

**URBAN
THINKERS
CAMPUS**

THE CITY WE NEED



Urban Thinkers Campus Phase 6.0

CLIMATE ACTION

SYNTHESIS REPORT

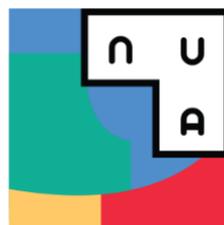
December 2021



“2021 must be the year of a great leap toward carbon neutrality. Every country, city, financial institution and company should adopt plans for transitioning to net zero emissions by 2050.”

Antonio Guterres, 16 November 2020

DECADE OF >>> ACTION



IMPLEMENTING
THE NEW
URBAN AGENDA



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INTRODUCTION

As Climate Change increasingly becomes an integral part of our urban futures moving ahead into the new decade, it has triggered a wide range of responses around the world. UN-Habitat has launched a global campaign to engage a large range of stakeholders to showcase actions and reflect on key issues surrounding climate change. This campaign has been the starting point for a rich learning process engaging a diversity of actors such as city and community leaders, social workers, grassroots leaders, planners and researchers, scientists, business leaders and journalists dedicating time and energy to face the challenges that climate change presents.

The format adopted for this global conversation has been the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC), a participatory platform of the World Urban Campaign that has successfully organized more than 150 campuses since 2015, engaging some 45,000 participants.

The Climate Action UTCs started on the 18th of February 2021 with an event entitled “Public spaces as anchors of social resilience and climate action: The role of participation,” organized by the Program on Urban Ecological Planning at the Department of Architecture and Planning, Norwegian University of Science and Technology (NTNU) and co-organized by UN-Habitat and the Global Program on Public Space.

More than 7,000 people have participated in the sessions, with some 180 panelists from various regions of the world and backgrounds, actively engaged in climate action. The 28 Urban Thinkers Campus sessions have generated a very rich dialogue that has led to a set of recommendations for the next steps.

In this global learning dialogue, participants have been encouraged to refer to the Sustainable Development Goals as guides to define the climate action efforts and to achieve the goals by 2030 under the United Nations Decade of Action. Ultimately, the global goals constitute a robust framework under which development should be achieved and guide actions for all partners of the 2030 Development Agenda.

IMPORTANT NOTE

This report is a compilation of all Urban Thinkers Campus reports prepared by Lead organizers and received by the WUC Secretariat.

The content has been slightly edited to align to the original reporting format.

Views and opinions presented in this compilation do not necessarily reflect those of UN-Habitat.

BACKGROUND

Since the Habitat III Conference in Quito, October 2016, UN-Habitat and the World Urban Campaign (WUC) have committed to integrate climate change adaptation and mitigation considerations into urban and territorial development and planning processes by 2036. Cities and subnational authorities were explicitly invited to scale up efforts to reduce emissions and adapt to climate change since the Paris Agreement in 2015 with the hopes that commitments by cities and non-State actors could push countries to better achieve their emissions reduction goals under the Paris Agreement. In 2021, countries were meant to start implementing this agreement. The 2021 United Nations Climate Change Conference (COP26) held on 1-12 Nov 2021 in Glasgow was a critical moment.

Climate action should strive to protect cities and their ecosystems from the impacts of climate change by taking actions such as preserving ecosystems that make cities thrive, decarbonizing urban energy and transports, achieving low carbon infrastructures and buildings, and supporting cities and communities to adapt to a changing climate. Actions need to reap the benefits of ambitious efforts in cities and communities to generate livelihoods from the new green economy in cities and communities. Actions should help build climate resilience of the most vulnerable communities while planning and designing integrated, connected and vibrant cities that can ensure the health of urban communities in safer and cleaner cities.

It is crucial to restore ecosystems in cities to foster sustainable healthy urban areas where communities can thrive. This can be achieved by bringing back clean air, tackling urban waste, promoting nature-based solutions, and building back better after climate disasters. Actions should also support cities and communities to plan and implement integrated and inclusive climate action. They should guide climate-proof urban planning and design, promote constructive partnerships between all levels and sectors towards ambitious climate action, mobilize climate funding to implement catalytic projects, and build capacity of all stakeholders to confront climate change challenges.

