



Improving humanitarian action in urban crisis: a perspective from cities in crisis

20.05.2016



Inpreparation of the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), **UCLG's Task Force on Local and Regional Government Disaster Response (UCLG)** (<https://www.uclg.org/en/organisation/structure/committees-working-groups/local-government-disaster-response>), trough its secretariat held by **Cités Unies France (CUF)** (<http://www.cites-unies-france.org/Improving-humanitarian-action-in>), and **IMPACT** (<http://www.impact-initiatives.org/news>) realized a series of broad-based consultations to identify lessons learnt and recommendations stemming from the humanitarian response in seven cities

recently affected by crisis. The exercise has been developed and implemented in conjunction with the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, contributing to the Policy Commitments outlined in its Urban Crises Charter.

Seven city-specific summary reports have been prepared, outlining challenges and recommendations identified by cities' stakeholders during the consultations. The seven consulted cities are : Tacloban, Guiuan and Bogo (Philippines), Bangui (Central African Republic), Gaziantep (Turkey), Mafraq (Jordan), and Port au Prince (Haiti).

Findings have been compiled into an overall report. Overall, the report points to the need of localising humanitarian coordination and planning mechanisms, of promoting the resilience of communities and city systems as well as enhancing partnerships with municipal stakeholders. This report is accompanied by six city-specific reports, providing a more in-depth overview of challenges and recommendations emerging from each city consultation.

The report will be broadly circulated and presented by the UCLG Task Force and Impact, together with mayors of cities involved in the study during a dedicated side event as part of the WHS organized on Monday 23, 2016 in Istanbul.

In the coming months, the Global Alliance for Urban Crises and its members, UCLG Task Force and IMPACT will continue their cooperation to pilot new humanitarian coordination and planning mechanisms for settlement-based and holistic responses in urban crisis settings. We hope that this work will provide some additional lessons learnt and best practices and ultimately lead to better humanitarian action in cities.

Check out the Urban consultations

CITIES IN CRISIS CONSULTATIONS - Bangui, Central African Republic

Overview of Urban Consultations

By 2020 over 70% of the global population will live in urban areas. This increasing urbanisation leads to an increasing vulnerability of cities to natural and man-made disasters. More and more humanitarian crises are happening in urban areas. They are however often badly prepared to address them and effectively manage such crises: complex socio-economic, climatic and political situations; increasing disaster risk; the World Humanitarian Summit has highlighted the Urban Expert Group as a key for internationalisation of urban disaster response.

INTRODUCTION

Bangui has been affected by crises and displacement over the past 15 years and currently hosts over 100,000 internally displaced people. The crisis has put significant pressure on municipal services, which have lacked the required resources and capacity to meet the existing needs. It has increasingly exceeded population for emergency response. The presence of urban crises has become a major challenge for humanitarian stakeholders. Due to a multiplicity of factors, linkages between humanitarian stakeholders and municipal actors have remained weak, contributing to operational coordination and affecting the efficiency of humanitarian planning and engaging. With the recent crises and a renewed hope for stability in the CAR, strengthening this linkage must become a priority in order to support the recovery effort and the re-establishment of municipal services.

KEY FINDINGS

The humanitarian response in Bangui has been characterised by several challenges. This is the case, notably for programming, emergency response, which encompassed both local and international actors. As the crisis evolved, municipal actors lacked the resources to meet the needs of the population. Humanitarian actors, including NGOs, UN agencies and other actors, were generally provided to humanitarian actors, such as NGOs and the UN. Although some coordination initiatives with local stakeholders are in place, they are not sufficient to ensure a coordinated response. Humanitarian actors, including NGOs, UN agencies and other actors, were generally provided to humanitarian actors, such as NGOs and the UN. Although some coordination initiatives with local stakeholders are in place, they are not sufficient to ensure a coordinated response. One lack of coordination and to perceived coordination linked to conflict dynamics, many international actors do not establish and/or engage linkages with local authorities and response mechanisms. The coordination is providing a lack of information and understanding by all actors in humanitarian dynamics is hampered, especially at neighbourhood level.

The Consultation Process:

1. Creating guidelines for all cities agreed upon with the Urban Expert Group
2. National interviews held with city local authorities and civil society, UN Agencies, NGOs and donors involved in the response
3. Field consultations held by local experts in World Humanitarian Summit and development recommendations for future response in urban crisis
4. Findings from interviews and consultations summarised in city specific, and overarching reports

UCLG
The Global Network of Cities,
Local and Regional Governments

CITIES IN CRISIS CONSULTATIONS - Bogo city, Philippines

Overview of Urban Consultations

By 2020 over 70% of the global population will live in urban areas. This increasing urbanisation leads to an increasing vulnerability of cities to natural and man-made disasters. More and more humanitarian crises are happening in urban areas. They are however often badly prepared to address them and effectively manage such crises: complex socio-economic, climatic and political situations; increasing disaster risk; the World Humanitarian Summit has highlighted the Urban Expert Group as a key for internationalisation of urban disaster response.

INTRODUCTION

Bogo is a coastal city of 122,000 people situated in the metropolitan area of the island of Cebu, with 120,000 more within the height of Typhoon Haiyan on November 8th 2013. Initial damage assessments revealed 18,000 damaged houses, 10,000 people displaced, 10,000 people injured, 10,000 people killed and 10,000 people missing. The city was severely affected by the typhoon, which caused significant damage to infrastructure and buildings. The city was severely affected by the typhoon, which caused significant damage to infrastructure and buildings. The city was severely affected by the typhoon, which caused significant damage to infrastructure and buildings.

KEY FINDINGS

Urban crises often affect the most vulnerable. They involved relatively the international support from humanitarian actors. The local response was however led by local actors, notably the Municipal authority. The local response was however led by local actors, notably the Municipal authority. The local response was however led by local actors, notably the Municipal authority.

The Consultation Process:

1. Creating guidelines for all cities agreed upon with the Urban Expert Group
2. National interviews held with city local authorities and civil society, UN Agencies, NGOs and donors involved in the response
3. Field consultations held by local experts to identify lessons learnt and develop recommendations for future response in urban crisis
4. Findings from interviews and consultations summarised in city specific, and overarching reports

IMPACT
The Global Network of Cities,
Local and Regional Governments

[https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cities in crisis consultations - bangui.pdf](https://www.uclg.org/sites/default/files/cities%20in%20crisis%20consultations%20-%20bangui.pdf)