

Global warming: why local heat plans are needed to protect city dwellers from life threatening heat waves - Findings from The Hague

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27 June 2022



NEWS | 23 May 2022

Climate change made South Asian heatwave 30 times more likely

Global warming will make record-breaking temperatures in India and Pakistan much more frequent, report finds.

[Jude Coleman](#)



Men gather sheep to save them from a wildfire in Turkey, a country seeing some of its worst wildfires in decades amid a lingering heat wave. A new report by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change offers a clear look at how climate change will make extreme we... [Read More](#)
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ENVIRONMENT | NEWS

Deadly heat waves, floods, drought will get worse if warming continues

In the new IPCC report, the world's leading climate experts laid out how extreme weather will grow more common unless "drastic" cuts to emissions are made now.



NEWS

Canada weather: Dozens dead as heatwave shatters records

30 June 2021



Watch: Canadians say the conditions are "unbearable"

Ireland's heatwave to continue after hottest day of the year

Swimming warnings issued for two Dublin beaches, while public urged to conserve water

Expand



THE IRISH TIMES

Relaxing in St Stephen's Green, during the hot weather in Dublin. Photograph: Dara Mac Dónaill

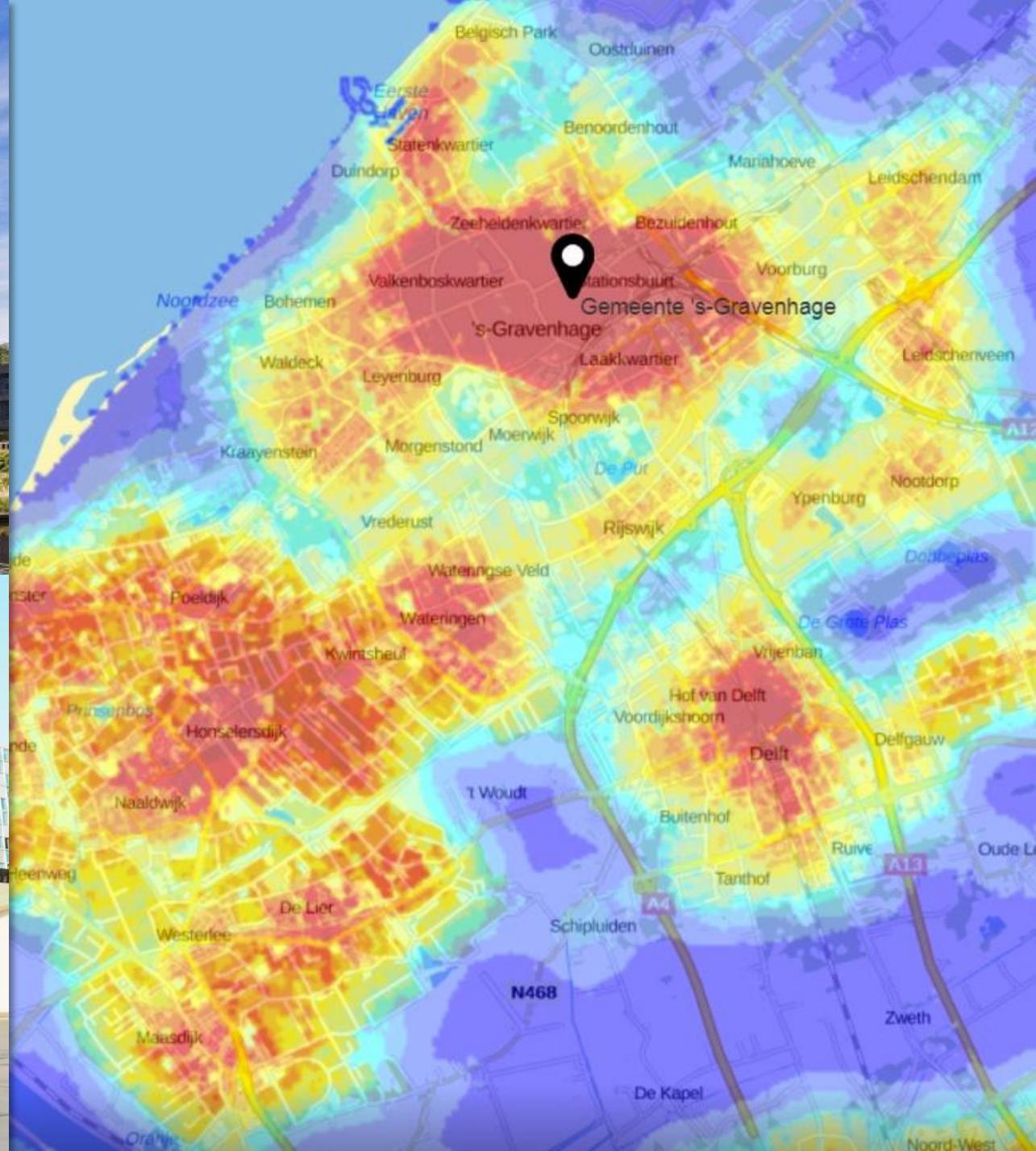
By Colin Gleeson, Gerry Moriarty and Olivia Kelly

