Humanitarian Action in a New Urban World

World Humanitarian Summit:
Regional Consultation, Europe and Others

International Rescue Committee | 3–4 FEBRUARY 2015

INTERNATIONAL
RESCUE
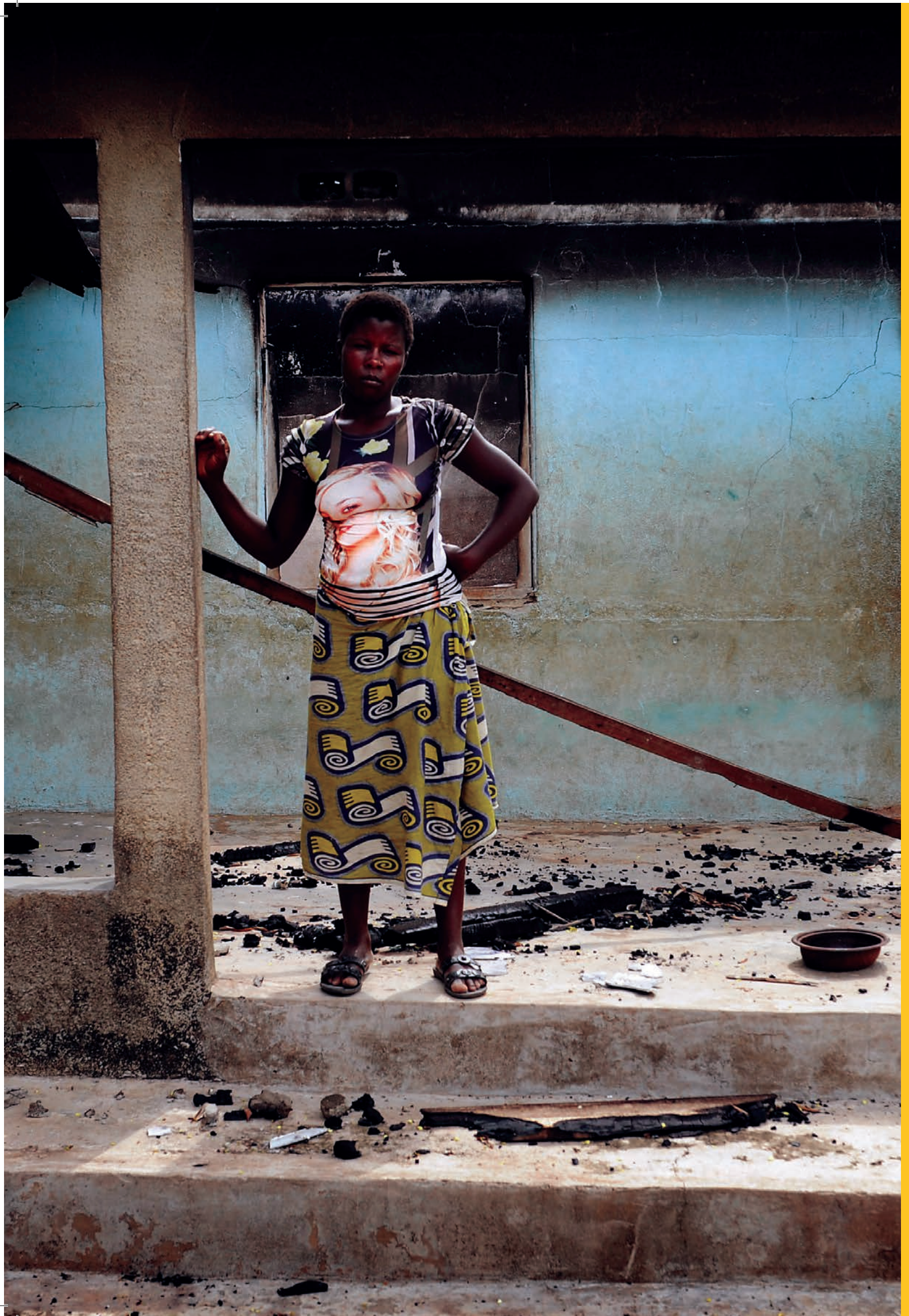COMMITTEE

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OPPOSITE PAGE: A young Syrian refugee girl looks out of a window in one of IRC's women's centres in a city in Jordan.

