**Climate Change**

Climate-related disasters affected an estimated **2.6 billion people** between 1999 and 2009, with the cost of responding to such disasters increasing tenfold between 1992 and 2008.

- **Over 900,000 total deaths**
- **3.4 million total injured**
- **2.6 billion total affected**
- **Over 1 billion total damage (USD)**

Source: UNISDR, IFRC

Climate change leads to changes in the frequency, intensity, spatial extent, duration, and timing of extreme weather and climate events, and can result in unprecedented extreme weather and climate events.

- IPCC 2012

**Urbanization**

More than half of the world’s population lives in cities and, by 2030, the urban population is expected to exceed **5 billion**.

**TOP 20 POPULOUS CITIES IN 2035 (PROJECTED)**

![Map of top 20 populous cities](source)

Source: UN, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division

Rapid urbanization and the growth of megacities, especially in developing countries, have led to the emergence of highly vulnerable urban communities, particularly through informal settlements and inadequate land management.

- IPCC 2012

**The Way Forward: Recommendations**

- Use of new and existing tools that can forecast and share information related to environmental emergencies preparedness and response. For example, the Host Environment Assessment Tool (HEAT) is a United Nations Disaster Assessment and Coordination (UNDAC) response tool that will be used in preparedness settings.

- Greater utilization of the Environmental Emergencies Centre (www.eecentre.org), which offers a programmatic approach to strengthening regional and national capacity to prepare for and respond to environmental emergencies.

- Increased efforts by OCHA and UNEP to improve integration of technological and industrial scenarios into national contingency planning.

- Improved integration of the environment as a cross-cutting issue in humanitarian response and relief efforts.

Adapting urban areas to climate change is not a new ‘standalone’ task, or responsibility that can be allocated to one single stakeholder. It requires change in the ways that almost all sectors of the government, business, and households behave and invest.

- UN Habitat 2011

**Download the Report:** [http://go/o/UNHHeat](http://go/o/UNHHeat)

This publication explores the megatrends of urbanization and climate change, highlighting the interlinkages that contribute to increased vulnerability to natural disasters and environmental hazards, and the implications for improving preparedness and resilience to these events.

**Partners**

- UNEP
- OCHA

**Photo**

El-Sheikh Yark - urbanization in Addis Ababa - the rich and the poor

**Feedback**

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