![International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies](logo)

Urban Collaboration Platform Workshop 2018

4-6 June 2018, Nairobi, Kenya

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Background

The Red Cross Red Crescent (RCRC) Movement has a long history of engaging in urban disaster management. This experience ranges from response and recovery after a natural disaster, to service delivery in protracted crisis, to community level resilience building. Recently urban climate adaptation programs have also expanded, particularly focusing on heat waves and floods. In addition, the Movement is also active in sharing localized experience at key global forums with an aim of influencing key decision makers. Key global forums where the Movement has actively advocated for increasing community resilience include the Sendai Conference on DRR, the 9th World Urban Forum and Habitat 3. Since early 2016, the Federation Secretariat and American Red Cross (ARC) have been co-leading the Urban Collaboration Platform (UCP), with strong support from several National Societies (NSs), International Committee of Red Cross (ICRC), Global Disaster Preparedness Center (GDPC) and the RCRC Climate Center. UCP aims to help the RCRC National Societies be better informed, better connected and better engaged in understanding and working in urban context.

The first output of this process was the Urban Assessment Workshop hosted by the Danish Red Cross in Copenhagen on 20-21 June 2016. The participants of the workshop expressed a strong interest in expanding this kind of collaboration to other topics related to urban resilience and disaster risk reduction. The second workshop was hosted by the Norwegian Red Cross in Oslo on 18-20 May 2017 that sought to strengthen the collaboration process and advance the RCRC knowledge and practical skills in urban disasters and crisis. **Building on this momentum and in cooperation with Kenya Red Cross, the third workshop was organized in Nairobi on 4-6 June 2018.**

Workshop Design and Participation

The overall purpose of the Nairobi workshop was to increase the familiarity and knowledge of the RCRC family in building resilience in informal settlement areas in high-risk urban settings.

The workshop was designed to be interactive and highly participatory with the following main sections:

- Presentations from external partners including UNHABITAT, Slum Dwellers International (SDI) and OXFAM.
- Presentations from RCRC National Societies including Bangladesh, Hong Kong, Lebanon, Kenya, Netherlands, Philippines and South Africa.
- Presentations from ICRC and RCRC Climate Center.
- Participant led sessions on a wide range of topics including participatory city planning.
- Group work on innovative ideas to address urban risks based on relevance to RCRC and potential for scaling up.

- Group work on Strategy 2030
- Field visit to Mukuru Fuata Nyayo, one of the informal settlements areas where KRCS is working.

Total 37 people attended the workshop (*Annex),* from 14 RCRC National Societies from all regions, ICRC, IFRC Geneva and Africa zone, GDPC and RCRC Climate Center, UNHABITAT, OXFAM and Slum Dwellers International (SDI)

A post event survey revealed that 80% of the participants are very satisfied with the way the workshop is designed and executed (remaining 20% is somewhat satisfied). The participant preferred the presentations from external partners most (35%). Participant led discussions and group work on the Strategy 2030 followed the ranking with 25 % each. Participants also suggested topics for UCP to focus on. These include adaptation of current DRR tools used within the movement to urban context, food security in urban context, and Forecast Based Financing (FbF) in cities.

Highlights of the workshop sessions

In his opening remarks to the workshop participants, Dr. Abbas Gullet stated that there is a huge influx of people who live in the informal settlements of Nairobi thus when disasters occur, a big number of them are affected. He further emphasized that due to environmental degradation and lack of enforcement on infrastructure regulation, the occurrence of disasters such as the recent collapse of a 5 story building in Huruma area, Nairobi that claimed three lives have become more frequent. A disaster policy and law has been recently approved by the national government and KRCS intends to incorporate it into its programs. Dr. Gullet also stated that the greatest risks that people face are found in the urban centers. **In order to build urban resilience, RCRC should focus on and be better at multi-stakeholder partnerships.**

Presentations by external Partners:

Participatory Urban Approach in Conflict, Disaster, Displacement contexts: Rogier van den Berg, the head of the **UN-HABITAT's** Urban Planning and Design LAB presented case studies from Ghana, Haiti and Iraq to show how the LAB supports local, regional and national authorities to implement policies, plans and designs through participatory planning processes for more compact, better integrated and connected cities that foster equitable sustainable urban development and are resilient to climate change.

