

# Enabling policy and local capacities for resilient cities

## Urban Resilience Unit

Supported by **National Institute of Urban Affairs** and **100 Resilient Cities**, pioneered by Rockefeller Foundation



# Context

## 1

### COP 21, COP24 and IPCC SR1.5 - What does it mean for cities?

- Cities and urban areas are **one of four critical global systems** that can accelerate and upscale climate action, but this will **require major transitions** in how both mitigation and adaptation are undertaken
- **Actions needed immediately by cities and governments at all levels**, as well as by urban residents and stakeholders, such as civil society, the academic community, and those in business and finance
- Scaling up urban climate action requires:
  - Implementing **policies** for enhanced access to innovation, technology, and financing
  - Effective **multi-level governance** with **participation** from cities and urban regions, industry, civil society, and scientific institutions
  - Improved climate **education** and increased **public awareness**
  - Aligning city climate action with **local priorities** and **national development agenda (support)**

# Context

## 1

- Urban India is estimated to support more than **40%** of the country's population and more than **75%** of national GDP by 2030.
- **70%** of India's infrastructure required in the year 2030 is yet to be built.
- National urban missions cover more than **4000 cities** and towns with about **INR 2,33,122 cr (\$30 billion)** of Central Assistance approved during 2014-18
- The development initiatives in India are increasingly focused on addressing the rapid urbanization.
- However, added to the **stresses** of urbanization, cities are challenged with acute **shocks** like **flooding, earthquake, heat wave etc.**, that pose risk to the urban infrastructure, quality of urban life and the entire urban systems. **The coping ability of city systems to shocks and stress require resilient approaches.**
- Poor planning and urban management are expected to cost Indian cities somewhere between **\$2.6 and \$13 billion** annually. Furthermore, trends like climate change will cost the Indian economy **\$1.178 trillion by 2050** if emissions continue at their current rates.

# Context

## 1

**Mainstreaming resilience into policy frameworks and building local capacities is key for building resilient cities**

# Urban Resilience Unit

# 2

**National Institute of Urban Affairs (NIUA)** is a premier institute for research, capacity building and dissemination of knowledge for the urban sector and is an autonomous body under the Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs, Government of India.

NIUA conducts research and supports innovations in the urban sector through informed dialogues, knowledge exchanges, training and capacity building in emerging themes such as urbanization, urban policy and planning, municipal finance and governance, land economics, transit oriented development, urban livelihoods, environment and climate change and smart cities.

The **Urban Resilience Unit (URU)** within the National Institute of Urban Affairs and with the support of 100 Resilient Cities is aimed at supporting the national, state and city level institutions and other stakeholders to link resilience to their urban planning, development and management discourse.



**Ministry of Housing  
and Urban Affairs**  
Government of India



National Institute of Urban Affairs

# Urban Resilience Unit

# 2

**100 Resilient Cities (100RC)**, pioneered by the Rockefeller Foundation is dedicated to helping cities around the world become more resilient to the physical, social and economic challenges that are a growing part of the 21st century.

Chennai, Pune and Surat are the 100RC Cities in India.



# Our Mandate and Activities

3

1. **Support to Ministry** of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India for mainstreaming resilience - Developing evidence and policy frameworks for mainstreaming resilience in the urban planning and development discourse at various levels of governance in India
2. **Building local capacity** for resilience building efforts in cities through development of tools, curricula and training programs for urban planning institutes and universities, urban practitioners, city managers and policymakers
3. **Developing data frameworks** and protocols to support establishment of 'data observatories' and GIS-based 'integrated spatial decision-support systems' (ISDSS) to enable evidence-based, informed decision making
4. **Supporting cities**, including existing 100 RC cities, in India to become the drivers of the 'urban resilience' agenda and creating 'light houses' for scaling up resilience building efforts in cities.

# Our Mandate and Activities

## 3.1

1. **Support to Ministry of Housing and Urban Affairs (MoHUA), Government of India for mainstreaming resilience** - Developing evidence and policy frameworks for mainstreaming resilience in the urban planning and development discourse at various levels of governance in India
2. Building local capacity for resilience building efforts in cities through development of tools, curricula and training programs for urban planning institutes and universities, urban practitioners, city managers and policymakers
3. Developing data frameworks and protocols to support establishment of 'data observatories' and GIS-based 'integrated spatial decision-support systems' (ISDSS) to enable evidence-based, informed decision making
4. Supporting existing 100 RC cities in India to become the drivers of the 'urban resilience' agenda and creating 'light houses' for scaling up resilience building efforts in cities.



