Checklist

For the Identification, Formulation, Implementation and Evaluation of Risk Reduction Projects in Urban Areas





International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

What do you have in your hands?

This document is a collection of the ideas, efforts and experiences of people from different organisations - from Mexico to Colombia - that have invested time and resources to build guidelines to address risk in urban areas.

This document can be applied to urban zones, peri-urban zones, neighbourhoods, settlements, cities, metropolises and megacities. You are able to choose the study's territorial unit, contextualising the analysis with each of these environment's particularities.

It is also important to mention that it does not mater in which stage of a project you are: Whether you are in the idea, execution or closing stage, this document will provide you with practical, useful and valid considerations to check where you are, how you are doing and what your next steps should be.

What can it be used for and what can it not be used for?

While this list is not exhaustive, as well as being subject to modification, it was created to provide essential considerations on the implementation of disaster risk reduction projects in urban settings.

During a project's distinct phases, the references being taken into consideration should be reviewed so that they are properly integrated into your analysis and/or operation. Project execution is improved by integrating as many key elements as possible, without passing over relevant institutions, people, processes, leaders, organisations, objections or attention.

Do not expect this document to provide you with tools to perform an interview or diagnosis, nor with a study format or a list of materials to equip a population. You probably already have enough on these topics, though this document does suggest whom you should interview, what process you should estimate and with which methodology you could attain it.

How is it structured?

It is separated in five large sections and each one of these sections corresponds to a phase that you will undergo while executing a project.

Strategic	Diagnosis and	Execution	Evaluation and	Exit Strategy or
Analysis	Formulation		Learning	Sustainability



In turn, these sections are broken into three units of reference, which guide your analysis during each of the aforementioned sections and provide you with a list of parts that facilitate the document's application.



Now we go by part and get into the subject matter...

I. Strategic Analysis:

The strategic analysis is useful for defining the territorial unit where you can work, as well as for suggesting what to consider in order to understand and to learn from that area's social dynamics and legalities.

Four Activities are proposed to gather information on the potential unit of interest:

- Define the type and characteristics.
- Analyse the economic and cultural situation.
- Study the legal aspects and political dimension.
- Analyse the (potential) area to intervene.

You will find Aspects for Verification, for each of these four activities, which list the guidelines to consider in order to integrate all relevant elements of analysis. Also, they are accompanied by a proposed Methodology for the survey.

II. Diagnosis and Formulation

Once you have chosen the area of analysis, are familiar with it, understand it and have learned from its dynamics, you are ready to prepare the project proposal.



This section provides eight activities: To help you

- Analyse the determining factors for intervention.
- Establish the project's relevance.
- Revise some complementary elements for the formulation of the proposal.
- Elements for first approach to the area.
- Definition of the territorial sectors: neighbourhood, district, etc.
- Establishment of partnerships and coordination.
- Preparation of project document.

Furthermore, the Aspects for Verification are prepared for these eight activities so that you can check them while the activity develops, following its respective methodological approach.

III. Execution

For the implementation, the document will allow you to continue with your work, slightly expanding your "field of vision" for an execution with some additional elements and methodology, which make allow you to be more effective in the urban environment while carrying out your operation.

For this case, this section provides you with three specific activities for execution:

- Information, Education, Communication and Visibility Processes.
- Tracking and monitoring the implementation.
- Safety and security for the personnel working on the project.

IV. Evaluation and Learning

As part of accountability, which is part of the whole process, this section suggests documenting what you did, how you did it and with whom, as well as with whom you will share the valuable lessons learned that you undoubtedly obtained.



This section invites you to verify various aspects of four specific activities:

- Internal evaluation of the process and execution.
- External evaluation.
- Systematisation of lessons learned and best practices.
- Disclosure and socialisation of the processes performed and products obtained

V. Exit Strategy or Sustainability

Like all processes, the question of "What happens next?" is a proposal that involves planners, executors, authorities, beneficiaries, parts and counterparts. This section suggests that you reflect on what you are doing, what you have done and what you could consider with the process' key players.

