

[Proposal template]

Title of the project: Finding Effective, Contextual Solutions for Urban Resilience: Piloting Proposed Decision Support Framework (SECURE) with emphasis on GESI in the Indian Context

Name of lead organisation: PRIA

1. Background: – 250 words

The Adaptation Research Alliance (ARA) is a global coalition of over 225 organisations working on adaptation action and research from over 60 countries. It is aimed at bridging the knowledge-practice divide that impedes progress on adaptation to climate change through a number of impactful initiatives. One key initiative is the co-creation of new and innovative adaptation programmes, with the idea that programmes should be developed with, and responding to the needs of, intended beneficiaries as well as local experts. The International Institute for Environment and Development (IIED) has coordinated one of these processes, bringing together over 125 organisations from across the world and producing a new approach to tackling climate risks faced by low-income residents of cities in the global South. Produced from this is a decision support framework (i.e. SECURE framework) which focuses on the importance of context analysis. IIED has developed the framework with Gender equality and social inclusion (GESI) component, which PRIA will be implementing in two informal settlements of Ajmer city, Rajasthan, India with the objective of refinement of the framework for finding effective and contextual solutions for urban resilience.

2. Domain of action: - 300 words

PRIA will approach co-production for urban resilience through following domains:

Governance and decision-making enhancement

PRIA will delve into governance structures and decision-making processes by examining secondary literature such as the Master Plan, SMART City Plan, and AMRUT Plan, alongside conducting interviews with key decision-makers from the Ajmer Municipal Corporation and Ajmer Development Authority. This will shed light on governance mechanisms, planning processes, financial capacities for service provision, and citizen engagement opportunities within the city's governance system. The analysis will aid in understanding planning processes and identifying opportunities for citizen engagement.

Securing financial resources

PRIA will assess financial resources available for risk reduction and resilience-building, particularly focusing on financing mechanisms for climate change adaptation and service delivery in informal settlements. This involves analyzing budget allocations, funding sources, donor contributions, and financial sustainability, utilizing financial data from the Municipal budget over the past three years to identify resource allocation gaps and priorities in decision-making.

Enhancing community asset resilience

PRIA will map community assets and services at the settlement level using tools like social and resource mapping to identify key infrastructure, existing and potential hazards, and areas of concern. This will help enhance resilience in areas such as WASH services, housing, health etc. The key sectors will further elaborated in consultation with key stakeholders.

Knowledge/ data availability and awareness

PRIA will focus on raising awareness of risk and resilience solutions by assessing knowledge/data availability and conducting vulnerability and capacity assessments at the settlement level. This will involve analyzing seasonal patterns and hazards to generate insights into infrastructure vulnerabilities and potential resilience strategies wr.t. key areas like WASH services, housing, health etc.

PRIA's comprehensive approach involves analysing governance and planning mechanisms, budgetary support, mapping community assets and raising awareness to garner stakeholder support for urban resilience in the city of Ajmer under the jurisdiction of Ajmer Municipal Corporation.

3. Preliminary context analysis: - 1000 words

The concept of Urban Climate Change Resilience emphasizes the capacity of cities to thrive despite climate-related shocks and stresses, particularly benefiting vulnerable populations. Resilience occurs at three levels: the survival of city systems, the ability of people and organizations to adapt to stresses, and the continued support from institutional structures. Actions to build resilience should address how cities function, the impacts of climate change, and the vulnerabilities of specific groups.

In the context of Gender Equality and Social Inclusion (GESI) principles, the focus is on understanding and addressing the differentiated impacts of climate change on various social groups. It involves recognizing the diverse needs, capacities, and vulnerabilities of different genders and marginalized communities in urban settings. Co-creation, involving the active collaboration of diverse stakeholders, becomes crucial in developing solutions that consider the unique perspectives and experiences of all community members. This inclusive approach ensures that resilience-building strategies are equitable and effective.

