

Resilience Recommendations

The Resilient Cities Urban Thinkers Campus put forth ten *Resilience Recommendations* to event participants and the public via the [Active Learning Network for Accountability and Performance in Humanitarian Action \(ALNAP\)](#). The *Resilience Recommendations* are a set of guidelines and principles to support relevant urban actors to both plan for and build resilience-enhancing strategies for all cities, no matter their risks, resources, or capacity.

The planning and building of resilient cities should be:

1. Holistic and Sustainable

Ensure that cities are able to holistically prepare for, withstand, and recover from economic, environmental and social disruptions. Actors should strive for cities that operate on resilient systems¹; that is, systems (financial, governmental, infrastructural, ecological, societal, etc.) that are adaptable, robust, redundant, integrated, inclusive, resourceful and flexible. Ensure resiliency – including climate adaptability and environmental responsibility - is recognized as a driver of sustainable development as well as a quality of it.

2. Possible and Prioritized for All Cities

Ensure that all cities – especially those experiencing protracted humanitarian crises - have the tools and technologies to assess their risks and vulnerabilities and the appropriate frameworks required to develop resiliency strategies that draw upon input from multiple stakeholder groups. Resiliency strategies, especially those for cities in crisis, should build interventions on existing urban service delivery systems, people's own recovery mechanisms, and the strength of the urban economy. For developing cities, resilience should be articulated as a means to supporting continued development and lessening the impacts of crises.

3. Disaster Resilient

Ensure that cities address underlying environmental and physical disaster risks before a crisis occurs by investing in a sustainable network of urban systems and human communities that reduce vulnerability to a range of shocks and stresses. In the recovery process, seek ways for urban systems to learn and transform in order to build back safer. Humanitarian and development actors can assist to reduce the risk of future crises by facilitating a reconstruction process that engages local neighbourhoods, municipalities, urban planners and the private sector, among others at various scales.

4. Realized through Local Governance and Social Will

Work through local governance structures to ensure resiliency strategies are tailored to the local context, designed and implemented by local stakeholders and representative of the city's cultural diversity. Recognize the inherent resilience of urban residents, particularly the most vulnerable, and their willingness to act on it. Support localized social resilience to leverage and enhance the ability of individuals, households, neighbourhoods/communities and organizations to respond to shocks and stresses while restoring and strengthening the urban systems that support them, such as social safety nets. Resilience planning should include community engagement and awareness building, community-based needs assessments, and stakeholder and political economy mapping, among other urban planning practices.

¹ Systems view the city as a combination of inter-dependent parts working together.

5. Considerate of Urban Displacement

Ensure that resiliency strategies manage the impacts of urban displacement, specifically as an opportunity to strengthen existing services and infrastructure in host communities. Additionally, cities should plan for more resilient urban growth, with socially inclusive communities and local policies that promote the accommodation, and, where possible, the integration of new urban residents towards a greater social cohesion.

6. Innovative and Provide Multi-Faceted Solutions

Ensure that resiliency strategies are informed by an integrated group of local communities (and resourceful sub-groups within them, such as urban youth) and urban professionals (such as academics, engineers, legal experts, humanitarian and development actors, municipalities, among others) in order to achieve innovative solutions appropriated to urban complexity. Ensure that resilience is scalar by making it a priority at multiple levels of governance that shape the lives of individuals and the functionality of communities, cities and nations.

7. Inclusive and Empowering for All

Ensure that urban resiliency planning includes and empowers the voices of the most vulnerable populations. Give special consideration to the participation of children, women, youth, elderly, and disabled populations in resiliency planning and needs assessments while recognizing their unique risks and vulnerabilities as well as available community-based protection mechanisms. Special considerations should be given to ensure the input of all residents and the diversity of opinions that stem from faith, social status, ethnicity, gender, sexual orientation, ability, age, and legal standing.

8. Spatially Balanced and Manage Urbanization

Given the spatial dimension of vulnerabilities and challenges related to access to services in cities, ensure that actors employ strategies that strengthen spatial resiliency, such as area-based / citywide approaches, neighbourhood improvements, or engineering interventions. Ensure that resilience strategies address the spatial implications of conflict, violence, and marginalization by striving for de-escalation, social cohesion, and stronger legal standing for those living in areas that may be considered spatially separate, especially by ensuring that the systems serving those areas remain functional before, during, and after crises and that the most vulnerable have legal access to those systems.

9. Linked to Urban Economics

Ensure that resiliency strategies prioritize investment in local economic development and job creation. Engage the private sector as a means of achieving financial systems that offer opportunities for savings, loans, credit and skill-building for vulnerable groups of people, especially the youth segment. In crises, consider cash-based programming or strengthening infrastructural access to markets as a viable method of meeting immediate needs while strengthening market resilience in the long term.

10. About Betterment

Ensure that resilience building seeks to achieve a higher overall quality of life, improved access to livelihoods and economic gains, stronger institutions, and the betterment of the city. Resilience is about more than surviving; it is about thriving.