



THE UN SECRETARY GENERAL'S
CLIMATE RESILIENCE INITIATIVE

A2R: ANTICIPATE,
ABSORB,
RESHAPE

WHAT IS A2R?

The Secretary General's Climate Resilience Initiative: **Anticipate, Absorb, Reshape (A2R)** is a global, UN-led, multi-stakeholder initiative that strengthens climate resilience for vulnerable countries and people. Launched in November 2015 during the 21st Conference of Parties of the UN Framework Convention on Climate Change in Paris, this initiative brings together governments, international agencies, regional initiatives, the private sector, civil society and academia. A2R addresses the urgent needs of Least Developing Countries (LDCs), Small Island Developing States (SIDS), Africa and other vulnerable regions.

The initiative accelerates action on key aspects of climate resilience under its three pillars:

ANTICIPATE

Strengthening capacities to better anticipate and act on climate hazards and stresses through early warning and early action.

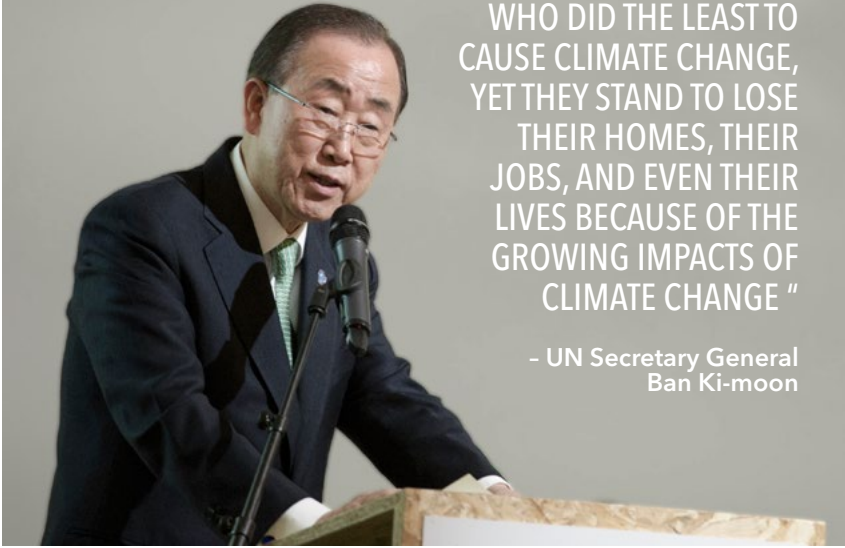
ABSORB

Enhancing capacities to absorb shocks by increasing access to climate risk insurance and social protection systems.

RESHAPE

Enforcing capacities to reshape development pathways by transforming economies to reduce risks and root causes of vulnerabilities and support the sound management of physical infrastructure and ecosystems to foster climate resilience.





"THESE ARE THE PEOPLE WHO DID THE LEAST TO CAUSE CLIMATE CHANGE, YET THEY STAND TO LOSE THEIR HOMES, THEIR JOBS, AND EVEN THEIR LIVES BECAUSE OF THE GROWING IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE "

- UN Secretary General
Ban Ki-moon

CONTEXT FOR A2R

In the past two decades, 4.2 billion people have been affected by weather-related disasters such as floods, droughts and storms, including a significant loss of lives. At the same time, climate change is increasing at an unprecedented pace. Global surface temperatures and Arctic sea ice extent broke numerous records in the first half of 2016. Each of the first six months of 2016 set a record as the warmest respective month globally in the modern temperature record, which dates to 1880.

Building resilience to climate related hazards and other risks is vital to safeguarding development gains and supporting the implementation of the 2030 Sustainable Development Agenda, the United Nations Framework Convention for Climate Change (UNFCCC), as well as the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The Paris Agreement has raised the political profile of climate resilience. There is now a global goal for climate change adaptation and it is recognized that adaptation represents a challenge with local, national and international dimensions.

There are many different actors working to build climate resilience across public and private sectors. Concrete, coherent and transformative action for climate resilience is required for the most vulnerable people and countries.

A2R: A MULTI-STAKEHOLDER PARTNERSHIP

The A2R Initiative catalyzes scaled-up, effective action on the ground by its partners. Any state, organization or partnership may join the Initiative as a Partner. Partners are expected to commit to the aims and objectives of A2R and through their action, contribute to strengthening climate resilience.

