

An aerial night photograph of a city, likely Singapore, featuring a prominent river with a curved embankment. The city lights are visible, and light trails from traffic are seen on a road to the right. The sky is dark with some clouds. A large red circle is overlaid on the left side of the image, containing the title text.

CITY RESILIENCE PROFILING TOOL

UN HABITAT
FOR A BETTER URBAN FUTURE

ENGAGEMENT STEPS FOR CITIES



ABOUT US

As the UN Agency for Human Settlements, UN-Habitat is best placed to support local governments and their stakeholders build urban resilience. Our expertise has already helped cities across the globe become resilient by implementing the City Resilience Profiling Tool.

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 in the face of hazards.

OUR WORK

We understand urban resilience as the ability of a city to absorb and recover quickly from the impact of plausible shocks and stresses and maintain continuity of services.

By engaging with local governments, UN-Habitat supports city stakeholders to better understand their entire urban system from a resilience perspective and plan out risk. Engaged cities are given access to the City Resilience Profiling Tool and the support and expertise to implement it in their city. Engagement typically follows these steps...

ENGAGEMENT STEPS



GETTING
STARTED

ENGAGEMENT

DIAGNOSIS

INFORMED
ACTIONS

TAKING IT
FURTHER

CHARACTERISTICS OF THE CRPT

The City Resilience Profiling Tool is a unique software and approach that provides the framework and process steps to diagnose the level of resiliency within a city and increase it through action.

THE ENTIRE URBAN SYSTEM

The CRPT gathers reliable data from various departments within the city and engages stakeholders to create a resilience profile unique to the engaged city. To determine vulnerabilities and impacts, we test all physical, functional and spatial elements against each plausible hazard. The interconnectivity between urban elements, hazards and stakeholders are drawn to identify spheres of influence and the weakest urban system nodes, hereby developing integrated priority actions.

ADAPTABLE TOOL

The CRPT can be implemented in any city, regardless of size, geography or hazards. The Tool was conceived to capture and adapt to the unique characteristics of each city. To date, the Tool has been successfully implemented in cities in Spain, Vanuatu, Paraguay, Russia, among others.

PROCESS MODELLING

As actions are implemented and new data is input into the tool, the model adapts and updates. This means that the process of building resilience is ongoing.

LONG-TERM CAPACITY

UN-Habitat works with, not for, local governments and implementing the CRPT builds the capacity of local government staff to understand, evaluate and build resilience holistically. Acquiring the awareness, commitment and capacity to build resilience through the CRPT is sustainable beyond the initial engagement of UN-Habitat.

INCLUSIVE

Stakeholders on all levels are at the heart of the Tool's approach, including vulnerable groups. Only through this holistic and inclusive approach can urban development lead to truly sustainable urban development.

GLOBALLY RECOGNIZED

As a programme of the United Nations, UN-Habitat's work is aligned with global development frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda, Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction, Paris Agreement on Climate Change and the Sustainable Development Goals. By engaging with UN-Habitat, cities are contributing to the goals set out for them in these agendas.



GETTING STARTED



THE RIGHT FIT

Local governments and UN-Habitat connect to evaluate the needs, opportunities and context of the city and evaluate the possibility of implementing the tool in their city. By gathering some basic information and opening the dialogue with the CRPT government, UN-Habitat provides an estimate of the time and cost of implementation, and the potential results.

With our local government partners, we consider the stakeholders that need to be involved in implementation and an initial engagement strategy.

This phase leads to a formal agreement signed between the local government and UN-Habitat.

