

Strategic Urban Living Labs

Reconfiguring governance networks

A promising avenue

Urban Labs

Urban Lab design should be informed by governance, economic, cultural and political drivers that shape adaptation pathways

(Muñoz-Erickson, 2017)

Dimensions that enable actions towards higher climate resilient development



Arenas of engagement:

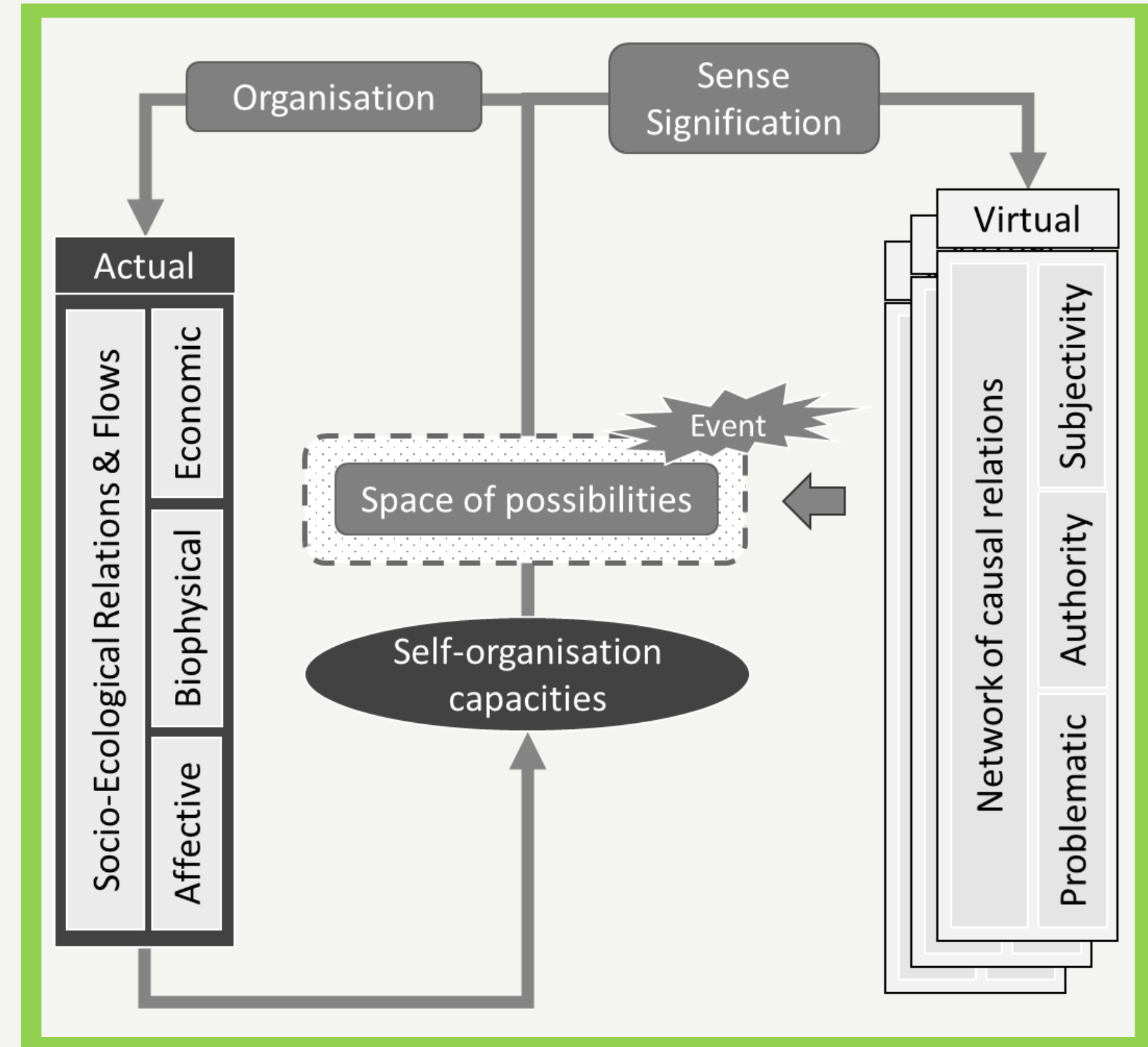
- Community
- Socio-cultural
- Political
- Ecological
- Knowledge + technology
- Economic + financial

(IPCC, 2022)

Affective assemblages

From innovation to mediation

Urban Labs can be imagined not as niches of innovation but as mediating assemblages which may produce surpluses of potentiality



SECURE Labs

Departing from naïve participation

SECURE functions both as an analytical lens and a design methodology for Urban Labs to tactically affect cities' networks and flows



Strengthening and Enhancing
Contextual Urban Resilience
(SECURE) toolkit

(Barcena & Bahadur 2024)

URBAN: Unlocking Resilience through Bottom-up Action-research and Multi-scalar Networks

