

INTRODUCTION

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

UN-HABITAT'S URBAN RESILIENCE WORK



WHO WE ARE

UN-Habitat is the United Nations' Agency for Human Settlements. Through our expertise and cooperation, the Urban Resilience Programme at UN-Habitat supports local governments and their stakeholders to identify shocks and stresses and build urban resilience.

UN-Habitat's work on urban resilience is based along three complimentary work streams.



A GLOBAL PARTNER

UN-Habitat seeks to improve urban life globally, within this mission we improve urban life. UN-Habitat works with all stakeholders in the city to build urban resilience. We foster strong and trusted cooperation links with local and national governments, international institutions, NGOs, and civil society in alignment with inter-governmental frameworks of global development.

A KNOWLEDGE HUB

UN-Habitat's resilience office in Barcelona has developed a range of tools and guidelines to build urban resilience and connects cities with UN-Habitat's full range of products and services. The hub also leverages city-to-city cooperation, bridges the research – practice gap and disseminates good practices.

A HOLISTIC AND SYSTEMIC APPROACH

UN-Habitat started working on a holistic method of measuring and monitoring urban resilience, recognising that cities often succeed or fail systemically under various, often cascading, hazard impacts. We continue to advocate and guide this approach to helping cities protect people, things and services and our tools are aligned with this approach.



Our vision is for all local governments to actively engage in building urban resilience with a people-centred and holistic approach. With increased resiliency, local governments can protect the wellbeing of citizens, development gains and functionality from the impact of all shocks and stresses.

VISION FOR URBAN RESILIENCE

“Humanitarian response alone is utterly insufficient. We must establish a solid link between the humanitarian, resilience and development dimensions”

António Guterres
Secretary-General of the United Nations

GLOBAL URBAN CHALLENGES

1

75% of the global population will be urban by 2050, ensuring urban resilience is a major global challenge.

2

The adverse affects of climate change coupled with rapid urbanization in many parts of the world are putting cities under further stress.

3

Building urban resilience requires understanding and commitment from all stakeholders in cities, particularly local and national governments.

4

Most cities across the world do not have the expertise, capacity or resources to address urban resilience alone and require support.

5

Every city is unique in terms of resources, challenges, and context. Effective urban resilience approaches must be adaptable and take into account these differences.

OUR APPROACH



URBAN RESILIENCE



HAZARDS



LOCAL
GOVERNMENT



GLOBAL
FRAMEWORKS



DATA



RESILIENCE TOOL:
APPROACH



RESILIENCE TOOL:
OUTPUT



ABOUT US

URBAN RESILIENCE

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**.



Urban resilience matters because it saves lives, reduces infrastructure and livelihood losses, makes vital savings in disaster response, preserves cultural heritage and protects the environment.

To be truly resilient, a city must address risk holistically and engage all stakeholders. In practice this means considering all the components and people that make up the city.

Building urban resilience is a catalyst for integrated sustainable urban development and a transformational force that improves urban life.

Urban resilience goes beyond the concepts of risk reduction programming that focuses on individual disasters and perceived vulnerabilities, to create absolute resilience of the urban system

Resilient cities are more likely to leverage investment for infrastructure or construction as they are considered a safer investment for donors and international finance institutions

Investing in urban resilience is more cost-effective (for local governments) than post-disaster recovery of infrastructure

A resilient city **assesses, plans and acts** to prepare for and respond to hazards – natural and human-made, sudden and slow-onset, expected and unexpected – in order to protect and enhance people's lives, secure development gains, foster an investible environment, and drive positive change.

Where did Urban Resilience thinking come from? Who are the main actors? What examples of Urban Resilience are there?

Find out in our Trends in Urban Resilience 2017 publication:

[READ THE PUBLICATION HERE](#)

THE CURRENT SITUATION

Increased urbanisation has resulted in accumulated and intensified risk requiring significant transformation in urban development to create inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable urban settlements.

Many cities are committed to building resilience however local governments and their partners are calling for support in the form of tools, capacity and resources.



