



SDC Network **Climate, DRR & Environment**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Welcome to the webinar

Our learnings from two decades of engagement in the building sector

30 September 2026

This online event will start soon



Welcome to the webinar

Our learnings from two decades of engagement in the building sector

30 September 2026



SDC Network **Climate, DRR & Environment**



Schweizerische Eidgenossenschaft
Confédération suisse
Confederazione Svizzera
Confederaziun svizra

**Swiss Agency for Development
and Cooperation SDC**

Housekeeping rules / tech tips



Please keep your microphone off if you are not speaking



If you can't hear or see: close and restart the meeting, and close other programs



Have a question? Unmute and ask it during the Q&A or post it in the chat at any time

Team



André Wehrli

Senior Policy Advisor / Focal
Point Climate, DRR,
Environment Network
SDC



Valentin Messmer-Kratzer

Programme Manager
Renewable Energy, SDC



Nora Schmidlin

Tech Facilitation
Project Manager INFRAS

Before we start...



Please introduce
yourself in the chat



Please write:

- Your name
- Your organisation
- Where you are joining from

Introductory Poll

How familiar are you with the intersection of the building sector and development cooperation?



Why this webinar?

- Buildings consume 32% of global energy.
- Buildings contribute 34% of global CO₂ emissions.
- Materials, like cement and steel, drive 18% of building CO₂ emissions.

(Source: [Global Status for Buildings and Construction 2024-2025](#))

- Capitalization on long-standing engagement of Switzerland

Objectives

This webinar aims to build a shared understanding of:

- Why the building sector matters for development cooperation
- What the SDC has achieved in the sector and what it has learned
- Which priorities and trade-offs shape building-sector interventions

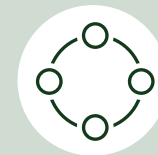
PROGRAM

SDC engagement in the building sector and capitalisation

Lukas Greter
INFRAS

Interactive exercise

Break-out groups



Project deep dive: BEEP

Anand Shukla
SDC

WRAP UP

SDC engagement in the building sector and capitalisation

Lukas Greter

Scientific Consultant at
INFRAS AG

Contents

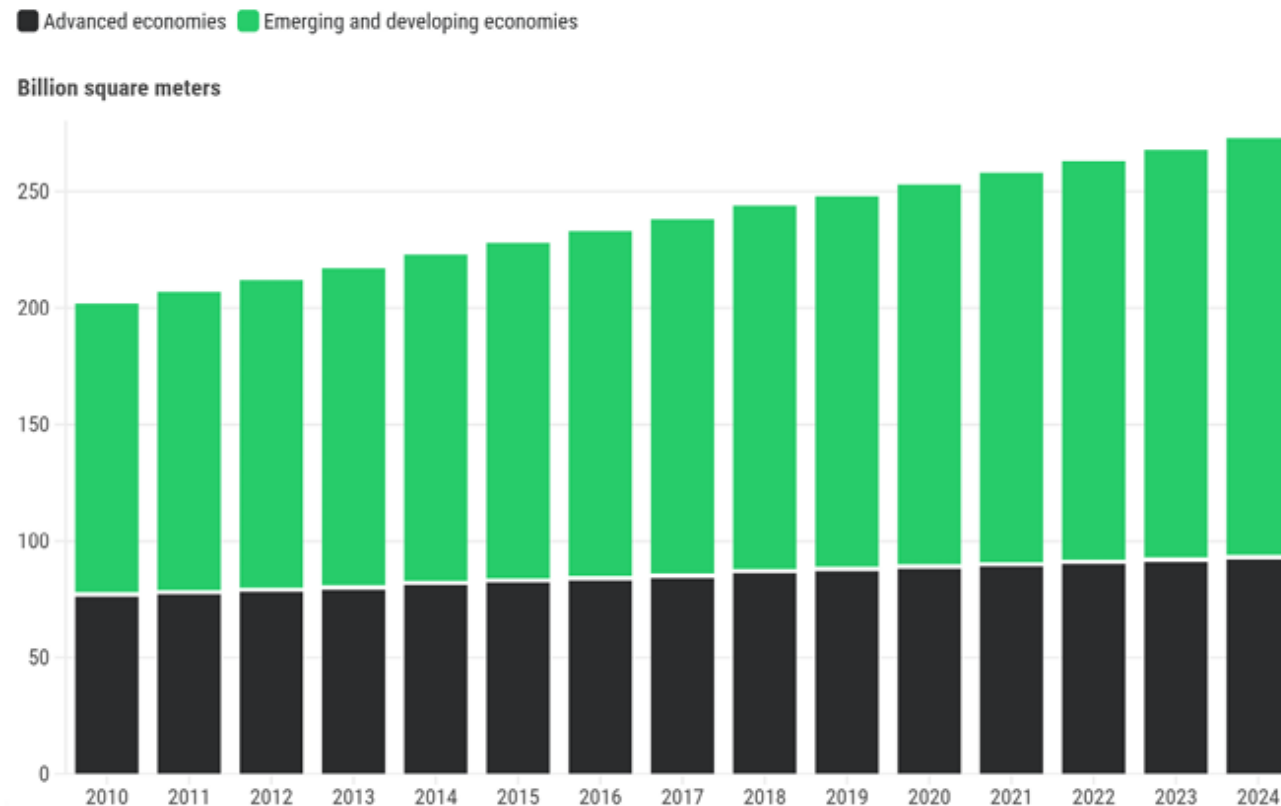
- 01 Why buildings matter
- 02 SDC engagement
- 03 Lessons learned

01

Why buildings
matter

01 Why buildings matter

Development of global floorspace



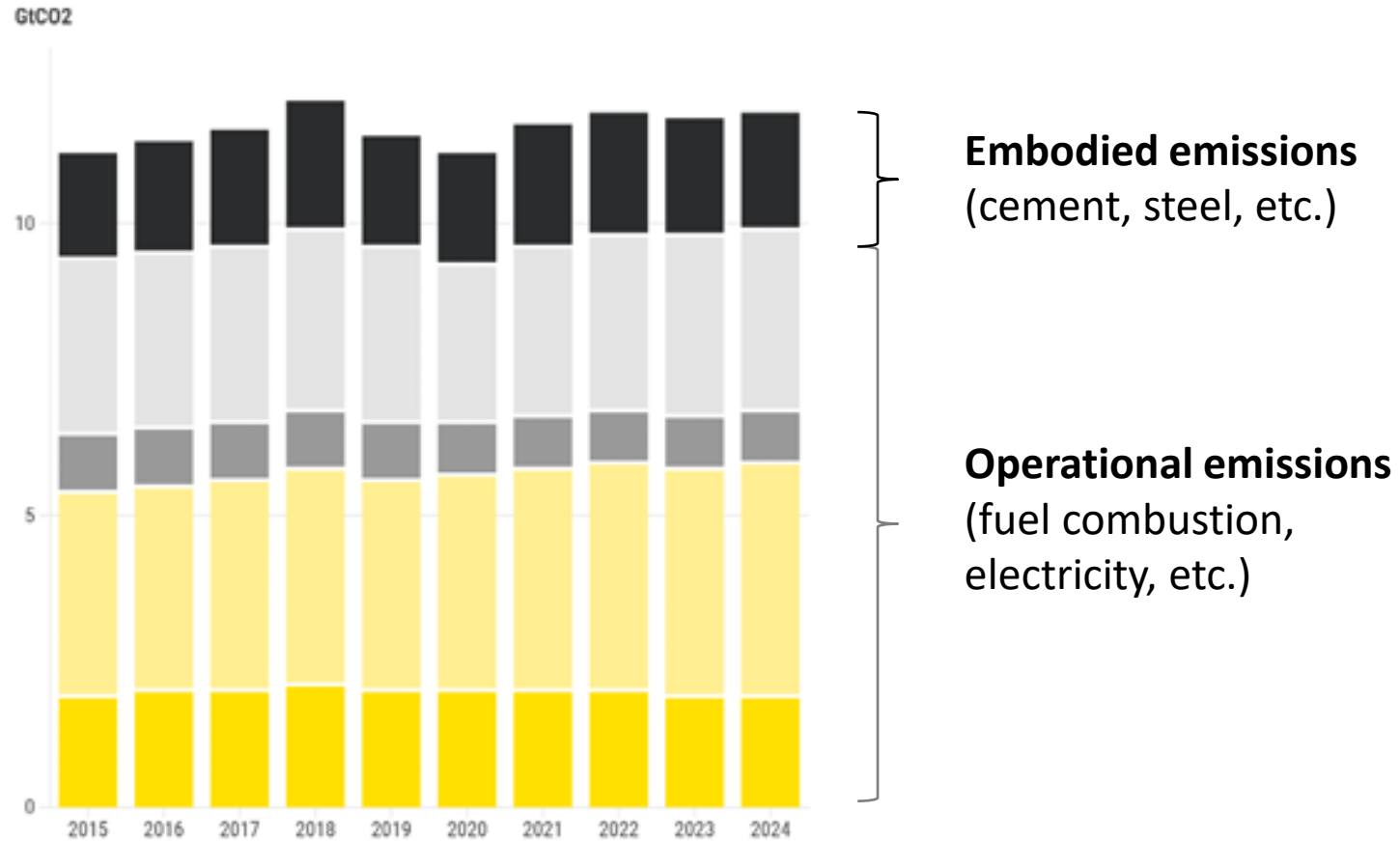
Source: [global-status-report-for-buildings-and-construction-2025_2026.pdf](#)

