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ICLEI South Asia E-News

May 2022



**Emani Kumar**  
Deputy Secretary  
General, ICLEI and  
Executive Director,  
ICLEI South Asia

Dear readers,

Our offices in South Asia were bustling with activity throughout April, with several key discussions, trainings, launches and approvals being conducted across the region. Some of our project activities and knowledge products made a splash at international and national forums, such as the International Cooperation Forum, the first National-Level Best Practice Workshop organised under the CapaCITIES project and the Smart Cities Conference organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd.

At the CapaCITIES workshop, we made an important announcement that UNEP/Rocky Mountain Institute will be collaborating with ICLEI South Asia to implement the Urban Cooling Programme to address the extreme urban heating crisis. This will be planned as part of a wider programme involving both the State and Central Governments. The CapaCITIES project will also provide support to this initiative.

Meanwhile, cities such as Narayanganj in Bangladesh and Panaji in Goa, India, approved and adopted key climate-resilient action plans for reducing greenhouse gas emissions and making urban freight more efficient, respectively. Dhulikhel in Nepal launched the first-ever Voluntary Local Review report by a city in South Asia. We had extended our technical expertise and support for the development of all these reports and plans.

This year, we witnessed the highest temperatures for the months of March and April in 122 years in several parts of South Asia. In this context, the launch of several heat resilience knowledge products, developed jointly by ICLEI South Asia and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, is of great relevance and importance. Climate

resilience is also the focus of our initiative to install water ATMs and handwashing stations in Rajshahi city in Bangladesh under the ReCAP-21 project, and to develop a green mobility zone in Udaipur under CapaCITIES.

I hope these and other accounts of our activities in this edition offer an insight into our work. Please follow us on social media for updates on other interesting news and events.

## Latest developments

### High-profile Workshop Puts Focus on Best Practices in Climate-Resilient Development

Tamil Nadu's Department of Environment, Climate Change and Forests, and the Department of Municipal Administration and Water Supply jointly hosted the first National-Level Best Practice Workshop in Coimbatore. The workshop, organised by the CapaCITIES project, provided peer-to-peer learning opportunities to officials from 16 Indian cities, who shared their experiences related to various urban issues, climate change challenges and best practices.

[Read more](#)



### Keeping People Safe: ATMs, Handwashing Stations Supply Clean Water in Rajshahi

The city of Rajshahi has installed solar-powered water ATMs and handwashing stations at four locations under the ReCAP-21 project, to help people access clean and safe drinking water. The ATMs dispense safe water at a nominal price and are being powered by solar photovoltaic systems to save energy and reduce associated greenhouse gas emissions risks.

[Read more](#)

### Asia LEDS Partnership: Case Studies Highlight Country Experiences in Building Climate Resilience

Under the aegis of the Asia LEDS Partnership Secretariat, three case studies have been developed that focus on strategies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and build energy efficiency and climate resilience. The case studies are based on the experiences of Vietnam, Chinese Taipei and Mongolia.

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### CapaCITIES Knowledge Products Draw Attention at Smart Cities Conference



The CapaCITIES project supported the organising of two events during a conference on “Smart Cities, Smart Urbanisation” in Surat. The conference was jointly organised by the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs and Surat Smart City Corporation Development Ltd. Information about CapaCITIES activities was disseminated through videos and other knowledge products, such as the Climate Resilient Cities Process and the Climate Resilient Cities Action Plan.

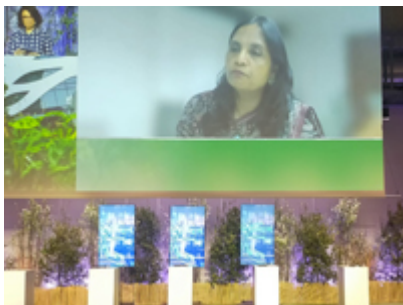
[Read more](#)

### Urban LEDS-II: Narayanganj Adopts Climate Resilient City Action Plan

The Urban LEDS-II project, funded by the European Commission, supported Narayanganj City Corporation in Bangladesh in developing its Climate Resilient City Action Plan. The action plan, which was ratified and approved by the city council recently, identifies 24 climate interventions across nine sectors to help reduce greenhouse gas emissions and better adapt to climate change.



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### Focus on CapaCITIES' Coimbatore Initiatives at International Cooperation Forum

The International Cooperation Forum, Switzerland, hosted its hybrid conference in April, in which ICLEI South Asia presented the work of the CapaCITIES project. Ms. Supriya Sahu, Additional Chief Secretary, Environment, Climate Change and Forests, Tamil Nadu, lauded the project initiatives, adding that it has enabled local authorities to respond with timely solutions to various climate-related issues.

