



TRENDS in URBAN RESILIENCE 2017

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Cover photo: Coloured houses in Lima, Peru. © Helene Fourniere

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If you wish to contribute to the future editions of this series, or for more information, please contact us at: info@cityresilience.org.

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FOREWORD



Dr Joan Clos Secretary-General of Habitat III Under-Secretary-General of the United Nations Executive Director of UN-Habitat

"Trends in Urban Resilience 2017" is an insightful review of methodologies, approaches, and progress illustrated in case studies, an overview of communities of practice delivering support to cities around the world to achieve their goals of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements. It gives me great pleasure to present the "Trends in Urban Resilience 2017", the latest analysis from UN-Habitat on urban resilience. As the leading UN programme on sustainable urbanization with more than forty years of normative and field activities in this area, UN-Habitat has engaged with hundreds of cities and other human settlements struggling with the impact of crisis: from conflict to natural disaster, failures in governance to economic stress, and challenges from unplanned or inadequately planned urbanization, among others. Throughout its engagement, the inherent focus has always been on the consequences of crisis on people, particularly the most vulnerable groups.

The pledge of national governments to consolidate disaster risk reduction by declaring an International Decade for Natural Disaster Reduction beginning January 1990, was echoed in the 2015 Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. The experience of previous decades has led to the understanding that disaster risk reduction, at least within cities, is a key element of creating inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements. Increasingly, large-scale communities of practice such as the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience – convened and launched by UN-Habitat in 2014 – are integrating risk reduction measures into more strategic and longer-term urban development efforts.

"Trends in Urban Resilience 2017" is an insightful review of methodologies, approaches, and progress illustrated in case studies, an overview of communities of practice delivering support to cities around the world to achieve their goals of inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable human settlements. The report highlights actions which help cities develop their capacity to absorb the impact of hazards, protect and preserve human life, and limit damage to and destruction of public and private assets, all the while continuing to provide the essential infrastructure and services in the aftermath of a crisis. UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience Programme recognizes that achieving and maintaining development gains in urban areas is inherently dependent on the city's ability to withstand critical challenges and deficits. The interconnectivity of an urban system encompasses all sectors and must be integrated, and not sectorial. When investments are made sector by sector, asymmetric development patterns emerge, to the detriment of the urban system as a whole. Urbanization is a political, social and environmental process that is not reached by chance but by choice and design.

UN-Habitat is one of many prominent organisations actively supporting local authorities to adopt a holistic approach to making their cities safer and more resilient. To promote awareness among stakeholders and further inspire action, this biennial publication shows how resilient urban development is trending globally.

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