

# WHAT IS STOPPING URBAN CLIMATE ADAPTATION FROM BEING JUST OR EQUITABLE?

The global economic system and its pervasive consumption and exploitation as well as local politics and power are stopping equitable adaptation. Local challenges stem from historical and structural injustices, institutional shortcomings such as lack of political will, limited government capacity and cross-boundary collaboration. There has been insufficient effort in integrating diverse knowledges, perspectives and values. This has made it hard to find common ground.

## VULNERABLE / MARGINALISED COMMUNITY IS NOT HOMOGENOUS, AND SO HOW DO WE LEGITIMATELY ENGAGE WITH THIS COMMUNITY, WHICH IS SO DIVERSE

– Meggan

**TRADE-OFF DECISIONS AREN'T INCLUSIVE OF MANY MARGINALISED COMMUNITIES**

– Rebecca

**RARELY, DO PROJECTS ADDRESS THE REAL DRIVERS OF CLIMATE VULNERABILITY**

– Gilbert

**THE LACK OF REPRESENTATION, PARTICIPATION, AND INCLUSION OF DISCRIMINATED AND EXCLUDED POPULATIONS**

– Héctor

## SOME OF THE TOP MENTIONED THEMES:

Insufficient community / local inclusion and focus (esp. vulnerable / marginalised populations)

Economic-growth / capitalist development, over-consumption and colonialism

Historical and structural injustice

Lack of societal transformation

Pre-existing inequality, risk and/or vulnerability

Inequitable access to public services (e.g. water and energy)

Limited recognition of gender in design/decision-making

Lack of recognition/appreciation of local knowledge

Government priorities do not include the voice of marginalised sufficiently

Lack of government capacity

## EXAMPLES OF RESPONSES THAT UNPACK INSUFFICIENT COMMUNITY / LOCAL INCLUSION AND FOCUS

Planning for broader equitable adaptation remains a great difficulty – there is limited understanding of the breadth of risk to communities and the resulting vulnerability. Systemic thinking about deficiencies in the current social-ecological contexts and examining where challenges to adaptation may multiply existing inequities remains a challenge.

Wrong targeting of initiatives. **Focus is too much on national level and less on actual people and their livelihood systems.**

**Building genuine participation from frontline communities** and making sure that it is assessed in implementation call for a significant upfront commitment when developing climate strategies that stress fairness but the decision makers sometimes are not open to thoughts or ideas from the society with regards development, nature etc. **There's an unbalanced relationship and communication between citizens and capitalists** hence the delay of process.

The capitalist / neoliberal system that dominates our world – the fact that adaptation is generally designed and implemented according the rules of this system. This system privileges those with power and access to resources. **The marginalised are increasingly being left behind.**

