GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY

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FURTHER, FASTER, FORWARD

The 2026 Global Covenant of Mayors Impact Report

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Over the last ten years, cities and local governments have proven that when they lead, the world moves to catch up with them.

The 2026 Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy (GCoM) Impact Report reflects on what a decade of collective action has built, where the alliance stands today, and what it will take to deliver on the vision ahead. It highlights the people, stories, and numbers behind the world's largest alliance for city climate leadership, which now wields the potential to reduce yearly emissions by 4.8 $GtCO_2e$ by 2050 - equivalent to more than four months of global crude oil production.[1]

This is the story of an alliance shifting from commitment to delivery, highlighting that cities and local governments have carried climate action further - and faster - than national pledges alone could. From 7,100 signatories[2] in 2016 to more than 14,000 in 2026, the alliance that now represents one in seven people on Earth has grown to welcome cities and local governments of all shapes and sizes.

Against a decade of global progress and rising national ambition through the latest round of nationally determined contributions (NDCs), the report showcases where city ambition continues to rise and now transforms into delivery. Across mitigation, adaptation, and energy access and energy poverty, the Impact Report recognizes both the opportunities and gaps signatories face in their climate action journeys.

Today, nearly 7,500 GCoM signatories have a climate action plan in place[3] and more than 220,000 mitigation actions have been reported. United through the GCoM Strategic Plan 2026–2028, the GCoM alliance will prioritize its goals to deepen and accelerate implementation through its five delivery pathways: Innovate4Cities, Invest4Cities, Data4Cities, Mobilize4Cities, and Amplify4Cities.

In the last year, GCoM welcomed 303 new signatories to date,[4] of which more than 18% are intermediary cities[5] and over 25% are located in the Global South.[6]

Today, 61% of all GCoM signatory residents live in the Global South, pointing to opportunities for implementation in rapidly growing and urbanizing contexts.



A DECADE OF GROWTH FOR THE GCOM ALLIANCE

ONE IN EVERY 6
PEOPLE ON EARTH IS PART OF A GCOM CITY

14,139
CITIES AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS[7]

1.3
BILLION PEOPLE

150
COUNTRIES

NORTH AMERICA
2016: **134 cities**
2026: **252 cities**

2016: **60M people**
2026: **101M people**

THE CARIBBEAN
2016: **0 cities**
2026: **8 cities**

2016: **0 people**
2026: **2M people**

LATIN AMERICA
2016: **74 cities**
2026: **779 cities**

2016: **115M people**
2026: **228M people**

EUROPEAN UNION & WESTERN EUROPE
2016: **7,894 cities**
2026: **11,164 cities**

2016: **220M people**
2026: **278M people**

MIDDLE EAST & NORTH AFRICA
2016: **48 cities**
2026: **348 cities**

2016: **36M people**
2026: **118M people**

SUB SAHARAN AFRICA
2016: **49 cities**
2026: **409 cities**

2016: **75M people**
2026: **184M people**

EASTERN EUROPE & CENTRAL ASIA
2016: **254 cities**
2026: **866 cities**

2016: **42M people**
2026: **68M people**

SOUTH ASIA
2016: **12 cities**
2026: **60 cities**

2016: **10M people**
2026: **137M people**

EAST ASIA
2016: **13 cities**
2026: **89 cities**

2016: **44M people**
2026: **82M people**

SOUTHEAST ASIA
2016: **26 cities**
2026: **112 cities**

2016: **25M people**
2026: **84M people**

OCEANIA
2016: **15 cities**
2026: **52 cities**

2016: **3.5M people**
2026: **7.7M people**

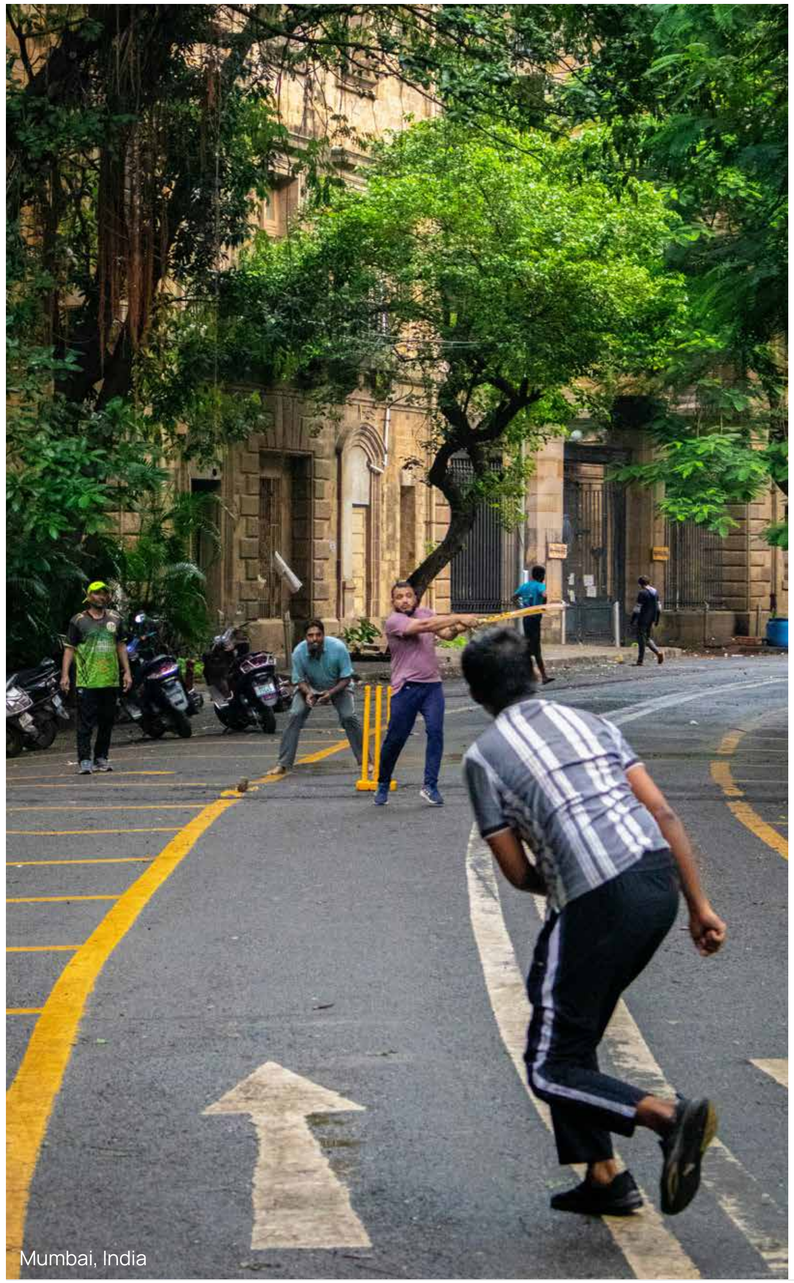
CITIES ARE HERE TO STAY

Local leaders across the GCoM alliance are still driving national ambition and implementation



Ulaanbaatar, Mongolia

GLOBAL COVENANT of MAYORS for CLIMATE & ENERGY



Mumbai, India

Multi-level progress on climate ambition

While the latest NDCs represent significant progress, they remain insufficient if the goal is to “overshoot, peak and decline” - the pathway recommended in the UN Environment Programme’s Limiting Overshoot Report.[8]

Unmanaged overshoot risks severe impacts, from extreme weather and ecosystem loss to health, food, and water crises, alongside potentially irreversible climate tipping points.

