

## REGIONAL KICK-OFF WORKSHOP

● 19-20 February 2017 ● Beirut, Lebanon ●

### Concept Note

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#### BACKGROUND

Rapid urban growth presents a variety of challenges to local officials. Local officials often lack clarity in key areas related to disaster risk management, due to the volume of complex and inter-dependent systems in a city. As the closest level of government to communities, local governments are responsible for the delivery of basic services. However, they often lack the necessary tools, knowledge and policies towards increasing resilience as well as ensuring that these services are protected from hazards.

In addition, small-scale disasters at the local level constitute a huge percentage of losses in many countries that are not always accounted for at national level. Disaster risks are also intensifying due to the increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather events, as a result of climate change.

UNISDR, with support from the European Commission is engaging 20 cities worldwide in an initiative entitled “**Making cities sustainable and resilient: Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 at the local level**” to address these challenges. The initiative builds on the achievements of the participating cities in building resilience, and paves the way toward the implementation of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030<sup>1</sup>.

Based on the engagement of the cities in the Making Cities Resilient Campaign<sup>2</sup>, this initiative will support in the development and implementation of **city**

**risk-informed development plans** that will have a direct relation with increased capacity to deal with risk, in addition to monitoring and evaluation for improved public services to communities.

#### PROJECT OBJECTIVES

With support from UNISDR and partners<sup>3</sup>, and in close coordination with the National Governments, the participating cities will:

- a. Conduct a baseline assessment through data collection and multi stakeholder workshops;
- b. Implement tools to identify and systematically account for disaster loss, as well as to develop probabilistic estimations of future risk. This is the crucial second step to generate the information necessary for risk estimation and to inform public investment in climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction;
- c. Conduct a comprehensive assessment of resilience to risks and develop an action plan that can lead to saving lives, property, infrastructure and economic activity. This action plan will identify short, medium and long term investments and interventions.

To achieve these results, local authorities from all the participating cities and partners will be supported in the use of various tools and resources developed by UNISDR. In-country and international workshops/conferences will be organised that will demand active participation of beneficiary cities to share achievements

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<sup>1</sup><http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/sendai-framework>

<sup>2</sup><http://www.unisdr.org/campaign>

<sup>3</sup><http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/home/partners>

and assist other cities in building resilience.

### **PROJECT DURATION**

The initiative will be implemented during 2016-2018. All results to be delivered by end 2018.

### **KEY MILESTONES**

1. Baseline assessment of local resilience by *mid-2017*.
2. Comprehensive risk assessment by *end2017*.
3. Assessment of gaps in addressing local resilience based on risk profile by *end 2017*.
4. A disaster risk reduction and resilience action plan by *first quarter2018*
5. Implementation modality of the action plan by *mid-2018*.

### **NATIONAL GOVERNMENT AND PARTNERS' SUPPORT FOR THE PARTICIPATING CITIES**

National governments and Partners can contribute in supporting participating cities through various ways:

- Assistance in the coordinating and facilitating of workshops/conferences;
- Supporting assessments, development of plan and implementation by engaging relevant stakeholder groups (including gender, disability and minority groups), as well as keeping those groups active and well informed in it;
- Providing technical assistance as an when needed;
- Capturing the process, best practices and sharing them at national, international forums.

### **SHARING OF EXPERIENCE AND SCALING UP THE INITIATIVE**

The Sendai Framework has set out seven ambitious goals, of which target 'e' has a deadline of 2020<sup>4</sup>. This initiative will focus on twenty high-risk cities including five from the Arab region with a plan that the results will inspire and provide a globally standardised guidance to all national and local governments in achieving the Sendai Framework through implementation of local disaster risk reduction strategies.

UNISDR and its partners will directly and indirectly support other cities part of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign through the learning's from these cities allowing them to develop and implement disaster risk reduction and resilience plans that are backed up by investments.

### **KICK-OFF WORKSHOP**

The Project will be formally kicked-off in each region with participation of all beneficiary cities. The kick-off workshop for Arab region has been scheduled for **19-20 February 2017 in Beirut, Lebanon**. The workshop will have participation from representatives of Khartoum (Sudan), Ismailiya (Egypt), Nablus (Palestine), and Nouakchott (Mauritania).

The workshop will aim to:

- Enable beneficiary cities and potential partners to understand the results and outcomes of the initiative
- Identify progress and barriers in the beneficiary cities
- Introduce potential partners
- Agree on a work-plan and timeline.

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<sup>4</sup>Target e: Substantially increase the number of countries with

national and local disaster risk reduction strategies by 2020