High Cost of Low Living: Research Findings: Kingsley Kariuki from **Slum Dwellers International (**SDI) presented striking findings of the research in Mukuru, a slum area in Nairobi. So-called 'Poverty penalty' in informal settlements is the high cost of low living. Residents of Mukuru suffer a housing 'poverty penalty' per square-foot ranging from 10.7% to 25.8%, when compared with residents of formal areas. As compared to formal customers, residents of Mukuru residents pay 45.35% more for unreliable

electricity that is supplied using unsafe, informal connections. They pay 172.72% more per cubic on water.

PSUP (Participatory Slum Upgrade Program) approach: Joshua Maviti from **UN-HABITAT** presented PSUP, which aims to address slum deprivations citywide through mainstreaming participatory decision-making, climate change considerations, gender equity, human rights, and socio economic empowerment of slum dwellers. The program utilizes Community Managed Funds as a tool for empowering and engaging community in upgrading that has been piloted in 9 African countries; Kenya, Ghana, Senegal, Niger, Burkina-Faso, Cameroon, Malawi, Mozambique and DRC. Sequence strategy.

Women rights in informal Settlements: Wendy Okolo from **OXFAM** presented the Wezesha Jamii Project which aims to enhance socio-economic empowerment of poor and vulnerable urban women dependent on the informal economy in Nairobi Urban. The project targets 10000 Domestic Workers and 20,000 Women Small Scale Traders to strategically transform power relations through our work on women's economic empowerment by investing in women's agency.

Presentations by RCRC National Societies and movement partners

Urban Resilience Project: Suada Ibrahim from **Kenya Red Cross** presented the Urban Resilience Project, which focuses on building resilience in urban informal settlement through innovation and partnership. The Community Based Disaster Response Teams (CBDRTs), which is one of the milestones, were registered as CBOs thus creating a sense of ownership. As a way of advocating for the introduction of DRR into school curriculum, KRCS in partnership with Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) and other partners developed a DRR facilitators manual. Establishing safer power connections and raising awareness made the community less hostile to the Fire Brigades. KRCS also created and trained first responders team at the community level resulting in reducing the response time to three minutes, and a reduction of fire outbreak of 65% over three years.

Disaster Preparedness Pilot project for subdivided Flat Residents: LUI Sau Lan Irene from **Hong Kong Red Cross Society** presented that there are many subdivided flats (single-family apartments divided into two or more individual dwellings) in Hong Kong city. These flats usually have no windows or fire escape routes/plans making the residents highly exposed to fire risk. Working in partnership with the local government, HKRC has implemented a disaster preparedness project in these areas. The HKRC has visited these flats, fire station, and organized community workshop to enhance their awareness and knowledge in disaster preparedness, especially in fire prevention.

Dhaka Earthquake and Preparedness Project: Ziaul Haq from **Bangladesh Red Crescent Society** stated that the principle objective of this project is to contribute to the reduced propensity and scale of secondary impact from earthquakes and major emergencies amongst the population of Dhaka. Working with a range of key urban stakeholders, the project aimed to achieve (i) enhanced institutional preparedness (ii) increased knowledge of earthquake risk and coordination (advocacy and media engagement) and (iii) Increased engagement of schools and community associations in preparedness and risk reduction.

Building Community Resilience in Informal Settlements: Noor Jaber from **Lebanese Red Cross** presented the integrated approach to urban resilience in in Khan Al Tamaseel, which has received an influx of refugees recently (there are about 34,000 Syrian refugees and 40,000-50,000 Iraqi refugees). Khan Al Tamaseel the area already has major issues such as lack of safe and clean water, poor housing conditions, lack of garbage collection and sewerage system, prevalence of skin diseases, insects/rodents and frequent fires mainly due to lack of reliable power system. The integrated approached of the project included activities in WASH, DRR, PSS/Case management and External partners (health and sanitation).

Disaster Management and Response Preparedness Approach: Fernel Campher from **South Africa Red Cross** Society presented the disaster management response preparedness approach which encompasses;

1. Training such as FA, fire-fighting level 1, safer access among others
2. Preparation; storing, stock readiness, bin card system (FIFO) and logistics (fleet management)
3. Advocacy; creating awareness at shopping centres, fire prevention demonstrations at schools, simulations and first aid demonstration
4. Disaster response; rapid assessment, cooking of hot meals, provision of blankets, distribution of vanity\dignity packs and post assessment (PSS for Survivors).

