Orientation to Local Level Disaster Risk Reduction and Making Cities Resilient (in English,
French and Portuguese)
Date: 7 October 2020
Time: 10am – 12pm Harare time | 11am – 1 pm Nairobi time | 9 – 11 am Abuja time

Zoom link : https://undrr.zoom.us/webinar/register/WN_rs89b-V5RJCDA6fBgf9taA

*"Disaster risk is increasing with every passing day. Poverty, rapid urbanisation, climate change – these and
other factors are leaving people and communities ever more exposed."*[1]

Background

Over the past 30 years, the world's population has grown by 87 per cent. By 2018, 55% of the world's
population was living in urban areas and this proportion is expected to rise to 68% by 2050 (UNDESA
2018). Sub-Saharan Africa (SSA) is often regarded as the world's fastest urbanizing region. The global share
of African urban residents is projected to grow from 11.3 percent in 2010 to 20.2 percent by 2050. In Sub-
Saharan Africa, 143 cities generate a combined $ 0.5 trillion, totaling 50 percent of the region's gross
domestic product (GDP). This presents an opportunity as evidence suggests that doubling of a city's size
boosts income per capita between 3 percent and 8 percent[2].

As the world's population becomes increasingly urban, disaster risk increasingly concentrates within cities
and urban areas. The concentration of people, assets and activities in urban centres usually generates
new patterns of hazard, exposure and vulnerability. Approximately 60% of the area to be urbanized by
2030 globally has yet to be built. This presents an opportunity to reduce disaster risk globally, and more
so on the Africa continent. In Sub-Saharan Africa, urban population growth has far outpaced capital
investment, leading to shortages of infrastructure, housing and access to basic services. Already 60
percent of Sub-Saharan Africa's urban population lives in areas classified as slums[3], a far larger share than
the average of 34 percent in other developing countries (UN DESA 2015).

Disasters have their greatest impact at the local level. The sheer scale of people and assets concentrated
in urban areas is both increasing and intensifying the risks to local communities. This background calls for
sufficiently resourced city and municipal governments working with citizens, businesses, and other
stakeholders to reduce disaster risk, both through specific risk reduction policies and investments, and by
improving infrastructure and the provision of services. Understanding and managing risk is everyone's
business and integral to the success of all global development frameworks: "Disaster risk reduction
requires an all-of-society engagement and partnership" and "Civil society, volunteers, organized voluntary
work organizations and community-based organizations to participate, in collaboration with public
institutions, to advocate for resilient communities and an inclusive and all-of-society disaster risk
management that strengthen synergies across groups."[4]

Reports indicate that the fastest growing cities in Africa are among the most susceptible to the threat of
climate change over the next 30 years. Exposure to risk, especially by the urban poor, has increased with

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[1] Remarks at launch of Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR), 15 May 2013
[2] Lall, Somik Vinay, J. Vernon Henderson, and Anthony J. Venables. 2017. "Africa's Cities: Opening Doors to the World." World Bank,
Washington, DC.
[3] United Nations Human Settlements Programme ,2017
[4] Global Assessment Report 2019

rapid population growth and encroachment on wetlands, floodplains, riverbanks, steep slopes, and other hazard-prone areas. Many risks are exacerbated by climate change and rapid urbanization. With the frequency and intensity of disasters increasing, the urban poor in the Global South are at greatest risk. The implication of this reality means that there is a need for countries to focus their collective energies to create a safer world for urban dwellers and develop a series of innovative approaches to meet this challenge.

In this regard, building resilience and adapting to climate change is crucial for cities. Efforts to build resilience in cities can benefit from integrating disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation with existing efforts in disaster risk management, sustainable development and other similar planning processes. The current and future challenges of mainstreaming Climate Change Adaptation (CCA) and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) in development planning demand new approaches, mechanisms, sets of skills and competencies that need to be identified and strengthened in order to respond to increasing public demand and promote political commitment to local actions, including budget allocations.

Introduction

Economic losses from disasters continue to rise across the world. Though they are increasing faster in OECD countries, the impact of economic losses relative to GDP in low and middle-income countries is much higher and thus threatens their economies more. Moreover, low and middle-income nations show a rising trend in mortality and economic losses associated with extensive disaster risks.

Disaster risk is context specific. It is experienced in places and times, in ways that shape local patterns of exposure, vulnerability, adaptive capacities and resilience. Risk profiles may change over time and the local scale is where these changes are more directly perceived, and it is where action can be taken. Thus, it is centrally important that local actors, such as local governments (politicians and civil servants), the private sector, NGOs, community-based organizations and representatives of vulnerable groups, take part in DRR processes and consolidate development pathways that include DRR.

Target (e) of the Sendai Framework aims to substantially increase the number of countries not only with national, but also local DRR strategies. Cities and communities are key partners in these efforts. Globally, the UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction together with its partners launched the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in 2010 to support sustainable urban development by promoting resilience activities and increasing local level understanding of disaster risk. The MCR Campaign addresses issues of local governance and urban risk taking the systems approach to risk reduction and engaging with all sectors and stakeholders with a common goal to reduce disaster risks. The MCR Campaign is a self-motivating, partnership and city-driven, and is guided by three central themes: to Know more; Invest wiser; and Build safer.

Looking beyond 2020, the MCR Campaign successor "Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)", to be launched at the end of 2020, aims to strengthen support to cities on their journey to reduce risks and build resilience. It is important that cities continue to enhance knowledge on risk, strategically plan and take actions to address the underlying drivers of risk, which may include poverty, inequality, poor health conditions, environmental degradation, badly planned urban development, climate change, etc. Cities must take a holistic and systemic approach to resilience and build stronger and more resilient systems in the future.

This meeting, while promoting the importance of effective climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction, aims to:

i)   Increase political commitment for disaster resilient development, adapted for climate change towards sustainable development;

ii) Learn about the Making Cities Resilient Global Campaign and how its tools, materials and approaches may be used to build local resilience to disasters;

iii) Provide an opportunity for city officials and partners to plan for DRR strategy development and implementation based on the ten essentials for Making Cities Resilient Campaign.

Provisional agenda	
10 minutes	**Welcome Remarks:** *Amjad Abbashar, Regional Director, UNDRR Regional Office for Africa*
20 minutes	**Introduction to the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction: Reducing Risk for Sustainable Development** *by Sanjaya Bhatia, UNDRR* ***Presentation*:** • Trends and barriers in disaster risk reduction and making cities resilient • Local aspects of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 in coherence with other global frameworks including the Sustainable Development Goals
30 minutes	**Introduction to the Making Cities Resilient Campaign and Tools** *by Mutarika Pruksapong, UNDRR* ***Presentation:*** • Making Cities Resilient Campaign, the new Ten Essentials • Introduction to the Disaster Resilient Scorecard for Cities and its application • Highlights of the MCR report 2019 • General guidelines on the application of the MCR tools and methodologies
25 minutes	**Developing Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies** *by Isabel Njihia, UNDRR* • Local Disaster Resilience and Risk Reduction Strategies & Action Plans • Examples of local DRR strategies and action plans • Case examples from other cities in the development of local DRR strategies & Action Plans and on mainstreaming DRR into various sectors related to governance, finance, climate change adaptation, housing and land-use planning, environment, health, infrastructure, and livelihoods
25 minutes	**QnA**
10 minutes	**Wrap Up and closing remarks**