The Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient Checklist Summary

1. Put in place organisation and coordination to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role in disaster risk reduction and preparedness.

2. Assign a budget for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low income families, communities, businesses and the public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.

3. Maintain up to date data on hazards and vulnerabilities. Prepare risk assessments and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions, ensure that this information and the plans for your city’s resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.

4. Invest in and maintain critical infrastructure that reduces risk, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.

5. Assess the safety of all schools and health facilities and upgrade these as necessary.

6. Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles. Identify safe land for low income citizens and upgrade informal settlements, wherever feasible.

7. Ensure that education programmes and training on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.

8. Protect ecosystems and natural buffers to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.

9. Install early warning systems and emergency management capacities in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.

10. After any disaster, ensure that the needs of the affected population are placed at the centre of reconstruction, with support for them and their community organisations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.
How to Make Cities More Resilient
A Handbook for Local Government Leaders

“Poverty and vulnerability are not fatal. People are not irreversibly condemned. People just do not mobilize the internal and external resources available to address the issues they face. Our predecessors fought to leave us with a heritage and it is our responsibility to preserve and promote it for the next generation.”

Cheikh Mamadou Abiboulay Dieye, Mayor of St. Louis, Senegal, Champion of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign

“We have seen in the last few years that developed countries are stricken as much as developing countries. Becoming a part of the “Making Cities Resilient” Campaign is beneficial in order to mutually showcase our achievements and to share experiences with each other.”

Jurgen Nimptsch, Mayor of Bonn, Germany Global Launch of the Making Cities Resilient Campaign in Bonn, May 2010

“To meet the goals of building a resilient city, we will need to commit significant resources at the local level. To do so in the midst of the economic challenges and in the face of scarcity of resources, will not be easy. But we have no option, we have to do it.”

Keith Hinds, Mayor of Portmore, Jamaica, at the Global Platform for Disaster Risk Reduction, Geneva, May 2011

For more information on Making Cities Resilient - My City is Getting Ready!
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