HAZARDS TO URBAN LIFE

Hazards are more than earthquakes, flooding and typhoons, and the consequences go far beyond infrastructural losses for cities.



STRESSES

Shocks are abrupt and external events that radically disturb the current city state.



SHOCKS

Stresses are chronic and intrinsic negatively affecting the city in a protracted way."

Urban centres face hazards differently than rural areas: from pollution to disease, housing crisis to water supply shortage, all cities face a range of shocks and stresses that can compromise safety and functionality and put human life and activity in jeopardy. When better prepared, cities can overcome these hazards more smoothly, often avoiding disaster.

- ➔ Hazards disproportionately affect the poor as they often live in high-risk areas and/or informal settlements, which are more vulnerable.
- ➔ Loss of life, loss of cultural heritage, environmental degradation, social fragmentation, are just some of the consequences of shocks and stresses on a city.
- ➔ Climate change, rapid urbanization and deindustrialization are increasing strain on many cities. It is more important than ever for our cities to be resilient.

ALL CITIES FACE HAZARDS

Although flooding is the most common hazard faced by cities due to the number of settlements built on coastlines or riversides, man-made hazards are increasing in frequency and magnitude.

Over the past decade, events like earthquakes (Christchurch, Katmandu, Quito) typhoons (New Orleans), refugee influxes (Beirut), water shortages

(Lagos), social unrest (Tunis) have caused destruction and/or compromised functionality for millions of people. Building urban resilience means preparing for, adapting to, and being able to recover from these events

LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Usually the first responders when shocks hit and the level of government responsible for addresses most urban stresses, local governments are key to building resilience into the city.

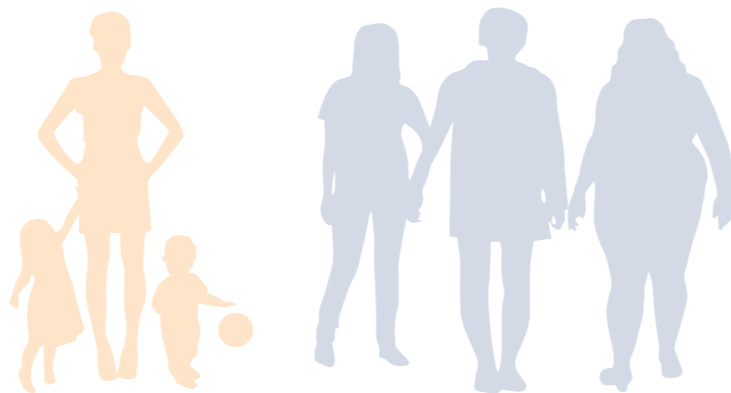


All local governments are fully committed protecting inhabitants and maintaining functionality in the wake or aftermath of hazards, however many do not have the capacity to prepare or respond effectively to shocks and stresses.

Owing to their proximity and knowledge of stakeholders and territory, local governments have the potential to engage, coordinate and build the capacity of all actors within the city to build resilience.

Local government networks such as UCLG, ICLEI and C40 among others are building strong networks of local governments committed to urban resilience

Building the in-house capacity of local governments allows them to adapt to current challenges and prepare for challenges related to climate change, such as sea level rise, rising unemployment and social unrest.



