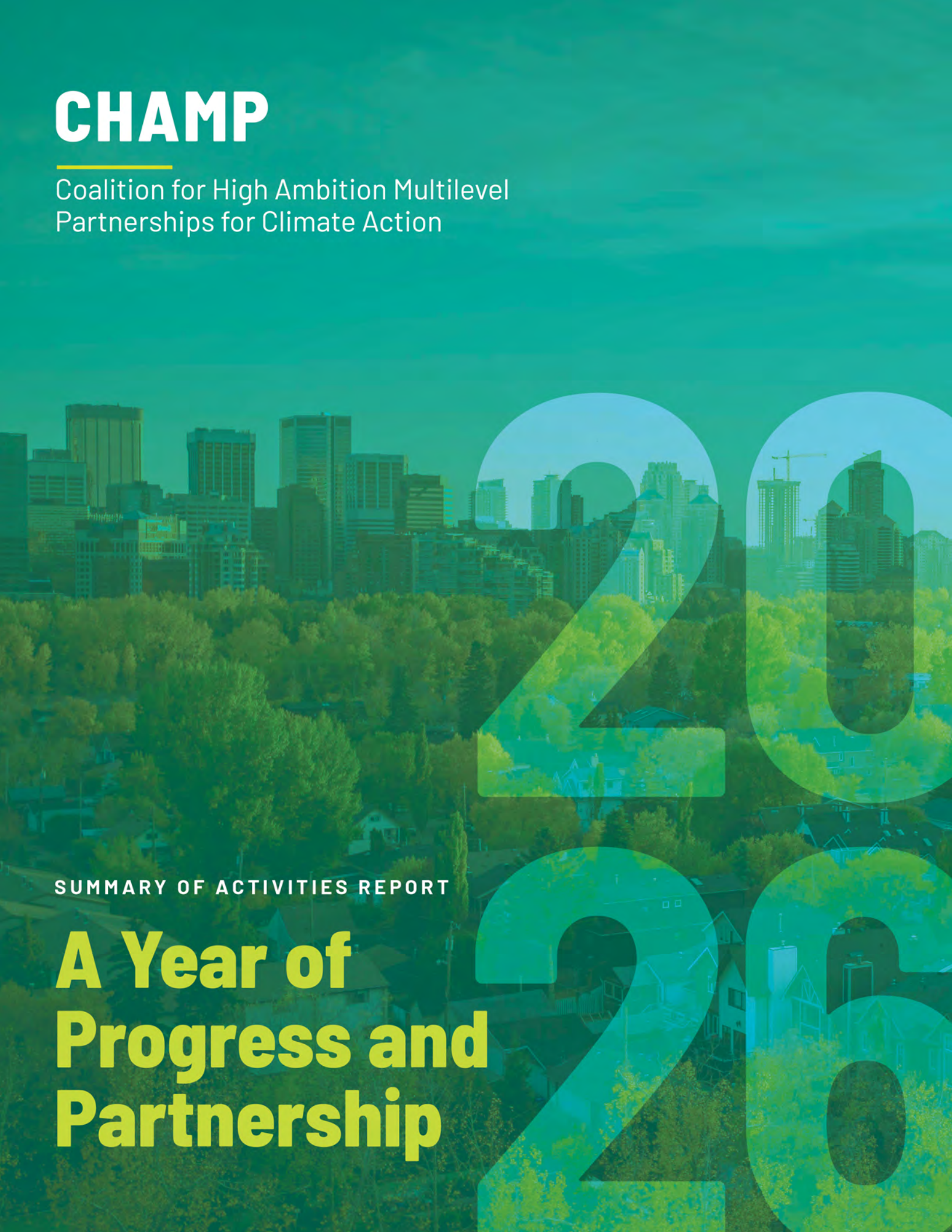
CHAMP

Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships for Climate Action



SUMMARY OF ACTIVITIES REPORT

A Year of Progress and Partnership

2020



PHOTO CREDIT: JEROME MASS, UNSPLASH

WELCOME

Creating more ambitious and impactful climate action requires much closer collaboration between levels of government than we have seen so far. The Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action is a global coalition of countries committed to strengthening collaboration between national and subnational governments on climate policy, implementation and finance.

This Summary of Activities report captures how CHAMP, its endorsing countries, and the many Friends of CHAMP organizations supporting the coalition are moving from commitment to action by strengthening the partnerships, coordination mechanisms and financial pathways that connect national climate strategies with cities, states and regions — ultimately creating real impact in people's lives.

Covering the period from January 2026 to COP31, the report showcases examples of multilevel climate action from across the coalition of 80 endorsers, and reflects on the partnerships, initiatives and lessons helping to advance climate action around the world.

The report is structured around five sections:

1. Forewords from the Coalition
2. Turning national ambition into local action
3. From commitment to action: Stories from endorsers
4. What's next: COP31
5. Tools, research and learning

This report was prepared by World Resources Institute (WRI) in its capacity as the CHAMP Secretariat and was published on 12 November 2026. On behalf of the CHAMP Co-chairs, we would like to thank all CHAMP partners and endorsers that contributed to this report.

For any inquiries related to this report, please contact: *secretariat@champ-climate.org*

For more information on CHAMP, please visit the website: *champ-climate.org*

COVER PHOTO CREDIT: DAVEY GRAVY, UNSPLASH

FOREWORDS FROM THE COALITION

2026 has been an important year for the CHAMP coalition. CHAMP has always been a country-led effort but the new nine-country Steering Committee and CHAMP Implementation Roadmap 2026–2028 creates a clear framework for its next phase. As a federal country, Germany brings experience of working across different levels of government, and I am pleased to serve as one of the CHAMP Co-chairs at this important stage. I see this as an opportunity to contribute Germany's perspective while learning from the approaches and experiences of our partners and working collectively to strengthen multilevel climate action globally.

Worldwide, cities and regions are clearly central to climate action. They implement many mitigation and adaptation measures, from reducing emissions and improving energy efficiency to managing flood risks and preparing for heat waves — all climate impacts that communities in Germany experienced this summer.

Effective climate action therefore depends on stronger multilevel governance that connects national ambition with local needs and capacities. This also means supporting greater access to the finance and investment that subnational actors need to implement and deliver. Such collaboration is especially important in times of reduced budgets.

The progress reflected in this report comes from the collective efforts of the whole CHAMP coalition and showcases that there is no one-size-fits-all model for effective multilevel climate action. Institutional and political contexts differ, but the examples presented in this report demonstrate the value of connecting national climate objectives with regional and local action to accelerate implementation the world over.

I would like to thank all who have contributed their experience, expertise and commitment to the coalition's work in 2026. Looking ahead to COP31 and beyond, I look forward to continuing this work with the CHAMP coalition, advancing multilevel climate governance and advocating internationally for a stronger role for subnational actors in climate action.



