UNDRR
UN Office for Disaster Risk Reduction

Course Syllabus

Making Cities Resilient

Developing Local Disaster Risk
Reduction and Resilience Strategies

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

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Course Background

Over the past 20 years, disasters have affected 4.4 billion people, caused USD 2 trillion of damage, and killed 1.3 million people. Disasters have affected people living in developing countries and, in particular, the most vulnerable communities within these countries.

Particularly in the context of increased urbanization, urban risk continues to rise. The vulnerability of cities to disasters is growing especially as poor people settle in high-risk urban areas. Unfortunately, the planning and development of cities has given little consideration to the consequences of hazards such as earthquakes, hydro-meteorological risks and others. The implication of this reality is the need for countries to focus on creating a safer world for urban dwellers and developing a series of innovative approaches to build resilience.

On the basis of these needs, UNITAR, in partnership with UNDRR's Office for Northeast Asia (ONEA) and its Global Education and Training Institute (GETI), has developed the e-learning course "Making Cities Resilient: Developing Local Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience Strategies."

*Course content updated in July 2023

Course Goals and Outline

This e-learning course aims to strengthen the capacities of government officials, especially those at the local level, and disaster management professionals to design and implement plans and programmes that reduce disaster risk and enhance resilience.

At the end of the course, participants will be able to:

> Analyse the outcome, goal and implementation of the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

> Identify initiatives and best practices on how to integrate disaster risk reduction and climate change adaptation into urban planning

> Assess the risk management situation in their cities by using the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities

> Understand how to develop a safe and resilient country/city action plan

> Raise awareness about the Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) initiative

The course is comprised of 6 modules that will be covered over 13 weeks:

> **Module 1**: Disaster Risk Reduction Concepts and Introduction to Current Trends in Urban Risk

> **Module 2:** Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030

> **Module 3:** Assessing City's Risk Management and introduction to Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)

> **Module 4:** Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Sectoral Programmes for Socio-Economic Development (Part 1)

> **Module 5:** Mainstreaming Disaster Risk Reduction into Sectoral Programmes for Socio-Economic Development (Part 2)

> **Module 6:** Developing, Implementing, Monitoring & Evaluating Safe and Resilient Action Plans

Content, Learning Objectives and Activities

Module	Content	Learning Objectives	Activities
Module 1 Disaster Risk Reduction Concepts and Introduction to Trends in Urban Risk and Risk Reduction	• Definitions and concepts • Main drivers explaining disaster risk trends • Major Approaches, Tools and Methods Disaster Risk Reduction • Trends in Urban Risk and Risk Reduction	• Define main DRR concepts • Describe current disaster risk trends • Describe the relation between Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) and Climate Change Adaption (CCA)	• Quiz 1
Module 2 Implementing the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (2015-2030)	• Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction 2015-2030 • 4 Priorities for Action • Challenges in implementation	• Identify the purpose, expected outcome and goals of the Sendai Framework for DRR 2015-2030 • Evaluate the four priorities for action	• Quiz 2

Module	Content	Learning Objectives	Activities
Module 3 Assessing City's Risk Management and Introduction to Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)	• 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient • Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities • Engagement and participation mechanisms through MCR2030 initiative • Accessing useful resources and tools from MCR2030 service providers and connecting with peer cities • Roles of MCR2030 Resilience Hubs	• Outline the 10-point checklist for making cities resilient • Describe the purpose of Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities • Identify entry point to engage multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholders in city's risk reduction and management • Describe the objective of MCR2030 • Understand how join MCR2030 as local governments and service providers	• Quiz 3

Module	Content	Learning Objectives	Activities
Module 4 Mainstreaming DRR into Sectoral Programmes for Socio-Economic Development (Part 1)	• Major environment issues in recovery • Key governance issues in recovery • Housing and site selection • Funding infrastructure construction	• Indicate the linkages between disaster reduction and sectoral programs for socio-economic development (Environment, Governance, Housing, and Infrastructure) • Analyse if the practices from the case studies are applicable to your context • Propose recovery initiatives having in mind the experiences and lessons mentioned throughout the module	• Quiz 4 (Part 1)