Tier-2 cities, characterised by varied access to services and challenges related to rapid urbanization, insufficient funding, and social marginalization, present a critical focus for climate adaptation efforts. These cities often have diverse populations with varying levels of economic power and political voice, including a significant number residing in informal settlements. Engaging in decision-making processes related to planning, land-use, and investments in these cities becomes a strategic opportunity to address both current development challenges and future climate change scenarios. Implementing GESI principles and co-creation in these decisions can lead to more inclusive and effective climate adaptation strategies, benefiting the overall resilience of tier-2 cities.

In this backdrop Urban Resilience action based on GESI Framework developed by ARA will be piloted in a city of Ajmer in Rajasthan. The city has been significant in the state for historic, religious, and touristic importance. The city is also an educational centre in the state and some of the famous educational institutions. Administratively it is an important destination in the state as it has office of Revenue Board, Railway Recruitment Board, Rajasthan Public Service Commission, and Board of Secondary Education. It is an important city in the central Rajasthan and many of towns and rural areas are dependent on Ajmer for administrative and essential services. It is an important location on Delhi-Mumbai industrial corridor.

According to the 2011 Census, the average decadal growth rate of Ajmer between 2001-2011 was as 13.4%. According to the census 2011, the population of Ajmer city is 542,580. The projected population of Ajmer by 2020 is 620,155. Ajmer is a low-density city with a highly

dense inner core, with some wards with population density is as high as 10,000 persons/ sq. km. Ajmer Municipal Corporation (AMC) is one of the oldest local municipal body of Rajasthan established in the 1866. Ajmer Development Authority (ADA) was formed in 2013 dissolving the Urban Improvement Trust. At present, there are 80 wards in AMC and elections for Municipal Corporation were held in 2021.

Ajmer city has 67 notified slums which are mostly located within the city centre. Some of the informal settlements are more than 30 years old. The slums in outer areas of Ajmer are formed by newly migrated settlers in the city. There are 43 non-notified informal settlements and 2 resettled informal settlements in the city.

Ajmer city is also chosen as a SMART city during the first phase of SMART city mission and also an AMRUT city. These are crucial indicators due to readily available expertise and financial resources for the city to be climate resilient. The Smart Cities Mission Statement and Guidelines suggest that a “Smart City” will have the following elements: adequate water supply; reliable electricity; sanitation & solid waste management; efficient public transportation; affordable housing; strong IT connectivity and digitalization; good governance; sustainable environment; citizen safety and security; and health and education.

To guide the dimensions outlined, the Urban Resilience action based on the GESI Framework in Ajmer will look into:

Institutional Dimension

- a) Organisational Mapping - Identify key institutions involved in urban governance and resilience planning, including their roles, capacities, and levels of influence.
- b) Capacity and control - Assess the capacity of institutions to address resilience, their influence over resources, and control mechanisms.
- c) Regulations and policy processes- Examine existing regulations and policy frameworks related to resilience and identify gaps or barriers.
- d) Opportunities for change- Identify windows of opportunity within institutional structures for introducing resilience-building measures.

Cultural Analysis

- a) Intersectional Identities - Analyse how gender, ethnicity, and other factors intersect to shape vulnerabilities and resilience strategies.
- b) Norms and social practices- Understand formal and informal norms influencing resilience behaviours and adaptation strategies.

Network analysis

- a) Resource exchange and Influence - Map networks of stakeholders involved in resilience planning, identifying patterns of resource exchange and influence.
- b) Conflict and alignments- Identify potential conflicts of interest among stakeholders and opportunities for alignment towards resilience goals.

Biophysical environment

- a) Transformative potential of disasters - Assess how frequent disasters present opportunities for transformative change in resilience planning and implementation.
- b) Built environment- Examine how the built environment both enables and constrains resilience efforts, including issues under consideration.

GESI dimensions and gaps

Gender and Social inclusion – To ensure that the analysis considers the differential impacts of resilience strategies on genders and marginalized communities, addressing their specific needs and vulnerabilities.

