

World Humanitarian Summit - SIDE EVENT

Perspectives from cities in crisis: the role of local actors

Organised by: IIED, UCLG Task Force, IMPACT Initiatives and IRC

Time and date of event

23 May, at 15:00-16:30, in Rumeli Hall 4 of the Lüfti Kirdar Convention and Exhibition Center (LKCC) building.

Background:

Humanitarian emergencies are increasingly urban: both in the location of shocks, and in the places where their consequences are experienced. In order for humanitarian agencies to effectively respond to urban crises, there is a need for a better understanding of urban processes and systems, and of local actors' experiences and perceptions, both of which can inform context-appropriate and inclusive approaches to urban humanitarian response. In particular, there is a need for local governments, local civil society, and international humanitarian actors to work together more effectively in the complex physical and institutional terrain of towns and cities. In the lead up to the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), a series of consultations organised by the Urban Expert Group have recognised the above points, leading to the establishment of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises. The Alliance has drafted a set of Urban Recommendations and a Global Urban Crises Charter, pointing to (among others) the need to 'foster collaboration between city, humanitarian and development actors', to promote 'area-based approaches' in urban response and to 'prioritise local municipal leadership in determining response to urban crisis'.

Objectives:

In alignment with the Global Urban Crises Charter and building on the recommendations emerging from the consultations "Perspective from cities in crisis" conducted by UCLG and IMPACT in early 2016 within the framework of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises, the aim of this session is to recognise the important role that local level actors, in particular local government and local civil society, can play in the context of an urban humanitarian response, and the value of collaboration during the process. This side event will bring together urban stakeholders from local government and civil society for an interactive moderated discussion. Drawing on the personal experiences of the panellists in recent urban humanitarian crises and from the recommendations of the consultations recently conducted with local authorities in 6 crisis-affected cities, approaches for more effective future interventions in the complex context of urban areas will be highlighted. Together, they will discuss:

- The different roles that local actors can play before, during and after a response;
- Approaches to fostering pro-active engagement of local actors, notably municipalities and civil society, before, during and after a crisis occurs, and efficient coordination mechanisms with international stakeholders;
- The importance of partnership between non-state actors and municipal actors to build capacity and complementarity.

Speakers:

- Chair: Nicolas Wit, Deputy Director of Cités Unies France, UCLG Task Force On Local and Regional Government Disaster Response
- Moderators: Alyoscia D'Onofrio - IRC and Gaia van der Esch - IMPACT Initiatives
- City mayors: Mr. Emile Gros Nakombo, Mayor of Bangui (Central African Republic), Mr. Ahmad Ghassab-Al-Hawamdah, Mayor of Mafraq (Jordan), Madame Fatma SAHIN, Mayor of Gaziantep Metropolitan municipality and President of UCLG-MEWA (Turkey);
- Civil society representatives: Ms Sobina Lama, Lumanti Support Group for Shelter (Nepal) and Ms Nadine Saba, Akkar Network for Development (Lebanon).