

# MANAGING URBAN DISASTERS

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The focus of the special issue on "Managing Urban Disasters" is concerned primarily with identifying and describing existing projects, experiences and best practices from Africa, Asia and Latin America, which are already working with new integrated approaches to risk reduction. These link different stakeholders and levels, and do not focus only on the technical, but also on the social, economic and political aspects. The articles discuss questions regarding those factors that determine the vulnerability or resilience of cities, and describe concrete projects in the field of housing and urban development planning, which can reduce the disaster risk for low-income settlements. "Managing Urban Disasters" was conceived with the intention of providing a balanced selection of topics, hazards, and countries. Specific topics relate to appropriate housing design, construction materials and techniques, land use and urban development planning, policies, legislation, governance, as well as related advocacy campaigns, institutional strategies, methods and tools. Based on the understanding that emergency relief, reconstruction, mitigation and development aid may be viewed as complementary to each other, rather than conflictual, the articles cover all the mentioned fields.

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