Urban Risk Reduction Journey of AIDMI

2001
Post-earthquake recovery in Gujarat catalyzed AIDMI's focus on urban disaster risk management with community-based reconstruction models.

2002-2005
Urban flood response work in Surat and Mumbai led to improved local risk mapping and early warning pilots.

2006-2010
Engagement with urban schools and hospitals on risk audits, retrofitting, and disaster preparedness training.

2011-2015
Contributed to National Urban Risk Reduction Policy dialogue and provided technical support to the AMRUT and Smart Cities frameworks.

2016-2020
Supported city-level HRVA and DRR plans in collaboration with NDMA, UNDP, and municipal authorities; launched climate-sensitive risk financing pilots.

2021-2025
Focused on heatwave planning, early warning systems, nature-based solutions, and inclusive urban resilience through community-led pilots and policy advocacy.

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June 2025

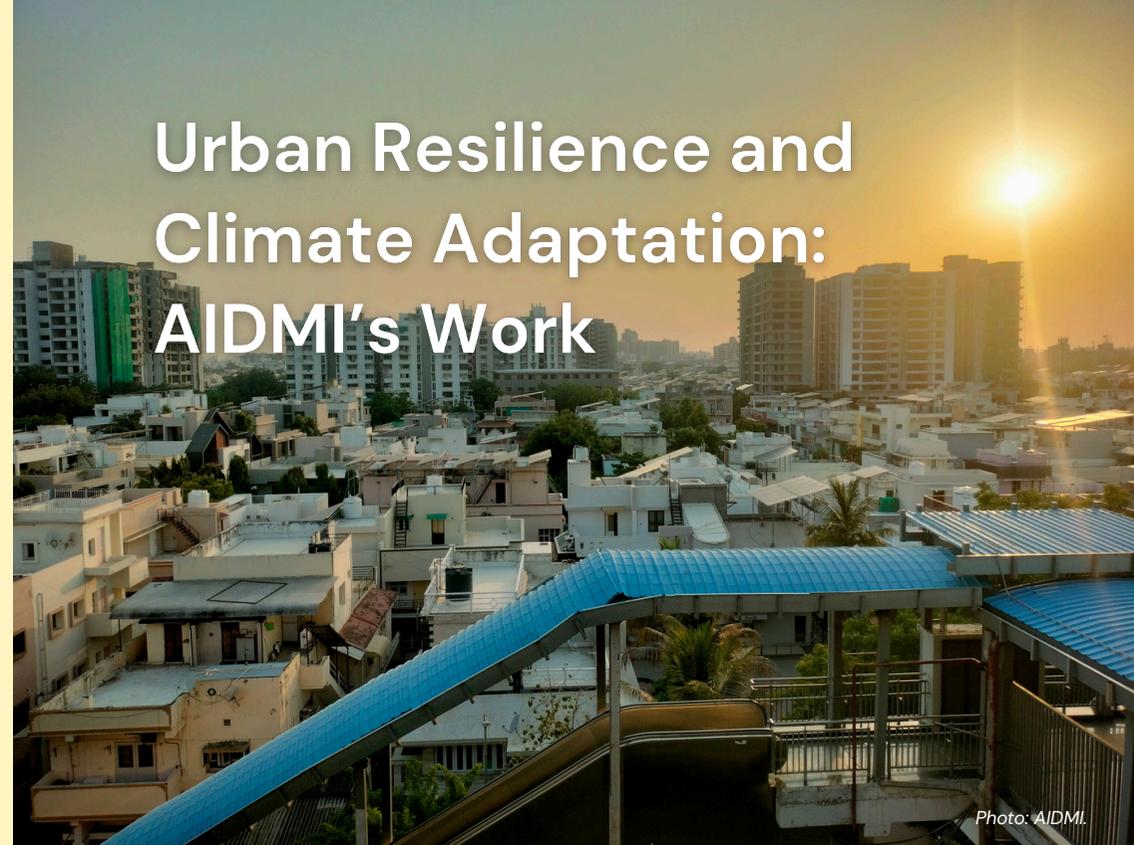# Urban Resilience and Climate Adaptation: AIDMI's Work

Photo: AIDMI.