Implementing Urban Water Projects in African Conflict Context: Julien LeSourd, Urban Water Expert from **ICRC Nairobi** highlighted the technical, operational and organizational challenges in developing and implementing sound and efficient infrastructure projects in conflict contexts in Africa. The development of urban infrastructure is difficult as their absence contributes to the protraction of crisis. Implementing urban water projects seeks to ensure that there is a functional water supply in war zone African states.
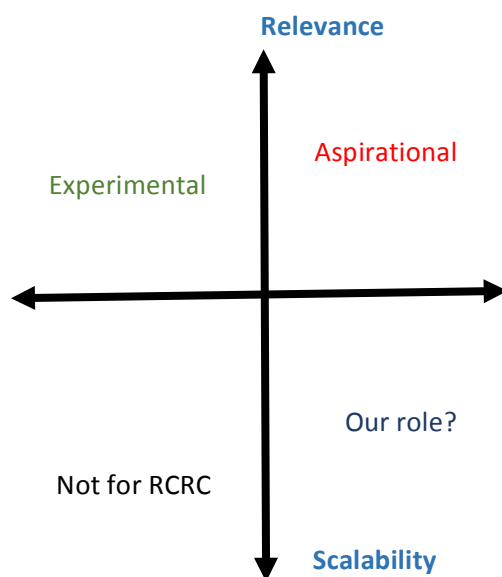
Humanitarian diplomacy in urban resilience: Raimond Dujiens from **Netherlands RC** presented the collaborative effort between the British RC and Netherlands RC in developing a new tool to provide guidance for the NSs in working with their local governments. Urban work requires more engagement with non-RC stakeholders especially the local governments. The tool also aligns with the "community resilience" approach which emphasizes Humanitarian Diplomacy in addressing underlying causes of risk. It also complements short-term interventions with long-term approaches and advocacy work.

Regional Urban Food Insecurity: Laureen Wesonga from the **International Center for Humanitarian Affairs (ICHA) of KRCS** aims to develop evidence based policy documents and advocacy strategy on urban food insecurity and FBF (Forecast based Financing). High pace of urbanization in Africa and Asia and sheer number of vulnerable populations results in emergence of new patterns of empowerment and vulnerability, different subcategories of the urban poor with unique needs and multiple stakeholders: community, local government, national government and other formal and informal actors are some of the policy challenges experienced towards addressing the complexity of the urban space. The project aims build the capacity of NS to use their unique position as auxiliary to the Government to influence policy decisions touching on urban food insecurity at national, regional and international levels.

Talk on Slums, innovation and inspiration - for us, and for the role we as RCRC Movement play: Sandra D'Urzo, co-lead of the Urban Collaboration Platform, gave an inspirational talk on the nature and evolving dynamics of slums worldwide. She presented examples of collaborative efforts to create better quality spaces slums such as the one in Mumbai (India). Investing in participatory slum upgrading - putting people and services to people at the centre – can contribute to achieving sustainable urbanisation, reducing inequalities and co-producing more inclusive cities.

Urban Heatwaves: Julie Arrighi from **RCRC Climate Center** presented the rising risk of heatwaves especially in cities with the urban heat island effect. Despite that risk, heatwaves are chronically understudied and inadequately understood in many parts of the world. Often called the 'silent killer' heatwaves have killed thousands of people in recent years including 70,000 people in Europe in 2003, and at least 3,729 people in India and Pakistan in 2015. The frequency and intensity of heat extremes is projected to continue to rise globally, increasing the importance of managing heatwave risks in a changing climate. Heatwave risks are also increasingly important as number of people living in urban areas continues to rise.

Group work on relevance and scalability of urban interventions

Relevance

Aspirational

Experimental

Our role?

Not for RCRC

Scalability

Building on the information presented and their own experiences, the participants were asked to brain-storm about the relevance and scalability of a wide range of activities that RCRC National Societies can consider implementing in urban context. The ideas were grouped as inspirational, experimental, a different role and not for RCRC. The aspirational ideas are thought to be both relevant to RCRC and also scalable in urban context and also across regions. The inspirational ideas are found to be relevant but may not be so easy to scale.

The aspirational and experimental ideas for RCRC National societies are summarized below:

Aspirational:

- Integrating urbanization and related issues into National Society strategies.
- EWEA Systems for urban heatwaves and the floods.
- Strengthening the linkages between branches and local governments. Working with local and national government to make city plans more resilient to disasters such as flooding and earthquakes.