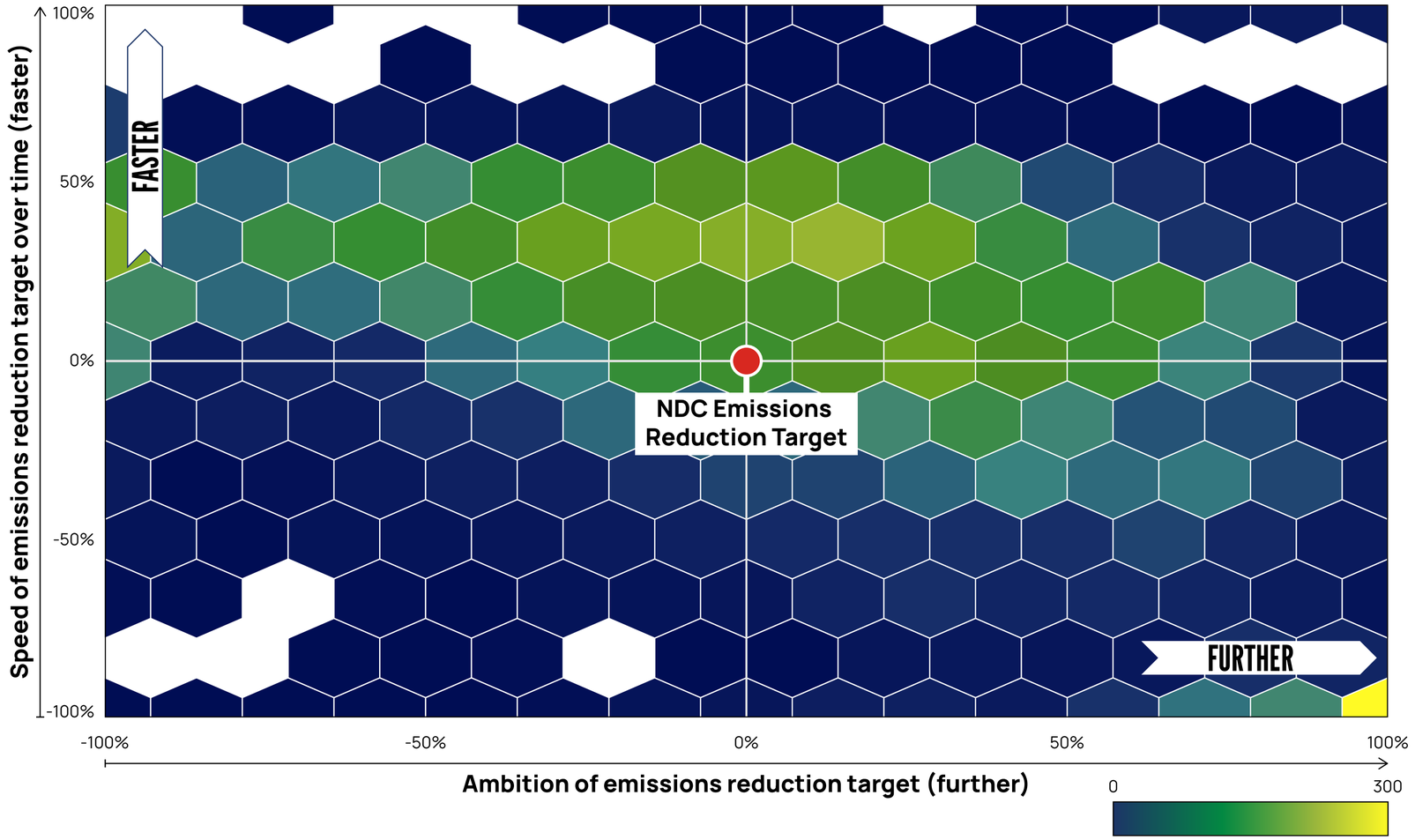
Cities and local governments offer the greatest opportunity to close that gap through enhanced ambition.

IN THE LAST DECADE, AN AVERAGE OF 95% OF NEW GCoM SIGNATORY TARGETS WERE MORE AMBITIOUS THAN THE PREVAILING NDC AT THE TIME THEY WERE SET.[9]

In line with UN Climate Change commitments under the Paris Agreement, national governments have recently updated their NDCs to meet city ambition. However - among national governments whose NDCs are now more ambitious than their respective GCoM signatories - they only do so by an average of 18%.[10]

In 2026 alone, 58% of GCoM signatories have a target more ambitious (i.e. further) than that of their national government, while 28% aim to achieve that target in a shorter time frame (i.e. faster). Many of these targets were set before their latest national government’s commitments, which shows that cities were already delivering against a higher level of ambition.

Further and faster still: heat map of GCoM signatory targets against the latest set of Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)



Note: Each hexagon in the chart above represents a grouped set of GCoM signatories based on the strength of their emissions reduction target in comparison to their respective country's NDC.

Realizing the next decade of implementation depends on the finance, capacity, and knowledge that can empower GCoM signatories to turn commitment into action. Recent UN-Habitat data shows 81% of NDCs now include strong urban content —up from 49% in the previous round.[11] Attention on cities is growing; the critical next step is translating this focus into on-the-ground funding and action.

Harnessing multilevel partnerships remains a crucial enabler of this acceleration. Endorsers of the Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) were 3.5 times more likely to achieve higher urban-content rating than non-signatories - direct evidence that structured multi level engagement can strengthen national commitments.[12] Critically, many of these NDCs now identify subnational action not as a complement to national ambition, but as its delivery mechanism.


Ghana

An alliance built for cities of all shapes and sizes

Diversity is the strength of the GCoM alliance. Across more than 14,000 cities and local governments, GCoM brings together small towns, mid-sized urban areas, and large cities under a single commitment. 83% of signatories consist of small municipalities under 50,000 residents, 15% are mid-sized cities, and 2% are large cities and metropolitan areas with a population greater than 1 million.

Together they span every context in which climate action is delivered - and the speed and scale at which it has to work.

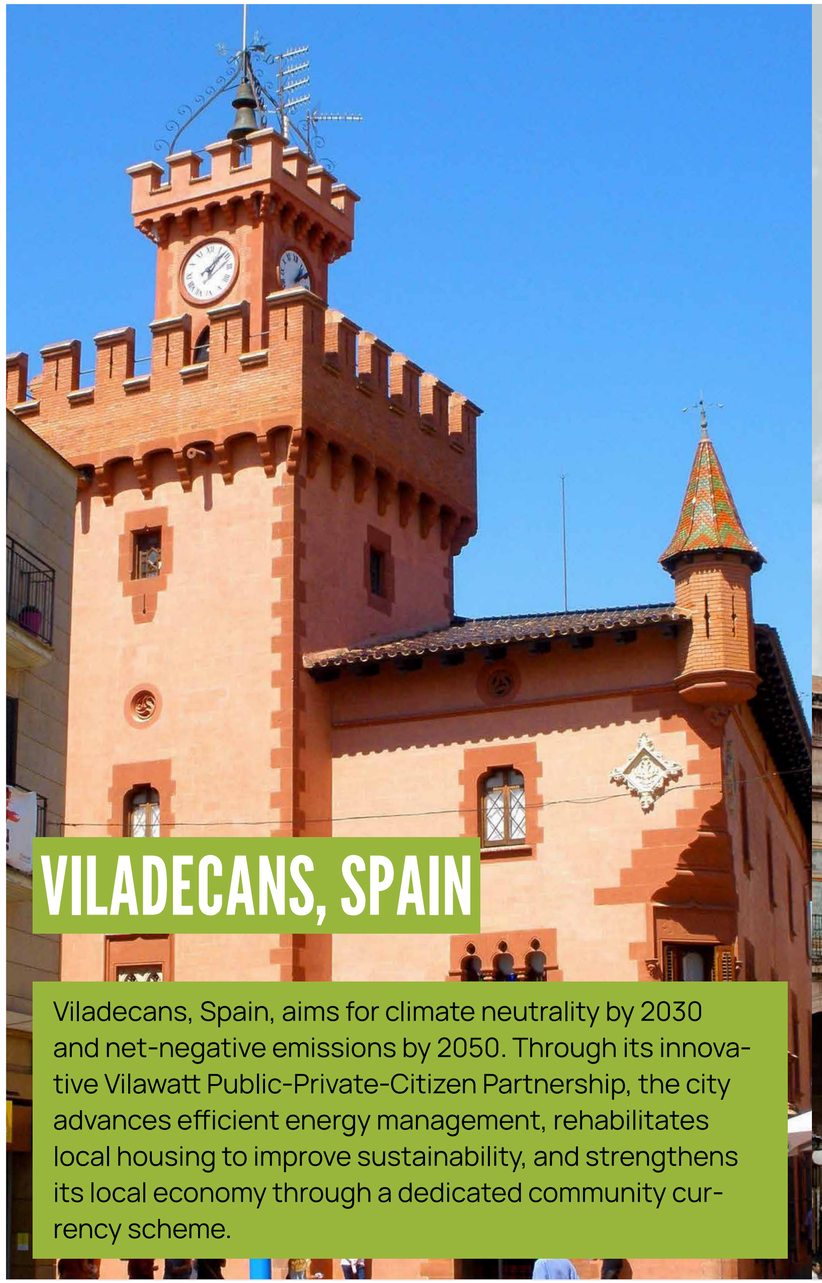
While 65% of the global population already lives in cities, rapid urbanization is further on the rise. This trend is prominent in Sub-Saharan Africa, where the urban population is projected to double in the next three decades to 1.4 billion - exemplified by the likes of Nairobi, Cairo and Lagos.[13] The rapid pace of urbanization poses both challenges and opportunities for local governments to deliver sufficient needs and services, including affordable and sustainable energy, housing, and infrastructure.

