

# RACE TO RESILIENCE

## Campaign Progress Report

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# Foreword

**The urgency of the IPCC Sixth Assessment Report echoed loudly: climate change spares no one and is affecting lives and livelihoods worldwide, leaving 3.6 to 4 billion people highly vulnerable to its devastating effects. This harsh reality underscores the immediate need for collective action.**

The Race to Resilience was launched out of necessity to meet this existential challenge head-on, catalyzing radical collaboration and elevating the adaptation and resilience agenda to the same level of urgency as that of mitigation. By mobilizing Non Party Stakeholders, our aim is to build the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030, those who are already standing on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

Nearly three years since its launch, the Campaign remains committed to its mission of transforming pledges into tangible impacts. This report offers a comprehensive overview of the progress achieved so far, highlighting the collaborative achievements of its 34 Partners and over 647 members. Alongside these entities, more than 86 cities and 78 regions are implementing resilience actions across 164 countries. Together, these initiatives have pledged to enhance the resilience of 3.17 billion people by 2030, with concrete action plans already in place targeting more than 1.87 billion people. Additionally, according to the reports of the Partners and members they are mobilizing substantial financial resources, amounting to US\$39.44 billion. This effort not only benefits people but also nature, covering 59.84 million hectares.

Within these pages, we spotlight the diverse sectors and regions where our Partners are delivering and supporting the implementation of the **Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda** which will help us bring to life and catalyze our vision. From Nature-based Solutions and Adaptation Finance to Infrastructure and Human Settlements, Health, and the Business Case for Adaptation and Resilience, our Partners are at the helm of resilience action, championing efforts across multiple sectors with equity and inclusivity at their core.

Looking ahead, as the High-Level Champions for COP27 and COP28, we envision the Race to Resilience as a pivotal force in spurring adaptation and resilience action. We strive to continue to anchor our work in the welfare of people and nature, and to echo the grassroots work of Non Party Stakeholders alongside the voices of locally-led adaptation.

It is with a heavy heart that we also take a moment to honour the memory of Professor Saleemul Huq, our esteemed Global Ambassador and a towering figure in the field of climate justice. Professor Huq's passing in October 2023 marks a profound loss for the global climate community. His legacy will continue to inspire and guide our efforts in this Race, that is as much about resilience as it is about remembrance and respect for those who have dedicated their lives to the cause; to those living with climate change, and those soon to.

Our collective journey is far from over. Together, we must rally for implementation and stand firm in our race for a healthier, more resilient, and fairer world.

**With gratitude to our Partners for their dedication to the Race to Resilience, this progress belongs to us all.**



**H.E. Razan Al Mubarak,**  
UN Climate Change  
High-Level Champion,  
COP28, UAE



**Dr. Mahmoud Mohieldin,**  
UN Climate Change  
High-Level Champion,  
COP27, Egypt



# Executive Summary

As the first-ever Global Stocktake is set to conclude at the UN Climate Change Conference, COP28 and the definition of a Global Goal on Adaptation makes significant advances, the Race to Resilience Campaign presents its second progress report. The report highlights the adaptation and resilience efforts of Non Party Stakeholders and its contribution to the overarching goal of putting people and nature first, making 4 billion people more resilient to climate change by 2030.

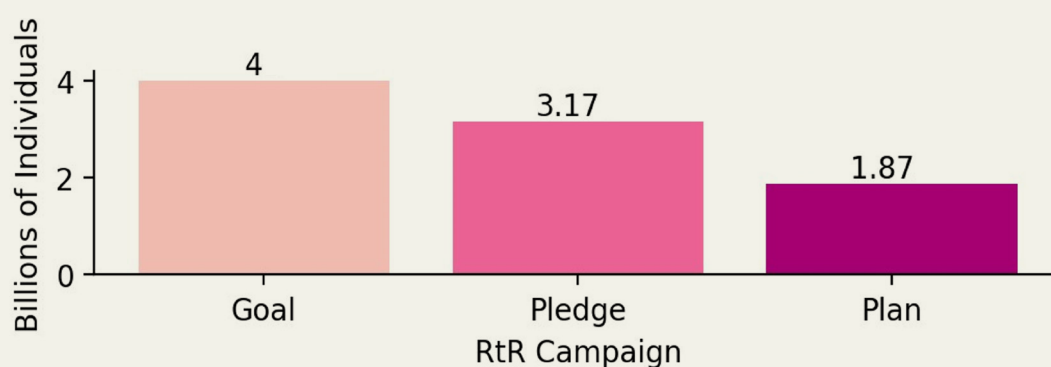
The strength of the Campaign lies in the joint ambition shared by the Partners and members that implement locally-led adaptation actions to benefit the most vulnerable<sup>1</sup>. This effort is supported by a credible, comprehensive, and transparent progress tracking framework that unifies all Partners and members in the transformation of pledges into tangible action.

To date, our Campaign Partners have pledged actions that are expected to enhance the resilience of 3.17 billion people by 2030<sup>2</sup>, marking a 3% increase from 2022 ambitions. This commitment is underscored by combined pledges to protect, restore, or manage 59.8 million hectares of natural systems by 2030, delivering substantial benefits for both people and the planet.

For the first time, the Campaign is proudly demonstrating the conversion of pledges into tangible actions. Current efforts are set to boost the resilience of 1.87 billion people. And of the 59.8 million hectares pledged for protection, restoration and management, actions have already been initiated on 5.48 million hectares. This represents the implementation of 58.9% of people pledges and 9% of nature pledges so far, indicating a significant stride towards our 2030 goal.

To support these ambitious goals, a remarkable mobilization by Partners of US\$39.44 billion is underway<sup>3</sup>. This progress not only showcases the gap between pledges and plans but also highlights the extensive effort required to fulfill these commitments.

CHART NO 1 PROGRESS OF THE CAMPAIGN



Transparent reporting is crucial for demonstrating climate adaptation progress – to build trust, strengthen accountability, and inform evidence-based policies. While the speed of progress varies based on each Partner's capacity and the year in which they joined, to date 86% of reporting Partners have submitted a pledge, 72% of Partners submitted an action plan, and almost 52% of Partners reported on adaptation finance mobilization. The [Campaign's Data Explorer](#) presents the complete database of the global actions and analysis of the results achieved to date.

<sup>1</sup> Following IPCC definition, 'vulnerability' is the predisposition to be negatively impacted by climate change. RtR acknowledges the diverse factors of vulnerability and recognizes that actions focusing on the most vulnerable people should be prioritized.

<sup>2</sup> The RtR people-centered goal and progress on metrics, should not be interpreted as a 'head-count' of individuals, but rather as an estimation of impact which considers both the magnitude of the beneficiaries targeted by the initiatives, and the 'depth' of the potential increase on their resilience. To know more, see our Metrics Framework.

<sup>3</sup> This indicates the total sum of funding in USD being mobilized by 15 Partners during the 2022 and 2023 reporting cycles.


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**Much more is needed to deliver changes at the speed and scale that our planet needs. However, this report shows how NPS are increasingly stepping up to accelerate inclusive and equitable climate action to meaningfully change the *pace and scale* needed.**

Since its launch in 2021, the Campaign has grown to encompass 34 Partner initiatives, an increase of 13% in relation to 2022<sup>4</sup>, and 647 collaborating members. Furthermore, new subnational governments have joined the Race: 86 cities through Cities Race to Resilience, and 78 regions through RegionsAdapt. The adaptation solutions pledged by Partners and members span 164 countries on every continent, across 350 cities and 310 regions. The adaptation solutions delivered span all priority systems included in the [Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#) and informed its first implementation report.

**At the core of adaptation implementation is the urgent need to leave no one behind and accelerate equitable adaptation that benefits the most vulnerable communities facing the impacts of climate change.** Partners' pledges concentrate in the most vulnerable developing and least developed countries of Sub-Saharan Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, East Asia, and the Pacific Islands. Countries with the majority of pledges are Mexico, Colombia, Brazil, Kenya, Nigeria, Ethiopia and India.

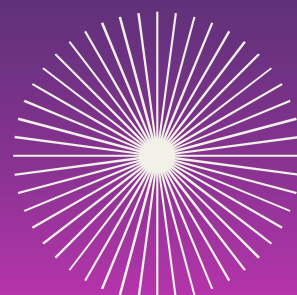
**Strengthening adaptation and resilience requires concerted, multi-disciplinary actions from a wide range of sectors and stakeholders. Our solution stories highlight a range of efforts across a number of key areas:**

- 
- 1) Nature based Solutions (NbS) with a spotlight on oceans and land restoration;
  - 2) adaptation measures in human settlements and infrastructure;
  - 3) innovative adaptation for finance benefiting local communities;
  - 4) key health adaptation outcomes,
  - 5) solutions in human settlements, and
  - 6) the critical role of businesses in accelerating investments on adaptation.

**As we progress towards 2030, the Campaign will continue to expand its network of Partners. It will support both the delivery of commitments that benefit the most vulnerable people and Partners' capacity to monitor and evaluate progress, while consistently maintaining high standards for accountability and transparency**

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<sup>4</sup> In 2022 the RtR campaign had 30 active\* Partners. In 2023 four new Partners joined the campaign.



# 1. Race to Resilience Campaign

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RACE TO  
RESILIENCE



# 1.1 INTRODUCTION

Race to Resilience (RtR) was launched at the Climate Adaptation Summit in 2021 by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions (HLCs) for COP25 and COP26, with the purpose to serve as a global platform that brings together Non-Party Stakeholders (NPS), investors, businesses, cities, regions, and civil society to increase the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030, those most vulnerable to the climate crisis.

The governance setup of the Campaign seeks to ensure this goal. RtR has three advisory bodies: the Technical Secretariat (TS), the Expert Review Group (ERG), and the Methodological Advisory Group (MAG). The TS, hosted by the Center for Climate and Resilience Research (CR)<sup>2</sup> of the University of Chile, is an academic entity that offers technical support to the Campaign and is responsible for upholding the credibility, transparency, and robustness of the RtR and oversees the MAG and ERG. The TS includes scientists who are leading academic authors and contribute to the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). The MAG (18 members) helps improve and validate the RtR framework and metrics. The ERG (14 members) is set up to peer-review applications of candidates applying to join the RtR.

The Campaign recognizes that advancing resilience is a dynamic process that relies on a progressive effort of collective learning. As Partners continue to increase their understanding of the adaptation solutions that have the most meaningful impact in the face of climate change, they gradually increase their knowledge and capacity to deliver and monitor these resilience-building actions. As a result, the Campaign has adopted a step-by-step approach whereby Partners report annually to progress on their pledges, plans, and outcomes<sup>5</sup>. The RtR's Metrics Framework tracks the progress throughout these stages, recognizing how the work contributes to resilience, and in what way they are collectively advancing towards the core goal of supporting 4 billion people to be more resilient<sup>6</sup>.

Section 1 of the report provides updated information on the Partners and members. Section 2 presents the progress of the Campaign regarding Pledges and Plans. Section 3 presents the efforts of the Campaign to enhance transparency and accountability as well as increase the capacity of the Partners to better deliver their pledges. Section 4 showcases the leadership of Partners, key milestones, and solution stories across priority systems, including showcasing the role of nature, solutions in human settlements, health, and opportunities of mobilizing private finance. Finally, Section 5 showcases the leadership of the Global Ambassadors globally in support of the objectives of the Campaign.



<sup>5</sup> Pledges are commitments made from the Partners to increase resilience towards 2030; action plans are concrete actions put forward to achieve this; outcomes are demonstrable results delivered by the implementation of these plans.

<sup>6</sup> Metrics are computed based on data self-reported by the Partner initiatives through surveys designed by the TS for that purpose, plus secondary data when available. The figures reported in what follows stem from data informed during the two yearly reporting cycles that the Campaign has had, 2022 and 2023.

## 1.2 CAMPAIGN PARTNERS AND MEMBERS

The Race to Resilience campaign is championed by a diverse set of NPS, from civil society to businesses coalitions and subnational governments that are working across a broad range of countries and all priority systems from the [Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda](#): food and agriculture, water and natural systems, oceans, health, human settlements and infrastructure, as well as catalyzing planning, policy, and finance.



## The campaign has different types of Partners:

a) Partners that manage a membership base, with 647 members reported and

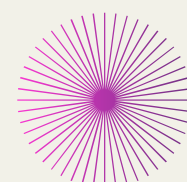
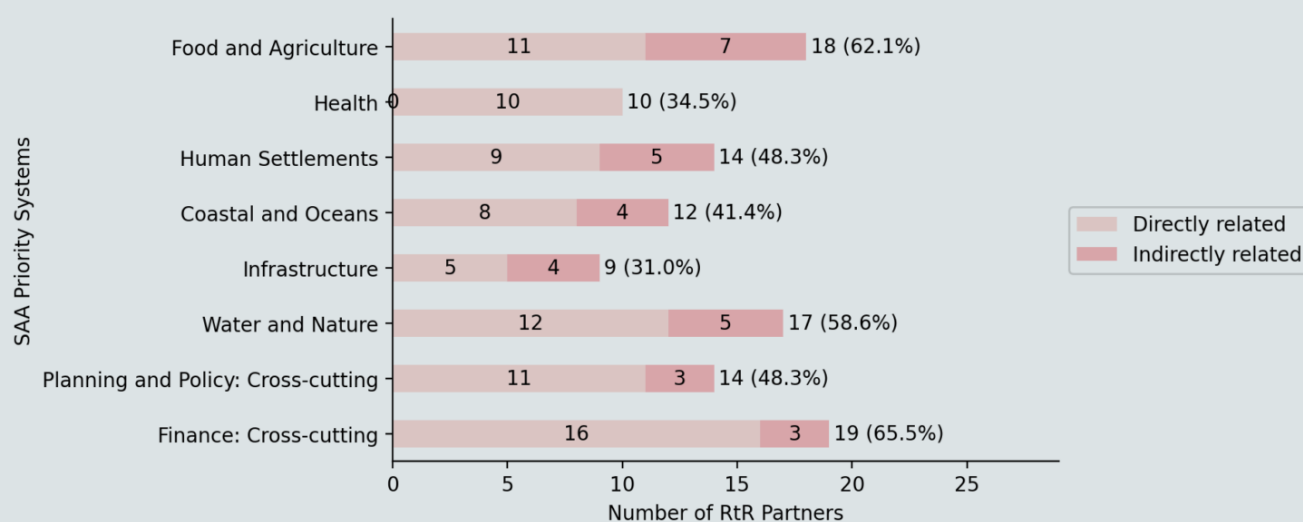
b) Partners that directly implement resilience actions directly and do not have a membership base.

Partners' members can be categorized under four types: Implementers, Collaborators, Donors and Endorsers. Most of the Partners (69%) have 'Implementers' among their members, directly engaging with resilience-building activities on-site. Furthermore, 65.5% of the Partners include 'Collaborators' who, despite not being directly involved in the execution of activities, are essential for providing operational support for the implementation. 'Donors' and 'Endorsers', providing financial resources and general support to the activities, are present in a lower number of initiatives, leaving further room for improvement; especially, it will be important to promote an increased participation of Donors to further strengthen the campaign's financial base.

**In addition, the scope and diversity of the RtR campaign is also reflected by the extensive range of adaptation actions the Partners and members undertake to address climate change.** The Partners work towards an array of goals across a variety of priority systems.

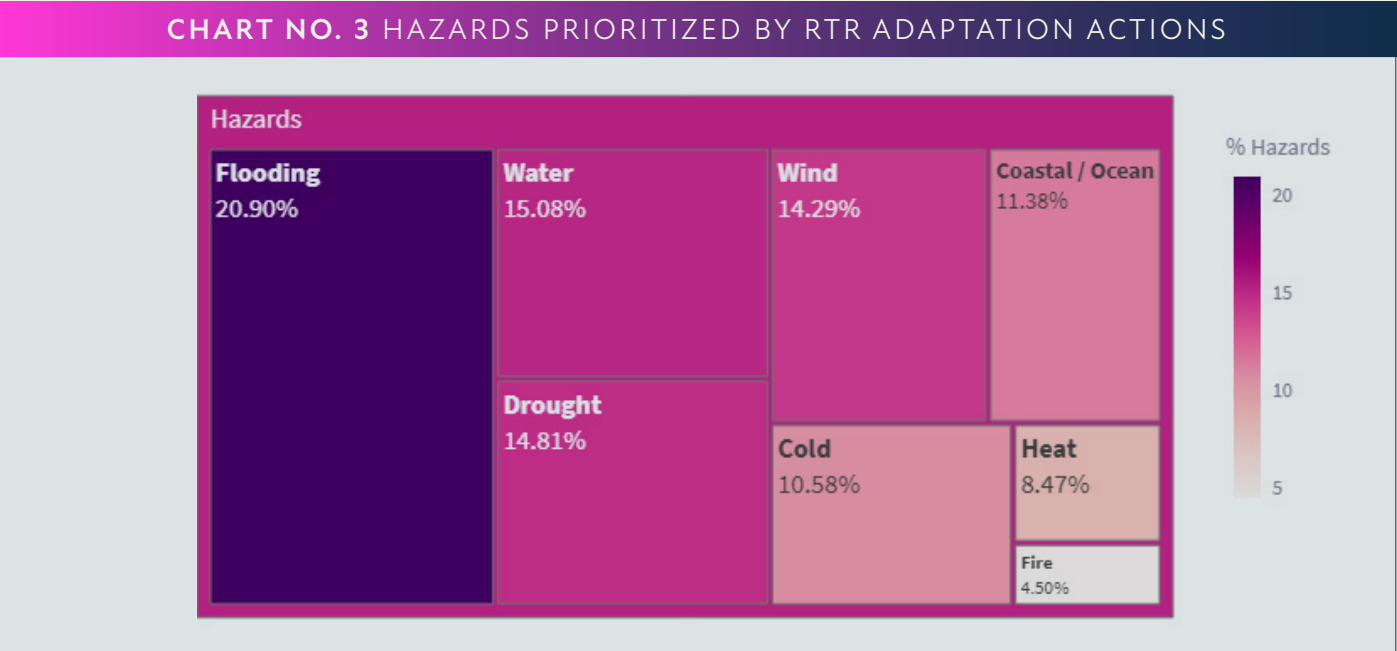
Chart No. 2 shows that RtR Partners focus mostly on accelerating adaptation finance and enhancing agriculture and water systems. The highest number of Partners (19) focus on financial strategies to underpin all resilience efforts. This is followed by Partners supporting Food and Agriculture Systems (18), recognizing that food security is linked to climate stability and that agricultural practices must adapt to changing conditions and that work on commitments to safeguard and transform food systems are being made. The Partners supporting water and natural systems (17) reflect the urgency to address water security and ecosystem management in the freshwater adaptation agenda.

