**Guidance Note for improving coordination and responses to Urban Crises in the Humanitarian Programme Cycle through the IASC and its Cluster System**

**Internal IASC MHCUA RG Consultation Document – DRAFT 2 (May 2017)**

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# Introduction

54% of the world’s population lives today in an urban environment, characterized by complex and dynamic systems and governance mechanisms, and urban population is increasing dramatically by the day. The intersection of increasing urbanization with conflict, displacement and climate change has been a key challenge for humanitarian responses over the past years, leading to numerous shortcomings of humanitarian responses to crises in urban settings.

Urban settings are indeed characterized by a unique complexity, related to the **diversity of actors** working within such contexts (including local authorities, local civil society, private sector and service providers, non-traditional actors, communities themselves, along with traditional international humanitarian and development stakeholders) and the **density** of such stakeholders and affected communities, including different population groups (i.e. local communities, refugees, returnees, IDPs) within a highly populated territory. Cities are furthermore characterized by **complex systems**, ranging from service provision to governance structures both within the city and between the city and its surrounding region. The layers of diversity, density and complexity present in a city constitute a significant challenge in understanding local contexts and systems, hindering effective coordination and response in to urban sudden onset or protracted crises.

Such complexity has generated numerous shortcomings of humanitarian responses in cities affected by crises, ranging from Port-au-Prince, to Tacloban or Aleppo. Recent shortcomings have put into question traditional ways humanitarians respond to crises, mainly related to:

* **Sectoral vs. multi-sectoral approach**: the current cluster system is structured around sectors of expertise and sectorial coordination, with increasing focus on multi-sectorial analysis and response in line with WHS commitments. Urban crises contexts are characterized by an extreme complexity of inter-related systems, dynamism and diversity of population groups, livelihoods, land and property (i.e. slums/informal settlements) within a dense and highly populated territory, requiring an even stronger capacity to respond holistically to multi-sectorial needs, requiring stronger inter-sector operational coordination at city-level;
* **Individual vs. community and territory**: typically humanitarian partners target aid based on individual beneficiaries, with little understanding of the structure and dynamics of the affected community within a given territory and of the implications of aid delivery on such dynamics. In urban contexts, understanding such community and territorial dynamics and leveraging on community capacities is key for impactful and sustainable responses;
* **International vs. integrated leadership:** in most crises, international humanitarian stakeholders successfully coordinate aid delivery among them – through the cluster/sector system – but the engagement of relevant local stakeholders in aid planning and delivery remains limited. In line with the WHS commitments and localization agenda, identifying and understanding local actors, their roles, vulnerabilities and response capacity is a key step to ensure international actors leverage on local response mechanisms, leading to an integrated leadership and planning of all key responders – international, national and local – in times of crisis.
* **Humanitarian vs. Development focus:** The “standard” vision of a continuum/successive phases between humanitarian and development responses is regularly challenged by contexts where humanitarian and development needs and priorities overlap. This is even more relevant in urban contexts affected by crises, where humanitarian responses need to feed into existing/long-term systems and development plans of a city. There is a growing global recognition among international organizations and local governments of the importance of holistic, participatory approaches which leverage local resources in building resilience. This interest has resulted in efforts to ensure humanitarian and development agencies work side by side to contribute to overall resilience building, navigating effectively complex urban environments. A coherent and shared approach to urban programing is urgently needed in responses to major cities in crisis, and the only way to ensure a stronger level of influence, value and impact of combined humanitarian and development efforts.

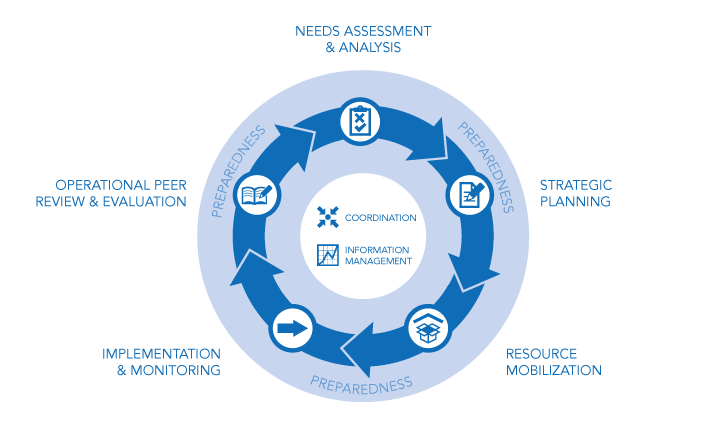
In light of these challenges and changing context, in 2010 the Inter-Agency Standing Committee (IASC) called for a “paradigm shift in humanitarian assistance in urban areas, based on a community-based - rather than - an individual beneficiary approach”, shifting towards settlement-based approaches[[1]](#footnote-1). This was reflected as part of the IASC Strategy for Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (MHCUA) endorsed by the Principles in 2011, and reflected in the IASC Reference Group MHCUA strategy. Global Clusters also launched in some cases urban-specific working groups at global and country level to tackle such issues.

