



Aga Khan Agency for Habitat
India

Building Climate Resilient Communities

VISION

To create habitats that allow communities to be resilient to disasters, adapt to climate change, and thrive.

Aga Khan Agency for Habitat (AKAH) India works at the intersection of climate, housing and urban resilience to create safer, more liveable habitats. Through community-led solutions, technical innovation and partnerships, it helps vulnerable communities adapt to climate change and build long-term resilience.



Improving thermal comfort in heat-vulnerable communities by 2–6°C indoor temperature reduction

Resilient Housing & Climate-Adaptive Development

HEAT RESILIENCE, CLEAN ENERGY & WATER SECURITY

As India's cities face growing climate pressures—from extreme heat and flooding to water scarcity—to implement practical, community-centered solutions that reduce risks, strengthen resilience, and help create safer, and more liveable cities.



Roof insulation solutions reduce indoor heat, helping women work comfortably from home

Through cooling and energy-efficient solutions, communities are better equipped to cope with rising indoor temperatures and heat stress. Reflective roof coatings, aluminium foil, woodwool insulation, lime paint and improved ventilation have reduced indoor temperatures by 2–6°C, improving thermal comfort and daily productivity of residents.

AKAH's demonstration projects have set new benchmarks in green building, achieving **EDGE Advanced certification** from IFC, a member of the **World Bank Group**, the first such achievement for an existing residential society in Asia and a municipal school in South Asia—while creating healthier, more resource-efficient spaces for residents and students.

Through **Nature-based Solutions**, AKAH is supporting the creation of cooler and greener neighbourhoods and public spaces. In collaboration with local communities, AKAH has developed Miyawaki forests, biodiversity parks, and plantations of fruit-bearing and medicinal species, contributing to more than **43,30,000 trees**. These efforts reduce urban heat, support biodiversity and increase access to green spaces.

LAYING THE FOUNDATION FOR SAFER, MORE SUSTAINABLE & RESILIENT COMMUNITIES



Permeable grass pavers in Chitrawad, Gujarat, support groundwater recharge and reduce flood risk



Roof insulation, improved ventilation, and passive cooling measures reduce indoor heat, creating more comfortable homes during extreme temperatures



Energy-efficient and cooling solutions at MBMC School No. 11 reduce heat stress and energy use, creating more comfortable learning environment for children



ASHA workers and community members share their experiences through listening workshops and priorities to shape climate-resilient planning



43,30,000⁺

Trees planted across cities

36,900⁺

Residents & students benefited through repairs, cooling solutions, and green retrofitting initiatives

100%

Less embodied carbon in materials

250⁺

Homes retrofitted with passive cooling solutions



A restored pond improves the local water table and microclimate for communities in Vasai-Virar

Building Dignity, Health & Wellbeing through Effective Water Management

WATER SECURITY MANAGEMENT

Erratic rainfall and declining groundwater reserves increase pressure on urban water systems, threatening water availability and ecological health.

AKAH has developed and restored more than **500 water conservation and recharge structures** including pond and well restoration, check dams, bunds, continuous contour trenches, rooftop rainwater harvesting and groundwater recharge structures. These interventions have strengthened water accessibility and security for over 2,00,000 individuals.

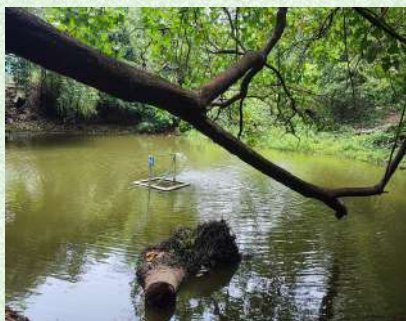
AKAH strengthens urban water resilience by restoring traditional water bodies and natural recharge systems, enhancing groundwater replenishment and water quality, and strengthening community-level water governance to support equitable and reliable access to water.



A restored community pond in Wardha retains water through the dry season, improving year-round access to water for local communities

Strengthening Water Stewardship: AKAH adopts the **Alliance for Water Stewardship (AWS)** framework to promote responsible water management. In Kandla, this approach brings together groundwater recharge, efficient water use, ecological restoration, and community-led governance to strengthen shared responsibility for sustainable and equitable water resources.

ENSURING WATER AVAILABILITY, ACCESSIBILITY & RELIABILITY FOR ALL



Restored traditional water bodies in Vasai through community-led conservation to strengthen groundwater recharge, support native flora and fauna, and cool the microclimate



Refurbished wells in Palghar district improve water access and reduce the drudgery of daily water collection



Floating islands in Mira Bhayandar treat wastewater naturally, improving water quality in urban water bodies



Rooftop rainwater harvesting structures enhance groundwater recharge, helping replenish local aquifers



2,00,000⁺

Lives impacted through improved access to water

500⁺

Interventions for water security



Students engaging with environmental awareness activities under EnviroShala initiative

Enviroshala - Building School Resilience

SCHOOL RESILIENCE PROGRAMME

A school-based resilience programme that empowers children to become future climate ambassadors through environmental education, preparedness, and climate-resilient infrastructure. The programme combines practical action, and institutional strengthening to create safer, healthier, and more sustainable schools.

PROMOTING ENVIRONMENT, CONSERVATION & AWARENESS

Tree plantation, clean-up drives, waste management, and school eco-clubs promote environmental awareness and action among students.

SCHOOL SAFETY

Green retrofitting, disaster preparedness, and mock drills strengthen school safety and response.