More specifically, it provides you with an activity, which its respective aspects for verification, to address the issue of sustainability and an exit strategy before the end of the intervention. Also, it mentions some proven methodologies in different contexts.

Monitoring of actions in the field during execution.

With this, we invite you to look at the checklist for identification, formulation, execution and evaluation of risk reduction projects in urban environments.



CHECKLIST FOR THE IDENTIFICATION, DESIGN, IMPLEMENTATION AND EVALUATION OF RISK REDUCTION PROJECT IN URBAN AREAS

(does not include analysis for post-disaster interventions)

EVALUATION AND DESIGN		
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
Define typology and the characteristics of the potential target city	 Population size: Small city (2,500 - 25,000), Intermediate (25,000 - 100,000), Large (100,000 - 800,000), Metropolis (> 800,000), Megacity (> 5,000,000) Importance: Capital, industrial, tourist, colonial, commercial, port city. Location: Coastal/port, cross-border, riverside, island, intra-mountainous, valley, highlands, watershed or micro watersheds, areas neighbouring the capital city, periphery of a metropolis, micro regions. Density: Population concentration and dispersion Urban-urban and urban-rural dynamics: Dormitory cities, settlement cities, food provision, local migrations, touristic areas, commerce, production systems, legal status of the property, land tenure. 	Check national census, population and economic reports, Human Development Report at national and local levels, urban poverty maps. Review historical background, as well as geographic, hydrological, hydraulic and seismic assessments.
Analyze the socio- economic situation and culture of the area	Local social dynamics: Degree of organisation, beliefs and customs, literacy level, social cohesion, formal and non-formal leadership, population origin, local languages, informal settlements (squatters), relevant dates (such as religious festivities, year-end), migratory variations and violence.	Document review, interviews with institutions, elderly inhabitants, universities.



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Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
Study and assess the judicial framework and political dimension in the territory of interest	 Existence of territorial zoning plans in place and enforced, construction codes, commonwealth territories, and discussion groups or metropolitan work. Development plans with comprehensive management approac to risk reduction Municipal ordinances in place and/ or enforced, environmental policies, legislation established for emergencies and disasters Land tenure, legality, informal settlements, squatters 	Education, Property; Chambers of Commerce and Industry.
Analysis of the potential territory for intervention	 Project scope: Entire city, neighbourhoods experiencing the same threat, multi-threat neighbourhoods, poorest neighbourhoods/zones, outskirts of the city, slums, organizational capacity member capacity. Community focus: Population density, magnitude of threat, response capability, history of disasters, population's interest in subject matter, dynamics with neighbourhood authorities, security and insecurity levels, most vulnerable groups. 	Visits to the area with enough time.



EVALUATION AND DESIGN		
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
Analysis of determining factors for the intervention	 Violence and Crime: Potential access to target areas, presence of gangs, retail drug trafficking, extortion, rights of way or rent, alcoholism, prostitution, dynamics between neighbourhood leaders/organisations and criminal persons/groups, presence of law enforcement, most dangerous hours, gang-related marks/graffiti/logos, group conflicts, geographic area of violence and crime. Groups respected by gangs (churches, community leader, family ties or friendship), the project can potentially generate conflicts with their activities. Territory risk level: Municipality's interest in participating, nonmanageable risks, likelihood of alternative risks, i.e. sewage collapse, large ditches, sinking, landslides, etc., condition of access road and evacuation routes. 	 Review of documentation, national security reports, crime/ red zones Risk assessments by national institution in charge, interview with municipal mayor and neighbourhood leaders, historical/journalistic reports Involve the community in the assessment Plan designed by the authorities to deal with violence and crime Value the local perception about citizen insecurity Get to know the regular security measures adopted by people in the neighbourhood Get to know the regular security measures adopted by fire-fighters, Red Cross, etc Interviews with neighbourhood inhabitants and key stakeholders
Analysis of project relevance by the implementing institution/ organisation	Previous experiences: Previous projects in the area, counterparts or potential partners in the area. Administrative issues: Terms of reference, strategic documents of the organisation, institutional limitations, presence of network/branches/ delegations in areas neighbouring the potential area of intervention.	Revision of internal and external bibliographic material Context analysis SWOT Interviews with other organisations Vulnerability and Capacity Assessment (VCA)