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Executive Summary

The World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) presents a critical opportunity to reflect on the impact of urbanisation on our humanitarian response and to identify a new model that can deliver a more effective, efficient, accountable and innovative response to the needs of the city and its population.

A humanitarian response in an urban context must not only meet the immediate needs of affected populations, but also foster recovery and sustainable development in the aftermath of a crisis so that people and the city are safe, healthy, educated, economically empowered and able to cope with future shocks and stresses. This should include new models of funding, coordination and delivery – and a move away from sector-based and short-term objectives.

The impact of urbanisation is an issue that cuts across all four WHS 'themes':

1. *Humanitarian effectiveness*
2. *Transformation through innovation*
3. *Reducing vulnerability, managing risk*
4. *Serving the needs of people in conflict*

As such, we set out here nine key recommendations for the WHS to consider under the four themes, recognising however, that certain recommendations cut across all of the themes. Key to the success of these recommendations is the humanitarian community's willingness to radically shift its traditional model of response in light of a new urban world.

Humanitarian Effectiveness

First, the international community should holistically address the needs of cities affected by crises to foster long-term recovery starting with better aligning humanitarian relief to development goals and activities.

Second, humanitarian responders should adopt 'area-based approaches' to coordination and delivery of services to ensure coordination mechanisms complement existing governance systems and accommodate the multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach that cities and towns require.

Third, the international community should surge assistance to local governments and partner delivery of aid through local actors and civil society to meet the needs of the most vulnerable, including the displaced, strengthen city systems for long-term recovery and response, and support social cohesion.

Reducing Vulnerability, Managing Risk

Fourth, the international community should be better prepared for urban crises, with an improved understanding of the city and its inhabitants through analysis and mapping appropriate for the urban setting, and by investing in partnerships with a wide range of actors, including urban planners, private sector and local municipalities.

Transformation Through Innovation

Fifth, the international community should facilitate the direct engagement of affected communities in developing innovative and effective responses to urban crises.

Sixth, the humanitarian community should engage and partner with local and international private sector for product solutions and scalable, sustainable outcomes.

Seventh, the international community should recognise the role of cash and urban livelihoods as life-saving.

Eighth, the international community should invest in the use of technology, data and modelling to improve operational preparedness and knowledge of the city.

Serving the Needs of those People in Conflict

Ninth, the international community should ensure protection of the most vulnerable in urban areas.

Background

Urbanisation is reshaping the world, with more than half of the world's population, some 3.9 billion people, now living in urban areas, compared to 730 million in 1950. The UN estimates that the world urban population will increase to 6.2 billion by 2050.[1] Refugees are increasingly part of this population, with over half of the world's total 16.7 million refugees, now urban residents.[2] Almost all of this population growth will be catered for in fast-expanding urban areas and concentrated in small to intermediate-sized African and Asian Cities, often already struggling to cope with existing demands on their systems and infrastructure.[3]

As the UK's Humanitarian Emergency Response Review (HERR) acknowledges, *'The concentration of populations in urban areas will change the nature of many humanitarian disasters'*[4] with the urban context increasingly where humanitarian crises occur or where the impacts of displacement will be felt most acutely.

Yet despite increasing awareness of the need for new ways of working with welcome policy developments,[5] evaluations of urban humanitarian responses show that the humanitarian community has to date failed to ensure these commitments bring real change on the ground.[6] There is an urgent need to ensure better outcomes for the city and its population alike which will require a radical shift from our traditional humanitarian response.

Humanitarian Effectiveness

The *Initial Scoping Paper – WHS Theme 1: Humanitarian Effectiveness* proposes that the humanitarian sector should consider a 'shift toward building specialised capacity and expertise to meet people's needs in urban environments of different types and of non-camp type situations' in response to 'global trends of rapid urbanisation'. The findings of this paper supports multiple reviews of recent high profile urban crises which find the humanitarian community is not yet 'fit for purpose' to deal with the challenge of the urban context described above.[7] Experience, approaches, tools and skill sets of humanitarian agencies are still mostly grounded in rural or camp settings.