**The building stock is
growing fast,**

**especially in
developing
economies**

01 Why buildings matter

Building-related CO₂ emissions



Source: [global-status-report-for-buildings-and-construction-2025_2026.pdf](#)

**Buildings are causing
roughly 1/3 of global
CO₂ emissions**

01 Why buildings matter

Climate- and non-climate related natural hazards

Pakistan heatwave: Hundreds treated for heatstroke as temperatures soar to over 50C



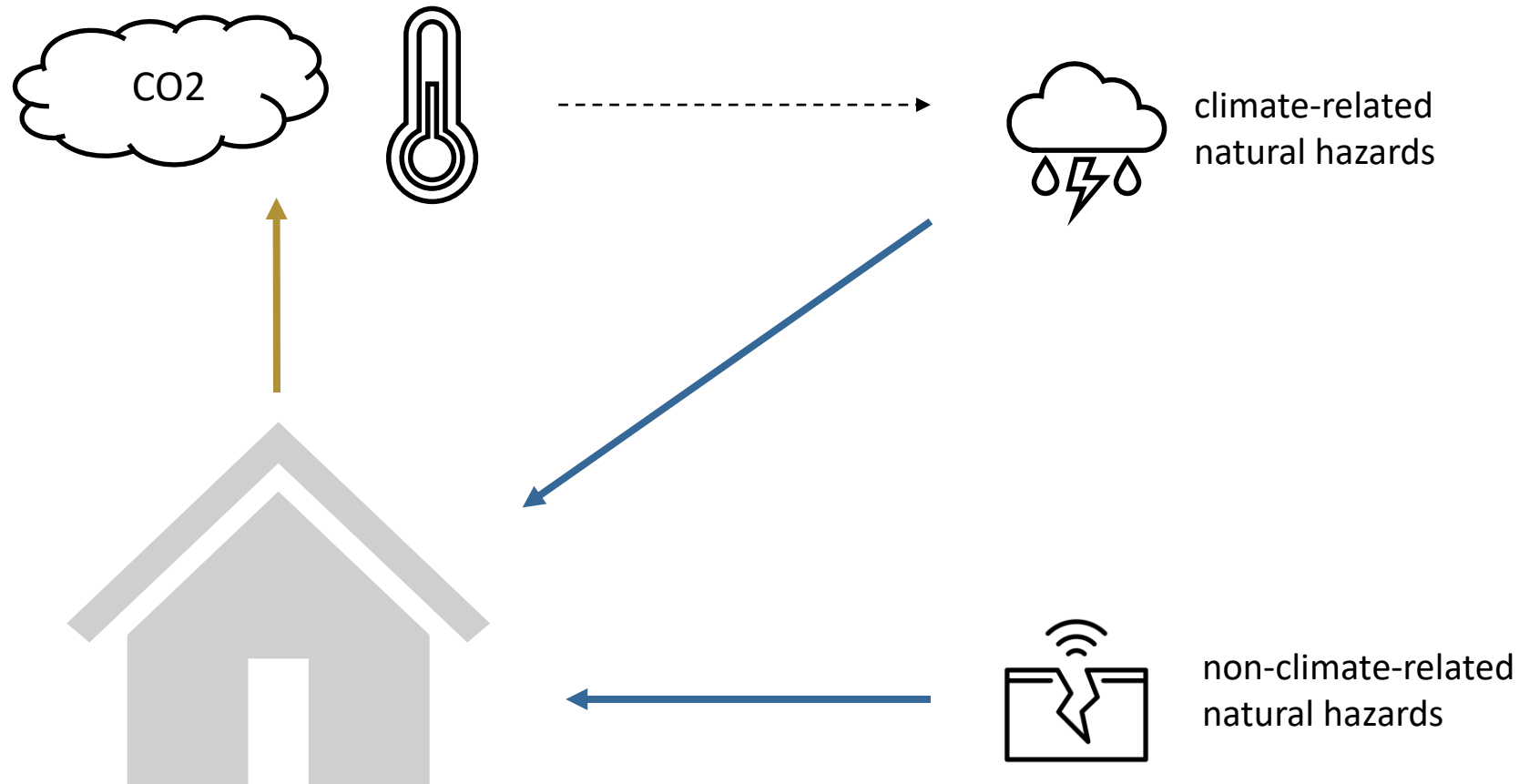
Magnitude 7.7 earthquake kills at least 47 and damages 300+ homes in Indonesia



Buildings (and their occupants) are exposed to growing risks from natural hazards

01 Why buildings matter

Engagement for **low-carbon** and **resilient** buildings



- **Reduce GHG emissions of buildings**
- **Enhance the resilience of buildings against natural hazards**