In 2016, the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS) and Habitat III New Urban Agenda enabled humanitarian actors to further advance on the reflection around shortcomings of aid stakeholders in urban settings and develop concrete commitments to improve humanitarian responses in urban areas – including through the creation of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises. Concrete commitments emerged from such processes, including the Grand Bargain, and the WHS *New Way of working*, principles of partnership and localization agendas. Building on such processes and commitments, and with the aim of transform them in concrete change within the IASC, this Guidance Note was developed under the framework of the IASC as an inter-agency process and endorsed by the IASC Principals in 2017.

# Purpose of Guidance Note[[2]](#footnote-2)

This guidance note aims to support the IASC Structure and, more precisely, the Humanitarian Country Teams, the cluster system and operational agencies in ensuring efficient and integrated coordination to urban emergencies, in line with WHS and Habitat III commitments. The guidance note builds on existing best practices and lessons learnt of humanitarian response in cities, and were developed as an interagency consultation process in the framework of the IASC MHCUA Reference Group, including liaison with OCHA, the Global Clusters Coordinators Group, and Cluster urban Working Groups, namely the global Food Security Cluster (gFSC) Urban Working Group. The note should be considered as a reference document for operational and coordination stakeholders, and will be reviewed as relevant following feedback by Humanitarian Country Teams, clusters and operational partners that have piloted them at field level.

After an introduction to efficient approaches for coordination in urban areas, the Guidance Note suggests **practical steps and approaches** to be followed by humanitarian coordination mechanisms in country (including Humanitarian Country Teams, ICCGs, clusters, cluster lead agencies and partners) for each humanitarian programme cycle (HPC) phase to ensure a more efficient coordination and response to crises occurring in urban settings.



**HPC Overview**

For each HPC phase the note proposes a number of core activities and outputs that should be undertaken by IASC members, but suggestions are by no mean exhaustive. Links to other guidance and concrete examples/ practices are provided for reference and many of the resources have relevance across the HPC phases.

The IASC Reference Group on MHCUA, OCHA and the Global Cluster Coordination Group (including the gFSC Urban working group) are available to provide capacity development support to assist Humanitarian Country Teams, clusters and partners with the practical implementation of this Guidance Note.

# Coordinating Responses in Urban Crisis Settings

In a context of urban crisis, an efficient and integrated responses requires strong coordination among local and international stakeholders at a city-level. The importance of such coordination has been emphasized in the WHS commitments, more specifically in the localization agenda, and in the New Way of Working. Understanding the systems, governance and complexity of the city is indeed crucial for an efficient coordination and response, with the aim of reinforcing and not replacing – whenever possible and appropriate – existing local coordination mechanisms and response capacities.

The following actions are proposed to international humanitarian and development stakeholders at country level, to ensure efficient coordination of with local actors during responses in urban settings: 1. Identification and engagement with local stakeholders (3.1.); 2. Establishment of City-level coordination mechanism (3.2.):

## Identification and engagement with local stakeholders

In both sudden onset and protracted crisis, the first line responders are local stakeholders, including affected communities themselves, service providers, civil society, governance actors, the private sector, informal leaders, etc. Local actors benefit from a precious understanding of local context and dynamics, needs and vulnerabilities, as well as of response and operational capacities at different levels (among affected communities, service providers, authorities, etc.). They are also legitimate or at least recognized in the eyes of the local population. To promote effective responses, international humanitarian actors must work in synergy with local actors, especially in urban contexts characterized by a high density, diversity and capacity of such actors and by complex dynamics and governance systems.

Engagement and strong partnership with local stakeholders is thereby a key step to ensure more relevant, efficient and effective humanitarian responses, leveraging on local knowledge and capacity, on existing coordination mechanisms, supporting their resilience, and further enhancing capacity of local actors to respond to a crisis.