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### Udaipur's Green Mobility Zone to Feature New Age Solutions

A Green Mobility Zone is being developed in the walled city of Udaipur to provide pedestrian-friendly spaces and new age clean micro-mobility and shared mobility options to reduce congestion and ambient pollution. The initiative is being implemented under the CapaCITIES project.



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### Webinar Highlights Benefits of Setting Science-Based Targets in South Asia



ICLEI World Secretariat and ICLEI South Asia jointly organised a training webinar on 'Science-Based Targets for South Asian Cities', which highlighted the climate planning process, implementation of low-carbon climate-resilient actions, and the significance of setting science-based targets in cities.

[Read more](#)

## Study Evaluates Use of Public Spaces by Young Children

ICLEI South Asia is conducting a study in 18 cities in India to assess and evaluate trends in the use of urban public spaces by young children and their caregivers, and to identify existing barriers and opportunities. The findings of the study will be used to develop recommendations and localised solutions to improve the use of urban spaces.



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## Udaipur Urban95 Steering Committee Holds First Meeting to Review Activities

The Udaipur Municipal Corporation held the first Udaipur Urban95 Programme Steering Committee meeting to discuss the Urban95 and Parents+ Programmes. Guidelines and policies such as Child Safety Guidelines and the Early Childhood Development Policy, and other programme activities were also reviewed.

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## CDKN Asia Launches Dhulikhel's Voluntary Local Review Report

The Voluntary Local Review report of Dhulikhel city in Nepal, the first by a city in South Asia, was launched during a hybrid event. The city conducted the VLR under the Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN) programme to redirect efforts for more inclusive development, and to help monitor its strategies to localise and achieve the SDGs.



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## EcoLogistics: Panaji Approves Low Carbon Action Plan for Urban Freight

The Corporation of the City of Panaji, with technical support from ICLEI South Asia, has developed and approved the Low Carbon Action Plan for urban freight





for the city under the EcoLogistics project. The action plan prioritises strategies that focus on promoting transportation of goods with minimised impacts on air quality, noise, health, fatalities and injuries, besides reducing traffic congestion and GHG emissions.

[Read more](#)

### Extreme Heat: New Knowledge Products Highlight Need to Build Resilience, Adaptation

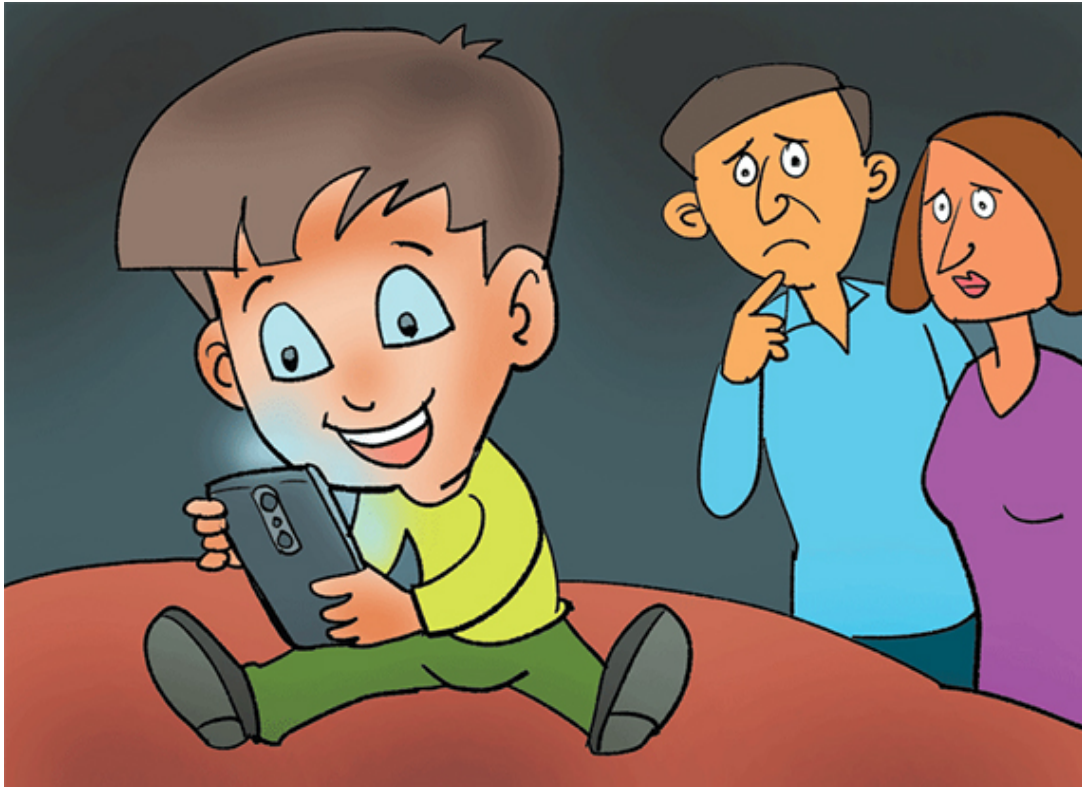
The Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and ICLEI South Asia have jointly developed and launched reports, policy briefs and IEC materials to improve resilience and preparedness around extreme heat events. With the South Asia region witnessing very high temperatures in the months of March and April this year, these knowledge products have added significance.



