

## Urban Resilience Sector Meeting

Executive Summary

April 29, 2020

NWP hosted its first online Urban Resilience Sector Meeting on Friday, April 17 at 15:00hrs CET. The session was organized to introduce the NWP urban resilience team, to share our activities planned for 2020 and to have a sector discussion how the resilience sector is adapting to COVID-19.

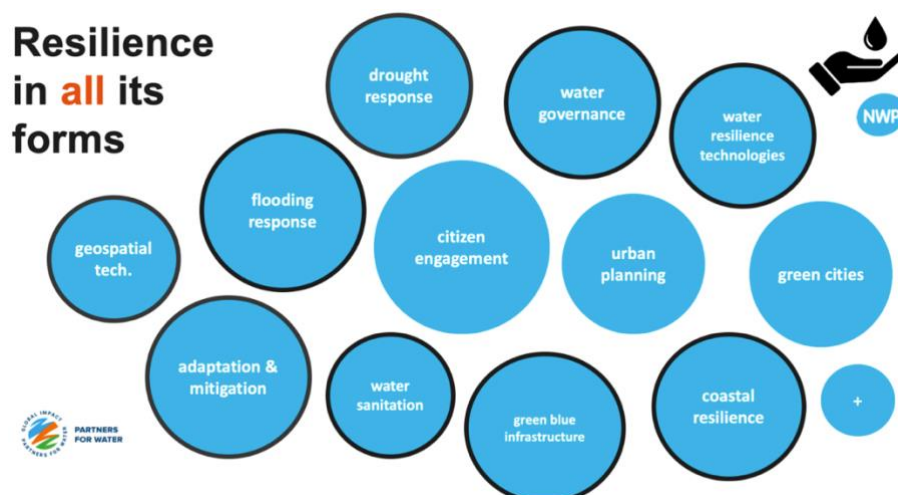
### Our Approach: Share, Connect, Involve

The Netherlands Water Partnership contributes to the transformative system change needed to meet the SDG agenda and bring about social, environmental and economic prosperity. We strive to achieve this ambition using three principles:

- **Sharing:** disseminate and distribute lessons learned, knowledge and knowhow, experiences and expertise.
- **Connecting:** create and strengthen national and international networks, both public and private, that are helpful and accessible for our members.
- **Involving:** facilitate and stimulate frontrunners, gamechangers, stakeholders and the Dutch Water Sector to collaborate global to strive local impact.

### Resilience & Water

All over the world cities are challenged with shocks and stresses. In 2020, we have already experienced floods, forest fires, droughts, and COVID-19. Actions to make cities resilient is imminent and indispensable. NWP sees water is a key area in which the Dutch Resilience Sector can add value to collaborations with local partners all over the world. In addition, the sector also is developing complementary expertise that enables add a positive impact in water-related solutions projects such as resilience-focused urban planning, citizen engagement for projects.



## **2020 Activities**

To help support the Dutch Resilience Sector, NWP is planning to kick off the year with two projects:

1. **Urban Resilience Inventory.** NWP will create an inventory of organizations in the Netherlands working in the Urban Resilience Sector to gain a good understanding of the capabilities of the sector, in order to manage incoming topic-specific requests we receive from international partners. Participating in the inventory will ensure your services are counted and should a request arise for matching expertise, we will use that to connect you more opportunities abroad.
2. **Dutch Resilience Portfolio.** A portfolio flagship projects from different organizations in the Dutch urban resilience sector. We will use this portfolio to show in a unified way the strengths of Dutch organizations working on this topic, show implementable solutions, display how Dutch innovation is adapted by and with local partners abroad, and show the value partnering up with Dutch organizations

### **Resilient Recovery – Anne-Marie Hitipeuw, The Hague Chief Resilience Officer**

Challenges like climate change, globalization and urbanization, increase the risk for cities to be hit by shocks and stresses. In an effort to help become resilient against shocks and stresses The Hague became part of the 100 Resilient Cities in 2014 and is now part of the Global Resilient Cities Network. In 2019, The Hague released its Resilience Strategy: Resilient The Hague. The Hague strategy focuses on inclusive societies, new economy (more digital), climate proofing with social benefits, risk awareness and preparedness, creating partnerships that transcend borders.

