

United Nations Development Programme (UNDP)

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UNDP supports countries and cities in addressing extreme heat by integrating heat risks into urban resilience strategies, developing tailored heat action plans for cities, and implementing heat mitigation initiatives.

As the lead United Nations agency on international development, UNDP works in 170 countries and territories to eradicate poverty and reduce inequality. It helps countries develop policies, leadership skills, partnerships and institutional capabilities to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

UNDP's work is centred around six core development areas, known as the Signature Solutions: poverty and inequality, governance, resilience, environment, energy and gender equality. UNDP tackles the current and emerging challenges posed by heatwaves by integrating heat risks into the city-level urban development plans and resilience strategy.

Lead Heat Entities:

Disaster Risk Reduction and Recovery for Building Resilience Team (DRT), Crisis Bureau

Technical Focal Points:

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KEY FACTS

Productive working hours are decreasing due to extreme heat.

By the mid-1990s, heavily exposed countries, such as Bangladesh, have been estimated to have lost approximately 3% of the entirety of available daylight work hours due to heat extremes.

Factories in low and middle income countries that produce consumer goods, many of which are destined for consumption by high income countries, seldom have air conditioning or other effective cooling and ventilation systems. Heat stress and the same daily production targets in all parts of the year means that the workers have to work longer each day in the hot season than in cool seasons; but the salaries typically remain the same.

Climate Change and Labour Impacts of Heat in the Workplace

Climate risks are escalating in growing cities.

Nearly 84% of fastest growing cities will account for 90% of urbanization and will face heightened disaster/climate risks with nearly \$4tn worth of assets being at risk. Nearly 43% of people in fragile contexts are living in cities, expected to rise to 48% by 2030 and 59% by 2050. In coastal zones, 65% of the global urban population face high exposure to hydro-met disasters, with an increase to 75% by 2025.

The Urban Heat Island Effect causes urban areas to be hotter than rural areas, increasing risk of exposure to extreme heat with growing cities.

Urban Risk Management and Resilience

The number of cities with over 10 million people has risen from 10 in 1991 to 33 in 2018.

By 2030, 12 new megacities are projected to emerge, with 24% of people expected to live in informal settlements. An evident shift towards 'urbanization of risks' is making risks increasingly systemic with cascading impacts on weaker segments of society, leaving them further behind while undermining developmental sustainability.

Urban Risk Management and Resilience

UNDP Climate Promise

The UNDP Climate Promise initiative helps countries reach their climate goals by working with over 140 countries and territories to reduce their greenhouse gas emissions and meet the challenges of climate change. Examples of the work include the [Climate Action from the Ground Up – Supporting cities and local and regional governments to achieve the Paris Agreement \(2022\)](#), which includes country specific case examples of the impact and adaptations to heat and extreme weather. Mitigation and adaptation measures included in these initiatives focus on national, subnational, and local levels.

Core Partners: [140 countries and territories](#)



Featured initiative

Beat the Heat Campaign

Together with global, national and local partners, UNDP is launching the 'Beat the Heat' Campaign to support communities to identify and implement heatwave solutions with a focus on children, elderly and the women. Under the slogan 'Our City-Our Action', the UNDP will promote an all-hands-on-deck approach to create cool spaces to beat the heat and build a culture of joined up action by involving schools, community organizations, and businesses for identifying and providing contextual solutions to reduce heatwave and heat island effects.

UNDP's Urban Risk Management and Resilience Strategy Implementation

UNDP has adopted an Urban Risk Management and Resilience Strategy focusing on supporting urban resilience through a multidimensional risk reduction and resilience building lens. City-level resilience building initiatives were piloted in 17 cities, including work with multi-hazard early warning and emergency management systems, mapping of fire hazards and vulnerable areas, and city planning and National Building Code strengthening.

Core Partners: [Local governments and stakeholders in 50 cities](#)

Application of Digital Technologies to Enhance Heatwave Resilience

This project aims to enhance cities' resilience to heat waves and to the heat island effects through the implementation of technology solutions making use of Digital Public Infrastructure (DPI). Leveraging digital technologies and data, this project aims to improve early warning systems, enhance the risk management and planning capability of cities, increase public awareness, and strengthen community engagement to mitigate the impacts of heatwaves.

Core Partners: [Local governments and stakeholders in 50 cities](#)



GLOBAL HEAT HEALTH
INFORMATION NETWORK

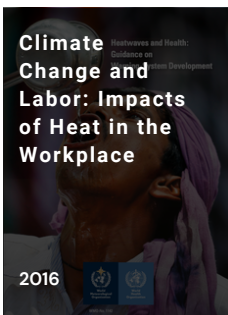
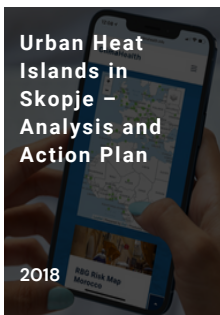
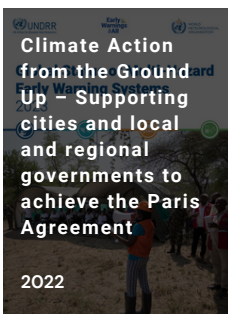


WORLD
METEOROLOGICAL
ORGANIZATION



UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

HEAT RESOURCES



Foundational documents governing institutional heat activities

UNDP's Urban Risk Management and Resilience Strategy

Strategic Priority 2 - Enhanced engagement of diverse stakeholders to strengthen urban governance

Engage private sector, philanthropies, communities and other local stakeholders for heat action through City Stakeholder Forums and Crowdfunding Campaigns.

Strategic Priority 3 - Target the needs of marginalized communities for more equitable urban resilience

Implement heat mitigation activities such as green spaces, shades around schools/hospitals/bus stops/etc. as well as issuing heat alerts and advisories.

Strategic Priority 4 - Strengthen risk-informed development planning and investment to protect development gains

Integrate heat risks into urban development and sectoral plans such as water sector.

SUPPORTING THE SDGS, INCLUDING:



SEDAI FRAMEWORK FOR DISASTER RISK REDUCTION

Priority 3 - Investing in Disaster Risk Reduction for Resilience

NEW URBAN AGENDA

Targets 77 and 78 on environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development



This heat action profile was developed by the [Global Heat Health Information Network](#) in partnership with the World Meteorological Organization (WMO) and the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), as a contribution to the [United Nations Secretary-General's Call to Action on Extreme Heat](#) (2024). The content was validated by focal points from the profiled international organization / agency, and captures a snapshot of its heat work at the time of publication. The profile will be periodically updated.

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