Resilient Cities:
Bridging the humanitarian and development divide

Recommendations to be considered in the City We Need Draft 2.0

Through the Urban Thinkers Campus (UTC) on Resilient Cities and representing all of those who participate in it, World Vision International and the International Rescue Committee put forth the following recommendations on planning and building urban resiliency as a contribution to the World Urban Campaign's The City We Need Draft 2.0, to be presented at Habitat III.

These recommendations are designed so that they may be linked with other global initiatives, such as the Sustainable Development Goals, the World Humanitarian Summit, and the New Urban Agenda. They are **drawn from** several existing endeavours and organizations whose mandates are to define, advocate for, and build urban resilience. These endeavours/organizations include 100 Resilient Cities, Arup's Resilience Framework, the Habitat III Ecology and Resilience Policy Unit, and the WHS's Global Alliance for Urban Crises. The recommendations **relate to** both planning/designing resiliency strategies and what the strategies themselves should aim to achieve.

Using these recommendations as a starting point, it is this UTC's vision that humanitarian, developmental, human rights, and local actors adopt urban resilience as a common framework through which they may align their shared goals and work together to build more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient cities, and that these recommendations are useful both in addressing urban crises and building from them.

The planning and building of resilient cities should be:

1. **Holistic and Sustainable**
   Ensure that cities are able to holistically prepare for, withstand, and recover from economic, environmental, and social disruptions. Actors should strive for cities that operate on resilient systems[1]; that is, systems (financial, governmental, infrastructural, ecological, societal, etc.) that are reflective, robust, redundant, integrated, inclusive, resourceful, and flexible. Once holistic strategies are identified, ensure that resiliency strategies are sustainable in the long-term and that resiliency building is recognized as part of sustainable development and that the process is. Resilience should be a driver of sustainable development as well as a quality of it.
   Drawn from: ARUP Resiliency Framework, 100 Resilient Cities, UN Issues Paper on Resilience
   Relates to: Resilience Building

2. **Achievable and Leave No City Behind**
   Ensure that all cities – especially those experiencing protracted humanitarian crises - have the tools to assess their risks and vulnerabilities and the appropriate frameworks required to develop resiliency strategies that draw upon input from multiple stakeholder groups, regardless of resources or capacity. Resiliency strategies, especially those for cities in crisis should build interventions on existing urban service delivery systems, people's own recovery mechanisms, and the strength of the urban economy.

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[1] Systems view the city as a combination of inter-dependent parts working together.

3. **Opportunistic and responsive**

As urban crisis response is arguably the best time build urban resilience, ensure that responses – be it to emergencies or protracted crises - seek to both reduce the risk of future crises and improve upon the pre-crisis condition. Align immediate life-saving and protection priorities, reducing the number of individuals, families and neighbourhoods in need of humanitarian assistance as soon as possible, while addressing climate adaptation, and putting cities and towns on a more sustainable, inclusive and resilient post-crisis urban development track.

Drawn from: Arup Resiliency Framework, 100 Resilient Cities, Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Relates to: Resilience Planning

4. **Localized, Participatory, and Grassroots**

Ensure that resilience building is lead by local stakeholders and communities, with support from both humanitarian and development actors. Ensure that resiliency strategies are tailored to the local context, feasibly implemented by local stakeholders, and representative of the city's diversity. Ensure that identifying and implementing resiliency strategies is a participatory process that relies on the involvement of the communities they serve. Support localized social resilience to enhance the ability of individuals, households, neighbourhoods/communities and organizations to respond to shocks and stresses while restoring and strengthening urban systems that support them as quickly as possible. Resilience planning should include community engagement and awareness building, community-based needs assessments, and stakeholder and political economy mapping, among other urban planning practices.

Relates to: Resilience Planning and Building
Drawn from: Ecology and Resiliency H3 Policy Unit

5. **Considerate of Urbanization and Urban Displacement**

Ensure that resiliency strategies manage urbanization generally and urban displacement specifically as both a humanitarian, development and human right challenge and is taken as an opportunity to plan for more resilient urban growth, with socially inclusive communities (host/displaced) and local policies that promote the accommodation, if not the integration, of new urban residents.

Drawn from: Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Relates to: Resilience Planning

6. **Integrated and Collaborative**

Ensure that resiliency strategies are informed by an integrated group of urban professionals, including those with humanitarian and development perspective, and draw from multiple humanitarian and development perspectives in order to achieve solutions appropriated to urban complexity. Foster collaboration between city, humanitarian, and development actors so that all are contributing to resilience-building. On a local level, ensure that resilience is a priority at multiple levels of governance and that resilience strategies address urban systems, individual communities or institutions, and urban-rural linkages both holistically and as separate parts. PRIVATE SECTOR

Drawn from: Arup Resiliency Framework, Global Alliance for Urban Crises , Ecology and Resiliency H3 Policy Unit
Relates to: Resilience Planning and Building

7. **Inclusive and Empowering for All**
Ensure that urban resiliency planning includes and empowers the voices of displaced and marginalized populations. Give special consideration to the participation of children, women, youth, and elderly populations while recognizing their unique risks and vulnerabilities and considering community-based protection mechanisms. Ensure that resilience building leads to healthy, safe, educated, financially secure, and empowered vulnerable urban residents, both individually and on a community-level. Ensure that resilience strategies leave no one behind and promote the right to the city for marginalized populations, including the forcibly displaced and those disproportionately affected by conflict or violence. Special considerations should be given to address discrimination based on faith, social status, ethnicity, gender, and legal standing.
Drawn from: Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Relates to: Resilience Planning

8. **Spatially Relevant**
Given the spatial dimension of vulnerability and access to services in cities, ensure that actors employ strategies that strengthen spatial resiliency, such as area-based approaches, neighbourhood improvements, or engineering interventions. Give special consideration to the improved coordination of resilience-building actors and operating across spatial jurisdictions. Ensure that resilience strategies address the spatial implications of conflict, violence, and marginalization by striving for de-escalation, social cohesion, and stronger legal standing for those living in areas that may be considered spatially separate, especially by ensuring that the systems serving those areas remain functional before, during, and after crises and that the marginalized have legal access to those systems.
Drawn from: Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Relates to: Resilience Planning & Building

9. **Linked to Urban Economics**
Ensure that resiliency strategies prioritize market-based responses, striving to achieve sustainable livelihoods and the support of local economic development while engaging the private sector to enact those strategies. Ensuring the right to work and access to income earning opportunities, especially for the most marginalize and vulnerable communities, builds market resilience and supports the resiliency of other systems as well. For emergencies, consider cash-based programming as a viable method of meeting immediate needs while strengthening market resilience in the long term.
Drawn from: Global Alliance for Urban Crises
Relates to: Resilience Building

10. **About Betterment**
Ensure that resilience building does not only seek to maintain the status-quo, particularly for the most vulnerable, but that it instead achieves a higher overall quality of life, improved access to livelihoods and economic gains, stronger institutions, and the betterment of the city. Resilience is about more than surviving, its about thriving.
Relates to: Resilience Building