

# Annual Report

# 2017



Urban Resilience Programme  
Risk Reduction Unit

**URBAN  
RESILIENCE  
PROGRAMME**

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**UN****HABITAT**  
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

# Timeline

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- 2012** ○ Creation of the UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP)
  - 2013** ○ Opening of the CRPP office in Barcelona, Spain
  - 2014** ○ World Urban Forum 7, Medellin, Colombia:  
Launch of the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience
  - 2015** ○ First edition of the Barcelona Resilience Week
  - Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
  - 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and Sustainable Development Goals
  - Paris Agreement for Climate Change
  - 2016** ○ Second edition of the Barcelona Resilience Week
  - World Humanitarian Summit:  
launch of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises
  - Launch of RESCCUE project
  - Habitat III Conference and the New Urban Agenda
  - 2017** ○ Launch of the Making cities more sustainable and resilient action joint-initiative with UNISDR and EC-DEVCO. Implementation in Maputo, Mozambique; Dakar, Senegal; Port Vila; Vanuatu, and Asunción, Paraguay.
  - Local Governments Summit - 2017 Global Platform for DRR, Cancun, Mexico: Release of the Trends in Urban Resilience 2017 Publication
  - UN-Habitat co-chairs the Making Cities Resilient Campaign of UNISDR
  - 2018** ○ World Urban Forum 9, Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia:  
Launch of the Urban Resilience Hub

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# Introduction

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The first full year working under the ambitious new framework of the New Urban Agenda (NUA) was fruitful for the growing population living in the world's cities. Since its approval at Habitat III in October of 2016, the NUA has brought new incentives, partnerships and opportunities and built on the existing commitments to the Sustainable Development Goals. With growing and shared commitment comes a growing and shared awareness of the challenges that we must address together and the new risks that threaten the wellbeing of urban residents.

Urban resilience, understood as the measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability, is a key ingredient to achieving the vision set out in global frameworks and targets like the NUA, but more importantly it is an absolute essential to secure these gains long-term. UN-Habitat's resilience work was boosted after 2012 with the creation of the City Resilience Profiling Programme, aiming to improve urban risk-reduction policies, strategies and programmes adopted for greater resilience of cities and other human settlements. Today, UN-Habitat's resilience thinking and tools are being mainstreamed across the wider United Nations family, the international community and cities.

Global commitment to urban resilience has grown substantially over the past decade. We recognize the importance and value of strong partnerships and active champion communities of practice to promote resilience in cities. In the urban resilience domain, we are already partnering with the major actors through initiative such as the Medellín Collaboration for Urban Resilience and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises and we invite all interested parties to connect with us to find out more about or work in this field and to explore potential synergies to this end.

A strong component for succeeding in building urban sustainability and resilience is raising awareness among city policy and decision makers. UN-Habitat's most relevant role in campaigning for better and resilient cities is under the Making Cities Resilient Campaign. The city-driven initiative is already gathering 3,000 cities working on improving the profile of resilience and disaster risk reduction.

## **Andre Dzikus**

Coordinator a.i. Risk Reduction and Rehabilitation Branch  
UN-Habitat

## Highlights of the year

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For UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience Programme, 2017 brought important advances both in the growth of the City Resilience Profiling Programme and, more specifically, in the development and implementation of the City Resilience Profiling Tool (CRPT). We welcomed new partners to our table and were equally invited to new spaces for discussion and action to work towards our knowledge, cooperation and advocacy objectives with friends and counterparts.

Our main urban resilience tool, the CRPT, is now market ready. We are currently testing and calibrating in a number of cities across the globe but results thus far are promising. The Tool is revealing vulnerabilities in the pilot cities and provides clear actions to address them in a way that local governments can understand and implement. Progress in the area was possible thanks to over 100 experts, specialists, support personnel and focal points who have shaped (and continue to shape) the final product with their knowledge and expertise. Development was accelerated in 2017 thanks to Making Cities Sustainable and Resilience Action, a project financed by the European Commission (DEVCO) and implemented in collaboration with UNISDR. Ongoing support and commitment from the City Council of Barcelona and the Government of Norway have also allowed our work to reach new audiences and be more effective. Joint initiatives with private firms like Axa Insurance Company have been also an essential component of this 2017. Finally, we also focused on the creation and the pre-launch of the Urban Resilience Hub, an open online platform meant to gather the latest thinking and initiatives on resilience.

The coming years will be critical for cities as they face new and magnified challenges, from water shortages to flooding, mass migration to economic instability. The response must therefore be holistic and build on tried and tested solutions to make sure we 'get it right'. Solutions that are flexible enough to adapt to the uniqueness of every city but concrete and action-orientated enough to result in action on the ground. In the path towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals and implementing the New Urban Agenda, UN-Habitat's urban resilience work will strive to provide these solutions, especially to those most in need.

### **Esteban León**

Chief a.i. Risk Reduction Unit

Head, City Resilience Profiling Programme

### **The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals**

United Nations Sustainable Development Summit.  
September 2015

We address key elements of sustainable urban development throughout the goals of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development notably and directly in SDGs 1, 2, 3, 9, 11, 13 and 14 with direct reference to resilient sectors relevant to cities; and in other goals where the references are implicit.

We also address many of the stated aims throughout the preamble and paragraphs 7, 9, 14, 23, 29 and 33 of the Declaration to the SDGs.

## **Urban Resilience and global development frameworks and goals**

### **New Urban Agenda**

United Nations Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development.  
October 2016

We deliver on a number of key goals of the New Urban Agenda agreed by Member States during the Habitat III Conference:

- 1- New resilient planning paradigms in urban systems;
- 2- Legal and regulatory frameworks to enable and govern urban development;
- 3- Analysing risks inherent in urban areas
- 4- Promoting good practice in local economic, development strategies through marketing safer, resilient cities.

### **Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030**

Third United Nations World Conference on Disaster Risk Reduction.  
March 2015

Our work contributes to the Framework's overall objective to reduce vulnerability to disasters and increase preparedness for response and recovery, including our contributions to the Four Priorities for Action:

- 1- Data collection and analysis, and building knowledge on disaster risk reduction;
- 2- Strengthening disaster risk governance through the adoption of plans;
- 3- Investment in risk reduction for resilience;
- 4- Scaling-up of preparedness and a 'build-back better' approach in recovery.

### **Paris Agreement on Climate Change**

21st Conference of the Parties.  
December 2015

Article 7 calls for strengthening of resilience to climate change in the pursuit of sustainable development. By engaging local governments in these efforts, resilience in cities contributes to the following principles of the Paris Agreement:

- 1- Adaptation (dealing with impacts of climate change);
- 2- Loss and Damage (minimizing loss and damage linked to climate change);
- 3- Role of cities (building resilience).