Community-Led Natural Water Body Rejuvenation using SECURE Framework in India

15 October 2025

Anshuman Karol

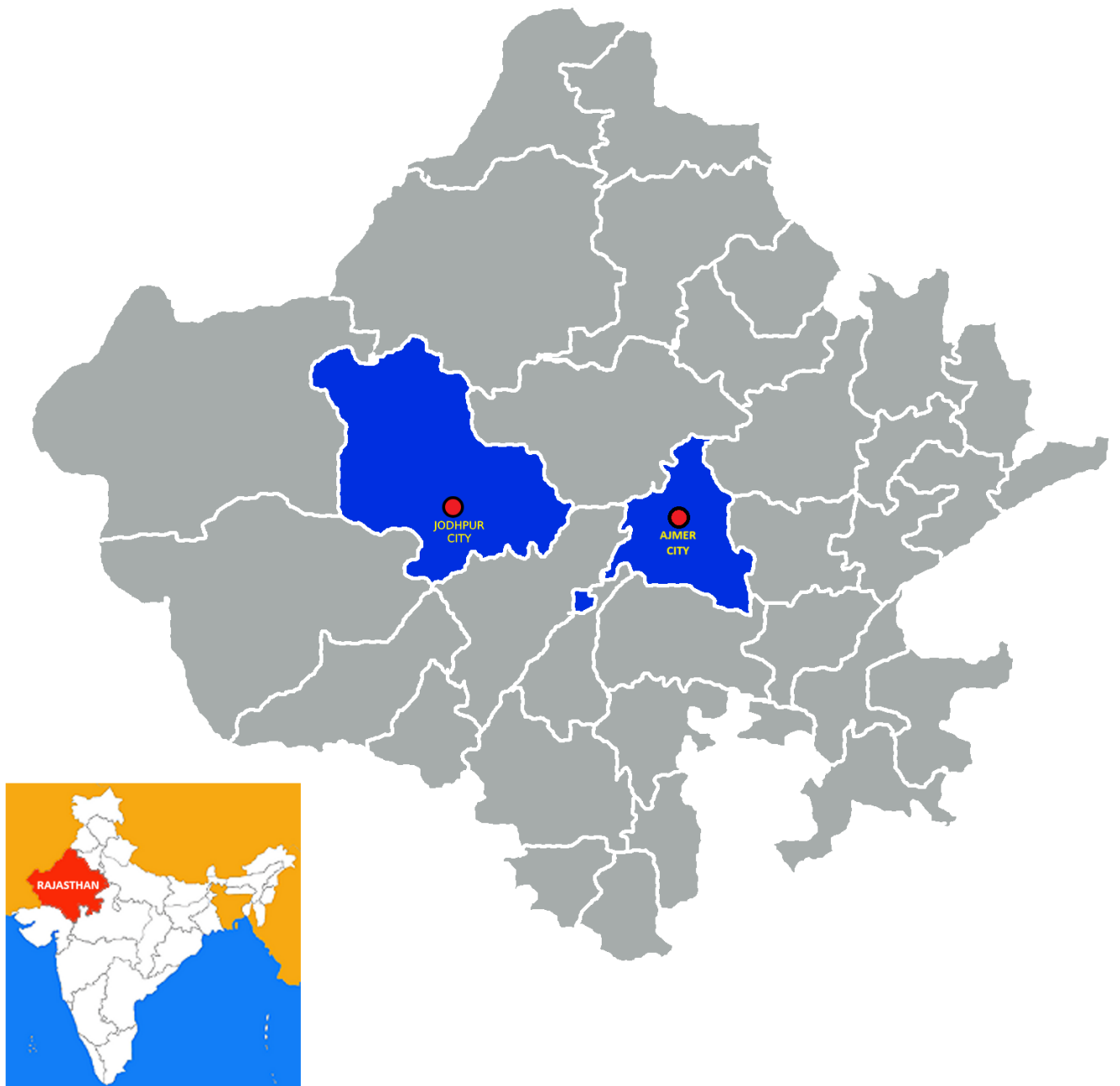
Lead- Governance & Climate Action



Water Bodies Rejuvenation amid Fragmented Governance and Climate Stress

- Ajmer and Jodhpur face intensifying heat, floods, and water scarcity
- Urban water bodies, once cultural and ecological lifelines, are now encroached, polluted and disconnected from planning systems
- Fragmented governance — with Municipal Corporations, Development Authorities, and Public Health and Engineering Dept (PHED) working in silos, prevents coherent action
- Who owns and maintains water in a city of overlapping institutions?

Our intervention reframes water as a shared climate and cultural asset, not a departmental problem



Strategy 1: Co-Production through Multi-Actor Advisory Mechanisms

- Establish City Advisory Mechanisms linking Municipal Corporations, PHED, Forest, Garden, Water Resource & Tourism Depts, Ward Councillors, SHGs, academia and CSR partners. These serve as bridging the departmental silos
- Alignment with AMRUT 2.0 (Atal Mission for Rejuvenation and Urban Transformation), NULM (National Urban Livelihood Mission), SBM (Swachh Bharat Mission) and Smart City funding streams to shared outcomes
- Unlock municipal competitiveness to access Finance Commission grants (both State and National)



Breaks institutional silos by creating shared governance platforms that align departments, elected councillors and other actors toward collective water resilience

Strategy 2: Community-Driven Mapping and Data for Action

- Women collectives (SHGs), students from HEIs, and communities map traditional water bodies using participatory methodology like Historical Mapping, Transect Walks, FGDs and GIS tools
- Produces credible, localised data that influences municipal investment priorities
- Combines scientific and cultural mapping– linking heritage and living memories to re-establish cultural and spiritual values
- Evidences strengthens case of natural water bodies rejuvenation into City Water Action Plans (CWAP) under AMRUT 2.0



Empowers women and communities to generate credible, localized data that drives equitable and culturally rooted urban water planning

Strategy 3: Partnerships for Structural Change

- Women's SHGs, Higher Education Institutions, and Municipal Corporations form a transformative triad
- SHGs act as climate stewards; universities provide technical rigor and municipalities provide leadership and resources
- This partnership challenges gender norms and technocratic control, embedding community voices in governance
- Enables equitable access to AMRUT 2.0, SBM, CSR, and Finance Commission funds



Builds enduring collaborations between government, civil society, HEIs and SHGs to institutionalize participatory approaches in urban water governance

Strategy 4: Reflexive Learning and Scaling

- Review and validation meetings to create continuous feedback loops
- Documenting process and successes in Ajmer & Jodhpur which will feed into state and national dialogues
- Promotes policy adoption and horizontal scaling across cities under AMRUT 2.0
- Demonstrates how participatory co-production reforms governance and not just restore natural water bodies