**The Climate Action UTCs created an open space for consensus towards
CONCRETE CLIMATE ACTIONS that are replicable and measurable.**

"We are all rightly focused on responding to the pandemic. But as we strive to overcome one crisis, we have an opening to address another (...). The pandemic has shown that we can think big and act big in the face of an emergency. We have crucial decisions to make in the weeks and months ahead. Let's get it right." Antonio Guterres, 16 November 2020

UTC PHASE 6.0

Total number of UTCs held	27
Total number of reports received	19
Total number of participants	7,000+
Total number of speakers	250+
Total number of organizations	400+

UTC #	FROM	TO	UTC Title	Lead Organizer	Co-Organizer
1	18/2/2021	18/2/2021	Public Spaces as Anchors of Social Resilience and Climate Action: The Role of Participation	Program on Urban Ecological Planning at the Department of Architecture and Planning, Norwegian University of Science and Technology	UN-Habitat, Global Program on Public Space
2	17/3/2021	17/3/2021	Post-blast Reconstruction of Beirut: Climate-Heritage Planning to Build back better	ICOMOS	FNAU
3	12/4/2021	13/4/2021	Résilience de l'eau dans les collectivités territoriales Aujourd'hui - de l'utopie à la réalité	ENDA	ENDA
4	12/4/2021	25/7/2021	Critical Urban Infrastructure – Identifying and Assessing Smart and Green Solutions for Efficient Disaster-Risk Resilience	P4CA Planners for Climate Action	UN-Habitat & IRPUD
5	17/5/2021	22/5/2021	Urbanism: The Missing Link to Responding to Climate Change	The Place Initiative	Congress for the New Urbanism
6	4/6/2021	5/6/2021	Rebuilding Urban Kerala through Equitable Resilience	Centre for Urban Governance, Kerala Institute of Local Administration (KILA)	National Institute of Urban Affairs, Institute of Disaster Management, US Green Building Council, European Urban Knowledge Network
7	21/6/2021	21/6/2021	Female Approaches to Build Climate Resilience	International Union of Architects - UIA	Habitat Professionals Forum, ISOCARP, RTPI (GPN)
8	22/6/2021	22/6/2021	Hot Cities: Climate Adaptation in Challenging Environments in the MENA Region	ISOCARP Institute	Middle East Resilience Centre Dubai
9	30/6/2021	30/6/2021	Climate Change and Cities: Children at Front and Center of Climate Action	World Vision International	Plan International
10	15/7/2021	17/7/2021	A Local Green Deal	Studieninstitut Rhein-Neckar (STIRN)	ISOCARP institute

11	21/7/2021	23/7/2021	Legislación Urbana: Herramienta de Acción Climática	Colegio de Jurisprudencia Urbanística	Traditional Ip Man Wing Chun International Association
12	9/9/2021	10/9/2021	Climate Action for Resilient Communities by, and for, Women	Red Dot Foundation	National Institute of Urban Affairs
13	9/9/2021	12/9/2021	Countless Futures: People Will Live Here	PUSH	FARM
14	16/9/2021	16/9/2021	Planning the African Metropolis for Climate Resilience	FNAU (French National Federation of Planning Agencies)	Institut Paris Region
15	30/9/2021	30/9/2021	University & City for Climate Action (Spanish edition)	Smartly, Social Entrepreneurship on the SDGs	Universidad Técnica Particular de Loja, Ecuador; UNESCO Chairs (UTPL)
16	4/10/2021	4/10/2021	Canada Climate Action Foyer (CAF)	Urban Economy Forum (UEF)	UN-Habitat
17	6/10/2021	6/10/2021	A Localization model for Climate Action: Delivering the New Urban Agenda and the SDGs in the Hunter, NSW region.	Compass Housing Services Co Ltd	Newcastle University & CIFAL
18	7/10/2021	8/10/2021	Mainstreaming Climate Actions in Indian Cities - A Policy Dialogue	National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)	ISOCARP
19	18/10/2021	20/10/2021	Mass Housing and Climate Change: Challenges and Solutions	STRELKA KB	ISOCARP Institute
20	22/10/2021	22/10/2021	Launching "Habitat professional Forum HPF Covid -19 RoadMap" document publication	Habitat professional Forum	UIA, ISOCARP, GPN, EAROPH, CAP, CSU, IFLA, ICOMOS, CNJUR
21	28/10/2021	28/10/2021	Adapting Cities for Climate Resilience and Amplifying Pakistan's Efforts and Young Voices to Echo at COP26	Shehersaaz	UNDRR
22	29/10/2021	29/10/2021	Wamama Tunauwezo 6	Huairou Commission	Polycom Development Project
23	3/11/2021	16/11/2021	Spatial Planning Education in Climate Action	Planners for Climate Action	University of Twente
24	9/11/2021	9/11/2021	City Climate Action- Building a Resilient Chennai	The Madras Chamber of Commerce & Industry	National Institute of Urban Affairs, New Delhi
25	11/11/2021	14/11/2021	Planning and Placemaking for Resilient Recovery	CEPT University	TU Delft
26	26/11/2021	26/11/2021	Urban Green Deals for Greek Cities	Organization Earth	Kokkalis Foundation
27	30/11/2021	1/12/2021	Great Green Makeover	Africa Union OF Architects (AUA)	ISOCARP Institute