### **Agenda for Humanity**

World Humanitarian Summit.  
May 2016

Of the 32 core commitments (organized into 5 core responsibilities), our work aligns principally with responsibilities 1, 3, 4 & 5.

- 1- Political leadership to end and prevent conflict. Commitments D;
- 3- Leave no one behind. Commitment A;
- 4- From delivering Aid to Ending Need; Commitments A, B, C;
- 5- Invest in Humanity. Commitment A.

Leading the Global Alliance for Urban Crises is also a major commitment of UN-Habitat to this Agenda.



**Technical  
Cooperation**

**Urban Resilience Programme  
Work Areas**



**Partnerships,  
Advocacy  
& Outreach**



**Knowledge**

# Technical Cooperation

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UN-Habitat's technical cooperation in the area of urban resilience is led by the implementation of the City Resilience Profiling Tool. The CRPT is a unique methodology that measures a city's level of resilience and identify vulnerabilities and the urban system to fuel action. This data collection and diagnosis process creates engagement across the city and supports informed decision-making and actions developed, articulated and implemented by stakeholders.

## City Resilience Profiling Tool

### More informed, more adaptable

UN-Habitat provides users of the CRPT with the training, guidance and support they need to efficiently and effectively go through all the steps. From data collection to quality assessment, modelling and actions for resilience, UN-Habitat engages in regular training sessions and discussion with partners from the local government and other actors in target cities.

Throughout 2017, efforts were aimed at increasing the interface and usability of the CRPT to ensuring it remains user-friendly and adapted. Improvements have been made in the following areas:

**Data collection:** Data is now divided into 4 sets to facilitate the process for local governments and provide a logical and useful data store.

**1.City ID:** context of the city by gathering general information on territorial, demographic, economy and governance aspects, amongst others.

**2.Local Government and Stakeholders:** overview of interaction between the city and the various entities and groups involved in its composition, ranging from local to national government, from the private sector to civil society and other major institutions.

**3.Hazards:** the city's proneness to hazards, as well as the existence and performance of risk reduction policies and strategies to decrease the impact of hazards at the urban scale.

**4.Urban Elements:** Built Environment, Supply Chain and Logistics, Basic Infrastructure, Mobility, Municipal Public Services, Social Inclusion and Protection, Economy and Ecology.

**5.Cross-cutting issues:** such as gender, governance and climate action are dispersed throughout the CRPT but can be extracted using the administrative controls of the Tool.

The number of questions in the data collection sets were reduced by over 30% to allow for a more agile implementation by focal points.

### Data quality assessment

Assessing data quality ensures the most accurate reading of the city's resilience and UN-Habitat has introduced a quality check process that takes into account source, date and relevance of data among other considerations. This approach was tested with the pilot cities in 2017 and was received positively.

A city profile is generated for each implementing city based on the data collected and verified, which is then processed through the system model. The profile is an extensive graphic representation of the urban system from a resilience perspective and highlights potential vulnerabilities and weaknesses, but also strengths and opportunities.

### Actions for Resilience

The main output of the CRPT is a set of recommendations that form tailored Actions for Resilience (A4R) for each implementing city. The A4R sets out short, mid and long-term actions for the local government to incorporate in their planning and working towards resilience. UN-Habitat is working to ensure that the resulting Actions for Resilience are contributing to global development objectives, notably targets outlined in the New Urban Agenda, thereby enabling local governments to contribute to these processes.

### Inputs from experts, users and specialists

UN-Habitat has been working with experts and city users to ensure that the CRPT is fully fit-for-purpose and meets the needs of users and stakeholders. Tool development is a collaborative process that counts on the support of a range of partners, both individual and institutional. The following list is not exhaustive but highlights a number of key inputs gathered in 2017 towards developing the CRPT.

**GLORIOUS:** An European Commission funded programme that seeks to find new ways to use satellite data. Through this collaboration, UN-Habitat hopes that implementing cities will be able to access data otherwise difficult to gather related to climate change.

A new platform will allow various users to upload data remotely and synchronize automatically with other users via shared interfaces for focal points and all partners.

### **Generalitat de Catalunya and Barcelona**

**Provincial Council:** With vast expertise in many areas from mobility to solid waste management, the Regional Government of Catalonia, and with some collaboration from the Barcelona Provincial Council, engaged in a series of workshops with the UN-Habitat team to ensure all government actors involved in city management were taken into account and the methodology was apt to the realities of sub-national governments.

#### **Press Release**

### **The UN System and the UN-Habitat's expertise:**

The know-how within UN-Habitat circulates between the Agency's thematic programmes, core work and regional activities. In 2017, the CRPT was developed with strong support from the Land Tenure and Gender expertise within UN-Habitat.

### **Implementing the CRPT**

In 2017, implementation reached an advanced stage in Barcelona, Asuncion and Maputo with Yakutsk and Port Vila making early progress. Pipeline projects were also developed in 2017 with the aim of coming to fruition in 2018.

### **Asuncion, Paraguay**

Implementation was announced at the end of March 2017 when some initial researching steps were already implemented in the city. Following the training sessions with focal points, data collection was initiated in Asuncion in the early half of 2017. The focal points were able to connect with stakeholders in the city and together with the local government agreed that a special focus should be given to the challenges and opportunities related to the water cycle. The approach was reaffirmed by the Mayor who stated, "one of the priorities for our cities established in the working plan *Asunción somos todos (We are all Asunción)* is to increase and improve our capacity to deal with disasters."

In Asuncion, implementation is ahead of schedule in light of the favourable reception and owing to the support of delegates from the European Commission who support the process. In November 2017, UN-Habitat performed a technical review to the project with technical officers from the Barcelona

office travelling there to check progress, ensure political support for CRPT implementation and train additional local staff on the approach and purpose.

### **Video interview with Mayor of Asuncion Asuncion City Profile**

### **Barcelona, Spain**

As the first city to implement the CRPT and co-develop the Tool, the City of Barcelona continued to provide expert guidance and inputs as well as the first resilience diagnosis, and a fertile testing ground throughout 2017. Data collection was completed in the city in 2017. The City prepared its Resilience Plan in 2017, citing the contribution of UN-Habitat to the findings and plan set out in the document.

Barcelona extended the Cooperation of Agreement between the City and UN-Habitat, which gathers the support through seconded experts from the municipality in UN-Habitat's office as well as contributions to the project.

