

Practitioners'

Call to Scale Urban Resilience

The world is shifting fast. Planetary boundaries are being breached, conflicts are rising and technology is reshaping how societies function. These forces are changing how we live and testing city systems faster than they were built to adapt.

Yet across regions, cities have established the roles, partnerships and solutions that protect people every day. A decade of resilience practice has shown cities what works. They have built plans that connect climate, health, social and economic priorities, strengthened neighbourhoods, restored nature and developed the tools and collaborations that help them make clear decisions under pressure.

**98%**

of resilience officers
report having the skills
they need to lead

76%

say learning from
other cities speeds
up action

**86%**

of R-Cities
members now have
formal resilience
mandates

Cities have built this practice through steady work. Every day, teams find ways to keep communities functioning, respond to rising pressure and adjust as conditions change. Their lived experience has shaped how resilience is understood and practiced worldwide, creating the foundations for what the world needs today: resilience at scale.

But the pressures on cities are rising. Heat is intensifying, infrastructure is ageing, costs are increasing and inequalities are widening. Health systems are stretched and many cities face demands that exceed their resources.

How we navigate this complexity depends, more than ever, on cities. Across the global community of practitioners, the knowledge already exists. Cities, networks and partners have developed practical solutions tested in different contexts and shaped by lived experience that are already delivering real impact. These solutions are proven, grounded in community priorities and are protecting lives, strengthening systems and reducing long-term costs.

Their progress shows what is possible and also reveals the limits of what cities can shoulder without stronger support around them. Cities are leading with focus and capability, but the pressures they face continue to grow.

Cities cannot do it alone. They need a stronger ecosystem, so proven solutions can reach more people and support communities everywhere.

This Call to Action is directed at governments, funders, financial institutions, universities, civil society, technical partners and networks. We all play a part in creating the enabling ecosystem that helps cities bring proven solutions to more people. The task is to remove barriers, align behind city priorities and create the conditions for resilience to grow at scale.

More than 100 contributions from practitioners helped us build a shared map of solutions that are helping cities build resilience. The Solutions Map, developed at the Resilient Cities Forum, brings together what cities are already delivering and highlights the enablers that make this possible.

The Call outlines six areas where commitment is needed. These are the enablers that allow cities to move from steady progress to broad, lasting change:

1

Strengthen resilience leadership and governance

Cities need durable roles, mandates and cross-department structures that sustain resilience beyond political cycles. Partners can reinforce this by supporting institutional leadership inside government and aligning national and local priorities.



2

Make resilience integral to urban planning and development

Resilience must be built into planning, regulation and investment choices. Cities need support to use risk-informed planning tools, integrate climate and social priorities and align long-term development pathways with resilience goals.



Expand access to finance for resilience

Cities know where investment is needed, but often face barriers in accessing the instruments, early-stage resources and risk-sharing mechanisms required. Funders and financial institutions must help unlock capital, scale technical assistance and back city-led priorities.

3



4

Accelerate delivery through community-centred solutions

Neighbourhoods must be rooted in resilience. Cities need support to scale proven local interventions — from improving public spaces to creating community hubs and nature-based cooling — ensuring communities benefit directly from resilience investments.



Equip city institutions with the skills, tools and knowledge to lead

Resilience depends on people. Cities require ongoing training, technical expertise and professional development so city teams across planning, finance, engineering and health can manage complex risks and deliver effectively.

5

6

Strengthen collaboration, knowledge exchange and collective action

Cities learn fastest from one another. Expanding peer networks, Communities of Practice and cross-regional collaboration will accelerate adoption of proven solutions and help cities leapfrog common barriers.



Resilience succeeds when it strengthens people's safety, health and wellbeing, and delivers benefits across neighbourhoods, systems and institutions.

Cities have built the proof. Scaling resilience now depends on our collective action.

This Call to Action invites governments at all levels, funders, civil society, universities, networks and the private sector to align behind city priorities and help turn proven solutions into lasting, systemic change. Together, we can accelerate resilience at the speed and scale this moment demands, so communities everywhere are safer, healthier and better prepared every day.

The decade ahead demands a clear direction and shared purpose.



150+

reviewed
city cases

cities
represented

45+

100+

practitioner
contributions

**THIS CALL TO SCALE
SETS THE DIRECTION.
THE ECOSYSTEM
MUST NOW ACT.**

THE COALITION OF PRACTITIONERS

Those **contributing** to this Call to Action are united by practice, not theory. We are a diverse global community that has built, tested and advanced resilience on the ground for years. Across roles, sectors and regions, we are shaping the next generation of resilience solutions together.

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