



United Nations
International Strategy for Disaster Reduction

Making Cities Resilient:



My city is getting ready!

UNISDR

Disaster Resilient Cities, Schools and Hospitals

*World Disaster Reduction
Campaign 2010-2010*

Introduction

The current World Disaster Reduction Campaign 2010-2011 “Making Cities Resilient: My City is Getting Ready!” is addressing urban risk reduction and targets local authorities. It is building on the two previous campaigns “Disaster risk reduction begins at schools” (2006/2007) and “Hospitals Safe from Disasters” (2008/2009). It also builds on the sustainable urbanizations principles developed in the UN-HABITAT World Urban Campaign 2009-2013.

The campaign is focusing on raising political commitment to disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation among local governments and mayors; including through high profile media and public awareness activities, and will develop specific technical tools that cater for capacity development opportunities.

The need to follow-up on the previous World Disaster Reduction Campaigns was emphasized in the Chair’s summary of the Global Platform 2009. It called for targets by 2011 to undertake national assessments of the safety of existing education and health facilities, and that by 2015 concrete action plans for safer schools and hospitals should be developed.

The current World Campaign is part of the Biennial Work Programme 2010-2011 (BWP)¹. The work programme details four Strategic Objectives (SO) that provide focus and content to UNISDR’s role in 1) *identifying gaps and priorities* and 2) *developing capacity with partners* at global and regional level to accelerate implementation of the HFA at local and country level. The Strategic Objective 3 is focusing on resilient cities, schools and hospitals and will be described in more detail in this document.

Making Cities Resilient

The majority of the world’s population now lives in cities, making the cities’ role in the social and economic development of nations’ vital. A major challenge facing many cities is to ensure quality growth that is both sustainable and equitable. Mass migration from rural areas to cities, forming slums or informal settlements, add to the problem. The exposure to climate related and other disasters are increasing rapidly, with urban population and assets heavily affected. The recent earthquake in Port-au-Prince, Haiti (January 2010), is an extreme illustration of this.

¹

‘2010-2011 Biennial Work Programme, UNISDR Secretariat’ available at www.unisdr.org

The severity of the impact by natural hazards are linked to unplanned urban development (or lack of development), ecosystems decline and failing infrastructure, such as insufficient storm drainage and poor quality of building stocks. Impacts of climate change are aggravating the vulnerability conditions of urban dwellers. Weak urban and local governance add to the difficulties to deal with disaster risk. Eight out of the ten most populous cities in the world can be severely affected by an earthquake, whereas six out of ten are vulnerable to storm surge and tsunami waves².

Local government officials are faced with the threat of disasters on a day-to-day basis and need better access to policies and tools to effectively deal with them. The *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters* offers solutions for local government and local actors to manage and reduce urban risk. Urban risk reduction provides opportunities for capital investments through infrastructure upgrades and improvements, building retrofits for energy efficiency and safety, urban renovation and renewal, cleaner energies, and slum upgrading. Local governments are the closest institutional level to the citizens and to their communities. They are expected to play the primary role in responding to crises and emergencies and in attending to the needs of their constituencies. They deliver essential services to their citizens (health, education, transport, water, etc.), which need to be made resilient to disasters.

Most often local Governments are in charge of critical developmental functions, which are essential to reduce disaster risk, such as:

- Land use planning
- Urban development planning
- Public works
- Construction safety and licensing
- Social services and responding to the need of the poor and the under-privileged
- Implementation and the strengthening of the decentralization process



² Chafe, Z. (2007) "Reducing natural disaster risk in cities", in *2007 State of the World: Our Urban Future*, World Watch Institute, Washington, DC.

Resilient Cities Campaign Objective

The main purpose and the main objectives of the resilient cities campaign was developed at a consultative conference “Building a Local Government Alliance for Disaster Risk Reduction” held and hosted by the Metropolitan City of Incheon, Korea, in August 2009. A first partnership meeting was hosted by the United Cities of Local Governments (UCLG) in October 2009, followed by sessions with partners in the regions.

The overall goal of the campaign is to achieve resilient, sustainable urban communities, with a growing number of local governments that are taking actions to reduce the risks to disasters.

A longer term objective following the campaign is to empower local governments with stronger national policies to invest in risk reduction at local level, as part of urban and regional development plans.



Where possible, the Campaign will focus especially on reaching the most vulnerable urban communities; the urban poor and communities that face a high-risk of adverse hazard impacts.

The target for 2010 is to achieve at least 25 role model resilient cities/local governments, and fifty additional participating ones. By the end of 2011, the target is to have reached more than a thousand cities/local government engaged in the campaign.