UTC #22 WAMAMA TUNAUWEZO 6: Women Have the Power

UTC Date: 10/27/2021 – 10/29/2021

Location of UTC: Rowallan Camp, Nairobi (Build up activities in Korogocho, Mathare, Mukuru, Kiambiu)

Lead Organizer: POLYCOM DEVELOPMENT PROJECT

Co-lead Organizer: <https://huairou.org/> (Huairou Commission)

Other organizations that participated in the campus:

[SDG Kenya Forum](#), [Amani Kibera](#), [Rotary Club of Kerangata](#), [Confidence Elevates](#), [Umande Trust](#), [African Women and Child Feature](#), [African Women Communication and Development Network \(FEMNET\)](#), [Plan International](#), [Female Wave of Change Kenya](#), [Ministry of Agriculture](#)

Number of Participants: 98

UTC Action Day:

Global Warming and Climate justice was the theme of this 6th UTC. Held on 29th October 2021. Climate change adversely affects people differently. This depends on their gender, race and economic status. In a developing country such as Kenya, those who live below a dollar a day will experience the adverse effects of climate change. Most often, they are on the receiving end and do not as much contribute to the emissions destroying the climate. According to American Lung Association, colored communities are more at risk of air pollution. Those with disability and the elderly may experience chronic illnesses. Floods in informal settlements adversely affects the semi-structures that are inadequate to combat floods or severe wind. As noted, majority of those in urban informal settlement are economically challenged and cannot afford to rebuild their homes. Women and girls, who mostly use the environment will increasingly trade their bodies for essential commodities such as water or food.

Objectives of the Campus:

Polycom Development Project, has led partners in hosting five (6) UTCs since 2015, two at the UN Complex in Nairobi, one in Kibera Slums of Nairobi and two in Kisumu. The UTC held in 2020 was meant to build synergies towards a Covid Resilient City ahead of the upcoming Africities Summit which was meant to take place this year in Kisumu but is now postponed to May 2022 due to the global Covid 19 pandemic. This 6th Campus is a milestone as an Organization based in an urban informal settlement and understanding the impact of unsafe cities to women and children. This year we decided to use the women led approach. Where women came together to discuss how best we can create a safe city for our children. The campus had two objectives:

- Unpacking climate change to the local woman

- Discussing how best we can mitigate the effects of climate change within informal settlements.

The role of various stakeholders in supporting women lead initiatives in combating climate change. The pertinent issues discussed included Women and girls challenges as they cope with the inevitable changes, climate change related. Climate action is a human rights agenda that should be embraced by all. Women should be included in decision making spaces. Spaces that discuss how to mitigate the impacts of climate change

List of Speakers:

