

Community Resilience Partnership Program

PARTNERSHIP FORUM 2025



Background

Climate shocks and stresses are severely impacting the livelihoods, food and water security, and health of millions in Asia and the Pacific. Climate change is expected to intensify these negative effects, with the poorest and most vulnerable populations suffering the most. Women and marginalized groups are also affected differently due to existing vulnerabilities, differential access to resources, and socioeconomic norms. The impacts of climate change are experienced locally, influenced by various socioeconomic, geographical, ecological, institutional, and governance factors. Interventions aimed at building resilience should be localized, specifically target the poor, focus on community-led solutions, and promote the empowerment of women. Poverty reduction strategies and programs—such as those in education, health, social protection, urban settlements, financial inclusion, and livelihoods—can help build climate resilience if they are designed and implemented with a strong understanding of climate risks and the factors driving vulnerability. Solutions should be developed within the context of broader local development planning, implementing climate adaptation strategies, prioritizing resource use for resilience, and monitoring outcomes.



The *Community Resilience Partnership Program* (CRPP) has been developed in this context and aims to scale up investments in climate adaptation that directly benefit poor and vulnerable people while developing plans to better finance community-led projects and increasing the participation of poor and vulnerable communities in decision-making.

Objective

The annual CRPP Partnership Forum brings together community leaders, government officials, development partners, think tanks, financial institutions, and global climate funds to discuss **what role can poverty reduction policies and programs play in building climate resilience?**

The **CRPP Partnership Forum 2025** will focus on **urban resilience** and **financial inclusion**. Each theme will have dedicated sessions, exploring evidence for and practical ways to design and deliver policies and programs related to reducing urban poverty and promoting financial inclusion, in ways that address the underlying causes of vulnerability, increase meaningful participation of communities, especially women and marginalized groups, and address the everchanging nature of climate risks, allowing climate adaptation finance to reach the local level. These discussions will link to and build on CRPP's previous partnership forums in *2023 (exploring themes of adaptive social protection and climate-resilient agriculture)* and *2024 (resilience through decentralization systems and climate-resilient skills development)*.



Enhancing climate resilience of the urban poor. City and local government authorities are increasingly involved in addressing climate impacts. Approximately 2.5 billion people live in urban areas in the Asia and Pacific region, contributing more than 80% of gross domestic product.¹ Urban population in the region are expected to grow to 3.4 billion by 2030.² Unfortunately, urban areas are hot spots of climate risk, with often high exposure and vulnerability to natural hazards. A significant amount of urban population is poor or live just above the poverty line. Often living in informal settlements with poor quality of basic services, the poor and near poor have to deal with climate shocks and stresses that impact their assets, livelihoods, and limited savings, forcing them to adopt negative coping strategies. Moreover, in some countries, increasing climate risk in rural areas is forcing population to migrate and settle in urban areas mainly in informal settlements. Increasingly, local governments and their urban residents are simultaneously facing multiple interlinked crises like limited availability of and access to basic services, increasingly frequent and severe climate-related risks, rising food insecurity, inadequate infrastructure, and informality of settlements, housing, and livelihoods. In many cases, urban poor communities are disenfranchised and have little to no input in decision-making processes, further adding to their vulnerabilities. Climate impacts, including flooding, heat stress, droughts, sea level rise (particularly for coastal cities), are further exacerbated by and heighten these socioeconomic vulnerabilities. Working with local and national governments, grassroots and informal settlement groups provide significant opportunities to scale up local level adaptation targeted at the urban poor through adaptive social protection, livelihood support and diversification, resilient housing and community infrastructure to improve the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities.



Financial inclusion to enhance climate resilience. Access and ability to use affordable financial services – from credit to savings and insurance – is crucial in building the climate resilience of communities. This provides the necessary financial tools and resources to proactively adapt, manage, and recover from climate-related shocks and provides much-needed services to poor and vulnerable communities, particularly women, and capital for micro, small, and medium enterprises to adapt and grow. Increasingly, digitization of these services is enabling greater reach and accessibility, while reducing transaction costs. Many opportunities exist to work through government systems, financial intermediaries, cooperatives, microfinance institutions, community-led financial groups, amongst others, to build their understanding of climate risks, invest in financial transfer mechanisms to further reach marginalized communities, and to scale access and availability of quality financial resources to address the resilience of poor and vulnerable communities.



1 ADB, *Building Resilience of the Urban Poor*, 2022, Manila.
2 UNESCAP, *Crisis-Resilient Cities for a Sustainable Asia-Pacific Region*, 2024, Bangkok.

Agenda at a Glance

Day 1	25 February 2025	Day 2	26 February 2025
9:00 – 10:15	Opening Session	9:15 – 10:30	Plenary 2 Building Community Resilience through Financial Inclusion
10:45 – 12:00	Plenary 1 Designing Urban Poverty Reduction Programs that Strengthen Community Resilience	11:00 – 12:00	Spotlight 3 Leveraging Digital Financial Services for Climate Resilience Spotlight 4 Developing Pro-poor Climate-Resilient Financial Services
13:30 – 14:30	Spotlight 1 Advancing Urban Climate Resilience through Community-Based Green Infrastructure Spotlight 2 Enhancing Social Systems for Urban Climate Resilience	13:30 – 14:30	Working Group Sessions 4, 5, & 6
14:35 – 15:30	Working Group Sessions 1, 2, & 3	14:35 – 15:30	Roundtable Dialogue 2
15:45 – 16:45	Roundtable Dialogue 1	15:45 – 16:15	Closing Session
16:45 – 17:30	Sessions Organized by Partners	16:45 – 18:00	CRPP Partnership Group Meeting (Closed Door)
17:30 – 19:00	Reception		