An effective response to an urban crisis should engage both 'humanitarian' and 'development' approaches and donors.[8] Humanitarian and development interventions should be framed around securing livelihoods, building capacities and resilience of individuals and cities, while working towards social cohesion, self-reliance and

sustainable development. This means that in situations of urban displacement, humanitarian actors should consider how the displaced fit into national level development plans and concerns from municipal authorities and social cohesion, in order to promote a holistic response inclusive of both the displaced and the host community.[9] For too long questions around beneficiaries and programme targets have left the displaced excluded from longer-term development programmes, leaving the displaced without continued assistance and support when emergency funding runs out. At the same time, host populations have been excluded from humanitarian emergency assistance in urban areas, increasing social tensions and undermining the 'do no harm' principle of a humanitarian intervention.

In addition, traditional humanitarian funding has been short-term and sector driven, making it difficult for agencies to engage in long-term planning; design interventions with sustainable objectives; or build effective partnerships with government and civil society stakeholders. This is exacerbated by the fact humanitarian actors traditionally focus on accessing funding through humanitarian streams as opposed to accessing other donors or departments that may have appropriate funds. Traditional 'life-saving' or emergency humanitarian funding should be used more creatively, for example, to strengthen existing host government services and systems. Humanitarian donors should move away from short-term funding opportunities to enable agencies to gear towards long-term objectives in urban areas. Humanitarian and development efforts (including macro-economic interventions), should no longer be seen as sequential, but parallel interventions.

Secondly, an effective humanitarian response to urban crises requires area-based approaches to coordination mechanisms and delivery of services. This approach defines an area, rather than a sector or target group, as the main entry point. All stakeholders, services and needs are mapped and assessed and relevant actors mobilised and coordinated with. An area-based approach ensures support is surged to local municipalities, local partners and civil society, complementing existing governance systems and accommodating the multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach cities and towns require.[10] This approach poses a challenge to the traditional humanitarian response, based on emergency assistance and rapid direct service delivery. The traditional cluster system does not lend itself to the complexity of needs, services and systems across an urban landscape with humanitarian agencies struggling to deal with the complexity, density and built environment of towns and cities or able to take full advantage of the potential a city has to offer. Humanitarian actors have not yet adapted to the need to coordinate not

OPPOSITE PAGE: Ngun Sui Hlei and her daughter Ngun Tha Bor from Burmaâs Chin State share a room with 14 others on the 21st floor of this run-down high-rise building in Kuala Lumpur, Malaysia.

only with each other across sectors, but with a variety of non-humanitarian actors, including municipalities, community-based institutions and local civil society groups, the private sector, development actors and urban planners.

Humanitarian effectiveness in urban areas requires much less direct service delivery and far more engaging with existing services, advocating for access and supporting local governments and private sector partners to scale up and ensure quality of services. Humanitarian agencies working in urban areas will need to shift their efforts from direct delivery of services towards creating a better policy environment (e.g. by advocating to local authorities for affected populations to have access to key services), raising awareness on rights and entitlements (e.g. through legal advice and rights education), referral networks (e.g. to health services through the use of case management) and partnering with local actors to build capacity of local service providers, local systems and private sector. Humanitarian agencies must prioritise

policy and advocacy as a key programming activity, adopting advocacy towards the relevant duty-bearers including national governments, local authorities, municipalities and relevant UN peace building operations on their duty to protect the most vulnerable against physical harm and ensure they can access basic services. A focus should be, where possible, on strengthening existing structures and services (e.g. by providing or ensuring technical and resource support) while building on social capital of individuals, households and communities.

The international community should support and enable local government, where it has capacity and political will, to lead the response, to ensure decision-making is devolved to the lowest possible level, working though existing systems and structures in the first instance to identify gaps and surge support to local and national institutions rather than creating parallel unsustainable systems. For long term sustainable development, humanitarian action should ensure the city has strengthened systems that remain when the international

There are many nationalities of refugees in Nairobi, from Somalis and Ethiopians, to Sudanese and those from the Great Lakes. Mariam (pictured here) and her family fled Congo around two years ago. Today eight of them live in one cramped flat.

humanitarian community has left, while equipping people impacted by crisis, including the urban displaced, with tools for building self-reliance by mainstreaming livelihoods into relief and recovery. The international community must support states hosting urban refugees so that they can transition from dependency towards increased resilience, self-sufficiency and sustainable development outcomes. All of this will require a different skill set and technical knowledge, and investments should be made by agencies to ensure suitably qualified staff.

