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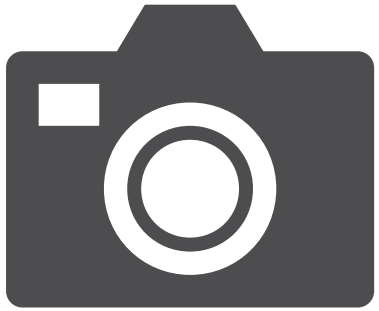
AFRICA

Fundamentals of Stakeholder Engagement

Sept 2nd, 2025

Welcome!

We will record this session



https://kenya.safe4allafrica.eu/

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Avoid distractions



Be comfortable



Use the chat for questions or raise your hand if you want to speak

We have two special guests today!

Fitse Gelaye



Karl Astbury



Spyros Paparrizos



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What are we going to do today?

Agenda

Welcome

Contextualizing the need for stakeholder engagement– Fitse Gelaye

Co-development of climate services with end-users – Spyros Paparrizos

Resilience Planning with Communities- Karl Astbury

Closing

Today’s learning goal

Be able to explain the basics of stakeholder engagement for effective climate action and learn from case studies on the ground.



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Find recordings for this and past sessions on the Kenya Climate Atlas!



WEBINAR: FUNDAMENTALS OF CLIMATE CHANGE



WEBINAR: FUNDAMENTALS OF RESILIENCE

https://kenya.safe4allafrica.eu/learning/

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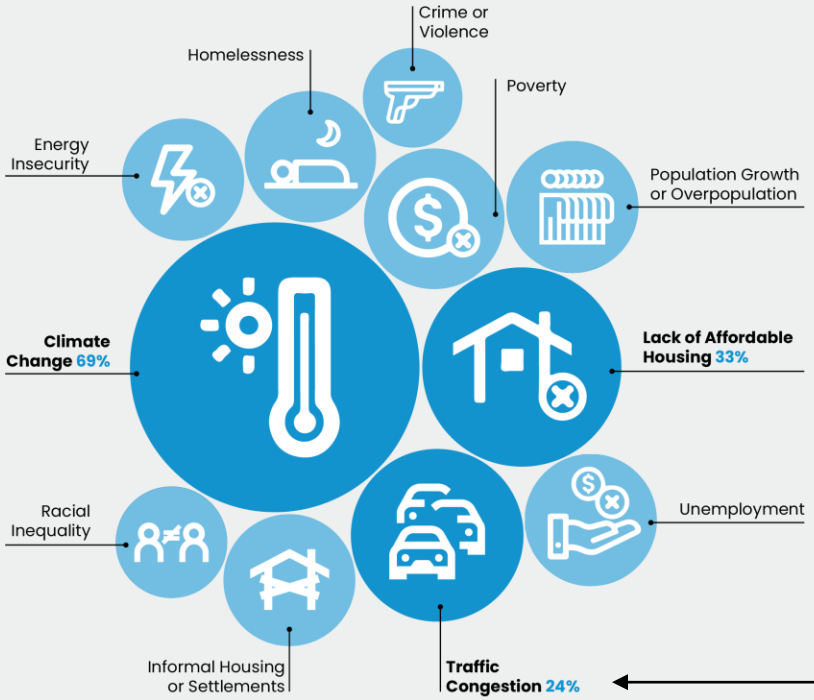
Contextualizing the need for stakeholder engagement

Poll: Climate change impacts me

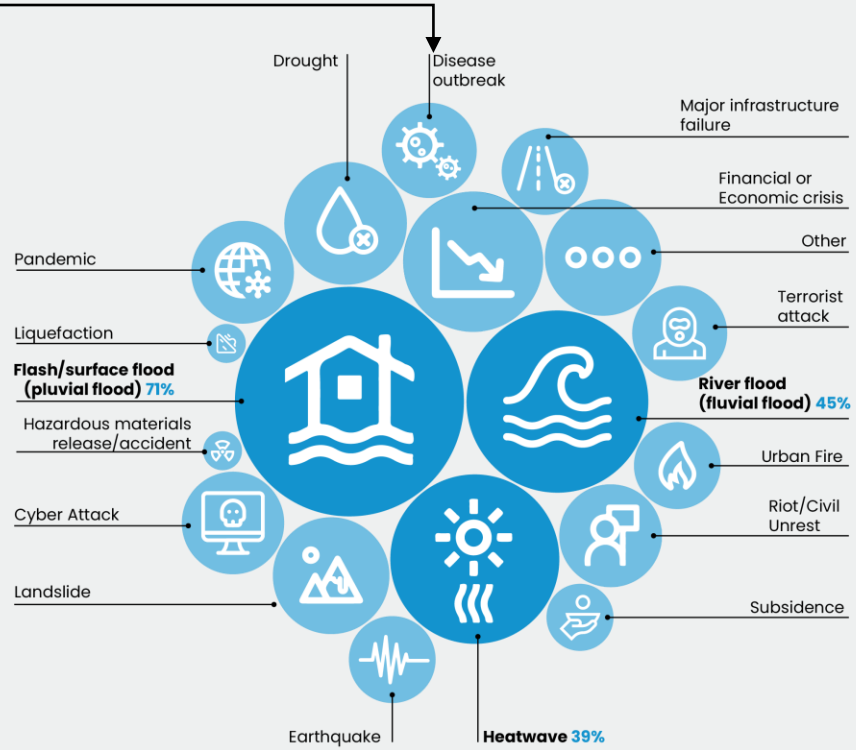
Raise your hand if you would like to say something

Shocks and Stresses do intersect and compound

Stresses



People 's resilience is determined by the intersections of vulnerabilities they face



