Title of session: Informed decision-making in urban crises – Targeting response when needs are high and the lack of data evident

Date: Thursday, 4 July 2019

Time/Room: 11:00-13:00 and 14:00-16:00 – Room 5/6

Executive Summary:

By 2050, over 70% of the global population will live in urban areas. As people head to cities, vulnerabilities and strain to services and infrastructure follow. So do risks associated with natural and man-made disasters. In addition to the increase in vulnerabilities seen in urban environments, rapid urbanisation has also changed the trends and dynamics seen in humanitarian contexts defined by displacement and migration. These developments call for humanitarian actors to steer their operations to prepare for complex urban crises.

A characteristic prevalent in urban displacement situations is that refugees and IDPs tend to seek shelter within host communities and unofficial sites instead of camps or designated settlements. These changes have set new challenges for the targeting and delivery of aid – including the challenge of collecting data on affected-populations. A tool and approach gaining prominence in urban settings is that of area-based assessments (ABAs) – assessments placing the affected area into the centre.

The session facilitated by IMPACT Initiatives and UNHCR is a combination of a briefing, workshop, case examples and a discussion with the aim of exploring best practices in using ABAs to inform response. The first part of the session will give participants an overview of the methodology and the strengths and challenges of conducting and using area-based information. The briefing will be followed by a workshop simulating the use of area-based data. The second part of the workshop focuses on bringing data and information to response planning.

The session is open for participants from a broad background. Prior knowledge of area-based assessments and urban response are not mandatory.

Concept Note:

- **Background and link to the theme [**see Concept note for the overall theme for reference**]**

By 2050, over 70% of the global population will live in urban areas. As people head to cities, vulnerabilities and strain to services and infrastructure follow. So do risks associated with natural and man-made disasters. In addition to the increase in vulnerabilities seen in urban environments, rapid urbanisation has also changed the trends and dynamics seen in humanitarian contexts defined by displacement and migration. These developments call for humanitarian actors to steer their operations to prepare for complex urban crises.

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- **Objective(s) of the session [**_Development of the executive summary provided for the detailed agenda_**]**

Session participants will gain information and insights on the use of area-based information to planning and implementing humanitarian response in urban settings.

- **Desired outcome of the session: [**_What would you like to achieve with this session? What would be the follow-up actions to it?_]

The session provides participants with and overview of the tools, information types and data analysis methods to support in the planning of humanitarian response in urban settings. The session provides participants with an introduction to the use of area-based approaches through a practical example.

- **Methodology & choreography [**_panel discussion, break-out sessions, pigeonhole, video presentation, mixture of different elements_**]**

First part 11.00-13.00
The workshop will open with an overview and brief on area-based assessments and the joint work of IMAPCT Initiatives, REACH and UNHCR. The session will then move to a brief workshop and close with a de-brief.

Workshop setting: Participants are divided into small groups and given different sets of information specific to a given area (TBC). The participants are tasked to design a refugee response plan for the given urban setting.

Workshop task (TBC): Allocating $100M after a humanitarian crisis resulting in a significant influx of urban refugees.

Workshop setting: A significant humanitarian crisis has affected a region neighbouring an urban area. The urban centre has seen a significant influx of refugees. You have been provided with a basic set of briefing documents in order to prepare a city/area-based response plan and allocate a budget of $100M to address humanitarian needs in the first month of the response. What would you do? What data matters most for decision-making?

The session will close with presenting the group works and a brief Q&A.

Second part 14.00-16.00
The second part of the workshop will provide practical examples on how to integrate area-based assessments to response planning. The speakers include experts from IMPACT Initiatives, UNHCR and other organisations with experience in working in urban humanitarian contexts.

The session will close a Q&A.