Reducing Vulnerability, Managing Risk

To reduce vulnerability and manage risk, the international community should be operationally prepared for the multitude of crises that can hit towns and cities, both natural and man-made, and support the international framework for resilience.[11]

As noted in the WHS scoping paper for this theme, to date there has been insufficient attention to the challenges and complexity of managing risk in urban settings. The humanitarian community should urgently invest in building understanding of the risks and likely scope of future urban humanitarian crises (in particular where vulnerabilities are exacerbated by informal/unregulated urbanisation, weak urban governance and fragile urban systems).

Operational preparedness can only be effective if based on an understanding of the complexity of towns and cities: spatial, social, political, cultural, environmental, and economic. Learning about and understanding the urban space should be an ongoing activity for the humanitarian community: undertaken before crisis hits or as soon as possible thereafter through rapid assessments, analysis and mapping, and repeatedly throughout a crisis. Further, humanitarian actors should understand land tenure systems, particularly customary systems and the land rights of the urban displaced. It is particularly critical to understand the urban space, given that it is characterised by interdependencies,

Burmese residents in Wat Kan Ham, Thailand. The building is surrounded with dirty water.

where shocks in one system can generate impacts elsewhere. Greater understanding is also needed of how sudden/protracted influxes of refugees and displaced people impact on city systems and economies.

Reducing vulnerability and managing risk in urban areas will require humanitarian and development communities to partner to collectively assess risks. To ensure preparedness, humanitarian actors and local government, urban planners and the private sector should engage in sustained dialogue to identify solutions for urban crisis and ensure disaster risk, resilience and urban displacement are mainstreamed into urban planning. Such an approach should also prioritise private sector engagement which could help reduce the growing gap between humanitarian needs and resources.[12]

The discussion around this theme provides the opportunity to build on current work amongst the disaster risk reduction and development communities on risk and resilience so that we ensure this informs humanitarian action. For example, the UN Open Working Group on Sustainable Development Goals has proposed a stand-alone goal on Sustainable Cities and Human Settlements: 'Make cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient and sustainable'. Similarly, the zero draft of the post 2015 framework for Disaster Risk Reduction (DRR) recommends the mainstreaming of 'disaster risk reduction measures appropriately into multilateral and bilateral development assistance programmes, including those related to poverty reduction, natural resource management, urban development and adaptation to climate change'. The WHS should build on this recommendation and ensure the WHS outcomes paper links up to discussions in the development and DRR sector.

Transformation Through Innovation

Urbanisation creates both challenges and opportunities for the humanitarian system.

The presence of an existing and complex system, the density and proximity of people and skills in urban areas, and the fact that urban economies are mostly cash-based (in both formal and informal sectors), make them fertile ground for innovation which humanitarian action should capitalise on.

To be innovative and truly transformative, urban humanitarian programming should seek to build on existing capacities of towns and cities and their inhabitants. Efforts to create transformation through innovation should engage affected communities, including civil society and private sector. Humanitarian actors should ensure local populations are involved not only in implementing programmes but in monitoring their performance. Affected governments

Here in a neighbourhood in Osh, Kyrgyzstan, the IRC is providing more than a dozen new power poles. Made of steel and concrete, the posts should last decades.

should engage people in city planning decisions that affect communities when building resilient cities and when responding to a crisis in an urban area.

One transformative intervention has been the use of cash transfers in urban emergencies. Cash programming is not only life-saving, it is also a fertile area for taking advantage of new technologies and forging partnerships with private sector actors such as banks and mobile phone companies to ensure it is scaled to size. IRC's Emergency Economies Report has highlighted the beneficial impact of cash programming on the local economy and on beneficiaries through successful partnership with local banks.[13] Although such interventions show great potential, we should invest in rigorous research and learning to ensure they are as effective as possible.

Technology also plays a key role in innovation. Media technology should be used to facilitate communication between affected communities and the international response. Despite major advances in information technology, and initiatives such as crowd-sourcing and GIS-based mapping of needs (including through

the use of on-line digital volunteers), accurate data on fast-growing cities is scarce and existing mapping tools still falls short of effectively documenting and analysing urban dynamics. This is especially true for low income areas, where the shortage of useful information often reflects and reinforces the social and economic marginalisation of the poor. The international community should invest in the use of technology, data and modelling to improve operational preparedness and knowledge of the city.[14] Partnering with the private sector will help ensure better delivery on this product knowledge.

