

Terms of Reference

Urban Climate Resilience Expert / Author

Technical Brief on Climate-Resilient Housing in the Arab Region

1. Background:

Habitat for Humanity (HFH) is an international nonprofit organization founded in 1976 as the world leader in addressing the housing challenges faced by vulnerable communities. Today HFH works in more than 60 countries worldwide to empower people in the poorest communities to overcome the chronic lack of decent housing. HFH works in close cooperation with local communities and partners to help people in need to build, repair and renovate their homes thus improving people's strengths and self-reliance through adequate shelter. HFH constantly seeks new affordable solutions to make homes safer, more energy efficient, provide water and sanitation solutions, mitigate effects of disasters and support housing microfinance. HFH also seeks to influence the way housing and related shelter issues are assessed, prioritized and funded by local, national and international governments and inter-government forums.

Cities across the Arab region are facing escalating climate risks, including extreme heat, water scarcity, flooding, sea-level rise, and dust storms. These risks disproportionately affect low-income and vulnerable households, particularly those living in informal settlements. Housing systems are central to climate resilience, and housing interventions offer significant opportunities to enhance climate adaptation, reduce vulnerability, and strengthen urban resilience.

Habitat for Humanity, through its regional platform – the Urban Housing Practitioners Hub (UHPH) – seeks to commission a technical brief that articulates what climate-resilient housing means in the context of Arab cities and urban areas, and how housing-sector interventions can contribute to climate adaptation and resilience outcomes.

The brief will build on an existing summary document on urban housing climate resilience in the region and expand it into a substantive technical publication. The consultancy will be procured by Habitat for Humanity Egypt, which started operating in 1989 and currently operates in more than 40 communities in 5 governorates across Egypt in partnership with strategic local partners and community members and has improved the lives of more than 48,000 households in more than 5 governorates in Egypt.

2. Objective of this consultancy:

The objective of this assignment is to produce a 30-page technical brief that:

- Defines climate-resilient housing in the Arab urban context
- Analyses major climate risks affecting cities in the region
- Explains the linkages between climate risks and housing systems
- Identifies pathways through which housing interventions can strengthen resilience
- Provides regionally relevant case studies (from within the region and beyond)
- Offers strategic recommendations for policymakers, practitioners, and development partners

The brief will be produced in English and subsequently translated into Arabic.

3. Scope of Work:

The consultant will:

1. Conduct desk-based research and literature review
2. Provide high-level analysis of key climate risks affecting urban areas in the Arab region, including but not limited to: Extreme heat, water scarcity and drought, urban flooding, sea-level rise (where relevant), and dust storms.
3. Provide high-level analysis of how these risks interact with:
 - Housing typologies
 - Informal settlements
 - Building materials and construction quality
 - Urban planning systems
4. Identify and document 4–6 case studies demonstrating:
 - Housing adaptation interventions
 - Policy reforms
 - Climate-responsive design
 - Community-based upgrading

Case studies may be from the Arab region or globally, provided clear relevance to the regional context is demonstrated.

5. Develop actionable recommendations targeted at:
 - National & local housing authorities
 - Development agencies
 - NGOs and housing practitioners

4. Proposed Structure of the Technical Brief

Introduction

Climate Risks in Arab Urban Contexts

- Overview of regional climate trends
- Major climate hazards affecting cities in the region
- Urban vulnerability patterns

Housing Systems and Climate Vulnerability

Conceptual Framework: Climate-Resilient Housing (Housing as adaptation infrastructure)

Housing Interventions for Climate Adaptation

- Upgrading and retrofitting
- Climate-responsive building design
- Nature-based solutions at settlement level
- Etc.

Case Studies

(4–6 cases demonstrating applied solutions and lessons learned)

Policy and Programming Recommendations

Conclusion & Annexes (if needed)

5. Deliverables:

The consultant will be expected to deliver the following outputs, in coordination with the Habitat for Humanity Project Lead:

- Inception notes
- Draft technical brief
- Final technical brief in publication-ready format (text only; layout to be handled separately)

6. Timeline and payments:

The assignment will be implemented over 2.5 months, starting April 1st 2026 until June 30th 2026.

Indicative timeline:

- April: Inception and research phase
- May: Draft development
- June: Review and finalization

Payments will be made in three installments:

- 30% upon approval of Inception Note
- 40% upon submission of First Draft
- 30% upon submission and approval of Final Brief

7. Consultant Qualifications:

The applicant must:

- Be Based in one of the countries composing the Arab region**.
 - ** Please note that applicants from Egypt will be required to submit an electronic invoice during the payment stage, in line with local regulations.
- Be fluent in Arabic and English
- Hold advanced degree (master's or PhD) in urban planning, climate adaptation, architecture, environmental engineering, or related field
- Have at least 8–10 years of experience in urban climate resilience, housing, or related fields
- Demonstrated experience producing high-quality analytical publications, with strong understanding of climate risks in the MENA/Arab region
- Experience working with policy actors, development agencies, or multilateral institutions
- Active support of **HFHI Values**:
 - Humility** – We are part of something bigger than ourselves,
 - Courage** – We do what's right, even when it is difficult or unpopular,
 - Accountability** – We take personal responsibility for Habitat's mission),

Safeguarding: *HFHI requires that all consultants take seriously their ethical responsibilities to safeguarding our intended beneficiaries, their communities, and all those with whom we work. Managers at all levels have responsibilities to support and develop systems that create and maintain an environment that prevents harassment, sexual exploitation and abuse, safeguards the rights of beneficiaries and community members (especially children), and promotes the implementation of Habitat for Humanity's code of conduct).*

Habitat for Humanity Egypt

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8. Application Process:

Interested consultants are invited to submit the following:

1. **Technical Offer:** Consultant's CV highlighting relevant experience in urban climate resilience, housing systems, and work in the Arab region (60%)
2. **Financial Offer:** Gross Daily Rate including all applicable taxes (40%)

The expected level of effort for this assignment is approximately 20–25 working days distributed over the duration of the consultancy.

Applications must be sent to: hr@habitategypt.org

Subject line: "**Climate Resilient Housing Technical Brief Author**"

Closing Date for Applications is: **Monday March 16th 12:00AM Cairo Local Time**