**CHART NO.2** RTR PARTNERS WORK IN A WIDE NUMBER OF SECTORS ACROSS THE SAA PRIORITY SYSTEMS

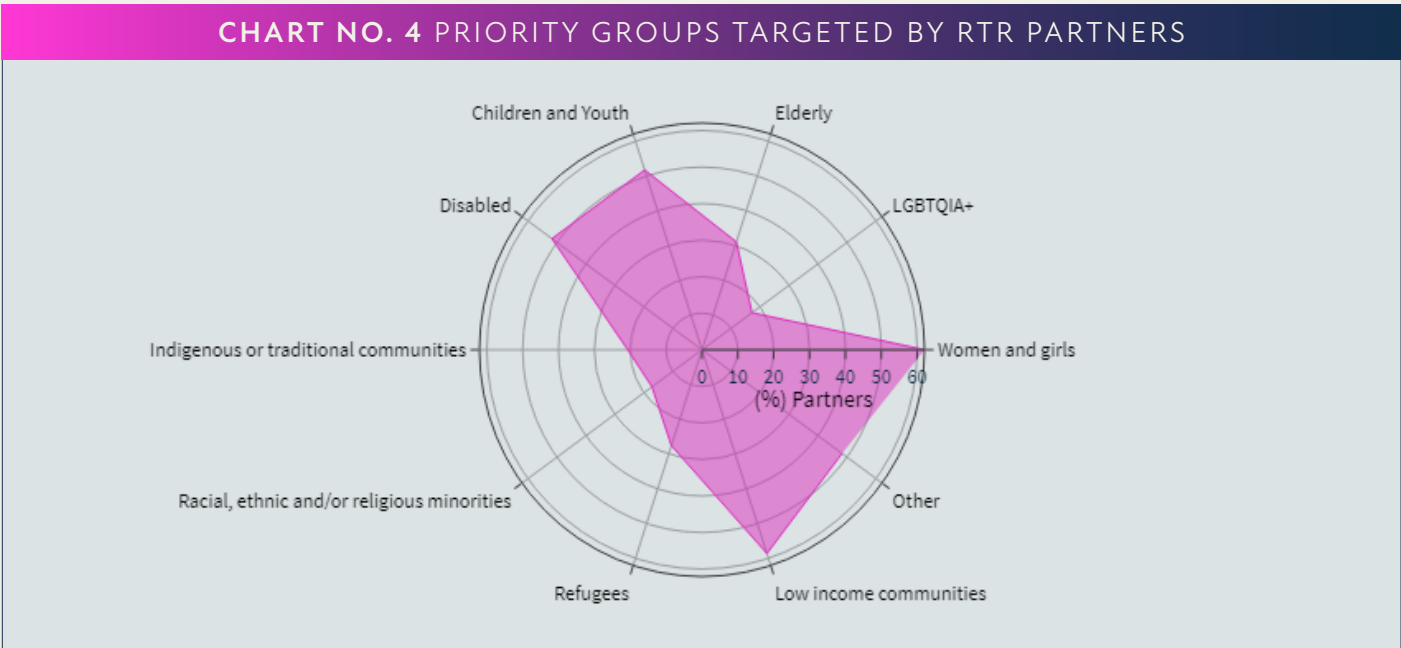




**Partners prioritize multiple climate hazards as part of their scope of interventions (Chart No. 3).** Flooding (20.9%) in non-coastal, riverine, and urban areas is one of the highest priorities, reflecting the urgent need to protect vulnerable communities from increased storms and disasters. Water stress (15%) and drought (14.81%) are also key hazards being addressed, especially in rural areas, emphasizing the critical need for water management and security. Although the Campaign counts with leader Partners to address extreme heat (8.4%) and fire hazards (4.5%), these categories of hazards remain the least attended, posing an opportunity to expand membership to further advance urgent actions to address them.



**Partners tailor their initiatives to address the needs of specific demographic groups that are disproportionately affected by environmental challenges.** Chart No. 4 shows the percentage of Partners prioritizing different vulnerable groups. Women and girls (62.1%) are the most prioritized group, which is indicative of the critical emerging agenda that is focusing on enhancing the capacity and reducing the vulnerability of women facing climate impacts. To ensure that those with potentially limited adaptive resources are not left behind, Partners focus on low-income communities (58.6%), as well as children and youth (51.7%), and the disabled (51.7%). Although initiatives involving racial, ethnic, and/or religious minorities, and LGBTQIA+ communities are present, there is opportunity for the Campaign to enhance outreach and increase action on rights-based approaches and further strengthen diverse groups against climate risks.



## 2. Campaign Progress

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Since 2021, Race to Resilience has been making good progress to bring together an increasing number of Partners and increase the ambition towards a more resilient world for people and nature.

In this context, 2023 has been a key year for the consolidation of the Campaign. Partners have been transiting from formulating pledges to drafting plans for implementation, while the Campaign refined the metrics framework to better capture the outcomes and potential impacts of Partners' actions.

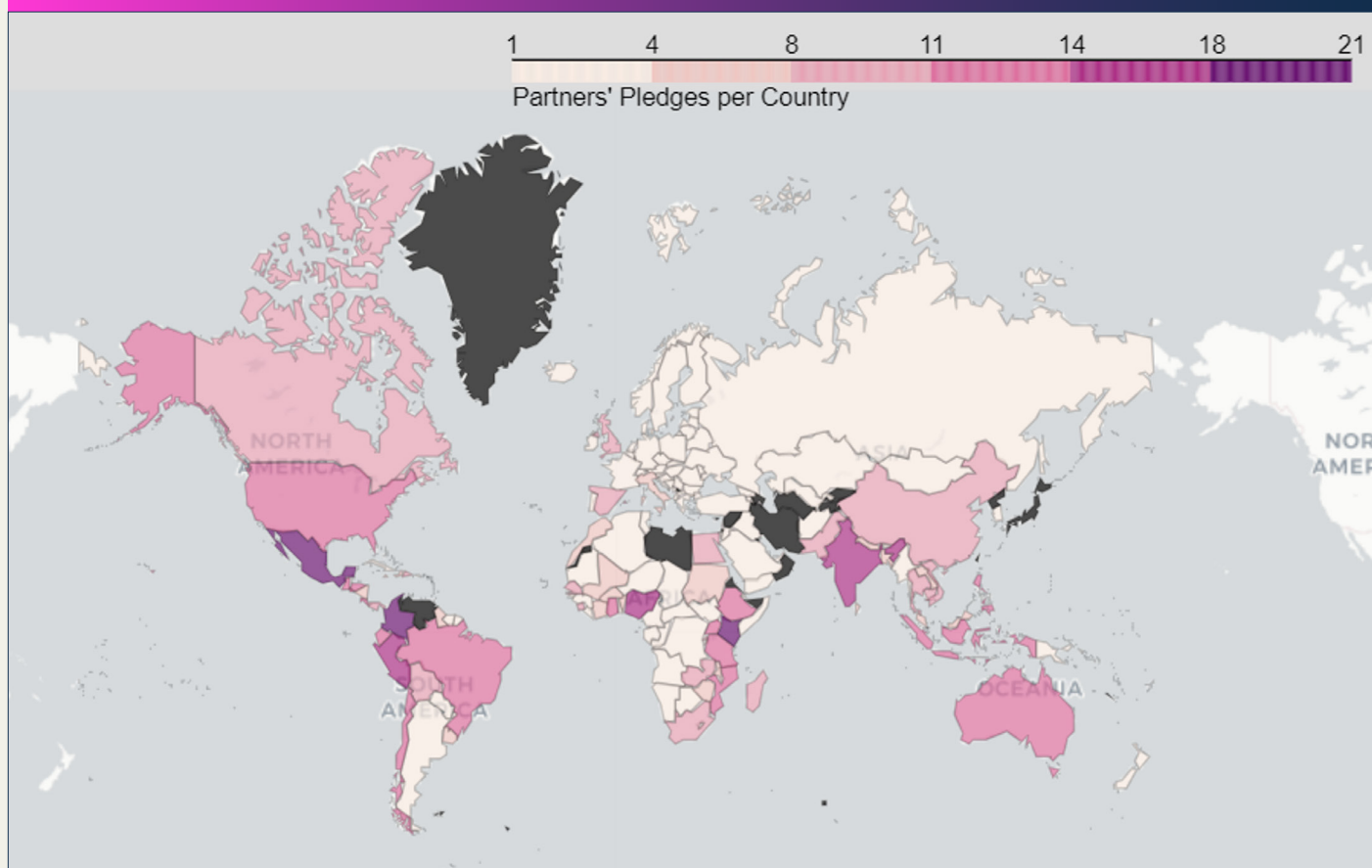


## 2.1 PROGRESS ON PLEDGES

Currently, 86% of reporting Partners<sup>7</sup> have made a pledge, each with a strategic focus on enhancing resilience. These pledges are to be implemented in 164 countries (see Map #1). A considerable number of these pledges are concentrated in least developed and developing nations, highlighting the priority given to people disproportionately impacted by climate change and compound challenges. Among these countries, most pledges (top 5%) include Mexico, Colombia, Peru, India, Kenya, Nigeria, Tanzania, the United States, and Ethiopia.

Currently, the aggregated commitment of our partners stands at enhancing resilience for 3.17 billion people by 2030. This marks a 3% increase in the pledged support for the campaign goal compared to the previous year. 2023 was positioned as a consolidation year, aimed at reconfirming the commitments of the existing Partners, strengthening the robustness of metrics (see 3.2), and advancing reporting plans of action rather than increasing commitments. With new Partners having recently joined the RtR, 2024 is expected to be a year devoted to the acceleration of both commitments and implementation.

MAP NO. 1 GLOBAL DISTRIBUTION OF RTR PLEDGES

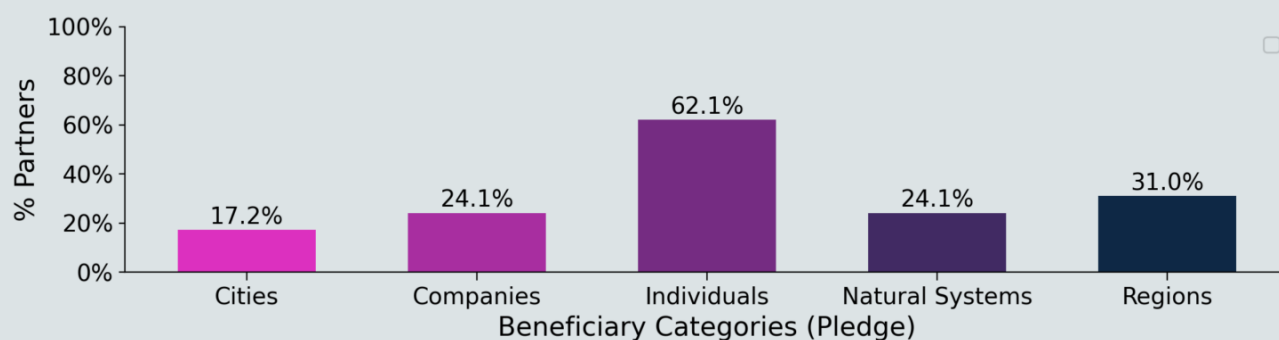


<sup>7</sup> Out of the 34 RtR Partners, 29 have reporting obligations in 2023. Consequently, this report provides an overview of the progress achieved so far by these Partners.



The pledges aim to accelerate adaptation and build resilience by delivering solutions that target any of the five beneficiary groups of the Campaign: individuals, natural systems, cities, regions or companies. Consistent with the Campaign's flagship goal, **the primary focus reported by Partners is on individuals, with most pledges focusing on directly enhancing the resilience of people** (see Chart No.5). This is followed by natural systems reflecting commitments to protect, restore and manage nature as a key priority to deliver resilience. On top of this, several RtR Partners extend their reach to cities and regions, emphasizing the critical nature of urban and regional resilience initiatives and subnational governments. Companies are also recognized as key stakeholders for economic transformation and services provision and the emerging efforts to accelerate adaptation investments. Overall, this reflects the multi-faceted approach needed to deliver on adaptation and how Partners are exploring multiple ways to enhance resilience across multiple levers of our natural, social, and economic systems.

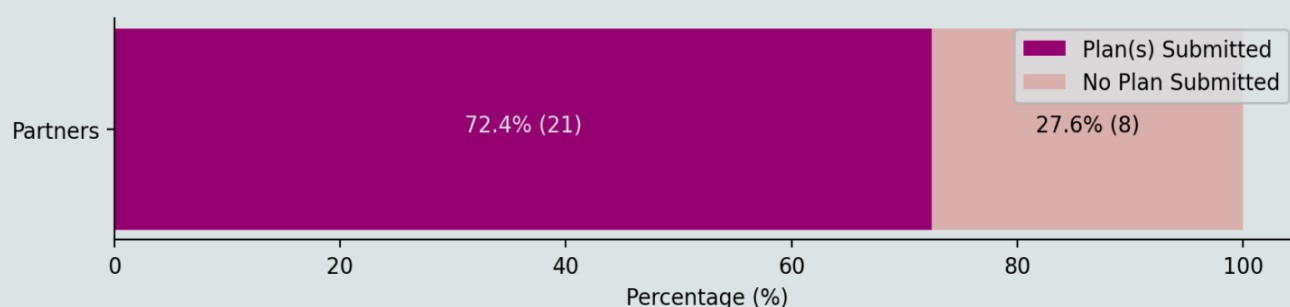
**CHART NO. 5 RTR PLEDGES BY BENEFICIARY CATEGORY**



## 2.2 PROGRESS ON PLANS

The Campaign has gradually started to focus on Plans and supporting Partners to move from pledges to implementation. Partners have developed comprehensive strategies to meet their goals for building resilience. There is an increase of 11% of Partners with Plans in comparison to 2022, and now 72% of all reporting Partners have submitted plans (see Chart No. 6). It is critical to recognize that Partners have a strong commitment to continuously refine, adjust and improve their Plans, with eight Partners updating their plans in 2023, and a total of 10 new plans being submitted during the year<sup>8</sup>. **If implemented, actions underway would amount to an increase in the resilience of 1.87 billion people. Additionally, 15 partners are mobilizing US\$39.44 billion in funding to support resilience-building, underscoring the substantial scope and commitment of their efforts.**