Module	Content	Learning Objectives	Activities
Module 5 Mainstreaming DRR into Sectoral Programmes for Socio-Economic Development (Part 2)	• Sources of Financing Post-Disaster • Livelihood assets • Cash and materials assistance • Impacts of Disasters on the Health Sector • Medicines and technology • Climate Change in Recovery • Key Components of Land Use Planning • 10 Steps in Land-use Planning Process	• Indicate the linkages between disaster reduction and sectoral programs for socio-economic development (Financing Disaster Risk Reduction, Livelihood, Health, Climate Change and Land Use Plans); • Analyse if the practices from the case studies are applicable to your context. • Propose recovery initiatives having in mind the experiences and lessons mentioned throughout the module	• Quiz 5 (Part 2)
Module	Content	Learning Objectives	Activities
Module 6 Developing, Implementing, Monitoring & Evaluating Local Disaster Risk Reduction Plans	• Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities • Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities • Key elements of developing a local disaster risk reduction strategy • The characteristics of a resilient city • Integrating 10 Essentials in Cities Planning Process • Monitoring vs. Evaluation	• Use the MCR2030 Tools: Quick Risk Estimation Tool. • Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities • Recognize the characteristics of a resilient city • Describe the purpose of the resilient city action plans • Explain in detail the phases of the action plans preparation process • Distinguish between monitoring and evaluation	• Quiz 6
Final Quiz			• Quiz 7

Course Design

The modules contain the following components:

> **Interactive Lessons:** It is the core mandatory learning component as they provide the integral content of the modules.

> **Evaluation quizzes:** For each module, a quiz composed of multiple-choice questions will assess your basic comprehension of the module.

> **Additional Material:** This includes all the modules available in printable format, as well as a glossary of terms and some complementary resources such as videos.

Learning Materials

Learning materials are the core learning components in the course. They guide you to achieve the course's learning objectives. Supporting materials are also available to assist your learning process.

Interactive lessons

They introduce you to the conceptual foundations of the different modules in an interactive manner. The lessons will help you to prepare and pass the quizzes at the end of the module as well as to complete the final assessment.

All lessons in the course are flash based. They introduce the contents and include interactive exercises that give you an opportunity to self-asses your knowledge. These exercises may be repeated freely. Results are not measured; they do not count towards the final grade.

> Each lesson may have an average between 40-50 slides, including the interactive exercises.

> You may interrupt a lesson at any point. The system keeps track of your position. Upon your return it automatically takes you to the point where you have previously stopped.

> A printable version of the lessons is also available.

Assessment Activities

The following activities will be graded and will account towards your final grade. More information can be found on the Assessment Guide.

Evaluation Quizzes

Seven mandatory quizzes, corresponding to each one of the modules of the course and including one end-of-course quiz, aim at evaluating your comprehension of the course content. Each quiz contains 10-12 questions that can be multiple choice, true or false, matching, etc.

You can attempt each evaluation quiz twice. You will be provided with further online explanations when the quiz opens.

Study Plan

Over the duration of the course (3 months duration), your workload is estimated to be about 3-4 hours per week.

The course has been designed in a way to give you flexibility to plan your learning progress. The lessons, activities, and additional resources of all modules can be accessed throughout the course. Thus, you will only need to complete all the required activities before the end of the course.

Grading Policy

> The seven quizzes altogether account for 100% of the final grade (14.29% each).

Successful completion of the course, entitling to a certificate of completion, requires participants to achieve a minimum total score of 70%. Participants who will complete all the mandatory activities with a total score below 70% (but above 50%) will receive a certificate of participation.

All marks will be shown in the grade book. The evaluation quizzes will be automatically graded.