### **Barcelona City Profile**

### **Dakar, Senegal**

UN-Habitat has built up the team of local experts and the required network to be able to implement the CRPT in Dakar. Contact with the City Council of Dakar and local government networks active in the city have been initiated to create a favourable landing ground for the CRPT. United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG) through its European and African section and PLATAFORA project are also keen to support implementation in the city and the Covenant of Mayors network has also expressed interest.

### **Maputo, Mozambique**

Work has already begun on Tool implementation and the city has progressed beyond the expected result at this interim stage. Political and technical support for the implementation of the tool is high and various departments within the local government have already been engaged in the process through training and workshops. In May 2017 the focal point in the city changed and the new focal point came to Barcelona in June 2017 for training on the Tool and to address challenges faced in the city.

The City Council of Barcelona also agreed to support the CRPT's implementation in Maputo and synergies were made between the Global Justice and International Cooperation department of Barcelona

City Council and the local government in Maputo to achieve this. This collaboration will develop the capacity of local government staff in Maputo to implement the Tool and increase the effectiveness of data collection. A mission took place in 2017 during which Barcelona Council staff and UN-Habitat travelled to Maputo for training and activity planning. A second mission will follow in 2018.

The EC Delegation in Mozambique also assigned a focal point to this action that is the Programme's contact in Maputo.

Preliminary data analysis of the need and priorities of the local government and stakeholders have been received and the initial implementation of the CRPT will focus on informality as a crosscutting-issue in Maputo, and a challenge for resilience.

**Diálogo sobre resiliência urbana em Moçambique: Criando sinergias e conectando actores**  
**Maputo City Profile**

**Yakutsk, Russia**

The arctic capital of the Sakha Republic, in Russia, is eager to advance its urban resilience in alignment with the main global frameworks on development such as the New Urban Agenda, the SDGs, the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework. In this regard, the local government consolidated the engagement with the CRPP in 2017 by formalising the city's participation in the programme. It installed a resilience committee, comprised of eight senior experts from different departments of Yakutsk local government, to oversee the city's involvement in the programme and ensure coordination of action.

Yakutsk constitutes one of the largest settlements in the world built on permafrost. Over time, citizens have learnt to adapt to temperatures that range between -60 Celsius in winter and +40 Celsius in summer, or an average annual temperature of -8.8 Celsius.

"Yakutsk can be used as testing grounds for various resilience measures that can also be implemented in other settlements and cities of the Arctic Region," said the Mayor of Yakutsk.

**News coverage**

**Port Vila, Vanuatu**

In 2017, the National Advisory Board on Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction of the city of Port Vila, in Vanuatu, and UN-Habitat signed an endorsement letter for the implementation of the CRPT from within the city council is strong. UN-Habitat has started to build up a team of local experts.



# CRPT Training

To support local governments take informed action and implement the City Resilience Profiling Tool, UN-Habitat's urban resilience office organizes training sessions for local governments from cities implementing the City Resilience Profiling Tool and other approaches to resilience building.

## Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient Action

In the framework of the joint initiative between the European Commission, UNISDR and UN-Habitat, 'Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient Action', UN-Habitat initiated a series of training sessions for technicians from the cities of Asunción and Maputo. The training is focused on implementing the City Resilience Profiling Tool in the two pilot cities and was open to focal points in the city, staff from the local and other levels of government and other key stakeholders.

In September, members of UN-Habitat's urban resilience team travelled to Maputo for a one-week mission and participated in numerous capacity building sessions with key people from the city council. Furthermore, two technical staff members from the City Council of Barcelona also travelled to Maputo to share their experiences implementing the Tool within this cooperation.

In Asunción, workshops and meetings were programmed during the first week of November to train staff from the local government on how to effectively implement the Tool and improve the capacity of the city to respond to hazards over the long-term. This training was a follow-up to the initial introductory training of focal points in Barcelona on the CRPT.

These training sessions were an opportunity for UN-Habitat to test and review its training material with real local government staff. Through such experiences, the trainers became more confident and efficient and the supporting resources were further developed. To adapt to local languages, the training material were also translated into Spanish and Portuguese as well as the original English version.

### Barcelona

The City Council of Barcelona continues to support the development of the CRPT and has become a

mentor city for Maputo in implementation. Training sessions and workshops continued throughout the year with resilience experts from the Council and experts from other departments on moving the CRPT forward in terms of user friendliness. As part of this ongoing collaboration, with the aim of strengthening the relations between CRPT cities, a City-to-City Communications expert from Barcelona City Council is seconded to the UN-Habitat office in Barcelona to support.

### Yakutsk

The two focal points from the city of Yakutsk first travelled to Barcelona for a one week training session in April of 2017. The session sought to train the focal points on the process and outcomes of implementing the CRPT in their city.

Barcelona City Council, which is the municipality of one of the cities engaged with the programme, also attended this session to explain their own experience building resilience through the CRPP approach and share the results of their data collection. Representatives of the Barcelona City Council were also present during the training session to share their experience of building resilience in Barcelona and provide tips and good practices to their Russian counterparts.

"City Resilience is quite a new topic, not only for Russia but also for the whole world. I think that the CRPP approach is pioneer of using resilience tools in a practical way."

#### - Gavril Kirillin, Yakutsk City Council

As a result of this training, the local government in Yakutsk decided to translate the CRPT framework into Russian to make it more accessible to the partners and stakeholders in the city. A follow-up training session also took place in July and two UN-Habitat experts travelled to the far eastern city to train focal points from the city council and address questions and challenges relating to data collection.

## Supporting Institutions

The ongoing support of the City Council of Barcelona has allowed UN-Habitat to connect with other levels of government to better capture the realities, challenges and opportunities for building resilience across local, metropolitan, regional and national governments. Training sessions were organized with the Regional Government of Catalonia on various competencies that are managed at this level of government but that are essential to evaluating and increasing resilience. A similar collaboration is

in place between UN-Habitat and the metropolitan and provincial level of governance of Barcelona.

In order to work effectively with the experts from these institutions, they must first be trained on the methodology and understand the functions of the CRPT. In this respect, various one-to-one and group training sessions were conducted with experts from the institutions in mobility and solid-waste management among others.

## **Creating new knowledge**

### **Union for the Mediterranean (UfM)**

As part of its commitment to the effective implementation of the New Urban Agenda, the Union for the Mediterranean contacted with UN-Habitat Urban Resilience Programme to commission a report into possible entry points for the Mediterranean platform into UN-Habitat's work in the region. The resulting report was submitted to the UfM and will be a guiding document in the definition of the future workplan and strategic orientation of the Union over the coming period.

