

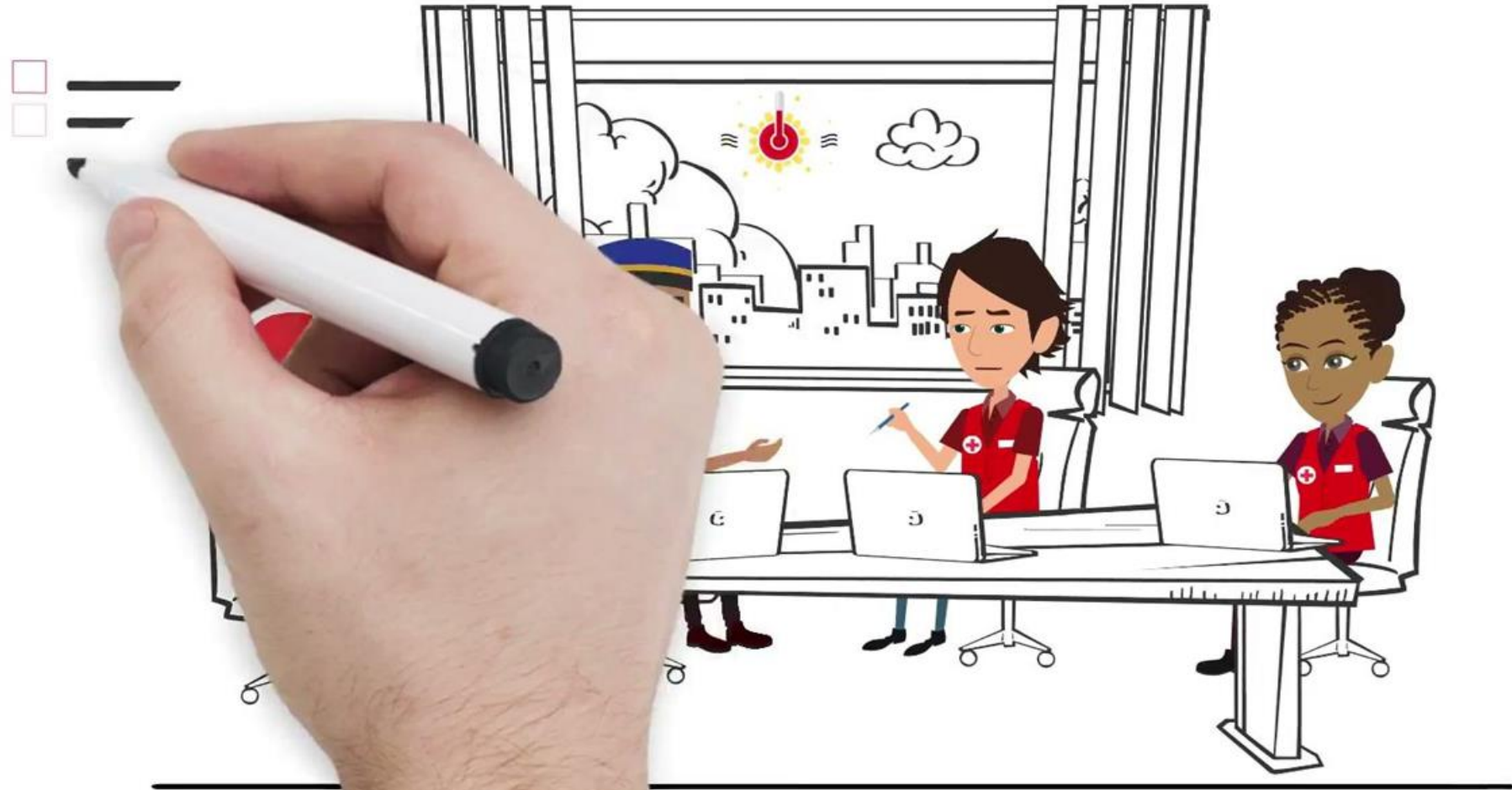
# Planning for Extreme Heat in Cities

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Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre

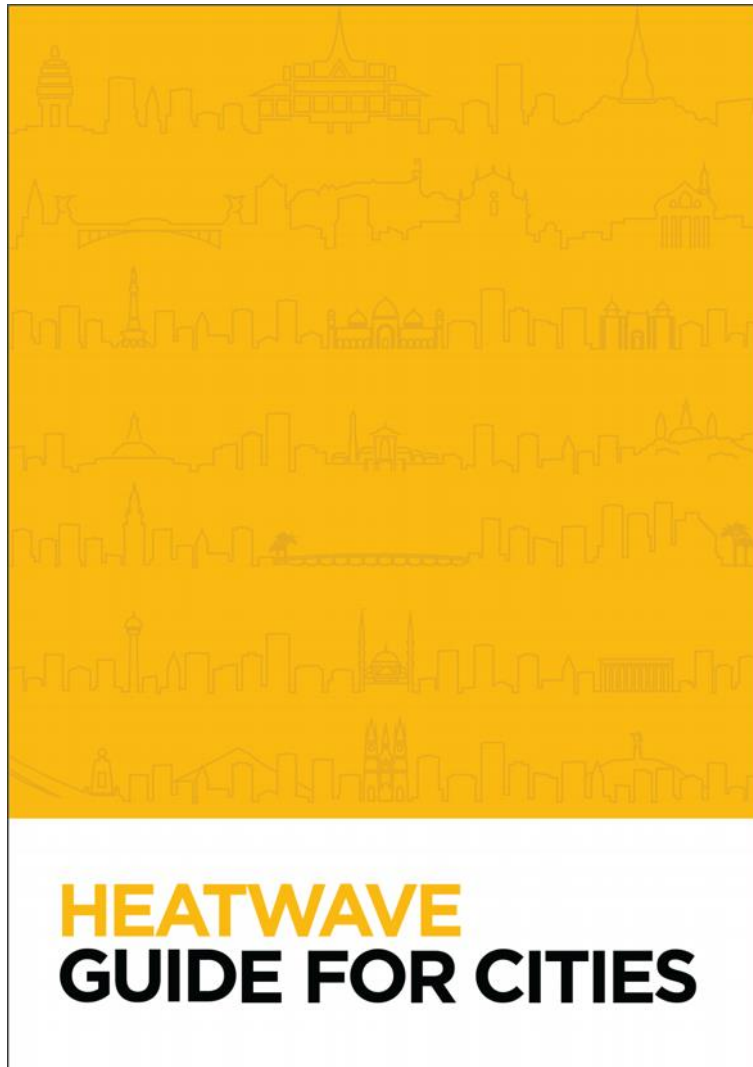


Climate  
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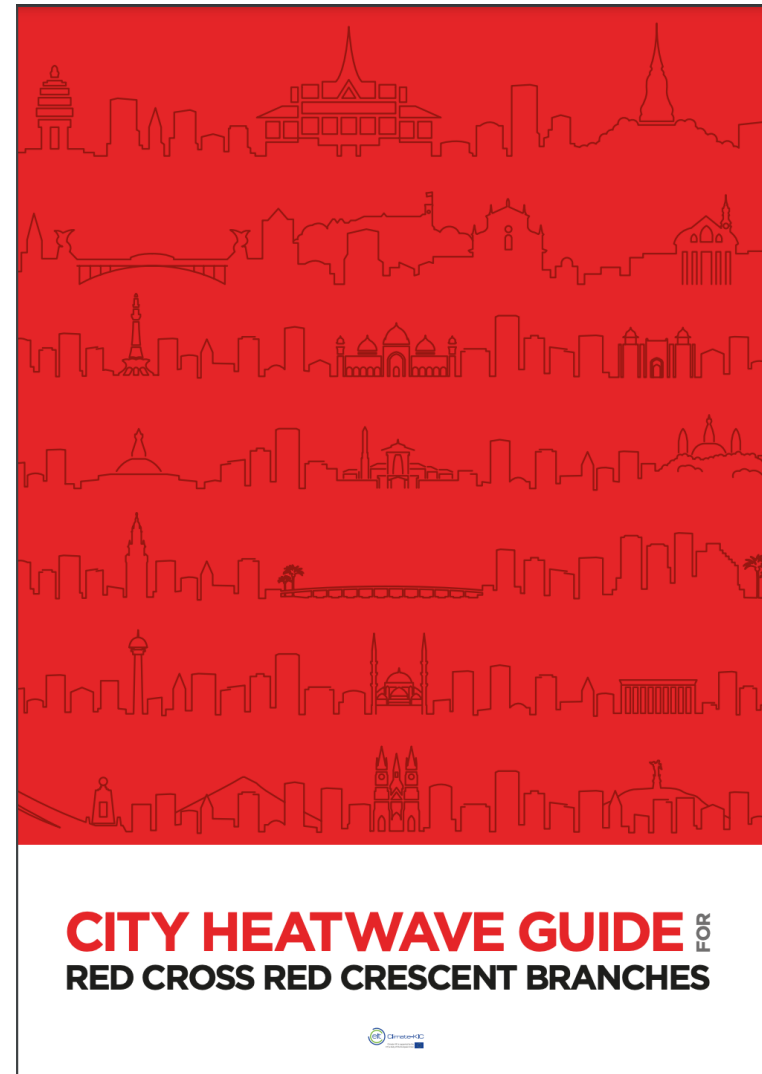


