

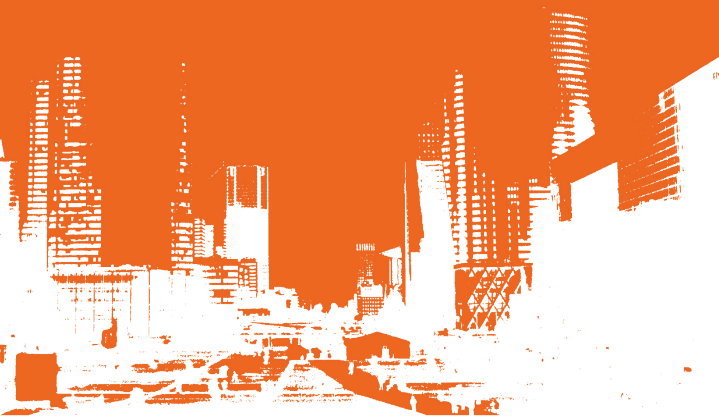
This booklet summarizes key aspects of UN-Habitat's new programme producing measurable indices for urban government resilience building efforts.

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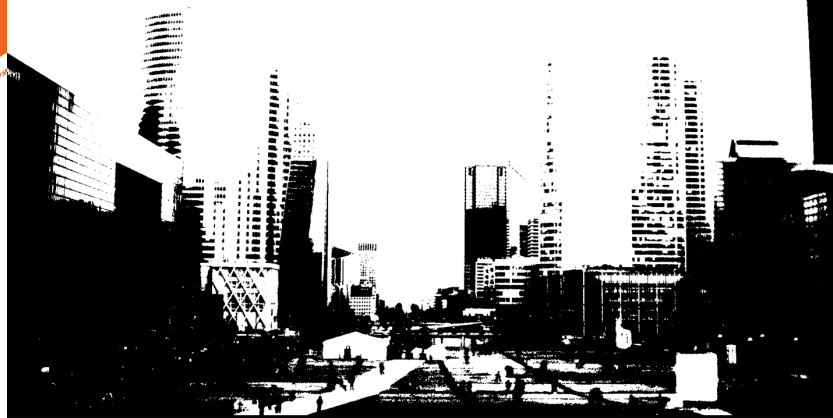
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# HOW RESILIENT IS YOUR CITY?



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**CITY  
RESILIENCE  
PROFILING  
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# Acknowledgments

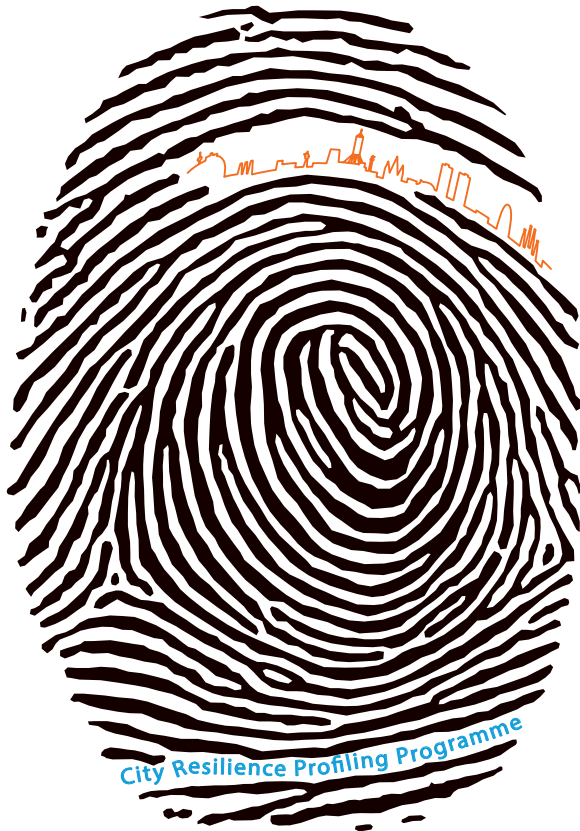
This booklet would not have been possible without the cooperation of the Partner Cities and the Barcelona Urban Resilience Partnership, led by the Barcelona City Council. We are grateful for their invaluable support to the programme and their commitment to the activities of the office.



# WHAT IS URBAN RESILIENCE?

*Urban Resilience refers to the ability of any urban system to withstand and recover quickly from all plausible shocks and stresses and maintain continuity of functions.*





# WHO ARE WE & WHAT DO WE DO?

UN Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) responds to local government and stakeholder demand for generating metrics for urban resilience in order to establish baselines (or 'profiles') upon which to integrate resilience based inputs to sustainable urban planning, development, and management processes in cities and other human settlements throughout the world.

