



## **Sustainable Cities and Communities (SDG 11)**

Creating sustainable cities and communities means offering a good quality of life to current residents but not reducing the opportunities for future residents to enjoy. With the help of cities, global goals surrounding poverty eradication, equality, climate change mitigation, and good health can be achieved. This is why the Sustainable Development Goal - SDG 11 emphasizes the importance of making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable. The world is urbanizing at an unprecedented rate with more than 50 percent of the global population living in cities today. Rapid urbanization is leading to an increase in informal and unplanned settlements, worsened impact on climate change, and harsher effects of natural disasters. To achieve sustainable development, the way we build our urban areas must be a priority. By the year 2050, about two-thirds of humanity will be living in cities. Developing countries are experiencing the highest rate of urban expansion, which is around 90 percent, and much of it is near hazard-prone areas. It is necessary to ensure that adequate planning efforts are implemented to cope with the influx of new inhabitants. This will ensure that the advantages of urbanization are capitalized on to achieve the 2030 SDG Agenda.

### **Building Resilient Cities - The Effort of Developing Countries:**

- In most developing countries, technology is playing a critical role in facilitating inclusion through better targeting of government support and universal access to services.
- A focus on reducing disaster risk and increasing the capacity of local governments, with support from international organizations, is helping several developing countries and communities build the necessary infrastructure.
- Also, public transport is becoming more accessible, safe, and reliable in over 65 percent of developing countries across the world.
- Indonesian cities are using big data with satellite images to conduct rapid assessments of land use to develop cadastral plans and data-based urban development-modeling tools.
- In Dar Es Salaam, Tanzania, open-source platforms such as the OpenStreetMaps are used to collect detailed terrain information and develop flood models that support resilience infrastructure plans and preventive flood measures.
- In Durban, South Africa, 90,000 houses have been built to tackle their acute housing needs. Their disaster management strategies are helping them strengthen their early warning systems to reduce risk and climate-proof infrastructure for the thousands of people that live in slums.
- Global partnerships must be established to assist cities in developing countries with housing and water drainage systems, to make them more resilient to a changing climate.

### **Sustainable Cities Making a Difference:**

- Copenhagen in Denmark is using innovative cooling systems that save around 70 percent of the energy compared to traditional air conditioning: [Learn more](#)
- Singapore sustainably limits car ownership among its residents: [Watch now](#)
- San Francisco, California is using innovative technologies in enhancing their transportation system: [Learn more](#)