

Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience for Urban Children

Children are disproportionately affected by climate change and disasters and they have specific needs during disasters. Understanding their vulnerabilities and needs is important as it affects their right to life, survival and development. Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG), with the support of UNICEF, New Delhi carried out a study on “Climate Change Resilience for Children and Urban Governance” in 2015-2016 in five Indian cities namely Gorakhpur, Guwahati, Indore, Panjim and Shimla. The study assessed the coordination mechanisms and the institutional set-up in five different cities and in different geo-climatic and hazard situations towards addressing the rights and well-being of children in the context of changing climate. Children, especially living in slums, slum-like areas and dejected situations lack access to basic urban services like drinking water, health, education, and so on. Living in extremely

poor conditions and congested settlements has an impact on their overall development and hinders their basic rights to quality life.

Taking forward the initiative, GEAG, with its experiences of working in several cities on urban climate change resilience, will expand its knowledge base to implement this project on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Resilience for Urban Children in five new cities, namely, Bhopal, Kurseong, Patna, Udaipur and Vishakhapatnam. The project will span from December 2016 to December 2017 and will largely focus on:

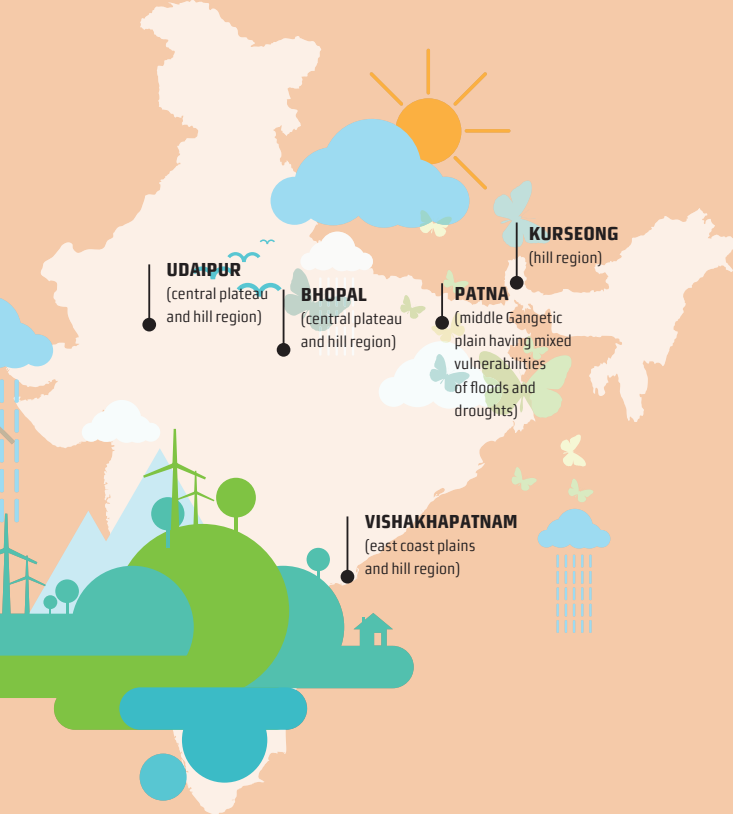
Building resilience options and facilitating good urban governance mechanisms to address the climate change and disaster risk vulnerabilities of urban deprived children and marginalised populations.


unicef
for every child



For more information contact:

Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG)
HIG First Phase 1/4, Siddharth Puram Vistar, Tara Mandal,
Gorakhpur, Uttar Pradesh 273001
Phone: +91 551 2230004; Fax: +91 551 2230005
Email: geagdelhi@geagindia.org



Intervention Areas

The five new cities in which actions will be initiated are selected on the basis of the following criterion:

- Representation of different agro-climatic zones like coastal, hills, plains and plateau regions having different hazard situations like floods and droughts and related vulnerabilities of children.
- Secondary cities having population approximately 5 to 20 lakhs as they are the most impacted by migration and climate change.
- Existing base of experiences on urban resilience by other organizations.

Why this initiative?

Target cities and local stakeholders' participation to develop comprehensive understanding and evidence based research on the nature of vulnerabilities caused due to direct and indirect impacts of climate change on urban poor children and marginalized population.

#evidence

Engaging urban stakeholders and governments to explore opportunities for developing child-centred urban climate change resilience strategies and implementation of local climate solutions

#engage

Scaling-up the knowledge generated through this initiative for larger advocacy for establishing on child-centred urban resilience mechanisms in cities and contributing to Sustainable Development Goals.

#knowledge



Key Activities

INTERVENTION-1

BUILDING ACTIONS ON CHILDREN'S CLIMATE CHANGE VULNERABILITY, RESILIENCE AND GOVERNANCE MECHANISMS.