As Indian cities face increasingly frequent and severe climate risks, urban communities are on the frontlines of adaptation. The All India Disaster Mitigation Institute (AIDMI) has expanded its urban risk reduction work to meet this growing challenge through innovation, partnerships, and inclusive action.

This brochure presents our updated initiatives (2001–25), grounded in community engagement and aligned with national and international goals such as the Sendai Framework, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and India's National Disaster Management Plan (NDMP).

To date, AIDMI has worked in over 86 districts across 65 cities in 14 Indian states, implementing risk reduction programs and resilience-building activities tailored to local urban needs.

"For over two decades, we at AIDMI have walked with the people of India's cities—listening, learning, and acting. Urban resilience is not a project; it is a process of empowering local voices to shape safer, more inclusive futures for all cities."

— Mihir R. Bhatt,
All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Extreme Heat Cooling Activities of AIDMI

1. Tackling Extreme Heat in Cities

- **Policy and Planning Support:** Supported municipal Heat Action Plans in cities like Vijayawada, with tailored guidance for heatwave preparedness.
- **Nature-Based Solutions:** Co-hosted roundtables on urban cooling and early warning systems, highlighting the value of green infrastructure.
- **Community Outreach:** Piloted outreach in small settlements to expand access to heat early warnings and public cooling options.

2. Strengthening Early Warning Systems (EWS)

- **IMD Collaboration:** Celebrated 150 years of IMD with a joint roundtable focused on the future of early warning for heatwaves, cyclones, and heavy rainfall.
- **Inclusive Alerts:** Promoted citizen-responsive EWS that connect weather forecasts with local actions.

3. Building Local Infrastructure Resilience

- **Planning Workshops:** Held urban risk planning sessions with Miyamoto International to support climate-resilient infrastructure development.
- **Slum Resilience:** Improved drainage, housing, and sanitation systems through community-based infrastructure upgrades.

4. Capacity Development and Knowledge Exchange

- **Training Programs:** Conducted workshops on South-South Citizenry Based Development Academy (SSCBDA), Emergency Management Exercises (EMEx), and City Disaster Management Plans (CDMPs) using an upgraded learning management system.
- **Southasiadisasters.net:** Published special editions on urban heat, climate extremes, and community innovation to disseminate field insights.

5. Research and Evaluation Tools

- **NbS Evaluation Framework:** Introduced SDG-aligned tools to assess nature-based urban heat solutions.
- **Local Knowledge Integration:** Leveraged traditional knowledge and historical lessons to inform modern strategies.

6. The Way Ahead

- City-to-City Learning: Expand peer knowledge exchanges between high-heat-risk cities.
- Mainstreaming Risk Financing: Integrate micro-insurance and other financial tools for urban risk resilience.
- Policy Advocacy: Embed resilience strategies into AMRUT, Smart Cities Mission, and state disaster plans.

Partnerships

- AIDMI collaborates with the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR), the India Meteorological Department (IMD), National Institute of Disaster Management (NIDM), Miyamoto International, International Council for Voluntary Agencies (ICVA), and local governments to scale up resilient urban development.

"AIDMI receives more demand from cooling measures from tier three cities among Indian cities and low income wards among the top fifty cities of India."

— Vishal Pathak, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

"How to make cooling policies perform; why building local cooling capacity is urgent; who should lead cooling pilots; and what do evaluations of cooling initiatives tell us? Ask AIDMI."

— Mehul Pandya, All India Disaster Mitigation Institute

Urban Resilience In Numbers

- **65** Cities engaged through direct programming
- **86** Districts reached with urban risk initiatives
- **14** City/District Disaster Management Plans supported or developed
- **14** States covered with urban adaptation work
- **3000** Urban Schools with School Safety Activities
- **200+** Training programs delivered on urban risk themes
- **4500+** Small businesses in 3 cities for risk transfer
- **35+** Knowledge products and toolkits developed on urban resilience
- **1500+** Small businesses supported for extreme heat adaptation