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for hosting this
Resilience Hub event

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THE RESILIENCE HUB

AT LONDON CLIMATE ACTION WEEK





A WHOLE-OF-SOCIETY APPROACH TO BUILDING RESILIENT, EQUITABLE COMMUNITIES

The 2024 London Climate Action Week Resilience Hub event launched the official activities of the Resilience Hub for the year, celebrating the three-year anniversary of the Race to Resilience Campaign, and reflecting on the critical gaps and opportunities as we head towards COP29 and COP30. The event brought together practitioners, policymakers, and community leaders to engage in discussions on key themes, share insights and lessons learned from real-world projects, and foster collaboration and knowledge exchange. The discussions explored the multifaceted challenges of a rapidly changing climate via the lens of infrastructure and community engagement and helped identify practical tools and opportunities for advancing climate resilience in new and existing infrastructure projects. Below we share the key insights and messages that emerged.

Effective climate action starts at the community level. To build resilience, there is a need to first understand and address the unique needs and challenges of those on the front lines of climate impacts. This involves listening to local voices, valuing Indigenous knowledge, and ensuring that community perspectives shape adaptation strategies. Community participation ensures that adaptation strategies are context-specific and address the unique challenges faced by those on the front lines of climate impacts. Governments and organisations need to engage more closely with local communities through creating mechanisms for them to participate in planning and decision-making processes. For example, the work of [Bridges to Prosperity](#) seeks to ensure that infrastructure provision is strategically linked to mobility planning and social inclusion, through gaining an understanding of which urban communities are the worst connected and how that in turn affects issues of marginalisation. Another successful example stems from the work of C40 Cities, who supported their member city Freetown in developing a climate action plan that included [Freetown The Tree Town](#) programme, which aimed to plant over 1 million trees. By involving local communities, the programme achieved a 75% success rate of saplings growing into trees, significantly higher than the average 50%, thus demonstrating how community engagement can increase the effectiveness of climate policies.

“Governments need to be closer to communities to understand their needs and act quickly. NGO’s work is to build metaphorical bridges in some of the hardest-to-reach places, facilitating collaboration to advance adaptation and resilience in a climate-smart way.”

— Eniola Mafe-Abaga, Global Advocacy & Partnerships Director, Bridges to Prosperity

Access to funding is a major barrier for the ability of local climate projects to scale up and sustain climate adaptation efforts. To make climate adaptation financially viable there is a need to develop innovative financial mechanisms that can adequately support grassroots initiatives. Innovative financing mechanisms, such as blended finance, which combines grants and commercial funds can lower the cost of capital and de-risk investments for local projects. This will require collaborations from both public and private sectors. The involvement of the private sector is crucial in mobilising the financial and technical resources necessary for large-scale climate resilience projects. Many grassroots organisations and communities may be uncomfortable with market-based solutions; however, private capital can drive significant advancements in climate resilience.

Successful examples, such as insurance programs that support farmers, demonstrate the potential of private sector collaboration in providing innovative solutions and resources. International organisations and donor agencies need to focus on providing funding and technical assistance to local and national projects. Governments can also provide essential support and create enabling environments for collaborative projects. For instance, integrating climate resilience into the National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) and the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and allocating adequate budgetary resources to support local initiatives are critical steps that governments can take.

Democratising technology will ensure that all projects, regardless of scale, can benefit from modern tools that enhance planning and resilience. While advanced technologies such as digital twins developed by [Bentley Systems](#) offer significant benefits for adaptation and resilience planning, there is a pressing need to democratise these tools to ensure they are accessible. The gap in climate resilience efforts stems from visibility and technological legacy issues rather than primarily from inequity or a lack of affordability. Bundling projects into portfolios makes it possible to attract more funding and deploy technology at scale. Adopting a holistic view is essential as infrastructure management is often siloed, with services such as water, electricity, or

waste management handled separately. As climate change impacts all these systems, there is a need for integrated management to understand co-benefits and unintended consequences.

“Music is a universal language and a powerful vehicle for driving solutions, motivating, and inspiring people to take action. Through the Battery Tour, each concert has raised funds, promoted sustainability, and provided energy to over 18 countries, demonstrating the tangible impact music can have on providing essential resources such as food, water, and power. By disrupting an industry typically reliant on fossil fuels, we have shown that it is possible to host carbon-neutral events.”

— AY Young, musician and founder of the Battery Tour



Incorporating creative and cultural approaches can play a significant role in engaging communities and fostering innovative solutions that are contextually relevant and sustainable. Arts and cultural approaches can help explore the contextualised adaptation and resilience needs of communities. Such approaches ensure that community perspectives and cultural nuances are integral to the development and implementation of climate resilience strategies. For example, the [Art for the People program by Talking Birds](#) engaged residents in envisioning the future art scene in their city. Indigenous knowledge and cultural practices are valuable technological inputs that often don't receive adequate funding or recognition in digital-centric approaches.



