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FACTSHEET

Resilient Cities and Urban Risk Management

Disaster risk management for urban communities

Urbanization processes have occurred rapidly and now more than half of the world's population live in cities. This has resulted in physical and social transformations never before seen in history.

As cities grow and expand, they become more complex and very difficult to manage. The increased accumulation of people, investments and infrastructure in cities directly results in the increasing levels of disaster risks in urban areas.

Growing diversity in urban areas means that local and national governments must learn to collaborate and work with various groups of different economic and social backgrounds in order to ensure sustainable development.

Disaster risks, coupled with the challenges posed by climate change are threatening the security and sustainable growth of urban communities and there is a pressing need to develop capacity among local level actors to increase resiliency now and in the future.

Our Work

ADPC is developing partnerships with countries and cities in the following areas:

- Comprehensive disaster risk management and climate change adaptation of cities.
- Developing tools for integrating disaster risk management and climate change adaptation into urban planning and urban management systems.
- Developing programs for enhancing capacities of cities and urban communities in managing risks from natural disasters and impacts of climate change.
- Demonstration projects on flood risk reduction, landslide mitigation and safer coastal zone management for urban communities.
- Risk-sensitive and climate adaptive land use planning for cities.



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Managing the effects of urbanization

ADPC assists cities and urban communities in managing and mitigating urban disaster risks by conducting disaster scenario training and outreach.

We also provide cities with technical assistance in urban planning, building and enhancing their capacities through the provision of information-resources; developing data such as spatial distribution of potential hazardous areas; as well as promoting interventions for effective emergency response planning and management systems in cities.

ADPC also looks for new methods to understand vulnerabilities of urban communities by reaching out to community groups and government actors in collaborative processes that involve community mapping and risk assessments.

Urban disaster risk reduction pursued by ADPC focuses primarily on demonstrating sound practices for responding to, preparing for and mitigating hazards and disaster events amongst local governments and communities throughout the region.

We also work to strengthen the capacity of national-level institutions, such as urban development authorities, working in the urban sector and expand their influence in exercising good urban governance.

Our Aim

ADPC's work in urban risk management aims to:

- Create adaptive and resilient urban communities that utilize risk-sensitive approaches in the management of disaster risks by transferring information, technical knowledge and skills.
- Advocate for socially acceptable and compatible policies by integrating community values, legal mechanisms and investments in order to build safer urban communities in the region.
- Act as a resource center on urban disaster risk management.



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