

Resilience from the ground up: assessing city-level approaches to climate risk and adaptation

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Cities are at the centre of the climate crisis. As hubs of people, infrastructure and capital, they can exacerbate climate risks. But they can also guard against the worst impacts of climate change and foster creative solutions to adapt and build resilience.

City dwellers have influence on how the world tackles this existential challenge. They also have strong opinions about the road ahead. Engaging residents can help cities to shift from *reactive* disaster response to *proactive* planning to overcome climate risks. And yet, residents' perspectives on climate resilience are seldom explored.

To understand city residents' perspectives on climate change, how their cities need to adapt, and their sense of personal accountability toward the issue, Economist Impact, in a programme supported by Zurich Insurance Group, surveyed 5,000 residents across ten global cities.¹ We interviewed 15 experts around the world to add

context to the survey findings.

The results are striking. Over four in five people believe that their city is underprepared to handle climate risks such as heatwaves, air pollution, water shortages and flooding. Most feel that governments—as the stakeholders who should be primarily responsible for developing resilience in our societies—are falling short in their efforts to build readiness. Businesses have an opportunity to step up to mitigate and adapt to extreme weather.

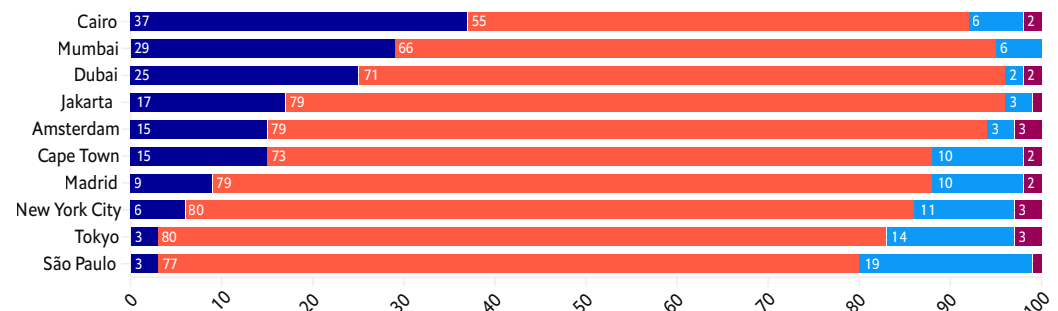
That cities are underprepared and stakeholders are not doing enough is just the tip of the iceberg. Which climate impacts worry city residents the most? Who do they think should lead adaptation efforts? What are the biggest obstacles that cities face? And how can individuals build their own resilience to climate change?

Stay tuned for our report on climate resilience in cities, coming this October, to find out.

Fail to prepare, face climate despair

How prepared do you consider your city to be to handle climate-related risks? (% of respondents)

● Prepared ● Underprepared ● Not at all prepared ● Don't know



Source: Economist Impact

¹ The survey solicited opinions from 500 respondents each in Amsterdam, Cairo, Cape Town, Dubai, Jakarta, Madrid, Mumbai, New York City, São Paulo and Tokyo. The gender divide was 45% female and 55% male, all age 18 or older.