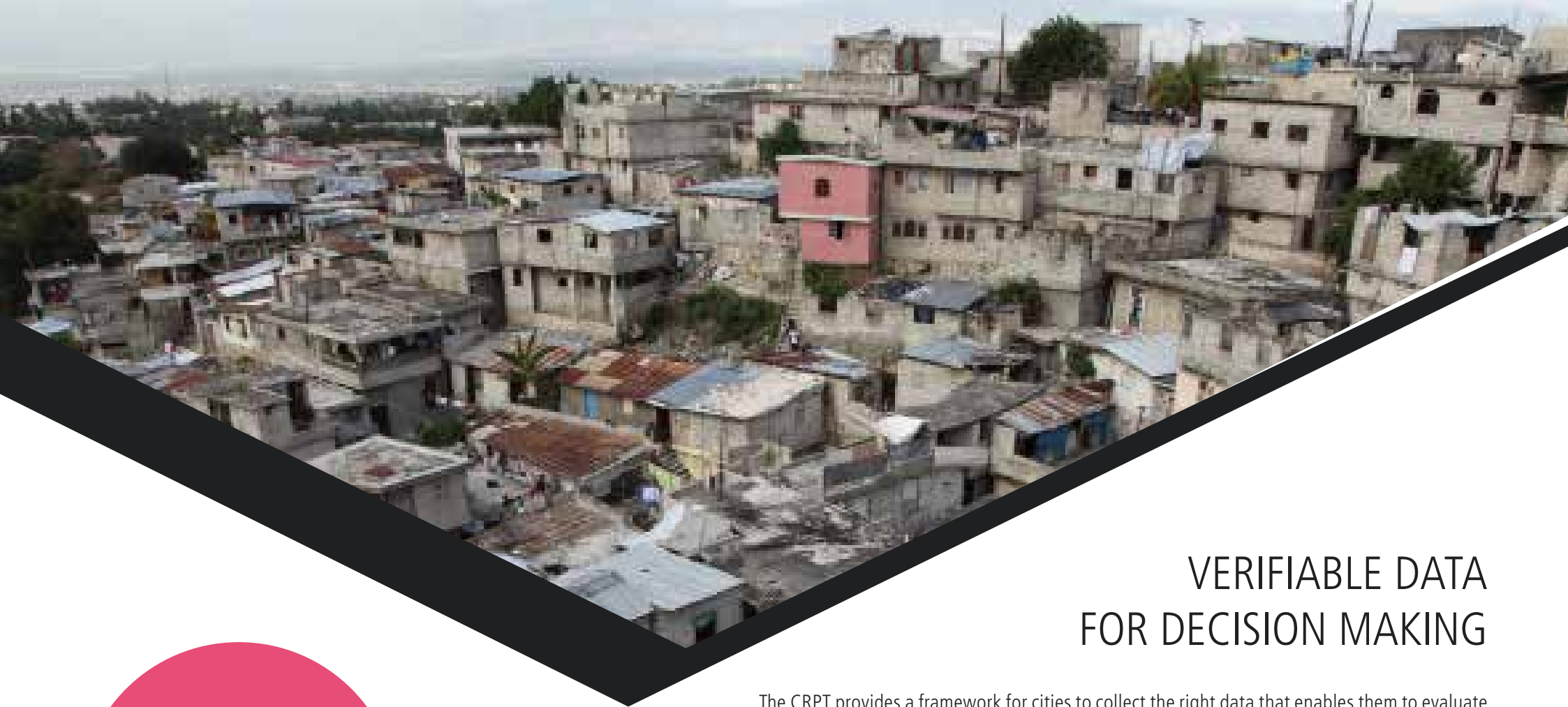


FIRST STEP TO BUILDING RESILIENCE

Following an initial discussion of needs with the city and a more detailed presentation of the City Resilience Profile Tool (CRPT), a formal agreement (Memorandum of Understanding, Letter of Intent) is signed between the local government and UN-Habitat. This provides an opportunity to give visibility to the collaboration and initiate engagement with stakeholders in the city.

The formal agreement usually stipulates that at least two focal points will be nominated within the local government and the roles and responsibilities of the local government and UN-Habitat.

ENGAGEMENT



VERIFIABLE DATA FOR DECISION MAKING

DIAGNOSIS

The CRPT provides a framework for cities to collect the right data that enables them to evaluate their resilience and identify potential vulnerability in the urban system. Diagnosis through data covers all elements of the urban system, and considers all potential hazards and stakeholders.

Local government focal points are trained on the software and diagnostic process by UN-Habitat's experts. This training can take place in the target city or at UN-Habitat's Resilience headquarters in Barcelona, Spain. UN-Habitat staff are also on-hand to provide support throughout the process.

To be most effective, local governments should aim to collect 70% of the critical data required by the CRPT although recommendations can be generated with less.



PRIORITIZED STEPS TO RESILIENCE

INFORMED ACTIONS

Understanding of the entire urban system fuels effective action. The main output of the CRPT is a unique Resilience Action Plan (RAP) for each engaged city. The RAP sets out short-, medium- and long-term strategies based on the diagnosis and actions are prioritised, assigned interdepartmentally, and integrated into existing government policies and plans.

The process is iterative and once resilience actions have been implemented, local governments monitor impact through the tool, which recalibrates to identify next steps.

The Resilience Action Plan is aligned with global frameworks such as the New Urban Agenda, Paris Agreement, Sendai Framework and Sustainable Development Goals.