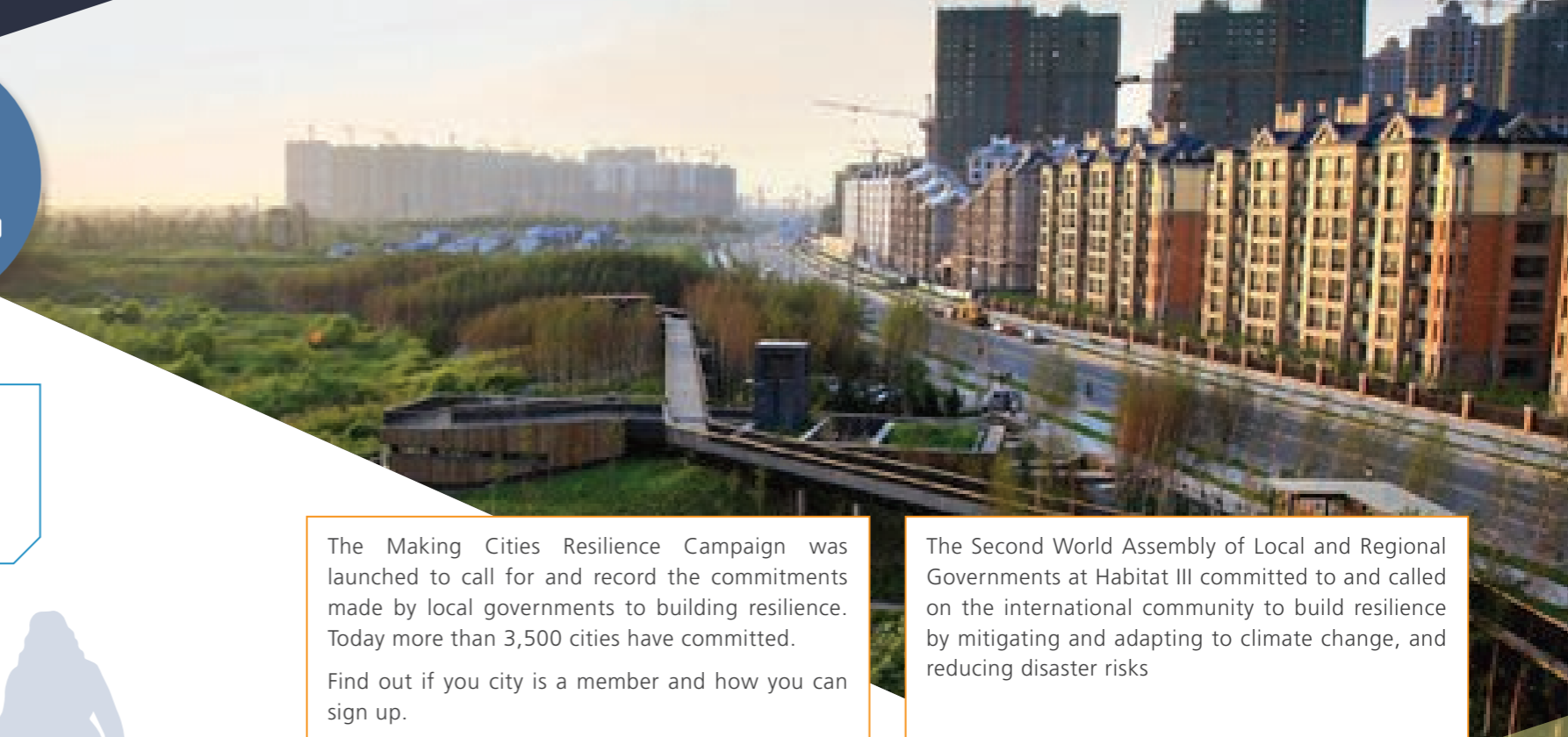
The Making Cities Resilience Campaign was launched to call for and record the commitments made by local governments to building resilience. Today more than 3,500 cities have committed.

Find out if your city is a member and how you can sign up.

MAKING CITIES RESILIENT

The Second World Assembly of Local and Regional Governments at Habitat III committed to and called on the international community to build resilience by mitigating and adapting to climate change, and reducing disaster risks

READ MORE HERE



GLOBAL FRAMEWORKS



Urban resilience has gained greater prominence over the past decade in the international development discourse and agenda, emerging as one of the core principles in major global frameworks for sustainable development.

The more resilient the city and its local government, the more opportunities can be harnessed and secured for long-term urban development.

A holistic approach to urban resilience allows for cohesive action connecting short-term humanitarian needs with long-term ambitions of integrated sustainable urban development.

RESILIENCE FEATURES AS A PROMINENT THEME ACROSS MAJOR GLOBAL AGENDAS:

- New Urban Agenda
- Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction
- UN Sustainable Development Goals
- Paris Agreement on Climate Change
- Agenda for Humanity

How is UN-Habitat's Urban Resilience Programme contributing to the main global frameworks addressing resilience, risk reduction and sustainable development?