**CHART NO. 6. PERCENTAGE OF PARTNERS SUBMITTING PLANS**



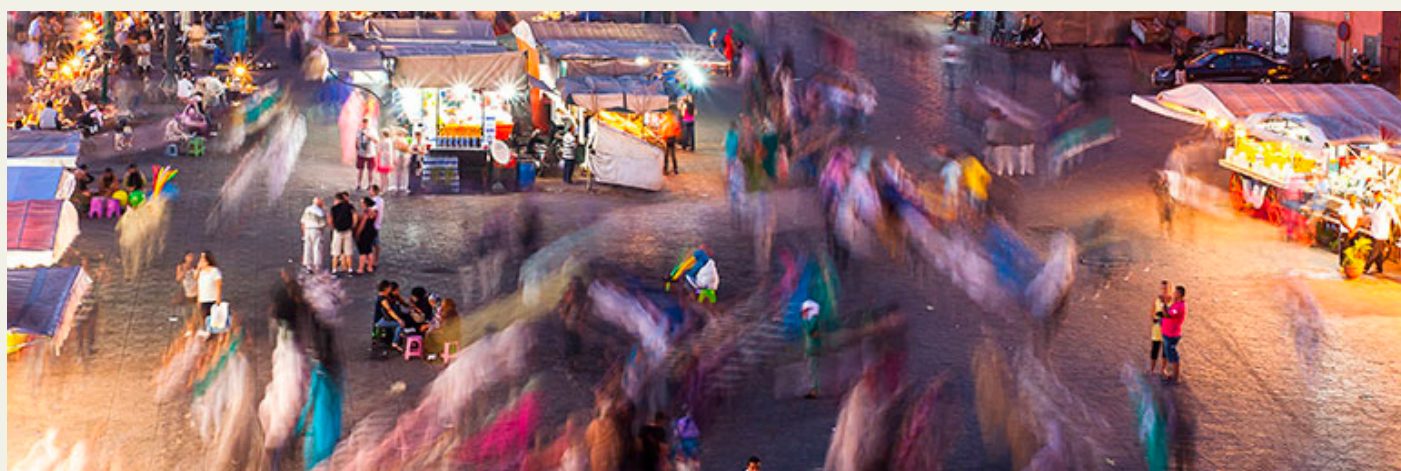
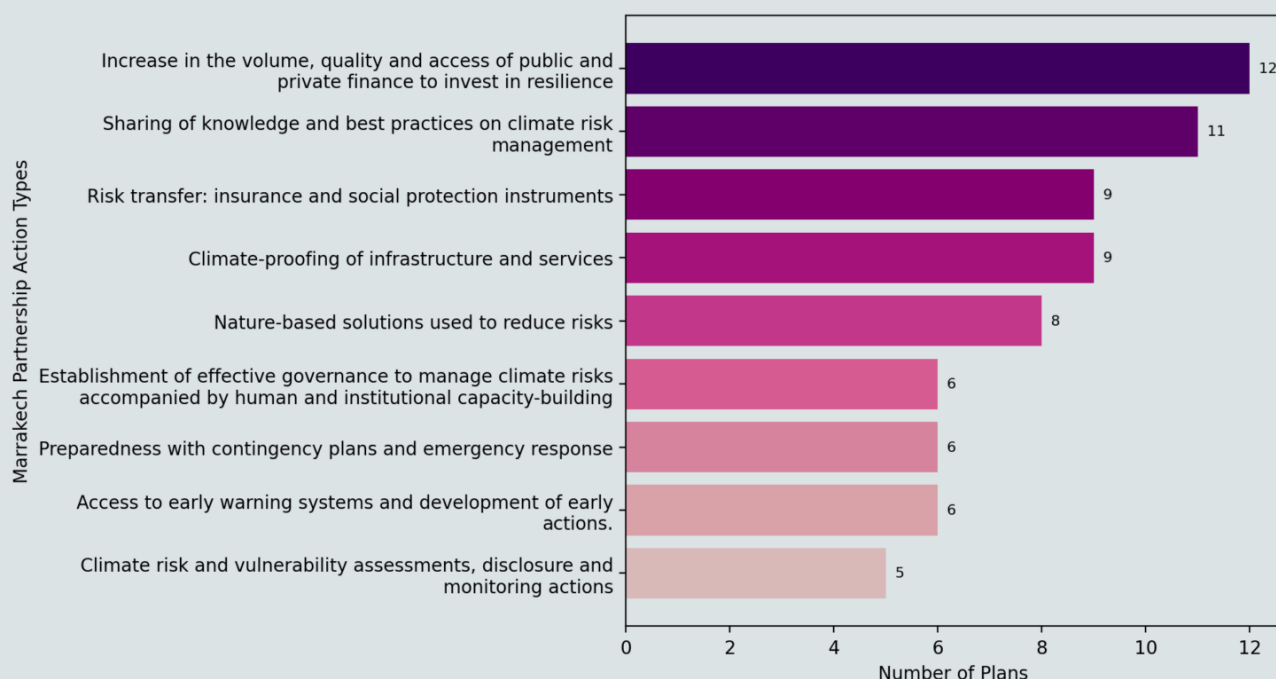
<sup>8</sup> Each Partner may submit more than one plan. Each plan represents a strategy of action.

## Stemming from the direction laid out in the Plans, strategic pathways for building resilience emerge.

Chart No.6 illustrates the distribution of Partners' actions in their RtR plans across the Marrakech Partnership Action Types<sup>9</sup>. Out of the total of 25 Plans, 12 of them are related to actions that increase the volume, quality, and access of public and private finance to invest in resilience. This is closely followed by those that include actions about sharing knowledge and best practices on climate risk management, with 11 Plans.

Other action types include risk transfer through insurance and social protection instruments, and climate-proofing of infrastructure and services, each with nine plans. NbS to reduce risks and establishing effective governance for climate risk management are represented with eight and six plans, respectively. The same number of plans (six) also address preparedness with contingency plans and emergency response, as well as access to early warning systems and development of early actions. The least represented action type, with five plans, involves climate risk and vulnerability assessments, disclosure, and monitoring actions.

**CHART NO.7 RTR PARTNERS'S PLANS PER MARRAKECH PARTNERSHIP PATHWAYS**



<sup>9</sup> A classification of adaptation action formally adopted by the Marrakech Partnership to guide and organize its work.

**These actions build resilience by promoting key conditions that are needed to make people and their environment more resilient.** The 'Resilience Attributes', of the Campaign's metrics framework, capture these conditions, displaying how deeply the Partners' actions are building the shift towards resilience. Charts No. 8 and 9 summarize this, by highlighting how action plans reported across 2022 and 2023 promote the resilience attributes and subcategories recognized by the Campaign.

Chart No.8 reveals that the attributes of 'Preparedness and Planning' and 'Learning' are the most prominently featured in the Partners' strategies, indicating a significant emphasis on readiness and educational growth. 'Equity and Inclusivity' also stand out, showcasing a dedication to fostering fair and accessible resilience measures. 'Assets' and 'Flexibility' are less prominent, suggesting these may be areas for further attention in future planning to ensure a more comprehensive approach.

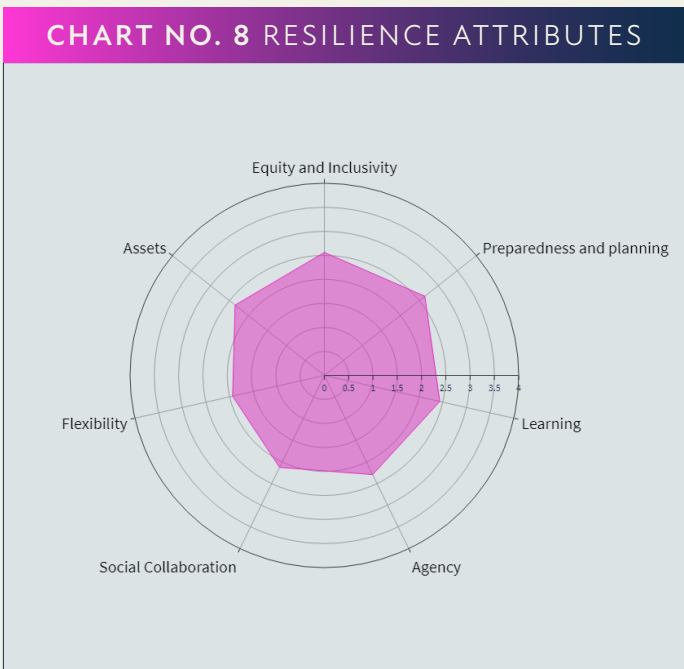
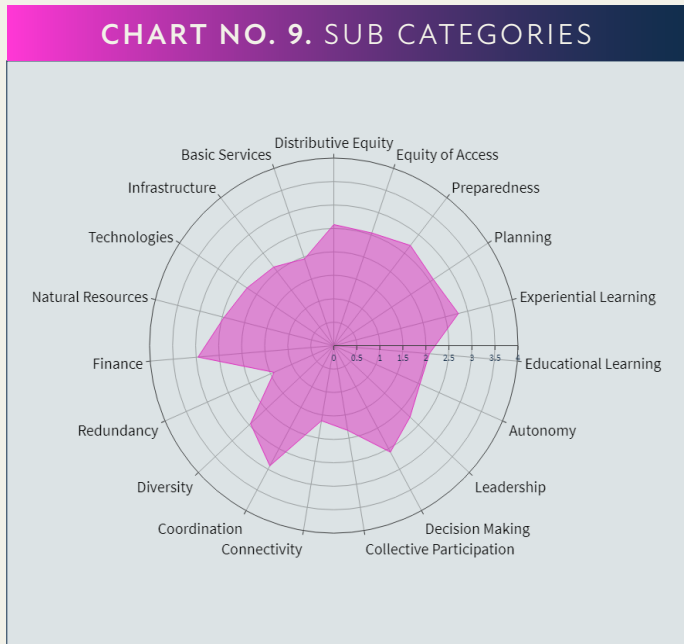


Chart No. 9, shows 'Experiential Learning', 'Coordination', and 'Finance' as the subcategories most used in the 2022 and 2023 plans. It shows a prioritization of hands-on learning, the alignment of joint efforts, and the securing of necessary funding for resilience measures. 'Preparedness' and 'Decision Making' are also prominently featured, underscoring a commitment to readiness and informed governance.

The subcategories 'Redundancy', 'Connectivity', and 'Basic Services' are less emphasized. The limited representation of 'Redundancy' suggests a potential overlook in establishing multiple fail-safes within resilience strategies. 'Connectivity', though moderately scored, indicates a need for improved linkages and communication across different resilience initiatives. The low score for 'Basic Services' points to a possible shortfall in guaranteeing the upkeep of essential services during disruptive events, identifying a gap to be prioritized in future efforts.



Charts No. 8 and 9 demonstrate a clear understanding that resilience is not only about planning but also about learning from real-world applications, aligning diverse efforts, and ensuring financial sustainability.

**However, the analysis also uncovers potential gaps in the resilience strategies adopted by the Partners. The lesser emphasis on 'Redundancy', 'Connectivity', and 'Basic Services' raises concerns about the comprehensiveness of these plans. True resilience calls for not only the presence of strong measures but also the interconnectivity of systems, the ability to provide essential services under stress, and the establishment of multiple backups or redundant systems to prevent failure in the face of unforeseen events. All of these present opportunities to continue to advance and strengthen the Campaign and the work with the Partners.**



### 3. Strengthening Transparency, Accountability and Partner's Capacity

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While the Partners progress in broadening their membership, commitments and strengthening their action plans, the Campaign has been progressing in reinforcing its ability to track these advances in an increasingly transparent and accountable manner. The Campaign worked with Partners to strengthen their capacity and the necessary conditions to advance in identifying and overcoming gaps. This chapter focuses on the Campaign's progress in strengthening its governance structures (3.1), the refinement of the Metrics Framework (3.2), and in assessing and enhancing the capacity of its Partners (3.3).

TRANSPARENCY  
ACCOUNTABILITY  
CAPACITY

## 3.1 GOVERNANCE STRENGTHENING

In 2023, the campaign embarked on a metrics enhancement process to strengthen the RtR Metrics Framework with the objective of 1) improving the capacity of the Partners to provide quantifiable pledges in the form of the number of individuals reached by their activities and 2) enhancing the granularity and transparency of the qualification of the impacts through the Resilience Attributes. These two goals in turn relate with the key components of RtR's Metrics Framework: the quantitative assessment of the magnitude of beneficiaries and the qualitative assessment of the depth of impact.

To undertake the metrics enhancement process, the Campaign underwent an open recruitment process to enlarge the number of resilience metrics experts. An additional six members were brought into the MAG, principally from the southern hemisphere, to strengthen the MAG expertise and representation. Following this, the MAG engaged the Partners in joint exercises to review and refine the metrics framework. This joint effort used tools such as surveys, interactive platforms, and sessions dedicated to deliberation and decision-making to ensure validation, feedback, and recommendations on various aspects of the Metrics Framework. Results from these exercises were used to streamline the monitoring, evaluation, and learning processes of the Campaign to support the delivery of RtR Partners.

## 3.2 METRICS ENHANCEMENT

Based on the participatory process and the work with the MAG and Partners, the Metrics Framework underwent a revision. The quantitative metrics category includes a new formal procedure to compute a magnitude Index for different geographies<sup>10</sup>. This responds to addressing potential challenges regarding uncertainty and double counting in potential overlapped geographies.

In parallel, a list of potential resilience actions was compiled and synthesized into 29 Resilience Action Clusters<sup>11</sup>. This helped to provide a guide for Partners aiming to devise strategies to create resilience, as well as to qualitatively assess the impact of each resilient strategy. For the latter, we built over the Resilience Attributes that were identified in the previous year, as a proxy to understand the changes and contribution that each action makes and how it translates into increases in resilience. These Attributes were refined to improve their definition, classification, and define criteria for their achievement. These Attributes were then aligned with the Resilience Action Clusters, which has supported the definition of a Depth Index, which evaluates the quality of resilience-building plans formulated by the Partners.

Furthermore, the metrics enhancement efforts<sup>12</sup> embraced the Sharm-El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA), as the comprehensive layout of solutions for climate-resilient development across diverse sectors. Particularly, Partner actions were mapped with SAA outcome systems, to understand how their strategies contribute to the delivery of the SAA goals. This harmonization empowers Partners to align their aspirations and actions with the vision of the SAA.

## 3.3 ASSESSING AND ENHANCING PARTNER'S CAPACITY

During 2023, a review of the Partner's progress was performed to guide the periodical assessment of RtR Partners' commitment and engagement to the campaign. The review aimed to gain a deeper understanding of Partners' capacity to report their activities, while also considering their participation and reporting status. This comprehensive approach allowed us to update the list of Partners effectively engaged in the campaign<sup>13</sup> and gain a better understanding of Partners' strengths, capabilities, and contributions. Moreover, it established a standardized review process that serves as a valuable tool to assist with determining the specific actions needed.

<sup>10</sup> The Magnitude index computes the proportion of people who are potentially benefitted by Partner actions in a given territory. This index is then weighed by the 'depth' of outcome, computed based on the scoring of the actions plans in terms of their impact on Resilience Attributes.

<sup>11</sup> See Resilience Action Clusters in the [RtR Data Explorer](#)

<sup>12</sup> To learn more about RtR's Metrics Framework, see our [2023 White Paper](#)

## PARTNERS ASSESSMENT PROCESS

RtR has developed and adopted a protocol that facilitates a comprehensive overview of Partners fulfilling their reporting commitment, involvement in the campaign, and capacity to report. The protocol employs a scoring system to assess Partners, providing a means for the campaign to effectively assess the status of initiatives and organizations.

**This system is composed of four main aspects:**

- 1. Reporting Status, based on the 2022 and 2023 surveys that are part of the metrics framework;**
- 2. Magnitude Metrics Capacity, based on a detailed assessment of the potential to estimate the number of individuals, Ha of natural systems that benefit from their work;**
- 3. Participation in metric enhancement activities and 1-1 meetings, and**
- 4. their contributions in mainstreaming resilience as a RtR Partner.**

Each aspect is assessed by categorizing Partners based on their current status and capacities, with scores ranging from 0 to 3 points per aspect (from worst to best). The results of this internal review help to implement strategies to support Partners according to their level of engagement and capacity and update the list of active RtR Partners.

This overall process highlights that positive trends are evident as most Partners, irrespective of their campaign stage, are progressively tracking and aligning the impact of their resilience-building actions. Partners are actively aligned or have established impact metrics guided by the RtR framework and the SAA. Main gaps such as action cluster alignment and lack of tracking capacity among some Partners are aspects where continued additional support is needed and will be provided.

To streamline reporting processes and avoid duplicative efforts, we have collaborated with the Carbon Disclosure Project (CDP) and the Global Climate Action Portal (GCAP) and are working towards deeper alignment. Moreover, we are collaborating with ARUP to create case studies that help to identify further gaps and opportunities, such cases involve key Partners that were identified through the 2023 assessment. Through these collaborations and ongoing discussions, we are discovering opportunities for mutual capacity building and knowledge exchange. These initiatives collectively enhance our metrics framework, highlight existing efforts, and identify new areas for strategic focus.

The results of the assessment process reconfirm the critical role that the Campaign plays in enhancing the capacity of the Partners to track and report progress. To adequately accommodate the needs of the Partners a series of Reporting Guides were developed, Q&A sessions were conducted as well One-on-One meetings to allow clear detailed exchange of information, interactive sessions, and personalized approaches to help resolve the challenges Partners face.

**In the future, we will implement a strategic capacity-building plan to:**

- **Identify Specific Needs:** Use the current assessment data to pinpoint Partners' capacity gaps and prioritize areas that require development.
- **Tailored Capacity Building:** Develop targeted activities, training, and resources that directly address the identified needs of each Partner.
- **Follow-up Meetings:** Schedule follow-up meetings to provide ongoing support, discuss progress, and address any challenges that may emerge.
- **Re-assessment:** Conduct a follow-up assessment guided by the protocol to measure progress and identify any new or evolving capacity needs.

## 4. Resilience Building Across Priority Systems

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In the RtR, Partners and their members play a key role in delivering an inclusive, just, and equitable resilient development for people and the planet. This section showcases the leadership of multiple Partners through their key 2023 milestones and solution stories that capture the richness of the work deployed by Partners and their local members across:

- **NbS with a spotlight on oceans and land restoration;**
- **Adaptation measures in human settlements and infrastructure, showcasing the leadership of cities and regions**
- **innovative adaptation for finance benefiting local communities;**
- **Key health adaptation action,**
- **The critical role of businesses in accelerating investments on adaptation.**





## 4.1 NATURE BASED SOLUTIONS AT THE CORE OF RESILIENCE

Nature is essential for achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement, providing one-third of the mitigation solution and playing a central role in adaptation and resilience building<sup>14</sup>. NbS are multi-benefit and cost-effective ways to address climate resilience challenges, such as reducing the risk of natural disasters, safeguarding water resources, enhancing livelihoods, food security, and creating jobs. NbS strengthens social-ecological systems by improving and managing the connections between biodiversity and social resilience, providing both immediate and long-term benefits through increased ecosystem services and assured ecosystem health. This reduces the impact of disturbances and speeds up recovery<sup>15</sup>. Nevertheless, NbS requires global investment to increase by US\$230bn each year until 2025. NPS are key in scaling NbS implementation and finance, and must play a greater role in increasing investment from the current level of US\$26bn per year, given that 83% of NbS finance comes from governments<sup>16</sup>.

