The Ten Essentials for Making Cities Resilient Checklist

1. Organize for disaster resilience. Put in place an organizational structure with strong leadership and clarity of coordination and responsibilities. Establish Disaster Risk Reduction as a key consideration throughout the City Vision or Strategic Plan.

2. Identify, understand, and use current and future risk scenarios. Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities. Prepare risk assessments based on participatory processes and use these as the basis for urban development of the city and its long-term goals.

3. Strengthen financial capacity for resilience. Prepare a financial plan by understanding and assessing the significant economic impacts of disasters. Identify and develop financial mechanisms to support resilience activities.

4. Pursue resilient urban development and design. Carry out risk-informed urban planning and development based on up-to-date risk assessments with particular focus on vulnerable populations. Apply and enforce realistic, risk compliant building regulations.

5. Safeguard natural buffers to enhance the protective functions offered by natural ecosystems. Identify, protect and monitor natural ecosystems within and outside the city geography and enhance their use for risk reduction.

6. Strengthen institutional capacity for resilience. Understand institutional capacity for risk reduction including those of governmental organizations; private sector; academia, professional and civil society organizations, to help detect and strengthen gaps in resilience capacity.

7. Understand and strengthen societal capacity for resilience. Identify and strengthen social connectedness and culture of mutual help through community and government initiatives and multimedia channels of communication.


9. Ensure effective preparedness and disaster response. Create and regularly update preparedness plans, connect with early warning systems and increase emergency and management capacities.

10. Expedite recovery and build back better. Establish post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation, and reconstruction strategies that are aligned with long-term planning and providing an improved city environment.