

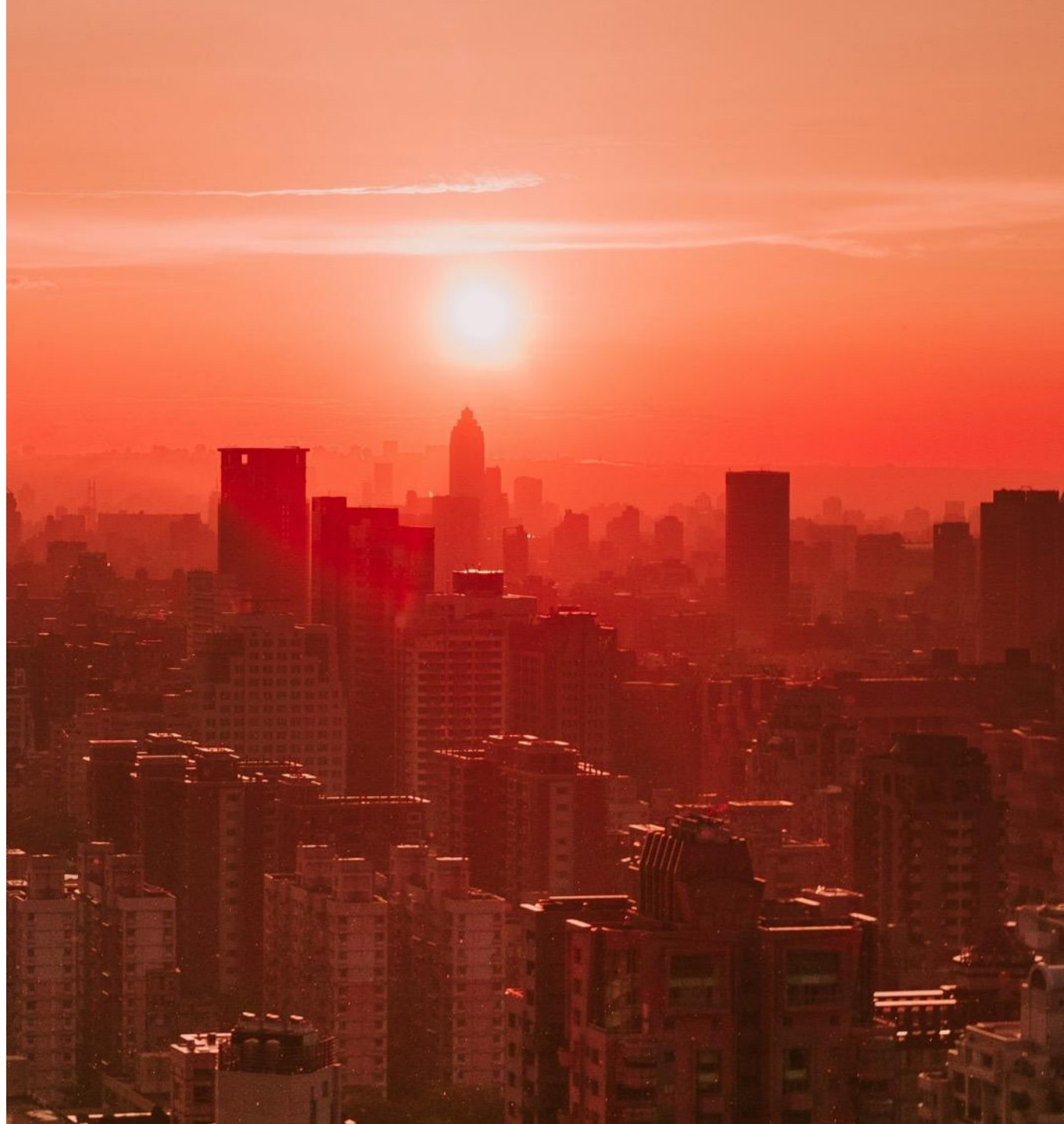
WORLD BANK

Integrated Adaptation for Urban Heat Challenges

October 7, 2025

Why do we need a Handbook

- Rising temperatures are **reshaping** urban life – placing lives, infrastructure, and livelihoods at risk.
- This challenge is more acute in the fast-growing **cities** of the Global South, where heat risk intersects with poverty, informality, and under-resourced public services.
- This Handbook responds with **practical**, city-driven and step-by-step guidance, specifically for cities in Global South to help take the first-or next-step towards heat resilience.
- The focus is on the local governments in the Global South as **primary audience** with the goal to make guidance relevant to their specific constraints.
- The handbook **builds on** experiences from across the Global South, covering spatial and social inequality of urban heat.
- Rather than offering final answers, this Handbook opens as a **space for continued innovation**. Not a compendium of urban heat management but expert advise on how to take action and what to prioritise.



How was the Handbook developed



BUILDING ON WHAT WE KNOW

Reviewed over 100 publications, including handbooks, academic journals, and heat action plans at national and local levels.



