

23rd July 2025



Inclucity

Climate Resilience and
Innovation for Inclusive Cities



**UK International
Development**

Partnership | Progress | Prosperity



Agenda Item	Duration
Welcome and setting the scene	5 mins
Video: Spotlight from the Global Disability Summit	4 mins
Introductions to the topic & panellists	10 mins
Panel discussion	30 mins
Q & A	10 mins
Closing	1 min

House Keeping:

- Captioning is live and available
- Please place your questions in the Q and A
- This session will be recorded and made available on YouTube.

Today's Webinar focus

This fourth and last session, will focus on the need and opportunities for disability inclusion within the climate adaptation, mitigation, resilience and innovation **narratives and actions**. Also, will position inclusive cities vision within the larger just transition ambition.

This session will situate both our **Global Comparison Report** and our **Global Action Report**, in the context of Inclusive Climate Action.



How does your city shape your daily life?



Global
Disability
Innovation
Hub



Global Disability Innovation (GDI) Hub

accelerates ideas into impact for a more just world—for disabled people, and all people.

AT2030, UK International Development-funded flagship programme tests ‘what works’ to improve access to life-changing Assistive Technology (AT) for all.

Inclusive Infrastructure is a sub programme of this – recognising that access to Assistive Technology requires an **inclusive and accessible built environment**.



Bringing together world leading academic research and practice-led delivery to address global challenges

Building a global picture

April 2020

6

City Case
Studies

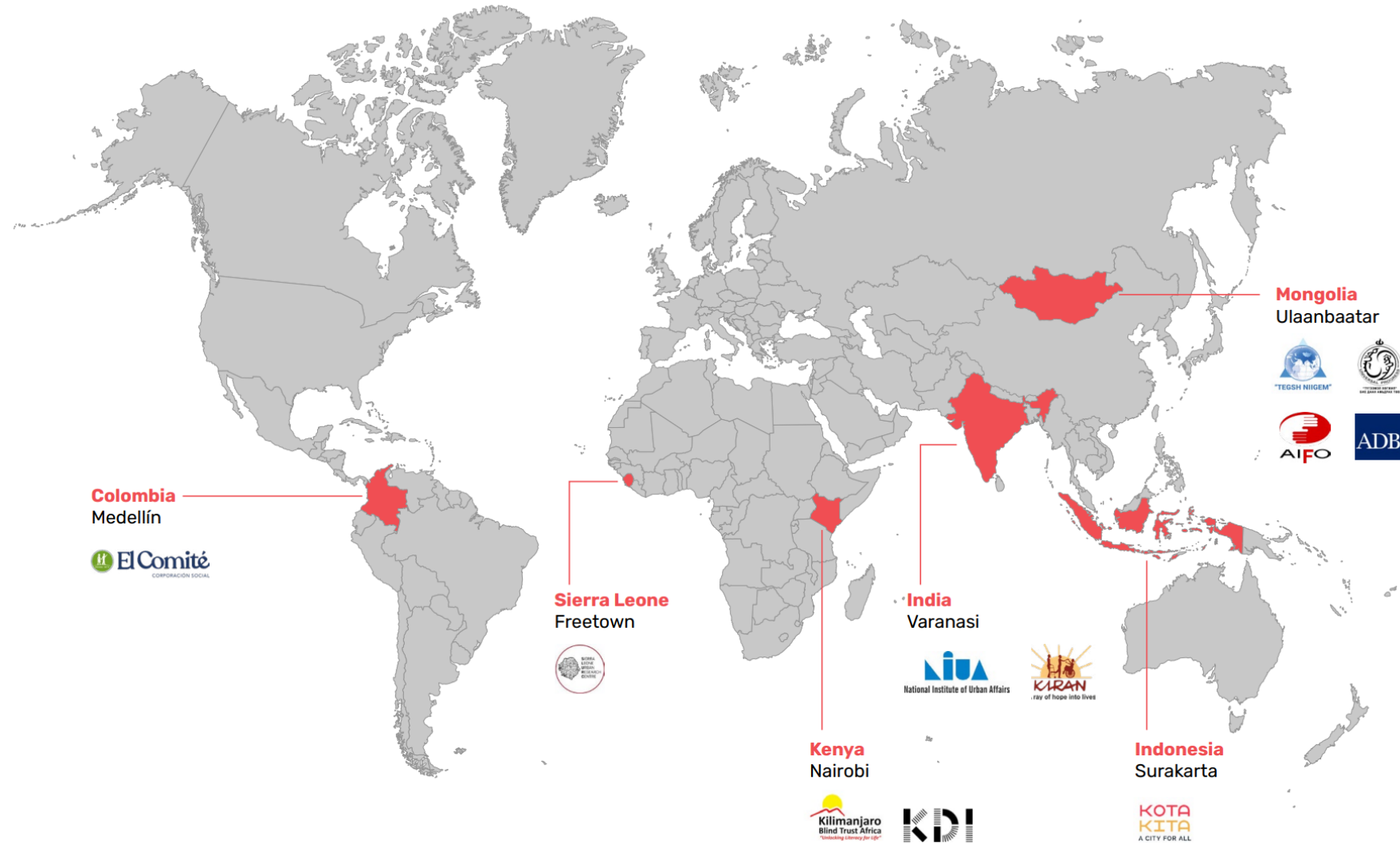
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Comparison
Report

