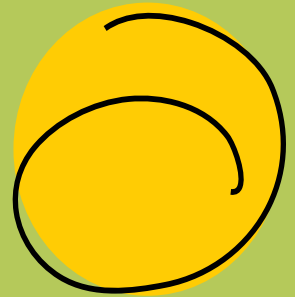


How To Make Cities More Resilient

A Handbook For Local Government Leaders

A contribution to the global campaign 2010-2015

Making Cities Resilient – My City is Getting Ready!



United Nations



International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

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Geneva, March 2012



United Nations

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See more about the key partners in the Making Cities Resilient campaign on page 71: UNISDR, GFDRR, ICLEI, UCLG, CITYNET, EMI, UNHABITAT.

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Photo: UCLG

► “With its city built on fault lines, the population of Istanbul has suffered greatly from a lack of proper planning, leaving it at risk. Two questions to consider: How to rehabilitate existing settlement areas and how to plan new settlements in light of the dangers. All countries must collaborate, with governments devising the approach and displaying the will to get the job done, aided by non-governmental organisations and the public, who should be aware of the dangers of specific buildings’ potential for collapse. The private sector must also contribute. A clear road map must enable cities to take concrete steps and cooperate with each other because they all face similar dangers. There is no time to lose because the loss of more lives and property is imminent. According to Istanbul’s experience, urban settlements must be transformed and community members must be included in the project. It’s not just top-down; it’s also bottom-up.”

Mr. Kadir Topbas, Mayor of Istanbul, President of the United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG)

From his intervention at the United Nations General Assembly Thematic Debate on Disaster Risk Reduction, February 2011

Photo page 6 from left to right: Margareta Wahlström, SRSB UNISDR, and David Cadman, President of ICLEI with Marcelo Ebrard, Mayor of Mexico City and Chair of World Mayors Council on Climate Change; Jürgen Nimptsch, Mayor of Bonn and Vice Chair of World Mayors Council on Climate Change, Germany; Cheikh Mamadou Abiboulaye Dieye, Mayor of Saint Louis, Senegal; Enrique Gomez, Mayor of Larreynaga-Malpaisillo, Nicaragua; Joey Sarte Salceda, Provincial Governor of Albay, the Philippines; Aake Pettersson Frykberg, Vice Mayor of Karlstad, Sweden; Obed Mlaba, former mayor of the eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality, which includes Durban, South Africa (July 1996 - May 2011). The first Mayors signing up to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign at the Resilient Cities congress in Bonn, Germany, May 2010.

Foreword

With over half the world's population now living in urban areas, making cities safer is a long-term challenge that can be achieved. Cities are engines of national growth and dynamic in their governance systems and capacities. Throughout history, disaster events have disrupted urban life. An extreme and changing climate, earthquakes, and emergencies triggered by man-made hazards are increasingly putting pressure on people and threatening the prosperity of cities.

This **Handbook for Local Government Leaders** provides mayors, governors, councillors and others with a generic framework for risk reduction and points to good practices and tools that are already being applied in different cities for that purpose. It responds to the following key questions: WHY building disaster resilience is beneficial; WHAT kind of strategies and actions are required; and HOW to go about the task. Because cities, towns and municipalities differ in size, social, economic and cultural profiles and exposure to risk, each one will approach the tasks differently.

The message is: resilience and disaster risk reduction must be part of urban design and strategies to achieve sustainable development. They require strong alliances and broad participation. Applying the guiding principles of the "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign and the information in this Handbook will help cities and local governments to share learning, access information, develop indicators and performance measures and track progress.

We acknowledge the wisdom of all who have participated – and we encourage and welcome many more to join us! An acknowledgement of all who have participated in the development of this Handbook, by providing content, experiences and funding, can be found prior to the Annexes.

UNISDR seeks your feedback on the Handbook's content, examples and format to improve future editions.

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Campaign in May 2010*

