

Urban Assessment Tools and Methodologies Workshop Report

Copenhagen, 20-21 June 2016

Increasing numbers of the globe's poor and vulnerable peoples are to be found in urban environments facing a complex web of risk and vulnerabilities. Along with the governments, international development and humanitarian agencies and civic society organizations, the Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) family is progressively getting engaged in addressing urban risk and building resilience in urban areas, in addition to responding to major urban disasters and assuming a prominent role in urban recovery/reconstruction efforts. There are also efforts to develop new tools and/or adapt existing ones to help humanitarian and development agencies including the National Societies (NS) navigate effectively in complex urban environments. However these efforts remain to be sporadic and not necessarily having the scale, breadth and depth of analysis required by urban context.

In early February 2016, the American Red Cross has initiated a process of taking stock of tools and approaches being used/developed for urban assessment and agree on a plan of action leading to development of an aligned Urban Assessment toolbox for NSs and their partners. As a result of this process, several case studies were developed and a workshop was organized in Copenhagen hosted by the Danish Red Cross on 20-21 June, 2016 with the participation of 15 National Societies, GDPC, RCRC Climate Center and partners such as ALNAP, ACAPS and IRC. This report documents the results of the workshop and the agreed action plan for the follow up process.

In addition to the results summarized below, the group also expressed interest in expanding this kind of collaboration to other topics related to urban resilience and disaster risk reduction. It was also agreed that the American Red Cross will continue to coordinate and facilitate the overall process of development of tools with support from all of the participants.

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Summary of the results

Throughout several group work sessions the participants discussed challenges and opportunities in relation to (i) Physical and natural environment, (ii) People and institutions/organizations and (iii) Systems and services in urban context and identified the questions that they would like urban assessment process provide answers. A summary of the results of breakout group discussions on i) Tools that exist and work well; ii) Tools that are in need of major revision/adaptation and iii) Tools that need to be developed is given in Table 1.

Table 1: Summary of Group work on Analysis of urban Assessment Tools

Tools that exist and work well:	Tools in need of major revision/adaptation	Tools that need to be developed:
Individual and household levels:		
Focus group discussions Key informant interviews Direct observation	Seasonal calendar vs day and night Venn diagram to depict underlying complexities and power Urban household preparedness and action plans Household and neighborhoods assessment Volunteer management	Housing opportunities and challenges (tenure issues) Access to information and social services (including disaster situation) People's mobility assessment Livelihood and coping strategies analysis
Community/neighborhood level:		
VCA toolkit IFRC Community resilience guidelines	Transect walk Mapping of physical features Mapping/Showing social characteristics Making Open data and maps more accessible and useful for communities and governments as end users Sampling/surveying techniques Advocacy with local governments	Social network analysis Contextual Assessment

District/city levels:		
UNHABITAT Urban Resilience Profiling toolkit.	WPNS	Stakeholder Analysis Systems Analysis Engaging with local governments

In the follow up discussions, the breakout groups focused on the tools that needs to be developed and recommendations for the content of these tools at each level (Table 2).

Table 3: Summary of Group work on Missing Tools

Missing Tools	Existing related tools	Recommendations
Individual and household levels:		
Livelihood and coping strategies analysis		Differentiate long term/short term; formal/informal. More than financial resources focus on wider assets. Include income and expenditure mapping. Include discussions on negative coping mechanisms to inform household preparedness and planning.
Community/neighborhood level:		
Contextual Assessment	GDPC City Risk Assessment Tools being developed.	
Increasing social cohesion	LAC/Caribbean Violence Prevention programs	Adjust RFL tool for integration of migrants and IDPS into host communities
Common principles for connecting data and tools.		Include check-list of preconditions for utilization of technologies. Must be revised regularly.
District/city levels:		
Urban Stakeholder Analysis	IFRC Resilience Guidelines	Focus on complexity and multiplicity of stakeholders.

