



ADB UCCRTF showcases resilience triumphs and lessons in the Philippines

Event Details

Insights from UCCRTF: A decade of advancing climate change resilience in Asian cities
UCCRTF Philippines Roadshow

21 November 2023 | Crowne Plaza Manila Galleria

Organized by: UCCRTF, Water and Urban Development Sectors Office – Strategy and Partnerships (WUD-S&P), ADB

The event also featured an exhibit of [12 UCCRTF projects](#), and sharing of the [UCCRTF Lessons Learned Snapshot](#) which summarizes the learnings from the UCCRTF's 10 years of implementation. Access the event page [HERE](#).

Synergizing efforts towards resilience building in urban contexts

With a \$105 million funding pool from the Rockefeller Foundation, the State Secretariat for Economic Affairs (Switzerland), and UK Foreign, Commonwealth, and Development Office (FCDO), UCCRTF has completed over 70 projects across 35 priority cities. It has supported 7.78 million¹ people to better adapt to climate change, and \$105 million funding has been linked to \$10.6 billion in approved investments².

Established in 2013, UCCRTF wraps up a decade of program implementation to mainstream urban climate resilience into ADB's operations highlighted through the UCCRTF Roadshow, a series of knowledge sharing events organized by the ADB and UK FCDO in DMCs covered by UCCRTF. The inaugural leg of the knowledge sharing series, held in the Philippines, underscored impactful interventions, results, insights, and lessons learned from the UCCRTF program. These interventions implemented at different levels (i.e., national, regional, city, community) benefitted and improved

the resilience of vulnerable cities and communities.

Pavit Ramachandran, Country Director for the Philippines, ADB, welcomed attendees from UK FCDO, British Embassy in Manila, ADB, and implementing partners from the Philippines Department of Environment and Natural Resources (DENR), Bases Conversion and Development Authority (BCDA), Public-Private Partnership (PPP) Center, Department of Health (DOH), Department of Human Settlements and Urban Development (DHSUD), and the Philippine Rural Reconstruction Movement (PRRM). Pavit celebrated the UCCRTF's support and achievements while pondering for the future and ensuring that the momentum for resilience building will continue.

“As we delve into the discussions today, let's all celebrate our achievements and also look to the future. How can we build on this momentum? How can we ensure that our work continues to resonate and grow, reaching over and even more people and creating more resilient urban landscapes? The stories we share today are the foundations upon which we'll build a resilient tomorrow.”

- Pavit Ramachandran, Country Director, Philippines Country Office, ADB

In a [video message](#), **British Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau Laure Beauflis** emphasized the need for city governments to collaborate across boundaries, budgets, and sectors to build resilience.



[From left to right] Pavit Ramachandran, Country Director for the Philippines, ADB, during his welcome remarks; and His Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau Laure Beauflis in a video message

“And while each city is unique and possesses its own set of climate hazard risks and vulnerabilities, there are lessons that apply to all of us. One such lesson is that strong resilience requires city governments to work across ministry boundaries and budgets and collaborate with the private sector and civil society organizations.”

- His Majesty's Ambassador to the Philippines and Palau, Laure Beauflis

Session 1 – UCCRTF Program Results

Implementing partners presented the key results and lessons from implementing the urban resilience projects supported by UCCRTF, including the (i) development of Risk Resiliency Roadmaps for 12 provinces and 4 cities in the Philippines; (ii) emergency assistance for reconstruction and recovery of Marawi which includes construction of rural hospitals in Marawi City and Lumbayanague City, and deployment of emergency vehicles; (iii) integrating resilience, highlighting Nature-based Solutions, into the development masterplan of New Clark City (NCC); (iv) enabling local PPP projects for resilient urban development through support to the PPP Center and local governments to develop project preparation studies for Ormoc City Water Supply Project, University of the Philippines Los Banos Information Technology Park, and Bislig City Bulk Water Supply Project; and (v) building resilience of urban communities through community-led projects featuring a case study of the community-led waste recycling facility in the Municipality of Del Carmen, Surigao del Norte.

The panel emphasized the importance of capacity building and establishing robust institutional arrangements, particularly among implementation agencies and partners. These measures are crucial to effectively carry forward the results of projects, translating key lessons into comprehensive national and local policies

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¹ Out of these, 2.43 million are projected as direct beneficiaries and 5.34 million are indirect beneficiaries.

² Comprising \$5.7 billion in approved ADB loans, \$2.32 billion in co-finance and \$2.5 billion in government counterpart funding

and programming. Furthermore, the panel advocated for the implementation of bottom-up approaches, responding directly to local needs, and fostering enhanced collaboration across multiple sectors.



[From left to right] Session 1 Moderator Hong Soo Lee, ADB; and Speakers Dir. Elenida Basug, DENR; Engr. Carmela Roa, DOH; Vice President Kenneth Peralta, BCDA; and Dir. Eleazar Ricote, PPP Center. Mayor Alfredo Coro III, Municipality of Del Carmen, shared a [video message](#).

