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MAKING CITIES RESILIENT - AFRICA

Africities- Dakar 5-6 December 2012

1. An invitation to discuss how to make cities safer and resilient in Africa: A Africities Side event 5 December 2012, 14.30-16.30

The "*Making Cities Resilient*" side event is an opportunity for participants to discuss about achievements and difficulties encountered by African cities to integrate Disaster Risk Reduction into local level planning. The specific objectives of this panel are:

- Share successful experiences and lessons-learnt on making cities safer and more resilient in Africa. Including, applying campaign tools like the Local HFA – Local Government Self Assessment Tool – assessing your city.
- What are the three main priorities to address in the future
- Launch of the "Africa City Resilience – A Ten Essentials Pilot" and the Making Cities Resilient Report.

Programme:

5 December 2012, **14H30** – **Salle Club** Hôtel Les Almadies

14:30 Opening remarks

14:40 Panel discussion

15:30 Open discussion.

16:00 Launch of the 10 Essentials East Africa report.

16:30 Closing remarks from the chair.

Panel discussion moderated by Mr *Cheikh Bamba Dièye, ministre de l'Aménagement du territoire et des Collectivités locales, Senegal*

Panelists:

Ms Helena Molin Valdes, Deputy Director, United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNISDR)

Ms Fatimetou Mint Abdel Malick, Mayor Tevragh Zeina, Nouakchott, Mauritania

Mr Ousmane Drame, Mayor of Nyor, Senegal, also member of ICLEI

Mr. Hon. Abdou Sane, Regional Champion for Disaster Risk Reduction, Former Member of Parliament, Senegal

His Lordship Didas Massaburi, Mayor of Dar es Salaam, Tanzania

Other Mayors invited from the UNISDR "Making Cities Resilient" Campaign and from UCLG

2. Invitation to gain knowledge on how to implement the Making Cities Resilient Campaign Ten Essentials at the Africities

Free training session at the Salle des Réunions, Hotel King Fahd Palace (Ex-Méridien).

The training session will be conducted on:

- **Wed 5th December 8h30 to 12h00 (in English)**
- **Thu 06th December 8h30 to 12.00 (in French)**

The training sessions will cover: Disaster Risk Reduction thematic areas; Hazard risk and vulnerability in Africa; How to implement the Making Cities Resilient Campaign Ten Essentials in your city.

3. What are the issues?

Disasters from hazards of different magnitudes, remains a major problem in all of Africa's cities. The problems are getting worse due to extreme climate events and rapid uncontrolled urbanization practices. Each country and city is different. The role of mayors and local governments to address risks they face on a day-to-day basis and how these have aggravated floods, drought and other risks is at the core. Risks are exacerbated by disease, industrial accidents, and the impact of climate change which makes vulnerability worse for a big proportion of their population. Specific problems of African cities included:

- unplanned urban development or unattended needs in the peripheries and semi-rural areas (informal housing and slums in high-risk sites to earthquakes, floods or landslides),
- ecosystems decline (depletion of mangroves or wetlands), which is accelerated when refugees or major influx of migrants settles informally in the urban or semi-urban areas,
- unmaintained or low building standards for infrastructure (insufficient storm drainage and failing building stocks- schools and hospitals are essential), and
- lack of organization or local governance set-ups to deal with disaster risk and to control or provide for development public works.

At Africities in 2009, Mayors debated this topic, and since the UNISDR launched the Making Cities Resilient Campaign "My City is Getting Ready" with UCLG and other partners. More than 40 local governments have since signed up to the campaign in Africa. UCLG, UN-Habitat and ICLEI are the main partners promoting the campaign for increased political leadership, awareness and implementation.

This side event will discuss how the resilience principles (Ten Essentials) have and can help local government to be more inclusive, healthier, better governed and sustainable. Recommendations by Mayors in Africa when discussing this subject include:

- Mayors need to be aware that disaster risks are often human-induced. For instance, insufficient buffering between settlement areas and a river would cause severe damage.
- There is a need for better linkage and communication between national and local governments. Central government sometimes does not provide clear guidance, and implements its own programmes without proper consultation with local governments.
- Need for improved planning capacities as a key to reduce disaster risk (and organized urbanization) and build on participatory approach involving the citizens in problem solving.
- Need for sharing more of this kind of information and experience among themselves, and the need for tools to effectively deal with them.