When assessing an urban crisis, international actors must systematically identify local stakeholders and their respective roles in governance and service delivery, power relations and capacities/vulnerabilities in responding to a crisis. This stakeholder analysis and the subsequent mapping of their response capacity needs to be accounted for when planning complementary aid delivery to affected populations. The resulting local capacity assessment should inform decisions on coordination mechanisms/architecture at a city level, and be used for the development of response plans.

**Output**: Stakeholder mapping and analysis, including: **a)** who are the key stakeholders, **b)** what is their response capacity and how can it be supported, **c)** awareness of power and political structures: what are the pro and cons linked to engagement with local stakeholders and can risks - if any - be mitigated and through which measures, and **d)** which are the best engagement and communication channels to ensure a regular and inclusive coordination with key local stakeholders and how can this be established/formalized.

## Establishment of City-level coordination mechanism

The humanitarian sector is structured around cluster/sector coordination at national level, with an inter-cluster/sector coordination group bringing a multi-sectoral focus to the operational coordination work and an HCT/other central bodies providing the strategic direction. This structure allows for efficient coordination of humanitarian actors at a national level, but presents shortcomings when responding to a city-level crisis which requires a multi-sectorial coordination specific to the city and linkages with city-specific local actors. A city-level coordination mechanism would enable multi-sectorial and multi-stakeholder operational coordination, for integrated and efficient joint city-level planning and responses.

This city-level coordination mechanism should either build on pre-existing local mechanisms, in line with the principal of *reinforcing and not replacing*, or when not possible/existing should be established, tasked by and report to relevant humanitarian coordination bodies in country (ex. HCT) with clear Terms of Reference, reporting lines and purpose/deliverables which fits into the broader humanitarian architecture. Such body could be co-chaired by a local and an international actor, in the interest of ensuring joint ownership and integrated coordination.

Participation to this city-level coordination mechanisms should be inclusive of key international stakeholders (i.e. operational stakeholders working within the city, both humanitarian and development), and identified local counterparts. The identification of local counterparts should be done through the stakeholder mapping (3.1.), which will inform the coordination architecture and inclusion of local actors.

Tasks of this coordination mechanisms could include the identification and capacity assessment of local actors (if not already done), the facilitation of needs/vulnerability assessments and context analysis at city/area level, the drafting of urban response plans at area/city level, and the overall coordination of actors responding to the city-level crisis. Terms of Reference should be defined based on the context and actual needs/purpose of such a group.

**Output**: City-level coordination mechanism is established, inclusive of local and international response stakeholders and of all relevant sectors of intervention, with Terms of Reference outlining purpose, authority, reporting lines and responsibilities.

# Review of key steps for efficient responses in urban areas across the HPC phases:

## Preparedness

Preparedness makes it possible to respond faster, more appropriately and efficiently, and to take decisions on the basis of more reliable information. Staff at every level are likely to respond more efficiently if training, analysis, planning, prepositioning, and information collection have been strategically managed and coordination mechanisms have been established. However, in many contexts, humanitarian actors (UN Agencies, INGOs) are not necessarily present prior to a crisis, and capacity is limited to undertake such work. It is thereby crucial to leverage on pre-existing relations with national and local authorities as well as development actors in such a context, using existing knowledge and relations when responding to a crisis. In fragile cities and those exposed to risks, preparedness activities should be systematically implemented to reduce risks and enable an efficient responses when a crisis hits.

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| **Key minimum steps** | **Responsibility** | **Output** | **Resources** |
| 1. **Baseline information on cities particularly fragile/exposed to risks of crises**: review available data on socio-economic status, demography, vulnerable areas, local development plans, structure and management of service provision, infrastructure, markets, rule of law, governance mechanisms and capacities, etc. and, if necessary, collect additional information to fill gaps which will allow to have baseline information in case of crises. | Humanitarian /development partners and (if active) HCT and Clusters | Compilation and review of data on key fragile cities, and filling of major gaps; maps to support visualization of such information. | * City profiles – UN-Habitat |
| 1. **Ensure capacity building and knowledge sharing** within your organisations and among partners on core issues related to responses in urban areas, such as capacity to understand and engage with local stakeholders, understand urban systems and structures, city development plans, etc. | Humanitarian /development partners and (if active) HCT and Clusters | Information sharing and promotion of innovative approaches to urban responses | * ALNAP (last paper: cities – as systems…) |
| 1. **Assess whether there are existing coordination mechanism at city-level** and make sure to complement/build upon those when thinking of setting/reinforcing clusters/coordination mechanisms | Humanitarian /development partners and (if active) HCT and Clusters | Overview of coordination mechanisms at city-level |  |
| 1. **Conduct in-depth stakeholders’ analysis** of local/national actors, in order to understand their roles, capacities, and power dynamics. This will be a crucial step for strong coordination following a crisis. | Humanitarian /development partners and (if active) HCT and Clusters |  | * IRC Guidance Note on urban coordination |

