

## **Current initiatives related to urban risk reduction:**

### **UN-HABITAT:**

UN-HABITAT supports cities to adopt disaster mitigation policies and strategies, reducing the vulnerabilities of human settlements, and strengthen their capacities for managing and responding to human made and natural disasters at all levels.

The goal of the Risk Mapping and Pre-Disaster Shelter Response Planning initiative is to improve capacities to predict and address future post-disaster shelter recovery needs as well as to manage information about on-going risk after a disaster and their implications for shelter planning. This improved capacity will ensure rapid and efficient shelter provision after a disaster and will help to optimize resource utilization at local, national and international levels. This will also support disaster risk reduction activities by having full knowledge of the vulnerabilities and risk to reduce. By applying, adapting and calibrating the methodology in various pilot cities using actual past events, the wide applicability and usefulness will be demonstrated before its large-scale deployment and utilization. The initial pilot cities include Maputo (Mozambique), Kathmandu (Nepal), and Tijuana (Mexico). It is envisaged that the same exercise will be replicated in other cities around the world, gaining experience and providing major predictability in future emergency shelter responses and improving current capacities.

This initiative goes hand by hand with other UN-Habitat initiatives and partnerships as the collaboration with the World Bank on the Urban Risk Assessment Model and the Making Cities Resilient Campaign of the UN-ISDR. The IASC established a Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas task force led by UN-Habitat in 2009 to analyze the humanitarian response challenges in urban areas and develop a strategy to improve humanitarian assistance in cities. As part of the strategy, the task force is analyzing how capacities, institutions and resources could be geared towards improving preparedness and IASC response especially in high risk-vulnerable cities. An understanding of urban vulnerability and risks faced by cities lies at the centre of such efforts as does the need for enhancing partnerships among humanitarian organizations, urban planners, city governments, urban authorities and development actors for an improve response.

[www.unhabitat.org](http://www.unhabitat.org)

[www.disasterassessment.org](http://www.disasterassessment.org)

**IFRC:**

Around the world, national Red Cross and Red Crescent societies are working with national and municipal authorities as well as civil society partners to address urban challenges by aiming at their root causes. They focus on promoting diversity, reducing discrimination, and joining in efforts to provide social services, and to ensure that adequate protection, preventive health-care, education and disaster risk reduction measures are taken. Red Cross Red Crescent volunteers are at the heart of the Movement's endeavours to strengthen urban communities before, during and after emergencies.

National Societies are also engaged in the development of disaster risk reduction strategies and are active participants in both national and local committees. Drawing on their extensive experience, they are strong advocates and trusted advisers for disaster impact reduction.

The IFRC is committed to building urban resilience, including by advancing the study of this increasingly complex topic. The 2010 World Disasters Report (to be published this fall) will focus on urban risk, and the theme of this year's World Red Cross and Red Crescent Day also highlighted urbanisation as one of the most pressing humanitarian challenges facing communities around the world.

[www.ifrc.org](http://www.ifrc.org)

**UNISDR:**

The United Nations International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) is working with its partners to raise awareness and commitment for sustainable development practices that will reduce disaster risk and increase the wellbeing and safety of citizens. ISDR partners have launched, in May 2010, a new Global Campaign: *Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!* The campaign will seek to convince city leaders and local governments to commit to a checklist of Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient and to work alongside local and national authorities as well as grassroots networks. For more information:

[www.unisdr.org/english/campaigns/campaign2010-2011/](http://www.unisdr.org/english/campaigns/campaign2010-2011/)