



# Climate Change and Human Settlements

**Correcting the course of multi-stakeholder driven adaptation**

TLS Learning Journey Series

## **About Transitions Research**

Transitions Research is a social science research collective. We examine radical transformations shaping our future, including both urbanisation and the emergence of a climate-resilient society. Our research on urban resilience foregrounds social vulnerability, the differential impact on marginal social groups and communities. Our expertise is focused on driving climate action that's inclusive and participatory by engaging with diverse stakeholders to co-create and test resilience solutions that address challenges of the most vulnerable.

## **About the Adaptation Research Alliance**

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global coalition responding to the urgent challenges faced by vulnerable communities from climate change. Their membership is made up of researchers, funders, policymakers, development bodies and community-based organizations committed to action-oriented research for adaptation that supports climate resilient futures.

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This report has been shaped by insights, reflections, and experiences shared by members of the Adaptation Research Alliance through their Tracking, Learning, and Sharing (TLS) program. Their perspectives have been integral to framing the findings and recommendations presented here.

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# Overview



This insights report captures reflections, perspectives, and lessons gathered through a global collective learning process focused on climate change and human settlements. Anchored by the Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) and led by Transitions Research, this report explores how to address the observed challenges of policy fragmentation across sectors such as housing, environment, and transportation, which limits the integration of climate considerations into urban planning, alongside limited meaningful engagement that often results in adaptation strategies failing to reflect the lived realities and priorities of those most affected by climate change.

This inquiry focused on how climate adaptation in human settlements can move beyond silos to ensure deeper, more inclusive stakeholder engagement. Addressing this question, the report synthesizes contributions from collaborative workshops, regional focus groups, literature mapping, and surveys led by Transitions Research and supported by the ARA.

At the heart of this process was a commitment to participatory learning. The journey engaged over 150 ARA members, including researchers, local NGOs, development practitioners, and community-based organizations, from across Africa, Asia, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC). Participants shared lived experiences and critical reflections from diverse settlement contexts - urban, rural, informal, and Indigenous. This report aims to support an ongoing conversation rooted in practice, and the principle that climate adaptation must be shaped by those working and living on the frontlines.



# Key Insights

This analysis presents insights from members on four types of settlements - urban, rural, informal, and Indigenous - the climate impacts each one faces, and what can be done in response. Some key insights emerging from the research with ARA members are shared below.

## **Misaligned interventions risk deepening inequality.**

When plans or policies don't match how places are governed, built, or experienced by people, they can make existing inequalities worse. To prevent this, we need to understand the specific challenges in each type of settlement.

## **The way a settlement is built shapes who takes climate action.**

The way a place is built and how it is connected to basic services shapes who gets to make decisions about climate action. In planned cities, experts like engineers and urban planners lead the process. In rural and Indigenous villages, communities rely on shared knowledge and the guidance of elders. In informal settlements, people create their own solutions through local organising. To support stronger adaptation, we need to understand how each place gives or denies people the power to act, and then work with those strengths.

## **Power works differently everywhere, so adaptation needs localised ways of governing.**

In cities, formal institutions usually hold power, with little input from neighbourhoods. Rural and Indigenous areas often have layered and traditional forms of leadership, while informal settlements depend on flexible, informal networks. Instead of using one-size-fits-all solutions, we need to design governance approaches that fit each context. This includes mapping who makes decisions, who people trust, and who is already taking action. Digital forums can help bring more people into the process, but only if they build on local trust and leadership.





## **Shared global and national goals help align adaptation efforts.**

Actors often work in isolation, making it hard to coordinate adaptation efforts. Silos within institutions themselves, between national and local levels, and between technical and social actors lead to duplication and inefficiencies. Shared global goals, such as the Global Goal on Adaptation (GGA) and national plans can help bring them together and guide collective action.

## **Center lived experiences.**

Adaptation is often expert-driven, sidelining lived experience. While marginalized groups, like informal settlers and Indigenous communities, are included in discussions, they rarely shape final decisions. This devalues experiential and ancestral knowledge, leading to solutions that miss culturally rooted, low-cost, and sustainable practices. Formal mechanisms to embed these perspectives, through co-designed, trust-building platforms, can make adaptation more inclusive and effective.