## Needs and Capacities Assessments & Analysis

In an urban setting, characterized by complex and inter-linked systems, high density, and urban-related vulnerabilities, it is particularly important to conduct assessments of needs and vulnerabilities, as well as of capacities of responders to understand the “architecture” of a city. Assessments of needs and response capacity should be done by area (i.e. geographical or thematic) within the affected city, and facilitated by the city-level coordination mechanism.

Needs assessment provide the evidence base for [strategic planning](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle/space/page/strategic-response-planning), as well as the baseline information upon which [situation and response monitoring](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle/space/page/monitoring-overview) systems will rely. It should be conducted continually throughout the [humanitarian programme cycle](http://www.humanitarianresponse.info/programme-cycle/space/page/www.humanitarianresponse.info/hpc). Coordinated assessments should be carried out in partnership with relevant local and international humanitarian actors in order to assess the humanitarian situation and to identify the needs of the affected population, the impact of a crisis on local, regional and national system and services, and the response capacity of local actors in a specific area. It is also important to take into consideration the city region linkages when assessing needs in an urban areas. Involvement of local and national authorities, civil society and affected communities is key in this process to ensure a full picture of needs and response capacity.

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| **Key minimum steps** | **Responsibility** | **Output** | **Resources** |
| 1. Set up of City-level coordination mechanism for coordination of international and local stakeholders and facilitation of assessments of needs and response capacity. | HCT or relevant coordination body | Set-up of city-level coordination mechanism |  |
| 1. **Contexts analysis - Secondary data review**: Socio-economic, demographic, system-related data and information is often already existing in cities affected by crises. As a first step, humanitarian stakeholders should conduct a rapid secondary data review of existing information and data on affected cities as a basis for assessments. | City-level coordination mechanism through operational partners | Secondary data review report, outlining information gaps | * ALNAP resources |
| 1. Consult with specialized agencies and focal points in the design of assessments and collection and analysis of data, to ensure that assessment tools, data collection and analysis methodologies integrate key aspects related to urban contexts, which can vary from sector to sector. | Assessment and/or IMWG, city-level coordination mechanism, operational partners | Assessment tools and methodologies include urban-specific components | * Desk review of NRC on urban assessments * WFP/gFSC assessments project * Other sectorial ones? * Urban Sphere Guidance * How to operationalise ABAs in urban crises – World Vision (forthcoming Feb 2017) |
| 1. **Contexts analysis – Primary data collection**: When secondary data is not sufficient, conduct a **needs assessment in the targeted area** at the relevant level(s): a) individual beneficiaries level, b) affected communities level; and c) system level. Assessments should be conducted to understand how the crisis affected local capacity including basic service delivery, markets, safety-nets, livelihoods, etc. in the affected territory.   Ensure that all assessments conducted by individual agencies are harmonized, and use compatible indicators, geographical boundaries, population groups, etc*.* | City-level coordination mechanism through operational partners | Multi-sectorial vulnerability assessment report of needs at individual-, community- and systemic-level per area (regularly updated to reflect the changing context) | [Do No Harm, Do Some Good](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ym8zb9tzgyleeju/Annex_IV_Do%20No%20harm_Do%20Some%20Good%20%28April%202013%29.docx)   * [Do No Harm – Seven Steps](https://www.dropbox.com/s/07uofeccrhsfolv/Do_No_Harm_Seven_Steps_English.pdf) * FSL Urban Assessments * WFP Urban Assessments * IRC context analysis lit review doc and toolkit * FAO City Region Food Systems Assessments   IFRC/SKAT Urban Guidelines |
| 1. Conduct a **capacity assessment** in order to **map response actors and capacity** at different levels, including: national and local authorities and service providers, private sector, civil society, and affected communities themselves. This will lead to an identification of existing gaps in the response and therefore concrete opportunities to support local response capacities, address structural issues and ensure complementarity of the response. | City-level coordination mechanism through operational partners | Capacity assessment report, outlining response capacity and gaps per area (regularly updated to reflect the changing context) | * [Cycle Guidance](https://www.dropbox.com/s/ff5c1y4td3oy46s/Gender%20in%20Humanitarian%20Programme%20Cycle%20Guidance.pdf) (see assessment/analysis section) * British RC : Learning from the City |
| 1. Multi-sectorial vulnerability assessment (from activity 4) coupled with response capacity assessment (from activity 5) should be combined and analysed per area/neighborhood (making necessary linkages between areas), leading to a consolidated city-level needs overview with multi-sectorial analysis of needs, vulnerabilities and response capacity per neighborhood. | City-level coordination mechanism | City level needs overview |  |