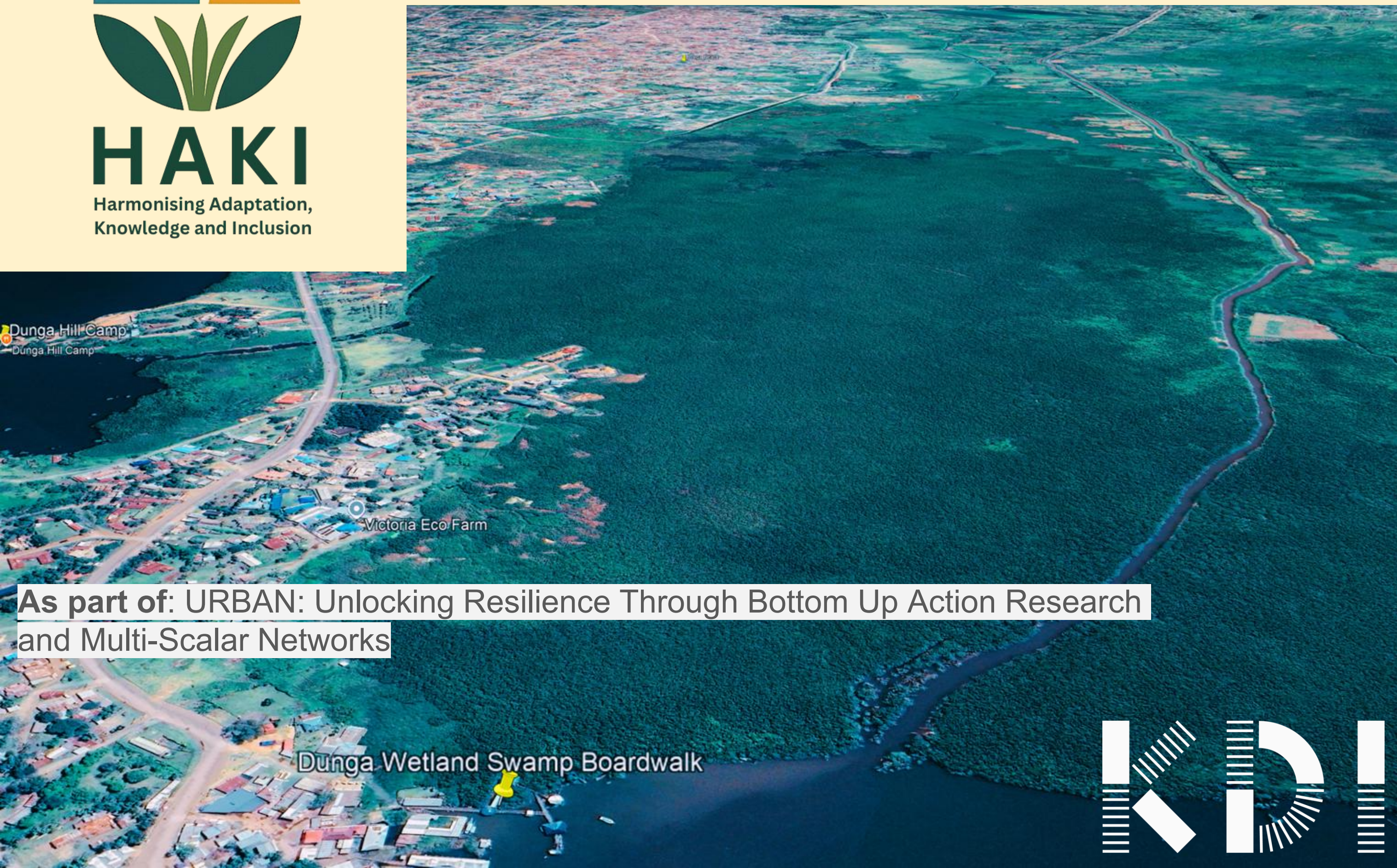


Transforms city-level practice into policy influence through evidence-based learning, enabling replication across urban contexts



DUNGA, Kisumu County

August 2025-
2027



Context/Why Dunga?

Contested Definition of the Wetland

- **Ancestral land** for Indigenous communities displaced during the **1961–1963 independence floods**.
- The **city's push for gazettement** of the area as a wetland.
- **Local residents** seeking to protect their **land and cultural rights**.
- **Large business interests: tourism expansion, city malls, real estate, hotels.**, and the emerging **Lakefront Development Project**.
- **Environmental Degradation, Fragmented Governance, Marginalized Local Voices** and **Erosion of Natural Livelihood Assets**



Project Objective-Intervention

The goal is to strengthen **climate and livelihood resilience** by promoting **inclusive and integrated urban governance** structures that recognize and support the **participation of marginalized groups**—such as indigenous communities, informal residents, women, and youth—in the **biodiversity conservation and adaptation planning** of the Dunga wetland.

Pathways for Impact

Community Manifesto

Bring the community together to shape a **shared vision**, one that reflects their livelihoods and how they wish to take part in caring for and governing the wetland

Methodology

- 6 Community Dialogues
- 3 Community Visioning Workshops
- 3 validation Workshops
- 1 Community Summit
- A Community Working Group

Negotiated Future

Work together to shape the future of Dunga Wetland- using both **cultural and ecological knowledge**, and everyday **community experiences**.

Methodology

- Asset and wetland mapping
- 3 Counter-mapping workshops
- 1 People and Nature Summit

Wetland Management Plans

Support wetland management Plans-**Communities** can help plan, **take care of**, and **make decisions** about the Dunga Wetland in ways that reflect their daily lives, local knowledge, and shared goals

Methodology

- 7 Institutional Dialogues
- 1 Multi Stakeholder Workshop
- MoU With the County
- Mediated Collaborations with County Actors

International Programs

Many international Programs support wetland management, but **communities** can **influence this support** by clearly shaping their needs, ideas, and plans for the future of the Dunga Wetland.

Methodology

- Engage with global adaptation initiatives and partners
- International Platforms
- Ongoing collaborations

Bringing it all together

Community Manifesto

Outcomes

- Inclusion of Marginalised Actors
- Co-Learning
- Foundation for Advocacy

Negotiated Future

Outcomes

- Shared spatial reference
- Equitable Resources
- Co-management and Trust building

Wetland Management Plans

Outcomes

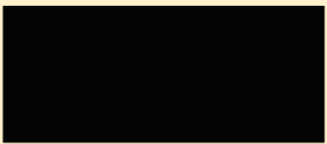
- Influence on Policy & Practice
- Adoption at Scale
- Knowledge for Action

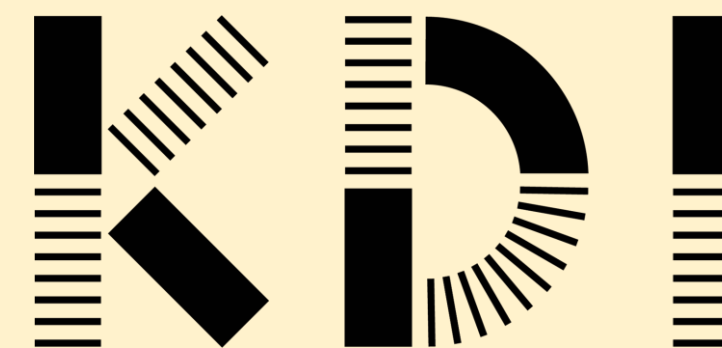
International Programs

Outcomes

- Influence on policy and practice
- Adoption at scale
- Knowledge for Action



	gracias
	tack
	asante
	thank you

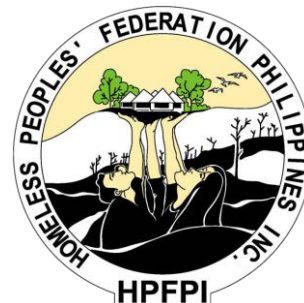




TE PAE **CHRISTCHURCH** CONVENTION CENTRE
13-16 OCTOBER 2025
ŌTAUHAHI CHRISTCHURCH **NEW ZEALAND**

Locally-led Initiatives for Harmonized Urban Governance in Iloilo City, Philippines (**Project LIHUG**)

Implementers:



Supported by:

**Unlocking Resilience through Bottom-up Action-
research and Multi-scalar Networks (URBAN)**



ILOILO CITY PHILIPPINES

- Coastal city resting on an alluvial plain
- Severely affected by extreme weather events and climate projections
 - Significant increase in average temperature
 - Fewer but stronger typhoons
 - Increased consecutive dry days (CDD) and decreased consecutive wet days (CWD)
- Most competitive highly urbanized city (HUC) in West Visayas Region (2024)
 - Economic Dynamism, Government Efficiency, Resiliency, Infrastructure, Innovation



37,000+
urban poor households
represented by community
groups in local planning body

5,400+
individuals (1,000+ households)
provided with new housing

16
land parcels banked to
guarantee relocation within
6km distance

566
local savings groups created to
finance housebuilding and
upgrading

Community participation in
comprehensive land use plan
(2011-2019) and local shelter
plan



Participatory Housing and Urban Development

Homeless People's Federation Philippines, Inc.
Iloilo City & Iloilo City Local Government Unit



INTRODUCING THE 2021-2022 FINALISTS

**Thriving Together
in Turbulent Times**



WORLD
RESOURCES
INSTITUTE | ROSS
CENTER

**PRIZE
FOR
CITIES**



Institutional gaps (government, CSOs, multilateral groups, etc.)

- Highly bureaucratic systems
- Fragmented/"departmental" approaches and funding mechanisms
- Changing political landscape every 3 years (city & barangay*)
- Decreasing international aid
- Limitations in capacities and resources of homeowners' associations (HOAs) and their support NGOs

Top concerns among urban poor communities:

1. Tenure security (land and housing repayment)
2. Urban flooding (inefficient drainage; lack of it)
3. Water scarcity (excessive groundwater extraction; privatization; access to infrastructure support)
4. Heat stress (links to health, educ., employment)

**Barangay* is the smallest administrative unit of governance in the Philippines: national > region > provincial > city/municipal > barangay

Local Government Code (LGC) of 1991 Republic Act 7160

- **Decentralization and autonomy:** more powers assigned to local government units (LGUs)
- **Inclusivity:** 25% of the composition of local development council (LDC) and other local special bodies (LSBs) should come from NGOs and people's organizations (POs)



Iloilo City People's Council (ICPC)





Republic of the Philippines
CITY OF ILOILO

THIS IS TO CERTIFY THAT, having satisfactorily complied with all the requirements and criteria for accreditation, pursuant to the Local Government Code and as promulgated in DILG Memorandum Circular No. 2025-060 dated June 23, 2025 and Sangguniang Panlungsod

Resolution No. 2025-826 dated August 27, 2025

TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE MOVEMENT FOR PEOPLE AND ENVIRONMENT (TAMPE), INC.

an organization duly registered/certified with the Securities and Exchange Commission and established in accordance with law is hereby awarded this

CERTIFICATE OF ACCREDITATION

In witness whereof, We have hereunto set our hands and caused the seal of the Iloilo City Government to be affixed herein this 1st day of September 2025, at Iloilo City, Philippines.

HON. LADY JULIE GRACE L. BARONDA

Iloilo City Vice - Mayor
Presiding Officer, Iloilo City Council

HON. JOSE MARIA MIGUEL S. TREÑAS

Iloilo City Councilor
Chairman, Committee on Local Accreditation

CSO accreditation & membership in local special bodies (2025-2028):

Western Visayas Region:

- **HPFPI:** Regional Development Council (**RDC**) Environment Committee

Province of Iloilo:

- **HPFPI:** Comprehensive Development Plan - Technical Assistance Committee (**CDP-TAC**) and Provincial Disaster Risk Reduction and Management Council (**PDRRMC**)
- **TAMPEI:** Provincial Land Use Committee (**PLUC**) and Youth Development Committee (**YDC**)

City of Iloilo:

- **HPFPI & TAMPEI:** Local Development Council (**LDC**)
- **HPFPI:** Local Housing Board - Beneficiary Selection and Awards Committee (**LHB-BSAAC**) and Public-Private Partnership Committee (**PPP**)



Strategic Entry Points:

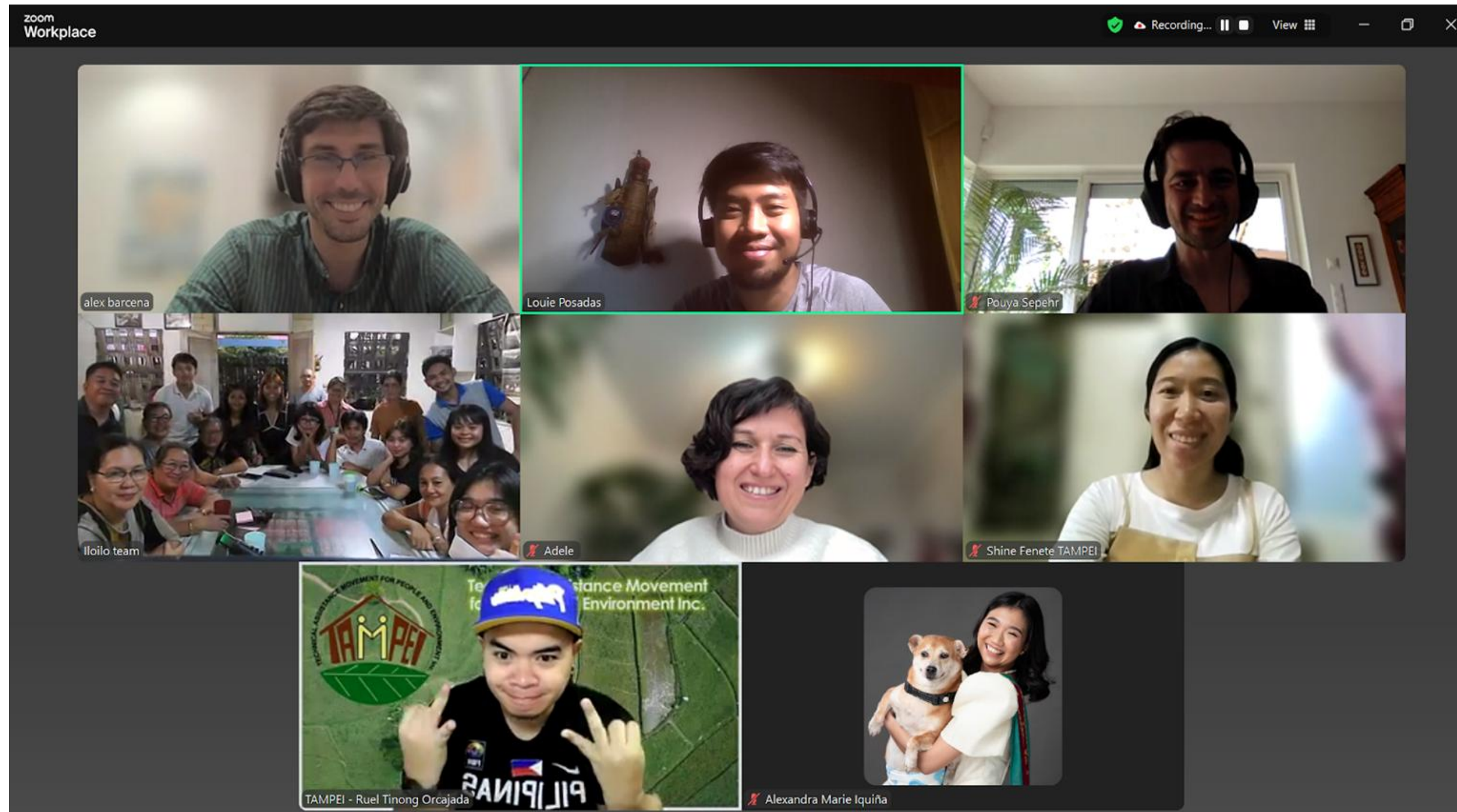
› Formal & Informal

› Top-down & Bottom-up

› Short-term & Long-term

Region & Province	City	Baran gay	Community
Continuous representation of CSOs through various local special bodies (LSBs) Program/project involvement (ex: Purok Resilience Program)	Policy negotiations with ICHLO and LHB re: land repayment scheme CSO participation in local development (planning, budgeting, implementation, M&E) through the People’s Council City-level registration, accreditation and confederation of HOAs	Exploratory dialogues, ex: courtesy calls (short-term) Institutional engagement, ex: MOAs, HOA membership in Barangay Dev’t Councils (long-term)	Organizational development, ex: basic lecture on barangay dev’t planning (BDP), inter-HOA learning exposures, consultations and assessments, youth involvement Financial capacity strengthening, ex: collective community savings and alternative livelihood program Technical assistance and pilot demonstration of neighborhood-scale climate adaptation strategies

Maraming salamat!



Core Team:

- Louie Posadas
- Arr Jay Rubinos
- Sonia Cadornigara
- Alexa Iquina

Support Team:

- Helen Villarin
- Marivic Mirasol
- Lucy Tejadilla
- Nerissa Germanelo
- Marivic Jayme
- Sherilyn Fenete
- TAMPEI ManComm

Networks:

- HPFPI Youth Iloilo
- HPFPI Iloilo HOAs and Regional Council
- HOAs in San Isidro Relocation Site
- KAISA-BESA HOA
- UP Visayas Community Development Interns

Contact us: tampei.ph@gmail.com



URBAN Climate Adaptation Championship in Yangon, Myanmar

Adaptation Futures Conference 2025

15 Oct, Wednesday



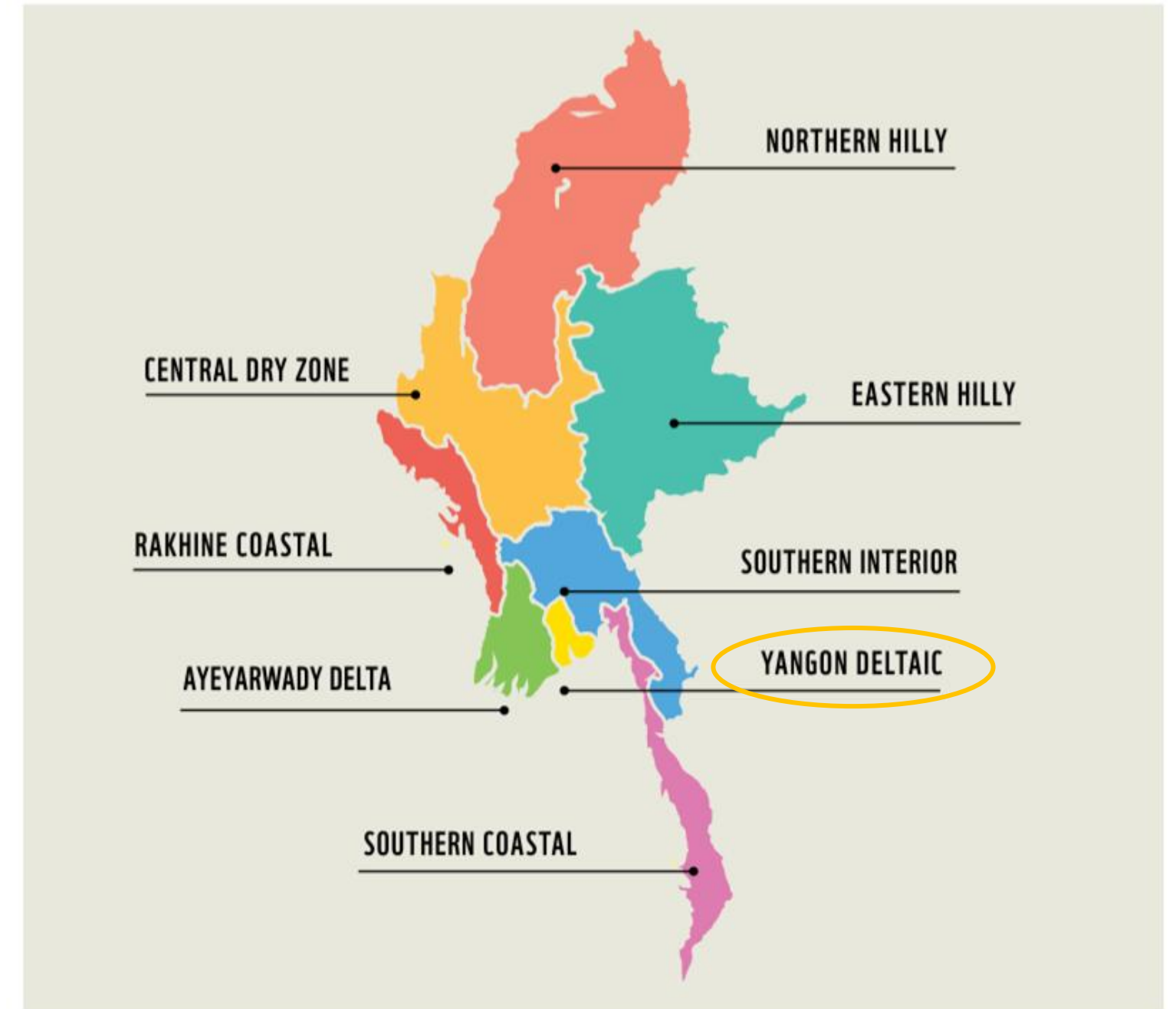
Doh Eain **preserves cultural heritage, improves the public realm,** and **builds neighbourhood resilience** through a user-centred, participatory approach.