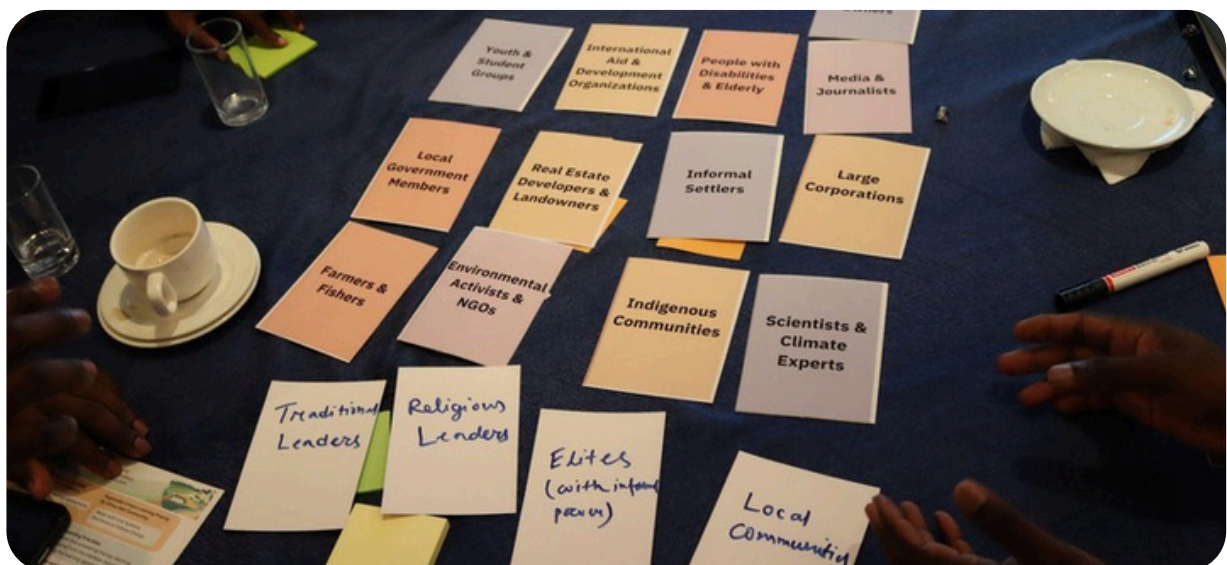
## **Informality builds resilience when we support it.**

Informality is often seen as a problem, but in reality, it helps people survive and adapt. Ignoring informality leads to missed opportunities for embedded, sustainable resilience. In informal settlements, strong social ties, local organising, and flexible ways of coping are key to everyday life. Instead of trying to replace these systems, adaptation efforts should strengthen them through legal recognition, flexible funding, and respectful partnerships.

# Learning Agenda and Methodology

## Framing the Inquiry

The learning agenda on the topic of Climate Change and Human Settlements was shaped through a participatory process that centered the knowledge and learning needs of ARA members. An initial global scan surfaced a wide range of climate–settlement themes, which members then prioritized via the Member Mosaic Survey, conducted in October 2024, to subsequently focus explicitly on Climate Change and Human Settlements. At the Learning Agenda Design Workshop, participants collaboratively refined their priorities into a clear research question by translating identified challenges into specific knowledge gaps. We explored this learning journey through four key lenses: a literature review of published work by members, symposium presentations by members showcasing both published and ongoing efforts, learnings from the co-creation engagements, and reflections shared in practitioner dialogues to understand current conversations across organisations.



Stakeholder Mapping: Co-Creation Exercise



# Learning Question

*How can climate adaptation in human settlements move beyond silos to ensure deeper, more inclusive stakeholder engagement?*

This central question emerged from a recognition of two key challenges raised by members:

## Policy Fragmentation across Sectors

such as housing, environment, and transportation, which leads to poor integration of climate considerations into urban planning frameworks.

## Limited Meaningful Engagement

resulting in adaptation strategies that often fail to reflect the realities and priorities of those most affected by climate change.