Ulf Jaeckel

Co-chair of the Steering Group

Head of International Adaptation to the Climate Change Division, BMUKN, Germany

Since its launch at COP28, CHAMP has come a long way. What began as a political commitment has grown into a coalition of 80 endorsers working together to strengthen multilevel climate action through cooperation, knowledge exchange and practical implementation.

As Co-chair of CHAMP, Brazil is proud to advance this agenda both internationally and at home. Brazil's latest Nationally Determined Contribution (NDC) includes commitments to CHAMP and to climate federalism, reflecting our conviction that effective climate action depends on collaboration across all levels of government. As a federal country, we recognize that national climate goals can only be achieved when cities, states and regions are fully engaged as partners.

This collaboration not only strengthens climate action by making it more effective and responsive to local realities but also helps bring citizens closer to the climate agenda.

The progress reflected in this report is the result of the collective efforts of CHAMP endorsers, subnational governments and Friends of CHAMP. It demonstrates that, while countries operate in different political and institutional contexts, strengthening cooperation is essential to turning climate ambition into tangible results.



Antônio Francisco da Costa e Silva

Co-chair of the Steering Group

Ambassador and Chief International Advisor, Brazilian Ministry of Cities

We are delighted to present the CHAMP Summary of Activities Report 2026 celebrating a milestone year in which CHAMP established the Subnational Advisory Council, which I have the privilege of chairing.

This year also marks 10 years since the signing of the Paris Agreement. For me, this anniversary carries a special meaning. As mayor of Paris at the time, I witnessed first-hand how limited the role of subnational governments was in the international climate agenda. I remember bringing together mayors and local leaders from around the world to make a simple but powerful case: The goals of the Paris Agreement could only be achieved if national governments worked in partnership with cities and regions. Even then, it was clear to us that climate action would ultimately be delivered at the local level.

A decade later, it is encouraging to see how far this agenda has come. CHAMP represents the kind of platform and political commitment needed to turn that ambition into reality. Through the Subnational Advisory Council and country-led Steering Group, CHAMP helps ensure that the local action taking place every day in cities, states and regions helps shape international goals and priorities, and that national governments and subnational leaders plan, finance and deliver together.



Anne Hidalgo

Chair of the Subnational Advisory Council

Global Ambassador for the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy (GCoM)



TURNING NATIONAL AMBITION INTO LOCAL ACTION

In 2026, a critical year for climate action, CHAMP demonstrated how multilevel partnerships can translate national climate ambition into more inclusive and effective change. Across both mitigation and adaptation, we now see national climate plans increasingly recognizing the role of cities, states and regions, not only as implementers of national commitments but also as essential partners in shaping and delivering them.

PHOTO CREDIT: EDOARDO BUSTI, UNSPLASH

As countries submitted updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) to the Paris Agreement over the last year and a half, a *UN-Habitat analysis* found that CHAMP endorsers are 3.5 times more likely to receive the highest assessment (A+) for how well they built local and regional input into their national climate plans than non-endorsers. Of the 64 CHAMP endorsers included in the analysis, 46 have NDCs with well-developed urban content, up from 33 in the previous cycle. Overall, 90% of CHAMP endorsing countries that submitted updated NDCs strengthened the role of subnational governments and nearly half also included specific multilevel governance mechanisms, compared with one third of non-CHAMP NDCs.

This change reflects not only the impact of the CHAMP initiative but also the growing recognition that effective climate action depends on cooperation across all levels of government. By connecting national ambition with local delivery, investment and implementation, CHAMP endorsers are helping translate climate commitments into tangible results for people and communities.

Adaptation planning is moving in a similar direction. According to *analysis by the NAP Global Network*, all 79 countries (CHAMP and non-CHAMP endorsing) that submitted National Adaptation Plans (NAPs) to the UNFCCC referenced subnational government authorities. Moreover, 66 countries mention mechanisms for vertical integration. Among CHAMP-endorsing countries, 34 have submitted their NAPs, while two are at the draft review stage and 17 are in progress.

Access to adequate finance remains a significant constraint to realizing the potential of multilevel governance. Urban climate finance is the least-cited means of implementation in NDCs 3.0, appearing in only 27 submissions. The scale of the challenge remains significant: Globally, it's estimated cities will require *US$ 4.5 trillion annually* by 2030 to adapt to and mitigate climate change, while the most recent analysis of actual money going out the door to cities, from 2022, measured just US$ 831 billion annually.

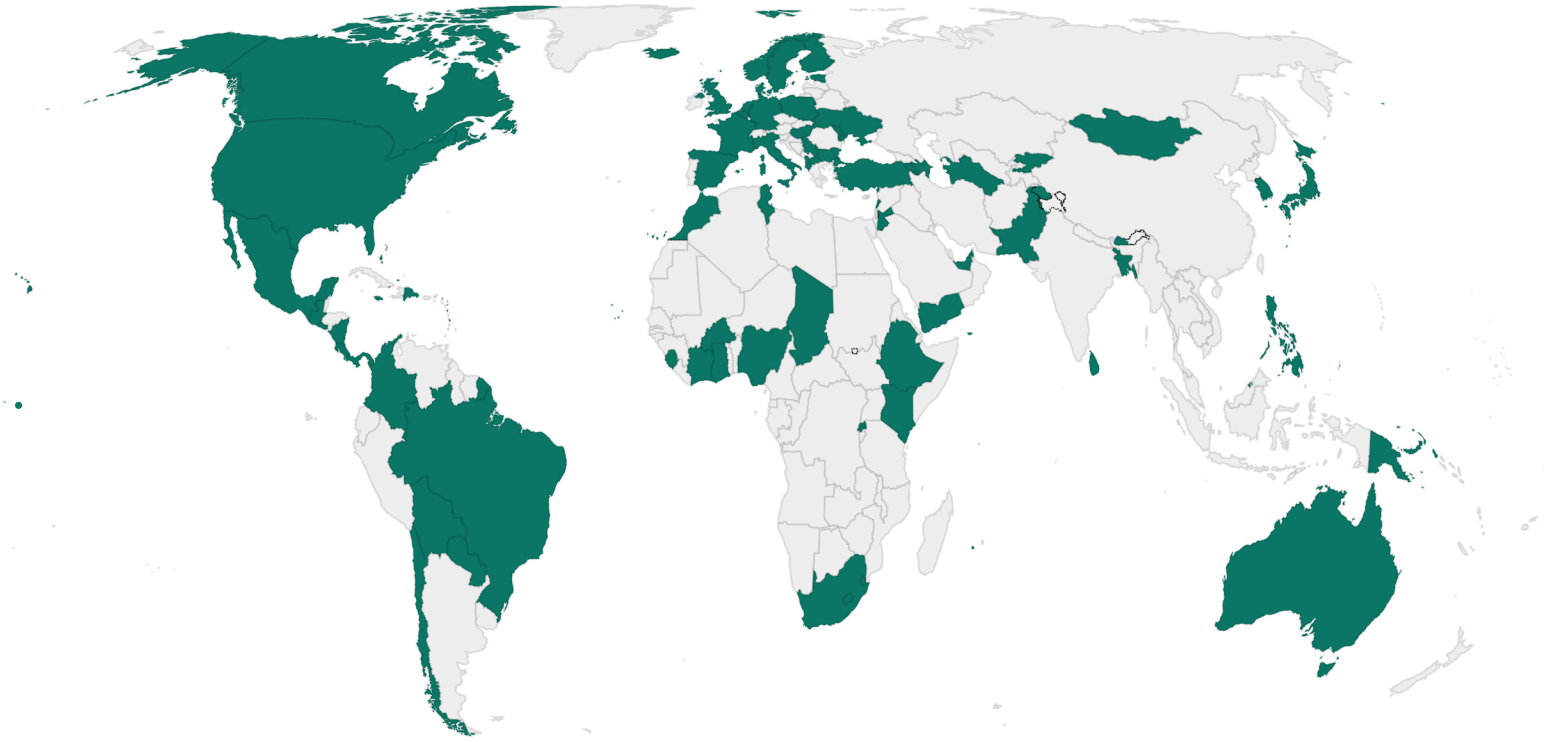
CHAMP's priority, and the basis of its new three-year strategy, is to deepen and accelerate these shifts in mitigation and adaptation planning, ensuring that growing recognition of subnational governments is matched by the finance, institutional capacity and sustained cooperation needed to truly deliver climate action at scale.