Gaps – Further exploration will be done to understand:

- a) Specific challenges faced by women and other marginalised community groups in accessing resources and participating in decision-making processes.
- b) The extent to which existing institutional structures and networks incorporate GESI principles.
- c) Opportunities for enhancing the cultural sensitivity of resilience interventions and leveraging cultural assets for resilience-building.
- d) How the biophysical environment interacts with social dynamics to either reinforce or mitigate vulnerabilities.
- e) Opportunities for enhancing the cultural sensitivity of resilience interventions and leveraging cultural assets for resilience-building.
- f) How the biophysical environment interacts with social dynamics to either reinforce or mitigate vulnerabilities.
- g) Strategies for addressing power imbalances and fostering inclusive governance mechanisms.
- h) Integration of local knowledge and traditional practices into resilience planning and implementation.

Overall, ensuring the integration of GESI principles throughout the analysis and subsequent interventions is crucial to promoting equitable and effective climate resilience among informal communities in the city of Ajmer.

4. Data collection plan to inform full context analysis: - 500 words

The integration of the GESI framework will be applied to the selected domains identified and prioritised by ARA for the Urban Resilience Action in the city of Ajmer with two-pronged strategy-top down and bottom-up.

Governance and Finance will be explored using secondary literature (Master Plan, SMART city Plan, AMRUT plan etc) and interviews with key decision-makers of Ajmer Municipal Corporation and Ajmer Development Authority. The purpose is to understand the governance mechanisms and planning processes in the city, financial health of the municipality for provisioning of essential services and spaces of citizen engagement available within the city's governance system and at the policy level influencing services in the city. Total 6-8 Key Informant Interviews (KIIs) with officials, elected members of AMC and CSO representatives will be conducted. To achieve the desired output and outcome of comprehensive understanding and informed decision-making regarding governance structures and service delivery in informal settlements related to climate change adaptation, following steps will be followed:

Stakeholder Mapping

Identification and mapping of key stakeholders involved in governance, financing, and service delivery related to climate change adaptation in informal settlements. This includes government institutions, community-based organizations (CBOs), civil society organizations (CSOs), donors, communities etc.

Context Analysis

Conducting thorough analysis of the socio-economic, political, and environmental context of the informal settlements. Understanding the vulnerabilities, challenges, and existing practices related to climate change adaptation and service delivery.

Governance Structure Analysis

Examining the existing governance structures, policies, and mechanisms in place for climate change adaptation and service delivery. This includes analysing legal frameworks, institutional arrangements, decision-making processes, and accountability mechanisms.

Risk Analysis

Identification and assessment of risks associated with climate change impacts on informal settlements, including physical risks (e.g., waterlogging, extreme weather events) and socio-economic risks (e.g., poverty, inequality, displacement).

Financial Analysis

Evaluation of the financing mechanisms available for climate change adaptation and service delivery in informal settlements. This involves assessing budget allocations, funding sources, donor contributions, and financial sustainability.

For doing so methodologies suggested in the proposed VCA framework will be deployed in addition to Participatory methods and tools.

The participatory tools aim to centre the experiences and perspectives of women and vulnerable communities in informal settlements, fostering a collaborative approach to climate change adaptation that is both context-specific and gender sensitive. For doing so, community mapping will be done to understand the spatial dynamics and identify key resources, vulnerabilities and needs within the informal settlement. This will be done by the women and adolescent girls from the community to mark essential facilities, potential hazards, and areas of concern. Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA) will be undertaken to identify vulnerabilities and capacities of women, gender minorities, and other marginalised groups in the settlement concerning climate risks and adaptation w.r.t. delivery of services. This will be done through Focused Group Discussion (FGDs), aiming on daily activities, access to resources and coping mechanisms and to highlight gender specific vulnerabilities and strengths. Seasonal analysis will be done to capture the season specific challenges faced by women, gender minorities and vulnerable population in informal settlements and plan for adaptive strategies. This will be done through developing calendars reflecting daily routines, activities, and climate-related events and to discuss how seasonality affects women, gender minorities and vulnerable population differently and Visioning workshops will be conducted to collectively envision a resilient and gender inclusive informal settlement. Workshops will be organised where women, gender minorities, and other vulnerable groups articulate their aspirations, priorities, and potential solutions. The workshop will encourage collaboration in developing a shared vision for the community.

