

Sustainable relief in post-crisis situations; transforming disasters into opportunities for sustainable development in human settlements
 Dialogue on Urban Disasters and Reconstruction

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Abstract

“Post-conflict, natural and human caused disasters assessment and reconstruction” is one of two special themes included in the provisional agenda for the twentieth session of the United Nations Human Settlements Programme (UN-HABITAT) Governing Council. The second session of the World Urban Forum provides an opportunity to bring together an array of experts and representatives to weigh and discuss pertinent issues relating to current disaster management practices in the global context, including, in particular, issues related to sustainable interventions during crises. This document introduces an overview of the methodologies and principles of UN-HABITAT’s involvement in supporting human settlements in crisis. During the urban disasters dialogue, UN-HABITAT partners will critically review and debate the elements introduced with the aim of preparing an advisory note portraying the joint vision of both UN-HABITAT and its partners on guiding principles for sustainable relief in human settlements. The completed advisory note will form the foundation of a report to the Executive Director that will be transmitted to the twentieth session of the UN-HABITAT Governing Council in mid-2005.

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Discussion points

- Permanent links between emergency relief and the transitional phase of development must be established
- Broad-based and long-term reconstruction and shelter strategies should be developed at the earliest stages
- Land and property rights of affected populations must be protected and longer-term solutions for land and property dispute resolution must be developed
- Sustainable relief must be based on participatory planning and inclusive decision-making models, ensuring the involvement of all actors, including women in particular, in all planning and implementation activities
- The capacities of local governments to operate as active partners in the process must be developed

Related networking events

- Building Disaster Resilient Cities
- City Diplomacy for Peacebuilding
- Civil or Civic Defense
- Making Urban Safety Sustainable
- Rebuilding Iraq
- Urban Space and Security Policies