MYANMAR CONTEXT

Myanmar (Republic of Union Of Myanmar)

- **Largest country by area** in mainland **Southeast Asia**
- Population of about **55 Million**
- Bordered by India, China, Laos and Thailand
- Capital city is **Naypyidaw**
- **Yangon** is the **largest city and the business capital**



UN Habitat, 2017

YANGON CONTEXT



appr. **8mil**

people live in Yangon,
making the city the

***densest in
Myanmar***

*The World Bank, 2023



Floods

are the one of the

***most critical
issues****

HOWEVER, MANY CITIES, INCLUDING YANGON FACE SIGNIFICANT CHALLENGES DUE TO:

- Lack of resources, expertise and funding, particularly towards urban planning and climate adaptation
- Development efforts that are driven by large enterprises with purely financial priorities
- Challenges in connecting formal aid organisations to informal community actors
- Shortage of educational programmes and opportunities for community stakeholders to have an influence







AN “ENDURING POLYCRISIS”



Support strategies should prioritise the “limited resources to mitigate the most severe regressions while building community resilience to ongoing and inevitable future shocks.”

*UNDP, 2025

UNPRECEDENTED CHALLENGES WITHIN THE PAST FOUR YEARS

- Political Instability and Conflict
- Compounded by the impacts of COVID-19
- Economic Disruptions
- Severe Human Rights Violations
- Worsening Environmental Degradation
- Strained systems and infrastructure
- Diminishing opportunities
- Youth and skills exodus driven by forced conscription among other deteriorating socio-economic conditions

THE IMPACTS:

- Pushed millions into poverty with half the population below the poverty line, with one third barely above it
- Increasing rural-to-urban migration and displacement
- Negative coping strategies (e.g. selling vital assets)

CHALLENGES

While **the vast majority of climate action** needs to happen in local communities, it **remains incredibly difficult** for the local and grassroots organizations from or active in these communities to access funding or any support.



Nearly **890,000 people** across Myanmar affected by the ongoing flooding (*Relief Web*)

More than **300 fatalities** and nearly **100 injuries** (*OCHA 2024*)



OPPORTUNITIES

Driven by need, many communities and grassroots organizations are inventing **successful strategies** for climate adaptation every day.

There is **a wealth of local knowledge and creativity** that can be harnessed for effective climate adaptation.



BUILDING GRASSROOTS NETWORKS TO TACKLE CLIMATE CHANGE

Neighbourhood Network

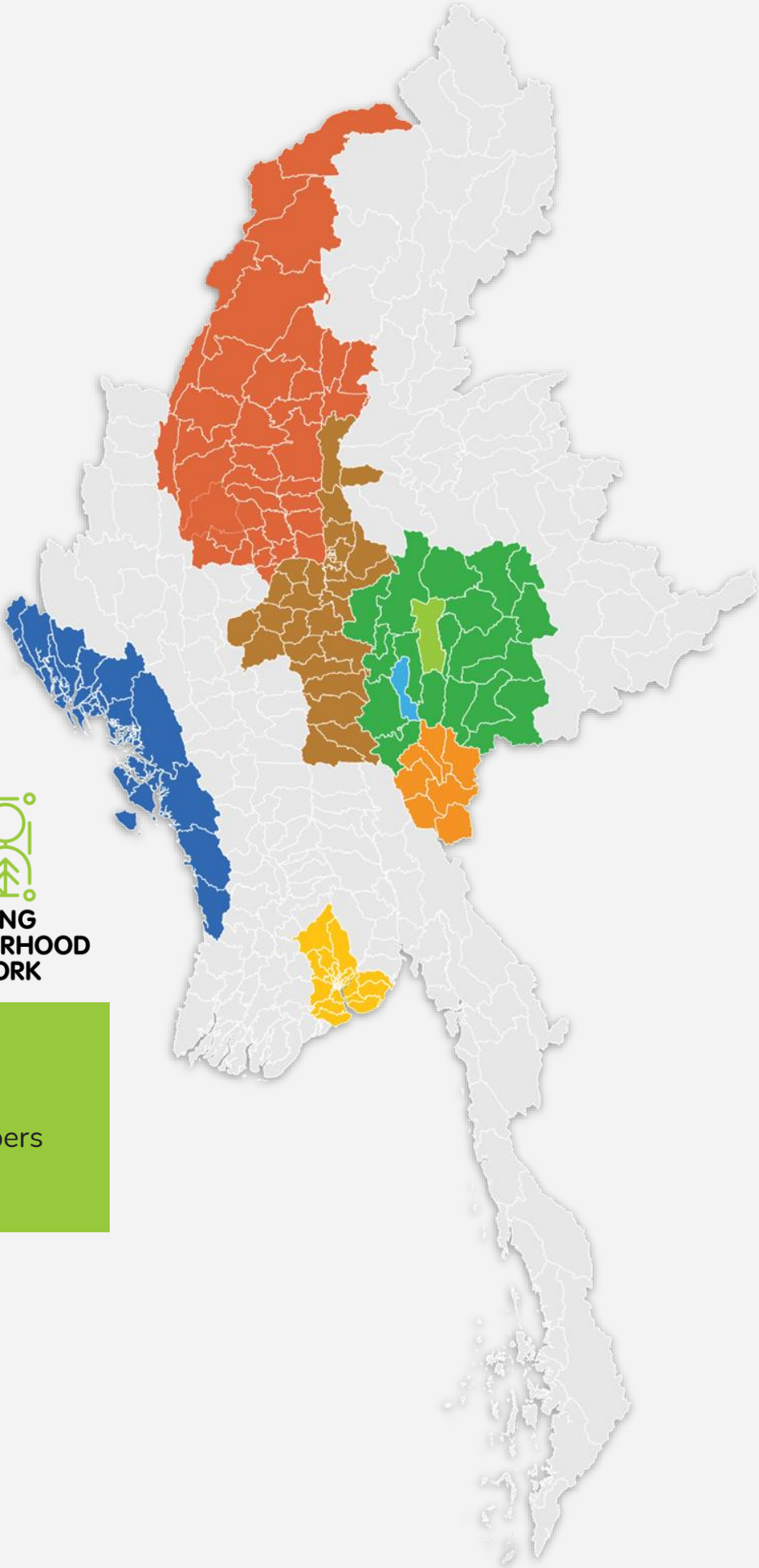
Neighbourhood Network (NN) is a **platform dedicated to supporting these diverse neighbourhoods groups, local businesses and non-traditional actors**, aimed at strengthening **community resilience and welfare**



Today: NN Chapters Established in 8 Cities *and Growing* Across Myanmar



313 network members to date



Diverse Organisations and Areas of Expertise

A Network of Impact: Empowering Diverse Communities

The network continues to grow, containing **CBOs, CSOs, local businesses, and other entities**. All members are **deeply embedded in a place or community** and work directly with beneficiaries.