A total of 164 women and other vulnerable groups (PWDs, homeless) including adult women primarily from low-income groups will be facilitated to participate in the assessment process through community resource and social mapping, vulnerability & capacity assessment, seasonal analysis and visioning workshops in two urban informal settlements. During the process 8 FGDs will be conducted with approximately 64-80 community members.

5. Co-production goals/strategy: - 300 words

Goals and strategies for co-production intervention

Behavioural change: The intervention aims to promote behavioral changes among stakeholders towards more inclusive and sustainable urban resilience practices. This involves raising awareness about the differentiated impacts of climate change on various social groups in urban informal communities and fostering a culture of collaboration and inclusivity in decision-making processes.

Brokering agreements: The intervention seeks to facilitate agreements and partnerships among diverse stakeholders to co-create resilience solutions that address the needs of these communities. This involves fostering dialogue, building trust, and aligning interests towards common resilience goals.

Empowerment: The intervention aims to empower marginalised communities, particularly women, by enhancing their capacity to generate and analyse data and engage with Municipal Corporation and other service providers meaningfully and advocating for their rights and entitlements.

Systems reform: The intervention targets systemic reforms in institutional structures, policies, and practices to mainstream gender equality and social inclusion in urban resilience planning and implementation. This involves advocating for policy changes, strengthening accountability mechanisms, and institutionalizing GESI principles in urban governance frameworks.

Theory of Change

By deploying the aforementioned goals and strategies, the co-production intervention expects to influence the drivers of urbanization and risk accumulation in Ajmer. The co-production intervention leverages windows of opportunity presented by existing networks of city actors, such as the Ajmer Municipal Corporation, Ajmer Development Authority, and various civil society organisations, to promote inclusive urban resilience. By addressing conflicts and fostering alignments among these networks, the intervention aims to catalyze transformative change towards a more resilient and inclusive city for informal settlements dwellers in the city of Ajmer.

6. Gender equality and social inclusion - GESI goal – 200 words

There is a crucial link between climate change and GESI since climate change affects women and disadvantaged groups disproportionately thereby exacerbating existing social inequalities and economic disadvantages. Involving women and disadvantaged groups in decision-making processes in climate change concerns is vital for resilient and sustainable solutions. Having diverse voices heard and valued will foster robust and equitable climate change policies and actions. Women can play a vital role in climate adaptation given their local knowledge and skills. Empowering women and integrating their perspectives on climate change will enhance the effectiveness of climate solutions. GESI-driven climate resilience solutions would require collaborative partnerships between the government, academia, CSOs and other key stakeholders for collective action.

The GESI framework emphasises equal rights, responsibilities, and opportunities for all genders to ensure Gender Equality on one hand, and equal participation in society's processes for all irrespective of identities, backgrounds, status, geographies, etc to ensure Social Inclusion on the

other hand. A GESI Society holds the promise towards improved citizens' ability, accessibility, opportunity, and dignity; empowered communities that are engaged in local decision-making; and making government accountable for their actions or inactions.

The disadvantaged groups are more vulnerable to the impacts of climate change. Therefore, any solutions to climate change must respond to these social dynamics by embedding GESI in climate action. Socio-spatial segregation often leaves the poorest urban residents living in a city's most densely populated areas, with limited access to services and resources. In many cases, these areas are low-income or informal settlements, with their associated environmental, climate, and disaster risks. Due to intersectionality, urban poverty frequently interacts with and is exacerbated by marginalisation related to gender, sexuality, disability, age, and racial, ethnic, or religious identity. Addressing unregulated urban growth inclusively addresses the discrimination and disproportionate vulnerability these communities face.