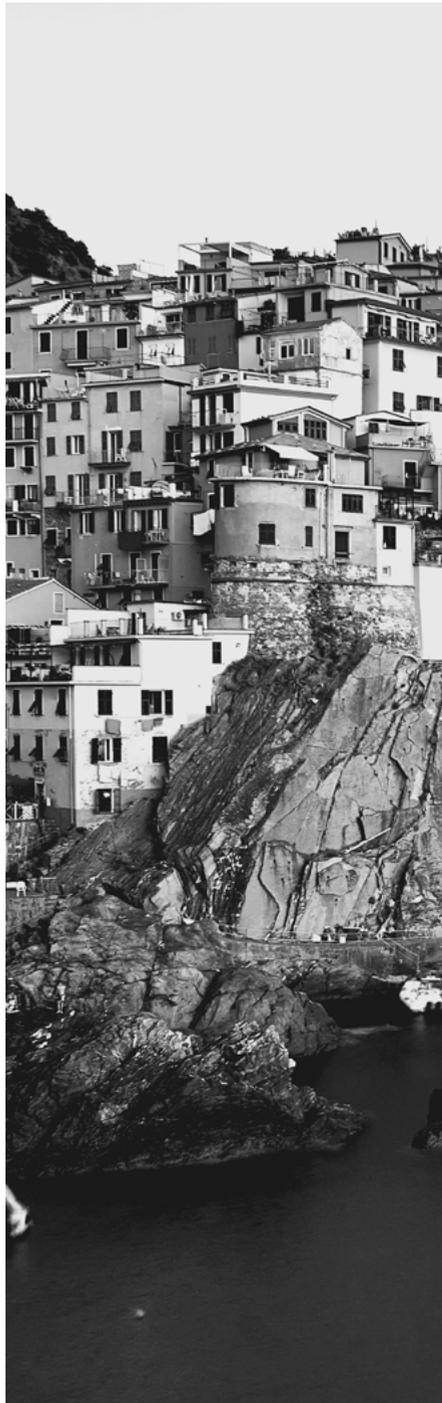
### **Collaboration with Academia**

Following the launch of Urban Resilience Institute (URI) during Habitat III, representatives from the partner universities (Cornell, National University of Singapore, RMIT, TU-Darmstadt, URNet, Polytechnic of Catalonia, International University of Catalonia and international networks like RESURBE and the Urban Resilience Research Network) met again in Barcelona to advance their joint effort to strengthen the nexus among urban resilience research, practices and policies.

[URI - Exhibition - Interview - 3 words](#)

[URI - Interview - Expectation](#)

[URI - Interview - Highest Challenge](#)



# Knowledge

Harvesting, formulating and sharing knowledge about urban resilience is a key activity for UN-Habitat to mobilize key actors, from local, regional and national governments, to civil society organizations.

## Flagship publication: Trends in Urban Resilience 2017

Unprecedented momentum for resilience-building is shaping the way we conceive, plan and manage our cities. This flagship publication maps the diverse landscape of actors working on urban resilience and seeks to bridge the gap between history, research and practice in current practice. The fruit of one year of research and a growing demand to track trends, Trends in Urban Resilience can potentially bring together the development and humanitarian domains by showing commonalities and a stock-take of gaps. Intended as a biennial publication, research on future editions will begin soon and all actors are invited to contribute to enrich the content.

This is one of the first publications to take stock of urban resilience efforts globally under the framework of all 6 major inter-governmental agendas: New Urban Agenda, Sustainable Development Goals, Sendai Framework, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Paris Agreement, and Humanitarian Summit outcomes.

Documenting geographically diverse case studies from cities in the Ecuador, Italy, Japan, Kiribati islands, Russian Federation, Somalia, South Africa, and the USA, the publication captures innovative practices adopted at the local level to ensure wellbeing and reduce risk to hazards in support of urban life.

The publication was launched in May 2017 at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in Cancun, Mexico, to local governments representatives and their partners. The publication is currently available in English and Spanish with French and Russian forthcoming.

## Housing reconstruction in post-disaster

The private sector plays a key role in supporting resilience initiatives in many cities. The insurance firm AXA is supporting UN-Habitat to implement the normative work of the City Resilience Profiling Programme, most notably in the area of housing

reconstruction post-disaster. The main outcomes of this initiative will be completed in 2018 and are currently being developed with humanitarian experts and academics.

### Project Concept Paper



# Partnerships, Advocacy and Outreach

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## Mainstreaming the urban resilience agenda: Urban Resilience Hub

To scale-up efforts in this area, in 2017, UN-Habitat pre-launched the **Urban Resilience Hub**, a platform to gather the latest thinking, action, research and actors in one online space ([www.unhabitat.org/urbanresilience](http://www.unhabitat.org/urbanresilience)). The Hub integrates the voice and best practices of other resilience actors as well as showcasing UN-Habitat's efforts. The site was developed during the latter half of 2017 with a pre-launch in December 2017, awaiting for the World Urban Forum 9 in February 2018 for the official release.

### Urban Resilience Hub - Video



## Global fora, dialogues & events

UN-Habitat continues to have a strong presence at forums and events that bring together experts and practitioners in the field of urban resilience and urban development.

### International Conference on Sustainability and Competitiveness in touristic destinations

In June, UN-Habitat participated in in this tourism-focused conference in Arona, Tenerife. The event finalized with the adoption of the **Arona Declaration**, a consensus document with the objective of setting the bases for sustainable and resilient growth in touristic destinations.

### International Conference on Sustainable Development Goals: Actors and Implementation

The Conference took place 18-19 September, in Barcelona, and it gathered multidisciplinary experts from all around the world to share and exchange ideas, experiences, knowledge and best practices on solutions for sustainable development. The main topics of the conference were how to implement the SDGs, how to educate citizens on sustainability, and the designing of smart cities. Dan Lewis, former chief of the Urban Risk Reduction Unit, brought the resilience topic into discussion.

### Seoul International Fair & Sustainable Tourism Forum 2017

The world's cities are also some of the world's greatest tourism destinations. Tourists are drawn, in growing numbers, to the vibrancy, excitement and diversity on offer in cities worldwide. Urban tourism is both a hazard and impact recipient of urban resilience. Cities must be prepared to respond to impacts that tourism may cause, and at the same time only a resilient city may be able to guarantee sustainable tourism.

Building on the "Arona Declaration" in September, a representative of the Urban Resilience Programme was invited to present the City Resilience Profiling Programme at the Seoul International Fair & Sustainable Tourism Forum 2017 with the aim of strengthening links between the urban tourism sector with urban resilience.