313⁺⁺

Members across 8 cities in Myanmar

Wide and diverse scope of

- Organisation sizes
- Beneficiary groups
- Expertise areas

Doh Eain Areas of Expertise

1. Humanitarian Aid
2. Diversity and Inclusion
3. Climate and Environment
4. Well-being and Mental Health
5. Youth
6. Women and Girls
7. Housing and Infrastructure

Other Areas of Expertise in the Network

1. Nutrition
2. Decent Work
3. Education and Awareness
4. Economic and Social Sustainable Development
5. Health
6. Governance, Peace, and Security
7. Media, Information, and Innovation
8. Human Rights



EMPOWERING THE GRASSROOTS



Our Vision

Empowered local grassroots organisations across Myanmar who energetically and effectively look after their neighbourhoods and communities, respecting diverse needs and voices.



Our Mission

To support local grassroots organisations with **networks, trainings, access to resources, and voice**, while advocating for **localisation** and facilitating donors who wish to work with or support local organisations directly.



Selection of DOH EAIN'S PROJECTS IN YANGON

- 📍 Heritage Preservation
- 📍 Placemaking: Public Space & Infrastructure
- 📍 Resilient Neighbourhoods
- 📍 Youth Participation in Urban Development

Introducing
rainwater
harvesting



A Young City
Shaper cohort
visiting a recycling
factory in Yangon



Yangon
Neighbourhood
Network members
in action promoting
mental wellbeing in
their community



Improving dwellings
together with residents of
informal low income areas



A Young City Shaper
cohort visiting
cultural and heritage
businesses in Yangon



Our UNESCO
supported
mapping of
diverse cultural
assets in
Sanchaung
Township



The Phosein Villa,
restored to its former
glory in 2018



A family house on
42nd street restored
into an office
and large 2 floor
apartment



Floor murals in a
cleaned-up and
renovated downtown
back alley



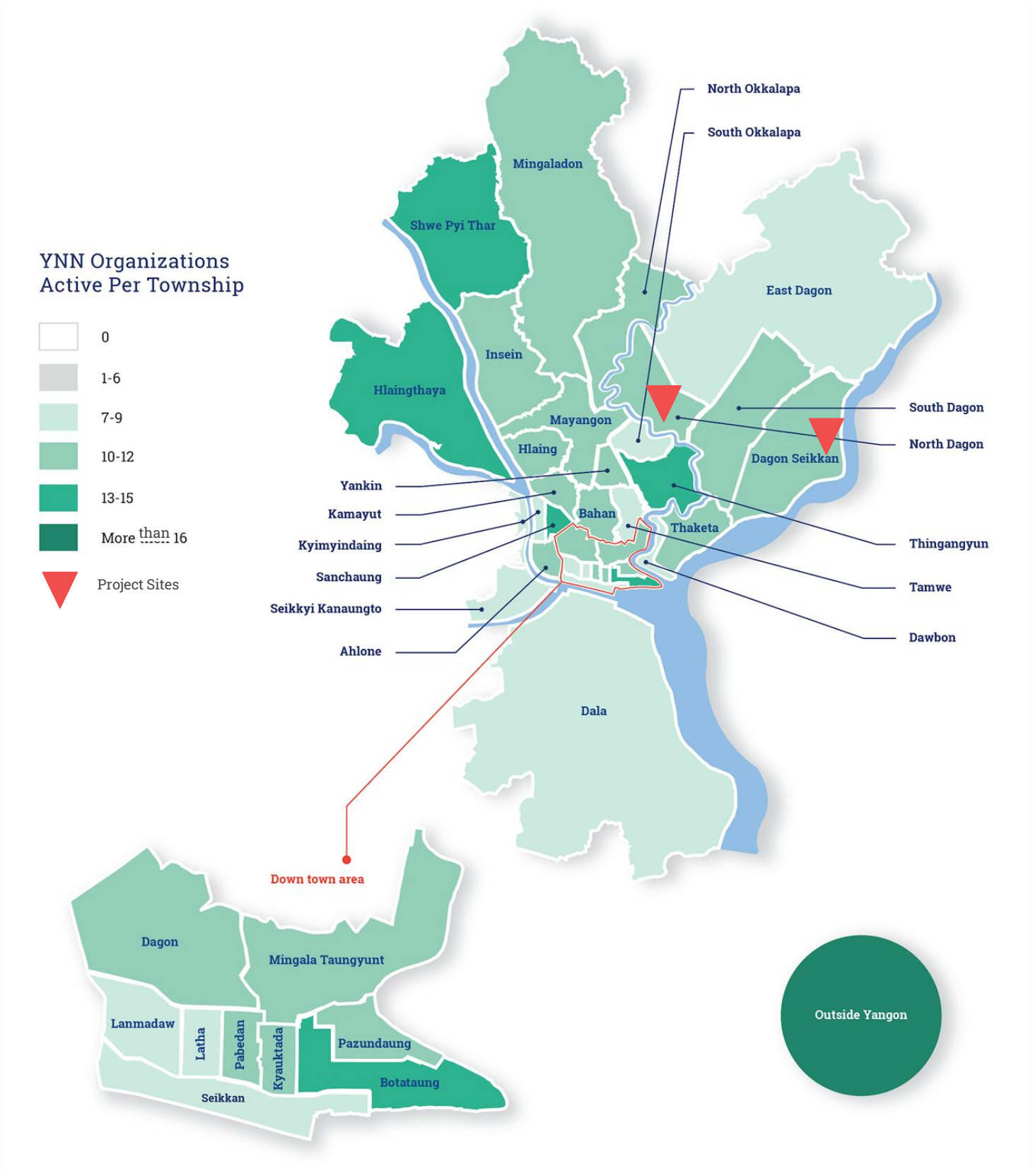
The Yankin
playground designed
by girls for girls
and everyone in the
community



Children enjoying
a restored
downtown back
alley



THE NEIGHBORHOOD NETWORK



AIM OF THE URBAN CAC PROJECT:

- Mitigate the escalating climate risk of urban flooding
- Focusing on the vulnerable informal settlement areas
- Exacerbated by overlapping crises of climate change, political instability, and socio-economic decline.