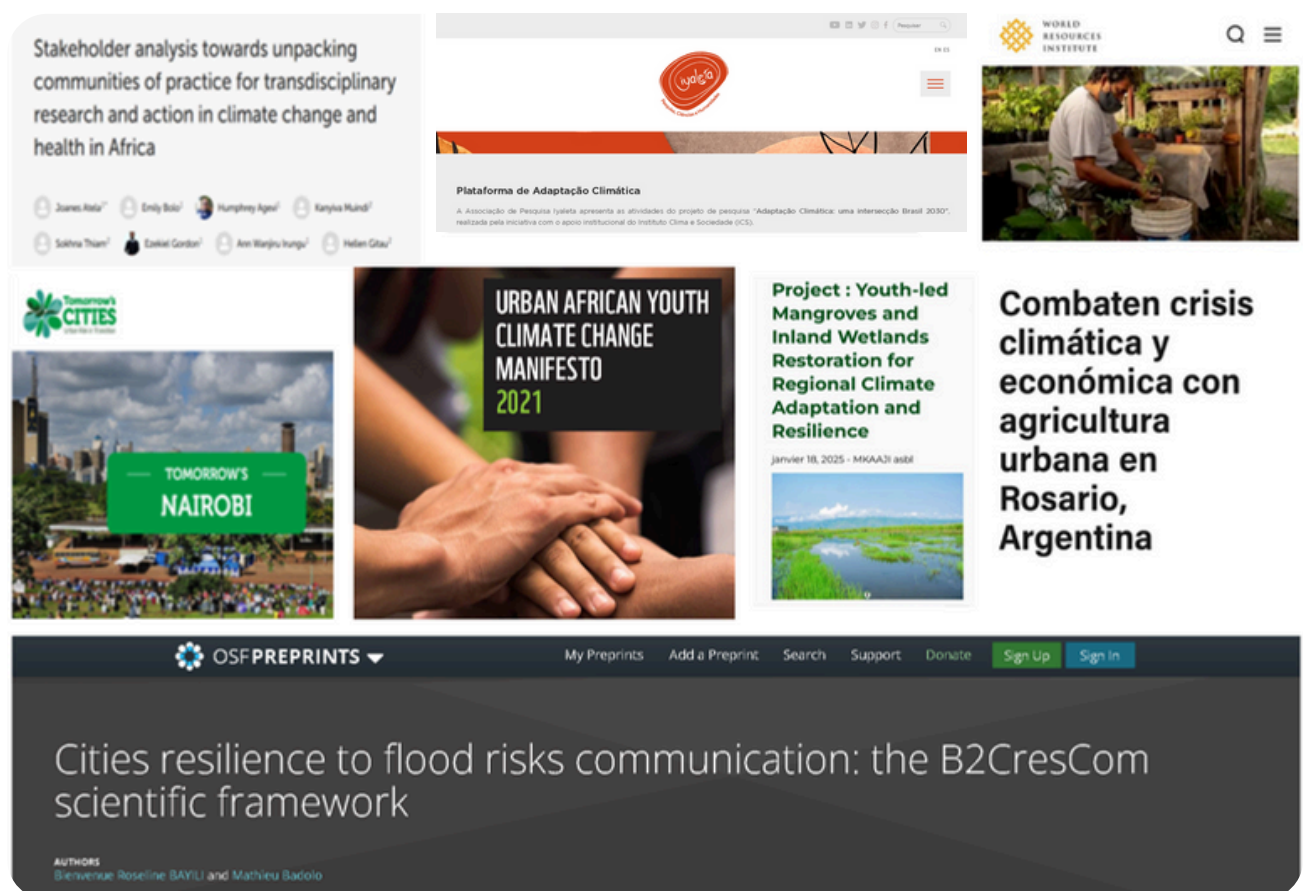


Exploring Power Dynamics: Co-Creation Exercise

# Documenting Practice

## Insights from Member Publications

From member publications across global regions, we learnt how climate change intersects with human settlements in practice. The key takeaway here is a clear snapshot of what local and regional actors are already doing to strengthen settlement resilience under climate change.



Glimpse of Member Publications on Climate Change and Human Settlements



# Global Patterns and Common Approaches

From our review of member publications, we learned how climate change and human settlements intersect in practice across regions and focus areas. ARA Members across regions have been working under the following themes:

## Access to Basic Services

Clean water, sanitation, and housing improvements are frequently reported, particularly in underserved areas.

## Awareness and Training

Many run awareness programs, community campaigns, and youth-focused training on climate-related risks.

## Disaster Preparedness

A number of organisations conduct risk assessments and help communities prepare response plans.

## Support for Marginalised Groups

Women, youth, and vulnerable communities are often specific targets of settlement-based interventions.

## Engagement with Authorities

Some organisations also collaborate with local governments to shape planning and policies.

# Regional Specificities



Regional Mapping of Member Publications

- Africa sees organisations focus on awareness campaigns, advocacy, and engaging local governments. Many address access to essential services and health education. Community needs and risk assessments are commonly used to guide planning.
- Across the Asia-Pacific, advocacy often takes the form of public campaigns and institutional engagement. Risk assessments and early warning systems strengthen local preparedness, and some projects expand into areas such as clean water provision and solar electrification.
- In Europe, organizations' work is driven by data and centres on urban resilience and housing infrastructure. Advocacy commonly intersects with policy, while certain initiatives also prioritise public health and community participation.
- For North America, the emphasis lies on policy advocacy, urban planning, and sustainable housing. Community engagement is pursued through participatory processes.



- Within South America, efforts blend policy advocacy with community training. Disaster preparedness is shaped by risk assessments and complemented by infrastructure work on housing and services.
- Work in Oceania concentrates on research and scoping, especially within agriculture and environmental planning.
- Across the Middle East, leadership training and governance form the core of settlement-focused initiatives.
- In Australia, Efforts emphasize technical expertise, institutional strengthening, and linking research with community development.

# Voices in Action

## Sharing Ongoing Work

The following synthesis highlights patterns and distinctive perspectives emerging across regions from the presentations shared during our sessions. These insights illustrate how communities, governments, and organizations are advancing adaptation through diverse yet interconnected strategies. The original presentations that informed this summary are available in the appendix.

## Shared Patterns Across Regions

### Community-Centered Approaches

#### **Mapping & Data Hubs**

From AI/GIS community mapping in Kurdistan, to community mapping in Ajmer, to citizen-led data tools in the Caribbean, members across regions placed community-generated data at the heart of planning.

#### **Local Governance & Empowerment**

Whether through water-testing youth councils in India, natural-resource committees in Mozambique, or participatory land-use planning in Paraguay, building capacity and ownership at the local level was a pan-regional strategy.





## Attention to Vulnerable Groups & Equity

### **Gender Focus**

Women farmers in Burkina Faso; informal-sector women in India; gender-responsive housing in Delhi; women's leadership in the Chaco; and Mozambique's gender-mainstreamed conservation—all reflect a shared imperative to address gendered vulnerabilities.