[FIND OUT HERE](#)

Sendai Framework for
Disaster Risk Reduction

Sustainable Development Goals

Paris Agreement on
Climate Change

Agenda For Humanity

New Urban Agenda

MAR 2015

SEP 2015

DEC 2015

MAY 2016

OCT 2016

Third United Nations World Conference
on Disaster Risk Reduction

United Nations
Sustainable Development Summit

21st Conference
of the Parties

World Humanitarian
Summit

Third United Nations Conference on
Housing and
Sustainable Urban Development

DATA FOR A GLOBAL CHANGE

Big data is changing the way cities are understood, organized and managed. Cities now have the opportunity to build urban resilience on verifiable data to create tailored solutions that capture the uniqueness of each urban context.

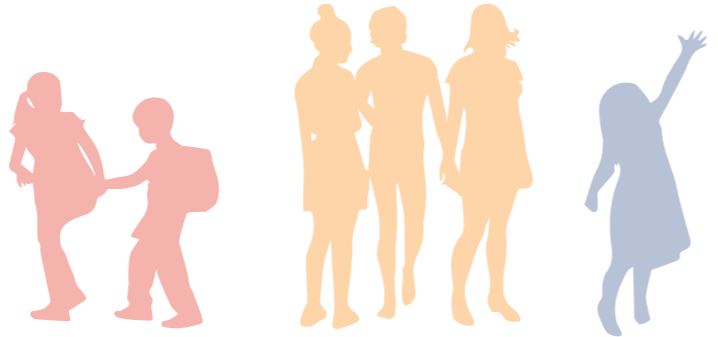


Development and relief agencies have long recognized the crucial role played by data and information in mitigating the impacts of disasters on vulnerable populations.

Systematic collection and analysis of data provides invaluable information to governments (local, regional and national) and agencies in charge of relief and recovery activities.

Data collection, verification and visualization allows for actors to have an accurate understanding of resilience across the city network and confidently identify vulnerabilities and capacity gaps.

UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Tool provides a methodological approach to gathering data across the urban system that can be used for building resilience and as indicators for progress on city-level and international goals such as the SDGs.



DATA CHALLENGES

There is no international consensus regarding best practices for collecting data. Collecting information in cities can be challenging, verifying it can be resource-intensive and universally applicable approaches are not always readily available.

Local governments often do not have access to information on elements of the city outside of their jurisdiction.

Many local governments do not have the resources (human and financial) to gather the relevant data to evaluate and build urban resilience



CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING TOOL: APPROACH



UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Tool is the most robust urban resilience building tool on the market. It can be adapted to all urban contexts, regardless of size, location or the hazards they face.

The CRPT has a transformative approach, looking beyond resilience as a safeguard against multiple natural and man-made hazards, and seeing it as the catalyst for sustainable urban development.

The Tool follows a systemic approach to building resilience meaning that all parts of the city are taken into account.

People are at the centre of the Tool's approach and stakeholders (residing population, civil society, institutions, etc.) are considered at every stage.

Through our engagement, we equip local government employees with the training and knowledge required to operate complex data systems and contemporary technology platforms.

UN-Habitat's tool is compatible with other initiatives adopted by cities that aim to increase preparedness, reduce risk or build resilience.

The additional value of UN-Habitat's CRPT is its ability to create connectivity throughout all local departments due to its cross-cutting nature and examination of the urban system as a whole.



The City of Barcelona was one of the first to implement the Tool and co-developed together with UN-Habitat its content and approach. They highlighted the benefits for working across departments, identifying gaps and collecting thorough and useful data on the entire urban system, among others.

CITY OF BARCELONA

Contact us to find out more about the City Resilience Profiling Tool and how it could help your city build resilience.

ENGAGEMENT STEPS FOR CITIES

CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING TOOL: OUTPUT

The main output for cities implementing UN-Habitat's CRPT are Actions 4 Resilience, which detail concrete steps and priorities to build resilience.

