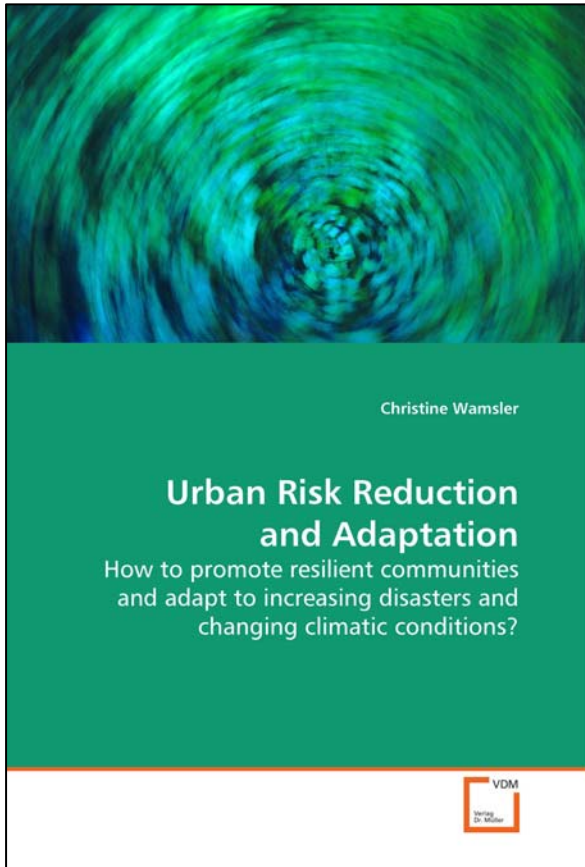


# New Book on Urban Risk Reduction and Adaptation



**Abstract:** Climate change and disasters are among today's most pressing issues. The damage caused by the worldwide increase in disasters is staggering, with the urban poor being most at risk. Disasters make their already precarious living conditions worse, creating a vicious circle of poverty. More and more attention has thus been given to the need to address changing climatic conditions and disaster risk through development work. Despite related efforts, urban development actors still struggle to effectively reduce risk in their daily work. This book seeks to demonstrate how disaster risk management and adaptation could be better integrated into urban development planning (i.e. social housing, slum upgrading and urban governance programmes). Based on the identification of the nexus between disasters and urban development and of the incomplete approaches to risk reduction and its mainstreaming, a comprehensive adaptation framework is presented. The book should be of interest to policymakers, academics and practitioners working in development planning and reconstruction who face the challenge of addressing disasters, ever-increasing risk, and vulnerability to climate change.

**Author:** C. Wamsler, PhD, Dipl.Ing, MA, a trained architect, urban planner and humanitarian aid worker, is a Lecturer at the Global Urban Research Centre (GURC) and the Institute for Development Policy and Management (IDPM), University of Manchester, UK, Visiting Professor at Lund University Centre for Risk Analysis and Management (LUCRAM), Sweden, and international consultant.

*"Finally, the key and long-awaited book on Disaster Risk Management and Adaptation has been written. I have been working in disaster planning since 1972, and during these years I have often looked in vain for a book of this nature. Wamsler's research that gave rise to this text is a major achievement and given increasing evidence of climate change, its publication is well timed. This study contains a rich collection of topics of disaster and climate risk, urban vulnerability, low-cost housing, safe settlement planning, and urban governance, and stitches these complex and differing topics together in a seamless manner. Destined to become a classic in the field, this is essential reading for academic researchers, architects and planners, aid agency staff and government officials."*

**Ian Davis, Visiting Professor/Fellow in the Resilience Centre of Cranfield University, the Centre for Development and Emergency Planning (CENDEP), Oxford Brookes University, the Post-War Reconstruction and Development Unit (PRDU) in York, UK, and the Graduate School of Global Environmental Studies, Kyoto University, Japan.**

*"Walk in a mile in someone else's shoes, and then you begin to understand them." Christine Wamsler has done that, and her book will be invaluable for all kind of urban actors, planners, and planning students as a result. Well intentioned academics, activists, funders, and policy makers bombard planners with a never ending list of things they should do. But how can they find the time? How can they meet the expectations of their institutions and managers and also take care of apparently new problems and demands – for example to address climate change and to reduce urban risk? The beauty of Wamsler's book is that it does not merely invoke links and synergies, but shows systematically how these nested and overlapping agendas can be implemented. If I dare use one further common saying: 'The devil is in the detail'; Wamsler's text provides it in a readable form."*

**Ben Wisner, Disaster Expert from Oberlin College, Ohio, USA, and Visiting Research Fellow at the Development Studies Institute, London School of Economics and Political Science (LSE) and University College London (UCL), UK.**

*"With the IPCC's 5th assessment report looming, this book is a much needed effort for a sector that is not getting enough attention. Climate change impact is already being felt in the urban sector whether in coastal cities or sub-Saharan land locked ones—where more than half of the world's population already lives. The need for intelligent and strategic adaptation in the urban sector is a pressing priority. In a novel and integrated way, this book provides a much needed framework of thinking, planning and action for urban development specialists and policy makers who are struggling to respond to immediate priorities (such as disaster risk, poverty, resources, economic growth) let alone long-term future demands."*

**Mohamed Hamza, Senior Research Fellow at the Stockholm Environment Institute, Sweden, and Senior Advisor for the Capacity for Disaster Risk Reduction Initiative, UNDP, Geneva and the Swedish Civil Contingencies Agency (MSB), Sweden.**