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The **2023** Global Covenant of Mayors Impact Report

URBAN CATALYSTS

A LOCAL CLIMATE STOCKTAKE

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Executive Summary

The world is not on pace to limit the increase of global temperatures to 1.5 degrees Celsius, but cities may hold the key. The Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM) comprises 13,239 cities, representing 1.191 billion people. These cities are collectively advancing more rapidly than national governments in climate action. According to projections, GCoM cities could potentially reduce global emissions by 5.6 gigatonnes of CO₂ equivalent annually by 2050, compared to a business-as-usual trajectory.

In 2023, there was a notable increase in climate action plans among these cities. Approximately 40% more cities, totaling 9,110, are not just setting targets but planning climate action. Additionally, GCoM's new Energy Access and Poverty Pillar has quickly attracted the participation of 1,009 cities and local governments intent on tackling climate and social issues together.

The urgency of these actions is clear. In the last five decades, increasingly extreme weather conditions have resulted in economic losses amounting to \$4.3 trillion and have claimed approximately 2 million lives. Adaptation to climate change is crucial for cities, but financing for adaptation measures is relatively scarce compared to funding for emissions reduction.

Reflecting this urgency, the number of adaptation assessments conducted by GCoM signatories and local governments surged by over 150% compared

to last year, and they have reported more than 20,000 adaptation actions. These assessments identified more than 18,000 hazards, with the most commonly reported being extreme heat, flood and sea level rise, and extreme rainfall. Other significant hazards included water scarcity, wildfires, and storms and winds.

In addressing these challenges, cities are not only focusing on climate policy but are also considering the co-benefits in areas like health, social cohesion, and the local economy. The vulnerable groups most targeted for these co-benefits are children, youth, and low-income households.

Cities are fostering cooperation and catalyzing other actors to enhance climate action. This is evident in GCoM initiatives like Bankable Cities, Business Matchmaking, Technical Support, and Cities Meet Cities. Despite these efforts, there remains a significant gap in financing, hindering cities from fully realizing their climate ambitions.

Looking forward, The GCoM alliance is advocating for deeper public engagement, stronger multi-level collaboration, and more robust assessment and acceleration of climate action.



The **2023** Global
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THE GLOBAL STOCKTAKE

Introduction

The most vital part of a map is the little dot that says 'you are here.' Without it, it's easy to lose our bearings. The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) Global Stocktake tells us where we are now in relation to the Paris Agreement target of limiting the global temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius (1.5°C). Unfortunately, it looks like the world is going in the wrong direction.

The Stocktake looks at how the world's nations are reducing their carbon emissions, adapting to deal with extreme heat, flooding and other impacts of climate change, and the tools we have for these tasks, including finance, technology, and a broader understanding of the human and social elements of climate action.

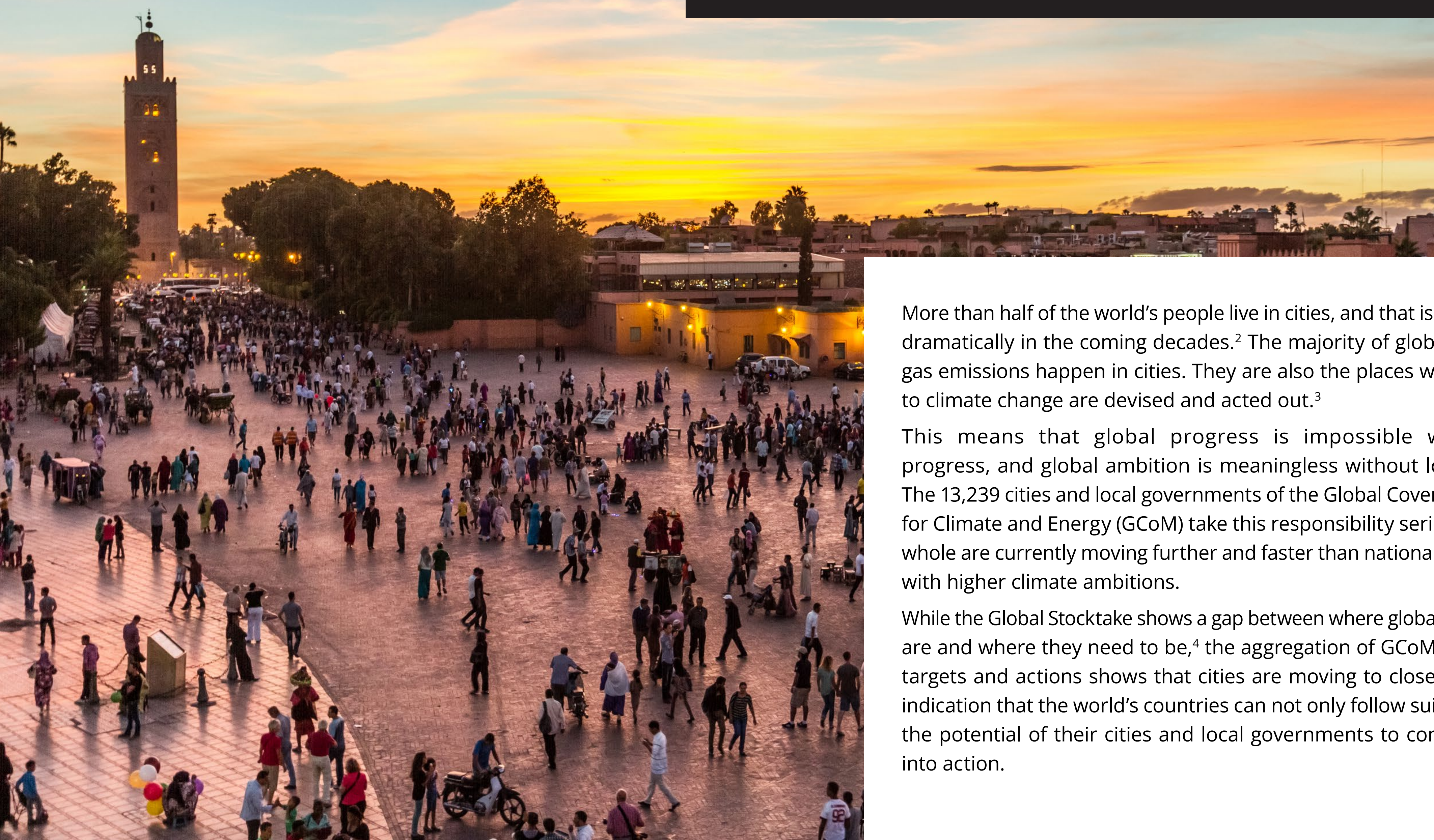
The findings of the UNFCCC in a report unveiled at COP28 this year show that the world is not on track in any of these areas.¹ This means not only that action, but also ambition is falling short – the targets that countries have set for themselves are not enough to meet the global 1.5°C ambition. If the countries of the world do not dramatically increase their efforts, and soon, we will be beyond the point of no return.

This moment is a final opportunity to acknowledge our shortcomings and push ourselves to ramp up action and ambition. The window for achieving the global goal of 1.5°C and addressing the impacts of climate change is increasingly short, and the scientific community is warning that there will not be a second chance. Looking to cities may provide the answer.



FROM GLOBAL TO LOCAL

CITIES ARE MAJOR PLAYERS IN ACHIEVING PARIS AGREEMENT AMBITION



More than half of the world's people live in cities, and that is set to increase dramatically in the coming decades.² The majority of global greenhouse gas emissions happen in cities. They are also the places where solutions to climate change are devised and acted out.³

