



# REHOUSE

RESILIENT, EQUITABLE HOUSING,  
OPPORTUNITIES & URBAN SERVICES

**1 in 3 urban dwellers** – over 1.2 billion people – **do not have reliable, safe or affordable access to basic everyday services and infrastructure** like decent housing, running water and sanitation, electricity, or transport to work and school.

Access to housing and other core services is a critical pathway to meeting climate and development goals and ending inequality.

REHOUSE is a strategic partnership between WRI Ross Center for Sustainable Cities, BRAC, Slum Dwellers International, Mahila Housing Trust, Habitat for Humanity International, and Build Change to bring climate resilient urban housing and services in informal settlements to the forefront of the political, development, and climate agendas and accelerate climate action at scale.

# Urban Inequality Exacerbates Climate Vulnerabilities

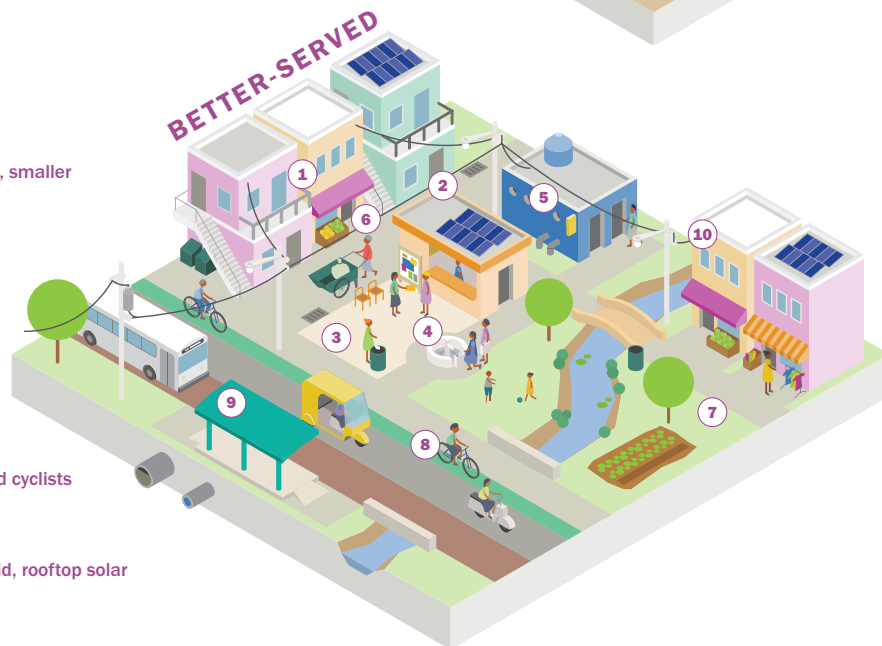
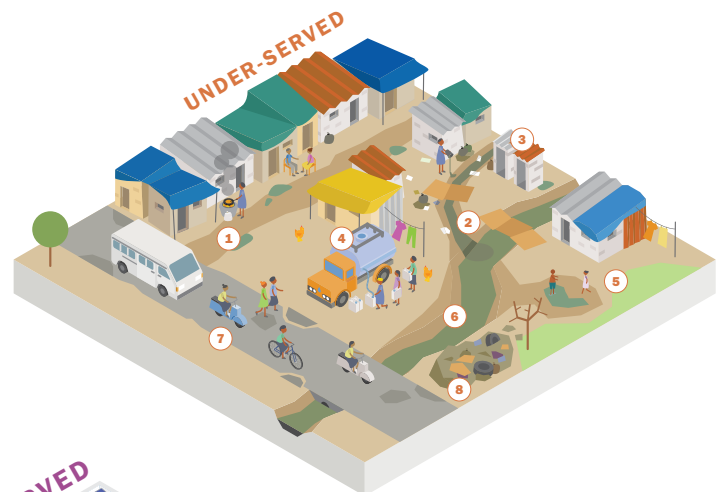
With an estimated 2.5 billion more people expected to reside in cities by 2050, it is crucial to recognize the severe and growing challenges related to un-serviced, “informal” growth in cities. Two out of three urban residents in low-income countries lack access to essential services like decent housing, clean water, sanitation, electricity or transportation.

