

CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING PROGRAMME

Volume 11



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Storm over Nhieu Loc canal, Ho Chi Minh City, Vietnam.

UN-Habitat and the City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP)

The CRPP goes beyond conventional approaches to 'risk reduction,' delivering a forward-looking, multi-scale, multi-sectoral, multi-hazard, multi-stakeholder model for building resilience that recognizes the complexities and unique value of cities, and the inherent interdependencies of each part of an urban system. Launching in Quito during the Habitat III conference, UN Habitat's global Urban Resilience Programme includes the CRPP as its analytic approach to transforming urban planning, development and governance to build resilient human settlements, as well as its normative work on: network stewardship, including as recently announced the Chairing of the UNISDR Making Cities Resilience Campaign Steering Committee; standards development with UN and ISO partners; an applied research platform engaging the URP Academic Network; and other operational projects with partner cities and countries.

As the main UN agency responsible for ensuring the sustainable development of human settlements, UN-Habitat is strategically placed to coordinate the humanitarian and development efforts of multiple actors and policy makers at all levels in the common pursuit of urban resilience. This is strengthened this year with the launching during the World Humanitarian Summit in May, of the Global Alliance for Urban Crisis, a network of 70 UN, NGO, Academic and professional partners and local authorities all parties to an 'Urban Charter' outlining common ground, common purpose, and facilitating common action in cities recovering from critical events.

The Urban Resilience Programme's comparative advantage is strengthened by these partnership networks founded on integrated approaches to urban resilience, with strategic partners including the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience launched in 2014 and most recently welcoming Cities Alliance together with the UNISDR Secretariat, ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability, C40 Climate Leadership Group, 100 Resilient Cities, The World Bank Group, Inter-American Development Bank, Rockefeller Foundation, and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Reconstruction.

The combined contribution of these networks to the post 2030 Agenda on sustainable development, and the New Urban Agenda emerging from Habitat III is considerable in scope and in scale, and represent a major community of practice focused on generating and providing support to building resilience in cities around the world.

Urban resilience refers to the ability of any urban system to withstand and recover quickly from multiple shocks and stresses and maintain continuity of services.

Calling for city resilience in smart islands

On 20–21 April the first World Congress on Smart Islands brought together key island leaders and experts in Mallorca, Spain, with the aim of strengthening networks and exchanging innovative solutions. A UN-Habitat Resilience expert from its City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) spoke during a session and stressed the importance of resilience for small island towns and cities in the face of climate change in the quest for sustainable human settlements globally.

Find more info <http://www.smartislandcongress.com/en/home>



This Platform, recognized by the UN General Assembly, is the main forum at the global level for strategic advice, coordination, partnership development and review of progress in the implementation of international instruments on disaster risk reduction. It was established in 2006 and is now the world's foremost gathering of stakeholders committed to reducing disaster risk and building the resilience of communities and nations.

The 2017 Global Platform gathering (May) is the main international forum for dialogue and partnership among governments and stakeholders who share the goal of curbing the threats posed by hazards. In this regard, UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme will actively participate in various strategic sessions addressing resilience.

Advancing sustainable resilience urban development with the Catalan Government

A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the Department of Territory and Sustainability of the Government of Catalonia and UN-Habitat. The main objective of this MoU is to establish a framework for cooperation that enables the two institutions to share knowledge, provide mutual support and define cooperation programmes and take joint action through projects.

The two institutions' action on Urban Resilience address and converge at the following points: urban policies, sustainable development, land and planning, adaptation to climate change, management of water and other natural resources, waste management, and urban public transport and sustainable mobility.

Dr. Joan Clos, Executive Director of UN-Habitat, emphasized that the experiences in Catalonia on environment and territorial planning, resilience, water and waste stands to be shared through this collaboration with UN-Habitat for the benefit of other cities. Mr. Josep Rull, Conseller of Territory and Sustainability, Government of Catalonia, reaffirmed this sentiment and highlighted that his Government was working, "fully within the New Urban Agenda framework".

Urban Resilience Institute (URI): commitment to action

Following the launch of Urban Resilience Institute (URI) during Habitat III, representatives from the partner universities (Cornell, National University of Singapore, RMIT, TU-Darmstadt, URNet, Polytechnic of Catalonia and International University of Catalonia) and international networks like RESURBE and the Urban Resilience Research Network) met again in Barcelona to advance their joint effort to strengthen the nexus among urban resilience research, practices and policies. During the inception meeting next steps were summarized by Dan Lewis of UN-Habitat, and Carmen Mendoza from the UIC.