THE NUMBER OF SIGNATORIES WITH NET-ZERO TARGETS HAS RISEN FROM 211 TO 580 CITIES BETWEEN 2025-2026.

A cohort of signatories representing 290 million people has now been on a net-zero trajectory since the alliance's earliest years, and their experience offers the blueprint for delivering on ambition. Their progress over the decade traces a consistent sequence: a commitment made before the enabling frameworks existed, an inventory that converted that commitment into a measurable baseline, and a plan that made it operational.

580 signatories have now published a net-zero target by or before 2050 with an accompanying implementation pathway, predominantly in Europe, the United States, and Canada. These journeys demonstrate that progressing from commitment to delivery is feasible, especially when accounting for regional and local contexts around finance, data, and technical capacity. Closer collaboration with neighboring local, regional, and national governments, academia, business and civil society is essential - especially where powers and responsibilities can be shared.

Of this trailblazing group, 150 signatories are part of the Urban Transitions Mission (UTM): one of seven missions under Mission Innovation aiming to mobilize decision makers across all levels of government to prioritize climate-neutral and net-zero pathways enabled by clean energy and systemic innovation. The case studies below showcase how inclusive net-zero journeys are possible:



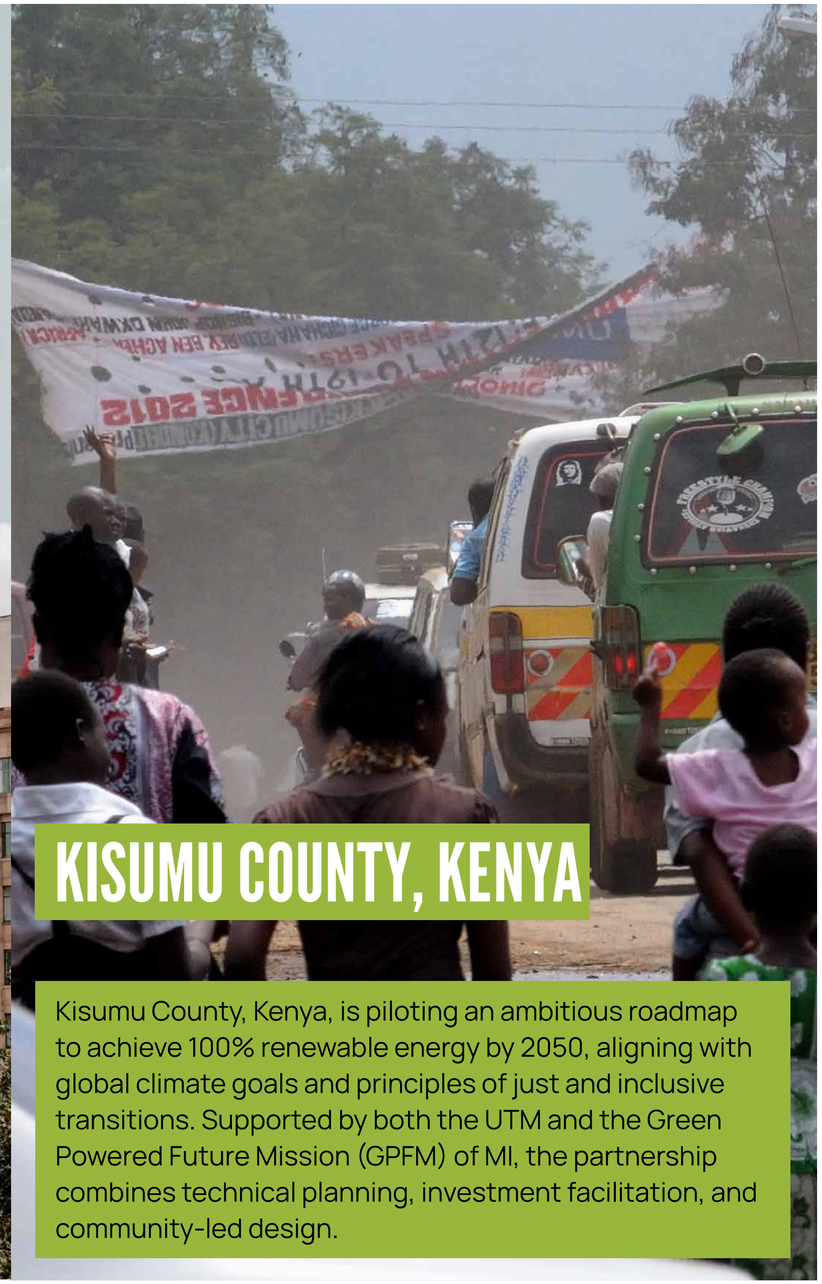
VILADECANS, SPAIN

Viladecans, Spain, aims for climate neutrality by 2030 and net-negative emissions by 2050. Through its innovative Vilawatt Public-Private-Citizen Partnership, the city advances efficient energy management, rehabilitates local housing to improve sustainability, and strengthens its local economy through a dedicated community currency scheme.



SAN LUIS POTOSÍ, MEXICO

San Luis Potosí, Mexico, in collaboration with the Autonomous University of San Luis de Potosí (UALSP), has developed a dynamic municipal risk atlas - a web-based, real-time and GIS-based digital twin designed to replace static threat registries with a constantly updated platform for disaster prevention and urban planning. The city currently works within the framework of the UTM City2City program, together with Cascais, Portugal and Tegucigalpa, Honduras, to further refine the Atlas and open it to citizens use.



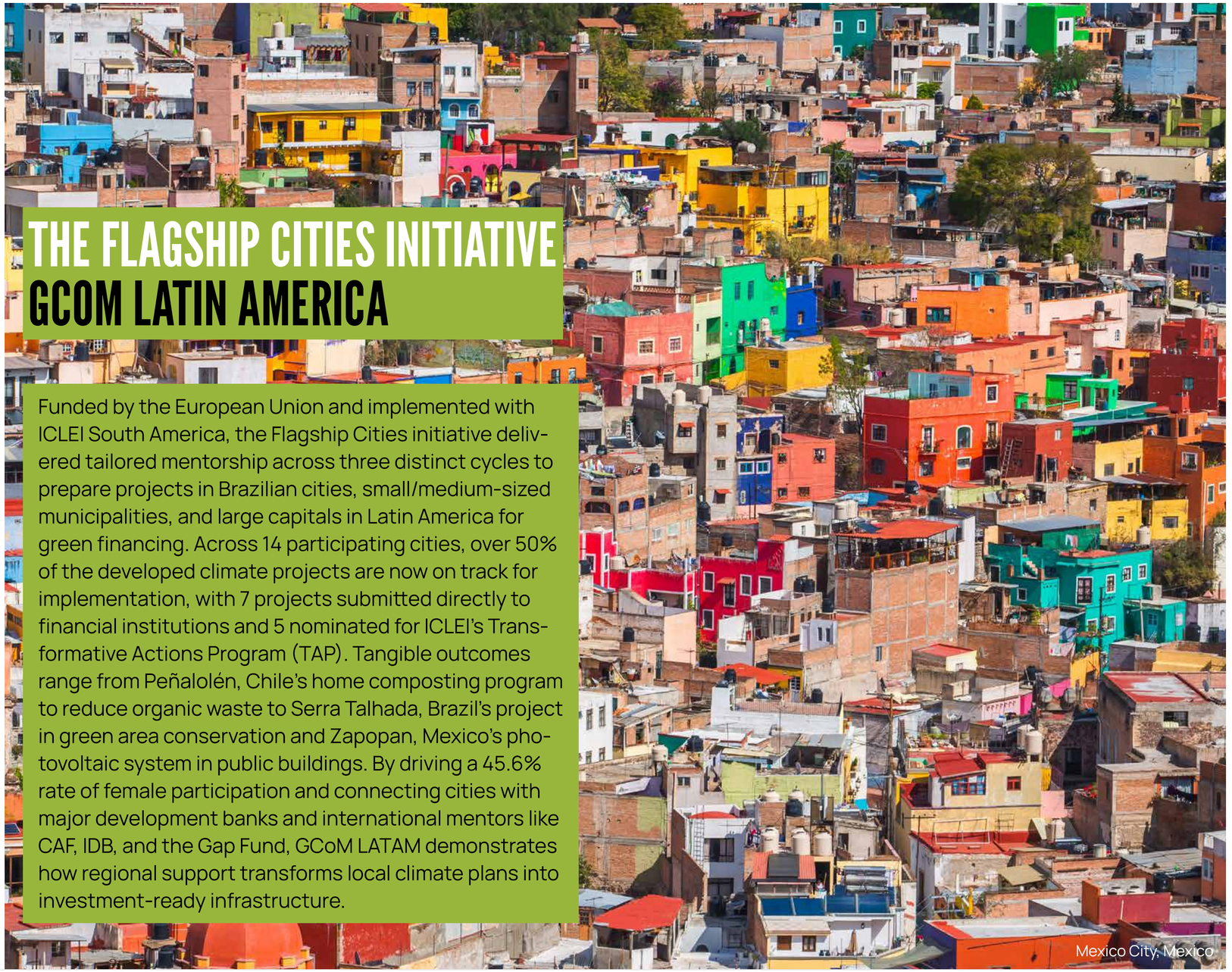
KISUMU COUNTY, KENYA

Kisumu County, Kenya, is piloting an ambitious roadmap to achieve 100% renewable energy by 2050, aligning with global climate goals and principles of just and inclusive transitions. Supported by both the UTM and the Green Powered Future Mission (GPFM) of MI, the partnership combines technical planning, investment facilitation, and community-led design.