In order for all actors required for an urban response to work together effectively, information sharing and management between humanitarian actors and with communities will be vital; requiring systems and tools that are different to those used in camp and rural contexts. Recognising that humanitarian and development actors, municipalities, local ministries, urban planners and communities will contribute to the response, then, the information should be available and usable to all of them. Operational preparedness that includes dialogue between sectors should help actors understand the modus operandi of other actors (e.g. municipal actors understand the humanitarian system) leading to improved understanding of leadership roles and coordination from the outset of a crisis. Adapting from a traditional response, where each of these players tends to rely on their own information and data, we should work together to develop, in advance of a crisis, effective standards, tools and ways of working.

Serving the Needs of People in Conflict and Other Situations of Violence

Populations affected by conflict increasingly seek shelter in urban areas. The arrival of large numbers of people can put a critical strain on host communities and on service provision, exacerbating pre-existing weakness in city systems and infrastructure. There is a need for greater understanding of the capacity of neighbourhoods, cities and host communities to meet the needs of increased populations, whether within the health or education system or the housing or job market. It is also essential to understand existing and new social tensions or ethnic divides. Humanitarian programming should be sensitive to the fact that additional pressure on existing systems and services can exacerbate social problems, potentially leading to urban violence.

In addition, humanitarian actors should adapt protection programming so that it is fit for the urban context, with adequate needs assessments and vulnerability indicators that can respond to the protection needs of vulnerable groups in towns and cities, including the

displaced, women and girls. This will mean developing protection approaches that build on individual, household, and community survival/coping strategies; as well as empowering local actors to advocate on behalf of affected groups.

Humanitarian actors should invest in efforts to transform the policy environment, to one that enables urban populations, including the displaced, to earn a living and become self-sufficient.[15] This is urgently the case in situations of urban displacement, where the displaced are often seen only as a burden. There is a need to shift the perception to enable urban displacement to be seen as a development opportunity.[16] The role of the private sector (local, small and medium enterprises) is again critical in this regard. Humanitarian and development actors have a vital role in harnessing economic and employment opportunities for those displaced by conflict, working towards a 'win-win' situation for affected populations and government alike.

A Syrian refugee girl fills water containers near her family's tent in north Lebanon.

Conclusion and Recommendations to the WHS

While we have made great progress in terms of acknowledging the realities of a new urbanised world, and developing promising policy, the humanitarian community has to date failed to sufficiently adapt the 'traditional' humanitarian response to meet these challenges. Moving forward, humanitarian actors should develop approaches that enhance the resilience of individuals, communities and cities most vulnerable to crisis. Where not already known, this will require a significant investment in developing, piloting and testing both new and old ideas to identify what works.

The WHS Regional Consultation in Budapest is an opportunity to really drive forward on commitments to developing effective, sustainable and scalable ways of working that will enable us to be 'fit for purpose' in the years to come.

Recommendations

To this end, IRC proposes the following recommendations to the WHS Regional Consultation for the Europe and Others Group in Budapest:

First, humanitarian effectiveness in urban areas requires that humanitarian actors adopt 'Area-based Approaches' to sector coordination and delivery of services to ensure coordination mechanisms complement existing governance systems and accommodate the multi-sector and multi-stakeholder approach that cities and towns require. This means:

i   Donors should adapt their humanitarian funding requirements and financing structures to reflect the need to move beyond mandate and sector–driven programming in urban contexts.

ii   Humanitarian actors should adapt existing procedures for programming and coordination to ensure they cut across sectors and mobilise as many stakeholders as possible, including local actors.

iii   Humanitarian actors should conduct collective assessment and mapping of all stakeholders, services and capacities within the area; as well as the needs, coping strategies and vulnerabilities of affected populations, and mobilise and support local capacities.

iv   The UN Humanitarian Coordinators (HC) and Resident Coordinators (RC), and Humanitarian Country Team (HCT), country clusters and lead agencies responding to an urban crisis should have access to in-depth urban expertise including understanding of how to engage municipalities and coordinate an urban multi-sectoral and multi-stakeholder response.

v   Humanitarian actors should invest in research to better understand and design modalities for collaboration and coordination between local authorities and service providers, including evaluations of past urban responses to identify 'what works' for effective area-based approaches.