Thu Jul 22 2021 - 01:00



Wednesday was the hottest day of the year so far, and forecasters are expecting the high temperatures to continue throughout today and tomorrow.





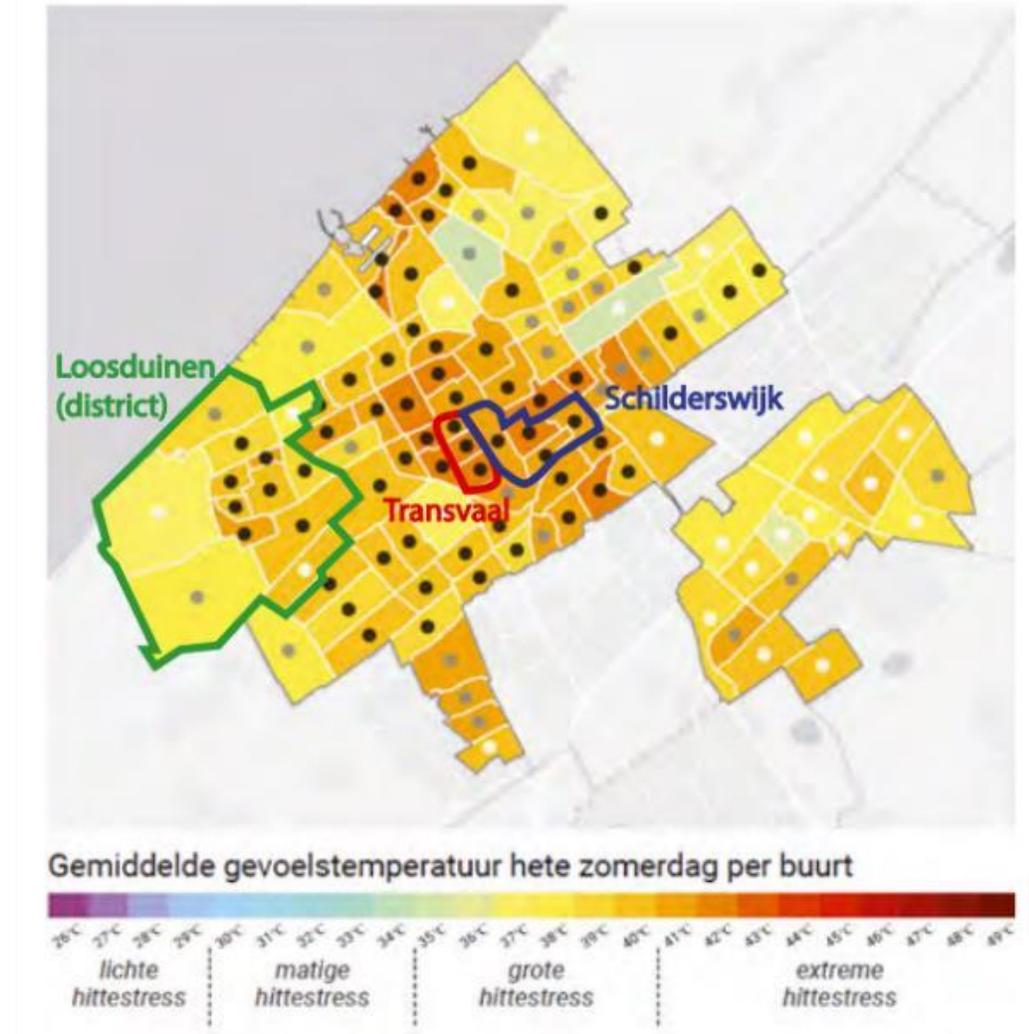
Research Questions

- What are the **characteristics** of vulnerable populations in The Hague?
 - What are their **needs** in order to adapt to heatwaves, and how do they **cope**?
 - What are existing **sustainable solutions** for protecting vulnerable populations?