	<p>UNHABITAT Urban Profiling Tool</p> <p>ARC Urban Profiling Samples</p> <p>GDPC Coalition Building Tool is being developed.</p>	<p>Needs to be relevant to RCRC.</p> <p>Add how to understand power relations, influence, and decision making process.</p> <p>Map existing examples done by RCRC and others.</p>
Urban Systems Analysis	<p>UNHABITAT Urban Resilience Toolkit</p> <p>GDPC City Risk Assessment Tool is being developed.</p>	<p>Provide guidance on eco-systems, climate and environmental issues</p> <p>Provide city system analysis tool for RCRC branches.</p>
Engaging with local governments for influencing policy and advocacy	<p>Climate Change National Adaptation Plan (NAD) Advocacy tool</p>	<p>Position RCRC as an active partner in municipality level discussions, decisions, investment planning process.</p> <p>Use DRR legislation initiatives as an opportunity. Partner with UNDP, UNISDR, UNHABITAT and World Bank.</p> <p>Play out the auxiliary role for influencing policy and decisions.</p>
Guidance for engaging technologies for urban assessment	<p>Missing Maps for GIS</p> <p>VCA Digitalization (IFRC & GDPC)</p> <p>ARC, Kenya and South Africa RCs Fire Sensors project</p>	<p>Compilation of what exists and how they could be used.</p> <p>Digital tools (OSM) exist but tools on how to do it is needed.</p> <p>Mapping of quality of physical structures including houses, schools. Identify high risk areas.</p>
The common ground Initiative (Fostering mutual understanding between RCRC and Municipalities)	<p>Hungarian RC is developing a guide for branches for interacting with municipality emergency plans.</p> <p>Mercy Corps Lebanon developed guidance for working with local authorities.</p> <p>UCLG has done some work on this topic.</p>	<p>Advocacy for parliamentary and governments on the role of RCRC at municipal level.</p> <p>Include how and when to partner with others with relevant skills.</p>

Following the discussions on tools that already exist and/or need minor revisions, the participants identified four new tools to develop collectively:

1. Urban System Analysis
2. Collecting/compiling/utilization and storage of secondary data and information.
3. Guidance for using emerging technologies in urban assessment.
4. Engaging in policy/advocacy with municipalities.

The groups also worked on what kind of actions needed for the development of these tools. For each tool, volunteers signed up for leading the process for the next six months. The results of this process is summarized below.

1

Urban System Analysis tool Leads: Ansa and Oivind (NRC)

Task	Interest/commitment
Developing TOR in coordination with IRC and ALNAP	Maria (ARC)
Sharing outputs of research on urban stakeholders	Leah (ALNAP) Andrew (IRC)
Sharing outputs of research on *****	Matthias and Anne (GRC)
Literature review and resource mapping	Ansa and Oivind (NRC) Jill and Caroline (BRC) Maria (ARC)

2

City level secondary data and information

Lead: Caroline (BRC)

Task	Interest/commitment
Literature review, resource mapping and sharing existing tools	Anne (GRC) Sandie (ACAPS) Eva (HKRC)
Developing a template for the collection of relevant data (Excel database?)	
Identify common/key headings and potential partners	Eva (HKRC) Nyambiri (TRCS)
Piloting/peer review and revisions	

Linking with other tools (VCA) Platform for data storage	Marjorie (IFRC)
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3

Emerging technologies in urban assessment Leads: Safia (KRCS) Andras (HRCS)

Task	Interest/commitment
Literature review, resource mapping and sharing existing tools	Ansa and Oivind (NRC) Daniel (KRCS) Arifin (PMI) Michael (MRC) Julie (ARC, CC)
Organizing the existing tools into categories	
Developing concerns and recommendations, "how to"s, pros+cons, preconditions	
Developing guidance on partnering (relevant skills and knowledge)	
Piloting/peer review and revisions	Hung (VRCS) Arifin (PMI) Michael (MRC) Maria (ARC)
Dissemination (hosting the database)	Ian (GDPC)

4

Engaging in policy/advocacy with municipalities Leads: Jill (BRC) Raimond (NRC)

Task	Interest/commitment
Literature review, resource mapping and sharing and adapting existing tools	Anne Mette (DRC) Michael (MRC) Ian (GDPC) Julie (ARC, CC)

Identify needs and gaps in terms of policy, skills and capacities within and outside RCRC	Anne Mette (DRC) Maria (ARC)
Share and validate feedback from local government associations	Arifin (PMI) Michael (MRC)

Next steps

As a first step, a Community Group “Urban Assessment tools” is created under the global Disaster preparedness center (GDPC) website: preparecenter.org/groups/urban-assessment-tools. The group is open to everyone and who is interested in the topic. The architecture of the website allows editing text, linking resources to the topic, having discussions (Instructions to join the group will be shared separately)

For all:

1. Sharing the results of the workshop with your colleagues and organization to confirm/get commitment to contribute to the process.
2. Sharing the resources with the group.