Shocks

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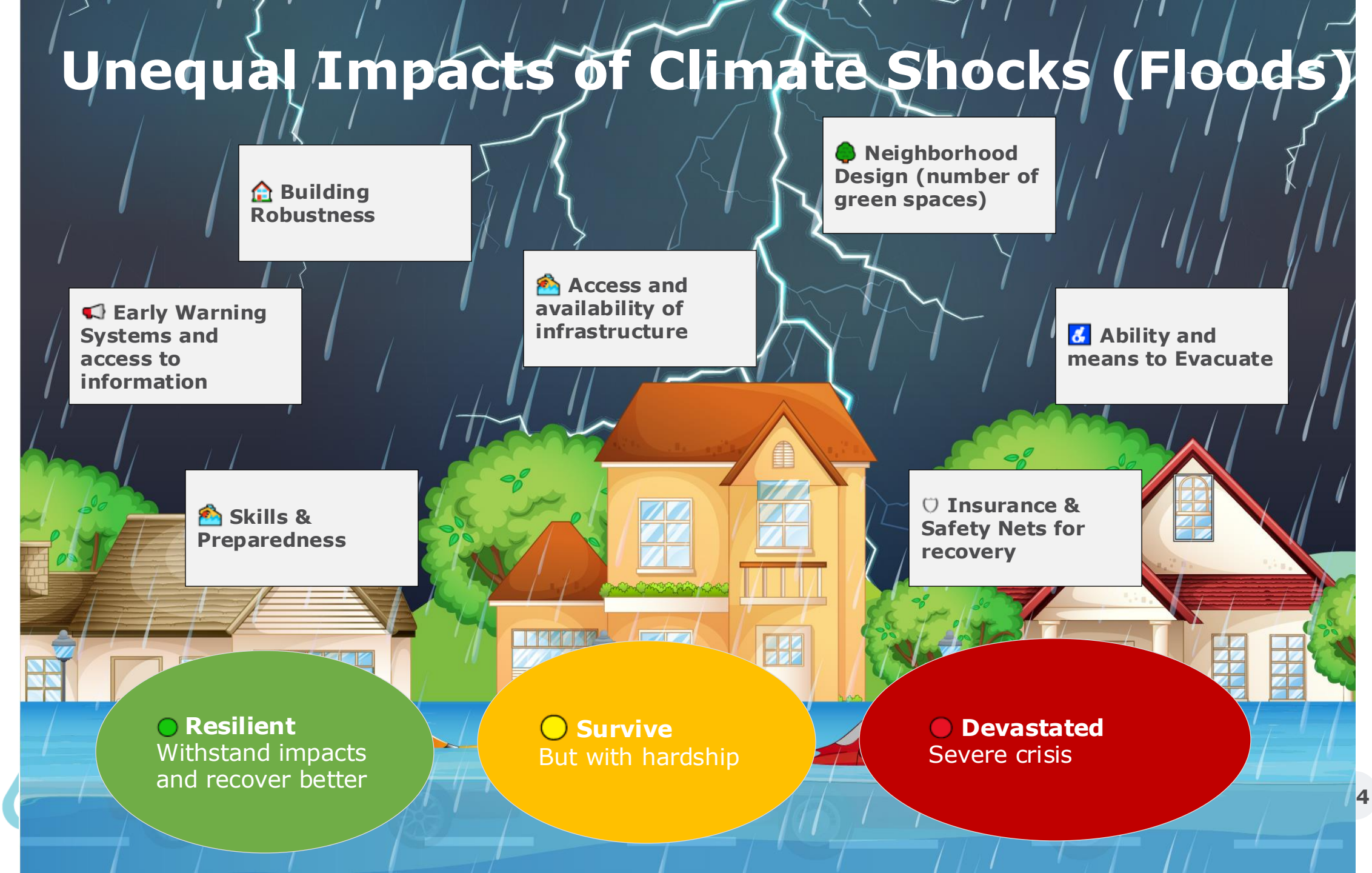
Unequal Impacts of Climate Shocks (Floods)



Poll: Who do you think is most critical climate action is planning in your communities?

Scientists / technocrats

Private Sector Actors

Development partners

National Governments

Local Governments

Community leaders

Everyday people

Ecosystems

All?



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What are the qualities of a Resilient System?

Resilience for whom?

Resilience of what?

Resilient to what?



Reflective
Able to learn

Integrated
Systems work together

Resourceful
Can easily Repurpose resources

Inclusive
Broad consul

Robust
Well conceived, constructed and managed

Flexible
Has alternative strategies

Redundant
Has backup capacity of failure

Who is a stakeholder?

Individuals, groups, and organizations who have an interest in, are affected by, or can influence environmental decision-making.” (Reed, 2008; Grimble & Wellard, 1997)

climate and environmental action

Any person, group, or organization that can claim rights, interests, or responsibilities in a public decision-making process.” (Bryson, 2004; Ansell & Gash, 2008),

governance and collective action

“Both human and non-human actors with a claim to justice in the face of climate change impacts and solutions.” (Schlosberg, 2007; Newell et al., 2021)

climate justice that includes ecosystems

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Stakeholder Engagement needs to be inclusive…

Different experiences given the space to shape solutions

- If we do not ask, we do not know
- If we do not understand, we will increase risk levels and inequities

Different forms of knowledge and skills being validated and driving change

- We need science, we need indigenous knowledge
- We need funding, we need ownership
- We need maintenance, we need stewardship
- We need plans, we need community cooperation

Top-down, bottom-up and all around need to meet halfway!



Stakeholder Engagement is Critical…

Context-sensitive (tailored to local realities),

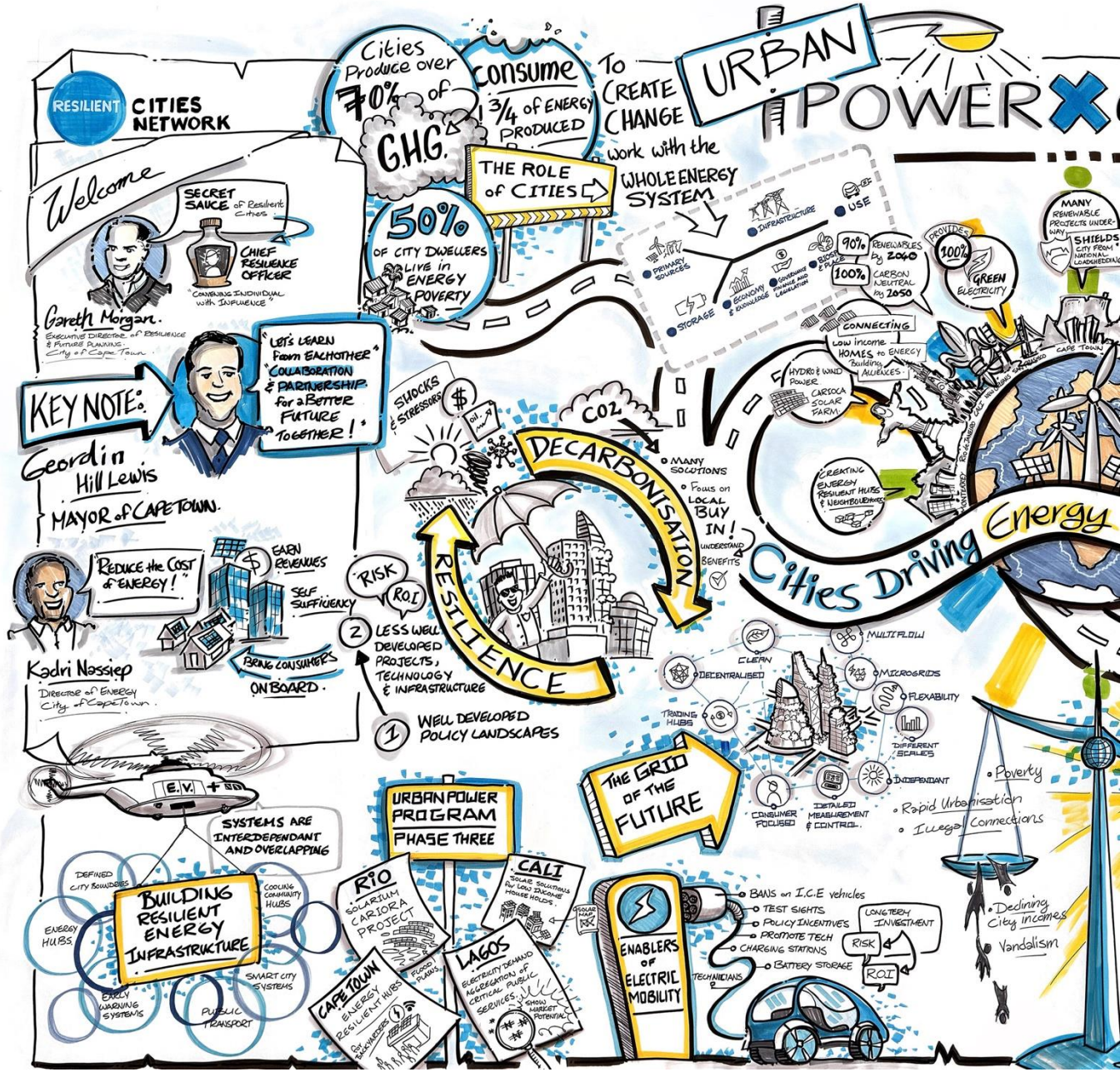
- We do not start from scratch- we understand existing systems, investments and networks
- We form a stronger understanding of what the issues are
- Understand power dynamics to ensure that our work is not tokenistic or ineffective

