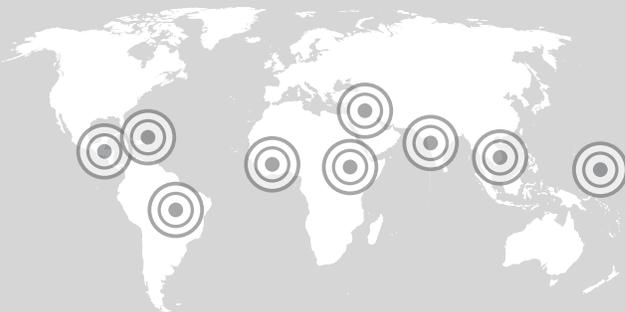


Program Profiles

*A series highlighting key
GFDRR-supported initiatives*

Resilient Cities

REGION: GLOBAL
FOCUS: PREPAREDNESS



PARTNERS:

- The World Bank
- UN-Habitat
- UNISDR
- Inter-American Development Bank
- C40 Climate Leadership Group
- Rockefeller Foundation
- 100 Resilient Cities
- ICLEI

PROGRAM DESCRIPTION:

As cities grow increasingly vulnerable to natural hazards and other shocks, mayors and city administrations are demanding enhanced support that cuts across multiple sectors.

The Resilient Cities Program is a multi-year initiative to help cities strengthen their ability to prepare for and adapt to changing conditions, and to withstand and recover rapidly from disruptions related to climate change, natural disasters, and other systemic shocks.

Economic crises, health epidemics, and uncontrolled urbanization affect the ability of a city to sustain growth and provide services for its citizens – underscoring the need for a new approach to resilient urban development.

This program aims to help cities adapt to a greater variety of changing conditions and withstand shocks while maintaining essential functions.



PROGRAM IN ACTION:

CityStrength Diagnostic

CityStrength is a rapid diagnostic methodology to help cities improve their understanding of risk and the performance of urban systems as well as identify priority actions and investments that contribute to the long-term goal of enhancing the city's resilience.

The first diagnostic under this cutting-edge methodology was conducted in Can Tho, Vietnam in June 2014. In addition to city authorities, GFDRR interviewed a number of local organizations, including groups representing civil society, women, the disabled, and commercial and industrial interests.

Using the results of the diagnostic, the city is expected to access financing to advance flood prevention infrastructure, improve key services such as sanitation and transport, and upgrade living conditions, particularly in flood-prone areas. Already, the diagnostic has helped mobilize more than \$250 million in financing for urban resilience.

Urban Resilience

Nine institutions, including GFDRR and the World Bank, announced a global collaboration at the World Urban Forum in Medellin, Colombia, in April 2014, expressing their collective commitment to help cities improve resilience.

The collaboration facilitates the flow of knowledge and financial resources necessary to help cities become more resilient to disruptions related to climate change, disasters, and other systemic shocks and stresses, including socio-economic challenges associated with rapid urbanization.

Primary objectives include helping cities understand their vulnerabilities to risk, catalyzing access to risk financing mechanisms, and sharing knowledge to develop cities' capacity to meet their goals.



FUTURE GOALS:

There are nearly 180,000 people added to the world's urban population each day. By 2030, nearly 5 billion urban dwellers will represent 60 percent of the world population. The demand for resilient approaches to managing urban climate and disaster risk is growing rapidly.

Members of the Medellin Collaboration on Urban Resilience work in over 2,000 cities globally, with over \$2 billion committed annually toward advancing resilient urban development.

The Medellin Collaboration will also mobilize support for the post-2015 urban resilience agenda, including the Sustainable Development Goals and the climate change framework.

In tandem with the ongoing work of the Medellin Collaboration, the Resilient Cities program will continue to apply CityStrength diagnostics to assess cities' vulnerability to disasters. Following its successful application in Vietnam and Ethiopia, an additional diagnostic is planned in Colombo, Sri Lanka in FY16.

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