In the race to accelerate nature-positive action and resilience building, RtR Partners are leading on NbS for oceans and land restoration.

### OCEAN RESILIENCE

Marine conservation is a key sector to advance and scale-up ocean-based climate action. With its incredible diversity, from coral reefs, mangroves, saltmarshes to kelp forests and much more, marine and coastal ecosystems have a natural capacity for carbon storage and sequestration. These ecosystems are essential to food security and act as natural buffers against coastal erosion and the impacts of extreme weather events. Protecting, conserving, and restoring marine and coastal ecosystems is therefore critical to support the resilience and adaptation of coastal communities, and to deliver on global goals on Nature and Climate. These ecosystems, along with reefs, play a key role in strengthening coastal resilience through preventing coastal erosion, limiting storm surge and supporting local water quality, biodiversity and food security for more than 1 billion people directly depending on healthy oceans. Nevertheless, only 9% of total investments for NbS is directed towards ocean NbS<sup>17</sup>.

The ocean community, united under the Marrakech Partnership for Global Climate Action on Ocean & Coastal Zones, has designed a set of ocean pathways to drive the transition towards a net zero and resilient world, and further anchor the ocean in climate and biodiversity negotiations. This set of pathways, part of the **Sharm-El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda's Ocean and Coastal Impact System targets**, known as the "**Ocean Breakthroughs**" – shall be understood as tipping points to be reached by 2030, in order to deliver on the 2050 vision of the ocean designed by the Ocean for Climate Declaration. The Ocean Breakthroughs seek to support multilateral efforts, such as of the Paris Agreement, the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework and the Sustainable Development Goals, and contribute to the achievement of existing global targets.

Coral reefs are essential for climate resilience of many nations, including low-lying island states, among the most climate-vulnerable nations on Earth. **The Coral Reefs Breakthrough** aims to secure the future of at least 125,000 km<sup>2</sup> of shallow-water tropical coral reefs with investments of at least US\$12bn to support the resilience of more than half a billion people globally by 2030.

Similarly, the **Mangrove Breakthrough**, led by Partner **The Global Mangrove Alliance**, provides a framework for State and NPS to work together towards the shared ambition of securing the future of over 15 million hectares of mangroves globally by 2030, through collective action on: Halting mangrove loss, restoring half of recent losses, doubling the protection of mangroves globally, and ensuring sustainable long-term finance for all existing mangroves. **The Mangrove Breakthrough Financial Roadmap** recommends a synergistic toolbox of priority financial mechanisms that can scale mangrove-positive investment opportunities.

<sup>14</sup> Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) (2021). Sixth Assessment Report.

<sup>15</sup> IUCN. ENACT (2023). State of Nature Based Solutions Report.

<sup>16</sup> UNEP (2022). State of Finance for Nature

<sup>17</sup> UNEP (2022). State of Finance for Nature

In this race for ocean resilience, several Partners are driving action to accelerate the protection of marine ecosystems leveraging access to finance and leading on the advocacy and implementation of the Ocean Breakthroughs.

Joining the Race in March 2023, the [Global Fund for Coral Reefs \(GFCRs\)](#) is powered by a Coalition of states, nations, philanthropies, impact investors, UN agencies, and organizations. It is an investment-ready vehicle utilizing blended public and private finance to increase community and coral reef resilience. Supported solutions include pollution management, sustainable aquaculture and agriculture, ecotourism, regenerative infrastructure, and sustainably financed Marine Protected Areas (MPAs). These science-based interventions ensure sustainable livelihoods, increase food security, empower women's economic participation, reduce poverty, and strengthen the adaptive capacities of local communities to climate change impacts. The GFCR coalition witnessed immense progress since its launch in late 2020, including expanding its portfolio to implementation in 14 coral nations, mobilizing US\$225 million in public and private capital (over US\$35m in 2023 alone), and generating greater global awareness for the urgency to scale coral reef innovation -- including through the launch of the [Coral Reef Breakthrough](#). By mid-2024, GFCR aims to expand implementation efforts to a total of 23 coral nations, including many Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Least Developed Countries (LDCs).

## SOLUTION STORY



[Addressing coral-destructive waste leaching and chemical fertilizers, while strengthening sustainable finance for locally marine managed areas](#)

**Partner / Implementer:** GFCR, UNDP, Matanataki, Blue Finance, UNCDF

**Country and Region:** Fiji, Asia

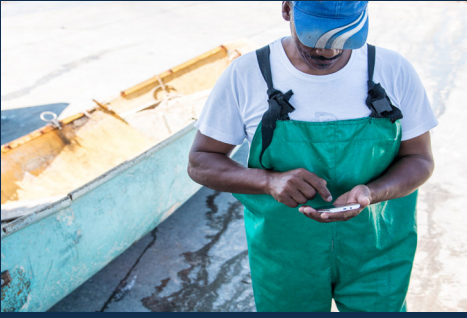
**Impact:** 30,000 people from fisher households benefit from increased fish productivity, 300 new tourism jobs are created, 10,000 households are protected from coastal erosion

The program in Fiji focuses on strengthening and catalyzing private finance for reef-positive enterprises and includes interventions related to sustainable agricultural practices, responsible waste management, sustainable aquaculture, qoliqoli (inshore reef) management, and regenerative mariculture. The long-term outcomes include significant waste recycling, reduction in greenhouse gas emissions, avoidance of mangrove forest loss, increased fish stock, enhanced conservation impact, and socio-economic benefits such as improved food security, income, and climate resilience. The program aims to unlock private investment for projects that promote coral reef health and sustainable marine resource utilization in Fiji, with the potential for scalability and replicability in other regions. The program involves a range of financial mechanisms, including equity, debt, grant financing, and concessional loans for various initiatives.

[The Ocean Risk Resilience Action Alliance \(ORRAA\)](#) is directing millions in investment to safeguard ocean and marine natural capital with the objective to benefit 250 million of people belonging to coastal communities by 2030. In 2023, ORRAA's Sea Change Impact Financing Facility undertook several feasibility studies to construct a global ocean financing ecosystem and began to raise funds for the Outrigger Ocean Impact Fund, focused entirely on 'missing middle' (US\$1-10m) investments in SIDS. During this year, ORRAA has grown its alliance by welcoming 11 new members bringing its total number of members to 81, and adding 24 new projects to its pipeline of investible projects.



## SOLUTION STORY



### A social enterprise supporting small-scale fishing communities with data, traceability and market platforms in Africa

**Partner / Implementer:** Ocean Risk Resilience Action Alliance, ABALOBI

**Region, country:** South Africa (Also expanded to Seychelles, Palau, Kenya, Madagascar, Ireland, Chile, and Comoros)

**Impact:** 37,125 people

By offering a suite of tools through a smartphone application, the project enhances financial management, provides access to savings accounts, and promotes resilience among coastal communities. It contributes to the transition to fully reported fisheries, fisheries rebuilding, and conservation. ABALOBI's vision of becoming a global catalyst for fisher-driven technology, small-scale fisheries markets, and financial services provider demonstrates its potential to transform systems and increase resilience among small-scale fishers. The project focuses on improving financial inclusion for small-scale fishers by providing savings accounts and business cash advance options. It is also exploring insurance products tailored to the unique challenges of small-scale fishers.



Image Credit Anthony Onyango / Climate Visuals



# FOREST AND LAND RESTORATION

Currently, 25% of the Earth's land surface is already degraded, and desertification is expanding, potentially impacting 3.5 billion people globally. Rural communities and small-scale farmers are hit the hardest and, as climate change intensifies, 12 million hectares of productive land are lost annually, directly impacting the livelihoods of 1 billion people<sup>18</sup>.

The restoration of deforested and degraded forest lands is one of the best pathways to accelerate climate action, building the resilience of people and nature. Race to Resilience Partners' **Initiative 20x20** aims to restore 50 million hectares of degraded land in Latin America and the Caribbean by 2030, while the **Global Evergreening Alliance** is working to bring more than 100 million hectares of degraded land under restoration in Africa and Asia by 2030.

Following the launch of **Restore Africa** in 2022, the **Global Evergreening Alliance (GEA)** has had a monumental year with its member base fast approaching 100 member organizations. In 2023, the next phase of Restore Africa was announced, expanding past East and Southern Africa into West Africa, while **Restore Southeast Asia** moved into the design phase, holding workshops in Vietnam and the Philippines. Action drive, GEA is set to step up and scale up on the road to COP28 with new announcements and Partnerships focused on united action and delivery. Furthermore, GEA is hosting the first **Accelerating Nature-based Solutions Conference** in Zambia in March of 2024, bringing together NGOs, governments, the private sector, technical and scientific experts, and community representatives – some of the biggest changemakers and action-takers in the world, all there to move from talk to action.

## SOLUTION STORY



### Empowering women, enriching ecosystems: Laos' reforestation initiative

**Partner / Implementer:** Global EverGreening Alliance (Partner), WWF Laos (implementer)

**Country & Region:** Laos, South East Asia

**Impact:** 300 households, 30,000 trees planted in 185 Ha

The project will plant 30,000 native trees in Laos across 185 hectares, focusing on expanding agroforestry practices and reinforcing ecological integrity in forest ecosystems. The program emphasizes the participation of women, who are highly dependent on natural resources for their household needs and income. The restoration of forest buffer zones will alleviate pressures on forest systems, benefiting approximately 300 households. The integration of trees into agricultural land is expected to improve soil fertility, agricultural yields, and income for smallholder farmers while enhancing biodiversity and nutrient cycling. This project aligns with the UN Sustainable Development Goals and WWF's mission of promoting harmonious coexistence between humans and nature.

<sup>18</sup> Global Environmental Facility. (2023). Combating Land Degradation



## 4.2 HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND INFRASTRUCTURE

By 2020 about 2.59 billion people were already living in densely populated urban centres. The number of people living in urban areas is projected to increase to 3.47 billion by 2035<sup>19</sup>, with 90 % of growth taking place in developing countries in Africa, Asia- Pacific and Latin America. Such changes in demography and urbanization contrast with the fact that over the last decade, there has been a 74.5 % increase of climate-related disasters, already affecting over 4 billion people, claiming 1.23 million lives, and causing US\$2.96 trillion in economic losses<sup>20</sup>.

The evidence shows that human settlements and infrastructure are being hit the hardest by the physical impacts of the climate crisis: it is estimated that 88 % of all adaptation costs are related to infrastructure<sup>21</sup>. In this scenario, subnational governments' leadership of cities and regions is key; while water infrastructure, early warning systems, resilient housing, and built environment are priorities for the climate agenda. RtR Partners are working to accelerate adaptation and resilience action across these fronts and sectors.

### SUBNATIONAL GOVERNMENTS LEADERSHIP: CITIES AND REGIONS

The demographic shift towards urban areas places subnational governments at the forefront of climate response efforts. Cities and regions are uniquely positioned to respond. Having a deep understanding of local needs and vulnerabilities drives them to implement a significant portion of the adaptation and mitigation actions (50% to 80%<sup>22</sup>), which demonstrates their capacity to bring climate action to speed and scale. Their proximity to communities allows them to recognize specific climate change challenges faced by their residents. It enables the development of locally-led and effective adaptation solutions.

The RtR acknowledges cities and regions as key players in implementing resilience action at the local level. It safeguards urban populations and critical infrastructure from immediate climate challenges and their role in mobilizing trillions in global investment to local initiatives. It enhances collaboration between local and national efforts, while integrating subnational actions into future climate goals effectively.

Cities and regions continue to join the RtR under two Partner initiatives leading subnational governments engagement: CitiesRace to Resilience, with ICLEI- Local Governments for Sustainability serving as the technical secretariat, and RegionsAdapt, an initiative led by Regions4.

<sup>19</sup> UN Habitat (2020). *Global State of Metropolis*.

<sup>20</sup> UNDRR and CRED (2020). *The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years (2000-2019)*.

<sup>21</sup> UNOPS (2021). *Infrastructure for Climate Action*

<sup>22</sup> A territorial approach to climate action and resilience. OECD 2020

# CITIES RACE TO RESILIENCE

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In July 2021, [Cities Race to Resilience](#) initiative was officially launched by the UN Climate Change High-Level Champions in a bid to help transform cities so that both people and nature cannot just survive climate shocks and stresses, but thrive in spite of them.

Through Local Governments for Sustainability (ICLEI)'s work with the Climate Champions Team, it is now leading Cities Race to Resilience in support of the Roadmap of Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency to the UNFCCC, and alongside key Partners, C40 Cities, CDP, the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM), Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030), Resilient Cities Network, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the World Resources Institute (WRI) and the World Wide Fund for Nature (WWF).

Under the RtR, Cities Race to Resilience is the primary initiative for cities themselves to join the Campaign, and be formally recognized for their locally-led adaptation and resilience building actions.

Crucially, Cities Race to Resilience aims to ensure that city voices are put front and centre, and heard at the highest international level of climate change negotiations. It also strives to ensure that climate resilience goals are treated with the same urgency as the global race to halve emissions by 2030. The initiative concretely acts as a global platform on which cities can showcase ambitious climate adaptation actions that build the resilience of their population, and thus help to increase adaptation actions worldwide.

The overarching pledge of signatories to Cities Race to Resilience is to integrate climate change adaptation and resilience in all aspects of urban planning and undertake a community-wide climate risk and vulnerability assessment that also includes all vulnerable communities, as well as to report on progress annually. If member cities and subnational governments continue to move from planning to implementation of adaptation goals, the overarching RtR target of improving the resilience of 4 billion people by 2030 is well within sight of being achieved.

Signatories to the Cities Race to Resilience have nearly tripled from 30 signatories at COP26 in 2021 to over 86 cities today<sup>23</sup>. These cities represent more than 129 million people in total and are committing to clear, evidence-based climate actions to accelerate their constituencies' adaptation and resilience.

Being a part of the RtR encourages and supports cities to report on adaptation and resilience progress. As of October 2023, 74% (64 of 86) cities had submitted reports to CDP-ICLEI to track on their A&R progress. More than 80% have a Climate Action Plan in place, while 78% of cities have clear adaptation goals in place.

33 RtR cities reported 117 engineered and built environment actions.

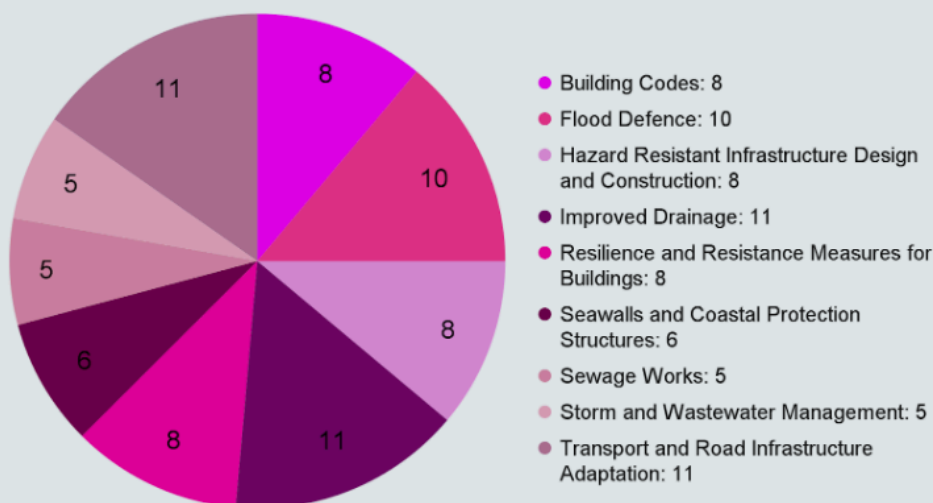
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<sup>23</sup> Annex I



