



Community of Practice: **Heat-Smart Schools**

Extreme Heat Management in Urban Schools

Rational

One-third of the world's children already experience 4–5 heatwaves annually. By 2050, nearly every child - around 2.2 billion - will face even more frequent and intense heatwaves, posing serious risks to their health, learning, and development.

In 2024 alone, heatwaves disrupted education for approximately 171 million students. The impacts are not evenly felt. Girls, children with disabilities are especially vulnerable to heat stress. Many schools lack the infrastructure to protect students, turning classrooms into hotspots of risk rather than safe havens for growth. Building resilience to extreme heat is a climate adaptation strategy. If we want a future that is bright, safe, and resilient, we must prioritize heat-resilient learning environments today.

Objectives

1. Catalyze a global conversation on the growing impact of extreme heat on school infrastructure, student health, and learning outcomes.
2. Curate and showcase best practices, innovative solutions, and policy recommendations for heat-resilient school infrastructure.
3. Create a robust, evidence-based guidance framework to empower decision-makers in designing heat-resilient learning environments and safeguarding educational equity.

Constitution and Outputs



Key Themes

Impacts of Extreme Heat:

1. **Heat Discriminates:** heat experience based on gender, disability and social exclusion
2. **Fit for Heat:** the intersection of school and health, protocols trainings and curriculum
3. **School community:** School as a cooling centre, heat exposure during transit to and from school, at play and at home
4. **Infrastructure and Design:** Building codes, adaptation actions, design and retrofiting
5. Innovations and Finance in Managing Extreme Heat
6. Stakeholders, roles and responsibilities and collaborating for Heat Management

Guidance Document