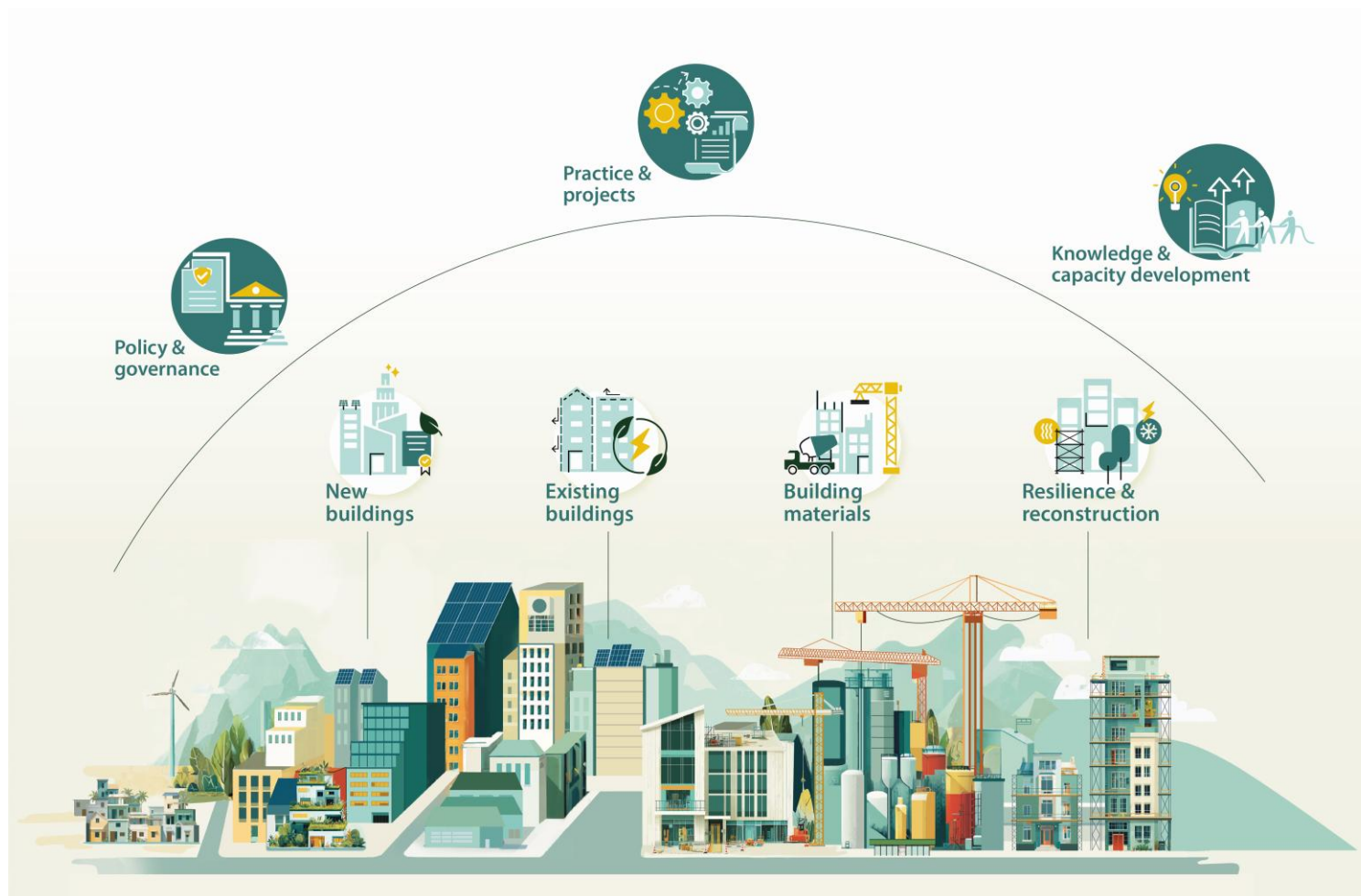
02

SDC

engagement

02 SDC engagement

Activities and highlights

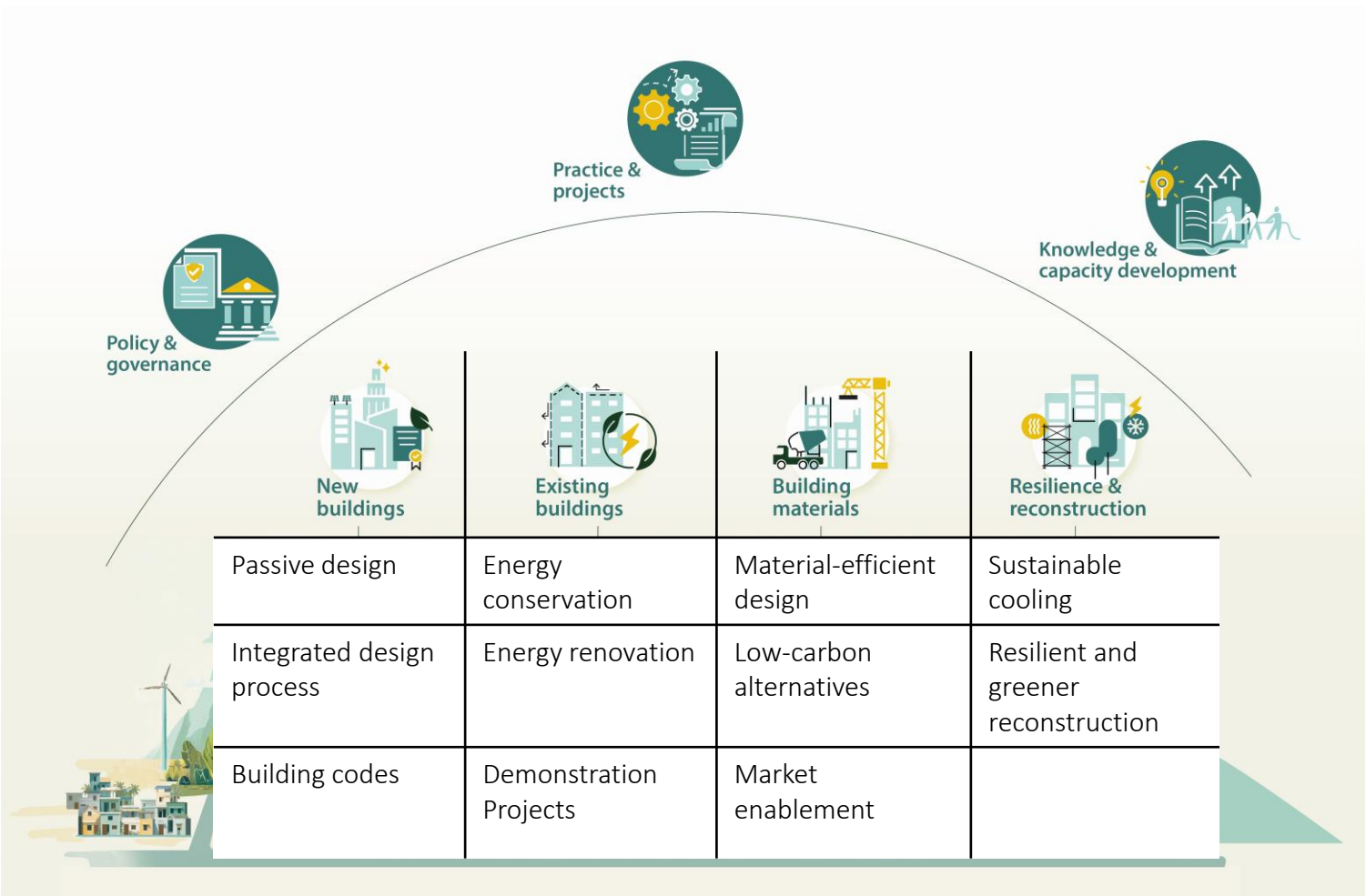


SDC lines of action

Themes

02 SDC engagement

Activities and highlights

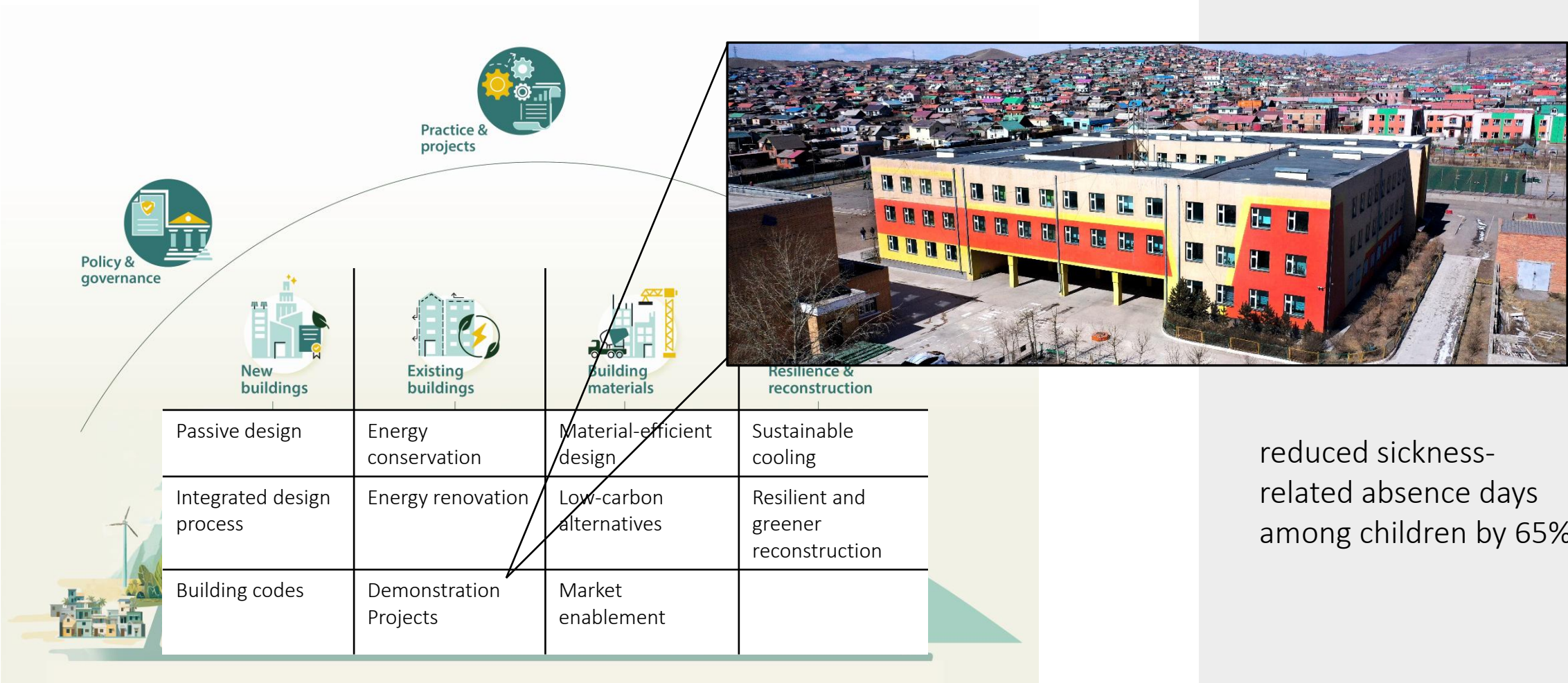


SDC lines of action

Themes

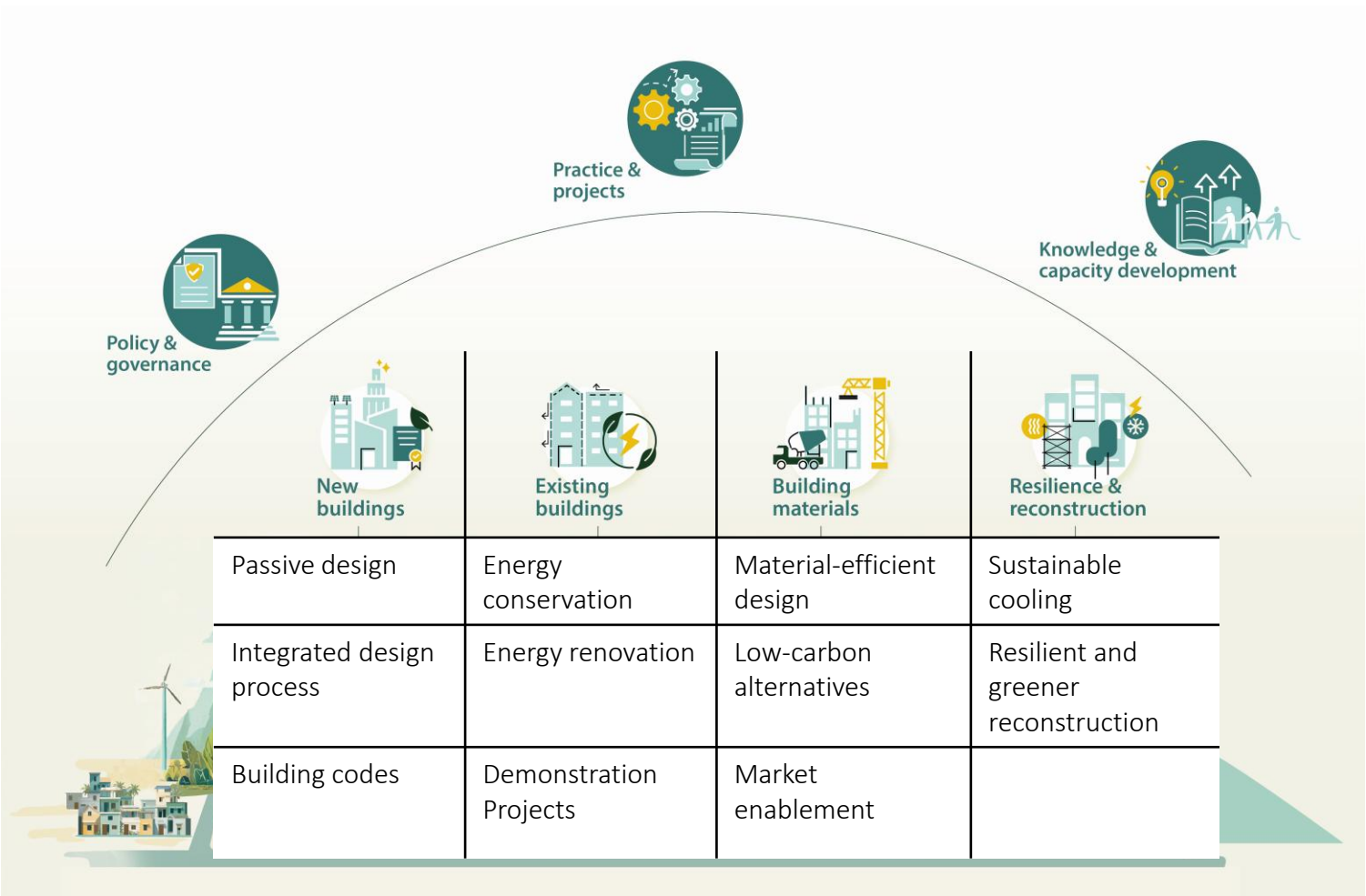