Staff can work closely with strategic partners to  
up ... for

[bit.ly/heatwaveguide](https://bit.ly/heatwaveguide)



[bit.ly/branchesHWguide](https://bit.ly/branchesHWguide)

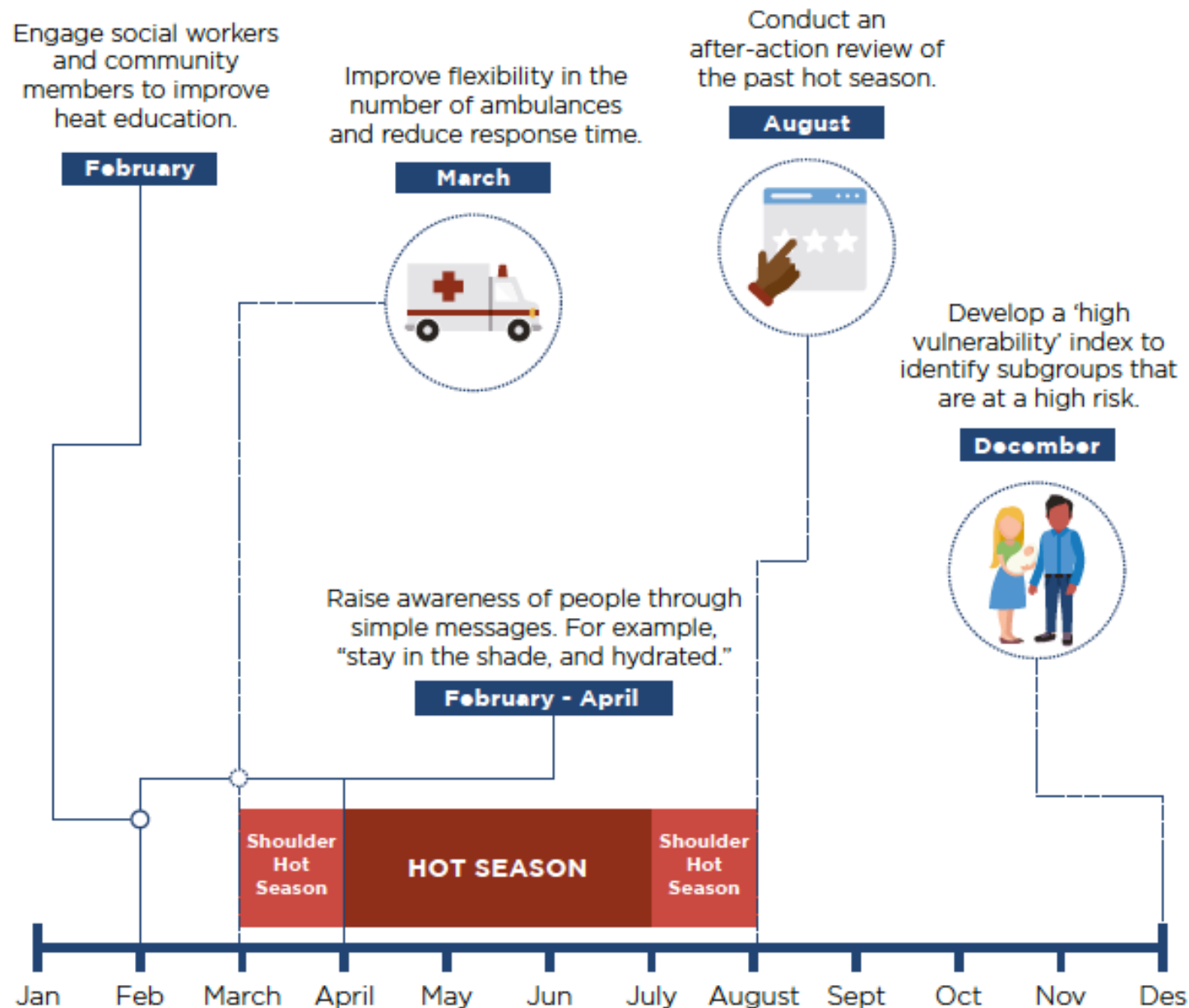


## Who needs to be involved, and what will they do?

ROLES	SKILLS	DEPARTMENTS AND PARTNERS
Developing a heat action plan	Partnership building, coordination, technical specialties, vulnerability analysis	All lead departments
Developing and issuing heat early warnings	Meteorology and public health	National meteorological service, department of health
Leading emergency response	Emergency management	Emergency management department, Red Cross Red Crescent branches
Liaising with the media	Mass communications	Central communications and the mayor's office
Liaising with city residents	Behaviour change communication, community engagement, partnership building	Social services, emergency management, community-based organizations, faith-based organizations
Strengthening health systems	Public health	Health department
Mainstreaming heat into city planning	Climate risk management, urban planning	City planning
Documenting learning	Adult learning, monitoring and evaluation	All lead departments



# SEASONAL PLANNING





**Conduct  
public  
awareness  
campaigns**



**Increase  
access to  
water**



**Plan for a sudden  
increase in  
electricity  
demand**



**Home outreach visits to  
vulnerable people**



**Evacuate vulnerable  
people from their  
homes to cooling  
centres**



**Operate a telephone  
helpline to provide  
guidance**



**Keep electricity and  
water services on  
despite  
non-payment**



**Ensure a functional  
health system**



**Enhance emergency  
management systems**

What can cities do?

# PUBLIC MESSAGING

When issuing an emergency warning to the public it is important to be sure that the message includes the following six elements<sup>51</sup>:



## Timing

When is the heatwave due to start?



## Location

Which areas of the city will be affected?



## Scale

How high are temperatures likely to rise?



## Impact

Who is most likely to be impacted by the heatwave?



## Probability

What are the chances of this heatwave occurring?



## Response

What should at-risk populations do to protect themselves?

# Working in partnerships to raise awareness and mobilize action

1. Research with Columbia University to highlight the relationship between extreme heat and mortality:
  - During an 8-day heat wave in Bangladesh **3,800** excess deaths occurred
2. Partnership with BBC Media Action to disseminate messages on risk of heat-related illnesses and how to avoid the heat during the 2017 hot season.
  - Reached 3.9 million people through Facebook campaign





# Urban Planning for Heat



*Urban planning measures that can contribute to a long-term heat-reduction strategy.*

# What are people doing around the world?





#### **ACTION CARD 1: Media advisory**

This action card can be used as a guide when developing a media advisory before or during a heatwave by replacing all text located in [brackets] with event-specific information. It can then be posted online and shared with local media contacts.

## **MEDIA ADVISORY: [PLACE NAME] HEATWAVE – RED CROSS EXPERTS AVAILABLE**

[Place], [Issue date] – **Red Cross experts are available to discuss the potential humanitarian impact of this week's [place name] heatwave, as well as the simple and affordable steps that can be taken to protect lives.**

Temperatures are expected to climb over the coming days, placing huge pressure on health and social welfare systems, and potentially threatening the lives and well-being of vulnerable people.

