

BACKGROUND

The humanitarian landscape is changing. Urbanization is defining our global reality and will shape our future. Displacement, conflict and natural disasters are increasingly urban phenomena. The Global Alliance for Urban Crises was established to bring together the different actors who can help to improve crisis preparedness and response in our increasingly urban world.

Over 65 organizations have joined the Alliance, in working towards this vision, promoting the principles outlined in the Urban Crises Charter. Organizations are working together to pilot innovative initiatives, share lessons learned and best practices, promote joint advocacy, assessments and profiling and roster systems on the local, national, and international scale, among other 'game-changing' collaborative initiatives.

Alliance members have committed to four Working Groups, with the goal of adapting humanitarian action to an urban world.

Vision

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises promotes a vision of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and towns in which urban communities, their leaders and members have the power, capacities and resources to address the risks and reality of humanitarian crises, to mitigate crisis impacts on the most vulnerable, including the displaced, and to enable affected people to determine, with dignity, the course of their lives and their futures.

Governance structure

The Alliance governance structure is comprised of three main bodies; the Steering Group, Secretariat and Working Groups.

Steering Group

The Steering Group is the main decision-making body of the Alliance, featuring a balanced group of representatives from four constituencies – the United Nations System/International Non-Governmental Organizations/Red Cross Red Crescent Societies, academia and knowledge brokers, networks of urban professionals, and local governments.

Secretariat

The Alliance Secretariat supports the Steering Group and the Working Groups, with the role of carrying out advocacy, outreach, communications and coordination. Based in Barcelona, Spain, the Alliance Secretariat is co-hosted by UN-Habitat's City Resilience Profiling Programme (CRPP) and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Secretariat is comprised of an Advocacy, Outreach and Communications Officer and a Coordination Officer who work closely with the Steering Group and coordinates and supports the four Working Groups, realizing priorities and goals of the Alliance.

How the Alliance will achieve this vision:

Alliance Members have committed to Working Groups, each working towards impacting response in urban humanitarian crises for an initial period of 3-5 years. The Alliance Working Groups operations are underway for the following strategic priorities:

- **Tailoring humanitarian response to the urban context by developing shared assessment and profiling tools, promoting joint analysis, and adapting coordination mechanisms.**

Led by UN-Habitat, IMPACT Initiatives, and United Nations Agency for Refugees (UNHCR), the Working Group delivers continued urban profiling analysis of impact, interventions and innovation in data collection, as well as urban crisis coordination and support in decision-making.

- **Developing or working with existing global, regional and national rosters to facilitate the deployment of urban leaders, managers and technical experts.**

Led by CANADEM and NORCAP, the Working Group maps existing roster capacities for field deployment of urban experts, develop regional rosters, as well as advancing capacity-building and curriculum development.

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JOIN Us:

Urban areas may be increasingly at risk, but they also offer opportunities to work differently and ensure crisis response provides immediate humanitarian relief while strengthening urban resilience.

The Alliance provides the framework to build partnerships and work towards common goals to improve how we prepare for, and react on the ground when faced with an urban humanitarian crisis.

For more information including a list of our members, please visit, urbancrises.org.

- **Building the evidence base on the specific characteristics of protracted displacement in urban areas, and contributing to the design of appropriate and cost-effective responses, with particular regard to protection of vulnerable people, shelter, basic services and infrastructure.**

Led by the International Rescue Committee (IRC), UNHCR and the European Commission for Humanitarian Aid and Operations (EU-ECHO), the Working Group scopes dimensions of urban displacement, cost and benefits to areas hosting displaced populations, inform practice of organization engagement in crisis response from emergency to development phases, and develop tools for urban mapping and planning.

- **Ensuring that initiatives focused on building urban resilience incorporate components on resilient response and recovery from crises, and that they leverage greatest impact in cities most at risk of humanitarian emergencies.**

Led by UN-Habitat, IRC and United Cities and Local Governments (UCLG), the Working Group is developing a Resilience Framework Approach, piloting Resilience Projects in at-risk and fragile urban contexts, and leveraging the use of cash towards resilience.