For the leaders for the tools:

3. Forming a focus group of max 6 people to lead the process for each group (Leads and/or participants can join different groups at the same time).
4. Developing a work plan and resource requirements with the focus group and initiating the process.

Case studies

- 1 Ecuador---- Integrated Participatory Assessment of urban communities in Canton of Huaquillas:** The assessment aimed at identifying risks and vulnerabilities of urban communities using a participatory approach under the Resilience in the Americas (RITA) program that the Ecuadorian RC has been implementing with support from American RC.
- 2 Indonesia stakeholder mapping in three districts in Jakarta:** The mapping was conducted to identify key stakeholders to sensitize and work with towards the goal of reducing flood risks under the Greater Jakarta Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Project that the Indonesian RC has been implementing with support from American RC.
- 3 Indonesia communications/information assessment/survey in Jakarta:** The survey was carried out to identify the types of media that people use,, who they talk to and trust, and how they would like information delivered to them to improve the effectiveness of climate change adaptation messages under the Greater Jakarta Urban Disaster Risk Reduction Project that the Indonesian RC has been implementing with support from American RC.
- 4 Jamaica ---- Integrated assessment of Communities of Interest in two parishes in Kingston:** The assessment aimed at collecting information on a marginalized group (Men who have Sex with Men) living across the city in a safe and confidential way to ensure that that their voices, concerns and needs are taken into consideration when designing interventions under the RITA program that the Jamaican RC has been implementing with support from American RC.
- 5 Kenya---- Vulnerability and Capacity Assessments of 7 informal settlements in Nairobi:** The assessment aimed at identifying risks and vulnerabilities of communities in the 7 informal settlements to inform the Urban Disaster Risk Reduction and Climate Change program that the Kenyan RC has been implementing with the Danish RC.
- 6 Philippines ---- Participatory Approach for Safe Shelter Awareness (PASSA+) in Tacloban:** The assessment aimed at finding ways to harmonize conflicting needs of local communities by encouraging the participation of as many local interests/stakeholders as possible as well as showing the connections with wide-ranging objectives of recovery program that the Philippines RC has been implementing with a wide range of partners.
- 7 Vietnam ---- Urban profiling:** The assessment aimed at profiling the physical and social characteristics, risks, vulnerabilities and capacities at city scale in order to identify the most vulnerable communities in four cities to target under the Building Resilience to Natural Hazards in Central Vietnam program that the Vietnam RC has been implementing with support from American RC.
- 8 Zimbabwe ---- Urban profiling, GIS mapping and Baseline Survey in Harare:** The purpose of the assessment was to inform the identification and methodology of activities to be implemented under the Urban DRR project that the Zimbabwe RC has been implementing with support from American RC and Norwegian RC.

Presentations

1

Syria Urban Profiling: The urban profiling process carried out by UNHABITAT in Aleppo, Syria aimed to understand demographic characteristics, city structures and systems, mapping of local capacities and stakeholders and compilation of secondary data.

2

Lebanon ---Bridging Response to Recovery through Livelihoods Centers: IRC's response to refugee crises in Lebanon aimed at developing sustainable solutions for both host communities and urban refugees

3

Kenya and South Africa -- Fire Sensors Project: Development and installation of Fire Sensors suitable for informal settings in cooperation with wide range of partners including technology companies that the Kenya and South Africa RC implemented with support from American RC.

4

Tanzania Flood Preparedness Project: Development of Flood Preparedness and Response Plans, including Forecast Based Financing, in three municipalities and at the community level in Dar-Es-Salaam that the Vietnam RC has been implementing with support from American RC in cooperation with wide range of partners.

5

Ukraine Multi-sector needs assessment: The assessment carried out by ACAPS in Eastern Ukraine aimed to identify critical needs of the IDPs as a result of ongoing conflict and the humanitarian impact of the crises.

6

Vietnam ---- Urban CBDR assessment: The tools for urban disaster risk assessment has been developed in collaboration with the government and ISET with support from American RC.

7

Zimbabwe ---- Urban profiling, GIS mapping and Baseline Survey in Harare: The purpose of the assessment was to inform the identification and methodology of activities to be implemented under the Urban DRR project that the Zimbabwe RC has been implementing with support from American RC and Norwegian RC.

Participants

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