Red Cross experts can highlight some of the practical, lifesaving measures that individuals and authorities can take to reduce the potential humanitarian impact of the heatwave.

#### **Available experts include:**

In [place]: [name], [title], [specific area of expertise when applicable]

In [place]: [name], [title], [specific area of expertise when applicable]

#### **Media contact:**

In [place]: [name], [title], [phone], [email]

# How can I implement some of these actions?





### CASE STUDY 5: Indian Red Cross Society

The Indian Red Cross Society's innovative approach to public messaging to raise awareness about heat risks in New Delhi.

## FLASHMOBS FOR HEAT ACTION IN NEW DELHI, INDIA

The Indian Red Cross Society and the Indian Meteorological Department began working closely together on heatwave forecasts in 2017 to reduce impacts on vulnerable populations.

In June 2017, 15 young staff and volunteers of the Indian Red Cross Society found a novel way of informing people on how to prepare for an impending heatwave: a flashmob. A flashmob is a coordinated movement of song and dance, done in a public space without announcement, to capture the attention of passersby; and, in this case, convey an important message.

The messages were simple: drink more water, keep your head covered and "rest, rest, rest" between 12:00 and 15:00 – the hottest hours of the day.

A total of eight flashmobs were held over four days in different parts of New Delhi. Onlookers gathered as the flashmobbers made their moves. Delhi's Airport Authority even invited the Red Cross to hold flashmobs in four different parts of the international and national airport to inform visitors and workers on how to deal with heatwave temperatures. The messages were well received and often repeated verbatim. In Sarojini Nagar Market in south Delhi street vendors, shoppers, shop owners and passersby stopped in their tracks to take in the flashmob.

Indian Red Cross volunteers perform a flashmob during a heatwave in 2017.  
Photo: Aditi Kapoor/  
Climate Centre



### ACTION CARD 10: Employee safety during extreme heat

This action card is an infographic for employees on how to prevent heat stress in the workplace. It can be printed and shared with their colleagues and managers. A poster version of this card is also available.

## 5 Tips to keep workers safe in the heat



Gradually decrease workloads and allow more frequent breaks, specially for outdoor workers, workers new to and those who have been away from work. Give everyone time to adapt to working in the hot conditions.

1.



Modify work schedules and arrange frequent rest periods, with water breaks in shaded or air-conditioned areas.

2.

Provide workers with a good supply of cool water close to the work area.

3.