### Mediterranean Forum of Healthy Cities

Also in June, UN-Habitat presented its work on urban resilience and the New Urban Agenda, with a focus on healthy cities, at the Mediterrean Forum of Healthy Cities organized by the University of Girona.

### Building Resilient Cities

On 28 November, AXA Insurance Company hosted an event in its headquarters in Paris to gather private and public sector experiences on building resilience in cities. UN-Habitat participated in the event to discuss risks cities face all over the world taking into account the current trend of rapid urbanization, as well as possible solutions to make them more environmentally and financially resilient, and healthy through the CRPP's approach.

## Smart City Expo World Congress

Under the theme, Empower Cities, Empower people, the 2017 edition of Smart City Expo World Congress (#SCEWC17) took place from 14-16 November in Barcelona. UN-Habitat signed an agreement with the event organizers through which the programme will become a strategic partner in this and future editions of the global event.

For UN-Habitat, this partnership is an opportunity to promote urbanization as a tool for development in the framework of the New Urban Agenda and the Agenda 2030. The 2017 edition of the Congress, attracted over 18,000 participants with 700 cities representatives and 420 international experts.

UN-Habitat staff contributed to a range of sessions and workshops throughout the three days, most notably the opening keynote speech on Smart Urbanization delivered by the Executive Director, Dr. Joan Clos in which he called for a 'paradigm shift' in how we consider, plan and manage our cities. He further called upon the tech-savvy crowd and local government representatives in the full auditorium to consider and promote urbanization as an opportunity and not only a challenge.

The UN-Habitat team also welcomed attendees at an interactive booth with the latest information on the UN-Habitat's work and the upcoming 9th World Urban Forum, and the urban resilience game. An SDG photo call was also installed in the main City Hall Plaza and became a popular attraction during the Congress resulting in hundreds of pictures of participants with the 17 SDGs.

### Photos from the event

#### Urban Health - ISGlobal Breakfasts

In December, the Head of the CRPP was invited to address a lecture among ISGlobal researchers and academia to highlight the links between Urban Health and Urban Resilience. ISGlobal is the principle international research institute of health based in Spain.

#### The Urban October and the World Cities Day in Barcelona

The World Day of Cities (31 October) aims to raise society's awareness of the importance of sustainable urban development and, at the same time, promote cooperation and action to respond to the current challenges of cities.

UN-Habitat organized a week of activities at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site to raise awareness of the need for more sustainable urban development, locally and globally. From 31 October to 5 November, Barcelona was a leading city in the international celebration of World Cities Day. In 2017, the day opened reflection around the theme, *Innovative Governance, Open Cities*, in line with the values instilled in the Sustainable Development Goals and New Urban Agenda.



Activities included school groups visiting the Sant Pau site and participating in a workshop on how to build sustainable cities as children used recycled materials to model the city they want.

Visitors to Sant Pau were also able to learn more about sustainable urbanization through videos and presentations and exclusive access to four of the Site's offices, including two of UN-Habitat's offices on site. An Urban Talk was also held between different administrative levels in Catalonia and open to questions from the public on participation in governance processes.

Sant Pau offered a series of sessions aimed at professionals to raise awareness of the geothermal energy system used in the architectural complex. Sant Pau is the largest space in southern Europe to use this sustainable energy, as well as other sustainability measures used in the rehabilitation of space.

United Cities and Local Governments, also headquartered in Barcelona, joined the celebration through their special session on housing as a priority action for more sustainable urban development.

The week of activities concluded on 5 November with the World Cities Day Party where visitors and families were able to enjoy a morning of free workshops and shows organized by the collaborating entities. Games, puppets, magic and music were the protagonists of the day to raise awareness about how, individually or collectively, we can improve our cities.

The celebration gathered over 4,000 visitors, with 14 workshops and activities for kids and families.

Other entities participated in the WCD Activity: Sant Pau, Lavola, the Generalitat de Catalunya, the Metropolitan Area of Barcelona, the Gas Museum, GasNatural Fenosa, Nexe Foundation, Eurordis Plataforma de Malalties Minoritàries, the Autonomous University of Barcelona, Diputació de Barcelona, Limón & Menta, Plant for the Planet, Casa Asia, Barcelona Global, and United Cities and Local Governments. They also had the support of the European Commission and the Smart City Expo World Congress.

[Read the Declaration of Local And Regional Governments](#)  
[World Cities Day Video](#)

## Exhibition – Where will we go?

Kadir van Lohuizen's photo essay "Where will we go?", looked at the human consequences of the rising sea level. Due to climate change, glaciers the world over are retreating and the ice of Greenland and Antarctica is melting at an increasing pace.

The exhibition provided vivid visual coverage of how climate change is already affecting places where people live. The exhibition showed people who still live in affected areas, but also those who have already moved to safer ground.

Installed at the Sant Pau Art Nouveau Site and UN-Habitat, this was part of the Programme's advocacy and communication work to raise awareness about the need to prepare for the effects of a changing climate. And as a result of close collaboration with the Private Foundation of the Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau and the support of the Regional Government of Catalonia.

It is estimated that 14,000 visitors saw the exhibition, including children from nearby schools invited to the launch along with representatives from Barcelona Centre for International Affairs (CIDOB), the Private Foundation Hospital de la Santa Creu i Sant Pau (FPHSCSP), the Council for Sustainable Development of Catalonia (CADS), the photojournalist author Kadir van Lohuizen and UN-Habitat.

### Watch some of the videos produced

[Opening speeches](#)

[Opening review](#)

[Interview to some visitors](#)

[Kids vision](#)

## Communication products

In line with the Programme's evolutions towards scaling-up CRPT implementation, more communication products have been developed to support UN-Habitat focal points, partners in cities and urban resilience advocates.

### Presentation publication

UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience work presentation provides a ready-made package for anyone presenting the work of the programme and the CRPT. This has been translated to Spanish and Portuguese and will be translated into other key languages for the Programme.

## Urban Resilience Flyer

This product provides aims to answer important questions relating to urban resilience (Why? How? Who?) as well as providing facts and figures.

## Engagement Steps for Local Governments

This step-by-step publication sets out the main stages and first steps for local governments to engage with UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Tool.

## Videos

The Resilient City video series (named Resilience Pills) is a set of dialogues and interviews with Mayors and key urban actors about the challenges they face in their cities and steps they are taking to build resilience.

