

ORGANIZATION / INITIATIVE LEAD

Arup — Global sustainable development consultancy. The City Resilience Framework was developed with support from the Rockefeller Foundation to help cities understand and strengthen their capacity to respond to shocks and chronic stresses.

TECHNICAL SOLUTION NAME

City Resilience Framework (CRF)

HIGHLIGHT TITLE

A globally applied framework that helps cities move beyond disaster recovery towards systemic resilience, connecting infrastructure, governance, communities, economy and environment.

SHORT DESCRIPTION

The City Resilience Framework (CRF) helps cities understand, assess and strengthen their resilience to shocks and chronic stresses, from climate change and natural disasters to economic and social challenges. Rather than focusing only on infrastructure, it provides a systemic approach that connects social, institutional, environmental and economic dimensions to guide planning and investment.

EXTENDED DESCRIPTION

The City Resilience Framework was developed by Arup with support from the Rockefeller Foundation to help cities build long-term resilience in an increasingly uncertain world. It considers both sudden shocks, such as floods, heatwaves, pandemics or infrastructure failures, and chronic stresses including inequality, housing pressures and environmental degradation.

Rather than treating resilience primarily as a question of physical infrastructure, the CRF examines how infrastructure, governance, leadership, communities, economic systems and environmental conditions interact. This helps cities identify systemic vulnerabilities, connect decisions often made separately and prioritise interventions across departments.

Updated in 2024, the framework is structured around 4 dimensions, 22 resilience goals and 7 resilience qualities: reflective, robust, redundant, flexible, resourceful, inclusive and integrated. Cities use this structure to define locally relevant indicators and monitor areas such as climate vulnerability, service access, social inclusion, institutional coordination and critical infrastructure performance.

The CRF has been tested in more than 100 cities worldwide and has influenced resilience strategies through initiatives including 100 Resilient Cities and the Resilient Cities Network. Its objective is not simply to help cities recover from crises, but to use them as opportunities to adapt and transform, moving from “bouncing back” to “bouncing forward.”



DEMONSTRATED METRICS

- Tested in 100+ cities worldwide
- 4 dimensions of urban resilience
- 22 resilience goals
- 7 resilience qualities
- Updated framework released in 2024
- Applied to climate, social, institutional and infrastructure resilience
- Used to guide city planning, monitoring and investment prioritisation

REAL IMPACT

The CRF has helped establish a systemic approach to urban resilience, moving beyond emergency response and physical infrastructure to connect climate adaptation, governance, social equity and urban planning.

Its application helps cities identify interconnected vulnerabilities, improve coordination across municipal departments and prioritise resilience investments according to local needs. Rather than prescribing a universal set of indicators, it provides a common structure that cities can adapt to their own context.

Its broader impact lies in changing the way resilience is understood: not simply as the capacity to recover after a crisis, but as the ability to learn, adapt and transform in preparation for future shocks and stresses.

IMPLEMENTATION LOCATION & DATE

Developed from 2014 and updated in 2024. Tested in more than 100 cities globally, initially through the 100 Resilient Cities programme and subsequently through wider resilience planning. Applications include Durban (South Africa), Santiago and Concepción (Chile).

TECH LEVEL Medium Tech

COST OF THE SOLUTION

MEDIUM. Primarily a strategic planning and assessment framework; costs depend on the scale of local analysis, stakeholder engagement and implementation.

MITIGATION / ADAPTATION

Adaptation

MAIN CATEGORY

Primary: Governance & Economy

Secondary: Infrastructure & Building

BASE INFORMATION SOURCES

- [Arup — City Resilience Framework](#)
- Rockefeller Foundation — City Resilience Framework
- 100 Resilient Cities
- Resilient Cities Network