Building momentum across regions

From 2023-2025, South Asia, Latin America, and the Middle East and North Africa have recorded the fastest growth in the urban population represented by new signatories. Combined with consistently high ambition and maturity towards implementation in signatories across the European Union and Western Europe, Japan, Canada, and the United States of America, the GCoM alliance has become a home for climate and energy action for cities and local governments at all stages of their climate action journey.

The GCoM City Journey and Common Reporting Framework are ambitious, yet flexible guidance and reference points available for signatories around the world across every region. GCoM Regional and National Covenants - region-specific city networks and supporting partners collaborating to deliver a locally tailored and globally coherent alliance - are crucial bridges for co-creating progress on action that is both ambitious and grounded in socioeconomic and institutional context.



THE FLAGSHIP CITIES INITIATIVE GCOM LATIN AMERICA

Funded by the European Union and implemented with ICLEI South America, the Flagship Cities initiative delivered tailored mentorship across three distinct cycles to prepare projects in Brazilian cities, small/medium-sized municipalities, and large capitals in Latin America for green financing. Across 14 participating cities, over 50% of the developed climate projects are now on track for implementation, with 7 projects submitted directly to financial institutions and 5 nominated for ICLEI's Transformative Actions Program (TAP). Tangible outcomes range from Peñalolén, Chile's home composting program to reduce organic waste to Serra Talhada, Brazil's project in green area conservation and Zapopan, Mexico's photovoltaic system in public buildings. By driving a 45.6% rate of female participation and connecting cities with major development banks and international mentors like CAF, IDB, and the Gap Fund, GCoM LATAM demonstrates how regional support transforms local climate plans into investment-ready infrastructure.

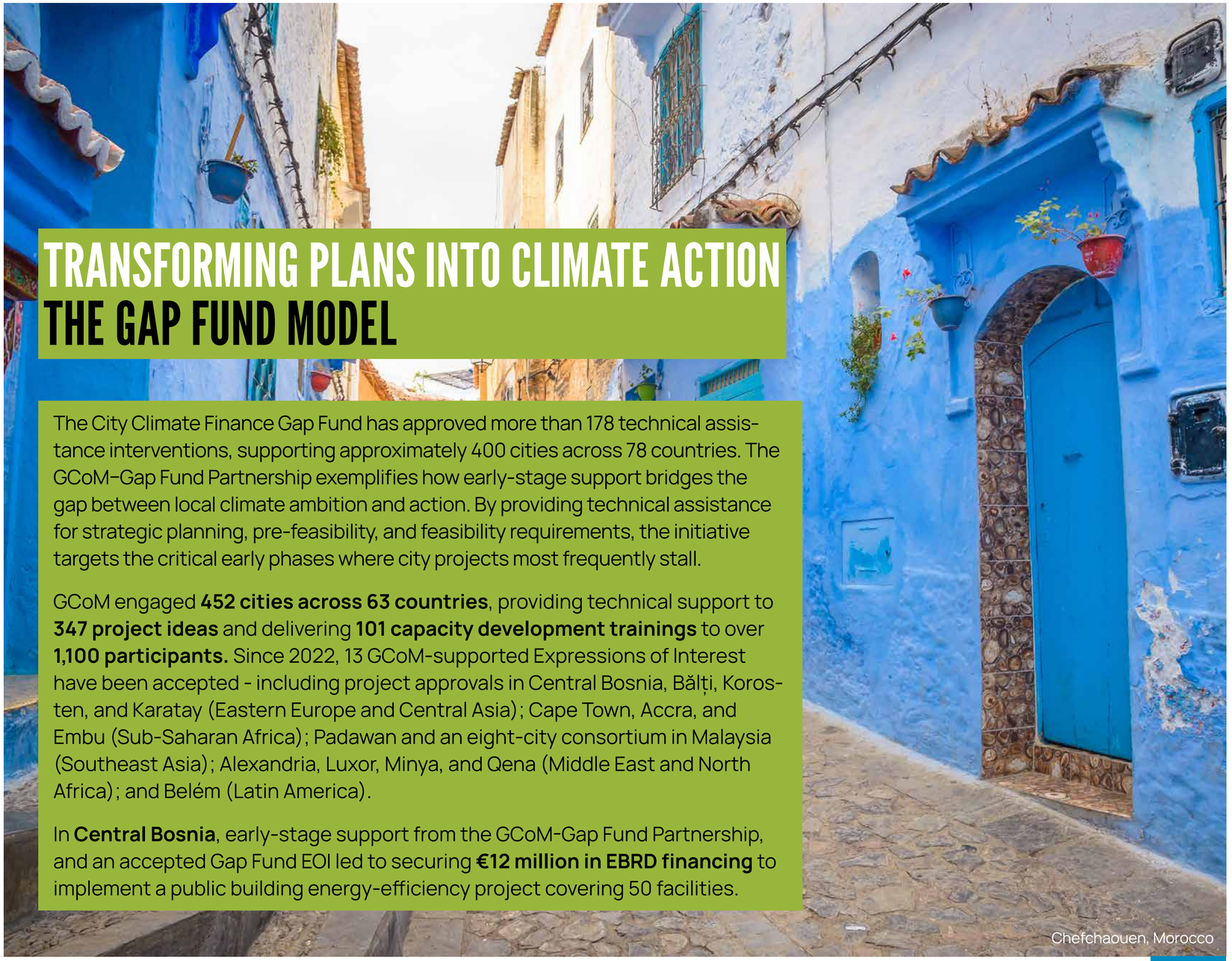
Mexico City, Mexico

Investment and funding trajectories

In 2016, a city seeking capital for climate infrastructure faced a market with few dedicated financial intermediaries, little to no standard practices for project preparation, and an uncertain journey from a climate action plan to a financeable project pipeline.

Ten years on, financial intermediaries have grown in number and maturity: project preparation facilities, pooled financing structures, municipal green bond frameworks, and technical assistance designed to support cities in moving from plans to bankable proposals.

Cities and local governments have established a robust demand side for climate finance, underpinned by 7,500 established climate action plans and a documented pipeline of 220,000 reported mitigation actions.



TRANSFORMING PLANS INTO CLIMATE ACTION THE GAP FUND MODEL

The City Climate Finance Gap Fund has approved more than 178 technical assistance interventions, supporting approximately 400 cities across 78 countries. The GCoM–Gap Fund Partnership exemplifies how early-stage support bridges the gap between local climate ambition and action. By providing technical assistance for strategic planning, pre-feasibility, and feasibility requirements, the initiative targets the critical early phases where city projects most frequently stall.

GCoM engaged **452 cities across 63 countries**, providing technical support to **347 project ideas** and delivering **101 capacity development trainings** to over **1,100 participants.** Since 2022, 13 GCoM-supported Expressions of Interest have been accepted - including project approvals in Central Bosnia, Bălți, Korosten, and Karatay (Eastern Europe and Central Asia); Cape Town, Accra, and Embu (Sub-Saharan Africa); Padawan and an eight-city consortium in Malaysia (Southeast Asia); Alexandria, Luxor, Minya, and Qena (Middle East and North Africa); and Belém (Latin America).

In **Central Bosnia**, early-stage support from the GCoM-Gap Fund Partnership, and an accepted Gap Fund EOI led to securing **€12 million in EBRD financing** to implement a public building energy-efficiency project covering 50 facilities.