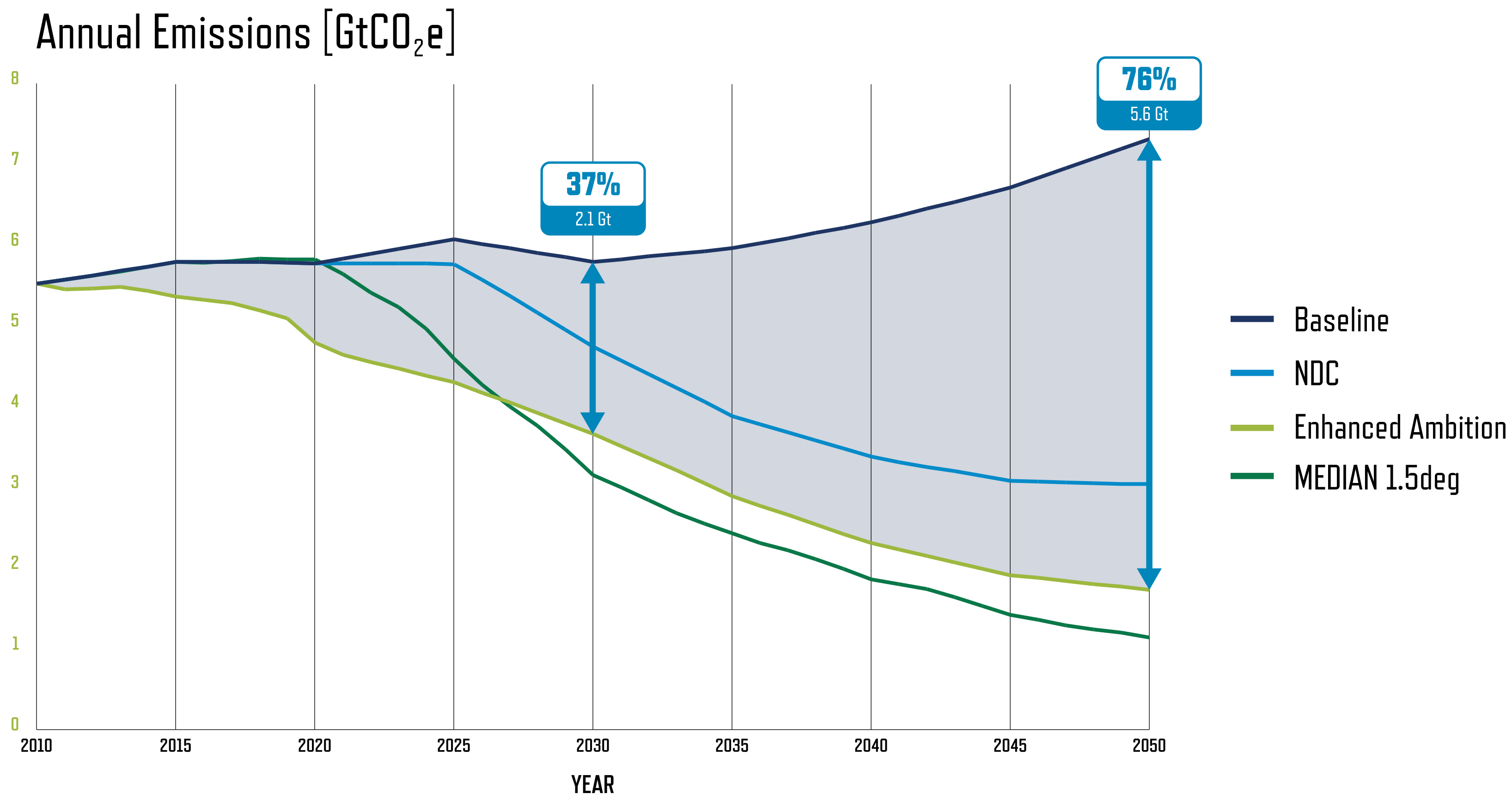
This means that global progress is impossible without local progress, and global ambition is meaningless without local ambition. The 13,239 cities and local governments of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) take this responsibility seriously, and as a whole are currently moving further and faster than national governments, with higher climate ambitions.

While the Global Stocktake shows a gap between where global commitments are and where they need to be,⁴ the aggregation of GCoM cities' current targets and actions shows that cities are moving to close that gap – an indication that the world's countries can not only follow suit, but leverage the potential of their cities and local governments to convert ambition into action.

CITIES ARE MAJOR PLAYERS IN ACHIEVING PARIS AGREEMENT AMBITION

Based on current targets and actions, GCoM cities and local governments could collectively reduce global emissions by 5.6 GtCO₂ equivalent annually in 2050 compared to a business-as-usual trajectory.²⁰ If we covered more than half of the European Union with trees, that's how much carbon they would take out of the atmosphere yearly over the same timeline.

Four out of five of GCoM signatories have an emissions reduction target that is more ambitious than their country's one (part of a 'nationally-determined contribution' (NDC) under the Paris Agreement), and 57% of GCoM signatories' declarations show they are planning to achieve their targets faster than their country as a whole.



GLOBAL ACTION STARTS LOCAL



Whether climate action takes the form of harnessing waste heat for homes from local [data centers](#), as in Stockholm (Sweden); encouraging [bicycle sharing](#), as in cities across the world, from Delhi (India) to New York (USA); or redesigning a [steel mill](#), as in Ghent (Belgium), it has to happen somewhere. That ‘somewhere’ is overwhelmingly in cities, and those responsible for making it happen therefore tend to be local governments.⁵

Climate change is a global issue, but while the United Nations, the European Union, or a national government may create agendas and programmes for transformation, it is in cities that change happens, and it is city governments that make it happen. National and multilateral efforts can benefit from the empowerment, financing, and support of local action.

Cities know their people’s needs, as local leaders meet those people every day, and are accountable to them; cities empower their people and local organizations to act, using their powers to convene, regulate, fund, build and innovate.⁶ From cultural venues curating climate-conscious performances, such as Pesaro’s (Italy) [Sonosfera](#); and communities looking to build vegetable gardens, such as Quezon City (Philippines) [urban farming](#); to start-ups building software to regulate energy use, local governments are creating the connections and opportunities, as well as setting the targets that create the impetus for these ventures.

Mayors are often knee-deep in the floods, or licked by the heat of the forest fires that climate change has exacerbated. This year’s GCoM data shows that local governments are keenly aware of the climate hazards that their residents face. Their local knowledge and how embedded they are in the local context means that they can drive climate action further and faster than anyone else. The first Global Stocktake synthesis report has already highlighted the need for cities and sub-national governments to be engaged in accelerating systemic transitions to effectively implement their climate ambitions.⁷

GLOBAL ACTION STARTS LOCAL

Chapter 1

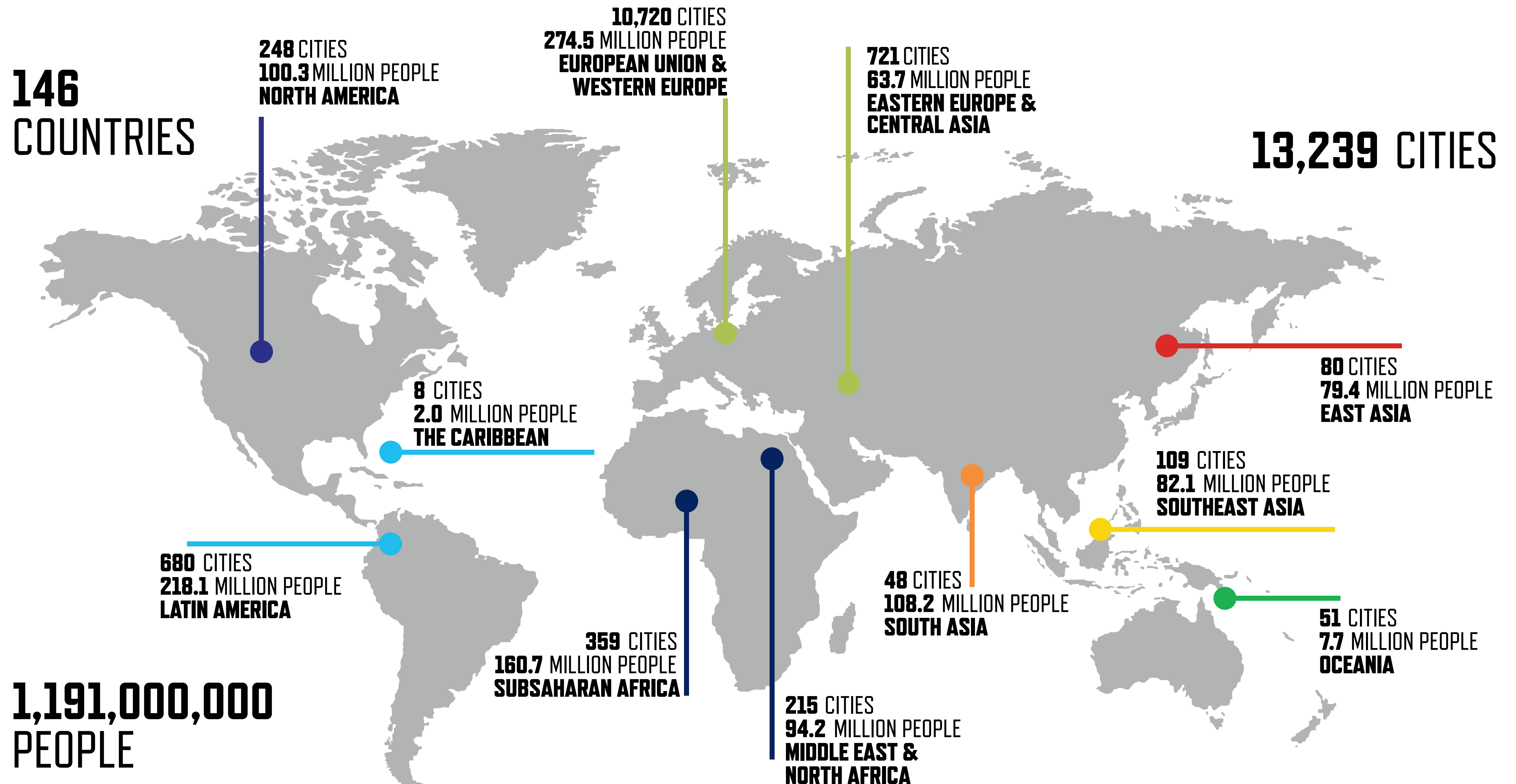
“ The Global Stocktake is
an excellent opportunity.

