



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready

*World Disaster Reduction
Campaign 2010-11*

www.unisdr.org/campaign

Is your city ready?



*Information and modalities for
nomination and participation for
Cities and Local Governments*

Making Cities Resilient

The World Disaster Campaign 2010-2011 “Making Cities Resilient” aims at getting Mayors, local governments and national authorities to take actions towards making cities resilient as part of sustainable urbanizations.

A ten-point action plan of “ten essentials for city resilience” (see Annex 1) will be the guiding tool for the campaign. It builds on the priorities set out in the international blueprint “*Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the resilience of communities and nations to disasters*”. The capacity of local government officials and institutions to make cities resilient is a high priority to advance the local implementation.

This document explains the modalities for nominating cities, local governments and champions in the campaign. For further information, see the Campaign Strategy.

Role of cities and local governments in the Campaign

Mayors and **Local Government Officials** are invited to play a leadership role in the Campaign in different ways:

- as **Advocates** at international and national levels
- in their own cities and nationally, as **Drivers** for **Disaster Risk Reduction** implementation at the local level, and
- in pledging for innovation and initiatives that will help their **Cities** to become safer, more disaster **resilient**.

UNISDR and participating partner organizations will provide support to publicizing success and practice, provide space for learning and meeting and seek to influence policy makers at all levels. There will be no ear-marked resources to support specific activities by participating cities, which would be undertaken directly with the local government themselves and their local or other partners. Participating cities will be encouraged to contribute resources and know-how to other cities in the campaign within their reach and capacity.

Campaign Partners

UN-Habitat and other UN agencies, World Bank, United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), CityNet, Earthquake Megacities Initiatives (EMI), International Federation of Red Cross and Red Cross Societies (IFRC), Global Network for Civil Society Organizations for Disaster Risk Reduction, GROOTS International, Huairou Commission

Nomination process and the selection criteria

*Become a
Resilient Cities
CHAMPION*

“Champions” and good-will ambassadors nominations:

Partners in the Campaign, National Platforms or city councils can recommend a personality to UNISDR as a “Champion” for the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. This provides for leadership and visibility; it is also a non-remunerated designation. The characteristics for such a nominee should be as follows:

- A high profile leader with the ability to mobilize others and influence policy or action at the national, local and/or community level (i.e. Mayor, Governor, community leader, artist, etc).
- Associated to a local government (i.e. province, district, city, municipality, township or village) with relevant experience in disaster risk reduction or demonstrated commitment to the Campaign objectives.
- Be committed to contribute time to support the Campaign in their own capacity, by participating in international, regional and/or national high-profile meetings, dialogues and awareness raising events.
- Be able to effectively convey messages to reach people at risk as well as policy and decision makers.

The nominated Champion should be willing to:

- Participate in at least one high-profile event during the Campaign, regionally or internationally, as spokes person for resilient cities;
- Promote disaster resilience and the Campaign objectives with the national Association of local governments or similar forums, including to seek increased resources for this topic from national budgets;
- Provide opportunities for or prepare video clips from successful disaster reduction initiatives and other forms of messages for media use;
- Receive or approach other Mayors or local or national decision makers to promote city resilience.

If you would like to nominate a “Champion” for the Campaign who is available and willing to fulfill the above criteria, please provide your motivation and a short biography of the person and send it to: isdr-campaign@un.org, or to fax: +41-22-917 8964, or contact any UNISDR regional office.

*Champions are
actively
promoting the
objectives of the
campaign*

*Become a
**ROLE MODEL
CITY***

*Role Model
Cities feature
prominently
throughout the
campaign*

“Role model” cities and local governments’ nominations:

The criteria to become a “role model” city in the campaign is to be a city that has shown results or initiated processes for change in at least five areas out of the ten essential actions in the resilient cities “Ten-point checklist of Essentials for Making Cities Resilient” (see Annex 1)

Step 1 Nomination proposal

Local government officials, technical institutions and other partners shall send a nomination proposal to UNISDR, with a clear motivation of why this city or local government could serve as “role model” in the Campaign. At least one additional stakeholder (from the academia, civil society or the private sector) shall be involved as an active partner of the designated city / local government in the Campaign. All nominations should be submitted by e-mail to isdr-campaign@un.org or by fax: +41-22-917 8964 using the “Nomination Form” (Annex 2). Contact any of the UNISDR offices in your region if you need further advice (addresses listed at the end).