The CRPT has many other outputs that support local governments improve decision-making, accountability and connectivity.



MAXIMIZING AND SUSTAINING TRANSFORMATIONS

Resilience actions require the buy-in of all stakeholders and, in many cases, additional funding. UN-Habitat works with the local government to leverage the support of national governments, donors and other international organizations to work towards sustainable urban development.

UN-Habitat is a knowledge hub for urban resilience and leverages city-to-city collaboration and cooperation initiatives between cities, academia and humanitarian actors. Engaged cities are invited to share their experience and expertise with partner cities through our network.

TAKING
IT
FURTHER

ADDITIONAL OUTPUTS

The main output for cities of engagement with UN-Habitat is the Resilience Action Plan however the process results in numerous additional outputs that support local governments and their partners to make more informed and effective decisions.



OBJECTIVE KNOWLEDGE

The CRPT performs an analyse of critical data to generate a resilience profile of the city. This analysis can identify data gaps within the local government and, when complete, inform decision making in other areas.



TRAINING & KNOWLEDGE SHARING

We equip local government employees with training and knowledge to operate complex data systems and contemporary technology platforms.



RESILIENCE ADVOCACY

Through implementation of the CRPT, stakeholders in the city (NGOs, civil society, all levels of governance, private sector) are engaged. This fosters new collaboration to support collective action and a wider commitment to building urban resilience.



STAKEHOLDER & HAZARD MAPPING

We map all stakeholders (private, public, civil society, major institutions and citizens) interconnected with the urban system and hazards. This mapping goes beyond the 'who' and traces sphere of influence with relation to the urban system.



RESILIENCE BASELINE

The initial analysis of the city provides a baseline or profile of its level of resilience. This profile is dynamic and recalibrates when actions are implemented. By tracking the shifts and trends, local governments can measure impact against the baseline.



FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

The City Resilience Profiling Tool is universally applicable however implementation varies depending on the context and challenges in each city. We encourage all cities to contact us to find out more about how the CRPT can help their city.



Why should my city build urban resilience?

All cities face hazards, be they man-made or natural. Experience shows that effective prevention and preparedness is more effective and less costly than recovery. Our approach to urban resilience goes beyond traditional ideas of preparedness or risk reduction to support the entire city prepare, adapt, absorb, and recover from hazards.

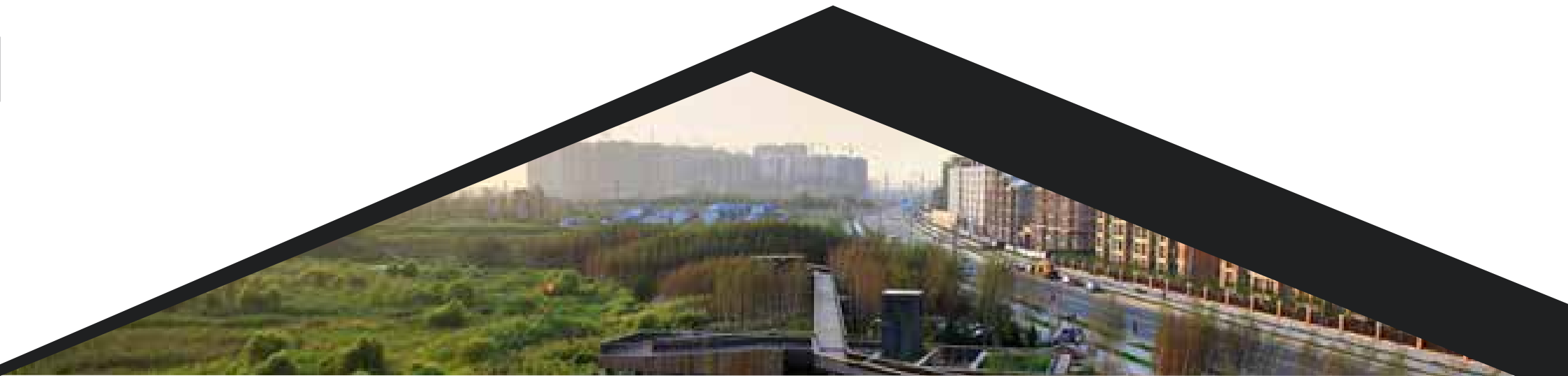
By 2050, estimates predict that 75% of the global population will be living in urban areas. This represents a major challenge but an even bigger opportunity. When resilient, cities can protect more lives and maintain functionality for the majority of the world's population when faced with shocks and stresses. Cities that are not resilient will suffer greater losses in terms of human life, functionality and economic costs.