Activity	Activity Elements to verify	
Analysis of determining factors for the intervention	 SWOT: Weaknesses and strengths of the institution in the target area, such as its volunteer network and volunteer recruitment and retention policy. Project responds to strategies that are in the interest of authorities. 	
Analysis of complementary factors for the development of the intervention	 Local formal and non-formal organisations: Political leaders, neighbourhood committees, municipal coordinators, community leaders; existence of community organisations, religious groups. Governance levels: Community participation in decision-making, social inclusion. Urban communities: Social dynamics and cohesion, intra-and intercommunity social relations, external social groups (clubs, sports, work, religious, children and adolescents, etc.) Local livelihoods: Neighbourhood micro-economies (stores, tortilla shops, produce stores, markets, family remittances, labour force that commutes to other areas during the day, informal sector providing services, public employees, operators, rents, transportation services, access (to livelihood). Basic services: Urgent needs for drinking water and running water, drainage, electricity (non-negotiable priorities over other projects), health, education, public lighting. 	Census and databases, preliminary contacts, direct interviews Preliminary diagnostic, general baseline, reports from other development projects Interviews with officials from municipal works division Investigation of documents in property records and other institutions dealing with land issues Bilateral interviews with the elderly and those who have lived for the longest periods of time in the neighbourhood Visit neighbouring libraries Civil protection system archive



EVALUATION AND DESIGN			
Activity		Elements to verify	Methodologies
		Land tenure: Squatting, usufruct, owners with titles, formal rights, availability of land in the neighbourhood.	
		Cross-cutting components: Status and statistics of especially vulnerable groups.	
		Educational characteristics: Literacy level in the area, access to different academic levels.	
		Key elements upon response: Supportive families, availability of grocery stores and small markets, neighbourhood labour in neighbourhoods, supplies, materials for response.	
		Other projects that are planned or underway: Value other interventions that may be complementary or competitive, for the time of the beneficiaries: Construction projects, lighting, food security, paving stones, sewer system, etc.	
		Security plan/policy: Appropriateness of police presence during the intervention or at specific moments, support from community leaders during the intervention.	
Preliminary identification of area for intervention (first approach)		General collection of information: Census and demographic characterisation, socio-economic profile, identification of priority communities (services, health, education, citizen security, risk reduction).	Information is collected and preliminary analysis is made with community leaders, participating NGOs, local government and other key stakeholders.
		Context analysis: Local, political, social, economic, cultural, religious, organisational and educational dynamics.	Baseline, problem and objective tree, participatory methodologies.



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EVALUATION AND DESIGN		
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
	 Risk characterization: Identification of local and regional threats and vulnerabilities, community risks, access routes, perception of risk, local capacities. Preliminary identification of beneficiaries: Groups, institutions, communities, municipalities, etc. Cross-cutting components: Gender, climate change, food security and safe access; violence prevention, sexual diversity. 	Community assemblies, work meetings with authorities and institutions, analysis focus groups Secondary sources: National statistic institutes, government ministries/departments, infrastructure.
Selection of area or territorial sectors for intervention (neighbourhoods, settlements, districts)	 Homologous units: Territorial sectors (neighbourhoods) with similar manageable risks, social and organisational similarities, and political and social jurisdiction acknowledged by the community and authorities. Social fabric: Stakeholder mapping: Youth groups, men, women, promoters of health, religious groups, local youth gangs, specific groups (sexual diversity, disabled, retirees, vulnerable groups, employees of specific sectors), presence of government institutions or NGOs, charity institutions, etc. Risk units: Landfills that go beyond neighbourhood borders or territorial areas, elongated ravines, hidden and illegal garbage dumps, micro watershed, landslide areas with direct impact, rivers or ravines, and quineles, drains, irrigation 	Detailed assessments and community studies. Complete VCA. KAP (Knowledge, Attitude and Practices) Studies. Participatory methodologies. Consultancies and local technical risk studies. Socio- demographic diagnosis performed by others. Inventory of institutional presence and work topics