A small sub-set of Partners form the A2R Leadership Group, reflecting the diversity of actors of the Initiative. The A2R Leadership Group provides strategic guidance to the Initiative.

The A2R Support Team assists the Partners and the Leadership Group. The Support Team is hosted by the Executive Office of the Secretary General, UN Environment and the Food and Agriculture Organization.

Examples of A2R Partners' on-going work for strengthening Climate Resilience across the Anticipate, Absorb and Reshape pillars are showcased in this brochure.

WHAT ARE A2R STRATEGIC OBJECTIVES?

- **Raise awareness** on the importance of building climate resilience and enhance the political profile of successful resilience building activities.
- **Establish measurable targets** under the three pillars of the initiative consistent with already-agreed global goals and track progress towards them.
- **Promote climate resilience** knowledge, good practices, available technologies and mechanisms under the three pillars to catalyze, facilitate and scale-up effective resilience building actions.
- **Mobilize targeted support** for vulnerable countries and people that require resources to develop their capacity for climate resilience.

ANTICIPATE. ABSORB. RESHAPE.



▶ RED CROSS RED CRESCENT CLIMATE CENTRE: SUPPORTING FORECAST-BASED FINANCING

Since 2008, the Red Cross Red Crescent has developed a new concept, Forecast-based Financing (FbF), a mechanism to fill gaps in the humanitarian system by using the science of weather and climate to anticipate possible impacts in risk-prone areas and mobilize resources automatically before an event. An ongoing FbF initiative, implemented by the Bangladesh Red Crescent Society with funding from the German Red Cross and technical support from the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, will cover approximately 2,800 households (14,000 people) in 4 vulnerable villages, where households are at risk every two to three years due to cyclones. Preliminary cost-benefit analysis of the pilot has found that every dollar invested in the program targeting flood-prone areas would save 3 dollars in beneficiary losses, representing a reduction in losses of about 30% for the vulnerable population.

The FbF concept is piloted in Bangladesh, Uganda, Togo, Peru, Mozambique, Ethiopia and Tanzania. The World Food Programme, is also piloting the same concept in Zimbabwe, Guatemala, Dominican Republic, Haiti and the Philippines.





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► AFRICA ADAPTATION INITIATIVE: SCALING UP CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION IN AFRICA

Africa Adaptation Initiative (AAI) is an African-led initiative, which received its mandate from the Conference of African Heads of State and Government on Climate Change (CAHOSCC), to scale up climate change adaptation in Africa. This will be achieved through enhancing pre-2020 ambition on adaptation and addressing loss and damage in its initial phase, and providing a platform to enhance medium and long-term actions. Its work programme includes mapping of existing and future adaptation programmes, supporting countries in undertaking needs assessments, facilitating access to resources, and coordinating and facilitating regional and national projects and programmes on adaptation and address loss and damage.

AAI has four thematic pillars for which specific objectives and quantifiable targets have been set: enhancing observational infrastructure and early warning systems; supporting the creation and strengthening of national institutions and policies; enabling the implementation of specific projects and actions; and mobilizing finance and investments.

ANTICIPATE. **ABSORB.** RESHAPE.



► INSURESILIENCE: INCREASING ACCESS TO INSURANCE AGAINST THE RISKS OF CLIMATE CHANGE

The G7 Initiative on Climate Risk Insurance aims to increase access to direct or indirect insurance coverage against the impacts of climate change for up to 400 million of the most vulnerable people in developing countries by 2020. According to recent estimates, only about 100 million people in developing countries and emerging economies were covered by climate risk insurance in June 2015 when InsuResilience was launched at the G7 Summit in Elmau.

The overall objective of the initiative is to stimulate the creation of effective climate risk insurance markets and the smart use of insurance-related schemes for people and risk-prone assets in developing countries.



ANTICIPATE. ABSORB. RESHAPE.