Chefchaouen, Morocco

A DECADE OF RECOGNIZED PROGRESS



Launch of the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate and Energy in Brussels, Belgium on 22 June 2016

The UN Environment Programme's Limiting Overshoot Report highlights that despite recent progress, crossing 1.5°C is now virtually certain in the coming years - accompanied by more frequent and intense extreme weather events, the submersion of Small Island Developing States, and damage to food security, water, nature, people, and cities.[14]

Enabling an ambitious response requires a robust and impactful way to measure, track, and recognize progress. Launched in 2019, GCoM's Common Reporting Framework (CRF) continues to unite local data, actions, and voices and raise the bar on a transparent, robust evidence base.

The CRF recognizes signatory progress through badges that are centered around the pillars of mitigation, adaptation, and energy access and energy poverty. A city earns a badge[15] for each phase of the three pillars against the minimum requirements set out in the CRF.

At the inception of the GCoM alliance in 2016 5,408 mitigation badges were awarded.[16] 10 years on, 9,429 signatories now hold a mitigation badge. With the introduction of additional pillars thereafter, the GCoM alliance now counts nearly 4,000 adaptation badges and 1,732 energy access and energy poverty badges - signalling a continuing wave of ambition and opportunity for implementation.

A year of growth in badges

MITIGATION
9,429 badges
66.66% of signatories

▲ 1.23% YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH

Over the last year, mitigation badges grew by 1.23%, reflecting a mature baseline as the foundational pillar on which the GCoM alliance was built.

ADAPTATION
3,879 badges
27.43% of signatories

▲ 4.84% YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH

Meanwhile, adaptation badges showed a significant rise of nearly 5%, in response to escalating climate impacts and urgent local resilience needs.

ENERGY ACCESS & POVERTY
1,732 badges
12.25% of signatories

▲ 9.97% YEAR-ON-YEAR GROWTH

The energy access and poverty pillar saw the strongest overall gain with nearly 10% growth, driven by its status as the CRF's newest pillar and a concerted alliance-wide effort to deliver support.



Valladolid, Mexico

Mitigation

The Mitigation pillar is structured in three phases: Inventory, Target, and Plan. Each phase marks a significant step forward in local mitigation progress. In 2026, 67% of signatories hold a Mitigation badge, and 51% have progressed to the Plan phase, up from 7,098 to 7,241 plans over the last year, representing 2% growth year-on-year.

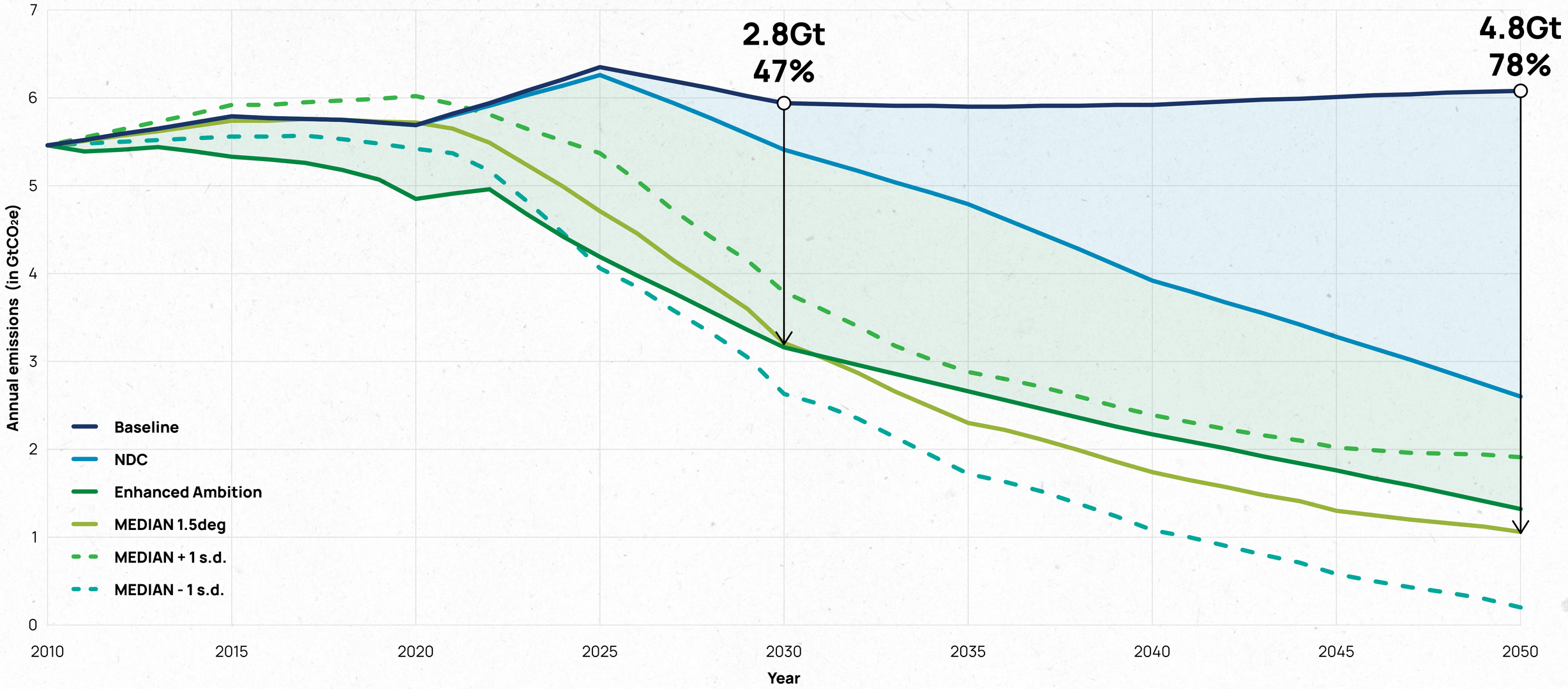
	INVENTORY	TARGET	PLAN
	8,267	9,164	7,241
	8,151 in 2025	9,082 in 2025	7,098 in 2025
GROWTH	▲1.42%	▲0.90%	▲2.01%

In the face of socioeconomic pressures, capacity constraints, and worsening climate hazards, GCoM signatories continue to reinforce their commitment to reducing emissions - evidenced by continued annual growth in Mitigation pillar progress. The scale of delivery across the Mitigation pillar underscores the long-held ambition of GCoM signatories who are ready to implement impactful projects on the ground.

This reduction is roughly equivalent to more than four months of global crude oil production at current levels.[17] Cities and local governments committed to climate action could make up the difference between NDCs and the emission reduction needed to keep the planet below 1.5°C of warming.[18]

This ambition can only become a reality if local governments are empowered to deliver on the projects that they have planned. This graph compares projected global emissions under four scenarios: a business-as-usual trajectory (baseline), current NDCs, GCoM signatories' collective targets, and the pathway needed to limit warming to 1.5°C.

CITIES COULD REDUCE EMISSIONS BY 4.8 $GtCO_2e$ ANNUALLY BY 2050[19]





Hong Kong

Adaptation

	ASSESSMENT	GOAL	PLAN
	3,078	3,708	2,484
	2,878 in 2025	3,541 in 2025	2,310 in 2025
GROWTH	▲6.95%	▲4.72%	▲7.53%