CHAMP BY THE NUMBERS[1]

65%
of the global urban population

32
of the world's 100 most climate-vulnerable countries

39%
of global GHG emissions



ENDORSERS

1. Albania
2. Andorra
3. Antigua and Barbuda
4. Armenia
5. Australia
6. Azerbaijan
7. Bahamas
8. Bangladesh
9. Belgium
10. Bhutan
11. Bolivia
12. Brazil
13. Brunei Darussalam
14. Bulgaria
15. Burkina Faso
16. Cabo Verde
17. Canada
18. Chad
19. Chile
20. Colombia
21. Costa Rica
22. Cote d'Ivoire
23. Denmark
24. Dominican Republic
25. El Salvador
26. Estonia
27. Eswatini
28. Ethiopia
29. European Union
30. Finland
31. France
32. Germany
33. Ghana
34. Guatemala
35. Hungary
36. Iceland
37. Italy
38. Jamaica
39. Japan
40. Jordan
41. Kenya
42. Kiribati
43. Kyrgyzstan
44. Lebanon
45. Lesotho
46. Mexico
47. Moldova
48. Mongolia
49. Morocco
50. Netherlands
51. Nicaragua
52. Nigeria
53. North Macedonia
54. Norway
55. Pakistan
56. Palau
57. Panama
58. Papua New Guinea
59. Paraguay
60. Philippines
61. Poland
62. Portugal
63. Rwanda
64. Saint Vincent and the Grenadines
65. Serbia
66. Seychelles
67. Sierra Leone
68. South Africa
69. South Korea
70. Spain
71. Sri Lanka
72. Sweden
73. Tunisia
74. Türkiye
75. Turkmenistan
76. United Arab Emirates
77. Ukraine
78. United Kingdom
79. United States of America
80. Yemen

1 As of October 2026. Sources: *Population - World Bank (2026)*; *GHG emissions - Climate Watch (2026)*; *Climate Vulnerability - Notre Dame Global Adaptation Initiative Country Index (ND-GAIN) (2026)*.

A SHARED ROADMAP FOR ACTION

CHAMP's new three-year strategy, the CHAMP Implementation Roadmap 2026–2028, launched in June 2026 by the Steering Group, focuses on CHAMP's strategic priorities for 2026–2028. Built around three pillars, it positions multilevel partnerships as a core mechanism through which national climate goals, NDCs and NAPs should be implemented. It translates CHAMP's ambitions into clear objectives, priorities and activities.

The Implementation Roadmap complements the COP Action Agenda, supports the Multilevel Governance Activation Group's Plan to Accelerate Solutions (PAS), and takes account of the priorities of the Local Governments and Municipal Authorities (LGMA) Constituency, creating opportunities for collaboration and shared delivery across the constellation of partners delivering multilevel climate action globally.

Read the full Implementation Roadmap here



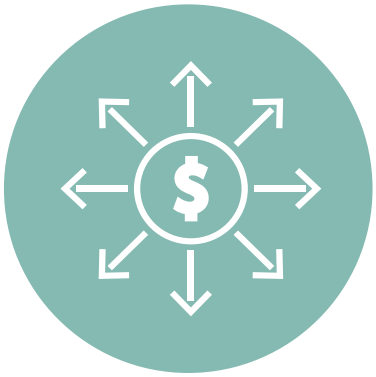
Pillar 1: Strengthening multilevel climate governance with a view to enhance the visibility, role and contribution of sub-national actors

Goal: CHAMP-endorsing countries have deepened their engagement with the CHAMP coalition, and the global climate governance architecture has strengthened its recognition of subnational governments as critical partners to achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.



Pillar 2: Catalyzing partnerships for local delivery

Goal: CHAMP-endorsing countries have strengthened multilevel partnership mechanisms so that subnational priorities and efforts are integrated into the design, financing and delivery of NDCs and NAPs.



Pillar 3: Scaling up and unlocking the means of implementation, including finance and investment, at the subnational level

Goal: CHAMP-endorsing countries have established robust pathways to scale up and unlock subnational government access to climate finance, with subnational priorities integrated into national and global investment plans.

FROM COMMITMENT TO ACTION: STORIES FROM ENDORSERS

Across the CHAMP coalition, countries are putting commitments into practice through new institutions, financing mechanisms, governance arrangements and delivery programs designed to connect national climate goals with action on the ground. In 2026, CHAMP countries and partners demonstrated their ambition in action through many collaborations and programs with subnational partners. The stories that follow illustrate some of the many great impacts achieved across the coalition in 2026.

PHOTO CREDIT: ENKUU SMILE, UNSPLASH

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 1, 2 AND 3

The Philippines' NDC 3.0: Connecting National Climate Ambition With Local Action

For the Philippines, delivering on climate ambition means reaching where people live. As an archipelago of more than 7,600 islands and 1,700+ subnational governments, the country faces a particular challenge in connecting national climate commitments with diverse local realities. The Philippines is building this connection through its NDC 3.0.

The NDC, submitted to the UNFCCC in September 2026, was developed through a whole-of-government and whole-of-society approach. In December 2025, the Philippines Climate Change Commission brought together national agencies, Local Government Units (LGUs), civil society, academia and development partners to review proposed NDC commitments. Discussions went beyond ambition: participants considered whether targets could be implemented in local contexts and identified needs around finance, capacity building, monitoring and reporting.

The process highlighted that national targets can only be delivered if local governments have the resources and capacities to act. It built on earlier engagements that included national, regional and subnational consultation workshops supported by C40 Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, creating a multilayered system for local perspectives to feed up. In April 2025, a technical workshop gathered 150+ participants from LGUs and national agencies, and an August 2025 online discussion, convened with the Union of Local Authorities of the Philippines, further expanded participation to more provinces, municipalities and barangays.

