Promoting immediate actions: Starting with spatial analysis, damage, hazard and community identification, debris planning and coordination.

Technical advice: Addressing specific planning challenges and opportunities on local, district, regional, city and national level.

Training and capacity building: Strengthening capacity of governments, planning institutions, NGO’s and communities.

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Mapping, GIS: analysing damage, hazardous land, community boundaries and structuring elements of the city

Policy, legal and institutional reforms

Livelelihood: Mixed land use and appropriate spaces and infrastructure to support formal and informal livelihoods. Regional and rural linkages.

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Human Settlements in Crisis

SETTLEMENT PLANNING
UN-HABITAT IN DISASTER & CONFLICT CONTEXTS

UN-HABITAT Expertise

Cross-Cutting

UN-HABITAT Expertise

Emergency
Prevention

Recovery

Reconstruction

Land & Property

Critical infrastructure
Water and Sanitation

Urban Preparedness & Crisis Response

Shelter

Strengthening land admin; secure customary and informal land rights

Protection of critical water and sanitation systems

Urban preparedness and risk reduction plans

Upgrading “master plans” with strategic plans, urban governance strengthened

Hazard resistant housing, building codes, planning regulations.

Secure land records; avoid evictions; understand tenure types & grievances

Community-based adjudication; dispute resolution systems; links to formal land management systems

Interim, immediate needs met by temporary solutions, repair programmes;

Replanning/enginerring for risk reduction and resilience

Rebuilding trunk systems, service infrastructure, regulatory and institutional systems

Coordination, restoration of critical urban systems and infrastructure

Consultations, coordination of community, regional, city and national levels; civil defense systems

Developing urban reconstruction and risk reduction plans at neighborhood and city levels

Analysis, roles and partnerships, common planning principles

Consultations, coordination of community, regional, city and national levels

Developing and implementing plans in all city levels in cooperation with all stakeholders

Policy advice on reconstruction

Implementation; trainings and capacity building in hazard resistant housing

Support to reconstruction of permanent homes, enabling communities’ social and economic recovery

UN-HABITAT FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE
Prior to disasters, many cities particularly in developing countries have high levels of vulnerability. When a disaster or a conflict occurs, cities are ill prepared to cope with the crises.

After a disaster, cities face a massive influx of displaced people and relief actors; breakdown of services, weakened institutions; and destruction of infrastructure and buildings.

Post-crisis urban planning is an important tool for both managing displacement and guiding sustainable reconstruction by linking land, housing, services, infrastructure, livelihoods and governance. It is thus a crucial tool for post-crisis recovery and reconstruction. Post-crisis urban planning should take into careful consideration the specific context of the affected area as well as the evolving crisis situation.

Mitigation
Mitigation of hazards is important both before and after disaster events. Unsustainable land use, building on hazardous land, poor urban planning and growing informal settlements add to the vulnerability of cities to natural disasters and conflicts. Poor governance can exacerbate the situation.

Outdated and inappropriate masterplans
In many countries city master plans are outdated. Plans should always be verified in field. Simplified strategic planning may be more practical in crisis situations.

Relocation
Temporary relocation has a way of becoming permanent: early safe return of the affected people to pre-disaster sites should be promoted. Relocation is justified only in terms of environmental or public good requirements. When relocation is unavoidable, planning for sustainable relocation sites should be done according to international standards and should include infrastructure, services, and suitable livelihood options. New cities rarely succeed.

Resource management and the environment
Sound resource management should be supported by proactive recovery planning. Preservation of important environmental flora and fauna, green areas, wetlands and ecological corridors should be supported.

Long-term links between emergency solutions and sustainable urban future
There is an urgent need for early recovery planning inputs. Decisions made in early phases have crucial consequences. Consideration can be given to hazard risk reduction, location of infrastructure and basic services, improving informal settlements, density, safety, green and public spaces, preservation of heritage and local culture.

Consensus building and coordination
Urban planning can strengthen coordination among donors, government, private sector, voluntary agencies, civil society and the affected communities. National ownership is important: local authorities should be involved from early on. It is crucial to define clear roles and responsibilities and share information.

People-centred
Recovery planning should be people-centred to ensure suitable solutions that are developed by the communities themselves. Community plans need to be linked to the district and city wide plans.

Rethinking past practices
Reconstruction provides opportunities to change non-functional past practices and increase sustainability and inclusiveness. Recovery plans should be made according to the local context, connecting urban and rural development. Economic, social and environmental sustainability should be integrated.

Rebuilding critical infrastructure and services
Rehabilitation of basic infrastructure and services is crucial to recovery, debris removal, main road rehabilitation, water supply and identification of safe zones where reconstruction can begin are important priorities.

Planning as a catalyst for economic recovery
Creation of appropriate spaces and infrastructure for economic activity from early on is critical for livelihoods. Mixed land-use strategies that combine settlements with livelihoods, and respond to market demand and the potential of the informal sector, are important.

Land readjustment
When public funds are limited and there is no free land for specific urban needs, land can be pooled and land re-planned in more sustainable ways.
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URBAN PREPAREDNESS & CRISIS RESPONSE

Urban preparedness and risk reduction plans

Urban planning

Upgrading “master plans” with strategic plans, urban governance strengthened, hazard resistant housing, building codes, planning regulations.

CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, WATER & SANITATION

Protection of critical water and sanitation systems

PLANNING

Assessment and coordination

Analysis, roles and partnerships, common planning principles

SHELTER

Emergency

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Implementation; trainings and capacity building in hazard resistant housing

Rebuilding trunk systems, service infrastructure, regulatory and institutional systems

Consultations, coordination of community, regional, city and national levels, civil defense systems

Community-based adjudication; dispute resolution systems; links to formal land management systems

Incremental improvements to land administration systems; land governance

Replanning; engineering for risk reduction and resilience

Consultations, coordination of community, regional, city and national levels

Restoring critical urban systems and infrastructure

Coordination, restoration of critical urban systems and infrastructure

Implementation; trainings and capacity building in hazard resistant housing

Support to reconstruction of permanent homes, enabling communities’ social and economic recovery

Policy advice on reconstruction

Display of disaster and post-conflict planning and response in urban settlements.