

Fact sheet

CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE (CCCI)

UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI) is the Agency's **flagship Initiative supporting cities in emerging and developing countries to address the climate challenge**. The Initiative supports cities responding to the negative impact of climate change that is already being felt worldwide, and to put in place appropriate mitigation measures. CCCI places emphasis on participatory processes, sound analysis, sustainable urban planning, good governance, responsive leadership, and practical initiatives at all levels.

THE CHALLENGE

According to the 2014 Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC), urban areas accounted for 71–76% of energy related CO₂ emissions. As cities invest in reducing emissions, be it in transport, energy efficiency, buildings, waste and the water sector, they have also become increasingly vulnerable to the effects of climate change. Cities are home to the majority of the people, infrastructure and socio-economic assets that will need to adapt to changing climate. Hundreds of millions of people in urban areas across the world will be affected by rising sea levels, floods, droughts, storms, health impacts, and changing temperatures influenced by a changing climate.

Accounting for trends in declining population densities, and continued economic and population growth, urban land cover is projected to expand by between 56 - 310% between 2000 and 2030. According to the IPCC report, "the next two decades present a window of opportunity for mitigation in urban areas", as a large portion of the world's urban areas will be developed during this period. At the same time cities are also places of innovation and efficiency, where climate friendly technologies and practices are often developed, tested and scaled up. Properly planned and managed, cities have the potential to play a key role in our efforts to curb, halt and reverse climate change and build resilience.

UN-HABITAT'S APPROACH

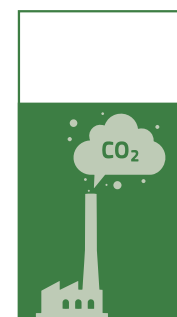
The Cities and Climate Change Initiative is UN-Habitat's flagship programme on sustainable urbanization and climate change. Since 2008, CCCI has supported over 45 cities in more than 25 countries in Africa, Asia, and Latin America in addressing the climate challenge.

Building on UN-Habitat's extensive experience in sustainable urban development, CCCI helps counterparts to develop and implement pro-poor and innovative climate change policies, plans and strategies. CCCI is supporting urban mitigation and adaptation action with a suite of UN-Habitat and partner tools for city leaders and practitioners. While approaches vary by country and by city, UN-Habitat typically seeks to deliver an integrated programme of assistance to national and local authorities and communities, assessing climate vulnerabilities in a participatory manner, improving or informing urban planning processes, developing stand-alone or mainstreamed climate change plans and strategies, bridging the climate financing gaps, and prioritizing and implementing climate action.

At the national and regional level, UN-Habitat works to raise awareness and to help counterparts to build the capacities needed to enable cities and local governments to address climate change effectively. Examples include advising on integration of climate change into national urban policies, or - vice-versa, integrating urban issues into climate change policies.

Globally, CCCI advocates for and supports a constructive role for cities and local government in the climate negotiation process, and helps define and create the capacity supporting frameworks for effective urban climate action.

UN-Habitat is working closely with a diverse range of partners including national and local governments, the UN family, Non-Governmental Organizations (NGOs), financial institutions, Community-Based Organizations, city networks, institutions of research and higher learning, capacity building and training agencies, and private sector entities.



71–76%

The percentage that urban areas accounted for, on energy related CO₂ emissions according to the 2014 Assessment Report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC)

56-310%

The percentage range that urban land cover is projected to expand by, between 2000 and 2030, a window of opportunity for mitigation in cities

IMPACT

UN-Habitat's portfolio of climate-related projects has yielded the following impacts:

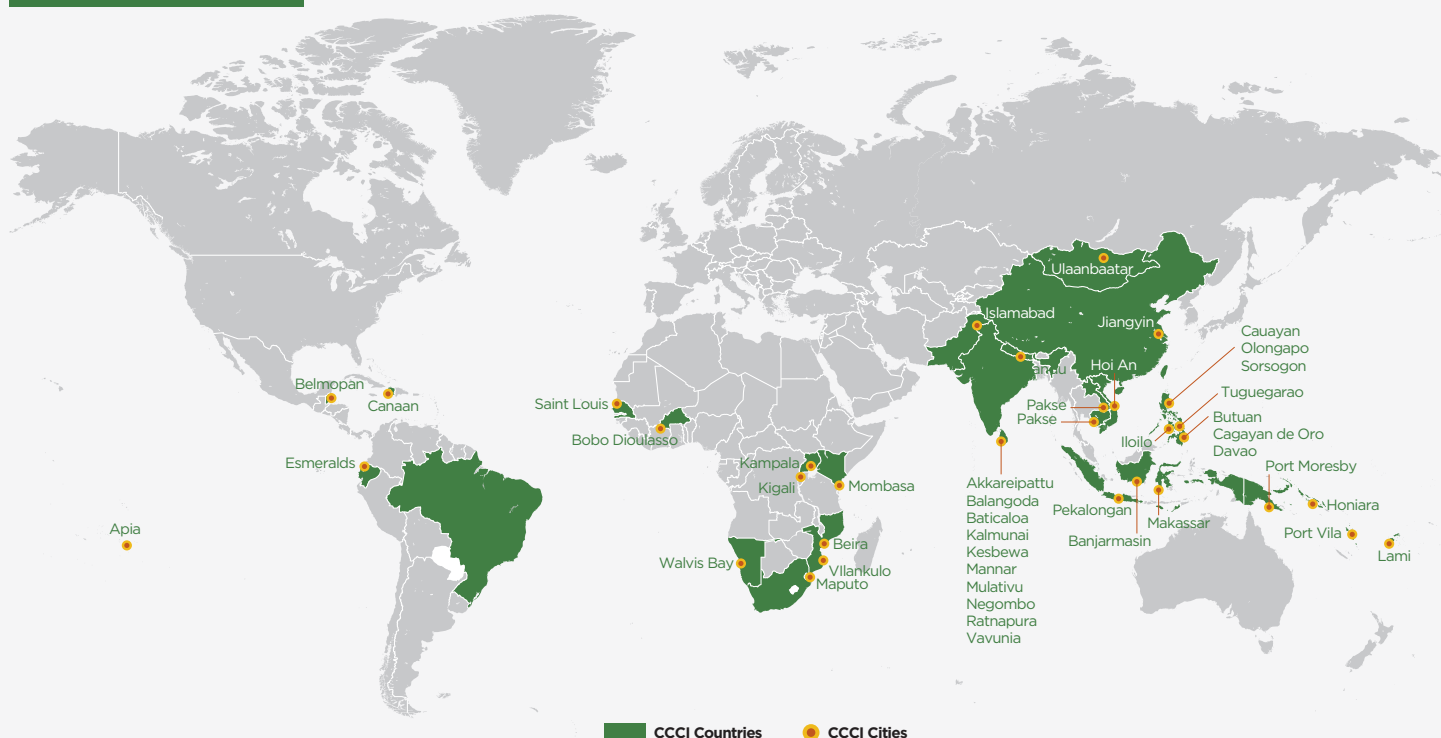
- CCCI has supported numerous cities worldwide with assessing their vulnerabilities to climate change or compiling inventories of their greenhouse gas emissions. These analyses have helped inform decision-making and development of statutory plans, or led to stand-alone climate change strategies and projects.
- In Port Vila, Vanuatu, government officials used the CCCI climate change vulnerability assessment to develop early recovery actions after Typhoon Pam (March 2015).
- Based on city-level assessments of climate vulnerability or emissions, to date UN-Habitat has supported over twenty-five cities worldwide to elaborate a climate change strategy or climate action plan in order to provide for effective and well-sequenced follow-on action, e.g., building the climate-resilience of the most vulnerable communities.
- Eight cities in four emerging economy countries were supported to elaborate low emissions development strategies. The implementation of those strategies is expected to result in the **reduction of 5,918,333 tons of carbon emissions (tCO₂e)** between 2017 and 2030.
- In Mozambique, CCCI pioneered the concept of 'living with' natural hazards, and supported several cities and communities in Mozambique to construct innovative low cost social facilities that act as climate-proof shelters during times of severe weather.





IMPACT

- CCCI promoted urban and peri-urban agriculture in three cities in Burkina Faso, Nepal, and Sri Lanka to improve climate resilience and food security, support environmental protection, reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and support livelihoods.
- At the national level, UN-Habitat has advised several countries including Sri Lanka, Fiji, and Nepal on addressing urban issues and empowering local authorities in their National Climate Change Policies. UN-Habitat supported the Government of the Philippines to operationalize local government aspects of its ground-breaking Climate Change Act of 2009. Likewise UN-Habitat advised on strengthening the urban and local government aspects of Myanmar's Intended National Determined Contribution.
- With support from AusAID, the Caribbean Community and OECS, UN-Habitat has actively promoted strategies for future urban resilience to climate change, and human settlements and land development, as key topics for small island developing States. This led to inclusion of both topics in the outcome document of the third International Conference on Small Island Developing States, in Samoa (2014).
- UN-Habitat makes a conscious effort to capture and publish the findings from its city-level work on climate change. This has resulted in more than 40 references to publications by UN-Habitat staff members in the urban adaptation chapter of the IPCC's Fifth Assessment Report (2014) – a high-level knowledge impact.
- UN-Habitat was a founding member of the Compact of Mayors, through which to date more than 500 mayors have committed to climate action. Likewise, together with 45 endorsing partners, **at COP-21 in Paris UN-Habitat launched its Guiding Principles for City Climate Action Planning** – a normative document developed via a robust multi-stakeholder process currently being applied in several cities.



CONTRIBUTING TO SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS

CCCI actively contributes to the realization of **SDGs 11** – Making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable, and

SDG 13 – Taking urgent action to combat climate change.

CCCI also supports implementation of the **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**



DONORS AND PARTNERS



Kingdom of Norway



Cities Alliance
Cities Without Slums



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ADDRESSING CLIMATE CHANGE

FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN HABITAT