### **Youth Engagement**

From youth councils in Bangladesh to training young water testers in Ajmer, and cooperative housing initiatives for young migrants in Ghana, youth were consistently framed as key agents of resilience.

## Data-Driven & Technology-Enabled Solutions

### **AI, GIS & Digital Tools**

Inputs from Iraq, the Caribbean, Chile, and Paraguay members emphasized leveraging AI, open-source platforms, risk-mapping and resilience indices to inform decision-making.

### **Monitoring & Indexing**

Rosario's climate-action monitoring system and Chile's resilience indexes exemplify a shared turn toward continuous, data-rich feedback loops.

## Nature-Based, Regenerative & Low-Carbon Practices

### **Materials & Ecosystems**

Bali's bamboo-clay pavilion; HKH's adobe bricks and Trombe walls; agroecological "recaatingamento" in Brazil; and reforestation in Mozambique all point to regenerative design and ecosystem restoration.

### **Water Systems Revitalization**

Reimagining Bengaluru's traditional tanks, rainwater harvesting in India, water storage for women farmers in Burkina Faso, and conservation in Nepal underscore the universal role of water-based nature solutions.

## Institutional Reform & Policy Alignment

### Multi-Stakeholder Frameworks

Calls for Climate & Settlement Data Hubs (KRI), SECURE policy embedding (India), and legislation for participatory housing (Brazil) reveal a shared need to adapt governance structures.

### Inclusive Planning & Finance

Ongoing work ranged from gender-sensitive insurance in Delhi to revenue-sharing in Mozambique, to cooperative housing finance in Ghana, all aimed at bridging policy gaps.

## Urban-Rural Nexus & Migration Dynamics

### Urban Expansion & Slum Challenges

Rapid built-up growth in the Himalayas; unplanned expansion in Kurdistan; slum vulnerabilities in Delhi; and Jamestown's coastal risks in Accra highlight the global urbanization challenge.

### Migration-Driven Housing Models

Climate migrants in Ghana, rural-urban labor shifts in India, and displaced Indigenous communities in Paraguay all underscore migration's centrality to settlement resilience.



Focus Group Discussions at the TLS Symposium

# Distinctive Regional Perspectives



Locations of the TLS Symposiums

## Africa

### **Agricultural Resilience & Food Security**

Burkina Faso's PARFA2C and Mozambique's agroforestry both anchor adaptation in strengthening farmers' livelihoods and local food systems.

### **Cooperative Housing for Migrants**

Ghana's Cooperative Housing Societies offer a singular model transforming displacement into collective resilience.

### **Community Revenue-Sharing**

Mozambique's allocation of natural-resource revenues to local infrastructure through transparent assemblies is a uniquely formalized empowerment mechanism.

## Asia-Pacific

### **Urban Informality & Slum Inclusion**

Delhi's slum policy barriers, Bengaluru's tank-system revival, and Bangladesh's youth councils all focus intensely on the complexities of informal urban settlements.

### **Material & Cultural Transitions**

Bali's regenerative building with traditional materials and the HKH's mountain-ecosystem preservation highlight region-specific blends of heritage and innovation.



### **Intersectional Labor Vulnerability**

The spotlight on extreme-heat health risks for informal women workers in India—framed through caste and gender—reflects a layered social analysis less explicitly developed elsewhere.

## **Latin America & the Caribbean**

### **Legal & Policy Innovation**

Brazil's legislative pathways for participatory housing, Chile's resilience indices, and Rosario's monitoring system showcase a strong emphasis on embedding adaptation in formal governance tools.

### **Indigenous, Ethnic-Racial & Social Equity**

Studies from the Amazon, Caatinga, Chaco, and Paraguay center Indigenous knowledge and urban ethnic-racial inequalities in adaptation strategies.

### **Sectoral Linkages (Tourism & Resilience)**

The Caribbean AI tools and Latin America's tourism-settlement convergence are distinctive in tying adaptation to specific economic sectors and cooperative toolkits.

# Collaborative Groundwork

## Exploring Power and Possibility

During the co-creation exercise as part of the TLS symposiums, members explored stakeholder roles, power dynamics, and participation barriers, then worked together to develop strategies to enhance inclusion. Our collaborative exercises revealed critical insights into who holds influence and who gets heard in climate adaptation efforts.

## Who's at the Table

### Recognising Voices and Contributions

#### **Unrecognized Contributions**

We learned that women, youth, Indigenous Peoples, and informal settlers play essential, yet often unrecognized and unpaid, roles in adaptation. While they provide local knowledge and mobilize communities, they rarely shape or co-design plans.

#### **Influence vs. Visibility**

We observed a clear gap between visibility (being present and contributing) and actual influence in decision-making. Frontline communities, despite their vital contributions, hold less power compared to technical experts, local governments, and corporations who dominate decision-making.