Step 2 Review of submissions

UNISDR, with support from an international multi-disciplinary advisory group, will review all submissions and send a formal letter to the Mayor, the Governor or any other indicated authority in the nomination form, inviting them as either “role model” or “participating city” in the Campaign. UNISDR encourages the Mayor’s office to seek the approval of the City Council to be officially involved as a “role model” in the Campaign.

Step 3 Signing up

The Mayor sends an official communication to UNISDR, in which he/she states the wish (and the approval by the City Council if this is the case) to become a role-model for city resilience and to work with UNISDR and its partners in the Campaign. The local government shall inform the central government about this nomination and notify the official Hyogo Framework for Action focal point or the National Platform for Disaster Risk reduction (contact information can be requested from UNISDR secretariat.)

Step 4 Campaign activities

The selected “role model” city and local government will define with UNISDR what the opportunities are for them to:

- Share their experience with other cities, through organizing city-to-city learning with study tours or training components;
- Preparing audiovisuals presenting innovative solutions for urban/local risk reduction; organizing policy dialogues;
- “Twinning up” with other cities during the Campaign and similar activities

*Sign up as
PARTICIPANT*

“Participants” in the Campaign

Cities and local governments who are interested in participating in the Campaign but do not comply to the criteria of a “role model” or a “Champion” are encouraged to sign up to the campaign through isdr-campaign@un.org. By doing so, they will be requested to pledge their commitment against one of the ten essential of the Campaign.

*Pledge your
commitment*

A letter from the Mayor’s office to UNISDR shall confirm this pledge, indicating which other organizations the city administration will engage during the Campaign. The name and pledge of all participating cities and local governments will be listed by UNISDR on the Campaign website. All participating cities and local governments will be regularly updated by UNISDR on the Campaign activities and other activities initiated by partners.

General Selection Criteria

The selection of “Champions” and “role model” cities for the Campaign will, in addition, be based on the principle of equitable and balanced representation (i.e. distribution among countries, regions, size of cities, regional / provincial / municipal government, geographic and hazard conditions, etc.).

UNISDR Support to the Campaign

As the coordinator of the Campaign, UNISDR will cater for regional and global partnerships of support for the campaign cities - “Champions”, “role model” cities and participants- and UNISDR will in particular provide support to the following activities:

- Organization of **policy dialogues, workshops** and other **Campaign-related events** at the global and regional level.
- “**Induction packages**” for local governments on urban risk in collaboration with training centres and academia, promoting capacity development and learning opportunities for cities and local governments in each region.
- **Information** and **knowledge** support.
- High-visibility **media events** and **communication tools**.
- The UN-Sasakawa Award for Disaster Risk Reduction 2010-2011, which will prioritize nominations from cities who participate in the Campaign.

Shared Responsibility

No specific funding will be provided by UNISDR to sponsor projects and initiatives by cities and local governments as part of the campaign. The cities themselves and partners are expected to support the organization of events, conferences and meetings focusing on the Campaign. Specific proposals, of particular relevance to the campaign objectives, may be considered under exceptional circumstances for funding and on a case by case basis.

UNISDR and campaign partners will cater with national, multi-lateral and bi-lateral development organizations to prioritize projects and funding for urban risk reduction. All such information will be made available on the campaign website.

For more information:

URL: www.unisdr.org/campaign

UNISDR Secretariat Geneva

E-mail: isdr-campaign@un.org

UNISDR Regional Office Africa, Nairobi

Email: isdr-africa@unep.org

UNISDR Regional Office Americas, Panama

Email: eird@eird.org

UNISDR Regional Office for Arab States, Cairo

Email: isdr-arabstates@un.org

UNISDR Regional Office Asia and Pacific, Bangkok

Email: isdr-bkk@un.org

UNISDR Regional Office Europe, Brussels

Email: isdr-europe@un.org

Annex I

A Ten-point checklist for local governments¹ - Ten essentials for making cities resilient

The campaign proposes a Ten-point checklist of Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient to serve as a guide for commitment by Mayors.

Have your City Council and local government sign up to this!