02 SDC engagement

Activities and highlights



02 SDC engagement

Activities and highlights

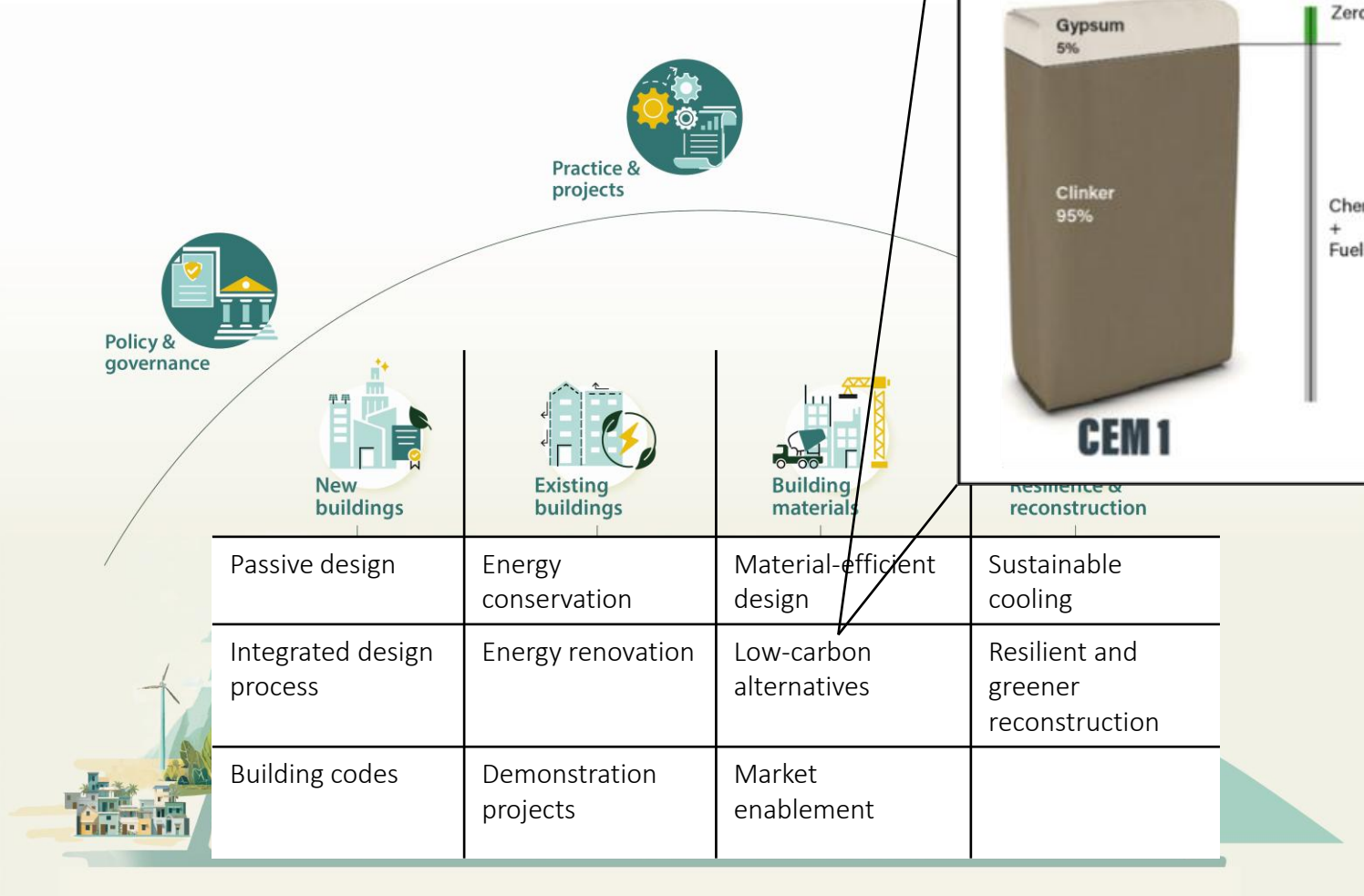


SDC lines of action

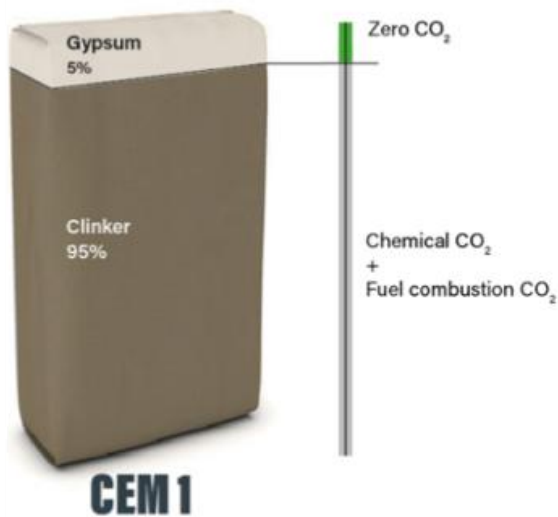
Themes

02 SDC engagement

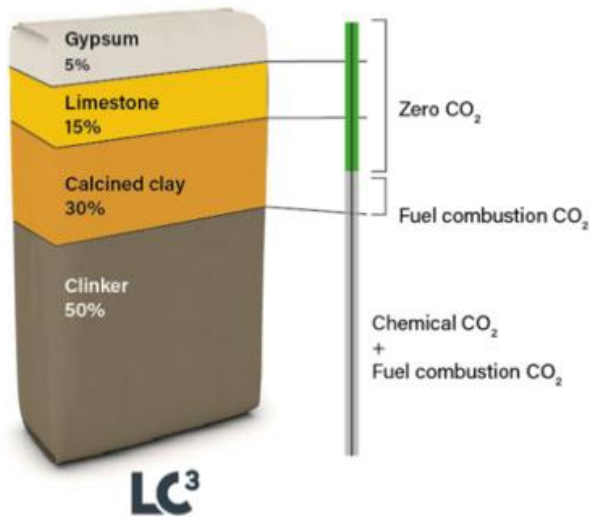
Activities and highlights



Ordinary Portland Cement (OPC)



