

UN-Habitat's Resilience Work

The main goal of UN-Habitat's resilience work is to support local governments and relevant stakeholders to transform urban areas into safer and better places to live in, and improve their capacity to absorb and rebound quickly from all potential shocks or stresses, leading them towards sustainability.

The Urban Resilience Hub in Barcelona - City Resilience Profiling Programme

The City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) set up in 2012 provides national and local governments with tools for measuring and increasing resilience to multi-hazard impacts, including those associated with climate change. These are being used in Maputo, Asuncion, Dakar, Vanuatu, Yakutsk, Teresina (Brazil) and Arendal (Norway) and to develop the National Urban Resilience Strategy /Policy of Mexico.

Initial analysis in Maputo using UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT) indicated that malaria outbreaks, natural risks such as heat waves, floods and tropical cyclones, and environmental risks such as coastal erosion are most urgent. Around 60% of the 140 indicators have been gathered.

The Municipality engages with UN-Habitat under the Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient Action (EC financed) and is working on a cross-departmental Resilience Unit. Civil society actors, the national government and ministries, international institutions, the private sector, and other development actors are involved. Over 90 municipal technicians, government partners and others were trained on resilience knowledge.

UN-Habitat and the Municipality of Asunción are building urban resilience through the City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT) which started 2017 with three quarters of the 140 indicators gathered. The city faces flooding and storms, dengue fever, and other associated diseases along with water contamination due to flooding, and an absence of wastewater treatment and appropriate solid waste disposal. Some 70 individuals including top managers, technicians, and cooperation partners from civil society have been trained.

Southern Africa - The City Resilience Action Planning Tool

DiMSUR (the Technical Centre for Disaster Risk Management, Sustainability and Urban Resilience) was founded in 2008 by UN-Habitat, Madagascar, Malawi, Mozambique and the Union of Comoros headquartered in Maputo. DiMSUR provides, among other services, technical assistance to municipalities on disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation particularly addressing the needs of low capacity small and medium cities as well as supporting national governments through risk-informed advice and recommendations to national policies.

DiMSUR creates innovative tools to improve local, national and sub-regional capacities to reduce vulnerability and build resilience to natural and man-made hazards in Southern Africa. The flagship City Resilience Action Planning Tool (CityRAP) was introduced in 25 cities of the founding countries along with Ethiopia, Cape Verde, Guinea Bissau, Sao Tome and Principe and Burkina Faso.

The CityRAP Tool enables municipal technicians in low capacity cities to conduct a quick and effective assessment of the city's vulnerabilities to help prepare an action plan. It targets small to medium limited capacity cities with little data available with a focus on improving local solutions and promotes cooperation among nations that face similar issues related to climate change and urban resilience, supporting In Chowke, Mozambique, where the CityRAP Tool was implemented, the Municipality is, as a result, working to improve the territorial planning of vulnerable neighbourhoods that suffer annually with floods; and help the construction of elevated classrooms and a community radio station.

Myanmar

UN-Habitat has supported Disaster Risk Reduction and Management since Cyclone Nargis in 2008. UN-Habitat supported the shelter programme through training carpenters, reconstruction of houses and the development and implementation of a National Building Code.

UN-Habitat is part of the Building Resilience and Adaptation to Climate Extremes and Disasters Alliance giving women and children knowledge, skills and resources, developing effective institutions, providing capacity building and undertaking policy dialogues. UN-Habitat leads the Myanmar Consortium for

Capacity development in Disaster Management promoting preparedness and strengthening disaster mitigation which includes training over 470 disaster experts, research and public awareness. The Myanmar Climate Change Alliance led by the Ministry of Natural Resources and Environmental Conservation implemented by UN-Habitat and UNEP works on an inter-ministerial level to shape the national climate change strategy.