"I expect transformation in the way the goals of local governments and national governments and even regional associations address and deliver resilience benefits within the cities they represent."

-- Dan Lewis, Chief Urban Risk Reduction Unit, UN-Habitat

"The URI will be an educational and professional platform that will shift the way that Resilience has been applied... making differences in tools and methodologies that can be applied in human settlements and the built environment from the urban perspective."

-- Carmen Mendoza, Assistant Director School

CRPP Events



At the table on the EU Approach to Resilience discussions

The EU Approach to Resilience outlines a wide range of activities designed to reduce the vulnerability of low-income communities in disaster-prone areas. In line with the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030, the Approach is a joint initiative with UNISDR, UN-Habitat and the European Commission that aims to improve understanding of and capacity to address disaster risks at the local level in order to support national and local disaster risk reduction (DRR) and climate change adaptation (CCA) strategies.

Four project cities were selected within this framework: Asuncion, Dakar, Maputo and Port Vila, based on specific criteria including level of risks, demand and interest, involvement of other partners, and level of institutional capacity to assess and address disaster risks as well as any prior experience.

The project is now working with local government institutions on a voluntary basis to plan, coordinate, implement and support the various outlined activities. Long-term, the primary and most direct beneficiaries will be to local stakeholders, city authorities and civil society.

Building the case of local government resilience: Resilient Cities Congress

The 8th Global Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation took place on 4-6 May, in Bonn, Germany. CRPP participated in a number of sessions with the objective of increasing awareness of its support to local governments in improving resilience.

This edition of the Congress explored current and pressing issues for urban resilience and adaptation to climate change, including climate-related health risks, internal displacement and forced migration, among others. The congress delved further into these topics, while continuing to track progress on financing resilience, DRR planning and policy, mechanisms for measuring, reporting and accelerating action for resilience building.

Exhibiting the challenges of sea-level rise: Where Will We Go?

During one month (17 February - 1 March) CRPP hosted Kadir van Lohuizen's photo essay, 'Where will we go?': a visceral and visual statement on the plight of people confronting the loss of their land and livelihoods as a result of sea level rise and coastal erosion. Its presence in Barcelona, and specifically in the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site, is the result of close collaboration with the Private Foundation of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau and the support of the Ministry of Transparency and Foreign and Institutional Relations and Affairs of the Government of Catalonia, through the Advisory Council for the Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS). Over 27.000 people (around 1,375 students) came to visit the exhibition and take stock of the immense complexities associated with the forced displacement of people and human rights implications.



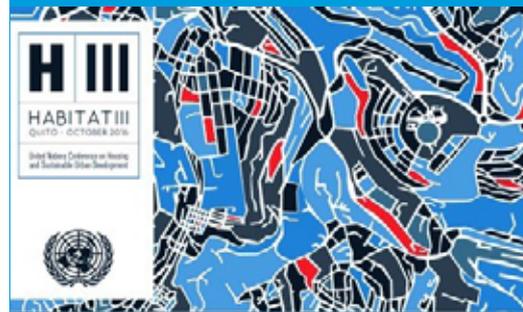
Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction

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Highlights from Habitat III



The 3rd Habitat Conference welcomed over 45.000 attendees to Quito, Ecuador from 17-20 October 2016. Beyond UN-Habitat's wider involvement, the CRPP contributed to more than 18 events, with direct involvement in six as well as active participation in Habitat III preparatory processes. The outcome document, the New Urban Agenda, was adopted during the conference and makes a strong case for the importance of urban resilience in pursuit of sustainable urban development. The Agenda calls for:

- Integration of new planning paradigms that aim to increase the capacity of the urban system to absorb and recover quickly from the impact of all plausible hazards, shocks and stresses, and maintain continuity of urban functions throughout.
- Promotion of national and local legal and regulatory frameworks that enable and govern urban development.
- Analysis of vulnerability and risk inherent in certain urban areas, and rationalizing better, safer and more efficient approaches to land use.
- Promotion of good practice in local economic development strategies through marketing safer, more resilient cities with stronger, more diverse economies, and innovations in financing sustainable and resilient urban development.

Yakutsk Delegation



Following dialogues and collaborations initiated during 2015 with the city of Yakutsk, Russia CRPP welcomed representatives from the Arctic city to Barcelona in early April. The week-long mission (4-7) was part of the city's collaboration with the Programme to develop a Resilience Action Plan and included various training sessions with UN-Habitat experts.