## Strategic Planning

As part of the HPC, Strategic planning is the basis for the production of the Humanitarian Response Plan (HRP), building upon the Humanitarian Needs Overview which provides the evidence base and analysis of the magnitude of the crisis and identifies the most pressing humanitarian needs. These needs inform the strategic objectives in the HRP. The various cluster plans are built upon these strategic objectives.

Within this framework and in a context of a response to a crisis to an urban area, a city-level plan should be developed when relevant by the City-level coordination mechanism and could be incorporated as a stand-alone city-focus as part of the HRP, providing an overview of the multi-sectorial plan for the response in a specific city. Such plan, developed by local and international humanitarian and development actors – which are members of the City-level coordination mechanism, should identify both immediate and mid- to long-term needs and response priorities.

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| **Key minimum steps** | **Responsibility** | **Output** | **Resources** |
| 1. **Develop city-level response plans,** providing an overview of needs and response (from local, national and international actors) per area/neighborhood within the city. | City-level coordination mechanism – for sharing with HCT, ICCG, Clusters | City level multi-sector response plan, when relevant incorporated in HRP/Flash Appeals | City level planning authorities  Urban initiatives and alliances  Multi-year urban programmes |
| 1. **Consult with specialized agencies** to ensure the objective, narrative, activities and indicators of **Response plans** (HRP, Flash Appeal, etc.) **capture urban-specific dynamics.** Key coordination indicators related to urban responses should be integrated in the HRP, such as coordination with local stakeholders, linkages with urban development plan, etc. | HCT, ICCG/Clusters, Operational partners, City-level coordination mechanisms | Inclusion of urban-specific dynamics in response plans, throughout objectives, activities and indicators. |  |
| 1. **Engage with local actors** (local authorities, service providers, civil society, and affected communities) at city level and at national level to ensure their ongoing and planned response to the crisis is understood and included in the strategic planning phase. This will mitigate duplication and ensure complementarity of interventions by international actors.   Whennecessary, specifictask forces can be established to look into specific urban aspects (ex. WASH, Housing, etc.) with city-level counterparts. | City-level coordination mechanism for city level coordination, HCT, ICCG for national level coordination | Regular meetings with local actors, including through participation to cluster meetings, city-level working group, etc.  Set-up of task forces, with ToRs, workplan and deliverables | Operationalising ABAs by World Vision (Pamela Sitko and David Sanderson) |
| 1. Ensure that planned responses leverage whenever possible on local response capacities and systems, **mainstreaming capacity building for local responders** **and support to their response mechanisms**. | City-level coordination mechanism, HCT, ICCG/Clusters, Operational partners | Capacity building and resource mobilization for local responders included in response plans. |  |

## Resource Mobilization

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| **Key minimum steps** | **Responsibility** | **Output** | **Resources** |
| 1. Advocacy and partnership with donors to seek **greater flexibility and longer-term funding** to allow humanitarian actors to mainstream resilience and capacity building of local stakeholders within their programming | HCT and other relevant partners | Mainstreaming of capacity building and resilience components by relevant actors in their program cycle | ODI/ALNAP resource and Urban Portal for advocacy |
| 1. Identification of most effective funding mechanisms including, when feasible, through **direct funding to local responders** such as civil society and when applicable service providers and municipalities themselves (through different funding channels) | HCT, Donors |  |  |

## Response Implementation

Implementation puts into practice the objectives as defined in the Humanitarian Response Plan, further taking into account the coordination architecture of the response, showing how organization, agencies and donors will cooperate with national/local stakeholders, including authorities, communities, civil society, service providers, etc. to achieve the response’s objectives and how gaps in coverage or capacity will be filled.

