

The involvement of youth and young professionals is crucial in supporting governments to integrate resilience as a core value in infrastructure planning and implementation. Young professionals offer a unique & diverse perspective and innovative ideas that can contribute to the development of sustainable infrastructure that is resilient to future challenges. By engaging youth in decision-making processes, through increased employment of young professionals in government agencies/committees and by increasing youth engagement through knowledge sharing activities, governments can ensure that the infrastructure planning and implementation are responsive to the needs of the current and future generations. Furthermore, empowering youth and young professionals to actively engage and participate in the planning and implementation of infrastructure projects builds capacity in sustainable development.

There are several other tangible actions that can be taken to boost investment in disaster risk reduction (DRR) and resilience in infrastructure.

Firstly, governments can establish policies and regulations that require infrastructure projects to incorporate resilience and DRR measures. This can include mandating the use of resilient materials and designs; partnering with Indigenous groups to research, co-design and integrate nature-based solutions; conducting climate change risk assessments; and incorporating climate change projections into project planning.

Secondly, governments can increase funding for infrastructure projects that prioritize resilience and DRR. This can include allocating a greater proportion of public funds to resilient infrastructure projects, as well as providing financial incentives for private sector investments in resilient infrastructure.

Thirdly, governments can work with multi-sectoral international organizations and other countries to share best practices and innovative approaches to building resilient infrastructure. This can include participating in international forums, sharing technical and policy expertise, and collaborating on research and development projects.

Overall, boosting investment in DRR and resilience in infrastructure requires a multi-faceted approach that involves robust policymaking, funding, international and multi-sectoral cooperation, and community engagement. The youth & young professionals are a powerful and often overlooked subset within the climate policy community. The youth are driving conversations around sustainable development and recognize climate change as an existential crisis. It is time that young professionals and young policymakers are given their rightful voice to create meaningful change in the climate policy space.