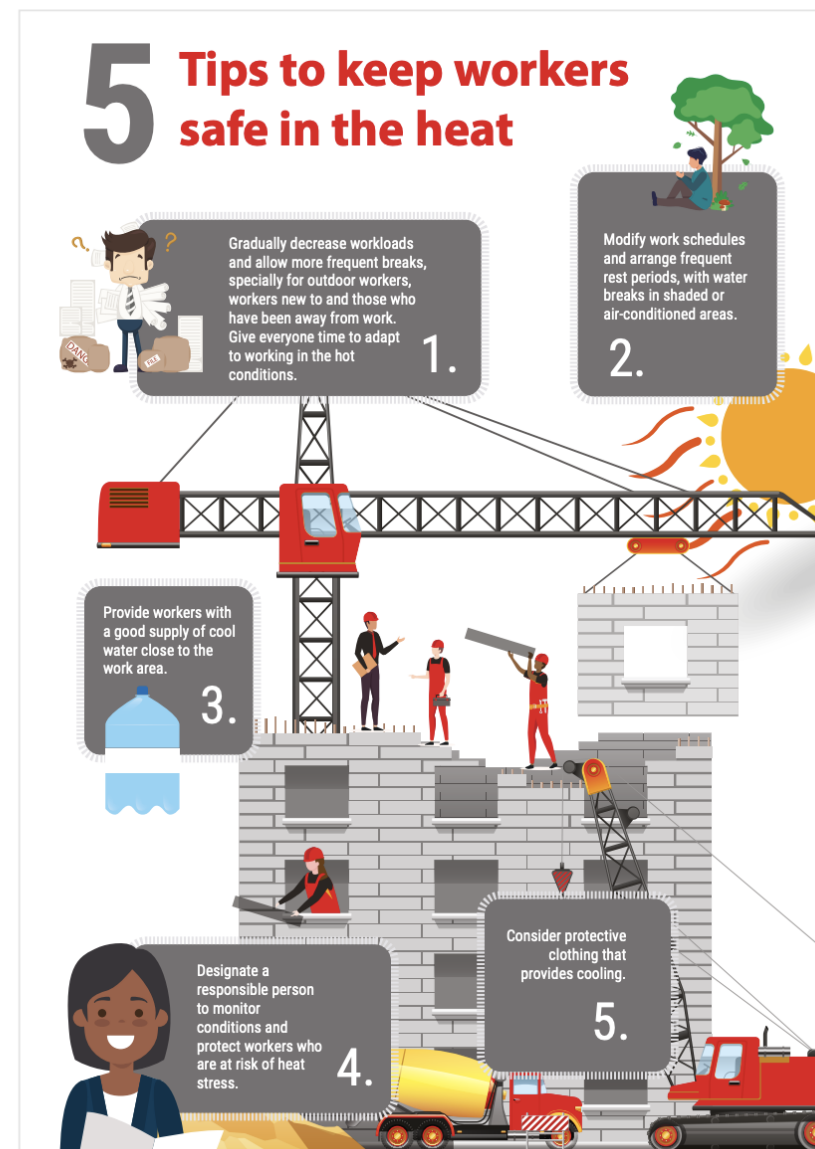


Designate a responsible person to monitor conditions and protect workers who are at risk of heat stress.

4.

Consider protective clothing that provides cooling.

5.