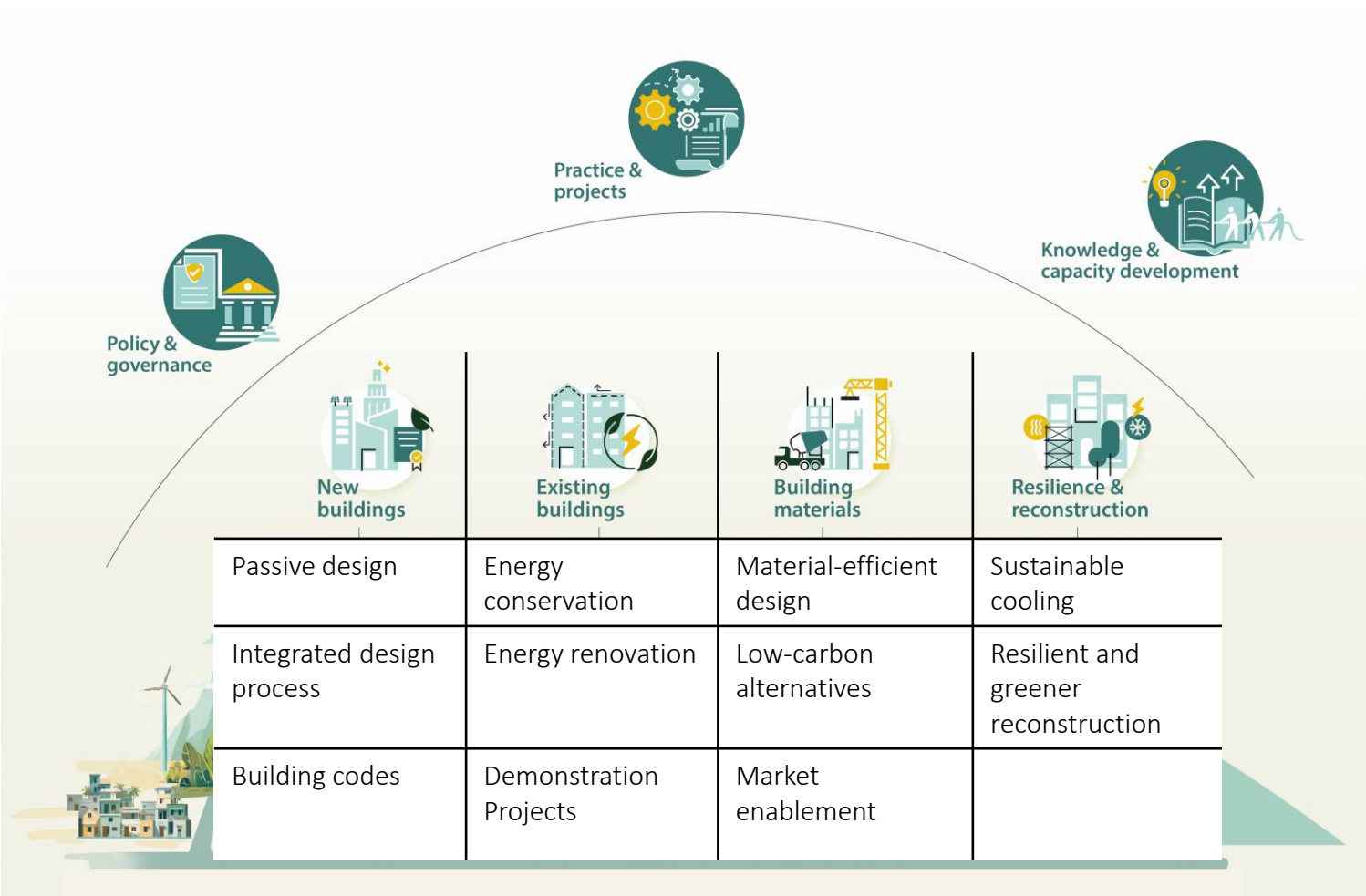
Limestone Calcined Clay Cement LC3



CHF 180 million in private sector investment until the end of project duration

02 SDC engagement

Activities and highlights



SDC lines of action

Themes

03

Lessons
learned

03 Lessons learned

Main lessons across the SDC lines of action

03 Lessons learned

Main lessons across the SDC lines of action



Lesson 1: Mobilise political support and partners

Lesson 2: Know how the **country-specific regulatory process** works

Lesson 3: Locally co-create practical standards

03 Lessons learned

Main lessons across the SDC lines of action



Lesson 1: Mobilise political support and partners

Lesson 2: Know how the **country-specific regulatory process** works

Lesson 3: Locally co-create practical standards



Lesson 1: Enable market uptake through **robust business models**

Lesson 2: Choose demonstration projects strategically

Lesson 3: Leverage vernacular building practices, particularly in reconstruction contexts

03 Lessons learned

Main lessons across the SDC lines of action



- Lesson 1: Mobilise political support and partners
- Lesson 2: Know how the **country-specific regulatory process** works
- Lesson 3: Locally co-create practical standards



- Lesson 1: Enable market uptake through **robust business models**
- Lesson 2: Choose demonstration projects strategically
- Lesson 3: Leverage vernacular building practices, particularly in reconstruction contexts



- Lesson 1: Close gaps in critical skills and awareness
- Lesson 2: **Adapt knowledge to the local context**
- Lesson 3: Tailor formats to different audiences

03 Lessons learned

Main lessons across the SDC lines of action



Lesson 1: Mobilise political support and partners

Lesson 2: Know how the **country-specific regulatory process** works

Lesson 3: Locally co-create practical standards



Lesson 1: Enable market uptake through **robust business models**

Lesson 2: Choose demonstration projects strategically

Lesson 3: Leverage vernacular building practices, particularly in reconstruction contexts



Lesson 1: Close gaps in critical skills and awareness

Lesson 2: **Adapt knowledge to the local context**

Lesson 3: Tailor formats to different audiences

Overarching

Lesson 1: Recognise that transformation in the building sector **takes time**

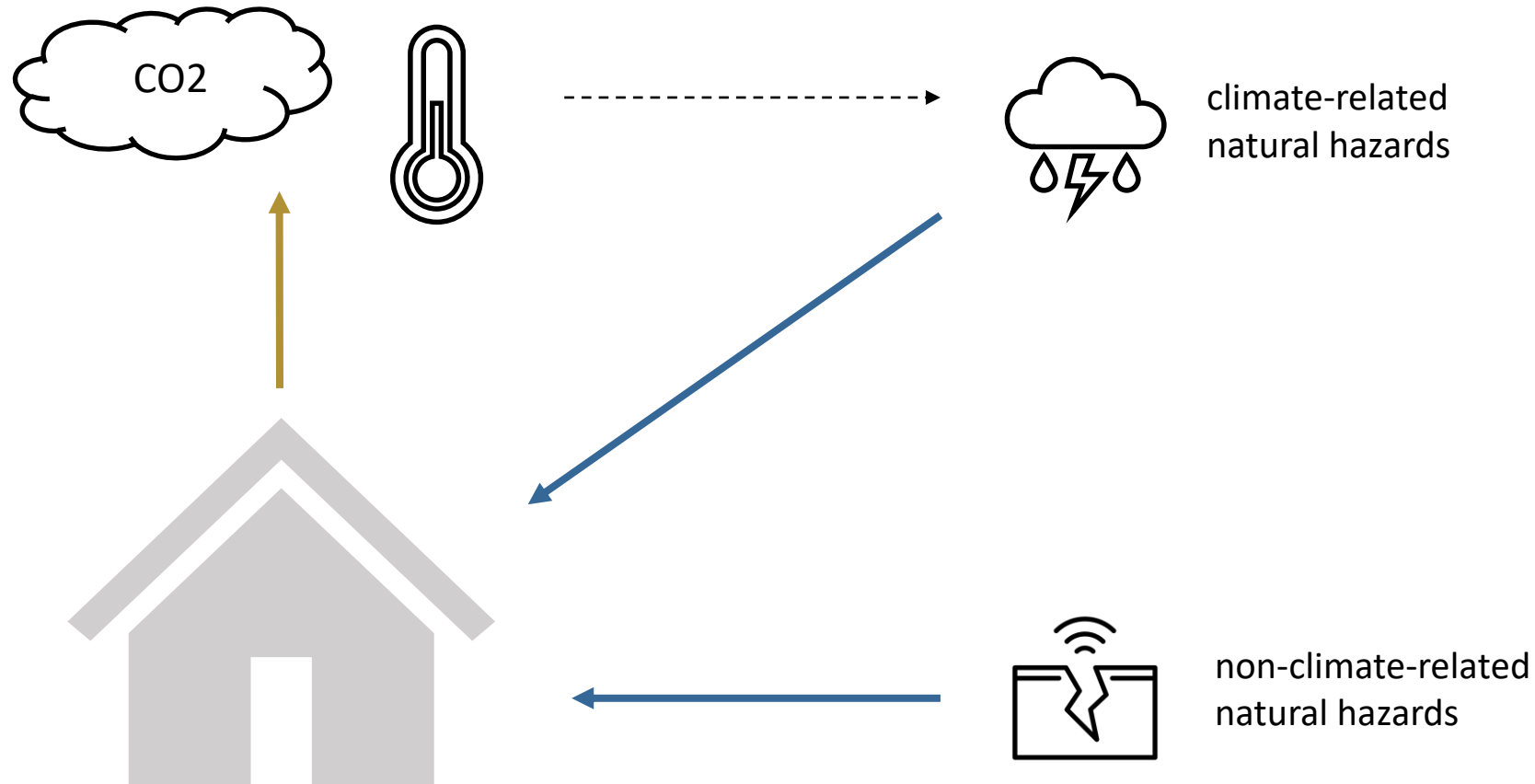
Lesson 2: Build flexibility into projects