The Philippines is working to carry this collaboration on planning into implementation. Its 2023 NDC Implementation Plan, currently being updated, already identifies LGUs alongside national government agencies and the private sector as implementers of NDC policies and measures. It calls for "cascading" climate action to the subnational level, including identifying local responsibilities, capacities, existing initiatives and support needs.

The final NDC explicitly recognizes LGUs as implementation partners alongside national agencies and non-state actors. Together, these efforts are helping connect national climate ambition with local action, while giving local governments a greater voice in shaping how climate plans play out in their communities.



Participants from civil society, local governments, national agencies, private sector, academia and development partners convened for NDC consultations on 3 December 2025 in Mandaluyong City, Philippines. Photo: Philippines Climate Change Commission

Sources: UNFCCC, Climate Change Comission[1], Climate Change Comission[2]

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 2 AND 3

The AdaptaCidades Program: Scaling Up Climate Adaptation Planning Across Brazilian Municipalities

With more than 5,500 municipalities facing very different climate risks and adaptation needs, one of Brazil's main challenges is translating national climate policy into locally responsive, meaningful action.

Brazil's updated NAP, submitted to the UNFCCC in February 2026, combines a National Adaptation Strategy with 16 sectoral and thematic plans and establishes objectives, targets and actions through 2035. A central principle of the NAP is multilevel governance, recognizing that climate risks and adaptation needs vary across territories. One of its key targets is to ensure that at least 35% of Brazilian municipalities have local adaptation plans by 2035.

AdaptaCidades, led by Brazil's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change of Brazil, is a key initiative supporting the achievement of this target. The initiative strengthens the capacity of municipalities to understand climate risks, access and use climate information, and develop locally grounded adaptation plans and priorities. The initiative is supported through the BMUKN-funded ProAdapta project, implemented by GIZ, with additional co-financing from the Green Climate Fund.

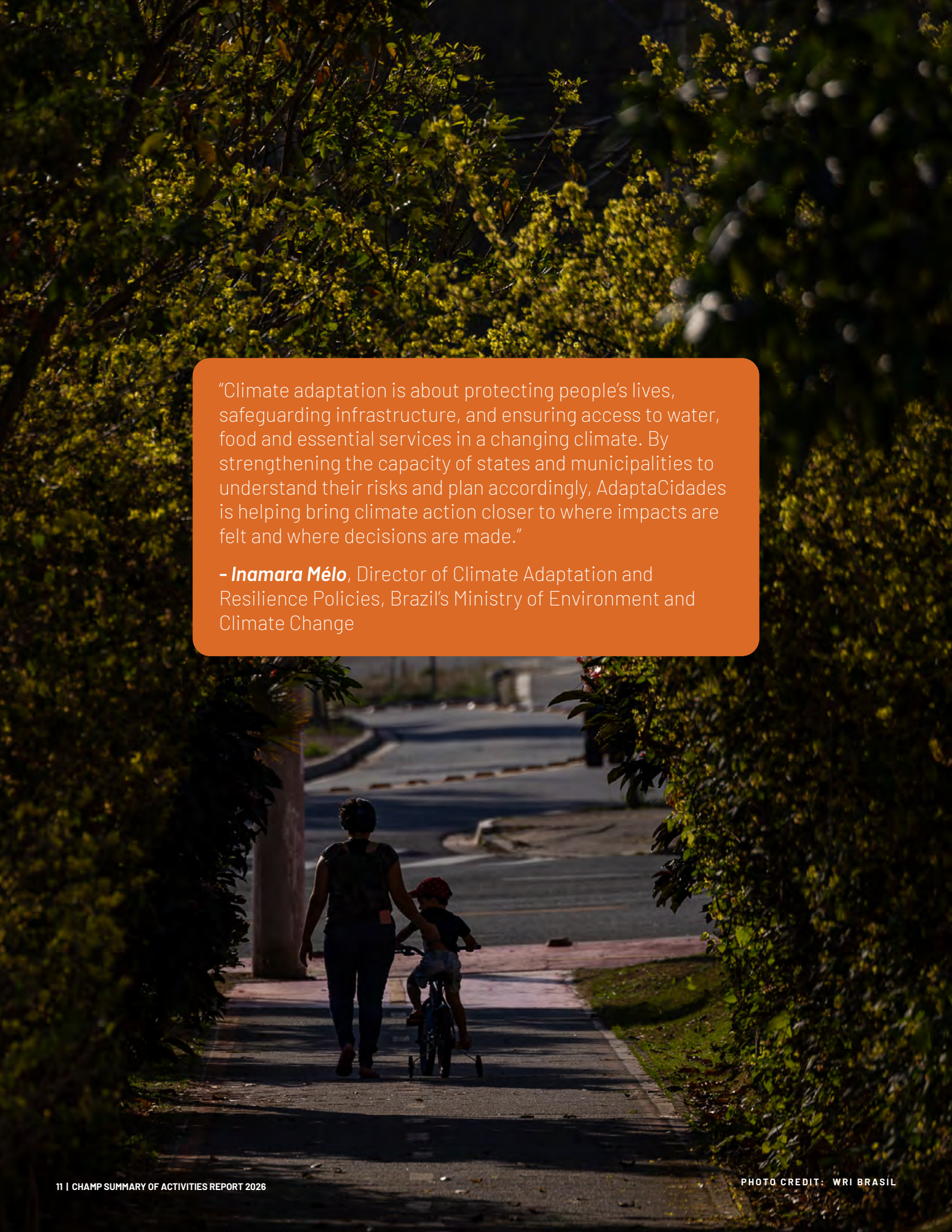
A defining feature of AdaptaCidades is its approach to connecting federal, state and municipal governments. States play a strategic role in coordinating engagement with participating municipalities and strengthening their own capacity to support local adaptation. Municipalities, in turn, bring territorial knowledge and local priorities into the planning process while receiving technical assistance and capacity building from state and federal partners.

To date, AdaptaCidades has delivered tailored factsheets on climate risks to all 5,570 Brazilian municipalities, providing locally relevant information. In addition, 414 municipalities across all 26 states and the Federal District have formally joined the initiative and started developing local adaptation plans. Together, these efforts are helping Brazil move from national adaptation objectives toward locally driven, coordinated and scalable climate action.



State representatives gathered at an AdaptaCidades national meeting, May 2026. Photo: GIZ Brazil.

Sources: Brazil's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change and GIZ Brazil



"Climate adaptation is about protecting people's lives, safeguarding infrastructure, and ensuring access to water, food and essential services in a changing climate. By strengthening the capacity of states and municipalities to understand their risks and plan accordingly, AdaptaCidades is helping bring climate action closer to where impacts are felt and where decisions are made."