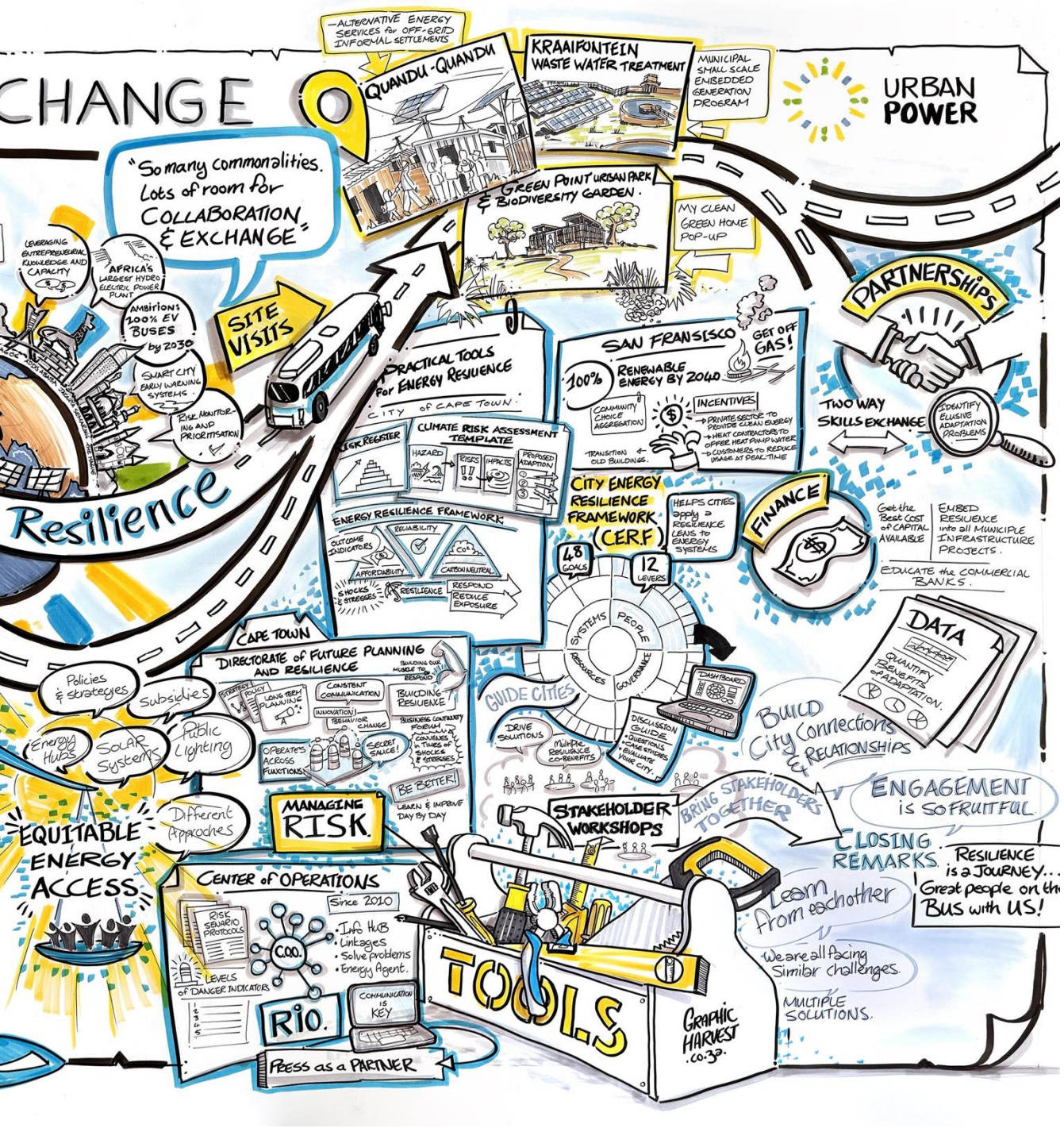
Socially just (addressing inequalities in impacts and capacities),

- We have a stronger picture of how these issues are experienced by different stakeholders with different levels of exposure and vulnerability
- We bring different perspectives that provides intersectional thinking

Durable (supported by collective ownership).

- We give agency with people who are impacted - including ourselves
- We build stronger ownership of outcomes





… but it is not an easy task!

Stakeholder Engagement is not neutral and shaped by power dynamics

- can empower only a few,
- can also legitimize top-down decisions,
- can extract information leaving others vulnerable

Stakeholder Engagement takes immense resources –

- Stakeholders are already tired/ fatigued
- Engagement requires time and money to do, and needs to be iterative
- It takes a long time and effort to build and maintain trust

There are spectrums of Stakeholder Engagement

- Passive participation – People are told what is happening.
- Participation by consultation – People give opinions but have little influence on decisions.
- Participation for material incentives – People participate in exchange for benefits (e.g., food-for-work).
- Functional participation – People are involved to help achieve project goals.
- Interactive participation – People take part in joint analysis, planning, and decision-making.
- Self-mobilization – Communities initiate and lead their own action.

Questions



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Community-informed tool development: DROPapp

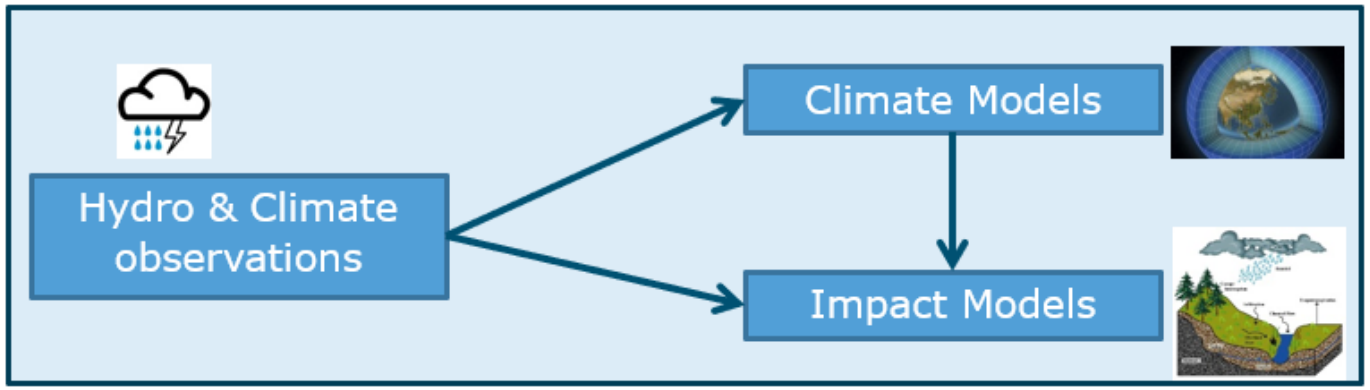
The SAFE4ALL project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101137814

Community engagement in Climate Services

Do you think community engagement is important for designing Climate Information Services?



