CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING TOOL

GUIDE

UN@HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

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European Commission

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OUR AIM

For the last 40 years, UN-Habitat - the United Nations Human Settlements Programme - has been working towards a better urban future to improve the lives of people around the world.

With over half of the population living in cities, and with around 3 billion more people expected to live in urban areas by 2050, cities are facing unprecedented demographic, environmental, economic, social and spatial challenges.

UN-Habitat's mandate has adapted over the time to meet the needs of our growing urban world. At a time when the way we plan and manage our cities is more critical than ever, UN-Habitat's mission is to promote socially, economically and environmentally sustainable human settlement development and the achievement of adequate shelter for all.

The agency is currently working in more than 70 countries to bring high impact projects to people living in cities. UN-Habitat implements an integrated normative and operational activity. Working with governments and other stakeholders on the ground, our projects combine world-class expertise and local knowledge to deliver timely and targeted solutions to the most vulnerable urban residents.

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and its dedicated goal on cities - SDG 11 to make cities inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable - puts urbanization as one of the key priorities of the global agendas for development. In addition, under the New Urban Agenda, there is a defined and renewed dedication among the global development community to ensure our cities expand in a sustainable way for all.

Within the United Nations, UN-Habitat has the expertise and role to act as a focal point on sustainable urbanization, including the implementation, follow-up and review of SDG 11 and the New Urban Agenda.

In this same context, over the past decade, Urban Resilience has been gaining ever greater prominence in international development discourse, emerging as one of the core principles of sustainable urban development in the post Millennium Development Goals framework.

The main goal of UN-Habitat's resilience work is to support local governments and relevant stakeholders to transform urban areas into safer and better places to live in, and improve their capacity to absorb and rebound quickly from all potential shocks or stresses, leading them towards sustainability.

UN-Habitat's understanding of a resilient city is one that is able to absorb, adapt, and recover from the shocks and stresses that are likely to happen, transforming itself in a positive way toward sustainability.

In this scenario, Urban Resilience becomes a hub between the areas of Risk Reduction and Sustainability, and also a link between Humanitarian and Development activity, articulating Climate Action. In words of the Secretary-General of the United Nations, António Guterres, "Saving lives is the first priority, but we are also looking to build longer-term resilience to shocks."

UN-Habitat's urban resilience agenda covers three main work areas: knowledge, advocacy and technical cooperation. These three complimentary work streams reinforce each other by combining practice on the ground, applied research, training and awareness raising work, among others.

The City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) is the technical cooperation pillar of UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience Programme, engaging with all local level partners and stakeholders. In this line, UN-Habitat developed the City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT) to be a robust and comprehensive approach for cities to build their resilience.

This publication outlines the methodology and implementation steps of the City Resilience Profiling Tool and serves equally as an initial guide for cities to UN-Habitat's methodology, but also an advocacy platform to inform stakeholders about the Tool's approach.

WHY URBAN RESILIENCE?

From earthquakes to flooding, rapid immigration to cyber-attacks, all cities face a range of shocks and stresses, natural and human-made. Today, our cities and citizens are facing new and amplified challenges as a result of rapid urbanization, a changing climate and political instability.

These phenomena increase increases the population's exposure and vulnerability to hazards and can trigger or worsen disasters. Further stress is placed on our urban areas as the effects of climate change become more severe and frequent.

In order to mitigate these shifts and reduce the negative impact they have on people, the global community is increasingly realizing that we need to build resilience into our cities by empowering and strengthening the capabilities of local government and their partners, including local populations.

UN-Habitat understands urban resilience as the measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability.

By engaging all stakeholders in resilience efforts, cities have the ability to harness transformational change and improve the lives of their inhabitants. This has been acknowledged by the global community through agreements such as the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals, and Sendai Framework, however in almost all contexts, cities lack the capacity to operationalize these alone and fully harness change. One appraoch to addressing this is through holistic and multi-stakeholder resilience-building.

Resilience offers a crucial meeting point among different yet essentially similar paradigms in urban development. To be truly resilient, cities should work towards sustainability to ensure positive long-term impacts, and in the same manner, being truly sustainable entails incorporating resilience to drive and protect development goals.

Resilience also lies at the core of the humanitarian-development nexus, bridging together two often disparate agendas. Ingraining resilience can reduce risks by increasing capacities and addressing vulnerabilities can decrease fragility and mitigate impacts, hereby enhancing effective and forward-thinking response.

Building urban resilience takes on multiple forms, but in its essence must seek the betterment of people, specifically those in vulnerable situations, who are at the centre of our aim and mandate.

In addition, a successful urban resilience agenda requires partnerships between all key international actors, as well as the engagement with principle city players. Inclusive cooperation is needed in order to build upon a shared resilient vision.

ALIGNMENT WITH GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS

The City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) focuses on making cities resilient through local governments, by providing the tools and knowledge required to build their capacity to prepare, respond and recover from all shocks and stresses, leading them towards sustainability. It provides cities the necessary framework and approach to evaluate urban resilience and develop Actions for Resilience (A4R) tailored to their city. Its primary tool is the City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT). The CRPT uses a diagnostic methodology to determine shocks and stresses facing a city and establishes prioritised actions allowing cities to capitalise on their existing data. The CRPT and accompany guidance assist local governments to deliver on targets set out in globally agreed inter-governmental frameworks, in particular.

Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Building urban resilience contributes to the Framework's overall objective to reduce vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response and recovery, including contributions to the Four Priorities for Action.

Our work contributes to the Framework's overall objective to reduce vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response and recovery, including our contributions to the Four Priorities for Action:

Priority 1. Contribution: Data collection and analysis, and building knowledge on disaster risk reduction;
Priority 2. Contribution: Strengthening disaster risk governance through the adoption of plans;
Priority 3. Contribution: Investment in risk reduction for resilience;
Priority 4. Contribution: Scaling-up of preparedness and a 'build-back better' approach in recovery.
The Framework calls for resilience on all levels, from local to regional and national.

Sustainable Development Goals

Urban resilience relates to key elements of sustainable urban development and the goals of the post-2015 Sustainable Development Agenda, notably in Goals 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 13 and 14 where resilience is referenced but also in other goals where it is implied. Resilience is also a strong component of many of the stated aims throughout the preamble and paragraphs 7, 9, 14, 23, 29 and 33 of the Declaration to the SDGs.

Paris Agreement on Climate Change

Article 7 calls for strengthening of resilience to climate change in the pursuit of sustainable development. By engaging local governments in these efforts, resilience in cities contributes to the following principles of the Paris Agreement:
* Adaptation (dealing with impacts of climate change);
* Loss and Damage (minimizing loss and damage linked to climate change);
* Role of cities (building resilience).

World Humanitarian Summit – Agenda for Humanity

The core responsibilities defined at the World Humanitarian Summit have strong foundations in resilience thinking and building. The approach adopted by UN-Habitat to build resilience contributes to Core Priority 1D, 4A, 4B, 4C, and 5A.