Methodology

- ✓ The Building Resilient Cities campaign is coordinated by UNISDR but owned and driven by its local, regional and international partners and participating cities/local governments.
- ✓ The campaign is based on the principles of a localized implementation of the *Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015-Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters*, and the principles of sustainable urbanization (UN-HABITAT), which all partners subscribe to.

- ✓ The network of partners is known as the “Local government alliance for disaster risk reduction” and it is seeking to maximise the use of each other’s expertise and to leverage outreach, capacity building and advocacy opportunities.
- ✓ The campaign will aim at creating lasting linkages, cooperation and programmes among the partners of the alliance that continues beyond the campaign, for this to remain a core feature of the International Strategy for Disaster Reduction.
- ✓ The partners will engage and mobilize international and domestic financial institutions and donors to support sustainable urbanization and local risk reduction policies and practices.
- ✓ UNISDR, as secretariat for the campaign, will:
 - Provide branding and communication expertise for the campaign, prepare media briefs, information kits and publicise good practice;
 - Convene and mobilize partners and resources;
 - Convene a virtual consultative group globally to guide the campaign;
 - Convene platforms or task forces for collaboration in the regions;
 - Convene an expert panel to advice on the technical content and pledges made by local governments towards building more resilience, and
 - Manage an inter-active web-space for the campaign and the partners in the alliance and prepare reports of progress based on the inputs from partners and participating cities.
- ✓ The campaign and its partners will be profiled during the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction in 2011, as well as at policy and other forum relevant for local governments (such as UCLG meetings, World Urban Forum, Ministerial Conferences on Disaster Risk Reduction).
- ✓ The Building Resilient Cities campaign will contribute to the UN-HABITAT coordinated World Urban Campaign on sustainable urbanizations.
- ✓ The “Sasakawa Award” will recognise and award local achievements in disaster risk reduction.

Outcomes and Activities

Local authorities commit to disaster risk reduction and programmes for critical public facilities, especially safer schools and hospitals

- Launching and exposing the 2010-2011 World Disaster Reduction Campaign on urban risk at high profile events for policy and decision makers and through public information products, including a global on-line pledging system for safer schools and hospitals;
- Identifying and engaging role models of ‘resilient cities and local governments’ and urban risk reduction champions to improve the urban safety and disaster resilience, and to share good practice;
- Publishing and adopting the ‘HFA for cities’ at the local level;
- Influencing local government agenda on disaster risk reduction through the engagement of mayors and parliamentarians and the alliance of local authorities and community level risk reduction networks;
- Risk profiling and other tools applied in 25 cities, with partners; and
- Identifying and developing capacity development and training for local governments on urban risk and governance with partners.

Making Schools and Hospitals Safe

Disasters have a major health, educational, economic, physical, and psychosocial impact on the most vulnerable, notably children, women and aged persons. Disasters can destroy human lives and damage hospital and school infrastructure, weaken medical staff’s availability and capacity, disrupt educational cycles and force children to drop out of school, exacerbate poverty and affect the resiliency of communities overall.

The massive Wenchuan earthquake in 2008 left 88,000 people dead or missing, 400,000 injured, and 11,000 hospitals damaged or destroyed. Over 12,000 schools or 40% of all schools in Sichuan were damaged, resulting in thousands of children being killed or injured. This and other similar events highlight growing concern over the effects of disasters on education and health.

Risk reduction has become a moral imperative for Governments and a key strategic objective at the international level. Critical infrastructures and lifelines such as schools, and hospitals must all be disaster-resilient should the international community be serious about building disaster resilient communities and nations by 2015.

The same way as hospitals should represent symbols of solidity and protection for all patients and injured people at times of disasters, schools should be perceived as education heavens. They also serve as community centres and shelters at times of disasters, thus reinforcing the importance of their resilience to disasters.

Progress is being achieved in gaining political commitment by Governments. Through the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and UNESCO's "Education For All" (EFA) Initiative, "Universal Primary Education" and bringing all children to school by 2015 represent a top priority of national Education agendas. The 2008-2009 World Disaster Reduction Campaign on Hospitals Safe From Disasters also mobilized representatives from the health sector in promoting the protection of health facilities, health workers and patients from disasters. The latter followed an intensive two year campaign (2006-2007) engaging Governments in building safe school infrastructures and integrating disaster risk reduction as part of school curricula, among other crucial activities.

Safe Schools and Hospitals Objective

During high level discussions at the second session of the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, June 2009, to mobilize actions at all levels to make schools and hospitals safe from disasters, setting the following ambitious targets:



- To undertake a national assessment of existing education facilities' safety by 2011
- To develop and implement concrete action plans for safer schools in all disaster prone countries by 2015.