INFORMAL SETTLEMENTS ARE MOST VULNERABLE:

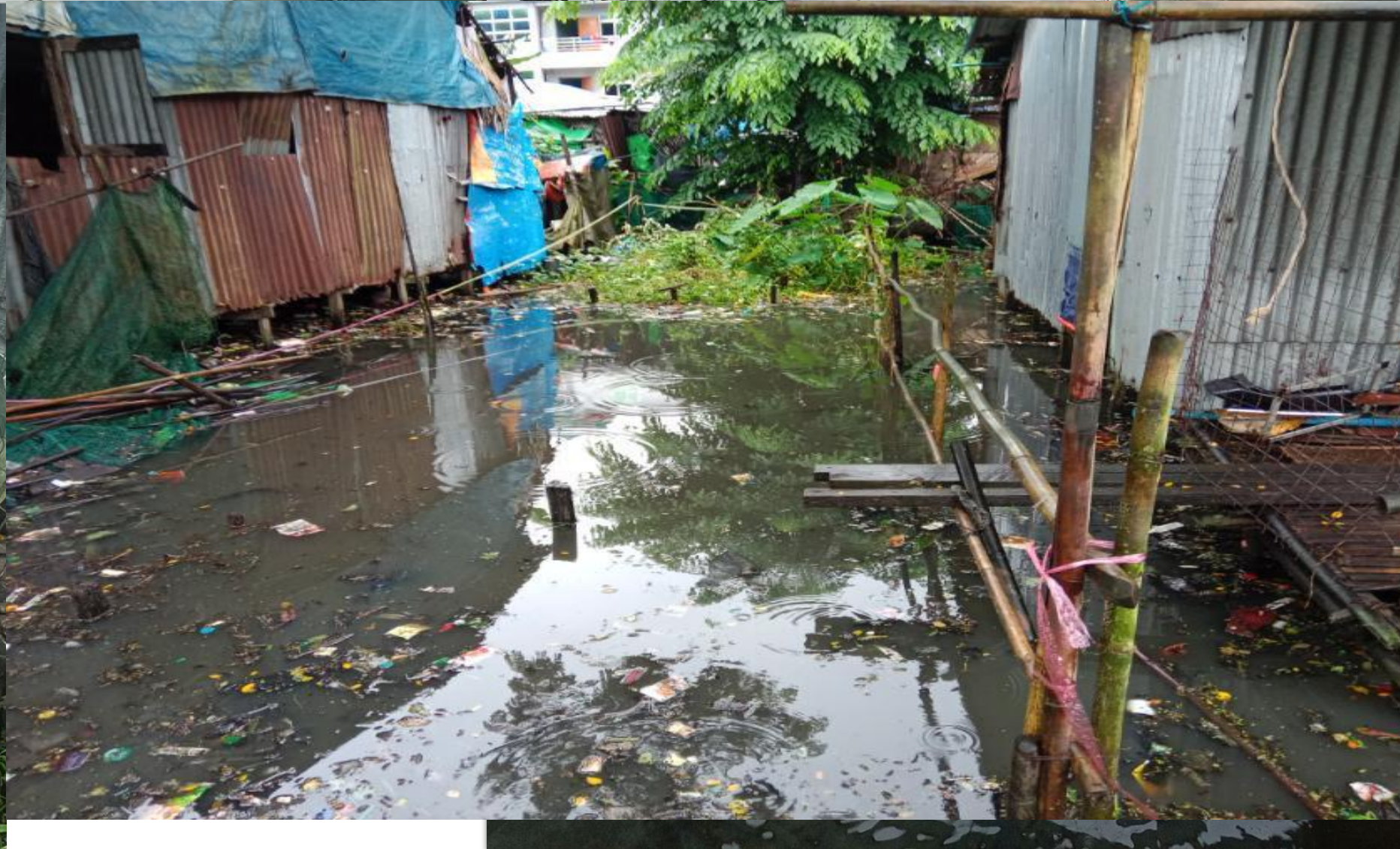
- Increasing throughout the city due to conflict-driven displacement
- These settlements lack tenure security, reliable or adequate WASH / water / basic services
- Face mounting pressures on a daily basis leaving them most vulnerable to the impacts of climate hazards
- Resilience is most at stake for these marginalized urban populations, particularly the women, children, and elderly.
- **This is where our Neighborhood Network comes in.**



PROJECT SITE 1: North Dagon



PROJECT SITE 2: Dagon Seikkan



OUR APPROACH



We start off with a **capacity building program** to create cohorts of 20-30 locals - providing trainings to build knowledge and skills that will enable them to generate ideas for climate action with communities.



Locals work with communities on **conducting the general assessment** across a range of climate-related thematic areas: from heatwaves to floods



Based on **the findings of general assessment**, the physical implementation will be installed to address the current climate-related issues by providing small grants to enable the local collaboration and enhance the sense of ownership.



The effectiveness of solution will be evaluated after the implementation and **success stories** will be delivered through powerful storytelling.

PROJECT SITE 2: Dagon Seikkan



Concluding Remarks

Key Takeaways

An Integrated Approach to Building Conservation and Urban Regeneration

- Since the coup, a very strong focus on supporting place-based grassroots organisations and their local efforts.
- Climate events an even more persistent reality especially in vulnerable countries like Myanmar.
- Placemaking can be a powerful tool to mediate conflicts while promoting climate adaptation, contributing to community resilience with people at the core.
- Active positive international engagement is necessary to help the people of Myanmar navigate through their current challenges and set the stage for a better future.



IN SHORT...

**WE STARTED WITH ONE
APARTMENT...**



**NOW WE'RE PART OF MANY
NEIGHBOURHOODS...**



**THEN WE MOVED INTO A
BACK ALLEY...**



**WHILE WE INVEST IN THE
NEXT GENERATION...**



...TO HELP EVERYONE BECOME

Climate Adaptation Champions

A Place-based Approach to Community-led Climate Action



Thank you!

Scaling Community-Based Early Warning Systems in Durban, South Africa

Urban Living Labs and participatory co-creation through **arts based approaches**



Innovative and interactive arts based approaches – fostering inter-community empathy, alignment, and cooperation

Durban Context:

- Informal and uneven citizen–state relations
- Fragmented networks between settlements and government
- Limited formal inclusion pathways

Arts-Based & Participatory Practices:

- Play-dough modelling (& photovoice, storytelling, collective mapping)
- Express lived experiences of floods and recovery – focus on co-developing and scaling community based flood early warning systems
- Build **empathy, trust, and shared imagination** across informal settlements
- Create *horizontal solidarity* and cooperation



From Horizontal Solidarity to Vertical Influence

- Previously disconnected settlements now benefit indirectly from others' municipal relationships
- Shared arts-based exchanges foster **mutual advocacy and shared learning**
- Integration with **technology** — WhatsApp groups, community dashboards, and early warning tools — strengthens communication across scales

Outcomes:

- Creation of **hybrid communication ecosystems** linking communities and municipal systems
- New channels of *vertical influence* — community data and alerts inform city action
- Enhanced legitimacy and visibility of informal settlement voices in resilience governance