Lesson 3: **Coordinate across lines of action**

Lesson 4: Build the right partner mix and align incentives

03 Lessons learned

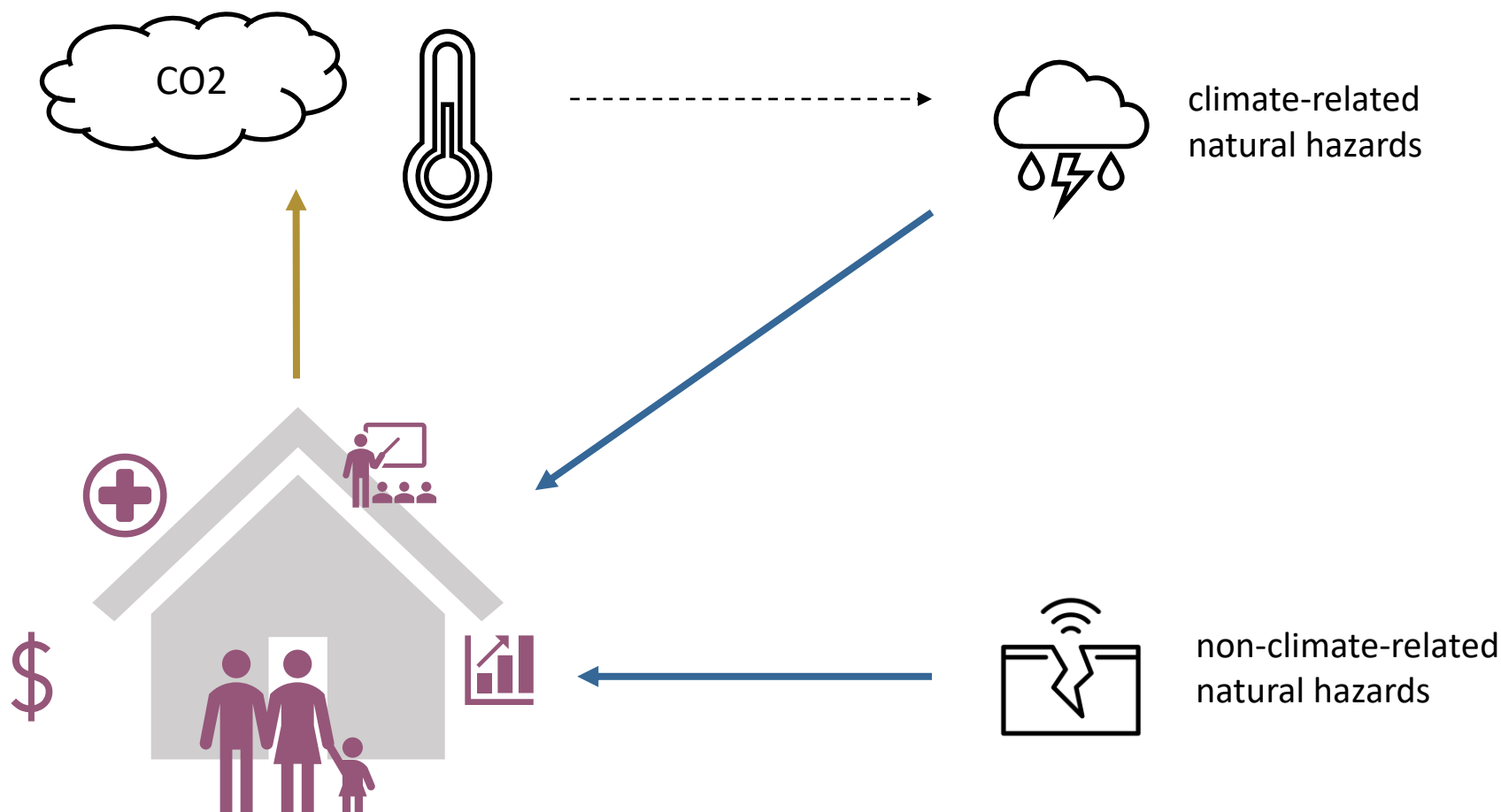
Engagement for **low-carbon** and **resilient** buildings...



- **Reduce GHG emissions of buildings**
- **Enhance the resilience of buildings against natural hazards**

03 Lessons learned

Engagement for **low-carbon** and **resilient** buildings...



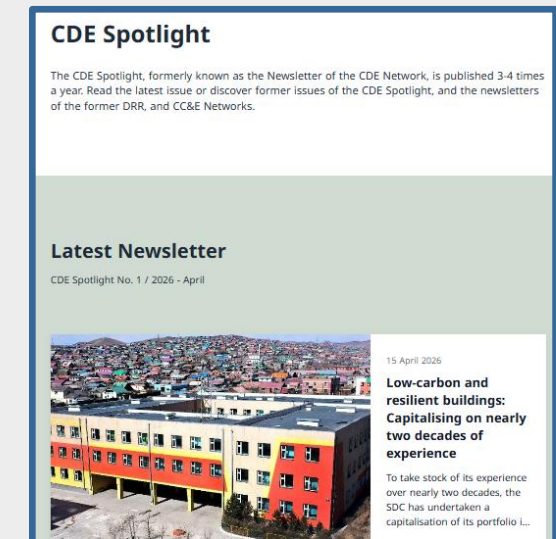
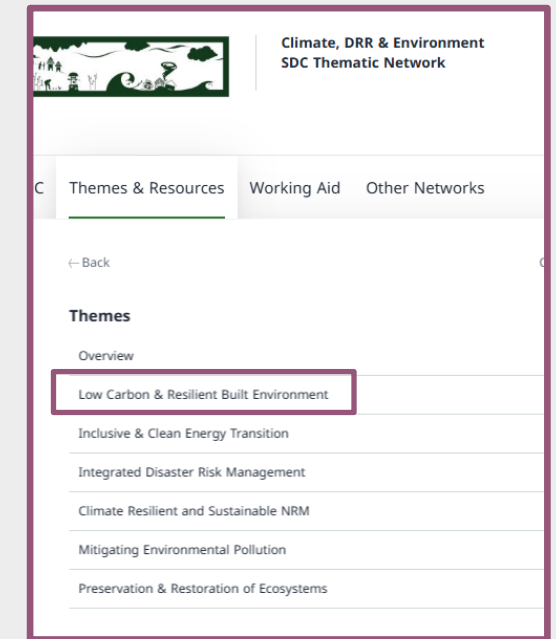
... delivers tangible benefits for **humans**!

- **Reduce GHG emissions of buildings**
- **Enhance the resilience of buildings against natural hazards**

03 Lessons learned

More information

- **Output:**
Knowledge product on the **CDE website (→)**
CDE Spotlight (→) about the capitalisation



Q&A

(comprehension)

Project deep dive: **Indo-Swiss Programme on Building Energy Efficiency (BEEP)**

Anand Shukla

Programme Manager BEEP,
SDC



Indo-Swiss Building Energy Efficiency Project (BEEP)

2008-2023, CHF 14 Mio.