This “urban services divide” is not only a development challenge but a roadblock to climate action. By 2050, nearly 1 billion climate migrants are expected to move within countries, primarily towards unprepared cities and vulnerable informal settlements in search of refuge and opportunities.

Closing this gap is a huge opportunity to deliver infrastructure in affordable and low-carbon ways, while making urban poor households and communities more resilient.

## Community-Based Climate Solutions

Cities can invest in upgrading or rehabilitating informal settlements while accounting for local climate risks. Scaling solutions for low-carbon, climate-resilient housing and services, with better connectivity to employment, can help meet goals for people, climate and nature.



- 1 Participatory upgrading in place, smaller lot sizes, mid-rise buildings
- 2 Paved streets with drainage
- 3 Open, community spaces
- 4 Shared water taps
- 5 Toilet blocks with managed sanitation, improved drainage
- 6 Partnerships with informal service providers
- 7 Utilization of vacant land
- 8 Safer streets for pedestrians and cyclists
- 9 Public transit access integrated with informal transit
- 10 Connections to the electricity grid, rooftop solar

**Source:** Mahendra, A., R. King, J. Du, A. Dasgupta, V. A. Beard, A. Kallergis, and K. Schalch. 2021. “Seven Transformations for More Equitable and Sustainable Cities.” World Resources Report, Towards a More Equal City. Washington, DC: World Resources Institute. <https://doi.org/10.46830/wri rpt.19.00124>.



## SHARED PRINCIPLES

The REHOUSE Shared principles are designed to guide national and urban decision-makers and stakeholders in advancing climate goals and sustainable development through the lens of housing and access to urban services broadly.

Housing is an entry point that has the most direct impact on people's lives and livelihoods, the ability to pull along other core urban services, and can serve as the foundation for policies, programs and peer learning across cities and countries.

*These principles are in draft form, and we expect them to evolve.*

### Equitable, climate-resilient housing integrated with urban services

- 1.** Championing climate change adaptation and mitigation actions that reduce vulnerabilities, expand opportunities, and improve quality of life for the urban poor
- 2.** Prioritizing the vulnerable in designing and delivering decent, affordable, climate-resilient housing, infrastructure, and urban services for all
- 3.** Supporting equitable land rights, and integrated spatial planning that incorporates access to services
- 4.** Recognizing the "house as a place of work" and a site to earn a livelihood

### Inclusive governance and transparent, open data for accountability

- 5.** Supporting cities in generating credible, open access, local data through community engagement, to guide inclusive investments
- 6.** Championing the capacities, strategies, and solutions that emerge from empowered, organized communities of the urban poor - particularly women and youth

### Financing that meets the urgent needs of the urban poor

- 7.** Championing an environmental justice and equity in climate and development funding
- 8.** Supporting processes and solutions for adequate housing and services from a Loss and Damage lens



# OUR APPROACH

REHOUSE leverages the extensive global presence, expertise and influence of its partners, promoting collaboration between subnational and national stakeholders and facilitating the effective allocation of both global and national climate finance.



## 1. Global: Developing Data, Finance and Learning Systems

The initiative aims to strategically leverage global engagements in the lead-up to strategic moments, like COP and the World Urban Forum. Moreover, REHOUSE will collaboratively build a global data platform to evaluate urban climate risks and vulnerabilities, foster peer learning and coordinate global efforts to channel climate adaptation and development finance to the most vulnerable communities.



## 2. National: Scaling by Influencing Country Policies and Programs

REHOUSE works to collectively deliver impact at the national level by engaging with national climate and urbanization policies, urban and climate funding programs, and urban infrastructure programs.



## 3. Local: Demonstrating Community-City Collaboration in Priority Settlements

REHOUSE supports citywide slum mapping, piloting innovative housing and service delivery models, and scaling them up by leveraging the experiences, capacity, and global presence of partner organizations. REHOUSE partners identify and coordinate interventions in local areas through engagement with community groups, city agencies and donors.



## Interested in learning more?

REHOUSE partners include influential organizations focusing on the most vulnerable communities in cities - with proven approaches ready to scale. Together, we are able to work at the global, national and local levels in ways that each organization cannot do alone, demonstrating how to connect global ambition to country and local action.

To learn more about REHOUSE:  
visit [REHOUSE.org](https://rehouse.org)

or contact us at [info@rehouse.org](mailto:info@rehouse.org)