Mohamed Sefiani, Mayor of Chefchaouen, Morocco, on the
ambition that local governments bring to the table.

The #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency initiative is one of the ways cities are banding together to give a critical on-the-ground perspective in the implementation of the Paris Agreement in line with the UN Climate Change Global Stocktake. Over 25 cities and regions in 18 countries, from Mogadishu (Somalia) to Bristol (UK), hosted stocktake sessions, with support from ICLEI as the focal point of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities Constituency to the UNFCCC. Under the banner #Stocktake4ClimateEmergency, government officials and their constituents evaluated their 2030 and 2050 ambitions in response to climate emergency, alignment with their country's national climate plan (referred to as the Nationally Determined Contribution), and addressing climate justice at the local and global level. Many local stocktakes engaged with national stakeholders and local youth activist groups, with four stocktakes led by youth activists in the YOUNGO network.

THE GCOM ALLIANCE, A GROWING IMPACT

ONE IN EVERY 8 PEOPLE – **1.191 BILLION** – LIVE IN A CITY COMMITTED TO THE GCOM ALLIANCE



THE GCOM ALLIANCE, A GROWING IMPACT

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13,239
CITIES & LOCAL GOVERNMENTS



1,160
COMPLIANT BADGES

29,445

MITIGATION ADAPTATION AND
ENERGY ACCESS & POVERTY STEPS

As each signatory implements and reports on its climate commitments, the Global Covenant of Mayors recognizes signatory progress by awarding badges shared with the global community on our website. Capturing a signatory's progress across the climate action planning journey, badges are organized around the key pillars of GCoM's Common Reporting Framework: mitigation, adaptation, and energy access and poverty. Each pillar consists of three steps: assessment/inventory, target/goal and plan.

The compliant badge is earned by cities that have completed all available steps, taking into account a grace period for new pillars and steps. From 2022 to 2023, GCoM saw a robust increase in engagement, with the number of committed cities rising to 13,239. The alliance witnessed a rise in the implementation of climate action plans, with more cities moving from setting targets to taking action, with an increase in the total earned plan steps by more than 40% to 9,110.

Adaptation efforts also accelerated, with more cities conducting assessments and setting goals, signifying a deeper commitment to building resilience. The year 2023 was also marked by the successful introduction of the Energy Access and Poverty Pillar into the Common Reporting Framework. These badges, which indicate a city is assessing, goal setting or making plans to tackle energy access and poverty, quickly garnered the participation of 1,009 cities and local governments, emphasizing signatories' enthusiasm to foster inclusive climate action.

Compared with last year's report, the total number of earned pillar steps increased by more than 20% to 29,445.



8,762
MITIGATION BADGES



21,833
MITIGATION STEPS



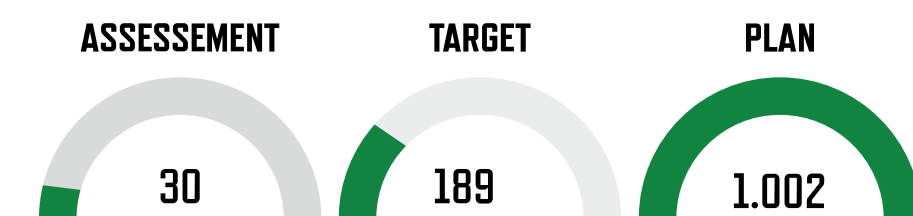
2,950
ADAPTATION BADGES



6,391
ADAPTATION STEPS



1,009
ENERGY ACCESS
& POVERTY BADGES



1,221
ENERGY ACCESS & POVERTY STEPS

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CO-BENEFITS OF CITY CLIMATE ACTION



UNPRECEDENTED GLOBAL TEMPERATURES

This year saw the hottest September on record globally,⁸ with cities suffering the most due to the urban heat island effect, which can see urban temperatures rise several degrees above the surrounding country.⁹ This came as no great surprise to GCoM signatory cities around the world, who in all regions in 2022 had already identified extreme temperatures as one of the top five hazards that their people faced as a result of climate change.

A report from the World Meteorological Organization shows that extreme weather conditions, which are rapidly increasing in frequency and severity, have already cost \$4.3 trillion in the last five decades, and claimed around 2 million lives, with the vast majority of casualties being in developing countries.¹⁰

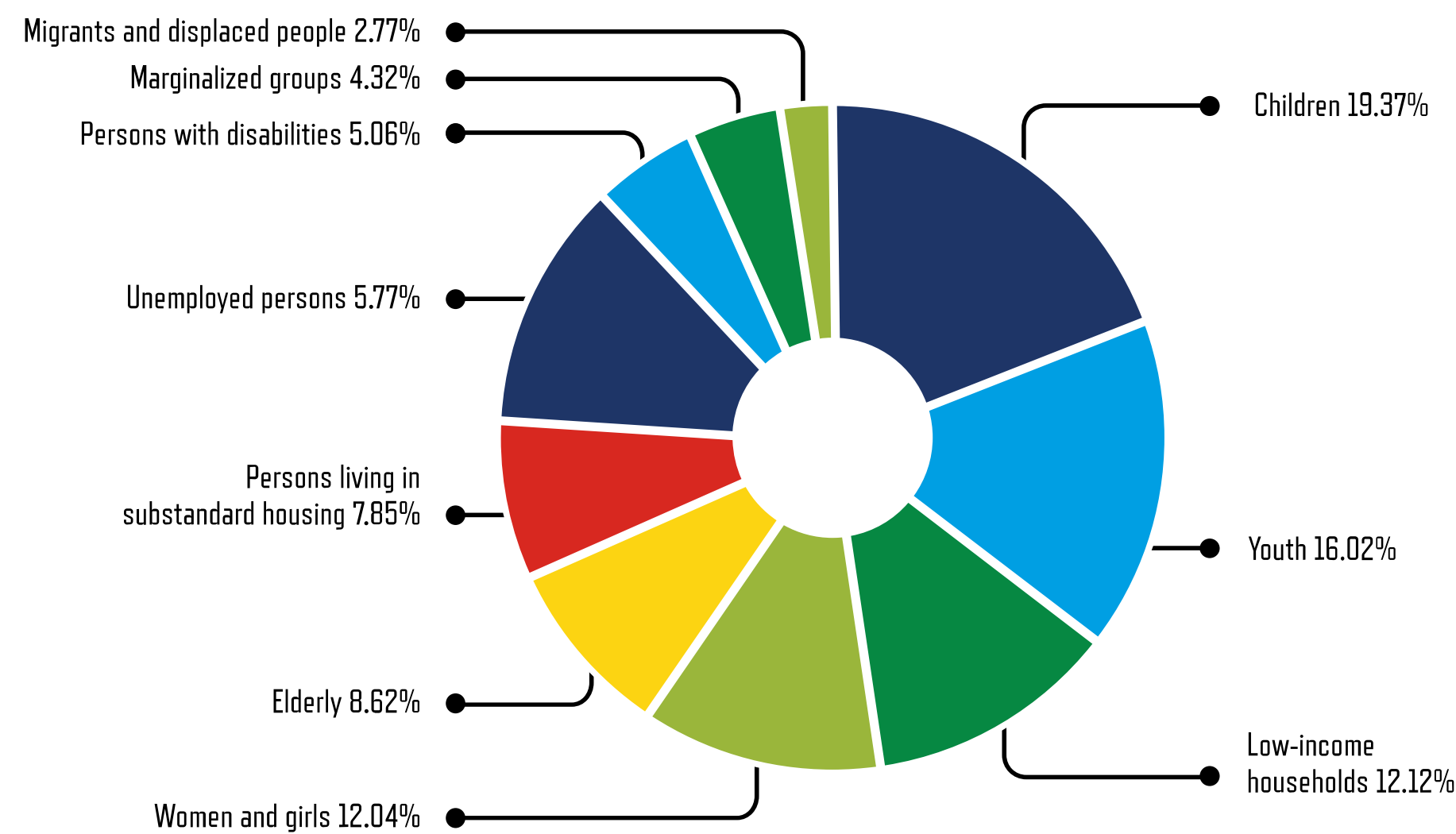
Cities and local governments are working to defend their populations against these changes, including through nature-based solutions like trees, which provide shade, or water features, which have a cooling effect – both of which are integral, for example, to Melbourne’s (Australia) Urban Cooling Program – as well as social and infrastructural measures like renovating the homes of vulnerable people to make the internal temperature easier to control. While adapting to the effects of extreme heat, these approaches also help protect from other major hazards like flooding. This year’s GCoM data shows that more and more cities are taking action along these lines.