Presented by: Anand Shukla



BEEP Objective

Energy consumption in new commercial, public and residential buildings is reduced through **energy-efficient and thermally comfortable building design** measures

About India

Most populous nation: 1.4 billion

Rapidly developing economy: 5th largest (GDP)

7th most climate vulnerable nation

**Climate risks:
Extreme heatwaves, floods,
cyclones, cloud burst, water
scarcity**

Scale of buildings sector in India

75 million employed

2nd largest employment generator

USD 500 billion current market size

7.3% of GDP

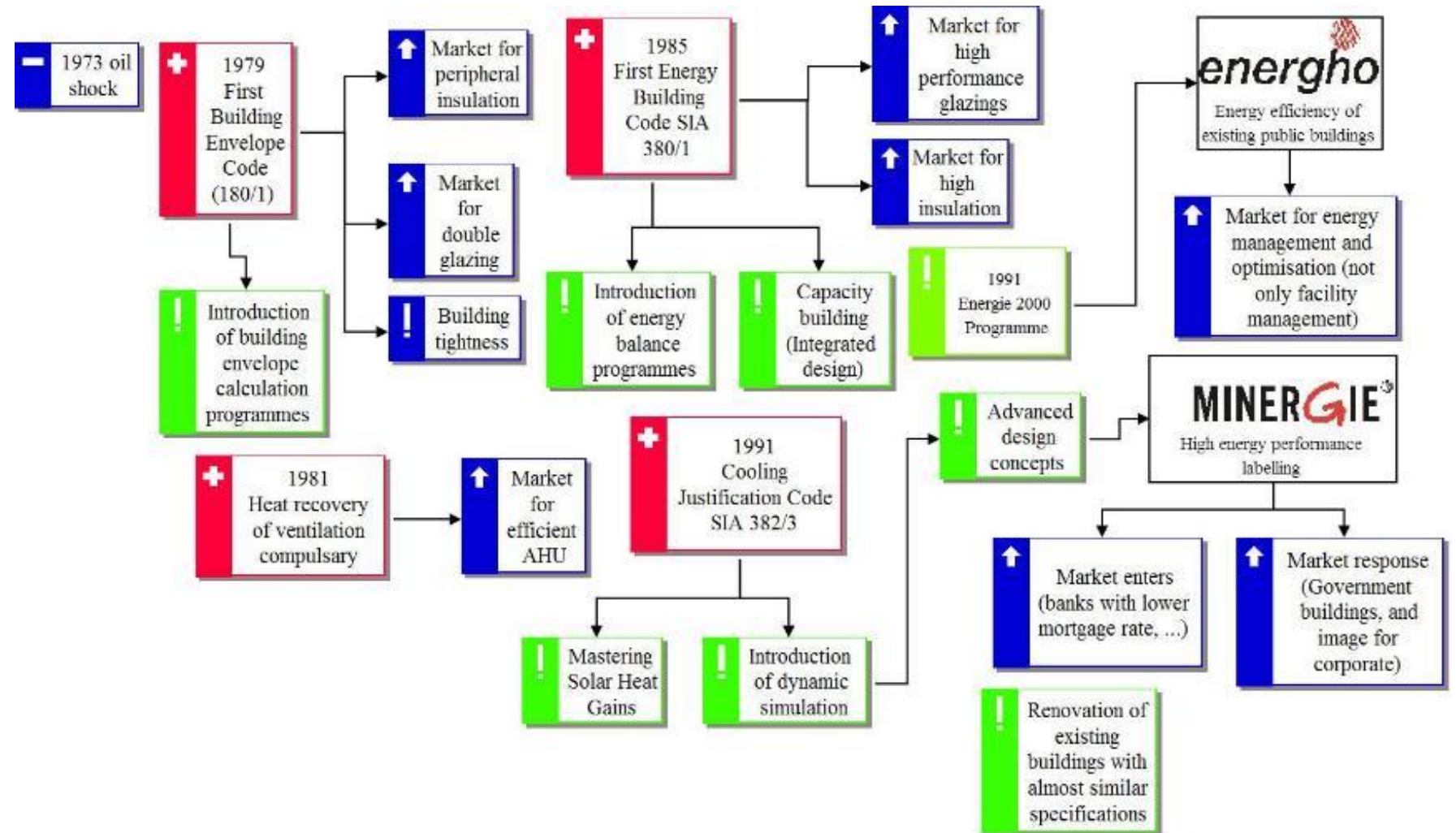
78 million housing units in urban areas (2024–34)

Consumes 35% of energy, contribute 30% GHG emissions

Swiss Experience in Buildings

50 years of
building
energy
efficiency in
Switzerland

Today, Swiss
buildings
consume 75%
less energy



Indo-Swiss collaboration

National level:  

MoU between FDFA and Ministry of Power/Bureau of Energy Efficiency

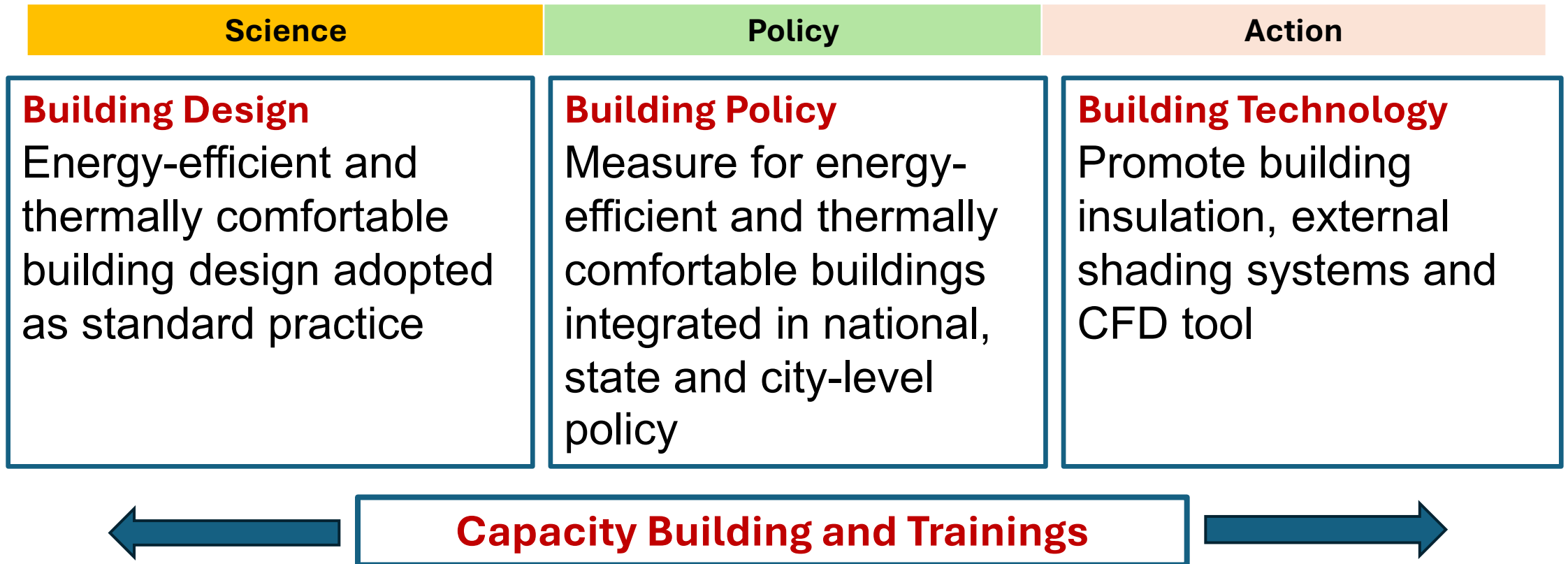
BEEP project level: Main partners: Effin'art (CH) and Greentech (IND)

Institutional level:

Swiss Institutions: EPFL, EMPA, HES-SO, University of Geneva, Infras

Indian institutions: Universities, Builders/developers, City municipal corporations, Centre for Media Studies, Administrative Staff College of India

Implementation Approach



Investment and Impact



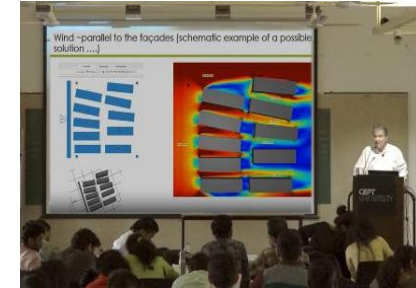
Design support to **70 large buildings project**
(15-45% savings)

Capacity building of **>7500 building design professionals**



India's **1st Energy-Efficiency Design Code for residential buildings**

Developed CFD Tool for natural ventilation



Collaboration with **5 Indian laboratories on building insulation testing**

5 innovative indigenous designs for external movable shading systems



Media engagement program



The Pioneer

HOME SAFE HOME

Architects, real estate and the private sector need to take the right steps and build climate-resilient, energy-efficient and spacious houses. COVID-19 says Architects, June

The COVID-19 pandemic has made it clear that the world is not just a place to live, but a place to thrive. As we move forward, we need to build homes that are not only safe but also healthy. This means creating spaces that are energy-efficient, climate-resilient, and spacious. Architects, real estate developers, and the private sector all have a role to play in this. We need to take the right steps now to ensure that the homes we build are the homes we want to live in for the future.