Several countries have already taken drastic action on the above commitments such as Colombia, Iran, China and Uzbekistan which are already investing heavily to make their schools safe. Mexico has also demonstrated that it is possible to make hospitals safer by applying a hospital safety index to hundreds of hospitals thereby enhancing their resilience and preparedness to respond to emergencies and disasters. However, much more remains to be done globally.

Methodology

A pledging system for safer schools and hospitals was developed by UNISDR, through its Regional Office for Asia and the Pacific in Bangkok, in collaboration with key partners (UNESCO, UNICEF, WHO, The World Bank, UNCRD, Asian Development Bank, NSET), through which, all interested partners, ranging from the NGO community to the highest national authorities, will be encouraged to pledge commitment and action to:

- a)** Raise awareness on safe schools and hospitals,
 - b)** Be prepared in case of emergencies and disasters and/or
 - c)** Contribute time, effort or resources to make schools and hospitals safer.
- Regional launches of the pledging initiative will be undertaken to reach a world mobilization on the subject, with the objective of reaching commitment for one million safe schools and hospitals
- An initial mapping exercise on the current status of schools and hospitals structures assessment is ongoing with UNICEF and members of the UN Thematic Platform on Knowledge and Education as a baseline against which progress will be measured.
- The 2011 Global Platform and related HFA reporting process will be the main instruments to measure the level of achievements made by Governments in assessing the amount of vulnerable schools and hospitals and those which have already addressed such vulnerabilities through building assessment and action plans.
- Governments who pledged and successfully implemented concrete action - and possible funding - will be invited to the Global Platform to share their experience with other parts of the world. Good practices will be developed and shared within and across regions to motivate further political commitment at the national and regional levels.

Outcomes and Activities

Safe schools and hospitals are priorities for disaster risk reduction in disaster prone areas and comply with safety standards and codes

- Adopting targets for safe schools and hospitals at regional Ministerial platform meetings and/or supporting by concrete national action plans;
- Development of national multi-sectoral programmes and action plans on safe schools and hospitals coordinated and supported by Thematic Platforms for Health and on education;
- Supporting risk assessment of existing and new critical public facilities, specifically schools and hospitals (using the Hospital Safety Index and other tools);
- Thematic platforms in disaster risk reduction for health (WHO) and regional programmes and thematic platforms on education (UNICEF) promoting safer schools and hospitals supporting HFA implementation;
- Review of education curricula integrating disaster risk reduction published and distributed to planning and education authorities (with the Thematic Platform for Knowledge and Education);
- States and regional intergovernmental organisations systematically report on progress or impediments in HFA implementation, including on increasing investments in safer schools and hospitals;
- Providing workspace for communities of practice for disaster risk reduction and targeting local actors on PreventionWeb.net and partners' websites reflecting pledging system for safer schools and hospitals, and
- Including reports on the safety of schools and health facilities in HFA monitoring and presented to the Global Platform 2011.

Estimated Budget for Strategic Objective 3

The breakdown of the estimated budget for 2010-2011 of the Strategic Objective 3 “*Disaster resilient cities, schools and hospitals*” gives an overview of the campaign implementation at global and regional level.

Executive management³		312,000
Global work programmes		2,808,000
<i>Communication and advocacy⁴</i>	1,153,000	
<i>Coordination and policy coherence⁵</i>	638,000	
<i>Knowledge management⁶</i>	1,017,000	
Regional work programmes		5,070,000
<i>Regional support and coordination</i>	885,000	
<i>Asia Pacific</i>	1,260,000	
<i>Africa</i>	736,000	
<i>Americas</i>	705,000	
<i>Arab States</i>	617,000	
<i>Europe and Central Asia</i>	867,000	
Thematic work programmes⁷		1,498,000
Subtotal		9,689,000
Programme support ⁸		1,259,570
Total		10,948,570

³ Includes high-level advocacy and leadership by the SRSG and resource management with governments, mayors and donors.

⁴ Includes communication campaigns.

⁵ Includes inter-agency services, policy dialogues at campaign relevant events, e.g. the third Global Platform, HFA mid-term review with focus on local implementation aspects and multi-stakeholder coordination for the SO3.

⁶ Includes specialised studies and good practices, guideline development, web-based communication and knowledge management services.

⁷ Includes capacity development initiatives and city-to-city learning, e.g. with Education and Training Institute for Urban Risk Reduction (Incheon) and CADRI.

⁸ Includes human resource, finance and general administrative services.