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| **Key minimum steps** | **Responsibility** | **Output** | **Resources** |
| 1. Adopt when relevant settlement-approaches to programming which entail:    1. Shift from sectorial to **multi-sectorial area planning** to efficiently respond to needs of individuals, communities and systems within a specific territory, with strong coordination and synergies between sectors/clusters;    2. **Coordination and integrated response with relevant local actors**. | City-level coordination mechanisms, HCT, ICCG, Operational Partners |  | - IIED Review of Area-based approaches  - IMPACT area based approach toolbox  - UDOC |
| 1. Ensure **humanitarian partners work within and in support of existing systems** (water systems, social welfare systems, housing systems, etc.) and service provision mechanisms whenever possible. This will allow to support such systems, develop resilience and local ownership and contribute to local development plans and goals. | City-level coordination mechanisms, HCT, ICCG, Operational Partners | Integrated response between local/national and international actors | - IMPACT/UCLG Cities in Crisis  - Sphere Standards for Urban context |
| 1. Ensure **strong coordination mechanisms at a city level**. In scenarios of large urban crisis, de-centralised coordination should be established to ensure coordination capacity at city level inclusive of local actors, with capacity to coordinate responses by neighbourhood/area. | HCT, ICCG, City-level coordination mechanisms | Regular meetings of city-level inter-cluster working group | Examples of MOUs and effective coordination mechanism. |
| 1. Ensure urban and city areas are included as a filter in the 3/4Ws and/or any other IM product of the HCT/Clusters | HCT, OCHA, ICCG/ Clusters | Response implementation is tracked and enables analysis at city-level |  |

## Response Monitoring and Evaluation

Humanitarian response monitoring is a continuous process aiming to identify shortcomings in the response, ensure accountability to affected populations and measure progress towards the strategic objectives of the HRP, while considering the diversity of the affected population and their perspectives of the response. Response monitoring aims to ensure that organizations involved in the response remain accountable to affected people, national authorities, donors and the general public, and that they continuously improve their programs by integrating lessons learned. Through this process, humanitarian actors should track the humanitarian assistance delivered to affected populations and monitor the quality of the response on an ongoing basis, compared to targets set out in the HRP.

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| **Key minimum steps** | **Responsibility** | **Output** | **Resources** |
| 1. Ensure **integration of relevant and contextualized indicators on urban responses** (ex. Engagement of local actors, building on existing systems, etc.) across all major response processes, e.g.; HRP, 3/4Ws, programme monitoring and evaluations, and that analysis and information produced highlights feedback and learning for improving programming and coordination of responses to urban crises | HCT, Clusters, Operational Partners, Donors | Response plans and monitoring and evaluation tools incorporate relevant urban indicators |  |
| 1. Ensure **monitoring of the overall humanitarian response to the city affected by crisis**, in order to evaluate if vulnerabilities identified through needs assessments have been addressed, and capacities of local actors have been strengthened | HCT, Clusters, Operational Partners, Donors | Response monitoring and evaluation reports |  |
| 1. Establish a **mechanism to monitor changes** in the situation and needs within the city affected by a crisis. This should be linked to the response monitoring mentioned in point 2. In order to interpret whether results achieved (or not) actually meet the needs (which may change over the course of the action). | HCT, Clusters, Operational Partners, Donors |  |  |
| 1. Perform a **collective sector/cluster review exercise**, linked with cluster performance monitoring, that includes a review of inter-cluster/sector coordination within the context of a specific city-crisis response, guiding future improvements to coordination and programming | HCT, Cluster lead agencies | Cluster review report, outlining lessons learned and action points |  |
| 1. **Share findings, tools, data, lessons learned** and good practices with the IASC RG on MHCUA and with global Clusters for consolidation and sharing of best practices and lessons learned | Clusters, operational partners | Compilation of key tools on IASC RG MHCUA webpage |  |
| 1. Perform **Operational Peer Review and Evaluation** as an inter-agency management tool, to identify areas of immediate corrective action in urban responses, and help the HCs and HCTs determine adjustments related to leadership, HPC implementation and coordination. | Global OPR Team, HCT | OPR report with specific focus on response at city-level |  |

**Acknowledgements**

This Guidance Note has been prepared by the IASC Reference Group on Meeting Humanitarian Challenges in Urban Areas (co-chaired by IMPACT Initiatives and UN-Habitat) and by the global Food Security Cluster Urban Working Group (co-chaired by Concern Worldwide and IMPACT Initiatives). A special thanks goes to IASC RG and gFSC WG partners, + tbd based on inputs

1. ADD: Definition of Settlement-based approach [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. N.B. While this document focuses on urban areas – which has been identified as a key challenge for humanitarian responses and is the primary focus of the IASC and the global food security cluster urban working group – the approach and guidelines can be applicable also to responses in non-urban environments. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)