“Adopting and Systematising settlement-based approaches in humanitarian responses in urban crisis”

This event is organised by: IMPACT Initiatives, UN-Habitat and ISOCARP on behalf of the IASC RG on MHCUA / Global Alliance for Urban Crisis

Time and date of event

Date and Time: 24 May, at 13:00-14:30
Duration: 1h30
Location: Rumeli Hall 1, in the Lüfti Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Center (LKCC) building
Room Capacity: 150 people

Overview of the side event

Settlement-based (also referred to as area-based or neighbourhood-based) approaches are ‘an area-based means of responding to multi-sector needs that is informed by a community-based decision making process reflective of the social, economic and physical features of the defined area’ (OFDA 2011). They define ‘an area, rather than a sector or target group, as the main entry point’ and require an involvement of local stakeholders, notably municipalities (IRC, 2015).

In 2010, the IASC called for a ‘paradigm shift in humanitarian assistance in urban areas based on a district or community-based [approach], rather than, an individual beneficiary approach’. Other actors (including ECHO, OFDA, the global CCCM and Shelter clusters, etc) have since called for an increased use of settlement-based approaches to enable a more effective humanitarian response in the complex and multi-faceted conditions of urban areas. Despite this, there is still a lack of shared understanding about settlement approaches among aid stakeholders and a difficulty to integrate them into humanitarian coordination and planning mechanisms.

This WHS Side Event will focus on how to best integrate settlement-based approaches in humanitarian responses to urban crisis. A first panel will review and discuss existing practices and challenges in bringing diverse actors together in settlement-based responses; a second panel will then debate how settlement-based approaches can be effectively rolled out in the humanitarian system. By discussing the adoption and systematisation of settlement-based approaches, the panellist will address the topic of improved collaboration between local governance stakeholders, humanitarian and development actors, and the importance of municipal leadership in settlement-based responses to urban crisis.

The event will contribute to WHS objectives, namely related to Changing People’s lives – from delivering aid to ending needs (Core Responsibility 4). It will be a key venue to exchange knowledge and practices among a broad variety of stakeholders on settlement-based approaches and to formulate key recommendations for the adoption and roll-out of such approaches within the humanitarian system. The IASC RG for MHCUA and the Global Alliance for Urban Crises will be responsible for following up on the actionable recommendations of this event, and to ensure relevant measures are put in place to integrate and roll-out settlement-based approaches in humanitarian responses to urban crisis and beyond.
Event objectives and structure:

The **overall objective** of the proposed Side Event is to share knowledge, practices and lessons learned on how emergency responses can be better tailored to the nature, scale and complexity of cities and specific settlements, and identify concrete ways in which local systems and actors can be best supported by the humanitarian community throughout a response.

The panels will be structured as follows:

**Panel 1: Settlement-based approaches: how to integrate a territorial and multi-sectorial response within the current aid system?**

**Speakers**
- Steven Corliss, Director of Division of Program Support and Management, UNHCR
- Jean-Louis De Brouwer, Director of Operations, DG ECHO
- Nigel Fisher, WHS Advisor and former Humanitarian Coordinator
- Aisa Kirabo Kacyira, Deputy Executive Director, UN Habitat
- Josep Roig, Secretary General, United Cities and Local Governments
- Frederic Roussel, Director of Development and Founder, ACTED

**Content**
This Panel will discuss how to systematise settlement-based approaches building on the current humanitarian architecture. The moderator will firstly outline why the current humanitarian architecture (based on sectoral response to individual needs) is not inducive to settlement-based planning (which is holistic, community-based and localised). Panellist will then be asked to comment on some of the following questions:

- Can the current humanitarian architecture, based around cluster coordination, be reconciled with settlement-based planning in urban crisis?
- What coordination mechanisms (new or adjusted) can be proposed to enable settlement-based planning in urban crisis? How can such mechanisms be systematised for all urban responses?
- What role should local actors (municipal authorities, service providers, community safety nets, etc) play in humanitarian coordination and response?
- How can international humanitarian actors best understand, engage with and leverage upon local response capacities?

**Panel 2: Settlement-based responses: bringing actors together for a more efficient response**

**Speakers**
- Manu Gupta, Executive Director, SEEDS
- Christine Knudsen, Director, Sphere Project
- Shipra Narang Suri, Vice President, ISOCARP
- Graham Saunders, Global Shelter Cluster Coordinator and IFRC Head, Shelter & Settlements

**Content of Panel 2**
This Panel will review best practices and lessons learnt on the adoption of settlement approaches in responses to urban crisis. After an introduction by the moderator defining settlement approaches, panellists will be asked to react to the following questions:

- Using settlements-based approaches is about “working differently” in line with the complexity and nature of cities. What are the essential elements and how will it make a difference (do use concrete examples)?
- Cities are very dynamic environments, in particular in situations of crises. How can the use of settlement-based approaches allow us to work with this uncertainty and dynamic nature?
- What are the capacities and skills set needed to deploy/use settlements-based approaches?
- How do we build the evidence – base that these approaches have an impact?