 - How can the municipality of The Hague **increase urban resilience with regards to heat**?
- Project duration: March 2021-December 2021, ≈€100k budget.
- Financed by the Municipality of The Hague (with co-funding by THUAS, ISS and ICFI)



Methodology

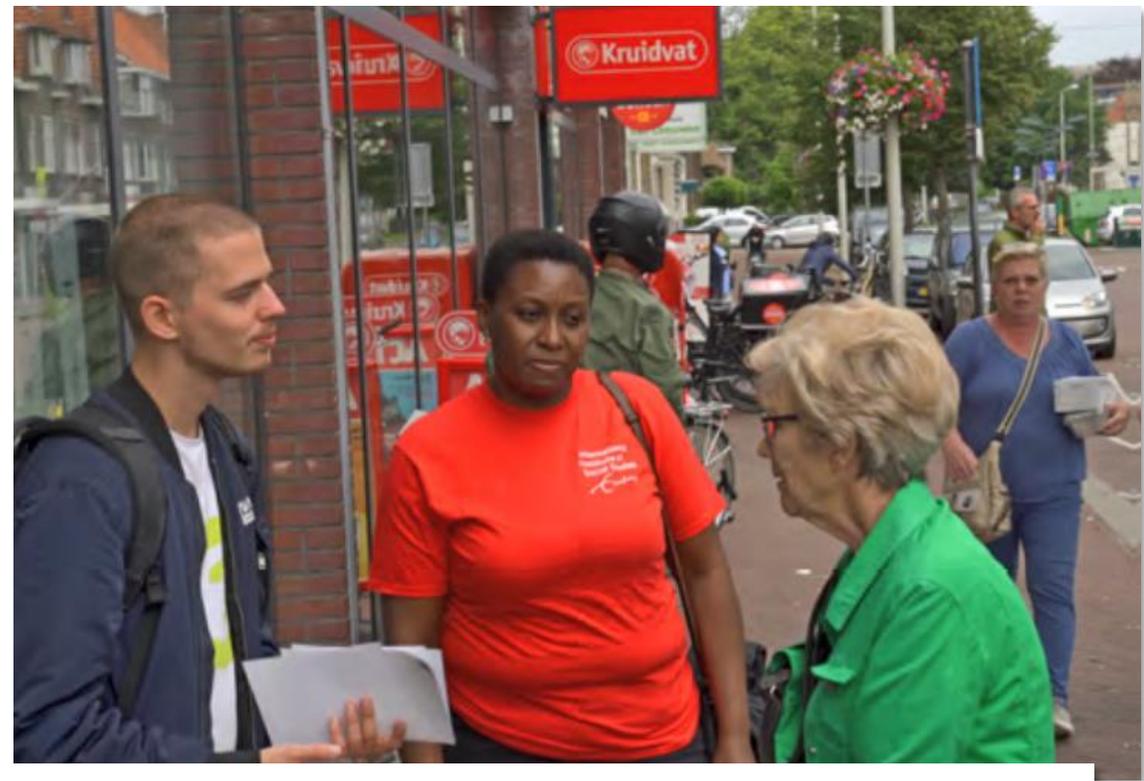
- **Target population:** Vulnerable populations in The Hague
- **“Vulnerable” Definition:** Independently living seniors (65+)
- **Geographical boundaries:** Schilderswijk (later incl. Transvaal) and (district of) Loosduinen.



