A Bridge from Concepts to Evidence

Background
Since 2013, the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) has been fostering a paradigm shift in the response to the unprecedented impact of the Syria crisis on Syria and its neighboring countries. In this context, the UNDP’s Sub-Regional Response Facility (SRF) has actively contributed to the development of the resilience-based development approach in the sub-region by generating knowledge, building innovative partnerships and advocating for sustainable solutions to the protracted crisis.

Last November, UNDP convened the Resilience Development Forum (RDF), hosted by the Government of Jordan with valuable support from Canada, Germany, Kuwait, Switzerland and the European Union, bringing the voices, knowledge and commitments of a wide range of global, regional and country leaders, experts and practitioners in support of more resilience investment in the sub-region. Since the RDF, a series of global events - the report of the UNSG’s High Level Panel on Humanitarian Financing, the Supporting Syrians and the Region Conference, held in London on February 4, and the World Humanitarian Summit organized in Istanbul on 23-24 May - have reinforced the principles and scope of the resilience agenda.

Goal
To build on this momentum one year after the RDF, the Governments of Canada, Finland and UNDP will co-host a “Resilience Building Week – a Bridge from Concepts to Evidence,” in Amman, Jordan from the 25th to the 27th of October 2016. This event will consist of several high visibility sessions that bring together top experts, leaders, practitioners and friends of resilience from a wide range of national and international partners.

Objective
The primary objective of the “Resilience-Building Week” is to take stock of the implementation of the resilience agenda in the sub-region by identifying key good practices, lessons, challenges and opportunities, and stimulate regional knowledge sharing to better prepare for the next generation of crisis response.

Event Structure
Over three days, 25/26/27 October, plenary and expert-focused dialogue sessions will include participants from across the spectrum of resilience experts, decision makers, practitioners, government, NGO, civil society and UN agencies. The day will consist of one high level session in the morning, with a roundtable expert session in the afternoon. Learning “clinics” will be hosted in the afternoon sessions; there are spaces available for side events. The venue will include a public discussion space with an “idea café” to share knowledge and experiences in recent resilience programming and lessons learned.

The event is expected to accommodate up to 100-150 participants. A summary brief on the Roundtable Outcomes will be produced for the closing session.