During the Smart City Expo World Congress, UN-Habitat installed the New Urban Agenda interview corner to talk with experts, governments, students, civil society and academia about implementing the NUA, facing resilience challenges and opportunities for the future. The New Urban Agenda interview corner was the backdrop for over 20 interviews with mayors, experts and city-partners to discuss how they are and will support sustainable urban development through their work.

## The Library New Urban Agenda Interviews

## Partnerships and communities of practice

### Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience

In 2017, the members of the Medellin Collaboration has kick-off the Joint Work Programme "Implementing Paris and SDG#11 in Global South Cities: the case for urban resilience and adaptation to climate change". Funded by Cities Alliance, led by C40 and ICLEI, and with the support and advisory assistance of UN-Habitat, 100 Resilience Cities and Slum Dwellers International, this project is an example of implementing collaboration among partners for building resilience.

This project is key for UN-Habitat as the United Nations Programme for Human Settlements to identify and collect best practices around the work on climate change adaptation and provides policy recommendations to cities and Governments around the world. The project was launched at the COP23 Conference in Bonn, in November.

As part of this initiative, a CRPP team member participated in the first Regional Policy Dialogue of Adaptation Diplomacy in Africa that took place in Accra, Ghana, in December 2017. Members of the Medellin Collaboration had a meeting with the Mayor of Accra to discuss the opportunities of partnerships in the city.

2017 has been the year for the Medellin Collaboration to finalize the Cities Synergies Tracker. As a result of mapping the urban resilience projects of all members, six pilot cities were identified to establish synergies in local implementation. UN-Habitat is leading the pilot city of Maputo. The rest of the selected cities are New York, Mexico DF, Bogota, Accra and Jakarta.

[www.urbanresiliencehub.org/medellin-collaboration](http://www.urbanresiliencehub.org/medellin-collaboration)

## Making Cities Resilient Campaign

Throughout 2010-2020 and beyond, the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR) Making Cities Resilient Campaign (MCRC), together with partners, aim to support sustainable urban development by promoting resilience activities and increasing local level understanding of disaster risk. A ten-point checklist of essentials for making cities resilient serves as a guide for a city's commitment toward improving their resilience and is the organizing principle for reporting and monitoring during the campaign.

The campaign's principal target groups are mayors and local government leaders of cities and towns of different sizes, characteristics, locations and risk profiles. Besides mayors and local government leaders, the campaign is also calling on civil society, planners and urban professionals, as well as national authorities and community groups to develop innovative solutions and engage with local governments to reduce disaster risks.

In October 2017, the Making Cities Resilient Campaign hosts its 4th Steering Committee Meeting in Hong Kong. The committee members recognized the need to support projects and initiatives in the field of urban resilience and conservation of cultural heritage addressing the impacts of tourism in urban management and development, and of natural disasters in tourism activities. They also recognized the flexibility of the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and the importance of allowing customization of the tool and respective indicators to national and local contexts. In addition, it was recognized the range of tools within the campaign covering

different stages on the resilience diagnosis a city (Scorecard, CRPT, etc).

In order to strengthen the Advocacy and Outreach strategy of the Campaign, UN-Habitat was proposed to coordinate a Subcommittee to enhance the engagement of advocates and champions towards the mobilization of member cities to move forward with their commitments to the Campaign.

UN-Habitat currently hosts the Campaign, working in strict collaboration with UNISDR.

[www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities](http://www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities)

## RESCCUE

The RESCCUE Project, RESilience to cope with Climate Change in Urban arEas – a multisectorial approach focusing on water, aims at helping cities around the world to become more resilient to a wide variety of hazards, including climate-change related challenges.

Funded in the European Commission's H2020 framework, RESCCUE gathers a diverse consortium of over 20 partners (public, private and multi-lateral organisations) largely from Europe revolving around the cities of Lisbon, Bristol and Barcelona; generating models, tools and resilience action plans to be tested and implemented in the three cities. UN-Habitat is supporting the validation of both the resilience diagnosis and action plans produced for the three research sites.

Besides a constant advocacy and dissemination work carried out through social media and official events, the UN-Habitat team's 2017 activities have been focusing mainly on the two following work-streams:

### Context profile:

A preliminary urban analysis was produced for Lisbon, Bristol and Barcelona, building on both desk-based research and a set of structured consultations with local partners. This exercise included a) resilience stakeholders' mapping, b) overview of detected urban challenges –shocks and stresses-, c) review of the previous and current resilience-related initiatives underway in the three cities, and d) a stock-take of the main planning documents in force. An advanced draft of the 'State of Cities' report resulting from this exercise was presented to the consortium in May 2017, and will provide the baseline of the several RESCCUE outputs in Lisbon, Bristol and Barcelona.

## Resilience framework approach:

From Summer 2017 onwards, UN-Habitat was also actively involved, together with its work package leaders and partners, in the development of a structured RESCCUE-focus Diagnosis Framework to be applied in the three research sites. Encompassing the organizational, spatial, physical, functional and time, dimensions of urban systems entailed by UN-Habitat methodology, the Framework builds upon some of the initiatives detected in the context analysis and proposes a comprehensive resilience-assessment instrument, with a focus on climate change and water systems. A final version will be finalised in the earlier months of 2018 and tested in the three research sites with active support from UN-Habitat.

[www.resccue.eu](http://www.resccue.eu)

## Risk Nexus Initiative

The Risk Nexus Initiative is a partnership formed by leading institutions, engaged in risk, sustainability and resilience, with a long track record in the delivery of innovative and effective approaches to risk and risk management.

All new development investment, whether in infrastructure, social expenditure, urban development or agriculture, has the potential to either generate or reduce risk. Today's risks were shaped by how those investments were made in the past. The central focus of the Risk Nexus Initiative will be to ensure that all new development is fully risk informed, including, public and private investment in infrastructure and development, climate change adaptation, early warning, disaster risk reduction, actions to address displacement and migration, risk financing and transfer, cities and urban development.

The initiative will make actionable and operational the risk component of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, contribute to the achievement of the vision on prevention of the Secretary General of the United Nations and facilitate the strengthening of global sustainability and resilience. UN-Habitat is a member of the Initiative's Steering Committee.

[www.risknexusinitiative.org](http://www.risknexusinitiative.org)

## Inter-Agency Standing Committee for Humanitarian Responses (IASC)

UN-Habitat is a member of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Working Group, specifically

the Task Team on Strengthening the Humanitarian/Development Nexus with a focus on protracted content. In 2017, during an ad-hoc meeting, the group discussed shifting the focus of work towards urban crises to better reflect the increasingly urban face of humanitarian challenges. Recommendations and actions from this process were discussed again in December and their operationalization is expected by 2018.