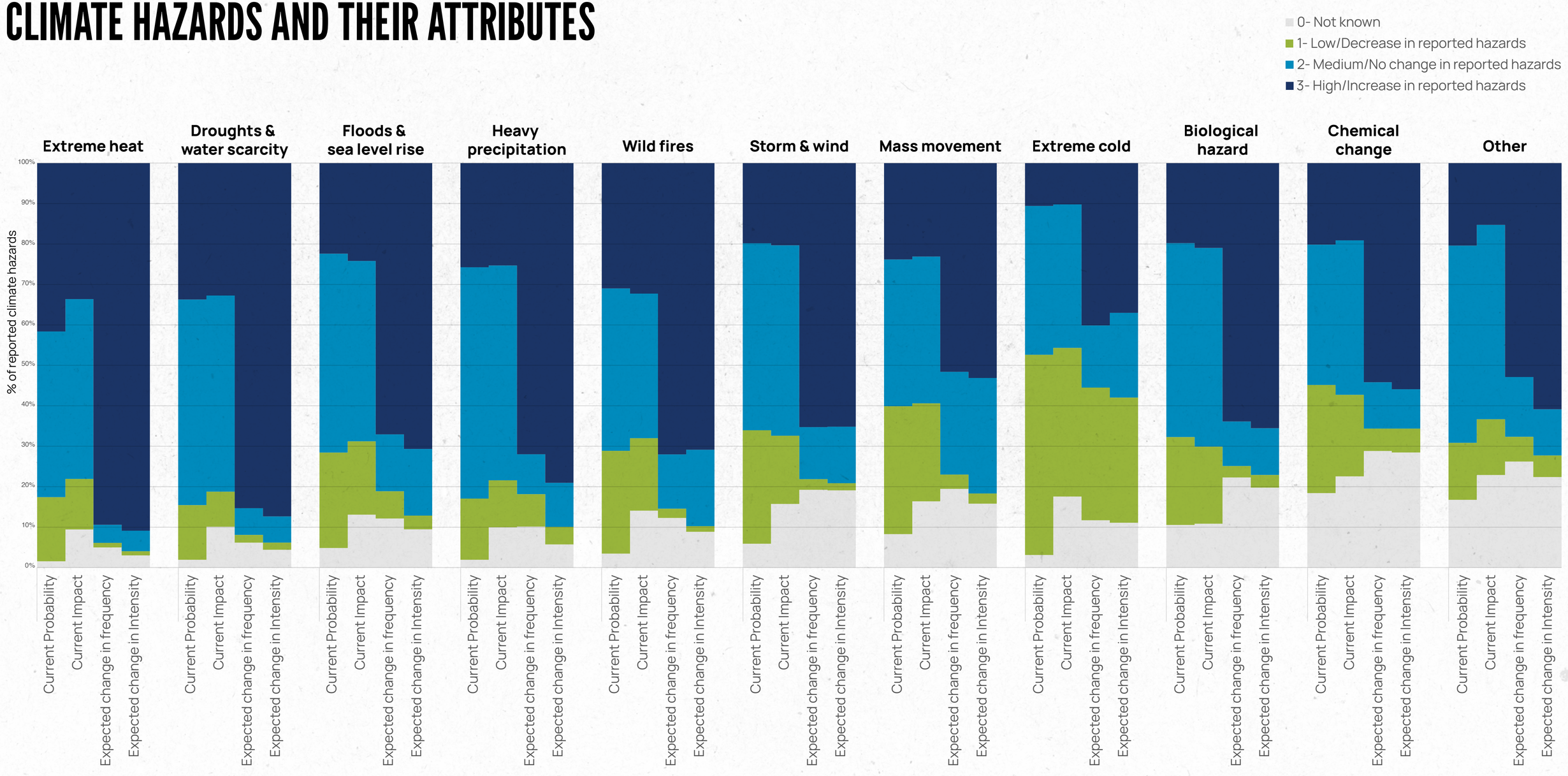
Cities are confronted with intensifying climate impacts first and most acutely, and GCoM signatories are responding. Today, 27% of signatories hold an Adaptation badge, and 3,078 cities have completed a Climate Risk and Vulnerability Assessment (CRVA), together mapping the exposure of some 735 million people.

This shows a risk profile that is converging globally, led by extreme heat, drought, and inland and coastal flooding, even though its consequences remain sharply unequal. Extreme heat alone affects an estimated 342.7 million people across the alliance, yet reported actions reach only around one-third of them - leaving almost 230 million people outside their reach.

The scale of local action does not yet match the scale of exposure, and capital has not followed the evidence. Of the USD 831 billion in annual urban climate finance tracked by CCFLA, barely 1% is directed to adaptation.[20] Only USD 6 billion reaches cities in emerging markets and developing economies, against an estimated need of USD 147 billion a year by 2030.[21] Closing the gap between risk, action and finance is therefore the defining adaptation challenge of this decade.

As outlined in the chart on page 17, 86% of Risk and Vulnerability Assessments (RVAs) highlight extreme heat as a primary hazard, with droughts (80 %) and floods (79 %) following closely. Vulnerabilities are significant in sectors like agriculture (14 %), biodiversity (12 %), and water supply (9 %). There is a notable gap between identified risks and actions, with only 62% of reported vulnerable sectors addressed by adaptation measures.[22]

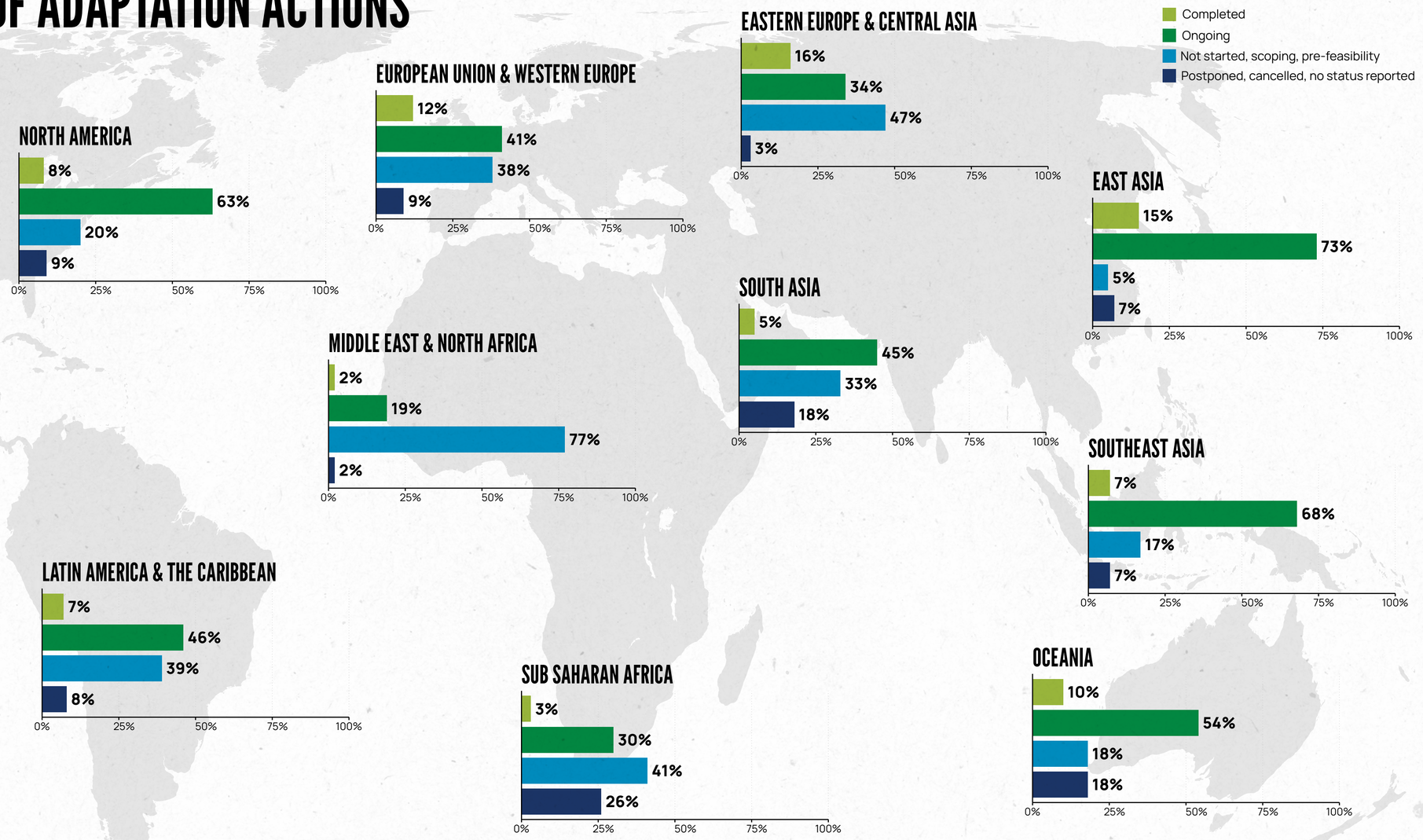
CLIMATE HAZARDS AND THEIR ATTRIBUTES



REGIONAL IMPLEMENTATION OF ADAPTATION ACTIONS

GLOBALLY, SIGNATORIES HAVE REPORTED 36,203 ADAPTATION ACTIONS, WITH 42% CURRENTLY ONGOING AND 11% COMPLETED.

Implementation maturity varies sharply across regions: while East Asia (73%), Southeast Asia (68%), and North America (63%) report high shares of ongoing measures, regions facing severe vulnerability confront substantial project bottlenecks—most notably the Middle East & North Africa and Sub-Saharan Africa, where 77% and 41% of actions, respectively, have not yet started or remain in scoping and pre-feasibility phases.




