Cities and Resilience

Together, we need to build sustainable cities by strengthening urban ecosystems, promoting investment in local resilience efforts, and advocating for people-centred approaches.

Cities Are the Cause and the Solution

- 55% of the global population lives in cities.
- 75% of global greenhouse gas emissions derive from cities.
- 70% of cities are already dealing with the effects of climate change, and nearly all are at risk.

Informality

1 billion urban citizens live in informal settings. By 2030, this number could reach 2 billion with many living in hazardous areas.

Vulnerable Informal Economies

80% of urban employment is in the informal sector, which is characterised by vulnerable employment with no access to social protection, decent working conditions, or workers’ rights.

Women and Water

72% of the burden of collecting water falls on women. Multiple trips a day to water sources draw women away from activities such as education and employment.

73% of the world’s population does not have access to toilets. Lack of accessible toilets forces women and girls to defecate outdoors, often in isolated areas, making them vulnerable to varying forms of violence.

The Opportunities

- Cities cover only around 1% of the Earth’s surface.
- Are home to over 50% of the world’s population.
- Produce about 80% of Gross World Product.
- Consume about 78% of the world’s energy.

Cities Are Heating Up

The ambient temperature is expected to rise by an additional 2°C in the most populated cities by 2050, putting stress on public health, urban ecological habitats, and water resources.

Water Scarcity

Today, 255 million people in cities face extremely high water stress.

By 2030, 470 million people are expected to live in cities extremely high water stress.

Sea Level Rise

With a global temperature rise of 2°C by 2050, at least 800 million people will be exposed to rising sea and storm surges.