Ito
Principal Social Development Specialist, SDCC, ADB

"Remember to put the urban poor at the center of the resilience building against the impact of climate change."

Forum Takeaways

The need for collaboration, engagement, and multidimensional approaches in building resilience of the urban poor stood out for the participants, as shown in the following word cloud developed from participants invited to share one word describing their key takeaways from the RUP2021:

What was learned during this forum will be used in advocacy, research, policy formulation, and collaboration, among other applications, according to the following word cloud derived from participant responses:

Insights

"Climate and disaster information, tools, and mechanisms are essential for better implementation and sustainable development. Green space and urban agriculture approach should be integrated in new development projects. Gender-integrated approach is also important in any project design."

Lin Latt, Freelance Consultant, Myanmar

"I learned that the urban poor community has a systemic and multidimensional condition that makes them more vulnerable to climate change impacts. Thus, interventions to improve the community resilience should also be inclusive and touch upon multidimensional aspects such as the community-led approach and access to finance."

Hadi Yoga Dewanto, Coastal and Small Islands Ecosystem Analyst, Ministry of National Development Planning (BAPPENAS), Indonesia

"The most important thing I learned is the bottom–up approach which is needed in formulating plans and projects to build resilience of the urban poor against the impact of climate change. There is also dire need to invest in programs such as affordable housing and improvement of infrastructure like drainage and health facilities in urban areas, especially where the urban poor reside to build their resilience."

Ashok Kumar, Chief Engineer (Flood), Federal Flood Commission, Pakistan

"Simultaneous examination of a community's resilience against natural hazards and poverty produces a better means by which to formulate new urban policies to improve a community's resilience. We can presume that higher resilience in low-income communities can be justified with reliance on intervening factors such as social capital, public participation, social learning, institutions, and good governance, which can be measured through subjective poverty instead of an objective one. The relationship between urban resilience and poverty is significant."

Syed Zafar Ali Shah, Procurement Specialist, Benazir Income Support Programme, Pakistan

"Building resilience of the urban poor should not only be based on providing social infrastructure but also building capacities through skills development, social protection, and livelihood."

Aretha Janin Garcia, Senior Economic Development Specialist, National Economic and Development Authority, Philippines

"Investing in the tools and safety nets for urban communities to become self-reliant, especially designing resilient infrastructure and promoting urban agriculture for food security, is key in the overall development of cities."

Vilma Cabrera, Independent Consultant, Philippines

"Collaboration among stakeholders is crucial, but the voice that we all must listen to and take seriously is those of the people and communities facing and dealing with the effects of climate change and who stand to lose so much if climate policies are deficient, not properly implemented, or given inadequate resources."

Gerald Nicolas, Project Officer, ICSI, Philippines

Feedback

"This conference was a very much exciting one for me. I have learned contemporary climate-resilient practices from this conference. Thanks to the organizer for arranging such an effective conference."

Al Ferdous Ahmed, Urban Planner, Tiller, Bangladesh

"I came to know about concepts and interventions being practiced in the cities and communities of the countries in South and Southeast Asia. This has given the opportunity to learn about multiple new areas which will be helpful for me to contribute to the similar context that I am currently involved and will be engaged in the coming years."

Md. Anisur Rahman, Urban Planner and Disaster Risk Reduction Specialist, Urban Research Initiatives, Bangladesh

"The RUP2021 has provided a good platform to learn from the experts in the field and has also provided a scope to reach out to them for further collaborative actions."

Dipankar Chyau Patnaik, Technical Advisor, Padek Cambodia, Cambodia

"Very nice platform to learn about climate change consequences related to upliftment of the urban poor and to provide structural and nonstructural measures for resilience."

Jay Kumar Sharma, Social Safeguard Expert, National Capital Region Transport Corporation (NCRTC), India

"This forum is very important to update and improve our understanding and knowledge about how to use all sources of data and information to formulate policies and implement activities to increase climate resilience for all parties, especially for the urban poor who have a higher level of climate vulnerability, and create inclusive climate justice for all components of society."

Astutie Widyarissantie, Head of Section for Ecological Adaptation Planning, Ministry of Environment and Forestry, Indonesia

"I hope activities like this will be continued because it can improve our ability as individuals to respond to the issues humanity is facing."

Mochammad Ikbal Sonuari, Database Administrator of the Directorate of Family Social Security, Kementerian Sosial, Indonesia

"Liked the meeting interface. I had a good experience. Sessions were short but very, very engaging, which helped in focusing on the discussion. Good job!"

Anwesha Tewary, Learning and Knowledge Management Specialist, Huairou Commission, Singapore

"The RUP2021 provided deeper learning on the need to be well-oriented with vulnerability to disasters and climate adaptation measures to ensure reduction of vulnerability and exposure at city, community and household levels."

Maria Felicidad De Leon, Principal Consultant, GlobalWorks International Corporation, Philippines

Forum Partners

Building Resilience of the Urban Poor

Building the resilience of the urban poor is a critical issue for rapidly urbanizing countries in Asia and the Pacific. The Resilience for the Urban Poor 2021 Forum (RUP2021) brought together senior government officials, international and local experts, nongovernment and community-based organizations, and the private sector to increase awareness of disaster and climate risk-related issues and to help design resilience-building investments using climate and disaster risk information. The RUP2021 included discussions and learning sessions on the key challenges and opportunities for scaling up pro-poor policies and investments to strengthen resilience at household, community, and city levels. Sessions also aimed to identify innovative cross-sectoral solutions for emerging climate threats and enabling factors for unlocking transformational changes to build the resilience of the urban poor.

About the Asian Development Bank

ADB is committed to achieving a prosperous, inclusive, resilient, and sustainable Asia and the Pacific, while sustaining its efforts to eradicate extreme poverty. Established in 1966, it is owned by 68 members—49 from the region. Its main instruments for helping its developing member countries are policy dialogue, loans, equity investments, guarantees, grants, and technical assistance.

Asian Development Bank
6 ADB Avenue, Mandaluyong City
1550 Metro Manila, Philippines
www.adb.org