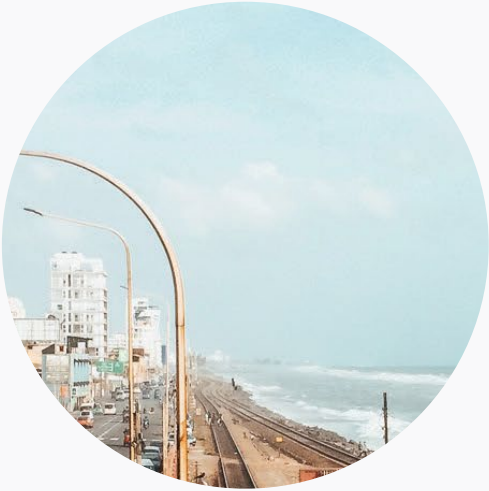


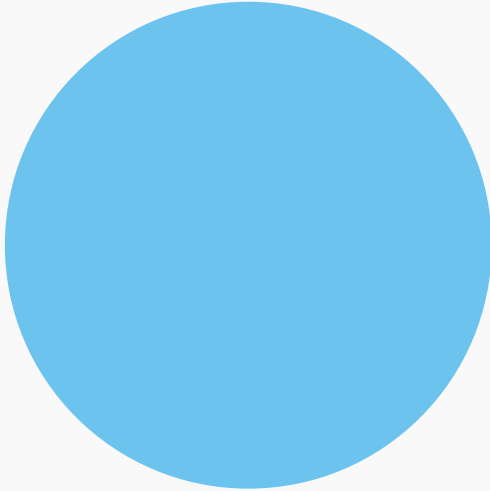
# IUR-SIDS

## Integrated Urban Resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Cities



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**Integrated Urban Resilience  
in Small Island Developing States (SIDS)  
and Coastal Cities**



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# Integrated Urban Resilience in Small Island Developing States (SIDS) and Coastal Cities

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<b>Geographical focus</b>	10 cities with priority to SIDS and coastal cities viz. 3 each from Pacific and Caribbean regions, 2 from Indian Ocean region and 2 coastal cities.
<b>Program vision and goal</b>	By 2030, at least 100 small and medium cities are supported to develop riskinformed urban develop plans and implement urban resilience building interventions addressing all resilience dimensions viz. physical, environmental and socio-economic while strengthening urban governance informed by a systems' thinking to secure resilient development outcomes.
<b>Program objectives</b>	Strengthen data analytics, resilience diagnostics and risk governance capacities of small and medium-sized SIDS and coastal cities (in Least Developed Countries (LDCs), Low/Middle Income Countries – L/MICs) with comparable risk, exposure and vulnerability contexts, to assess multidimensional risks, diagnose resilience needs and priorities, identify pathways to foster sustainable development processes, reduce risks and lay the foundations for resilient human settlements and socio-economic development in urban centers in line with the resilience and sustainability objectives of the 2030 Agenda while ensuring that no one is left behind.
<b>Duration</b>	Phase I – 2022 to 2025 Phase II – 2026 to 2030
<b>Participating UN agencies</b>	UNDP and UN-Habitat

05

Challenges faced  
by SIDS in an urbanizing context

06

Why focus on small,  
medium and transitioning cities?

07

Urban resilience imperative  
in the 2030 Agenda

08

Programme objectives  
and approach

09

Partnerships

10

Programme outputs  
and activities

# Challenges faced by SIDS in an urbanizing context

The predominantly urban footprint of Covid-19—with nearly 90% of the people affected and major socio-economic disruption being in cities—has exposed the “soft underbelly” of urban development, governance and risk management systems with systemic cross- sectoral and wide-ranging socio-economic impacts.

Estimates by the World Bank and UN entities suggest that municipal governments have, on average, lost 15 to 25 per cent in revenues in 2021. With city-centric national growth trajectory and a narrow Gross Domestic Product (GDP) bandwidth dependent on sectors like tourism, blue economy etc., the SIDS’ socio-economic resilience has come under stress with tourist inflow earnings having declined by 80% in 2020, accompanied by loss of livelihoods. Lower tax income and reduced resources could jeopardize crucial urban infrastructure investments, lead to cuts in public services, and undermine broader sustainable urban development efforts. Furthermore, their small size, geography and relative insularity makes SIDS 35 percent more vulnerable to external economic and financial shocks.

The 6th Assessment Report of Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) forecasts continued sea level rise with high likelihood of coastal flooding, saltwater intrusion and shoreline retreat. SIDS’ vulnerability, while being least equipped to mitigate the same, goes beyond disaster events and climatic risks. The resilience of critical urban systems and infrastructure, including socio-economic assets such as airports, hotels, seaports, health and development sectors, has become critical due to their location in areas with high exposure (i.e. low elevation) and proneness to multitude of risks.