# Our Mandate and Activities

## 3.1

### Mainstreaming Urban Development Framework

- National Urbanization Policy,
- National Urban Missions and Guidelines – Smart Cities, AMRUT, Flood Resilience Guideline
- RfPs, tenders, planning tools/ templates/ processes

### Workshop on Urban Flood Resilience

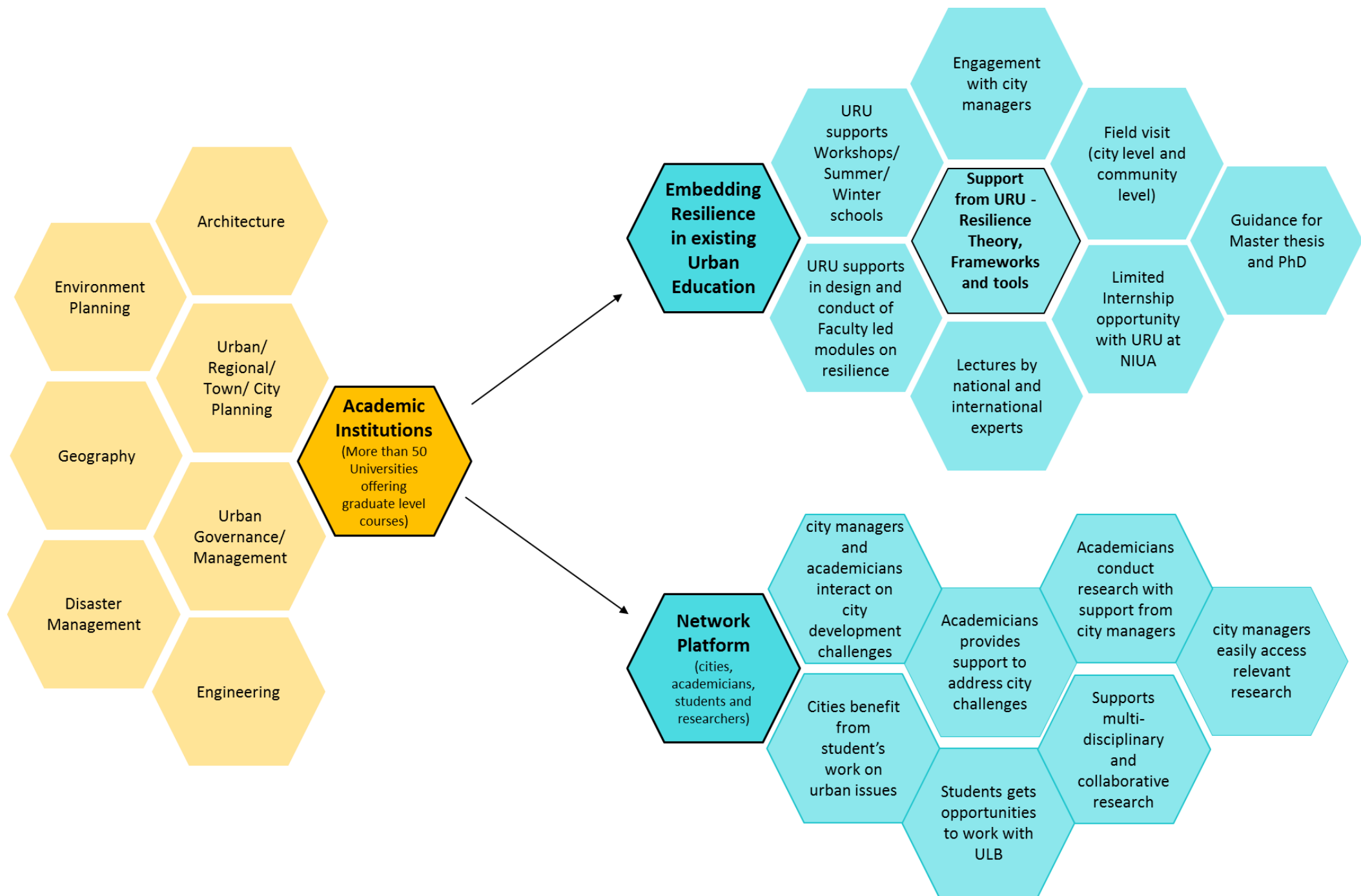
- Initiated by MoHUA, NIUA organized an expert consultation to deliberate and collate recommendations for scaling up and mainstreaming urban flood resilience in Smart Cities and AMRUT Cities.
- More than 30 key experts and practitioners; four themes - urban Early Warning Systems (EWS), urban flood resilience plans during normalcy, strengthening coordination among stakeholders, and urban flood management (pre and post flood).