- Increasing skill sets of NSs for urban risk reduction and response and also in data protection and ethics.
- Shifting roles from service provision and implementation to facilitation and brokering.
- Linking with host communities in service provision to IDPs and refugees.
- Promoting Community Managed Funds (CMF).
- Using more creative, artistic tools etc. to engage youth in urban resilience.
- Using research to advocate to local authorities about urban risks and vulnerabilities.
- Promoting increased use of climate information in urban planning.
- Engaging in city planning process; bringing the community voice and promoting investment in DRR.
- Develop menu of options for urban and rural for FbF (per sector)
- Promote urban food insecurity dialogues.
- Use of geospatial information and satellite imaging to collect information before, during and after disasters.
- Physical planning to prioritize implementation of community-based projects in informal settlements.
- Advocacy in urban resilience to act/inform policies.
- Improving partnership, coordination and accountability in urban disaster management.
- Building volunteer capacity on data management (code of conduct)
- Integrating women and young girls in community active plans and monitoring.
- Partnering with organizations and networks from sectors.
- Adapting urban tools e.g. VCA for conflict areas.
- Including poverty penalty analysis in VCA
- Promoting dignity in informal settlement.

Experimental

- Engaging with diaspora communities in urban resilience building.
- Collaboration with knowledge centers e.g. universities to get more research done on urban vulnerabilities.
- Increased use of science technology and data.
- Addressing land tenure in urban areas.
- Making invisible urban service data visible (rent + water + electricity).
- Designing public spaces with youth.
- EWEA for Slum dwellers.
- Exploring global policy related funding e.g. Green Climate Funds.
- Integrated city plans that incorporate slums/informal settlement issues.
- Innovation of tools for disaster preparedness which are affordable to low income population.
- Partnership with non-traditional partners e.g. musicians/artists and private sector in building urban resilience.

The participants also mentioned that **r**eporting illegal activities when we encounter them in cities does not fall under the mandate of RCRC.

Group work on RCRC Strategy 2030

This session was based on the recent work on urban trends within the baseline themes of Strategy 2030 that has been carried out by IFRC Innovation team. The participant was asked to provide their insights on the five urban related trends that would define our world in 2030:

1. **Africa is urban, young and vibrant.**

2. **Cities are global actors in their own right.**

3. **Most important assets are data and information.**

4. **Silent killers: heat-waves, non-contagious diseases, water scarcity, air pollution**

5. **Informal economy married with mobile technologies will change the human interactions.**

The participants were asked to group their insights under three questions:

- How do you think these trends will manifest themselves in your region/country?
- What might be the broader implications on society?
- What could be the implications our work in 5-10 years?

A summary of results are given below:

1. **Africa is urban, young and vibrant**

   Implications on broader society:

   ✓ High rate of urbanization will lead to rapid increase in informal settlements while leaving rural areas more desolate with many uninhabited houses and elderly. It will also cause loss of asset value in rural areas.

   ✓ Expanding use of mobile technologies is already changing the way people communicate. It will be easier to start-up micro businesses. On the other hand, it will cause high unemployment rates, which might lead to violence in cities.

   ✓ Secondary cities will grow substantially but primary cities will continue to predominate economy at a larger scale. There will be limited resources for urban development to catch up with the growth in secondary cities.

   ✓ Reduction in small holder farms will match the increase in commercialized farming resulting in loss of skills and knowledge among rural population which in turn would weaken their resilience.

   Implications on the work of RCRC:

   ✓ RCRC will have to respond to wider range of urban disasters and stresses including but not limited to road traffic hazards, fires, civil unrest in cities.

- ✓ NSs will have to be more technologically savvy to stay relevant to the priorities of urban communities.

- ✓ NSs will devise more innovative, new recruitment strategies for urban volunteers and adjust the training programs according to their availability, skills, priorities and flexible schedules.

- ✓ RCRC will start and/or support urban farming and gardening practices to help build resilience of most vulnerable urban communities.

- ✓ NSs will integrate social protection into their programs in urban areas.

- ✓ RCRC will increase its role in advocating for sustainable environmental policies and be a leading urban actor in innovative community based waste management to reduce flood risks and water-borne diseases in cities.

- ✓ A new skill set development will be needed for NSs staff and volunteers in emergency response and risk reduction in urban areas

2. Cities are global actors in their own right

Implications on broader society:

- ✓ With the growth of cities, availability of resources for risk reduction and preparedness and climate change adaptation will increase.

- ✓ Access to decision and policy makers will be easier with the reduced layers of bureaucracy.

- ✓ City to city ("Peer to peer") partnerships for technical exchange and best practices will grow.

- ✓ Inequalities among city population and between cities will continue to grow.