1

Global
Action
Report

March 2024



What is the Global Action Report

Aim: To equip cities with practical actions to accelerate accessibility and inclusion in their physical infrastructure, buildings, services and operation.

What's in the report?

1. Guidance on how to use the report
2. Defining an inclusive city: who, what, where
3. Principles for inclusive cities
4. Action areas
5. Examples and evidence from the research



An inclusive city is also a resilient city. It is necessary to break the siloes between sectors and ensure inclusion and resilience are designed hand-in-hand.

- Delivering Inclusive Design in Cities: A Global Action Report, GDI Hub (2024)

Climate resilience and innovation as integral components for co-creating inclusive cities. GDI Hub is exploring pathways to **simultaneously plan and implement accessibility and climate action** at the local level.



Why Disability-Inclusive Local Climate Action?



←-----Local Action for strengthening climate resilience capacity-----→

Disaster Risk Reduction

During extreme climate events, people with disabilities are **two to four times more likely** to lose their lives. People with disabilities are hit hardest by both the sudden-onset disasters and slow-onset events.

Climate Adaptation

Globally, an average of 26 days were 'excess' extreme heat days (in 2023); floods are now more frequent → **accessible and adaptive infrastructure and services are key for independent mobility and living.**

Climate Mitigation

People with disabilities are **unlikely to be early adopters of clean energy systems and solutions**, as households of people with disabilities in low-and middle-income countries are often poorer and face energy poverty.

Climate Innovation

Policies to products that are being developed and tested in response to climate change often **exclude** the lived experiences of people with disabilities; **limiting the opportunity for equal participation.**

What we heard in cities?

*"The drainage and sewer systems are blocked during the rainy seasons and flows over to the houses which is **a health and mobility risk.**"*

- Quote from a resident of Nairobi, Kenya

*"Persons with disabilities are normally **excluded when responding to disasters in slum communities**, and in actual sense, they are the most vulnerable and most affected persons that need serious attention. Therefore, a lot needs to be done to minimize the exclusion of PWDS in times of disasters because many of them were **unable to access relief items** in a disaster response."*

- Quote from a resident of Freetown, Sierra Leone

*"During winter I take a taxi, I have to wait for a bus for a long time so it is difficult to use the bus during winter time. I also need to change buses and **it is very cold waiting for the bus outside.**"*

-Quote from a resident of Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

WHY Localise? To define, implement, and monitor urban design and planning strategies **at a city or even smaller scale** (including council, ward, neighbourhood, or block) for achieving global development goals and targets.

- UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities 2006
- Paris Agreement 2015



How to reducing emissions and barriers simultaneously?

1. Place people, fairness, and equity at the centre

- *Inclusive and participatory action planning methods*
- *Community-led service provisioning models*
- *Targeted climate-responsive social protection policies*

2. Map diverse and differential vulnerabilities

- *Community-led mapping of barriers faced by people with disabilities*
- *Inclusive risk and vulnerability assessment processes and indicators*
- *Co-creation of disability-inclusive local climate action plans*

3. Deliver inclusive climate-resilient infrastructure

- *Shift thinking from incremental alteration to transformative adaptation*
- *Embrace a multi-sectoral transformation approach and package solutions*
(For example: low-floor, low-emission buses, deployed with accessible transport information and communication)

Collaborate with Organisations of People with Disabilities (OPDs) throughout the process.

Prioritise engagement, investment, and action to transform urban informal settlements.