# Our Mandate and Activities

## 3.2

- Support to MoHUA - Developing evidence and policy frameworks for mainstreaming resilience in the urban planning and development discourse at various levels of governance in India
- **Building local capacity** for resilience building efforts in cities through development of tools, curricula and training programs for urban planning institutes and universities, urban practitioners, city managers and policymakers
- Developing data frameworks and protocols to support establishment of 'data observatories' and GIS-based 'integrated spatial decision-support systems' (ISDSS) to enable evidence-based, informed decision making
- Supporting existing 100 RC cities in India to become the drivers of the 'urban resilience' agenda and creating 'light houses' for scaling up resilience building efforts in cities.



# Our Mandate and Activities

3.2

## Embedding Resilience in Urban Education

Resilience Framework and tools

Support in developing or modifying course curriculum to incorporate resilience

Collaboration across Universities

Studios/ electives/ seminars/ webinars/ workshops/ lecture series/ Thesis guidance/ PhD guidance

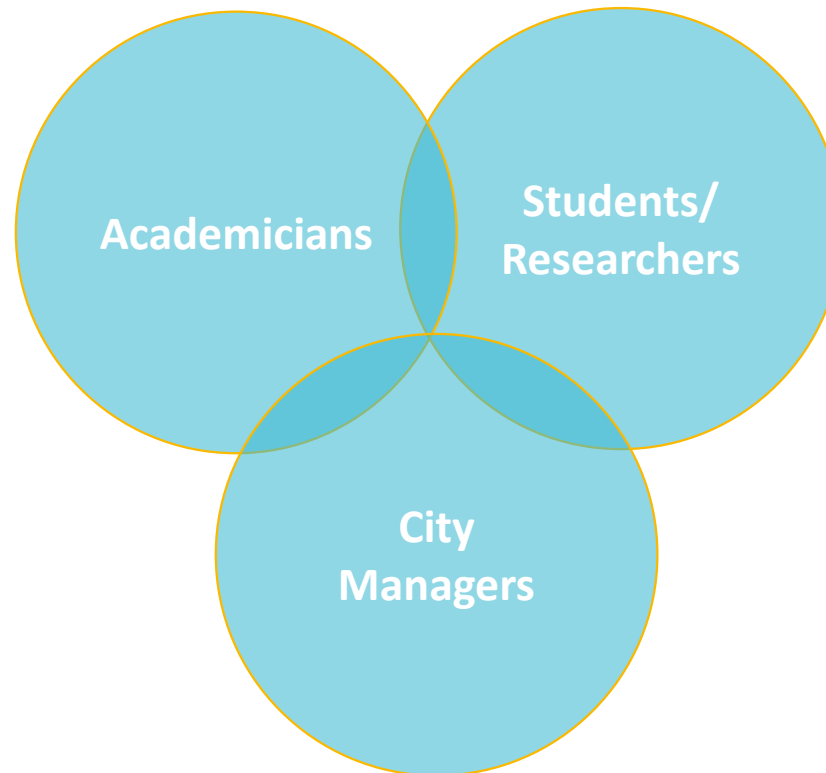
Showcase and publish research work on Network Platform

Internship opportunities at NIUA and with ULBs

# Our Mandate and Activities

# 3.2

## Network Platform



The Network Platform will bring together city managers, academicians, researchers and students for sharing of information and knowledge for building urban resilience.