# BUILT ENVIRONMENT:

## BUILT ENVIRONMENT TOP ACTIONS TAKEN



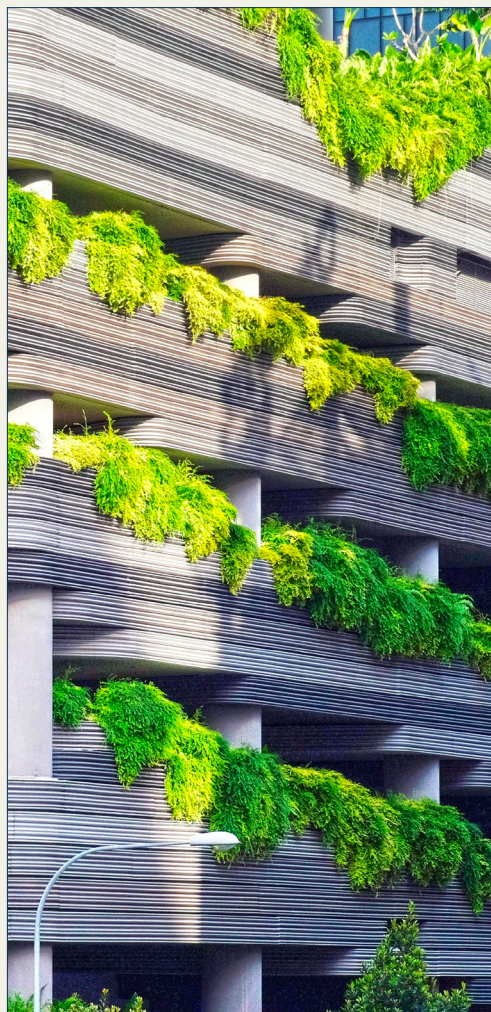
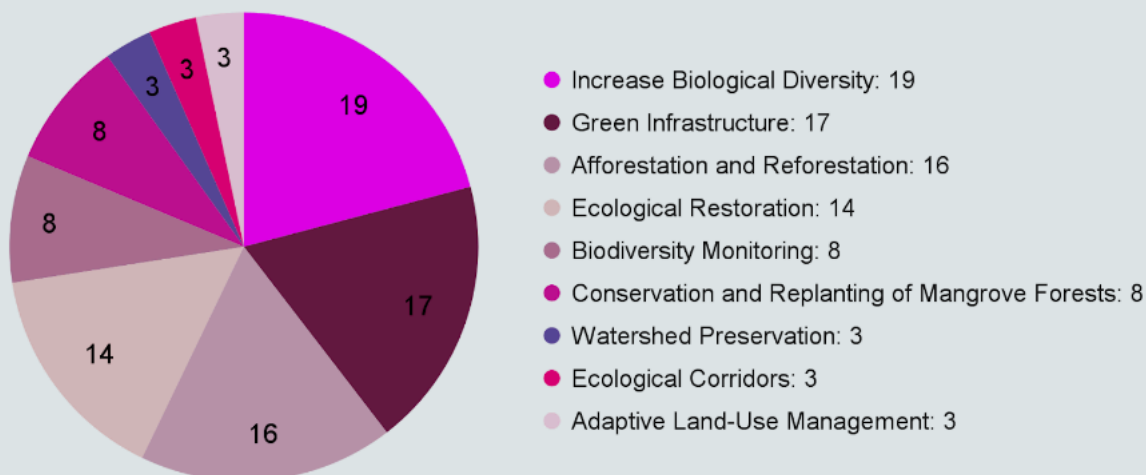
- Nearly 10% of all cities include a focus on Green Infrastructure within their local climate-related plans.
- Of the actions in the built environment that address heat-related risks, 38% of them will aim to improve the resilience of 20% of the population.
- Over 63% of these actions aim to increase the resilience of natural systems to cope with heat-related risks, while nearly half of these will improve the resilience of at least 10% of the targeted natural systems.
- Of the cities reporting, 9% of sectoral climate-related plans and policies focus specifically on water security and quality.
- 77 actions address flooding, with more than 20% of all actions aiming to improve the resilience of 20-50% of the local communities.



# NATURE- AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTATION ACTIONS:

34 cities reported 100 ecosystem-based adaptation actions.

## NATURE AND ECOSYSTEM-BASED ADAPTION TOP ACTIONS TAKEN



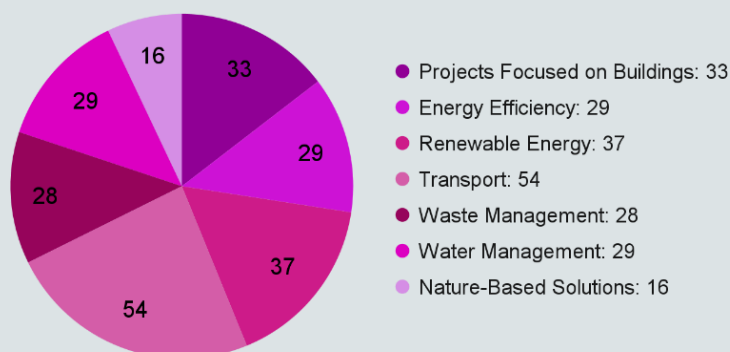
- 11% of RtR cities (seven) reported sectoral climate related-plans, policies or strategies focusing on biodiversity.
- One fifth of all reported adaptation goals address biodiversity loss specifically.
- 60 actions address *heat-related risks* such as heat stress, extreme heat and fire weather. Of these actions, more than one-fifth will result in 90-100% of the total jurisdiction population with increased resilience due to adaptation actions.
- 23% (14 of 60) of these actions are reported to result in 20 to 50% of natural systems with increased resilience, while 15% (nine of 60) of these actions will result in at least 80% of natural systems having increased resilience.
- 35% of cities (23 of 64) reported 45 ecosystem-based adaptation actions related to flooding. Of these actions, more than one-quarter (or 12 of 45) increase the resilience of between 20% and 50 % of the population.
- 35% of the reported actions addressing flooding lead up to at least 50% but up to 100% of natural systems with increased resilience.



# FINANCE:

**57 cities reported 322 climate-related projects within their jurisdiction for which they are hoping to attract financing.**

## TOP CITY PROJECTS FINANCIAL NEEDS



### 2022

Of the Race to Resilience cities reporting through CDP-ICLEI Track in 2022, 80% reported a climate action strategy, with a further 13% developing or planning for their strategy in the next two years.

Of the 50 reporting Cities Race to Resilience cities, 36 of them have a complete Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA) in place, meaning 80% have achieved the Pledge component of Cities Race to Resilience.

#### Of the CRVAs:

- 71% include assessments of nature
- 72% include assessments related to vulnerable communities.

Of the Race to Resilience cities reporting through CDP-ICLEI Track in 2022, 76% have specific adaptation goals in place.

Of the total 224 adaptation goals reported, nearly a fifth (2 %) address the hazard of biodiversity loss.

### 2023 (DATA POWERED BY CDP)



Of the Race To Resilience cities reporting through CDP-ICLEI Track in 2023, 84% reported a climate action strategy, with a further 6% developing or planning for their strategy in the next two years. There has been a relative increase of 50% compared to 2022 of Race to Resilience cities with a climate action strategy (from 36 to 54 reporting cities.)

Out of the 64 Race to Resilience cities that reported to CDP-ICLEI Track in 2023, 55 of them reported that they have completed a climate risk and vulnerability assessment (CRVA), meaning 86% have achieved the Pledge component of Cities Race to Resilience.

Overall, there has been an increase of 53% in reported CRVAs from 2022 to 2023 (from 36 to 55 cities).

#### Of the CRVAs:

- 80% include assessments of nature (44 out of 55)
- 82% of assessments related to vulnerable communities (45 out of 55)

Of the cities reporting to the CDP-ICLEI Track in 2023, 55 Cities R2R signatories reported over 350 adaptation goals.

Of the total (366) adaptation goals, 45% of these cities (25 out of 55) reported adaptation goals addressing biodiversity loss.

75 of the 366 adaptation goals (20.4% of actions) addressed biodiversity loss.

**The five most reported hazards that the goals address are:** Extreme heat, Urban flooding, Heavy precipitation, Drought, Water stress.



### Delhi is building resilience, reducing emissions and enhancing wellbeing across 7 key areas

**Partner / Implementer:** Delhi Government, and others such as Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA), Indian Agriculture Research Institute (IARI), Ministry of Environment, Forest and Climate Change

**Country and Region:** Delhi, India

**Impact:** 32 million residents

The main adaptation and resilience impacts of the commitments announced by Delhi, as new members to Cities Race to Resilience, have the potential to benefit its 32 million residents. The pledge includes efforts to increase access to clean and sustainable energy, reduce air pollution, improve air quality, enhance biodiversity through green cover and wetland restoration, and reduce energy poverty. These efforts also aim to engage the community in environmental sustainability, promote urban farming for food security, and manage wastewater and waste more effectively to minimize environmental impact.



### Manzanillo rising: A Cuban city thriving in face of climate change

**Partner / Implementer:** City of Manzanillo

**Country and Region:** Cuba, Latin America and the Caribbean

**Impact Systems:** Human settlements, Infrastructure, Oceans and Coastal

**Impact:** Potential to benefit <130,000 residents of Manzanillo

Manzanillo, Cuba, has implemented a comprehensive set of adaptive strategies, these initiatives focus on urban green infrastructure, coastal area management, water security, land use planning, soil conservation, energy resilience, digital inclusion, and biodiversity preservation. The city is actively working on these strategies to enhance its climate resilience, protect ecosystems, secure water resources, and ensure economic opportunities for its residents. The multifaceted approach aims to safeguard the city's future, improve public awareness and preparedness, and foster sustainable development in the face of climate change.



### Building Coastal Resilience in Portsmouth

**Partner / Implementer:** City of Portsmouth

**Country and Region:** England, Europe

**Impact:** 10,000 homes and 704 commercial properties

The Southsea Coastal and North Portsea Island schemes exemplify successful adaptation and resilience efforts in the face of climate change challenges. These projects protect homes and historical assets, enhance biodiversity, and balance defense with sustainability. The specially textured seawall in the North Portsea Island Scheme showcases the coexistence of climate adaptation and biodiversity enhancement. These initiatives illustrate how adaptation and resilience can benefit communities, ecosystems, and heritage.



# REGIONS ADAPT : STRENGTHENING REGIONS IN THE RACE TO RESILIENCE

Since its launch in 2015, RegionsAdapt, led by **Regions4**, has supported 70+ subnational governments (notably states, provinces and regions), enhancing their resilience and accelerating adaptation efforts. Regional governments play a crucial role in climate adaptation, bridging the gap between national and local levels, as well as between urban and rural areas. They often hold authority over key climate adaptation domains such as energy, transportation, land use, housing, disaster management, and natural resources.

In 2021, RegionsAdapt officially joined the RtR, encouraging regional governments to share their efforts in increasing resilience and responding to the challenges of climate change. Participating regions assess climate vulnerabilities, plan responses, act on building resilience, and report their progress to the global community. Many regional governments, including Auvergne Rhône-Alpes (France), Baja California Sur (Mexico), Flanders (Belgium), Guanajuato (Mexico), Gujarat (India), Hauts-Bassins (Burkina Faso), La Rioja (Spain), Maharashtra (India), Región Administrativa y de Planificación Pacífico (Colombia), and Yucatan (Mexico), have since joined the initiative and the Race. Since the campaign's inception, 36 regions<sup>24</sup> have reported their progress to the RtR, as highlighted in RegionsAdapt's annual reports<sup>25</sup>, which assess climate risks and track progress. According to the 2022 report, 66% of these regions report climate action plans focused on enhancing adaptation and resilience, as well as 174 adaptation actions spanning critical areas such as forest management, water resources, sustainable agriculture, urban planning, and coastal management. Regional governments place a high priority on establishing effective governance and enhancing human and institutional capacity. They're also deeply committed to sharing knowledge and best practices related to climate risk management, climate-proofing of infrastructure and services, as well as nature-based solutions to reduce risks.

Under Regions4's leadership, RegionsAdapt provides resources, guidance, and knowledge sharing. In 2023, it organized peer-to-peer communities of practice, with a focus on "learning from reporting" and "integrating climate justice into adaptation planning". The initiative advocates for the role of subnational governments at major conferences like Adaptation Futures 2023 and COP28 through the #RegionsVoice campaign.

<sup>24</sup> Australia Capital Territory (Australia), South Australia (Australia), Ceara (Brazil); Goias (Brazil); Minas Gerais (Brazil), Parana (Brazil), Rio de Janeiro (Brazil), Rio Grande do Sul (Brazil), São Paulo (Brazil) Tocantins (Brazil), Centre Nord (Burkina Faso), British Columbia (Canada), Prince Edward Island (Canada), Québec (Canada), RAP Pacifica (Columbia), Pastaza (Ecuador), Santa Elena (Ecuador), Auvergne-Rhone-Alpes (France), La Réunion (France), Lombardy (Italy), Sud-Comoé (Ivory Coast), Baja California Sur (Mexico), Campeche (Mexico), Guanajuato (Mexico), Jalisco (Mexico), Yucatan (Mexico), Cross River State (Nigeria), Gossas (Senegal), KwaZulu-Natal (South Africa), Basque Country (Spain), Catalonia (Spain), La Rioja (Spain), Navarra (Spain), Scotland (United Kingdom), Wales (United Kingdom), California (United States of America).

<sup>25</sup> [RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2021- 2022](#) and [RegionsAdapt Progress Report 2023](#)





### South African province of KwaZulu-Natal leads with community-focused climate adaptation

**Partner:** Regions4

**Implementer:** KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Tourism, and Environmental Affairs (EDTEA)

**Region, country:** KwaZulu-Natal, South Africa

**Impact:** 1,186 individuals directly employed in the projects; 109 tonnes of waste collected; 98 hectares of land freed from invasive alien flora species.

Through sustainable riverine management 1,186 individuals are employed, while collecting substantial amounts of waste and reclaiming land from invasive flora. This initiative underscores the potential for significant impact with limited resources, emphasizing the importance of scaling up similar projects and integrating riverine management into municipal budgets. It also highlights the role of education, awareness, and training in fostering climate-adaptive river and environmental management.



### A tale of resilience and restoration in Brazil's Paraíba do Sul River Basin

**Partner:** Regions4

**Implementer:** Global Environment Facility (GEF), Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Government of the States of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo, Minas Gerais; Federal Government of Brazil.

**Country and Region:** Brasil, states of Rio de Janeiro, São Paulo and Minas Gerais.

**Impact Systems:** Finance/Rural/Human Settlements

**Impact:** 237 rural landowner families benefited; 2,440 Ha of land restored out of 440,000 Ha pledged, US\$1.7 million invested.

By promoting Payments for Environmental Services (PES) and incentivizing rural producers to engage in sustainable practices, It empowers economically disadvantaged farming families to adopt agroforestry and silvopastoral systems, improving their income and fostering sustainable agricultural practices. Furthermore, this initiative strengthens community organization and reduces the vulnerability of beneficiaries, especially in family farming, while promoting food and nutritional security. In short, the project shows how collective action and innovative strategies can enhance resilience, ensure environmental wellbeing, and drive socio-economic development.





# WATER INFRASTRUCTURE

According to the IPCC AR6, half of the world's population experience severe water scarcity for at least one month per year due to climate related factors<sup>26</sup>. Water scarcity and water related hazards are exacerbated by the climate crisis and having a direct and devastating impact on water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) services worldwide, and it is estimated that the water infrastructure sector will require the largest share of future adaptation costs, accounting for 54% of all costs<sup>27</sup>.

Partner [Sanitation Water for All \(SWA\)](#), the largest global coalition of stakeholders advocating for water-sanitation-hygiene (WASH) continues enhancing the collaborations and working on the nexus between climate action and WASH. In 2023, SWA's Mutual Accountability Mechanism increased to 33 climate-focused commitments made by 22 different organizations. Through its multi-constituency Climate Task Force, a strategy has been developed and inputs were provided through a [formal submission to UNFCCC](#) "Global Goal on Adaptation" Work Programme, positioning specific water and sanitation adaptation targets. SWA has continued fostering discussions with major climate financiers and has developed inputs that have been incorporated by the Green Climate Fund in their newly passed Water Security Guidelines and [2023 WASH Annex](#). Technical support to countries on integrating climate action and WASH is given through SWA's climate action country discussion guide and advocating for the implementation of climate tools included in [SWA tools portal](#). Specific support has been provided to Burkina Faso, Bangladesh, Chad, Dominican Republic, Fiji, Mexico, Nicaragua, Nepal, Nigeria, and Peru, and the Secretariat of the Community of Lusophone Speaking Countries.

SWA, with the endorsement of the RtR, launched the Partners Compendium **"Building Climate Resilience: SWA Partners' Solution-Oriented Approaches to Empower Governments and Development Partners in the Water and Sanitation Sector"** at COP28. The Compendium features 37 case studies covering four thematic areas: policy and strategy, coordination, accountability, and financing. These case studies demonstrate the power of NPS working closely with governments, UN agencies, the private sector, and civil society to deliver climate-resilient solutions for WASH. The Compendium serves as a pathway to scale efforts to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals' water and sanitation targets while accelerating global climate action, placing water and sanitation at the forefront of mitigation, adaptation, and resilience-building.

In addition SWA has continued working as a member of the COP Water Pavilion Steering Committee, advocating on climate resilient water supply and sanitation, and raising Partners capacity by developing [COP28 WASH key messages and a briefing for country delegations](#).

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<sup>26</sup> IPCC (2021). AR6

<sup>27</sup> UNDRR and CRED (2020). The human cost of disasters: an overview of the last 20 years (2000-2019)



## EARLY WARNING SYSTEMS FOR ALL

Despite the important progress of Multi Hazard Early Warning Systems expansion in at least 40% country coverage in every region of the world, EWS remain inaccessible for one in three people globally, especially in least developed nations and small island developing states (SIDS)<sup>28</sup>. In an effort to address this gap, the UN Secretary-General launched the Early Warnings for All campaign in 2022, urging investments of US\$3.1bn and universal coverage by 2027<sup>29</sup>.

EWS are essential for adaptation and resilience building, saving lives, infrastructure, jobs and livelihoods. In fact, effectively investing in EWS in developing countries could prevent annual losses ranging from US\$3-16bn, while providing just a 24 hours notice of a hazard event can potentially reduce economic losses by 30%<sup>30</sup>.