Sri Husnaini Sofjan, *Official Address, Co Chair WUC*

Marxine Maite, *Green Catalyst*

Florence Seyvuo, *National Coordinator, SDG Kenya Forum*

Gedion Ochieng, *CTM Kenya*

Nancy Baraza, *Influencer Polycom Mentor*

Wairimu Kariuki, *Rural Women Network*

Moses Omondi, *KCERT*

Malasen Hamida, *Mazingira Women Initiative*

Humphrey Otieno, *Safer Nairobi Initiative, NCC*

Norrel Agar, *BioTech Student, JKUAT*

Dinah Agai, *Confidence Elevates*

Ben Ooko, *Amani Kibera*

Phenny Ogembo, *GYW Champion*

Christine Mwangi, *Rotary Club*

Dr. Sellah King'oro, *NCIC*

Brenda Kalekye, *Board Member Polycom Hassan - Kibera Deaf Community*

Jane Anyango, *Polycom Development Project*

Key Results Achieved:

98 diverse participants discussed together the effects of climate change and the need to unite to mitigate the effects for climate change. There should be a lot of awareness in the communities of the change they are experiencing so they can come up with more sustainable initiatives on waste management, environment conservation, tree planting, reusable energy and other community solutions. Partners should come together to support climate actions. Our campus as well as the buildup activities towards the campus were a great sign of commitment from the community, civil society and the government at large. During the discussion it was clear, that the government has a great task in providing solutions towards the rapid urbanization being experienced in the capital city. However, essential services such as sanitation has not improved further impoverishing and affecting mostly the women and girls. The government representatives present called on the community to work hand in hand with the government to achieve better urban centers and improve the livelihoods of those living in urban informal settlements. Garbage collection and sanitation is at the top however, the community needs to dispose off their waste responsibly. Calling on the government to support community led initiatives.

Commitments of Partners:

- Promote Climate Action awareness to the community members and the importance of keeping community surroundings clean for safety and development - Rural Women Network
- Promote local partnership – Women have created partnership with local government, Community health facilities, Community members and this is promoting peace now that the country is entering election mood - Local Administration the DCC
- Support clean environment to improve the beauty of the surrounding and created awareness among the community members - Amani Kibera
- Support cleaning of spaces to be used for productive activities- a place that has been being used as a dumping site has been turned to a market place where women will be selling their commodities from that point Grassroot Women.
- Clean up to promote the information in the context of SDGs where the community members are informed more about Climate Action being one of the SDGs agenda. - SDG Kenya Forum
- Map and identify safe space for women and girls to carry out their activities and income generating activities, kitchen gardening for sustainability and other recreational activities – Social grounds - Ministry of Agriculture
- Map droughts and floods during harsh climate – climate injustice to women and girls for possible compensation by the government - Displacement of residents, loss and damages caused by floods, fire, loss of lives and properties (income generating activities), food shortages leading price increase of commodities.

Roles and Responsibilities

Gladys Nakhulo Officer Ministry of Agriculture

Moses Omondi Director Kibera News Network

Malasen Hamida Director Mazingira Initiative

The above stakeholders had action plans.

Gladys will teach the women how to grow organic food within their space.

Moses Omondi of media promised to use his social media platform as a space for advocating for better sanitation, garbage disposal and water within Kibera.

Malasen in her capacity agreed to encourage more members to plant trees.

Relation to the New Urban Agenda and the Sustainable Development Goals:

According to UN-Habitat, the urban poor is increasingly vulnerable: more than 1 billion people live in slums and informal settlements and are highly vulnerable to climate change. Kenya agreed to provide safe housing, drinking water and promote measures that ensure safe cities. As we discuss climate change and climate justice, as women living in informal settlements, it is our mandate to hold the government responsible to keep the key commitments and ensure implementation of the same. Polycom Development Project is the lead organization in the SDG 11 on sustainable cities and communities. To ensure this we have done, several capacity building workshops to sensitize mostly the women and girls on their right to affordable housing and a clean environment. In all dynamics, the Urban Thinkers Campus 6 was strategic with the theme climate change and climate justice as we aligned it to the global agenda and timing.

Adapting to climate change

In this session the women highlighted the impact the climate change has had on them directly. Diverse voices from women and girls were expressed.

Women claiming their neighborhoods as we adapt to the impact of climate change. Women discussed how best to reclaim their neighborhood to make it safe for them to live in. Key among the discussion was: access to safe drinking water and good sanitation. Informal settlements often are neglected by local authorities tasked to provide the essential services to those living in those spaces.

