

Scaling urban and community resilience

A strategy for global action

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Concept

Communities worldwide have greater opportunities for growth and connectedness than ever before; yet the number of people exposed to hazards, shocks, and stresses is rapidly increasing, leading to increased fragility and vulnerability. At the same time, people living in cities are themselves agents of change and have significant resources, skills, and capacities to bring to resilience efforts both in their own communities and at a broader civic level across their cities and districts.

This paper outlines the potential for a new initiative to scale up community and civic action on resilience to enable opportunities for

Every community to be a safer and more resilient community.

Every household to be a more prepared household.

The concept is for a collective global initiative to encourage and enable a much greater number of communities to initiate and sustain climate resilience activities. With the Red Cross Red Crescent (RC/RC) and key partners acting as catalyzing agents, we envision like-minded humanitarian, development, government, research and business organizations working hand in hand to pool their respective resources and expertise in support of community priorities.

Target

By 2030 to connect and engage '1 person in every household' around the world in active steps toward preparedness and community resilience. To reach ~1 billion households, we are envisioning a chain of campaigns, drawing on local interest and action and marrying wide partner support.

Strategy


Building on existing models for community-risk analysis and preparedness action, the global campaign would help communities in urban and non-urban areas to use a coalition-based model to

1. strengthen civic engagement on resilience
2. tap into local resources and community financing options
3. facilitate collective decision-making
4. create local DIY resilience solutions



By linking directly to the community and household level, the campaign would complement existing resilience initiatives (UN-ISDR 'Making Cities Resilient' campaign, Rockefeller Foundation's 100 Resilient Cities, and UN-Habitat's World Urban Campaign). The campaign will include a strong focus on 'urban' settings where vulnerabilities are rapidly rising; however the community resilience approach is relevant in any community.

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Suggestions and feedback welcome.

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