

Global Alliance for Urban Crises

Adapting Global Crisis Response to an Urban World

Action Plan - Commitments

March 2016

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises is a global, multi-disciplinary and collaborative community of practice. It is a 'network of networks' working to prevent, prepare for and effectively respond to humanitarian crises in urban settings.

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises (the Alliance) is an initiative that arose out of consultations for the World Humanitarian Summit (WHS), during which a number of committed organisations led an urban expert group and developed a series of **Urban Recommendations**. The Alliance is the vehicle through which these recommendations will be put into action. It is guided by a series of principles as laid out in the **Urban Crises Charter**. The Alliance will be formally launched during a Special Session at the WHS, where institutional and joint commitments will be made by Alliance partners and delivered over the next three to five years.

Vision

The Alliance promotes a vision of inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable cities and towns (as set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development) in which urban communities, their leaders and members have the power, capacities and resources to address the risks and reality of humanitarian crises, to mitigate crisis impacts on the most vulnerable and to enable affected people to determine, with dignity, the course of their lives and their futures.

Value of the Alliance

The Global Alliance for Urban Crises reflects a **new type of collaboration** – it joins a diverse group of stakeholders who do not systematically work together. The Alliance places affected communities and municipalities at the centre of its work and encourages a supportive and collaborative approach from humanitarian, development and other relevant actors during urban humanitarian crises.

Members will provide the knowledge, build capacities, and develop tools and guidance, to prevent, prepare for, and respond to humanitarian crises in urban environments. The Alliance will operate on the assumption that working in partnership and collaborating towards common outcomes breaks down silos and improves effectiveness.

Whilst the Alliance emerged as an initiative of the WHS, the commitments and outcomes it will deliver contribute to the development of the broader 'agenda for humanity', and the 2016 UN Conference on Housing and Sustainable Urban Development (Habitat III).

The Alliance will operate with a two-tier system of membership.

1. Urban Crisis Charter

By signing the Urban Crisis Charter [link to document], the individual/organisation becomes a member of the Global Alliance for Urban Crises.

High Level Commitment:

We [name – institution/individual] commit to the principles set out in the **Urban Crises Charter**. We will advocate for the principles to be adhered to and will use them as a basis for both policy-level and operational engagement.

2. Action plan

Those who wish to contribute more to the Alliance may become Partners. In addition to signing the Urban Crisis Charters, Partners commit to the following:

Commitments:

We [name – institution/organisation] wish to be a Partner in the Global Alliance for Urban Crises. We commit to:

- Strengthen our institutional set up, capacity and programming in order to contribute more effectively towards the goal of improved prevention, preparedness and response to urban humanitarian crises;
- Actively support the core functions of the Alliance (for example, through conducting joint advocacy, sharing information and knowledge, contributing to evidence building);

We wish to make the following specific commitments, in collaboration with other partners, to operationalize the Urban Recommendations [link to document]:

- a) Tailor humanitarian response to the urban context by developing shared assessment and profiling tools, promoting joint analysis, and adapting coordination mechanisms.
- b) Develop or work with existing global, regional and national rosters to facilitate the deployment of urban leaders, managers and technical experts.
- c) Build the evidence base on the specific characteristics of protracted displacement in urban areas, and contribute to the design of appropriate and cost-effective responses, with particular regard to protection of vulnerable people, shelter and basic services and infrastructure.
- d) Ensure initiatives focused on building urban resilience incorporate components on resilient response and recovery from crises, and leverage greatest impact in cities most at risk of humanitarian emergencies.