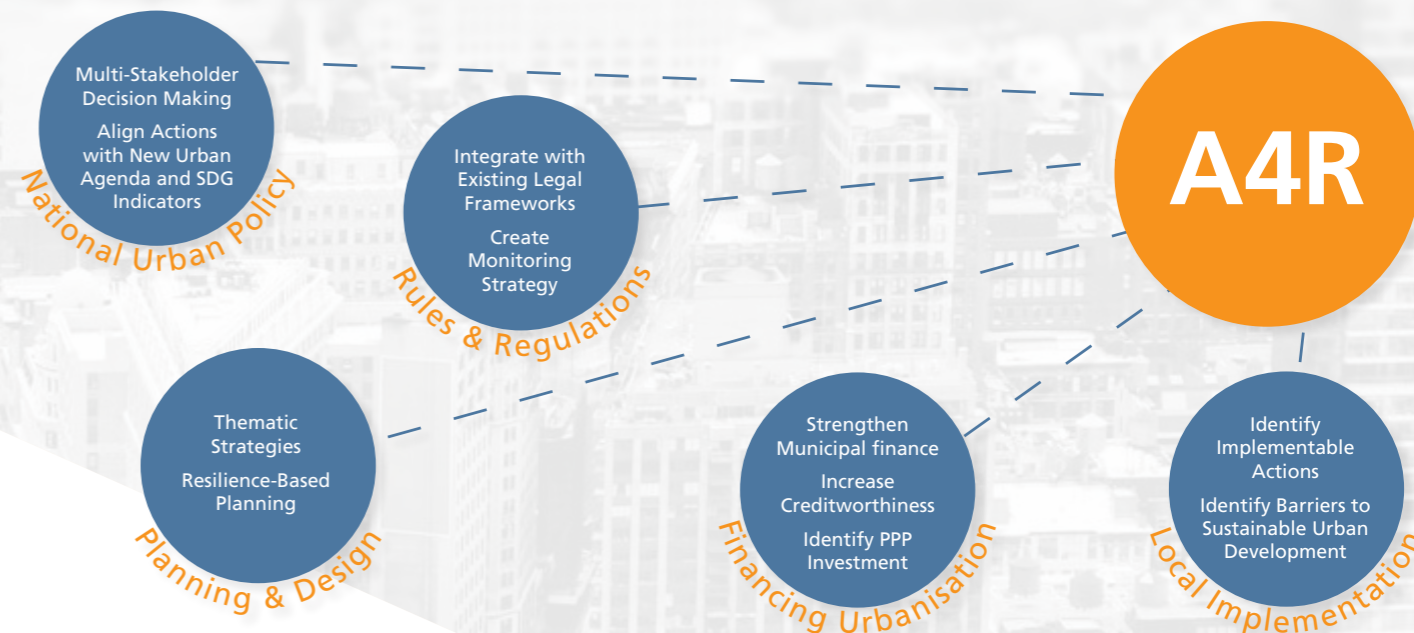


Action for Resilience (A4R) outline short-, medium- and long-term strategies, integrating within existing government policies and plans.

The recommendations and actions outlined in the A4R are based on the format and requirements of the New Urban Agenda and other global frameworks and hereby allow local governments to directly identify a strategy for achieving their commitments under these global frameworks.

This analysis results in recommendations for the improvement of resilience, cross-cutting all sectors, and improving the basis for local decision-making in urban governance, planning, legislation and financing.

We recognise the unique value of cities and empowers local governments to "do more with what they have". Recommended resilience actions will be woven into existing policies, legislation and planning. These actions will aim to leverage financing mechanisms and funding opportunities.