#### **Valuing Diverse Knowledge**

Traditional and Indigenous knowledge systems are crucial for resource management, biodiversity protection, and conflict resolution, but urban planning often overlooks them. Integrating these insights is essential for effective adaptation.

## Distinctive Regional Perspectives

- In Africa, traditional and religious leaders act as both enablers and barriers, demanding context-specific strategies.
- In Asia, local governance at the Panchayat level is pivotal, yet Indigenous self-governance and women leaders often remain invisible.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, media actors shape public discourse and adaptation literacy, playing a more visible role than in other regions.

## Adaptation modes differ by settlement

We learned that Urban adaptation is institution-driven, while rural, informal, and Indigenous contexts rely on local knowledge and collective action. There's an unresolved tension between technical and traditional approaches and this insufficient integration leaves critical local insights untapped.



Tracing Power Structures: Co-Creation Exercise



# Power Dynamics

## Unpacking Influence in Human Settlements

### **The Disconnect of Vulnerability and Authority**

A striking disparity exists where those most susceptible to climate change like impoverished communities, informal residents, and Indigenous populations, have the least power to shape adaptation strategies. Powerful entities often operate with little accountability. This exclusion commonly stems from controlling who participates, whose expertise is valued, and which priorities ultimately prevail.

### **Primary Decision-Makers**

We consistently found that national government officials, real estate developers, and large corporations wield the most significant authority in shaping human settlements and climate adaptation. These entities control essential resources like land and funding, and dictate high-level policies, thereby steering both planning and implementation.

### **Advisory Roles with Limitations**

Scientists, engineers, and non-governmental organizations often serve in advisory capacities, respected for their specialized knowledge. However, their influence frequently faces constraints from prevailing political and commercial agendas.

### **Marginalized Voices**

Conversely, informal settlers, Indigenous communities, the urban poor, and individuals with disabilities possess the least power, despite bearing the brunt of climate impacts.

### **Overt and Covert Influence**

Authority manifests in both formal structures and informal networks. Beyond state and market forces, we noted the considerable sway of media, traditional community leaders, and development agencies, which often guide decisions behind the scenes.

### **Regional Power Concentration**

- In Africa, inputs suggested that traditional and religious leaders wield significant informal authority in rural and informal settings but are frequently overlooked in formal processes.
- In Asia, inputs suggested that centralized government systems dominate; local governments are tasked with implementation but hold limited real decision-making power.

- In Latin America and the Caribbean, inputs suggested that real estate developers and landowners strongly shape urban and informal areas; Media actors can influence public perception but are rarely included in formal decisions.

### **Power Concentration by Settlement Type**

Power appears to mostly be concentrated in urban and Indigenous contexts, dominated by national actors and developers, while rural and informal settlements seem to have more dispersed power structures, with informal leaders and NGOs acting as intermediaries.

## **Silos in Action**

### **Barriers to Meaningful Participation**

#### **Policy Fragmentation hampers coordination and creates inefficiencies**

Policy fragmentation remains a key barrier with silos between sectors like housing, transport, environment, and disaster risk reduction hamper coordination. We also noted institutional silos between national and local levels, and between technical and social actors, resulting in duplication, inefficiency, and exclusion.

#### **Political and economic barriers further restrict inclusion**

Weak enforcement, lack of political will, tokenistic engagement, and limited funding for community-led action emerged as common concerns. Elite capture, entrenched power dynamics, and corruption were also observed as obstacles to genuine community influence.

#### **Distinctive Regional Perspectives**

- In Africa, poor enforcement and informal power brokers appear to undermine inclusive policies, with strong policies potentially failing without accountability.
- In Asia, inputs suggested that capacity gaps limit participation, both within communities and among officials. Technical complexity, bureaucracy, and political disinterest add to the challenge.
- In LAC, conflicting interests, competition for resources, lack of trust, and weak communication emerged as key aspects that hinder coordination between communities, NGOs, and governments.

## **Dominant systems often fail to adapt to local realities or value diverse knowledge**

Urban and informal settlements were consistently identified to struggle with invisibility and lack of legal recognition, while rural and Indigenous communities face deeper institutional mistrust and marginalization.

# **Bridging the Gap**

## **Solutions for Effective Collaboration**

### **Practical, Locally Rooted Strategies**

Practical, locally rooted strategies emerged as key directions to make climate adaptation more collaborative and equitable. There is a clearly identified need to shift from top-down planning to community-driven, participatory approaches that reflect lived realities, build trust, and rebalance power and resources.

### **Four Consistent Priorities**

Four priorities emerged consistently:

- Capacity strengthening: Leadership development, education, and technical training.
- Policy reform: Formal recognition of informal and Indigenous communities and inclusion of their knowledge systems.
- Bottom-up governance: Centering community voices and enabling self-determined development.
- Trust-building: Through consistent engagement, transparency, and neutral mediation. We underscored that real collaboration demands mutual respect, accountability, and shared power over decisions and outcomes

### **Co-creation, Not Consultation**

Participants asked for collaboration to move beyond symbolic participation. Communities to shape strategies, allocate resources, and track progress. Co-creation, not consultation, to be embedded in governance to ensure equity at every level.