Second, humanitarian effectiveness in urban areas requires the international community to better link humanitarian relief to development goals. This means:

i   Humanitarian actors should engage with what already exists in a community and ensure that the displaced have access to existing services. New structures and direct service provision should be a last resort and only implemented where there is a critical gap.

ii   Humanitarian actors should ensure that relief and recovery interventions are in line, where possible, with government plans, and contribute to long-term resilience building and sustainable development.

iii   Humanitarian actors should draw on expertise of urban development, planning and governance to promote longer-term financing and ensure the shift from relief to recovery and sustainable reconstruction. This may require putting in place financing and/or institutional triggers to minimise the relief phase and ensure a shift to supporting, restoring and improving urban systems occurs as soon as possible.

OPPOSITE PAGE: Rena, with her family, outside her current shelter in Ramtha, Jordan. The IRC began relief operations in Jordan in 2007 for refugees from Iraq. With the arrival of refugees from Syria's civil war in 2012, the IRC ramped up operations in Jordan.

Conclusion and Recommendations (continued)

iv Donors should ensure more multi-year funding streams of 3-5 years in order to facilitate effective, sustainable interventions and increase linkages between humanitarian and development outcomes. Donors should revise financing structures to fund improving existing services rather than parallel structures.

v Development actors and the World Bank should advocate and support host governments to mainstream development-led strategies for the urban displaced into national economic planning and data collection so they are better integrated into more sustainable national poverty reduction and development plans.

vi Humanitarian actors should invest in research and learning that systematises and creates comprehensive measurement and analysis of the costs, benefits and impacts of the urban displaced in towns and cities.

Third, humanitarian effectiveness in urban areas requires the international community to surge assistance to local governments and partner delivery of aid through local actors and civil society to ensure the needs of the cities most vulnerable, including the displaced are met; strengthen systems for long-term recovery and response, and support social cohesion. This means:

i The international community should support and enable the local level government, where it has capacity and political will, to lead the response to ensure decision-making is devolved to the lowest possible level.

ii Humanitarian agencies on the ground should seek to work through local government and community-based institutions, rather than creating parallel unsustainable systems. This means assessing existing services and structures in the first instance in order to identify gaps and surge support to local and national institutions.

iii Humanitarian actors should develop expert rosters that enable a surge in administrative and technical support to municipal authorities to support and strengthen existing systems and deliver required expertise.

iv Humanitarian actors should build a sustained dialogue on solutions for urban crisis with a broad list of key actors; including local governments, urban planners and the private sector by convening high-level policy engagement through local workshops and roundtables.

v Humanitarian actors should identify social cohesion and resilience of communities as a key programming objective; ensuring existing interventions do not burden city systems without support or provide support to some groups and not others.

Two young refugees from Syria at the Arbat camp, Iraq

Fourth, to reduce vulnerability and manage risk in urban areas requires the international community to be better prepared for urban crisis, with an improved understanding of the city and its inhabitants through modified analysis, mapping appropriate for the urban setting and partnering with non-traditional actors. This means:

i Humanitarian actors should conduct strong context, political, economic and conflict analysis to improve understanding of the city; its inhabitants, systems, governance and markets. The UN Country Team should conduct ongoing mapping and analysis as part of the UN Development Assistance Framework (UNDAF) to ensure preparedness.

ii Humanitarian agencies should coordinate information sharing and management between humanitarian agencies and with affected populations, municipalities and development actors to ensure full transparency, value for money for donors and that affected people have the required information on what services are available and how to access them.

iii Humanitarian and development actors should develop and adopt shared tools for analysis and assessments, including standard vulnerability indicators and mapping tools, to avoid duplication and inconsistent outcomes.

The IRC surveys homes destroyed by recent bombings in Ruisi, one of the villages surrounding the town of Gori, in Georgia.

This can be done outside of any given crisis so that we are better able to work together when a crisis hits. A good example is the Emergency Mapping and Analysis (EMMA) toolkit[17] which helps to structure analyses of markets, gaps in provision and possible interventions.

iv Donors should support humanitarian actors to improve their understanding of the city and its inhabitants through investing in joint analysis and needs assessment work.

v Donors should advocate to national governments for recovery plans and regulatory frameworks to be developed where these do not already exist.