For The Hague, the global COVID-19 outbreak emphasizes the importance of urban resilience. In an effort to come back stronger after the crisis, The Hague has established a steering committee and a task force that is gathering ideas from communities, from networks, lessons-learned from previous events, and working collaborative integrating different sectors connecting themes to understand impacts and strategize next steps. Additionally, The Hague is developing a Corona Resilience Assessment and a Financial and Societal Impact Analysis.

The Hague is also using its partners around the world, such as participating in [weekly webinars with World Bank](#), cooperating with the University of Manchester and exchanging knowledge with cities like Medellin, Belfast, and Milan and relying on common lessons experienced by other Chief Resilience Officers around the world.

Ms. Hitipeuw highlights a few ideas for building resilience post COVID-19:

- Increasing greenspaces in cities improves quality of life, resilience, and creates jobs
- Increase preparedness by creating work opportunities for the unemployed in the sectors of health and education
- Use the experience working from home to decrease reliance on the automobile
- CO2 emissions on the long term
- Be prepared for the next pandemic or shock

Question to audience:

*What are your ideas on how we can, during this crisis, continue the urgent focus and efforts on climate change mitigation and adaptation?*

Question to Anne-Marie

*Include resilience in livability indexes?*

“It includes a lot of indicators: health, work, livability of their neighborhoods. Shocks such as pandemic need to be included in our indicators as they will happen more often. You need to think about dealing with this in city on higher level. Not just risk on finances, but risks on society.”

### **Incorporating Adaptive Thinking – Piet Dircke, Arcadis Global Leader – Resilience and Water Management.**

Resilience used to mean investing in an uncertain future and it was challenging to have resilient infrastructure recognized as priority. In the present, after the worldwide COVID-19 outbreak and other events, there is a paradigm shift: *the need to be resilient is understood.*

The pandemic is causing global disruption and will have implications for many cities and industries. This crisis also provides inspiring insights to bounce back stronger and trigger a sustainable transformation:

- Prepare for the unexpected, instead of preparing just for the previous event
- Invest in critical infrastructure (e.g. undisrupted and safe public utilities, safeguarding business continuity, supply chains, and securing resilient public spaces and buildings)
- Encourage human-centric values of resilience
- Invest in resilient and sustainable recovery

For centuries The Netherlands adapted their delta to changing conditions, adapting through robust decision-making under great uncertainty. Similarly, we now deal with an uncertain future with issues such as: climate change, population growth, social-economic development, and we are in need of an adaptive approach.

COVID-19 irrevocably changed the world and will shape how organizations conduct work over the next decade. Firms that adapt their business models will prevail and the ones that don't, will get disrupted.

Question to Piet Dircke

*Can you elaborate a bit more on what Arcadis is doing to bring water resilience to the forefront after COVID-19?*

Water is crucial in resilience. Arcadis operates mostly in the developed worlds. In developing countries resilience can be seen as a luxury, cities can be more vulnerable and the COVID-19 increases those vulnerabilities. With lack of access to water sanitation, COVID-19 is making the problem bigger.

## **Community and Stakeholder Participation – Troy Hayes, Troy Planning + Design Managing Director.**

Participatory resilient community strategies are necessary for cities to recover after an event. We can enable cities to evolve, by securing access to community participation. Through stakeholder engagement, we raise the bar from simply informing, to collaborating, and to transition to empowering stakeholders.

The challenges raised by COVID-19 are also bringing us opportunities to transform planning and engagement tools by using digital and virtual technology. The recent challenges have moved us to continue to have hands-on meeting in which we actively allow citizens to provide input on proposals for their built environment, making community engagement interactive despite the inability to meet in person. There is an opportunity to adapt to this new reality and use tools that allow us to continue citizen engagement and participation. An example is using virtual reality to bring the community to visualize places, interactive 3D models (e.g. interactive flood risk management and infrastructure plans). These new strategies allow us to keep resilient processes accessible to all.

Virtual and interactive innovation is no longer seen as an “add on”, but a necessity to deliver projects, communicate with stakeholders, and ensure genuine feedback. Organizations that embrace the available technology will build resilience into their practices for future shocks to the system.

Innovation in citizen participation is not an “add-on” – it’s a need.

### **Questions to Troy Hayes**

*What are tools on urban resilience building which can best be translated/used in booming towns/cities in Sub-Saharan Africa where urban planning is just picking up, and where maps are still on paper?*

No experience in these areas yet. Interested in providing tools when internet connection is available for local partners to create their own maps. Participants of session will take up contact themselves.