1st generation of services: top-down

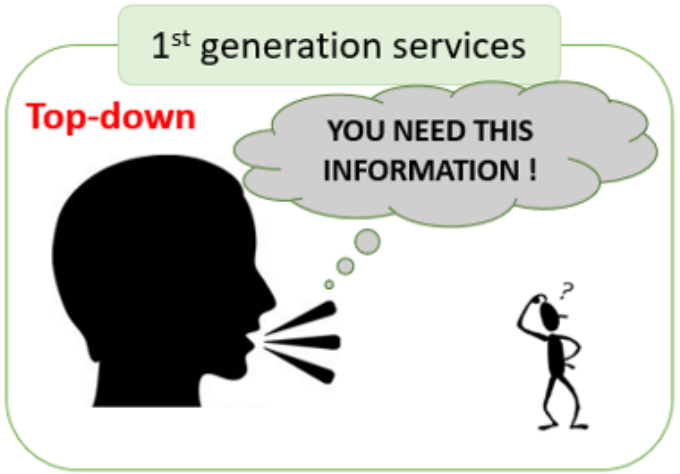


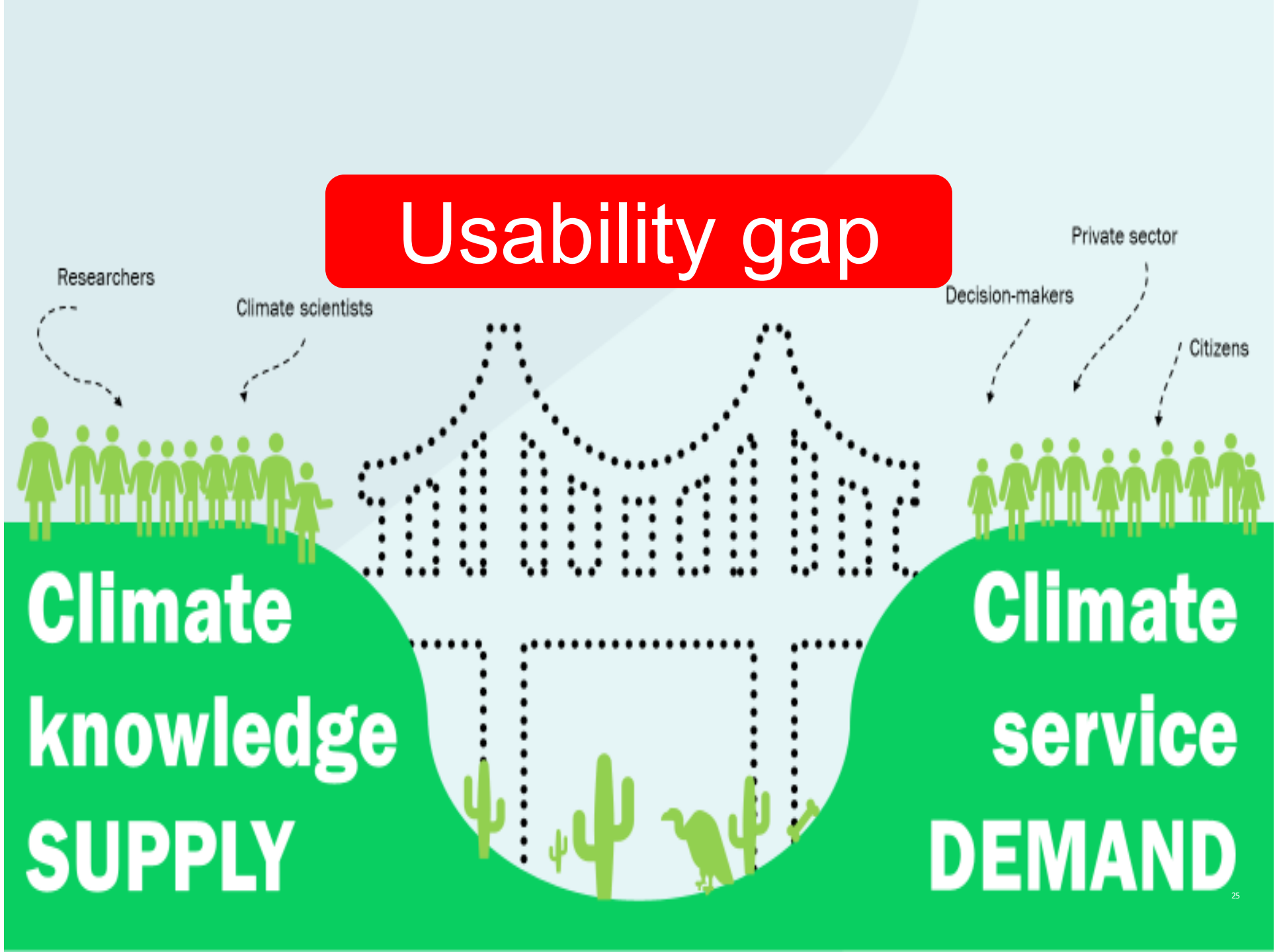
Scenario development, data analyses and multi model assessments