Well-planned solutions that make the effects of climate change easier to live with can also help to tackle its causes, including through investments in green/blue infrastructure - the technical terms for nature-based solutions. Trees absorb carbon from the atmosphere, while natural atmospheric cooling from water and better home insulation reduce the need for energy-intensive air conditioning.¹¹

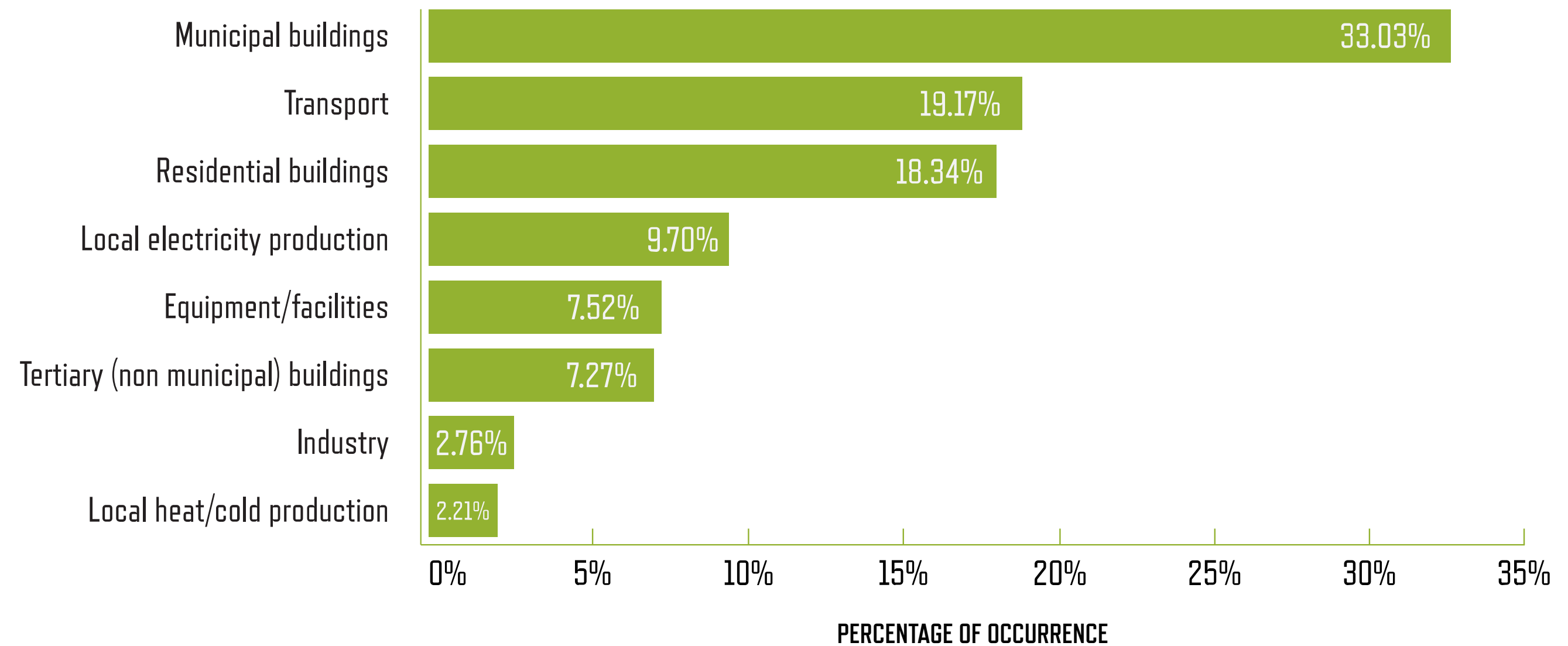
GCoM data demonstrates that our signatories have been increasing their activity in adapting to climate change year on year. However, despite this double benefit, and the urgent need for cities to adapt, there remains a major gap in funding and support for adaptation measures from the national and international levels, where measures focused on reducing emissions are still very dominant. The Climate Policy Initiative has found that in 2021/22, only \$63 billion was allocated for adaptation, compared to \$1,150 billion for mitigation, and \$51 billion earmarked for actions with dual benefits.¹²

MITIGATION ACTIONS, SECTORS AND VULNERABLE POPULATION

Vulnerable population groups targeted by mitigation actions
(Vulnerable population "All" & "Other" excluded)



Sectors influenced by mitigation actions
(Sector "Other" excluded)



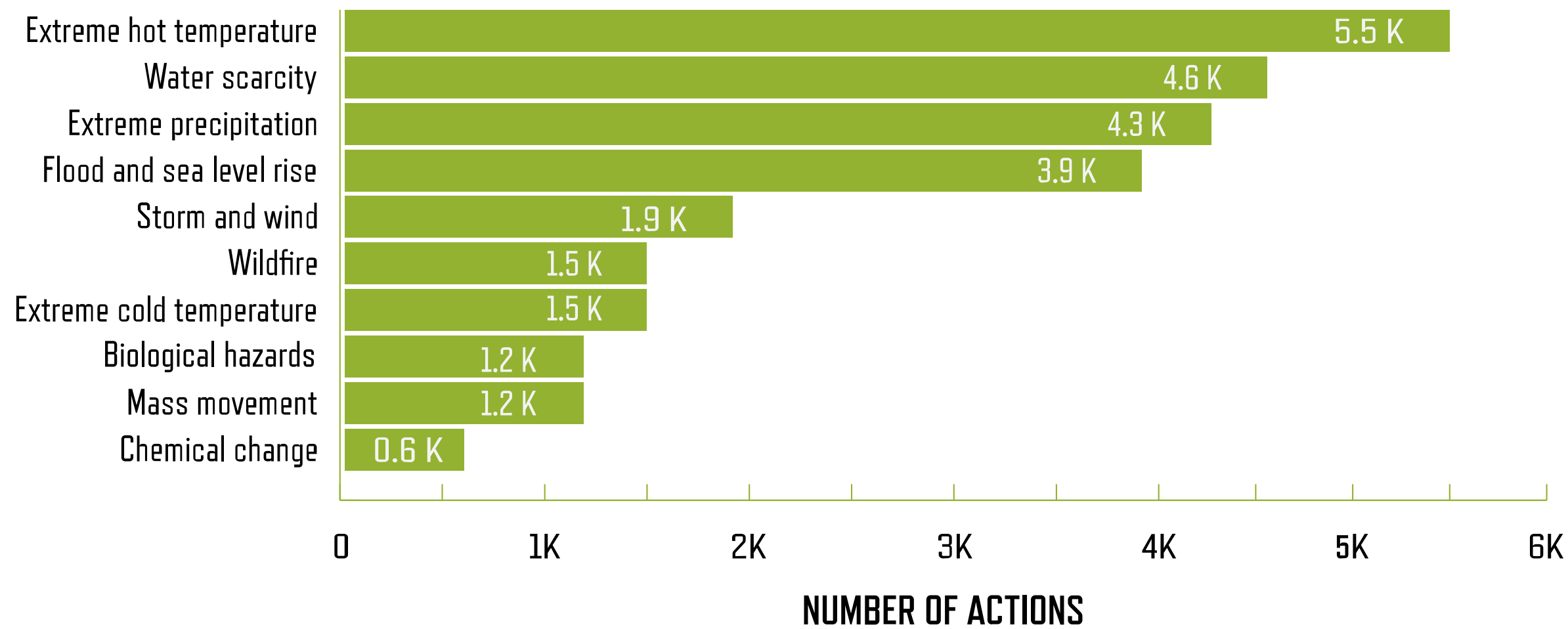
THE NUMBER OF MITIGATION PLANS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 15% COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR

GCOM CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS REPORTED MORE THAN 190,000 MITIGATION ACTIONS

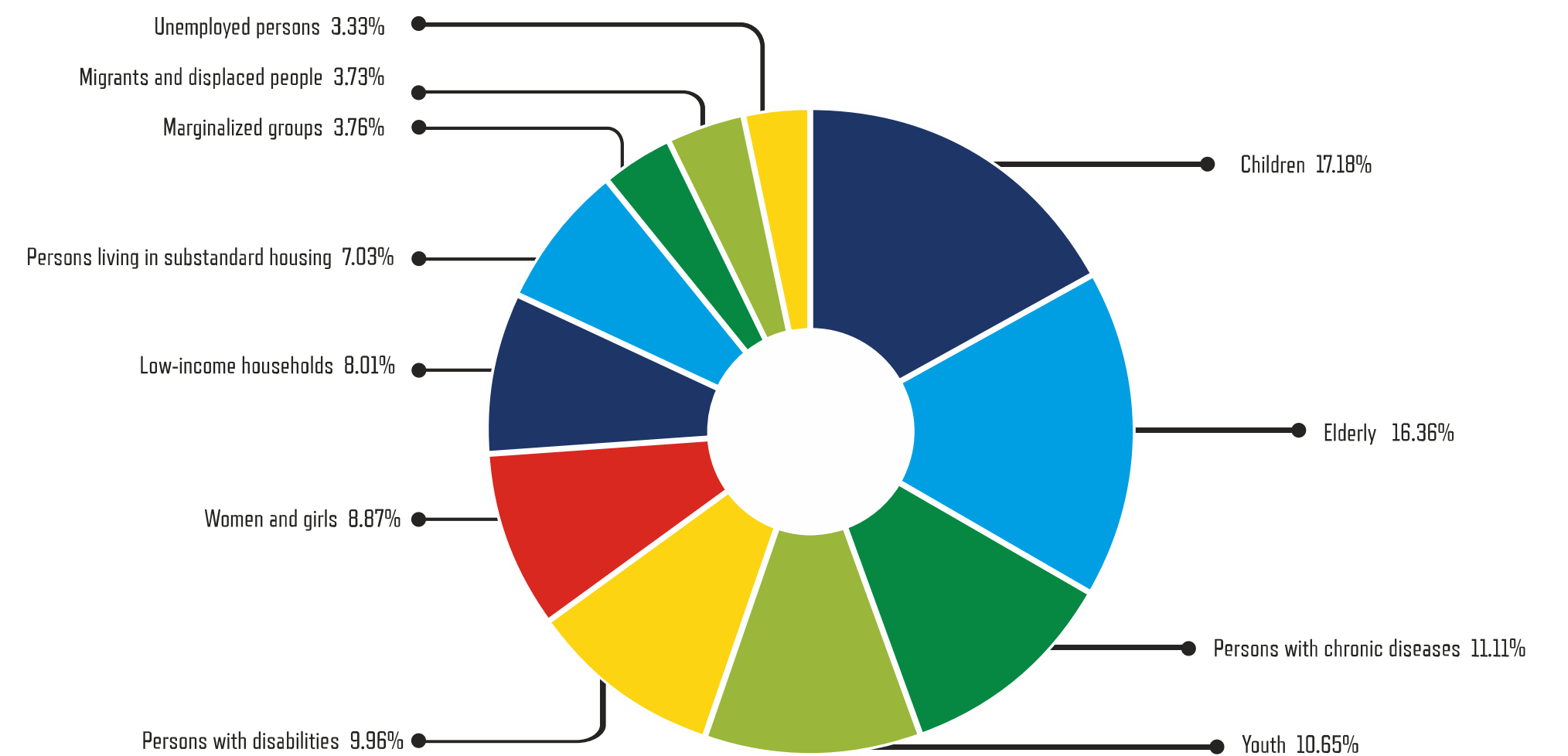
7,179 cities and local governments have reported 191,200 mitigation actions. Additional action information includes the impacted sectors and vulnerable population groups. The number of mitigation plans increased from 5,596 to 6,541, representing an increase of more than 15% compared with last year. Mitigation plan badges are awarded when local government passes a climate action plan that is compliant with the minimum requirements of the Common Reporting Framework.

ADAPTATION ACTIONS, HAZARDS, SECTORS AND VULNERABLE POPULATION

Climate hazards addressed by adaptation actions
(Hazard "Other" excluded)



Vulnerable population groups targeted by adaptation actions
(Vulnerable population "All" & "Other" excluded)



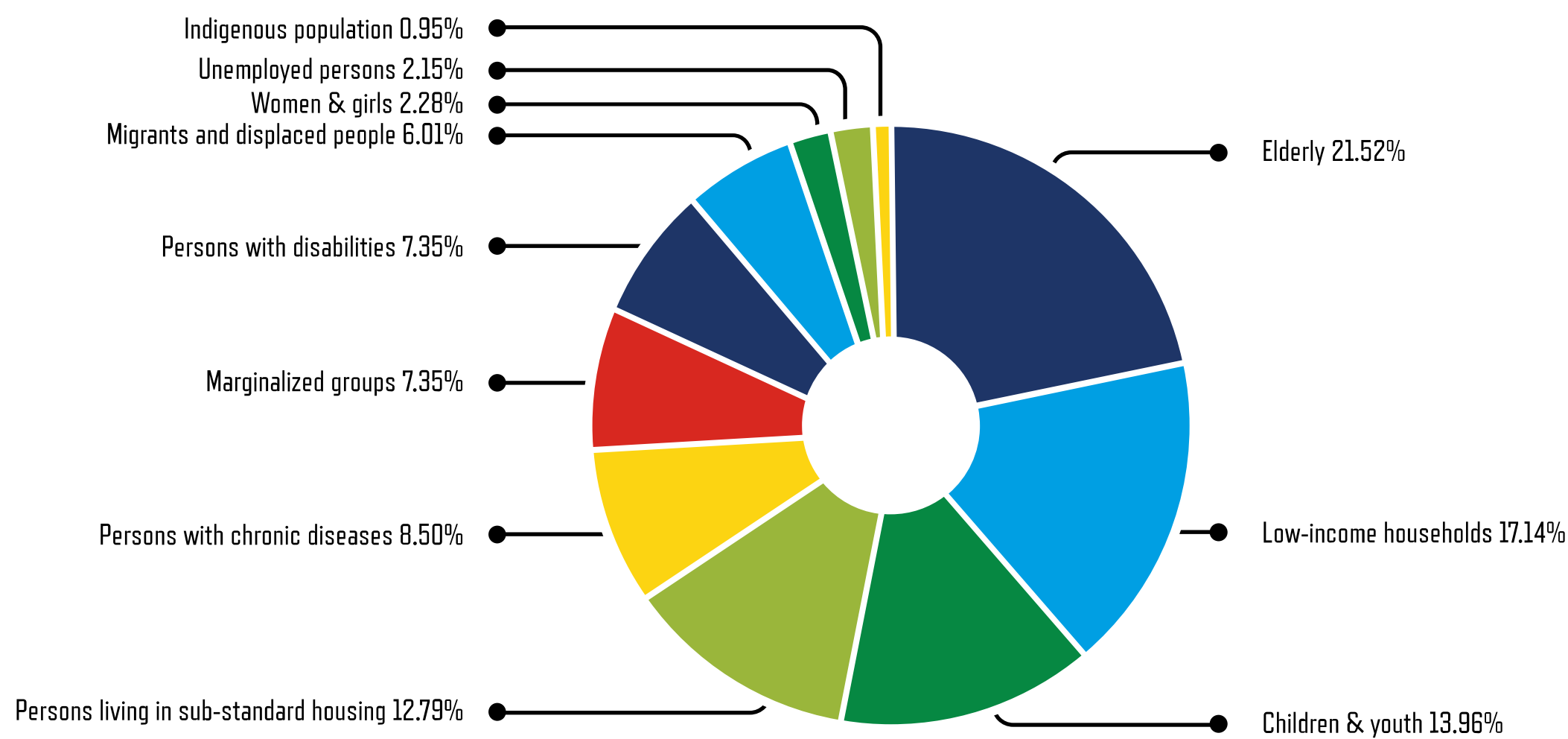
THE NUMBER OF ADAPTATION PLANS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 140% COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR

GCOM CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS REPORTED MORE THAN 20,000 ADAPTATION ACTIONS

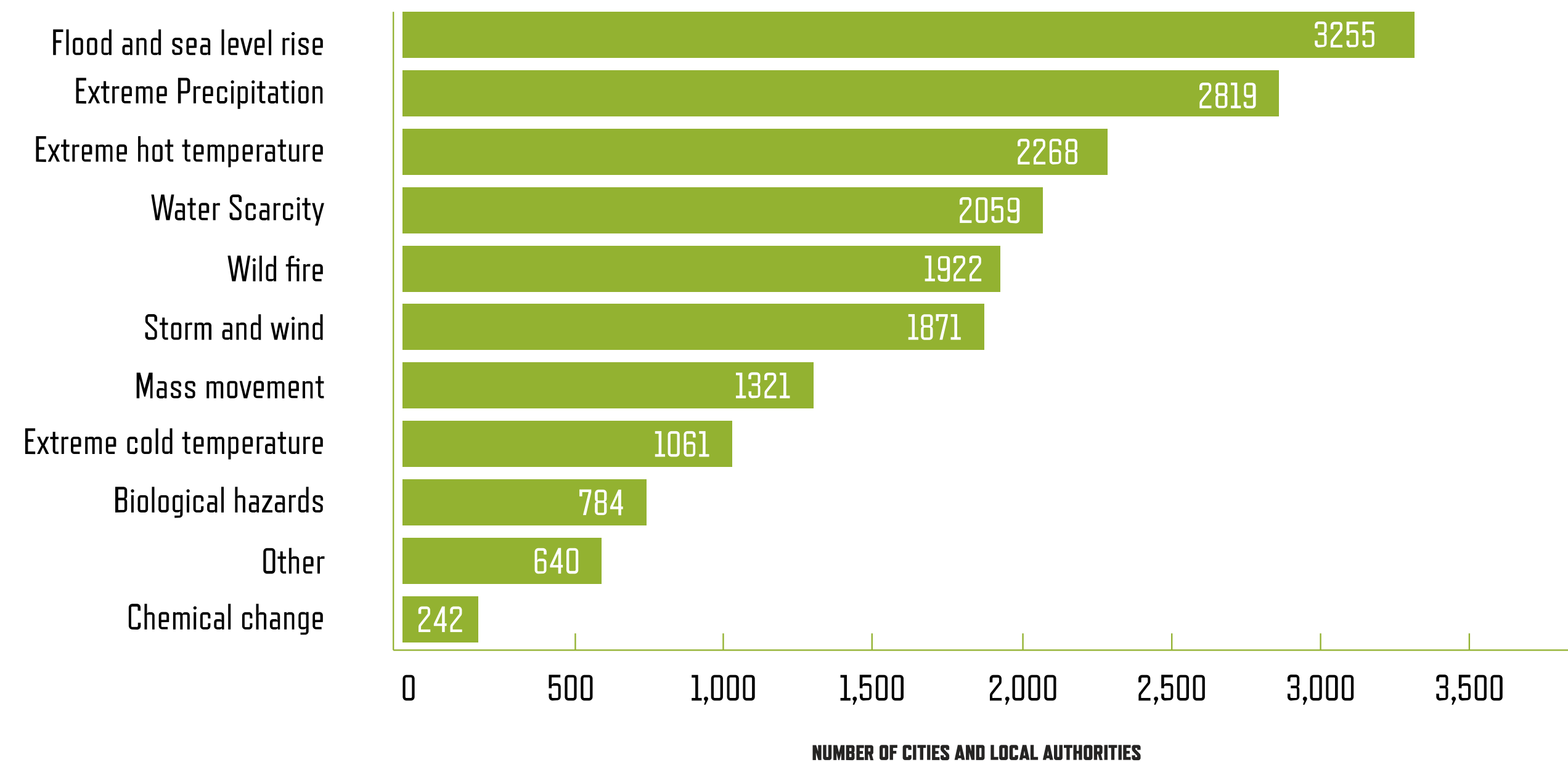
2,315 cities and local governments reported 21,577 adaptation actions. Additional action information includes the targeted hazards, the impacted sectors and vulnerable population groups. The number of adaptation plans increased from 638 to 1,567, representing an increase of more than 140% compared with last year. Adaptation plan badges are awarded when local government passes a plan that is compliant with the minimum requirements of the Common Reporting Framework.

CITIES RECOGNIZE THE RISKS THAT THEY FACE

Vulnerable population groups affected by climate hazards
(Vulnerable population "All" & "Other" excluded)



Climate hazard categories



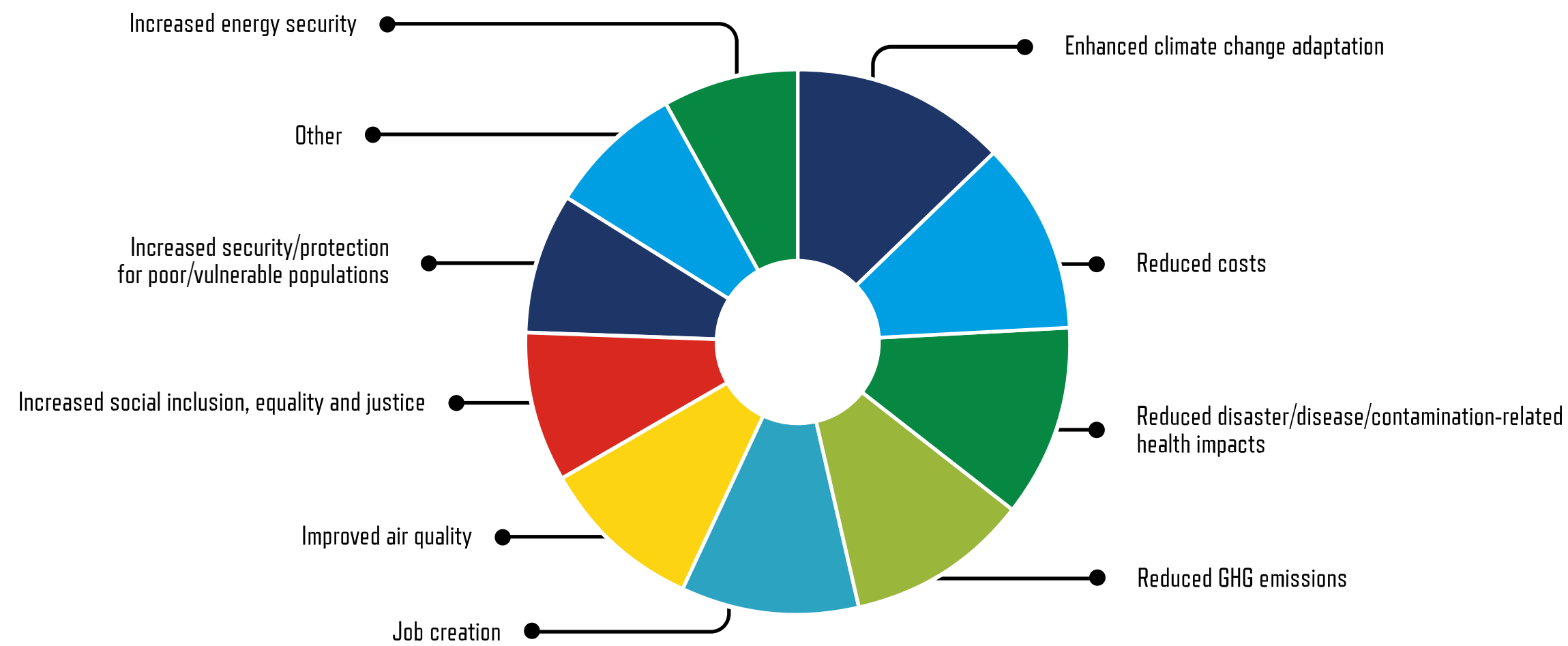
THE NUMBER OF ADAPTATION ASSESSMENTS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 150% COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR

GCOM CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS REPORTED MORE THAN 18,000 HAZARDS AS PART OF THEIR RISK & VULNERABILITY ASSESSMENT