### **Resilience is more important than ever**

COVID-19 is affecting us all. This current global challenge is disrupting our societies and systems. It’s a new puzzle that communities and cities have to learn to solve together. However, in the developing world, with 785 million people lacking basic drinking water services, it is also accentuating the vulnerabilities of some cities. Fortunately, we begin to see good initiatives and innovation by the resilience sector. As the resilience community looks for answers alongside global partners, we continue to support and help connect the adaptation capabilities of the Dutch resilience sector join forces with local partners abroad to jointly reach a resilience-focused recovery.

## **Food for Thought – Dialogue**

- COVID-19 is highlighting the importance of access to clean water, however, cities in developing countries still experience vulnerabilities in this area, clean water is key to a pandemic-resilient society – NWP.
- Infestation of water bodies in tropical cities hampers sustainable development and liveability. There is a strong integrative relation between city planning, urban water management, and waste management. Taking care of these sectors contributes to public health resilience – PJMK.
- The global economy is in Great Depression mode, and the workforce, economic engines, and most importantly the public agencies focused on flood mitigation and infrastructure are broke - or will be by the end of May, June. The combination of energy, health, weather and other risks have generated the worse economic tsunami. Those already poor will be worse; those with resources before have less, and societal challenges have jumped through the roof. Technology is a tool not the answer. That is why we are focused on the “pivot economy” – RSELINE
- What I observe now in the COVID-19 crisis, that governments have returned to their 'digital' towers and operates top-down. My worry is that communities are excluded from the response and the way out – Sjirk Meijer
- The way we are working now is quite exemplary for future work on water and planning tools. Interactive with the client working on tools and in on-line systems. This means our systems have to be much more user friendly and be inclusive using multiple user options for example. We do not meet, but we still work together – Rien Dam
- Most examples seem to focus on "modern" western cities. How can we reach and support (for instance) in African cities that suffer under this crisis especially with respect to water, taking hygiene, health, quarantine and so on into account? – Job Udo
- What are tools on urban resilience-building which can best be translated and used in booming towns/cities in Sub-Sahara Africa where urban planning is just picking up, and where maps are still on paper? – Luwieke
- In terms of participation measures: how do we involve people in the coming months with the 1,5m culture, but also with other priorities in terms of recession? And how do we secure that we reach all people and not only the experienced users? – Robert Boot
- Environmental gains, at least due to COVID-19 we know have real live results on how we could optimise our globe and the resilience of nature...I can see the stars again in Rotterdam at night! – Liliane Geerling

## **Meeting Agenda**

**15:00** Welcome by NWP

**15:22** Presentation by Anne-Marie Hitipeuw (15 min)

Chief Resilience Officer at Municipality of The Hague

**15:37** Presentation by Piet Dircke (10 min)

Global Leader, Resilience & Water Management at Arcadis

**15:49** Presentation by Troy Hayes (10 min)

Founder & Managing Director at Troy Planning

**16:02** 2-minute leg stretch

**16:25** Closing remarks by NWP

## **Participant Organizations**

ABGL  
Acacia Water  
Antea Group  
Arcadis  
Atelier O2  
Bauke ter Braak Communicatie  
Blue Ocean Analytics  
Complexity Science Center  
Deltares  
Embassy NL in Panama  
Embassy NL in Mexico  
Energy-Renewed Pte Ltd  
Erasmus University Rotterdam  
ETMI  
Except Integrated Sustainability  
Gemeente Amsterdam  
Goldsworthy, Stolk & Associates  
Haarlem Hydraulics  
HKV  
Hogeschool van Amsterdam  
HZ University of Applied Sciences  
ICRC  
IDN Liveable Cities  
Islamic Development Bank (IsDB)  
Isle Utilities  
ISOCARP  
Meridian Urban  
MetaMeta Research  
Nederlands consulaat Vancouver  
NL Urban Solutions  
One Architecture & Urbanism  
Resilience Advisors Network  
ResilientH2O Partners  
Resilience advisors Network  
RICS  
Royal HaskoningDHV  
RVO  
Shaking Networks  
Simavi  
TNO  
TNO-Geological Survey of the Netherlands  
Troy Planning + Design  
TUDelft  
TwynstraGudde  
UNICEF  
University of Twente  
VEI  
VNG International  
VPdelta / TUDelft  
VU  
Water Conflict Consulting  
WESTEC International  
Wetlands International  
Woord en Daad

## **Link to Presentations**

[The Hague](#)

[Arcadis](#)

[Troy Planning](#)