## **Emerging Regional Approaches to Collaboration**

- In Africa, community empowerment and peer-led advocacy were identified as essential for local ownership. Tailored financial support and stronger enforcement of inclusive policies was further stressed.
- In Asia, systemic shifts were identified as critical to move from top-down to bottom-up approaches. Priorities included land rights, livelihood security for informal communities, and leadership development.
- In Latin America and the Caribbean, trust-building among actors with competing interests was identified as key. Participants called for transparent dialogue, neutral facilitators, and strong conflict-resolution mechanisms in multi-stakeholder spaces.

## **Collaboration must reflect diverse contexts and community priorities**

While inputs on all settlement types called for trust-based, inclusive approaches, strategies reflected different starting points. Insights on urban and informal areas prioritized legal recognition and institutional inclusion. Inputs on rural and Indigenous communities emphasized integrating local knowledge, strengthening capacity, and protecting autonomy.

# On the Ground

## Practitioner Reflections

During the Knowledge Synthesis Symposiums, members reflected on the presentations, and their own work, focusing on two critical areas: participatory planning and funding solutions in human settlements. Their individual reflective insights highlight grounded practices already underway and emphasize the importance of community leadership in climate action.

### Participatory Planning

#### Aligning Resources with Community Priorities

Inclusive climate action works when planning is genuinely co-created with communities, ensuring it reflects local realities and priorities, especially in informal and vulnerable settlements.

#### **Key insights on next steps from the reflections include:**

- Map stakeholders and power dynamics early to identify key actors and relationships.
- Ground plans in local contexts through detailed social and biophysical analysis.
- Use culturally resonant storytelling and dialogue (e.g., Talanoa Dialogue) to surface diverse perspectives.
- Work with trusted local NGOs and community leaders to build bridges and legitimacy.
- Design consultations that actively include women, youth, and Indigenous communities from the start.

These approaches move planning beyond tokenism and foster shared ownership for lasting impact.

# Funding Solutions

## Aligning Resources with Community Priorities

Equitable climate finance must break down barriers that prevent communities, especially grassroots and informal ones, from accessing and shaping funding.

### **Key insights on next steps, emerging from the reflections, include:**

- Support local intermediaries to translate community priorities into viable, fundable proposals.
- Simplify processes and requirements to unlock climate finance for grassroots actors.
- Build on existing local systems and align with ongoing programs to increase coherence and avoid duplication.
- Design funding mechanisms to be flexible and responsive to local needs and capacities as they evolve.
- Ensure transparency and accountability flow both to donors and back to communities themselves.
- Effective finance respects community agency, framing funding as an issue of equity and power, not just technical design.



# Way Forward

The learning journey across Asia, Africa, and Latin America and the Caribbean (LAC) revealed that climate adaptation in human settlements is not only about addressing environmental risks. Successful adaptation requires transforming governance, participation, and the distribution of knowledge and power.

The resulting pathways for action offer distinct directions for stakeholders:

## For Researchers and Practitioners

### Rethinking Knowledge, Power, and Practice

#### **Rebalance Knowledge Systems**

Create processes where technical, traditional, and lived knowledge are treated as equally valid inputs in adaptation planning. Facilitate horizontal exchanges across disciplines and communities.

#### **Embed Equity in Policy and Practice**

Ensure that policies reflect the differentiated needs of settlement types and the diversity within them, especially women, youth, migrants, persons with disabilities, and the urban poor.

#### **Invest in Participation Infrastructure**

Build long-term, place-based mechanisms for engagement. Move beyond short-term projects to create ongoing platforms that enable collective planning, feedback, and learning across sectors and actors.

# For Funders

## Shifting How and Where Finance Flows

### **Support Co-Governance in Adaptation**

Shift engagement from consultation to shared decision-making. Institutionalize processes where communities set priorities and allocate adaptation resources.

### **Recognize and Resource Informal and Indigenous Systems**

Adaptation must align with the governance and knowledge systems that communities already use. This includes formal recognition of Indigenous governance, legitimizing informal settlement leadership, and supporting peer-led structures.

### **Develop Mechanisms for Upward Accountability**

Establish ways for communities to hold powerful actors like governments, developers, donors accountable for decisions that shape settlement resilience.