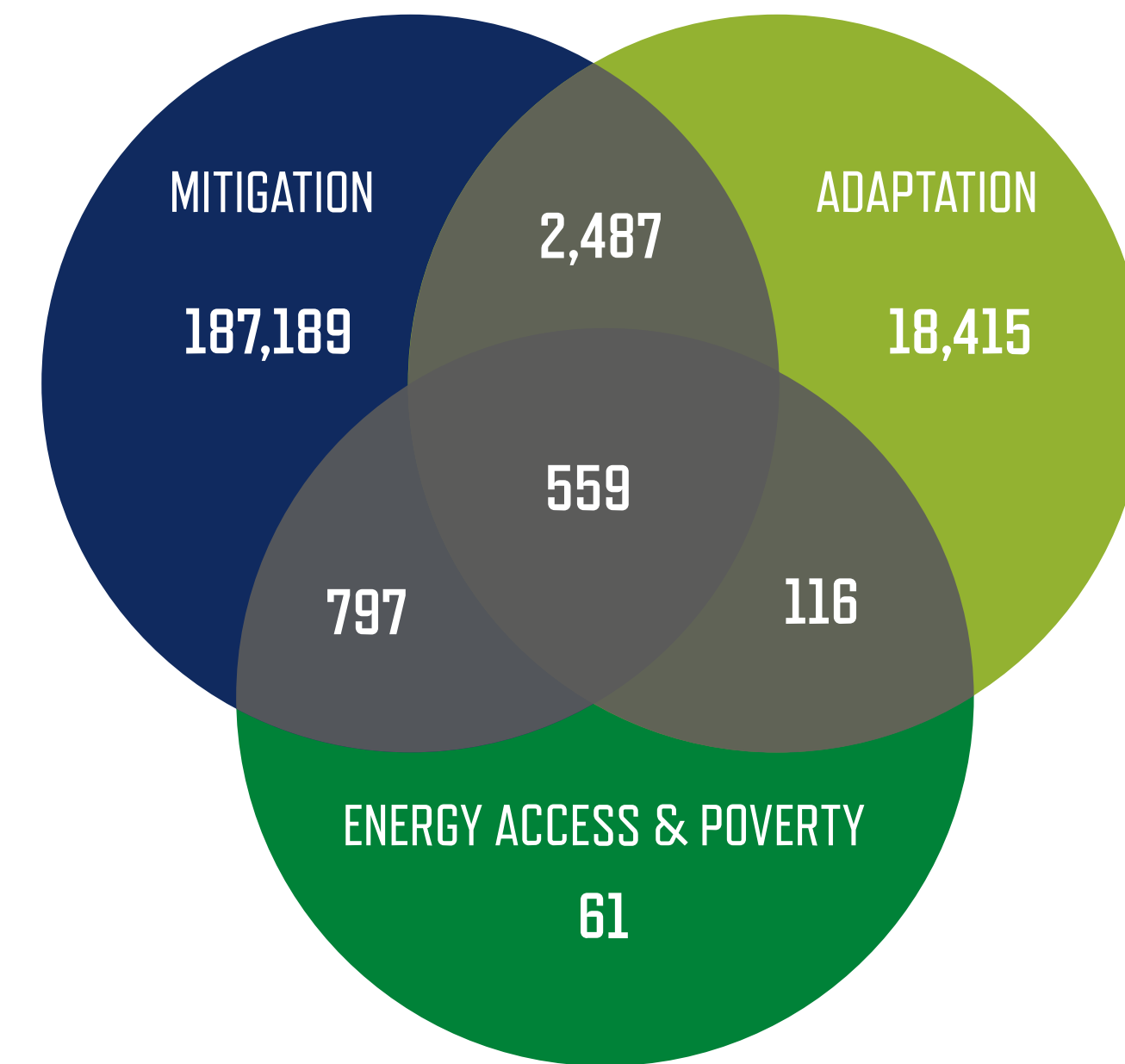
2,627 cities and local governments reported 18,242 hazards. Additional hazard information includes the impacted sectors/areas and vulnerable population groups. The number of adaptation assessments increased from 774 to 2,044, representing an increase of more than 150% compared with last year. Adaptation assessment badges are awarded when local government conducts an assessment that is compliant with the minimum requirements of the Common Reporting Framework.

ACTIONS, PILLARS AND CO-BENEFITS

Co-benefits associated with actions (top 10)



Pillars associated with actions



THE NUMBER OF ADAPTATION ACTIONS INCREASED BY MORE THAN 30% COMPARED WITH LAST YEAR

GCOM CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS REPORTED MORE THAN 200,000 ACTIONS

7,813 cities and local governments reported 209,624 actions. Each action can target one or more pillars: mitigation, adaptation and energy access & poverty. The number of adaptation actions increased from 16,329 to 21,577, representing an increase of more than 30% compared with last year. Despite having less than a year to report, cities and local governments have already disclosed over 1,000 actions under the energy access and poverty pillar, with more expected in the coming years.

Local action can create enormous co-benefits (synergies with improvements). The top 10 reported co-benefits are shown in the pie chart.

CO-BENEFITS OF CITY CLIMATE ACTION

Chapter 2

Co-benefits are positive externalities of climate action that simultaneously improve other areas of city life. For example, local campaigns that encourage cycling and walking instead of using private cars result in less carbon emissions.

However, they also have co-benefits: They result in cleaner air and higher amounts of exercise, meaning healthier lungs and hearts for local people; they reduce the social emphasis on car ownership as a status symbol – an explicit aim of such programs in cities like Bremen (Germany) – meaning less stigma for those who cannot afford their own car; and more walkers in densely populated cities results in greater footfall for local businesses,¹³ while cycling creates economic opportunities, whether from the sale and repair of bicycles or investment in infrastructure or schemes like bike sharing. Many of these co-benefits strengthen the social and business case for climate action, which can result in unlocking access to more funding and financing.

It is essential to stress that co-benefits do not emerge by themselves. Siloed or poorly thought through policy can result in negative externalities that disproportionately harm vulnerable communities, reducing popular support for climate action. For example, renovating homes and streets can result in rent increases that mean vulnerable residents are forced to move out unless appropriate countermeasures are also put in place.¹⁴

However, cities are using climate policy to unleash co-benefits, including green job creation, better public health, stronger social inclusion and justice, restoration of biodiversity and nature, and more.¹⁵ By designing policies that address both climate change and other local priorities, local leaders are simultaneously leading in accelerated climate action and building greater public support, including for climate policies.

In last year's GCoM Impact Report, we called for a greater harnessing of co-benefits. This year's data shows that the number of signatories that have reported mitigation and adaptation actions with additional co-benefits has grown.



POSITIVE IMPACT IS FELT AT A LOCAL LEVEL

Savusavu, Fiji - case study

The Savusavu Blue Town Model is an innovative approach to urban development that focuses on harnessing the co-benefits of climate action. This model integrates principles of sustainable living with climate resilience and offers a blueprint for other coastal towns facing similar challenges. Key elements include renewable energy sources, efficient waste management systems, and eco-friendly transportation options. By prioritizing natural ecosystem conservation, such as mangrove reforestation and coral reef protection, the model not only addresses climate mitigation and adaptation but also enhances biodiversity.

Additionally, the model incorporates community engagement and education, ensuring local populations are both beneficiaries and active participants in sustainable practices. This holistic approach not only combats the effects of climate change but also improves public health, bolsters local economies, and fosters a more harmonious relationship between urban environments and their natural surroundings.



In the Blue Town Model, we have seven pillars: masterplanning, education, sustainable livelihoods, renewable energy, marine conservation, managing waste, and eco-tourism. With the help of GCoM's Technical Assistance, if we all engage together, we will be able to resolve our issues.

Seema Dutt, CEO of Savusavu Town Council, Fiji

POSITIVE IMPACT IS FELT AT A LOCAL LEVEL



Ottawa, Canada - case study

The Better Homes Ottawa - Loan Program exemplifies how climate action can yield social and other benefits. This initiative offers low-interest loans for energy-efficient home retrofits, directly addressing the city's energy use and greenhouse gas emissions while also rejuvenating aging residential buildings. Not only does it facilitate energy savings and emission reductions, but it also supports the growth of low carbon vocations and skilled labor.

With retrofit coaching, the program also enhances community engagement and education on sustainable practices. The program has succeeded in engaging residents in meaningful climate action, cementing its role in fostering a more environmentally conscious and socially inclusive community in Ottawa.



The first year of the Better Homes Ottawa Loan Program has been a tremendous success. The residents of Ottawa have demonstrated a firm commitment to reducing the greenhouse gas emissions from their homes. We look forward to expanding the uptake of this program in years to come.

Mark Sutcliffe, Mayor of Ottawa, Canada

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COLLABORATION IS KEY

THE POWER OF ACTING TOGETHER

Chapter 3



Cities can set the agenda and convene powerful conversations that lead to greater action. By signing up to GCoM's advanced climate commitments and putting Climate and Energy Action Plans in place, over 13,000 cities representing almost 1.2 billion people have clearly demonstrated that they are confident in leading the way. But cities' plans do not involve municipal action alone – they are designed to include other partners, from local businesses and civil society organizations to regional, national and international governments and bodies.