- ✓ With decentralization of power, the agenda of varied interest groups will become more important than the central government.

- ✓ There will be more avenues for innovation at all levels.

- ✓ Mega cities as global actors could exacerbate trends of secondary cities being left behind.

Implications on the work of RCRC

- ✓ NSs will adjust by moving resources to lower branches –financial/technical/human resources.

- ✓ RCRC will have to strengthen its engagement with local stakeholders, particularly in secondary cities.

- ✓ There will be space for RCRC for advocacy for increased local investment.

- ✓ RC focus on secondary cities?

- ✓ There will be a need for adapting humanitarian diplomacy at the city level.

3. Most important assets are data and information

Implications on broader society:

✓ The tendency of needing more and more information is valid for all communities but there will be regional differences in the privacy and protection policies, i.e. stronger in Europe and North America whereas there may be less care (which might lead to danger of inaccurate information and data) in other regions.

✓ The abundance of data raises questions around quantity vs. quality). Is it all relevant? Are we prepared for it? Do we know what to do with all this data?

✓ There will be groups not wanting/preferring to be part of the "data set" e.g. illegal migrants, refugees. Will they be able to stay off-grid?

✓ Over confidence of the accuracy of available data might lead to wrong interpretations and eventually unwanted interventions.

Implications on the work of RCRC:

✓ RCRC will become more predictive rather than reactive through utilization of data and information at large scale.

✓ RCRC may find itself unwillingly involved in sensitive fields and gathering sensitive information.

✓ RCRC should be equipped better terms of hardware and software for proper protection, management and accurate interpretation of the data that we collect.

✓ We should understand the "value" of the data we collect better and adopt strong confidentiality policies and systems.

✓ More accurate and more timely data will increase effectiveness of our operations, accountability to affected/assisted people and help customize the support NSs provide.

✓ NSs will have to invest in increasing the skills and knowledge of volunteers and staffs on data protection and ethics and promote personal responsibility.

✓ There will be a risk of available information representing extreme views and RCRC unknowingly responding to it.

4. Silent killers: heat-waves, non-contagious diseases, water scarcity, air pollution

Implications on broader society:

✓ In Africa and Asia, there will be more people living in slums who will be exposed to silent killers. This will hugely increase the need for WASH services and protection of natural assets and environment.

✓ The demand for basic services e.g. water, housing, electricity, health will increase dramatically in urban areas.

✓ Extreme weather conditions will affect elderly and infants unproportionally and lead to increased health risk.

✓ Increasing chronic stresses that affects urban populations will also increase the need for psycho-social support.

✓ On a positive note, silent killers of today may be less threatening in the future thanks to proper interventions and improvements in science.

✓ Increase in city crime and violence will have consequences on how the human rights are perceived and applied.

✓ Prevalence of obesity among low-income and middle-income households, children and youths will increase.

✓ Regularization of pharmaceuticals

✓ Soil pollution will worsen the quality of agricultural produce, which in turn will have a negative effect on the nutrition of urban dwellers.

Implications on the work of RCRC:

✓ RCRC services will shift from service provision to advocacy/awareness rising on the risks and threats as well as mitigation measures.

✓ NSs will move "Beyond Disasters" focusing on environmental awareness and behavioral change particularly with youth and children.

✓ RCRC will need to increase collaboration with research institutes to understand the urban risks better and do operational research to inform practice and policy.

✓ NSs will need to diversify their resources; financial and Human Resources with more people (staffs/volunteers) with diverse skill sets.

✓ RCRC will be responding to emergencies caused by silent killers more including displacement of populations.

5. Informal economy married with mobile technologies will change the human interactions

Implications on broader society:

✓ Mobile technologies are making the invisible drivers of the city economies who are also the most vulnerable visible to policy and decision makers.

✓ The actors of informal economies will be more connected to formal and informal markets and their own supply networks/peers.

- ✓ The diaspora will also grow both in numbers and in terms of economic power with strong influence on informal economy in their home country. This group of population often the most vulnerable.
- ✓ Diaspora also has big influence on disaster response and recovery through donations.

Implications on the work of RCRC:

- ✓ With the increased influx of populations to urban areas, there will be more informal workers both production and in service provision that would grow the target group for RC increases.
- ✓ A major part of the remittances from diaspora is spent on building houses and RCRC can work with diaspora to promote safe construction practices and disaster preparedness and risk reduction measures.

International Federation of Red Cross and Red Crescent Societies

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