



## Urban SHADE: Strengthening Health Access and Delivery for Extreme Weather – May 2026



### FAST FACTS:

- Around 4.2 billion people globally live in urban areas, with rapid urbanisation increasing exposure to climate-related hazards.
- In India about 40% of the population lives in urban areas.
- About 17.4% of India's urban population live in informal settlements, where housing and infrastructure can increase exposure to heat, heavy rainfall and floods.

### PROJECT CYCLE:

2024 - 2026

### PARTNERS:

The George Institute for Global Health, India

Liverpool School of Tropical Medicine (LSTM), UK

Sierra Leone Urban Research Centre (SLURC), Sierra Leone

Centre of Dialogue on Human Settlement and Poverty Alleviation (CODOHSAPA), Sierra Leone

The Institute of Gender and Children's Health Research (IGCHR), Sierra Leone  
Slum Dwellers International (SDI), Kenya

### SUPPORTERS:

National Institute for Health and Care Research (NIHR), UK

### BACKGROUND:

- Climate change is increasing health risks for the most marginalised and poorest urban communities, particularly the billion people living in informal settlements and the city peripheries.
- Flooding, storms, heatwaves, heavy rainfall and drought are placing growing pressure on communities and health services.
- Urban SHADE will work with governments and communities to strengthen health service resilience before, during and after extreme weather events.

### AIMS:

- To co-design, implement and evaluate context-sensitive interventions that improve health service preparedness and responsiveness during extreme weather events.
- To build equitable partnerships between marginalised urban communities, health systems and relevant governance actors.

### METHOD:

- The project will use participatory action research and mixed methods, with community leaders and residents involved as agents of change.
- Qualitative research, including focus group discussions and in-depth interviews, will explore community experiences and health service challenges during extreme weather.
- Household vulnerability survey and health facility assessment will examine risks, capacities and preparedness across healthcare, housing, hygiene and income.

### IMPACT:

- Findings will improve understanding of how extreme weather affects health, livelihoods and access to care for people living in urban informal settlements.
- Co-designed intervention packages will support more prepared, responsive and climate-resilient health services.
- The project will strengthen collaboration between communities, researchers, health systems and governance actors, supporting progress towards universal health coverage.

### CONTACT:

To learn about this project, its investigators or The George Institute please contact:

Tina Wall +61 410 411 983 OR  
[twall@georgeinstitute.org.au](mailto:twall@georgeinstitute.org.au)

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