



## SESSION DESCRIPTION

# A2 Joining forces: Urban adaptation through linking local action to global policy

## Panel Discussion

**Date:** Wednesday, 26 June, 2019

**Time:** 14:00-15:30

**Rooms:** S01-02

**Language:** English

**Contact:** kim.ogonda@cordaid.org

**E-mail/web:** <https://www.cordaid.org/en/topic/resilience/>

**Organized by:** Partners for Resilience and Cordaid

## OBJECTIVE

In order to achieve the targets set out in the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda, and the SDGs requires that cities strengthen their ability to withstand climate impacts. There is a need for effective governance structures and supportive frameworks for financing, innovations and capacity-building, with a well-connected network of stakeholders at global, regional and national levels.

This requires national and international partnerships, financial and institutional arrangements which are built on trust, appropriate representation, sharing of responsibility, authority and resources. This facilitated discussion explored methods to ensure successful implementation of these global policies, via a multi stakeholder approach to urban resilience.

## OUTCOMES

Participants left the session with:

- policy options for how to strengthen governance to achieve the Paris Agreement and Agenda 2030;
- methods to reinforce multi-stakeholder collaboration and bring key resilience partners together, including the private sector;
- entry points in national and local plans and budgets for mainstreaming climate risk;
- understanding of institutional challenges in coordinating between national, sectoral and local levels.



## METHODOLOGY

**Facilitator** *Kimberley Ogonda, Lobby and Advocacy Expert for Resilience, Cordaid, the Haag, the Netherlands*

**14:00 - 14:05** **Facilitator opened the session by introducing the panel and giving an overview of the event objectives outcomes and context**

Climate change can influence disaster risks lead to an increase in whether related disasters. Urbanisation and climate change are inseparable. The impact of climate change may negatively affect infrastructure, worsen access to basic urban services and unfavourable affect quality of life in cities. Abrupt and large scale climate change could lead to a loss 5-10% of GDP with developing countries at the higher end of the estimate. Most affected will be the urban poor. With regard to effective partnerships for delivering local resilience, it is important to consider a multi stakeholder approach to resilience.

The panel convened key policy stakeholders including government, private and community stakeholders with influence on urban planning choices. With all hands on deck, this group identified what needs to be put in place to deliver a new public-private partnership on urban adaptation. Our outcome is to provide urban leaders, planners and developers with tools and information they need to calibrate and measure their resilience in order to make informed governance and investment decisions. This includes examples of Forecast Based Financing; multi stakeholder approaches leading to policy making, and systems modelling and data sharing platform to connect collaborative, risk-informed planning and investment decision making.

**14:05 - 14:15** *Chris van Diemen, Co-Founder & Chief Data Officer, Green City Watch, Amsterdam, The Netherlands*

**14:15 - 14:25** *Samer Bageen, Councillor, Brighton and Hove City Council, Brighton, United Kingdom*

**14: 25 - 14:35** *Eddie Jjemba, Urban Resilience Advisor, Red Cross Climate Centre, Uganda*

### **‘Forecast-based Financing’ of preparedness**

Many humanitarian actions could be implemented in the window between a forecast and a disaster. Many climate-related hazards can be forecast; humanitarians get information about when and where extreme-weather events like storms, floods and droughts are expected.

Forecast-based Financing (FbF) releases humanitarian funding based on forecast information for planned activities which reduce risks, enhance preparedness and response, and make disaster risk management overall more effective. A humanitarian agency and stakeholders like meteorological services and communities at risk agree on selected actions that are worth carrying out once a forecast reaches a certain threshold of probability. Then each action is allocated a budget to be activated when a forecast is received.

The Red Cross Climate Centre discussed the opportunities and barriers to the access and use of climate information for urban small and medium enterprises (SMEs) in Uganda and Kenya. While there has been a growing focus on the understanding of physical risk, within major



multinationals, the public sector and the financial sector in general, there have been less focus on SMEs particularly those in the most vulnerable contexts. Yet, SMEs not only play an important role as drivers of job creation and supply chains but are also instrumental in restoring economic activity at the community level following disasters. This makes understanding of SME needs with regard to access and usage of climate risk information in their planning and operations is a critical subject that has largely been ignored.

**14:35 -14:45** *Stephen Passmore, Chief Executive and Technology Lead, Resilience Brokers, London, United Kingdom*

Resilience Brokers shared experiences and approaches in systems modelling and data sharing to connect collaborative, risk-informed planning and investment decision making. This helps cities to:

- increasing infrastructure productivity to reduce the need for investment by up to 40% through smart partnerships and performance based PPP investments;
- improving management of resources and multi-hazard risk, including adverse impacts of climate change;
- putting citizens' wellbeing at the centre of planning and investment decisions;
- scaling the approach to support the delivery of global sustainable development goals.

**14: 45-15:15 Facilitated discussion with panel members and audience**

**15:15-15:30 Concluding remarks**