Mitigating Losses damages

In this section women were clearly devastated by lack of essential services such as an ambulance. One narrated of how a child was burnt to death following a fire. With the congested semi-structures, use of firewood to cook is the most convenient form of fuel. Electricity is illegally disconnected within these structures. Most cannot afford to pay for connection. In line with the Urban Agenda, it is the work of the government to ensure safe housing within urban informal settlements.

Community led initiatives

What are some of the community led initiatives that should be adopted to mitigate the impact on women and children? In the discussion it was clear that kitchen garden is an initiative that should be adopted by most women. This reduces the cost of buying food and reduces the impact of women engaging in sex trade.

Relation to the City We Need and Climate Change:

Regular clean ups are essential in cities to have responsible means of disposing garbage. Urban informal settlements lack proper planning on sewage and garbage disposal. This cause greater effects on the women and children living in such spaces. As a campus we have held regular clean-ups to safeguard our environment. More lobbying is needed towards ensuring that urban informal settlements have clean spaces despite their unplanned structures. The environmental policies are in place and it is essential that we lobby for implementation. Capacity building: most residents have little knowledge on keeping their environment clean. They do not co-relate climate change and the ways through which garbage is to be disposed.

UTC Outcomes – The Roadmap and Recommendations:

ACTION PLAN:

- Grow organic food within urban space - We propose to have organized women sessions within the Polycom farm where we have a kitchen garden. These trainings can be done monthly by the agriculture officers to monitor progress.
- Use medias for advocating for better sanitation, garbage disposal and sufficient clean water. This will be done quarterly with women doing a roundtable meeting discussing the direct effects of COVID 19.
- Planting trees: to be done yearly in partnership with various organizations.

Solutions and Good Practices in Addressing Climate Change:

Spaces for Women to Impact Climate Change

There was a physical abandoned area in a place called Roland camp in Nairobi Kenya - a small forest that served to connecting women and communities with nature and getting people to understand that it is possible to plant trees and conserve our environments ahead of the urban figures. There were community events around women claiming their neighborhoods and identifying a space to collaborate, clean up and educate. The spaces the subspaces for collaboration will serve to bring communities together to talk about the successful programs that have worked in the past. Spaces bring together experts on climate change and local communities to show what they have been doing and what is working well. One example is of women in an organization called Mazingira. They were able to plant over 500 fruit trees within Kibera as well as doing recycling work as an organization.

Collective Community mapping to address vulnerability and empower authorities

It's only within the communities that you can get real data where you don't have those assumptions in fact at times. It's only from the community that we can achieve and address the realities faced as a city. The goal has been to compile the data available and work with the authorities to launch reports and use different platforms to disseminate them. Actions also involve monitoring actions being taken in the community so that there is inclusion and collaboration in the community generated data.

Organized Sessions for Women to Train and Advocate

Grow organic food within their space. The proposal is to have organized women sessions within the Polycom farm where there is a kitchen garden. These trainings can be done monthly by the agriculture officers to monitor progress. Media as a space for advocating for better sanitation, garbage disposal and sufficient clean water. This is proposed to be done quarterly with women doing a roundtable meeting discussing the direct effects of COVID 19.

Women Claiming their Neighborhoods

This is an initiative where women living in slums have been able to get together, map and secure open spaces which have been used as dumping sites with their communities as safe spaces where women meet and develop strategies for the community's welfare.

Planting of Fruit and Medicinal Trees

Mazingira women are engaging in planting of health boosting trees in private and public open spaces. They mobilize and engage community members to adapt and support in growing the trees.

Learning Gardens for Women

Polycom has initiated learning gardens where women can come to learn about urban farming to improve nutrition and food availability within their families. Vertical farming has since been adapted by many for urban farming due to the limited spaces.

CITY CHANGER:

Malasen Hamida: Mazingira Women Group. Mazingira Women have launched an initiative to plant 5,000 fruit trees in Nairobi Kenya, while collaborating with various partners, Malasen has successfully planted over 2000 fruit trees in schools, public spaces and any private and open space she has been able to access in Kibera Slums.

Media & Photos:

- https://drive.google.com/file/d/1miAs1jjdFXqiXXm4JNK__JesgFt-9UWq/view
- <https://www.dropbox.com/sh/4oj0k33fqfhyo03/AADmTTFXTyvA6vUZ0nIKEbhha?dl=0>