URBAN RESILIENCE
A 4X4 ROAD MAP
FOR THE ASIA PACIFIC
“In the future, the relevance of Red Cross Red Crescent will be judged by our performance in the urban environment. Through the power of social media, judgement will be swift and unrelenting.”

“It is an irony that those living closest to services can be the most under-served.”

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FOREWORD

to be written by Xavier
THE STEPS TOWARD THIS 4X4 ROAD MAP


2012: EMI / IFRC Programmatic study on Urban issues in Asia-Pacific.


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2014: IFRC / PRC Urban Disaster Management Workshop

2014: IFRC Learning from the City - Kathmandu regional think tank

2015: International seminar on Urban DRR – Teheran

2016: UN Habitat III, Quito – New Urban Agenda


2018: IFRC APRO Urban Collaboration Platform Workshop – Nairobi

2018: AMCDRR RCRC voluntary commitments – includes urban resilience

Desktop scoping report. Survey. Think tank report. UR road map for Asia Pacific.
OVERVIEW

WHO IS THIS ROAD MAP FOR?
This road map is for all members of the movement and Red Cross Red Crescent partners who want to mobilise collective action to ensure Red Cross Red Crescent is ready and able to meet urban challenges both now and in the future in the Asia Pacific.

WHAT IS THE ROAD MAP FOR?
This road map outlines the things that Red Cross Red Crescent need to do to meet the needs of urban populations in the Asia Pacific, now and in the future. In this road map you will find 32 practical actions to ensure Red Cross Red Crescent is relevant and effective in serving vulnerable populations in urban environments within the Asia Pacific.

WHAT IS IN THIS ROAD MAP?
We have made this 4x4 road map easy to navigate and easy to remember. It is made up of 4 goals, 4 signposts of progress, and includes 4 ideas to change the game. From these come 32 actions to map the road towards urban resilience in the Asia Pacific.

HOW TO USE THIS ROAD MAP
Every National Society will have different urban landscapes, different demographics, different challenges, different capability and may be at different points along their urban resilience journey.

32 actions are presented in this road map. In order to localise these actions, it is recommended that National Societies choose and prioritise the actions that are most relevant to their local context.
IN BRIEF

THE PROBLEM
The world is changing rapidly. The majority of the world’s population is now urban. The risk scenarios are frightening, particularly as they are likely to affect the most vulnerable and marginalised groups of population, who inhabit the most densely populated areas where infrastructure and public and social services are inadequate or missing. The potential scale of urban loss is unlike any the humanitarian sector has faced. Responding to the increasingly complex needs of urban dwellers facing disaster or conflict is an extraordinary challenge.

THE SOLUTION
Meeting this challenge requires the Red Cross Red Crescent Movement to work with others to achieve greater collective impact, to base urban programmes on evidence, knowledge and science, to be ready, relevant and agile, and to have the right support structures and resources in place.

THE RESULT
The Red Cross Red Crescent Movement (RC/RC) have adapted, innovated, engaged and expanded their resilience, response and recovery interventions to meet the complex needs of urban contexts.
1. ‘Network of Networks’ – a group of Asia Pacific National Society, IFRC, ICRC, and reference centre representatives who themselves are highly networked in urban settings. When they are brought together, they create a ‘network of networks’ expanding the reach of RC/RC influence and connection across the Asia Pacific.

2. ‘Virtual Urban Hub’ – the role of the hub is to focus on connecting and keeping the conversation going in support of National Societies and their urban resilience work and the implementation of this road map.

3. ‘Localisation in Action’ resource pack - a pack that provides guidance to support National Societies in engaging and working with local authorities on urban issues.

4. ‘Upskill on the Go’ – an urban resilience podcast series. RC/RC people working in cities are time-poor and often have a long commute to work. Upskill on the Go is a set of ‘learning snacks’ that can be consumed on the go. The podcasts cover topics such as understanding the complexity of city systems, how to partner and build coalitions, urban advocacy, negotiation, and planning.
VISION

Red Cross Red Crescent are future-ready and confident in building urban resilience with others in the Asia Pacific.

4 GOALS

1. COLLECTIVE IMPACT
   - RC/RC have greater impact at a larger scale in urban contexts.

2. KNOWLEDGE
   - RC/RC urban resilience decisions are based on knowledge and science.

3. ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE
   - RC/RC is relevant, ready and agile to meet the urban challenges of today and tomorrow.

4. CONFIDENT & RESOURCED
   - RC/RC people are confident working in urban settings and attract resources for collective action on urban resilience.

The 4 GOALS we need to achieve to address the complex needs of urban populations.

4 SIGNPOSTS to signal progress towards the goals:

- ADVOCACY
  - RC/RC amplifies voices of vulnerable citizens and influences city planning, legislation and services.

- PROGRAMS
  - RC/RC programs are based on knowledge and science to be highly relevant and effective in urban contexts.

- FOUNDATION
  - RC/RC have a large urban volunteer base and are a partner of choice in urban coalitions.

- SUPPORT & COORDINATION
  - RC/RC has supports in place to assist Asia-Pacific National Societies in their urban resilience work.
Prioritised investment in:

**COALITION BUILDING**

1. Develop (or sign up to existing) city-wide coalitions for urban resilience.
2. Invest in non-traditional partnerships (technical agencies, private sector...)
3. Establish an Asia-Pacific cities ‘network of networks’ (each RC/RC representative is a key player in a city coalition).