# Our Mandate and Activities

## 3.3

- Support to MoHUA - Developing evidence and policy frameworks for mainstreaming resilience in the urban planning and development discourse at various levels of governance in India
- Building local capacity for resilience building efforts in cities through development of tools, curricula and training programs for urban planning institutes and universities, urban practitioners, city managers and policymakers
- Developing data frameworks and protocols to support establishment of '**data observatories**' and GIS-based 'integrated spatial decision-support systems' (ISDSS) to enable evidence-based, informed decision making
- Supporting existing 100 RC cities in India to become the drivers of the 'urban resilience' agenda and creating 'light houses' for scaling up resilience building efforts in cities.

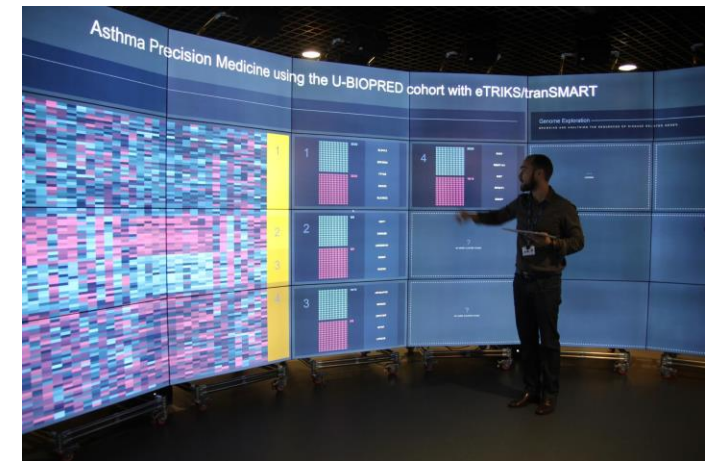
# Our Mandate and Activities

## 3.3

### Needs for Urban Data Observatories

- Lack of urban data – recording, collation and updation
- Standardization – different formats, discrete
- Accessibility – segregated, decentralized with multiple agencies
- Lack of technical capacities for data analytics and informed decision-making

**An urban data observatory is a platform which serves as a repository for accurate and frequently updated local spatial and non-spatial data that should be used as a decision support system.**



# Our Mandate and Activities

3.3

## Building resilience through data-driven governance





## Our Mandate and Activities

# 3.4

- Support to MoHUA for mainstreaming resilience - Developing evidence and policy frameworks for mainstreaming resilience in the urban planning and development discourse at various levels of governance in India
- Building local capacity for resilience building efforts in cities through development of tools, curricula and training programs for urban planning institutes and universities, urban practitioners, city managers and policymakers
- Developing data frameworks and protocols to support establishment of 'data observatories' and GIS-based 'integrated spatial decision-support systems' (ISDSS) to enable evidence-based, informed decision making
- **Supporting cities**, including existing 100 RC cities in India to become the drivers of the 'urban resilience' agenda and creating 'light houses' for scaling up resilience building efforts in cities.

# Engagement opportunities

# 4



## Urban local bodies and Development agencies

- Mainstreaming urban planning, project development and business processes
- Capacity building and training
- Handholding for city assessments and resilience planning
- Tools, methodologies, good practices
- Data frameworks and protocols to develop 'data observatories' and decision support systems
- 'Match-making' for technical assistance and resources
- Network and cooperation with cities, experts, national and international agencies



## Policy makers and Decision Makers at National and State level

- Mainstreaming urban policy and governance frameworks
- Capacity building and training
- Monitoring and performance evaluation for urban resilience and achievement of SDGs and India's NDCs
- 'Match-making' for technical assistance and resources
- Network and cooperation with cities, experts, national and international agencies



## Institutes/ NGOs/ CSOs/ Private Sector/ National and International agencies/ Experts

- Partnerships and engagement with urban local bodies, city managers, national and international sector experts and agencies
- SMART Net 2.0 – National level Network Platform on 'urban resilience'
- Opportunity to promote innovation, collaborate and showcase cutting-edge research on urban resilience
- Opportunity to create and share knowledge and good practices
- Support for developing curricula and training programs on 'urban resilience'

Please get in touch with us if you would like to offer your expertise or are interested in our work.

For further details contact-

**Mr. Umamaheswaran Rajasekar**

Chair, Urban Resilience  
[urajasekar@niua.org](mailto:urajasekar@niua.org)

**Ms. Raina Singh**

Senior Fellow, Urban Resilience  
[raina@niua.org](mailto:raina@niua.org)

Thank you