Fifth, to ensure transformation through innovation requires the international community to facilitate the direct engagement of affected communities in developing innovative and effective responses to urban crises. This means:

i Humanitarian actors should engage and partner with affected communities and local civil society organisations from the outset, particularly in defining needs and vulnerabilities and monitoring performance of the humanitarian response.

ii Humanitarian actors should, when possible, deliver services and goods through local providers and ensure local populations' involvement in implementation.

iii Humanitarian actors should use new and existing media to ensure better communication and information exchange to better ensure accountability to affected communities.

iv Affected governments should engage people in city planning decisions that affect them when building resilient cities and making decisions (e.g. about residency or land) when responding to an urban crisis.

v Humanitarian actors, including UN agencies, should look to the 2011 IASC Policy on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, and to prioritise recently identified gaps in its implementation.

Sixth, to ensure transformation through innovation in urban areas requires the humanitarian community to engage and partner with local and international private sector for product solutions and scalable, sustainable outcomes. This means:

i Humanitarian actors should map local and international private sector actors to identify where potential synergies can be achieved and negative interactions avoided.

ii Affected governments and humanitarian actors should engage in dialogue, build partnerships and facilitate international and local private sector engagement in all aspects of an urban humanitarian response.

iii Affected governments and humanitarian actors should identify ways to incorporate private sector solutions into current humanitarian practices and programming at global national and local level.

iv Humanitarian actors should use new and existing media to inform communities of their rights and protection activities and programming.

v Humanitarian actors should map pre-crisis acute vulnerabilities, people directly affected by the crisis and the nature of specific vulnerable groups in urban areas.

vi Humanitarian actors should use GIS equipment, crowd-sourcing, satellite, the internet and mobile apps to better understand the location of vulnerable groups and population movements.

Seventh, transformation through innovation in urban areas requires the international community to recognise the role of cash and urban livelihoods as life-saving. This means:

i Donors should increase investments in emergency cash programming as a life-saving humanitarian intervention.

ii Humanitarian actors should coordinate delivery of cash programming and ensure it responds to both the needs of the displaced and host communities.

iii Humanitarian actors and UN agencies should adopt multi-sectoral cash programming rather than voucher-based or sector-based cash programmes.

iv Humanitarian agencies should invest in developing the right vulnerability tools and frameworks to help prioritise scarce resources, for example between those resident in a city before or after a shock, as well as to support host and displaced communities.

v Humanitarian actors should advocate towards the relevant duty-bearers including national governments, local businesses and private sector for an enabling legal and policy environment on accessing livelihoods.

Eighth, transformation though innovation in urban areas requires the international community to invest in the use of technology, data and modelling to improve operational preparedness and knowledge of the city.

i Donors should increase investments in technology solutions including new information communication technologies and GIS platforms for humanitarian assistance, beyond the pilot stage.

ii Humanitarian actors should identify the gaps between technology advances and field implementation and develop practical strategies and proposals to address those gaps.

iii Humanitarian actors should foster partnerships between academia, NGOs, UN and government agencies with developers of mobile, data and modelling technologies.

Ninth, serving the needs of people in conflict requires the international community to ensure protection of the most vulnerable in urban areas.

i Humanitarian actors should respond to protection needs and violence against vulnerable groups in towns and cities, including IDPs, refugees, women and girls.

ii Humanitarian actors should prioritise policy and advocacy as a key programming activity, adopting advocacy towards the relevant duty-bearers including national governments, local authorities, municipalities and relevant UN peace building operations on their duty to protect the most vulnerable against physical harm and ensure they can access basic services.

iii Humanitarian actors should engage in protection activities that capacity build local civil society and affected groups to ensure long-term survival, building on individual, household and community survival and coping strategies.