	EVALUATION AND DESIGN	
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
Creation of partnerships and coordination	 Agreements, protocols and conventions, roles and responsibilities of different stakeholders and project partners. Letters of understanding and agreements on the implementation framework with institutional stakeholders and local governments (ministries, municipalities, etc.) 	Bilateral and multilateral negotiations. Legal documents. Legal and technical advice. Foster interagency partnerships.
Prepare and design project documents	 Components and results: Defined according to the results of the participatory VCA assessments, assessments of risk, KAP studies, interviews and community assemblies. Beneficiary Groups: Organised youth, women and promoters of health, school- aged children, and other groups: sexual diversity, vulnerable groups, religious groups, etc., institutions present in the area, health clinics, and community leaders. Key elements for emergency response: General capabilities, i.e. local organisation status, potential shelters, infrastructure of water and sanitation, health in emergencies, infrastructure, local equipment for response institutions, i.e. fire fighters, Red Cross, civil defence. Security plan: Protection of project equipment and assets (technicians, promoters, vehicles, etc.), work hours, exit hours from neighbourhoods, work in pairs, organisation IDs (for example, Red Cross), personal security gear, previous coordination with neighbourhood leaders and local authorities. Visibility plan: Select beneficiary areas and sectors, uniforms and name tags for project personnel (vest, cap, logos) Cross-cutting topics: Gender, sexual diversity, vulnerable groups, climate change, food security and livelihoods. Project documents and sections: Logical framework, budgets, indicators, monitoring mechanisms, etc. 	Legal framework for disaster risk reduction (national and municipal). Internal Red Cross formats and guidelines. Diverse reference methodologies to implement project activities: Educational series "It's better to prevent," guide to prepare response plans, simulations and drills, etc. Security standards and policies of the organisation to be applied for the safety of personnel, assets, and equipment. Permanent coordination with neighbourhood leaders.



Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
Project presentation	 Implementing organisation and its partners, national governing institutions, counterparts and institutional partners know the project and have participated in the diagnostic. Population has access to project information. Key stakeholders, community, religious leaders and local beneficiaries participate in general presentation. 	Bilateral meetings, formal events, community meetings, pamphlets, flyers, brochures, posters and visibility materials Distribution of awareness materials to begin process from this point.
Coordination with stakeholders, institutions and partners	 Coordination with recognized institutions to visit the intervention areas (relief agencies, churches, teachers, artist groups) Materials and input: The project team identifies and compiles resources, materials, input and information that it will need for project planning and activities (methodologies, formats, publications, previous reports, educational reference documents, visibility materials, etc.) Meetings and coordination: Establish alliances with complementary associations complementary for the project with local stakeholders and partners, review roles and responsibilities, budgets, agreements for weekly or monthly follow-up meetings and activity planning. Planning with beneficiaries and other stakeholders: Schedule visit times and dates for project activities. 	Monthly activity planning. Work meetings. Review security plans from other organisations that are present in potential target area. Draft common commitments between partners. Assess the initial inclusion of neighbourhood leaders in all project phases. Baselines must include neighbourhood leaders. Baselines must be prepared by a multidisciplinary team knowledgeable of the topic. Meetings with neighbourhood leaders.



	Checklist for the identification and implementation of risk	reduction projects in urban areas	
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IMPLEMENTATION		
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies
		Include exchange of experiences in schedule. Work with focus groups to define and prepare activities. Training and awareness activities for the media.
Information, education and communication of project actions and visibility	 Awareness campaigns; local, institutional, municipal and political education and information. Publish testimony from beneficiaries. Visual awareness using urban public transportation or billboards. Auditory awareness using speakers. Urban mobile movies. Constant activities to make the project visible. News reports and publications in local and national massive media. Impact on local and government authorities, municipal authorities and institutional officials to change attitudes and practices on risk reduction. Massive activities: Maximise large gatherings, such as camps, mobile movies, knowledge league, as massive methods of information and communication. 	 Traditional communication networks: TV, press, radio and informational material, brochures and flyers. Virtual platforms: DesAprender, CRID, institutional web pages. Social networks: Facebook and Twitter and internet publications. Forum with key stakeholders, fairs, walks, and recreational and sports activities. Information stands, banners. Knowledge fairs, knowledge league, puppets, storytellers. Agreements with public transportation companies, visual and auditory awareness.



