

# UN HABITAT

## CITIES AND CLIMATE CHANGE INITIATIVE

### INFORMATION SHEET

#### THE CHALLENGE

During the 21st century hundreds of millions of people in urban areas across the world will be affected by climate change. The vulnerability of human settlements during this urban era will increase because of phenomena like rising sea levels, more frequent tropical cyclones, more intense rainfall, increased inland flooding and increased temperatures exacerbated by the urban 'heat island' effect. Climate change may negatively impact vital infrastructure and worsen the access to basic urban services and quality of life in cities. The urban poor in developing countries will be the most affected. At the same time, cities are major contributors to greenhouse gas emissions and therefore need to be at the forefront of mitigation efforts. Efforts to adapt to and mitigate climate change impacts must take into account sensitive and vulnerable natural and human systems.

#### OUR APPROACH

The Cities and Climate Change Initiative targets medium-sized cities in developing and least-developed countries. It emphasizes good governance and practical initiatives for municipalities and their citizens. The team has adapted participatory processes developed previously by UN-Habitat so as to specifically address climate change issues within the city. A complementary set of tools is being developed to support cities in raising awareness on the impact of climate change and support mitigation and adaptation activities.

#### KEY OBJECTIVES

To promote active climate change collaboration of local governments and their associations in global, regional and national networks;

To enhance policy dialogue so that the urban dimensions of climate change are firmly established on the agenda;

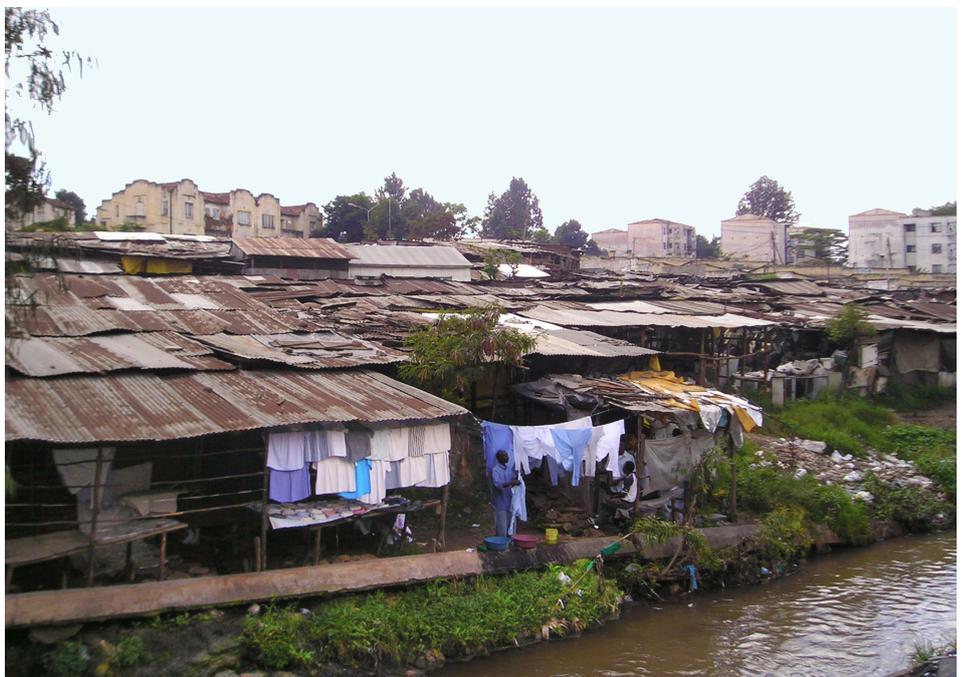
To support local governments in becoming more resilient and finding low-carbon growth trajectories; and

To help implement awareness, education, and capacity building strategies that address cities and climate change.



*Above: Industrial emissions contribute to climate change as seen here in Bangladesh. ©UN-Habitat*

*Below: In some areas flooding will occur more often and more severely due to changes in precipitation patterns. Slums, like this one in Nairobi, are especially vulnerable. ©UN-Habitat*



## GEOGRAPHIC REACH

The following cities and countries are currently participating in CCCI:

### Africa

Bobo Dioulasso, Burkina Faso  
Kampala, Uganda  
Kigali, Rwanda  
Maputo, Mozambique  
Mombasa, Kenya  
Saint Louis, Senegal  
Walvis Bay, Namibia

### Asia

Banjarmasin, Indonesia  
Batticaloa, Sri Lanka  
Cauayan, Philippines  
Hoi An, Vietnam  
Jiangyin, China  
Kathmandu, Nepal  
Negombo, Sri Lanka  
Olongapo, Philippines  
Pekalongan, Indonesia  
Rodriguez, Philippines  
Santiago, Philippines  
Sihanoukville, Cambodia  
Sorsogon, Philippines  
Tuguegarao, Philippines  
Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

### Latin America

Esmeraldas, Ecuador

### Pacific/Small Island Developing States

Apia, Samoa  
Lami, Fiji  
Port Moresby, Papua New Guinea  
Port Vila, Vanuatu



## ACTIVITIES

Supporting global, regional and national networks of cities, national and local associations, non-governmental bodies, universities, the private sector, and UN organizations addressing climate change;

Helping partners to localize and implement at the city level national adaptation and mitigation strategies;

Strengthening the capacities of local governments to integrate climate change concerns into city-wide planning for cost-effective policy responses;

Building the capacities of local government training institutes and working with universities to integrate climate change into urban planning curricula.

## TOOLS

Developing Local Climate Change Plans

Local Leadership for Climate Change Action

Making Carbon Finance Work for You: A Guide for Cities in Developing Countries

Participatory Climate Change Assessments: A Toolkit Based on the Experience of Sorsogon City, Philippines

Planning for Climate Change: A Strategic, Value-based Approach for Urban Planners

*Above: Solar hot water heaters like these in Hunchun, China help mitigate climate change impacts by reducing emissions. ©UN-Habitat/Alessandro Scotti*

## THE RESPONSE

Cities and local authorities have the potential to influence the causes of climate change and to find the solutions to advance climate protection. The Cities and Climate Change Initiative is enhancing climate change mitigation and the preparedness of cities in developing countries. The Initiative also works to address policies and strategies at the national level. In particular it is working with counterparts and stakeholders to develop pro-poor and innovative approaches to climate change policies and strategies. The Initiative builds on UN-Habitat's long experience in sustainable urban development, specifically through the experience of programmes such as the Environmental Planning and Management approach of the Sustainable Cities Programme and Localizing

Agenda 21, as well as previously-developed capacity building tools. The Initiative is developing, adapting and making available the methodologies necessary to equip city managers and practitioners with the knowledge they need to cope with climate change.

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