With their commitments and their policy, local governments act as catalysts for climate action by engaging widely across their spheres of operation. They help residents to apply for national energy-saving grants, fortify sustainable startups to enter the global marketplace, join international initiatives that advocate for climate resilience, and collaborate with national governments to contribute to the climate stocktake.

Through GCoM's [Invest4Cities](#) initiative, cities leverage partnerships to streamline access to financial and technical resources. By aligning with city networks, governments, and financial bodies, cities are not just recipients of funds but become proactive in developing investment-ready projects. Initiatives like the [City Climate Finance Gap Fund](#) underscore this.

Further integrating financial mechanisms with practical climate action, GCoM's Invest4Cities initiative, as well as its Business Matchmaking programs help cities' turn climate plans into financially viable projects. The [Bankable Cities initiative](#) connects cities with financial institutions and donors, ensuring that urban climate projects are not only conceived but are also structured to meet the rigorous demands of the marketplace. Business Matchmaking creates connections between cities and businesses that offer innovative solutions to energy savings, emissions reduction and climate adaptation.

Cities' collaborative spirit is also evident in GCoM's Technical Support program and Cities Meet Cities exchange. In these programs, as well as through cities' participation a host of city networks and projects, local governments around the world are collaborating with each other to co-develop climate solutions that can be scaled around the world. This ranges from Eastern European city representatives workshopping solutions to their main climate hazards, to cities like Mingcevir (Azerbaijan) and Antalya (Türkiye) exchanging on adaptation measures that empower local communities.

CITY-LED COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE



Independencia, Chile - case study

The municipality of Independencia is actively collaborating with local residents, businesses, and the national government to address climate change through initiatives like the Local Energy Strategy (EEL) and the Huella Chile program. By engaging community members and officials in participatory planning, the municipality has developed the EEL to analyze the local energy landscape and identify opportunities for renewable energy and energy efficiency across various sectors. Through the Huella Chile program, Independencia also works with the Chilean Government to encourage businesses to reduce their emissions.¹⁶



We have gathered, as mayors and local governments, with representatives of academia, of the civil society and private sector businesses. This is a testament to our commitment and strategic alliance for climate action.

Gonzalo Duran, Mayor of Independencia, Chile, on taking part in GCoM's Innovate4Cities Marketplace.

CITY-LED COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE



Seoul, Republic of Korea - case study

The Seoul Metropolitan Government is collaborating with citizens on climate change through the Citizens' Committee for Green Seoul, a public-private partnership that includes a diverse group of stakeholders such as experts, media, corporations, and civil society organizations. This committee is tasked with integrating citizen feedback into decision-making, ensuring multilevel governance for sustainable development. Through these efforts, Seoul aims to reflect the public's needs in its environmental policies, promote consensus across different sectors, and serve as a global model for participatory climate action led by local government.



It is my wish that the Citizens Committee for Green Seoul will accurately reflect and deliver the needs and desires of citizens in responding to climate change.

Se-Hoon Oh, Mayor of Seoul, Republic of Korea¹⁷



CITY-LED COOPERATION FOR CLIMATE

Sireti, Moldova - case study

Sireti is demonstrating that local governance can navigate climate challenges by engaging its residents. The municipality works with residents, farmers and businesses on advancing sustainable agriculture and addressing water scarcity, with an inclusive and innovative approach. With projects like the construction of a photovoltaic park and modernising public street lights, the city is increasing its energy independence, reducing carbon emissions and at the same time making locals more resilient to the effects of climate change. By involving the youth in the decision-making process, the city also ensuring that the next generation participates in shaping its sustainable future.



We have a youth center in our village and there we have public policies for including the youth in all our projects.
Boaghi Leonid, Mayor of Sireti, Moldova

COLLABORATING TO TACKLE ENERGY ACCESS AND POVERTY



Cape Town, South Africa - case study

Cape Town is tackling its energy challenges, which include reliance on coal, urbanization, energy poverty, blackouts, and restrictions on expanding the grid to informal settlements. The city is implementing several initiatives to improve energy access and address energy poverty: it is lobbying for legal reforms to allow municipal procurement of renewable energy; considering a 'Free Basic Alternative Energy' policy to supply informal settlements with energy coupons; has established a Low-income Energy Services unit focusing on energy access for low-income households; and is a founding partner of the [Municipal Energy Resilience Initiative](#) to build knowledge and capacity for energy resilience.

The Global Covenant of Mayors includes a focus on energy access and poverty, recognizing that cities and local governments have a crucial role in tackling this issue. Local governments are in a good position to help because they know their communities well and have valuable data. However, they often struggle with limited resources, complicated policies, and at times limited support from other organizations and leaders.¹⁸

Cities are teaming up with businesses and demanding more engagement from utility companies to help people who are facing energy poverty. They also work with national and regional governments to make sure local efforts are supported by broader policies. Taking advantage of their closeness to residents, cities and local governments are gathering information to create solutions that really fit the needs of their residents.¹⁹

Cities are working with investors and exploring new ways to finance their energy projects. They are also running programs that focus on making buildings more energy-efficient, supporting homes in managing energy costs better, and producing clean energy locally.

In short, cities are not working alone. They're building partnerships at all levels to ensure their inhabitants can access secure, affordable, and sustainable energy.



Our foremost priority is to promote human flourishing in our city by addressing high levels of socioeconomic vulnerability... Our Climate Action Plan includes a number of actions towards this, and a dedicated focus area on resource inclusivity.

Geordin Hill-Lewis, Executive Mayor of Cape Town, South Africa



LOOKING FORWARD Calls to action

Reflecting on the advances and lessons learned in the past year, we advocate for these three imperative calls to action to guide our collective effort moving forward. By embracing these calls, we can build on the momentum of the past and steer our efforts towards a more sustainable and resilient future.

DEEPEN PUBLIC ENGAGEMENT AND COLLECTIVE ACTION

Cities are the frontiers for climate action, and it is within them that the battle against climate change will be won or lost. Cities act as enablers, putting the right support in place to allow neighbourhood and community led climate action to happen and have impact. Engaging the public – residents of all ages and backgrounds, communities of every size – is a strategic imperative. Whether through participatory budgeting for green projects or neighborhood-driven sustainability programs, the goal is to turn residents into active partners. By cultivating a shared sense of ownership over local climate action, we can unlock the immense potential of collective wisdom and action.

ENHANCE MULTI-LEVEL COLLABORATION

The complexity of climate challenges demands innovative collaboration. National governments need to empower local governments with the necessary tools, capacity, enabling environment, financial support, and a seat at the table to shape a habitable planet for generations to come. Key to achieving credible, just, and ambitious commitments - to avoid a climate catastrophe - is effective multilevel governance and coordination. As seen in initiatives like the Coalition for Higher-Ambition Multilevel Partnerships launched at CoP28, this means collaboration, communication, engagement and reporting, among and across all levels of government in a process led by Parties, i.e. national governments.

ASSESS PROGRESS AND ACCELERATE CLIMATE ACTION

To navigate the fast-evolving landscape of climate action, it is critical to regularly take stock of our progress. Robust frameworks will allow monitoring and evaluating the effectiveness of climate actions. Recognizing areas of lagging progress is as important as celebrating success; it enables the redirection of efforts and resources to where they are most needed. We must ensure that no city or community is left behind in the urgent mission to accelerate action towards our shared climate goals.

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GCoM is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, uniting a global coalition of over 13,000 cities and local governments and 100+ supporting partners. The cities and partners of GCoM share a long-term vision of supporting voluntary action to combat climate change and towards a resilient and low-emission society. GCoM serves cities and local governments by mobilizing and supporting ambitious, measurable, planned climate and energy action in their communities by working with city/regional networks, national governments, and other partners to achieve our vision. The coalition comprises cities across 6 continents and 144 countries, representing over 1 billion people or more than 13 percent of the global population.

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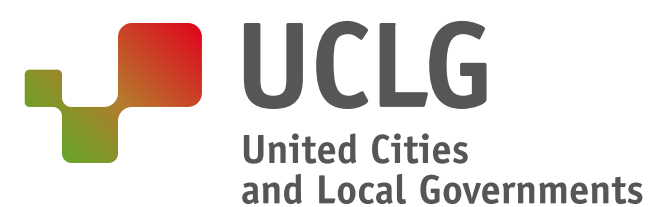
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