

# Enabling Environment for Urban Disaster Resilience Findings of Scoping Study

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2<sup>nd</sup> Asia Pacific Forum on Urban Resilience and Adaptation  
2 March 2016, Melaka , Malaysia



# Managing Disaster Risk is Critical for the Transformational Role Urban Areas Aspires to Play



- Rapid urban growth resulting in **challenges** and cities are struggling to “provide quality of life better than their competitors” and **attract and sustain financial and human investments**
- Disaster risk is increasing and creating potential **threat to urban investments**
- Disaster resilience investments **remains limited**, often piecemeal and **not carefully integrated in wider urban development**

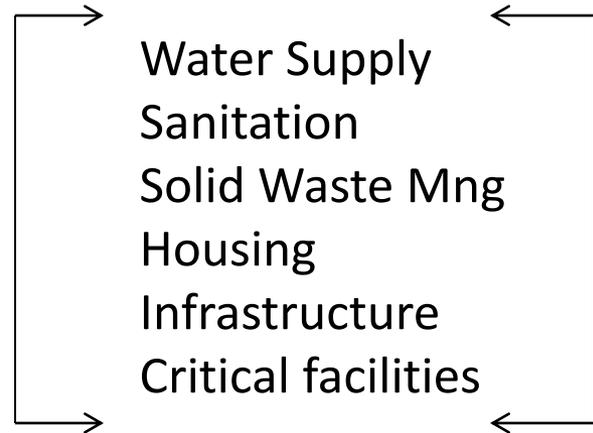
# What are Investments for Strengthening Disaster Resilience?

## 1. Targeted Investments

## 2. Embedded in Urban Development

### Reducing Disaster Risk

### Managing Residual Risk



Flood embankment

Seismic retrofitting of public assets

Early warning systems,

Disaster risk financing

Water Supply  
Sanitation  
Solid Waste Mng  
Housing  
Infrastructure  
Critical facilities

# 1. Seismic Retrofitting of public schools in Kathmandu Valley

**Objective:** To seismic retrofit 160 public schools in Kathmandu Valley

## Activities:

- Undertaking assessment of school buildings
- Retrofitting structure
- Capacity of masons and engineers
- Awareness on school preparedness

**Outcome:** All 160 schools survived the 7.8 magnitude earthquake and many used as community evacuation center

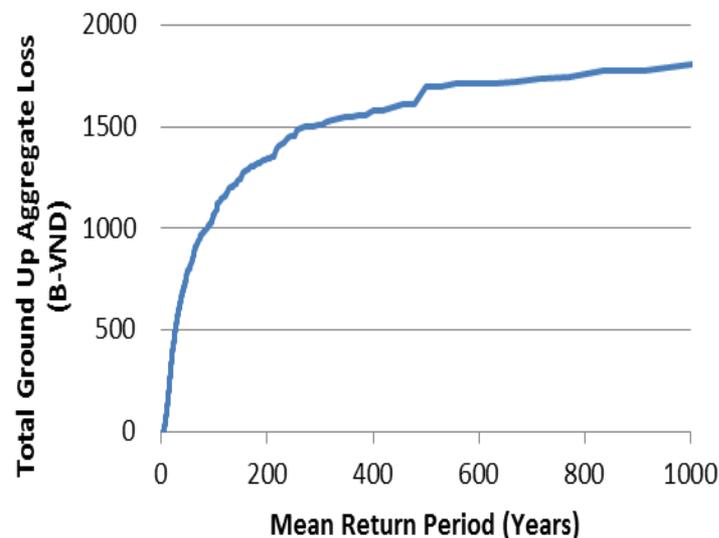


## 2. Designing city disaster risk financing solutions in Indonesia, Philippines and Viet Nam

**Objective:** To develop tailor-made DRF solutions for six cities – Padang, Manado, Davao, Marikina, Can Tho and Hue

### Activities:

- Risk modelling
- Funding gap analysis
- Regulatory and budgetary analysis
- Design of tailor-made solutions
- Capacity building



**Outcome:** All cities indicated that they appreciate the benefits of enhanced DRF capabilities and would like to take out disaster insurance cover, subject to the resolution of remaining legal, regulatory and financial challenges

# 3. Climate and Disaster Resilience of Coastal Towns of Bangladesh

**Objectives:** To strengthen climate and disaster resilience of 8 coastal towns in Bangladesh

## Project Design Features:

- Improved Climate-Resilient Infrastructure (raised roads, cyclone shelters)
- Strengthened capacity and governance (risk-sensitive urban planning and construction)
- Institutional strengthening for DRM adopted as a criteria for performance-based investment approach





**What are the Factors  
Contributing to the  
Enabling Environment  
required for  
Investments to  
Strengthen Disaster  
Resilience?**

# Findings 1: 'Targeted' Legislation, Institutions and Financing



## DRM and CCA legislative and institutional set-up

- Relatively **new** in many countries
- **Removed from development**
- Focus on **managing disasters not managing disaster risk**
- **Implementation transferred to sub-national government** without sufficient detailing of rules and capacity
- Institutions for **DRM and CCA remains separate**

## Disaster risk financing

- Lack of **dedicated budget for DRR**
- **Reserve funds intended for responding to disaster exist** in most countries
- **Risk transfer mechanisms lagging**

## Findings 2: 'Embedded' Legislation, Institutions and Financing

- **Outdated laws** and no recognition of DRM and CCA
- **Structure of governance** , **legal barriers** and **lack of capacity to raise revenue** affects governmental capacity to undertake investments
- **Weak linkages between spatial planning and socio-economic planning**
- Weak capacity of government to **prioritize** and **allocate** budget for public investments in DRM/CCA and to **track expenditure**
- **Institutional fragmentation of budget preparation** limits investments



# Recommendations

1. Keep urban planning ahead of rapid urbanization
2. Build disaster resilience into everyday urban governance
3. Share benefits from private sector without creating risk
4. Strengthen budget and planning linkages