OPPOSITE PAGE TOP: A Somali refugee woman with her daughter in a run-down apartment complex in the Eastleigh section of Nairobi, Kenya

OPPOSITE PAGE BOTTOM: A battle-damaged building, Bondhere district, Mogadishu, Somalia

Endnotes

1 See United Nations, Department of Economic and Social Affairs, Population Division World Urbanization Prospects: The 2014 Revision, Highlights (2014), available at: http://esa.un.org/unpd/wup/Highlights/WUP2014-Highlights.pdf

2 For the most recent figures on the global displaced, see UNHCR Global Trends 2013 War's Human Costs available at: http://www.unhcr.org/5399a14f9.html

3 A staggering 86% of all refugees are now hosted by less developed countries - those countries with the fewest resources to provide for them, see UNHCR Global Trends 2013, War's Human Costs, p.2, available at: http://www.unhcr.org/5399a14f9.html

4 P Ashdown et al, 2011, 'The Humanitarian Emergency Response Review', at p.9

5 See for example, the Inter-Agency Standing Committee Standing Committee, Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas, 2010, available at: www.humanitarianinfo.org/iasc/downloaddoc.aspx?docID=5615...pdf, UNHCR's Policy on Refugee Protection and Solutions in Urban Areas Urban Refugee Policy, September 2009, which for the first time recognised urban areas as legitimate places for refugees to reside as well as calling for the international community to provide assistance to them in their urban context, available at: http://www.refworld.org/docid/4ab8e7f72.html. See also UNHCR's policy on Alternatives to Camps, published in 2014, available at: http://www.unhcr.org/5422b8f09.html

6 See for example, URD-Group, real-time evaluation in Haiti, three months after the earthquake of 12 January 2010, April 2010, for the IASC, available at: http://www.urd.org/Real-time-evaluation-in-Haiti, 458; 'From slow boil to breaking point: A real-time evaluation of UNHCR's response to the Syrian refugee emergency, available at: http://www.unhcr.org/52b83e539.html; Responding to urban disasters: Learning from previous relief and recovery operations, available at: http://www.alnap.org/resource/7772

7 For example, the Kenyan election violence 2008, Haiti Earthquake 2010, Philippines Typhoon Haiyan 2013 and the ongoing conflicts in the Middle East.

8 See, for example, European Commission Humanitarian Aid and Civil Protection, Issues Paper, Development, Refugees and IDP. Available at: http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/policies/sectoral/2014_dev_refugees_idps_issuespaper.pdf

9 See, Professor Roger Zetter Reframing Displacement Crises as Development Opportunities Working Paper and Analytical Background prepared for the Roundtable on Solutions, Copenhagen, 2-3 April 2014, at p. 2, available at; http://www.endingdisplacement.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/03/Main-conference-paper.pdf

10 For an overview of the cluster system see V. Humphries, 'Improving Humanitarian Coordination: Common Challenges and Lessons Learned from the Cluster Approach' Journal of Humanitarian Assistance, available at: http://sites.tufts.edu/jha/archives/1976. See also, Urban Displacement and Out of Camp Review, which aims to explore how CCCM resources and experiences from camp responses can be applied to urban displaced populations, available at: http://www.globalcccmcluster.org/system/files/publications/140407%20UDOC%20ECHO%20 2014%20%281%29.pdf

11 Hyogo Framework for Action 2005-2015: Building the Resilience of Communities and Nations to Disaster. See http://www.unisdr.org/we/coordinate/hfa

12 See WHS Regional Consultation for 'Europe and Others', Feb 2015: Suggested discussion questions for preliminary events organised by partners.

13 IRC's Emergency Economies; the Impact of Cash Assistance in Lebanon, is the first ever scientifically rigorous evaluation of emergency cash distribution for refugees. A key finding was for each dollar of cash assistance spent, $2.13 was created in local markets. The report is available at: http://www.rescue.org/press-releases/irc-releases-evaluation-cash-transfers-work-refugees-emergencies-21557

14 See World Humanitarian Summit Regional Consultation for 'Europe and Others', Feb 2015: Suggested discussion questions for preliminary events organised by partners, p.2

15 See, for example, UNHCR Global Strategy on Livelihoods UNHCR Global Livelihoods Strategy, which advocates for this approach. Available at: www.unhcr.org/530f107b6.pdf

16 For further on this point, see the work of Solutions Alliance, available at: http://www.solutionsalliance.org/

17 Available at: http://emma-toolkit.org/

The International Rescue Committee (IRC) responds to the world's worst humanitarian crises and helps people to survive and rebuild their lives. Founded in 1933 at the request of Albert Einstein, the IRC offers lifesaving care and life-changing assistance to refugees forced to flee from war, persecution or natural disaster. At work today in over 40 countries and 22 cities, we restore safety, dignity and hope to millions who are uprooted and struggling to endure. The IRC leads the way from harm to home.

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