The main goal of the CRPP is to support local governments and their stakeholders in transforming urban areas into safer and better places to live in, and improve their capacity to absorb and rebound quickly to any and all potential shocks or stresses.

At the heart of the programme are the resilience profiling tools - providing transversal diagnostic and planning

methodologies for resilience-based urban development. Following a multi-sectorial, multi-hazard and multi-scale approach, and understanding that cities function as integrated, interdependent systems; the tool-kit and guidelines help shape new strategic inputs, based on traceable data, to inform and enhance the planning, building, and management of cities.

The programme also provides training, promotes research and innovation in urban resilience, and coordinates partner networks including public, private and academic organizations at all scales, from international to local stakeholders.

*“Our challenge is to develop a **universal model** of the urban system that we can offer as a means to support local governments and urban stakeholders in their efforts to understand how precisely their city functions under stress, and to develop resilience action plans, **unique to each city**, that can be integrated into regular urban planning, development and management functions”*

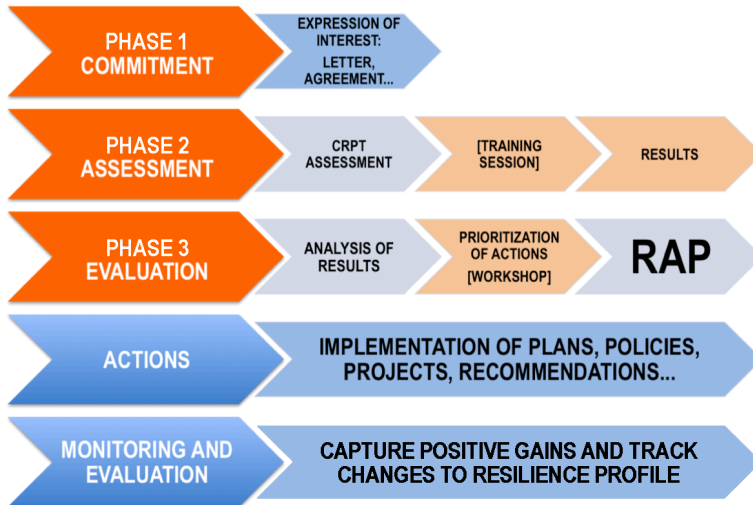
# UNIVERSAL APPROACH TO UNIQUE SOLUTIONS

Applicable in all human settlements regardless of size, culture, geography or economy, the City Resilience Profiling Tool must be ubiquitous, and must produce validated, ‘auditable’ data reducing ambiguity and informing planning, development and management decision-making.

*An adaptable urban system model suitable for all human settlements.*



## How cities engage with CRPP



The methodology considers five critical and interdependent dimensions. It is crucial to consider the interaction, interdependency and integration between these five 'apex elements' common to all human settlements:

**Physical attributes** - from dwellings, and unpaved village roads; to the complex built environment of mega-cities;

**Functional attributes** - describing processes and flows - anything from a rural village market and transport hub, to commercial, governance, and social processes in large cities;

**Spatial attributes** - all human settlements are located somewhere geographically, and distributed in specific spatial terms from the smallest plot up through urban segments, to peri-urban, district; national and international contexts;

**Organisational attributes** - here meaning any association of humans for some purpose - formal, informal, corporate or political, and can describe any organisational scale from an individual, to a neighbourhood or community association, council of elders, to rate-payer groups, or even professional or

religious associations that can influence the profile of the city; as well as more formal institutions such as local, regional or national governments; and

**Time** - the fifth element, conveying that cities are not static, and evolve continuously.

Using this model, the two challenges are met; the principle of universality and the understanding that the profile is unique to each city where the model is applied.



# HOW DO WE WORK?

CRPP is structured in four basic pillars:

- 1. Support to cities:** in the application of the City Resilience Profiling Tools by offering training to help partners, municipal leaders and planners using the tool to develop and deliver Resilience Action Plans.
- 2. Collaboration with universities and research centres:** the programme collaborates with different universities and research centres to promote innovation, improve the curricula and boost urban resilience global outreach.
- 3. Project implementation:** Providing technical expertise and knowledge by participating in the design and implementation of an urban resilience based

approach that equally benefits governments, partners and other stakeholders.

**4. Advocacy and outreach:** CRPP publishes materials to promote new approaches to city resilience; providing programme stakeholders with knowledge and information on urban resilience, facilitating cooperation, collaboration and sharing values inside and outside the growing community of city practitioners, making safer and more resilient cities.



