

# Risk-informed Urban Development: Securing development gains against multi-dimensional risks

An aerial photograph of a sprawling, densely populated urban area, likely in a developing country. The city is characterized by a high concentration of multi-story residential buildings, many with flat roofs. The urban sprawl extends to the base of a range of mountains in the background. The sky is filled with large, white, puffy clouds. In the foreground, there is a dark, green, forested hillside. The overall scene suggests a complex urban environment with significant population density and potential vulnerability to various risks.

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# DRR Community and RiD: Ahead of the curve ---

IDNDR (1989)	....introduced disaster reduction as an on-going activity within the overall strategic process in support of sustainable development, .....and <b>risk management should be better integrated into overall developmental and environmental planning</b> .....engaging communities at-risk in the conscious management of natural hazards well beyond .... contingency planning and disaster response.
The Yokohama Strategy and Plan of Action for a Safer World (1994)	<i>"disaster prevention, mitigation, preparedness and relief ..... along with environmental protection and sustainable development, are closely interrelated"</i> . It <b>recognized the abiding link between disaster risk and development</b> and identified the development choices made by countries and communities as the principal risk drivers.
The Hyogo Framework for Action (2005)	highlighted the <b>mutually reinforcing DRR-sustainable development nexus</b> and observed that <i>"disaster risk reduction is a cross-cutting issue in the context of sustainable development and therefore an important element for the achievement of internationally agreed development goals, including those contained in the Millennium Declaration."</i>



# 2030 Agenda: Risk-informed Development - an underlying principle

The Sendai Framework for DRR 2015	sets out specific targets for a substantial reduction in economic losses, damage to critical infrastructure, disruption of basic services etc. The Sendai Framework's <b>Priority for Action-3</b> provides the critical pillar ' <i>Investing in DRR for Resilience</i> ', where ' <b>risk</b> ' most clearly connects with ' <b>development</b> '.
SDGs agenda	seeks to <b>hardwire disaster risks and climate impacts into the development</b> processes at all levels and recognizes that " <i>...more frequent and intense natural disasters....threaten to reverse much of the development progress made in recent decades</i> "
The Paris Agreement	highlights the need to <b>address risk in the context of climate change</b> . Article 7 on adaptation calls on countries to strengthen cooperation and enhance action on adaptation, and Article 8 recognizes the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse impacts of climate change.
The New Urban Agenda	Articles 77 and 78 explicitly <b>address sustainable development, resilience and risk reduction</b> and embed urbanization within the overall development policy and practice.

# Risk context – existing and emerging

- Shifting risk attributes, patterns and manifestation -  
---- increasingly systemic, cascading and multidimensional with global, regional and transboundary impacts
- Shared underlying factors/drivers and socio-economic vulnerabilities across risk typologies
- “risks to” + “risks from” development -- developmental and social construct of risks...
- Risk theaters of future i.e. cities/urban areas – “urbanization of risks” due to convergence of people, infrastructure, development assets, socio-economic processes and more





# Risk-informed development: Rationale

- Increasing frequency, magnitude and impact of risks
- Mounting economic losses and disruption of critical supply chains – risen 68%
- Undermining of community livelihoods and SE development assets and services for poor
- Development process itself as key risk driver
- Increasing local or “everyday” risks with higher cumulative impact
- Central to realizing resilience and sustainability objectives
- Decision-making increasingly amidst uncertainties



# Risk-informed Development: UNDP approach --

Focus areas	Potential interventions
Evidence base	Data analytics; risk assessments/profiles; resilience diagnostics; research; monitoring and measuring impact; scenario planning and stress testing etc.
Policy	Foster coherence, complementarities and co-benefits – to deliver development dividends across sectors
Programmatic initiatives and implementation	Portfolio approach interlinking short, medium and long-term interventions; institute a risk-sensitive development through capacity development; tools, methodologies and standards; coordination and buy-in
Engaging diverse set of stakeholders and making it people-centric	Multi-stakeholder coalitions; “whole-of-society” engagement; LNOB; political economy analysis; people-centered with focus on vulnerable, gender, at-risk, marginalized etc.
Finance	Mobilize public and private finance for investments in resilience; augment domestic revenues; develop bankable project pipelines; greater access to international funding streams
Knowledge and advocacy	Cultural and behavior shifts; creating ‘Champions’; political, administrative and societal leadership

