



Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction
Associated with the Shanghai Expo 2010
“Better Cities, Better Life”
Shanghai, 28-31 July 2010

Forum and Working Group Summary

Introduction

150 participants from local governments around the world, national representatives, academia, civil society and private sector exhibitors met in the “*Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction*”, held in Shanghai at the Everbright Convention & Exhibition Center from 28-30 July 2010. The Forum was held within the context of the global campaign “Making Cities Resilient- My city is getting ready!” and the Shanghai EXPO 2010- “Better city - better life”. It included an exhibit of private and public innovators - “Unity in Aid” – that showcased products and technologies to help in the prevention, recovery and rehabilitation processes related to disasters in cities and an international conference targeting local authorities. The Forum was convened by DEVNET and co-organized by UNISDR, in collaboration with UN-Habitat and ICLEI, supported by the International Recovery Platform, including ILO and ADRC, and GROOTS.

An exciting program, with plenary presentations, working groups and visit to the Shanghai EXPO 2010 permitted participants to learn, exchange experience and design ways forward to improve disaster resilience in urban areas. The recent earthquakes in Haiti and the Wenchuan area in China, cyclone Nargis in Myanmar and how cities and localities dealt with floods, climate change and increasing urban risks, applying in various degrees the “ten essential actions to make cities resilient”, underscored the discussions.

Mayor Jean-Yves Jason of Port au Prince, Haiti, Governor Joey Salceda of Albay, Philippines, local officials from China, Deputy Mayors and high level officials from Senegal, Mozambique, South Africa, Myanmar, India, Philippines, Indonesia, Japan, Sweden, presented realities, good practice and challenges from cities and provinces such as Chengdu, Sichuan, Pingdingshan, Baofeng, Yushu, Qinghai, Padang, Mumbai, Maputo, Overstrand, Lima, Karlstad, Hyogo, Bhubaneswar-Orissa, Makassar, Yogyakarta and others.

The conclusions and recommendations were drawn from the plenary and three working groups, that discussed:

- 1- How to measure success in making cities resilient? Local progress review and monitoring
- 2- What works and how are cities addressing the ten essentials for resilience? Good practice, tools and methodologies
- 3- Building back better: Operationalizing disaster reduction in post-disaster transition to development

The cities of Chengdu (China) and Makassar (Indonesia) signed up to the Making Cities Resilient campaign during the Forum, following Baofeng, the first city to sign up from China. Makati (Philippines) and Bhubaneswar-Orissa (India) committed their cities to the campaign at the Forum. Commissioner from Mumbai informed that the Mayor had signed up to the campaign, as had the present Mayors from Port-au-Prince (Haiti) and Chittwa (Nepal) in earlier occasions.

The Mayor of Tianjin, China, offered to host a follow up Forum on Disaster Risk Reduction for Cities in 2011.

“Bring Happiness to the World”, a song commemorating the Great Hanshin-Awaji Earthquake of 1995, performed by schoolchildren via DVD from Kobe, and live singing in honor of the campaign by Councilor Tosca Ramos, representing Mayor Binay from Makati, closed the Forum.

Action Points

Main action points identified by the participants, for their perusal and facilitated by the organizers of the Forum, included:

- Empower communities with the necessary knowledge and awareness of the various types of disasters. Develop a strong communication plan, from central government and local government to grass-root level.
- Mainstream disaster risk reduction in every sector of development, link recovery plans with long term economic development plans, promote disaster risk reduction to become part of the Millennium Development Goals.
- Improve adaptation and mitigation to climate change as fundamental means to reduce disaster impact.
- Develop or strengthen pre-disaster recovery planning
- Disseminate globally the revised indicators, building on the Hyogo Framework for Action and the ten essentials to make cities resilient, in accordance with recommendations from Working Group 1. Test the indicators in 5 countries and in the cities signed up to the campaign. Disseminate through the national authorities and platforms responsible for the Hyogo Framework implementation.
- Use the indicators to set a baseline for all participating cities in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.
- Archive and make available the diversity of innovations generated in the forum to the participants and other partners.
- Develop a more robust knowledge management mechanism addressing the needs of different stakeholders involved in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign.
- Develop or strengthen pre-disaster recovery planning mechanisms for national and local governments (including for pre-disaster recovery planning) to coordinate disaster recovery processes.

Summary of Working Group 1 – City resilience indicators, local HFA monitoring and progress review

Objectives

To accelerate the implementation of risk reduction it is necessary to monitor performance and progress. The *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA)* has an established monitoring system with indicators for the national levels, coordinated by UNISDR. The next iteration starting in 2010 will address regional and local needs to monitor progress. The HFA reporting system and several other initiatives of city and local level indicators and climate risk indexing, presented in the Forum, will constitute a local disaster risk reduction monitoring framework. It will serve a dual purpose of monitoring local HFA implementation and serving as a baseline for the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. UNISDR had prepared a draft proposal of indicators, based on the campaign “ten essentials”, HFA indicators, and the “Views from the Frontline” civil society report.

The working group session met the following two objectives:

- It looked at existing indicators and processes at the local level presented by several speakers and discussed the way forward in developing a set of indicators to measure city resilience and progress of HFA implementation at the local level.
- It discussed options for the process and mechanics of local level disaster resilience monitoring and review.

Outcomes

The following inputs were gathered on the methodology and process of collecting information on local HFA implementation:

- a) The local monitoring should be conducted through a participatory approach, with several departments / local government units involved in the process.
- b) In order to ensure that the monitoring process is accurate and comprehensive, workshops need to be organised with representatives from different government departments (national/local) and civil society organizations.
- c) The request to report on progress made at the local level should come from the national government (national platform / HFA focal point), addressed to local governments.