Ten-point Checklist - Essentials for Making Cities Resilient¹

1. Put in place **organization and coordination** to understand and reduce disaster risk within the local government, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society—build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role and contribution to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
2. **Assign a budget** for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
3. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, **prepare risk assessments** and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
4. Invest in and maintain **infrastructure that reduces risk**, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.
5. Assess the **safety of all schools and health facilities** and upgrade these as necessary.
6. Apply and enforce **realistic, risk-compliant building regulations and land use planning principles**. Identify **safe land for low-income citizens** and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.
7. Ensure **education programmes and training** on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
8. **Protect ecosystems and natural buffers** to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
9. Install **early warning systems and emergency management capacities** in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills in which everyone participates.
10. After any disaster, ensure that the **needs of the survivors are placed** at the centre of reconstruction with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

¹ The Checklist builds on the priorities identified in the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* - www.unisdr.org/hfa

Annex II

Nomination form for “role model” cities and local governments

Please send the nomination form to isdr-campaign@un.org. Nominations will be accepted on an ongoing basis throughout 2010-11.

	Specifications
City / Local Government (name, location, size)	District Development Committee, Chitwan District implementing activities in 3 Village Development Committees in the district
Name of Mayor / Governor / Community leader	Mr Uddab Prasad Timalsena, Local Development Officer

<p>Major Disaster Risks (indicate major disasters that have occurred, prevailing hazards and vulnerable conditions)</p>	<p>Geographically, the district covers hilly region and inner Tarai (plain) region. out of 36 Village Development Committees (VDCs), 9 VDCs fall in the hilly region and 2 municipalities and 27 VDCs fall in the inner Tarai. There has been assessment of existing and potential hazards in village development committees and municipalities in the district. The assessment identified flood, drought, landslides, wildlife intrusion particularly in crops and livestock, and fire as major prevailing hazards. Water induced hazards have caused major disasters events in the past. Nine VDCs lying in the hill region are prone to landslides particularly during rainy season. Two major rivers namely Narayani and Rapti, and other smaller streams that create risk of flood (land cutting, inundation) and landslide during monsoon. Drought is here referred to shortage of water for irrigation which goes severe between November to May. As dry periods are extending longer in the recent decades, increasing population is on stress of water shortage for drinking and domestic use as springs and digwells dry off in some locations. Due to erratic rainfall pattern in recent decades likely impacts of climate change combined with increased population demanding more water, shortage of water happens even during monsoon period particularly for irrigation. About 80% of Chitwan population depends on agriculture as major source of income and are in direct effect of drought where there are not reliable irrigation facilities. Landslides particularly in the hill region damage land, infrastructures, crops and other assets in the upstream and increase flood hazard in the downstream. Fourteen VDCs and 1 Municipality that are adjacent to National Park are vulnerable to wildlife intrusion. Some communities living in these VDCs are reported loss of up to 75% of their crop and sometimes loss of human life and livestock in the past.</p> <p>Fire is result of drought and carelessness spreading regardless of physiography but settlements adjacent to forests and national park are more vulnerable. Events of fire in forests and settlements are almost annual events; greater losses as drought extends longer.</p> <p>Many communities have to cope with various stresses of adversities throughout the year</p>
<p>Progress and results (indicate main areas of progress, based on the “ten essentials”)</p>	<p>The district is pioneer in Nepal to prepare district disaster management action plan in 2004. Based on the aggregate vulnerability to disasters caused by different hazards, VDC level disaster management action plans have been prepared in consultation with local stakeholders and are under implementation in 31 VDCs and 1 Municipality. These plans are integrated with the usual development planning process in the VDC and DDC. Role of different stakeholders have been identified at local, district and national level stakeholders for the activities set in the plans where local and district government bodies take lead for facilitation and coordination. Both constructional and institutional/social measures are identified for short and long-term strategies to disaster risk reduction. Local governments have pivotal role.</p>