- Inamara Mélo, Director of Climate Adaptation and Resilience Policies, Brazil's Ministry of Environment and Climate Change

PHOTO CREDIT: WRI BRASIL

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 2 AND 3

Germany's National Climate Initiative: Empowering Municipalities for Climate Action

Germany is building the capacity of thousands of municipalities so they have the resources and expertise needed to contribute to national climate goals.

Launched in 2008, Germany's National Climate Initiative (NKI) is a nationwide federal support architecture for translating national climate objectives into concrete action by municipalities and other local actors. It combines financing, local institutional capacity, technical support, knowledge and peer learning to give scale to investments and encourage the development of subnational climate projects.

NKI's central funding instrument for municipalities is the Kommunalrichtlinie ("Municipal Directive"). It supports both strategic measures — including municipal climate strategies, dedicated climate managers, county-level climate coordination, feasibility studies and municipal networks — and investments in areas such as efficient lighting, sustainable mobility, waste and wastewater management, and other municipal infrastructure. The directive explicitly aims to accelerate measurable emissions reductions and expand the number of municipalities reached by federal climate support.

NKI provides a national enabling framework for locally driven implementation. The federal government (BMUKN) sets the overall program framework and provides funding. Municipalities, in turn, identify their own priorities, develop projects tailored to the local context and implement climate measures within their responsibilities. Several intermediary structures make this relationship work in practice, such as municipal



A municipal wastewater treatment plant with photovoltaic generation in Delmenhorst, supported by NKI in Germany. Photo: BMKUN

associations and the federal-funded Agency of Local Climate Action, which acts as a permanent support hub for municipalities. Annually, NKI organizes a conference for municipalities that includes an awards ceremony for select projects.

This multilevel partnership enables a combination of funding and capacity. Municipalities are supported not only in what they invest in, but also in building the people, knowledge and institutional structures required to plan and implement climate action over time.

Between 2008 and 2025, projects supported through the NKI are estimated to have saved around 63.8 million tonnes of CO2-equivalent emissions. By the end of 2025, around 63,600 NKI projects had been completed nationwide, backed by more than EUR 2.5 billion in federal funding. The Kommunalrichtlinie has been particularly important in translating federal support into municipal action, accounting for about 26,800 completed projects by the end of 2025.

NKI offers a scalable example of how a national government can enable rather than prescribe local climate action, setting national ambition and providing resources and support while municipalities retain ownership of implementation according to local needs.

> "Germany strongly believes that effective climate action depends on cooperation across all levels of government. Our experience has shown that cities, states and regions are indispensable partners in turning national climate targets into practical solutions that benefit people and communities."
>
> ***- Ulf Jaeckel***, CHAMP Co-chair and Head of International Adaptation to the Climate Change Division, BMUKN, Germany

Sources: Federal Ministry for the Environment, Climate Action, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety (BMUKN)

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 2 AND 3

Beyond Administrative Boundaries: Multilevel Adaptation in the Dominican Republic

The Dominican Republic is confronting a climate challenge common to the region: water scarcity in periods of drought, flooding during intense rainfall, and increasing pressure on land degradation and water resources. These interconnected risks extend beyond administrative boundaries, calling for adaptation approaches that reflect the dynamics of watersheds, ecosystems and the communities that depend on them.

Against this backdrop, an Ecosystem-based Adaptation (EbA) approach in the Mao and Guayubín River watersheds is demonstrating how multilevel partnership can translate national adaptation priorities into coordinated territorial action, in line with adaptation goals set by the Dominican Republic's NDC 3.0 and NAP.

The EbA program seeks to strengthen the climate resilience of vulnerable communities and protect productive landscapes and ecosystems through implementation of adaptation measures in five municipalities: San Ignacio de Sabaneta, Monción, Villa Los Almácigos, Partido and El Pino. It also engages national financial institutions and non-bank financial entities to unlock loans and guarantees for producers and rural enterprises investing in ecosystem-based adaptation and water- and resource-efficient practices.

Initiated in 2024 and running until 2031, it is led by the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources with financing from the Green Climate Fund through the Central American Bank for Economic Integration. The Central American Commission for



Representatives from Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources, civil society, local authorities and technical partners at a dam in the municipality of Monción, July 2026. Photo: Dominican Republic Ministry of Environment and National Resources

Environment and Development of the Central American Integration System and the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations support implementation in collaboration with national and subnational institutions.

At the heart of the EbA program is a governance structure that connects institutions, actors and decision-making across government levels. Strategic coordination takes place through the National Consultative Committee, which provides national-level guidance and promotes inter-institutional alignment. The Territorial Consultative Committee brings together public institutions, municipal authorities, technical agencies and other stakeholders to review evidence, contribute sector-specific expertise and ensure consistency between national priorities and territorial action. Two community-based monitoring and evaluation groups provide structured mechanisms for local participation, monitoring and feedback.

The program has built a strong evidence base for adaptation through climate and hydrological assessments, livelihood analyses and baseline studies. Its monitoring component will track progress on the ground, generating territorial evidence of how adaptation priorities and targets under the country's NDC 3.0 and NAP are advanced.

This multilevel partnership enables technical assistance, capacity development and ecosystem-based adaptation measures in rural areas. It also offers insightful lessons on water, ecosystem and climate risks cross jurisdictions, showing that coordinated action across stakeholders and government is essential.

> "We believe that resilience is built from the territory, by listening to those who experience its vulnerabilities and face the impacts of drought and climate change every day, and by working together with them to identify and build adaptation solutions that best respond to their realities."
>
> ***- Gustavo Cabral***, Head of the Climate Change Vulnerability and Adaptation Department at the Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources of the Dominican Republic

Sources: Ministry of Environment and Natural Resources and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations (FAO), Dominican Republic

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 2 AND 3

Climate City Contract 2030: Building Governance Infrastructure for Urban Transformation in Sweden

Sweden faces a governance paradox common to other CHAMP countries: municipalities have substantial autonomy and responsibility for many systems central to the climate transition, while key regulatory frameworks and financial instruments are shaped nationally or at European level. No single actor or level, therefore, can deliver the transition alone.

Launched in 2017, Viable Cities is a strategic innovation program funded by the Swedish Energy Agency, Vinnova and Formas and coordinated by KTH Royal Institute of Technology. Its mission is "climate-neutral cities by 2030, ensuring a good quality of life for all within the planet's limits."

Viable Cities serves as Sweden's mission-oriented national platform, with Climate City Contract 2030 as its central multilevel governance process. Climate city contracts are non-binding political commitments signed by municipal political leaders, national government agencies and Viable Cities and renewed annually. The first climate city contracts were signed in 2020 and now include 48 municipalities, representing approximately half of Sweden's population, with six national government agencies.

Annual reviews and political recommitments support mutual accountability. Municipalities lead through local teams, partnerships and transition portfolios. A joint agency action plan links city needs to national mandates and policy instruments. Viable Cities supports continuous dialogue and structured review, feeding local implementation experience into national coordination, policy development and subsequent contract cycles.