Why build resilience across the entire city?

From Christchurch to Santiago, Fukushima to New Orleans, we know that multiple hazards can occur or build-up simultaneously. One shock or stress can provoke or aggravate existing stresses. Our Tool empowers cities to adopt multi-hazard and multi-stakeholder resilience to better anticipate and mitigate these risks.

The CRPT approach identifies existing actions in progress within the city to determine which local initiatives can be leveraged for resilience building, particularly anything relating to data collection, to inform a more inclusive city. Actions are aligned with existing policies and integrated into city processes.



What are the costs?

Implementation varies depending on the size of the city, accessibility of data and existing resilience work so there is no 'fixed cost'. Estimates take into account one site visit for UN-Habitat specialists to the city and/or a training session for focal points in the city in UN-Habitat's office in Barcelona.

Costs also include access to UN-Habitat's training and guidance material to ensure effective implementation of the Tool.

Funding implementation can be covered by the local government itself, through donors, national governments, private partners or a combination thereof.

Cities are expected to provide staff time as an in-kind contribution to the programme. During an initial meeting, UN-Habitat provides a more detailed idea of the costs and the potential opportunities to seek funding.

**Investing in
resilience is more
cost effective
than investing in
recovery**





What kind of data will my city need?

To facilitate the diagnosis process, the City Resilience Profiling Tool collects data across four different 'sets'. Different cities have different levels of data and the process can take anywhere from 3 months to 1 year depending on staff and data availability.



Where does the data go?

Data gathered by the local government belongs to the local government. UN-Habitat keeps all data confidential and does not share any outputs from the process with external parties. Local governments must however be willing to share their data with UN-Habitat. We do encourage and support cities to share the results of their work to promote resilience-building in other cities.



Where can my city find the data?

Cities that have already implemented the tool have found the relevant data in census, official records and statistics, and through consultation with departments of the city council.

UN-Habitat provides support throughout data collection on where and how to obtain the best data.

One of the advantageous cited by our partners is the Tool's ability to connect departments of the local government and various stakeholder groups around a common project.



What other cities are implementing the tool?

The Tool has been implemented in a variety of different contexts and continents to ensure that it is universally applicable. Results in each city are unique and reflect the realities faced on the ground. The CRPT has been or is currently being implemented in Barcelona, Maputo, Yakutsk, Asuncion, Port Vila, among others.





GLOBAL GOALS CALL ON LOCAL GOVERNMENTS TO BUILD RESILIENCE

● Does the Tool help my city work towards global development frameworks?

Recommendations and actions outlined the Resilience Action Plan and other outcomes. Resilience Action Plan are aligned with global commitments in the major inter-governmental agreements.

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

The resulting recommendations and actions should result in updated policies and plans within the city that reflect a more integrated urban resilience agenda.

GIVING LOCAL GOVERNMENTS VISIBILITY

Building urban resilience contributes to a better urban future for all so it is important to showcase the work done by local governments in this area. Partners engaged with UN-Habitat are given global visibility through our online and offline channels and spaces.

THROUGH OUR NETWORK

ONLINE

Through UN-Habitat's online urban resilience portal. Engaged cities are given a profile space on a UN website where their initiatives and work can be showcased.

CASE STUDIES

Through our network, we promote cases of tool implementation among our partners, including member states, international organizations, other UN agencies, NGOs and civil society organizations.

THROUGH OUR WORKING GROUPS

MEDELLIN COLLABORATION ON URBAN RESILIENCE

UN-Habitat chairs this Collaboration – launched at the 7th World Urban Forum in Medellín, Colombia in 2014. This collaboration gathers the most prominent actors committed to building resilience globally and collectively work in over 4,000 cities globally, with more than USD 2 billion committed annually toward advancing resilient and sustainable urban growth.

GLOBAL ALLIANCE FOR URBAN CRISES

Launched at the World Humanitarian Summit in Istanbul 2016, this Alliance brings together city leaders, urban professionals, the development community and the private sector to work on urban disaster responses. With 65 signatories to date, the Alliance brings about a fundamental shift in the way international and local actors interact in response to urban humanitarian crises.



CONTACT US

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, and give you advice on how to get the political support you will need.

WEBSITE

www.cityresilience.org

SOCIAL MEDIA

TWITTER: @CityResilience

FACEBOOK: CityResilience

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