The multifaceted nature of climate change impacts means that no single entity can address all challenges independently. Climate resilience can be achieved through partnerships that leverage the unique strengths and resources of each sector. While collaboration is crucial, differences in priorities, resource availability, and operational approaches can create obstacles to effective partnership. Therefore continuous dialogue, establishing clear communication channels, aligning goals, and building mutual trust are essential components of successful collaboration. NGOs and advocacy groups are essential in bridging the gap between communities and other stakeholders. They can facilitate collaboration, provide technical support, and advocate for the needs of local communities.

“Solutions on the ground are evolving, and delivering them requires a collective mindset shift and collaboration among various stakeholders, including investors and an ecosystem of actors.”

— Marcia Toledo, Director of Adaptation and Resilience, UN Climate Change High-Level Champions

As we move towards COP29 and beyond, the collaborative efforts of governments, businesses, NGOs, and communities will be crucial in building resilient, equitable, and sustainable futures. The event successfully set the stage for continued partnership and innovation, aligning with the UNFCCC Sharm El Sheikh Adaptation Agenda, COP29 Presidency Priorities, and the Race to Resilience campaign.

We hope you will join this active community of change makers in this journey to COP29. Our next engagement will be at New York Climate Week where Resilience Hub will host a full [Resilience Day](#). We hope to see you there!





WITH THANKS TO OUR SPEAKERS AND MODERATORS

A Whole-of-Society Approach to Building Resilient, Equitable Communities



Seth Schultz, CEO, Resilience Rising. Seth is a globally recognised innovator and thought leader, he has a long track record of building consensus and initiating change in the field of sustainable development, urban climate action, and resilient infrastructure.



Daniel Stander, Special Advisor to the United Nations and Deputy Chair of Resilient Cities Network

Daniel is special advisor to the United Nations on sustainable finance. He is also Deputy Chair of the Resilient Cities Network and has been a senior fellow at The Atlantic Council.



Eniola Mafe-Abaga, Global Advocacy & Partnerships Director, Bridges to Prosperity

Eniola Mafe Abaga is the Global Advocacy and Partnership Director at B2P, bringing over 15 years of experience in facilitating stakeholder engagement, systems change, program implementation, and sustainable development strategy in developing countries.



Farah Ahmed, Climate Justice Lead, Julie's Bicycle

Farah Ahmed (she/they) is the Climate Justice Lead at Julie's Bicycle. She manages the Creative Climate Justice programme, developing resources, curating events and advocacy, connecting environmental, racial and social justice, and creative activism. Farah is also a facilitator on the Creative Climate Leadership programme.



Chris Bradshaw, Chief Sustainability Officer, Bentley Systems

Chris Bradshaw is chief sustainability officer at Bentley Systems, bringing together Bentley's sustainability and education initiatives with the objective of empowering Bentley's users to achieve sustainable development goals, while ensuring the next generation of engineers has the tools and knowledge to succeed.



Cassie Sutherland, Managing Director for Climate Solutions and Networks, C40 Cities

Cassie is the Managing Director for the Climate Solutions and Networks team at C40, leading the development and delivery of sector programmes and support to cities in energy and buildings, food and waste, transport, urban planning, air quality and climate resilience.

Fireside chat



Marcia Toledo, Director of Adaptation and Resilience, UN Climate Change High-Level Champions

Marcia is a senior professional with 20+ years of work experience designing climate programs and managing portfolios and providing strategic direction to accelerate climate implementation.



Jesper Hornberg, CEO, Global Resilience Partnership

Jesper Hornberg is the Chief Executive Officer at the Global Resilience Partnership. He has over 25 years of experience working with identification, management, and scaling hundreds of

resilience and adaptation projects and programs globally and in various roles.



Shehnaaz Moosa, Director, SouthSouthNorth

Shehnaaz is a Director at SouthSouthNorth, the CEO of the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) programme and the SSN Project Director and Steering Committee member of the Voices for Just Climate Action (VCA) program.



AY Young, CEO & Flagship Artist of the Battery Tour

AY Young is CEO and flagship artist of the Battery Tour as well as 1 of the 17 United Nations Young Leaders of the world. AY is the only youth leader of the 17 from the USA selected representing all the youth in the USA.

High Level Reflections



Nigel Topping, Race to Resilience Global Ambassador, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion from the COP26 Presidency

Nigel Topping was the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion from the COP26 Presidency, appointed by the UK Prime Minister in January 2020.



Mahmoud Mohieldin, UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for COP27

Dr. Mohieldin was appointed as the UN Climate Change High-Level Champion for Egypt at COP27, with aims at enhancing the communication between the Egyptian presidency of COP27 and businesses, the private sector and international funding institutions.

RESILIENCE
HUB



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