# Why focus on small, medium and transitioning cities?

**A Decade of Urban Resilience: An Analytical Review** by UNDP notes that small and medium cities in LDCs, LICs, SIDS and LMICs, including the coastal ones, face shared risks and vulnerabilities and graver development challenges while their ability to address them holistically is severely constrained by governance deficits, lack of empirical risk and resilience information, knowledge and technical capacity among others. Some of the key development challenges and gaps related to existing demands and emerging priorities faced by cities, especially in SIDS and coastal cities, relate to:

1. Disconnect between national urban development and risk management policies and their city level application.
2. Lack of risk analysis, actionable risk information and resilience diagnostics to risk-inform urban development.
3. Inadequate cross-sectoral and scenario-based urban planning to address urban risk and vulnerability drivers.
4. Failure to address all resilience dimensions viz. physical, socio-economic, environmental, governance, community livelihoods and others in tandem.
5. Risk-agnostic urban planning and development creating newer risks while aggravating existing ones.
6. Failure to apply systems' thinking and approach to urban governance to overcome disjointed planning and action.
7. Low emphasis on socio-economic vulnerabilities like inequality, poverty, informality, etc.
8. Lack of use of digital technologies and innovation to augment urban resilience and to reduce risks in cities.

Over the past decade of investments in urban resilience, small, medium and coastal cities, especially in SIDS, LICs, L/MICs, have not received technical and programmatic support commensurate with the resilience building challenges faced by them. Despite inter-connected and systemic nature and scale of risks in small and medium cities with close interface with socio-economic vulnerabilities viz. inequalities, informality, environmental degradation, fragile livelihoods, lack of access to social protection measures, etc., less than half of these have an explicit urban development plan while few of these acknowledge disaster risks and climate change. With urban centers emerging as catalysts for growth, focus on risk-informed development in small and medium cities has become imperative for resilience building and sustainable development.

# Urban resilience imperative in the 2030 Agenda

All strands of 2030 Agenda make a coherent case for urban resilience by placing greater emphasis on integrating risk and resilience in urban planning and governance, as a prerequisite for sustainable development.

Emphasizing urban resilience and risk reduction imperatives, **Goal-11 of the SDGs** reinforces urban resilience as a cornerstone of sustainable development. The SDGs also affirm the commitment towards integrated solutions for development challenges confronting the SIDS and acknowledges adverse effects of climate change and disaster risks among the principal factors undermining resilience and sustainability of SIDS.

Revolving around the concepts of sustainability, equity, resilience and smartness, the **New Urban Agenda** emphasizes the need for environmentally sustainable and resilient urban development and addresses specific urbanization challenges facing SIDS as part of its 'Call for Action' and commits to reduce the vulnerability of SIDS to climate change, disasters and other risks. It seeks to embed urbanization within the overall development policy and practice.

The commitments of **Sendai Framework for DRR** to reducing risks and building resilience is articulated through Priority for Action-3 i.e. Investing in DRR for Resilience as cutting across all contexts (urban and rural), sectors and scales (global, regional, national and local) but with active involvement of local governments. It underscores the need to enhance the implementation capacity and capability of local governments and SIDS to achieve the Outcomes and Goals of the Framework and highlights the "...need to build resilience and to provide particular support through the implementation of the SAMOA Pathway in the area of disaster risk reduction."

Articles 7.1 and 8.1 of the **Paris Agreement** focus on risk and resilience related issues with technical guidelines for the NAPs and NDCs making specific provisions for addressing urban risks and building resilience through mitigation and adaptation action.

In essence, all these global policy frameworks and agendas coalesce around the importance of reducing urban risks and building resilience to ensure sustainability of development and to achieve the aspirations of the 2030 Agenda.

# Programme objectives and approach

Bringing together DRR, CC-CCA, socio-economic development sectors and stakeholders, the IUR-SIDS Programme will support national and city administrations adopt a multi-risk lens to identify resilience building needs at city level as part of bottom-up sustainability effort. The Program will improve development outcomes for SIDS and coastal cities by catalyzing action to reduce exposure and vulnerability of target cities to disaster and climate risks primarily while also enabling them to assess other typologies of risks. The analytical approach will help design investible initiatives to reduce existing risks, prevent creation of new risks, and help advance resilient development pathways across socio-economic development sectors.

Reflecting the synergy among all strands of the 2030 Agenda on urban resilience and instituting a better understanding of resilience needs and priorities, the Programme will institute a holistic risk reduction and resilience building approach while connecting the same to socio-economic and environmental aspects. It will foster engagement of diverse sectors and stakeholders to augment urban governance while its diagnostic approach will help identify actionable resilience and sustainability centric actions by developing bankable projects.