Specific suggestions for the local monitoring guideline and indicators included the following:

1. There is a need for local governments to establish relationships with all stakeholders that have responsibility for critical infrastructure.
2. Local governments should ensure coordination with all different government levels (provincial or state, national), for example health and education responsibilities that fall outside of local government.
3. Recognising that the monitoring process is a learning experience in itself, the use of indicators should highlight and prioritize city to city linkages and learning opportunities.

4. Recognizing the significance of emergency response and the role of families and communities as first responders, local governments should ensure adequate awareness of DRR issues for communities and households.
5. Local governments should ensure past disaster events are utilized as learning opportunities.
6. Links to existing documents and other resources should be included in the initial responses from cities and made available through the campaign website.
7. Local indicators should promote a multi-hazard approach to the assessment of safe schools and hospitals (e.g. all-hazard assessments, emergency and mass casualty planning)

Recommendations

The draft campaign and local HFA indicators shall be revised in accordance with the above outcomes, and tested in 5 countries in 2010 prior to wider distribution and application of the indicators globally.

Summary of Working Group 2 – Tools and good practices

Objectives

The objectives were to identify tools and good practices that build urban resilience and to develop strategies for sharing and transferring these practices and tools. These were looked at in the context of the campaign action checklist of “ten essentials for making cities resilient” (see annex).

Outcomes

The Working Group achieved the following outcomes:

1. 30 participants representing national and local authorities, civil society, academic institutions, and the private sector contributed their initiatives, expertise, knowledge, and remaining challenges for helping to reduce vulnerability and risks against the “ten essentials” for Making Cities Resilient, in a wide range of specific tools and practices including legislations, policies, approaches, and institutional mechanisms.
2. Cities were identified to be at different points on the development trajectory with experiences in meeting certain checklist points of the “ten essentials” stronger than in other municipalities.
3. Climate change, adaptation, and mitigation initiatives and grass roots women experiences in driving practical disaster risk reduction initiatives were common themes in many of the inputs to the working group.
4. Participants expressed commitment to further collaboration in a strategic partnership for such sharing of practical insights.
5. Several tools, principles, and good practice for urban risk reduction were identified and presented by all participants and against the “ten essentials”- some documented in powerpoints, as well as specific needs.

6. Existing resources for the collection and dissemination of tools and good practices were also identified, including for example:
- The utilization of web portals (e.g., <http://www.cityriskpedia.com>, www.preventionweb.net and the campaign portal, currently in beta version at www.unisdr.org/campaign).
 - The involvement of national associations of local authorities as interlocutors.
 - City-to-city exchanges for peer learning.

Recommendations

Overall, the following recommendations emerged from the working group discussions:

- Recognizing the rich diversity of innovation brought to the working groups, all resources from this Forum should be archived and made available to all participants and any other interested partners.
- The Campaign would be enriched by the development of a more robust knowledge management mechanism addressing all stakeholders at international, national, local, and community levels for further collection and dissemination of tools, guidance, and good practices. The outcome of this Forum would constitute a basis for such framework.

Summary of Working Group 3 – Operationalising disaster reduction in post-disaster transition to development

Objectives

Participants reflected on how learnings from current recovery plans (in Sichuan, China, Myanmar, Yogyakarta, Indonesia) can influence future recoveries and can be applied to planning for recovery in Yushu, Qinghai (China), Padang (Indonesia), Myanmar (preparation for the cyclone season), and India (preparation for the flood season).

The objectives achieved were:

- To present pre-existing strategies and policies that facilitate clear institutional responsibilities for recovery action and enable public participation.
- To provide an opportunity for participants to reflect on recovery practices and learn from approaches adopted by different countries.
- To strengthen operational recovery procedures with regard to the integration of disaster risk reduction through sharing of experiences.
- To show case recommendations from “Operationalizing DRR in transition from recovery to development” project in Myanmar and China – Learning’s for the future.
- The groups deliberated on recommendations for key themes of recovery for, national governments, international organizations, donors and communities.

Recommendations

- Governments should maintain a permanent, as opposed to temporary and ad hoc, mechanism for long term recovery.
- Combine government's existing development plans with recovery plans, using recovery and reconstruction as an opportunity to build back better, greener and safer.
- Governments should plan a recovery framework prior to any disaster - this can include twinning assistance as practiced in China – link one province with another for support in case of a disaster.
- Recovery should be led by governments with, where requested, international organizations providing technical input and capacity building.
- Recovery should be utilized as an opportunity to upgrade the resilience of public infrastructure, including schools and health facilities, as practised in China by setting a higher standard of building code for public infrastructure.
- Shelter recovery should include capacity development for building code compliant construction by communities. Shelter reconstruction should be government led, community implemented.
- Resettlement programmes should include not only shelter but livelihoods rehabilitation and community services, including retraining, skill up-gradation and credit availability for industry and employment.
- Donor funding for recovery should be flexible and long term, not targeted to specific projects and areas, but allow local government to decide areas of priority for recovery. Donor funding should be aimed at providing assistance to the affected people, and should be removed from other political objectives.
- Local community leaders should serve as a bridge between policy makers and communities.
- Communities should: actively participate in recovery; understand the constraints of governments; support governments and agency programs for recovery; and advocate compliance with local building standards.
- Donors should prioritize mitigation as a means of reducing the demand for support following disasters.

A series of Guidance Notes for recovery will shortly be published by the International Recovery Platform in which these recommendations will be considered in more details

(www.recoveryplatform.org)

ANNEX:

TEN-POINT CHECKLIST – ESSENTIALS FOR MAKING CITIES RESILIENT

1. Put in place **organization and coordination** to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role in 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 that **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.
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.