IN ADDITION TO THE A4R, IMPLEMENTING THE TOOL PROVIDES CITES WITH:

- ➔ an opportunity to connect different departments within the local government around a shared topic
- ➔ organized and valued data that can provide a cross-section of the city from my different perspectives
- ➔ critical data that informs all decision-making across the local government
- ➔ credibility when approaching donors to fund actions and recommendations
- ➔ an initial diagnosis of the city's level of resilience with 'quick win' actions
- ➔ visibility through UN-Habitat's status and network

UN-HABITAT AND URBAN RESILIENCE STAKEHOLDERS



In order to build urban resilience, we work with a number of stakeholders and actors. The main beneficiary of our work is local government however we provide tools and guidance, advocacy and knowledge products to all stakeholders.

THE PROGRAMME WORKS ALONG THREE COMPLIMENTARY STREAMS

Advocacy

Advocacy promotes the urban resilience agenda at the global level to ensure all stakeholders are engaged and develop a global understanding of urban resilience.

Technical Cooperation

Technical Cooperation is led by the City Resilience Profiling Programme and consists of comprehensive diagnosis, planning, financing and monitoring tools for local governments.

Knowledge

Knowledge work connects the latest applied research in resilience with local practice and global development efforts to ensure effective approaches are applied, captured and scaled-up.

REGIONAL AND LOCAL GOVERNMENTS:

Main target audience and beneficiaries of our work. Our tools and training materials support cities to foster more effective resilience action. We engage directly with cities and with their representative network in all corners of the globe.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENTS:

Political support from national governments reinforces local action on resilience. National governments can also coordinate, scale-up and help replicate local resilience initiatives across their territory.

DONORS:

Local governments often need financial support to evaluate their resilience and take action with a long-term vision. We facilitate the dialogue between donors and local governments and our approach provides quality assurances.

PRIVATE SECTOR:

The support of the private sector can be a catalyst to urban resilience. In many contexts, the private sector manage key elements of the urban system. Our approach helps local governments identify their private sector allies and initiate contact.

ACADEMIA:

Approaches developed by academia can be ground truth tested through our approach, providing real feedback from cities.

CIVIL SOCIETY:

CSOs in many countries are calling upon local governments to act on resilience.

WHY OUR PARTNERS ENGAGE WITH US?



With over 30 years experience working on human settlements, UN-Habitat is the leading urban programme within the UN system.



Our mission is to build urban resilience for the wellbeing of urban residents. Our support does not come with ties or commercial interests.



UN-Habitat's is a global network of experts on all aspects of the urban system and we have focal points in almost all regions of the world.



Through our collaborating with universities and local governments, we help bridge the gap between academic thinking and practice. Our biennial research publication, Trends in Urban Resilience, outlines the latest thinking and approaches in the field.



Portfolio: we have worked with cities from the global south and north to develop the most comprehensive and robust urban resilience tool on the market



By working with a UN programme, cities and other partners gain visibility and credibility vis-à-vis their stakeholders.

HOW TO ENGAGE WITH US?

We have outlined the engagement steps for cities that are interested in engaging with us to build their urban resilience. Read the guidelines here or contact us to arrange an initial meeting. We can help you get the political and financial support to initiate the engagement.

IF YOU WOULD LIKE TO SUPPORT OUR WORK:

FUNDING BODY: If you would like to support our work or engagement with cities, please contact us for more details. We have a network of cities committed to urban resilience that could benefit from financial support to implement the tool.

NATIONAL GOVERNMENT: For local governments to build resilience, they require the commitment and support of all levels of government. We support the dialogue between local and national and can work directly with national governments to implement the tool across a range of cities.

VOLUNTEER: We work with volunteers from across the globe to work towards our objectives. If you would like to be an online volunteer, please sign up to the United Nations online volunteer portal and contact us for details of upcoming opportunities.

JOIN THE TEAM: Our work requires inputs from a range of experts and specialists. Connect to the UN's recruitment portal, INSPIRA, or UN-Habitat's website for details of current opportunities.

WEBSITE

www.cityresilience.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @CityResilience

FACEBOOK: @CityResilience

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Co-funded by the



If your city would like to engage with UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme, contact us to arrange an initial meeting with someone from our team. We can answer any questions you have, give you examples of other cities who are engaging with us and give you advice on how to get the political support you will need.