Unitar Online Catalogue

Developing Local Disaster Risk Reduction Strategies Through the Tools of Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030)

People

Deadline: 31 Dec 2026

Type:	Course
Location:	Web-based
Date:	10 Nov 2026 to 31 Dec 2026
Duration:	5 Hours
Thematic Area:	Local Governance and Decentralisation, , Disaster Risk Reduction
Website:	https://unitar.org/sustainable-development-goals/people/our-portfolio/disaster-...
Price:	$0.00
Event Focal Point Email:	disaster@unitar.org
Partnership:	UNDRR ONEA GETI, , United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction Regional Office for the Americas and the Caribbean, , United Nations Office for Disaster Risk Reduction (UNDRR) (1347)

BACKGROUND

This self-paced online course prepares professionals with a Training-of-Trainers methodology to implement local disaster risk reduction strategies, disaster resilience assessments and local action planning through the use of MCR2030 Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and its addendums, complemented with use cases. The course prepares local government officials and professionals with assessment tools developed by MCR2030 and foundational knowledge to implement local disaster resilience planning and action plans. Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030) is a multi-stakeholder initiative aiming to improve local disaster resilience in cities by guiding local government officials through a three-stage resilience roadmap to enhance capacities for strategic planning and awareness-raising techniques to implement local disaster risk reduction strategies.

The course combines conceptual disaster risk reduction foundations and self-assessment tools created by MCR2030 to identify disaster risks in urban contexts and examples of effective actions to implement disaster risk reduction plans. Overviews of MCR2030 assessment tools are complemented with step-by-step guidance on facilitation techniques to conduct multi-stakeholder assessment workshops.

Designed for local government officials, national government agencies, academia and training institutions, the course aims to develop the skills and knowledge needed to lead disaster resilience assessments, strengthen multi-stakeholder engagement and facilitate implementation of local action plans to build disaster resilience at the local level.

EVENT OBJECTIVES

The e-learning course aims to strengthen individual and institutional capacity to design, plan and implement local disaster risk reduction strategies, disaster resilience assessments and local action plans.

The course aims to achieve the following outcomes:

1. Enhance capacity to conduct training on local resilience planning using MCR2030 resilience assessment tools

2. Inform local resilience actions with the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities

3. Expand engagement of municipalities and national governments in the MCR2030 initiative

4. Contribute to increasing the number of countries with local disaster risk reduction strategies and action plans for cities and other localities

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

After completing the course, participants will be able to:

- Provide approaches and tools to support resilience building and multi-stakeholder engagement at the local level
- Use the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and its Addendums to inform local resilience strategies underpinned by the human security approach
- Develop a network of trained local resilience experts for peer-to-peer learning and support across cities and countries

CONTENT AND STRUCTURE

The course is organized in 11 lessons integrating specialized thematic addenda tailored to disaster risk reduction concepts and strategies in urban contexts. The objective of the modular structure is to provide a flexible learning path to develop foundational knowledge on disaster resilience building in local contexts and options and apply local disaster risk reduction strategies to disaster risks impacting urban and rural contexts. 6 out of the 11 lessons are mandatory to receive a Certificate of Completion and 5 out of the 11 lessons are optional.

Supplementary resources including publications and excel tools allowing participants to access additional materials and information as needed.

Lessons covered in this course include:

1.Lesson 1: Disaster Risk Reduction: Key Concepts, Global Agendas and Emerging Trends

This lesson introduces the core concepts, principles, and drivers of Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR), including global frameworks, emerging trends, and the interconnections between DRR, climate resilience, sustainable development, human security, disaster displacement, and human mobility. It provides learners with a foundation for understanding the role of DRR in building safer and more resilient communities.

2. Lesson 2: Making Cities Resilient 2030 (MCR2030): The Ten Essentials, Key Tools and Risk Data Management

This lesson explores the MCR2030 initiative, the 10 Essentials for Making Cities Resilient, and approaches to strengthening urban resilience. It introduces key tools, services, peer-learning opportunities, and data management practices that support effective risk-informed local planning and resilience-building efforts.

3.Lesson 3: Assessing Urban Resilience: Disaster Resilience Scorecard and Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems

This lesson focuses on the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and its application in assessing urban resilience. It guides learners through assessment approaches, localized implementation strategies, and the integration of Multi-Hazard Early Warning Systems with resilience priorities, including inclusive approaches for gender equality and persons with disabilities.

4.Lesson 4: People-Centred Disaster Risk Reduction: Accessibility, Equality and Displacement

This lesson examines inclusion-focused approaches within DRR through the Gender Equality and Intersectionality Addendum, the Annex for Inclusion of Persons with Disabilities, and the Disaster Displacement Addendum. It supports learners in identifying barriers, assessing resilience gaps, and developing inclusive preparedness, response, and recovery strategies.