In Africa, where four out of 10 people do not have access to EWS<sup>31</sup>, RtR Partner **DARAJA**, which means 'bridge' in Swahili, is bringing a service that aims to improve weather and climate information services (WCIS), including early warnings of extreme weather, for urban users. By adopting a systems-wide approach, DARAJA builds 'bridges' and operational Partnerships between the actors critical to the co-design of the products (e.g. vulnerable urban residents including informal settlement residents, National Weather Agencies, Civil Protection and Disaster Management Agencies, Infrastructure Operators, Media houses and telecommunication companies and Schools), dissemination channels and feedback loops for weather forecasts and extreme weather alerts. The DARAJA Service has been piloted already from 2018-2020, in Nairobi, Kenya and Dar es Salaam, Tanzania, with 982,000 people benefitted. These included up to a 20:1 benefit cost ratio (BCR) in enhanced productivity and avoided climate related damage and loss to users. In 2023, Resurgence announced the launch of **DARAJA East Africa Scale Up Program** targeting urban communities in the following countries: Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda. The DARAJA service is also being adapted for deployment into Small Island States (SIDS) via a demonstrator, called BRéTCAT, for the Caribbean based in Kingston, Jamaica. On July 19th 2023, BRéTCAT launched an accurate and easy-to-use weather app for smartphones, providing hour-by-hour forecasts for all locations on the island for the next five days, and weather warnings that are in force.

<sup>28</sup> UNDRR (2022). [Global status of multi-hazard early warning systems](#)

<sup>29</sup> WMO (2022). [Early Warning Systems for All](#)

<sup>30</sup> International Science Council. 2023. [Report for the MidTerm Review of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)

<sup>31</sup> WMO (2022). [State of the Climate in Africa for Disaster Risk Reduction](#)





## Transforming Weather Information into Urban Resilience in East Africa

**Partner:** DARAJA, Resurgence

**Implementers:** Kounkuey Design Initiative in Nairobi, the Centre for Community Initiatives in Dar es Salaam, Resurgence, the Kenya Meteorological Department, the Tanzania Meteorological Authority and array of key local community Partners and leaders.

**Region, country:** Kenya, Tanzania, Ethiopia, Sudan and Uganda, Africa

**Impact System:** Human Settlements /Early Warning Systems

**Impact:** 982,000 people benefited to date

By providing accessible weather and climate information services in East Africa, DARAJA has empowered vulnerable urban residents reducing climate-related losses and damages. DARAJA delivers its EWS services through a digital platform, a hub for a growing network of Partners engaged in its deployments. This platform hosts a range of digital tools, apps, and resources, making vital weather information accessible to all, with the community at the centre of action.

Partner, the **Risk-informed Early Action Partnership (REAP)**, mobilizes a broad range of stakeholders with the aim of making 1 billion people safer from disasters through early action plans and financing linked to improved early warning systems. At COP27, REAP and its Partners joined forces with the United Arab Emirates (UAE) COP28 Presidency, setting out a commitment to put people, lives and livelihoods at the heart of climate action, supported by early warning and early action (EWEA). Throughout 2023, REAP has worked with the UAE COP28 Presidency to shape their vision for EWEA, resulting in **"Getting Ahead of Disasters: A Charter on Finance for Managing Risks"**, launched at COP28 as one of the non-negotiated outcomes for the Health / Relief, Recovery and Peace Day. The Charter provides a roadmap towards better finance for disasters, prioritizing those at the frontlines of the climate crisis.

## RESILIENT HOUSING AND THE BUILT ENVIRONMENT

The current urban adaptation gap and the rapid urban population growth exacerbates the unmet needs for resilient housing and infrastructure<sup>32</sup>. By 2030, 3 billion people will be in need of resilient affordable housing, to keep up with the need 96,000 new homes should be built daily<sup>33</sup>.

To achieve inclusive adaptation, retrofitting, upgrading, and redesigning existing urban areas and infrastructure, as well as planning for the future with new infrastructure able to withstand increasing extreme weather, is key and also economically smart. Investing in infrastructure that prioritizes climate resilience is a wise investment for low and middle-income countries as it is estimated that for every US\$1 spent it generates a US\$4 dollar return on investment, representing trillions of dollars<sup>34</sup>.

<sup>32</sup> IPCC (2022). Fact sheet - Human Settlements: Climate Change Impacts and Risks. Sixth Assessment Report

<sup>33</sup> World Green Building Council (2023). Sustainable and Affordable Housing

<sup>34</sup> World Bank (2019). Lifelines: The Resilient Infrastructure Opportunity.

RtR Partners Build Change and the International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure are demonstrating their leadership for resilient housing and the built environment by achieving key milestones.

**Build Change and its Climate Resilient Housing Initiative** has achieved substantial policy and implementation action in the past year, hitting a major milestone of 1 million safer people through resilient housing in 2022. In August 2023, Colombia's Minister of Housing signed into effect **Standard AIS 410-23**, marking the first technical guideline in Colombia that provides standards to reduce the vulnerability of informal housing; **benefitting more than 4 million Colombians**, this standard not only recognizes the role of informal housing and human settlements in the urban landscape of Bogota, but also strengthens the regulatory framework around resilience. Build Change also completed a **pilot project in Honduras**, retrofitting single story houses to include a second-story expansion for climate adaptation, protecting the residents from flooding, as well as providing greater habitability benefits through solar energy and rainwater harvesting. This program was recognized as one of the **top 10 social innovations of 2022** by the Development Bank of Latin America. The initiative continued its work across the Philippines, Indonesia, Nepal, Haiti and beyond, as well as starting new Partnerships including Mexico, Turkey, and Mozambique.

## SOLUTION STORY



**Turning money into mortar:  
Transforming the housing landscape in  
disaster-prone Philippines**

**Region, country:** Philippines, Asia  
**Impact System:** Infrastructure and  
Human Settlements / Finance  
**Impact:** 45,000 people

In response to the Philippines' vulnerability to frequent disasters, these resilient homes are not just structures; they enhance occupants' wellbeing, safeguard possessions, and create jobs, ultimately offering a long-term and cost-effective solution to the housing deficit exacerbated by disasters. The initiative's innovative financing approach, microfinance Partnerships, and commitment to addressing homeowner needs have led to substantial positive impacts, including training over 14,000 people in safe construction practices and a 99% repayment rate, showcasing its potential to reshape housing finance for global disaster and climate resilience. This successful model is also expected to be replicated in Indonesia, further enhancing community safety and resilience.

**The International Coalition for Sustainable Infrastructure (ICSI)** has worked hard this year to advance the global discourse on sustainable and resilient infrastructure. This year, ICSI launched the Climate Resilient Infrastructure report series, a centrepiece of their contribution to the Race to Resilience. **The first issue**, released in May 2023, focused on implementation and featured case studies from across the globe. The second issue of this series will take a closer look at the relationship between infrastructure and nature and is set to be launched at COP28. Through their engagement with the UNDRR Sendai Framework Mid-term Review, ICSI has a renewed focus on Climate and Disaster Risk Reduction and is privileged to be co-leads on the Disaster Risk Management and Humanitarian Action theme at the COP28 Resilience Hub.

ICSI continues to amplify the voice of engineers and shared best practices and solutions for how to accelerate implementation of climate adaptation and resilience at multiple conferences including the International Conference on Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Africa Climate Week, MENA Climate Week, London Climate Action Week, the 7th World Convention of Engineers, and more. In late 2023, ICSI launched a global consultation to assess how young engineering professionals feel about being prepared and supported in implementing sustainable development practices, including climate adaptation and resilience, in their day jobs. Results of this survey will be shared at COP28 and will feed into the upcoming #EngineeringChange campaign which seeks to empower young engineers to act on climate change.



## 4.3 FINANCE

The financial sector plays a transformative role for a transition towards climate-resilient communities, natural systems and businesses. In 2021, US\$21.3bn from international public financial resources were directed towards adaptation and resilience, while adaptation finance needs in developing countries are 10 - 18 times higher for this decade<sup>35</sup> than previously estimated. While this is not only inadequate it also underscores that public finance alone will not cover the finance needed for adaptation and resilience. It will be crucial to mobilize private finance for adaptation and resilience.

To effectively scale up adaptation efforts, it's essential to secure additional funding, create a supportive environment, and establish appropriate financial mechanisms to attract private financing for adaptation and resilience.



Developed countries have committed to doubling their climate adaptation financing to US\$40bn per year. However, it's estimated that around US\$212bn annually is required globally for adaptation and resilience in this decade<sup>36</sup>.

Although an increasing number of private financial institutions are recognizing the opportunities to invest in adaptation and resilience, progress is hindered by a lack of information regarding the costs and benefits, as well as gaps in the policy landscape. The benefits and costs of inaction aren't adequately defined or factored into the decision-making processes of financial institutions. Therefore, there is a pressing need to establish the right conditions and financial tools to attract private funding for adaptation and resilience.

Insurers, banks, and investors worldwide are actively innovating in terms of tools, frameworks, capacity building, and mobilizing finance for adaptation and resilience. They are recognizing the crucial role of integrating nature into these solutions and **scale nature-positive business models**. However, the funding mobilized falls significantly short, and progress is fragmented due to a lack of robust policies, regulations, and incentives to encourage the disclosure of physical climate risks and the inclusion of adaptation and resilience measures in investment portfolios.

If these barriers are overcome, cooperation between the public and private sectors in adaptation and resilience finance effectively tackles the profound challenges of climate change, promoting a fairer, more sustainable, and resilient world.

### WE ENVISION A WORLD WHERE:

- Strategic allocation of financial resources targets vulnerable regions for climate resilience
- There is universal access to climate finance and innovative insurance products, regardless of location or economic status.
- Community-specific adaptation finance is developed through collaborative efforts.
- Innovative financial tools like climate bonds and partnerships across sectors continue to incentivize climate resilience.
- Advanced technology and sustainable infrastructure investments for effective monitoring boost urban resilience. NbS are widely embraced in both short- and long-term financing for lasting resilience.
- Developed nations providing support to vulnerable nations through funding, technology transfer, and knowledge exchange for climate adaptation.

Ultimately, this vision leads to societies that are better prepared to confront changing climate challenges, withstand extreme weather events, and adapt to a dynamic climate landscape.

<sup>35</sup> UNEP (2023). *Adaptation Gap Report*

<sup>36</sup> Climate Policy Initiative (2023). *Global Landscape of Climate Finance 2023*

Insurance also plays a critical role to provide financial protection to climate shocks, provide risk analytics and invest into e.g. NbS for resilient infrastructure. Recognizing the industry's crucial role, the Sharm El-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda has formulated a key outcome to institutionalize a longer-term industry approach to adaptation and resilience.

In order to implement and capture the significant momentum that is building in the insurance industry on a institutional level, MarshMcLennan supported by the Atlantic Council's Adrienne Arsht Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center, announced the [Insurance Adaptation Acceleration Campaign](#) at COP27 to mobilize 3,000 insurers and identifying 50 new insurer-supported climate adaptation projects. The results of this campaign will be shared by MarshMcLennan in their flagship report at COP28.

In the same vein, our Partner the [Insurance Development Forum \(IDF\)](#), accelerated its collective effort as a successful Private Public Partnership to address the protection gap and build global resilience. With a unique and diversified membership base across the public, private and development sectors focused on the implementation in the adaptation and resilience agenda, IDF has focused on the delivery of content and capability to build sovereign and humanitarian capacity in finance-aware risk analytics and filling critical model and data gaps across two main programmes: the [Global Risk Modelling Alliance \(GRMA\)](#) and the [Global Resilience Index Initiative \(GRII\)](#).

At the IDF Summit, the [GRII secured new agreements and funding](#) to provide open, globally consistent climate risk data for governments and financial institutions to scale-up climate adaptation, resilience and loss and damage finance and protect exposed communities and economies.

Through the Tripartite agreement, the IDF launched a sovereign risk transfer project to benefit nearly [17,000 smallholder farmers in Uzbekistan](#) over two years. Implementation progress update issued following conclusion of [two-year Medellín Tripartite Project in Colombia](#), on the [transformative inclusive insurance roadmap initiative in Kenya](#) and the inclusive [insurance roadmap in Senegal](#).

## SOLUTION STORY



### [The Medellín Project: A climate insurance success story](#)

**Partner:** Insurance Development Forum (IDF), InsuResilience

**Implementer:** Medellín Administrative Department of Disaster Risk Management (DAGRD)- IDF, InsuResilience and others.

**Region, country:** Colombia, Latin America and the Caribbean

**Impact System:** Finance/ Human settlements, Infrastructure and Early Warning Systems

**Impact:** potential to benefit < 4,000,000 people

The project introduced parametric insurance, offering rapid financial assistance based on predetermined triggers like rainfall levels to enhance financial resilience against climate-related risks and natural disasters. By successfully navigating local challenges, shifting from satellite data to local sources, and addressing regulatory obstacles, the project served as a bridge connecting the insurance sector with the community's needs. Its collaborative approach, local stakeholder engagement, and adaptability offer valuable lessons for similar financial solutions in other cities in Colombia and beyond, contributing to greater climate resilience.

In the pathway for climate justice, promoting access to resilience finance for vulnerable communities across the financial value chain is crucial. Our partner [Scale for Resilience \(S4R\)](#) and its members are focused on doing so. Scale for Resilience co-initiator GAWA Capital is currently setting up its EUR 300 million Kuali fund focusing on Latin America and the Caribbean and India. The blended investment facility for financial institutions and MSMEs comes with a EUR 12 million Technical Assistance facility and targets the increased resilience of more than 500.000 smallholder farmers and SMEs through climate solutions as well as a CO2 reduction of 22 million tons.

S4R initiator YAPU Solutions and member Prodesarollo, the largest MFI network in Mexico, successfully launched a project in Mexico introducing a digital climate risk management system at 16 financial institutions, including an AI-driven recommendation system for most suitable adaptation solutions. Recently, the initiative welcomed its newest member CoK Sodality, the largest credit union in the English-speaking Caribbean. Supported by the Inter-American Development Bank, CoK introduced a digital climate risk management system provided by YAPU Solutions. Starting out with credit products for solar panels and energy efficient appliances, the credit union aims to increase the share of green loans among its US\$58 million portfolio to 5%. Furthermore, Scale for Resilience held the first conference solely dedicated to the topic, the “Resilience Finance Days”, virtually in May and kicked-off its Women in Resilience Finance activity, which puts women who are often most affected by adverse climate change impacts in the centre of action, e.g. with a Mentoring program focusing on training female mid-managers to become “Resilience Ambassadors” in their respective financial institutions.

## SOLUTION STORY



### [Women in Resilience Finance](#)

**Partner:** Scale for Resilience

**Implementer:** YAPU Solutions, CIAT, ICCAD, Locfund

**Region, country:** Latin America

**Impact:** 30 trainees

Women in Resilience Finance seeks to empower female mid-level managers to become “Resilience Ambassadors” within their financial institutions, with a focus on gender responsive adaptation and resilience financing. The complementary implementation program focuses on creating the capacities, processes, and infrastructure in PFIs, so that the Resilience Ambassadors can have the greatest possible effect. PFIs receive standardized capacity building for climate risk management. Climate risk policy and proceedings, a gender strategy, and a gender-sensitive resilience taxonomy are also being introduced, building the basis to develop gender-sensitive credit products geared at increased climate resilience of women. Lastly, a digital Monitoring, Reporting, Verification-System (MRV) is introduced to integrate the measurement of physical climate risks in everyday operations.

Currently the first batch of 10 Resilience Ambassadors from six countries in Latin America is finishing the program. The second round of the program targeting 10 more female managers from inclusive financial service providers has been initialized and support for a replication of the program in the Caribbean has been secured. By the end of mid 2024 there will be at least 30 Resilience Ambassadors in inclusive financial service providers across Latin America and the Caribbean promoting resilience finance for vulnerable women and other marginalized groups in order to create locally-led systemic change, by women for all.



## 4.4 HEALTH

Human health and wellbeing are already severely affected by climate change. The IPCC AR6 stated with high confidence that climate-related illnesses are increasing, including threats to mental health, while vector-borne diseases are expanding globally, along with the increase of heat-induced mortality<sup>37</sup>.

Extreme heat is a major concern. In 2021, heat waves were responsible for 470 billion potential labour hours lost and US\$669bn loss in income in income<sup>38</sup>. Furthermore, heat stress related deaths increased by 68% from 2017 to 2021 and it is estimated that 37% of deaths attributable to climate change are caused by extreme heat<sup>39</sup>.

Acknowledging the urgency to address the impacts of rising temperatures the **Extreme Heat Resilience Alliance (EHRA)** joined the RtR to accelerate heat and resilience action pleading to increase the resilience of 500 million people by 2030. EHRA is a strong and growing global network of over 60 organizations and individuals across diverse sectors, working to tackle growing extreme heat risks worldwide with a focus on people particularly vulnerable to heat impacts. EHRA members range from city leaders to experts in public health, finance, humanitarian assistance, disaster management, climate science, insurance, and infrastructure. EHRA is supported and hosted by the Adrienne Arsht-Rockefeller Foundation Resilience Center (Arsht-Rock).