MAINTAINING TECHNICAL RIGOR

Developed by leading experts from AtkinsRéalis and the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre across climate science, resilience, urban planning, and public health.



CO-CREATING CONTENT

Road-tested with local governments, practitioners, and academics at outline and draft stages to ensure it meets audience needs.



ENSURING QUALITY ASSURANCE

Quality enhancement reviews conducted at key stages with experts from WB, UN Habitat and UNEP.



What is the Urban Heat Management Handbook

Summary for Policy Makers (Vol I)

A CONCISE DOCUMENT DESIGNED TO SUPPORT DECISION-MAKERS IN NATIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TOWARDS URBAN HEAT RESILIENCE.

- Targets government policy- and decision-makers such as mayors or heads of department at relevant national ministries.
- Contains a consolidated overview of key concepts, principles and best practices to support strategic decision-making, agenda-setting, partnership-building and fundraising.
- Guides in setting strategic directions for urban heat resilience.
- Provides an overview of the heat management process.

Technical Manual (Vol II)

ACTION-ORIENTED, STEP-BY-STEP, CONTEXT-SPECIFIC GUIDANCE TO SUPPORT LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO CARRY OUT URBAN HEAT MANAGEMENT ACTIVITIES.

- Targets technical staff within local governments and urban practitioners.
- Contains detailed guidance for understanding and communicating key concepts, assessing heat risk, planning for resilience, and responding to heat waves.
- Technical guide for implementing short- and long-term actions for heat resilience, and emergency measures to address heat waves.

Solutions Catalogue (Vol III)

COLLECTION OF GLOBAL EXAMPLES ON HOW TO ASSESS AND RESPOND TO HEAT STRESS.

- Detailed catalogue of solutions for building heat resilience at urban, neighbourhood, and individual scales.

Principles to Achieve Heat Resilience

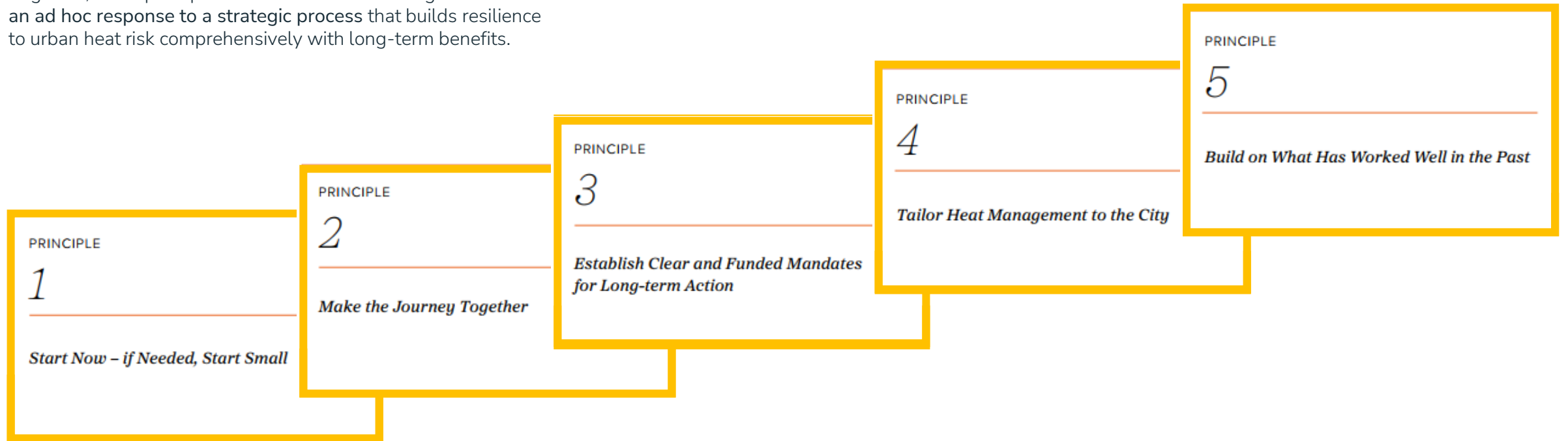
What can urban policy makers do to address extreme heat?

How have cities around the world addressed extreme heat?

Principles to drive Urban Heat Management Process

Drawing on success stories from cities around the world, city leaders, urban policymakers, and key stakeholders can apply five key principles to set the strategic direction for heat management in their cities.

Together, these principles move urban heat management **from** an ad hoc response to a strategic process that builds resilience to urban heat risk comprehensively with long-term benefits.



Steps to Heat Resilience

How can cities build resilience to extreme heat?

What are the steps towards Heat Resilience

- Building resilience to extreme heat in cities is a complex challenge. It impacts individuals, households, infrastructure and natural assets.
- It requires both short-term, emergency measures during a heatwave and long-term interventions that may take years to plan and implement.
- It needs collaboration and coordination across a range of government, civil society, academic and private sector actors.
- Successful urban heat management **requires**; a solid information baseline for heat risk in your city; proactive and strategic planning; and local government to respond.