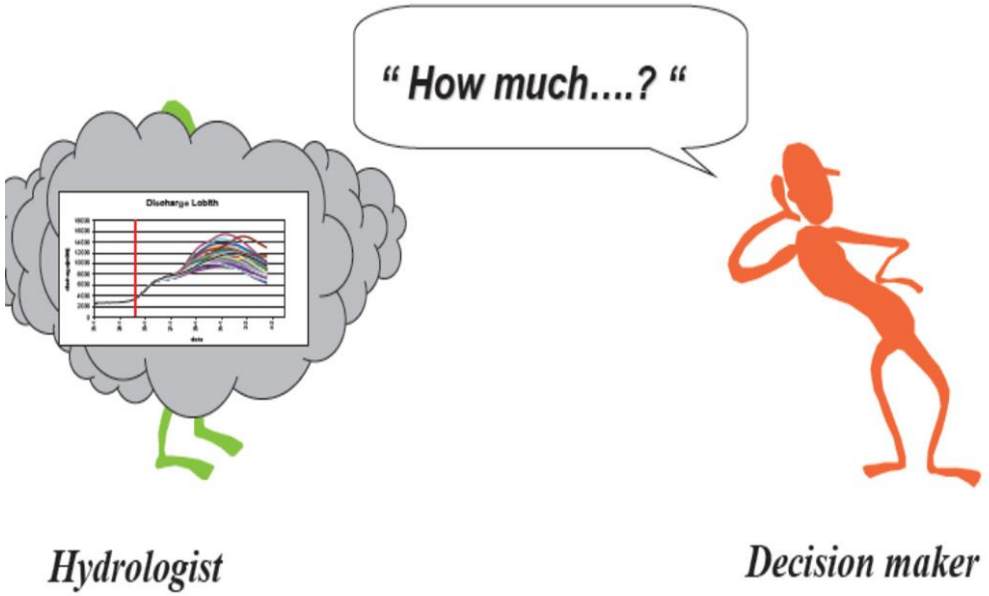
Visualisation and User interface

PRODUCTS



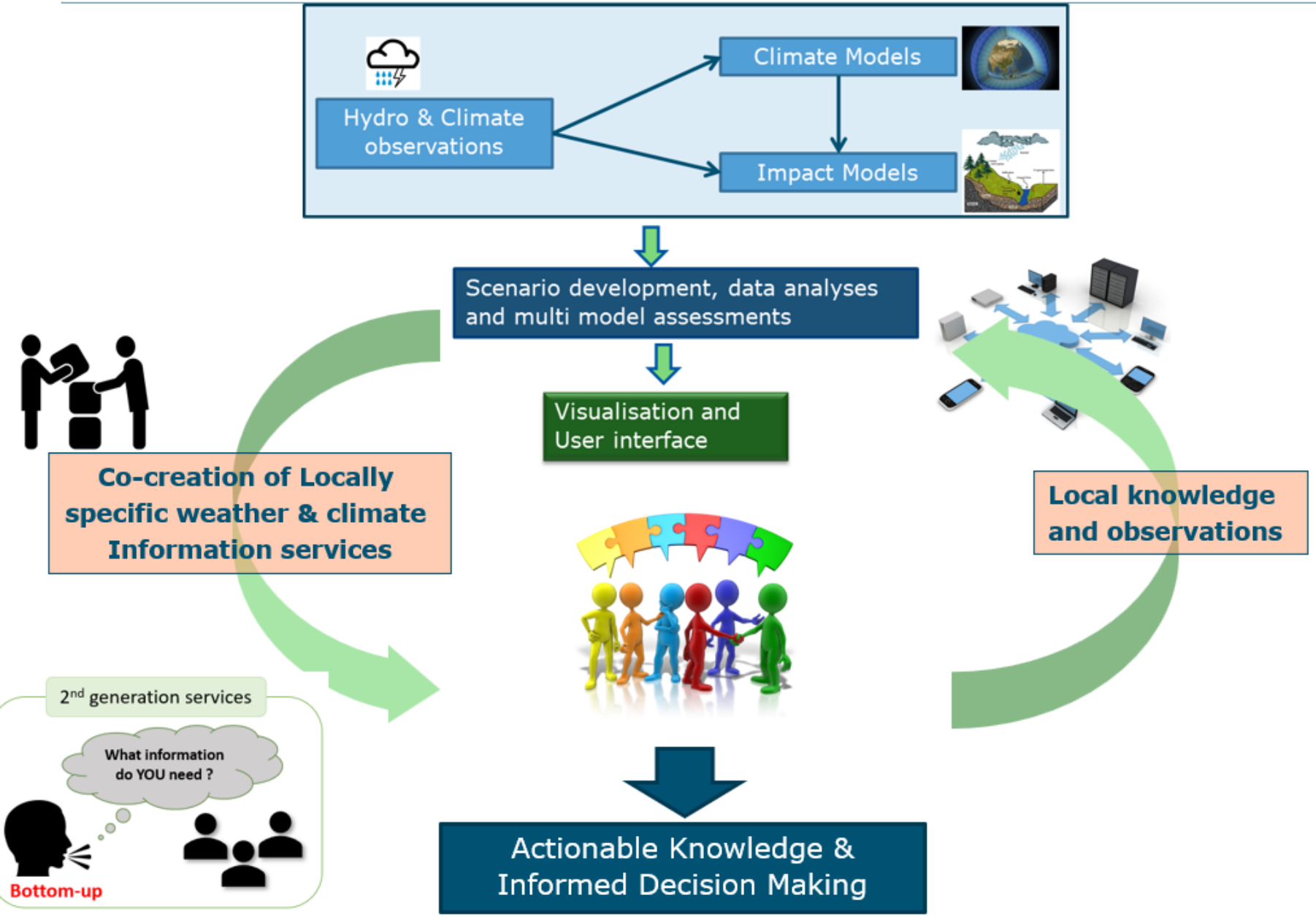

Usability gap
Researchers
Climate scientists
Private sector
Decision-makers
Citizens
Climate knowledge SUPPLY
Climate service DEMAND

Usability gap



'' unsuitability to inform decision-making processes in relation to adaptation against climate change''

2nd generation of services: bottom-up



How can we design our services?

Write your ideas on the chat!



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Participatory services for decision-making

Co-designing participatory services incorporates 3 components:

1. Stakeholder engagement 
2. Use of innovations in information and communication technologies 
3. Actionable knowledge for adaptive decision-making 

1. Stakeholder engagement

- ✓ Information that is relevant to the users
- ✓ Helps build trust
- ✓ Active engagement on the arena
- ✓ Harness local knowledge
- ✓ Jointly (co-)develop services
- ✓ Capacity building
- ✓ Multi-sector & multi-actor approach





2. Innovations in Information & Communication

- ✓ Knowledge sharing platforms
- ✓ Virtual communities
- ✓ Possibilities for interaction
- ✓ Evolving capability to predict weather
- ✓ Possibilities for interaction
- ✓ ‘More local scale’ information
- ✓ Enhance digital literacy





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3. Adaptive decision making

- ✓ Actionable knowledge
- ✓ Individual & collective decision-making
- ✓ Climate services is an adaptation option
- ✓ CC adaptation is a matter of governance
- ✓ Public-Private Partnerships
- ✓ Institutional uncertainties
- ✓ Services' hybridization





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The DROP app

Participatory Hydro-climate information service for smallholder farmers in the global South

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Weather forecasting in Sub-Saharan Africa: how to do it?

Write your ideas on the chat!



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Weather forecasting in SSA



Lack of scientific forecast information: Use of indigenous (local) forecast knowledge