Freiburg, Germany

Energy Access and Poverty

	ASSESSMENT	TARGET	PLAN
	502	748	1,517
	296 in 2025	597 in 2025	1,383 in 2025
GROWTH	▲69.59%	▲25.29%	▲9.69%

The Energy Access and Poverty Pillar (EAPP) holds the Alliance to a standard: clean energy transitions must be accessible, affordable, and secure. Geopolitical turbulence and energy shocks have forced a shift in priorities, elevating security, price stability, and resilience alongside decarbonization. For municipal leaders, energy access and poverty are no longer secondary environmental goals; they are immediate economic, health, and social imperatives.

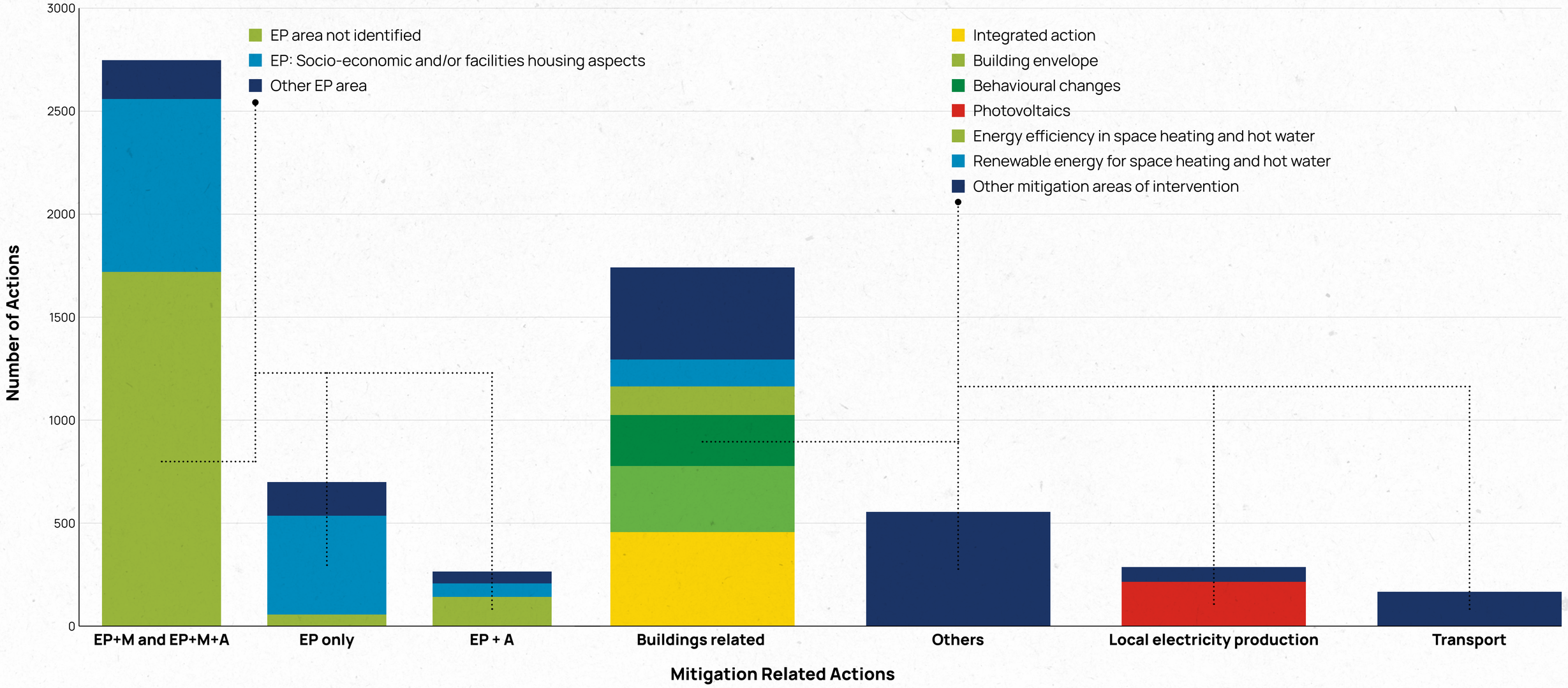
Over the past year:

- 1,725 cities have actively engaged with the EAPP by securing at least one pillar badge, with 256 cities reaching full badging across Assessment, Target, and Plan.
- While this accounts for roughly 12% of signatories, they represent around 525 million urban residents - nearly 40% of global GCoM signatory population, predominantly concentrated in East Asia, South Asia, the Middle East & North Africa, and Latin America.
- An additional 2,146 signatories currently hold full badges in both Mitigation and Adaptation but have yet to report on EAPP — representing a significant opportunity to accelerate pillar compliance.

Energy access and poverty actions grew by 34 % to 3,711 interventions, outpacing overall climate action growth (21 %). Energy poverty-only actions recorded the highest relative growth at approximately 138%, prioritising facilities, housing, and socio-economic support. Despite this surge, mitigation integrated actions—particularly building-related interventions combining energy and efficiency measures—continue to account for the largest share of energy poverty actions. Decentralised electricity solutions, such as photovoltaics, also feature prominently among reported interventions.

ENERGY ACCESS AND POVERTY ACTIONS

EP: energy poverty
M: mitigation
A: adaptation



DECARBONISING LOW-INCOME RESIDENTIAL HOUSING IN SURABAYA, INDONESIA

Surabaya, Indonesia became a pilot city for the Sustainable Energy Transition in Indonesia (SETI) project implemented with Indonesia's Ministry of Energy and Mineral Resources. The project focuses on decarbonising buildings, specifically low-income residential buildings as well as government and commercial buildings, by introducing insulation measures, heat pumps and district heating as well as cooling connections. Directly advancing the objectives of GCoM's Energy Access and Energy Poverty Piller, such measures function as major levers for simultaneous emissions and bill reductions. The initial phase involves planning, strategy development and pilot implementation of energy efficiency and renewable energy.



ELECTRIFICATION OF MUNICIPAL & PUBLIC SERVICES IN SÃO PAULO, BRAZIL

Electrifying targeted services such as municipal transit, public health facilities, and district operations to guarantees resilient baseline services during grid disruptions.

To accelerate urban decarbonization and improve public health, São Paulo joined over 80 Latin American cities in rapidly scaling up public transit electrification, building the region's second-largest electric bus fleet. Municipal leaders established innovative financing models and cross-sector collaborations to lower capital costs and unlock large-scale procurement of zero-emission vehicles.

GCoM aims to continue to build on this success through the The Mutirão Brasil Programme, a strategic initiative of C40 Cities and GCoM, seeking to accelerate climate action in Brazilian cities through cooperation between local governments, the national government and international partners.

Under the Energy Access and Energy Poverty Pillar, GCoM's priorities for the next decade are decentralised clean energy grids that bring reliable power to underserved areas, the electrification of transport, heating and cooling, and clean cooking, equitable energy access that protects vulnerable households from fuel price shocks, and building retrofits at scale to cut emissions, lower bills and keep residents safe from extreme cold and heat.

RENEWABLE HEATING FOR PUBLIC BUILDINGS IN ZHMERYNKA, UKRAINE

Zhmerynka, Ukraine has translated more than a decade of Covenant engagement into tangible results. Building on the thermal refurbishment of four public buildings under the EU-funded Covenant of Mayors Demonstration Projects programme (2015–2018), the city recommitted in 2021 with more ambitious 2030 targets and was subsequently selected as a pilot city under the Government of Japan/JICA recovery and reconstruction programme. Through this cooperation, the municipality installed an 80 kW air-to-water heat pump system at a municipal kindergarten, fully grant-financed by Japan and accompanied by staff training to ensure long-term operation. The project delivers 64 MWh in annual energy savings, 17.2 tonnes of CO_2 avoided per year and approximately EUR 15,000 in annual savings, with a payback period of 2–5 years, demonstrating how international partnership and local leadership can converge to deliver climate benefits, fiscal savings and safer public services for children, while offering a replicable model for municipalities across Ukraine.

LOOKING FORWARD: DEEPENING AND ACCELERATING ACTION

A look at the GCoM alliance's global delivery pathways driving regionally-responsive implementation at speed and scale.



Kolkata, India

To fulfill its Strategic Plan 2026-2028 and achieve the objectives to deepen engagement with signatories, accelerate climate action implementation and expand its global reach, GCoM operates through five delivery pathways. Carried forward from the prior strategic plan, these pathways underpin the core GCoM initiatives, guide the thematic direction of the GCoM alliance and support operational planning within the GCoM Alliance.