The **direct beneficiaries** will be the national and city-level governments agencies and their functionaries dealing with disaster risk management, climate change, urban planning and development, national planning and finance, while engaging respective regional intergovernmental organizations.

The **secondary beneficiaries** will include socio-economic development sectors in SIDS and coastal cities like tourism, water resources, transportation and others which constitute mainstays of lives and livelihoods along with local communities, CSOs and stakeholder groups like the private sector, academic and research institutions etc.

The Programme will advance effective synergies between national policy, sub-regional planning and city level application and foster pro-active engagement of regional inter-governmental bodies to ensure institutionalization and sustainability. This will be complemented by a focus on south-south cooperation for replication across other SIDS and coastal cities.



# Partnerships

The Programme will adopt a partnership-based approach by fostering collaboration with UN and international organizations, regional inter-governmental entities, IFIs, development partners, technical, academic and research institutions, private sector, civil society and other relevant stakeholders at regional, sub- regional, national and city level to ensure synergies of action and convergence of approaches.

At **global level**, the Programme will work closely with flagship initiatives like the MCR2030, regional groups like the AOSIS and international organizations, think-tanks, civil society and other key stakeholders.

At **regional level**, the Programme will coordinate with respective regional intergovernmental organizations such as CDEMA, Caribbean Development Bank in the Caribbean and PIFS, SPC in the Pacific and similar forums with representation of target countries.

At **national and city level**, the Programme will identify potential partners like the CSO, private sector entities and consortiums, technical and research institutions and other stakeholders based on stakeholder mapping.

For **cross-fertilization of knowledge and learning**, the Programme will work with global and regional think- tanks, research institutions and harness the outreach and advocacy potential offered by knowledge networks like the PreventionWeb, MCR2030, City-to-City networks and similar platforms for disseminating good practices, success stories and learning for replication.

# Programme outputs and activities

## Output

## Activities

### Output 1

Data collection, analytics, risk information and resilience diagnostics

- 1.1 Facilitate access to city-level DRR-CC risk and vulnerability data and support setting-up of city- level DRR-CC data analytical systems.
- 1.2 Conduct resilience diagnostics to define city risk and resilience profile to inform risk reduction and resilience action.
- 1.3 Training and capacity building of nodal city agencies and administrative functionaries, stakeholders and practitioners on data collection, risk analysis and assessments, resilience diagnostics and planning for resilience.

### Output 2

Enhanced engagement of diverse stakeholders to develop City Resilience Plans and strengthen urban governance

- 2.1 Constitute multi-stakeholder City Resilience Forum or Stakeholder Working Group to identify key stakeholders engaged in city resilience building and coordinate their activities.
- 2.2 Develop City Resilience Plans identifying policy and programmatic interventions as part of Actions for Resilience Recommendation(s) (A4R) for resilience building and sustainability.
- 2.3 Strengthen urban governance to mainstream city resilience plans and foster integrated city planning, advance inter-sectoral coordination and apply systems' approach to resilience building and risk-informed development.

## Output

## Activities

### Output 3

Formulation of city and National Urban Plans supported to foster integration of risk and resilience considerations

- 3.1 Facilitate development of an Approach Paper to inform the formulation of National Urban Policy(ies)/ Plan(s) connected to the city urban development and resilience plans based on Actions for Resilience Recommendation(s), risk analysis and resilience diagnostics.
- 3.2 Support integration of risk and resilience considerations into the national and city urban development plans, essential infrastructure and principal socio-economic development sectors.
- 3.3 Training and capacity building of national and city nodal agencies, functionaries and stakeholders including urban planners on resilient urban development planning and implementation of risk-informed development.

### Output 4

Implement integrated DRR-CCA action to build resilience at city and community level

- 4.1 Prioritize and implement the Actions for Resilience (A4R) based on resilience diagnostics.
- 4.2 Implement water governance and water risk management initiatives to augment access to sustainable water resources and to reduce water-related risks eg. urban flooding, waterlogging etc.
- 4.3 Implement social protection measures based on multi-poverty vulnerability index (MPVI) to build socio-economic resilience of urban poor and marginalized with specific focus on women, elderly, disabled etc.

### Output 5

Research, documentation and knowledge management for cross-learning and for city-to-city information sharing

- 5.1 Develop and implement a learning framework to facilitate information sharing, advocacy and communications on effective urban resilience through city-to-city and other networks for cross-learning and evidence-based knowledge.
- 5.2 Foster engagement of technical, research and academic institutions with cities to facilitate access to cutting-edge information on risk analytics and resilience building.
- 5.3 Develop measurable indicators and metrics to monitor and assess progress, institute a resilience benchmarking approach and foster a culture of accountability.

For further information on urban risk  
and resilience related initiatives,  
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