

# Disaster Resilient City Development Strategies for Pakistan

## Background

Urban risk management is increasingly being recognised as an essential function of Local Government. The South Asian Launch of the Global Campaign: 'Making Cities Resilient' held in June 2010, identified the Local Government level as requiring appropriate information and guidance for successful integration of Climate Change and Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) leading to more resilient cities. The launch meeting captured the strong demand for tools and mechanisms for the local bodies to initiate action to ensure city resilience. The United Nations Global Assessment Report on Disaster Risk Reduction (GAR2011) calls for integrating DRR methods into urban planning. As such, The United Nations Inter Agency Secretariat for International Strategy for Disaster Reduction (UNISDR) prepared the Local Government Self Assessment Tool (LG-SAT) to assist and guide Local Governments in localizing the Hyogo Framework of Action (HFA).

In Pakistan, the Local Government system is weak and consequently urban planning and management functions are inadequately performed or are entirely missing. Furthermore, in cases of disasters, as has been noticed in the earthquake of 2005 and the floods of 2010, displaced people came to cities to take refuge and emergency services were provided using the urban infrastructure. However, very little has been done to strengthen urban capacities for disaster risk reduction and mitigation. Urban areas that were devastated have not been rebuilt. Given the increasing impacts of climate change and increasing conflicts in the region, it is necessary that capacities for urban disaster risk reduction and mitigation be developed.

UN-Habitat and with the support of the National Disaster Management Authority (NDMA), the Provincial Government - Provincial Disaster Management Authority (PDMA) identified 4-6 cities in each Province for building resilience to urban risk. A total of 31 cities from the 6 administrative regions of Pakistan: Baluchistan, Gilgit-Baltistan, Khyber Pakhtunkhwa, Punjab, Sindh and Federally Administered Tribal Areas (FATA); and Azad Jammu and Kashmir (AJK) along with Islamabad, the Federal Capital were identified and assessments were undertaken.

## Resilient Cities Campaign

The Prime Minister launched the Resilient Cities campaign in October 2011, calling upon the selected cities to build DRR capacities. Subsequently, UN-ISDR, and UN-Habitat came together to contribute towards localizing the Hyogo Framework for Action - assisting and guiding the local government through the application of 'Local Government Self Assessment Tool' that uses surveys and consultative dialogues with all stakeholders to derive disaster risks and mitigation needs on which most of the analysis below is based.

## Proposed Project

<b>Project Title:</b>	Disaster Resilient City Development Strategies for Pakistan
<b>Objective:</b>	To establish Sustainable Disaster Resilient and Healthy Cities and Townships in disaster prone regions of Pakistan
<b>Specific Project Locations</b>	<b>AJK:</b> Athmaqam, Hattian, Kotli, Patika; <b>Balochistan:</b> Khuzdar, Loralai, Quetta, Usta Mohammad; <b>Gilgit Baltistan:</b> Astore, Diامر, Ghizer, Skardu, <b>FATA:</b> Khar (Bajaur Agency); <b>Khyber Pukhtunkhwa:</b> Charsadda, Dera Ismail Khan, Mingora/Saidu Sharif, Nowshera, Ooghi; <b>Punjab:</b> Jampur, Kasur, Khushab, Mianwali, Muzaffargarh, Sialkot; <b>Sindh:</b> Matli, Dadu, Garhi Khairo, Karachi (Malir Town), Mithi, Thatta; and Islamabad.
<b>Implementing Agency</b>	UN-Habitat
<b>Partners</b>	National Disaster Management Authority, Ministry of Climate Change, Ministry of Local Government at provincial level, PDMAs, DDMAs, Provincial Planning & Development Departments, Local Communities. UN-ISDR, WHO, UN agencies under One UN Programme- DRM
<b>Project Duration</b>	Four years (January 2013 - December 2016)

Cities are engines for development, prosperity, innovation and hope, and therefore they will soon be home to two thirds of the global population. Nevertheless, they are also home to one billion poor people living in informal settlements and slums, often at high risk of exposure to natural hazards.

The population of Pakistan is estimated to increase from 170 Million to 260 Million by the year 2030. It is further estimated that by 2030, the urban population will double and about 50% of total population of Pakistan will be living in urban areas. The high population growth of the country combined with the lack of an institutional framework for urban planning and management has resulted in unplanned and uncontrolled development, environmental degradation, and poor services delivery in cities and towns. Therefore, these cities have become increasingly more vulnerable to disasters and predicted climate change impacts: sea level rise, salination of water resources, cyclones, floods, landslides and earthquake; all of which will impact negatively on human settlements, especially the poor. The increasing and more frequent disasters have also directly contributed to constrain the country's efforts to achieve the targets set out by the Millennium Development Goals.

## Project Goals

The primary goal of the project is to establish Sustainable Disaster Resilient and Healthy Cities and Townships, especially in disaster prone regions of Pakistan. This goal is to be achieved through a range of participatory planning processes incorporating Climate Change and DRR activities at the citywide level and at the community-specific level in 31 cities of this project. These include vulnerability assessments, preparation of land use and development plans aligned with disaster risk reduction, establishment of City Disaster Preparedness Committees (CDPC), and enhancing the disaster-mitigating capacity of cities and communities.

With this intervention and extending support for securing lives of children, women and men, the vulnerabilities and risks will be minimized, and quality of life will be improved by applying the principles of gender equality and inclusion.

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*For further details, contact:*

**Bella Evidente**

Country Programme Manager, UN-Habitat Pakistan