Urban resilience is the measurable ability of any urban system, with its inhabitants, to maintain continuity through all shocks and stresses, while positively adapting and transforming toward sustainability.

A resilient city evaluates, plans and acts to prepare and respond to threats in order to protect and improve the lives of people, to ensure development, foster an investment environment and drive positive change.

Why urban metropolitan resilience?

Cities are places where people, assets and economic activity are concentrated and are at risk. Often, a city’s most entrenched shocks and stresses transcend municipal boundaries and must be examined, explored and managed with metropolitan lenses.

More than 50% of the world’s population lives in cities by 2030; it will rise to 70% by 2050. Cities are places where people, assets and economic activity are concentrated and are at risk.

By building urban resilience, we prepare urban systems for shocks & reduce chronic stresses.

The building blocks of a resilient urban future are:

A. Economic resilience with new fiscal sustainability frameworks.
B. Social resilience with universal social protection schemes.
C. Climate resilience with greener investments and stronger multilevel collaboration to confront future shocks.

Implement

Humanitarian action

Human rights-based approach as well as a perspective that leaves no one behind

Gender-sensitive policies

A perspective that supports local identity

Social attention on the most vulnerable segments of the population

New Urban Agenda (NUA) and Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) Agenda

Reduce

Inequality

Real relocation

Resilience

Humanitarian

Disaster risk

For all, equity

Foster

Inter-city cooperation for risk reduction and resilience building

Implement

New actions and policies

Innovative

Open data

Reliable, validated data and information is crucial for building resilience

Decisions must be made based on concrete evidence and not on anecdotal reporting

The process for building a resilient urban future consists in:

1. Measure & improve

Plants, infrastructure

Context & data analysis

2. Diagnose & address vulnerabilities

Resilient city

Plot & articulate policies

3. Plan, articulate & policies

Reduce

Inequality

New relocation

Resilience

Humanitarian

Disaster risk

For all, equity

Foster

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Recent global shocks such as COVID-19 evidence the multidimensional impact of risks, underlining the need to prepare and strengthen urban systems for faster response and recovery.