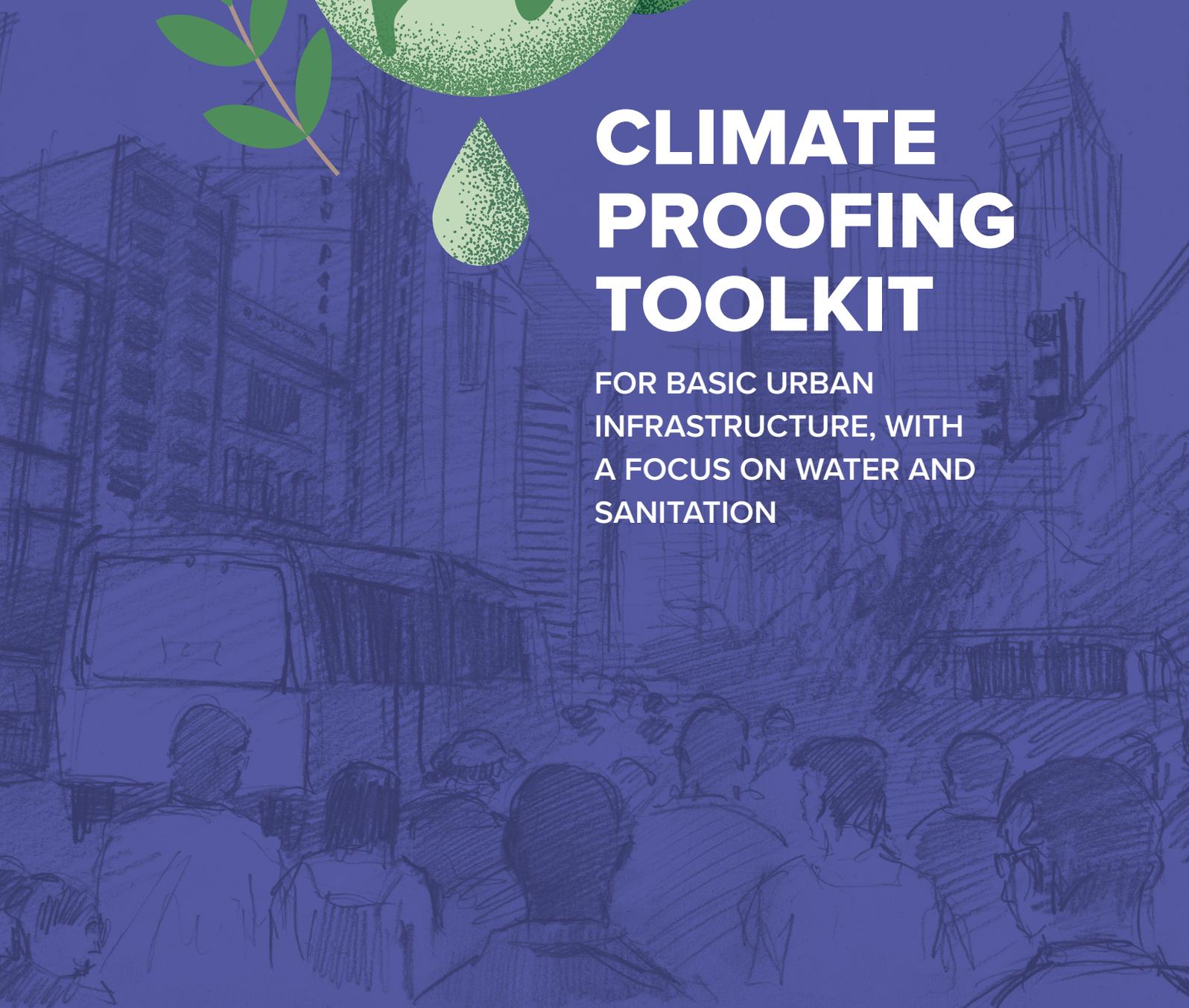


# CLIMATE PROOFING TOOLKIT

FOR BASIC URBAN  
INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH  
A FOCUS ON WATER AND  
SANITATION





# CLIMATE PROOFING TOOLKIT FOR BASIC URBAN INFRASTRUCTURE, WITH A FOCUS ON WATER AND SANITATION

Nairobi, April 2021



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## Preface

### Maimunah Mohd Sharif, Under-Secretary-General and Executive Director, UN-Habitat

Climate change is not a crisis waiting to happen. It is happening now and we are getting accustomed to more devastating news of extreme events linked to these phenomena. From the largest drought-induced municipal water emergency in Cape Town, South Africa, the unprecedented tropical cyclones Idai and Kenneth hitting Mozambique in one season, to Hurricanes Katrina and Harvey, the most costly Atlantic hurricanes on record, as well as the ongoing consequences on sea-level rise in the Small Islands Developing States are great reminders. To echo the United Nations Secretary-General António Guterres' remarks to the 2019 Climate Summit Preparatory Meeting, *"the world is facing a grave climate emergency and climate disruption is progressing even faster than the world's top scientists have predicted."*

Hosting more than a half of the global population, cities are becoming increasingly vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change. By one estimate, 530 cities are already reporting the devastating effects of climate change, subjecting up to 517 million urban residents to tropical diseases and lost livelihoods, destroying infrastructure, limiting access to water and food, and undermining the capacity of local governments to provide basic services to their citizens. Estimates project that by 2050, 800 million urban residents in over 570 low-lying coastal cities will be impacted by sea level rise and coastal flooding. It is also estimated that up to 650 million people in 500 cities will experience decreasing water supplies due to climate



At UN-Habitat, we have prioritized *"Strengthened Climate Action and improved Urban Environment"* as one of the four pillars of our 2020–2023 Strategic Plan. Through our flagship programme, *"RISE-UP: Resilient Settlements for the Urban Poor"*, we are working with our partners to leverage large-scale investment to improve services, build communities' resilience, and adapt the global hotspots of vulnerability to climate change. In that sense, focusing on water and sanitation may help cities to tackle challenges and enhance sustainable development while integrating climate resilience actions.

This *Climate Proofing Toolkit for Basic Urban Infrastructure, with a focus on Water and Sanitation* is part of our efforts to provide practical guidance to policymakers, planners and service providers on how to integrate climate actions and responses into infrastructure planning and investment.

It is my hope that the key messages and tasks outlined in this toolkit will inspire leaders, policymakers, planners and service providers to factor potential climate change

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