INNOVATE4CITIES

Core Mandate & Strategic Focus

Tackle the information and technology gaps cities have prioritized to drive science-based replicable action and sustainable innovation at the scale the world demands and cities need.

Key examples to-date

The Innovate4Cities Conference was hosted on the African continent for the first time in 2026. I4C26 convened more than 1,200 in-person participants from government, academia, business, finance, and civil society in Nairobi around the Global Research and Action Agenda on Cities and Climate Change Science, and marked the launch of the Innovate4Cities Book amongst other key milestone moments for I4C.

Looking forward

WIth the IPCC Special Report on Climate Change and Cities anticipated in 2027, Innovate4Cities will convene and 'translate' science, policy, and practice across regional contexts and pinpoint the action priorities that can accelerate implementation.



INVEST4CITIES

Core Mandate & Strategic Focus

Enhance & accelerate city and local government access to financial resources.

Key examples to-date

The GCoM - City Climate Finance Gap Fund Partnership, established in 2022, supported 347 project ideas, engaged 452 cities across 63 countries and hosted 101 trainings to date.

Looking forward

With engagement confirmed in Sub-Saharan Africa, South Asia, Southeast Asia, the Mediterranean and North Africa, Invest4Cities will continue to accelerate local pre-feasibility support through the Gap Fund Partnership.

DATA4CITIES



Core Mandate & Strategic Focus

Develop, maintain, and manage the data underpinning the GCoM alliance, partnering networks and cities, and highlighting the progress and power of cities.

Key examples to-date

The maintenance, improvement, and regionally-responsive harmonization of the Common Reporting Framework (CRF) - strengthening interoperability and engagement with new sources of city climate data, as well as consistent validation of signatory reporting

Looking forward

The GCoM alliance will pilot a global Digital Service that aims to connect signatories with smarter and better data, faster. Combined with the AI x City Climate Action Hackathon - which convened 697 registrants from 77 countries in 2026 - Data4Cities aims to signal the data gaps that cities need to fill, and crowd-in the technological innovations that can accelerate climate and energy action.

MOBILIZE4CITIES



Core Mandate & Strategic Focus

Provide expertise via local, national, and international specialists to enable urban action along the city climate journey and across regional contexts.

Key examples to-date

In 2026, UTM works with a cohort of 150 GCoM signatories across more than 50 countries, representing an aggregate emissions reduction potential of 610 MtCO2e annually by 2050. The City Business Engagement cohort is made up of 50 GCoM and C40 cities. 21 cities from the cohort were brought together in the City Business Climate Alliance Forum Workshop to foster City Business Collaboration and launch the city business engagement learning platform.

Looking forward

Mobilize4Cities will expand technical assistance and city-to-city exchange, aiming to grow the UTM cohort to 300 cities by 2030 to achieve net-zero emissions and resilient urban pathways. The City Business Engagement team will keep building its city-business collaboration learning platform, bringing cities from the cohort together through member meetings to strengthen partnerships with business and learn from one another.

AMPLIFY4CITIES



Core Mandate & Strategic Focus

Inspire citizens and policymakers alike toward meaningful climate action.

Key examples to-date

Closely involved in the Coalition for the High-Level Ambition and Multilevel Partnership (CHAMP), the GCoM alliance has helped bring together 78 endorsers representing 37% of global population and 39%-41% of global emissions.

Looking forward

Amplify4Cities will use global events such as COPs to call on national governments to implement policy frameworks that broaden and deepen their climate ambition and recognize the value of city climate action in the NDC implementation process.

ENDNOTES

1 The projected 4.8 $GtCO_2e$ reduction is calculated by aggregating GCoM city climate action plans against business-as-usual emissions trajectories. The analysis incorporates city-reported data, updated national climate pathways from GECO2025, and recently submitted Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs), focusing on an Enhanced Ambition scenario, which combines reported city targets with inferred targets for cities that have not yet disclosed their own emissions reduction commitments. This reflects multi-sector urban improvements including building efficiency and waste management rather than a direct displacement of petroleum. By using IPCC global warming potentials, the methodology normalizes diverse urban gases like methane into standardized carbon dioxide equivalents (CO_2e). The crude oil comparison serves as a visualization device, converting a baseline of ~100 million daily barrels using standard combustion factors (~0.43 metric tons of CO_2 per barrel). U.S. EPA Greenhouse Gas Emissions Calculator used to calculate equivalencies. Global crude oil production rate is taken from the International Energy Agency Oil Market Report (October 2026)

2 European Commission, Directorate-General for Climate Action. (2016, June 22). Global city movements join forces in the fight against climate change.

3 Refers to a unique count of GCoM signatories who have been awarded a 'Plan' badge in at least one of the three pillars of the GCoM Common Reporting Framework: Mitigation, Adaptation, and Energy Access and Poverty.

4 As of September 2026

5 Intermediary cities, defined as those with 50,000 to 1 million inhabitants, are often overlooked in national, regional and urban development policies. Cities with fewer than 1 million inhabitants made up 58% of the urban population in less developed regions in 2020, and are projected to still account for 53% by 2035 from OECD, Intermediary Cities and Climate Change: An Opportunity for Sustainable Development, OECD Development Centre Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2022, doi:10.1787/23508323-en.

6 For the purposes of this analysis, "Global South" refers to developing or emerging economies encompassing all nations across Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean, and Asia and Oceania, excluding high-income industrialized states like Japan, South Korea, Israel, Australia, and New Zealand. From Forging a Path Beyond Borders: The Global South, United Nations Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD), Geneva, 2018, UNCTAD/OSG/2018/1.

7 As of September 2026

8 United Nations Environment Programme. (2026). Limiting overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return.

9 with annual ambition figures ranging from 93% to 98% thereafter.

10 Where a city's targets were not Further or Faster than its national NDC, the city's percentage gap between the target emissions per capita or rate of emissions reduction respectively was calculated. The average of percentage gaps for Further and Faster at the regional and global levels were normalised using the corresponding cities' emissions in the reporting year.

11 United Nations Development Programme, United Nations Human Settlements Programme, & University of Southern Denmark. (2024). Urban content of NDCs: Local climate action explored through in-depth country analyses: 2024 report.

12 Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, C40 Cities, & WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities. (2024). Multilevel governance in practice: Elevating subnational action in NDCs.

13 OECD, AfDB, UNOPS-Cities Alliance and UCLG Africa, Africa's Urbanisation Dynamics 2025: Planning for Urban Expansion, West African Studies, OECD Publishing, Paris, 2025, doi:10.1787/2a47845c-en

14 United Nations Environment Programme. (2026). Limiting Overshoot: Navigating exceedance of 1.5°C and pathways towards return. UNEP.

15 How badges are awarded:

- Reporting platforms check the data and plans submitted against the Common Reporting Framework (CRF) requirements.
- Signatories receive feedback from the platform on the data they reported.
- Regional/National Covenants formally award the badges.
- Awarded badges appear on the signatory's profile in the GCoM city dashboard.

16 Kona, A., Melica, G., Bertoldi, P., Rivas Calvete, S., Koffi, B., Iancu, A., Zancanella, P., Janssens-Maenhout, G. and Dallemand J.F., Covenant of Mayors in figures: 8-year assessment, EUR 28723 EN, Publications Office of the European Union, Luxembourg, 2017, ISBN 978-92-79-71624-9, doi:10.2760/64731, JRC106725

17 See endnote 1

18 See endnote 1

19 See endnote 1

20 Climate Policy Initiative, & Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. (2024). State of cities climate finance 2024: Urban adaptation and resilience finance gap. Climate Policy Initiative.

21 Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance. (2024). CCFLA urban adaptation and resilience finance workstream scoping paper. Climate Policy Initiative.

22 JRC Publications - Global Covenant of Mayors: A Comprehensive Assessment of Climate Adaptation Plans

Funders, Regional Covenants and Partners

GCoM is the largest global alliance for city climate leadership, uniting a global coalition of over 14,000 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. Led today by UN Special Envoy for Climate Ambition and Solutions Michael R. Bloomberg and European Commission Executive Vice-President Teresa Ribera, the coalition comprises cities across 6 continents and 150 countries, representing over 1 billion people or more than 13 percent of the global population.

Learn more about GCoM:

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Supporting partners

C40 CITIES

CDP

75 YEARS CCRE CEMR Local & Regional Europe

Climate Alliance

ENERGYCITIES

EUROCITIES

European Committee of the Regions

FEDARENE

ICLEI Local Governments for Sustainability

UCLG United Cities and Local Governments

UN-HABITAT

WWF

Report designed by Samuel Cabodi, BRNJCE