Session 2 – Key Lessons Learned from UCCRTF

Virinder Sharma, Senior Consultant and former Principal Urban Development Specialist, ADB, presented a concise overview of the pivotal outcomes and insights gained from the UCCRTF program. He highlighted the significant contributions from the Philippines portfolio, specifically the collaborative initiatives with the British Embassy on joint projects related to NCC and the PPP Center. This collaborative approach not only yielded valuable results but also paved the way for additional opportunities for future collaboration.

Building on the lessons learned from UCCRTF, the UK Government approved an allocation of \$82.1 million (£68.5 million) to establish the Urban Resilience Trust Fund (URTF) which becomes operational from 2023 to 2031. A systems-thinking on building urban climate change resilience (UCCR), as underscored in the UCCRTF Roadshow, constitutes the foundation upon which URTF will strategically formulate and implement its initiatives.

Satoshi Ishii, Director, Strategy and Partnerships, Water and Urban Development Sector Office, ADB emphasized that UCCRTF's lessons will be embedded in the URTF. This integration aligns with ADB's adoption of a new operating model (NOM) positioning itself as the Asia and the Pacific's climate bank. The co-management of trust funds like URTF alongside ADB's operational units promises enhanced collaboration, synergy, and resource optimization. Satoshi underscored the imperative of forging closer ties with the UK government to strengthen policy dialogues with developing member countries.

Shantanu Mitra, who has been involved with UCCRTF since its inception to his current role as Director's Advisor to the Board of Director for Austria, Germany, Luxembourg, Türkiye and United Kingdom, revisited the original vision for UCCRTF highlighting three key elements: (i) developing innovative approaches for resilience; (ii) bringing strategic impacts particularly for the most vulnerable

communities; (iii) mobilizing finance at a substantial scale. Looking ahead, he stressed the need for continuous learning, robust knowledge dissemination, and the crucial role of partnerships. Additionally, he emphasized the need for an increased focus on upstream integrated planning, geospatial planning, community-led approaches, and nature-based solutions, among others.

The discussion also delved into the challenges and failures of the program, emphasizing that resilience building involves learning from these setbacks.

“Building resilience requires building synergy, avoiding duplication of efforts. We can build synergy if we start talking to our counterparts on a regular basis. Perhaps this roadshow is the first activity that brings these constituencies (ADB, FCDO and DMCs) together.”

- Virinder Sharma, Senior Consultant and former Principal Urban Development Specialist, ADB



[From left to right] Session 3 Moderator Jasmine Bourne, UK FCDO, and Speakers Satoshi Ishii, ADB; Virinder Sharma, ADB; and Shantanu Mitra, ADB

Session 3 – Key Takeaways and Ways Forward

Featuring a panel of ADB's Philippines country operations head for programming and portfolio management, and project officers working in the Philippines, Session 3 focused on outlining the subsequent actions essential for replicating and expanding UCCR knowledge and investments in the country through the URTF. The session discussed key considerations, including the imperative linkage of upstream technical assistance and the infrastructure pipeline with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP); and strengthening city's financial management capacity to facilitate collaboration with development partners and the private sector. Additionally, the discussion highlighted the significance of crafting city-level adaptation plans aligned with national and regional frameworks. **Alain Morel**, Country Operations Head, ADB Philippine Country Office, also stressed the importance of engaging in discussions with the URTF team regarding the preparation of the Country Partnership Strategy for the Philippines.



[From left to right] Session 3 Moderator John Warburton, UK FCDO, and Speakers from ADB: Alain Morel, Naeeda Chrisna Crishna Morgado, Kyaw Thu, and Rikard Elfving

Charlotte Coles, Head of the Indo-Pacific Regional Department at UK FCDO, underscored critical points including translating resilience policies and plans into actual investment pipeline. She concluded the event emphasizing the need for a three-way collaboration between ADB, donor partners, and national governments.



“...We need to draw on all the skills and knowledge that we have and have a three-way collaboration between ADB, donor partners, and national governments, making sure that those communication channels are open at all time.”

- Charlotte Coles, Head of the Indo-Pacific Regional Department, UK FCDO

Key takeaways

- Develop a shared understanding of risks and vulnerabilities within cities to foster collaborative momentum among stakeholders for the development and implementation of effective resilience measures.
- Enhance the capabilities of local governments and establish effective institutional arrangements to develop bankable project pipeline grounded in comprehensive and holistic resilience plans and policies, and to scale up initial successes.
- Strategically enhance cities' financial management capacity, enabling them to absorb financing, sustain initiatives and collaborate with international financial institutions and the private sector.
- Assess the affordability of ADB financing products for local governments, ensuring financial feasibility.
- Ensure seamless flow from resilience planning to building an actual robust investment pipeline, and subsequent implementation.
- Strengthen synergies in the context of ADB's new operating model, fostering collaboration with the country offices and UK FCDO posts to avoid duplication of efforts and optimize available resources.
- Strengthen knowledge sharing, emphasizing the value of partnerships, and harnessing diverse ideas to innovate and scale up successful initiatives.
- Align support for the Philippines with the National Adaptation Plan (NAP), integrating resilience objectives and actions into the ongoing Country Partnership Strategy. This consolidation aims to streamline and synchronize all efforts toward resilience building in the country.

UCCRTF Financing Partners



Further information

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