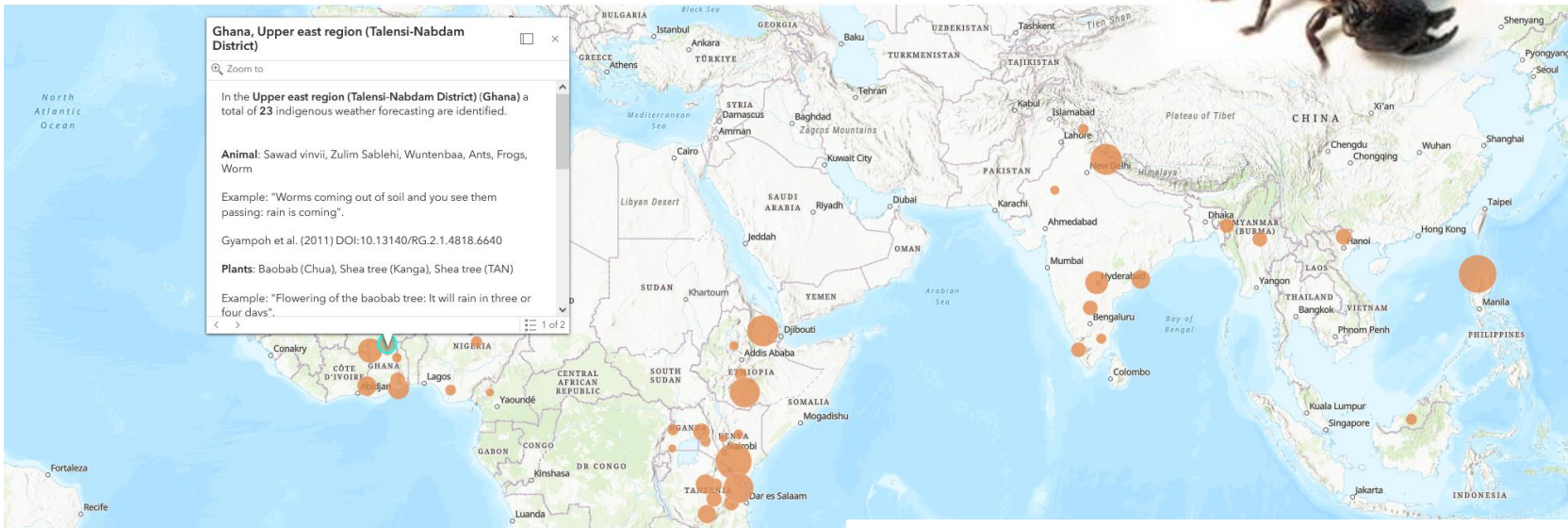


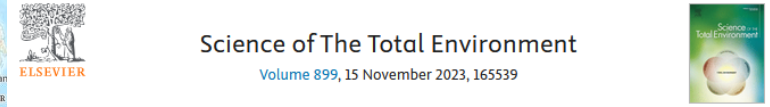






Local weather forecast





Review

Local rainfall forecast knowledge across the globe used for agricultural decision-making

Spyridon Paparrizos, Emmanuel M.N.A.N. Attoh, Samuel J. Sutanto, Nina Snoeren, Fulco Ludwig

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DROP app in a nutshell

Heliyon 11 (2025) e42740

Contents lists available at ScienceDirect

Heliyon

journal homepage: www.cell.com/heliyon

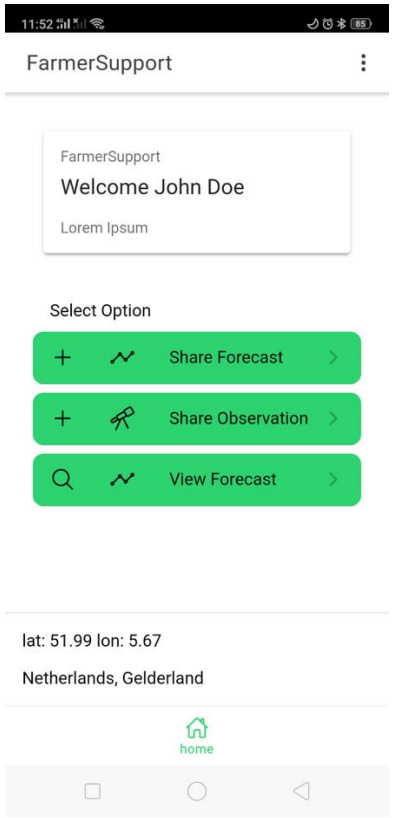
Research article

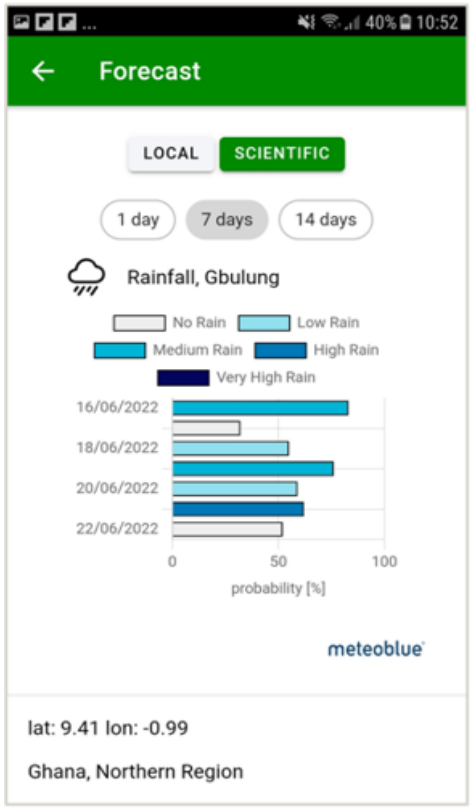
DROP app: A hydroclimate information service to deliver scientific rainfall, local rainfall, and soil moisture forecasts for agricultural decision-making

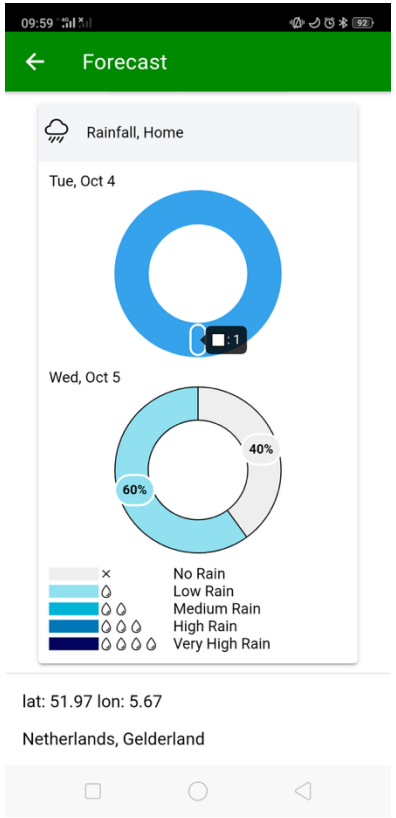
Samuel Jonson Sutanto [a,b,*], Spyridon Paparrizos [a], Lisanne Nauta [a], Iwan Supit [a], Victoria Lefèvre [b], Gordana Kranjac-Berisavljevic [c], Bizoola Zinzoola Gandaa [c], Richard Dogbey [a,c], Baba Mohammadu Jamaldeen [c], Fulco Ludwig [a]

[a] Earth Systems and Global Change Group, Wageningen University and Research, Droevendaalsesteeg 3, Wageningen, 6708 PB, the Netherlands
[b] Enabel, Development Agency of Belgium's Federal Government, 762 Kenneth Kaunda, Mozambique
[c] WACWISA, University for Development Studies, Mepukada, Tamale, Ghana

- ✓ Climate Service → **location** & **time-specific** information
- ✓ **Scientific** weather Forecast Knowledge (SFK) → **Local** weather Forecast (LFK)
- ✓ LFK is based on **local agro-meteorological indicators**







DROP app development in Ghana

- Provide **Local** Forecast (LF) + receive **Scientific** Forecast (SF)





DROP app development in Ghana

Focus Group Discussions

- Build capacity towards weather, water, and climate procedures
- Build capacity towards ICT and the use of apps
- Co-develop water-climate-agricultural advisory services