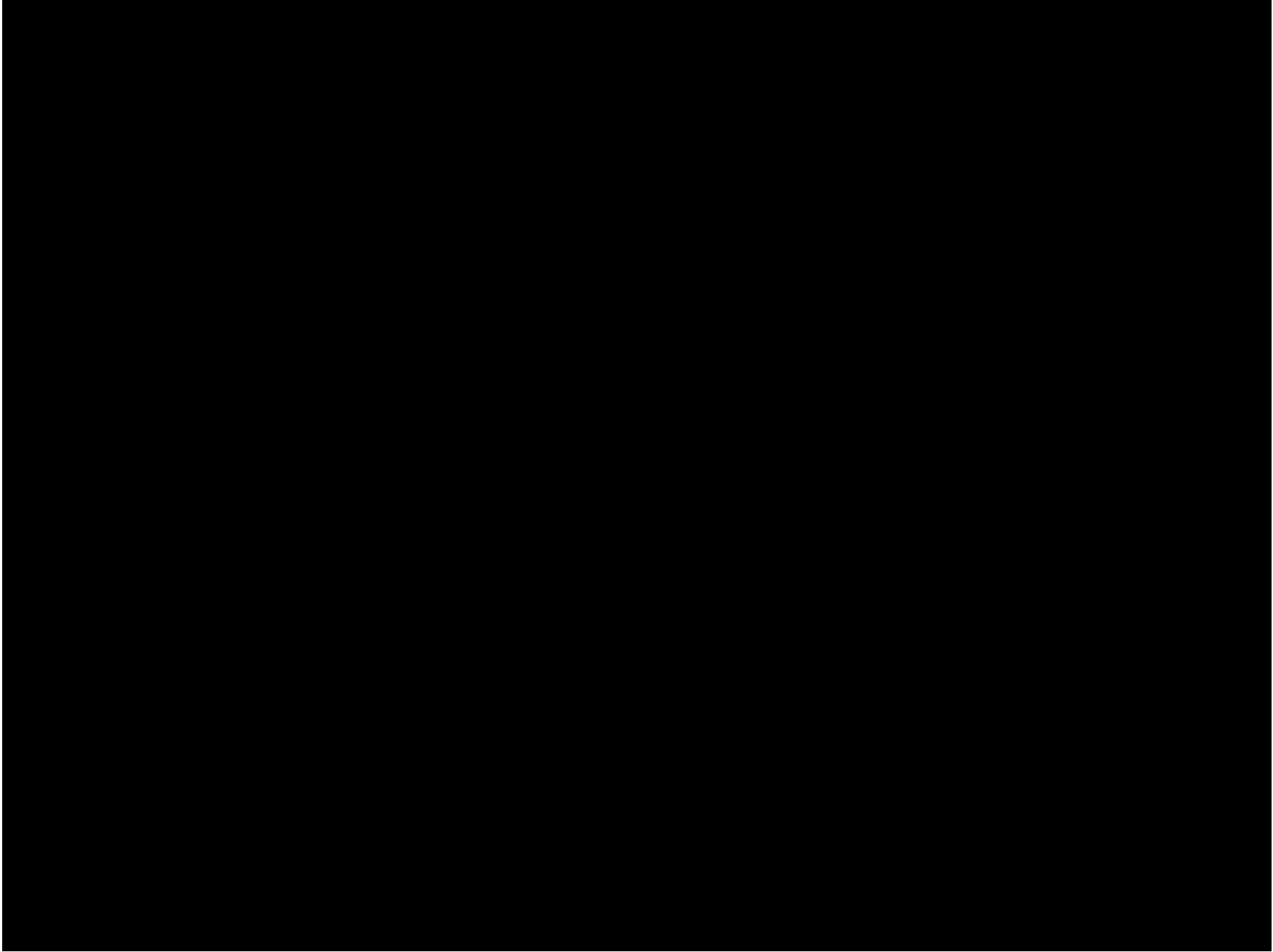




# YOU CAN PREVENT HEAT DEATHS







# Heat Action in Cities – Nepal and Bangladesh

Nepalgunj City

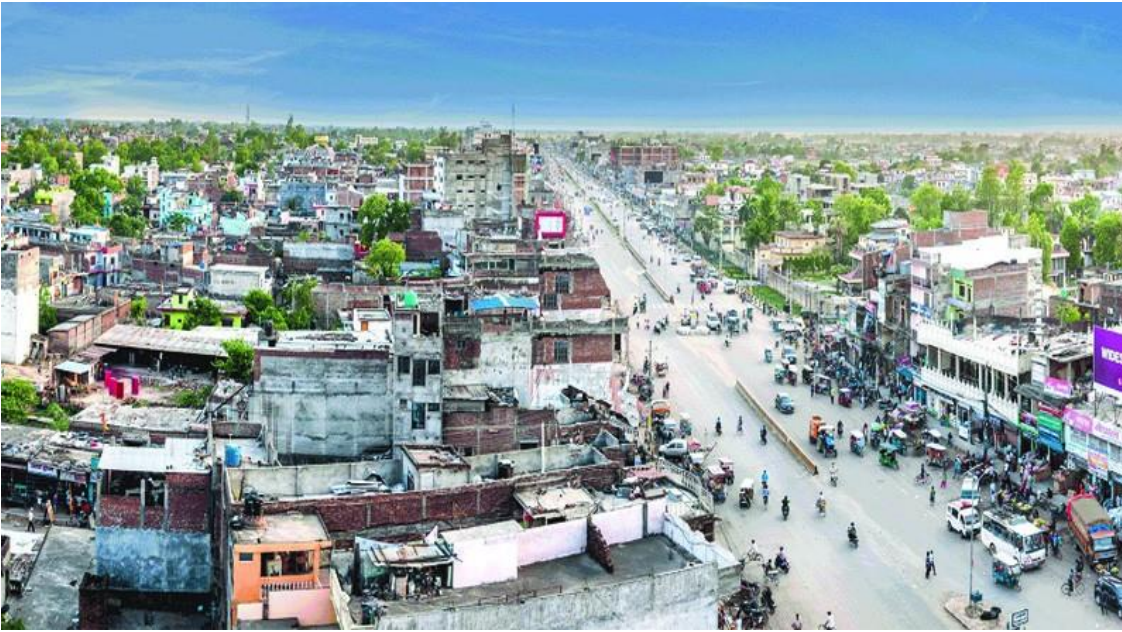


Photo Sources: Google Images

Rajshahi City



Thank You