### **Simplify Funding Access**

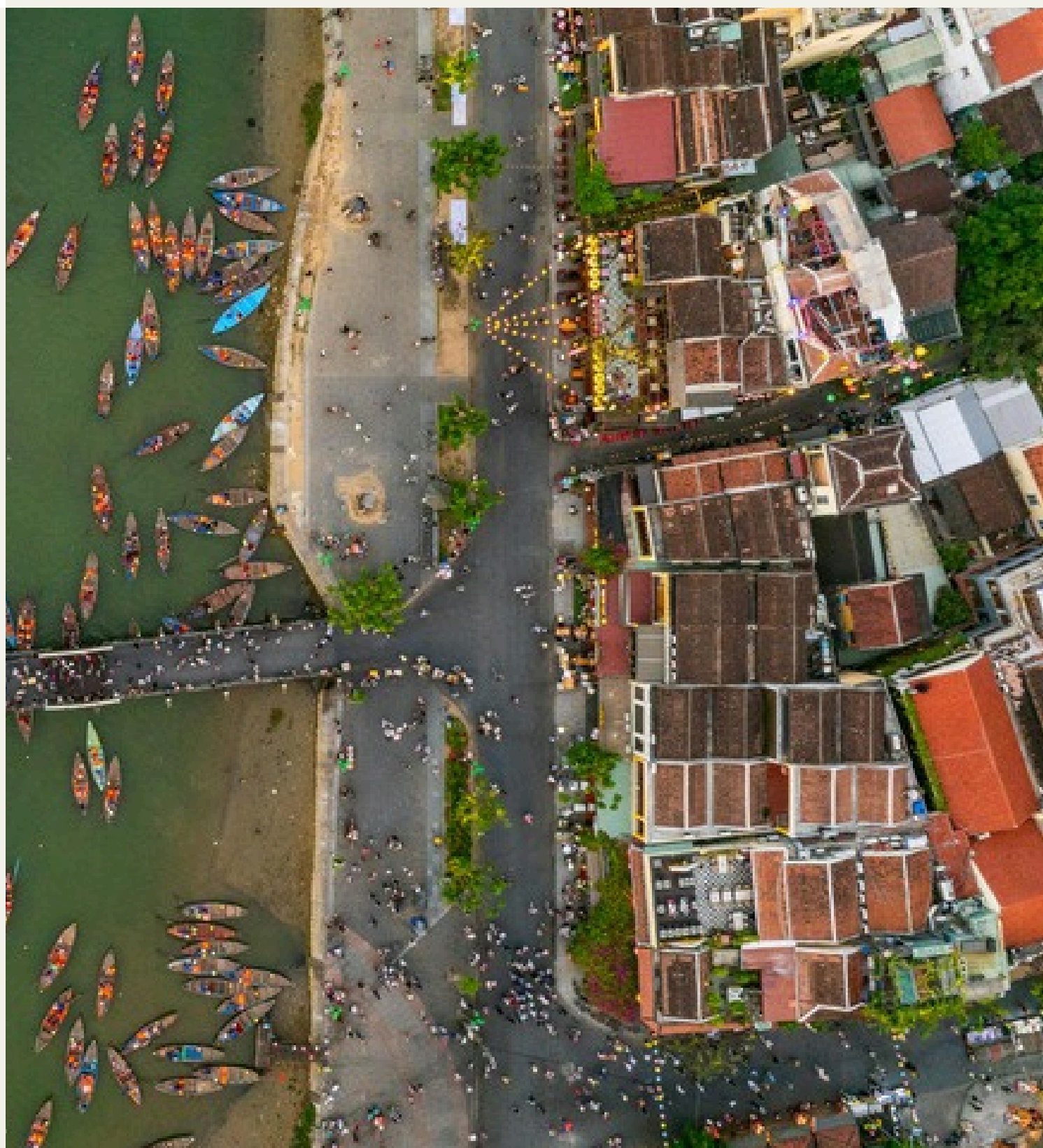
Communities, especially grassroots organizations and informal settlements, face barriers to accessing finance. Solutions include supporting intermediaries, simplifying access to climate finance, leveraging existing local mechanisms, pushing for flexibility in fund design, and ensuring transparency and accountability to communities. Financing must respect community agency.

As this learning agenda moves forward, the voices and experiences of members offer a roadmap, not only for what just and collaborative adaptation could look like, but for how we might begin to build it from the ground up.

# Appendix

## Member Presentations

The presentations that informed the insights in the ‘Voices in Action: Sharing Ongoing Work’ are available at [this link](#).



# Learning Journey Methodology

The learning agenda on Climate Change and Human Settlements was shaped through a participatory process that centered the knowledge and learning needs of ARA members. The learning journey combined virtual engagement, targeted workshops, focused group activities, a literature review of member publications, and synthesis of member presentations to surface priorities, gaps, and practical strategies for inclusive adaptation in human settlements.

This process began with a Member Mosaic Survey disseminated to over 250 members, followed by a collaborative Learning Agenda Design Workshop. In the Learning Agenda Workshop, the learning question was articulated based on virtual engagement with over 50 ARA members. Focus group discussions were designed to map their knowledge needs and interests in human settlements. This question was further refined through discussions in the ARA Plenary, where a virtual workshop was facilitated that engaged members in the conversation of who is sidelined in the space of climate action in human settlements and why they are sidelined.

Parallely, a literature review examined member publications to understand focus areas and impact. Members' presentations at the Knowledge Synthesis Symposium provided insights into adaptation initiatives and approaches in human settlements. An interactive group activity facilitated discussions, power mapping, and solution-building for inclusive stakeholder engagement in human settlements. Through research, direct engagement, and participatory learning, this process fostered collective reflection within the ARA community.

