



Adapting to urban contexts: Strengthening coordination in urban crises

Inter-network session between Global Clusters and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Wednesday 6 February, 14:00 – 15:30pm, Room 3, Centre International de Conférences Genève (CICG)

By 2050, it is estimated that 70% of the global population will live in urban areas. The intersection of urbanization with conflict, displacement and climate change represents a key challenge for humanitarian response, questioning traditional ways the humanitarian sector responds to crises. Acknowledging this trend, in 2010 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) called for a **“paradigm shift in humanitarian assistance in urban areas based on a community-based, rather than an individual beneficiary approach”**.

To strengthen response and coordination in urban contexts, various global clusters have launched urban-specific Working Groups (WGs) to address urban related issues, including the **Global Shelter Cluster’s Urban Settlements WG**, the **Global Food Security Cluster’ Urban Livelihoods WG** and **CCCM’s Mobile and Area-based Approaches WG**.

During the 2016 World Humanitarian Summit, the **Global Alliance for Urban Crises** (the ‘Alliance’) was launched. Inspired by the commitments outlined within the **Urban Crises Charter**, the Alliance aims to adapt global crisis response to an increasingly urban world and act as a global platform and community of practice, bringing together a coalition of partners including local authorities, humanitarian and development actors, the private sector and academia.

Improved coordination in urban crisis requires a better shared understanding of the urban crisis context and a better cooperation between local governments, local stakeholders and humanitarian actors. **The Alliance is launching this week an Urban Profiling Guidance Note** and a **‘Protocol of Engagement between local governments and humanitarian actors’ (working paper)**.

As part of the 2019 Humanitarian Networks and Partnership Week, **Global Cluster Coordinators and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises** are convening an inter-network session, aimed at ***strengthening efficient and integrated coordination among local and international stakeholders in crisis affected cities.***

Join us on **February 6th from 1400 – 1530 in Room 3 of the CICG**, as we hold an informal consultation and exchange between clusters and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises on coordination in urban crises.

Over the course of the session, representatives from the **Global Shelter Cluster**, the **Camp Coordination and Camp Management Cluster**, the **Global WASH Cluster**, **IMPACT Initiatives** and the **Global Alliance for Urban Crises**:

- **Highlight challenges and opportunities** of coordination in urban areas.
- **Share experiences of area based / inter-sector coordination** in urban areas and how this approach complements a sector-led humanitarian system.
- Discuss **current initiatives and next steps** to ensure coordination in urban areas is inclusive and effective.

Panelists include: **Global Shelter Cluster: Brett Moore (UNHCR); Camp Coordination and Camp Management: Annika Grafweg (IOM); WASH Cluster: Harriette Purchas (RedR); Global Alliance for Urban Crises: Filiep Decorte (UNHabitat); and IMPACT Initiatives: Nanki Chawla**