Socially excluded and disadvantaged groups include women and girls, migrants; gender minority groups, persons with disability, elderly persons, notified and de-notified groups, SCs/ STs/ OBCs, people in urban slums, ethnic and religious minorities.

The integration of the GESI framework will be applied to the selected domains identified and prioritised by ARA for the Urban Resilience Action.

7. Co-production modalities and methods: - 500 words

Modalities of Co-production

Producing knowledge and evidence

1. Conducting gender-sensitive vulnerability assessments to understand the differential impacts of climate change on various social groups.
2. Facilitating participatory research methodologies, such as focus group discussions and participatory mapping, to capture the perspectives and experiences of marginalized communities.
3. Engaging local researchers and community members in data collection and analysis to ensure the incorporation of diverse voices and perspectives.

Establishing dialogue and collaboration platforms

1. Organizing multi-stakeholder workshops and roundtable discussions to foster dialogue and collaboration among government agencies, NGOs, community representatives, and other stakeholders.
2. Establishing community forums and women's groups to provide spaces for marginalized voices to be heard and contribute to decision-making processes.
3. Facilitating joint problem-solving sessions to co-create resilience solutions that are inclusive and responsive to the needs of all community members.

Experiential Learning and Pilot Testing

1. Implementing small-scale pilot projects in collaboration with local communities to test and evaluate resilience interventions in real-world contexts.
2. Facilitating experiential learning activities, such as field visits and interactive training sessions, to build the capacity of stakeholders in integrating GESI considerations into resilience planning and implementation.
3. Documenting lessons learned and best practices from pilot testing activities to inform future interventions and scale-up efforts.

Integration with GESI considerations

1. Ensuring diverse representation and active participation of women and marginalized groups in all co-production activities.
2. Incorporating gender analysis into research methodologies, dialogue platforms, and pilot testing activities to identify and address gender-specific vulnerabilities and needs.
3. Providing gender-sensitive training and capacity-building sessions to equip stakeholders with the knowledge and skills to integrate GESI principles into their work.
4. Developing protocols and guidelines for inclusive decision-making processes, including mechanisms for addressing power imbalances and ensuring the meaningful engagement of all stakeholders.
5. Regularly reviewing and reflecting on project activities to identify and address any gaps or challenges related to GESI integration, with opportunities for course correction as needed.

Outputs

1. Workshop designs and facilitation plans incorporating GESI considerations.
2. Protocols and agreements for dialogue platforms, outlining principles of inclusivity and participation.
3. Reports documenting findings from vulnerability assessments and participatory research, with explicit attention to GESI dimensions.
4. Learning outcomes and lessons learned from experiential learning activities, including recommendations for scaling up inclusive resilience interventions.

8. Impact monitoring - 400 words

Monitoring the impact of the current intervention in promoting gender-centric climate resilience planning, particularly in the context of Ajmer being a SMART city and an AMRUT city, requires a multi-faceted approach. Here's are some of the indicators for monitoring the impact:

1. Monitoring of the integration of gender-centric climate resilience strategies into the city's planning, such as Annual city plan, SMART City Plan, and AMRUT Plan.
2. Track the adoption of specific policies and guidelines that prioritise gender equality and social inclusion in climate resilience initiatives.
3. Evaluate the implementation of pilot projects showcasing gender-centric climate resilience planning within Ajmer, particularly those aligned with the SMART city project.
4. Monitor the level of stakeholder engagement, particularly from women, gender minorities, and marginalized communities, in the planning and implementation of climate resilience initiatives.
5. Track the participation and feedback from stakeholders, including municipal officials, community leaders, and civil society organizations, in gender-sensitive capacity-building activities related to climate resilience planning.
6. Evaluate the empowerment of women and vulnerable groups in informal settlements through their active involvement in decision-making processes and implementation activities.
7. Monitor the dissemination of lessons learned, best practices, and success stories from the intervention to other cities and stakeholders.