Annually, DDC allocates certain amount for disaster risk reduction activities including raising awareness on preparedness and early warning. Flood being the most disaster causing hazard, DDC as secretariate to the district disaster relief committee (DDRC) conducts pre-monsoon disaster preparedness workshops with other goovernment agencies and stakeholders where specific taskforces are formed to act during disasterous events. In addition DDC performs other several development activities as part of its regualr activities like irrigation schemes, road, bridge/culverts construction, hospital support etc. which ultimately play vital role in reducing disaster risks. DDC in all its regular activities takes possible disaster, sensitivity and vulnerability into account well before the execution. DDC in partnership with non government organizations has developed flood early warning systems for floods; comprise of rescue materials, telephone list for precautionary information flow and rescue requests. DDRC has formed early warning sub-committee under its umbrella which has telephone numbers of Army, Police, health care institutions, FMs/Radios, disaster prone area and other relevant stakeholders so that the committee can inform them to mobilize if there is a probability of disaster (Particularly during monsoon). Similarly, in every monsoon season (June, July, August and September) DDRC with its initiation awares vulnerable community to be prepared and informs possible way to reduce the flood risks through FMs/Radio. There are temporary shelters built in few vulnerable VDCs for the cases community need to take temporary asylum. In the cases of disaster events, DDC coordinates response and rehabilitation measures as part of district government entity in the leadership of Chief District Officer. In schools, DDC has supported to build gender friendly toilets so that to reduce the risk of epidemic. It also supports Nepal Redcross Society to conduct school disaster reduction activities via trainings, awareness campaigns and other.

DDC also organizes regular trainings to VDC secretaries and other officials on disaster risk reduction and early warning to enhance their understanding and help them to implement DRR work effectively. DDC in coordination with District Forest Office and NGOs have implemented watershed management activities like restoration of degraded lands, watershed conservation, livelihood improvement of vulnerable and affected communities to reduce disaster risks and mitigate impacts. DDC also constructs physical infrastructures like gabion dam, retaining wall, checkdams, spurs etc to reduce the strength of hazard. DDC is also taking active concern towards rehabilitation of disaster victims. Data has shown, till date DDC has supported around 500 households (from 5 VDCs) to relocate their homes far away from disaster prone area to safe one. VDCs are enabled and authorized to provide disaster affected families to provide financial support of NRs 5,000.00 to each event. This provision helps victims to get immediate relief.

	<p>DDC is effectively able to implement building code to prevent the loss from earthquake (Nepal lies in one of the most earthquake prone zone - Main Boundary Thrust between Tibetan Plate and Indian Plate)</p> <p>DDC council has decided to establish district soil conservation office in the district. This will help conserving landscapes in the mountain zone of the district. Role of local governments in the district has been more effective with initiation of 'People's embankment' programme. Through this programme government has invested over 150 million Rupees in the district to construct embankments to reduce the sensitivity to the flood.</p> <p>With these efforts DRR activities are decentralized to VDC and community level and integrated into regular development planning of VDCs. Approaches have now become proactive from reactive in the past. Fourteen VDCs have formed disaster management committees that coordinate DRR activities in respective VDCs. This will be encouraged in other VDCs to complete in this year. Community capacity to reduce disaster risk due to wildlife intrusion and drought has been increased in the VDCs that are adjacent to national park. The awareness and the focus of stakeholders to DRR has been increased and contributed to minimize losses due to flood.</p>
<p>Which local institutions will be engaged in the Campaign? (in addition to the local government)</p>	<p>District Development Committee will be engaged in the campaign. Local Development Officer of the DDC will take leadership in this campaign. Information Officer designated as disaster focal person in the DDC will be deputed to assist. Focused activities will be implemented in three VDCs as part of this campaign where respective VDCs will also mobilize resources on DRR. The VDCs are Kabilash, Meghauli and Patihani.</p> <p>An organization among civil society organizations (NGOs) working in the selected VDCs will be engaged in the campaign.</p>
<p>Which part of the city administration will be the focal point for the Campaign?</p>	<p>Communication Unit will be the focal point for this campaign. The focal point will facilitate the DRR activities in the selected VDCs for campaign and help Local Development Officer to take leadership in the campaign. Technical support will be continued by Divisional Engineer in the DDC.</p>

<p>Achievement in all of the ten essentials areas (make an estimation as follows: 1 - poor/nothing in place, 2 - some progress in place, 3 - in place, well functioning or N/A)</p>	Essential N. 1	3
	Essential N. 2	2
	Essential N. 3	3
	Essential N. 4	2
	Essential N. 5	3
	Essential N. 6	2
	Essential N. 7	2
	Essential N. 8	3
	Essential N. 9	3
	Essential N. 10	2

World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-11, UNISDR Secretariat, E-mail: isdr-campaign@un.org