Module 2e: urban and climate
What is in this module?
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Photos: Climate Centre

INTRODUCTION

Urbanization is one of the most transformative trends of this century. More than half of the world lives in towns and cities and the world's urban population grows by roughly 1.4 million people every week. By 2050 more than two-thirds of the world's population is expected to reside in urban areas. The adverse impacts of disasters, climate change, protracted conflicts and pandemics are felt most acutely in cities, putting a greater number of people at risk, reversing hard-won development gains, and forcing tens of millions of urban residents to face increased vulnerabilities. Cities are also untapped sources of opportunity to advance policy change, enhance public participation, increase private sector investment, and develop innovative financing to build resilience.

OBJECTIVE

This module provides an overview of impacts of climate change in urban areas, shares possible actions that can be taken and relevant considerations and tools for practitioners intending to implement urban resilience projects.

Specific objectives:

1) To raise awareness of the humanitarian aspects of rapid and unplanned urbanization of the effects of urbanization on humanitarian trends.

2) Provide practical examples including tools to better understand vulnerability and exposure of the urban poor, particularly those living in slums and informal settlements

3) Strengthen National Society engagement with Local and Central governments to build resilience in cities.

4) To provide guidance on designing climate smart programmes in urban contexts.

PRODUCTS

1. **Power Point Presentation with explanatory notes**

The PowerPoint presentation is designed to accompany facilitators and summarizes how climate change impacts on urban areas and what tools and approaches are available for designing climate smart programmes in urban contexts. It also shares examples of urban and climate work from across the movement.

2. Games

Four games are included in this module which help with discussing issues relating to urban and climate change.

- **SURE!** The aim of the game SURE! is to engage community groups in planning and collaborating to better protect urban people, services and buildings from flood risk.
- **Invest in the future:** This game engages players in taking climate change into consideration as they strive to make responsible, sustainable, development investment decisions.
- **The tree of knowledge:** A short game that explores the process to co-produce knowledge and solutions. Excellent for urban setting where integrated solutions are key for successful adaptation.
- **The third space:** A short game that will explore working together in large teams and tackling diverse components. Excellent for urban settings where large teams tackle diverse challenges.

3. Experiences from other Red Cross/ Red Crescent Societies

- British Red Cross: Strengthening Urban Resilience and Engagement program (SURE). Urban assessment VCA Guidelines
- Tanzania Red Cross: Zuria Mafuriko and Ramani Huria – a flood resilience community partnership in Dar es Salaam
- Kenya Red Cross: Vulnerability assessment for Nairobi city informal settlements

4. Recommended films/videos

A range of film clips which explain the challenges of urban and climate and demonstrate some of the work of the Red Cross movement and partners in this area.

- Investing in Urban Resilience: Protecting and Promoting Development in a Changing World film by GFDRR/ World Bank (2.30)
- Mega cities and mega heat film by Hong Kong Red Cross/ IFRC (6.17)
- Coalition building in coastal cities film by GDPC (10:24)
- Building Resilient Cities: 7 Entry Points for Action film by ADB (5.43)
- Urban Resilience in the Philippines - a multi-stakeholder approach film by Cordaid (10.56)

On the Climate Centre vimeo channel, you can also find many films that zoom in on specific components of climate risk management.

5. Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ sheet answered some of the most common questions related to urban and climate change.

6. Relevant reading

For a better understanding of the content of this module, see the Relevant Reading section which contains a range of IFRC and Red Cross Movement resources including:

- IFRC Building urban resilience – a guide for National Societies' engagement and contribution
- Integrating climate change and urban risks into the VCA
- IFRC urban resilience scoping report
- Learning from the city – British Red Cross
- City wide risk assessment – GDPC toolkit
- Summary for urban policy makers – implications of the IPCC 1.5c report
- Climate change and cities – summary for city leaders
- ALNAP urban systems stakeholders
- World Bank urban risk assessments – understanding disaster + climate risks

- [UN the world cities in 2018 data booklet](#)
- [City Heatwave Guide for Red Cross Red Crescent Branches](#)
- [Red Cross Climate Centre Heatwave Guide for Cities](#)