[www.interagencystandingcommittee.org](http://www.interagencystandingcommittee.org)

### Global Alliance for Urban Crises (GAUC)

Co-hosted by UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme and United Cities and Local Governments, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises established their Secretariat in Barcelona, Spain, in May 2017. The Secretariat coordinated the support of a 65+ membership of organizations signatory to the Urban Crises Charter, aiming to adapt humanitarian response to an urban world, through four Working Groups around Alliance priorities, which were established during an All Members Meeting in mid-March 2017, in Brussels, Belgium.

The Secretariat supported the vision of the Alliance by hosting a Meeting of the Working Groups in early October 2017, in Paris, France. The Working Groups met for the first time to discuss the way forward and road map to deliver on the Alliance vision. During the same forum for local governments, the Alliance met with Haitian Mayors to discuss best practices, lessons learned and receive feedback regarding country-specific humanitarian response.

The Alliance looks forward to hosting Side Events, dialogues and panels during the World Urban Forum in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia, with a concerted advocacy effort, as well as Steering Group elections during the beginning of 2018

[www.urbancrises.org](http://www.urbancrises.org)

### Arctic Resilient Cities Network

The effects of our changing climate are arguably more visible in the Arctic region than anywhere else on earth. Rising temperatures, shifting weather patterns and intensified natural hazards are already altering the living environment, economic basis, values and mind-sets of arctic populations. Models suggest that these trends will only intensify over the coming century.

Collaboration between Arctic cities, their local governments, and cultural heritage leaders is required now more than ever. Sharing knowledge,

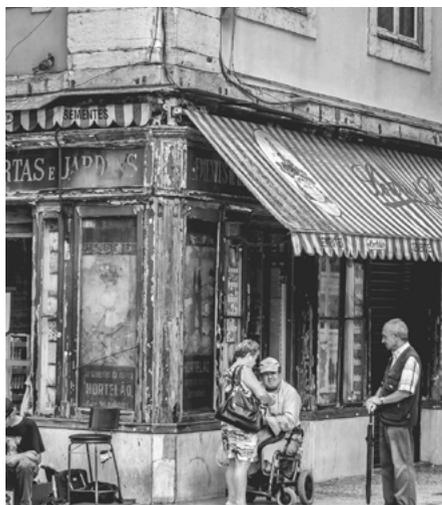
experience and practical tools on addressing key challenges can save time and resources and build solidarity among communities. At both the national and the global level, collective lobbying can help ensure equity, safety, resilience and sustainability in the villages, towns and cities of the Arctic. To facilitate this coordination and provide impartial advocacy and convening support, UN-Habitat is proposing the Arctic Resilient Cities Network (ARC�).

Still in its conception, in 2017 UN-Habitat has initiated talks with several northern Mayors and is coordinating the response from the region towards the creation of a more formal network.

### ISO standard for Resilient Cities

Recognized standards in urban resilience will provide guidance for national, subnational and local governments, and citizen associations to act. Standards will provide an incentive for all stakeholders to work towards a certifiable level of urban resilience. In April 2017, ISO endorsed resolution 134 establishing a 'Preliminary Work Item' entitled 'Framework and principles for methodologies on urban resilience' - first step in creating a comprehensive certifiable international standard for urban resilience.

UN-Habitat has refined its universally applicable methodology for building urban resilience to serve as a basis for global standards. A concept note as developed incorporating the conclusions of dialogue between ISO and UN-Habitat under the aegis of the UN Coordination Group; a Class A Liaison organization.



# Press and Media

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Throughout the year, coverage of UN-Habitat's resilience work featured across online and offline platforms, from traditional to digital press. Social media channels also grew, reflecting a more agile way for the Programme to reach and work with media.

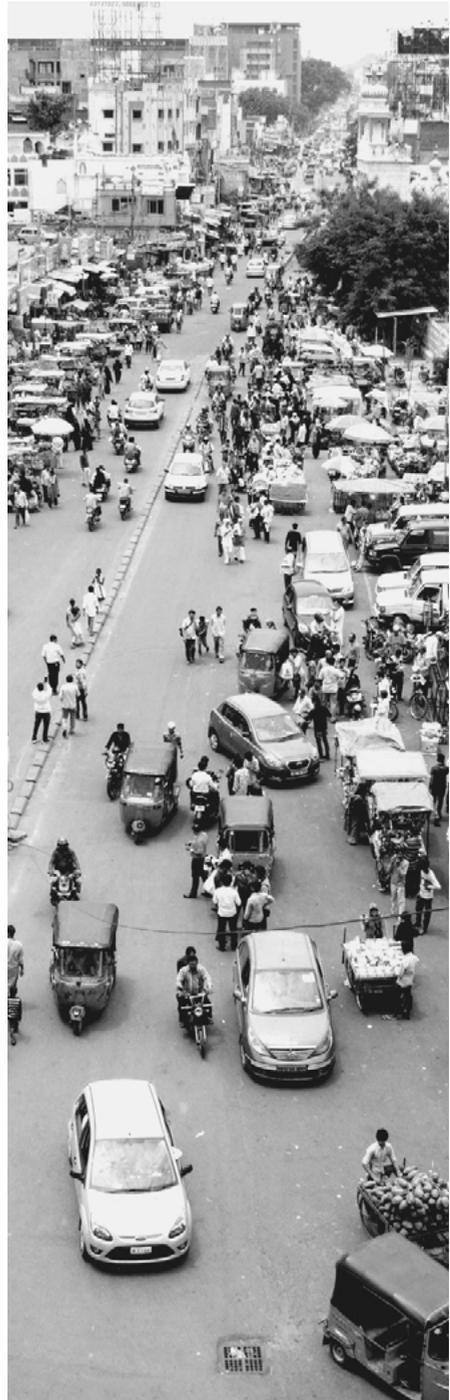
A **press kit** was created to provide journalists and media with key content and data that can be easily incorporated into articles and content on urban resilience. The kit has been translated into Spanish and Russian in 2017 and will be made available in other key languages in 2018, including Portuguese and French.

## In the news

### Webinar - Dodging Disaster: How Can We Build A Safer World For All?

UN-Habitat took part in a webinar convened by Zilient, an online news platform on resilience and disaster risk reduction. The webinar also included an expert from UNISDR and hosted by a journalist working in the field of resilience.

## Watch the webinar



# Programme updates

The Urban Resilience Programme hosts the City Resilience Profiling Programme and promotes the knowledge and advocacy work for UN-Habitat in the area of urban resilience. To push forward the urban resilience agenda, the Programme made a number of advances in 2017.