Climate City Contract 2030 signing ceremony at the European Viable Cities Day. December 2025. Photo: Fredrik Persson

Joint commitments by cities provide a common framework for collective learning to accelerate implementation and scaling. Three joint commitments are shared by all participating cities: governance and leadership; climate analysis and emissions accounting; and financing and investment. Seven additional commitments, including procurement and purchasing, can be adopted according to local priorities.

Climate investment planning links transition portfolios to municipal budgets, procurement, investment decisions and national support. System demonstrators test and implement interconnected changes in real-world settings to accelerate wider adoption. The emerging Viability Fund for Cities seeks to strengthen flows of finance through local climate investment structures, catalytic co-finance and aggregated demand.

Sweden's national platform experience shows how recurring commitments, coordination, and learning build collective capacity to integrate steps needed for the climate transition into ordinary governance and investment. Viable Cities has helped shape the EU Mission on Climate-Neutral and Smart Cities and its climate city contracts, and similar national platforms developing across Europe are now supporting shared learning and implementation.

> "An important part of climate action concerns sustainable planning and urban development, and many Swedish municipalities are truly at the forefront in this area. The Government wants to encourage this, and Sweden's endorsement of the CHAMP initiative creates new opportunities to amplify the impact of this work and place it within a national and global context."
>
> **- *Andreas Carlson***, Minister for Infrastructure and Housing, Sweden

Sources: Viable Cities, Sweden

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 2 AND 3

From National Ambition to City-Level Action: Addis Ababa's E-Mobility Transition

Ethiopia has relied heavily on expensive, imported fossil fuels for transport. This has led to the national government setting aggressive targets to transition to electric mobility, as both a climate and economic priority. In 2023, the government took the historic decision of banning conventional gasoline and diesel-powered vehicle imports and introducing incentives to accelerate electric vehicles (EV) uptake. This decision was followed by a national e-mobility plan that covers vehicle electrification, charging infrastructure, public transport and institutional capacity.

Ethiopia's NDC 3.0 is one of the most ambitious climate commitments globally, with a 70% emissions reduction target, and it achieved an A+ rating by UN-Habitat for its urban content. This national framework provides an important enabling environment for cities to translate such high national ambition into concrete transport investments.

The city of Addis Ababa has been an important testing ground for the e-mobility transition in public transport. The Ministry of Transport and Logistics and the Addis Ababa Transport Bureau have worked with partners, including the Institute for Transportation and Development Policy and the Global Green Growth Institute, to develop strategies, business models and infrastructure plans for scaling electric public transport. In April 2025, the Addis Ababa City Administration launched 100 electric buses, all of which were



Electric buses in Addis Ababa's bus rapid transport (BRT) system. Photo: ITDP Africa

also locally assembled. More than 150 electric minibuses are also in operation, alongside plans for 36.5 km (22.7 miles) of electric BRT corridors.

These investments are expected to reduce fossil fuel use and transport-related emissions and improve local air quality. By 2024, more than 100,000 EVs were on Ethiopian roads, supported by around 200 charging stations. Ethiopia's EV market is projected to grow by 57% annually through 2031, the fastest rate in Africa.

Ethiopia's experience highlights the importance of connecting national policy with local implementation, bringing national and city authorities together around concrete investments and shared plans. It also shows that successful EV transitions require a broader implementation ecosystem, including utilities, financiers and the private sector, while city-level action can help demonstrate solutions and inform their wider scale-up. As the COP32 host, Ethiopia has the opportunity to continue demonstrating the role of subnational partners in national transitions.

Sources: ITDP, UNFCCC, ENA, GGGI, UNECA, Mordor Intelligence



Commissioned for the RISE Africa Urban Action Festival 2025, this image captures the interplay between rapid urbanization and nature in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. Photo Credit: Abener Eyuel/WRI/ICLEI

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 2 AND 3

Swapping Public Debt for Climate Action: The Rio Grande Plan

The state of Rio Grande do Sul faced the largest socio-environmental disaster in Brazil's history in 2024 when more than 2.3 million people were affected by devastating floods, causing US$ 17 billion in losses. The state government faced a critical question: How can recovery efforts strengthen long-term climate resilience? In response, the Plano Rio Grande ("Rio Grande Plan") was created to drive resilient reconstruction and long-term adaptation across 478 affected municipalities, underpinned by strong multilevel partnership architecture.

The plan brings together the Brazilian federal government, the government of Rio Grande do Sul and individual municipalities, while connecting public decision-making with scientific institutions, civil society and communities affected by the disaster. It has helped mobilize multiple partners and organizations, from federal institutions to the private sector, international organizations and UN agencies.

National-subnational collaboration has gone beyond data and technical knowledge, enabling new pathways for financing local resilience and implementation. Cooperation between state and national government allowed for the creation of two major



Reconstruction of the Sarandi levee/dike in Porto Alegre's Flood Protection System, completed in January 2026. Photo credit: Maurício Tonetto/Secom

instruments that have significantly expanded the public resources available for resilient reconstruction, reaching US$ 4.5 billion:

- **FUNRIGS — Plano Rio Grande Fund:** Following a federal decision to suspend Rio Grande do Sul's debt payments for 36 months after the declaration of a state of public calamity, the state established a dedicated fund to re-direct these resources into reconstruction, adaptation and disaster-risk reduction. The mechanism operates much like a debt-for-climate swap, effectively transforming deferred debt obligations into investments in resilience and creating fiscal space for rapid climate action, responding to an immediate disaster, led by municipalities.
- **FIRECE — Fund for Support to Infrastructure for Recovery and Adaptation to Extreme Climate Events:** Created by the federal government and administered by a federal bank, FIRECE received R$ 6.5 billion in December 2024 to support the recovery and requalification of infrastructure affected by extreme climate events, as well as mitigation and adaptation projects. Its interventions directly benefit 16 municipalities, including projects improving drainage, connectivity, slope stabilization and nature-based solutions, channeling federal funds straight to local action.

Rio Grande do Sul's disaster recovery offers a concrete example of how strong multilevel governance can enable both rapid response following a disaster and creative financing for climate action. It also shows the important role states have as an intermediary between national and municipal governments.

> "Rio Grande do Sul's experience demonstrates that effective climate action requires sustained coordination across different levels of government. Following the 2024 floods, we turned reconstruction into an opportunity to build a more resilient state through the Rio Grande Plan, while simultaneously advancing structured mitigation policies and the transition to a low-carbon economy." "
>
> ***- Eduardo Leite***, Governor of Rio Grande do Sul, Brazil

Sources: Secretariat for the Reconstruction of Rio Grande do Sul, Rio Grande do Sul State, Brazil

DELIVERING ON PILLARS 1 AND 2

Accelerating Climate Transitions Through Subnational Action (ACT) Programme

Launched in July 2026, the ACT Programme provides structured support to four CHAMP-endorsing countries to strengthen multilevel climate delivery. Coordinated by WRI in partnership with the NDC Partnership, the program supports countries in strengthening coordination between levels of government, integrating subnational priorities into NDC and NAP implementation, and improving access to climate finance.

