



PARTNERS FOR RESILIENCE

KEY MESSAGES

10th Session of the World Urban Forum, Abu Dhabi
08th-13th February 2020

The Urban Context I By 2030, without significant investment into making cities more resilient, disasters may cost cities worldwide \$314 billion each year, up from around \$250 billion earlier, and climate change may push up to 77 million more urban residents into poverty, according to a World Bank report and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery. Disasters wipe out development gains and are exacerbated by climate change, population growth, unplanned urbanization, the degradation of ecosystems, and uncontrolled economic development. Poor and marginalized people, especially women and children are often badly affected, with disasters trapping them in a vicious circle of poverty and vulnerability.

Building and strengthening resilience in urban areas play significant roles to minimize risks. Strong, well-organised communities can manage the risks they face and reduce the overall impact of disasters and sustain development.

With the evolving risks that confront us now which will be further exacerbated by climate change, we need multidisciplinary and innovative approaches to ensure that communities and governments are able to anticipate, adapt, respond to and create transformational changes along the way. This is what we do.

Who are we? The Partners for Resilience (PfR) alliance started its collaboration in 2010 and continued its work under the strategic partnership with the Netherlands government in 2016. The alliance consists of the Netherlands Red Cross, CARE Netherlands, Cordaid, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre and Wetlands International, and about 50 partner civil society organisations worldwide - active at grassroots, national, regional and global level. PfR is supported by and connected to many other stakeholders, who jointly contribute in creating safer environments for all: individuals, governments, private sector, institutions, civil society organisations, and community-based organisations. PfR contributes to the resilience of communities by integrating Climate Change Adaptation and Ecosystem Management and Restoration into Disaster Risk Reduction. PfR engages with all of these stakeholders to support them in taking an Integrated Risk Management approach, so that communities strengthen their capacities to reduce the impact of disasters.

PfR urges for the following factors to be central to dialogues at the WUF10 & in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:

People and communities at risk of disasters should be central partners in urban planning and design. Inclusive planning and design processes are necessary to reduce disaster risks and creating safe and inclusive cities where all residents have access to basic public services. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the inclusion of people living in informal settlements, migrants, refugee, Internally Displaced Persons (IDPs) and other vulnerable groups.





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PfR applies an integrated risk management approach, ensuring communities are empowered to lead/ take decisions.

By integrating climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration with disaster risk reduction, we are able to build/strengthen community resilience in urban areas. Core principles to successful integrated risk management include working on different timescales; recognition of landscapes and ecosystems; strengthening institutional resilience; integrating disciplines; promoting community self-management; stimulating learning; focusing on livelihoods; and forming partnerships.

Promote responsible investments in urban areas. As governments all over the world pursue development initiatives to better the lives of their citizens by improving infrastructure and seek economic growth through various industrious activities, social and environmental risks emanating from investment projects must be minimized. PfR is working with governments, the private sector and communities to advance principles of responsible investments with emphasis on community engagement to ensure that risks are not exacerbated nor created from these investments.

Local Financing for Local Action. While the SDGs, Paris Agreement, New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are global agreements, their success will depend on local actors, leading local action. Financing for local governments and non-state actors needs to be scaled in order for the ambitious post-2015 development agenda to be realized. In order to realize this, changes in the enabling environment and policy landscape need to happen to ensure that financing does not only reach the local actors, but that they reach them in a timely manner.

Partnerships are crucial to resilience building and sustainable urban development. Diverse coalitions comprised of community members, local governments, academia, civil society and the private sector are necessary to advance practical action in building safe and inclusive cities for all.

Ecosystem-based solutions are key to sustainable urban design and risk reduction. Ecosystem based solutions can help city managers to regulate urban water supply, mitigate storm surge in coastal cities, buffer against flood risks, and reduce the risk of extreme heatwaves. Furthermore, ecosystems can play an important role in providing safe and accessible public spaces. Financing of ecosystem restoration, protection and management in urban and peri-urban places needs to increase in order to effectively utilize natural systems in adapting to a changing climate while increasing community resilience.

The New Urban Agenda resonates with resilience ambitions and commitments in all post-2015 key international policy agreements – they all need action on the ground. We need to focus on the implementation of the agreements and the important role that local governments and non-party stakeholders play, including communities.