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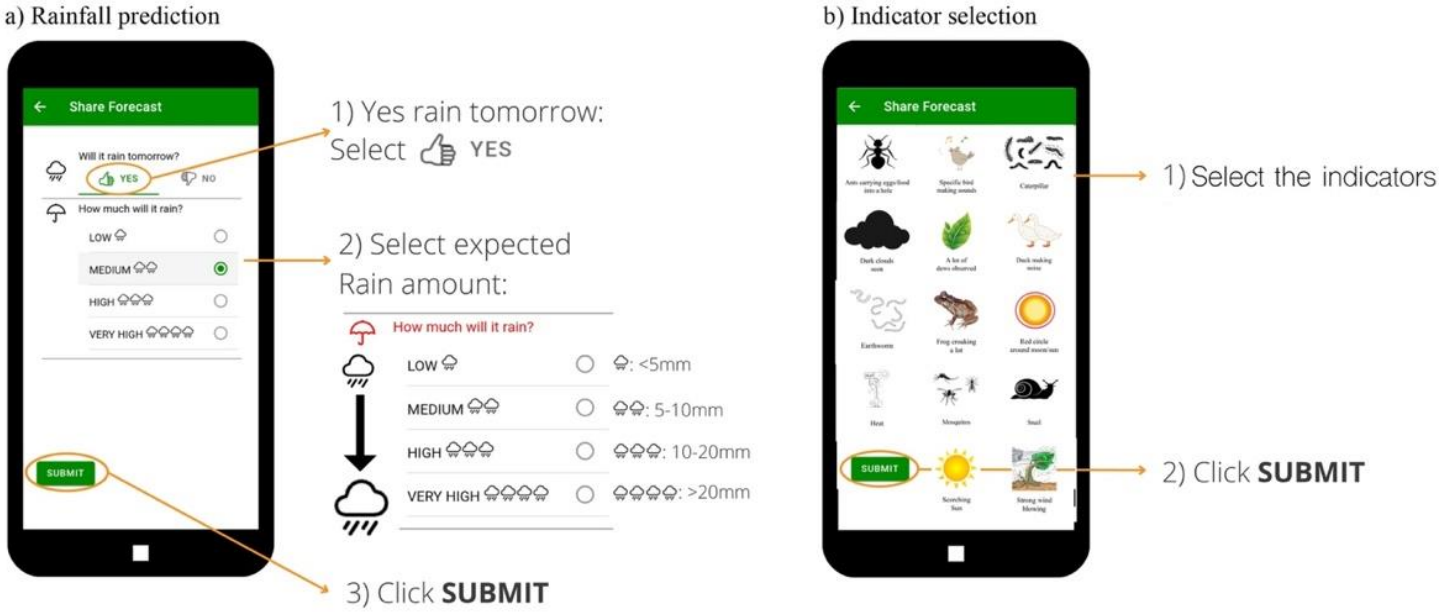
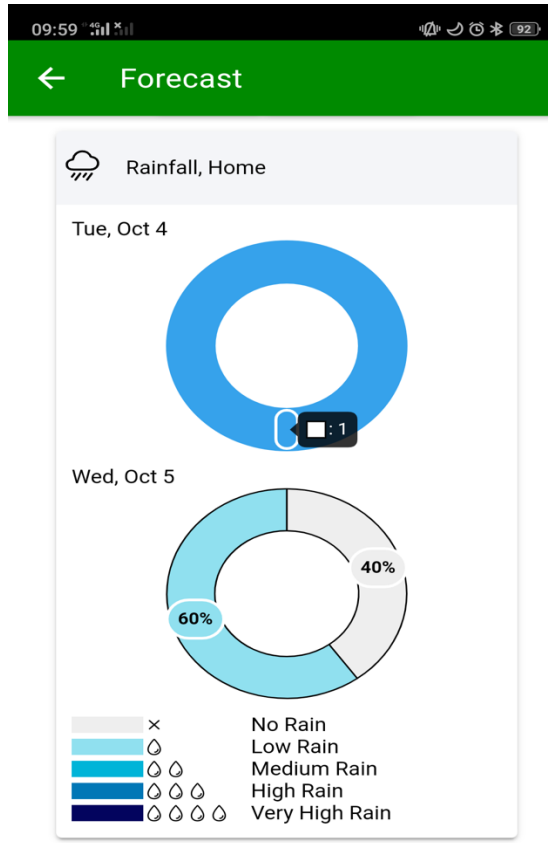
DROP app in a nutshell





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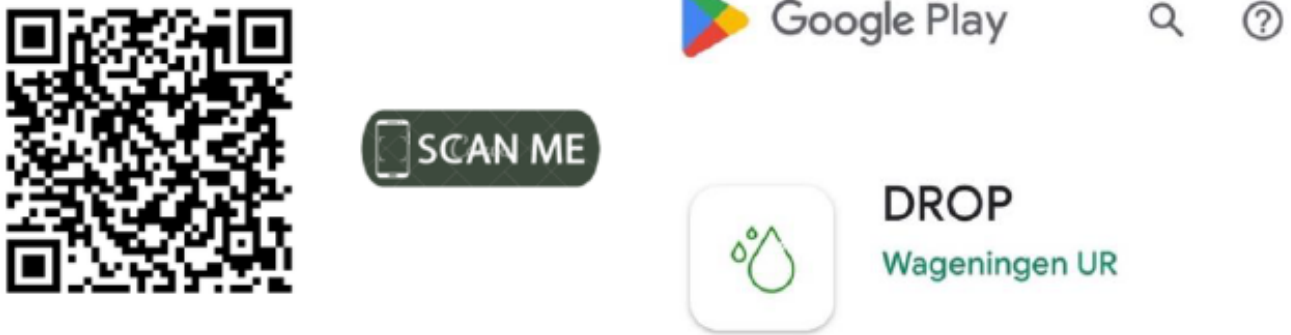
DROP App guide

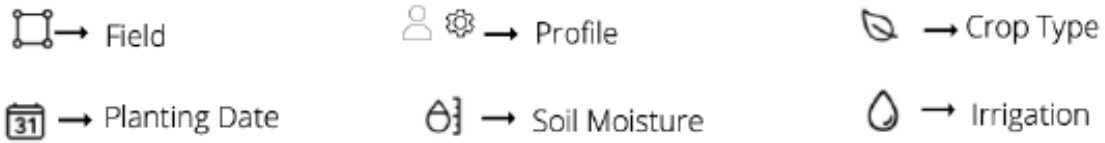
The DROP app is designed to offer users rainfall forecasts based on local and scientific knowledge. The user may submit their daily rainfall forecast for the following day based on local ecological rainfall indicators, as well as their rainfall observations from the previous day. The scientific rainfall prediction is provided for 1, 7, or 14 days, based on the location of the field selected by the user.

Section 1: Download the app

To Download DROP App Click on the Link:
https://play.google.com/store/apps/details?id=com.waterapps.drop.app
OR Scan the QR code below:



Main symbols used in the app:



Questions



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Resilience Planning with Communities: Lessons from Greater Manchester

The SAFE4ALL project has received funding from the European Union's Horizon Europe research and innovation programme under grant agreement No 101137814



Building Climate Resilience with Communities in Greater Manchester

What have we learned?

R4C Identify. Understand. Act. | Resilient Cities Network | Zurich Foundation | Zurich

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

The Resilient Cities Network is the world's leading urban resilience network. We bring together global knowledge, practice, partnerships and funding to empower our cities. Arm in arm with those member cities, we help them build a safer, more equitable, and sustainable future for all their residents.