WASH INFRASTRUCTURE

Improved sanitation, rainwater harvesting, water conservation, hygiene practices, and menstrual health management create healthier schools.

CLIMATE-RESILIENT INFRASTRUCTURE

Water and energy audits, efficiency measures, and solarisation help schools reduce resource use.



9,00,000⁺

Students reached through
climate & environmental
education

1,400⁺

Schools engaged in
building resilience



Government Partnerships

National Institute of Urban Affairs

Advancing climate research

Advance action-oriented research and build coalitions for collective climate action.

Maharashtra Information Technology Corporation

Scaling climate resilience across Maharashtra

Scale technology-enabled, data-driven and community-focused solutions to address heat, drought, floods and other climate risks across Maharashtra.

Mahatma Phule Renewable Energy and Infrastructure Technology

Innovative climate solutions

MoU highlights innovative approaches to emerging climate challenges.

Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation

City Climate Action Plan

Developed the Mira-Bhayandar City Climate Action Plan, translating climate priorities into actionable pathways towards a cleaner, greener and net-zero city by 2047.

Chandrapur Municipal Corporation

Heat & flood resilience

Strengthen climate resilience in heat and flood-prone neighbourhoods through vulnerability assessments, cooling solutions, green retrofits and water-sensitive interventions.



Launch of Mira-Bhayandar Climate Action Plan with MITRA and MBMC officials

Launch of the City Climate Action Plan for Mira Bhayandar

AKAH in partnership with the Mira Bhayandar Municipal Corporation developed the City Climate Action Plan. The plan is a comprehensive roadmap to reduce GHG emissions, strengthen climate resilience, and advance climate adaptation, aligned with Maharashtra's net-zero vision and the National Action Plan on Climate Change.

The plan charts a path towards a cleaner, greener, energy-efficient and net-zero city by 2047, targeting a 36% reduction in emissions through renewable energy, energy-efficient buildings and improved waste management, complemented by 23% reductions through grid decarbonisation and 41% carbon sinks through expanding green cover.

THE PLAN DISCUSSES RECOMMENDATIONS IN SIX PRIORITY SECTORS



Urban Greening and Biodiversity



Mobility and Air Quality



Waste Management



Energy and Building Sector



Water Supply Management



Urban Flooding

Among the six priority sectors, AKAH has piloted initiatives focused on the Energy & Buildings sector, demonstrating practical approaches to heat resilience and energy-efficient housing.



Empowering communities and frontline workers for climate resilience

Capacity Development

1. Housing Mela

An initiative to empower the residents of housing societies with the knowledge, tools, and technical support to make informed decisions on housing improvements, maintenance, and green retrofitting. It builds community awareness on housing upgrades and innovative solutions.

Housing Mela brings together residents, housing society representatives, and technical experts under one roof. By combining technical guidance with community engagement, it makes housing improvement decisions more accessible and participatory.



Residents explore cooling and water efficiency, and fire safety solutions at the housing mela exhibition



AKAH teams guide residents through practical housing upgrades and solutions

2. Climate Action Workshop

AKAH Climate Workshop Series are designed as platforms to engage CSR professionals, think tanks and NGOs to sensitise and strategise solutions to advance climate resilience in urban sectors.

The workshops highlight how climate change manifests as vulnerabilities, particularly for marginalised urban communities. It focuses on connecting climate knowledge with demonstrated solutions, fostering collaboration and investment in urban resilience.

CLIMATE SOLUTIONS FOR FUTURE-READY CITIES



Climate experts and stakeholders exchange perspectives on advancing urban climate resilience and shaping future-ready cities



3. Community-Based Disaster Risk Reduction

Community-based disaster risk reduction builds the capacity of communities and frontline workers to anticipate, prepare for and respond effectively to climate-induced disasters. Through practical training in first aid, casualty management, fire and water safety, it builds local capabilities to reduce risks and strengthen preparedness.



Community members from informal settlements of Mira-Bhayandar practice first aid and emergency response skills



Global Recognition

1. UN-Habitat | Innovate4Cities 2026

Showcased climate-resilient housing solutions

AKAH India was selected by United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-Habitat) to present at the 2026 *#Innovate4Cities* conference in Nairobi, sharing learnings from scaling climate-resilient housing solutions across India's informal and formal urban settlements.

2. UNFCCC | Climate Week 2025

Advancing heat resilience through local solutions

The United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change (UNFCCC) selected AKAH's approach among the top 16 hyperlocal solutions in the world and showcased it during Climate Week 2025 in Addis Ababa, Ethiopia. The solutions demonstrated how passive design can improve thermal comfort and living conditions in high-density settlements.

3. UNEP Cool Coalition | Cool Mitra

Recognised for sustainable cooling solutions

The United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP) Cool Coalition's 50@50 initiative recognised AKAH as one of India's 50 changemakers under the UNEP Cool Coalition's Cool Mitra (50@50) initiative. The recognition underscores AKAH's contribution to making vulnerable communities more resilient to heat.

Impact at a Glance



43,30,000⁺

Trees planted across cities



36,900⁺

Residents & students benefited through repairs, cooling solutions and green retrofitting initiatives



400⁺

Homes retrofitted with passive cooling solutions



2,00,000⁺

Lives impacted through improved access to water



+

Water structures restored and built for water security



100⁺

Less embodied carbon in materials



9,00,000⁺

Students reached through climate & environmental education



1,400⁺

Schools engaged in building resilience

AKAH India is part of the Aga Khan Development Network (AKDN), a global network committed to improving quality of life and making self-reliant communities through locally grounded, long-term development.



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