▶ BRAC: BUILDING WOMEN'S RESILIENCE TOWARDS CLIMATE CHANGE IN BANGLADESH

Women are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change due to factors such as the lack of social mobility, financial security and education. Targeting the areas prone to cyclones, floods and drought, BRAC and its Disaster Management and Climate Change Programme have formed 764 women's groups. These groups have identified the 3,820 most vulnerable members and recommended them for livelihood support grants and training. The alternative livelihood options offered include tailoring, rice processing, crab fattening, fishing net making, and livestock rearing. These women's groups have reached a total of 19,100 members, while livelihood skills training has enabled more than 1,600 women to expand their businesses.



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► CLIMATE CHANGE KNOWLEDGE PORTAL: KNOWLEDGE FOR INFORMED CLIMATE RESILIENT POLICIES

The World Bank Group, in collaboration with external partners, works to help practitioners develop more informed climate resilient solutions. The Climate Change Knowledge Portal (CCKP) provides a web-based platform to assist in capacity building and knowledge development. The aim of the portal is to help provide development practitioners with a resource to explore, evaluate, synthesize, and learn about climate related vulnerabilities and risks at multiple levels of details. Using climate science research results to inform the decision making process concerning policies or specific measures needed to tackle climate impacts, or even to understand low carbon development processes, is often a difficult, yet crucial, undertaking.

The CCKP contains environmental, disaster risk, and socio-economic datasets, as well as synthesis products, such as the Climate Adaptation Country Profiles, which are built and packaged for specific user-focused functions such as climate change indices for a particular country. The portal also provides intelligent links to other resources and tools.

▶ GLOBAL RESILIENCE PARTNERSHIP: PREPARE. PERSIST. THRIVE

The Global Resilience Partnership (GRP) aims to identify and scale locally driven, high-impact, innovative solutions that will build the resilience of hundreds of millions of people in the Sahel, Horn of Africa, and South and Southeast Asia, supporting them to prepare for shock, persist through chronic stress and thrive in a more secure future. From coastal storms to pandemics to civil conflict, shocks and stresses are increasing in frequency and magnitude, with the international community often powerless to break the cycle of disaster, recovery - repeat.

The GRP links local needs and solutions with powerful regional and global networks and resources. It does this through a series of Challenge competitions that surface the best new and scalable approaches to resilience building. By scaling up these approaches across three strands - Technology and Infrastructure, Markets and Innovative Financing, Measurements and Diagnostics - the GRP aims to bring a paradigm shift to the way aid and development function, turning risk into opportunity for the most vulnerable.



WHAT IS THE ADDED VALUE OF A2R?

A2R provides a 'global' perspective and as well as common goals and framework for climate resilience. It analyses the current situation under the Anticipate, Absorb and Reshape pillars and assesses progress towards its targets on a regular basis. The Initiative contributes to SDG13 on climate change and its dedicated target on climate resilience (13.1) and advances the Paris Agreement implementation, as well as the Sendai Framework Target focused on early warning systems.

The A2R Initiative facilitates knowledge sharing and learning within and across sectors and focuses attention on capacities needed to develop new and scale up existing approaches to strengthening climate resilience and delivering transformative change.

A2R supports and builds on existing Climate Resilience Initiatives and investment. It strengthens South-South cooperation and private-public partnership, convening actors that might not otherwise work together.

HOW YOU CAN ENGAGE WITH A2R

Any type of organization or initiative can become a Partner in A2R if it is contributing to strengthening resilience under one or more of the three pillars.

In the meantime, please contact the A2R Support Team at info@a2rinitiative.org.



www.a2rinitiative.org



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Food and Agriculture
Organization of the
United Nations

▶ A2R AND MIT CLIMATE CO-LAB CONTEST ON "ANTICIPATING CLIMATE HAZARDS"

A2R collaborates with the MIT Climate Co-Lab, a crowdsourcing platform that harnesses the collective intelligence of people all over the world to develop proposals for addressing climate change.

The "Anticipating Climate Hazards" contest invites solutions for preparing and responding to climate extremes and climate hazards. The focus of the contest is on the following questions:

- What can we do to make sure action is taken before crises?
- What new tools can be used to incentivize households, communities, or governments to take action?
- What early actions can people take to ensure that vulnerable communities are prepared for climate-related threats?
- How can communities best prepare for climate-related hazards?



ENTRIES FOR PROPOSALS
ARE INVITED BY
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 10, 2017.

<http://climatecolab.org/contests/2017/A2R-Anticipating-Climate-Hazards>
for more information.