Barcelona, one of the cities engaged with the programme also attended this session to explain their own experience building resilience through the CRPP approach and shared the results of their data collection.

RESCUE

The RESCUE Project – RESilience to cope with Climate Change in Urban arEas: a multisectoral approach focusing on water – was launched in 2016, with the scope of helping cities around the world face physical, social and economic stresses or shocks, taking the water sector as its entry point to urban systems. The project – which unfolds across Lisbon, Bristol and Barcelona - gathers a consortium of eighteen partners and benefits from funding from the European Union, delivered through its Horizon 2020 framework. The UN-Habitat Urban Resilience Programme (URP) is actively involved and provides validation for the resilience diagnostic and tailored Resilience Action Plans that will be delivered for each city.

Guest Column: by Colin Fudge

TOWARDS AN URBAN RESILIENCE INSTITUTE

In March of this year UN Habitat convened a two day meeting in Barcelona to explore the possibilities of setting up an Urban Resilience Institute with partners from 10 Universities across the globe.

This meeting took place in the context and background from 2016 of a number of global initiatives in relation to urban futures, the quality of life for communities, climate change and the continuing drive for sustainable solutions to the world's urban social, economic, environmental, security and governance issues. Indeed UN Habitat's new Urban Agenda was launched in October 2016 and followed the publication of the UNs Sustainable Development Goals and the Paris Agreement on Climate Change.

Although much has changed politically in this time the continuing urbanization of the planet and the impacts of humans on the planet combine to demand urgent strategic thinking, policy responses and practice based innovations to increasingly difficult and life threatening futures for people in vulnerable conditions now and more widely for people in general over the next 10 - 20 years.

What is urban resilience?

What are the key factors and conditions for achieving urban resilience?

What is needed for successful long-term approaches to urban resilience?

How do you persuade politicians to make long term decisions for the future?

What are the key messages for International Organisations, Governments, Cities, NGOs and Communities?

How do we understand city governance and action for resilient futures within the complexity of local and global change?

UN Habitat has been working in the area of Disaster risk reduction for considerable time and their City Resilience Profiling Programme provides a rigorous methodology for urban communities that has inspired cities from very different parts of the world to engage with the notion of becoming more resilient to both human and natural disasters. There are many more initiatives across the globe from different institutions on these issues and in some ways this has become a rather crowded space with a need for clearer focus, strategic direction, short term and long term innovation, action at scale, improved and speedier learning and pooling and targeting of resources.

With this clearly in mind the 10 Universities and UN Habitat have come together and are using their experiences from a wide range of contexts and disciplines in a collective approach to assist and advise international institutions, governments, cities, NGOs, communities and those on the front line with a range of information, support, research and interventions. Although it is early days in this new initiative it is clear that there is a strong commitment from all concerned, experience and coverage in all continents and an unfolding agenda of activities and actions that can be understood through an emerging 'prospectus' for discussion.

The emerging 'prospectus' for discussion includes:

- developing an interactive archive of practice in aspects of urban resilience across the globe
- assessing critically practice in different aspects of urban resilience to understand the conditions needed for positive interventions
- evaluative research of urban resilience as practised to learn from and support the field
- comparative research of urban resilience in different settings and different forms of threat and disaster
- developing and understanding inter-disciplinary and trans-disciplinary approaches to urban resilience
- developing case studies of the process of cities and parts of cities becoming more resilient
- developing innovations in education from school through to university degrees to doctoral theses to professional and political post experience and life long learning
- making sense of the culture and politics of introducing the values of resilient futures
- developing policies and funding for innovations in urban resilience that can be at scale to make a larger impact
- developing collaborating partnerships with actors across different scales and issues to jointly make progress on interventions and change for urban resilience

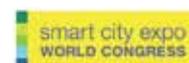
As a 'Virtual Urban Resilience Institute' we are developing these aspects of support for Urban Resilience and we are very open to ideas and innovations from practice, communities, government, NGOs and other agencies who find themselves under pressure now or know they will be in the future.



Professor Colin Fudge, Professor of Urban Futures and Design, Chalmers University, Sweden; Global Advisor UN Global Compact, Cities Programme; King Carl XVI of Sweden, Royal Professor of Environmental Science; Emeritus Professor and Founding President of RMIT Europe.



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This information brochure summarizes key aspects of UN-Habitat's new programme producing measurable indices for urban government resilience building efforts.

For enquiries on the City Resilience Profiling Programme and the Urban Resilience Institute please contact Dan Lewis, Chief, Urban Risk Reduction Unit: dan.lewis@unhabitat.org

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