By systematically monitoring these aspects, assessment of the impact of the current intervention in promoting gender-centric climate resilience planning in Ajmer, both in the short term as a model for SMART cities and in the long term as part of comprehensive city planning

processes. But, above impact monitoring is beyond the scope of the current timeline of the intervention.

8. Outputs – 300 words

A) Literature and Scoping Report

Stakeholder Mapping

- a) Documenting the identified key stakeholders involved in governance, financing, and service delivery related to climate change adaptation in informal settlements.
- b) Analysis of stakeholder roles, interests, and influence within the urban resilience context.

B) Context Analysis Report

- a) Comprehensive analysis of the socio-economic, political, and environmental context of the informal settlements, highlighting vulnerabilities, challenges, and existing adaptation practices.
- b) Identification of key drivers of urbanization and risk accumulation within the context.
- c) Assessment of existing governance structures, policies, and mechanisms for climate change adaptation and service delivery in informal settlements.
- d) Identification of strengths, weaknesses, and opportunities for improving governance for resilience.
- e) Documentation of identified climate change risks and their impacts on informal settlements, including physical and socio-economic risks.
- f) Evaluation of financing mechanisms available for climate change adaptation and service delivery in informal settlements.

C) Participatory Vulnerability Assessment Report

Community Resource and Social Mapping

- a) Documentation of spatial dynamics, key resources, vulnerabilities, and needs within informal settlements, based on community mapping exercises.
- b) Identification of priority areas for intervention and resource allocation.

Participatory Vulnerability Assessment (VCA)

- a) Findings from focused group discussions (FGDs) highlighting gender-specific vulnerabilities, coping mechanisms, and adaptation strategies.
- b) Assessment of the vulnerabilities and capacities of women, gender minorities, and other marginalized groups in the settlement concerning climate risks and adaptation.

Seasonal Analysis

- a) Documentation of seasonal challenges faced by women, gender minorities, and vulnerable populations in informal settlements, based on developed calendars and discussions.
- b) Identification of season-specific adaptation strategies and needs.

Visioning Workshops

- a) Summary of outcomes from visioning workshops, including articulated aspirations, priorities, and potential solutions for building resilience in informal settlements.

- b) Documentation of the shared vision developed by the community for resilient and gender-inclusive settlements.

9. Gantt Chart

Activities	Months						
	March	April	May	June	July	Aug	Sept
1. Signing of the contract							
2. Joint workshop with ARA team							
3. Review of literature, secondary data collection and context analysis							
4. Literature and Scoping Report							
5. Finalisation of guidelines and questionnaires							
6. Participatory Vulnerability Assessment							
7. Data analysis, preparation, and submission of Context Analysis including Participatory Vulnerability Assessment Report							
8. Revision and submission of the final report							

10. Risks to the implementation of the plan – 200 words

Risks involved in implementation of the plan

- Inadequate AMC support or delay in the implementation of the assignment due to general elections during April- May 2024.
- Changes in the executive leadership at AMC.
- Insufficient participation of CSOs, CBs and other key stakeholders due to lack of interest or other priorities and short duration of the assignment.
- Impact monitoring across various indicators is beyond the scope of the timeline for the intervention.

Risks mitigation Strategies

- Anticipating the potential impact of general elections on project timelines and implementation. The activities and milestones will be planned accordingly to accommodate any delays or disruptions.
- The leadership in the municipality will be formally briefed about the intervention objectives, process, and expected outcomes and seek their endorsement and commitment to continued support. The role and support required from AMC will be communicated in advance.
- The informational seminar will be conducted with the CSOs and dialogues with CBOs and other stakeholders to enhance their understanding of the assignment scope, methodologies, and expected contributions They will be made aware of the perceived

benefits of the intervention and how this will help their interventions to ensure their buy-in and commitment to intervention objectives.