IMPLEMENTATION			
Activity		Elements to verify	Methodologies
Follow-up and monitoring		Review and follow -up on project indicators, objectives and activities (despite the constantly changing	Field assessments.
		conditions, these can be modified).	Review of the logical framework, indicators and timelines, including
		Constant assessment of lessons learned and best practices (as well as not-so-best practices).	financial implementation.
		Experience sharing between areas	Project team meetings.
		and sectors of work, or with other projects in areas similar to the Red Cross or other organisations.	Participation of authorities, partners and other local counterparts.
		Weekly meetings with project team and monthly meetings with key stakeholders and partners to assess	Case studies.
		results and plan activities.	Constant monitoring of overall
		Analysis of contingencies that may arise during the development of the project.	project status, particularly, security.
		Leaders and social promoters take part in project activities.	
Staff safety and protection		Security regulations: Review and permanent adoption of security measures for personnel and project	Project safety regulation (formal document that is binding).
		assets, evacuation route mapping.	Periodic meetings with national police or civil intelligence.
		Provide the greatest level of security to the staff, assets and buildings of the implementing organisation and its counterparts.	Include a security officer as part of project staff.
		Community work strategies: Group work or work in pairs, safe work hours for field activities, security during night meetings. Leaders accompany technicians, permanent coordination with leaders.	Personnel, supplies and vehicles properly identified.
		Institutional coordination: During massive activities, such as fairs, camps and walks, and during night activities, such as theatre, urban mobile movies, board meetings and drills.	



ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING			
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies	
Internal assessment	Implementation structure: Technical operational staff, administrative, financial, logistics team, ways of working, organisational schemes, alliances and partnerships, work and results with counterparts and local partners, applied methodologies, etc	Institution's assessment tools. Facilitation and evaluation by assessment officials of the Red Cross. Review logical framework and budgets.	
	Institutional leadership: Role of the organisation in project implementatio use of resources, organisation's work methods, relationship with other organisations, partners and counterparts, links with key stakeholders, local and municipal governments and with governing institutions.	n,	
Internal assessment	 Results, efficiency, effectiveness and cost/benefit of the intervention. Review activity outcomes and results impact and process indicators, tangible and intangible results, added values, complementary results, budg implementation. Review results with other projects: What have they obtained and under 	y organisations. Systematisation of experiences, individual and group assessments.	
External assessment (consultants or assessment directors from the regional office)	 what conditions are the achievements tools from other donors. Evaluation of the same aspects but from an external perspective, be it from consultants or through the office of organization assessment. 	External consultancy. s Red Cross assessment procedures and guidelines.	
		Donor reports.	



ASSESSMENT AND LEARNING				
Activity	Elements to verify	Methodologies		
Project systematisation, lessons learned and best practices (and not-so-best practices)	 Project: Schedule and systematise activities and outcomes from different project components, review and socialize tangible products (documents, guides, educational and informational materials, etc.). Processes: Constant recording and systematisation (ideally, throughout the project and not during closing stage) of processes, obstacles, challenges, difficult situations, stakeholders, relations with beneficiaries and other aspects affecting project outcomes; persons responsible for assets and team, user guide design, asset and team management and safekeeping. Lessons learned and best practices: Those that have significantly impacted the project, errors and successes, implementation and process best practices, detailed systematisation of tools developed. Needs and new challenges: Identify new priorities for future projects, relevant stakeholders and new areas for intervention. 	Review activity logs, monthly reports from technicians and developers, coordinating team quarterly reports. Interviews and work groups with beneficiaries at community, institutional and all levels. Interview with tangible and tool product users. Analyse results on tool implementation, lessons learned and best practices.		
Disclosure and socialization	 Results, materials, tools and systematisation documents. The organisation or the project team has a social communicator to assess disclosure and socialization processes. 	 Publications, digital files, web pages, CDs. Encourage media coverage of project activities. Communicator, part of project staff, has all internal and external reference documents for disclosure, communication and visibility purposes. 		



