



## Urban Resilience

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### DISASTERS

1.5 billion people live in disaster-prone areas  
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### CLIMATE CHANGE

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### RISKS TO URBAN RESILIENCE

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### Thank You

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# Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction

Priority Action 1: Understanding Disaster Risk)  
Priority for Action 3: Investing in disaster risk  
reduction for resilience.

# CLIMATE CHANGE

The impact of climate change on urban  
livelihoods and natural biodiversity  
systems has long been observed  
worldwide



The Humanitar Landscape  
Inf. Regional Institute

# **The Humanitarian Landscape**

**Conflict...Displacement...Urbanaization**

# CONFLICT

Wars and conflict disastrous humanitarian impact have acquired global attention for decades.

More than any other time, the Syrian crisis represents the biggest leap in the number of people forcibly displaced since early 2011, with figures reaching up to 4,812,993 and most alarmingly, more than 50% of Syrian Refugees are children. (March 2016, UNHCR)

# DISPLACEMENT

Forced displacement is increasingly protracted, lasting an estimated 25 years on average

Communities hosting displaced people face enormous pressures on, and competition for, scarce basic services, housing and jobs

Lack of Social cohesion



# URBANAIZATION

**Globally, 54% of the population lives in urban areas today, and this trend is expected to continue.**

**By 2045, the number of people living in cities will increase by 1.5 times to 6 billion, adding 2 billion more urban residents**

# DISASTERS

The majority of the world's population now lives in urban areas, often unplanned and located in Natural Hazard and Man-made

With more than **US\$1.3**  
trillion economic loss  
reported in the past  
10 years

Over **700**  
thousand people  
lost their lives

Over **1.4 million**  
were injured and  
approximately 23  
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Exacerbating the impact of climate change on Urban Resilience



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# Opportunities for Change

- Urban areas may be increasingly at risk, but they also offer **opportunities**
- With more than **80% of global GDP generated in cities**, urbanization can contribute to sustainable growth if managed well by **increasing productivity**, allowing **innovation** and new ideas to emerge.
- Establish new partnerships that go beyond the humanitarian sector to include national and local authorities, development agencies and urban professionals, such as planners, **YOUNG SCIENTISTS** and engineers.
- Address the risks and reality of humanitarian crises and mitigate crisis impacts on the most vulnerable, including the **displaced**
- Enable **affected people** to determine, **with dignity**, the **course of their lives and their futures**



**HOW?**



# 1. Recognize the nature, scale and complexity of urban crisis

Emergency interventions must recognize the specificity of urban crises and that they require a more tailored response than is currently employed.



# Scale and Complexity of Urban Crisis

Emergency interventions must recognize the specificity of urban crises and that they require a more tailored response than is currently employed.

a) **Prioritize** cities at high risk, or in crisis, for joint action to strengthen urban resilience.

b) **Establish** a 'trigger' for urban response, use of existing data and involvement of local actors and urban expertise.

c) **Adopt** area-based approaches to programming and coordination that are adapted and appropriate, **identifying strengths and weaknesses**, and **building on**, rather than duplicating, **existing city systems**.

d) Foster **collaboration** between **city, humanitarian and development actors** so that all are contributing to assessment and strategic frameworks for recovery.

## 2. Work with the systems that shape cities

Emergency interventions must recognize the **specificity of urban systems** and that they require a more **tailored response** than what is currently employed

# Factors that shape cities

Emergency interventions must recognize the **specificity of urban crises** and that they require a more **tailored response** than what is currently employed

Ensure that the most at-risk towns and cities are able to **manage displacement**, recognizing existing **poverty** and **vulnerability** in urban areas, and the **added strain that displacement** can place on local services.

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## 3. Manage urban displacement

- a) Improve understanding of the specific vulnerabilities and capacities of **displaced women** and **men** in urban areas, as **compared to host communities**, and develop tools and approaches for the protection of **dispersed, mobile and less visible populations**, including older people, youth and people with disabilities.
- b) Consider the **wide range of shelter options** already housing people in the city, and support authorities and communities to find appropriate housing solutions for the displaced, rather than camps being the default option.
- c) **Invest in infrastructure and services**, contributing as much as possible to longer-term sustainable urban growth.
- d) Support the creation of **livelihood opportunities** for displaced populations, ensuring urban areas **benefit from the expertise refugees and IDPs bring with them**, and that those moving from rural areas are able to develop new skills.

# Global Alliance for Urban Crises

## Adapting Global Crisis Response to an Urban World

- **Tailor humanitarian response** to the urban context by **developing shared assessment and profiling tools**, promoting joint analysis, and adapting coordination mechanisms
- **Develop or work with existing global, regional and national rosters** to facilitate the deployment of urban leaders, managers and technical experts
- **Build the evidence base on the specific characteristics of protracted displacement in urban areas**, and contribute to the design of appropriate and cost-effective responses, with particular regard to protection of vulnerable people, shelter, basic services and infrastructure
- **Ensure that initiatives focused on building urban resilience** incorporate components on **resilient response** and **recovery** from crises, and that they leverage greatest impact in cities most at risk of humanitarian emergencies



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