In India, there is apparent lack of comprehensive understanding, approach and relevant mechanism to deal with the impacts of climate change on urban poor children.

Lack of evidence on the differential impacts of climate change is one of the reasons that attribute to minimal actions on the ground for building climate resilience through planning and design.

The impacts of climate change on children differ from one agro-climatic zone to another and also the impacts are different for children belonging to different socio-economic classes and age-groups. Also, the ground actions related to climate change adaptation and mitigation are largely linked to subjects that are governed by state and hence the related rules, provisions, and governance mechanisms also differ accordingly.

Therefore, this initiative aims to get a ground-understanding of specific vulnerabilities of urban poor children. This will be done through conducting participatory vulnerability assessments of cities, focussing on climate change impacts on children. The process will involve the communities and specifically, children and resilience options will be identified. The idea is to initiate actions at the ground level for children-led advocacy in the cities and also orient the city governments on these vulnerabilities and the actions needed. Further, in two of the five cities, children-focused pilot city resilience action strategies will be developed. City resilience actions under the strategy will be framed around four key factors, i. e. institutional mechanisms, capacity building, policies & programmes and budgeting.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

City governments, sectoral departments, communities- especially children, youth and other vulnerable groups.



INTERVENTION-2

MAINSTREAMING UCCR AND RESILIENT DEVELOPMENT PLANNING AGENDA IN SPA'S (SCHOOL OF PLANNING AND ARCHITECTURE) COURSE CURRICULUM (POST GRADUATE PROGRAMME ON URBAN PLANNING).

The current urban planning regime in India is rigid and does not consider flexible ways to accommodate the rapid changes that the cities are grappling with. One of these challenges is the climate change impacts and the disasters faced by the cities and the urban planning, owing to its lack of forward-looking approach, does not sufficiently take into account the concerns of climate change and disaster management. Urban planners often work in silos and there is a lack of horizontal coordination and convergence between the sectoral departments. There is a dearth of both understanding and capacities on mechanisms of integrated urban planning considering development, climate change and disaster management. Lack of age and gender sensitivity in physical planning and socio-economic planning of cities is yet another big deficit which needs urgent attention.

In this initiative, GEAG will be collaborating with the School of Planning and Architecture (SPA), New Delhi to integrate the agenda of urban climate change resilience and child-friendly cities in their post-graduate Studio Programme, which they undertake in various cities. This has been planned with the aim to build awareness and give exposure to the emerging architects and city planners about practical problems faced by the cities in the context of climate change and disasters and their impacts on children and also to bring out innovative ideas on child-friendly and resilient city planning which are crucial for risk mitigation and reduction.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

SPA New Delhi, Post Graduate Students, Municipal Corporations, Communities- especially women and children from poor communities.



INTERVENTION-3 FORMATION OF NATIONAL STEERING COMMITTEE

This initiative aims to have a pool of experts as a Steering Committee to guide the partnership at the national level. They would debate and deliberate on the issues of children-focussed climate change resilience building and create a “buzz” around this issue. A Steering Committee of experts and practitioners will be constituted who will bring in the knowledge and experiences related to strategies to integrate disaster and climate change in development programmes with a focus on the rights of children. The Steering Group will guide and advise this programme from time to time. Also, it is envisaged that the Steering Committee members will be the ambassadors of climate change resilience needs of urban children and will formulate needed strategies in their own domain contributing to build a favourable policy and practice environment in the country through the outcomes of this initiative.

INTERVENTION-4 NATIONAL WORKSHOP ON CLIMATE AND GOVERNANCE

This short-term initiative will culminate in a workshop towards the end of the phase. The workshop will discuss the key insights generated from the vulnerability assessments and children-focussed resilience strategies that will be developed. The workshop will aim at providing key recommendations concerning children’s rights in the light of climate change for policy advocacy.

WHO ARE INVOLVED?

Key experts working in various fields such as child rights, urban climate change, urban governance, and policy-making institutions.

WHO WILL BE INVOLVED?

The experts from urban climate change, child rights issues, policy makers, government, CSOs working on child rights, the private sector, media and others.



What we aim to achieve

IMPLEMENTATION PERIOD: DECEMBER 2016 – DECEMBER 2017



Collect evidence and build better understanding of impacts of climate change and disasters on urban poor children.



Build capacity of young planners and professionals for climate resilient development designing and planning.



Facilitate platforms, critical mass of individuals and institutions for needed advocacy on child-centred resilience building by identifying critical gaps in governance and required strategies.



Develop pilot city resilience strategies and build capacity of city administrators focusing on vulnerabilities of children.