5.Lesson 5: Building Climate Resilience and Managing Extreme Heat at the Local Level

This lesson explores climate resilience approaches and extreme heat risk

management by examining the relationship between climate change adaptation and DRR. It provides guidance on understanding heat risks, assessing climate adaptation measures, evaluating heat action plans, and identifying local-level risk reduction actions.

6.Lesson 6: Strengthening Coastal Resilience: Risk Governance, Readiness and Local Action

This lesson introduces the principles of coastal resilience and the ARISE Coastal Resilience Scorecard as a tool for evaluating coastal disaster preparedness. It supports learners in assessing coastal risks, understanding prevention, response, and recovery approaches, and identifying opportunities to strengthen coastal resilience.

7.Lesson 7: Culture, Education and Resilience: Safeguarding Heritage and Learning Systems from Disaster Risk

This lesson explores the role of cultural heritage and education systems in disaster risk reduction. It examines approaches to protecting cultural assets, strengthening cultural heritage resilience, and enhancing institutional capacity to safeguard education systems and personnel during extreme weather events.

8.Lesson 8: Designing and Facilitating MCR2030 Workshops: Methods, Components and Practical Application

This lesson develops practical skills for designing and facilitating MCR2030 workshops, covering workshop components, methodologies, facilitation techniques, and application approaches. It enables learners to support inclusive stakeholder engagement, participatory resilience assessments, collaborative decision-making, and local action planning.

9.Lesson 9: From Assessment to Action: Local DRR Plans, SMART Indicators and Monitoring Systems

This lesson focuses on the development of effective Local Action Plans by linking resilience assessments, governance frameworks, strategic objectives, and measurable actions. It introduces the use of traceability matrices to connect identified risks and gaps with activities, indicators, outcomes, implementation mechanisms, and continuous improvement processes.

10.Lesson 10: Financing Local Disaster Risk Reduction: Budget Tagging, Resilient Infrastructure and Investment Pathways

This lesson explores approaches to mobilizing and managing resources for resilience through budget tagging, infrastructure resilience strategies, and investment pathways. It supports learners in identifying financing gaps, tracking resilience expenditures, strengthening essential services, and developing practical investment approaches for DRR and climate adaptation.

11.Lesson 11: Knowledge Exchange and Peer Learning: Leveraging Resilience Hubs for Local Action
This lesson examines the role of MCR2030 Resilience Hubs in accelerating urban resilience through knowledge exchange, technical assistance, and peer-to-peer learning. The lesson highlights experience-sharing to demonstrate how Resilience Hubs support cities through practical implementation examples, collaborative learning mechanisms, and pathways for engagement as resilience partners.

METHODOLOGY

The course is based on UNITAR's adult learning and Training of Trainers (ToT) pedagogical principles and will be delivered via the e-Learning platform Moodle. This pedagogical tool will help the participants meet the course's learning objectives through self-paced study routine supported by supplementary resources, useful materials, and interactive scenario-based exercises.

Materials will be posted on the e-Learning platform. The course is divided into 11 lessons which contain the same structural elements:

- Content
- Learning Objectives
- Supplementary Resources

TARGETED AUDIENCE

The course is designed for professionals and institutions involved in advancing local resilience planning, disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, and multi-stakeholder collaboration. The course aims to develop a network of trained local resilience experts who can support the application of MCR2030 tools, facilitate peer-to-peer learning, and enable cities and localities to strengthen resilience strategies through evidence-based planning and human security approaches. It targets stakeholders responsible for developing, implementing,

and supporting resilience strategies at local, national, and community levels. Primary target groups include:

- **Local and national government stakeholders**, including local governments, National Disaster Risk Management Offices, and relevant national authorities working in disaster risk reduction, urban planning, environment, social development, community development, security, education, finance, and planning.
- **Technical practitioners and resilience professionals**, including specialists supporting disaster risk reduction, sustainable development, urban resilience, risk assessment, and the application of resilience planning tools such as the Disaster Resilience Scorecard for Cities and its thematic Addenda.
- **Academic and training institutions**, including representatives involved in research, capacity development, professional training, and knowledge generation related to disaster risk reduction, resilience building, and sustainable development.
- **Partners and stakeholders supporting local resilience initiatives**, including organizations engaged in multi-stakeholder collaboration, peer learning, and technical support to strengthen local resilience capacities.
- **Additional stakeholders**, including researchers and academic institutions, private sector actors involved in communication and dissemination systems, and development partners supporting local resilience and disaster risk reduction strengthening

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

The course is designed in a way to give the participants flexibility to plan their learning progress. The lessons, assessments, and resources of all modules can be accessed throughout the course. Thus, they will only need to complete all the required activities to obtain a certificate of completion.

Grading Policy and Course Completion

Participants are eligible for course certification upon successful completion. Successful completion requires:

- Mid-Term and Final Assessments
- Course Evaluation