

Disaster Risk Reduction

Local level action for transforming communities at risk in Asian cities

A. Rationale

By 2030, 55 percent of Asia's population will live in urban areas. Despite cities being engines of economic growth and innovation, rapid and unplanned urbanization has become a major sustainable development challenge for the region. This has led to widening spatial inequality between inhabitants and has made populations vulnerable to the impacts of climate change, while also substantially contributing to GHG (greenhouse gas) emissions.

The urban resilience agenda is gaining traction, due to success through SDG Goal 11, in addition to other international and regional initiatives such as 100 Resilient Cities, the Asian Cities Climate Change Resilience Network, and the UNISDR Making Cities Resilient Campaign. Despite this progress for building resilience, however, the risks are arguably increasing faster than they are being managed. Additionally, the participation of vulnerable populations in planning for and responding to these risks has generally been limited.

We will therefore invite submission of concept notes for regional events that showcase local level actions that have had transformative impacts in vulnerable communities in urban Asia.

B. Important keywords

Cities, local actions, inclusion of at-risk and vulnerable communities, urban governance, inequality, 'leave no one behind', disaster and climate resilience, migrants, displaced persons.

C. Sub-themes

1) Translating inclusive urban principles into actions on the ground

We will explore how the SDG principle of 'leave no one behind' is applied in urban planning. This could include ideas for, and examples of, practical actions taken by civil society, academia, and state actors to tackle existing marginalization and inequality, including consideration of how climate change adaptation and disaster risk reduction actions can be integrated into these actions. We are particularly interested in the potential for transformative change through these examples.

2) Building the disaster and climate resilience of migrants and/or displaced persons in urban areas

We will explore examples of, and ideas for, durable solutions to address the needs of migrants and/or displaced persons in urban areas in the context of a changing climate. This could include consideration of the nature of these solutions, to what extent they are durable, and how international frameworks such as the Guiding Principles on Internal Displacement could be used.