Elected Mayors and local authorities need to respond to the expectations of the electorate, it becomes important to link risk reduction to development issues, such as providing water and waste management and address coastal erosion. The Mayors have encouraged more interaction with their central Government to build local and regional action plans and protocols, and to become an active actor in the implementation process.

4. Additional context:

In 2009, for the first time, Africa's total population exceeded one billion, 395 million (or almost 40 per cent) of which lived in urban areas. While it took 27 years for the continent to double from 500 million to one billion people, the additional 500 million will only take 17 years. Africa's population will be expected to reach the two billion mark around 2050, 60 per cent of whom will be living in cities. Increased climate extremes and greater disaster impacts will "push" populations in rural areas living under harsh conditions to move to urban areas. Therefore, cities are growing at a pace that is exceeding their development policies and planning capacities, being unable to respond adequately to citizens' basic needs. Moreover, the way cities are growing today will determine their capacity to absorb, recover and learn from disasters tomorrow. A sustainable urban growth is then essential for resilient cities.

The Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Nations and Communities to Disasters (HFA) and the "Making Cities Resilient" campaign have paved the way for communities to reduce disaster risk by providing them with a Ten Essentials checklist which helps local governments to prepare baseline assessments and action plans a city needs to become safer. Building resilience needs strong political leadership at all levels in order to be efficient and requires the participation of the entire community to identify what needs to be done to build more disaster resilient cities.

In this context, some questions arise. Has local leadership increased in African cities with regards to Risk Reduction? Which activities have been carried out successfully? What difficulties have been encountered? What do cities in Africa need to advance their risk reduction policies and activities?

Contact information

For information related to the «Making Cities Resilient» Campaign and how to join, please contact: Youcef Ait Chellouche, Deputy Regional Coordinator, UNISDR Office - Africa

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If you want to receive news from the «Making Cities Resilient» Campaign please join the mailing list at: Resilient-Cities@groups.preventionweb.net

For more information on the «Making Cities Resilient» Campaign please visit the website at: www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities

Visit the UNISDR exhibition stand to share knowledge and experiences on how to build resilience in urban cities within Africa.



Essentials

Ten-point Checklist - Essentials for Making Cities Resilient

- ✓ **Essential 1:** Put in place **organization and coordination** to understand and reduce disaster risk, based on participation of citizen groups and civil society. Build local alliances. Ensure that all departments understand their role to disaster risk reduction and preparedness.
- ✓ **Essential 2:** **Assign a budget** for disaster risk reduction and provide incentives for homeowners, low-income families, communities, businesses and public sector to invest in reducing the risks they face.
- ✓ **Essential 3:** Maintain up-to-date data on hazards and vulnerabilities, **prepare risk assessments** and use these as the basis for urban development plans and decisions. Ensure that this information and the plans for your city's resilience are readily available to the public and fully discussed with them.
- ✓ **Essential 4:** Invest in and maintain **critical infrastructure that reduces risk**, such as flood drainage, adjusted where needed to cope with climate change.
- ✓ **Essential 5:** Assess the safety of all **schools and health facilities** and upgrade these as necessary.
- ✓ **Essential 6:** Apply and enforce **realistic, risk compliant building regulations and land use planning principles**. Identify safe land for low-income citizens and develop upgrading of informal settlements, wherever feasible.
- ✓ **Essential 7:** Ensure **education programmes and training** on disaster risk reduction are in place in schools and local communities.
- ✓ **Essential 8:** **Protect ecosystems and natural buffers** to mitigate floods, storm surges and other hazards to which your city may be vulnerable. Adapt to climate change by building on good risk reduction practices.
- ✓ **Essential 9:** Install **early warning systems and emergency management capacities** in your city and hold regular public preparedness drills.
- ✓ **Essential 10:** After any disaster, ensure that the **needs of the survivors are placed at the centre of reconstruction** with support for them and their community organizations to design and help implement responses, including rebuilding homes and livelihoods.

www.unisdr.org/campaign/resilientcities/toolkit/essentials