The CHAMP-endorsing countries Armenia, Chile, Kiribati and Pakistan were selected to receive tailored support through 2028.

- Armenia will strengthen multilevel governance for NDC implementation in the energy sector, building marz-level (provincial) capacity to translate national energy targets into subnational delivery.
- Chile will systematize successful local climate action experiences into a finance readiness framework, working across all 16 regions through the legally mandated Regional Climate Change Committees and the national climate finance coordination structure.
- Kiribati's focus in on strengthening national-subnational systems for NDC implementation across four pilot islands through a gap assessment followed by targeted coordination and capacity building.
- Pakistan will strengthen provincial integration into the national Measurement, Reporting and Verification (MRV) and climate transparency system, Punjab and Sindh are named as pilot provinces, with ambition to scale nationally.

CHAMP Implementation Program (CHIP)

Launched in June, CHIP is a two-year project led and funded by GIZ. CHIP focuses on two objectives: Country support for multilevel NDC implementation and strengthening the global CHAMP ecosystem.

Under component one, the program works with Ethiopia and the Philippines to translate multilevel climate action into practice. In both countries, GIZ will assess governance and finance arrangements, identify implementation gaps, and support national and subnational actors in jointly developing and piloting approaches for NDC implementation. This includes strengthening mechanisms for subnational climate finance.

Under component two, CHIP will support the broader CHAMP agenda by contributing to the development of knowledge products, diagnostics and practical tools on multilevel climate governance.

As such, CHIP links practical delivery with CHAMP's wider work on governance and finance.

A New Governance Model



The Steering Group held its first in-person meeting on 10 June 2026 in Bonn, Germany, alongside the UNFCCC SB64, and approved the CHAMP implementation Roadmap 2026-2028.

As we enter a decisive decade for climate action, CHAMP has evolved into a true country-led coalition. Leading the charge is a nine-country Steering Group, co-chaired by Brazil and Germany, setting strategic direction, ensuring accountability, and putting multilevel climate action at the center of global policy and finance conversations.

To make sure cities, states, and regions have a real seat at the table, the Steering Group works hand-in-hand with a new Subnational Advisory Council, a body composed of mayors, governors and other subnational leaders, keeping their experiences and perspectives woven into everything the coalition does.

The new country-led governance structure allows for:

- Strengthening country ownership and leadership in diplomatic efforts connected to the UNFCCC process, and opening greater opportunities for multilateral influence;
- Supporting implementation at scale, by integrating multilevel priorities into endorser's national climate strategies, plans and frameworks;
- Increasing sustainability and impact, as multiple stakeholders help anchor the coalition's objectives at global, national and local levels, while opening opportunities to diversified support for implementation.

CHAMP is also powered by an open network of more than 20 partner organizations that make up the **Friends of CHAMP**, including multilateral organizations, development banks, technical assistance providers, research institutions and subnational networks.

Learn more about CHAMP's governance structure and composition here.



WHAT'S NEXT

As this CHAMP Summary of Activities is launched, CHAMP-endorsing countries areparticipating in the 31st Conference of Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (COP31) in Antalya, Türkiye. Every year, COP brings the CHAMP community together to demonstrate and advocate for how multilevel partnerships can turn climate ambition into action.

PHOTO CREDIT: MONIKA GRABKOWSKA, UNSPLASH

DELIVERING ON PILLAR 1

Driving Momentum for Multilevel Governance at COP31



Chaired by Ambassador Anne Hidalgo and co-organized by the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy and the Under2Coalition, the Subnational Advisory Council hosted its inaugural meeting on 24 June 2026 during London Climate Action Week.

COP31 is a key space to advance Pillar 1 of the CHAMP Implementation Roadmap 2026-2028. CHAMP is placing multilevel partnerships at the heart of climate governance, highlighting the role of subnational actors in global negotiations, national planning and policy, and on-the-ground implementation. CHAMP's annual flagship event, the High-Level Political Dialogue, brings together the Steering Group, Subnational Advisory Council, and many other national and subnational leaders from endorsing countries to showcase progress, strengthen partnerships and drive global climate diplomacy.

The Steering Group and Subnational Advisory Council issued a joint statement encouraging action aligned with the priorities of Türkiye's COP31 Presidency and Australia as President of Negotiations, notably in the emphasis on climate-resilient cities as well as focal areas on the clean energy transition, electrification, zero waste and methane reduction. Electrifying buildings and transportation systems in ways that are renewable, clean, accessible, affordable and reliable will be only achieved through national and

subnational government collaboration. Similarly, multilevel partnerships are essential in reducing methane emissions from waste. National targets only translate into fewer emissions when they are matched with local delivery capacity.

Lastly, CHAMP is aligned with the Turkish COP Presidency's efforts to move forward on the Global Climate Action Agenda, particularly as part of the activation group implementing the **Plan to Accelerate Solutions (PAS) for Multilevel Governance**. Multilevel governance is also recognized as an enabler for many of the other 120 PAS, established last year by the COP Action Agenda.

Read the CHAMP COP31 Statement here



TOOLS, RESEARCH AND LEARNING

Coalition partners produced new research, practical tools and case studies in 2026 to support all levels of government in driving more ambitious climate action.

PHOTO CREDIT: AHMED, UNSPLASH

CHAMP Toolkit on Financing and Implementing Climate Action Through Multilevel Governance

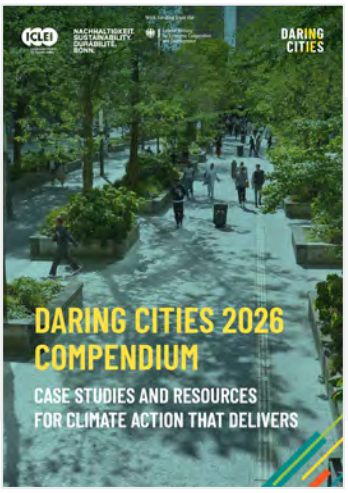
Developed by the Cities Climate Finance Leadership Alliance (CCFLA) and Viable Cities (Sweden), the CHAMP Toolkit on Financing Climate Action Through Multilevel Governance is a web-based platform designed to support CHAMP endorsers to implement Pillar 3 of CHAMP Implementation Roadmap 2026-2028, in translating national climate commitments into climate action and financing at the city level through stronger multilevel governance. Developed in collaboration with CHAMP partners, the Toolkit provides action pathways, practical guidance, tools and examples to strengthen climate investment coordination and planning, develop investable project portfolios and pipelines, mobilize financing, and scale impact through international partnerships.

Learn more

Daring Cities 2026 Compendium

This compendium brings together 31 case studies, resources and initiatives presented during the Daring Cities 2026 conference, highlighting practical approaches to advancing climate action across five areas, including multilevel collaboration. Elaborated by ICLEI, it showcases many ways cities and regions are working with national governments and other partners to strengthen climate governance, implementation, finance and partnerships. For CHAMP endorsers, the Compendium offers a useful collection of examples and approaches that can inform efforts to strengthen coordination and translate national climate commitments into local action.