In 2023, EHRA welcomed 3 new members: the All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI), American Public Health Association (APHA), and Community Environmental Council (CEC). Together and as individuals, EHRA members continue to drive innovative extreme heat initiatives, with an important focus on gender equality and health placing women at the core of their resilience action. The following two case studies, together have a direct impact on improving the wellbeing and resilience of 23,3000 women in Indian and Sierra Leone. These projects have the opportunity to be scaled and replicated with the potential to benefit millions of people across Asia and Africa.

### SOLUTION STORY



#### **Extreme Heat Protection Initiative: A Parametric Insurance Supporting Women Workers**

**Implementer:** Self-Employed Women's Association (SEWA)

**Country and Region:** India, Asia

**Impact:** Initially targeted 21,000 SEWA women in seven trades, with plans to scale to the broader 2.6 million SEWA member community that spans 18 states and expand to other countries in Asia and Africa.

The Extreme Heat Protection Initiative focuses on protecting the Livelihoods of heat-exposed women in India's informal sector. The initiative combines risk transfer through an Extreme Heat Income Microinsurance Product with risk reduction measures, heat early warning systems, and financial inclusion efforts. By offering parametric insurance, safety equipment, and early warning systems, this initiative aims to provide income support and enhance the resilience of women in the informal sector against the adverse impacts of extreme heat.



<sup>37</sup> IPCC (2021), AR6

<sup>38</sup> WMO (2023). State of Climate Services: Health Report

<sup>39</sup> WMO (2023). State of Climate Services: Health Report



### Market Shading in Freetown

**Implementer:** Chief Heat Officer of Freetown, Sierra Leone (Eugenia Kargbo), and Arsht-Rock

**Country and Region:** Sierra Leone, Africa

**Impact:** Over 2,300 women directly benefited, with indirect benefits to 11,500 individuals

The Market Cover Shade Project in Freetown, Sierra Leone, addresses the adverse impacts of extreme heat on outdoor workers with a focus on women. By constructing shade structures and installing solar lights in major street markets, the shade cover protects women working in markets from extreme heat exposure, enhances their economic opportunities and contributes to the local economy by generating income for local contractors. This project not only improves the wellbeing and livelihoods of women but also raises public awareness about heat risks and mitigation solutions.

## THE BUSINESS LEADERSHIP CASE: GSK BUILDING HEALTH RESILIENCE TO CLIMATE CHANGE

Climate change and nature loss are an urgent threat to human health. For example, air pollution worsens respiratory disease, warmer and wetter weather puts more people at risk of malaria and other mosquito-borne diseases, and the destruction of forests increases the risk of pandemics. To get ahead of disease, action on climate and nature loss must be taken.

GSK is the first biopharma company to join the Race to Resilience at COP27 as a business leadership case study, and it is focused on leveraging investment and Partnerships to build health resilience to climate change. GSK contributions to health resilience focus on three main areas: Innovation for climate sensitive diseases, working with Partners to strengthen health systems, and finally, investing in the protection and restoration of nature

**Innovation for climate-sensitive diseases:** Nearly 60% of infectious diseases are susceptible to being aggravated by climate change, and the most vulnerable populations, who have contributed the least to climate change, are set to bear the brunt of this burden. For some of these diseases, there are currently no approved vaccines or medicines, and where medicines do exist, drug resistance threatens their efficacy, or they aren't fit for purpose.

GSK's biggest contribution to adaptation and resilience is in science, developing needed medicines and vaccines. Currently, GSK is on track to invest, over the next decade, more than 50% of its £1bn global health R&D budget on climate-aggravated diseases, such as malaria and typhoid which impact lower-income countries.

**Partnerships to improve health system resilience:** Climate change is putting further pressure on already stretched health systems. Well trained health workers are essential for ensuring access to quality care, and new tools such as disease surveillance can help health systems most effectively utilize their resources.

Through their long-standing Partnership with Save the Children, GSK recently announced a further 5-year and £15 million commitment, working to increase child vaccination rates, with a focus on reducing the number of 'zero dose' children in Ethiopia and Nigeria. The combined impacts of climate change, poverty, instability and the pandemic have triggered the biggest global decline in routine immunization for 30 years. In addition, GSK is also working with Microsoft and the Centre for Health and Disease Studies Nepal on a disease surveillance project using Microsoft's Premonition systems to better understand how AI and robotics can support communities in responding to vector borne diseases and climate change.

**Protecting and restoring nature:** Water, good air quality and thriving natural ecosystems are vital to human health and wellbeing. This year, GSK worked alongside Pollination with contributions from leading experts, including the Technical Secretariat of the RtR, to develop an innovative toolkit to support those working on NbS. The toolkit aims to ensure that human health becomes a key outcome in the world's drive to protect and restore nature. Investing in NbS is a key part of addressing climate change, reducing nature loss and building resilience, but integral to this is ensuring the projects and credits are genuine and high-quality.

### Building the resilience of communities to support vulnerable health systems

Through GSK's Partnership with Save the Children, they are investing to build the resilience of communities to support vulnerable health systems to prepare for and respond to climate shocks and stresses. Save the Children's Anticipatory Action (AA) work is taking a proactive approach to get ahead of emerging risks, implementing early action activities with at-risk communities. A pilot project in Nepal will help test and then roll-out activities.

In addition, GSK is seed funding the design of two ground-breaking climate health adaptation projects with Partner governments in Malawi and Senegal. When approved, the designs will catalyze an investment of over US\$60 million across the two countries from the Green Climate Fund.

### Focusing on water to build climate resilience in India

Water is not only vital for our health, but also plays a crucial role in the production of GSK's medicines and vaccines. GSK is putting a focus on water as a key part of building climate resilience and contributing to a net zero, nature positive world. In Nashik, India, a water-stressed region where GSK operates, GSK has partnered with a local NGO, WOTR, on a water replenishment project designed to improve ecosystem conditions, enhance the climate resilience of local agriculture, and empower local villages to manage water resources to improve their health and livelihoods.

GSK is also a founding Partner of the Women + Water Collaborative in India which was launched in October, working with the RtR Partner the Water Resilience Coalition. [See this case study on page 46.](#)



## BUILDING PSYCHOLOGICAL RESILIENCE

Resilient people are essential for building and maintaining resilient communities, but people are struggling. Today, 1 billion people live with mental health conditions and the climate crisis is putting an extra pressure on low and middle income countries where 75% of people suffering from mental health disorders lack access to treatment<sup>40</sup>, and while psychological resilience is strong in many frontline communities, it's also tenuous and increasingly vital.

Mental health is notably affected by climate impacts, not to mention the compounding effects of other human development challenges in climate-affected areas. These conditions not only fuel emotional distress but also erode collective efficacy, empowerment, and social ties required for significant change.

**COP2 (Care of People x Planet)** is a global network comprising more than 460 organizations working at the multiple and growing intersections of community psychological resilience and climate change. Managed by the Billion Minds Project at Columbia University, it is the Lead Collaborator for Psychological Resilience in the RtR. It collaborates across the campaign to integrate and embed capacity for psychological resilience within RtR Partners in all contexts and all systems. At COP28, COP2 will launch a Roadmap strategy outlining the essential components of how Partners and members of the campaign, and beyond, can do this. COP2 will also unveil a first wave of RtR Partner "Early Adopter" initiatives that puts that strategy to work.

<sup>40</sup> WHO (2022). Mental health and Climate Change: Policy Brief



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## In 2023, COP2 achieved key milestones to mainstreaming psychological resilience building:

**Completion of the Roadmap:** The intention of preparing this Roadmap was announced as part of the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda (SAA) at COP27. That strategy benefitted from input of a global network of subject matter experts, and by two rounds of global Dialogues, hosted by each of the COP2 Regional Hubs.

**Launch of Early Adopters:** In tandem with the release of the Roadmap is the launch of Early Adopters that will begin to put the Roadmap strategy, and its model of psychological resilience as an ongoing process, to work. These Adopters are stakeholders across all seven priority systems of climate adaptation of the SAA, which are advancing psychological resilience capacity within their existing climate adaptation aims, members, and priorities. These adopters not only show the wide (if not universal) applicability, value and versatility of this work, but will be the foundation for a path to scale.

### Early Adopter efforts include:

- **The Global Evergreening Alliance**, is working to mainstream psychological resilience within its work to promote regenerative farming practices to over 3 million farmers and their families across Africa.
- **With the inclusion of 'Health Systems' as a new focus area** in the RtR and SAA initiatives, ICLEI plans to partner with experts in health and mental health planning. This collaboration aims to conduct surveys and focus groups with its member local urban governments. The objective is to develop a comprehensive best practice guide which will assist these governments worldwide in strengthening health and mental health systems, thereby enhancing overall community wellbeing.
- **BRAC University, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and Roof Over our Heads (ROOH)** will show how psychological resilience can be integrated in the "Local Led Adaptation"(LLA) model of empowered climate resilience capacity and change, through both enabling residents of informal settlements to co-create solutions as well as equip local governments to carry on the task of psychological resilience as part of LLA.
- **The MicroInsurance Network will convene and facilitate a process to identify consensus on tools and measures to capture the costs and value investments in psychological strengthening** along with other alliances of insurers developing accessible financial safety nets for responding to the losses and damages of climate impacts.

In 2024, the initiative will begin Early Adopter efforts to integrate psychological resilience into work. In collaboration with some RtR Partners, the initiative will enhance the capacity of Early Adopters and extend this model to others. The goal is to generate valuable learnings, broaden participation, and impact global and regional policy forums, investments, and practices. To achieve this, the initiative will strengthen the implementation and action capacity of COP2 Regional Hubs and global networks like WEF Global Shaper COP2 Ambassador Hubs. These efforts will encourage the adoption of the Roadmap strategy through local initiatives, fostering a global impact in the process.



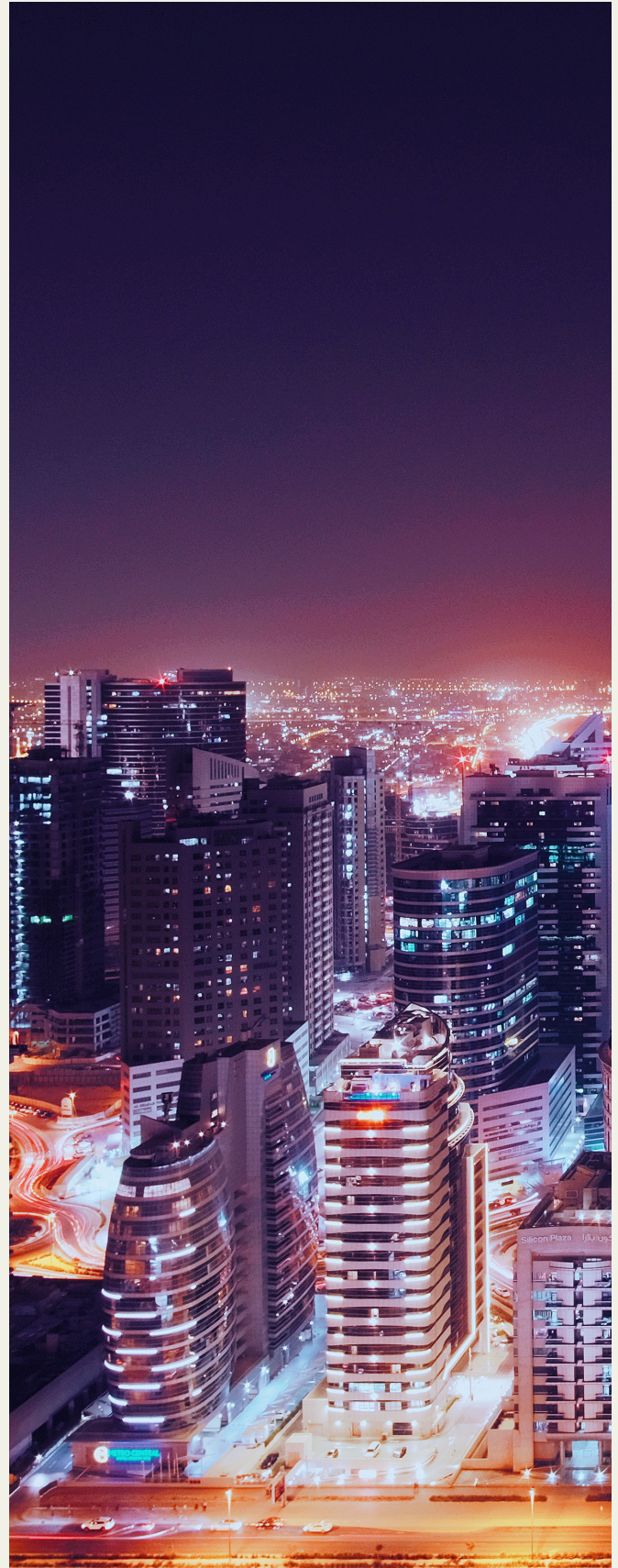


## 4.5 THE BUSINESS CASE FOR ADAPTATION AND RESILIENCE

Businesses cannot avoid being a critical stakeholder in adaptation with many in the private sector already being impacted by climate change. According to Lloyds 2023 Systemic Risk Scenario, global economic losses caused by extreme weather events over a period of five years could range between US\$3 trillion, in the lowest risk scenario, to up to US\$17.6 trillion in the severest scenario<sup>41</sup>. Climate impacts to supply and value chains, operations, workforces, markets and their license to operate will all drive the business case for adaptation. The business case for adaptation and resilience creates a triple bottom line dividend through avoided losses, economic benefits and social, environmental benefits<sup>42</sup>. While only 32% of all private finance mobilized by official development interventions between 2018 and 2020 targeted climate-related issues, only 4% was for adaptation and 3% for both mitigation and adaptation<sup>43</sup>. Investment in adaptation and resilience is the smart thing to do, with returns of investments that, depending on the business sectors, can go between 2:1 to 10:1<sup>44</sup>. There are enormous market opportunities for businesses that develop and scale the solutions the world requires.

Partner, **Resilience First** is the world's largest business network setting the standard for resilience leadership in the private sector for a safe, secure, and sustainable future. Resilience First empowers 600 businesses in 150 countries, harnessing the potential of more than 10 million employees worldwide.

The recognition of climate risks as major threats to the global economy, with far-reaching implications for communities, businesses, and overall stability, presents a unique opportunity. It catalyzes action by engaging the private sector, a key driver of the global economy. In this context, businesses are pivotal in strengthening economies and safeguarding community wellbeing. However, the lack of a clear language, pathway, framework, and platform for peer exchange hinders the development of climate resilience across industry sectors. To address this gap, **Resilience First**, together with its Partners the **Center for Climate and Energy Solutions (C2ES)** and **Resilience Rising**, is embarking on a pioneering multi-year initiative which will establish a robust business framework enabling companies to build climate resilience, disclose corporate actions, and track leadership and impact. This ambitious effort aims to significantly boost business investment in resilience, fostering resilient economies and safeguarding climate-vulnerable communities.



<sup>41</sup> Lloyds (2023). Building global resilience against systemic risk

<sup>42</sup> Global Commission on Adaptation (2019). Adapt Now: A Global Call on leadership on Climate Resilience

<sup>43</sup> OECD (2023). Private finance mobilized by official development finance interventions

<sup>44</sup> Global Commission on Adaptation (2019). Adapt Now: A Global Call on leadership on Climate Resilience

Through 2023, Resilience First, C2E and Resilience Rising engaged business leaders and key stakeholders in a series of in-person and virtual convenings to develop a compelling and easily understandable value proposition for businesses to prioritize, plan for, and adopt robust resilience measures. By October 2023, the initiative had conducted six convenings, (including high-level in-person events during London and New York Climate Weeks co-hosted with the RtR), gathering insights from sustainability and risk experts representing over 30 private sector and 15 public sector organizations.

The findings from these consultations will inform a position paper and guiding principles for corporate climate resilience leadership to be published early 2024. As a result of this extensive stakeholder engagement process, we will also establish a core community of practice that facilitates knowledge sharing, peer-to-peer learning and innovation among companies and key stakeholders across sectors and industries and establish a stakeholder-driven process to catalyze their commitment to climate resilience action.

## SOLUTION STORY



**Banka BioLoo: The company supporting access to clean sanitation in rural India**

**Partner:** Resilience First

**Implementer:** Banka BioLoo

**Country and Region:** India, Asia

**Impact:** Banka BioLoo has installed 10,000 bio-toilets in 22 Indian states, including 1,500 in schools.

The initiative impacts millions of people by providing improved sanitation, reducing waterborne diseases, and enhancing access to education, especially for girls.

Banka BioLoo's bio-toilets offer an innovative and climate-friendly solution to address sanitation challenges in India. The bio-toilets are affordable, easy to maintain, and reduce dependency on resource-consuming sewage infrastructure. They provide a source of recycled water and biogas, contributing to sustainable practices. By installing bio-toilets in schools, the initiative positively impacts the health and education of children, particularly girls, while addressing the link between hygiene, health, and the environment. This resilience-building initiative addresses water scarcity and waterborne diseases, promoting adaptation to climate impacts.

There is growing recognition among private sector stakeholders on the need to develop business models that build resilience to climate risks and that contribute to the adaptation of communities and ecosystems. Precisely in this context, the **Water Resilience Coalition and OP2B**, two important RtR Partners, are helping to mobilize businesses to pledge on advancing water resilience and regenerative agriculture practices.