**SHARED MEASUREMENT**

“I challenge Red Cross to support local government at the policy level. Giving good examples of urban resilience work is not enough. You need strong relationships to influence urban development at national and local levels to strengthen resilience.”

### ADVOCACY

5. Develop and disseminate 10 RC/RC advocacy messages for urban environments.
6. Use RC/RC’s convening power to bring stakeholders together to address urban issues and influence urban settings, (as part of coalitions or independently).
7. Support the development and implementation of laws that contribute to urban resilience.

### AUXILIARY ROLE

8. Attend local authority urban planning meetings to influence city processes and inform RC/RC urban programs.
10. Develop guidance notes to support National Societies to engage with local authorities on urban issues.
## 2. KNOWLEDGE

Urban resilience decisions are based on evidence, knowledge and science

Prioritised investment in:

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<th>CONFIDENCE &amp; CAPABILITY</th>
<th>SCIENCE</th>
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<td>11 Recruit a small number of staff, interns and volunteers with a background in urban planning and the built environment to assist and inform advocacy and programming.</td>
<td>13 Invest in (or partner with organisations who have invested in) technology, science and systems for urban resilience, response and recovery.</td>
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<td>12 Strengthen skills and knowledge to meet the needs of people affected by urban conflict.</td>
<td>14 Utilise science as the basis for urban programs, for example forecast-based financing.</td>
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LEARNING

15 Develop an ‘Upskill on the Go’ podcast series on understanding the complexity of city systems, how to partner and build coalitions, urban advocacy, negotiation, and planning.

16 Invest in a longitudinal study of previous urban resilience pilots.

MAKE DATA & KNOWLEDGE ACCESSIBLE

17 Work with others on multi-hazard risk assessments and make the results accessible.

18 Work with others to transform scientific knowledge into simple planning and risk communication for at-risk communities.

“We need to ‘embrace the necessity’ of the urban challenge and push consistently at the edges of our comfort zone.”

Key Urban Resilience Initiatives Timeline


2013: IFRC / GDPC Building Urban Resilience workshop – Bangkok.

2014: IFRC / PRC Urban Disaster Management Workshop

2014: IFRC Learning from the City – Kathmandu regional think tank

2015: International seminar on Urban DRR – Teheran

2016: UN Habitat III, Quito – New Urban Agenda


2018: AMCDRR RCRC voluntary commitments – includes urban resilience

2018: IFRC Urban Collaboration Platform Workshop – Nairobi

2018: IFRC Urban Resilience Think Tank – Manila
3. ORGANISATIONAL RESILIENCE

RC/RC is relevant, ready and agile to meet the urban challenges of today and tomorrow

Prioritised investment in:

### ADAPTATION

19 Adapt RC/RC tools, approaches and training to urban settings.

20 Each National Society considers the effectiveness of their operating model to serve their urban populations.

### LONG-TERM PLANNING

21 Make risk-informed decisions and investments.

22 Each National Society’s urban resilience approach is defined within its strategy and based upon their context, operating model and capability.

23 Monitor trends (such as migration, climate change and conflict) and update operational plans to reflect these trends.
“We need to shift from reactive to proactive. We need a strategy like a forecast - we need to look ahead not just wake-up and find its raining.”

CAPACITY

24 Increase the diversity of urban volunteers to reflect the populations being served.

25 Increase the number of volunteers to support strong RC/RC operations in urban areas.

DO WHAT WE TELL OTHERS TO DO

26 Undertake a resilience stocktake of RC/RC buildings in urban hazard zones to understand risk exposure.

27 Ensure that RC/RC buildings meet building codes and are a safe place in cities for staff and volunteers to continue serving urban populations after disaster.
4. CONFIDENT & RESOURCED

RC/RC people are confident working in urban settings and attract resources for collective action on urban resilience.

A virtual urban hub will serve as a regional hive of activity to support the implementation of the road map with the following functions:

**CURATE**

28 Curate information (including reporting) for dissemination, making it accessible using storytelling and illustration.

**CONNECT**

29 Connect National Societies to funders and partners with the common goal of building urban resilience in the Asia Pacific.

30 Strengthen connections between existing mechanisms (within RC/RC, as well as external to the movement).
“Walk the talk with our partners and take a long-term view. Build on what exists.”

CIRCULATE

31 Promote and share RC/RC urban resilience work with partners and at regional conferences and global platforms.

KEEP THE CONVERSATION GOING

32 Organise input for regional meetings and urban resilience fora as required.
THE URBAN RESILIENCE 4X4 ROAD MAP AT A GLANCE

1. Advocacy
   - RC/RC have greater impact at a larger scale in urban contexts.

2. Knowledge
   - RC/RC urban resilience decisions are based on knowledge and science.

3. Organisational Resilience
   - RC/RC is relevant, ready and agile to meet the urban challenges of today and tomorrow.

4. Confident and Resourced
   - RC/RC people are confident working in urban settings and attract resources for collective action on urban resilience.

4 goals
4 signposts
4 ideas to change the game
32 actions to map the road