## Collaborative Groundwork: Exploring Power and Possibility

The focus group discussion and activity were designed to examine the role of different stakeholders in adaptation decision-making by mapping their contributions, assessing power dynamics, and identifying strategies to enhance inclusion. Each table was assigned a specific settlement type (urban, rural, informal, indigenous), which provided the contextual basis for all discussions. The three parts of the discussion are outlined below.

1. **Identifying Contributions & Missing Voices :** Each participant was given two persona cards representing different stakeholder groups. Individually, they reflected on the value their personas could contribute if granted due influence in decision-making processes. Following this, participants shared their insights within their groups. The groups reviewed the remaining persona cards on the table to determine whether any key stakeholders were missing from their settlement type's adaptation discussions and used blank cards to add additional relevant actors.
2. **Mapping Power Dynamics:** Members placed their assigned personas on a power scale, ranking their current influence in decision-making within the context of their assigned settlement type. This was followed by a group discussion to establish an average power ranking for the personas at each table, providing a shared understanding of existing power structures within that specific settlement type.
3. **Breaking Barriers and Solutioning:** Focusing on the two least influential groups, participants identified key barriers limiting their participation. Each group then developed strategies per stakeholder to improve their participation and increase cross-sectoral collaboration. To conclude, all groups reconvened to share their insights. Each group presented their strategies, fostering cross-group learning and discussion on course correcting mutli-stakeholder collaboration in human settlements adaptation.

## Data Synthesis

Insights for the report were developed by triangulating evidence from: the interactive group activity (persona and power-mapping outputs), the literature review of member publications, and presentations at the Knowledge Synthesis Symposium. Notes, group outputs (persona placements, barrier and strategy cards), and presentation summaries were synthesized to identify recurring patterns, priority learning needs, and actionable strategies for more inclusive adaptation in different settlement contexts.

# Participating Organisations in the TLS Symposiums

The learning journey engaged ARA's 250+ members, with deeper insights gathered from those who participated in the regional knowledge symposiums.

## Asia Pacific

1. Alternative Futures
2. Aran for the Development of Civic Culture
3. Biozid Climate Institute
4. CarbonCare Innolab (CCIL)
5. Center for People and Environment (CPE)
6. Center for Study of Science, Technology and Policy (CSTEP)
7. Doh Eain
8. Earthlanka Youth Network
9. Gorakhpur Environmental Action Group (GEAG)
10. Institute for Global Environmental Strategies (IGES)
11. Integrated Design
12. International Academy (PRIA) – Participatory Research in Asia
13. International Centre for Integrated Mountain Development (ICIMOD)
14. IRO Organization for Community Development
15. Kota Kita
16. Mahila Housing Sewa Trust
17. Nepal Water Conservation Foundation for Academic Research (NWCF)
18. RV University
19. Sevanatha – Urban Resource Center
20. SERAC-Bangladesh
21. Sindh Community Foundation
22. Transitions Research

## Latin America and the Caribbean

1. ARAPY, Hub de Ciencias Climáticas
2. Barranquilla+20 Foundation
3. Center for Climate and Resilience Research
4. Fundación Avina
5. Gaia Social
6. GFLAC
7. iDERA
8. Instituto Clima de Eleição
9. Investigación para el Desarrollo



10. Iyaleta Research Association
11. Libélula
12. Municipalidad de Rosario
13. Universidad Tecnológica Metropolitana

## Africa

1. ABEFAB – Action communautaire pour le Bien-être de l'enfant et de la femme au Burkina
2. ACTS – Africa Centre for Technology Studies
3. Association des Exploitants Miniers Artisansaux pour la Pacification et la Reconstruction de l'Ituri
4. Association des Jeunes Agriculteurs du Mali
5. Centre for Climate Change Adaptation and Mitigation (CCCAM)
6. Centre for Communities Education and Youth Development (CCEYD)
7. Centre Mathieu Badolo de recherche, développement et transfert
8. Centre Oecuménique pour la Promotion du Monde Rural
9. Community Action for Health & Development (CAHED)
10. Community Empowerment and Development Association
11. Conservation of Nature for Survival (CONASU)
12. Conservation Society of Sierra Leone
13. Dialogue on Shelter for the Homeless in Zimbabwe Trust
14. Easytech Farm Solutions Limited
15. Foundation for Community Driven Development
16. GAYO – Green Africa Youth Organization
17. Institute of Climate and Environment, SIMAD University
18. KASA Initiative Ghana
19. Mamo Gardens Model Farm Initiative
20. MKAAJI MPYA asbl
21. Mozambique Ministry of Land and Environmental and Commonwealth Youth Climate Change Network in Mozambique
22. Nature Cares Resource Centre
23. Resilient40
24. Simon Diedong Dombo University of Business and Integrated Development Studies, Wa
25. Sustainable Solutions for Life
26. The Desert Research Foundation of Namibia
27. The Federal University of Technology, Akure, Nigeria
28. University of The Gambia
29. World Inspiring Network
30. Young Lawyers Foundation
31. Women's Life and Wellness Foundation



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