# Risk-informed Development and Urban Resilience

*Concentrations of population in major urban centres (megacities), many of which are located in hazard-prone areas in developing countries, are highly vulnerable to natural and technological hazards due to dependence on complex infrastructures and the occupation of marginal land.*

*Greater attention should be given to **developing resilient and redundant infrastructures and to overall vulnerability reduction through regional and land-use planning***



# Evolving relationship between risks and development in cities

- Nearly 10k cities with under 1mn people in fragile or risk prone locations – high risks + low capacity
- Half of ‘new’ cities in LICs, LDCs, LMICs
- Convergence of people, risks, development assets and SE activities -- leading to disproportionate impacts
- Risk creation within as well as outside ‘formal’ city --- Cities’ jurisdictional remit hamper ability to address risks, resilience and development needs
- Deficits: governance, fiscal, capacity, services, tech
- Imperatives: functionality, SE needs, infra etc. – Covid exposed the soft underbelly





# Urban Resilience – unmet demands and emerging priorities

- Diagnosing and addressing resilience attributes – inter-dependencies and co-benefits
- Disconnected national policy → city application
- Urban governance and development planning -- systems thinking, scenario based
- Actionable risk information for RiD approach – multiple risks and diverse SE development needs
- Focus on operational aspects + strategic visioning and futuristic thinking
- Political economy of urban development and decision-making
- Weak accountability and resilience benchmarking





# Urban RM and Resilience -- Strategic Priorities

- Prioritize locations with greatest capacity gaps – LDCs, LICs, LMICs, SIDS or fragile/crisis contexts
- Engage diverse stakeholders to strengthen urban governance
- Target marginalized communities for equitable urban resilience (LNOB) – Social Prot, SDGs, access to development resources
- Risk-informed development planning and investments including public-private finance
- Apply new technologies and innovation to secure resilient urban futures



# RiD -- Challenges and constraints

- Breaking risk management siloes
- Conducting multi-risk assessments and making actionable risk information available
- Building technical knowledge and capacities
- Political and administrative decision-making incl. siloed development sectors and their planning, budgeting processes
- Dissonance between electoral-development-resilience building timeframes
- Governance deficits
- Addressing all resilience dimensions in tandem



# How to? – From challenge to opportunities

- Invest more in risk data and analytics, resilience diagnostics to identify needs .... and prioritize
- Support communication, dissemination and application of risk info
- Strengthen risk governance – systems' thinking to connect sectors and stakeholders
- Facilitate access to knowledge, technical know-how and tools
- Appropriate financing instruments
- Scenario planning and futures thinking to orient risk management systems
- Monitoring, resilience measurement and benchmarking

# How to? – From challenge to opportunities

- Challenge or Opportunity? – 2/3<sup>rd</sup> of urban infra and physical assets yet to be built
- Analyze – nature and typology of this built environment? How to bring the desired shift?
- Key stakeholder(s)? – Government, industry, private capital, sectors, individual, community etc. – motivational triggers?
- Approach – Top-down or Bottom up; Consortiums; Interest groups
- Behavioral shifts – Incentivize + disincentivize
- Innovative instruments to defray the additional cost –
- Identify ‘easy wins’ – industry, investments, local, individual etc. or core sectors

## Way ahead --

- Strategic and opportunistic...avoid being too prescriptive...keep it simple and start small
- Catalytic and collaborative action in pursuit of collective outcomes – ‘All-hands-on-deck’ approach
- Risk-informing the development assistance architecture
- Lending instruments from public and private sector financial institutions
- Practical and application oriented .... Demonstrate success stories
- Take beyond admin/expert domains....people-centered and sectoral
- Reduce/manage existing risks and prevent emerging ones while preparing for future risks





**Thanks for your attention**