

RUWR stands for ARe yoU Water Resilient?. It is a dedicated technical assistance platform established by the Water Sector Group (WSG) of the Asian Development Bank (ADB) to support its developing member countries (DMCs) become water secure and resilient. It plans to leverage financing, physical and human resources, governance, partnerships, knowledge, and skills at the local level; while aligning with national, regional, and global water security and resilience goals.

#### What is RUWR?

RUWR is a bottom-up initiative tailored to the individual needs of the DMCs' water entities and policy makers. RUWR aims to achieve water security and resilience by analyzing gaps, needs, and opportunities—and building the capacity and resources to meet them through innovative solutions. RUWR includes a collaborative platform and hub that takes a local community approach to water resilience capacity-building. The hub will facilitate coalitions with internal and external stakeholders to collectively build resilience by finding demand-based entry points and integrating resilience approaches in a phased manner.

## Water, Climate, and the Path Toward Water Resilience

Water is the primary medium through which we will feel the effects of climate change. Asia and the Pacific is the most disaster-affected region in the world and is home to more than 40% of the globe's calamities and 84% of the people they affect. Due to climate change and sea level rise, the frequency and magnitude of natural hazards and their impact are likely to increase during the

coming decades, with unprecedent effects on country economies, the environment, and livelihood of people. Focusing on resilient water management has become extremely urgent and central to climate adaptation.

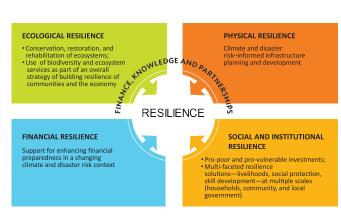
Furthermore, the ongoing coronavirus disease (COVID-19) pandemic has shown persistent inequalities in water and sanitation access, as described in ADB's Guidance Note on COVID-19 and Water in Asia and the Pacific. Innovative approaches identified at the local level that are also aligned with national, regional and global water security, and resilience goals are required to tackle these challenges.

ADB's forthcoming Water Sector Framework 2030 highlights the bank's focus on resilience through "building resilience and adaptive capacity" as one of its five guiding principles. Similarly, Operational Priority 3 of ADB's Strategy 2030 adopts four parallel pillars for a holistic approach to resilience: ecological, physical, financial, and social and institutional.

### ADB's Water Sector Framework 2030



### ADB's Holistic Approach to Resilience



#### The RUWR Initiative

Funded through ADB's cluster technical assistance "Mainstreaming Water Resilience in Asia and the Pacific," the RUWR initiative will support DMCs with actions, capacity building, and tools for ensuring resilience in water sector planning, operations, policies, and institutions. It aims to bring about a transformational shift toward water resilience at the local level. It will also assist ADB staff in planning, designing, and implementing water projects and programs by embedding adaptation. Customized to the countries' and local water managers' demand, the RUWR initiative will involve various activities and efforts, such as the following:





**DEVELOP TOOLS, AND** INNOVATIVE AND FLEXIBLE ADAPTATION OPTIONS, MEWORKS, AND CAPACITIÉS



**EMBED RESILIENCE** IN PLANNING AND **DESIGN** 



USE TECHNOLOGY AND ENABLE INNOVATIONS



- · Conduct country water assessments with climate change scenario
- Support and link Nationally **Determined Contributions** (NDC) and literacy training services to water sector planning
- Make water and climate data readily accessible to stakeholders and policy makers.



- Enhance tools, systems and capacities toward resilience with demandbased, flexible and innovative solutions
- Include nature-based adaptation options, institutional and governance frameworks for water sector institutions and entities.



· Strengthen climate adaptation of water sector projects and programs during project planning and design stages through improved climate risk assessments, decision support tools, training and capacity building.



- · Enable integration of information and communications technology, digitalization, space technology, and innovations toward water resilience
- Pilot, scale-up, and connect innovators to ADB's DMCs and staff to spearhead adoption of technology for resilience in the water sector.





FOSTER KNOWLEDGE AND PARTNERSHIPS



**CREATE INCLUSIVE GOVERNANCE** 



· Mobilize private and public finance to increase WASH financing and scale-up climate adaptation and resilience in water sector.



- Adopt a water community approach to DMC's water resilience capacity building
- Facilitate coalitions of internal and external stakeholders
- Share knowledge to leverage potential and efforts toward resilience.



• Support governance reforms and community resilience through citizen's participation, women and youth leadership, and meaningful roles in water management.

These are examples. Support is not limited to these.

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