Title:
Settlement-based Coordination for Inclusive and Effective Humanitarian Responses to Urban Crises

Sponsors and Organizers:
IMPACT Initiatives on behalf of the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Reference Group for Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (IASC RG MHCUA), Global Shelter Cluster, and The Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Time and Date: Wednesday, 21 June 2017, 08:30–09:45
Room XXVI, Palais des Nations, Geneva

This is one of the side-events to be convened during the ECOSOC Humanitarian Affairs Segment, in keeping with this year’s theme: Restoring Humanity and Leaving No One Behind: Working together to reduce people's humanitarian need, risk and vulnerability.

Background and objectives

Complex urban settings and shortcomings of recent responses have challenged traditional ways of coordinating and implementing humanitarian action. As acknowledged by the WHS, during Habitat III and by key UN Agencies and Donor countries, a new way of working is needed to more efficiently meet increasing needs of affected populations—especially in challenging contexts such as fragile cities or cities affected by crises.

This Side Event will focus on the need to strengthen the capacity of humanitarian mechanisms (especially the IASC, the clusters and operational members) to better coordinate when responding to a crisis in an urban setting, meaning through an ad-hoc, more inclusive coordination and stronger understanding of the context of intervention and its complexities. A more inclusive coordination includes cooperation and coordination with local stakeholders, such as local government/municipalities, civil society, local private sector, and cooperation with development actors (World Bank, UNDP, etc.) – contributing to strengthening the humanitarian/development nexus.

54% of the world’s population lives today in an urban environment, characterized by complex and dynamic systems and governance mechanisms, and urban population is increasing dramatically by the day. The intersection of urbanization with conflict, displacement and climate change has been a key challenge for recent humanitarian responses.

Humanitarian responses in Haiti, the Philippines, Syria, and many other crises have exposed the challenges faced by humanitarian actors when responding to urban crises, and put into question traditional coordination mechanisms.

Discussion points

Against this backdrop, the side-event will focus on the following suggested questions and discussion points:
• Using settlements–based approaches incorporates many elements of the New way of working, such as localization and inter-cluster cooperation and multi-stakeholder coordination: what are the next steps to shift from theory to practice?
• Operationalising settlement-based coordination, planning and response will have implications on the current humanitarian structure: how do you envisage humanitarian coordination 2.0., and what are the key elements for its success?
• Settlement approaches require engaging and leveraging upon local actors. What are the capacities and mindset that humanitarians need to acquire, and what are the expected challenges we will face in this "localization" process?

**Intended outcomes/conclusions/recommendations**

The IASC, through its Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (IASC RG MHCUA), the global Shelter and Food Security Clusters, and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises – a partnership of over 65+ members launched during the WHS -, will organise a side event to advance the discussion on WHS Commitments, including the New Way of Working, outlining case studies and concrete ways-forward for settlement-based approaches to coordination of responses in urban crises.

Building on the IASC-RG-MHCUA/global-Clusters/GAUC events during the WHS, Habitat-III and HNPW-2017, this event will further advance these important commitments within the framework of ECOSOC HAS, enabling more integrated ways for coordination in urban crises, which will ensure more effective and sustainable aid delivery for crises-affected people.

**Format**

(Co-)Chair(s):
- European Union – European Civil Protection and Humanitarian Aid Operations (TBC)

Moderator:
- Luca Pupulin, IMPACT Initiatives – IMPACT is the co-chair of the IASC Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas and Steering Group Member of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Panel composition:
- Brett Moore, Global Shelter Cluster Coordinator / UNHCR
- Cyril Ferrand, Global Food Security Cluster Coordinator / WFP-FAO (TBC)
- Loretta Hiber-Girardet, Senior Humanitarian Policy Advisor and Chief of Assessments of Emergencies, OCHA

**Background Material**

Global Alliance for Urban Crises Video:

[https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llsxyEyukxl&feature=youtu.be](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=llsxyEyukxl&feature=youtu.be)

Global Alliance for Urban Crises website:
Urbancrises.org

Contact

For more information, please contact:

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