Let's hear stories and solutions...



Panellists for today's session



Dr Emma Geen

Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership



Vidhya Mohankumar

Urban Design Collective



Pragya Pradhan

UN Habitat, Nepal



Is there one project in your city that is accessible, inclusive, and climate-resilient?



Dr Emma Geen

Bristol Climate and Nature Partnership

Can you share about the process of creating the Bristol Disability Equality Forum's Community Climate Action Plan?

*What were the tools and methods employed in making it a
collaborative and inclusive process?*



4 Disabled activists stand in front of Bristol City Hall holding a blue banner that reads 'Make the future green and accessible'



Disabled people and climate workers sit around a roundtable with lots of papers to give feedback on the climate plan.



Vidhya Mohankumar

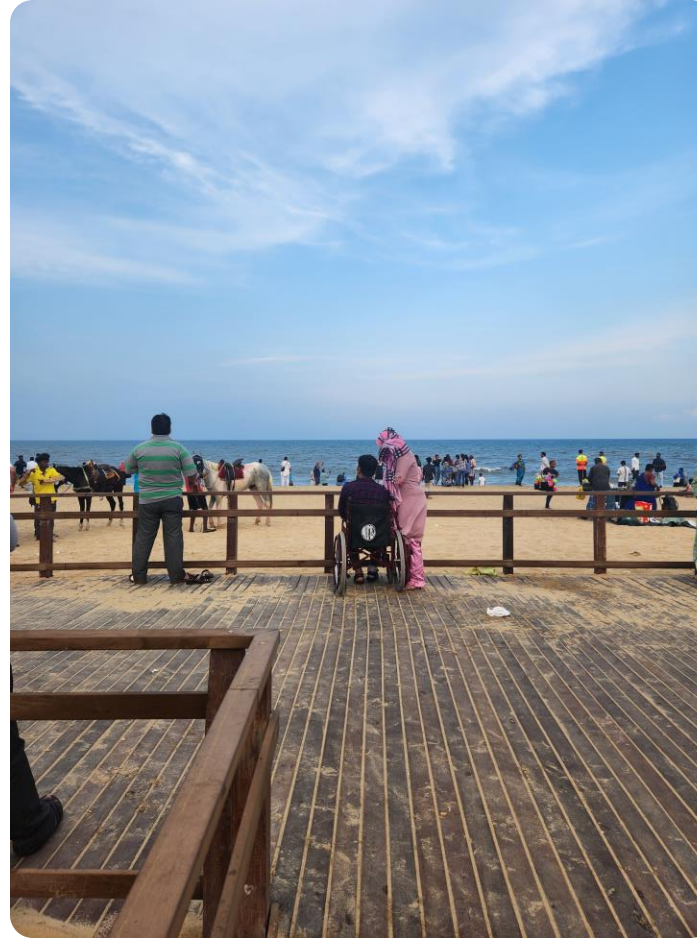
Urban Design Collective

**What are the key challenges in
implementing inclusive climate-
resilient infrastructure on ground?
How can we navigate them?**

*Please share any lessons learnt from your work with the
public agencies in Chennai, India.*



A timber access ramp with handrails on both sides, in Marina Beach, Chennai, India, where people are walking back towards the city.



A wheelchair user and their carer are looking towards the beach from the deck closer to the shoreline.



Two men using a hammer and a drilling machine to fix the timber planks of the access ramp to the beach.



Pragya Pradhan

UN Habitat, Nepal

What are the challenges in embedding inclusion and resilience within the policies and projects of the local government?

*How is the UN Habitat supporting municipalities? What tools
or resources are available to build capacity at the local level?*



Four school-aged children proudly display their artwork toward the camera during an art competition in Dhulikhel Municipality, Nepal; the activity focused on helping students understand the lived experiences of persons with disabilities.



In a co-design workshop in Nepal, two schoolgirls, a woman, and an elderly woman use clay, leaves, and paper to envision inclusive and climate-resilient public spaces after the spaces passed an accessibility audit.



Mister Manish Prasai, from National Federation of Disabled Nepal, a wheelchair user himself, presents at a national-level training workshop in Kathmandu on digital accessibility and disability inclusive development.



A man with a microphone and a woman stand in front of a display board covered in colorful chart papers that illustrate challenges faced by persons with disabilities in public spaces.





**Share one potential entry-point
for cities to start thinking about
accessibility and climate
resilience in an integrated way.**

Thank You!