

How to build truly resilient cities:

Start with People, Not Blueprints

Resilience isn't a technical puzzle—it's a human one. Include slum dwellers, informal workers, women, and young people in planning from the outset. Bottom-up planning ensures real needs, not bureaucratic guesses, shape the response.

Think Across Sectors, Not in Silos

Climate resilience isn't just about sea walls or drainage. It's about housing, transport, healthcare, jobs, and social safety nets working together. A city is an ecosystem—protect it as one.

Bake Resilience into Law

Don't tack climate policy on as an afterthought. Use land-use regulation, zoning, and building codes to steer development away from hazard zones. Make climate-smart planning the rule, not the exception.

Let Nature Do the Heavy Lifting

Wetlands, mangroves, forests—nature is the cheapest, smartest, and most beautiful infrastructure we'll ever have. Especially in flood-prone and informal settlements, nature-based solutions should lead, not lag.

Build on Evidence, Adapt as You Go

Localised climate risk assessments guide smarter investments. But remember: resilience isn't a finished product, it's a learning process. Data helps us adjust, not delay.

Strengthen Local Hands

National policies matter, but real resilience is built in streets and neighbourhoods. Give municipalities the resources and authority they need, and they'll deliver adaptive, grounded solutions.

Prioritise Infrastructure That Lasts

Schools that withstand storms, roads that drain properly, water systems that don't collapse under stress—durable, climate-smart infrastructure is resilience made tangible.

Resilience is about weaving social equity, nature, infrastructure, and governance into one adaptive system.

Cities that put people at the heart of planning will not just survive crises - they'll come out stronger.

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As World Habitat Day approaches - on 6 October - we reflect on the state of towns and cities, and on the basic right of all to adequate shelter.

Work for and act for "World Habitat Day"

HOW TO BUILD URBAN RESILIENCE



WHAT DOESN'T WORK

**Top-down policies
without participation**

**Hard infrastructure
without inclusion**

Lack of localized data

Fragmented governance

**Short-term project-based
approaches**

**Uniform solutions across
diverse urban contexts**



WHAT WORKS

**Community-driven
planning**

Nature-based solutions

Integrated urban policies
(align land, housing &
infrastructure with climate goals)

**Climate-smart
infrastructure**

**Urban content in national
climate plans (NDCs)**

**Institutional coordination
& finance**