

2025-09 | Protecting Climate-Vulnerable Women Through Innovative Insurance Solutions, India

Financial Sector Partner (FSP):	Go Digit Insurance	SCBF Contribution:	CHF 149,840 (40%)
Grantees / TA Providers:	CelsiusPro (CP) Mahila Housing Trust (MHT)	Matching Contribution:	CHF 64,800 (17%) – CP (TA) CHF 71,846 (19%) – MHT (TA) CHF 60,000 (16%) – FSP CHF 24,000 (6%) – Third party
Country:	India	Duration:	Dec 2025 – Nov 2027
Potential Outreach:	38,800	Products:	Parametric Insurance (Extreme Heat & Excess Rainfall)
Thereof Women:	100%	Target Group:	Low-income families

PURPOSE AND VISION

Women working in India's informal urban economy are increasingly exposed to extreme heat and intense rainfall events, which reduce incomes, increase household expenses, and undermine long-term resilience. Traditional insurance solutions are not accessible or appropriate for these risks, leaving climate-vulnerable women without timely financial protection.

This programme exists to address that gap by scaling innovative parametric insurance solutions that provide rapid, transparent payouts when extreme heat or excess rainfall thresholds are exceeded. Building on a proven pilot that has already delivered payouts to women in Ahmedabad, the programme aims to strengthen climate resilience, protect livelihoods, and enable women to recover faster from climate shocks. This approach reflects a broader goal for designing diverse, pro-poor financial solutions to address climate stresses that vulnerable communities face. The programme seeks to demonstrate that inclusive climate insurance can be delivered sustainably at scale in urban contexts, complementing risk reduction measures and informing broader policy and market development in India.

PROGRAMME DESIGN AND DELIVERY

The programme will refine and scale an existing parametric extreme heat insurance product and develop a new parametric excess rainfall/monsoon insurance product, alongside demonstrating sustainable housing technologies such as cool roofs, energy-efficiency improvements, and Monsoon Action Plans to strengthen climate resilience.

CelsiusPro will lead the technical design and pricing of the parametric indices, with Mahila Housing Trust (MHT) driving community engagement, training, and distribution through its network of credit cooperatives. Go Digit General Insurance will issue the group policies, supported by Howden India, with women as the insured beneficiaries. Delivery will be complemented by climate finance literacy sessions and community-based awareness campaigns, while premium support will be sought to ensure affordability.

OUTCOMES, IMPACT AND LEARNING

By the end of the programme, at least 38,800 low-income women policyholders across Ahmedabad, Surat, and Vadodara will be covered by parametric insurance against extreme heat and/or excess rainfall. This includes 26,800 existing policyholders transitioning to an improved extreme heat product and a minimum of 12,000 additional women reached through product scaling and the launch of the excess rainfall / monsoon product.

The programme will enable faster and more predictable financial relief following climate shocks. Fast pay-outs will ensure reduced income volatility, help households manage increased expenditures during heatwaves and flooding, and support quicker recovery compared to reliance on savings or informal borrowing.

Approximately 300 Community Action Group (CAG) women leaders will be trained on the extreme heat product and 100 CAG leaders on the excess rainfall product through a training-of-trainers approach. These leaders will disseminate knowledge on climate risks, insurance mechanisms, and complementary risk reduction actions within their communities, extending impact beyond direct policyholders. The programme will also generate practical insights into sustainable premium financing and the scalability of parametric insurance for urban climate risks in India.

Partnering with:



MAHILA HOUSING TRUST
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