Sri Lanka

UN-Habitat in partnership with Government of Sri Lanka has developed "Resilient City Development Strategies for Sri Lankan Cities" which has been successfully implemented in eight cities and towns in north and eastern provinces. In post-conflict recovery programmes UN-Habitat has taken an 'area based' comprehensive approach working with communities and local government. Supporting communities to rebuild 35,000 houses, basic infrastructure, schools, community centres, skills training and job creation through a 'build back better' and increased resilience approach. This ensures that there can also be development gains for affected people and it is a practical example of the Humanitarian to Development 'nexus'.



Somalia

UN-Habitat takes a holistic approach to urban resilience in Somalia. The work includes collaborating with other agencies to link large-scale re-settling of 8,000 IDP households with integrated area planning and the planned city extension, rental subsidy models, drafting urban land management legislation to incorporate land dispute resolution mechanisms, providing employment through developing market places and carrying out vocational training programs for young people, and improving local government's capacity to plan and manage public finance management and municipal revenue collection.

Iraq

Together with the Iraqi Ministry of Planning and the Central Statistics Office, UN-Habitat Iraq has developed an online Recovery, Reconstruction and Resilience Data platform for government counterparts, donors, UN agencies, international and national NGOs and others providing up-to-date data and information on recovery and stabilization projects.

UN-Habitat has developed an Initial Framework for Reconstruction of Mosul, endorsed by local, national and international stakeholders benefitting 1,377,000 residents.

In Sinjar Mountain, UN-Habitat has rehabilitated 2,400 war damaged houses in conflict-affected areas, for nearly 16,000 returnees. UN-Habitat also addresses housing, land and property rights of minorities, such as Yazidis, who, in August 2017, received occupancy certificates for their homes.

Syria

A comprehensive package of conflict and stakeholder analysis tools help engage with local stakeholders to develop multi-sectoral Neighbourhood Action Plans and this approach was adopted by the UN Joint Programme on Resilience and Recovery.

UN-Habitat supports local resilience through strengthening agreement monitoring mechanisms, improving local governance, restoring damaged infrastructure and strengthened local planning processes.

Sudan

UN-Habitat has worked on resilient urban development including housing and basic infrastructure (access to clean drinking water, sanitation, electricity and health services) with a special focus on financing instruments for resilient urban development.

Palestine

UN-Habitat has fostered resilience of the Palestinian vulnerable communities in the Gaza Strip, and West Bank. Community-driven spatial planning interventions have helped freeze demolition orders against Palestinian structures and enabled local development processes designing the future built environment, developing safe, inclusive and accessible public spaces and improving the capacity of local authorities.

UN-Habitat improves the resilience and tenure security of Palestinian communities through interventions targeting three quarters of the West Bank's Palestinian population by 2020. UN-Habitat provides technical and logistical support to the Ministry of Local Governance and policy advice on alternatives to security of tenure for the Bedouin and herding communities living in Area C.



Lebanon

UN-Habitat supports host communities through projects that respond to community groups' needs, increase social cohesion among refugees and host communities, and enhance the delivery of basic urban services.

UN-Habitat addresses housing, land and property (HLP) issues regarding the future return of refugees which involves looking at the refugees' documents and the current status of housing and tenure in their areas of origin.

UN-Habitat's Cities and Climate Change Initiative (CCCI)

CCCI enhances the preparedness and mitigation activities of cities emphasizing good governance, responsibility, leadership, and practical initiatives. Projects funded by the Adaptation Fund in Lao, Solomon Islands, Fiji and Mongolia focus on helping poor and marginalized communities adapt to climate change.

UN-Habitat through its CCCI and Participatory Slum Upgrading Programme, helped the city of Honiara in the Solomon Islands with adaptation planning after floods in 2014. Climate action planning by the Solomon Islands Government and City Council led to the Honiara Urban Resilience and Climate Action Plan.

In Lao PDR, a project to enhance resilience focuses on 47,000 people in 189 vulnerable settlements affected by floods, droughts, landslides and climate related diseases. In Africa work includes the conservation of a fragile ecological buffer from flooding via ecological zoning for Maputo and pro poor approaches to building climate resilience in informal settlements.

