



# Key messages

from **Partners for Resilience**

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Urban farming in Jakarta: PfR Indonesia's Marunda Urban Resilience in Action (MURIA) project is led by local partner Karina KWI Yogyakarta, supported by Cordaid. It centres on urban farms that deploy rainwater harvesting and risk maps against plant pests and coastal flooding. Vegetables produced on MURIA farms have increased the range of fresh foods in the community, improved people's health, and provided sustainable livelihoods. (Photo: PfR Indonesia)

## The urban context

By 2030, without significant investment in resilience, disasters may cost cities worldwide more than US\$ 300 billion each year, up from around US\$ 250 billion today, and climate change may push nearly 80 million more citydwellers into poverty. This is according to a new report by the World Bank and the Global Facility for Disaster Reduction and Recovery.

Disasters wipe out development gains and are being exacerbated by climate change, population growth, unplanned urbanization, degradation of ecosystems, and uncontrolled economic development. Poor and marginalized people, especially

women and children, are often badly affected, with disasters trapping them in a vicious circle of poverty and vulnerability.

*Building and strengthening resilience in urban areas plays a significant role in minimizing risks. Strong, well-organized communities can manage the risks they face, reduce the impact of disasters, and sustain development.*

With evolving risks further exacerbated by climate change, we need multidisciplinary and innovative approaches to ensure that communities and governments are able to anticipate, adapt and respond, and create transformational

change on the way. This is what we do in Partners for Resilience.

## Who are we?

PfR is an alliance of the Netherlands Red Cross, Cordaid, CARE Netherlands, the Red Cross Red Crescent Climate Centre, and Wetlands International and more than 50 local partners worldwide. It brings together organizations from the humanitarian, development and environmental fields to strengthen community resilience through disaster risk reduction. In targeted dialogues with stakeholders, PfR seeks to improve policy, practice and investment in Ethiopia, Guatemala, Haiti, Kenya, Mali, the Philippines, India, Indonesia, South Sudan and Uganda.



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In Jakarta's Marunda district, PfR engages with local people on risk reduction measures

A child in Catmon Barangay, Manila, an area where PfR works with communities and local government on risk reduction and livelihoods →



## What are we advocating?

PfR calls for the following goals to be central to the dialogue in Kuala Lumpur at the 9th session of the World Urban Forum (WUF9) and in the implementation of the New Urban Agenda:

*People and communities facing disasters are central partners in urban planning and design.* Inclusive planning and design are necessary to reduce disaster risks and create safe and inclusive cities where all residents have access to basic public services. Particular attention should be paid to ensuring the inclusion of people living in informal settlements, migrants, refugees and displaced people, and other vulnerable groups.

*An integrated risk management approach like PfR's ensures communities are empowered to take decisions or lead in decision-making.* By integrating climate change adaptation and ecosystem management and restoration with disaster risk reduction, we are able to build community resilience in urban areas. Core principles include working on different timescales, recognition of the importance of landscapes and ecosystems, institutional resilience, integrating disciplines, promoting community self-management, livelihoods, learning and partnerships.

*Responsible investments in urban areas are promoted.* With economic development comes a need to minimize the associated social and environmental risk. PfR is working with governments, the private sector

and communities for responsible investment with an emphasis on engaging communities.

*Local financing for local action.* While the SDGs, the Paris Agreement, the New Urban Agenda and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction are all global agreements, their success will depend on local actors leading local action. Financing for local governments and non-state actors needs to be scaled up for the ambitious post-2015 development agenda to be realized, while an enabling environment and policy landscape ensure it reaches local actors promptly.

*Partnerships are crucial to building resilience and sustaining urban development.* Coalitions of community members, local government, academia, civil society and the private sector are necessary for practical action in building safe and inclusive cities.

*Ecosystems are key to sustainable urban design and risk reduction.* They help city managers regulate water supply, mitigate storm surges in coastal cities, and reduce the impacts of floods and heatwaves. Ecosystems provide safe public spaces, and more financing would also aid their role as a natural route to climate adaptation and community resilience.

*The New Urban Agenda resonates with resilience ambitions and commitments in all post-2015 agreements on international policy.* We need to focus on the implementation of the agreements and the important role that local governments and non-party stakeholders play, including communities.

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