EXIT OR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY				
Activity		Elements to verify	Methodologies	
Follow-up actions in the field during implementation		Organisational structures: Women's groups, emergency committees, health volunteers, etc.	"Pair" methodology. Utilise more creativity and	
		Promotion of volunteering: Establish mechanisms for the recruitment and retention of volunteers, which could continue even after the project is completed.	popular wisdom. Build from what the people know, are used to and practice. Lectures and training sessions.	
		Strengthening the existing volunteer frameworks.	Workshops on outreach, communication and personal	
		Empowered and trained committees, community structures that are being updated.	development. Experience exchange between local authorities and the	
		Annual planning: Strengthen the communication and link between neighbourhoods and local authorities	community, as well as with other projects.	
		(municipality, national response systems).	Put on forums, fairs, promote more outreach	
		Motivation: Establish mechanisms to encourage community volunteerism, associated with more permanent	Schedule of periodic activities, created with beneficiaries.	
		development processes. Events: Facilitate fundraising activities, to stimulate future processes in the	Definition of the budgets of the authorities.	
		Preparation and training: Trained	Train instructors/facilitators in the neighbourhoods.	
		community personnel, working under the "peer" methodology, strengthening technical skills related to permanent	Create a library/point of access to reference materials in the neighbourhoods.	
		relief agencies (fire fighters, Red Cross), directed towards local volunteer groups.	Develop agreements with relief agencies to train volunteers in the neighbourhoods,	
		Local creativity: Promote actions and activities that arise from the community itself, work tools/ strategies, share them and improve	and perhaps to make them volunteers of that organisation.	
		Promote activities with the most	Assemblies, councils with the people and authorities.	
		stable structures: Faculty, students, health volunteers, etc., enrich or update the information: Studies, plans, methodologies, etc.		



EXIT OR SUSTAINABILITY STRATEGY				
Actividad	Elements to verify	Methodologies		
Other sources for resources, partnerships and commitments from key representatives: National emergency, private companies, universities, other organisations, local authorities.	 Private companies: Relationships with other possible sources of resources, through company responsibility. Partnerships with universities: Some professional disciplines can be a strategic part of these processes. Partnerships with relief agencies: Some specialised organisations can participate in education and training processes: Fire fighters, Red Cross, civil defence, which strengthens the neighbourhood's first response committees. 	Create work strategies with the population. Incorporate best practices established in other processes, to achieve sustainability. Internal coordination with leaders. Develop agreements and periodically document support and work.		
Gradual exit	 Establish a schedule for work sessions, to address the process' sustainability. (3-4 sessions per year), with the participation of authorities and organisations that possess the most permanent processes. Mapping key stakeholders that can implement continuity activities. Networks: Creation of community networks, to straighten the ties between the neighbourhoods and to encourage cooperation and solidarity in neutral areas. Socialisation of results achieved during the intervention, to show the population's distinct contribution. Transfer of copies of: Final project report, final evaluation, lessons learned, certificate of delivery, certificate of incorporation, project release documents, etc. to the authorities, relief agencies, population, media, involved stakeholders. 	Monthly, bimonthly and weekly schedules, with detailed and specific support activities to build sustainability. Sending remission notes. Ensure that authorities from the national system of civil protection and involved relief organisations remain in contact. Once the link is strengthened with private companies, it is possible to continue to seek financial support.		



Cruz Roja Finlandesa

Norwegian Red Cross



International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

The International Federation of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies (IFRC) promotes the humanitarian activities of the National Societies in the favor of vulnerable persons.

By coordinating international disaster relief and promoting development assistance, it seeks to prevent and alleviate human suffering.

The IFRC, National Societies and the International Committe of the Red Cross together constitute the International Red cross and Red Crescent Movement.





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