RtR Partner, Water Resilience Coalition (WRC), A United Nations Global Compact CEO Water Mandate Initiative, announced a series of successes in 2023. The Coalition started by identifying a list of 100 priority stressed basins worldwide for collective impact. Its goals of achieving a positive impact in 100 basins led to a **Business Open Call for Water Impact**, one of the primary outcomes of the 2023 UN Water Conference. This goal was also adopted as the key pillar for water in the **UN Global Compact campaign Forward Faster**. During the 2023 UN Water Conference, the WRC launched its investment portfolio and, in Partnership with WaterEquity, announced a US\$150 million fund to reach 5 million people with water access and sanitation. Following this success, a second fund, focused on Water and Climate, opened, with investments going over US\$90 million already. The Coalition continues advancing its collective action work with 21 projects ongoing in six countries and 12 basins. The initial aggregated impact from the actions of its members accounts for over 1 billion m<sup>3</sup>/year of water saved and/or replenished, more than 130 million people with water access and sanitation (consolidated efforts since the start of the actions), and 700 thousand hectares of native ecosystems conserved and/or restored. Among the companies dedicated to positively influencing the 100 priority stressed basins, the WRC currently has over 80 companies actively involved.



## SOLUTION STORY



### The Women + Water Collaborative India

**Partner:** Water Resilience Coalition

**Implementer:** United Nations Global Compact CEO Water Mandate Initiative, WaterEquity, The Nature Conservancy, WaterAid, GAP Inc., Cargill, GSK, and others

**Country and Region:** India, Asia

**Impact:** 2.4 million people with improved access to water and sanitation in India from 2017 and 2023 and additional 0.5 million people by 2030

Managed by WaterAid, this initiative addresses water access and sanitation (WASH) in India's Krishna and Godavari basins and aims to impact up to half a million people by 2030. Marking WRC's first venture beyond a bilateral partnership, the project evolved from a collaboration between GAP Inc. and USAID, which previously benefited 2 million people with WASH, into a collective action. The initial efforts will concentrate on five states and six key districts within these priority basins. Officially launched on 16 November, the first-of-its kind project unites companies across various sectors, including Gap Inc., Cargill, and GSK under a unified objective, governance, and reporting structure, focusing on enhancing the lives of vulnerable communities, with particular attention to women's empowerment and climate resilience."

Partner [One Planet Business for Biodiversity \(OP2B\)](#) continued to work on developing the enabling conditions to scale regenerative agriculture across its 29 members' supply chains. Among its focus areas was enhancing transparent outcome-based reporting metrics for regenerative agriculture, advocating for positive policy for de-risking the transition for farmers, and exploring the link between nutrient density and regenerative agriculture. These ongoing actions are strengthening the industries' role of building resilience in the agricultural value chain, contributing to improved food security and farmer livelihoods.

In addition, OP2B deep dived in the business case for regenerative agriculture, publishing the report "[Cultivating farmer prosperity: Investing in regenerative agriculture](#)", finding that with a three to five year transition farmers adopting sustainable regenerative practices can anticipate a favourable business outlook in the long run, with a potential return on investment (ROI) ranging from 15-25% in a 10-year period.

## SOLUTION STORY



### **Knorr and Agraz Climate-Resilient Farming Project**

**Implementer:** Unilever (Knorr) and Spanish tomato supplier Agraz

**Country and Region:** Spain, Europe

**Impact:** 1,892Ha under improved water management, 147 farmers implementing water-saving practices, 173% increase in pollinators and 27% increase in wildflower.

The project addresses the effects of decreased rainfall, depleted underground water reserves, and promoting biodiversity conservation, contributing to a more resilient agricultural system. The project employs cutting-edge sensors and soil probes to enhance water efficiency in agriculture. This results in a reduction of costs, water usage, fertilizers, and pesticides, benefiting both the environment and soil health. Notable impacts include a 37% decrease in greenhouse gas emissions per kilogram of tomatoes, an increase in soil organic matter (a key indicator of soil fertility and carbon absorption), and a significant increase in pollinators and wildflower diversity. These results demonstrate the project's positive influence on climate adaptation and resilience in the Badajoz region.

## 5. Global Ambassadors and their Contributions to Resilience

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**In memory of Professor Saleemul Huq and his unwavering dedication to climate justice and people centred resilience action.** His exceptional leadership and commitment to the Race to Resilience will continue to serve as a guiding light for the campaign as we accelerate our efforts to take immediate action to increase the resilience of the communities on the frontlines of the climate crisis.

The High-Level Climate Champions want to recognize and express their gratitude to those Global Ambassadors who, during 2023, have collaborated closely with the Race to Resilience Campaign. Through their dedicated efforts, they made substantive contributions to adaptation and resilience. For further details on all Global Ambassadors supporting both the Race to Zero and Race to Resilience, [please see our website](#).



GLOBAL  
AMBASSADORS



### **Professor Saleemul Huq (1952 -2023), Director ICCCAD**

**Professor Saleem served as a Global Ambassador to the Race** to Resilience, collaborating with the Climate Champions to emphasize the urgency of escalating action and finance to address climate-induced loss and damage. He was the founder and former Director of the International Centre for Climate Change and Development (ICCCAD), and a Senior Fellow and Associate of the Institute for Environment and Development (IIED). He was also a professor at the Independent University, Bangladesh, and an advisor to the Least Developed Countries (LDC) Group of the UNFCCC.

Professor Saleem was recognized for his exemplary work with numerous awards, including an OBE from Queen Elizabeth in the 2022 New Year's Honors List.



### **Emma Howard Boyd, Chair UK Environment Agency**

Since coming to the end of her second term as Chair of the UK's Environment Agency, Emma continues championing resilience. In 2023, She played a crucial role in leading the [London Climate Resilience Review](#), an independent review commissioned by Mayor Sadiq Khan, to assess and enhance London's preparedness in the face of climate impacts. Emma also serves as the Chair of the Green Finance Institute. Earlier this year, in collaboration with Oxford University's Environmental Change Institute, the GFI published «[Mission Climate Ready - Unleashing finance and investment for a prosperous Climate Ready economy](#)» which calls for a new approach to adaptation finance. The report highlights significant gaps in UK policy that are slowing the flow of finance in the UK. It includes 25 recommendations from adaptation experts to address vulnerabilities and boost resilience. Emma joined the board of [Climate Resilience for All](#) (CRA), a gender-focused climate adaptation nonprofit dedicated to the protection of people and livelihoods from extreme heat and all its impacts.



### **Nigel Topping, UN High Level Climate Champion for COP26, UK**

Since stepping down as UN Climate Change High Level Champion, Nigel has taken on new roles and continues to campaign for bold action on resilience. He has joined the UK Climate Change Committee, the body responsible for advising the UK Government on emission reduction targets and policies as well as on actions needed for [climate adaptation](#) in the UK. Nigel has also joined the board of the UK Infrastructure Bank, a publicly funded development bank, which invests to accelerate the transition to a resilient zero carbon future and is pioneering inclusion of resilience as a key consideration in infrastructure decisions. Nigel has also co-founded the Climate Capital Mobilization Accelerator, a group of 'impatient, collaborative problem solvers' working to unlock the \$2.4 trillion identified in the Stern-Songwe paper 'Financing Climate Action' which includes specific goals on the amount of finance needed for adaptation and resilience in emerging markets.



### **Feike Sijbesma, Former CEO of Royal DSM**

Feike Sijbesma, as Co-Chair of the Global Center on Adaptation (GCA), plays a pivotal role in accelerating adaptation initiatives. The GCA's efforts are concentrated on vital areas such as food security, adaptation finance, community-driven adaptation, youth education, infrastructure, water, and urban adaptation. Notable achievements include hosting the Africa Climate Summit and launching the GCA Global Business Hub, which underscores the importance of public-private partnerships. Another significant accomplishment is the expanding influence of Africa Improved Foods (AIF). Currently operational in Rwanda, AIF plans to extend its reach to Ethiopia and other African nations. As a social enterprise, AIF is tackling the continent's food challenges by creating resilient food systems. It achieves this through local and regional sourcing from smallholder farmers and the production and distribution of nutritious, affordable, and accessible food products.



### **Sheela Patel, Founding Director SPARC and Roof Over Our Heads**

Sheela Patel leads Roof Over Our Heads (ROOH) an initiative that strives to empower vulnerable communities, promotes cross-city collaboration, and envisions delivering resilient, low-carbon, energy-efficient, and affordable homes. It seeks to involve a wide range of stakeholders, from slum dwellers and financiers to designers and city mayors, to create locally driven resilience solutions. Through 2022-2023, five Roundtables, virtual and hybrid, have been conducted globally in the Americas, Europe, Latin American (LAC) and Middle East and North African (MENA). Nine Labs have been conducted in 17 settlements across India and the vulnerabilities of 68 households in five climate zones have been documented. Community Federations in the Philippines have been a part of a workshop conducted with Holcim in Manila and a pilot settlement has been selected to further explore and execute the solutions.



### **Gonzalo Muñoz Abogabir, UN High Level Climate Champion for COP25, Chile**

Determined in his mission to mobilize Non Party Stakeholders for a climate-resilient economy, Gonzalo is focused on plastic and food sustainability pathways for resilient systems. As Chair of the NPS Pillar for COP28 Presidency's Food Systems & Agriculture Agenda, he advocates for initiatives aligned with the Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda Outcomes, striving for progress in people, nature, and climate by 2030. Currently, Gonzalo leads efforts to build resilience within the plastic industry, addressing environmental challenges and operating within planetary boundaries. Dedicated to Latin America and the Caribbean, he supports non-state actions and collaborates with SMEs, governments, and multilateral entities, fostering sustainable development in the region. His advocacy and optimism drive transformative change on the global climate stage.





### **Racquel Moses, CEO of the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator**

This year, the Caribbean Climate-Smart Accelerator, under Racquel's leadership, launched several impactful initiatives. In partnership with The Sony Global Social Justice Fund and Fork Farms, they initiated the Climate-Smart Agriculture - Caribbean Regional Pilot Project, tackling food insecurity in the region. This project involved granting Flex Farm units to communities in three countries, enabling them to produce fresh, sustainable, and nutritious food. Additionally, their investor forums throughout the year have been instrumental in creating a project pipeline requiring financial support. For instance, the "Cultivating Climate-smart Futures" Investor Forum 7 showcased 27 projects worth US\$41 million, drawing significant investor interest for potential funding matches. Another notable achievement is the progress made on the Caribbean Blended Finance for Resilience Fund (CBFR), a collaborative effort with the Caribbean Development Bank and the Government of Canada. The development of this fund is set to offer accessible financing for renewable energy projects, thereby contributing to the region's energy independence and fulfillment of climate commitments.



### **Manuel Pulgar Vidal, Global Leader of Climate & Energy at WWF**

His global influence spreads far beyond Latin America, advocating tirelessly for nature-based solutions worldwide. Manuel actively engages with organizations like Forest Trends and the Amazon Conservation Association, shaping initiatives like the Science-Based Targets and promoting sustainable practices. He holds pivotal roles in F20 and the Voluntary Carbon Markets Integrity Initiative, contributing valuable insights to the Aspen Institute and IUCN committees. Manuel's dedication earned him the title "First Action Agenda Champion" for Nature and People in the Convention for Biodiversity. His efforts bridge climate and nature, making him an Ambassador of the Climate Agenda. With a focus on critical regions like the Amazonas and Chaco, he guides the path towards a sustainable, equitable, and prosperous future.



### **Sarah El Batouty, Founder of EConsult**

Sarah leads an important rural development initiative, successfully certifying Aswan, Egypt's inaugural World Green Building Council certified village. Currently, she focuses on enhancing the resilience of 19 additional villages through diverse strategies: reducing energy wastage, augmenting renewable efficiency, upgrading water systems, implementing cooling solutions, and optimizing material usage. The aim is to integrate marginalized communities into the decarbonization framework, fostering accessibility to just and affordable solutions. Collaborating with Egypt's Ministry of Planning, Ashden Organization, and the UNDP, she developed the first green guideline for rural communities. As an ambassador, she advocates for crucial support for young entrepreneurs and women in climate action solution-oriented startups. Sarah shares her expertise through lectures at prestigious institutions including the University of Cambridge, University of Arizona, American University of Cairo, and Oxford Leadership, while dedicating herself to engaging students in the RTR campaign.

## 6. Final Remarks

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**The second Race to Resilience Progress Report highlights the Campaign's evolution from commitment to impactful actions that enhance the resilience of people and nature.** It showcases how the initiatives of our Partners are making a tangible difference, aligning with the Sharm-el-Sheikh Adaptation Agenda's key areas, including finance, agriculture, and water systems, with a significant emphasis on NbS, governance, and a prioritization for the most vulnerable communities.

Going forward, our focus will be on broadening the Campaign's scope to address the wider range of hazards and climate impacts, particularly in infrastructure, coastal, and ocean systems. Enhancing early warning systems, conducting climate risk assessments, and improving connectivity and basic services will be other vital areas for expansion. Equally important will be expanding the involvement of Global South Partner initiatives, continuing support for both implementation and reporting.

The Campaign will continue to elevate the leadership of NPS in accelerating action for adaptation and resilience. This will include tracking planned actions, capacity-building initiatives with the Partners – especially in terms of Monitoring & Evaluation, sharing lessons learned, strengthening the nexus between the RtR with the SAA, and enhancing the integration of these efforts with other global initiatives and platforms.

**Though we have made significant strides, our Race is far from over.** The path we chart into 2024 is critical; while there has been an increase in finance, the pace must accelerate. Our focus will be on ramping up adaptation financing, harnessing the transformative potential of NbS, and fostering collective, inclusive action. In doing so we can supercharge our efforts, not just for the benefit of some, but for those most vulnerable, safeguarding the futures of communities globally against an increasingly changing climate.





## JOINING THE RACE

Begin your journey towards resilience by submitting an [Expression of Interest](#). You'll join our existing 34 Partners, involving over 647 members leading resilience action across 164 countries and 86 signatory cities.

Join us in facing the challenge of climate change head-on, ensuring the most vulnerable communities thrive, and maintaining the stability on which we all rely.

***Together, we will redefine resilience and safeguard our shared future.***



## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

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Our gratitude extends to the continuous support of the Expert Review Group, Methodological Advisory Group, and the leadership provided by the Race to Resilience Technical Secretariat and the Adaptation & Resilience Team.

Finally, our appreciation to the Global Ambassadors that catalyze the radical collaborations needed for achieving resilience of people and planet.

# Annex I -List of Signatory Cities Race to Resilience

Tirana,Albania	County Government of Nakuru, Kenya	Olympia, United States of America
La Banda del Río Salí, Argentina	Municipality of Menjez, Lebanon	Oberlin, United States of America
Avellaneda, Argentina	Chefchaouen, Morocco	Metropolitan Government of Nashville and Davidson County, United States of America
Rosario, Argentina	Quelimane, Mozambique	Oak Park, United States of America
Wyndham City Council, Australia	Beira, Mozambique	Oakland, United States of America
Newcastle, Australia	Walvis Bay Municipality, Namibia	New Bedford, United States of America
Dhaka North, Bangladesh	Lagos, Nigeria	Mountain View, California, United States of America
Salvador, Brazil	Comas Lima, Peru	Eureka Springs, Arkansas, United States of America
Belém, Brazil	Makati, Philippines	City of West Lafayette, Indiana, United States of America
João Pessoa, Brazil	San Francisco, Philippines	City of Greensboro, North Carolina, United States of America
Campinas, Brazil	Dipolog, Philippines	Village of Nyack, United States of America
Barcarena Municipality, Brazil	Baguio, Philippines	City of Grand Rapids, United States of America
Yaoundé, Cameroon	Tagum, Philippines	Lusaka, Zambia
Fokoué, Cameroon	Adamstown,Pitcairn Islands, British Overseas Territory	Bulawayo, Zimbabwe
Commune d'arrondissement de Garoua, Cameroon	San Juan, Puerto Rico	Harare, Zimbabwe
Saanich District, Canada	Freetown, Sierra Leone	Ruwa, Zimbabwe
Halifax, Canada	Msunduzi Municipality, South Africa	
New Glasgow, Canada	Sabach Sanjal District, North Bank Region, Banjul, The Gambia	
Gibsons, Canada	Kuntaur Area Council, The Gambia	
Whitby, Canada	Tsévié, Togo	
Municipality of Peñalolén, Chile	Gaziantep, Turkey	
Municipality of Renca, Santiago, Chile	Nansana Municipality, Uganda	
Independencia, Chile	Edinburgh City Council, United Kingdom	
Cajica (Cundinamarca), Colombia	Belfast, United Kingdom	
Cocody, Côte d'Ivoire	Sunderland, United Kingdom	
Manzanillo, Cuba	London, United Kingdom	
Bukavu, Democratic Republic of Congo	Nottingham, United Kingdom	
Paris, France	Wakefield, United Kingdom	
Reykjavík, Iceland	Leeds, United Kingdom	
Aurangabad, India	Portsmouth, United Kingdom	
Hinganghat Municipal Council, India	Derry City & Strabane District Council, United Kingdom	
Rajkot, India	San Francisco, United States of America	
Udaipur, India	Travis County, Texas, United States of America	
Chennai, India		
Pune, India		
Mumbai, India		
Delhi, India		