## Agreements and MoUs

Signing cooperation or other types of agreements with donors allows UN-Habitat to be on the forefront of the latest research, action and thinking on urban resilience. In 2017, the following partners because formal working partners of UN-Habitat:

- Union for the Mediterranean
- Displacement Solutions
- Generalitat de Catalunya
- Municipality of Asuncion
- Fira Barcelona
- Barcelona City Council

## Human Resources

The team working in the Barcelona office grew in 2017 with numerous experts working on tool

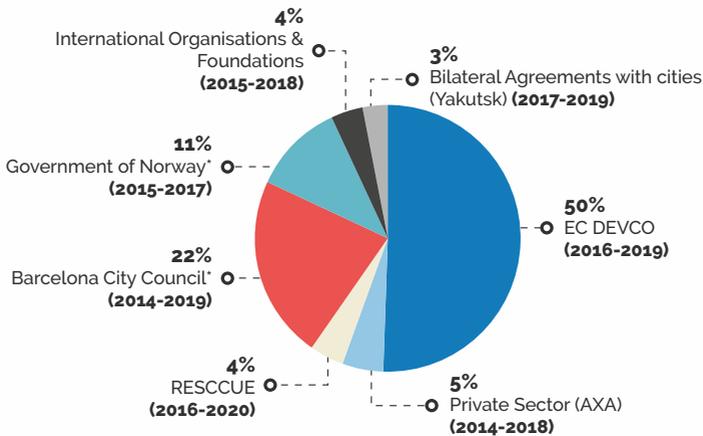
development (mobility, economy, environmental, social aspects), administration, communication and training. The work of the Programme is further supported by a team of motivated interns as well as countless online volunteers supporting through the UN's online volunteer portal.

The year also saw the retirement of Mr. Dan Lewis, Head of the Programme. Following 25 years of active service to UN-Habitat, Mr Lewis made an invaluable contribution to the development of the Agency's work in urban resilience. His duties were assumed by Mr. Esteban Leon who was also a driving force behind the Programme since its inception.

## Financial report

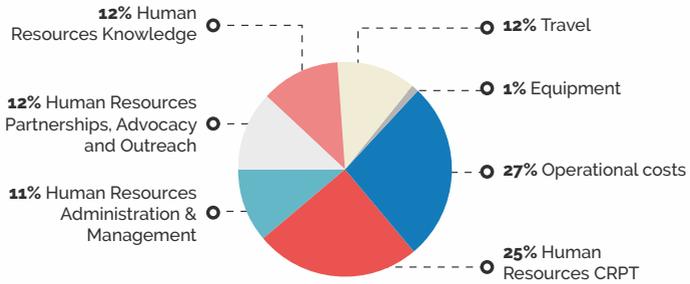
UN-Habitat's urban resilience work continues to draw support from various and varied donors and supporters. The ongoing collaboration with the European Commission DEVCO allows for tool development and implementation in pilot cities to advance. The renewed collaboration with the Government of Norway and the City Council of Barcelona supports the knowledge, advocacy and communication aspects of the Programme's work. The staff and in-kind support from NORCAP support many areas of partnership and substantive work.

### Resources Mobilized since CRPP inception (USD)

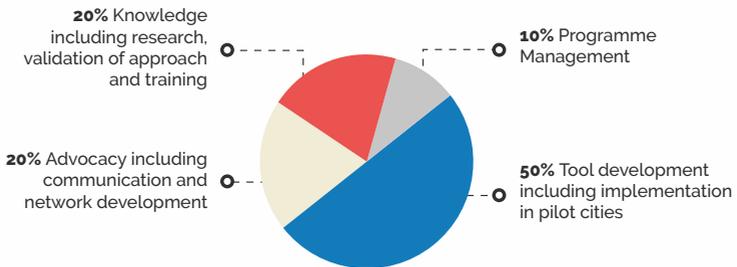


*\*In kind contribution not included*

### Expenses 2017 by type



### Expenses by work area



# Conclusions and prospects

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## Looking forward

This year has seen significant advances for the City Resilience Profiling Programme in both its normative and operational work. The City Resilience Profiling Tool has become fully market ready, largely thanks to boost provided by the EC DEVCO supported 'Making Cities Sustainable and Resilient Action', which has allowed for accelerated tool development and piloting in Asuncion and Maputo among other cities.

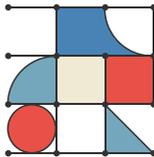
Another strong contributing factor to this successful year has been the increased efficiency in the operations of the Programme, most notably in connecting technical work with advocacy and outreach. The streamlining of our work along three main lines (technical cooperation, knowledge, and advocacy and outreach) has increased the Programme's ability to deliver on objectives and seek new opportunities. One of the opportunities was to create a much-needed multi-public platform for open discussion and action sharing on urban resilience. UN-Habitat took the initiative and developed the Urban Resilience Hub, set to be launched early next year.

For 2018, the operational side of our work will be given increased protagonism as we advance our resilience building partnerships in Dakar, Port Vila and Yakutsk. We have also received strong interest and early commitment from four additional cities to initiate implementation. Communicating on these actions will increase the visibility of the Programme and UN-Habitat more widely and we have already identified some key milestone events where we can collectively showcase our work: World Cities Day, Barcelona Resilience Week and other major urban gatherings. We look forward to seeing you at one or more of these events.

From the knowledge side, efforts have already begun on the upcoming edition of the Trends in Urban Resilience flagship publication, set to be released in 2019. This second edition will place greater emphasis on real solutions that can be pursued by cities both under and external to UN-Habitat's scope. The challenges faced in urban settlements continue to grow, notably as a result of climate change, mass migration and continued rapid urbanization, and this edition of Trends in Urban Resilience will provide valuable knowledge on how we can collectively tackle these issues.

Throughout 2017, we were fortunate enough to benefit from strong partnerships that enabled us to push forward the resilience agenda at the global level, most notably with our colleagues and friends from the Medellin Collaboration for Urban Resilience, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises as well as partner branches of UN-Habitat. We are eager to expand this collaborative approach and strengthen links with new partners and institutions as we look to expand our action.

Lastly, we express our gratitude to the organisations that continue to carry the resilience flag and support our work, most notably the European Commission through DEVCO, Barcelona City Council and the Government of Norway, among many others. We will continue to work and deliver our commitments, and help ensure greater resilience in all cities and for all people.



If your organization would like to support or find out more about UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience work, please contact us at

[info@cityresilience.org](mailto:info@cityresilience.org)  
[www.unhabitat.org/urbanresilience](http://www.unhabitat.org/urbanresilience)

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