[Read more](#)

## छोटे बच्चों में बढ़ रही अकेले रहने की प्रवृत्ति

स्क्रीन टाइम बढ़ने और हमउम्र बच्चों के साथ नहीं खेलने से सेहत पर पड़ रहा विपरीत प्रभाव



घरों से बाहर न निकल पाना, लोगों से नहीं मिलना, आसपास का सूनापन और टीवी और मोबाइल पर दिन-भर कोविड और रशिया-युक्रेन से जुड़ी खबरें देखना जब हम सब बड़ों पर इतना असर कर रहा था, तो ज़रा सोचिये, यह सब बच्चों पर किस प्रकार का प्रभाव डाल रहा होगा! अध्ययन बताते हैं कि तनाव

बच्चों के मानसिक स्वास्थ्य और सीखने की प्रक्रिया पर गहरा प्रभाव डाल सकता है। तनावपूर्ण परिस्थितियों में जीने से बच्चों में बेचैनी, डर, मूड ऊपर-नीचे होना और अन्य मानसिक बीमारियों से ग्रसित होने की सम्भावना बढ़ जाती है।

अर्बन95 टीम 'रैपिड बिहेवियरल असेसमेंट' के दौरान जब शहरवासियों से मिल रही थी तो बच्चों के व्यवहार में कोविड के बाद आये बदलावों पर भी चर्चा कर रही थी। इसी दौरान श्वेता, रजनी जैसे अभिभावकों से खुलकर बात हुई और कई ऐसी बातें पता चली, जो "नन्हे बचपन" पर आ रहे खतरे को बता रही थी।

[Read more](#)

## Announcements

At the first National Level Best Practice Workshop held in Chennai, Mr. Emani Kumar, Executive Director, ICLEI South Asia, announced that UNEP/Rocky Mountain Institute will be collaborating with ICLEI South Asia to implement the Urban Cooling Programme to address the extreme urban heating crisis. This will be planned as part of a wider programme with the involvement of both the State and Central Governments. The CapaCITIES project will also provide its support to this initiative.

## Events - Sessions at ICLEI World Congress



### Social Inclusion in Climate Resilience Planning

The session aims to, through 'serious fun games', facilitate practitioners and local governments to deepen their understanding of the need for, barriers to, and strategies for achieving more socially-inclusive climate resilience. In addition, an innovative Gender Training Toolkit has been developed that can support local authorities to integrate gender and social inclusion in urban development and climate resilience projects. The session is organised by ICLEI South Asia and Climate and Development Knowledge Network (CDKN).

**Date:** 12 May 2022

**Time:** 14.45 – 16.45 CEST/18.15 – 20.15 IST

[Register here](#)

### Circularity to Overcome Plastic Waste Management Challenges

This session will discuss the issues and challenges arising out of inadequate management of plastic waste and generate a discussion for introducing circularity concepts in plastic waste management through successful and replicable case stories of circular waste management from different parts of the world. The session is organised by ICLEI South Asia.

**Date:** 13 May 2022

**Time:** 13.45 – 14.45 CEST/17.15 – 18.15 IST



[Register here](#)

## More from ICLEI across the globe

- [Enough is enough: Mayors and Councillors affected by Australian floods call for support](#)
- [Bringing the Urban World to the nexus of peace and sustainability: The power of the G100,000+](#)

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### About ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability

ICLEI – Local Governments for Sustainability is a global network working with more than 2500 local and regional governments committed to sustainable urban development. Active in 125+ countries, we influence sustainability policy and drive local action for low emission, nature-based, equitable, resilient and circular development.

ICLEI firmly believes that sustainable cities are the foundation of a just and sustainable world. We create systemic change in urban areas through practical, integrated solutions and spark city-to-city and city-to-region connections. ICLEI brings a strong urban component to national and global sustainability policy and translates global policy into action. Through our collective efforts, ICLEI is building a sustainable urban world to shift the trajectory of global development.

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