## WHO DO WE WORK WITH?

CRPP works with key strategic partners from a wide range of sectors such as multi-lateral organizations, academia, civil society, research centres, global practice leaders and private sector representatives, following an integrated approach and adding a comparative advantage to urban resilience.

At the international level, CRPP is a member and coordinating agency of the Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience. This collaboration was formed to marshal the technical and financial resources needed for cities to strengthen their resilience to both natural and man-made threats.

Medellín Collaboration on Urban Resilience includes: the United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

(UNISDR), The Rockefeller Foundation, the 100 Resilient Cities Initiative, the World Bank, the Inter-American Development Bank, the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery, the C40 Cities Climate Leadership Group, and the ICLEI-Local Governments for Sustainability.

**Together with UN-Habitat, these organizations work in over 2,000 cities globally, with more than \$2 billion of existing funds committed annually toward advancing resilient and sustainable urban growth and development.**

The CRPP also chairs the Cities Alliance, 'Resilient Cities' Joint Work Programme, comprised of many of the Medellín Collaboration partners, as well as other organizations that include the United Nations Environment Programme (UNEP), GIZ-BMZ (German Cooperation); Women in Informal Employment: Globalizing and Organizing (WIEGO); Shack/Slum Dwellers International (SDI); and Partenariat Français pour la Ville et les Territoires (PFVT).

# THE CITY FRAMEWORK

In a world where 54% of the population currently lives in cities and one that will see close to 75% urbanized by 2050<sup>1</sup>, ensuring sustainable urban development gains are protected as the world continues this trend is critical. The CRPP systems model focuses on urban areas, in relation to the interdependencies at different territorial scales; zooming in on smaller spatial units or out to the regional or national levels to analyse the interaction, interdependency and integration of the system components exposed to city-specific hazard profiles.



## Working with cities

Based on the principle of shared knowledge, the programme implements pilots in partner cities willing to exchange experiences. The aim of this city network is to ensure that the CRPT methodology and guidelines are universally applicable regardless the types and degrees of risk, from natural to human made hazards, and often, multiple risks simultaneously.

This main goal is based upon the following prioritized objectives:

1. To protect people, reducing loss of lives
2. To protect assets and development gains, reducing direct economic losses
3. To protect continuity of function: ensuring processes and flows of public and private services through any potential crises impacting cities throughout the world.

*“The CRPT helps cities to work with the information they have so they can pursue resilience plans at a pace that is good for them, and make improvements over time.”*

*Ares Gabàs, Barcelona*



*“We have carried out a thorough review of disaster losses at national level and it is clear that direct losses from floods, earthquakes and drought have been under-estimated by at least 50%. So far this century, direct losses from disasters are in the range of \$2.5 trillion.”*

*Ban Ki-moon*

*United Nations Secretary-General  
March 2015*



## HOW TO GET INVOLVED?

### **In the development**

The CRPP tools development process depends on constant feedback from very different partner cities from around the world. Implementing guidelines and applying the tools, providing feedback to the tool developers has ensured the methodology is relevant and applicable in all human settlements regardless of size, geography, culture, economy or ecology. Since late 2014, the CRPP has opened a new window of engagement through the Associate Cities network, welcoming new city partners in shaping the urban resilience agenda.

### **Shared knowledge**

The CRPP encourages city-to-city learning and knowledge exchange as well as opportunities to forge new alliances. No matter your resilience skills or capacity, you can



always give back by sharing your knowledge with other cities that need your support.

We are working with a growing network of universities and research centres that are crucial for the innovation and leading edge thinking for city resilience.

## Fundraising

Under the rules and regulations of UN-Habitat, the CRPP can receive financial support in the following ways:

### - Global Technical Cooperation Projects Portfolio:

As the main UN-Habitat programme responsible for its global urban resilience agenda, the CRPP currently implements technical cooperation projects addressing resilient cities, bulk infrastructure, migration and refugee impacts, and other projects for which it receives financial and in-kind contributions;

- **Joint Agreements:** The programme can receive financial or in-kind contributions from other organizations though direct cooperation agreements related to any of our activities;

- **Public-Private-Agency Partnerships (PPAP's):** For example, the Barcelona Partnership is a public-private alliance, comprised of corporate and high-level research

organisations based in Barcelona that have engaged in building and implementing the city's resilience strategy, by providing both financial and human resource contributions, channelled through Barcelona's municipality to CRPP.

For further information please do not hesitate to contact us at: [info@cityresilience.org](mailto:info@cityresilience.org)

**Every activity and effort matters!**

**We encourage you to help raise awareness about urban resilience by sharing this quick guide with your partners, governments and networks.**

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