Our mission is to reduce the vulnerability and improve the well-being of over 220 million urban dwellers around the world.



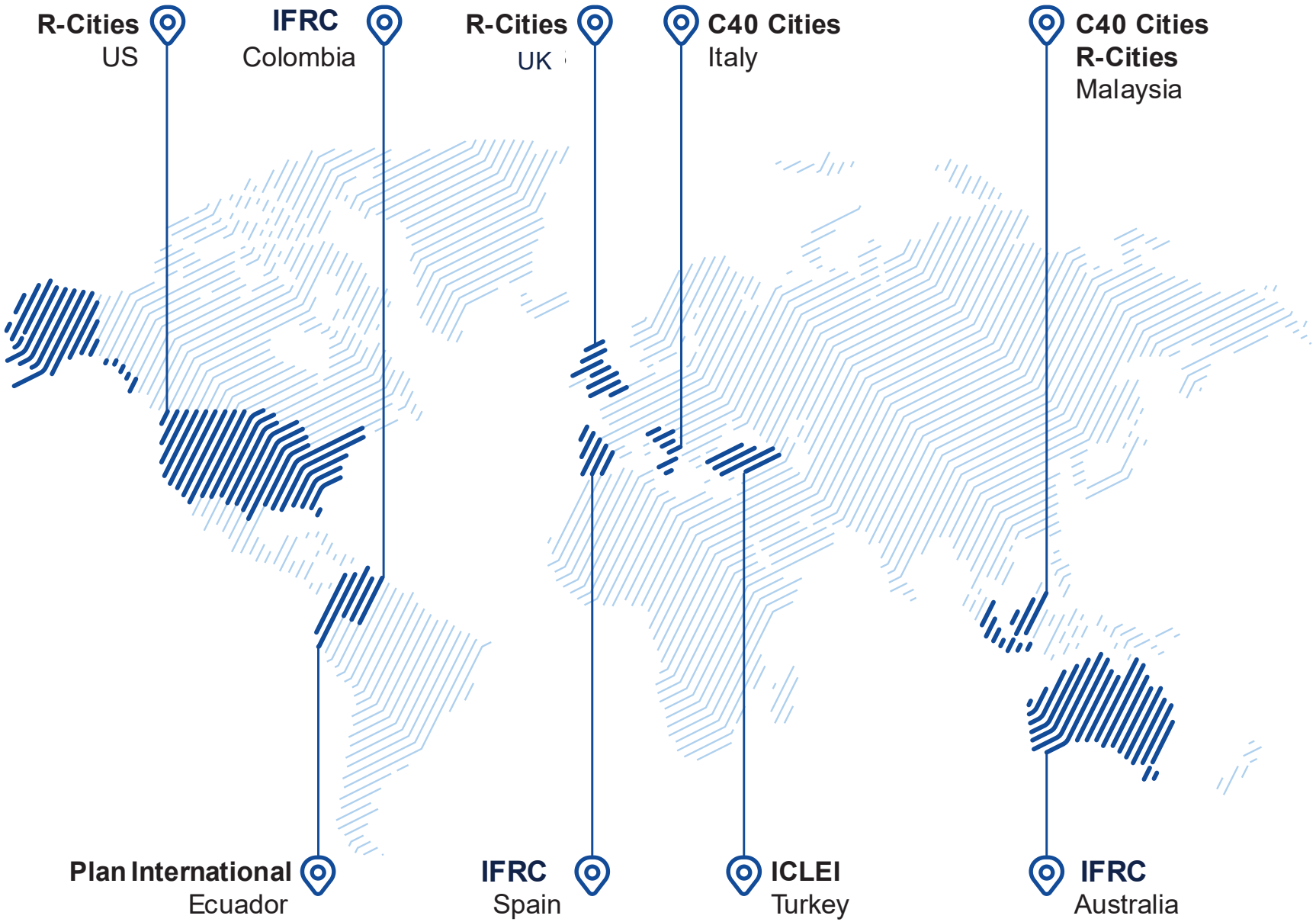


100 Cities

47 Countries

6 Continents

21 Languages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R-Cities
UK
C40 Cities
Italy
C40 Cities
R-Cities
Malaysia
Plan International
Ecuador
IFRC
Spain
ICLEI
Turkey
IFRC
Australia

Community interventions often fail to lead to long-term change

—this happens when communities are treated as passive participants of interventions rather than having ownership in shaping their solutions.

The Safe4All Lens

- Integrated, hyper local, scalable solutions
- Migration
- Engagement which is not siloed



The **Resilience 4 Communities** program

Has been providing funding to assess community resilience and implement solutions that enhance the resilience of the communities in **Higher Folds** and **Edgeley.**

A lot of the time, we're a tick-box exercise because we're in a deprived area. But R4C feels like a partnership. They act like a part of our community.



Elizabeth Twigge, community member of Higher Folds and LIPs

RESILIENCE



Edgeley Population: 11,600
Households: 5,400 [2.1 avg. size]
Climate risks: Heatwaves & flooding
Strong climate awareness
Weak social cohesion

Higher Folds Population: 2,400
Households: 1,100 [2.2 avg. size]
Climate risks: Flooding
Strong early warning systems
Limited youth opportunities

Lesson 1

Resilience is not something we bring to a place

—the ingenuity and determination to survive against the odds has been there long before we arrived, and our role is to help unlock more of it.

Lesson 2

Make measurement a conversation.

—not just data extraction, but agenda setting

I liked that R4C doesn't want to take control of things—they want to listen to us and work with us.

Lesson 3

Make partnerships part of the solution, not just the delivery model

Building trust is not a soft skill—it’s a structural enabler.

To get people to connect with these issues, you have to show both incremental progress and long-term impact.

Lesson 4

Small actions create ripple effects

—demonstrating what's possible has helped shift policy conversations across the region and influence action.

Lesson 5

Name equity, design for it

Lesson 6

Flexibility builds trust

—adapting to local needs helped us gain quick wins and gave us permission to go deeper.

Lesson 7

Tapping into local energy makes the work more meaningful and sustainable

We can’t say this enough: we don’t do this to communities —we do it with them.

One big value is that R-Cities is connecting us with other stakeholders outside the council, doing a lot of development in that area. This project has been very mindful of those connections, leading to the first implementation, feeding into and embedding with what is already happening.



Thank you

R4C
Identify. Understand. Act.

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

ZURICH Foundation

ZURICH



Questions



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ONBOARDING LEARNING PROGRAM

Session 6:
FUNDAMENTALS OF CLIMATE ADAPTATION

Communicating climate change and action

DATE
October 22, 2025

TIME
9 AM GMT | 11 AM CAT
12 PM EAT

DURATION
1.5 hours

Climate Adaptation Services

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

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ACS 2 The Africa Climate Summit 2

From Climate Impacts to Food Security

Analysis • Ambition • Action in a Changing Environment

September 9, 2025

10:00 – 11:30 AM

Addis International Convention Center, Room M8 (Addis Ababa, Ethiopia)



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WAGENINGEN UNIVERSITY & RESEARCH

RESILIENT CITIES NETWORK

Climate Adaptation Services

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Have a great day!

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