Learn more





Global Ambition, Local Action: Facilitating Local and Regional Governments' Participation for More Effective and Inclusive Multilateral Agreements

In this working paper, the UN Environment Programme and Institute for Housing and Urban Development Studies examine how local and regional governments have historically engaged in global environmental governance, with a specific focus on the Rio Conventions (UNFCCC, CBD, and UNCCD). Informed by a literature review and expert consultation process, the analysis reveals a maturing but uneven landscape of involvement across conventions. It highlights key entry points through which global agendas have been influenced, identifies persistent structural and institutional barriers, and makes recommendations on how to enhance effective multilevel governance. To national governments, it highlights ways of institutionalizing multilevel governance, embedding local and regional governments into national planning, reporting and implementation processes.

Learn more

Multilevel Action As a Driver of Sectoral Climate Transitions: The Case for National-Subnational Collaboration in Clean Energy and Zero Waste

This expert note sets out why multilevel partnerships are a delivery accelerator for the clean energy and zero waste transitions, what roles different levels of government can play, and what priority actions are needed to close implementation gaps. Both the clean energy and zero waste transitions are technically feasible and already underway in many countries and cities. The central challenge is pace and scale, and evidence consistently shows that the speed and breadth of both transitions depend on how effectively national and subnational governments work together.

Learn more



Multilevel Governance Coordination Mechanisms in the NAP Process

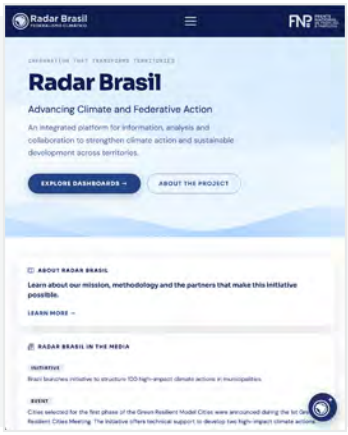
Out of 75 countries that submitted a National Adaptation Plan (NAP) to the UNFCCC as of January 31, 2026, 66 had set up a permanent multilevel coordination mechanism. This is a key finding of this inventory, developed by the NAP Global Network in collaboration with the UNFCCC Secretariat, which examines submitted NAPs, their processes and identifies permanent, officially mandated coordination mechanisms that support multilevel governance. It provides a comparative overview of how countries are connecting national, subnational and local governments with different sectors and non-state actors. It allows exploring analysis for each of the 66 countries, offering practical examples and entry points for CHAMP endorsers and partners looking to strengthen or institutionalize multilevel coordination for climate adaptation.

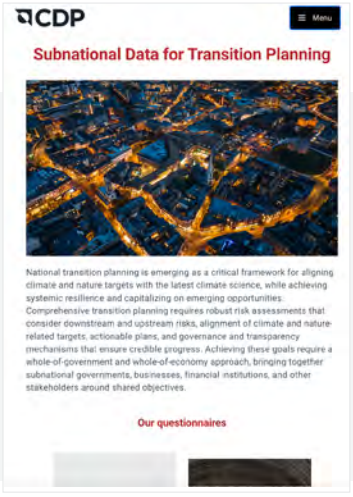
Learn more

Radar Brasil: Climate Federalism

This platform, developed by Brazil's National Front of Mayors (FNP) under the Mutirão Brasil program, supported by C40 Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, offers a replicable framework for CHAMP endorsers and partners seeking to monitor and diagnose multilevel governance across national initiatives and policies. It maps federal governance arrangements, policies and plans, programs, and financing lines relevant to climate action. It then assesses each against various criteria of multilevel governance maturity, including subnational participation, decentralized financing, transparency and monitoring, on a five-level scale. Component scores are weighted by their climate relevance to produce axis-level results, which are then averaged into a single country-level score: a synthetic indicator of multilevel climate governance that can be tracked over time. The pilot edition of the tool establishes a 2025 baseline, drawing on public data validated with federal agencies.

Learn more





Subnational Data for Transition Planning: New CDP Datasets to Support Multilevel Climate Action

Available on CDP's Open Data Portal, the Subnational Data for Transition Planning datasets compile disclosure data from cities, states, and regions worldwide that is relevant to national transition planning, multilevel governance, climate finance, and resilience. Drawing on 2025 data reported through CDP-ICLEI Track and the questionnaire for states and Regions, the datasets show how subnational governments engage with national authorities on climate action, alongside data on governance, emissions, targets, and actions. For national governments, this data can track progress toward climate and nature goals, inform domestic policy, and support the development of country investment platforms that engage financial institutions and expand subnational access to climate and nature finance. A companion CHAMP dataset covers jurisdictions in endorsing-countries.

Learn more about the datasets here

The European Multilevel Governance Story: Evidence on CHAMP-Aligned Implementation in Practice



This report, prepared by C40 Cities and the Global Covenant of Mayors for Climate & Energy, highlights practical examples from the European Union and European countries demonstrating how stronger engagement with cities can support the delivery of climate and energy policies. It explores how multilevel governance can help turn national and global climate commitments into concrete action, including projects, investments and emissions reductions at the local level. As a CHAMP endorser, the EU's experience provides valuable examples of multilevel approaches aligned with CHAMP's objectives and lessons that can inform and inspire other endorsers.

Learn more



Urban Content in NDC 3.0: Cities at the Centre

Cities are moving to the center of national climate action. This analysis by UN-Habitat finds that 80% of 142 NDCs 3.0 have well-developed urban content, up from 49% in the previous cycle. Housing and informal settlements feature in almost half of submissions, providing just one example of stronger links between national climate planning and subnational implementation. This report also contains an analysis focused on CHAMP endorsers. As a next step, UN-Habitat is developing an online portal based on the report's AI-enhanced, human-verified methodology to help governments and partners compare approaches and identify opportunities for targeted support.

Learn more

Vertical Integration: Bridging National and Local Climate Adaptation in Indonesia, Brazil and India



Strengthening cross-sectoral coordination, building institutional capacity, and improving data and information systems are among the key recommendations highlighted in this WRI working paper on advancing vertical integration for climate adaptation in large, decentralized countries. Drawing on comparative case studies from Indonesia, Brazil and India, the paper identifies key challenges and opportunities for enabling more coherent, equitable, and sustainable adaptation action. These practical recommendations can be particularly valuable to the CHAMP community, offering insights into how multilevel governance can be strengthened in practice based on real-world experiences across the three countries.

Learn more

ABOUT CHAMP

The Coalition for High Ambition Multilevel Partnerships (CHAMP) for Climate Action is a global coalition of national governments committed to working more closely with cities, states and regions on climate policy, implementation and finance.

Launched at COP28, CHAMP helps ensure that local priorities and investment needs are reflected in national climate planning and decision-making. Through stronger multilevel partnerships, countries can better translate climate ambition into action in the cities, states and regions where solutions need to be deployed.

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