Hindustan Times

INDIA NEEDS TO RETHINK HOUSING FOR THE POOR

REKHA DASGUPTA

Just weeks after the United Nations' report on the state of the world's cities, the Indian government is set to launch a new housing scheme. This is a welcome move, but it is also a call to action. We need to rethink how we build housing for the poor. It's not just about providing shelter; it's about creating a better quality of life. We need to consider factors like energy efficiency, climate resilience, and community. The government has a big role to play here, but we also need the private sector and citizens to get involved. Only then can we truly address the housing needs of the poor in India.



Times of India

Why ignorance is no bliss in saving energy

Only 25% Of Consumers Aware Of How Appliances Like Fans And AC Guzzle Electricity

JAYANT KUMAR

New Delhi: Only one in four households are aware of how much electricity their appliances consume, a study by the Energy Efficiency Services Limited (EESL) has found. This is a concerning finding, as energy efficiency is key to reducing our carbon footprint and saving money on electricity bills. The study found that most consumers are unaware of the energy consumption of their fans and air conditioners. This is a missed opportunity to save energy and money. We need to educate consumers about energy efficiency and encourage them to make better choices when it comes to their appliances.



The Pioneer

Indians keen to embrace green buildings

Around 66 per cent of buyers are willing to pay a premium to lease space in a certified green building as compared to 51 per cent globally

ANURAG KUMAR

New Delhi: A survey by the Green Building Council of India (GBCI) has found that Indians are more willing to pay a premium for green buildings than the global average. This is a positive sign for the green building industry in India. It shows that there is a growing awareness and demand for sustainable buildings. However, there is still a long way to go. We need more green buildings and more people who are willing to pay for them. The government and the private sector need to work together to promote green buildings and make them more accessible to everyone.



Dainik Jagran

सस्ते आवास की समस्या का सरकार करेगी निदान, प्रवासियों के लिए बसाएगी अलग कालोनी गरीबों के लिए अफोर्डेबल हाउस नहीं बनाया चाहते बिल्डर, यें परेशानी आ रही सामने

ANURAG KUMAR

New Delhi: The government is taking steps to address the issue of affordable housing, but the private sector is not fully on board. Builders are reluctant to build affordable housing because it is less profitable than luxury housing. This is a problem because affordable housing is a basic need for many people in India. The government needs to encourage builders to build more affordable housing by providing incentives and support. It also needs to ensure that the housing it builds is of good quality and meets the needs of the people who will live in it.



Chitraklekha

आदत में शामिल करनी होगी एनर्जी एफिशिएंसी

ANURAG KUMAR

New Delhi: The energy transition is not just about switching from fossil fuels to renewable energy. It is also about changing our habits and behaviors. We need to become more energy-efficient in our homes and businesses. This means using energy-saving appliances, turning off lights when we leave a room, and using public transport. The government needs to make energy efficiency a part of our daily lives. It should provide education and training to help people understand the importance of energy efficiency and how to implement it.

BEEP – The success story continues...

Q&A

(comprehension)

Interactive exercise: Fictional scenario

Context

“Buildonia” ...

- ... is a fictitious...
- ... lower-middle-income...
- ... coastal country in East Africa...
- ... with a predominantly hot climate.

The conditions described on the next slide are not real, but they are plausible for such a context.

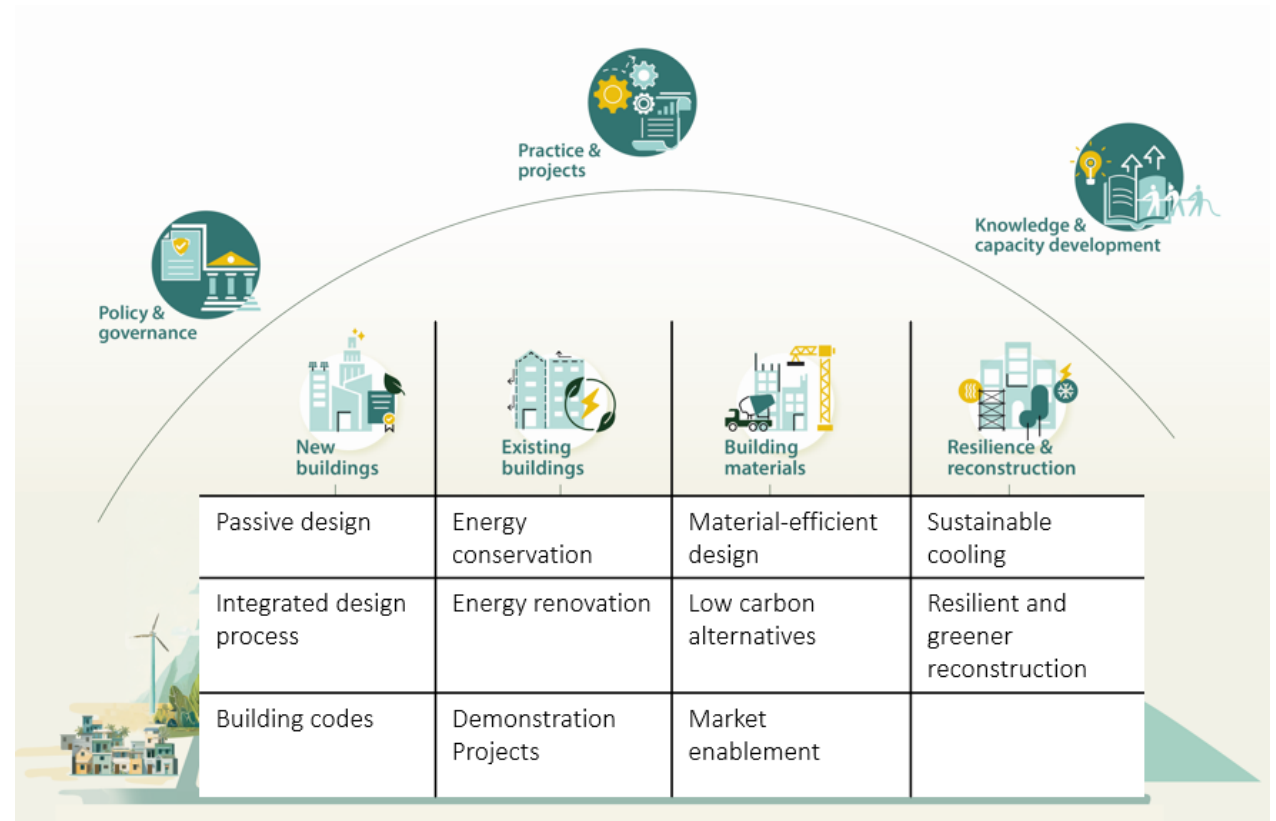
Context

- **Buildonia is urbanising fast.** The government's affordable housing programme plans several hundred thousand new units; most are built traditionally with cement blocks and steel sheet roofing.
- **Public buildings overheat.** Classrooms and health centres under uninsulated iron-sheet roofs become unusable in the afternoon, affecting attendance, health and productivity.
- **Recent flooding** hit informal settlements and peri-urban areas hard; reconstruction is happening now, mostly without technical guidance.
- A **national building code revision** is underway. Energy and thermal comfort requirements are not currently part of it.
- Two large **cement producers** dominate the market. One has shown interest in low-carbon cement but sees neither regulatory push nor market pull.
- Architects and engineers are well trained in structural design, much less in passive design.

Role and tasks

You are the project design team at SDC. Your task is to design a building-sector intervention in Buildonia with a limited budget and a four-year time horizon.

- Identify **key measures** to address the challenges in Buildonia
- Explain **why you chose these measures** over others
- Discuss the main **risks and trade-offs** of your choice



Main points of discussion

- Having an enabling ecosystem for supply and demand: e.g. strengthening supply of energy efficient material and at the same time strengthening the awareness of buliders that solutions exist and information is available
- Implementing pilot projects that showcase good examples, «proof of concept», to incentivize the private sector to act as well
- Making use of building code revision: integrating passive cooling standards in the building code
- Focusing on a particular segment of the building sector (e.g. mid scale residential buildings or small health centers), or on a particular geographic region
- Developing context-specific solutions, there is no one-size-fits-all; Relying on local expertise
- Implementing short-term adaptation measures as well as long-term mitigation

Take home messages

Poll

**How useful did you find today's webinar in the context of your work?
(scale 1-5)**

Number of responses: 5

Mean response: 4.4

How would you rate the quality of today's webinar? (scale 1-5)

Number of responses: 5

Mean response: 4.2

WRAP UP



THANK YOU

To all participants,
speakers and co-organizers
for making this event
happen.



JOIN US NEXT TIME

Don't miss the next webinar on “**Addressing gender and C/D/E through transformative action**”

See: <https://www.sdc-cde.ch/en/addressing-gender-and-cde-through-transformative-action>

29 October 2026

12:00 CEST



STAY TUNED

Resources and more details at
www.sdc-cde.ch

Or contact
cde-network@eda.admin.ch



Organisers & speakers: please remain online for a few minutes