Quantitative Methods

Face-to-face survey on the street, at community centres, and by a home care organisation (BTO Thuiszorg)

- Interviewer and self-administered
- n = 164



| Demographic Information (n = 164) | | | | |
|-----------------------------------|---------------|-------------------------------|---------------------------------------|-------------------|
| Location | Schilderswijk | Loosduinen | Other ²⁰ | Total |
| | 44 | 92 | 28 | 164 |
| Gender | Male | Female | No response/other | |
| | 60 | 93 | 11 | 164 |
| Accommodation Type (1) | House | Flat in an apartment building | Apartment (with no communal entrance) | Total |
| | 0 | 50 | 52 | 102 |
| Accommodation Type (2) | Owned | Rented | | Total |
| | 42 | 111 | | 153 ²¹ |

Table 2: Demographic information on the respondents in the research sample (Source: Survey)

Qualitative Methods

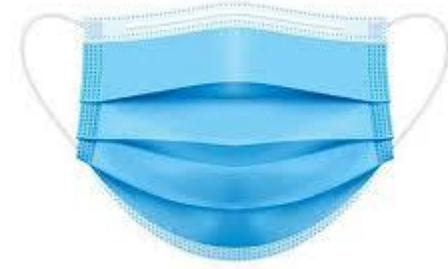


Focus Group Discussions (with target population) and **interviews** (care organisations, municipal health services, municipal civil servants, province, central government, housing corporations, companies, researchers, and resident organisations)

- 4 FGDs organised
- 23 interviews
- Validation workshop

Limitations

- Access to population (bias)
- Selection bias
- Institutional barriers
- COVID-19
- Summer break
- Lack of heatwave



Findings on **needs**

- Seniors do not believe they are vulnerable
- They often don't apply their knowledge of how to protect themselves to actions actively aimed at cooling their internal body temperature and reducing possible negative health outcomes.
- More than 80% of respondents are concerned about the cost of cooling and would prefer sunshades, air conditioning, or a green roof



Findings on **solutions**

We found solutions that can easily be 'constructed' by seniors themselves using materials that are readily available



Findings on **solutions**

- We found solutions that can easily be 'constructed' by seniors themselves using materials that are readily available
- And solutions that are available on the market (products and services)



Findings on **governance**

- The importance of (in)formal networks around seniors to meet their needs during periods of extreme heat
- There is fragmentation and a lack of awareness of who does what

| Formal | Informal |
|----------------|----------|
| Administrators | Citizens |
| Expert | Layman |



Findings on **governance**

No problem owner yet who can bring together the three policy areas:

1. habitat/public space
2. buildings and housing
3. health

Local heat plan adopted in February 2022 can be improved





Climate ADAPT

SHARING ADAPTATION KNOWLEDGE FOR A CLIMATE-RESILIENT EUROPE



European Climate and Health Observatory



GLOBAL WARMING: WHY LOCAL HEAT PLANS ARE NEEDED TO PROTECT CITY DWELLERS FROM LIFE THREATENING HEAT WAVES

GEN Op-Eds, GEN Stories

8 November 2021

by Sylvia I. Bergh

How a **touch of white** is helping the poor stay cool in a heatwave



INDIA/REPORTAGE

Ketaki Desai

#Fixing the Environment

Updated: May 3, 2022, 08:46 IST



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